

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS,
RIEVAULX WATER RACE,
ABBOT HAGG FARM, RIEVAULX,
NORTH YORKSHIRE

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On behalf of

North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2009, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS) Ltd were commissioned by Mr Graham Lee, Senior Archaeological Conservation Officer of the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP), to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation along a section of the Rievaulx water race at Abbot Hagg Farm, north-west of Helmsley, North Yorkshire (NGR SE57908430). The investigation was required to determine the present condition of the monument, and was undertaken as a training project for members of the Helmsley Archaeological and Historical Society (HAHS), who are involved in the study and recording of the Foord water races in the North York Moors.

The course of the water race is shown on an Ordnance Survey map of 1893. However, no trace of the race was uncovered in the two trenches excavated as part of the archaeological investigation, and earthworks previously thought to represent its course were shown to be former boundaries, at least in part. Previous excavations undertaken on Foord water races elsewhere in the North York Moors have revealed the leats to be relatively insubstantial features and, although they may survive in a field or moorland setting, they are more likely to have been disturbed close to or within a farmyard. It is assumed that this is what happened to the Abbot Hagg Farm section of the Rievaulx water race, although little excavated evidence was uncovered for any substantial disturbance.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2009, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS) Ltd were commissioned by the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP), via Graham Lee, the Senior Archaeological Conservation Officer, to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation along the line of a section of the Rievaulx water race at Abbot Hagg Farm, north-west of Helmsley, North Yorkshire (NGR SE57908430) (see figure 1). The investigation was required to determine the present condition of the monument and was undertaken as a training project for members of the Helmsley Archaeological and Historical Society (HAHS), who are involved in the study and recording of the Foord water races in the North York Moors.

1.2 The objectives of the project were:

- to gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence and the extent, nature, character, condition, quality, probable date and potential of any surviving elements of the water race within the length investigated adjacent to Abbot Hagg Farm;
- to provide recommendations and advice on appropriate techniques to allow for the long-term preservation of the monument, particularly with reference to the operation of a working farm;
- to provide additional information on the construction of the Rievaulx water race, to allow comparisons to be made with other excavations undertaken across the Nawton, Old Byland and Carlton water races.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The line of the Rievaulx water race is marked on the Ordnance Survey 1893 25" map, where it approaches Abbot Hagg Farm from the north-east. It runs along the west side of a field boundary which forms the west side of the farm access track, across what appears to be a yard to the east of the farmhouse, and then terminates c.65m to the south-south-west at a circular pond (see figure 3). The site lies at an approximate height of 153m AOD. Prior to the archaeological investigation, the survey area was a strip of rough grass, with disused farm equipment to the west and the farm access track to the east.

3 OUTLINE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The Rievaulx water race is one of the longest on the North York Moors, travelling over a distance of 20km. The race starts near the head of Tripsdale (NGR SE58229898) and brings fresh water from the Tripsdale Beck and other streams and spring-fed rills to the various Duncombe estate farms in Rievaulx township, namely Carr Cote, Sour Leys, Oscar Park, New Leys and Griff Farm. Branches from the water race served Stiltons Farm and Abbot Hagg Farm.

3.2 The race was built by Joseph Foord in the mid 18th century primarily to serve Griff Farm, which was the home farm of the Duncombe Park estate. No precise date for the actual construction is known, although it appears that the alignment to Griff was complete by 1768 (McLean 2005, 73). The route of the water race has been mapped and walked, and it is remarkable for the number of structures (e.g. stone or wooden aqueducts, stone revetment walls, underpasses or brigsons, smoots under field walls etc) that had to be erected to ensure a smooth and uninterrupted

flow of water (McLean 2005, 157-164). Today, the alignment is represented predominantly by an open earthwork leat although there are some stone-lined channels and short underground sections; some sections have, however, been lost due to modern disturbance and subsequent landslip.

- 3.3 The alignment was subject to some changes and alterations during its lifetime - the Tripsdale section of the race had to be abandoned after the 1870s as a result of jet mining which had undermined some lengths and blocked others with spoil. As a result, the Ordnance Survey map of 1892 shows the race as starting from a "weir" on Tarn Hole Beck (SE59049770), although it is possible that water was still brought from the Tripsdale Beck to a small pond above the weir.
- 3.4 The branch to Abbot Hagg Farm may also be a later addition to the race, possibly built after 1854 and before 1893. The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1856 6" map (surveyed in 1853) shows the water race as terminating some distance to the east of Abbot Hagg, whereas the alignment is depicted in full on the later 1893 25" edition and 1895 6" editions (see figures 2 and 3); it is also interesting to note that the branch to Griff Farm is also not shown on the 1856 map. The Ordnance Survey maps also show that the race terminated at an existing pond at Abbot Hagg Farm, rather than it being constructed as part of the system. It is questionable how much water Abbot Hagg Farm actually got from the race, as the main recipient was Griff Farm further to the east which took the bulk of the supply.
- 3.5 The race appears to have functioned until the 1910s, after which it was planned to be replaced by a gravitation scheme fed from the Lady Wells in Tup Hagg Wood opposite Sour Ley Farm. This new system was intended to feed all the farms in the township, apart from Stiltons and Carr Cote, but financial difficulties meant that the scheme was not realised until 1923. It is also possible that the line to Abbot Hagg has been utilised for a modern piped water supply.
- 3.6 McLean (2005, 162) reports that the farmer at Abbot Hagg in 1998 had a vague memory of ploughing out "a small bank" which had crossed the field to the north of the farmhouse until a few years before, which might have been the old race. A recent field visit by Graham Lee to Abbot Hagg Farm identified a c.15m long length of the presumed race alignment, represented by a slight linear earthwork depression running west of, but parallel to, the farm access track, in the same position as the feature shown on the Ordnance Survey 1893 25" map.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The methodology for the archaeological investigations followed the previously agreed EDAS methods statement (see Appendix 2), and more general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in relation to archaeological excavations and watching briefs (IFA 2001a & 2001b) was also considered. The work comprised four main areas of activity.

Desk-top Assessment

- 4.2 A brief and limited documentary search into the monument was undertaken. This was confined to readily-available sources predominately supplied by the NYMNPA, and information already gathered by the McLean publication and subsequent research/recording by the HAHS.

Topographic Survey

- 4.3 A measured survey of the proposed water race alignment, over the designated 15m length, was undertaken using traditional tape and offset techniques, following guidance produced by English Heritage (Bowden 2002). A 15m long baseline was set out on an approximate north-east/south-west alignment (although for the purposes of description it is assumed to lie north-south), parallel to the farm access track and the earthworks identified during the previous field visit. The earthworks were recorded by measuring distances at right-angles from the taped baseline.
- 4.4 The earthworks were originally to be drawn at a scale of 1:100, but this proved to be insufficient and so they were planned at the larger 1:50 scale instead. The survey was accurately located into the Ordnance Survey National Grid by reference to existing boundary lines, wall and building corners and other features. The measured survey was undertaken on 14th January 2009 and the resulting plan was used as the base for locating the two excavation trenches.

Hand Excavation

- 4.5 The two excavation trenches (Trench 1 and Trench 2) were laid out at right angles to the existing earthworks, within the designated 15m section, and were hand-excavated down to natural deposits by the HAHS volunteers under EDAS supervision. The excavation took place on 14th and 15th January 2009.
- 4.6 Both trenches were initially c.3.0m long (east-west) and 1.0m wide (north-south); Trench 1 was initially excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m below ground level (BGL) and Trench 2 to 0.45m BGL. However, due to the failure to locate the watercourse and following on-site consultation with Graham Lee, Trench 1 was extended to 3.60m long and c.0.60m BGL deep. It was further agreed with Graham Lee that, following the extension of Trench 1, a third trench would not be required. Following completion of excavation and recording, each trench was backfilled by hand and the turf carefully re-instated.
- 4.7 All archaeological layers were hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to enable their nature, sequence and condition. Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of 13 archaeological contexts were recorded; these are all described in the following text as three digit numbers (e.g. 003; see Appendix 1). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The position of each trench was shown on the 1:50 scale ground plan, while finished excavation plans and a representative section of each trench were made at a scale of 1:10. No significant finds were recovered from either of the trenches.
- 4.8 A photographic record was also maintained using 35mm colour prints. Photographic guidelines produced by the RCHME were followed and each photograph contained a scale. All photographs have been clearly numbered and labelled with the subject, orientation, date taken and photographer's name, and cross referenced to film and negative numbers. The 35mm photographic record was supplemented by digital photographs taken by Tony Wright of the HAHS.
- 4.9 As no known Ordnance Survey benchmarks were identified either at the farm or in the immediately accessible local landscape, a temporary benchmark was

established on the top of a breeze-block wall forming part of the east gable of the modern farm building to the west of the site; this was given a nominal value of 100m AD and all site investigations were levelled in relative to it.

Survey Report and Archive

- 4.10 An archive survey report has been produced, which assembles and summarises the available evidence for the site and the investigations in an ordered form, synthesises the data, and comments on the quality and reliability of the evidence. A draft report was submitted to the NYMNPA for comment prior to the delivery of the final report. Two copies of the survey report (one bound, one unbound) were provided to the NYMNPA, including an electronic version in pdf format. Copyright of all survey material and the report passed to the NYMNPA on completion of the project.
- 4.11 With the agreement of the landowner, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with the NYMNPA (site code AHR 09). No artefacts were retained from the archaeological investigations.

5 RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS

Topographic Survey (see figure 5)

- 5.1 As has been noted above, a 15m long section of an earthwork thought to represent the line of the water race shown in 1893 was subject to a detailed measured survey.
- 5.2 Within the survey area (see figure 4), the earthwork was represented by two approximately parallel spread linear banks, aligned north-east/south-west and standing to a maximum height of 0.40m or less. The outer edges of the banks were set c.2.40m apart, and the east side of the bank was set 1.20m to the west of the edge of the farm access track. The ground between the two banks was very slightly depressed and the ground level sloped downwards quite sharply from the eastern scarp towards the farm track; the tops of both banks were set at approximately the same height. Both banks are of similar form, being 0.45m wide and with a western scarp markedly better defined than the much fainter eastern scarp. The banks become lost amongst vehicle rutting toward the north of the 15m long survey area, while towards the south end they faded away; overall, the surviving earthworks had a maximum north-south extent of less than 9.50m.

Trench 1 (see figure 6)

- 5.3 Trench 1 was positioned in the southern half of the 15m long survey area (see figure 4). The trench was aligned east-west, and initially measured c.3.0m long by 1.0m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m BGL (98.75m AD). However, following on-site consultation with Graham Lee, the trench was extended to 3.60m in length and c.0.60m BGL (98.55m AD) in depth.
- 5.4 Following the removal of the turf and the dark brown silty clay topsoil (001), which was 0.18m thick in total, a shallow spread of unmortared angular limestone rubble (003) was exposed, equating to the western bank of the earthworks recorded by the topographic survey. The rubble spread was rather shallow, with a maximum depth of 0.20m, and it overlay a deposit of clean mid-brown silt soil (004); towards the west end of the deposit, some baler twine unlikely to pre-date the 1960s (J Gibson, *pers. comm.*) was visible 0.08m below its upper surface. The silt soil (004)

overlay the buried remains of the eastern bank recorded by the topographic survey (002). In section, this was visible as a c.0.80m wide flat-topped bank of a firm dark brown/orange silty sand, with a shallower associated deposit of small angular limestone fragments running to the west. The upper part of the bank contained a high proportion of pantile fragments, while towards the base were two larger pieces of angular limestone rubble, possibly the remains of a laid base. The stump of a rotten vertical wooden post (012), 0.08m in diameter and 0.27m long, and the cut (013) left by the pointed base of a second post may be associated with the bank. The post remains were cut into the bank (002) which overlay a layer of clean dark orange/brown silty sand (005) up to 0.13m thick, which in turn overlay the fractured surface of the natural limestone bedrock (006).

- 5.5 The top of the natural deposit (006) was encountered at 0.40m BGL (98.75m AD), and a small 0.20m deep extension dug into the middle of the base of the trench confirmed that it became more solid as it increased in depth. The natural deposit continued below the base of the trench.

Trench 2 (see figure 7)

- 5.6 Trench 2 was positioned to the north of Trench 1, in the northern half of the designated 15m long survey area (see figure 4). The trench was aligned east-west, measured c.3.0m long by 1.0m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m BGL (98.73m AD).
- 5.7 Following the removal of the 0.18m thick turf and dark brown silty clay topsoil (001), which contained rusted 20th century door fittings and several 20th century pottery fragments here, two spreads of angular limestone rubble were exposed, corresponding to the parallel banks recorded by the earthwork survey. The eastern spread (009) was bonded with a firm dark brown/orange silty soil and was a maximum of 0.42m wide but shallow, measuring only 0.15m deep; it appeared to have the remains of laid stone edging or footings to the west side. The western spread (010) was wider, at 0.65m, but was of a similar depth. Both spreads overlay a deposit of dark brown silty soil (007), up to 0.16m thick, which contained some apparent 20th century material, including round wire nails. Beneath the silt soil (007), a dark orange/brown silty sand (008) was visible, and the fractured surface of the natural bedrock (011) was encountered at 0.45m BGL (98.73m AD). The latter deposit continued below the base of the trench.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Previous excavations undertaken by Bradley across the Nawton, Old Byland and Carlton water races have revealed a number of different surviving forms (McLean 2005, 172-179). In some cases, the original dimensions of the race were c.0.50m wide and 0.45m deep, but with evidence for several re-cuttings. Elsewhere, the race was even smaller but retained evidence for a curb of limestone blocks. The sides were sometimes steeply sloping, sometimes vertical but, importantly for the Abbot Hagg investigation, none of the excavated races could be described as substantial features.
- 6.2 The investigation at Abbot Hagg Farm failed to locate the water race alignment as shown in 1893, or indeed to find any evidence for its former existence. Prior to excavation, the parallel banks crossing the survey area might reasonably have been thought to represent the remains of the water race. However, following excavation, the western bank (003 in Trench 1 and 010 in Trench 2) was seen to be formed by a fairly shallow spread of limestone rubble, perhaps the remnants of

a wall footing or a surface of some kind. The bank appeared to post-date the eastern bank (002 in Trench 1 and 009 in Trench 2) which was more substantial, particularly in Trench 1. This feature clearly originated as a boundary between the field (including the survey area) and the farm access track, and could originally have taken the form of a wall or hedge, later replaced by a fence as evidenced by the rotten post remains (012 and 013). The other deposits encountered in the trenches all resembled soils and sub-soils, containing a small amount of 20th century material but with no evidence for large-scale disturbance of any pre-existing feature. Given the relatively insubstantial nature of the races excavated elsewhere, it may be that this section of the water race was never a large feature, and that it required little effort to remove it; there was no evidence that it had been backfilled.

- 6.3 It is possible that the water race was removed during improvements to farm drainage in the second half of the 20th century. A concrete and steel drain cover is visible a short distance to the south of the 15m long survey area, with at least one tap beneath, and it has been suggested that the route of the earlier race was later utilised by a modern drain, although no evidence for this was uncovered during the investigations. It is always possible that the race lies further to the east, under the edge of the farm access track, although this would appear to be contrary to the 1893 map evidence.
- 6.4 In view of the absence of any definite archaeological features or deposits associated with the Rievaulx water race within the designated survey area, no recommendations are made with regard to preservation or protection of the recorded features.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

1856 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" to 1 mile map sheet 89 (surveyed 1853)

1893 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map sheet 89/5)

1895 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6" to 1 mile map sheet 89NW (surveyed 1891)

Secondary Sources

Bowden, M 2002 *With Alidade and Tape: Graphical and Plan Table Survey of Archaeological Earthworks*

IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) 2001a *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) 2001b *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*

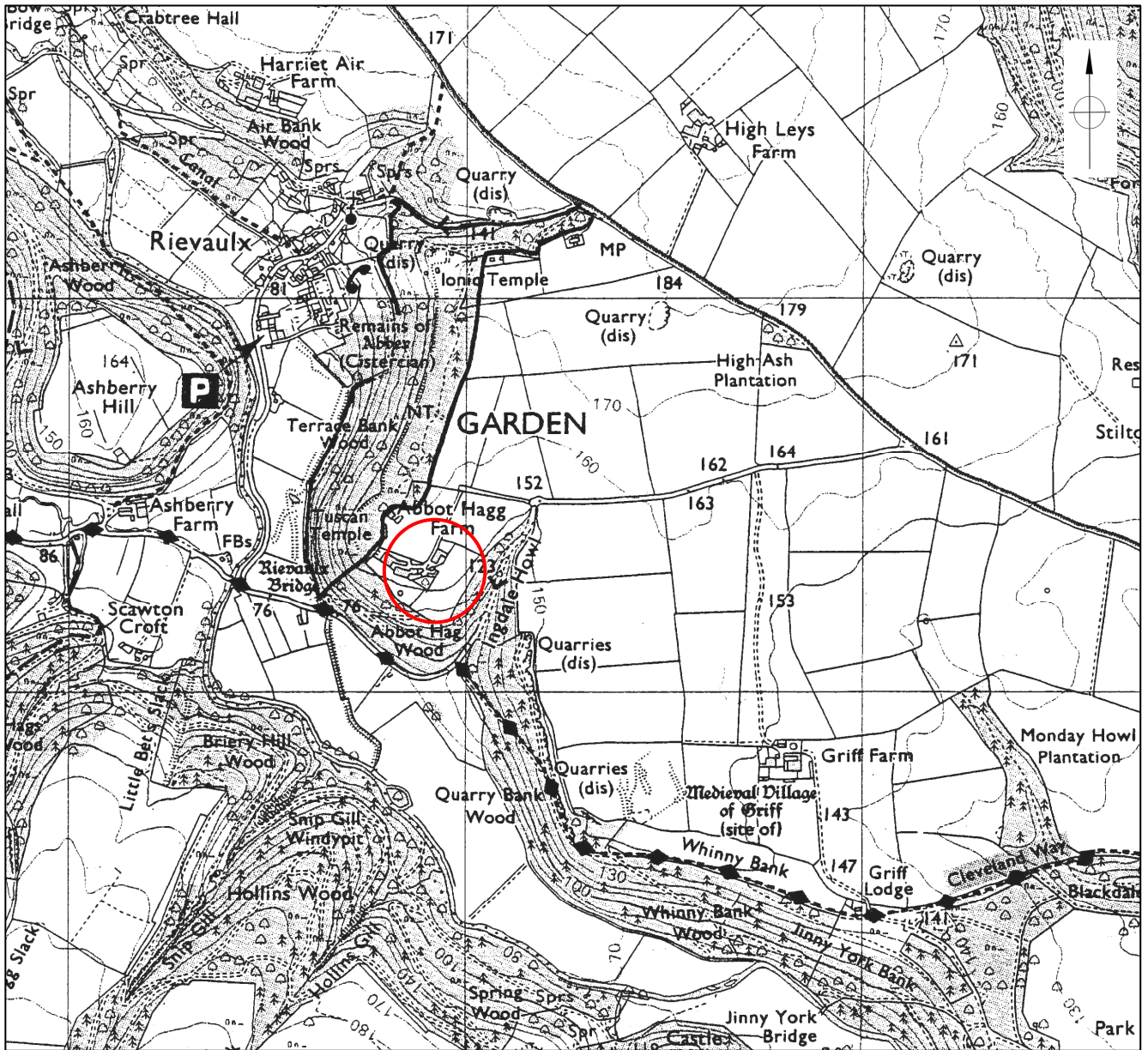
McLean, I 2005 *Water from the Moors: the Life and Works of Joseph Foord*

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The archaeological investigations were undertaken as a training exercise for the Helmsley Archaeological and Historical Society (HAHS), as part of their continuing recording of the Foord water races throughout the North York Moors. Members of

the HAHS who undertook the work were Tony Wright, George and Pat Donnor, Susan Hall, Joceline Gibson and Barbara Hickman.

- 8.2 The investigations were supervised by Shaun Richardson of EDAS, who also produced the field records and a draft report. Tony Wright also took digital photographs. The final report was produced by Ed Dennison, of EDAS, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.
- 8.3 EDAS would like to thank Graham Lee of the NYMNPA for initiating and commissioning the work, and Peter Teasdale of Abbot Hagg Farm for permission to carry out the work and for providing access to his land. Thanks are also due to Tony Wright of the HAHS for coordinating the volunteers.

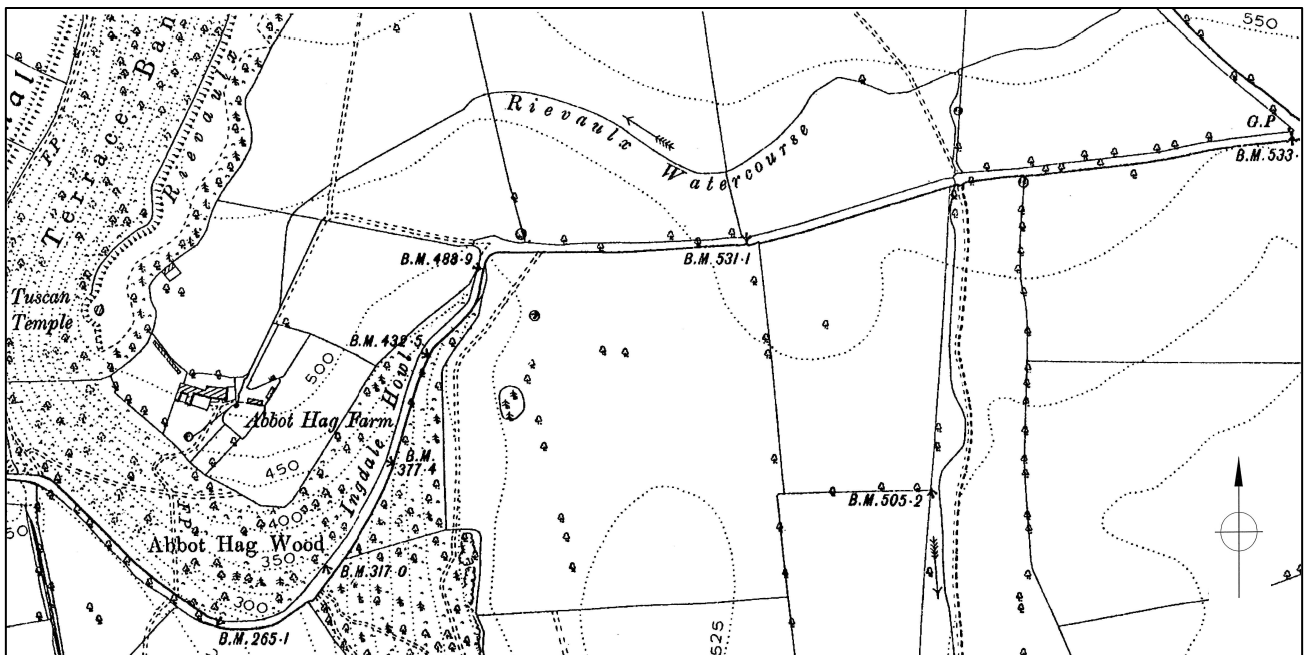


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PROJECT		ABBOT HAGG FARM, RIEVAULX	
TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	DATE	NTS	FEB 2009
EDAS		FIGURE	1

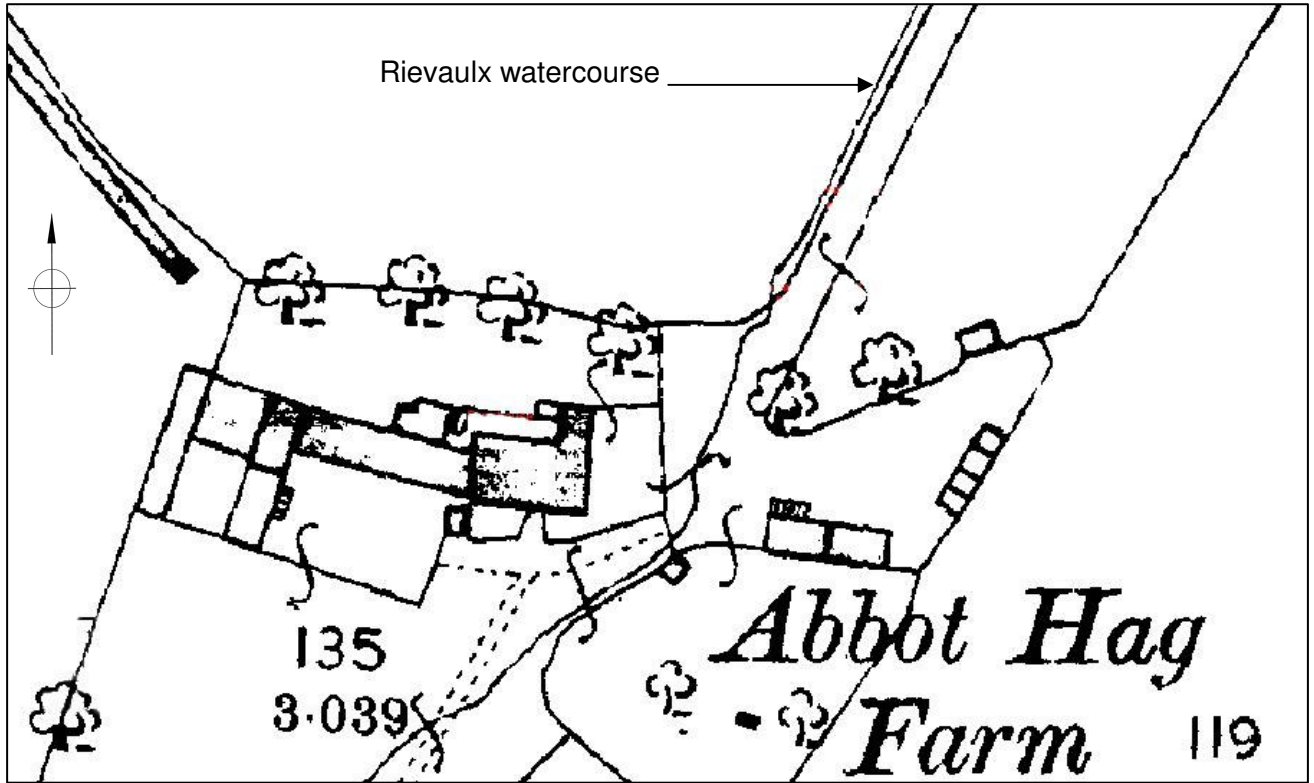


(a) 1856 Ordnance Survey 6" map sheet 89 (surveyed 1853).



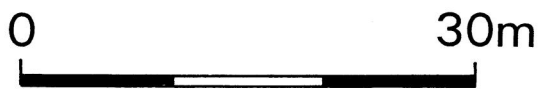
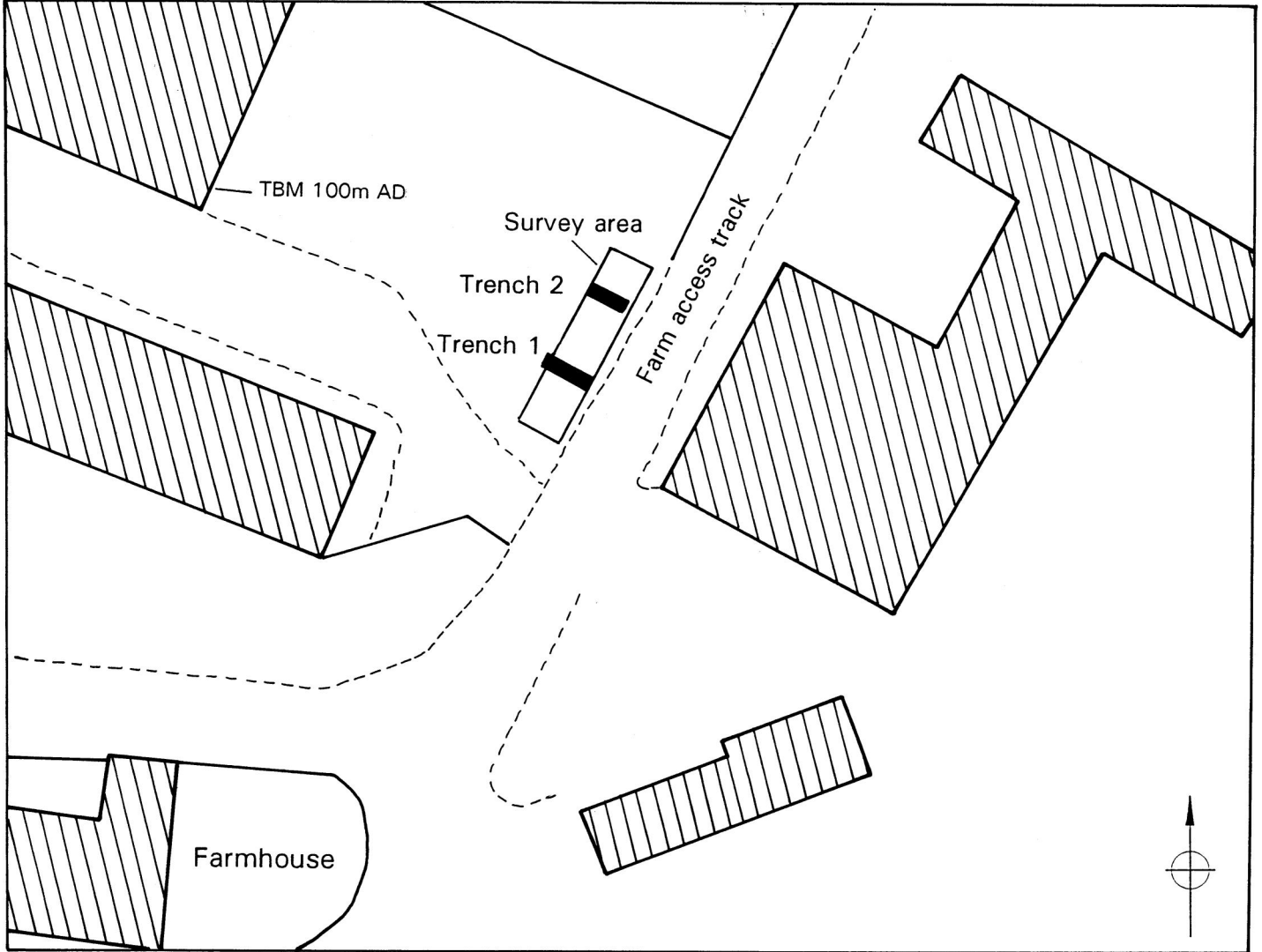
(b) 1895 Ordnance Survey 6" map sheet 89NW (surveyed 1891).

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TITLE		ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS	
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EDAS		FIGURE	2

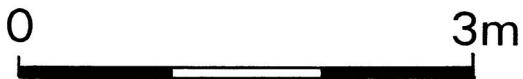
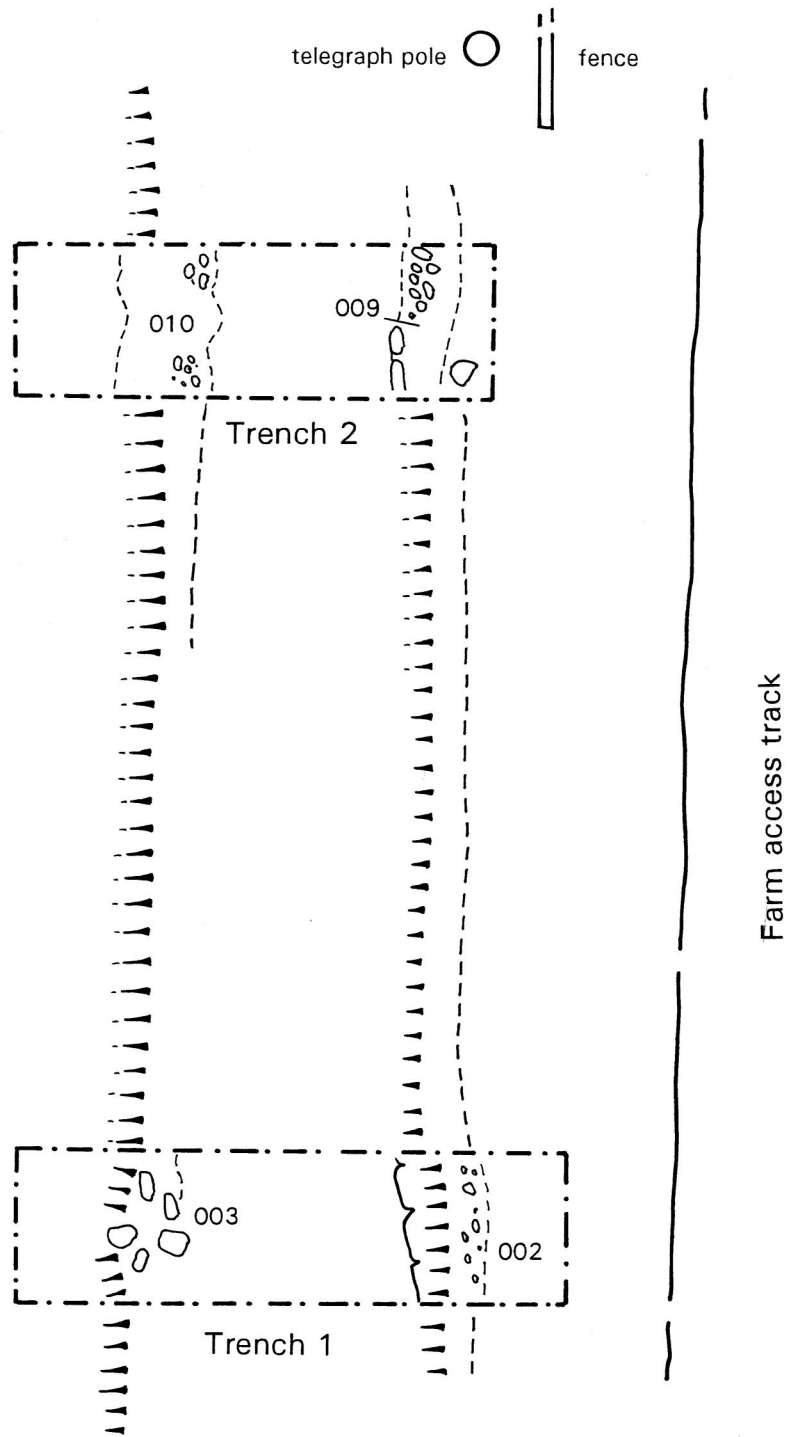


Plan supplied by NYMNPA.

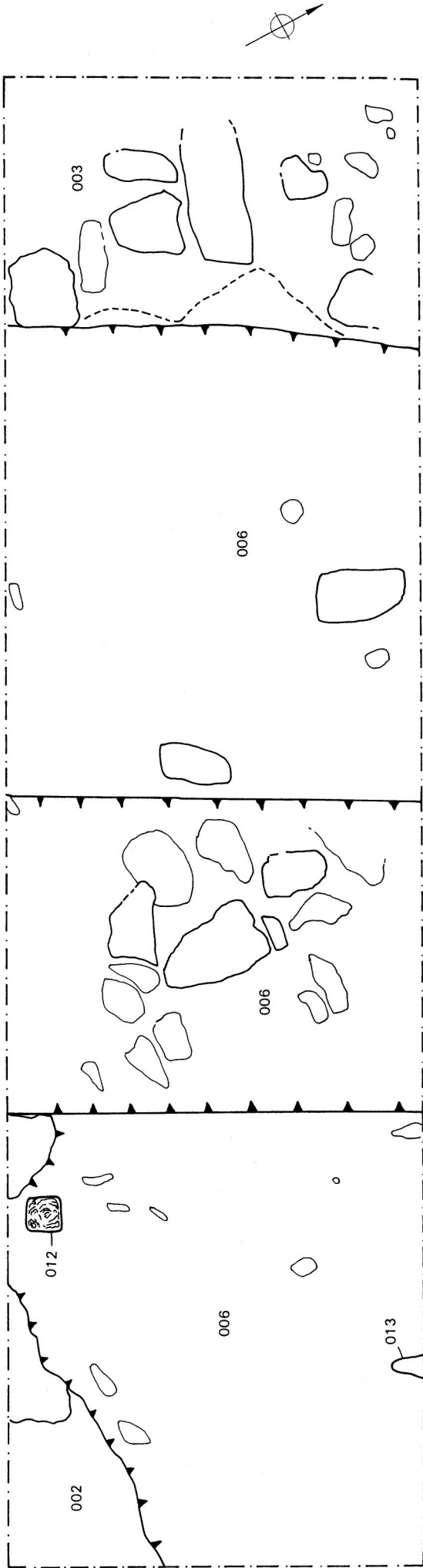
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EDAS		FIGURE	3



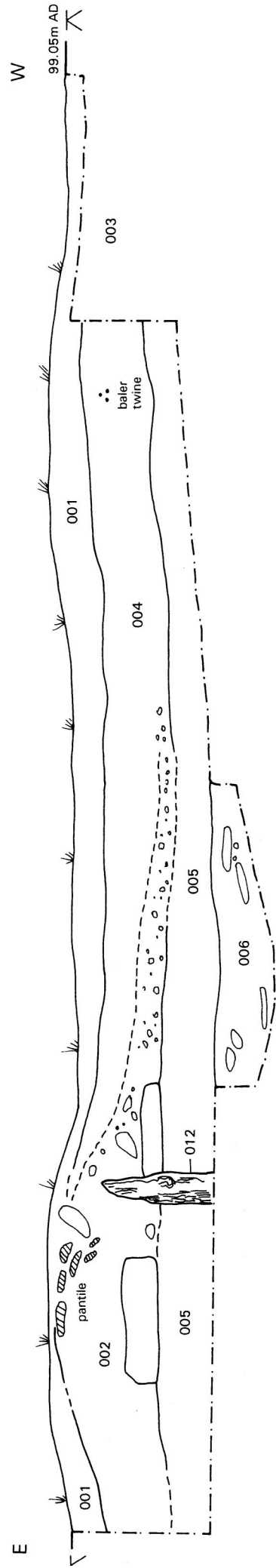
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SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	FEB 2009
EDAS		FIGURE	4



PROJECT		ABBOT HAGG FARM, RIEVAULX	
TITLE		TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	FEB 2009
	EDAS	FIGURE	5



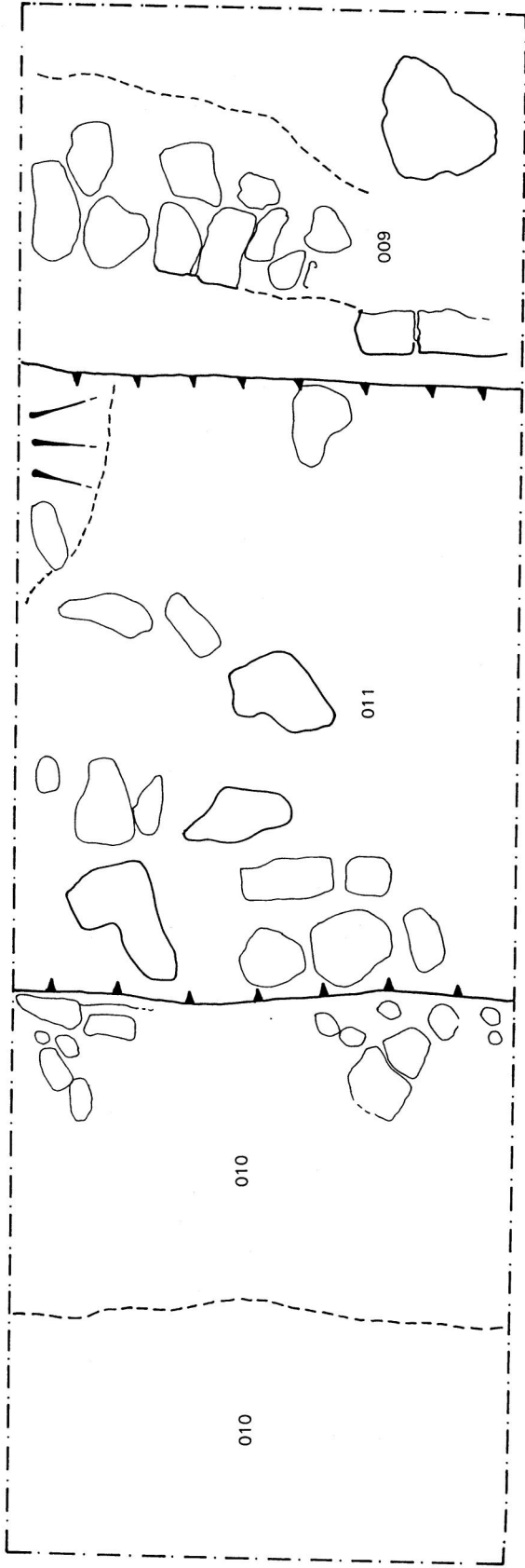
Plan



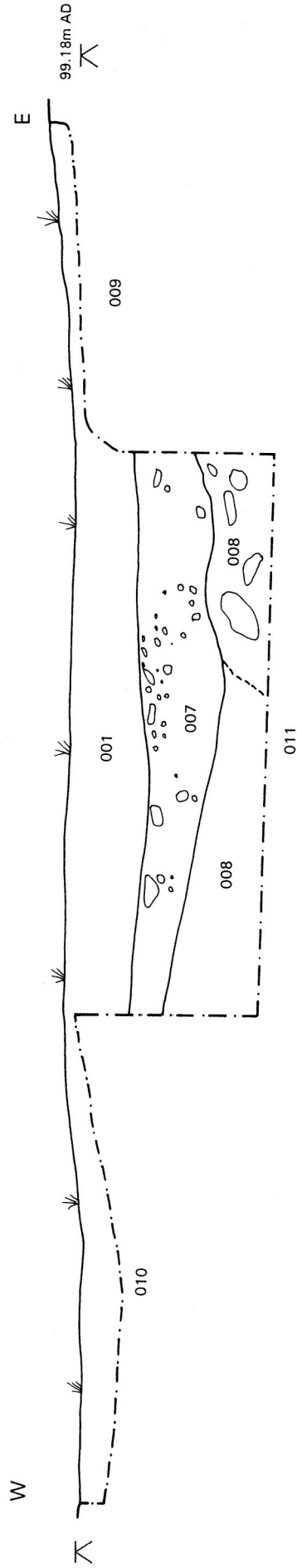
Section: south side of trench



PROJECT	ABBOT HAGG FARM, RIEVAULX		
TITLE	RESULTS FROM TRENCH 1		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	FEB 2009
	EDAS	FIGURE	6



Plan



Section: north side of trench



PROJECT	ABBOT HAGG FARM, RIEVAULX		
TITLE	RESULTS FROM TRENCH 2		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	FEB 2009
	EDAS	FIGURE	7



Plate 1: Excavation complete in Trench 1, context 003 in foreground, looking east.



Plate 2: Excavation complete in Trench 2, context 010 in foreground, looking east.



Plate 3: Excavation complete in Trench 1, looking south.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF RECORDED CONTEXTS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trench</i>
001	Compacted dark brown silty clay soil (topsoil) and turf, 0.18m thick.	1 & 2
002	Firm dark brown/orange silty sand with frequent pantile fragments and frequent angular limestone rubble, 0.28m thick. Footings / fence line.	1
003	Unmortared sub-angular limestone rubble, c.0.2m thick. Possible wall footings.	1
004	Compacted mid brown silt soil, 0.16m thick.	1
005	Compacted dark orange/brown silty sand, 0.13m thick. Sub-soil.	1
006	Firm dark orange/brown silty sand with very frequent angular limestone rubble. Fractured limestone bedrock surface.	1
007	Compacted dark brown silty clay soil with frequent pantile and limestone rubble, 0.16m thick, with 20th century material.	2
008	Compacted dark orange/brown silty sand with occasional limestone rubble, 0.23m thick. Sub-soil.	2
009	Firm dark brown/orange silty soil with frequent limestone rubble, c.0.15m thick. Footings / fence line.	2
010	Sub-angular limestone rubble, 0.20m thick. Possible footings.	2
011	Firm dark orange/brown silty sand with very frequent angular limestone rubble. Fractured limestone bedrock surface.	2
012	Fence post stump (rotten).	1
013	Cut for fence post.	1

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: EDAS METHODS STATEMENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS, RIEVAULX WATER RACE, ABBOT HAGG FARM, RIEVAULX, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Introduction

Limited archaeological investigations are proposed along the line of the Rievaulx water race at Abbot Hagg Farm (NGR SE57908430), to determine the present condition of the monument and to provide an archaeological training project for members of the Helmsley Archaeological and Historical Society (HAHS), who are also involved in the study and recording of the Foord water races in the North York Moors. A 15m long length of the presumed water race alignment, represented as slight linear earthwork depression running west of but parallel to the farm access track, has been chosen as the area of investigation. The work comprises a topographical survey of any earthwork remains plus the hand excavation of two or three sections across the presumed alignment.

The line of the water race is marked on the Ordnance Survey 1893 25" map (sheet number 89/5), where it approaches Abbot Hagg from the north. It runs across what appears to be a yard area to the east of the farmhouse, terminating c.65m beyond at a circular pond to the SSW of the farmhouse. The Rievaulx water race is one of the longest on the North York Moors, travelling over a distance of 20km. The race starts in Tripsdale and brings fresh water to the various farms in Rievaulx township, namely Carr Cote, Sour Leys, Oscar Park, New Leys and Griff Farm. Branches to the water race served Stiltons Farm and Abbot Hagg Farm. The race was built by Joseph Foord in the mid 18th century primarily to serve Griff Farm, which was the home farm of the Duncombe Park estate. The route of the water race has been mapped and surveyed (McLean, I 2005 *Water from the Moors: the Life and Works of Joseph Foord*, 157-164). The branch to Abbot Hagg Farm may be a later addition to the race; only the section to the immediate west of the junction with the Griff branch is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1857 6" map (but the pond to the SW of the farm is), although it is depicted in full on the later 1893 25" edition. The race appears to have functioned until the 1910s, although it is possible that the line to Abbot Hagg has been utilised for a modern piped water supply.

Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- to gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence and the extent, nature, character, condition, quality, probable date and potential of any surviving elements of the water race within the designated 15m length adjacent to Abbot Hagg Farm;
- to provide recommendations and advice on appropriate techniques to allow for the long-term preservation of the monument, particularly with reference to the operation of a working farm;
- to provide additional information on the construction of the Rievaulx water race, to allow comparisons with other excavations undertaken across the Nawton, Old Byland and Carlton water races (McLean, I 2005 *Water from the Moors: the Life and Works of Joseph Foord*, 172-179).

Methodology

Desk-top Assessment

A brief and limited documentary search into the monument will be undertaken. This will be confined to readily-available sources predominately supplied by the NYMNP, and information already gathered by the McLean publication and subsequent research/recording by the HAHS.

Topographic Survey

A measured survey of the proposed water race alignment, over the designated 15m length, would be undertaken using traditional tape and offset techniques, following guidance produced by English Heritage (Bowden, M 2002 *With Alidade and Tape: Graphical and Plan Table Survey of Archaeological*

Earthworks). The earthworks will be recorded by measuring distances from taped baselines, set out along compass bearings or other prominent features, e.g. field walls or boundaries. The earthworks will be drawn in the field at 1:100 scale, and this plan will be used as base for the subsequent excavation. The survey would be accurately located within the National Grid by reference to existing mapped buildings, wall corners etc.

Hand Excavation

Two trenches will be hand excavated across the presumed line of the water race, at right angles to it, within the designated 15m length. Depending on the survival of any features, a further trench would be hand excavated. Turf would be carefully stripped by hand to allow for subsequent reinstatement, and excavated spoil would be placed neatly by the side of the trench. It is envisaged that the trenches will be c.2.5m long by 1m wide, and each trench would be excavated and backfilled in a single day.

All archaeological layers would be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to enable their nature, sequence and condition. A full record will be made according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. Sections would be drawn at 1:10, and the trench locations would be planned at 1:50 (or larger), tied into the larger scale site survey. Assuming there is an Ordnance Survey bench mark within the Abbot Hagg farm complex, all levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum.

Any finds will be collected and recorded. Significant small finds should be three dimensionally located prior to collection. It should be noted that archaeological finds remain the property of the landowner, and as such should not be removed from site unless previously arranged by agreement.

Following completion of fieldwork, any recovered finds would be processed to current MAP2 standards and subject to specialist identification, spot-dating and assessment (where necessary and appropriate). The finds would be stabilised and properly packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum. A fully indexed field archive would also be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, drawings and photographs, in accordance with current guidance (Brown, D H 2007 *Archaeological Archives: a Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*), and as defined in MAP2. If artefacts are recovered by the investigations, the archive will be deposited with the Ryedale Folk Museum in Hutton-le-Hole; if not, the 2D archive will be transferred to the NYMNPA.

Photographic Survey

A photographic record would also be made of the site and the excavations, using a 35mm camera (colour prints and slides). Some digital photographs may also be taken for presentation purposes. Photographic guidelines produced by the RCHME will be followed and each photograph will contain a scale. All photographs would be clearly numbered and labelled with the subject, orientation, date taken and photographer's name, and would be cross referenced to film and negative numbers.

Survey Report

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

A draft report will be submitted to the NYMNPA for comment prior to the delivery of the final report. Two copies of the survey report (one bound, one unbound) would be provided to the NYMNPA, including an electronic version in pdf format. Copyright of all survey material and the report will pass to the NYMNPA on payment of final invoices.

Included in this element of the work would be the completion of appropriate OASIS record forms and short publication of the results in an appropriate journal, as necessary.

Resources and Programming

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

The project would be undertaken by Shaun Richardson of EDAS, using volunteers from the HAHS. Richardson has considerable expertise in non-intrusive earthwork survey and small-scale intrusive archaeological investigation, and he has worked with the HAHS on similar projects before.

It is envisaged that, subject to the necessary access being secured and appropriate funding, the site investigations would be undertaken in January 2009, although this would depend on the availability of HAHS volunteers. It is estimated that the site investigations can be completed within a two day period (assuming good weather conditions). A further four man-days would be required to produce the necessary survey report and archive.

Health and Safety, and Insurance

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

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

Ed Dennison, EDAS
5th January 2009