

# Community Archaeology Study Days 2008/9



## Parks and Gardens

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from the  
Parks & Gardens UK Project

## Beningbrough Hall and Gardens

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2008

Feedback from the study day:

*'Well-informed tutor, easy- paced presentation, good choice of study area.'*

*'A great way of encouraging local people to learn more and get involved with many different aspects of archaeology and history.'*



Planned parks and gardens form an integral part of the British landscape. They are valued for their natural and cultural heritage. They can be appreciated both for their beauty and their history. They have their own story to tell, as much

as the homes with which they are attached. Many gardens and parks were designed by famous landscape architects. The history of the design of parks and gardens tells us much about how past landowners viewed the natural world and how they wished to present their property and

wealth, thus giving us a glimpse of their social standing and aesthetic sensibilities. Archaeological excavations can reveal how a planned garden's design changed over time. Studying parks and gardens allows us to see how tastes and social influences shaped the designed landscape.

The National Trust estate at Beningbrough Hall in York provides a local example of

what can be learned from formal gardens.

The home was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and its walled garden remains functional, providing produce to the local



community. There is a cycling path in the park that can be used by visitors. Our day began with a talk about the history of parks and gardens and the information they provide. We then took a tour of Beningbrough Hall to see for ourselves what gardens can tell us about the past. It was a day that provided us with a beautiful location as well as useful information!

First picture: <http://www.donowdo.com/Historic-Homes-And-Palaces/Beningbrough-Hall-And-Gardens-York-YO30-1DD.htm>

Second picture: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-beningbroughhallandgardens>