



Domesday (Schools) Project, BBC Education, Broadcasting Centre, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9PX

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to invite you and your school to take part in the Domesday Project - the creation of a new electronic Domesday Book in 1986.

As you may already have heard, the Domesday Project is a national venture co-ordinated by the BBC celebrating the 900th anniversary of the completion of the original Domesday Book. BBC Television is not only producing a major documentary series, tracing the evolution of Britain over the past 900 years, but also plans to compile and publish a new Domesday Book, a contemporary portrait of Britain on interactive videodisc. At the heart of the new Domesday Book will be a 'People's Database' of information generated by local people about their own area.

This aspect of the Project seems to offer a particularly exciting opportunity for schools all over the United Kingdom and we would be grateful for your help.

If you and your school decide to take part you will be asked to study a four by three kilometre area near you during the summer term 1985 and compile information about that area on your microcomputer. The BBC will supply specially prepared software for this purpose. In urban areas where several schools lie within a four by three kilometre unit you will be asked to study part of the area, co-ordinating your work with the neighbouring schools.

The work will involve, firstly, writing a number of pages of 'free text' which describe what local people think is important, relevant and interesting about your area, secondly, taking a small number of 35mm slides which you believe portray your area and its people and writing captions for them, thirdly, identifying certain amenities and facilities within the area, such as sports centres, museums, post offices, etc.

If you accept this invitation to take part you will receive, in March 1985, a full briefing pack about the Domesday (Schools) Project. This will include an Ordnance Survey map of your area, a floppy disc or a cassette for your BBC or RML microcomputer (this is, in effect, an electronic writing pad), and a teacher's handbook offering suggestions and guidance for local studies. Additional briefing will be provided by BBC Schools Television, particularly, a 'Zig-Zag' Special to be broadcast on 21st March and by BBC Schools Radio 'Noticeboard' and 'In the News'.

We hope that, having discussed these preliminary details and the enclosed letter from Professor Wragg with your colleagues and pupils, you will decide to join us in the Domesday Project. If you do decide to accept this invitation please complete both of the enclosed cards and return them to me by the 20th December.

Yours sincerely,

Roberts Salkeld,
Education Officer.

P.S. It will be necessary for the BBC to be granted the Copyright to the material which you compile for use on the Domesday Disc. Naturally, this will not preclude your retaining copies of it for use in your school.