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Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire

Phase 2

Archaeological Assessment

homes by gleeson
builders for generations

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This assessment was commissioned by Gleeson Developments Limited in connection with a planning application for their proposed development of a 2ha site at Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire (located at NGR: 446662 403622 / SE 46662 03622; Figure 1). The proposed development, known as Phase 2, would be an extension on the south side of the current Phase 1 development (Figure 2).

On Site Archaeology provided a desk-based assessment ('DBA'), and SLR and their sub-contractors provided further assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching evaluation in 2011 and 2012[1], all of which addressed the Phase 1 development area.

During pre-application discussions with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Gleeson Developments was informed that a desk-based assessment was required in support of the current planning application. It has been agreed with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service ('SYAS'), advisors to BMBC, that the scope of the DBA for Phase 2 should comprise a summary of all Phase 1 reports augmented by the results of a site inspection of the Phase 2 area.

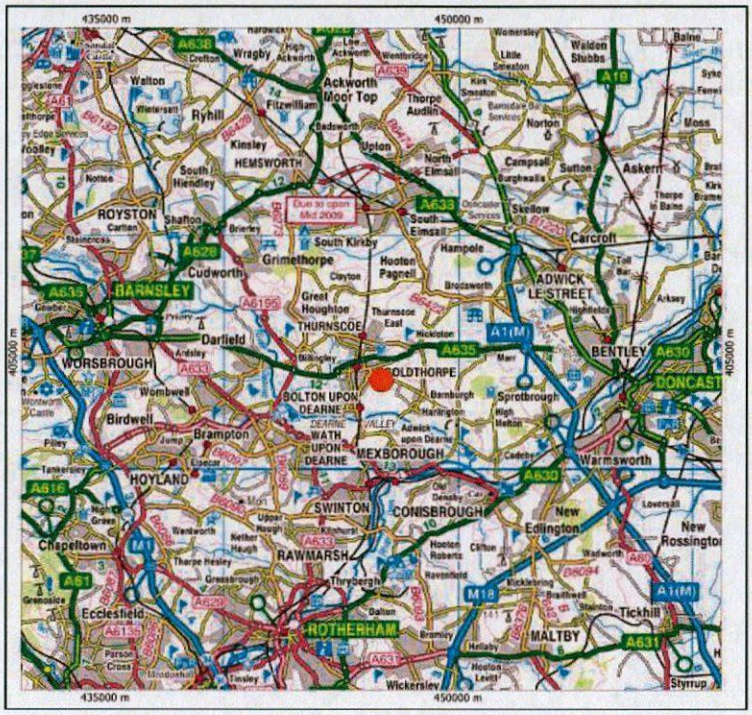
SLR is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists ('CIfA') and all work has been carried out according to their code of conduct. The assessment conforms to CIfA Standard and Guidance[2].

[1] Reports are:

- On Site Archaeology 2011: *Land South of Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire, an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (Ref OSA11DT06);
- SLR Consulting 2011: *Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire: Archaeological Assessment* (Ref 403.03044.00011)
- Archaeological Project Services, January 2012: *Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire: Geophysical Survey* (APS Report 5/12)
- SLR Consuting 2012: *Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire: Report on Trench-Based Archaeological Site Investigation* (Ref 403.03044.00011)

[2] CIfA 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment.*

Figure 1
Application Site Location



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2.0 KNOWN POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO THE APPLICATION SITE

2.1 Archaeological Context

The following archaeological context was identified in the DBA, within the surrounding area:

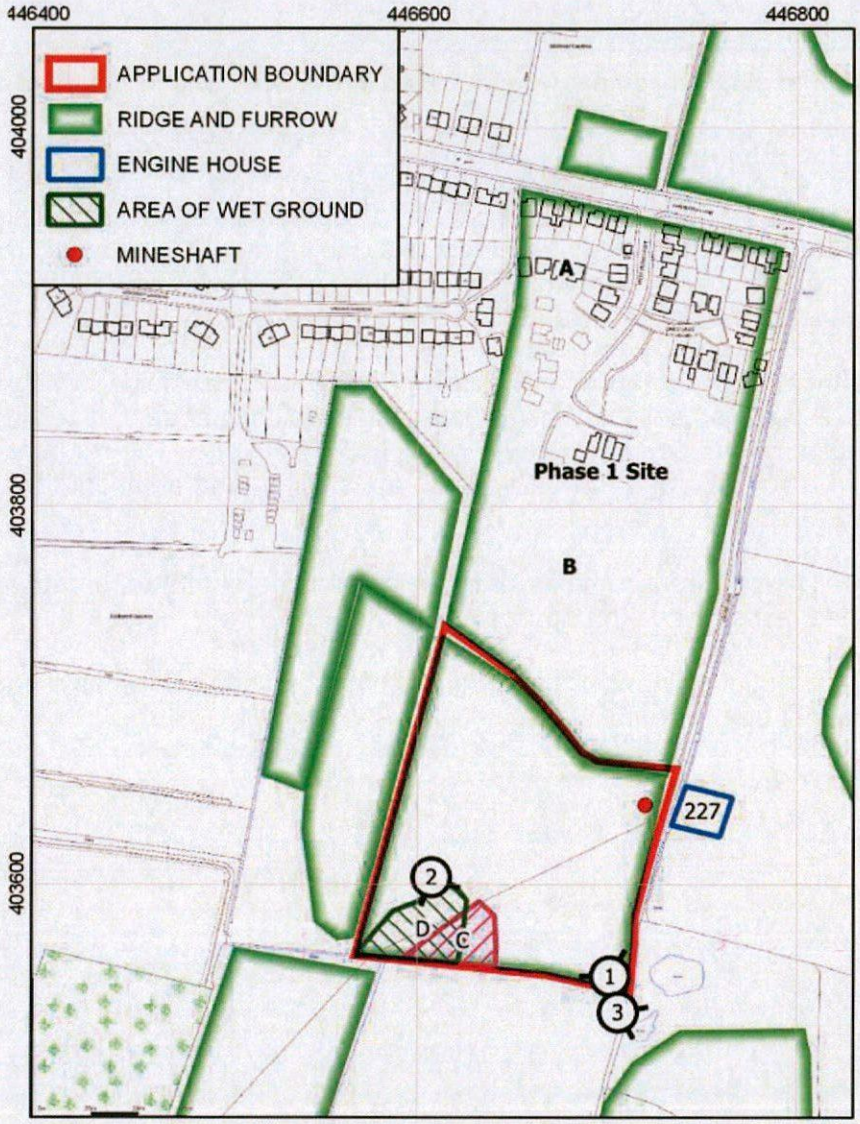
Prehistoric and Roman. There is little evidence for earlier prehistoric activity, but there are extensive areas of enclosures, trackways and field systems of presumed Iron Age or Romano-British date around the application site. Cropmarks, surveys and excavated data suggest that features of this period are most likely to be field boundaries, trackways and enclosures. There has been no identification of settlement remains or dateable finds, and on this basis the material culture associated with any features is likely to be sparse.

Medieval. The location of the application site within former open fields, which are generally believed to have been established in the late Anglo-Saxon period, makes it unlikely that settlement remains of this period exist within the application site. The remains of the ridge-and-furrow have been recorded from air-photographs within and adjacent to the application site (Figure 2).

Post-medieval. The apparent remains of former coal mine shafts recorded in 18th century mapping may be present within the application site.

Unknown. The potential existence of other types of archaeological remains not indicated by the evidence cannot be ruled out.

Figure 2
Archaeological Features Within and Adjacent to the application site



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2.2 The Phase 1 Site

An air-photographs mapping project[3] identified a small group of three parallel linear features and possible pits (**A**), and a linear feature (**B**) located within the Phase 1 area, in the north-west corner and centre respectively.

The geophysical survey of Phase 1 (Figure 3) identified these as probable drainage features but otherwise only short, disconnected and rather ill-defined lengths were seen within the survey area and their interpretation was less clear. A number of discrete pit-like features were also noted but the range of background variation was quite large and the interpretation of these too was difficult on the basis of form alone. There was considerable modern disturbance especially adjacent to Barnburgh Road and two modern services run along the field edges.

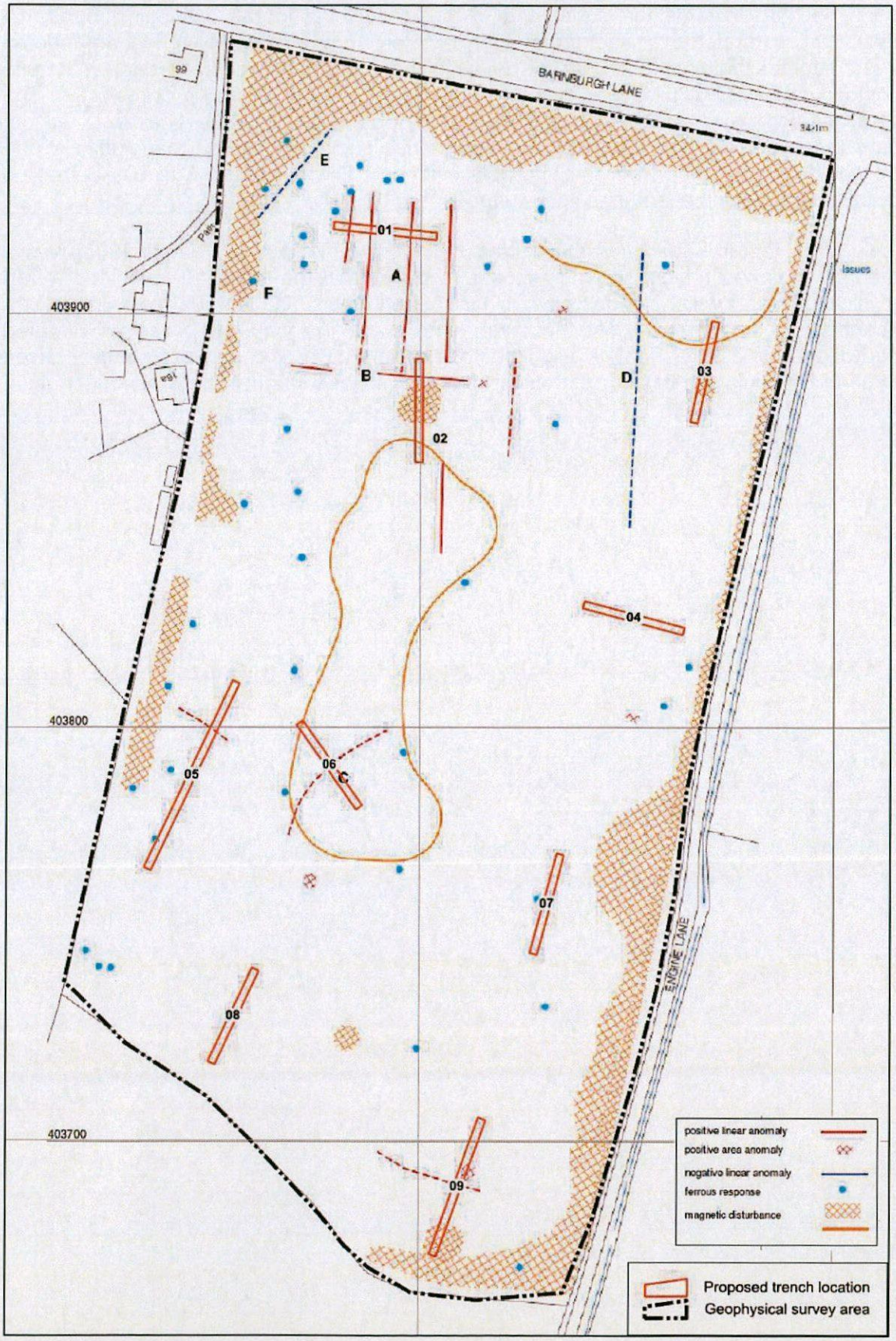
[3] Roberts, I., Deegan, A., and Berg, D., 2010, *Understanding the Cropmark Landscape of the Magnesian Limestone* (West Yorkshire Archaeology Service).

Nine trenches were excavated to investigate the geophysical anomalies and apparent blank areas (Figure 3).

Trench 5, located towards the south end of the area, investigated a linear geophysical anomaly which extended over a length of approximately 16m; it proved to reflect an undated northwest-southeast aligned ditch [503]. The ditch was 3.35m wide and 0.7m deep with quite gently sloping sides. The fills were thought to represent gradual silting up of the ditch. The ditch was sealed by 0.15m thick light brown clayey silt subsoil (509). The ditch did not compare in location or alignment with any boundaries shown in historic mapping, and the feature could not be dated from the available evidence. It was agreed with SYAS that no further investigation of the feature was required.

The only other features identified in the trenches were in Trench 9. Feature [903] was a curve-edged hollow of which 5m was exposed in plan within the trench. It coincided with a geophysical anomaly which suggests a circular shape in plan. The fill (902) contained 19th-20th century building material. At the south end of the Trench, (901) was an undated dumped deposit of coal, ash, brick and limestone, also shown as a survey anomaly. Given its location in the field corner and its proximity to [903], it was thought to be of recent origin.

Figure 3
Geophysical Survey and Trench Layout, Phase 1

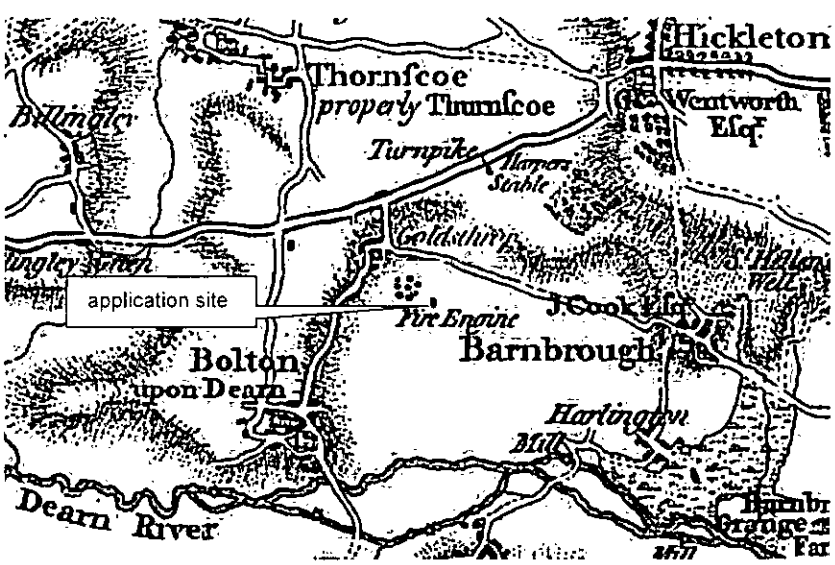


2.3 Features Within or Adjacent to the Application Site

The mapping project referred to above also records former ridge-and-furrow cultivation within and close to the application site (Figure 2). The alignment is generally approximately nne/ssw, including within the application site, and thus parallel with Engine Lane and the surrounding fields. The ridge-and-furrow was sensed during the site inspection (though not seen due to vegetation cover) and also appears on Google Earth (accessed 3rd July 2015). A small triangular feature is also marked, measuring approximately 40 m from east to west, (Figure 2, **C**) lying in the angle between the south boundary of the application site and the footpath which crosses it. This feature corresponds approximately with an area of wet ground noted during the site inspection (Figure 2, **D**; see below).

A group of eight small circular features is shown on Jeffries' map of 1772, located west of a 'fire engine' (Figure 4). In this context the term 'fire engine' is an obsolete usage referring to a stationary steam-powered engine[4]. Given the location on the Coal Measures geological formation, it seems likely that the mapped circles at Goldthorpe represent coal mining pits and / or shafts, the fire engine being used to power dewatering, or processing of materials. The map is neither detailed nor dimensionally very accurate and does not show Engine Lane. However a literal reading of the map indicates that the distance of the fire engine from Barnburgh Lane would be approximately equal to that of Goldthorpe centre from the turnpike to the north, which may be accurately measured on modern mapping at approximately 300m. If the fire engine were truly 300m from Barnburgh Lane the position would be close to the north-east corner of the Phase 2 application site.

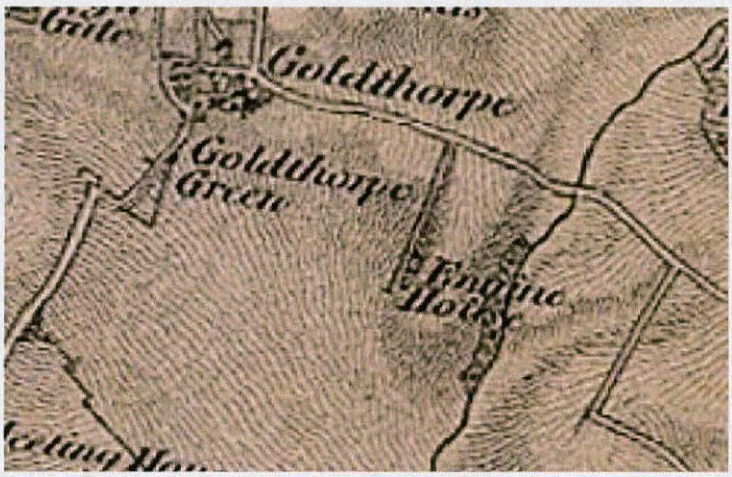
Figure 4
Jeffries' Map of 1772



The Tithe Map of Bolton-on-Dearne and Goldthorpe (1840) shows a building in plot 227 on the east side of Engine Lane close to the north-east corner of the Phase 2 application site (DBA Figure 5, located in this document on Figure 2). The Ordnance Survey First Series map of 1841 and later maps confirm this to have been an 'Engine House' (Figure 5). This location compares with the 1772 map evidence and the historic mapping indicates a steam-powered engine constructed in 1772 or before, still extant in 1851-5 but demolished prior to 1894.

[4] for example the Leyland Mills at Wigan were advertising such 'fire engines' for use in the Caribbean sugar plantations in 1811 (information Andy Towle, SLR Consulting).

Figure 5
Engine House on Ordnance Survey 1st Series Map of 1841



A mine shaft (ref 446403-021) is recorded in the north-east corner of the application site[5]; its location was mapped in the report referenced and has been transcribed in this report in Figure 2.

No 'old shafts' are shown within the application site on the detailed 19th century historic mapping acquired for the SLR DBA, suggesting that the discovered shaft may be earlier. It is likely to be contemporary with the fire engine (which is dated by historic mapping to the period pre-1772 to pre-1892). The extent of pits in 1772 appears likely to lie outside the application site, suggesting that the recorded shaft is later than 1772.

The trial trenching of Phase 1 found no indication of any extensive thick blanket of colluvium and this is expected within the application site also. The ridge-and-furrow and subsequent arable land use is likely to have truncated any buried archaeological features which might be present, and may have removed shallow features such as floor levels in some areas.

2.4 Site inspection

When the site was inspected on June 29th 2015 it was heavily overgrown with tall scrub permitting the identification of only very general changes in level and vegetation. The ground slopes down gently from north to south with a raised area in the south-east corner (Viewpoint 1, Figure 6).

Ridge-and-furrow cultivation, orientated north-east to south-west was possibly sensed during the walkover in the centre of the site, but could not be seen due to the undergrowth. A hedge of brambles was noted on the western side, enclosing a recent ditch adjacent to the western boundary of the application site, and an area of wet ground (Figure 2; Viewpoint 2, Figure 7) indicated by vegetational changes was noted in the south-western corner.

Earthworks were noted beyond the south-east corner of the application site (Viewpoint 3, Figure 8). They appear to include the remains of a building, intruding on the ridge-and-furrow which is preserved further to the east. As the location does not correspond with the map evidence for the fire engine this may be an agricultural or another industrial building. It was

[5] Eastwood and Partners Consulting Engineers September 2011: *Site Investigation Report Land Off Barnburgh Road, Goldthorpe for Gleeson Homes and Regeneration* (Ref 34041-005)

sufficiently important to have Engine Lane made to provide access but is not shown on the 1840 Tithe Map or later Ordnance Survey mapping. There is no visible indication that remains extended into the application site.

Figure 6
Viewpoint 1: General View Facing North of the Application Site from the South-East Corner

Figure 7
Viewpoint 2: View Facing South-East of Wet Ground Area (Centre and Right) in the South-West Corner of the Application Site

Figure 8
Viewpoint 3: Facing East Showing the Possible Building

3.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Background

This assessment was commissioned by Gleeson Developments Limited in connection with a planning application for their proposed development of a 2ha site at Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire (located at NGR: 446662 403622 / SE 46662 03622; Figure 1).

3.2 Archaeological Context

There are extensive areas of enclosures, trackways and field systems of presumed Iron Age or Romano-British date around the application site, but there has been no identification of settlement remains or dateable finds, and on this basis the material culture associated with any features within the application site is likely to be sparse.

The location of the application site within former open fields, which are generally believed to have been established in the late Anglo-Saxon period, makes it unlikely that settlement remains of this period exist within the application site. The remains of the ridge-and-furrow have been recorded from air-photographs (Figure 2) and may be present as earthworks within the application site.

A mine shaft has been identified within the application site from historical records. Apparent remains of former coal mine pits and / or shafts are recorded in 18th century mapping and a fire engine and another building have been identified close to but beyond the application site boundary. The presence of an 'engine' implies pumping and therefore deep mining by historical standards.

3.3 Archaeological Features Within or Adjacent to the Application Site

An area of wet ground may have been subject to long-term waterlogging and may thus contain enhanced environmental potential.

There is no direct evidence indicating that earlier archaeological remains extend within the application site, and none were identified with certainty during the Phase 1 investigations, but the possibility cannot be ruled out.

There is however clear potential for historic mining remains to exist within the application site including one documented infilled mineshaft, which may be dated to the late 18th to mid-19th century on the basis of evidence in this report.

3.4 Archaeological Significance and Potential Impact of Development

Archaeological site investigation would be required to further establish the nature and extent of any archaeological remains present within the application site. In this respect, it should be noted that magnetic geophysical survey in the vicinity has been very effective at identifying potential buried archaeological features.

The ground disturbance connected with the proposed development (for example: mineshaft remediation, topsoil strip, construction, installation of utilities, contractors' compounds, planting) would extend over most of the application site and would be likely to cause damage or destruction to any remains present.

4.0 CLOSURE

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of Gleeson Developments Limited; no warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

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