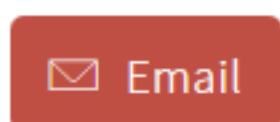


Vale of York National Mapping Programme project



The Vale of York NMP project covered 1,675 square kilometres of low-lying land between the Magnesian Limestone and the Yorkshire Wolds. Its northern limit was the Howardian Hills and it went as far south as the rivers Aire and Humber. The survey was undertaken because intensive aerial reconnaissance over many years had shown the area to be rich in archaeology. This archaeology was also under threat both from deep ploughing and piecemeal development around villages. The project provided data that greatly enhanced the national and local records. It has since been used to inform planning decisions and further research.



Skipwith Common in North Yorkshire, as seen here on 21-MAR-2007, is one of the last remaining areas of lowland heath in northern England (NMR 20647/40) © Historic England

Iron Age and Roman field systems

The landscape within the Vale has actively been used and farmed throughout prehistory to the present day. Extensive ditched field systems and settlements, dating to the late Iron Age and Roman periods, were revealed as cropmarks. These were recorded along with some rare earthwork survivals of enclosures on Allerthorpe and Skipwith Commons, the latter of which can be seen in the image below. It is the fact that the site mirrors cropmark enclosures nearby that suggests it may be a rare survival from the Iron Age or Roman periods.



Rectilinear earthwork enclosure on the edge of Skipwith Common, photographed on 22-MAR-1999 (NMR 17265/11). © Crown copyright. HE

Roman military sites and road network

The results of the project mapping and analysis enabled a review of the evidence for Roman military forts and camps and the infrastructure of roads and roadside settlements that converge on the important Roman town of York. Evidence for the position of the road on both sides of the River Derwent helps to locate the probable Roman bridging point.



South of Stamford Bridge, cropmarks photographed on 20-JUL-1995 provide evidence of a large settlement alongside the road to York (NMR 12705/30). © Crown copyright. HE

Post-medieval rabbit farming

An unusual and relatively rare cruciform earthwork structure was discovered on low-lying ground at Wheldrake Ings. Its function is uncertain, but the favoured interpretation is a pillow mound, associated with rabbit farming in the East Riding of Yorkshire.



These cross-shaped earthworks seen on flooded marginal land at Wheldrake Ings on 22-MAR-1999 have been interpreted as an artificial rabbit warren (NMR 17265/03) © Crown copyright. HE