

CMS-CREMS-CECS visit to Fountains Abbey, 23.5.07

On 23 May 2007, 45 postgraduates and staff from the Centre for Medieval Studies, the Centre for Renaissance & Early Modern Studies, and the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies spent the day at Fountains Abbey, near Ripon—Britain's largest monastic ruin and a World Heritage Site. With the guidance of Christopher Norton (CMS), Bill Sherman (CREMS) and John Barrell (CECS), we followed the site as it was transformed by each of our periods, from the foundation of a Cistercian abbey in 1132, through its dissolution by King Henry VIII in the late 1530s and the building of Fountains Hall, (using stones from the ruins) between 1598 and 1604, to its conversion into an eighteenth-century water garden (complete with classical temples and a banqueting house) by John Aislaby and his son William.



