

KILDALE

This is the first of two reviews of the early history and archaeology of Kildale. It will concentrate on Kildale and the surrounding area, the village, the church and Hall Garth. The second will focus only on Kildale Manor.

Both these reviews will draw on information resulting from activities carried out by members of the Hidden Valleys Community Project (HVCP) but as with all research new evidence could change the views expressed in these reviews.

It is thought that Kildale was free of glaciers by about 14,000BC. This glaciation left behind large tracts of compact sandy gravelly till visible in many of the fields in Kildale. It is possible that the so-called 'moat' or valley around Kildale Manor could have been glacial scouring around a harder geological feature.

The glaciers also created kettle-holes. If a large body of ice becomes detached from the glacier, is buried in the till, then melts, the resulting void is called a kettle-hole.

One such kettle-hole could have been in the field west of the Little Kildale Road, now a very large depression with peaty silt at the bottom. In 1969 a kettle-hole was found during drainage operations between Kildale Hall and the railway at NZ609097. Initially recorded by Roland Close, it was thoroughly investigated by experts from Durham University who took borings and samples for C14 dating and environmental analysis. The hole itself measured about 40m in diameter and 5m deep. Above the hole was a large area of peat, the product of a prehistoric pond, which measured about 160m E-W by 40 – 70m wide by 1m deep and which contained two pieces of important archaeological evidence.

Mosses at the lowest levels of the kettle-hole produced a C14 date of 14,800BC but the samples from the higher layers suggested an environment of grasses, sedge and an open landscape but with the hole possibly still frozen.

The lowest layer of the peat was dated to 8400BC with the samples suggesting an environment around the pond of an open scrub-heath with grasses, sedge, Birch, Oak, Elm and Pine but more importantly it contained some charcoal. This could have been produced by wild fires but it is thought that it was the result of people starting to control their habitat. The other archaeological evidence is the finding of a disarticulated near complete skeleton of a *Bos Primigenius* (a very large bull/cow) in the peat. One of the vertebrae was dated to about 6300BC and it is thought that the disparity of 2000 years was the result of the *Bos* sinking into the swampy pond either because of hunting or by misfortune.

There is no doubt that Mesolithic people would have been hunting amongst the dense forests of Oak and Elm which started to cover the valleys by about 7000BC and the moors by about 4700BC. Whether or not the *Bos* was killed by hunters was not established but their presence would normally be proven by the finding of microlithic flints. These have been found on the tops of the moors but they are very hard to see while fieldwalking on worked fields and therefore have so far stayed elusive in Kildale.

In 1858 during the construction of the railway between Middlesbrough and Whitby, it was reported in 1878 that a large body of peat, 4m deep, was found adjacent to the 'moat' around the 'old castle' (the Manor House). The location of this peat, which could have been another kettle-hole, must have been just north-west of the Hall Garth barns. In the peat

were found wood, stumps and remains of red deer and reindeer. Obviously there were no C14 dates for the peat but it is thought that it was contemporary with the peaty pond near the Hall.

This gives us a picture during the Mesolithic period of an open landscape with scattered trees changing in time to a dense forest. The people may have been opening up the canopy by fire either for transient habitation or to create a killing zone especially around ponds which their prey would have visited for water. (see notes at the end of this Review for period dates)

For countless generations the Mesolithic and Neolithic people would have hunted in the forests on the uplands and in Kildale. Unfortunately there is little evidence of the Neolithic people being in Kildale. So far the only recorded items consist of a leaf arrowhead found on a field near Bleach Mill Farm and a polished greenstone axe found near Bankside Farm. In 1953 Raymond Hayes and others excavated a Neolithic chambered cairn on Great Ayton Moor above Gribdale. This complex site consisted of the cairn with an enclosure on the northern side and a long bank or tail on the southern side. The pollen samples taken during the excavations suggested that at the time of the cairn's construction the site was covered by a forest of Hazel, Beech, Alder, and some Oak but with a limited covering of grasses. The samples from under the tail suggested more Oak and less Alder implying a different or later date of construction.

It was during the Bronze Age that the uplands and some of the valleys were beginning to be opened up and the forests cleared. Pollen samples from under two circles attached to the Neolithic cairn suggested a grassland environment with Hazel and Alder present. For the first time cereals were detected in the samples implying that on the uplands agriculture was changing the landscape. Large amounts of small cairns, or cairn fields, have been found on Great Ayton Moor and Brown Hill (Kildale) with more on Kildale Moor and Coate Moor. Although these cairns have never been securely dated they are presumed to have been constructed during the Bronze Age, as do several stone circles and many burial mounds or tumuli.

The use and apparent random distribution of the cairns on the landscape has always been a source of debate but near Swainby there was found a clear link to field clearances associated with field systems where the stones would have been gathered up into heaps or made into walling around the fields. Several cairns were excavated in 1953 on Brown Hill and appear to be just stones laying on the ground though two have depressions under them but without signs of funerary implications.

There are a few stone circles on the periphery of Kildale. One was excavated in 1967 just above Codhill Beck, below Brown Hill, which measured about 10m in diameter with a perimeter stone mound about 1.7m wide and central cairn covering a burnt area. Another circle was recorded in 1967 on Kildale Moor measuring about 20m in diameter and with a stone mound 2m wide.

Burial mounds or tumuli are found mainly on the upland crests with a few around Kildale. Don Spratt suspected that they may have been used as tribal territorial markers or maybe the tribal leaders were buried on the boundaries or at the corners of their territories between the upland boundary and the boundary that headed down the hillside to the

stream in the valley below. A burial mound was excavated in 1961 on the site of the old Percy Rigg Cross, under the wall adjacent to the end of the tarmac road on Percy Rigg. It measured about 10m across with a stone cist or stone box inside it containing a jet bead and burnt sand. Another burial mound was excavated on Brown Hill in 1953 which had a burial pit underneath it.

There are no cairns, circles or burial mounds recorded in Kildale itself. However, during recent fieldwalking on fields either side of the Comondale Road, on the old Cricket Field and on fields near Bleach Mill Farm nearly 200 worked flints have been found, mainly flakes, cores and other waste or debitage. Some thumb scrapers and retouched flakes have also been found. Flint does not occur naturally in Kildale except as glacial deposits, implying that flint nodules were probably being brought into Kildale from elsewhere and that there was much more activity in the Bronze Age with the tree canopy being opened up for habitation and animal husbandry.

The Iron Age (IA) brought changes to the landscape in and around Kildale with the forests in the valleys reduced in size to something close to today's coverage and the uplands virtually free of trees. The IA was also a period of migration with some of the tribes on the continent crossing the Channel and settling in Britain, especially in the later period, caused by the Roman invasions north of Italy. It is probable that the huge tribal conglomerate of the Brigantes, occupying the land between the River Trent, River Ouse, the North Sea coast, the North Tyne, and the west coast, may have existed long before the migrations.

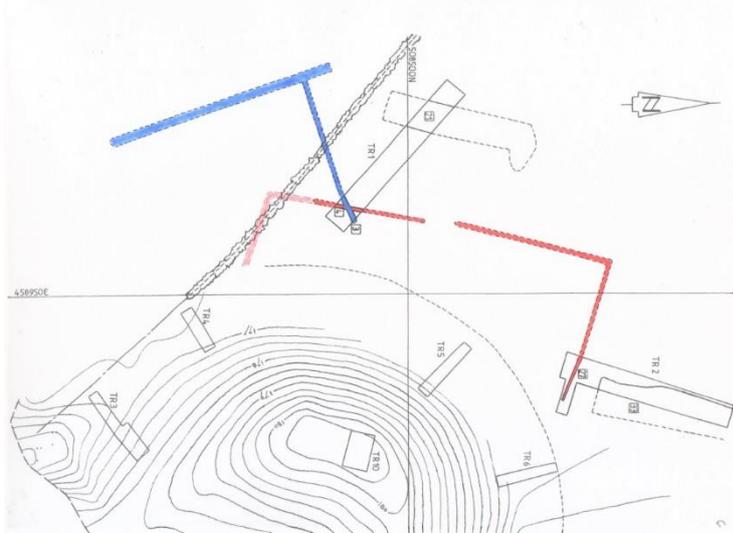
The local tribal chiefs of the branch of the Brigantes that occupied the area bounded by the River Tees, the Pennines, the Lastingham escarpment and the coast preferred to construct sub-rectangular enclosures to promote their status. These enclosures occur on the uplands and in many locations in the Tees Valley.

The nearest to Kildale is on Great Ayton Moor above Lonsdale. This enclosure was excavated in 1953 by Ross and Tinkler and resurveyed by Spratt and Inman. The site consists of a shallow external bank, a wide ditch and a partial internal bank, the whole measuring 60m by 60m with an entrance on the eastern side. Near the centre they found an oval house measuring 10m by 8m with internal paving, some postholes and an external wall about 1m wide. 138 pieces of pottery were found during the excavations (now in the Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough) all made locally and mostly hand-turned although some may have been made on a wheel. Nearly all the pottery contained igneous grit as an additive to stop the pottery breaking during rapid heating and is very common in IA and early Romano-British (RB) pottery. Other pottery contained quartz grit and some had holes in their fabric which suggest that straw was used as a binding agent. The rim styles consist of everted, olla style and straight - all very common forms in the IA and early RB. Field boundaries and lynchets were found around the enclosure and attached to it, probably used for the growing of cereals.

Because of the good quality of some of the pottery it is possible that this site was occupied into the early part of the RB period – perhaps into the 2nd century AD.

There is a possibility of another enclosure on The Pale, between Kildale and Lonsdale, visible on an air-photograph but when it was ploughed in the 1960's Roland Close could find no evidence of it.

The horse-shoe shaped ring-mound on the spur above Dundale Beck Farm and the River Leven, excavated recently by members of HVCP and called Easby Motte could have been an IA promontory fort although a C14 date of some charcoal from the ditch precludes that (see the Medieval section) (in yellow on the 1612 estate map below).



To the left is an extract from the survey of the Motte showing two intersecting gullies found during a geophysical survey carried out by James Lyall in 2017 and excavated in the same year.

The red or earlier gully measured 400mm wide and between 200 and 300mm deep. Several postholes were found on its northern side one of which produced a C14 date of 773-515BC – early Iron Age. The only other item from the gully was a lump of rusty iron slag which

reinforced the notion that it is Iron Age and not Bronze Age. If it is assumed that the 3m wide entrance gap was central, then the overall size of the palisaded enclosure was 38m north-south. The blue or later gully measured 700mm wide by 200mm deep and there were no items found in its fill. If the eastern end of this gully (just beyond the intersection) was the start of the entrance gap, then both the enclosures would have been very similar in size but on different alignments.

The eastern extent of the earlier enclosure can never be ascertained because of the construction of the later Motte but if it had extended to the edge of the spur, then it would have been about 50m long or covering about 900sq.m. Prior to the construction of the Motte the topography would have been a rolling hillside with its highest point adjacent to the edge of the spur as it fell away down to the River Leven many metres below. It seems that enclosure followed the hillside as it gently sloped towards the entrance gap.

In 1985 Blaise Vyner (BV) excavated two palisade gullies inside the Iron Age hillfort on Eston Nab near Middlesbrough. Although these gullies were curving and enclosed a much greater area, their dimensions, profile and even the entrance gap were very similar in size to those at the Easby Motte. From the volume and styles of the pottery found in the gullies, BV concluded that the enclosures were used for permanent settlement between the 8th and 5th centuries BC. There is no doubt that both gullies at the Easby Motte represented palisaded enclosures constructed during the early Iron Age but the lack of pottery probably suggests that they were used for refuge rather than for settlement endorsed by the fact that no other features associated with the gullies were found by the geophysical survey. Further investigations may reveal more clues as to their true purpose.

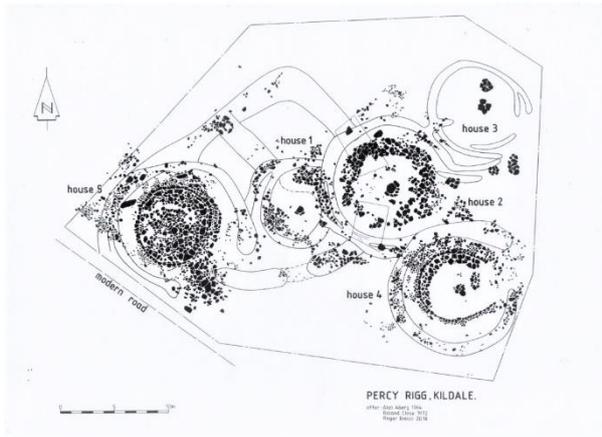
An air-photograph dated 1972 shows another very small circular enclosure just below Rowbar Hill, on its eastern flank and south of the River Leven with an entrance on its southern side and measuring about 30m in diameter. Fieldwalking has produced IA and RB type pottery adjacent to the enclosure.

The first phase of occupation of the houses on the complex IA and early RB site on Percy Rigg excavated by Roland Close and others in the 1960's was a wide ditched enclosure surrounding house 1, measuring about 20m square over the ditch and with an entrance on its eastern side. The later phases consisted of four more houses with external ring-gullies, three of which had external stone walling and internal paved floors. Recent excavations by HVCP members have revealed a series of post-holes inside house 2 which could indicate an earlier timber phase of the houses, especially house 1 which lacks any stonework. There were 105 pieces of pottery (now missing) found during the original excavations together with several saddle and beehive querns. Most of the pottery appears to be typical of the IA period and hand turned, although one piece is described as being of better quality and a grey fabric which could be early RB. One rim, which is probably from the early IA, has finger impressions on the top of it. Another rim has a concave internal face which is unusual during the IA – and similar to a later RB style. An interesting site which would repay further investigation (see plans below).

IA style pottery was found in a field east of Bleach Mill Farm which could be the site of another enclosure.

Another enclosure site in Kildale is inside the plantation on Crag Bank, just off the Westerdale Road. In about 1923 Frank Elgee investigated this site and recovered three sets of Beehive rotary querns which for years sat on the front wall of Percy Rigg Farm and are now in the church. The site was excavated in the late 1950's by Roland Close and others probably in advance of the ploughing and planting of the present plantation which badly disturbed the site. The excavations revealed an oval paved area below a lynchet (a bank resulting from an artificially created terrace) capped by a stone wall and which produced a reasonably level platform. The platform was closed off on the eastern and western sides by linear mounds with an entrance through the eastern mound. On the southern (fourth) side a very steep escarpment drops away to the River Leven many metres below. During a survey and investigation by HVCP members the remains of a stone wall was found close to the lip of the escarpment which turned the site into an enclosure measuring about 65m by 40m over the walls and mounds (see the plans below).

On the top of Brown Hill are the remains of what could be an IA site, surveyed recently by HVCP members, consisting of linear twin ditches with a bank between them and 80m in length. They appear to cut off the hillside to the east as it slopes away down to Sleddale Beck. There are vague remains of five possible round-houses to the west of the ditches suggesting that the ditches were dug to protect the houses from a vulnerable direction. All this points to control by local aristocrats living inside their enclosures which would have protected them and their stock from roving two and four legged animals but not from a sustained attack. All the evidence points to an agriculturally based economy, probably more pastoral in the valley with cereal production on the uplands.

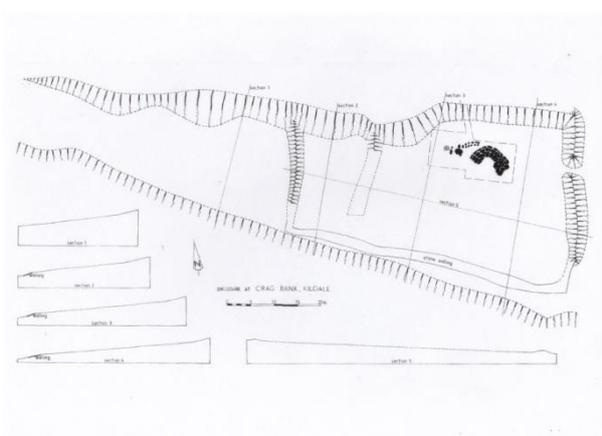


PERCY RIGG, KILDALE.

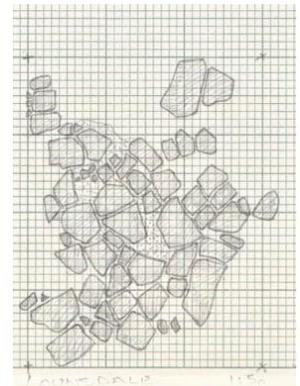


PALE END, KILDALE.

CRAG BANK, KILDALE.

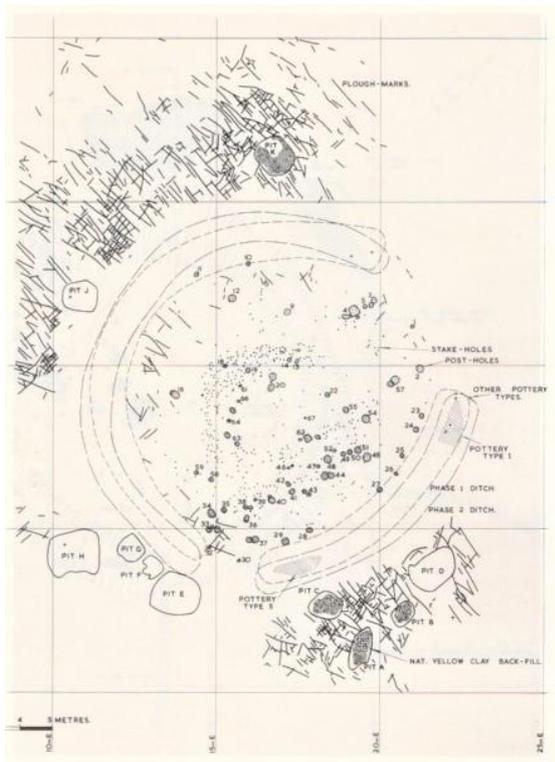


LONSDALE
PAVING.
(1m main squares)



It is almost impossible to differentiate between IA and RB sites – and why would we want to anyway. These archaeological sites would have been occupied for generations before the RB period and for generations after, seeing Saxon, Viking and Norman immigrants arrive and settle in Kildale. There would have been a large indigenous population adapting to new ideas but still living the same lifestyles as their ancestors, purchasing products from a flourishing pottery market and making use of new agricultural technology. After all, today, for years we have been buying Swedish furniture and Italian food – but does that make us Swedish or Italian?

There is evidence suggesting that some upland settlements were abandoned in the RB period as the soil quality declined. Farms were beginning to be established in the lowlands and valleys due to the advent of the ard plough with a metal share which could break up the heavier soils and maybe even later in this period, a one-way plough with a mould-board (which turned the soil), although the date of this innovation is still unclear. Below is a plan of house 1 at Roxby, an IA site near Scaling Dam, which illustrates how the ard plough marks would have looked on many of the RB fields in Kildale.



Elsewhere many enclosures appear to be still occupied well into the RB period, though many had their ditches filled-in and the land-use realigned to suit the later generations' needs.

So far over 23 RB pottery scatters have been found in Kildale indicating that farms would have been scattered the length and breadth of Kildale mainly adjacent to the River Leven or to another good water supply suitable for human and animal stock consumption. These farms would certainly not have been isolated but amidst a patchwork of fields inter-connected by trackways and maybe the present main road through Kildale could have been in existence on the same alignment in the RB period. Plenty of quern stones (millstones) have been found in Kildale suggesting that cereals were grown on many of the farms, although a mixed arable and pastoral farm was probably the norm as the

manure from the cattle would have been needed on the crop fields. There were two parts to a quern – the lower stone which was partly buried in the ground and the upper stone which rotated on top of the lower stone. The Beehive quern was widely used until about the 2nd century AD when the Flat Rotary quern seems to have been more popular (probably copied from the military) because it was easier to transport. Both types of quern stones have been found in and around Kildale. Studies have shown that querns were transported over long distances often from the Pennines or from near Pickering where they were being made and considering the weight of these stones, this must have been a difficult undertaking.

One item found on many fields in the Cleveland area is rusty slag and Kildale is no exception. The IA and RB 'smiths' could not obtain a high enough temperature to fully melt the iron ore in their bowl furnaces (which were like half-buried very large eggs) which resulted in some of the ore being included in the waste or slag and is unique to those periods. By the Medieval period they were able to melt all the ore in their bloomeries. The Main Seam of ore is present in Kildale (the same seam as in the Eston Hills) especially on the north side of the western end of the valley as far as Bankside Farm where it drops by many meters because of a geological fault. Many of the fields in Kildale have yielded rusty slag but the Old Cricket Field just off the Baysdale road produced an exceptional amount. This could indicate that there were furnaces in that field possibly supplying Kildale and the local chief with the metal to make the iron implements they required. Coate Moor (Bankside) Mine was producing ore in the mid-1870's but at the moment there is no evidence of iron extraction in Kildale during the Medieval period.

As the result of possible restructuring of land use in the mid-RB period and as agriculture became more efficient, the amount of disposable income of the farmers increased. This is

reflected in the volume of good quality pottery coming into Kildale especially from the 3rd century onwards. Pottery made at the Crambeck works between Malton and York is regularly found on these farm sites. Calcite (chalk) Gritted wares, probably made near Malton, are also common. Most of the pottery would have been storage jars although many fragments of mortarium (used to grind herbs) have been found, again from Crambeck with its distinctive black grinding grit. A fragment of mortarium was found on the Old Cricket Field which could have been made outside York or even further south. Found alongside this 'imported' pottery were fragments of locally made pottery with quartz or igneous grits in the IA tradition (referred to above). It is not clear whether this pottery represents an earlier occupation or whether it represents disposable kitchen/storage pottery being used at the same time as the 'imported' wares. So far only three fragments of Samian Ware have been found in Kildale – one each from the Lonsdale site, the Crag Bank site (see plans above) and the excavations on Kildale Manor. Samian ware is orange-red with a red slip and often decorated with animals and figures. It was made only in various parts of Gaul (Germany/France) on an industrial scale up to the start of the 3rd century. Because of the distance travelled and excellent quality, this ware would have been very expensive and it is probable that the vessels became heirlooms. There are cases of broken Samian Ware which have been re-joined by metal rivets.

As families grew it is probable that the people living in these farms were inter-related. Elsewhere ladder settlements have been found where farms and paddocks were strung out on a linear alignment. Many of the scatters in Kildale are close together but so far there are only two instances where they could have been in a ladder pattern. Where the aristocracy was living during this period is unclear. One site at the western entrance to Kildale and below the ring-mound referred to above, produced nearly 30 pieces of pottery over an area of 80m by 30m. They ranged from the IA style pottery to Crambeck and Calcite Wares which date the main occupation of the site to after 250AD. A Beehive quern stone was also found nearby. This site is a prime candidate for an aristocratic farm not only because of the volume and quality of pottery found but also because of its position at the entrance to the valley thereby controlling access into Kildale. This would be an interesting site to investigate further.

In addition to the fieldwalking scatters, four sites were excavated by Roland Close and others during the 1960's and 1970's – the plans of all four are presented above. Percy Rigg round houses have already been discussed but they could have been occupied into the RB period.

Crag Bank was also discussed above. 15 pieces of pottery were found in association with the paved area, mostly local wares, including two mortaria rims dating to the 2nd century and a grey ware pedestal base (all now lost).

The Pale End site also had a paved area measuring about 28m by 12m. 36 pieces of pottery were found including two Crambeck mortaria, two earlier mortaria and a large amount of locally made pottery, some in the style of well-known pottery works dating the site from the 2nd to the 5th centuries (all now lost).

The only recorded feature of the Lonsdale site is another paved area measuring 3m by 4m.

HVCP members carried out a geophysical survey to locate the paving which was one of three found but could find no evidence. Paved floors seem to be a re-occurring feature on Kildale sites though not common elsewhere - perhaps a characteristic of the Kildale tribe. 34 pieces of pottery were recovered including a Crambeck mortarium, a Crambeck jar, a Black Burnished ware bowl and many pieces of local wares again dating the site to the 2nd to the 5th centuries (all now lost).

During the excavations on Kildale Manor, four pieces of RB period pottery were found. A Crambeck jar rim and a locally made base fragment with chalk or shell grit in it were found in the moat on the eastern side of the site. A Samian Ware fragment was found in building B (workshop) and a wheel thrown fragment also with chalk or shell grit was found in building E on the western side of the site (all now in the Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough). Four pieces do not make an aristocratic site but considering its significance in later history, it is possible that this hillock was the seat of power for generations.

There is no doubt that Saxon settlers arrived in Kildale sometime during the 6th century, if not before, but like most of Cleveland there is little evidence of them living in Kildale. They would have arrived into a valley with a well-established population. There are 27 known RB sites in Kildale with a possibility of another 10 sites, though not all of them would have been contemporary. If it is assumed that a household comprised of 6 people then the total would be over 200 – larger than it is today. Undoubtedly that would have put the new settlers into a small minority.

Over the intervening 500 years between the first Saxon settlers and the arrival of the Normans and 200 years between the Vikings and the Normans, this is a story of integration, assimilation of new ideas and inter-marriage between the descendants of the RB population and the new comers be they Saxon or Vikings. Apart from the new settlers the most significant change would have been the new landlord or lord of the manor. To start with communications between them would have been difficult but over time there would have been a coalescing of languages probably expedited by the lords of the manor.

So far, no Saxon pottery has been found anywhere near Kildale. During recent fieldwalking by members of HVCP a large blue bead, which is possibly Saxon, was found in a field west of the Little Kildale Road. During the excavations on Kildale Manor a broken Anglo-Saxon cross was recovered from the moat. This could be the cross quoted in Irene Ridley's book as being demolished by a man born in about 1750 and which was obviously thrown into the moat to fill it up at the same time as he was demolishing parts of the 'castle'. The four fragments of this cross are now in the church. One whole and three broken fragments of possible Saxon grave markers are to be found in the church tower but where they came from originally is unknown. A very large stone font in the church is also thought to be of Saxon origin.

Like the Saxon settlers, the Viking or Danish settlers appear to have had little impact on Kildale. There has been no Viking pottery or sculptural stones or any signs of settlement found in the valley.

However, during the reconstruction of the church in 1868 there was a remarkable discovery in the church itself. In the excavations for the new north aisle wall and for the new heating in the centre of the nave, at least 14 skeletons or parts of skeletons were found together with their associated grave goods.

Seven or eight skeletons were found in the north wall excavations together with three iron swords, an axe, three or four daggers, a spear, a small knife with a bone handle, parts of some spurs, rivetted concave object, spikes and nails. In one grave a number of items made in bronze including a sword, a dagger with fine silver wrapping, a pair of tweezers, a set of possible weighing scales together with some bowls, a fragment of bronze, a plug of lead and a wooden frame with a sliding panel and a lead insert were found.

A skeleton was found in the nave heating excavations, together with an iron sword with some wood on the hand grip, parts of a possible scabbard and a bronze buckle with some leather still attached. At least five skulls were also found near this skeleton. All the skeletons and skulls were re-buried in a communal grave inside the church. The items went on display in the church but were later stolen and never recovered. Seven or eight grave slabs were also found in the nave during the restoration work of which four are on display in the porch of the church. It is thought that they were the memorial slabs of the de Percys.

The Rev.J.C.Atkinson (JCA) witnessed these discoveries and wrote two papers on them and without reservation he dates them to the Viking period. This is endorsed by Frank Elgee and several other later authors. It is very rare to find so many Viking burials with such an array of weaponry and domestic items associated with them.

It is possible that these burials were part of a cemetery but is more likely that they were the Viking elite attempting to be as close as possible to the altar without being in the church. JCA describes the burials in the north wall excavations as being laid out east to west and with the head of one skeleton near the feet of the other.

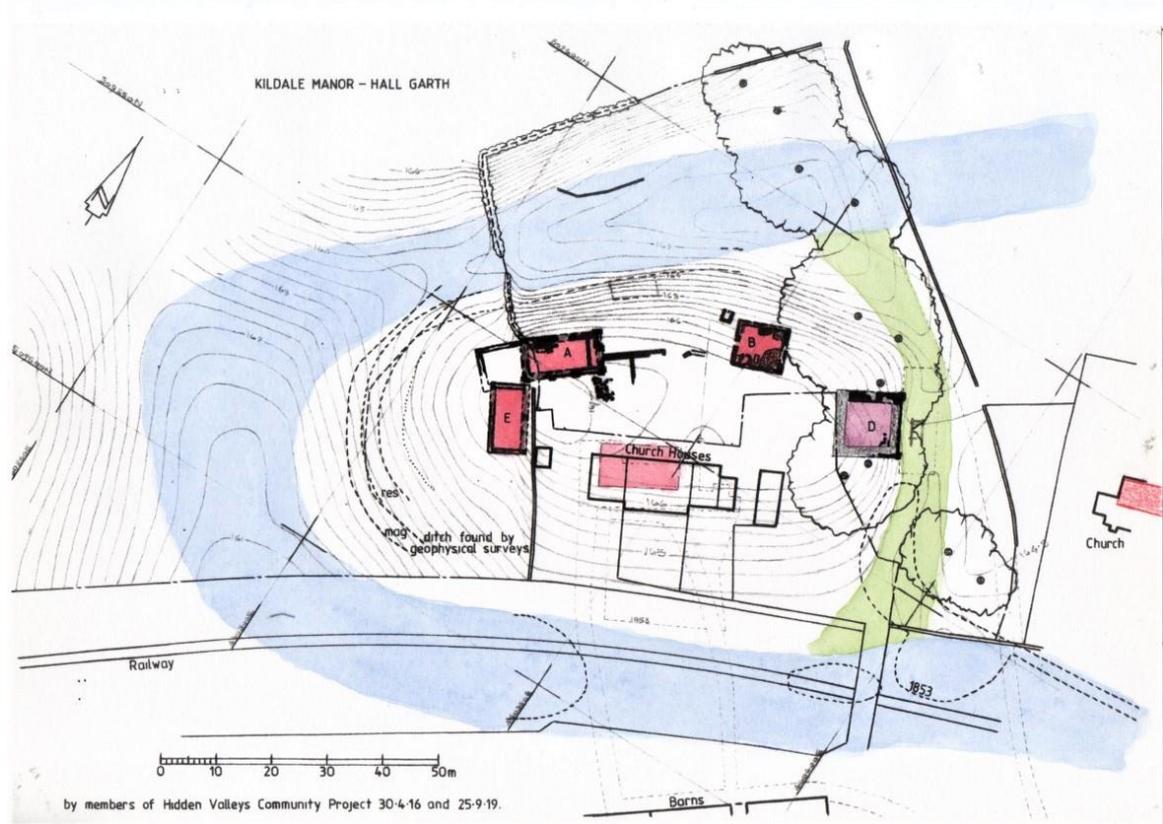
In one of JCA's papers he states that the seven or eight burials were found adjacent to the nave wall but in a later paper he describes the same grave items being found in the excavations outlined above. No other skeletons were recorded in any of the excavations carried out in any other parts of the church.

Without having the actual items available to examine, it is difficult to draw any conclusions as to the significance of the different metals of the swords. Maybe the bronze sword was earlier than the iron swords or may have belonged to a wealthier owner. The scales imply a member of the administration and the wooden frame with a lead insert is thought to have a religious significance.

If it is assumed that the burials were just outside of the north and south walls of the church in the Viking period, then that would suggest an internal nave width of about 5m. and if the seven or eight burials were laid out end to end, that would suggest an internal nave length of about 13m. Those dimensions happen to be the same as the internal dimensions of the well-preserved Saxon church at Escomb near Bishop Auckland (well worth a visit). They also position the church on the highest part of the hilltop.

Possible Saxon grave markers have been found, probably in the church-yard (as noted above) and, in Robin Daniels's (RD) survey of the early churches in Cleveland, he found that 76% of the churches were in close proximity to the manor house and that the churches were usually built at the behest of the lord of the manor. In Kildale, throughout these periods, the manor houses could have been built on one hilltop with the adjacent hilltop occupied by the

church and it is probable that under the Norman Kildale manor there may be Saxon and Viking manors and, as noted above, even an RB aristocratic seat.



The Domesday Book (1086), which reflects a Saxon and Viking landscape states that there was a church and a priest in Kildale and that it was one of only three manors in the Cleveland area (the others were Marske and Little Ayton) that increased in value from the time of Edward the Confessor to the time of the compilation of the Book.

Kildale was called Childale in the Book but in a paper of 1930 Major R.B.Turton quotes JCA as suggesting that Kildale derived from the Danish personal name Ketil but in the 'English Place Names' the Old Norse (Viking) word 'Kill' meaning a narrow bay is suggested. It is possible that when the commissioners were compiling the Domesday Book they needed a name to locate the manors and used either the lord of the manor's name, or a topographical feature, or a description of those that lived there. Maybe that was the first time the manors were actually named using a mixture of coalesced languages.



The above plan is an amalgam of two estate maps dated to 1612 and are the first known maps of Kildale. The church is coloured green and the manor red. The River Leven is coloured blue and the 1612 and present main road orange.

It has been noted above that during the RB period the farms were scattered along the length of Kildale, albeit adjacent to and following the River Leven and with no evidence of a structured village. The map shows 19 houses on opposing sides of the main road with their tofts behind them. RD in his survey describes that type of village layout as being typical of a planned Norman settlement.

It is thought that villages or nucleated settlements started in the Saxon period possibly in response to the colonising influence of new immigrants. The fact that Saxon burial markers have been found and that the church could have been in existence in the Saxon period, the village could have coalesced around any new manor house adjacent to the church as suggested above but of course there is no evidence at the moment. It is possible that the early village houses could be approximately in the same locations as those houses shown on the 1612 map.

The Domesday Book tells us that there were eight bordars living in Kildale in 1086 probably together with some serfs. Bordars were smallholding tenant cottagers. How that relates to the Saxon and Viking periods is unknown but those 14 Viking burials must mean that there was a military elite living in Kildale at that time and it is unlikely that the burials were all contemporary with each other.

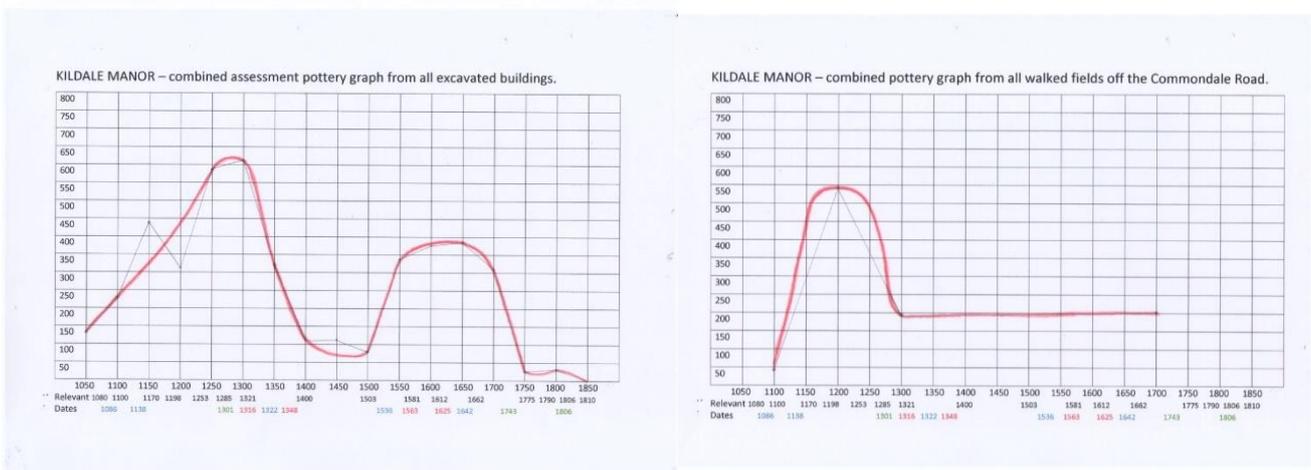
The Domesday Book also tells us that an Anglo-Saxon thegn called Ligulf was lord of the manor in Kildale sometime well before 1086. A thegn is an elite aristocrat, landowner and commander in the army.

There is a Ligulf in the history books but whether it is the same man is unknown. This Ligulf was the chief secular adviser to Bishop Walcher in 1076, descended from the Earls of Bernicia and a follower of the St.Cuthbert cult (the Kildale church is dedicated to St.Cuthbert). In 1080 Ligulf was murdered during civil unrest.

A Viking/Danish man called Orme (as in Ormesby) then took over as lord of the manor and was the lord in Kildale in 1086 and probably there until about 1100 when the manor was taken over by the first of the de Percys of Kildale.

It is more than likely that both Ligulf and Orme were absentee lords of the manor. Therefore the 14 burials may be those of the elite that ran the estate for Ligulf and Orme.

If the 1612 map reflects the Norman re-organisation of Kildale village, then it would have been carried out at the behest of the de Percys after 1100. How many of the Percys were absentee lords of the manor is unclear but what is very clear is that Kildale had a prolonged period of prosperity during their tenure including the granting of a market and fair in 1253 possibly held where the Comondale Road widens to twice the normal road width (RD per comm). The prosperous times ended in 1400 when John de Percy was imprisoned and his lands forfeited although later reinstated. The land was sold to Henry of Northumberland in 1503.



The graph on the left is the result of Anne Jenner’s assessment of the pottery recovered from the excavations on the manor house between 1957 and 1976 (now in the Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough) by Roland Close, Raymond Hayes and many others (thanks to Ken Shaw who produced the original graph on which the above is based).

The graph on the right is the result of recent fieldwalking carried out by members of HVCP on the fields either side of the Comondale Road heading east out of Kildale and on which there were seven house sites shown on the 1612 map.

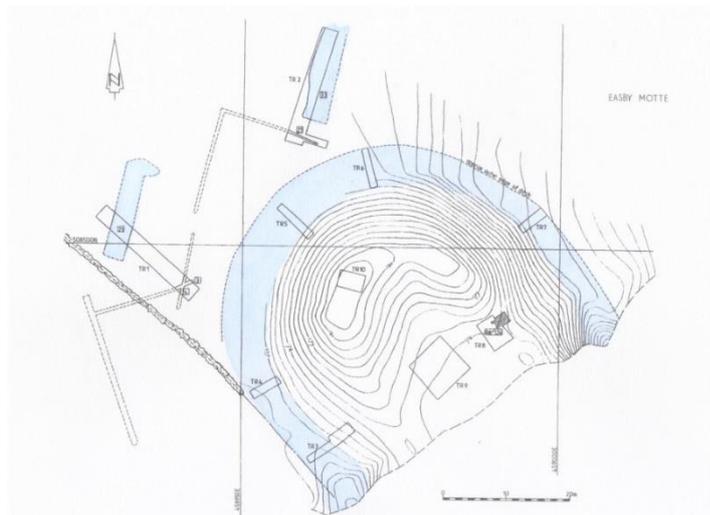
Both graphs show that the prosperity was at its peak between about 1200 and 1300.

About 990 pieces of pottery were found during the fieldwalking with the greatest amount being an oxidised (red) ware sometimes with splashed glazing on it and with a thick reduced (black) core. This ware is not common on sites elsewhere and could have been made locally

during the 12th century and maybe in the village itself. There is a field called Kiln Close in the village which was part of the rectory land in 1600's (now called Sale Field) and is now cut through by the road to Lonsdale. HVCP members helped James Lyall carry out a geophysical survey of the field which produced an anomaly which could have been a kiln site.

Other pottery found during the fieldwalking includes Tees Valley Ware (cream coloured), an early soft red ware, green glazed wares, stone wares and some oxidised wares with red and grey slip or paint on the external faces.

The family tree and history of the de Percys is extremely complicated but there are a few dates which are pertinent to Kildale. In 1170 Arnald de Percy died without issue and the manor was in the custody of Adam de Brus. In 1198 William de Percy died leaving his wife Agnes (who later married John Birkin) to run the estate and in 1285 William, grandson of Agnes, after being in possession of Kildale for 50 years became 'of unsound mind'. All the above dates could have created a hiatus in the running of the estate with an absentee landlord but it seems to have had little impact on the prosperity and on the pottery volume.



The ring-mound or Easby Motte above the western end of Kildale (coloured yellow on the above village map and discussed in the IA section) consists of a horse-shoe shaped mound open on its south-eastern side where the land drops very steeply down to the River Leven, a wide perimeter ditch and two outlying ditches as shown on the plan to the left. Including the ditch and the 3m high mound the Motte measures 55m NE-SW by 47m. HVCP members excavated

the outlying ditches in 2017, the trenches across the perimeter ditch in 2018 and the inside of the ring-mound in 2019. The western outlying ditch produced Tees Valley Ware pottery which dates from the 12th to 13th centuries. The northern ditch produced Northern Gritty Ware (NGW) pottery which dates to the early 12th century. There were no relevant items found in the perimeter ditch except for a lump of charcoal found at the bottom of the primary/vegetational layer in trench 6 (mid NW side) which was dated to 1040-1182AD by C14 analysis. Three hollows full of burnt wood were found in the eastern entrance in Trench 8. There were no other features found on the inside of the ring-mound. The hollows were superimposed on top of each other and about 1.5m in diameter but associated with them were over 135 pieces of pottery, an axe head and a possible sheath. Two charcoal samples from these hollows were sent off for C14 analysis. The sample from the lowest hollow produced a date of 1032-1158AD and the sample from the uppermost hollow produced a date of 1030-1158AD. The pottery adjacent to the hollows is Northern Gritty Ware (NGW) (thanks to Anne Jenner and Robin Daniels for identifying the pottery).

There is a very slight possibility that the Motte was constructed during the Iron Age. However using the three C14 dates and the majority of the pottery, it is probable that it was

occupied, and probably built, during the early 12th century, or even during the first quarter of that century. What is significant is that there were no internal buildings, no palisade on top of the mound and no pottery from the perimeter ditch. The primary or vegetational layers in the ditches were very pale suggesting that they were not open for long – the longer a ditch is open the more undergrowth decays in the ditch turning the layer almost black. The above evidence produces three interpretations.

Arnald de Percy was the first lord of Kildale manor taking over the tenure in about 1100AD until his death in 1170AD. It is possible that the Easby Motte was his first choice at imposing his authority on the locals in a similar way to Sir Nigel Fossard (Lord of Doncaster) who built the Mulgrave Motte. Although the latter is larger and has a 4m high 'pudding-basin' mound with buildings on top of it, it is set on a commanding position overlooking Sandsend Beck. It is possible that Arnald changed his mind and stopped its construction in favour of the tower or 'castle' (building D) at the Kildale Manor site and the Motte was never finished.

It is also possible the Easby Motte was built in response to the civil war between Stephen and Matilda between 1135 and 1154AD (the Anarchy Period). The majority of mottes built during that period appear to be in the southern half of England and not necessarily on hill tops. They are sometimes circular and about 35m in diameter crest to crest where Easby Motte is about 25m crest to crest. There is supposed to be an Anarchy motte opposite the western side of Pickering Castle and there is a similar ring-mound above Ampleforth.

The answer maybe a combination of both interpretations.

During the summer of 1138 King David I of Scotland invaded northern England with a large force of men from Scotland, Norway, Germany, Denmark and the blood thirsty men of Galloway.

In August the force arrived near Northallerton after carrying out acts of ruthless savagery on the way. Archbishop Thurstan of York and some northern barons organised an army and on the 22nd of August the two armies clashed with the local men rallying around a ship's mast on which sacred banners and crosses were fixed - the Battle of the Standard. The men of Galloway, lightly dressed, charged first but were decimated, they fled and the Scottish army retreated north.

It is only 18 miles from the battlefield to Kildale and no doubt the Scots would have been marauding around the whole area and with the ring-work being on a spectacular vantage point, it is possible that look-outs were sent up to light fires in the burning hollows in the abandoned Motte to warn the de Percys in Kildale and the valleys beyond of a possible Scottish attack. Alternatively the burning hollows could have been the signs of work or hunting parties camping on the site.

It appears that the Northern Gritty Ware could have been the first style of pottery brought into Kildale by the Normans and the de Percys. The NGW pottery from the ring-work was of very good quality – very thin, only 3mm or 4mm, with external finger grooves and sometimes with a grey core. In Anne Jenner's report, she suggests that the NGW was being produced in West Yorkshire whereas after the 12th century the pottery could have been imported from further north. NGW has been found amongst the pottery from Kildale Manor, not in great quantities but just enough to suggest an early date for the founding of the Manor. The fieldwalking did produce gritty wares but the inclusions were very large

quartz grit, usually in a red fabric and therefore not NGW. This suggests that NGW was the preserve of the elite and that the peasantry in the village used the oxidised red ware as an alternative superseded by the Tees Valley Wares within a few generations. It may also imply that the early village was not on the site of the re-organised Norman village reflected on the 1612 map and that the re-organisation did not take place until the later 12th century.

Major Turton in his 1930 paper discusses the location of the chapel granted to the Canons of Helagh Park by William de Percy in about 1280, with two serving priests and 17 acres of land. Within a few years the Canons found the duties too onerous and applied to Arnold de Percy (son of William) to be released from their work in Kildale and moved to the chapel of St. Nicholas in Yarm. Not long afterwards, Arnold permitted the Crutched Friars to use the chapel. However, apparently this had an adverse effect on the church in Kildale village and in 1312 Archbishop Greenfield banned them from practising in Kildale and they disappeared from this area. Whether this chapel was built in stone or in wood is unclear but it is thought that it was located between Park Farm and Low Farm in two fields called Tyle Garth and Far Tyle Garth listed in the sale particulars of 1806. There are no visible remains in either field but there are platforms visible nearer Park Farm.

Major Turton also discusses the location of the three Deer Parks in Kildale. The Park is still partially traceable today with an obvious bank below Park Scar near the Baysdale (or Basedale) Road. Another Deer Park is thought to be on the Pale and the last in Baysdale.

What effect the famine of 1312 and the Black Death in 1348 had on the population of Kildale is unknown. What is remarkable is that the number of people living in Kildale has remained reasonably stable over the last two thousand years. As noted above the RB population could have been about 200 and the Domesday Book lists 8 bordars which could have given a minimum of about 50 people.

The Lay Court Rolls of 1301 list 21 tenants (heads of households – about 130 people), in 1743 26 households are listed, on the 1612 map 22 houses are shown and in 1806 24 farms and town houses are listed in the sale particulars.

The assessment graph shows another peak, although not the fieldwalking graph, between about 1550 and 1700. During that time, in 1581, Kildale was leased to the Appleby family who could have lived in the manor house and therefore brought about a certain amount of local prosperity. The reverse seems to have happened after 1662 when the estate was sold to the Turner family who lived in Kirkleatham.

On the 16th of January 1643 the battle of Guisborough was fought between the Royalist forces under Colonel Guildford Slingsby and the Parliamentarians under Colonel Sir Hugh Cholmley. The latter forces marched from Malton and Phil Philo is of the opinion that almost certainly they would have marched through Westerdale using the old Guisborough road, across the cross-roads at Crag Bank in Kildale, and along the Percy Rigg road, possibly entering Guisborough down Ruthergate. Although Kildale was not directly involved, it must have been an experience to see all 380 soldiers, some on horseback, crossing the head of the valley and then after defeating the Royalists some returned back to Malton and some marched onto Yarm.

In 1775 the Enclosure Act for Kildale was ratified by parliament and the farms which were up to that time in the village were dispersed around the valley as they are today, although some of the date stones on the farmhouses suggest that some farms were dispersed at an earlier date during the Turner's ownership. According to the 1612 map the valley was covered by a comprehensive field system and not by open fields with furlongs which was the norm elsewhere. Although later maps do show many fields were amalgamated, they do not show a wholesale realignment. Even on the very first Ordnance Survey map of 1853 the nearby parish of Hinderwell was still unenclosed with the village and its tofts in the middle of an expanse of open landscape.

The 1806 map shows a set of barns in the shape of a quadrangle south-east of the manor house and together with the manor house, its gardens and the rear paddock was called Hall Garth. The barn on the south-eastern side is two storeys high with internal buttresses whereas the barns on the other three sides are only single storey. It is more than likely that the barns date to much earlier than 1806 and the higher barn could have been for village crop storage and maybe even tithe collections.

In 1806 the estate was sold to Robert Bell Livesey who built the present hall and in 1859 Robert Bell Turnton inherited the estate.

Before the 1868 church reconstruction three arches and two pillars separated the nave from the chancel, similar to a rood screen, possibly with curtains closing the two outer portals. The pillars were removed as part of the reconstruction and replaced by a single arch with a dog-tooth design as it is today. During an HVCP members walk near Church Houses one of the pillar bases was found on top of a wall, cleaned, and removed to a safer location. Several of the column drums are inside the church and outside the tower and it is hoped to bring together the base and the drums and display them in the tower.

Roger Inman. March 2021.

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NOTES.

In general terms the Mesolithic period is dated to 10,000BC to 4,000BC.

Neolithic period is dated to 4,000BC to 2,000BC.

Bronze Age is dated to 2,000BC to 600BC.

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