

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

JOHN OF GAUNT'S CASTLE, HAVERAH PARK

PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

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**JOHN OF GAUNT'S CASTLE, HAVERAH PARK, NORTH YORKSHIRE:
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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND INFORMATION	1
3	OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
4	SITE DESCRIPTION	3
5	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	5
6	BIBLIOGRAPHY	6
7	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7

Appendices

1	Photographic Register
2	EDAS Method Statement

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 John of Gaunt's Castle in Haverah Park.

The site is named after John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, who acquired the site in 1372 from the Crown. It is likely that the lodge was originally established at the same time as the park in the late 12th century, although the first known reference occurs in 1333 when substantial repairs were undertaken to an existing building. At this date, the lodge had a chapel above the gatehouse, a hall, a king's and queen's chamber and was roofed with lead, and the complex had a moat around it.

The lodge is formed by a core structure c.17m square, standing on its own platform, with other buildings and structures positioned between it and the surrounding moat. The only substantial piece of standing masonry is located on the south side of the lodge platform, possibly representing the remains of a gatehouse. The earthworks suggest a walled enclosure with buildings arranged around at least two of the sides, rather than a single large tower-like structure. The moated platform, which measures c.34m by c.30m overall, takes the form of a pentagon with an angled north side, which may have been created to accentuate the profile of the lodge when viewed from the north and/or to provide a better vantage point to look out from. There are other earthworks in the vicinity which may be related to a royal horse stud which is also known to have existed within the park.

The farm complex of Haverah Park Top lies just to the south of the lodge site, comprising a range of ruined farm buildings and earthworks. Two underground turnip stores, now ruined but consolidated as part of this project, associated with the farm were dug into the south side of the moat's outer bank, presumably in the 19th century.

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 John O'Gaunt's castle stand in an isolated location adjacent to Haverah Park Top, some 7km to the west of Harrogate in North Yorkshire (NGR SE21955453). The site is now accessed off the B6451 along Watson's Lane and then via a public footpath (see figure 1). It lies in an elevated position on a spur of land overlooking the Beaver Dyke reservoirs to the north. The ground slopes steeply downwards away from the site towards the reservoir to the north, east and west. To the south, it rises slightly before falling away gently towards the ruinous remains of the farm complex. The site itself is represented by a single section of upstanding walling set towards the centre of extensive and well preserved earthworks which no doubt overlie buried archaeological deposits, all located within an area of rough pasture.

2.2 The site is a Scheduled Monument (SM 29547), first added to the schedule on 17th December 1929. The scheduling was subsequently amended on 1st April 1974 and revised on 19th March 1998 (DCMS 1998). The site is listed on the National Monuments Record (site SE 25 SW 2) and the North Yorkshire County Historic Environment Record (site 21049).

Objectives of the Project

2.3 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

- 2.4 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 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 34 black and white photographs were taken, supplemented by a number of 35mm colour slides and prints. The photographic catalogue is presented as Appendix 1, and a limited number of the prints are reproduced in this report for illustrative purposes.
- 2.5 The initial site visit took place on the 7th January 2005 but the high winds and driving rain made conditions unsuitable for photography. The photographic survey was therefore undertaken on the 31st January 2005, prior to the scaffolding of the structure. Given the relatively low height and accessibility of the structural remains, it was decided that nothing further could be gained by visiting the site whilst scaffolded. A final site visit was made by the photographer on 17th May 2005 to record the site following the completion of the consolidation works.
- 2.6 The project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with Harrogate Museum (site code JGH 05). 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

- 2.7 A full copy of the specification for the consolidation works provided by Ferrey & Mennim is included as part of the project archive. In outline, the work involved selective repointing, the limited resetting and rebuilding of areas of corework and facing stone, and the infilling of voids.

3 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 John of Gaunt's Castle takes its name from John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster (d.1399), son of Edward III and uncle of Richard II, who acquired the site in 1372. However, in contrast to its name, the site was actually a royal hunting lodge set within the medieval park of Haverah, itself lying within the Forest of Knaresborough. Haverah Park covered some 2250 acres and was created in the late 12th century, and it remained with the Crown until Gaunt's acquisition in 1372. It is likely that the lodge was originally established at the same time as the park, although the first known reference occurs in 1333 when substantial repairs were undertaken to an existing building and a moat dug around it. At this date, the lodge had a chapel above the gatehouse, a hall, a king's and queen's chamber and was roofed with lead (DCMS 1998; Salter 2001, 42). It is also known that one of the King's stud-farms was located in the park, and possibly at the lodge site, and the later rebuilding between 1333 and 1337 was supervised by the Keeper of the King's Horse North of

Trent. The tower was initially built of wood, and the later chapel and two royal chambers had 19 glass windows, all embellished with the King's arms and specially made in York (Turner 2004, 202).

- 3.2 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1853 6" map (sheet 153) names the site as "John of Gaunt's Castle (In Ruins)" and depicts a square structure with a small projection on the south side surrounded by a moat, also sub-square in plan (see figure 2). There is a break in the south side of the moat and a farm complex named as "Haverah Park Top" just to the south-east. The farm comprised several conjoined ranges forming an F-shape in plan, with more scattered buildings, probably including the farmhouse, to the west. An "Ancient Dam" is also marked some distance to the east of the lodge site, apparently straddling the Beaver Dike but destroyed by the creation of the Beaver Dyke Reservoirs. The 1853 6" map also shows a series of terraces to the north of the lodge on the opposite side of the Beaver Dike; these are named as "Bank Slack" on the modern 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map.
- 3.3 Despite the importance and condition of the well-preserved site, there do not appear to have been any previous surveys of the complex, and documentary research seems very limited.

4 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 4.1 The following site description is based on observations made and information noted during the site visits of the 7th and 13th January 2005, supplemented by details contained in the sources listed in the bibliography. As part of the site work, a sketch plan was made of the site at a scale of 1:250 (see figure 3).
- 4.2 The only substantial piece of standing masonry is located within the inner core of the site, towards to the south side of a sub-square platform at the end of an entrance way; the structure is not surprisingly suggested by the DCMS to represent the remains of a gatehouse. It comprises two fragments of a wall, aligned east-west, separated by a shallow spread of material probably representing fallen masonry but perhaps the remains of a ramp (see plate 1). Each wall fragment is c.2m long and returns to the north at its outer end. The western fragment returns 2m to the north while the eastern fragment returns slightly further to the north (see plate 2), but both end in ragged joints. The eastern fragment stands to c.3m in height but the western is much lower. Both are faced with coursed squared brown sandstone rubble and, where this has been removed, a core of rubble/lime mortar is exposed. The contrasting pattern of core and facing stone at the corner of the eastern fragment suggests that quoins were once present here. No other features such as joints or putlog holes were visible. Extrapolating from the ruins, a building measuring c.6m (east-west) by c.2m (north-south) is suggested.
- 4.3 The wall fragments stand on the south side of a sub-square raised platform suggested by the DCMS to form the remains of a tower. This tower platform is c.17m square but the north side forms a shallow angle. The sides of the upper parts of the platform are defined by 1.5m wide low banks containing a high proportion of stone rubble; there appears to be a break in the north bank just to the east of centre. A number of features are visible within the area enclosed by the bank. A slight platform, c.12m long (north-south) by c.4m wide (east-west) with a small mound at the north end, runs along the east side. There is a similar smaller feature on the south side and in the centre, a shallow sub-square depression c.2.5m across.
- 4.4 The tower platform is set just to the east of centre of a much larger platform c.35m square and again angled on the north side. The DCMS note that the base of the

tower platform is surrounded by a shallow ditch, although this has the appearance of building platforms and structures set around the tower rather than an actual ditch. To the north, there are two shallow platforms and a small structure c.3.5m square at the north-east corner. A much larger levelled area runs along the east side, with some sub-circular earthworks at the south end containing a high proportion of rubble. To the west, there are two levelled areas, separated by a low rubble bank c.1m wide, apparently returning to the east at its south end.

- 4.5 The larger platform is surrounded by a substantial moat, up to c.4m wide at the base and c.2m deep, with steep sides and angled to the north, mirroring the alignment of the north side of the tower platform (see plate 3). The moat is slightly narrower on the east side than on the other three sides, and retains traces of stone revetting to the south-east corner. The outer bank of the moat is also a prominent feature, being up to c.2m high and over c.10m wide to the east and west. It is slightly less substantial on the north side of the moat but wider to the south, reaching a width of c.12m. The south part of the moat is crossed by an earth causeway or ramp, centrally placed, with an inset to the east in the south-east corner of the main platform. Although the ramp is shown depicted in 1853, it may not be the original access onto the main platform and could result from later infilling. A ruined drystone wall runs along the top of the moat's outer bank; where it survives most completely, it is 1.2m high with a battered profile and incorporates several rows of throughstones, although these do not project beyond the wall face.
- 4.6 There are further earthworks beyond the moated platform, and no doubt many more could be recorded by a detailed measured survey of the surrounding area. Some of these are almost certainly related to the post-medieval farm complex located to the south of the lodge (see below) but others may be older, perhaps relating to the royal horse stud. The south-east corner of the moat's outer bank is not as clearly defined as the other three and appears to have been disturbed by other earthworks perhaps associated with the farm complex. There are additional earthworks beyond the outer bank's south-west corner, whilst to the north-west, on the steep slope leading down to the reservoir, there are earthwork features that appear to be artificial rather than the result of natural slippage.
- 4.7 The farm complex lies to the south of the lodge site and comprises a range of ruined farm buildings and earthworks. As stated above, the complex is named as "Haverah Park Top" in 1853 and was formed by a number of conjoined ranges forming an F-shape in plan, with detached buildings to the west, including the farmhouse.
- 4.8 The farm is now disused but was evidently modified during its working life from that shown in 1853. Two new buildings were constructed across the former open side of the F-plan to create a courtyard arrangement. All surviving buildings are either one or two storeys in height, built of coursed squared stone and roofed with slate. The remains of the farmhouse, principally one gable wall, can be seen to the west, with further earthworks and drystone walled enclosures to the south. No detailed examination of the farm buildings or drystone walls was undertaken as part of the current project, but it is likely that material re-used from the medieval hunting lodge could be identified amongst them.
- 4.9 Two elements of the farm complex had a direct impact on the lodge, in that they were dug into the south side of the moat's outer bank. There are two structures here, each of a similar form. The western example is the better preserved, and is built of squared coursed sandstone rubble set with lime mortar (see plate 4). The front (south) wall containing a doorway has largely collapsed but the 4.70m long vaulted structure behind is well preserved, and has a small chute at

the north end. The vault itself is built of rubble and has an arched profile rising to an apex of flat slabs. It is 1.99m in height and covered with earth. The vault of the eastern example has largely collapsed, but it was obviously of a similar size and construction to that described above. The end walls survive well; the doorway at the south end has a large stone lintel and there is also a chute in the north wall (see plate 6). Although the DCMS interpreted the structures as being used for the storage of root crops, game or ice, they are actually for turnips and other root crops, and several other examples are known at farms in this area (Steve Haigh, *pers. comm.*). As well as the two turnip stores, there were once other structures terraced into the bank here, now clearly visible as earthworks.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Royal hunting lodges played an important role as royal houses from the late 11th century and they were built in increasing numbers during the 12th and 13th centuries (DCMS 1998). However, during the 14th century their numbers were reduced and they became increasingly concentrated in London and the south-east. Even royal residences in the north of England that might have been useful when travelling to Scotland, such as Cowick and Burstwick in Yorkshire were granted away (Steane 1999, 80-82). The same scenario might be visible at John of Gaunt's Castle, where the formal royal hunting lodge was acquired by John of Gaunt in 1372.
- 5.2 The lodge stands at the western end of the former Haverah Park, occupying an elevated and prominent position, as is usual for such structures (Moorhouse 2003, 346, Moorhouse 2007, 117-119). The existing appearance of the earthworks may largely be a result of the alterations carried out in 1333, although the form, with buildings on a central platform surrounded by a moat and outer bank, is seen at royal hunting lodges from at least the late 12th century (Steane 1999, 80-82 & 87-88). The outer bank of the lodge may well have been topped by a palisade or perhaps a stone wall, with a break through which to access the lodge itself. The outer bank enclosed the moat, a substantial feature. At the time of the original site visit, after a prolonged period of heavy rain, the base of the eastern arm of the moat still held water. No original inlet or outlet points were identified for the moat, and so whether it relied solely on rainfall or was originally provided with an artificial water supply remains as yet unclear. As stated above, although the central location of the causeway or ramp across the south side of the moat suggest it is an original feature, it could also be later infilling to replace a former bridge; the royal hunting lodge at Writtle in Essex, built by John in 1201, was surrounded by a moat crossed by two bridges, each with its own smaller forebuilding and one leading to a gatehouse (Steane 1999, 87-88). The provision of such features as moats and gatehouses at these sites was almost always governed by aesthetic rather than military reasons, as indeed may have partly been the elevated position.
- 5.3 The lodge itself was compact, occupying the platform surrounded by the moat and was formed by a core structure c.17m square, standing on its own smaller platform, with other buildings and structures around its edges set between it and the moat. The angled north side of the core structure, replicated by the moat and outer bank, was deliberately created and is an interesting feature. The pentagonal shape, with the angled side jutting out towards the north to the valley of the Beaver Dike, may have been used to accentuate the profile of the lodge when viewed from the north and/or to provide a better vantage point to look out from. Similar angled sides have been noted to two of the connecting ranges at the late 14th century castle in Sheriff Hutton in North Yorkshire, although here they are at least partly ascribed to design alterations during the original construction period (Wright & Richardson 2005).

- 5.4 The DCMS characterise the core structure as a tower, and in this case the earthworks noted internally may be the remains of internal divisions rather than buildings. The tower may have included the higher status rooms such as the hall, chapel and queen's chambers (although not necessarily so), with other buildings set around its sides and the edge of the larger platform. There are however a number of problems with such an interpretation. Whilst the core area is clearly raised above the surrounding earthworks on its own platform, and the ruined remains of a substantial wall run around the top of this platform, at c.17m square it would be comparable with the great corner towers of late 14th century residences such as Bolton and Sheriff Hutton castles, both North Yorkshire. Even though the site functioned as a royal hunting lodge, a structure more like the three storey early to mid 14th century solar tower with hall built by the Hoton family, Crown Foresters of the royal forest of Inglewood at Hutton-in-the-Forest in Cumbria, might be expected (Emery 1996, 212-213). An alternative, and probably more likely, explanation might be that the core structure, rather than representing a single tower, forms the remains of an inner walled enclosure, with buildings arranged around at least two of the sides. These buildings could still have been substantially taller than those surrounding them, and indeed if the whole of the larger platform were filled with structures, it would represent a complex of some size.
- 5.5 The hunting lodge would not have existed in isolation. Quite apart from the other structures needed for the maintenance and running of the hunting park and the accommodation of the royal household, a detailed survey of the park, combined with further documentary research, would almost certainly reveal traces of the landscape which pre and post-dated it. An example is the "Ancient Dam" marked on the Ordnance Survey 1853 6" map. Is this contemporary with the hunting lodge, used to create a lake on the line of the Beaver Dike to enhance the landscape setting of the lodge, or is it an earlier or later structure, used to create a head of water to serve an industrial purpose – there are early 14th century records of an iron-smelting forge and mine workings in Haverah Park for example (Jennings 1983, 62-63).
- 5.6 The brief examination of the farm buildings carried out as part of this project suggests that the farm was established in either the late 18th or early 19th century. The provision of the root crop storage structures suggests that it might originally have been organised around the system of turnip husbandry which had become popular during this period (*Farmer's Magazine* 1805, 128-134). The layout of the farm was modified again after c.1850, although it has not been able to establish when farming ceased on the site.
- 5.7 As far as can be determined, figure 3 provides the first plan of the lodge site although only in a sketch form. It is obvious that a more detailed survey of the complex, and the adjacent farm buildings, would allow for a better understanding of the site and any sequence of development.

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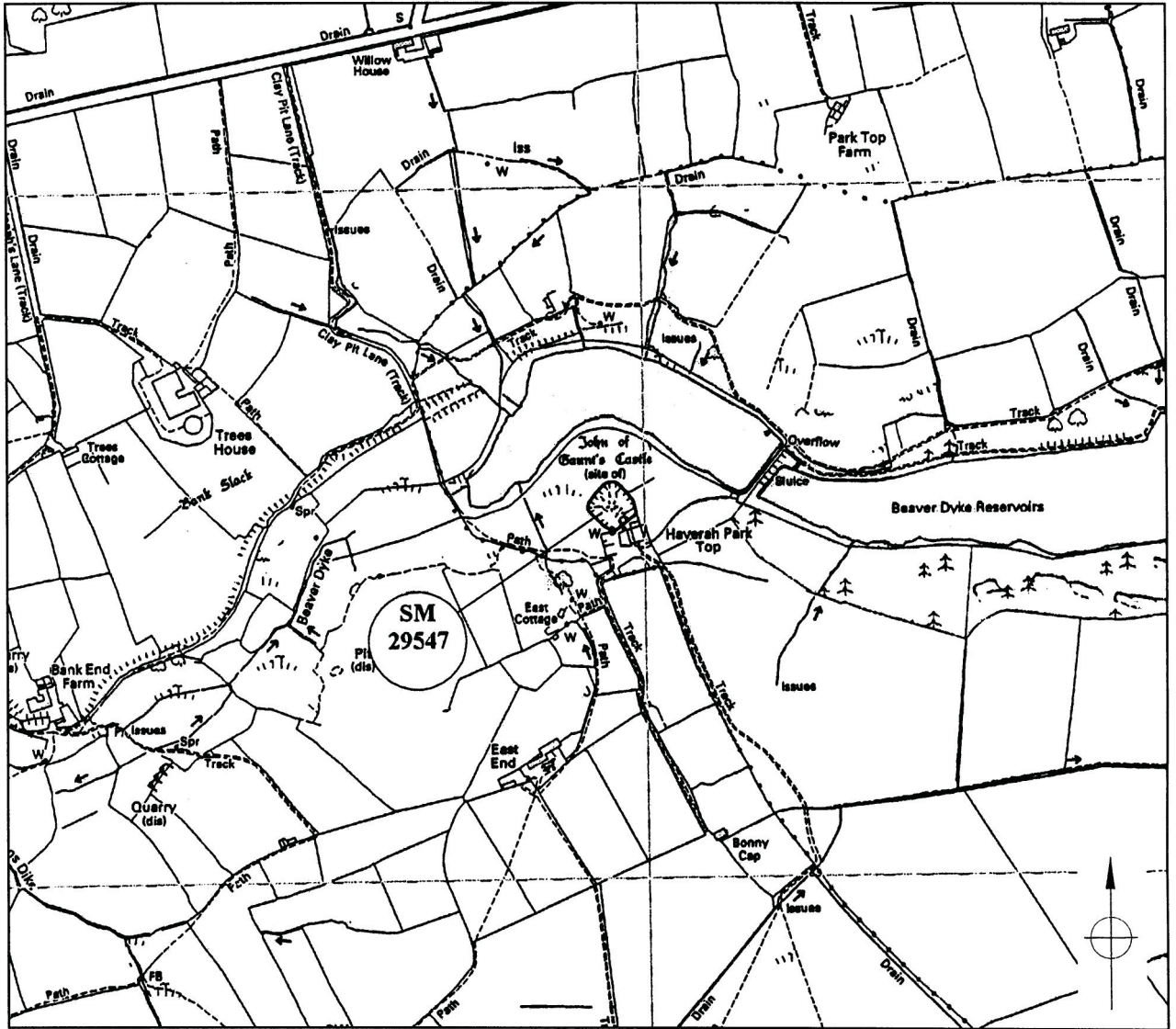
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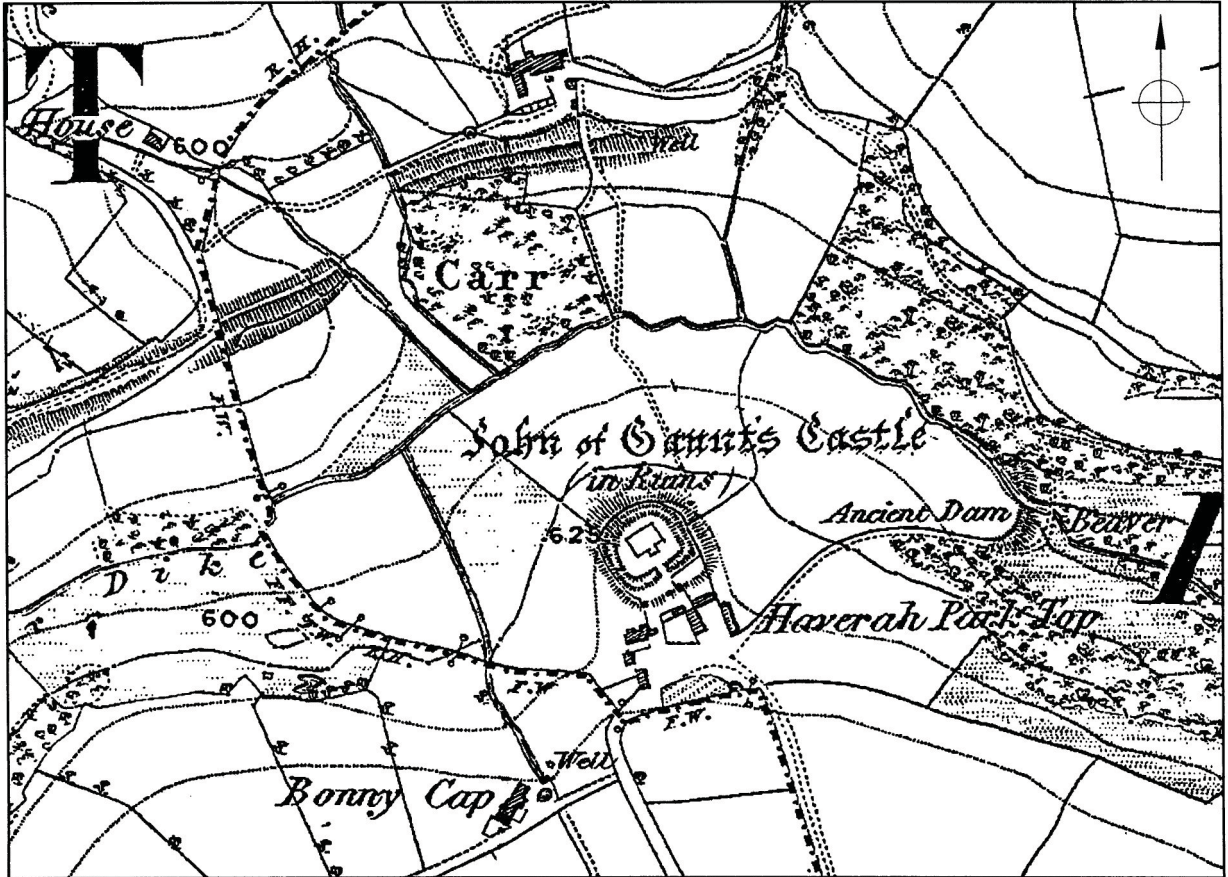
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 site owners, KeyLand Developments Ltd, for access to the monument to carry out the archaeological recording. The on-site recording was undertaken by Shaun Richardson, and Steve Haigh took the photographs. The final report was produced by Ed Dennison, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.



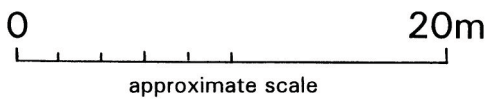
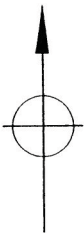
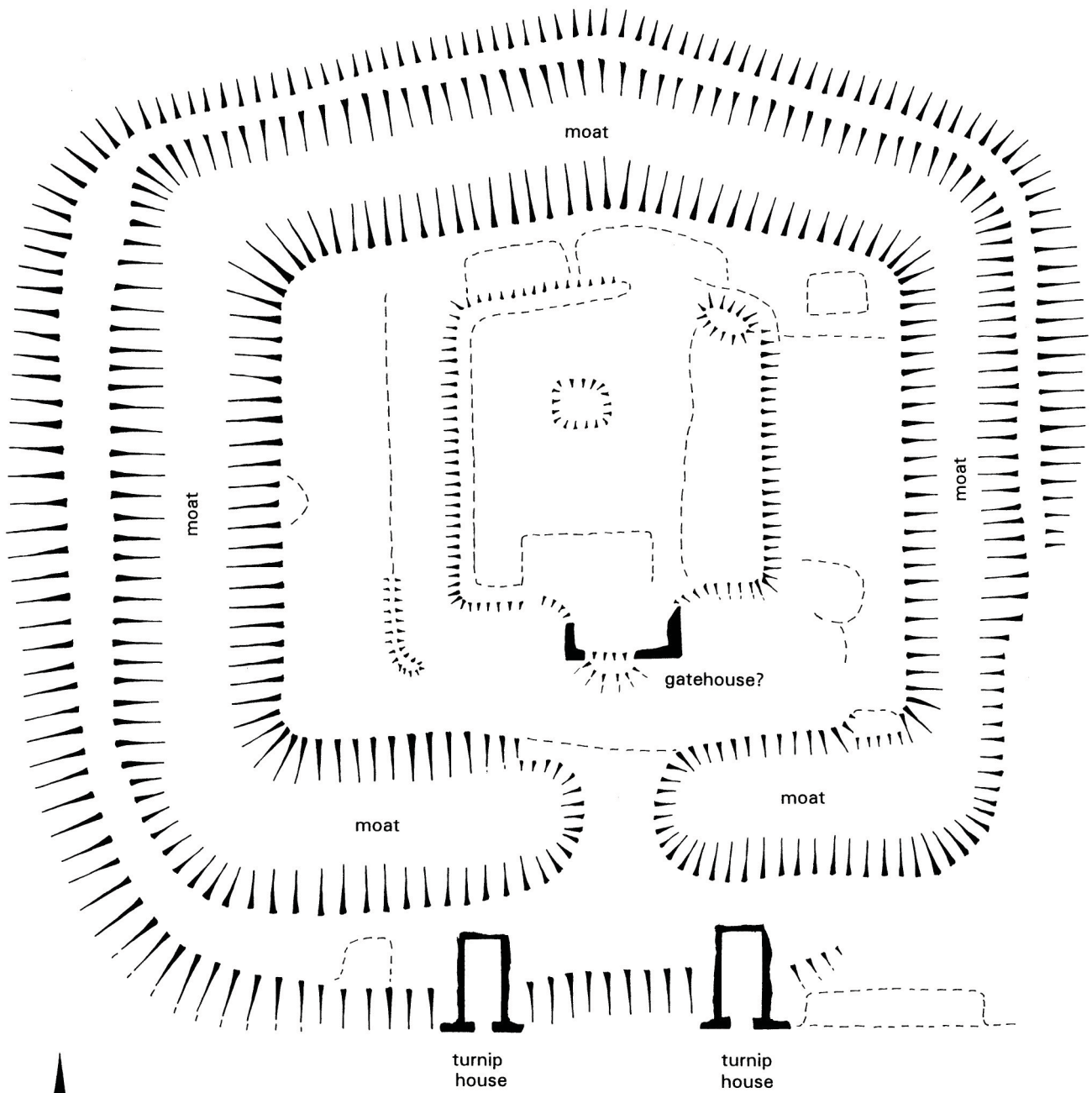
Source: DCMS 1998.

PROJECT		JOHN OF GAUNT'S CASTLE	
TITLE		SITE LOCATION	
SCALE	DATE	NTS	OCT 2007
EDAS		FIGURE	1



Source: Ordnance Survey 1853 6" map sheet 153.

PROJECT		JOHN OF GAUNT'S CASTLE	
TITLE		SITE LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	OCT 2007
EDAS		FIGURE	2



PROJECT	JOHN OF GAUNT'S CASTLE		
TITLE	SKETCH SURVEY		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	OCT 2007
EDAS	FIGURE	3	



Plate 1: Standing masonry before consolidation, looking N (photo 1/11).



Plate 2: Standing masonry before consolidation, looking NW (photo 1/15).



Plate 3: West side of moat, looking N (photo 2/5).



Plate 4: West turnip house before consolidation, looking N (photo 2/14).



Plate 5: Standing masonry after consolidation, looking NW (photo 4/6).



Plate 6: East turnip house after consolidation, looking NE (photo 4/12).

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Film 1: Medium format black & white prints taken 13/01/05 (pre-consolidation)

Film 2: Medium format black & white prints taken 13/01/05 (pre-consolidation)

Film 3: 35mm colour slides taken 13/01/05 (pre-consolidation)

Film 4: Medium format black & white prints taken 17/05/05 (post-consolidation)

Film 5: 35mm colour slides taken 17/05/05 (post-consolidation)

Film	Frame	Subject	Scale
1	7	General view of site, looking NE	-
1	8	General view of site with farm, looking NE	-
1	9	Standing masonry, looking E	2m
1	11	Standing masonry, looking N	2m
1	12	Standing masonry, looking NE	2m
1	13	Standing masonry, looking SE	2m
1	14	Standing masonry, looking S	2m
1	15	Standing masonry, looking NW	2m
1	17	Standing masonry, looking W	2m
1	18	North side of inner platform, looking E	2m
2	1	West side of main platform, looking NE	2m
2	2	South-west corner of main platform, looking NE	2m
2	4	South ditch showing entrance causeway, looking E	2m
2	5	West ditch, looking N	2m
2	6	East ditch, looking S	2m
2	7	Remnants of wall in south-east corner of ditch, looking E	2m
2	8	East ditch, looking N	2m
2	11	Main platform, looking NW	2m
2	12	Inner and main platform, looking N	2m
2	13	Turnip houses, looking E	2m
2	14	West turnip house, looking N	2m
2	16	Inner platform from north-west corner of main platform, looking SE	2m
2	17	West side of main platform, looking SE	2m
2	18	Farm complex adjacent to site, looking N	-
3	2	South ditch with entrance causeway, looking E	2m
3	8	Masonry remains at south-east corner of ditch, looking SE	2m
3	9	East ditch, looking N	2m
3	11	Main platform from SE corner, looking NW	2m

Film	Frame	Subject	Scale
3	13	General view of site, looking NE	2m
3	17	Turnip houses, looking E	2m
3	18	Standing masonry, looking E	2m
3	22	Inner platform from north-west corner of main platform, looking SE	2m
3	23	Standing masonry, looking NE	2m
3	24	Standing masonry, looking SE	2m
3	26	Standing masonry, looking S	2m
3	29	Standing masonry, looking NW	2m
3	33	North side of inner platform, looking E	2m
3	36	Inner platform from the SW, looking NE	2m
4	1	Standing masonry after consolidation, looking N	2m
4	2	Standing masonry after consolidation, looking E	2 x 1m
4	4	Standing masonry after consolidation, looking S	2m
4	5	Standing masonry after consolidation, looking E	2m
4	6	Standing masonry after consolidation, looking NW	2m
4	8	Standing masonry after consolidation, looking NE	2m
4	10	Standing masonry after consolidation, looking SE	2m
4	11	West turnip house after consolidation, looking NE	2 x 1m
4	12	East turnip house after consolidation, looking NE	2m
4	13	East turnip house after consolidation, looking NW	2m
5	2	Standing masonry after consolidation, looking N	2m
5	4	Standing masonry after consolidation, looking E	2 x 1m
5	5	Standing masonry after consolidation, looking S	2m
5	7	Standing masonry after consolidation, looking SE	2 x 1m
5	10	East turnip house after consolidation, looking NE	2m
5	11	East turnip house after consolidation, looking NW	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
26 July 2004