

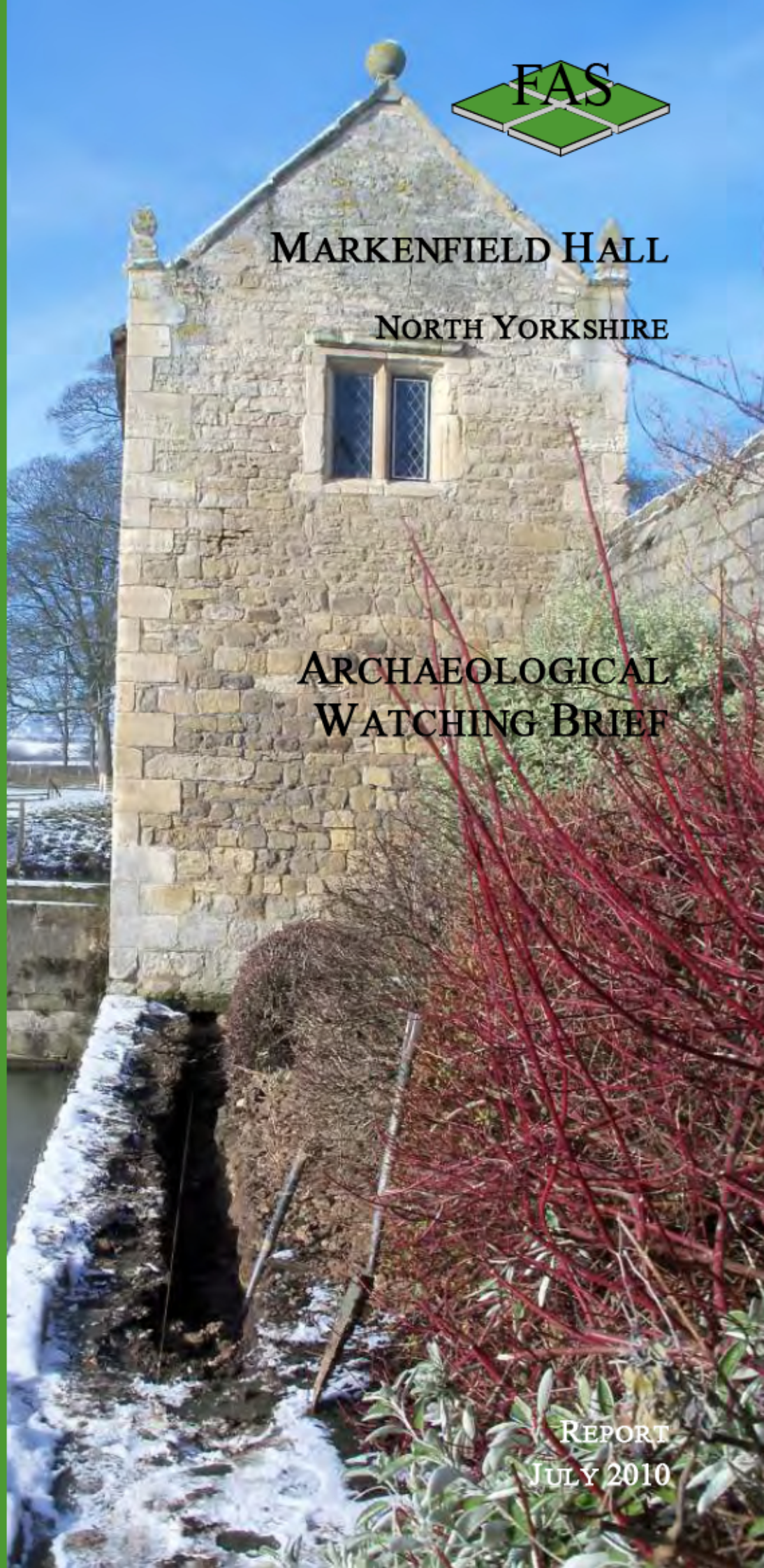


MARKENFIELD HALL

NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

REPORT
JULY 2010





ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
MARKENFIELD HALL
NORTH YORKSHIRE

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MONUMENT No. 31349

REPORT
July 2010



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A	Scheduled Ancient Monument and Listed Building Description
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Summary

This document reports the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at Markenfield Hall, near Ripon, North Yorkshire by Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) Ltd. The watching brief was maintained during refurbishment works to the east side of the gatehouse and was carried out on behalf of Purcell Miller Tritton for Mr Ian and Lady Deirdre Curteis. Fieldwork was undertaken between the 22nd February and the 19th April 2010.

Refurbishment work to the east side of the gatehouse required the installation of new drainage, the reduction of floor levels within the gatehouse and the partial unblocking of a first floor historic doorway for its conversion to a window. Monitoring of the excavation of a new drainage trench from the east ground floor chamber to an existing manhole to the east encountered a deep garden soil and features related to the moat revetment wall and a garden footpath. The excavation of a french drain against the exterior of the gatehouse revealed evidence for historic cobbling within the area of the gatehouse. The reduction of floor levels within the east ground floor chamber identified a layer of quarry dust which appeared to have been laid down in the late 20th century. The partial unblocking of the historic doorway identified an *in situ* iron pintel within the jamb rebate and mason's design marks on the door jambs. Removal of blocking material revealed that the reuse of the gatehouse as a dovecote in the late 17th to early 18th century involved the refacing of internal walls to form nesting boxes.

Acknowledgements

FAS are grateful to Mr Ian and Lady Deirdre Curteis for their hospitality and cooperation. We are grateful to the mason John Maloney and architect David Sherriff, Purcell Miller Tritton for their guidance and assistance.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document reports the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at Markenfield Hall, near Ripon, North Yorkshire by Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) Ltd. The watching brief was maintained during refurbishment works to the east side of the gatehouse and was carried out on behalf of Purcell Miller Tritton for Mr Ian and Lady Deirdre Curteis. Fieldwork was undertaken between the 22nd February and the 19th April 2010.

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

Markenfield Hall is situated three miles southwest of Ripon (NGR: SE 2944 6736) and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. 31349) and Grade I Listed Building (LB No. 330977)(Appendix A). The Hall is set within its historic parkland and retains elements of the medieval enclosure wall which formerly enclosed the Park Pale (Figure 1). The medieval and post-medieval buildings are arranged around a rectangular courtyard, surrounded by a wet moat entered *via* a gatehouse (Plate 1). Post-medieval and 19th-century farm buildings survive to the south of the main complex and extensive earthworks, of uncertain function, are visible throughout the area of the Park Pale.



Plate 1 Markenfield Hall gatehouse south elevation

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

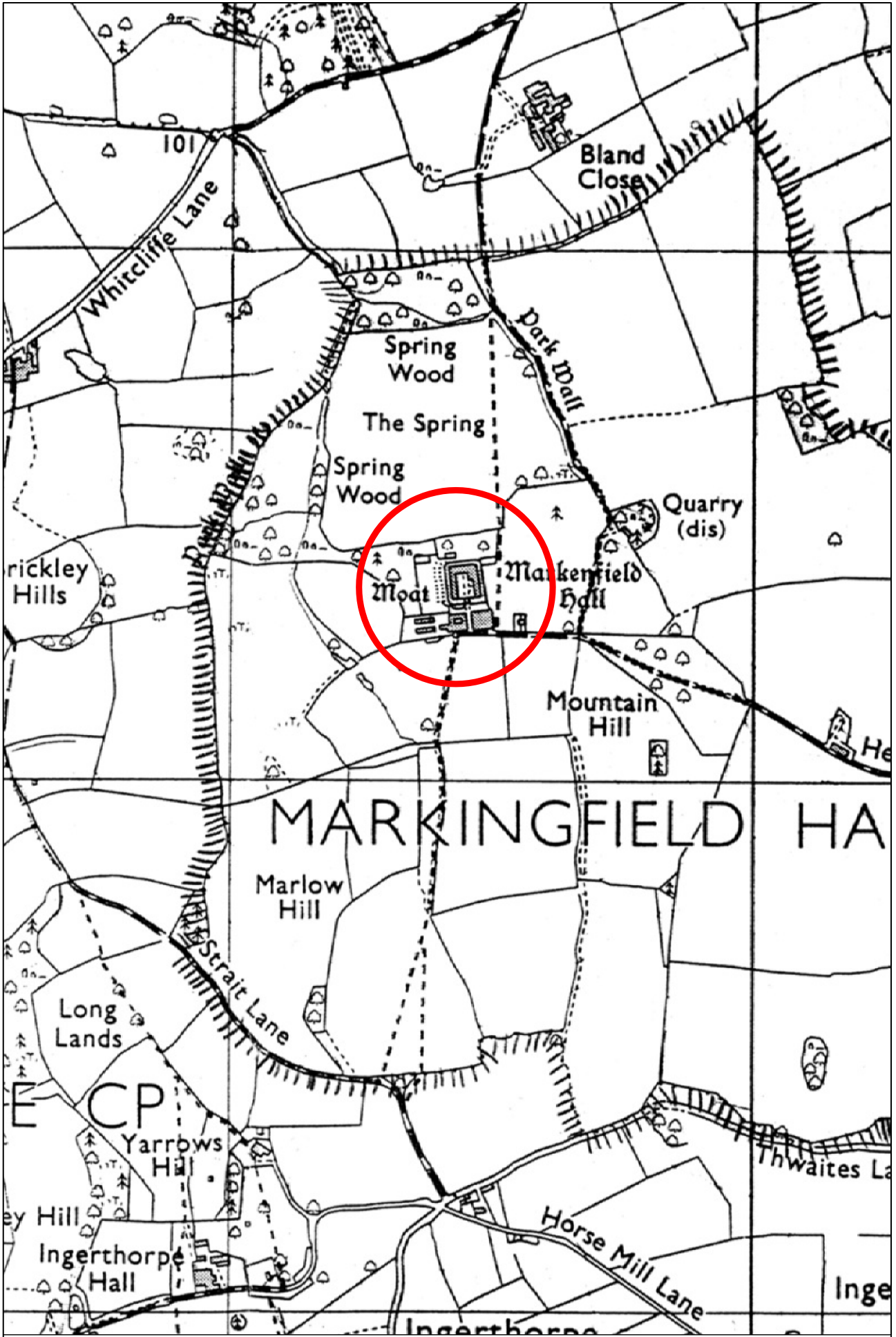
The scheme of works consisted of amendments to the gatehouse notably including the installation of new water and foul services and the partial unblocking of a historic opening in the north elevation. The scheme of works was granted full Listed Building Consent (DCLBSOSA 6.53.1.K.LB 09/01069/LB) by Harrogate Borough Council and Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent granted by English Heritage (S00005063).

The archaeological watching brief aimed to mitigate the effects of the works on below-ground remains and alterations to historic fabric by preparing a full record of all archaeological remains and historic features. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for the archaeological watching brief (Appendix B).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A settlement at Markenfield is known to have been in existence by the time of the Domesday survey, where it is recorded as:

‘In Merchefeld (Markingfield) Grim had five carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be three ploughs. Bernulf now has it of William, himself to villanes there with two ploughs. Value in King Edward’s time twenty shillings, now ten shillings.’



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Location map

Scale 1:10000



Figure 1



It was not until the late 13th century that Markenfield Hall itself came to prominence with the career of John de Markenfield (d. before 1323) who became a king's clerk in 1296 and received the living of Algerkirk (Worsley 1985, 800). Markenfield appears to have rapidly acquired benefices under Edward I and Edward II, which would have provided a steadily increasing income to invest in his residence. The climax in his career came in 1310 when he was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer and was also granted a licence to crenellate his house:

'February 28. Westminster. Licence to John de Merkyngfeld, kings clerk to crenellate his dwelling house at Merkyngfeld, co. York.' (CPR 1307-1313, 212)

Licences to crenellate were often obtained retrospectively or simply obtained to enhance the status of the individual. De Markenfield had died by July 1323 and his property passed to his successor Andrew de Markenfield. The property was passed down through successive generations of the Markenfield family; being passed onto a Sir Thomas de Markenfield, who was Seneschal of Ripon. Sir Thomas joined with his brother-in-law, Sir John Conyers, in striking against Edward IV in support of Henry VI in 1469 (Page 1968, 78). Following Sir Thomas' death in 1497 his son Ninian inherited his property, and is recorded in the Battle of Flodden as following Henry Clifford, as part of the Yorkshire contingent:

'Sir Ninyan Markenfyl
In armor cote of cunynge work' (quoted in Hussey 1940, 567)

Ninian's son, Thomas Markenfield, married into the Aske family and, in 1537, was attainted for following Robert Aske in the Pilgrimage of Grace. In 1569 the Markenfields were attainted for their role in the Rising of the northern Earls and their estates were confiscated. Ninian's grandson, Thomas, was executed for his role as a chief instigator.

Markenfield Hall was described by the Commissioners in a letter to Robert Cecil dated April 21 1570:

An ancient house, built all of stone, to the outward show fair and stately; the hall and the lodging side embattled, more in length than breadth, and three sides environed with an evil moat; but the house is served with a conduit very plentifully. Against the entry of the court is built the hall and kitchen, on the right hand of the court the lodgings, and the left the stables, brewhouses, and offices. The hall and lodgings are all vaults and were at first built all about one high room. Besides the vaults the walls are of a great height, without order, whereof part is divided at the mid-transom of the window, so that the rooms are all out of order. (Quoted in Camm 1910, 123)

The wording of the Commissioners' report can be read to suggest that the principal entrance to the 'court' was facing the hall and kitchen, through the existing gatehouse. The stables, brewhouses, and offices would be within the west range, while the east range formed the lodgings. It is clear that at the time of the Commissioners' visit, the hall and lodging ranges retained most, if not all, of their vaulting to the undercrofts (now substantially lost), while some of the principal-floor rooms, perhaps including the hall, had been altered to contain an additional floor.

Markenfield was subsequently granted to Thomas Egerton (1540-1617), whose political career spanned the reigns of both Elizabeth I and James I. The property was held by Sir Henry Gates from Egerton in *c.*1582 but eventually Markenfield passed to Charles Egerton of Newborough around 1602 when it was described as his ‘capital messuage’ and included land called ‘Holmeside’ (PRO E134/44&45Eliz/Mich20). The descent of the former property of Thomas Markenfield had not been without dispute and the Crown commissioned Charles Egerton and John Johnson to ‘seize for the Crown the evidences of lands of Thomas Markenfield’ in 1601 (PRO SP 46/42/fo89). Charles Egerton was clearly able to assert his rights over Markenfield and appears to have used the house extensively until 1619. However, by the early 18th century the hall was being used as a farmhouse. The third Duke of Bridgewater, a descendant of Thomas Egerton, sold the house to Fletcher Norton, Speaker of the House of Commons, in 1761 for £9,400 (Worsley 1985, 803). When Norton retired from office in 1783 he was created 1st Baron Grantley of Markenfield (Miller 1985, 101). Although Norton did not use Markenfield as a residence, he did undertake a large programme of repairs and alterations. The 3rd Lord Grantley (Fletcher Norton’s grandson) undertook further repairs and minor alterations between 1851 and 1868. This work was guided by the Ripon antiquary, J.R. Walbran, who had been conducting excavations at Fountains Abbey since 1840. Walbran suffered a serious stroke in April 1868 and died in 1869 (Coppack 1993, 111). The meticulous standards of archaeological recording that Walbran employed at Fountains, may indicate that he approached his work at Markenfield in a similar fashion. It is disappointing that no record of his works have yet come to light.

Further repairs are known to have been made to the hall in the 20th century. A lightning strike in 1956 required the conical cap of the stair turret to be repaired, and during the 1960s the farmhouse (eastern range) was converted (Worsley 1985, 805). A more substantial programme of restoration and refurbishment was undertaken in 1981-4, although a full report and archaeological study of the results was not possible due to the death of the antiquary in charge, Roy Gilyard-Bear.

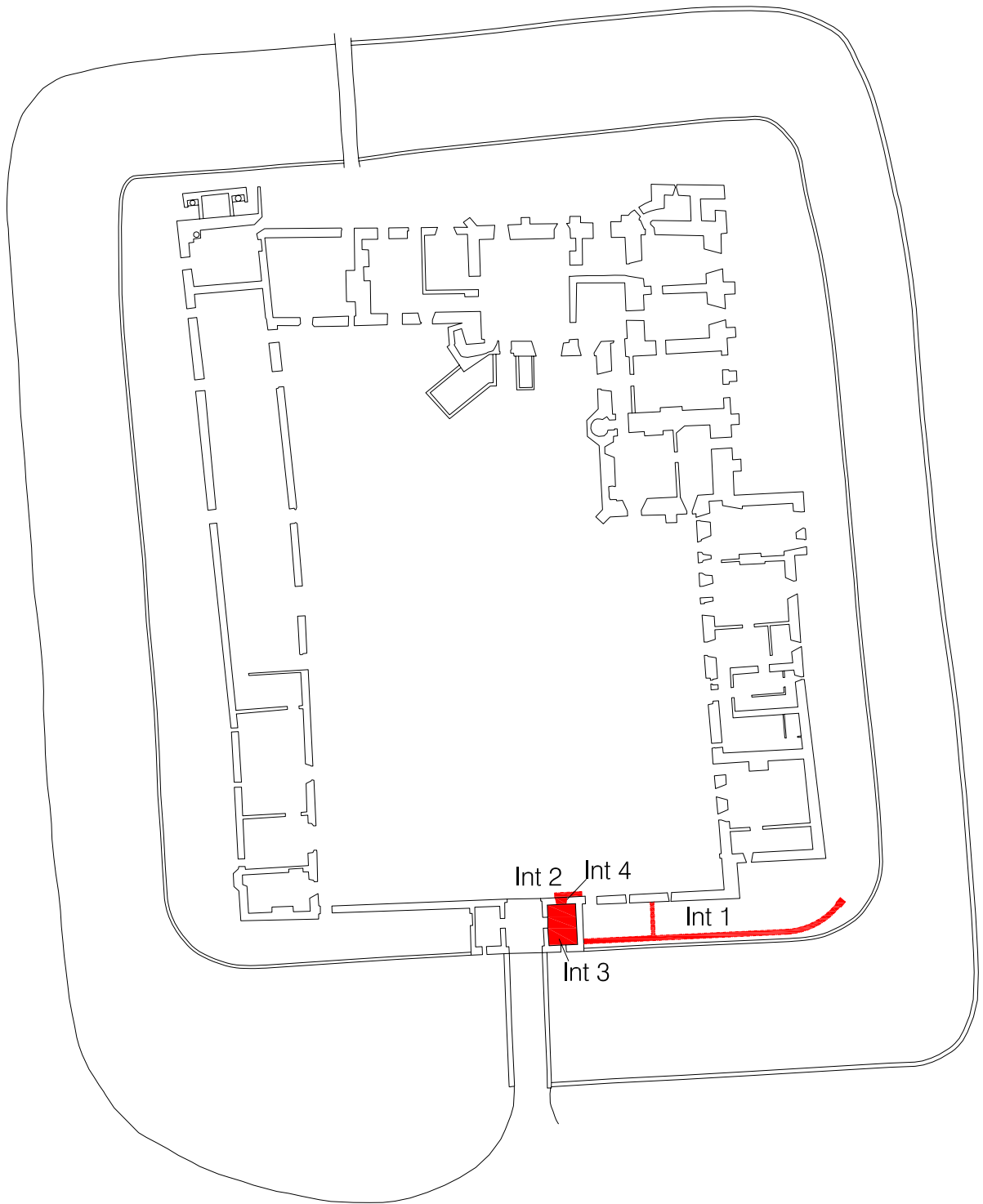
2.0 FIELDWORK PROCEDURE

The watching brief involved the hand-excavation of a new drainage trench and reduction of floor levels within the east side of the gatehouse by renovation contractors. Excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision to enable the identification and recording of any archaeological deposits. The new drainage trench measured 0.30-0.40m wide; required depths were recorded as 0.35m at the gatehouse falling to 0.55m at the existing manhole (Figure 2; Plate 2). Internal floor reduction within the gatehouse was undertaken representing the removal of up to 0.15m throughout the east range ground floor.

The partial unblocking of a historic doorway for its conversion to a first floor window was undertaken by a mason under archaeological supervision. Fabric and features revealed during the unblocking were recorded photographically.



Plate 2 New service trench looking east



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Location of watching brief

Scale 1:500



Figure 2

A written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological deposits encountered during the course of groundworks. The photographic record consists of 35mm colour and monochrome photography.

3.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

3.1 INTERVENTION 1

Intervention 1 was assigned to the new drainage trench running from the east side of the gatehouse to the pre-existing manhole located at the southeast corner of the moated platform adjacent to the moat revetment wall. The trench measured *c.*22m in length orientated west-east turning northwards and achieving a maximum depth of 0.55m below ground level. A northward spur in the service trench excavated to accommodate an air-vent permitted the sequence in the area to be characterised (see Figure 2).

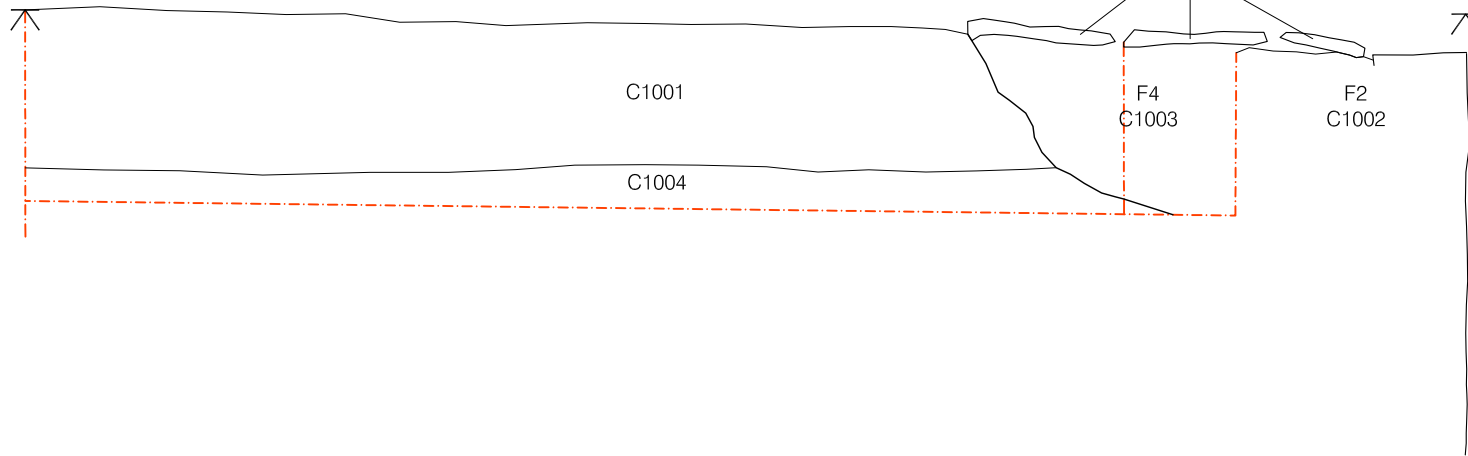
The earliest layer to be encountered was identified as subsoil and appeared as a plastic, sterile brown clay encountered at 0.50m below ground level (C1004)(Figure 3)(Table 1). Subsoil C1004 was seen to have been cut by the stone moat revetment wall F2 made of cement-bonded limestone blocks (C1003)(Table 2). Stratigraphically later than F2, although lacking direct physical relationship, was a deep garden soil identified in section measuring up to 0.45m deep (C1001). Layer C1001 was cut by a negative feature (F4) interpreted as a rubble-filled drain which had truncated any relationship between C1001 and F2. F4 was identified flanking F2 and was visible in section as a regular U-shaped cut filled with pale brown silty clay and limestone rubble (F4 C1003). Modern material within the feature was noted but not retained. A residual, near-complete medieval floor tile with worn surface and mortar keying hole was recovered and retained. Overlying F2 was a footpath made of reused large stone roof tiles with visible peg holes (F1 C1000).

Table 1 Summary of contexts

C. No.	Identity	F. No.	Description	Munsell
1000	Make-up of footpath	1	Stone flags, largely reused roof tiles with peg holes visible.	-
1001	Garden soil	-	Dark greyish-brown silty clay with moderate gravel inclusions. Modern material noted but not retained.	10YR 4/2
1002	Make-up of wall	2	Limestone make-up of moat revetment. Blocks measured up to 0.23m wide, varying in length and depth.	-
1003	Backfill of drain	4	Mixed brown silty clay and limestone rubble deposit with rare CBM flecks. Modern material noted but not retained. Medieval floor tile recovered.	10YR 4/3
1004	Subsoil	-	Brown plastic sterile clay subsoil.	7.5YR 4/4
1005	Turf and topsoil	-	Friable silty clay topsoil covered with turf.	10YR 3/2
1006	Rubble layer	-	Brown silty clay coarse deposit containing frequent stone inclusions.	10YR 5/3
1007	Make-up of surface	3	Rounded cobbles measuring 0.10-0.30m	-

SE 29463.24/67709.29
3.80m AOD

SE 29463.39/67705.49
3.80m AOD



Intervention 1 - west-facing section

Scale 1:20



Figure 3

Table 2 Summary of features

F. No.	Identity	C. No.	Description	Profile
1	Footpath	1000	E-W aligned surface made of reused roof tiles being a garden footpath around the southeastern edge of the moated platform	Flat
2	Revetment wall	1002	Stone moat revetment of cement-bonded limestone blocks	Not seen
3	Cobble surface	1007	Cobble surface flanking building as eavesdrip	Not seen
4	Drain	1003	U-shaped rubble-filled drain flanking F2	U-shaped

3.2 INTERVENTION 2

Intervention 2 consisted of the excavation of a french drain and was located against the east end of the north external elevation of the gatehouse measuring 2.20m long x 0.40m wide achieving a depth of 0.35m below ground level (see Figure 2). A layer of ordered cobbles was encountered at the depth required for the drain and were left *in situ* accordingly (F3 C1007)(see Figure 2; Plate 3). F3 flanked the elevation of the gatehouse and measured up to 0.40m wide and has been interpreted as an eavesdrip feature. A layer of rubble levelling overlay F3 (C1006) and was sealed in turn by a modern turf and topsoil (C1005).



Plate 3 Cobbled surface F3 revealed within Intervention 2

3.3 INTERVENTION 3

Intervention 3 was assigned to the reduction of floor levels within the gatehouse. A reduction of up to 0.15m within the east chamber was undertaken revealing and truncating a layer of quarry dust which also contained pieces of plastic sheeting and is considered to be of late 20th-century date (Plate 4). No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.



Plate 4 Ground floor of gatehouse following ground reduction

3.4 INTERVENTION 4

Intervention 4 was assigned to the partial unblocking of a historic first-floor doorway on the northern elevation of the gatehouse for its conversion into a window. The blocked doorway tapered in plan measuring 0.95m wide externally and 0.75m internally x c.1.85m high. The doorway head consisted of a single stone carved with a four-centre head.

Conversion of the blocked doorway into a window required the removal of the top *c.*0.95m of the blocking to form a window embrasure. The removal of blocking material revealed the upper levels of the original stone door jambs with rebates set with an *in situ* iron pintel demonstrating the original door hinged on the east side and opened into the gatehouse (Plate 5). A number of mason's marks were also noted on the western jamb of the door opening, one of which had been scribed with a compass (Plate 6). The crispness of the mason's marks would suggest that they had spent much of their life sheltered from the elements. The outer face of the doorway was finished with a simple chamfer on the jamb stones.



Plate 5 Window opening created from blocked doorway showing nest boxes (Scale 1.0m)

During unblocking of the doorway it also became apparent that the reuse of the gatehouse as a dovecote, perhaps in the late 17th to 18th century, had involved the insertion of an internal skin of stonework. The stonework measured *c.*0.45m thick and had been applied against medieval stonework to create nesting boxes within the upper floor of the gatehouse (see Plate 5).

4.0 DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT

The results of Intervention 1 to 3 provided relatively limited insight into the below-ground archaeological remains in the area surrounding the gatehouse and southeastern moat area. F1, F2 and F4 are considered to be of relatively modern date, probably 19th to 20th century, although the deep layer of garden soil identified the length of Intervention 1 may well mask earlier archaeological remains (C1001). Cobble eavesdrip (F3) surrounding the gatehouse and associated with gullies draining the area is also likely to relate to the recent occupation of the site.



Plate 6 Mason's marks on west side of north door rebate

The results of the partial unblocking of the gatehouse doorway at first-floor level provided further clarification for the development of the gatehouse. Some of the history of the gatehouse can be readily understood from the north elevation. The masonry employed between ground- and first-floor levels is different in character, indicating phases of construction; larger coursed blocks of stone are employed on the ground floor while roughly coursed rubble blocks are used at first-floor level. An embrasure at ground-floor level, on the west side of the gate passage, now faces into the west gatehouse chamber, but was intended originally to face externally. This would suggest that the east, south and west elevations of the gatehouse have been added, in addition to the first floor of the structure, to the original curtain wall.

The additions to the gatehouse fabric at this time included the first floor doorway to provide access to the first

floor chamber. The date of this major reconstruction of the gatehouse appears to be between 1604 and 1629 based on dendrochronological dates obtained from the gatehouse roof timbers and window lintels. This would have been during the ownership of Markenfield by Sir Charles Egerton (junior), son of Sir Charles Egerton (senior) of Newborough. The purpose of the reconstruction appears to have been to provide an ornamental gatehouse, with accommodation for a porter on the first floor. The first floor door would have provided access to a porter's chamber, reached by an external timber stair.

Further alterations appear to have been undertaken to the gatehouse in the early 18th century, which included the blocking of the first floor doorway, the insertion of a skin of masonry throughout all the internal rooms containing nesting boxes and alterations to the gate passage arches. The alterations to the northern gate passage arch resulted in a small part of the western jamb of the first floor doorway being cutaway.

5.0 ARCHIVE

In accordance with the WSI, a copy of this report will be sent to Mr Ian and Lady Deirdre Curteis, Neil Redfern, Team Leader North Yorkshire, English Heritage, Gail Falkingham, North Yorkshire County Council and Andrew Siddal, Planner, Harrogate Borough Council. The report will also be made available *via* OASIS in due course (OASIS reference number: fieldarc1 - 78707).

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APPENDIX A SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT AND LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION**EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS**

MONUMENT: Markenfield Hall moated medieval fortified house with associated service buildings and park pale
PARISH: MARKINGFIELD HALL MARKINGTON WITH WALLERTHWAITE
DISTRICT: HARROGATE
COUNTY: NORTH YORKSHIRE

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 31349

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): SE29646708 - SE29336743 - SE29676756

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument includes the earthwork and buried remains of Markenfield Hall medieval fortified house and the surviving remains of the park pale which enclosed the immediate estate of Markenfield. Markenfield first appears in records in the Domesday Survey in the late 11th century. The core of the present hall was built by John de Markenfield in 1300 and a licence to crenellate was granted in 1310. The hall remained in the Markenfield family until the Rebellion of the North in 1569. Following the suppression of the uprising, Thomas Markenfield fled abroad and the house was abandoned. After some years the estate passed into the hands of the Egertons, Earls of Bridgwater and in due course to the Grantley family. The core of the complex includes a water filled, stone revetted moat 8m wide with external dimensions of 80m north to south by 70m east to west. The central platform is occupied by four ranges of buildings which extend around all four sides of the platform. The principal northern range includes the main hall which stands at the eastern corner with service buildings to its west. The hall is an 'L'-shaped building dating to the 1300s with late 16th century additions and alterations. The open hall occupies the first floor of the north wing and the chapel is located in the east wing. Attached to the west end of the north wing is a lower two storey range which was the great kitchen built in the early 15th century. The eastern range includes further service buildings attached to the southern end of the east wing of the hall. The southern range is dominated by a 16th century gatehouse with flanking walls linking it to the western and eastern ranges. The gatehouse is a later replacement of an earlier structure. The western range includes two storey structures built as stores and service buildings. These were converted in the 17th century for use as farm buildings. Although altered over the years, the buildings on the moated platform are medieval in origin and have remained in use for most of their life. They are Listed Grade I and are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is included, as remains of further structures within the courtyard will also survive below ground. In the field to the east of the moat a natural slope has been modified to create a wide level area which is interpreted as the location of formal gardens, lying as it does next to the main residential wing of the medieval hall. North of this levelled area are a set of large earthen banks and to the south east is a further bank. The exact nature and function of these banks is not yet fully understood. To the west of the moat there is a further substantial earth bank 5m wide extending parallel to the moat. Further slight earthworks of buildings and walls survive in the field to the west although their exact function is, at present, unclear. To the south of the current farm buildings, which lie to the immediate south of the moat, are the substantial earthwork remains of the service buildings for the medieval complex. These buildings lay within an outer court and include well defined remains of at least four buildings laying either side of a later field wall. The remains survive up to 0.5m high and include a building platform 10m by 5m surrounded by a shallow gully some 1.5m wide. To the east of these remains are two substantial earthen banks 5m apart and up to 0.5m high which extend east for 70m then turn to extend south for 100m, and which are interpreted as the sides of a track way. The curtain wall which surrounded the outer court survives as a prominent bank along the western side of a track extending south west from the farm buildings. To the west of this wall, outside the outer court, are remains of ridge and furrow cultivation. The southern and eastern sides of the outer court are defined by the park pale but the location of the boundary on the north side is currently unknown. The park pale originally extended for 2.8km around Markenfield Hall and a continuous length of 2.4km still survives as a stone wall. Only the section of the eastern side nearest to the hall is no longer extant although its location is suggested by a

trackway that continues the alignment of the park pale. This section is not included in the scheduling. The park pale originally consisted of a stone wall built in places on an earthwork bank up to 5m wide. The surviving wall is semi-ruinous for much of its length but stands in places up to 2m high. Although medieval in origin it has been rebuilt and maintained over the years and it is unclear how much of the present above ground fabric is medieval. For this reason only the foundation course and the below ground remains are included. On the eastern, northern and north western sides there was an internal ditch up to 3m wide and probably an external ditch. On the western side the pale extended along a slope so that there was no need for an internal ditch on the down slope. However an external ditch lay on the up slope side and this still survives as an earthwork. For much of the length of the pale agricultural activity has led to the infilling of the ditches. They will survive as buried features and are included in the scheduling. The protected area therefore includes a zone of 4m along each side of the wall.

A number of features are excluded from the scheduling; these are Markenfield Hall and all structures on the moated platform, the farm buildings, Markenfield Hall Cottages, all fences, gates, the surfaces of drives, hard standing, the farm yards, the field wall extending south from the cattle grid, the cattle grid, the electricity poles and supports, the wooden footbridge and the stone park wall to ground level; although the ground beneath all these features is included. Also excluded is the stone wall, although its foundation courses and the ground beneath it are included.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Fortified houses were residences belonging to some of the richest and most powerful members of society. Their design reflects a combination of domestic and military elements. In some instances, the fortifications may be cosmetic additions to an otherwise conventional high status dwelling, giving a military aspect while remaining practically indefensible. They are associated with individuals or families of high status and their ostentatious architecture often reflects a high level of expenditure. The nature of the fortification varies, but can include moats, curtain walls, a gatehouse and other towers, gunports and crenellated parapets. Their buildings normally included a hall used as communal space for domestic and administrative purposes, kitchens, service and storage areas. In later houses the owners had separate private living apartments, these often receiving particular architectural emphasis. In common with castles, some fortified houses had outer courts beyond the main defences in which stables, brew houses, granaries and barns were located. Fortified houses were constructed in the medieval period, primarily between the 15th and 16th centuries, although evidence from earlier periods, such as the increase in the number of licences to crenellate in the reigns of Edward I and Edward II, indicates that the origins of the class can be traced further back. They are found primarily in several areas of lowland England: in upland areas they are outnumbered by structures such as bastles and tower houses which fulfilled many of the same functions. As a rare monument type, with fewer than 200 identified examples, all examples exhibiting significant surviving archaeological remains are considered of national importance. A park pale was the boundary around an area of land often set aside and equipped for the management and hunting of deer and other animals although farming also took place. They were generally located around or adjacent to a manor house, castle or palace. Parks could contain a number of features, including hunting lodges, a park keepers house, rabbit warrens, and enclosures for game. They were usually surrounded by a park pale, a fenced, hedged or walled boundary often on a massive bank with an internal ditch. The peak period for the laying out of parks, between AD 1200 and 1350, coincided with a time of considerable prosperity amongst the nobility. Parks were established in virtually every county in England and were a long lived and widespread monument type. Today they serve to illustrate an important aspect of the activities of medieval nobility and still exert a powerful influence on the pattern of the modern landscape. Where a park pale survives well, and is well documented or associated with other significant remains they are normally identified as nationally important. The medieval fortified house complex at Markenfield Hall survives well. The full extent of the outer court is known and earthwork remains of its enclosing wall and buildings are preserved. The associated park pale also survives well and is unusually complete. Taken together the remains demonstrate a rare survival, offering important scope for understanding the nature and functions of a medieval complex and its impact on the wider economy and landscape.

SCHEDULING HISTORY

Monument included in the Schedule on 31st May 1977 as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: North Yorkshire 1209

NAME: Markenfield Hall and adjoining Earthworks

The reference of this monument is now:

NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 31349

NAME: Markenfield Hall moated medieval fortified house with associated service buildings and park pale

SCHEDULING REVISED ON 07th July 1999

LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Building Name: MARKENFIELD HALL
 Parish: MARKINGFIELD HALL
 District: HARROGATE
 County: NORTH YORKSHIRE
 Details: LBS Number: 330977
 Grade: I
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NORTH YORKSHIRE
 HARROGATE
 5338

SE 26 NE MARKINGFIELD HALL HELL WATH LANE (west end)

5/56 Markenfield Hall

23.4.52

GV I

Fortified manor house, with offices and outbuildings. 1310-1323 for John de Markenfield, with late C16 additions and alterations for Sir Thomas Egerton. Further alterations *c.*1780 for Sir Fletcher Norton, first Baron Grantley of Markenfield, and *c.*1850 by J.R.Walbran for the fourth Lord Grantley. Restoration 1981-4 by J.S.Miller for seventh Lord Grantley. Ashlar and coursed limestone rubble with ashlar dressings. Stone slate roofs. Quoins. The buildings are ranged round a rectangular courtyard and enclosed by a moat. There are four ranges: 1) south range, with two-storey gatehouse, bridge over moat and flanking walls; 2) low two-storey west range of outbuildings, probably stables and barns, now stores; 3) two-storey east range of accommodation and offices and probably the original entrance to the courtyard; and 4) the principal north range composed of the three-storey L-shaped block at north-east corner of the courtyard, with a two-storey service block attached to the west end of the north wing. South range - C16 gatehouse: two bays. Central four-centred carriage arch flanked by single-light chamfered windows. First floor - two two-light chamfered mullion windows. Kneelers with pyramidal finials; raised verges with coping and ball finial. Left and right returns: blocked doorway; two-light chamfered mullion window with hoodmould, first floor. Bridge: a single arch with band at road level and low gabled parapet. Flanking walls linking gatehouse to east and west ranges: approximately 3.5metres high with gabled coping of three courses of stone. Narrow slit openings, gateway with board door to left in each wall. West range, courtyard side: approximately nine bays, at southern end. Central barn door flanked by round- arched doorways; double garage doors near left end. Irregular fenestration of chamfered rectangular lights. Rear, overlooking moat: windows as front; remains of corbelled external first-floor chimney at south end (right). East range, courtyard side: approximately five bays. Central blocked archway with C20 glazed door and window flanked by fine moulded C15 arched doorways. Single-light chamfered windows throughout. Three evenly-spaced ridge stacks. Rear, overlooking moat: projecting bay to right has C20 glazed door in Gothic arch. Irregular fenestration of one-, two- and three-light mullioned windows, corbelled stack first-floor left. Main L-shaped range, north wing, courtyard side. The important medieval features of this facade are: the narrow pointed chamfered arch giving access to the service rooms, and at first-floor above it the scar of the gabled roof covering the external staircase which originally lead to a first-floor doorway immediately above; the enlarged corner buttress to left of the ground-floor door enclosing a privy; to right of the blocked first-floor door two two-light hall windows with trefoil-headed lights and quatrefoils. East wing, courtyard side, has a fine staircase tower with blocked ground-floor door and narrow lights. Bay to right added early

C16 with pointed-arch doorway and, in south wall, a two-light recessed mullion window with moulded reveals to each floor. A moulded first-floor string course to east wing, and north and east wings have string and embattled parapet. North wing, rear (from moat): three bays, central pointed-arch entrance with double doors; projecting two-storey pent-roofed garderobe bay to left; four buttresses to right; central external stack flanked by first-floor hall windows as courtyard side. East wing, rear (from moat): board door in round arch to left; chapel window of three trefoil-headed lights with quatrefoils above in the centre, first floor. Pairs of two-light C16 windows to right on each floor. Five buttresses along this face of the building, and two ornate medieval chimney stacks (restored) behind battlements to right. The lower, two-storey service block at the west end of the north wing has C20 doorway; one two-light mullioned window to left and two to upper floor; a row of carved heads and shields below eaves level; and an external stack to left with elaborate crenellated top. It was the great kitchen built early C15. Interior: recent restoration has shown that the whole of the ground floor of the main building was vaulted. The chapel retains its piscina with shield bearing the Markenfield Arms. Solar and south chamber have medieval fireplaces. The wide fireplace below the great hall was inserted in the C18 when the cross-beams were positioned on the pavements of the wall-walks of the battlements. The restoration work of 1981-84 (Miller 1985) revealed much new information about the medieval structure.

'Markenfield Hall, Yorkshire', *Country Life*, Feb 10, 1912, pp 206-212

'Markenfield Hall, Yorkshire', *Country Life*, Dec 28, 1940, pp566-701

J S Miller, 'Restoration work at Markenfield Hall, 1981-84',

Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, 57, 1985, pp 101-110. N Pevsner,

Yorkshire West Riding, 1967, p359, M Wood, 'The English Medieval House', 1965, p180

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APPENDIX B WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

This document presents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) as required by the Historic Environment Team, North Yorkshire County Council and English Heritage for an archaeological watching brief at land at Markenfield Hall, near Ripon, North Yorkshire. The WSI has been prepared with reference to the *Standard Written Scheme of Investigation for Limited Archaeological Recording* (NYCC Historic Environment Team) and to *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (Institute for Field Archaeologists 2008).

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

Markenfield Hall is situated three miles southwest of Ripon (Figure 1; NGR SE 295674). The Hall is Grade I Listed and the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 31349). The Hall is set within historic parkland and retains elements of the medieval enclosure wall which formerly enclosed the Park Pale. The medieval and post-medieval buildings are arranged around a rectangular, central courtyard, surrounded by a wet moat; an outer moat has been postulated, although earthwork evidence for this is nebulous. Post-medieval and 19th-century farm buildings survive to the south of the main complex and extensive earthworks, of uncertain function, are visible throughout the Park Pale.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Although Markenfield was recorded in the Domesday book, it was not until the 13th century that Markenfield Hall came to prominence with the career of John de Markenfield (d. before 1323) who became a king's clerk in 1296 and received the living of Algerkirk (Worsley 1985, 800). Markenfield appears to have rapidly acquired benefices under Edward I and Edward II, which would have provided a steadily increasing income to invest in his residence. The climax in his career came in 1310 when he was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer and was also granted a licence to crenellate his house:

February 28. Westminster. Licence to John de Merkyngfeld, kings clerk to crenellate his dwelling house at Merkyngfeld, co. York. (CPR 1307-1313, 212)

It should be noted that licences to crenellate were often obtained retrospectively or simply obtained to enhance the status of the individual. De Markenfield had died by July 1323 and his property passed to his successor Andrew de Markenfield. The property was passed down through successive generations of the Markenfield family; being passed onto a Sir Thomas de Markenfield, who was Seneschal of Ripon. Sir Thomas joined with his brother-in-law, Sir John Conyers, in striking against Edward IV in support of Henry VI in 1469 (Page 1968, 78). Following Sir Thomas' death in 1497 his son Ninian inherited his property, and is recorded in the Battle of Flodden as following Henry Clifford, as part of the Yorkshire contingent:

Sir Ninyan Markenfyl
In armor cote of cunyge work (Quoted in Hussey 1940, 567)

Ninian's son, Thomas Markenfield, married into the Aske family and, in 1537, was attainted for following Robert Aske in the Pilgrimage of Grace. In 1569 the Markenfields were attainted for their role in the Rising of the northern Earls and their estates were confiscated. Ninian's grandson, Thomas, was executed for his role as a chief instigator.

Markenfield Hall was described by the Commissioners in a letter to Cecil dated April 21 1570:

An ancient house, built all of stone, to the outward show fair and stately; the hall and the lodging side embattled, more in length than breadth, and three sides environed with an evil moat; but the ho use is served with a conduit very

plentifully. Against the entry of the court is built the hall and kitchen, on the right hand of the court the lodgings, and the left the stables, brewhouses, and offices. The hall and lodgings are all vaults and were at first built all about one high room. Besides the vaults the walls are of a great height, without order, whereof part is divided at the mid-transom of the window, so that the rooms are all out of order. (Quoted in Camm 1910, 123)

The wording of the Commissioners' report can be read to suggest that the principal entrance to the 'court' was facing the hall and kitchen, through the existing gatehouse. The stables, brewhouses, and offices would be within the west range, while the east range formed the lodgings. It is clear that at the time of the Commissioners' visit, the hall and lodging ranges retained most, if not all, of their vaulting to the undercrofts (now substantially lost), while some of the principal-floor rooms, perhaps including the hall, had been altered to contain an additional floor.

Markenfield was subsequently granted to Thomas Egerton, whose political career spanned the reign of both Elizabeth I and James I. However, the Egertons do not appear to have used the house extensively, and by the 18th century it was being used as a farmhouse. The third Duke of Bridgewater sold the house to Fletcher Norton, Speaker of the House of Commons, in 1761 for £9,400 (Worsley 1985, 803). When Norton retired from office in 1783 he was created 1st Baron Grantley of Markenfield (Miller 1985, 101). Although Norton did not use Markenfield as a residence, he did undertake a large programme of repairs and alterations. The 3rd Lord Grantley (Fletcher Norton's grandson) undertook further repairs and minor alterations between 1851 and 1868. This work was guided by the Ripon antiquary, J R Walbran, who had been conducting excavations at Fountains Abbey since 1840. Walbran suffered a serious stroke in April 1868 and died in 1869 (Coppack 1993, 111). The meticulous standards of archaeological recording that Walbran employed at Fountains, may indicate that he approached his work at Markenfield in a similar fashion. It is disappointing that any records of his works have not yet come to light.

Further repairs are known to have been made to the hall in the 20th century. A lightning strike in 1956 required the conical cap of the stair turret to be repaired, and during the 1960s the farmhouse (eastern range) was converted (Worsley 1985, 805). A more substantial programme of restoration and refurbishment was undertaken in 1981-4, although a full report and archaeological study of the results was not possible due to the death of the antiquarian in charge, Roy Gilyard-Bear.

2.0 SCHEME OF WORKS

The scheme of works consists of amendments to the gatehouse notably including the installation of new water and foul services and the partial unblocking of an historic opening in the north elevation. The scheme of works has been granted full Listed Building Consent (DCLBSOSA 6.53.1.K.LB 09/01069/LB) by Harrogate Borough Council and has received Scheduled Monument Consent from English Heritage (S00005063).

A mitigation strategy based upon an archaeological watching brief during the proposed works will be implemented, enabling any archaeological remains or structural evidence encountered and directly affected by the work to be recorded. The watching brief will consist of the monitoring of groundworks required during the construction of new services and structural inspection after the unblocking of the historic opening prior to a new window being installed.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 FIELDWORK PROCEDURE

The archaeological watching brief will consist of the archaeological monitoring of any groundworks for the new service trenches. The groundworks will be undertaken under continuous archaeological supervision and site visits as appropriate.

If human burials are encountered, the remains will be recorded and where possible left *in situ*. The provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act (1857) will be complied with.

Recording Procedure

A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all archaeological deposits encountered during the watching brief. Archaeological deposits, features and structures will be recorded using a standard system of context and other record forms. A series of indexes, capable of interrogation, will be maintained for all site records. Features will be planned at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50; sections will be recorded at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. The photographic record will consist of 35mm colour and monochrome photography. Monochrome photography will be undertaken using silver-based film to ensure archival stability.

Finds Recovery and Treatment Procedure

All finds identified during the watching brief will be hand-collected and processed. Where deemed appropriate, coarse sieving (10mm mesh) or bulk samples (1mm mesh) will be collected specifically for finds recovery, particularly for industrial residues.

Finds treatment will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines set down in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Archive preparation will be undertaken in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (Walker 1990) and in line with *Guidelines for the deposition of archaeological archives* (Hull and East Riding Museum 1999). In accordance with guidelines laid down in MAP2, all metalwork and a samples of metallurgical residues will be submitted for X-radiography prior to assessment.

All wet-preserved artefacts will be treated in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998), *Guidelines for the care of waterlogged archaeological leather* (1995) or *Waterlogged wood, guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of structural wood* (1990).

Environmental Procedure

Should any deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential be encountered during the watching brief, the project's environmental consultant, Dr Allan Hall (University of York) will be contacted to advise on an appropriate sampling policy and/or to visit site as appropriate.

3.2 ARCHIVE PREPARATION

After completion of the watching brief all records will be indexed, ordered, quantified and checked for consistency. Context, finds, sample and other paper-based records will be transferred to an integrated computer based system. The drawn record will be digitised in an appropriate format that will permit the output of standard ACAD type DXF files.

The archival record will include all material relating to the site and the watching brief including correspondence, written, drawn and computerised records. If appropriate, as part of the preparation for the post-excavation programme, the artefactual, ecofactual and samples will be quantified and described. In addition the stratigraphic matrix and a site summary will be prepared.

3.3 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

Upon completion of the fieldwork, all finds, samples and stratigraphic information will be assessed for their potential for further analysis. A report will be prepared to include fieldwork procedure, the results of the watching brief, accompanied by photographs and illustrations. Should archaeological remains be encountered, the report will include interpretation and

phasing, illustrations (photographs, plans and sections), assessment, conclusions and recommendations, and the results of the specialist assessment, should any be necessary.

Within six weeks of the completion of the watching brief copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body, the Local Planning Authority, the North Yorkshire HER and English Heritage. North Yorkshire County Council will also be provided with a digital copy of the report in PDF format, and the report will be made available online via OASIS.

4.0 PROJECT TEAM

4.1 FIELD TEAM

Jonathan Clark (Project Manager) directs the Historic Buildings Section of FAS and holds a BA in Archaeology from the University of Leicester, an MA in Scientific Methods in Archaeology from the University of Bradford and a DPhil from the University of York. He has been involved in archaeological fieldwork for nearly 20 years and has research interests in medieval buildings and gardens, most particularly in the development of great houses from the Conquest to the 18th century. Dr Clark has been a major contributor to, or archaeological manager of projects at Alford Manor House, Boston Guildhall, Stratford-upon-Avon Guildhall, Ayscoughfee Hall (Spalding), Oak House (West Bromwich), Ledstone Hall (West Yorkshire), Selby Abbey, Ulverscroft Priory (Leicestershire).

Richard Jackson (Project Officer) joined Field Archaeology Specialists in 1999. He holds a BA in British Archaeology from the University of York. Richard has been involved in archaeological projects for eight years including work on the Tarbat Discovery Programme, evaluation and excavations on Transco pipelines and numerous rural and urban evaluations and excavations in northern Britain. Recently, he has been involved in a long-term watching brief at Nosterfield Quarry, North Yorkshire, and Bishopthorpe Palace.

4.2 PROJECT SPECIALISTS

Allan Hall and Harry Kenward (Environmental Consultants)

Krish Seetah (Zooarchaeology)

Jane Young (Pottery)

Cecily Spall (Ceramic Building Material)

Karen Barker (Conservation)

Cecily Spall (Small Finds Research)

Fiona Tucker (Human Remains)

5.0 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The work will be monitored by Vivienne Metcalf, English Heritage and Gail Falkingham, North Yorkshire County Council, who will be notified prior to each stage of work.

6.0 HEALTH & SAFETY

6.1 RISK ASSESSMENT

In order to comply with the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992, an assessment of risks will be undertaken prior to any fieldwork being undertaken. All fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with the FAS Health & Safety Policy, the Main Contractors health and safety requirements, as well as specific requirements set out in the project's

Risk Assessment.

7.0 INSURANCE

FAS carry appropriate levels of Public Liability, Employers Liability and Professional Indemnity insurances.

References

- Camm, B. 1910. *Forgotten shrines: an account of some old Catholic halls and families in England and of relics and memorials of the English martyrs*
- Coppack, G. 1993. *Fountains Abbey*, (Batsford: London)
- Hussey, C. 1940. 'Markenfield Hall, Yorkshire', *Country Life*, 28th December: 566-570
- Miller, J. 1985. 'Restoration works at Markenfield Hall, 1981-4', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 57: 101-110
- Worsley, G. 1985. 'Markenfield Hall, North Yorkshire', *Country Life*, 19th September: 800-805



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