



**FAS**  
HERITAGE

## WOMBWELL INGS

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

# HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

REPORT  
OCTOBER 2017

**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

WOMBWELL INGS  
SOUTH YORKSHIRE

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**REPORT**

October 2017

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# FAS HERITAGE

Unit 8 Fulford Business Centre  
35 Hospital Fields Road  
York  
YO10 4DZ

Tel (01904) 652000  
Fax (01904) 749014  
mail@fas-heritage.co.uk  
www.fas-heritage.co.uk

**ON BEHALF OF**

JBA CONSULTING

**CLIENT**

GARGANEY TRUST

**PROJECT TEAM**

Nicola Toop BA MA PhD MCIfA

**REPORT PREPARED BY**

Nicola Toop BA MA PhD MCIfA

**REPORT REVIEWED BY**

Cecily Spall BSc MA MCIfA

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**REPORT AUTHORISED BY**

Justin Garner-Lahire BA

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## Summary

This document presents the results of a Heritage Assessment (HA) for a proposed wetland creation scheme at Wombwell, South Yorkshire. The HA has been prepared by FAS Heritage on behalf of JBA Consulting for Garganey Trust.

The proposed works would not harm the setting of any designated heritage assets.

Within the site boundary, cropmarks of potential Iron Age to Romano-British date were identified from aerial photographs and plotted onto Ordnance Survey mapping. No further known heritage assets were recorded at the site, and historic maps indicate that the site has been open and agricultural in character since at least the mid-19th century.

A programme of geophysical survey has been recommended, to inform a further scheme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation, to be designed following liaison with South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.

## Acknowledgements

FAS Heritage would like to thank Steve Maslen and Nick Allin (JBA Consulting) and Andrew Lines and Zac Nellist, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service for assistance during the preparation of this report.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document presents the results of a Heritage Assessment (HA) for an area of proposed wetland creation at Wombwell, South Yorkshire. The HA has been prepared by FAS Heritage on behalf of JBA Consulting for the Garganey Trust, following liaison with Andy Lines, South Yorkshire Archaeology Services (SYAS). Research and report writing were undertaken in August to October 2017.

### 1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The proposed site lies to the southeast of Wombwell, occupying a large arable field bounded by Bulling Dike to the north. Land rises to the south, and a sewage works occupies land to the northwest (NGR: SE 414 033)(Plate 1; Figure 1 and ).

### 1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The proposed wetland creation would see a large amorphous cut excavated in the northern part of the site to form a large body of water. The aim of this HA is set out the significance the proposed site, in terms of its heritage significance and archaeological potential. This is in line with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework which states:

‘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.’



**Plate 1** Aerial view of the site © 2017 Google Earth

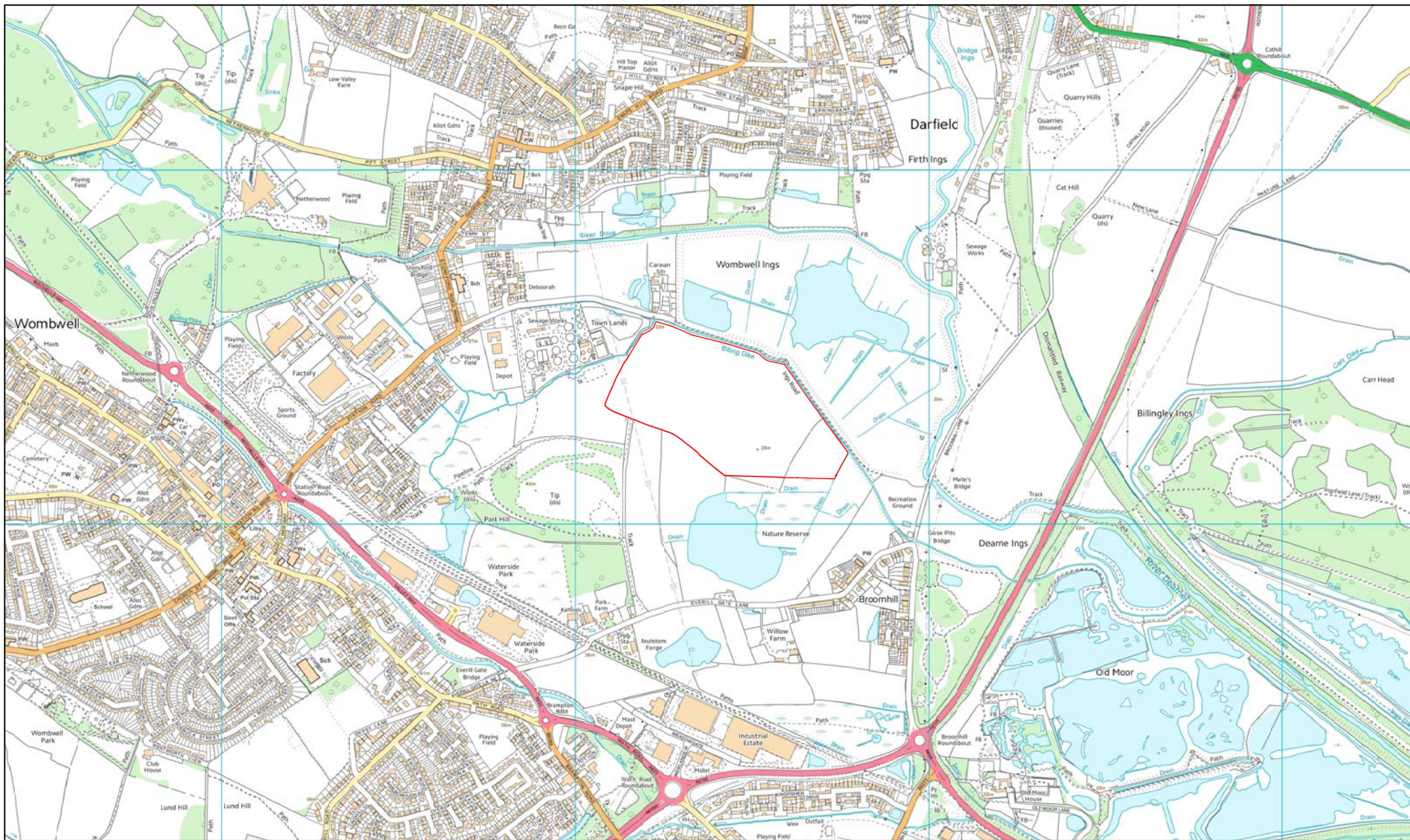


**Plate 2** LiDAR and hillshade data showing the topography of the area

The HA can then provide recommendations to reduce or mitigate harm.

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)



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Location map

Scale 1:15000



Figure 1

## 1.3 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND PLANNING GUIDANCE

### 1.3.1 Legal frameworks

This HA aims to address the requirements of relevant legal frameworks and planning policy pertinent to the site and its proposed development. The following apply:

#### National and Regional Planning Framework

- National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012)

#### Guidance

- National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)
- Historic England, 2015. *Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets*

## 2.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The HA has been prepared with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* and also takes into account Historic England's *Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* (2015).

For the purposes of the assessment, a 1km buffer around the site was used as a study area.

### 2.1 DESK-BASED RESEARCH

#### 2.1.1 Sources

The following were consulted as part of the process:

- South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record
- Historic England Archive
- Historic maps
- Aerial photographs (Historic England Archives)
- Published and unpublished sources

#### 2.1.2 Gazetteer

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

### 2.1.3 Aerial photographs

The proposed site has not been covered by the National Mapping Programme, and so cropmark plots did not exist for the site. Aerial photographs held at Historic England Archives were consulted, copies obtained and the visible cropmarks plotted onto Ordnance Survey mapping.

## 3.0 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT

### 3.1.1 Assessment of significance

Heritage significance has been assessed taking into account:

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

The following grades of significance have been employed:

- **Exceptional significance** - resources 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 built development;
- **Unknown significance** - resources of uncertain importance based upon their type or condition.

### 3.1.2 Assessment of impact

The impact of development upon the significance of a heritage asset 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 been 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 development on those attributes, an assessment can be made of the overall effect of the proposed development 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.

## 4.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

### 4.1 DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

No designated heritage assets were identified within, or adjacent to, the site boundary.

#### 4.1.1 Scheduled Monument

One Scheduled Monument was identified in the study area, being the early medieval cross at Darfield (HA 3), c.900m to the north.

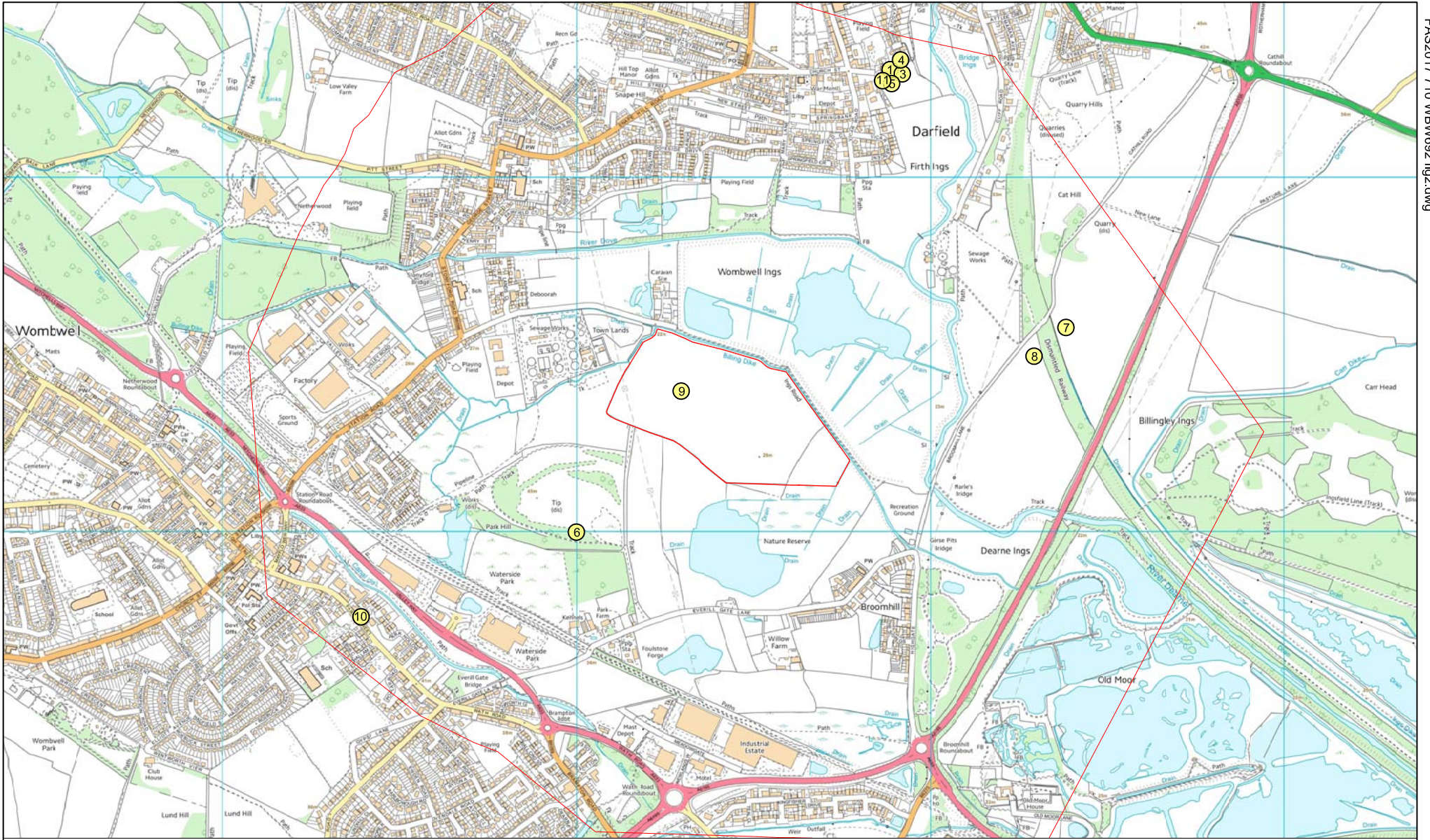
#### 4.1.2 Listed Buildings

Two Listed Buildings were identified in the study area. The church of All Saints, to the north, is Grade I Listed (HA 1), and a 19th-century obelisk in the churchyard is Grade II Listed (HA 5).

It is not anticipated that the proposed work would harm the setting of any heritage assets.

### 4.2 NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

The South Yorkshire HER records 11 heritage assets within the study area, ranging in date from prehistory to the modern day (Figure 2).



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Location of heritage assets

Scale 1:15000



Figure 2

## 5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The known archaeological and historical background for the area is presented, deriving from a search of the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record, and subsequent historic map regression and documentary research.

### 5.1 GEOLOGY

A description of the geological background of the area, and the results of sedimentological analysis of the area to the immediate northeast of the proposed site, are presented in Lillie and Cheetham (1999) 'Sedimentological analysis of the River Dearne Floodplain and its environs, Wombwell Ings, South Yorkshire', which should be referred to for greater detail.

The solid and drift deposits of the area are mapped on Sheet 87, Barnsley (Geological Survey of Great Britain, BGS). The solid geology in the area of Wombwell Ings comprises middle coal measures of Upper Carboniferous age, with sandstone outcrops in areas to the north and south of the River Dearne.

Glacial sands and gravels, and boulder clays survive in limited patches in the surrounding area; an outcrop of glacial sand and gravel is recorded in the vicinity of the proposed site. The BGS records spreads of alluvium flanking the rivers Dove and Dearne.

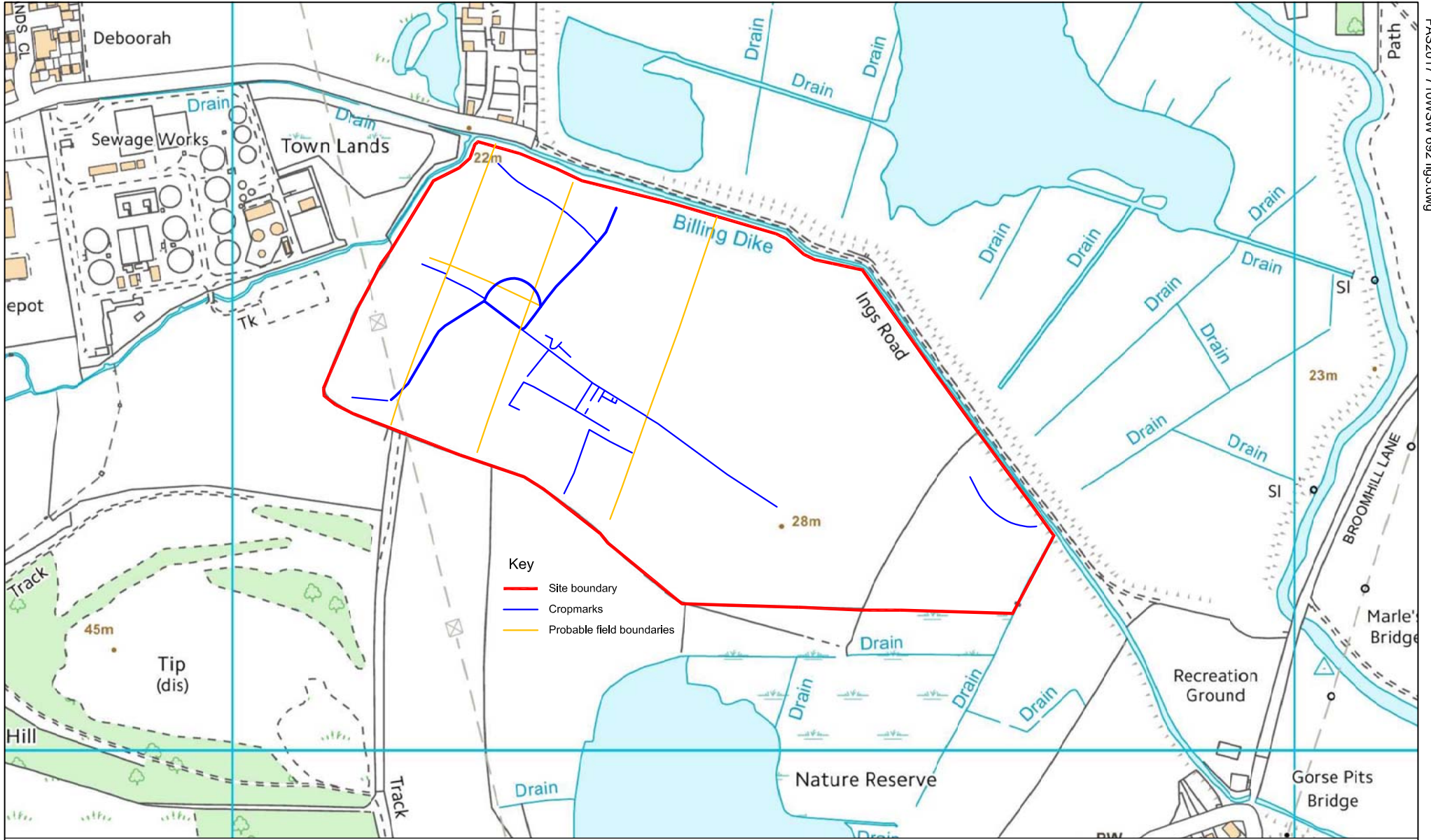
Sediment descriptions are provided based on six boreholes which were excavated across Wombwell Ings, the most southerly example occurring just north of the boundary of the proposed site. A uniform stratigraphy was observed, comprising topsoil derived from meadow grass flora, over alluvium, over fluvio-glacial sands and gravels. The base of the alluvium was encountered at 1.68m BGL, becoming deeper further north (*ie* away from the proposed site).

### 5.2 PREHISTORIC TO ROMAN PERIOD

In discussing the sequence of deposits in this wider area, Lillie and Cheetham note the uniform nature of deposits across the area, and state that 'in effect, the upper 1-2m of alluvium could equate to uniform deposition of minerogenic sediments since the deforestation of the landscape in the post-Roman period *ie* post cal AD 410' (Lillie and Cheetham 1999, 5).

Despite the potential for post-Roman alluvial deposits that might be expected to mask below-ground deposits, several cropmarks of potential Iron Age to Romano-British date have been within the study area, including examples on the site of the proposed works (HA 7, 8, 9).

An aerial photograph held by SYAS (DNR 1091/16), and a number of further aerial photographs obtained from Historic England, have been used to provide a plot of the cropmarks across the area of proposed works, which appear to describe an enclosure and connected rectilinear features (Figure 3). The date of these features must remain speculative until confirmed by archaeological investigation.



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Cropmarks plotted from aerial photographs

Scale 1:5000



Figure 3

Roman activity in the area is hinted at by a 17th-century account of a coin hoard encountered in the fields 'in Darfield'; this is assumed to be Roman in date (HA 2).

### 5.3 MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Evidence for early medieval activity is found at All Saints' Church in Darfield (HA 1), where fragments of 8th and 9th-century sculpture are reused in the walls of the medieval church (HA 1, 3, 4). The medieval socle, or socket, for a medieval standing cross is located in the churchyard, now supporting a sundial (HA 11). The site of the former Wombwell Old Hall (HA 10) represents the site of the medieval manorial seat of the Wombwell family, subsequently converted into residences and demolished.

To the south of the site, LiDAR data (1m DTM) reveals the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks of medieval or more probably post-medieval date, which have been truncated by the later creation of wetland habitats (Plate 2).

### 5.4 POST MEDIEVAL TO MODERN PERIOD

From the post-medieval period onwards the area surrounding Wombwell Ings became increasingly industrial in character, although the site itself appears to have remained undeveloped. Exploitation of the coal resources of the area saw numerous collieries established, not without tragedy; within the study area, a 19th century obelisk commemorates 189 miners who were killed in an explosion at Lundhill Colliery (HA 5). Local settlement saw an increase in size and population.

During World War I, an area of land between Broomhill and Wombwell was used by the 'A' Flight of 33 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, as a landing ground.

#### 5.4.1 Historic map regression

Available editions of historic Ordnance Survey maps allow more detail on the development of the site to be traced from the mid-19th century onwards (Plates 3 to 7).



Plate 3 Extract from OS, 1854



Plate 5 Extract from OS, 1893-4

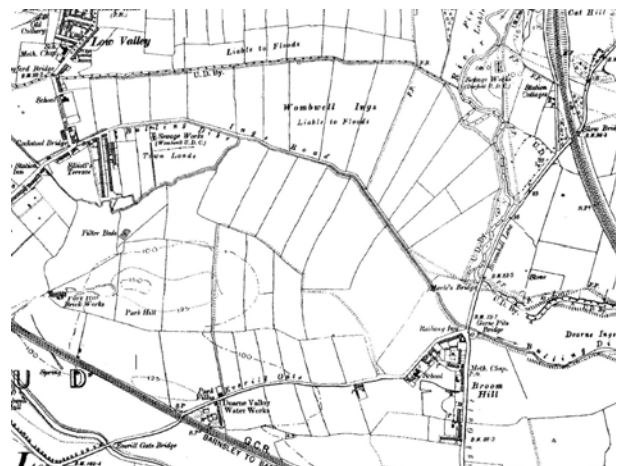
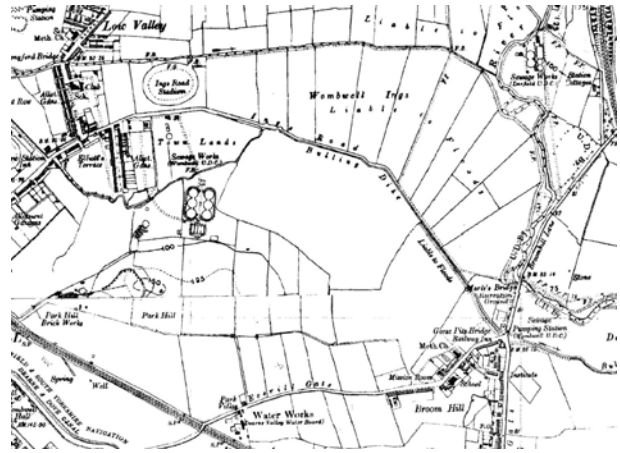


Plate 4 Extract from OS, 1905

The 1854 Ordnance Survey map shows the proposed site as a series of regular fields extending to the Bulling Dike (Plate 3). By 1893, a series of buildings were constructed on 'Town Land' to the west of the site, further developed in 1905 with the sewage works, but no change is shown on the proposed site itself (Plate 4 and 5).

By 1938, the field boundaries had been removed, and the area appears to have taken the open character displayed today (Plate 6). Some of the cropmarks identified within the site may relate to these field boundaries, and have been differentiated as such on Figure 3.

By 1966-7, a large water body had been created to the southeast of the site, cutting across earlier earthworks (Plate 7).



**Plate 6** Extract from OS, 1938



**Plate 7** Extract from OS, 1966-7

## 6.0 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND POTENTIAL

### 6.1 KNOWN HERITAGE ASSETS

The site contains one recorded heritage asset, being the cropmarks that extend across the site, identified in the HER as potentially Iron Age or Romano-British in date. The significance of these cropmarks cannot be fully assessed without further investigation to confirm the date, condition and character, but these are likely to be of at least moderate significance.

### 6.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The proposed site has been agricultural land since at least the 19th century, and other than the historic field boundaries that formerly subdivided the area, there is no cartographic evidence on the Ordnance Survey editions to suggest significant truncation of deposits. This will have facilitated the survival of below-ground remains of prehistoric or Roman date; the presence of cropmarks across the site would further suggest the potential for below-ground remains of archaeological significance.

## 7.0 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

### 7.1 DIRECT IMPACT

The proposed works would see the creation of a large cut in the northern part of the site which would fully remove archaeological deposits. The impact on any archaeological remains would be

substantial, and would have to be mitigated through an appropriate programme of archaeological excavation and recording.

## 7.2 IMPACT ON SETTING

No impact on the setting of designated heritage assets is anticipated. The proposed works lie almost 1km south of the nearest Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings, and no intervisibility is anticipated.

## 8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to fully assess the significance of archaeological deposits at the site, and to inform the design of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation, it is recommended that a geophysical survey be undertaken, to further define the below-ground remains suggested by the cropmarks. This will allow the design of a further programme of archaeological evaluation to allow these features to be investigated, and their character, date and significance assessed.

## 9.0 REFERENCES

### *Aerial photographs*

NMR 17731/47-48 18th July 2002

NMR 17720/11-1 18th July 2002

28754/039

28754/040

28754/041

DNR 1091/16-17 27th July 1977

### *Secondary sources*

Lille, M. and Cheetham, J. 1999. 'Sedimentological analysis of the River Dearne Floodplain and its environs, Wombwell Ings, South Yorkshire' (Centre for Wetland Archaeology report)

## APPENDIX A GAZETTEER

### Key

NHLE	National Heritage List for England
SM	Scheduled Monument
LB	Listed Building
GI/GII*/GII	Grade I, II*, II
SE12SE 0	NMR Number
NMR 00000	Unique identifier in English Heritage Archives/NMR records
MSY	South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record Monument Number
LB	Listed Building number

HA No	NGR	NHLE	Status	Name	Description	Date
1	SE 4189 0431	MSY 369/1 NHLE 1315015	LB I	All Saints Church	All Saints Church, Darfield. Earliest fabric is early Norman in date on the West Tower; reuses pre-Conquest sculptural fragments.	Medieval
2	SE 41 04	MSY 595/1	-	Roman coin hoard findspot	Findspot of coin hoard of unknown date but likely to be Roman found in the late 17th century while ploughing the fields 'in Darfield'	Roman?
3	SE 4190 0430	MSY3453/1 NHLE 1012929	SM	Early medieval cross fragment	Early medieval cross fragment at Darfield. 8th century, possibly part of grave slab	Early medieval
4	SE 4190 0430	MSY 3452/1	-	Early medieval sculpture fragment	Fragment of early medieval sculpture. 8th to 9th-century cross built into the internal face of the south wall in the chapel	Early medieval
5	SE 4192 0428	MSY 4429/1 NHLE 1293398	LB GII	Lundhill Colliery Memorial	Obelisk memorial at Darfield, to 189 miners killed in an explosion in 1857.	19th C
6	SE 4100 0300	MSY 4351/1	-	Wombwell Landing ground	Wombwell Landing ground, situated between Wombwell and Broomhill, probably just east of Park Hill brickworks. Small site used as a night landing ground by A flight of 33 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, March to October 1916.	20th C
7	SE 4239 0358	MSY 2894/1	-	IA or RB enclosure	Iron Age or Romano-British enclosure with rounded corners visible on aerial photographs	IA/RB
8	SE 4230 0350	MSY 2542/1	-	IA or RB cropmark	Iron Age or Romano-British cropmark visible on aerial photographs	IA/RB
9	SE 413 034	MSY 2342/1	-	IA or RB enclosure	Enclosure and field system of possible IA or RB date visible on an AP. Sub-rectangular enclosure and fields	IA/RB
10	SE 4039 0276	MSY 373/1	-	Wombwell Old Hall	Medieval home of the Wombwell family, a large medieval manor house. In 1831 it had been developed into a number of dwellings. No remains.	
11	SE 4187 0428	SE 372/1	-	Darfield Churchyard Cross	Socle or socket of a medieval standing cross, and the shaft of a later sundial	Medieval

**APPENDIX B                      EVENTS****Key**

ESY                      South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record

HA No	NGR	Reference	Date	Site	Event description	Contractor
1	SE 40448 02742	ESY 223	1998	Wombwell Hall	Earth Resistance Survey	ASWYAS
2	SE 41993 03305	ESY 224	1999	River Dearne Floodplain	Borehole Sedimentary analysis of the River Dearne floodplain and environs	CWA
3	SE 40154 02965	ESY 509	2000	Land off Park Street/High Street	Archaeological evaluation	Matrix Archaeology
4	SE 4017 0394	ESY 1240	2010	Darfield Main Colliery	Trial trenching	ArchHeritage
5	SE 41863 04152	ESY 508	1998	Land off Vicar Crescent	Geophysical survey	ASWYAS