



The JESSOP Consultancy

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WOODBINE COTTAGE

Doncaster Road, Billingley

HERITAGE STATEMENT

August 2021

I INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

This document presents a heritage statement for Woodbine Cottage, Billingley, Barnsley (**Figure 1**), National Grid Reference: SE 44040 04083.

The assessment has been informed through a site visit and consultation of sources of information listed in the bibliography including records held by the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record. It has been undertaken in accordance with guidance published by Historic England, and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists as set out in the bibliography.

SITE LOCATION, TOPOLOGY & GEOLOGY

Woodbine Cottage is situated to the south of the junction of Doncaster Road and Billingley Green Lane. The site lies at 26m above Ordnance Datum on a gentle south facing slope between Billingley, c. 600m north of the site, and Carr Dike, c. 500m south of the site.

The underlying geology of the site is sandstone and mudstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation (BGS, 2021). This stone was extensively utilised as a building material locally with historic quarries of Mexborough Rock recorded west of the site at Darfield (Historic England, 2016 & 2017).

DESIGNATION

The site does not contain a designated heritage asset.

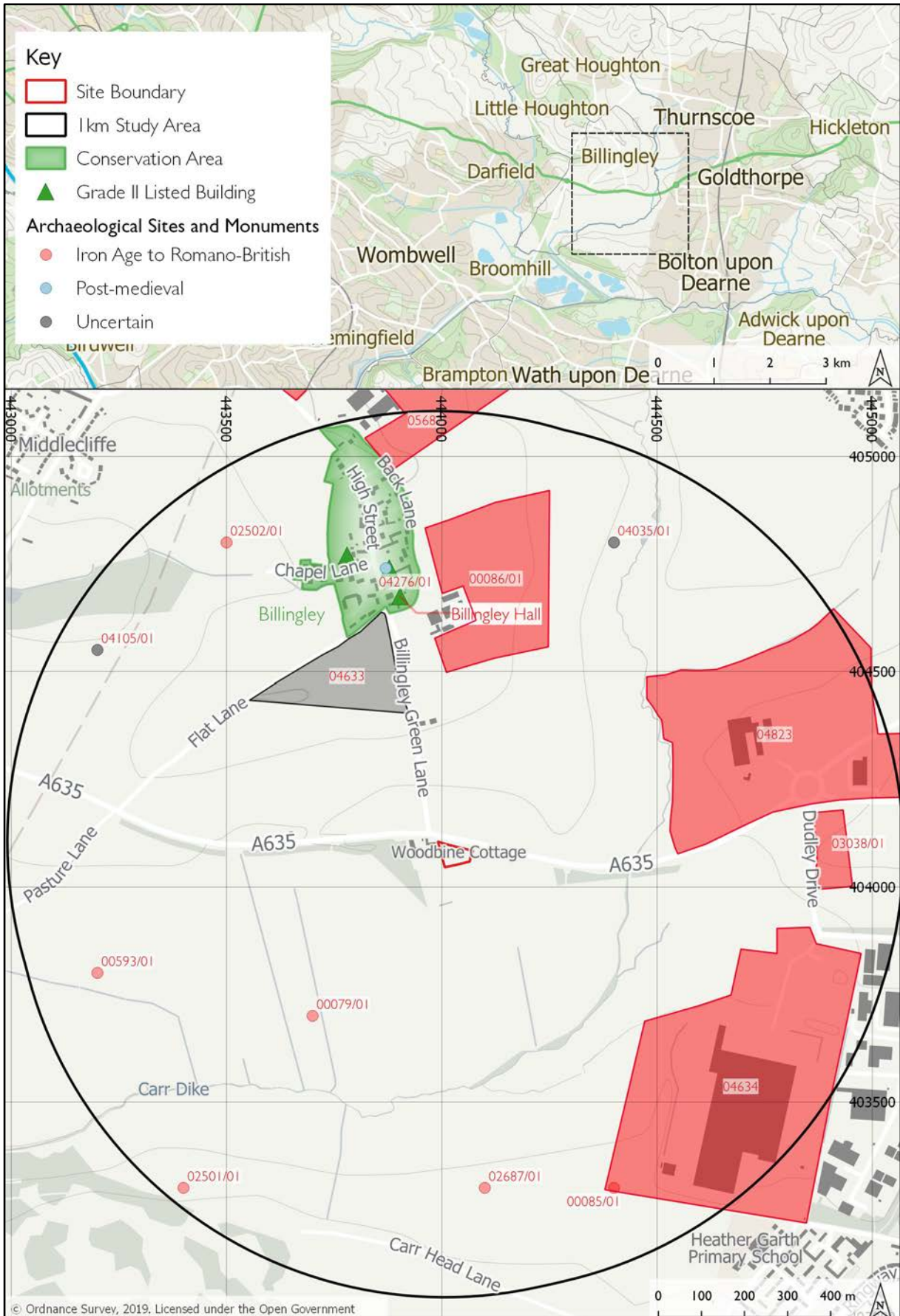


Figure 1: Site location plan showing heritage designations and recorded archaeological sites and monuments (data from NHLE and South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record)

2 PLANNING CONTEXT

INTRODUCTION

Change arising to the historic environment from the planning process is managed through legislation, planning policy and practice guidance, and Historic England advice to ensure affected heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.

MAIN LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 makes provision for the compilation of a register of gardens and other land (parks and gardens, and battlefields).

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 provides specific protection for monuments of national interest.

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.

BARNSELY LOCAL PLAN

HE1: Historic Environment which states that development which conserve and enhance the significance and setting of the historic environment will be positively encouraged, and that harm will only be permitted where the benefits of the development would outweigh it.

HE3: Developments affecting Historic Buildings states that proposals to listed buildings or building of evident significance should seek to conserve and enhance that significance.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

The Government's planning policies for England are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021). In relation to designated heritage assets (such as listed buildings, scheduled monuments, and conservation areas) NPPF recommends great weight is to be given to their conservation (para. 194), that proposals causing substantial harm should be refused consent unless the harm can be adequately justified (para. 195), and that less than substantial harm is weighed against the public benefits of the proposal. For non-designated heritage assets, NPPF recommends that the effect of the proposal is considered in determining a proposal, giving a balanced judgement in regard to the scale of harm and the significance of the asset (para. 197).

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

The site lies within an area of Iron Age to Romano-British field systems around Billingley and Goldthorpe with droveways extending to the banks of Carr Dike (79, 85, 86, 2501, 2502, 2687, 3038, 4823, 4634 & 5682: **Figure 1**). These features have, largely, not been investigated archaeologically but have been relatively confidently identified based on known dated examples. Finds from the area, including a roman bracelet (593: **Figure 1**) and several roman coins (Portable Antiquities Scheme) demonstrate a background of contemporary activity in the area.

Billingley is recorded during the Domesday Survey of 1086, where it was split between lands held by Roger of Bully, and Andor the priest, recorded as comprising 3 ploughland and 20 acres of meadow but with no taxable households (Powell-Smith, n.d). The origins of the place name are disputed, either deriving from the Old English words meaning “Billa’s people” or “wood/clearing”, or perhaps “wood/clearing at a bill-shaped hill” (Institute for Name Studies, 2021). Recorded finds from the early medieval to medieval periods within the study area are limited to a single early-medieval strap fitting and several medieval spindle whorls and lead weights recovered from fields to the north and south of the site.

The landscape preserves evidence of an open field system surrounding Billingley, likely of medieval date, including curvilinear boundaries in existing fields and the remains of ridge and furrow earthworks that show strips extending towards the north-east, west and south. The land around the site itself (**Figures 2-3**) is more regular in plan and exhibits no evidence of earlier ridge and furrow suggesting it is planned enclosure of previous common or meadow land (Portable Antiquities Scheme).

Thomas Jeffrey’s map of 1767-70 (**Figure 4**) provides an early map of the area, presenting the arrangement of main roads and a simplified depiction of development. Whilst lacking accuracy, the map generally presents a good impression of the distribution and form of settlement. Billingley Green is named on the map, situated on the edge of the valley around Carr Dike. Doncaster Road is shown as a turnpike, with development situated south-west of its junction with Billingley Green Lane. The site itself possibly lies within an area east of this development defined by a rounded linear plot with a dashed line separating it from the road suggesting the boundary was open.

In 1781 the Leeds Intelligencer in reference to the sale of beds of coal at Thurnscoe, records that they lie one mile from the “Lime Kilns at Billingley Green” (12-06-1781, 2). The location of these features is unknown

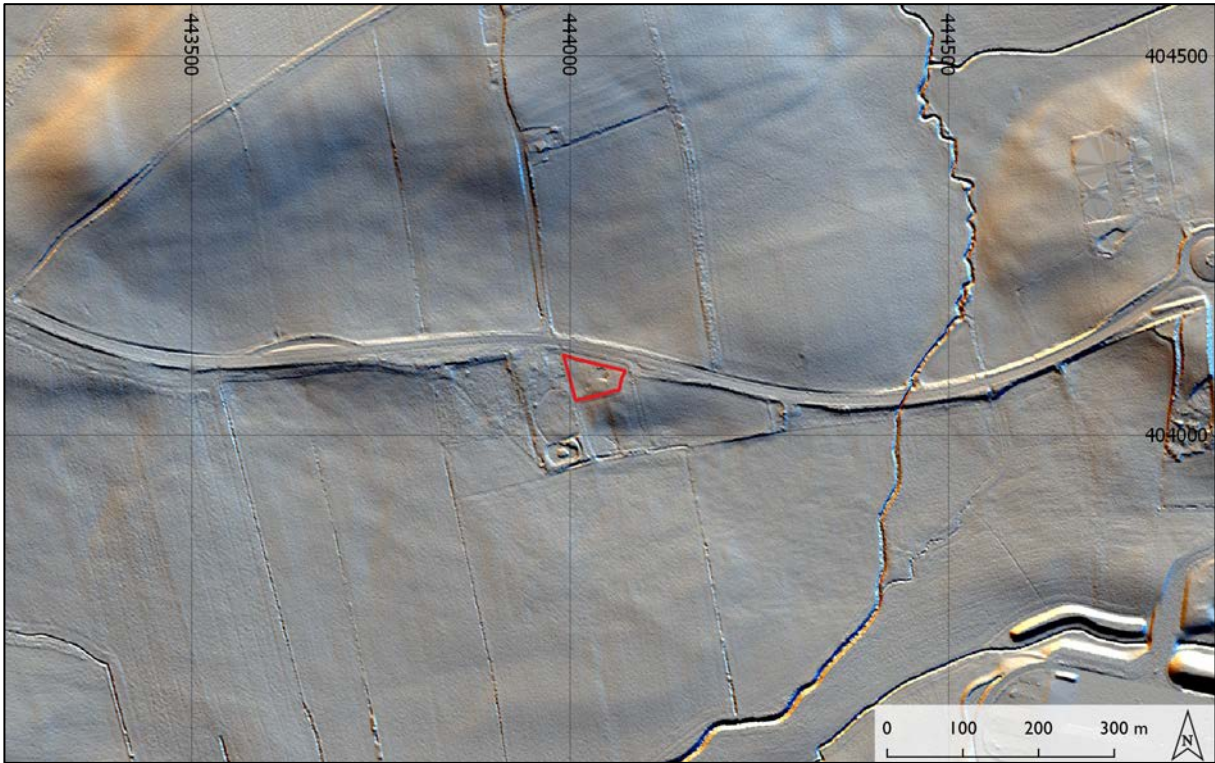


Figure 2: Multi-directional hillshade

(derived from 1m LIDAR data, licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0)

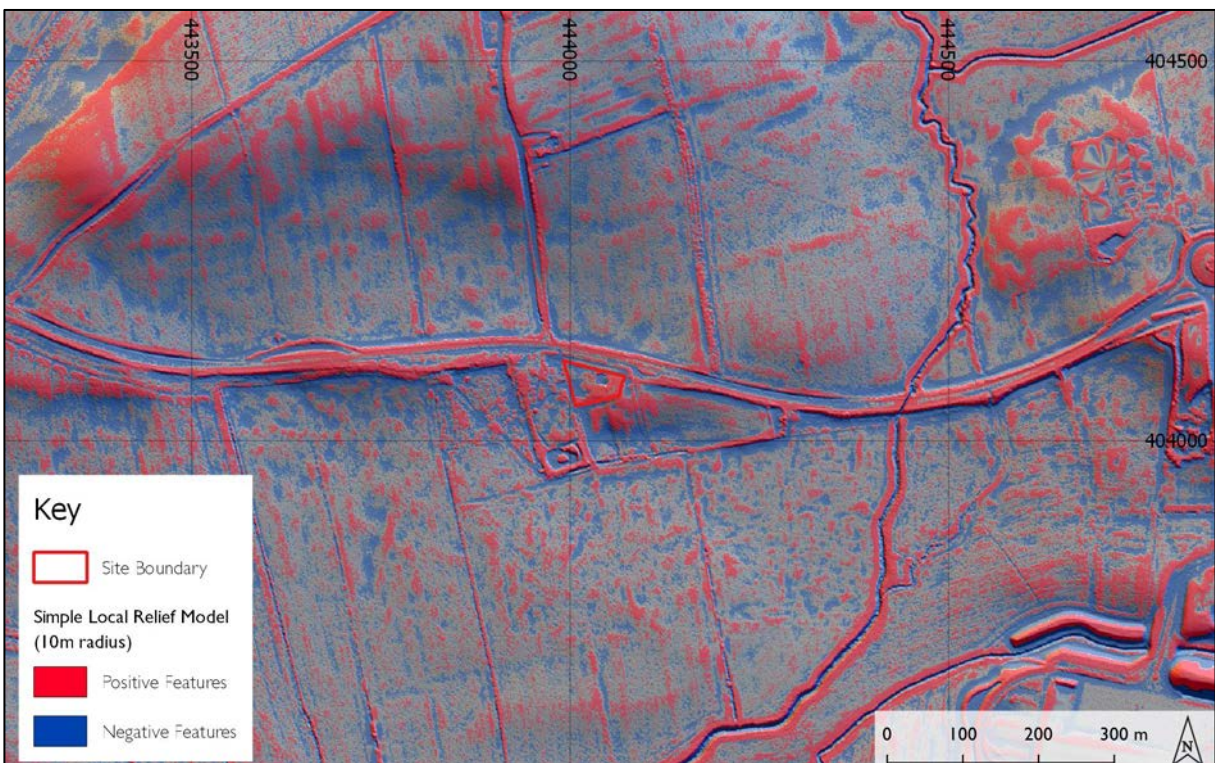


Figure 3: Local relief model highlighting the edges of raised and lowered earthworks

(derived from 1m LIDAR data, licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0)

Shown on the 1840 tithe map (**Figure 5**), the site was divided into several regular, narrow parcels of land within which was formed a small yard with several buildings at the site of Woodbine Cottage. To its east are two detached buildings, one situated on the edge of the road and the second to the south of the house. The accompanying register records them as a “Public House, Shop, Barn and Yard” and the arable and grass land around it, plot 89, named “Billingley Green allotment”, all occupied by William Cudworth and owned by the Earl Fitzwilliam. Cudworth also occupied plot 85, detached and to the west of the site, named as an orchard. The land west of the yard, plot 87, was grass and arable land named “Green allotment” occupied by George Raines and owned by the Earl Fitzwilliam. George’s residence was recorded west of the site at plot 86.

Of note is that the narrow parcels of land occupy the general area of the enclosure shown on Jeffrey’s map of 1767-70 and all share a similar name by way of “Billingley Green allotment” or “Green allotment” suggesting they may have been common land.

William Cudworth is recorded as of the Wentworth Arms on Billingley Green in relation to providing access to view land being sold by Mr Micklethwaite in 1830 (Leeds Intelligencer, 14-01-1830). Of interest is that the sale records the “recent enclosure” of 1r 9p (approx. 0.12ha) of land from Billingley Green on the south side of the Barnsley and Doncaster Turnpike Road. William was also recorded at Billingley Green in the poll book records for Barnsley District in 1835 and in the 1837 Leeds Directory as a blacksmith and victualler.

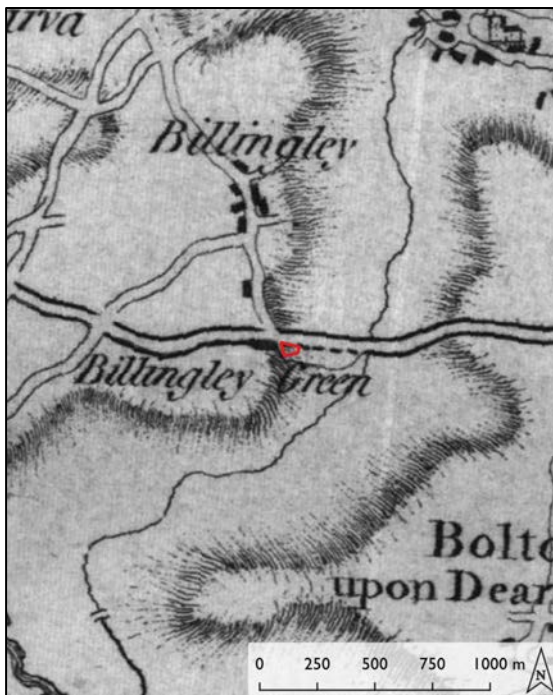


Figure 4: 1767-70 Jeffrey's map of the West Riding of Yorkshire

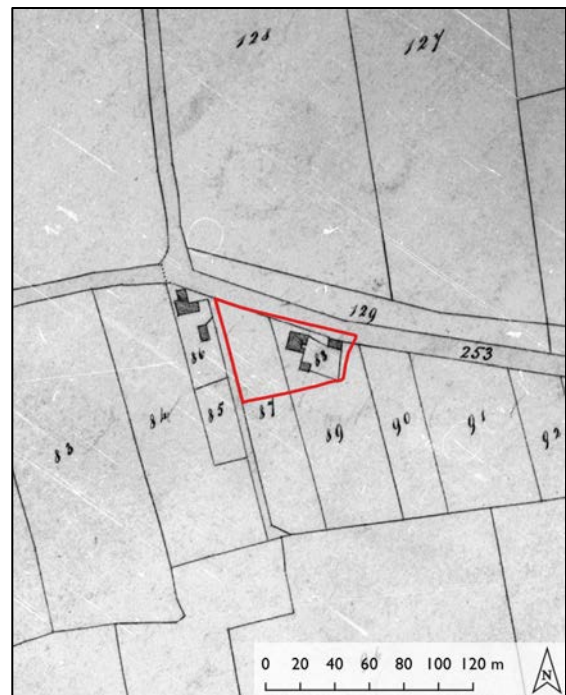


Figure 5: 1840 Billingley tithe map

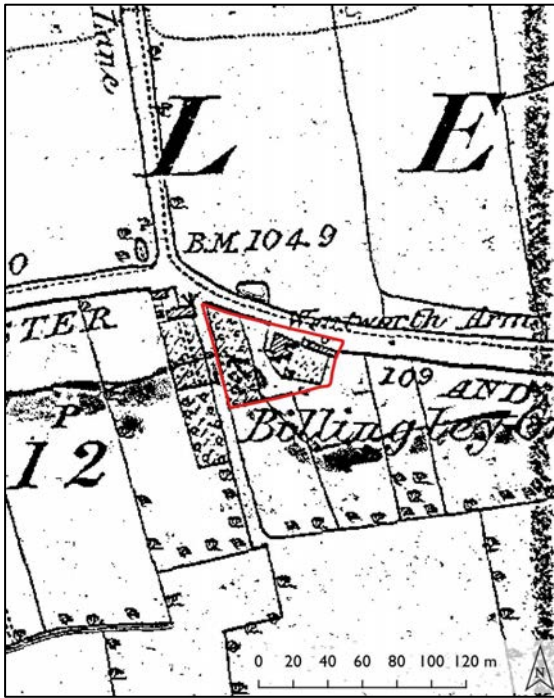


Figure 6: 1854 Ordnance Survey map

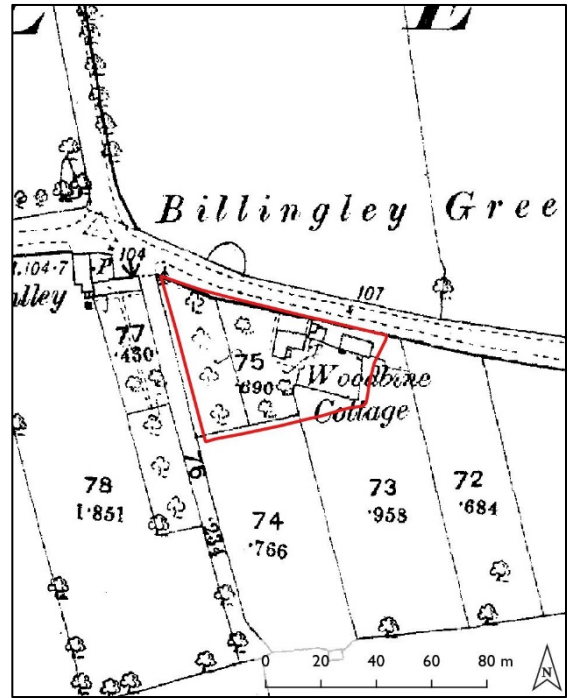


Figure 7: 1892 Ordnance Survey map

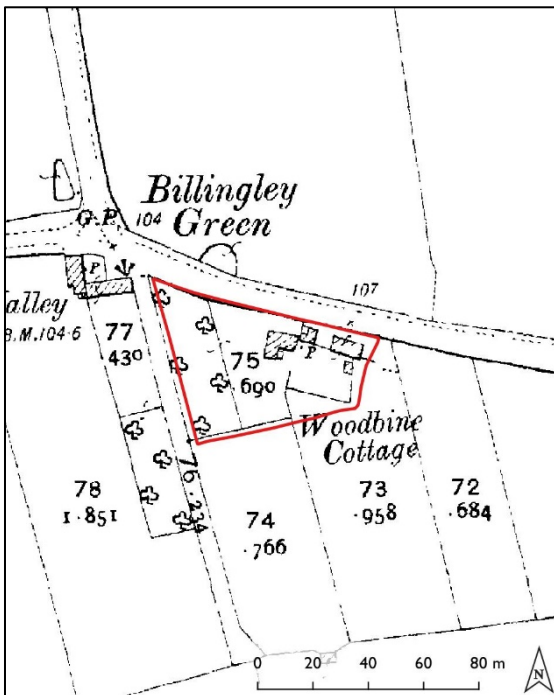


Figure 8: 1906 Ordnance Survey map

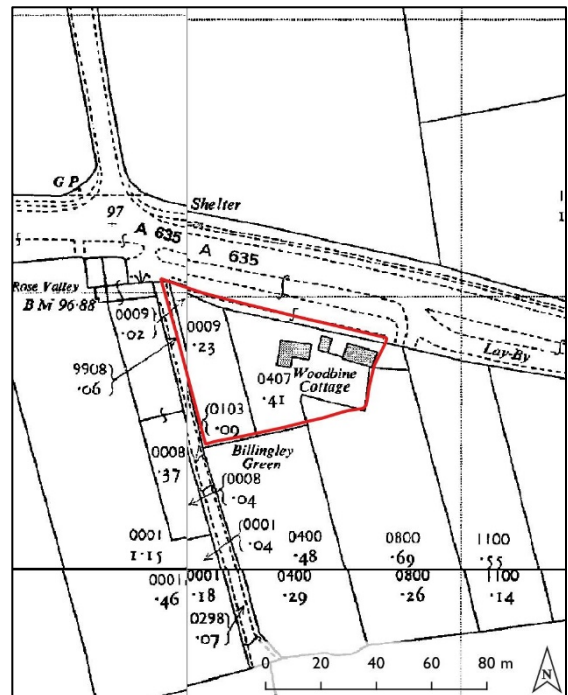


Figure 9: 1962 Ordnance Survey map

By the time of the 1841 and 1851 Censuses, Cudworth was recorded as a blacksmith, living at Billingley Green with his wife, Mary, and five children. He appears again in White's Directory of 1852

as a blacksmith and victualler but is absent by the time of the directories of 1862 and 1879 when no pub is listed in the village.

The 1854 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (surveyed in 1849-50; **Figure 6**) labels the site as Wentworth Arms and shows two small extensions had taken place since the previous map of 1840, including an added structure against the southern elevation of the house, and the extension of the roadside building to its north-east.

Whilst Billingley Green is not distinguished from the rest of the parish in subsequent census returns, it is possible to track it, as it routinely formed the last entry in the parish. In this manner it is likely that the site was subsequently occupied by Charles Casson, farmer of 7 acres by 1861; George Hall, stone quarryman by 1871; George Casson, farmer of 10 acres and common carrier by 1881; and James Firth, stationary engine driver (presumably a pit head engine or similar) by 1891.

The 1892 OS map names the site as Woodbine Cottage and provides a higher detailed depiction of the buildings, yard, and paths at the site, although the general arrangement of the site had remained unchanged (**Figure 7**). The next edition of 1906 shows the addition of a small, detached building to the east side of the yard (**Figure 8**).

Woodbine Cottage is named in the 1911 Census, occupied by James and Rachel Firth, then employed as farmers. By the time of the 1939 Register, James was working as a colliery screenhand. Rachel appeared regularly in the papers in the early 1930s as president of the Sisterhood of Billingley Wesleyan Chapel, and Woodbine Cottage was named in 1932 as having been the regular meeting place for Billingley Methodist classes since 1860 (South Yorkshire Times and Mexborough and Swinton Times, 11-11-1932, 9). James Casson Firth was further recorded as possessing a museum of Wesleyan relics (*ibid.* 09-12-1932, 1).

Billingley Green also appeared regularly in the papers between 1923-1930 in reference to semi-regular sporting events, including whippet, horse and pony racing; boxing; hurdle and flat races, and cycling (the first identified reference in Penistone, Stocksbridge and Hoyland Express 16-06-1923).

No further changes are shown to the site on the 1930 OS map, or the subsequent edition of 1962 (**Figure 9**). The house, and two detached buildings to the north east still remained in 2002, although by that time the existing boundaries of the site had been established. In 2003 the outbuildings were demolished, and house extended to the east.

4 SITE APPRAISAL

LANDSCAPE SETTING

The site is situated on the southern side of Doncaster Road within an area of small straight-edged enclosures associated with the late post-medieval development of Rose Valley farm and Woodbine Cottage. Known as Billingley Green, this area appears to have historically lain on the southern edge of the medieval open field system surrounding the main settlement at Billingley, with historic maps showing a distinctive change from curvilinear, narrow fields to the north and larger straight-sided boundaries to the land to the south. Enclosure of Billingley Green likely took place over several phases, with initial piecemeal enclosure along the line of Doncaster Road, possibly after it was turnpiked by the Doncaster and Salter's Brook Trust in 1740, followed by planned enclosure south to the edge of Carr Dike. A small area of unenclosed land may have remained alongside the road, overlying the site, shown on Jeffrey's map of 1762-7 with references to its enclosure in 1830. Since that period a large degree of agglomeration has taken place, with the area dominated by several large fields.

Doncaster Road was widened and improved in the mid-20th Century, and now forms part of the busy A635 between Bamsley and Doncaster and a dominate feature within the immediate landscape setting of the site (**Figure 10**). The road improvements left a section of the earlier road as a layby to the north of the site.

Development within the vicinity of the site has changed little since the 1840s, with a minor reduction in the number of buildings at Woodbine Cottage, and the addition of several agricultural sheds to the west of Rose Valley taken place since 2003.



Figure 10: View of Woodbine Cottage, looking west

BUILDING APPRAISAL

Woodbine Cottage comprises two principal elements: an L-shape plan two-storey structure forming the first phase, and a T-plan extension to its east added 2003.

Early 19th Century Dwelling

The earliest element of the cottage is built from coursed squared sandstone with pitched roof of a combination of concrete slates, and brick-built chimney stacks at each gable. The building's principal elevation faces west, with a central added gabled porch and a bay of windows to either side. The north elevation (**Figure 11**) contains a central added gabled porch and a bay of windows to its east. On both elevations the windows have modern uPVC frames and several sills and lintels have been altered or replaced. The construction of the building is similar to that of Rose Valley to its west, suggesting both were built around the same time (**Figure 12**).

Internally the building forms three downstairs rooms, two parlours to the west range and a kitchen within the east wing, with a similar order reflected at first floor where there are three chambers. Access between levels is via stone staircase in the east wing. This layout does not conform to the typical arrangement of similar status dwellings of its age, where the staircase would be situated within the centre of the main range, separating the two parlours. Here, the position of the staircase to the rear is suggestive of the building having been built as a public house, allowing private, controlled, access to the upper floor away from the public rooms. No other evidence for its use as pub survives.

Extensions

Two extensions are present, including a single storey garden room with lantern skylight within the angle to the rear of the ranges of the earlier building (**Figure 13**); and a two-storey building incorporating an integrated garage to the east (**Figure 14**). Both are built from masonry matching that of the house and derived from the demolished outbuilding previously located to the east of the site (owner, pers. comm.). Unlike the original dwelling the pitched roof of the extension is covered in natural stone slate. The interior of the extensions similarly retains reused timbers including, notably, several beams scarred with scorch marks from heated horseshoes. This is of interest given the documented use of the site as a blacksmith.

Gardens

The gardens of the property principally comprise lawns with areas of shrub and tree plantations (**Figures 15-16**). They retain no visible evidence of upstanding or buried archaeology. Drainage and service features are present in both the eastern and western parts of the garden.



Figure 11: View of Woodbine Cottage, looking south



Figure 12: View of Rose Valley to the west of the site, looking west



Figure 13: View of Woodbine Cottage, looking north



Figure 14: View of Woodbine Cottage, looking north-west



Figure 15: View of the land east of the cottage, looking north



Figure 16: View of the land west of the cottage, looking north

5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

WOODBINE COTTAGE

Woodbine Cottage is considered to possess **local heritage significance**, deriving from:

- Its **architectural interest**, which makes a **low contribution** to its significance, as a much-altered example of an early 19th Century dwelling, potentially purpose built to serve as a public house. The building retains much of its original internal planform, and several contemporary features including a fireplace, stone staircase and structural elements including the roof and first floor structures. Externally the building has been altered, with changes to window openings and frames, and the addition of several porches and large extensions.
- Its **historical interest**, which makes a **low contribution** to its significance, in relation to its previous use as public house, and its association to the development of Billingley, including several family members documented in local papers.
- Its **archaeological interest**, which makes a **low contribution** to its significance, deriving from evidence for the phased development of the structure and potential survival of evidence of its earlier forms of use. There is very limited potential for buried remains within its grounds relating to the development and use of the site during the 19th Century as footings relating to the previous buildings of the site were grubbed out when they were demolished in 2003.

Setting

The setting of the building is characterised by its position within a small group of buildings at the junction between Doncaster Road, and Billingley Green Lane; the character and prominence of agricultural land surrounding it; and the dominant presence of Doncaster Road.

Whilst the character of development and land use contributes positively to the historic interest of the property, the contribution and integrity of these elements towards establishing a historic rural landscape setting to the property is substantially impacted by the noise and visual dominance of Doncaster Road.

Further future changes to this setting are also likely, with the land south of the site allocated in the local plan for employment uses (allocation ES10: Land South of Deame Valley Parkway).

Overall, this setting is considered to make a **low contribution** to the significance of the building.

6 DISCUSSION

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Woodbine Cottage comprises a possible purpose-built public house dating to the early 19th Century, and formerly comprising part of a roadside development including a range of ancillary structures including a blacksmith's shop. The building appears to have ceased to be used as public house in the 1860s, thereafter becoming a dwelling. The house was extended, and the outbuildings demolished 2003.

The cottage is of **local heritage significance** on account of its architectural and historical interest as an altered, but legible, early 19th Century building in the local vernacular. The setting of the building is that of a small post-medieval satellite settlement, now dominated by a modern transport corridor, and is considered to make a **low contribution** to its significance.

The site falls within an area of Iron Age to Romano-British agricultural landscape which likely lay on the edge of the open fields of Billingley by the medieval period, being enclosed in the later post-medieval period. There are no known archaeological remains at the site pre-dating its development in the early 19th Century, and the potential for encountering any such remains will be limited by the degree of later development and activity. Previous 19th Century outbuildings at the site were demolished in 2003 without requirement for recording, and their remains are of negligible archaeological interest.

IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

Outline planning permission has been granted for the development of a new detached dwelling within the land to the east of Woodbine Cottage, towards the approximate site of a former outbuilding. The proposed dwelling will be a smaller footprint to that of Woodbine Cottage and built of matching materials (including natural stone slate roof) and sympathetic design.

The scheme will affect the character of the setting of the historic Woodbine Cottage, which is considered to make a **low contribution** to its significance. The proposal represents a modest increase in development at the site, slightly increasing the sense of scale and density of the settlement at Billingley Green. The proposal will, however, be subordinate to the historic house in scale and design such that it is not considered to compete with it and will not detract from the wider historic landscape character that preserves a sense of the rural setting of the site.

There will be no impact to the physical fabric of the historic house.

CONCLUSION

Overall, it is considered that the proposed scheme will constitute a minor change to the setting of Woodbine Cottage, a non-designated heritage asset, and will have no appreciable effect on its significance.

It is therefore considered that the scheme is in accordance with the requirements set by NPPF para. 197 and policies HE1 and HE3 of the Barnsley Local Plan which require development affecting heritage assets to preserve and enhance their significance.

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