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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
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TOPOGRAPHICAL AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



WATES LIVING SPACE

**LAND BETWEEN READHEAD DRIVE AND EASTCOTE TERRACE,
WALKER, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

January 2015

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Wates Living Space

Land between Readhead Drive and Eastcote Terrace, Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne

Archaeological Evaluation Report

January 2015

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Wates Living Space, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land between Readhead Drive and Eastcote Terrace, Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne (Centred on NZ 2887 6357). This work was required to ascertain if any evidence of the Byker Waggonway that served the Heaton South Colliery does exist within the site and as part of the planning application for a three to four storey retirement village comprising 40 apartments, retail, café and health fitness suite.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over 3 days between the 6th to the 9th January 2015. The evaluation involved the excavation of 3 trenches, totalling 76.68m². There was no surviving evidence of the waggonway observed within the three trenches.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thanks Philip Langford of Wates Living Space for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Thanks also to Jennifer Morrison, Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer at Newcastle City Council, for all her assistance throughout the project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Pattersons Plant Hire Ltd. and their staff for their help during this project.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Mike McElligott and Sean Johnson. The report was written by Mike McElligott and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey.

The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post excavation Manager for WAA. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical director for WAA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

- 1.1.1 In January 2015, WAA was invited by Philip Langford of Wates Living Space to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land between Readhead Drive and Eastcote Terrace, Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne (Centred on NZ 2887 6357; Figure 1), prior to the development of a three to four storey retirement village comprising 40 apartments, retail, café and health fitness suite. As a result, Jennifer Morrison, Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer requested a programme of archaeological investigation, prior to the development taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation were undertaken accordance with the specification prepared by Frank Giocco of WAA (2014).
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the evaluation works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Jennifer Morrison, Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer, Newcastle City Council in response to a request by Wates Living Space, for an evaluation of the study area. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standard and guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014).

2.2 The Field Evaluation

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 3 trenches covering 76.68m² of the proposed development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to ascertain if any evidence of the Byker Waggonway (St. Peter's) still existed within the site.

2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.3 Turf and topsoil was removed by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recording according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2013).

2.2.4 The 3 evaluation trenches were backfilled following excavation and recording.

2.2.5 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in section 3.4 of the CIfA's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014).

2.3 The Archive

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC guidelines (1990) and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with Tyne and Wear Archives, with copies of the report sent to the Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA15 ECT-A, CP 11207/15.
- 2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Newcastle City Council, support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The proposed development site is situated on the eastern outskirts of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, approximately c.4.1km from the city centre, to the northwest of Walker Road (A186) (Figure 2). The land slopes from c.34.36m AOD in the northwest to c.33.97m AOD in the southeast.

3.1.2 The underlying solid geology of the area consists of sandstone of the Seventy Fathom Post Member deposited during the Carboniferous Period (310 to 312 million years ago) (BGS 2001). The site is underlain by superficial deposits of the Pelaw Clay Member that formed in the Quaternary Period (up to 2 million years ago).

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 **Introduction:** this background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and the records consulted during the desk-based assessment. It is intended only as a summary of historical developments around the study area, in order to assess the archaeological potential.

3.2.2 **Prehistoric (up to c.AD 72):** There is no known evidence for prehistoric activity within the study area.

3.2.3 **Roman (c.AD 72 – c.410):** There is no known evidence for Roman activity within the study area. However, it has been noted that the line of Hadrian's Wall is approximately 2km to the north.

3.2.4 **Medieval (c.AD 410 – c.1540):** The place-name element *kerr* is Middle English and derived from the Old Scandinavian *kiarr* meaning marsh and *wall* is Old English with Walker meaning wall-marsh, referring to the marsh that was near to the Roman wall (Beckensall 2004). There is no known evidence for medieval activity within the study area.

3.2.5 **Post-Medieval and Modern (c.1540 – present):** From the early 18th century onwards, large scale coal mining took place with up to ten collieries in operation in the Walker area (Wikipedia) with waggonways constructed to facilitate transportation of coal to the river side staiths. Low Walker was regarded as one of the most pleasant villages on Tyneside (Newton 1972) in the 1820s, but by the 1850s had been swallowed up by the industrialisation and urbanisation.

3.2.6 Walker used to have a large shipbuilding industry, particularly the yard of Armstrong Whitworth at High Walker, but this has declined over the past 50 years.

3.3 Previous Archaeological Work

3.3.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out excavations in 2011 on waggonways at the Lightfoot Centre on Lancefield Road and at Sir Charles Parsons School site, to the west of the study area. A pair of trackside ditches were recorded along with four poorly preserved timber sleeper impressions. The waggonways alignment suggested that it was associated with the High Pit of Byker Colliery (known earlier as the Restoration Pit of St. Anthony's Colliery).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase from the 6th to the 9th of January 2015 and consisted of 3 trenches (Figure 2). The topsoil and subsoil was stripped by a JCB 3CX with a toothless bucket to the level of the natural substrate. The areas under investigation were subsequently investigated and recorded fully. Trench 1 measured 10.6m in length, trench 2 was 9m and trench 3 was 23m. All three trenches were 1.8m wide. The evaluation extended over a two greens, separated by Readhead Drive and were bounded by a school on the western side houses and flats to the north and east and by the A186 to the south. The three trenches contained no features of archaeological significance; the summaries of these trenches are included in Appendix 2.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was located in the southeastern end of side of the study area aligned northeast-southwest and was next to and parallel to recently demolished sheds (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.9m revealing firm dark grey clay natural (**104**) (Plate 1). The lowest layer (**103**) was a mid yellow clay that contained frequent stone fragments and was c.0.8m thick. The second layer (**102**) consisted of a mixed rubble deposit that was a mid grey compacted silty clay and contained frequent CBM, stone fragments and modern rubbish and was c.0.5m thick. The third layer (**101**) was a thin bedding layer that consisted of a yellow gravel and concrete pieces and was c.0.1m thick. The upper layer (**100**) was a firm mid brown silty clay topsoil that was c.0.22m thick.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east

4.2.2 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was located in the southeastern side of the study area and was aligned northeast-southwest (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.5m revealing friable mid grey clay natural (**201**) (Plate 2). The lowest layer (**206**) was a friable mid brown silty clay backfill that was 0.62m thick and contained moderate stone, CBM and modern rubbish. The second layer (**205**) consisted of a friable dark brown / black clay backfill that was 0.54m thick. The third layer (**204**) was a thin layer c.0.1m thick and consisted of a mid orange brown clayey backfill. The fourth layer (**203**) was a light grey / black silty clay backfill that was c.0.46m thick. These three layers contained frequent stone, CBM pieces, modern rubbish and in the case of (**204**) corroded pieces of metal. The fifth layer (**202**) was a friable mid brown clay bedding layer that contained occasional stone and moderate CBM and modern rubbish that measured c.0.16m thick. The upper layer (**200**) consisted of a friable mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil that was 0.4m thick.



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north-northeast

- 4.2.3 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was located in the northwestern side of the study area, where a recently demolished block of flats had stood and was aligned northeast-southwest (Figure 2) (Plate 3). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.2m revealing firm light grey brown clay natural (**301**) and a band of moderately loose light grey gravel (**307**) that was visible at the southwest end of the trench. The trench was devoid of any archaeological features and there was no surviving evidence of the two waggonways that were believed to cross the study area.
- 4.2.4 The lowest layer (**305**) was a friable dark grey / brown clay that measured c.0.22m thick and contained occasional stone and pieces of CBM. At the southwest end of the trench the lowest layer (**306**) was a dark grey clay that measured c.0.4m thick and contained occasional stone, CBM and rubbish. Above (**305**), layer (**304**) was a loose dark grey / black sandy clay with white flecks that measured c.0.24m thick and contained frequent modern rubbish. Layer (**303**) was visible throughout the trench sealing (**304**) and (**306**) and consisted of a loose dark grey / black sandy clay that contained frequent stone, CBM and modern rubbish and was c.0.5m thick. The next layer (**302**) was a firm mid grey / brown clay that contained moderate stone, rubble, CBM and

modern rubbish and measured c.0.72m thick. Above it, was the topsoil layer (300) that consisted of a friable mid brown clay loam that contained occasional stone and was c.0.4m thick. The surrounding area around the trench appeared to be made up ground and the layers were probably associated with the demolition of a block of flats that recently stood on this part of the study area.



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking west

4.3 Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling

4.3.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Conclusions

5.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at land between Readhead Drive and Eastcote Terrace, Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne, 3 trenches were excavated, covering 76.68m². The purpose of the evaluation was to ascertain if any evidence of the Byker waggonway still existed within the site.

5.1.2 All three trenches were devoid of any archaeological features and there was no surviving remains of the waggonways. The study area consisted of layers of made up ground.

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NPPF (2012) *National Planning Policy Framework: Archaeology and Planning*. Department for Communities and Local Government

6.2 Web Sites

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http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/aaf_archaeological_archives_2011.pdf (accessed on 15/01/2015)

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Trench
(100)	Deposit	Topsoil	1
(101)	Deposit	Gravel & concrete bedding layer	1
(102)	Deposit	Mixed rubble layer	1
(103)	Deposit	Yellow clay layer	1
(104)	Deposit	Natural	1
(200)	Deposit	Topsoil	2
(201)	Deposit	Natural	2
(202)	Deposit	Mid brown bedding layer	2
(203)	Deposit	Light grey / black backfill layer	2
(204)	Deposit	Mid orange brown backfill layer	2
(205)	Deposit	Dark brown / black backfill layer	2
(206)	Deposit	Mid brown clay backfill layer	2
(300)	Deposit	Topsoil	3
(301)	Deposit	Natural	3
(302)	Deposit	Mid grey brown clay backfill layer	3
(303)	Deposit	Dark grey / black sandy clay backfill layer	3
(304)	Deposit	Dark grey / black sandy clay backfill layer	3
(305)	Deposit	Dark grey / brown clay backfill layer	3
(306)	Deposit	Dark grey clay backfill layer	3
(307)	Deposit	Natural	3

Table 1: List of Contexts issued during Evaluation

APPENDIX 2: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Width: 1.8m

Length: 10.6m

Maximum Depth: 1.9m

Minimum Depth: 1.4m

OS Co-ordinates:

428871 563567

(Easting, Northing)

428880 563573

TOPSOIL:	MID BROWN	FIRM	SILTY CLAY LOAM	Depth:	0.22m
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NATURAL:	DARK GREY	FIRM	CLAY	Depth:	N/A
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Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 2

Width: 1.8m

Length: 9m

Maximum Depth: 2.5m

Minimum Depth: 2m

OS Co-ordinates:

428848 563570

(Easting, Northing)

428855 563575

TOPSOIL:	MID GREYISH BROWN	FRIABLE	LOAMY CLAY	Depth:	0.4m
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NATURAL:	MID ORANGE	FIRM	CLAY	Depth:	N/A
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Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 3

Width: 1.8m

Length: 23m

Maximum Depth: 2.2m

Minimum Depth: 2m

OS Co-ordinates:

428808 563591

(Easting, Northing)

428826 563605

TOPSOIL:	MID BROWN	FRIABLE	CLAY LOAM	Depth:	0.42m
NATURAL:	LIGHT GREYISH BROWN/GREY	FIRM/LOOSE	CLAY/GRAVEL	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES






 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2015</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land between Readhead Drive and Eastcote Terrace, Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11207</p> <p>CLIENT: Wates Living Space</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: January 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.

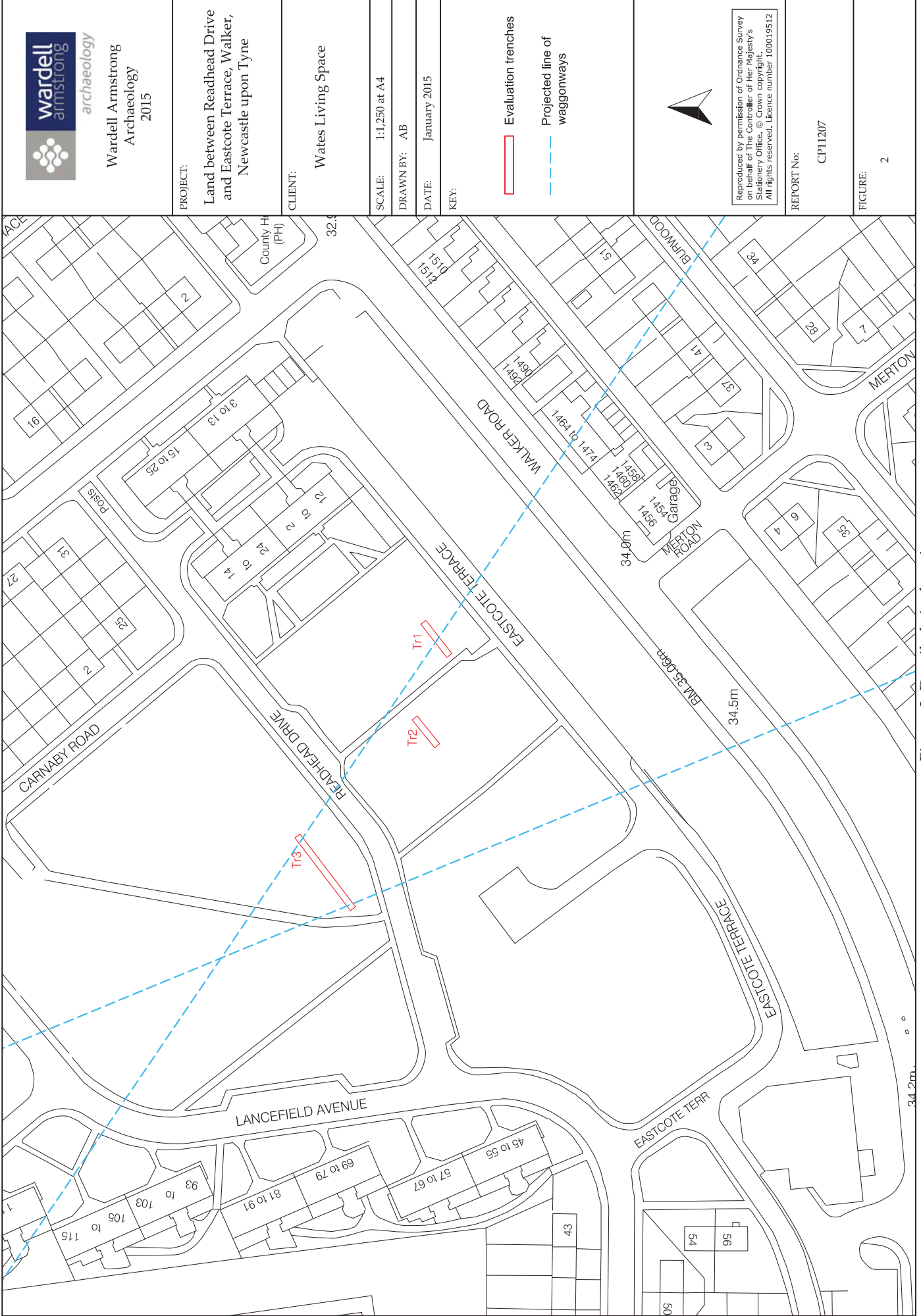


Figure 2: Detailed site location.

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STOKE-ON-TRENT
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Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke-on-Trent
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Tel: +44 (0)845 111 7777

CARDIFF
22 Windsor Place
Cardiff
CF10 3BY
Tel: +44 (0)29 2072 9191

EDINBURGH
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GREATER MANCHESTER
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Leigh
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