

# Darley Cliffe Hall, Worsbrough Assessment of Significance



JW | Conservation

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**Darley Cliffe Hall  
Assessment of Significance**

**Prepared for Mark Ludlam**

**by**

**Jenny Wetton Conservation**

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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report was commissioned from Jenny Wetton Conservation in 2021 by Mark Ludlam. Its purpose is to assess the significance of the exterior and affected parts of the interior of Darley Cliffe Hall, which is listed at Grade II\* and the contribution made by setting. This report is based on the existing *Heritage Statement* from 2020 by Peter Thornborrow, which should be read with this report.

Sections 3 and 4 summarise the development of the site and assess the survival of architectural fabric. Darley Cliffe Hall and the attached front garden wall are believed to date from the 1680s, although the Hall was joined to a formerly agricultural building on the north side in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although the adjoining Tudor House is believed to date from earlier in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it is likely that the site was occupied prior to this. Darley Hall was supported by a farmstead to the north and two Grade II-listed early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century agricultural buildings survive, now in use for residential purposes.

Section 5 assesses the significance of the listed building which is based on the survival of a late 17<sup>th</sup> century leaded cross window on the north elevation; the vernacular design of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century structure in locally-produced materials; the survival of much of a late 17<sup>th</sup> century walled formal front garden; the Classical revival 18<sup>th</sup> century refenestration and internal alterations including large frame panelling, although this appears to have been altered in the Dining Room and Drawing Room; a historic association with the regionally-significant Charles Bowns and William Newman as managers of the Wentworth estates. **This assessment considers that Darley Cliffe merits its national designation at Grade II\*, which places it in the top 5.8% of listed buildings.**

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Background to the Report**

This report was commissioned from Jenny Wetton Conservation in 2021 by Mark Ludlam. Its purpose is to assess the significance of the exterior and affected parts of the interior of Darley Cliffe Hall, which is listed at Grade II\* and the contribution made by setting. This report is based on the existing *Heritage Statement* from 2020 by Peter Thornborrow, which should be read with this report. The NPPF requires significance to be assessed when changes are proposed to heritage assets, and for the impact of proposals to be assessed in relation to significance.

### **2.2 Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank the staff of Barnsley Archives for their help with the research for this report.

### **2.3 Purpose of the Report**

The report is designed to provide the author's professional opinion of:

- A summary of the history and development of the site.
- A statement of significance of the exterior and affected parts of the interior and of the contribution made by setting.

This report has been written by Jenny Wetton, BA MSc (Arch Cons) IHBC, Consultant, based on the existing *Heritage Statement* from 2020 by Peter Thornborrow, documentary evidence, and two site visits.

### **2.4 Limitations**

The research for this report was undertaken under local restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with limited access to local studies collections, thereby limiting the range of available research resources.

### **2.5 Copyright**

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### 3 HISTORY AND DESIGN

#### 3.1 History of the Site

Wilkinson records that Darley Cliff belonged to John Frankysh of Billingley in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century<sup>1</sup>. At one time, it belonged to John Booth, a retainer of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who acquired considerable wealth and was able to purchase nearby Darley Hall and the manor of Worsborough, all of which he settled on his daughter, Elizabeth, wife of William Castleford. In 1613, Darley Cliff passed to Edward Adams of Bank Top, to the west and then, in 1714, to the Parkin family.

Both Thornborrow and Elliott believe Darley Cliffe Hall to date from the 1680s<sup>2</sup>; Elliott records that the present house is likely to have been built for the Adams family of wealthy local solicitors of Bank Top. A precursor house adjoining to the south, known as the Tudor House, is stated in the listing description to date from the earlier 17<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest available map of the site is the 1777 Barnsley Enclosure Award, which does not show buildings but does show what is now known as Kingwell Road and the rear drive to Darley Cliffe Hall, marked at its northern extremity as Yews Road. There is a further driveway crossing the rear drive at right angles and running westwards towards the houses at Mount Vernon and Bank Top. The land either side of Kingwell Road is marked as belonging to William Parkin; Elliott records that, by this time, the Darley estates had passed to the Parkyn family.

In 1788, Charles Bowns took over as manager of the Wentworth estates and general auditor for William Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, 4th Earl Fitzwilliam<sup>3</sup>. Bowns is listed in the West Yorkshire Land Tax Records as living in Worsborough in 1798<sup>4</sup> and Elliott records that he lived there until his death in 1818. Ownership of Darley Cliffe passed to John Jeffcock of Cowley Manor in 1825.

The 1840 tithe map shows the buildings of Darley Cliffe Hall, marked as Darley Hall, and with the Hall and earlier Tudor House in plot 800, a group of agricultural buildings partially enclosing a farmyard to the north and with an orchard beyond, the old track running west now providing access from the recently laid-out Upper Sheffield Road and a plantation in the present woods north of Kingwell Road in plot 799. The map also shows the northern boundary wall of the garden and the now ruined building at its western end.

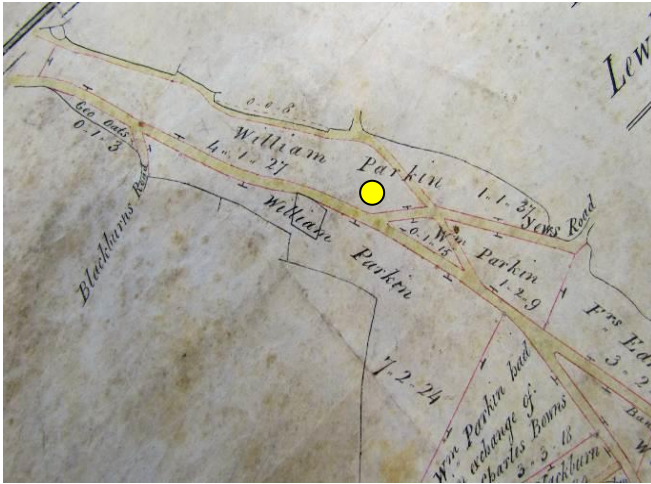
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<sup>1</sup> Wilkinson, J. *Worsborough: its historical associations and rural attractions*. (London: Farrington, 1872), 177

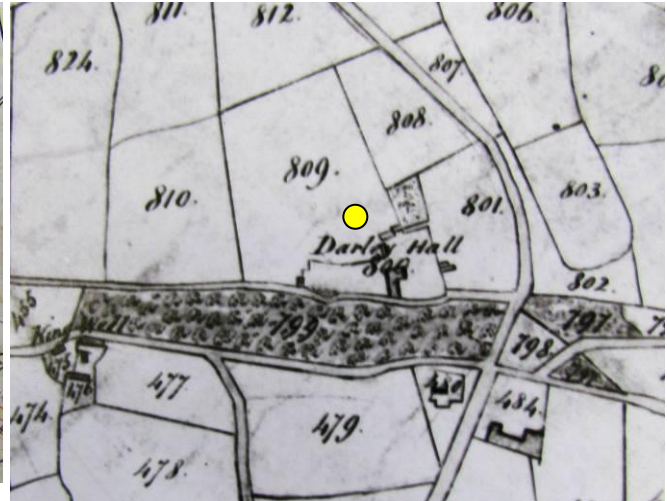
<sup>2</sup> Thornborrow, P. *Heritage Statement Darley Cliffe Hall 1A* [2019] and Elliott, B. 'Darley Cliffe Hill, an Architectural and Family History,' *Aspects of Barnsley: Discovering Local History 2* (Barnsley: Wharnccliffe, 2007), 128

<sup>3</sup> Papers of William Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, 4th Earl Fitzwilliam (1748-1833) [online]. Available at: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/853e2795-926b-4d78-80ca-eb83ca0aff60> [accessed 12.08.21]

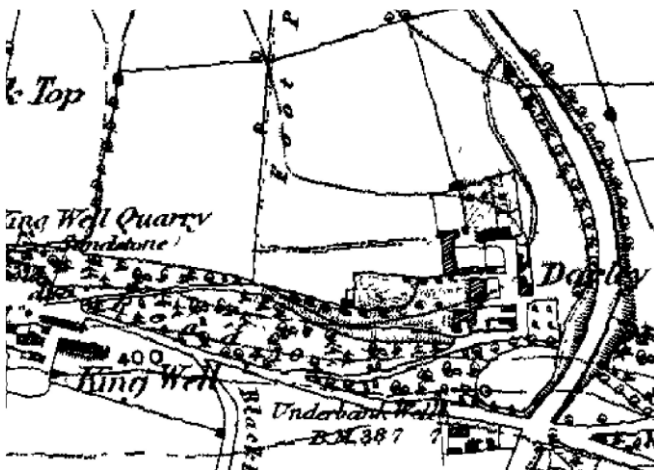
<sup>4</sup> Ancestry.com. *West Yorkshire, England, Select Land Tax Records, 1704-1932* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Original data: West Yorkshire, Land Tax, 1703–1932. West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield



**1777 Barnsley Enclosure Award (Showing Location of Junction of Rear Drive with Kingwell Road)**



**1840 Tithe map Showing Site**



**1855 OS**



**Darley Cliffe Hall, 1872 (Wilkinson)**

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1855 shows the Hall, marked as Darley Cliff, with the walled garden at the front, the Tudor House and Dower House to the south with a walled yard in front, a building opposite the Hall and a more extensive range of agricultural buildings to the north enclosing the farmyard. It also shows the rear driveway and the old track running westwards to what is now marked as King Well Quarry, as well as all the walls of the rear walled garden and the ruined building and what is now the front driveway from the north which replaced the earlier, more direct but steep access from Upper Sheffield Road, which itself had been planted with an orchard.

Bowns' nephew and solicitor, William Newman, took over the management of the Earl's estates and also lived at Darley Cliff, retiring in 1864. The Newman family continued to live at Darley Cliff until 1918.

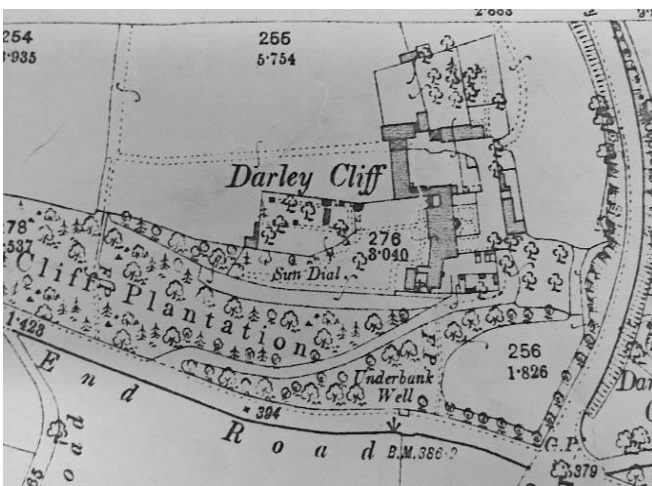
Wilkinson includes an illustration of Darley Cliffe Hall in his book, *Worsborough: its historical associations and rural attractions*. Although this shows the front of the Hall, much of the remainder appears to include some artistic licence as it does not show the Jenny Wetton Conservation

walled garden at the front but a rather stylised garden with pathways and the windows are rather longer than they appear here.

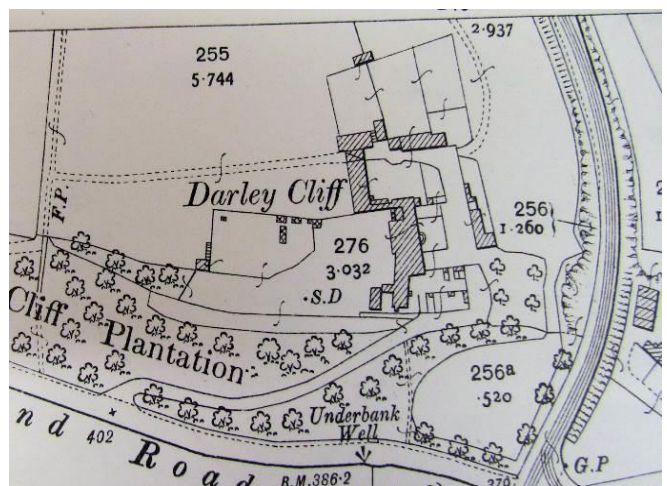
There is more detail on the 1890 map, which also shows the Grade II-listed sun dial and more pathways in the rear garden. A building on the south side of the farmyard had been joined to the north side of the Hall, as illustrated in Thornborrow's *Heritage Statement* of 2020. The rear walled garden is marked with glass houses, pathways and trees and the ruined building at the west end can be clearly seen with the staircase. The walled yard in front of the Tudor House can be seen to have had two pigsties, in keeping with its service function at this time.

The Jeffcock Estate sold Darley Cliffe in 1918 and the Sales Particulars list Lot 1 as 'Darley Hall (otherwise Darley Cliffe), an old Queen Anne House, long the residence of the Newman family...The well matured Timber shields the House entirely, and renders it a haven of rest in a busy manufacturing district.'<sup>5</sup>

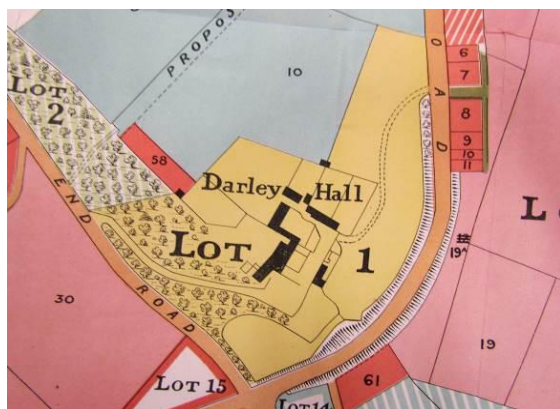
The Hall was purchased by Colonel William E. Raley, J.P., also a Barnsley solicitor, but he may only have lived there for a few years and Elliott states that the Hall is believed to have been vacant until its sale in 1935.



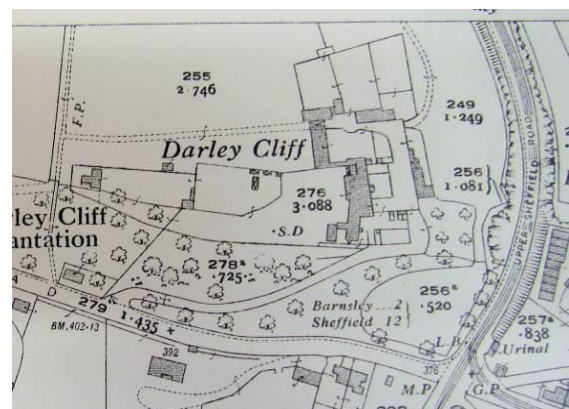
**1890 OS**



**1904 OS**

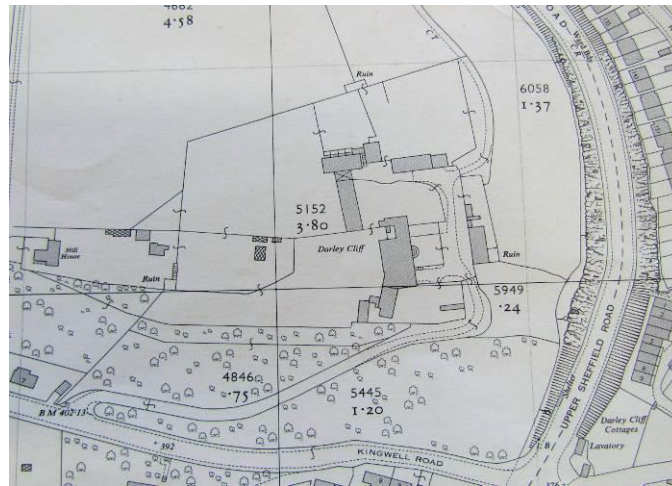


**1918 Sale Plan**



**1929 OS**

<sup>5</sup> Lancaster & Sons, Jeffcock Estate, Worsbrough Dale near Barnsley, Plans and Particulars... Darley Hall & Grounds, August 1918, ref. B 017.3



**1961 OS**

Elliott records that the Hall was sold to local butcher, Arthur Cooke, who previously lived at Bank Top (later known as Mont Vernon) and began restoring the neglected buildings. The Cookes are known to have had a gardener, Mr Hoyland, who lived in part of the old coach house and looked after the formal and walled kitchen garden. During the Second World War, officers and soldiers were billeted in the old Tudor House. Arthur Cooke continued to live at the Hall and his widow, Hilda, stayed there until her death in 1968.

There appears to have been little change on the site by 1961, other than the removal of some small structures in front of what became the kitchen to the Hall and of the link to the agricultural building to the north-west. An important photograph of the front of the house from 1983 and shown by Elliott, which cannot be reproduced here due to copyright reasons, shows the arrangement of the front garden walls and a tree in the corner of the garden. Since the sale of the property in 1984, the site has been split up into separate residences and the agricultural buildings converted to residential use.

### 3.2 Planning History

The following is a planning history from records available on the Council's planning portal:

- 2021/0144 Details of conditions 3 (Tree protection), 4 (Materials and finishes), 5 (Matching stonework) 6 (Lime pointing mix sample) and 7 (archaeological watching brief) of LBC 2020/0933 & planning permission 2020/0935 - Demolition of existing single storey outbuildings and construction of new single storey extension on northern side of the main house, including accessible bedroom accommodation Darley Cliff Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4AG 4 February 2021 Approve Final Decision
- 2021/0139/ Reserved matters application of 2020/0933 & 2020/0935 for Conditions 3 (Tree protection), 4 (Materials and finishes). 5 (Stone on site) 6 (Lime mix sample) and 7 (full watching brief. Duplicate application see 2021/0144 Darley Cliff Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4AG 29 January 2021 Withdrawn Decision Withdrawn
- 2020/0935 Demolition of existing single storey outbuildings and construction of new single storey extension on northern side of the main house, including accessible bedroom accommodation Darley Cliff Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4AG 21 October 2020 Approve with Conditions Final Decision
- 2020/0933 Demolition of existing single storey outbuildings, construction of new single storey extension on northern side including accessible bedroom accommodation and associated internal alterations to main house (Listed Building Consent) Darley Cliff Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4AG 16 October 2020 Approve with Conditions Final Decision
- 2019/1569 Erection of single storey extension on northern courtyard side and associated internal and external alterations Darley Cliffe Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4AG 6 January 2020 Approve with Conditions Final Decision
- 2019/1550 Erection of single storey extension on northern courtyard side and associated internal and external alterations (Listed Building Consent) Darley Cliff Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4AG 8 January 2020 Approve with Conditions Final Decision
- 2019/1327 Remove Beech tree marked on plan within TPO 1/1953. Darley Cliffe Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley 24 October 2019 Withdrawn Decision Withdrawn
- 2019/1297 Various internal works to ground, first and second floor (Listed Building Consent) Darley Cliffe Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsborough, Barnsley 30 October 2019 Under Consideration Registered
- 2019/0725 Removal and replacement of lead roof following works to roof, repair works to existing lead lined gutters and provision of roof top glass screen balustrades (Listed Building Consent) Darley Cliff Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4AG 7 August 2019 Approve with Conditions Final Decision
- 2019/0720 Removal and replacement of lead roof following works to roof, repair works to existing lead lined gutters and provision of roof top glass screen

balustrades Darley Cliff Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4AG 23  
August 2019 Approve with Conditions Final Decision

- 2017/0719 Erection of detached orangery. Darley Cliffe Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4AG 26 July 2017 Approve with Conditions Final Decision
- 2013/0026 Removal and thinning of various trees within TPO's G6 and G7/1953. Darley Cliff Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4AG 9 January 2013 Approve with Conditions Final Decision
- 2011/0691 Removal of dead tree, dead and dying branches, self set saplings and crown lifting trees adjacent to the highway to a height of 5m within TPO 1/1953 Darley Cliff Hall, Kingwell Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4 AG 6 June 2011 Approve with Conditions Final

## 4 ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT AND CONTEXT

The following section describes the surviving architectural features of the exterior and affected parts of the interior of the building. Although no historic plans are available, some conclusions can be drawn from the documentary evidence and from the building itself.

### 4.1 Exterior

Constructed in yellow sandstone on a stone plinth, Darley Cliffe Hall is two storeys with an attic and a basement. The front elevation is five bays in width and retains ashlar quoins, with the central entrance approached by round steps to the double door with a 4-pane overlight in a bolection-moulded architrave beneath a consoled segmental pediment. The ground and first floor retain unequally-hung 15-pane sashes in raised surrounds with bead-moulded inner arrises. The first floor is separated by a band and retains a central window in a shouldered and eared architrave in a rusticated panel. An eaves cornice breaks forward over the corners and centre. The hipped roof has 3 roof lights and retains 2 corniced stacks set in a roof well. On the right of the main facade is an old single-bay wing with a 3-light casement and capped end stack; a formerly adjoining outbuilding now has consent to be replaced. The rear elevation is similarly fenestrated to the front.

The north elevation has an original cross-window with 24 leaded panes to the lower lights and 12 panes above and a 15-pane sash similar to those on the front.



**Front Elevation**



**North Elevation**



**Detail of Cross Window**



**Rear Elevation**

## 4.2 Interior: Ground Floor: Dining Room

The Dining Room is panelled with large rectangular softwood wall panelling with a chair rail, of which one panel is hinged to allow access to a cupboard formerly fitted into an earlier window behind but the panel below the opening is significantly cracked. As the panelling runs over the external window on this side, it clearly post-dates the 1680s and may date from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Behind the opening, the wall can be seen to have been plastered internally and there is a historic stone threshold. The fireplace retains a crinoidal limestone facing set in timber surround with a carved panel of dog on bridge, which Thornborrow assesses to be mid-18<sup>th</sup> century in date<sup>6</sup>. The panelling above the fireplace appears to have been altered, with two panels rather than one large panel, as is the case elsewhere in the house. The doorway into the Drawing Room retains a panelled reveal of a different pattern to the 6-panel door fitted which, although of a standard pattern, is also different to other 6-panel doors on the first floor and may be a later replacement. Other rooms are discussed in Section 4.5.



**The Dining Room**



**Opening in Panelling**

<sup>6</sup> Thornborrow, P. *Heritage Statement To accompany a LBC application For a New Extension to replace existing outbuildings attached onto the north side of the Kitchen Wing at Darley Cliffe Hall* (2020), 12  
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***Detail of Opening***



***View of Stone Threshold***



***Cracks in Panel Below Opening***



***View of Rear Face of Panelling Across Window***



***Dining Room Chimney Breast***



***6-Panel Door Between Dining Room and Drawing Room***

### **4.3 Interior: Ground Floor: WC Window**

The WC window can be seen on the formerly exterior north face to be a narrow timber top-opening casement fitted into the space left when an infill wall was added between 1855 and 1890, running across the window on the main range. The window is fitted with stippled glass and probably dates from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Above the window, a section of the historic frame of the 17<sup>th</sup> century cross-window can be seen, with two

metal glazing bars. The stone surround also has a diagonal cut on the right side, possibly evidence of a former lean-to roof.

Internally, the W.C. retains a panelled reveal and iron window bar which appear to be 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.



***Formerly Exterior Face of Window***



***Detail of Top of Stone Surround***



***Interior Face of Window***

#### **4.4 Front Garden Wall**

In front of the main elevation is a historic front garden wall which retains a plinth and soffit-moulded copings to the rectangular enclosure, dated by Thornborrow to the 17<sup>th</sup>

century<sup>7</sup>. The listing description of 1986 mentions square end piers which can be seen in a photograph dated 1983 and shown by Elliott but which cannot be reproduced here for copyright reasons. In this photograph, the wall continues northwards, but built in stone, and the piers may have been removed when the stone extension wall was moved to enclose the north side of the garden in front of the Hall, although a stone pier is retained in the south-east corner of the garden. The north wall is lined in historic bricks on the rear face and with brick copings behind the stone copings, although re-pointed in a cement-based mortar. The front wall retains central ashlar gate piers but the flanking consoles, cornices and vase finials reported in the listing description to have been set to each side have also gone. Horse-mounting steps and a platform on the left return of the wall also mentioned in the listing description were not visible at the time of survey for this report. Part of the front wall has been re-built in brick.



**Front Garden – North Wall**



**Internal Face of Wall**



**Front Wall**



**Pier at South-east Corner of Garden**

## 4.5 Context: Wall Panelling

<sup>7</sup> Thornborrow, P. *Heritage Statement To accompany a LBC application For a New Extension to replace existing outbuildings attached onto the north side of the Kitchen Wing at Darley Cliffe Hall* (2020), 18  
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Hall provides a useful history of wall panelling, which was introduced to make a room warmer. She also points out that panelling is easy to move and has often been rearranged within the same house or brought in from elsewhere and panelling should be carefully examined for alterations or that it does not appear to fit its surroundings.

The earliest, 16<sup>th</sup> century, panelling had linenfold carving within the panels and small square panelling with plain panels became popular in the later 16<sup>th</sup> century. This generally consists of three, four or five rows of panels which are generally rectangular, despite the name.

Panelling with large panels began to be used in grand houses in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, becoming common from around 1670 until going out of fashion in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century. Hall states:

'The earliest examples have prominent bolection mouldings around the panels and the panels are often raised and fielded. Entire rooms, or sometimes just the fireplace wall, were given a unified treatment, two two-panelled doors and bolection-moulded fireplaces, and the design is usually completed by a moulded cornice and sometimes a skirting board. Many examples have a prominent dado or chair rail between the upper and lower panels; parlours and dining rooms often had large sets of chairs which were set back against the wall when not in use, and the chair rail and skirting boards protected the panelling from damage.

'This type of panelling was almost always painted...Common colours were olive green, brown, cream, or a yellow or grey stone colour, and they tended to be darker in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and get lighter as the century progressed. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and early 18<sup>th</sup> century, panelling was sometimes grained to resemble oak, which was still the more desirable material.<sup>8'</sup>

Hall also provides information about panelled doors and states that

'The two-panelled door became the normal type, at least for superior rooms, from about 1670 to 1730, with examples in smaller houses until the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.... Early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the six-panelled framed door became the standard design that was to last until well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The proportions are always broadly the same, with two small panels at the top, larger ones at the bottom and the longest in the middle....<sup>9'</sup>

The Drawing Room at Darley Cliffe retains similar panelling to the Dining Room, with a full-height cupboard on the south wall, retaining a handle and hinges. The fireplace here retains a timber surround different to any others in the Hall and this may also date from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century; the pattern of the panelling is also different. The Entrance Hall, Master Bedroom and Bedroom 2 also retain panelling and retain large panels on the chimney breasts, which all retain moulded stone fire surrounds probably dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>8</sup> Hall, L. *Period House Fixtures and Fittings, 1300-1900* (Newbury: Countryside, 2005), 136-141

<sup>9</sup> Hall, L. *Period House Fixtures and Fittings, 1300-1900* (Newbury: Countryside, 2005), 40-42

There are 6-panel doors of a non-standard design leading to all three bedrooms but which match the panelled reveals and which therefore appear likely to be historic.



**Cupboard Door in Drawing Room Panelling**



**Detail of Cupboard Door**



**Drawing Room Chimney Breast**



**Entrance Hall Panelled Chimney Breast**



**Panelled Chimney Breast in Master  
Bedroom****6-Panel Door and Reveal to Bedroom 2****4.6 Context: Walled Gardens**

The Parks and Gardens UK article *The Walled Kitchen Garden* provides useful detail<sup>10</sup>:

The Site

'In the earliest kitchen gardens, productive and ornamental plants were grown together, often contained within a formal framework. Walled gardens that were dedicated solely to the production of food crops emerged in the 18th century. The formal style of garden was out of fashion by the mid-18th century, and the trend for landscaped grounds sweeping up to the house meant that the walled garden was either relocated to a site some distance from the house, or screened with trees and shrubs to avoid compromising the illusion of a 'natural' landscape. This move provided an opportunity to create a dedicated space for the optimum growth of fruit and vegetables. The gardens could now be given the best growing conditions, ideally on fertile, well-drained ground on a south-facing slope. Proximity to a water supply and shelter from adverse winds were also important considerations, although shelter could be created by planting a belt of trees, and water diverted to the site.

The typical shape of a walled kitchen garden is rectangular, with the longest walls running along an east-west axis to increase the length of the south-facing walls. But other shapes were experimented with: the kitchen garden at Gravetye Manor is oval, while the one at Luton Hoo is octagonal.

The Walls

'The best walls were constructed with bricks and lime mortar, as the bricks retained heat and the mortar provided a place for the nails supporting the wall fruit trees. A large garden would need a huge quantity of bricks. In a letter to 'Capability' Brown of 1767, the Earl of Suffolk anxiously enquires whether his present stock of 650,000 bricks will be sufficient for his new kitchen garden (BL correspondence ADD69795).

'However brick was expensive, and alternatives were often used. These alternatives usually reflected the geographical location of the garden: for instance, stone was often used in Wales and Scotland, and in northern and south-west England. But stone was considered cold and damp, so the most important inward, south-facing walls were often lined with brick. Cob walls are very common in chalk districts, but they need to be protected by efficient copings.

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<sup>10</sup> Parks and Gardens UK. *The Walled Kitchen Garden* [online]. Available at: <https://www.parksandgardens.org/news-events/the-walled-kitchen-garden> [accessed 5.08.21]

'Another way to avoid the expense of brick, particularly after the Brick Tax was instituted in 1784, was to build a serpentine or zig-zag wall. Often known as 'crinkle-crinkle' walls, the wavy line provided a stronger structure. This meant that the walls could be just one brick thick, allowing a saving of about one third in bricks and thus incurring less expense (O'Neill). Examples can be found at West Dean in Sussex, Parham Hall in Suffolk and Hopton Hall in Derbyshire. The walls created a protected environment for the crops, both from the elements and from thieves. The height of the walls varied, but in order to provide enough growing space for the trees trained against them they needed to be at least 10-12 feet high.

'Usually the northernmost wall was the highest, to allow for the vineries and lean-to glasshouses placed on the southern side. The southernmost wall was usually the lowest, as this was the least important wall, and in some cases it was omitted altogether, either to avoid creating a frost pocket or to cut down on costs

'From the 18<sup>th</sup> to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century heated walls (also known as 'hot walls') were quite common, especially in the North. The first recorded hot wall was at Belvoir Castle in 1718 (Green). Usually (but not always) the northernmost wall, it was wider than a normal wall in order to accommodate the serpentine flues within. These ran from a small fireplace at the bottom of the wall up to a chimney at the top.

'There are many contemporary descriptions for the building of hot walls, but the general consensus was that the heat from one fire grate could heat 40 feet of wall. Fires would have been lit in the early spring in order to protect the fruit blossom from frost. Examples of these heated or flued walls can be found at Belsay Hall in Northumberland, Tatton Park in Cheshire and Croxteth Hall, Liverpool.

'Improvements in the technology for heating, from around the 1840s, combined with more efficient glasshouses, made these walls largely redundant.

### Layout

'Walled kitchen gardens typically have a four-square layout, determined by two cross paths and surrounded by a perimeter path. This created four separate plots, ideal for a four-yearly crop rotation system. Larger gardens may well have had further subdivisions. It was advised that crops should run from north to south within these plots, to avoid rows of crops shading their neighbours and allow an even exposure to sunshine (Delamer, 1855:10).

'The perimeter path would have been laid at some distance from the walls (a rule of thumb would be to place the path at a distance the same width as the height of the wall), both for aesthetic reasons and in order to create generous beds for the roots of the wall trained fruit trees.

'The most common material for the paths would have been hoggin, a mixture of sand, gravel and binding clay topped with gravel (Keen). This created a hard-wearing yet permeable surface. Paths were also made of cinders, brick or cobbles. Grass was sometimes used, although this meant higher maintenance and would soon become muddy when wet. William Cobbett had strong opinions about grass paths, as he did about most things, stating that 'grass is very bad'.

'However, although it needed regular maintenance, Cobbett did approve of using box plants as edging (Cobbett, p.28-9). Clipped dwarf box certainly makes an attractive edging, in spite of its tendency to harbour slugs and other pests. Other plants were also used, for example thrift, chives and parsley.

'Hard edgings were easier to maintain: tiles, wood, bricks, or local materials such as stone, slate, pebbles and rocks were all common. From around the 1870s manufactured stoneware tiles in a variety of styles were produced and became very popular (Campbell in Wilson, p.27).

'There would have been at least two or three entrances to the garden, generally wooden doors or ironwork gates. Almost always there was one in the northernmost wall between the glasshouses, providing access for the gardeners. A larger entrance in the wall nearest to the stables or farmyard provided access for cartloads of manure and other materials. A further - often grander and more elaborate - entrance was specifically for the family when they came to visit the garden. This practice became increasingly common throughout the 19th century. A 'slip garden' was often created outside the walls. Sometimes enclosed itself, it provided space for propagation and for the growing of the hardier, less fussy crops such as potatoes and cabbages. The slip garden was also the location for the less attractive aspects of the garden, such as manure heaps, hot-beds, cold-frames and the like.

#### Other Features

'A centrally placed 'dipping pond', often placed at the intersection of the crossing paths, was a typical feature of walled kitchen gardens. They were useful, as well as being attractive, and were so-called because the gardeners, before the introduction of hosepipes, could dip and fill their watering cans within easy reach of the crops.

'Water could also be siphoned into hand-drawn water barrows and trundled around the garden to wherever it was needed. If there was no natural water supply, the run-off from the glasshouses and other structures was drained into the pond.

'Bee-boles were sometimes built into the walls for the bee skeps. Bees were essential for the fertilisation of the fruit blossom. Other features that might be

found, but were not necessarily the norm, include sundials, pergolas, seats and fountains.<sup>11</sup>

The walled garden at Darley Cliffe is typically removed from the Hall and is rectangular with the longest walls running along an east-west axis.

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<sup>11</sup> Parks and Gardens. The Walled Kitchen Garden, 18 March 2009 [online]. Available at: <https://www.parksandgardens.org/news-events/the-walled-kitchen-garden> [accessed 5.08.21]

## 5 SIGNIFICANCE

### 5.1 Assessing significance

Assessing significance is a key principle for managing change to heritage assets and is embedded within current government policy; NPPF policies 127 and 128 (CLG, *National Planning Policy Framework*, 2012). A key objective in the NPPF is 'the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation ...' (NPPF Para. 126). The NPPF advises that the more significant the heritage asset the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation (policy 132). English Heritage issued *Conservation Principles* in 2008 to explain its philosophical approach to significance and managing change and identified four main aspects of significance: evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal. There are three levels of significance as well as neutral and an intrusive grade:

#### **Exceptional Level of Significance**

The element is relatively intact, has a special interest, and makes an important contribution to the wider significance of the site. This would correspond to an individual grade I or II\* listing. The NPPF advises that substantial harm should be wholly exceptional.

#### **High Level of Significance**

A designated asset important at national and regional level, including Grade II listed buildings. The NPPF advises that substantial harm should be exceptional.

#### **Medium Level of Significance**

An undesignated asset important at a local to regional level, including locally (non-statutory) listed buildings and buildings which make a positive contribution to a conservation area. The element has been altered, has less special interest, and its contribution to the wider significance of the site is less important. May include less significant parts of listed buildings. Buildings and parts of structures in this category should be retained where possible, although there is usually scope for adaptation.

#### **Low Level of Significance**

The element has been significantly altered, has a low level of integrity, the special interest has been lost and it makes little contribution to the wider significance of the site. Buildings and parts of structures in this category should be retained where possible, although there is more scope for adaptation.

#### **Neutral**

The element is historically unimportant but does not have a negative visual impact on the surrounding buildings. May include insignificant interventions to listed buildings and buildings that do not contribute positively to a conservation area. The removal or adaptation of structures in this category is usually acceptable where the work will enhance a related heritage asset.

## **Intrusive**

The element is historically unimportant and has a negative visual impact on the surrounding buildings. Wherever practicable, removal of negative features should be considered, taking account of setting and opportunities for enhancement.

## **5.2 Significance of Darley Cliffe Hall**

Following the methodology for assessment of cultural significance set out in the Historic England *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets Historic England Advice Note 12*, Darley Cliffe Hall can be identified to have the following heritage interest:

### **Archaeological Interest:**

Darley Cliffe Hall is believed to date from to date from the 1680s, although it was joined to a formerly agricultural building on the north side in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although the adjoining Tudor House is believed to date from earlier in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it is likely that the site was occupied prior to this. Darley Hall was supported by a farmstead to the north and two Grade II-listed early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century agricultural buildings survive, now in use for residential purposes.

Although there are no records relating to the site on the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record, it does seem likely that there will be archaeological potential, particularly around Tudor House.

### **Architectural Interest:**

Externally, Darley Cliffe retains its 18<sup>th</sup> century refenestrated front and rear and, importantly, a late 17<sup>th</sup> century first-floor window on the north elevation. Internally, and pertaining to this application, it retains panelling in the Dining Room believed to date from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, similar to panelling in the Drawing Room and two bedrooms. The W. C. has been formed from what is now the main stair hall and the external remains of the 17<sup>th</sup> century window are largely obscured by a wall added in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The resultant smaller window has been fitted with a casement window in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century but retaining a panelled reveal which may date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Thornborrow provides a detailed analysis of the Dining Room wall panelling and concludes:

'This style of framed panelling persists into the early 18<sup>th</sup> century - during the Queen Anne era and must mark a second phase of development. It is improbable that this style of panelling could date from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century when it would be considered very old fashioned, when raised and fielded panels were commonly found in this region by 1745 - 50.<sup>12</sup>'

The panelling clearly postdates the construction of Darley Cliffe, as it runs over a window and therefore dates from the very late 17<sup>th</sup> century or early 18<sup>th</sup> century and is probably associated with Charles Bowns' period of residence. The fireplace has also

<sup>12</sup> Thornborrow, P. *Heritage Statement To accompany a LBC application For a New Extension to replace existing outbuildings attached onto the north side of the Kitchen Wing at Darley Cliffe Hall* (2020), 11

been replaced and has been dated by Thornborrow to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, with resultant change to the pattern of panelling on the chimney breast. There is a standard pattern 6-panel door from the Dining Room to the Drawing Room which does not match with the pattern of panelling on the doorway reveal or other 6-panel doors on the first floor and also appears to be a replacement. There are at least three phases of development represented in the Dining Room, which has been substantially changed.

Darley Cliffe Hall retains a late 17<sup>th</sup> century walled formal front garden, although this has been altered with a north wall in stone, pointed with cement mortar, and the loss of decorative features. The Historic England listing selection guide provides an overview of the development of walled gardens including a fashion for formally arrayed garden courts. It states:

'The fashion for such formal landscapes, largely influenced by Italian Renaissance and French Baroque gardens, took off apace after the Restoration in 1660.<sup>13</sup>'

Within the rear garden is a Grade II-listed sun dial pedestal. Although the dial is now missing, the listing description states that it was:

'...inscribed 'I. Metcalfe / 1756 / Henry Wood'. Metcalfe's name is inscribed on several stone sundials still to be seen around the Marquis of Rockingham's estate at Wentworth Woodhouse.'

The pedestal is illustrative of the regionally important association with Charles Bowns and later William Newman, as agents to that estate. The staircase adjoining the ruined structure in the rear walled garden is very grand for its context and it is possible that it may also have come from Wentworth Castle, adding to the understanding of the development of Darley Cliffe Hall.

### **Historic Interest:**

Darley Cliffe Hall has a locally important historical association with the Adams family of solicitors, who probably built the Hall.

It also has a regionally important association with Charles Bowns who became manager of the Wentworth estates and general auditor for William Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, 4th Earl Fitzwilliam, owner of Woodhouse Wentworth and Wentworth Castle and lived at Darley Cliffe from around 1800 until his death in 1818. Both houses of the Wentworth estate are now listed at Grade I.

William Newman, Bowns' nephew, succeeded to the Fitzwilliam land agency and also lived at Darley Cliffe until his death in 1870, his family remaining there until the property was sold by the Jeffcock estate in 1918. Elliott records that William and his brother, Edward, had established one of the most important legal practices in Barnsley, which is still in business as Newman and Bond.

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<sup>13</sup> Historic England. *Garden and Park Structures: Listing Selection Guide* (Historic England, December 2017), 2-6

Darley Cliffe Hall has also provided a home and a place of work for local people since its construction.

### **5.3 Summary of Significance**

The chief aspects of significance are:

- Vernacular design of late 17<sup>th</sup> century structure in locally-produced materials.
- Survival of a late 17<sup>th</sup> century leaded cross window on the north elevation.
- Survival of much of late 17<sup>th</sup> century walled formal front garden.
- Classical revival 18<sup>th</sup> century refenestration and internal alterations including large frame panelling, although this appears to have been altered in the Dining Room and Drawing Room.
- Historic association with the regionally-significant Charles Bowns and William Newman as managers of the Wentworth estates.

Thornborrow provides a detailed analysis of the significance of the exterior of Darley Cliffe and concludes:

'Darley Cliffe is a good example of a post-Restoration gentry house (rare in the provinces) built in the mid-1680s (c.1685) with a Classical 5-bay symmetrical façade to both east and west fronts, originally fenestrated with cross-mullioned windows with small-paned leaded-lights, following the fashion of the day as promoted by the architect Sir Christopher Wren that the listing description ... suggests may have personally influenced the design of this building....

'Darley Cliffe Hall has a high level of architectural significance as a well preserved example of a gentlemen's residence dating from the mid-to-late 17th century, with mid-18th century and later alterations, and 19th century additions....<sup>14</sup>'

This assessment supports that conclusion and considers that Darley Cliffe merits its national designation at Grade II\*, which places it in the top 5.8% of listed buildings. The east and west elevations are considered to be the most significant as they have the same fenestration but the north elevation is also important as it retains a late 17<sup>th</sup> century leaded cross window.

### **5.4 Contribution of Setting to Significance**

The NPPF requires an assessment of the significance of affected heritage assets, including any contribution made by their setting. The NPPF defines the setting of a heritage asset as 'the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral'.

Another way of looking at setting is to think of it as the parts of the surroundings in which people are able to appreciate the significance of the asset.

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<sup>14</sup> Thornborrow, P. *Heritage Statement To accompany a LBC application For a New Extension to replace existing outbuildings attached onto the north side of the Kitchen Wing at Darley Cliffe Hall* (2020), 13-14  
Jenny Wetton Conservation

Darley Cliffe Hall was constructed in a rural area. Due to its enclosure by the plantation on the cliff to the south and by the conversion of the former agricultural buildings around the farmyard to the north, the setting of the building can now be defined as its grounds, the adjoining Tudor House and Dower House and The Gables, Barncroft and The Lodge.

Darley Cliffe Hall is approached from Upper Sheffield Road by a walled lane, which also provides access to The Gables, Barncroft and The Lodge. A historic curved stone wall to the right of the entrance is shown on the 1855 map and enclosed small yards. The Gables and Barncroft date from the early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and are now listed at Grade II, for group value and contribute to the understanding of the development of Darley Cliffe Hall. Elliott reproduces a photograph of these buildings in the 1950s which shows their historic appearance and something of the layout of the farmyard<sup>15</sup>.

Access to the Hall is provided via modern iron gates with stone gateposts. The area in front of the Hall is largely surfaced with gravel, with the listed front garden wall enclosing a small planted garden and described above in Section 4.4. The front garden sets Darley Cliffe Hall back and gives it a more formal appearance in the otherwise farmyard context. A mature copper beech in the corner of the front garden, shown in the photograph from 1983 referred to above, is now dominating the front garden and the important front elevation of the house. The Grade II-listed Tudor House adjoins Darley Cliffe but is largely screened by mature trees and shrubs. A modern low stone boundary wall topped by a poor quality timber fence extends across the former southern driveway. Mature shrubs provide screening between the Darley Cliffe Hall driveway and the side of The Lodge.

The side garden is largely set to grass, with trees and shrubs around the border but with a planted bed near the rear, with the converted barn now forming part of The Gables beyond.



**Northern Approach to Darley Cliffe Hall**



**Barncroft**

<sup>15</sup> Elliott, B. 'Darley Cliffe Hill, an Architectural and Family History,' *Aspects of Barnsley: Discovering Local History 2* (Barnsley: Wharnccliffe, 2007), 136



***View Towards Southern Driveway***



***Side Garden***



***Tudor House***



***Rear Garden***



***Concrete Bird Bath***

At the rear are landscaped pleasure gardens, that nearest to the Hall with a central stepped pathway leading to a walled garden to the west. Within the rear garden, to the south-west of the Hall, is the pedestal for a Grade II-listed sundial, the dial itself now missing. Near to the Hall is a concrete bird bath on two stone paving slabs, which is not of historic interest and could be removed. A modern timber fence divides the rear garden in two, with a gateway formed by two pillars which appear to be of plaster-coated metal; the fence is not shown on historic mapping but appears to be late 20<sup>th</sup>

century in date and currently interrupts historic views westwards. The 1890 map shows a pathway leading to the western end of this part of the garden and along the southern edge and reinstatement of this pathway would contribute to the setting of the Hall.

A length of a tall stone wall with flat stone copings on the north side of the rear garden was formerly attached to an outbuilding which was itself joined to the Hall by an infill in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. There is now consent to replace the outbuilding, thus breaking any link with the listed building and the wall is not considered to be listed, although it does clearly fall within the curtilage of the listed building. A tall arched opening has been inserted to provide access to the side garden and a textured surfacing applied nearby behind a trellis.



***Sundial Pedestal***



***Metal Pillars and View of Garden Westwards***



***North Wall of Rear Garden***



***Door to Walled Garden***



***View Across Walled Garden, Looking West***



***Pyramidal Coping, South and East Sides***



***Flat Coping, North Side***



***Triangular Coping, West Side***



***Steps***



***Ruined Structure***

To the west of the rear garden is a walled garden, shown on the 1840 map, which would have provided Darley Cliffe with fruit and vegetables. It is shown on the 1890 map to have had trees, paths in the northern section and glass houses. The garden is accessed via a decorative timber door, now in poor condition and covered with a panel, and set in a stone doorway. The walls show three different phases of construction, with flat copings on the north side, pyramidal copings formed of sections of roofing

slabs on much of the south and the east side and large triangular copings on the west side. The garden is on three levels, with two sets of stone steps which were re-built in 2020, based on Historic England guidance on access for disabled people but which are not finished. A fishpond has been added to the top level, probably in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century or early 21<sup>st</sup> century and in keeping with ponds provided in walled gardens as a source of protein. In the south-west corner is a ruined structure shown on the 1840 map and in a photograph from 1991 by Elliott to have been a two-storey tower roughly square in shape, with quoins, a stone doorway and a square stone window on the ground floor and a rectangular central window on the first floor<sup>16</sup>. To the right is a large set of stone steps which retain an ashlar balustrade, two sections of a moulded handrail and two moulded piers. The west wall is in very poor condition, having collapsed in one section and now propped.

The rear drive is accessed from Kingwell Road, with a splayed entrance marked by a stone boundary wall, which defines the Darley Cliffe grounds along Kingwell Road and up Upper Sheffield Road. The unsurfaced track runs through a plantation of mature trees shown on the 1840 map. Above the track there are views towards the Dower House and roofs of both Tudor House and Darley Cliffe Hall which provide information about the development of the buildings on the site and their relationship with each other.



**Access to Rear Drive**



**Rear Drive and Plantation**

<sup>16</sup> Elliott, B. 'Darley Cliffe Hill, an Architectural and Family History,' *Aspects of Barnsley: Discovering Local History 2* (Barnsley: Wharnccliffe, 2007), 139



*View Towards Dower House and Roofs*

**The setting is considered to make a positive contribution to the significance of the listed buildings, although the very poor condition of the west end of the walled garden presents a poor aspect to the distinguished nature of the Hall.**

## 6 CONCLUSION

The information in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of this report provides an assessment of the significance of number Darley Cliffe Hall and its setting. Darley Cliffe Hall and the attached front garden wall are believed to date from the 1680s, although the Hall was joined to a formerly agricultural building on the north side in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although the adjoining Tudor House is believed to date from earlier in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it is likely that the site was occupied prior to this. Darley Hall was supported by a farmstead to the north and two Grade II-listed early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century agricultural buildings survive, now in use for residential purposes.

Darley Cliffe Hall is considered to be significant for the survival of a late 17<sup>th</sup> century leaded cross window on the north elevation; the vernacular design of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century structure in locally-produced materials; the survival of much of a late 17<sup>th</sup> century walled formal front garden; the Classical revival 18<sup>th</sup> century refenestration and internal alterations including large frame panelling, although this appears to have been altered in the Dining Room and Drawing Room; a historic association with the regionally-significant Charles Bowns and William Newman as managers of the Wentworth estates.

**This assessment considers that Darley Cliffe merits its national designation at Grade II\*, which places it in the top 5.8% of listed buildings.**

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## 8 APPENDIX – LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

WORSBROUGH KINGWELL ROAD SE30SE (north side, off)

2/87 Darley Cliffe Hall including attached front garden wall and dwellings known as 11.11.66 Tudor House and Dower Cottage (formerly listed as Darley Cliff Farmhouse) GV II\* Large house, now 3 dwellings and attached front garden wall. Late C17, refenestrated C18; earlier C17 house forming service wing and having later C17 and C19 additions. Coursed, squared and ashlar sandstone, stone slate roofs; brick garden wall. Double-pile plan, 2 storeys with basement and attic, 5 bays; single-storey bay on right; gabled side-wing on left is of 2 storeys with attic and 3 bays and has wing set back to rear left with C19 2-storey, 2-bay addition; wall attached to front of 5-bay facade. Main house (Darley Cliffe Hall): ashlar corner strips. 1/2-round steps to double door with 4-pane overlight in bolection- moulded architrave beneath consoled segmental pediment. Flanking 2-light, mullioned cellar windows, ground-floor band. Other bays have unequally-hung 15-pane sashes in raised surrounds with bead-moulded inner arrises. 1st-floor: band; central window has shouldered and eared architrave in rusticated panel. Eaves cornice breaks forward over corners and centre. Hipped roof with 3 roof lights, 2 corniced stacks set in roof well. On right of main facade is an old single-bay wing with 3-light casement and capped end stack; lower, hipped-roof lean-to has doorway. Front garden wall: plinth and soffit-moulded copings to rectangular enclosure with square end piers; similar central gate piers have flanking consoles, cornices and vase finials (now set to each side); horse-mounting steps and platform on left return of wall. Rear of Darley Cliffe Hall as front. Right return has original cross-window with 24 leaded panes to lower lights and 12 panes above. Gabled wing to front left (Tudor House): old studded door in ashlar surround with raised ornamental panels; similar surrounds to flanking casements, on left of 24 panes, on right of 6 panes. 1st floor: blind opening flanked by 2-light, horizontal-sliding sashes; similar attic window. Shaped kneelers, moulded gable copings. Older wing set back on left has 3-light casement to each floor, truncated mullioned window in angle of plan. Moulded gable copings and corniced end stack on left with brick shaft. Addition to left (Dower Cottage): open-pedimented ashlar porch to right of 3-light horizontal-sliding sash; two 2-light windows over; brick end stack on left.

Interiors: Darley Cliff Hall: entrance hall has bolection-moulded fireplace; open-well, wooden staircase in bay on right has balustrade and fielded-panel dado. Fireplace in rear-right room with crinoidal limestone facing set in wooden surround with carved panel of dog on bridge (Aesop's fable?); raised wall panelling, some panels hinged for windows of right return. Similar panelling in rear-left roomy ceiling panel with border of exotic fruit. 6-panel doors, window shutters sheeted in iron. 1st floor: front-left room has bolection-moulded fireplace with Georgian grate, raised panelling; rear-right room similar, earlier grate. Tudor House: bolection-moulded fireplace in rear room. Owned by the Castleford family, on the death of William (d1613) passed by marriage to the Adams' and then to the Parkins and Jeffcock families. In early C19 the home of Charles Bown, agent to Earl Fitzwilliam (Wilkinson, p177). Outstanding building of the region in a polite style that lends credence to the suggestion that Christopher Wren, known to have owned land in Worsbrough (Wilkinson, pp181-187), influenced its design.

WORSBROUGH KINGWELL ROAD SE30SE (north side, off) Worsbrough Dale

2/88 Sundial approximately 35 metres to west of Darley Cliffe Hall GV II Sundial. Mid C18. Sandstone. Octagonal foot to turned, vase-shaped pedestal with bead moulding round the neck. Cyma-moulding beneath brass dial with decorative profile-cut gnomon. Dial, now kept elsewhere, is -inscribed 'I. Metcalfe / 1756 / Henry Wood'. Metcalfe's name is inscribed on several stone sundials still to be seen around the Marquis of

Rockingham's estate at Wentworth Woodhouse. Darley Cliffe Hall (q.v.) was formerly occupied by the agent to that estate.

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