



Community Archaeology Workshop: 4

Using archives and old maps, Tuesday 26th July 2005

Workshop 4 was extremely popular! It combined two projects funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund; the Greater York Community Archaeology Project and the newly refurbished Borthwick Institute for Archives at the University of York. The Borthwick Institute is one of the largest archive repositories outside London. It contains a wonderful collection of historic maps and other documents that are cared for by the Keeper of Archives, Chris Webb, and his team.

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Chris Webb led the workshop, which was set in the quiet and peaceful Documents Room at the Borthwick Institute. Chris had prepared an excellent handout, which is attached to this report (the maps highlighted in bold were those on display). It outlines when and why maps were produced, describes the different types of local maps that can be used for archive research, and how we can use and interpret them. After talking through some of the different maps on display we were able to wander around and study them. For those people who came to workshop 3 there was also an opportunity to practice their Palaeography skills on the survey books related to the maps.

This was a most informative and interesting workshop. Everybody learnt something about maps that they did not know before. For example, did you know that only 30 maps are known before 1500? Did you know that Ordnance Survey maps came into being because of the threat of invasion in the Napoleonic Wars? Did you know that Tithe maps are still considered legal documents today? For more gems of information please see



the handout '**An introduction to local maps**'. (pdf file, 34Kb)

Thanks to Chris Webb for such a fascinating workshop. As this workshop was so over-subscribed it will be repeated again next year.

For more information about the Borthwick Institute you can visit their website at <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/bihr/welcome.htm> or telephone 01904 321166.

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