



Community Archaeology Study Days 2006/7

STUDY DAY 2 – Interpreting Landscapes

Hob Moor, Dringhouses, York. Saturday 6th May 2006

Feedback from the study day:

"I liked the relaxed atmosphere and the informality" Participant

"I enjoyed looking at the maps, the picnic and learning measuring techniques."
Participant

"The day was well-organised, friendly and practical." Participant

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CONTACT

On a warm, spring day in York, 20 people turned up to West Thorpe Methodist Church in Dringhouses to learn how to Interpret Landscapes. This study day welcomed back Alistair Oswald from English Heritage, who ran a similar session on Walmgate Stray last year.



Alistair began by giving a general overview of landscape interpretation and the use of maps as a historic source. To illustrate this he presented a case study of Walmgate Stray, showing how the landscape had changed through using a series of maps of different dates – a technique called map regression. The participants had to look at the maps and work out when some of the changes had taken

place. After this, Alistair talked a little about Hob Moor – showing a range of maps and aerial photographs of the area.

With the morning session over, we headed over to Hob Moor, just a short walk away. We walked our way around the moor, stopping to look at historic features in the landscape, including ridge and furrow, historic hedgerows, small earthworks and trackways. Alistair took the time to explain all of these features to the participants, helping them to gain experience in looking for and identifying historic landscape features. Once we had reached North Lane Pasture, we settled down for a picnic in the sunshine and a glass or two of refreshing bubbly!

After lunch the group was split into two for some practical survey work. Alistair was joined by one of his colleagues, Abby Hunt, for this part of the day. One group went off to learn about baseline and offset surveying and the other to learn how to plot and record features to scale using Ordnance Survey maps.

Thanks very much to Alistair Oswald for preparing such an interesting day and to Abby Hunt for her assistance with the practical exercises.

Contact

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