

East Lothian Antiquarian & Field Naturalists' Society

New looks at old pasts: the impact of LiDAR on our understanding of the landscape in Lothian and the Border counties.

by Stratford Halliday



Kidlaw hillfort, East Lothian

Scottish Government Remote Sensing Data

The Society is delighted to present this talk by Stratford Halliday at 2.30 PM, Saturday, 22nd November, 2025.

The venue will be at Holy Trinity Church, Church Street, Haddington

Stratford Halliday is an independent researcher and author with a keen interest in using modern technologies to explore archaeological sites.

Traditional archaeological survey has always involved first hand observation and plenty of fresh air and exercise. Since WWII, however, first aerial photography and more recently geophysics have been developed as prospection techniques, each leading to startling new discoveries. The most recent technique to be added to the field archaeologist's toolkit is LiDAR – Light Detection and Ranging – a remarkable digital technology in which the data can be displayed and analysed in myriad ways. With its capacity to strip away much of the surface vegetation, for the first time we have a technique that allows archaeologists to look beneath the trees and detect the faintest of traces of human activity preserved on the surface. Drawing examples from both the Lothians and Border counties, we will explore how this technique is changing our understanding of aspects of our past, including the discovery of the largest Neolithic monument yet known in Scotland. The image is of Kidlaw hillfort, a Multihillshade Lidar visualisation revealing multiple phases of construction in the defences of the fort.

Join us for refreshments afterwards.

For any enquiries contact Elaine Whewell: info@eastlothiantiquarians.org.uk

Non members welcome with a modest cash donation appreciated

Church parking is limited to Blue Badge holders plus otherwise mobility compromised

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