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**Hellifield Peel And Homestead
Hellifield
North Yorkshire**

*Documentary Research, Field Survey
and Archaeological Evaluation*

April 2003

Report No. 1102

C L I E N T

Dodd Frankland Stocks Partnership

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Hellifield Peel And Homestead
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North Yorkshire

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and Archaeological Evaluation*

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Summary

Documentary and cartographic evidence were examined and the history and development of the Peel are described. There is an absence of map evidence for the pre 18th-century parkland and of pictorial records for the design and layout of the Victorian gardens. A survey of the game larder confirms a late 18th or early 19th-century date and the recording and translation of inscribed stonework inserted in the fabric of the Keeper's cottage suggests an ecclesiastical origin, possible 14th century. An earthwork survey recorded a number of features relating to a possible water garden, some of which are not obvious on the ground. Evaluation trenching revealed surviving elements of a sunken Victorian glasshouse and 12th to 14th-century ceramics were recovered from possible moat deposits.

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PO Box 30, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS were contracted by Dodd Frankland Stocks Partnership on behalf of their client Mr N. Hargreave to undertake documentary research, field survey, building recording and archaeological evaluation trenching at Hellifield Peel, North Yorkshire as a requirement of North Yorkshire County Council, Environmental Services Heritage Unit in relation to Planning Application No. 42/2002/2575.
- 1.2 No detailed brief or specification was supplied for the works; the requirements below have been extracted from a letter from NYCC Environmental Services Heritage Unit to Head of Planning Services, Craven District Planning Services dated 7 November 2002. Further detail was obtained from conversations with Neil Campling, Senior Archaeologist with the Heritage Unit.
- 1.3 In consideration of the planning application NYCC Environmental Services Heritage Unit requested further information relating to Hellifield Peel, which was to include:
 - a. cartographic and documentary evidence of the historical evolution of the site and its associated parkland
 - b. location and recording (Level II) of the 'stone built and tiled game larder' and a schedule of the carved or worked stone fragments in the 'Chauffeur's cottage' or any other buildings
 - c. survey and mapping of extant garden or other earthwork features around the Peel Tower, and
 - d. the results of trial trenching showing the nature of any buried remains.
- 1.4 Each requirement was the subject of a separate report, presented below (Parts 2-5). Figures, plates and bibliographies are provided within each section, where applicable. Part 6 presents the overall conclusions of the investigations.
- 1.5 The full excavation archive including, with permission of the client, the finds will be accessioned to the Craven Museum, Skipton. A copy of all digital data will be forwarded to North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit.
- 1.6 Hellifield Peel (SD 8595 5557) sits in the Ribble valley south-east of Hellifield village and west of the area known as the Aire or Skipton Gap, the only place where Pennines can be crossed at below 300 m. (Section 2, Fig. 1). The area forms part of the lower-lying rich grazing district of Craven where the limestone is overlaid with glacial clays and river gravels and the land is generally poorly drained. Soils to the west of the Peel are typical brown calcareous earths of Bardsey 2 type (Class 511i, well drained over limestone gravel, some affected by groundwater) and to the east Cambic Stagnogly soils of Brickfield 2 type (Class 713f, slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam) (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).
- 1.7 The Peel dates to the late 13th or early 14th century and was scheduled in July 1972 (Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 1118, NYSMR No. NYM21886) but the associated group of mid 19th-century buildings known as the Homestead are not considered to be of listable quality (Stratton 1998, 4.3).
- 1.8 Site visits were made on 22 January 2003 and during evaluation trenching on 13 March 2003.

Hellifield Peel And Homestead

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2. Documentary and Cartographic Evidence

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The aims of this study are to research and present documentary and cartographic evidence of the historical evolution of Hellifield Peel and associated parkland. In addition, the results of other works undertaken at Hellifield, as part of the overall study (Parts 3-5), were considered for this report and are included when pertinent.
- 1.2 A short glossary of historical terms used in this report is presented below and is adapted from Bristow (2001) and *The Yorkshire Glossary of Old Words*.
- 1.3 The study follows the 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments' produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999).

2. Methodology

- 2.1 This study has collated readily available documentary, photographic and cartographic material held at National Monuments Record, North Yorkshire County Records Office, North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit, Skipton Library, West Yorkshire Archive Service, West Yorkshire Archaeology Service Sites and Monuments Record, Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Archaeological Services WYAS.
- 2.2 The holdings of the following organisations were searched using on-line catalogues: Public Records Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission Manorial Documents Register, British Library, A2A, United Kingdom Database of Historic Parks and Gardens, Nottinghamshire Archives, National Monuments Record.
- 2.3 Full details of all sources used or consulted are provided under Bibliography and Sources, below.
- 2.4 Digital Ordnance Survey data was purchased for the Peel area and used as a base for plotting archaeological and survey information. In addition, the OS 1909 1:2500 scale map was scanned at 1:1 and overlaid onto the digital data and scaled in AutoCAD™ Map 2000 to produce illustrations with modern reference points (Parts 4 and 5).
- 2.5 In 1983 Peter Ryder and Julian Birch published a major survey and history of Hellifield Peel, much of the history being based on the accounts of Whitaker's *The History and Antiquities of the Deanery of Craven* published in 1805, as was the earlier *A History of Hellifield* printed in 1949 by Tom Merrall. Two structural surveys have been undertaken in recent years which describe the Peel, Hume (1992) for English Heritage, and the Peel and Homestead, Stratton (1998) for the Rural Building Preservation Trust. Stratton also relies heavily on Ryder and Birch for the historical component of her report.
- 2.6 It is acknowledged that the comprehensive article by Ryder and Birch has been used extensively in the production of Section 3 of this report. Additional sources are referenced as required.

3 The Peel and Homestead

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 Hellifield, in the parish of Long Preston and the wapentake of West Staincliffe, appears in Domesday of 1086 as Helgefild, an Old Norse name meaning 'Helgi's open land' (Smith 1961, 158).
- 3.1.2 Hellifield Peel has been associated with the Hamerton family for over 800 years with nineteen of the 25 generations holding the title of lord of the manor of Hellifield (Merrall 1949). The Peel is the second oldest house in Craven, after Bolton Hall, and was one of several properties held by the Hamertons in the medieval period. The main family seat was in the village of Hamerton, 1.5 miles from Slaidburn, where Stephen de Hamerton founded a chantry in 1332 'in the chapel of St. Mary within his manor of Hamerton' (Whitaker 1805). Wigglesworth Hall, a little over 3 miles north-west of Hellifield, was also a residence until it was sold in 1575.
- 3.1.3 In the late 13th and 14th centuries the term Peel (also recorded as *Pile*, *Peyle* and *Peele*) appears to have been applied merely to a palisaded enclosure, perhaps in an earth embankment. Gradually fortified towers came to be built within many enclosures and this new combination of tower and enclosure became known as a Peel. By the mid-sixteenth century the term changed in its usage and was applied more commonly to the tower itself (Ryder and Birch 1983).
- 3.1.4 The evolution of the Hamerton family is far better recorded than that of the Peel, which, despite its antiquity, has an 'extremely sparse documented history' (Ryder and Birch 1983, 81). The report of the present structure by Ryder and Birch identifies at least four building periods, but the piecemeal nature of the additions and alterations does not seem to have produced much in the way of a documentary record. Given also that the site has been totally overlooked by topographers from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries much of the detail of the development of the Peel and its parkland is unknown or conjectural.

3.2 Late 13th to early 14th century - Phase 1

- 3.2.1 The family of de Knoll is the first that may be directly associated with building work at the Peel site. Elias de Knoll acquired the manor from Isabel de Stainton (née de Helghefeld) around 1240. It is possible that Elias or one of his immediate successors built a new hall on the present site of the Peel.
- 3.2.2 Toward the end of the 13th century, Katherine, a co-heir to the de Knoll lands at both Hellifield and Wigglesworth, married Adam de Hamerton, lord of Hamerton.
- 3.2.3 The oldest part of the Peel as it now stands is the eastern end and may date from the late 13th or early 14th century. Built as a rectangular block 14.8 m by 7.8 m externally this may have been a tower solar to an existing or contemporary aisled hall that stood to the east (Fig. 2). No structural evidence for this hall or any structures predating the 13th century survive. Ryder and Birch name parallels to the Hellifield tower solar elsewhere in Yorkshire at Farnhill House (SE 003465), Thorpe Stapleton Hall near Leeds (demolished in the 1930s) and Paull Holme Tower near Hull (TA 185249).

3.3 15th century - Phase 2 modifications

3.3.1 The Phase 2 modifications are difficult to date precisely but may be attributable to the 15th century, and may represent more than one building campaign, during which time the aisled hall was abandoned and the tower solar was converted into a tower-house proper with a pair of projecting turrets on its west front and the earlier north-east turret enlarged by an addition to its south. The tower was also fitted at this time with a walled-round well found under the flags of a coal cellar during 19th-century modifications (Speight 1892).

3.3.2 These modifications are attributed to Lawrence Hamerton (d.1449), grandson of Adam de Hamerton. The Charter Rolls of 13 October 1440 contains the entry:

Grant to Laurence Hamerton of licence to enclose, crenellate and furnish with towers and embattlements his manor of Helefeld, co. York, with stone and mortar, and so hold it to him and his heirs without impediment

Stratton attributes this building phase to the year 1480 (1998, 2.4) and it was not uncommon for fortifications to take place some considerable time after a licence was granted, if at all.

3.3.3 Following the 15th-century reconstruction or rebuilding nothing is known of the Peel for quite some time, including the date of the destruction of the hall block, which had certainly gone by the late 18th century. It is possible that the tower was fortified as a place of refuge in times of need as it does not appear to have been the main Hamerton residence, being subordinate to Wigglesworth Hall, 'on which considerable pre-Reformation work is still visible' (Ryder and Birch 1983, 90).

3.3.4 Lawrence Hamilton is referenced as 'of Wiklesworth et Helifield' or 'of Wigglesworth in Craven' (Whitaker 1805) and his son Richard (d. 1480) was resident at Wigglesworth in 1449. Richard's own son Stephen is reported in the Savile Estate Records for the years 1495-6 as follows:

Bond by Stephen Hamerton' of Wyggelsworth, co York, Knight and Thomas Middleton' of Leighton' co Lancs, Esq, in £200 to John Savile Knight and George Snath Esq for the due performance of an arbitrators judgement on certain disputes between Stephen and John concerning lands etc in Ryshworth, Bothomley, Barkisland, Northland, and Skyncote.

3.4 16th century

3.4.1 When Stephen Hamerton died in 1501 he was described as 'possessed of the manor of Halyffelde'. His son John (d. 1513) does not refer to the manor of Hellifield in his will although his grandson, Sir Stephen Hamerton, is recorded as the tenant of the manor in 1536. John's widow Elizabeth married Edward Stanley, who clearly expected to gain Hellifield manor as part of the marriage agreement. Elizabeth did not intend to pass the property out of Hamerton hands, which is of interest only in that an unsuccessful letter of appeal from Stanley to Thomas Cromwell, the Lord Privy Seal, in 1536 requesting he be restored to 'Helefyld pele' is the first written reference to a peel at Hellifield.

- 3.4.2 Following the death of Sir Stephen Hamerton, executed at Tyburn on 25th May 1537 for his involvement in the Pilgrimage of Grace, Hellifield was preserved by a settlement 'for the life of the widow of John Hamerton and mother of Sir Stephen'. A short-lived settlement as Elizabeth Hamilton died the following year.
- 3.4.3 Sir Stephen's only son Henry died shortly after his execution and so his goods at Hellifield manor were bequeathed to Roger Hamilton, one of his nephews, the Bailiff reporting 15s 4d received for farm of the '*manor of Helyffeld and a certain other messuage and nine bovates of land demised to him by indenture as it is said*'. Reversion of the manor itself now lay with the Crown, which, at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, had an account drawn up for 'Helyfeld' as a possession of the Preceptory of Newland.
- 3.4.4 Hellifield manor remained in the Crown until 1545/6 when King Henry VIII granted it to George Brown and his heirs, 'to be held of the King in capite for the consideration of £296. 9s 2d'; the equivalent of over £84,000 today (Bristow 2001, 224). Following a short tenure he received permission to grant the 'manor of Halyfeld als. Halyfelde Peel' to Sir Arthur Darcy, already a considerable landowner in Craven, who in turn was granted leave in 1555/6 to pass the manors of 'Halyfeld and Halyfelde Peyle', together with '16 messuages and 14 cottages with lands there', to Anthony Redman and to John Redman, whose son Francis married Margaret Hamerton, daughter and co-heir of Sir Stephen's son, Henry.
- 3.4.5 In 1560 a warrant was issued against the claim of John Hamerton - son of Sir Stephen's younger brother Richard - and his heirs to 'land in Helleyfeld', but in the same year John did acquire '5 messuages with lands in Hallyfeld and the moiety of 4 messuages with lands there' from Thomas Watson as well as the moiety of a messuage with 'lands in Helleyfeld' from Francis Redman. In 1561 following a fine levied at Westminster the 'manor of Halleyfeld als. Helleyfeld Pile' along with its watermill, lands and 'the moiety of 3 messuages with lands in the same' was finally passed to John Hamerton.
- 3.4.6 Hellifield Peel and lands were therefore returned to the Hamerton family and Wigglesworth Hall was sold in 1575, although troubled times still lay ahead. In 1587 John Hamerton gave the lordship of the manor of Hellifield to Peter Watson and in 1590 Thomas Mountenay was lord of the manor when the bailiff of the manor instituted proceedings against John Hamerton to recover rents in arrears.
- 3.5 17th century - Phase 3 conversion to a 17th-century house**
- 3.5.1 John Hamerton regained the manor in 1602-3, along with that of Newton and 40 messuages, 20 cottages and a watermill, with lands in the same place and in Long Preston, Rishworth and Sawreby Deane, but the lordship went to Richard Sunderland, holding court there in 1616. A 1628 rental of the 'mannor of Hellifield in Craven formerly a property of St. John of Jerusalem' makes no mention of the Hamertons or of their Peel.
- 3.5.2 In 1630 the Yorkshire antiquary Roger Dodsworth records visiting Stephen Hamerton (d. 1651) at the Peel and in the 1650s John Hamerton (b. 1610) sold some land to Thomas Heber of West Marton. For most of the 17th century

little is recorded of the Hamertons and a succession of Johns and Stephens seem to have occupied the site in relative obscurity.

- 3.5.3 At some point during the early 17th century the building underwent a second major re-modelling. The house was extended by the addition of the west wing, a three-storied gabled block, 8.5 m by 5.8 m internally, filling the space between the two western turrets and extending westwards (Fig. 2). This wing appears to have replaced a small lean-to structure between the two turrets. The existing tower-house underwent considerable remodelled at the same time with new windows being inserted throughout. Although defence was no longer a primary objective the building retained certain defensive features.

3.6 18th century – Phase 4 remodelling

- 3.6.1 The last great phase of alterations occurred in the late 18th century, probably under James Hamerton (bapt. 1749 d. 1824), when most of the fenestration was replaced by large sash windows with raised and moulded stone surrounds. The re-entrant angle between the west wing and the north-west turret was infilled by a block of new building (Fig. 2). The crenellated parapet continues around this later building and so must be contemporary with these additions.
- 3.6.2 A woodcut of Hellifield Peel, viewed from the north-east, appears in Whitaker's *The History and Antiquities of the Deanery of Craven*, first published in 1805 (Plate 1). This print is assumed to date from the end of the eighteenth century and shows that no trace of the earlier medieval hall survives, that further extensions to the east and west aspects of the building had not yet taken place, and that the north-west corner, flanked by the north-west turret and the extended seventeenth-century west wing, had been filled.

3.7 19th century

- 3.7.1 It is between the completion of the late 18th-century print of the Georgian remodelling and the survey for the first edition 1852 OS map between 1847-9 that the Servants' wing was added to the west aspect of the house; the partial remains of one wall survive to indicate the location. The construction of the Game Larder may well be contemporary with this addition (see Prudhoe, Part 3).
- 3.7.2 The construction of the Servants' wing may have been undertaken by James Hamerton (1779-1865), a Barrister at Law, who is credited with 'modernising' the Peel (Cooke n.d.). White also reports that "The house (*Peel*) is not extensive, and has been modernised during the present century" (1838, 832), which would date the alterations to between 1800-1838, perhaps following the death of James Hamerton's father in 1824.
- 3.7.3 Probably contemporary with the Servants' wing is a group of buildings, known as the Homestead, built to service the Peel Tower. These buildings are recorded on Greenwood's 1856 map and the 1852 OS map and comprise stables, coach house, a two-storey granary, gardener's cottage and a barn; 'Each building is activity-specific which is characteristic of the Victorian reorganisation of the country house and associated servant areas' (Stratton 1998, 4.3). The granary must have undergone some later modification as the current building has a 'typical late nineteenth-century shallow pitched pyramidal roof structure'.

- 3.7.4 In the north-west corner of the site is the later Chauffeur's Cottage, originally a pair of semi-detached cottages, with two pieces of reused carved stonework incorporated in the east wall (see Prudhoe, Part 3). One piece of stone with the date '1694' and initials 'D I A' is said to come from an old house at Swinden, "pulled down six years ago" (Speight 1892, 363), which would give a date of mid 1880s for the cottages. Their construction may be related to general repairs to the Peel, also reported by Speight, "About the year 1886, when the Peel was undergoing repairs, an ancient walled well was discovered in one of the cellars, then used for the storage of coal". A further stone bearing a Latin inscription is described as medieval and 'possibly from Hellifield Church' by Stratton (1998, 4.6), although Hellifield did not have its own church in the medieval period. It is more likely that the inscription originates from nearby 'Sallay' Abbey as Speight (1892) reports other medieval carved stones built into the Servants Hall from this source (Sawley Abbey, SD 776 464, approximately 8 miles south-east of Hellifield).
- 3.7.5 James Hamerton's address was listed as 'The Peel' in the 1848 election (Merrall 1949, 167) and his son, John Hamerton (1810-1884), as president of the Hellifield Co-operative Society was described as 'of Hellifield Peel' in the *Craven Herald* of 18 August 1883 (Merrall 1949, 41). It is possible however, that at the time of the repairs to the Peel in the late 19th century and the construction of the two semi-detached cottages, later to become known as the 'Chauffeur's Cottage', that the Hamertons were no longer resident at Hellifield Peel.
- 3.7.6 Chisnall Hamerton (1865-1908) was the last male to be born, his wife Elizabeth Rose giving birth to a daughter, Dorothy Helen Warden Hamerton, in 1898. Although Chisnall was lord of Hellifield from 1894, in 1892 the Peel was the residence of John Bright, nephew of the reforming politician Frank J. Bright (Speight 1892). Further, an account of Hellifield householders in 1895 lists 'H.L. Hare (the Peel) gentleman' (Merrall 1949, 47). The same H.L. Hare Esq. founded the Hellifield Railway Mission in 1898 at which time he is described as 'residing at Hellifield Peel' (Merrall 1949, 41). In 1895 James Heaton and James Thompson occupied the two estate farms at Tenley and Goosemere Height respectively.
- 3.8 20th century**
- 3.8.1 Ryder and Birch report that the Peel underwent further improvement and restoration a little before the First World War, the eastern extension still partly surviving today being absent from a photograph of 1897 (Fig. 2). A 1937 photograph reproduced in Merrall (1947) shows this two-storey extension with windows and crenellated parapet matching those of the tower (Plate 2).
- 3.8.2 In 1910, two years after his death, Chisnall Hamerton was still listed as the owner of Hellifield Peel although the occupier was William Nicholson (*Duties on Land Values*, 30/8/1910). An outing of members of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society was received at the Peel by Mrs Nicholson in 1931; the Hamerton residence at this time was in Chapel Allerton, Leeds although Dorothy Helen Warden Hamerton is described in *Burke's Landed Gentry* as 'of Hellifield' in 1937.

- 3.8.3 During the course of the fieldwork for this project local residents recalled that the Peel was used during the Second World War to house POWs, firstly Italians – used to dig many drainage channels across the site – and then Germans toward the end of the war; after which it appears that the site was abandoned.
- 3.8.4 Following the death of Elizabeth Rose Hamerton in 1947 the estate was sold by her daughter Dorothy Hamerton in 1948 to Harry Lund at Otley. The sale catalogue dated 15/9/1947 describes the Homestead as:

Freehold Residential and Sporting Estate includes ...

Outbuildings: stable with two loose boxes, heated garage (9 ft x 26 ft 6 inches), coach house (9 ft 6 inch x 26 ft 6 inches), two saddle rooms and an engine house. Wood-built open shed (26 ft x 16 ft), coal store, coach house and garage (10 ft x 20 ft), two WCs, stone built and tiled game larder with lime store and WC to rear.

The Peel is described as in the ownership of the Ministry of Works.

- 3.8.5 After the sale in 1948 "the new owners stripped the building of everything of value - the lead and slate from the roof, fireplaces, floorboards and timbers, doors and all fittings and furnishings" (Stratton 1948, 2.8). An aerial photograph of 1953 shows the roof of the Peel intact (AP1 Frame 187) but within a few years Pevsner described the structure as 'partly demolished at the time of writing' (1959, 261).
- 3.8.6 Harry Lund died in 1965 and the following year the estate was split into three parts; Goosemere Height Farm to the south-west and Tentley Farm to the north-east being separated from the Homestead, wood and lake. The Peel was purchase by Florence Mary Hargreaves who, on her death in 1975, left it to her children.
- 3.8.7 The site was then rented by Dawson's Haulage Company and the Peel enclosure used for parking and repairing heavy goods vehicles. The area south of the Homestead and west of the Peel, previously the kitchen gardens, was resurfaced and used as a lorry park, which can be seen on a 1989 aerial photograph (AP 8 Frame 765) and was witnessed during Stratton's survey in May 1998.

4. *The Development of the Parkland and Gardens*

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Hellifield Peel and Homestead are situated on a flat piece of ground c.137 m OD within a D-shaped enclosure about 1.48 ha in area measuring 145 m east to west at its widest point and 125 m north to south in the west. The enclosure is bounded by a stone wall to the west, a ha-ha to south and east and an access track and fence to the north. The surrounding land rises to the north and east and gently falls to the south and west, where the River Ribble lies approximately 700 m at its nearest point. Tenley Plantation lies to the north-east at 160 m OD encompassing Tenley Hill at its northern edge at 184 m OD, the same height as Snear Hill to the south-east of the Peel. A stream enters the plantation from the east and feeds a large Fish Pond, exiting via a weir and

sinking on the western perimeter to issue approximately 65 m south of the western boundary of the enclosure to become Mansell Beck, which feeds into the River Ribble at Swinden (Fig. 3).

4.1.2 Hellifield Peel, despite being in the ownership of many generations of the same family, seems to have had a restrained and uneventful history. Ryder and Birch emphasise the fact that the Hamerton estate appears to have been totally overlooked by 17th-century topographers, being mentioned by neither Leyland nor Camden, "an unfortunate tradition followed by the *Magna Britannia* of the 1730s, Grose in the 1780s, and Britton and Brayley as late as the early 1880s" (1983, 93).

4.1.3 Without cartographic or documentary evidence the extent and layout of the pre 19th-century parkland is difficult to appraise, and little has been found in this study to contradict the conclusion of Ryder and Birch that it was, in all respects, 'modest' (1983, 73).

4.2 Pre-Park landscape

4.2.1 The development and chronology of the pre-park landscape is outside the scope of this report and the surviving parkland is not under threat by the proposed development plans for the Homestead. However, evidence of an older fossilized agrarian landscape is apparent in aerial photographs and is visible on the ground in some areas. There is no evidence for the distinctive bank and inner ditch boundaries (Dennison 1989) that may suggest the existence of a medieval deer park as a precursor to the parkland at Hellifield.

4.2.2 The landscape includes ridge and furrow, abandoned or rerouted trackways and old boundaries. In terms of the development of the parkland, it is clear in places how this has imposed itself on the existing landscape, for example, the surviving 18th-century driveway entrance (Stratton 1998) from Hellifield Green to the Peel cuts diagonally across a field of ridge and furrow with faint signs of an earlier track and/or boundary to the west (AP8 Frame 767, AP9 Frame 790). The southern boundary of Tenley Plantation also truncates ridge and furrow (AP8 Frame 764) and on the same aerial photograph, sunken linear features to the north and west of Snear Hill Plantation cut ridge and furrow but possibly represent existing field boundaries removed as part of the 18th-century park improvements. The results of the aerial photographic search are presented in Figure x. although this is purely schematic, as aerial photographs have not been rectified for this report.

4.2.3 A system of tunnels is purported run north, south and south-west from the Peel across the estate toward the Ribble (Fig. 3). An interpretation of these tunnels or 'secret passages', thought to date to the Civil War, is presented in a letter from E.S. Boocock to the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record dated 29/8/1996. The letter also describes an extant length of one of these stone-built tunnels at the river end open for 4-5 yards. In an earlier letter of 23/7/1996 Mr Boocock related that a local lady remembered playing in these tunnels as a child and that haulage wagons became stuck in collapsed tunnels on numerous occasions.

4.2.4 Merril (1949) relates a story of an underground passage that ran from Hellifield Peel to the other Hamerton property at Wigglesworth Hall, approximately 3.2 miles to the north-west. This would date the tunnels to the

16th century as Wigglesworth Hall was sold in 1575. Speight also refers to a 'flagged walled passage 4 foot below ground' found at Wigglesworth Hall (1892, 375).

- 4.2.5 It is possible that cellarage exists in the Peel as it is referred to by Speight (1892) but the internal accumulation of fallen masonry and the precarious state of the existing structure has made it too dangerous for either of the recent surveys to assess in detail (Hume 1992, Stratton 1998). A length of partially vaulted stone-built tunnel still exists at about cellar depth and was shown to the author by the current owner during a site visit on 22/1/03. The same stretch of tunnel was commented on by Ryder and Birch, "A 'curious subterranean passage' runs north from the north face of the north-west corner of the tower" (1983, 80) but is assumed a drain.

4.3 18th-century park improvements

- 4.3.1 The antiquarian maps of Thomas Jefferys (1775) and John Greenwood (1818) show Hellifield Peel but provide no evidence of any associated parkland other than the presence of the Fish Pond by 1818 (Figs x and x). Stratton (1998) refers to 'parkland improvement' but gives no detail other than mentioning the survival of the 18th-century driveway entrance.

- 4.3.2 Parkland features that probably date to the 18th century include:

a) dry stone walls that form the northern and western boundary of the estate and iron palings that survive along sections of the driveway and along the southern boundary of Tenley Plantation.

b) the Tenley Plantation and Fish Pond along with the small, geometric Snear Hill Plantation, approx 425 m south-east of the Peel. The vestiges of Snear Hill Plantation include a square ditch and internal circular bank discernable from the Peel and clearly seen on aerial photograph AP8 (Frame 764) that may be a *tree enclosure ring*, constructed to protect an ornamental clump of trees from damage by animals and probably 18th or 19th century in date (Wood 1979). An earthwork running north-south to the west of Snear Hill Plantation may be a relic field boundary (Fig. 6).

c) the ha-ha survives along the southern and eastern perimeters of the enclosure and originally would have included the northern boundary. The ha-ha, in places, may follow the line of an earlier moat but is a typical landscape feature of 18th-century garden design. It served a functional purpose of preventing deer or domestic stock from straying from the park into the ornamental and kitchen garden but also obviated the need for fencing, which would interrupt the view.

- 4.3.3 The creation of parks frequently resulted in the closure or rerouting of roads and footpaths; a procedure made easier by the passing of the Turnpike Act of 1723 (Williamson 1998). While there is evidence of disused trackways within the park there is also a footpath, running from Hellifield Green along the northern boundary of the enclosure and south to Swinden, that exists on all detailed maps and may be an established route of some antiquity. It is interesting that the Marsden to Settle turnpike road, built at the end of the 18th century, is said to have replaced the old road from Hellifield, via Hellifield Peel and Swinden to the ford crossing at Nappa (www.gisburn.org.uk/parish/nappa.htm).

4.3.4 Late 18th-century alterations to the Peel are attributed to James Hamerton (see 3.6.1) and it is possible that the modernisation of the parkland also took place at or shortly after this time as in 1780 James Hamerton, resident at the Peel, paid tax for just two servants (Cartwright 1897). A tax on male servants of twenty-one shillings per year was introduced in 1777 and was payable for those retained as: house steward, chamber valet, butler, cook, footman, coachman, groom, *gardener*, *park-keeper*, *game keeper* and *hunter*, amongst others. It is therefore unlikely that such a small household would have included sufficient staff to maintain gardens and parkland and it is feasible that the parkland improvements were contemporary with the construction of the Servants' Hall and the modifications of the Peel under the later James Hamerton in the early 19th century (see 3.7.2).

4.3.5 The woodcut of the Peel published in Whitaker (1805) may date to the end of the 18th century. Showing the Georgian Peel from the north-east it clearly shows in the foreground the stone revetment wall of the ha-ha with more of a substantial moat than survives today. In the background, to the west of the Peel, there is no indication of the formal garden later to occupy this area (Ryder and Birch 1983, 93) although a boundary wall or fence is present in the distance (Plate 1).

4.4 Mid 19th century

4.4.1 In 1824, prior to the Parliamentary Enclosures, Hellifield consisted of some 3300 acres, mostly the property of the Hamertons at the Peel. The land comprised 2968 acres of meadow and pasture, 254 of common land and 78 of woodland, as well as 24 acres - less than one percent - of arable (Ryder and Birch 1983).

4.4.2 It is around the mid-19th century that detailed cartographic evidence is produced. John Greenwood's Hellifield cum Arnford and Newton Enclosure Map was published in 1839 (Tate 1978) and an unpublished Tithe Award is dated 1841 (Smith 1961). The Enclosure and Drainage Awards for Hellifield Moor, north-east of Hellifield village, of 1848 required the construction of boundaries of stone, 6 ft high, including 23 cattle gates on land owned by James Hamerton Esq. It is only on the first edition OS map of 1852 (surveyed between 1847-9) and Greenwood's map of the Township of Hellifield, first surveyed in 1839 but revised before printing in 1856, that the layout of the Peel, Homestead and associated parkland can be seen in detail.

4.4.3 Greenwood's map was revised at least seven years after the 1852 OS map was surveyed and a number of changes appear within that period (Figs 8 and 9a). The south-eastern extent of the parkland follows the Parish boundary and both maps show in this area a pond and system of water channels either flowing into or from Mansell Beck. The pond and channels lie along a strip of land that falls steeply to form a linear depression. A washfold is indicated on the 1852 OS map where the two water courses meet.

4.4.4 To the east of the Peel the footpaths continuing from the driveway and diverting south, east, and north-east into the plantation, are shown on both maps but footpaths to the west of the Peel enclosure running from the driveway south-west to Goosemere Height Farm are not displayed by Greenwood. Nor is the paling fence that runs parallel with a footpath from the

north-west corner of field 311 to the south-east. This fence must mark the line of an ancient field division as it separates two sections of ridge and furrow (Fig. 6) and fields to the north and south of the fence line have different numbers on Greenwood's map.

- 4.4.5 To the west of the Peel the enclosure marked as field 311 is divided by an internal east-west paling fence following the alignment of the ha-ha to the south of the Peel. On the later map the northern half has acquired a belt of trees along the north and west and the paling is absent.
- 4.4.6 The boundary of Tenley Plantation encompassing all of the woodland in 1852 is contracted on Greenwood's map, which shows a belt of trees on the western perimeter outside the paling. This is confirmed by comparing the 1852 with the 1896 and 1910 edition OS maps and is particularly marked along the eastern and south-eastern perimeter (Figs 9a, 9b and 9c).
- 4.4.7 Within the Peel enclosure the Homestead group of buildings (see 3.7.3) is present to the north-west of the Peel on both maps. The location of these buildings is queried by Stratton, 'Perhaps surprisingly they [Homestead buildings] have been built to the front of the Peel Tower, flanking the entrance, rather than away from the "polite" area' (1998, 4.3).
- 4.4.8 The 'revolution' in 18th-century garden design was a movement away from formality and structure to a more open or 'natural' layout where the garden blended with the park and the park itself became the principal setting for the house. 'Walled gardens, terraces and geometric clutter were removed from the facades, although gardens – often consisting of meandering gravel paths through grass and shrubbery – were usually maintained to one side. The orchards, fish ponds . . . together with functional features such as barns and farm yards, were generally swept aside, and kitchen gardens removed to some more hidden location and screened from sight by a strip of shrubbery' (Williamson 1998). This definition fittingly describes the Peel enclosure in the mid-19th century where the Homestead was largely masked by a belt of trees and shrubs north-west of the Peel whilst from the sheltered and warmer southern aspect the ha-ha allowed unrestricted open views of the parkland, including Snear Hill plantation. The relic field boundary west of this small geometric plantation may be the result of its realignment further down the contour of Snear Hill to avoid obstructing the view of the plantation from the Peel (see Fig. 6). Similarly, the placement of the Homestead south of the Peel and away from the main entrance would have restricted views of the improved parkland.
- 4.4.9 To the west of the Peel enclosure a regularly laid-out ornamental and/or kitchen garden is situated, masked from the house by a belt of trees and shrubs. The layout of the garden is clearer on John Greenwood's map - although this may be more of a schematic representation than an accurate survey - which shows a geometric layout of paths and beds covering an estimated 3300 sq m (Fig. 9).
- 4.5 Late 19th century**
- 4.5.1 From the last decade of the 19th century the Hamertons appear to have abandoned residence at the Peel and alterations to the park and gardens were probably instigated by the various occupiers from this time (see 3.7.6, 3.8.2).

- 4.5.2 The first edition 1852 OS map was revised in 1892-3 and published in 1896; the most significant change being the construction of the Bolton, Blackburn and Hellifield railway line running to the west of the parkland (Fig. 8b). It is possible that the railway line was responsible for the disappearance of the footpaths running from the driveway north-west of the Peel to Goosemere Height Farm, although, as mentioned above, these paths are not shown on Greenwood's map.
- 4.5.3 Several new fences appear within the parkland at this time: to the north-east of the D-shaped enclosure between the ha-ha and the plantation, effectively dividing an unbroken area of open parkland allocated a single field number when surveyed by Greenwood, and to the west where a fence is realigned south of the palings shown on the 1852 map. The enclosed field west of the Peel enclosure also shows the removal and more southerly repositioning of an east-west fence and to the south of this area a fence is set back from the Parish boundary and is aligned along the top of the slope north-west of the earlier pond and water channels. The washfold shown on the earlier edition is removed and a new sheepfold is shown outside the park boundary in the corner of the field south-west of Snear Hill Plantation; the sheepfold is identified as such on the 1909 25 inch OS map, sheet 149.11.
- 4.5.4 Within the Peel enclosure the current Keeper's Cottage is shown in the north-west (see 3.7.4) and a new building is depicted in the grounds south-west of the Peel. There is no mention of the function of this building in any contemporary documentary sources and it does not appear on the 1909 or later OS maps. It is unlikely to have been a temporary structure as buildings of this nature were not recorded by the Ordnance Survey (Oliver 1993, 52) and its situation, on the south lawn separated from the garden by a fence or wall, would suggest a social or pleasure function, such as a summerhouse.
- 4.5.5 The garden to the west of the Peel is divided by an east-west path and is shown by the distinctive herringbone pattern used to depict vegetable gardens on 1:10560 maps at this time (Oliver 1993, 52). Speight's (1892) account of his visit to Hellifield Peel describes in detail the reused carved stones and the number of standing stones in the garden, but his interest must have been solely in the antiquity of the site and history of the family for he makes no mention of the ornamental or kitchen gardens or any landscape features.

4.6 Early 20th century

- 4.6.1 In 1910 the Peel was occupied by William Nicholson at which time the *Duties on Land Values* recorded the following gross annual value for the Hamerton Estate:

House and buildings	£80	0s	0d
Plantation	£20	0s	0d
Land	£16	0s	0d
Gardener's House	£6	10s	0d
Chauffeur's House	£6	10s	0d

- 4.6.2 The first decade of the 20th century saw few changes to the parkland. The 1910 OS map, revised in 1907, shows the extension of the park perimeter in the south-west beyond the Parish boundary to the railway cutting, absorbing

part of Goosemere Height Farm bisected by the railway (Fig. 8c). A new lean-to structure appears on the west side of the kitchen wall and, within the same enclosure, the band of trees along the western boundary is extended south to the perimeter where a small 8 m square building within a small enclosure is located west of the tree line. The small Snear Hill plantation has fewer trees than previously shown and is no longer demarcated by a square perimeter.

- 4.6.3 Changes in the Peel enclosure at this time are best viewed on the 1909 1:2500 OS map (Fig. 10). Alterations can be seen to the garden boundary west of the Peel, which no longer reaches the ha-ha, but after c.35 m turns west for c. 43 m leaving a garden entrance between its termination and the kitchen wall.
- 4.6.4 Speight describes a number of inscribed stones on the south lawn and near them 'an old sundial' (1892, 363) which may be the one shown on the OS map as 'S.D.' in the southern part of the garden.
- 4.6.5 The kitchen garden contains a number of small lean-to buildings and 'potting sheds' and at least five glasshouses, indicated by the cross-hatched 'diamond' symbol on the 1910 OS map. This map was revised in 1907 and as the glasshouses do not appear on the 1896 map, revised in 1892-3, it can be assumed they were built between 1893/4 and 1906/7. The largest of the three glasshouses along the northern wall is a lean-to structure approximately 40 ft by 16 ft and probably used as a peach house (see 4.7.1 below). A freestanding glasshouse to the south measures c. 60 ft by 12 ft and was shown by evaluation trenching to be a sunken structure (see Signorelli, Part 5). Sunken glasshouses were common in the Victorian period and designed to give added frost protection during the winter months (Susan Campbell pers. comm.).

4.7 Mid 20th century

- 4.7.1 In September 1947 the Hamerton estate, including the Peel and parkland, was offered for sale (see 3.8.4) and the sale catalogue listed the following garden details:

The grounds include attractive ornamental and flower gardens with spacious lawns. The kitchen gardens include two lean-to peach houses and three greenhouses, also a brick-built potting shed with a Robin Hood Junior Boiler, and a lean-to shed in the corner of the garden. Across the park there are 37,665 acres of well-matured woodland which surrounds the Fish Pond. The woodland and the Fish Pond are a feature of the property and provide excellent sporting facilities.

- 4.7.2 The map included with the sale catalogue (Fig. 11) shows the extent of the estate which covers Tenley Farm to the north-east up to the A65, Goosemere Height Farm west of the railway line and includes fields between Hellifield and Hellifield Green and further south below Swinden.
- 4.7.3 The OS map of 1955 shows changes to the Tenley Plantation where trees outside the plantation boundary fence no longer appear and paths above the 550 ft contour line are no longer present (Fig. 8d). The layout within the Peel enclosure, however, is little different from that shown in 1909.

4.8 Present condition

- 4.8.1 The area west of the Peel and south of the Homestead is currently divided by an east-west post and wire fence running from the Peel to the western boundary wall (Plate 3). The wall is stone built, probably 18th century, and runs south to the ha-ha (Plate 4). The inner, eastern side is faced with bricks from the north-west corner to the southern boundary wall discussed above (4.6.3) but in places are collapsed or missing. This was a common method of construction in Victorian kitchen gardens as stone was cheaper than brick and the brick retained heat better for the benefit of fruit trees planted against it (Plate 5).
- 4.8.2 The area to the north of the fence was most recently used as a lorry park and the tarmac and granite chippings are camouflaged by the growth of moss and grass. There is no surviving evidence above ground of the earlier kitchen garden layout or structures. Outbuildings in the north-west and north-east corners were probably built in the 1960s or 70s. A lean-to building on the eastern garden wall overlays the position of an earlier glasshouse and may protect or incorporate the original foundations.
- 4.8.3 To the south of the fence the garden has had limited disturbance and includes some of very old trees. The remains of the southern boundary wall can be seen clearly as a raised earthwork (Plate 5) and was surveyed as part of the garden earthwork survey (see Martin and Berg, Part 4). Field examination found a number of stone steps either side of the wall (Plate 6) with a platform at the top suggesting either an entrance through the wall or access to a raised walkway that overlooked the garden. The remains of the 'wall' are hidden by decades of vegetation growth, including young trees, and a full understanding of the structure, construction and dimensions, particularly the height, of this feature cannot be properly assessed without excavation. Among the large number of dressed stone fragments on and around the earthwork are the remains of at least four stone gate posts (Plate 7). A gap in the earthwork to the west is where the wall was breached and cleared in the 1960s to allow the completion of a circuit around the garden and Peel for harness racing, according to local verbal information (Plate 8).
- 4.8.4 The possibility of a raised walkway is interesting as it would overlook a sunken area to the north. Stratton observed this area and wrote "The remains of a Victorian garden, possibly sunken, could still be seen as earthworks to the west of the Peel" (1998) and it is possible at certain angles to see a large circular depression (Plate 5). The feature can be seen on the earthwork survey results, along with other related water features (see Martin and Berg, Part 4) and is clear on aerial photographs from 1989 (AP8 Frame 766). This is most likely to be an ornamental pond and a local resident who often visited the gardens in the 1930s remembers running water features in this area, as well as peaches and grapes growing in the glasshouses.
- 4.8.5 Circular sunken garden features are known from other sites including Nostell Priory, West Yorkshire, where it has been described as a 'cock pit' (Sheeran 1990, 210) and at Edmondsham House, Dorset, where a Tudor and later remodelled Georgian house is surrounded by six acres of gardens having close parallels to Hellifield,

Wide lawns with some fine specimen trees. Other features include a circular grass hollow, thought to have been a cock pit, and a sunken greenhouse, known as 'The Pit House', and a greenhouse for growing peaches.

(www.touruk.co.uk/gardens/gardensdorset_edmond.htm)

- 4.8.6 The far south-western corner of the Peel enclosure originally sloped sharply down to the ha-ha but has been used as a dumping area resulting in the current raised levels. The area contains a number of pieces of architectural stonework that may originate from the gardens.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The inadequacy of the documentary and cartographic evidence has limited the detailed understanding of the development of the Peel and parkland. In particular questions remain concerning the format and extent of the pre 18th-century parkland and, consequently, the full nature of the late 18th century / early 19th century 'improvements'.
- 5.2 Ancient landscape features within and surrounding the current park boundaries warrant further research and recording using rectified photography and specialist air photo interpretation. This detail is outside the scope of this report and no of these features are under threat by current development plans.
- 5.3 The layout and use of the ornamental and kitchen gardens are indicated by cartographic evidence and descriptions published in the 1947 sale catalogue. A lack of contemporary evidence, such as garden journals, inventories and, in particular photographs is frustrating. There is no evidence for the use or development of the gardens following the post-war sale of the property and what remained was destroyed at, or prior to, the time the area was converted to a lorry park.

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Project Management and Report:

David Berg BA

Illustrations:

David Berg BA

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Glossary

Bovate - A bovate is one eighth of an oxgang (ploughland). An oxgang was the area of land that could be cultivated in one year using a single ox

Capite - A tenant/person holding land granted direct from the king

Carucates - A carucate was an area of ploughland, between 60 and 180 acres depending on the quality of land, which could be ploughed by an eight oxen plough team in one year. Derived from caruca, Latin for a plough, and also known as a Hide

Fee - An estate in land held on condition of homage and service to a superior lord

Demesne - The land, rights and part of a manor, which the Lord retains for the use of himself and his family, which was separate from that leased or rented to his tenants

Messuage - A dwelling house with land and out-buildings. A Capital Messuage was the house (manor) of the Lord of the Manor, or similar large residence, also known as a "mese"

Moiety - 1. A half, especially in legal or quasi-legal use. 2. Loosely, one (of two or more) parts into which something is divided

Solar - A defensible private room above ground level, often the private bed-sittingroom or great chamber of the owner and his family during the medieval period

Wapentake - A name given in Yorkshire, and certain other shires, to a territorial division of the county similar to the hundred of southern counties. Late Old English wæpen(ge)tæc, Old Norse vapnatak, lit. weapon-taking, assent at a meeting being signified by brandishing a weapon

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Aerial Photographs Examined

Ref.	Date	Film No. / Frame/s	Scale	Vertical/ Oblique	Grid Ref.	Repository
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2.	14/06/1968	4268206	1:10 500	V		NYSMR*
3.	13/07/1971	OS 71359/183-6	1:7 500	V	SD 868555-848556	NMR / NYCRO
4.	21/11/1986	ANY285/01		O	SD 859555	NYSMR
5.	21/11/1986	YDP 13222/09 ANY288		O	SD 861555	NMR / NYSMR
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7.	21/11/1986	YDP 13219/02 ANY285		O		NMR
8.	14/05/1989	OS 89167/763-7	1:3000	V	SD 864552-854558	NMR
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NMR National Monuments Record, NYCRO North Yorkshire County Records Office, NYSMR North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record

* Stereo photographs examined at NYSMR.

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Walled Kitchen Garden Network, www.walledgardens.net