

DOBPARK LODGE, WESTON,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE

LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

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

DOBPARK LODGE, WESTON,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE

LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Report no: 2011/406.R02  
Version: Final  
Date: October 2014  
Author: Shaun Richardson & Ed Dennison

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

On behalf of

Rural Estate Management Ltd  
21 Throstle Nest Close  
Otley  
West Yorkshire  
LS21 2RR

**LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION,  
DOBPARK LODGE, WESTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**CONTENTS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION .....	1
3	METHODOLOGY .....	2
4	OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....	3
5	RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF .....	5
6	CONCLUSIONS .....	7
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	9
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	9

Appendices

- 1 List of Contexts and Finds Catalogue
- 2 EDAS Written Scheme of Investigation

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*In September 2014, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Rural Estate Management Ltd, through Overton Architects, to undertake a programme of limited archaeological excavation at Dobpark Lodge, Weston, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 19097 50230). The work was required to answer specific research questions about the ruined building, following a previous architectural and archaeological survey, through the excavation of two trial trenches. The work was undertaken with the agreement of Dob Park Lodge Ltd, and the results will be used to inform further repair and conservation strategies for the ruined building.*

*The internal trench (Trench 1) demonstrated that the spine wall of the lodge's ground floor, which essentially acted as a service basement, ran the full length of the building. It had a narrow doorway, located to the south of centre, which connected a probable kitchen to the east to a storage/service room to the west. No evidence for any internal fireplace was uncovered, as might be expected; a more likely position would be in the east or west walls of the respective rooms, although the degree of collapse/demolition and rebuilding in these areas means that there may not be any surviving remains. Little evidence for any other structures adjacent to the spine wall was uncovered. The footings of the spine wall survived only to a single course in depth, with their base set at an average height of 215.25m AOD. They were laid directly on a natural sandy clay, and it is probable that the natural ground surface was terraced into to create a level platform on which to build the lodge.*

*The external trench (Trench 2) did not uncover any convincing evidence for the presence of, or any remains associated with, possible entrance steps leading to the first floor of the lodge's south elevation. However, the exposed rubble, likely to have fallen from the south elevation, is important, as deposits of such material around the lodge have the potential to contribute to an understanding of the later life of the building (which is presently poorly understood), to preserve earlier deposits beneath which relate to the functioning life of the lodge, and to contain fragments of moulded or decorated masonry which would shed light on the former appearance of the lodge.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2014, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Rural Estate Management Ltd, through Overton Architects, to undertake a programme of limited archaeological excavation at Dobpark Lodge, Weston, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 19097 50230). The work was required to answer specific research questions about the ruined building, following a previous architectural and archaeological survey, through the excavation of two trial trenches. The work was undertaken with the agreement of Dob Park Lodge Ltd, and the results will be used to inform further repair and conservation strategies for the ruined building.
- 1.2 Dobpark Lodge and a small part of the surrounding field are protected as a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List for England entry 1015630 - a 17th century Park Lodge known as Dobpark Lodge in Dob Park, Otley), first designated on 31st January 1997. The lodge was previously a Grade II Listed Building, but was delisted on 20th April 1998. The site is included on English Heritage's National Monuments Record (site SE15SE15) and the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (site MNY 21003). Finally, the Lodge is on English Heritage's latest 'Buildings at Risk' register, where it is classed as being in 'Poor' condition with an 'F' priority (meaning 'repair scheme in progress and (where applicable) end use or user identified; functionally redundant building with new use agreed but not yet implemented') (English Heritage 2013, 37).
- 1.3 A detailed Methods Statement for the archaeological excavations was produced by EDAS (see Appendix 2), which was approved by all relevant parties (including English Heritage) prior to the start of site work. As the archaeological excavations were funded by English Heritage, Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was not required for the work.

## 2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Dobpark (or Dob Park) Lodge is located within Dob Park, on the south side of Dobpark Wood (at NGR SE 19097 50230), c.400m west of Middle Farm on the south-west slope of the River Washburn valley (see figure 1). It lies in the modern civil parish of Weston (North Yorkshire), at an elevation of 215m AOD, on the west side of Dob Park Road, close to a junction with Weston Moor Road, some 4.5km north of Otley, West Yorkshire.
- 2.2 The lodge is accessible by foot across pasture fields from the nearby Dob Park Road; there is currently no public access to the building, although it is clearly visible from the public footpath to the south. The nearest vehicular access is from an unnamed lane branching off the north side of Weston Moor Road, which eventually leads to a foot crossing and ford over the river Washburn at Dobpark Bridge. The lodge now lies within a relatively small walled field, and was surrounded by a barbed wire fence at the time of an earlier pre-intervention survey, although this had been removed and partly replaced by a stock-proof post and rail fence by the time that the excavation took place (see figure 2).
- 2.3 The building and its landscape setting was previously subject to a detailed architectural and archaeological survey (Richardson & Dennison 2013). The lodge occupies a superb position within an earlier park which is likely to have been laid out during the medieval period. The southern part of the park seems to have undergone a remodelling in the early 17th century, at the same time as Dobpark Lodge itself was built, with both almost certainly forming part of an extensive

programme of building works undertaken by Sir Mauger Vavasour (1580-1630) and his wife Joan Savile on their Weston Hall estate. The earliest specific documentary reference to the lodge so far discovered dates to 1661, although construction is likely to have occurred around 50 years earlier. It is assumed that the lodge continued to be used for the purposes for which it was built throughout the early to mid 17th century, but both lodge and park passed out of Vavasour ownership between 1661 and 1789. The last non-Vavasour owner, Francis Maude of Leathley, may well have been responsible for the initial demise of the lodge. The building may therefore have lost its purpose and become disused around c.1750 (or indeed any time after 1661), and its depiction on a number of late 18th and early 19th century sources suggests that it had reached something close to its current ruined state by this period. The previous EDAS survey uncovered no evidence to support traditional beliefs that the lodge was either bombarded by Parliamentary cannon or that the south front survived complete within living memory.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological excavations were defined by the EDAS Methods Statement (see Appendix 2). All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with all current and relevant best practice, standards and guidelines, particularly those published by English Heritage and the Institute for Archaeologists (e.g. English Heritage 1991 & 2006; IFA 2008a; IFA 2008b).
- 3.2 The aim of the archaeological excavations was to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might lie within the areas of investigation. Three trenches were initially proposed, but in the event, only two were excavated due to a combination of time and site conditions (see figure 3). The two excavated trenches had the specific aims of:
  - to identify any southern continuation of the central spine wall and/or any evidence for an internal fireplace either side of this wall (Trench 1);
  - to identify the presence of, or any remains associated with, possible entrance steps on the south central side of the building (Trench 2).
- 3.3 All archaeological work was undertaken using standard archaeological recording procedures and numbering systems, and all excavation was by hand. All artefacts recovered during this project were treated as the property of the landowner (Dob Park Estate Ltd).
- 3.4 The on-site fieldwork involved the excavation of two evaluation trenches. Trench 1 measured 7.40m long (north-south) by 1.60m wide (east-west), slightly larger than originally defined. Trench 2 measured 3.0m long (east-west) by 1.0m wide (north-south). In both cases, the grass/vegetation, topsoil and any recent overburden were removed, down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil. Spoil was placed on one side of each trench for subsequent back-filling. A sufficient sample of all archaeological features and deposits revealed were excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner, in order to achieve the aims of the project, down to a maximum depth of 0.50m below ground level (BGL). Only in Trench 2 was there any requirement for the grass to be reinstated (as far as was practicable), but topsoil was returned to both trenches and firmed down once excavation and recording was complete. The excavation, recording and backfilling of the trenches took place over two days, on 10th and 11th September 2014.

- 3.5 Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual three digit context number (e.g. 102) and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets; a total of five contexts were recorded (see Appendix 1). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of the trenches were recorded on the existing ground plan of the lodge at a scale of 1:50. Individual trench plans were made at 1:20 scale, and representative sections were produced at appropriate scales. Levels AOD were determined from survey data gathered as part of the previous photogrammetric survey. A detailed digital photographic record was also maintained.
- 3.6 A limited number of artefacts were recovered from the excavation, but they were mostly late 19th or 20th century in date (see Appendix 1). Finds which were unstratified or from the topsoil or modern overburden were generally also retained for assessment; no small finds were recovered. Discussions with the appropriate specialists established that none of the artefacts were worthy of retention or deposition with the site archive.
- 3.7 A fully indexed and ordered field archive was also prepared, following national and regional guidelines (e.g. IFA 2009; Brown 2007; Walker 1990), which comprised primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs (EDAS site code DPL 14). It was combined with the archive resulting from the previous architectural and archaeological survey, for eventual deposition with Harrogate Museum.

#### **4 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The outline summary is taken entirely from the previous detailed architectural and archaeological survey (Richardson & Dennison 2013).
- 4.2 Even in its current ruinous state, Dobpark Lodge remains an important building of more than local significance. It occupies a position with a superb aspect within an earlier park, which is likely to have been laid out during the medieval period and which respected contemporary administrative boundaries and natural features in the landscape. From at least the early 16th century onwards, land use in the park was modified and the northern part given over wholly to agricultural use.
- 4.3 The southern part of the park seems to have been remodelled in the early 17th century, at the same time as Dobpark Lodge itself was built, and was surrounded by a substantial walled pale which partly survives. Both park remodelling and lodge construction almost certainly formed part of an extensive programme of building works undertaken by Sir Mauger Vavasour (1580-1630) and his wife Joan Savile on their Weston Hall estate. In particular, similarities in decorative detailing between the lodge and the banqueting house at Weston Hall strongly suggest that, even if they are not exactly contemporary, the two buildings form part of the same scheme of works, and that one was designed with knowledge of the other. The earliest specific documentary reference to the lodge so far discovered dates to 1661, although construction is likely to have occurred around 50 years earlier.
- 4.4 The identity of the original designer of the lodge has not been discovered, although it is possible to speculate about the involvement of either Robert or John Smythson, or perhaps Barnard Dinninghoff. Although there was a great variety in the form of such buildings during the later 16th and the 17th centuries, the structure at Dob Park has far more in common with what were termed 'lodges', rather than hunting stands or towers. These lodges were typically set away from

the main residence but were not too distant, and were suitable for an extended visit by family or guests, being provided with kitchen and accommodation facilities. The most elaborate served as retreats or 'secret houses', where the lord could retire with a small entourage for short periods of time.

- 4.5 In its original form, the lodge had a somewhat unusual compact T-shaped plan, with the head of the 'T' on the south side, towards the principal (and symmetrical) elevation (see figure 3). A stair tower, accessible only from the interior, projects from the centre of the north side. What was termed by the EDAS survey as the ground floor (essentially acting as a basement) was sub-divided by a cross-wall into two rooms of slightly unequal size, forming a service basement with a kitchen to the east and a probable storage area to the west, with its own separate external access, but also linked to the stair turret. Based on the surviving structural evidence, and through comparison to other contemporary examples, it seems very likely that the principal entrance was located in the centre of the south external elevation's first floor, which was reached by external steps which have since been removed. The internal cross-wall continued to first floor level, at least on the north side of the interior.
- 4.6 The position of the principal entrance would sit awkwardly with the cross-wall if it had run across the full width of the lodge, and so it must have only projected so far. Created partly by the use of screens or non-structural partitions, the southern half of the first floor may have comprised a well-lit reception area, accessed through the principal entrance, and provided with a corner fireplace so family and guests could have warmed themselves on entry. If this was the case, there must have been two smaller rooms of slightly unequal size to the north. The provision of separate doorways off the stair for these rooms suggests that they were not linked through the internal cross-wall, and the differing positioning of their doors may indicate differing status or use. Alternatively, there may also have been two rooms to the south, separated by an entrance passage and defined by panelled walls or other non-structural partitions.
- 4.7 The internal cross-wall continued to second floor level, again possibly only on the north side of the interior. As on the first floor, there may have been two smaller rooms to the north, with a single east-west aligned rectangular space resembling a gallery to the south, lit by large glazed windows in the east, west and south sides, the latter including an oriel. The internal stair clearly rose above the second floor and gave access to the roof. Structural and documentary evidence indicates that it is most likely that a roof doorway was placed on the east side of the stair head, providing access to a wall-walk behind a parapet. It is highly probable that the surviving small but well lit corner turret in the south-west corner was complemented by a similar feature in the south-east corner, balancing the south external elevation.
- 4.8 The lodge has a complex relationship with the surrounding park and wider landscape. There is an element of theatricality or stage scenery about the complex, and it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the lodge was acting as a backdrop for whatever took place in front of it, while the landscape and extensive vistas beyond were acting as a backdrop to the building itself. There was an emphasis on the area to the immediate south of the lodge, which preserves evidence for contemporary terraces, a possible embanked access or walkway, and perhaps even a small fore-building. It is also possible that a now ruined wall line ensured that only the well proportioned and impressive south front was visible to any approaching visitors. While it is possible that some deer were still being kept and hunted in the area around the lodge during the 17th century, other field sports



such as hare coursing, fox hunting and shooting may also have been practised. Indeed, the alternative and older name of 'Dog Park' might well be significant in respect to hunting with dogs. It is also possible that horses may have played an important role in the 17th century landscape setting of the lodge.

- 4.9 It is assumed that the lodge continued to be used for the purposes for which it was built throughout the early to mid 17th century. However, the lodge and park passed out of Vavasour ownership between 1661 and 1789. The last non-Vavasour owner was Francis Maude of Leathley, and he may well have been responsible for the enclosure of the southern part of the park and the initial demise of the lodge. The building may therefore have lost its purpose and become disused around c.1750 (or indeed any time after 1661), and its depiction on a 1781 plan of the park suggests it was already ruinous by then. It had reached something close to its current ruined state by the time that it was painted as part of a Vavasour portrait in c.1800 and sketched by Turner in c.1815.
- 4.10 The park and lodge returned to the Vavasour estates in 1789, and it is clear from the 1797-1827 diaries of William Vavasour that, although the park was frequently used for periodic shooting excursions, there does not appear to have been any significant hunting or other park-type activities undertaken, and the lodge seems to have served no real purpose for the estate. It is possible that the lodge was used as a farmhouse in the early 19th century, although this is considered unlikely on current evidence. The majority of the surviving graffiti in the stair turret appears to date from the second half of the 19th century, indicating increased numbers of visitors to the ruin during this period, perhaps as a result of the publication of local history books. There is also some evidence, in the form of repointing, for historic repairs to the stair turret, although as yet it is uncertain whether this was done when the building was still standing or as part of an early phase of conservation.

## 5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 5.1 As previously noted, the excavation of the two trenches was undertaken by hand and, as set out in the EDAS Methods Statement, they were only extended to a maximum depth of 0.50m below existing ground level (BGL). In Trench 1, two small sondages were excavated against the west side of the exposed wall to confirm the depth of foundations and the presence of a natural deposit; the depth of excavation within the trench as a whole was typically 215.32m-215.45 AOD, while the deeper sondages were excavated to 215.14m AOD and 215.25m AOD. In Trench 2, the finished depth of excavation was 216.07m AOD, reflecting the higher external ground level here.

### Trench 1

- 5.2 Trench 1 was located inside the lodge, over and either side of the ground floor central spine wall (see figure 3). It was positioned to establish whether the spine wall continued right across the ground floor, and if there was any evidence for an attached fireplace to either side. The trench was aligned along the presumed course of the spine wall and, in order to fully expose the wall, it was necessary to increase the length to 7.40m and the width to 1.60m, compared to the originally proposed dimensions of c.6.0m by 1.0m (see figure 4).
- 5.3 At the start of excavation, the north and south ends of the spine wall were visible above ground level, principally where it survived to a height of three to four courses. Flanking these higher parts, and across the assumed central section, there was a thin covering of rank grass and thistles with a friable black silty topsoil

(001), up to 0.10m thick. It overlay a layer of similar dark brown sandy silt subsoil (002) which was up to 0.20m thick, although it was often shallower. The topsoil contained several fragments of 20th century glass, a single broken piece of a cast iron bar with a triangular profile two pieces of late 18th/late 19th century pottery, while the subsoil contained a single fragment of late 19th/early 20th century glass (see Appendix 1).

- 5.4 Once these two deposits had been removed, the central section of the spine wall was exposed across the full width of the building (see plates 1 and 2); the top of the exposed stonework generally lay at 215.55m AOD. The wall was faced with sometimes large (up to 0.30m deep) squared coursed blocks of medium to coarse grained gritstone, originally set with a buff/cream lime mortar. The core of the wall was formed from smaller, angular pieces of the same stone, and spreads of mortar. Once the central section was exposed, it became clear that the higher north and south ends represented what had once been the visible part of the wall within both ground floor rooms, which had an average width of between 0.55m to 0.60m. The central section of the spine wall represented the original foundations, and was slightly wider, with an average width of 0.75m. These foundations appeared to comprise only a single course throughout, with the base set at an average height of 215.25m AOD (c.0.30m BGL). This was somewhat higher than the footing to the inside face of the lodge's south wall, which was seen to extend to 215.15m AOD.
- 5.5 No significant traces of associated structures or surfaces were uncovered on either side of the spine wall, although four stones immediately adjacent to the east side may have been parts of such. Two of these stones were laid flat at right angles to the wall face, and the southern example was aligned with the north side of a former doorway through the spine wall. This doorway was located to the south of centre, and at only c.1.0m wide, was relatively narrow. The position of the doorway was marked by two shallow rectangular sockets cut into the upper surface of the central section of the spine wall (see plate 3). They were set back slightly from the east face of the footings, so that they would have been in line with the former wall face within the east ground floor room. They would have housed the bottoms of the timbers forming the door jambs of a door frame set flush with the east wall face of the east ground floor room.
- 5.6 The spine wall footings, the footings to the internal face of the south wall, and the structural/surface stones immediately adjacent to the spine wall's east face were all set on a compacted orange-brown sandy clay (003), containing frequent inclusions of angular stone pieces up to 0.20m across. It was clean, with no finds, and was interpreted as a natural deposit. It continued below the base of the trench.

## **Trench 2**

- 5.7 Trench 2 was positioned to the immediate south of the lodge's south wall, approximately central to the south elevation (see figure 3). It was located to try to identify the presence of, or any remains associated with, possible entrance steps leading to the first floor; fragmentary structural evidence, together with comparisons to similar structures of the same period, suggested that it was likely that there would have been a principal entrance here. The trench was set slightly forward of the south wall of the lodge, but was aligned parallel to it, measuring 3.0m east-west by 1.0m north-south (see figure 4).

- 5.8 The uppermost deposit within the trench was turf and a black silty topsoil (001). This extended to a maximum thickness of 0.10m, and contained one sherd of late 19th century glass, two sherds of Blackware pottery dating to the 18th-19th century, and a small fragment of a fine-grained sandstone whetstone of indeterminate date (see Appendix 1). It was noted that a layer of decayed black plastic sheet was present at the base of the topsoil in the north side of the trench. This is assumed to date to the rebuilding of part of the south wall during the 1970s or 1980s, and demonstrates that the ground level was disturbed to at least this depth at that date.
- 5.9 The topsoil overlay a dark brown sandy silt subsoil (004), with infrequent inclusions of lime mortar and occasional pieces of angular gritstone. When this was removed, a deposit of hard-packed angular gritstone rubble (005) was exposed (see plate 4), although the junction between this and the subsoil above was often difficult to discern. The surface of the rubble was set at an average height of 216.45m AOD, with individual pieces up to 0.40m long and 0.30m thick; a few appeared to have a single dressed face, suggesting that they were former wall facing stones. In the western half of the trench, there were voids between the rubble, sometimes filled with subsoil which had trickled down from above (see plate 5). In the eastern half of the trench, the voids between the rubble were largely filled with a very hard cream/buff lime mortar (see plate 6). The central section of the trench was excavated to 0.50m BGL (216.07m AOD). Both the rubble with voids and the rubble with mortar continued below the base of the trench, but it was difficult to see a clear junction between the two, and in section the mortar did not always completely fill the voids between the rubble; there was also no clear indication of stones laid to form a structure such as a footing. No finds were recovered from the rubble.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### Trench 1

- 6.1 This trench clearly demonstrated that the spine wall of the lodge's ground floor (which essentially acted as a service basement) ran the full length of the building. It had a narrow doorway located to the south of centre, which connected a probable kitchen to the east with a storage/service room to the west. The latter had an external access (now blocked) at the south-west corner of the lodge, and was also connected to the internal stair tower on the north side of the lodge's interior, but the doorway in the spine wall is the only access yet discovered to the kitchen.
- 6.2 The excavation uncovered no evidence for internal fireplaces and it is unlikely that any would have been positioned against the spine wall; it is probably too narrow to accommodate a flue and, given what has been proposed about the possible layout of the first and second floors (Richardson & Dennison 2013), projecting chimney breasts positioned here would have fitted awkwardly into the floor plans. It is most likely that any additional fireplaces were positioned in the east or west walls of the respective rooms, but given the degree of collapse/demolition and rebuilding in these areas, it is possible that there are no surviving remains. Little evidence for any other structures adjacent to the spine wall was uncovered. The footings of the spine wall survived only to a single course in depth, with their base set at an average height of 215.25m AOD (see figure 4). They were laid directly on a natural sandy clay (003), and it is likely that the natural ground surface was terraced into to create a level platform on which to build the lodge.

## Trench 2

- 6.3 This trench did not locate any convincing evidence for the presence of, or any remains associated with, possible entrance steps leading to the first floor, although it is accepted that the excavated trench was rather small. Although the eastern half of the hard-packed rubble (005), containing the lime mortar, might be thought to have acted as such, it did not appear to have any structure or to be comprised of squared, carefully laid stone as the other visible internal and external footings of the lodge are. The rubble might conceivably be interpreted as being wall core from which facing stone has been removed, but one would then have to ask why facing stones would have been stripped off an external stair but left in place on adjacent external walls.
- 6.4 It is perhaps more likely that a deeper, longer, trench would be required in this area to locate any surviving stair footings; when the results from the two trenches are plotted on the same section, it can be seen that the lowest part of the rubble exposed in Trench 2 (set at 216.07m AOD) still lies c.0.50m above the level of the top of the spine wall's footings (set at an average height of 215.55m AOD) (see figure 4). Comparison between the c.1800 painting of Edward or William Vavasour at Dobpark Lodge (Richardson & Dennison 2013, figure 8) and the existing ruin suggests that, at the end of the 18th century, the ground level to the front (south) of the central part of the south elevation was even higher than it is now. If this was the case, then the apparent grassed-over mound visible in the painting could have represented the buried staircase footings (or fallen material accumulated over them) which has since been reduced in height.
- 6.5 However, although the trench did not locate the entrance steps, the presence of hard-packed rubble here is still significant. The haphazard arrangement of the rubble at the west end of the trench, the voids between and the probable presence of former facing stones strongly suggests that it is fallen material from the south elevation, and so has arrived here either through environmental factors (decay, weathering, collapse) or deliberate action (destruction, dismantling, salvage). This is important for a number of reasons. Although it is considered highly unlikely that there is any truth in the tradition that the lodge was fired on by Parliamentary cannon during the Civil War, as yet almost nothing is known about the history of the building between when it was acquired by John Hopton and John Lund in 1661 and when it came back in Vavasour ownership in 1789, by which time it was almost certainly already ruinous. Did dismantling commence in the late 17th century under Hopton and Lund, starting with internal fixtures and fittings and progressing to the structural timber, lead and stone? Was the same process undertaken by a later owner, Francis Maude of Leathley, during the 18th century?
- 6.6 The complexity of the structural and below-ground evidence for dismantling, destruction and decay preserved in medieval and early post-medieval buildings is consistently underestimated (Rakoczy 2007), and in many cases, such as at monastic sites, early 20th century clearance of fallen material in line with contemporary conservation and curatorship practices has destroyed much evidence for demolition and later occupation (Doggett 2002, 1-2; Morris 2003). The potential of deposits of fallen material around the lodge to contribute to an understanding of the later life of the building should therefore not be overlooked. Furthermore, the presence of fallen material could have preserved earlier deposits beneath which relate to the functioning life of the lodge, while the fallen material itself may contain fragments of moulded or decorated masonry which would shed light on the former appearance of the lodge, which in turn would aid any future programmes of rebuilding or reconstruction.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, D H 2007 *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*

Doggett, N 2002 *Patterns of Re-use: The Transformation of Former Monastic Buildings in post-Dissolution Hertfordshire, 1540-1600* (British Archaeological Reports British Series 331)

English Heritage 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*

English Heritage 2013 *Heritage at Risk Register 2013: Yorkshire*

IFA (Institute for Archaeologists) 2008a *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*

IFA (Institute for Archaeologists) 2008b *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

IFA (Institute for Archaeologists) 2009 *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*

Morris, R 2003 'Monastic Architecture: Destruction and Reconstruction'. In Gaimster, D & Gilchrist, R (eds) *The Archaeology of Reformation 1480-1580*, 235-251

Rakoczy, L 2007 *Archaeology of Destruction: A Reinterpretation of Castle Slightings in the English Civil War* (unpublished D. Phil. thesis, Department of Archaeology, University of York)

Richardson, S & Dennison, E 2013 *Dobpark Lodge, Weston, North Yorkshire: Architectural and Archaeological Survey (Phase 1)* (unpublished EDAS archive report 2011/406.R01 for Rural Estate Management Ltd)

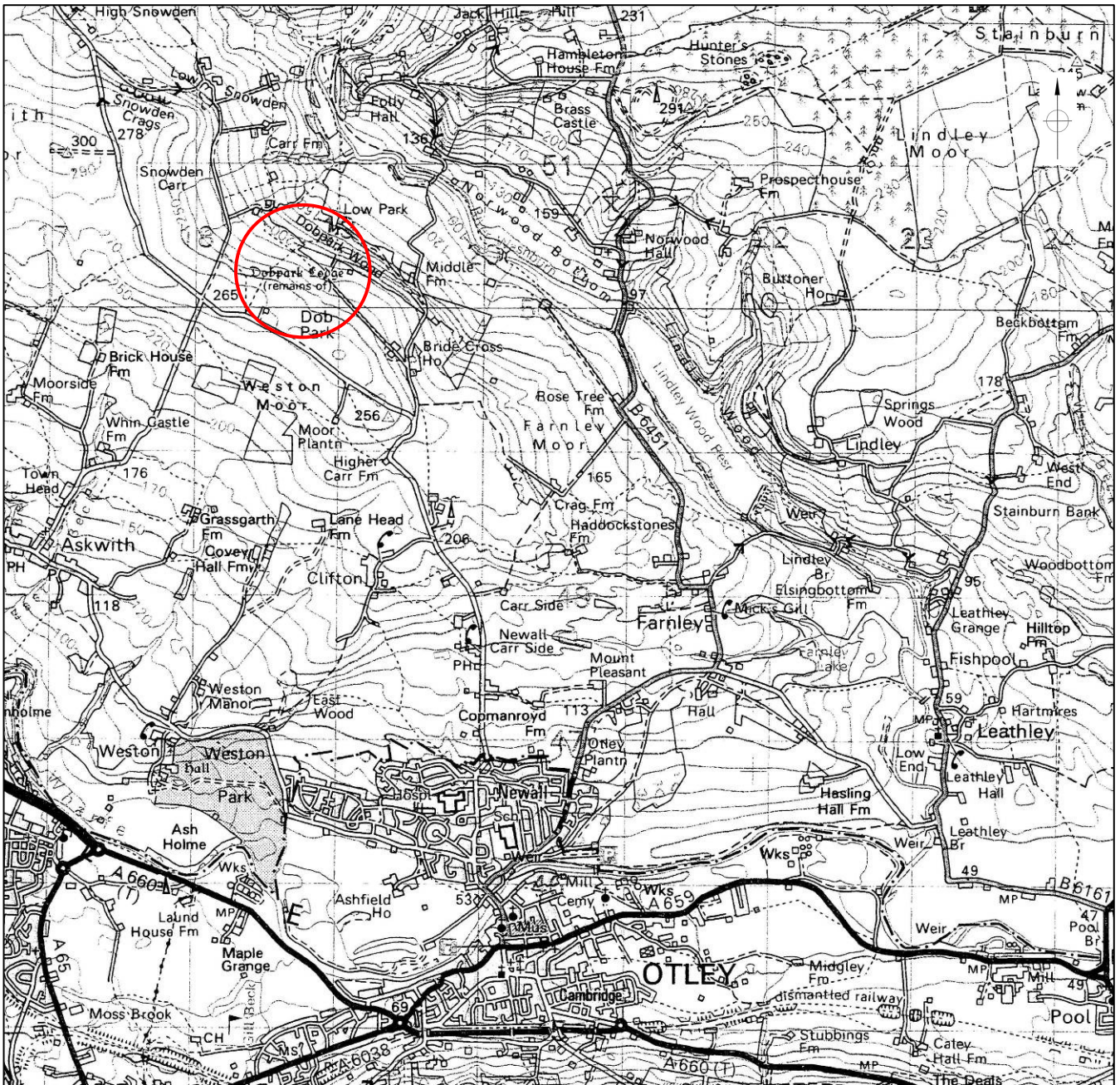
Walker, K 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage*

## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 The limited archaeological excavations were commissioned by Rural Estate Management Ltd, through Overton Architects, and funded by English Heritage. EDAS would like to thank Paul Elgar (Rural Estate Management Ltd), Bill Glaister (Overton Architects), and Dr Keith Emerick and Giles Proctor (English Heritage) for all their help in setting up and approving the project. Particular thanks are due to Andrew Wilson, for his help with transportation to and from the site.

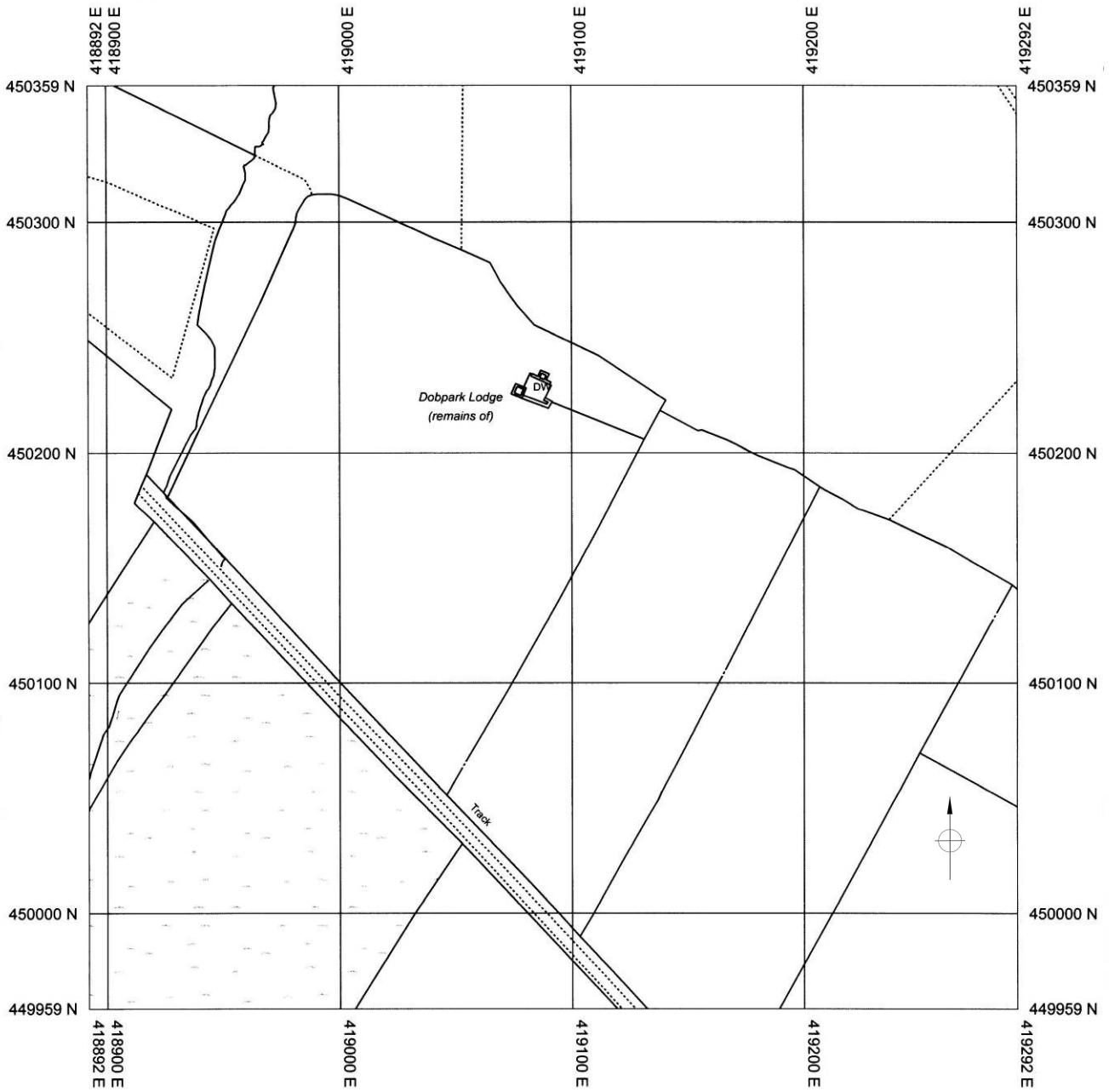
8.2 The on-site excavation and recording was undertaken by Shaun Richardson and Richard Lamb, with the assistance of Ed Dennison. The finds were assessed by Lisa Wastling. Shaun Richardson produced a draft report and archive, while Ed Dennison of EDAS produced the final report and drawings, and the responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies remains with him.





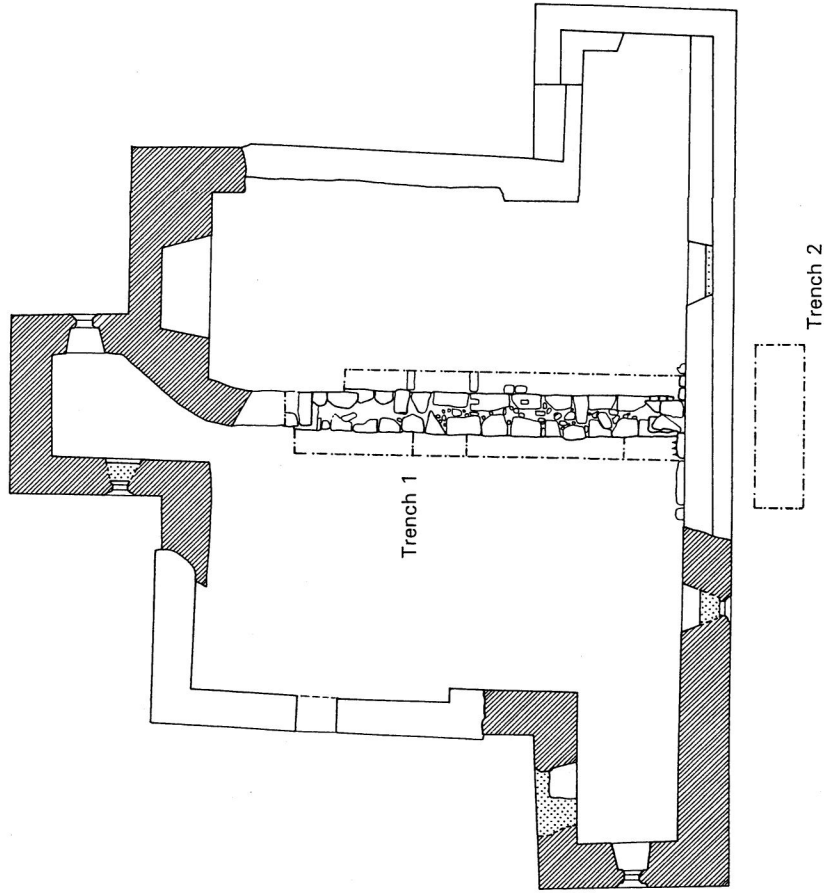
© Crown copyright and Database rights  
 Ordnance Survey Licence 100013825 (2014).

PROJECT		DOB PARK LODGE EXCAVATIONS	
TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	OCT 2014
	EDAS	FIGURE	1



© Crown copyright and Database rights  
 Ordnance Survey Licence 100013825 (2014).

PROJECT		DOBPAK LODGE EXCAVATIONS	
TITLE		LOCATION OF DOBPAK LODGE	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	OCT 2014
EDAS		FIGURE	2



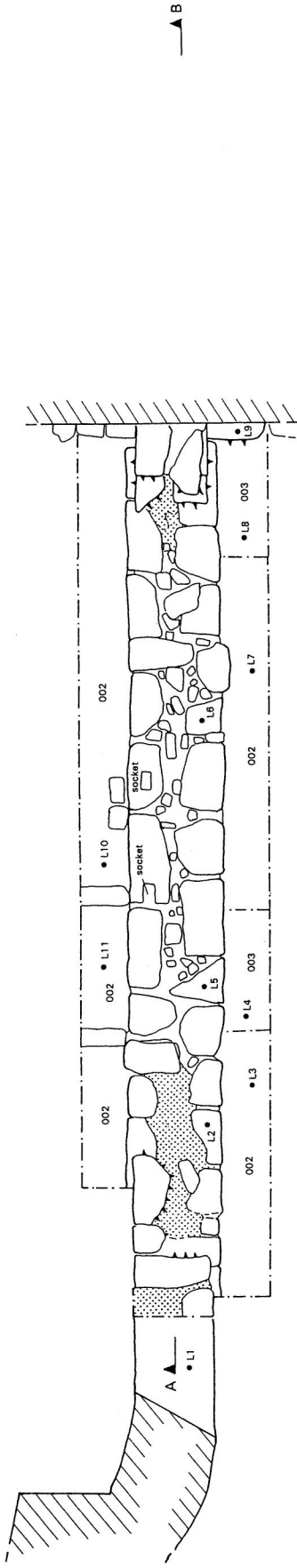
█ BLOCKING



0 10m

PROJECT	DOB PARK LODGE EXCAVATIONS		
TITLE	TRENCH LOCATIONS		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	OCT 2014
	EDAS	FIGURE	3

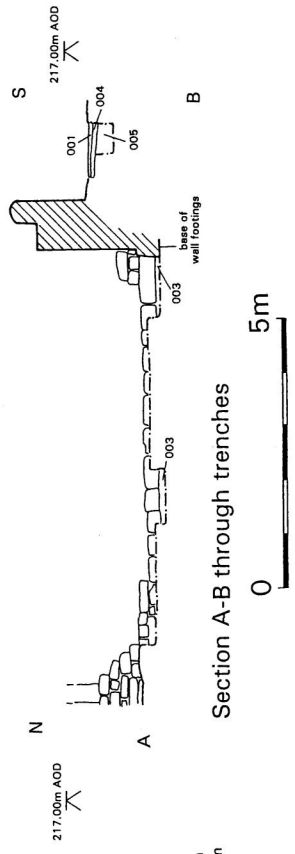
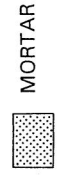




Plan of Trench 1

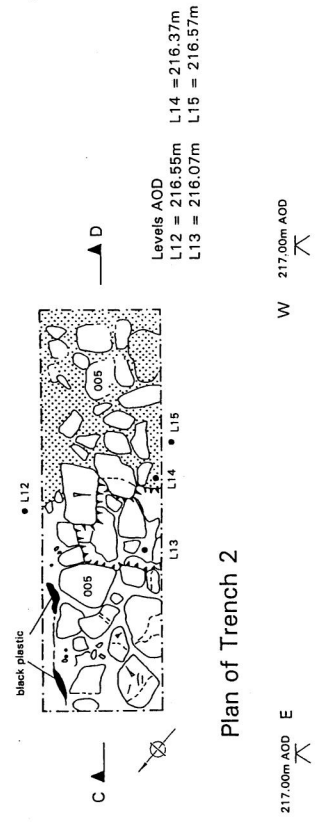
- Levels AOD
- L1 = 216.34m
  - L2 = 215.44m
  - L3 = 215.32m
  - L4 = 215.14m
  - L5 = 215.50m
  - L6 = 215.57m
  - L7 = 215.45m
  - L8 = 215.25m
  - L9 = 215.67m
  - L10 = 215.33m
  - L11 = 215.38m

0 3m



Section A-B through trenches

0 5m



Plan of Trench 2

- Levels AOD
- L12 = 216.55m
  - L13 = 216.07m
  - L14 = 216.37m
  - L15 = 216.57m

0 3m

Section C-D

PROJECT	DOB PARK LODGE EXCAVATIONS		
TITLE	TRENCH PLANS AND SECTIONS		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	OCT 2014
	EDAS	FIGURE	4



Plate 1: General view of Trench 1 after excavation, looking SW.



Plate 2: General view of Trench 1 after excavation, looking NE.



Plate 3: Detail of exposed sockets in Trench 1.





Plate 4: General view of Trench 2 after excavation, looking NE.



Plate 5: General view of Trench 2 after excavation, looking SE.



Plate 6: General view of Trench 2 after excavation, looking NW.

## APPENDIX 1



## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS AND FINDS CATALOGUE

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description and Interpretation</i>	<i>Trench</i>
001	Friable black silty topsoil, typically 0.10m thick.	1 & 2
002	Friable dark brown sandy silt subsoil, up to 0.20m thick.	1
003	Compacted orange-brown sandy clay, more than 0.10m thick - natural deposit.	1
004	Friable dark brown sandy silt subsoil, with infrequent inclusions of lime mortar and occasional angular stone, 0.10m thick.	2
005	Hard-packed angular gritstone rubble, with pieces up to 0.40m long and 0.30m thick. Undetermined thickness.	2

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>No. of items</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Description/Comments</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>Date</i>
001 Trench 1 Topsoil	1	Iron	Iron bar, 900mm long x 150mm x 180mm high, triangular profile with rounded top, indeterminate function.	84	Modern - 20th century.
	1	Glass	Broken base of brown ?bottle, with raised edge decoration to prevent conveyor belt slippage.	2	Modern - 20th century.
	1	Pottery	Broken piece of factory-produced white wear, chinoiserie design.	1	19th century - post 1840.
	1	Pottery	Broken piece of Ironwash stoneware.	1	Late 18th-early 19th century.
	1	Glass	Broken basal rim of glass with greenish tinge.	2	Late 19th-early 20th century.
	14	Glass	Clear glass fragments.	32	20th century.
002 Trench 1 Subsoil	1	Glass	Fragmented broken piece of glass with greenish tinge.	2	Late 19th/early 20th century.
001 Trench 2 Topsoil	1	Glass	Broken piece of glass with greenish tinge.	2	Late 19th century.
	2	Pottery	Two joining sherds of Blackware.	20	17th-19th century, probably 18th-19th century.
	1	Sandstone	Broken whetstone in fine-grained sandstone, 55mm long x 25mm wide x 10mm thick, with mortar adhering.	14	Undetermined.

## APPENDIX 2

## APPENDIX 2: EDAS WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

### METHODS STATEMENT FOR A PROGRAMME OF LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION, DOBPARK LODGE, WESTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Methods Statement details the work that EDAS will undertake to complete a limited archaeological investigation at Dobpark Lodge, Weston, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 19097 50230). This work is designed to answer specific research questions at the site, following a previous architectural and archaeological survey, through the excavation of two trial trenches.
- 1.2 The archaeological investigations will be undertaken by EDAS, with the agreement of Dob Park Estate via Mr Paul Elgar of Rural Estate Management Ltd, and the results will be used to inform further repair and conservation strategies for the ruined building. This larger project is being undertaken by Overton Architects of Skipton (specifically Bill Glaister and Mike Overton) in consultation with English Heritage (Giles Proctor and Keith Emerick). The trenching work is being funded by English Heritage, through Rural Estate Management Ltd.

#### 2 SITE LOCATION AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Dobpark (or Dob Park) Lodge is located within Dob Park, on the south side of Dobpark Wood (at NGR SE 19097 50230), c.400m west of Middle Farm on the south-west slope of the river Washburn valley. It lies in the modern civil parish of Weston (North Yorkshire), at an elevation of 215m AOD, on the west side of Dob Park Road, close to a junction with Weston Moor Road, some 4.5km north of Otley, West Yorkshire (see figures 1 and 2).
- 2.2 The ruined lodge is accessible by foot across pasture fields from the nearby Dob Park Road; there is currently no public access to the building, although it is clearly visible from a public footpath which runs to the south. The nearest vehicular access is from Dob Park Road, branching off the north side of Weston Moor Road, which eventually leads to a foot crossing over the river Washburn at Dobpark Bridge. The ruins lie within a relatively small walled grass field, and are surrounded by a barbed wire fence.
- 2.3 The building was previously subject to a detailed architectural and archaeological survey (Richardson & Dennison 2013). The building itself is usually ascribed an early 17th century date and is believed to have been built by Sir Mauger Vavasour of nearby Weston Hall as part of a more extensive scheme of works to remodel the hall and its landscape setting. The lodge is said to have been shelled by Cromwellian soldiers during the Civil War, and is also thought to have been occupied as a farmhouse until the early 19th century; this suggests that any Civil War damage must have been relatively minor. The structure became increasingly derelict from the mid 19th century onwards, although the main (southern) front was complete within living memory. Some architectural fragments can be identified in the drystone walls of the surrounding fields, and some fabric may have been taken for use on neighbouring farms. A limited amount of consolidation appears to have been carried out in the 1970s or 80s, including the capping of the ruined walls to create a sheepfold.
- 2.4 Dobpark Lodge and a small part of the surrounding field are a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List for England entry 1015630), first scheduled 31st January 1997. The lodge was previously a Grade II Listed Building, but was delisted on 20th April 1998. As the archaeological investigations are being funded by English Heritage, Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is not required for the work.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The aim of the archaeological investigations is to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might lie within the area of excavation.
- 3.2 Three archaeological trenches will be excavated, with the specific aims of:
- (i) to identify any southern continuation of the central spine wall and/or any evidence for an internal fireplace either side of this wall (Trench 1);
  - (ii) to identify the presence of, or any remains associated with, entrance steps on the south central side of the building (Trench 2);
  - (iii) to identify any evidence for an internal fireplace on the west side of the western ground floor room (Trench 3).

### **4 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY**

#### **Preamble**

- 4.1 All archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with all current and relevant best practice, standards and guidelines, particularly those published by English Heritage and the Institute for Archaeologists (e.g. English Heritage 1991 & 2006a; IFA 2008a; IFA 2008b). All archaeological work will be undertaken using standard archaeological recording procedures and numbering systems.
- 4.2 All artefacts recovered during this project will be treated as the property of the landowner (Dob Park Estate). Subject to their agreement, and after discussion with specialists and museum staff regarding finds retention and sampling, all suitable finds will be packaged and delivered with the site archive to the appropriate collecting museum (assumed to be Harrogate Museum).
- 4.3 Health and Safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters. All fieldwork staff will comply with all Health and Safety Legislation, including the preparation of a Risk Assessment.
- 4.4 All excavation will be done by hand.

#### **Excavation Strategy**

- 4.5 The on-site fieldwork involves the excavation of three evaluation trenches (see attached figures). Trench 1 is designed to identify any southern continuation of the central spine wall and/or any evidence for an internal fireplace, and will measure 6.0m long (north-south) by 1.0m wide. Trench 2 is designed to identify the presence of, or any remains associated with, entrance steps on the south central side of the building, and will measure 3.0m long (east-west) by 1.0m wide (Trench 2). Trench 3 is designed to identify any evidence for an internal fireplace on the west side of the western ground floor room, and will measure 2.0m long (north-south) by 1.0m wide. It should be noted that the excavation of Trench 3 will only take place if resources and time allows.
- 4.6 Across the area of the trenches, the turf, topsoil and any recent overburden will be removed, down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil. Spoil will be positioned to one side of each trench so as to minimise land-take. Only for Trench 2 is there any requirement for the turf to be reinstated, but topsoil etc will be returned to the trenches and firmed down once excavation and recording is complete. None of the trenches will be fenced or otherwise protected with orange plastic mesh etc. It is not envisaged that excavations will exceed a depth of 0.5m. The site will be left in a tidy and clean state on completion of the fieldwork programme.
- 4.7 A sufficient sample of all archaeological features and deposits revealed would be excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner, in order to achieve the aims of the project. The complete excavation of features is not envisaged,



but sufficient will be investigated to understand the full stratigraphic sequence in each trench, down to a depth of 0.5m.

### **Excavation Recording**

- 4.8 A full written, drawn and a digital photographic record will be made of all material and features revealed during the course of the excavations. These records would be indexed, ordered, quantified, and checked for consistency.
- 4.9 The position of each trench will be marked on the existing 1:50 scale plan of the ruined building. Individual trench plans will be completed at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 (as appropriate), whilst section drawings will be at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 (as appropriate). A plan and at least one representative section will be drawn of each trench, irrespective of results. All heights and depths will be expressed as metres and decimal points of metres AOD.
- 4.10 The finds recovery strategy will follow regional and national guidelines (e.g. Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993; UKIC 2001; IFA 1992). All small finds would be recorded as individual items; bulk finds will not be collected. The following categories of finds may be predicted: pottery, ferrous and non-ferrous metalwork, glass, ceramic building materials, clay pipes, worked bone, flint and/or worked stone. It is not envisaged that human remains will be uncovered. Any finds of gold and silver would be duly reported to the Coroner, in accordance with standard archaeological procedures. Finds which are unstratified or from the topsoil or modern overburden will generally be retained for assessment.
- 4.11 All artefacts recovered and retained from the project will be packed and stored in the appropriate materials and conditions to ensure that minimal deterioration takes place, in accordance with national and regional guidelines (e.g. UKIC 1983). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged, and painted glass, coins etc will be stored in appropriate specialist systems.

### **Sampling Strategies**

- 4.12 Given the limited nature of the investigations, deposits will not be sampled for the retrieval and assessment of the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of all biological remains. Even if present, no material will be collected for radiocarbon dating, archaeomagnetic dating and/or dendrochronological determinations.

## **5 POST-EXCAVATION STRATEGY**

### **Preamble**

- 5.1 The main stages of the post-excavation work will be the preparation of an interim report, and a final report and post-excavation assessment.
- 5.2 EDAS will therefore allow for:
- (a) the indexing, ordering, quantification and checking for consistency of all original context records, object records, photographs and photographic records, drawings and drawing records, level books, site note-books, spot dating records, etc;
  - (b) the production of inked copies of original site drawings, a matrix or matrices for the stratigraphic sequences, phase plans (if appropriate), and a narrative account of the stratigraphic history of the site;
  - (c) the processing, conservation and storage of small finds;
  - (d) an assessment of the site archive which will consider the value of the results of the fieldwork and examine the potential for any further analytical work on the data contained within the archive. The latter process will be undertaken in consultation

with established specialists; if further work is recommended, a research design for this should be prepared.

### **Finds Processing, Conservation and Storage**

- 5.3 Once collected, all artefacts will be conserved if necessary, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines on the appropriate materials and in conditions to ensure that minimal deterioration takes place (Watkinson & Neal 1998). The site may produce some metallic objects and materials, which might require immediate treatment to ensure they do not deteriorate once removed from the ground. Any such material will therefore be appropriately treated, following English Heritage guidance, including prior specialist recording for materials where there is a possibility of information loss during the process of conservation. Any requirement for X-radiography will be dealt with at the post-excavation assessment stage, and the process of selection for conservation will involve the appropriate specialists.
- 5.4 EDAS will be responsible for all aspects of the curation and security of all finds up to the point at which they are handed over to the receiving museum as part of the process of archive deposition.

## **6 THE PRODUCTS**

### **Interim Report**

- 6.1 The first product of the programme of archaeological investigation will be an illustrated interim report. This report will be submitted within four weeks of the completion of the on-site work and will include the following:
- (a) a non-technical summary;
  - (b) an introduction outlining the circumstances of the project, the archaeological background, a detailed site description (including NGR), and the dates when fieldwork took place;
  - (c) appropriate acknowledgements;
  - (d) a description of the methodology and techniques used and the objectives of the excavations;
  - (e) a detailed narrative description of the excavations, trench by trench, with reference to context numbers;
  - (f) an interpretation of the overall structural and stratigraphic sequence established by the excavations, including phasing of the site sequence and 'spot-dating' of the ceramics, with reference to the local and regional archaeological context;
  - (g) inked plans showing an overall site plan, the location of the trenches within the site at 1:50 scale, individual plans of each trench (irrespective of results), and at least one section per trench (irrespective of results), all at appropriate scales, and any other plans and sections as may be required to illustrate the report, including any necessary plans or sections of individual features;
  - (h) appropriate photographs to illustrate the report and/or the findings;
  - (i) references and bibliography of all sources used.
- 6.2 Three hard copies of the interim report will be produced. A draft copy will be submitted to the client, English Heritage and other relevant organisations to enable suggestions and/or comments to be made. An electronic copy of the final version of the interim report will also be provided as a pdf file, to include figures and illustrations.

## **Final Report and Post-Excavation Assessment**

- 6.3 Depending on the results of the archaeological investigations, the interim report may be augmented at a later date to incorporate a post-excavation assessment analysis. The timescale for this has not yet been determined, but it is assumed that the report will include as a minimum:
- (a) items a to i listed under the interim report above;
  - (b) catalogues and summary records, accounts and descriptions of each artefactual and ecofactual assemblage recovered from the excavations, supported by illustration and specialist reports where appropriate. Any individual specialist reports will contain non-technical summaries and tabulation of data in relation to the site phasing contexts, and will be presented as unedited appendices to the main report;
  - (c) an interpretation of the archaeological and research potential of the site, including a deposit model indicating the likely nature and state of preservation of any archaeological strata, within the limits imposed by the scale of trial excavations;
  - (d) a summary of the material held in the site archive and details of archive location and destination;
  - (e) a post-excavation assessment of each category of data or material held in the site archive. Material considered vulnerable will be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. The post-excavation assessment will examine the potential for any further analytical work and make recommendations for selection of material to be deposited for long-term storage with the site archive; these recommendations will be clearly separated from results and interpretation. If further post-excavation work is recommended, an outline research design will be prepared; the implementation of any such work will depend on whether further site work is required.
- 6.4 Three hard copies of the final report will be produced. A draft copy will be submitted to the client, English Heritage and other relevant organisations to enable suggestions and/or comments to be made. An electronic copy of the final version of the interim report will also be provided as a pdf file, to include figures and illustrations.

## **Publication**

- 6.5 It is possible that the results of the investigations may produce results of sufficient significance to merit publication in their own right. Allowance will therefore be made for the preparation and publication of a brief note in a local journal outlining the results of the investigations, subject to the agreement of the commissioning bodies.
- 6.6 If further post-excavation work is proposed, the publication of the results of this phase of the investigations will be covered by and included in the further work.

## **Archive Preparation and Deposition**

- 6.7 A site archive will be prepared in accordance with accepted national and regional guidelines (e.g. Walker 1990; English Heritage 1991; English Heritage 2006a; Brown 2007; IFA 2009); this will include labelling, conservation and storage matters. EDAS will liaise with the recipient museum concerning their detailed requirements in advance of the start of fieldwork, including potential charges for archive deposition.
- 6.8 It is expected that the final archive will include the following:
- (a) a project summary;
  - (b) the methods statement;
  - (c) an archive guide (an introduction to the archive stating its principle and layout);

- (d) an index to the contents of the archive;
- (e) the complete site archive including all records, data, reports, photographs, correspondence etc. produced during excavation, post-excavation, finds processing, conservation, and analysis, the complete material archive, and the interim and post-excavation assessment report.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, D H 2007 *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*

English Heritage 2006a *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*

English Heritage 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*

IFA (Institute for Archaeologists) 2009 *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*

IFA (Institute for Archaeologists) 2008a *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*

IFA (Institute for Archaeologists) 2008b *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

IFA (Institute for Archaeologists) 1992 *Guidelines for Finds Work*

Richardson, S & Dennison, E 2013 *Dobpark Lodge, Weston, North Yorkshire: Architectural and Archaeological Survey (Phase 1)* (unpublished EDAS archive report 2011/406.R01 for Rural Estate Management Ltd)

Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993 *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections: Guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales*

UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation) 2001 *Excavated Artefacts and Conservation* (UKIC Guideline No 1)

UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation) 1983 *Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites* (UKIC Guideline No 2)

Walker, K 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage*

Watkinson, D and Neal, V 1998 *First Aid for Finds* (3rd edition)

E Dennison, EDAS  
September 2014