Archaeology from aerial (etc) photographs

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AARG 2010 - Bucharest
What do we know about the past that may show on aerial photos?
Figure 14.2  The section of Overton Down Experimental Earthwork showing its changing profile between 1960 and 1992.
OK .... so how do I see this stuff?
Surviving ditches of a Roman period settlement with tracks and fields.

Plough-levelled ditches visible through their effect on crop growth.

Note continuation of track.
Why use aerial photos?
Merry Christmas / Nadolig Llawen 2005
...from RCAHMW aerial survey
Taking aerial photos
Corona 1971. Bronze Age fortress and field system
Levelled sites are not always visible. This is a small Roman town.
In a different year it was visible
Photos show much more than only archaeological features – such as the location of this settlement in bend of a former river.
Quarries
Soil movement that has damaged or destroyed terraces
Houses in the modern gipsy village of Buzescu,
From photos, via interpretation, to a map
Some uses of these maps
Provide context (natural and archaeological) for field walked sites
Provide context and structure for small areas of geophysical survey

(stolen from English Heritage)
Map prepared in advance of excavation and quarrying
The excavation soon after topsoil was removed and the surface cleaned
Map used to position sample excavation trenches
Dating from excavation applied to mapped information

Figure 23: Prehistoric archaeology

Figure 24: Romano-British and Saxon archaeology
Management issues at Solak, Armenia:

QuickBird (via GE) 2004

Corona 1971
Expect the unexpected
and
question all you see