



# BWB

CONSULTANCY | ENVIRONMENT  
INFRASTRUCTURE | BUILDINGS

Miller Homes Ltd

LEES HALL ROAD, DEWSBURY

HERITAGE SUMMARY STATEMENT

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## HERITAGE SUMMARY STATEMENT

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## DOCUMENT ISSUE RECORD

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### Limitations

The assessments and interpretation have been made in line with legislation and guidelines in force at the time of writing, representing best practice at that time.

All of the comments and opinions contained in this report, including any conclusions, are based on the information obtained by BWB during our investigations.

There may be other conditions prevailing on the site which have not been disclosed by this investigation and which have not been taken into account by this report. Responsibility cannot be accepted for conditions not revealed by the investigation.

Any diagram or opinion of the possible configuration of the findings is conjectural and given for guidance only and confirmation of intermediate ground conditions should be considered if deemed necessary.

Except as otherwise requested by the Client, BWB is not obliged and disclaims any obligation to update the report for events taking place after:

- a) the date on which this assessment was undertaken; and
- b) the date on which the final report is delivered.

BWB makes no representation whatsoever concerning the legal significance of its findings or to other legal matters referred to in the following report.

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### APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Catalogue of Heritage Assets
Appendix 2	Heritage Assessment

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 BWB Consulting were commissioned by Miller Homes Ltd to produce a Heritage Assessment for a large parcel of land to the south of Dewsbury. The area assessed (see redline in Figure 1) will be the subject of various forthcoming planning applications including the area referred to as Lees Hall Road which sits within the northwestern extent of the identified developable area (blue hatched area).
- 1.2 It is not the intention of the summary statement to repeat the information contained within the Heritage Assessment as this would only serve as a regurgitation of the existing body of work. Subsequently this statement will summarise those salient points of the Heritage Assessment which directly relate to the site and its wider area

### Site location

- 1.3 The proposed development site covers an area of approximately 4.43ha on the southern edge of Thornhill Lees, centred at SE 234507 180670 (Figure 1). The site is located to the south of Low Road.

**Figure 1** Site Location (in blue)



### Geology and soils

- 1.4 The underlying geology of the proposed development site comprises Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation, with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2016). The overlying soil is of the Rivington 1 Association, a well-drained, coarse loamy soil (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

### Walkover survey

- 1.5 A walkover survey was undertaken on the 9th September 2016 in order to identify any archaeological features visible on the ground and to determine the potential for any future archaeological investigations.

## 2.0 BASELINE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The following provides an overview of the heritage resource (designated and non-designated assets) recorded within the site and the surrounding area. Further detail on the assets and the general archaeological and historical background is contained in the Heritage Assessment (Appendix 2).

### Identified archaeological sites, buildings and features

- 2.2 No archaeological sites or historic features have been identified within the proposed development. A number of archaeological events or monuments and listed buildings have been recorded in the wider study area (Fig. 2). Where relevant to this statement these are discussed below.

### Designated sites or areas

- 2.3 The wider study area contains a single Scheduled Monument (**52**) known as Thornhill Hall which is located to the south-east of the site. This consists of a 13<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed hall, a later 16<sup>th</sup> century stone-built hall and remains of a timber bridge over the moat. Another is known just outside the search area (**16**). This is the Castle Hall Hill motte and bailey castle (**16**) which lies to the north-west of the proposed development site, just outside the search area.
- 2.4 No Registered Parks and Gardens or battlefields lie within the application boundary or the wider study area.
- 2.5 To the south-east of the proposed development site is the Thornhill Conservation Area (**51**). This is described as 'predominantly open parkland and includes numerous 17th-century buildings, a medieval moated hall site, Thornhill Hall and a 15th-century church'.
- 2.6 The wider study area contains 49 (**B1-B49**) Listed Buildings, none of which are located within the proposed development site. The predominance of these lie within or near to Thornhill which is located to the east of the proposed development area.

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### *Early prehistoric period*

- 3.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity within the wider area is confined to isolated finds, including three flints from Crow Nest Park, Dewsbury, to the north of the site (PRN 3944) and an early Bronze Age barrow some distance to the east of the site (Webb and Boughey 2009).

### *Iron Age and Roman period*

- 3.2 Little Roman activity is recorded in Dewsbury, although isolated Roman finds were recovered during the 19th century and two 1st to 2nd-century coin hoards were found within a few miles of the town in the early 20th century (ASWYAS 2001), one of which lies to the south of the site on the southern edge of Thornhill (**44**).
- 3.3 Cropmarks are known to exist to the west of the site (**27**). Aerial Photographs taken in the 1970s show a possible large, irregularly-shaped enclosure and trackway. No date has been assigned to them, although similar evidence in the wider landscape shows that they typically date to the Iron Age or Roman period. An oval enclosure (**35**) has also been identified to the south of the proposed development site beyond Thornhill. Fieldwalking has recovered Roman and Medieval pottery from the surface, although a comparative site at Altoft has been shown to be post-medieval in origin.

### *Anglo-Saxon and medieval period*

- 3.4 The Roman missionary Paulinus is recorded as having visited Dewsbury in the 7th century (Smith 1967), when it appears to have been a major centre for Christians in the region. A carved medieval stone recovered from the marketplace in Dewsbury, approximately 3km to the north-east of the site, is thought to date to this period (*ibid.*).
- 3.5 Castle Hall Hill motte and bailey castle (**16**), a scheduled ancient monument, lies some distance to the north-west of the proposed development site, just outside the wider search area.
- 3.6 The manor house at Thornhill Hall (**52, B46**) lies to the south-east of the site on the outer edge of Thornhill Edge. It dates to the mid-15th century, probably 1450, and was occupied until 1648, when it was accidentally destroyed after a siege during the English Civil War. After this it was abandoned and its remains were quarried for stone (Pollington and Horn 2010). The site was excavated in the 1960s and 1970s which identified that the moat was established around 1450, at around the time a new house was constructed, superseding an earlier structure. Trial trenching was also undertaken in 2006 and 2008, which identified 17th or 18th-century remains and possible evidence of medieval iron working. Building recording was undertaken in 2012 (ASWYAS 2012a and 2012b) and a watching brief was maintained in 2014 on re-silting works (ASWYAS 2014).

- 3.7 Thornhill Lees Hall (**32, B17**) situated to the north-west of the site was established in the early 15th century, probably in 1412. The second hall (**31, B16**), gatehouse (**B18**) and barn (**B19**) are all later 17th-century additions. The hall was occupied until 1844 then left abandoned until 1947, when it was used for agricultural storage until 1962 when a programme of restoration began.

*Post-medieval and modern period*

- 3.8 During the post-medieval period a number of halls were built on the edge of Dewsbury. The second Lees Hall (**31**) dates to the 17th century, as do two of the associated buildings (**33** and **34**), though all have 19th-century additions. These buildings lie on the northern edge of Thornhill. Overthorpe Hall (**45**) located to the southeast of the site was one of the largest halls in Thornhill in 1666, however, it was subsequently demolished in 1936.
- 3.9 There are a significant number of 17th and 18th-century houses and barns (**B29, B30, B35, B36, B37, B38, B40, B42, B43, B44, B47, B48** and **B49**) within the search area. These were built as a result of the expansion of Dewsbury and Thornhill with was due to growth in the textile industry and its related trades.
- 3.10 A number of post-medieval churches lie within the study area including the Church of the Holy Innocents (**B23**) erected in 1858, along with a series of associated buildings (**B22, B24, B25, B26, B27** and **B28**). These assets are situated to the north of the site.
- 3.11 A former tannery (**25**) lies just to the south-west of the proposed development site on the eastern edge of Dewsbury District Golf Club, and while its date of construction is not recorded, it was extant in the late 1840s.
- 3.12 Several of the locks and bridges recorded within in the study area (**B13, B15, B21, B32, B33, B45, B50** and **B51**) were built in the 18th and 19th centuries around the River Calder. Parts of the Dewsbury Old Canal to the north-west of the site (**36** and **37**) were constructed to bypass the bend in the Calder and the Upper and Lower Watermills (**39**).
- 3.13 The site of the former Providence Glass Works (**42**) lies immediately to the north of the site and parts of Thornhill Power Station (**28**) are also still extant to the north-west.
- 3.14 Located to the northwest of the site, east of Providence Glass Works on the south bank of the Hebble Calder Navigation at Thornhill is a mill (**46**) which is annotated Slaithwaite Mill, (woollen) on the 1854 Ordnance Survey (OS) map and Hebble Mill on the 1894 OS map. It became used for shoddy and mungo by 1937. Located to the south of this on the northern edge of Thornhill is Ratcliffe Mills (**41**). This comprises a five storey Mill buildings constructed in 1873 by John Wormald and John Walker to provide facilities for wool-sorting and blending, carding and scribbling, spinning and weaving, with each process on a separate floor. The mill also had two steam engines and a boiler house. The mill complex is now known as Ratcliffe Mills.

### Map regression

- 3.15 On Jeffery's Survey of the County of Yorkshire the proposed development site is shown as largely undeveloped, Thornhill Lees, to the east of the site, is present and the area of woodland in the north of the site (Ladywood) appears to extend further to the west, although this is likely to be an amalgamation of Ladywood, Priest Royds Wood, Jordan Wood and Oliver Wood. The area surrounding the site also remains largely undeveloped, Mirfield and Dewsbury are relatively small and there is little construction along the river.
- 3.16 The First Edition OS map of 1855, shows the site in much greater detail. Marked are a number of open fields and labelled to the south is Cromwell Colliery which is connected to a railway
- 3.17 The OS survey of 1894 shows little change from 1855. The most notable addition is the construction of Ravensthorpe Road to the northwest of the site and the bridge over the railway line. The curve in the railway line to the west of the site has been eased and is now labelled as the Mineral Railway and Cromwell Colliery is now labelled Ingham's Pit.
- 3.18 The OS survey of 1908 also shows little change within the site. Outside of it, a brickworks has been constructed near Cromwell Colliery and a new coal pit has been built to the north of the site between the river and the railway.
- 3.19 The OS survey of 1930 demonstrates minimal change within the site since the publication of the 1908 edition. Some of the fields in the area have been combined into larger fields, but the majority remain unaltered and marked to the east are allotment gardens. The colliery to the south has been significantly enlarged.
- 3.20 Comparison between the 1930 OS edition and the 1955 OS map demonstrates that minimal change occurred within the site. All that is evident is further minor changes to the layout of the fields to create larger fields.
- 3.21 Analysis of the 1989-93 edition demonstrates that only minor changes occurred within the site since the publication of the 1974-83 map other than further re-arrangement of the fields.

## 4.0 ASSESSEMENT

### Recorded heritage assets

#### *Direct impacts*

- 4.1 No heritage assets have been recorded within the proposed development site and there is no evidence within the immediate area to suggest that it has been used for any purpose other than agricultural activity between the medieval and modern periods.

#### *Impact on setting*

- 4.2 The area to the east of Thornhill Hall (**52**) which lies within the Thornhill conservation area (**51**) have been developed significantly between the 1930s and the present day with residential housing. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have any further impact on the setting of either asset.
- 4.3 The heritage assets to the east and north of the site including the listed buildings are also unlikely to be impacted given the intervening urban development.

#### *Potential sub-surface remains*

- 4.4 There has been little archaeological excavation in the study area. Excavations to the southeast (**47** and **52**) identified medieval remains, which are likely to be focused with in the immediate environs of Thornhill rather than the site.
- 4.5 It is likely that the site was farmed during the medieval period. Such activity continued throughout the post-medieval and modern periods. Features associated with such use are likely to survive but these are of limited significance to warrant any investigation.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The proposed development site occupies land that has been used solely for agricultural purposes throughout its researchable history and remains undeveloped to the present day. There is no evidence for earlier activity within the site or its immediate environs.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Through the research undertaken it has been determined that there is little potential for archaeological deposits and or features to occur within this development parcel given the lack of archaeological evidence and the wider area. On this basis no further works are recommended.

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