



ENGLISH HERITAGE

DRF 2

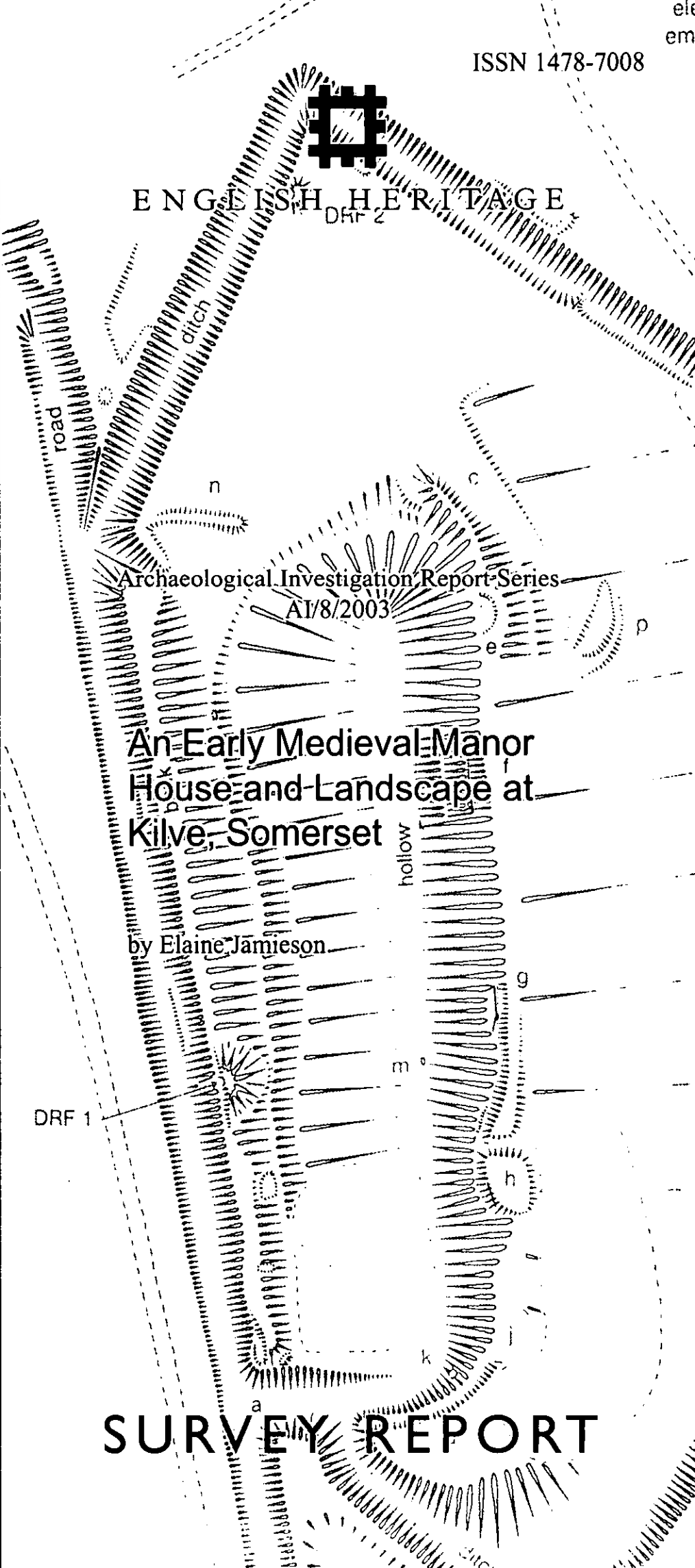
Archaeological Investigation Report Series

AI/8/2003

An Early Medieval Manor House and Landscape at Kilve, Somerset

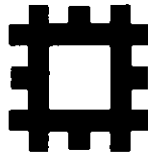
by Elaine Jamieson

SURVEY REPORT



Archaeological Investigation Report Series

AI/8/2003



ENGLISH HERITAGE

An Early Medieval Manor House and Landscape
at Kilve, Somerset

An archaeological survey by English Heritage

County:	Somerset
District:	West Somerset
Parish:	Kilve
OS map no:	ST 14 SW
NGR:	ST 1462 4400
SAM no:	SO 480
NMR no:	ST 14 SW 17
SMR no:	33279, 33280, 33281
Surveyed:	July-Sept. 2002
Report by:	Elaine Jamieson
Surveyors:	E Jamieson, H Riley, B Thomason
Illustrations:	E Jamieson

© Copyright English Heritage

ISSN 1478-7008

Applications for reproduction should be made to English Heritage, NMR Services (01793 414 600)

English Heritage, 5 Marlborough Court, Manaton Close, Matford, Exeter EX2 8PF

National Monuments Record Centre, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2GZ

Telephone: 01793 414 700

CONTENTS

Summary

INTRODUCTION

Location and Geology

Survey work

HISTORY AND PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Documentary evidence

Map evidence

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

The building

Priory Cottage, Chantry Cottage and the remains of Chantry

The Manorial enclosure

The church

The ponds

The later farm buildings and surrounding features

Wider landscape features

DISCUSSION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

FIGURE LIST

- Figure 1. Location map.*
- Figure 2. 'Kilve Abbey' by WW Wheatley, 1847.*
- Figure 3. 'Remains of Priory or Chantry' by J Buckler, 1840.*
- Figure 4. Map showing field names from tithe apportionment.*
- Figure 5. Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1888.*
- Figure 6. Priory Cottage, Chantry Cottage and the remains of chantry.*
- Figure 7. Ground plan.*
- Figure 8. The remains of chantry: illustration showing internal solar gable and chapel wall.*
- Figure 9. North wing, east wing and chapel from the north-east.*
- Figure 10. Aerial photograph.*
- Figure 11. St. Mary's parish church.*
- Figure 12. Photograph looking east across cobbled yard.*
- Figure 13. Suggested extent of medieval deer park.*
- Figure 14. Kilve, Somerset. English Heritage 1:500 survey (reduced).*

Summary

A large scale topographic survey and a detailed assessment of the building remains at Kilve, centred around 'Priory Cottage', 'Chantry Cottage' and the ruins which lie to their east, was undertaken by English Heritage between July and September 2003. The buildings would appear to constitute the vestiges of a substantial medieval manor house, built by the de Furneaux family, probably dating from the late-13th or early-14th centuries. Archaeological evidence indicates that the building formed the focus of a much wider medieval landscape, with the house commanding a central position within a manorial enclosure or 'curia'. The parish church of St Mary's is also situated within this enclosure, possibly suggesting a pre-conquest date for its foundation. A chantry chapel was constructed adjoining the chancel in the 14th century by Simon de Furneaux, the remains of which are still visible within the church. Several paddocks or closes which may represent the vestiges of medieval gardens and orchards, and a series of fishponds can also be seen to sit within the manorial enclosure. The wider landscape incorporated a medieval deer park and natural harbour, access to both of which would appear to have been tightly controlled by the manor.

The detailed analysis and interpretation of the building remains was undertaken by Barry V. Jones and compiled into an English Heritage survey report entitled 'Priory Cottage, Chantry Cottage and the Remains of Chantry, Kilve, Somerset' (B.V. Jones 2003).

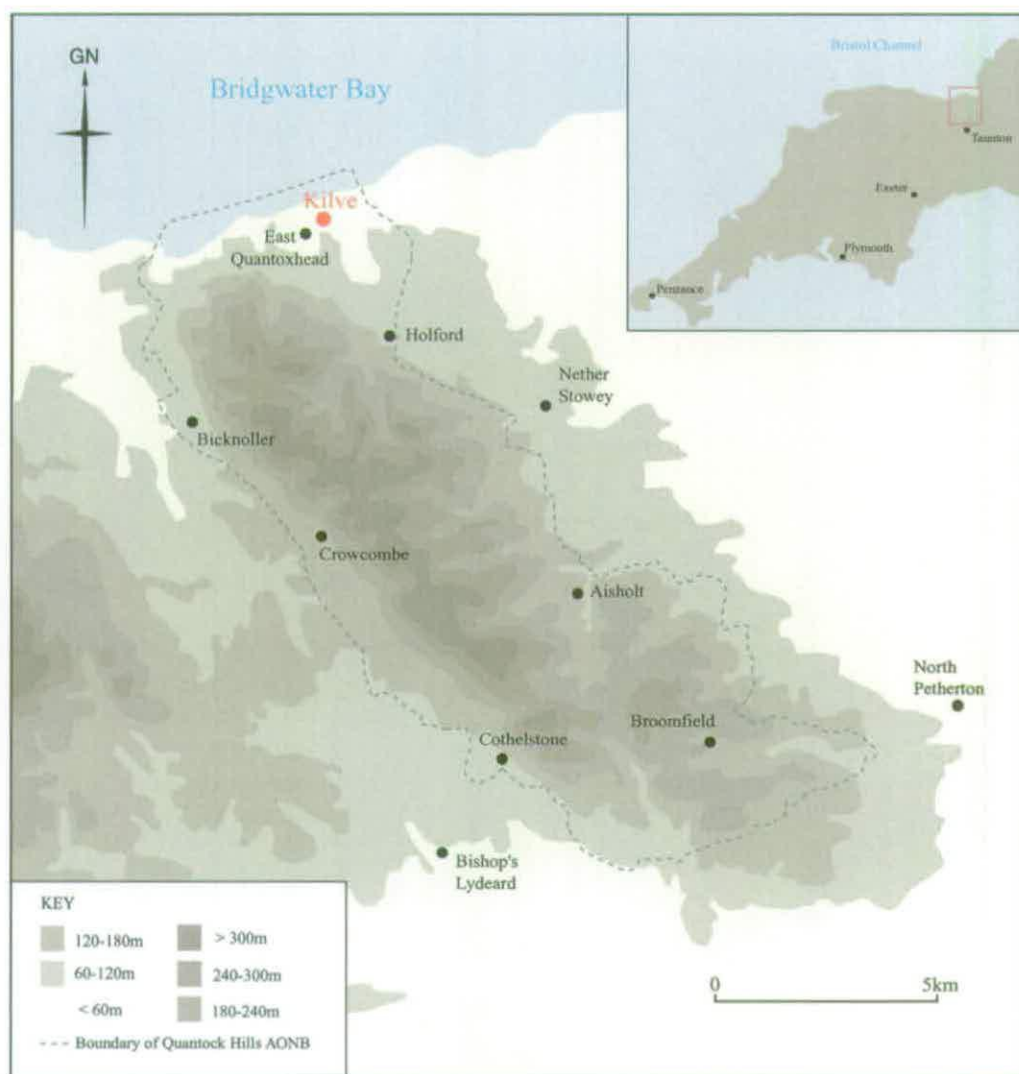


Fig. 1 Location Map.

INTRODUCTION

Location and geology

The medieval remains at Kilve lie towards the north-eastern edge of the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), c 1km north of the present village of Kilve, Somerset (Fig. 1). The buildings, centred on ST 1462 4400, lie at about 17m above OD on a narrow strip of low lying farmland sandwiched between the Quantock Hills to the south and the Bristol Channel coast to the north. The site is situated on recent brown loamy and silty sands and is surrounded by Blue Lias of the Jurassic period (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 279 & parts of 263 & 295). The two cottages known as *Chantry Cottage* and *Priory Cottage* were created from the former farmhouse of Kilve Farm. These cottages, combined with the ruins to their east, constitute the remains of a substantial medieval residence. The medieval parish church of St Mary's is located c 50m to the south of the main building complex.

The site can be accessed from the main Bridgwater to Williton road (A39) by way of either Sea Lane or Hilltop Lane, both of which converge at the Rectory just south of the church. The main road was created in the 17th century and the principal settlement of the parish now clusters round it at Putsham. It is unclear whether there ever was a nucleated settlement focused around St Mary's church, it is perhaps more likely that Kilve took the form of a dispersed or linear settlement, possibly stretching along Sea Lane.

Survey work

A large scale topographic survey of the main archaeological features at Kilve was carried out by staff from the Exeter office of English Heritage in July 2002. The site was recorded as part of the English Heritage archaeological survey of the Quantock Hills AONB. The survey was undertaken using a Trimble 5600 total station EDM and completed using graphical survey methods. An assessment of the standing building remains was undertaken by Barry V. Jones from the English Heritage Historical Research and Conservation Support Division. This work entailed the detailed analysis and interpretation of the buildings and was carried out in September 2002. The findings from this work have been used to form the buildings section of this report. This work was aided by a survey of the roofless ruins at the east end of the building complex, using rectified photography techniques, which English Heritage commissioned from Downland Partnership Ltd. As investigation proved, this resource did not cover the whole extant medieval fabric.

HISTORY AND PREVIOUS RESEARCH

There has been surprisingly little archaeological or historical work carried out on the medieval remains at Kilve. The buildings were referred to by the Rev. J. Collinson in his three volumes on the *History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*, 1791. As part of an extra-illustrated copy of this publication, which was enlarged to 14 volumes, William W. Wheatley was commissioned to undertake a series of painting of the buildings at Kilve (Fig. 2). These paintings, dating from 1847, now form part of the Braikenridge Collection and give us an interesting insight into the appearance of both the buildings and their immediate surroundings in the first half of the 19th century.

There also exists a slightly earlier depiction of Kilve by John Buckler, dating from 1840, which forms part of the Pigott Collection, now held by the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (Fig. 3). The painting was commissioned by John Hugh Smyth-Pigott and was to be included in his six volumes entitled *Illustrations of the Ecclesiastical and Domestic Architecture of Somersetshire*. Perhaps one of the interesting features depicted in all of these paintings is the large pond that appears in the foreground. Almost all trace of this pond has disappeared today but fortunately, through these paintings, we have a good idea of how it appeared and the impact it had on the immediate surroundings of the building.

Fig. 2. 'Kilve Abbey' by WW Wheatley, 1847. Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society.



The remains at Kilve were briefly mentioned by Pevsner in 1958, when he recorded a group of 15th-century ruins, including a 'chapel with a large east window'. He also noted the remains of a staircase and suggested that the buildings were worthy of closer study (Pevsner 1958, 211).

Fig. 3. 'Remains of Priory or Chantry' by J Buckler, 1840. Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.



The site was visited by the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division in 1965 at which time a dry fishpond was recorded to the north of the ruined chantry buildings (ST 1461 4405). The pond was recorded as being clay lined and surviving to a depth of 2m; the feature was surveyed at 1:2500 scale. The site was again visited by the OS in 1975 when it was noted that the ruinous remains were becoming rapidly overgrown and the fishpond had been almost completely in filled (ST 14 SW 17).

The buildings at Kilve were inspected by English Heritage for listing purposes in 1983. The ruined medieval remains, Priory and Chantry cottages, and the church of St Mary's were all listed at grade II*. The 18th-century 7 bay shelter shed in the yard to the west of Chantry Cottage was listed at grade II. The roofless medieval remains are designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SO480).

A watching brief was carried out during restoration work on the church tower in 2000 (Graham 2002, 245).

Documentary evidence

The earliest reference to the manor of Kilve appears in the Domesday Book. At this time it was held by Rodger de Courcelles, who succeeded Brictric after the conquest, and was valued at £4. The records show the manor of Kilve comprised 5 villagers and 5 smallholders and included a mill, 13 acres of meadow, 12 acres of woodland and pasture 1½ leagues long and ½ league wide. The holdings of Hill and Pardleston had also been added to the manor at the time of the Domesday entry in 1086 (Thorn 1980, 93d).

The early succession of the manor of Kilve is long and complex and has been well documented in the Somerset volume of the *Victoria County History* (VCH 1985, 97-100). The de Furneaux family is first documented as holding the manor of Kilve at the end of the 12th century, and from this time it remained, almost continuously, in their possession until the beginning of the 15th century.

In 1221 Kilve was inherited by Henry de Furneaux whose possession was challenged by Nicholas Avenel. The dispute over Kilve was continued by Matthew de Furneaux and was finally resolved in 1253 when Matthew inherited Kilve from William Avenel, apparent heir of Nicholas (VCH 1985, 98). During this dispute however, Matthew de Furneaux brought an action against Nicholas Avenel which is documented in the Assize Rolls dating from 1242-43. The case against Nicholas Avenel was that he:

...made waste, sale, and ruin of the lands, woods, houses and men in custody of the inheritance of the said Matthew in Kylve to the disinheriting of the said Matthew.

In recording this action we get an insight into the nature of the landscape and buildings that formed the Kilve estate in the mid-13th century. The Rolls go on to say:

...and wherein it is complained that he sold a certain wood which is called Halewaye to one Thomas de Haleway, who, at one time, used to claim a right in the said wood; and, further, in another wood, which is called Kelve, he threw down about 200 oaks, and he threw down a certain stable and a bakehouse and the gates of his court, and he laid waste to the disinheritance etc., whereby he (Matthew) is injured and has (suffered) damages to the value of 40 marks.

(Chadwyck-Healey 1897, 209)

Several years later, in 1280, the same Matthew de Furneaux was himself summoned to court to answer the charge that he:

...on Saturday next before the Annunciation in the 7th year of the present King took and by one John Gregory made to be taken, two oxen and one mare in a place called Northbridgeway in the manor of Weston and drove them away and made them be driven away to the park of Kelve.
(London 1929, 217)

This would appear to be the first reference to there being a deer park associated with the manor of Kilve. The park at Kilve is thought to have survived up until the death of John Roger, the owner, in 1441 (P.R.O., C 139/107, no. 32).

Simon de Furneaux inherited Kilve from Maud, wife of Matthew de Furneaux, c 1329 and held it until his death in 1359 (VCH 1985, 98). It was during this period that a perpetual chantry was established under licence at Kilve. The licence, dated 1329, granted:

...a messuage, garden and land in Kylve and Stringeston, with the advowsons of the Churches of those towns, and the reversions of a furlong of land in Wemedon, held, for life, by Roger Chote and John Bytel, of 5 acres in Chilton Trinite, held, for life, by Matilda late wife of William Aleyn and of a messuage and half a virgate of land in the same held, for life, by John le Clerk of West Purye and Matilda his wife, to five Chaplains to celebrate divine service daily in Kilve church for the souls of the said Simon and his heirs.
(Cal.Pat Rolls 1329, 414)

The 'messuage' granted to the college of priests in the aforementioned licence has been interpreted as the buildings now known as *Chantry Cottage*, *Priory Cottage* and the adjoining ruins. *The Victoria County History* states that the manor house became the residence of a college of priests in the 14th century but there is little documentary evidence to support this assumption. The licence quoted above refers to a 'messuage', rather than a capital messuage, and therefore does not necessarily support the presumption that the college of priests occupied the manor house. There was a second messuage 'in Chilton Trinite' (Kilton Trinity?) also included as part of the endowment, perhaps suggesting the need for more than one residence to house the priests. The fact that the house retained the status of capital messuage of the manor by 1441 may again cast doubt on whether the manor house was used as a chantry priests residence.

Often the duties of chantry priests were not confined to the mere recital of soul-masses. The chantry priests serving in parish churches, such as Kilve, may also have been expected to assist the parish priest during services. Before they were instituted they had to take an oath of obedience to the vicar or parish priest and could be called upon to minister to the parishioners when the vicar was sick or absent (Pantin 1959, 15). There are several documentary references to appointments that were made to the church at Kilve but it is unclear whether they relate to the parish church or the chantry. One of the earliest accounts dates from 1329 and refers to the:

Institution of Richard Bertelmeu, clerk, to the church of Culve (Kilve), at the presentation of Sir Simon de Furneaux, Knight, in the person of Thomas de Botynton his proxy.
(Holmes 1896, 41)

The same document also states that the benefice of Kilve had become vacant after the death of the last rector, Sir Peter atte Brygge, in February of that year. The post of rector was not vacant for long as it was filled by 1330, when Walter de Remmisbury is named as rector of Culve and proctor of Richard Bartholomei, presumably the clerk named above (Holmes 1896, 57). There are records of several other appointments to the church at Kilve including the appointment of Sir William Malet 'priest' in 1335 (Holmes 1896, 196). Direct reference to the chantry at Kilve

was made in a document dating from 1350 which refers to the appointment of:

John de Wynnefield, chaplain, to the ministry of the perpetual chantry of Kulve at the presentation of Simon de Furneaux.
(Holmes 1896, 607)

In 1419 Kilve and lands in Kilton and Holford were assigned as a third share of the estate to Ralph Bush and his wife Eleanor who subsequently sold it to John Roger or Rogers of Bryanston. The chantry would appear to have been short-lived, probably passing out of existence by this time. The chantry was not mentioned in *The Survey and Rental of the Chantries, Colleges and Free Chapels....in the County of Somerset*, 1548, but the survey does refer to a 'lamp' maintained at Kilve; lamps were commonly placed before a principal image in the chancel and burnt to honour the subject of the image (Green 1888, xii-xiii). The lamp at Kilve is listed under the Deanery of Bridgwater, the entry stating that there is a '*Light foundyd wtin the paryshe Church ther*' supported by '*One Annuall rent to be levied and receyved of the issues and proffecte of a tent of Sir John Rogers, Knighte, in the tenure of Henry Hastell vjd*' (Green 1888, 51).

Kilve remained in the Rogers family until the middle of the 17th century by which time the building was known as the *Old Mansion* or Kilve Farm (VCH 1985, 99). Thomas Gerard, in his '*Particular Description of the County of Somerset...1633*' records that:

Called in old Records Culve, a large Manor and herefore ye principall seate of antient and noble family of knightes surnamed de Fourneaux, and.....; of which Sir Symon de Furneaux in Edw. The thirds time founded and endowed a little Colledge or great Chauntry consisting of five Priests daylie to celebrate for his Soule and c. at this place. This Sir Symon left one only Daughter married to Sir John Blunt, by whom she had only a Daughter that dyed issules.
By the death of ye Grandchilde and heire of Symon and his two Brothers Henry and Thomas who all dyed yssules, a faire estate fell to ye issue of his 4 Sisters who were married.
By femall heress manie families still remayninge are issued from them; by one if which this Manor of Kilve came into ye Rogers of Dorset who still enjoy it.
(Bates 1900, 30-31)

In 1664 Sir John Rogers divided his estate and the manor and most of the land at Kilve was bought by John Cunditt. In 1769 the property was sold by another John Cunditt to Henry Sweeting; at this time Kilve Farm was the largest in the Parish covering c 275 acres. Kilve remained in the possession of the Sweeting family until 1841 at which time it was bought by Edward Fownes Luttrell. In c 1849 the main building was destroyed by fire and after this only the hall range and west wing were re-built and re-roofed. The solar wing, east wing and chapel were apparently left much as they appear today, perhaps to be viewed as a 'romantic ruin'. By the late 19th century a portion of the lands belonging to Kilve Farm were linked with Parkhouse Farm and the manor house ceased to be used as the main farmhouse. By 1906 the house was offered to holiday-makers as apartments and the name of the farm had been changed to Priory Farm (OS 1902). In 1977 the house was divided into two cottages, *Priory Cottage* and *Chantry Cottage*, in which form it survives today. The buildings at Kilve remain the property of the Luttrell family.

Examining the succession of names attributed to the buildings at Kilve may give us an insight as to when the building was first interpreted as a chantry priests' residence. Documentary sources (above) show that in the middle of the 17th century the building was known as the *Old Mansion* or Kilve Farm. The latter of these names appears on the tithe map of 1839, however, the paintings of Buckler, entitled *Remains of Priory or Chantry* (1840), and Wheatley, entitled *Kilve Abbey* (1847), indicate that by the middle of the 19th century the building was thought to represent the remains of an ecclesiastical residence. This is clearly indicated on the 1st edition map of 1888

which, although naming the roofed buildings as Kilve Farm, names the ruins to their east as *Chantry (Remains of)*. By the time of the Ordnance Survey revisions for the 2nd edition map of 1902 the building was known as *Priory Farm* and subsequently became *Priory Cottage* and *Chantry Cottage*. The fact that the building was known as *Old Mansion* in the 17th century would indicate that in this period the building was thought to be the vestiges of an old manor house. The above evidence suggests that it was possibly not until the early-19th century that the medieval remains were interpreted as a chantry priests' residence.

Map evidence

One of the earliest maps on which Kilve appears is Christopher Saxton's map of the *County of Somerset* dating from 1607. Morden's map of *Somersetshire*, dating from 1695, also depicts Kilve and apparently shows a park adjacent to it. It is unclear whether the park is in fact related to Kilve or East Quantoxhead but it seems unlikely that it belongs to Kilve as documentary sources indicate disparking occurred in the 15th century.

The earliest large-scale depiction of Kilve is on the Ordnance Survey map of 1802, though the quality is such as to convey little information as to the layout of the main building complex (OS 1802). The tithe map and apportionment of 1839 show the buildings of Kilve farm, the church, and the surrounding fields in far more detail. The enclosed area to the north and east of the medieval building is recorded as containing ponds, with the enclosures to the north and west documented as a garden and orchard respectively (Fig. 4). The area to the west of the ponds is named as *the green* from which access to Kilve Pill and the sea was gained.

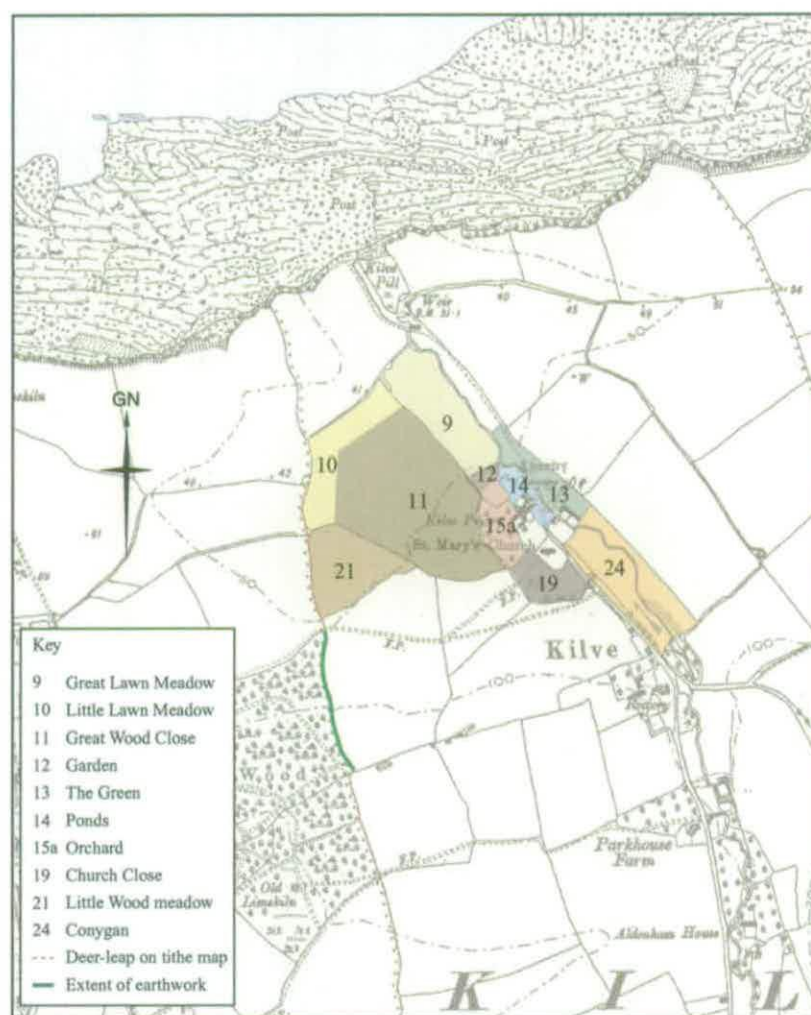


Fig. 4. Map showing field names from tithe apportionment.

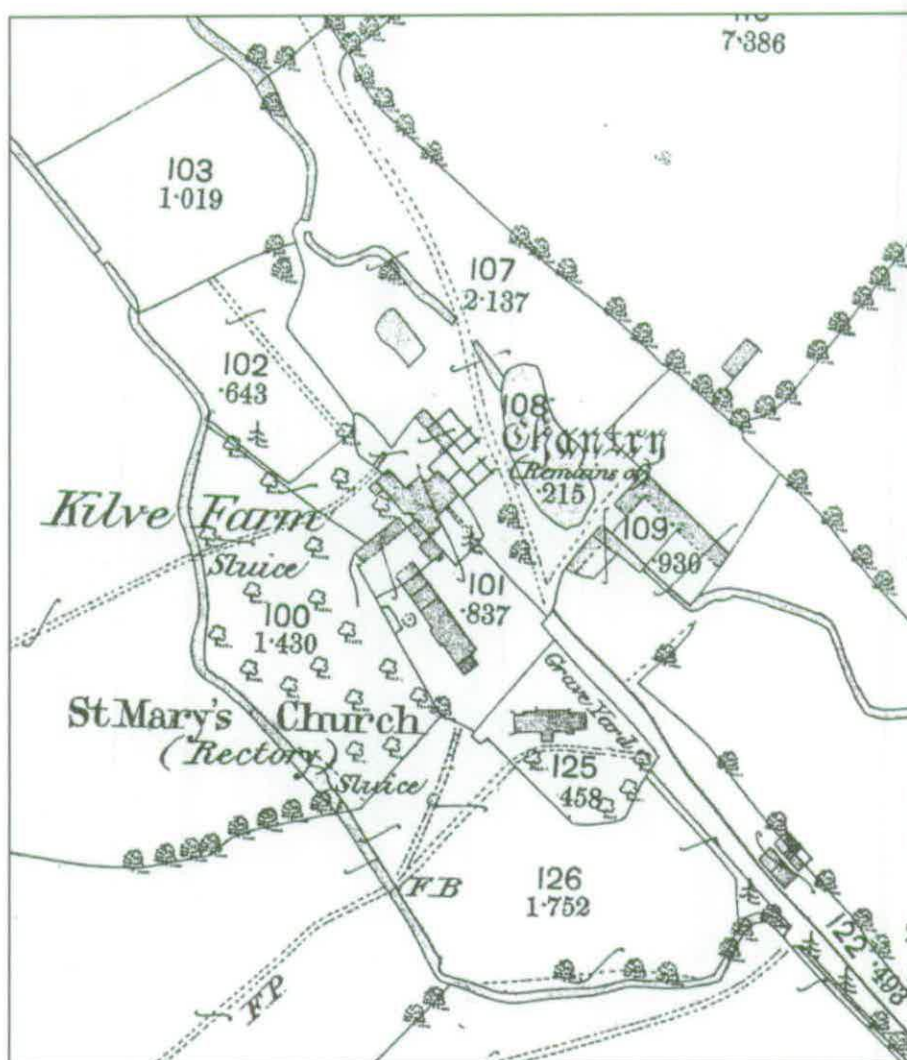


Fig. 5. Ordnance Survey
1st edition map of 1888.

The tithe map also names a long narrow field running south-east from the main building complex as *conygan*, or *conygar*, the name suggesting that this area may have been used for the breeding of rabbits though no earthwork evidence for this activity survives today.

Although documentary sources refer to a deer park at Kilve there is little evidence to suggest its' extent or location. Deer parks were generally composed of wood pasture interspersed with 'laundes' or open glades (Williamson 1997, 93). Field names such as Great Lawn Meadow and Little Lawn Meadow which lie to the north and west of the buildings may imply these areas formed part of the deer park. Great Wood Close and Little Wood Meadow indicate the previous existence of wooded areas close to the house, again suggestive of enparked landscape. The parish boundary to the west is shown on the tithe map as following the course of a 'Free Board or Deer-leap 15 feet wide belonging to Kilve', again possibly giving some indication as to the extent of the medieval park (SRO 1838).

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1888 depicts two ponds to the north and east of the ruins (Fig. 5). These ponds do not appear on the OS 2nd edition map of 1902, suggesting they had fallen out of use by this time. The large barn to the south of the farmhouse had also gone by 1902 and has since been replaced by a modern farm building. The OS 1st edition shows two cottages south-east of the church. These do not appear on the tithe map and must therefore have been constructed in the intervening period (OS 1888, 1902); they have since been converted into one property.

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

The building

As mentioned above, detailed analysis and interpretation of the listed buildings known as 'Priory Cottage', 'Chantry Cottage' and 'the Remains of Chantry' was carried out by Barry V. Jones of the English Heritage Historical Research and Conservation Support Division. An English Heritage survey report was produced as part of this work, *Priory Cottage, Chantry Cottage and the Remains of Chantry, Kilve, Somerset*, from which the information below has been drawn (Jones 2003). What follows is a brief summary of the report's main findings.



Fig. 6. Priory Cottage, Chantry Cottage and the remains of chantry from the south east.

Priory Cottage, Chantry Cottage and the Remains of Chantry (Figs. 6 & 7)

The buildings at Kilve which now form *Priory Cottage*, *Chantry Cottage* and the *remains of chantry* represent the vestiges of a substantial medieval residence dating from the 13th or 14th centuries. The medieval elements of the house were built using lias rubble with some Ham-stone detailing, and comprise a hall range, a large (ruined) solar wing, with a chapel and extensive L-plan apartments adjoining. An in-line range of probable medieval date formerly stood at the western end of the hall, and although this no longer survives it most likely formed the service range of the house. A wing to the rear – the west wing – is positioned across the junction between the hall range and the site of the in-line range. This wing does not appear to be medieval in date, although its rendered finish may conceal evidence of such. There is a porch, fronting the entrance to the hall range, the ground floor of which may date from the medieval period. It is likely that the hall was originally aisled or that it had a roof form based on a close derivative of an aisled arrangement. Although the medieval roofs were destroyed by fire in the 19th century, their outlines are preserved in the gable walls of the hall, solar and chapel, demonstrating an arch-braced form of construction. Only *Priory Cottage* and *Chantry Cottage* remain roofed and now have a covering of Welsh slate, however, 19th-century depictions of the buildings show they were once thatched throughout, probably matching the original treatment of the roofs.

One of the most significant aspects of the building is its distinctive plan form. The building possesses solar annexes and a chapel that represent specialised building ranges. These ranges

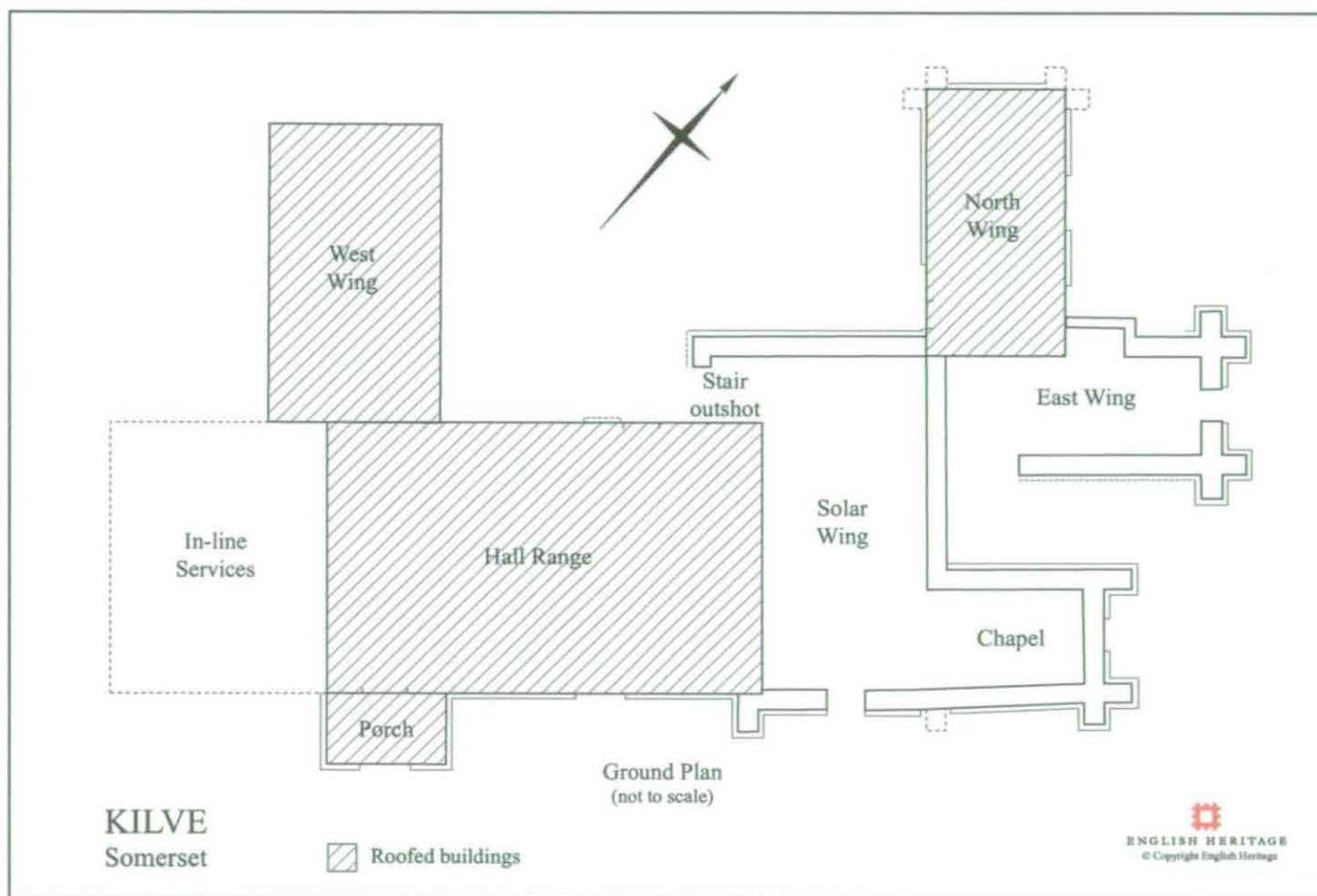


Fig. 7. Ground plan, Kilve, Somerset (not to scale).

originally served distinct functions and are arranged in a way that expands upon the more standard hall and cross-wing plan. Such plan forms can be seen in other buildings of similar date but in many cases these annexes are latter additions, possibly reflecting the improved circumstances of their owner. However, at Kilve, the evidence points to a planned solar complex with three annexes, at least two of which (possibly excluding the chapel) are contemporary with the solar. The nature of these private apartments stands out as one of the key features of the building and may be interpreted in two contrasting ways. Firstly, and most probably, as evidence of the aggrandisement of the de Furneaux's private accommodation, befitting a family of considerable status. Secondly, and perhaps less likely, as the expansion of the manor house to form suitable accommodation for the college of priests associated with the chantry foundation, c 1329.

Dating evidence for the construction of the solar wing and annexes relies primarily on the style and form of architectural detailing. The primary diagnostic feature by which the solar may be dated is the tall solar window in the south-east gable. The mullions and much of the tracery are missing from this window but enough survives to demonstrate its original form. The remains of the window tracery indicate it was bulky in character, resembling plate tracery, and formed two lights with cusped heads beneath a central quatrefoil. This form of window is one that was used over a relatively long period of time however, and can be seen in buildings of the 13th and 14th centuries.

Although dating evidence suggests the solar wing and annexes may have been built in the same period as the foundation of the chantry, it seems unlikely they were constructed to accommodate a college of priests. The impressive and complex form of the building indicates it was constructed by a man of considerable wealth and status, suggesting it is far more probable that the house continued as the primary residence of the de Furneaux family throughout the 14th century. Earthwork evidence of a manorial enclosure surrounding the site and a deer park associated with it, combined with the close proximity of the parish church, adds strength to the interpretation that the remains represent a medieval manor house. Although documentary sources indicate that a messuage in Kilve was granted as part of the chantry licence, it does not definitively state that it was the manor house. It is obviously not impossible that the college of priests did reside there, but with the present evidence it seems unlikely.

The evidence relating to the development of the medieval house is complex and although a number of key phases can be determined, there is ambiguity surrounding others. What is evident however, is that there are at least three major phases in the medieval development of the building. It appears that the main part of *Priory Cottage* and *Chantry Cottage* formed the hall range of the medieval building. Conclusive evidence for this can be seen in the attic where the scar of the original hall roof and the remains of a coped treatment can be viewed on the south-west gable. This scar lies centrally within the wall, indicating that the existing building follows much the same ground plan as the medieval building, and the coping suggesting the south-west wall formed a terminus of the range. From the exterior, straight joints indicate that the roof height was raised in a single phase, at which time the present 19th-century roof was built, presumably after the fire. The angle of the original roof pitch can be extrapolated down, through an area of later disturbance, to the front of the hall range to reveal that the hall originally possessed low eaves compatible with an aisled structure. On typological grounds, the hall may be presumed to have been open to the roof, compatible with the scar of the original roof structure visible in the attic.

The exterior of the south-west gable also displays two further parallel 'joints', with areas of stone blocking between them. These 'joints' are not visible on the interior face, indicating that they are scars in the masonry as opposed to phase joints. These scars relate to the former roof of an in-line range that once abutted the south-west wall of the hall. The relative height of the scars indicates that the in-line range was lower than the hall range, with the pitch suggesting that it was probably of a single storey or possessed a low ground floor with an attic. The low eaves of

the in-line range are consistent with an early date of construction, though the relationship between it and the hall range is ambiguous. It is probable however, that the two ranges are contemporary or that the hall pre-dates the in-line range. It is likely that the latter functioned as the services, located in an archetypal position, at the low end of the hall farthest from the solar.

The solar wing was second in importance only to the hall range, its upper floor containing the principal chamber of the house. The large windows in the solar would have extended from near floor level on the first floor up into the gable, forming impressive architectural features as well as flooding the room with light (Fig. 8). At this time glass was still an expensive luxury and its lavish use in these large windows would have underlined the wealth of the owner of the house (Girouard 1978, 53). The room was heated by a large fireplace positioned against the south-west wall and the remains of the curved fire back and part of the flue can still be seen. The ground floor of the solar wing was of less importance, the space generally being used as a storeroom or service room in standard medieval plans. At Kilve, this space was supplied with a front entrance and two windows, possibly suggesting it had a slightly different function in this case.

It is not possible to determine with certainty whether the hall range and solar are contemporary. The front walls of the two ranges may be viewed as forming a slightly awkward arrangement, the solar wall breaking slightly forward, possibly indicating different builds. However, there is clear evidence to show that both solar and hall range had arch-braced roofs. They also have compatible masonry suggesting, if they were not contemporary, then they are probably close in date.

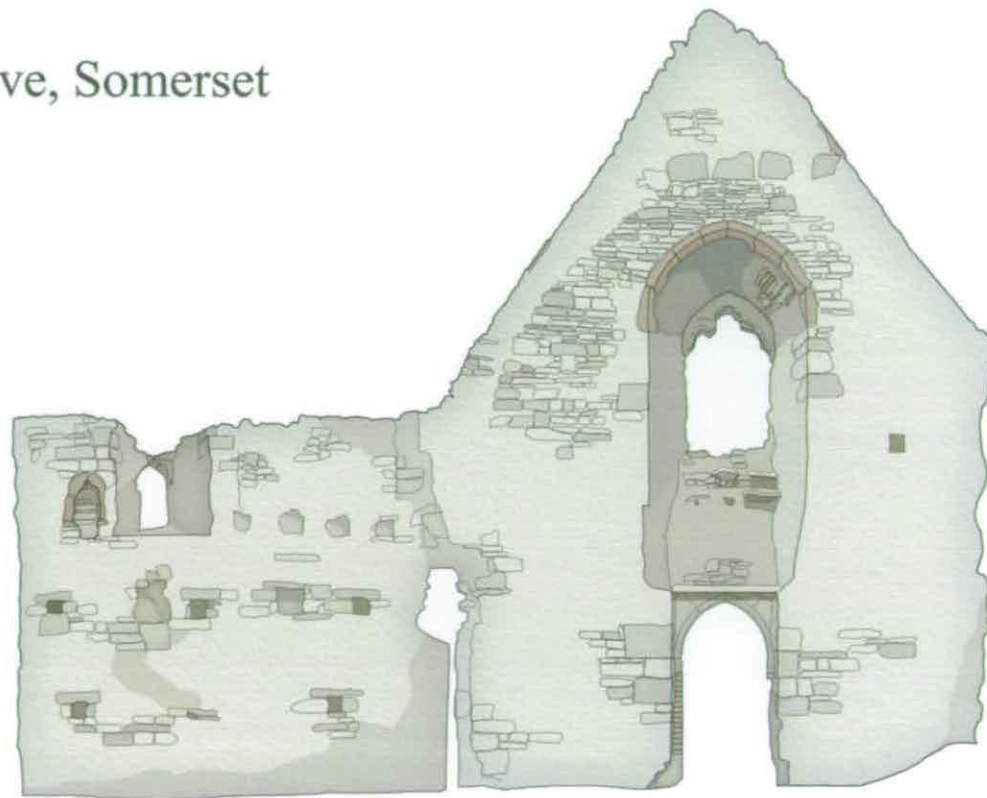
There is convincing evidence to indicate that the solar wing, north wing and east wing were erected in a single building campaign. All three wings adjoin at the north corner of the solar, where the form and method of construction demonstrates that the north corner was built to accommodate the intersection of all three ranges. In addition, the chamfered plinth on the north-west wall of the solar has a clear return to carry it round the base of the north wing. There is also no evidence of a plinth on any of the internal walls between these ranges, again indicating a single phase of construction. As mentioned above, the construction of such an extensive range of private accommodation in a single building campaign is highly unusual and sets Kilve apart from many of its contemporaries.

The original function of the east and north wings is uncertain, however, their fenestration, form and close relationship with the solar wing may give some indication of their likely uses (Fig. 9). The east wing, although substantial in size, does not possess a large gable window as seen on the first floor of the chapel and solar. This reinforces the assumption that the original function of this wing was subservient to that of the solar wing, indicating that the first floor possibly provided an additional private chamber to augment the main accommodation. Evidence suggests that the east wing also provided the sole internal means of communication between the remainder of the house and the north wing. The function of the ground floor of this wing is again unclear. It may have been used for storage purposes or for some form of activity linked to the agricultural or domestic services of the manor.

The principal room of the north wing would again appear to have been at first-floor level. This is suggested by the good access arrangement between the north and east wings at this level. This access is provided by a pair of doorways in the south-east gable of the north wing with their close proximity to one another demonstrating a clear relationship between access and original function. There are several features within this wing, particularly a channel at ground-floor level running parallel to the north-west gable, which may suggest that it could be interpreted as a latrine block, the paired doorways providing a particular circulation pattern. The evidence is not conclusive however, but a latrine block of this form would be an unusual feature of a domestic building of this period.

There is some evidence to indicate that the chapel wing is possibly a later addition. The first

Kilve, Somerset



1 0 5 metres


ENGLISH HERITAGE
© Copyright English Heritage

Fig. 8. The remains of chantry: illustration showing the internal face of the south-east gable of the solar and the south-east wall of the chapel wing. The piscina within the chapel is depicted on the left, with the large solar window extending from near floor level and now partially blocked on the right. Also highlighted is the outline of the arch-braced roof struc-



Fig. 9. North wing, east wing, and chapel from the north-east.

indicator of this is on the south-east elevation where the scar of a buttress that has been removed or has collapsed can be clearly seen. If the chapel was a later addition, then the design of the solar probably would have incorporated a pair of angle buttresses at the east corner. Internally, a short vertical joint, as well as a number of larger keyed stones, would also indicate the loss of a buttress where the chapel wall abuts. The second indicator of a phase between the solar and the chapel consists of a slight change in alignment between the south-east wall of the solar and the corresponding wall of the chapel. Further evidence is apparent in the north-west wall of the chapel, where there is a joint formed by the conjunction of the chapel and the solar. There is, however, no plinth visible along the south-east wall of the solar wing, possibly indicating that the chapel wing was envisaged in the original design. Contrasting stonework between the solar range and chapel again adds weight to the evidence for slightly later construction. There is a greater use of Ham-stone in the chapel wing than in the rest of the building, possibly explained by the particular status of the chapel. However, the form of the chapel's east window and the piscina's cusped head indicate that the chapel was probably built in the 14th century. Domestic chapels are a common feature of manorial properties of this period and were often located adjoining the main apartments. As the principal chamber of the solar was on the first floor then the chapel was normally also at that level, allowing the lord and his family to take private mass daily.

A small outshot, located in the rear angle between the hall and solar wing, almost certainly represents the remains of a stair. This is inferred from its position – a typical location for a stair in a building of this form, leading from the dais end of the hall directly to the solar – and by a substantial bulk of stone rubble masonry that survives within it and may be the base of a stone-built staircase. However, although the lower part of the outshot is original, there is evidence that it has been altered during the medieval period, as demonstrated by a straight joint formed in the north-west wall, between the solar wing and the outshot. Evidence suggests that the upper part of the outshot is an addition, probably dating from the medieval period, the reason for which is unclear. It is possible that the original stair took the form of an external stone stair, the visible alterations relating to a phase when a larger or enclosed stair was built to provide improved access to the solar.

The Manorial Enclosure (Fig. 14)

The medieval manor house is bounded to the west by a substantial water-filled ditch and hedge-topped bank (Fig. 10). It is uncertain whether this boundary was always water-filled, but its form suggests it may represent the remains of a medieval enclosure, possibly defining the *curia* of the manor. The original area of the enclosure cannot be known for certain as there is no conclusive field evidence to indicate its eastern extent, however, the location of the modern field boundary on this side may give an indication as to the position of the original boundary. The enclosure would appear to be *c* 240m long from north-west to south-east and *c* 175m wide, covering an area of approximately 3.8ha (9.3 acres).



Fig. 10. Aerial photograph showing section of medieval enclosure fossilised in existing field boundary. (NMR 21189/01 © Crown Copyright).

The northern extent of the enclosure is again unclear as there are no surviving earthworks to indicate the position of the medieval boundary. Map evidence does however show the location of former field banks which may give an indication as to the position of the original boundary. There is a small field to the north-west of the manor house which is recorded as a garden on the 1839 tithe map and beyond which lies *Great Lawn Meadow*. As mentioned above, the latter field name is indicative of an emparked area and therefore may suggest that the northern boundary of the garden field separated the *curia* from the adjoining deer park. The boundary at Kilve may also have been used in the medieval period to separate the immediate surroundings of the manor house from the deer park beyond.

The south-eastern perimeter of the enclosure is perhaps the most difficult to ascertain. There is no map evidence to indicate the former existence of a boundary continuing the line of the surviving medieval feature, however a shallow ditch, *c* 2m wide and 0.5m deep, was recorded in the field to the east of the church. It is uncertain whether this ditch is medieval in origin, but its position possibly reflects the line of the original medieval boundary.

The principal approach to the manor house would appear to have been from the south-east, as it is today, and from this direction the building can be seen to command a central position within the enclosure. A gentle scarp to the south of the main building suggests that there may also have been access from the west, passing the northern side of the churchyard and turning to face the main entrance. It is also possible that this formed the main route into the medieval deer park from the manor house. Access to the sea was gained from the north-east and conversely the site could also have been approach from the seaward side. Approaching from this side would have brought the visitor past the fishponds that lay to the north and east of the building, before turning and turning again to face the main façade.

The church (Fig.11)

The Parish Church of St Mary's also lies within the medieval *curia*, *c* 50m to the south of the manor house, on the southern side of the principal approach. The main fabric of the church would appear to date from the 14th and 15th centuries, with the tower of possible early 17th-century date. However, a church has stood on or near this spot since much earlier times. There is a documentary reference to a rector of Kilve between 1265 and 1273 (VCH 1985, 101) which, combined with the 12th-century font in the tower, would indicate the existence of an earlier church. The form of the church, a simple two-celled building with no aisles, and the fact it lies within the manorial enclosure may also indicate an early origin. The latter suggests that the church may have been founded by the manorial lord, possibly as early as the 10th or 11th century as this period saw a great insurgence of small churches built by local landowners (Blair 1996, 13).



Fig. 11. St. Mary's parish church.

The existing building is constructed of local blue lias random rubble with a slate roof and was originally rendered with lime mortar. The render was stripped-off in the early 20th century, almost certainly as part of the 1913 restoration work, but has recently been reinstated on the

church tower. The main body of the church is *c* 24m east-west and *c* 6m north-south, with an entrance porch on the south side. The ribbed and plastered barrel-vaulted roof of the chancel dates from the 15th century; the nave roof is similar in date but was partly restored in the 19th century and the plaster removed. There is a small vestry adjoining the north side of the chancel which was added in 1876 and dedicated to the memory of William Greswell, a former rector of Kilve. The vestry is accessed from the chancel through a large two-centred arch dating from the 14th century. This almost certainly originally led through to a chantry chapel in which the chantry priests could say mass to their benefactor. This arch is very different in character from the chancel arch, which can also be dated to the 14th century, and its heavy, simple style would suggest that it was probably one of the first building projects to stem from the founding of Kilve Chantry (Jones 2003). This arch can be seen to form one of two bays, the second arch of which has been foreshortened, indicating the chancel and chapel were once longer. A single-bay gabled projection with an arched two-light window is located at the east end of the south wall of the nave. This projection abutts a two-light mullioned window and is partially blocked internally, with an ogee-headed blocked niche visible on the east side of the adjoining window; the projection almost certainly provided access and light to a rood loft. Until 1636 the church bells were housed in a separate thatched building (VCH 1985, 102).

A substantial mound was recorded in the churchyard to the south of the building. This sub-circular earthen mound, *c* 5.2m long, 4.1m wide and *c* 0.6m high, has a depression at its centre and is planted with shrubs. The feature most probably indicates the location of a large yew tree that once stood in the churchyard. Aerial photographs dating from 1945 show a large tree in this location (RAF 106G/UK/738 3018).

The ponds

An unnamed stream runs through the north-eastern half of the manorial enclosure and down to Kilve Pill and the sea. This stream supplied fresh water to the fishponds that once lay within the enclosure and skirted the eastern and northern sides of the main building. The location and form of these ponds is known from the OS 25inch 1st edition map of 1888 and the 1:2500 scale survey carried out in 1965 (see above), and has been transposed onto the recent 1:500 scale survey (Fig. 14). During survey work a section of walling, *c* 5m long, was recorded within the stream bed north-east of the ruins. This feature almost certainly represents a section of the edging stones from the larger of the two ponds. A possible third in-filled pond was recorded as a cropmark in the field to the north of the buildings. The field boundary that now cuts through the feature was originally located slightly farther to the west, leaving the cropmark area within the enclosure containing the ponds on the 1839 tithe map. Without further investigation however it cannot be certain whether this feature does indeed represent a third pond. There is no known documentary evidence relating to these ponds and it is impossible to tell their date from their shape and form. However, the maintenance of fish in purpose-built ponds was common in the medieval period, gaining in popularity during the later 13th and 14th centuries (Williamson 1997, 94). It is therefore likely that these ponds are contemporary with the medieval buildings and provided a readily available supply of fresh-water fish for the household.

The later farm buildings and surrounding features

Documentary sources indicate that from the mid-17th century the buildings were known as Kilve Farm. With the exception of the main house however, the surviving farm buildings would not appear to date from any earlier than the late 18th or early 19th centuries. The farm buildings consist of a 7-bay shelter shed situated along one side of a cobbled yard west of the medieval remains, with an animal shed and stables located at right angles to the yard. A barn is depicted on the OS 1st edition where the animal shed stands today but the building had been demolished by the time of the 2nd edition in 1902 and only the earthwork remains of its southern extent survive. A small dairy with dovecote above forms part of the east side of the yard (Fig. 12). The survey has shown however that this cobbled yard was once the location of the service range of the medieval manor house which may have been demolished to accommodate these later farm buildings.



Fig. 12. Photograph looking east across cobbled yard towards dairy with dovecote above.

An L-shaped building with two enclosed paddocks or yards, depicted on the OS 1st edition, is located to the south-east of the main house. This structure and its associated yards have now been incorporated into a much larger modern farm building. A second 5-bay shelter shed with a small, enclosed yard was also located to the south-east. The buildings are all of random rubble construction with the open-fronted shelter sheds incorporating round stone columns or posts to support the roof structure. The larger shelter shed, stables and animal shed all have tiled roofs, with the smaller shelter shed having a combination of tiles and wooden shingles. The dairy is roofed in slate and is rendered on the south and east sides. The larger shelter shed has a drain leading from the back of the building that runs north-west to join the water-filled ditch that runs round the site.

Several modern farm buildings have been constructed to the east of the medieval remains one of which lies within an area recorded on the tithe apportionment as *the green*. Landsberg (1995), when discussing the features of the monastic gardens at the Priory of Christ Church, Canterbury, identifies an area named Green Court. This area she likens to a village green, containing the bakery, granary, fish house and brewery as well as providing an area for the grazing of horses (Landsberg 1995, 40). It is possible that the area named *the green* at Kilve may have performed a similar function, if on a somewhat smaller scale. Its location, running alongside a watercourse, would have made the area ideal for providing grazing and other resources essential to the medieval household.

A substantial linear earthwork was recorded in the field to the east of the parish church. This feature takes the form of a linear depression *c* 4-5.5m wide, surviving to a depth of 1.5m at its deepest point. The southern scarp is depicted on the OS 1st edition map as forming part of a field boundary, with the tithe map depiction suggesting that the northern scarp also formed the boundary of an enclosed paddock or yard associated with the adjacent farm buildings. The partial remains of what appears to be a stone bridge, visible at the eastern end of this feature, suggest that the earthwork may represent a hollow way leading to a crossing over the stream. The substantial size of the feature is due in part to natural topography as the ground level drops considerably at this point, however, its form suggests that the southern scarp may be the remains of a medieval boundary.

The area named as *Orchard* on the 1839 tithe map lies within the manorial enclosure to the north and west of the main building. The area is approximately 0.6ha (1.5 acres) in extent and was still partly planted with trees up to the second half of the 20th century. A high status building such as that at Kilve would almost certainly have been surrounded by small closes in the medieval period used as gardens, orchards and vineyards. The areas named *Orchard* and *Church Close* on the tithe map may have formed part of a medieval garden associated with the manor house, the name of the former possibly reflecting a much earlier use.

Wider landscape features

As mentioned above, documentary and map sources indicate that there was an early medieval deer park associated with Kilve. The tithe map records a 'freeboard or deer leap' following the western parish boundary. A section of this medieval boundary would appear to survive as an earthwork within East Wood, the feature taking the form of a double bank and ditch. The outer bank is *c* 1m wide and *c* 0.5m high with an inner ditch *c* 1m wide and 0.5m deep. The inner bank is well defined and rises to approximately the same height as the outer bank but is much wider, *c* 6.5m, and flat-topped. The ground level drops sharply to the east forming an inner scarp of *c* 2.5m at its highest point. There is no evidence of an internal ditch but the area lies within arable farmland and it is probable that if a ditch did exist it would have been in-filled, alternatively, the boundary may have been deemed large enough so as not to require an internal ditch. The width and form of the internal bank may suggest that it formed a freeboard, a narrow strip of ground adjoining the pale used to give access for inspection and repair (Bond 1998, 27). This strip of land appears to have been referred to on an estate map of East Quantoxhead, the neighbouring manor, by George Withiell dating from 1687. Notes along the eastern boundary of the map relate to a red line which 'signifieth the boundary between the manor of East Quantoxhead and the manor of Kilve within which the Lord of the Manor of Kilve claimeth fifteen feet all along except Norwood outside which the Lord of the Manor of Quantoxhead must have fifteen feet in the Manor of Kilve' (SRO MAP\DD\X\LTR 1).

The extent of the medieval park cannot be ascertained from the field evidence. The earthwork remains of the boundary are visible from the north-eastern corner of East Wood running southwards along the parish boundary for approximately 50m. At this point the boundary kicks-in slightly and is met by a field bank to the east and a substantial woodland boundary to the west. The earthworks become indistinct after this point and the external bank and ditch cannot be traced though the substantial inner scarp remains. It is unclear if the park pale ends at this point or if the earthworks simply do not survive due to later disturbance. Running northwards from the north-eastern corner of East Wood the park boundary again does not appear to survive. The existing boundary takes the form of a substantial bank and hedge but there is little to suggest that it is anything more than a field boundary. It is from nomenclature that we get an insight into the northern extent of the park. *Great Lawn Meadow* and *Little Lawn Meadow* indicate that the park stretched, if not to the coast, to the field boundary immediately south of the coastline. The extent of the park to the east is unknown however, as there is little field or map evidence to indicate the location of the medieval boundary. It is possible that the park extended the full width of the parish, and that the deep-leap associated with the former park of Kilton formed its eastern boundary. To the south the existing field banks may give an indication as to the line of the medieval park boundary. It is possible that the park boundary ran eastwards from the south-east corner of East Wood, passing to the north of the Rectory and carrying on along the line of the present field banks to the existing parish boundary. This is suggested by the continuity of the field banks and also by the fact that Sea Lane and Hill Top Lane converge just before this point, perhaps at the entrance to the park. There are also no settlements within this area, again a possible indication of an emparked landscape. The suggested park area would have covered approximately 63ha (155 acres) (Fig 13).

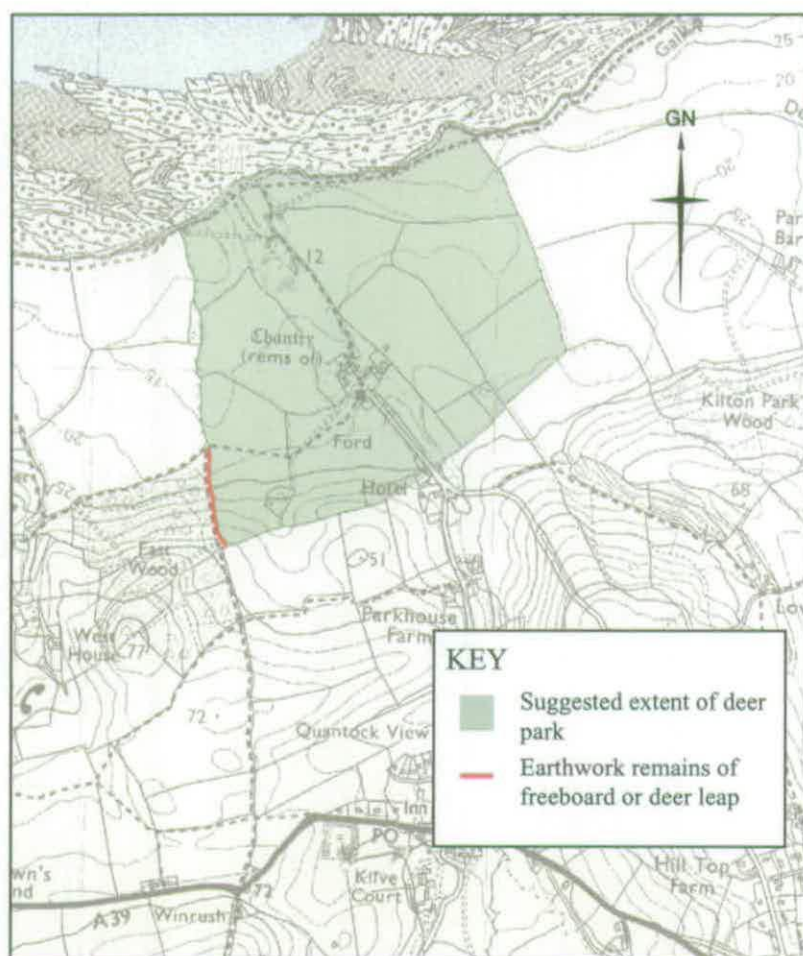


Fig. 13. Suggested extent of medieval deer park.

Kilve Pill is a small natural harbour which lies approximately 320m to the north of the main building complex at Kilve. The harbour would appear to have been used since medieval times and was condemned as dangerous by the port commissioners in 1559 (VCH 1985, 97). The harbour obviously continued in use however, as a large lime kiln was built at its head and was apparently still in use at the time of the OS 25inch 1st edition map of 1888. Unusually, the main access to the harbour would appear to be through the manorial complex, much as it is today, perhaps indicating access to the harbour was controlled by the manor. A small harbour would have been extremely useful for delivering household necessities such as fuel, and for landing sea fish for local consumption. Fish played an important part in the aristocratic diet, partly because of ecclesiastical rules forbidding the consumption of meat on holy days (Dyer 1988, 28). These days could amount to almost half the year therefore fresh-water fish from ponds had to be supplemented with sea fish and eels which could be salted or dried for storage. The stony beach at Kilve was a popular place for gnatting or hunting conger eels until after the First World War (VCH 1985, 97). Shellfish were also consumed in great numbers and a large quantity of oyster shells have been recovered from the area around the buildings (N Dawe, pers. comm.). The coastal area also provided a ready supply of building material as it lies on lower lias. This stone fractures easily into blocks and the medieval remains at Kilve would appear to be almost entirely built from stone collected directly from the beach.

DISCUSSION

The detailed analysis and interpretation carried out at *Priory Cottage*, *Chantry Cottage* and *the Remains of Chantry* has shown that they represent the vestiges of a late 13th or early 14th-century

manorial residence. The two cottages formed the hall range of the medieval manor house, with the ruins to their north-east comprising the solar wing, chapel and two solar annexes. Evidence suggests that a probable service range abutted the south-west end of the hall range but has since been demolished, possibly to accommodate the later farm buildings. The principal room of the house would have been the great hall which, as well as having a practical function as an eating room, would also have been embedded with powerful symbolic meaning. It would have been the centre of justice, the focus of hospitality, as well as a public display of the social status of its owner (Cooper 1996, 116). The building would have stood as a symbol of wealth and authority, and would have announced its owner's standing and importance within the community.

The survey work has highlighted the distinctive plan form of the building, incorporating an extensive range of solar apartments apparently constructed in a single phase, with the possible exception of the chapel wing. The scale and complex nature of these private apartments may be viewed not only as an indication of the wealth of their builder and owner but as a reflection of the social rank of their occupier. In medieval society the scale and spatial ordering of chambers was linked to social rank, with private chambers proportioned to the standing of their occupants. The extensive range of solar apartments at Kilve indicate that the building represented the upper end of the social scale. It is therefore thought more probable that such a high status building would have continued as the primary residence of the de Furneaux family through the 14th century. There appears to be little evidence to indicate that the house became the residence of a college of priests during this time as previously thought.

The topographical survey has highlighted that the building remains at Kilve form the focus of a complex medieval landscape. The manor house can be seen to command a dominant position within a clearly defined area which almost certainly formed a manorial *curia* or enclosure. This enclosure would have functioned on several levels: it would have had symbolic meaning, defining the area as an exclusively lordly space from which justice and authority were controlled; it would also have had a more practical function, providing the gardens and orchards surrounding the house with shelter and privacy as well as separating them from the deer park beyond. Stock-proof boundaries were an important feature of medieval properties and could take several forms ranging from a large moat, to a more modest ditch or fence. The new garden created at Rimpton in 1264-6 by the Bishop of Winchester was recorded as being surrounded by a substantial ditch and bank 5ft (1.6m) high and 7ft (2.2m) broad (Bond & Iles, 1991).

The enclosure also contained several other features which help to identify the area as a manorial *curia*. These included a series of fish ponds which skirted the east and north-east sides of the manor house. The ponds at Kilve would have provided a ready supply of freshwater fish for consumption, however, it is increasingly being realised that even the largest complexes of ponds could not have provided a year-round supply (Bond 1998, 34). The close proximity of Kilve to the sea, and therefore to an easily accessible supply of sea fish, eels and shell fish, would perhaps indicate that these ponds may also have performed a more symbolic or ornamental role. The maintenance and breeding of fresh-water fish, and therefore their consumption, was a luxury only available to the upper members of society (Dyer 1988, 34). The ponds associated with these fish may therefore be viewed as symbols of this exclusiveness, indicators of rank and privilege. The importance of water in medieval designed landscapes is increasingly being recognised - its ability to surround, to reflect, and to support imagery (Everson 1998). The close proximity of the ponds at Kilve to the buildings may not simply be attributed to convenience and security, but could also have served an aesthetic purpose; the reflective quality of the ponds is clearly illustrated in Bucklers' painting of 1840 (Fig. 3).

The parish church also lies within the area defined by the manorial enclosure. This may indicate that it developed from a proprietorial or private church attached to the house and land of the manorial lord. It is possible then that the church, rather than representing the focus of an early

settlement, was created as an appendage to a pre-conquest manor which may have consisted of no more than a large house and farm buildings (Aston 1988, 79). Evidence suggests that although the existing fabric of St Mary's church would not appear to date from earlier than the 14th century, a church has stood on or near this spot since much earlier times. Examination of the fabric of the existing church has shown that the chancel was once longer, originally incorporating a monastic-type choir along its north side. This is thought to represent the remains of a chantry chapel which was constructed in the first half of the 14th century. This chapel would have contained an altar at which the chantry priests could say mass to their benefactor, Simon de Furneaux. The creation of a chantry was by no means unusual for the period. During the 14th century the chantry movement established itself as one of the foremost manifestations of the religious life of the time. By the late medieval period probably almost every church had at least one chantry, and many churches had several (Pantin 1959, 216). The remains of several chantry chapels are evident in other parish churches in the area such as at Crowcombe and Aisholt, the latter of which has an impressive squint which would have allowed the chantry priest to observe the high altar of the church. The nature of a chantry necessarily depended upon the value of the endowment and the founding of a perpetual chantry could be a costly affair. Evidence suggests that Simon de Furneaux not only provided accommodation and an income for his college of priests, but also constructed a chantry chapel adjoining the parish church in which they were to celebrate mass daily. The creation of the chantry at Kilve could therefore be viewed not simply as an indication of the religious beliefs of the time but also as a medium through which Simon de Furneaux demonstrated his wealth and social status. The nature of a perpetual chantry may in addition suggest that its benefactor wished to assert his status not only during his lifetime but also after his death (Johnson 2002, 61). As stated above, Simon de Furneaux granted a messuage and garden to his chantry priests and common sense suggests that the priests' house would have stood close to the church. For the reasons previously outlined, it is thought unlikely that the manor house was used to accommodate the college of priests therefore it is possible that a separate priests' house was once located in the close vicinity of the church.

The manorial enclosure also contains several closes or paddocks which may represent the remains of gardens and orchards attached to the manor house. Much of the evidence for manorial gardens from this period in Somerset comes from manor houses in episcopal or monastic ownership such as Shapwick and Meare (Bond 1998, 39). Such sites indicate that manorial gardens usually comprised a small enclosed garden or *herber*, orchards and vineyards, as well as other features such as a dovecote, rabbit-warren and fish ponds. Continuous occupation at Kilve, and its later use as a farm, would appear to have destroyed any evidence of an enclosed garden associated with the medieval manor house. However, the pattern of paddocks which surround the site may represent the remains of orchards and vineyards created in the medieval period to provide the house with fresh fruit and vegetables. The enclosed paddock to the south-west of the house was still used as an orchard until very recently, possibly a function it has performed for many centuries.

In the 13th and 14th centuries the manor at Kilve possessed a deer park which, as well as producing a ready supply of venison for the table, would have provided an impressive setting for the house. Deer parks were costly to create and maintain requiring significant investment in land and other resources. They were therefore reserved for the ruling elite and in themselves became signs and symbols of status (Williamson 1997, 94). Access to the park would have been strictly controlled and the freeboard would have been used to ensure the park pale remained in good repair in order to prevent unpermitted access. The manor at Kilve would also appear to have had power over access to the natural harbour at Kilve Pill and to the stretch of foreshore which formed the northern extent of the manor. They would therefore have controlled supplies of fish, fuel and other commodities which would have been landed at the harbour. Access to the foreshore for gathering shellfish, hunting conger eels and collecting stone for building would also have fallen under manorial control.

From the principal approach the manor house is initially screened from view by the church and churchyard, and it is only after the road swings out to pass the latter that the whole south front of the building comes into view. The visitor would have been keenly aware of entering the manorial enclosure or *curia* and would have seen the house as the central focus of this space. In the 14th century the deer park would have been visible behind the buildings with the park trees almost certainly providing the house with a wooded backdrop. The approach brought the visitor past the east-end of the parish church containing the high altar and the chantry chapel. This may be viewed as containing several levels of symbolism - combining the religious significance of the altar with the symbolic meanings of power and wealth associated with the chantry chapel. There would almost certainly have been some form of gateway or gatehouse, possibly displaying heraldic emblems, again conveying a further set of social and symbolic meanings as well as fulfilling its more obvious practical function.

The building remains at Kilve can therefore be seen to form the focus of an elite medieval landscape embedded with complex symbolic meanings of power, wealth and status. This landscape has helped define the building remains as those of a high-status manorial residence of the late-13th or early-14th centuries. The location of the existing parish church within the manorial enclosure has also suggested a possible pre-conquest date for the site. The remains at Kilve therefore represent an important survival of an early medieval manor house and the landscape associated with such a residence, making the site of regional if not of national importance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Col. Luttrell, Mr. and Mrs. Dawe and Mrs. Monro for enabling access to *Chantry Cottage*, *Priory Cottage* and *the remains of chantry*. Thank you also to Mr. and Mrs. Dawe for their kind help with background information. I would especially like to thank Barry V. Jones for providing an assessment of the medieval building remains at Kilve from which *The buildings* section of this report has been heavily drawn. Somerset Local Studies Library, Somerset Records Office and the Somerset Sites and Monuments Record provided information, and Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society allowed the reproduction of the paintings by WW Wheately and J Buckler. Thank you also to Hazel Riley and Paul Everson for their help and suggestions regarding the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aston, M 1988. Settlement Patterns and Forms. In Aston, M (ed.) *Aspects of The Medieval Landscape of Somerset*.

Bates, Rev. E H 1900. *The Particular Description of the County of Somerset. Drawn up by Thomas Gerard of Trent 1633*. Somerset Record Society 15

Blair, J 1996. Churches in the early English Landscape: social and cultural contexts. In Blair, J & Pyrah, C (eds.) *Church Archaeology: Research Directions for the Future*.

Bond, J 1998. *Somerset Parks and Gardens: A Landscape History*.

Bond, J & Iles, R 1991. Early gardens in Avon and Somerset. In Brown, A E (ed.) *Garden Archaeology*. CBA Research Report No 78.

Chadwick-Healey, C E H (ed.) 1897. *Somersetshire Pleas (Civil & Criminal) from the Rolls of the Itinerant Justices (close of 12th century – 41 Henry III)*. Somerset Records Society 11.

Collinson, J 1791. *The History of Somersetshire*, vol 3

- Cooper, N 1997. The Gentry House in the Age of Transition. In Gaimster, D and Stamper, P (eds.) *The Age of Transition: The Archaeology of English Culture 1400-1600*, 115-26.
- Dyer, C 1988. The Consumption of Fresh-water Fish in Medieval England. In Aston, M (ed.) *Medieval Fish, Fisheries and Fishponds in England*. BAR British Series, 182(i), 27-38.
- Everson, P 1998. 'Delightfully Surrounded with Woods and Ponds': Field Evidence for Medieval Gardens in England. In Pattison, P (ed.) *There by Design: Field Archaeology in Parks and Gardens*, 32-38.
- Girouard, M 1978. *Life in the English Country House*.
- Graham, A 2000. *Kilve. The Church of St Mary the Virgin*. Somerset Archaeology and Natural History 144, 245.
- Green, E (ed.) 1888. *The Survey and Rental of the Chantries, Colleges and Free Chapels, Guilds, Fraternities, Lamps Lights and Obits in the County of Somerset As Returned in the 2nd year of King Edward VI A.D. 1548*. Somerset Record Society 9 & 10
- Holmes, T S (ed.) 1896. *The Register of Ralph of Shrewsbury Bishop of Bath and Wells 1329-63: From the original in the registry at Wells*. Somerset Records Society 9 & 10.
- Iles, R 1994. The Medieval, Tudor and Stuart Parks of Devon. In Pugsley, S (ed.). *Devon Gardens: An Historical Survey*.
- Johnson, M 2002. *Behind the Castle Gate: from Medieval to Renaissance*.
- Jones, B V 2003. *Priory Cottage, Chantry Cottage and the Remains of Chantry, Kilve, Somerset*. English Heritage Survey Report.
- Landsberg, S 1995. *The Medieval Garden*.
- London, L (ed.) 1929. *Somersetshire Pleas from the Rolls of the Itinerant Justice (for the 8th year of the reign of Edward I) Vol. IV Part I (Civil Pleas)*. Somerset Records Society 44.
- OS 1802. Surveyors drawings for 1-inch maps
- OS 1888 1st edition 25" map, Somerset 36.12
- OS 1902 2nd edition 6" map, Somerset 36 SE
- Pantin, WA 1959. Chantry Priests' Houses and other Medieval Lodgings. *Medieval Archaeology* vol. 3, 216-258.
- Pevsner, N 1958. *The Buildings of Somerset: South and West Somerset*.
- SRO 1695. Morden, R map of *Somersetshire*.
- SRO 1838. Kilve tithe map and apportionment.
- Thorn, C & Thorn, F 1980. *Domesday Book*, 8.
- VCH 1985. *Victoria County History, Somerset*, 5

Williamson, T 1997. Fish, fur and feather: Man and nature in the post-medieval landscape. In Barker, K & Darvill, T (eds.) *Making English Landscapes*. Oxbow Monograph 93, 92-117.



Fig. 14. Kilve, Somerset. English Heritage 1:500 survey (reduced).



ENGLISH HERITAGE

**NATIONAL
MONUMENTS
RECORD**

*The National Monuments Record
is the public archive of English Heritage.
It contains all the information in this report - and more:
original photographs, plans old and new,
the results of all field surveys, indexes
of archaeological sites and historical buildings,
and complete coverage of England in
air photography.*

World Wide Web: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk>

National Monuments Record enquires: telephone 01793 414600

*National Monuments Record Centre, Great Western Village, Kemble Drive,
Swindon SN2 2GZ*

