

**WHITLEY LODGE, WHITLEY, NORTH YORKSHIRE:  
CULTURAL HERITAGE DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

approximately 100 m east of the entrance to the site. The topographic position based on information from sites such as Wood Hall suggests that this higher area of land may have been the focus for early prehistoric settlement and activity. The lower Aire appears to have been influenced by estuarine accretion during the Iron Age and Roman periods. In areas affected by this process there is a twofold archaeological potential. Firstly there is the potential associated with the underlying, buried, landscape which may include sites of a dry-land nature and/or sites flooded or affected by a rising water table and preserved in a water-logged condition. Secondly there are sites and finds within accreted sediments. These might be expected to include features associated with wet ground such as trackways, bridges, boats and landing stages (Van de Noort & Ellis 1997)

**Medieval (AD 1000-1600)**

The place name Whitley is generally agreed to be of 11<sup>th</sup> century origin and Ekwall (1960) believed the meaning to be 'white leah' or a clearing in the woods. Although little is known of Whitley Lodge itself during the medieval period, the existence of a settlement in the wider Whitley area from at least the 11<sup>th</sup> century is demonstrated by the mention of a village at Whitley in the Domesday Book where it was recorded as 'Whitelare' (Martin 2003; Faull & Stinson 1986).

The Victoria County History records a preceptory within Whitley associated with the Templar Order (Page 1913) although its exact history and location remain unknown (Knowles & Haddock 1971). The Knights Templar were founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century with the object of defending the holy lands. It was a military order from the outset whose members were bound by an oath of poverty. The site of Whitley Thorpe (SAM No 3011) has been identified as a grange or outlying farm of Whitley Manor which was held by the Knights Templar from before 1248. A Robert de Layton/Langton is described as preceptor of Whitley and in 1308 the land was valued at £130 15s with livestock including two saddle horses although no location is made of its extent (Page 1913). Unlike a number of Templar manors, Whitley Thorpe did not pass to the rural order of Knights Hospitallers and the site at Whitley Thorpe is believed to have passed into disuse (Martin 1929).

Robert de Pirou the preceptor of the temple at Hirst is said to have administered many acres of land on both sides of the river Aire including and at Eggborough north of the proposed development area (Farrar 1987). In the 13<sup>th</sup> century Kellington Church was at the centre of a dispute between the Templars of Hirst and the Abbot of Selby. The dispute focused on tithes from an affiliated chapel at Whitley and who should receive them, the Templars through Kellington Church or the Abbey through Snaith Church (Farrar 1987). This dispute demonstrates the existence of a chapel at Whitley

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during the 13<sup>th</sup> century but it is not clear if it is related to the earlier preceptory.

5.2.4 Selby and the surrounding district was surrounded by low-lying fenlands and land was often saturated or under water so areas of dryland were at a premium (Scott 1986). In the 12<sup>th</sup> century a causewayed track or ridge flanked on either side by deep ditches was built crossing the major dykes across the boggy ground. This ridge appears to have been the routeway originating between the pre-Domesday settlements of Knottingley, Whitley and Eggborough (Metcalf 2001).

5.2.5 A number of aerial photographs from in and around the Whitley area depict cropmarks and show a number of features primarily consisting of what appear to be ditched enclosures and field boundaries possibly dating from the medieval or post-medieval period (Kershaw 2001). No such features have been identified within or immediately adjacent to the proposed development area, the nearest being enclosures or field ditches visible as fragmentary sections (**Site Nos 6 and 7**).

5.2.6 Early maps available for the area are too stylistic and insufficiently scaled to reveal any detail about the site. Saxton's map of Yorkshire (1577) for example does not mark Whitley although it is known from documentary sources to have existed here for several centuries prior to the map depiction.

**5.3 Post-medieval (AD 1600-1900)**

5.3.1 Mercator's map of 1620 (Figure 3) marks the villages of Kellington and Snaith but does not mark smaller settlements such as Whitley. Whitley is named on Blaeu's 1664 map (Figure 4) although there are no buildings depicted.

5.3.2 Jeffrey's map of 1722 (not shown) shows the village as u-shaped and marks a structure in the vicinity of Whitley Lodge close to the edge of an area named Routh Moore. This map is too small in scale to reveal any further details about the nature and configuration of any structures that occupied the proposed development area at this time.

5.3.3 The 1722 enclosure map for the area has been lost (English 1985) but the enclosure document to accompany it describes seven areas of open ground within Whitley that were to be enclosed. This includes the White Field located east of the proposed development area and The North Middle Field, South Middle Field, Mill Field over Lee and Low Lee breaks, a total of 400 acres. Half of the tithes belonged to Trinity College Cambridge whilst the other half belonged to Samuel Crompton. There is no Tithe Award map available for the village (Forge 1994).

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- 5.3.4 Ordnance Survey maps from 1848 (Figure 5) reveal the proposed development site to be established as part of the grounds of Whitley Lodge. The configuration of the roads and driveways are largely similar today with the main difference being the plan of Lodge Farm Cottage, which has an L-shaped form. The land immediately north of the proposed development area, which is occupied by factory buildings today, is depicted on this edition as woodland.
- 5.3.5 The identity of the owners and residents of Whitley Lodge during the post-medieval period remain unknown. Much of the land around Whitley was lately owned by the Earl of Cathcart and details regarding transactions over pieces of land in and around Whitley throughout the post-medieval period are recorded within the Cathcart Collection. Although none of the papers within the Cathcart collection refer specifically to Whitley Lodge, the records reveal much of the land around Whitley possibly including the proposed development area to have been owned by various members of the More family throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century including Basil More Esq., Thomas More Esq. and Margaret More. The collection includes many papers dating from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century detailing leases of land by Thomas More Esq. to various Whitley residents. Papers from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century make reference to John Clayton as the major landowner within Whitley occasionally selling land to a Samuel Crompton of Derby. Geographical references within this collection refer primarily to individual fields, hedgerows and closes. Without a title map or enclosure map for Whitley in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries it is difficult to know where these documents refer to. Similarly the 1851 census returns for the Whitley Parish do not provide addresses or house names for the list of inhabitants.
- 5.3.6 In 1876 William Eadon sold a portion of land west of the proposed development area to the Whitley school board for the provision of a school (**Site No 11**) which was duly built and opened in 1877 (Crossdale 2000). Ordnance Survey maps dating from 1894 show the majority of the proposed development area marked with dispersed trees suggesting that it was part of the lodge garden or associated parkland. This map also shows the addition of a curved boundary to the land associated with Whitley Lodge. A walkover survey of the proposed development area revealed part of a curved boundary wall in the south-west corner of the lawn and it is possible that this formed part of the original garden wall boundary. Assessment of the proposed development area as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation programme has suggested that it may form part of a small designed landscape focused on Whitley Lodge (**Site No 9**). Geophysical survey of the lawn area south of Whitley Lodge revealed a number of pit like anomalies that may result from garden features (Gaffney 2006) and it is possible that they are associated with the various landscape phases on this site.

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5.3.7 The Church of All Saints (**Site No 4**) which lies east of the proposed development area was constructed during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as indicated by documents within the Borthwick Institute in York, which record a visit by the archbishop of York in 1868 making a visit to All Saint's church in Whitley which had been recently constructed. Prior to the construction of the Knottingley to Goole canal in 1826, Whitley was drained by means of an ancient drain called fleet drain then belonging to adjoining landowners which would have included the owners of the lands surrounding Whitley Lodge and the proposed development area. It was specified within the plans for the canal that the Aire and Calder Canal Company would replace the fleet drain with an alternative drain. A report within the West Yorkshire archives describes drainage problems in the area abutting the canal nine years after the construction of the canal. The residents of Whitley led by Samuel Crompton resolved to secure a replacement drain.

5.3.8 With the exception of the occasional passing reference to Whitley as described above, there is very little recorded about the history and development of the village and it is assumed that it remained as it does today, a small agricultural community.

#### **5.4 Modern (post-1900)**

5.4.1 Ordnance Survey maps dating from 1904 (Figure 6) show little change to have occurred within Whitley and the proposed development area and the village continues to comprise farmsteads fronting the A19. The addition of a small rectangular structure north of Lodge Farm Cottage is evident. Later maps dating from 1956 show the addition of another two outbuildings in the vicinity of the farm but relatively little additional change to the wider proposed development area.

5.4.2 Aerial photographs available for the area show very little change within the proposed development area over the past 60 years. Photographs from 1967 show the grounds of the lodge to be well maintained and the terrace and lawns that are now somewhat overgrown in places are shown to be open. The land surrounding the proposed development area appears to parkland and is dotted with trees, which is consistent with the interpretation of this area as part of a designed landscape. Photographs from 1971 show the grounds to be slightly less well maintained and the factory had expanded to the north of the site.

5.4.3 Ordnance Survey maps dating from 1973 (Figure 9) and aerial photographs from 1974 show the newly constructed M62 junction (**Site No 10**) north of the proposed development area. Lodge Farm cottage is shown as single rectangular structure in the same location and configuration in which it is now located. In 1974, the old county boundaries were redrawn and the West