

M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA)

PROJECT TITLE				
Exploring Yorkshire's historical landscapes: place-names, archives, and audiences				
LEAD INSTITUTION				
Name of HEI institution	University of Nottingham			
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PARTNER ORGANISATION				
Name of organisation	West Yorkshire Archive Services North Yorkshire County Record Office			
Website	https://www.wyjs.org.uk/archive-service/ https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/leisure-tourism-and-culture/county-record-office			
<p>The project</p> <p>You will work on medieval documents held by West Yorkshire Archive Services and North Yorkshire County Record Office, analysing the place-names they preserve, and using those names to gain an understanding of the historical environment of selected areas of Yorkshire, and its relationship with the present-day environment.</p> <p>Place-names originated as meaningful landscape descriptions, and many of them date to the medieval period. Mostly they were given by ordinary people, and they offer us a chance to hear the voices of those who are otherwise largely ignored in the historical record. Through them we can gain an understanding of local environments, and their resources, management and inhabitants through time.</p> <p>You will bring to the project a knowledge of place-name methodology and an enthusiasm not only for archival work and place-based study, but also for communicating research findings beyond the academy. For your PhD, you will investigate the following two broad research questions, applied to two case-study areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can place-names be used to reconstruct the historic environment? • How can the geospatial presentation of this material facilitate public engagement with archival material and the historical and present-day environments? <p>By the end of the project you will have excellent archive skills, a wealth of experience in onomastic study, the languages of English place-names, and in public engagement and knowledge exchange activities. You will also be expert in Geographic Information Systems and their applications in heritage contexts.</p> <p>Process:</p> <p>You be using diverse research methods for this project. These will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • archival work with medieval manuscripts to collect and contextualise place-name forms in two areas of Yorkshire; for this you will need, or need to acquire, competence in medieval Latin and palaeography 				

- place-name analysis to understand the ways in which the names describe the landscape and its resources, management and inhabitants; for this you will need a background in name-studies and/or the main languages of English place-names
- work with Geospatial Technologies to represent your findings spatially in a variety of contexts, both academic and public-facing; training will be provided at beginner or advanced level as appropriate.

Place:

You will be based in the Institute for Name-Studies at the University of Nottingham, with access to its library, archives, and workspace for three of the project's four years. You will be supervised by Professor Jayne Carroll in the School of English and Dr Gary Priestnall in the School of Geography, with support from your non-academic supervisors, expert archivists Victoria Grindrod and Tom Richards. Most of year three will be spent on placement working with Vicky and Tom, first in West Yorkshire Archives Services (Morley, Leeds) and then with the North Yorkshire County Record Office (Northallerton). There you will gain valuable practical experience in archival research and management, cataloguing, reprographics, and outreach work.

Person:

The ideal applicant for this studentship will have an excellent academic record, excellent interpersonal and groupwork skills, and enthusiasm for collaborative research, together with

- experience in the study of place-names
- experience in one or more of the following languages: Old English, Old Norse, Medieval Latin
- demonstrable interest or experience in archival studies
- a competence in GIS and database skills, or a willingness to acquire them
- a willingness to relocate to Yorkshire for year three of your programme.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE. Please email the lead university supervisor if you want to find out more about this CDA project.

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Professor Jayne Carroll
Lead HEI Supervisor Email:	jayne.carroll@nottingham.ac.uk