

COOPER BRIDGE KIRKLEES INTERIM SUMMARY – HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

FAS Heritage have been commissioned to prepare a Heritage Assessment to inform the allocation and development of an employment site at Cooper Bridge, Kirklees. The assessment aims to consider the potential impact of the proposed development on the significance of heritage assets within the surrounding area, and to make recommendations to inform the design and mitigation works to reduce this harm. The assessment draws on an existing study prepared for the site in 2013 (FAS 2013). This document presents an interim summary of the key heritage assets that are being considered and the nature of impact on them.

2.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

A number of designated heritage assets are situated in close proximity to the proposed development. The Heritage Assessment outlines a scoping exercise undertaken to identify those heritage assets that would be affected (directly or through changes to setting) by the proposed development. These are summarised below.

2.1 REGISTERED PARK AND GARDENS

The proposed allocation lies immediate south and east of Kirklees Park, which is included on the Register of Parks and Gardens. In addition to having historic and aesthetic value as an 18th-century and later designed landscape, Kirklees Park provides setting for a nationally significant ground of Listed Buildings, and two Scheduled Monuments.

2.2 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

Two Scheduled Monuments lie in close proximity to the proposed development site, at Castle Hill, and Kirklees Priory. The setting of Castle Hill, being prominently located, might be affected by the proposed development. Kirklees Priory is located within the bounds of Kirklees Park and would not be affected.

2.3 LISTED BUILDINGS

The proposed development has the potential to affect the setting of a number of Listed Buildings, including:

- Kirklees Hall
 - Kirklees Hall - Grade I Listed

- Lodge to Kirklees Hall – Grade II Listed
- Gates and Gate piers to Kirklees Hall – Grade II Listed
- Sundial on terrace by Kirklees Hall – Grade II Listed
- Home Farm
 - Double aisled barn NW of gatehouse – Grade I Listed
 - Home Farm Building No. 9: Malthouse – Grade I Listed
 - Home Farm Building No. 6: Two-cell house – Grade II* Listed
 - Single-aisled cow house – Grade II* Listed
 - Home Farm Building No. 7: L-shaped aisled barn – Grade II* Listed
 - Home Farm: Priory Gatehouse – Grade II* Listed
 - Home Farm Building No. 4: 4-bay barn NW of gatehouse – Grade II Listed
 - Five-bay barn NW of Kirklees Priory Gatehouse – Grade II Listed
 - Home Farm Building No. 5: Two-storey gabled building – Grade II Listed
 - Home Farm Building No. 8: Cart shed – Grade II Listed
 - Walls enclosing former orchard of Kirklees Priory – Grade II Listed
 - Nuns Grave – Grade II Listed
- Robin Hood’s Grave - Grade II Listed
- Dumb Steeple - Grade II Listed
- Church of St Peter – Grade II* Listed
- Boundary stone - Grade II Listed
- Boundary Stone - Grade II Listed
- Yew Tree - Grade II Listed
- Barn by Yew Tree - Grade II Listed
- Mock Hall - Grade II Listed
- Barn by Mock Hall - Grade II Listed
- Parkinhole – Grade II Listed

2.4 NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

In addition to designated heritage assets, a number of non-designated heritage assets have been identified within the surrounding area. Within the boundary of the proposed development site, these include:

- (site of) Three Nuns Pit
- (site of) tramway
- (site of) building at the foot of Nun Bank

3.0 POTENTIAL IMPACT

3.1 DIRECT IMPACT

3.1.1 Listed Buildings

The proposed development would have a direct impact on the Grade II Listed Dumb Steeple. The

monument is historically identified with a Luddite uprising, therefore marking a significant event in local history within the landscape. However, the stone has already been moved from its original position and so its current location is not integral to its significance. If the stone is removed altogether, the considerable significance would be substantially harmed, but if the stone is repositioned within the proposed development, in roughly the same area, then impact on significance could be considered slight. An associated plaque would need to be re-sited or replaced.

3.1.2 Non-designated heritage assets

Known non-designated heritage assets within the site boundary are of local significance, representing former extraction and transport at the site. The wider archaeological potential of the proposed development site has not been ascertained. It is recommended that a programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation be designed in liaison with WYAAS to ensure that any heritage assets to be affected are preserved by record.

3.2 IMPACT ON SETTING

3.2.1 Kirklees Park

The proposed development would be located to the immediate east and south of the boundary of Kirklees Park, which is demarcated for much of its length by a drystone wall. To the south of the site, within the park boundary is 'The Cottage' which effectively forms an entrance lodge for the route into the park from the south.

The proposed development has the potential to affect:

- views of, from and within the Park;
- experience of approaching and entering the park (from the south);
- surrounding landscape character (through increased noise, and loss of open space);
- legibility of the park within the landscape (by obscuring views of the park boundary).

3.2.2 Kirklees Hall and associated buildings

Views from the area of Kirklees Hall at ground level, including garden structures, are likely to be screened by vegetation, but this needs to be ascertained by more detailed LVIA work. Views from upper storeys may be affected, and wider views of the hall within the landscape may include the new development.

3.2.3 Home Farm

The close situation of the buildings at Home Farm mean that views of and from the buildings are generally screened, and that this aspects of setting would not be affected. There may be glimpsed views of the development from those buildings at the edge of the group; detailed LVIA work is required to ascertain this. The immediate parkland context would not be affected, but increased noise from traffic and other activities in the area outside the park would affect the tranquil, rural character of the area, and should be reduced by design or mitigation as appropriate.

3.2.4 Buildings along Leeds Road

A string of Grade II Listed buildings with associated barns lie along the Leeds Road to the east of the proposed development site (Yew Tree and barn; Mock Hall and barn; Parkinhole). These buildings are currently viewed against a rural backdrop, and so views of and from these buildings would be affected by the proposed development.

3.2.5 Non-designated heritage assets

The proposed development may affect specific views of non-designated features within the parkland, including the Replica Roman Tower, and the deer shelter against the east wall.

4.0 SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to minimise harm, it is recommended that:

- the proposed design ensure that buildings do not intrude in views from and across the park. This may include reducing the heights of buildings, cut and fill operations, or pulling back from higher land. The FAS study of 2013 recommended areas where lower (6m) buildings would be appropriate, to ensure visual impact is reduced;
- that any residual glimpsed views are adequately screened by appropriate planting;
- that an adequate buffer is retained around the boundary of the park (including existing tree belts) to retain legibility;
- the southern approach to the site is retained and its character preserved;
- that adequate screening is provided to the rear of properties on Leeds Road.