Everill Gate Lane, Wombwell, South Yorkshire

Written Scheme of Investigation – Archaeological Evaluation

Client: Everill Gate Properties Ltd

Local Planning Authority: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Planning Reference: TBA
NGR: SE 4104 0256

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Everill Gate Properties Ltd are proposing a mixed use development on at Everill Gate, Barnsley (NGR SE 4104 0256, see Figure 1).

1.2 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Prospect Archaeology Ltd. It complies with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014).

1.3 The proposed trenching is part of a phased programme of archaeological work designed to mitigate the impacts of development on the archaeological resource.

2.0 Site Location and Description

2.1 The Site occupies an area of land a short distance to the north-east of the Brampton roundabout, bounded to the south by the course of the former Dearne and Dove Canal. Everill Gate Lane bounds the Site to the north-west, beyond which are industrial buildings named Waterside Park. An industrial estate is also located on Meadowgate to the immediate south-east of the Site. To the north the Site is bounded by the Trans Pennine Trail (formerly the South Yorkshire Railway), immediately beyond which is a small group of buildings including a pumping station. Everill Gate Lane crosses the course of the former railway and takes a north-east/ then easterly route towards the small settlement of Broomhill. The land either side of the road is occupied by farms, fields and lakes.

3.0 Previous Archaeological Work

3.1 A desk-based Assessment was prepared by Prospect Archaeology in 2018. This identified the potential for Iron Age / Roman period activity in the area, suggesting low to moderate potential for remains from the prehistoric period within the proposed Site. The western side of the site is recorded as landfill.

3.2 A geophysical survey carried out by ASWYAS in 2019 (Fig 2, report in prep) detected two linear anomalies apparently forming the corner of an enclosure and a few associated pit-like responses. The western part of the site was unavailable for survey due to overgrown scrub and a metal framed building being present

4.0 Scope of Works

4.1 In accordance with the planning condition, a programme of evaluation excavation is required to better understand the nature of the archaeological resource and to better define a mitigation strategy to be implemented in advance of development. The evaluation comprises the excavation of 10 trenches, measuring 50m x 2m. The proposed trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and avoid the area of landfill and the steel-framed building.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

5.1 The purpose of the intrusive evaluation will be to gather sufficient information for the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service Archaeologist to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

5.2 Evidence shall be gathered to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeological remains, and to allow for the determination of any appropriate strategies to mitigate the effect of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource.

6.0 Method

6.1 Fieldwork will be undertaken by a team from Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS). All groundworks will be supervised by an appropriately experienced archaeologist. When sufficient trenches are opened further staff will be brought in to complete the investigations. Contingency rates are identified to allow for further archaeological investigation if the archaeology is more extensive than anticipated. Contingency sums are in place to allow for additional post-excavation analysis if required.

6.2 The trenches will be excavated by a 360º excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. Once the trenches are stripped of topsoil all features encountered will be plotted and then excavated according to the sampling strategy.

7.0 Excavation and Recording

7.1 Following the identification of archaeological deposits, all further excavation will be by hand, by experienced/qualified archaeologists to natural undisturbed deposits. Sufficient of each feature will be excavated to determine its date and function.

7.2 Linear features will be sampled a minimum of 20% along their length (each sample section to be not less than 1m), or a minimum of a 1m sample section, if the feature is less than 5m long. Should specialised deposits (e.g. localised refuse dumping, industrial wastes) be present, then more extensive excavation will be undertaken. Junctions of linear features with other features will also be excavated to determine stratigraphic relationships. All terminals will be excavated.

7.3 Following the hand excavation of linear features potentially of prehistoric to early medieval date, a further 30% will be machine excavated in spits to examine the possibility of structured deposits in fills. This requirement will be subject to on site iterative review.

7.4 Discrete features will be half-sectioned in the first instance. Discrete features containing significant structural traces or important artefactual or environmental material will be fully excavated. Post holes and stake holes (where not clearly forming a structure) will be half-sectioned ensuring that relationships are investigated.

7.5 All structures and zones of specialised activity (e.g. industrial, agricultural processing, ceremonial, funerary) are to be fully or extensively excavated, and all relationships recorded. Structural remains such as eaves drip gullies, beam slots and post-holes demonstrated to be part of a buildings construction will require total excavation.

7.6 All industrial features including "domestic" ovens and hearths will be 100% excavated and sampled for analysis. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues will be collected by hand. Separate samples will be collected for micro-slags (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) in accordance with recommendations of Archaeometallurgy in archaeological projects (Historic England 2015).

7.7 A drawn record will be maintained, comprising a site plan showing the locations of the area excavation within the site, an overall site plan, feature plans and section drawings as appropriate. These will be produced at appropriate scales, normally 1:100, 1:50, 1:20 and/or 1:10, as the complexity of the drawing requires. Detailed plans will be made of key features and section or elevation drawings provided of cut features and upstanding structures as appropriate. All drawings will be referenced to the overall site plan.

7.8 A photographic record of the project and of each feature will be made and photographs illustrating the relationships between groups of features and general progress will also be taken. Archival record shots will be b/w film and colour digital shots will be used to supplement the record but will not form part of the formal archive.

7.9 All context, drawing and photographic registers will be cross-referenced.

7.10 Finds will be bagged and labelled according to their context of origin. All finds will be treated in accordance with the recommendations contained in First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neale 1998, 3rd edition). Advice will be taken on any finds requiring immediate specialist treatment.

8.0 Environmental Sampling

8.1 An appropriate level of environmental samples will be taken from deposits that can be securely dated and/or placed in the site's stratigraphic sequence and in accordance with the English Heritage Environmental Archaeology (2011). Samples will be no less than 40 litres (where possible). If samples are required from discrete features that are not proposed for 100% excavation they will be taken from the unexcavated 50%. Sampling of stake-holes or small features will require the excavation of 100% of the feature.

8.2 Sampling will focus on deposits that have the potential to assist with the research objectives. The potential for scientific dating of industrial residues or structures will be considered as a contingency item.

9.0 Industrial Remains

9.1 The possibility of industrial material is recognised. Slag, coal, fired clay etc will be collected for examination.

10.0 Human Remains

10.1 Should human remains be encountered the consultant, curator and coroner should be informed Removal of human remains will only take place in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence (which may be required under the 1857 Burials Act).

11.0 Treasure

11.1 The possibility of encountering items of treasure, as defined in the Treasure Act (1996), is noted and provision will be made for informing the necessary authorities, and providing appropriate security measures, should the need arise.

12.0 Post-excavation processing

12.1 Finds and records will be returned to the contracted unit for processing. Records will be checked and entered into a computerised database. All finds will be treated in accordance with current HE best practice, including 'Investigative Conservation'. Finds will be cleaned (where appropriate) and marked and boxed for transfer to the relevant specialists according to accepted principles and in line with appropriate period/ material guidelines. Environmental samples will be washed and assessed by an environmental archaeologist.

12.2 Where material suitable for scientific dating is recovered, sufficient dating will be undertaken to meet the aims of the project.

12.3 For all categories of material recovered, including finds, palaeo-environmental, industrial and other specialist samples, an assessment by an appropriately experienced specialist will be undertaken.

12.4 Environmental samples will be processed and sorted, and any artefacts recovered provided to the appropriate specialist(s) to be considered alongside the hand-recovered material. Basic stratigraphic information will be supplied to the project specialists.

12.5 Where assessment has identified the need for further analysis, this will be completed drawing upon the contingency allowed.

12.6 All ferrous objects and a selection of non-ferrous objects (including all coins), will be x-radiographed.

13.0 Reporting

13.1 A report will be produced within 3-5 weeks of the completion of fieldwork. Four (4) paper copies and a digital copy of the report will be supplied to Prospect Archaeology for distribution to the

client and South Yorkshire HER as appropriate. A digital copy of the report will also be sent to the Heritage Science Advisor for the region.

13.2 The report will contain the following sections:

- Executive Summary, brief summary of the reasons for the work, methods used and results.
- Introduction, describing the scope and circumstances of the work, archaeological background and structure of the report
- Methodology
- descriptive account of the recording methods used and the results, together with an assessment of their archaeological importance, their possible relationship to relevant known features adjacent to the Development Site and estimated reliability of the results
- a phased interpretation of the features
- Discussion of the results and their significance in relation to local, regional and national sites, as appropriate
- Conclusions
- specialists' reports on all categories of artefacts recovered (except modern items). Full archive lists will accompany the specialists' finds reports.
- specialists' reports on environmental samples taken (if taken)
- a complete context list with short description
- Illustrations and plates as appropriate. Illustrations to be included are: a detailed location map, a detailed site plan showing all trenches, all trench plans and sections and detailed plans and sections of features, select artefact illustrations and a selection of scanned photographs; an overall site plan showing all (phased) archaeological features will also be included.
- References
- OASIS summary

13.3 A summary report of an appropriate length, accompanied by illustrations (at 300dpi resolution), will be prepared and submitted in digital format, for publication in the appropriate volume of Archaeology in South Yorkshire.

13.4 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, e.g. by presenting a paper at South Yorkshire Archaeology Day and talking to local societies.

13.5 A contingency will be made for the preparation and publication, in a local, regional or national journal, of the results of the investigations.

14.0 Monitoring

14.1 SYAS will be informed of the proposed start date and will be kept informed of progress throughout the field and post-excavation work. A member of Prospect Archaeology staff will monitor the excavation and post-excavation work on behalf of the client. Site monitoring visits will be co-ordinated by Prospect Archaeology.

14.2 Health and Safety

14.3 All site work will be carried out in accordance with the relevant current Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the Health and Safety Document is available on request and a Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to commencement of work on site.

14.4 Insurance

14.5 PA and its sub-contractors are fully covered by Employers and Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurances, copies of which are available for inspection on request.

15.0 Archiving

15.1 The site archive will be prepared in accordance with the UKIC's document Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage and the CIfA's *Standard And Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives 2014*.

15.2 Ultimately the ordered and checked archive, along with artefacts, ecofacts and relevant documents will be deposited with Clifton Park Museum, Rotherham. This excludes finds that are subject to the Treasure Act 1996 (and later amendments), the deposition of which will be determined separately. A budget to cover the museum's deposition charge has been allowed for in the project costs to the client. On completion, confirmation of deposition will be supplied to SYAS.

15.3 An electronic copy of the archive will be deposited with ADS

16.0 Programme & Staffing

16.1 Fieldwork will be undertaken by ASWYAS. It is anticipated that this will take around 5-10 days depending upon the quantity of archaeological remains that are revealed. This will be followed by 3-5 weeks for reporting depending on the need for specialist assessments.

Specialists

Prehistoric pottery specialists:	Dr C. Cumberpatch or Dr A. Tinsley
Roman pottery specialist:	Ruth Leary or Ian Rowlandson
Medieval pottery specialist:	Dr C. Cumberpatch
Flint specialist:	Dr. P. Brooks or P. Weston
Environmental specialist:	Dr D. Alldritt
Faunal analyst:	Dr J. Richardson
Human bone specialist:	M. Holst MA
Metalwork specialist:	Dr H. Cool or G. Driver
Artefact conservationist:	I. Panter

References

English Heritage, 2011 (second edition) *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation.* Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

Historic England, 2015 *Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for Best Practice.*

Prospect Archaeology, 2018. *Everill Gate Lane, Wombwell, South Yorkshire Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* Prospect Archaeology report no EGP01-01.

Watkinson, D, & Neale, V, 1998 *First Aid for Finds: Practical Guide for Archaeologists, 3rd edition*

17.0 Figures

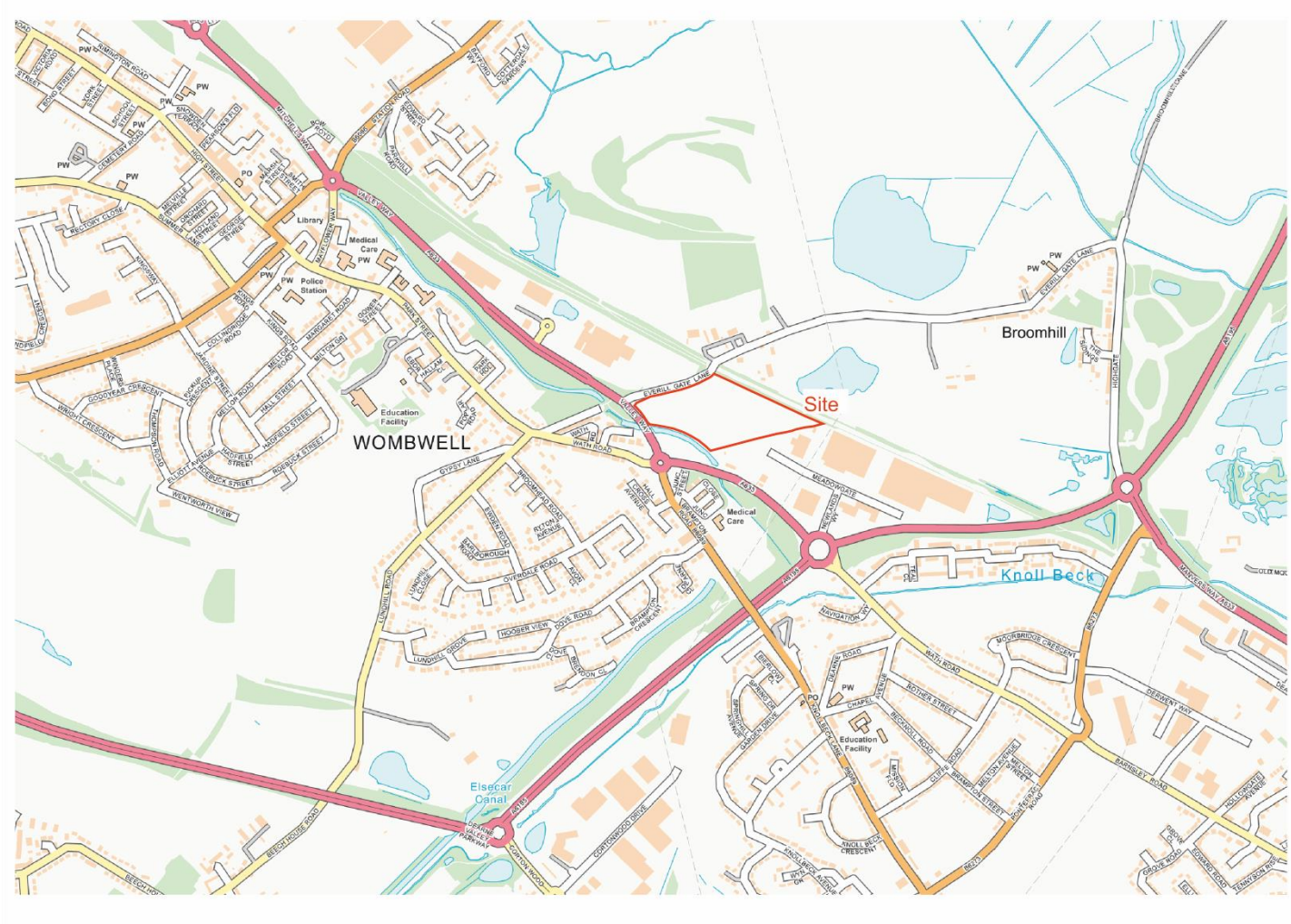


Figure 1: Site Location and known heritage assets

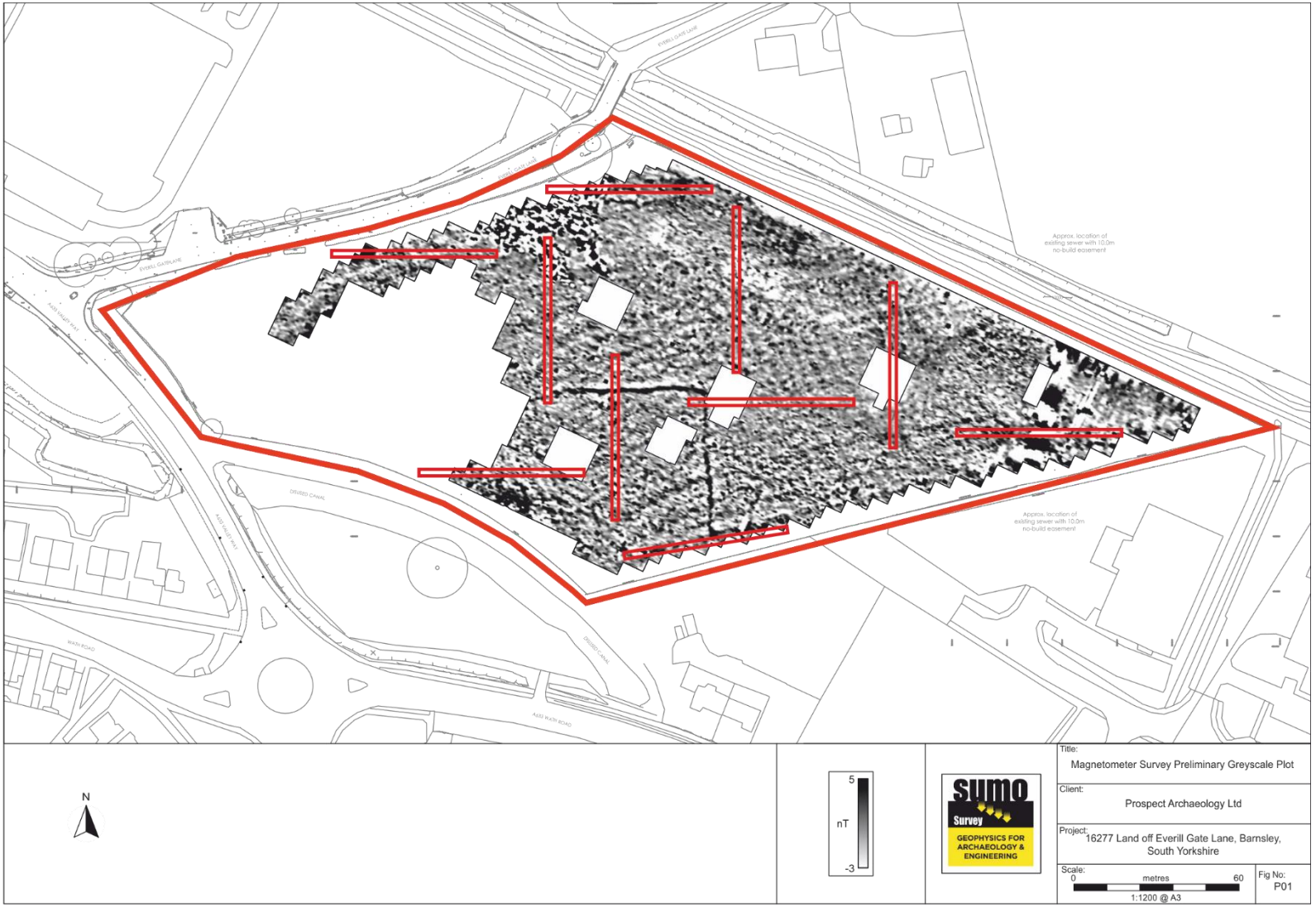


Figure 2: Trench layout with geophysical survey results