



# SEEING BENEATH THE LANDSCAPE

a practical introduction to

## geophysical survey

Everybody knows that “geophys” can reveal archaeological features below ground. But which techniques provide the best results, and why?

This Masterclass is primarily aimed at beginners who want to learn about geophysical survey. However, it offers much more than that.

We will not only provide hands-on training about different geophysical survey techniques and help you to understand what factors should affect choice of which one to use, but **in addition** we will show you how the results can be better interpreted by also examining other sources of evidence in the landscape.

**“This is geophysical survey PLUS!”**



# LANDSCAPE MASTERCLASS

13 –15 May 2022

Join

**Prof Stewart Ainsworth**  
(Time Team’s landscape  
archaeologist)

and

**Dr Hannah Brown**  
(Magnitude Surveys)



in the landscape surrounding  
Epiacum Roman fort in the North  
Pennines Area of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty



More details overleaf

# What will this Masterclass teach me?

If you are a beginner, this Masterclass will simply help you to understand the basics of geophysics: the terminology; the practicalities of gathering data; interpretation of the results; and potential pitfalls. The training will include

- How to understand the strengths and weaknesses of different techniques and to choose the right technique for different sites.
- How to set out and locate surveys, gather data, process and interpret results, using the three most commonly used techniques of magnetometry, resistance and ground-penetrating radar (GPR).
- How to interpret the data and relate the results to the archaeology and landscape.

But that's not all. Even if you have some experience of geophysical survey, this Masterclass will hopefully give you new insights.

Too often, "geophys" is carried out without examining other sources of evidence. One of our key aims is to show how such sources can save time (and money!) and can lead to richer, better-informed interpretations of geophysical evidence.



So, we will also be examining how geophysical survey can be combined with analysis of other evidence, such as earthworks, topography, lidar and aerial photography.

## Where will the Masterclass be held?

The training weekend is hosted on an upland farm at the spectacular Roman fort at Whitley Castle (known to the Romans as Epiacum), just a couple of miles north of the small market town of Alston in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Postcode CA9 3BG; OS Grid Ref NY695 487). The event is hosted by Epiacum Heritage CIO Registered Charity No 1178097.

## What will we be surveying?

The focus of the surveys will be what we believe to be a Roman Iron Age settlement which was recently discovered close to the fort. We are also hoping to investigate what has been interpreted as the fort's bath-house.

This is primarily a training course, but the results will also contribute to ongoing research and conservation of this internationally important landscape.

## When's the Masterclass happening?

Training will take place between the evening of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May and the afternoon of Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. The Friday evening is an informal indoor presentation in a local community hall followed by two full days outside on site.

## What's provided?

We will provide the teaching and equipment, plus an evening meal on the first night and lunches/snacks during the training.

## Where can I stay?

Accommodation is not provided, so you will need to make your own choice (we can help by providing you with an accommodation list and it may be possible to stay on the farm in your own tent or campervan).

## What should I bring?

This is an outdoors course on the hills of the North Pennines. Above all, you should bring warm and wet-weather boots and clothing. Because some survey techniques are sensitive to metal, you should also make sure that you have some clothes and shoes that are 100% metal-free.

## Who are the trainers?

- This Landscape Masterclass will be led by Prof. Stewart Ainsworth FSA, MClfA, formerly a senior investigator with English Heritage; *SharedPast* consultant archaeologist and *Time Team's* resident landscape archaeologist.
- The geophysical survey element will be provided by Dr. Hannah Brown ACIfA; geophysicist from *Magnitude Surveys Ltd*. Magnitude is a social enterprise and independent provider of archaeological geophysics surveys to the community, research, public outreach and commercial sectors.

**Cost - £280**

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