

Land at Mount Vernon
Barnsley
South Yorkshire

archaeological evaluation
written scheme of investigation 21095

on behalf of
Duchy Homes Ltd

1. Project background

- 1.1 A residential development is proposed on land at Mount Vernon, Worsborough, Barnsley (Figures 1 and 2). Proposed works may remove or truncate any archaeological remains that may be present on the site. Archaeological evaluation trenching is required, to confirm the presence / absence of any archaeological deposits and their significance. This document comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation. Dependent on the results of the evaluation trenching, a further phase of archaeological investigation may be required.

Previous works

- 1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment¹ has been undertaken for the site. A geophysical survey has also been completed². The results of these are summarised below.

Archaeological background

- 1.3 While there is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the study area, few archaeological investigations have been conducted in the vicinity. The presence of settlements in the wider landscape indicates that there is some potential for evidence relating to this activity to be present within the site.
- 1.4 The proposed development area was probably farmland during the medieval period, associated with the Elmhirst estate. LiDAR data records slight earthwork ridge and furrow across the site, which was not discernible during the walkover survey. The spacing of the features and surrounding remains is indicative of a medieval or early post-medieval date.
- 1.5 The proposed development area was probably enclosed in the post-medieval period when the field walls and stone gateposts were added to the site for its use as grazing / pastureland.
- 1.6 The geophysical survey revealed traces of probable former ridge and furrow cultivation and a curvilinear soil-filled feature, possibly a drainage ditch.

¹ *Land at Mount Vernon, Worsborough, Barnsley, South Yorkshire: archaeological desk-based assessment.* Archaeological Services Durham University report 5412

² *Land at Mount Vernon, Worsborough, Barnsley, South Yorkshire: geophysical survey.* Archaeological Services Durham University report 5434

2. Capability statement

2.1 Archaeological Services Durham University specialises in the provision of services associated with planning permission. We have an established record of working with developers, architects, major industrial firms, and local and central government bodies. Archaeological Services incorporates a range of in-house services including palaeoenvironmental archaeology, artefact conservation, geophysical survey and historic building recording.

2.2 Archaeological Services is a leading service provider in the northern region, where we conduct over 300 projects annually.

Standards

2.3 All Archaeological Services project personnel will abide by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014). The works will be conducted in accordance with the CIfA's *Standard and Guidance* (2014) and the *Regional statement of good practice for archaeology in the development process, Yorkshire, the Humber & the North East* (SYAS 2019).

Personnel

2.4 The project will be managed by Natalie Swann BSc who has considerable experience of archaeological projects of this type gained in northern England over the last 19 years (CV in Appendix 1). Suitably qualified and experienced members of our field team will also be assigned to the project.

3. Method statement

Scheme summary

3.1 The tasks this project comprises may be summarised as:

- excavation of evaluation trenches
- post-excavation works
- reporting, to include recommendations as appropriate
- archiving

Research objectives

3.2 Archaeological Services will complete works within the research priorities set out in *Yorkshire Archaeological Research Framework: research agenda* (Roskams & Whyman 2007). In this instance, the scheme of works is designed to address the following period priorities for research: Iron Age, early and high medieval

3.3 The aim of the evaluation will be to gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the areas of proposed development and to report the results.

Areas of excavation

3.4 Four trenches are proposed (Figure 2). Two target a curvilinear anomaly identified on the geophysical survey and two have been positioned to test 'blank' areas. If the extent and nature of any archaeological features identified is unclear, an additional 10% of trenching will be allowed for as a contingency.

3.5 Topsoil and overburden will be removed by a mechanical back-acting excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The excavations will proceed until the top of the archaeological deposits or natural subsoil is reached, or to a maximum safe working depth. Where archaeological deposits are identified, excavation will proceed by hand. A CAT survey will be undertaken before the trenches are opened. In the interests of public

safety, trenches will normally be backfilled as soon as is practicable after the archaeological works are complete.

Excavation, recording and sampling methodology

- 3.6 Excavation of any archaeological deposits identified will proceed by hand, using standard archaeological procedures in accordance with our *Recording Manual* (v.5.5 2020). Areas where no archaeological features are present will also be recorded. All suitable deposits will be subject to a palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy, as outlined below.
- 3.7 Archaeological features will be hand-cleaned, sectioned, sample excavated and recorded in plan and section. Archaeological deposits will be sampled as is necessary to establish their nature and extent. Field evaluation will be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains in accordance with ClfA guidelines.
- 3.8 The stratigraphic matrices will be established on site during the course of the works. Trench location, the 3-D provenancing of artefacts, identification of the levels of features and sections, and planning of features will be conducted via a Leica GS15 global navigation satellite system (GNSS) with real-time kinematic (RTK) correction. Hand-drawn plans will be drawn at a scale of 1:20, sections at a scale of 1:10. One representative long section of each trench will be also be recorded.
- 3.9 Photography will be by black and white film and colour slide. Digital images may be included in the report as appropriate. Digital images will be captured at a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels and saved in an appropriate format for long term storage in accordance with Digital Image Capture and File Storage (Historic England 2015).

Palaeoenvironmental sampling

- 3.10 Bulk palaeoenvironmental samples will be collected from the fills of stratigraphically secure cut features, and from other secure deposits that have the potential to provide palaeoenvironmental or economic information. Industrial residues and waste from craft and manufacturing processes will also be sampled appropriately. The size of sample collected and assessed will depend on the apparent potential value of the deposits.

Artefact recovery

- 3.11 Bulk finds such as pottery and animal bone will be collected by context. Where unusually large quantities of finds, or very small types of material are encountered (e.g. fish bones), such that recovery by hand is not practicable, soil samples may be retained for sieving in the laboratories at Durham. Artefacts will be removed from site to a secure location at the end of the working day. A discard policy may be implemented following assessment by artefactual specialists. All artefacts that are retained will be washed, marked and bagged in a manner suitable for long-term storage. If any artefacts which fall under the *Treasure Act* (1996) are discovered then the appropriate procedures will be adhered to. Treasure will be reported to the Portable Antiquity Scheme Finds Liaison Officer within 2 weeks of excavation of treasure, or identification of it as treasure.

Conservation

- 3.12 All field personnel are trained in artefact first aid and procedures for the recovery, packing and transportation of artefacts, following *First Aid for Finds* (2nd Edition). Where delicate artefacts are uncovered, appropriate immediate measures will be taken, and the artefacts will be transferred to the Conservation Laboratory at Durham for stabilisation. Should particularly complex conservation requirements become apparent, an appropriately qualified and experienced expert will be called to site to excavate and package the object.

Scientific dating

- 3.13 Samples of material suitable for scientific dating techniques including AMS C14 dating (for example, charred seeds from palaeoenvironmental samples), archaeomagnetism (for example, *in situ* substantively burnt clay from appropriate contexts that are otherwise undated) or thermoluminescence will be collected where appropriate. Recommendations for dating may be made in the assessment report. Advice on dating will be sought from the Historic England Regional Science Advisor as appropriate.

Human remains

- 3.14 It is considered unlikely that human remains will be encountered at this site. If such finds are made the remains will not be removed unless this is absolutely necessary. Where it is necessary to excavate the remains, the appropriate licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice. The client and South Yorkshire Archaeology Service will be informed.

Health & Safety

- 3.15 Archaeological Services abides by the 1974 Health and Safety Act, its subsequent applicable statutory amendments, including the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the 2015 Construction Design and Management Regulations, RIDDOR 2013, and the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2012. Archaeological Services is accredited by the CQMS Safety Scheme.
- 3.16 Archaeological Services provides health and safety training for all our field personnel in first aid, manual handling, cable detection, site safety and risk assessment. Archaeological Services ensures that all personnel pass the CITB Construction Skills Health and Safety Test and subsequently become CSCS card-carriers (Construction Skills Certification Scheme).
- 3.17 Archaeological Services will provide qualified First Aiders and first aid supplies at all times during work. All staff members are supplied with appropriate safety clothing and equipment.

Liaison and monitoring

- 3.18 Records will be kept of the date, time and duration of site visits, together with the number of personnel involved and any actions taken. Reasonable access will be provided by Archaeological Services to the client and representatives of the planning authority for monitoring purposes during fieldwork and any other stage of the works as required.

4. Post-excavation assessment, reporting and archiving

Post-excavation assessment

- 4.1 An interim statement will be produced following the completion of the evaluation, for the Client, Planning Authority, and South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.
- 4.2 Assessments of the excavated material will be made, following the recommendations of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* guidance (Historic England 2015). Each class of artefact recovered from the site will be examined to determine the potential of the material for further analysis, and to establish any conservation requirements. Assessment reports will state the potential of each class of artefact or ecofact, in accordance with *MoRPHE*; they will also set out the storage and conservation requirements of the assemblage, and make recommendations for a discard policy if this should be appropriate.
- 4.3 The following specialists may be called on, as necessary, to examine, process and assess the excavated material. In the first instance the artefactual assemblage will be assessed by the

Archaeological Services post-excavation manager and following this other specialists employed by Archaeological Services may be called on as required.

medieval /post-medieval pottery	Dr Chris Cumberpatch
Roman pottery	Alex Croom
prehistoric pottery	Dr Rob Young
animal bone	Dr Louisa Gidney
medieval / post-medieval artefacts	Alejandra Gutierrez
coins and tokens	Richard Brickstock
other artefacts	Jennifer Jones
post-excavation manager	Jennifer Jones
fuel residues	Jennifer Jones
palaeoenvironmental remains	Dr Charlotte O'Brien
wood identification	Dr Charlotte O'Brien
conservation	Vicky Garlick
human bone	Dr Anwen Caffell

The report

4.4 A report will be prepared in a form suitable for use by the client, the planning authority, and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. A digital copy will be provided in pdf format and hard copies will be supplied on request. Reporting will adhere to the reporting requirements for the Council. This will include the deposition of one bound hard copy with the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record. All drawn work will be to publication standard. The report will include:

- Location plan of excavation area and grid reference of site
- Site narrative – interpretative, structural and stratigraphic history of the site
- Plans showing features and deposit spreads, by phase if possible, and section/elevation locations
- Sections / photographic elevations to scale (mOD)
- Artefact and ecofact assessment reports
- Tables and matrices summarising features, artefacts, and sequences
- Descriptions of contexts, grouped by phase where appropriate
- Photographs of archaeological features
- A consideration of the results of the fieldwork within the wider research context
- Recommendations for further works on the material recovered if appropriate

The report will be based on the following format:

1. Summary
2. Project background
3. Archaeological background to the site
4. Landuse, topography and geology
5. Excavation sequence
6. Artefact assessment
7. Ecofact assessment
8. The archaeological resource

- 9. Recommendations
- 10. Sources
- Appendix 1: Data tables
- Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrices

Archive

- 4.5 The project archive will be prepared to the standard specified in MORPHE and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited with Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust upon completion of works on the site. The archive will be held by Durham University in the meantime.

OASIS

- 4.6 Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online Access** to the **Index** of archaeological investigationS project (**OASIS**). An OASIS form will be completed for this project. The project report will be uploaded to OASIS within three months of finalisation of the report and will become a publicly accessible document.

Publication

- 4.7 Recommendations for publication will be made if required following completion of the works (including any further schemes of works). The nature and extent of the publication will be dependent on the results of the work.

Copyright

- 4.8 This project is copyright. Copyright in the project report will rest with Archaeological Services Durham University unless specific arrangements are made for its assignment elsewhere. South Yorkshire Archaeology Service will have permission to use the report for the purposes of the HER. This may include photocopying by third parties.

5. Programme

- 5.1 The project can be completed to the following programme:
- following validation of the WSI fieldwork can start at any time, one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork will be given to South Yorkshire Archaeology Service so that arrangements for monitoring the fieldwork may be made.
 - The evaluation is expected to be completed within two days
 - An interim report will be submitted to South Yorkshire Archaeology Service within 10 working days following the completion of fieldwork
 - it is anticipated that the project report can be provided within 25 working days following the completion of fieldwork

Natalie Swann BSc
Senior Archaeologist
March 2021

Appendix 1: Curriculum Vitae



Natalie Swann

Present Position
Senior Archaeologist

Profession
Archaeologist

Relevant Experience since 2002

Nationality
British

Key Skills/Specialisms
Archaeology
Heritage

Key Capabilities
Archaeological Evaluations
Archaeological Excavations
Project Management

Education
BSc Human Evolution

Languages
English – Mastery

Professional Experience

Elvet Waterside, Durham City
Durham University

A complex multi-phase medieval and post-medieval archaeological excavation within Durham City. The site produced extensive remains of medieval and post-medieval occupation. Natalie managed the works on site including liaising with the client and demolition contractors and produced the post-excavation report.

Half Moon Yard, Newcastle upon Tyne
Kier Property Developers Ltd

An urban excavation within the historic town walls of Newcastle upon Tyne. The site produced extensive evidence of medieval and post-medieval occupation. Natalie produced a post-excavation report and published an article in the journal *Archaeologia Aeliana*.

Claypath, Durham
Student Castle

Complex urban excavation with archaeology to a depth of 5m below the current ground level. Natalie directed the excavation which revealed occupation evidence dating from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period. Natalie was involved in organising a museum display and gave talks to local history groups and members of the public on the results of the work.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

DURHAM UNIVERSITY

Vaux Brewery, Sunderland
Siglion

An open area excavation which revealed three phases of activity, including radiocarbon dated evidence for the earliest occupation in Sunderland. Natalie directed the excavation and produced a detailed post-excavation analysis report.

Yapham Lane, Pocklington
Bellway Homes

Large open area excavation covering nearly 2 hectares of Roman and Iron age field systems and settlement, including the excavation of human and animal burials. Natalie directed the work and produced a post-excavation report for the site.

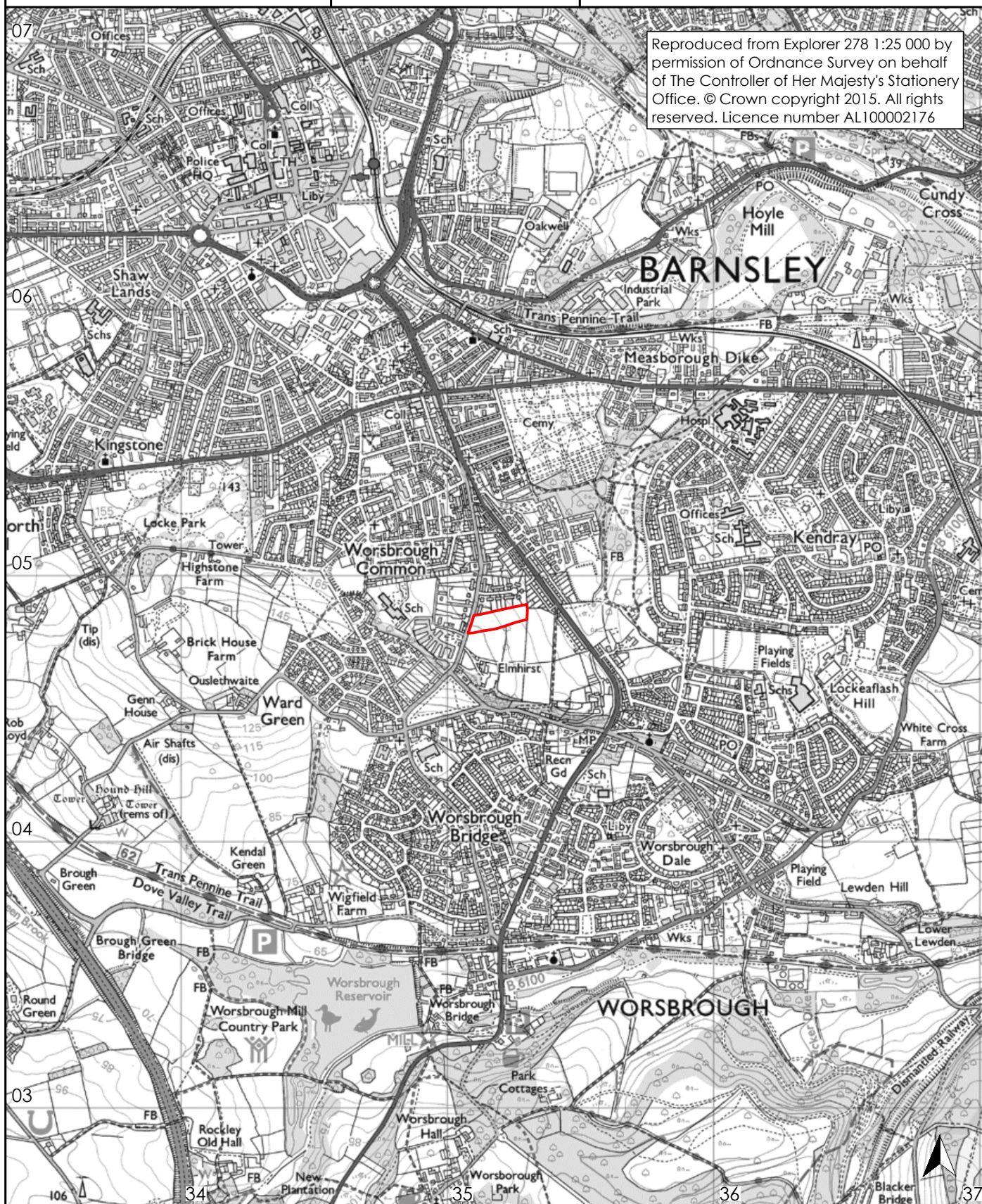
Midland Road, Peterborough
AECOM for
Westleigh Developments

Archaeological evaluation of a medieval cemetery associated with a nearby Leper Hospital. 133 individual skeletons were excavated. Natalie directed the excavation and produced a post-excavation assessment report.

Northern Gateway, Colchester
Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd

Archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of 86 trenches to target features shown on a geophysical survey. Evidence of Iron Age and Roman occupation was recorded. Natalie directed the evaluation works and produced a post-excavation report.

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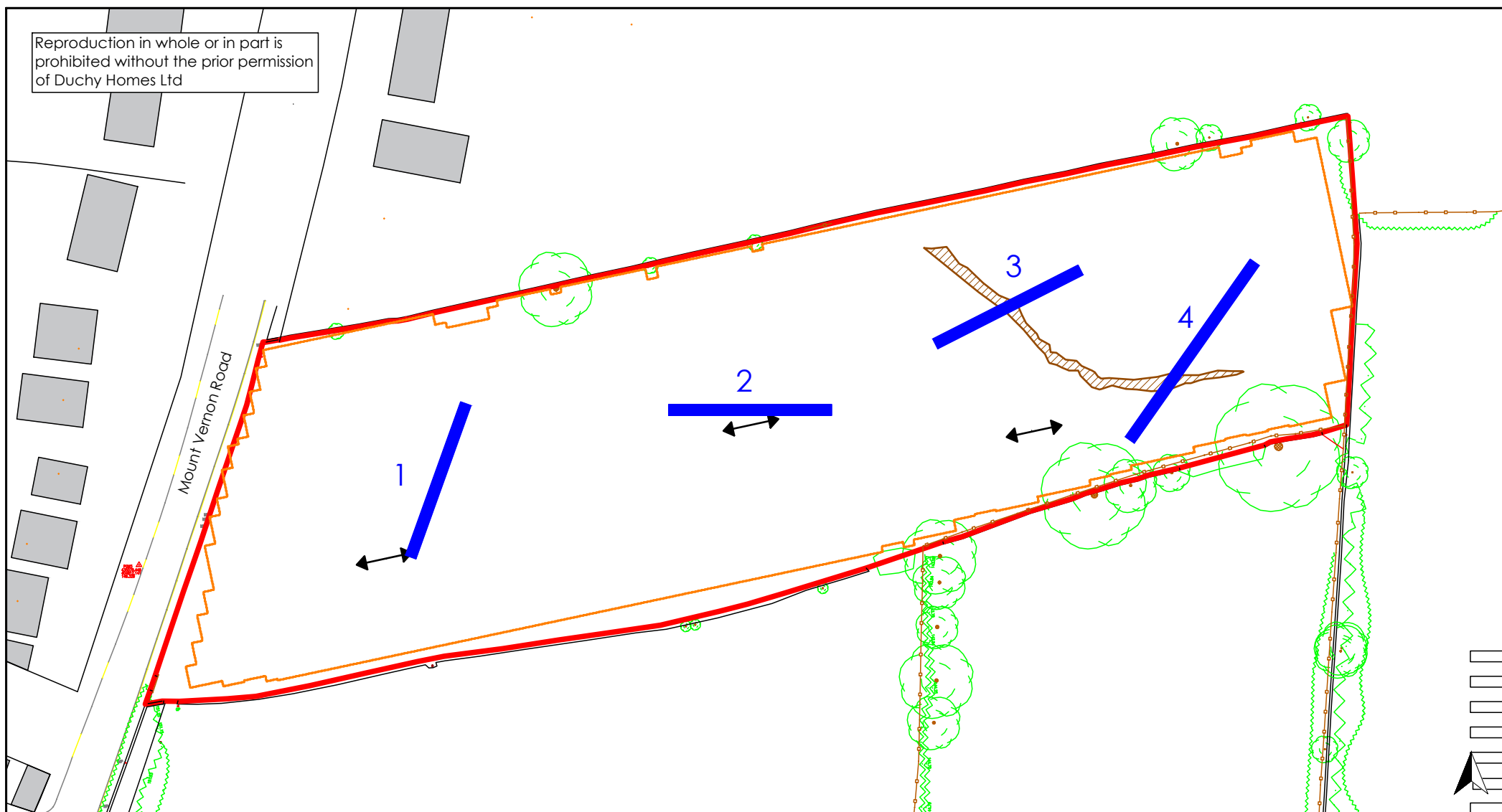


site boundary

0 1km

scale 1:20 000 for A4 plot

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Figure 2: Proposed trench locations



site boundary



possible soil-filled
feature



proposed trench



magnetometer survey



ridge and furrow

0 50m
scale 1:1000 for A4 plot