

Desk-based Research

It is helpful to look at a range of mapping (modern and historic) ahead of carrying out survey work. This may help you understand the nature of any features, particularly modern features such as pipelines. Further research work may be carried out at a later date to inform the survey results.

It is useful to tie the research into the survey by using the current farm name and field numbers where possible.

National Monuments Record (NMR) and Historic Environment Record

The NMR's national historic environment database can be searched for already recorded sites (www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway). By inputting the co-ordinates of the location you wish to search and selecting 'PastScape' (under the 'Resources' tab), a list is generated of all recorded sites within your chosen radius.

Current and historic maps

Maps not only show natural and man-made features, but also identify features such as 'cairn', 'tumulus', 'earthwork', 'mine', etc. It is worth looking at a range of maps from modern Ordnance Survey to earlier maps as the information included may vary, and levels of detail may differ. Place name evidence is also useful, for example the name of a field or hill may provide an insight into past land use or settlement.

A selection of historic maps can be accessed online:
maps.northyorks.gov.uk/connect/?mapcfg=historic_maps

Aerial photographs

The most accessible source of aerial imagery is Google Earth:
www.google.co.uk/intl/en_uk/earth/index.html.

Aerial images that have been taken at different times of the year and in different conditions are easy to view from your computer. Both sun and snow can accentuate features. Sun will produce highlights and shadow – what feature the highlight or shadow represents is dependent upon the direction of the sun. Snow also highlights features where it has accumulated and therefore taken longer to melt. This can also be seen on the ground.

Libraries and archives

Maps, documents and images, including aerial photographs, are kept in local, regional and national archives.

North Yorkshire County Council Record Office

- Archives Online: archives.northyorks.gov.uk/DServe/
- Contact details: Telephone: 01609 777585 / Email: archives@northyorks.gov.uk
Malpas Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 8TB

West Yorkshire Archive Service: www.archives.wyjs.org.uk

Further Reading

Aston, M. 1985. *Interpreting the Landscape: landscape archaeology and local history*. London: Batsford.

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- Bowden, M. 1999. *Unravelling the Landscape: An Inquisitive Approach to Archaeology*. Stroud: Tempus.
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- Eastmead, S. 2012. *Landscape Surveying using Handheld GPS Receivers*. Swaledale: Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group <http://www.swaag.org/>
- Kain, R.J.P. and Oliver, R.R. 1995. *The Tithe Maps of England and Wales: a cartographic analysis and county-by-county catalogue*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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- Lake, J. and Edwards, B. 2008. *Historic Farmsteads. A Manual for Mapping*. English Heritage/Forum Heritage Services
<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/eLand/planners-developers/HistoricEnvironment/Projects/HistoricFarmsteadsAManualforMapping2009.pdf>
- Muir, R. 2000. *The New Reading the Landscape: Fieldwork in Landscape History*. Exeter: University of Exeter Press
- Rippon, S. 2004. *Historic Landscape Analysis: Deciphering the Countryside*. York: Council for British Archaeology.
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Historic England website –Surveying and Recording Heritage section:
<http://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/recording-heritage/>

- Also:
 - Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes
<http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/understanding-archaeology-of-landscapes/>
 - Farming the Historic Landscape. Caring for Archaeological Sites in Grassland
<http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/farming-the-historic-landscape-grassland/>
 - Farming the Historic Landscape. Caring for Archaeological Sites on Arable Land
<http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/farming-the-historic-landscape-arable/>
 - Farming the Historic Landscape. Caring for Farm Buildings
<http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/farming-the-historic-landscape-farm-buildings/>
 - Historic Farmsteads: Preliminary Character Statement – Yorkshire and the Humber region
<http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-farmsteads-preliminary-character-statement-yorkshire-humber/>

Out of Oblivion website: <http://www.outofoblivion.org.uk/>