

KILDALE MANOR REVIEW.



This Review will concentrate only on the Kildale Manor complex and will draw together all the available information about its history and archaeology.

There will be seven sections in this Review:

1. IN MEMORIAM AND RECENT INVESTIGATIONS FROM A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE.
2. HISTORICAL CONTEXT.
3. DESCRIPTION OF BUILDINGS found during the excavations.
4. INTERPRETATION.
5. SHORTCOMINGS.
6. RECTIFICATION AND RESEARCH.
7. ANNE JENNER'S POTTERY ASSESSMENT REPORT.

IN MEMORIAM AND RECENT INVESTIGATIONS FROM A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE.

Raymond Hayes, one of the leading amateur archaeologists in North Yorkshire and a well-known photographer in Hutton-le-Hole co-founded the Ryedale Folk Museum together with Frank Burt. I first met Raymond in the 1960's when he was the 'administrator' for Dr Ian Stead's excavations for the Ministry of Works. When I moved to the north-east in 1971, he was my first archaeological contact. Over the years I crossed Blakey Rigg in all weathers to visit him and listen to his extensive local knowledge. He was a real gentleman and a pleasure to be with.

Raymond recommended I meet Don Spratt who was living in Hall Drive, Middlesbrough, a research chemist in ICI Billingham and a founder member of Teesside Archaeological Society. Over the years Don and I worked on many archaeological projects together, the largest of which was the excavation of four Iron Age round houses outside Roxby between 1972 and 1979. By then he had moved to Skelton, near York where we worked together on the award-winning Roxby report. He was a close friend, an ally and sadly missed.

Roland Close was brought up and lived most of his life in Baysdale before moving to No.1 Station Road, Kildale. Besides working for the Kildale Estate, he was a respected amateur archaeologist working with Raymond on the excavations at Percy Rigg, Pale End, Crag Bank, and Lounsedale all in Kildale and on many other sites outside Kildale. A few years ago, I had the pleasure to meet Shirley Johnston who was Roland's niece. She recalled many a dark winter's day sticking together the pottery Roland had recently found!

Raymond, Don and Roland together with many other colleagues excavated the remains of the Kildale Manor between 1957 and 1976. I have several archive photographs of them waist-deep in the trenches across the valley.

In October 2011 I had a meeting with Mr. Andrew Sutcliffe, the owner of the Kildale Estate who very kindly gave me permission to start fieldwalking on his land in Kildale starting near Bleach Mill Farm. As of 2021 I have walked 306 acres!

The first time I saw the remains of Kildale Manor was in November 2011 and was fascinated by their complexity. I resolved to take up the baton from the three.

In January 2016 I called to see Phil Philo at the Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough, who was then the senior curator of museums. At my request he showed me the archive from Kildale Manor excavations. In my mind I can still see all 50 crates stacked floor to ceiling in the store room containing over 6000 pieces of pottery! I contacted a friend of mine, Anne Jenner who worked for the York Archaeological Trust in York as a specialist in Medieval pottery. Anne and I started the pottery assessment in February 2016 and finally finished in August 2019 – 27 days including five days in Kildale Village Hall as teaching days for HVCP members.

The Hidden Valleys Community Project came into being in March 2017 with an inaugural meeting in Kildale Village Hall with Mr. Sutcliffe as patron and over 70 people attending. The HVCP manifesto is to study the history and archaeology of Kildale, Westerdale and other parts of North Yorkshire.

Since then members have taken part in surveys to re-align the excavation plans, a magnetometer survey over both fields covering the Manor House, numbering and sticking the Kildale Manor pottery in the Dorman Museum, a topographical survey of all the site and a resistivity survey over both fields.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT.

A few pieces of Romano-British pottery were found during the excavations in the 1960's suggesting that there was a settlement on the Kildale Manor site in the RB period.

Prior to the compilation of the Domesday Book, and probably during the Saxon and Viking periods, Ligulf and Orme and their predecessors were the lords of the manor of Kildale. It is almost certain that both were absentee landlords and that the estate or manor was administered by aristocrats with some sort of military standing who were buried with their swords around a possible Saxon church mentioned in the Domesday Book. This suggests the existence of a Saxon and Viking hall, possibly made of timber, on the site of the later Manor House on the hillock adjacent to the church.

Within four years of the Norman invasion William de Percy I had established his northern power base at Topcliffe (Maiden Bower) near the north-south arterial road (Dere Street) and at the junction of two rivers.

Trying to dis-entangle the de Percy family tree is almost impossible (endorsed by the Rev.J.C.Atkinson [JCA]). Many of the elite aristocracy were inter-related and sometimes fought on different sides at the same battle.

Arnald de Percy I, possibly one of the sons of William de Percy I, was the first de Percy of Kildale given the manor during the reign of Henry I (1100-1135) and over the next 400 years of the de Percy tenure there were at least ten descendants of Arnald de Percy I as lords of the manor. It is recorded that this part of the de Percy family were 'of Kildale' implying that the manor was their only residence and domicile. There is no evidence of them living anywhere else or that they were lords of any other manors. It is assumed that they lived an active lifestyle as some are known to have gone on campaign for or with the king but it is probable that they were not long-term absentee landlords except when their tenure was coming to an end in the 1400s.

Arnald de Percy I died sometime before 1169 leaving no heirs and the manor was administered by Adam de Brus (the overlord). How long that lasted is unknown but William de Percy II was in possession a year before he died in 1198. He was succeeded by his wife Agnes who later married John Birkin. William de Percy II and Agnes's son Walter de Percy inherited the manor. In about 1244 William de Percy III took over the manor and was in possession until his death in 1294. It was during this tenure, in 1253, that the manor was given a charter to hold a market and fair. In 1284 William de Percy III is mentioned in a survey by the Lord Treasurer, John de Kirkby, as to what monies and men could be raised. Before his death his two sons appeared in court disputing their inheritance because their father was 'of unsound mind'. Arnald de Percy II won the case and inherited Kildale. It is recorded that he was called up in 1296 and 1301 for military service against the Scots. Also in 1301 he is listed as having to pay 9shillings and 2pence in taxation (less than John of Irton [of Kildale] who had to pay 14shillings and 7pence).

In 1315 John de Percy I is mentioned in a survey of settlements and their lords in each Wapentake. John de Percy I was also the patron of Thomas Tamtone the first priest in JCA's list of rectors in Kildale from 1280 to 1867. John de Percy I is also listed in 1328 as having to pay 2shillings in taxation.

John de Percy II was in possession of Kildale in 1344 and died in 1385.

John de Percy III took part in the plot of 1399 to kill Henry IV and restore Richard II to the throne. They were betrayed and John de Percy III was imprisoned and his lands forfeited, including presumably Kildale. However, in 1405 he was pardoned and his lands reinstated. He was succeeded by his son John de Percy IV who died in 1442. His son John de Percy V was too young to administer Kildale so John Felton became the caretaker. Twenty years later John de Percy V is described as an Esquire, dying in 1501.

John de Percy VI and his daughters sold off the manor of Kildale to Earl Henry of Northumberland between 1494 and 1503.

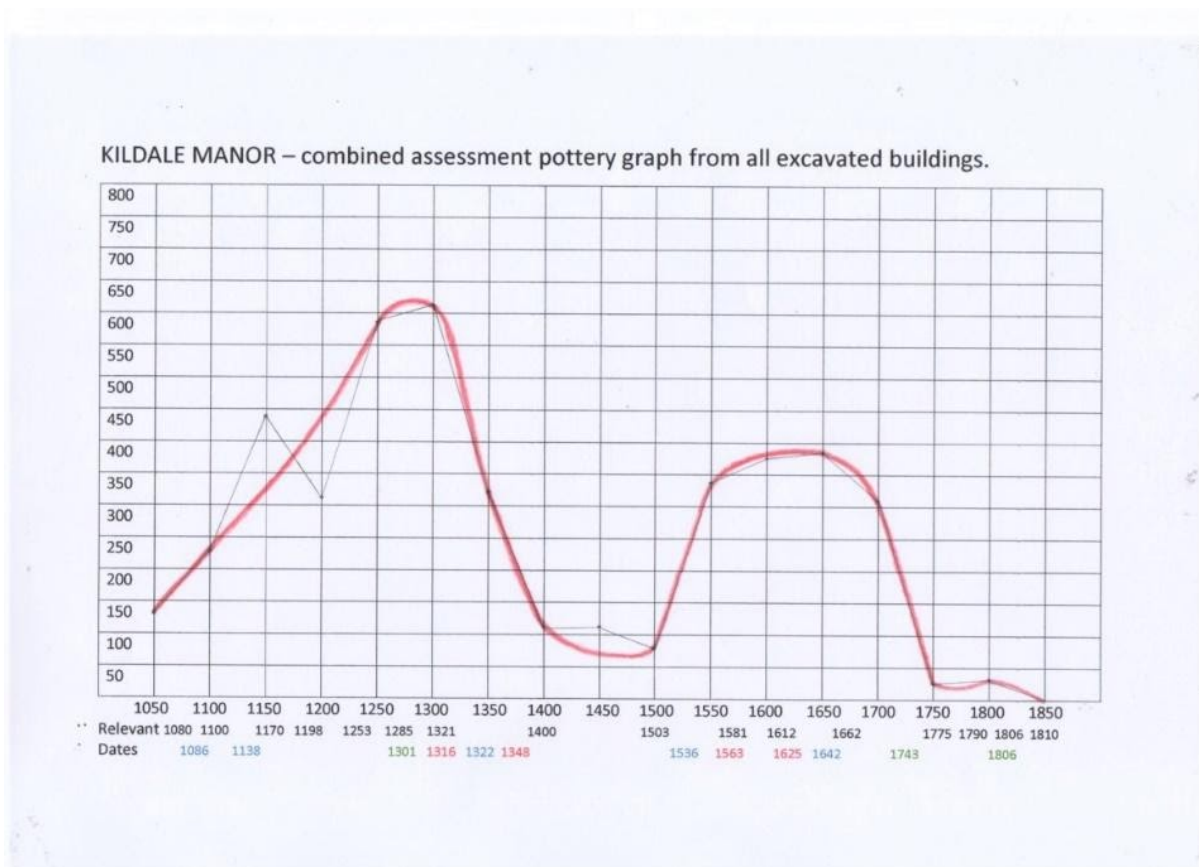
Kildale remained with the Earls of Northumberland until 1662 when it was sold to John Turner of Kirkleatham. In 1569 the northern Earls, including Northumberland, lead a rebellion against Elizabeth I which failed. Their estates were forfeited but later returned and it could have been during this confiscation that the manor was leased to the Appleby family. In 1770 Arthur Young (a well-respected author 1741-1820) gave an in-depth agricultural description of Kildale when visiting Charles Turner's estates, although it is probable that Young may never have visited Kildale.

In 1775 the House of Lords passed the Kildale Enclosure Bill.

The manor of Kildale was sold in 1806 to Robert Bell Livesey of Thirsk. The full details of this sale, including an estate plan and lists of the farms, tenants, field names and their acreages are stored in the North Yorkshire County Record Office in Northallerton.

Robert's daughter Marianne inherited the estate and married Edmund Turton in 1822. Her son Captain Edmund Turton inherited the Kildale estate on her death in 1858.

The above graph indicates the historical pottery volumes based on Anne Jenner's



assessment of the pottery from the 1957 to 1976 excavations now in the Dorman Museum.

Thanks to Ken Shaw (YAT volunteer) for the original graphs on which the above is based. The dates in black occur in the above text; national historical dates are in blue; Kildale population dates are in green; plagues and famine dates are in red.

The above graph indicates a direct correlation between the pottery volumes and the occupancy and prosperity of the Manor House peaking during the early years of the de Percy tenure, a considerable fall when John de Percy III was imprisoned, a rise again when the manor was leased to the Appleby family and a fall again when the Turners bought the manor.

It is certain that the Turner family did not occupy the Kildale manor house and it is likely that neither did the Liveseys. During both those ownerships and possibly during some of the de Percys tenure, the manor/estate would have been administered by a manager or bailiff probably living somewhere in the manor house complex.

It is more than likely that Arnald de Percy I and most of his descendants did occupy the manor house site as reflected in the graph but how many of the later John de Percys lived in the manor house is unknown. There were two deer parks and a warren in Kildale. With such a large amount of meat available it suggests that the manor was occupied permanently by the lord and his administrators rather than transient hunting trips which would have needed much less meat for the lord's table.

During the reconstruction of the church in 1868 JCA reported that at least seven burial slabs were discovered in the floor of the church, with one found in the Chancel, but there were no reports of any skeletons under them which could indicate that the burials were deeper than new floor construction. At least two had the de Percy escutcheon or blazons of five diamonds on them. Two had swords on them, some had sixfoils inside circles and one had shears. Four of the slabs are now on display in the porch of the church.

It is almost certain that the slabs belong to the de Percy family. During the Medieval period churches were usually built for the benefit of the lord of the manor and at his behest. There is evidence that there was a church adjacent to the manor house site during the Saxon and Viking periods surrounded by the graves of the Viking aristocracy. Whether or not the de Percys rebuilt the church in stone is not known but like their Viking predecessors they chose to be buried, or at least to have their memorial slabs placed inside the church. Again this suggests that the majority of the de Percys were living in the manor house and when they died were carried a few meters to the church on the next hillock.

Although the maps of 1612, 1806 and 1853 all show a different shaped house there is no doubt that the hill top site has been continually occupied for at least the last 900 years either as a manor house or an estate house as it is now, until the building of the present Hall in about 1810.

The de Percy family tree has been referenced from The Victoria County History for North Yorkshire and the Rev.J.C.Atkinson 1874 History of Cleveland vol.2 part 2.

Thanks to Stephen Larkin and John and Helen Rowlands for the archive information.

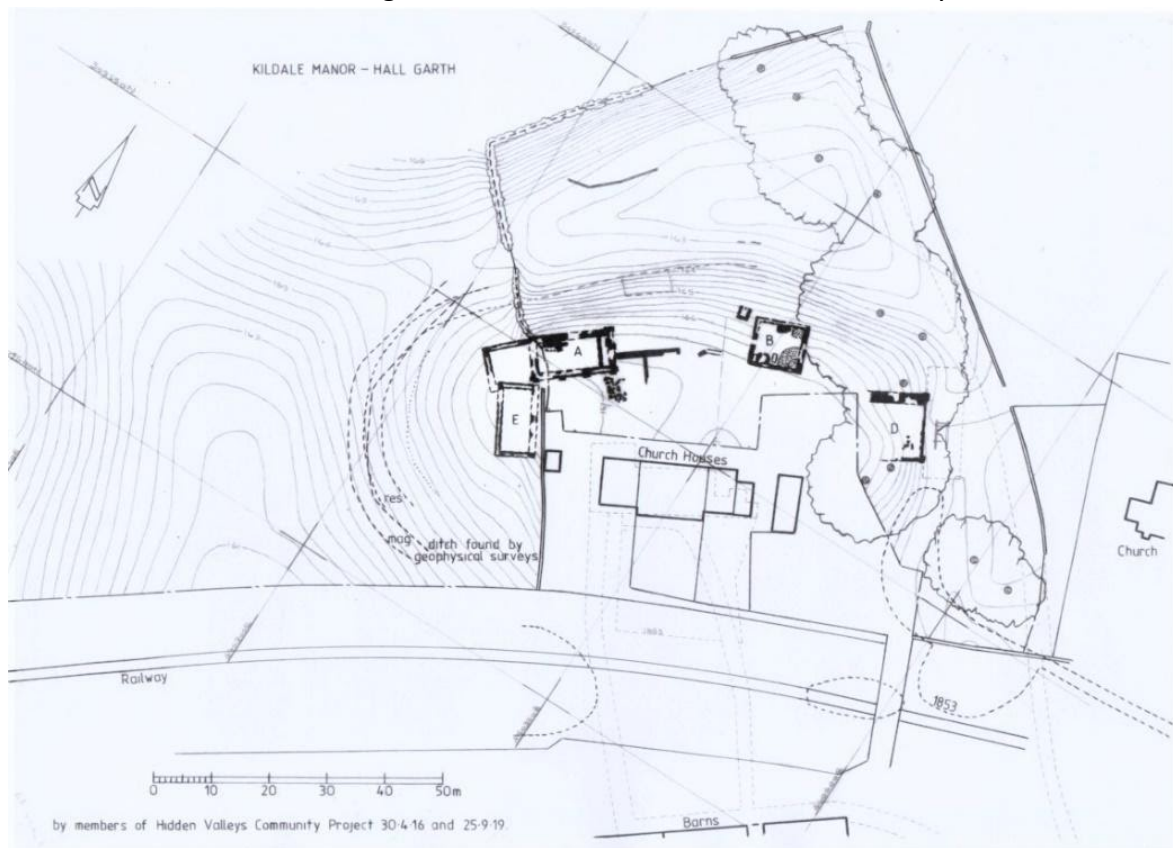
SURVEY OF EXCAVATED BUILDINGS AT KILDALE MANOR.

The following pages will describe the five buildings excavated between 1957 and 1976 by Roland Close, Raymond Hayes, Don Spratt and many other helpers.

Each building will have a section dedicated to it with scanned copies of the original pencil or ink drawings by Raymond Hayes which are part of the Kildale Manor Archive stored in the Dorman Museum in Middlesbrough. There are some ink drawings of the buildings but they appear not to have been finished. All of them are on paper and are the only drawings of the excavations. There will be a description of each building based on these archive plans and 14 short paragraphs in two archaeological journals. Seven are in the Yorkshire Archaeological Society Journal site register for 1961, 1968, 1969, 1973, 1975 and 1976. Six are in the Transactions of the Scarborough and District Archaeological and History Society for 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1975 and 1976 copies of which can be seen in the Ryedale Folk Museum archive. Also in the Ryedale Folk Museum archive (in Hutton le Hole) are various hand written notes and sketches concerning the excavations.

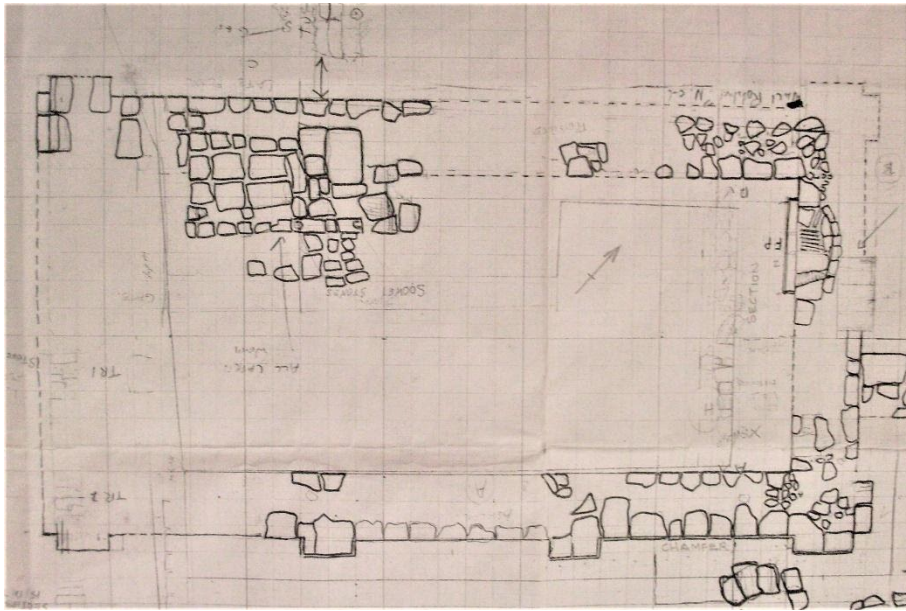
There are 58 black and white photographs of unknown provenance stored in the Tees Archaeology offices in Hartlepool of the excavations at Kildale Manor. It is assumed that they are of the Kildale Manor excavations but it is possible that some may be of other sites.

Below is a plan of the Kildale Manor complex based on the topographical survey undertaken by members of HVCP in 2019. Each building has been assigned a letter except for the western extension to building A. See the Problem Section for the validity of the letters.

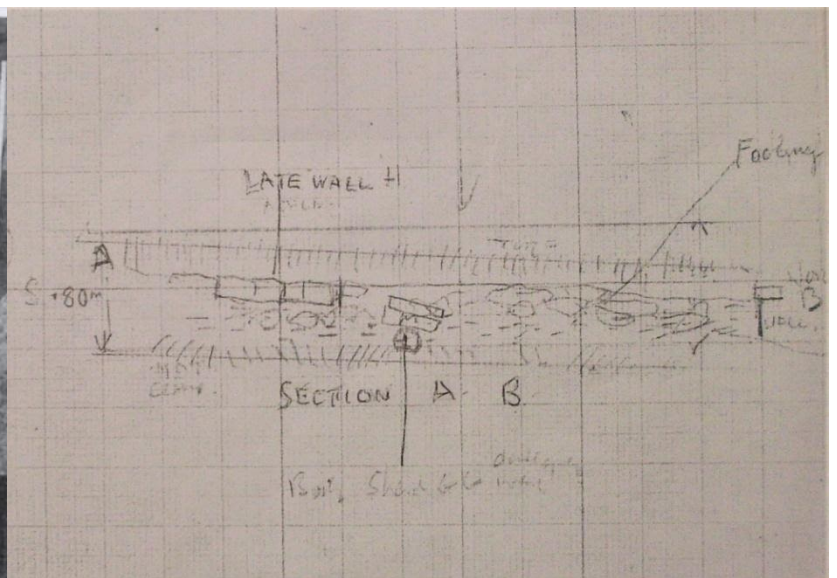
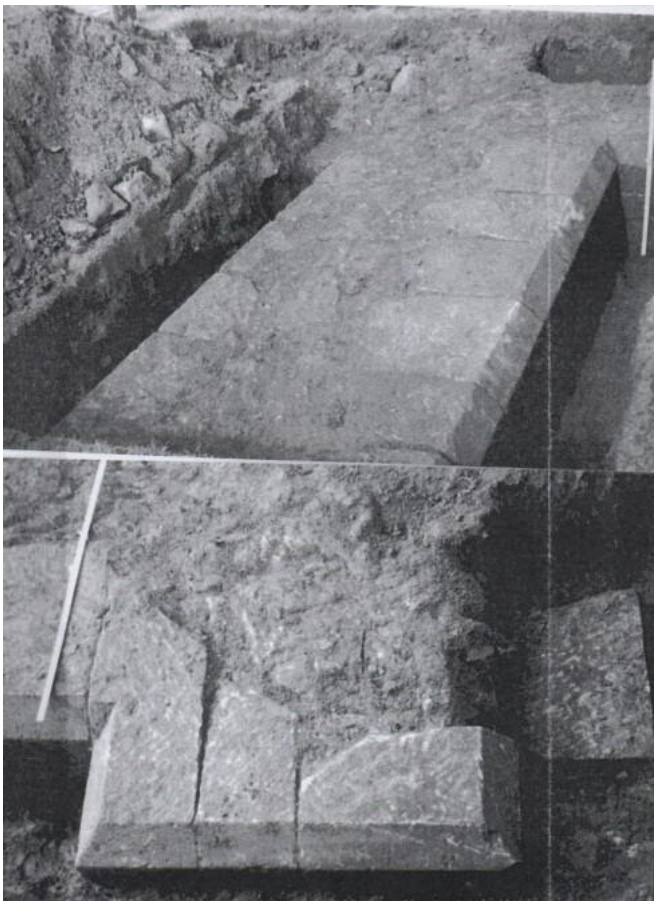


NB: The plans and sections below are for illustrative purposes only and aligned with the above survey. Therefore, the text and scales on those drawings are irrelevant.

BUILDING A.



This building was found in 1961. It measured approximately 12.5m by 5.3m internally although the SW wall was not fully defined. There were five fully defined buttresses, three on the SE side, one on the NW side and one on the NE wall. Where the walls were defined, they measured 1.2m wide. The exposed SE wall had a 45deg external chamfer as shown in the photographs below.



An internal wall appears to have been added later 1.1m from the NE wall and measured about 0.6m wide. The above section represents the NE face of this wall which lay on top of a layer of clay and rubble containing some moulded stones - possibly an earlier occupation layer which in turn lay on another clay and rubble layer containing burnt stones, pottery and part of a sword hilt.

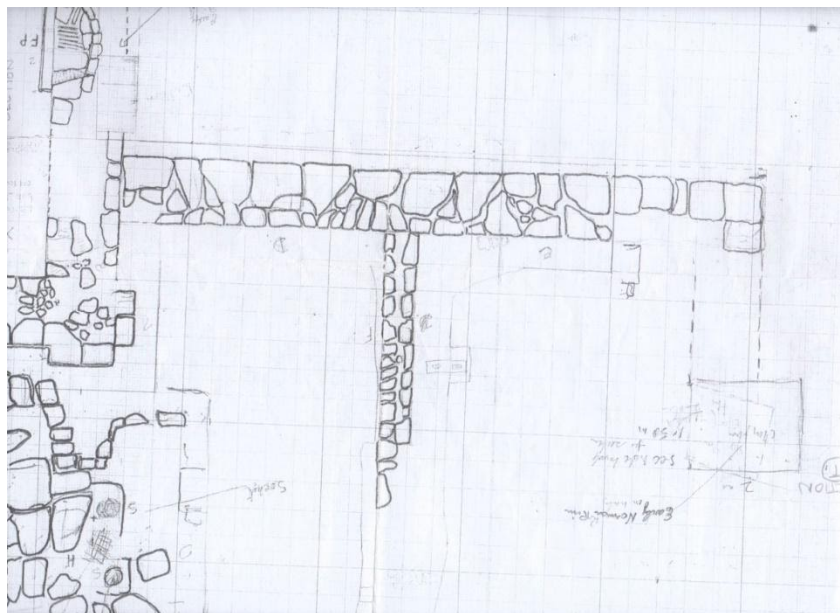
The majority of the SE wall was well constructed using ashlar blocks with chamfers and surviving to its original height of 0.6m. It had a flat and level top with a rubble filling. This is in marked contrast to the walls on the NE and NW sides where the construction seems to be much more random and of poorer quality. On the SW side walling was found in two trenches and was not well defined (see plan above).

A later addition was a mass of rough paving, and possibly part of a wall, on top of the NW wall and projecting into the building. A pivot stone was found amongst this paving.

A good quality fireplace was found in the NE wall which measured about 1.5m by 0.6m. From the plan it appears to have had a narrow hearth.

The floor construction and quality were not recorded. There are no sections in the archive showing the relationship between the internal layers and the walling.

Abutting the NE wall of the building was a later wall which extended 11.3m NE from the building and measured 1.2m wide with another narrower wall at 0.5m wide abutting the former wall (see plan below - the wall on the left is the NE wall of building A). The purpose and date of these two walls is unknown.



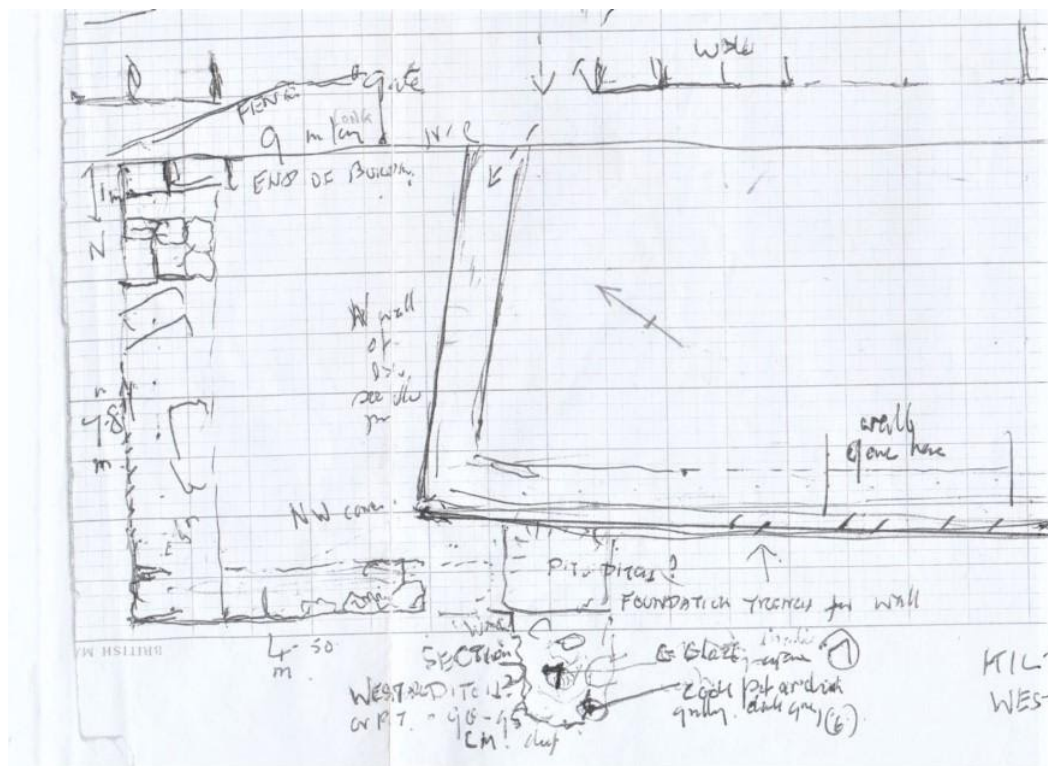
A 'trial hole' was dug about 2.5m SE from the end of the wider wall. Under the topsoil was a thick layer of what appears to be rubble and soil containing some burnt stones. Under that was a 100mm thick layer of ash, burning and some pottery. The final layer above the natural was made up of a stony, sandy clay containing some pottery.

Other items found in this building were the metal tip of a scabbard, other metal objects, nails, roofing slates, door fittings and a glass bead.

What was described as a rubbish tip was found adjacent to this building and down the slope. It contained a great quantity of Medieval pottery, stone roofing slabs and much moulded stonework including window-heads, mullions, and columns.

Note: the shapes and sizes of the stones shown on the plans do not reflect the actual shapes and sizes on site. Except for a duplicate plan, these are the only drawings of this building.

WESTERN EXTENSION (to building A).

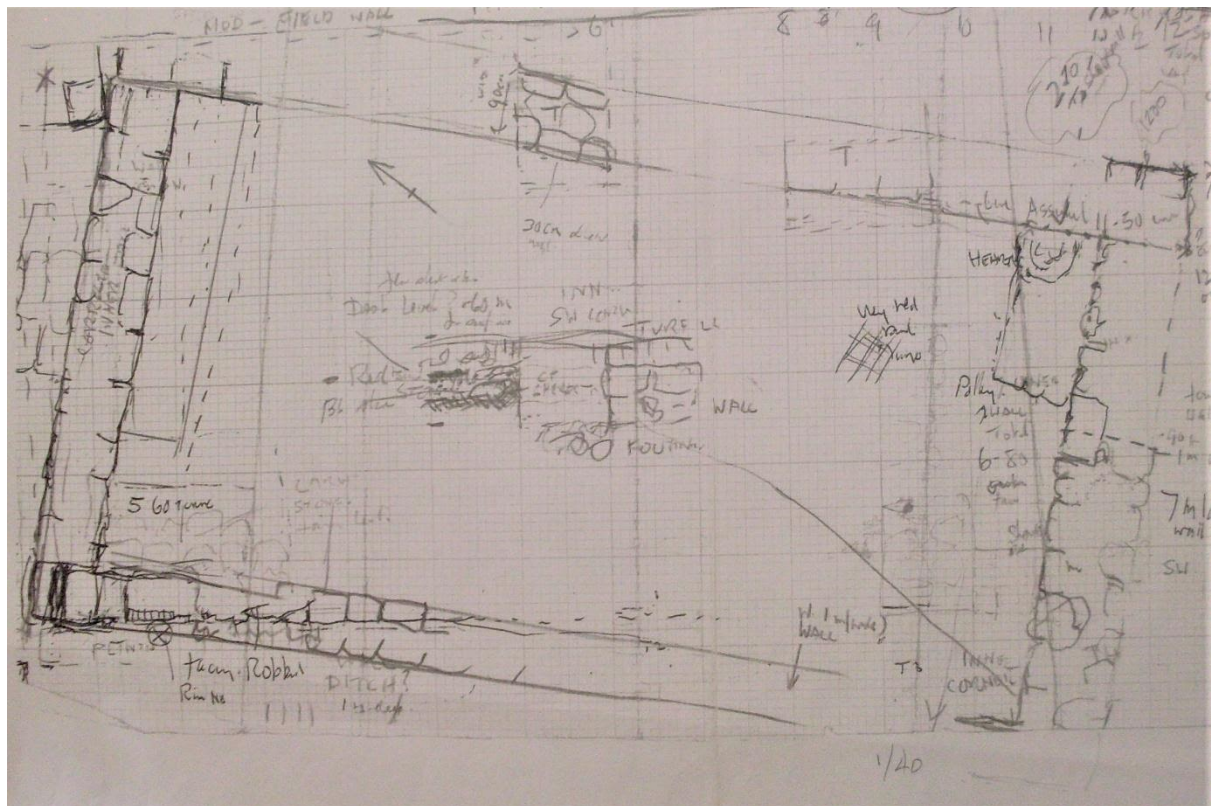


This building is on the left on the above drawing. The rhombic shaped building is building E. The relationship of the extension to buildings A and E is not clear from this drawing and there are no notes in the archive describing this building. It is assumed that it abuts building A but looks to have been truncated by E ending in a foundation trench, although Raymond also describes this trench as a possible ditch or pit (see above). The NW wall measured 7.8m externally and the stonework of the SW wall extended for 4.5m. The walls measured about 1.4m wide.

Whether or not this building is contemporary with A is impossible to ascertain, although being apparently truncated by E would suggest that it was earlier than E. Alternatively this building could have been constructed at the same time as A and E, or later, as a store infilling the south-western corner of the Manor complex.

This is the only drawing of this building.

BUILDING E.

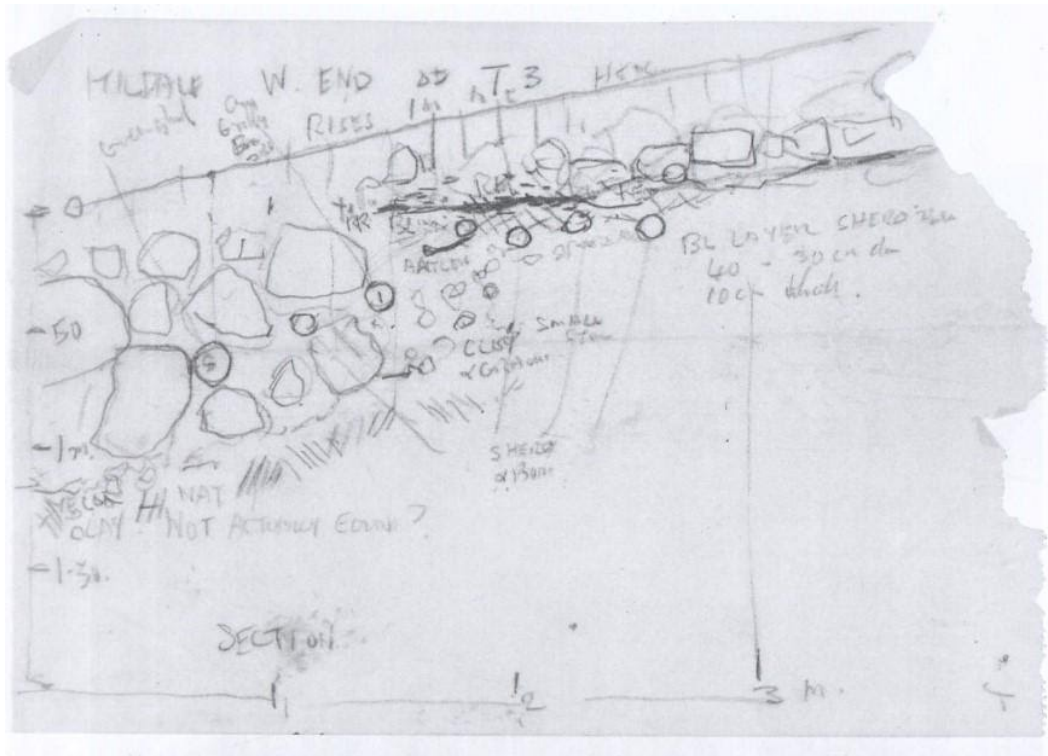


Building E was found in 1974 in the stubble field next to the grass paddock in which buildings A, B and D were found. Its position and alignment were confirmed by the resistivity survey undertaken in 2019. This is the only building which has a good series of drawings - three plans and three sections drawn by Raymond Hayes of which the above plan is a good example. There are ten pages of notes relating to this building (4 originals, 3 rewrites and 3 duplicates) in Raymond's archive stored in the Ryedale Folk Museum.

Building E measured about 10.6m NW-SE internally or 12.5m externally and about 6.8m NE-SW internally or 7.1m externally. The walls vary in width and quality but the average is about 0.8m. Dressed ashlar stones with chamfers were found at the NW corner (1.26m long), at the SW corner (1.0m long) and possibly in the middle of the NE wall, all surviving to 0.4m to 0.5m above the footings. Several courses of stonework were found in the NW wall near the NE corner. The majority of the SW wall had been robbed out and the central part of the SE wall consisted of random stones changing to large stones set in brown/yellow clay and gravel over 1.0m deep nearer the SW corner (see section below – this and two other sketches are the only section drawings for this building).

A hearth was found inside the SE corner which measured about 2.0m by about 0.9m wide (see above plan). A large area of tumbled stones was found inside the building about 1.0m from the SE wall. Another area of stones was found inside the NW corner. What these areas of stones represent is not clear, possibly some sort of demolition layer rather than a cobble

floor. Raymond points out that near the SW corner there “was no definite floor only earth and ashes on clay and gravel”



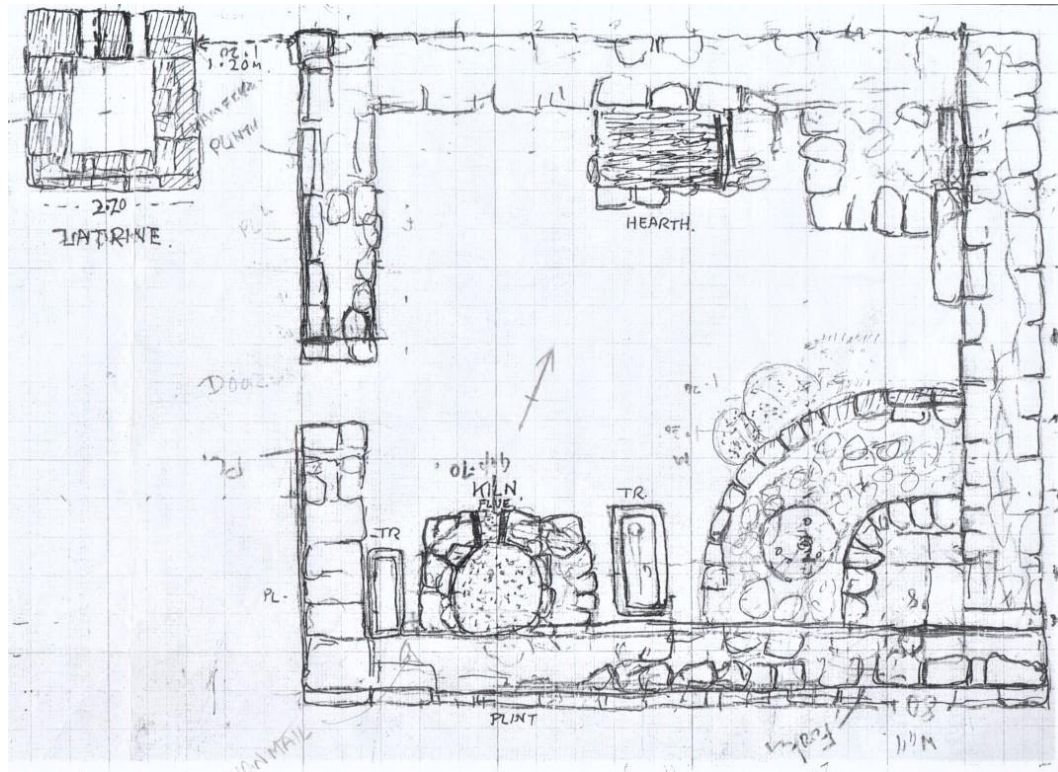
From the sections along the SE wall and near the SW corner and also from Raymond’s notes, there appears to have been three distinct layers under the topsoil.

Along the SE wall the uppermost layer is described as “60-100mm thick red burnt earth and sandy material” above a “yellow-brown clean sandy layer and chips of stone” above a layer of “black 100mm thick and 400-500mm down [depth from topsoil] with sherds, bones, an antler and ash” (see the above section).

Near the SW corner the uppermost layer is described as “red or brown shelly(?) subsoil with burnt material, stones and earth – some broken roofing tiles” above a layer of “yellow sandy clay” above a layer of “black 100-150mm thick. It contained ash, charcoal, bones and a few potsherds.....600mm from the turf level” (these quotes relate to the section in the middle of the building plan above).

Raymond describes the lowest layers, especially at the SW corner, as being a “destruction layer of an earlier building”. This may be true or it could have been an occupation layer, covered by a period of disuse, covered by a demolition layer.

BUILDING B.



This building was found in 1957. There are two floor plan drawings (the plan above and a duplicate), one YAJ note and one note in the TSDASH relating to this building. Raymond

refers to it as being a workshop. The photograph was taken from the NE corner and is from the Tees Archaeology collection.

The NE and SW walls measured 8.6m externally or 6.7 internally and the NW and SE walls measured 9.5m externally and 7.6m internally. There was a 0.8 wide doorway in the SW wall. The above photograph clearly shows an ashlar stone plinth with a chamfer on its outer face NW of the entrance. However the above plan shows plinths along the entire lengths of SW and SE walls. The type and quality of the flooring in this building was not recorded. There are six features inside the building:

Against the middle of the NW wall was a hearth measuring 1.7m by 1.0m and inside the NE corner was an area of stonework which measured about 1.5m by 1.5m. There is no more information on these two features.

Inside the SE corner is an enigmatic curved single-quadrant line of stones forming a kerb about 0.5m high and between 3.0m and 3.5m in radius. There is another curved line of stones nearer the building corner about 0.3m higher again and about 1.6m in radius. It is thought that outer kerb was a later addition. There were three cracked millstones, 1.2m in diameter, found associated with this feature - one between the two curved lines and two on the (?) floor next to the outer kerb. Both features had a rubble filling some of which was burnt and also contained some roof slabs. Under the outer (and ?later) curved line of stones was found an area of burning about 1.2m in diameter and 50mm thick.

A large trough was found to the SW of the above features and close to the inside of the SE wall and which measured 1.7m by 0.7m by 0.3m deep with a groove in its base which ended in basin-shaped hollow.

Next to the trough was a possible kiln with an internal diameter of about 1.1m. The walling stood about 0.3m high and measured about 0.5m wide with a gap or entrance 0.7m wide on its NW side facing into the building.

Another trough was found next to the possible kiln and inside the SW corner of the building. This measured 1.2m by 0.5m by about 0.2m deep.

A large lump of rusty slag-like iron was found between the possible kiln and the latter trough. This turned out to be a large amount of corroded chain-mail which is now stored in the Dorman Museum. Part of the chain-mail was cleaned by Mags Felter of the York Archaeological Trust conservation team and funded by the Dorman Museum. She found that the iron had completely disappeared leaving just a crystalline crust. That sample is also in the Dorman Museum.

The hearth, square stone area and the two troughs are self-explanatory. The curved kerbs are more of a problem. Obviously it is unknown what was removed from this feature and the kiln when the building was demolished. The curved kerbs do not appear to resemble a smithy furnace or a pottery making stand but it is possible that if the rubble was more even, it could have been used for making bakery produce. The purpose of the kiln is also unknown but if they were baking bread it could have been part of an oven.

There is no doubt that this building was changed over the years as evidenced by the two butt joints emphasised on the drawing at the SE and NE corners.

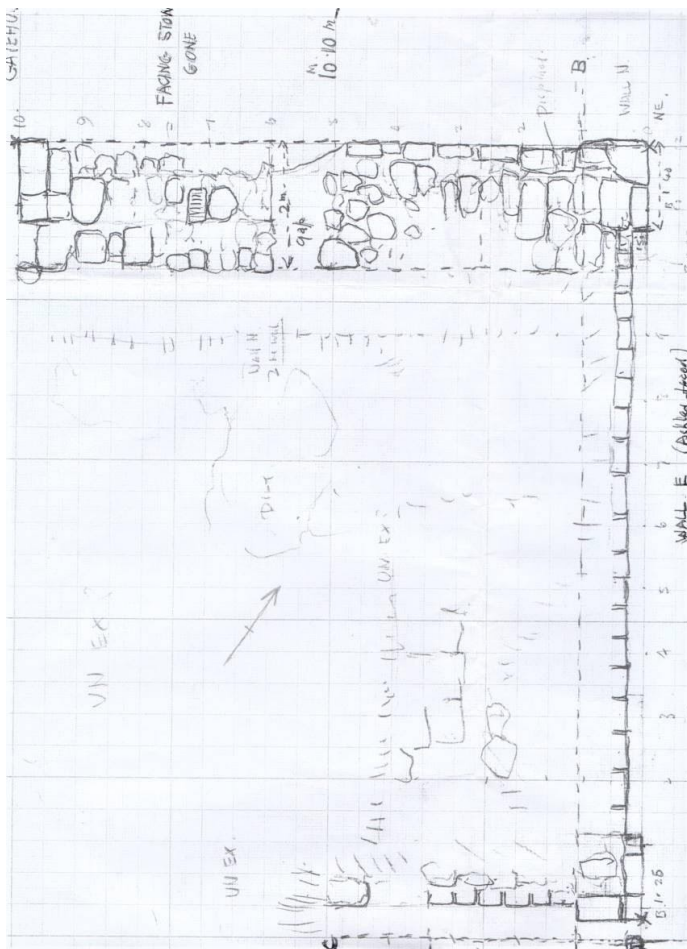
What is remarkable is the volume of pottery found in this building during the excavations. It produced more pottery than any other in this Manor complex. This begs the question as to why so much pottery was found in a workshop or (?)bakery. It is possible that it was used as a dump after the building was not needed. (It is also possible that not all the pottery came from this building – see Problem section).

A small building was found 1.2m from the NW corner which was labelled as a Latrine (see above plan). It measured about 2.2m square externally with walls about 0.5m wide. There were two covered channels in its NW side measuring about 0.2m wide by 0.3m high.

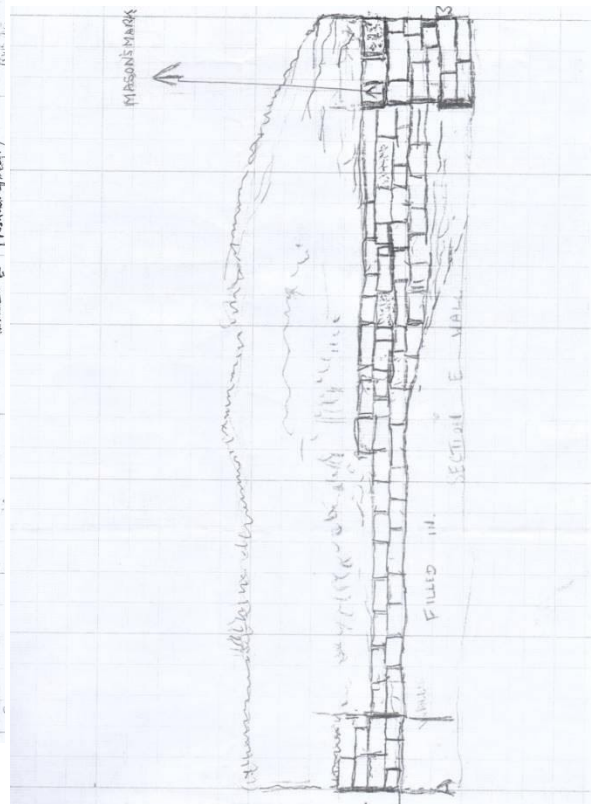
There are no other records of this building other than what is shown on the plan.

There was no pottery recorded from this building.

A large T-shaped trench was excavated in 1973 7m from building B. In part of this trench was found a stone lined drain, 0.3m wide, starting 4.5m SW of building B. It was exposed for a further 3m on the same alignment as the building (NE-SW). The remainder of the trench contained building rubble, roofing slates, pottery and a silver sixpence of Elizabeth I dated 1566.



BUILDING D.



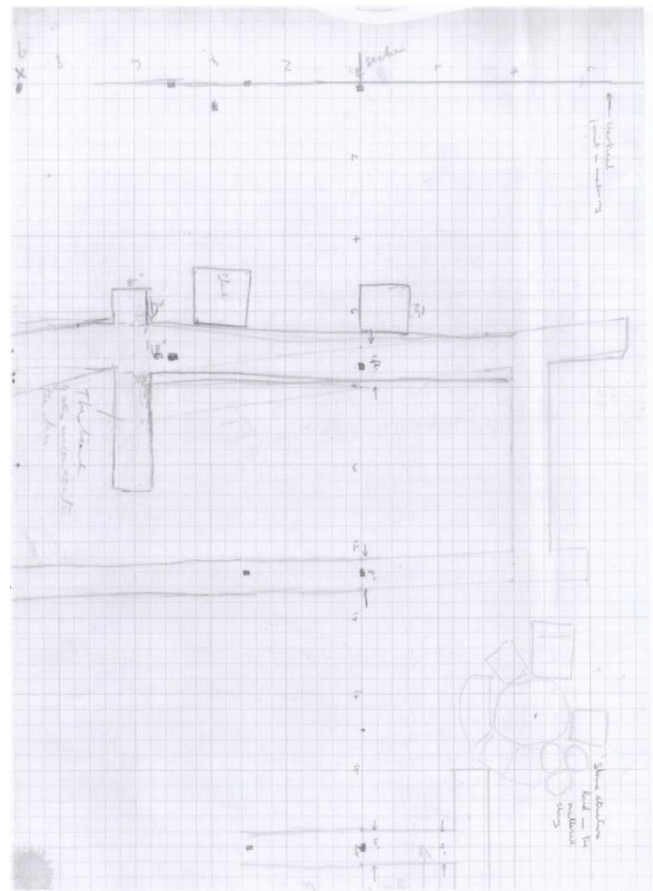
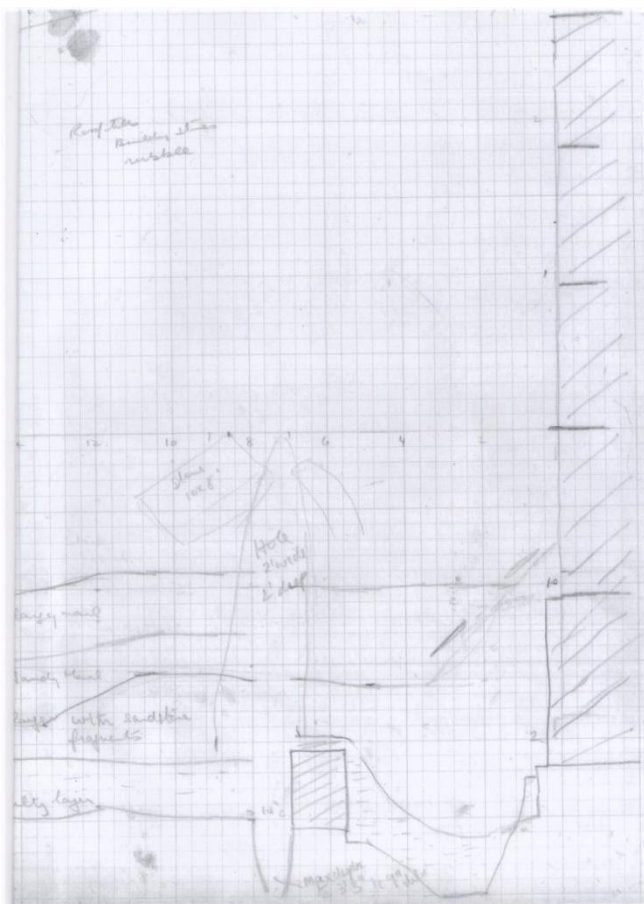
This building was found in 1969. There are two inked drawings of this building one of which is shown

above and the other is a duplicate. The NE elevation (on the right) is part of the same drawing. There are no sections relating to this building. The photograph shows it as it is today. Much of the interior appears to have not been excavated as evidenced by the "UN EX" on the plan.

The NE wall measured 11.9m externally and the NW wall was traced for 10.0m. The latter wall measured 2.0m wide with a central 0.7m gap in the masonry. The widths on the NE and SE walls were not determined. The SW wall was never found. There were three buttresses found – two on the SE corner which measured 1.2m long by 0.15m wide and one on the NE corner 1.4m wide by 0.15m. The outer face of the NE wall was constructed using ashlar blocks but there were no signs of any chamfer. The NW wall appears to have a rubble filling with some ashlar faced blocks. Part of the NE wall was traced for 1.8m below present ground level and appears to sit on two off-set foundation blocks (see section below). A mason's mark in the form of a vertical arrow was found on the buttress at the NE corner.

If all the walls were 2m thick and if the SW wall was just beyond the end of the exposed NW wall, that would have produced an internal size of 8m NW-SE by about 10m NE-SW which is larger than any of the other buildings in this Manor complex.

A wide flat-bottomed ditch was excavated in 1970 immediately in front of the NE wall.



The drawing on the left is a section of the ditch and the drawing on the right is a plan of some inter-locking timbers found at the

bottom of the ditch. This ditch was found in a huge excavation trench visible on an air-photograph taken in 1972 although it is probable that the true width of the ditch was

never ascertained. It could not have been more than 8m wide as it would have cut into the Kildale to Lounsedale Medieval road 8m to the NE of the building.

The lowest layer in the ditch is described as “silty”, the one above as a “sandy layer with sandstone fragments”, the next as “sandy material”, the uppermost as “clayey”. All four layers are bracketed together as “pottery layers”. It must be assumed that all four were the original silting or occupation levels. The layer between these four and the present ground level is described as “rubbly” and is probably the demolition layer in which window heads, mouldings, dressed and ornamental stones, battlements, pointed windows and an arm of an Anglo-Saxon cross were found.

Some large cut timbers were found on the floor of the ditch with cross-sections of between 200mm and 300mm square. It is thought that these timbers were part of a bridging structure across the ditch which could be the case because they were found still morticed together and appear not to have been randomly thrown into the ditch. Also on the ditch floor was an “inverted parapet” and a circular stone structure measuring about 0.75m in diameter and “laid on the natural clay”.

In 1975 a circular stone structure was found somewhere in the Manor complex. Although there are two plans (one is a duplicate) of this structure, its location is neither shown on any of the site plans nor described in any notes or paragraphs.

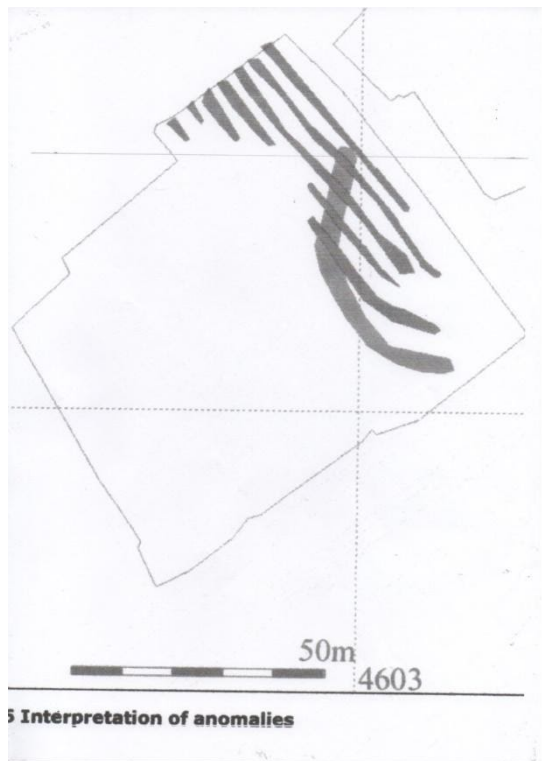
The structure consisted of 1.5m wide walling or paving on the SW, SE and NE sides surrounding a broken millstone 1.1m in diameter. On the NW side is a 1.5m wide gap and the overall size is about 4.8m in diameter. Most of the stonework was burnt red on their upper sides and the whole structure sat on blue clay.

A trial hole was dug near the SE side which revealed a layer of clay and burnt material under the topsoil and above a “200mm layer of black ash and a quantity of carbonised oats”.

It was thought that this was a corn drier with its entrance on the NW side and the stoke-hole where the trial pit was dug.

DITCHES.

In 2016 James Lyall for the Landscape Research Centre carried out a magnetometer survey on the grass paddock and stubble field which covered the Manor House complex. James Lyall also carried out a resistivity survey of the same areas in 2019 with the help of HVCP members. Both surveys were funded by the North York Moors National Park Authority.



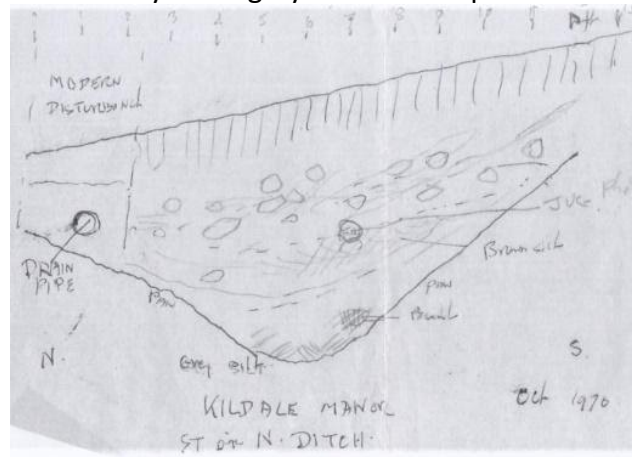
The magnetometer survey is on the left and the resistivity survey is on the right. See also the topographical survey at the start of this section of this Review for the ditch location.

Both surveys revealed a curved ditch about half-way up the slope from the bottom of the valley. The ditch on the magnetometer survey is self-evident but the ditch alignment on the resistivity survey is more difficult to see. It is the curving white band between the two black areas. The large white area at the bottom left of the above plan is the valley bottom.

According to all the plans and notes in the various archives, this ditch was not known to the original excavators and therefore its date has yet to be determined.

However, in 1970 they did find a ditch in one of their trenches approximately 7m north of building B and there is a mention of another ditch on the same line somewhere nearby. The excavation trench for the former ditch is visible also on the 1972 air-photograph. There are two section drawings of it – one site sketch and a copy of it which is shown below. There is also a paragraph in the TSDASJ.

The ditch was found to be 4m wide and about 2m deep dug into clay. There were three fill layers found. The uppermost appears to be full of stones and gravel, under which is a brown silt with pottery and the lowest layer is a grey silt with lumps of burnt material in it.



A large timber beam was found in the lowest grey silt layer. It measured 3m long and about 100mm wide. It had two mortice slots in it about 600mm apart and a series of eight round 25mm diameter holes in it about 220mm apart.

Part of a Medieval jug was found in the brown silt layer.

This clearly indicates that the ditch was probably contemporary with the Manor House but with which phase of the occupation is uncertain.

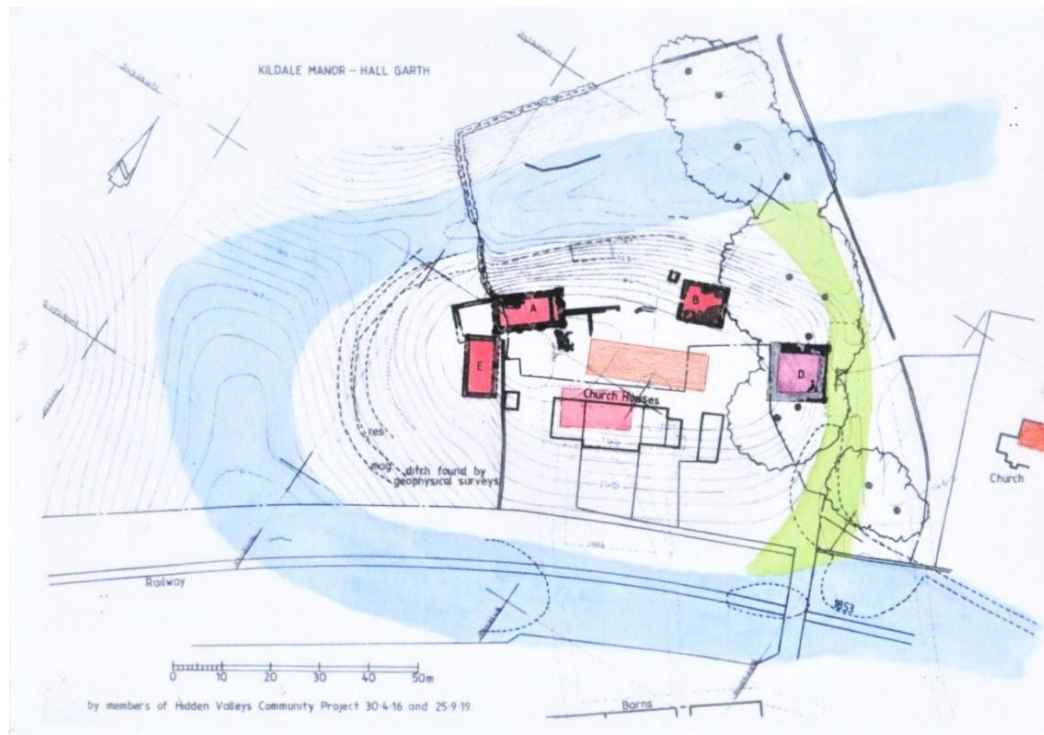
The ditch shown on the geophysical surveys is probably also Medieval and could be part of the same ditch found during the excavations. However, this is not certain because the site was occupied during the Romano-British, Saxon and Viking periods as discussed elsewhere and could be some sort of defensive feature around a settlement. It also begs the question as to why the Normans felt a 4m wide ditch would offer them enough protection.

The magnetometer survey also revealed some rigg and furrow over the top of the ditch in the stubble field. These are just visible on the ground in a favourable light conditions. As can be seen on the survey, they cover a very limited area on one of the steepest parts of the stubble field and nowhere else.

INTERPRETATION.

One question that has been repeatedly asked is why all the buildings are either on the edge of the hillock or in some cases down the slope. The obvious answer is that the Norman occupiers needed some sort of courtyard to assemble horses and men.

However, there may be another answer. It is a fact that the Viking elite were buried around the church on the eastern hillock and it is very likely that they lived in a hall nearby, probably on the adjacent hillock to the west.



The plan above shows the speculative position of a Viking hall (in brown) measuring 24m by 7m occupying the highest part of the hillock. It would probably have been built of timber and was obviously not the original hall, possibly the eighth generation.

Orm was the absentee landlord of Kildale in about 1100 when Arnald de Percy of Kildale first arrived in Kildale. He may have found the hall from which the manor was administered, together with some ancillary buildings, occupying the hillock. He may have decided to use the hall as his base until a more substantial stone building could be constructed (possibly D). Buildings A, B and E may have also been built around the hall at a later date, removing the latter once they were completed. The earliest Norman pottery found associated with all the buildings dates to the early 12th century (Northern Gritty Ware and Splashed Glazed Ware) confirming their use during the early Norman occupation.

The original excavators of the site called building D a gatehouse. There is no available evidence to suggest that there was ever a perimeter wall around the buildings. So why build a gatehouse without a wall when any undesirables could simply walk around the 'gatehouse'. There are three references and some more tangible evidence that suggest that D was a 'castle':

"...moat round the old castle, which formerly stood close by, but of which not a stone now remains" (Cameron 1878).

"An old man whom I met there in 1902 said he had always been told the castle stood on the rising ground west of the church, at the east end of the knoll" (L'Anson 1913).

"....an old villager, born about 1750, tells of his helping.....to pull down a gable end of the castle" (Ridley 1986).

When they excavated the flat-bottomed ditch in front of and to the east of building D, they found window heads, mouldings, dressed and ornamental stones, battlements and pointed windows in its fill. They also found an inverted parapet at the bottom of the ditch. There is a photograph of a gargoyle water spout supposedly from the excavations and a large arrow-slit built into the arched entrance to Castle Houses in the present village.

Using the above references, stone items and the speculative position of the Viking Hall, it is suggested that building D was a free-standing peel-type tower and was the first Norman building on the site incorporating the battlements, arrow-slit and the pointed windows (now outside the church tower). It should also be noted that there were no chamfered ashlar blocks found associated with this building suggesting that it was constructed entirely of stone and therefore of a different date to the other buildings (see below). It is also suggested that the flat-bottomed ditch or moat was dug at the same time to defend the tower and link up with the natural valley therefore closing the vulnerable gap to the east. The moat may also have been linked to the ditch shown on the geophysical surveys and excavated to the north of building B.



Above is the arrow-slit reconstructed in the archway into Church Houses, Kildale village. The sloping bowl at the bottom is possibly a device to enable archers to fire at their opponents from a very steep downward angle which would only work if the arrow-slit was

on either the first or second floors. If this arrow-slit has come from the Manor House site, then it implies that the tower (D) had at least two floors.

One construction item common to buildings A, B and E is the chamfered stones. The photographs of the walling in building A show a flat and level two or three course chamfered wall. This is usually called a sill-beam foundation and was a very common way of supporting a timber-framed building (see Little Moreton Hall, Congleton for an excellent example). A very large timber beam or sill was placed horizontally on the stone foundation, hence its need to be flat, level and wider than the beam, with the vertical timbers for the house morticed into the sill-beam. It is probable that all three buildings originally had this type of foundation implying that all three were originally built of timber possibly with two storeys. It has been suggested that all three buildings were contemporary and may well have been the second set of buildings constructed on the site and maybe around the old Viking-style hall.

It is probable that the tower remained in use, but the emphasis changed from a military site to a more domestic range of buildings. Later changes to the buildings were inevitable as evidenced by the butt-joints in building B and all three may well have been rebuilt in stone at some stage during their history.

Due to the lack of site records, it is not possible to speculate on the use and dates of the buildings beyond that ventured in the previous section of this Review (Building Descriptions).

One hundred and ten years after the Earls of Northumberland bought the estate from the de Percys, in 1612 they commissioned a survey of the Kildale estate. The survey or estate map is now the property of Mr and Mrs. Andrew Sutcliffe.



The estate map shows the positions of 19 houses on either side of the main road through the village, together with the manor house, church and minor roads.

The above extract shows the manor house on the left, the Medieval Kildale to Lonsdale road and the church with some sort of tower at the wrong end. The tower is invariably at the western end of a church.

From the above extract the manor house appears to be a two-storey T-shaped house with a southern wing and gable attached to a through-passage building. In the gable there is a (?) front door. If the church was drawn the wrong way round (as correctly observed from the north) then perhaps the manor house was also drawn the wrong way round with the front door opening onto the courtyard.

None of the other buildings (A, B and E) bear any resemblance in shape to the manor house portrayed in the extract, so none of them could have been the manor house. By adjusting the scale of the map to fit the topographical site survey, the position of the 1612 manor house coincides with the present-day Church Houses. The position of the manor house is shown in red on the site survey at the start of this section.

By 1853 the southern part of the valley around the manor house hillock was filled in with tracks connecting the manor house to the quadrangular barns. When the 1853 Ordnance Survey map was adjusted to fit the topographical survey, the manor house position again coincided with the present-day Church Houses, but with a completely different shape to the 1612 house (its outline is shown as broken lines on the site survey).

Probably by 1612 and 1853 the house had ceased to be a manor house and had become the estate manager's or bailiff's house and administrative centre. How many of the other buildings were being used or even standing is unknown, but in 1612 the tower (D) may well have been still standing.

REFERENCES.

A.G.Cameron in the Geological Magazine 1878 Notes on some peat deposits at Kildale

W.M.L'Anson in Yorkshire Archaeological Journal 1913 no.22 p.358 The castles of the North Riding – Kildale.

I.E.Ridley The Changing Face of Kildale 1986 page.13 published by Stokesley & District Local History Study Group.

J.D.Richards in Viking Age England 1991 page 59 English Heritage for Viking hall sizes.

THANKS to Mr and Mrs Andrew Sutcliffe for granting permission and access to photograph the 1612 Estate Map of Kildale by members of HVCP.

SHORTCOMINGS.

After an exhaustive search through the 48 boxes and several plans of Raymond Hayes's archive at the Ryedale Folk Museum, a search through all his archive in the Dorman Museum and after talking to friends of Raymond and to some of those that excavated with him, the conclusion was reached that there were no more drawings or notes available.

The list below quantifies the drawings in the Dorman Museum and Ryedale Folk Museum archives.

Building A: two duplicate plans and one wall section – one plan, one section used.

Building B: three duplicate plans – one used.

Building D: two duplicate plans and elevations – one used.

Building E: three duplicate plans and two sections – one plan and one section used.

Building West Ext: 1 plan – one used.

Moat: two duplicate timber plans and two different sections – one plan, one section used.

North Ditch: two duplicate sections and one timber drawing – one section used.

In total 48% of the available drawings were used in the Building Descriptions Section.

The reason for the list is to quantify the drawings available for use in the Building Description and to demonstrate that it is not the case that only the poorer quality drawings were used in order to prove a point.

This does not detract from the fact that many opportunities were missed to record or decode the buildings, something that has now been irretrievably lost. This is certainly the case with buildings A and B; E could have areas in it that may be salvaged and it appears from the plans that the interior of D was un-excavated.

The next problem, which was well understood before the start of the Assessment of the pottery in the Dorman Museum from the Kildale excavations, relates to the unreliability of the on-site provenance of the pottery.

This stems in part from the numbering or lettering identification of the buildings. There are no plans in the archives that identify which letter belongs to which building.

There are 64 A3 sheets listing 138 pieces of illustrated pottery and other items in the Kildale Manor archive in the Dorman Museum. Nearly all the sheets have the building letters written on them, sometimes erroneously.

Amongst some of the bags of pottery there are notes that refer to building D as being the gatehouse. 'E1 West Extension' is written on two of the pottery sheets and a drawing of the scabbard tip describes it as being found in building A. From the notes and paragraphs, the scabbard is described as coming from the buttressed building (ie. A). Although B was written on several pottery sheets, it is not identified. The letters used in this Review are almost certainly correct although building C has yet to be identified.

Two letters in the Dorman Museum archive should be quoted. Both of them are from the County [Cleveland] Leisure and Amenities Officer.

The first is to Raymond Hayes dated 1 Feb 1977: "The cataloguing work is being hampered by the lack of written information about the excavation"

The second is to Roland Close dated 9 Feb 1977: "Her assistant.....is cataloguing the material, but is unable to do so fully because of the lack of written information about the site".

Raymond and Roland did visit the Museum.

Even now 9% of the pottery is still unprovenanced. Although the pottery sheets do identify their building provenance as do the crates in which the pottery is stored, there is no link between the sheets and the crates, such as a number or letter on the pottery – there may be several hundred pieces in each crate and only a few drawn. There are very few instances where there are links between the pottery and the building drawings, site records and site locations making it almost impossible to link the pottery to any stratigraphy.

It is possible that some of the pottery does not come from the assigned building. Building D was not excavated internally, according to the plans, and yet there were twelve crates of pottery assigned to it. It is probable that the pottery came from the moat trench. Likewise building B has 18 crates of pottery assigned to it – from a workshop! Some, if not most, probably came from the ditch trenches to the north. It is probable that the pottery from buildings A and E did come from those two buildings.

None of this detracts from being able to obtain an overall view of the social and economic history of Kildale Manor from the pottery which Anne Jenner's Assessment Report does very well.

There are two structures that have been recorded which are thought to have been found during the excavations. The first is the Corn Drier described in the Building Description section which only occurs in plan form with no location given.

The second is a substantial stone building seen in the photographs in the Tees Archaeology collection. There are no references to it on any of the plans or notes in any of the archives. It is amongst other Kildale manor photographs and the topographical profile seen in the photograph below is very similar to the gradient of the valley side as it levels out near the valley bottom below building A.



The building appears to measure about 2m square with substantial walls about 600mm thick. There is a blocked doorway on the downward side with an external threshold slab.

RECTIFICATION AND RESEARCH.

It is almost certain that the excavations and recording of the Manor House were viewed as work in progress, especially as by 1976, when they finished, the site had already been scheduled for about three years. There had been correspondence with the Department of the Environment between February and October 1972 about consolidating and displaying the remains. This proved too expensive at £7000 and the excavators were instructed to backfill and cover the remains.

Despite the fact that it would be pointless to consider any more work on buildings A, B and the extension to A because of the removal of any stratigraphy relating to them, there are still many places where the lack of drawings and links between the stored pottery and the stratigraphy could be rectified and at the same time yield new archaeological evidence. By avoiding previous trenches and services there is a great wealth of information yet to be found which will not only solve a few of the shortcomings in the previous section but also enhance the information about the features found by the previous excavations.

THE MOAT.

It is certain that there was a very large trench excavated across the moat and for the full length of the NE wall of building D. Photographs show the buttress on the NE corner to its full vertical height of 1.8m and as described in the Building Descriptions several large timber beams were found on the floor of the moat together with an inverted parapet and some stones in a circular pattern near the SE corner. The 1972 air-photograph also shows this large trench but extending beyond building D. Also illustrated in the Building Description section is the section across the moat with the four layers of fill bracketed together and labelled "pottery layers". Obviously, there would be no point in re-excavating that trench but two new trenches placed as close as possible to either end of the original trench should duplicate the layers shown in the original drawings, provide reliable contexts for the pottery in them and provide a dating sequence for the moat and maybe for building D – thought to be the earliest Norman features on the site.

These two new trenches would also provide an opportunity to sample the water-logged deposits and faunal remains from the bottom of the moat. It is unlikely that there would be any more timber beams because those found previously may have supported some sort of bridging structure from building D to the Medieval road to Lounsedale and therefore limiting the timberwork to being adjacent to building D.

BUILDING D.

As noted above, this building is thought to be the earliest Norman structure on the site. According to the plans from the previous investigations, the interior was never excavated. Therefore, not only would a well-placed trench determine the widths of the previously exposed walls but also locate the SW wall which was never found. The contexts and pottery from inside this building would be vital to understanding the role of this building, its history and its relationship to the other buildings on the site.

THE HILLTOP.

One problem with this site is knowing where the previously excavated trenches were placed, because there is no doubt that several trench locations were not recorded, especially on the hilltop. However, there is a case for trying to avoid earlier trenches in order to find evidence of the pre-Norman occupation of the site, probably in the form of post-holes, by placing a trench on the hilltop near the fence behind Church Houses.

STONE BUILDING IN PHOTOGRAPH.

The substantial stone structure discussed in the preceding section in this Review (Shortcomings) and illustrated in the photograph is not located on any plans, notes or paragraphs relating to the earlier excavations. However, it was amongst other photographs that supposedly relate to the excavations and as noted above the gradient of grass bank in the photograph is very similar to that of the bank below building A as it levels out towards the bottom of the valley adjacent to the Kildale Manor site. The structure measures about 2m square with walls about 0.6m wide with a blocked door on its lower side with a large external threshold slab.

The resistivity survey carried out in 2019 by James Lyall and HVCP members produced a very large anomaly due north of building A which possibly represents stonework (the rectangle delineated by broken lines).

It would be important to the whole site to investigate this anomaly and see if it is the structure in question. If it is then it could be properly surveyed and located on the plans and depending on how much disturbance there had been inside, a proper stratigraphic investigation could take place which would assist in identifying its purpose and provide a reliable pottery-based date for its occupation period.

DITCH.

The magnetometer geophysical survey by James Lyall in 2016 and the resistivity survey carried out in 2019 also by James Lyall with help from HVCP members, both revealed a curved ditch about 4m wide about halfway down the slope in the stubble field below building E. This ditch is not referenced on any of the plans, in any of the notes or in any of the paragraphs in the Journals and it is most probable that the original excavators were unaware of its existence. There is a note on the plan of the western extension to building A which refers to a ditch under the SW wall of building E (see the Building Description section). To date, therefore, there is nothing known about this geophysical ditch and to which period of occupation it belongs.

The resistivity survey also showed a black anomaly up the slope and abutting the ditch which could represent a bank. The ditch is cut by later rigg and furrow ploughing on the steepest part of the field and only in a very limited area (see Building Description section). The investigation of this ditch would be crucial to the Manor House site as it would provide a comprehensive stratigraphical sequence not only relating to the ditch but also to the site as a whole which is badly needed.

There was another ditch of similar size located in two trenches about 7m NW of building B. The pottery shown on the section of this ditch is described only as green-glazed.

In the best-case scenario two or three trenches would not only be placed across the geophysical ditch, possible bank and the rigg and furrow, but also trenches would be used to

trace the ditch below and beyond building A, to see if it joins up with the previously found ditch and ultimately to test its relationship to the moat.

MANOR HOUSE LOCATIONS.

As noted in the Interpretation Section of this Review, there appears to have been at least two and maybe many more, Manor House buildings under Church Houses. The two are the T-shaped 1612 house and the more complicated 1853 house (shown in outline). It is probable that there was some sort of building constructed in the Norman period also on the Church Houses site, maybe with chamfered sill beam foundations. It is not known what the other buildings (A,B and E) were used for in their long lives but it is probable that any building on the Church Houses site was in fact the manor where the de Percys resided. How many times the manor was rebuilt is not known.

Obviously access to the manor house site is unrealistic as the present Church Houses stand on top of the site. However, a series of test-pits in the gardens around Church Houses could help to untangle the various buildings on the site. These would give access to any demolition spread of the pottery and other items from the various periods of occupation as well as any domestic waste deposited around the buildings.

FROM the above six proposals for future research, it can be seen there is much that can be investigated, despite the paucity of records, plans and notes from the previous excavations and futility of any further work on all the buildings except D.

The proposals would by-pass those buildings but still supply dates of occupation which could be used to link back to those buildings and possibly their usage.

If the proposals were to be carried out, the benefits to the understanding of the Kildale Manor site would be as important as the original excavations, if not more, because they could solve some of the shortcomings of the previous investigations.
