



Community Archaeology Study Days 2006/7

Study Day 19 – Using Archives, Old Maps and Reading Old Documents

City of York Archives. Saturday 20th January 2007

Feedback from the Study Day:

'Sociable and easy going as well as interesting and informative'

'I discovered new sources of information and a new map'

'I liked the opportunity to handle original documents and to discuss the information to be derived from old maps'.

Using documents and old maps is an essential skill for archaeologists and historians alike. This was an excellent opportunity to learn about the types of document held at the York City Archive and how to read them. The rooms at the archive are quite small and the group of 17 easily reached the maximum. We were taught in a very relaxed and interesting manner by Rita Freeman and Joy Cann.

The first part of the day focused on the old maps available at the archive. These are particularly important for understanding changes in the landscape and we were interested to find how many maps there are other than the various editions of the Ordnance Survey.

In the afternoon we looked at a wide variety of documents held at the archive. When you are researching a particular place the documents available do vary. We were very interested to see the 'Haxby Terrier' a book and map used by the local officials to record



who owned what land in the village. We were very pleased that only a few weeks later a member of the Haxby Local History Group gave a talk on the 'Haxby Terrier' to other members of the community who couldn't see the documents for themselves.



Getting to grips with documents.



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