

**FOUNTAINS ABBEY: SOUTH SIDE
OF PRECINCT**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT



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NMR no: SE 26 NE 3



Mark Bowden

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1991

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FOUNTAINS ABBEY: SOUTH SIDE OF PRECINCT

Lindrick with Studley Royal and Fountains parish
Harrogate District
North Yorkshire
SE 275 681 (centred)

Introduction

RCHME undertook a survey of the south side of the Fountains Abbey Precinct between December 1990 and March 1991 at the request of English Heritage. This followed a survey of the north side of the Precinct by RCHME in 1989. The present survey, at a scale of 1:1000, was based on a total station EDM framework with detail supplied by plane table and RK1 optical alidade and by graphical methods. Substantial features in the woodland at the east end of the area were surveyed but the dense vegetation may have obscured slighter features. The survey boundary was formed by the Precinct wall to east, south and west and by a modern wall and fence to the north. An additional area in woodland at the east end of the Precinct was surveyed at 1:2500 to record the outlines of quarries and other features.

The south side of the Precinct, which has been known as Kitchen Bank and East and West Applegarths since at least the sixteenth century (Walbran 1863, 309), consists of an undulating, north-facing slope overlooking the conventual buildings and abbey church. It is divided into two unequal parts by a deeply incised stream, a tributary of the River Skell. The Precinct is extremely rich in archaeological remains. There are building platforms and the buried remains of some buildings which are apparently preserved to a considerable height. There are also trackways, boundaries, features relating to water management and cultivation remains. There is very little direct dating evidence for these remains and there are few observable relationships in the earthworks. Some features can be distinguished as recent from map and aerial photographic evidence but others are undoubtedly of medieval origin.

The following descriptive account treats the features from west to east across the site regardless of functional or chronological groups; the discussion at the end brings together those features which can be associated with one another. The plan shows earthworks by means of conventional hachures. They are tied into existing hard detail, both ancient and modern. Natural hachures have been used to indicate the steepest natural slopes only.

A report on the features at the east end of the Precinct, represented on the 1:2500 plan only, is appended.

Description

Features to the west of the stream

001 and 002 Lynchet (001) up to 0.5m high defining the south side of the route through a (secondary) gate in the Precinct wall has been cut by a later track running diagonally across it. This second track (002) is defined by a flattened area and a lynchet 0.3m high. To the south of these features is an area of considerable recent disturbance connected with the lapidarium and its associated buildings.

003 Underground drain, showing on the surface as a depression 0.2-0.3m deep, is still flowing. It runs below a small arch in the Precinct wall before turning through an acute angle to run parallel to (004).

004 Drain, showing as a depression 0.2m deep.

005 Building platform defined by a substantial lynchet up to 1.2m high; the north gable wall, butting the Precinct wall, survives as part of the present field boundary. The area occupied by the building is partly floored in concrete, suggesting recent use.

006 Roofed buildings and concreted yard in use as a lapidarium; the position of the Precinct wall on either side of this complex makes it certain that there was an awkward re-entrant angle in the wall here. Perhaps there was always an entrance here as there is now, an idea strengthened by the existence of a road junction immediately outside the Precinct at this point.

007 Lynchet, 0.4-0.5m high, of uncertain origin.

008 and 009 Fugitive traces of ridge-and-furrow cultivation revealed only by melting snow; no earthworks survive.

010 Lynchet, up to 1.4m high at its west end but only 0.5m high to the east, probably defines the south edge of the field of rig (008). It seems to be associated with another lynchet (017) though no direct relationship is visible; it was replaced by (018) but may have continued to form one side of a track, with (013).

011 Platform defined by a slight, L-shaped scarp about 0.3m high; possibly a building.

012 Platform defined by a very slight scarp, 0.1-0.2m high; possibly a building.

013 Scarp, 0.4m high, containing stone and concrete, lies almost parallel to (010) and possibly forms the lower side of a track (an impression strengthened by air photo SE 2768 28/4533) but its function and relative date remain uncertain.

014 and 015 Large rectangular building platform (014) and attached yard

(015) defined by a series of slight but well-defined scarps 0.2-0.3m high. There is some stone in the scarps of (014). An irregular mound, only 0.2m high, lies to the west of (014). (014) shows particularly well on air photo SE 2768 28/4533.

016 Drain marked by a depression about 0.2m deep. Air photo SE 2768 28/4533 shows possible traces of ridge-and-furrow cultivation on the same alignment as this feature but nothing is visible on the ground.

017 Substantial lynchet, up to about 1.4m high, forms the western edge of the field of ridge-and-furrow (019). It appears to be associated with the lynchet (010) and is overlain by bank and ditch (018).

018 Bank, only 0.3m high but well-defined, and intermittent ditch, up to 0.2m deep, run from the farmyard (041) to the Precinct wall. This boundary overlies the lynchet (017) and seems to render the lynchet (010) redundant. It has one gap, about 4m wide, a possible gateway, and has been mutilated by some slight scoops near its west end. Its east end appears to rest on the wall of farmyard (041) but modern disturbance in the farmyard may have obliterated any continuation. At the point where it touches the Precinct wall there is a break in the wall consisting of a butt joint from the second visible course upwards; there is a different style of coping to either side of this joint and the wall appears to have been more recently pointed to the south of the joint. Despite the modern appearance of (018) it is not depicted on the OS 1st edition map of 1849-53 and does not appear, as a functioning boundary, on any air photo.

019 Field of ridge-and-furrow cultivation; the four southernmost lands are defined by furrows 0.2-0.3m deep but the remainder were visible only as lines of melting snow.

020 Terrace defined by two lynchets, the upper one only 0.4m high but the lower one up to 2.0m. The purpose of the terrace is uncertain; as a track it seems to lead nowhere but its isolated position and narrowness (little more than 2m) make its use for cultivation unlikely. There is some recent disturbance to the lower lynchet.

021 Small lynchet, only 0.4m high, associated with the brick-revetted sunken farmyard (043).

022 Lynchet, 0.4-0.5m high; at its east end it kinks around the circular feature (026) and seems to partly overlie it; some stonework is visible in the top of the lynchet at this point. (022) is a continuation of (028). The modern field boundary respects its line but lies from 3m to 12m south of it.

023 Field containing faint traces of drains, etc., recently levelled for use as a car park.

024 Terracing in natural slopes, probably a pathway.

025 Lynchet, up to 0.4m high.

026 Circular bank, about 0.3m high externally and rather less internally; of uncertain purpose, though it is possibly an ornamental tree planting ring. There is no stone visible. It seems to be respected but partly overlain by (022).

027 Irregular hollow, about 0.3m deep.

028 Ridge, like a causeway in appearance; the scarp forming its north side, which is 0.5m high, is a continuation of lynchet (022); the southern scarp is only about 0.3m high. The east end has been damaged and mutilated.

029 Possible drains; no earthwork is visible for the westernmost one but melting snow revealed a sharply defined line; the easterly one is a slight groove, 0.1m deep.

030 Possible building platform, consisting of a scarp, 0.3m high, to south and west, and a slight bank and a mound, also 0.3m high, to the east.

031 Strong lynchet, 0.5m high, forming the east end of a roughly rectangular flat area which appears to have been deliberately levelled. This area is bounded to the north by natural slopes, to the west by (029) and (030) and to the south by lynchet (032).

032 Lynchet, about 0.4m high, forming the north side of a possible trackway and feeding into the natural slopes above the stream.

033 Scarp, 0.3m high, probably associated with standing building (040) and its yard (041).

034 Rectangular hollow, 0.3m deep, formed by two inward facing scarps to north and south and an apron at the east end, is probably a building platform. It is subdivided by a slight, 0.2m high, transverse scarp.

035 Rectangular hollow, less than 0.2m deep, lies immediately below the apron at the east end of (034). This is probably another building. It is approximately the same width as (034) and is on the same alignment. Its southern scarp contains some stone.

036 Stony scarp, 0.4-0.5m high, forms the east edge of (035) and extends some way beyond it to north and south. Its north arm turns back at a right angle, forming a platform for another possible building and the south side of track (032).

037 Possible building platform lying below (036), formed by a stony scarp 0.3-0.4m high.

038 Well with a stone and concrete cover, probably relating to the recent use of the adjacent farm buildings and yards (040-043).

039 "Seven Sisters"; a fenced enclosure containing two yew trees; see NAR no. SE 26

NE 16.

040 Roofed agricultural building, fitted out as a byre; a stone kerb runs round the south and east sides of the building; at the east end this is doubled, the outer kerb forming a platform about 0.3m high.

041 Foldyard containing a raised area with recent masonry; aerial photos of 1945 (106G UK 734 3037) and 1955 (SE 2768/3) show this as a working farmyard with buildings standing in it. It was deserted by 1972 (OS 72 337 505).

042 Roofed agricultural building containing a byre and dairy; a modern enclosure attached to the north side used to contain pigsties.

043 Concreted yard, partly sunk into the hillside; this yard contained further buildings which are extant on aerial photos of 1945 (106G UK 627 3117) and 1955 (SE 2768/3) but demolished by 1972 (OS 72 337 505).

044 Stony rectangular platform of unknown purpose; the maximum height of its front scarp is 0.4m. The west side of the stream is revetted in stone from this platform for approximately 5m downstream. This is the only visible structure in the deeply incised 'gorge' formed by the stream.

045 Scarp, 0.4m high; see (046).

Features to the east of the stream

046 Scarp, 0.3m high, probably related to (045). A plan published by St John Hope (1900) shows a widening of the stream at this point, possibly connected with building (072), which might have been contained by these banks.

047 Track, still in use as a public footpath, defined by scarps generally 0.2m high but up to 0.4m high maximum. This track cuts through the Precinct wall.

048 Length of stone wall on line of Precinct wall but apparently too thin to be primary; a late rebuild. A return of this wall leads to the modern gate.

049 Mutilated circular mound, 0.7m high.

050 Small sub-oval mound, 0.4m high, containing some stone.

051 Slight irregular mound, 0.4m high.

052 Pond, fed by a culvert to the south and draining through a culvert to the north. The pond is rectangular and has a massive dam, up to 3m high externally, around its north side. The face of the dam is cut by a trackway which also cuts the pond's original(?)

outlet channel (053).

053 Outlet channel from the pond, damaged by a later track, is 1.0m deep where it cuts through the shoulder of the natural slope. At the foot of the natural slope it is shallower but has a stone wall, surviving to 0.4m high, on its south-west side.

054 Quarry, up to 4m deep, cuts (055).

055 Scarp, 0.4m high, cut by (054).

056 Cottage and garden; an L-shaped hedge marks the southern and eastern boundaries of a cottage garden. The back wall of the cottage itself is visible as is the concrete base of an outhouse. Two inspection covers and a concrete block mark the line of services to the north-west of the cottage and an apple tree in this area is probably a garden feature. This cottage and garden are not shown on the 1st edition OS map of the 1850s but are seen in air photos of 1945 (106G UK 734 3037) and 1955 (SE 2768/3) which also show extensive signs of activity around the farm complex (040-043). The cottage was demolished between 1967 (MAL 57 67 031) and 1972 (OS 72 337 505).

057 Mound of turf-covered rubble, up to 0.4m high.

058 Kerb of stones in front of modern entrance (157) through field wall; this kerb appears to be the inner face of the Precinct wall which, in this area, has collapsed and been replaced by a narrower field wall.

059 Turf-covered rubble, 0.3m high.

060 Slight mound, 0.2m high.

061 Irregular scarp, up to 0.4m high.

062 Scarp, 0.2m high.

063-069 Series of hollow ways defined by scarps ranging in height from 0.2m to 1.5m; the larger scarps (068 and 069) contain some stone and near the north end of these features there are stones, including dressed stones, lying on the surface. Both ends of (069) seem to have been cut by later routes (see (085) and (112)) but the southern gap may be original.

070 Building platform containing the remains of two rectangular stone buildings; the front scarp of the platform is 2.5m high and has been damaged by comparatively recent animal tracks. The southern building is marked by scarps up to 0.4m high and by a length of exposed wallface at the south-east corner. There appears to be an entrance, approximately 1m wide, in the east wall. The northern building lies immediately adjacent to, if not actually touching, the other; its north wall is marked only by a vegetation change but its east end, which projects beyond the east end of the southern building, is

clearly defined by a robber trench 0.3m deep. The west ends of both buildings are undefined.

071 Building platform; the scarp of this platform, which is up to 0.4m high, also forms the west side of the hollow ways (063-069) at their northern extremity. Some stone is visible on the platform but no building plan can be deduced.

072 Remains of a building marked on the OS 1st edition as "ruin" and lying astride the stream (so probably a mill), consisting of a short length of wall amongst the roots of a tree and some stonework and tumbled stone where the stream issues; (073) and (075) probably mark the east end of this building, which has been very thoroughly demolished; see discussion below.

073, 074 and 075 Slight scarps, up to 0.2m high; (073) and (075) are probably connected with the building depicted on the OS 1st edition map as "ruin" (see (072)).

076 and 077 Slight scarps, up to 0.3m high.

078 Scarp, 0.4m high.

079 Massive L-shaped lynchet, 2.5m high, forming a level rectangular platform, possibly a yard associated with building platforms (080-082). The other sides of this yard would have been formed by the north part of bank (083) and lynchet (084). Its entrance appears to be in the north-east corner with a second possible entrance in the south-west corner, alongside (076).

080 Building platform consisting of an L-shaped scarp, 0.3m high, containing a rubble bank, 0.2m high, probably the remains of a stone building.

081 Building platform with 1.0m high scarps to north and south, that to the north also defining the entrance to the yard (see (079)).

082 Building platform above and behind (081), its backscarp only 0.3m high.

083 Bank, 1.2m high to the west, 0.2m high to the east, bounding the area containing buildings (080-082). At its south end it turns to end on the top of lynchet (069), part of the hollow way system, but it is not clear whether (083) is cut by the hollow ways. It has been cut at one point by a later track which has also cut (069/085).

084 Scarp, 0.3-0.5m high, containing some stone, forms the back of platform (082) and extends westward to bound the yard formed by (079). An arm of (084) runs north to form a subsidiary enclosure alongside building platform (082).

085 Irregular scarp, 0.3-0.4m high, possibly formed part of (069). The breach between (069) and this feature is opposite a break in bank (083) and may represent a late trackway.

086 Scarp, 0.4m high, on the line of the west wall of the industrial building known as the brewhouse, probably results from the excavations of 1888 (Coppack 1986a).

087 Series of irregular scarps up to 1.2m high, resulting from the excavations of the south industrial building, the brewhouse, in 1888 (Coppack 1986a); the top of the easternmost scarp marks the line of the outside wall of the "office" (see (088)).

088 Line of exposed masonry at an oblique angle to the building is marked on the plan reproduced by Coppack (1986a, fig. 2) as a single, solid but un-annotated line. A problem of interpretation arises, as this masonry is 2.5-3.0m above the floor level of the industrial building as excavated. The inference is that the visible masonry forms part of an upper storey and St John Hope's version of the plan (1900, opp. 402) seems to confirm this but neither plan takes account of this change of level.

089 Scarp, 0.4m high.

090 Mound, 0.4m high, possibly of spoil from the 1888 excavation.

091 Building platform(?) above a scarp, 1.0m high; some masonry is visible along the north edge. This is at a similar level to (088) so it may be the upper part of a buried building rather than a building platform.

092 Scarp forming the south side of the modern track (093), interrupted at its west end by the 1888 excavation disturbance; it stands up to 1.2m high.

093 Double lynchet track formed by scarps up to 1.0m high.

094 Remains of a stone wall forming the side of (093).

095 Scarp, up to 1.0m high; possibly a building occupied the space between this scarp and (096).

096 L-shaped scarp, up to 1.0m high, a continuation of (097) but also forming a trackway with (098).

097 Scarp, 0.3m high, on the line of a wall, the face of which is exposed intermittently.

098 Mound, 1.2m high, its scarped west side defining a track.

099 Track consisting of a terrace in the natural slope.

100 Scarp, 0.4m high.

101 Lynchet trackway; the lynchet, on the upper side, is 0.4m high; the lower side of the track is marked simply by a break in the natural slope. This is the same track as

(102).

102 Double lynchet trackway; the upper lynchet is up to 0.6m high, the lower one about 0.4m. This is the same track as (101).

103 Scarp, 0.2m high.

104 Probable building platform, defined by an L-shaped scarp 0.4m high. The lower lynchet of (102) feeds down onto this platform, suggesting an entrance to the building at its east end.

105 Area of disturbance, possibly recent, defined by a scarp about 0.3m high.

106 Area of disturbance, defined by a scarp about 0.3m high.

107 Probable building platform, defined by an L-shaped scarp 0.3m high.

108 Trackway, defined by the lower lynchet of (102) and a break in natural slope; appears to serve building (107).

109 Large rectangular hollow, possibly a quarry but more probably an artificial pond, set into the natural slope; it is 1.0m deep on the downhill side but the scarps forming the upper, south, side are up to 2.5m high. The dam is 1.3m high maximum to the north. There is no definite sign of inlet or outlet channels though the latter may have been in the north-east corner. There has been some recent damage to the floor of the pond.

110 Cultivated area indicated by two slight furrows, 0.1-0.2m deep.

111 Lynchet forming the downhill limit of (110), 0.5-1.5m high.

112 Rubble mound with a scarp up to 0.8m high forming the edge of the modern footpath.

113-116 Rubble mounds alongside the Precinct wall, up to 0.5m high.

117 Scarp, 0.3m high.

118 Scarp, 0.4m high, forming the side of the modern path.

119 Recent disturbance to natural slope, 0.4m deep.

120 Amorphous earthwork feature consisting of a circular ditched mound with elongated exterior banks; the earthwork is no more than 0.3m high except for the outer scarp on the east side which is up to 1.2m high. Some damage by the modern footpath renders this feature especially difficult to interpret but it might be an ornamental tree planting feature.

121 Track, defined by fragmentary lynchets up to 1.0m high maximum; this track continues the line of (099), (102) and (108) but is possibly cut by (122).

122 Track, defined by lynchets 0.2-0.4m high; this track is a branch from (093) and seems to cut the lynchets defining (121), though its own course south of this is uncertain.

123 Scarp, 0.4m high.

124-126 Three slight scarps, up to 0.3m high.

127 Substantial, amorphous earthwork feature with scarps up to 2.0m high; this feature might simply be the result of quarrying but it may have an ornamental garden function.

128 Track, defined by a lynchet forming the south side of (093) and by a break in the natural slope. This track is a branch of (093) but is blocked by the modern field walls which post-date the OS 1st edition map of the mid-nineteenth century.

129 Scarp, 0.3m high.

130 Mound, about 0.3m high, at the end of a ridge (part of (131)), possibly the result of clearance, though no stone is visible, or the accumulation of 'head'.

131 Cultivated area; broad ridges with furrows mainly 0.2-0.3m deep.

132 Scarp, 0.3m high.

133 Stone rickle, probably the remains of a wall, runs approximately parallel to the modern fence.

134 Scarp, up to 0.4m high.

135 Ditch or channel by-passing ponds (140) and (142); at the south end the channel is about 1.0m deep and contained between slight banks, each of which is 0.2-0.3m high externally; at the north end it is only 0.5m deep but its east side is formed by the bank retaining pond (142) which is up to 1.2m high. The channel is blocked by track (136) and apparently by the construction of the outlet channel (143). The channel is also damaged by the modern footpath and blocked by the modern fieldwall on the line of the Precinct wall; nothing is visible in the field to the south.

136 Track running through the present gate in the Precinct wall and crossing channels (135) and (141); it then turns south to join the modern footpath but not as a surveyable earthwork.

137 Scarp, about 0.4m high, forming the south side of the modern footpath.

138 Mound, 0.5m high.

139 Probable water channel, 0.7m deep to the south, 0.5m to the north.

140 Large rectangular pond, still holding water, at least 1.5m deep; drained by (141).

141 Channel connecting ponds (140) and (142), 1.0m deep between banks 0.2m high externally; the channel is crossed and apparently blocked by track (136).

142 Large rectangular pond, still holding water, at least 2.0m deep; the retaining bank on the west side and dam to the north are 1.2m high externally. A slight depression, 0.7m deep, is recessed into the east bank; its purpose is uncertain but it might be part of an earlier pond (see discussion).

143 Outflow channel from pond (142), 1.1m deep to the south, 0.6m deep to the north, fades out on the slope below the pond. It appears to block channel (135). There is much stonework in the sides of the channel and between the channel and scarp (144), suggesting the presence of sluice gates and other structures.

144 Scarp, 0.3m high.

145 Slight hollow, 0.2m deep, with a bank of similar relief on the west side; probably the remains of another water channel, possibly an overflow channel from pond (140).

146 Small mound, 0.3m high.

147 Rectangular pond, 1.3m deep; the dam at the north end is only about 0.3m high externally. This pond has no visible connection with the neighbouring ponds (140) and (142).

148 Scarp, about 0.3m high, possibly a continuation of (144) damaged by a modern path.

149 Stone wall standing only 0.1m above present ground level.

150 Hollow, probably a water channel, 1.0m deep to the south, 0.3m deep to the north; blocked by the Precinct wall and its course apparently interrupted by (143); it could originally have been part of (135).

151 Precinct wall; the wall, dating to the first half of the thirteenth century (Coppack 1986b, 133 n. 62), varies in thickness from 0.9m to 1.1m and is in variable condition; in some places it stands to full height (3.6m) with coping stones, at others it is reduced to footings or rubble mounds with a hedge and/or fence on top. At other points it has been replaced entirely by a drystone field wall 0.6-0.7m wide. There are a number of entrances through the Precinct wall.

152 Entrance, apparently of some antiquity; the wall here stands to full height and the gate has well shaped quoins but no arch (see (158)).

153 Gate through a modern wall just off the line of the Precinct wall but possibly on the site of an older entrance (see (006)).

154 Field gate, probably recent.

155 Gap filled by hedge but appears to have been an entrance at some time.

156 Narrow gap with remains of side wall(s), possibly an early or original postern gate; it faces Morker Grange.

157 Field gate, modern; Precinct wall appears to be continuous here (see (058)).

158 Arched gateway, early and possibly original; it faces Morker Grange.

159 Field gate, modern.

Discussion

Access

A large number of features on the site are access routes of various dates. Few of them demonstrate chronological relationships however. (002) cuts (001) and (122) seems to cut (121). Elsewhere tracks are found in relationships with features of other types. (093), which is still in use to a limited degree, is clearly post-medieval in that it overlies the remains of at least one monastic building (the southern industrial building excavated in 1888 (Coppack 1986a, fig. 2)). (136) overlies, and seems to block, channels (135) and (141) of the water management system; it also overlies the cultivation (131). The track running around the face of the dam of pond (052) could be taken as a contemporary feature and part of the original design but a slight scarp lies across it, partly interrupting its course and suggesting that the track is overlying the return of the dam; this track has also damaged the outlet channel (053). (102) and (108) appear to be contemporary with building platforms (104) and (107). (099) may have been an original route to and from the yard formed by lynchet (079) with the branches between (079) and (095) and between (096) and (098) being later breaches. The hollow ways (063-069) are problematical; at the north end they funnel past (071) before turning west to run down the west side of (079) (a route still in use in 1955 (NLAP SE 2768/3)); at the south end they run towards the Precinct wall at a point where there is no apparent gate; presumably they are simply utilising the gentlest slope, at the top of which they split to left and right to pass through gates (156) and (158) and to service other needs in this part of the Precinct; the gap between the south end of (069) and (112), which appears superficially to be a breach, may be an original feature. The modern public footpath, running inside the Precinct wall, follows older tracks for much of its course.

Boundaries

A survey taken after the Dissolution (Walbran 1863, 307-9) suggests that the Precinct was divided into a number of closes. Some of these, on the south side of the Skell, are named: a close, at that time under pasture, called East Applegarth, estimated at 8 acres (3.2ha) and containing a fishpond; a parcel of scrubby woodland called Kitchen Bank, estimated at 3 acres (1.2ha); three closes called West Applegarths, estimated at 12 acres (4.9ha). The grant to Sir Richard Gresham, dated 1540, (*ibid.*, 385-7) indicates that the West Applegarths were also under pasture at this time, though presumably both they and the East Applegarth had at some time been orchards. The OS have retained the name Kitchen Bank which they have applied to the whole central area of the present survey. The official guidebook (Gilyard-Beer 1986, 26) suggests locations for East and West Applegarths on Kitchen Bank but there are problems with this scheme. Pondgarth, within East Applegarth, is supposed to consist of one pond, according to the survey, rather than three, as is the case if Gilyard-Beer's location is accepted; however, it may be that a group of connected ponds would have been regarded as a single entity by the sixteenth-century surveyor. More importantly, the acreage available in Gilyard-Beer's

location of East and West Applegarths is not sufficient to account for the sixteenth-century estimations. There may be a case for suggesting that the three closes of West Applegarths were to the west of the stream (see below) but it seems unlikely that this problem will ever be resolved.

Be that as it may, the extant earthworks show a number of boundary features, defining medieval and later closes, fields and yards. Some of these take the form of banks and others are substantial lynchets. A few show chronological relationships. Bank and ditch (018) clearly cut lynchet (017) and appear to represent a post-medieval hedgerow. (017) on the other hand, with lynchet (010) which appears to be associated, represent an earlier series of land divisions. It is tempting to suggest that these two substantial lynchets, meeting at a T-junction, might have formed the three closes of West Applegarths (the area involved is approximately 4.5ha, close to the 4.9ha estimated by the sixteenth-century survey) but this must remain speculation. All three of these fields ((008), (009) and (019)) have been under cultivation at some time but it is impossible to date this phase of activity.

A number of lynchets in the central area of the present survey, notably (062), (070), (079), (084) and (111), form boundaries; there is also a major boundary bank (083) and the remains of a stone wall (097) but no firm chronology can be established for any of these features, except insofar as they are extremely likely to be medieval. The cultivation ridges associated with (111) are broad but not closely dateable. Features (135), (143) and (150) were taken by the OS to be a boundary feature around the ponds; they may be better regarded as part of the water management system, though possibly performing a boundary function incidentally.

Water features

One of the most prominent sets of features at this, as at many other Cistercian sites, is that relating to water management, though at Fountains they take an unusual form. There are four, and probably five, ponds in the area surveyed. The doubt expressed concerns (109) which does not hold water at present and has no obvious inflow and outflow channels: despite this its interpretation as a pond is almost certainly correct. The ponds have been described by the OS and the official guidebook (Gilyard-Beer 1986) as fishponds but, while it is likely that they also performed this function, it seems certain that their primary purpose was in supplying a head of water for the monastic buildings in the valley below and they should, perhaps, be described as tanks rather than ponds (Coppack 1990, 85). They are, in their present state and with the exception of (109) and (147), deeper than is strictly necessary for fishponds. (052) and (109) lie above the industrial buildings (Coppack 1986a), and (052) feeds the stream above the mill (072); the others lie above the infirmary and domestic ranges which, according to Coppack (1990, 85), they feed via Robin Hood's Well. All the ponds are considerably higher than these buildings and could therefore have fed a piped supply to their upper storeys (see Coppack 1986a, 60). The group of ponds and associated channels at the east end of the surveyed area forms a complex and apparently sophisticated water management system. It also shows some chronological depth; the largest pond (142) is a relatively late feature, probably replacing one or more earlier ponds - the recess at the north-east

corner might be part of an earlier, slighter pond; the outflow channel (143) supersedes channel (135). The sheer size of the ponds as well as the presence of substantial stonework in and around channel (143) suggests a considerable investment of resources in the construction of this system, especially in the later period. These ponds may have been fed from further ponds within the extensive earthworks of Morker Grange (SE 26 NE 15) to the south but these lie beyond the scope of the present survey.

Buildings

The area surveyed contains traces of about twenty-two buildings in the form of platforms, traces of walls and, in one case, a robber trench. Dating evidence is scarce.

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition map, surveyed between 1849 and 1853, contains some details of interest. The buildings at (006) are labelled as "smithy". Building (040) is shown but not (042); it must be later but it appears on St John Hope's plan (1900). The dating of the more transient buildings in the farmyard complex (see (041) and (043)) and the related cottage (056) is discussed above. The building represented by (072) is shown on the 1st edition map and marked in gothic type as "ruin"; it sits astride the stream and was presumably a mill, perhaps that known as the "Berke mill" or tannery mill (Walbran 1863; Gilyard-Beer 1986, 77), though it should be noted that the field to the south-east of the precinct was known as "Barkhouse Wray" (OS 1st edition); a position close to the conventual buildings seems to have been normal for a tannery (Donkin 1978, 69; Coppack 1986b, 127). No other buildings are shown on this map within the area of the present survey, so all the remaining platforms must be taken to represent buildings which had gone before the mid-nineteenth century. Evidence for stone building, of foundations at least, is seen in buildings (005), (014), (035), (037), (044), (070), (072), (080), (087) and (091). The others may have been of timber construction. No function can be suggested for any of these buildings with the exception of (072), mentioned above, and (087) which has been subject to excavation (Coppack 1986a). Some of the buildings seem to have been of considerable size, up to 30m long, and this may reflect the scale of agricultural and industrial activity at Fountains which was large, as at other successful abbeys.

The dispersed distribution of these buildings, coupled with the slight nature of some of their visible remains (e.g. (104), (107) and especially (072)) suggests that others may remain to be discovered in apparently blank areas or under features of later date.

Appendix 1

Features at the East end of the precinct surveyed at 1:2500 only

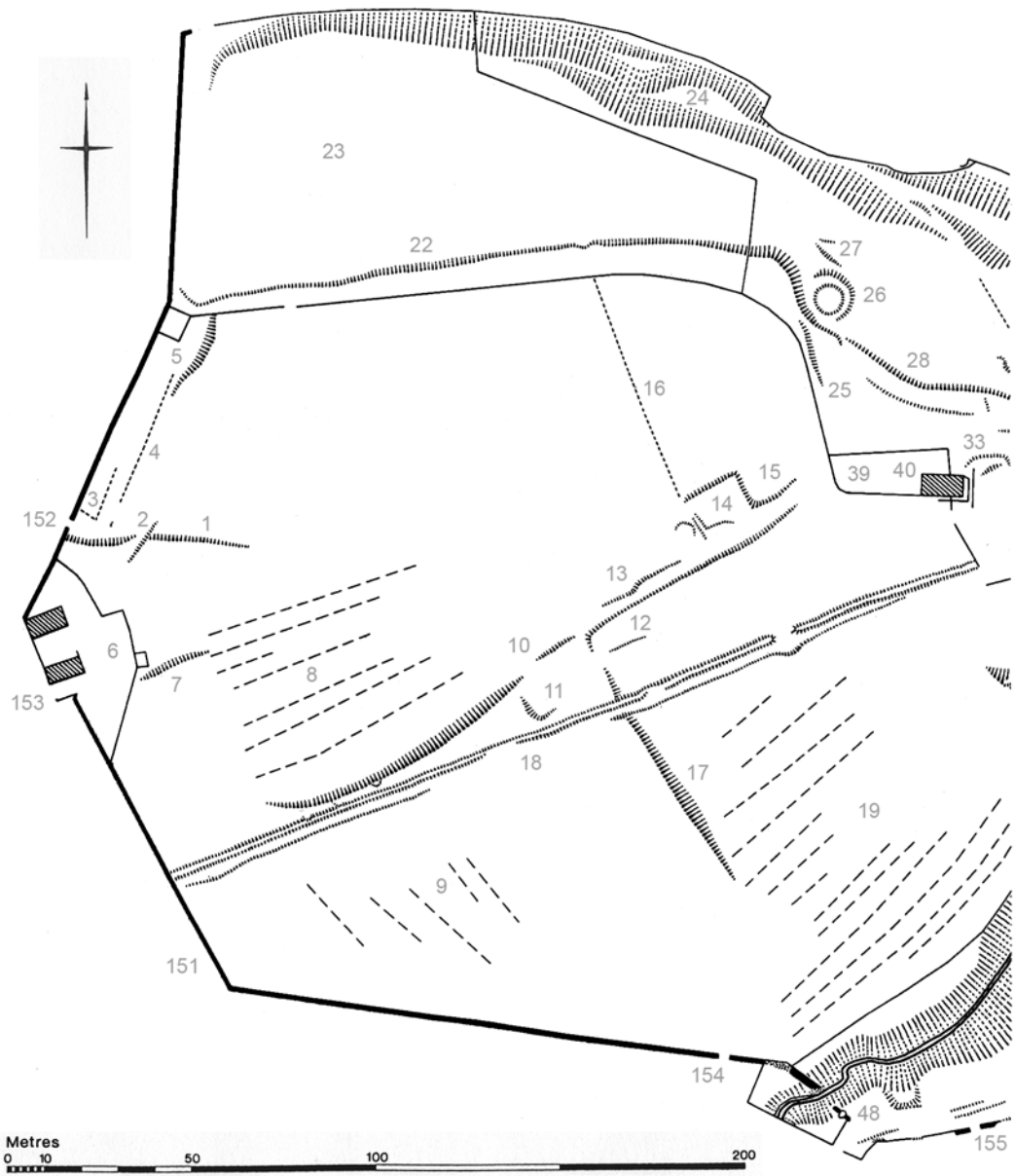
- (1) Quarry, up to c. 8m deep.
- (2) Quarry, with some exposed rockface, up to c. 7m deep, seems to interrupt the line of the precinct wall.
- (3) Small quarry, up to 3m deep; there is a wall footing across the front of the quarry and other tumbled stone on the floor but it is not clear whether this is the remains of a building or simply quarry waste. This small quarry may, like (2), impinge on the line of the precinct wall.
- (4) Course of precinct wall marked by an intermittent stone rickle running down a natural spine; there is a wide gap where a branch of track (8) runs towards Galand Bridge.
- (5) Quarry, main scarp up to c. 5m high, lower scarp only 1.2m high; an intermittent stream issues from the foot of this lower scarp.
- (6) Quarry(?), up to c. 2m deep; a tumbled stone wall is possibly cut by this feature.
- (7) Bank, 2.4-3.0m wide and up to 0.4m high, runs along the backs of quarries (1) and (2); it is impossible to tell whether the terminals are original or the result of damage. In some places there is a north-facing scarp, also up to 0.4m high, to the south of the bank and contiguous to it. It should be noted that the quarries on the north side of the precinct have a wall running behind them and that a similar feature occurs in the precinct of Furness Abbey, Cumbria (NAR: SD 27 SW 12).
- (8) Track, a terraceway connecting the quarries with the central area of the precinct; the track also continues beyond the quarries where it forks, one branch running downslope towards the River Skell, the other passing through the line of the precinct wall (4) and crossing Galand Bridge. A large amount of tumbled stone between the track and (?)quarry (6) may be the site of a structure or may be simply quarry waste. Immediately east of this point the track crosses a broad platform which may also have been a building stance, though there is no firm evidence for this.

Survey and Investigation by Mark Bowden and Phil Sinton, Dec 1990-March 1991

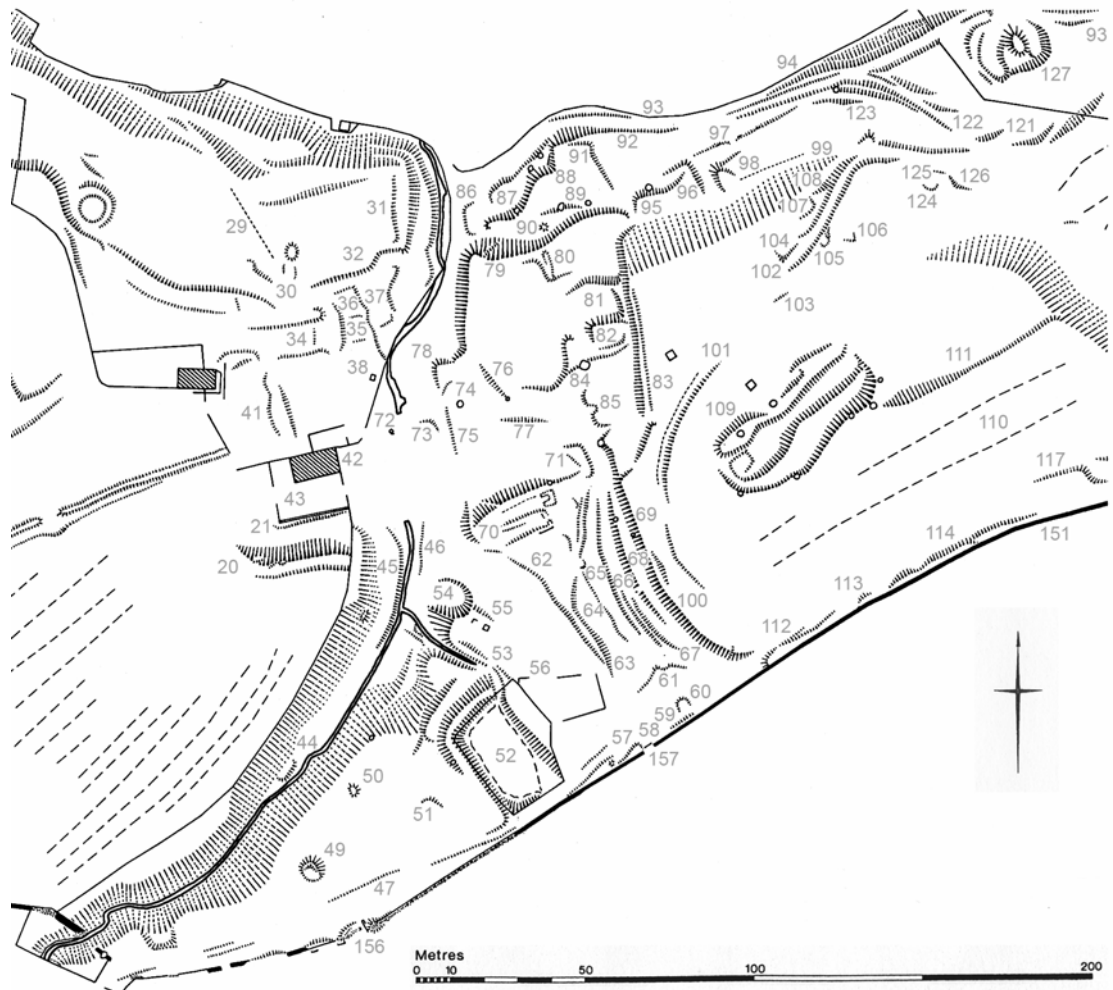
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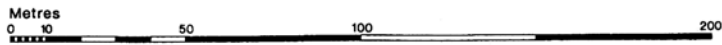
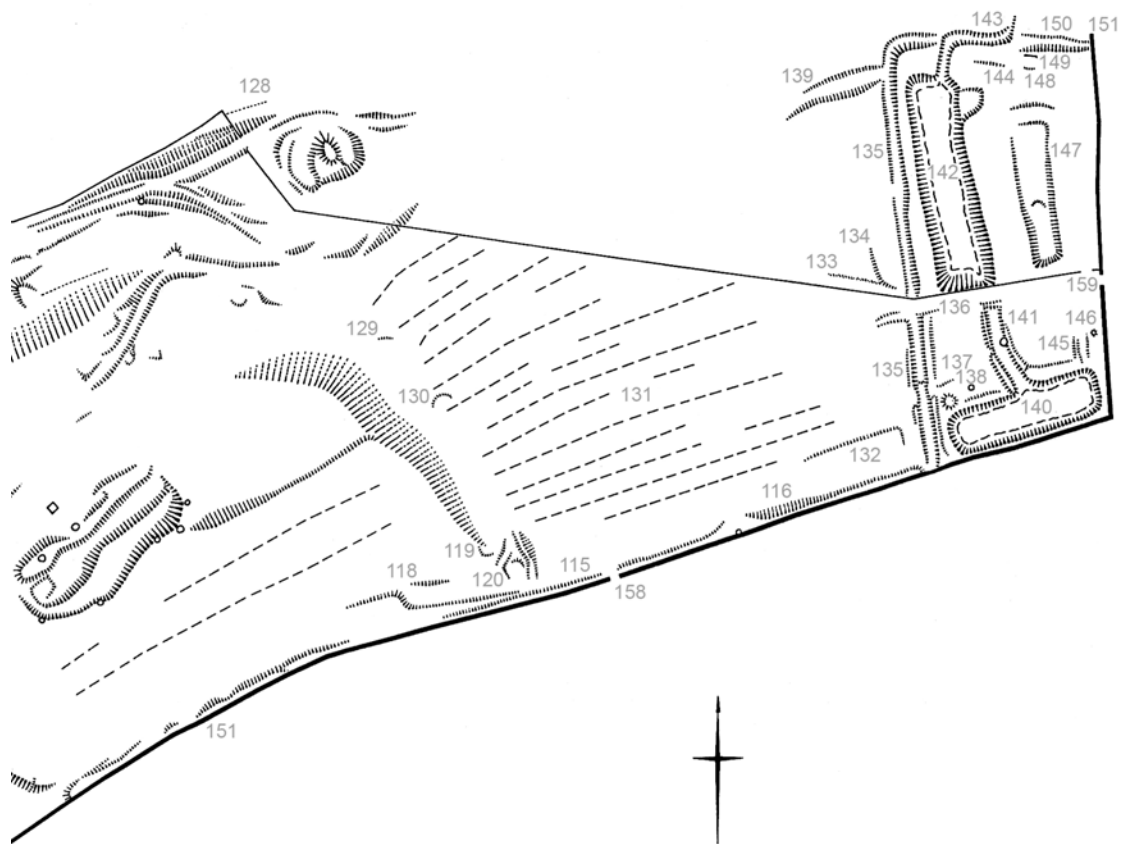
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East end: ©Crown copyright.RCHME

Fountains Precinct, south side, showing features at east end surveyed at 1:2500 only,
reduced to 1:5000
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