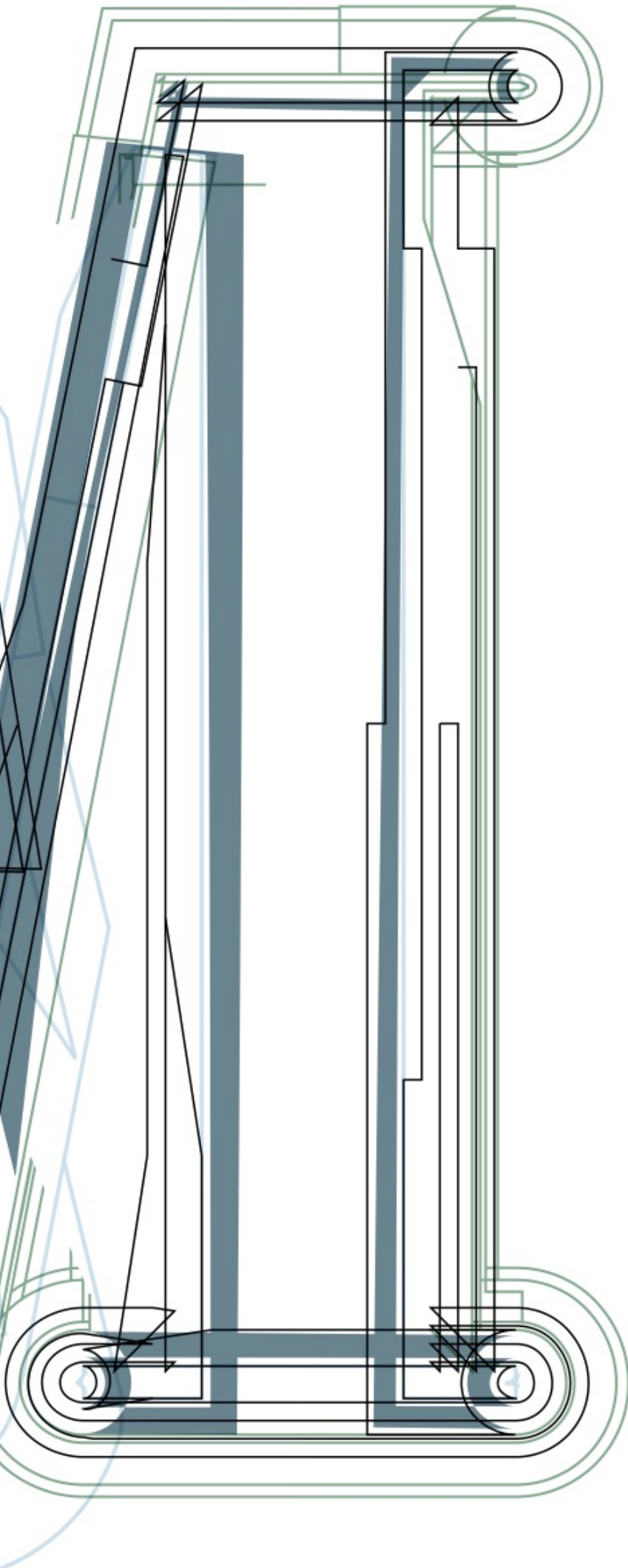
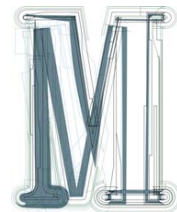


m b Heritage

Old White Lee Colliery
Leeds Road
Heckmondwike

Visual Assessment



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Leeds Road
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Visual Assessment

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.01 This Report sets out an initial desk-based and visual assessment of land and buildings comprising the site of the former White Lee Colliery to the west of the junction of Leeds Road with Muffit Lane in Heckmondwike (NGR SE21930 25194). The extent of the assessment site is shown at Figure 1.



Figure 1: Site Extent

- 1.02 Standing buildings falling within the southern section site comprise a range of workshop, office and garaging buildings most recently in use as an engineering works and now used primarily for storage or vacant. The land to the north is predominantly made-ground under scrub and extends to the boundary with Muffit Lane. Owners accommodation, garaging and garden land to the east falls outside of the assessment area.

- 1.03 The site is not subject to any statutory building specific or area-based heritage designation. No records contained on the West Yorkshire Historic Environment relate to the site or its immediate vicinity.
- 1.04 The purpose of the Report is to provide a short desk-based review of the historical development of the site and visual survey of standing buildings to establish the presence, or otherwise, of fabric relating to historical mining operations. The survey is based upon a non-intrusive visual inspection of on-site buildings undertaken in March 2021.
- 1.05 Historic mapping is included at Appendix 1. Plates of the internal and external fabric of the principal buildings are included at Appendix 2 and cross referenced below.

2.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.01 At the time of writing, access to primary archive and research material is restricted due to COVID 19 restrictions. A brief desk-based summary of the historical development of the site is provided below and summarises the mapping record relevant to the site.
- 2.02 Mining activity in the Batley area is documented in the 17th century and earlier workings at White Lee were recorded in around 1677 by Henry Cooke of Carlinghow Old Hall. Priestley (1831)¹ references a railway linking the White Lee Colliery, 'above Heckmondwike', with the Calder navigation although noted that the colliery had now been worked out and the railway taken up.
- 2.03 The earlier pit workings are not shown on the 1854 Ordnance Survey plan so its location and extent unclear although a number of shallow pits are shown in the vicinity of the site and a possible shaft marked to the south. A terrace of workers houses shown in 1854 at the Leeds Road frontage may have been associated with the earlier mine. The Northern Mining Research Society records the White Lee Colliery as operating between 1888 and 1941 when it was abandoned. The mine was abandoned due to flooding.

¹ Priestley, J. 1831. Historical Account of the Navigable Rivers, Canals and Railways of Great Britain

- 2.04 Records from 1896 place the mine under the ownership of the White Lea Coal Company, owned by Alfred West and managed by W.Kelsick and producing household coal. It records 97 workers with 73 underground.²
- 2.05 The site is shown as disused by 1955 although the engineering use of the site was established around this time as a metallizers, paint and coating sprayers. This use continued until around 2018 and buildings have since been used for storage purposes.
- 2.06 The 1894 OS plan marks White Lee Colliery with a range of buildings, on a broadly L-shape plan form to the north and west sides of the current yard area. A square plan building to the north-east was likely winding house or pump house and corresponds with the position of a shaft shown on later mapping. Spoil areas are shown to the south-west and east of the building group with the former linked by a tram line.
- 2.07 The 1907-08 OS plan shows a reworking of the building with the western range removed and northern range extended to the north-east. A new building, on square plan, is shown to the south and likely built as an engine or pump house. By 1922 the site is annotated as *White Lea Colliery* and a second shaft is shown to the south of the building group with ventilation chimneys to the north. Spoil areas have expanded and a reservoir is marked to the north of the site. Little change to the configuration of buildings is shown on the 1938 OS plan. A tramway is shown to the northern spoil areas and outbuildings and tanks shown to the south of the building group.
- 2.08 The 1955 OS plan marks the site as disused and the majority of buildings associated with the colliery use removed. The southernmost building within the range, originally on a square plan form, appears partially retained although by this point extended to the north-west. This building corresponds with the current western range within the site. The retained garage building has also been constructed by this point. The position of one ventilation chimney remains marked.

² Wardell. FN. 1896. Report on Mines worked under the Coal Mining Regulations Act, in the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire, during the year 1896.

- 2.09 The 1988-93 OS plan shows the current building range of works buildings as constructed. A small building to the north is no longer present and subsequent to the publication of the plan a 2-storey office building was constructed. Later work also included the extension of the north range to the north-west.
- 2.10 Extracts from OS mapping are included at Appendix 1.

3.0 VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 3.01 A series of plates of the principal buildings within the site are included at Appendix 1.
- 3.02 The majority of buildings retained within the site post-date the survey for the 1955 OS plan and were likely built during the later 1950s and 1960s with later extensions and reconstruction. The north and central ranges were built in an orange/red stock brick with steel frame roof structure and later profile sheet roof coverings. The north range was extended to the west/south west in a similar stock brick and to the eastern extension northwards in blockwork construction.
- 3.03 Whilst a number of modern hoist cranes are retained within the north and central range, no significant machinery is retained. Internally all floors are laid to a concrete screed.
- 3.04 Earlier fabric is visible within the southern section of the west range, principally to the west and south-east walls which have been over-clad externally. This relates to the southern square-plan building first shown on the 1907-08 OS plan, absent on the 1894 plan, and in part, the later extension built between the survey dates for the 1938 and 1955 plans. Much of the later extension has however been rebuilt to a blockwork construction. Roof structure has been replaced in both sections of the building and over-clad.
- 3.05 The west and south-east walls of the west range retain blocked off window openings with brick arched heads those to the west wall in part bisected by a later division wall. The design and depth of the openings is suggestive of an engine or pump house although legibility is poor. The positioning of openings suggests a constructed in 2 x 3 bays. Wall boxes are evident but appear to be later additions connected with the engineering works. The original height of the

building is unclear given the later replacement of roof covering and take down of the upper sections of walling.

- 3.06 Retaining walling to the south of the building group retains brickwork matching that within the west range and may indicate the base/platforms of earlier buildings. The remainder of yard areas are now hard surfaced. Walkover of the wider site revealed no surface evidence of previous mining activity although areas of made ground relating to the position of the eastern spoil tip are apparent.

4.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

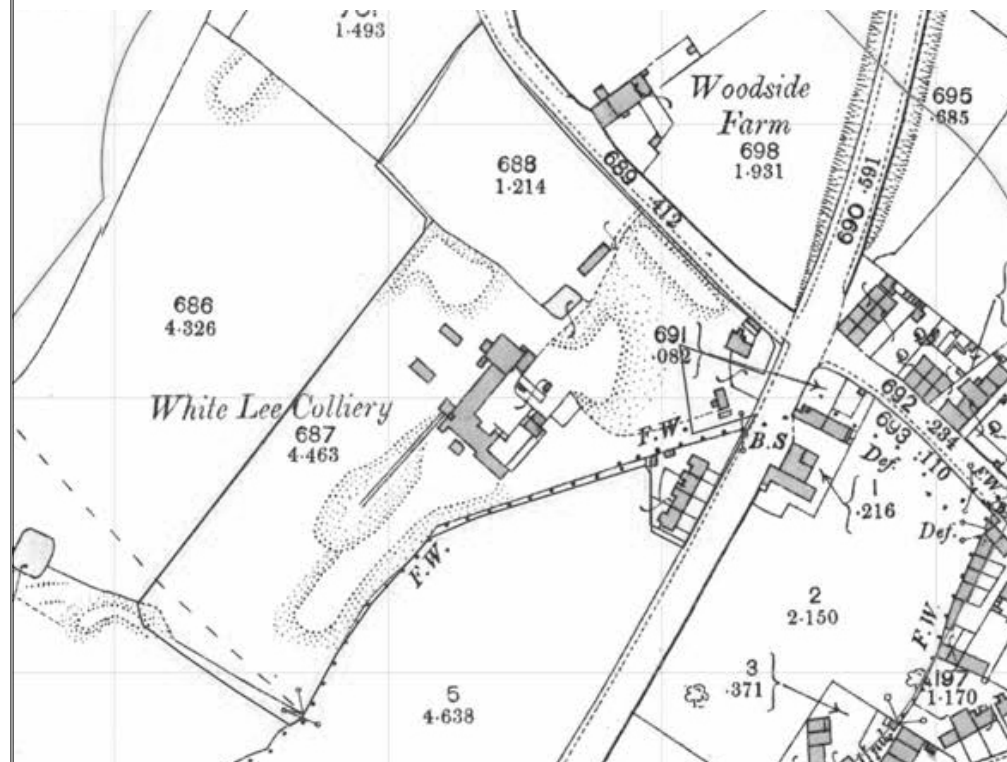
- 4.01 Following a visual survey it is evident that the majority of buildings retained within the site post-date the 1950s and are, for the period, of standard construction. No significant machinery is retained within the buildings relating to earlier mining or engineering operations, the majority being of late 20th century date.
- 4.02 Sections of walling within the west range likely date to the late 19th or early 20th century rather than the earliest building group relating to mining operations shown on the 1894 OS plan. Survival is however fragmentary with sections of walling rebuilt or removed and roof structure replaced. Embedded window openings suggest a possible function of the building as a engine or pump house although evidential value is limited and no other features or machinery which would illuminate past use were observed. No other surface evidence of the previous mining operations within the site was apparent from walkover although made ground from historical spoil areas is evident.
- 4.03 Further pre-demolition evaluation of retained fabric is unlikely to further understanding of mining operations within the site during the 19th and early 20th century. Remaining fabric is fragmentary with no fully retained buildings from this period standing. It is however recommended that further discussions are undertaken with West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Services in respect of any further recording or evaluation work.

APPENDIX 1

HISTORIC MAPPING



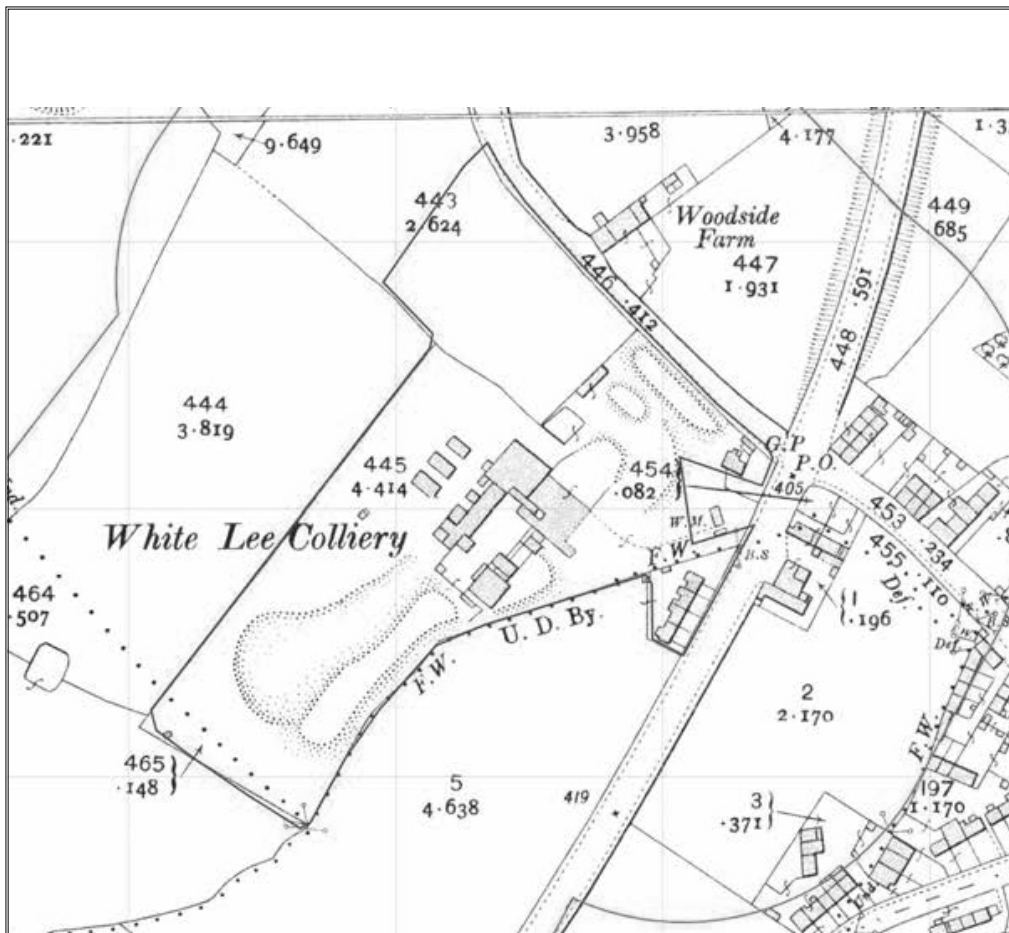
OS Plan 1854 (1:10560)



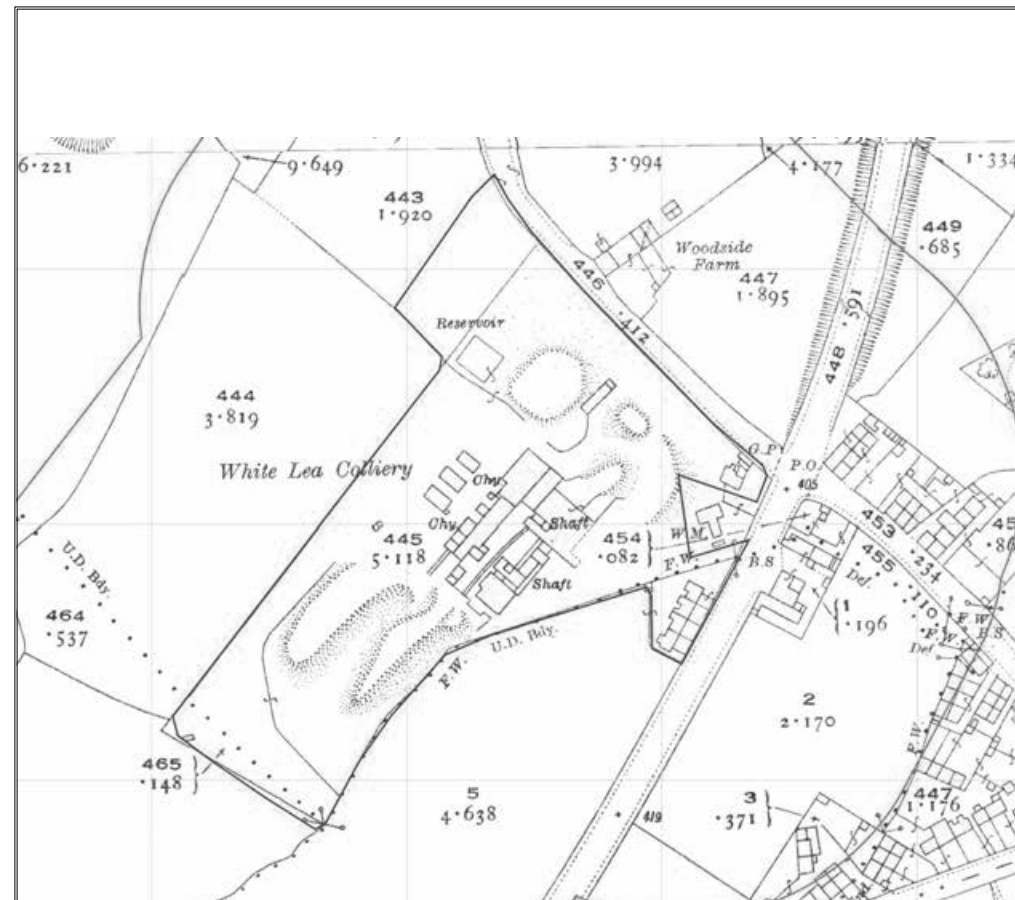
OS Plan 1894 (1:2500)

Historic Mapping (OS)

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



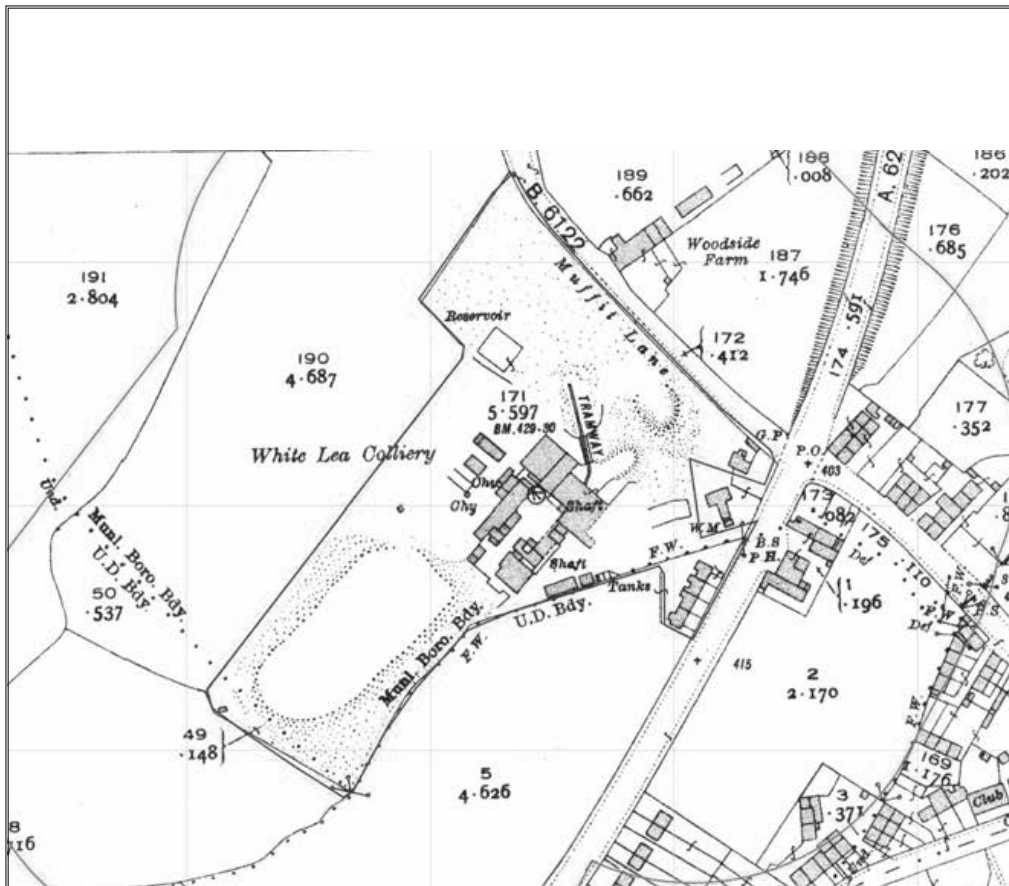
OS Plan 1907-08 (1:2500)



OS Plan 1922 (1:2500)

Historic Mapping (OS)

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
 PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



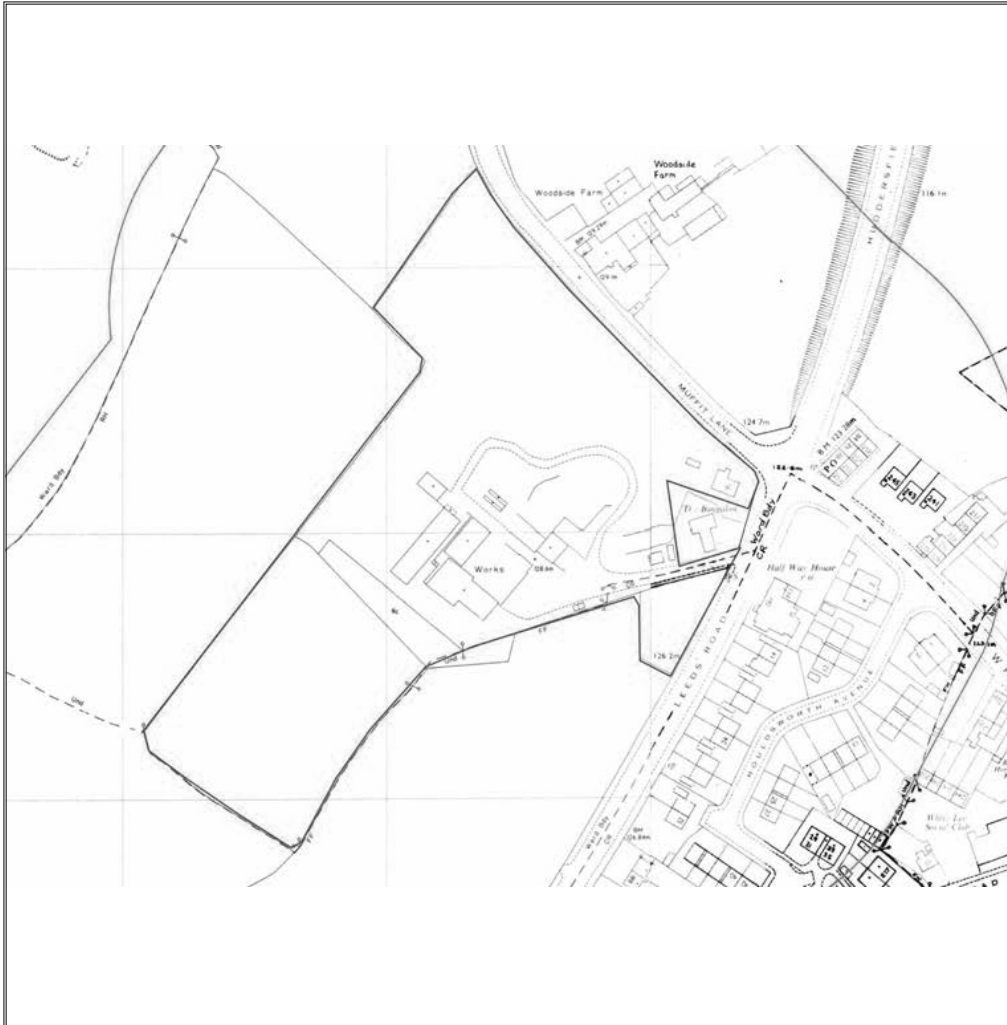
OS Plan 1938 (1:2500)



OS Plan 1955 (1:1250)

Historic Mapping (OS)

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



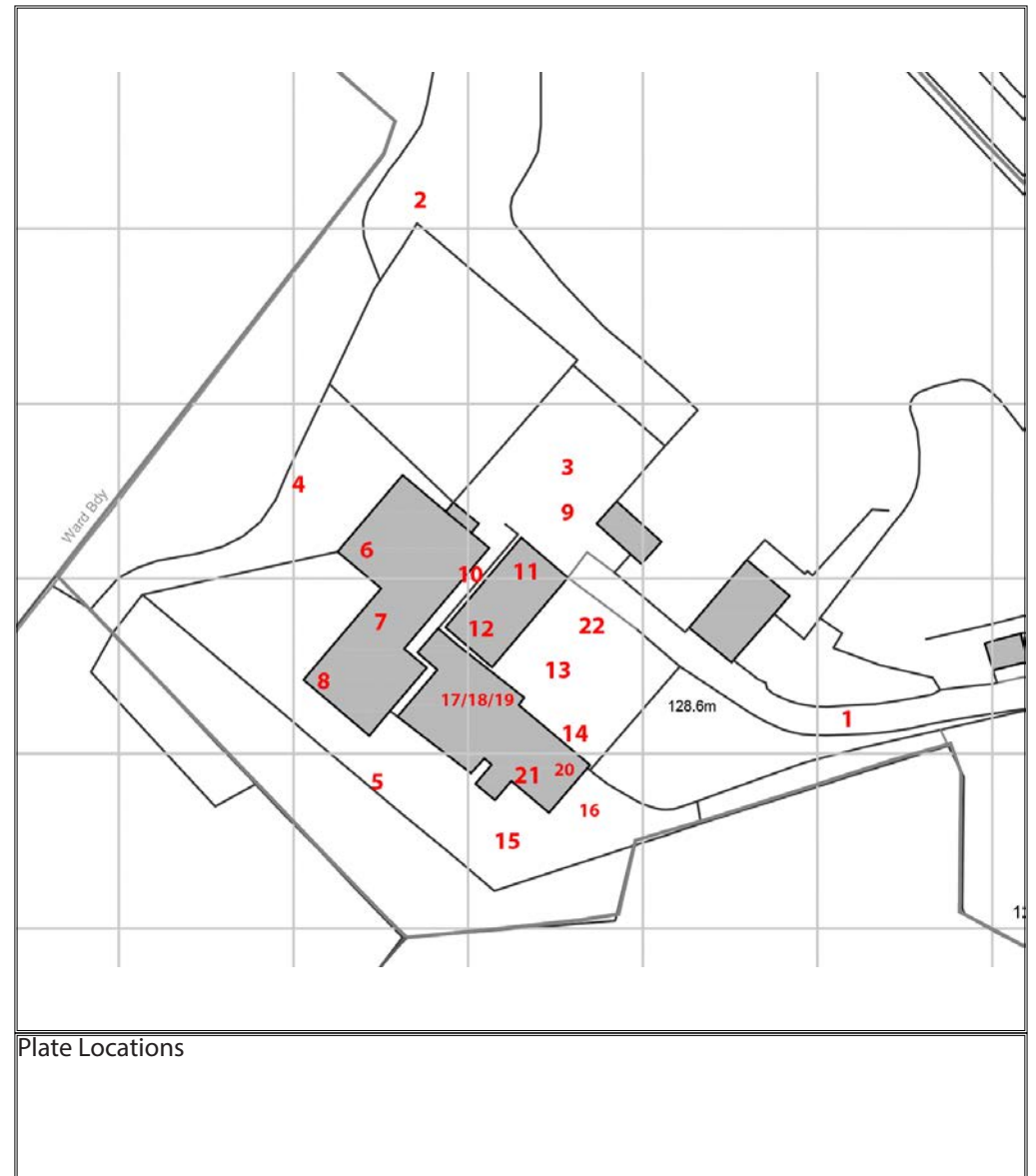
OS Plan 1988-93 (1:2500)

Historic Mapping (OS)

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment

APPENDIX 2

PLATES



Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
 PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



Plate 1
Building group from the south showing retained building platform with later workshop buildings beyond. A later 20th century garage block is to the foreground ,right.



Building group from the north with former spoil areas to foreground.

Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



Plate 3
North range shed from the east. Constructed in a red stock brick with later extension to north in blockwork and now over-clad.



Plate 4
North range shed from north. The western section has not been extended to the north but changes in brickwork and window treatment indicate an extension to the east.

Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



Plate 5
North range shed from the south.



Plate 6
North range shed interior. Original north wall now internal within later blockwork extension.

Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



Plate 7
North range shed, eastern section interior.



Plate 8
North range shed, eastern section interior. Later extension.

Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



Plate 9
Central range shed from east. Building is constructed in a red stock brick, sheet cladding and latter blockwork.



Plate 10
Central range shed north elevation to left.

Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



Plate 11
Central range shed interior.



Plate 12
Central range shed interior.

Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



Plate 13
Central range shed south elevation at junction with eastern range.



Plate 14
West range shed south section.

Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



Plate 15
West range shed, west elevation, with later blockwork and cladding.



Plate 16
West range shed, south elevation. Retaining walls indicating fabric from earlier buildings and structures.

Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



Plate 17
West range shed interior, northern section. Some earlier fabric is retained with the majority of walling now formed in blockwork.



Plate 18
West range shed interior, northern section.

Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



Plate 19
West range shed interior, northern section.



Plate 20
West range shed interior, southern section, east wall. Earlier fabric retained with arch head window openings. Division wall to right is later addition.

Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment



Plate 21
West range shed interior, southern section, south wall. Earlier fabric retained with tall arch head window openings. Wall boxes appear later additions.



Plate 22
Later office building in red stock brick with profile sheet roof covering.

Plates

SITE: Old White Lee, Colliery, Heckmondwike
PROJECT: Desk-Based Assessment