

ENGLISH HERITAGE BUILDINGS AT RISK
(2004) PROJECT, NORTH YORKSHIRE

NEVILLE CASTLE, KIRKBYMOORSIDE

PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

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

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Author: Shaun Richardson & Ed Dennison

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

On behalf of

English Heritage
Yorkshire Region
37 Tanner Row
York
YO1 6WP

**NEVILLE CASTLE, KIRKBYMOORSIDE, NORTH YORKSHIRE:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2004, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by English Heritage to undertake a photographic survey and make archaeological observations at five individual monuments within the Yorkshire region as part of a limited programme of repair and consolidation. The five monuments were Newton Kyme Castle (NGR SE46604493), John of Gaunt's Castle near Harrogate (NGR SE21955453), Neville Castle at Kirkbymoorside (NGR SE69468694), Seamer Manor House at Seamer (NGR TA01308344) and Crayke Castle at Crake (NGR SE55937071). This report details the recording work that was done at Neville Castle, Kirkbymoorside.

It is uncertain when the first buildings were established on the site, although previous excavations in the 1960s and 1970s uncovered the remains of a possible 14th century cruck-framed building, perhaps a hall, to which a later structure was added. These appear to have become disused or to have been rebuilt in stone during the 15th/16th centuries. The section of surviving upstanding masonry recorded by the current project, measuring 4.10m long and 1.10m wide by a maximum of c.5.2m high, stands at the west end of a suggested kitchen and hall, and the structural evidence suggests that the remains include an earlier gable line, perhaps indicating the former height and west end of the hall range. Alternatively, the "gable" line and scarring on the east face of the upstanding masonry might relate to the presence of a former firehood and fireplace, although previous excavations uncovered no evidence for any burning. Whatever its purpose, the gable was raised at a later date, and this heightening, together with the possible angled buttress surviving down the slope to the south-west, might indicate that it was incorporated into a tower-like structure. The excavated remains suggest that any such tower would have stood at the north-west corner of a sub-rectangular courtyard complex, although the evidence is fragmentary.

It is probable that the complex underwent substantial changes after being acquired by the Neville family during the early 15th century, and a building on the site was referred to as a hunting lodge in the 1570s. It is this structure that is thought to be represented by the remaining walls on the site. The fate of the site in the post-1600 period is also not known but it is presumed that there was a gradual deterioration and dismantling, and some of the stone was used to build other structures in the town. It should also be noted that other wall alignments associated with the castle survive in the gardens of the adjacent properties, and that the current project was confined to the largest upstanding section of wall.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2004, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by English Heritage to undertake a photographic survey and make archaeological observations at five individual monuments within the Yorkshire region as part of a limited programme of repair and consolidation. The five monuments were:

- Newton Kyme Castle, North Yorkshire (NGR SE46604493)
- John of Gaunt's Castle, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire (NGR SE21955453)
- Neville Castle, Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire (NGR SE69468694)
- Seamer Manor House, North Yorkshire (NGR TA01308344)
- Crayke Castle, North Yorkshire (NGR SE55937071)

1.2 The scope of the work, which was to initially include a rectified photographic survey of each site, was set out in a brief issued by English Heritage. This was discussed and amended following a series of site visits, and a revised method statement incorporating a general photographic survey was subsequently issued by EDAS (see Appendix 2).

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Site Location

2.1 The remains of Neville Castle stand on the north side of the town of Kirkbymoorside in North Yorkshire (NGR SE69468694) (see figure 1), and are represented by partly excavated buried archaeological deposits, together with several sections of upstanding walling.

2.2 The largest piece of upstanding masonry forming the subject of this report is located in broad-leaved woodland on the west side of a public bridleway which leads from the north end of Castle Gate along the west side of Manor Vale, a dry river valley. The ground to the west of the upstanding wall falls away sharply into Manor Vale, whilst to the east of the bridleway, it rises gently across arable and pasture fields towards Park Lane. The area to the immediate south-east is bordered by detached private houses and other residential accommodation.

2.3 The site is a Scheduled Monument (SM 30315), first included in the schedule on 14th December 1962. The scheduling was subsequently amended on 1st April 1974 and revised on 29th April 1998 (DCMS 1989). The site is listed on the National Monuments Record (site SE 68 NE 28) and the North Yorkshire County Historic Environment Record (site 1218).

Objectives of the Project

2.4 The objectives of the project, as set out in the revised method statement issued by EDAS (see Appendix 2), were as follows:

- to provide a photographic survey of the monument, to record its condition "as found" prior to the proposed limited interventions;
- to make archaeological observations and undertake a watching brief during the proposed limited interventions, to record and recover any information relating to any archaeological or architectural features and deposits which might be present on the site and which will be affected by the proposed interventions;

- to provide a report on the above.

Survey Methodology

- 2.5 The photographic survey was undertaken using a Medium Format camera with perspective control and tripod. As a rule, an ISO 400 silver-based film was used, with slower speeds employed where suitable to produce higher definition images. General and oblique photographs were taken of all elevations, providing straight-on and oblique-angle shots to ensure comprehensive coverage, as well as a selection from a distance showing the monument in its landscape setting (as far as was practicable). Detailed shots were also taken (using appropriate lenses and ancillary lighting or flash) of any surviving historic architectural detailing or fittings. All detailed photographs contained a graduated photographic scale of appropriate dimensions (subject to access), whilst ranging rods were positioned discreetly in more general shots. All shots taken during the survey were printed at a size of 6" by 4"; a total of 18 black and white photographs were taken, supplemented by a number of 35mm colour slides. The photographic catalogue is presented as Appendix 1, and a limited number of the prints are reproduced in this report for illustrative purposes.
- 2.6 The initial site visit and the photographic survey took place on the 30th September 2004, prior to the scaffolding of the structure, when the remains were fairly heavily vegetated (see plates 1 and 2). As a result of the initial survey, EDAS proposed a number of amendments to the interventions / repair scheme put forward by the project architects, Ferrey & Mennim of York. These were discussed on site at a further meeting on the 20th October 2004 with English Heritage (Giles Proctor), Ferrey & Mennim (Dominic Lockett) and Historic Building Restoration (Steve Arrowsuch), following the erection of scaffolding; at the same time, those areas of the monument previously inaccessible or not visible from the ground were inspected and any relevant information was noted and included in the description given below.
- 2.7 The extent of the proposed repairs and consolidation meant that it was not necessary to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the works, and no drawn records were made as part of the project. However, a final site visit was made by the photographer on 22nd March 2005 to record the site following the completion of the works (see plates 3 and 4).
- 2.8 The project archive (site code NCK 04), comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with the Ryedale Folk Museum in Hutton-le-Hole, North Yorkshire. The black and white photographs have been retained by English Heritage, but the negatives, contact sheets and colour slides remain with the site archive.

Consolidation Works

- 2.9 A full copy of the specification for the repairs and consolidation works provided by Ferrey & Mennim is included as part of the project archive. In outline, the work involved the removal of vegetation, followed by selective repointing, rebuilding and the infilling of voids.

3 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 "Neville Castle" is generally assumed to represent the buried and standing remains of a late medieval hunting lodge associated with the Neville family, who were Earls of Westmorland from 1397, and it formed the main seat of the manor of

Kirkbymoorside in the later medieval period. By 1200, the manor was held by the Stuteville family, half passing to the Wake family through marriage after 1233; during this period, the manorial centre is believed to have been an earlier moated manor house located on Vivier's Hill, some 500m to the south-east of the lodge (Curtis 1914, 511; DCMS 1998) (see figure 1).

- 3.2 The Wake family retained the manor until the early 15th century, when it passed to Sir John Neville, one of the large and influential Neville family (Dornier 1970, 99; Emery 1996, 136). John Neville died in 1420, predeceasing his father, Sir Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmoreland (d.1425) (Hicks 2002, 14), and was buried at Haltemprice Priory, near Hull in East Yorkshire (Dennison & Richardson 2006, 14). Kirkbymoorside stayed with the Neville family until 1569, when it was forfeited to the Crown following the rebellion of Charles Neville in support of Mary Queen of Scots.
- 3.3 In 1570 the lodge was described as a hunting lodge "symple for an erle but a good house for a gentleman of worship" set in a park with a boundary circuit of 2½ miles "well replenished with fallow deere" (Dornier 1970, 99; Curtis 1914, 511). It was leased to a farmer, Ralph Bowes, until at least 1595 and in 1602 half of the park was granted to a John Gibson for the lives of himself and his sons. In 1616 the manor of Kirkbymoorside was granted by the King to George Viscount Villiers, and a Particular of the same year notes that in 1570 the lodge was "builded all of Stone and covered with Leade and Slate" (Dornier 1970, 99).
- 3.4 In 1695 the manor was purchased by Sir Charles Duncombe (DCMS 1998; NMR SE68NE28; Williams 1974, 89; Dornier 1970, 99). It has been suggested that the lodge may have fallen out of use in the early 17th century, being replaced by "High Hall" to the south which was built around this date (Dornier 1970, 101). A toll-booth in the market place is said to have been built of materials taken from the ruins in the 18th century (Slater 2001, 53).
- 3.5 The earliest known archaeological investigation carried out on the site was undertaken by a local clergyman in c.1900. The resulting trenches / pits were used as a refuse tip until c.1920 but no further information has come to light regarding the extent or results of the work (Williams 1974, 87). In October 1962, Brian Davison of the Ministry of Works excavated five trial trenches against the western boundary of the property known as Manor Garth (now Castle Walls), exposing several walls which stood to a height of c.1.2m and included window sills. The results suggested there were two ranges of buildings flanking an open court, with possibly a third range to the east (Thorpe 1962, 8; Williams 1974, 87).
- 3.6 The 1962 trenches were quickly followed by further excavations undertaken by Anne Dornier of Leicester University in 1963 and 1965. These were concentrated in the north-east corner of the garden of the property now known as "Squirrel's Lea", in advance of its construction (Dornier 1970, 98-102). Dornier identified five main phases of construction. The earliest phase (Phase 1) was represented by a north-east/south-west aligned cruck-framed building, possibly a hall, at least c.13m in length and located on the northern boundary of the existing garden. A similar smaller building, aligned north-south and possibly of the same date, was identified to the south. During Phase 2, a building, perhaps a kitchen or solar wing, was added to the east end of the putative cruck-framed hall; this addition became disused during the 15th-16th centuries, as part of Phase 3. Phases 4 and 5 were marked by the construction of substantial stone structures, possibly of 15th/16th century date and perhaps contemporary with those exposed by Davidson in 1962 at the west end of the site. The earlier cruck-framed hall may have been rebuilt at this time, whilst

stone foundations were also noted in the south-east corner of the garden of Squirrel's Lea.

- 3.7 In 1974, the area to the west of Dornier's excavation was sold for re-development and, prior to the erection of the existing detached dwelling, further excavation was undertaken by R Williams and S Coll on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments (Williams 1974, 89). This excavation uncovered nine principal periods of construction. The earliest remains apparently pre-dated the construction of substantial stone buildings on the site and may have been 14th century. At a later date, perhaps in the 15th/16th centuries, the south wall of the building identified as a hall was rebuilt in stone, with a structure suggested to be a kitchen at its west end. The south wall of the hall had had a semi-circular structure, perhaps a projecting bay to support a window, inserted after it was built. Evidence was also uncovered for stone buildings post-dating the abandonment of the hunting lodge as a Neville residence, as well as a bread oven constructed in a former fireplace within the hall (Williams 1974). Figure 2 provides a copy of the excavation plan.

4 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 4.1 The following site description is based on observations made and information noted during the site visits carried out on 30th September and 20th October 2004, supplemented by details contained in the sources listed in the bibliography.
- 4.2 The section of upstanding masonry forming the subject of the consolidation work stands on the west side of a public bridleway which runs north from the north end of Castle Gate to Low Knoll and beyond. The masonry forms a fragment of wall, aligned north-south and with an approximate maximum length and width of 4.10m and 1.10m respectively; it corresponds to the section of walling labelled as "standing masonry" in the north-west corner of the excavation plan (figure 2). The wall stands to a maximum of c.5.2m in height and is faced with random limestone and sandstone rubble, which has been roughly brought to courses in some areas (see plates 1 and 2). The core of the wall is also of random rubble, and both core and face are set with a hard cream-coloured lime mortar that has oxidised to a buff colour where exposed to the elements.
- 4.3 Both faces of the wall preserve a number of features. At the south end of the base of the east face, a mass of rubble corework projects c.1m to the east. This appears to be associated with an area of scarring or disturbance at the south end of the east face, caused by the removal of an east-west wall or other feature. The scarring is c.1.10m wide and rises to a height of c.3.10m above the existing ground level. A short vertical section of projecting stones defines the former north side of the removed wall or feature. The upper part survives as a shallow horizontal recess, with a face set back up to 0.10m from the main wall face to the north; there are faint indications of a shallow horizontal scar or line of disturbance continuing across the main wall face at about the same height, perhaps denoting a former floor level.
- 4.4 Below this putative former floor level, a sub-square opening measuring 0.32m wide by 0.20m high, passes through the thickness of the wall. To the north of this opening, there may be a ragged horizontal joint in the rubble wall face, although this is not certain. Above the putative former floor level, the wall face appears to preserve the line of an earlier steeper roof line or gable. The masonry above or to the sides of this possible earlier roof line is slightly better coursed, dressed and composed of larger stones than that within, although the difference is not especially marked. In addition, at least one of the larger stones on the line of the roof line has a sloping end, perhaps suggesting a free-standing gable that was later raised in

height. Within this area, the wall face bears traces of a thin coat of lime render, whereas above and outside the possible gable line, localised fragments of a thicker coating survive. A ragged hole at the bottom of the south slope of the possible gable was initially thought to be a former purlin recess, but closer examination suggests an area of collapse; it could, of course, have been caused by the removal of a timber.

- 4.5 The sub-square opening noted above in the east wall face passes through the wall thickness to the west face; a concentration of slightly better coursed masonry survives to the south and above the sub-square opening, although this does not appear to be structurally significant. Approximately 1.90m above the sub-square opening, a line of recesses, probably putlog holes or perhaps joist sockets, are visible (see plate 4). Described from south to north, the southernmost recess is 0.16m wide, 0.21m high and 0.30m deep, with a top and bottom formed by thin stone slabs. The two central recesses are less convincing, being less regular in form, smaller and set at a slightly higher level than the two outermost recesses; they may have been created by the decay of facing stones. The northernmost recess is set at the same level as the southernmost one, and is 0.20m wide by 0.15m high by 0.30m deep, with a thin stone slab forming the base. In contrast to the east face, no possible earlier roof line or gable was visible in the west face, although traces of the same thin coating of lime render survive across the masonry.
- 4.6 At the north end of the west face, the base of the wall returns 1.10m to the west (see plate 4). A small surviving section of the north face of the return indicates that it had an original width of c.0.80m. The return is poorly tied into the main wall fragment and may be a later addition, and it has a small opening at the base. It has previously been suggested to be the remnants of a buttress (DCMS 1998). A slight earthwork ridge in the slope to the west may represent a buried continuation of the return for a further c.4m but this is not certain.
- 4.7 The project brief did not require any work to be carried out on the other upstanding wall fragments uncovered during the 1960s/1970s excavations; these appear to now lie within private gardens and were not accessible during the course of the project. However, a number of observations were made on the immediate area surrounding the major wall fragment. As stated above, the ground level falls away sharply to the west, sloping steeply down into the east side of Manor Vale. Immediately to the west of the major wall fragment, there is a flattened linear area resembling a platform, c.25m long by c.4-5m wide, perhaps partly created by spoil dumped from the excavations. However, it has a sharp angular return at the eastern end, and below this return, the remains of a chamfered plinth are visible eroding out of the bank. The visible section of the plinth is aligned north-west/south-east; it is c.2m long, c.1m wide and stands c.1m in height. Above the level of the chamfered offset, the surviving wall is faced with well coursed and dressed stone, in contrast to the rubble construction surviving elsewhere on the site. This plinth appears to be the same feature as the "buttress" described by Williams in 1974 as follows:
- "Down the slope in Manor Vale some masonry already partly visible was partly exposed. A buttress lay at about 70 degrees to a wall on the same line as the hall and kitchen. The west face of the buttress was built of well-faced axe-tooled sandstone; similar blocks of chamfered stone formed its plinth."* (Williams 1974, 91).
- 4.8 The line of a poorly preserved and largely collapsed rubble wall runs south from the south end of the major wall fragment, parallel to the modern fence here, but it does not appear to be a continuation of its line.

- 4.9 On the east side of the bridleway, the line of a 0.70m thick wall is visible, running parallel to the main wall fragment but set c.7.5m to the east. This wall line has a 1.1m high spread of rubble at its south end, and the modern fence line runs along its east side. At the time the watching brief was undertaken, a low platform or mound appeared to be visible in the arable field to the east of the bridleway (known as "Horse Park"), close to the north boundary of the garden of the property known as "Squirrel's Lea". The platform was L-shaped in plan, measuring c.15m east-west by c.10m north-south, and it has a shallow dished depression to the north-east. This may be the "disturbed area" of ground noted by the NMR; cropmarks have also apparently been recorded here (NMR SE68NE28). Both the NMR entry and SM description make reference to "a series of low earthworks of buried wall footings for an east-west range of buildings", apparently in the field to the south of the property known as "Castle Walls", but these were not inspected as part of the current project.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Given the scale and scope of the recording project, and the limited extent of the repairs and consolidation work, it is difficult to provide any firm conclusions for this monument. However, the fact that some previous archaeological excavations have been carried out at the site means that some comments can be made.
- 5.2 It is uncertain when the first buildings were established on the site. Dornier suggested that it may have taken place when the manor was sub-divided in 1233, although she admits that there was little archaeological evidence for this (Dornier 1970, 101-102). The earliest buildings uncovered by Dornier in the north-east corner of the site comprised a long cruck-framed building, perhaps a hall, to which a later structure was added. These appear to have become disused or to have been rebuilt in stone during the 15th/16th centuries; the stone walls exposed by Davison in 1962 may have been of the same date. Williams may have uncovered deposits dating to the early 14th century in 1974 but, like Dornier, he also felt that the substantial stone structures he exposed were perhaps 15th/16th century in date, comprising the remains of a kitchen and hall. The excavations also revealed some evidence for building activity after the lodge ceased to be used by the Neville family.
- 5.3 The surviving upstanding masonry recorded during the current project stands at the west end of the suggested kitchen and hall uncovered by Williams, although its exact relationship to them is unclear. The structural evidence suggests that the upstanding masonry includes an earlier gable line, perhaps indicating the former height and west end of the hall range. Alternatively, the "gable" line and scarring on the east face of the surviving masonry might relate to the presence of a former firehood and fireplace here, although the excavations uncovered no evidence for any burning. Whatever its purpose, the gable was raised at a later date, and this heightening, together with the possible angled buttress surviving down the slope to the south-west, might indicate that it was incorporated into a tower-like structure standing here.
- 5.4 The remains uncovered during the excavations suggest that any such tower would have stood at the north-west corner of a sub-rectangular courtyard complex, although the evidence is so fragmentary that Emery felt unable to broadly classify Kirkbymoorside as either a courtyard house, tower house or solar tower, preferring the term "other house" (Emery 1996, 283-286). The overall dimensions of any courtyard complex are difficult to estimate, but based on the combined evidence, a very approximate length (east-west) of c.75m and width (north-south) of c.60m might be suggested. The courtyard complex appears to have evolved over time, rather than as part of one concerted building campaign; indeed, any resemblance to a

courtyard may be the result of convergence of design achieved through later modification, exactly as Dixon proposes for great towers and keeps (Dixon 2002, 12).

- 5.5 It could be proposed that the complex underwent substantial changes after being acquired by the Neville family during the early 15th century, and the excavators certainly felt that the archaeological evidence might support this conclusion. However, one must be careful to avoid the temptation of firmly linking archaeological phasing to isolated documentary references or major changes in ownership; as the excavations demonstrated, sites such as Neville Castle were subject to more regular repairs and alterations than any surviving documents might suggest. Similarly, a greater understanding of the landscape context of the complex, particularly the park with which it was associated during the late 16th century, might help to predict what form the buildings took during this period. The term “hunting lodge” used to describe the complex in 1570 is ambiguous; several different kinds of lodges have been identified within medieval and early post-medieval parks, their form and function being dependant on many different factors, such as the status of the builder or their location within the boundaries of the park (Dennison 2005, 27-28). Only further documentary research, detailed excavation and landscape survey is likely to answer some of these questions.
- 5.6 The fate of the site in the post-1600 period is also not known. Lacking any regular occupation, the complex may well have started to deteriorate. Evidence from other much larger sites in the region demonstrates how high status or valuable fixtures and fittings were the first items to be disposed of by owners/tenants, followed by structural material such as timber and then finally stone. Even then, parts of a site might have remained in occupation whilst others were being dismantled (Wright & Richardson 2005). A similar fate may have befallen the hunting lodge, with some parts being dismantled and others let out for, for example, agricultural purposes or as lesser dwellings; as noted in paragraph 3.4 above, it is believed that a toll-booth in the market place is said to have been built of materials taken from the ruins in the 18th century (Slater 2001, 53).

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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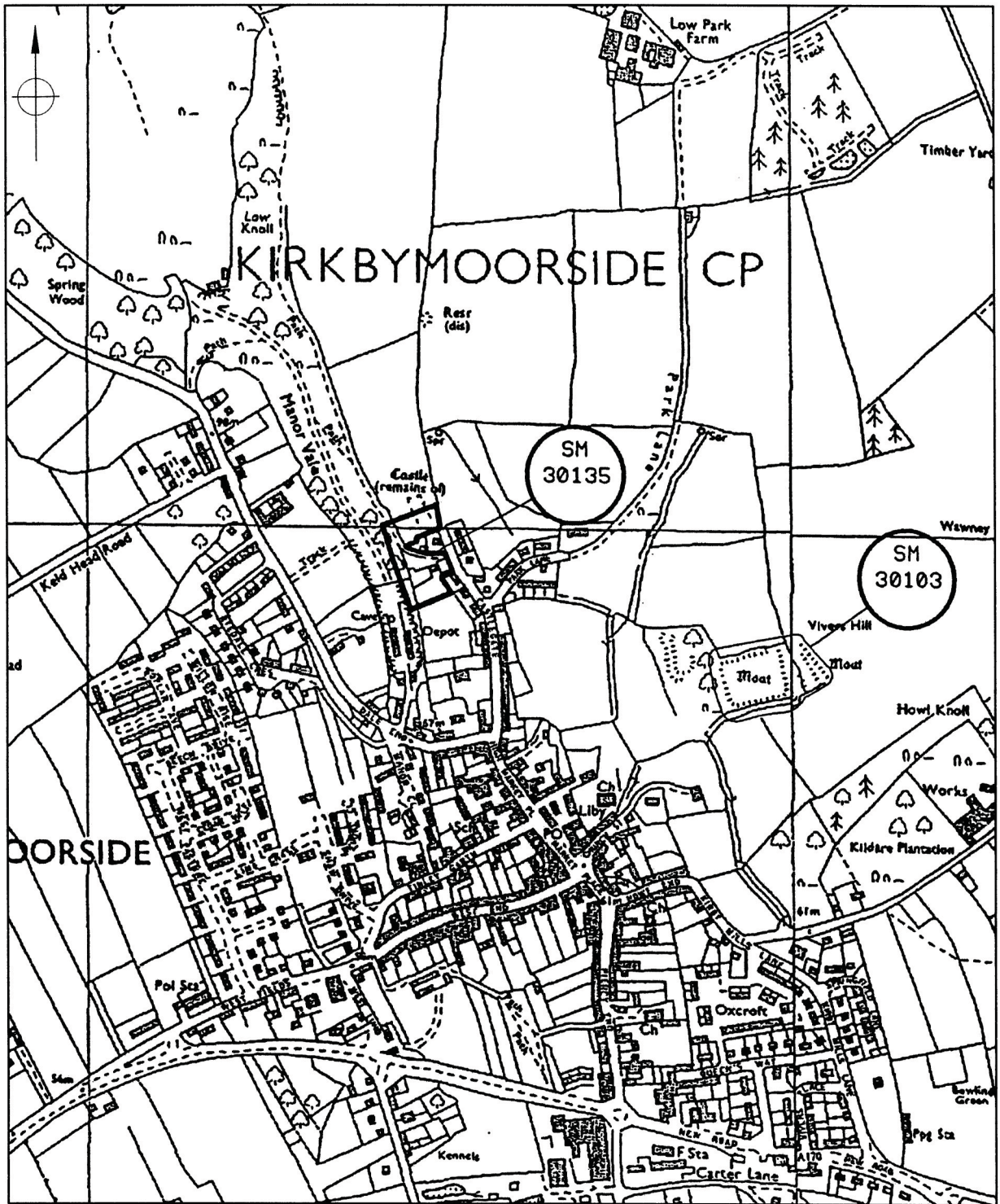
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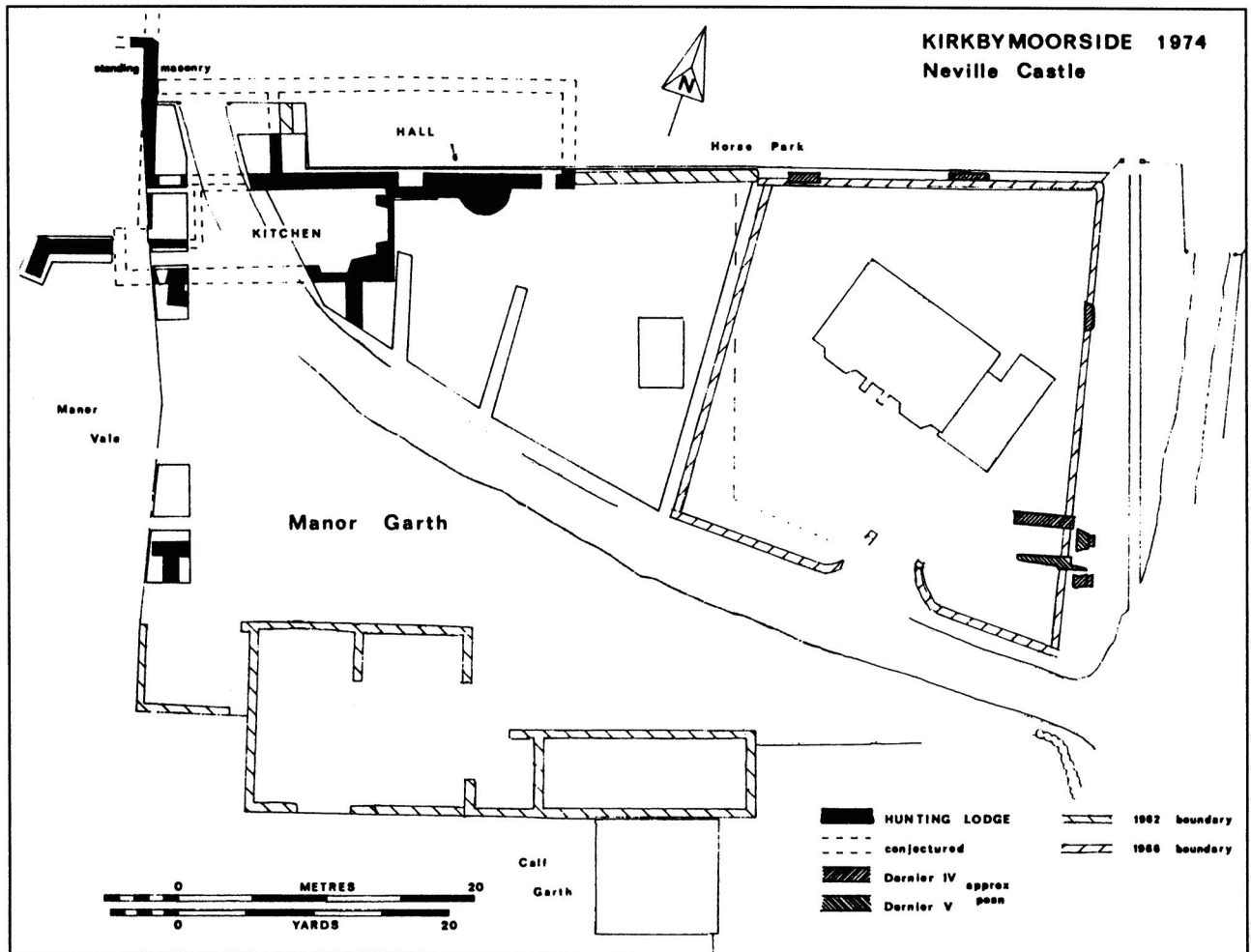
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 EDAS would like thank Steve Arrowsuch (Historic Building Restoration), Giles Proctor, Keith Emerick and Lindsey Martell (English Heritage) and Dominic Lockett (Ferrey & Mennim) for their co-operation during the project. Thanks are also due to the owners of the monument, Kirkbymoorside Town Council, for permission to access the site during the archaeological recording. The on-site recording was undertaken by Ed Dennison and Shaun Richardson, and Steve Haigh took the photographs. The final report was produced by Ed Dennison, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.



Source: DCMS 1998.

PROJECT	
NEVILLE CASTLE, KIRKBYMOORSIDE	
TITLE	
SITE LOCATION	
SCALE	DATE
NTS	OCT 2007
EDAS	FIGURE
	1



Source: Williams 1977, 88.

PROJECT	
NEVILLE CASTLE, KIRKBYMOORSIDE	
TITLE	
PREVIOUS EXCAVATIONS	
SCALE	DATE
AS SHOWN	OCT 2007
EDAS	FIGURE
	2



Plate 1: East elevation prior to vegetation clearance and consolidation, looking W (photo 1/1).



Plate 2: West elevation prior to vegetation clearance and consolidation, looking S (photo 1/13).



Plate 3: East elevation after consolidation, looking SW (photo 4/3).

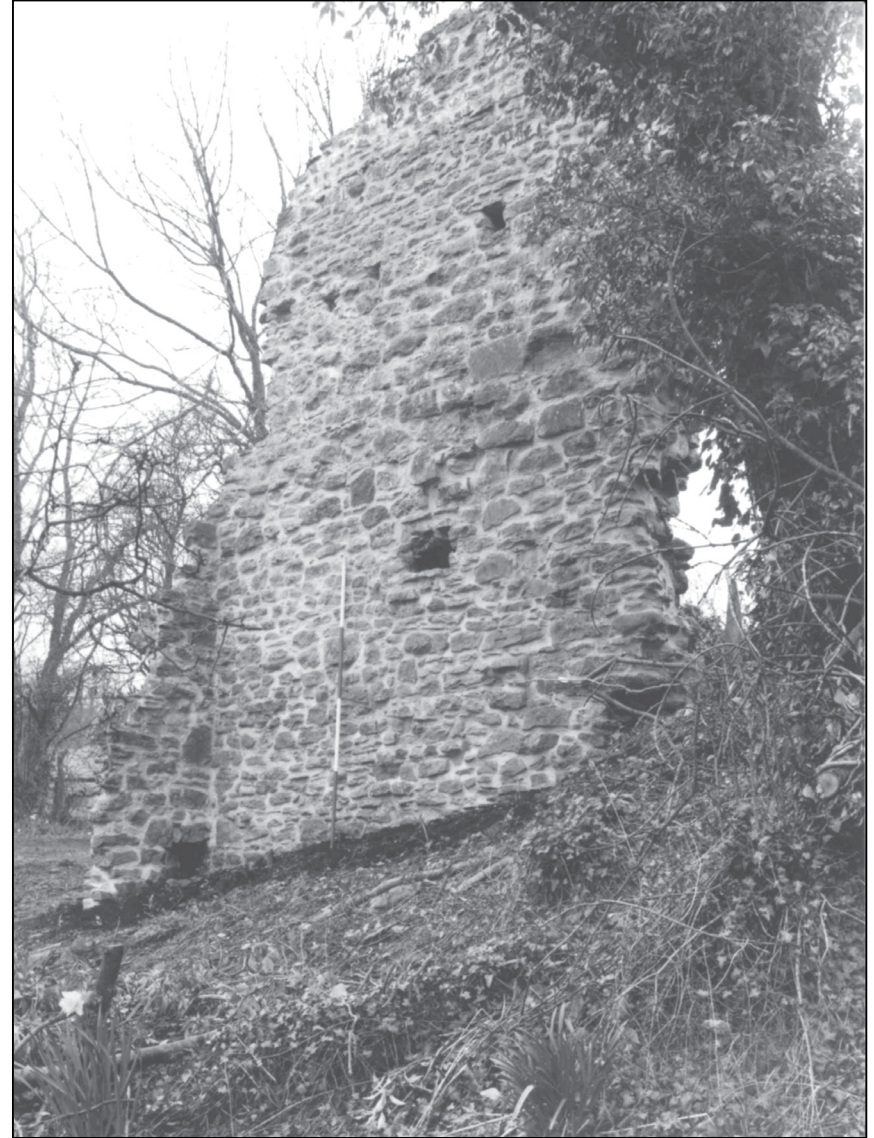


Plate 4: West elevation after consolidation, looking E (photo 4/6).

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Film 1: Medium format black & white prints taken 30/09/04

Film 2: Medium format black & white prints taken 30/09/04

Film 3: 35mm colour slides taken 30/09/04

Film 4: Medium format black & white prints taken 22/03/05

Film 5: 35mm colour slides taken 22/03/05

Film	Frame	Subject	Scale
1	1	East elevation , looking W	2m
1	5	East elevation, looking NW	2m
1	7	Top of east elevation, looking NW	2m
1	10	East elevation, looking S	2m
1	12	Return at north end of wall, looking S	2m
1	13	West elevation, looking S	2m
1	16	West elevation, looking E	2m
2	1	Top of west elevation, looking E	2m
2	4	Detail of socket in east elevation, looking W	2m
2	6	General view of site, looking S	2m
2	8	Remains of chamfered plinth to SW of site, looking E	1m
3	3	East elevation, looking W	2m
3	4	East elevation, looking W	2m
3	6	East elevation, looking NW	2m
3	8	Top of east elevation, looking NW	2m
3	9	East elevation, looking NW	2m
3	11	East elevation, looking S	2m
3	12	East elevation, looking S	2m
3	13	Return at north end of wall, looking S	2m
3	14	Return at north end of wall, looking S	2m
3	17	Socket in east elevation, looking W	2m
4	1	General view after consolidation, looking NW	2m
4	2	East elevation after consolidation, looking W	2m
4	3	East elevation after consolidation, looking SW	2m
4	5	Return at north end after consolidation, looking S	2m
4	6	West elevation after consolidation, looking N	2m

Film	Frame	Subject	Scale
4	7	Socket in east elevation after consolidation, looking W	2m
5	11	East elevation after consolidation, looking W	2m
5	14	Return at north end after consolidation, looking S	2m

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: EDAS METHOD STATEMENT

RECTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF, YORKSHIRE MINIBARS (BUILDINGS AT RISK) PROJECT

Introduction

English Heritage require some rectified photographic survey work to be undertaken at six individual monuments within the Yorkshire region as part of a limited programme of repairs. This survey work will record the present condition of the various structures and their component parts prior to any repairs. A watching brief will then be carried out once repairs are in progress, so that records can be made of the proposed intervention work and any additional archaeological or architectural information that might be uncovered.

The six individual monuments are as follows:

- Newton Kyme Castle, North Yorkshire (NGR SE46604493)
- Rothwell Castle, West Yorkshire (NGR SE342283)
- John O’Gaunt’s Castle, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire (NGR SE21955453)
- Neville Castle, Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire (NGR SE6946894)
- Seamer Manor House, North Yorkshire (NGR TA01308344)
- Crayke Castle, North Yorkshire (NGR SE55917067 – SE56247071)

The following method statement has been prepared by Ed Dennison of Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) in response to an English Heritage brief and a visit to the individual sites.

Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- to provide a rectified survey of each of the six monuments to record their condition “as found” prior to the proposed limited interventions;
- to provide an archaeological watching brief during the proposed limited interventions, to record and recover any information relating to any archaeological or architectural features and deposits which might be present on the site and which will be affected by the proposed interventions;
- to provide a report on the above.

Pre-intervention Survey

The pre-intervention survey work will comprise two distinct elements, the rectified photographic survey and a brief architectural / archaeological description. Given the costs and procedures involved, a standard photographic survey is proposed as an alternative to the rectified photographic survey.

Rectified Survey

The rectified photographic survey will be sub-contracted to Photarc Surveys Ltd of Harrogate. EDAS and Photarc have worked together on several historic building recording projects in the past, including Harewood Castle and All Saints Church, Pontefract.

The site photography will be taken using a Zeiss UMK 10/1318 camera using black and white negative film commensurate with a 1:20 scale survey. All photography will be taken from ground level - there is no inclusion within the present fee proposal for hydraulic platforms and/or scaffolding towers, although this could be included if required.

It is important to note that some elevations of the six monuments are small, and not worthy of specialised photographic survey (see below). Only those elevations with a perpendicular stand off distance greater than 1.6m will also be able to be covered. Apart from Seamer Manor House, the ends of walls will not be covered unless they have some residual returns. It should also be noted that some sections of the “to-be-

recorded" walls are presently obscured by vegetation, although this might have died back if the surveys were undertaken in the winter months.

Some angled photography may be necessary to maximise the coverage, but this will be kept to a minimum. Photography will be taken using mainly natural daylight but flash will be used for internal areas.

The coverage afforded to each monument will be as follows (joins indicates the degree of effort if mosaicing is to be commissioned), together with details of vegetation management required:

- Newton Kyme Castle: the north-south wall and its returns (16 photos / 11 joins) plus the window in the churchyard (2 photos / 0 joins). Some pruning of the branches of the trees obscuring the wall will be required – this should be undertaken by the client / owner with agreement of the landowner prior to the survey taking place.
- Rothwell Castle: the two elevations of the remaining pillar of masonry (4 photos / 2 joins) and the two sections (3 photos / 2 joins and 3 photos / 2 joins) of the adjacent boundary wall (southern elevation only). Some limited clearance of scrub and annual vegetation will be undertaken by the survey team to help expose the two sections of the boundary wall, and to try and expose the near ground courses of the remaining pillar of masonry.
- John O'Gaunts Castle: the remains of the gatehouse only (8 photos / 2 joins). Long grass at the base of the elevations will be flattened by the survey team to help expose the lower courses.
- Neville Castle: the two elevations of the 6m high wall only – the areas described in the SAM documentation as being in private gardens are not included (7 photos / 6 joins). The western face of the wall is currently obscured by scrub vegetation and, although this could be cleared by the survey team, the wall is in a nature reserve – any approvals for vegetation clearance should therefore be arranged and undertaken by the client in conjunction with the landowner. There is also some ivy growth on the wall, that is expected to remain.
- Seamer Manor House: the two upstanding elevations and the ends (due to their width) of the one section of wall (6 photos / 2 joins). The long grass around the base of the elevation will be flattened by the survey team to help expose the lower courses.
- Crayke Castle: discussions of English Heritage have established that the currently occupied part of the castle (the "Great Chamber") is not required to be surveyed. Work will therefore concentrate on the ruined "New Tower" to the north-east, and will include all elevations that have a perpendicular stand off distance of 1.6m or greater. This will also include all the undercroft elevations, but the side walls of the stairs would not be covered. The vaulted ceilings are not included except where they spring from the tops of the elevations (55 photos / 24 joins). There is currently a substantial amount of ivy and other growth on the ruins which is assumed will remain – these areas will therefore be obscured.

All the photography will be processed using a Zeiss rewind film processor and printed by Photarc. All the imagery will be scanned on a Zeiss SCAI photogrammetric scanner at a resolution of 14 micrometres. This will give a pixel size of 1.4mm for a scale of 1:100, although most photographs will be at a larger scale than this.

All photography will be controlled by manual measurement only, using a combination of targets and scale bars. The survey control will be undertaken at the same time as the photography. A sketch plan will accompany each individual survey to show the location and direction of each photographic shot.

The rectification will be conducted on ISM DiAP digital photogrammetric systems using Sysimage software. If mosaicing is commissioned (see below) the same software will be used.

The photographic survey team (two personnel) will be on site for up to four working days with no more than one day at any one site.

Architectural / Archaeological Description

Although not required by the survey brief, it is considered appropriate to undertake a brief assessment of the monument being photographed, so that an up-to-date architectural and/or archaeological description can be produced. This will provide an accurate statement of the form and structure of the monument (to include stonework and earthwork remains) which could then be used to inform the proposed conservation and remedial works.

It is envisaged that this description would equate to a Level 2 survey as defined by English Heritage ("Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification", 3rd edition 1996), although additional information, for example relating to any structural phasing, would also be included. It should be noted that this description will arise solely from a visual inspection of the monument, and that no documentary or cartographic details will be gathered, apart from that which might be provided by the client at the start of the project.

This Level 2 survey work would be carried out by EDAS, and would be limited to one day's site inspection per monument.

Alternative Photographic Survey

As an alternative to the rectified photographic survey, the client might find it more cost-effective to undertake a general photographic survey of the six monuments. This work would equate to a Level 3 photographic survey as defined English Heritage.

General and detailed photographs will be taken of all external elevations, providing straight-on and oblique-angle shots, as well as a selection from a distance showing the monument in its landscape setting (as practicable). Internal rooms and spaces would also be photographed, from at least two angles to ensure comprehensive coverage. Detailed shots will also be taken (using appropriate lenses and ancillary lighting or flash) of any surviving historic interior fittings.

All photographs will be in black and white and will be taken with a Medium Format camera which has perspective control, using a tripod. A silver-based film will be used, no faster than ISO400, although slower films may be used where possible to produce higher definition images.

All detailed photographs will contain a graduated photographic scale of appropriate dimensions (subject to access), while more general shots should have a ranging rod discretely positioned. It is envisaged that approximately 30 individual shots will be taken of each monument, although some more complex structures such as Crake Castle may have up to 50.

This Level 3 photographic survey would be carried out by EDAS, and would be limited to one day's site work per monument.

Archaeological Watching Brief

It is intended that the watching brief should not delay the proposed conservation or other remedial works, and much can be achieved through liaison and co-operation with the building contractor and the project architect. However, the main contractor and architect should ensure that sufficient time and resources have been allocated to ensure proper completion of the watching brief.

All archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the Conservation Architect's proposed timetable, unless agreed otherwise. Reasonable prior notice (minimum two weeks) of the commencement of development should be given EDAS. EDAS would then be afforded access to the site and/or monument at all reasonable times to view the works in progress, to make the necessary records. EDAS would closely monitor all proposed works, and should be allowed adequate time to clean, assess, sample and/or record any exposed or uncovered features and finds where appropriate.

Any features of archaeological or architectural interest identified by the watching brief will be accurately recorded by photographs (35mm format – colour slide and colour prints), scale drawings and written descriptions as judged adequate by EDAS, using appropriate proforma record sheets and standard archaeological recording systems. Finds and environmental samples will also be retrieved as appropriate, in accordance with national and regional guidelines.

If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries are made that warrant more recording than is covered by this method statement, immediate contact will be made with English Heritage and the Conservation Architect. This will allow appropriate amendments to be made to the scope of the watching brief, in agreement with all parties concerned.

Any finds uncovered by the works will be treated according to standard archaeological procedures. The terms of the Treasure Act (1996) will also be followed with regard to any finds which might fall within its purview. Any such finds will be removed to a safe place, and recorded to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

The archaeological watching brief would be undertaken by EDAS. The number and duration of the site visits will be determined by the extent and speed of the proposed works. However, for the purposes of this method statement, it is assumed that one full day's visit will be required for each monument.

Survey Products

Rectified Survey

In terms of the product from the rectified survey, the original imagery will be sleeved and labeled as one set of negatives and one set of contact prints. The rectified photography will be presented in digital form and provided as one set of TIFF images on CD/DVD with a ground pixel size of 3mm according to English Heritage specification for 1:20 surveys. No individual prints will therefore be produced – English Heritage, the conservation architect and/or other interested parties will be able to produce their own individual set of prints at whatever scale as and when required. However, a set of laser quality prints at a scale of 1:50 could be provided for an additional charge.

The client may consider it would be more appropriate to mosaic the individual photographs so that composite (i.e. joined-up) elevations can be produced. If mosaicing is commissioned, the mosaiced and rectified photography will be presented as plot files in a suitable format for Autocad. One set of accompanying paper plots will also be delivered.

All rectified photographic data will be retained for a minimum of six years, in accordance with Photarc's standard procedures.

Alternative Photographic Survey

Black and white shots from the alternative photographic survey will be printed at a size of 5" x 7" (unless requested otherwise – larger size prints may be subject to additional charges). Separate photographic registers and plans detailing the location and direction of each shot will accompany the photographic record.

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

A brief archive survey report will be produced, detailing the results of the archaeological watching briefs and the pre-intervention site descriptions (if commissioned). The English Heritage project brief suggests that this document should represent a combined report from all six watching briefs, rather an individual report for each site.

For each site, this report will assemble and summarise the available evidence arising from the watching brief in an ordered form, synthesise the data, and comment on the quality and reliability of the evidence and how it might need to be supplemented by further work.

The report will use numbered paragraphs and be paginated, and will contain the following as a minimum:

- a site location plan, related to the OS national Grid (preferably the latest OS 1:2500 map);
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results of the watching briefs;
- a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and the results obtained;
- plans, sections or other drawings at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of identified finds and deposits;

- photographs (35mm format) where significant archaeological deposits or artefacts are encountered;
- a written description and analysis of the results of the watching briefs, in the context of the known archaeology of the area;
- specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary;
- a bibliography or list of sources consulted;
- a copy of this method statement (and any variations);
- an index to the site archive.

The finished report will be supplied within one month after completion of the fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed with the client. Five copies of the final report will be produced, for distribution to English Heritage (2 copies), the County Sites and Monuments Records (1 copy to North Yorkshire and 1 copy to West Yorkshire), and the owner or agent. The information content of the report will become publicly accessible once deposited with the SMRs, although the authors will retain the right to be acknowledged as originators of the work. Copyright of the report, and all survey data, will pass to English Heritage on payment of final invoices.

Archive Deposition

A properly ordered and indexed project archive (paper, magnetic and plastic media) will be deposited with an appropriate registered museum at the end of the project; given that one combined archive will be produced, the museum which covers the majority of the monuments will be chosen. It is expected that the archive will contain survey control information, field and final ink drawings, written accounts, structured catalogues and indices, and project management records. Drawn records will be presented as wet ink plots on standard "A" size matt surface stable polyester film sheets. Digital data will also be provided in a format suitable for transfer to an industry standard software.

Resources and Programming

As noted above, the project would be undertaken by EDAS, who are on North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire County Council's approved list of archaeological contractors. EDAS is also registered as an archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The project would be undertaken and directed by Ed Dennison of EDAS. The majority of the watching brief work would be undertaken by Shaun Richardson of EDAS. Both have particular expertise in building recording projects and have undertaken numerous similar projects in the past for English Heritage, including detailed surveys of Harewood Castle, Sheriff Hutton Castle, Slingsby Castle, Ayton Castle and Sandal Castle. Summary CV's are attached. Other clients include the National Trust, North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authorities, several Conservation Architects, and numerous commercial companies.

Photarc Surveys Ltd will be subcontracted to undertake the rectified photographic survey work. They are a well respected and experienced firm who have worked for many for English Heritage, the National Trust, Cadw, Historic Scotland, and many architects and local authorities. Summary CVs for their Technical Director and Technical Manager are attached, and further information on the company can be found on their website (www.photarc.co.uk).

As noted above, it is estimated that the rectified site survey work could be completed by a team of two personnel within four working days with no more than one day at any one site. The alternative photographic survey would be completed within one day per monument, as would the archaeological / architectural descriptions. The timescales for the watching brief would be determined by the Conservation Architect, but the level of work proposed has suggested an allowance of one day on site per monument.

The timetable for the reporting elements would depend on the range and scale of work undertaken by the watching briefs, but it is estimated that a two week period would be sufficient, after the completion of the site work.

The English Heritage project brief also suggests that three monitoring meetings will be required, at the beginning of the contract, one during the fieldwork, and one at the end of the fieldwork to discuss the reporting requirements.

The fee proposal for the work is attached as a separate sheet.

Health and Safety, and Insurance

EDAS and their subcontractors 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.

All archaeological work on site will be carried out with due regard for all Health and Safety considerations, under existing company policies. This may include the production of a risk assessment, although it is presently considered that there are no major Health and Safety implications as all the pre-intervention survey work will be carried out from ground level. As the watching brief will be carried out at the same time as the building works, regard will also be made for any constraints or restrictions imposed by the building contractor.

EDAS and their subcontractors would indemnify the landowners of each monument in respect of their legal liability for physical injury to persons or damage to property arising on site in connection with the survey work, to the extent of EDAS's and Photarc's Public Liability Insurance Cover (both £5,000,000).

Ed Dennison, EDAS
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