

An Archaeological Survey at Aldby Park, Buttercrambe, North Yorkshire

Elaine Jamieson and Trevor Pearson



Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society

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Summary

This report presents the results of an analytical earthwork survey undertaken at Aldby Park, Buttercrambe, North Yorkshire between December 2021 and January 2023. Previously, in 2021, the two authors surveyed an undocumented motte and bailey castle in part of the gardens at Aldby Park ([Jamieson and Pearson 2021](#)). The work reported on here follows on from that earlier survey by delivering the first detailed account of earthwork remains across the remainder of the park. These include part of a deserted medieval settlement towards the centre of the park connected with a market area and earthworks belonging to the shrunken village of Buttercrambe to the south. The site of a probable medieval manor house was surveyed to the north of the present house while immediately beyond it an extensive, and well-preserved medieval field system of ridge and furrow was recorded. The survey also added detail to features connected with the designed landscape of the park dating to the 18th and 19th centuries.

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1. The site and its setting

Aldby Park is on the river Derwent 14 km downstream from the market town of Malton and the same distance north-east of the centre of York (Figure 1). The park is bounded by the Derwent on the east, agricultural land to the north and a minor road leading to Bossall to the west. On the south the park meets the main street of Buttercrambe which itself is part of an east-west route leading to a crossing of the Derwent, just beyond the east end of the village. Most of the village buildings are on the south of the road and comprise a small number of private residences along with the church of St John the Evangelist and several agricultural and commercial premises. Aldby Park is the private residence of Mr and Mrs Winn-Darley and is not open to the public.

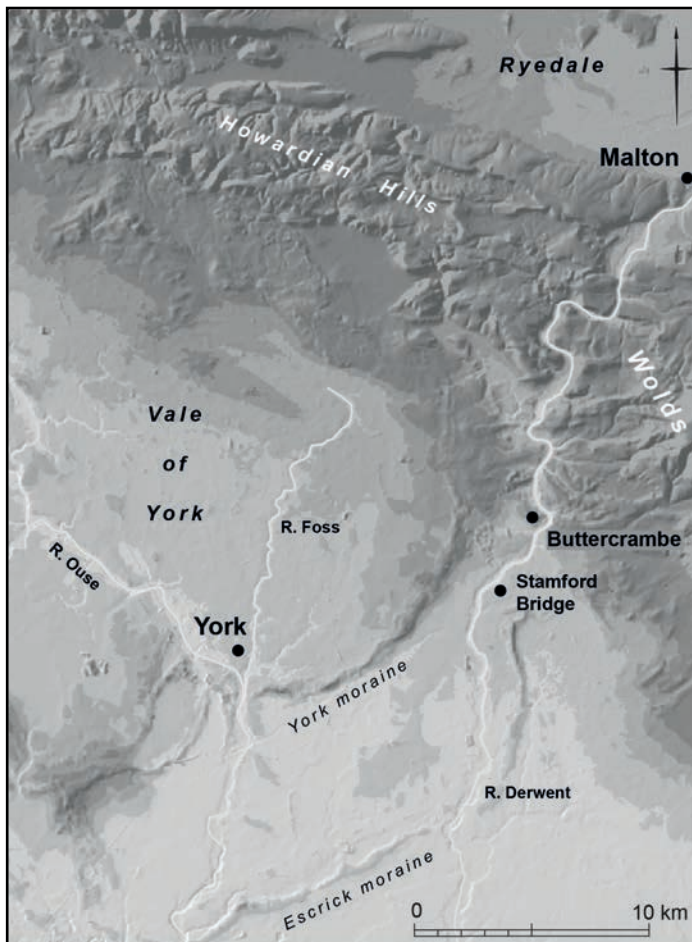


Figure 1:
Map showing
the location of
Buttercrambe.

Buttercrambe and Aldby Park are around 20-25m above sea level on a band of glacial clay, sands and gravel (British Geological Survey 1983). The ground falls away steeply on the east side of the Park by as much as 10m to the Derwent. The river then curves to the south of the village where the gradient of the valley side becomes more gentle. Beyond Aldby Park to the west, the glacial deposits form a distinct ridge called the York Moraine that was an important route across the once-marshy lowlands of the Vale of York. To the east the ridge led to a crossing point of the Derwent at Stamford Bridge, and probably also at Buttercrambe where the river naturally divides to form two islands. The earliest record of a bridge here is not until the early 13th century (Burton 2004, 390-1).

Aldby Park is mainly open pasture grassland crossed by several rows of mature trees surviving from a formal arrangement of avenues established in the 18th century. There are several wooded areas on the west side of the estate and a belt of trees to the east occupying the slope above the Derwent. A lawned garden bordered by trees and yew hedges reaches from the east of the main house to a series of artificial terraces stepping down the steep slope to the river. Further to the south-east the gardens encompass the landscaped remains of the former motte and bailey castle surveyed by the two authors in 2021 (Jamieson and Pearson 2021). The castle site is crossed by a network of paths bordered by bushes, flower beds and several mature yew trees. The main house is an impressive early Georgian brick building with detailing in stone (Figure 2). It is approached from Buttercrambe village via a 250m long tree-lined drive starting at an entrance lodge and passing by a Georgian stable block and several later buildings. The house, entrance lodge and stables along with several garden sculptures have statutory protection as listed buildings. In 1984 the park was registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 for its special historic interest (List Entry 1001055).



Figure 2: The house and gardens viewed from the west (Image courtesy of Historic England/Dave Went).

2. Historical Background

Aldby Park is situated within the historic township of Buttercrambe which, along with the townships of Bossall, Harton, Claxton, Sand Hutton and Flaxton, formed the medieval parish of Bossall (Figure 3). The township is very occasionally referred to in medieval sources as Buttercrambe with Aldby, but Aldby has not survived as a settlement and does not have a recorded history of its own, though it presumably lay somewhere within Buttercrambe township. Two fields called Aldby Ings and Aldby Leys are depicted on a map of 1746 on the west bank of the Derwent, north of Aldby Park (Bewlay 1746). Further to the west are Aldby Field, Aldby Close and High Aldby Field in the adjacent township of Sand Hutton. One of these locations may be the site of the settlement of Aldby. The first published map of Yorkshire places Aldby on the east side of the Derwent in the parish of Scrayingham, but this is probably a cartographic error (Saxton 1577).

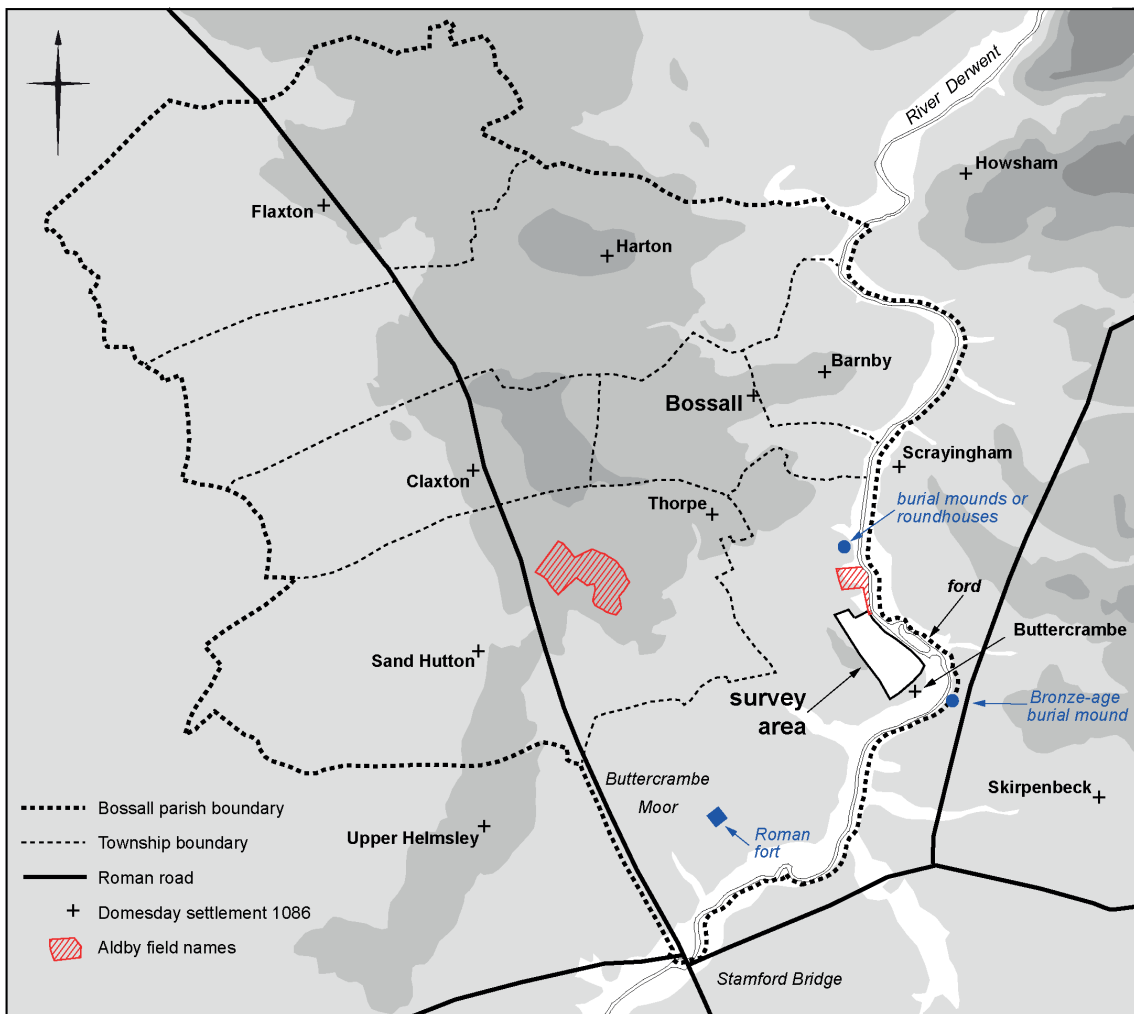


Figure 3: Plan of the medieval parish of Bossall showing township boundaries, Domesday settlements and sites mentioned in the report. Contours at intervals of 50 feet.

Finds of objects, most recently through the activities of metal detectorists reported to the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme, strongly suggest that later prehistoric and Roman settlements await discovery in the fields around Aldby Park and Buttercrambe. Analysis of aerial photography has detected a group of six circular cropmarks about 400m north of Aldby Park which may be the remains of Bronze Age burial mounds or the sites of round houses belonging to a small settlement (Historic England monument number 1147874). A Bronze age burial mound around 3.6m high is situated on the valley top, 0.3km south-east across the Derwent from Aldby Park. As well as making a record of this mound which had been wrongly identified by the Ordnance Survey as a motte, the 2021 survey considered the possibility that the castle motte in Aldby Park began as a large prehistoric burial mound (Jamieson and Pearson 2021). The cropmark of a Roman fort was discovered in fields between Aldby Park and Stamford Bridge in 1995 but has not been precisely dated (Horne and Lawton 1998). It lies across the road heading east to Buttercrambe and may have been sited to control east-west movement to the river crossing. The main road heading east from York crossed the Derwent several kilometres downstream from Buttercrambe at Stamford Bridge.

Objects dating to the 7th and 8th centuries found in the vicinity of Aldby Park include a hoard of 20 small silver coins called 'sceattas,' discovered in 2014 north of Buttercrambe (Naylor 2015, 291). Thought to have been deposited around the year AD 715, the hoard and the other finds from the period could indicate trading activity in the area, perhaps connected with the movement of goods along the Derwent or westwards from the river along the glacial ridge to York. By that period, York had emerged as an important ecclesiastical centre and a seat of the Anglo-Saxon kings of Northumbria. At a later period finds from around Stamford Bridge suggest that a part of the Viking Great Army may have had a temporary camp along the Derwent in the 870s (Hadley and Richards 2021, 133).

The name Buttercrambe is Anglo-Saxon in origin, meaning 'the rich piece of land in the bend of the river' which describes the twin physical attributes of fertile soil and access to riverside pasture by the Derwent (Smith 1928, 36). The earliest documentary reference to Buttercrambe is not until the Domesday Survey of 1086. This records a complicated pattern of landholding as Buttercrambe was divided between three manors, each of which also included several other local settlements, including two shared with Scrayingham on the opposite side of the Derwent. The Domesday Survey records that immediately before the Norman Conquest each of the three manors was in different hands but by 1086 the Norman lord, Hugh fitz Baldric, held them all as part of his Yorkshire landholding of 50 estates (Faull and Stinson 1986, 23N29; 23N31-33).

Following the Norman Conquest, the earthwork castle surveyed in 2021 was constructed at Buttercrambe overlooking the Derwent in what is now Aldby Park (Figure 4). It is not known if Fitz Baldric or one of his successors was responsible for the construction of the castle, as the fortification is undocumented. Most of Fitz Baldric's Yorkshire estates (including Buttercrambe) passed to Robert Stuteville I in the late 1080s who then forfeited them to the Mowbray family in 1106. In the 1150s and 1160s Robert Stuteville's grandson (also called Robert) regained many of the forfeited estates. One of these individuals was probably responsible for building the castle in order to strengthen their control over the river and its ford.

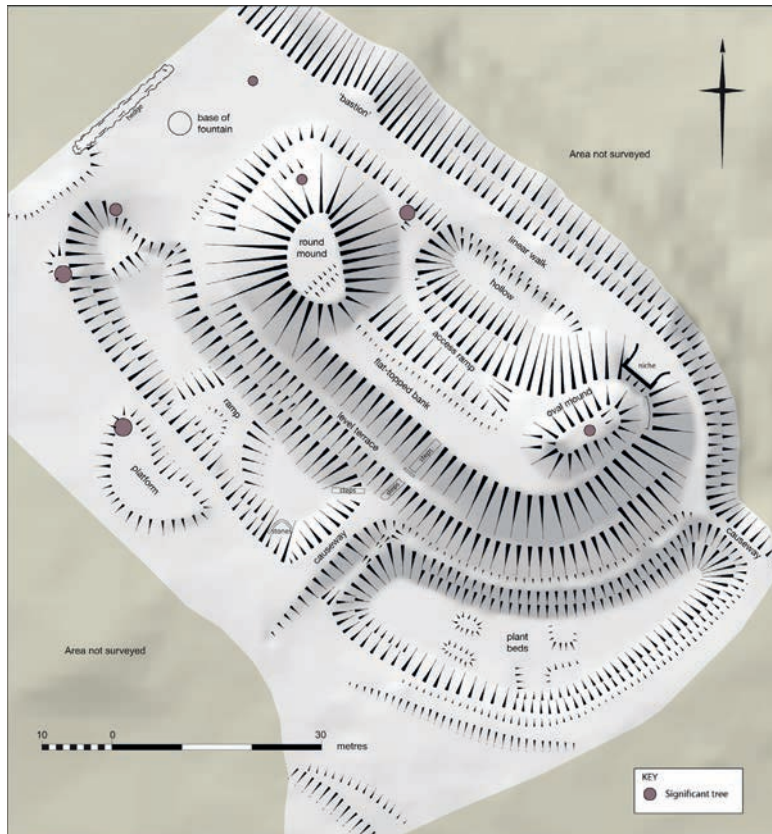


Figure 4:
 Earthwork survey of the
 castle reduced from 1:500
 scale original
 (illustration by E. Jamieson).

There are few references to Buttercrambe in medieval sources, so little can be deduced about the size and layout of the settlement from historical records. The Domesday survey records a priest and a church at one of the manors that included Buttercrambe, and a mill at a second manor. The mill could have been next to Buttercrambe on the island in the Derwent where an 18th-century mill building (now a private house) stands next to the two road bridges. The church referred to may have been that at Scrayingham, where the building retains some 9th-century masonry (Ryder 2010), or the parish church at Bossall. The church at Buttercrambe has no fabric earlier than the 1240s (Grenville 2023, 161) and historically was a chapel dependent on the parish church and so the priest in charge was restricted in what rights he could perform. A documentary reference to 'Normano the priest of Buttercrambe' in the mid-12th century suggest there was already a church at Buttercrambe by that period (Farrer 1916, 171-2).

In 1200 King John granted William Stuteville the right to hold a weekly market and yearly fair at Buttercrambe, suggesting that the Stutevilles were active in trying to expand the wealth of the settlement through trade (Clay 1952, 113). In 1201 King John licensed William de Stuteville to enclose and fortify his houses at Cottingham (on the outskirts of Hull) and Buttercrambe (Clay 1952, 113-4). At Buttercrambe, this could be the building that in 1282 was described as a well-built 'capital messuage of diverse houses' and a garden, together valued at 20s. By this date Buttercrambe was part of the estate of the Wake family following the marriage in 1229 of Joan Stuteville to Hugh Wake who went on to inherit the Stuteville estates in 1241-2 (Clay 1952, 21-2; Brown 1892, 245).

The Wake family line died out in 1349 and Buttercrambe then passed by marriage to the Earls of Kent and in the early 15th century to the Nevilles, the Earls of Westmorland. The Nevilles were a powerful and wealthy dynasty active at court and in the political life of the nation throughout the 15th and 16th centuries. In 1536 Margaret Neville, daughter of the fourth Earl of Westmorland married Henry Manners, 2nd Earl of Rutland, and in 1557 they sold the manor of Buttercrambe and Aldby to William Darley of Wistow, near Selby.

The notice of the 1557 sale to William Darley mentions '40 messuages, 20 cottages, 2 watermills, a fulling mill, free fishing in the water of the Darwent, and free warren for conies in the same and in Skrayngham als. Screyngham and Awdeby' but significantly makes no reference to a principal house. It is therefore more than likely that the purchaser, William Darley, or one of his immediate descendants was responsible for building a residence at Buttercrambe that befitted their landowning status, perhaps erecting a new structure or refurbishing an existing building (Collins 1887, 199-210). This might be the fairly modest gentry house set in a fenced or hedged courtyard shown rather schematically on the earliest surviving map of the Aldby estate dated 1633 (Figure 5), and in a pencil sketch by the topographic artist Samuel Buck from around 1720 (Osborne 1633; Jamieson and Pearson 2021, 7).

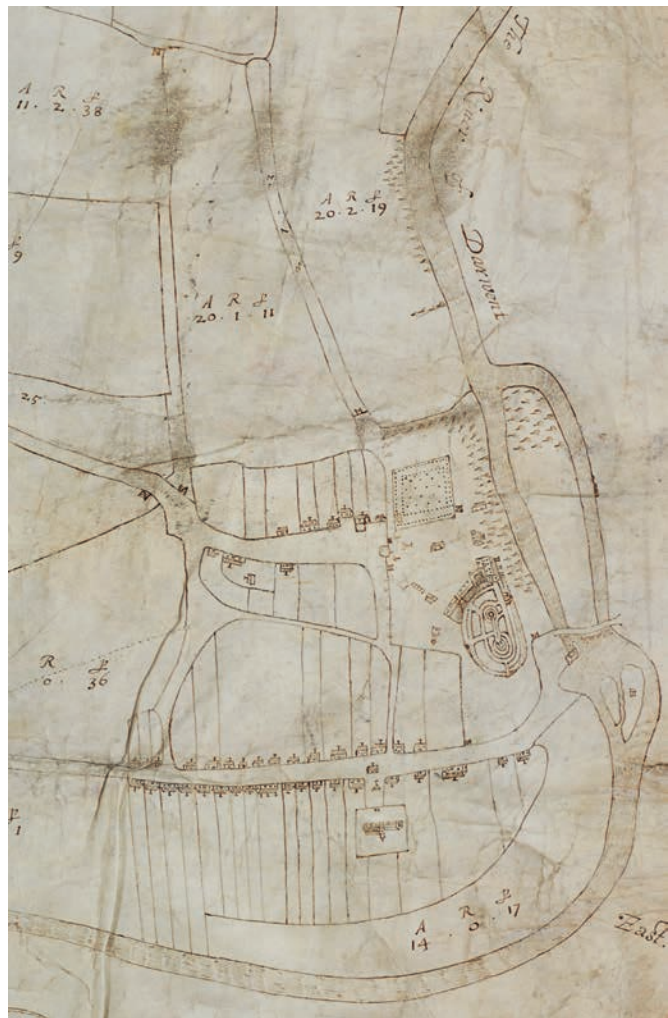


Figure 5: Extract from the 1633 estate map showing the area of Aldby Park and Buttercrambe village (North Yorkshire County Record Office ZDA MPI).

The 1633 map is an important source for understanding the layout of the landscape as it shows many features that no longer exist, and it is referred to repeatedly throughout this report. It is also remarkably accurate, allowing mapped features to be identified on the ground with confidence. It shows that the main house was situated immediately to the north of the castle site which had been transformed into a garden feature with paths and a second mound added at the south-east end of the former bailey. Several smaller buildings stand near the main house while, some distance to the north of the courtyard, is a large square enclosure that may have been an orchard or kitchen garden connected with the main house.

Beyond the house and courtyard, the 1633 map shows a series of fields in and around two areas of settlement. The settlement to the south is clearly Buttercrambe, though it now occupies the south side of the road whereas the 1633 map shows a double row with house plots on both sides. The second area of houses is immediately to the west of the courtyard with plots on both sides of a wide street or green. This settlement, and the gentry house and courtyard to the east, were swept away by the time the estate was next mapped in 1746, following the construction of the present house in 1726.

Thomas Knowlton, a noted botanist and antiquarian, and for many years the gardener to the Earl of Burlington at nearby Londesborough Park, was commissioned by John Brewster Darley to lay out the grounds in the mid-1740s. The bill for the works in September 1746 included payment for levelling the ground to the west of the house, forming slopes and planting various trees including 1000 beech, 500 hornbeam and 2000 birch (Wickham 2021). Two maps survive from this period showing a vastly changed landscape compared with that first mapped in 1633. One is unattributed and may indicate groundworks that were never implemented (Wickham 2021). The other shows the park and the fields beyond it annotated with their acreages and sometimes their names (Bewlay 1746). On this map (Figure 6), woodland covers much of the ground to the south and east of the house with a more open parkland landscape (labelled as The Park) reaching to the west and north and crossed by an avenue of trees aligned on the house. Evidently The Park was added to after the 1746 survey as an



Figure 6:
Extract from the 1746
estate map showing the
area of Aldby Park and
Buttercrambe village
(North Yorkshire County
Record Office
ZDA MP-88).

1829 map shows an additional area labelled as the Deer Park on the north side where the 1746 map shows two small fields separated by a short north-south lane labelled 'Greenegate' (Anon 1829). This extension to the park might have occurred around 1777 when the Darley business accounts mention expenditure on fencing a deer park (Historic England List Entry 1001055).

Aldby Park was put up for lease in 1908 with the published particulars describing 'beautifully laid out pleasure grounds' with 'charming' broad grass terraced paths and a private golf course (Country Life 1908). The latter has left no obvious trace in the landscape. The house fell into neglect during the Second World War when it was used by the military but was restored in the 1960s since when it has reverted to a private residence. Ordnance Survey mapping shows little change to the layout of the park in the 20th century while in the past decade an area to the north of the house has been landscaped to create a tennis court and a series of sinuous, ornamental embankments constructed nearby, overlooking the Derwent.

3. History of Research

Past research into Aldby Park has focused on two aspects of the site, namely the castle and the landscape park. The remains of the castle attracted interest beginning in the 16th century with the mistaken belief that it was connected with King Edwin, the first Christian king of Northumbria, who allegedly escaped assassination around the year AD 726 at his residence by the Derwent. The Tudor topographer William Camden first identified the castle remains as the palace site in the third edition of *Britannia* (Camden 1590, 576). The idea gained in strength during the following centuries and is commonly repeated today, as described in the previous survey report (Jamieson and Pearson 2021, 9-10). The identification of the supposed palace site as a medieval motte and bailey castle was made by William l'Anson in his pioneering survey of Yorkshire castles (l'Anson 1913, 332-3). However, neither this article nor any of the later accounts attempted to understand the castle earthworks in any detail or tried to relate the site to the wider medieval remains extant in the park. A desk-top study of the castle site was undertaken in 2020 in support of research by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust (Pearson and Gates 2020 unpublished). This led to the analytical earthwork survey that provided the first detailed record of the site and confirmed that it was an undocumented medieval motte and bailey castle (Jamieson and Pearson 2021).

The second strand of research concerns the history and development of the park which was given impetus after it was designated as a Historic Park and Garden by English Heritage (now Historic England) in 1984. In 1993 English Heritage commissioned a report on the history and development of Aldby Park from historic gardens expert Jeanette Ray, although no copy could be located at the time of writing. In 1999 the results of the research were encapsulated in the Official List Entry in 1999 maintained by Historic England (Historic England List Entry number 1001055). The entry makes passing reference to ridge and furrow in the north of the park, and mentions that earthworks of the medieval settlement are shown on the 1633 estate map, but the main focus of the is quite understandably on the 18th-century buildings and their contemporary landscape.

Large-scale Ordnance Survey maps from the second half of the nineteenth century located three antiquities in the park near the main house. The 1:10560 map surveyed in 1852 locates the 'Site of the Old Hall' next to a rectangular area, shown with a broken outline, around 150m north of the house,

which presumably is meant to represent an earthwork (Ordnance Survey 1854) (Figure 7). However, it is not clear why the area was identified specifically as an 'Old Hall' by the Ordnance Survey unless there was structural detail visible in the 1850s. Nearly 40 years later the 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey map (surveyed in 1891) labels the same site as 'hall (site of)' using a conventional symbol for an antiquity (a cross) rather than depicting the earthwork in outline (Ordnance Survey 1893). Based on the Ordnance Survey identification, the site has an entry in the Historic England research record (UID 59544) where the possibility of it being a manorial site is raised, though the entry mistakenly identifies it as the site of the 17th-century house. The 1893 Ordnance Survey map also has an antiquity symbol in the centre of the lower of the two terraced lawns to the east of the house which is about where the 17th century house stood. The site is labelled 'The Keep (Site of)'. From the little we know of the 17th century house, it certainly did not resemble a keep.



Figure 7: Extract from 1854 1:10560 scale Ordnance Survey map showing 'Site of Old Hall' with adjacent rectangular earthwork depicted by a dotted outline (Ordnance Survey 1854; Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland).

Between 1998 and 2000 English Heritage mapped the park as part of its aerial mapping programme of the Vale of York. The resulting plot (available on-line through the Historic England Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer) gives a basic representation of the main elements of the archaeological landscape. It shows the extent of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing across the park and depicts in outline the earthworks of the medieval settlement west of the house. Members of the Fridaythorp, Fimber and Wetwang Archaeological Project (FFWAP) undertook a magnetometer survey of the lower terraced lawn to the east of the main house in support of the 2021 earthwork survey of the castle. No significant features were detected using that particular geophysical technique.

Description and discussion of the earthworks

The fieldwork involved ground-based survey, supplemented by 3D digital representations of the land surface derived from data supplied by the Environment Agency National Lidar Programme and through photogrammetric processing of drone photography by Historic England (see Section 9 for more information on the survey methodology). The results were combined to produce a 1:1000 scale earthwork survey plan, a reduced copy of which is included with this report (see Figure 24 at the rear of the report). The area investigated covered about 32ha of the 36ha designated as a Historic Park and Garden in 1984. The north part of the designated area was not investigated as it is ploughed and does not contain any visible remains.

The earthworks recorded during survey work fall into two main categories: medieval remains which survive across the park and features connected with the 18th- and 19th-century designed landscape near to the house (Figure 8). The most extensive remains from the medieval period are prominent plough ridges that cover most of the northern half of the park. Known as 'ridge and furrow' these remains lie in several distinct blocks called furlongs and are a rare survival in an intensively farmed

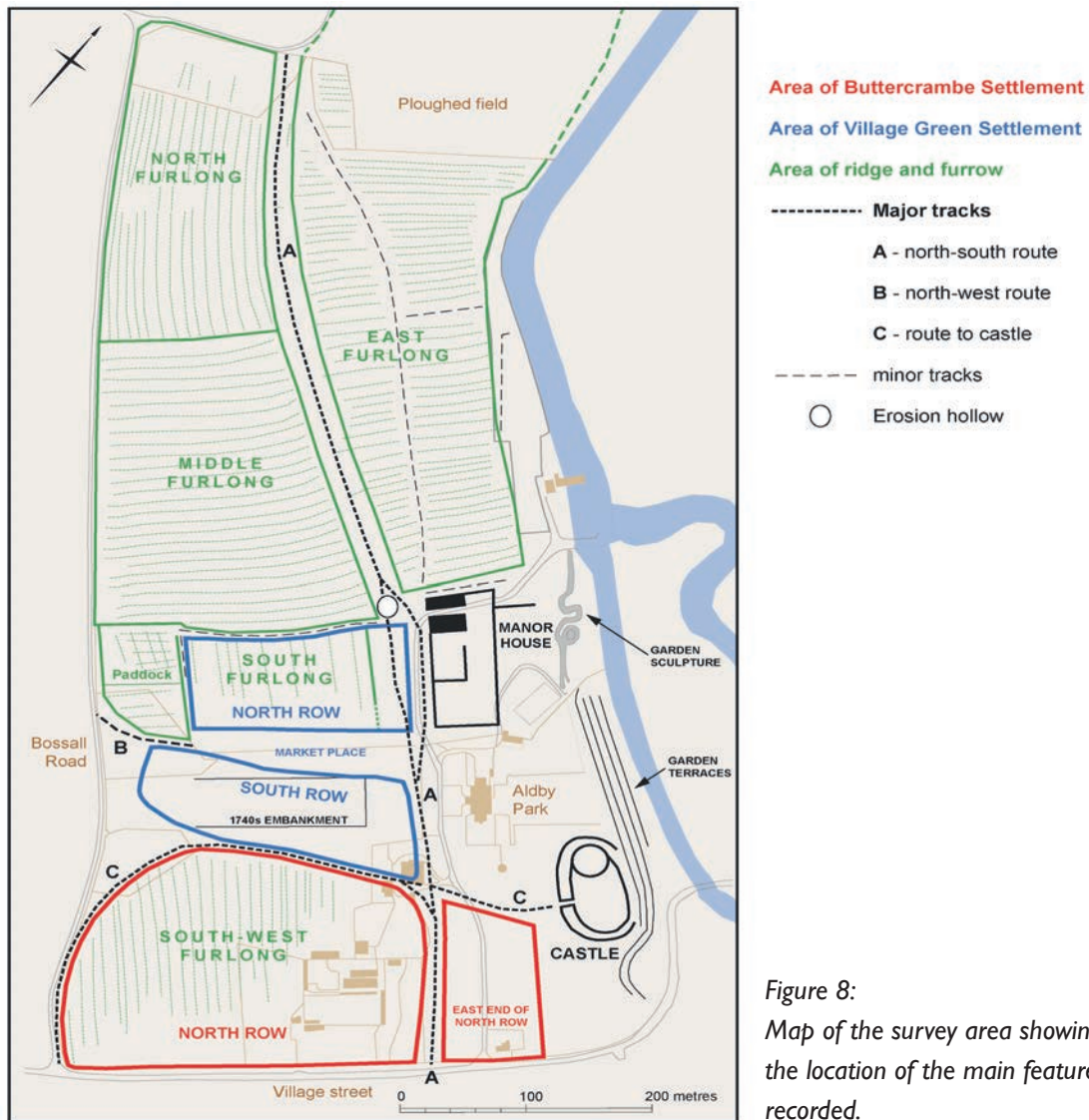


Figure 8:
Map of the survey area showing the location of the main features recorded.

region. A smaller area of ridge and furrow also exists in the south-west of the park and collectively the furlongs represent part of the arable land of the medieval manor of Buttercrambe. A number of tracks were recorded associated with the field system and which joined other routeways that formerly continued beyond the survey area. The two areas of medieval settlement in the park were still occupied in 1633, when the first surviving map of Buttercrambe was completed. In 1633 one area, towards the middle of the park, comprised a double row of houses in mostly long, narrow plots either side of a wide east-west street or village green. For the purposes of this report this is named the Village Green Settlement. The grouping together of properties into rows of long, narrow plots is common in villages of medieval origin with the plots usually referred to as tofts and crofts. The toft is the area at the front of the plot, and included the main house and associated yard, while the area to the rear is termed the croft and was the equivalent of a long, narrow, enclosed field. A second group of houses, recognisably the precursor to the modern village, is shown on the 1633 map as a series of long, narrow plots on either side of the street leading to the Derwent crossing. The only standing building that appears to survive from this period is at Home Farm on the south side of the street. This is a single storey cottage with two chimneys aligned parallel to the street, similar in form to the small cottages depicted on the 1633 map. This area is referred to in the rest of this report as the 'Buttercrambe Settlement' to distinguish it from the present village. The row of plots forming the north side of the settlement were swept away in the second half of the 18th century leaving some earthwork remains within the park boundary.

4. Field System

The medieval field system on the north of the park consists of five furlongs of ridge and furrow covering an area of around 17ha (Figures 9 and 10). A north-south track divides one long furlong on the east from three smaller furlongs on the west. The plough furrows vary in width from 10-12m and the majority adopt a slightly curving alignment which is characteristic of the medieval period. The ridges of the one furlong to the east of the track are aligned east-west and extend from the track as far as the crest of the slope above the river Derwent. The three furlongs to the west of the track have different alignments, with the ridges in the North and South Furlongs aligned north-south, and an intermediate furlong (named here the Middle Furlong) aligned east-west. The South Furlong does not survive as well as the others as it is overlain by part of the Village Green Settlement (see section 6.2). Unconnected with this field system is a single block of plough ridges situated at the south-west corner of the park. Referred to in this report as the South-West Furlong, it is described at the end of this section.

The ploughing is depicted schematically on the survey plans by dashed lines representing individual furrows, apart from the South Furlong. The ploughing in this furlong is depicted as earthworks in order to accurately depict the relationship with overlying settlement remains.

4.1 The East Furlong

The east furlong is bounded on the south by a field bank with a track beyond it and extended northwards for 490m north, taking it outside what is now the park boundary where the greater part of the ridges have been levelled by ploughing. Of these, only the west ends now survive as earthworks in a wooded area immediately inside the park.

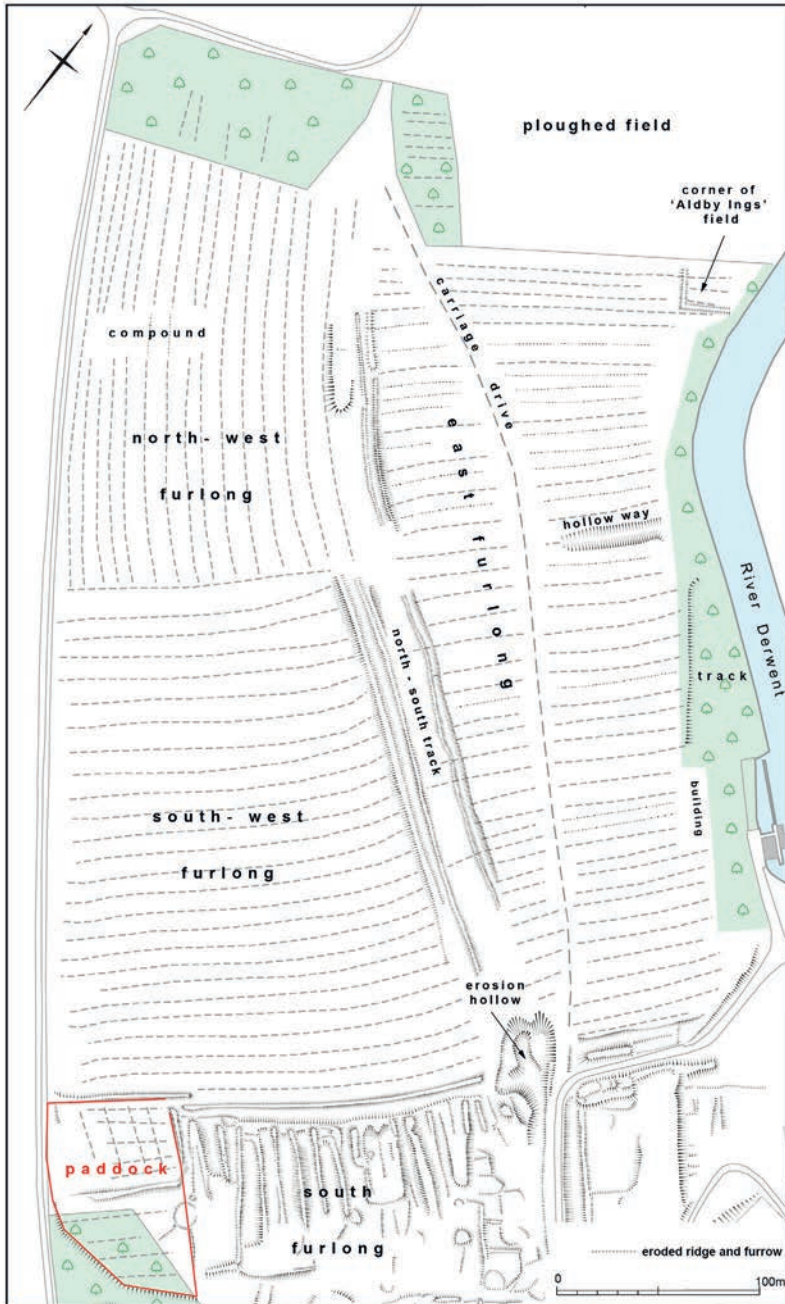
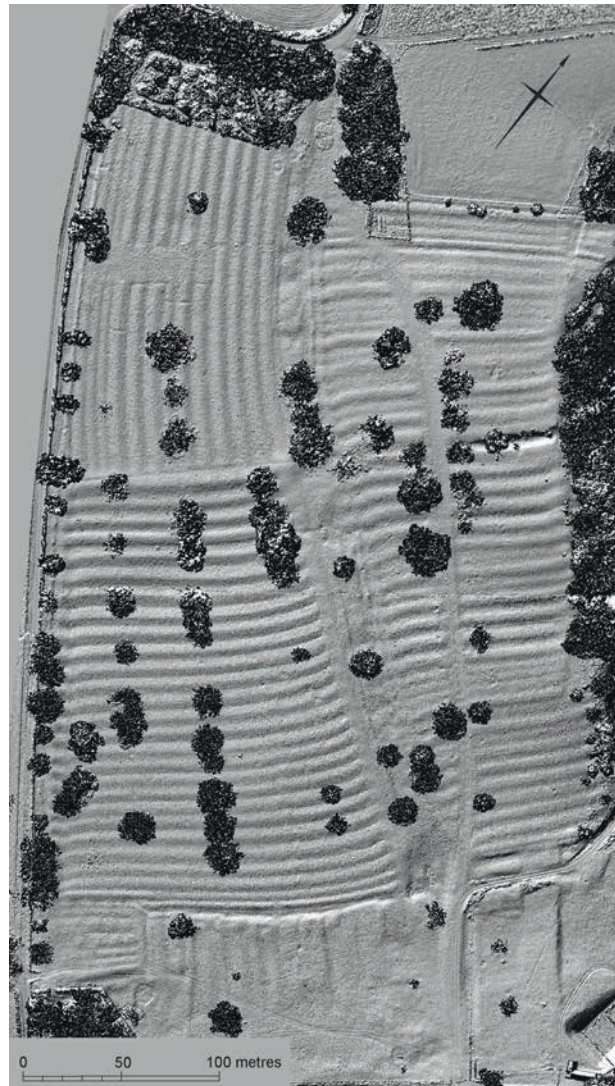


Figure 9:
 Extract from the earthwork survey plan showing the area of the medieval field system on the north of the park.

At several points along the length of the furlong groups of two or three adjacent ridges are much reduced in height. This could indicate where small parcels of ground had been enclosed for separate agricultural use resulting in the degradation of the ridges that fell within each plot. Evidence for a separate phase of cultivation is also evident at the north of the furlong in the form of a group of five straight ridges, each around 6m wide, indicating where the much broader, medieval, ridges were later over-ploughed. An L-shaped bank at the east end of this area overlies the later ridges and represents the south-west corner of the field called Aldby lngs on the 1829 estate map (Anon 1829).

In the approximate middle of the east furlong, a short length of hollow way between plough ridges is probably a point where animals were moved to the riverside pasture as the gradient of the slope is quite gentle in this area. Additionally, the feature may have defined the south boundary of the Deer Park shown on the 1829 map which extended from here to the north boundary of the park. About 110m further south, the east ends of several ridges have been levelled across a rectangular area measuring 40m north-south by 20m. This feature may be the site of a building or an animal pen positioned close to the crest of the valley side. A track terraced into this slope leads obliquely northwards from this feature for 80m where it turns sharply back on itself downslope. The track presumably served to move livestock to the meadows alongside the river.



*Figure 10:
Digital ground model
of the medieval field
system occupying the
north of the park
(Image courtesy of
Historic England/
Dave Went).*

The continuity of the plough ridges has been disrupted by the construction of a broad north-south track down the middle of the furlong. This feature appears to have been deliberately engineered as almost without exception every plough ridge that it crosses has been flattened. There is little evidence of surface wear along the line of this track and, with no evidence of flanking banks, it was probably not used to move livestock. Most likely is that it was created as a carriage drive in the 18th century, from the Bossall Road on the north to the present house in preference to the medieval and badly-eroded north-south track further to the west (see section 5.2).

4.2 The North Furlong

On the north, the ridges extend into undergrowth where they are visible on the Lidar digital ground model for a short distance. The furlong extends for a maximum overall length of 250m southwards, ending at a bank that divides it from the Middle Furlong. In width it extends 135m from the north-south track to the edge of the park on the west. In the field on the opposite side of the road, English Heritage aerial mapping records ridge and furrow aligned at right angles, east-west, thus establishing that the park boundary (or maybe the road beyond it) perpetuates the line of the west boundary of the North Furlong.

Intermediate furrows down the centre of the two west ridges of the North Furlong indicate secondary ploughing while, half-way down the west side, parts of several ridges have been levelled across a rectangular area measuring 50m east-west by 25m across. The edges of the levelled area are quite sharply defined suggesting the feature is recent and presumably was for some form of temporary compound or structure.

4.3 The Middle Furlong

The Middle Furlong extends for 255m between the North and South Furlongs with plough ridges oriented east - west. The furlong is bounded on the east by the north-south track and on the west by the present park boundary. As these two boundaries are not parallel, the width of the furlong increases southwards, from around 130m on the north to 200m on the south. The north and south sides of the furlong are defined by banks.

4.4 The South Furlong

The plough ridges are orientated north-south but are overlain by the north row of the Village Green Settlement (see section 6.2). Consequently they have suffered erosion and probable truncation with the surviving ridges varying between 40 and 65m in length. As a result there is no clear evidence of the original south boundary of the furlong. The furlong probably had an east-west width of around 150m, from the north-south track westwards to a boundary that also forms the west end of the later row of tofts and crofts. More plough ridges are visible immediately to the west of this line within the earthwork boundary of a paddock that is probably contemporary with the north row.

East-west plough ridges are visible intermittently across the interior of the paddock, including within the wood covering the south half. A second group of plough ridges aligned north-south occupies the north half of the paddock ending on the south at a transverse bank. Collectively both sets of ridge and furrow probably represent two phases of arable cultivation confined to this one plot.

4.5 South-West Furlong

The plough ridges forming the furlong on the south-west of the park are aligned north-south perpendicular to the underlying south-facing slope (Figure 11). The ridges are about 10m wide and quite straight, suggesting they were created by horse-drawn ploughs in contrast to the heavy ox-drawn ploughs that typically produce the slightly curved ridges evident in the field system on the north of the park. The ploughing is unlikely to be any earlier than the 13th century which is when horse-drawn ploughs are first recorded in the East Riding (Dyer 2012, 320). The west boundary of the furlong begins as a low scarp at the present village street and follows a curving alignment to the north-east, becoming more strongly defined by a bank. The north side is formed by a hollow way which, on the 1633 map, was part of a track extending from the village street around the west



Figure 11: View looking south showing part of the South-West Furlong and the area of the North Row of the Buttercrambe Settlement (Image courtesy of Historic England/Dave Went).

and north-west sides of the furlong described above. The south side of the ploughed field is defined by the village street although most traces of the ridges disappear 40m from this boundary due to the later expansion of a row of tofts across this area forming the north row of the Buttercrambe Settlement. The ploughed area is now overlain on the east by a complex of post-1700 estate buildings but it probably continued eastwards to a north-south hollow way giving the furlong a total width of about 300m, with a north-south length of up to 180m.

5. Routeways

The survey recorded a number of medieval tracks surviving as shallow linear depressions or deeper hollow ways. Most functioned as access to plough furlongs (as described above) or formed short passages between tofts and crofts while other lengths are evidence for the existence of longer routeways (Figure 8). This includes the present village street which is the only one of the routes that has continued in use since the medieval period.

5.1 The village street

Towards its east end, the village street aligns upon the natural approach to the ford, created by a terrace between the steep end of the ridge to the north, where the castle is located and the Derwent floodplain on the south. As it descends to the river, the road lies within a broad hollow way indicating the route has been used for a prolonged period and conceivably pre-dates the growth of the medieval village.

5.2 The north-south route

The only major medieval north-south route in the survey area survives as several unconnected earthwork features (Figure 8 Feature A). When in use it was part of a longer route between Buttercrambe on the south and Bossall to the north, where the parish church is to be found. However, it had ceased to function as a through route by the time of the 1633 map.

The longest visible length extends south for 420m from the north boundary of the park forming the boundary in the medieval field system that divides the east furlong from three furlongs on the west. The track is bounded on both sides by discontinuous lengths of bank giving an overall width of 30-35m. It disappears as an earthwork on the south where a large erosion hollow interrupts the line. The width of the track probably results from realignment of the route to the east to avoid this obstacle. Evidence of this is provided by several slight east-west plough furrows within the east half of the track showing where the route shifted on to the edge of the East Furlong. Traces of a wide, flattened bank in places along the centre of the track are probably the remnant of the original furlong boundary.

The erosion hollow is a large sub-circular depression up to 2m deep formed at the point where there is a junction with two east-west field tracks. The hollow probably formed through the gradual wearing down of the ground surface at the junction of these tracks, possibly exacerbated by use of the area as a sheltered pen for livestock after the route had been diverted to the east. In 1852 there was a trough and a small pond near this area, suggesting animals were encouraged to use this spot as a watering hole, thereby adding to the erosion (Ordnance Survey 1854).

Evidence of the realignment of the route is also apparent to the south of the erosion hollow. Here the track is a straight 80m long hollow way located approximately 15m to the east of its original line. Earthwork traces of the earlier alignment are now impossible to distinguish with confidence from those of the later toft and croft forming the end plot of the North Row of the Village Green Settlement (see section 6.2).

After a considerable gap in front of the main house, the earthwork remains of the track emerge again much further to the south forming a 16m-wide and 100m-long hollow way. On the south, the route undoubtedly continued as far as the village street meeting it almost opposite the church. However the earthwork now fades out some 40m from that junction. Towards the north end, the hollow way shows a marked curve to the west suggesting it widened where it met an east-west route that formed the approach to the castle as discussed below. However that junction is now occupied by a group of buildings including the 18th-century stable block; consequently no earthwork evidence from the meeting of the two routes survives.

5.3 The north-west route

A route that entered the survey area from the north-west survives as a single 40m long hollow way in the trees close to the west boundary of the park (Figure 8 Feature B) where it follows the edge of a paddock associated with the Village Green Settlement (see section 6.2). The earthwork is a small part of a route shown on the 1633 map that started at the Village Green Settlement and extended north-west beyond the present survey area for 1.8km to Buttercrambe Moor. On the evidence of Ordnance Survey mapping, it continued to function as 'Beeches Lane' until the middle of the 20th century before reducing to a field boundary.

5.4 Route to the castle

The survey work has been able to define the course of a route to the castle which begins around 300m to the west, starting on the north side of the village street (Figure 8 Feature C). From there, it initially headed north and then north-east on a curving path that took it up the slope around the edge of the South-West Furlong. In this section the only evidence for the track is a single scarp that additionally defined the edge of the furlong. Having gained the crest of the slope, the route turned east towards the castle, though along this section it is now incomplete as an earthwork. It first emerges on the crest of the slope as a hollow way between the South-West Furlong on the south and the site of the south row of the Village Green Settlement to the north. This part of the route has three earthwork phases, beginning with a 55m long hollow way that curves slightly southwards towards the castle, then widening eastwards to accommodate the now lost junction with the north-south route. In a second phase, the track is represented by a 90m long and 8m wide level strip of ground that partly fills the previous hollow way on the south. A third phase is represented by a straight, 5m wide track, traceable for about 90m on the north side of the first hollow way. This feature may well be 19th century as the 1829 map shows a straight east-west track in this position (see section 7.1). Beyond the north-south track, the final section of the route survives as a short section of track bordering the ends of two crofts to the south. Thereafter it fades as an earthwork some 30m short of the castle entrance, which is defined by a causeway across the external ditch (Jamieson and Pearson 2021).

6. Medieval and later Settlement

6.1 The manor house

The castle was described in detail in the 2021 survey report (Jamieson and Pearson 2021). The survey work reported on here provides detailed evidence for a second high-status medieval complex in the form of an enclosed manor house, 100m to the north of the castle. Here, are the sites of two substantial buildings in a large, rectilinear precinct with a possible garden to the east (Figure 12). Interpretation is wholly dependent on the earthwork remains as the site had been abandoned before the 1633 map. At that date, the area was occupied by a square-shaped enclosed garden or orchard with an avenue of trees or plants (represented by lines of dots) around all four sides of the interior, and a less formal planting scheme in the centre (Figure 13). This enclosure was not discernible on the ground.

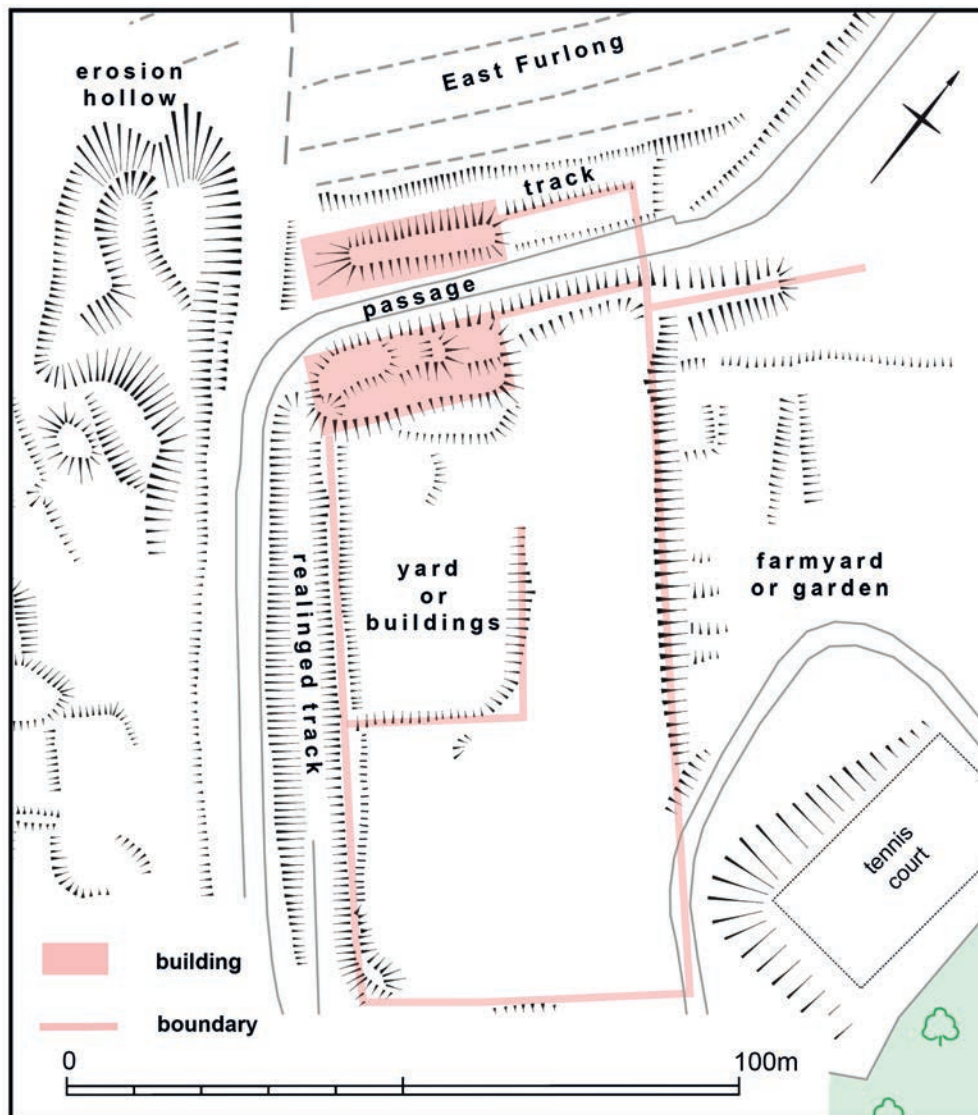


Figure 12: Extract from the survey plan showing the area of the manor house.



Figure 13:
 Extract from the 1633 estate map showing the square garden enclosure occupying the site of the medieval manor house (North Yorkshire County Record Office ZDA MPI).

There is no evidence of any underlying plough ridges so the two plots defining the area of the manor house and possible garden were established on the edge of the medieval field system, with ridge and furrow of the East Furlong immediately to the north and the South Furlong to the west. The west plot of the manor house is about 100m long north-south by about 60m. On the west it is defined by a low, flat-topped bank bordering the realigned north-south track (see section 5.2). A slight curve at one end of the bank shows the south-west corner of the plot while one short scarp may indicate the south side. The east side is straight and defined by a pronounced east-facing terrace scarp up to 1.2m high. The north side of the plot is defined by an east-west track that divides it from the ridge and furrow to the north.

A flat-topped mound, orientated east-west, reaches for 30m from the north-west corner of the plot. It is around 8m wide and may indicate the site of a long building. At the east end of the mound is a lower bank that continues along the edge of the track to the approximate east edge of the plot and may represent the north boundary. Another probable building is indicated by a second much larger mound to the south, the two separated by a 6m wide gap that carries a modern track. The second mound is similarly 30m long east-west but much wider at 15m, with a distinct shelf on its south face and slight traces of subdivisions on the summit. On the east side of the mound is a slightly lower and narrower bank which continues to the edge of the plot. It is possible that this bank, combined with the gap between the two mounds, defined an east-west passage leading from an entrance on the west side of the plot. Further south, a prominent L-shaped scarp, 40m from the larger of the two mounds, may indicate the corner of a yard or the end of a range of structures

constructed against the west boundary of the plot. The larger of the two mounds is picked out by a rectangular dotted line on the 1:10560 scale Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1852 (Ordnance Survey 1854) and labelled 'Site of the Old Hall' (see section 3, Figure 6). This labelling implies that masonry or other structural traces of a major building could be seen in the 1850s.

The east plot has only one clear boundary which is the terraced scarp where it meets the west plot. There is no definite evidence of the other sides, though a length of east-west bank immediately to the south of the modern track could represent the north boundary in which case the plot did not extend as far north as the plot to the west. An L-shaped pair of earthworks towards the north-west corner of the plot could be the site of a small building measuring 12m north-south by 5m. To its north, a length of east-west scarp could be an old fence or hedge line while other slight earthworks hint at unidentified features within the plot.

The complex does not appear on any of the known maps which is strong evidence that it is likely to be earlier than 1633, and therefore medieval. The scale of the building remains, and the overall size of the two plots, exceed those evident in the two other areas of medieval settlement suggesting this was a high status complex with generous internal space, therefore most probably a manor house. Our interpretation is that the west plot was the main residential area, with evidence for two large buildings at the north-west corner of a large rectangular enclosure, and with a range of structures or a yard to their south. The plot to the east was evidently less built-up and is interpreted as a farmyard or, just as plausibly, a private garden with a view over the river.

6.2 The Village Green Settlement

The remains of the Village Green Settlement are situated towards the middle of the park to the west of the manor house site. The earthworks principally comprise the tofts and crofts of the north row of what had been a double-row settlement. The 1633 map depicts north and south rows of tofts and crofts aligned east-west either side of a wide street, which may have functioned as a village green or market area as well as a thoroughfare (Figure 14). The last remaining buildings of this settlement were probably swept away in 1726 when the present house was constructed.



Figure 14: Extract from the 1633 estate map showing the Village Green Settlement (North Yorkshire County Record Office ZDA MPI).

The north row

The survey work identified the earthwork remains of eight north-south plots that formed the north row of the settlement along with an area to the south representing part of the former village green (Figure 15). Seven of the plots overlie the South Furlong of the medieval ridge and furrow field system with the boundaries between plots formed by alternate plough ridges. The last plot at the east end of the row lies outside the plough furlong and is probably a later addition to the north row. It extends across the original line of the north-south track after it had fallen out of use due to erosion to be replaced by a new length of track further to the east adjacent to the boundary of the manor house (see section 5.2).

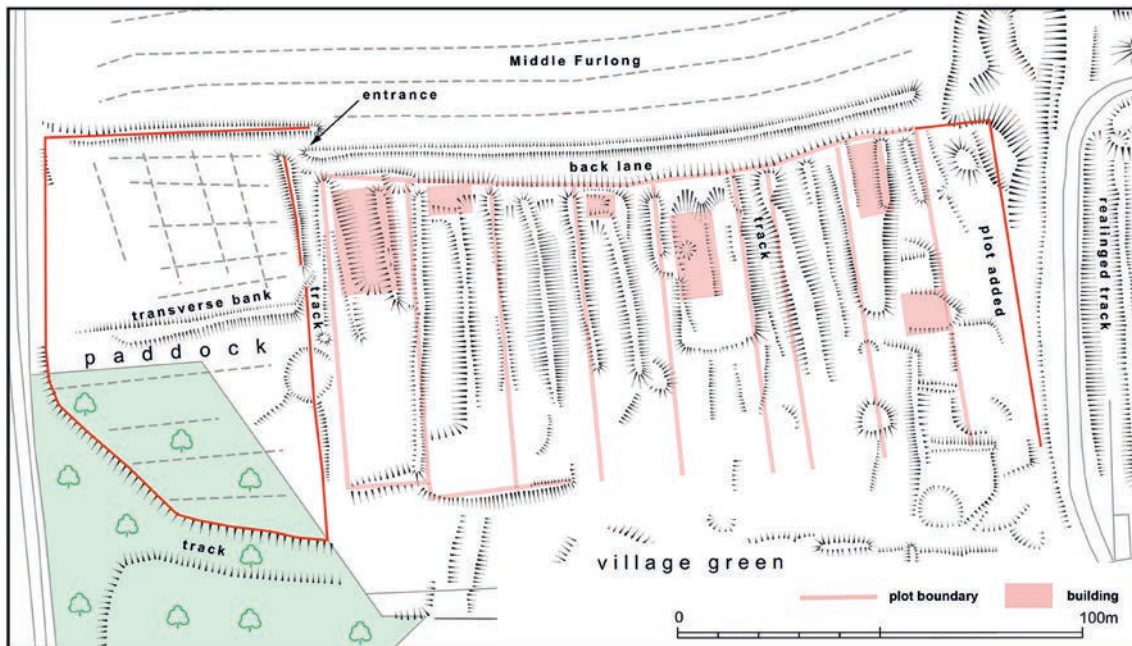


Figure 15: Extract from the survey plan showing the area of the north row of the Village Green Settlement.

The earthworks reveal a good deal about the character of this row of plots. Each was around 22m wide and all but the additional plot on the east was bounded on the north by the same east-west hollow way. This hollow way probably began as a track between the South and Middle Furlongs, and continued in use as a back lane to the north row. Not all the plots have a clear south boundary but the three at the west end of the row appear to extend no further than two lengths of an east-west bank which probably represent the south end of these plots, hence indicating they were around 80m long. The 30m wide strip of ground south of this line therefore represents part of the village green shown on the 1633 map. This explains why the area is level and largely devoid of any significant earthworks including any remains of ridge and furrow indicating that the South Furlong did not extend this far south.

Slight transverse banks indicate that some of the plots in the north row were sub-divided, while rectangular depressions of various sizes, mainly towards the north end of most of the plots, could indicate the location of buildings, some aligned across the plot and others parallel to the long side. These may have been workshops or stores or it may indicate that the north row originally faced on to the back lane and that these earthworks represent houses at the street frontage. Slight erosion scars (most too small to depict at the survey scale of 1:1000) indicate where there was access from the lane into some of the plots and passages between others.

The paddock

At the west end of the row, beyond the boundary of the former South Furlong, is a large sub-rectangular plot. It is significantly larger in area than the other plots in the row suggesting that it is more likely to have been a small field or paddock rather than another toft and croft. The back lane feeds into what might have been an entrance at the north-east corner of the paddock, while the east side is divided from the last toft and croft by a narrow track. This track heads south for 30m from the back lane to a gap in the east side of the paddock which is probably another entrance. At this point the interior of the paddock is crossed by an east-west bank. The south and south-west sides of the paddock lie within a wooded area but are nevertheless distinguishable on the Lidar digital ground model as a slight outward-facing scarp. As depicted on the 1633 map, this feature defined one edge of an external track that formed part of a longer routeway heading north-west to Buttercrambe Moor (see section 5.3). The west side of the paddock is now indistinguishable from the park boundary where it adjoins the road to Bossall. As described earlier in the report (see section 4.4), the interior of the paddock has an intermittent series of east-west plough ridges with cross-cutting north-south ridges confined to the north of the internal east-west bank.

On the 1633 map houses were located at the south end of the plots facing on to the village green. There is very little earthwork evidence surviving for this line of buildings though a number of sub-circular earthworks and rectilinear features in several of the plots towards the east end of the row could indicate the position of structures. The map also indicates that by 1633 the second and third plots from the west had been amalgamated to form a single toft and croft.

The south row

The site of the south row was mostly destroyed in the 1740s by the construction of an embankment to provide an elevated approach from the west to the new house built in 1726 (see section 7.1). From the evidence of the 1633 map, the south row had a less regular plan compared to its northern counterpart. This may mean that the row developed 'organically' by encroaching piecemeal on to the south side of what originally had been a more extensive village green or market area. Here, the only features shown on the 1633 map that recognisably survive as earthworks are part of the back lane to the south row and short lengths of two of the plot boundaries on the north side of this track. The back lane originated as part of the route from the west to the castle (see section 5.4) and one of the plot boundaries surviving as a shallow ditch joins with the north side of this track. The other surviving plot boundary lies 23m to the west taking the form of a single north-south scarp. There is no ridge and furrow surviving alongside these boundary features leading to the conclusion that ploughing did not ever extend into this area.

6.3 The Buttercrambe Settlement

The main earthwork element of the Buttercrambe Settlement surviving within the park comprises the partial remains of a number of structures extending along the south boundary of the park up to a maximum of 35m from the street frontage (Figure 16). They are the remains of a series of buildings forming part of the settlement's north row of tofts. The earthworks begin on the west, at the south-west corner of the park, and extend for 180m to the east ending at group of later estate buildings and yards. The 1633 map indicates the row of tofts continued where the estate buildings now stand continuing up to the north-south track (Figure 17) which in this area survives as a hollow way as discussed above (see section 5.2). Two further plots partially survive as earthworks

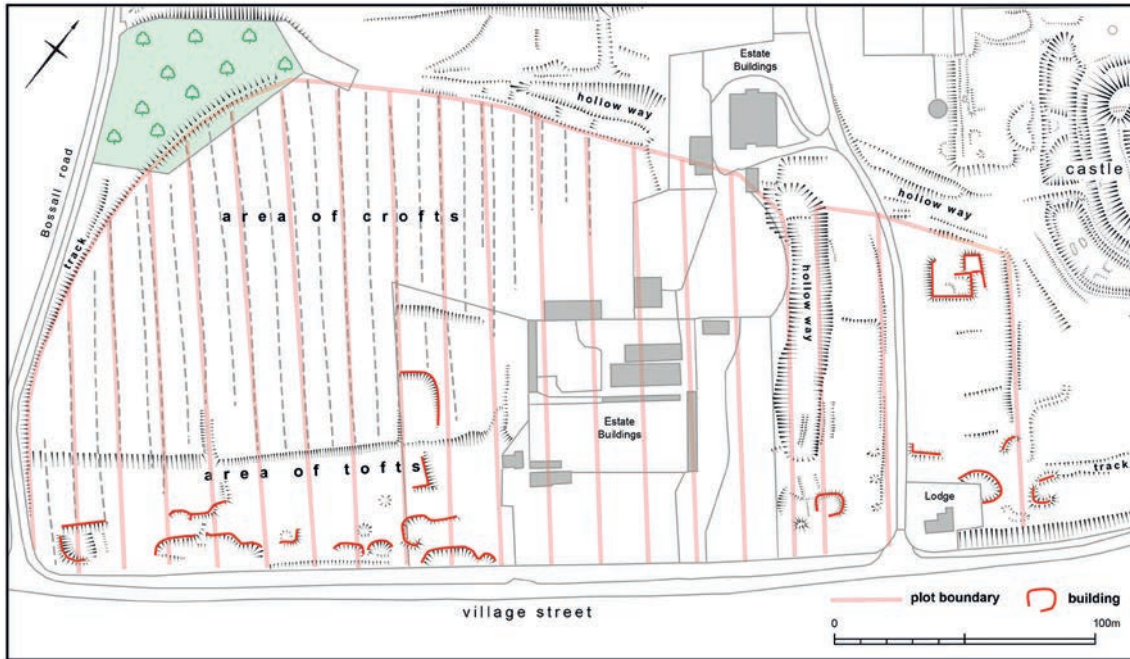


Figure 16: Extract from the survey plan showing the north row of the Buttercrambe Settlement.

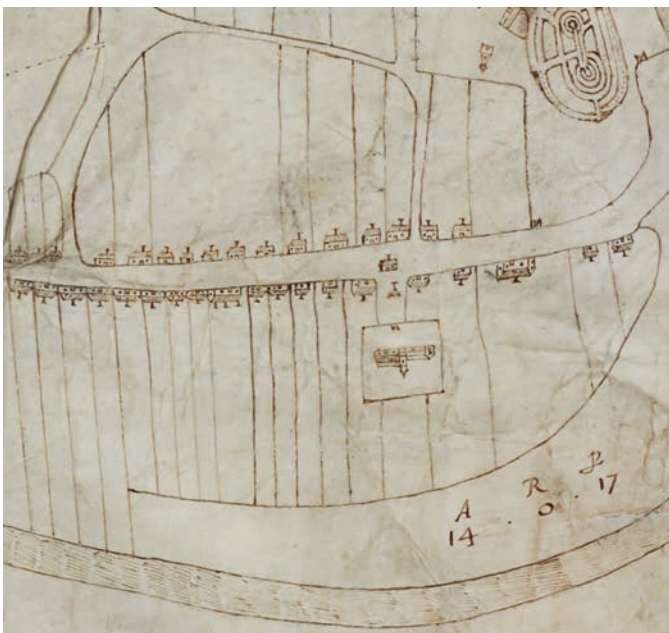


Figure 17:
Extract from the 1633 estate map showing Buttercrambe village (North Yorkshire County Record Office ZDA MPI).

to the east of the north-south track and represent the east end of the north row as depicted on the 1633 map. This map, and the later estate map of 1746, also indicate that the north row extended further west outside the survey area beyond the road to Bossall. Both maps show three small tofts and crofts, one of which appears to encroach upon the Bossall road. These plots are now in agricultural land and have left no earthwork remains though patches of darker soil visible on Google Earth aerial imagery could indicate building remains. Based solely on the map evidence, these three plots look like they are probably a later addition to the end of the north row.

The north row

The structural remains of the row of tofts along the south boundary of the park up to the group of estate buildings comprise rectilinear, oval and square earthworks, mostly quite shallow and generally aligned with the street frontage. The best preserved of these is an L-shaped bank at the west end of the group which probably represents wall foundations at the corner of a building. A straight, south-facing scarp, set back 40m from the street frontage, starts on the west near the road to Bossall and continues for 180m disappearing on the east at the estate buildings. This feature is contemporary with the north row as it defined the division between the tofts to the south and the crofts to the north. The scarp cuts across the north-south plough ridges of the South-West Furlong, confirming that these tofts and crofts were laid out across the ploughed area. The ephemeral remains of some plough ridges are visible within several of the tofts towards the west of the row, particularly in the area of the westernmost toft where the plough ridges are quite clear as far as the street frontage. They are better preserved here because this particular toft was not as long-lived as the others, the buildings having been swept away prior to the 1746 map.

The crofts extend for up to 140m to the north of the tofts ending at the north boundary of the former furlong. The surviving earthworks suggest that the tofts and crofts overlying the South-West Furlong are likely to have been formed by the enclosure of pairs of plough ridges leading to the creation of around 15 plots across the ploughed area, each with a width of about 19-20m. A slight deepening and broadening of alternate plough furrows probably represent footpaths or ditches alongside the croft boundaries. Where these features cross the east-west scarp separating the tofts and crofts, they have left slight ditches across its line. The site of one possible building was noted in one of the crofts represented by a broad rectangular terraced platform 30m to the west of the estate buildings. The absence of any other buildings or sub-divisions within the crofts suggests each probably continued to be cultivated in its entirety, in effect creating a series of long, narrow enclosed fields. The 1633 map shows only seven plots in the north row which is less than half of the original number indicating that the framework of plots did not remain static and that some were amalgamated to create larger properties.

The date when the row of tofts and crofts was laid out across the South-West Furlong is impossible to determine with any certainty. The date of the South-West Furlong is unlikely to be any earlier than 1200 based on form of the plough ridges (see section 4.5) so the north row must be 13th century or later. The 1746 map shows just the row of tofts along the street frontage suggesting the area of the crofts may have reverted to a single field by that date, possibly in order to open up the landscape as part of the changes to the park implemented by Thomas Knowlton in the early 1740s. The tofts themselves were swept away before the next estate map was compiled in 1829 (Anon 1829)

The east end of the north row

The two plots at the east end of the north row lie beyond the South-West Furlong in an area that shows no evidence of having been previously ploughed. The plots are defined by low earthwork banks and are bounded to the north by a trackway that formed part of the approach to the castle from the west (see section 5.4), giving the plots an overall length of about 140m. The east plot of the pair is about 40m wide with possible buildings defining the area of the toft, indicated by low earthworks near the road frontage, though the south-west corner has been destroyed by the construction of the entrance lodge to the park. A rectilinear group of earthworks at the north end

of the plot indicate a probable square-shaped building, measuring 20m across with internal divisions. Elsewhere, several short east-west scarps may indicate that the plot was sub-divided transversely. Beyond the east side of the plot is the site of a possible building defined by a prominent U-shaped earthwork and slight traces of an adjacent track extending to the east. Both appear to be quite recent.

The westernmost plot is 20m wide and borders the north-south hollow way on its west side. The site of a possible building towards the south of the plot is indicated by a rectangular area surrounded by a low bank. This bank may represent the foundations of a building whose entrance is marked by the gap in the bank at the south-west corner. One, or possibly two, small yards to the east are indicated by several narrow L-shaped scarps. A mound of soil and stones lying near these features appears to be of recent origin. While they appear to be an integral part of the north row on the 1633 map, it is not necessarily the case that these two plots are the same date as the tofts and crofts to the west which overlie the South-West Furlong.

7. 18th- and 19th-century designed landscape

7.1 West of the house

The principal earthwork feature surviving from the 18th-century designed landscape west of the 1726 house is a substantial embankment, measuring 115m east-west and 50m across, with its central axis aligned on the middle of the building. This feature represents part of the landscaping of the park undertaken by Thomas Knowlton in the 1740s, and was constructed to form part of the main approach to the house, linking with an avenue originally intended to continue for 1.5km to the north-west but which was never completed (Historic England List Entry 1001055) (Figure 18).



Figure 18:
Extract from the 1746 estate map
showing the tree-lined west approach
(North Yorkshire County Record
Office ZDA MP-88).

Further west, two slight hills adjacent to the Bossall road were cut back, and their sides evened out, to flank the start of the route into the park and to open out the view towards the house. This engineering is also probably the work of Thomas Knowlton, with the resulting spoil presumably being used in the construction of the embankment.

The embankment begins 70m from the west boundary of the park as a barely perceptible slope while the top has been graded to be perfectly flat, though the ground naturally falls slightly to the east (Figure 19). Consequently, at the east end, 60m from the house, the embankment drops by 1.5m (Figure 20). A slightly raised causeway, part-way along the length of the embankment, probably represents a surviving part of the approach drive. This might have been metalled, and at six metres wide, could have accommodated a horse-drawn carriage. The vestiges of a ramp at the east end of the embankment indicate where the causeway negotiated the slope down to an open area in front of the house. The evidence for the ramp consists of a square-ended cut in the end of the embankment with a slight rectilinear earthwork projecting beyond it. Map evidence shows that in 1746 the area between the ramp and the house was a featureless open space, but by 1829 it was occupied by an oval turning circle for carriages (Bewlay 1746; Anon 1829). The feature had gone by 1852 and no earthwork trace of it survives (Ordnance Survey 1854).

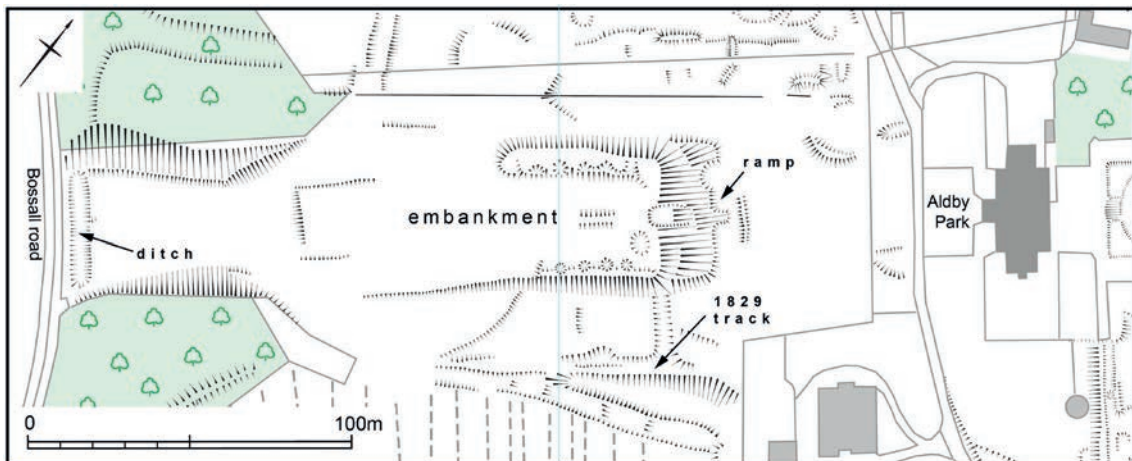


Figure 19: Extract from the survey plan showing the area to the west of the house.



Figure 20:
The east end of the embankment looking west.

As well as providing a level approach, the embankment also served to control the initial view of the house on entering the park from the Bossall road. From this distance, only the larger windows of the more important rooms on the three upper floors appear above the top of the embankment, while the basement windows, external staircase and forecourt hidden from view (Figure 21). The 1746 map shows two rows of trees flanking the approach which would have further helped draw the eye towards the house. It may be part of this tree-lined avenue, or possibly one of its successors, that has left the line of hollows down either side of the embankment indicating where trees have been uprooted. The same map also shows a rectilinear pond and a cruciform building, as well as several other more minor features, on the north side of the avenue of trees and therefore some distance from the surviving embankment. No earthwork remains of these features survives.



Figure 21: The house viewed from the west boundary of the park along the embankment.

By 1829, map evidence shows that the main approach to the house had changed to the south side of the park where a carriage drive led from the village street and ended at the turning circle in front of the house, as mentioned above (Anon 1829). By this date the formal west approach had been abandoned though a minor route from the west still ran beside the embankment to the south, while the 1829 map shows that the avenue of trees on the embankment itself continued in being. Moving this route from the top of the embankment to a more hidden position on its south side undoubtedly increased the picturesque appeal of the view of the house from the Bossall road. A length of the realigned route was noted earlier as forming the third phase of what had been the back lane of the Village Green Settlement (see section 5.4).

At the point where the west approach to the house entered the park from the Bossall road is a 35m long, 6m wide and 1m deep, flat-bottomed ditch aligned along the inside of the park boundary. This feature is first depicted by the Ordnance Survey in 1893, along with a companion ditch on the opposite side of the road that has now disappeared as an earthwork (Ordnance Survey 1893). The ditches do not appear on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map but as this is on a smaller scale their absence cannot be taken as conclusive evidence that they did not exist. In the context of a designed landscape, both features might have been 'ha-has', removing the need for unsightly fences to prevent livestock from wandering into the park.

7.2 East of the house

The main feature of the designed landscape on the east side of the house comprises a 30m-wide lawn, extending from the terrace in front of the house for 60m to the edge of the slope above the river (Figure 22). It has a clipped yew hedge on the north and south-east sides. Internally the lawn is divided into an upper level on the west, and a lower level on the east, by a scarp bowing outwards with a slight ditch at its foot and ramps connecting the two lawn levels at the north and south ends.



Figure 22: The lawn on the east side of the house (Image courtesy of Historic England/David Went).

The upper lawn has been terraced into the ground evidenced by a continuous rectilinear scarp bordering the western two-thirds of the area (Figure 23). The ends of this scarp on the north and south sides both turn at right angles for a short distance away from the lawn defining level points of access. On the west side access on to the lawn is provided by a 6.5m wide ramp centrally placed across the bounding scarp. The feature presumably indicates where steps once led down from the front of the house while a slight narrow bank on the south side of the ramp is probably the foundation of a balustrade on one side of the former steps. The foot of the ramp separates two slight curving scarps which in plan are a mirror image of the curving east edge of the upper lawn. Together they impose two symmetrical arcs of a circle on the rectilinear outline of the upper lawn. This layout could have been given greater emphasise by some sort of garden feature at the centre of the circle, such as a statue or possibly a fountain. No surface evidence exists for any such feature, but it may explain the origin of the masonry fountain base near the north side of the large mound of the former castle motte.

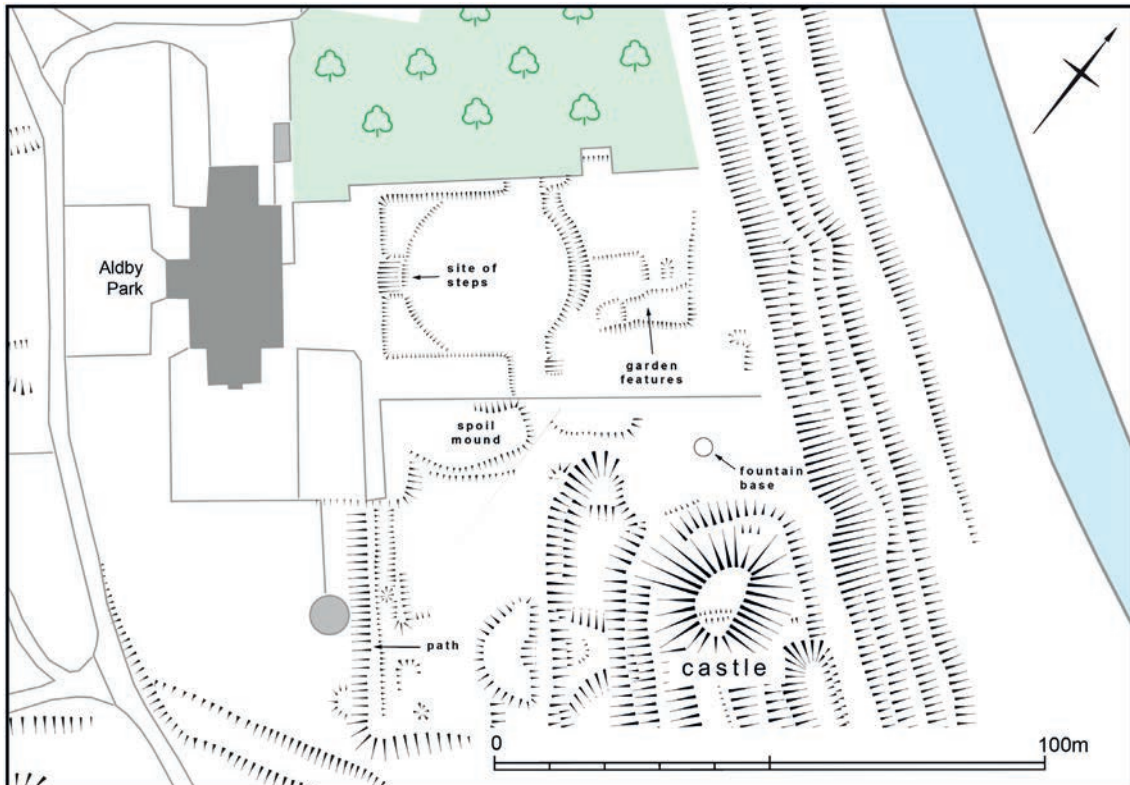


Figure 23: Extract from the survey plan showing the area to the east of the house.

Within the lower terraced lawn is a slight L-shaped scarp, 20m long on the east by 15m. Within the area bounded by this feature is a co-axial arrangement of several shorter scarps defining three small compartments and a separate U-shaped depression. These features are parallel to the edge of the lawn and may be the remains of minor garden features. Alternatively, the 1633 map establishes that the predecessor to the present house stood in the area of the lower lawn, so it is possible that these earthworks are the remains of part of that building. A magnetometer survey of the lower lawn in 2021 did not detect any anomalies but this does not conclusively prove there are no buried foundations in this area. On the north side of the lower lawn, the yew hedge has been cut back to accommodate a slightly elevated earthwork platform for a garden seat. The feature is probably of no great age.

It is possible that the terraced lawns date to 1726, when the house was constructed, or they may have been created by Thomas Knowlton in the 1740s. Despite the lack of direct cartographic evidence, the 1746 estate map shows trees in exactly the area of the lower lawn, so this may be evidence that both the upper and lower lawns existed at that date (Bewlay 1746). Neither the steps at the west end of the upper lawn, nor the associated curving scarps are portrayed on any map.

Beyond the east end of the lower lawn is a sequence of four long, narrow terraces that step down the valley side following the contour of the slope. They begin on the north, some 25m beyond the point where the lower lawn meets the top of the slope, and extend southwards for about 250m, almost to the south boundary of the park. They are depicted schematically on the 1633 estate map as shorter in length, so may have been extended to the north and south in the 18th century. Originally these terraces formed part of the landscaping that saw the former earthwork castle at the top of the slope transformed into a garden feature in the late 16th or early 17th century, as described in the 2021

report. For them to have survived intact as recognisable terraces for well over 300 years indicates they were valued as an important element of the formal garden, and must have been regularly maintained to provide walks and vantage points from which to enjoy views of the river valley.

To the south of the upper lawn is a sub-rectangular flat-topped mound around 20m long from east to west and 10m wide. It has no direct relationship to any of the formal garden features described above and may be a mound of spoil from minor landscaping works in the vicinity. Further south is a 40m long bank which appears on the 1893 Ordnance Survey map as a raised path forming part of a route from the east front of the house to the garden mounds (Ordnance Survey 1893). There are several slight rectilinear depressions on the east side of the former path which may be old flower beds, while on the north the earthwork ends at a right-angled scarp that matches a garden boundary shown on the same Ordnance Survey map.

8. Summary and discussion

The majority of the earthwork features recorded by the survey date to the period before the park was created, when the area formed part of the agricultural and settlement landscape of the medieval township of Buttercrambe. Following on from the survey of the motte and bailey castle in 2021, other major elements of the medieval landscape, now recorded in detail, include two areas of domestic settlement and an associated network of tracks, a probable manor house and extensive blocks of ridge and furrow. Evidence of how the landscape may have changed during the medieval period has been highlighted for the first time with clear evidence that most of the medieval tofts and crofts within the park were established over ploughed fields. The form and extent of the probable manor house site is now much better understood although credit must be given to the unnamed Ordnance Survey surveyors in the 19th century who first recorded the existence of important earthwork remains in this part of the park. Although questions about when and how the park was created need more investigation, the main landscape changes that occurred in the 18th and 19th centuries are recorded on the various estate maps, and by the Ordnance Survey. Several details not shown on these maps include a large earthwork embankment designed by Thomas Knowlton in the 1740s as part of a formal approach to the main house.

No firm dates can be applied to any of the medieval features recorded by the survey as the published documentary references to Buttercrambe in that period do not directly evidence the sequence indicated by the earthwork remains. However, it is reasonably certain that the motte and bailey castle was constructed sometime during the century following the Norman Conquest as a practical measure to control passage along the river and overland routes to the crossing of the Derwent. It was also a potent symbol of lordly power visible from the ford and the river and the manor house to its north might reasonably be regarded as its successor in this respect, while lacking the castle's dominating presence and defensive capabilities. The two areas of domestic settlement exhibit a strong degree of centralised planning in their layout, testifying to the active part those that held the manor had in developing Buttercrambe in the medieval period.

8.1 Field system

There is no firm evidence as to the date of the ridge and furrow in the park. It is possible that these areas were under the plough before the Norman Conquest as the Domesday Survey records 12 ploughs shared between the manors of Buttercrambe, Bossall and Barnby in 1086 (Faull and Stinson 1986, 23N32). However, it is unlikely that any of the physical remains are that early given that ploughing would have continued through the medieval period. A detailed archaeological survey of the deserted medieval village of Wharram Percy on the Wolds concluded that ridge and furrow cultivation could have begun there as early as the 9th century as evidenced by the survival of an area of much broader cultivation ridges compared to those of the village's later plough furlongs (Oswald 2012, 41). At Aldby Park, the character of the surviving field system is comparable to the majority of the ridge and furrow at Wharram Percy. This has been dated to the 12th century or later, while at Aldby Park, as was noted earlier (see section 4.5), the ploughing in the South-West Furlong is probably not earlier than the 13th century as the straight furrows suggest the use of a horse-drawn plough.

The earliest plough ridges surviving in the study area probably belong to the South Furlong, as these were taken out of open field cultivation in the medieval period and divided up among a row of tofts and crofts to accommodate the north row of the Village Green Settlement. Consequently, the form of these plough ridges are not as clear to see on the ground as in the other furlongs and it is impossible to determine if they are markedly different in form compared with the plough ridges in areas that continued to be cultivated. Another consequence of the spread of settlement across the area is that it is not possible to determine how far the furlong reached to the south, as the surviving lengths of plough ridge do not end at a consistent boundary. The earthwork evidence suggests the overlying plots were about 80m long and it is likely that this is also the original length of the plough ridges, with the furlong boundary providing the south boundary to the later tofts. There is also the possibility that the Middle Furlong is later than both the North and South Furlongs and that originally the latter two formed a single block of plough ridges aligned north-south and around 600m in length. The development of the Village Green Settlement may have provided the impetus to lay out a new block of plough ridges on an east-west alignment to its immediate north (the Middle Furlong) if only to make it easier to plough cleanly up to the north edge of the new row of tofts and crofts. However, there is no evidence of any earlier north-south plough ridges below the Middle Furlong to confirm this suggested chronology.

On some estates in Yorkshire the method of 'open field' farming that produced the strips of ridge and furrow persisted into the 17th century despite the growing advice to landowners to break farm land up into smaller fields (Cliffe 1969, 35). It is therefore possible that the furlongs north of the house continued to be worked for several generations after the arrival of the Darley family in 1557 and may still have been arable when the 1633 map was made. The present survey recorded several small plots in the East Furlong formed by amalgamating two or three adjoining plough ridges (section 4.1). The resulting enclosures may be evidence that in this particular furlong open field agriculture was starting to change to a system of individual small plots. Beyond the park, this eventually led to the break up of the medieval system of large unenclosed furlongs in favour of smaller fields.

8.2 Routeways

While it is not possible to establish with any certainty the date of any of the long-distance routes that cross into the survey area, they are probably some of the oldest landscape features visible in the park. Some elements possibly date well before the medieval period providing routes to the ford at Buttercrambe. One of these is very likely to be the village street on the south edge of the park. It is almost certainly on the line of an early track heading directly from the west to the ford and which almost certainly pre-dates the medieval settlement through which it passed. An early date might also attach to the north-south route that crosses the middle of the survey area. The plough furlongs on the north of the park are arranged either side of this route suggesting it pre-dates the development of the surviving field system. As well as providing access between the plough furlongs, the route continued north to Bossall where its presumed medieval alignment is perpetuated by the present road heading north from Aldby Park. To the south, the projected line of the route passes close to the church, demonstrating that it may have originated as the route from the chapel at Buttercrambe to the mother church of the parish at Bossall.

The third long-distance route to enter the survey area was mapped in 1633 on a south-east alignment from Buttercrambe Moor eastwards to the junction of lanes on the edge of the Village Green Settlement. It entirely disappeared as a route outside the park in the middle of the last century, while the survey recorded one section of the track as an earthwork inside the park (see section 5.3). Projecting the alignment of the route further to the south-east across the park takes it close to the point where the present village street starts to descend to the river. This may indicate that it too originated as an early route to the ford before the development of the castle and the Village Green Settlement.

If our understanding of the route network is correct, then the north-south track that leaves the village street almost opposite the church was a viable, if rather circuitous route to the castle. This route involved several awkward right-angled turns between the village street and the entrance to the castle. This probably explains why a more northerly route was created as an approach to the castle. This started immediately to the east of the present junction between the village street and the road to Bossall from where it ascended the south-facing hillside on a curving alignment to a point at the crest where it turned directly towards the castle entrance, 240m to the east. This route facilitated the development of the area to its north, resulting in the establishment of the Village Green Settlement, as discussed below.

8.3 Settlement

The medieval village had a complex layout with two main foci of domestic settlement represented in the survey area by the partial earthwork remains of the Buttercrambe Settlement on the south of the park and the Village Green Settlement towards its middle. The castle, with the later manor house to its north, represent higher-status elements of the village while the medieval church and south row of the Buttercrambe Settlement lie outside the survey area. The survey recorded evidence of chronology in the development of the village establishing that the north row of tofts in both the Buttercrambe and Village Green Settlements occupy land that had been ploughed. This is evidence that agricultural land was taken out of use to expand the area of settlement though there is as yet no hard evidence as to where the earlier core of the village was located.

The earliest dated elements of the medieval settlement plan are the castle and the church. As a motte and bailey, the castle probably dates to within a century of the Norman Conquest while the earliest fabric identified at the church dates to around the 1240s (Grenville 2023, 161). However, there may have been an earlier church on the site as there is the reference to a priest at Buttercrambe in the mid-12th century. Quite possibly therefore the earliest part of the village could have been in the area between these two sites, more specifically extending along the road between the church and the ford, with the castle to the north. The meadow adjoining the Derwent in this area was called 'Burr lngs' in 1746 (Bewlay 1746), plausibly the same meadow called 'Borghenge' and the place called Burghgarth' referred to at Buttercrambe in documents of 1282 and 1354 respectively (Brown 1892, 245; Stamp et al 1921, 47). The 'Burr', 'Borg' and 'Burgh' elements of the three field names might be derived from the Old English 'burh' meaning a 'fortification, stronghold or fortified manor' placing a potentially important, and possibly pre-Conquest, site in proximity to the church.

North of the castle, the manor house could be late-12th or early-13th century based on the 1201 date of a royal licence to William de Stuteville to enclose and fortify his house at Buttercrambe (Clay 1952, 113-4). It is unlikely that this grant related to work on the motte and bailey castle which was probably out of fashion as a residence by this date. Some 80 years later, in 1282, the manor house may be the 'capital messuage' of several well-built houses and a garden that belonged to William's successor as lord of the manor, Thomas Wake (Brown 1892, 245). In this region, the principal residence of the Stuteville, and later the Wake families was the double-moated castle at Cottingham near Hull, compared to which the manor house at Buttercrambe probably appeared quite humble. The survey found no evidence of any earlier buildings on the site of the manor house or any underlying ridge and furrow establishing that the area never formed part of the field system that extends to the north and west of the site. This may indicate that the manor house and castle occupied a block of manorial land that was excluded from cultivation early on in the development of the settlement. Conceivably this suggested manorial close may have extended from the later site of the manor house on the north, past the castle to the present village street on the south, bounded on the west by the north-south track. On the 1633 map the suggested manorial close is still recognisably an elite area with the former manor house and castle transformed into private gardens for the Darley family with their house next to the castle motte. That residence, though undated, was the probable successor to the medieval manor house while the courtyard at the front occupied the middle of the suggested manorial close.

At the south-west corner of the manorial close, the survey work recorded the remains of two plots that in 1633 formed the east end of the north row of the Buttercrambe Settlement. It is conceivable that they pre-date the establishment of the north row and were part of the internal layout of the manorial close, perhaps connected with the castle given their proximity to the site. In particular, the large square earthwork recorded by the survey work at the north end of one of the plots is close to the castle entrance and could have been one of its outbuildings, or possibly a gatehouse.

The survey recorded clear evidence for the expansion of the medieval village though the actual phasing of the changes and the period of time involved have yet to be defined. The Village Green Settlement developed around a probable market area that may originally have extended for 100m from the South Furlong on the north as far as the route to the castle on the south, with the manorial close to the east. A row of tofts and crofts was established on the north side of this

roughly rectangular area by encroachment on to the South Furlong, resulting in the loss of some arable land. The second row of tofts and crofts to the south may have developed later through encroachment onto the south side of the market judging from their irregular layout, thereby reducing the area of the market. The establishment of the Village Green Settlement could be contemporary with the grant of a market and fair by King John in 1200. With a document suggesting the manor house might date to the same period, it is tempting to connect its construction with the development of the market and the associated row of tofts and crofts given their proximity to each other. Conversely, the market could be much earlier and associated with the castle given that the market area might have extended as far south as the route to the castle. This would date the market to the late-11th or 12th-century, before the formal grant of market rights in 1200.

The north row of the Buttercrambe Settlement as originally laid out over the South-West Furlong was probably centrally planned with tofts and crofts having a standard width of 20m. The same pattern of regular tofts and crofts is evident on the south side of the street on the 1633 map to the west of the church, although these boundaries have now largely disappeared as landscape features. On this evidence, the planned expansion of the settlement may have involved the addition of 30 plots either side of the present village street. The plots to the east of the church on the 1633 map are less regularly laid out which might add weight to the possibility discussed above that this was the early core of the village.

Present evidence does not allow any firm date to be given to the planned extension of the Buttercrambe Settlement other than it must have occurred before 1633 when the plots are mapped for the first time and after 1200 which is likely to be the earliest date for the ploughing that underlies the tofts and crofts of the north row. It is tempting to link the development with the erection of the present church as on the 1633 map the regular, planned plots extend westwards from the building. This would date the expansion of the Buttercrambe Settlement to around the 1240s based on the earliest identified fabric in the present building but this is probably too early (Grenville 2023, 161).

The attraction of Buttercrambe as an emerging market centre could have encouraged people to migrate here from other local centres. This may be the reason for the disappearance of Aldby as a settlement and the desertion of Bossall and Barnby, both just over a mile to the north, which are mentioned in the Domesday Survey but came to lose their villages. Though Bossall is the site of the medieval parish church with a large parish that included Buttercrambe, Flaxton, Harton, Claxton and Sand Hutton, it paid far less in tax than Buttercrambe in the lay subsidies of 1334 and 1377 which may indicate that Buttercrambe was growing at the expense of Bossall. In the 1334 lay subsidy, Bossall paid 18s 0d while Buttercrambe paid £1 10s 0d (Glasscock 1975, 376) and in 1377 the disparity between the two places was even greater, with payments respectively of 11s 0d and £1 13s 0d (Fenwick 2005, 237). More speculatively, the development of the Village Green Settlement with its associated market area may represent a failed attempt by the Stutevilles or their successors to develop a small town or borough at Buttercrambe in an effort to attract trade and diversify the economy of the manor. Indeed, the small size of the crofts and the observation that they contain a variety of structures may point to the presence of specialist crafts people building workshops and stores in small back yards; in contrast, the much larger crofts of the Buttercrambe Settlement appear much better suited to animal husbandry or growing crops.

The nearly five centuries that have elapsed since the estate was sold to William Darley in 1557 have witnessed some major landscape changes in some parts of the survey area and little change

in others, intentionally so in the case of the castle site. The incorporation of this feature into part of the garden by 1633, and the preservation of the resulting monument thereafter was explored in detail in the previous survey report. It is interesting to speculate that the sculptural quality of the ridge and furrow that survives so well in the north of the park might also have held a degree of aesthetic or antiquarian appeal, so its survival may not be entirely a matter of chance.

The 1633 map shows the Village Green Settlement at a period of apparent decline. Half the plots are unoccupied in contrast to Buttercrambe itself where most of the plots on both sides of the street have houses. Population decline may well have started in the 15th century as evidenced by the reduction in the size of the parish church leading to the loss of part of the nave and the removal of the south aisle (Grenville 2023, 161). The Village Green Settlement may have gone all together soon after 1633 if measures to give the main house a more formal parkland setting began in the 17th century rather than the 18th. The 1633 map provides evidence that such change was already underway. By 1633 the route between Buttercrambe and Bossall is that of the present road while the former medieval, north-south route from Bossall had been changed into a private road serving the main residence as it ends at the north side of the courtyard in front of the house. This is evidence that the road pattern had been manipulated before 1633 to increase the privacy of the main house by pushing north-south traffic further to the west outside what may have already become the park boundary.

8.4 The designed landscape

The present-day landscape of Aldby Park largely emerged after the construction of the house in 1726. Combined with ambitious planting schemes, new lawned terraces were created to the east of the house and a formal approach introduced to the west. The survey has not discovered any major new elements of the designed landscape but has added minor details to the changes recorded on various estate maps from 1746 onwards, and by the Ordnance Survey beginning in the 1850s.

The landscape directly in front of the west side of the house is dominated by the remains of the embankment designed by Thomas Knowlton in 1746. The survey concluded that, as well as providing a new formal approach to the house, it also cleverly framed the view of the west facade from that side of the park (section 7.1). The embankment obscures the more utilitarian ground floor windows and thereby emphasises the much grander architectural detailing of the upper floors. On top of the embankment, the survey recorded details of a central causeway that descended to ground level via an engineered ramp that has left some slight earthwork remains. It is not known how long this embanked approach remained in use but it may be relevant that ambitious plans to extend the route across the fields to the west of the park were not implemented, suggesting the scheme may not have been fully completed or used for very long (Historic England List Entry number 1001055). After its abandonment, the main approach was shifted to the south of the park, via an entrance on to the village street, though on a different alignment to the present drive as is evident from the map of 1829 (Anon 1829). The same map shows a narrow track on the south of the 1740s embankment representing a much more humble successor to the approach from the west as originally conceived (section 5.4). The survey recorded a short length of this track surviving as an earthwork. On the east side of the house traces of plant beds, paths and other garden features were recorded (section 7.2) including a broad curving border on the west side of the upper lawn that mirrors the curve of the outward facing terrace on the opposite, east side.

9. Survey methodology

The earthworks were surveyed at a scale of 1:1000 using a range of survey equipment and methodologies to maximise the efficiency of data capture. The single ploughed field immediately within the north-east boundary of the park was not included in the survey as no earthworks survive in this area. English Heritage had previously mapped the cropmarks of medieval plough ridges in the field from aerial photography.

The open areas in the south of the park were recorded using Leica and Trimble GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) receivers capable of plotting features to an accuracy of 0.01-0.02m in real time within Ordnance Survey national grid coordinates.

Where features continued into light woodland these areas were recorded using at various times Leica, Trimble and Topcon total station theodolites with surveyed features fixed on to Ordnance Survey grid coordinates using control points supplied by GNSS.

The areas of ridge and furrow visible from the air were mapped using an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV or drone) operated by staff from Historic England's York office. The resulting images were processed digitally by them using AgiSoft software to produce a 0.2m resolution Digital Surface Model positioned on to Ordnance Survey National Grid using survey control supplied by GNSS.

Those parts of the park in heavy woodland were checked on the ground using a plot of a Digital Terrain Model processed using Environment Agency Lidar data.

The survey data from these various sources was combined on to a single plot which was checked for accuracy in the field. Hand-drawn hachures were added to the plot to define the character of individual earthworks. Minor detail was added to the plot at this stage using tape and offset measurements. The final plot was drawn up for publication digitally for inclusion in this report.

10. Acknowledgements

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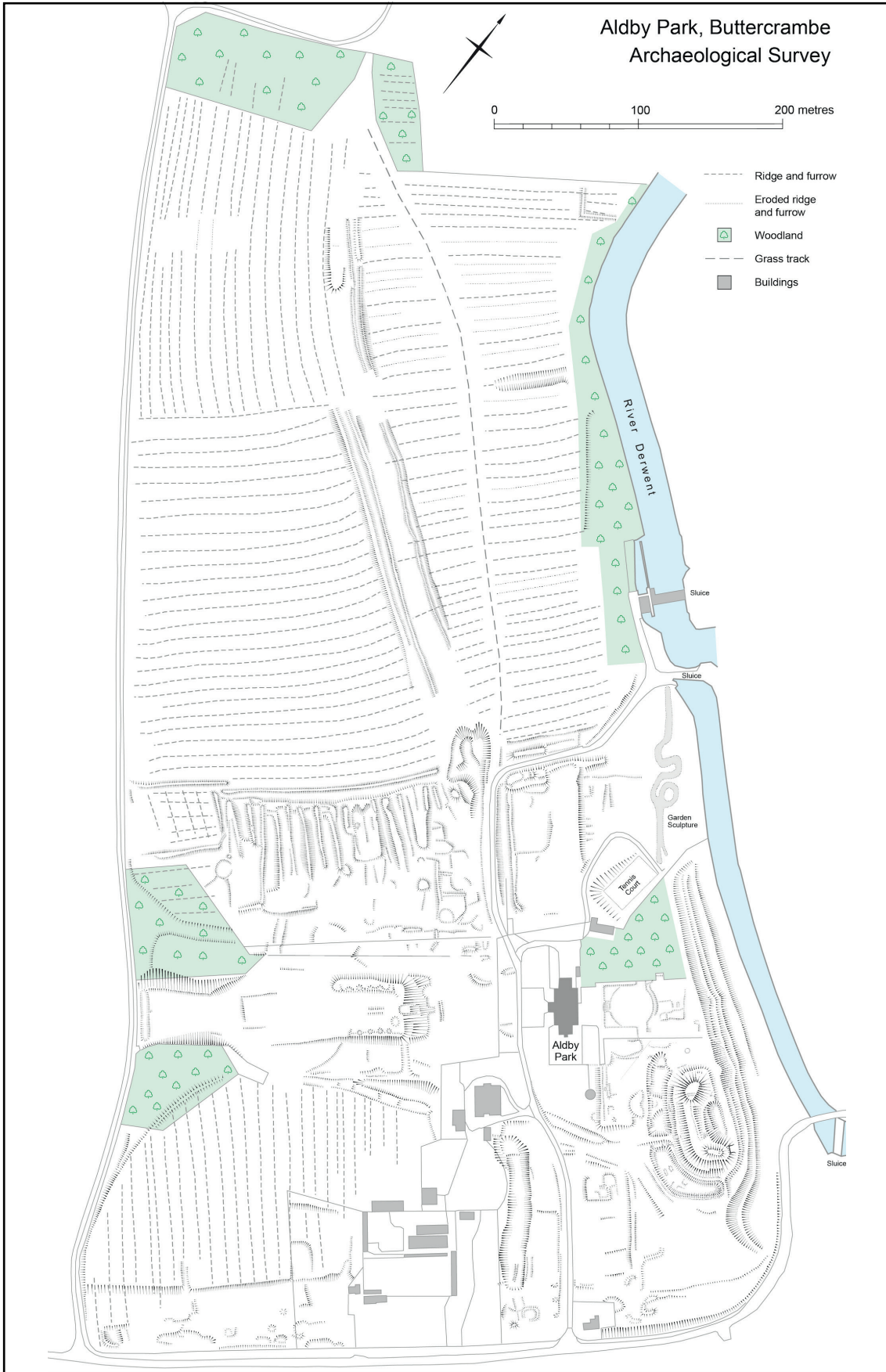


Figure 24: Earthwork survey plan reduced from 1:1000 scale original.

Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society Fieldwork Reports

Interim 37	An archaeological evaluation at the lounge site, Harcourt Place	2004
Interim 38	An archaeological evaluation excavation at the site of the former 23 Quay Street, Scarborough	2006
Interim 39	An archaeological excavation at Auborough Street, Scarborough	2010
Report 40	Investigation of a pre-historic square enclosure at Racecourse Road, Seamer Moor	2013
Report 41	An archaeological excavation at 34 Queen St, Scarborough	2013
Report 42	Archaeological Investigation into a Linear Earthwork at Seamer Moor, Scarborough	2013
Report 43	Archaeological excavations at 60-62 Quay St, Scarborough	2020
Report 44	Archaeological investigations on land at Raven Hall Rd, Ravenscar, North Yorkshire	2014
Report 45	Archaeological investigations at Ayton Castle, West Ayton, North Yorkshire	2013
Report 46	An earthwork survey of Castle Hill, Brompton	2016
Report 47	Raincliffe Woods Archaeological Survey: December 2015 - April 2016	2016
Report 48	An excavation at Castle Hill House, Brompton	2018
Report 49	An Archaeological Survey of Forge Valley, Raincliffe and Row Brow Woods, Scarborough, North Yorkshire	2018
Report 50	An Excavation at Castle Hill, Brompton	2018
Report 51	A Survey of the forge, Forge Valley, Scarborough	2019
Report 52	An archaeological excavation at Scarborough Castle	2019
Report 53	The 2019 excavation at Castle Hill, Brompton	2020
Report 54	An archaeological survey of an earthwork at Aldby Park, Buttercrambe, North Yorkshire	2021
Report 55	The 2019 and 2021 Excavations at Sawmill Bank Foot, Raincliffe Woods, Scarborough, North Yorkshire	2021
Report 56	The 2021 Excavation at Castle Hill, Brompton, North Yorkshire	2022
Report 57	The Investigation of a Stone Structure at 100 Castle Road, Scarborough	2022
Report 58	Geophysical survey of fields east of Brompton-by-Sawdon (circulation restricted)	2022
Report 59	Excavations at Thorn Park Farm, Hackness, Scarborough	2022
Report 60	An Archaeological Survey at Aldby Park, Buttercrambe, North Yorkshire	2023