

A landscape photograph showing a wide, green field with a dirt path leading towards a small pond. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The text 'Landscape in the Field and the Archive' is overlaid in a white box at the top.

Landscape in the Field and the Archive

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What is Landscape Studies?

An interdisciplinary field focused on **sites as objects of study.**

Draws on methods and interests of many other traditions, including: archaeology, history, human geography, garden history, history of art and design, material culture – and natural history.

What is Landscape?

“An area of land as perceived by people.”

European Landscape Convention, Florence, 2000.

“A way of seeing.”

Denis Cosgrove, *Social Formation & Symbolic Landscape*, 1985.

Landscape Studies in the Field

Birchen Edge, Peaks District, Derbyshire





Birchen Edge, Peaks District, Derbyshire





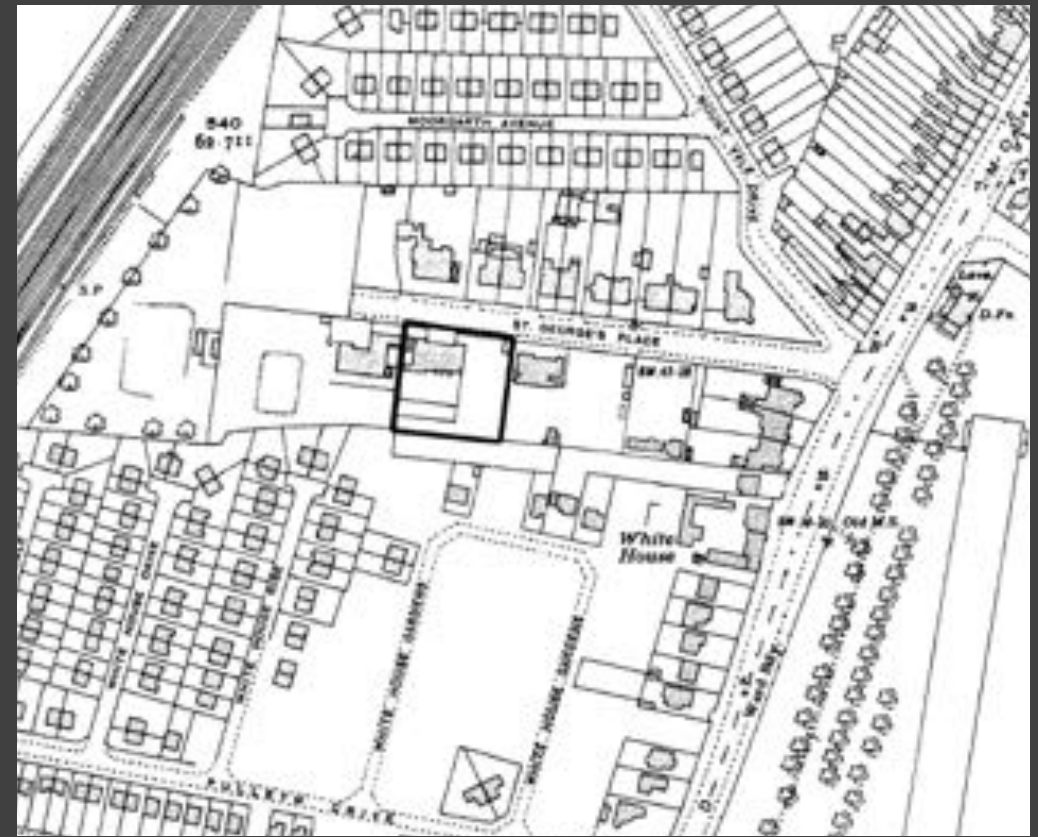


Asking Questions of a Landscape

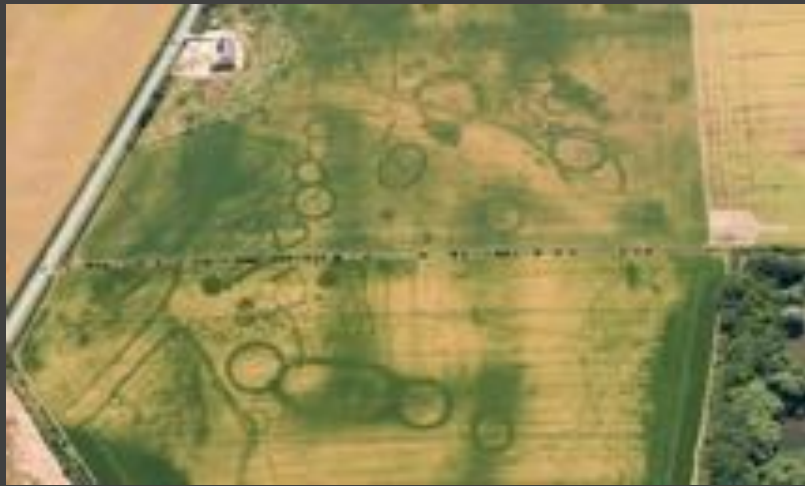
- How has this landscape changed over time? What information has been lost in those changes?
- Who controls this land? Why have they made the choices they did?
- Who works the land? Who lives here?
- How do local communities respond to these sites and to changes in these sites?
- How is this landscape interpreted culturally, by individuals or by a group?

Landscape Research Resources

- Maps
- Land documents
- Aerial photography
- Site photography
- Other site images – paintings, prints, drawings.
- Archaeological studies, Historic England and National Trust records, Victoria County Histories, local histories, etc.



Bishopbarns, York, UK.
Ordnance Survey (OS) Maps, Country Series 1:2500.
Left: 1909, First Revision
Right: 1937, Third Revision



A new prehistoric henge discovered at Brú na Bóinne, Ireland. (Anthony Murphy)



Prehistoric settlements near Eynsham, Oxfordshire and Lansallos, Cornwall. (Damian Grady/Historic England)



Victorian garden at Gawthorpe Hall, Lancashire. (South West News Service)



Dante Gabriel Rossetti
Water Willow, 1871
Delaware Art Museum



Teaching the Landscape



Observation and Close Looking

- What's here?
- How is this space used?
- Is there clear periodization? When do they think features were added or changed?
- How do they experience it?

Landscape Research Questions

- How has this landscape changed over time?
 - Who controls this land? Why have they made the choices they did?
 - How is the land managed, and by whom?
 - Who uses it, and how?
 - How is this landscape interpreted culturally?
 - Who values it, and how?
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- Who and what is missing? What landscape stories are or are not told? Why?