

# Land West of Roslyn Terrace

## Netherton

## West Yorkshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

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## Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land West of Roslyn Terrace, Netherton, West Yorkshire

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) for Harron Homes for an archaeological watching brief on Land West of Roslyn Terrace, Netherton, West Yorkshire. The archaeological work will comply with the relevant standard of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020a-b, 2023), Historic England's best practice documents (1991, 2006, 2008) and the "Regional statement of good practice for archaeology in the development process, Yorkshire, the Humber & the north east".
- 1.2 This document details a programme of archaeological watching brief and has been produced to the standards laid down in Historic England's guideline publication Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Managers Guide (2006) and the MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (PPN3) (2008).
- 1.3 Outline planning permission was granted for a residential development (2023/60/93503/W). In a response to the planning application WYAAS (West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service) have recommended that:

*"Prior to development commencing, a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation (WSI) shall be submitted to, and approved in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The WSI shall include a statement of significance and research objectives, and:*

- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works*
- The programme and timetable for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication, dissemination, and deposition of resulting material."*

- 1.4 In a further consultation WYAAS recommended *'that a programme of archaeological recording is required within the enclosure area, and for 10m around it. The programme of works for any ground works that extend down to the base of the topsoil or deeper should comprise a watching brief with provision for strip, map and sample excavation where any archaeological features are identified.'*

## **2. Site location, topography and land-use**

- 2.1 The site is located west of Roslyn Terrace, Netherton, West Yorkshire (Fig. 1). The site lies at approximately 190-200m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), generally sloping down to the south. The site is centred on National Grid Reference SE 11978 13059.

## **3. Geology and soils**

- 3.1 The underlying geology comprises sandstone of the Rough Rock Flags, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 320 and 319 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. The soils are described as freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Soilscapes 2025).

## **4. Archaeological background**

- 4.1 Previous work on the site includes a desk-based assessment (Porter & Thomas 2023), a geophysical survey (Dacre 2023) and a trial trench evaluation (report forthcoming). These reports form the background included in the following section.
- 4.2 Prehistoric and Roman activity in the vicinity of the site is well attested. The Bronze Age scheduled cairnfield of Honley Old Wood lies approximately 950m to the south of the site (MWY6, NHLE 1018556), comprising at least 17 cairns with associated earthworks. A D-shaped enclosure is recorded approximately 100m west of Honley Old Wood (MWY7342) was excavated by Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society in 2016-2017, providing a radiocarbon date of 248-385 cal AD (HDAS 2017).
- 4.3 Nearly 1km south-east of the site, residual prehistoric finds were recovered during trial trenching (Whitfield 2021) revealing a series of five pits, with associated Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint, as well as single sherds of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.
- 4.4 Castle Hill scheduled monument (List Entry 1009846) lies approximately 3.2km to the north-east of the site. It is a multi-period site, consisting of a sequence of a Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age univallate hillfort, a later Iron Age multivallate hillfort, a 12th century motte and bailey castle, and a deserted medieval village. Excavation of the site has also identified activity from the Neolithic period (Historic England 2023).
- 4.5 Medieval activity in the vicinity of the site is also recorded. Crosslands Lower Hall (MWY1555), 680m south-west of the site, dates to the medieval period. It is possibly associated with nearby earthworks of suspected medieval date (MWY2852) and a nearby enclosure (MWY12).
- 4.6 Historic mapping indicates the site lay in open ground in the mid-19th century with a public house and the road between Netherton and South Crossland to

the south. Quarries also lay to the north and east. Subsequent late 19th and 20th-century mapping depicts the expansion of Netherton, finally reaching its present extent up to the eastern site boundary. It also shows how the site was previously sub-divided into four fields.

- 4.7 In 2023, a geophysical survey of the site identified anomalies of an archaeological, agricultural and modern origin (Porter & Thomas 2023). In the south-eastern corner of the site a possible partial rectilinear enclosure was detected. Further anomalies across the site were interpreted as possible quarry pits, likely former field boundaries and those of indeterminate origin.
- 4.8 A trial trench evaluation was carried out on the site in late 2024 (report forthcoming). The only feature of archaeological significance identified was the enclosure ditch in the south-eastern corner of the site.

## **5. Aims and Objectives**

- 5.1 The overall aim of the watching brief is to provide information on the presence or absence and the extent, character, chronology, depth of burial and degree of archaeological survival across the site.
- 5.2 The objective of the work will be to monitor the removal of soil horizons during groundworks and assess the resultant areas for their archaeological potential. Remains will then be subject to archaeological excavation. Recovered artefacts will be subject to analysis and environmental data sampled where appropriate.
- 5.3 The specific aim of the watching brief is to identify any remains of an enclosure of presumed Iron Age or Romano-British date that are disturbed by groundworks in the watching brief area of the site.

## **6. Methodology**

- 6.1 The precise scope of the groundworks is yet to be specified but will likely consist of soil stripping and trenches for roads, services and house foundations. The watching brief area covers an area measuring c. 4200m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 2).
- 6.2 All excavations will be undertaken in line with the ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2023), and in compliance with the English Heritage MoRPHE *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (2008).
- 6.3 All excavations within the watching brief area (Fig. 2) will be undertaken under constant archaeological supervision. Stripping will take place in level spits of no more than 100mm to the top of the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural. The resulting surface will be inspected for archaeological remains. Where archaeological remains require clarification, the relevant area will be cleaned by hand.

- 6.4 An archaeologist will be present on site during any excavation. The archaeologist should view the area and any resultant sections as it is being dug and after excavation has been completed. Where archaeological remains are judged to be present, the excavated area should be rapidly cleaned and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds should then be quickly hand excavated, sampled if appropriate, and recorded. Significant features should be rapidly 100% excavated after sample excavation and recording of sections. The intention of the archaeological watching brief is not to unduly delay the work of other contractors on site, however, a degree of flexibility is also expected of the developer in order that the archaeologist can fulfil the terms of this WSI.
- 6.5 Should archaeological remains need to be removed ASWYAS will first plan and then manually excavate the archaeological features in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to meet the aims and objectives outlined above.
- 6.6 Features, where excavated, will be investigated employing the following sampling strategies, these will be subject to:
- All structural remains will be planned and will include levels and detailed context information
  - Floor surfaces will be planned and sample excavated.
  - A 100% sample should be taken of all stake-holes.
  - A 50% sample should be taken of all post-holes, and of pits with a diameter of up to 1.5m.
  - A minimum 25% sample should be taken of pits with a diameter of over 1.5m; but this should include a complete section across the pit to recover its full profile.
  - A minimum 20% sample should be taken of all linear features. Sufficient excavation will be carried out to investigate the depth, profile and fills of a ditch or gully and to recover dating and environmental evidence from its fills.
  - Any buried walls, tombs, vaults or memorial stones etc. will be recorded in plan and elevation, and will only be dismantled/excavated to facilitate the required works being carried out;
  - The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with the Burial Act 1857. An exhumation licence must be obtained from the Ministry of Justice prior to the removal of the remains.

- 6.7 A full written, drawn and photographic record of all material revealed during the course of the work shall be made. The excavation limits will be surveyed using electronic survey equipment with larger scale hand drawn plans of features at 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate. All sections, plans and elevations will include spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres as correct to two decimal places and survey.
- 6.8 ASWYAS shall fully record all excavated archaeological contexts by detailed written records giving details of location, composition, shape, dimensions, relationships, finds, samples, and cross-references to other elements of the record and other relevant contexts, in accordance with best practice. All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them will be given unique numbers. Bulk finds will be collected by context. The photographic record must consist of high-quality digital images of at least 10 megapixels. Graduated metric scales of appropriate lengths should be used.
- 6.9 In the event of human remains being discovered they will, in the first instance, be left in situ, covered and protected. The following guidelines will be adhered to: Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) 2013; Brickley, M & McKinley, J.I 2004 Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains, IFA paper no. 7 (<http://www.babao.org.uk/HumanremainsFINAL.pdf>); Historic England 2004 Human Bones from archaeological sites: Guidelines for producing assessment documents and analytical reports. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines (<http://www.helm.org.uk/guidance-library/human-bones-from-archaeological-sites>).
- 6.10 Provision will be made for the recovery of samples suitable for scientific dating (e.g. radiocarbon/AMS dating, archaeomagnetic and dendrochronological dating) using the following guidelines: Historic England 1998 Dendrochronology: Guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological dates (<http://www.helm.org.uk/guidance-library/dendrochronology-guidelines/>), Historic England 2008 Luminescence Dating: Guidelines on using luminescence dating in archaeology (<http://www.helm.org.uk/guidance-library/luminescence-dating/>) and Historic England 2006c Archaeomagnetic Dating: Guidelines on producing and interpreting archaeomagnetic dates (<http://www.helm.org.uk/guidance-library/1682224/>).
- 6.11 Any finds that are defined as Treasure under the Treasure Act (1996) as amended, will be reported to the coroner as required by law.

## **7. Analysis and Reporting**

- 7.1 Following completion of the watching brief, an assessment report shall be produced within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. This may be subject to extension if archaeological/artefactual/ecofactual evidence of particular significance is identified that requires a longer period of study. Where

further finds analysis, conservation and/or scientific dating is required, a final archive report shall be produced, including all further recommended finds analysis and/ or scientific dating results.

- 7.2 The site archive will be assembled in line with the recommendations provided in Historic England's MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (PPN3).
- 7.3 In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive shall contain all the data collected during the excavations, including records, finds and environmental samples. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. Adequate resources will be provided during fieldwork to ensure that all records are checked and internally consistent. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork and will involve:
- the site record being checked, cross-referenced and indexed as necessary;
  - all retained finds being cleaned, conserved, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum (Kirklees Museums and Galleries);
  - all retained finds being assessed and recorded using pro forma recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Initial artefact dating will be integrated within the site matrix; and
  - all retained environmental samples being processed by suitably experienced and qualified staff and recorded using pro forma recording sheets.
- 7.4 In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive shall contain:
- site matrices where appropriate;
  - a summary report synthesising the context record;
  - a summary of the artefact record; and
  - a summary of the environment record.
- 7.5 The integrity of the primary field record will be preserved. Security copies will be maintained where appropriate.
- 7.6 Provision will be made for the deposition of the archive, artefacts and environmental material, subject to the permission of the relevant landowner, in the appropriate recipient museum (Kirklees Museums and Galleries). The museum will be advised of the timetable of the proposed watching brief prior to

excavation commencing. The archive will be prepared in accordance with industry guidelines (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990; Museums and Galleries Commission 1994). Provision will be made for the stable storage of paper records and their long-term storage.

7.7 Upon completion of the watching brief, the artefacts, ecofacts and stratigraphic information shall be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis.

7.8 The assessment report will follow the watching brief and will include the following:

- a non-technical summary of the results of the work;
- a summary of the project's background, including the planning application number;
- the dates the fieldwork took place;
- the site location, including National Grid Reference;
- an account of the method;
- the results of the excavations, including phasing and interpretation of the site sequence;
- plan(s) showing the location of the proposed development site at least 1:10,000;
- general and detailed plans at appropriate scales, showing the location of the groundworks accurately positioned on an up-to-date Ordnance Survey base;
- detailed plans and sections of individual features where necessary;
- all scales used on any drawings should be standard scales such as would appear on a normal scale rule;
- the analysis of each category of data;
- conservation assessment;
- an assessment of the stratigraphic and other written, drawn and photographic records;
- a catalogue of the archaeological material recovered during the excavations;
- a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location;

- 7.9 The report will outline the archaeological significance of the deposits identified and provide an interpretation of the results in relation to other sites in the vicinity where appropriate.
- 7.10 One copy of the complete draft report including figures will be submitted to the client for review. In finalising the report, ASWYAS will take into account all comments and remedy any faults identified. Revised drafts shall be submitted to within three working days of receipt of comments.
- 7.11 Copies of the report (paper and/or digital as required) will be supplied to the archaeological advisor. A digital copy (as a single PDF document) will also be provided as required.
- 7.12 Upon completion of the work, ASWYAS will make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>).

## **8. Copyright, Confidentiality and Publicity**

- 8.1 Copyright in the documentation prepared by ASWYAS and specialist sub-contractors should be the subject of additional licences in favour of the repository accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory educational and museum service functions, and to provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions.
- 8.2 Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR), information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'.
- 8.3 Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. ASWYAS will inform the client of EIR requirements, and ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.
- 8.4 Unless the client commissioning the project wishes to state otherwise, the copyright of any written, graphic or photographic record and reports will rest with the originating body (Archaeological Services WYAS).
- 8.5 Please note that by depositing this report, the contractor gives permission for the material presented within the document to be used by the WYAAS, in perpetuity, although The Contractor retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as specified in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (chapter IV, section 79). The permission will allow the WYAAS to reproduce material, including for commercial use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

## 9. Health and Safety

- 9.1 ASWYAS has its own Health and Safety policy which has been compiled using national guidelines. These guidelines conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation.
- 9.2 In addition each project undergoes a 'Risk Assessment' which sets project specific Health and Safety requirements to which all members of staff are made aware of prior to on-site work commencing. Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters. Necessary precautions will be taken over underground services and overhead lines at the outset of the project.

## 10. Insurance

- 10.1 ASWYAS is covered by the insurance and indemnities of the West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee. Insurance has been effected with: Zurich Municipal, Zurich House, 2 Gladiator Way, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 6GB (policy number QLA-03R896-0013). Any further enquiries should be directed to: Head of Finance, Wakefield Council, Wakefield One, PO Box 700, Wakefield, WF1 2EB.

## 11. Monitoring

- 11.1 Access to the site will be arranged through Harron Homes
- 11.2 The project will be monitored by WYAAS to whom notification will be sent before the start of the work. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork is required.
- 11.3 If appropriate, the advice of the Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (Yorkshire and the Humber Region) at Historic England will be called upon.
- 11.4 ASWYAS will ensure that any significant results are brought to the attention of the client as soon as is practically possible.

## 12. Resourcing

- 12.1 Key project personnel:

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Project Management:	Matt Wells
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Project Supervisors:	TBC
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- 12.2 Post-excavation specialists:

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Prehistoric/medieval/ post-medieval pottery:	Chris Cumberpatch
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Roman Pottery:	Ruth Leary
Environmental:	Diane Alldritt
Faunal analyst:	Jane Richardson
Human bone:	Malin Holst
Metalwork:	Gail Drinkall
Artefact conservation:	Scarlett Crow

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12.3 The list of Archaeological Services WYAS project personnel may be subject to change depending on workload and availability.

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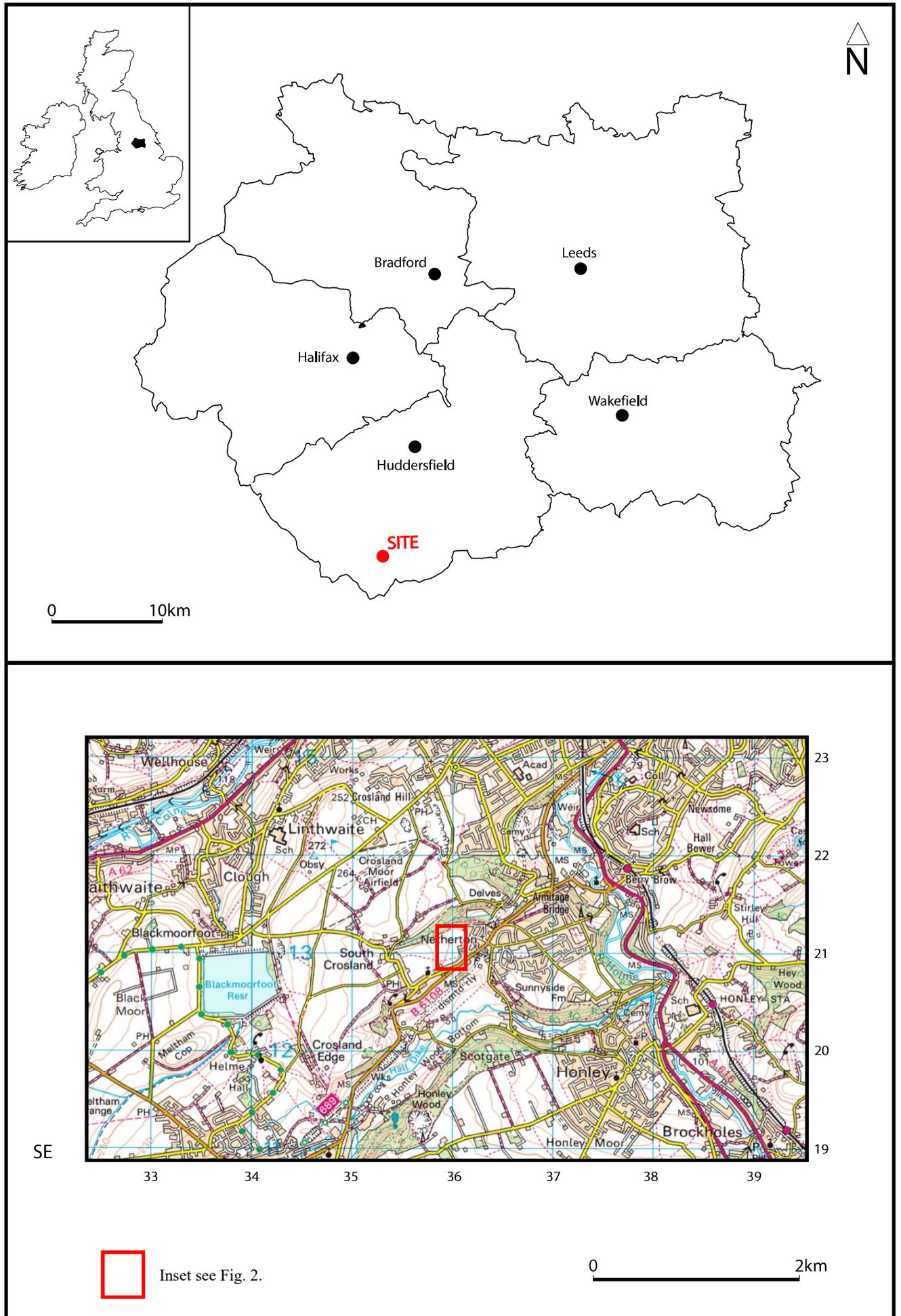
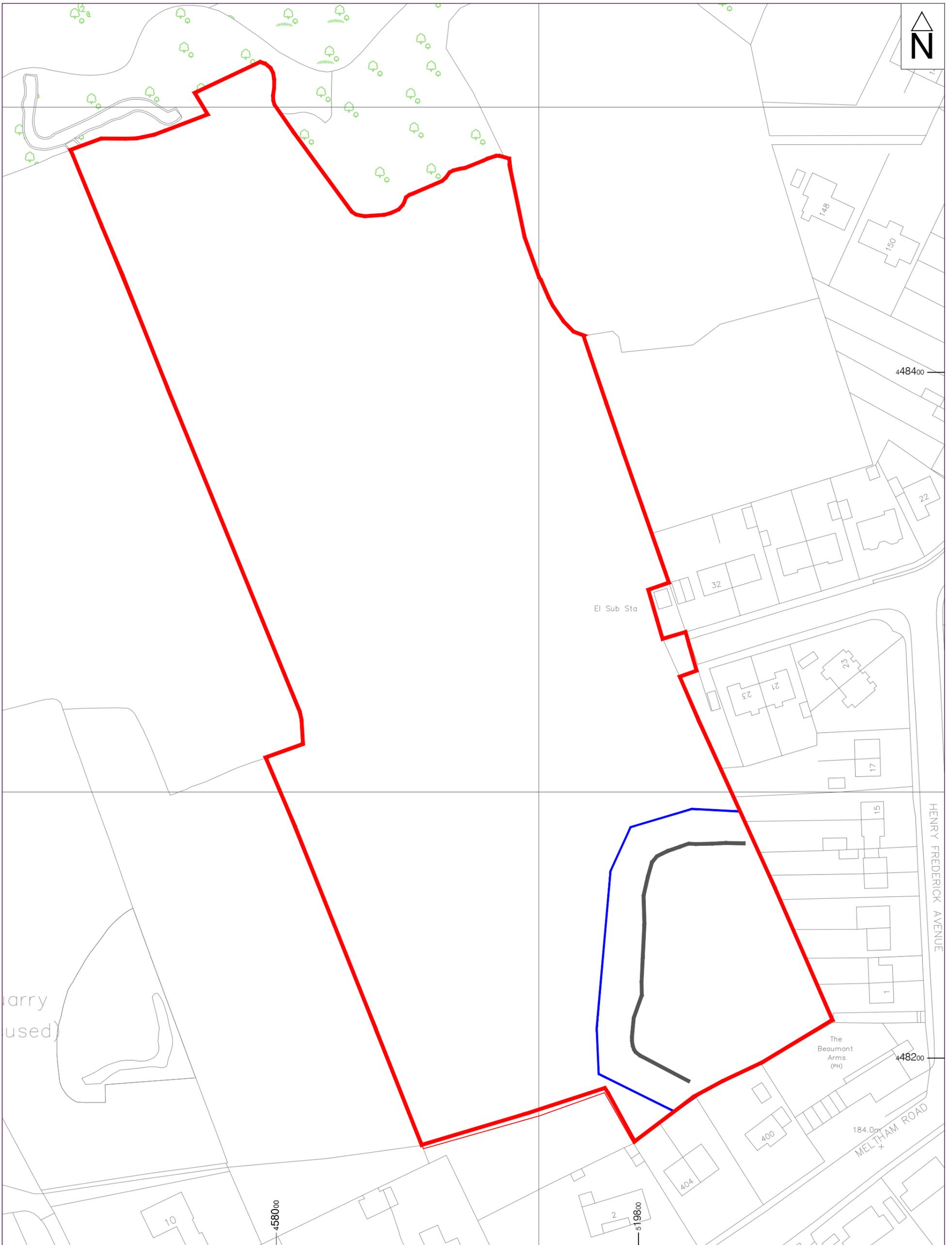


Fig. 1. Site location

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Project No. XX00  
 Fig. 2.  
 Site plan

- SITE BOUNDARY
- WATCHING BRIEF AREA
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE

0  50m  
 1:1000 @ A3

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