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LAND SOUTH OF BARNBURGH LANE,  
GOLDTHORPE, SOUTH YORKSHIRE.

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT.  
OSA REPORT No: OSA11DT06

December 2011.

**OSA**

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## Report Summary.

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**REPORT NO:** OSA11DT06

**SITE NAME:** Land at Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe

**COUNTY:** South Yorkshire

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 4680 0380

**COMMISSIONED BY:** Gleeson Regeneration and Homes  
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**TIMING:** Research and Report preparation  
November - December 2011

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## 1.0 Abstract.

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*This Desktop Assessment has been prepared at the request of Gleeson Regeneration and Homes to provide information regarding the archaeological potential of a site at Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire. Residential development is proposed which would involve the construction of a total of 148 new homes.*

*This area of South Yorkshire was occupied by an extensive agricultural landscape during the Romano-British period. There is a strong possibility that elements of this extended onto the current site. Archaeological remains relating to the Romano-British period are likely to take the form of features, especially ditches, cut into the underlying natural, and sealed by the medieval to modern ploughsoils.*

*A programme of archaeological evaluation will be necessary to determine if archaeological remains are indeed present within the limits of the site.*



**Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 4680 0380)**

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## 2.0 Introduction.

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In November and December 2011 an archaeological desktop study was undertaken by *On Site Archaeology* on a site at Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire. It is centred at approximately NGR SE 4680 0380 (Figure 1). The study was undertaken to provide background information during the early stages of considering the potential for redevelopment of the site. The historical and archaeological significance of the study area was assessed using a variety of sources including cartographic evidence, the South Yorkshire Heritage Environment Record (HER), sources held by the Barnsley Archives and Local Studies Library, online resources, including English Heritage National Monuments Record, Pastscape and Archaeological Data Service and published archaeological and historical reports.

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## 3.0 Methodology.

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The historical and archaeological significance of the site was assessed using a variety of sources. These include cartographic evidence, records held by the South Yorkshire Heritage Environment Record (HER), Barnsley Archives and Local Studies Library, the online archaeological catalogues held by The Archaeological Data Service and the English Heritage National Monument Record, and published archaeological and historical reports. The assistance of the staff at these records offices is greatly appreciated.

Archaeological and historical data has been collected over an area extending for a distance of approximately 1000m from the site. The locations of these data points are indicated on Figure.2.

A site visit was undertaken to enhance the understanding of the modern landuse of the site, especially with regards to its effect upon the archaeological record. A photographic record was made of the site during this site visit, a selection of these photographs are used to illustrate this report (see Plates 1-4).

Site research notes are currently stored with On Site Archaeology.

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## 4.0. Site Location, Landuse And Geology.

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The site considered by this report is located to the south of Barnburgh Lane, on the west side of the settlement of Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire. The centre of the site is located at National Grid reference SE 4680 0380, and the modern ground level lies at between 35m AOD at the north end of site, sloping down to just below 25m AOD to the south.

The site is currently arable agricultural land. It is bounded by Barnburgh Lane to the north, by Engine Lane to the east, by pasture to the south and at the southern part of the west side and by 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development to the north of the west side.

The bedrock geology comprises sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation (British Geological Survey maps accessed via [bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer](http://bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer)).

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## 5.0 Gazetteer Of Sites And Artefacts.

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The following section lists the sites and artefacts of archaeological or historical potential that are recorded in the various sources consulted. This does not include every single entry found within the 1000m search area, only those that are likely to contribute to the archaeological potential of the site being studied. Where significant sites are located outside the 1000m search area, but are likely to contribute to the overall understanding of the archaeological potential of the site. Where possible the relevant Sites and Monuments Record (South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record) number is given, together with other bibliographic references where used. The locations of the recorded sites are plotted on Figure 2. The gazetteer is presented in approximately geographical order, from west to east.

### 5.1 *Archaeological Evaluation.*

In July and August 1992 a number of trial trenches were excavated, which revealed two features running perpendicular to the line of the A635 road and a complex of cropmarks in the western part of the study area. A geophysical survey of the areas supported the aerial photograph evidence and a number of probably Romano-British enclosures, trackways and field boundaries were located. South Yorkshire Archaeology Unit. 1993. An Archaeological Evaluation in Advance of the Dearne Towns Link Road Stage 4 at Goldthorpe. (HER Number 04823).

### 5.2 *Cropmarks.*

Undated cropmarks that may represent enclosures, field boundaries and trackways or drove roads, to the south west of Highgate, Adwick upon Dearne. (HER Number 04634).

### 5.3 *Archaeological Evaluation.*

Gradiometer survey of a 9.2ha site ahead of coal/fireclay extraction recorded Iron Age/Romano-British features including droveways, a square shaped enclosure and an associated field system. Webb A/1997/Bolton House Farm, Goldthorpe, Barnsley: gradiometer survey/Report No 427. Archaeological Services WYAS reports.

### 5.4 *Archaeological Excavation.*

Between 1998 and 1999 an archaeological project, initially comprising geophysical survey and evaluation trenching, and progressing to area excavation and watching brief, was carried out at Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe. The excavation revealed a Romano-British farmstead, covering approximately 0.40 ha. The farmstead comprised a sequence of ditched rectilinear enclosures linked to trackways and elements of a wider field system. Within the enclosures postholes were excavated, which appear to represent fence-lines and successive rebuilds of roundhouses, together with a crop drying oven. A group of possible graves was also excavated, but none of them contained any preserved bone, making this interpretation uncertain. Artefacts including pottery, metalwork and coins indicated that the site had been occupied from the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> to mid 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. (see Neal & Fraser, 2004, for full details).

## **5.5 Archaeological Evaluation.**

Sixteen trenches excavated following geophysical survey and in advance of proposed residential redevelopment, recording post-medieval and undated activity only. Stevens T. 2001. An archaeological evaluation at Highgate House Farm, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire. AOC Archaeology Ltd. Barker P P & Mercer E J F. 2001. A geophysical survey carried out at Highgate House Farm, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire. Stratascan Geophysical and Specialist Survey Services reports.

## **5.6 Thurnscoe Hall.**

Grade II Listed Building. Said to be built between 1670-1701 for Thomas Shirecliffe. Ashlar sandstone. Main range - 2 storeys, 7 bays. Central doric stone porch with plain frieze and pediment. Interior - mostly altered. English Heritage Building ID: 333663.

## **5.7 Findspot.**

The museum assistant for Doncaster reports the discovery of a Bronze Age bronze looped palstave in collapsed material on the southern bank of the River Dearne. It weighs 395gm and is 15.8cm long and 6.4cm wide at the cutting edge. Located with the finder. (HER Number 03435/01). Approximate location shown on Figure 2.

## **5.8 Cropmark.**

A linear feature is visible as a cropmark, which may be part of an Iron Age or Romano-British field boundary. (ARCUS, 2009, site 5).

## **5.9 Cropmark.**

An Iron Age/ Roman rectilinear enclosure, field boundaries and a ditch are visible as cropmarks on air photographs centred at SE 4641 0482. A fragmentary arrangement of field boundaries lie perpendicular to one another. (Pastscape Monument Reference 1431383).

## **5.10 Cropmark.**

A cropmark feature comprising a square feature and track is visible on air photographs. Although it is identified on the cropmark plot as Romano-British its proximity to the adjacent WWII anti-aircraft battery suggests it may be related to this. (ARCUS, 2009, site 4).

## **5.11 Anti-Aircraft Battery.**

This Scheduled Monument (SAM 29993) comprises the remains of an H17 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery from WWII. It consists of standing and buried remains of four gun emplacements, a command post, a Nissen magazine and part of a service track. (ARCUS, 2009, Site 3).

### **5.12 Church of St John and St Mary Magdalene, Goldthorpe.**

Church. 1914-1916. By A. Y. Nutt. Reinforced concrete with exposed aggregate, pantile roof. Grade II Listed Building (List Entry No. 1151169).

### **5.13 Cropmark.**

Iron Age or Romano-British Enclosure, near Harry Ottley Plantation. Immediately north of, and truncated by, Doncaster Road, is an apparently sub-rectangular enclosure, 50m long and 50m wide, aligned approximately WNW to ESE. (HER Number 02339/01).

### **5.14 Cropmark.**

An Iron Age or Romano-British trackway and possible field boundary are visible on air photographs. (ARCUS, 2009, Site 1)

### **5.15 Cropmark.**

An Iron Age or Romano-British trackway and possible field boundary are visible on air photographs. These are likely to form part of the same field system as 5.14 above. (ARCUS, 2009, Site 2).

### **5.16 Dovecote.**

A dovecote of uncertain date is recorded at Dovecote Farm. (HER Number 3591)

### **5.17 Cropmark.**

Fragmentary ditches of probable Iron Age/ Roman date are visible as cropmarks on air photographs centred at SE 4765 0483. (Pastscape Monument Reference 1431377)

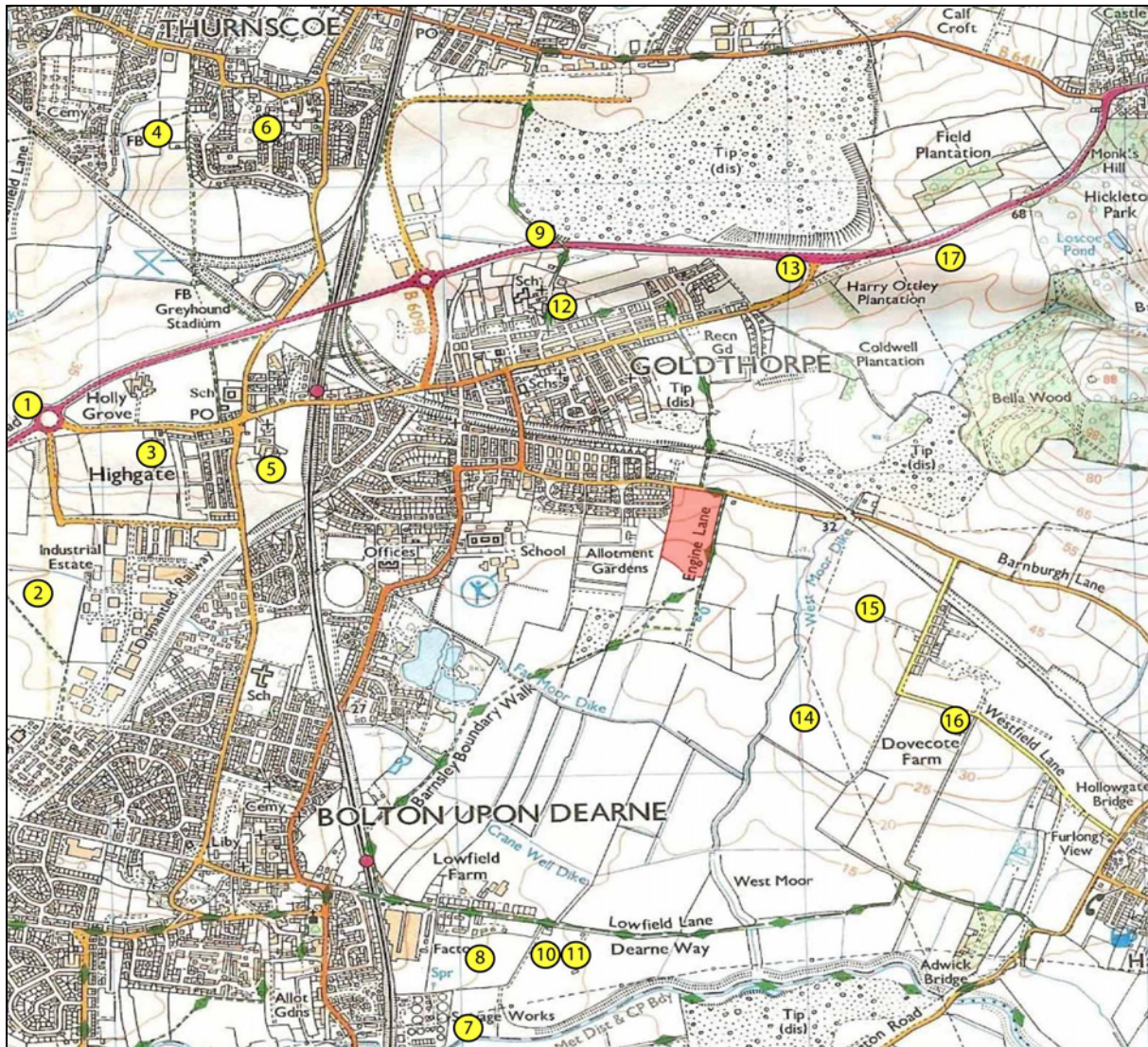


Figure 2. Locations of sites and artefacts mentioned in the gazetteer (site in red).

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## 6.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.

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### 6.1 *The Prehistoric Period (to the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD).*

The majority of this period is only represented within the study area by a single find of a Bronze Age bronze looped palstave (5.7). This was recovered from collapsed material along the bank of the River Dearne, approximately 1.5Km to the south of the site considered by this report. Several of the cropmarks recorded within the search area are tentatively identified as being of Iron Age or Romano-British date (5.9, 5.13, 5.14, 5.15, 5.17), and will be considered below. The site therefore only has a low potential to contain archaeological remains of Prehistoric date.

### 6.2 *The Roman Period (1st to the 5th centuries AD).*

As indicated above a substantial proportion of the sites identified within the search area are in the form of cropmarks, suggestive of agricultural field systems (5.9, 5.13, 5.14, 5.15, 5.17). Typologically these are generally dated to the Iron Age or Romano-British periods. In a small number of cases the cropmarks have also been the subject of archaeological excavation.

The most comprehensive programme of fieldwork was carried out on a site at Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe (5.4). A cropmark site was evaluated through geophysical survey and trial trenching. These had confirmed the presence of a settlement, which was then excavated. The excavation revealed a farmstead, comprising several phases of ditched enclosure, containing evidence for roundhouses, in the form of arcs of postholes. A crop-drying oven, several pits and a group of possible graves were also excavated. The pottery recovered from the excavated features was dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. None of the pottery was dated to the pre-Roman Iron Age. The farmstead would have sat within an extensive field system. Elements of field systems are predominantly recorded through cropmark evidence and are often difficult to date without extensive programmes of excavation.

Although no cropmarks have been identified within the limits of the site itself, the presence of these to the north, east and west, strongly suggest that the site lies within the extensive Romano-British agricultural landscape. Archaeological features relating to this landscape may be limited to field boundary ditches, but could also include evidence for settlement.

Due to the location of the site within an intensively farmed Romano-British agricultural region, the potential of the site to contain Roman remains is considered to be high.

### 6.3 *Early Medieval periods (5th to 11th centuries AD).*

This period is, as is often the case, not represented in the gazetteer. However, evidence from local place-names indicates the degree of occupation that was taking place during the period. Goldthorpe itself combines an Old English personal name with the Scandinavian derived *thorp*, or Old English *throp*, both of which are likely to refer to an outlying farm (Hey, 2003, p.37). In the immediately surrounding area Adwick, Bolton and Barnburgh all contain Anglo-Saxon or Scandinavian derived elements (ARCUS, 2009, p9). Oswulf is recorded as

the Lord of Goldthorpe in 1066, but by The Domesday Survey of 1086 this had changed as “in Goldthorpe and Thurnscoe, Roger de Bully (has) 4 carucates and 6 bovates”. It is likely that the Goldthorpe referred to in the later 11<sup>th</sup> century is little more than a single farm, with associated arable fields, meadows and woodland ([www.domesdaymap.co.uk](http://www.domesdaymap.co.uk)).

It is worth noting that no pre-Conquest material has been recovered from the numerous recent archaeological investigations in the vicinity, so any settlement of during this period is unlikely to be extensive. The site therefore only has a low potential to contain archaeological remains of this period.

#### **6.4    *The Medieval Period (11<sup>th</sup> to the mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries AD).***

The gazetteer does not include any sites dating to the medieval period. South Yorkshire Heritage Environment Characterisation (see [sytimescape.org.uk](http://sytimescape.org.uk)) defines the centre of Goldthorpe as a Nucleated Rural Settlement, originating in the medieval period. However, subsequent development and expansion has removed any of the medieval buildings from the core of the settlement. The earliest remaining buildings do not contain any parts pre-dating the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The site considered by this report lay within the surrounding rural hinterland of the settlement. Farming around the settlement would have taken place within large common fields, which were not enclosed until the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. There is therefore a moderate potential for the site to contain medieval remains. These are likely to be limited to medieval field boundaries and evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation.

#### **6.5    *The Post-Medieval to Modern Periods (mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries).***

Cartographic evidence (see section 7, below, for details) indicates that the site has been enclosed agricultural land for more than the past 170 years. The surviving Enclosure awards date from the 1760's extending this back to pre-date the detailed map evidence. Prior to enclosure the site would either have been part of the open common field, or common pasture.

The increasingly industrial character of the area is also illustrated on the maps. The Thomas Jeffrey map of 1772 shows what appear to be pits or spoil heaps to the southeast of Goldthorpe, together with a Fire Engine, from which Engine Lane is likely to be named. Goldthorpe Colliery was opened in 1909-10 by Henry Lodge & Co, and is dramatically illustrated by the change in the Ordnance survey maps of 1906 and 1930.

## 7.0 Cartographic Evidence.

The earliest maps consulted dates to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. This was produced by John Speed in 1610 as a map of Yorkshire. As such it provides little detail with regards to the topography of the site at this early date. The larger settlements of Doncaster and Barnsley are visible on the east and west limits of the extract reproduced as Figure 3. Goldthorpe itself is shown, together with Barnburgh to the east and the River Dearne to the south, allowing the approximate position of the site to be marked.



Figure 3. Extract from John Speeds map of 1610.

The map produced by Thomas Jeffries in 1772 (Figure 4), also included the entire county but gives a little more detail for the site itself. The basic street pattern within Goldthorpe is evident, together with those of the surrounding villages. Barnburgh Lane, defining the northern limit of the site is also clearly marked. To the south of the lane, in the vicinity of the site, are a cluster of pits, together with a “Fire Engine”.

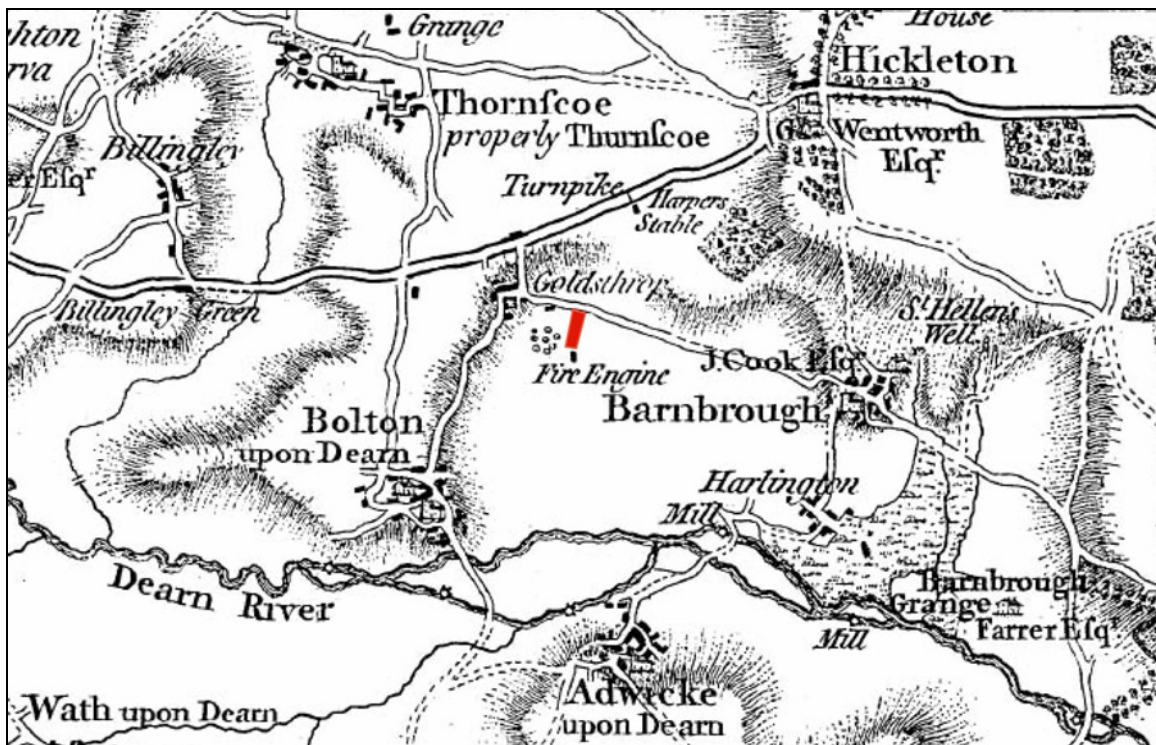


Figure 4. Extract from the map produced by Thomas Jeffries in 1772

More detail is provided on the Tithe Map of Bolton on Dearne and Goldthorpe, dating to 1840. The boundaries of the site, as they exist today are clearly defined by this date. The field forming the site is annotated as “233”, the Tithe Book entry for which is named as High Engine Close. It is owned by Burdon, Inglefield and Bogher and occupied by Edmund Lockwood, being described as arable land.

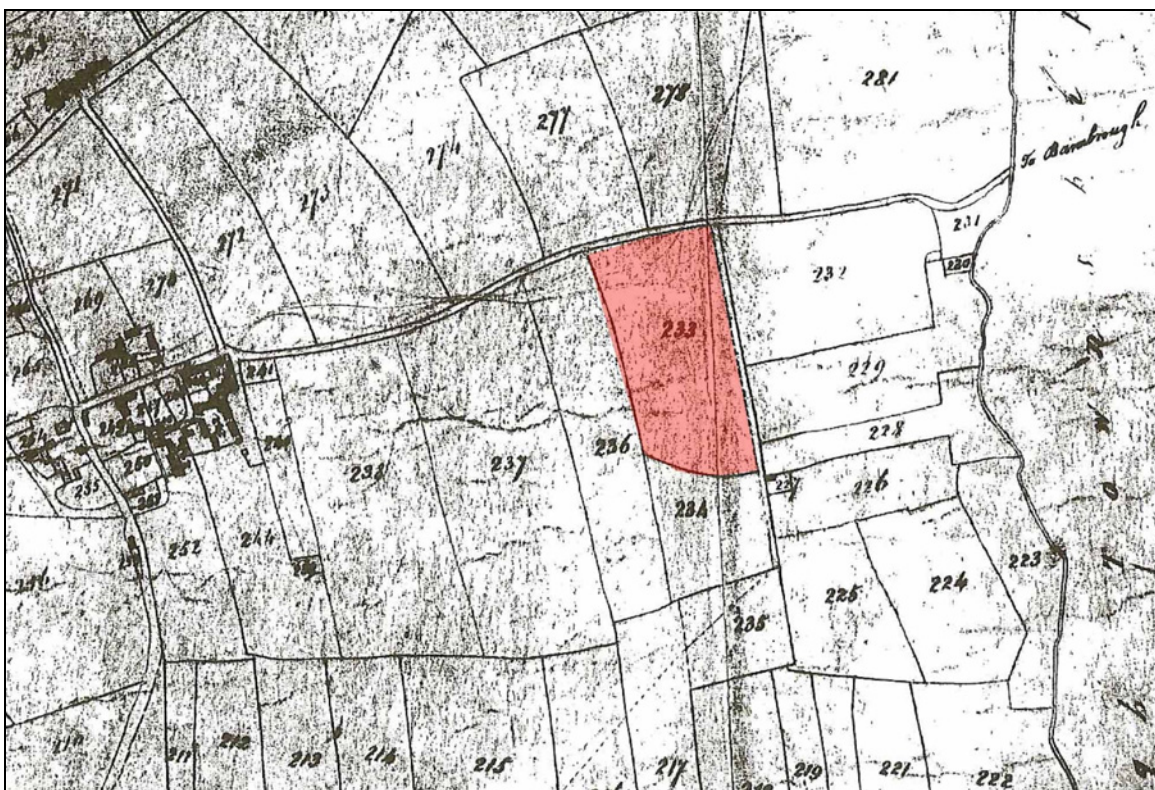


Figure 5. Extract from the 1840 Tithe Map (Site location shown in red).

The Ordnance Survey maps from the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Figures 6 and 7) show no change to the layout of the site itself as it has remained undeveloped agricultural. The surrounding area was also undeveloped with the field boundaries being unchanged from the Tithe map. By 1930 (Figure 8), although the site was unchanged, the nature of land use in the area clearly has changed, with Golthorpe Colliery and the adjacent railway line being visible to the north of Barnburgh Road, and residential development, including Lindale Gardens, immediately to the west of the site.

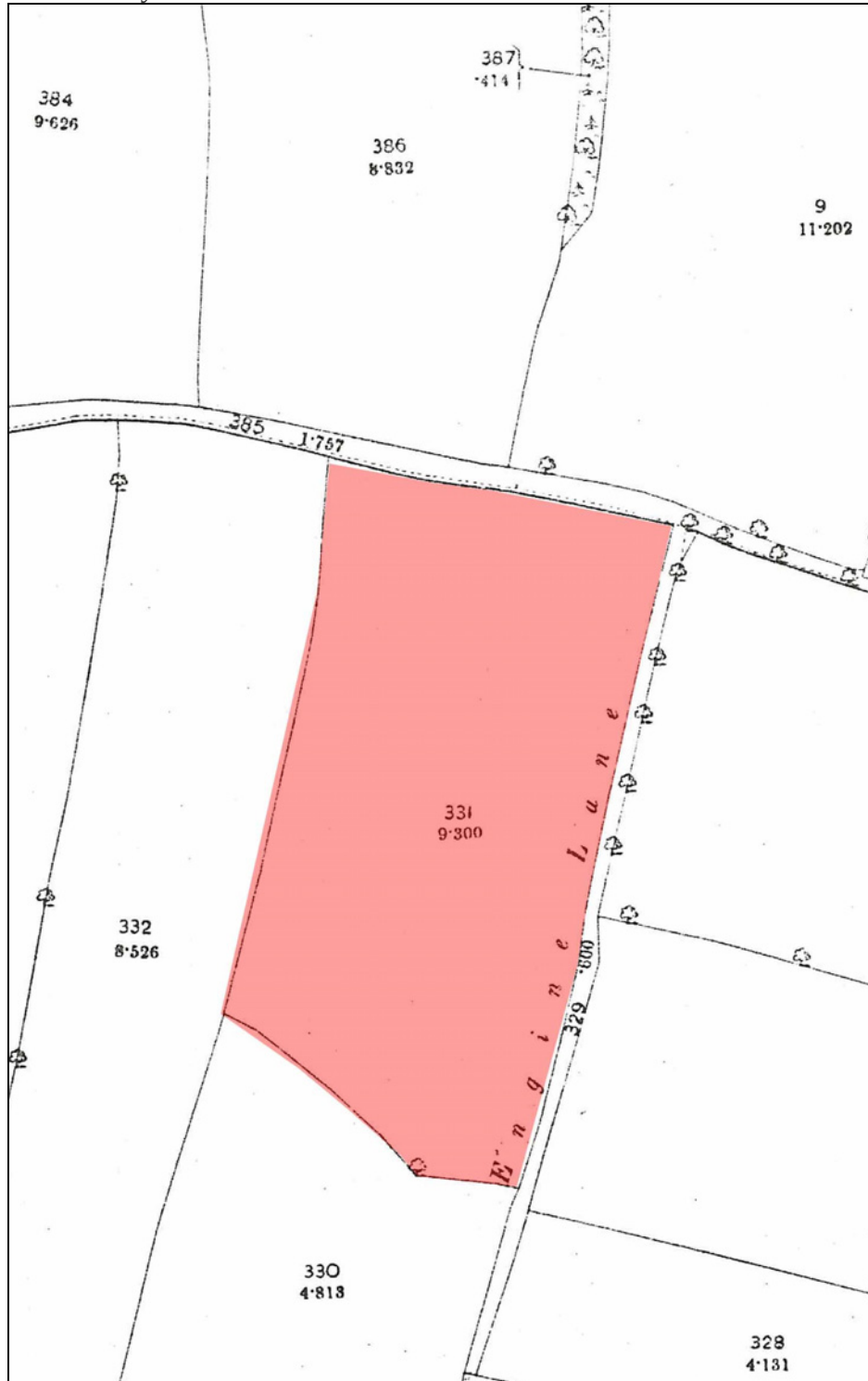


Figure 6. Extract from the 1892 Ordnance Survey map

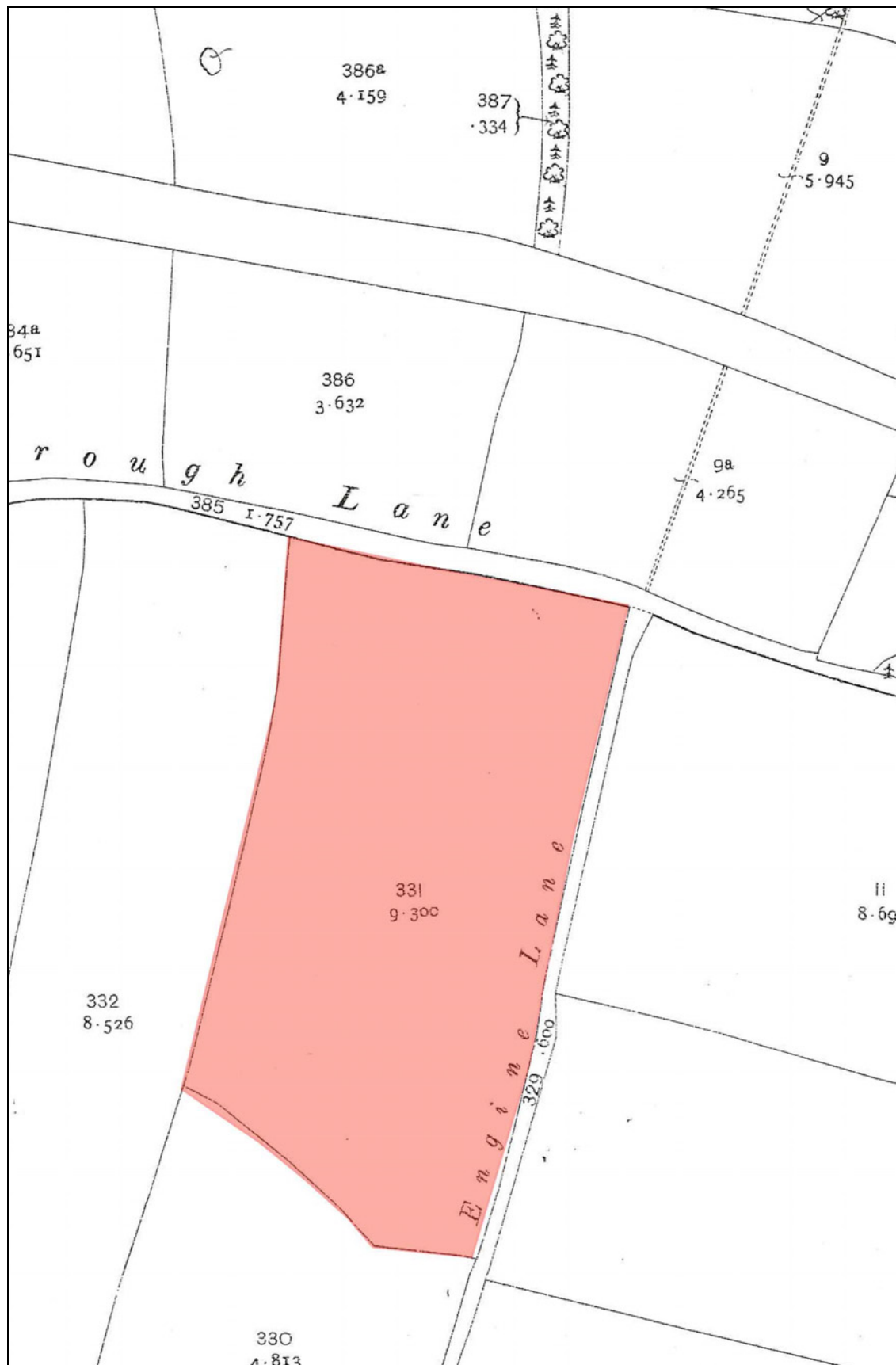


Figure 7. Extract from the 1906 Ordnance Survey map

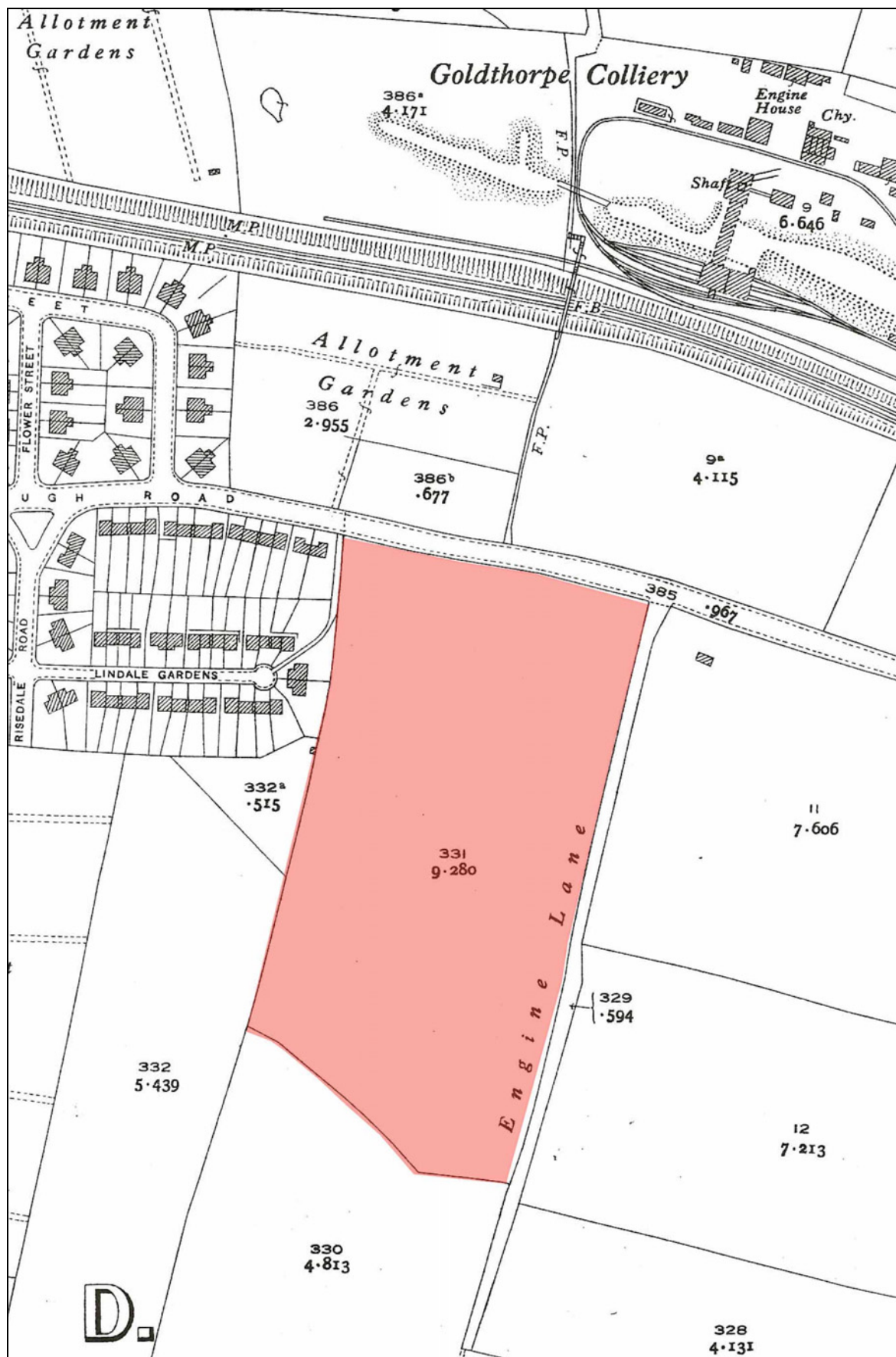


Figure 8. Extract from the 1930 Ordnance Survey map

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## 8.0 Site Visit.

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A site visit was undertaken on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011. This involved a walkover of those parts of the site that were accessible, with a view to gathering information that may influence the survival of below ground archaeological deposits, and to assess the character of the built environment.

The site visit confirmed the agricultural use of the entire site, which comprises a single gently undulating field, currently containing stubble (Plates 1 and 2). The eastern boundary of the site is formed by the unmade track, Engine Lane (Plate 3). Close to the western boundary of the field, adjacent to Lindale Gardens, a relatively recent raised man-hole was observed (Plate 4).

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## 9.0 Discussion and Archaeological Implications.

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The research undertaken in the preparation of this assessment has indicated that the site lies in an area with high potential to contain Roman-British remains. Whilst the majority of the sites recorded in the search area have been represented by cropmarks, indicating the presence of field systems trackways and enclosures, detailed excavation has taken place on a settlement site at Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe. This has revealed a farmstead, occupied from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. This area of South Yorkshire was clearly occupied by an extensive agricultural landscape during the Romano-British period. There is a strong possibility that elements of this extended onto the current site. Archaeological remains relating to the Romano-British period are likely to take the form of features, especially ditches, cut into the underlying natural, and sealed by the medieval to modern ploughsoils.

There is moderate potential for the site to contain archaeological remains of medieval date. These are likely to relate to agricultural landuse and would probably be limited to the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, and possibly ditches forming field boundaries.

There is a low potential for prehistoric or early medieval remains to be present, although it is possible that the Romano-British agricultural field systems discussed above originate in the later Iron Age.

The proposed residential development is likely to require groundworks that would impact upon archaeological deposits. To ascertain if archaeological deposits are present it will be necessary to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation to ascertain the exact nature of archaeological survival. In the first instance evaluation should take the form of geophysical survey of those parts of the site that are undeveloped. This would then be followed by the excavation of archaeological trial trenches.

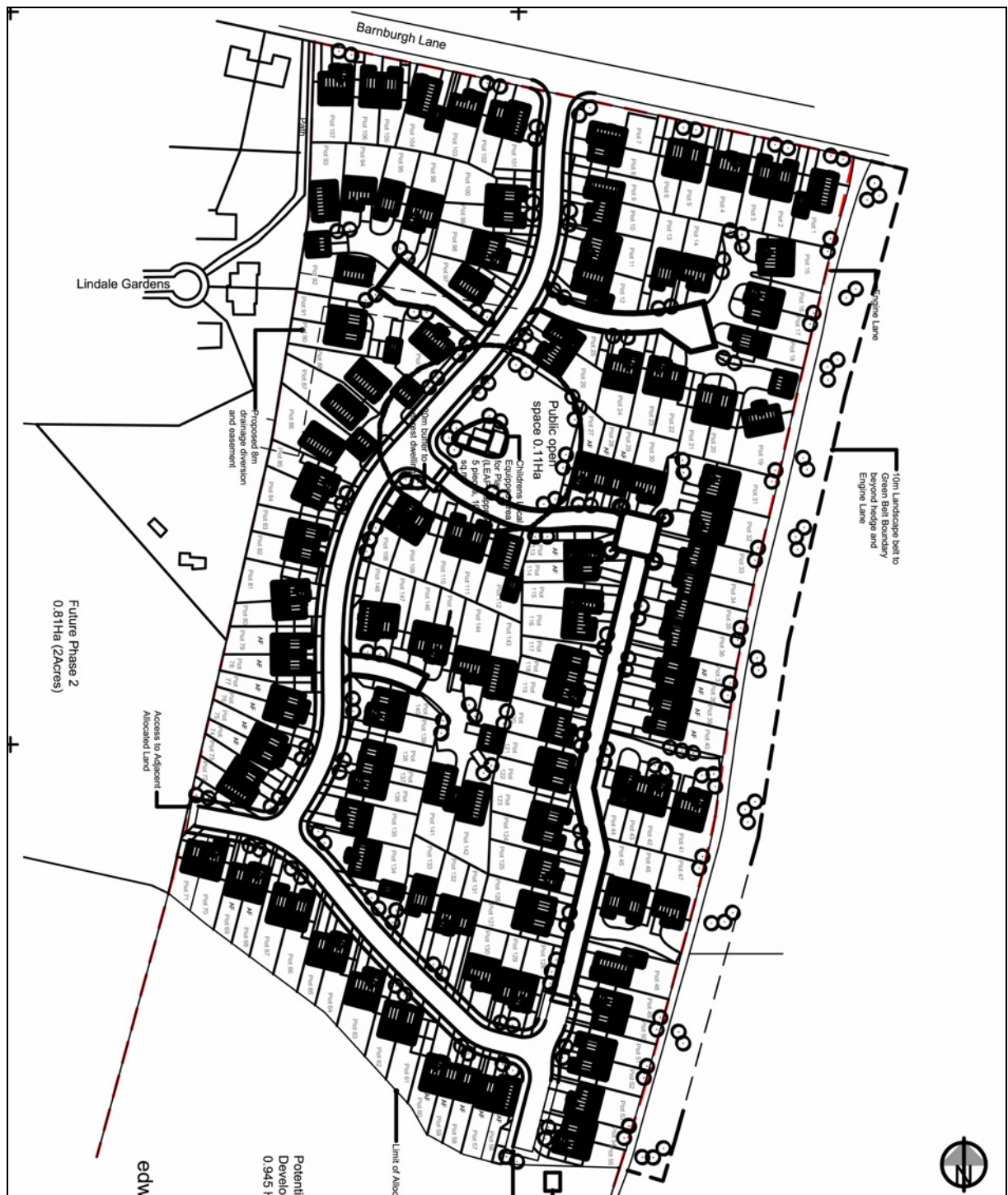


Figure 9. Proposed site layout.

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## 10.0 Bibliography

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ARCUS. 2009. Adwick Washlands, Bolton upon Dearne, South Yorkshire. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.

Hey, D. 2003. Medieval South Yorkshire.

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## 11.0 The Plates.

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*Plate 1. General view of site, looking south.*



*Plate 2. General view of site looking northwest.*



*Plate 3. View down Engine Lane from Barnburgh Lane.*



*Plate 4. Raised manhole towards western boundary of site.*