



FAS HERITAGE

BLEACHCROFT WAY

BARNSLEY

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2016

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BLEACHCROFT WAY
BARNSLEY
SOUTH YORKSHIRE

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REPORT

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Summary

This document presents the results of an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) prepared to support an outline planning application for residential development at Bleachcroft Way, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. The assessment has been prepared by FAS Heritage on behalf of Savills for U and I Group Plc. Desk-based research and a site visit were carried out in September 2016.

A search of the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (SYHER) of a 1km study area around the site identified remains of Iron Age to modern date, including cropmark enclosures, medieval moated sites and post-medieval industrial activity. Known remains at the site were limited to a small quarry and reservoir identified from Ordnance Survey mapping, and the disused route of the Stairfoot to Cudworth railway, which opened in 1899.

The assessment concludes that the proposed development would have no significant impact on known remains; those within the site boundary are of limited significance. Insufficient information is available to fully assess the archaeological potential and significance of the site, and so a programme of archaeological evaluation is recommended, to comprise geophysical survey and trial trenching. This will allow for the design of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation.

Acknowledgements

FAS Heritage would like to thank Zac Nellist and Andy Lines, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) for information and advice provided during the preparation of this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document presents the results of an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) prepared to support an outline planning application for residential development at Bleachcroft Way, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. The assessment has been prepared by FAS Heritage on behalf of Savills for U and I Group Plc. Desk-based research and a site visit were carried out in September 2016.



Plate 1 Aerial view of the site (© 2016 Google Earth)

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The site lies in an area of Barnsley known as Stairfoot. The site is bounded to the east by the disused Dearne and Dove canal and Dob Sike watercourse, to the west by the railway and north by the Stairfoot industrial estate. The site is open ground with areas of scrub (Plate 1 and 2; Figure 1).

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

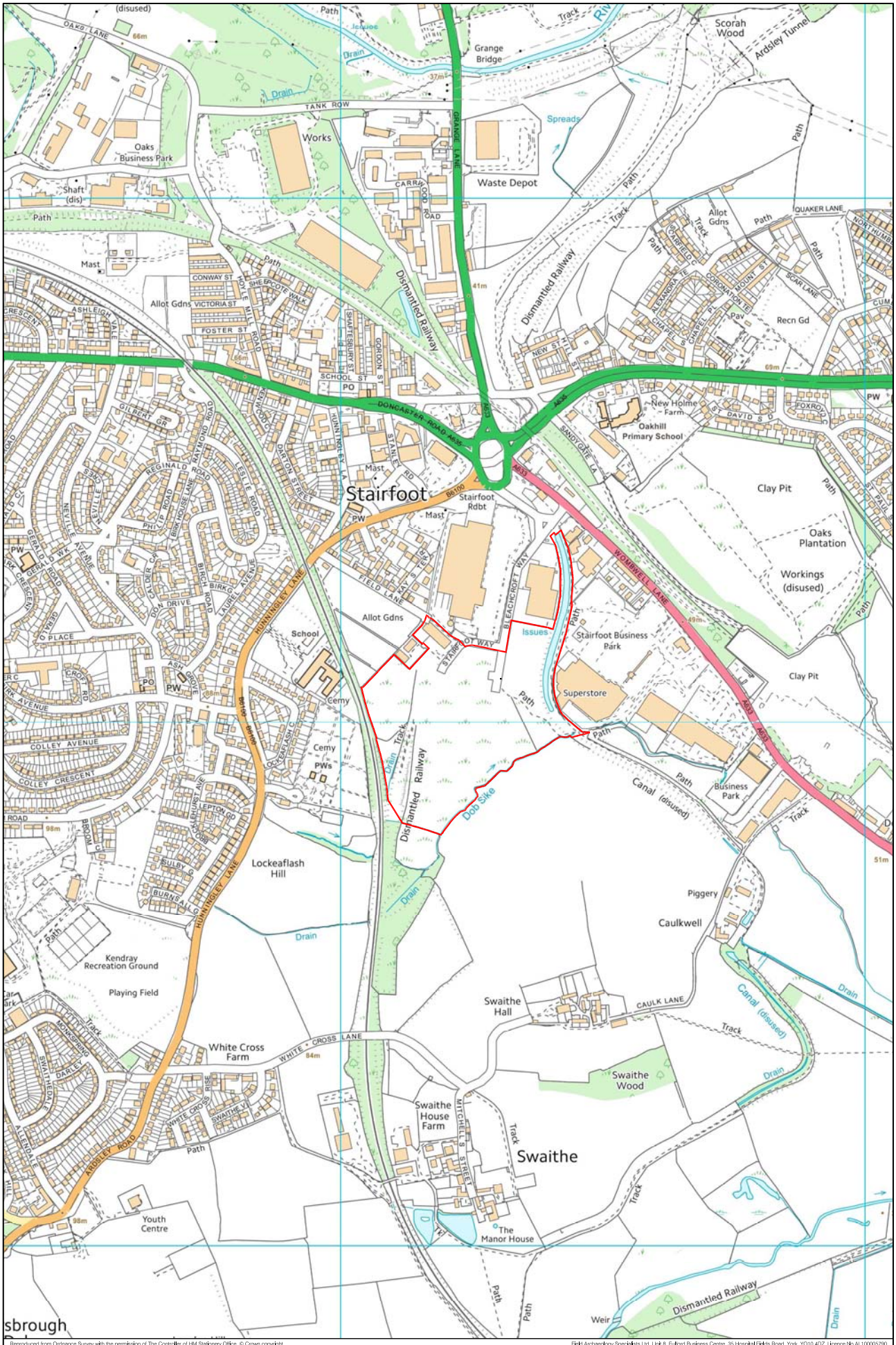
The aim of the DBA is to establish the potential impact of proposed residential development at the site, and to:

- set out current understanding of the development of the site;
- set out the significance of known heritage assets at the site;
- assess archaeological potential;
- assess the impact of the proposed development on heritage significance.



Plate 2 View across the site, looking south

This is in line with the Cultural Heritage policies of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012, Section 12).



Location map | Scale 1:10000 | Figure 1

2.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The assessment has been prepared with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* and to the assessment methodology provided in Historic England (2015) *Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 - The Setting of Heritage Assets.*

The following staged approach was followed:

- desk-based research;
- site visit;
- assessment of significance and impact.

2.1 DESK-BASED RESEARCH

2.1.1 Sources

The following were consulted as part of the process:

- South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER)
- Historic maps
- Published and unpublished sources

Where possible, available versions of historic maps were scaled to fit modern Ordnance Survey data, to allow the former layout of the site and the location of other features to be plotted as accurately as possible.

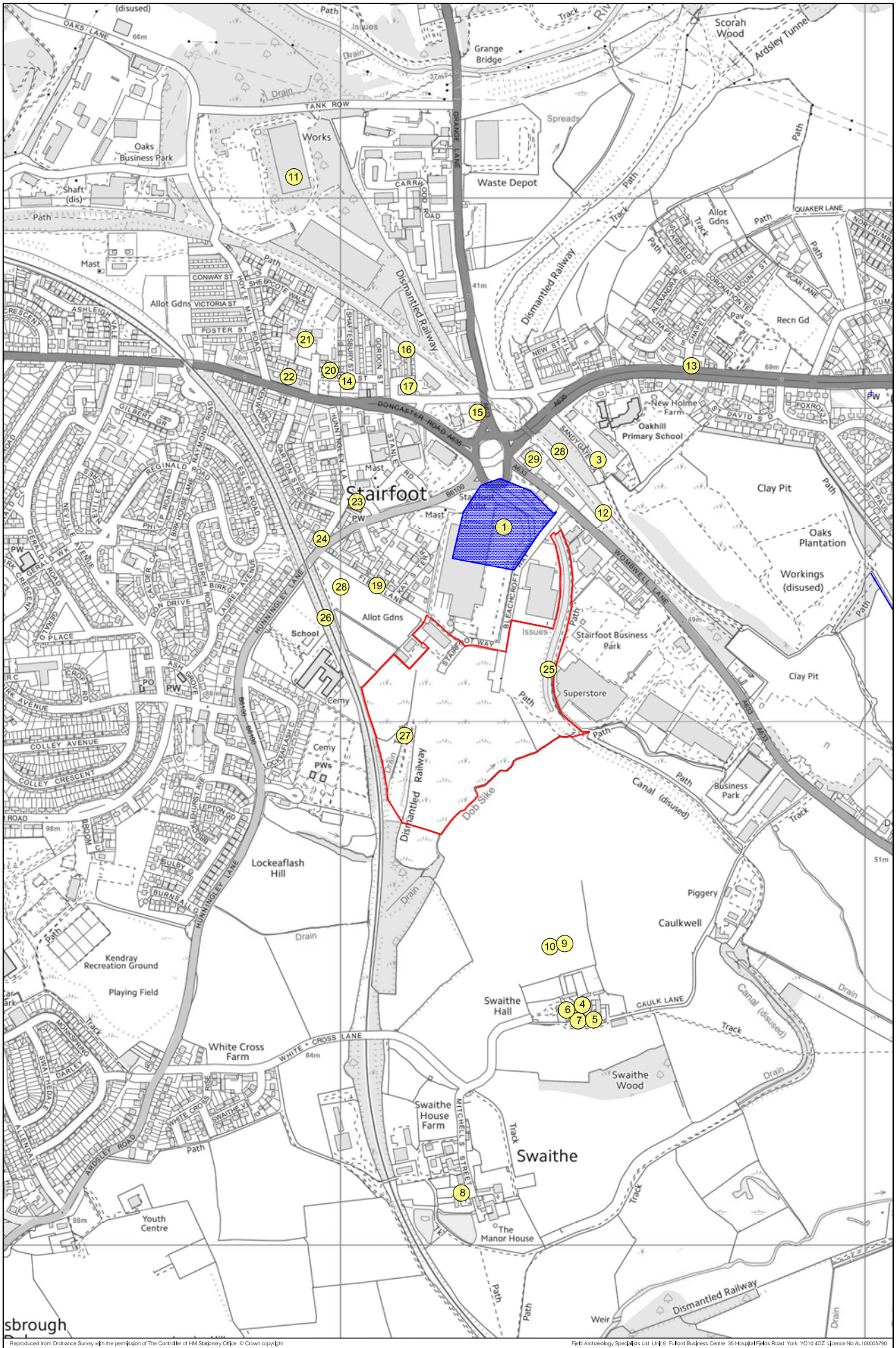
2.1.2 Study area

For the purposes of the assessment, a study area was established using a 1km buffer around the proposed development site.

2.1.3 Gazetteer

Each component or feature of the historic landscape identified within the site boundary (through desk-based research or on the ground) has been allocated a unique number, and plotted onto Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 2). Gazetteer entries for each of the features are included as Appendix A.

Only one previous investigation was recorded in the study area, being a watching brief and historic building recording programme carried out at Swaithe Hall to the south.



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Location of heritage assets | Scale 1:10000 | Figure 2

2.1.4 Site visit

A site visit was carried out on 15th September 2016.

2.2 DEFINITIONS

2.2.1 Heritage assets

Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic significance are called heritage assets. A heritage asset can be defined as

> 'a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest' (NPPF 2012).

Heritage assets may be formally designated, but also include those sites or monuments which are identified through documentary research or fieldwork but which have not been formally designated.

2.2.2 Setting

The Glossary to NPPF (2012) 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'

2.3 CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

2.3.1 Assessment of significance

An assessment of the significance of known and potential heritage assets likely to be affected by the proposed development has been undertaken as the first stage in establishing impact. This is in line with National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 128), which states that

> 'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.'

The significance of a heritage asset is defined as:

> 'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not

only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.' (NPPF Glossary)

A series of criteria for assessing the significance of historic monuments is laid out in Annex 1 of the Policy Statement on Scheduled Monuments (2010) and includes the following: period, rarity, documentation, group value, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, diversity, potential.

Assessment of significance has therefore been undertaken taking into account:

- **archaeological interest**
- **architectural interest**
- **artistic interest**
- **historic interest**

These four areas of interest are broadly covered by the four key heritage values set out by English Heritage in *Conservation Principles:* **evidential, aesthetic, communal** and **historic**; this terminology is also used in this report.

Contribution of setting to the significance of the heritage asset
The justification for assigning each grade of significance is presented in terms of NPPF criteria and English Heritage values. In addition to these intrinsic values, the level to which setting contributes to the significance is laid out in detail. Attributes of setting which contribute to the significance of each heritage asset have been identified, drawn from the check-list provided by English Heritage (2011).

The following grades of significance have been employed.

- **Exceptional significance** - elements which can be demonstrated to have international or national significance, special relevance to British history or culture, and/or are of extraordinary or unique archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic merit. This will include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments (or those monuments which otherwise meet scheduling criteria) all Listed Buildings Grades I and II*, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens grades I and II*, and Registered Historic Battlefields;
- **Considerable significance** - resources with importance within a national or regional context, due to special archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic interest. This category will include Conservation Areas, Grade II Listed Buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens Grade II;
- **Moderate significance** - resources of local importance. This might include heritage assets with archaeological, architectural, historic or artistic interest, but which do not meet the criteria for designation;
- **Some significance** - resources of limited local importance, due to their high frequency, lack of provenance or limited survival. This might include resources of local significance that have been partially destroyed by past land use, whether by agricultural activity or previous built development;
- **Unknown significance** - resources of uncertain importance based upon their type or

condition;

- **Neutral** - Elements which have no heritage value but which do not detract from elements of greater significance; this may include resources that are so badly damaged or altered that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category;
- **Intrusive** - Elements which are identified as intrusive may include those which have a degree of heritage value, but which detract from elements of greater significance.

Assignment to a category of significance is a value judgement based on the knowledge and professional expertise of the authors of the assessment. This ranking of significance is designed to be of assistance in understanding the relative importance of different elements of the site or study area, and assessing the likely impact of future development. It is critical, however, that the designation of 'some significance' should not be regarded as a suggestion that individual elements might be removed or damaged without affecting the cultural heritage resource as a whole.

2.3.2 Assessment of impact

The impact of proposed works on the significance of heritage assets may be adverse or beneficial. The significance of a heritage asset might be affected by direct physical impact, including destruction, demolition and alteration, but may also be affected by changes to its setting. This could include changes to the historic character of an area, alterations to views to and from a site, accidental damage from construction work, temporary loss of amenities (largely arising during development work and including air and noise pollution, visual intrusion, increased traffic, changes in the character of a landscape or townscape).

Categories of impact have be graded thus:

- **Substantial** - elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset, including its setting, are substantially harmed or lost;
- **Moderate** - elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset, including its setting, are harmed;
- **Slight** - there is change to elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset or its setting, but that harm is minimal;
- **Beneficial** - those elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset, including its setting, are enhanced or better revealed;
- **No change** - no change.

Following consideration of the value of the heritage asset, the attributes which contribute to its significance, and the likely magnitude of the impact of proposed works on those attributes, an assessment can be made of the overall effect on each asset and on the heritage resource as a whole. This is broadly based on the assumption that the most significant effect will result in circumstances where the very highest impact occurs to very important remains.

3.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A search of the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record identified 24 heritage assets within the study area (see Appendix A). A further four sites were identified in the vicinity of the site from the Historic England Archives (see Appendix A). With historic map regression, these heritage assets allow for a brief narrative of the development of the area from prehistory to the modern day.

3.1 PREHISTORIC TO ROMAN

The presence of cropmarks of Iron Age or Romano-British enclosures to the south of the proposed development site (HA 9) indicates that this area would have been occupied and exploited during this period. Associated with this, further cropmarks suggest a track or road (HA 10).

3.2 EARLY MEDIEVAL

East of the proposed development site, the placename Ardsley is of Old English origin and may suggest the presence of an early medieval settlement in this area (HA 2). Two fields are shown on the Tithe Map as 'Old Ardsley', with a footpath between them known as Old Ardsley Lane.

3.3 MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL

Evidence for medieval activity in the area is represented by the sites or surviving remains of moated halls, which would have been situated within a primarily rural landscape in this area. To the north of the proposed development site is the site of Ardsley medieval moated site, previously owned by the Bosville family. The hall and moat are no longer extant, and archaeological remains will have been removed by the construction of a car showroom and school car park (HA 3).

To the south of the proposed development site is the site of Swaithe Hall, a timber-framed 16th-century hall, situated in a complex with a possible medieval cruck barn, and a 17th-century stable block (HA 5, 6, 7). To the south of this group is the 18th-century Swaithe House (HA 8). North of this site, LiDAR data appears to show vestiges of ridge and furrow respecting now-lost field boundaries (Plate 3).

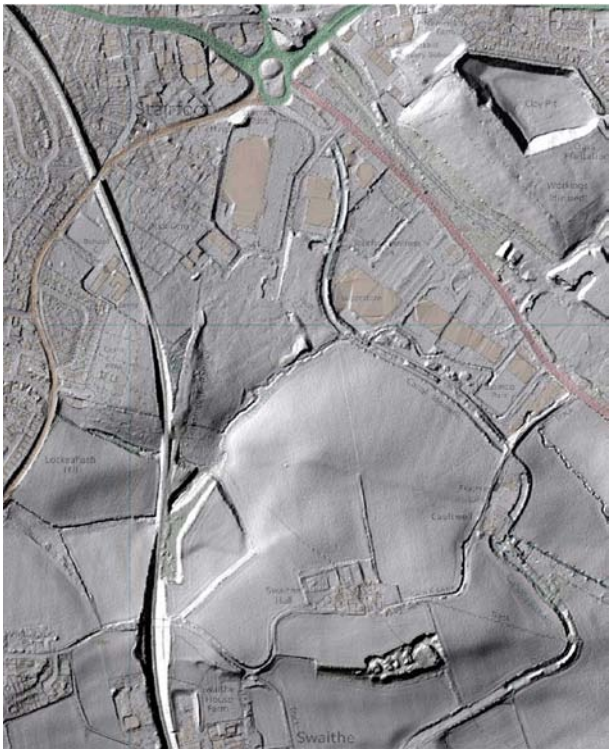


Plate 3 LiDAR data with Ordnance Survey overlay

Shepcote House (HA 21) is believed to have medieval origins; early 16th-century documents refer to Sheepcote and a little house on the Common used by the monks of Monk Bretton priory (HA 21).

3.4 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY

From the 18th century onwards, the landscape of this area would have been significantly altered by the enclosure of the open fields and commons (including Ardsley Common in 1793), by rising industry and concomitant development of infrastructure changed the landscape of this area.

3.4.1 Industry

In the 19th century, the Stairfoot Bleach and Dye works was established at the northern end of the proposed development site (HA 1). The works are mentioned in Trade Directories until 1877, but are no longer extant. As noted in the Historic Environment Record, the only surviving evidence for the works is the name 'Bleachcroft Way'. Weavers cottages at Stairfoot would have been used in the provision of linen for the bleach-and-dyers (HA 24). The first edition Ordnance Survey map shows the Bleach and Dye works, with the cottages at the western end of Hunningley Field Lane. A reservoir lies to the east, and a small quarry to the south, within the proposed development area (Plate 4). By 1892, a second small reservoir is shown within the proposed development area, adjacent to the Dob Sike stream (Plate 5).

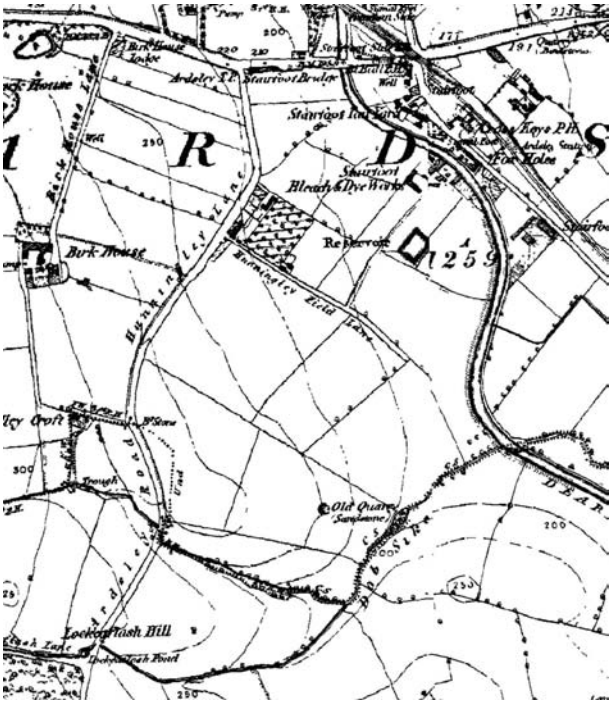


Plate 4 Extract from Ordnance Survey, 1854-5

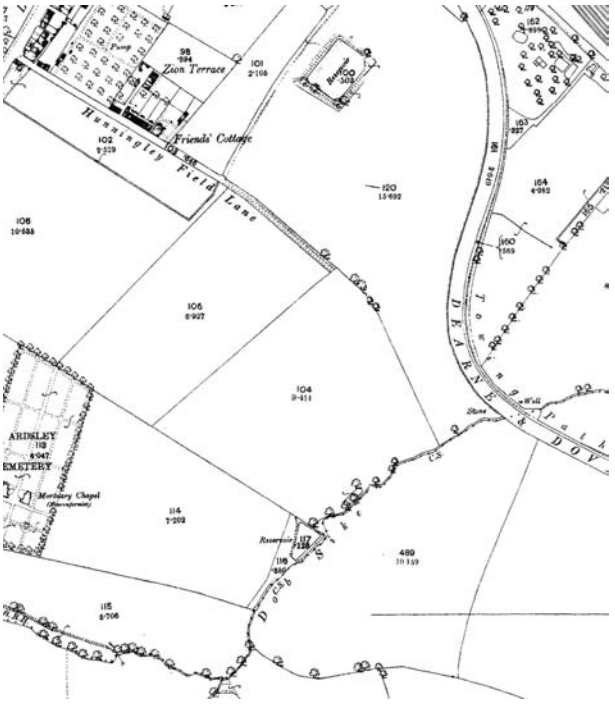


Plate 5 Extract from Ordnance Survey, 1892

Glassworks also formed an important element of the industrial landscape in this area. In the northern part of the study area is the site of the Hope Glassworks. Hope Glassworks was established in 1867 by Ben Rylands, and in 1872 a second works was established at Wombwell, known as the 'Dearne and Dove Works'. Ben Ryland's son, Dan Ryland, patented many innovations in the late 19th century, including the glass-marble stoppered aerated water bottle, which came to dominate the world market (HA 11). Dan Ryland is listed as one of the members of the first School Board at Ardsley Board School in

Wombwell, established in 1886 and demolished in the 1970s (HA 14).

Immediately north of the proposed development site was the site of the Manor Flint Glassworks, which was established in 1895. Production ceased in 1938 and the site has since been destroyed (HA 12).

This industrial period saw the establishment of non-conformist chapels in the area. Ardsley Methodist Church (HA 13) was built in 1838 and extended in 1909, and Stairfoot Primitive Methodist Church was completed in 1888 (HA 20). Immediately west of the proposed development site is the location of the Ebenezer Wesleyan Reform Church. Construction commenced in 1869, replacing the original chapel in nearby Field Lane; now represented by Zion Cottage (HA 23).

Also serving the growing population were public houses, including the Black Bull at Wombwell (HA 15), Ardsley Working Mens' Club (HA 17) and the Cross Keys Hotel (now demolished; HA 18).

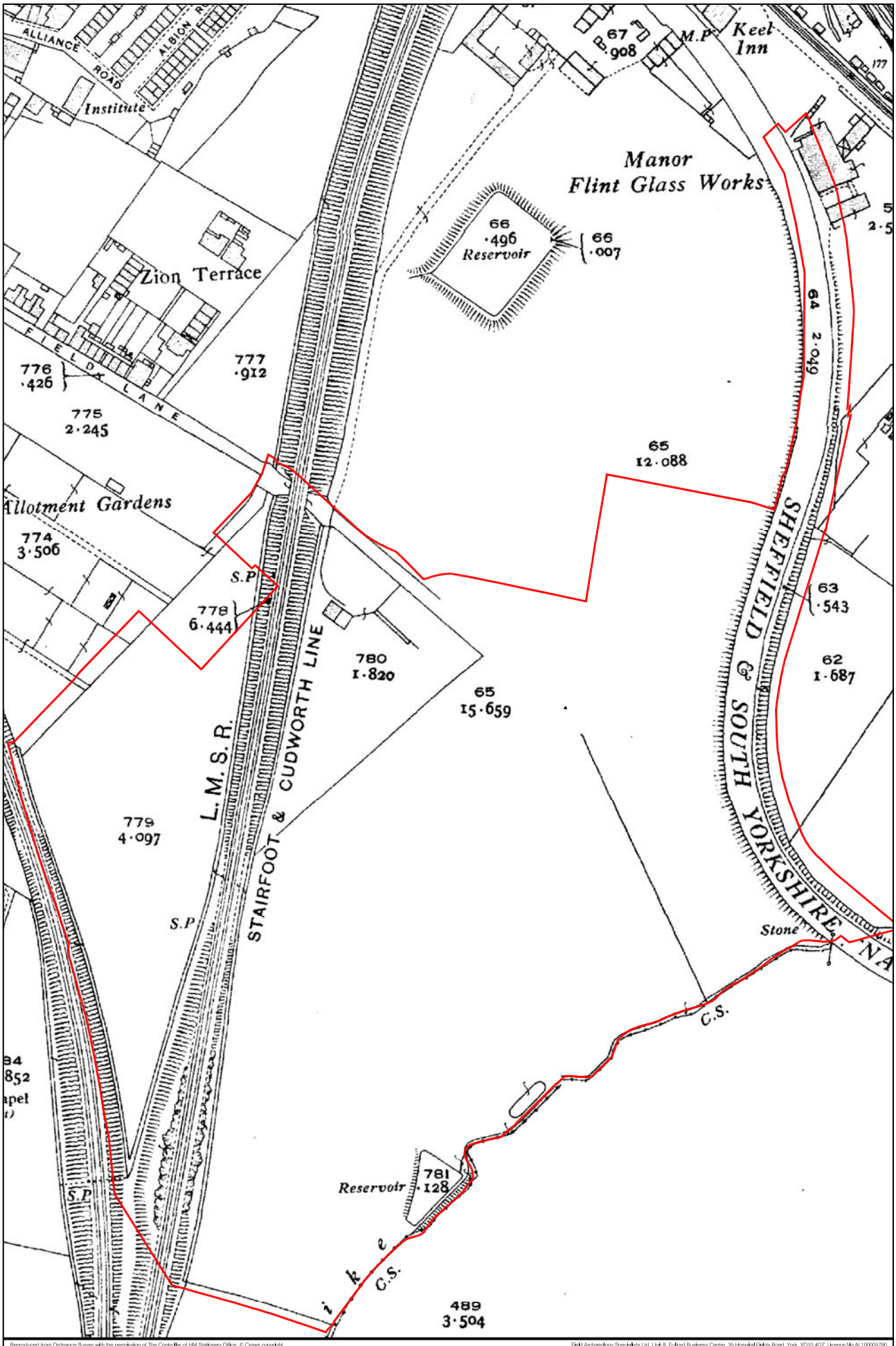
3.4.2 Infrastructure

Construction of the South Yorkshire Dearne and Dove Canal, which bounds the eastern side of the development site, commenced in 1792 and was opened in 1804 (HA 25). The canal led from Barnsley Junction to Swinton; branches fell out of use in the early 20th century and the canal was abandoned in 1961. A bridge crossed the canal at Stairfoot (HA 16).

Immediately north of the proposed development site was a junction of two turnpike roads; the Black Bull is said to have been established in this location before the late 18th century (HA 15). The public house was demolished when the Midland Railway was constructed; Stairfoot station is situated in this area (HA 29).

In 1897, the Chapeltown Branch extension railway was established, which connected Barnsley to Chapeltown, and therefore provided a through route to Sheffield (HA 26). Midland Railway's Stairfoot and Cudworth railway opened from Monkspring Junction to Cudworth Station in 1899; this development is shown on the Ordnance Survey editions of the period and bisects the western side of the proposed development area (Figure 3; see Plate 2)(HA 27). The 1931 Ordnance Survey shows this, and a small structure that appears to the east of the railway at that time.

West of the site, the Houghton Colliery Railway led from Stairfoot to serve Houghton Colliery; this was opened in 1892 and closed in 1960 (HA 28).



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Ordnance Survey, 1931 | Scale 1:2500 | Figure 3

4.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

The following identifies those heritage assets that would potentially be affected by the proposed work.

4.1 DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

The study area contains within it the following Listed Buildings:

- Ardsley Church of England cemetery chapel (Grade II Listed; NHLE 1151156)
- Non-conformist chapel (Grade II Listed: NHLE 1286983)
- Swaithe House (Grade II*; NHLE 1286701)
- Swaithe Hall Farmhouse (Grade II Listed; NHLE 1151076)
- Stable block on the west side of Swaithe Hall Farm (Grade II Listed; NHLE 1192045)
- Cruck barn to east side of entrance to Swaithe Hall Farm (Grade II Listed; NHLE 1151077)

None are situated within or immediately adjacent to the site, and these Listed structures would not be affected by development at the site.

4.2 NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

Non-designated heritage assets, including archaeological remains, within the proposed development site include the following:

- (site of) quarry
- (site of) reservoir
- disused railway
- (site of) small building adjacent to the railway

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Although no remains of archaeological significance have been recorded within the proposed development site, remains from the wider landscape indicate activity dating from the Iron Age onwards. The assessment suggests that, with the exception of the quarry, reservoir and railway, there has been little modern intervention at the site, suggesting the potential for intact archaeological remains.

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Those non-designated heritage assets which survive within the proposed development site are of limited significance. The quarry and reservoir provide indication of 19th-century activity, and have **some significance** in providing historical information on past exploitation and management of natural resources in the area.

The route of the railway has **some significance** in providing information on the development of infrastructure in the area during the period of industrial growth. The features survives as an earthwork only, and is only fully legible from cartographic sources.

The archaeological potential and significance of the site is **unknown**. No archaeological investigations have been undertaken and the survival, character and date of deposits at the site is not known. Further evaluation would be required in order to assess the archaeological significance of the site.

6.0 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

The proposed development is likely to see the removal of evidence for the quarry, reservoir and railway. These are non-designated heritage assets of local significance.

The development is likely to remove archaeological deposits across the development site, and in order to fully assess impact, and archaeological evaluation is recommended.

7.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The DBA has identified no remains of archaeological significance across the site. The development would have no impact on designated heritage assets within the wider landscape.

Evidence from the surrounding landscape indicates the potential for evidence of Iron Age-Romano British, early medieval, medieval and post-medieval activity, and it is recommended that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken, to ensure that an appropriate scheme of mitigation can be implemented during the design and construction phases. This should be agreed with South Yorkshire Archaeology Service and is likely to include geophysical survey, followed by evaluation trenches.

APPENDIX A GAZETTEER

HA No	HER ref	Name	Description	NGR
1	4596	Stairfoot Bleach and Dye Works	This works is shown on the 1854 6" OS map and is mentioned in trade directories up to 1877. The only memorial to the works at present day is the name of the road - Bleachcroft Way - leading to the industrial estate that occupies the site.	SE 3731 0537
2	4996	Old Ardsley, possible site of Saxon settlement	Possible location of Saxon settlement of Ardsley (Saxon place name). The two fields are marked as Old Ardsley on the tithe map and the footpath was known as Old Ardsley Lane.	SE 3820 0496
3	4997	Old Hall Medieval Moated Site, Ardsley	Site of medieval moated hall belonging to the Bosville family until they moved to New Hall in Darfield. Site destroyed by car showroom and school car park in mid 20th century. [Deeds from 1449 in source]	SE 3749 0550
4	5000	Swaithe Hall Farm Dovecote	Post medieval dovecote. Dovecote in second storey of a building at Swaithe Hall Farm. There is a date stone showing 1835, but the bricks in the lowere level may date to the 17th century.	SE 3746 0446
5	01431/01	Swaithe Hall Farm, cruck barn	Cruck barn, Swaithe Hall Farm. Medieval? 4 bay cruck farm. Original wooden walls have been replaced with sandstone and an adjoining cart shed added to one end of the building. The timbers proved not to be datable by dendrochronlogy.	SE 3748 0443
6	01475/01	Swaithe Hall	Swaithe Hall - partly timber framed. Gables dormer on south side hall dated '1618' but this is probably an addition, house late 15th/early 16th century? Extensive 19th century additions to west. Three samples were taken from Swaithe Hall for dendrochronological analysis and were identified as being felled in the 16th century. The first phase of the building appears to be constructed from timbers felled after AD 1522, with a later inserted wing including at least one timber felled in AD 1597/8.	SE 3743 0445
7	01475/02	Swaithe Hall stable block	Stable block to W side of entrance to Swaithe Hall dated 1671. Rubble sandstone, sheet asbestos roof. 2 Storeys 3 Bays, Interior; Original Roof Structure with 3 Principal - Rafter Trusses.	SE 3745 0443
8	02145/01	Swaithe House, Worsbrough Dale	Main block of 1720/30, rear wing 17th century (doorhead W-I (?) 1680). 1981 -derelict and unsafe, due to mining subsidence.	SE 3723 0410
9	02330/01	Iron Age or Romano-British Enclosure, Barnsley	Crop mark enclosure and lane - mid coal measures, brown earths DNR 1561/16 29/7/1979	SE 3740 0457
10	02330/02	Cropmark showing possible road / track	Cropmark showing possible road / track	SE 3740 0457
11	03531/01	Hope Glassworks, Barnsley	1867 - Ben Rylands left Swinton glasshouse (established 1852) to set up own works. 1872 - 2nd works at Wombwell (Dearne and Dove glassworks). In the late 19th century his	SE 3691 0604

HA No	HER ref	Name	Description	NGR
			son, Dan Ryland, patented many innovations including glass-marble stoppered aerated-water bottle, which dominated world market. 1927 - works closed following labour problems related to introduction of automatic bottle-making machines. In 1929 the site was purchased by Beatson Clark who built new glasshouse (additional to Masborough). In 1990 the glasshouse currently in production. [2006 - Beatson Clark closed down]. The original site for the Hope Glassworks was on the north side of Stairfoot Canal Bridge (see PIN 03533). It was pulled down about 1910.	
12	03534/01	Manor Flint Glassworks, Barnsley	1895: Works established. 1938: production ceased. Site destroyed. The site was owned by Tomlinson's and was probably not demolished until the 1950s since it is shown in a 1951 aerial photograph.	SE 3750 0540
13	04279/01	Ardsley Methodist Church, Barnsley	Ornate 2 storey Methodist Church. Coursed sandstone. Slate roofs (M-shaped). Latticed, arch-headed windows. To be converted to a studio. Built in 1868 and extended in 1909.	SE 3767 0568
14	04255/01	Site of Original Ardsley Board School, Wombwell	Situated in School Street, Stairfoot - the site of a former school. 'In 1886, the first Ardsley School Board was set up. It consisted of the vicar, 2 colliery managers, Dan Rylands, a local industrialist, and a local stone mason. The Board schools were built on this site'. Demolished in 1970s	SE 3701 0565
15	04261/01	The Black Bull Inn, Wombwell	Situated on the junction of Wombwell Lane and Doncaster Road, Stairfoot, the Black Bull Inn is supposedly constructed where two turn-pike roads crossed. The date of construction is unknown. First recorded landlord 1781. It was built in 1773 (date on lintel) by Timothy & Tabitha Hepworth as part of the tanyard they ran on the site. The main main tanyard buildings were demolished in the 1880s & the main house (converted into cottages) was pulled down when the Midland Railway was built in 1899. This is the only surviving building [Source contains copy of deeds for Black Bull].	SE 3726 0559
16	04260/01	Stairfoot Bridge	Former bridge over the South Yorkshire Dearne and Dove canal. The canal was begun in 1792 and finished in 1804.	SE 3713 0571
17	04259/01	Ardsley Working Mens' Club	Inn. Situated on Doncaster Road, Stairfoot. The building was financed mainly by the Micklethwaite family, and opened in 1902. There is a deed that states the buildings were in the course of erection in 1891. It was built on the site of a cottage belonging to Sheepcote House.	SE 3713 0564
18	04262/01	Site of former Cross Keys Hotel, Wombwell Lane	Inn. Situated on Wombwell Lane. In the 18th c., the landlord was William Ellis. In 1870, the hotel was used as a mortuary and hospital when a passenger train was in collision with a runaway goods train at Stairfoot Station. Demolished in the late 1990s or early 21st century. The earliest known mention of the Cross Keys is in a deed of 1699. Plans and inventories dating back to 1700 are in existence.	SE 3737 0550
19	04263/01	The Almhouses, Field Lane, Stairfoot	House. Situated on Field Lane. When South Yorkshire Railway was constructed it was necessary to demolish five almhouses which existed between Grange Lane and the Dearne and Dove canal. The proceeds of the sale of these was put in chancery and forgotten until 1901. When a scheme to erect Ardsley - Victoria almhouses was unearthed,	SE 3707 0526

HA No	HER ref	Name	Description	NGR
			£200 had been put aside to build them, and they were erected on Field Lane. The later Almshouses are still standing, a local historian has some records and photographs from a former curator.	
20	04258/01	Primitive Methodist Church, Stairfoot	Situated on School Street, this church was completed in 1888. "The site was probably chosen in an attempt to influence the children in the nearby school". It was added to in 1932 and is now mainly used as a Sunday school.	SE 3698 0567
21	04257/01	Shepcote House, Stairfoot	A later post medieval house at Stairfoot. There is likely to have been a house and Sheepcote on or near the site since the medieval period. Shepcote House is situated on Roseberry Street. It was built around 1800 by the Ryland family, who owned the Hope Glass Works (see PIN 03531). Initially, it was a farmstead, but later the farm buildings were used to process tripe and cow heels. During the 1926 Miners Strike, children used to go there for free soup. Despite reports of Shepcote being built by the Ryland family, it seems more likely that the existing house was built by John Micklethwait. His initials and a date of 1828 are over the doorway and Indentures of Lease & Release dated 5th & 6th April 1824 (Reg. 29th Nov 1828) name him; in his will of 1837 he leaves Shepcote House to Thomas Mickethwait. The Sheepcote from which Shepcote House gets its name is likely to date back as far as the medieval period. A deed of 1544 mentions the Sheepcote and a little house on the Common used by the Monks of Monk Bretton Priory.	SE 3693 0573
22	04254/01	The Gatehouse, Birkhouse Estate, Stairfoot	Once one of the gatehouses to the Birkhouse Estate, its original function was obliterated by the construction of the L.M.S.R. Chapeltown branch railway. Birkhouse was owned by the Micklethwaite family of Ardsley House. Built after 1763 when Ardsley Common was enclosed	SE 3690 0566
23	04253/01	Ebenezer Wesleyan Reform Church, Stairfoot	On Hunningly Lane. The foundation stone was laid on July 9th 1869. There is no date of completion. The original chapel was in nearby Field Lane, in the 1860s it is now a row of cottages known as Zion Terrace.	SE 3703 0542
24	04252/01	Stairfoot Weavers' Cottages	These weavers' cottages in Stairfoot, (possibly industrial) are on a 1780 map. They have typical steps, large cellars and a collector's house on the end of the row. They provided linen for the nearby bleach-and-dyers (later named Bleachcroft Farm). Deeds state built in 1817. Converted to weavers' cottages in c1839.	SE 3696 0535
25	NMR 1037995	Dearne and Dove Canal	Commenced 1792 and opened 1804	Linear
26	NMR 1374621	Chapeltown Branch Extn Railway	Railway opened from Barnsley to Chapeltown in 1897	Linear
27	NMR 1374640	Stairfoot and Cudworth Railway	Opened from Monkspring Junction to Cudworth Street Station in 1899	Linear

HA No	HER ref	Name	Description	NGR
28	NMR 1374635	Houghton Colliery Railway	Stairfoot to Houghton 1892. Closed 1960	Linear
29	NMR 501292	Stairfoot Station	Stairfoot Station	SE 372 055