Steel House, Redcar, Teesworks

Written Scheme of Investigation – Archaeological Monitoring and Evaluation

Client: South Tees Development Corporation

Local Planning Authority: Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Planning Reference:
NGR: NZ 5769 2416

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 South Tees Development Corporation (STDC) are proposing to redevelop the Steel House site at Redcar for a Park and Ride. The Site largely falls within the eastern part of the Steel House outline planning site (R/2020/0823) which attracted the following proposed condition from NEAR (archaeological advisors to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council):

A. No development shall take place until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for archaeological work has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The WSI shall as a minimum make provision for:

B.1 Before remediation or development commences, archaeological interpretation of all borehole and trenching data

B.2 Archaeological trial-trenching (or other appropriate evaluation) of areas on site where the remains of former salterns are likely to be encountered and/or other significant archaeological remains whose extent, character or degree of preservation is uncertain. The evaluation to take place before development or remediation is commenced in the areas of the site in question.

B.3 Taking account of the prior evaluation, and before remediation or construction works takes place in the relevant areas (if any), an archaeological strip, map and sample of likely substantial remains of (A) salterns and

(B) any other features of significance.

B.5 A general programme of works and supervisory arrangements, including reasonable notification to the local planning authority before commencement of remediation or development of the identity of the supervising archaeologist

B.6 Details of staff involved in carrying out the evaluations and/or recording and their qualifications and Responsibilities

B.7 The timetable for completing post-excavation assessment.

B.8 Provision for the analysis, archiving and publication of the results of archaeological work shall be secured to the satisfaction of the local planning authority by the developer before the development is brought into use.

B.9 Remediation and development shall not without the prior written approval of the local planning authority be carried out otherwise than in accordance with the approved WSI.

REASON: The site may contain remains of significant archaeological interest.

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 for monitoring geotechnical test pits and a draft of the proposals for evaluation excavation. The latter will be finalised following completion of the monitoring of geotechnical test pits. This WSI complies with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CiFA 2014) in the their updated (2020) versions.

2.0 Site Location and Description

2.1 The site is an irregular parcel of land covering 14ha of recently cleared scrubland and mature trees adjacent to and partly overlapping with the car parking associated with the Steel House former

British Steel offices. It is centred on NGR NZ 5769 2416 and lies between the light industrial and commercial units on Limerick Road to the south and the Redcar rail line to the north with the A1065 Trunk Road cutting through along the southern boundary. The Steel House car parks largely form the western boundary and there is further scrubland to the east.

3.0 Archaeological Background

3.1 The site has been the subject of desk-based assessment (Prospect Archaeology 2020).

3.2 Whilst there is no evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the study area, a number of records within the study area attest to a human presence during the medieval period.

3.3 The sandbanks around Steel House were used for salt production during the medieval period. Huge numbers of salterns (also called salt hills) are recorded in the HER and on the early Ordnance Survey maps, spread across the whole of the site and surrounding study area. Some were partially excavated in the early 20th century. None are now extant as surface features.

3.4 The late 19th century saw the area heavily developed for iron working. Tramways linked the iron works to the wharves and one of these passed through the application site.

3.5 As part of the extensive World War II defences around the steelworks to the west and north of the site an anti-tank rail was installed within the application site.

3.6 The Steel House was constructed in 1977 as the headquarters for the Teesside Division of British Steel. It was designed by Middleton Fletcher & Partners as a modern open-plan facility with a bank and shop provided in-house and pleasant landscaped grounds, including a lake, surrounding the linked hexagonal buildings

4.0 Scope of Works

4.1 In order to establish how more recent developments have affected the potential for the salt hills to survive, it is initially proposed that the excavation of geotechnical test pits will be monitored by an archaeologist. This will allow the need for and scope of trial trench evaluation to be established.

4.2 Should it be deemed necessary, the evaluation will be undertaken in accordance with the following methodology.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

5.1 The purpose of the monitoring exercise is to provide a rapid record of the remains of the South Bank Iron and Steel Works boiler house and associated Antonien Works where they survive.

5.2 The following specific research themes and recommendations contained in the North-East Regional Research Framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) will be considered in the excavation and analysis of the site:

- MDviii – Other medieval industries

6.0 General Instructions

Health and Safety

6.1 The archaeologists on site will operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. Where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose. This work will require the preparation of a Risk Assessment in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations. The archaeological contractors will comply with any and all health and safety procedures in place for the overall site and complete inductions, training and tool-box talks as necessary.

7.0 Method

7.1 Fieldwork will be undertaken by a team from Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA). Groundworks will be supervised by an appropriately experienced archaeologist and all recording work required will be carried out by one or more archaeologists as required by the archaeology present.

7.2 The excavation of test pits for geotechnical investigation will be monitored by an archaeologist from a safe position to the side of the excavation. The sections will be inspected from the surface and excavated soils examined to establish the stratigraphic sequence and recover artefacts where present. The locations of test pits should be recorded relative to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and levels related to Ordnance Datum taken at the top and base of the test pits as a minimum. A sketch section showing the stratigraphic sequence should be supplemented with soil descriptions and a photographic record. Any artefacts retrieved should be processed and spot dated.

7.3 Depending on the results of the monitoring, a programme of trial trench evaluation should be undertaken. A provisional trench plan is included as Figure 2 of this document.

7.4 It is proposed that in the first instance there will be one archaeologist present on Site to monitor the trench excavations. 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.

7.5 The trenches will be excavated by a 360-degree tracked excavator or similar back-acter 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.

8.0 Excavation and Recording

8.1 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.

8.2 Linear features will be sampled a minimum of 10% 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. Junctions and terminals will be targeted with regard to the objectives in Section 4.2.

8.3 All small discrete features (postholes, stakeholes) will be fully excavated, or a sample if large numbers are encountered. Larger features will be half-sectioned.

8.4 All structures and zones of specialised activity (e.g. industrial, agricultural processing, ceremonial, funerary) will be noted and only excavated with regard to the objectives in Section 4.2 or where full excavation is required because the stability of the deposits has been compromised.

8.5 A metal detector will be used on Site to scan spoil heaps for ferrous and other metal objects. These will be retrieved and treated as unstratified finds.

8.6 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.

8.7 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.

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

8.9 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

8.10 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.

8.11 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.

8.12 Should waterlogged remains be encountered they will be treated in accordance with Waterlogged Wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood, 3rd edition, (English Heritage) Historic England 2010.

Scientific Dating

8.13 Opportunities for scientific dating will be identified as appropriate and discussed with the curator and/or the Regional Science Advisor.

Industrial Remains

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

Human Remains

8.15 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

8.16 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.

9.0 Post-excavation processing

9.1 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.

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

9.3 For all categories of material recovered, including finds, palaeoenvironmental, industrial and other specialist samples, an assessment by an appropriately experienced specialist will be undertaken.

9.4 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.

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

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

10.0 Reporting

10.1 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 NEAR as appropriate. A digital copy of the report will also be sent to the Heritage Science Advisor for the region.

10.2 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

11.0 Monitoring

11.1 NEAR 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.

12.0 Health and Safety

12.1 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.

13.0 Insurance

13.1 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.

14.0 Archiving

14.1 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.

14.2 Ultimately the ordered and checked archive, along with artefacts, ecofacts and relevant documents will be combined with the final site archive and deposited with the Kirkleatham Museum. The museum will be contacted prior to the commencement of fieldwork. Thereafter the museum will be involved in discussions with regard to selection and retention of archive material prior to archive deposition, through completion and submission of appropriate forms. 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 will be allowed for in the project costs to the client. The Museum will be contacted for an accession number by the contractor at the appropriate time. On completion, confirmation of deposition will be supplied to NEAR.

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

15.0 Programme & Staffing

15.1 Fieldwork will be undertaken by a team from Pre-Construct Archaeology. A full list of specialists to be used will be provided prior to fieldwork commencing, for discussion and agreement with Prospect Archaeology and the local planning authority as advised by NEAR. Other specialists found to be necessary during the life of the project will be discussed and agreed on a case-by-case basis.

15.2 The name of the responsible archaeologist on site and his / her CV / biography (indicating where relevant experience of working on sites of a similar nature) shall be communicated to NEAR at least five days before any works to which this WSI relates are first commenced on site.

15.3 The archaeologist(s) appointed to carry out the work specified will by commencing work be deemed to be working according to the requirements of this WSI, unless the archaeologist(s) in question first agree a variation of this WSI with the local planning authority as advised by NEAR.

16.0 References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014a). *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014b). *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014c). *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014d). *Code of Conduct*.

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*.

Historic England (2015b) *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).

Historic England 2017 *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England second edition*

Rosenberg, N 2020 *Steel House, Redcar Desk-Based Heritage Assessment*. Unpublished report STDC03-01

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

https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/digital-imagecapture-and-file-storage/

https://apabe.archaeologyuk.org/

17.0 Figures

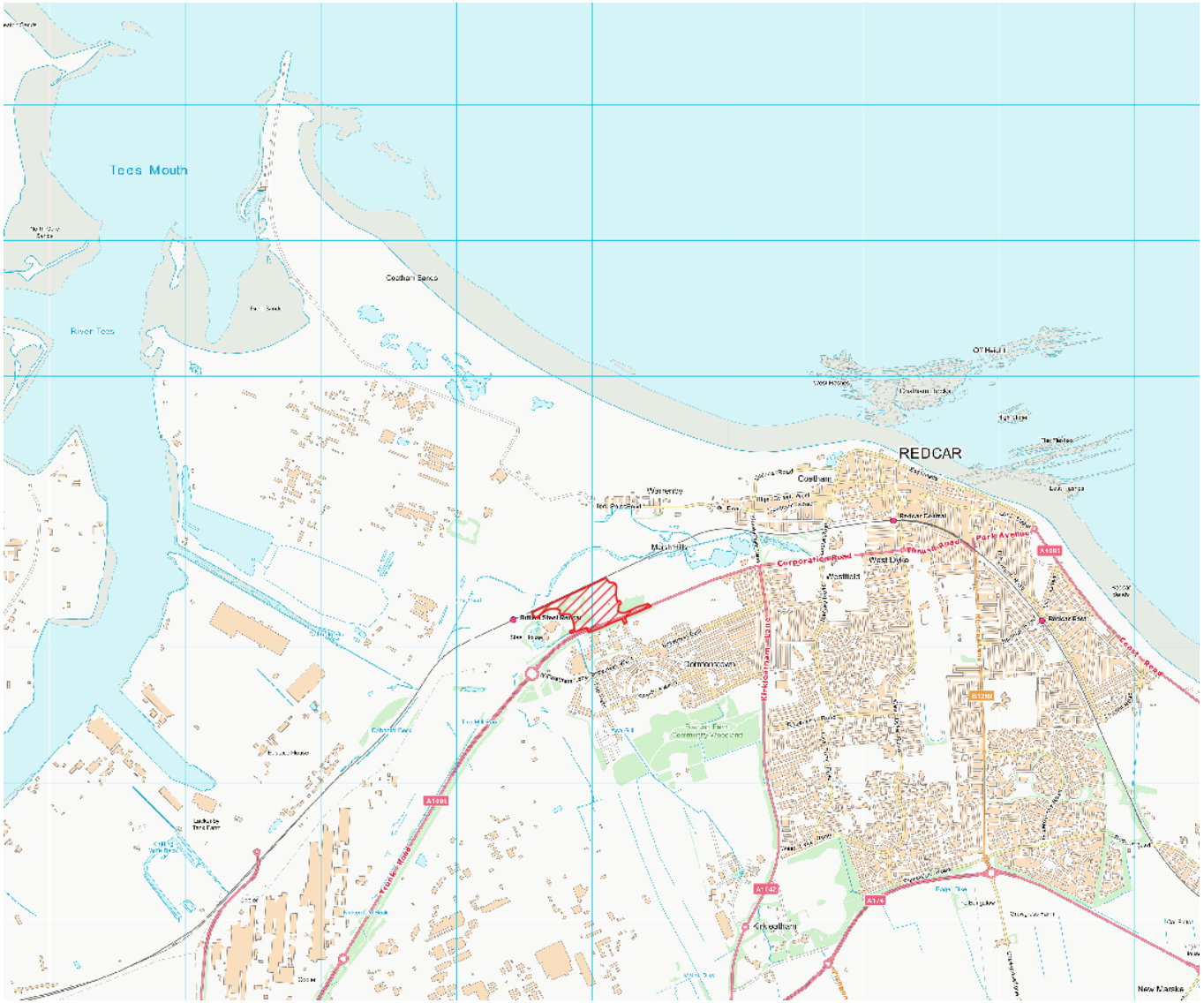

Figure 1: Site Location

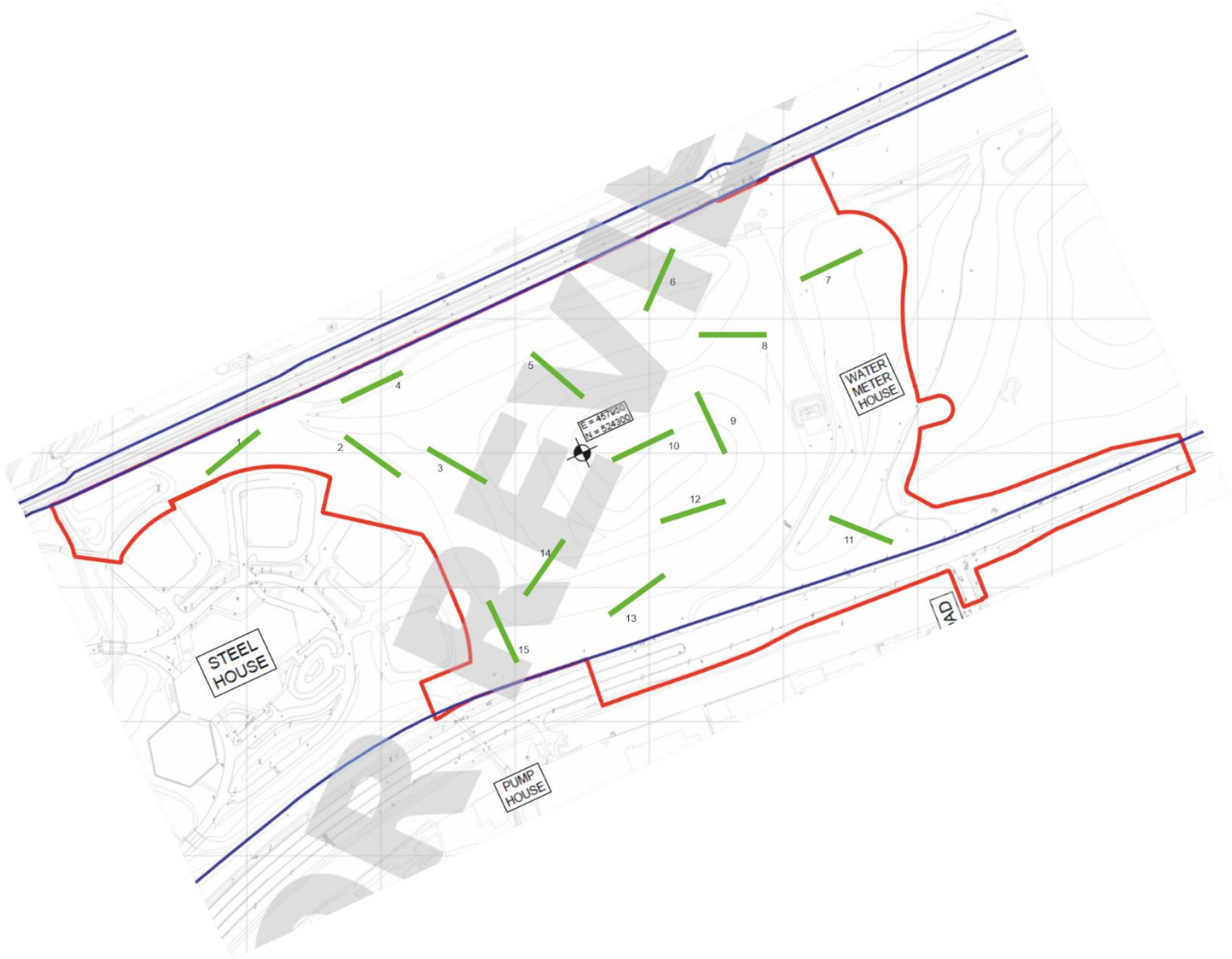

Figure 2: Provisional trench location