

# Cammell Laird site: outlook will continue to improve

**S GREEN, Managing Director, Yorkshire Land Ltd, Town Hall House, Shrewsbury Road, Penistone:**

REFERRING to the reader's letter (October 9), as Managing Director of Yorkshire Land Limited, I feel I have a duty to correct certain inaccuracies.

As many readers will be aware, the site at Springvale was previously occupied by Cammell Laird in the production of Bessemer Steel. The works closed in 1930 and since that time the land has remained in an extremely derelict state, despite previous attempts at land reclamation by at least two major companies, who abandoned their efforts because of the colossal scale and nature of the work involved.

When Yorkshire Land Limited purchased the site about four years ago we took on board what many people described as being an impossible task which was made worse due to the lack of any grant assistance (not one penny has been received). We regret that some people may have suffered inconvenience from noise and dust. This has been inevitable and made worse by the close proximity of the housing adjoining the site. We would like to take this opportunity once again to apologise for any inconvenience the residents

## READER'S LETTER

may have suffered throughout these long overdue and essential works. Most local people have been very understanding as they have gradually seen the works progress and this area of Penistone improve dramatically. They understand that this was not a green field site that had been ripped apart for short-term gain (i.e. open cast) but, on the contrary, was one of the most derelict sites within the borough.

The reclamation works were completed about three months ago and new housing development, directly behind the existing Sheffield Road properties, will follow shortly. Like most things in life with pain comes gain and residents now have a much better outlook than ever before. This will continue to improve as new gardens and landscaping works are added. One local estate agent estimates that the prices of the houses, which back onto the site have already risen by about \$5,000 per property as a direct result of the works carried out to date, not to mention the fact that certain leading build-

ing societies were previously unhappy at providing mortgages on some of the houses which were overshadowed with the 25 foot high wall constructed of steel slag only six metres from their back yard.

The task has not been easy, in fact from start to finish it has been extremely difficult work plagued with continuous problems. However, we have stuck it out and now everyone in the district can feel the benefit of the improvements. There surely must be a plank in Penistone who can deny that the bend on the road at Springvale is much improved now that the wall has been demolished and allowed daylight to shine through. The new road we have constructed to service the business park, 'Laird's Way', will also allow the proposed rail station/bus interchange to finally progress.

Despite allegations we can categorically state that Yorkshire Land Ltd. have not carried out work at 1.30 a.m. destroying trees with bulldozers using searchlights. We can only presume that the writer

has mistakenly believed that this was our company's doing. I am aware that Railtrack (in no way connected to Yorkshire Land Ltd.) own title deeds allow us pedestrian and vehicular access across this roadway at all times, although we endeavour not to exercise our rights unless it is essential.

With regard to the flooding incident on Wednesday 30 September 1998 we would like to confirm that after hours of torrential rain (which incidentally brought flooding in many parts of the borough) water built up and overspilled from the site due to a blocked drain. The drain outlet had been blocked intentionally and it could not physically have been a prank by children as the nature of the blockage was of a more sinister act.

Despite all of our efforts at Springvale we are sorry to learn that some of the adjoining residents feel angry and unhappy, despite the 100% visual/environmental improvement which they are going to feel the most benefit from. However, it is a fact of life that despite best efforts it is not possible to keep everyone happy all of the time. Fortunately we do live in a democratic society and everyone is entitled to their view.

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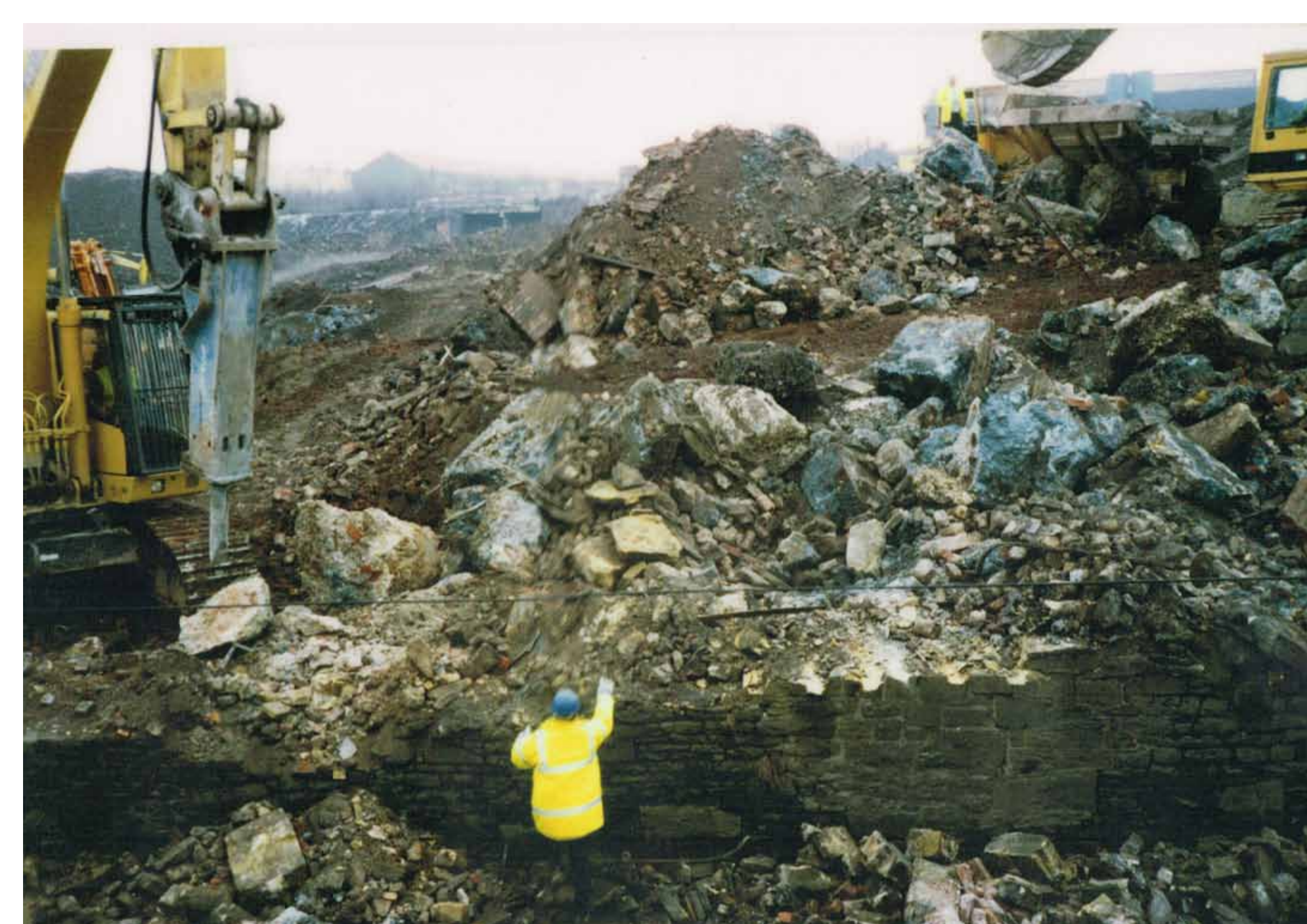
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5. View from far side  
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View from  
Sheffield Rd  
going towards Penistone  
P.T.O  
B.M.B.C. DEPO. V



Rubble being moved  
from behind wall

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**Yorkshire Land**  
Limited

Town Hall House, Shrewsbury Road, Penistone, Sheffield S30 6DY  
Telephone: (01226) 761416 Facsimile: (01226) 761467

7 March 1996

Dear Householder

We write to inform you that we shall be taking down the last section of wall which abuts our site and Sheffield Road in the vicinity of your home.

The essential works will take place between the hours of 6 am to 8 pm on Saturday 9 March 1996.

All the necessary departments have been informed of the works including the Police. Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council have issued an Emergency Road Closure Notice

We apologise for any inconvenience you may suffer, but you are given our assurance that we will endeavour to keep the nuisance to a minimum, and are hopeful of completing the works some time Saturday afternoon (earlier than stated above).

Safety is of the paramount importance and barrier fencing will be erected adjacent to the footpath to keep pedestrians well clear of the working area.

We trust this information is of assistance and hope we can count upon your co-operation to ensure a safe and speedy operation for the benefit of all concerned.

Yours faithfully  
YORKSHIRE LAND Limited

*S Green*  
S GREEN  
Managing Director



View from site side  
of wall  
Showing height of  
wall after work had  
started on lowering wall  
to daylight to blomas

