

Archaeology and Historic Environment Addendum

Introduction

- 8.1 This assessment forms an addendum to the Archaeology and Historic Environment Chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES). It specifically focusses upon the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development with respect to the Grade II Listed Gawthorpe Water Tower (NHLE: 1472774). This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with professional guidance for assessing the contribution of setting to designated heritage assets and the impact of the development proposals upon significance, as set out within Historic England's guidance; *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* (Second Edition). The assessment has also been undertaken in accordance with the guidance, legislation and planning policy set out in Chapter 8 Archaeology and Historic Environment of the ES.

The Grade II Listed Gawthorpe Water Tower

Significance

- 8.2 The Grade II Listed Gawthorpe Water Tower dates between 1922 to 1928 when it was constructed along with the Pildacre Waterworks. The site of a late 19th century reservoir is situated c.10m to the south-west of the structure and a late 20th century covered reservoir is situated to the immediate south. The water tower is circular in plan and built in four stages (Photo 1). These stages include a low single-storey drum-shaped base with a central deeply recessed band and a doorway on the north side with an eared and shouldered architrave and a modern metal door. The base is topped by modern palisade fencing around the edge, which is not of special interest. The second stage comprises a circular shaft rising from the centre of the base, which is surrounded by concentric pillars, braced to the central shaft and to each other. The pillars support the water tank above, which is larger in diameter and square in plan with a simple cornice and kicked-out-feet. Arches spring from the uppermost sections where the pillars rise to meet the underside of the tank and give the appearance of an arcade. Attached to some of the pillars and horizontal braces is modern cabling and telecommunications equipment. This modern equipment is not of special interest. The tank at the third stage has a capacity of 1 million litres. The tank has recessed panelling with a moulded fascia and cornice below and a plain frieze above. Finally, it has an overhanging shallow conical roof surmounted by a tall domed cupola with a ball finial and an arcaded drum.



Photo 1: The Grade II Listed Gawthorpe Water Tower viewed from the north-east

- 8.3 Historic England states that the significance of the building and its principal reasons for listing comprise its architectural interest as it has a strikingly elegant neoclassical design executed in reinforced concrete that is atypical in its level of detailing and aesthetic treatment. It is a prominent landmark structure that makes a strong architectural statement reflecting civic pride. It compares favourably with other Listed water towers nationally and is a distinguished example of a municipal water tower. The building is also of historic interest as an important physical reminder of the significant advancements in health and sanitation made in the latter half of the 19th century and early 20th century, and developments in water supply provision.

Physical Surrounds – ‘what matters and why’

Topography, Orientation and Aspect

- 8.4 The Grade II Listed Gawthorpe Water Tower is situated on the western side of Chidswell Lane, approximately 800m south-east of the settlement of Shaw Cross, Chidswell and c.400m north of the settlements of Ossett/Gawthorpe (Figure 1, Photos 2 and 3). The course of Chidswell Lane follows a topographic ridge at a height of c.125m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The water tower appears to be sited at the highest point on this ridge at a height of c.128m aOD. The surrounding landscape falls steeply away from the ridge and water tower, to both the east and west, falling to a height of 105m aOD at Owl Lane, c.300m to the west and to c.64m aOD at the north-eastern extent of the Site c.1.5km to the north-east. The position of the water tower upon this ridge results in it forming a prominent, landmark feature on Chidswell Lane and from within the wider agricultural surrounding to the west and east of Chidswell Lane (Photo 4). This contributes to the significance of the building as its visual prominence provides an understanding of the development and evolution of the local water supply system.



Photo 2: The water tower viewed from the north-west depicting its prominent topographic position on Chidswell Lane



Photo 3: The water tower viewed from the south-western edge of the Site and the beer garden of The Huntsman Public House



Photo 4: View across the agricultural landscape from the south-eastern edge of the Site depicting the prominent position of the water tower on a ridge

Functional relationships and communications

- 8.5 The water tower is set within an enclosed area to the west of Chidswell Lane which is bound by a tall, irregularly coursed stone wall to the north, east and south (Figure 1 inset). A single gated access, flanked by irregularly coursed stone piers is situated to the north-east of the water tower and forms a single, controlled entry from Chidswell Lane into the water tower complex.¹ The walls and gate piers are of high quality and be contemporary with the construction of the water tower in the early 20th century, suggesting that there was a desire to purposefully enclose and restrict access to the water tower as private property.
- 8.6 To the immediate south of the water tower is a raised grassed area, which comprises a late 20th century covered reservoir (Figure 1 inset) and is separately enclosed from the water tower by an inner metal fence and outer timber fence along the course of Chidswell Lane and to the south and west of the covered reservoir. The remains of a second covered reservoir are situated to the immediate south-west and date to the early 20th century² (Figure 1 inset), predating the construction of the water tower, when it was constructed as Gawthorpe Reservoir; a part of the Ossett Corporation Water Works, and was supplied by floodwater at the Pildacre Colliery. As noted above, the tower was constructed alongside the early 20th century reservoir as part of the construction of the Pildacre Waterworks between 1922 and 1928. The proximity of the water tower structure to the covered earthworks of the reservoirs provides a sense of the development of the water supply system for the locality during the early 20th century and its evolution as the nearby settlements of Chidswell, Ossett and Gawthorpe expanded over the 20th century and into the 21st century.
- 8.7 There are a number of small structures situated in the immediate surroundings of the water tower. A single storey redbrick structure is present to the immediate north-west and

¹ <https://goo.gl/maps/NByKvnzmqB2XgvkV8>

² <https://goo.gl/maps/vmkMFqSKZKWWk2b77>

appears to conform with the footprint of a structure that is depicted on historic mapping dating to 1915. This structure may predate the water tower and was likely constructed to house works associated with the earlier covered reservoir belonging to the Osset Corporation Waterworks. A number of structures are depicted in the late 19th century surrounding the earlier reservoir and site of the water tower (Figure 1, inset) although the structure to the immediate north-west appears to be the only surviving element, which was associated with the earlier 19th century reservoir. A further redbrick single storey structure is situated to the immediate south-west of the water tower and to the east of a tarmacked access drive, which runs from the main entrance to the north-east around the western edge of the water to provide access into the late 20th century reservoir to the south. Further metal containers and structures have been constructed on the grassed area between the water tower and Chidswell Lane. The proximity of the water tower to these structures, which are industrial in character, provides an understanding of the development of the water supply system for the locality during the early 20th century and its evolution as the nearby settlements of Chidswell, Ossett and Gawthorpe expanded over the 20th century and into the 21st century.

Definition, scale and grain of surrounding streetscape, landscape and spaces

- 8.8 The water tower is situated in a relatively isolated position with extensive open agricultural fields extending eastwards from the water tower complex and east of Chidswell Lane for approximately 2km before it meets the outskirts of the settlements of Woodkirk and Tingley (Photos 5 and 6).
- 8.9 The open character of the agricultural land to the east, combined with the topography, which gradually declines between the water tower and the settlements to the north-east results in the water tower being a visually prominent landmark within the wider locality. Its visual prominence serves to provide an understanding of the development and provision during the early 20th century of a safe and reliable water supply for the surrounding villages.
- 8.10 The water tower is visible within the top right hand corner of an aerial photograph dating to 1953.³ The photograph depicts the water tower set within a much more openly agricultural landscape prior to the expansion of the surrounding settlements in the late 20th century. The aerial photograph also indicates that historically the landscape to the west of the water tower was industrial in character with the site of the early 20th century Shaw Cross colliery and brickworks, and the course of the GNR railway Chickenley Heath Branch situated c.600m to the west of the water tower (Figure 1). Over the course of the later 20th century the industrial and mining activities, which were sited to the west of the water tower fell into decline with Shaw Cross colliery closing in 1968. Subsequently the surrounding landscape saw a sharp increase in the residential expansion of the suburbs of Dewsbury including the surrounding settlements of Chidswell to the north-west and Ossett and Gawthorpe to the south. This has resulted in residential development in the formerly open agricultural and industrial setting to the west of the water tower.
- 8.11 Further agricultural fields are situated to the immediate west of the water tower on the western side of Chidswell Lane. These occupy the space between Chidswell Lane, Owl Lane and the late 20th and 21st century industrial and residential developments, c.400m south-west of the water tower and form the south-eastern extent of the settlement of Chidswell (see Figure 1). These agricultural fields comprise the remainder of the former open landscape to the south-east of the former village of Chidswell.

³ 1953 Aerial Photograph <https://britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EAW050305>

8.12 A planning application has been submitted for the development of 260 dwellings with open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure (Planning Reference 2019/62/92787/E Land at Owl Lane, Chidswell, Dewsbury; Figure 1) on a field of approximately 8.5ha situated to the immediate north-west of the water tower on the western extent of Chidswell Lane. The land is bound to the north by the course of Windsor Road, beyond which lies late 20th century residential development forming the south-eastern extent of Chidswell. The present open agricultural land allows open views to the south-east from Windsor Road⁴ and Owl Lane⁵, which provide an appreciation of the prominent position of the water tower in an isolated position between Chidswell and Gawthorpe, the villages that were supplied by the water tower.

Experience – ‘what matters and why’

Views from, towards, through, across and including the asset

8.13 The Grade II Listed Gawthorpe Water Tower is best appreciated from within its immediate environs to the west of Chidswell Lane from where one can appreciate the construction and architectural detailing, and the architectural and aesthetic values, which contribute to the significance of the water tower (Photo 1). Views of the water tower are afforded when travelling north and south along Chidswell Lane, where the water tower is a prominent and dominant landmark within the built form along Chidswell Lane (Photos 1 to 3). The views of the water tower afforded when travelling along Chidswell Lane allow for an appreciation of the architectural and aesthetic interest of the building and also include views of the water tower alongside other features relating to the local water supply. These views allow for an understanding of the development of the water supply system for the locality during the early 20th century and its evolution as the nearby settlements of Chidswell, Ossett and Gawthorpe expanded over the 20th century and into the 21st century.

8.14 The open agricultural landscape to the east of the water tower combined with the position of the structure at a high point on a topographic ridge affords long-range views of the water tower across this landscape, and from as far as the outskirts of Tingley approximately 2km to the north-east (Photos 5 and 6). These views allow for an appreciation of the formerly isolated and rural location of the water tower and its siting on a prominent topographic ridge. The views also include the tower of Trinity Church in Ossett c.1.6km to the south of the water tower and the appreciation of these two prominent structures in the same views also contributes to the sense of the water tower in a rural position between the settlements of Chidswell, Ossett and Gawthorpe, which the water tower served.

8.15 The topography declines to the west of the water tower and the small area of open agricultural space to the west of the water tower, between Chidswell Lane and Owl Lane also allows views of the water tower on the ridge. These views encompass the water tower and the built form of residential and industrial/commercial activities at the south-eastern extent of Chidswell. They provide a sense of the evolving landscape in which the water tower is situated; having altered over time from largely industrial to largely residential, alongside the residential expansion of the surrounding villages and their expansion closer to the water tower.

Visual dominance, prominence or role as focal point

8.16 The position of the water tower on the high ground of the ridge in combination with the open agricultural landscape to the east results in the water tower being a prominent architectural feature within its immediate surrounds. The building is a prominent feature standing tall above the surrounding low buildings on Chidswell Lane when travelling north

⁴ <https://goo.gl/maps/yyitXhyPf7ztWN4L6>

⁵ <https://goo.gl/maps/u55GjH4hq3xJkPSg8>

and south along the road. The water tower also forms a prominent feature in long ranging views, which extend westwards across the agricultural landscape from neighbouring villages to the east and from the built form of the south-eastern extent of Chidswell to the west. This visual prominence contributes to the significance of the building and provides an appreciation of its architectural and aesthetic values as well as a sense of the development of health, sanitation and the local public water supply during the course of the 20th century.



Photo 5: View along the southern boundary of the Site, across the agricultural landscape towards Trinity Church, Ossett and Gawthorpe Water Tower



Photo 6: View south-west towards Gawthorpe Water Tower from Batley Road, Tingley

The contribution of the Site

- 8.17 The Site comprises an area of approximately 113ha of agricultural fields, the south-western extent of which is situated approximately 118m to the north-west of the water tower. The western extent of the Site is bound by built form and vegetative boundaries occupying the course of Chidswell Lane. The Site is divided into approximately 21 agricultural fields. Those within the south-western extent are large and regularly sized whereas those within the northern and eastern extent are smaller and irregularly shaped. The topography of the Site gradually slopes from a ridge on which Chidswell Lane lies and the south-western extent of the Site, which is situated at c.121m aOD, falling to a height of 74m aOD at its south-eastern extent.
- 8.18 The Site comprises a large proportion of the agricultural land, which gradually slopes eastwards away from the ridge upon which the water tower is situated. The openness of the agricultural landscape to the east of the water tower, including the Site results in the water tower being a prominent architectural feature in long ranging views from the east. This visual prominence provides an appreciation and understanding of the development of the water supply system for the locality during the early 20th century and its evolution resulting from the 20th and 21st century growth of the nearby settlements of Chidswell, Ossett and Gawthorpe.

Impact of the proposals on the significance of the Grade II Listed Gawthorpe Water Tower

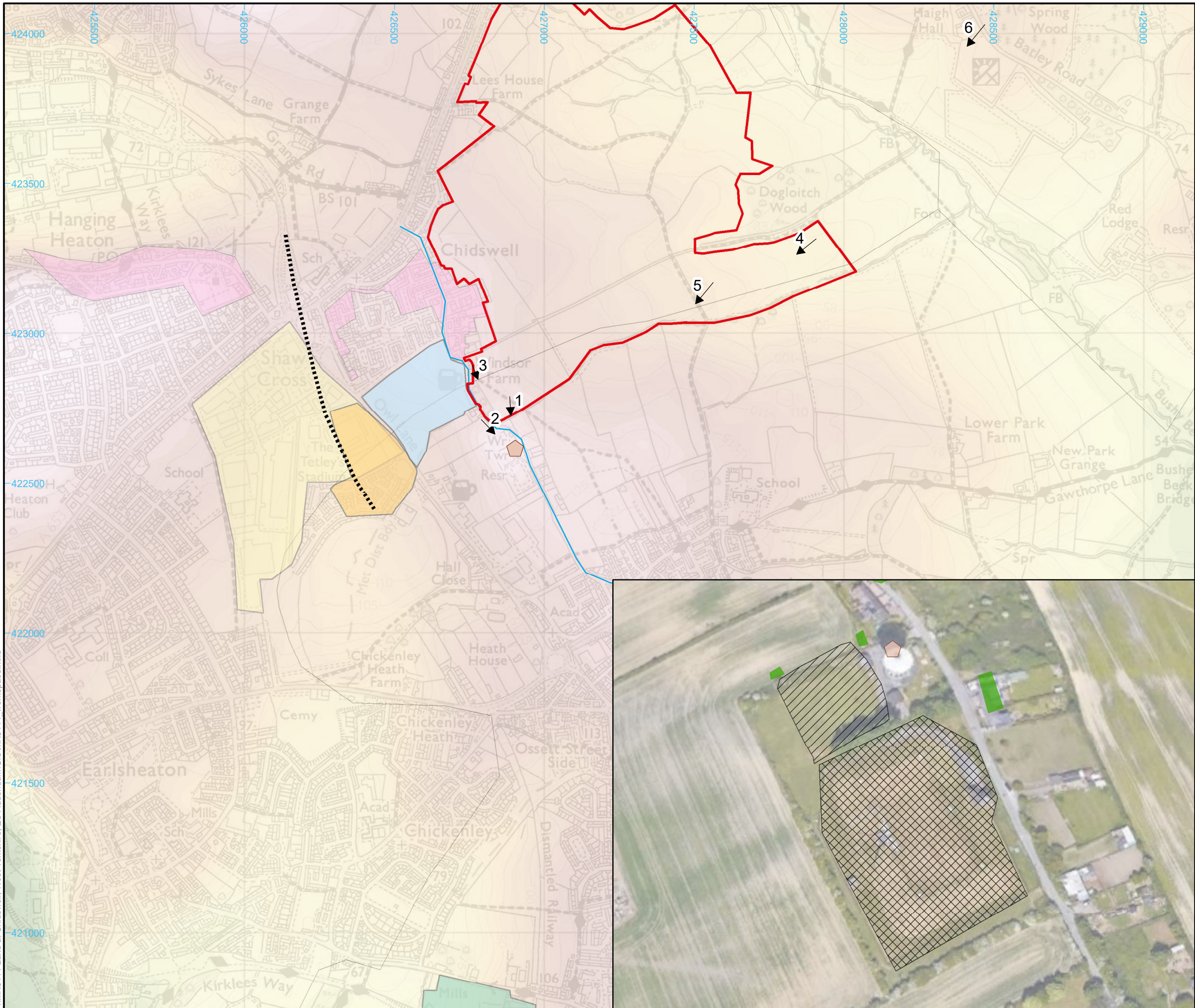
- 8.19 The proposed development will result in the loss of part of the open agricultural landscape to the north-east of the water tower and represents an element of the expansion of Chidswell, which the construction of the water tower in the early 20th century was in part intended to support and facilitate. The loss of adjacent agricultural land is not considered to diminish the architectural and aesthetic interest of the building, which is best appreciated from within its immediate environs to the west of Chidswell Lane. The topography of the Site, sloping in a













north-easterly direction away from the water tower, in combination with the low massing of the residential properties within closest proximity of the water tower, to be restricted to a height of 12m in the south-western and south-eastern extents, will ensure that the water tower remains a prominent architectural feature along the course of Chidswell Lane. In addition, the water tower will remain prominent in the long ranging views available from the neighbouring villages to the east where the water tower will be visible above the low massing of the residential properties within the south-western half of the Site.

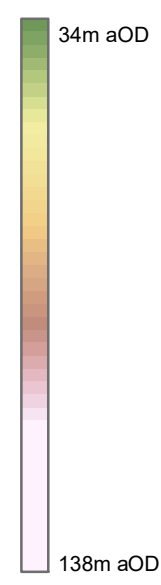
- 8.20 A planning application (Planning Reference: 2019/92787 Land at Owl Lane, Chidswell, Dewsbury) for the erection of 260 dwellings c.150m north-west of the water tower concluded that there would be no demonstrable harm to the Grade II Listed Gawthorpe Water Tower as *'the sloping topography, as well as the location and scale of the proposed units will ensure that the extension of the residential area towards the water tower will not diminish the architectural or historic interest of the newly designated structure as a heritage asset. The experience of the water tower will be changed by the transformation of the arable landscape to the north-west of the structure but the appreciation of its distinctive design and prominence as a landscape feature will be retained'* (Consultation Response from Kirklees Council Conservation and Design, 25.01.21). It was thus concluded that the development on land at Owl Lane accords with the intent of the Local Plan policies and the NPPF.
- 8.21 The proposed development within the Site will also result in a change to the experience of the water tower as a result of the transformation of the arable landscape to the east; however, it is considered that the appreciation of its distinctive design and prominence as a landscape feature will be retained.

Conclusion and Summary

- 8.22 On the basis of the above, the proposed development will not result in change to the key components of the setting of the Grade II Listed Gawthorpe Water Tower that contribute to its significance. These components comprise the 20th century earthworks and structures constructed to the south and west of the water tower as part of the improvements to the water supply and wider health and sanitation facilities constructed in the early 20th century to serve Chidswell and the neighbouring settlements. The building will remain a prominent feature both within its immediate environs on Chidswell Lane and within the wider landscape to the east. Thus, significance of the Listed Building resulting from its architectural and aesthetic values and in its statement as a reminder of advancements in health and sanitation will remain unharmed. The experience of the water tower will be altered by the changes to the arable landscape to the north-west of the structure but these do not contribute to its heritage significance and the appreciation of its distinctive design and prominence as a landscape feature will be retained.
- 8.23 In summary, taking into account the addition of the Gawthorpe Water Tower to the built heritage and historic landscape baseline, the proposed development will still not result in any significant effects on heritage assets, including buried archaeological remains, although non-significant effects, previously detailed within the Environmental Statement, have been identified (Chapter 8 and Appendices 8.1, 8.2).



-  Grade II Listed Gawthorpe Water Tower
-  Site
-  Photo Location
-  Chidswell Lane
-  Areas of 19th century development
-  Site of 19th century colliery
-  19th century GNR Chickenley Heath Branch
-  Former Pildacre Colliery
-  20th and 21st century commercial and industrial area
-  Residential development after Kirklees Council
-  Late 19th century Gawthorpe Reservoir Location
-  Late 20th century reservoir
-  Structures present by 1931



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Chidswell, West Yorkshire

FIGURE TITLE
**The Setting of the Grade II Listed
 Gawthorpe Water Tower**

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