

Borthwick Institute



For Archives



UNIVERSITY
of York

SCHOOL RESOURCE PACK



HESLINGTON HALL

INTRODUCTION

AT A GLANCE

Suitable for: KS3 and KS4
History

Curriculum Link:

- Social change in post-war British Society
- The study of one particular site in its historical context

Learning Objectives:

- To understand how a place changes over time,
- To reflect on the changing roles of large houses within British society,
- To understand how social change in C20th Britain affected the upper classes.

Further Resources:

- [Historic England](#) provide a guide to listed sites across England
- [Heslington Hall on Google Maps](#)

BACKGROUND

Heslington Hall is a historic manor house on the outskirts of York built in 1568 for Sir Thomas Eynns, clerk to the Council of the North. It was sold to the Hesketh family in 1601. It was eventually inherited by Ann Hesketh and her husband James Yarburgh, who came from a very well-connected family. James's sister was a Lady in Waiting to the then queen, Catherine of Braganza.

After the death of Nicholas Yarburgh in 1852, his nephew Yarburgh Graeme (who later changed his name to Yarburgh Yarburgh) inherited Heslington Hall. He had the hall largely rebuilt in a Victorian style, but retained the original staircases, towers, courtyard, and stucco ceilings. The family later gained the title 'Baron Deramore' through marriage.

Robert Wilfrid de Yarburgh-Bateson inherited both the hall and the title Baron Deramore in 1893. He and his wife, Lady Violet, made Heslington Hall their family home. They had many of the interiors re-styled and modernized in 1903 by the famous York architect, Walter Brierley. Lady Violet was a member of the Red Cross and, during the First World War, Heslington Hall was used as a convalescent home for injured soldiers. The family moved out during the Second World War, and the hall was converted into an RAF base.

After the war, the family did not return to live in Heslington Hall. The house and land were sold to the Joseph Rowntree Social Services Trust in 1955, who intended it to be part of a proposed university. In 1963, the University of York was opened to students, and Heslington Hall continues to serve as its administrative base.

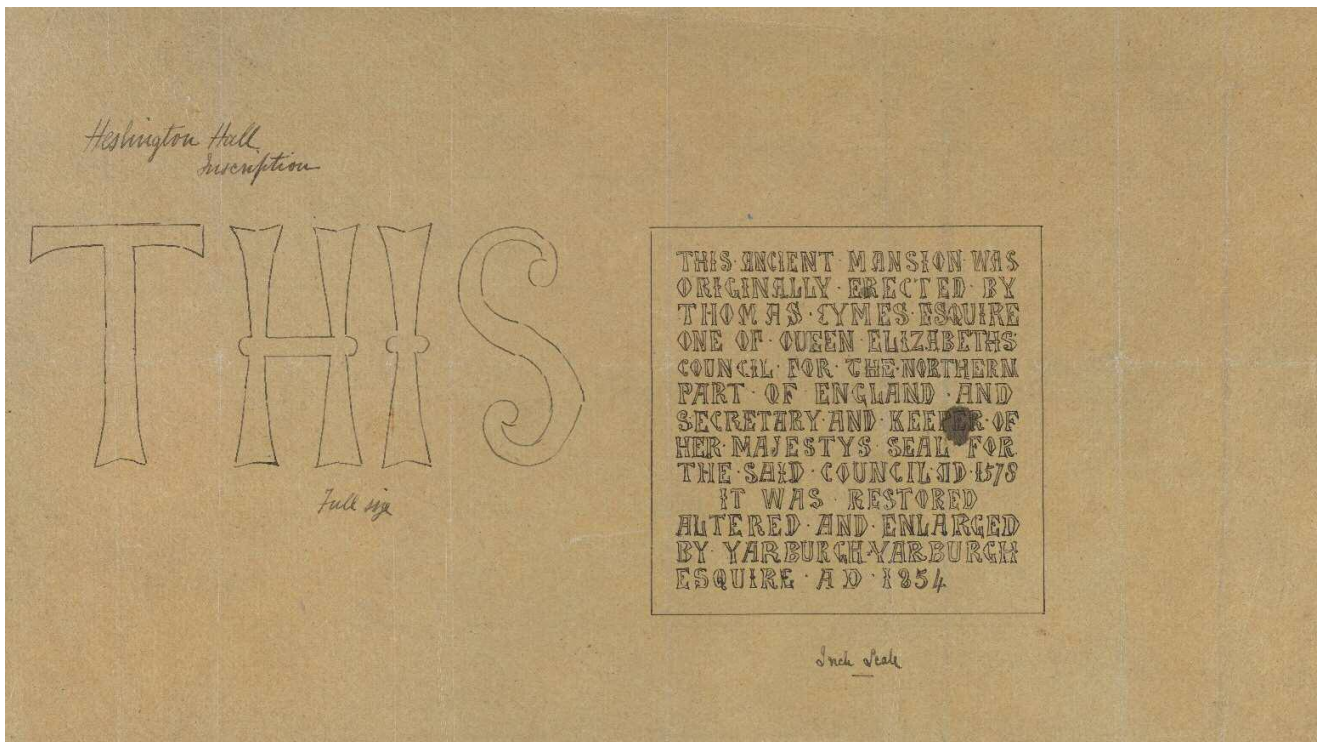
HESLINGTON HALL

SOURCES

Source 1

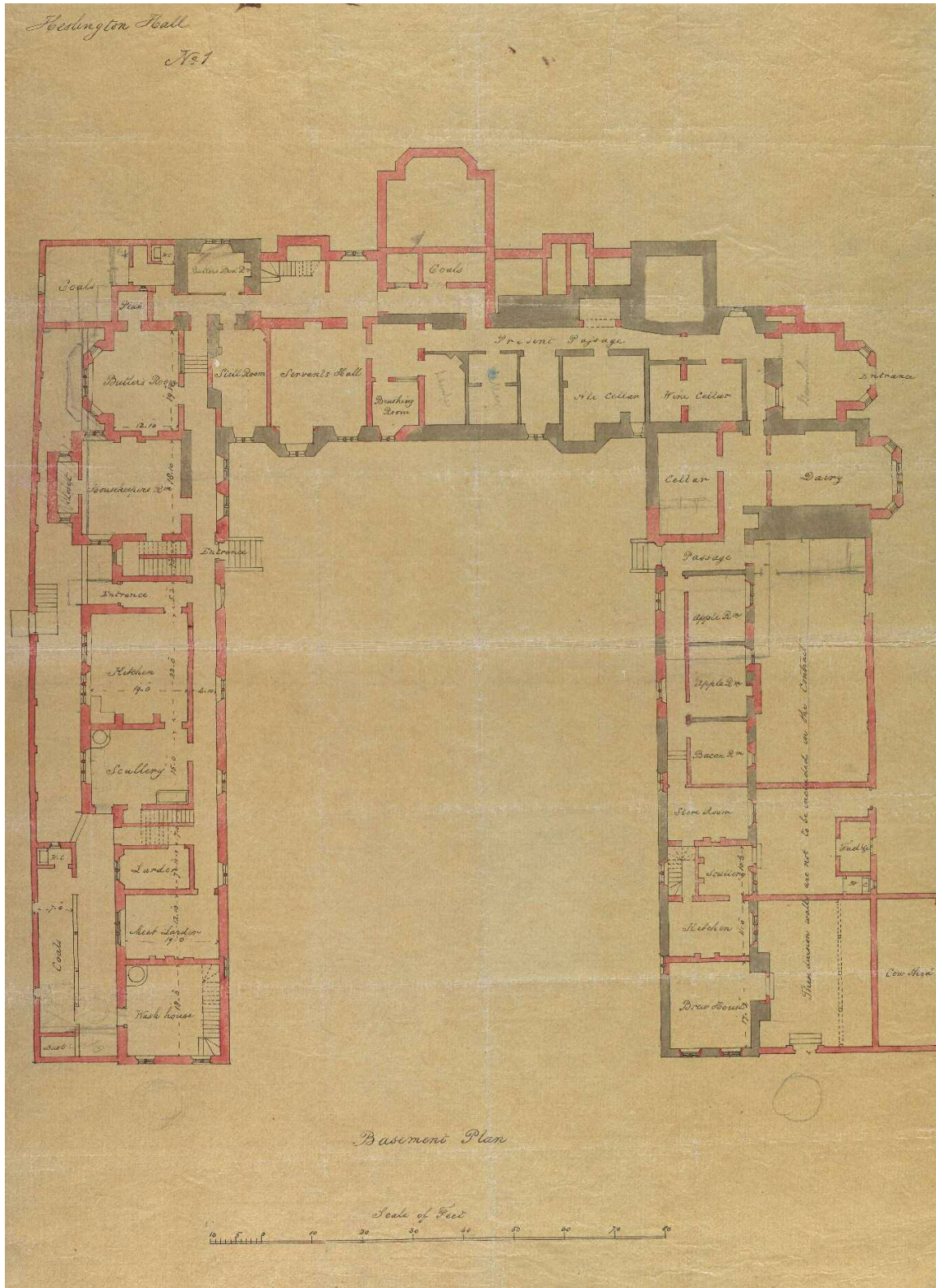
YM/MP/37 – Design for a memorial tablet for the outside of Heslington Hall

Heslington Hall was originally built in 1568 (not 1578 as this memorial suggests). It was extended and modernized in 1854 by Yarburgh Yarburgh. He also had this plaque designed and added to the side of the building, where it can still be seen today.

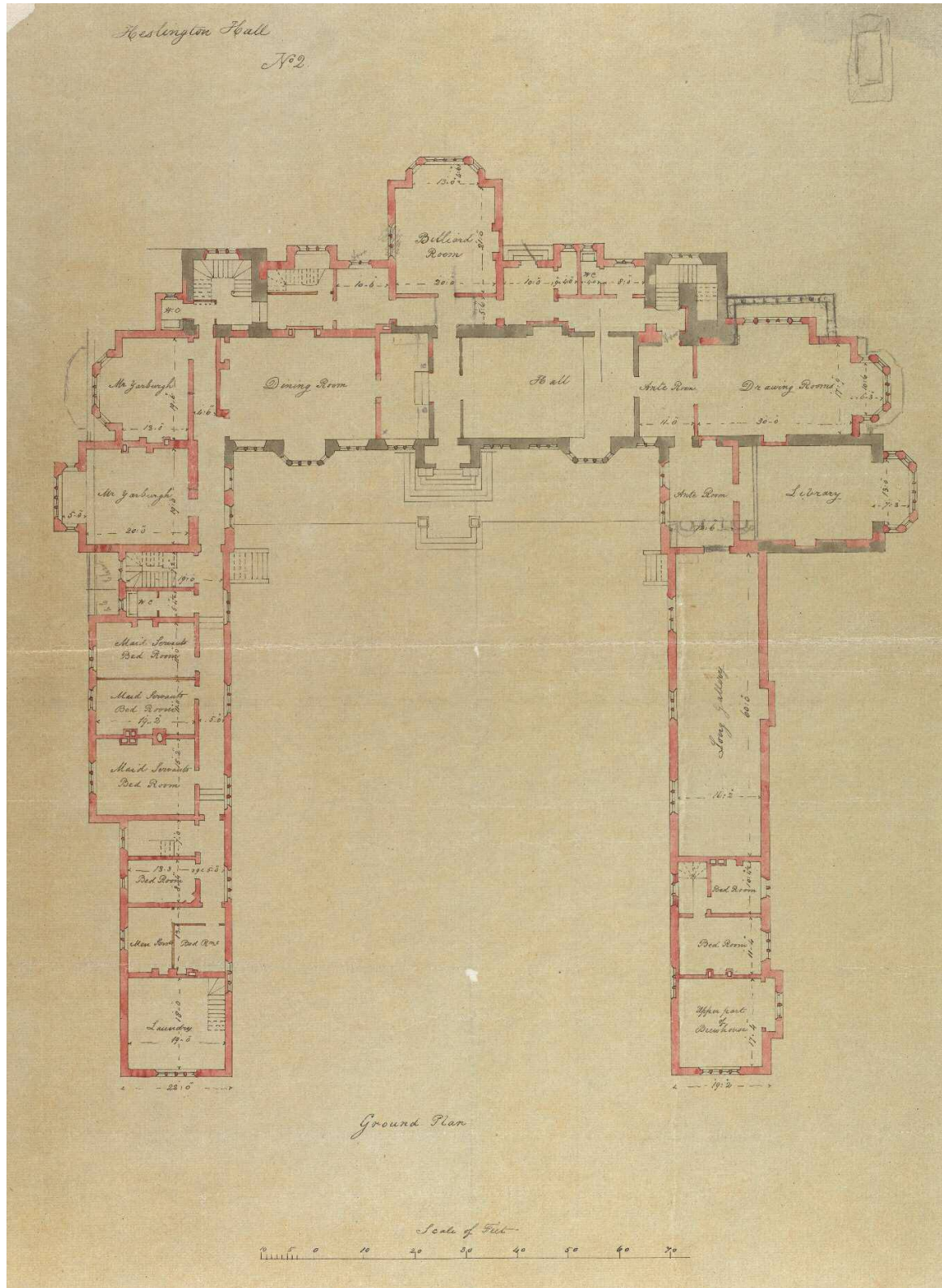


Source 2

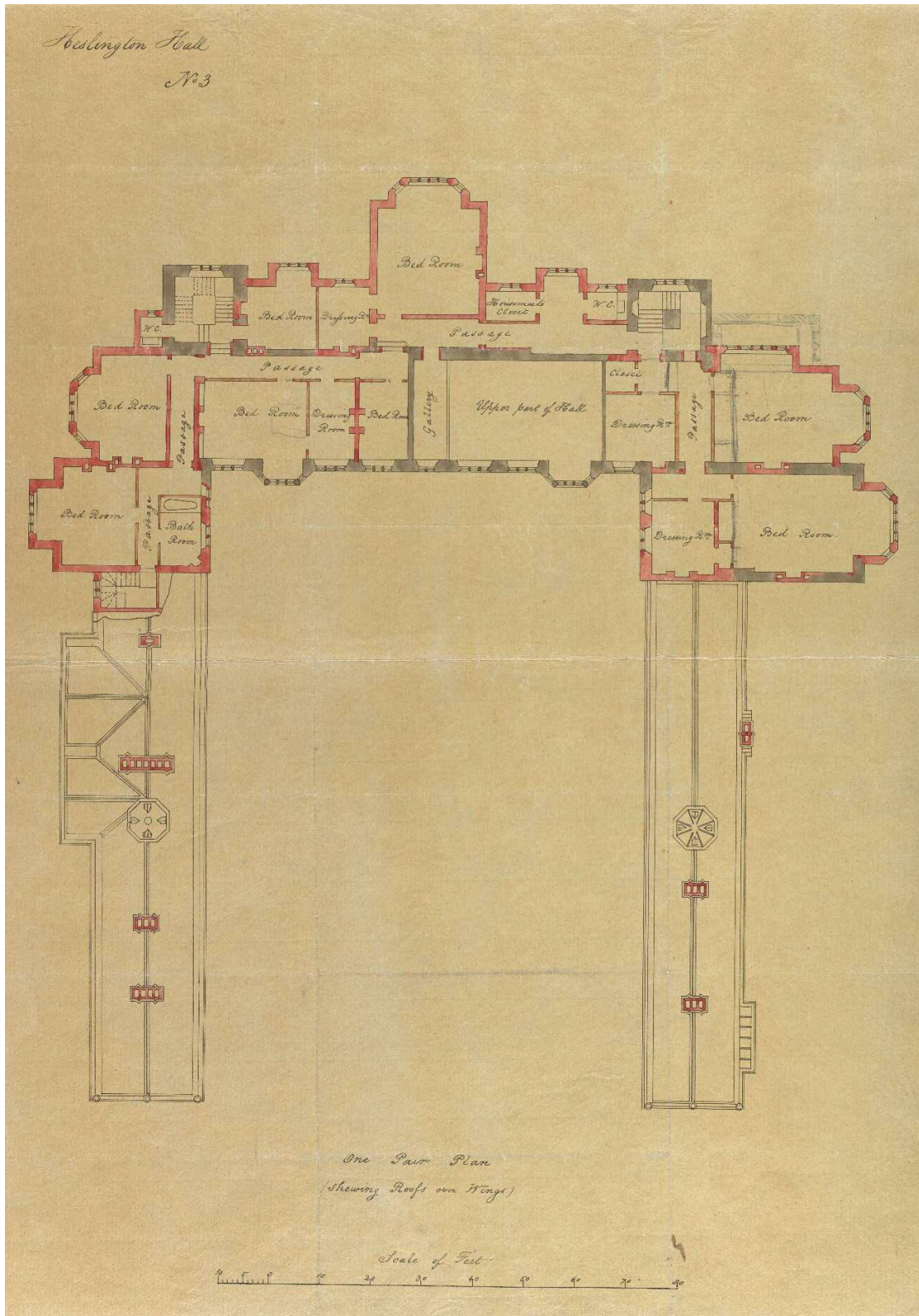
YM/MP/29-31 – Floor plan for Heslington Hall after the redesign of 1854
Ground floor



First floor



Second floor



Source 3

JHOR/4/2/6 and JHOR/4/2/4 - Photos of Heslington Hall, from the collection of James Hornby

James Hornby was born in 1840 and became the Head Gardener at Heslington Hall in 1870. He died 32 years later while still employed at the hall. He kept some photos of the hall, especially those that showed the gardens.



Source 4

VDER 7/1/4 – Family photo albums of Lady Violet Deramore



Source 5

VDER 8/1/4/1 (ii) – War Use of Heslington Hall

During the First World War, Heslington Hall was used as a convalescent home for injured soldiers. The soldiers were given the free use of the grounds, and activities were arranged for them.



Source 6

VDER 3/1/2 – Yorkshire Post article dated November 8th 1955. Reproduced by kind permission of the Yorkshire Post

Heslington Hall was converted into an RAF base during the Second World War and the family moved out. They never returned. Instead the land was sold in 1955 to the Joseph Rowntree Social Services Trust.

The Yorkshire Post
and Leeds Mercury
LEEDS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1955

Heslington Hall bought by a York trust



Heslington Hall, near York.

Possible inclusion in plans for academic development

From our York staff

Heslington Hall, near York, an Elizabethan mansion with 115 rooms, which during the war was the headquarters of No. 4 Group, Bomber Command, has been bought by Mr. J. B. Morrell, of York, on behalf of the Joseph Rowntree Social Service Trust.

Built by Thomas Eyles for the reception of Queen Elizabeth I, though in fact she never visited it, the hall, together with grounds extending to 17 acres, has been sold for a little over £40,000.

The sale is regarded in York as a transaction between friends to preserve the building and to ensure that its future use is appropriate to its history and architecture. Lord Desborough, the previous owner, told The Yorkshire Post last night: "The hall is in good hands. Mr. Morrell and the Joseph Rowntree Social Service Trust are very public spirited, and I am very pleased that it has gone to them."

Lord Desborough, an RAF officer, had worked in the hall throughout the war as a Senior Controller in Bomber Command.

None of the Heslington estate was included in the sale, and Lord Desborough will continue to live in the Manor House, which now becomes the principal mansion.

'School of Britain'

Mr. Morrell, who has twice served as Lord Mayor of York, and is an honorary Freeman of the City, said that the future use of the Hall had not yet been considered by the Social Service Trust, but one of the first possibilities likely to be considered was the inclusion of the Hall in plans for academic development. It had long been a dream among leading citizens to use a university in York, and current schemes envisaged a School of Britain for study at an advanced level of the qualities of government and leadership and the principles which have made Britain great.

The Social Service Trust was founded in 1904 by the late Joseph Rowntree to assist worthy causes which fell outside the classification of charity.

Noted gardens

In the Hall is a magnificent Great Hall with a minstrel's gallery and a fine oak screen. The grounds, with spacious lawns, a lake and a bowling green, are noted chiefly for the regularity of the lawn mowed from century-old yew trees.

Wensleydale water supply scheme

Yorkshire-built aircraft plays a vital part

Search for oil in Arabian Desert

From our Hull staff

A giant Blackburn Universal freighter aircraft, built at Brough, East Yorkshire, is playing a vital part in what may become the greatest oil strike in the Arabian Desert.

The Universal, which has a wing span of 162 feet and a 22-ton payload, is being used to fly bulky oil-drilling equipment to Fahud in the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman.

The utilisation of the Universal, which has been made available by Blackburn and General Aircraft to carry urgent loads which cannot be lifted by any other aircraft, will speed up the operation immeasurably. The only land route from the base at Umm Said to Fahud takes at least two weeks over 1,000 miles of sea and desert.

By air the trip is 385 miles—a simple flight of about two hours. Already about 1,000 tons of equipment has been flown to Fahud and there have been about 2,000 passenger journeys in and out.

Levelled desert

Fahud is only a dune in the barren desert. The aerodrome is little more than levelled strips of desert, but since the Universal is designed to operate in such conditions this presents no difficulties.

Fahud is a rocky area about 100 miles south-west of the Oman Mountains. It has been selected as a site for a test well after geological surveys.

Hazard golf course for Scarborough

Fears for Esplanade

Scarborough Town Council last night decided to build a hazard golf course on the Esplanade between Sepulchre Road and Avenue Victoria as an estimated cost of £2,100.

Opposing the scheme, Alderman A. Shields said for 40 years he and others had worked to preserve the amenities of the Esplanade, the finest promenade in the country. People who came to the town did not seek a backdrop of Councilor J. W. Harcourt, supporting him, said the scheme would take up valuable car-parking space.

Councillor W. H. Smith remarked that it was impossible to go back to the Victorian age when the classes were separated. The proposed course was little different to the putting green on the South Cliff and it was not going to destroy the amenity.

Decision expected soon on ITA site

Emley or Wharcliffe?

From our London staff

A decision is expected later this week on the site for York's commercial TV independent television spokesman.

Source 7

VDER 3/1/2 – Yorkshire Post article dated July 6th 1970. Reproduced by kind permission of the Yorkshire Post

In 1963, the University of York was opened to students, with Heslington Hall as its administrative building. The university itself was built on the land that used to be Heslington estate. In 1970, Lady Violet returned to Heslington Hall for the first time in 34 years.

34-year memory rests in peace

FOR a moment yesterday, Violet, Lady Deramore, 86, paused on the steps of Heslington Hall, near York, her former home, which she has not seen for 34 years.

Then she turned her back on the hall, which was built in 1568, in the shape of a letter E in honour of Queen Elizabeth I and it is now the administrative centre of York University.

"I don't really want to go in after all," she said. "I would like to remember it as I knew it — it was such a lovely old hall. I hear they have changed it quite a lot."

ENTERTAINED

"Although the ivy has gone from the walls outside, the clock and sundial are still there. And they have named a road Deramore Drive on a new estate not far away."

Lady Deramore went to live in Heslington Hall after her marriage in 1907. When her husband, the third Baron Deramore and former Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding, died 29 years later, she moved to the South.

While at Heslington Hall the couple entertained Queen Mary, and the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth).

Yesterday was the first time Lady Deramore had returned to Yorkshire. Her sentimental journey to Heslington was planned while visiting her brother, Capt. Philip Saltmarsh, of Saltmarsh, near Howden, who is in hospital at York.

Today she is to visit her childhood home, the Hall, Saltmarsh, before returning to her cottage at Newbury, Berkshire.

Lady Deramore had driven to York on Saturday night with her god-daughter, Miss Lisa Gray, with whom she lives.

MEMORY

Miss Gray is writing a history of the Saltmarsh family and she hopes to follow with one on the Deramore's.

She said: "Both are very old families — the Saltmarsh's go back about 960 years.

"I am getting all the information I can from Lady Deramore. She has a marvellous memory and can remember most of the people who came to her wedding.

"During World War I many famous soldiers came to Heslington Hall. The visitors' book is like a page of history."



● Lady Deramore with her Pekingese, Deepnell Magnolia, in the grounds of Heslington Hall, York, yesterday.

YORKSHIRE POST

LEEDS MONDAY JULY 6 1970

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- 1) Source 1 shows a memorial plaque that was added to the outside of the hall in 1854. Why do you think it was important to the Yarburgh family to celebrate the antiquity of the house? Many people nowadays also study and commemorate the history of their house. Do you think they are doing it for the same reasons?
- 2) Source 2 shows the floor plans for Heslington Hall in 1854. If it was still a family home, do you think the rooms would still be used in the same way? How do you think the use of the rooms would have changed?
- 3) Look up Heslington Hall on Google Street View (if you don't have access to the internet, there is an up to date photo on the front of this resource pack). How has it changed since the photos in source 3 were taken? What, if any, are the similarities? Why do you think these things have lasted?
- 4) Source 4 shows a young boy who spent much of his childhood at Heslington Hall. Would you like to have grown up in a house like this one? Why or why not? What can you learn about the people who lived at Heslington Hall from these photographs?
- 5) How do you think the soldiers would have felt upon arriving at Heslington Hall during the First World War? What does source 5 tell us about their time there?
- 6) Like Heslington Hall, many historic houses were sold off after the Second World War. What can this tell us about society at the time?
- 7) Compare sources 4 and 6. How has the use of the hall changed over the course of the 20th century?
- 8) In source 7, Lady Violet Deramore chooses not to return to Heslington Hall. Why do you think this is?
- 9) What do you think the various historic owners of Heslington Hall would make of its modern use?
- 10) Do you feel the history of Heslington Hall reflects the history of England generally?
- 11) Do you think it is important to preserve historic houses? If they are preserved, do you think it is better that they are made functional and used, or kept as they were? Why?
- 12) If you were giving a talk about the history of Heslington Hall, which parts of its history would you emphasize? Why?