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SURVEY REPORT

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**JERVAULX ABBEY
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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SAM No: N YORKS 7**

Surveyed May 1998 - Jan 1999
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1. INTRODUCTION

The ruins of the church and claustral ranges (the conventual buildings) of the medieval Cistercian abbey of Jervaulx (NMR No. SE 18 NE 1) are situated in Wensleydale, North Yorkshire, close to the north-west corner of Jervaulx Park which was laid out around them in the early-19th century. The ruins themselves are a scheduled ancient monument, but are surrounded by dense and complex earthworks never previously recorded in detail. This report presents the results of an archaeological survey of these earthworks carried out by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) between May 1998 and January 1999. The survey, which encompassed a total of some 33ha at the western end of the Park, and included the production of a new plan of the ruins (although without any fresh analysis of the fabric or constructional history of the abbey) was undertaken for management purposes at the request of English Heritage.

The survey has identified for the first time the likely area of the abbey precinct, and has also produced evidence for the sites of a number of buildings, fishponds, roads and other features which are likely to be contemporary with it. In so doing, it has called into question the hitherto accepted wisdom that ruins incorporated into a 19th-century building now known as 'The Old Gatehouse' are in fact those of the main gatehouse of the abbey. The survey has also shown that while the conventional identification of the site of the abbey mill at the northern edge of the Park is in all likelihood correct, the area has been heavily landscaped which must cast some doubt over whether the extant ruins are those of the medieval mill rather than a romantic feature contemporary with the later landscaping.

The survey has also produced evidence for features pre- and post-dating the abbey. The earliest is a series of denuded lynchets probably forming part of a rectilinear field system of prehistoric or Romano-British date, succeeded in the century or so before the foundation of the abbey in 1156 by a system of strip lynchets, ridge-and-furrow ploughing and local roads. Features later than the abbey include the remains - or at least sites - of a number of post-medieval tenanted farm complexes together with their associated access roads and field boundaries, succeeded in turn by features contemporary with the laying out of Jervaulx Park in the early-19th century. Ten small earthwork enclosures have also been found which indicate that in the Second World War, Jervaulx Park was used for ammunition storage by the Royal Air Force.

However, perhaps the chief discovery has been the identification by the survey of the earthwork remains of a previously unrecognised post-Dissolution grand house and garden overlying the site of the abbey and its precinct. Although no research has been undertaken to look for surviving documentary evidence, what little evidence is readily available suggests that both house and garden were the creation of Matthew, Earl of Lennox, between 1544 and 1577, and/or his heir, James VI of Scotland, the future James I of England. In any event, although conceived on a grand scale - the formal element alone of the gardens covers at least 8ha and includes water features, pavilions and gazebos - the house and gardens lasted no more than 80 years, and can be shown to have been abandoned before 1627.

2. SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND LAND USE

Jervaulx is now a small hamlet (National Grid Reference SE 169 857) situated respectively some 5km south-east and 7km north-west of the historic small market towns of Middleham and Masham in Wensleydale, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1). Below Middleham, Wensleydale runs generally in a south-easterly direction, but at Jervaulx it turns and for a few kilometres heads almost due east. The dale is heavily glaciated, and here consists of a broad alluviated floodplain up to 1km wide with fairly gently sloping valley sides, although to the south these later steepen as they rise up onto high moorland at over 300m above Ordnance Datum.

The ruins of the conventual buildings of Jervaulx Abbey lie on the southern side of the dale at SE 1717 8575 within what is now Jervaulx Park. They are situated at *c* 100m above OD almost in the bottom of the valley just above the floodplain of the River Ure. The underlying geology is Carboniferous limestone, comprising Namurian rocks of Millstone Grit facies, but these are masked in the valley bottom by alluvium and on the dale sides by substantial drift deposits of glacial origin (British Geological Survey 1985a; 1985b). The conventual buildings lie immediately south of a sinuous glacial ridge (esker) which marks the transition from valley-floor alluvium to dale-side drift deposits. Further east within the modern Park this broadens out into an area of rounded hills called locally the Wind Hills. In consequence the drainage pattern within the Park is impeded. Water from a series of springs at *c* 110m above OD on the gently-rising dale side to the south of the ruins seems originally to have drained north-eastwards into the Ure via a small break between the esker and the Wind Hills. The head of a small valley lies in the extreme south-west corner of the Park, but in the absence of any visible remnant stream channel running from it through the area behind the esker, the probability is that the lowest-lying ground here would formerly have been bog. These areas are today underdrained, but are still prone to waterlogging after heavy rain. The small valley was dammed by the abbey, which used the springs as its principal water supply (see section 6.2.4 below). They are now the source of the water supply to the majority of properties within the hamlet of Jervaulx.

After the dissolution of the abbey in 1537, the abbey buildings and surrounding area were by 1627 divided up into a series of rented farms and closes. At the beginning of the 19th century, however, the estate was re-integrated and laid out as the present parkland with the buildings at its north-west corner forming the residence and estate offices for the then owner, Lord Ailesbury, and his steward. It was at this time that the ha-ha enclosing the main abbey ruins was created. The estate has changed hands twice since, and latterly Jervaulx Hall functioned as a hotel. The Hall has subsequently been subdivided and sold off, and together with a strip of land along the north edge of the Park now forms three private residences known as Jervaulx Hall, The Old Hall, and The Old Estate Yard, all in separate ownerships. The former estate office, alias The Monastery/Old Gatehouse, is also now in separate private ownership. The main abbey ruins are open to the public, whilst the remainder of the Park is rented out as pasture for sheep, cattle and horses.

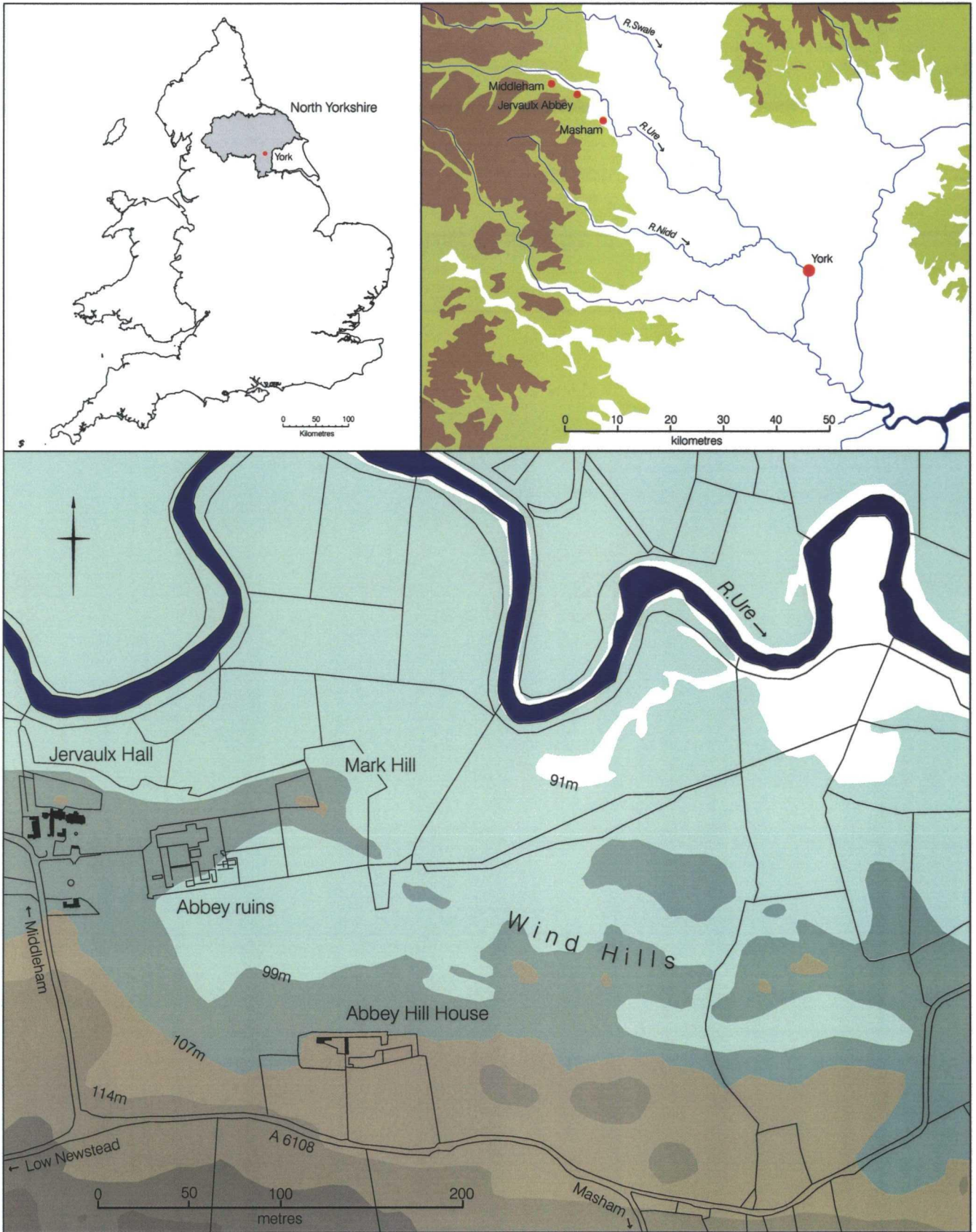


Figure 1. The location of Jervaulx Abbey.

3. BACKGROUND TO SURVEY

In early 1997 English Heritage asked the Newcastle upon Tyne office of the RCHME to survey the ruins of the conventual buildings of Jervaulx Abbey together with the earthworks surrounding them in what is now Jervaulx Park. The ruins, the site of the alleged abbey mill to the north, land around a house to the west known as The Old Gatehouse (which incorporates medieval fabric), plus a small part of the earthworks immediately around the main conventual area are a Scheduled Ancient Monument, county number North Yorkshire 7 (English Heritage 1992; 1996, 40), while the abbey ruins and The Old Gatehouse are also Grade I listed buildings (DoE 1985, 4-5). The survey was primarily needed to assist in the conservation and management of these remains, but would also tie in with proposals to publish a monograph on the site containing the results of an on-going English Heritage programme to record and consolidate the ruins allied with research into the site's documentary history. Following delays caused by negotiations over the precise area and scale of survey, and by the closure of the RCHME's Newcastle office, the work was eventually carried out in stages between May 1998 and January 1999 by archaeology staff from the RCHME's York office.

The objectives and methodology of the survey were agreed by the RCHME and English Heritage in a project design drawn up before work started (Ainsworth 1998). This may be summarised as follows: first, all features within the area currently open to the public (*ie* the main conventual ruins) plus an additional area to the north around the remains of the alleged mill were to be surveyed at 1:500. However, although the RCHME would record and interpret earthworks in this area, the standing fabric of the ruins would be recorded in plan only with no attempt to re-analyse or comment upon the building sequence; second, the remainder of the western end of Jervaulx Park (which before work commenced was thought probably corresponded to the area of the original monastic precinct) was to be surveyed at the smaller scale of 1:1000. Once survey was underway, however, the RCHME expanded slightly the originally agreed area to north and east to include newly-recognised features which were important to a fuller understanding of the nature and history of the precinct area, whilst a small paddock in the south-east corner was excluded since it was found to belong to the owners of Abbey Hill House.

The results of the 1:500 survey have been reduced and where necessary simplified to produce a composite plan at 1:1000 of the whole area. The 1:500 survey exists as a digital file, but the 1:1000 plan is hand drawn and exists as hard copy only.

4. HISTORY OF RESEARCH

Before the present RCHME survey, archaeological investigation of Jervaulx Abbey has focused almost exclusively on the ruins of the conventual buildings, with very little attempt to examine the wider monastic precinct within which these ruins lie.

Jervaulx holds an important place in the history of monastic archaeology, for it was one of the first ruined abbeys to be cleared of fallen masonry and to have its conventual ground plan properly revealed. In 1804 John Claridge, steward to the then owner, the Earl of Ailesbury, persuaded his employer to convert the old hall at Jervaulx into an occasional residence and to make Jervaulx the administrative centre of the Ailesbury estates in western Yorkshire. The growing interest of Lord Ailesbury in his Jervaulx property led him to authorise the clearance of the ruins between 1805 and 1807. The work was carried out by Claridge, and although not up to the standards of modern archaeology, was nevertheless exceptional when judged against the standards of the day for the detail of the records that were made (Coppack 1990, 18-19; Davison 1998). These included a plan of the church showing the position of *in situ* floor tiles, a later copy of which survives in the Yorkshire Museum (Coppack 1990, colour plate 8).

A century later in 1905 further excavations were carried out, and a complete plan and account of the surviving masonry published (Hope and Brakspear 1911). However, monastic archaeology at this time was still primarily concerned with establishing the conventual ground plan: digging was only directed toward locating buried walls, and did not attempt to recover contextual or stratigraphic information relating to the use of buildings or economic functioning and development of the site. Fragmentary remains of additional buildings were unearthed along the southern and western sides of the ruins, cut through by the 19th-century ha-ha. Unsuccessful efforts were made to trace a continuation to one of these truncated buildings - a possible kitchen block discovered at a skew angle south of the monks' reredorter or latrines (*ibid.*, 329) - but in the main investigation seems to have been confined to within the area of the ha-ha.

The published account deals in a very general way with other structures that might once have stood away from the conventual area, and mentions only in passing that there are fragments of two medieval buildings still standing within the presumed area of the precinct at Jervaulx. The authors offer no suggestion for the function of one of these whose ruins are incorporated within a later building then used as the estate office (alias The Monastery/Old Gatehouse), but relate the local tradition of the other set of ruins to the north of the conventual area being those of the abbey mill (*ibid.*, 308-9). The former has subsequently been variously identified as a gatehouse, first by Pevsner (1966, 205) but followed in this by the Historic Buildings Register (DoE 1985, 5), or as a guesthouse (quoted dubiously by Coppack in Robinson 1998, 129). The tradition of the latter ruin being the remains of the abbey mill has been frequently repeated in print as if proven fact, but seemingly without any attempt to verify the ascription by actual examination of the physical evidence (*eg* Page 1914, 280-1; Luckhurst *nd.*, 18; Coppack in Robinson 1998, 129).

Before the present survey, the precise boundaries of the precinct at Jervaulx were unknown. Hope and Brakspear stated that there was no surviving trace of the

boundary wall or bank which would normally be expected, but thought that the sharp right-angled turn in the course of the modern A6108 road at the south-west corner of the Park (Fig. 1) was caused by the former presence of such a feature. They further suggested that the outer gateway into the precinct originally stood at c SE 1693 8574 on the site of the modern western entrance into the Park (1911, 308). Later commentators have speculated that the area of the precinct more or less corresponds to the area of the later Jervaulx Park: Davison (1998) suggests it was as large as the precinct of Fountains Abbey - 2km by 1km - while Coppack (in Robinson 1998, 129) merely states that the 'whole of the precinct survives as earthworks in the parkland surrounding the abbey ruins.'

The standing fabric of the conventual ruins is currently being recorded by the Lancaster Archaeological Unit on behalf of English Heritage in advance of consolidation.

5. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Jervaulx Abbey was originally founded at Fors in Wensleydale in 1145 on land donated to a community of Savigniac monks by Acarius fitz Bardolph. The grant was confirmed by Acarius' overlord, Alan, Earl of Brittany and Richmond. However, the foundation seems to have been made without the approval of the abbot of Savigny, and by 1149 the fledgling community had transferred to the Cistercian order as a daughter house of Byland Abbey. The initial site, lying in the upper reaches of Wensleydale close to Askrigg at over 200m above OD, soon proved unsatisfactory, and in 1154 the failure of the harvest forced the monks to disperse temporarily to the abbeys of Byland and Furness. Two years later they were back in Wensleydale, but at a new site lower down the valley granted to them by Conan, son of Earl Alan. It is probable that in the intervening period the abbey's lay brothers had already begun the erection of buildings at the new site ready for the monks' return. The new site, which became known as Joreval or Jervaulx after its situation in the valley of the River Ure (formerly Jore), was to be home to the community for the next 381 years (Burton 1991; Hope and Brakspear 1911, 303-4; Coppack in Robinson 1998, 128).

Already by the mid- to late-12th century the Cistercian order had acquired a reputation as depopulators. This was on two counts: first, Cistercian statute required abbeys to be sited in remote areas away from the hustle and temptations of everyday life, sometimes necessitating the physical removal of existing settlements; while secondly, the Cistercians had a direct labour force of lay brothers to work their estates, thereby potentially displacing any original non-monastic population from their land and depriving them of their means of economic livelihood. However, there is no documentary evidence that any settlement was already in existence at Jervaulx in the mid-12th century, and it has been suggested that parts of Wensleydale were still lying uncultivated at this time as a result of William I's Harrowing of the North over 80 years earlier (Donkin 1960; 1978, 41 and 57).

Few of the abbey's own records survive, probably because its cartulary and other documents were amongst those transferred to the keeping of the Council of the North after the Dissolution. These were kept by the Council in a tower on the precinct wall of York Abbey, and subsequently perished along with the tower in the Parliamentary siege of York in 1644 (Coppack 1990, 15). However, something of the abbey's economic interests are known from a variety of other sources. By the second half of the 13th century it had acquired at least sixteen vaccaries (cattle ranches) spread through Wensleydale and the Forest of Richmond, and possessed several thousand sheep, up to 1800 of which could be pastured in Wensleydale 'south of the Ure' alone (Donkin 1978, 76 and 96); Davison (1998) has suggested that in the early-14th century the size of the sheep flock may even have been in excess of 10,000 animals. The abbey was famed for the quality of the horses it reared (Moorhouse 1989, 48), and by 1290 also had the right to the free warrening of rabbits within East Witton (Page 1914, 285). It also had interests in the mining and smelting of iron ore, and in salt production (Lekai 1977, 322-3). In 1307 it was granted the right to a weekly market and twice-yearly fair at East Witton (Page 1914, 285). The abbey is said to have possessed a watermill adjoining the precinct, and in 1535 is also recorded as possessing a fulling mill at East Witton (*ibid*, 281 and 285).

In 1380-1 sixteen monks and two lay brothers are recorded, but by the second half of the 14th century lay-brother numbers were in decline at all Cistercian abbeys for a variety of demographic, economic and cultural reasons and this figure must seriously under-represent the size of the lay-brother community in the first 200 years of Jervaulx's existence. In 1537 there were said to be 25 or 26 monks (Knowles and Hadcock 1971, 120). In 1535 the gross annual income of the house was £455 10s 5d, although its clear revenue was only £234 18s 5d (Page 1913, 141).

Jervaulx Abbey was suppressed in 1537 after Abbot Sedbergh's attainder for involvement in the Pilgrimage of Grace. The buildings were stripped of anything of value, particularly their roof lead, the church was blown up, and the site leased to one Lancelot Harrison, Yeoman of the Guard, for 21 years at £12 a year. In 1544 the estate was granted instead to Matthew, Earl of Lennox, and his wife, Margaret, who held it until the latter's death in 1577. Their son, Lord Darnley, had pre-deceased them, and Jervaulx reverted to the English Crown during the minority of Darnley's heir, the future James VI of Scotland, James I of England. James succeeded to his title before 1600, and in 1603 bestowed the estate on Sir Edward Bruce, first Lord Kinloss, Scots Ambassador to the Court of St James. Edward died in 1611, and was succeeded by his son, also Edward, second Lord Kinloss. Two years later Edward was killed in a duel, and was succeeded by his younger brother, Thomas, who in 1633 was created Earl of Elgin. In 1663, Thomas died, and was succeeded by his son, Robert, the second Earl of Elgin, first Earl of Ailesbury. The latter title became extinct in 1746-7 when the third Earl died without male issue, but was revived for descendants of his sister's marriage to George Brudenell, third Earl of Cardigan, who had adopted the family name Brudenell Bruce. In 1746, Thomas Brudenell Bruce, was created fourth Earl of Ailesbury, and succeeded to his uncle's estates (Hope and Brakspear 1911, 305-7; Page 1914, 284; Innes-Smith 1972, 23-4).

Jervaulx seems to have been one of the Bruce family's lesser estates at this time. Already in 1627 a map produced by William Senior for Thomas, Lord Bruce, before he was created Earl of Elgin, shows it subdivided into a number of closes and rented out (North Yorkshire County Records Office ZJX 10/1/4 - here partly reproduced as Fig. 7). A series of later estate maps (NYCRO, MIC 1930 ZJX 10/10 and MIC 1931 ZJX 10/73 and 76 - the latter two reproduced here as Fig. 8 and Fig. 9) show that this remained the case with minor alterations to close boundaries until the very early years of the 19th century. In 1804, however, John Claridge, Lord Ailesbury's agent, persuaded his employer to convert the old hall at Jervaulx into an occasional residence and also to make it the administrative centre of the west division of the Ailesbury Yorkshire estates. The following year the Earl authorised the clearance of the ruins, and in 1807 a park was laid out around the old hall to designs by Robert Menzies (NYCRO, MIC 1930 ZJX 4/31, reproduced here as Fig. 10) (Davison 1998, and *in litt*). Thomas, Earl of Ailesbury died in 1814. His son, the fifth Earl, was raised to the rank of Marquess of Ailesbury in 1821, and died in 1856. His son, the second Marquess, altered and modernised the existing Jervaulx Hall around 1857-8, with the western range relegated to form the service block. The third Marquess died in 1886, and the following year the estate was sold to Samuel Cunliffe-Lister, later first Lord Masham of Swinton (Page 1914, 284; Innes-Smith 1972, 24).

6. THE EARTHWORKS: CATALOGUE AND DESCRIPTION

The plan of the earthworks and other features in the western end of Jervaulx Park as recorded by the RCHME is shown in Fig. 12. For the purposes of analysis and description, the principal archaeological elements have been given feature numbers, and assigned to one of seven general periods. A catalogue of these features is given below, arranged in approximate chronological order starting with the earliest. Features assigned to each period are numbered and highlighted on the relevant phase diagram (Figs. 13 to 19), while features of an earlier or later period mentioned in passing are cross-referenced in both the text and figures.

Phasing is in the main based on stratigraphical relationships observed between earthwork features during the course of survey. However, while such observations provide firm evidence for the relative ages of features, they cannot in themselves date individual features to a precise period. In the absence of excavation to recover artefactual or other chronometric evidence, the ascription of earthworks to particular periods has been based on a combination of morphology and context in the wider landscape, aided by judicious use of available documentary and historical cartographic sources. Even so, with some features the phasing offered can only be a best guess, and where there is uncertainty over the age of a feature this is indicated in the text.

6.1 Period 1: The landscape pre c 1156 (Fig. 13)

6.1.1 The rectilinear field system (FS1)

The rising ground along the western and southern edges of Jervaulx Park has a somewhat stepped profile, although the riser to each step is now graded by cultivation. The risers run parallel to each other in a broadly west-north-west to east-south-east direction in line with the underlying topography, suggesting that they may be at least in part the product of the near-horizontal angle of bedding of the underlying solid geology (British Geological Survey 1985a). However, the risers are associated with a number of other scarps of similar form running almost at right angles to them so as to form an irregular chequerboard pattern which cannot be so readily explained away by reference to the geology. The evidence of these cross scarps supports an alternative interpretation for all the features as the remnants of plough lynchets which formed along the boundaries of an early field system, and which themselves have been graded by subsequent ploughing. In every case where there is an observable stratigraphical relationship between one of the putative boundaries and another earthwork feature, the former always underlies and is therefore demonstrably earlier. However, apart from the observation that the field system also pre-dates the pre-monastic road pattern (section 6.1.2 below), there is no firm evidence for its actual date which will be discussed further in section 7 below.

As expected the boundaries of the field system are most apparent on the rising ground - exactly where plough lynchets will develop most strongly - and fade out on the more level ground to the north behind the esker. It is impossible now to be certain how much

further the field system originally extended due to disturbance in later periods, but the likelihood is that it did not cover a much larger area behind the esker since, before the foundation of the abbey, this is likely to have been an area of impeded drainage (section 2 above).

6.1.2 The pre-monastic road pattern (TR1-TR5)

There is evidence for a number of roads or tracks within the area surveyed. Of these, five (TR1-TR5) appear to predate the establishment of the abbey at Jervaulx whilst at the same time being later than the rectilinear field system, FS1 (section 6.1.1 above).

TR1 would seem to represent an earlier course of the Middleham to Masham road (the modern A6108) before it was diverted into its present angular route around the outside of Jervaulx Park. Approaching from the west, the road's initial course is no longer traceable on the surface within the survey area, although it probably entered the Park in the vicinity of the present west entrance. It would then have swung sharply south to keep to the higher ground, and it is here that the line of the old road survives (Fig. 2)



*Figure 2.
View along track
TR1/leat WF2
looking north
towards The Old
Gatehouse (NMR
AA99/03556).*

reused by the monks as the route for an aqueduct or leat bringing water to the conventual buildings from the reservoir in the south-west corner of the monastic precinct (WF2 and WF1, section 6.2.4 below). The road bed re-emerges as a slight hollow-way from beneath the leat just north of the reservoir, and swings away east in front of the reservoir dam (DM1, section 6.2.4 below) where a stretch of it seems to have been reused at a later date as local access to a complex of buildings, BC10, situated on its north side (section 6.2.2 below). The road line is truncated at this point by a late field boundary, FB5 (section 6.4.3 below), but formerly continued to the east where its original course now lies buried beneath a large negative lynchet that developed on the downhill side of a furlong of ridge-and-furrow ploughing, PF3 (section 6.4.3 below). The existence of a flat terrace at the foot of the lynchet, raises the possibility that the road was still in use when the lynchet formed and was re-routed

to the north slightly to pass around the obstacle; alternatively this terrace is a product of ploughing within, or local access to, the field below the lynchet. East of another late field boundary, FB6 (section 6.4.3 below), however, the original line of the track re-emerges before being overlain by the modern wall separating Jervaulx Park from lands belonging to Abbey Hill House to the east, and passing out of the survey area.

Track TR2 runs south-west to north-east across the survey area. In the extreme south-west its course is poorly preserved, but there is some indication that it may have originally skirted the northern side and head of the small valley to connect with the present road to Low Newstead, which now terminates at the junction with the A6108 outside the south-west corner of the Park (Fig. 1): a hollow-way clearly emerges from beneath the east side of the tail of the dam DM1, and is therefore earlier than the dam, and continues north-eastwards across TR1 towards the gap in the glacial moraine between the esker and the Wind Hills. In this section of its course it is very clearly crossed by and buried beneath another road, TR6, which is probably a monastic replacement for TR1 (section 6.2.3 below). It is also overlain by the present metalled road through the Park and by a small embanked enclosure of 20th-century date (AS4, section 6.6.1 below). North-east of the metalled road, its course is very straight suggesting that at some time it has been realigned; if this is correct then the realignment pre-dates the mid-16th century for it is truncated by a post-Dissolution formal garden compartment, GC8 (section 6.3.2 below). Although there is now no evidence for the course of the road re-emerging beyond GC8, its projected line heads almost directly for the gap between the esker and the Wind Hills suggesting it originally provided access out onto the floodplain of the Ure.

Track TR3 is a poorly-surviving route running west to east just inside the southern edge of the survey area. It is best preserved in the west where a short length of shallow but definite hollow-way runs along the southern lip of the small valley which contains the monastic reservoir in the south-west corner of the Park. The hollow-way is truncated by a later field boundary, FB4 (section 6.4.3 below), and its original onward course is now uncertain; however, at the eastern limit of the survey area a short length of scarp parallel with the rear face of the monastic precinct bank, BF1 (section 6.2.1 below), is suggestive of a terrace-way continuing eastwards. If so, its route between these two points has been obscured by the construction of the monastic precinct boundary, and by later ridge-and-furrow ploughing, PF3 (section 6.4.3 below), between the precinct boundary and track TR1.

Track TR4 is a short length of hollow-way running south from TR1 and seemingly designed to connect with track TR3, although if so, the southern half of its course has been reused and recut by the later field boundary, FB4 (section 6.4.3 below). Track TR5 comprises a series of braided hollow-ways running between TR1 and TR4 via a possible house site, BC1 (section 6.1.3 below).

6.1.3 Building complexes (BC1)

BC1 is a small platform cut into a tongue of higher land projecting out over the rising ground along the south side of the survey area (Fig. 3). It is connected to TR1 to the north, and to TR4 and the springs along the side of the small valley to the west, by a series of small interlinked hollow-ways, TR5 (section 6.1.2 above). Although the



Figure 3. View across the monastic reservoir WF1, showing the dam DM1 (centre left) and to its right garden feature GS16 with building platform BC1 visible in the distance (NMR AA99/03571).

platform could be simply a small yard, perhaps for animals, the intensity of routes leading to it, especially connecting it with the adjacent water supply, suggests it is more likely to be the site of a domestic building contemporary with the period when TR1 and TR4 were in use.

6.1.4 Plough furlongs (PF1-PF2)

Two plough furlongs, PF1 and PF2, both appear to be much earlier than any of the other ridge-and-furrow recorded during the survey. PF1 consists of a series of scarps, each up to *c* 0.3m high, running broadly parallel to one another north to south across the rising ground in the south-west corner of the Park. The scarps are in fact the risers of incipient strip lynchets formed by ploughing across the slope rather than up and down - a style of ploughing widely practised in hilly areas in medieval times, and whose results are still visible all over Wensleydale today. The second plough furlong, PF2, lies on very gently-sloping ground below Mark Hill in the north-east. It comprises fragments of five ridges, spaced between 7m and 15m apart, although given the slight nature of the ridges and the fact that the area is today rough pasture, it is possible that intervening ridges were not recognised during survey. Such broadly-spaced ploughing is generally more typical of the medieval period, and a medieval date for PF2 is supported by the observation that the southernmost plough ridge seems truncated by a feature, GS2, here thought to be part of the 16th-century gardens (section 6.3.2 below). However, since PF1 and PF2 both lie within the area suggested below (section 6.2.1) as that of the monastic precinct (and it is a moot point whether monastic arable fields would be likely in such a location), both furlongs may well date to before the refoundation of Jervaulx Abbey in 1156.

6.2 Period 2: Jervaulx Abbey, *c* 1156-1537 (Fig. 14)

6.2.1 Boundary features (BF1)

A bank, BF1, traceable along almost the entire length of the western, southern and eastern sides of the survey area, but more discontinuously in the north, appears to represent the original boundary of the monastic precinct. It is heavily degraded, but enough survives to suggest that it was originally a substantial feature. Except possibly in the north, there is no suggestion that a wall ever surmounted the bank. In the east there is evidence for what may be an external ditch, or perhaps more likely, a perimeter road, TR9 (section 6.2.3 below).

The bank does not survive in the north-west corner of the survey area, but emerges in the parkland south of The Old Estate Yard as a ploughed-down swelling *c* 5m wide and up to 0.2m high running just inside and parallel to the present Park wall. It seems likely that a 60m length of bank, up to 10m wide and 0.5m high, which runs from west to east either side of the metalled road through the Park, is a better-preserved part of the same feature, but if so the connection between the two lengths of bank has been destroyed by ploughing. It is possible that this detached length of bank marks the south side of an entrance passage into the precinct, with gatehouses situated at either end. However, no earthwork evidence survives either for the north side of such a passage or for the foundations of a gatehouse.

South of The Old Gatehouse the precinct bank gradually gains more substance as it ascends the hillside, but is heavily planted with parkland trees and is in places scarred by tree holes and other damage. A slight fall-in towards the foot of the bank from the modern Park wall is more likely to relate to the latter's construction than be the outer lip of an external ditch contemporary with the bank. The course of the bank has been largely destroyed as it crosses the head of the small valley at the south-west corner of the Park, probably as a result of the construction of an embankment to carry the modern A6108. Its rear face picks up immediately beyond the head of the valley and turns sharply east, but the present Park wall now runs along the top of the bank rather than at its foot, and there is no corresponding drop-off down to the road outside the wall to mark the bank's outer face, suggesting that the surface of the modern road has been raised. The height of the inner face of the bank is frequently in excess of 1m.

Mid-way along the southern side of the survey area, the bank is crossed by the present wall dividing Jervaulx Park from Abbey Hill House and passes beyond the area of survey, although its course can be traced continuing through the grounds of Abbey Hill on aerial photographs (*eg* RAF 1945). It re-emerges within the eastern part of the survey area as a low, flat-topped bank, *c* 7m-8m wide and up to 0.5m high. A shallow, ploughed hollow is traceable along its eastern side, and while it might be an external ditch, is more likely to be a perimeter road (see TR9, section 6.2.3 below). Bank and perimeter road are cut through by a series of later tracks - TR19 (section 6.5.5 below) and the present metalled road through the Park - with the bank subsequently used as an embankment to carry the modern track that leaves the metalled road and heads northwards past the icehouse (BC21, section 6.5.2 below). Bank and perimeter road fade out on the ground as they approach the icehouse - the area was heavily altered by later activity connected with the layout of gardens in the 16th century (section 6.3.2 below) - but it is clear that the bank would originally have continued on to pass through a narrow gap between the end of the esker and start of the Wind Hills. This is an obvious place to site a gate giving access from the precinct to the Ure floodplain to the north. Although there is no earthwork evidence for the existence of such a gate, its former presence and indeed location is suggested by a track, TR8 (section 6.2.3 below), which approaches just this spot from the west although now overlain by the 16th-century gardens before it reaches the precinct bank (see section 6.3.2 below).

North of the icehouse the modern track follows a wide terrace cut into the side of the esker. After about 75m the terrace swings away uphill to the north-west, and the modern track drops down its outer face to pass out onto the floodplain of the Ure. A low, narrow bank at the rear of this terrace as it proceeds uphill would seem to represent the continuation of the precinct boundary, but the different earthwork form of this feature - when compared to BF1 elsewhere - suggests that in this stretch the precinct may have been delimited by a stone wall rather than earthen bank. Another bank, BF2, at the front of the terrace is more definitely a ruined wall but of a later period (section 6.3.3 below). The precinct boundary continues around the northern side of Mark Hill, after which its course is lost in later landscaping. A short stretch of broad, low bank at the foot of the esker may be part of the precinct boundary, and if so suggests that it veered north down onto the floodplain to include the alleged site of the abbey mill, BC3 (section 6.2.2 below), within its circuit. But the evidence of this short stretch of bank is inconclusive, and the precinct boundary may equally have continued back east along the top of the esker.

6.2.2 Building complexes (BC2-BC13)

The abbey church and conventual buildings of course date to this period. Although their ruins are highlighted as BC2 on Fig. 14, they will not be analysed or discussed in detail here except to say that the site of the refectory now only survives as two parallel robber trenches running away south from the centre of the (reconstructed) south wall of the cloister.

The ruins of a monastic outer court building, BC3, lie north of the esker and are alleged to be those of the abbey mill although on what grounds is unclear (section 4 above). No analysis of the standing fabric was undertaken as part of the present survey, although from a superficial examination what survives appears too fragmentary and undiagnostic to enable any firm idea of function to be formulated. It is also clear from the earthwork evidence that the ruins now lie in a landscape heavily altered in later periods (sections 6.3.2, 6.3.4, and 6.5.3 below). Nevertheless, the survey has identified two probable leats, WF2 and WF5 (section 6.2.4 below), which could have brought water to, and taken it away from, the site. This makes it at least plausible that this is the *site* of the abbey mill, although on current evidence it is impossible to say for certain whether the standing fabric represents the remains of the monastic mill rather than, say, a folly going with the later landscaping as suggested by features such as the blocked arch south of the main fragment of masonry (Fig. 4). Senior's map of 1627 depicts two buildings in this general area (Fig. 7), but because of the map's schematic nature it is unclear how they relate to what survives on the ground today: neither seems to be in quite the right location to correspond to the present ruins. Ruins are marked at this location, however, on both Ralph Burton's map of East Witton in 1792 (NYCRO, MIC 1930 ZJX 10/10) and a later map of c 1800 (Fig. 9). If the site is that of the monastic mill, then a series of small closes or paddocks immediately to the north-west beyond the modern boundary fence behind Jervaulx Hall, may well be associated with it. However, it is possible that they relate instead to the post-Dissolution buildings shown in this area on Senior's map (see also section 6.4.1 below).

The ruins of another alleged monastic outer court building, BC4, are incorporated within The Old Gatehouse at the western edge of the Park, and have been variously claimed to be those of the abbey gatehouse or guesthouse (section 4 above). The present survey has failed to find evidence of any medieval roadway leading to or from the building, and also suggests that the building sits well off the line of the precinct boundary, BF1 (section 6.2.1 above). These observations make the identification of it as a gatehouse inherently implausible, but do not enable any alternative function to be suggested. No building is depicted at this location on Senior's map of 1627 (Fig. 7), although 'Ruins' are shown on a later map of c 1800 (Fig. 9). No detailed analysis of the standing medieval fabric has been undertaken as part of the present survey, but casual inspection suggests that the ruins may be an amalgam of original medieval masonry derived from buildings that formerly stood elsewhere within the precinct. This raises the possibility that the ruins were constructed at some time shortly before 1800 as a folly or eye-catcher designed to be viewed from Jervaulx Hall to the north.

The remains of three large platforms, BC5-BC7, survive terraced into the rising ground in the western half of the precinct. Platforms BC5 and BC6 both lie at the foot

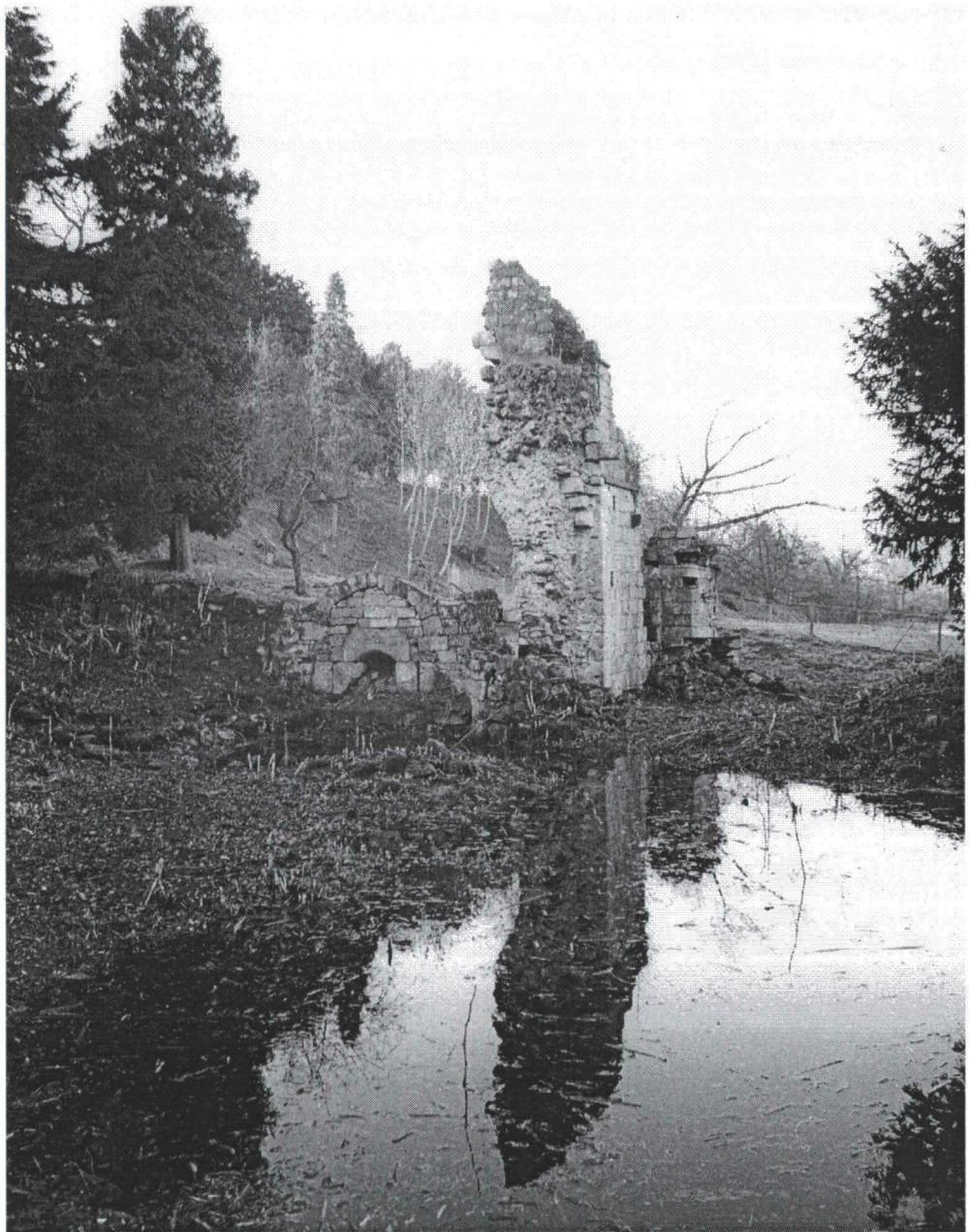


Figure 4.
The ruins of the
alleged abbey mill
BC3 from the east
after heavy rain
(NMR AA99/03567).

of the main slope. BC5 measures *c* 24m north to south by 10m across, and has much stone lying on and just beneath the grass. The sides of BC6 have been graded by later ridge-and-furrow ploughing, but still stand up to *c* 2.5m high in the north-west corner, while the platform area measures at least 35m by 20m. BC7 lies a little south and uphill of BC6, and is considerably smaller and slighter; it, too, has been degraded by ploughing which has smoothed and spread the sides, but seems originally to have had a platform area of *c* 20m square. Despite the size of the platforms, no building is shown at any of these locations on the maps consulted, suggesting that they are all the sites of monastic outer-court buildings demolished at the Dissolution in 1537 or shortly after. BC6 and BC7 certainly pre-date the early-19th century for they are slighted by ridge-and-furrow ploughing of this date (section 6.4.3 below).

Three small, rectangular, buildings, BC8-BC10, whose outlines are visible on the ground as low banks probably masking stone footings, are situated a little to the south-east of BC7. There is no firm evidence for their date, although all lie alongside track TR6 and must, therefore, date from a time when TR6 was in still use. It is argued below (section 6.2.3) that TR6 is monastic in origin, although continuing in use up until the creation of Jervaulx Park in the early-19th century. None of the buildings is shown on any of the maps from 1627 onwards, and while this cannot be taken as proof that BC8-BC10 are not post-medieval (see this section above), it is felt that on balance they are most likely to be monastic structures.

Scarps and very slight banks lying within a broad hollow immediately south-west of the conventual ruins are suggestive of the sites of up to three other small buildings or perhaps yards or closes, BC11-BC13. They lie either side of a track TR7 which branches off TR6, and which it is argued below (section 6.2.3) is likewise of monastic date. However, since Senior's and later maps (Figs. 7 and 8) show that TR6/TR7 remained in use as an access route until *c* 1800, it is possible that even though none of these structures is depicted on the maps, some or all may date to this post-medieval period instead.

6.2.3 Tracks (TR1 and TR6-TR11)

When the abbey was refounded at Jervaulx in 1156, the precinct was laid out over part of the old road between Middleham and Masham, track TR1 (section 6.1.2 above), and it must have been at this time that the public highway was re-routed along its present course around the outside of the monastic precinct and the later Jervaulx Park. Within the precinct, the old road seems to have been largely abandoned, for part of it was reused by the monks as the route for an aqueduct, WF2 (section 6.2.4 below), but further south part remained in use as local access to a group of buildings, BC10 (section 6.2.2 above). In addition, new roads would have been necessary to link the various parts of the precinct. TR6-TR8 are three such probable roads.

TR6 comprises a broad embankment running south from the south-west corner of the conventual buildings, which turns sharply east when it reaches rising ground and continues to the edge of the survey area as a terrace-way averaging 4m wide cut into the foot of the natural slope. The road existed by 1627 for it is shown on Senior's map (Fig. 7), but is likely to be monastic in origin since it is otherwise difficult to account for the obvious effort that has been expended in its engineering. The rationale for constructing an embankment may have been in order to raise it above the course of track TR2 which it crosses, which it is suggested below (section 6.2.4) may have been reused by the monks as an aqueduct, WF7. After the Dissolution the road presumably fell out of use, for part of it was overlain by a 16th-century garden structure, GS7 (section 6.3.2 below). But access was subsequently re-established along it as indicated by Senior's map, before it was ploughed over with the creation of Jervaulx Park in the 19th century (section 6.4.3 below).

Track TR7 is a shallow, intermittent, hollow-way branching off TR6 just south of the conventual buildings, and curving to the north-west. It runs off TR6 down into a broad, shallow, depression, in which lie indications of several small buildings and/or closes which may be contemporary (BC11-BC13, section 6.2.2 above). Although not