

Western Walk, the Western Avenue and the Rose Garden. Little of the original layout of the garden has changed since the 19th century, although serious flooding in the garden in recent years, notably in November 2000, has led to serious damage occurring to many of the original trees and plants and many have since been removed. In addition to these formal gardens are a serpentine lake with a folly (DBA 120) and the remains of a medieval traceried window (DBA 119); the windows in the folly and the traceried window are reputed to have come from York Minster following the fire there in 1829. There is also a kitchen garden. The park has been used principally for agriculture, with grass and arable land alongside woodland management, and much of it remains under agricultural use, in particular for the grazing of cattle.

## 3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

### 3.2.1 Palaeolithic (c.250,000BC - c.8000BC)

*The Palaeolithic period spans the glacial and interglacial periods of the latter part of the last ice age during the late Pleistocene. Occupation would have been sporadic and seasonal, confined to times of climatic amelioration. There is very little evidence for occupation sites until the Upper Palaeolithic when caves were inhabited, although some open sites are known in southern and eastern England. It was a hunter-gatherer subsistence using stone implements. Bone and antler implements were also used in the latter part of the period.*

Palaeolithic finds are not common within the Vale of York (Radley 1974, 11) and none are known from within the Study Area. This largely reflects the fact that much of the Vale of York was covered by Lake Humber during the period and was therefore unsuited to occupation (Van de Noort and Davies 1993, 49).

### 3.2.2 Mesolithic (c.8000BC - c.4500BC)

*The Mesolithic period is characterised by a rise in temperature at the end of the ice age, c.8000BC, which caused a change in climate. The gradual melting of the glaciers resulted in a rise in sea level and led to the separation of Britain from the rest of the continent in the middle of the 7th millennium BC. The rise in temperature allowed deeper soils to form and the open tundra vegetation to be replaced by woodland. This also had an effect on the type of fauna in the landscape. Hunting, gathering and fishing formed the basis of subsistence and stone, bone, antler, and wooden implements were in use. Pollen analysis and the archaeological record offers evidence for land management in this period with the clearance of woodland by periodic firing, but evidence, like that from Starr Carr, Yorkshire (Clark 1954), suggests that settlement sites were still occupied intermittently or seasonally.*

Like the Palaeolithic period, no Mesolithic finds are known from within the Study Area (Radley 1974, 11). However, it has been suggested that the successive deposition of later alluvial settlements within the Vale of York may have significant implications on the visibility of early sites, including those from the prehistoric period, such as the Mesolithic (Van de Noort and Davies 1993, 52). Therefore, the paucity of Mesolithic data from within the Study Area may not accurately reflect the actual archaeology present. However, in the absence of any known evidence, the possibility of Mesolithic finds within the Study Area must remain entirely conjectural.

### 3.2.3 Neolithic (c.4500BC - c.2500BC)

*The Neolithic is commonly subdivided into three phases, early middle and late. The early Neolithic period saw the introduction of agriculture resulting in the clearance of woodland and more permanent settlement. It also saw the introduction of ceramics. Agricultural practice gradually changed from the mixed regime of the early period to a more pastoral economy with some forest regeneration which would appear to be associated with a greater emphasis on pig breeding, since pigs are forest-dwelling animals. Society was organised in such a way as to allow the construction of great ritual monuments such as cursuses, henges and burial enclosures.*

Many of the known Neolithic sites in the Vale of York have been identified from aerial photographs, but recent reassessment of the evidence has suggested that many of the sites identified, including linear features, pit alignments and most types of enclosure, probably date from the later prehistoric periods (Van de Noort and Davies 1993, 54). However, no Neolithic sites or finds are known from within the Study Area and none have been suggested on the basis of aerial photographs.

### 3.2.4 Bronze Age (c.2500BC - c.700BC)

*The Bronze Age is characterised by the first use of copper and bronze and is divided into the earlier Bronze Age, c.2500BC - c.1200BC, and the later Bronze Age, c.1200 - 700BC. The early period includes the beaker culture, whose people are thought to have been nomadic and pastoral since so few settlement sites have been found, although there is evidence for a more settled economy from finds associated with grain processing. This culture, dating from c.2300BC, is represented by pottery, burials and some settlement sites. The Bronze Age also includes the Wessex culture, from c.1400BC, represented by burials accompanied with Deverul-Rimbury pottery and some settlement sites.*

*In the early Bronze Age, the damp woodland gave way to warm, dry conditions with more open country. The late Bronze Age witnessed a deterioration in the climate which continued into the Iron Age, and which resulted in a settlement shift from the uplands to the more hospitable lowland areas. It has been suggested that by the latter part of the Bronze Age, these areas would have been densely populated and there is evidence for intensive agricultural activity throughout the period.*

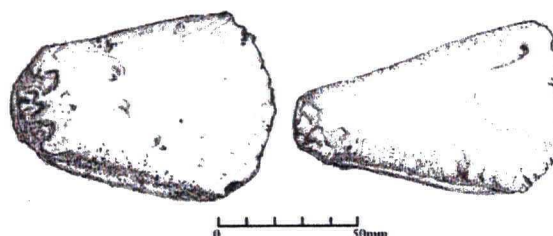
At Lingcroft Farm (DBA 73), which lies partially within the Study Area at its northern limit northwest of Crockey Hill, a number of linear features and enclosures, at least one apparently containing a penannular hut, have been observed on aerial photographs. These features have been tentatively dated to the Bronze Age on the basis of fieldwalking in the area, which has produced a large quantity of Bronze Age type flints, including cores, flakes and barbed and tanged arrowheads (DBA 72) (Plate 2). Whilst this evidence suggests some sort of Bronze Age settlement or activity in the area, it has also been suggested, on the basis of the presence of



**Plate 2** Cropmarks showing enclosures and penannular hut, Lingcroft Farm (AJC 238/29)

enclosures, that many of the Bronze Age sites identified from aerial photographs within the Vale of York may actually date from the Iron Age, since Challis and Harding (1975, 127-30) have suggested that Lowland Bronze Age settlements are typically characterised by unenclosed sites. However, it has also been argued that on sites where Iron Age settlement succeeded Bronze Age unenclosed sites, evidence of earlier occupation has probably been largely destroyed and is not visible through aerial reconnaissance (Van de Noort and Davies 1993, 59). On the strength of this argument, and given the large quantity of Bronze Age flints from Lingcroft Farm, it would seem reasonable to suggest unenclosed Bronze Age settlement in the area followed by later enclosed Iron Age settlement on the same site.

Other Bronze Age evidence from within the Study Area is concentrated on the higher ground of the Escrick Moraine, and this reflects a tendency for Bronze Age occupation of the Vale of York to be found on dry ridges and river banks (Radley 1974, 12). Three Bronze Age barrows (DBA 132 - 134) are known in the area of Hill Farm and the Post Office Radio Station (DBA 137) on the Escrick - Stillingfleet road. Furthermore, a possible Bronze Age enclosure (DBA 130) situated close to the barrows has been identified from aerial photographs, although on the basis of the recent research outlined above, this enclosure may belong to a later period. Two polished stone axes from the Escrick area (DBA 67) have been identified as belonging to the Bronze Age, and a further polished stone axe (DBA 106) found near Naburn, may be contemporary with those found near Escrick (Plate 3).



**Plate 3** Examples of Bronze Age polished axes recovered from within the Study Area (Appelby and Smith 2000, 4)

### 3.2.5 Iron Age (c.700BC - AD 43)

*The Iron Age in Britain is traditionally dated from c.700BC, ending with the Roman invasion in AD 43. However, there is no clear division between the Bronze Age and Iron Age in Yorkshire, and as the deterioration of the climate continued, so did trends of more intensified farming and settlement in lowland areas. This led to competition for land and resulted in the eruption of fortifications and a warrior aristocracy (Muir 1997, 58). Yorkshire was divided into the territories of the Parisi in the east and the Brigantes in the more rugged terrain of the Pennines.*

Relatively little Iron Age evidence has been recovered from within the Vale of York and instead, concentrations of settlement have been identified on the northern part of the chalk wolds (Radley 1974, 12-13). Consequently, no Iron Age evidence is known from within the Study Area. However, Bronze Age enclosures identified on aerial photographs at Lingcroft Farm (DBA 73) and close to Hill Farm and the Post Office Radio Station (DBA 137) on the basis of their form may in fact date from the Iron Age (Challis and Harding 1975, 127-30), although excavation at Lingcroft Farm has only recovered Bronze Age finds (DBA 72). However, despite the relative paucity of Iron Age finds within the Study Area, contemporary settlement and the second largest Iron Age cemetery in England are known close to Skipwith Common, c.6km southeast of the Study Area, and this evidence perhaps indicates that the Study Area, like much of the rest of the Vale of York, may have been intensively occupied during the Iron Age (Van de Noort and Davies 1993, 67). The possibility of unknown Iron Age sites

existing within the Study Area must, therefore, be considered, and the implications of later alluvial deposition across much of the area on the visibility of earlier archaeological sites borne in mind.

### 3.2.6 Romano-British (AD43 - c.AD409)

*The Roman invasion of Yorkshire took place in AD 69, and although there was continued unrest among the Brigantes, it is clear from the majority of sites and finds that the area was well-occupied by the end of the 2nd century. The Roman occupation had a significant impact on the landscape and economy of Britain with the imposition of extensive trade routes, road networks and a common coinage. Evidence from other areas suggests that there followed a large-scale reorganisation of the countryside, often involving the imposition of new field systems over existing Iron Age fields, as the increased populations in the towns required a greater agricultural surplus.*

There is little conclusive evidence for Romano-British occupation within the Study Area, but its close proximity to the important Roman military and civilian settlement of Eburacum (York) and its close physical relationship with the River Ouse (which was an important communication and trade route to York during the period) means that the possibility of Romano-British sites in the area cannot be precluded. The only secure Roman finds from within the Study Area are a fragment of a globular amphora handle from Naburn (DBA 105) and a possible Roman field system visible on aerial photographs close to Escrick (DBA 36). The only other securely dated Roman finds are two Imperial coins found at Acaster Malbis (DBA 14)(Plate 4). However, since these coins were found in rubble brought to Acaster Malbis from another site and are therefore not *in situ* finds, their interpretative value as evidence for Roman occupation in Acaster Malbis is compromised (Anon 1963, 162).



**Plate 4** One of the unprovenanced Imperial Roman coins from Acaster Malbis (Appelby and Smith 2000, 4)

Etymological studies indicate that the prefix 'Acaster', as in Acaster Malbis and nearby Acaster Selby, is derived from the Old English for a Roman fortification on a river - 'ea' ('A', meaning 'river') combined with 'ceaster'(fortification) (Appelby and Smith 2000, 3)(DBA 1). Local tradition suggests that earthworks close to the Ship Inn and Poplar Farm, Acaster Malbis (DBA 4 and 5) are the remains of an old Roman emplacement close to an early ferry site, but no convincing evidence for this has yet been found nor any conclusive evidence recovered to suggest that these features are anything but natural. However, it has also been suggested that a Roman fort existed close to the river west of South Ings (an area south and southeast of Acaster Airfield (DBA 2) and largely outside the Study Area) and a small scatter of Roman finds in this area may support this interpretation (Bullen 1999b). Possible Roman masonry recorded during the work at Acaster Malbis Methodist chapel in 1965 (DBA 11) and 3 Roman coins recovered from the former brickworks on Intake Lane (DBA 6), as well as a possible late Iron Age or early Roman ditch tentatively identified close to Naburn Sewage Works (DBA 83) also seems to indicate some level of Roman activity within the Study Area.

### 3.2.7 Early Medieval (c.AD409 - c.AD1066)

*By the beginning of the 5th century, the Roman empire was in decline, and Britain became independent in AD409. However, after such a long period of Roman control, the British were unable to sustain the economy which had relied upon the trade routes and administration of the empire and the country slid into disorder. It is also suggested that much of the land had become exhausted following overproduction during the Roman period (Muir 1997, 87).*

*This period is often referred to as the Anglo-Saxon period after the Germanic peoples who migrated into the country in the early to mid-5th century, first as raiders and subsequently as settlers. These early settlers were originally divided into tribal groups but gradually, the four kingdoms of Wessex, Mercia, East Anglia and Northumbria emerged. Northumbria was formed following the merging of two existing kingdoms that had been established in the mid-6th century: Bernicia, centred at Bamburgh; and Deira, in the East Riding. At the end of the 6th century, Celtic legend tells of a great Saxon victory at Catterick and the last British king to reign in Yorkshire was expelled in AD617. It is unclear how far Christianity was practised in Yorkshire in the Roman period but in AD627, Northumbria re-entered the Christian world under King Edwin. However, in AD793, the Vikings attacked the monastery and community of Lindisfarne, and throughout the 9th century there were continued attacks on other churches and monasteries (Richards 1991, 16). In AD866, York was captured by the Danish army and for almost a century, the Danes kept control of Northumbrian lands.*

*It would appear that during the Late Saxon and Viking periods in Yorkshire, there was a general reorganisation of the rural estates, with land being divided into pasture, meadow, common or waste (which included woodland and heath), and communally worked ploughland in strips, distributed amongst large open fields (Muir 1997, 122).*

None of the settlements within the Study Area enter the documentary record prior to the Domesday Survey. However, the fact that the settlements existed by Domesday indicates earlier origins. Etymological studies of place-names within the Study Area also indicate pre-Conquest settlement; the names 'Naburn', 'Moreby' and 'Chetlstop' (the latter two being villages recorded in the Domesday survey within the Study Area but later deserted) all have Scandinavian origins (Taylor 1999; Smith 1937). Furthermore, the names 'Escrick' and 'Deighton' have Anglian origins (Bulmer 1892, 605; Taylor 1999), whilst 'Acaster' in Acaster Malbis comes from the Old English for 'fortification', again suggesting a pre-Conquest foundation (Bulmer 1890, 852; Smith 1961).

The only early medieval spot find to have come from within the Study Area is a Celtic Button Loop Fastener (DBA 68) found during metal detecting at Escrick in 1996 (its exact location is unknown). It is made of copper-alloy with a damaged triangular fixing loop and an otherwise plain design. In addition, a number of early medieval spot finds have been made within the parish of Acaster Malbis, but not within the Study Area. These include a complete wheel-thrown pot discovered in 1927 and dated to the Anglo-Saxon period, and several Viking spindle whorls from fields at the southern end of the parish (Appleby and Smith 2000, 4). These would appear to indicate some sort of settlement in the area, and given the importance of the River Ouse to the early City of York and the local area, this is perhaps not surprising.

### 3.2.8 Medieval (c.AD1066 - c.AD1539)

*This period traditionally covers the years from the Norman Conquest to the Dissolution of the Monasteries and since this encompasses almost five centuries, it is clear that the landscape in Yorkshire did not remain as it was at the time of the Domesday Survey. In general, there was a steady expansion of activity in the countryside until about 1300, when it started to decline due to changing values and practices (Muir 1997, 155). The communal systems of open-field farming were still being established into the 13th century, but by the 16th century these systems were already in disarray, with lands enclosed by agreement between groups of tenants, causing the loss of common lands for the poorer farmers.*

All of the settlements within the Study Area enter the documentary record in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Of these, Acaster Malbis (DBA 1), Deighton (DBA 15), Escrick (DBA 33) and Naburn (DBA 69) survive, but two other settlements recorded in 1086, Moreby (DBA 123) and Chetelstorp (DBA 34), were later deserted (Erskine 1992). The site of Moreby is presumed to correspond with the area now covered by Moreby Hall, park and gardens (DBA 108) and the desertion of the village by the early 16th century probably corresponded with the development of the site of Moreby Hall as a private house and park. The exact location of Chetelstorp within Escrick parish is unknown. It was last recorded in the 12th century, but thereafter is not mentioned, and the disappearance of the settlement may reflect the gradual nucleation of settlement in the Escrick area, with dispersed settlement such as Chetlestorp being absorbed into a single settlement, Escrick.

During the medieval period the Malbis family (also Malbyss or Malebisse) were of some importance in the York area, and by the 14th century, had given their name to Acaster Malbis and presumably had their manor house in the village. The name 'Hauling (Hall) Lane' suggests that the manor house was located in the area of Poplar Farm and the Ship Inn (Appelby and Smith 2000, 17). Local tradition suggests that the Dimple Ditch and other ditches in the area comprised the remains of a medieval moated site (DBA 4). Bromehead (1886, 6-7) claimed to have observed not only these ditches, but also foundations for a substantial building (DBA 3) in fields adjacent to Hauling Lane near to the Ship Inn (DBA 9). Bromehead further suggested that the core of the present Ship Inn largely comprises the surviving elements of the stable block for 'Malebisse Hall' (Plate 5), whilst Baines (1895) described earthworks forming a 'defensive circuit' and a flagged footpath close to the inn, which he attributed to a former medieval hall (DBA 5). However, none of these observations have been substantiated by secure archaeological evidence, and the ditches allegedly forming a moat are not recorded on early OS maps (1851) or visible on aerial photographs. During the late 14th and early 15th centuries the Fairfax family inherited the Malebisse estates through a number of inter-marriages and some of the family apparently lived in the village, presumably at the old manor house, until the estate was sold to Dame Sarah Dawes, widow of Beilby Thompson of Escrick, in 1755. It was probably at this time that the manor house, if it existed, finally fell out of use (Baildon 1907; Appelby and Smith 2000).



**Plate 5** The Ship Inn, Acaster Malbis

Evidence of medieval subsistence strategies is found across the Study Area. In the main, this takes the form of areas of ridge-and-furrow earthworks attesting to the practice of strip farming (i.e. **DBA 127**), and some of the best preserved earthworks of this kind are found within Moreby and Escrick Parks (**DBA 108** and **42**) (Plate 6). Ridge-and-furrow on Church Ings, to the east of Holy Trinity church, Acaster Malbis (**DBA 7**), is still visible and is also shown on an Estate Map of 1763. The agricultural pinfold (**DBA 12**) at the junction of Hauling Lane and Mill Lane, Acaster Malbis, dates from the 18th century. However, it probably replaced an early structure as pinfolds for the confinement of stray animals were common in medieval settlements and suggests some pastoral farming in the area, probably utilising the meadows on the flood plains of the River Ouse.

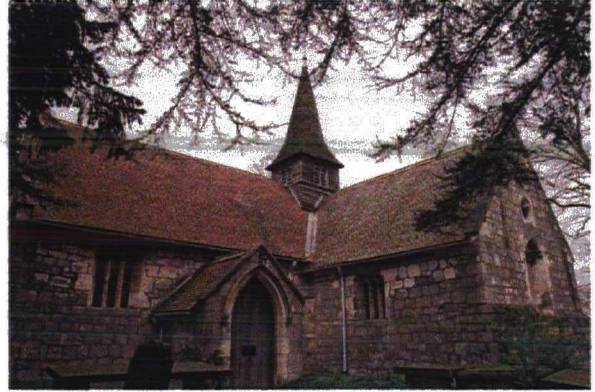


**Plate 6** Ridge and furrow earthworks, Moreby Park (AJC 187/4)

The flat landscape of the Study Area, as well as the presence of many dikes and field drains, was suited to water and windmills for the processing of agricultural produce. Many of these mills are first recorded in the post-medieval period, but that does not preclude an earlier, medieval foundation. However, a number were recorded during the medieval period. A windmill at Deighton, probably located on 'The Plump', is first mentioned in 1447 (**DBA 19**). 'The Plump' was a raised mound amongst otherwise flat terrain and would, therefore, have been suited to a windmill; the mound has now been ploughed level. A further windmill (**DBA 77**) belonging to the manor of Naburn was recorded in 1552 on the Naburn-Fulford road, whilst in 1476, a second medieval windmill (**DBA 75**), independent of the manor, apparently seems to have existed within Naburn parish, as the name 'Mill Field' recorded in 1476 would appear to testify. A watermill is recorded in Naburn parish in the 13th century (**DBA 76**), and it was probably located on the Howden Dike close to its confluence with the River Ouse at the north end of the village. The site was later referred to as 'Water-Mill Bridge'. A further watermill was recorded at Escrick in the 14th century (**DBA 64**), and was presumably located somewhere on the old course of the Bridge Dike. In 1348, flooding of the dike resulted from the failure to lower the mill and to enlarge its sluices. This particular watermill is not recorded again and it was perhaps removed after the 1348 flooding to prevent further inundation.

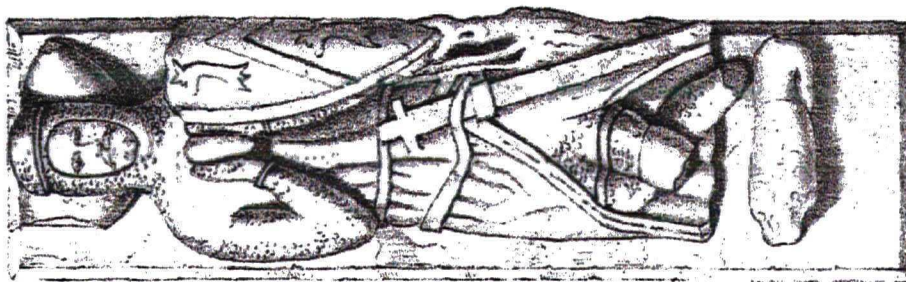
One of the most prominent types of medieval sites within the Study Area are a number of moated sites. Moated sites, comprising one or more islands surrounded by ditches that were usually filled with water, are a form of medieval enclosure (Le Patourel 1973, 1). Some of the moated sites within the Study Area, like Deighton Hall (**DBA 23**), remain in use, but others, like that to the south of Lingcroft farm (**DBA 71**) and a possible moated site to the east of St Matthew's church, Naburn (**DBA 70**), survive as earthworks or cropmarks. Other miscellaneous medieval sites and finds from within the Study Area include a leaden seal with the impression of the Conventual Church of Hayles, Gloucestershire, from Acaster Malbis (**DBA 13**), the site of the Crockermire Cross, Cockey Hill (**DBA 28**), a park at Deighton enclosed by the Abbot of St Mary's Abbey, York, by 1276 (**DBA 17**), and a possible medieval Deer Park in the Escrick area (**DBA 35**). This park was probably part of a larger system of parks that were a vestige of the Royal Forest of Ouse and Derwent deforested by decree of King Henry III in 1234 (Taylor 1999, 12).

During the medieval period, several religious buildings were erected within the Study Area. Perhaps the most prominent is the church of the Holy Trinity, Acaster Malbis (DBA 7) (Plate 7). Holy Trinity church is located to the north of the village and occupies an isolated position on higher ground to the west of Church Ings. It has been suggested that the location of the church outside of Acaster Malbis village reflects the fact that it was used by various communities in the area, in particular the people of Naburn, who crossed the Ouse by ferry to attend services prior to the mid-19th century (Appelby and Smith 2000, 9).



**Plate 7** Holy Trinity Church, Acaster Malbis

Holy Trinity is cruciform in plan with a 3-bay nave, a 2-bay chancel and single-bay transepts, and has a wooden bell tower and spire over the crossing. The majority of the fabric dates from the 14th century, but the present bell tower and spire date from restorations by C Hodgson Fowler in 1886 (Pevsner 1967, 69). However, there are references to repairs to the spire in a 17th century report, and a map of the River Ouse by Thomas Surbey in 1669 (YCA 65) includes a drawing of the church showing a tower and spire identical to the current arrangement. This evidence suggests that Hodgson's tower and spire were copies of an original structure, the date of which is unknown. The walls of the church are of Magnesian Limestone and the roof of plain tiles. Although the current fabric dates from the 14th century, a church at Acaster Malbis was taxed by Pope Nicholas in 1294 and an 11th century priest's tomb, which survives in the present church, was probably erected in a contemporary church on the site by the monks of Newbo Abbey, Lincolnshire (Appelby and Smith 2000, 8). Furthermore, it has been suggested that the effigy of a cross-legged knight, reputedly commemorating Walter de Malbys, predates the present church as it does not wear the plate armour which was common after the early 14th century (Plate 8). This suggests that the effigy was reset in the present fabric from an earlier church (Walter 1890). However, Pevsner (1967, 70) argues that the effigy commemorates Walter de Malbys, who died in 1316 and whose death probably occasioned the rebuilding of the present church.



**Plate 8** Effigy of Walter de Malbys, early 14th century, in Holy Trinity Church, Acaster Malbis (Walter 1890, Pl. IV)

Pevsner (1967, 69-70) describes the fenestration of the church as 'remarkable'. In all of the four gables are foiled windows, below which are straight-headed windows set in very deep reveals with depressed pointed and segmental arches on a kind of simple bracket; the stained glass in the east window dates to c.1320. Other features at the church included three medieval altars, each with a piscina. - the number of altars reflects the



dedication to the Holy Trinity and it was probably one of these altars that in *c.*1471 formed part of the chapel of St Mary. There is also a 17th century pulpit, arms of Lord Fairfax, and a plaque dating from *c.*1764 recording the benefactors of John Knowles in 1603. The font is possibly from an earlier church on the site, and has the mark of a padlock on it. This would date it to pre *c.*1290 and the order of Sewell de Bovill, Archbishop of York, who ordered fonts to be padlocked to stop the taking of water for unhallowed purposes (Appelby and Smith 2000, 8-9). The church suffered some damage during the English Civil War whilst Scottish troops were quartered in the village, largely resulting in the loss of much of the medieval stained glass. That which remains, as noted above, is collected together in the east window.

A chapel evidently existed in Deighton (DBA 22) during the medieval period, for in 1306, the rector of Escrick was ordered to hand over to the Abbot of St Mary's Abbey, York, the bells, statues, window glass and timber which had been removed from the chapel (VCH 1976, 26). The exact location of the chapel has never been fully ascertained, but in 1619, a cottage and garth at the south end of the village on the Escrick Road were described as 'at the old chapel' and a map produced in the same year shows the 'Priests Croft' in a similar position (Plate 9).

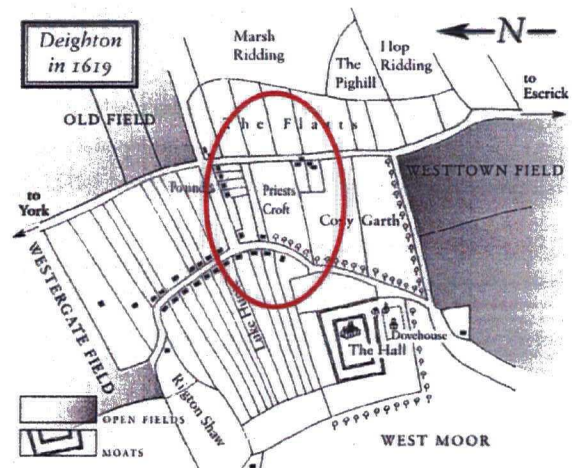


Plate 9 Map of Deighton, 1619 (after Taylor 1999, 21)

The medieval church of St Helen, Escrick (DBA 58), stood to the west of Escrick hall. Escrick certainly had a church by 1252 and it may have been originally of a Norman or possibly earlier foundation. In the 15th century, the church underwent major alterations and additions, including the replacing of the roof and either the rebuilding or building of the tower. Little survives of the medieval church, but it seems likely that carved wooden corbels now incorporated into the gable of Wheldrake Lodge, Escrick Park (DBA 54), and possibly the stone used in the construction of the lodge house, came from the medieval church of St Helen (VCH 1976, 26; Taylor 1999, 14-15). One of the traceried windows from the church apparently survived as a garden feature at Escrick Hall into the early 20th century, but no trace of it now remains.

Prior to the construction of St Matthew's parish church, Naburn, (DBA 80) in 1854, the majority of Naburn township lay in the parish of St George, York, and villagers were buried either at St George's or at Holy Trinity, Acaster Malbis. St George's, located just within the city walls near to Fishergate Bar and Fishergate Postern Tower, and now marked by a graveyard, was united with the parish of St Denys in 1586 and the church allowed to fall into a ruinous condition (Raine 1955, 109). Naburn remained a chapelry of St Denys' with St George's until 1842, when it was made a separate parish, and the parish church was built 12 years later. In 1951, the vicarages of Naburn and Stillingfleet were combined and services held alternately in each parish (VCH 1976, 80).

Although there was no medieval parish church at Naburn, there was a chapel within the parish. The chapel of St Nicholas at Naburn Hall (DBA 79) is first mentioned by name in 1433, but it was probably the same chapel as that one mentioned in 1353 (VCH 1976, 80). Little is known of the medieval chapel of St Nicholas, for the

earlier structure was entirely rebuilt in the late 19th century. However, repairs to a steeple are mentioned in 1615, whilst in 1721, repairs were made to the porch and a licence granted for Hewley Baines to erect a pew and in 1742, a faculty was granted for a gallery to be erected across the west end. The present chapel, built c.1870, is of yellow brick with a cast tile roof and it remained the private place of worship and burial for the Palmes family until Naburn Hall was sold in the mid-1970s.

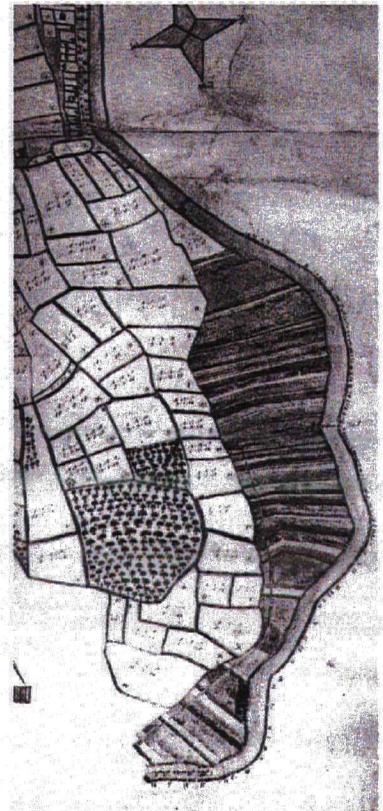
### 3.2.9 Post-Medieval to Early Modern (c.AD1539 - AD1900)

*The post-medieval period is usually considered to start with the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539. Feudal farming practice was being replaced with estates of enclosed land worked by tenant farmers. With the Dissolution, monastic lands were sold off to new landowners or to existing landowners seeking to enlarge their estates. It became usual for rents to be paid in cash rather than in kind. At the end of the 18th century, Parliamentary Enclosure further changed the face of the countryside. The modern period is deemed to have started within the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th century, which caused much of the population to move into the towns to work in factories instead of participating in small, domestic-based industries. This had an impact on the type of farming being carried out in the countryside and also meant that there was an increased demand for fuel and quarrying and extraction for building materials. The industrial revolution also witnessed a burgeoning infrastructure, including canals and railways. The demand for raw materials and agricultural produce continued to increase from the late 19th century.*

During the post-medieval period, a number of significant landscape changes took place within the Study Area. These may be defined broadly as those changes associated with the creation of a number of country houses and their parks and gardens, alterations to the River Ouse at Naburn through the construction of a dam and locks, and the construction of the East Coast Mainline Railway through the centre of the Study Area. In addition, further changes within the Study Area resulted from the construction of new places of worship, cottages, farmhouses and other miscellaneous but notable structures.

#### *Enclosure*

During the 18th and 19th centuries, it was common for Acts of Parliament to be passed enabling the enclosure of land. In most areas, this brought about a change from strip farming to a system based upon enclosed fields. In contrast, in some areas, enclosure was undertaken by private agreement between local landowners. Within the Study Area, the process of enclosure seems to have been undertaken largely by private agreement, reflecting the fact that the area was dominated by several large estates. Parliamentary enclosure occurred at neighbouring Bolton Percy and Appleton Roebuck in 1797 and 1804, in Naburn parish in 1766 and 1768, and in Stillingfleet in 1753 and 1756 (English 1985). However, land within the parish of Acaster Malbis was apparently enclosed on a private basis, and an estate map drawn in 1763 for Lady Sarah Dawes shows the pre-enclosure pattern of strip



**Plate 10** Detail of Estate Map of Acaster Malbis, 1763, showing strip farming on South Ings

farming as well as other features, including the weir built to the south of the village on the River Ouse in 1757 (Plate 10). This map was probably drawn up for the purpose of defining existing land ownership prior to private enclosure. The date of the map corresponds with further private enclosure happening in the Wenlock estates around Escrick in the 1750s (Appelby and Smith 2000; Taylor 1999). However, changes to the medieval landscape in Escrick had a far more pronounced affect than anywhere else within the Study Area.

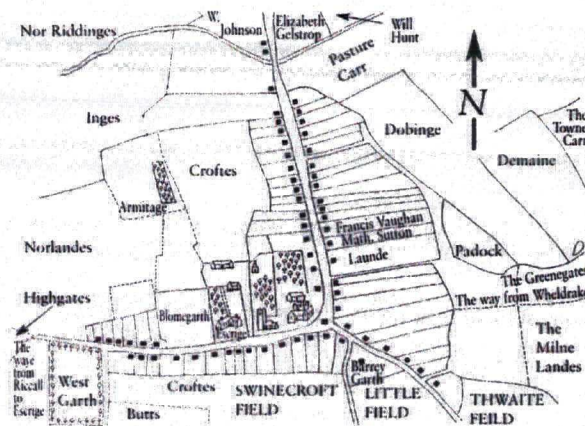
### *Escrick and Escrick Park*

When Henry Thompson succeeded to the Escrick estate on the death of his father in 1683, the village was arranged around roads forming a reversed-L shape with Escrick Hall located at the centre (VCH 1976, 35) (Plate 11). In c.1600, the village contained 60-80 houses. In 1672, the York Road had been improved considerably, but otherwise the village remained distinctly medieval in character.

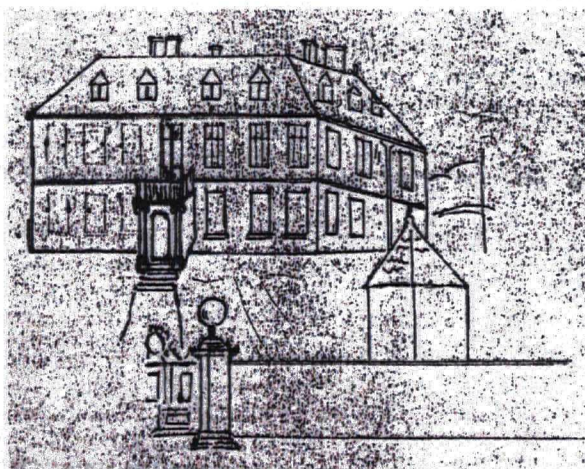
Henry Thompson was responsible for the first of several changes that would dramatically change the appearance of Escrick Hall and the village. Henry Thompson II chose to live at Escrick, and he set about remodelling Escrick Hall (DBA 43). A manor house at Escrick was first recorded in 1323, and by 1557, it was known as Escrick Hall. In 1672, the house is recorded as having 17 hearths (VCH 1976, 20). Thompson's remodelling resulted in a hall which closely resembled Bell Hall, Naburn (DBA 92) and was sketched, probably by Samuel Buck, in c.1720 (Plate 12). It was built in a Carolean style and comprised a rectangular block, seven bays wide by three bays deep, of 2 storeys and with a hipped roof with dormer windows. This house survives at the core of the present Escrick Hall but is masked by a series of later additions and alterations. Masonry in the cellar was apparently recycled from the earlier hall, but otherwise, nothing substantial remains of the earlier house (Taylor 1999, 41).

Dame Sarah Dawes, widow of Beilby Thompson (I), undertook changes to Escrick Hall in the late 1750s. Traditionally, these alterations have been attributed to her son, Beilby Thompson (II), but since he was less than 10 years old when the alterations took place, Dame Sarah must be given credit for the work. The house was enlarged and re-faced. It was deepened from 3 to 5 bays and converted to 3 storeys, and a balustraded parapet was added (Taylor 1999, 49). When Beilby Thompson came of age and succeeded to the estate in the early 1760s, he set in motion his plans for a radical transformation of the house and its surroundings.

Thompson's first alterations were to the house (DBA 43). He commissioned John Carr to add an extension to



**Plate 11** Escrick in the 17th century (after Taylor 1999, 35)



**Plate 12** Sketch of Escrick Hall, Escrick, possibly by Samuel Buck c.1720 (Taylor 1999, 40)

the north including two canted bays, one housing a ground-floor kitchen, the other a billiard room. An imperial staircase was also added and included elegant plasterwork with the heads of the Greek philosophers Socrates and Heraclitus (Wragg 2000, 142). These works had been carried out between 1763-65. Carr was also commissioned to design a new stable block (DBA 44) and this had been built by the late 1770s (Taylor 1999, 57-8). Further work by Carr at the hall included the creation of a new dining room in 1775-6 (Wragg 2000, 142).

Whilst alterations were taking place at the hall, Thompson began considering his next phase of 'improvements', which would include the demolition of the parish church (see below) and the southern half of the village in order to create new parkland for the hall (DBA 42). In 1781, an Act of Parliament was passed for the creation of the new parkland. By 1809, 26 houses had been removed and a further 9 houses to the west of the hall were demolished soon afterwards (Plate 13). Several medieval roads (DBA 37-40) were rerouted to create the new park and new lodge houses and gateways constructed to create formal entrances to the house and its grounds (i.e. DBA 46, 47, 54, 55 and 56) (Neave and Hall 1971). Remains of medieval ridge and furrow and the former routes taken by medieval roads across the park can still be seen on aerial photographs (MAP Archaeological Consultancy 1996; Plate 14). As a consequence of these changes, the former Main Street became a cul-de-sac and acted as the 'back' entrance to the hall.

As a consequence of Thompson's transformation of the village, subsequent development in ESCRICK occurred to the north of ESCRICK PARK. In the late 1830s, Sir Edward Blore was commissioned to re-design ESCRICK Hall, and his plans show a Tudor Gothic house (Plate 15). Blore's ESCRICK Hall was never undertaken, but he was responsible for a number of buildings in the village and on the estate including the 'Cottage Orné' (now the Headmaster's House)(DBA 51), Wheldrake Lodge (DBA 54) and two other lodges, one now a ruin and the other demolished. During the 19th and early 20th centuries a number of new houses were built, particularly during the Edwardian period, and many of these were built for tenants of the estate. This has resulted in an unusual architectural unity within the village.

The changes to the village undertaken by Beilby Thompson in the late 18th century had implications for the church in ESCRICK. The medieval church of St Helen,

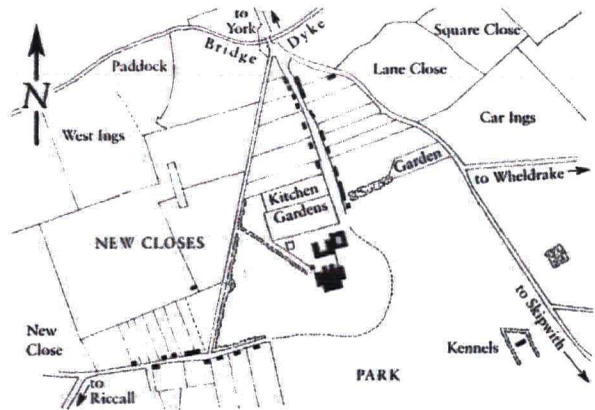


Plate 13 ESCRICK Park and village, c.1809 (after Taylor 1999, 61)

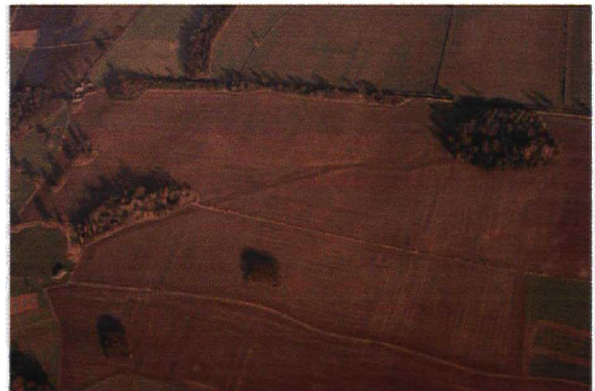


Plate 14 Fossilised route of the medieval ESCRICK - Skipwith road in ESCRICK Park (AJC 90/24)

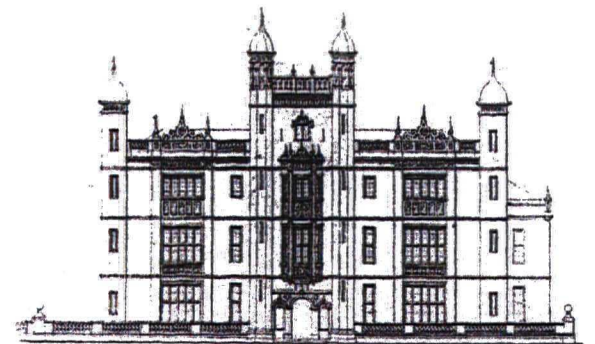


Plate 15 Edward Blore's unexecuted designs for ESCRICK Hall (Taylor 1999, 87)

Escrick (DBA 58) had been refurbished by Dame Sarah Dawes in 1759. The faculty granted for the work outlines a quite thorough refurbishment, including the removal of the reading desk, pulpit, stalls, pews and a gallery at the east end of the church and their replacement with new fittings that were 'more uniform and decent'. A new west gallery was also constructed (Taylor 1999, 64). Less than twenty years later, the medieval church was demolished as part of Beilby Thompson's re-ordering of the village. However, the 1781 Act facilitating the creation of Escrick Park specifically recorded that a new church should be erected at Beilby Thompson's own expense and by October 1783, the new church of St Helen (DBA 59) was consecrated.

The new church was located immediately west of the present church, and of it, only the Thompson family vault has survived, located under the Baptistery of the Victorian church (DBA 60; see below). Apart from the bells, little else from the medieval church was incorporated into the new church, although some building materials were evidently salvaged, and some of the stone and carved woodwork reused for Wheldrake Lodge (DBA 54). Beilby Thompson's new church was built to the designs of John Carr (Wragg 2000, 141-2). Thomas Allen (1831) described it thus:

'a modern edifice of brick with stone quoins and dressings... at the west end is a handsome tower, with a balustrade and small pinnacles at the angles. The south side of the church has four large circular-headed windows. The east front forms a centre and wings; the former has a Venetian window and Tuscan columns and antae and is finished with a pediment. In each of the wings are square-headed doorways with attached Tuscan columns and small pediments' (Allen 1831, 349)

Between 1856 and 1857, the Georgian church of St Helen, Escrick, which had only stood for about 90 years, was demolished and a new, larger church, costing c.£26,000, was built at the expense of Lord Wenlock and his brother, the Hon. Stephen Lawley, incumbent. The only surviving element of the earlier church is the Thompson family vault located beneath the baptistery (Taylor 1999, 110) (DBA 59). The 1851 OS map shows the earlier church to the west of the current churchyard, with only its east end overlapping the western end of the footprint of the current church where the baptistery is located (Plate 16). This suggests that the old church may have

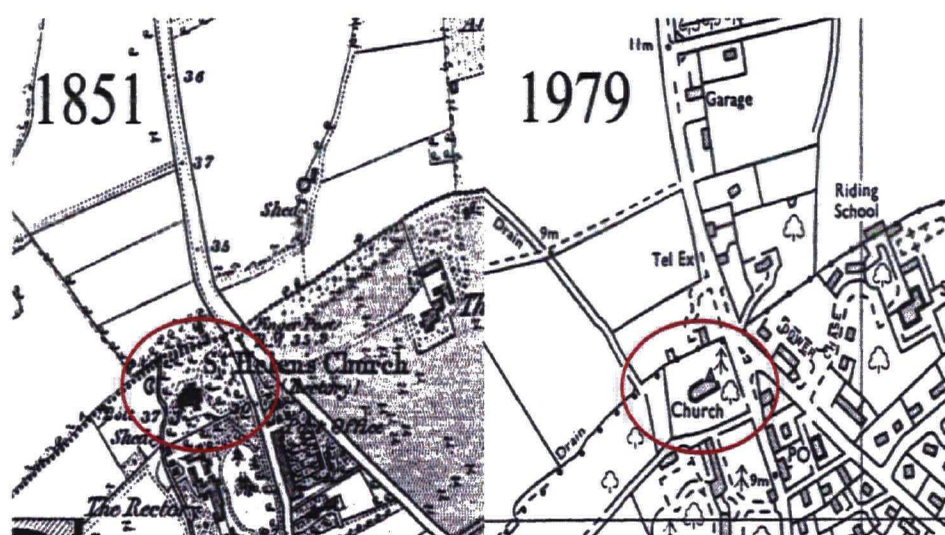


Plate 16 Comparative positions of the churches of St Helen, Escrick, based on 1851 and 1979 OS maps

remained in use during construction of the main part of the new church, followed by the demolition of the old church and building of the new baptistry incorporating the earlier family vault.

The new church (**DBA 60**) (Plate 17) was designed by F C Penrose, who had designed the neighbouring rectory in 1848 (**DBA 61**). It was built in the Decorated style (Pugh 1976, 27), the approved phase of Gothic architecture for ecclesiastical buildings of the mid-19th century (Taylor 1999, 109). The church consists of a large nave of 5 bays with a north aisle, chancel, baptistry, south porch with vestry over and reached by a spiral stair within its own turret, and a fine tower at its northeastern corner with pinnacles, battlements and two-twin light belfry openings (Pugh 1976, 27). Pevsner (1972, 224) complained that the western baptistry was too low for the rest of the composition. The columns of the nave were originally of black Devonshire marble, but these were replaced after they were extensively damaged by fire in 1923; the baptistry retains its red Devonshire marble columns. The 1923 fire also destroyed most of the original stained glass, and that which survives from Penrose's church is collected together in the east window (Taylor 1999, 109). The font, centrally placed in the baptistry, is by Giovanni Tognoli, 1844, and is held by 'shimmeringly white marble putti' (Pevsner 1972, 224). The church plate dates from 1682 and 1794 and a number of old monuments, presumably moved from successive churches in Escrick, including those of an early 14th century knight and Beilby Thompson (1799) are incorporated into the design alongside a number of later 19th and 20th century memorials.



Plate 17 St Helen's Church, Escrick, mid-19th century (Taylor 1999, 108)

#### *Naburn Hall, Naburn*

The current Naburn Hall, Naburn (**DBA 81**) with its associated chapel of St Nicholas (**DBA 79**), coach house and stables (**DBA 82**), which date from the late 18th century, stands on the site of an earlier manor house first recorded in 1345. The Palmes family are first recorded in the area in 1226 and their manor may have occupied the same site (VCH 1976, 77; Broadhead 1982, 102). Little is known about the medieval Naburn Hall and nothing of it appears to have survived. However, the Hearth Tax of 1672 records that it had eight hearths, and a drawing of c.1720 by Samuel Buck (Wakefield Historical Publications 1979, 44) shows it as a 2-storeyed house, 3 bays long with attic windows in tall pointed gables (Plate 18). In 1735, the house was rebuilt and in 1818, it was much altered. It was further restored and enlarged in 1870 (VCH 1976, 77). The hall now comprises a 3-storey, 3-bay block house of pinkish-brown brick, rendered, with magnesian limestone dressings and a concealed Welsh slate roof. Many of its original interior features survive, including 17th, 18th and 19th century panelling. The coach house and stables (**DBA 82**) are probably contemporary with the early 19th

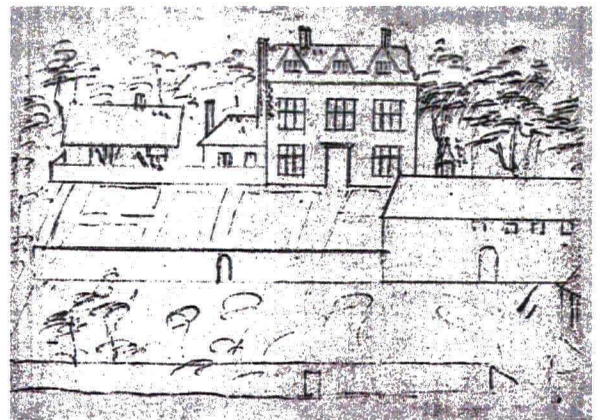


Plate 18 Sketch of Naburn Hall by Samuel Buck, c.1720 (Wakefield Historical Publications 1979, 44)

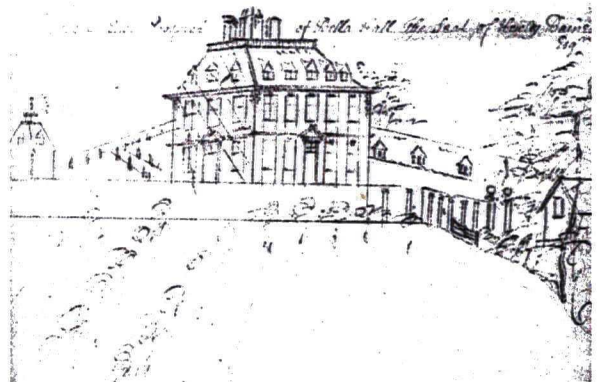
century alterations, and comprise a 2-storey, 2-bay central range with projecting single-storey, single-bay wings. The central section is surmounted by a pediment and a central dome bell tower. The last member of the Palmes family to live at Naburn Hall died in 1974 and the hall was sold (Naburn Local History Group 2004; <http://www.brabazon.org.uk/brab36.htm>). It is now used as a private club (Broadhead 1982, 102).

### *Bell Hall, Naburn*

Also within Naburn parish is Bell Hall. The Bell Hall estate was formed out of the Maunsel estate (who were demesne lords of the manor of Naburn in 1247) which had passed to the Acklams of Moreby and was then split up in the 16th century (VCH 1976, 77). In 1543, parts of the Maunsel/Acklam lands had been sold to John North and these passed to his granddaughter Jane upon her marriage to Richard Bell in 1566. Subsequently, further land was purchased in the area and in 1662, the Bell estate was sold to Sir John Hewley.

The Hewley family inherited a house on the estate which had been built by Richard Bell and which, in 1672, had nine hearths. In 1680, the earlier house was demolished and a new house, the present Bell Hall (DBA 92) was built in its place by Sir John Hewley (VCH 1976, 77; <http://www.genesis.ac.uk/archive.jsp?typeofsearch=l&term=notimpl&highlight=i&pk=2314>). Prior to rebuilding Bell Hall, Sir John Hewley had lived on St Saviourgate, York, and was one of the most important politicians in Northern England. In 1679, he had panelled and redecorated the committee room in the Guildhall, York, and it appears that the same hand which executed the carving at the Guildhall was responsible for similar carving in the interior of Bell Hall (Anon 1922, 822; RCHME 1981, 80). The new Bell Hall, therefore, reflects Hewley's elevated social status and his apparent familiarity with a range of craftsmen.

The 1680 house has survived largely in its original state, with the only major addition being a mid-19th century service wing which was demolished in c.1960. The house, built to a double-pile Carolean plan, was described by Pevsner (1972, 314) as 'a perfect example of its date' and appears much as it did in a sketch by Samuel Buck c.1720 (Plates 19 and 20). It is of pinkish-orange brick with ashlar dressings, a rendered basement and a slate roof. It has 2 storeys with additional basement and attic accommodation, and is of 5 bays with 3-bay returns. The window bays project slightly and there is a timber cornice, 3 pedimented roof dormers and a central well to the hipped roof. Internally, much of the original decoration survives, including 17th and 18th century panelling, (behind which, in one bedroom, is a hiding place reputed to have been used by Lady Hewley to shelter Dissenters), unusual 18th century painted panelling, and a further oak Elizabethan mantelpiece brought from Deighton Hall (DBA 23) to Bell Hall in c.1890 following the merger of the Bell Hall and Deighton Hall estates through the intermarriage of the



**Plate 19** Sketch of Bell Hall, Naburn, by Samuel Buck, c.1720 (Wakefield Historical Publications 1979, 45)



**Plate 20** Bell Hall, Naburn (VCH 1976)

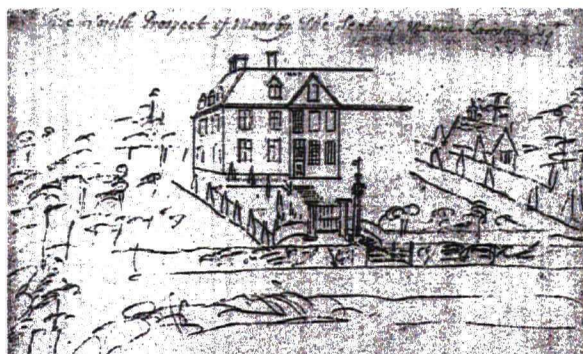
Hewley and Baines families (VCH 1976, 78; Arnold 1982, 52). Other buildings close to Bell Hall include a coach house and stables (DBA 94), an 18th century dove cote (DBA 95) and early 19th century kennels (DBA 96).

### *Moreby Hall, Stillingfleet*

Immediately southwest of Bell Hall and located within the parish of Stillingfleet is Moreby Hall, an imposing 19th century house (DBA 109) set in a landscaped park and garden (DBA 108). An estate of one caracute at Moreby is recorded in 1086 and was soke of Count Alan of Brittany's manor of Clifton (VCH 1976, 105). In 1244, the Moreby estate had passed, through an unknown route, to Walter De Grey, Archbishop of York, and he granted it to his brother Robert. In 1485, the estate passed to the crown and was subsequently sold to Leonard Beckwith in 1529. Later it passed to Henry Slingsby in 1596, and by 1638 was owned by Marmaduke Lawson, remaining within that family until it passed to the Preston family, who continued to own it until it was sold in September 1986 (Hanson 1986). Moreby Hall is now privately owned.

The site of the present Moreby Hall (DBA 109) is assumed to have been the site of the original medieval manor house (DBA 121). A further manor house (DBA 124), the home of the Askham family, who are recorded as having a manor-house and chapel at Moreby in 1493 and again in 1552 but not after 1612 (VCH 1976, 106), probably stood close to the present Home Farm. A field close to the farm has been recorded as 'Old Acklams' which would seem to indicate some link to the Askham family. The site of Moreby Hall and Park were also the site of the deserted Moreby village (DBA 123). Recorded in the Domesday Book, 1086, as 'Morebi', and listed as a separate village in the Lay Subsidy of 1301, the village of Moreby was last mentioned in 1529. Ridge and furrow and other earthworks within the park of Moreby Hall (DBA 108) may relate to the remains of the village, but no conclusive evidence has yet been found. Consequently, little is known about the village, but its name suggests Scandinavian (early medieval) origins (Smith 1937, 267). Weavers were recorded there in 1394, and in 1529, there were 4 houses and tofts.

The desertion of Moreby village and the disappearance of the Askham's manor house by the early 16th century may have corresponded with a reorganisation of the Moreby estate by the Lawson family. Little is known about the earlier Moreby Halls, but by 1672, the Lawson family occupied a house with 7 hearths (VCH 1976, 106) and by the early 18th century, Marmaduke Lawson lived in a typically late 17th century Carolean-style house not dissimilar to neighbouring Bell Hall, built in 1680. The house is depicted in a sketch by Samuel Buck, c.1720, as a 2-storey building with attics and a principal facade of 7 bays with a pediment over the central 3 bays (Plate 21). By 1772, this house was known as 'Moreby Hall', and between 1828-32, the old house was demolished and the present hall built. The present Moreby Hall (DBA 109) was built to the designs of Salvin between 1828 and 1831, and its style represents a return to the manorial gothic (Eastlake 1970, 129)(Plate 22). It is built of white freestone from the quarries of Park Springs, Leeds and cost about £200,000 (Anon 1907, 240). The house is of particular interest for it reveals the beginning of Victorian concern for improved domestic arrangements and the segregation of the classes within the house and



**Plate 21** Sketch of Moreby Hall, Stillingfleet, by Samuel Buck, c.1720 (Wakefield Historical Publications 1979, 46)



the whole design is based around a staircase tower with a turret. The tower housed the principal staircase for the main house, whilst the turret accommodated the 'back stairs' for use by servants. The tower also marked the division between the main house to the west and the long service block to the east (Hutchinson 1978). The ground floor is arranged around a central hall with a wooden top-lit lantern around which at first-floor level runs a gallery providing access to the suites of bedrooms (Pevsner 1972, 313; Hutchinson 1978, 33). Eastlake described the rest of the composition thus:



**Plate 22** Moreby Hall, Stillingfleet, 1828-31, designed by A. Salvin (*Country Life* 1907, 242)

The windows are square-headed, and are provided with double transoms as well as mullions of stone. The roofs are raised - not, indeed, to the high pitch which should properly belong to the style - but at an angle of about 45°. Chimney shafts, instead of being kept out of sight or arranged in symmetrical stacks at each end of the building, are allowed to rise where they are most needed, and being designed in accordance with the rest of the work, become picturesque features in the composition. Servant's offices, instead of being crowded at the back of the house (an almost inevitable condition in the Palladian villa), are planned so as to extend to the right or left in buildings of lesser height, and thus give scale to the principal front' (Eastlake 1970, 129).

The gardens and parklands at Moreby Hall (**DBA 108**) are largely the work of John Burr, head gardener at Moreby and were laid out in the mid-1880s (Bullen 2001). The gardens comprise several principal areas including the terrace, the Bowling Green, the western walk, the Western Avenue and the rose garden. Although the gardens have been badly affected by a lack of attention and major flooding during the late 20th century, an article in *Country Life* (Anon 1907) provides a good source of photographs of the gardens in their heyday and show the prolific use of topiary. The garden also features a number of stone urns (**DBA 110 and 112-118**) as well as a lakeside folly (**DBA 120**). The windows in the folly and the remains of a large traceried window (**DBA 119**) used as a garden feature, reputedly came from York Minster following the fire there in February 1829 (Aylmer and Cant 1977, 274-5; Hutchinson 1978, 34). The park land has long been used for agriculture, with grass pasture, arable land and woodland management. A kitchen garden remains in the southeast corner of the park. Much of the park continues to be used for arable cultivation and cattle still graze within the park.

#### *Naburn Locks and Naburn Mill*

The River Ouse has long been an important feature of the Study Area. It has provided a source of food and employment and is now a major leisure facility for settlements like Naburn and Acaster Malbis. The river also formed a barrier between settlements and a number of different landing points and ferry points are known within the Study Area (for instance, **DBA 74, 135 and 136**). During the post-medieval period, particularly from the 18th century onwards, an increase in commercial traffic on the Ouse heading for York precipitated improvements to the Ouse Navigation. A major problem was the often shallow depth of the water and the presence of large shoals or sand and gravel banks, both of which limited the draught and size of vessel that could make passage to York.

Trustees of the Ouse Navigation first seriously thought about improving conditions on the Ouse in the mid-18th century, when they invited John Smith, who had previously improved the Don Navigation, to view the Ouse and to make recommendations about its possible improvement. In 1748, he duly made his recommendations, suggesting vigorous dredging, and subsequently drew up plans for a weir and a lock at Naburn with a view to raising the water level upstream from Naburn and limiting the tidal extent of the river to the reaches below the lock (Duckham 1967, 64). A temporary weir was made a mile downstream from Naburn village in 1841 and a permanent weir and lock opened in 1757 (DBA 90).

The creation of a cut for the new lock resulted in an island on the east bank of the Ouse. This island site was ideally suited for a water-powered mill as the weir created a head of water that could be applied to industrial processes. In 1813, an indenture was drawn up between George Palmes of Naburn, the landowner, and Joseph Smith and Robert Jones, both of Tadcaster, leasing 'All that piece or parcel of land... in the Townships of Naburn and Acaster Malbis in the County of York [comprising] one acre and twenty-eight perches... known by the name of the "Island" (Appelby and Smith 2000, 40). A condition of the lease was that a mill and all its machinery should be built on the island before April 1820, and it was to employ no more than 6 people. A large corn mill was duly erected and became known as Naburn Mill (DBA 78). It was of 3 storey plus an attic, and associated with it were a small loading wharf and there was separate accommodation for the miller (Plate 23). The new mill was sold at auction in May 1821, and was described thus:



**Plate 23** Early 20th century view of Naburn Mill (Appelby and Smith 2000, 41)

All that Newly-erected and Substantial WATER CORN MILL, three stories high, and containing Six Rooms of considerable size, in which are three Pairs of Stones for grinding Flour, and a Pair of Shelling Stones, with Dressing Machines, Corn Scree and all other necessary machinery...' (Cameron 1821)

Naburn Mill operated as a corn mill from 1821 to 1860 and during this period, a public house operated from the island, providing refreshment for visiting workers and those passing through the adjacent lock. In 1860, Mr Jackson of Fleet Mills, Leeds, took over the tenancy of the mill and invested a substantial amount of money to adapt the machinery for the grinding of flint and Cornish stone. The resulting powder was shipped down the Ouse and then by canal to Castleford, Leeds, where it was used in the glaze for pottery. However, the transport costs proved prohibitive and within a few years the mill was converted back for corn grinding and continued to operate as such until 21st June 1877, when the mill caught fire during repair work. The mill was reduced to a ruin and subsequently rebuilt. In 1913, the water wheel was replaced by a more efficient water turbine and the mill continued to operate until the 1950s. It stood empty for several years and was finally demolished in 1958 (Appelby and Smith 2000, 40-1).

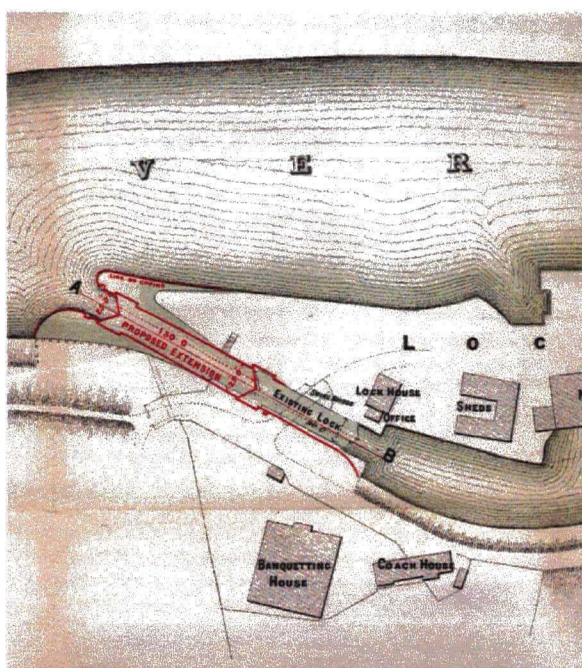
In 1823, a Banqueting House (DBA 91) was built immediately east of Naburn Lock to serve as a meeting place and social venue for the Ouse Navigation Committee (Plate 24). Pevsner (1972, 314) describes it as a 'severely plain' structure, built of ashlar and in a Greek Revival style. It has a heavy door surround with square Doric pilasters and unmoulded bracket cubes. The right-hand part of the building contains the Banqueting Room whilst

the left-hand side comprises living quarters.

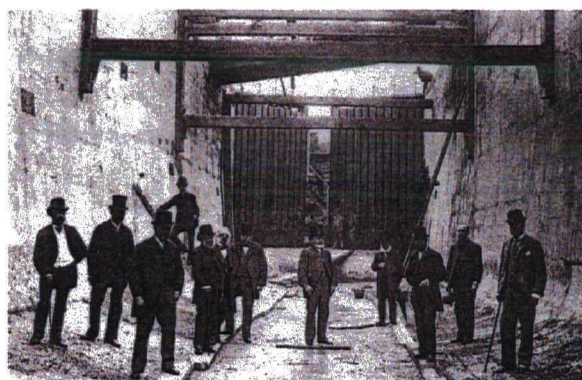
By the mid-19th century, the Ouse Navigation Committee were once again contemplating improvements to the river. Extensive shoals continued to impede the progress of ships to York and the size of the lock at Naburn prohibited larger steam vessels from reaching the city. In November 1866, W H Bartholomew of the Aire and Calder Navigation recommended extending the existing lock, allowing it to accommodate small steam coasters or two ordinary barges, thus increasing the flow and type of traffic on the Ouse. However, the committee was reluctant to undertake such work and the scheme was pursued no further (City of York Council 1881). However, the condition of the Ouse continued to decline and in 1875, Sir John Coode undertook a study of the Ouse on behalf of the committee. He recommended the construction of a new, longer and broader lock besides the existing lock at Naburn and the dredging of the river (Duckham 1967, 126). Although dredging was undertaken, the issue of a new lock was yet again shelved. In 1880, Bartholomew was once again employed by the Ouse Navigation Committee to look into improving the navigability of the river, and in January 1881 he and George Styan, York City Engineer, submitted plans for a larger lock (Plate 25). Once again the committee wavered and it was not until 1887 that work began on a new lock built immediately west of the old lock (DBA 90). This involved the re-shaping of the island and the rebuilding of its cottages and workshops. In his plans for the new lock, cottages, office and workshops, J Fowler, engineer, noted 'the bricks for [the] cottages [the new ones] to be recovered from present buildings, the front elevation to be faced with handmade clamped bricks. The old window sills to be worked in where possible' (YCA 380/148). The new lock was opened by HRH Prince Albert Victor on July 27th 1888 (Anon [*The Chronicle*] 1888; Broadhead 1982, 106)(Plate 26) and was considered a great step forward in improving the Ouse navigation: 'half-an-hour will be saved each time the tug comes up with its full complement of barges' (Anon [*The York Herald*] 1888).



**Plate 24** Naburn weir, locks and Banqueting House (AJC 203/15)



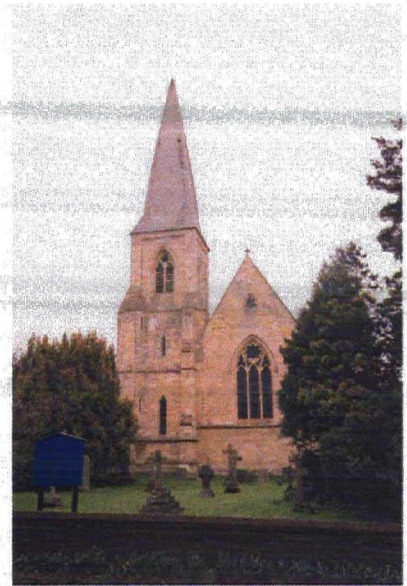
**Plate 25** W. H. Bartholomew's proposals for an enlarged lock at Naburn, 1880 (YCA 380\_83)



**Plate 26** Naburn New Lock prior to its opening in July 1888 (Howard 1995, 89)

### *Post-Medieval Religion*

The post-medieval period also saw a number of other important changes within the Study Area. Notable was the provision of an increasing number of places of worship. The church at Naburn, St Matthews (**DBA 80**), was erected in the mid-19th century, providing the people of Naburn with their own parish church for the first time (Plate 27). Built in 1854 to the designs of G T Andrew's of York, St Matthews consists of a chancel, nave, north aisle and northwest tower and broach spire in the Decorated style (Pugh 1976, 81; Pevsner 1972, 314). The church is set within its own churchyard which was consecrated in 1854 and extended in 1905. Prior to the creation of the churchyard, the inhabitants of Naburn were interned either in St George's churchyard, York, or at Holy Trinity, Acaster Malbis.



**Plate 27** St Matthew's Church, Naburn, built 1854

Nonconformity was relatively strong in Naburn due largely to the Palmes family of Naburn Hall (**DBA 81**). Members of the Palmes family were recorded as non-communicants or recusants from the 1570s onwards and the family remained Roman Catholic until the death of John Palmes in 1784 (VCH 1976, 81), a remarkable act of nonconformity given the close proximity of the Archbishop of York's palace at nearby Bishopthorpe (Trappes-Lomax 1959-62, 443). Servants at Naburn Hall and many villagers followed their example, and in 1582 there were 12 recusants at Naburn, 20 in 1633 and 15 in 1767 (VCH 1976, 81).

Methodism was introduced to Naburn in c.1798 and a private house was registered for the purpose. A Wesleyan Methodist chapel had been built on Back Lane in 1818 but was replaced by a larger chapel near the village centre in 1857. In addition, the farmhouse at White Cock Hall was licenced for Wesleyan Methodist worship in 1851 and continued to be used as such until 1896, indicating a strong Methodist presence in the Naburn area. In 1865, the Wesleyans were reported to be using the parish church of St Matthew and in 1885 there were 41 Methodists recorded in the village. The 1818 chapel is now a private house 'Prospect Cottage' (**DBA 85**), whilst the 1857 chapel was demolished in the 1980s and replaced with a private dwelling, 'Chapel House' (Naburn Local History Group 2004).

In contrast, nonconformity was never particularly strong in Escrick or Acaster Malbis. In 1676, a Roman Catholic and six Protestant dissenters were recorded in the parish, and a family of Roman Catholics in 1743. However, by 1764 no dissenters (Roman Catholic or Protestant) were recorded, probably reflecting the fact that Escrick had become an estate village with an Anglican squire. During the 19th century, a house in Deighton and others in Escrick were licenced for nonconformist worship and by 1807, there was a Methodist Society in Deighton and after 1850, meetings were held at Crockey Hill Farm. In 1880, after successive attempts blocked by Lord Wenlock, a chapel was built in Deighton in a simplified Gothic style (Taylor 1999, 112) (**DBA 22**). A chapel was also built in Acaster Malbis and consecrated in October 1880 (**DBA 11**) (Plate 28). This was built in an Early English style to designs by C Anderson of Lendal, York, occupying a prominent position in the centre of the village on Mill Lane. Earlier Methodist meetings had apparently taken place in private houses, and John Wesley is reputed to have preached a sermon in the village at Mill Cottage which was a regular meeting place (Appelby and Smith 2000, 48-9).