

NetworkRail

**Transpennine Route Upgrade
Bradley Junction Compound
Historic Environment Baseline Report**

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1. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

1.1. Historic Environment Baseline

Historic Background

- 1.1.1. The proposed compound is to be located to the southeastern extent of Bradley at the location of the former Bradley Nurseries (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). The Site is first depicted as an undeveloped area in the Six-inch OS map of 1854 (not reproduced here), located to the north of the Huddersfield & Manchester Railway (incorporated into the London and North Western Railway (LNWR)). Surrounding development was sparse but included a terrace and the Woodman Inn to the north, and the railway, Bradley Junction, Bradley Station and a colliery, with associated coke kiln and coal staithes, to the south. By the end of the 19th century, the development of the area continued with the addition of the Church of St Thomas and associated graveyard to the east of the Site, on the other side of Station Road. The open land identified at the Site has been reported as being in use as a municipal plant nurseries as early as the 1870s, although this is not represented on historic maps.¹
- 1.1.2. Into the 20th century, development in Bradley gradually expanded and approached the Site from the northwest. In the 25-Inch OS Map of 1918 (see below, Insert 1-1) the colliery and associated building were no longer shown to the south of the Site, and one additional building was added along Station Road. Most notably was the establishment of an unnamed rectangular building within the confines of the Site. This building is only shown on this one historic map, suggesting that it was extant for only a short period of time, or was perhaps even unfinished. Given the temporary nature of the building and the period of its construction, it is possible that it could have been associated with one of the munitions factories established throughout Huddersfield during World War I², particularly given that the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) records a known WWI Munition Factory and picric acid works, located at South Bradley (MWY12936). Given that the building is not shown in subsequent OS mapping, there is low potential for the survival of any associated undisturbed buried remains, and it is likely that this building would have considerably disturbed any earlier buried archaeological remains present within its footprint.

¹ Martin Shaw for the Huddersfield Hub, (2022), *Former Bradley Nurseries Sites to be Demolished Ahead of Re-Development – Five Years After it Closed*. Accessed from [Former Bradley Nurseries site to be demolished ahead of re-development - five years after it closed - Huddersfield Hub](#)

² Grace's Guide to British Industrial History, (n.d.), *L.B. Holliday and Co*. Accessed from [L. B. Holliday and Co - Graces Guide](#)



Insert Error! No text of specified style in document.-1 25-Inch OS Map of 1918, showing the proposed compound site. Note the establishment of an unnamed rectangular building within the site. The mapping also shows the Church of St Thomas to the north-east

- 1.1.3. Development continued to gradually increase throughout the 20th century, transforming the former rural and open landscape with suburban residential development. Bradley Nurseries continued to remain in operational use by Kirklees Council and included a main building and polytunnel greenhouses with access via the Ashley Industrial Estate.³ The nurseries closed in December 2016 and the upstanding structures were left *in situ* until 2022 when the area was cleared and buildings removed (subject to planning ref 2022/90230). The construction and operation of the nurseries, along with the work undertaken to clear the Site, are likely to have disturbed, truncated or removed any buried archaeological remains historically present within the Site which would have not already been disturbed by previous buildings.

Surrounding Heritage Assets

- 1.1.4. There are no designated or non-designated heritage assets located within the Site itself, however there are two Grade II Listed Buildings located within 50m of the

³ Martin Shaw for the Huddersfield Hub, (2022), *Former Bradley Nurseries Sites to be Demolished Ahead of Re-Development – Five Years After it Closed*. Accessed from [Former Bradley Nurseries site to be demolished ahead of re-development - five years after it closed - Huddersfield Hub](#)

Site boundary. These comprise:

- Former Church of St Thomas (NHLE 1273979), located approximately 30m to the east of the Site; and
- Gatepiers of Church of St Thomas (NHLE 1238947), located approximately 15m to the east of the Site.

Former Church of St Thomas (Grade II Listed, NHLE 1273979)

- 1.1.5. The Former Church of St Thomas is located to the east of the Site and was designated Grade II in April 1976. The church was built in the 1860s to the design of W.H. Crossland for which it derives historical value. The church's main elevation is oriented towards the west and a secondary entrance facing south. The church derives aesthetic value for its Free-Decorated architectural style which features steep roof lines, a large rose window on its western elevation, double-chamfered west doorway, double quatrefoils in the windows, and stained glass. The church retains group value with its Grade II Listed gatepiers (see below). It also derives some significance from its setting as a result of the sloping landscape which somewhat accentuates the asymmetrical design of the church. Surrounding 20th and 21st century development which superseded the former rural character of the area are now considered to be neutral elements in its setting. The church was declared redundant in 1975, though it remains in active use following its adaption as a gymnastics club. The Grade II Listed church maintains pockets of intervisibility with the Site between the dense vegetation lining the western extent of Station Road, albeit they do not draw significance from one another.

Gatepiers of Church of St Thomas (Grade II Listed, NHLE1238947)

- 1.1.6. The Gatepiers of Church of St Thomas are located to the east of the proposed Site and were designated Grade II in April 1976. The piers were constructed of ashlar with pointed tops and geometrical pattern in shallow relief, whilst the gates were made of cast iron with an elaborate pattern. The northern gatepier appears to have collapsed by 2009, however the southern pier remains extant and retains its legibility. The setting of the gatepiers is localised and appreciated in relation to the Former Church of St Thomas (see above) and its immediate surroundings, for which they were originally constructed for access into and out of the church and associated graveyard. To this extent, the gatepiers also derive significance for their group value with the former church. Though surrounding development has occurred since their construction, this has not resulted in changes to their localised setting, given that they remain legible as a permeable boundary between Station Road and the Former Church of St Thomas. Similarly to the associated church, the gatepiers maintain pockets of intervisibility with the Site between the dense vegetation lining the western extent of Station Road, however such views do not contribute to the ability to appreciate their overall significance.

1.2. Impact

- 1.2.1. As previously discussed, the garden nursery originated in the 1870s and remained in use until 2016 with the redundant buildings been removed in 2022. The proposals for a compound here would seek to use the space for a small welfare site which will include 25 (plus two accessible) staff parking spaces, five 32ft long cabins built adjacent to each other, pedestrian walkway, tank, generators etc., and storage areas which would also be used for bridge deck assembly. Vehicles access / egress will be via the existing entrance from the industrial estate.
- 1.2.2. Some excavation and drainage will be required to establish the car park, cabins and

compound sites. The depths of these excavations will generally be 0.3m across the Site, with some localised area of 0.5m for deeper foundations if soft spots are encountered. Given the longstanding historic use of the Site as a garden nursery, this would have likely truncated any buried archaeological remains within the Site, for example any associated with the former unidentified rectangular buildings shown on OS Map 1918, which itself is likely to have disturbed or truncated any earlier archaeology. Therefore, there is a very low archaeological potential within the Site as a result. Though the construction of the compound will involve ground disturbance, this is unlikely to result in the disturbance, truncation or removal of any buried archaeological remains.

- 1.2.3. Both the church and the gatepiers are currently screened from the proposed Site by trees, with intermittent intervisibility. This vegetation buffer around the proposed compound Site would remain. Given that the setting of the two structures is mostly characterised by their relationship with one another, the presence of the compound is not anticipated to result in any notable change to the ability to appreciate their setting or significance. The relationship between the church and gatepiers would remain unchanged. The extent to which the Listed Buildings derive significance from their setting would not be appreciably or permanently reduced, and this proposal would result in less than substantial harm on the overall significance of both Listed Buildings.

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