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Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe,
South Yorkshire

Archaeological Assessment
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gleeson
builders for generations



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APPENDICES

Appendix A Desk-Based Assessment by On Site Archaeology

Appendix B Historic Ordnance Survey mapping

1.0 SUMMARY

This assessment was commissioned by Gleeson Developments Limited in connection with a planning application for their proposed development of a 4ha site at Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire (the 'Site', located at NGR 446699, 403817; Figure 1).

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity, but there are extensive areas of enclosures, trackways and field systems of presumed Iron Age or Romano-British date around the Site (Figure 2).

The Site itself contains two cropmarks or groups of cropmarks: **A** in the north-west corner and **B** in the centre (Figure 3). These are undated but their orientation suggests that they are related to neighbouring Iron Age or Roman field systems. If so, the associated material culture is likely to be sparse.

The remains of 18th century probable coal-mining are recorded in historic mapping from the vicinity of the southern end of the Site but their location is not accurately recorded. They seem most likely to lie beyond the Site boundary.

The possibility of the existence within the Site of remains of other periods not suggested by the available evidence cannot be ruled out.

Archaeological site investigation would be required to fully establish the nature and extent of any archaeological remains which may be present within the Site, in accordance with PPS5 Policy HE6.1.

Should any important archaeological remains be identified within the Site, and were the development to proceed, it is likely that a mitigation strategy would be required by the local authority as a condition of consent (in accordance with PPS5 Policy Section HE12). The scope of any such strategy would be determined in consultation with SYAS and the planning authority.

2.0 BACKGROUND

This assessment was commissioned by Gleeson Developments Limited in connection with a planning application for their proposed development of a 4ha site at Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire (the 'Site', located at NGR 446699, 403817; Figure 1).

A desk-based assessment has been completed¹ ('DBA', reproduced here as Appendix A), but during subsequent consultation, the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service Archaeologist (SYAS) indicated that the DBA was incomplete, as it lacks a full set of Ordnance Survey historic mapping and it appears that the full SMR documentation had not been consulted at source.

Accordingly, SLR visited the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service SMR on 20th December 2011 and inspected the sources presented.

This report is a supplementary document intended to address the SYAS requirement for additional information. It consists of a fully-referenced summary of the original DBA, supplemented by a description of the additional sites identified for the current study, and revised conclusions regarding the archaeological potential of the Site. The DBA and the full set of historic mapping are provided as appendices A and B respectively

SLR is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and all work has been carried out according to their code of conduct. The assessment conforms to IfA Standard and Guidance².

¹ On Site Archaeology Limited, December 2011, *Land South of Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (Ref OSA11DT06).

² IfA 2008. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*.



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Figure 1
Site location

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Information review

During the visit to the SYAS SMR, SYAS identified a number of sites additional to those addressed in the DBA. These included a number of cropmark features identified in a project which mapped cropmarks lying on the Magnesian Limestone belt³, some of which lie within the Site; these are recorded as unnumbered drawings in the SMR.

A consolidated concordance of relevant sites is set out in Table 1 and the sites are mapped in Figure 2.

Table 1
Concordance of features / sites

SMR	DBA Section	SLR No	Description
		A	Cropmark linear features and possible pits at north end of Site (Cropmark group A)
		B	Cropmark linear feature in centre of Site (Cropmark B)
04823	5.1	1	Excavation of enclosures, trackways and field system
04634	5.2	2	Cropmark enclosures trackways and field system
03038	5.3	3	Geophysical survey of enclosure trackways and field system
	5.4	4	Excavation of enclosures, trackways and field system
	5.5	5	Excavation of post-medieval and later material
	5.6	6	Thurnscoe Hall
03435	5.7	7	Bronze Age looped palstave
	5.8	8	Cropmark linear feature
	5.9	9	Cropmark enclosure, field boundaries and ditch
	5.10	10	Cropmark, possibly WWII
	5.11	11	WWII battery (scheduled monument)
	5.12	12	Church (20 th century; listed building)
02339	5.13	13	Cropmark enclosure
00087	5.14	14	Cropmark trackway and possible field boundary
	5.15	15	Cropmark trackway and possible field boundary
03591	5.16	16	Dovecote
	5.17	17	Cropmark ditches
04644		18	Royal Observer Corps monitoring post
02505		19	Early Iron Age – Romano-British cropmark
00085		20	Early Iron Age – Romano-British cropmark field boundaries
02687		21	Early Iron Age – Romano-British cropmark

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

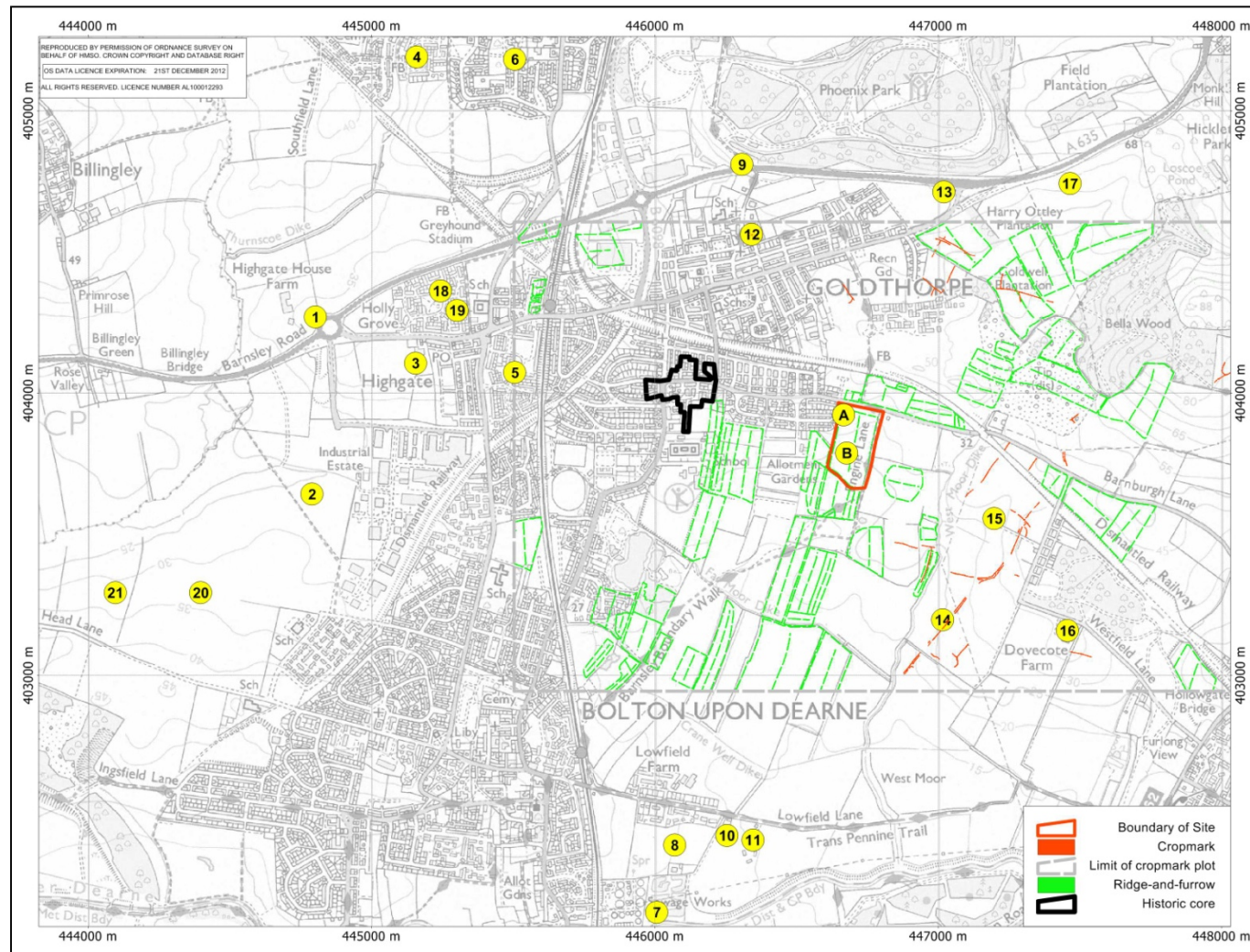


Figure 2
Numbered sites, and features plotted from air-photographs

3.2 Known potential archaeological features within or adjacent to the Site

The Magnesian Limestone mapping project has identified a small group of three parallel linear features and possible pits (**A**), and a linear feature (**B**) located within the Site, in the north-west corner and centre respectively.

The overall orientation of both groups is north-east/south-west, though **A** contains a short linear feature on a perpendicular alignment. A line of three features also in **A** and identified in the SMR as 'pits' may be further detached parts of the southernmost linear feature.

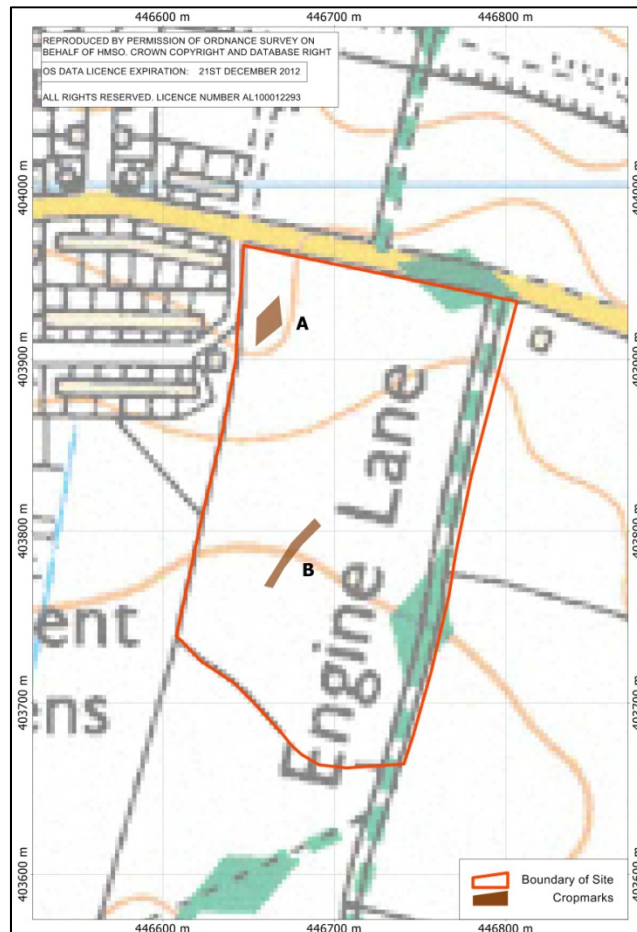


Figure 3
Features plotted from air-photographs within Site

The orientation is comparable to that of neighbouring cropmarks of probable Iron Age / Romano-British field boundaries and they may be further parts of the same system.

The mapping project also records former ridge-and-furrow cultivation aligned approximately north/south, parallel with the boundaries of the Site. The site inspection described in the DBA (Section 8) did not note any surface features of archaeological significance, and it is therefore presumed that the ridge-and-furrow has now been ploughed flat though the furrow-bases may well be preserved beneath the topsoil.

A group of eight small circular features is shown on the 1772 map (DBA Figure 4) but is not commented upon in the DBA; they are located north-west of a 'fire engine'. In this context the term 'fire engine' is an obsolete usage referring to a stationary steam-powered engine⁴. Given the location on the Coal Measures geological formation (DBA 4.0), it seems likely that the mapped circles at Goldthorpe represent coal mining pits or shafts, the fire engine being used to power dewatering, or processing of materials.

The map is not dimensionally accurate, and the exact location of both the fire engine and the shafts is uncertain, but a small building shown on the Tithe map of 1840 located south-east of the Site boundary might be the site of the engine mapped in 1772 (DBA Figure 5, parcel 227), as the Tithe Map shows no other similar features close to the Site. If the engine is to be equated with Parcel 227, a literal reading of their mapped position of the pits / shafts would place them beyond the western boundary of the Site (DBA Figure 4), though possibility that some lie within the Site cannot be entirely ruled out.

3.3 Known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the Site

Prehistoric sites (DBA 6.1) are limited to a find of a Bronze Age palstave (7) on the banks of the River Dearne, approximately 1.7km south of the Site. Three possible burial mounds noted in the 18 century lay east of Harlington; they may have been of prehistoric date⁵.

Extensive cropmarks of field systems, trackways and enclosures at various locations (Table 1, *west of Goldthorpe: 1-3, 19-21; north of the Site: 9, 13, 17* and unnumbered cropmarks around the recreation ground; *east of the Site: 14, 15; south of the Site: 8*) are likely, on the basis of their form, to date from the Iron Age or Romano-British period. They lie in all directions around the Site, the nearest being 200m to the south-east and 360m to the north.

Evidence for early medieval sites includes place-names (DBA 6.3), indicating an Anglo-Saxon origin for Goldthorpe, Adwick, Bolton and Barnburgh. The church at Bolton includes Anglo-Saxon stonework (ARCUS in footnote 6). The historic core of Goldthorpe lies well to the west of the Site (DBA Figure 5).

The earliest standing buildings in Goldthorpe (DBA 6.4) are 18th century and later; Goldthorpe's open fields were enclosed in the second half of the 18th century. However the surrounding land, particularly to the south-east and east, including the Site, contain extensive indications of former ridge-and-furrow, much of which is still reflected in existing field boundaries (no SMR or DBA numbers; see Figure 2).

The evidence for 18th-century extraction (presumably of coal) close to the Site, or within it, has been noted above.

3.4 Historic Landscape Characterisation

The Site lies within South Yorkshire County Council's Historic Environment Characterisation Area HSY7123, which consists of a modern agglomeration of the former town fields of Bolton / Goldthorpe. The built-up area of Goldthorpe, to the West of the Site is HSY7316 ('planned estate 1930-2003'), with allotments of the same period on its eastern side, in the vicinity of the Site (HSY7320).

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).

⁵ ARCUS 2009, *Adwick Washlands, Bolton-Upon Dearne, South Yorkshire Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Archaeological potential

The available evidence acquired for the DBA and supplemented by the consultation of the SMR indicates that the site has the potential to contain archaeological remains as follows.

Earlier prehistoric. The lack of finds from the vicinity suggests that the potential for the existence of prehistoric features within the Site is low but it cannot be entirely ruled out.

Iron Age / Romano-British. This appears to be the most likely period from which remains may exist within the Site. The cropmarks **A** and **B** are co-aligned with the field system **14** and **15**, to the south-east. Cropmarks, surveys and excavated data suggest that archaeological 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 within the Site is likely to be sparse, though it must be recognised that there must be *some* settlement somewhere in the area.

Medieval. The location of the 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 Site. The remains of the ridge-and-furrow may be present, though they have now been ploughed flat.

Post-medieval. The apparent remains of former coal mine shafts recorded in 18th century mapping may be present within the Site. It is unlikely but possible that the fire engine lies within the southern end of the Site.

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

The presence of cropmark **A** at the Site centre suggests that there is at least not an extensive thick blanket of colluvium within the Site. 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.

4.2 Impact of development

The ground disturbance (for example, topsoil strip, construction, installation of utilities, contractors' compounds, planting, etc) connected with the proposed development (DBA Figure 9) would be likely to cause damage or destruction to any remains present.

4.3 Potential further work

Archaeological site investigation would be required⁶ to fully establish the nature and extent of any archaeological remains present within the Site. In this respect, it should be noted that magnetic geophysical survey in the vicinity (e.g. site 3) has been very effective at identifying buried archaeological features.

Should any important archaeological remains be identified within the Site, and were the development to proceed, it is likely that a mitigation strategy would be required by the local

⁶ In accordance with DCLG 2010, *PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment Policy* HE6.1.

authority as a condition of consent⁷; the scope of any such the strategy would be determined in consultation with SYAS and the planning authority.

⁷ In accordance with DCLG 2010, *PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment Policy Section HE12*.

5.0 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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