

ROXBY HALL, ROXBY,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd  
18 Springdale Way  
Beverley  
East Yorkshire  
HU17 8NU

The archaeological survey work and subsequent report was generously funded by the following:



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Report no: 2013/458.R01  
Version: Final  
Date: March 2014  
Author: Ed Dennison & Shaun Richardson

Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd  
18 Springdale Way  
Beverley  
East Yorkshire  
HU17 8NU

On behalf of

North York Moors National Park Authority  
The Old Vicarage  
Bondgate  
Helmsley  
North Yorkshire YO62 5BP

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY,  
ROXBY HALL, ROXBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*In May 2013, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) to undertake an archaeological survey of the remains of Roxby Hall, Roxby, near Hinderwell, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 7602 1636 centred). The work was undertaken in conjunction with the Mulgrave Community Research Group (MCRG), a community research and heritage group supported by the Jet Coast Development Trust (JCOT) and funded by the NYMNPA's LEADER project and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project comprised the collation of readily available documentary research, and an earthwork and geophysical survey of the presumed site of the former Hall, and it was funded by the NYMNPA's LEADER project.*

*It has been suggested that some of the geophysical anomalies, including possible large ditches, are perhaps indicative of Iron Age defensive and/or settlement use of the site. While this cannot be ruled out, it is likely that any such activity will have been severely degraded due to later medieval cultivation. Parts of the survey area contain intermittent denuded ridge and furrow earthworks, suggesting it once formed part of Roxby's open field system. There is also 19th century place-name evidence suggesting the presence of a former park to the north, north-east and south-west of the Hall site. Some potential boundaries of this park have been tentatively proposed, but it is not known if it was a medieval or a later creation.*

*The limited documentary evidence suggests that, at the start of the 13th century, Roxby was probably held by the de Acklam family, but it passed through marriage to the Boynton family after c.1230. However, despite this association with one of the East Riding's foremost families, and their apparent founding of an adjacent chapel/church in the early 15th century, or perhaps the re-founding of an earlier 13th chapel, there is little or no direct documentary evidence for any kind of medieval residence or capital messuage in Roxby.*

*A combination of field and limited documentary evidence suggests that Roxby Hall was built on a new site adjacent to the church and away from an earlier manorial complex, either by Thomas Boynton (d.1523) in the late 15th/early 16th century or more likely Sir Matthew Boynton (d.1647) in the early 17th century. The Hall is recorded in documents of 1661, 1702 and 1771, is shown on a map of 1720, and it had 12 hearths in 1673. However, it was only a peripheral Boynton house on an outlying estate, although it was the main residence for Sir Matthew and his family between 1614 and 1636, and it probably remained permanently occupied until 1654 when the family inherited Burton Agnes Hall. After this, the Hall may have formed a 'lodge-type' function, and there would have been extensive views from it to a park, the sea and the wider landscape. The Hall was probably demolished at the end of the 18th century, most likely after Sir Griffith Boynton (d.1801) sold the Roxby estate to John Turton of Edinburgh in 1792, and only foundations were visible in 1808. Some of the stone might have been used for the reconstruction of the church in 1818, as well as for other repairs and building work elsewhere in the village.*

*A large earthwork platform, measuring 26m by 9m and with an upstanding masonry fragment at its north-east corner, would appear to represent the site of the Hall, while other adjacent earthworks are likely to form gardens, the sites of other buildings, a courtyard and access routes. The geophysical survey results suggest a larger building measuring c.25m wide and comprising at least three 4m wide ranges, some of which can be married to the surviving earthworks. Other geophysical anomalies and earthworks further to the west might represent associated service or agricultural buildings. The survey area was subsequently used for agricultural purposes, and a large drystone walled enclosure and associated field boundaries were constructed. However, as with all forms of non-intrusive archaeological investigation, the results of the earthwork and geophysical surveys can only be confirmed through limited excavation.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## Reason and Circumstances for the Project

- 1.1 In May 2013, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) to undertake an archaeological survey of the remains of Roxby Hall, Roxby, near Hinderwell, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 7602 1636 centred). The project was to be undertaken in conjunction with the Mulgrave Community Research Group (MCRG), a community research and heritage group supported by the Jet Coast Development Trust (JCOT) and funded by the NYMNP's LEADER project and the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 1.2 The scope of the work was defined by an EDAS methods statement, which was produced following discussions with the MCRG and the NYMNP (see Appendix 4). The project was funded by the NYMNP as part of their current LEADER (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale) Small Scale Enhancements Scheme, which is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) administered by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

## Site Location and Description

- 1.3 The survey area lies at the north end of Roxby village, near Hinderwell, on the north side of the North York Moors National Park (NGR NZ 7602 1636 centred) (see figure 1). The area included the core of the complex formerly comprising Roxby Hall, which is sometimes described as Roxby 'castle'. However, the site is more often referred to as a hall or manor house, and so is described as a 'Hall' throughout this report, in order to distinguish it from Roxby Castle near Thornton-le-Dale, near Pickering, on the south side of the National Park; this Roxby, coincidentally, also contains the earthworks of a mid 16th century Hall but owned by the Cholmley family, later of Whitby (Swan & Mackay 1989). The similarities between the two names means that they are frequently confused in published sources.
- 1.4 The survey area covered c.4 hectares, close to St Nicholas' Church. Nearest the church, the site occupies an elevated position at 142m AOD, although further to the north it slopes steeply away, reaching a minimum height of 114m AOD in the north-west corner. From the relatively level central part of the survey area, there are extensive views to the south-west, north-west, north and north-east, taking in the valley of the Roxby Beck, Boulby, the North Sea and Staithes (see plate 8). With the exception of a single standing fragment, there is almost nothing left above ground of the structure of the Hall, although there are extensive earthworks. The survey area is pasture, used for grazing cattle, although the grass was rather long at the time of the survey. Most of the survey area's boundaries were marked by post and wire fencing, although there were sections of drystone walling and hedging along the east side; the churchyard is also surrounded by drystone walling and there is a ruined drystone wall enclosure within the survey area. The survey area is owned by the Turton Estate, and is currently tenanted by Mr Albert Jackson of Manor House Farm.
- 1.5 The site of the Hall is not a Scheduled Monument, but it is listed on the NYMNP Historic Environment Record (site 2790) and English Heritage's National Record of the Historic Environment (site 29022; NZ71NE14). St

Nicholas' Church is also a Grade II Listed Building (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) 1148616; Images of England no. 327897) (see Appendix 3). Roxby Castle (or 'Rousby Hall' as it appears in 19th century sources) is not well covered in published secondary sources, and the site does not appear to have been the subject of any previous archaeological investigation.

### **Aims of the Project**

1.6 The aims of the project were to:

- to identify and gather sufficient information to establish the extent, nature, character, condition, quality, date, significance and functional relationships of the surviving archaeological and historical features within the survey area;
- to assist the Mulgrave Community Research Project (MCRP) in the undertaking of a geophysical survey;
- to provide a detailed record of the features within the survey area; and
- to provide information that could be used on a public information board to be erected close to the site of the Hall.

### **Survey Methodologies**

1.7 In accordance with the agreed methods statement (see Appendix 4), four main tasks were undertaken to complete the archaeological survey. In many cases, there were cross references and links between the various tasks, with some elements informing and determining the scope and scale of subsequent tasks.

#### *Collation of Documentary Material/Desk-based Research*

1.8 In conjunction with the MCRP, the history and development of the site and its environs were researched, to try and provide a basic chronology for the site.

1.9 Consultation was undertaken with, and information was gathered where available from, the following organisations to obtain primary and secondary source material, including documentary material, estate and tithe maps, historic and modern Ordnance Survey maps, pictorial records, aerial photographs etc.

- the NYMNPAs Archaeologist and Historic Environment Record (HER), Helmsley, North Yorkshire;
- the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, York;
- the North Yorkshire County Records Office, Northallerton;
- East Riding Archives Office, Beverley;
- Hull History Centre;
- national archival holdings such as the National Monuments Record, the British Library, English Heritage etc;
- local history libraries in Whitby and Scarborough;
- Whitby Museum (Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society).

In the event, there was little original material forthcoming from these sources.

1.10 Material was also gathered from existing MCRG records, and it was hoped that consultation would take place with Clive Welford (Roxby Manor Farm, Scaling)

who knows the site in detail and has been conducting his own research over recent years; in the event, Mr Welford was unable to help.

- 1.11 A full list of primary and secondary sources consulted are given in the Bibliography (Chapter 5) below.

#### *Topographical Earthwork Survey*

- 1.12 The whole of the c.4ha survey area was subject to a detailed Level 3 survey, as defined by English Heritage (2007), to record the position and form of all features considered to be of archaeological and/or historic interest. The survey was undertaken at a scale of 1:500 using EDM total station equipment. Sufficient information was gathered to allow the survey area to be readily located through the use of surviving structures, fences, walls, water courses, trackways and other topographical features. The survey recorded the position at ground level of all structures, wall remnants and revetments, earthworks, water courses, leats, paths, stone and rubble scatters, ironwork, fences, walls and other boundary features, and any other features considered to be of archaeological or historic interest. The survey also recorded any differences in the exposed surface detritus, such as sorted stone and/or rubble scatters, as well as differences in coarse vegetation; these features may aid the functional differentiation and interpretation of the site.
- 1.13 The site survey was integrated into the Ordnance Survey national grid by resection to points of known co-ordinates. Heights AOD were obtained by reference to the nearest OS benchmark, located on Roxby Church (value 144.38m AOD); contours were not plotted across the survey area, although reduced heights were provided where useful. Survey points were taken from fixed survey stations on a closed traverse around and through the survey area. The locations, descriptions and values of the Bench Marks and control points are stated in the final survey data.
- 1.14 On completion of the total station survey, the field data was plotted and re-checked on site in a separate operation. The resulting site survey was produced at a scale of 1:500 and presented as an interpretative hand-drawn wet ink hachure plan(s) using conventions established by English Heritage (1999; 2002, 14; 2007, 31-35). Larger scale plans, at 1:10,000 and 1:2,500 scale have also been used to put the survey area into context.
- 1.15 No detailed recording of the surviving standing fragment of the Hall was required as part of the survey work, due to its very limited extent. However, an inspection was made of a large ruined walled enclosure within the survey area, and also the drystone field walls forming the boundaries of the survey area, in order to locate any *ex situ* architectural fragments from the Hall that had been re-used. Where these were located, they were photographed in detail.
- 1.16 A photographic record was also made of well-preserved earthworks, details of specific features and/or areas of erosion etc. More general photographs were also taken showing the landscape context of the area. The colour photographs were produced using a digital camera with 10 megapixel resolution; English Heritage photographic guidelines were followed (English Heritage 2007, 14) and each photograph was normally provided with a scale. All photographs have been clearly numbered and labelled with the subject, orientation, date taken and photographer's name, and were cross-referenced to digital files etc; the resulting photographic record appears as Appendix 1.

- 1.17 The initial EDM total station survey was undertaken on 10th and 19th June 2013, and the subsequent hand enhancement and photographic survey was carried out on 19th and 26th June 2013.

#### *Geophysical Survey*

- 1.18 A geophysical (magnetometer) survey was undertaken by the MCRG, using a Geoscan FM36 Fluxgate Gradiometer with autologger (see plate 15). In consultation with EDAS, the survey was concentrated on the central area and northern edge of the plateau formerly occupied by Roxby Hall, and a total of 9.5 grids were surveyed, covering an area of 0.38ha. A further 0.18ha was surveyed in the walled enclosure within the survey area, but it was found that there were large amounts of ferrous metals, in the form of feeding troughs and other farming detritus, present here. Subsequent processing reflected this, and as no useful information was recovered, the results were omitted from the geophysical survey report.
- 1.19 The geophysical survey was undertaken in June 2013, and an unedited copy of the report is produced as Appendix 2. The corner points of the geophysical survey grids were re-surveyed with the EDM total station equipment, to allow the grid to be added to the topographical survey, so that a direct correlation with the earthworks could be made. Where appropriate, the results of the geophysical survey have been added to the various chapters below.

#### **Survey Products**

##### *Archaeological Survey Report*

- 1.20 An EDAS archive archaeological survey report has been produced, based on the results of the documentary collation and the information obtained during the field work. This assembles and summarises the available evidence for the survey area in an ordered form, synthesises the data, and comments on the quality and reliability of the evidence, and how it might need to be supplemented by further field work or desk-based research. The report is illustrated with reduced versions of the survey drawings, historic maps and plans, and a selection of photographic plates. The report also contains various appendices, including the photographic record and a copy of the geophysical survey report.

##### *Archaeological Survey Archive*

- 1.21 A project archive, comprising paper, magnetic and plastic media, has been prepared and indexed according to the standards set by English Heritage (EDAS site code RHR 13). This was deposited with the NYMNPA on the completion of the project.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### The Medieval Period

- 2.1 Although the earthworks and other features within the survey area are presumed to be primarily of post-medieval date, the following brief summary covers the medieval period, in order to place the site into context.
- 2.2 In the medieval period, Roxby and Hinderwell were two separate townships which formed the parish of Hinderwell. In 1086, one carucate (c.120 acres) of land in Roxby was owned by the Crown as demesne, two carucates were soke of (subject to) Seaton manor (north-west of Hinderwell), and three carucates formed a berewick or outlying estate of Borrowby (just to the east of Roxby, part of Newton Mulgrave parish). Borrowby and Roxby were held before the Conquest by 'Swen' as one manor, and in 1086 by Niel Fossard from the Count of Mortain. Robert, son of Niel Fossard, and William his son, granted one carucate of land in the township to Whitby Abbey (Atkinson 1874, 214-215; Russell 1923, 365). It has also been suggested that Hailthorpe, on the western edge of Roxby Low Moor, may be the vill of Roscheltorp mentioned with Hinderwell in 1086. Roxby was formerly known as 'Rozebi' and 'Roscebi' in the 11th century, and with various other spellings including predominately 'Rouseby' in the 16th to 19th century; the name is said to stem from the Old Norse personal name *Rauor* and *by*, meaning Rauth's farm (Smith 1928, 139).
- 2.3 Given that Roxby is an early Anglian settlement name, it is likely that there was some occupation in the area at this date, while the 'Scaling' place name to the south-west implies the seasonal pasturing of cattle on higher ground (Harrison & Roberts 1989, 95 & 103). These early settlements were loose scatters of farmsteads and hamlets, where a church and manor hall formed a focus for later growth; Roxby is an excellent example of this, and the 1st edition 1856 Ordnance Survey 6" map depicts little infilling or new development between these scattered farmsteads.
- 2.4 In the first half of the 13th century, Roger de Acklam, then probably the lord of the manor, granted 14 acres of land in Roxby between the foot of the moor and the waterfall, but not the wood of Roucegrive, to Hugh son of Patrick. 'Gildhustofts', 'Rammesclei' and 'Houtland' are also mentioned during the 13th century. Roxby's mill, disused by the early 20th century, lay some two miles to the south of the settlement itself, on the Scaling Beck, a tributary of the Roxby Beck, but its antiquity is not known (Russell 1923, 366).
- 2.5 Roger de Acklam died before 1230-31, leaving two daughters, one of whom, Joan, married Ingram de Boynton, thus starting a long association between Roxby and the Boynton family; in 1248 he granted a lease of lands to the miller of Scaling (Collier 1914, 3). Sir William Boynton (d.1310), said to be the son of Ingram de Boynton, was lord of the manor in 1284-85, and he held three parts of a knight's fee in Acklam, Linthorpe, Thornton near Stainton, Marton, Tollesby and Roxby. He married Alice, daughter and heir of Ingram de Monceaux, and their son, also called Ingram, was resident and assessed for taxation in Roxby in 1301 (Brown 1896, 41); he was lord of Roxby and Acklam from then until at least 1316. His son, Walter de Boynton, described as being 'of Acklam', was lord of the manor in 1325, and was also mentioned in an undated deed concerning land in Roxby, naming a yearly payment of a pair of spurs at a penny price (Collier 1914, 6). He was succeeded by Thomas de Boynton

(d.1402) who made a settlement of the manor in 1340 and received a grant of free warren in Roxby in 1365-66 (Collier 1914, 7).

- 2.6 At the beginning of the 15th century, Thomas de Boynton's grandson, Henry Boynton, was executed in July 1405 due to his suspected role in supporting Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, in his rebellion against Henry IV. His estates were forfeited to the Crown and Roxby was granted to Roger de Thornton, Mayor of Newcastle, but, as Henry Boynton's wife Elizabeth did not have the money to support herself and their six children, or pay his debts, she was allowed to retain the manor with other land for life. However, when she died, it reverted to Henry V, and it was still in the hands of the Crown in 1425 when William, eldest surviving son of Henry Boynton, petitioned for its restoration. However, Roxby was still held by Roger de Thornton in 1428, though the family were subsequently restored to their estates; in 1518-19, the will of Martin Boynton (one of Henry Boynton's sons) records a grant of 40s to the church which suggests that the Boyntons were again lords of the manor by then (Collier 1914, 8-9 & 11).
- 2.7 The church of St Nicholas at Roxby was formerly a chapelry dependent on Hinderwell church, and it is said to have been founded by the Boynton family during the reign of Henry V (i.e. between 1413 and 1422) (Bulmer's Directory 1890; Atkinson 1874, 222; Graves 1808, 326), although it is not specifically known by whom. However, and most significantly, the list of names recorded in the 1301 Lay Subsidy includes "de Simone Capellano de Rouceby" (Brown 1896, 42), which implies there was already a chapel at Roxby by this date. The existing church does contain a 13th century font, which may well have been part of the original chapel (NHLE 1148616; see Appendix 3).

## **The Post-Medieval Period**

### *The 16th and 17th centuries*

- 2.8 Whenever it was founded, St Nicholas' Church contains a monumental brass dedicated to Thomas Boynton (d.1523). This shows a full length figure in armour to the centre, with shields bearing the Boynton arms (Or a fesse between three crescents gules; Russell 1923, 369) to the four corners and a plate below with the following English black-letter inscription: "*Pray for the soule of Thom's Boynton of Roysby Esquier who caused this chyrche fyrst to be halowed and was ye fyrst corsse that was beryed in yt and decessed the XXIX day of marche the yer of or Lord god MI Vc and XXIIJ on whose soule Jhu haue mercy Amen*"; this brass has been noted by numerous antiquarians and historians, including Atkinson (1874, 222) and Fallow (1910, 45) (see plate 4). Stephenson (1903, 307-308) records that the effigy is 25 inches (63.5cm) high, describes the various pieces of armour, and notes that the figure is 'clumsy and ill proportioned', and has been re-laid. In 1519 Thomas Boynton had petitioned the Cardinal of York to have the chapel and chapel yard newly consecrated and to have the sacraments administered there, and he left another 40s to the church in his will of 1520; other items in his will included three feather beds and silver which must have come from the manor house (Collier 1914, 12-13; HHC DDWB/25/5). The central division of the east window of the church also formerly depicted four effigies in painted glass, one of which bore the Boynton arms - the building was described as a very handsome and ancient chapel (Harrison 1973, 19). The church was largely taken down and rebuilt in 1818 (see below).

- 2.9 The Boyntons became rich and powerful in the 16th century, holding compact estates around Bridlington and with their main residence at Barmston. For example, Thomas Boynton's son, Matthew Boynton (d.1541), was appointed chief steward of the King's possessions in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire; he was also described as being 'of Barmston' (Imrie 1993, 44). Under the terms of his will, dated July 1540, he left the manor of Roxby with its demesne to his mother Cecily Boynton, the widow of the Thomas commemorated on the brass described above, for her lifetime (Collier 1914, 14). Cecily died in 1550-51 and was also buried in Roxby church.
- 2.10 Matthew Boynton was succeeded by a son, Thomas (d. January 1582), who was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1576 and Member of Parliament for Boroughbridge in 1571, and was knighted in 1578. Thomas was described as 'of Rowsebye' in 1566 when he purchased property and land chiefly in in East and West Scaling (HHC DDWB/22/25). When he died, his personal estate was £2,454, and was succeeded by his son Francis, who was also High Sheriff of Yorkshire 1596, sat on the Council of the North and was knighted in 1603; in c.1601, Francis Boynton bought sundry property from Anthony Foster, described as 'proctor' to the incumbent of Roxby. Sir Francis was a man of strong religious beliefs and was greatly opposed to the practices of Catholicism, and directed that there should be no extravagance at his funeral (Imrie 1993, 45). Under the terms of his will, made 27th April 1614, Sir Francis left money to the poor of Roxby and stated that he held Roxby from Sir John Conyers (Collier 1914, 20).
- 2.11 In April 1617 Sir Francis was succeeded by his second son Matthew (1591-1647), who was knighted in 1618 and then created a baronet only six days later, for which he paid £1,100. Sir Matthew Boynton was also High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1628 and 1643-1644, and became Member of Parliament for Hedon (East Yorkshire) in 1621-23 and Scarborough in 1645. He often resided at Roxby and sometimes also at Highgate in London (Collier 1914, 20-21). He came under scrutiny in the 1630s for his religious tendencies, and made plans to emigrate to New England; these plans were abandoned but the family did seek refuge in Holland for a time, returning in c.1640. He also took an active part in the English Civil War, on the Parliamentary side, and aided in the capture of Sir John Hotham who was planning to surrender Hull to the King (Imrie 1993, 46-50). He subsequently became governor of Scarborough Castle between 1645 and 1647 and was a colonel of a troop of horse. In 1614 he married Frances Griffith (1598-1634), daughter of Sir Henry Griffith of Burton Agnes (East Yorkshire), and they made Roxby their home (Imrie 1993, 36). The couple had children 12 children (Imrie 1993, 47). Frances died in 1634 aged 35 and was buried in Roxby church. The first part of the long inscription on her flat table tomb supported by marble urns reads: "*Here lyeth the bodie of Lady Frances Boynton, sometimes wife of Sr. Matthew Boynton of Barmston, Knight and Baronet, Daughter of Sr. Henry Griffiths of Burton Agnes, Knt. A Famile descended from Ancient and Honorable Ancestors*" (see plate 5). In 1635 Sir Matthew agreed to pay for the rebuilding of the chancel of 'the chapel of Rousby' which 'was lately fallen into great ruin and decay' (HCC DDWB/20/77). There can be little doubt that Sir Matthew's generosity was influenced by a wish to provide a suitable setting for his wife's monument; this may even have been erected after the chancel had been rebuilt (Dr Susan Neave, *pers. comm.*).
- 2.12 After Francis' death, Sir Matthew married Katherine Stapleton, daughter of Thomas, Viscount Fairfax, of Gilling, and they lived at Roxby until 1636 after



which they moved to a new house in London (Imrie 1993, 49). There is a portrait of Sir Matthew, Katherine and three unidentified children at Burton Agnes Hall, perhaps painted when they were in Holland. Following Sir Matthew's death in 1647, Katherine first married Sir Arthur Ingram of Temple Newsam in West Yorkshire, and on his death married William Wickham, who then became 'of Roxby' (Collier 1914, 24). She died on the 23rd February 1666 during a visit to Roxby and was also buried in the church, under an inscribed stone (see plate 3); interestingly, this stone makes no mention of her Boynton husband.

- 2.13 Sir Matthew's second son and heir, Sir Francis Boynton (1618-1695; 2nd Baronet), was born at Roxby and made a settlement of the manor in 1649 (Russell 1923, 369). He succeeded to the Griffith estates in 1654, and is generally styled as being 'of Burton Agnes' from 1656, although he chiefly resided at Barmston, where he lived in great hospitality (Collier 1914, 24). The combination of the Griffith and Boynton estates made him one of the largest gentry landowners in the north of England, being lord of the manors of Barmston, Burton Agnes, Roxby, Greeno (unidentified, but perhaps Greenhowe; a farm, wood and beck of this name lie to the south-west of Roxby, in Easington parish) and East and West Scaling in Yorkshire, and Wychnor in Staffordshire, as well as owning additional land in Thornholme, Rudston, Little Kelk, Haisthorpe and Boynton in East Yorkshire. An abstract of title dated 11th/12th October 1661 mentions a house associated with the manor of Roxby (HHC DDWB/6/35). Sir Francis may also have had commercial interests in Hull, where he also had a house and where at least two of their seven children were born (Imrie 1993, 52). It is presumably this Sir Francis that is listed in the 1673 Hearth Tax as having a 12 hearth house in Roxby, suggesting that he also spent some time at Roxby (Purdy 1991, 87 & 182). One of Sir Francis' children William Boynton (1643-1689) was the first of the family to make Burton Agnes his principal residence, and he was also MP for Hedon from 1680 to 1685 (Collier 1914, 27-28).

#### *The 18th to the 20th centuries*

- 2.14 Sir Francis Boynton died in 1695, and was succeeded by his grandson Sir Griffith Boynton (1664-1730; 3rd Baronet). In 1702, Sir Griffith leased the manors of Roxby (Rousby), Greeno, and East and West Skealing (Scaling) to his elder sister, Constance, for 500 years, in order to secure a marriage portion prior to her forthcoming marriage (HHC DDWB/22/39); this is a useful document as it mentions the manor house as well as numerous closes of meadow and pasture, called 'High Parke', 'Low Parke', 'High Grounds', 'Hall Bradley Heads', 'Great Bradley Heads', 'Harts Sayles', 'Great Maines', 'Sellon Wood', 'Houltree Wood', 'Hagghill', 'High Close', 'Woodhouse', 'Fieldfords Intacke', 'Great Ross Leys', 'Capon Close', 'Horse Close', 'Mire Ings', 'Hoggard House Close', 'Stow Stotte Heads', 'Little Maines', 'Calfe Close', 'Booth Garth', 'Wind Close', 'Little Ross Ley', 'Underdikes' and 'Ellarheads'. Unfortunately, the lack of later detailed maps showing field names means that it is not possible to locate these closes, although it is presumed that the manor house which is mentioned is the hall at Roxby. 'Rouseby Hall' next to the church is diagrammatically shown and named on Warburton's 1720 map of Yorkshire (Dr Susan Neave, *pers. comm.*). In 1726, Sir Griffith built and endowed an almshouse in Barmston for the free accommodation of four poor men from Barmston, Burton Agnes, Haisthorpe and Roxby, each of whom were to receive £3 15s a year (Cooper 2002, 222), and he undertook significant improvements at Burton Agnes (Imrie 1993, 57-58).

- 2.15 Sir Griffith died childless, and so his cousin, Sir Francis Boynton (1672-1739; 4th Baronet), inherited. He was a lawyer and MP for Hedon between 1734 and 1739; he lived at Beverley, and all six of his children were baptized at St Mary's Church in Beverley (Collier 1914, 30-32). From what can be gleaned from the scant records, none of the family appear to be resident at Roxby at this time, although the estate was still being managed; Sir Francis appointed a gamekeeper to the manor in 1738, and his son Sir Griffith Boynton (1712-1761; 5th Baronet) did the same in 1740, 1741 and 1745 (Russell 1923, 369). The 1661 abstract of title noted above contains minor alterations made to it up to 27 April 1771 and, as it still includes the reference the manor house and closes at Roxby, it is assumed that the hall was still standing (HHC DDWB/2/6/35).
- 2.16 Throughout the 18th century, the Boyntons continued to be involved in both local and national politics. However, they also amassed increasing debts, and so mostly demolished their house in Barmston and sought permission to sell property. The latter needed Parliamentary approval, which Sir Griffith Boynton (1743-1778; 6th Baronet) sought, and the appropriate Act was passed in 1779; this Act includes the estate of Roxby and also an "estate of places called Far Scaling and Hither Scaling in the same manor and parish", for which the yearly rent was £596 and the whole estate being worth £3,500 a year (HCC DDWB2/6/6). However, the Roxby estate was not actually sold until December 1792, when another Sir Griffith Boynton (7th Baronet; 1769-1801) sold it (excluding the land at Greeno) to John Turton of Edinburgh for £26,300 (HHC DDWB/22/43); Turton was a distinguished physician and a friend of the Royal family (Graves 1808, 326; Russell 1923, 369). Parts of Roxby township, including Scaling, were also enclosed in 1804 (NYCRO ZPA), presumably instigated by the new landowners, the Turton family.
- 2.17 Roxby then descended with the Turtons' manor of Upsall in South Kilvington parish, near Thirsk, North Yorkshire. John Turton died in 1806 without issue, leaving his estate to his wife, by whose will it passed to Edmund Peters, who took the name of Turton. At his death in 1857, it was inherited by his son Edmund, who was succeeded by another Edmund Turton, who was lord of the manor in the 1920s (Curtis 1923, 42).
- 2.18 Jefferys' 1772 map of Yorkshire marks Roxby church, and names it as 'Rousby Chap' (see figure 3). There is no indication of any structure in the position of the Hall, which might normally have been depicted as a small country seat, but there is a house immediately to the north-east of the church; this might conceivably represent the Hall, although it is more likely to be Manor House farmhouse which is c.1700 in date (NHLE 1173281). Another building lies further to the north-west near the beck, probably representing Low House. Jefferys' map also gives a clear representation of the plateau that the Roxby area occupies, set between the deep valleys of the Roxby Beck and Borrowby Dale.
- 2.19 Early 19th century descriptions of the area (for example, Young 1817, 731; Young 1824, 299-300) mention Roxby church and its monuments, but provide little information on the Hall, merely noting that there was very little of it left; Graves (1808, 326), writing in 1808, stated that buildings appeared to have been extensive "from the foundations still visible" but they had long since been destroyed. Atkinson (1874, 218-219) makes no mention of the Hall whatsoever.

- 2.20 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" map, published in 1856, marks the Hall as 'Rousby Hall (Site of)' and indicates its former position by a dashed line defining a rectangular area, aligned north-west/south-east, with the surviving standing fragment located at the north-east corner (see figure 4). It is unclear whether the dashed line actually reflects footings that were still visible in the mid 19th century, or if the surveyors had based their depiction of the orientation of the standing fragment and adjacent earthworks. To the south-west of the dashed rectangle, there is a sub-rectangular enclosure, with walls running off the north-east and north-west corners, towards the churchyard wall and a watercourse respectively. The area to the north of the site of the hall is named 'Hall Hill' on the map. The later Ordnance Survey 1895 25" map does not show the rectangular earthwork/foundation, but does depict the larger right-angled bank of the platform to the east, as does the modern map (see figure 2).
- 2.21 The church was largely taken down and rebuilt in 1818, and was then closed by order of the archbishop due to the lack of population and the dilapidated state of the building; it was described as being in a 'disgraceful state of neglect' in 1903 (Fallow 1910, 45; Russell 1923, 371). It was re-roofed and put into good structural repair in 1909. There are no surviving parts dating to the 15th or 16th centuries - the earliest elements are the coursed plain sandstone walls of the north side of the nave and the lower parts of the chancel walls which are generally thought to be 17th century in date (NHLE 1148616; Russell 1923, 370-371) (see Appendix 3).
- 2.22 The site of the hall remained little changed into the early 20th century, only the existing corner fragment of the Boynton's residence remaining visible, although Fallow (1910, 45) noted: "Each year, it is said, crops of large sized snowdrops flower in what was once the garden of the house". The masonry fragments were recently repaired and consolidated by the North York Moors National Park Authority (Pace 2012).

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY AREA

#### Introduction

- 3.1 The following chapter provides a detailed description of the earthworks and other remains recorded within the survey area, drawing on the information given in Chapter 2 above where it is directly relevant, and also on the results of the geophysical survey (see Appendix 2). The surviving earthworks are complex, are likely to belong to several different phases of development, and with some almost certainly re-used in different periods for different purposes. Therefore, the following text is restricted to a description only, with an analysis of the earthworks given in the Discussion (Chapter 4) below.
- 3.2 To aid identification and description, individual or groups of earthworks have been assigned unique identifier numbers (e.g. *Site 12*). For clarity, these have been kept to a minimum, and they should not be taken to infer any kind of chronological development or relationship. When considering the following text, reference should also be made to the plans and plates, and the photographic record which appears as Appendix 1; photographs are referenced in the following text in italic type and square brackets, the numbers before the stroke representing the film number and the number after indicating the frame e.g. [5/32]. Where possible, specific architectural terms used in the text are as defined by Curl (1977). Finally, in the following text, 'modern' is taken to mean dating to after c.1945.

#### Setting and Surroundings

- 3.3 As noted above in Chapter 1, the survey area comprises the core of the complex formerly comprising Roxby Hall. The Hall lay at the north-west end of Roxby, a dispersed linear settlement of working farms and private houses straddling Roxby Lane, a minor road running between coastal and high moor settlements (see figure 1). St Nicholas' Church lies to the immediate south-east of the site of the Hall (see figure 2). This area is always likely to have formed the core of the hamlet, and the 1856 Ordnance Survey map shows a number of different routes converging on this area; the road from the south-east, and footpaths or trackways from the east, west and north (see figure 4).
- 3.4 The majority of the former Hall complex appears to have been sited on a relatively level plateau, with an average height of 139m AOD [2/484, 2/485, 2/487]. The north and east sides of this plateau are sharply defined, and the ground surface falls away quickly beyond. On the east side, it slopes down to 128m AOD along the eastern edge of the survey area, but to the north it reaches 121m AOD at the northern limit of the survey area. The ground surface then levels out slightly, although it continues to slope gently downwards as far as the northern end of the area marked as 'Hall Hill' in 1856. To the west of the plateau, the ground surface falls away less steeply, reaching 129m AOD at the western limit of the survey area, while to the south, it rises slowly towards the road through the settlement.
- 3.5 The placing of the Hall complex close to the northern edge of the plateau would have meant that any substantial building would have stood out in sharp relief against the wider landscape beyond (see plate 14). In addition, there are extensive views to the south-west, north-west, north and north-east from this plateau, taking in the valley of the Roxby Beck, Boulby, the North Sea and

Staithe [1/354] (see plate 8). The rising ground to the south-east means that there are no similarly extensive views towards the high moorland.

### **The Survey Area** (see figures 5, 6 and 7)

#### *St Nicholas' Church, part of the churchyard and the churchyard walls (Site 1)*

- 3.6 St Nicholas' Church lies in the south-eastern part of the survey area (see plate 1). As has already been noted, the church was considerably altered in 1818 and restored in the early 20th century, the oldest standing part now being the 17th century north nave wall. It is assumed to stand on the same site as the earlier church suggested to have been founded by the Boyntons during the early 15th century.
- 3.7 The church now comprises a three-stage west tower, and a continuous nave and chancel [1/353, 1/356, 1/357; 2/447]. The lower north nave wall and lower chancel walls are of coursed plain sandstone [2/449], whereas the upper north nave wall, the south nave wall, the upper chancel walls and the tower are of coursed herring-bone tooled sandstone [2/448]. The church has a graduated Lakeland slate roof with tile ridges and stone copings; the chancel was probably raised to nave roof level in 1818, although it was also rebuilt in the 1630s (see above). Internally, there is a small lobby entered through the doorway at the base of the tower. The majority of the interior is occupied by panelled pews; these, along with the pulpit and the strutted king-post roof trusses are probably all part of the 1818 alterations [2/437 to 2/443]. The font is 13th century in date on a modern stone plinth. There are the three monuments; the slab with brass to Thomas Boynton (d.1523) [2/428 to 2/432], the slab to Katherine Ingram (d.1666) [2/424] and a dark limestone slab, raised on four white marble iron to Francis Boynton (d.1634) [2/433, 2/435, 2/436] (see plates 2 to 5). In addition, there is a beautiful stained glass window to the north wall of the nave forming a memorial to David Dermott, rector of Roxby between 1979 and 1998 [2/444 to 2/446]. There is also an underground crypt to the church (Graham Lee, NYMNPA, *pers. comm.*) although this was not accessed or visible at the time of the EDAS survey work.
- 3.8 The church is set on a platform, with the ground sloping away steeply towards the north, east [2/451] and west. Beyond the base of the north-facing scarp to the north of the church, there is a more level area that extends as far as the churchyard wall. To the south of the church, the ground is generally level for a short distance before rising gently towards another level area adjacent to the road [2/454].
- 3.9 As part of the archaeological survey, both faces of the churchyard walls were inspected for re-used masonry or any other features of interest. Commencing with the east wall, the inner face is built of roughly coursed and squared sandstone, standing up to c.1m in height with flat coping; the stones used in the wall are typically up to 0.50m long and 0.20m deep. At the north end, there is a possible inverted fragment of a chamfered plinth [2/452], while at the south end, there may be a very abraded carved fragment [2/453]. The external face was too overgrown to inspect. The south wall of the churchyard is of similar form to the east wall. Here, the inner face contains further possible chamfered pieces, with the chamfer set at less than 45 degrees; they may be fragments of window sills or chamfered surrounds, rather than structural plinths, for example. At the west end, there are several larger pieces of stone that may be re-used

quoin fragments. The external face of the wall contains several further abraded chamfered pieces, and a few stones with crude herringbone tooling marks.

- 3.10 The west wall of the churchyard is also of similar form to the east wall. To the internal face, at the south end, there is a possible fragment of gable coping [2/455] and also some larger pieces of stone with several tooled faces. The gate stoops of the entrance into the churchyard are also re-used, and appear to both be made from plain door jamb fragments [2/456]. To the north of the gateway, there are several pieces of stone bearing crude herringbone or diagonal tooling [2/457]. To the external face, at the south end, there is a 0.20m square stone that appears to contain a crude circular socket [2/458, 2/459]. Moving north-east, there is a small piece of stone bearing a half-round moulding [2/460] and a piece of chamfered plinth or offset of the same dimensions as that surviving on the standing fragment of the Hall [2/462] (see plate 11). The north churchyard wall contained no visible re-used fragments to the internal face, and a single piece at the west end of the external face, part of a chamfered plinth or offset somewhat larger than that to the standing fragment of the Hall.
- 3.11 Close to the southern end of the churchyard's west wall, there is a boggy area containing a number of *ex situ* stone troughs. A shallow linear depression, 2.50m wide and 0.50m deep, leaves the boggy area to run north, parallel to the west churchyard wall [2/411]; this is marked as a watercourse on the Ordnance Survey 1856 map (see figure 4). At the north-west corner of the churchyard, the linear depression turns to the north-east, to run parallel to the angled part of the north churchyard wall [2/412]. It continues on the same alignment, leaving the churchyard wall and maintaining a similar width, although it increases slightly in depth. It cuts through at least one earlier scarp (see *Site 2*) and begins to widen as it approaches the eastern limit of the survey area.
- 3.12 The west churchyard wall is butted by another drystone wall, running along the path leading to the gate in the churchyard's south wall. Like the churchyard walls, the path wall also stands c.1m high with flat coping. The external face contains a few possible abraded fragments of chamfered window surround, but the most interesting piece is set at the bottom of the internal face, some 3.70m south of its junction with the churchyard wall. It comprises a piece of sandstone, 0.45m long by 0.27m wide, with raised carved decoration to the visible surface; a fluted column has a rolled moulding to the base, beyond which the raised decoration tapers inwards and then outwards to form an hourglass shape [2/463 to 2/467] (see plate 12). The depth of the stone could not be measured nor its full profile seen, but it does not resemble a fragment of headstone or other churchyard memorial, and could form part of a decorative band or strip framing a window.

*The surviving Hall fragment and associated platforms (Site 2)*

- 3.13 The only remaining standing fragment of the Hall represents a corner, with walls once extending to the south and west, although it should not automatically be assumed that it either forms a corner of the main body of the building or denotes its orientation (**Site 2/1**). The fragment stands almost 2.50m high and is built from coursed, squared sandstone set with a lime mortar; some of the stones have crude lines of tooling marks to their faces [1/355, 1/358] (see plates 6 and 8). There is a chamfered offset at 1.50m above ground level, and the wall face appears to be slightly battered below this [1/360, 1/361]. The walls extend for c.2m externally in either direction, although

the south wall can be seen to extend for at least one metre further. A small surviving area of wall facing suggests the walls were c.1m wide below the chamfered offset.

- 3.14 This fragment is placed at the north-east corner of a raised, sub-rectangular earthwork platform (**Site 2/2**), occupying the same area as the rectangular outline shown on the 1856 Ordnance Survey map (see figure 4). The platform has a shallow north-west/south-east alignment, and is a maximum of 26m long by 9m wide across the flattened top; the steep external scarps defining the earthwork stand between 1.20m and 1.50m high (see plate 8). The surface of the platform contains several features that might hint at former internal subdivision, for example buried wall lines. At the south end, there is a sub-square depression, open to the north side, c.8m across and 0.80m deep, whilst at the north end, there is a similar, slightly smaller feature. The results of the geophysical survey suggest that the east scarp of the earthwork is co-incident with a pair of parallel wall lines extending south from the standing fragment, c.4m apart (see figures 6 and 7). These wall lines were proposed to perhaps form the eastern of three ranges (the north and west ranges also being visible as magnetic anomalies), set around a courtyard measuring c.20m east-west by at least c.20m north-south (see Appendix 2). The southern range was not visible on the geophysical survey, and the west and north ranges were also c.4m wide. A high magnetic anomaly, 3m wide, running between the east and west ranges, was interpreted as being a possible metalled surface (see figure 6).
- 3.15 To the immediate north-east of the earthwork described above, there is a well-defined platform, measuring 25m east-west by at least 15m north-south (**Site 2/3**) [1/362]. The alignment of the platform suggests that it is associated with the raised, sub-rectangular earthwork (Site 2/2) or indeed is contemporary with it. The north side of the platform is defined by a very steep 1.70m high north-facing scarp, and the east side by a similar but lower feature, facing east. There is a slight bank running along the top of the north side, and at the north-east corner a sub-circular projection, possibly a shallow tree pull. The southern part of the east side may be disturbed or overlain by a slight sub-rectangular mound on a north-east/south-west alignment. It is interesting to note that the north churchyard wall has a return in line with the east side of the platform and is on the same alignment, perhaps indicating that the platform once continued this far south but that it was subsequently incorporated into a small enlargement of the churchyard; if the platform did continue this far, then it would have had the same north-south dimension as the raised earthwork (Site 2/2) to its west. The geophysical survey recorded faint undiagnostic circular/oval and linear anomalies on the platform (see figures 6 and 7); one possible interpretation of these might be formal garden features, but this was not certain. A similar faint linear anomaly forming a shape c.10m square was also recorded on flat ground to the north of the presumed position of the Hall.
- 3.16 The scarp defining the east edge of the platform has several less pronounced angular scarps to the east and below it. The uppermost scarp may define an L-shaped platform, whilst the lowest is the most regular and set on a similar alignment to the east side of the platform itself. The scarp defining the north edge of the platform has a trackway running approximately parallel to its base (**Site 2/4**). This trackway is 2m-3m wide and has a scarp 0.75m high to the north side (see plate 7). It is well graded, and is first visible opposite the standing fragment of the Hall [1/359]. It slopes evenly downwards [2/414 to 2/417], apparently crossing another trackway (see Site 6) although modern

vehicle disturbance here has made the relationship between the two uncertain. It continues east, towards a gap in a ditch (see Site 3) running along the east side of the survey area, becoming fainter as it does so.

*Ditch and boundary (Site 3)*

- 3.17 On the 1856 Ordnance Survey 6" map, a watercourse runs along the east side of the churchyard, with a trackway parallel to its east side (see figure 4). The trackway now forms a public footpath and has the appearance of a holloway at its upper, south, end. The watercourse has been shifted to the east since the mid 19th century, so that it now runs just outside the survey area, rather than just within it. There is a prominent ditch following the former course, but this area was very overgrown at the time of the survey, and it could not be recorded.
- 3.18 There is a break or gap in the ditch in line with a trackway (Site 2/4) and then the ditch recommences on the line of the watercourse shown in 1856. Within this part of the survey area, the ditch is 50m long and up to 12m wide across the top [2/419, 2/421, 2/422] (see plate 9). The sides are relatively steeply scarped, but the west scarp is wider and stands up to 1.80m high. The base is relatively level from side to side, but it slopes down from south to north. There is a ruinous drystone wall along the top of the east side. The west scarp of the ditch can be traced as a faint earthwork for a further c.30m to the north of the post and wire fence marking the northern limit of the survey area [2/486]. It then becomes intermittent, but the drystone wall on the east side, together with a blackthorn hedge, continues. Further to the north-west, the stream crosses back onto the west side of the boundary, to follow the route of the watercourse shown in 1856. Here, it forms a spread linear depression, up to 3m wide and 1m deep.

*Platforms, scarps and other earthworks (Site 4)*

- 3.19 To the west of the Hall fragment (Site 2/1), there is an area of platforms, scarps and earthworks measuring a maximum of 60m east-west by 65m north-south. To the immediate west of the raised sub-rectangular earthwork (Site 2/2), two north-facing scarps, both 1m high, run west and converge to form a single curving scarp of a similar height. To their north, there is a sub-rectangular depression (**Site 4/1**) which is approximately the same length as the adjacent raised sub-rectangular earthwork (Site 2/2) (see plate 8); this depression corresponds to the west range as interpreted from the geophysical survey (see above).
- 3.20 After combining, the curving scarp turns more to the north, to meet a sub-square, slightly sunken enclosure or platform (**Site 4/2**), measuring 18m across [1/363]. It is slightly embanked across the north side, and this bank can be traced beyond the enclosure for some 5m to the east. The enclosure may just be visible on the geophysical survey, with the east side being more prominent than the west.
- 3.21 To the west, there is a sub-oval platform or slightly raised mound (**Site 4/3**), 0.50m high, apparently bisected by a linear earthwork marking the former position of a field wall attached to the walled enclosure (Site 5/1). The mound forms a sub-oval platform measuring 18m east-west by 12m north-south; to the east of the linear earthwork it is slightly embanked, but to the west it is defined by spread scarps. To the immediate south of the west half of this mound, the



geophysical survey recorded the clear wall lines of a rectangular feature measuring 11m by 9m aligned north-west/south-east (see figures 6 and 7). On the west side of this lay a high magnetic circular anomaly some 9m in diameter, which was not visible as an earthwork.

- 3.22 All of the features described above are located to the south of or above the main scarp which marks the northern extent of the plateau area. This scarp is steeply sloping and stands up to 2.30m high. Towards the west end, and at a change in angle, there is a prominent sub-oval depression (**Site 4/4**), which has partly disturbed the main scarp [2/409]. The depression is aligned north-east/south-west, and measures 20m long by 15m wide. The south side is up to 2.20m high, while the north side is much lower and slightly embanked. The feature probably represents a former quarry.
- 3.23 Towards the east end of the main scarp, there are two flat-topped promontories or projections (**Site 4/5**). They project up to 6m north from the upper edge of the main scarp, and their tops are broadly level with the plateau area to the immediate south [2/413]. Just to the east of the two projections, the geophysical survey recorded evidence for a possible double-ditched feature some 7m wide that may have extended around the front of the main scarp. It was noted that an earthwork parallel to the possible ditch anomaly, but 10m further north and visible on an aerial photograph, followed the same alignment and might be evidence for a third ditch. This earthwork is not clearly visible on the ground, but lies close to a trackway on a similar orientation (see Site 6).
- 3.24 Finally, to the south of the sub-rectangular depression (Site 4/1) is a slightly raised wide, flat-topped linear bank, 5m wide at the south end and widening to 12m at the north (**Site 4/6**). This runs south from the depression for a distance of 35m towards a boggy area adjacent to the later section of churchyard wall (the path wall).

#### *Walled enclosure and boundaries (Site 5)*

- 3.25 A walled enclosure is shown in 1856 to the south-west of the site of the Hall (see figure 4). The enclosure is depicted as being sub-rectangular in plan, aligned almost east-west. A field boundary ran off the north-west corner towards the Hall Hill area, and a second, much shorter, boundary ran off the north-east corner to join with the churchyard wall. At the south-east corner of the enclosure, a wall stub suggests that the south side may once have continued further east to form a second, smaller, enclosure. The later Ordnance Survey 1895 25" map shows the enclosure, but the connecting field walls have gone.
- 3.26 The walled enclosure (**Site 5/1**) has maximum external dimensions of 70m long (east-west) by 39m wide (north-south), and it is defined by drystone field walls, standing up to 1.50m high but generally lower, averaging 1.10m high [1/364, 1/368, 1/369] (see plate 10). The walls are built of roughly coursed and squared sandstone, and have an average width across the base of 0.80m [1/365, 1/366]. They taper inwards slightly towards the top, but there is no coping and no throughstones. Both faces of the enclosure's walls were inspected for re-used masonry or any architectural fragments. Starting at the north-west outer corner [2/468], the west wall contains numerous vertical or slightly sloping joints, suggesting numerous rebuilds or repairs, although none rise the full height of the wall. Some 10m to the south, there are several re-used pieces of chamfered offset or plinth [2/470]. In the external face of the

south wall, some 8m east of the south-west corner, there may be a fragment of chamfered window surround or frame [2/472], and also three further pieces of chamfered offset or plinth. Towards the east end of this wall, there is a stone that may bear the shallowly incised initials 'GW' (or 'MD' if inverted), together with a crude cross [2/473, 2/474]. The external north-east corner incorporates a large stone with herringbone tooling, with another smaller stone perhaps containing a carved initial ('K?') above [2/475], while towards the centre of the east wall there is a single piece of a possible curved or arched window head [2/476, 2/477]. Internally, the west wall contains no obvious re-used stones or architectural fragments, but the south and east walls may incorporate further examples of chamfered or coping pieces. Towards the centre of the north wall, a fragment of stone column has been laid across the width of the wall; this fragment measures 0.92m long and 0.35m in diameter, and is slightly ovoid rather than circular in cross section [2/478 to 2/480] (see plate 13).

- 3.27 At the time of the survey work, access to the interior of the enclosure was through a break in the walls at the south-east corner. This is a relatively modern feature, as a rutted trackway runs through it, branching off the farm vehicle track which marks the southern boundary of the survey area. The inside of the enclosure had obviously been subject to much modern disturbance, mostly centred around a stock-feeding position marked by a semi-circular scarp at the west end. Nevertheless, there are some features that may be older. A shallow linear depression, set towards the north side, runs parallel to the long axis. At the very west end, there is also a low curvilinear bank running approximately parallel to the north wall.
- 3.28 As already noted, in 1856 the enclosure formerly had field boundaries running off the north and east corners, but both have since been removed. The line from the east corner boundary is just visible as a very faint north-facing scarp, but that running from north corner boundary (**Site 5/2**) is better preserved. It is first visible as a low, south-west facing scarp. It bisects a sub-oval platform (Site 4/3) and then runs down the main scarp along the north edge of the plateau area. At the bottom of this scarp, the boundary is formed by a spread bank, 2.50m wide and 0.30m high [2/407]. It can be traced north-west for a distance of over 50m before it fades out, and its route is crossed by a later trackway (Site 6).

#### *Trackway (Site 6)*

- 3.29 A probable trackway first becomes visible in the western part of the survey area, to the north of a probable quarry (Site 4/4). It averages 2.50m wide, and is terraced into the natural slope here [2/408]. It follows a curving route to the east, passing over a bank marking a field boundary shown in 1856 (Site 5/2) and bowing outwards towards the north, where it appears to have been disturbed. It then curves back towards the south, become better defined, and straightens. It appears to be crossed by a more prominent trackway (Site 2/4), although modern vehicle disturbance here makes the exact relationship between the two earthworks uncertain, but it re-emerges to the south for short distance, running into an area of scarps below a prominent platform (Site 2/3). It was suggested in the geophysical survey report that this earthwork, plus a parallel section c.10m to the south, were defensive in nature (see Appendix 2).

#### *Areas of ridge and furrow (Site 7)*

- 3.30 To the west of the ditch (Site 3) on the east side of the survey area, there appears to be a small area of very denuded ridge and furrow earthworks. They are set on a slight north-west/south-east alignment and are less than 0.30m in height; the average ridge width is 2m, and the average ridge-to-ridge measurement is between 5m-6m. The ridge and furrow may be continued to the west by a series of parallel north-east facing scarps, and again on the east side of a former field boundary (Site 5/2). All of these earthworks may extend for 5m-10m beyond the post and wire fence forming the north edge of the survey area, as far as a spread north-facing scarp, which is possibly a natural feature; one of the east-facing scarps can arguably be followed north-west as far as the north end of the field to the north of the survey area. Other very faint ridge and furrow earthworks can also be seen in the western side of the survey area, possibly being crossed by other shallow scarps (Site 8/2).

#### *Quarry and other earthworks (Site 8)*

- 3.31 There is a probable quarry on the western edge of the survey area (**Site 8/1**). It is represented by a steeply sloping, curvilinear, west-facing scarp, standing up to 2.50m high [2/404]. The west side is slightly embanked, and there is a low sub-rectangular mound projecting north beyond the east end of the bank.
- 3.32 To the east, there is an area of ground which slopes downwards from south-east to north-west. It is crossed by as many as six intermittent north-west facing scarps, resembling very denuded terracing, and standing only 0.30m high [2/405] (**Site 8/2**). One of these scarps curves around to the north-west to form a shallow bank running along the top of the western continuation of the main scarp defining the plateau's north edge (see Site 4) [2/410]. These scarps may have disturbed even fainter ridge and furrow earthworks on a north-west/south-east alignment.
- 3.33 On the east side of this area, there is a low spread bank, resembling that marking the course of the field boundary shown in 1856 (see Site 5/2) and running parallel to it, but set 25m to the west (**Site 8/3**). It can be traced almost as far as the main scarp defining the plateau's northern edge, and it continues south almost as far as the north side of the walled enclosure. Part of this earthwork appears to correspond with the south side of a square/rectangular enclosure recorded by the geophysical survey (see figures 6 and 7). To the south-east of this feature on the geophysical survey, there may be traces of ridge and furrow on the same alignment as those apparently disturbed the faint scarps described above.

#### *Stream and possible ponds (Site 9)*

- 3.34 The 1856 Ordnance Survey map depicts a watercourse leaving the north side of a footpath and running north-west along the west side of a field boundary (see figure 4). It then crosses the trackway forming the southern boundary of the survey area and then continues on a north-west course, albeit it on a more sinuous alignment than before. After a short distance, it angles to the north-east to follow a straight course along the west side of the 'Hall Hill' field, continuing towards the Roxby Beck.
- 3.35 To the south of the survey area, where it leaves the footpath shown in 1856, the watercourse has a bank running immediately parallel to the east side. This

bank has a high proportion of stone rubble eroding from it, and may represent a ruined wall; it also has at least one possible coppiced tree to its upper surface. Where the watercourse crosses into the survey area, it is set within a near vertical sided cutting, up to 2m deep (**Site 9/1**). As it moves north-west and then north-east, the ditch becomes both wider and deeper, reaching 3m deep, with very steeply sloping sides.

- 3.36 Close to the north-west corner of the survey area, a sinuous north-west facing scarp runs along and above the east side of the watercourse. This scarp is very substantial, being up to 3m high. In the area between the scarp and the watercourse, there is at least one shallow oval depression, boggy in the base, that might possibly represent a former pond [2/406] (**Site 9/2**). To the immediate north, beyond the survey area, there is a similar feature. It is not clear whether these are the remnants of man-made ponds, or if they are merely naturally boggy areas; it is even possible that the scarp marks an earlier, pre-1856, more sinuous route of the watercourse, in which case the 'ponds' would be no more than a former stream bed. Beyond the survey area, the watercourse continues within its deep cutting, expanding to over 3m wide and deep by the point it reaches the north end of the Hall Hill area and falls off very steeply towards the Roxby Beck.

#### **An Associated Park?**

- 3.37 The Ordnance Survey 1856 6" map notes a large number of field and place names to the north-east and south-west of the Hall site which have 'park' associations or may relate to the management of a medieval park landscape (see figure 8). For example, a large area straddling the Roxby Beck and including Rousby Wood is named as 'Old Parks', while some distance to the south-west, there is a 'Park Hill' and 'Park Wood' close to a complex of buildings marked as 'Park House', and a further 'Park Hill' to the north of this. In addition, to the east of the Hall site and almost at the head of Seaton Gill, there is 'Rabbit Hill', and another 'Rabbit Hills' close to the second Park Hill; while these names might just indicate areas in which rabbits were present, they might also signify specific areas set aside for warrens. All these names are concentrated along the north-western edge of Roxby township as it was defined in 1856, the boundary between Roxby and Easington to the west being formed by The Rigg, a strip of raised ground dividing the Roxby Beck from the Easington Beck to the immediate west. Some unlocated 'park' names were also noted in the 18th century Boynton documents listed above. Despite some research, no documentary evidence for this park has yet been found; it is not, for example, included in Rimington's long-running list of deer parks in north-east Yorkshire (Rimington 1970-78). Russell (1923, 365) notes that the Lumley family possessed a park called 'Windmillenheng' in the area in the late medieval period, but this appears to have been in Hinderwell rather than Roxby township; it may well have been located on 'Park Rigg' to the south-east of Dalehouse, where the Lumley's also had a mill. As a result, it has not been possible to definitively demonstrate that there was a park associated with either Roxby Hall or its predecessor, but it is included here for completeness.
- 3.38 Without further documentary research and fieldwork, any suggestions as to the date, extent and use of any associated park must remain highly speculative. Nevertheless, using the place-name evidence, a brief consideration of local topography and comparative examples, some tentative suggestions can be made. Any park, from when it was first created to when it was disparked or broken up, relied on a series of defined boundaries. These boundaries were

not necessarily static, parks often expanding and contracting according to the status and wealth of the owner, and they could be wholly man-made, make use of prominent natural features such as scarps, ridges, becks and rivers, or be a combination of both. Furthermore, the interior of a park would have been subdivided into a series of different areas, given over to leisure (different forms of hunting, for example, or a 'little park' area more closely resembling a large garden or pleasure ground), woodland management (the production of timber), or the grazing or cultivation of other animals, such as horses, rabbits and cattle. The interior might also contain the remnants of the pre-existing landscape from which it was created, such as part of an open field system, and would itself form only a part of a local framework of landholding and ownership (Dennison 2005).

- 3.39 At Roxby, it could be suggested that a park was initially centred on Rouseby Wood, on the area named as 'Old Parks' on the Ordnance Survey 1856 map, either side of the Roxby Beck (green boundary on figure 8). Based purely on the configuration of the field boundaries and alignments depicted on the map, the boundary of the park might, for example, take in part of Rosletts Wood, 'Goat Plain', 'Little Wood' and Low House. Alternatively, the boundary of a slightly larger park might be represented by Seaton Gill, the edges of 'Rabbit Hill' towards top of the gill, the straight field boundary either side of the church and Hall site, and then west past Low House and down Low House Gill (yellow boundary on figure 8). A section of this boundary between 'Rabbit Hill' and the church follows the approximate line from where the ground starts to slope more steeply down towards the Roxby Beck, and the section further to the south-west (just beyond the detailed survey area) is formed by a drystone wall which is markedly more substantial and better constructed than others in the vicinity, built of relatively well coursed and squared stone, perhaps with evidence for an intermittent projecting plinth [2/482, 2/483]. This wall is reminiscent, both in appearance and perhaps also in relation to the position of the Hall, to a wall recorded at Dobpark, near Ilkely (North Yorkshire) which is almost certainly a remnant of a c.1600 walled pale resulting from the re-organisation of an earlier park (Richardson & Dennison 2012, 17-18 & 41). However, the park could easily have continued further south-west, as far as the two 'Park Hills' and 'Park House' shown in 1856 (blue boundary on figure 8); indeed, this area could represent an extension of a smaller and then enlarged original park, or vice versa.
- 3.40 If the fullest extent of the park as suggested above is, for the sake of argument, correct, then it would have been aligned north-east/south-west, with a sub-rectangular plan form measuring c.1.80km long by 0.8km wide. Irrespective of whichever park boundary is chosen, the Hall would have been placed on or near the southern edge, but at one of the highest points on this edge, and would therefore have commanded magnificent views over much of the park.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### Introduction

- 4.1 It is difficult, and indeed almost certainly erroneous without further research and investigation, to place the earthworks within the survey area in anything other than a broad chronological framework, and it should be stressed that the assignment of a particular earthwork to one of these periods is based on a combination of limited available documentary sources, the plan form and inter-relationships of the earthworks, and professional judgement.
- 4.2 The developmental sequence set out below is therefore offered as a model for further discussion, rather than a definitive interpretation.

### Pre-Medieval

- 4.3 It has been suggested that the geophysical anomalies forming an enclosure on the west edge of the geophysical survey area, as well as ditches c.7m wide in the north-east corner of the survey area (which are mirrored by an earthwork c.10m further down the slope - Site 6), are perhaps indicative of earlier defensive and/or settlement use of the site, perhaps of Iron Age date (see figure 7) (Mulgrave Community Research Project 2013). While prehistoric activity cannot be ruled out, it is likely that any such activity represented by earthworks will have been severely degraded as a result of lying within an area of later medieval cultivation. Survey elsewhere within the North York Moors has demonstrated that it is no coincidence that the lowest elevations of prehistoric landscape features such as cairnfields coincide with the upper limits of medieval and modern agriculture (Harding & Ostoja-Zagorski 1994, 61-66), possibly as a result of the spread of moorland vegetation in the late prehistoric period which had the effect of limiting agricultural exploitation in the medieval period, and so increasing the rate of survival of cairns, walls, dykes and barrows on higher moorland (Manby, King & Vyner 2003, 69-70 & 83-91). The same process can be seen at Roxby Low Moor to the south of the survey area, where evidence for late Iron Age and Roman settlement lies just beyond the southern limit of the townships medieval open field system.

### Medieval

- 4.4 There is some limited published documentary evidence for medieval landholding in and around Roxby from the late 12th century onwards. At the start of the 13th century Roxby was probably held by the de Acklam family, but it had passed through marriage to the Boynton family of East Yorkshire after c.1230. However, despite this association for the rest of the medieval period, and their apparent founding of an adjacent chapel/church in the 15th century, possibly in the reign of Henry V (1413-1422), or perhaps the re-founding of an earlier 13th chapel, there is little or no direct documentary evidence for any kind of residence or capital messuage in Roxby. This is primarily due to the fact that much of the early Boynton family archives has not survived into the present day (Dr Susan Neave, *pers. comm.*).
- 4.5 It appears that the Boynton family connection with Roxby started in mid-late 13th century, when Sir William Boynton (d.1310) is recorded as holding the manor in 1284-85. Subsequent generations retained the manor - Ingram Boynton was assessed for taxation in Roxby in 1301, Thomas de Boynton (d.1402) received a grant of free warren in Roxby in 1365-66, and the chapel is

said to have been founded by the family in the early 15th century. How many of the family were actually resident in the village is unknown and, more importantly, neither is the location of any manorial complex and what form it might have taken. It seems clear that it does not lie within the area of the later Hall (see below), and so it may well have been on or in the vicinity of Manor House Farm opposite the church.

- 4.6 The right of free warren allowed a local magnate the sole rights to hunt small game over their own manors or estates and, more importantly, the right to prosecute any commoner found hunting on their land. Small game was defined as being hare, rabbit, woodcock, partridge and pheasant which were hunted for the table, while fox, wildcat, badger, marten, otter and squirrel were hunted as pests as they damaged crops (Cantor 1982, 82). By the mid 14th century, grants of free warren had become so common that the majority of manorial lords seem to have enjoyed them, and in some cases, the grant was a prelude to the creation of a park (Dennison 2005, 22). Such a process might therefore have led to the creation of a park at Roxby in the mid to late 14th century, and it may be that elements of this park survive as place names on the 1856 Ordnance Survey map. Depending on its size, a medieval park would have contained a variety of structures, not necessarily all associated with hunting (Dennison 2005, 27; Moorhouse 2007, 107-111).
- 4.7 The only clear evidence for medieval activity within the survey area are the denuded and only just visible earthworks of ridge and furrow arable cultivation (Site 7). However, although intermittent, their alignment and distribution is significant. They are not visible in the vicinity of, or close by, the site of the Hall (Sites 2 and 4), but can be seen to the north of the main scarp and on sloping ground further to the south-west. All the ridge and furrow has a shallow north-west/south-east alignment, and it is likely that this has continued to influence the orientation of demonstrably later features such as the former field wall running off the north-east corner of the walled enclosure (Site 5/2). Although conditions at the time of the earthwork survey were not ideal, with fairly long grass present, there is no clear evidence that the Hall complex had been placed over such earthworks, although of course, it is always possible that any ridge and furrow in this area was subsequently levelled. The presence of ridge and furrow indicates that the survey area once fell within part of Roxby's open field system, and therefore if a park was created here and it followed the approximate boundaries discussed in Chapter 3 above, then it would imply that former medieval agricultural land was taken into the park.

### **Post-Medieval**

- 4.8 There is slightly better documentary evidence for the presence of a residence associated with the Boynton family at Roxby during the early post-medieval period, although references are still scanty. Thomas Boynton (d.1523) is described as being of 'Roysby' and is buried in the church, having previously petitioned to have it and the churchyard consecrated. His will of 1520 also itemised three feather beds and silver, and he left 40s to the church, as did Martin Boynton before him. All this implies that at least Thomas Boynton was resident at Roxby, and he may well have built a new house, or upgraded the existing manorial complex. His widow Cecily Boynton (d.1550-51), probably continued to live at Roxby as she too is buried in the church. Thomas Boynton (d. 1582), grandson of Thomas and Cecily, was described as 'of Rowsebye' in 1566 (HHC DDWB/22/25).

- 4.9 Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, the Boyntons had been steadily increasing their wealth, power and influence, through a combination of judicious marriage and crown patronage. For example, Thomas Boynton's son Matthew (d.1541) was chief steward of the King's possessions in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, his son Thomas Boynton (d.1581-82) was knighted in 1578, his son Francis (d.1617) was a Member of the Council of the North, and his heir Matthew (d.1647) was knighted in 1618, almost immediately bought a baronetcy, and was an important Yorkshire player in the Civil War on the Parliamentarian side; many Boyntons were also Sheriffs of Yorkshire and Members of Parliament. However, it is perhaps with Sir Matthew's second son and heir, Sir Francis Boynton (d.1695) that the family's fortunes really took off - when he succeeded to the Griffith estates in 1654 he became one of the largest gentry landowners in the north of England. Although the family were primarily based at Barmston and later Burton Agnes (both East Yorkshire), it is quite likely that a new fashionable house would have either been built at Roxby, or the existing manorial complex significantly expanded and improved, commensurate with their rising importance and social standing. This may well have been done by the 1st Baronet Sir Matthew Boynton (d.1647) who made Roxby rather than Barmston his main residence, initially for his first wife Frances and their 12 children, and later for his second wife Katherine and their (possibly two) children; both wives are buried in the church, although Katherine because she was visiting rather than living at Roxby when she died. Sir Matthew also repaired the chancel of the church in the 1630s, possibly to create a suitable resting place for his wife Frances who was buried there in 1634. Sir Matthew's heir, Sir Francis (d.1695), was born at Roxby in 1618 but then inherited the Burton Agnes estates and hall in 1654, and so is unlikely to have been based at Roxby from then on, although he may well have undertaken improvements to his former home; the 1673 Hearth Tax notes that he owned the 12 hearth house (Purdy 1991, 87). If the above scenario is correct, Sir Matthew may well have built a new house on a new site next to the church (given the lack of other remains on the site; see below), or enlarged an existing structure elsewhere, in the early 1600s. Interestingly, the same Sir Matthew is also credited with substantially rebuilding Barmston manor house at about the same time, which in 1582 had contained great, little, old and garden parlours, many chambers, and a gatehouse and porter's lodge, as well as service and farm buildings which included a brew house, milk house, stables etc (Cooper 2002, 216); Poulson (1840, 215-224) provides a full list of the various rooms and their contents from the 1582 inventory.
- 4.10 A 'manor house' at Roxby is listed in documents of 1666, 1702 and 1771, but the 1673 Hearth Tax is the only document discovered by the research undertaken for this project which gives an indication of its size, although it needs to be remembered that this number would also include any hearths in outbuildings etc. In the surrounding area, Easington Hall and Kirkleatham Hall (now demolished) were of a similar size (12 and 13 hearths respectively), and only Guisborough (15), Skelton (17) and Marske (18) were bigger (Purdy 1991, 87-88); by comparison, the Boyntons' manor house at Barmston had 10 hearths (Purdy 1991, 165). 'Rouseby Hall' is depicted on Warburton's map of Yorkshire in 1720 but no building is shown on Jefferys' 1772 map (see figure 3), and by 1808 only the foundations remained visible (Graves 1808, 326). By the time of the 1856 Ordnance Survey map, a rectangular indication of foundations is depicted (see figure 4), but even these are not shown on the 1895 edition. Precisely when the house might have been demolished is therefore unclear, although it may have been around the time Sir Griffith Boynton (d.1801) sold the estate to John Turton in 1792.



- 4.11 In terms of the field evidence, the surviving fragment of stonework (Site 2/1) does not contain any architectural features which are closely dateable, the chamfered offset being a common feature of buildings from at least the 14th century well into the 17th century. There was clearly once more surviving, as evidenced by the similar pieces of chamfered offset surviving within the churchyard walls, and it is possible that the dashed rectangle shown in 1856 by the Ordnance Survey was an attempt to interpret low footings which have since been removed or have completely grassed over. Only two of the recorded fragments in the churchyard walls (Site 1) and those of the walled enclosure (Site 5) offer any more closely dateable evidence, and some caution obviously needs to be exercised, as the re-use of architectural material can often be complex or confusing even in relatively simple structures (for example, see Richardson & Dennison 2013 or Horsfall Turner 2013). The fragments are not necessarily derived from the Hall; the church has been restored or rebuilt at least twice, and it is not known what fabric or indeed monuments may have been removed. However if, for the purposes of this discussion, they are assumed to be *ex situ* fabric from the Hall, then what might they be? The stone with the raised carved decoration in the wall adjacent to the path leading to the churchyard, and the plain column fragment in the walled enclosure, could both be interpreted as the remnants of simple Classical detailing that one might find in a stone house of the late 16th or 17th centuries - precisely the period of residency suggested by the few documentary references.
- 4.12 What is crucial from the earthwork and geophysical survey results is that the site appears to represent a complex laid out in a single event, with little evidence for earlier features or anomalies which might be expected on a site with a long history of occupation, growth and re-development.
- 4.13 From the earthwork survey, the large north-west/south-east aligned platform (Site 2/2) with the surviving upstanding masonry fragment at its north-east corner would appear to represent the site of the Hall; this corner placement corresponds with the structural evidence of the fragment itself. This platform measures 26m long by 9m wide and, assuming the hall was two or possibly three storeys high, a reasonably-sized 12 hearth residence commensurate with the Boynton's status might be represented. The adjacent sub-rectangular depression (Site 4/1) to its west may form part of a courtyard while the other sub-square, slightly sunken enclosure (Site 4/2) could be the site of another service building. To the east of the building platform, the prominent square platform (Site 2/3) could represent a garden or perhaps a bowling green. Some potential garden features might have been recorded by the geophysical survey here, and if this was the case, it would have provided excellent views across the surrounding landscape to the north and north-east; this platform almost certainly once continued further to the south, so that it was the same length as the raised sub-rectangular earthwork (Site 2/2), with the southern part being taken into the churchyard at a later date. The whole complex could be accessed from the south past the church via a slightly raised hard-surfaced causeway (Site 4/6), with the main entrance represented by a well-graded trackway (Site 2/4) running in from the east to a principal entrance or gateway located at the north-east corner of the forecourt. Although speculative, this apparent arrangement of gardens and enclosures in relation to the Hall site is suggestive of what one might encounter at a smaller 17th century gentry house.
- 4.14 However, the information obtained from the geophysical survey suggests a building measuring c.25m wide (east-west) comprising at least three ranges,

with the north, east and west being visible on the survey (see figure 7 and Appendix 2). The ranges were relatively narrow, only 4m wide, and any southern range lay outside the area of survey. The east range corresponds to the east side of the raised sub-rectangular earthwork (Site 2/2) while the west range runs through the centre of the sunken area to the west (Site 4/1). This much larger structure might be more appropriate to the 12 hearth building recorded in 1673, and any apparent disparity with the earthworks could be explained by the fact that the earthworks are more likely to reflect what was left after the Hall was demolished and the stonework robbed out.

- 4.15 The form of the building (as suggested by the geophysical survey), with at least three ranges laid out around an open yard or court is itself not indicative of any particular date, courtyard houses dating back to at least the late medieval period (Emery 1996, 333-334) and the U-shaped plan form persisting into the 17th century. However, there is an intriguing alternative possibility that the three ranges recorded by the geophysical survey are not the actual Hall, but some kind of forecourt or service court. This might explain the apparent narrowness of the ranges, and also raises the possibility that they could have been partly timber-framed as well as stone-built. Perhaps the actual Hall stood immediately to the east (on platform 2/3) or to the north; both areas recorded some anomalies although more definite features might be expected. The right-angled geophysical anomalies and earthworks to the west (e.g. Site 4/3) might represent the service buildings, while a 9m wide circular anomaly might be the remains of a dovecote (or the former position of a modern stock feeder). Only limited excavation, through archaeological trial trenching, would be able to confirm the results and hypotheses proposed by the earthwork and geophysical surveys.
- 4.16 If the Hall was placed on one side of a park, as has already been suggested, then it is likely that the area in which it was placed would have been defined by a clear boundary such as a wall, bank, ditch or a combination of such features. As has been noted above, the site of the Hall occupies a prominent plateau, with the ground sloping away to the east and west but more steeply to the north; in 1856, the area to the north is named as 'Hall Hill'. There are several boundary features either shown in the mid 19th century or still existing on the ground which may suggest that this 'Hall Hill' area was once separated from the surrounding landscape, and possibly from the interior of a park. The ditch (Site 3) both within and without the eastern side of the survey area is substantial enough to have formed a boundary, although it is more likely to be a former hollow-way or watercourse. The watercourse (Site 9) along the west side of the survey area, although almost certainly enhanced by 19th and 20th century agricultural activity, might also once have served as a boundary. To the south of the survey area, this boundary has a bank, perhaps with evidence for coppiced trees, on the inner side. On the north side of 'Hall Hill', the natural ground level falls away very steeply towards the Roxby Beck, and would have formed a natural line for a boundary or sub-division.
- 4.17 The combined evidence therefore seems to point to the Hall being built on a new site adjacent to the church, possibly by Thomas Boynton (d.1523) in the late 15th/early 16th century or more likely by Sir Matthew Boynton (d.1647) in the early 17th century. This may of course only represent the last phase of use prior to demolition, but the field evidence suggests that this was a new build on a new site, with an earlier manorial complex being elsewhere, perhaps in the area of the present Manor House Farm. Finally, the admittedly limited documentary evidence shows that the large 12 hearth Hall was only a

peripheral Boynton residence on an outlying estate for more minor family members, although it was the main house for Sir Matthew, his wife and 12 children between 1614 and 1636, and probably remained permanently occupied until 1654 when the family inherited Burton Agnes Hall. After this, the Hall would have been only occasionally lived in, and it may have formed a 'lodge-type' function, from where there would have been extensive views to a park, the sea and the wider landscape. A similar visual relationship has been noted between the c.1600 Dobpark Lodge and the Washburn Valley in North Yorkshire (Richardson & Dennison 2012).

- 4.18 It would appear, although again from rather scanty documentary evidence, that the Hall was probably demolished in the late 18th century, probably just after the sale of the Roxby estate in 1792. Presumably at least some of the stone was used around Roxby itself; for example, Manor Farmhouse, to the south of the survey area, dates to c.1700 and appears to include the same mixture of herringbone-tooled and coursed tooled sandstone as the church - perhaps the Hall began to be dismantled as early as the turn of the 18th century? Similarly, perhaps parts of the church, said to have been rebuilt in 1818, reused some of the Hall's fabric. Once the Hall had been demolished, then it is probable that the park would also have started to be partitioned up and to no longer have formed an entity.
- 4.19 The survey area continued to be altered after the demolition of the Hall, principally as a result of agricultural activity. The walled enclosure (Site 5) is sometimes suggested as being a walled garden associated with the Hall (English Heritage's National Record of the Historic Environment site 29022) but, given that it appears to include re-used material from the Hall and because of the general form of the walls, it is far more likely to be an 18th or early 19th century agricultural enclosure. The bank marking the line of the field wall (Site 5/2) formerly running off the north-east corner of the enclosure is cut by a trackway (Site 6), and so the latter must be a relatively recent feature, even though it appears to be overlain by the trackway (Site 2/4) leading up towards the former Hall's location.

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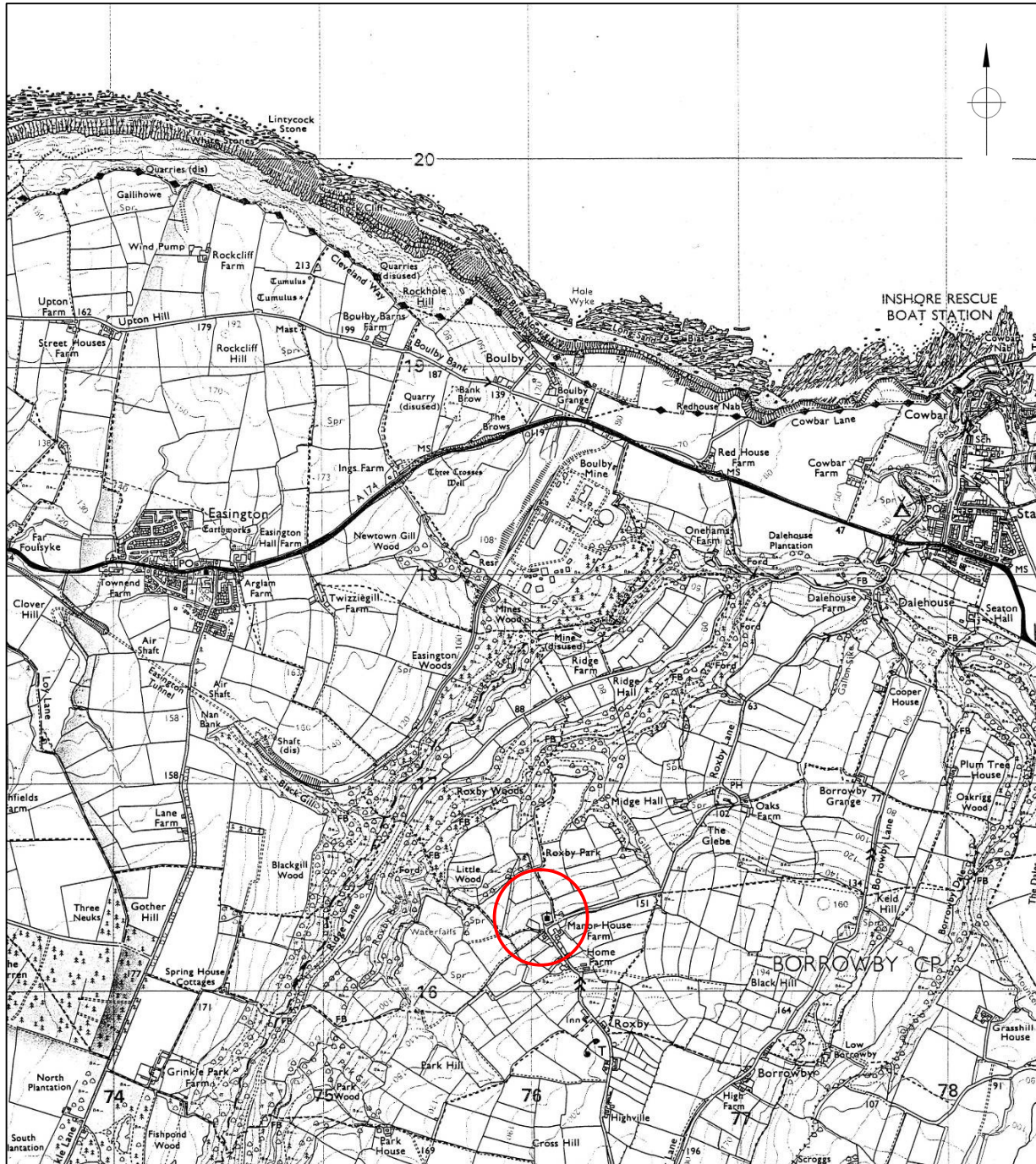
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## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1 The archaeological survey work at Roxby was commissioned by the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP), and was funded by the NYMNP as part of their current LEADER initiative, which is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), administered by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Thanks are due to Claire Shields and Graham Lee (NYMNP), and Mr Aaron Davis of Farmoor Services (Turton Estate) and Mr Albert Jackson (tenant) for their help in organising and carrying out the survey. Especial thanks are due to Anthea Ellis from the Mulgrave Community Research Group (MCRG) who coordinated their input, liaised with EDAS and provided some background information for the documentary research.
- 6.2 The topographical earthwork survey was undertaken by Shaun Richardson (EDAS) and Benchmark Surveys of Leeds, assisted by Ed Dennison (EDAS). The geophysical survey was undertaken by the MCRG, led by John Brown and ably assisted by Fiona Barnard, Roger Cohen, Stewart Ellis, Anthea Ellis, Bill Hinchley, Christiane Kroebel and Willy Summerson. The bulk of the historical research was undertaken by Ed Dennison, with considerable assistance from Dr Susan Neave, who is thanked for her efforts. Shaun Richardson produced the site archive and a draft report. Comments on the draft report were kindly received from Anthea Ellis (MCRG) and Graham Lee (NYMNP). The final report was produced and edited by Ed Dennison, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.

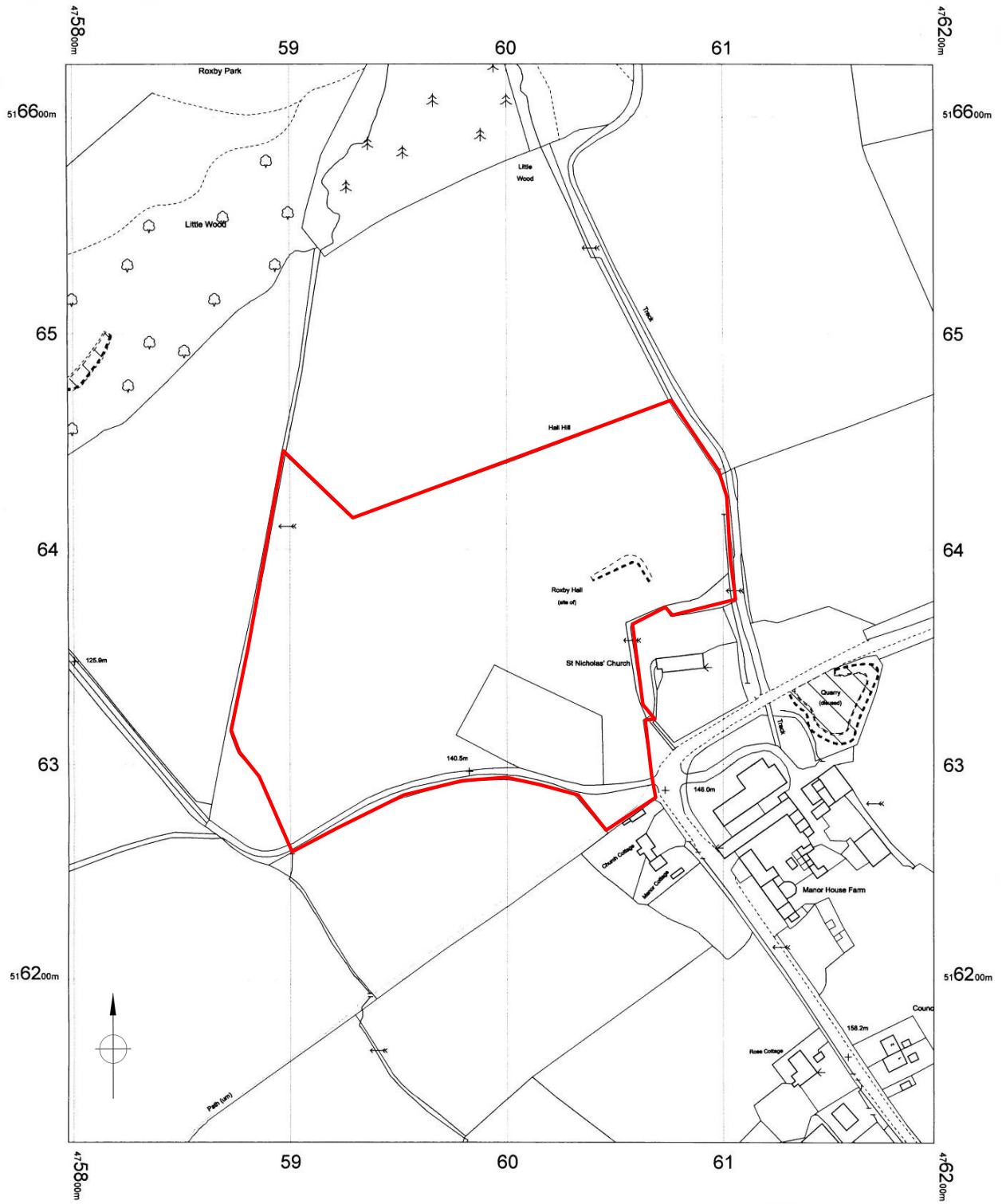




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TITLE			
GENERAL LOCATION			
SCALE	NTS	DATE	MAR 2014
EDAS		FIGURE	1

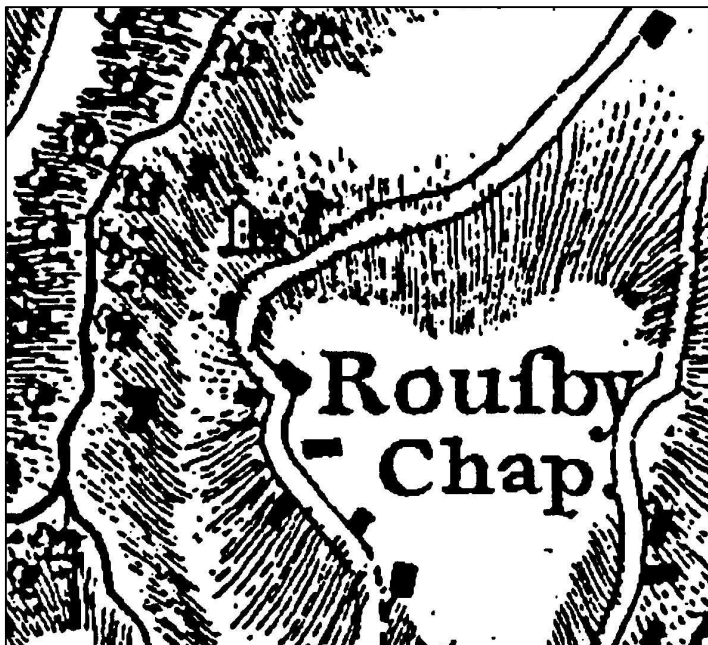
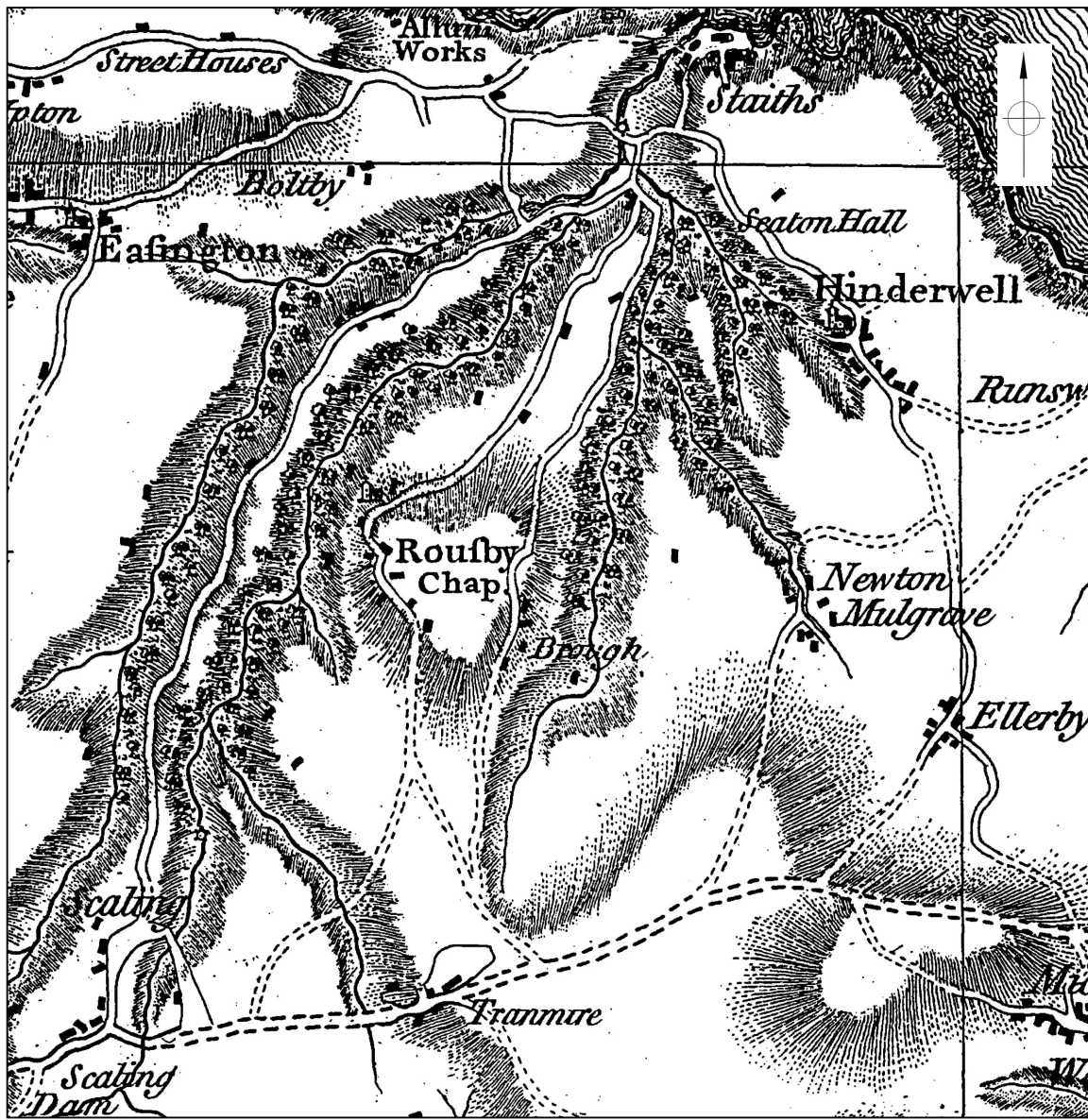




— AREA OF SURVEY

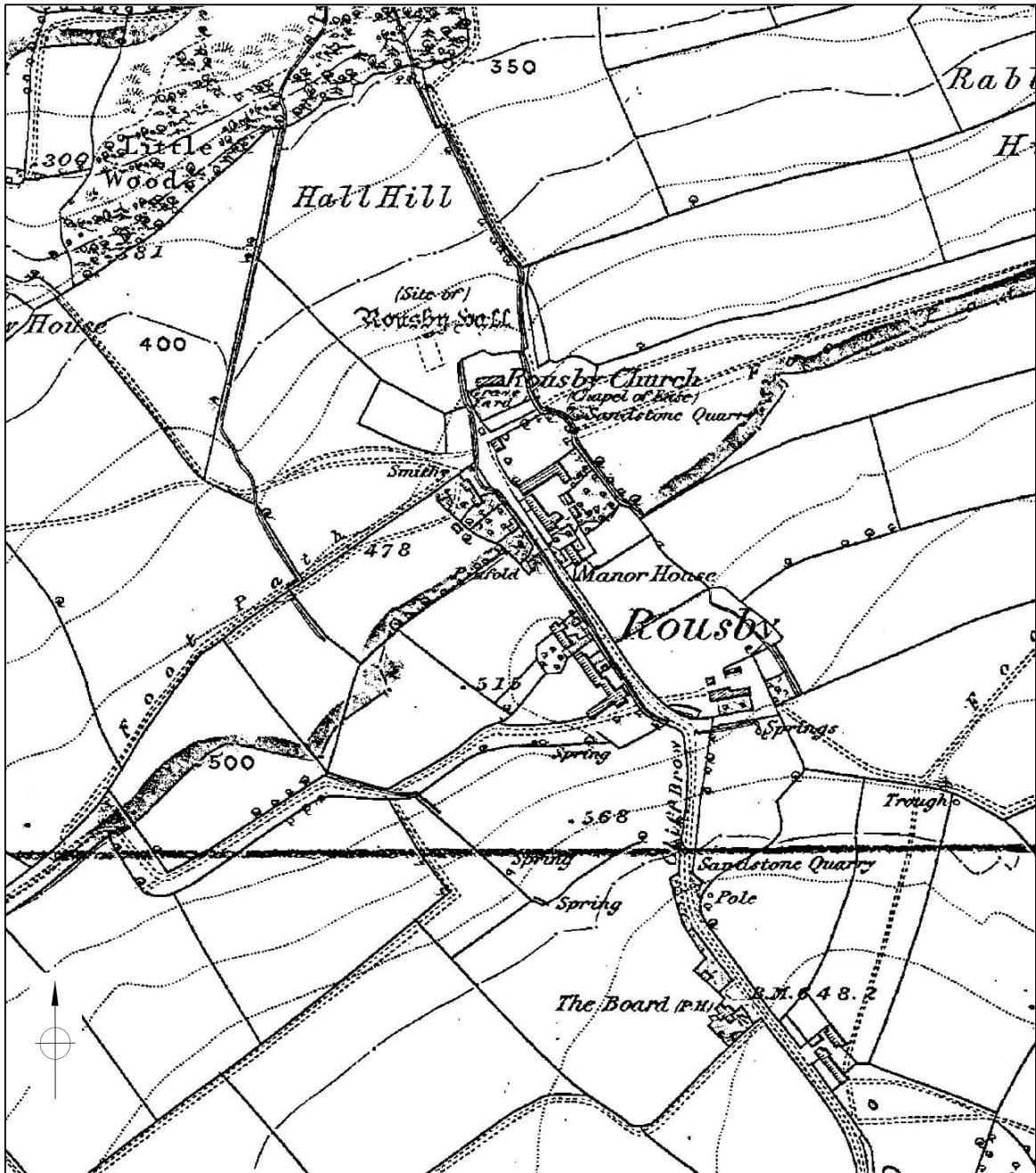
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PROJECT		ROXBY HALL, ROXBY	
TITLE		DETAILED LOCATION	
SCALE	DATE	NTS	MAR 2014
EDAS		FIGURE 2	



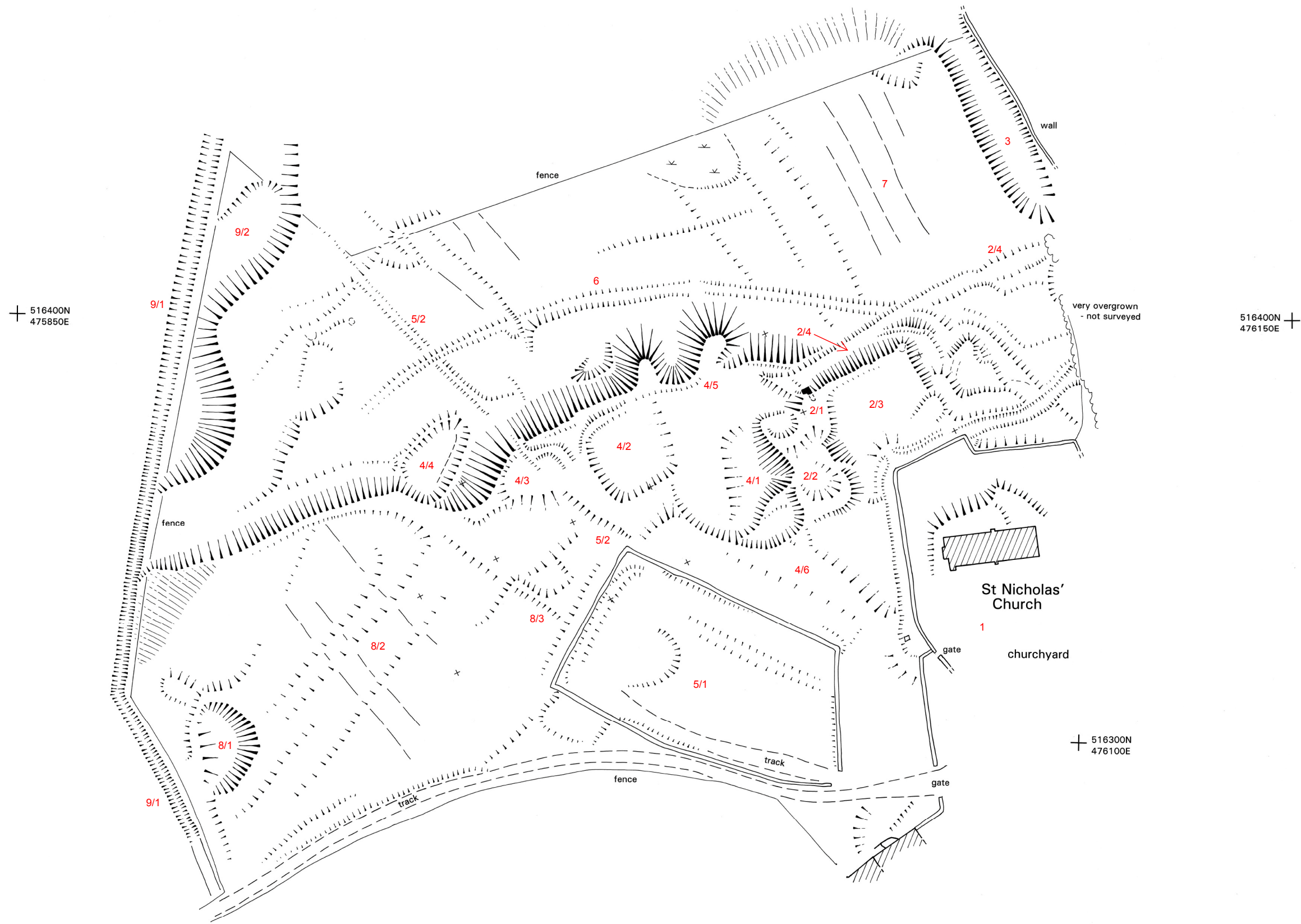
Source: Jefferys' 1772 map of Yorkshire, plate 4 (surveyed 1767-71).

PROJECT		ROXBY HALL, ROXBY	
TITLE			
		JEFFERYS' 1772 MAP	
SCALE	DATE		
NTS	MAR 2014		
		FIGURE	
EDAS		3	

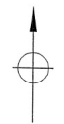


Source: Ordnance Survey 1856 1st edition  
 6" map, Yorkshire sheet 19 (surveyed  
 1849-52).

PROJECT		ROXBY HALL, ROXBY	
TITLE			
		ORDNANCE SURVEY 1856 MAP	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	MAR 2014
EDAS		FIGURE	4



+ 516250N  
 475850E  
 + GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY GRID



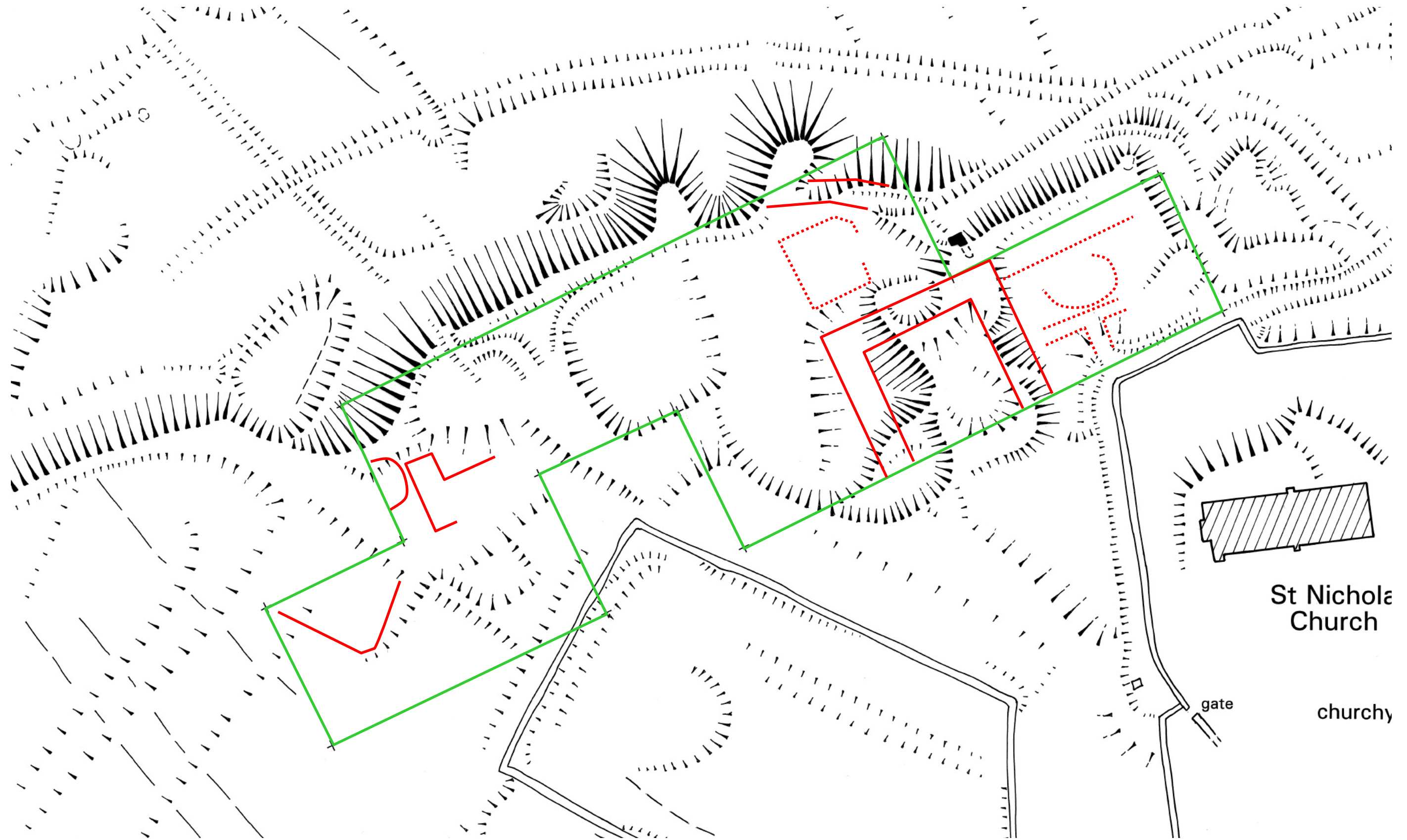
PROJECT		ROXBY HALL, ROXBY	
TITLE		EARTHWORK SURVEY	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	MAR 2014
EDAS		FIGURE	5





Source: Mulgrave Community Research Project  
2013 *Roxby Hall, Roxby, North Yorkshire, Grid  
NZ 762161 Report on Geophysical Survey carried  
out in June 2013* (unpublished archive report).

PROJECT		ROXBY HALL, ROXBY			
TITLE				GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS	
SCALE		DATE			
NTS		MAR 2014			
EDAS		FIGURE			
		6			

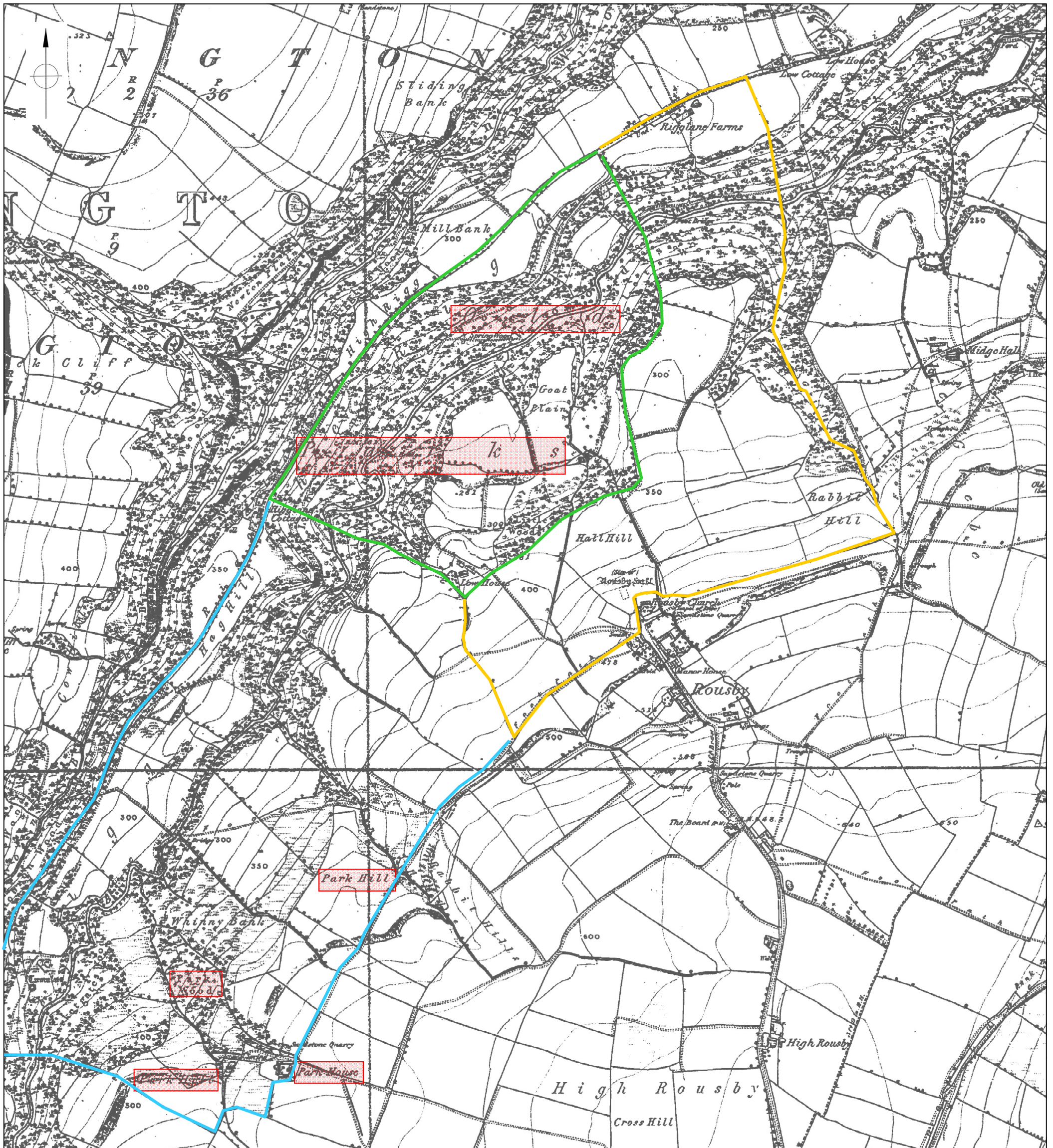


Note: Interpretation of geophysical survey results provided by EDAS, based on grey-scale plots and descriptive text contained in MCRP report (Mulgrave Community Research Project 2013).

0 20m

PROJECT		ROXBY HALL, ROXBY			
TITLE				GEOPHYSICAL INTERPRETATION	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	MAR 2014		
EDAS		FIGURE	7		





'Park' names

Source: Ordnance Survey 1856 1st edition  
6" map, Yorkshire sheet 19 (surveyed  
1849-52).

PROJECT		ROXBY HALL, ROXBY	
TITLE		POSSIBLE PARK BOUNDARIES	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	MAR 2014
EDAS		FIGURE	8





Plate 1: St Nicholas' church, looking SE (photo 1/353).



Plate 2: Boynton memorials in St Nicholas' church, looking E (photo 2/436).





Plate 3: Katherine Boynton/Ingram (6.1666) memorial, St Nicholas' church (photo 2/424).



Plate 4: Thomas Boynton (d.1523) memorial, St Nicholas' church (photo 2/429).

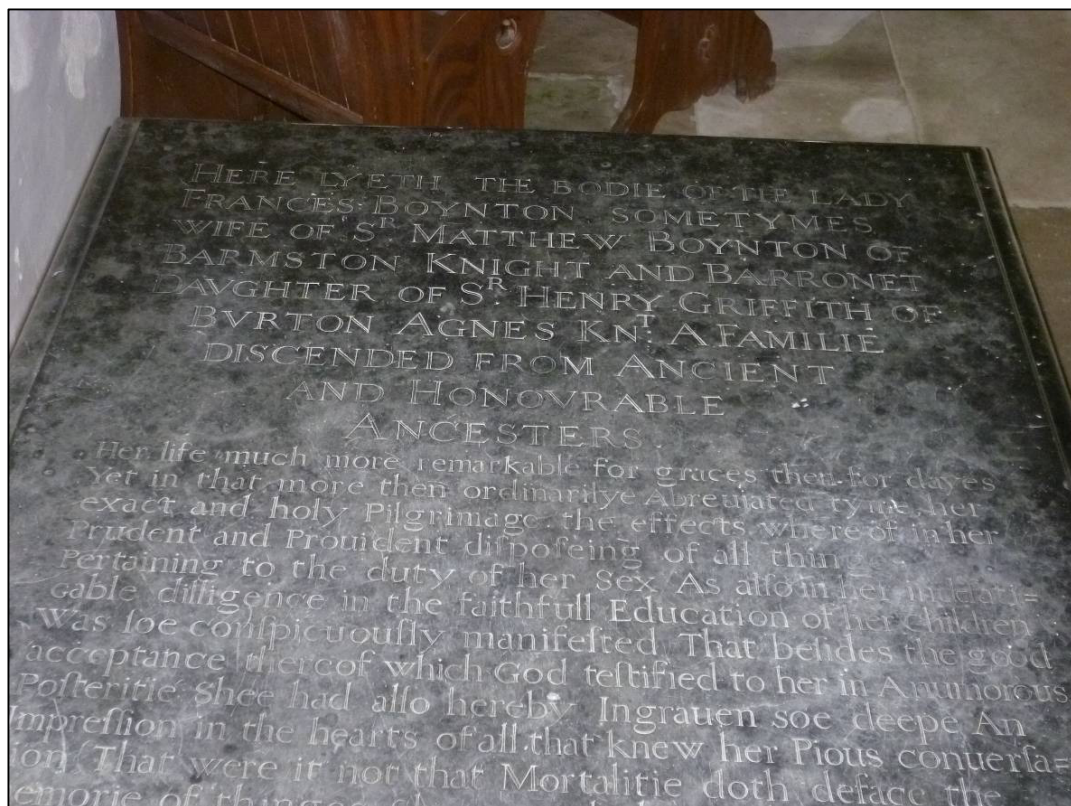


Plate 5: Frances Boynton (d.1634) memorial, St Nicholas' church.





Plate 6: Standing masonry (Site 2/1), looking SE (photo 1/361).



Plate 7: Trackway (Site 2/4), looking SW (photo 2/416).



Plate 8: Standing masonry with site of Hall (Sites 2/1, 2/2 and 4/1), looking N (photo 1/357).





Plate 9: Ditch (Site 3), looking NE (photo 2/419).



Plate 10: General view of walled enclosure (Site 5/1), looking NW (photo 1/368).





Plate 11: Re-used fragment (chamfered plinth?), external face of west churchyard wall (photo 2/462).



Plate 12: Re-used fragment (fluted column), internal face of church path wall (photo 2/463).





Plate 13: Re-used fragment (column), north internal face of walled enclosure (Site 5/1) (photo 2/478).

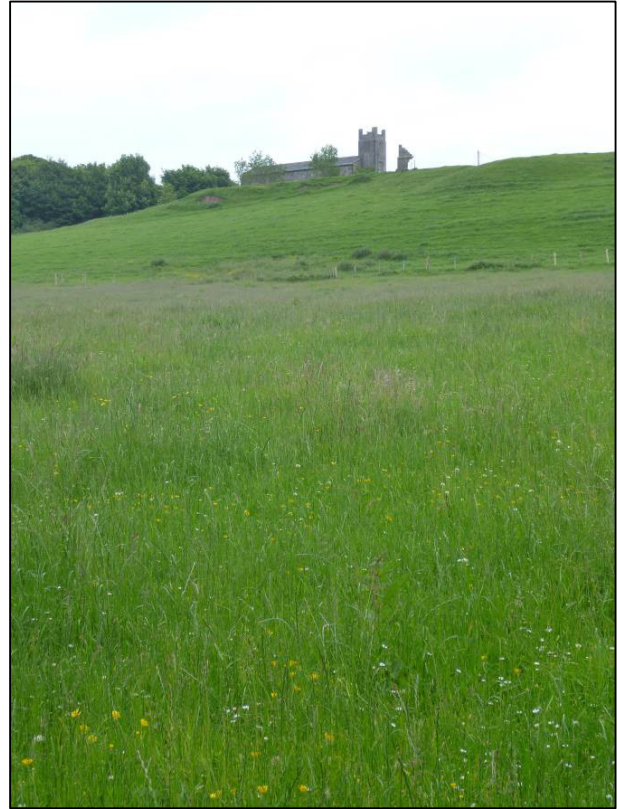


Plate 14: General view of elevated position of Hall and church, looking S (photo 2/485).



Plate 15: Members of Mulgrave Community Research Group undertaking geophysical survey (photo courtesy Anthea Ellis).

**APPENDIX 1**  
**PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

## ROXBY HALL PHOTOGRAPHIC CATALOGUE

Film 1: Colour digital photographs taken 19th June 2013

Film 2: Colour digital photographs taken 26th June 2013

Site identifiers in brackets

<i>Film</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	353	Roxby church, looking SE	-
1	354	Standing masonry (2/1) and platform (2/2), looking N	1m
1	355	Standing masonry (2/1), looking N	1m
1	356	Standing masonry (2/1) and platform (2/3), looking NE	1m
1	357	Standing masonry (2/1) and platform (2/2), looking N	1m
1	358	Standing masonry (2/1), looking N	1m
1	359	Standing masonry (2/1) and trackway (2/4), looking NE	1m
1	360	Standing masonry (2/1) church, looking SE	1m
1	361	Standing masonry (2/1), looking SE	1m
1	362	Platform (2/2), looking E	1m
1	363	General view across courtyard (4), looking E	1m
1	364	General view of walled enclosure (5/1), looking SE	1m
1	365	Typical section of W side of walled enclosure (5/1), looking SE	1m
1	366	View along W side of walled enclosure (5/1), looking NE	1m
1	368	General view of walled enclosure (5/1), looking NW	-
1	369	Walled enclosure (5/1) and church, looking N	-
2	404	Quarry (8/1), looking N	1m
2	405	Denuded terracing (8/2), looking NE	1m
2	406	Possible ponds (9/2), looking N	1m
2	407	Former field boundary/wall line (5/2), looking SE	1m
2	408	W end of trackway (6), looking NE	1m
2	409	Possible quarry (4/4) at W end of main scarp, looking E	2 x 1m
2	410	W continuation of main scarp, looking W	1m
2	411	Ditch along W side of churchyard, looking S	1m
2	412	Ditch along N side of churchyard, looking NE	1m
2	413	Promontory (4/5) towards E end of main scarp, looking W	1m
2	414	Trackway (2/4) to N of platform (2/3), looking SW	1m
2	415	Trackway (2/4) to N of platform (2/3), looking SW	1m
2	416	Trackway (2/4) to N of platform (2/3), looking SW	1m
2	417	Trackway (2/4) to N of platform (2/3), looking SW	1m
2	419	Ditch (3), looking NE	1m
2	421	Ditch (3), looking NE	1m
2	422	Ditch (3), looking NE	1m
2	424	Katherine Boynton/Ingram (d.1666) memorial	0.50m
2	428	Thomas Boynton (d.1523) memorial	0.50m
2	429	Thomas Boynton (d.1523) memorial	0.50m
2	430	Thomas Boynton (d.1523) memorial (inscription)	0.50m
2	431	Thomas Boynton (d.1523) memorial (effigy)	0.50m
2	432	Thomas Boynton (d.1523) memorial (shield)	0.50m
2	433	Frances Boynton (d.1634) memorial	0.50m
2	435	Frances Boynton (d.1634) memorial	0.50m
2	436	View of Thomas Boynton (d.1523) and Frances Boynton (d.1634) memorials, looking E	-
2	437	Interior of church, looking W	-
2	438	Church roof, looking W	-
2	439	Church roof, looking W	-
2	440	Interior of church, looking W	-
2	441	Interior of church, looking E	-
2	442	Interior of church, looking SE	-
2	443	Interior of church, looking NE	-
2	444	Memorial window in N nave wall of church	-
2	445	Detail of memorial window in N nave wall of church	-
2	446	Detail of memorial window in N nave wall of church	-
2	447	Typical window of church	-

2	448	Herringbone tooled masonry in tower of church	-
2	449	Typical dressed stone in north wall of nave of church	-
2	451	General view of churchyard, looking W	-
2	452	Re-used fragment (chamfered plinth?), inner face of N end of E churchyard wall	0.50m
2	453	Re-used fragment, inner face of S end of E churchyard wall	0.50m
2	454	General view of S side of churchyard, looking W	-
2	455	Re-used fragment (gable coping?), inner face of S end of W churchyard wall	0.50m
2	456	Re-used fragments (door jambs) for gate stoops, inner face of W churchyard wall	0.50m
2	457	Re-used fragment (tooling), inner face of W churchyard wall	0.50m
2	458	Re-used fragment (socket stone?), external face of S end of W churchyard wall	0.50m
2	459	Re-used fragment (socket stone?), external face of S end of W churchyard wall	0.50m
2	460	Re-used fragment (half-round moulding), external face of W churchyard wall	0.50m
2	462	Re-used fragment (chamfered plinth?), external face of W churchyard wall	0.50m
2	463	Re-used fragment (fluted column), internal face of path wall to churchyard	0.50m
2	464	Re-used fragment (fluted column), internal face of path wall to churchyard	0.50m
2	465	Re-used fragment (fluted column), internal face of path wall to churchyard	0.50m
2	466	Re-used fragment (fluted column), internal face of path wall to churchyard	0.50m
2	467	Re-used fragment (fluted column), internal face of path wall to churchyard	0.50m
2	468	External NW corner of walled enclosure (5/1), looking E	1m
2	470	Re-used fragment (chamfered plinth?), external face of W wall of walled enclosure (5/1)	0.50m
2	472	Re-used fragment (chamfered window?), W end of S external wall of walled enclosure (5/1)	0.50m
2	473	Re-used fragment (initials?), E end of S external wall of walled enclosure (5/1)	0.50m
2	474	Re-used fragment (initials?), E face of S external wall of walled enclosure (5/1)	0.50m
2	475	Re-used fragments (herringbone & initial?), NE external corner of walled enclosure (5/1)	0.50m
2	476	Re-used fragment (window head?), E external wall of walled enclosure (5/1)	0.50m
2	477	Re-used fragment (window head?), E external wall of walled enclosure (5/1)	0.50m
2	478	Re-used fragment (column?), N internal wall of walled enclosure (5/1)	0.50m
2	479	Re-used fragment (column?), N internal wall of walled enclosure (5/1)	0.50m
2	480	Re-used fragment (column?), N internal wall of walled enclosure (5/1)	0.50m
2	482	Wall (park boundary?), SW of survey area, looking SW	0.50m
2	483	Wall (park boundary?), SW of survey area, looking SW	0.50m
2	484	General view of plateau area with site of Hall (2 & 4), looking S	-
2	485	General view of plateau area with site of Hall (2 & 4) and church, looking S	-
2	486	Continuation of ditch (3) to N of survey area, looking S	-
2	487	General view of plateau area with site of Hall (2 & 4) and church, looking S	-





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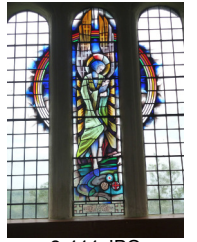
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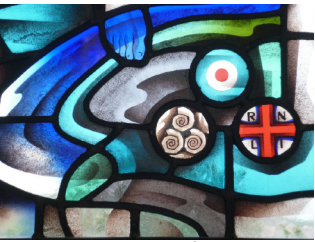
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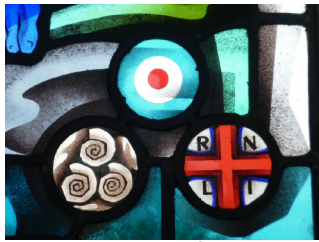
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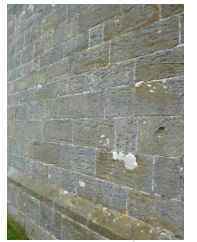
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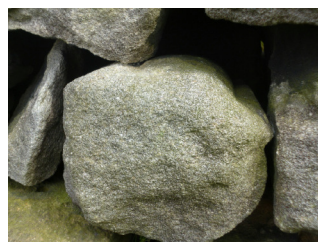
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**APPENDIX 2**  
**GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT**  
**BY MULGRAVE COMMUNITY RESEARCH PROJECT**

**Roxby Hall, Roxby, North Yorkshire**

**Grid NZ 762161**

**Report on Geophysical Survey carried out in June 2013**



ROXBY HALL LOOKING NORTH EAST TOWARDS STAITHES AND THE NORTH SEA.

### **Introduction**

A geophysical survey was undertaken of the area immediately surrounding a surviving upstanding corner of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century Roxby Hall , with the aim of identifying the extent and nature of the structure, and also to investigate the possibility of surviving evidence of formal gardens relating to the hall. The survey was carried out by the Mulgrave Community Research Project (MCRP), a community research and heritage group supported by the Jet Coast Development Trust (JCDT). The survey was carried out at the request of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park, as part of a scheme for enhancing on-site information provision for visitors. The author of this report acted as advisor to the group .

Contact: Anthea Ellis(MCRP) [ellis886@btinternet.com](mailto:ellis886@btinternet.com)

John Brown [john.brown@holistek.co](mailto:john.brown@holistek.co)



## Roxby

Roxby is a dispersed linear settlement of working farms and private houses straddling a minor road between the coastal settlements and the high moor settlements, which today provides a link between the A174 Tees Valley/Whitby coastal route and the A171 Tees Valley/Whitby moors route.

The minor road is very much in the tradition of a drove route, with every opportunity to ease the incline taken by traversing the inclines where possible. This journey to climb the 106m from the top of Staithes Bank at 39m OD to the survey site at 145m OD is a torturous route of some 3 km. At the survey area, the landscape opens up onto a plateau where the older nucleus of the Roxby settlement is dispersed around a junction of routes. The remainder of the settlement is a scattered group of properties along both sides of the sharp incline up to the high moor at 212m OD.

The site and its surroundings are very much part of a working farm, and visible earthworks on pasture across the survey site and surrounding areas have a mixture of possibly early earthworks interwoven with modern disturbance caused by heavy farm machinery. It was also noticeable that there were large amounts of metal detritus from modern farming practices evident, raising some concerns regarding the potential impact on what would principally be a magnetometer survey.

## Survey.

The survey area including the site of Roxby Hall, is a relatively level platform with a defined edge, at the top of a 20m scarp above Roxby Beck(Staithes Beck) to the north. The consultant archaeologist present had identified a number of areas of interest across the site, after discussions a decision was agreed that the survey would link them all together and survey them as a block.



Fig: Roxby Village and Survey area

## Survey information

Instrument:	Geoscan FM36 Fluxgate Gradiometer with autologger.
Resolution:	0.1nt
Grid:	20m x 20m
Survey Direction:	NE to SW
Survey Interval NE/SW:	0.5m
Survey Interval NW/SE:	1m
Method of Survey:	Zigzag
Processing Software:	Snuffler (Open Source)

A total of 10 grids were surveyed covering an area of 0.4 hectares, a further 0.18 hectares were surveyed in the walled enclosure to the south of the main survey area. It was apparent however on the ground when inspecting this enclosure that there was large amounts of ferrous metals in feeding troughs and other farming detritus present. Subsequent processing reflected this, and as no useful information was recovered a decision was taken to omit the results from this report.

The data was downloaded and processed using Snuffler open source software. A filter was applied to reduce the effect of magnetic spikes, and further filters were used to mitigate the effects of lateral and linear irregularities in the survey process due to the uneven landscape underfoot. Finally an interpolation filter was applied.

## Results

### Roxby Hall

Roxby Hall is clearly visible in relation to the standing monument, although the southern extent of the structure appears to fall outside the survey area. The hall appears to be 20m wide and at least 20m from front to back. The three visible sides appear to be ranges approximately 4m wide, perhaps surrounding a central courtyard. Between the East and West sides of the building there is a high magnetic anomaly band 3m wide that extends between but does not overlap the building ranges. The uniform nature of this anomaly might suggest a metalled surface made up of material such as iron slag or ironstone. A further linear high magnetic anomaly extends from the west range and may well be a continuation of the above surface externally to the building.

### Garden Features

There do not appear to be any highly defined formal garden features evident, although the area to the east of the building, and to the north, appear to show faint evidence of undiagnostic circular/oval and linear anomalies.

### **Double Ditch**

The surveyed area to the north of the hall shows evidence for a possible double ditch feature some 7m wide that may extend around the front of the scarp edge as part of some earlier use as a defensive site. An earth work parallel to this anomaly is also visible on the following composite image 10m further down the scarp, following the profile of the platform, and may well be evidence for a third ditch.

### **Enclosure**

At the western end of the survey there are two sides of a possible square/rectangular enclosure.

### **Round Anomaly**

At the western end of the survey area there is a high magnetic circular anomaly some 9m wide, this may be part of, or within the adjacent enclosure.

### **Building Wall Lines**

At the western end of the survey area there are clear wall lines of a rectangular feature 11m x 9m adjacent to the round anomaly in an area of high magnetic activity.



Fig3: Roxby Composite Image



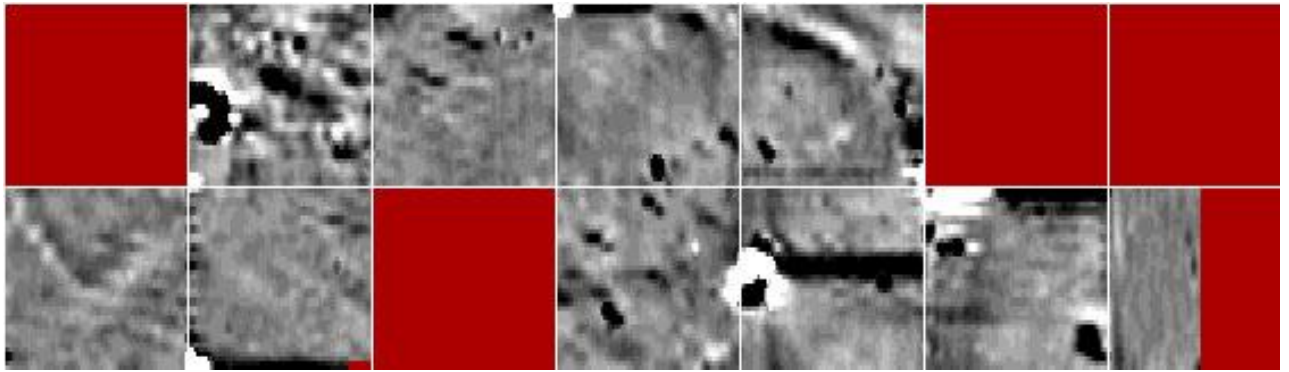


Fig 4: 20m Grid

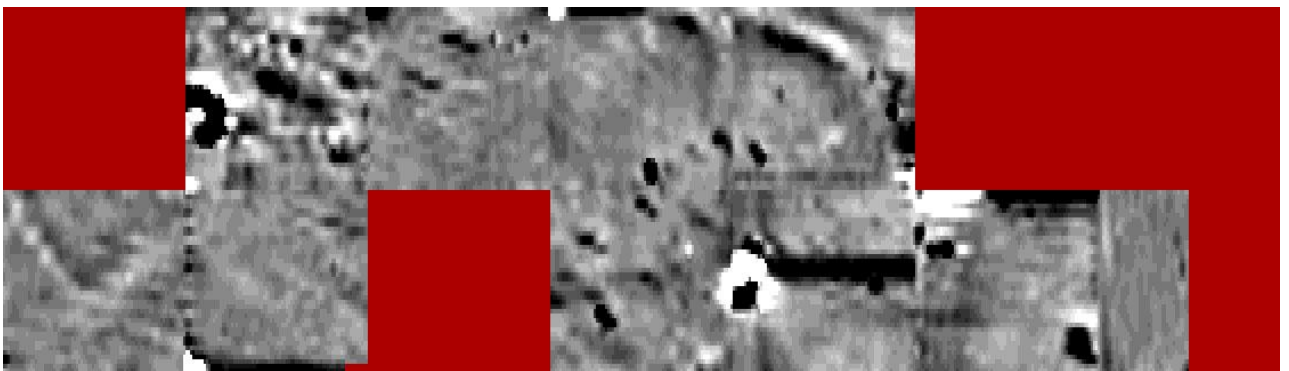


Fig 5: Greyscale

### Further Work

1. The anomalies on the western edge of the survey, and the suggestion of large enclosure ditches are perhaps indicative of earlier defensive and/or settlement use of the site, perhaps of Iron Age date. Extending the survey area westwards and down the scarp to embrace the ditch like earthwork feature may be conducive to understanding this earlier phase.
2. Extension of the survey area to establish the southern extent of Roxby Hall
3. Resistivity survey of the area on and around the hall to establish survival of stone foundations.
4. In light of the contamination of the walled enclosure with regard to magnetometry, a resistivity survey to identify potential areas of interest would be useful.
5. Resistivity survey of the wall lines and associated anomalies at the western end of the survey area, to establish the possible presence extent and type of structures.

**APPENDIX 3**  
**LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION**

## LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION



IoE Number: 327897

Location: CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS, HALL HILL (north side), ROXBY, SCARBOROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Photographer: Mr Chris Broadribb

Date Photographed: 14 September 2003

Date listed: 04 January 1990

Date of last amendment: 04 January 1990

Grade II

ROXBY HALL HILL NZ 71 NE (north end) 2/246 Church of St Nicholas II

Parish Church. C17 on the site of an earlier church, considerably altered in 1818 and restored in early C20. Coursed plain sandstone north nave wall and lower chancel walls; upper chancel and north nave walls, south nave wall and tower coursed herring-bone - tooled sandstone. Graduated lakeland slate roof with tile ridge and stone copings. West Tower; continuous nave and chancel: chancel probably raised to nave roof level in 1818. Sloped plinth. 3-stage tower has round-arched west doorway with cut voussoirs. 2-light west window above and 2-light segment headed bell openings in 3rd stage below parapet with corner battlements. Stone steps to first-floor boarded door on south side. 2-light nave west windows flank the tower and pent extension (possibly early pent extension (possibly early C20) has a matching window. 2-bay nave has 3-light windows; chancel of one long bay with blocked round-arched priest's door and a 3-light window with round heads to lights and sunk spandrels. Nave and tower windows have round-headed lights. North wall has only one 3-light window. East window, of 5 lights with square head and ridged keystone, probably early C20. Interior: Lobby with 6-panel door to tower. 6-panel double door to church. Panelled pews, mostly lost doors. Strutted king-post roof. All these features probably 1812 as is the pulpit, although on a later C19 base. Monuments: slab with brass to Thomas Boynton, d.1523; slab to Katherine Ingram d.1666; dark limestone slab, raised on 4 white marble irons, to the wife of Sir Matthew Boynton, d.1634. C13 font on modern stone plinth.

Source: [www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk)

**APPENDIX 4  
EDAS METHODS STATEMENT**

# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROXBY HALL, ROXBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

## **EDAS METHODS STATEMENT**

### **Introduction**

A programme of archaeological survey, comprising topographical earthwork survey and geophysical survey, is proposed to be undertaken over the site of Roxby Hall, Roxby, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 7603 1638 centred). The project will be undertaken jointly by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS) and the Mulgrave Community Research Group (MCRG). It should be noted that the project will only involve non-intrusive survey work - no excavation or other ground disturbance is involved.

The only upstanding remains of the hall is a small fragment of substantial walling, 1.1m thick and 3.4m high, forming the north-east angle of a building. It is likely, although not certain, that this represents a part of the former Hall, and the fabric is considered to be possibly 16th century in date. The ground surrounding this masonry fragment forms a large level platform overlooking a deep valley to the north. Terraced ground to the north of the platform may be the result of quarrying or an enhancement of the natural slope to create gardens for the hall. A walled enclosure to the south is probably another garden associated with the hall. There is a well-defined entrance into the site, leading from a right-angled bend in Roxby Lane to the south, past the small St Nicholas's Church; the present chapel dates to the 17th century, although it stands on the site of an earlier church.

The manor was previously known as 'Rousby', and the village is named as such on the 1856 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" map. It is presently thought that the site represents the Boynton family manor house or mansion. The Boynton family were restored to their estates in the early 15th century, and Thomas Boynton 'of Roxby' died in 1523; was buried in Roxby chapel, as was his wife Cecily in 1550-51. A later Thomas Boynton, of Barmston, East Yorkshire, was knighted as were his son Francis and grandson Matthew. Matthew Boynton was created a baronet in 1618 and assisted in the capture of Sir John Hotham at Scarborough Castle during the Civil War. His son Francis (d.1695) and his widow and second wife are also buried in the chapel (information from Victoria County History). In the late 18th century the manor was sold to John Turton of Edinburgh, and it now forms part of the Roxby Estate, which is managed by Farmoor Services LLP of Swinithwaite, North Yorkshire.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the project are:

- to gather additional archaeological information on the history and development of Roxby Hall, to expand and enhance existing knowledge;
- to provide an accurate survey of the earthworks and sub-surface remains (as revealed by topographical and geophysical surveys) associated with the Hall, with a view to a better understanding and appreciation of the site;
- to provide an appropriate level of information and knowledge for future interpretation of the site.

### **Methodology**

#### *Desk-top Research*

The history and development of the site and its environs will be researched, to provide a basic chronology for the site.

Consultation will be undertaken with, and information gathered from, the following organisations to obtain primary and secondary source material, including documentary material, estate and tithe maps, historic and modern Ordnance Survey maps, pictorial records, aerial photographs etc.

- the North York Moors National Park Authority's Archaeologist and Historic Environment Record (HER), Helmsley, North Yorkshire;
- the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, York;
- the North Yorkshire County Records Office, Northallerton;
- national archival holdings such as the National Monuments Record, the British Library, English Heritage etc;
- local history libraries in Whitby and Scarborough;
- Whitby Museum (Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society).

Material will also be gathered from existing MCRG records, and consultation will take place with Clive Welford (Roxby Manor Farm, Scaling) who knows the site in detail and has been conducting his own research over recent years.

All relevant information and research will be drawn together to provide a description of the site's historic development, together with a simple chronology. The written information relating to the site and its environs will include:

- an account of the history of land ownership;
- an account of the development of the landscape over time;
- a description of any identified archaeological or historic features.

The written account will be illustrated by relevant maps, estate plans, photographs and illustrations etc, designed to show the site and its development through time. A detailed bibliography of all primary and secondary sources consulted for the desk-top research will be included in the written account, even if the source proved no information.

#### *Topographical Earthwork Survey*

The whole of the site, and majority of the field within it lies (c.300sqm) will be subject to a detailed Level 3 archaeological survey (as defined by English Heritage (2007 *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*, 23-29), to record the position and form of all features considered to be of archaeological and/or historic interest.

This divorced survey would be carried out at a scale of 1:500 using EDM total station equipment, in accordance to recent guidelines (English Heritage 2011 *Traversing the Past: The Total Station Theodolite in Archaeological Landscape Survey*). Sufficient information would be gathered to allow the survey area to be readily located through the use of surviving structures, fences, walls and other topographical features. The survey would record the ground level position of all earthworks, structures, wall remnants and revetments, individual significant stones, fences, hedges and other boundary features, and any other features considered to be of archaeological or historic interest. The survey would also record the position of any individual trees within the site, together with an indication of their canopies, as well as areas of differential vegetation and areas of damage/erosion.

The site survey would be integrated into the Ordnance Survey national grid by resection to points of known co-ordinates. Height AOD would be obtained by reference to the OS benchmark located on St Nicholas' Church (144.38m), and contours plotted across the site. Control points would be observed through trigonometric intersection from survey stations on a traverse around and through the site. The maximum error in the closure of the traverse would be less than +/- 25mm. The locations, descriptions and values of the Bench Marks and control points would be started in the final survey data.

On completion of the EDM survey, the field data would be plotted and re-checked on site in a separate operation. Any amendments or additions would be surveyed by hand measurement.

Attention would also be paid to the walled boundaries of the site, and the separate ruined walled enclosure in the south-west of the site. All walls would be inspected closely for any fabric that might have either originated from the manor house, or which might provide further archaeological or historical information.

A certain amount of on-site training and tuition would be given to interested members of the MCRG, to give them some experience of undertaking a detailed topographical earthwork survey.

The resulting site survey would be produced at a scale of 1:500 and presented as an interpretative hachure plan using conventions analogous to those used by English Heritage (2007 *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*, 31-35). It should be noted that the final product arising from the site survey would be a hand-drawn hachure plan, and not AutoCad (or equivalent) electronic data. Smaller scale plans, at 1:10,000 and 1:2,500 scale, would be used to put the survey area into context (OS map bases to be provided by NYMNPA).

A detailed site description would be prepared, to include a summary description and preliminary interpretation of the extant remains (e.g. dimensions, plan, form, function, date, sequence of development), locational information, and mention of relevant documentary, cartographic or other evidence.

Each identified site or component within the survey area would also be photographically recorded using a digital camera with 10 mega pixel resolution. English Heritage photographic guidelines would be followed (English Heritage 2007 *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*, 14) and each photograph would normally be provided with a scale. More general digital photographs would also be taken showing the landscape context of the area and of specific sites. All photographs would be clearly numbered and labelled with the subject, orientation, date taken and photographer's name, and would be cross referenced to digital files etc.

### *Geophysical Survey*

The MCRG would then undertake a geophysical survey (both magnetometer and resistivity techniques) of areas highlighted by the topographical survey as being of particular significance or interest, under supervision from EDAS. The geophysical surveys will aim to include the site of the manor house complex, as well as any other structures revealed by the earthworks.

The survey area(s) will be tied into the topographical survey, by measuring from points of known coordinates, so the survey results can be directly compared. For the magnetometer survey, it is expected that a Fluxgate gradiometer instrument will be used to take readings at 0.25m intervals on zigzag traverses 1m apart within the various survey grids. The resistivity survey is likely to utilise Geoscan RM15 and MPX instruments set up as a Twin Probe array, to take readings at 1m intervals on traverses 1m apart; the mobile probe spacing will be 0.5m with the remote probes 15m apart and at least 15m away from the grid under survey. This mobile probe spacing of 0.5m will give an approximate depth penetration of 1m for most archaeological features. The geophysical survey readings will be stored in the memory of the instruments and later downloaded to computer for processing and interpretation.

The geophysical survey data will be presented as raw data plots (at a scale of 1:000, grey-scale format and/or X/Y trace format as appropriate to the techniques used), a plot of enhanced data, and one or more interpretative plots, together with an appropriate descriptive account of the survey(s) and the results.

## *Survey Report*

A single EDAS archive survey report will be produced. This will assemble and summarise the available evidence for the site and the investigations in an ordered form, synthesise the data, and comment on the quality and reliability of the evidence. It will include a contents list, acknowledgments, executive summary, details of the survey methodologies and procedures, an account of the results of the investigations, preliminary conclusions, recommendations for any further appropriate and/or interpretation work, and a bibliography. Appendices will include a copy of this methods statement and details of any departures from it. The report will also contain plans and photographs as appropriate; the former will be drawn to English Heritage standards using traditional hachure techniques and will be reduced to A3 / A4 size.

Five copies of the final survey report would then be produced, and sent to the NYMNPA HER, the MCRG, the landowner (Farmoor Services LLP), farm tenant, and the Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society at Whitby Museum. An electronic version in pdf format would also be provided to other interested parties as required.

Included in this element of the work is an allowance for EDAS to complete the appropriate OASIS record forms and a short publication of the results in an appropriate journal, as necessary. It is expected that the MCRG will also publish a copy of the report on their website (<http://mcrp.org.uk>).

### **Resources and Programming**

The project would be undertaken by EDAS, with the assistance of the MCRG. EDAS are on the NYMNPA list of archaeological contractors, and are also registered as an archaeological organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists.

The topographical earthwork survey would be undertaken by Shaun Richardson of EDAS, in conjunction with Benchmark Land Surveys. Shaun Richardson has over 15 years experience in non-intrusive archaeological survey and building recording. The geophysical surveys would be undertaken by the MCRG, with advice and support from EDAS. The historical research would be undertaken by Ed Dennison and Shaun Richardson, with assistance and support from the MCRG. Ed Dennison of EDAS would have overall control of the project and would be responsible for the final report production.

It is envisaged that, subject to the necessary access being secured and appropriate funding, the site survey work will be undertaken as soon as possible, before spring/summer vegetation growth. It would be hoped that the site survey work would be completed by the end of June 2013, with the final report produced by the end of August 2013. Advance liaison will be undertaken with the tenant of the land, Mr Albert Jackson, to ensure that the archaeological survey work would not interfere with his normal farming operations.

### **Health and Safety, and Insurance**

EDAS would comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 while undertaking the project. A full copy of their Health and Safety Policy is available on request.

The site is privately-owned, and EDAS would indemnify the landowner(s) in respect of their legal liability for physical injury to persons or damage to property arising on site in connection with the survey, to the extent of EDAS's Public Liability Insurance Cover (£5,000,000).

The MCRG would be responsible for their own insurance and health and safety issues.

Ed Dennison (EDAS) / Anthea Ellis (MCRG), April 2013