prospect archaeology

Land at Dearne Hall Road, Low Barugh, Barnsley

Written Scheme of Investigation – Archaeological Strip, Map &Record and Watching Brief

Client: Barratt & David Wilson Homes Yorkshire West

***Local Planning Authority**: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council*
***Planning Reference**: 2013/0280*
***NGR**: SE 31739 08715*

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***Author**: Nansi Rosenberg*
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Prospect Archaeology Ltd, Prospect House, Garden Lane, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Leeds, North Yorkshire LS25 6AT.
Tel 01977 681885. Email mail@prospectarc.com. www.prospectarc.com
Limited company registered in England 07130161

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Barratt & David Wilson Homes Yorkshire West have received planning permission (reference 2013/0280) for residential development of a site to the south of Dearne Hall Road, Low Barugh (NGR SE 31739 08715, see Figure 1). A geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation excavation have confirmed the presence of archaeological remains requiring further excavation and recording prior to and during development of the Site.

1.2 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Prospect Archaeology Ltd and details the staffing, methodology and timetable of the programme of works. It complies with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014). It is subject to the approval of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (SYAS).

1.3 The proposed work is the final 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 Low Barugh is a hamlet associated with the village of Barugh Green located to the north-west of Barnsley. The Site is located between the existing settlement of Low Barugh and the commercial and trading estate on Claycliffe Road, Barugh Green. It currently comprises an irregular parcel of arable land with an adjacent smaller grassed field with ponds and wetland to the south and east. The former line of the Silkstone Coal Branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway forms the eastern and southern boundaries and the Barnsley Branch of the Aire & Calder Navigation previously cut through the north-eastern part of the Site.

3.0 Previous Archaeological Work

3.1 A Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment was prepared in support of the planning application by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd in in 2013 and included the results of a geophysical survey undertaken by GSB the previous year. This identified extensive archaeological activity particularly in the western part of the Site where multi-phase enclosures and further ditches and pits are undoubtedly of archaeological interest. The position of the former canal and a mill leat were also identified in the north-eastern part of the site.

3.2 In 2016 a programme of evaluation excavation was undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) to confirm the nature of the geophysical anomalies and to allow a mitigation strategy to be prepared. This work confirmed the presence of archaeological features consistent with the geophysical anomalies in the western part of the Site. Whilst former field boundaries were proven to date to the post-medieval period, the majority of the features in the western part of the Site are assumed to be of Late Iron Age / Romano-British origin based on their appearance alone. No dateable artefacts of these periods were recovered.

3.3 Palaeoenvironmental samples were taken but were not considered to have any significant potential.

3.4 The north-eastern area containing the mill leat and former canal was also evaluated but no significant remains were found at the depth to which excavation extended (1.5m). It is possible that archaeologically significant deposits will be present below this depth but only minimal impacts are expected from the development.

4.0 Scope of Works

4.1 In discussion with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service and the client an area measuring 2.25ha has been identified for Strip, Map and Record supplemented by Watching Brief in the area of the former mill leat and canal where excavation for services is expected to extend below a depth of 1.5m.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

5.1 The purpose of the Strip, Map and Record is to provide a permanent record of all archaeological deposits, features and finds within the identified area prior to their destruction through development. The purpose of the Watching Brief is to identify and record any archaeological deposits, features and finds relating to the mill leat and/or canal should they be affected by development.

5.2 Without a more detailed understanding of the date and nature of the archaeological resource present on the site, the identification of specific research objectives is difficult. However, assuming a generally Iron Age / Romano-British date for the western area of archaeological activity, the following broad themes can be considered of interest:

- To better date and phase the activity present in the Site

- To establish the nature of the activity and assess how specific land uses can be linked to landscape features
- To place this Site in its wider local, regional and national context

6.0 Site preparation

Strip, Map & Record

6.1 Fieldwork will be undertaken by a team from Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS). All groundworks will be supervised by an appropriately experienced archaeologist. It is proposed that in the first instance there will be one archaeologist present on site to monitor the stripping of overburden. When sufficient area has been opened, further staff will be brought in to complete the investigations.

6.2 The overburden will be excavated by a 360º excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. Excavation will take place in phases to allow suitable areas for spoil storage to be identified and safely maintained. Topsoil and subsoil will be removed and stored separately in agreed locations close to the excavation area.

Watching Brief

6.3 An archaeologist will be on site throughout all excavation extending below a depth of 1.5m from present ground level in the area marked on Figure 2. The archaeologist will have due regard to the health & safety systems in place by the main contractor and will comply with all reasonable requests to release areas in a timely fashion on the understanding that archaeological recording will take place where necessary. All efforts will be made to reduce impacts on the groundworks programme.

7.0 Methodology - 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 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 or of insufficient dimensions to allow this to be practicably achieved) will be half-sectioned ensuring that relationships are investigated.

7.4 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.

7.5 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 (English Heritage/Historical Metallurgy Society 2001).

7.6 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.

7.7 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.

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

7.9 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.

Environmental Sampling

7.10 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.

7.11 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.

Industrial Remains

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

Human Remains

7.13 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).

Treasure

7.14 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.

8.0 Post-excavation processing

8.1 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.

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

8.3 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.

8.4 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.

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

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

9.0 Reporting

9.1 An interim note will be submitted to SYAS within a fortnight of fieldwork finishing. This will include:

- A brief summary of fieldwork results
- A basic description of material recovered
- An initial assessment of character and significance
- A sketch plan of archaeological features on the site
- An updated post-excavation timetable

9.2 This will allow an informed decision on whether to have a formal post-excavation assessment phase or proceed straight to full analysis and final reporting.

9.3 All reporting will include the results of both the strip, map and record and the watching brief unless otherwise agreed with the client and SYAS.

Post-Excavation Assessment Report / Final Report

9.4 A PEA or final report will be produced in accordance with a timetable discussed and agreed with SYAS and the client following submission of the interim. 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.

9.5 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

9.6 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.

9.7 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.

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

10.0 Monitoring

10.1 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.

Health and Safety

10.2 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 will be available on request and a Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to commencement of work on site. The

archaeological contractor will comply with all main (principal) contractor health & safety systems and each member of staff will be provided with appropriate PPE.

Insurance

10.3 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.

11.0 Archiving

11.1 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*.

11.2 Ultimately the ordered and checked archive, along with artefacts, ecofacts and relevant documents will be deposited with Barnsley Museum in accordance with the Renaissance Yorkshire 2012 "*Archaeological Archive Deposition Policy for Museums in Yorkshire and the Humber*". 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.

11.3 The Curator of Barnsley Museum has been informed of the project and a Project Initiation Form has been completed and site code assigned for the project. Mid-Project Agreement and Completion Forms will be submitted at or before the times itemised on the Project Initiation Form. On completion, confirmation of deposition will be supplied to SYAS.

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

12.0 Programme & Staffing

12.1 Fieldwork will be undertaken by ASWYAS. It is anticipated that this will take around 5 – 6 weeks depending upon the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains revealed. The post-excavation programme will be determined following the completion of fieldwork and submission of the interim report.

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

13.0 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*

Turnpenny, M. 2012 *Archaeological Archive Deposition Policy for Museums in Yorkshire and the Humber*

14.0 Figures

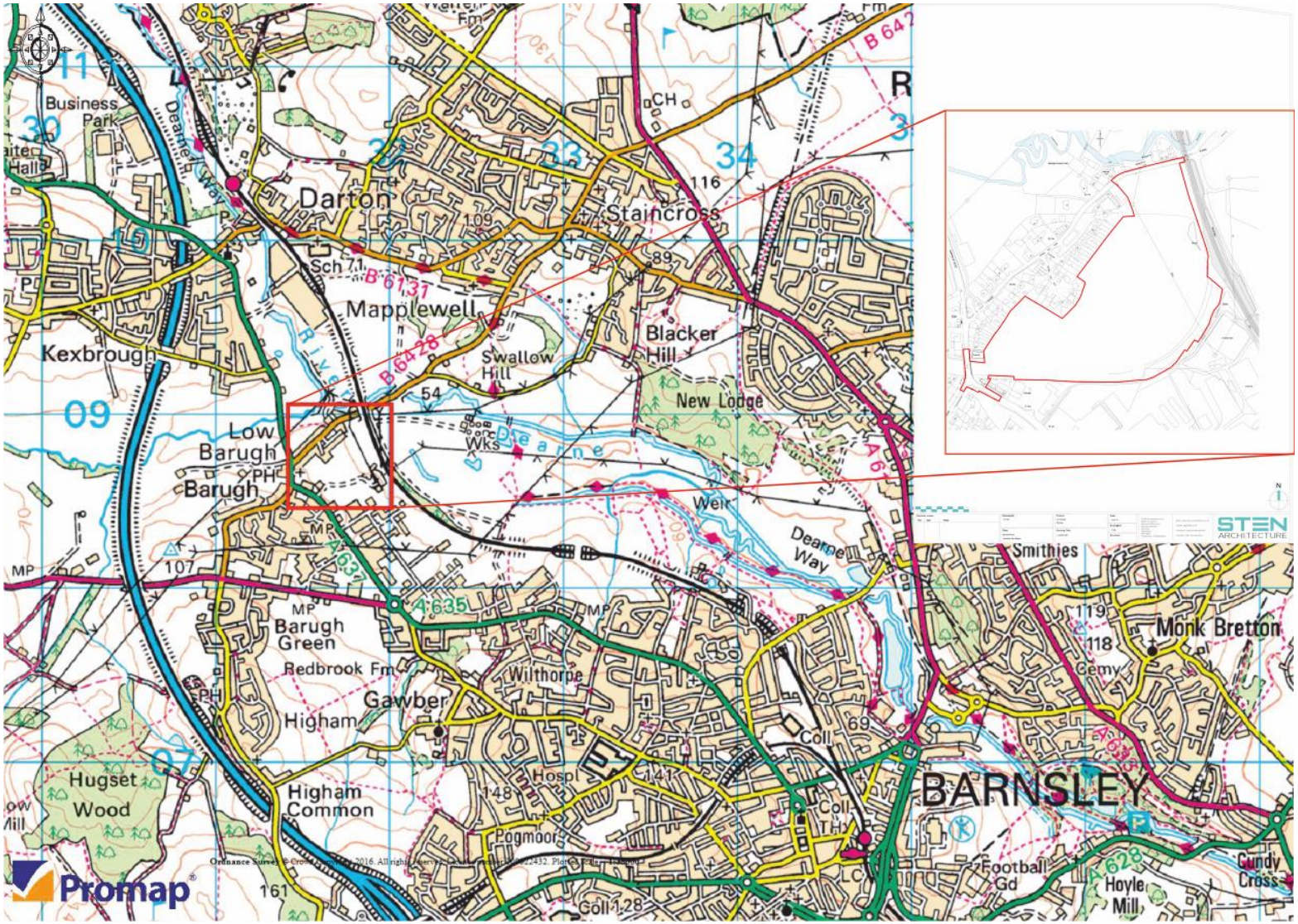

Figure 1: Site Location

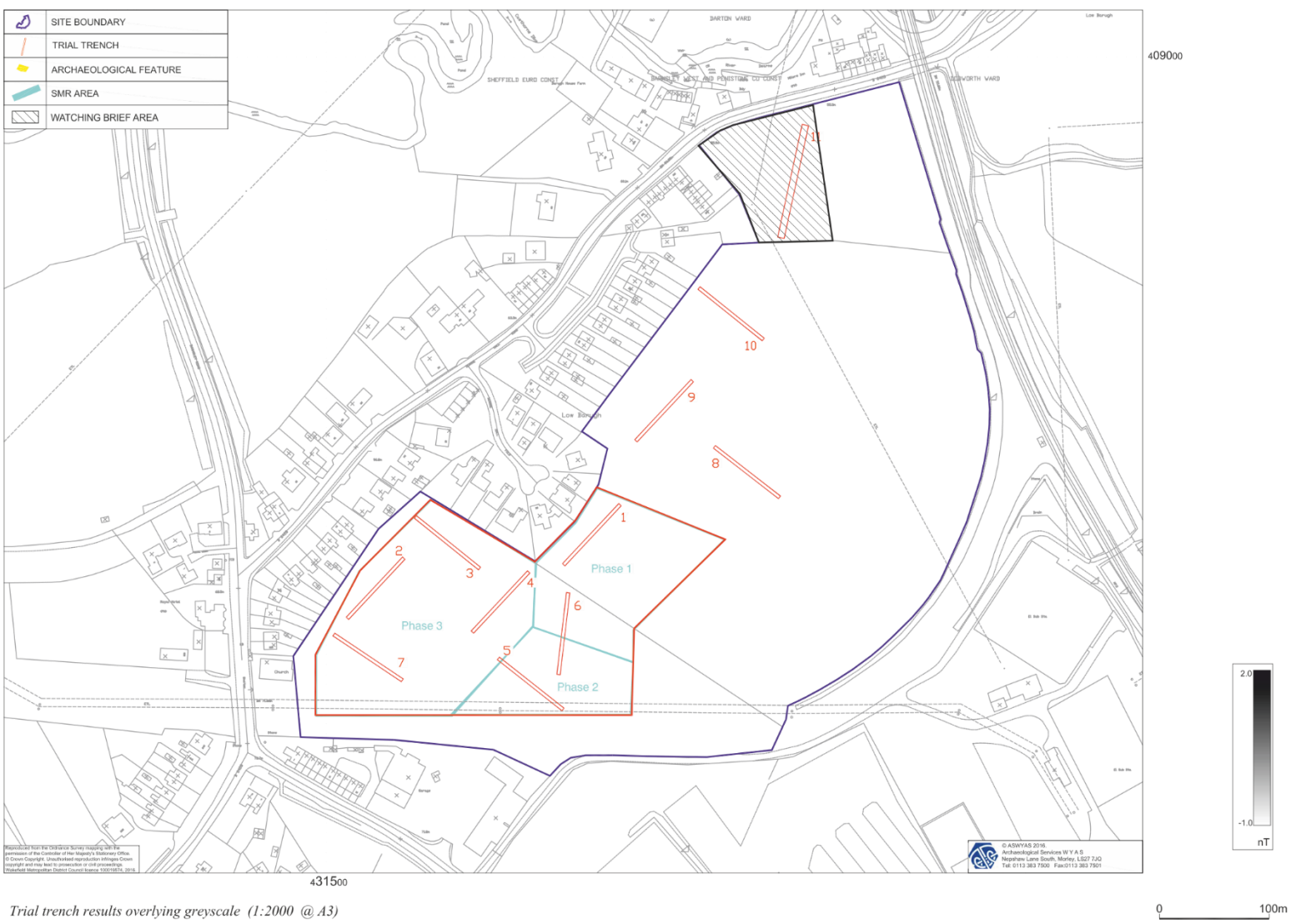

Figure 2: Mitigation areas with proposed phasing and trench locations (adapted from ASWYAS drawing)