



BWB

CONSULTANCY | ENVIRONMENT
INFRASTRUCTURE | BUILDINGS

Miller Homes Ltd

RAVENSTHORPE ROAD, DEWSBURY

HERITAGE SUMMARY STATEMENT

Miller Homes Ltd

RAVENTHORPE ROAD, DEWSBURY

HERITAGE SUMMARY STATEMENT

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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.

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- 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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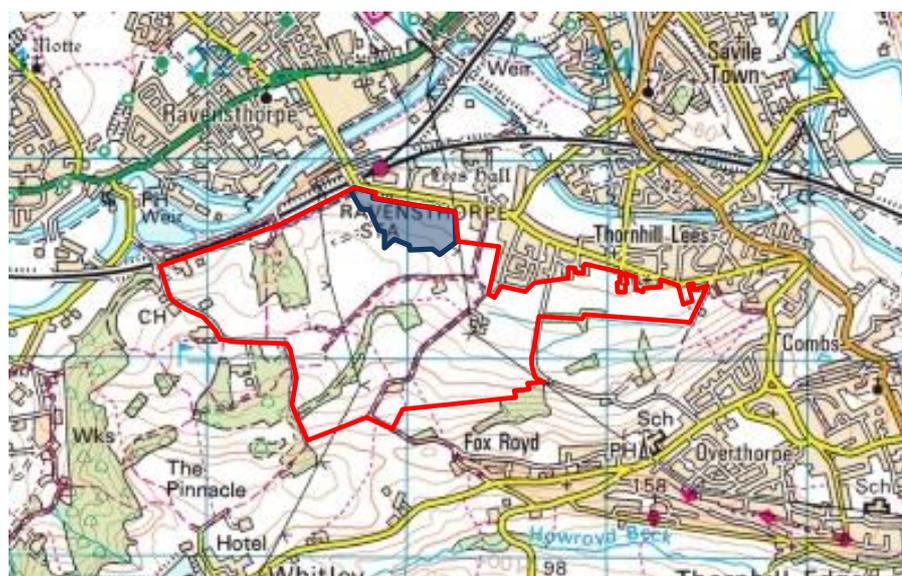
1.0 INTRODUCTION

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

Site location and topography

- 1.3 The proposed development site covers an area of approximately 8.37ha on the south-west edge of Dewsbury, centred at SE 24145 19327 (Figure 1). The site is located to the south of Ravensthorpe Road, the Manchester to Leeds railway line and the village of Thornhill Lees. The west of the site is bordered by Sands Lane.
- 1.4 The topography of the site is fairly flat. However, the site slightly slopes from west to east with a change in elevation from 51m AOD (Above Ordinance Datum) in the west to 56m AOD in the east.

Figure 1 Site Location



Geology and soils

- 1.5 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

- 1.6 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 prepared for the wider site (Appendix 2).

Identified archaeological sites, buildings and features

- 2.2 No archaeological features or finds have been recorded within the site, however, identified immediately to the southwest are the cropmarks of an enclosure (**27**). A number of Archaeological features and finds have been recorded within the wider study area. In addition to this 49 listed buildings have been recorded (Fig. 2). Where relevant to this statement these are discussed below.
- 2.3 During the site walkover, a large bank of material was identified within the wooded area (Ladywood) to the north-east of the site. This is likely to be related to mining activity. No other features were identified, although the density of vegetation and standing crops limited identification.

Designated sites or areas

- 2.4 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 13th century timber-framed hall, a later 16th century stone-built hall and remains of a timber bridge over the moat. Another Scheduled Monument lies just outside the search area (**16**). This is the Castle Hill motte and bailey castle (**16**) which is situated to the north-west of the proposed development site, just outside the wider search area.
- 2.5 No Registered Parks and Gardens or battlefields lie within the application boundary or the wider study area.
- 2.6 Some distance to the south-east of the proposed development site is the Thornhill Conservation Area (**51**). This is described as 'predominantly open

parkland and includes a number of 17th-century buildings, a medieval moated hall site, Thornhill Hall and a 15th-century church'.

- 2.7 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 south-east of the proposed development area and to the north.

Previous archaeological investigations

- 2.8 There have been no previous archaeological investigations carried out within the proposed development site, although three archaeological interventions are recorded within the wider study area, as follows.
- 2.9 A geophysical survey and archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out at Sands Lane (**23**) in 1996, to the west of the proposed development site. No archaeological features were identified.
- 2.10 The Calder Valley Archaeology Group undertook an excavation at The Cross, Thronhill (**47**) in 1977, to the south-east of the proposed development site. They identified a 12th or 13th century post-built building and evidence of 16th century ironworking and occupation.
- 2.11 Excavations were undertaken at Thornhill Hall (**52**) in the 1960s and 1970s, they revealed a 13th-century timber-framed hall, a later 16th-century stone-built hall and remains of a timber bridge over the moat.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 2.12 Historic landscape Characterisation data for this area was unavailable at the time of the production of this summary statement.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Early prehistoric period

- 3.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity at Dewsbury is confined to isolated finds within the general area, 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 (Webb and Boughey 2009).

Iron Age and Roman period

- 3.2 Little Roman activity is recorded within the wider area, although isolated Roman finds were recovered in Dewsbury 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 within the search area (**44**), to the southwest of the site.
- 3.3 Cropmarks identified immediately to the south-west of the site (**27**) show a possible large, irregularly-shaped enclosure and trackway. No date has been assigned to these features, 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. 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 to the north-west of the proposed development site, just outside the search area.
- 3.6 Thornhill Lees Hall (**32**, **B17**) situated immediately the north 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

- 3.7 Several halls on the edge of Dewsbury were constructed during this period and lie within the search area including Lees Hall (**31**) and associated buildings (**33** and **34**), Overthorpe Hall (**45**) located to the southeast and Blake Hall (**9**) which lies to the west within Mirfield.

- 3.8 Ravenscourt (**11**) and Hagwood House (**8**) located to the south-west both date to the mid-19th century, when they were constructed for the Wheatley family, and many original features survive. The surrounding associated features (**5, 6, 7, 10** and **12**) date to the same period.
- 3.9 Close to Ravenscourt and Hogwood House are multiple other 18th and 19th-century buildings (**3, 4, 13, 14, 18, 19** and **20**) built in both brick and stone.
- 3.10 There are a significant number of 17th and 18th-century houses and barns (**B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B14,** and **B29,**) within the area. These all bear testament to the expansion of Dewsbury, Thornhill and Ravensthorpe which was as a result of the growth in the textile industry and its ancillary trades.
- 3.11 Three post-medieval churches lie within the study area including the Church of St Mary and St Michael (**B10**) built in 1847, the Church of the Holy Innocents (**B23**) erected in 1858, along with a series of associated buildings (**B22, B24, B25, B26, B27** and **B28**) and the Church of St Saviour (**B11**) constructed in 1901.
- 3.12 Dewsbury cemetery (**29**) is located to the north of the proposed development and is regarded as a good example of a High Victorian public cemetery.
- 3.13 Two parish boundary posts are also recorded to the south of the site (**22** and **26**). These were erected in the 19th century and are situated either side of Whitley Reservoir.
- 3.14 Multiple mill sites are located within the search area including Low Mill (**24**) situated a short distance to the west. This is first recorded in the 15th century (Keith and Wrathmell 2006). Queens Mill Maltings (**3**) to the southwest was constructed in the late 19th century.
- 3.15 A former tannery (**25**) lies just outside the wider development area 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.
- 3.16 Several of the locks and bridges recorded within in the area of the site (**B6, B7, B8, B9, B13, B15** and **B21**) were built in the 18th and 19th centuries around the River Calder. Parts of the Dewsbury Old Canal to the north of the site (**36** and **37**) were constructed to bypass the bend in the Calder and the Upper and Lower Watermills (**39**). These are now used for flood control.
- 3.17 The Ravensthorpe-Dewsbury Railway Bridge (**30, B20**), to the north of the site, was built in the mid-19th century to accommodate the expanded railway system. To the north and south of the Ravensthorpe Station, several station buildings (**B12**) were also constructed around this time (1848).
- 3.18 Several other industrial sites lie within the search area including Cromwell Colliery (**40**) which is located to the southwest of the site. This was in operation in the 19th and 20th centuries. Mirvale Chemical Works (**17**) lies to the west of the proposed development site, it was built in the early 20th century and extended throughout the century. The site of the former Providence Glass

Works **(42)** lies to the north-east of the site and parts of Thornhill Power Station **(28)** are also still extant to the north.

Map regression

- 3.19 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 to the west 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.
- 3.20 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1855 shows the site in much greater detail. It is shown to comprise a number large irregular open fields. To the north of the site, the railway line has been constructed and to the west, the wooded areas are individually marked.
- 3.21 To the east of the site is a property labelled as 'Sands House' which is shown with a boundary that has been well-defined by trees. Depicted to the southeast of Sands House is an area labelled as 'Old Coal Pits'. Large oval mounds are also recorded, this could be spoil heaps or backfilled shaft entrances from the former coal pits. Another coal pit is labelled to the west of Ladywood.
- 3.22 To the south-east of the site is Cromwell Colliery Railway which runs in a northeast-southwest and then turning southeast-northwest towards the colliery.
- 3.23 The OS survey of 1894 demonstrates that little change occurred from 1855. The most notable addition is the construction of Ravensthorpe Road just to the north of the site and the bridge over the railway line. Several of the fields in the wider area have been sub-divided into smaller fields.
- 3.24 The OS survey of 1908 also shows minimal change other than removal of some of the field boundaries within the site and the wider area to form larger fields. A watch house is labelled on the west side of Ladywood and a mine shaft is shown on the northeast of the wood. Two air shafts are also labelled; one to the south of the bend in the colliery railway and another adjacent to Shrogg Wood to the south.
- 3.25 The OS survey of 1930 shows minimal change within the site other than further enlargement of some of the fields. Depicted immediately to the west a new mound is marked. This is likely to be the result of mining near Ladywood.
- 3.26 Comparison between the 1930 OS edition and the 1955 OS map demonstrates that minimal change occurred within the site. Evident to the west is the massive expansion of the mound but this is no longer depicted on the later 1974-83 map, however, in its place is a waste tip. A further tip is shown on this edition immediately to the north of the route of the disused railway line. It is also clear from this edition that the agricultural landscape within the site and its

immediate surroundings has seen significant changes with the removal of a large number of field boundaries to create larger fields.

- 3.27 Analysis of the 1989-93 edition demonstrates that only very minor changes occurred within the site and the wider area since the publication of the 1974-83 map, other than the disappearance of the waste tips to the west and some further re-arrangement of the fields.

4.0 ASSESSEMENT

Recorded heritage assets

Direct impacts

- 4.1 Located immediately to the west of the site is the cropmark of an enclosure and associated features (**27**). There is the potential for associated features to occur within the site given its close proximity.

Impact on setting

- 4.2 Identified within the wider study area are a number of listed buildings, the predominance of which lie within the urban areas to the west including Dewsbury and Ravensthorpe. Proposed development will have little or no impact on the setting of these given the intervening development and vegetation.
- 4.3 The proposed development is unlikely to impact the settings or views to and from the heritage assets to the south (**22, 26, 35** and **B14**) due to the crest of the hill between them and the proposed development site. The heritage assets to the west (**1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, B1, B2, B3, B4 and B5**) are also unlikely to be impacted as these assets lie between approximately 60m and 80m aOD and a hill with a peak of approximately 125m aOD, covered in woodland (Oliver Wood and Jordan Wood) lies between them and the site, which lies between 60m and 100m aOD.

Potential sub-surface remains

- 4.4 There is potential for the cropmarks (**27**) recorded to the west of the site to extend into its given their close proximity. It is also possible that the area was used in the medieval and post-medieval periods for agricultural activities.
- 4.5 The map regression and walkover survey undertaken as part of this assessment identified several areas of mining and mine shafts, particularly in the area around Ladywood. It is therefore possible that sub-surface remains relating to mining activity will be encountered within the site.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The proposed development site occupies land that has been used for agricultural purposes throughout its researchable history and remains largely undeveloped to the present day. This lack of development might facilitate the survival of earlier prehistoric and Roman remains which are known to exist in immediate landscape. There is a possibility that the site may have been used for mining activities given the surrounding evidence.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Through the research undertaken it has been determined that there is potential for Iron Age and/or Romano-British features to survive within the site based on the cropmarks identified immediately to the west. Subsequently it is recommended that a geophysical survey is undertaken within the site to further assess this potential.

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