

## **An investigation and analysis of the activities of the Knights Templar in the North-East, specifically the Cleveland area, that provides an additional comment on the current historiography**

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Research into the presence of the Templars in the North East is sparse and lacks detail. In the beginnings of the Templars existence there was detailed knowledge of the main Templar holdings throughout England. This was due to a survey carried out sometime between 1185 and 1190 which utilised local juries to ascertain a fairly detailed account of their many holdings<sup>1</sup>.

At the end of the Templars existence they were still active at keeping their network of holdings alive and expanding their network. This activity was either through continued donations of land from the gentry or through the acquisition of land through purchase. Yet knowledge of these holdings in the North-East seems to have been unnoticed from Historians investigating the Templars in this area.

### **Background**

After the success of the Latin West in the First Crusade in conquering Jerusalem on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1099, noble men and pilgrims sought out the holy places of Christendom. This became dangerous as many Pilgrims were easy targets for the Muslim marauders who were numerous throughout the land. Even though the Latin West had seemed to occupy this land they only

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<sup>1</sup> Barber, M. (1995) *The New Knighthood: A History of the Order of the Temple*  
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p251.

had authority in the main cities and towns, such as Antioch, and on some of the main roads that connected them.

Out of this necessity to protect the Pilgrims and police the newly conquered Holy Lands the Order of the Knights Templar was born.

In 1118 the Chronicler William of Tyre stated 'certain noble men of knightly order, devoted to God, pious and God and God-fearing'<sup>2</sup>, most notably the French nobles Hugh of Paynes and Godfrey of Saint-Omer, gave obedience to the Patriarch of Jerusalem (Warmund of Picquigny, 1118-28) and took vows of poverty and chastity in order to serve Christ. This order of knights was created under the premise of carrying out their duties in much the same way as regular canons but also maintaining their roles as knights. Although it is unclear who specifically wished to use the Templars for both a Spiritual and Military purpose together, it seemed to serve both the king and the Patriarchs purposes in protecting pilgrims with a new force of this kind and their official sanction by the authorities of the Outremer came in 1120<sup>3</sup>. King Baldwin II of Jerusalem gave them a base in his palace to the south side of the Temple of the Lord, the site originally believed to be Solomon's Temple, from which the Templars derived their name. Certain other benefices were given to the newly created order by the King, the Patriarch other Church officials to maintain the order in feeding and clothing them.

This was followed by the support of individuals such as Hugh, Count of Champagne and Fulk V, Count of Anjou the most important supporter was Bernard of Clairvaux, who later became a saint and was a prominent figure in the church, who wrote "In praise of the New Knighthood", describing the benevolent activities of the Order<sup>4</sup>. This led to the recognition of the Knights Templar as an official Military Order by the Church at the Council of Troyes in 1129, which was subsequently confirmed by Pope Honorius II<sup>5</sup>.

After the Papacy's approval Christian Europe showed favour towards the Templars. This came after a successful recruiting campaign by the leading Knights Hugh of Paynes and Godfrey of Saint-Omer with the help of the Fulk V, of Anjou and Hugh the Count of Champagne. Thousands of estates were given to the Order of the Temple especially in France, England and Spain, as well as other smaller holdings throughout Europe<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Barber *The New Knighthood* p6.

<sup>3</sup> Barber *The New Knighthood* pp8-9.

<sup>4</sup> Read, P.P. (1999) *The Templars*, London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, pp93-105.

<sup>5</sup> Read *The Templars* p105.

<sup>6</sup> For the holdings given after the Orders recognition see, Lord, E. (2002) *The Knights Templar In Britain*, London: Pearson; Barber *The New Knighthood* pp14, 19-29; Read *The Templars* pp107-109.

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The Papacy showed additional favour to this new Order and on March the 29<sup>th</sup> 1139, Pope Innocent II issued the first papal bull in relation to the Templars, *Omne datum optimum*. This stated that Templars owed allegiance only to the Pope, coming under his protection and that they were free from the restraints of the various kings, bishops and other powers in Europe<sup>7</sup>. The effect of this made many in the church and throughout Europe jealous as Malcolm Barber states:

However, while a small band of ragged idealists can be absorbed into society without disruption, an Order which had grown as large as that of the Temple could not exist long before coming into conflict with other vested interests, especially when papal privilege, popular esteem and economic success began to encourage an independence of mind, even an arrogance. The papal privileges made the Temple independent of the local clergy and theoretically of the secular powers, a situation much resented by William of Tyre.<sup>8</sup>

This resentment against the Templars increased as their wealth and power grew through the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. However, as Peter Partner states,

Templar pride was resented, Templar efficiency respected the Templar role in defence of far off Christian boundaries was still accepted and approved.<sup>9</sup>

This study is looking into one part of this overall network of Templar estates, Malcolm Barber in the aptly named chapter '*The Templar Network*' gives a clear overall understanding of how this generally worked in *The New Knighthood*<sup>10</sup>.

Control of such estates was centred upon the local house or preceptory, where the Templars and their associates lived as a community. Study of the houses in Province suggests that, where practical, these houses were grouped around the largest preceptory in the vicinity.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> This was followed by several other bulls issued between 1139 to 1145, information on which can be found in Barber, M. (1978) *The Trial of the Templars*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p8.

<sup>8</sup> Barber, *The Trial of the Templars*.

<sup>9</sup> Partner, P. (1981) *The Murdered Magicians: The Templars and their Myth*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, p18.

<sup>10</sup> Barber *The New Knighthood* pp229-279.

<sup>11</sup> Barber *The New Knighthood* p254.

## Historiography

Evidence of the Historians' lack of knowledge of the Templars in the North-East begins with E. J. Martin, 'The Templars in Yorkshire'<sup>12</sup>, in the 1930s. This work looks at the Templars in the whole of the Yorkshire area and their relations with the people, highlighting their unpopularity and the resentment they caused by flaunting their privileges and rights to work outside English law<sup>13</sup>. Martin mainly concentrates his study around York itself and only mentions Westerdale, the only preceptory<sup>14</sup> in the Cleveland area, as a singular unit not going into details of its holdings<sup>15</sup>. However the article does not aim to give any specific knowledge of just one area in the North-East and so therefore the reader cannot expect to find such information. After going through an extensive account of the trial of the Templars in Yorkshire, again mainly concentrating on York itself, Martin finishes by accounting for the fate of the Templar properties and so we find a little more detail of the Preceptory in Westerdale in that it passes to the Hospital<sup>16</sup>. On the last page of the article there is one more interesting point, which is more significant to the study of the Knights Templar in the Cleveland area. In a footnote Martin states that land had possibly been attributed to the Westerdale Preceptory inaccurately and that the land in question, Oysterfeld or Austerfeld, was actually in Doncaster and so does not make logistical sense to be connected to Westerdale in Cleveland<sup>17</sup>, it is more likely to be connected to the Temple in London. This highlights the author's lack of knowledge of exactly what lands were attributed to the Westerdale Preceptory and which ones were not.

The more modern work J.E. Burton 'The Knights Templars in Yorkshire in the Twelfth Century: a Reassessment' explains that "since the subject of the Yorkshire Templars was last treated, more material has been discovered and published, which makes desirable a reassessment of the nature and chronology of the Templar foundations within the county"<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> Martin, E.J. (1930-1) 'The Templars in Yorkshire', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 30, p135-50.

<sup>13</sup> Martin. E.J. (1930-1) 'The Templars in Yorkshire', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 30, p135-136, the initial part of the article establishes this and talks about how robbers were taken in and the law was disregarded.

<sup>14</sup> A Preceptory was the monastic house of the Templars, which housed their members in the local vicinity and would be the hub to their activities in the area in terms of logistics and trade.

<sup>15</sup> Martin's aim is to mainly focus on the holdings of York and the vicinity.

<sup>16</sup> Martin. E.J. (1930-1) 'The Templars in Yorkshire', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 30, p153.

<sup>17</sup> Although still in Yorkshire is far south of the Westerdale preceptory therefore would have been attached to one closer in the vicinity.

However this 'reassessment' is generally limited. Burton establishes a general chronology of the Templars activities in Yorkshire but again it is lacking specific details beyond that of individual Preceptories. Burton concentrates mainly upon this timeline and also on the most generous individual to give Templars land in Yorkshire, Roger de Mowbray, discussing his role in great detail & thus taking some of the focus away from the Templars<sup>19</sup>. Her reassessment also concentrates on the late eleventh and early twelfth Centuries and does not move very far beyond the survey in around 1185, thus not highlighting any newly 'published' or discovered works. Whenever any more recent sources are used they are still from twenty years prior to her work and are secondary sources that seem to have no new primary evidence to support it. To finish Burton concentrates any discussion about Preceptories mainly on Temple Newsam and Temple Hirst in the West Riding, not covering other parts of Yorkshire and the North-East in much detail<sup>20</sup>.

Finally there is Evelyn Lord's work, which is dedicated to and named, *The Knights Templar in Britain*<sup>21</sup>. In this work she summarises the holdings in Yorkshire and mentions Westerdale, however does not give any details of its size and any holdings that may surround it whatsoever<sup>22</sup>. To add to this Lord states "there is no evidence of Templar establishments in the two Palatine counties of Durham and Cheshire, little evidence of land in Lancashire, and only one or two scattered holdings in Cumberland and Westmoreland, but they had one preceptory in Northumberland"<sup>23</sup>, thus closing any detailed account of the surrounding areas. To highlight the inconsistency in Lord's work contrast the previous quote with this from Lomas: "The Templars had three substantial estates in Northumberland at West Thornton, Healey and Fenham, and drew rents from twenty other places in the county, as well as six in Durham."<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Burton. J.E. (1991) 'The Knights Templars in Yorkshire in the Twelfth Century: a Reassessment' *Northern History. A Review of the History of the North and the Borders* 27, p27.

<sup>19</sup> Burton. J.E. (1991) 'The Knights Templars in Yorkshire in the Twelfth Century: a Reassessment' *Northern History. A Review of the History of the North and the Borders* 27, p30-35.

<sup>20</sup> Burton. J.E. (1991) 'The Knights Templars in Yorkshire in the Twelfth Century: a Reassessment' *Northern History. A Review of the History of the North and the Borders* 27, p28-29.

<sup>21</sup> Lord, *The Knights Templar In Britain*.

<sup>22</sup> Lord, *The Knights Templar In Britain* pp104-107, 109-114.

<sup>23</sup> Lord, *The Knights Templar In Britain* p115.

<sup>24</sup> Lomas, R. (1992) *North-East England in the Middle Ages* Edinburgh: John Donald, p132-133.

Looking at the map (Fig1) she provides of the Templar properties in Yorkshire this seems to be inadequate and too vague for professional historical analysis. There is no key to detail the marks she has made on the map and also she has crudely covered a vast swath of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire area in lines. After getting in contact with her the lines are supposedly high ground, even though the high ground of the Pennines is neglected from this map. All of the points are supposedly Templar sites, yet there is no reference to some of them in any other part of her work, also there is no detail given about the size and type of Templar locations other than the preceptories, which are marked with a cross.

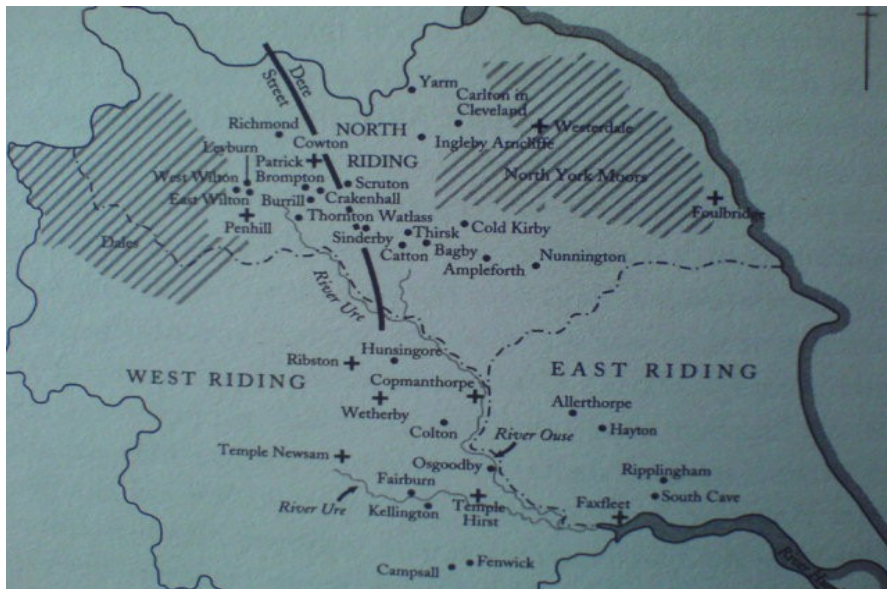


Fig1: Detail of the map of the Templar properties in Yorkshire. Lord, E. (2002) *The Knights Templar in Britain*, p. 106.

## The Research

This new study into the Templars sets out to clarify this crudely shaded area and give some exact details of the Templars holdings in Cleveland, especially the Preceptory of Westerdale, to show not a 'scattered holding' but a well planned part of the greater Templar network. The research carried out goes on to show this network and possibly highlight some newly discovered properties which the Templars would have used towards the maintenance of the order.

The work is more detailed due to the use of a wider range of primary sources from the locality of the investigation and also from new research that has taken place, while other works have used primary sources taken purely from the central documents at the national archive<sup>25</sup>. It is also more detailed due to using primary sources to a greater degree, where as the other historians, even Martin in the 1930s, have relied heavily on limited secondary sources in their analysis. The research subsequently presented will show the synthesis of the new evidence with the accounts of the other historians to give a detailed picture of the Templars in Cleveland and the North-East.

To give a summery into the research development of the investigation, it first began in Prior Pursglove library this was due to it having some medieval copies of documents in its archives. During this review of their holdings there was a significant book by the Surtees Society, named *Catularium Prioratus De Gyseburne Ebor Dicecesegs Ordinis Augustini Fundati A.D MCXIX*<sup>26</sup>. This work discussed the land distribution in Medieval England around Guisborough; however the index, which was in English, had a reference to the Templars in Pinchinthorpe<sup>27</sup>.

This initial find was then translated by the lecturer in Latin at Prior Pursglove<sup>28</sup>, which found a reference to land given to the hospital which was next but one to Templar land at the western end of the village<sup>29</sup>. Attempts were made to find out whether this was common knowledge or whether this had been undiscovered by modern historians. Firstly attempts to cross check this with Lord's work were carried out in vain as all that was found was her vague map. Then searching through Journals there was no mention of Pinchinthorpe as a Templar site. After this point further investigation was carried out at Tees Archaeology to see if there was any reference there.

This yielded some interesting but inconclusive results; there seems to be a lot of supporting evidence to suggest that there was possibly a Templar site in Pinchinthorpe but no direct reference to it in the documents kept at Tees Archaeology. These documents were, firstly, the Parish records of

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<sup>25</sup> Most references to primary documents are simply those taken from the national archives such as the 1185 survey.

<sup>26</sup> Publications Surtees Society, vol LXXXVI, Year MDCCCLXXXIX, *Catularium Prioratus De Gyseburne Ebor Dicecesegs Ordinis Augustini Fundati A.D MCXIX*, Guisborough Chartulary 1889.

<sup>27</sup> Page 218-219 in the above document.

<sup>28</sup> This was done by the Lecturer Carl Dunn and also then translated a second time more accurately at the Tees Archive by an expert in Latin at a later date.

<sup>29</sup> Of St Leonard this hospital seems to be the local one in Pinchinthorpe and there references to it in this document and the Parish records of Guisbrough.

Guisborough, which mention an ancient hospital; this corroborates with the Surtees document. It also mentions in a footnote that the hospital was specifically a leper hospital and this disease was brought from Egypt. One can assume that the only reason there would be English peoples in Egypt during this era, to pick up the disease, would be due to the Crusades of which the Templars were an integral part<sup>30</sup>. It is also important to note that once the Templars had been disbanded by the Pope in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century all of their holdings and responsibilities were supposed to pass to the Knights Hospitallers, however in reality this was a long and arduous process as either the king or most land holders of importance took the land in their custody during the trial of the Templars and were not forthcoming in giving it back. Although the Hospitallers had their troubles in receiving some of the former Templar land they did not do so with Westerdale, which given the location this investigation is looking into would be the main base or hub where all the other holdings would transport their goods:

The small properties of Westerdale...seem in the end to have been handed over direct from the administrators to the Hospital.<sup>31</sup>

The significance of this link to the Hospital is discussed further in the article yet it needs mention now due to the fact that the land of the Templars in Westerdale and also as suggested in Pinchinthorpe was close to that of the Hospital land and therefore strengthens the likelihood that the Pinchinthorpe site actually existed.

The next piece of evidence found at Tees archaeology was simply a reference made in *A History of Yorkshire North Riding*<sup>32</sup>, it claims that the Pinchuns holdings could not be exactly located. This simply highlights the vague area that is being looked into and why there could be no further evidence other than the mention in the Surtees document of Templar land in Pinchinthorpe.

Tees archaeology then provided useful supportive evidence in the form of the report that had been written on an archaeological survey of Pinchinthorpe. This report showed that there had once been a medieval mill structure and field system running alongside it, this is the type of land that the Templars would have utilised to generate an income for the Order and although this was a common utility for all people in the medieval era there is one other point of interest in the report which is related to the Templars more specifically this being a moated site. As the report states

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<sup>30</sup> *Parish of Guisbrough* p432.

<sup>31</sup> Martin. E.J. (1930-1) 'The Templars in Yorkshire', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 30, p153.

<sup>32</sup> Ed Page, W. (1923) *A History of Yorkshire North Riding*, London: St. Catherine's, p360.



Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. In some cases the islands were used for horticulture. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigniorial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high range of diversity in their forms and sizes. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. Many examples provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains. (...)

Moated sites are uncommon in north east England and whilst the example at Pinchinthorpe has been modified by later building and landscaping, significant remains survive below the present ground surface.<sup>33</sup>

It is possible that the building was both a domestic and religious building in that it could have been a store or hold for the Knights Templar who were both a military and therefore practical institution and also a religious institution. It seems feasible that the Templars being a separate entity from the normal medieval populace may have wanted to secure their holdings not from outsiders (of Pinchinthorpe) but those who resented them within the Pinchinthorpe area. The timing of building moats mentioned in the report is integral to the expansion of the Templars activities in this northern area,<sup>34</sup> and also as the site is uncommon it is also feasible it was imported by those who had a wider logistical network. Its location several hundred metres from the main hall, which would have originally housed the landed family, suggests that the site was located to be separate from them this is especially possible considering the size of the small village. All of these

<sup>33</sup> Medieval settlement remains, post mill and field system 240m north of Pinchinthorpe hall, English Heritage, Tees Archaeology, 7 August 2000 ref AA 13704/1.

<sup>34</sup> Burton. J.E. (1991) 'The Knights Templars in Yorkshire in the Twelfth Century: a Reassessment' *Northern History. A Review of the History of the North and the Borders* 27, p38: "The Templars continued to attract endowments throughout the thirteenth century, and new preceptories were founded at Westerdale ... between c.1203 and 1248. Neither the enthusiasm for the Crusading movement nor the fervour of the benefactors of the Military Orders diminished. Some of the thirteenth century houses may well have been established by the Templars themselves to facilitate the administration of their estates."

pieces of evidence create a plausible picture of the presence of the Templars in Pinchinthorpe.

The final piece of evidence was the tithe maps of Pinchinthorpe, which although made several hundred years after the Templars disbandment the land names still remain connected to their medieval roots. When looking at the land distribution in Pinchinthorpe one group in particular needs highlighting. On the western side of the village are three tofts of land called Low Doctor hill, High Doctor hill and Doctor Garth<sup>35</sup>. According to professional historians at Tees Archive these are strange place names for tofts of land and if you were to extrapolate their possible meaning a plausible explanation can be found. Being 'Doctors' land it is plausible that the land was given to the local Doctor in the area as a gift or payment for his service in the area, if the land went to the Doctor it could have been originally land that belonged to the Hospital. They carried out early medieval medical services as part of its charitable work and that land in turn could have been the Templars land that passed to the Hospital which coincidentally is in the western area of the village.

After finding this supportive evidence towards a Templar site in Pinchinthorpe the investigation moved to review if there were any sources in Teesside Universities LRC. Knowing that the LRC doesn't have an extensive medieval collection there wasn't a high expectation that any evidence would be found, however one notable piece was that being *The Chronicle of Walter of Guisborough*<sup>36</sup>. This again was another work in Latin with an English index with many references to the Templars. Walter of Guisborough was a canon regular at the Guisborough Priory in the fourteenth century with his work chronicling 1066 up to around 1340, however although he was distant from the power centre of London he is still very well informed and his references to the Templars are largely accurate, he even makes a suggestion which shows a modern understanding of the Templars by placing blame of their trial and dissolution to Philip of France<sup>37</sup>. This work is important to the study of the Templars in the North- East and Cleveland as it shows that there was an individual, well informed to their movements and significant developments, very close to their holdings in Westerdale and extremely close to Pinchinthorpe. It is therefore possible that the Templars themselves provided this Chronicler with such extensive information further strengthening the evidence of their presence in this area. This is even more plausible when the Chronicler makes claims that go against the Church's line on the Templars post dissolution, that they

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<sup>35</sup> Copies of the 1839 tithe maps were provided by Tees Archaeology.

<sup>36</sup> *The Chronicle of Walter of Guisborough*, Camden Third Series vol LXXXIX, republication 1956.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid pp209, 228, 380, 383, 394, and most importantly for the claim attributed to Philip of France, 396.

were most likely guilty of at least some of their crimes, Walter states that it could have been Philip all along. Finally to add to this, in the journal *Ex-Templars in England*, A.J Forey states "Not many sought transfer to the Hospital: Roger of Hughenden, who had been at Guisborough, did decide to go to the Hospitallers" and "at the end of 1319...the Augustinian house of Guisborough was refusing to accept Robert of Langton"<sup>38</sup>. This suggests two things firstly that there were Templars in Guisborough or the outlying vicinity such as Pinchinthorpe in order to be attributed there and secondly that the Hospital was also active in the area<sup>39</sup>. This fits in well with the possibility of the Chronicler being in contact with Templars and their network.

Finally the investigation looked into the collections at Middlesbrough Reference Library, more specifically the Early Yorkshire Charter, which noted the developments in land distribution and local activities throughout the medieval era. The study of these works provided the greatest yield of results towards the study of the Templars in the North-East and gave specific information into further Templar sites in Cleveland that show a intelligently situated network of land holdings to provide an income for the Templars and make Westerdale a important tap on resources in this area. This is the kind of activity Martin mentions when he states "The Templars evidently aimed consistently at rounding off their estates"<sup>40</sup>.

The first three volumes of the Early Yorkshire Charter provide a volume of information about the Templars in the North-East. Volume 1 is concerned with the activities of Mowbray and his grants of land to the Templars<sup>41</sup>. Then in volume 2 which is mainly translated into English there is the most significant finds. In the first extract, the *Brus Fee*, the caption highlights the irregular occurrence of a Norwegian vessel being wrecked on the North-Eastern shores of England and its subsequent pillaging and exploiting, by what is highlighted a vast section of the populace in the area. The extract then goes on to state the reaction by the authorities to deal with this violation, in which the 'kings justices' amerced seventeen persons and several places by name. Then "practically every town and hamlet in Cleveland and Whitby, viz. 76 in number besides those named".

The extract then summarises the ameracements:

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<sup>38</sup> Forey, A.J. (2002) 'Ex-Templars in Britain' *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 53 (1), p33-34.

<sup>39</sup> Forey gives *Cartularium prioratus de Gyseburne*, ii (Surtees society lxxxix, 1894), 392-3, doc 24; *Reg. Melton ii* D. Robinson (Canterbury and York society lxxi, 1978), 58 no 104. in reference to these quotes.

<sup>40</sup> Martin, E.J. (1930-1) 'The Templars in Yorkshire', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 30, p137.

<sup>41</sup> *Early Yorkshire Charter* vol 1, p155-157.

The total amount imposed in amercements came to £136, 6s. 8d. As Marske was amerced 20 marks, East Coatham 15 marks, and Ralph de Redcar 20 marks<sup>42</sup>, it is obvious that the vessel came ashore on the rocks at Redcar. Before 1185 Adam de Brus<sup>43</sup> gave to the Templars 2 bovates in Ingleby (Arncliffe ?), which Geoffrey held.<sup>44</sup>

This widespread incrimination of such a large area must have been a high profile scandal for the people of the time. Although there is only a single mention of the Templars this is still significant considering they are the only group mentioned to have gained from the scandal. The fact that they were given land by one of the perpetrators highlights that some sort of social justice must have occurred during the proceedings. This is due to the Templars being also a charitable order and so once Adam de Brus had sequestered the land its distribution to them would be an act of atonement for either the individual in question or for the entire matter<sup>45</sup>. It also highlights the relationship between the Templars and the landed elite, in that they were the chosen group to be shown favour when the amercements were calculated<sup>46</sup>. The fact that the Templars were shown privilege by the family who were generally alienated in their position as lesser kings is similar to the fact that the Templars were seen as a lesser monastic group in Europe<sup>47</sup>.

With the source only being a short passage, and with no further references able to be found<sup>48</sup>, it is difficult to ascertain many specifics but it is possible that the smaller landholders would have been resentful that land was taken and distributed to the Templars; however it is likely that any

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<sup>42</sup> A mark was around two thirds of a medieval pound.

<sup>43</sup> Adam de Brus was the son of Robert I de Brus of Annandale, his fathers' holdings in England went to him, while in Scotland they went to Robert II de Brus probably his younger brother. See, Burke's *The Dormant, Abeyant, Forfeited, and Extinct Peerages of the British Empire* (1883), p80.

<sup>44</sup> *Early Yorkshire Charter* vol 2, p14.

<sup>45</sup> See Nicholson, H. (2004) *The Knights Templar: A new History*, Stroud: Sutton, p170: "The primary motivation for a religious donation was the hope of receiving salvation. Donations brought prestige... In addition, donations gave the donor influence over the recipient."

<sup>46</sup> In which Adam de Brus must have been either the sole or one of the chief adjudicator in this occurrence.

<sup>47</sup> The other more established monastic orders held more power over the others, as there was never a Templar pope for example: "They never gained the kind of influence which made the clerical element so important in other monastic orders, nor did many of them progress far in the Church as a whole." See Barber *The New Knighthood*, p197.

<sup>48</sup> A search of Journals and Books and even the internet could find no other reference other than that in the EYC.

involved may have shared this resentment, that they saw this group gain from their loss<sup>49</sup>.

The last point about this source is that the date of when the land is given to the Templars is mentioned 'before 1185'. This is significant as a great inquest into all Templar holdings was carried out in 1185 and so it highlights that those giving donations to the order were trying to do so before this date in order to have them registered. This is so there would be a clear account of where and what land was given to the Templars, as the Order had a habit of taking more than what was given once in an area<sup>50</sup>. Ingleby Arncliffe is just west of Westerdale and makes sense that it would come under its jurisdiction.

The next mention comes at the end of a charter and is a simple statement "William de Percy gave to the Templars before 1185 a bovate in Kildale."<sup>51</sup> This site is just north-west of Westerdale.

Another site was a toft of land given to the Templars in Wilton by the Wilton family on the death of one of its members<sup>52</sup>. This generally occurred if the individual wanted to be buried on Templar land and prayers said for him for a period of time. It is interesting to note that the Wilton family gave the land to the Templars and not another monastic institution to carry out the same rites, the Templars are believed to have been more flexible into who they carried out such rituals for. This land would have been to the north-west of Westerdale.

The last sites found in the Cleveland area were given by Hugh Malebisse, once a steward of Roger de Mowbray the associate of the Templars who gave generously to them, "Before 1185 Hugh gave to the Templars 5 bovates in Scawton and 2 carucates on Broughton" there is an additional note "may possibly represent a tenement which he held of the fee of Brus. Dodsworth states that he died in the crusade of 1187-1188"<sup>53</sup>.

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<sup>49</sup> The Templars carried out many unauthorised and illegal activities in the North-east and Yorkshire. Their privileges were used in excess and all this coupled with them gaining in prestige it would be hard for them not to be resented in this area. "In Bulmer Hundred the Templars and other religious had abused their privileges by taking felons and robbers into their liberties and preventing the royal officers from making arrests. At Westerdale they ignored the Royal Courts altogether. Such extension of jurisdiction on the part of the Templars must have been notorious". Martin, E.J. (1930-1) 'The Templars in Yorkshire', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 30, pp135-136.

<sup>50</sup> Martin, E.J. (1930-1) 'The Templars in Yorkshire', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 30, p137.

<sup>51</sup> *Early Yorkshire Charter* vol 2, p93.

<sup>52</sup> *Early Yorkshire Charter* vol 2, p130: "He gave to the Templars a toft in Wilton."

<sup>53</sup> *Early Yorkshire Charter* vol 3, p457.

This article represents how the people of Cleveland were closely tied to the Crusading movement and gave land to the Templars in accordance to these ties. Broughton is just south-west of Westerdale; however Scawton is a distance to the south-west but still most likely within its network due to it still being the closest preceptory.

Going beyond the Cleveland area which this investigation is primarily concerned with there are references to Templar land in Whitby, Catton just west of Newcastle and Wetherby<sup>54</sup>. There is also an interesting mention of a piece of land given to the monks of Bardney moor in Hunmanby, south of Scarborough, in which the land is situated between that of the Templars and the Leper-house at the southern end of the area, this is similar to the land that is given to the Hospital and the Temple in Pinchinthorpe in that these grants of land are kept together and at a distance from the village centre<sup>55</sup>.

Now to compare Lord's map (Fig2) in the Cleveland area to one that has been constructed to show the sites found in the investigation (Fig3), far more detail and information can be found on how the Templars ran their network of holdings in the new map.

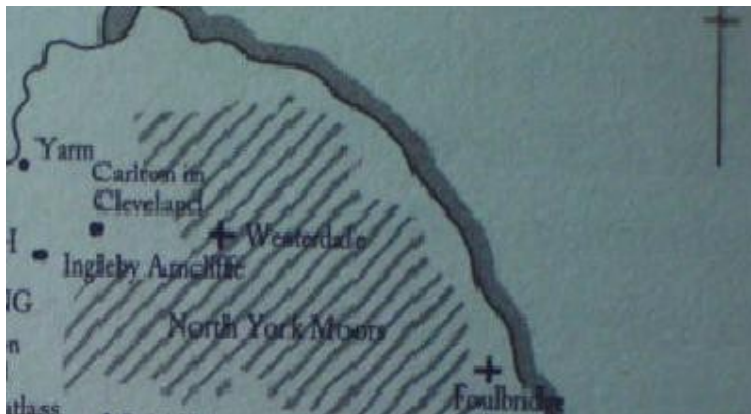


Fig.2 Detail of Lord's Map (Lord, E. (2002) *The Knights Templar in Britain*, p. 106)

Where as Lord's map has no key and no information on the points on her map, this new map has provided one and shows how the holdings were located near a medieval road for transportation of goods that channel their way into the Preceptory at Westerdale, which would then have connected to the main London headquarters in the south<sup>56</sup>.

<sup>54</sup> *Early Yorkshire Charter* vol 2, pp 182, 252; vol 3, pp253, 257.

<sup>55</sup> *Early Yorkshire Charter* vol 2, p 474.

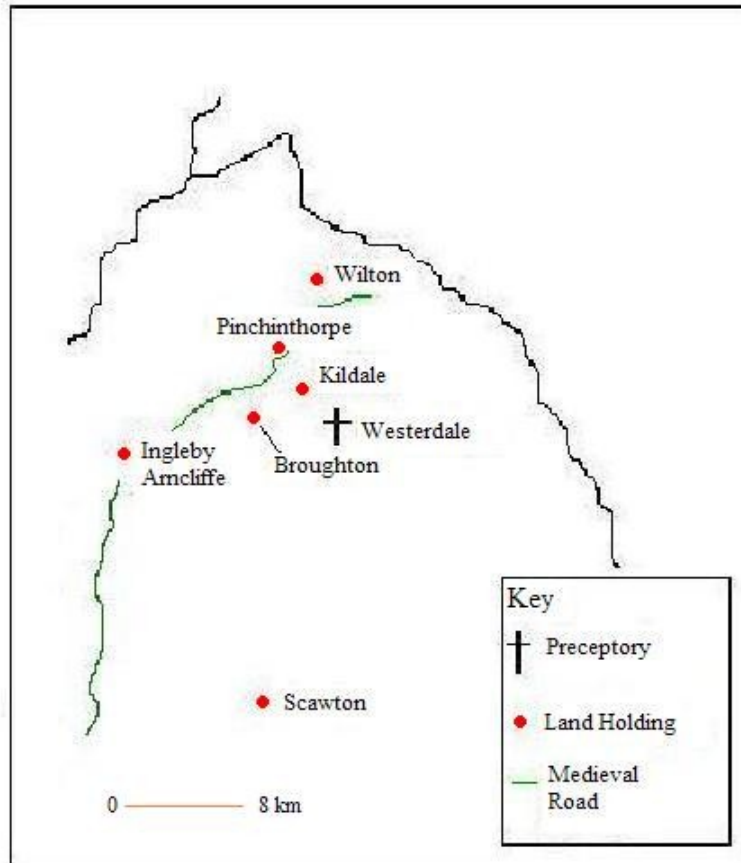


Fig.3 Newly researched map.

They are all close to the Westerdale Preceptory with the exception of the holding in Scawton, however this is still not far the medieval road which continues south and could have been used as an initial stop off point.

<sup>56</sup> This is a result of the research carried out in this investigation. For proof of the medieval road see Stenton. F. M. (1936) 'The Road System of Medieval England', *The Economic History Review* 7(1), pp1-21, esp pp11 and 15.

## Conclusions

Now in order to establish the significance of the Templar holdings in the North-east in relation to other preceptories the quantitative value of its land has to be taken into account. The area of the outlying holdings is around 360 acres, plus one small holding (toft), and the area of the Preceptory of Westerdale was around 1182 acres<sup>57</sup>, this amounts to 1542 acres of land or 6.24 square kilometres.

According to Malcolm Barber's research:

In about 1180 a Burgundian knight needed around 30 manses (equivalent to about 300 hectares or about 750 acres) to equip and maintain himself as a mounted warrior; by about 1260 he could not manage on less than 150 manses.<sup>58</sup>

This shows that during the first half of the Templars existence the holdings in the Cleveland area could have possibly maintained up to two knights. Although there would be an obvious cost added to maintaining a knight as far away as the holy land that probably meant only a single knight could be maintained. However by 1260, towards the end of the Order the spiralling costs of maintenance would have made Westerdale and its outlying holdings only a small contributor to a knight's necessary allowance. This would have diminished Westerdale's significance in relation to larger holdings, such as those in France, as costs escalated. Although the land the Templars owned would have not been as adequate to suit their needs they would have probably seen the necessary value in holding onto and expanding all its acquisitions throughout its existence to meet the growing demand on revenue.

The significance of Westerdale by having a more clear knowledge of its holdings is expanded on by another important factor, that being the Templars role as bankers. With a greater knowledge of its overall distribution of holdings in this area its presence upon the native populace can be better established. As with holdings that covered land near the coast

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<sup>57</sup> This was the size of the land given to the Hospitallers after their suppression see Ed Larking & Kemble (1857) *The Knights Hospitallers in England, Being the report of Prior Philip de Thame to the Grand Master Elyan de Villanova, for A.D. 1338*, p142.

<sup>58</sup> Barber *The New Knighthood* p230-231, this increase in costs is highlighted in Fossier, R. (1988) *Peasant Life in the Medieval West*, tr J. Vale, Oxford: Blackwell, pp140-1. This highlights a growth in costs due to a increased demand for a better payment from the peasantry and more professional classes such as the blacksmith plus the increase in the price of horses by about three times over this period due to the high demands of war and general medieval transport.



with Wilton to more inland areas such as Scawton and Broughton this would have made the Templars a more visible Order throughout the area. With the increased visibility to the populace, of which would have had a significant group that wished to either go on crusade or pilgrimage to the holy land, this would have enabled the Templars in this area to be accessible to that populace to use their banking network in order to transfer their funds safely to the holy land. The use of this service would come with a fee in which the Order would gain revenue thus increasing the profitability of the Preceptory in the area.

So to conclude upon the investigation into the knights Templar in the North-east, the evidence has established a strong argument for a planned network of holdings which were built up over time from gaining a privileged position with the local landed elite. Therefore the Templars did not simply accept a scattered distribution of holdings to assist the Order in an *ad-hoc* manner but ensured they were placed near the main transport route and also near to their established base at Westerdale. These holdings will have been beneficial to assisting the Orders efforts in the holy land and where they may have been a significant contributor in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century by the 13<sup>th</sup> this position was diminishing due to the rising costs of maintaining combat troops. The Templars will have maintained these holdings though in Order to at least continue in some way to provide for the larger needs in the Middle East.

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