A Proposed Development at Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire

Heritage Assessment



Prepared on behalf of

ELG Town Planning

November 2019

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A Proposed Development at Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire Heritage Assessment

SUMMARY

This Heritage Assessment has been prepared for ELG Town Planning and relates to a proposed 17.5 hectare development to the west of the village of Grimethorpe, 6 kms northeast of Barnsley in South Yorkshire. The principal aims and objectives of the Heritage Assessment are a) to assess cultural heritage and archaeology in relation to local plan policies and national planning guidance, b) to identify and describe heritage assets within the study area and its environs, c) to assess the significance of the assets, d) to determine the likely impact of the proposed development on any such assets and their setting, and e) to make recommendations to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on any such assets and their setting.

The area of the proposed development retained a rural character until the start of the 20th century after which coal mining and heavy industry made an impact on the landscape, including in the area of the proposed development. These industrial sites expanded throughout the 20th century but declined rapidly from the 1990s onwards. Land reclamation in the 21st century saw a wholesale re-shaping of the topography to create a post-industrial landscape of warehouses and storage depots which has largely removed any legibility of the former industrial and rural landscapes.

A recent scoping study by Wessex Archaeology of 221 sites for inclusion in the Barnsley Local Plan identified the lowest level of recommendation for the proposed development whereby because *The site contains no known or predicted archaeological remains* or *there has been significant previous development or disturbance on the site* ***…… archaeological survival is predicted to be poor*.**

In view of the above it is advised that there should be no archaeological constraints on the proposed development.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Heritage Assessment has been commissioned by ELG Town Planning for The Symphony Group PLC and relates to a proposed development to the west of the village of Grimethorpe, 6km northeast of Barnsley in South Yorkshire (Figure 1).

1.2 The purpose of the Heritage Assessment is to assess the impact of the proposed development on sites of heritage significance and their setting and to propose mitigating measures, should these be required.

1.3 The assessment and the recommendation for any further work arising from the findings, accord with National and Local Planning Policies which relate to the Historic Environment (see section 4 below).

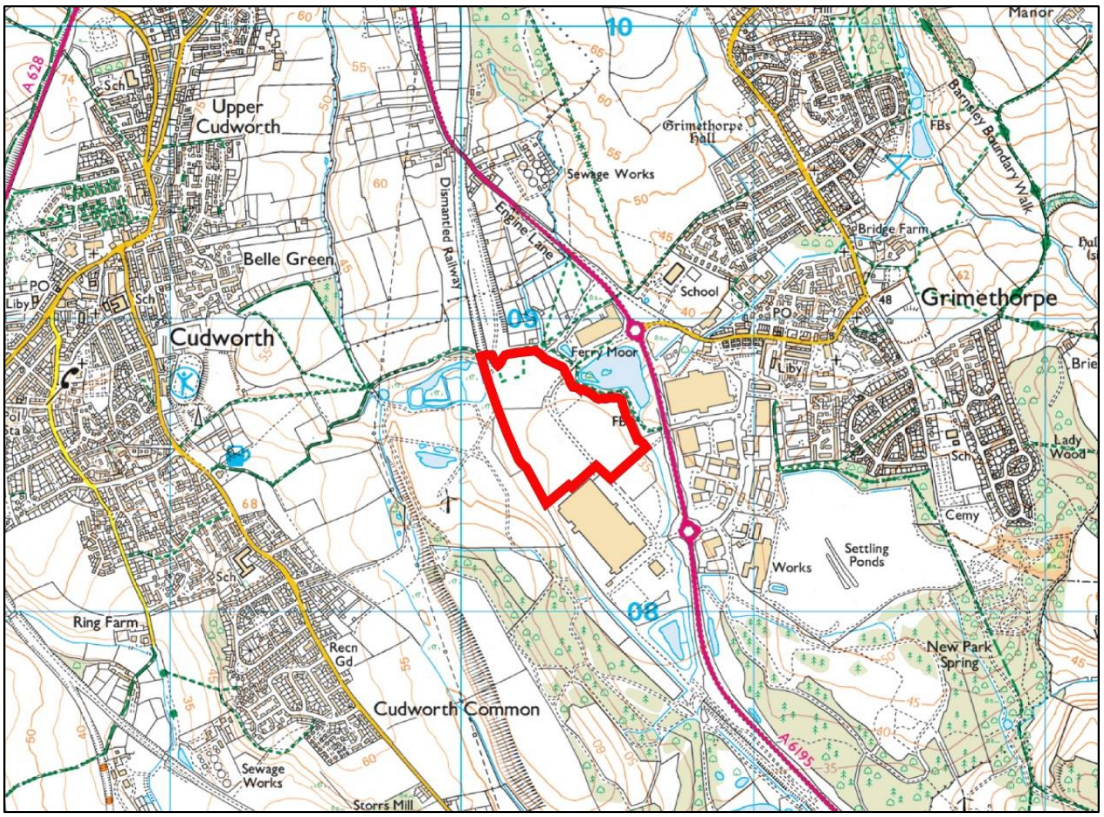


Figure 1: Area of site

(Produced under Ordnance Survey License no. AL100042193)

Site location

1.4 The proposed development is situated at 35m AoD on a 17.5 ha parcel of land to the west of Grimethorpe centred on grid reference SE 4032 0864.

Geology and Topography

1.5 The bedrock comprises the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation – a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 310 to 318 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Overlying the bedrock is a clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvium formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The principal aims and objectives of this report are as follows:

- to assess cultural heritage and archaeology in relation to National and Local Planning Policies;
- to identify and describe heritage assets within the study area and its environs;
- to assess the significance of the assets;
- to determine the likely impact of the proposed development on any such assets and their setting; and
- to make recommendations to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on any such assets and their setting.

2.2 The aims and objectives conform to Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Desk Based Assessments (CIfA 2017) which state:

> Desk-based assessment will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area. Desk-based assessment will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant regulations of CIfA. In a development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for

further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The Historic Environment Record (HER) of The South Yorkshire Archaeology Service was consulted to identify recorded heritage assets within a 1km radius of the proposed development.

3.2 Online heritage sources were consulted, including:

- MAGIC interactive map: DEFRA
- The Heritage Gateway
- Pastscape
- Old Maps online
- Google Earth
- National Heritage List for England

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019)

4.1 Selected, relevant paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework (DCMS: February 2019) are presented below:

184. Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value. These assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.

185. Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account:

a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
b) the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
d) opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

Proposals affecting heritage assets

189. 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. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

190. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

192. In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;

b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and

c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

Considering potential impacts

193. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

194. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;

b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

195. Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and

b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

196. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

197. The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

198. Local planning authorities should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

199. Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

202. Local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies.

Barnsley Local Plan: Adopted January 2019 - Historic Environment Policies

Policy HE1 The Historic Environment

We will positively encourage developments which will help in the management, conservation, understanding and enjoyment of Barnsley's historic environment, especially for those assets which are at risk. This will be achieved by:-

a. Supporting proposals which conserve and enhance the significance and setting of the borough's heritage assets, paying particular attention to those elements which contribute most to the Borough's distinctive character and sense of place. These elements and assets include:-

- The nationally significant industrial landscapes of the Don Valley which includes WortleyTop Forge and its associated water management system.
- Elsecar Conservation Village, its former ironworks and its workshops which were once part of the Fitzwilliam Estate.
- A number of important 18th and 19th century designed landscapes and parks including Wentworth Castle parkland (the only grade I Registered Park and Garden in South Yorkshire), and Cannon Hall Park.
- The well-preserved upstanding remains of the Cluniac and Benedictine monastery at Monk Bretton.
- 18 designated conservation areas of special and architectural interest including three town centre conservation areas, as well as large areas incorporating Stainborough Park, Cawthorne, Penistone and Thurlstone.
- The 17th century Rockley Blast Furnace and its later engine house.
- Gunthwaite Hall Barn, a large 16th century timber framed barn.
- Barnsley Main Colliery Engine House and Pithead structures.
- The 17th century Worsbrough Mill (the only historic working water mill in South Yorkshire).
- Relatively widespread evidence of pre-historic settlements, and occupation which are often archaeological and below ground but sometimes expressed as physical or topographic features.

- The Borough's more rural western and Pennine fringe characterised by upland and (often) isolated settlements or farmsteads surrounded by agricultural land and dominated by historic and vernacular buildings built from local gritstone.

b. By ensuring that proposals affecting a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance such as a Scheduled Ancient Monument) conserve those elements which contribute to its significance. Harm to such elements will be permitted only where this is outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal. Substantial harm or total loss to the significance of a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance) will be permitted only in exceptional circumstances where there is a clearly defined public benefit.

c. By supporting proposals that would preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a conservation area. There are 18 conservation areas in the borough and each is designated for its particular built and historic significance. This significance is derived from the group value of its constituent buildings, locally prevalent styles of architecture, historic street layouts and its individual setting which frequently includes views and vistas both into and out of the area. Particular attention will be given to those elements which have been identified in a Conservation Area Appraisal as making a positive contribution to its significance.

d. By ensuring that proposals affecting an archaeological site of less than national importance or sites with no statutory protection conserve those elements which contribute to its significance in line with the importance of the remains. In those cases where development affecting such sites is acceptable in principle, mitigation of damage will be ensured through preservation of the remains in situ as a preferred solution. When in situ preservation is not justified, an understanding of the evidence to be lost must be gained in line with the provisions of Policy HE6.

e. By supporting proposals which conserve Barnsley's non-designated heritage assets. We will ensure that developments which would harm or undermine the significance of such assets, or their contribution to the character of a place will only be permitted where the benefits of the development would outweigh the harm.

f. By supporting proposals which will help to secure a sustainable future for Barnsley's heritage assets, especially those identified as being at greatest risk of loss or decay.

Policy HE2 Heritage Statements and general application procedures

Proposals that are likely to affect known heritage assets or sites where it comes to light there is potential for the discovery of unrecorded heritage assets will be expected to include a description of the heritage significance of the site and its setting.

- This description will need to include an appropriate but proportionate level of detail that allows an understanding of the significance of the asset but no more than is necessary to understand the impact of the proposal.
- For sites with significant archaeological potential, a desk-based assessment may be required in line with the provisions of Policy HE6.

Applications made in outline form will not be accepted for proposals which will which affect a conservation area, a listed building or any other designated heritage asset. In such cases, sufficiently detailed plans and drawings to enable an assessment to be made of the likely impact of the development upon the significance of any heritage assets affected will be required.

Policy HE3 Developments affecting Historic Buildings

Proposals involving additions or alterations to listed buildings or buildings of evident historic significance such as locally listed buildings (or their setting) should seek to conserve and where appropriate enhance that building's significance. In such circumstances proposals will be expected to:

- Respect historic precedents of scale, form, massing, architectural detail and the use of appropriate materials that contribute to the special interest of a building.
- Capitalise on opportunities to better reveal the significance of a building where elements exist that detract from its special interest.

Policy HE4 Developments affecting Historic Areas or Landscapes

Proposals that are within or likely to affect the setting and the heritage significance of a Registered Park and Garden will be expected to:

- Respect historic precedents of layout, density, scale, forms, massing, architectural detail and materials that contribute to the special interest of an area.

- Respect important views either within the area or views that contribute to the setting of the area.
- Take account of and respect important landscape elements including topographic features or trees that contribute to the significance of the area where harm might prejudice future restoration.

Policy HE5 the Demolition of Historic Buildings

The demolition of listed buildings, buildings that make a positive contribution to a conservation area, buildings in registered parks and gardens, or other buildings (including locally listed buildings) with evident historic significance will not be approved unless:

- The building is structurally unsound and dangerous and cannot be viably repaired, where itis shown that every effort has been made to secure, repair, or re-use the building, and where no opportunities for grant funding, charitable ownership, sale or lease are available.
- It can be demonstrated that the retention of the building is not justifiable in terms of the overarching public benefit that would outweigh the historic value of the asset.
- Demolition involves partial demolition where that element can be shown not to contribute positively to the area or the heritage significance of the asset.

Where permission is granted for the demolition of a building within a conservation area or a registered park and garden, a condition will be attached to ensure that the demolition only goes ahead when full planning permission has been granted for redeveloping the site and the developer can demonstrate that the redevelopment will go-ahead within a specific timescale.

Policy HE6 Archaeology

Applications for development on sites where archaeological remains may be present must be accompanied by an appropriate archaeological assessment (including a field evaluation if necessary) that must include the following:

- Information identifying the likely location and extent of the remains, and the nature of the remains;
- An assessment of the significance of the remains; and
- Consideration of how the remains would be affected by the proposed development.

Where preservations of the remains are not justified, permission will be conditional upon:-

- Archaeological recording of the evidence (including evidence that might be destroyed), whether buried remains or part of a standing structure or building;
- Analysis of the information gathered;
- Interpretation of the results gained;
- Public dissemination of the results; and
- Deposition of the resulting archive with an appropriate museum or archive service.

5. BASELINE RESULTS (SEE APPENDIX 1 AND 2)

Designated Heritage Assets

5.1 There are no designated heritage assets within the study area.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

5.2 A series of boundary markers, stone posts and pillars have been recorded around Ferry Moor, near Cudworth. It is thought that the markers may be associated with the boundary of Monk Bretton Priory, c.3.5km southwest of the proposed development site.

6. LAND USE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE STUDY AREA

6.1 Grimethorpe probably originated as a Norse farmstead and was a small cluster of farmsteads until the 20th century, when the opening of Grimethorpe Colliery led to a sudden expansion in population (Historic Landscape Characterisation 2008, p.95).

6.2 Grimethorpe village itself, in Brierley township, comprised a manor house, two farms (Manor Farm and Foldhead Farm), a mill and several cottages (Jones M, 2017). There was a small school (erected 1868), a primitive Methodist chapel (erected 1869), but no public house. The population was only 87 in 1891. Although there were nine mine workers living in Grimethorpe in 1891, most of those in employment were farmers, farm foreman, farm servant, farm labourer, groom and woodman – reflecting the prominence of the agriculture economy at that time.

6.3 Maps of the area of proposed development from 1854 to the present day catalogue the change from an open rural landscape to one of industrial expansion and a subsequent reversion to open ground and post-industrial regeneration (Appendix 3). The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows a rural landscape characterized by enclosed fields interspersed with small settlements and areas of woodland connected by a network of roads and tracks. An open area of moorland called Ferry Moor borders the northeast of the site and Ferry Moor House, later to be called Ferry Moor Farm, to the northwest. Grimethorpe Colliery was opened in 1894 but is not depicted until the 1904 OS 25 inch map. The Dearne Valley railway, opened in 1902, forms the western boundary of the area of proposed development with branches running into the colliery and two sewage works to the east. By 1920 the sewage works had increased the number of settling tanks and reservoirs and terraces of workers housing were constructed at the northern end of the colliery. By 1929 the area covered by housing in Grimethorpe was four times as big as it was in 1904.

6.4 In the 1960s the railway along the western boundary of the site was enlarged, probably to facilitate the delivery of coal to waiting wagons via overhead conveyors. Further development in the 1970s and 1980s included the construction of the smokeless fuel and chemical works which encroached into the southern boundary of the proposed site and expansion of the works alongside the railway line.

Grimethorpe Colliery

6.5 Grimethorpe Colliery, though accounted to be economically viable in 1992, finally closed in May 1993, having been operational for 97 years. The Historic Landscape Characterisation records the presence of…. *spoil heaps and extractive landscapes surrounding Grimethorpe and Ferry Moor Collieries. The collieries expanded to this size by the 1960s. Grimethorpe was closed in 1992 (Hill 2001, 161) but much of this area has since been used for opencast reclamation of the spoil heaps. There is no legibility of the former enclosed landscape (HSY7435 & HSY7436).*

6.6 The impact of the open cast works and the subsequent land reclamation is clearly shown on aerial images from 2008 and the present day (see Appendix 4).

6.7 In 2001 a watching brief (ESY1645) was undertaken prior to opencast coal extraction on a site immediately to the west of, and adjacent to, the current proposed development. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE

7.1 The South Yorkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation survey typifies the area of proposed development as changing from an Extractive Landscape of a heavily industrial character (Historic Landscape Characterisation p. 165) to a Post-Industrial Landscape zone whose dominant characteristics include distribution, retail, light industry, leisure and transport facilities constructed in the late 20th century. It states that…. *The zone has developed across a variety of former landscapes, from the later 20th century onwards, but has mainly affected former colliery sites* [as is the case with the current proposed development]*. 51% of the zone is categorised by the project as having 'extractive' characteristics, generally consisting of surviving spoil heaps. However, most of these sites are undergoing rapid alteration, with landscaping and erection of large industrial and commercial sheds having taken place since 2003* (ibid p.197).

8. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8.1 Significance (for heritage policy) is defined in the NPPF (February 2019) as The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

8.2 Several reports have addressed the potential significance of the remains of the heavy extractive industries such as coal mining and quarrying (Newman 2016, English Heritage 2010). The trend towards obsolescence and long-term contraction has led to the disappearance of entire landscapes of coal and metal mining, of iron and steel making, of metal working, of textile mills and of transport infrastructure while

knowledge of the processes and skills employed is in danger of being lost. Their associated close-knit communities having lost their raison d'etre have been diluted or dispersed (English Heritage Thematic Review, p.12)

8.3 Immense changes have taken place in the industrial environment in the last quarter of the 20th century. The traditional industrial heart-lands based on coal and steam, iron, steel and textiles have virtually disappeared while the industries that came to typify the 20th century – car manufacture, the petro-chemical industry, power generation etc – have also witnessed wholesale reorganisation, contraction or concentration. Much of what survives is under threat. Industrial sites and landscapes feature strongly in most urban regeneration and rural land use programmes …… but by their very nature they are particularly susceptible to changes that can destroy their character and evidence (Ibid p.18).

9. IMPACT ON HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

9.1 Wessex Archaeology recently undertook a scoping study of 221 sites for inclusion in the Barnsley Local Plan (Wessex Archaeology 2017). Heritage assets and historic landscapes within, and surrounding, each site were considered in order to provide an evidence base for the assessment of the archaeological potential of each potential preferred site. Recommendations were made regarding the suitability of each potential preferred development site in terms of heritage constraints.

9.2 In the case of the current proposed development site the Wessex Archaeology study identified the lowest level of recommendation whereby because *the site contains no known or predicted archaeological remains* or *there has been significant previous development or disturbance on the site* ***…… archaeological survival is predicted to be poor*****.**

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The heritage significance of the heavy industries, such as those that existed in the area of proposed development, has been identified in several studies and reviews. Where such sites exist, or where there is a potential for evidence of former sites to be present, a case could be made for their archaeological investigation.

10.2 However, in the case of the current proposed development it is considered that wholesale re-development of the landscape in the late 20th century, particularly by open-cast mining and subsequent re-generation in the 21st century, will have had a major adverse impact on any heritage assets that might once have been present on the site.

10.3 In view of the above it is advised that there should be no archaeological constraints on the proposed development.

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English Heritage (2010): *A Thematic Research Strategy for the Historic Industrial Environment*

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Jones, M. (2017)*: South Yorkshire Mining Villages: A History of the Region's Former Coal Mining Communities'* Pen & Sword Books

NPPF (February 2019): *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Newman, P. et. al. (2016): *The Archaeology of Mining and Quarrying in England: A Research Framework: Resource Assessment and Research Agenda.* National Association of Mining History Organisations

Wessex Archaeology (2017): *Barnsley Local Plan, Archaeology Scoping Study of Potential Site Allocations 2015- 2017*

Appendix 1: Heritage Assets within 1km radius

A list of Cultural Heritage assets within the study area (1 km radius of the proposed development) taken from the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record. The HER number is followed by a brief description, and potential date. No additional features have been noted through cartographic or air photographic review.

CONSERVATION AREAS
None

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS
None

REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS
None

LISTED BUILDINGS
None

PREHISTORIC
None

ROMAN
None

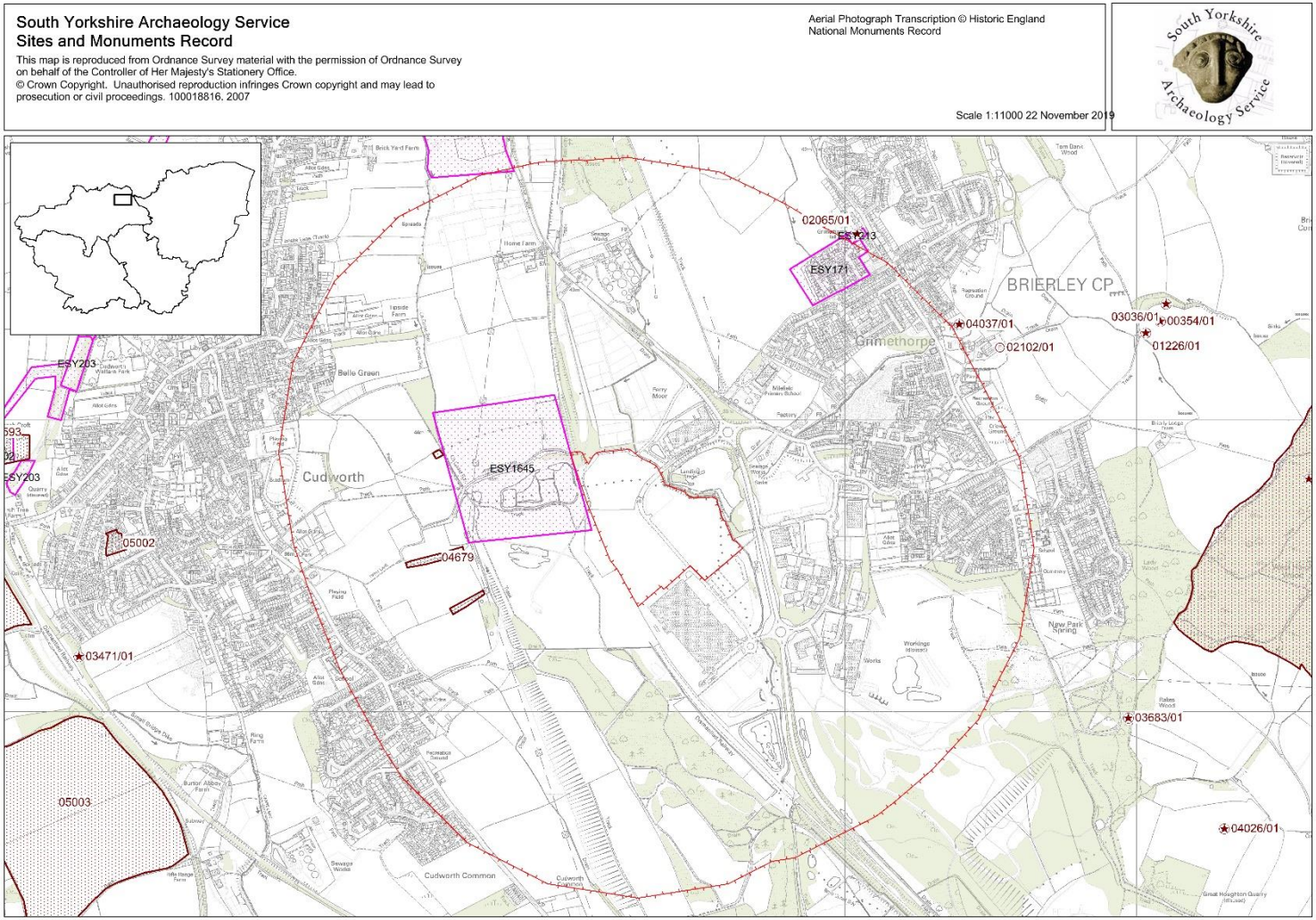
MEDIEVAL/POST-MEDIEVAL

04679	SE 395 085, A series of boundary markers, stone posts and pillars around Ferry Moor, near Cudworth. It is thought that the markers may be associated with the boundary of Monk Bretton Priory, c.3.5km southwest of the proposed development site

EVENTS

ESY1331	SE 3969 1003, 25 trenches evaluating land at Shafton Two-Gates in Barnsley. Ridge and furrow was recorded, as well as a bell pit and two undated areas of burning. No definite prehistoric/Romano-British remains were encountered. **The site is just outside the northern boundary of the study area.**
ESY1645	SE 3985 0883, a watching brief was undertaken prior to opencast coal extraction. No archaeological finds or features were identified. **This site is immediately to the west of, and adjacent to, the area of proposed development.**
ESY213	SE 41039 09631, in July 2004 a building appraisal of Grimethorpe Hall was undertaken. The survey identified evidence for a formal garden and possibly pavillion or banqueting house. **This site is just outside the northeastern boundary of the study area**
ESY171	SE 40947 09514, geophysical survey followed by an archaeological evaluation was conducted and the results revealed the presence of archaeological features in three trenches including two small linear ditches and ridge and furrow ploughing. It is not known whether these features are part of the Prehistoric/Roman activity evidenced from cropmarks around Grimethorpe. **This site is on the northeast boundary of the study area.**

Appendix 2: Map of Recorded Heritage Assets and Events within 1km radius (provided by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service)



Appendix 3: Map Regression

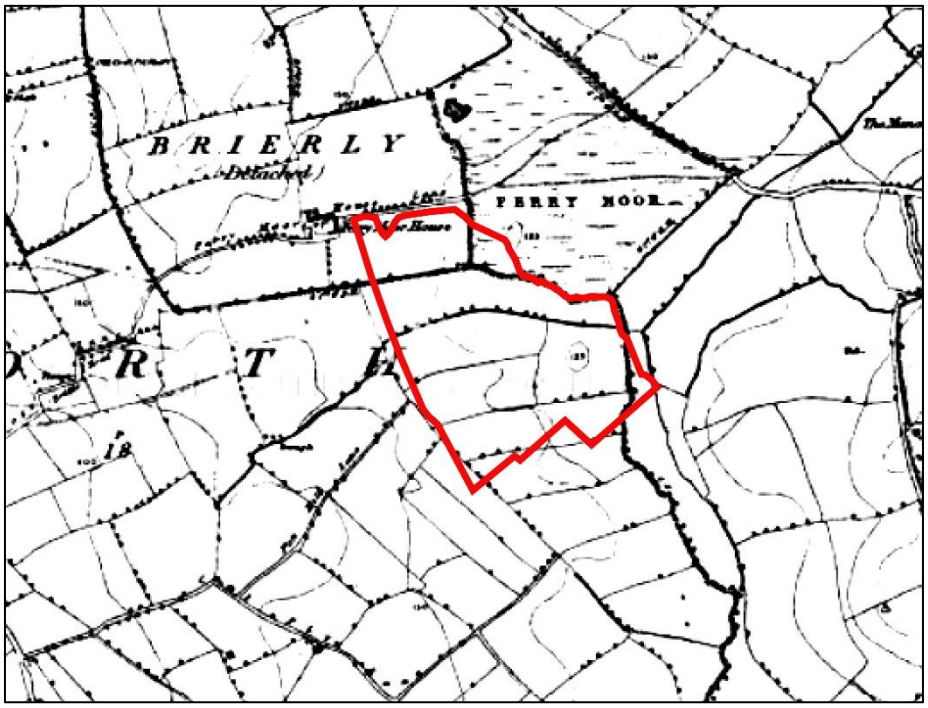


Plate 1: 1854 6 inch OS map

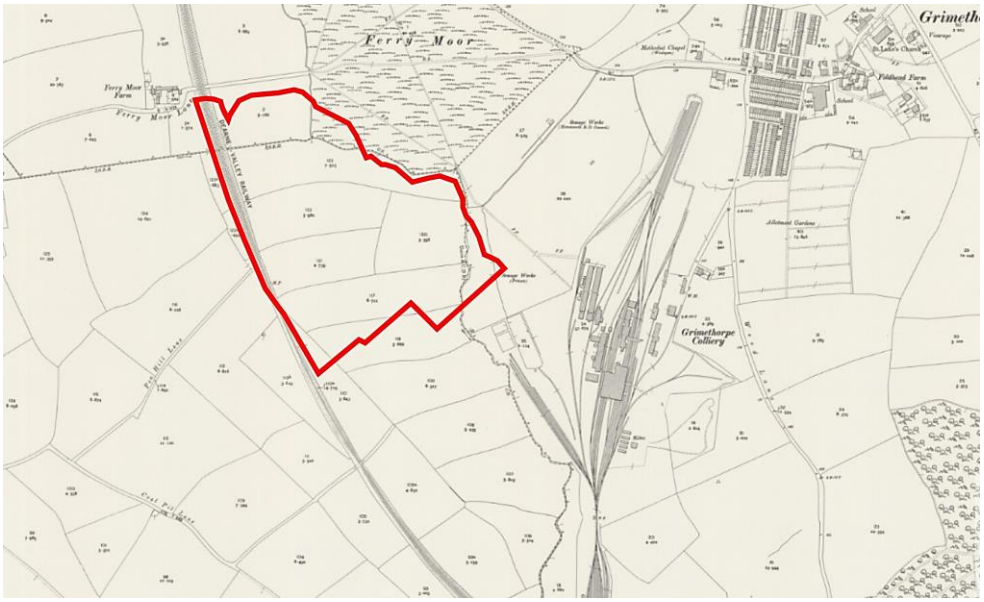


Plate 2: 1904 25 inch OS map

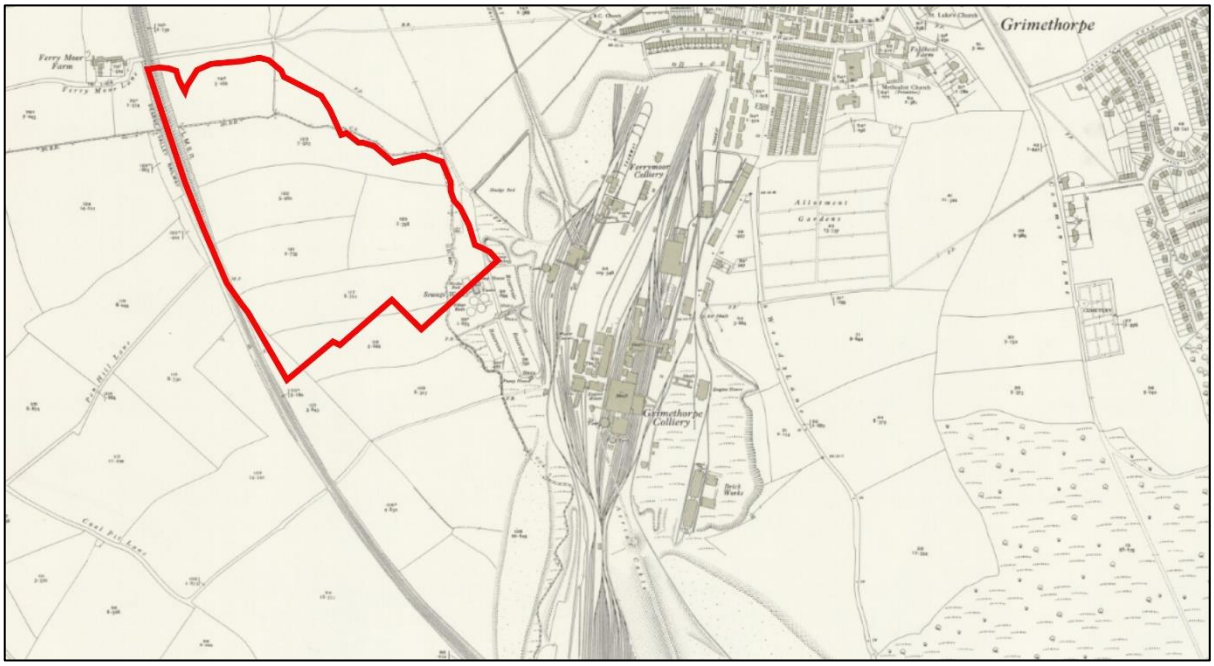


Plate 3: 1929 25 inch OS map

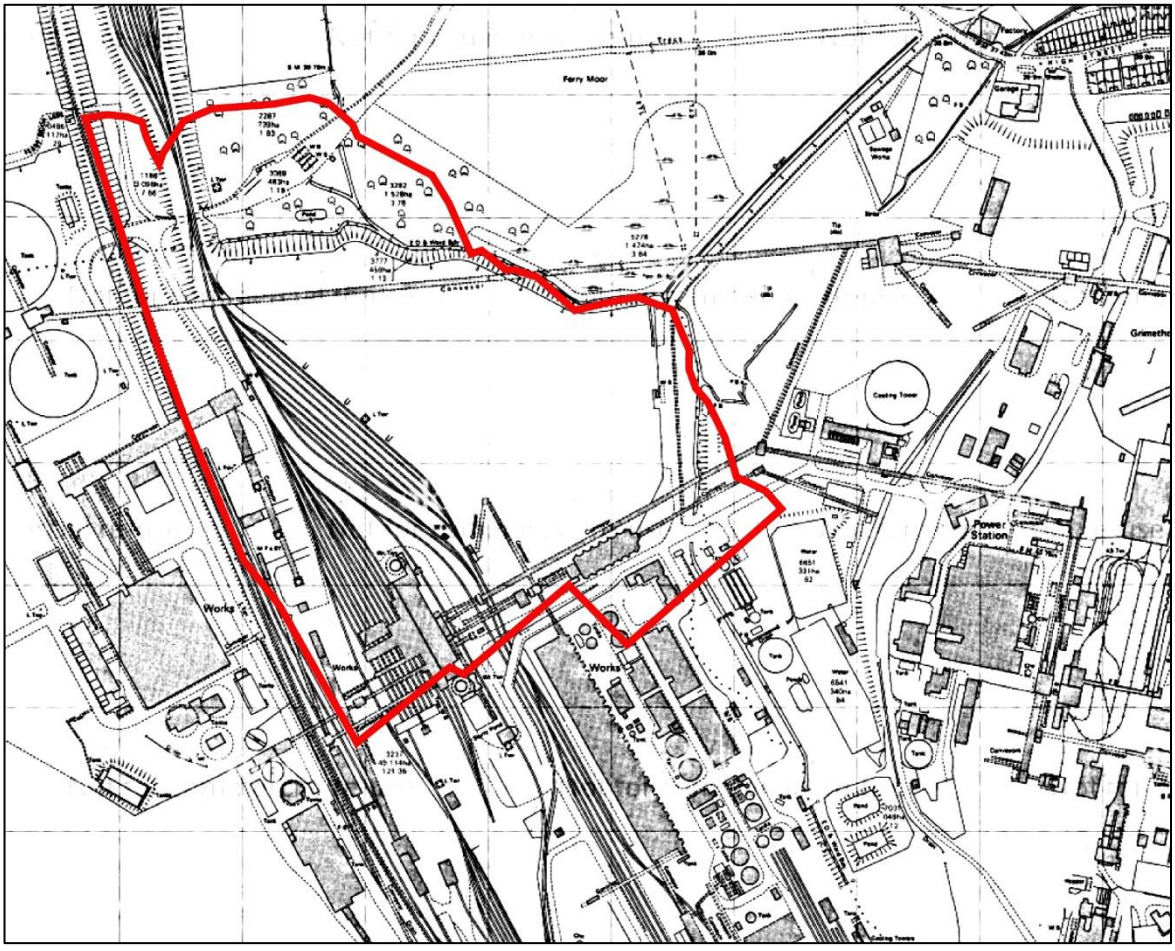


Plate 4: 1985 1:2,500 OS map

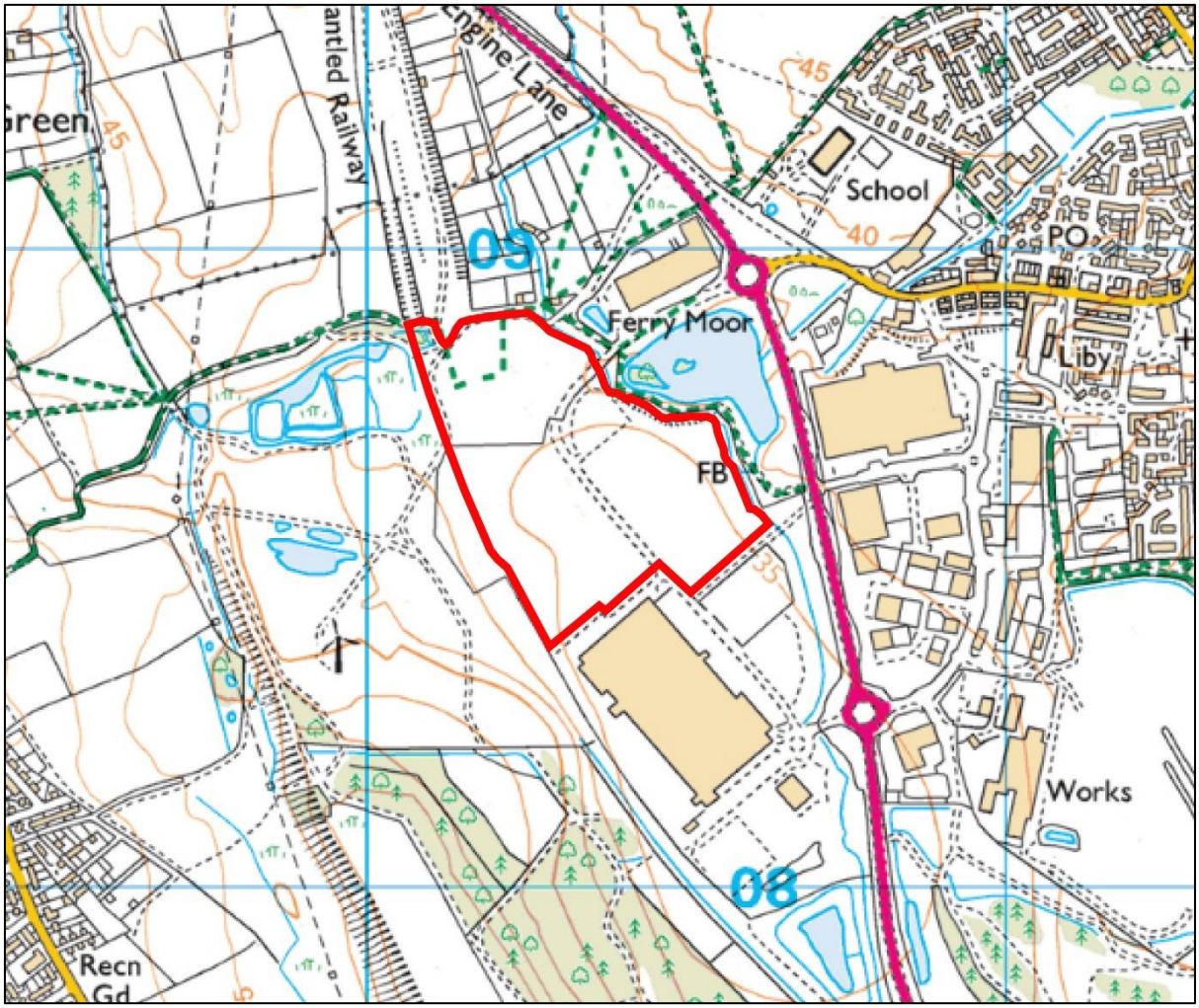


Plate 5: Modern 1:25,000 OS map



Plate 6: Aerial Photograph of the site, 2003



Plate 7: Aerial Photograph of the site, 2019