

**FISH POND WOOD & BEWERLEY GRANGE CHAPEL,
BEWERLEY, NIDDERDALE, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SURVEY



JB Archaeological Services

On behalf of

NIDDERDALE AONB

August 2013

Contents

Summary

1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	General Background	2
	Geology and Soils	
	Topography and Land Use	
	Historic Background	
3.0	Methodology and Sources of Information	4
4.0	Archaeological and Historical Potential	4
	Prehistoric and Roman	8
	Anglo-Scandinavian and Medieval	8
	Post-medieval	11
5.0	Site Visit	13
	Ice House	14
	Boat House	19
	The Jetty	21
	The Dam	21
	Quarries	23
	Walls – <i>Dr D Johnson</i>	26
	Possible Ha-Ha	27
	Reservoir	28
	Track-way	28
	Hollow-ways	29
	Paths	32
	Well	35
	Building	35
	Woodland	36
	Potential for Buried Archaeology	38
	Bewerley Grange Chapel	38
6.0	Discussion	39
7.0	Conclusions and Recommendations	40
	Brief Assessment of Sources	42
	Acknowledgements	42
	Map and Image credits	42
	Sources Consulted	43
	Appendix I – Listed Building Description	45

Illustrations

Front Cover: Historic photograph of the pond in Fish Pond Wood (not White Wood)
Image courtesy of Nidderdale Museum Society

Figures

All historic images courtesy of Nidderdale Museum Society and © to them

- Figure 1. General Site Location.
- Figure 2. Location of features identified within the study area
- Figure 3. Extract of 1867 estate map NYCC Archives
- Figure 4. Historic image of bridge, probably to the island, looking NNE
- Figure 5. Part of brick lining of ice house
- Figure 6. Stone built entrance to ice house, looking NW, scale 1m
- Figure 7. Detail of butt joint between stone and brick work, looking NW
- Figure 8. Remains of earlier door frame in flags, scale 1m
- Figure 9. Possible wall end adjacent to ice house, note re-used iron strap hinge of possible 17/18th century date.
- Figure 10. Possible rebuilt gateway for path to ice house, scale 1m, looking NW
- Figure 11. Historic image of the pond with the boathouse on the left and possible part of the island at the top of the pond, looking north-west
- Figure 12. Historic image of the dam, landing jetty and boathouse, looking south
- Figure 13. Edge of dam, jetty and remains of boat house
- Figure 14. Historic image of the dam, looking SSW
- Figure 15. Outflow at southern end of dam, scale 1m
- Figure 16. Slot cut in block prior to splitting, scale 1m
- Figure 17. Stone extraction on the eastern side of the woods. Looking NW
- Figure 18. Quarry face and floor of the small stone quarry, looking NW
- Figure 19. Bank with stone feature to north of quarry, scale 1m, looking west
- Figure 20. Northern wall of the track-way, scale 1m, looking west
- Figure 21. Hollow-way leading from gates to pond, scale 1m, looking WNW
- Figure 22. Stone gateway, probably dates to c.1832, scale 1m, looking west
- Figure 23. Stone gateway (?1832) at the south-western end of the woods
- Figure 24. Hollow-way leading to stone extraction area, scale 1m, looking NW
- Figure 25. Hollow-way (in red) above Paradise Farm with later Yorke path (in blue) to west, scale 1m, looking north
- Figure 26. One of two sets of stone on edge marking a path in the area of stone extraction, scale 1m, looking SW
- Figure 27. Remains of edging stones on path to pond, scale 1m, looking east
- Figure 28. Stone stile along western boundary, showing narrowing of opening, scale 1m, looking NW
- Figure 29. Stone 'well' to the west of the inlet stream, scale 1m, looking north
- Figure 30. Stone built barn on the northern boundary, looking east
- Figure 31. Possible coppice stump, scale 1m, looking north
- Figure 32. Remains of bank and ditch for feeder stream to pond, looking SE
- Figure 33. Graffiti in the window reveal on the south side of the chapel

**FISH POND WOOD & BEWERLEY GRANGE CHAPEL, BEWERLEY,
NIDDERDALE, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SURVEY

Summary

Fish Pond Wood and Bewerley Grange Chapel to the south of Bewerley (NGR SE155646) have been identified as 'flagship' heritage sites within the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership scheme. To this end an historic environment survey has been undertaken into the known and potential sites within the woodland.

The results of this survey show that the woods are broadly composed of two distinct landscapes. The first is one of extensive stone extraction along the valley sides along with the haul-ways to move the stone to the point of use. The stone was probably used to supply the material for the building of the houses in Bewerley and Bewerley Hall in the early post-medieval period. The extraction of the stone was not along the conventional quarrying lines but more likely the removal of outcropping crags as a piecemeal activity on an 'as and when' basis.

The second landscape was created by John Yorke. It started in the latter 18th century with the damming of a small stream to create a pond as a focal point and then the planning of woodland walks around this central feature. This picturesque woodland landscape was enhanced in the 19th century, which is when the boat house and associated features were created by his nephew.

This landscape is significant as it shows a rare example of a planned, picturesque woodland of a relatively early date and in an area not normally associated with this type of landscaping. The landscape is also important in that it is a tangible example of the philanthropy of the landed gentry of the 18th century.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 As part of the development of the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership Scheme (a Heritage Lottery Fund project that focuses on Upper Nidderdale), historic environment surveys are being undertaken on a total of five sites in the Upper Nidderdale area. These sites are anticipated to become ‘flagship’ heritage sites as part of the Landscape Partnership scheme and, as such, will have a central role in the overall project. The sites are:

- Fish Pond Wood and Bewerley Grange Chapel, Bewerley
- Scar House Navvy Camp, Scar Reservoir
- Prosperous Lead Mines and Smelt Mill, Ashfoldside
- Wath Mill, Wath
- The settlement at Lodge, Scar Reservoir

This report presents the results of the survey on Fish Pond Wood and Grange Chapel at Bewerley.

1.2 The historic environment survey is anticipated to provide an assessment of the significance of the site in its local and national context, and identify historic environment features of interest within the site boundary through a combination of desk based assessment and site visits. It will also try to establish the potential for, and significance of, any buried archaeological remains that may lie within the boundaries of the site.

1.3 The assessment of historic environment features of interest will then inform conservation of the flagship heritage sites; repair and/or consolidation; and future management. In addition, the survey will inform the Upper Nidderdale Interpretation Plan, ensuring that the most significant elements of the site and its stories are interpreted for visitors.

1.4 Research into the site was undertaken in July/August 2013 and site visits were undertaken on the 7th & 15th August 2013. The site visit was to establish the current nature of the site and to ascertain the visible potential of the historic and/or archaeological features to present. The visit also carried out a rapid visual assessment of the surrounding area with a view to the possibility of the survival of other archaeological features which may have an impact upon the site.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Location

2.1 Fish Pond Wood lies approximately 1km to the south-west of the centre of Pateley Bridge (NGR SE155646). The southern boundary of the site is formed by Peat Lane (a minor road), with the western end of the woods merging into White Wood. The remainder of the boundaries are formed by dry stone walls separating the woods from the adjacent farmland. The woods lie in Bewerley civil parish in Harrogate District, North Yorkshire (Figures 1 & 2).

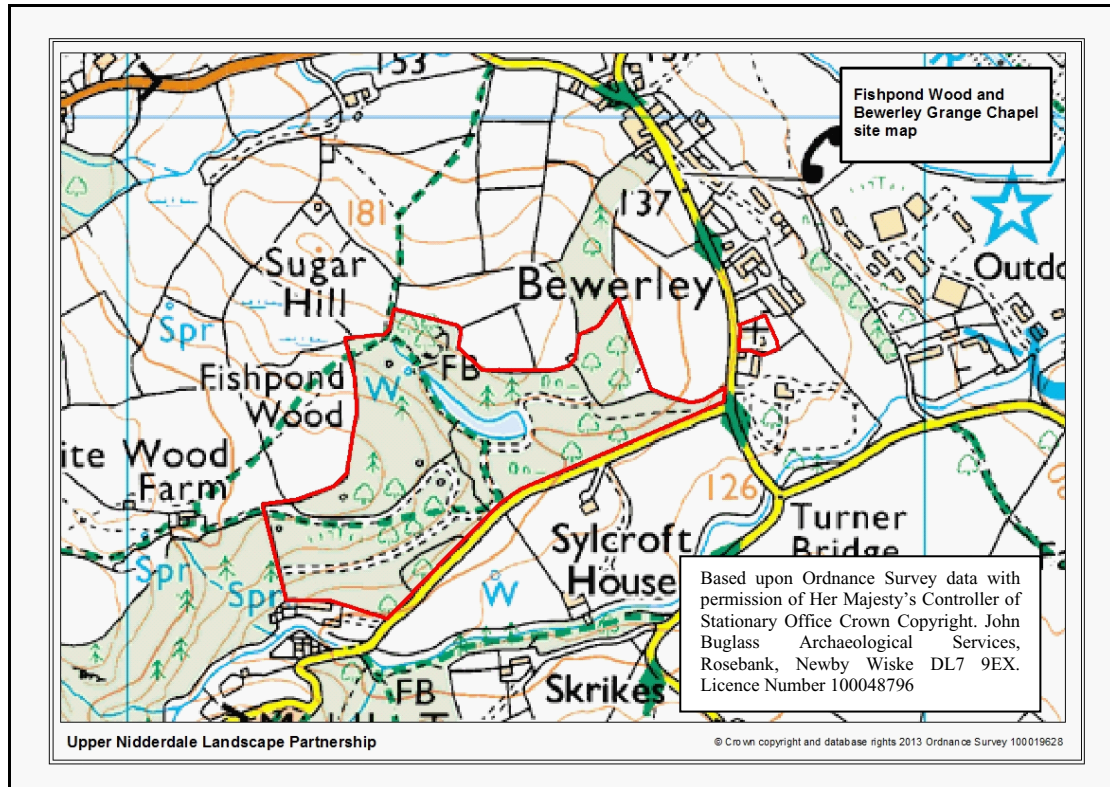


Figure 1. General Site Location.

Geology and soils

- 2.2 The underlying geology of Beverley and the surrounding area is the Namurian ‘millstone grit series’ of the Carboniferous period (British Geological Survey, 2001). Overlying this, the quaternary geology is predominantly one of alluvium (British Geological Survey, 1977). The soils, which have developed from these deposits, have been classified by the Soil Association Survey of Great Britain. The soils are split between the Belmont association in the southern portion of the site and Malham 2 association in the northern part. The Belmont association is a coarse loamy acid soil whilst the Malham 2 association is well drained silty soil (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

Topography and land-use

- 2.3 The site lies on the southern slope of Sugar Hill, with the pond itself situated in the small valley that runs down the hill’s flank from *c.*170m to *c.*130mOD. The woods are surrounded by agricultural land primarily given over to grazing.

Historic Background

- 2.4 Prior to Beverley being recorded for the first time in the Domesday Book, the lands around the settlement were held as part of the estates of Gospatric, Earl of Northumberland. The name Beverley was first recorded in 1086 as *Beurelie* with the name being derived from the Old English *beofor* and *leah* meaning ‘woodland clearing frequented by beavers’ (Mills, 1998, 35).
- 2.5 After the Norman Conquest the estates were allotted to the Mowbray family, who in 1175 sold the land to Fountains Abbey who established a grange here.

Post dissolution the estates fragmented, with the land containing Fish Pond Wood and the chapel eventually being acquired by the Yorke family who held it until 1924 (for fuller details of the history and development of Bewerley and the surrounding area see Jennings, 1992 and www.bewerleypc.org.uk).

3.0 METHODOLOGY AND INFORMATION SOURCES

3.1 The principal aims of the desk-based assessment were to:

- identify known archaeological and historic sites within or immediately adjacent to the site
- identify any areas with the potential to contain any unrecorded archaeological remains
- assess the significance of the identified historic and archaeological sites
- propose measures which could be built into the management plans for the site, which would enhance the understanding of the site and help allow for the long term stability of the features identified

3.2 This report is based upon the review of readily available documentation relating to the site and its environs. The study area for the investigation was generally up to the boundaries of site with any obvious features in adjoining fields being noted. In order to produce this report, research was undertaken at:

- North Yorkshire Heritage Unit
- North Yorkshire Archives
- Nidderdale Museum
- Nidderdale ANOB
- English Heritage National Monuments Record.

3.3 The following data sources were researched for the assessments:

- North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER)
- North Yorkshire Archives
- Nidderdale Museum Archives
- published and unpublished historical and archaeological studies
- cartographic sources (including historic Ordnance Survey maps)
- National Monuments Record: Listed Buildings
- Historic Park and Gardens Study Group

3.4 A walk over survey of the site was carried out on 7th & 15th August 2013. The inspection was carried out with two principle objectives - firstly to confirm the nature and extent of the site and secondly to identify possible areas for the survival of archaeological remains.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL POTENTIAL

4.1 Archaeological and historic sites recorded within the 250m radius study area of the site are summarised in Table 1 below. The sites are identified by a site number, which is correlated with the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record entries (MNY), scheduled monument (SM), listed building (LB) and Lancaster University Survey (LU) where relevant. A central grid reference, suggested classification and a date are provided for each site, which are graded in archaeological significance as of 1 (national), 2 (regional) and 3 (local) importance and N as no significance. This is based upon professional judgement and the criteria in Annex 6 of PPG16. The location of the sites is shown on Figure 2.

Table 1: Archaeological sites within a c.250m radius of the site

<i>Site Number</i>	<i>Reference Number</i>	<i>Grid Reference</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Period/Date</i>	<i>Grade</i>
1	MNY 22593 LU 1522	SE 15324 64743	Stone steps	Post-medieval	3
2	--	SE 1538 6472	Area of quarrying	Post-medieval	3
3	--	SE 15597 64773	Track-way	Post-medieval	3
4	MNY 7198 LB50659	SE 15783 64735	Chapel	Medieval	2
5	--	SE 1576 6472	Possible blocked gateway	Post-medieval	3
6	--	SE 1530 6472	Ditch	Post-medieval	3
7	--	SE 15280 64719	Boundary change	C17/18 th	3
8	--	SE 1528 6470	Style and path	Post-medieval	3
9	--	SE 1532 6468	Steps	Post-medieval	3
10	--	SE 15364 64688	Well	C19 th	3
11	--	SE 15376 64683	Footbridge	Post-medieval	3
12	--	SE 15559 64699	Buildings	Post-medieval	3
13	MNY 7195 MNY 14344 MNY 32635	SE 15644 64692	Ice House	C18/19 th	2/3
14	MNY 22592 LU 1521	SE 15259 64668	Cairn	Post-medieval	3
15	--	SE 1556 6466	Quarry	Post-medieval	3
16	MNY 22594 LU 1523	SE 15672 64658	Reservoir	Post-medieval	3
17	--	SE 151532 6424	Area of quarrying	Post-medieval	3
18	--	SE 15410 64639	Island	C17/18 th	3
19	--	SE 1576 6466	Stone gate posts	?1832	3
20	--	SE 1574 6464	Hollow way	Post-medieval	3
21	MNY 32684	SE 15471 64611	?Fish Pond	?1832	2
22	--	SE 15505 64618	Dam	Post-medieval	2/3
23	--	SE 15496 64634 to SE 15580 64570	Spillway/Outflow	Post-medieval	3
24	--	SE 1558 6458	Jetty	Post-medieval	3
25	--	SE 15483 64599	Boat House	Post-medieval	3
26	--	SE 1532 6457	Worked stone	Post-medieval	3
27	--	SE 1544 6454	Hollow way	Post-medieval	3
28	MNY 30139	SE 151 645	?Hut circles	?Prehistoric/medieval	?2
29	--	SE 1528 6442	Hollow way	Post-medieval	3
30	--	SE 15476 64431	Well	Post-medieval	3
31	--	SE 15755 64646	Stone gate posts	?1832	3

Nearby sites not plotted on Figure 2

32	MNY 23136 LU 1575	SE 15299 64300	Spirit Level	Post-medieval	3
33	MNY 7200	SE 1582 6476	?Site of grange	Medieval	?2

See Figure 2 for site locations

- 4.2 A total of 33 archaeological and historic sites were recorded within the study area. Of these the possible medieval fish pond is considered to be potentially of regional significance. Whilst the remainder of the sites are considered to be of local significance with regard to nationally applicable criteria they are, as a whole, significant in that collectively they potentially illustrate the development of the woods over that last 800+yrs. Therefore when considered as a group, their collective importance has a much greater significance when considering the development of this part of Nidderdale.

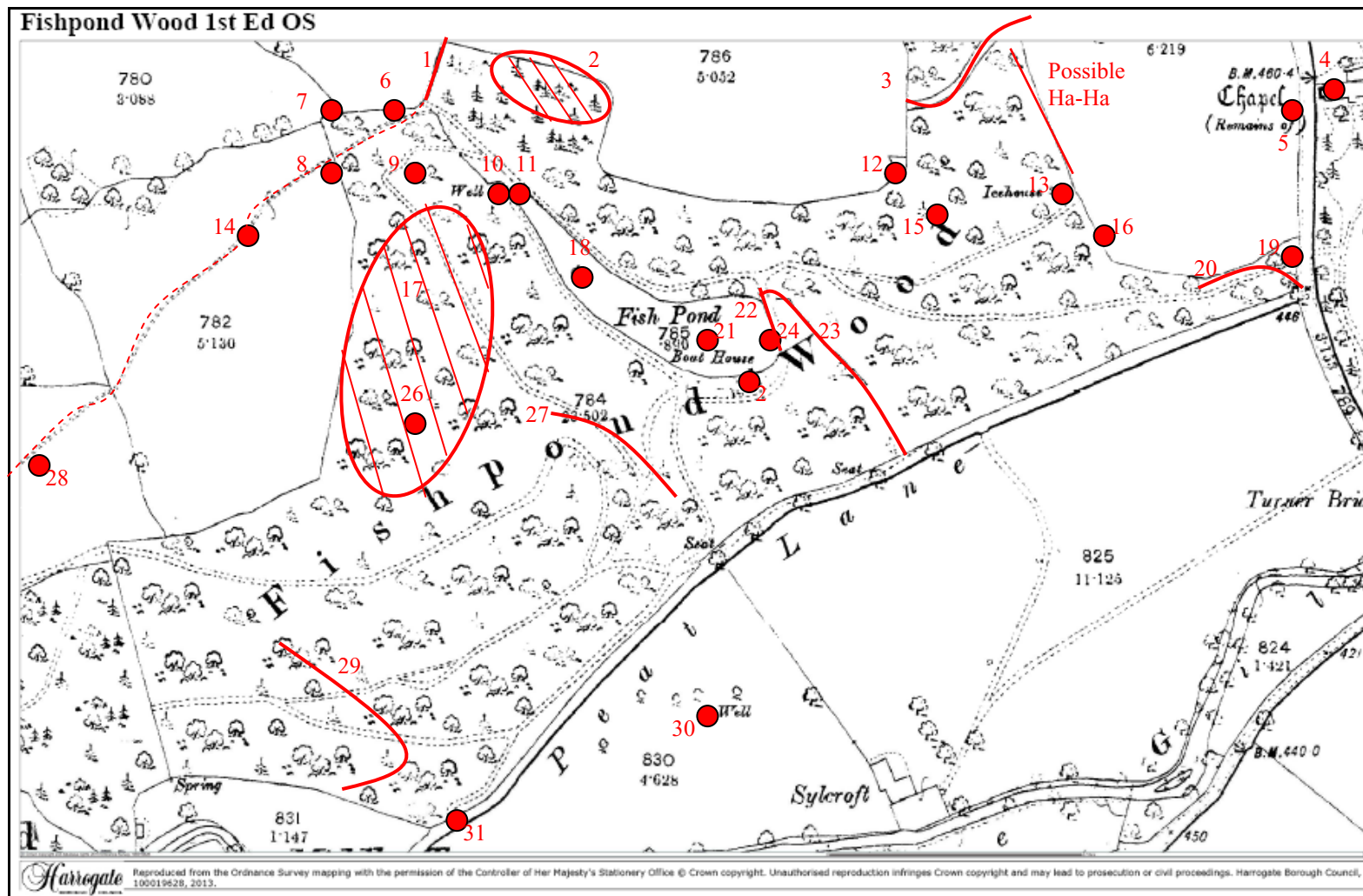


Figure 2. Location of features within Fish Pond Woods

Prehistoric and Roman

- 4.3 Currently there is only a single possible prehistoric site recorded within the boundaries of the study area. This is a cluster of possible hut circles to the west of the site (Site 29). This site has been recorded from aerial photographic interpretation and has not, so far, been investigated on the ground. Sites of this nature are typically assigned to the Iron Age/Romano-British period but this does not preclude a later date. Although only a single prehistoric site has been identified, this does not preclude them from being found in the future. The nature of the topography of the area means that it has probably been used as a route through the region since the end of the last ice age and as such will have been used by the nomadic hunter gatherer societies in the earlier Stone Age. Then with the development of agriculture and a more settled way of life during the later Neolithic and Bronze Ages, it is quite possible that the more fertile alluvial soils and ready water supply of the area attracted some form of settlement and activity, though evidence for it is probably yet to be encountered.
- 4.4 Similarly, very little evidence for the Roman period has been recorded within the area generally and nothing specifically in Bewerley or Pateley Bridge. As before, this does not mean that there was no activity in the area. There may have been (particularly associated with the lead deposits at nearby Greenhow Hill) or it may be that nothing has yet been found. See Lancaster University, 2000, 24 *et seq* for a more detailed development of this topic.

Anglo-Scandinavian and Medieval

- 4.5 In the period leading up to the Conquest it is known that the area was held by Earl Gospatric of Northumberland and then in the immediate post-conquest period there appears to be a series of short lived phases of activity, probably cut short by the ‘Harrying of the North’ in 1069-70. The dislocation of the various economies, caused by the depredations of William I, seem to have been overcome by the early part of the 12th century when the activities of various landholders (both monastic and secular) start to become more widespread and diverse. For details see Jennings, 1992 & Lancaster University, 2000, 26 *et seq*.
- 4.6 As already mentioned above, the land around Bewerley was held for a long time by the Cistercian monks of Fountains Abbey, who established a grange at Bewerley and were responsible for the construction of the nearby chapel around the late 15th or early 16th centuries. However, this was not the first chapel in the area as the Fountains Chartulary of 1175 refers to an old chapel (Jennings, 1992, 45 & www.bewerleypc.org.uk). Currently the location of the earlier chapel is unknown but it would seem reasonable to assume that the current (16th century) one is close to the location of the earlier one. Indeed it is possible that this later chapel was built on the site of the former one, reusing its foundations and outline. Alternatively the ‘new’ chapel could have been built close to the earlier one, as it was still functioning and was not demolished until the new one was completed. However without further, probably invasive, investigation it is currently not possible to locate the earlier building.

- 4.7 The commonly held belief is that the pond in Fish Pond Wood was created to supply the Grange with fish in accordance with the Rule of St Benedict. Although there is currently no direct documentary or physical evidence to support this belief, there are a number of strands of evidence which could be seen to support it being of medieval origin. In order to place the potential fish pond in a suitable historic setting, it is necessary to look briefly at the development of freshwater fisheries, and in particular monastic ones, within Yorkshire.
- 4.8 Although the evidence is scant, it is known that fresh water fisheries were in use in the immediate pre-Conquest period (McDonnell, 1981, 3). This raises the intriguing idea that, as the land around Bewerley was owned by Gospatric, it would seem possible that the feature may have its origins in Anglo-Saxon period. However this would seem unlikely as Bewerley was not a large centre of activity, which would have demanded a steady supply of fish. In addition there is a suitable river nearby for seasonal fishing to have taken place.
- 4.9 Freshwater fisheries develop in Yorkshire as a whole in the later 11th century (after the Harrying of the North) and particularly those of the monasteries, of which the various Cistercians houses were often foremost. This can be seen in documentary accounts for various fish ponds, weirs etc. as follows: Fountains Abbey on the Rivers Derwent (IBID, 13) and on the River Swale at Richmond; Jervaulx Abbey on River Ure at Boroughbridge (IBID, 21); Byland Abbey on the River Wiske at Northallerton (IBID, 15). In addition the Rivers Aire and Nidd were dotted with weirs and meres during the 12th to 14th centuries and it is recognised that Fountains Abbey was the foremost foundation in developing freshwater fisheries in North Yorkshire (IBID, 13). Finally by the late 12th and mid 13th centuries all Yorkshire monasteries had fish ponds.
- 4.10 The earliest fish ponds were known as ‘stews’ and were used for keeping net caught river fish live, prior to consumption (IBID, 2). These ponds were opportunistic in nature and were created by enhancing natural features such as oxbow lakes or damming suitable valleys. The medieval term for a dammed pond is a ‘sta(n)gnum’ (IBID, 14 & 29). These ponds would then not only have acted as stews but would also have been used to encourage fish stocks to develop, particularly by keeping them ‘topped up’ with fresh, natural stock collected seasonally from rivers. The modern concept of fish farming does not start to develop until the introduction of systematic feeding of stock in c.16th century and breeding in the c.18th century (IBID, 2). The first artificial, purpose-built fish ponds in Yorkshire were recorded in 1175. The watercourse north of Ripley was dammed before 1185 to create a series of ponds (IBID, 16). This increase in the development of freshwater fisheries and purpose-built ponds coincides with an increase in the consumption fish in the Cistercian diet from 12th century onwards (IBID, 22).
- 4.11 From the brief review above, it can be seen that at the time that Fountains Abbey acquire the land at Bewerley in 1175, the order is starting to develop freshwater fisheries across a large number of sites in the county. Therefore it would not seem unreasonable that the pond in Fish Pond Wood could be part

of the development of fisheries by the Abbey. If the pond is monastic in origin, the next issues would be to try to determine its age and function. As described above, the early fish ponds (or stagnums) were often created opportunistically by damming a suitable valley. The name 'stagnum' itself is derived from the term for a mill pond (IBID, 14 & 29) though in this case there does not seem to be, at the moment, any evidence for a mill at this location. In the case here the pond has been formed by placing an earthen dam across a small valley. This could be seen to indicate an early date for the pond. However, this simple damming technique can be used at any time and should not be relied upon for dating. Other ways of dating ponds can be by the manner of the construction of the dam. The earliest, and simplest, are of simple earthen banks, sometimes re-enforced with dumps of stone or gravel. More sophisticated dams have a timber lattice or box frame within them, filled with stone rubble then covered with earth. The most complex are built in stone. The example here appears to be of the simplest form but further investigation may reveal details of its construction and thus date. Historic mapping dated 1867 (Figure 3) shows a small outlet stream flowing from the northern end of the dam. This ties in well with the spillways recorded on the ponds at Byland Abbey, where they are also located on one shoulder of the dam. The spillway would act to maintain the level of the water behind the dam but was not a sluice in the modern understanding and could not be used to lower the water for maintenance or cleaning purposes. This could only be done if the dam was actually breached.

- 4.12 The location and function of the pond can be seen as being unusual for it being of medieval origin. Many medieval fish ponds tend to be located close to a river or a larger water source in order to provide both a constant water supply and fresh stock fish. The pond in question here is at least 800m from the river as well as being well up slope of the river. This location may have been chosen for a number of reasons: firstly because of the suitability of the valley for damming; secondly as Bewerley is downstream of Pateley Bridge there may have been foul water problems with waste coming down stream; thirdly if it had been located to the east it may well have been in the flood plain of the River Nidd and as such been prone to damage and loss of stock due to flooding. A further aspect of the location is that if it was supplying fish as a food item, then there would need to be good access for the movement of the fish to and from the pond – particularly if live fish are being transported.

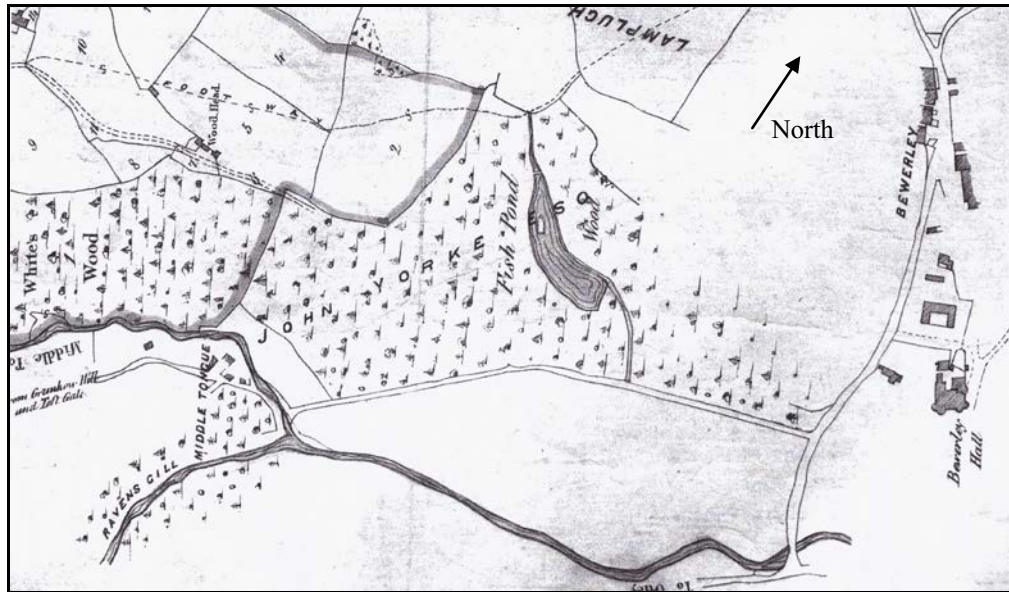


Figure 3. Extract of 1867 estate map

NYCC Archives

- 4.13 A further oddity of having a monastic fish pond in this location is that a simple monastic grange in what would be a small settlement like Beverley would seem unlikely to have sufficient status to warrant the building and maintaining of a fish pond. However, this should not be taken to rule it out as other examples of medieval fish ponds in small settlements do exist. For example the small settlement at Thornton le Beans was known as variously as *Thornton super Vivarium* and *Thornton in Vivar* in the 13th century due to the presence a fish pond (IBID, 16). It has been suggested that Marmaduke Huby (abbot of Fountains 1494-1526) stayed regularly at Beverley Grange and this could be sufficient reason for a pond to be specifically constructed for his, and his entourage's needs, along with the chapel. However the evidence for this is very weak. The current accommodation at the chapel is a later addition and it is not known where the grange actually was. Further, by examining the other neighbouring granges/lodges, these were no more than simple accommodation and a few outbuildings. If he was coming for hunting, there was very good hunting and accommodation at Brimham (*pers comm* Marie-Anne Hintze).

Post-medieval

- 4.14 With the Dissolution of Monasteries the lands around Beverley were eventually acquired by the Yorke family, who held them until 1924. During their ownership the woodland was developed into what can be described as a 'polite' or 'picturesque' version of natural woodland as well as possibly also having been used as a source of timber for construction etc. The development of the woods as a 'picturesque landscape' particularly starts to develop in 18th century and rapidly gathers momentum in the early 19th century following many of the ideas made popular by authors such as Loudon (1822 & 1830). He differentiated between the 'picturesque' and the 'gardenesque' styles of landscape and provided the advice for the arranging and planting of woodland walks. This included advice on the construction of paths, materials to be used, surface covering and that '*Walks should never be narrower than is sufficient to allow two persons to walk abreast, the minimum breadth of which is 4ft 6in.*' (Buglass & Pearson, *in prep*). In addition to the paths the landscaping of the

woods seems to have also included the construction of the boat house, well, ice house, landing stage and possibly the creation of the island all shown on the OS historic mapping. From an examination of the historic cartography all of these features appear to have been created between 1867 and 1889 as they not shown on 1846-63 OS (Figure 2) or the 1867 estate map (Figure 3). However, Cooper's *'Yorke Country'* (1988) (a history of the Yorke family) records that John Yorke (1733-1813) is responsible for laying out the walks in Fish Pond Wood probably some time around 1780 (and those at their estate at Ravensgill) (Cooper, 1988, 170) and he also had the folly built on the hill near Guisecliffe. Cooper states that *'These outdoor works were largely done to provide employment at this time of great need'* (IBID). After his death in 1813 his nephew, also John Yorke, inherited the estate and in around 1832 was recorded as continuing the walks in Fish Pond Wood that his uncle started. He also created a new entrance into the woods (IBID 208). The development of the woods as a picturesque walk proved to be tremendously popular once the Nidd Valley railway was completed. Cooper (IBID, 233) states that in 1885 *'two or three thousand people came by special trains, and visited the gardens and walked up Ravensgill'*. Grainge (1863, 55 *et seq*) records in romantic detail the gardens of Bewerley Hall and the scenery leading up the hillside. Part of the walk through the woods would have been up from Bewerley Hall through Fish Pond Wood and then onto Skrikes Wood. Here it would have passed the 'picturesque waterfalls' up to the Victorian Bandstand right at the top.

- 4.15 From this evidence it would appear that the origins of the pond may lie in the late 18th century with the older John Yorke at a time when he was acting philanthropically to create employment in the area. This situation would appear to better explain the nature of the pond and the features in the woods with the dam being created in the lifetime of the older John Yorke and the addition of some of the walks and the features such as the boathouse and jetty probably being created by his nephew later in the 19th century. This said, more research would need to be done in order to support this theory.
- 4.16 If the pond does have monastic origins then it would have been very unusual, if not unique, for there to have been an island in it during the medieval period. The primary reason for there not being an island there if it was a medieval fish pond is that the typical method for catching and removing the fish would be by seine netting. This would be carried out either from boats or from the shore. In both cases the island would act as an obstacle to the drawing of the nets across the pond or allow the fish to evade the net by being on the opposite side of the island to the fishing activity. In addition to this, typical medieval fish pond construction has a puddled clay lining often with stone cladding to protect it during netting (Cale, 1998, 18). If evidence for this were found it could be seen to support the medieval date. Therefore, a probable 18/19th century origin for the island would seem more likely. It is also possible that the island was created as a place for wildfowl (particularly ducks) to nest away from predators and thus provide meat for the table. However, an historic image of the woods shows a rustic style bridge (Figure 4) apparently leading over to the island which would negate the isolation from predators. The justification for this is that the footbridge shown on the historic OS spans the inlet stream at

the northern end of the pond and from the site visit the wide, levelled path runs on the western side of the pond. Therefore, from the width of path on the western side of the water in the photograph below it must have been taken looking north. In addition the width of the water beyond the bridge is too great for it to be the simple inlet stream as it would have been according to the mapping. Hence the only other logical place for a footbridge would be to access the island. Interestingly, the site visit identified a discrete pile of stones on the pond edge opposite the approximate location of the island based on the historic mapping. It is possible that this could be the remains of the support of the end of the bridge described above.



Figure 4. Historic image of bridge, probably to the island, looking NNE

- 4.17 The complex of paths and walks through the woods can be clearly seen on the historic OS from the 1890s onwards with a pattern of routes leading to, from and around the pond. These form at least three loops – one to the west of the pond and another, also to the west, into the edge of White Wood and one around the pond itself. This development of walks along often carefully graded contours would allow easy access into most parts of the woods and is a feature seen in other modified woodland. A good example of this can be seen at Austwick Hall near Settle (Pearson, 2013). Here the woods to the east of the hall contain numerous paths, many of which carefully follow the contours of the hillside to lead to particular views or specimen plants. It is also interesting to note that both Austwick Hall and Bewerley Hall were at one time owned by the Yorke family and it may be that there is a family history of developing woodland for pleasure.

5.0 SITE VISIT

- 5.1 A walk-over survey of the site was carried out on 7th & 15th August 2013. The inspection was carried out with two principle objectives - firstly to confirm the nature and extent of the site and secondly to identify possible areas for the survival of archaeological remains. The walk-over attempted to cover as much of the woodland as possible, though the dense summer vegetation in places

meant that access to some areas was very restricted. A re-assessment during winter may well identify additional sites and features.

The Ice House (Site 13)

- 5.2 Ice houses first start to make an appearance in Britain around the 1660s for the provision of ice to help preserve perishable items and then from the later 18th century for the production of ice cream. The ice house is linked by a path marked on the historic OS to the pond, which would seem to show that (unsurprisingly) this was the main source of the ice for it. The ice house is a large brick built, tapering cylinder set deep into the ground (Figure 5) with a stone built access tunnel at ground level (Figure 6) on the southern side and adjacent to the path to the pond. The bricks are 230x100x60mm (9x4x2½ins) and appear to have been laid in a stretcher bond with an occasional header course. Bricks of this size are set by statute in 1725 (with various changes in size set in 1729 and 1776*). The ice-house at Raywell, East Yorkshire, with the same size bricks, has been dated to 1803 and the Skipsea brickworks (also in East Yorkshire) where manufacturing bricks of this size and were in operation by 1855 and closed by 1892 so the ice house could be either 18th or 19th century in date. However, it is suggested that bricks of this size or close to it typically range in date between 1687-1767. Overall this would seem to suggest that the elder John Yorke was responsible for the brick ice house, with his nephew possibly adding the stone entrance at a later date, perhaps to improve its setting (John Tibbles *pers comm*). The access to the ice house on the southern side could be considered to be slightly unusual as this would be facing into the sun and therefore allow warm air into the chamber. The rapid examination of the ice house noted that the stone access chamber appears to be butt joined to the main brick structure (Figure 7). This would seem to suggest that it could be a later addition – both from the fact it is stone and not brick built, the existence of a butt join, and that the two elements of construction are not keyed to each other. In addition the dressing on the masonry blocks varies, which could suggested that it has been re-used from more than one source.

* Brick fixed sizes by statutes:- 9"x4¼"x2½" – 1725; 8¾"x4⅛"x2½" – 1729; 8½"x4"x2½" - 1776
Bricks were only supposed to be a set size by law, an ice-house is an ideal situation for re-used and sub-standard bricks i.e. not visible above ground in most cases (J Tibbles *pers comm*).



Figure 5. Part of brick lining of ice house



Figure 6. Stone built entrance to ice house, looking NW, scale 1m



Figure 7. Detail of butt joint between stone and brick work, looking NW

- 5.3 At the entrance to the stone chamber the flagged floor could be seen to have two square recesses cut into them – one on each side of the doorway (Figure 8). This suggests that there was once a different configuration of the doorway and/or door surround. This is further supported by an additional recess cut into the top right (southern) corner of the lintel of the doorway.



Figure 8. Remains of earlier door frame in flags, scale 1m

- 5.4 It is interesting to note that the historic mapping only records one path to and from the ice house which leads to the pond (Figure 2). It would have been expected that there was a path from the ice house to the hall, or more probably to the service wing of the hall. No path towards the hall is shown on any of the currently available mapping, nor is there one visible in the field to the east of the ice house even though there is what appears to be the finished end to the wall along the adjacent field (Figure 9) for a gateway. There is also an iron strap hinge reused on one of the modern gate posts that may have come from an earlier gate. Stylistically it can be dated to the 17th century (Alycock & Hall, 1994, 21). In addition an inspection of the roadside wall in line with the ice house and Beverley Hall noted a section of irregular construction (Figure 10). Also, on the ice house side of the roadside wall, the field can be seen to drop sharply into a dip which may represent the remains of steps that lead into the field to cross it to get to the ice house. Alternatively this could just be the collapse of the wall due to the pressure of the soil behind it - only further investigation would help resolve this. A little to the south of this irregular build part of the wall has collapsed and what appears to be an earlier wall is partially visible behind it.



Figure 9. Possible wall end adjacent to ice house, note re-used iron strap hinge of possible 17/18th century date.



Figure 10. Possible rebuilt gateway for path to ice house (Site 5), scale 1m, looking NW

- 5.5 Although the ice house is only shown from the 1880s OS onwards, from its style and brick type it would appear to date from the late Georgian period (Dr Johnson & J Tibbles *pers comm*).

The Boat House (Site 25)

- 5.6 As well as being recorded on the historic OS from the 1880s two, probably, Edwardian or later Victorian photographs show the boat house. It is a very simple structure, which from the images appears to be constructed from (probably) three or four up right posts along each side which have been driven into the edge of the pond. The two sides have then been clad with seven overlapping planks under a thatched roof (Figure 11) with both ends being left open (Figure 12). The remains seen during the site visit would appear to be the end two posts set furthest into the pond (Figure 13). From the survival of these two posts it may be possible to investigate the pond side and ascertain if the stumps of the other posts still survive below ground level – this is assuming that the posts rotted *in situ* rather than having been pulled out. Even if the posts have been removed, it would seem reasonable to assume that they would have been regularly spaced in each direction. This would allow a good approximation of its original size to be ascertained.

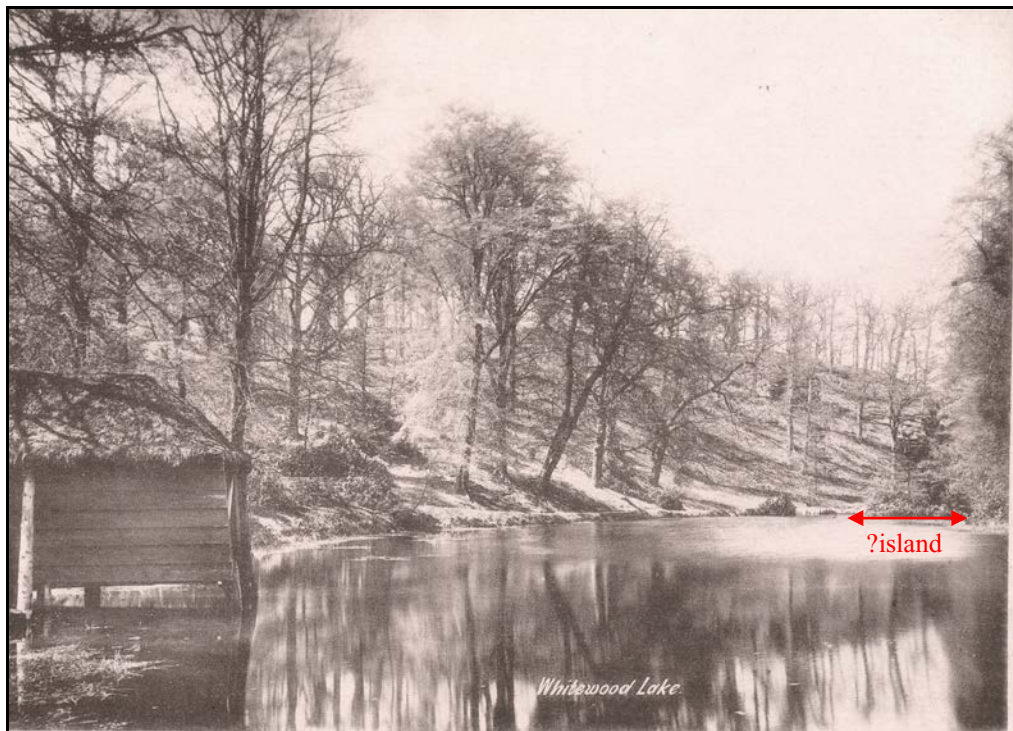


Figure 11. Historic image of the pond with the boathouse on the left and possible part of the island at the top of the pond, looking north-west

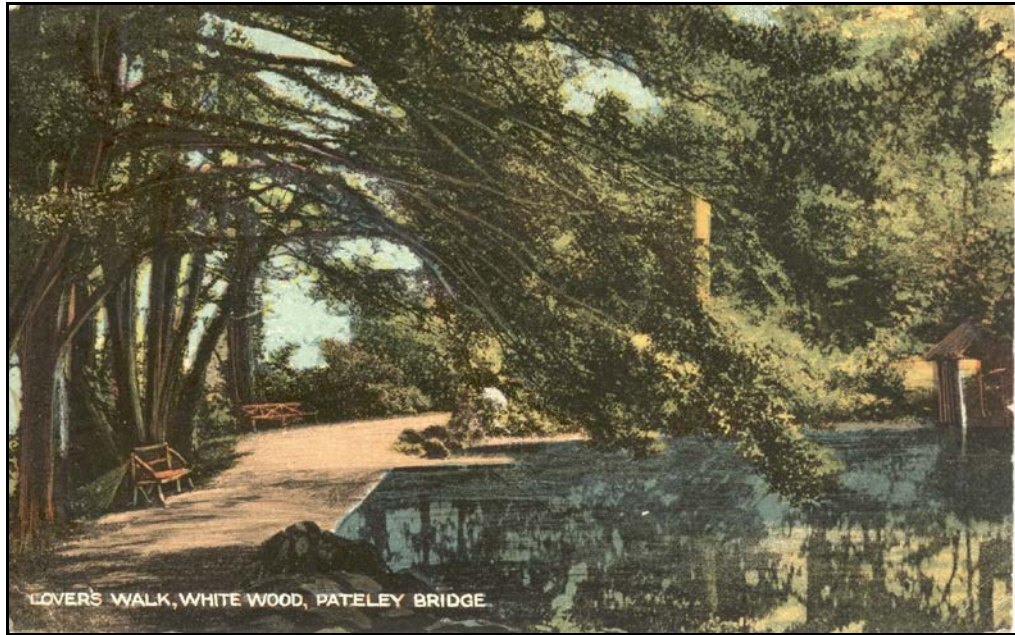


Figure 12. Historic image of the dam, landing jetty and boathouse, looking south



Figure 13. Edge of dam, jetty and remains of boat house

- 5.7 The simple nature of the boat house and its location close to the small jetty near the southern end of the dam would all seem to point to its use to keeping the weather off a small rowing boat or skiff type vessel that could be taken over to the jetty to collect passengers/fishermen for a trip on the pond.

The Jetty (Site 24)

- 5.8 Close to the southern end of the dam there is a small stone built jetty (Figures 12 – 14). As already mentioned above, this probably would have served as the embarkation point for trips on the pond as it would allow the boat to come alongside a stable platform for ease of access rather than in the more confined boat house. A further possible use for it could be as a fishing point or even a place from which to swim. A simple probe around the sides of the jetty showed that the stonework extends well below the water level and appears to be in the form of a series of steps extending outwards. It is unknown how wide these steps go but if the pond side of the dam is as deep as the other side then this could be a quite a large structure. Currently the jetty is showing some signs of settling with the slabs of the upper surface displaying gaps and a degree of unevenness which is not apparent in the historic image.



Figure 14. Historic image of the dam, looking SSW

The Dam (Site 22)

- 5.9 The dam itself is a considerable earthen structure with a flat top and steeper than 45° angle on its front face. Although steeper than what would possibly be expected if it were medieval in date, it is actually quite comparable to the High Kilburn dam at Byland (McDonnell, 1981, 34).
- 5.10 It would appear from the historic photographs that during the latter 19th and early 20th century that the work by the Yorkes led to the creation of a flat topped, metalled path being created (Figures 12 & 14) which was retained by a simple stone slab/block edge. The site inspection showed that although these stones were still clearly visible, particularly along the pond side of the dam, there were clearly significantly displaced. Those stones along the pond side of the dam could clearly be seen to have dropped by several centimetres into the

water. This would seem to suggest that there is, or has been, a degree of erosion along at least the top edge of the dam. On the downstream side of the dam, *if* the line of trees which are shown in the historic images are the same as the ones visible today, then it would appear that over a metre has been lost from this side in the last hundred years or so. Many of the stones on the downstream side of the dam had been lost down slope and those that are left appear to be vulnerable to displacement. Interestingly, an historic photograph taken on top of the dam in 1946 facing south-west shows that there is actually very little woodland growing in this area.

- 5.11 The site visit recorded the presence of a small sluice like structure towards the southern end of the dam (Figure 15) which did not seem to have a downstream exit on the east side of the dam. This appears to be the outflow shown on the northern shoulder of the dam in the historic mapping of 1867. The marked dip in the level of the earthwork at the northern end appears to be the result of erosion. If the pond was medieval in origin, in addition to there being an outflow, it would also be expected to find some evidence for a bypass leat to channel off excess flood water. No sign of this was seen during the current site visit nor during an inspection in 1998 (Cale, 1998, 18). However there is still extensive vegetation cover at the pond edge in several areas.



Figure 15. Outflow at southern end of dam, scale 1m

- 5.12 Along both the northern and southern ends of the dam, there were a series of large stone blocks visible which are also prominent in the historic photographs (Figures 12 & 14). It is uncertain why these are present as they could not be the remains of the solid underlying geology showing through the ground surface as they are on top of the earthen dam. Two possible explanations are: firstly that they were placed there to enhance the view and make the setting

more picturesque and secondly that they may be the remains of the large stones dumped to create the core of the dam. This last suggestion raises the possibility that it may have been intended to have the dam higher.

Quarries (Sites 2, 15 & 17)

- 5.13 There are at least three areas of stone extraction identifiable within the woods. The first of these (Site 17) is to the north-west of the pond where, in a large area under the beech wood, there are clear signs that a lot of stone has been ‘quarried’ out across a wide area, with tool marks visible on several earthfast blocks (Figure 16). This is particularly noticeable on a large outcrop (at SE1532 6457) where it has been worked on two faces. It appears that in conjunction with the stone extraction here, there is an extensive network of paths surviving along the hillside here (including one hollow-way that contours around the hillside up towards the top) which could well be the remains of haul-ways for moving the stone safely down slope. Although partially covered with woodland debris, some areas of the hillside have the appearance of having been worked in benches.



Figure 16. Slot cut in block prior to splitting, scale 1m

- 5.14 The second area of stone extraction (Site 2) lies on the eastern side of the woods on the hillside above the feeder stream to the pond (Figure 17). Here, as on the opposite side, stone appears to have been removed from rocky outcrops rather than from specifically dug quarries and tool marks can be seen on at least one earth fast stone. From an initial inspection the areas seems to be much smaller than the one on the western side. This however may due to the covering of summer vegetation and it would seem quite likely that it could actually cover the whole of the valley side along the eastern side of the pond.



Figure 17. Stone extraction on the eastern side of the woods. Looking NW

- 5.15 A third, smaller, quarry (Site 15) is located to the north-west of the ice house where it has been cut into the hillside (rather than surface extraction over a wide area) (Figure 18). A rapid inspection of the quarry face did not reveal any evidence for tool marks or quarrying techniques which would have helped in dating. Its location away from the pond would seem to rule it out as a source for the dam construction. This material would probably have come from the sides of where the pond was going to be. The quarry faces towards Bewerley Hall and, although too small to have been the source of stone for its construction, it may well have figured in the various additions and alterations carried out by John Yorke (c.1780s) and his nephew also John in 1832 (see Cooper, 1988, 170 & 208 and Grainge, 1863, 53). On the northern side of the quarry there is a low, linear bank running approximately east-west. Set into the top of the bank and in line with the eastern end of the barn to the north there is a rectangular stone built feature with possible additional stonework features to the west and east (Figure 19). From their alignment they could be the remains of a base or support for small scale equipment used in the quarry. From the examination of the quarry face it can be seen that there is an upper layer of less well bedded stone. This would be easily removable for use in dry-stone walling with a much thicker, better bedded layer below which would make good building stone. Other possible uses for the material could be the entrance tunnel for the ice house and the nearby reservoirs.



Figure 18. Quarry face and floor of the small stone quarry, looking NW



Figure 19. Bank with stone features to north of quarry, scale 1m, looking west

- 5.16 At the southern end of the quarry there is a significant pile of quarry waste forming a mound some 2m high. Lying between this and the main quarry floor there are large amounts of broken pottery and glass. A rapid inspection of this material dated it to between the mid 19th to early 20th century. From this it would seem that the quarry became a rubbish dump, presumably for the hall,

after it fell out of use. The excavation a trial trench through the rubbish dump should be able to throw light on the date of the abandonment as the oldest material will be recovered from the bottom of the sequence would only be there once the quarry had gone out of use. It would also be interesting to see the range of material and types of items being used at the hall as the remains of at least one wine glass was noted during the site inspection.

Walls - Dr David Johnson

- 5.17 A rapid assessment of some of the various walls around the woods was carried out by Dr David Johnson at the request of JBAS. His observations are as follows:

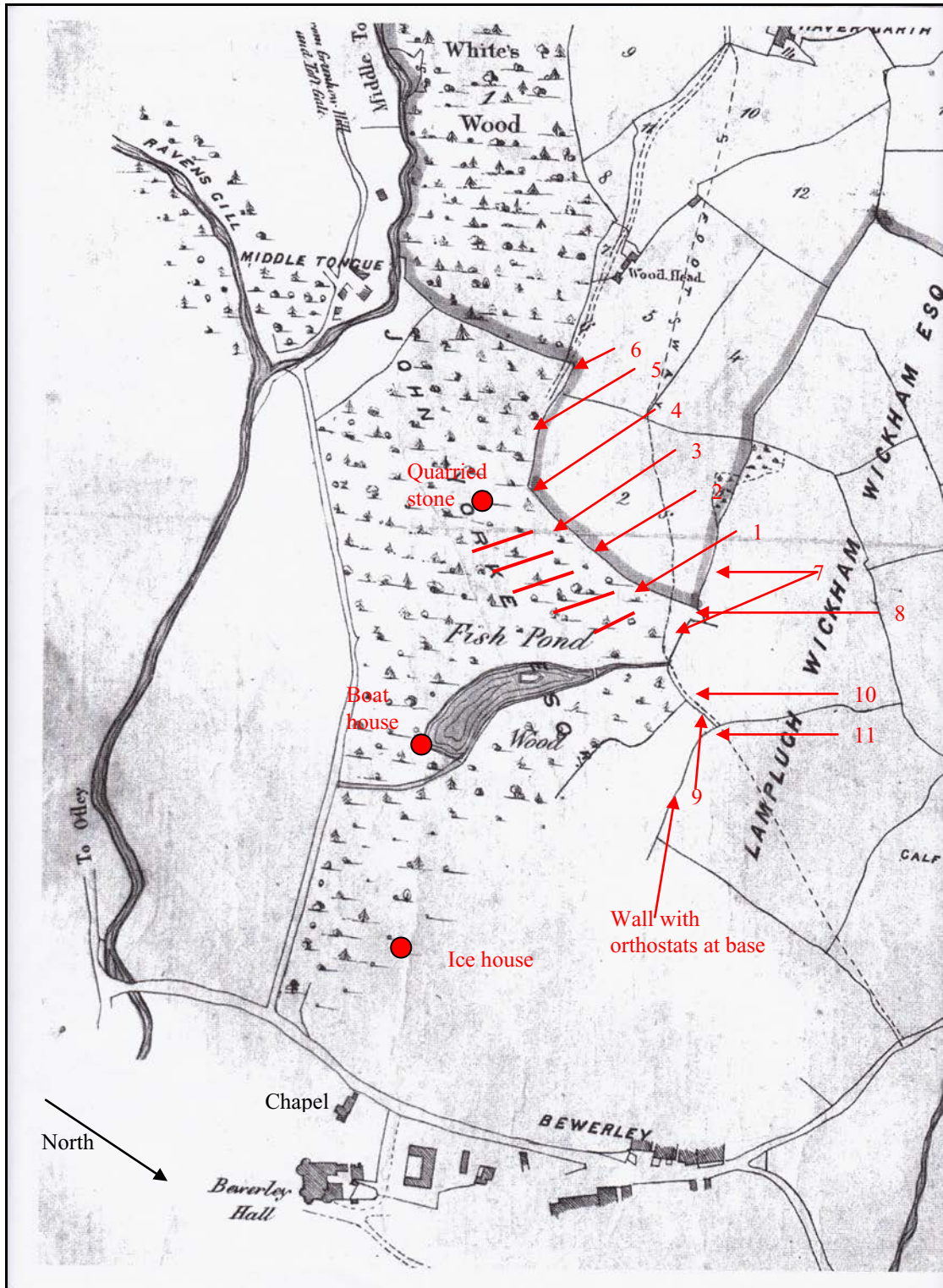
Annotations to 1867 map

The wall running along the north-western boundary at the indicated locations:

1. SE1531 6468, height 1.3m, top width 500mm, made from graded stone size from base to top, regular through stones.
2. Height 1.5m, top width 500mm, graded stone size from base to top, two lines of through stones.
3. SE1530 6462, height 1.2m, top width 400mm, large basal stones, coarser build but still graded from base to top.
4. SE1528 6456, rounded corner, height 1.4m, top width 400mm, large basal stones, graded from base to top.
5. SE1524 6453, height 1.5m, top width 500mm, regular through stones, graded from base to top.
6. SE1516 6451, wall-head height 1.8m, top width 500mm, basal width 750mm, 2 lines of through stones, graded from base to top.

This section of wall is a typical estate wall, with overlapping top-stones, of the late 18th or early 19th century, but possibly built on the line of an earlier wall. Old dry stone walls (i.e. pre 17th-century) tend to be tall (1.8m or so) and very wide-topped (often a cubit wide) with no through stones at all and no grading in stone size from base to top. In fact they often have huge blocks/boulders quite high up. The tops also tend to be laid flat, and often overlap on one side. The walls at Fishpond Wood are too neat and do not fit these criteria, though they are quite possibly built on the line of an earlier wall.

7. These two sections of part wall-part fence are built on an early hedge-bank with traces of a ditch attached.
8. There is a rounded corner to the wall here, which suggests this wall is built on the foundations of an earlier wall.
9. SE1534 6476, the wall parallel to the steps: graded from base to top, with regular through stones, height 1.4m, top width 300mm, top-stones set vertically. Relatively modern wall.
10. A three-way butted wall junction – not old.
11. SE1534 6470, squared corner to wood wall, semi-dressed rounded tops, Height 1.6m, top width 400mm, regular through stones, graded from base to top. Relatively modern. The semi-derelict length of wall running from the stile is built on an earlier hedge-bank.



Features in the walls described above

Possible Ha-Ha

- 5.18 Running along the eastern boundary of the woods are the remains of a low wall which has been partially terraced into the hillside. The wall has been well built with roughly squared stones laid in random courses, with finished ends where there are surviving gateways. Running along from the end of the southern wall towards the 19th century stone gate are the remains of a wrought

iron fence. From its style this would appear to be of early later 19th or early 20th century origin.

- 5.19 The terracing of this wall into the hillside has given it the appearance of being a ha-ha. However its location would be unusual for a ha-ha. Normally ha-ha's are sited to provide a boundary/barrier for livestock without interrupting the view. In this situation for it to be a ha-ha the view would have been from the woods out across the valley. However as far as is known there has never been use of the woods for this role. The surviving wall is not very high and the ditch in front of it appears to either be heavily silted up or was never very deep. It is possible, therefore, that it was once higher and the ditch deeper making this a much more impressive and effect boundary. Use of walls and ditches like this is often associated with deer parks. The author has recorded both medieval (at Ravensworth Park Buglass, 2010) and post-medieval (at Baldserby Park, Buglass, 2010) examples. This latter suggestion would require further research before becoming a substantive interpretation. It was also noted during the site visit that in one location a row of sycamores had been planted along the top of the wall to create a feature. This has resulted in the collapse of much of the wall. However if a date could be put to the trees, then it may help establish when the wall was originally built.

Reservoirs (Site 16)

- 5.20 A short distance to the south-west of the ice house there were two long, low, earthen mounds which have been constructed side by side – though one may be a later addition adjacent to an existing one. Both of these have stone built entrances at their southern ends. The Lancaster University survey of 2000 records them as a reservoir. However, without citing a source, a brief inspection of the feature during the walk-over survey confirmed this interpretation. Without further investigation they would appear to be late 19th or early 20th century in date.

Track-way (Site 3)

- 5.21 Clearly shown from the earliest OS mapping onwards is an elongate S shaped track running east-west through part of the woods to the north of the ice house. This track appears to be linking two fields (currently under pasture). The site visit recorded that the track was originally marked by well built dry-stone walls on either side, typical of an 'estate' style dating to the 18/19th century (Figure 20). The southern of the two walls is currently in a ruinous state but the northern one survives in a very good condition. The simplest interpretation for this is that it was used for moving livestock from field to field – though the good quality of the walls' construction would seem to argue against this. A more likely possibility is that it was built as part of the designed landscape by the elder John Yorke around the end of the 18th beginning of the 19th century as some form of ride or carriageway. The difficulty with this is that it does not appear to lead anywhere apart from one field to another, nor does it form part of a circular route for example. A further, more intriguing though unlikely, possibility does present itself. This is that it could have been used for moving deer through from the field to the west of the woods into the one to the east for the purpose of the final part of the hunt. This would allow the kill to be seen from the east (the Hall or possibly the earlier Grange). This could explain why

the track is S shaped as this would prevent the deer from seeing what was to come until the last moment. If the track were for simply moving livestock then why not have a straight line? A final possibility is that it was used to provide access to the woods for either the removal of stone or pond for the removal/stocking of fish. However if this were the case, why does the track not appear to extend beyond into either field and again would not a straight line be simpler option?



Figure 20. Northern wall of the track-way, scale 1m, looking west

Hollow ways (Sites 20, 27 & 29)

- 5.22 Three distinct hollow ways were noted during the walk over survey. The first of these (Site 20, Figure 21) was in the south-eastern corner, where the current access to the woods starts. Here the current path starts at a pair of 19th century stone gate posts (Figure 22), climbs a set of stone steps and heads north-west. About 100m into the woods on the left hand side there is a distinct earthen ridge which marks the southern side of the path. This ridge can be seen to turn southwards away from the track and head towards the junction of Peat Lane with Bewerley Road. Although the vegetation here is quite dense it is possible to make out a shallow hollow way running down slope. Looking north-west along the path, the remains of the hollow way are very distinct. This would seem to indicate that this has been the main route into the woods for a long period of time. A second stone gateway is located on the south-western corner (Site 31, Figure 23).



Figure 21. Hollow-way leading from gates to pond, scale 1m, looking WNW



Figure 22. Stone gateway, probably dates to c.1832, scale 1m, looking west



Figure 23. Stone gateway (?1832) at the south-western end of the woods

- 5.23 The second hollow way (Site 27, Figure 24) was noted to the west of the pond almost at the top of the western side of the valley. Although only part of its course was visible due to the vegetation, it could clearly be seen to run from close to the modern entrance to the woods northwards. From here it contoured around the valley side and headed up towards the stone extraction area under the beech woods. This would appear to represent the remains of the route along which stone was removed for use elsewhere.



Figure 24. Hollow-way leading to stone extraction area, scale 1m, looking NW

- 5.24 The third hollow-way (Site 29, Figure 25) was recorded zig-zagging up the hillside from the direction of Paradise Farm. As with the second hollow-way described above, this one also appears to be heading towards the area of stone extraction in the beech woods.



Figure 25. Hollow-way (in red) above Paradise Farm with later Yorke path (in blue) to west, scale 1m, looking north

- 5.25 Typically hollow ways are associated with the medieval period, which could be seen to reinforce the idea that the pond has medieval origins. However, it should be noted that hollow ways can be worn at any period through frequent use and at least two of the above appear to be related to access to the areas of stone extraction.

Paths

- 5.26 The current pattern of the paths through the woods appears to be derived directly from those created by the Yorkes originally in the 18th century and then added to in the 19th century. The fact that they only seem to first appear on the 1890s OS mapping (Figure 2) does seem to be at odds with the evidence from the research done by Cooper (see above for details). The historic images show well-made, level and metalled paths, all of which would be consistent with the developed landscape of a ‘picturesque woodland’ which would be consistent with the principles suggested by Loudon (1822). This does not, however, rule out that there were pre-existing routes through the woods, particularly to the quarries, which were re-used and enhanced. Two sets of narrow stones set on edge were recorded towards the northern end of the area of stone extraction (Site 9, Figure 26). These appear to have been set to form some type of step and to help divert water off the path to make it safer. Along with the mettaling of some of the paths, many of them could be seen to

still retain some of the edging stones on their downslope side (Figure 27). It is this feature that could be used in other areas to possibly help trace the route of the now lost or overgrown paths. If the suggestions of Loudon had been followed in the woods here, it may be possible to identify/confirm the 19th century paths by trial excavation as he suggested the use of gravel or sand as a covering. However the ready availability of stone from the surrounding hillside would make a simple solution for path construction in any era.



Figure 26. One of two sets of stone on edge marking a path in the area of stone extraction, scale 1m, looking SW



Figure 27. Remains of edging stones on path to pond, scale 1m, looking east

- 5.27 One path which cuts through a small part of the woods is shown on both the earliest OS map and the 1867 estate map (Figure 3). These maps show a well defined path running eastwards from the direction of Wood Head through a stone stile (Figure 28). The path, which appears to have been reduced in width, travels across the northern tip of the woods to the boundary where it turns and then runs almost due north up a flight of stone steps (Site 1) and on towards Calf Haugh. As this is the only path that is shown on the earliest mapping, it is possible that this may have originated in the medieval period as a route to link the scattered farmstead in the area. The stone steps are of a very simple construction and several are worn, though apparently none on both upper and lower faces. At the top end of the steps they appear to run under the adjacent dry stone wall which, if this is the case, would suggest they are older than the wall.



Figure 28. Stone stile along western boundary, showing narrowing of opening, scale 1m, looking NW

- 5.28 Closely associated with the various paths are the two 19th century gateways into the woods (Figures 22 & 23). These are built from ‘rustically’ finished stone piers with wrought iron gates. The entrance at the eastern end of the woods being closest to the hall is much more elaborate and still retains its curved coping stones running from either side along with fine examples of twisted wrought iron railings. The wrought iron gates survive in good condition with the eastern gate again being much more elaborate in its detail. Although a small amount of damage has occurred to parts of the gate, it is still largely complete with only a small amount of detail missing. It is felt that it would be worth undertaking any necessary repair and replacement of missing details to return this to close to its original state.

Well (Site 10)

- 5.29 The remains of the well (Figure 29) recorded do not appear to show a well as such, rather they appear to be more of a collection cistern fed by a spring. In Figure 29 two inlet pipes can be seen on the northern side. It is assumed that the iron one on the right is the earlier and the ceramic one is a later replacement when the iron one corroded. These then feed the water into the northern chamber, where any sediment is allowed to settle before the water overflows into the southern chamber where it can be collected. There is also a small overflow cut into the southern side to take away excess water. The presence of the well would seem somewhat at odds with there being a stream and pond nearby. But with the simple settling system it would appear that it was probably created to obtain fresh water, rather than collecting water that had drained through several pastures.



Figure 29. Stone 'well' to the west of the inlet stream, scale 1m, looking north

Building (Site 12)

- 5.30 The remains of a small stone-built barn are located on the northern boundary of the woods. The barn is of a very simple construction of coursed, roughly finished stone blocks under a stone tile roof (Figure 30). The building appears to be marked on the first editions of the OS and so would date to the 1840s or before. The barn lies outside the holding of Fish Pond Wood and as such would seem to be a simple field barn. However as one of the quarries lies *c.*20m or so to the south, it may be that the barn was used as a tool store or canteen.



Figure 30. Stone built barn on the northern boundary, looking east

The Woodland

- 5.31 The woodland that currently occupies the valley is a mixture of a number of old beech and sycamore trees, interspersed with large numbers of saplings (mainly silver birch) and much younger trees. In many areas there is a well developed understory of rhododendrons, bracken and nettles, which unfortunately obscures much of the ground thus potentially hiding further sites. With the area being a relatively steep sided valley it is unlikely that it would ever have been used for agriculture. It may well have been wooded, to a greater or lesser extent, since the end of the last ice age. This would mean that it was an ideal resource to exploit for the various woodland industries such timber production – charcoal burning and coppicing being the commonest. Each of these can leave distinctive traces in the landscape. In the case of timber production the dominant species was typically oak, but later other species were introduced (e.g. elm, fir) and ash was common (particularly coppiced) as it was used extensively for tool handles (Munby, 1991, 379 *et seq*). Coppicing of woodland will often leave a series of large telltale stumps with much smaller trees growing from them (Figure 31). Coppicing was important in the production of suitable timber not only for handles but such items as hurdles and the lighter elements of structure for timber buildings. Additionally coppicing was very important for the supply of wood for charcoal burning. Although charcoal burning is a somewhat ephemeral practice which does not often leave much evidence in the archaeological record, the fact that much of the site is on a slope means that if burning platforms were created they may still be visible (Kelley, 2002, 5 *et seq*). Within the woods there were three reasonably level areas that could have been

used for charcoal burning, though none of them displayed any distinctive features.



Figure 31. Possible coppice stump, scale 1m, looking north

- 5.32 Part of the northern boundary of the woods (Site 6) is formed not by the usual dry stone wall but by the remains of a hedge bank and ditch which from the early OS formed the course of the feeder stream to the pond (Figure 32). Examination of the earliest OS map appears to show this feeder stream running along the boundary and then turning north-west following the field boundaries. It may be due to pollution from the pasture that the stream appears to have been piped into an iron pipe which emerges a short distance inside the boundary of the woods. The 1867 estate map shows an unusual configuration for this north-western corner for which some evidence survived in the current field boundaries. One possible interpretation for this is that it was some form of sheep fold.



Figure 32. Remains of bank and ditch for feeder stream to pond, looking SE

The Potential for Buried Archaeology

5.33 In addition to the various sites recorded above, there is a potential for a buried archaeological site to survive within the woods. The types of sites that *may* survive below are:

- Charcoal burning platforms and possibly associated huts
- A ‘smoke house’ associated with processing fish from the pond (if it is a medieval fish pond)
- Depending upon the underlying geology there may be evidence for mineral prospecting or stone extraction
- In relation to the quarry there could be the remains of a haul-way for moving larger blocks of stone and possible a storage hut
- Evidence for mineral prospecting

Bewerley Grange Chapel (Site 4)

5.34 The assessment of the chapel found that the details recorded in the buildings listing and scheduling descriptions were at a detail that could not be added to at this level of investigation. However the site visit did record two particular items. The first of these was a number of graffiti in the east side of the window reveal of the eastern most window on the south side of the chapel (Figure 33). Starting at the top these read IG?; CL; several overlapping W; and TF. Graffiti was not obvious in any of the other exposed areas of the chapel but a more detailed investigation was not part of the report for this assessment. The second was that on the western gable end of the chapel there were a number of cracks in the stonework which could indicate that the eaves of the building may be spreading (Robert Thorniley-Walker *pers comm*). From the site visit it

is felt that additional detail into the construction and use of the chapel could be obtained by a systematic examination of the fabric of the building to record such evidence as tool marks in both stone and timber, construction methods, graffiti etc.



Figure 33. Graffiti in the window reveal on the south side of the chapel

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 From the results described above it can be seen that the landscape with Fish Pond Wood contains a wide variety of sites and evidence for human activity over a period of time. How long that period of time is depends upon what dates can be put upon the various features. The commonly held belief that the pond is monastic in origin seems to be tied to two things - firstly, the near by chapel and its connection Abbot Huby, and secondly, the Bewerley Grange being the point of tithes and thus slightly elevating its status. As described above, the location of the pond within the landscape and in Bewerley are both atypical of what would be expected for a monastic creation. The much more plausible interpretation, which is supported by the nature and dating of many of the other features in the woods, is that the pond was built by the elder John Yorke in the later 18th century and added to by his nephew in the 19th. The landscape that they created includes the dam, pond, island, boat house, jetty,

the S shaped track-way and the various walks around the woods. However lying within this picturesque landscape there is an older one.

- 6.2 This older landscape is one of widespread stone extraction. This was carried out as surface quarrying along the hillsides to the east and west of the pond (Sites 2 & 17) at its northern end and in the creation of a quarry lower down the slope (Site 15). Sites 2 & 17 are probably the oldest activity currently identified within the woods and probably date back to the start of the building of the houses in Bewerley and even the grange itself (16-17th century). It is quite likely that this was the source of stone for the construction of Bewerley Hall or at least elements of it as it lies only a short distance away and is on land owned by the family. The small quarry (Site 15) would appear to be a later creation as it is very different in nature to the two other stone extraction sites and may well have been created after the pond was formed as the other sites were no longer so readily accessible. Following this line of argument, it could be argued that this quarry was dug in order to supply the stone for the various alterations and additions to the hall recorded in Cooper (1988, 170 & 208). An examination of the rubbish dumped in the quarry may help resolve this further.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 As can be seen from the results of the survey discussed above, Fish Pond Woods contains a wide range of historical and archaeological sites which reflect the development of the woods, possibly over the last 600 or so years. The activity within the woods appears to fall into two broad phases. The earlier phase is the extraction of stone from across wide areas of the hillside (probably in the form of the removal of exposed crags), which was moved down slope along haul-ways for use in the local area. The second phase is the creation of a picturesque woodland landscape starting in the later 18th century and through in to the 19th century. It is this latter landscape that is more significant of the two as it shows a rare example of a planned, picturesque woodland of this early date and in an area not normally associated with this type of landscaping. The landscape is also important in that it is a tangible example of the philanthropy of the landed gentry of the 18th century.
- 7.2 In order to further understand these sites and confirm or refute the arguments set out above, the following is suggested as possible avenues of investigation/additional recording:

Ice House

- Detailed measured survey of the standing structure
- Historical research into others to try to date by style/materials use
- Historical research into documentary sources to try to date it

Boat House

- Investigate the pond edge for evidence for the remains of the other posts
- Possibly metal-detect the area and see if any metal artefacts survive (rowlocks for e.g.)

Quarry

- Excavate a trial trench through the rubbish dump to try to establish a date for quarry abandonment
- Detailed examination of quarry face to tool marks/extraction techniques
- Detailed examination of area around the quarry for traces of possible hut and haul-way

Surface Stone Extraction

- Detailed examination of the area for tool marks
- Detailed examination of the area for haul-ways and other routes

Possible Ha-Ha

- Excavate a trial section through ditch to determine depth and relationship with the wall

Paths

- Map regression of the various historic maps to establish the changes in the layout of the paths over time
- Detailed survey of the woods to locate and plot all the paths to determine which belong to the picturesque landscape and which belong to the stone extraction

Stone Gates

- Remove vegetation to expose surrounding stone and wrought iron work
- Undertake necessary repair and restoration work on the gate details

Woodland

- Detailed walk over survey during the winter when the vegetation is at a minimum
- By cataloguing the age, species and distribution of the tree species across the woods it may be possible to date some of the features within the landscape and determine if there is a relationship between specimen trees or groups of trees and the development of the landscape

Other

- For the completeness of the archaeological record scale drawings of the jetty and well before any restoration works should be considered

Chapel

- Systematic examination of the fabric of the building to record such evidence as tool marks in both stone and timber, graffiti etc.
- Examination of the parts of the chapel not available during the site visit
- Assess the possible eaves spread seen at the western gable end

- 7.3 As part of creating a lasting record of what survives, suitable resources should be provided to allow for the enhancement of the NYCC Heritage Section and Nidderdale AONB Historic Environment Records.

Brief Assessment of Sources Consulted

North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER)

The HER contained a modest amount of information on the woods, formed a base line of information. There were, however, a number of duplicate records due to community archaeology projects reusing data sources.

North Yorkshire Archives

Although only a single map could be located in the archives which showed the site (the 1867 estate map) this was useful in placing some of the features in context.

Nidderdale Museum Archives

The museum archives contained a total of eight historic images of which four are reproduced above and would seem to be Victorian or Edwardian in date. Of the remaining four one is from 1946 and the others are differently tinted versions of the ones reproduced here.

National Monuments Record: Listed Buildings

This provided the listed building details of the chapel

Historic Park and Gardens Study Group

The information from this group was primarily based around a collation of the information taken from the Nidderdale Museum Archives and historic OS mapping.

Overall it was found that the majority of the information of the site derived from the site visits.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr Peter Brambleby for allowing access to his land, Iain Mann of the AONB for inviting me to under take the project; Sally Childes also of the AONB for providing contacts etc.; Liz and John Barker and Margaret Hadley of the Nidderdale AONB Historic Parks and Gardens Study Group for the information on the historic parks and gardens; Alwyn ? and Joanna Moody of the Nidderdale Museum for access to their archives; to Dr David Johnson for casting his eye over the various boundary walls (and correcting my misunderstandings), John Tibbles for information on brick sizes and dates and lastly thanks to Jim Fraser for creating the various site plans.

Picture and mapping credits

The historic photographs and postcard images were provided by the Nidderdale AONB Historic Parks and Gardens Study Group from the collection of the Nidderdale Museum Society.

All modern mapping is © Crown copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey 100019628.

Historical mapping is © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2013).

Sources Consulted

- Alycock, NW and Hall, L (1994) *Fixtures and Fittings in Dated Houses 1567-1763*. Council for British Archaeology, Practical Handbook in Archaeology 11. York.
- Blair J and Ramsey N (eds) (1991) *English Medieval Industries*. Hambleton Press. London.
- Buglass, J (2010) *Bladserby Park, Rainton, North Yorkshire. Archaeological Survey*. Unpublished Contractors Report.
- Buglass, J (2011) *Lime Kiln and Park Pale, Ravensworh, North Yorkshire. Archaeological Survey*. Unpublished Contractors Report.
- Buglass J & Pearson M (in prep – 2013) *Austwick Hall, Near Settle, Yorkshire: An Archaeological Survey of a Woodland Landscape*. For The Journal of Garden History.
- Cale, K (1998) Middle Tongue Bewerley North Yorkshire. Archaeological Landscape Assessment for the Council for the Protection of Rural England.
- Cooper AA (1988) *Yorke Country*. Published by the author.
- Foard, G (2001) *Medieval Woodland, Agriculture and Industry in Rockingham Forest, Northamptonshire*. Medieval Archaeology
- Historic Parks & Gardens Group (2008) *Historic Parks & Gardens in Nidderdale. Summary of Findings 2006-8*. Unpublished Heritage Group Study.
- Jennings, B (ed) (1992) *A History of Nidderdale*. Nidderdale History Group, Pateley Bridge.
- Kelley, DW (2002) *Charcoal and Charcoal Burning*. Shire Publications Ltd. Princes Risborough.
- Lancaster University Archaeology Unit (2000) *Nidderdale AONB North Yorkshire. Archaeological Survey Report*. Unpublished contractors report.
- Loudon JC (1822) *An Encyclopaedia of Gardening; Comprising the Theory and Practice of Horticulture, Floriculture and Landscape-Gardening*. Longman. London.
- Loudon JC (1830) *A Manual of Cottage Gardening, Husbandry and Architecture*. Spottiswoode. London.
- McDonnell, J (1981) *Inland Fisheries in Medieval Yorkshire 1066-1300*. Borthwick Papers No. 60. Borthwick Institute of Historical Research. University of York.
- Mills A D (1998) *Dictionary of English Place Names*. Oxford University Press

- Munby, J (1991) *Wood in English Medieval Industries* Blair and Ramsey (eds)
- Pearson M (2013) *Austwick Hall, Near Settle, Yorkshire: A Victorian Gentleman's Garden*. Garden History Volume 40, No. 1. The Garden History Society.
- Speight, H (1894) *Nidderdale and the Garden of the Nidd. A Yorkshire Rhineland. Being a Complete Account, Historical, Scientific and Descriptive of the Beautiful Valley of the Nidd*. Elliot Stock, London.

Maps

- 1867 *Plan of Eagle Hall, Greenhow Hill, Low Wood and Hardcastle Estates Situated in the Township of Bewerley nr Pateley Bridge in the Parish of Ripon in the County of York*. By GH Stratford, Pateley Bridge. NYCC Archives TD109 (MIC 3276/79-82)
- 1849 Ordnance Survey 6" series (1st edition)
- 1890 Ordnance Survey 6" series (2nd edition)
- 1908 Ordnance Survey 25" series (1st edition)
- 1977 Institute of Geological Sciences: *Geological Survey Ten-Mile Map, South Sheet, Quaternary*. British Geological Survey
- 2001 *Geological Survey 1:625,000 Map South Sheet Solid Geology*. British Geological Survey
- 1983 *Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1 Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales*. Lawes Agricultural Trust, Harpenden

www.northyorks.gov.uk/unnetie

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/research

www.bewerleypc.org.uk

APPENDIX I

LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

First listed 06.03.1967; Grade II*

Schoolhouse and chapel range, now private house and chapel. Early C16 by and for monks of Fountains Abbey with extension and alteration 1679 by Samuel and Henry Taylor for Lady Yorke and restoration early-mid C19. Ashlar and coursed squared gritstone, graduated stone slate roof. A long south-facing range composed of single-storey, 2-bay chapel with porch at east (right) end and 3-bay single-storey house with attic storey on left. Chapel: plinth. Probably C19 porch reusing C16 stone for plinth and gable coping; inner door C20 in new opening with sawn-stone lintel. The porch overlies a 2-light recessed cavetto-moulded mullion window with 4-centred arched heads to lights and hoodmould. 3-light window to right, two windows of 2 lights on north side and a 3-light east window, all similar in style. Coping and rebuilt bellcote to right gable. Relief carvings: south side - initials M H (Marmaduke Huby) between windows; east side - 'SOLI DEO HONOR ET GLORIA' above east window (motto of Marmaduke Huby). House: on right a C20 glazed door in deeply chamfered surround with shallow 4-centred arch and hoodmould. To left: two 5-light recessed-chamfered mullion windows with continuous hoodmould. Bulbous kneeler and gable coping to left; end stacks. Rear: the house slightly deeper than the chapel, with doorway on left, two 2-light recessed-chamfered mullion windows centre and taller 3-light mullioned window right. Left return: three C19 mullion windows: one a cross window and two of 2 lights. Interior not inspected at resurvey. The chapel belonged to a grange of Fountains Abbey of which Marmaduke Huby was Abbot 1494-1526. In 1679 it was converted to a school and schoolhouse and continued to be so used, with services on Sundays, into the C19. By 1894 the chapel was a gardener's store. The chapel is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. W Grainge, *Nidderdale* (1893) p 54. B Jennings, *A History of Nidderdale* (1967) p 103. H Speight, *Nidderdale* (1894) p 452.
Listing NGR: SE1599164820

John Buglass Archaeological Services
Rosebank
Newby Wiske
North Yorkshire
DL7 9EX

Tel: 01609 773764 Mobile: 07903 867 160
Email: johnbuglass@yahoo.com Web: www.jbasarchaeology.co.uk