

Introduction to the Our Farm Heritage Project

Aim

To gain a more in depth and complete understanding of the Upper Nidderdale landscape over time.

Objectives

1. Make an assessment of all available resources;
2. Carry out landscape-scale surveys of farmland across the project area;
3. Where appropriate, record features in more detail;
4. Ensure a good data set for inclusion in the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (as appropriate);
5. Disseminate the results to farmers/landowners and to the wider community (as appropriate).

Overview of the survey methodology (Objectives 1–3)

- Desk-based research
An extensive survey will be made of the available resources associated with the survey locations to enhance the landscape survey data.
- Landscape survey
A landscape survey using handheld GPS receivers will be carried out in agreement with landowners and farmers. The use of handheld GPS receivers will enable features to be uploaded and mapped in GIS, along with the photographic and text records. The accuracy of the GPS is sufficient for the purposes of landscape survey, so long as accuracy is noted and the data is corrected to Ordnance Survey mapping.
- Detailed survey
As the survey progresses, features may be encountered that warrant a more detailed record. In these cases, the following methodologies will be adopted:
 - Rock Art – England's Rock Art (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/era/>)
 - Barns and buildings – AONB Traditional Farm Buildings Project

Project organisation

Lead partner

The Iron Age (Nidderdale) Community Archaeology Group (<http://iron-age.org/>) will coordinate and lead the on-the-ground surveying and writing up of results, acting as an umbrella group for all heritage volunteers who would like to be involved, whether new volunteers or members of other volunteer heritage groups (LCAP 2014). The project will be managed by the Historic Nidderdale Project Officer.

Recording project time

In order to fulfil the conditions of the project funding, it is important that we record your valuable contribution by recording the time you spend on the project. Spreadsheets are available for you to do this and you will need to submit these quarterly to the nominated co-ordinator who will collate these. There are two sheets, one to be filled in by a group leader if there are a number of you out surveying. The form for individuals is to be used for individual research work and for times when perhaps only two are out surveying.