



## Community Archaeology Study Days 2006/7

### STUDY DAY 5 – Recording Historic Buildings

**Royal Observer Corps Building, The Knavesmire, York. Saturday 5th August 2006**

**GREATER YORK  
COMMUNITY  
ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT**

**CONTACT**

Feedback from the study day:

*“A very interesting day and a real eye-opener as to the detail required for building recording”* Participant

*“An interesting ‘taster’ that was pleasantly informal”* Participant

*“I enjoyed the opportunity to see and work with modern surveying equipment”*  
Participant

In June 2006 the Community Archaeologist ran a study day on ‘Recording Historic Buildings’ at a Royal Observer Corps (ROC) building on the Knavesmire in York. This building has an important history but is not open to the public or protected in any way. It was decided that we would run two study days at this venue so that participants could practice recording techniques on this building and produce some scale drawings as a result.

Tony Berry, an Illustrator for English Heritage offered to run both days on recording buildings at the ROC building and in June 2006 we began the survey of the ROC building, with the help of twelve volunteers.

On the August study day the Community Archaeologist began by talking about the ROC, highlighting their role in York and reading extracts from a 1943 Newspaper article, which talked about the York ROC volunteers. Tony went on to explain why we record buildings and showed the participants some of the tools of the trade.

Following this, Tony led a walkabout tour of the building, pointing out what the different rooms would have been used for and where alterations had been made to the building. The volunteers were then split into three groups; two assigned to record a section through the building and one to make a photographic record of the building.



Tony divided his time among the groups, who were taught to measure along the walls and record the positions and heights of walls, doors, windows and stairs on a section drawing of the building. This took the remainder of the day and proved to be a challenging afternoon for many of the volunteers, who had never done such work before.

By the end of the day we had produced a complete section drawing through the building and a photographic record, which will be added to the plan produced in June 2006.

Thanks very much to Tony Berry for preparing such an interesting day and for his guidance on survey techniques. Thanks also to Elizabeth Smith, Chair of Dringhouses Local History Group, for providing information about the local ROC. The results of the survey and information about the ROC building will soon be displayed in Dringhouses Local History Library and York Central Library. Thank also go to Phil Sanderson from Hamilton Panthers Football Club for providing access to the building (which is currently used as their club rooms).

### 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*