

REPAIRS TO GATEWAY,
FYLING DEER PARK WALL, FYLINGDALE,
NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING



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On behalf of

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2018, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS) Ltd were commissioned by the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) to undertake a limited programme of archaeological recording during repairs to a gateway in the Fyling deer park wall, Fylingdales, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 93123 02973). The recording was required as part of a Scheduled Monument Consent for the repairs.

The project involved the monitoring of repairs to the gateway, undertaken by an NYMNPA Ranger and volunteers, and the production of a brief photographic and descriptive report. The repairs were carried out on 26th-27th March 2019.

No significant new information was recovered from the limited programme of recording, although the repairs did allow the two gate posts forming the opening and the western wall end to be recorded. It was interesting to note that the opening was a relatively recent feature, probably created when the deer park had been abandoned and returned to agriculture, at some point after the late 17th century. The line of the former medieval deer park wall, which had been removed to create the opening, was seen in buried footings crossing the opening.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2018, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS) Ltd were commissioned by the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP), through their Head of Historic Environment (Mags Waughman), to undertake a limited programme of archaeological recording during repairs to a gateway in the Fyling deer park wall, Fylingdales, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 93123 02973) (see figures 1 and 2). The recording was funded by the NYMNP, and was a requirement of Scheduled Monument Consent.
- 1.2 The project involved the monitoring of repairs to the gateway, undertaken by an NYMNP Ranger and volunteers, and the production of a brief photographic and descriptive report. The repairs were carried out on 26th-27th March 2019.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This section of the Fyling deer park wall was first designated as a Scheduled Monument on 7th April 1997 (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) 1015542). The protected length represents part of the south and west sides of the original extent of the deer park, and the southern section is well preserved. Unfortunately, the western section has been recently rebuilt with the removal of historic fabric and context, and much of the rest of the alignment has either collapsed or been lost over time.
- 2.2 The better preserved southern section of the deer park wall, which extends to some c.700m (between NGR NZ 93060 02990 and NZ 93700 03107), was the subject of detailed recording during repairs carried out in 2016-17. The following summary has been taken from the resulting report (Dennison 2018).
- 2.3 It has always been suggested that Fyling deer park was established and owned by the Abbots of Whitby, and that it was probably laid out in the 12th century; the abbey also had a lodge at Fyling Hall, from where the park was managed. After the Dissolution, the area passed to Sir Richard Cholmley of Roxby Castle, and he continued to use the park, rebuilding or extending the former lodge in 1629. However, the park became neglected during the early 17th century, and it was confirmed as being 'dissolved' in 1634. The park then seems to have been broken up and given over to agriculture by the late 17th century.
- 2.4 The park was surrounded by a wall, and mid 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show an irregularly shaped area of ground, centred on Low Park Wood (formerly Ramsdale Wood) and the Ramsdale Beck. Little of the boundary appears to now survive, apart from the southern part of the west side (which has recently been rebuilt) and most of the south side (which is the subject of this report). It has been suggested that some lengths of medieval fabric remain, but it is difficult to determine how much - there will have been numerous phases of rebuilding and repair over time, both during and after the lifetime of the park, and a photographic record dating to 1991 shows that there have been several phases of fairly recent significant rebuilding work.
- 2.5 The defining characteristic of the surviving section of deer park wall is the presence of stone crosses, placed every c.15m along the alignment (see figure 2). These are constructed of six large worked stones, placed in a combination of 'lintels' and 'throughs', with two parallel lower lintels forming the base of the wall. Previous authors have suggested that these crosses reflect the former monastic ownership of the park and, while this may well be true, they also serve to provide

structural stability to the drystone wall. The fact that there is a considerable difference in ground level between the north (i.e. inside the park) and south side of the wall means that many of the lower lintels are hidden when viewed from the south, thus creating a more cross-like appearance.

- 2.6 The remains of 51 stone crosses were identified by the 2016-17 survey. Only 27 of the 102 sides of the 51 crosses were complete (26%) with all four elements still visible and intact although many lower lintels on the south side are buried. As might be expected, the greatest losses are to the upper lintels and upper throughs (57% and 40% respectively surviving), which reflects the rebuilding of the upper courses of the wall through time. Many of the upper throughs appear to have been removed after 1991, and a few of the crosses were also repaired or reconstructed as part of the current phase of work. It has always been assumed that the crosses are medieval or late medieval in date, but the presence of 18th-19th century tooling on some of the elements might suggest this need not necessarily be the case. Indeed, the very regular and intact appearance of some of the crosses might imply they are 19th century rebuilds. This, in turn, raises the question of why later non-monastic landowners retained and/or repaired the crosses - perhaps this was in deference to their earlier origins, but also presumably because they represented the best method of keeping the wall intact and upright.

3 SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT

- 3.1 Scheduled Monument Consent for the gateway repairs was given to the NYMNPA by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, advised by Historic England, on 15th October 2018 (ref S00203489).
- 3.2 A number of conditions were attached to consent, some of which related to the repairs and the archaeological monitoring, as follows:
- (v) any replacement material shall be of a type, texture and colour which matches the original material;
 - (vi) any replacement stone shall be of a suitable size, and laid in courses to match the original courses and joint widths;
 - (ix) the archaeological supervision of the reinstatement works to which this consent relates shall be carried out only by Ed Dennison, EDAS, 18 Springdale Way, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 8NU and his nominated excavation team;
 - (x) a report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to: Mags Waughman, Senior Archaeological Conservation Officer, NYMNPA (the National Park Historic Environment Record) and to Dr Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed);
 - (xi) the archaeological contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to completion, and shall deposit any digital protect report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

4 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

- 4.1 The repairs to the existing gateway were undertaken and largely completed on 26th March 2019. Appropriate colour digital photographs and measurements were taken prior to and during the works, and descriptive notes were produced. Landscaping works to the existing ground surface were undertaken on the following day, and so EDAS made an additional visit on 29th March 2019 to take 'as-complete' photographs and take further measurements as required.
- 4.2 The gateway needing repair lies towards the western end of the southern section of the deer park wall, at NGR NZ 93123 02973. It provides an access through the wall for a north-south aligned public footpath and bridleway, which is shown on the 1853 6" Ordnance Survey map (sheet 46, surveyed 1848-49) and the 1893 25" Ordnance Survey map (sheet 46/12, surveyed 1891) (Dennison 2018, figure 2). Both these maps show a square "sheepfold" in the angle of walls on the east side of the gateway, but nothing of this now remains. In terms of the identified stone crosses along the wall alignment, the gateway lies between no 5 and no 6 (see figure 2).
- 4.3 The gateway measures 3.10m wide at ground level. Prior to the work, there was some erosion through the gateway opening, mainly due to the fact that the ground level on the south side of the gate was slightly higher than that on the north; this is a characteristic of the wall in general, with the ground on the north side of the wall (i.e. inside the deer park) being between 0.7m-1.4m lower than that to the south (Dennison 2018, 12). The presence of large stones forming the foundation of the wall could be seen in the eroded ground crossing the gateway opening, showing that the gateway was a relatively recent feature, presumably created once the park had been abandoned and returned to agriculture, at some point after the late 17th century.
- 4.4 It was the western gate post that had been damaged, and it had a lean of some 10° to the east from the vertical. In actual fact, comparison with photographs of the gateway taken in 1991, as part of a general photographic survey of the deer park wall, shows the gate post with the same lean - it was the fact that the adjacent wall end which had been altered, increasing the gap between wall and post which gave the impression that the post was leaning more than it should be (see plates 1 and 2). This alteration may have been done because the north side of the wall end was leaning towards the post (see plate 3). Comparison with the 1991 photograph also shows that the gate had been replaced.
- 4.5 Prior to repair, the western gatepost measured 1.76m high by 0.47m wide and 0.41m deep at ground level. By comparison, the smaller eastern gatepost measured 1.16m high by 0.42m wide and 0.43m deep at ground level. Neither post contained any markings or graffiti, although there were some holes for previous pintels and catches, showing that the gate had been re-hung several times in the past; there was also a central hole towards the top of the inner face of the western post, of uncertain function. The opening was crossed by a wooden post and rail gate, hung with new pintels on the western post (see plate 3). The western wall end measured 1.06m high and was 1.09m wide at the base and 0.82m wide at the top, with several loose courses (0.38m high) on top (see plate 4).
- 4.6 In order to re-position the gatepost, the western wall end was taken down, and the stones carefully laid out so they could be replaced in their original positions. The wall construction was the same as that noted during previous repairs elsewhere

along the alignment, with regularly cut coursed stones forming either face and rubble infill (“hearting”), and there were no throughstones at this point (see plates 5 and 6). A small excavation up to 0.4m deep was then made by hand around the western base of the post to facilitate its restoration to a more upright position, using a small mechanical Kubota excavator to pull the post upright (see plates 7 and 8). The exposed soil comprised a smooth mid-brown clay with no distinguishing features. The removal of this soil showed that 0.40m of the post had been buried, making its full height 2.16m.

- 4.7 Once the post was re-positioned, larger stones found lying near the adjacent wall end, left over from previous repairs, were placed against the east side of the base to prevent later movement (see plate 10), and the wall end was rebuilt so that its base virtually butted against the base of the post (see plates 9 and 11). The rest of the wall end above was then rebuilt using the dismantled stones replaced in their original positions as far as was possible, respecting the coursing but also incorporating a few throughstones for stability and with a slight batter away from the post so as to reduce pressure on the post (see plate 15); the gap at the top of the wall measured 0.18m (see plates 12 and 13). Once repositioned, the post measured 1.65m high, and the wall end measured 1.15m wide at the base and 0.86m at the top. The wooden gate was re-hung on new pintels on the western post, and the catch on the eastern post was re-positioned to ensure smooth opening (see plates 13 and 14). A new bridleway marker was then placed on the south face of the western post. Finally, the erosion hollow within the gate opening was infilled using soil provided by the landowner, and the resulting surface was reseeded with a grass mix (see plates 16 and 17).

5 DISCUSSION

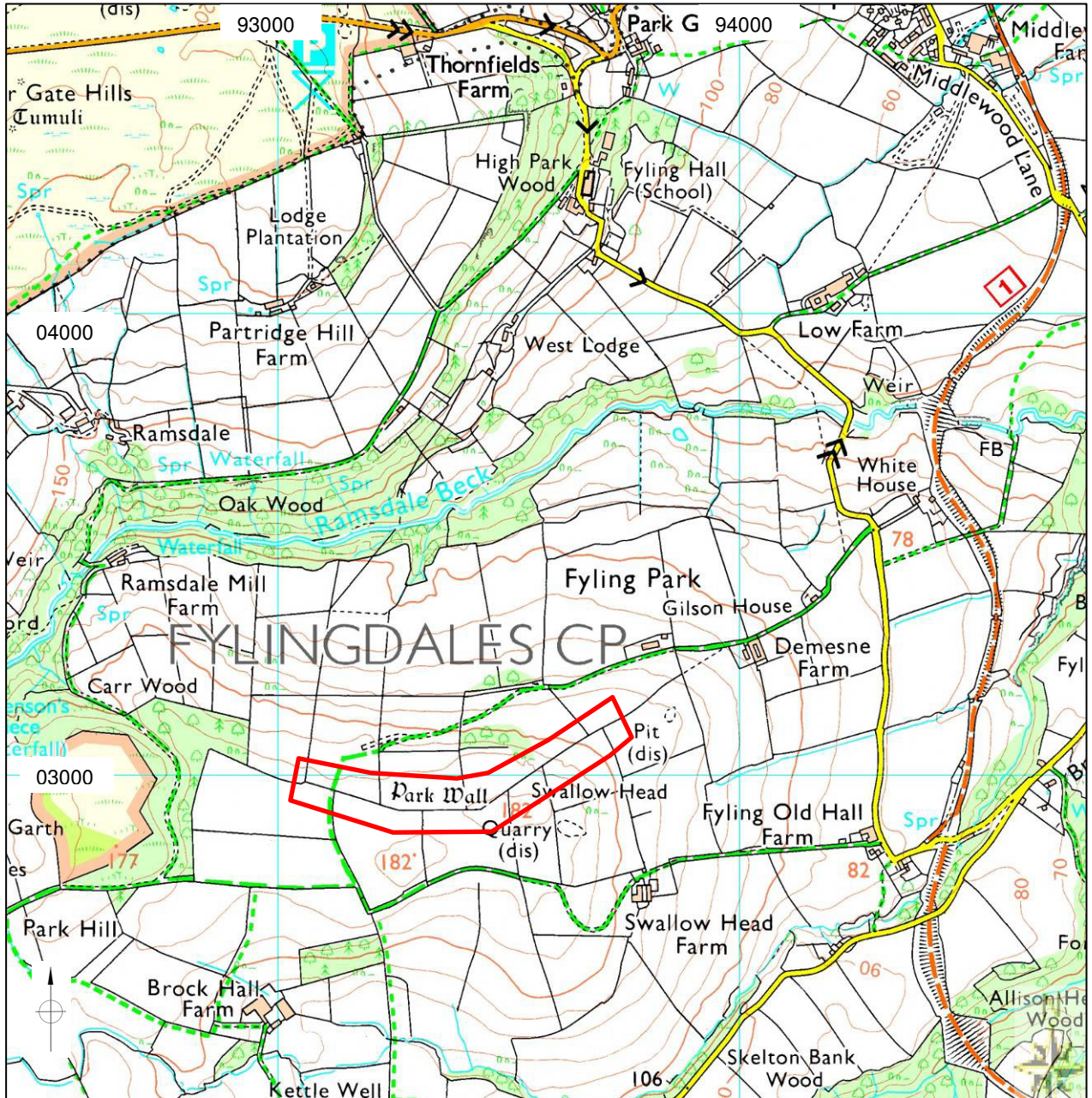
- 5.1 No significant new information was recovered from the limited programme of archaeological recording during the straightening of the western gatepost, although the repairs did allow the two gate posts and the western wall end to be recorded. It was also interesting to note that the opening was a relatively recent features, probably dating to when the deer park had been abandoned and returned to agriculture, at some point after the late 17th century. The line of the former deer park wall, which had been removed to create the opening, was seen in buried footings crossing the opening.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dennison, E 2018 *Fyling Deer Park Wall, Fylingdales, North Yorkshire: Archaeological Recording and Monitoring of 2016-17 Repairs* (unpublished EDAS report 2016/527.R01 for Ms Rebecca Harrison and North York Moors National Park Authority)

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The archaeological recording was commissioned by the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA), and EDAS would like to thank their Head of Historic Environment, Mags Waughman, for her help in setting up the project. Thanks are also due to Bernard McLinden and Martyn Williams, NYMNPA Rangers, and their two volunteers, for their assistance during the repairs. The on-site survey work was undertaken by Ed Dennison, who also produced the final report and takes responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies.



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PROJECT		FYLING DEER PARK WALL	
TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	MAY 2019
EDAS		FIGURE	1

PROJECT		FYLING DEER PARK WALL	
TITLE		LOCATIONS OF CROSSES	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	MAY 2019
EDAS		FIGURE	2

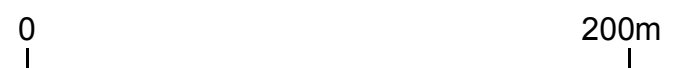
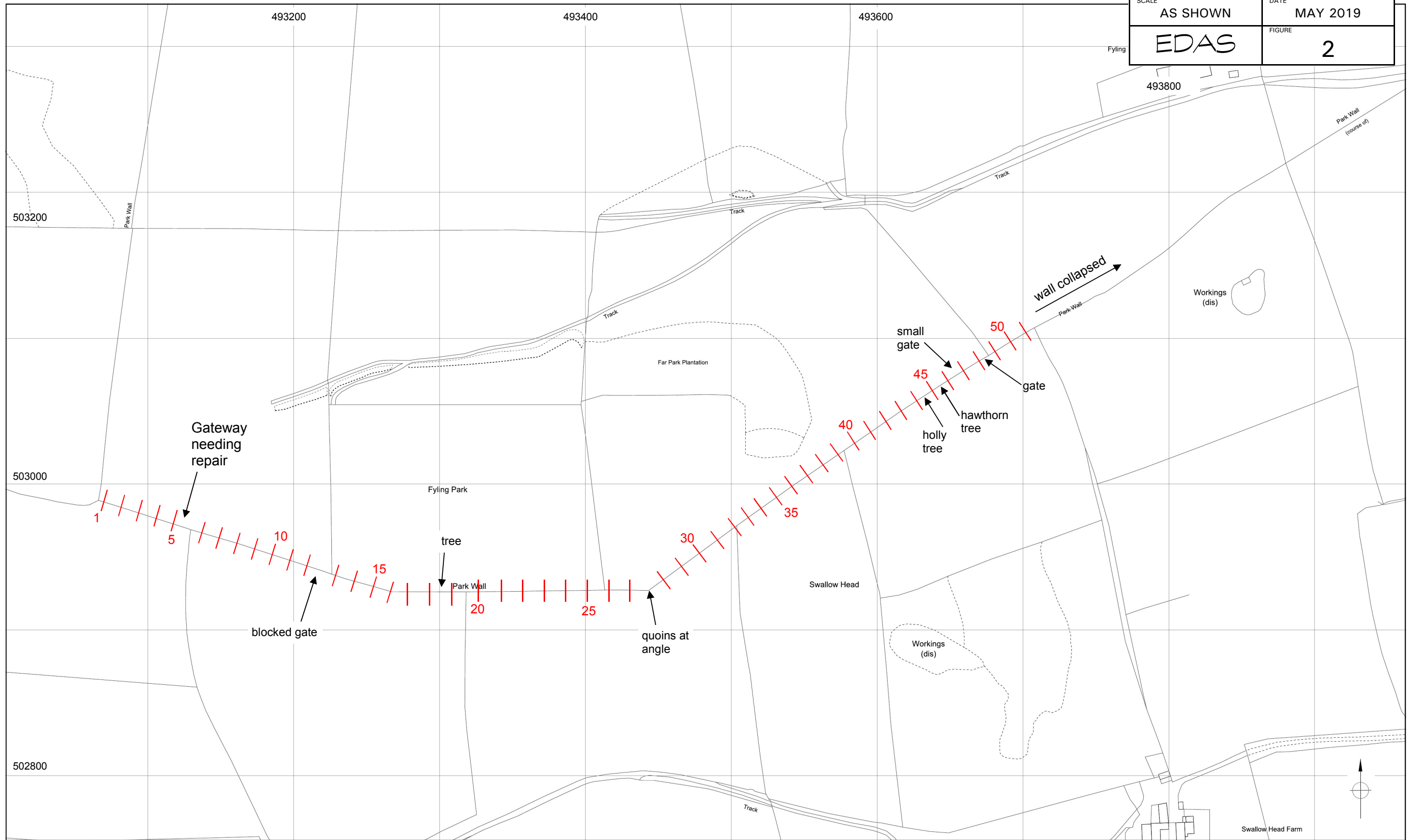




Plate 1: South side of gateway, looking N, taken 1991 (courtesy NYMNPA).



Plate 2: South side of gateway, prior to repairs, looking N (photo 1/293).



Plate 3: North side of gateway, prior to repairs, looking S (photo 1/295).



Photo 4: Western wall end and gatepost prior to repair, looking SW (photo 1/298).



Plate 5: Western wall end during dismantling, looking SW (photo 1/303).



Photo 6: Western wall end after dismantling, looking S (photo 1/302).



Plate 7: Limited excavations on west side of gatepost, looking S (photo 1/307).



Photo 8: Straightening western gatepost, looking N (plate 1/304).



Plate 9: Rebuilding western wall end, looking SW (photo 1/312).



Plate 10: Straightened western gatepost, looking N (photo 1/310).



Plate 11: Rebuilding western wall end, looking N (photo 1/314).



Plate 12: Rebuilt western wall end, looking SW (photo 2/339).



Plate 13: Repositioned western gatepost and rebuilt wall end, looking N (photo 2/351).

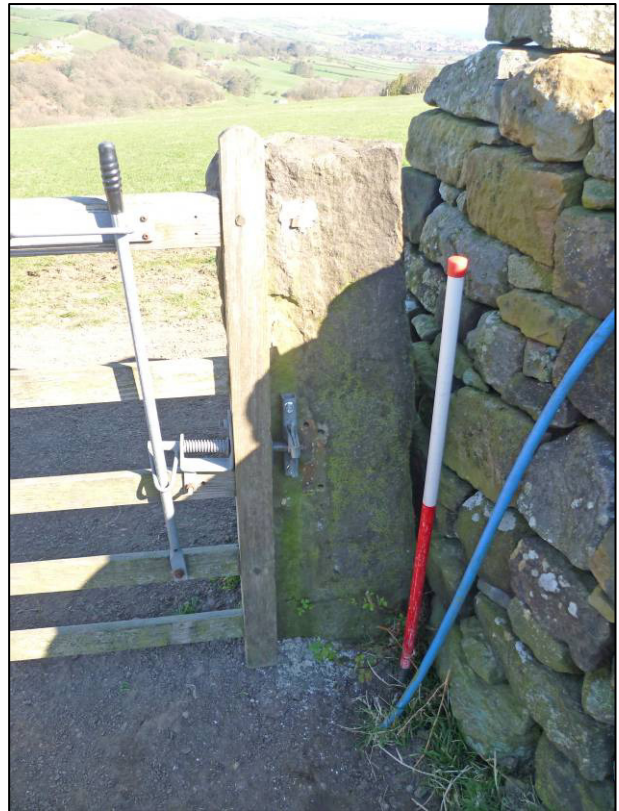


Plate 14: New fittings to eastern gatepost, looking N (photo 2/343).



Plate 15: Repositioned western gateway, rebuilt wall end and re-hung gate, looking NW (photo 2/346).



Plate 16: Repaired gateway, looking N (photo 2/344).



Plate 17: Repaired gateway, looking S (photo 2/349).

APPENDIX 1
EDAS PHOTOGRAPHIC CATALOGUE

APPENDIX 1: FYLING GATEWAY REPAIRS PHOTOGRAPHIC CATALOGUE

Film 1: Colour digital photographs taken 26th March 2019

Film 2: Colour digital photographs taken 29th March 2019

<i>Film</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	292	W gatepost and wall end, prior to repairs, looking S	1m
1	293	S side of gateway, prior to repairs, looking N	1m
1	294	W gatepost and wall end, prior to repairs, looking N	1m
1	295	N side of gateway, prior to repairs, looking S	1m
1	296	W gatepost and wall end, prior to repairs, looking N	1m
1	297	N side of gateway, prior to repairs, looking S	1m
1	298	W wall end and gatepost prior to repair, looking SW	1m
1	299	Start of dismantling W wall end, looking S	-
1	300	Limited excavations on W side of gatepost, looking N	0.5m
1	301	Limited excavations on W side of gatepost, looking N	0.5m
1	302	W wall end after dismantling, looking S	-
1	303	W wall end during dismantling, looking SW	1m
1	304	Straightening W gatepost, looking N	-
1	305	Straightened W gatepost, looking W	-
1	306	Limited excavations on W side of gatepost, looking S	-
1	307	Limited excavations on W side of gatepost, looking S	0.5m
1	308	Infilling excavations on W side of gatepost, looking N	-
1	309	Infilled excavations on W side of gatepost, looking SW	-
1	310	Straightened W gatepost, looking N	-
1	311	Exposed wall end and hearting, looking N	-
1	312	Rebuilding W wall end, looking SW	-
1	313	Rebuilding W wall end, looking SW	1m
1	314	Rebuilding W wall end, looking N	1m
2	335	Repaired gateway, looking N	1m
2	336	Repaired gateway, looking NW	1m
2	337	Straightened gatepost and re-hung gate, looking N	-
2	338	Repaired gateway, looking S	1m
2	339	Rebuilt W wall end, looking SW	1m
2	340	Rebuilt W wall end, looking SW	1m
2	341	Rebuilt W wall end, looking S	1m
2	342	Rebuilt W wall end, looking W	1m
2	343	New fittings to E gatepost, looking N	1m
2	344	Repaired gateway, looking N	1m
2	345	Repositioned W gatepost and rebuilt wall end, looking N	1m
2	346	Repositioned W gateway, rebuilt wall end and re-hung gate, looking NW	1m
2	347	Repaired gateway, looking N	1m
2	348	Repaired gateway, looking SW	1m
2	349	Repaired gateway, looking S	1m
2	350	Repositioned W gatepost and rebuilt wall end, looking SW	-
2	351	Repositioned W gatepost and rebuilt wall end, looking N	-
2	352	New fittings to E gatepost, looking N	1m