



## Community Archaeology Workshop: 5

Interpreting Landscapes, Saturday 20th August 2005

### Praise for workshop 5:

*"Workshop 5 was a real success: a good number of people learnt a lot in a very enjoyable way!"*

Elizabeth Smith, participant

*"(Workshop 5 had) enthusiastic speakers, keen to convey information and helpful ideas, and a helpful field visit"* Jean Oliver, participant

*"I enjoyed the knowledgeable and friendly presentations with relevant local material"*  
Susan Major, participant

**GREATER YORK  
COMMUNITY  
ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT**

**CONTACT**



Workshop 5 was a fun-filled day packed with interesting presentations and a thought-provoking field visit. The day began in Fulford Social Hall, with three presentations. The first, by Mick Atha, a PhD student at the Department of Archaeology at the University of York, looked at changing ideas in landscape interpretation. It included a useful tour through landscape studies in the 19th and 20th centuries, looking in particular at seminal publications and changing attitudes to field survey

The second presentation, led by Alastair Oswald from English Heritage, looked specifically at maps and their uses in landscape investigation. It looked at the uses of map regression - using maps of the same area but of different dates to detect changes in the landscape. Walmgate Stray was used as an example, and was also used for the field visit in the afternoon.



After refreshments, the third talk looked at Aerial Photography and was led by Aerial Investigator Yvonne Boutwood from English Heritage. Yvonne gave a thorough and comprehensive presentation about the different types of aerial photographs used by archaeologists for landscape survey. Her [bibliography and list of sources](#) for further information is attached to this report.



Lunch was a picnic in the sunshine on Walmgate Stray, which was followed by a tour of the Stray by Alastair Oswald. The field visit was a chance for people to put theory into practice. They were asked to identify historic features in the landscape and think about the order in which things changed. Some of the more interesting features included ridge and furrow, World War I practice trenches, boundaries and hedgerows, drainage ditches and an army assault course. The field visit was made all the more exciting by the occasional Lancaster bomber flying overhead and displays from the Red Arrows (part of the Yorkshire Air Show held nearby)!



The last part of the day was taken up with field survey practice. The group was split into two and given a chance to try out two different field survey techniques. The first was baseline and offset surveying of a World War I trench, led by Mick Atha, and the second a demonstration of how to use Ordnance Survey maps for field survey, led by Alastair Oswald.



For more information on landscape investigation and field survey techniques see the attached sheets provided by Alastair Oswald:

- o **Principles of landscape investigation and field survey**
- o **Survey techniques**
- o **Field survey publication drawing**

A short **Bibliography of sources for Air Photo Interpretation** is also available here

For more information about the English Heritage Landscape Investigation Team you can visit their website at

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/landscapedetectives>

For more information on aerial survey see <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/aerialsurvey>

Enquires about aerial photographs can be directed to:

NMR Enquiry and Research Services  
National Monuments Record  
Kemble Drive  
Swindon  
SN2 2GZ

email: [nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk)

Thanks to Alastair Oswald, Yvonne Boutwood and Mick Atha for such an enjoyable and fascinating day. As this workshop was so popular, it will be repeated again next year, perhaps focussing on a different area of common land.

---

### Contact

For further information on Community Archaeology in Greater York please contact Jon Kenny on 01904 663020 or email [jkenny@yorkarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:jkenny@yorkarchaeology.co.uk)

---

---

**DISCOVER**

**SERVICES**

**GET INVOLVED**

**RESOURCES**

**PUBLICATIONS**

**HOME**

*Copyright © 2003–2006 York Archaeological Trust*