

## 14.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE

### Introduction

- 14.1 'Cultural Heritage' is a collective term used to describe aspects of the environment which reflect the history of human activities, ideas and attitudes. It is not simply limited to material or economic aspects of life, but also reflects spiritual and intellectual value. Accordingly, Cultural Heritage comprises history, archaeology, architecture and urban design. It can also be related to the rural or urban landscape.
- 14.2 This section considers the potential of the proposed development to impact upon any features of archaeological importance, or cultural heritage of the area.
- 14.3 The study area for the archaeological assessment has been the application site (main site and the access road corridor) together with a 250 metre perimeter around its boundary. Within that area there are no known prehistoric or Roman Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments or other recorded sites potentially of national importance. There are, however, a number of Post-Mediaeval (P.Med) or undated (u) sites, mainly within the 250 metre zone surrounding the application site, which warrant consideration. These are mainly associated with the mining history of the area and are probably principally of 19th Century origin, although the possibility of an earlier origin for some cannot be ruled out.

### Legal Framework

- 14.4 The protection of nationally important archaeological remains is governed by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Under this Act, the Secretary of State has a duty to compile and maintain a schedule of such remains.
- 14.5 The criteria for assessing an archaeological remain, and thus whether it should be scheduled, were first published in 1983, and re-stated in 1990. These criteria can be found in Annex 4 of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Planning & Archaeology' 1990 (PPG16).
- 14.6 Monuments entered onto the schedule are afforded statutory protection. The Secretary of State's consent is required before any works are carried out which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding or covering the monument. Notwithstanding this, the Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994 provides a schedule of ten classes of work that may be undertaken without requiring the Secretary of State's consent. In terms of considering the potential impacts upon a Scheduled Ancient Monument, it is not only the direct impacts of a particular development that need to be considered, but

also the indirect. The legislation provides protection not only for the monument, but also its' setting.

14.7 Details relating to known archaeological remains of local and regional importance (as well as Scheduled Ancient Monuments) are included on the Sites and Monuments Records (SMR's). Within England, the County Councils/Unitary Authorities have responsibility for compiling and maintaining such records.

14.8 As stated above, planning policy and guidance relating to archaeology can be found in PPG 16. This document sets out the Government's advice on legislation and procedures relating to archaeology. Of particular note is the guidance relating to the preservation of archaeological remains in situ or by record.

14.9 Paragraphs 8 and 27 consider the case for 'preservation in situ'. It is stated policy that where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ. However, paragraph 8 recognises that the case for preservation of remains of lesser importance will not be so clear cut, and thus the relative importance of the remains will need to be weighed against other factors, including the need for the development. Paragraphs 27 and 28 also emphasise the need to balance the desire to preserve in situ remains against the need for the development. Paragraph 27 states that:

*'The case for preservation must be assessed on the individual merits of each case'*

14.10 In addition, Paragraph 24 states that:

*'The Secretary of State recognises that the extent to which remains can or should be preserved will depend upon a number of factors, including the intrinsic importance of the remains. Where it is not feasible to preserve remains, an acceptable alternative may be to arrange prior excavation, during which the archaeological evidence is recorded.'*

14.11 Annex 4 to PPG 16 sets out the criteria for assessing the national importance of ancient monuments and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria include period, rarity, documentation, group value, condition, fragility, diversity and potential.

14.12 Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 "Planning and the Historic Environment" sets out the Governments policies in relation to the historic environment, which includes listed buildings, World Heritage Sites, Historic Parks and Gardens, Historic Battlefields and the wider historic landscape.

14.13 A large part of the PPG sets out the considerations relating to the planning control; over the development of listed buildings and Conservation Areas, and as such is of limited relevance to this application. However, of particular

note are paragraphs 2.11 et seq. In particular paragraphs 2.16 and 2.17 consider the setting to listed buildings.

- 14.14 In addition to the legislation and national guidance set out above, policies contained within the 'Development Plan' for the area also seek to protect features of archaeological importance. Such policies have been discussed at Section 4 of this ES.

### Data Gathering

- 14.15 The study has been carried out by the applicant, based principally on:
- an examination of the County Sites and Monuments Record
  - Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) on line database<sup>1</sup>.
  - correspondence with Nottinghamshire County Council directorate of Planning and Economic Development
  - a study of available aerial photographs (black and white vertical and oblique colour photographs)
  - 6" to one mile Ordnance Survey Maps 1884, 1901, 1921, 1955 editions
  - Coal Authority Mine Entry Data Sheets relating to all known shafts within the site

### Early History of the Annesley Area

- 14.16 Annesley, or Aneslei, was referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086, at which time the population of the manor could have been about 100 people. The first reference to Annesley Woodhouse in documentation dates to about 1190.
- 14.17 One of the principal developments of the area's early years was the foundation of Felley priory in 1165. The remains of this building are to be found between Eastwood and Junction 27 of the M1. Other early vestiges of settlement in the area are to be found at Castle Hill south of Annesley Hall, where there are the remains of a Norman Motte and Bailey. The Hall itself may date from the 13th Century although the present building is some 400 years younger than this. Annesley Park dates back to the early 14th Century.
- 14.18 Nearer to the application site, Salmon Lane may have ancient origins. It was named after a Thomas Samon who acquired land in Kirkby Woodhouse and Annesley Woodhouse in 1490. It became a turnpike road, subjecting travellers to the payment of tolls, in 1759. It has been suggested that a water mill listed in the Domesday Book was on Salmon Lane where it crosses the Cuttail Brook.

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<sup>1</sup> MAGIC Interactive Website ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk))

- 14.19 It is also suggested that both limestone from the Annesley Woodhouse Quarry and sandstone from the Bogs Farm Quarry were brought out via Salmon Lane. The earliest dates for this quarrying activity are not known.
- 14.20 On the other hand, coal extraction in the area pre-dated 1457, which was when the monks of Beauvale Priory took a 99 year lease for digging coal and growing wood for pit props. The first mine shafts of the modern era were sunk by the Butterley Company in 1818. The Portland No. 1 pit (Old Isiah) and the later No. 2 shaft (Jerry) were to the north and south of Park Lane. These were followed by the sinking of shafts 4 and 5 near the former Rosedale House by the Cuttail Brook, within the present void. The surface workings of Portland shafts were all connected by a single track railway.
- 14.21 This spate of coal mining activity resulted in the construction of Bleakhall Buildings in 1822, these were two long terraces of houses between Croft Cottage and present day Kirkby Woodhouse. These houses were demolished many years ago.

### **Historical Development of the Application Site**

- 14.22 Consideration has been given to the information contained on the old six inch to one mile Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the area. Together they provide a picture of the changing historical development of the application site.
- 14.23 The oldest OS map reveals that in 1884 the site was generally open and rural. However, it shows how Portland Colliery's No. 4 pit has been developed and linked by tramway to the No. 2 and No. 6 pits to the north and west. Around it and alongside the Cuttail Brook lay spoil heaps. The two sites which are now the Bogs Farm Quarry and Annesley Woodhouse Quarry SSSIs, the areas which had already been the subject of mineral extraction (for sand and limestone respectively), had been abandoned by this time. Salmon Lane follows the same route as it does today. There was very little change to this situation between the 1884, 1901 and 1921 OS maps, except that Portland Colliery No. 4 pit and its two mine shafts had fallen into disuse.
- 14.24 By 1955, the main Portland Colliery pit (No. 2) had also become disused. The village of Kirkby Woodhouse was however being rapidly developed by this time. Suvla Bay had been built along Salmon Lane.
- 14.25 The area changed rapidly after this time, as the 1967 OS map shows. Bentinck Colliery had previously opened and substantial areas of colliery spoil were beginning to surround the village of Kirkby Woodhouse, which was itself growing. The farmhouse previously known as Kirkbybogs had been renamed Bogs Farm. The Cuttail Brook above Salmon Lane flowed through marshy land.

- 14.26 By 1973, Bentinck Colliery and its associated areas of spoil had been greatly extended towards and into the application site. The Cuttail Brook had been culverted, and lay underneath the spoil. Toadhole Farm had also been renamed Two Dales Farm. The M1 motorway had been constructed by this time.
- 14.27 The 1992 1:25,000 scale map (Figure 3.7) shows even more radical changes to the current application site. By this time, the Bentinck Colliery operations had extended right across the site, and the Void created. Rosedale House and Boggs Farm had been demolished and their connecting land track removed. A new Boggs Farm had been built on Salmon Lane adjacent to Suvla Bay. Selston Common had been greatly extended up to the M1 motorway. Two Dales Farm had been renamed Two Dale Farm.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

- 14.28 This section considers the known archaeological resource within the vicinity of the application site, together with details of any Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens and Historic Battlefields.
- 14.29 As has been set out in Chapter 2 within this ES, the majority of the application site has been disturbed through former mineral extraction and tipping operations. In this respect, soils and superficial deposits have been removed. The proposed access road is in agricultural use and comprises undisturbed ground.

### Nationally Important Monuments (Scheduled Ancient Monuments)

- 14.30 The MAGIC database has been referred to regarding any entries appearing in the National Monuments Record within a 250m radius from the application site. This consultation has confirmed that no Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's) lie within the study area. It is understood that this has also been confirmed by Nottinghamshire County Council in connection with investigations carried out by Viridor Waste Management Ltd.
- 14.31 A SAM is located some 300m to the north of the line of the proposed access road, and is over 500m from the main body of the application site. This SAM relates to the "*Fishponds 170m south of Damstead Farm*" (29925)<sup>2</sup>. The All Saints Church and its graveyard, situated off the A608 to the east of the Junction 27, some 700m plus from the line of the access road, is also Scheduled (29999).<sup>3</sup> A further three SAM's are located off the B6018 in the vicinity of Kirkby in Ashfield, some 1.4km from the northern boundary of the application site: a market cross (23371), Castle Hill fortified manor (13397) and fishponds 220m east of St Wilfreds Church (29981)<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Information source: MAGIC, Interactive Website, 2004

<sup>3</sup> Information source: MAGIC, Interactive Website, 2004

<sup>4</sup> Information source: MAGIC, Interactive Website, 2004

## Listed Buildings

14.32 There are no listed buildings within the application site. Based on information provided by NCC, the nearest such buildings are:

- Langton Hall - a 19<sup>th</sup> Century country house (recently restored), coupled with the stable and associated outbuildings and farm buildings are Grade I listed buildings.
- Prospect farmhouse and adjoining walls at Kirkby Woodhouse is a Grade II listed building

## Conservation Areas

14.33 There are no Conservation areas within the application site, or the 250m study area.

## Parks & Gardens

14.34 There are no Historic Parks and Gardens within the application site or within a 250m radius of the application site. The parklands associated with Annesley Hall, approximately 750m from the line of the access road and 1.4km to the south of the main body of the application site are included on the list of Historic Parks and Gardens<sup>5</sup>. This park, which covers an area of 2891363m<sup>2</sup>, is classed as Grade II\*. Similarly, the grounds of Langton Hall are also considered to be a historic park/garden.

## Historic Battlefields

14.35 There are no Historic Battlefield sites within the application site or within a 250m radius of the application site<sup>6</sup>.

## Archaeological and Other Heritage Sites

14.36 The sites identified in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) falling within, or within 250 metres of, the application site boundary are described in Table 14/1.

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<sup>5</sup> Information source: MAGIC, Interactive Website, 2004

<sup>6</sup> Information Source: MAGIC Interactive Website, 2004

**Table 14/1  
Sites of Archaeological Interest in the Vicinity of Application Site**

| Location No | SMR No | Description      | Date     | Within Site | Within 250 metres |
|-------------|--------|------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1           | 2534   | Mineral Railway  | P.Med    | ✓           | > 250 metres      |
| 2           | 2533   | Coal Mine        | P.Med    | ✓           | > 250 metres      |
| 3           | 2531   | Sand Pit         | u        |             | ✓                 |
| 4           | 2540   | Quarry           | u        |             | ✓                 |
| 5           | 2538   | Quarry           | u        |             | ✓                 |
| 6           | 2539   | Hollow Way       | u        |             | ✓                 |
| 7           | 2537   | Limekilns        | u        |             | ✓                 |
| 8           | 2528   | Limekiln, Quarry | u        |             | ✓                 |
| 9           | 7090   | Shaft Mounds     | u        | ✓           |                   |
| 10          | 2535   | Fishponds        | u, P.Med |             | > 250 metres      |

14.37 It can be seen from Table 14/1 that three of the recorded sites (locations 1, 2 and 9) lie within the application site and is therefore, potentially, at risk of being directly affected by the proposals. However, all the features identified in Table 14/1 are discussed briefly in the following paragraphs.

14.38 *Location 1: Mineral Railway (2534)* - the mineral railway is shown on the Sites and Monuments Record as extending some 350 metres south from the railway line. It is identified as a “Tramway” on the 1884 Ordnance Survey Map extending between Portland Colliery No.2 and Portland Colliery No.4, and as a more extensive “Mineral Railway” on the 1901 map. On the 1921 Ordnance Survey Map the Portland No.4 Colliery is shown as disused and the Mineral Railway appears to be terminated at about the position now shown on the SMR map. The 1955 Ordnance Survey Map indicates that the Portland No.2 Colliery was also by then closed and the Mineral Railway appears to be little more than an embankment. The 1973 Ordnance Survey Map shows no indication of the Mineral Railway, the majority of the area having been overtopped by colliery spoil. Aerial photographs flown in 1993 show the majority of the area formerly occupied by the mineral railway restored, with active colliery spoil disposal continuing to the south. It is concluded that little if anything of this feature is now exposed at the surface.

14.39 *Location 2: Coal Mine (2534)* - this record appears to relate to a location in the vicinity of the Portland No.4 Colliery referred to above, and shown as disused by 1921. Like the Mineral Railway with which it was probably associated, it is shown as being overtopped with colliery spoil on the 1973 Ordnance Survey Map.

14.40 *Location 3: Sand Pit (2531):* - this is a sand pit immediately to the west of the current application boundary, located within Glacial Sands and Gravels. It is shown as a sand pit on the 1884 Ordnance Survey Map, and appears to be rather more extensive on the 1901 sheet, where it appears to have been accessed northwards from the Portland No.4 Colliery. It appears to have extended further west by 1921, but shows very little change in extent between then and 1955. By 1967 it appears to have extended further south to about its current boundaries. It is now non-operational and designated as

the Bogs Farm Quarry SSSI on the basis of its semi-improved neutral grassland and broadleaf woodland.

- 14.41 *Locations 4, 5, 7: Quarries and Limekiln (2540, 2538, 2537):* - the 1884 Ordnance Survey Map shows a complex of old quarries straddling Salmon Lane, together with a number of old limekilns all situated to the south of Salmon Lane. The quarries are all located within the Permian Lower Magnesian Limestone. There appears to be no significant change in the extent of the quarries between the 1884, 1900 and 1921 sheets, although the limekilns are not shown on the later two. On the 1955 sheet, the quarry to the south of Salmon Lane appears to have extended marginally and the annotation "Limekilns" (the assumed subject of SMR no. 2537) has reappeared. The 1967 sheet shows the complex on both sides of Salmon Lane as having re-vegetated). That part of the quarry complex lying to the north of Salmon Lane has now been designated as the Annesley Woodhouse SSSI on the basis of its unimproved Magnesian Limestone grassland.
- 14.42 *Location 6: Holloway (2539)* - this appears to relate to the course of Salmon Lane at this location.
- 14.43 *Location 8: Limekiln and Quarry (2528)* - the 1884 Ordnance Survey Map shows "Old Quarry" and "Old Limekiln" some 200 metres southeast of Toadhole Farm (now referred to as Two Dales Farm). They are again located in the Lower Magnesian Limestone. There is subsequently no discernible change in the indicated extent of the old quarry but the reference to the old limekiln varies on subsequent editions of the Ordnance Survey Map. It is not recorded on the 1901 map, reappears on the 1921 and 1955 editions, then subsequently disappears from the 1967 and 1973 sheets.
- 14.44 *Location 9: Shaft Mounds (SMR 7090)* - a number of shaft mounds have been indicated in the vicinity of the haul road, to the southeast of the gas compound. Three such mounds (c3 metres in diameter) have previously been identified. They are undated, but may be related to pre-19<sup>th</sup> Century bell-pit mining activity. They occur within arable land and have consequently been substantially ploughed out at the surface.
- 14.45 *Location 10: Old Fish Ponds (2535)* - this site lies just outside the 250 metres "buffer zone" surrounding the application site. It is included, however, for completeness and in order to consider any potential impact which the development (the haul road construction) could have on the hydrological/hydrogeological regime of this water feature. The old fish ponds are located in the base of the valley of the Cuttail Brook and have been formed by impounding the stream flow. They are shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey Map with the main pond extending to some 150 metres in a NW-SE direction and about 50 metres in width, with a subsidiary smaller pond a little further upstream. On some subsequent plans (e.g. 1955 and 1967) they appear, at least in part to have silted up and be overgrown. However, they must subsequently have been restored and currently appear to occupy essentially the same area as shown on the 1884 map.

## The Significance of the Remains

- 14.46 As set out above, PPG16 “*Archaeology and Planning*” sets out Government Guidance on archaeological remains on land, how they should be preserved and recorded, the weight to be given to them in the planning process and the use of planning conditions.
- 14.47 None of the sites, individually or collectively, satisfy the criteria for them to be designated as being of national importance in archaeological terms although the Bogs Farm Quarry Sand Pit and the Annesley Woodhouse Quarry are both of national importance for nature conservation purposes. Both these sites lie outside the planning application boundary.
- 14.48 The northern grouping of sites (locations 1 and 2) appear to be 19<sup>th</sup> Century in origin and relate to the former Portland Colliery site. They would theoretically carry some additional weighting by virtue of their group value, had they not been largely or entirely destroyed by subsequent mining activities – overtopping with colliery spoil and opencast mining. There is no surface evidence of them and they are considered to have no practical significance in the context of this proposal.
- 14.49 Locations 3, 4 and 5 adjoining the site are significant for their ecological value as well as their industrial/quarrying history. The proposal provides for their full protection in both contexts.
- 14.50 South of Salmon Lane there is the group of two quarries and associated limekilns (locations 7 and 8) together with a nearby fishpond (location 10) which may or may not have any historic associations. The three sites and the landscape within which they are set may be of more than local significance.
- 14.51 The shaft mounds (location 9) to the south of Salmon Lane may relate to pre-19<sup>th</sup> Century bell-pit mining techniques and would be of some interest in terms of local mining history. However, they now have little or no significant surface expression having been ploughed out, and a substantially larger group of similar features exists to the northeast, well outside the application area (SMR 7094). They do not warrant preservation in-situ.
- 14.52 The foregoing addresses *known* sites within the application area and its immediate surroundings. It is also important to consider whether it is likely that *other* important archaeological remains may be present within the site for which provision (by preservation in situ, or by record) may be necessary. On the basis of the currently available evidence, and in particular having regard to the previous opencast mining history of the majority of the main site, it is not considered that there is “any good reason to believe that important remains exist” (PPG16 para 12). The access corridor south of Salmon Lane is essentially undisturbed farmland and has greater *potential* for hitherto undiscovered remains. However, on the basis of the following, it is considered that there are no good grounds for believing that other

important but presently undiscovered remains are present within the corridor:

- the lack of recorded remains within the access corridor itself
- the scale and nature of the known sites nearby
- the fact that all the known sites have all been consistently documented for more than a century

### **Predicted Operational Period Effects**

- 14.53 No SAMs are located within the application site, with the nearest being around 300m from the line of the access road. Given the separation distance, coupled with other developments in the area, most notably the M1, it is considered that the setting of this SAM would not be adversely affected. Other SAMs are located at much greater distances from the application site and thus any potential impacts would be ameliorated due to distance. With regard to the Historic Park and Garden at Annesley Hall, this again would not be directly affected, and separation distance, coupled with other developments in the area reduces the magnitude of any impact.
- 14.54 Three recorded sites on the SMR fall within the proposed development boundary and as a consequence could be directly affected. This is the “mineral railway” (location 1), “coal mine” (location 2) and “shaft mounds” (location 9). The first two are within the Tip and thus buried under colliery spoil: the third lies within the haul road corridor.
- 14.55 Although not recorded on the SMR there were two mineshafts associated with the Portland Colliery, falling within the main application site. Both of these have, however, already been capped below current ground level and overtopped with some 20 metres of opencast mining overburden in the 1980s. They have therefore already been effectively lost as archaeological features.
- 14.56 There is now little or no surface expression for the shaft mounds at Location 9 and the field within which they are recorded is arable farmland. The proposed haul road, which on this section is mainly at grade, passes in very close proximity to one of the recorded pit mound locations. The construction of the road could intersect or destroy any residual shallow subsurface evidence of the feature.
- 14.57 Turning to the sites within the 250 metres “buffer zone” which may be indirectly affected by the proposals, the most significant of these are the sandpit (location 3) and limestone quarry (locations 4 and 5). Both these sites are separately protected by virtue of their SSSI status, and other measures are proposed to protect these sites from unacceptable indirect impacts (refer to Section 13). Such measure will also preserve the integrity of the sites for their archaeological interest.
- 14.58 On, and to the south of, Salmon Lane there is a series of sites:

- location 6 – a holloway comprising a section of Salmon Lane
- locations 7 and 8 – quarries and limekilns
- location 10 – fishponds

- 14.59 The access road proposal will clearly have no discernible direct or indirect impact on locations 6, 7 and 8. The fishponds (location 10) lie in the bottom of the NW-SE trending Cuttail Brook valley. The proposed haul road is located on the SW valley flank some 300 metres southwest of, 25-30 metres topographically above, and sub-parallel to the brook. In the vicinity of the fishponds the proposed road will be approximately at grade and there is no basis to believe that it will impact on the hydrology, hydrogeology, stability or setting of the ponds.
- 14.60 In summary, it is considered that the proposed development will have no significant direct or indirect operational period effects on known archaeological features. Similarly the potential for it to impact upon presently unknown features of archaeological importance is slight. The only qualification to this general position relates to the possible features at location 9 (shaft mound) for which there is now no discernible surface evidence. If there is any residual sub-surface evidence of these, it may be destroyed or buried by construction of the access road.

### Mitigation

- 14.61 PPGs 15 and 16 identify the following mitigating measures for archaeological remains – *preservation in situ, preservation by record and enhancement*.
- 14.62 There are no remains of national importance which warrant preservation in situ.
- 14.63 A geophysical survey along the actual route of the haul road would be undertaken to detect the presence of any bell-pits. In the event of the access road intersecting any sub-surface remains of the pit mound(s) recorded at location 9, it would be appropriate for the remains to be appropriately recorded by survey, photograph or other methods. In view of the current absence of any surface evidence of these features and their limited significance, it is not considered that prior archaeological excavation should be a pre-requisite of determining the application. However, prior to the excavation of the road foundation it is proposed that it would be appropriate for a geophysical survey to be carried out to test for the possible existence of such bell-pits and if any are located, for a scheme for their recording on treatment to be submitted. It is suggested that this could be satisfactorily secured by the imposition of a planning condition along the following lines:

*"No excavation of soil or subsurface material shall take place in connection with the construction of the access road between points X and Y on Plan Z until an appropriate geophysical survey (of a type and specification to be*

*previously agreed with the Local Planning Authority) has been undertaken and the results reported to the Local Planning Authority. In the event of significant archaeological remains being discovered, opportunity shall be provided for the appropriate recording of the remains by a suitably qualified archaeologist prior to their removal.*

- 14.64 There are no features within the site for which *enhancement* is an appropriate mitigating measure.

### **Predicted Residual and Long-Term Effects**

- 14.65 The proposed development would result in the *possible* permanent loss of a limited number of mining-related archaeological features of which there is presently no surface evidence, and which are unlikely to be of more than local significance. In the event of such features still being extant, this would be mitigated by the recording of the features under the proposed watching brief (*i.e.* preservation by record).

### **Conclusions**

- 14.66 Since the majority of the application site is subject to former mineral working and the disposal of colliery spoil, it is not anticipated that there would be any impacts on cultural or archaeological heritage. In this respect, much of the original surface soils and superficial deposits have been removed from the majority of the application site, with a substantial depth of material placed within the northern section of the application site. A small proportion of the application site (around 3.5 ha) which would be developed for the access road is undisturbed agricultural land.
- 14.67 A desk study has demonstrated that there are no remains with statutory protection, or of national significance, within the application site. The nearest statutorily protected site lies around 300m to the north of the proposed line of the access road. Similarly, neither the application site, nor a 250m zone around it, are affected by any listed buildings, conservation areas, Historic Parks and Gardens or Historic Battlefields. Three sites entered on the local Sites and Monuments Register lie within the application site: two relate to former coal workings, and have since been lost through the deposition of colliery spoil. The third relates to “shaft mounds” and lie within the proposed access road corridor.
- 14.68 In view of these previous finds a programme of geophysical survey work along the line of the access road, together with archaeological recording during the stripping of soils from the line of the access road would be agreed with the Local Planning Authority prior to development proceeding.