
LAND AT CLIFF HILL,
DENBY DALE, WEST YORKSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
OSA REPORT No: OSA22DT08.

May 2022

OSA

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA22DT08

SITE NAME: Land at Cliff Hill, Denby Dale

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 2287 0871

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1.0 Abstract.

This Desktop Assessment has been prepared at the request of Urban Developments (York) Ltd to provide information regarding the archaeological potential of land at Cliff Hill, Denby Dale, West Yorkshire. The site comprises an area of set aside land consisting of two fields and part of another field.

The research undertaken in the preparation of this assessment has found that the site has low potential to contain archaeological evidence from medieval and post-medieval periods and very low potential to contain prehistoric or Roman archaeology.

No prehistoric or Roman activity is known within the search area of this assessment. Denby is thought to have Anglo-Saxon origins and has a reference in the Domesday Book. The only reference related to the medieval period from the search area was to a possible deserted settlement around Leak Hall. Some possible earthworks associated with this reference, located in the northern part of the current site, were reported in the 1970's and 1980's but a further survey in 2012 failed to record these earthworks. Activity from the 19th and 20th century heritage assets within the search area were found to relate to the industrial past of Denby Dale as a textile producer. The only Listed Building that may be impacted by this development is the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel located to the west of the site

Any decisions regarding the need for, and scale of, archaeological investigation of this site will be made by West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Services and the Local Planning Authority.

2.0 Introduction.

In May 2022 an archaeological desktop study was undertaken by *On Site Archaeology* at Cliff Hill, Denby Dale, West Yorkshire. The site is centred at approximately NGR SE 2287 0871 (Figure 1). The study was undertaken to support a planning application for development of the site. The historical and archaeological significance of the study area was assessed using a variety of sources including cartographic evidence, the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and published archaeological and historical reports.



Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 2287 0871) (site in red).

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3.0 Methodology.

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

Archaeological and historical data has been assessed over an area extending for a distance of approximately 1000m from the site. The locations of the collected 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 and the surrounding area during this site visit, a selection of these photographs is used to illustrate this report (see Plates 1-6).

Site research notes are currently stored with On Site Archaeology.

4.0. Site Location, Landuse and Geology.

The site considered by this report is located in the centre of the village of Denby Dale, West Yorkshire, to the east of Cumberworth Lane, centred at National Grid Reference SE 2287 0871.

The proposed development site consists of two fields and part of a small field; all of which are now set aside land. The site is a maximum of c.200m (north to south) by c.200m (east to west). The site is bounded by Cumberworth Lane to the west, by a farm track to the northwest and by hosing to the east and south.

Site boundaries include a combination of mature hedges and fences. The site has clearly recently been used for access and storage of an adjacent development site (Plate 5).

The bedrock geology comprises sandstone, mudstone and siltstone (Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation) with no overlying superficial deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk>).

5.0 Gazetteer of Sites and Artefacts.

The following sections list the sites and artefacts of archaeological or historical potential that are recorded in the various sources consulted. This includes relevant designated heritage assets in the vicinity of the site, and information provided by West Yorkshire HER found within the search area. Where possible the relevant HER number is given, together with other bibliographic references where used. Where multiple monuments recorded in the HER have been derived from events these are included in a single entry in the monuments section of the gazetteer to avoid unnecessary repetition. The locations of the recorded sites are plotted on Figure 2. The first sections deal with designated heritage assets (Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens, and Listed Buildings), whilst the subsequent sections include non-designated assets of monuments, events and Historical Landscape Characterisation.

Scheduled Monuments.

There are no Scheduled monuments within the search area. The closest is located approximately c.3km to the southwest near High Flats and comprises a late prehistoric enclosed settlement (List Entry No. 1018554).

Listed Buildings.

A number of listed buildings are located within the search area; however, most are some distance from the current site. Only a single Listed Building is located within the vicinity of the current site (blue on Figure 2).

1 Denby Dale Wesleyan Methodist Church (1135295)

SE 20 NW Cumberworth Lane Denby Dale 4/27 Denby Dale Wesleyan Methodist Church 30/4/82 II Wesleyan Methodist Church. Built 1799 and enlarged 1859. Circa 1900 refurbishment. Hammer dressed stone. Stone slate roof. Two storeys. 5-bay pediment gabled front. Tablet in tympanum reads: Wesleyan Methodist chapel built AD 1799 enlarged AD 1859. 3-bay arcaded ashlar applied doorcase, probably of 1859, with Corinthian pilasters, paired to corners, full entablature and blocking course. Shallow steps to two round-arched doorways with double, fielded panel doors. Central window. Round-arched windows with square jambs and good c.1900 stained and leaded glass. 3-bay sides have straight joint indicating the 1859 one-bay addition to rear. Later apsidal end. Interior: Refurbished in 1978. Church now at gallery level with raking pine pews. Plaster mouldings to ceiling with elaborate cornice and centre rose. Hall at lower level.

Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens.

There are no Registered Battlefields or registered Parks and gardens within the vicinity of the site.

Non-Designated Assets in Humber HER

The following section includes data on monuments and events obtained through a 1000m search of the West Yorkshire HER. The relevant data presented here has been allocated a gazetteer number; the locations of these data points included below are shown in yellow (monuments) and green (events) on Figure 2.

Monuments

2 *Railway Shed at Denby Dale (MWY 11408).*

Railway shed built in 1850 for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company (Railway Goods Shed and Warehouse in England, 2016. Historic England). No further information is given.

3 *Hartcliffe Mills (MWY4884) (List No. 1313332); Field Visit: 1985 Hartcliffe Mills (EWY5174); Building survey and watching brief in 2004 at Hartcliffe Mills (EWY5175); Field Visit 2012: Hartcliffe Mills (EWY1765).*

MWY4884: An early 19th-century woolen mill complex, featuring 11 principal buildings (one of which has listed building status). The buildings include two spinning mills, a range of weaving sheds, a dyehouse, engine house and a brick chimney. The mill complex was subject to a survey by RCHME in 1985 (Giles). Shown on the 1st ed 6"series OS map.

The listed mill building is constructed of hammer dressed stone, with a stone slate roof and gable copings on cut kneelers to north. It has 3 storeys to the east, and 2 to the west. 7 bays of sashes some with early glazing of 30 panes. On the west side are 2-light windows and a doorway at first floor level with stone external stair (English Heritage LB description, identifier 1313332).

In 1999 Z. Hinchliffe & Sons Ltd commissioned a structural inspection of the Grade II listed mill building which was carried out by Heppenstalls.

Included in the Salford University, 2018. Survey of Textile Sites Ref SU-KI0361 Description: Recorded on 1850s mapping. Still occupied by original owner Z Hinchliffe. Additional 1930's shed to original buildings, mill pond. Exant: Y Relative Heritage Value: High Floor Area (m2): 14200 Gross site area (m2): 40942 Gross building footprint (m2): 11864 Current use: Business Past use (1922/1932): Woollen Component Buildings: Multi-storey Blocks: 5 Single-storey Sheds: 4 Date of origin: Early 19th century Building types: Spinning Block; Warehouses; Gatehouse Condition: fair Occupancy: Occupied Risk Grade (1-6): 5 High- still in use in Textile Industry by Original firm Salford University Site Visit Date: 03/08/18 Heritage at Risk: Photos: 0415-0417 The James Company - Fabric and clothes manufacturer <http://peterjamescompany.co.uk/contact.html> stacks.

EWY5174: The mill complex was subject to an initial survey by RCHME in 1985.

EWY5175: In April 2004 Archaeological Services WYAS undertook initial survey work at Hartcliffe Mills at the request of Kirklees District Council in advance of demolition of one of the mill's buildings. An archaeological watching brief was carried out at the mill on 29/10/2004 during stabilisation works to the mill dam wall after the building had been demolished (ASWYAS, 2006).

EWY1765: Visited in 2012 and was in use for textile manufacture (Gomersall and Guy 2012 p36).

4 *Milestone at Base of Viaduct, Denby Dale (MWY11774).*

Milestone (List No. 1135325). Late 19th century. Triangular cast iron front with rounded top, on stone post. Reads: Barnsley & Shepley Lane Head Road Denby Holmfirth Cawthorne 6 miles 4 miles Barnsley 8 miles (Historic England National Heritage List (webpage accessed 10/04/2018)). The above information along with photograph was also provided by Kirklees Council's Conservation Team (Buildings at Risk Survey, 1986).

5 *Sub-circular enclosure (cropmark) Cumberworth (MWY481).*

Part of a sub-circular enclosure, putative diameter c.80 m., identified from a cropmark visible on an AP of 1979. Slightly irregular in shape and about one third of the circle is not visible. No visible associated features. Seen again (1997) when feature shows a little more clearly; possible (?) entrance through the main ditch on north-east side, closed by a gully?. A more amorphous circular arc c.200 m. to the north-east may be of natural origin; however, the quality of cropmarks in the field generally is such that other features may in fact exist. The course of the modern field boundary where it kinks on the south side of the enclosure could have been dictated by the presence of an enclosure - in which case, this feature perhaps survived as an earthwork into more recent times (BY 1997). Not mapped by LWNMP.

6 *Medieval Settlement at Leak Hall, Cumberworth Half (MWY2516); Field Visit: Medieval Settlement at Leak Hall, Cumberworth Half (EWY1221); Field Visit: Medieval Settlement at Leak Hall, Cumberworth Half (EWY1222); Field Visit: Medieval Settlement at Leak Hall, Cumberworth Half (EWY1223).*

MWY2516: Possible site of deserted Medieval settlement. Earthwork remains of hollow way, possible building platforms, and agricultural features, including extensive ridge and furrow were visible in the fields surround Leak Hall reported by M. L. Faull in 1977 and 1984. The site was visited and photographed by WYAAS in February 2012 to assess to what extent the earthwork remains reported above still survive. In the fields to the south of Leak Hall Farm (where the possible house platforms were in 1977) the ground appeared rather uneven and was largely obscured by long grass. No obvious features relating to housing platforms were observed however. Further, the 'lynchet' south of the hedge line at c.SE 2285 0877 was not discernible. Possible, faint, ridge and furrow could be seen in parts of the fields north of Leak Hall, and south of Withers Wood (namely aligned east to west in the field centred at SE 2274 0902), however the earthworks were extremely degraded and measured no more than 2cm in

height. The 'holloway' [Dark Lane] appeared to be classed more as a path. No discernible banks were observed to either side.

EWY1221: Record form: WYAS Field Record card, 16 August 1977.

EWY1222: Record form: WYAS Field Record card, 20 February 1984.

EWY1223: Site visit in 2012 by WYAAS. Photograph: Dodds, J. & Buck, R. (WYAAS). 'Leak Hall/Dark Lane, Denby Dale' stored digitally on WYAAS' M: Drive under Cumberworth Half township.

7 *Springfield Mill (MWY12577); Field Visit: Springfield Mill (EWY1768).*

MNY12577: Springfield Mill, annotated worsted mill, shown on the c. 1895 OS map and not on earlier historic OS map. A well preserved site which appears to comprise the whole of a low rise 19th century textile mill. Currently known as Springfield Mills and is occupied by a number of retail units and housing (Gomersall and Guy 2012 p35). Included in the Salford University, 2018. Survey of Textile Sites Ref SU-KI0380 Description: Recorded on 1890s mapping. Currently use retail park/ antiques centre Exant: Y Relative Heritage Value: Medium Floor Area (m2): 3815 Gross site area (m2): 4853 Gross building footprint (m2): 2989 Current use: Business/Retail Past use (1922/1932): Worsted Component Buildings: Multi-storey Blocks: 3 Single-storey Sheds: 3 Date of origin: Late 19th century Building types: 5 Weaving Sheds; Flat Roof Building; Office or Small Spinning Block Condition: fair Occupancy: Occupied Risk Grade (1-6): 6 Salford University Site Visit Date: 03/08/18 Photos: 0412-0414.

EWY1768: A well preserved site which appears to comprise the whole of a low rise 19th century textile mill. Currently known as Springfield Mills and is occupied by a number of retail units and housing (Gomersall and Guy 2012 p35).

8 *Dearnside Mill (MWY4886).*

Dearnside Mill, annotated worsted and woollen mill on the 1st ed 25" to the mile c. 1890s OS map. In 1985 Dearnside Mill was the subject of an initial survey report by RCHME as part of the survey of Yorkshire Textile Mills. At the time of their visit it was noted that the mill complex consisted of 3+ principal buildings, probably dating to the early 20th century, and built of brick and stone. The buildings were mainly weaving shed and had 10 bays. There was also a circular brick chimney and a 2-storey warehouse of 7+ bays. (RCHME Survey report (EWY8376). Included in the Salford University, 2018. Survey of Textile Sites Ref SU-KI0378 Description: Recorded on 1890s mapping.

9 *Inkerman Court (MWY6552); Field Visit: Inkerman Court (EWY2449).*

MWY6552: Inkerman Court comprises of a number of converted estate farm buildings and cottages. The construction date of the buildings is unknown; however they are not visible on the 1st Edition OS map which was surveyed in 1851 and so probably date to the second half of the 19th century at the earliest. Lucy Caffyn photographed some of the buildings in 1983.

EWY2449: Site visit by RCHME/WYAS in 1983.

10 Inkerman Mill, Barnsley Road (MWY10970); Field Visit: Inkerman Mill, Barnsley Road.

MWY10970: Inkerman Mill is first shown on the 1894 O.S map, annotated worsted mill. Included in the Salford University, 2018. Survey of Textile Sites Ref SU-KI0388 Exant: N Past use (1922/1932): Disused (Worsted 1900).

EWY4441: Visited in 2011/12 as part of Kirkburton and Denby Dale Textile Heritage Audit commissioned by East Peak Innovation Partnership and carried out by Gomersall and Guy who noted that the buildings on the site had been demolished and the site cleared for small scale workshops (Gomersall and Guy 2012 p37).

Events

11 Field Visit: Sycamore Farm, Cumberworth (EWY4462).

The Farmhouse was visited by Colum Giles in May 1981 as part of the WYAS/RCHME Rural Houses Survey. NB Giles refers to the building as Sycamore Farm.

12 Photographic survey in 2002 at Barn at Giltwhaites Farm (EWY5355)

On 18/08/2002 a photographic survey was completed of the barn at Giltwhaites Farm (MWY6547; List No. 1135298) by Ian Dickinson.

13 Field Visit: Cruck Cottage, Cumberworth Lane (EWY2443).

Field visit at Crick Cottage (MWY6539) by WYAS in 1987. Desc.text: Thornborrow, P.H. 1987. 'Historic Buildings Report: Cruck Cottage, Cumberworth Lane'.

14 Field Visit: 4-10 Dearnside Road (EWY2444)

Field visit at 4-10 Dearnside Road (MNWY6541) by RCHME/WYAS in 1982.

15 Educational Archaeological Investigation at Bank Lane Upper Denby (EWY7586).

A small scale archaeological investigation was carried out at Bank Lane Upper Denby on two afternoons in September 2011. The investigation, carried out by the pupils of Denby First School, was supervised by Dave Weldrake. The project involved the clearance of soil which had slipped to cover the margins of the surface of Bank Lane in order to examine its construction and to enable the children to gain a basic understanding of the principles of archaeology.

Bank Lane runs north from the centre of the village of Upper Denby and is a metalled road but on the outskirts of the village it gives way to the gravel of a bridleway. Where the route begins to descend steeply at the above grid reference the gravelled track becomes a holloway descending steeply over a bed of Yorkshire setts. At this point there are a pair of upright

stones forcing a narrowing of the path. The construction of the section of pathway with setts was suggested to be in the mid 1820's when tracks were upgraded in response to the construction of turnpikes in the area.



Figure 2. Locations of designated and non-designated assets (Site (red shaded area), Listed Buildings (blue), Monuments (yellow) and Events (green)).

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6.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.

6.1 The Prehistoric Period (to the 1st Century AD).

No data entry points have been directly dated to this period. A cropmark located to the northwest of the current site of a sub-circular enclosure (c.80m in diameter) could be from this period (5).

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

No entries dated to this period were found within the study area.

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

This period is, as is often the case, not represented in the gazetteer reflecting the general scarcity of remains from this period in the region. Denby ‘Denebi’ is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as being in the hundred of Staincross and in possession of Alric.

6.4 The Medieval Period (11th to the mid 16th centuries AD).

A single entry from the search area is dated to this period with a reference to a possible medieval settlement associated with Leak Hall to the north of the site (6). The proposed location of the settlement falls partly within the northern part of the current site. Earthworks were noted from site visits in 1977 and 1984 including a holloway and house platforms; however, a further site visit in 2012 did not record any earthworks present on the current site and only some slight ridge and furrow to the north of Leak Hall Farm.

6.5 The Post-Medieval to Modern Periods (mid 16th to 21st centuries).

The largest number of entry points from the search area are dated to this period. The only Listed Building that has a direct bearing on this site (1) is the Wesleyan Methodist Church which was built in 1799, enlarged in 1859 and refurbished in 1900. Numerous industrial buildings were also found within the search area. These include a number of 19th and 20th century mills ((3), (7), (8) and (10)), a 19th century railway shed (2) and some 19th century farm buildings (9). These buildings are the legacy of the textile industry undertaken in Denby Dale. The industry started on a small scale before the industrial revolution but grew especially with the arrival of the railway. Denby Dale railway station was built in 1850 on the Penistone Line (then the Huddersfield & Sheffield Junction Railway). Three mine shafts are believed to have been excavated on the current site and last worked between 1920 and 1939 (ARC Environmental, 2021).

7.0 Cartographic Evidence.

The earliest map consulted for this map regression dates to the early part of the 18th century. The 1720 map produced by Warburton (Figure 4) gives no detail for the site itself. A very approximate location for the site has been estimated from the location of other named settlements in the vicinity.



Figure 4. Extract from the 1720 Warburton map (approximate site location in red).

The 1772 map produced by Thomas Jefferys (Figure 5) shows slightly more detail of Denby Dale; however, the location of the current site can again only be approximately located south of Leak Hall.

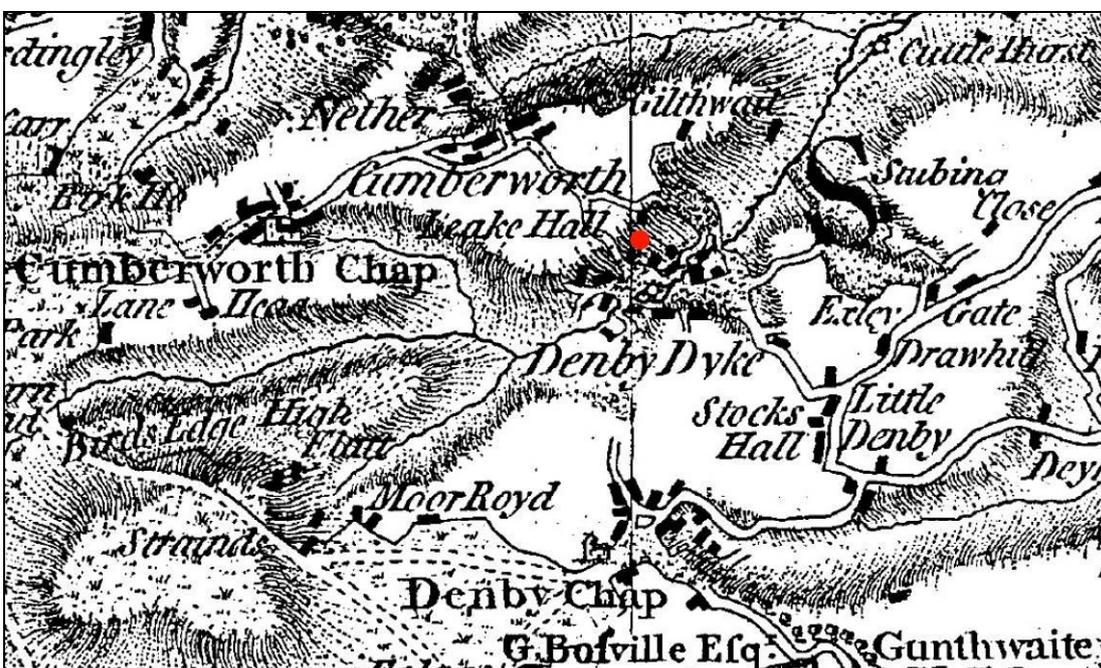


Figure 5. Extract from Jefferys map of Yorkshire dated 1772 (approximate site location in red).

The earliest detailed map consulted is the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey, dating from 1850 (Figure 6). Due to the level of detail available on this map the site can be accurately located in the northern part of the village to the south of Leak Hall. The newly built railway line can be seen in the southeastern corner of the map. In the mid 19th century the site is shown to have consisted of a number of small agricultural fields.

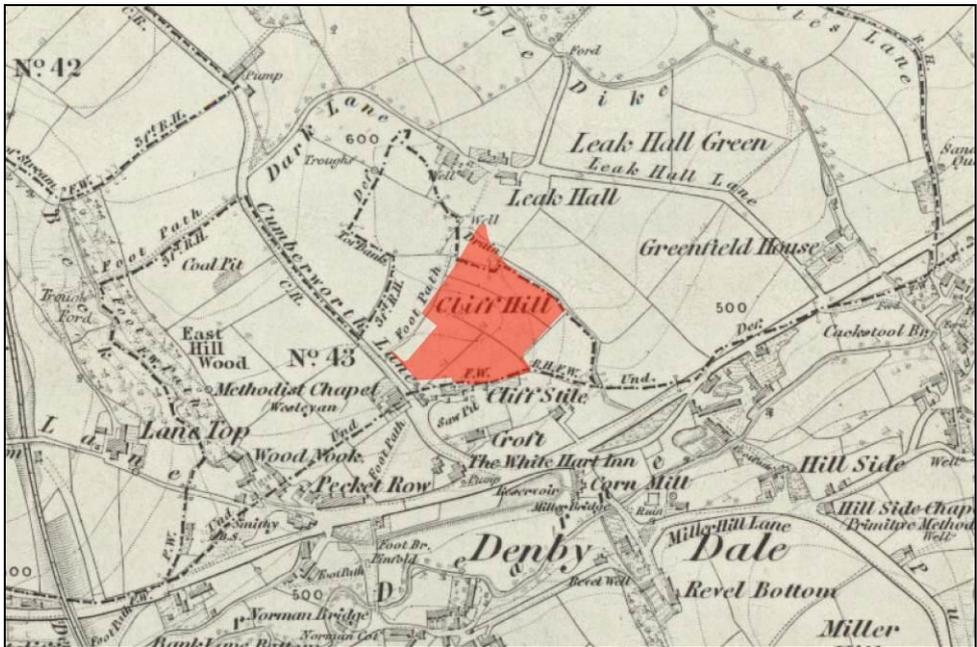


Figure 4. Extract from the 1850 Ordnance Survey map (site – shaded red).

The 1891 OS map shows the location of the new linen factories on the west side of the village. No change can be seen within the site itself and very little new development of the village can be seen from the mid part of the century.

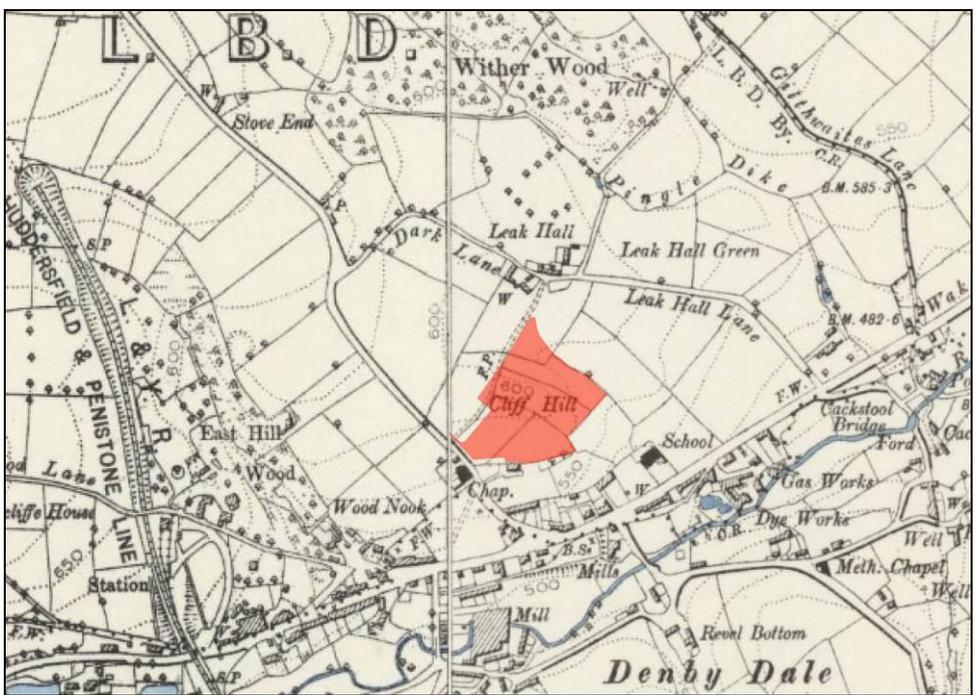


Figure 5. Extract from the 1891 Ordnance Survey map (site – shaded red).

The 1903 and 1948 editions of the Ordnance Survey (Figures 8 and 9) again show no change to the site itself. Some development of the village can be seen during the first half of the 20th century. The construction of Leak Hall Crescent to the east of the site can be seen to have taken place during this period.

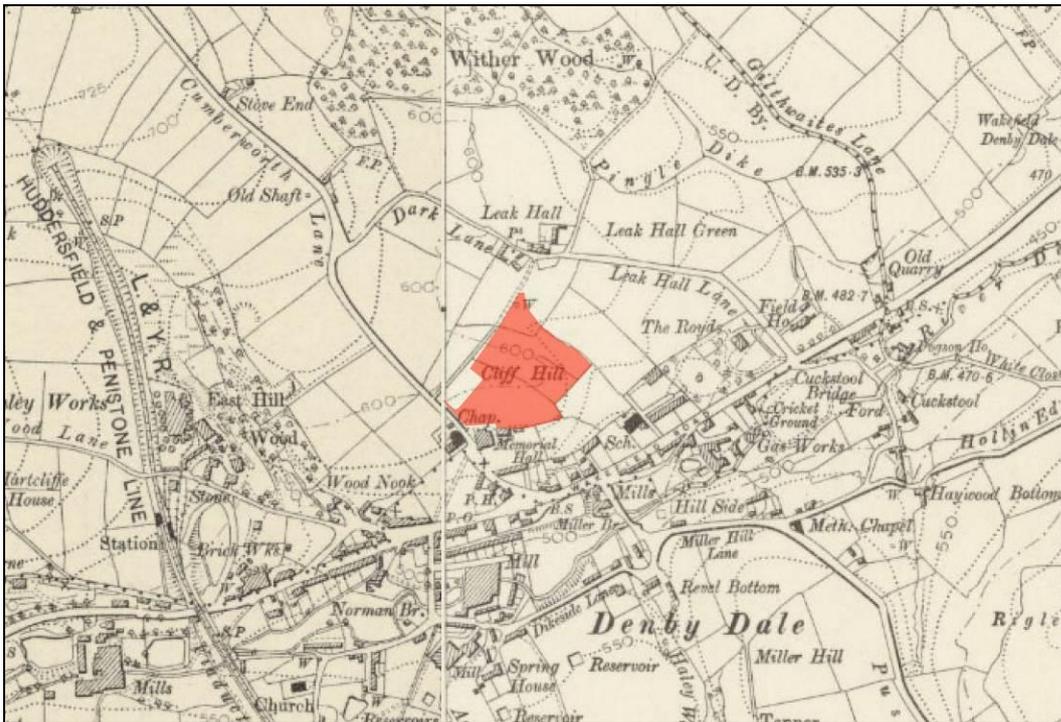


Figure 6. Extract from the 1903 Ordnance Survey map (site – shaded red).

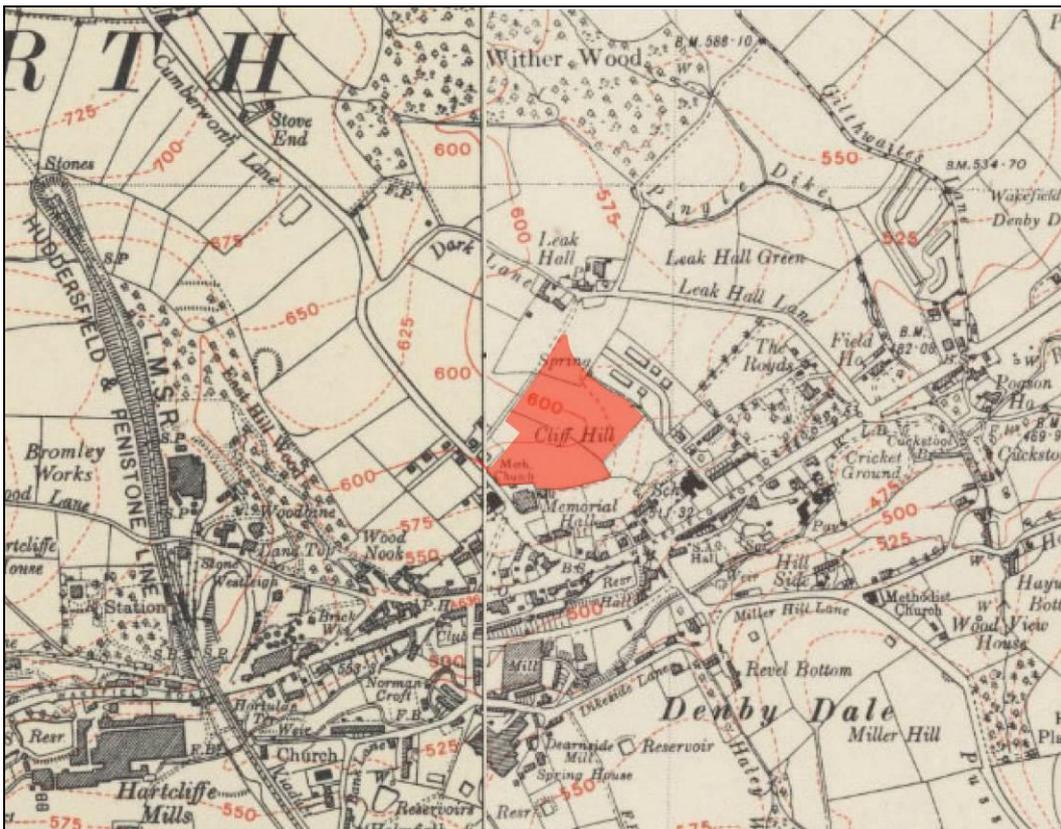


Figure 7. Extract from the 1948 Ordnance Survey map (site – shaded red).

8.0 Discussion and Archaeological Implications.

The research undertaken in the preparation of this assessment has found that the site has low potential to contain archaeological evidence from medieval and post-medieval periods and very low potential to contain prehistoric or Roman archaeology.

Within the search area no data entry points dated to the prehistoric or Roman periods were found. Although Denby does have a reference in the Domesday book the settlement was likely to have been centred nearer Lower Denby. The only data entry point from the medieval period is a reference to a possible deserted settlement around Leak Hall. Some possible earthworks associated with this reference were reported in the 1970's and 1980's, some of which were located within the northern part of the site. However, a further survey in 2012 and a current site visit failed to record these earthworks. An extract from the UK Lidar map also shows no significant earthworks visible on the site (Figure 9).

Otherwise, this assessment has shown only 19th and 20th century heritage assets within the search area. These all relate to the industrial past of Denby Dale as a textile producer. The only Listed Building that may be impacted by this development is the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel located to the west of the site. A heritage assessment undertaken by request of Kirkless Council ahead of implementation of their Local Plan split the current site into three separate areas of significance based upon the setting of the Methodist Chapel and the possible location of the deserted medieval settlement (Figure 10).

Two recent developments adjacent to the south of the current site were recently granted planning permission (2017/62/93798/E and 2019/93906). The former of these two developments received no archaeological consultation and the other received consultation from WYAAS deeming no archaeological work was required.

Any decisions regarding the need for, and scale of, archaeological investigation of this site will be made by West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Services and the Local Planning Authority.

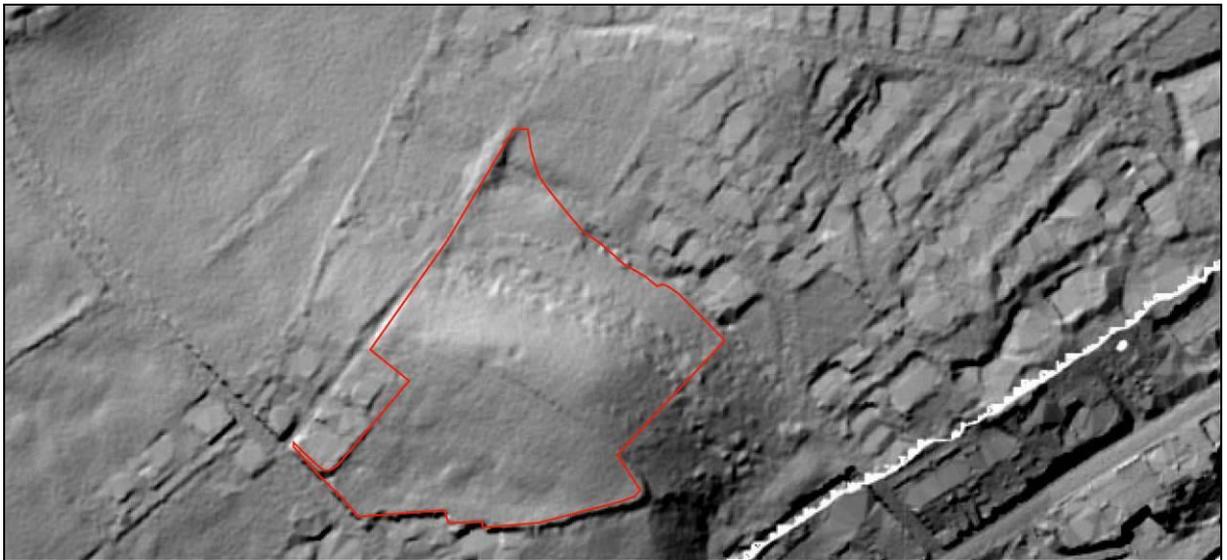


Figure 8. Extract from LiDARFinder with site (red outline)

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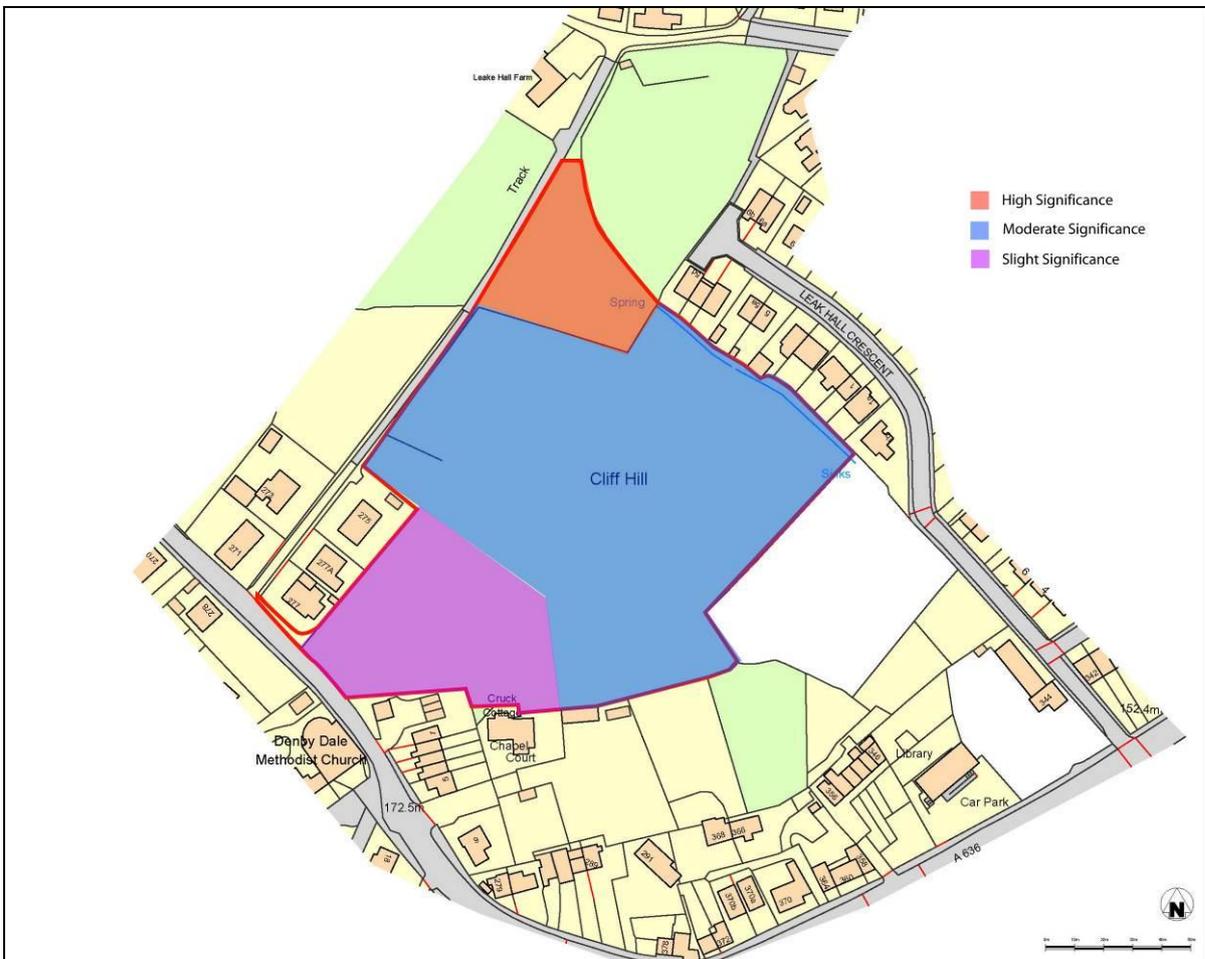


Figure 9. Heritage Assessment Areas within the site (Farrell and Clark Architects, 2015)

9.0 Bibliography

ARC Environmental, 2021. Cliff Hill, Leak Hall Crescent, Denby Dale, Huddersfield, HD8 8RZ. Phase 1: Desk Top Study Report and Coal Mining Risk Assessment. No. 21-719.

Farrell and Clark Architects, 2015. Land at Cliff Hill, Leak Hall Crescent, Denby Dale, Huddersfield. Heritage Impact Assessment. No. H690.

LiDARFinder <https://lidarfinder.com>

10.0 The Plates.



Plate 1. Western part of site showing the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in background, looking southwest.



Plate 2. Central part of site, looking southeast.



Plate 3. Northwestern part of site, looking southeast



Plate 4. Northern part of site, looking north.



Plate 5. Southeastern part of site showing haul road, looking southeast.



Plate 6. Southeastern part of site with Leak Hall Crescent in background, looking northeast.