# EIA Quality Mark Case Study

## Rossington Colliery Spoil Heap – Coal Recovery and Restoration Scheme

![Image of Rossington Colliery Spoil Heap](image_url)

## Key Issues
- Overall site covered approximately 112 hectares, with brownfield and green field elements;
- Fulfilling South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) requirements, archaeological advisors to Doncaster Metropolitan Borough, but still meet project deadlines and timescales;
- Recorded crop marks within the southern part of the site suggesting potential for prehistoric/Romano-British remains;
- Possible below ground evidence associated Rossington Grange Farm purported to be a medieval grange situated on the southern part of the site;
- Works on site were required to be phased in a way that respected the archaeology, but was also an appropriate solution that met the requirements of SYAS.

## Purpose of the project
RecyCoal are restoring a former colliery spoil heap at Rossington, near Doncaster in order to recover up to one million tonnes of coal from the spoil and restore the site for recreational and open end use to create a positive legacy.

## Description of the project
The Project comprised the excavation of the existing colliery spoil heap, washing the spoil, recovery of an estimated 950,000 tonnes of coal and progressive restoration of the site to benefit the community and enhance biodiversity. The coal recovery process will remove the risk of spontaneous combustion of coal within the spoil and provide a site profile and landform which is more in keeping with the surrounding landscape whilst facilitating part of the site for future development and inward investment. The site has a number of local sensitivities, including ecology, archaeology and residential receptors.
Lessons learnt
- Desk-based and non-intrusive works may not provide a true picture of the value of an unknown heritage asset on site;
- Do not underestimate length of time required by archaeological consultee to provide responses and undertake their review of material;
- Managing requirements of archaeological advisors to ensure best practice is followed and that the scope of assessment is appropriate within the overall project and archaeological context;
- Undertake initial predetermination archaeological works (fieldwalking and geophysical surveys) if required as soon as practicable (to inform the baseline reporting or Environmental Statement) in order to prevent extensive archaeological investigations being required during the construction stage.

Lessons learnt cont.
- Allow for environmental training, through tool box talks to the operational team so there is clarity on the areas allocated for archaeological investigation and to increase awareness of the type of archaeological remains which may be revealed;
- Ensure the design is an iterative process that takes into account both environmental and engineering constraints and ensure discussions with relevant consultees continue throughout the process.

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