

1919 - 1953



## JOB PROFILE: Cataloguer

Hi, my name is Laura. The purpose of my job is to work out the locations shown in the aerial photographs, to assign a grid reference and description to each image and to create catalogue records for them within the English Heritage database of aerial photographs and the Britain from Above website.

Because I need to use several bits of software at the same time to look at photographs, old maps, databases etc I use three big monitors:



### Career path

I've always been interested in history and archaeology, art and architecture, but I never had a clear idea of what my perfect job would be...

I studied Geology, Sociology and Classical Civilisation at A' Level (subjects that interested me), and Archaeology at university. After university I got a job in an arts & design library as a Library Assistant, and after a couple of years took over the running of the visual resources collections there (this is back in the days of videotapes and 35 mm slides!) After a few years I decided that I wanted to work in Heritage so quit my job and went to work for a county-based archaeology service, maintaining a database of sites and dealing with enquiries. I then got a job on an archaeological research project for a couple of years which involved using maps and aerial photographs. That contract ended and I got a job with the English Heritage Archive in Swindon. Each of my previous roles has given me experience that helps with my current job – experience of working with pictures, databases, old maps, working as part of a team etc.

### Pros of being a cataloguer

I get paid for looking at really interesting pictures all day. Every photograph is another puzzle that needs to be solved.

### Cons of being a cataloguer

My job is desk-based and I spend all day looking at computer screens.