



Burnley Employment Sites Rapid Heritage Assessment

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Limits of this appraisal

The following report is the result of a rapid assessment of a series of sites across Burnley, using the available data in the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER). No further documentary search has been undertaken and no site visits were made as part of this appraisal. The boundaries of the sites, names, etc. were provided by Burnley Borough Council as ArcGIS shapefiles.

EMP1/1: Rossendale Road North

No HER entries fall within the site boundary and there is no obvious concentration of early sites in the vicinity which may indicate medieval or earlier occupation. The site is therefore unlikely to retain important buried remains.

The closest designated heritage assets are the listed buildings (grade II) of Habergham Hall Farm, c.180m west, and Back Lane Farmhouse, 335m northwest.

The site is considered to be of unknown but probably local to negligible archaeological significance.

No archaeological investigation or recording is recommended, although a scheme of geophysical survey and trial trenching could be considered as a safeguard.

EMP1/2: Burnley Bridge Business Park

Two HER entries fall within the site boundaries, with a further six adjacent. They range in date from the C17 to C20. Much of the site was occupied by the former Magnesium Elektron plant, established in 1940, which was subject to building recording before demolition in 2009. Also within the site is the footprint of some elements of the former Knotts Farm. This section of the site was subject to trial excavation in 2009 and no surviving remains were detected. The site is thus not considered to retain important buried remains.

The closest designated heritage asset is the Listed grade II Knotts Canal Bridge, which lies on the southern perimeter of the site. The adjacent canal is unlisted but also of significance.

Following the recording and trenching noted above, the site is considered to be of negligible archaeological significance.

No archaeological investigation or recording is recommended.

EMP1/3: Vision Park

The site boundary encompasses the footprint of the 1865 Stonyholme Shed, a later C19-20 colliery tramway and viaduct and the site of some later C19 and C20 housing. A brief note has been made of the first two of these but no detailed investigation undertaken. Standing and buried remains of these heritage assets may be present on site.

The closest designated heritage assets are the entrance lodge to the former Royle Hall (160m north), the railway viaduct over the River Calder and the Clifton Street bridge over the railway (180-190m to the south). All are grade II listed.

Remains of the mill power systems and the tramway viaduct are considered to be of local archaeological significance.

A desk-based assessment and walk-over survey of the mill and the tramway viaduct should be undertaken and a record of any standing remains made. If survival of buried remains of the engine house, boilers, and chimney or power transmission systems are suspected, a scheme of trial trenching should be undertaken. Further investigation or recording works may be necessary depending upon the results of the above.

EMP1/4: Widow Hill Road

A small farmstead is indicated on the OS 1848 mapping and was extant into the 1960s. Buried remains seem likely to exist.

There are no designated heritage assets within 500m of the site.

Buried remains of the farmstead are considered to be of local significance

A desk-based assessment and programme of trial trenching should be undertaken on the site. Further investigation or recording works may be necessary depending upon the results of the above.

EMP1/5: Land south of Network 65

No HER entries fall into the site boundaries, but two sites of local significance fall on its perimeter. There is no obvious concentration of early sites in the vicinity which may indicate pre-medieval occupation although the pale (boundary) of the medieval Hapton Deer Park may lie a few metres to the southeast of the site or fall within the site.

The closest designated heritage assets are the aisled barn at Bentley Green Farm (480m north) and Watson Laithe Farm 560m to the southeast; both are listed grade II.

The site is considered to be of unknown archaeological significance. Remains of the deer park pale, if found, could be of local to regional importance.

A desk-based assessment and walk-over, concentrating on the medieval deer park is recommended. If remains of the park pale survive, they should be recorded and retained in situ if possible.

EMP1/6: Balderstone Lane

Earthwork remains, probably of the C18-19 Hag Gate Colliery are noted on the HER within the site boundary. Surface remains of these have, however, apparently been lost in recent years. No other remains are expected to survive

The closest designated heritage assets are the grade II listed Tattersall Barn Farm and Church of St James, and the grade I listed Queen Street Mill.

The site is considered to be of negligible archaeological significance.

No archaeological investigation or recording is recommended.

EMP1/7: Westgate

This site was occupied by later C19 terraced housing, demolished after 1960 along with much other housing in this part of Burnley. Some elements of similar housing do survive, however, in the areas around. No other remains are likely to survive here. The west side of the site lies along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

The closest designated heritage assets lie close outside the boundary of the site to the northwest (Clifton Street railway bridge), 39-41 Westgate to the southeast, 106-114 Westgate and Belle View Mill, Westgate, to the south. These are all listed grade II. The Scheduled Monument of the Oak Mount Mill Engine House and engine lie c.150m to the south. The adjacent canal is unlisted but also of significance.

The site is considered to be of negligible archaeological significance.

No archaeological investigation or recording is recommended.

EMP1/8: Thompson Centre Car Park

This site is crossed by a pre-1848 colliery tramway but was also the site of the Thompson Centre. The latter is likely to have removed all remains of the former. Potentially more robust remains of a pre-1893 iron foundry could, however, survive towards the northern end of the site.

The grade II listed Aenon Baptist Chapel stands alongside the northwest corner of the site, with the central library (also grade II) alongside that. Further listed buildings stand to the west. To the southeast the Calder aqueduct under the canal is also listed grade II.

Remains of the iron foundry would be considered to be of local archaeological significance.

A desk-based assessment should be undertaken and, if remains of the iron foundry are considered likely to survive, some trial trenching undertaken. Further recording would depend upon the survival and significance of any remains encountered.

EMP1/9: Innovation Drive

The site does not contain any known heritage assets and there is not considered to be any potential for significant buried remains to exist.

The closest designated heritage asset is Netherwood Cottage and Farmhouse (grade II listed), c.350m to the east.

The site is considered to be of negligible archaeological significance.

No archaeological investigation or recording is recommended.

EMP1/10: Widow Hill Road South

The site does not contain any known heritage assets and there is not considered to be any potential for significant buried remains to exist.

There are no designated heritage assets within 500m of the site.

The site is considered to be of negligible archaeological significance.

No archaeological investigation or recording is recommended.

EMP1/11: George Street Mill

A complex arrangement of iron foundry and cotton mills formerly occupied this site, but much has recently been cleared, leaving only perimeter features and a single block of textile buildings (although other foundry buildings exist alongside). Some buried elements may survive within the site, but this will depend upon the thoroughness of the demolition.

The site is at the heart of the Weaver's Triangle, and there are grade II listed buildings within 100m on the north, west and south sides of the site. To the east further grade II listed buildings stand, but are slightly further away. The Scheduled Monument of the Oak Mount Mill Engine House and engine lie c.130m to the northeast. The unlisted but still important Leeds and Liverpool Canal forms the southwest boundary of the site.

The site formerly had more than local archaeological significance but following the demolition the surviving elements can be considered of only local significance, with the remainder being of negligible significance.

The buildings on site were assessed prior to demolition, but are not known to have been recorded in any detail. Surviving elements should therefore be recorded.

EMP1/12: Burnley Bridge Extension

A coal pit and associated tramway, plus a pre-1848 farmstead are known from the site, although the latter is right on the very edge of the development area. The former appears to have been cleared away but buried remains of the farmstead may yet survive. There are no indications in the general area that pre-medieval occupation is to be expected here.

Two WWII spigot-mortar mounts and an associated buildings have been recently included in the Schedule of Monuments, and lie c.260m to the south. The listed grade II Knotts Canal Bridge is some 300m to the southeast.

The farmstead site is considered to be of local significance, but the remainder is of unknown, probably negligible significance.

The farmstead site should be subject to a desk-based assessment and trial trenching, with further work as determined by the results. No archaeological investigation or recording is recommended for the remainder of the site, although a scheme of geophysical survey and trial trenching could be considered as a safeguard.

EMP1/13: Shuttleworth Mead South

No HER entries fall within the site boundary and there is no obvious concentration of early sites in the vicinity which may indicate medieval or earlier occupation. The site is therefore unlikely to retain important buried remains.

The closest designated heritage assets are the grade II listed Workhouse Farm, 130m to the northwest and Lower Fenny Fold Farmhouse, c.400m to the east.

The site is considered to be of unknown but probably local to negligible archaeological significance.

No archaeological investigation or recording is recommended, although a scheme of geophysical survey and trial trenching could be considered as a safeguard.

EMP1/14: (Unnamed, gas holder station)

No HER entries fall within the site boundary and there is no obvious concentration of early sites in the vicinity which may indicate medieval or earlier occupation. The site is unlikely to retain significant buried remains.

The closest designated heritage assets is the grade II listed New Hall Canal Bridge, 150m to the east.

The site is considered to be of negligible archaeological significance.

No archaeological investigation or recording is recommended.