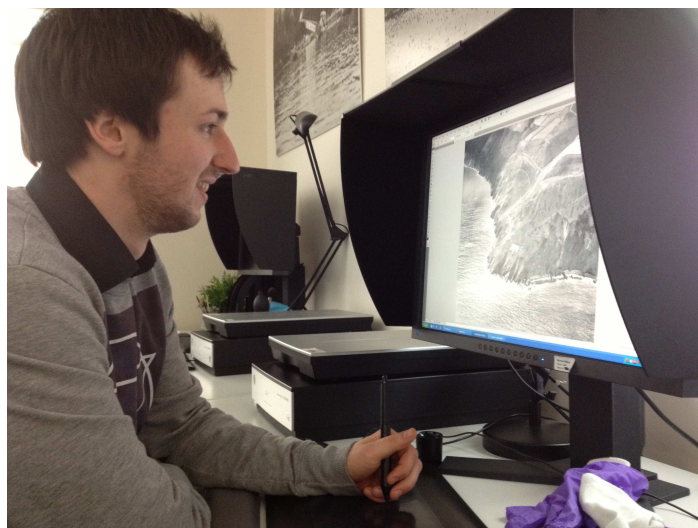




JOB PROFILE: Digitisation Officer

Hi, my name is Michael. A passion for history and photography has given me the best job in the world. I am part of the Digitisation team, working on the Britain From Above Project; one of the most interesting and important historical photographic collections being curated by English Heritage today.

As a team we are currently scanning and digitally developing 95,000 negatives over the course of three and a half years. I have a daily target of 30 images to scan and digitally restore and in a year I will complete 6696 images. On a daily basis I bring the negatives in and out of the Archive, which is really a giant freezer that stores the material at 8C. Once they have been taken out of the archive I scan the negatives creating a digital copy. Using Photoshop CS5, I digitally restore the image whilst keeping to the standards set by English Heritage.



Career path

From an early age I have been interested in History and photography. For my GCSE options I picked Sport Studies, History and Design Technology. I continued my studies at a local Sixth Form College where I chose to study Sport Studies, Biology, Psychology and Photography. I mainly chose Photography at A-level to do a subject that was fun and interesting and you didn't need to do any hard studying for. Throughout sixth form I had two part time jobs working in Halfords and Somerfield which built up my confidence and gave me a good insight into the working world and working with diverse groups of people.

It wasn't until my second year that I became interested in studying photography at university. I had always wanted to pursue a career in the sports/science industry but after a great amount of consideration I opted to apply for Art courses and graduated in September 2010 with a BA Hons in Photographic Art. I applied for a large number of jobs and worked in a few diverse places such as Halifax and Fitness first before I got my dream job working on some of the most incredible images I have ever seen.

Pros of being a Digitisation Officer

Being able to work on a priceless collection of images that are of historical and cultural importance and vary each and every day.

Cons of being a Digitisation Officer

I'm a very active person and find it difficult that, for my job, I have to spend the majority of the day sitting down at a desk.