

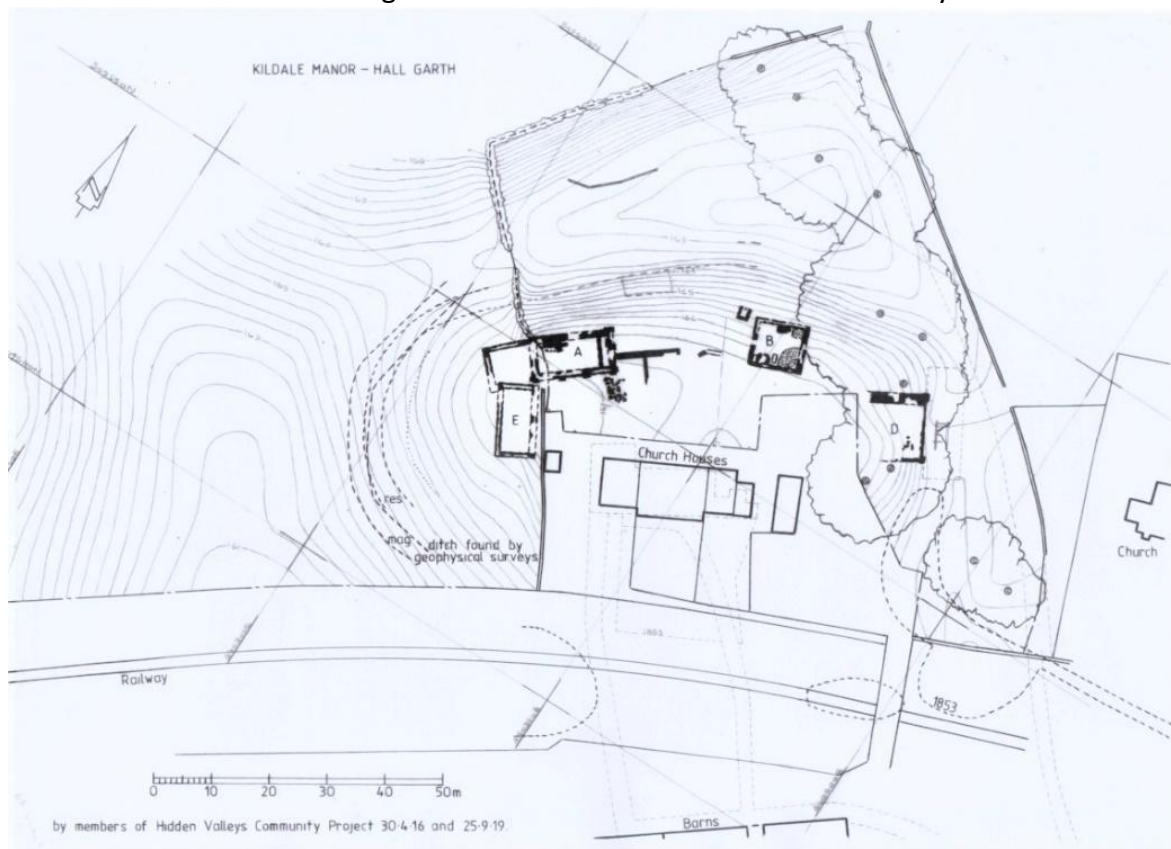
SURVEY OF EXCAVATED BUILDINGS AT KILDALE MANOR.

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.

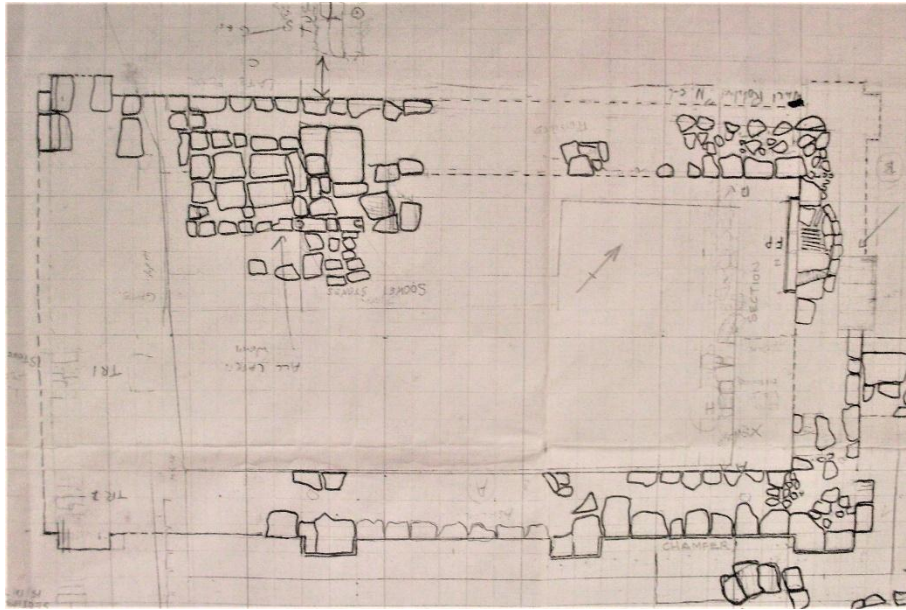
There are 58 black and white photographs of unknown provenance stored in the Tees Archaeology offices in Hartlepool of the excavations at Kildale Manor. It is assumed that they are of the Kildale Manor excavations but it is possible that some may be of other sites.

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.

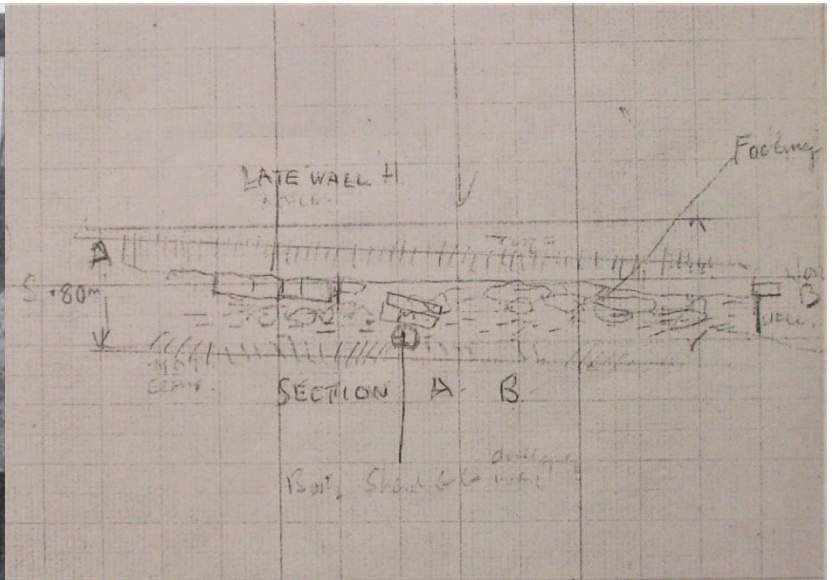
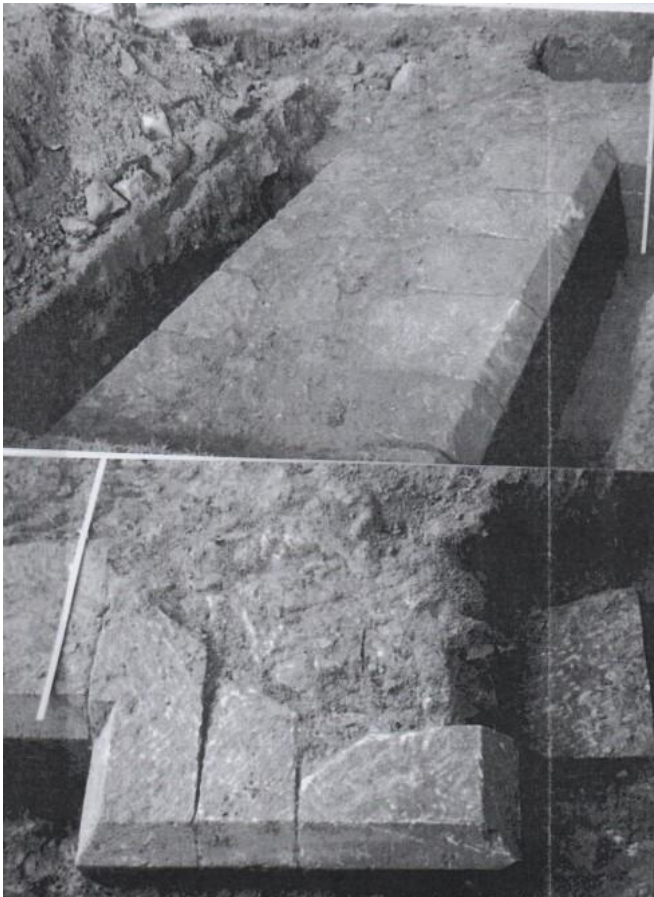


NB: The plans and sections below are for illustrative purposes only and aligned with the above survey. Therefore, the text and scales on those drawings are irrelevant.

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.

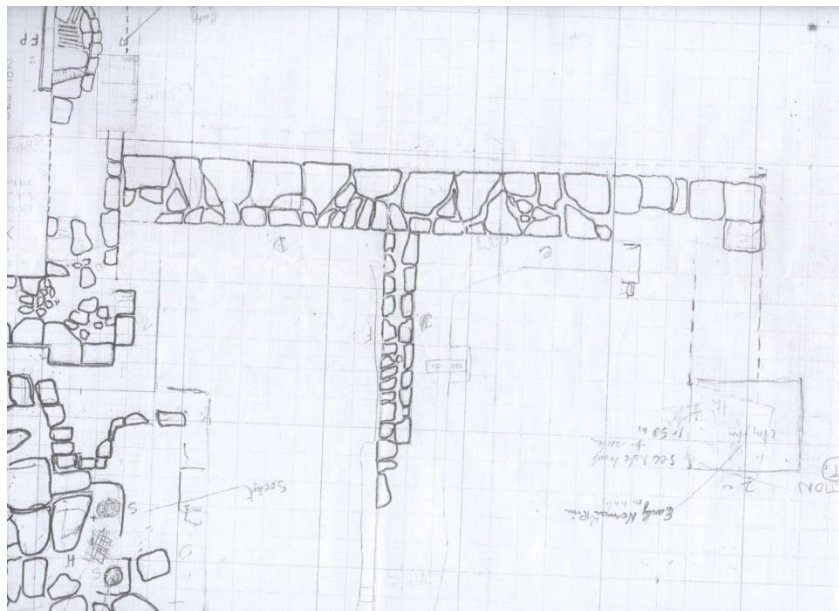
The majority of the SE wall was well constructed using ashlar blocks with chamfers and surviving to its original height of 0.6m. It had a flat and level top with a rubble filling. This is in marked contrast to the walls on the NE and NW sides where the construction seems to be much more random and of 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.



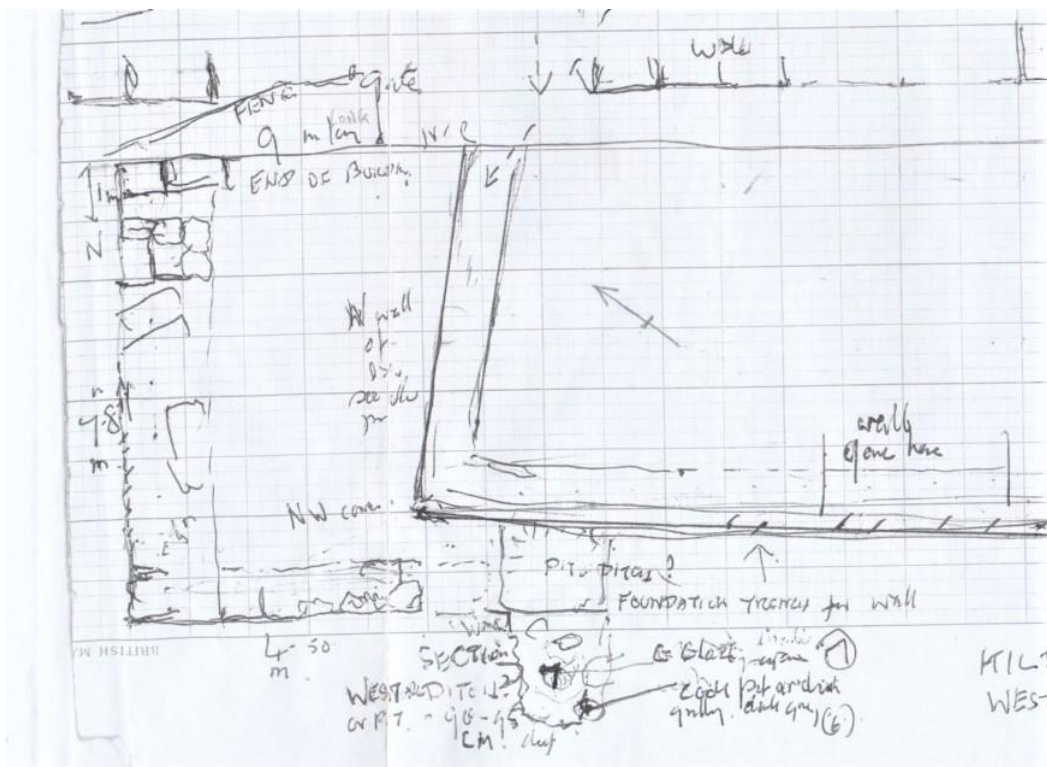
A 'trial hole' was dug about 2.5m SE from the end of the wider wall. Under the topsoil was a thick layer of what appears to be rubble and soil containing some burnt stones. Under that was a 100mm thick layer of ash, burning and some pottery. The final layer above the natural was made up of a stony, sandy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

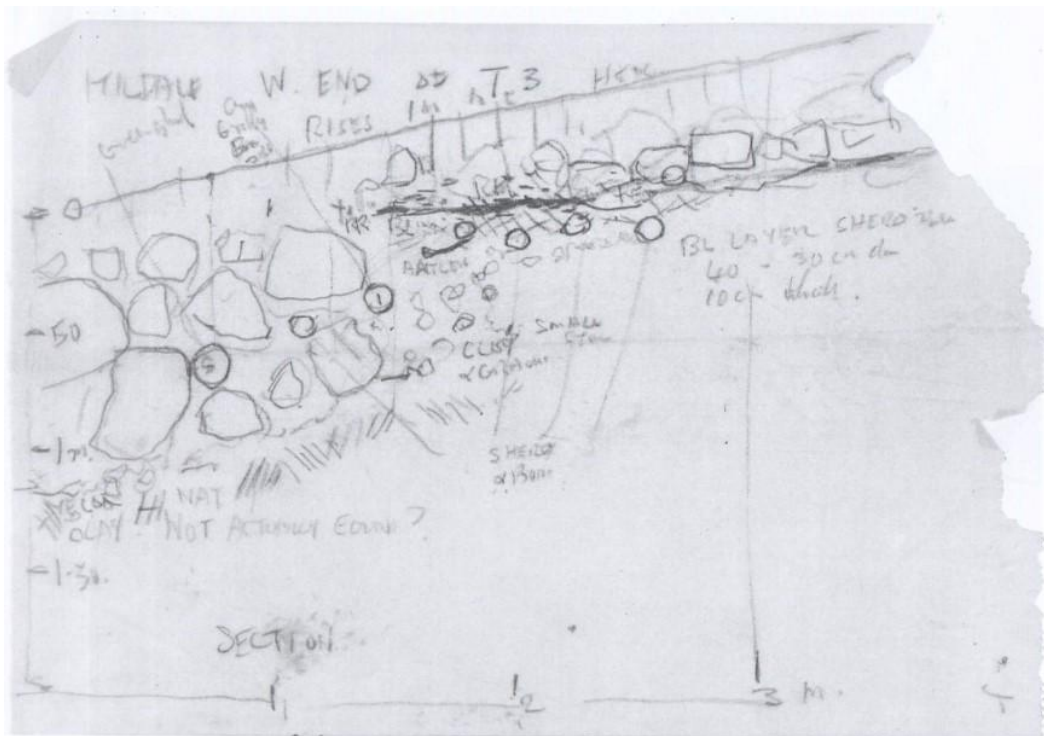


This building is on the left on the above drawing. The rhombic shaped building is building E. The relationship of the extension to buildings A and E is not clear from this drawing and there are no notes in the archive describing this building. It is assumed that it abuts building A but looks to have 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.

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



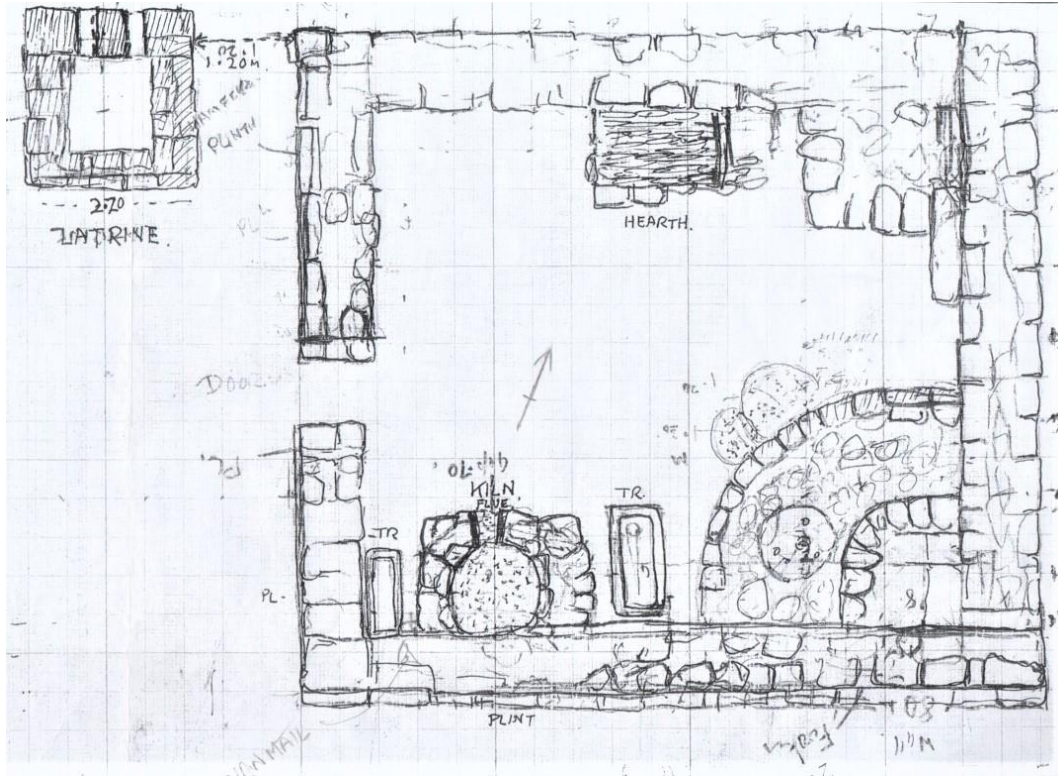
From the sections along the SE wall and near the SW corner and also from Raymond’s notes, there appears to have been three distinct layers under the topsoil.

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.

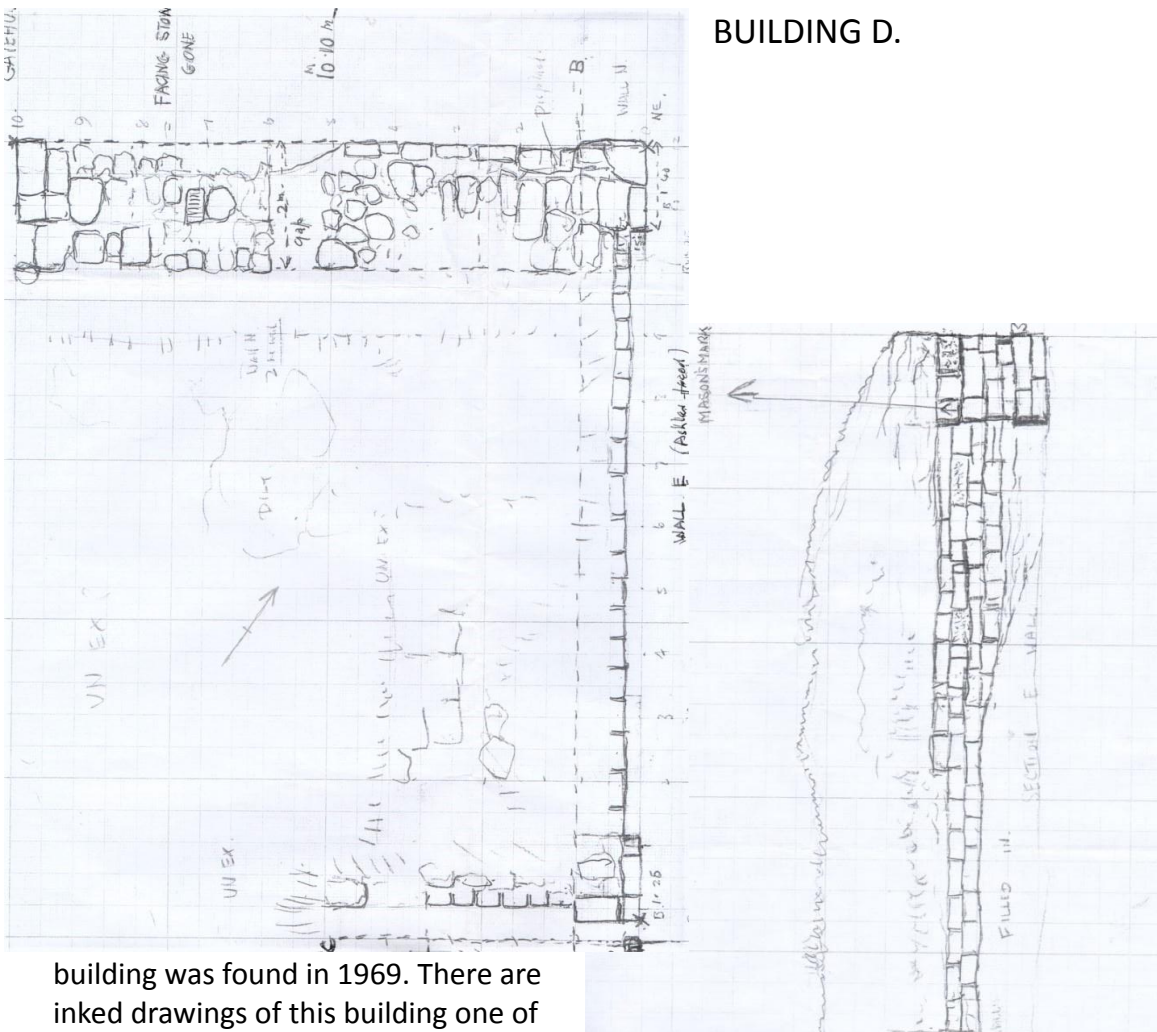
What is remarkable is the volume of pottery found in this building during the excavations. It produced more pottery than any other in this Manor complex. This begs the question as to why so much pottery was found in a workshop or (?)bakery. It is possible that it was used as a dump after the building 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.

building was found in 1969. There are inked drawings of this building one of which is shown above the other



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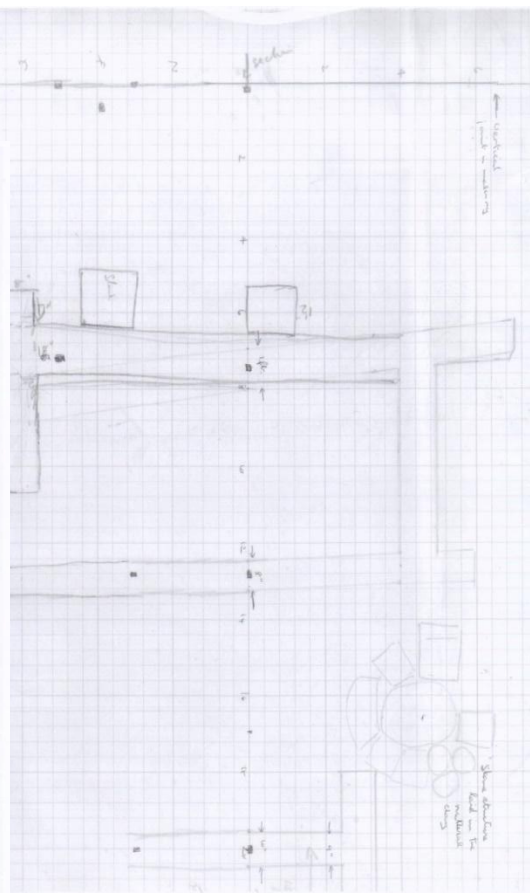
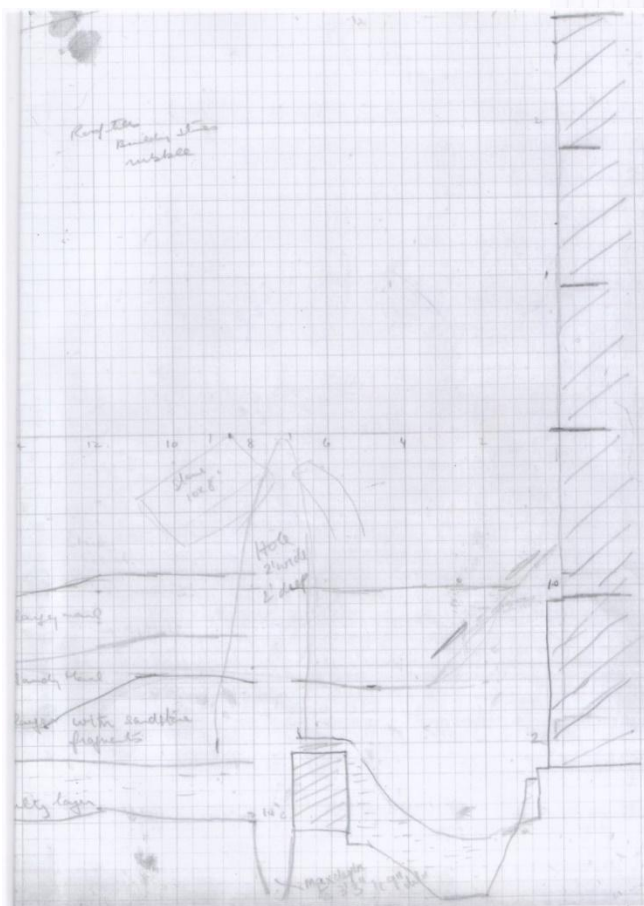
duplicate. The NE elevation (on the right) is part of the same drawing. There are no sections

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 Lounsdale 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 "rubblely" 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.

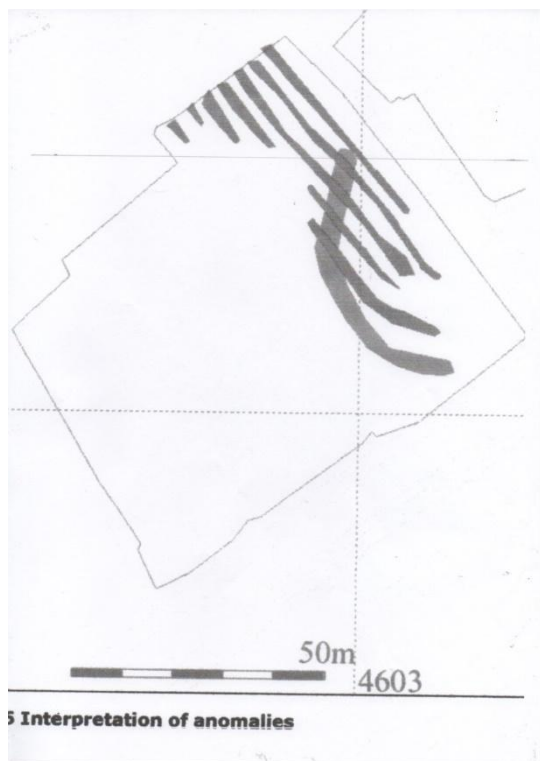
The structure consisted of 1.5m wide walling or paving on the SW, SE and NE sides surrounding a broken millstone 1.1m in diameter. On the NW side is a 1.5m wide gap and the overall size is about 4.8m in diameter. Most of the stonework was burnt red on their upper sides and the whole structure sat on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



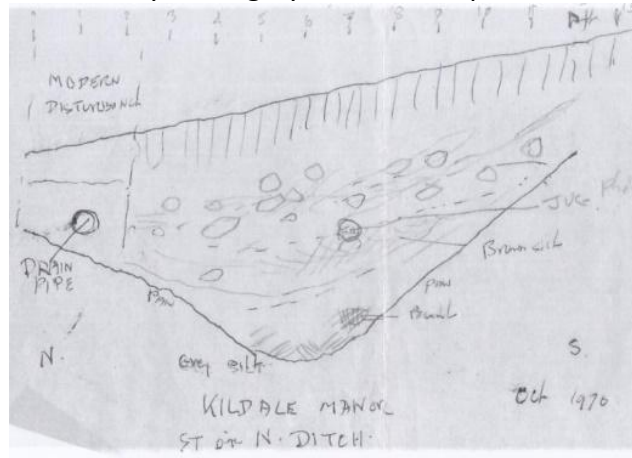
The magnetometer survey is on the left and the resistivity survey is on the right. See also the topographical survey at the start of this section of this Review for the ditch location.

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.
