Rossington All Saints School

New Rossington

South Yorkshire

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Contents

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Archaeological Services WYAS
PO Box 30, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG

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1. Introduction and Methodology

1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS was commissioned by David Morley Architects to undertake a desk-based assessment of an area around Rossington All Saints School. This has been carried out prior to a proposed scheme to demolish the existing buildings and construct new school buildings on the site.

1.2 The aim of this report is to identify and assess the significance of sites, buildings and finds of archaeological and historic interest within the study area, and to gain a greater understanding of the wider historic landscape as a whole.

1.3 The study area comprises all land within a 1km radius of the site of the proposed development at Rossington All Saints Church of England School, located to the south of New Rossington, at SK 620 972 (see Fig. 1).

1.4 The study area lies within the modern county of South Yorkshire, which historically was part of the West Riding of Yorkshire prior to the local government reorganisation in 1974.

Information Sources

1.5 In order to meet the requirements of this desk-based assessment, in line with standard archaeological practice and the guidelines regarding desk-based assessments provided by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001), the following sources of information were consulted in the production of this report.

Archaeological archives and databases

1.6 The South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SYSMR) housed at Howden House, Sheffield and maintained by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service was investigated for records of known archaeological sites or findspots within the study area, and any reports regarding previous archaeological investigations undertaken were also consulted. Information on findspots was also obtained from Doncaster Museum and this included data collated via the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Data from the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage at Swindon were also consulted.

Listed Buildings

1.7 Information regarding Listed Buildings was obtained from the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER), and from English Heritage's 'Images of England' website which provided further photographic material on the buildings.

Designated sites or areas

1.8 Information on other designated sites of historic, archaeological or scientific interest has been obtained from the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SYSMR) and the government's online GIS website, 'MAGIC'.

Published and unpublished documentary sources

1.9 A range of published and unpublished material has been researched and consulted. These have included sources on field and place-name evidence, directories and local histories, together with general sources on the area and its wider archaeological and historical background. These are listed in the bibliography.

Geological and soil surveys

1.10 Information on the underlying geology and soils within the study area has been taken from data collected by the British Geological Survey and the Soil Survey of England and Wales.

Previous archaeological investigations and research

Desk based-assessments

1.11 A general survey of the archaeological remains in the Doncaster District, including the Rossington area, was undertaken in the late 1970s (Magilton 1977). *Mouchel Parkman* commissioned a Stage 1 Cultural Heritage Appraisal in 2004, as the initial stage in assessing the archaeological potential of the area covering proposed routes of a link road from the M18 motorway to Finningley airfield. In 2005, a detailed desk-based assessment of this area was undertaken, incorporating a large part of the current study area, and identifying a range of sites and monuments (Brown 2005). A Geotechnical Desk Study was undertaken in May 2005 of the Rossington All Saints site by *David Morley Architects* (DMA 2005).

Aerial photographic analysis

1.12 A survey of the cropmark evidence for the South Yorkshire area was produced in the early 1980s that covered the Rossington area (Riley 1980). Riley's work identified an extensive system of rectilinear ('brickwork') field systems and associated scattered enclosures dating to the Late Iron Age and Romano-British period (Riley 1980). The mapping of features from aerial photographs has also continued in recent years due in the area due to the planning requirements of a number of new developments (e.g. Deegan 2005).

Geophysical surveys

1.13 A geophysical survey has been undertaken across an area to the east of Rossington, at Church Field, in advance of a new development. This took place over an area of field system that had previously been identified through cropmarks (Atkinson 1996).

Archaeological excavations

1.14 A programme of trial trenching was undertaken across the area at Church Field, to the east of Rossington, following the results of a geophysical survey (see above). Twelve trenches were excavated across the area, identifying a single phase of activity, presumably dating to the late-prehistoric period.

1.15 The Humber Wetlands Project has also undertaken a scheme of fieldwalking in the Rossington area which has bought to light numerous findspots of prehistoric flint artefacts, as well as Roman pottery sherds from the vicinity of cropmark sites (Head *et al.* 1997).

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

Introduction

2.1 In order to put the study area into its archaeological and historical context, the following section will discuss the nature of the evidence for human activity in the wider region, using information from a variety of sources that are referenced in the bibliography.

The Prehistoric Periods (up to c.700BC)

2.2 The activity of transhumant Palaeolithic and Mesolithic populations by its very nature is very hard to detect in the archaeological record and chance finds of flint artefacts and, rarely, associated structures are the only available indicators of human activity during these periods. Yorkshire is in the north-western corner of European Late Palaeolithic activities, and has only produced a small number of find sites from the period, all dating to the period following the Devensian Glaciation (Manby 2003, 31).

2.3 There is evidence for Mesolithic settlement at Deepcarr, near Stocksbridge, South Yorkshire (Radley and Mellars 1964). Recent work by the Humber Wetlands Project has identified a number of Mesolithic flint scatters in the environs of the study area, indicating that flint from the Lincolnshire Wolds and the Trent valley was being utilised at this time. This work also suggests that activity in the region intensified during the later Mesolithic period, as the later Mesolithic scatters are far more widespread, and are found along all of the rivers on the Humberhead Levels (Head 1997).

2.4 The Neolithic period is also notable for the paucity of settlement evidence, although the continued use of lithic technology, the onset of pottery production, and the development of 'ritual' centres mean that this period is more archaeologically visible than those that preceded it. However South Yorkshire and the Humberhead levels are not renowned for their Neolithic monuments. Nevertheless, long barrows at Sprotborough to the west of Doncaster and Edlington Wood adjacent to the study area attest to Neolithic ritual activity in the vicinity (Manby *et al.* 2003, 97), and the Humber Wetlands Project has recently identified numerous Neolithic flint scatters on the Humberhead levels, almost exclusively associated with rivers (Van de Noort *et al.* 1997, 456). Additionally a pit at Auckley, just outside the study area, produced 269 sherds of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery, including Beaker and possible Beaker/Food Vessel hybrid forms, as well as 13 worked flints including a possible Late Mesolithic core (Chadwick 1995, 70).

2.5 It must be noted that peat development since the Neolithic as well as other factors, may have masked Neolithic features over much of the Humberhead Levels (Manby *et al.* 2003, 97*)*. As the recovery of lithic material across the region shows, the lack of known Neolithic features within the landscape should not be taken as an indication that there was a lack of Neolithic activity. Indeed the quantity of polished stone axe fragments recorded from the study area itself attests to the level of activity in the region during the Neolithic (see below).

2.6 The Humber Wetlands Project reports a dearth of later Bronze Age finds from the Humberhead levels, although a Middle Bronze Age gold torc from the floodplain mire of the River Idle has been recovered, and was tentatively interpreted as a possible act of ritual deposition as a reaction to the development of floodplain mires and the corresponding decline in agricultural land at this time (Van de Noort *et al.* 1997, 458). A spearhead has also been discovered within the present study area (**27**).

2.7 The only late Bronze Age/early Iron Age site in the region of the Humberhead Levels is the important marsh-fort site at Sutton Common, 10km north of Doncaster. This site has produced Middle Bronze Age metalwork and a preserved timber alignment, which suggests that the site could have originally started out as a depositional structure akin to Flag Fen (Parker-Pearson and Sydes 1997, 253). The environmental evidence from this period suggests that the levels at this time only experienced very limited forest clearance with no evidence for cultivation in the early first millennium BC, which was instead concentrated on the better drained limestone areas to the west (Parker Pearson and Sydes 1997, 254).

The Iron Age and Romano-British Periods (c.700BC-c.450AD)

2.8 During the late Iron Age, the South Yorkshire area increasingly became the focus for agricultural communities living in dispersed enclosed farmsteads with appended nucleated fields. Many sites were first recorded by aerial photography in the 1970's (Riley 1980), and were seen to be part of an extensive system of land division which stretched through West and South Yorkshire down into north Nottinghamshire. Although these enclosures and field systems may have their origins in the late Iron Age, they may have continued to be used and developed throughout the Roman period (Roberts, forthcoming).

2.9 During the Romano-British period, this region of South Yorkshire became an important routeway between Lincoln and York. The Roman Road listed as *Inter V* of the Antonine Itinerary, and later known as the Great North Road (the present A638), passes close to the study area and onto Doncaster. This was the location of a Flavian period Roman fort and associated *vicus,* known as *Danum*. A second Roman road, the 'Cantley spur road' (Margary 1955, 410) has also been recognised to the east of the study area, and the wealth of finds from throughout the Romano-British period from the vicinity of the river crossing of this road over the River Torne points to extensive settlement activity.

2.10 The 'Vexillation' Fortress at Rossington probably dates to the mid-first century. Although this covers an extensive area it probably held a smaller, mixed force of auxiliaries and legionaries, than a Legionary Fortress. This may have been due to the requirements for policing recently subjugated areas by stationing smaller forces at strategically important places (Frere and St Joseph, 1984, 6)

2.11 To the south east of the study area is the Roman villa at Stancil, which probably dates to the first half of the 3rd century (Whiting 1941, 269).

2.12 The region to the south-east of Doncaster was also a major pottery producing area in the Romano-British period, and represents one of the largest excavated kiln concentrations in Britain (Swan 1984, 105). The kiln sites at Rossington Bridge (Site No. 99), and Blaxton (Site Nos 135, 136, 137 and 140), lie within the study area itself and will be discussed in more detail below, whilst those at Cantley and Branton lie a little to the north of the study area, but can be seen as part of the same single industrial entity, which possibly became established here in order to provide for the nearby fortress and *vicus* at *Danum* (Swan 1984, 105).

The Anglo-Saxon Period (c.450-1066)

2.13 The dearth of archaeological evidence for the post-Roman period in this part of South Yorkshire makes any assessment of human activity from this time problematic. Yet the absence of datable artefacts later than the 4th century should not be taken as evidence of depopulation of the region after the official end of Roman administration, as it is probable that the native, Romanised population continued to live in the area, albeit in a less archaeologically visible way (Loveluck 2003, 155).

2.14 Much of West and South Yorkshire formed the post-Roman kingdom of Elmet between the 5th and early 7th centuries. Indeed, place names with the epithet 'in Elmet' still survive today. Elmet's eastern boundary has previously been equated with the large linear earthwork of Grim's Ditch to the west of the study area (Faull 1980, 21). Yet recent dating evidence places the construction of the earthwork in the Early to Middle Iron Age (Wheelhouse 2001, 131), although this does not discount the possibility that such a major landscape feature was re-used as a boundary in the Anglo-Saxon period. By 633 the kingdom of Elmet had been subsumed into the larger Northumbrian kingdom, a part of which this area of Yorkshire would remain until the mid-9th century.

2.15 The arrival of the Viking 'great army' in 866 and subsequent capture of York in 867 heralded a major upheaval in the region. The proliferation of names with the suffix 'carr' (from 'kjarr', Old Norse for 'marsh or brushwood') to the south of Doncaster may attest to the widespread influence on this area of Scandinavian incomers (Smith 1962, 215). However, many of the place names continued to contain 'Anglo-Saxon' elements (Smith 1961, 34-59).

The Medieval and Post-Medieval periods

2.16 By the time of the Domesday survey the county of Yorkshire had been divided into three 'Ridings', and these in turn into a number of 'Wapentakes' which were further sub-divided into ecclesiastical parishes and administrative townships, manors and vills. The study area lies within the wapentake of Lower Strafforth, and includes part of the historical township of Rossington.

2.17 Prior to the conquest Earl Tostig, half brother to King Harold, held the manor of Hexthorpe which included Rossington. After his death, the manor passed to Robert, Count of Mortain, who granted the tenancy to Nigel Fossard, companion of William of Normandy (Sprakes 1997, 19). The Fossards held the manor until Joan Fossard married the crusader Robert de Turnham in 1193. Robert de Turnham's granddaughter Isabel married Peter de Mauley in 1214,

and in 1221 they were granted lands to build the fortified manor house called Draw Dykes at Rossington. The deer park around it was said to cover a thousand acres, and contained a wood and a fishery (Sprakes 1997, 25).

2.18 The manor of Rossington was in the hands of the de Mauley family until the death of Peter de Mauley VIII in 1415, after which it passed to a John Salveyn who had married Peter's sister Elizabeth (Sprakes 1997, 38). From 1472 the manor seems to be in the hands of the Crown, and in 1505 Henry VII transferred the Soke of Doncaster, which included the Rossington Estate, to the Doncaster Corporation (Bridgewater 1970, 3). The subsequent history of land ownership in the manor is difficult to ascertain, but in 1667 Francis Childers bought the estate, which stayed within the Childers family until 1901 when it was sold off (Hunter 1828, 81-2).

The 18th and 19th century

2.19 The landscape during the post-medieval period on the Humberhead Levels is characterised by a series of drainage schemes, begun in 1628 by the Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden (Dinnin 1997). These initial engineering works were concentrated to the north-east of the study area around the area of Hatfield Chase, but by the late 18th century it was realised that the courses of the Rivers Idle and Torne as they flowed into the Don were preventing the proper drainage of the levels. Jefferys' 1775 map of Yorkshire shows that the River Torne had been canalised and straightened to the east of Auckley by this time, and that the Mother Drain had been constructed to help drain Potteric Carr, and joined the River Torne to the north-east of Rossington (Fig. 3). However, the Wadworth Enclosure map of 1767 shows the stretch of river to the west of Rossington as having been straightened, although the old course of the river is still shown (Fig. 6). By the time of the 'Map of the Environs of Doncaster' in 1804 (Fig. 4), the work on the straightening of the river has been completed, and the Mother Drain had been extended to meet the River Torne to the north-east of Rossington Bridge. It seems likely that the straightening of the River Torne was carried out over a number of years at the end of the 18th century, and that the map of 1767 is showing the projected line of the new river prior to its construction.

2.20 The Great Northern Railway, also known as the London and York Railway, was originally proposed in 1827, but did not win authority from Parliament until 1846. The first section was opened in 1848, and the section from Peterbrough to Doncaster, which passes through the study area, was opened in 1849. After the Railway Act of 1921 the line came under the stewardship of the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER).

2.21 In 1917 the Rossington Colliery, situated to the west of the village went into operation (Northern Mine Research Society website). The influx of mine workers to the area had caused the village's population to rapidly increase, and to meet the demand for housing New Rossington was developed, to the west of the original village. New housing continued to be constructed throughout the 1960s and 1970s, to the south of Rossington.

3. The Study Area

Proposed development site

3.1 The area of the proposed development covers the whole area of Rossington All Saints School. This consists of a rectilinear block of land, covering an area of approximately 13 hectares (see Fig. 2). School buildings, constructed in the late 1960s, occupy the northern third of the site together with a number of all weather sports pitches (Plate 1). The southern part of the site is covered by playing fields, which have been laid out on two large artificial terraces, which have been cut into the side of the natural slope (Plate 2).

Geology and topography

3.2 The site of the school lies on the edge of a ridge of higher ground, which slopes down to low-lying land to the south and south-west. Here, the landscape is flat, and acts as the flood plain for the River Torne, and the land is crossed by a series of drainage channels.

3.3 The solid geology of the study area largely comprises the Sherwood Sandstone of the Triassic period (British Geological Survey 1969). A number of large steep-sided deeply incised pre-Ipswichian glacial channels cross the study area from west-north-west to east-south-east, filled with a mixture of clay, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 1994, 99-103). These deposits are overlain by a number of deposits of fluvioglacial sands and gravels, boulder clay, head and older river gravels, as well as a band of more recent alluvium which characterises the superficial drift geology at the western extreme of the study area (British Geological Survey 1969).

Walkover Survey

3.4 A walkover survey was undertaken on November 18th 2005 in order to assess the survival of previously recorded and documented features, and to attempt to identify further archaeological sites, evidence of which may survive on the ground. Handheld GPS equipment was used to establish the central National Grid Reference (NGR) of newly identified features, to an accuracy of +/- 1m.

Identified cultural heritage sites

3.5 A total of 27 archaeological sites have been identified within the study area. Archaeological and historical features have been given a numerical identifier and listed in the catalogue contained in Appendix 1; these are referenced in the text in bold type. Each of these entries includes the relevant SMR, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building or NMR number. A catalogue number has also been provided for sites recorded in the recent report by Antony Brown (Brown 2005). Suggestions for further archaeological investigations will be recommended where sites or features have been identified to be of archaeological importance, and where further fieldwork is judged to be of benefit to further understand them.

3.6 The study area contains no listed buildings, and no Scheduled Monuments, There are also no registered Historic Parks and Gardens, or Historic Battlefields within the study area.

Archaeological sites

Prehistoric and Roman period

3.7 The earliest evidence of prehistoric activity within the study area is a spearhead dating to the Bronze Age, which was discovered to the east of Rossington (**27**).

3.8 By at least the late-prehistoric and Roman periods there appears to have been extensive settlement across the study area. This area encompasses three parts of a probable Iron Age or Romano-British field system, which has been identified in cropmarks through aerial photographic analysis (see Fig. 2). The western part of this field system comprises of a series of approximately square fields, about 1 hectare in size; to the east of these the fields are elongated, and defined by long ditches aligned north to south. A further area of field systems and a trackway have been identified in fields to the east and south-east of New Rossington (**23**, **22**). These again consisted of a number or roughly square fields, together with longer more elongated fields. Excavation undertaken in the area to the east of the railway line (**23**), have shown that these fields probably represent a single phase of late-prehistoric activity (Atkinson 1996). A complex of fields and enclosures has also been recorded the south of New Rossington (**2**). An extensive pattern of fields, trackways and enclosures has also been identified to the north and east of Hunster Grange (**24**), which appear to form a southern section of the field systems described above (**22**, **23**).

3.9 A statuette, probably dating to the late 2nd century was discovered by a metal detectorist on a playing field in New Rossington. It was found together with a sestertius of the Emperor Commodus (AD 180-192).

Medieval and Post-Medieval periods

3.10 It is clear that there was intensive agricultural activity throughout the study area during the medieval period. Although there is no earthwork evidence of medieval ploughing surviving on the surface, perhaps due to intensive modern farming. The pattern of medieval furlongs was fossilised during the early 19th century, when the blocks of ploughing were enclosed along the line of the furrows (**10**; *see* Fig. 5). Medieval ridge and furrow ploughing produces a distinctive reverse S or curvilinear shape, and the boundaries shown on the 19th century maps of the area can be seen following this line, especially to the west of Stripe Road (Ordnance Survey 1854).

3.11 The land on the eastern side of Stripe Road was largely taken up by Rossington Common, which is depicted as an area of open pasture on Jefferys' map of 1775 (**26**; *see* Fig. 3). Enclosure of Rossington Common had in fact begun around 1774, and piecemeal enclosure took place up until the 1810 Enclosure Act, when the previous enclosure was confirmed. The fact that Rossington Common had been open pasture can also be seen in the alignment of the boundaries that divided the area from the early 19th century (*see* Fig. 5). Unlike the curving boundaries that are found to the west of Stripe Road, which would have followed earlier plough furrows (see above), the boundaries across the common are straight and regular. This suggests that there were no earlier boundaries to influence the pattern of the new fields here.

3.12 It is likely that the north-eastern section of the study area originally made up part of a medieval deer park (**4**). It is known that there was a park in this area from the early part of the 13th century, probably established around a fortified manor house at Draw Dykes, the site of which lies to the north of the study area. The park is thought to have covered around a thousand acres (Sprakes 1997). The presence of such a park is also attested by the place name evidence; the name Park Field is marked to the west of Gattison Lane on the Rossington Tithe map of 1838 and on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1854. Deer parks often have a circular or ovate shape, and it is possible that the alignment of the south-eastern boundary of the park may be preserved in the curving line of Gattison Road, a line which, prior to the construction of 20th century houses, was continued by a field boundary (see Figs 2 and 5).

3.13 Hunster Wood was an area of woodland to the south of Rossington, which was in existence by at least the 17th century, when pigs were been kept here, although such activity had probably continued here from at least the medieval period (**15**). Indeed, the name 'Hunster' is likely to be a derivation of Hunter (Smith 1961, 50), perhaps suggesting, due to such activity, that the wood may have formed part of a medieval park. Indeed, to the west of the area of Hunster Wood, lies another smaller wood named Park Wood (**6**), again perhaps indicating the presence of an earlier park in the area.

3.14 There is only limited artifactual evidence of medieval activity within the study area, but this is probably a reflection of the lack of archaeological work undertaken to the south of Rossington. A medieval half-penny, probably dating to the reign of Edward III (AD 1327-77) was found in New Rossington (**5**). A lead seal of a 13th-14th century date, has also be found to the east of Rossington, in Church Field (**17**).

3.15 There were extensive works during the 17th century to canalise rivers and drain land in order to control the frequent flooding throughout the Humberhead Levels, on which the lowlying ground to the south of Rossington lies. Indeed, much of the River Torne (**3**) had been embanked as part of Vermuydens drainage scheme in the 1620s (see above).

The late 18th and 19th century

3.16 The mid-19th century saw the construction of the Great Northern Railway (**13**), a section of which runs through the eastern part of the study area, across part of what had formerly been Rossington Common. The construction of the railway had been authorised in 1846, but the stretch to the south-east of Rossington was not opened until 1849. A station was constructed on the line to serve Rossington, which was opened in 1850 (**11**). The line continues to operate, although the station finally closed in 1963, and is now a private residence.

3.17 A number of plantations had been established within the study area by the early 19th century. 'Stone Hills Plantation' (**14**) was located to the east and south-east of the present Rossington All Saints School, with the smaller

'Church Field Plantation', being situated to its east, at the corner of Stripe Road and Common Lane (**21**). Both these plantations were felled in the 1960s. A further plantation, known as 'Reedy Holmes Plantation', was also in existence by the first half of the 19th century, but remains wooded at present (**1**).

3.18 There appears to have been small scale quarrying within the study area. A gravel pit was located to the west of Stripe Road, close to Stone Hill Plantation (**18**; *see* Fig. 4). It appears to have gone out of use, and been infilled, by the 1850s (Ordnance Survey 1854). The place-name 'Stone Hill' probably reflects the quarrying activity within this area.

3.19 A barn was located close to the western end of Hunster Wood (**9**). This was in existence by at least the 1830s, when it is marked on the Rossington Tithe Map of 1838. It remained in use through the mid-19th century when the adjacent woodland was also known as 'Barn Wood' (Ordnance Survey 1841; 1854).

3.20 By the late-19th century a number of new buildings had been constructed across the study area (Ordnance Survey 1893a; 1893b). The most substantial is Hunster Grange, which consists of a large brick built farmhouse, with two enclosed yards accessed through a substantial gatehouse (**16**). There does not appear to have been a farm, or any buildings on this site prior to its construction. Hunster Grange continues to operate as a farm, although a modern bungalow and additional farm buildings have been added to the site.

3.21 A number of buildings, named as 'The Kennels' on the Ordnance Survey mapping (**12**; Ordnance Survey 1893a, 1904, 1931), were located to the north of Hunster Grange, at the north-western end of Stone Hills Plantation (**14**); presumably these functioned as dog kennels. Buildings continued to stand on this site into the 1970s, after which the area was built over with the existing bungalows.

3.22 New England Cottages are a row of late 19th century cottages, located at the southern edge of the study area on Stripe Road (**19**). These were constructed by the 1880s (Ordnance Survey 1886), and may have been used as labourers' cottages for nearby farms, such as Hunster Grange.

The 20th century

3.23 The early decades of the 20th century saw the rapid expansion of industry and urban development around the Rossington area. This was largely due to the opening of the Rossington Colliery, which was sunk between 1912 and 1915 (Northern Mines Research Society website), with coal production beginning in 1917. The influx of workers to the area created by the colliery saw the establishment or New Rossington to the west of the original village, which consisted of planned housing estates, together with facilities such as schools and churches (**7**).

3.24 Further development continued to the south of Rossington during the 1960s and 1970s with the construction of further housing, and the building of

Rossington Comprehensive School, which was later to become Rossington All Saints School. The establishment of the school saw extensive terracing into the natural south-facing hill slope on which it sits, to create two large level areas for playing fields.

3.25 In 1963 a Royal Observation Corp monitoring post was constructed at the corner of Stripe Road and Common Lane (Plate 3). This consisted of a small concrete bunker, with access down a shaft via a ladder. This would have been a manned post, the function of which was to monitor the blast strength in the event of a nuclear attack.

Assessment of Value

3.26 Using the data collated by this desk-based research, an initial assessment of the grade of each recorded archaeological site can be made. For archaeological sites this grading is based on professional judgement and a combination of the criteria given by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for the scheduling of Ancient Monuments, and the criteria used by English Heritage in their Monuments Protection Programme.

3.27 This grading system is based upon a five-tier hierarchy of importance, namely National, Regional/County, District, Local, and finally sites which are no longer extant or so badly damaged so as to preclude them from a higher designation.

3.28 The importance of the built environment can be graded as to whether the buildings have been listed or not. All Listed Buildings are considered to be of national importance whilst other non-listed buildings have been graded appropriately in line with the archaeological grades given above.

3.29 The table below illustrates the status accorded to each of the cultural heritage sites identified by this study. No sites within the study area are regarded as being of National importance, either as Listed Buildings or Scheduled Monuments. Three sites are recognised as having Regional/County importance; Three sites are seen as having District importance; 10 sites are seen as having only Local importance, and 11 sites have been left ungraded as a result of their being known or thought to be completely destroyed. It should be noted that this grading should not be seen as an immovable scale, but one which could move up or down as more information regarding a site's preservation/importance is gathered during subsequent fieldwork or more detailed site inspections.

Summary of Cultural Heritage Sites

Site no.	Site name	Grade
1	Reedy Holmes Plantation, south-wet of Rossington	No grade
2	Enclosures and field systems (cropmarks), south and south-west of New Rossington	Regional
3	River Torne, south-west of Rossington	Local
4	Deer park (field names), north-west of All Saints School	Local
5	Medieval halfpenny, New Rossington	Local
6	Park Wood, east of the River Torne	No grade
7	New Rossington housing	No grade
8	Possible Roman statue and coin (stray finds), New Rossington playing field	Local
9	Barn (site of), south of All Saints School	Local
10	Medieval field boundaries (site of), west of All Saints School	No grade
11	Rossington Railway Station	Local
12	'The Kennels' (site of), east of All Saints School	Local
13	Great Northern Railway	District
14	'Stone Hills Plantations' (site of), west of Stripe Road	No grade
15	'Hunster Wood' (site of), west side of Stripe Road	Local
16	Hunster Grange	No grade
17	Lead seal (stray find), Church Field, Rossington	Local
18	Gravel Pit (site of), west of Stripe Road	No grade
19	New England Cottages	No grade
20	ROC monitoring post, junction of Stripe Road and Common Lane	Regional
21	Church Field Plantation, corner of Stripe Road and Common Lane	No grade
22	Field system and trackway (cropmarks), Church Field	District
23	Field system (site of), Church Field	No grade
24	Field system, trackway and enclosures (cropmarks), north and east of Hunster Grange Farm	Regional
25	Field system and trackway (cropmarks), Church Field, Rossington	Local
26	Rossington Common	No grade
27	Bronze Age spearhead (stray find), east of Rossington	District

4. Conclusions

4.1 Although no archaeological features have been identified within the area of the proposed development, the cropmark data from air photographs strongly suggests that the site once formed part of an Iron Age or Romano-British field system. The failure of the former field/enclosure ditches to manifest themselves as cropmarks might be explained by the fact that the school field has not been under crop, and also due to the extensive terracing and landscaping that was undertaken when the school was originally constructed. Consequently it is possible that sub-surface archaeological features may survive on the site where the terracing has not destroyed the archaeological deposits.

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Project management
Ian Roberts BSc MIFA

Report
Mitchell Pollington BA MA
Antony Brown BA

Research
Antony Brown
Mitchell Pollington

Illustrations
Mitchell Pollington

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Appendix I: Catalogue of sites

Appendix 2: Brief for Desk-based Assessment