



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING
REPORT

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**HORSEFAIR, PONTEFRACT
WEST YORKSHIRE**

prepared for

Morrison Utilities Services Ltd

on behalf of

Yorkshire Water Services Ltd

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HORSEFAIR, PONTEFRACT, WEST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Summary

This document presents the results of archaeological monitoring (a watching brief) carried out during the renewal of potable water mains around Micklegate Square and along Micklegate and Horsefair, Pontefract, West Yorkshire (centred on NGR: SE 45935 22147). Archaeological monitoring was specified by West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS) as the renewal route was within and adjacent to a major historic thoroughfare. The monitored groundwork comprised the excavation of trenches for the installation of the new mains. The work was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) for Morrison Utility Services Ltd on behalf of Yorkshire Water Services Ltd between 28 January and 24 August 2018.

Archaeological monitoring along Micklegate and Horsefair demonstrated that the installation and ongoing maintenance of services, such as water mains, gas mains and telephone cables, had disturbed the ground beneath the road to a depth of almost 1m and there were no archaeological deposits or features.

Around Micklegate Square, where there had been less disturbance, the remains of buildings of 19th-century date and earlier survived beneath the road and communal grass. The earliest of these walls was by far the most substantial and appeared to be the truncated end of a 3.3m wide sandstone wall running approximately north-eastwards and parallel with Micklegate. The constituent blocks were heavily eroded, suggesting that the wall was ancient, which would indicate that it did not relate to any of the buildings shown on historic mapping.

The construction method and materials were comparable to the curtain wall and keep of the castle. The apparent alignment of the wall seemed to have been towards the castle, but given that it lay over 100m from the nearest known element of the castle (the barbican gatehouse), it requires some other explanation. One possibility is that it may be the remnant of a medieval town wall, which has been suggested by some commentators, although no grant of murage is known.

A sample of mortar was taken from the sandstone wall, along with further samples from the later walls for comparison, and the wall footing was protected by geotextile before backfilling to facilitate access. It is considered that the mortar samples should be retained with the archive for future study.

The excavations revealed numerous fragments of reused masonry, either within later walls or to form a foundation for the modern public road around Micklegate Square. These included roughly dressed blocks that were clearly not intended to be facing stones and finely worked architectural pieces, such as cornices, door mouldings, columns and finials. It is possible that these stones derived from the castle, although other medieval buildings, such as two friaries and two hospitals, may also have been a source.

A number of less-substantial walls were observed, representing a plot boundary recorded at least as early as 1742 and the remains of 19th-century tenements around three sides of Broad Yard. Bricks and potsherds recovered from the topsoil were appropriate for this period, but have little further to offer and should be discarded.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document presents the results of archaeological monitoring (a watching brief) carried out during the renewal of potable water mains around Micklegate Square and along Micklegate and Horsefair, Pontefract, West Yorkshire (Fig. 1; centred on NGR: SE 45935 22147). The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of a series of trenches excavated for the installation of the new water mains.
- 1.2 The work was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) for Morrison Utility Services Ltd on behalf of Yorkshire Water Services Ltd between 28 January and 24 August 2018.
- 1.3 All archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with a specification produced by West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS 2017; see Appendix A).

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The area of archaeological monitoring was within the historic core of Pontefract (Fig. 1). The water main renewal extended over 230m along Horsefair and Micklegate, from the shopping area to the west of Micklegate Square to the entrance of Castle Garth, and included a further 100m around the communal areas of Micklegate Square (Fig. 2).
- 2.2 Most of the pipeline installation was within the public highway, although part of the work in Micklegate Square was through communal lawns. The work was at an elevation of c.50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.3 The solid geology of the area comprises sedimentary sandstone of the Carboniferous period, dating from 310–315 million years ago (British Geological Survey 2018). This stone was utilised in the medieval and post-medieval periods for the construction of the castle and many of the town's buildings. There are no superficial deposits recorded in the vicinity, other than alluvium deposited by the (now built-over) river.

3.0 SUMMARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The archaeological background of the town was summarised in the specification (WYAAS 2017; Appendix A) but is repeated below.
- 3.2 The archaeological interest in the work is based on the historical and archaeological significance of Pontefract. Pontefract is West Yorkshire's most significant late Saxon and

medieval urban centre. There is also some evidence for Roman activity in parts of the town, though further to the west than the current work. Pontefract Castle is thought to originate in the 1070s as an earth and timber castle, possibly on the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon fortification. The castle developed into one of the most important in the North of England and was subject to two protracted sieges during the Civil War in the 17th century. It is possible that the siege lines crossed the route of the pipeline, although due to the scale, and relative inaccuracy of the contemporary mapping, this is uncertain (a copy of a siege map of c.1645 is shown on Figure 3).

- 3.3 The Saxon town is thought to have centred on the area immediately to the east of the castle. It is first mentioned in AD947, in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, as Tanshelf, the site where King Eadred (of Mercia) met the witan of Northumbria and received their pledges of allegiance, which would suggest a centre of some importance. Micklegate is the 'great street' or *magna vico* first documented in c.1190. It formed the central spine of the post-Conquest planned borough and ran from the west gatehouse of the castle to 'The Bridge'. Originally, the houses of the 12th-century borough would all have fronted onto Micklegate, with their burgage plots stretching back to Northgate and Southgate, as is clearly represented on historic mapping (e.g. Figs 3 and 4). Micklegate was originally intended as the principal commercial street, demonstrated by its gradual widening towards its western end. Almost the entire length of Micklegate, west of Broad Lane, is now called Horsefair, a name that was first documented in 1759, although it was originally only applied to the western end of Micklegate. The medieval hospitals of St Mary the Virgin and St Mary Magdalene were situated at the eastern end of Micklegate, near the castle gate.
- 3.4 There have been very few opportunities to archaeologically investigate the Micklegate frontage. Limited excavations at 22–28 Micklegate in 1987 revealed 12th- and 15th-century activity in an area set back from the frontage, which had been destroyed by cellaring, whilst excavations off Spink Lane in 2001 found the remains of a large stone house dating to between the 12th and 14th centuries.
- 3.5 Ordnance Survey mapping from the mid-19th-century onwards shows the gradual development of the monitored area. The First Edition six-inch map of 1852 shows insufficient detail to warrant reproduction here, but indicates that the renewal area comprised a continuous row of buildings along the Micklegate/Horsefair street frontage, which extended along a series of yards to the north-west, towards Northgate. By 1893,

the 1:2500 revision (Fig. 5) showed this more clearly, with an inn fronting Micklegate. This inn was identified online as the Wellington Arms of 1822 (Lost Pubs Project 2018).

- 3.6 To the north of the pipeline renewal area were a number of malthouses, some of which survived into the 20th century. The sheltered housing of Micklegate Square was constructed in the 1940s.

Previous archaeological work

- 3.7 Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pitting in Micklegate Square identified only made ground, while only the backfill of earlier water pipes was recorded in Micklegate (NAA 2017).

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The main aims and objectives of the archaeological monitoring were to:

- to identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the area of development;
- to determine whether there was any potential for the preservation in situ of any of the remains; and
- to identify, sample excavate and record any other remains in order to achieve their 'preservation by record'.

- 4.2 The objectives were to:

- establish the presence, nature, extent, preservation, and significance of any archaeological remains within the area of development;
- to provide a detailed record of any such archaeological remains;
- to recover and assess any associated structural, artefactual, and environmental evidence;
- to undertake a programme of investigation that meets with national and regional standards (SYAS 2011; ClfA 2014; Historic England 2015); and
- to prepare an illustrated report on the results of all phases of the archaeological investigations to be deposited with the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record and the Historic England Archive.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of water main trenches along the road and within the communal lawns of Micklegate Square (Figs 2 and 6).
- 5.2 Excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision utilising a mechanical excavator, although the work also required hand-digging around various services. Due to the narrowness of the trench and the quantity of rubble in the ground being excavated, a toothed bucket was used. A hydraulic pecker and pneumatic road drill were employed to break the tarmac and sub-base.
- 5.3 Where structures, features, deposits, or finds of archaeological interest were exposed, mechanical excavation ceased in order to allow the investigating archaeologist to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and record these features and finds. Once archaeological excavations were completed, mechanical operations recommenced.
- 5.4 All spoil was scanned with a metal detector to recover metal finds.
- 5.5 Hand excavation of selected archaeological features was undertaken in order to characterise the archaeology and ensure recovery of artefactual evidence.
- 5.6 A full record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) was made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings were drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate.
- 5.7 The area of monitoring was tied into the National Grid and located on 1:2500 mapping. All archaeological deposits and features and the top and base of all groundworks were recorded with a height above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 5.8 A photographic record of all contexts was taken in digital format and black and white print and included a clearly visible, graduated metric scale.
- 5.9 Pre-modern finds were recovered, processed, and stored in accordance with established guidelines (English Heritage 1995; Watkinson and Neal 2001) to ensure minimal

deterioration and loss of information (this includes controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular condition checks).

- 5.10 No sufficiently secure archaeological deposits were identified. Therefore, no palaeoenvironmental samples were taken.

6.0 RESULTS

- 6.1 The monitored work comprised the excavation of two pits and a trench on Horsefair, trenching around Micklegate Square, and trenching along Micklegate from Broad Lane to Castle Chain (Figs 2 and 6).

Horsefair

- 6.2 The first pit was located on the south side of Horsefair, opposite a 'Farmfoods' shop, and measured 3m x 2.5m x 0.8m deep. The second pit was on the opposite side of the road and measured 2.5m x 1.5m x 0.8m deep. Only backfill of the existing water main was observed in these pits, and there were no pre-modern finds (Plate 1).



Plate 1: pit on Horsefair showing backfill of existing services

- 6.3 A 16m long trench was excavated on the north side of the road to the west end of Micklegate Square. It was up to 0.6m wide and 1m deep and only exposed the road surface and made ground.

Micklegate Square

- 6.4 Excavation continued from Horsefair into Micklegate Square, with a continuous trench extending around three sides of the Square over a distance of c.100m. The trench was 0.6m wide and up to 1m deep.



Plate 2: trench along west side of Micklegate Square

- 6.5 The west side of Micklegate Square showed redeposited materials, with areas of brick and tile rubble (Plate 2). This was accompanied by modern pottery and glass, which were not collected.
- 6.6 The north and east sides of the Square revealed the footings of nine walls on varying alignments (Fig. 6), some of brick and some of stone, the most substantial of which was over 2m wide. There was also an area of buried soil, which was thought to represent an old watercourse.

6.7 A wall (1) constructed of a mix of bricks and sandstone blocks, some of which had been reused, was located approximately midway along the north side of the square. Wall 1 had a north-northwesterly alignment (approximately parallel with the modern footpath), was 0.8m wide and survived to a height of 1m. The wall was poorly coursed, with only the upper course of machine-made bricks being level (Plate 3). There were traces of mortar around the upper courses, the lower half being cut into a buried soil layer. This produced 19th- to 20th-century pottery and glass, which were not retained. One fragment of reused masonry had been finely dressed (Plate 4). The block had a height of 330mm and depth of 230mm, with the longer faces measuring 270mm and 290mm. The inside faces had been finely chiselled; the surface treatment of the 'external' faces is unknown, as the block was left in situ to support the side of the trench.



Plate 3: Wall 1, behind valve gear, facing south-east



Plate 4: reused masonry block in Wall 1 (scales = 0.5m and 0.25m).

- 6.8 Approximately 1.5m to the east of Wall 1, a second area of masonry (Wall 2) was recorded in the south side of the trench only. Measuring 0.55m deep and 0.8m wide, and surviving in only two courses, Wall 2 was constructed from rough blocks of sandstone with very friable mortar. The wall remnant collapsed during machining and was recorded only in a single photograph (Plate 5). There was no trace of the wall on the opposite side of the trench; whether this represented the original terminus of Wall 2 or an earlier removal is unknown.



Plate 5: remnant of possible Wall 2 in south side of narrow water main trench. The wall collapsed immediately after this image was taken.

- 6.9 Structure 4 was located 1.2m to the east of Wall 2, with two sides forming a corner; Wall 4a was aligned approximately east-northeast, and Wall 4b ran south-southwest from it (Fig. 6, section a; Plate 6). The two walls comprised up to two courses of mortared sandstone blocks, to a maximum depth of 0.47m, including some reused masonry. The largest block measured 700mm wide, 100mm high, tapering in a curve to 20mm high, and 400mm deep, and appeared to have derived from a structural element, such as a window jamb or string course. Wall 4b was 0.35m wide, the original full width of Wall 4a, although at least 0.26m, could not be ascertained, as the west end had been incorporated into a later structure (Wall 3).
- 6.10 The area within the angle of Structure 4 contained a buried garden soil that appeared identical to that outside (east of) the walls and contained 19th- to 20th-century potsherds (not retained). Following demolition of Structure 4, presumably to construct Wall 3, a layer of coarse orange sand was spread over and to the east, which was then covered in a 'made ground' deposit of mixed soil and rubble, with scraps of ferrous pipe and sherds of window glass.



Plate 6: Structure 4 looking north, with Wall 4a (centre) and 4b (right) (scales = 1m and 0.5m).



Plate 7: Wall 3, overlying earlier Wall 4a (right). Scales = 1m and 0.5m. Inset: reused masonry showing chiselling, scale = 0.5m.

- 6.11 Wall **3** was 1m wide and constructed of rectangular sandstone blocks measuring up to 400mm by 230mm by 160mm (Plate 7). Up to three courses of mortared stone survived, apparently incorporating the western part of Wall **4a**, which did not continue beyond Wall **3**. When the wall was removed, it was notable that some of the constituent blocks had been reused. Several bore coarse chiselling, indicating that they had probably not been facing stones. The topsoil overlying Wall **3** was no more than 0.2m deep.
- 6.12 In the north-eastern corner of Micklegate Square (Fig. 6), there was a short section of trench connecting with a series of inspection covers. The subsoil in this section was much heavier clay with traces of organic material, suggestive of a former watercourse. Most of the area had been previously disturbed by water main laying, so there was no obvious edge to the deposit. There was also no certainty that an uncontaminated environmental sample could be recovered, and so the deposit was not sampled.
- 6.13 On the east side of Micklegate Square, a layer of broken sandstone rubble formed a base to the tarmac of the road. This made machine excavation difficult, requiring substantial force from the excavator, and causing undercutting the tarmac, which meant that some of the walls in this section of the trench were over-machined and it was only possible to record them in the trench side.
- 6.14 Wall **5**, measuring 0.3m wide, ran east-northeast and comprised two faces of brick with a cavity, and surviving to at least three courses (Plate 8). Wall **6** was located 0.55m to the south on a similar alignment and was constructed from mortared sandstone rubble. Wall **6** was 0.85m wide and survived to a height of at least 0.35m, although it continued beyond the depth of excavation (Plate 9).



Plate 8: brick Wall 5, facing east (scale = 1m).



Plate 9: machined-out traces of Wall 6, facing east (scales = 1m).

- 6.15 From a point 2.5m to the south of Wall 6, and visible only along the base of the east side of the trench, was another possible wall footing (Wall 7; not illustrated). Due to the narrowness of the trench and the friable nature of the sides in this area, it proved unsafe to excavate, but was recorded as being composed of mortared sandstone rubble and it extended for c.3m. Its width is unknown.
- 6.16 The most substantial feature in the excavations was Wall 9, located outside No. 13 Micklegate Square. Wall 9 (Fig. 6, section b; Plate 10) appeared to comprise the end of a massively built sandstone wall, 3.3m wide, which survived to a height of at least 0.7m and continued below the base of the trench. The wall was constructed of blocks, now heavily eroded, measuring up to 900mm by 400mm by at least 500mm. The blocks were bonded in lime mortar.



Plate 10: Wall 9, showing eroded sandstone blocks (scale = 1m).

- 6.17 Wall 8 was located at the southern end of possible Wall 7, abutting Wall 9, and crossed the trench on an east-northeasterly alignment. It was composed of sandstone blocks measuring up to 0.3m by 0.2m by 0.15m. On the west side of the trench, Wall 8 was 0.5m wide, but on the east side it comprised 0.2m of wall built onto the face of Wall 9.

Plate 11 shows Walls **8** and **9** before excavation, apparently forming a corner. This may have been a 19th-century cellar.



*Plate 11: pre-excavation view of Walls **8** (foreground) and **9** (left) forming corner of possible cellar.*

- 6.18 One remarkable feature of the eastern part of Micklegate Square was the use of broken masonry as a foundation for the tarmac road, as can be seen in several of the Plates. A range of worked pieces was observed, but due to their unstratified context they were not retained for further investigation. The largest piece was a section of denticulated cornice from a substantial building (Plate 12). This measured 0.55m by 0.5m by 0.35m and had been placed against the north face of Wall **8** (cf. the void in the foreground; Plate 11). Other masonry fragments (Plate 13) included rectangular ashlar blocks, sections of fluted column, part of a column base or capital, a fragment of gothic moulding, and sections of a carved dome—possibly a finial or corbel—with a herringbone groove design. Many of the fragments bore evidence of deliberate splitting, using coarse chisels, as seen on a stone in the background on Plate 13.



Plate 12: fragment of denticulated cornice.



Plate 13: fragments of masonry reused as road bedding.

Broad Lane to Castle Chain

- 6.19 From Micklegate Square, trench excavation proceeded over a distance of 120m across the end of Broad Lane, then eastwards along Micklegate, terminating at Castle Chain.
- 6.20 The 0.6m wide, 0.8m deep trench was wholly dug into redeposited materials; the route of the trench followed the existing water main. There was evidence of recent excavations for water main repairs and further disturbance from a recent gas main renewal and repairs to collapsed sewers. No archaeological features or finds were observed within this section.

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The archaeological monitoring along Micklegate and Horsefair demonstrated that the frequency and depth of disturbance due to repair and maintenance of services has probably removed any evidence of earlier activity to a depth of approximately 1m. However, within the relatively undisturbed confines of Micklegate Square, a number of wall foundations were observed.
- 7.2 The earliest of these walls in appearance, and the most substantial by far, was Wall **9**, which appeared to be the end of a 3.3m wide sandstone wall running approximately perpendicular to the water main trench. The constituent blocks were heavily eroded, suggesting that the wall was ancient, which would imply that it did not relate to any of the buildings shown on historic mapping of the site. Advice was sought from the master mason working on the repairs to Pontefract Castle, who confirmed that the construction method and materials were comparable to the curtain wall and keep of the castle (Oliver Kneale, pers. comm.). The apparent alignment of the wall seemed to have been towards the castle, but as it lay over 100m from the nearest known castle element, the barbican gatehouse, it requires some other explanation.

A walled town at Pontefract?

- 7.3 The existence of a medieval town wall at Pontefract has been suggested by several commentators. Beresford (1967, 525–6) noted that the curved lines of Northgate and Southgate appeared to form a distinctive enclosure, similar to other castle towns, such as Richmond and Scarborough (both in North Yorkshire), which both had outer ‘wards’ defended by earthworks and walls.

- 7.4 The castle at Pontefract was constructed by Ilbert de Lacy in the first two decades following the Norman Conquest (Roberts and Whittick 2013, 75–6; Historic England 2018) and, if the town was also defended at this time, it is likely that this would have included a substantial bank and ditch. The 11th-century defensive bank of the fortified manorial site at Goltho, Lincolnshire, was 6m wide and perhaps 2m high above the original ground surface and was fronted by a 2.5m deep ditch (Beresford 1987, 72–3). It has been observed that 11th-century Norman statutes limited the defences that could be created to ditches not more than one shovel’s throw deep (thereby limiting the amount of resulting spoil available to construct a bank) and a single line of palisade (*ibid.*).
- 7.5 At Richmond, the townsfolk moved into the outer bailey as a result of repeated Scottish raids, and obtained permission to defend it. A grant of murage (permission to construct a wall) was made by Edward II to John, Earl of Richmond, in 1313, with successive grants made in 1334, 1338 and 1400 (Drury 2001).
- 7.6 However, no such grant of murage is known for Pontefract, and the complete absence of other sections of wall, earthen ramparts or ditches would seem to imply that there was never a complete circuit of walls. At Scarborough, although the defences of the town have long since disappeared, remnants are encountered from time to time during construction activities, and one would have anticipated similar results for Pontefract. However, it is possible that a reference made in 1322 to the ‘town dike’ at Pontefract, somewhere north of Walkergate, described part of the town defences (Ellis 1893, 302).
- 7.7 It could be posited that the fragment of massively built wall beneath Micklegate Square comprised the sole remainder of an attempt to wall the town, although it lay approximately mid-way between the suggested Northgate/Southgate ‘arms’ of the town wall. Until further excavation is carried out across the same alignment, with corroborating results, the feature must remain unexplained.
- 7.8 Mortar recovered from the wall, although similar in appearance to the medieval mortar within the castle, did not contain sufficient carbonised material for radiocarbon dating, and without damaging the Scheduled Monument of the castle, no comparative samples could be obtained. Chemical analysis would be unable to discern between medieval and early post-medieval mortars, so further investigation would be unproductive (Jennifer Murgatroyd, pers. comm.). It may be possible to use optically stimulated

luminescence (OSL) to attempt to establish the date of the mortar, but it is not yet at the level of routine testing, and would therefore be costly (Ian Bailiff, pers. comm.).

Other medieval survivors

- 7.9 As described above, the excavations revealed numerous fragments of reused masonry, either within later walls or as a foundation to the modern public road around Micklegate Square. These included roughly dressed blocks that were clearly intended to be out of view, and finely worked architectural pieces, such as cornices, door mouldings, columns and finials. It is quite possible that these stones derived from the castle, the destruction of which was ordered after its occupation during the Civil War and continued into the 20th century. However, there are no similar pieces visible within the standing structure of the castle, perhaps due to the extent of dismantling that has taken place, and other medieval buildings, such as two friaries or the hospitals of St Mary the Virgin and St Mary Magdalene, may have been the source of the material.
- 7.10 One fragment of reused masonry had been finely dressed (Plate 4) and had a distinct change of angle on two faces suggesting that it had been used either as an internal quoin at a change of alignment in a wall, or on the corner of an octagonal tower, as seen at the foot of the castle gatehouse (Plate 14).



Plate 14: angled block in Pontefract Castle gatehouse.

- 7.11 The recovered masonry was donated to Pontefract Castle to be used in the repairs to the castle fabric.

Post-medieval development

- 7.12 When overlain on a 19th-century map of the area, most of the less-substantial walls could be seen to represent Victorian buildings (Fig. 7). Wall **1** was on the line of a plot boundary recorded perhaps as early as 1645, but more certainly by 1742 (Figs 3 and 4 respectively), with gardens to either side. It was constructed from a mix of brick and reused masonry, potentially from the castle, and was later reused as the rear wall of a row of tenements, recorded on the west side of Broad Yard on the Ordnance Survey map of 1852 and subsequent revisions (e.g. Fig. 5).
- 7.13 Walls **2**, **3**, **4a** and **4b** line up with Victorian tenements along the north side of Broad Yard. They were all built of sandstone, and some of the masonry had been reused and may have derived from the castle or other medieval structure. Structure **4** appears to have had a western return, represented by Wall **1**, creating an internal space 6m long. This accords well with the historic mapping.
- 7.14 On the eastern side of the square, Walls **5**, **6**, **7** and **8** probably represented elements of further tenements and matched reasonably well with historic mapping, with some perhaps as early as 1742. Map revisions suggest that the tenements were cleared in the 1920s, and the bungalows were constructed around Micklegate Square in the 1940s.
- 7.15 Pottery recovered from the topsoil within the Square was domestic in character (Appendix B), and typical of the 18th and 19th centuries when Broad Yard was occupied. The bricks recovered from the walls within the trench were also of this date (Appendix C).

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Archaeological monitoring along Micklegate and Horsefair has demonstrated that the installation and ongoing maintenance of services such as water and gas mains and telephone cables have disturbed the ground beneath the road to a depth of almost 1m. It is considered unlikely that further excavations in this road would disturb archaeological deposits or features.
- 8.2 Around Micklegate Square, where there has been less disturbance, the remains of buildings of 19th-century date and earlier survive beneath the road and communal

grass. Further excavation within this area has the potential to reveal important details of both the Victorian tenements and the substantial medieval wall footing, which has been protected by geotextile before backfilling.

- 8.3 It is considered that the mortar samples and other artefacts from the excavations have no further potential for study and can be discarded.

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1645 Siege plan of Pontefract Castle (1750 copy, source unknown)

1742 Paul Jollage 'A Plan of Pontefract in York-Shire'

1852 Ordnance Survey six-inch: Yorkshire sheet 249

1893 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500: Yorkshire sheet CCXLIX.4

APPENDIX A

WYAAS SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service

Specification for an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during works for Yorkshire Water in the Horsefair area of Pontefract

1. Summary

1.1 An archaeological watching brief is a limited amount of archaeological work where the presence of an appropriately qualified & experienced archaeologist is required during the course of development to identify and record/ retrieve any archaeological remains which are revealed and/or disturbed during “groundworks” on a site upon which development is currently underway.

1.2 Morrisons Utilities are carrying out works in the Horsefair area of Pontefract on behalf of Yorkshire Water, as per drawing AMP6 Year 4 (as part of planned work M312 Horsefair Renewal Option 2).

1.3 An archaeological watching brief is to be maintained during the excavation of test holes and the pipeline trenches indicated on the referenced plan. Two test holes are to be initially excavated: one outside 32 Micklegate and one outside 16 Micklegate. Both test holes will be approximately 1.5m square.

This specification has been written by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS), the holders of the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.

NOTE: The requirements detailed in paragraphs 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 10.1 are to be carried out by the archaeological contractor **prior** to the commencement of fieldwork.

2. Archaeological Interest

The archaeological interest in the work is based on the historical & archaeological significance of Pontefract. Pontefract is West Yorkshire’s most significant late Saxon and medieval urban centre. There is also some evidence for Roman activity in parts of the town (further to the west than the current planned work). Pontefract Castle is thought to originate in the 1070s as an earth and timber castle, possibly on the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon fortification. The castle developed into one of the most important in the North of England and was subject to two protracted sieges during the Civil Wars in the 17th century (& it is possible that siege lines may have crossed the line of the pipe trench). The Saxon town is thought to have centred on the area immediately to the east of the castle. It is first mentioned in AD 947 in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as Tanshelf, the site where King Eadred (of Mercia) met the *witan* of Northumbria and received their pledges of allegiance, which would suggest a centre of some importance. Micklegate is the ‘great street’ or *magna vico* first documented in c1190. It formed the central spine of the post Conquest planned borough and ran from the west gatehouse of the castle to “The Bridge”. Originally the houses of the 12th-century borough would all have fronted onto Micklegate, with their burgage plots stretching back to Northgate and Southgate, as clearly represented on Jollage’s Plan of 1742. Micklegate was originally intended as the principal commercial street, demonstrated by its gradual widening towards its western end. Almost the entire length of Micklegate, west of Broad Lane, is now called Horse Fair, a name that is first documented in 1759, but which was originally only applied to the western end of Micklegate. At the eastern end of Micklegate were situated the

medieval hospitals of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Mary Magdalene, near the castle gate. There have been very few opportunities to archaeologically investigate the Micklegate frontage. Limited excavations at 22-28 Micklegate in 1987 revealed 12th and 15th century activity in an area set back from the frontage, which had been destroyed by cellaring, whilst excavations off Spink Lane in 2001 found the remains of a large stone house dating to between the 12th and 14th centuries.

For an understanding of relevant archaeological research priorities in West Yorkshire, please see the archaeological research agendas available to download from the WYAAS website:

<http://www.wyjs.org.uk/archaeology-advisory-service/>

3. Aim of the Watching Brief

3.1 The aim of the watching brief is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits which are disturbed or exposed as a result of “groundworks” (including site stripping, the excavation of test holes and service trenches etc.) in the area of interest.

3.2 This work is intended to mitigate the destruction of any buried archaeological remains that may be revealed / disturbed through ‘preservation by record’.

3.3 The archaeologist shall not excavate any area beyond those to be disturbed/destroyed by the development.

4. General Instructions

4.1 Health and Safety

4.1.1 The archaeologist on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. In this case, 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 of the site, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations. The West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur to outside contractors engaged to undertake this watching brief while attempting to conform to this specification. Any Health and Safety issues which may hinder compliance with this specification should be discussed with WYAAS at the earliest possible opportunity (see section 11).

4.2 Confirmation of Adherence to Specification

4.2.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor must confirm adherence to this specification in writing to WYAAS, or state (with reasons) any proposals to vary the specification. Unauthorised variations are made at the sole risk of the contractor (see para. 11.2 below). Modifications presented in the form of a re-written specification/project design **will not** be considered by WYAAS.

4.3 Confirmation of Timetable and Contractors’ Qualifications

4.3.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor **must** provide WYAAS **in writing** with:

- a projected timetable for the site work
- details of the staff structure and numbers
- names and CVs of key project members (the project manager, site supervisor, any proposed specialists, sub-contractors *etc.*)

4.3.2 All project staff provided by the archaeological contractor must be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles. The timetable should be adequate to allow the work to be undertaken to the appropriate professional standard, subject to the ultimate judgement of WYAAS.

4.4 Notification and Monitoring

4.4.1. WYAAS should be provided with as much notice as possible in writing (and certainly not less than one week) by the archaeological contractor of the intention to start the watching brief.

4.4.2 The relevant museums service (see section 10) should be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as WYAAS by the archaeological contractor.

4.4.3 It is unlikely that the watching brief will be monitored but WYAAS reserves the right to do so. Any notable or unusual health & safety issues regarding the site should be provided to WYAAS when supplying notification of intention to commence the work.

5. Fieldwork Methodology

5.1 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 specification (see 7.1 below).

5.1.1 An archaeologist should be present on site **during any excavation**. The archaeologist should view the area as it is being dug and any trench sections after excavation has been completed. Where archaeology is 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.

5.1.2 Any features/deposits of archaeological interest should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report. Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) **must** include heights O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) **must** include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features.

5.1.3 The actual areas of ground disturbance (even if no archaeological remains are present) should be recorded on a suitable base map/development plan and the stratigraphic sequence and the depth of the excavations will be briefly recorded. If archaeological remains are identified, their location is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on an up-to-date 1:1250 O.S. map base. (Also see para. 8.5 below).

5.1.4 Excavated soil should be searched as practicable for finds. All finds, except unstratified 20th&21st century material, should be collected and retained for processing.

5.1.5 All securely stratified contexts should be sampled for their potential to contribute to environmental and technological analysis and, scientific dating. Additional 'spot' samples should be taken if suitable material is encountered during the watching brief.

5.1.6 If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, the watching brief reveals below-ground conditions which indicate that potentially archaeological deposits are absent, the archaeologist should contact WYAAS to discuss reducing or curtailing the requirements. The work may only be curtailed with the prior agreement of WYAAS and written confirmation of this agreement will be provided by WYAAS.

5.1.7 Except where otherwise requested, black and white photography using orthodox monochrome chemical development should be used. Film should be no faster than ISO400. Slower films should be used where possible as their smaller grain size yields higher definition images. Technical Pan (ISO 25), Pan-F (ISO50), FP4 (ISO125) and HP5 (ISO400) are recommended. The use of dye-based films such as Ilford XP2 and Kodak T40CN is unacceptable due to poor archiving qualities. Black and white photography should be supplemented by colour photography; this should be in transparency format (i.e. slides or digital photography as an acceptable alternative, see paragraph 5.1.8 below).

5.1.8 Digital photography: as an alternative to colour transparency photography, good quality digital photography may be supplied, using cameras with a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels. Digital photography should follow the guidance given by Historic England in Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice, July 2015. Note that conventional black and white print photography is still required and constitutes the permanent record. Digital images will only be acceptable as an alternative to colour slide photography if each image is supplied in both JPEG and TIFF versions. The latter as an uncompressed 8-bits per channel TIFF version 6 file of not less than 25Mbs (See section 2.3 of the Historic England guidance). The contractor must include metadata embedded in the TIFF file. The metadata must include the following: the commonly used name for the site being photographed, the relevant centred OS grid coordinates for the site to at least six figures, the relevant township name, the date of photograph, the subject of the photograph, the direction of shot and the name of the organisation taking the photograph. **Any digital images are to be supplied to WYAAS on an archive quality "gold" CDs by the archaeological contractor accompanying the hard copy of the report.**

6.2 Use of Metal Detectors on Site

6.2.1 Spoil heaps are to be scanned for both ferrous and non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination, operated by an experienced metal detector user (if necessary, operating under the supervision of the contracting archaeologist). Modern artefacts are to be noted but not retained (19th-century material and earlier should be retained.)

6.2.2 If a non-professional archaeologist is to be used to carry out the metal-detecting, a formal agreement of their position as a sub-contractor working under direction must be agreed in advance of their use on site. This formal agreement will apply whether they are paid or not. To avoid financial claims under the Treasure Act a suggested wording for this formal agreement with the metal detectorist is: "In the process of working on the

archaeological investigation at [location of site] between the dates of [insert dates], [name of person contributing to project] is working under direction or permission of [name of archaeological organisation] and hereby waives all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the Treasure Act 1996 as amended."

7. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

7.1 Should there be, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant more detailed recording than possible within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor is to urgently contact WYAAS with the relevant information to enable the matter to be resolved with the developer.

7.2 The terms of the Treasure Act, 1996 as amended, must be followed with regard to any finds, which might fall within its purview. Any such finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the 'Code of Practice'. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

8. Post-excavation Analysis and Reporting

8.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. Finds of 20th&21st century date should be quantified and summarily described, but can then be discarded if appropriate. All finds of 19th century or earlier date should be retained and archived.

8.2 A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and fully labelled photographs/slides. Standards for archive compilation and transfer should conform to those outlined in *Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum, 2007). Photographic prints should be mounted in appropriate archivally-stable sleeves. Labelling should be on the *back* of the print in pencil giving film and frame number only and on applied printed labels on the front of the appropriate photographic sleeve which should include:

- film and frame number
- date recorded and photographer's name
- name and address of site
- national grid reference
- specific subject of photograph.

A quantified index to the field archive should form an appendix to the report. The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive (see Section 10 below). In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be deposited in the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.

8.3 A fully illustrated report should be produced, which should include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of the results, placing them in a local and regional, and if appropriate, national context. It is not envisaged that the report is likely to be

published, but it should be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers.

8.4 Any digital prints in the report must be made on paper and with inks which are certified against fading or other deterioration for a period of 75 years or more when used in combination. If digital printing is employed, **the contractor must** supply details of the paper/inks used in writing to the WYAAS, with supporting documentation indicating their archival stability/durability.

8.5 Location plans should be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the areas covered by the watching brief (a scale of 1:50,000 is not regarded as appropriate unless accompanied by a more detailed plan or plans). Plans should be at an appropriate scale showing: areas excavated and the identified (and, where possible, predicted) archaeological features/deposits. Trench and feature plans **must** include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features. Section drawings **must** include O.D heights and be cross-referenced to an appropriate plan.

8.6 All artefacts and environmental material will be analysed by a qualified and experienced specialist. Artefact analysis is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue. Finds critical for dating and interpretation should be illustrated.

8.7 Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, details of the current and intended location of the archive and, as an appendix, a copy of this specification.

9. Report Submission and Deposition with the HER

9.1 **The archaeological contractor will supply a hard copy of the report to the client and another hard copy (plus a digital copy on a gold compact disk) directly to the WYAAS within a period of one month following completion of fieldwork,** unless a revised date has been agreed in writing with WYAAS. A copy of the final report (in .pdf format) shall also be supplied to Historic England Science Advisor (Dr Andy Hammon, e-mail address: Andy.Hammon@HistoricEngland.org.uk). Completion of this project are dependant on receipt by WYAAS of a satisfactory report which has been prepared in accordance with this specification. Any comments made by WYAAS in response to the submission of an unsatisfactory report will be taken into account and will result in the reissue of a suitably edited report to all parties, within a timescale which has been agreed with WYAAS.

9.2 The report will be supplied on the understanding that it will be added to the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record and will become publicly accessible once deposited with the WYAAS.

9.3 Copyright - 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 use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

9.4 The West Yorkshire HER supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact the West Yorkshire HER officer prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, the West Yorkshire HER may place the information on a web-site. Please ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the case officer at the West Yorkshire HER.

10. Archive Deposition

10.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant District museum service in writing (copied to WYAAS) to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. For contact details: **Wakefield MDC Museum & Arts**, Pontefract Museum, 5 Salter Row, Pontefract WF8 1BA Tel. 01924 305352 davidevans@wakefield.gov.uk .

10.2 It is the policy of all the West Yorkshire museum services to accept complete excavation archives, including primary site records and research archives and finds, from all excavations carried out in the District, which they serve.

10.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with the relevant museum service.

10.4 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet the relevant museum services' requirements with regard to the preparation of fieldwork archives for deposition.

11. General Considerations

11.1 Authorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

11.1.1 If, on first visiting the site or at any time during the course of the recording exercise, it appears in the archaeologist's professional judgement that:

- i) a part or the whole of the site is not amenable to recording as detailed above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results,

then it is expected that the archaeologist will contact WYAAS as a matter of urgency in order that the matter can be resolved in liaison with the developer and the Local Planning Authority.

11.2 Unauthorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

11.2.1 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained WYAAS' consent in writing to any variation of the specification prior to the commencement of on-site work or (where applicable) prior to the finalisation of the tender. Unauthorised variations may result in WYAAS being unable to recommend determination of the planning application to the Local Planning Authority based on the archaeological information available and are therefore made solely at the risk of the contractor.

11.3 Technical Queries

11.3.1 Similarly, any technical queries arising from the specification detailed above, should be addressed to WYAAS without delay.

11.4 Valid Period of Specification

11.4.1 This specification is valid unless superseded by a later version. It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that they are working to the latest current WYAAS watching brief specification. Please check the WYAAS website for the latest version.

West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service

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APPENDIX B
POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Charlotte Britton

INTRODUCTION

A total of eight sherds (163.9g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the 2018 excavations at Micklegate, Pontefract (NGR: SE 45935 22147). All the pottery was recovered from a single unstratified context and was quantified by count and weight.

METHOD

This report presents the results of the assessment of that material examined in accordance with Barclay *et al.* (2016). All the material recovered was assessed by eye on 1st November 2018, with wares and date identified where possible (Table B1). Vessel form and decoration were also documented where practicable.

Table B1: wares present with date range, count and weight

Context		0	
Ware	Date	Count	Weight (g)
Brown glazed earthenware	18th century	1	102.8
Brown glazed ware	18th century	4	9.8
Slipware	18th century	1	19.6
Whiteware	19th century	2	31.7
Total		8	163.9

RESULTS

The assemblage dated to the post-medieval period (18th–19th century) and was classified as domestic ware. The assemblage represented a maximum of six vessels and was exclusively recovered from a single topsoil context (0). It therefore provides little information about the features excavated beyond indicating domestic use in the area in the post-medieval period. The area excavated was close to a house dating from the medieval period and a street of early 19th-century buildings including an inn dating from 1822. The pottery most likely originated from such buildings, and therefore supports conclusions that the area was populated during the 18th–19th century. All the pottery was British in origin, most likely produced in the local region, and the wares identified were highly characteristic of the period. The wares present included: brown glazed ware, brown glazed earthenware, slipware and painted whiteware. The forms were also typical of the period and wares, exclusively taking the form of hollow wares. A single sherd of painted whiteware appeared to show vitrification and sooting, indicating it may have been disposed of after having been burned.

RECOMMENDATIONS

All the pottery recovered dates from 18th–19th century and is in good condition. However, as it is highly characteristic of the period and region, and came exclusively from an unstratified context, it is recommended for discard.

REFERENCES

Barclay, A., Knight, D., Booth, P., Evans, J., Brown, D. and Wood, I. (2016) *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*. London: Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery and Medieval Pottery Research Group.

APPENDIX C

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIALS ASSESSMENT

Chrystal Antink

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the assessment of ceramic building materials (CBM) and mortar samples recovered from an archaeological watching brief in the Micklegate area of Pontefract (NGR: SE 45935 22147) during water main renewal. The CBM was recorded following current standards and guidance (Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group 2002). The assemblage comprised four fragments of bricks weighing 3,288g from two contexts and samples of mortar weighing 2,211g from three contexts. The bricks were all post-medieval but handmade (rather than machine-made), suggesting an 18th–19th century date.

METHOD

The count, weight, form, and any complete dimensions of the brick fragments were recorded on the 7th November 2018 in a Microsoft Access database. Fabric descriptions and any other characteristics, such as unusual firing evidence, stamps, glaze, and external effects were noted, as well as the presence of mortar and evidence of reuse. A catalogue is available with the archive.

The mortar samples were recorded in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, including descriptions of weight, inclusions and fabric character. A catalogue is available with the archive.

RESULTS

The bricks were all handmade. Complete dimensions were compared with McComish (2015) and Davey (1961); all were post-medieval and most likely date to about AD1784–1850. Two of the fragments showed signs of possible reuse (mortar on broken surfaces) and three had mortar still adhering to their surfaces. The near-complete example had mortar remaining on its two faces, with significant sooting over the mortar on the top.

There were four mortar samples taken from three contexts and all appeared different (although those from Wall 6 and one from Wall 9 were similar). It is of note that they were generally not the same as the mortar remnants adhering to the bricks.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

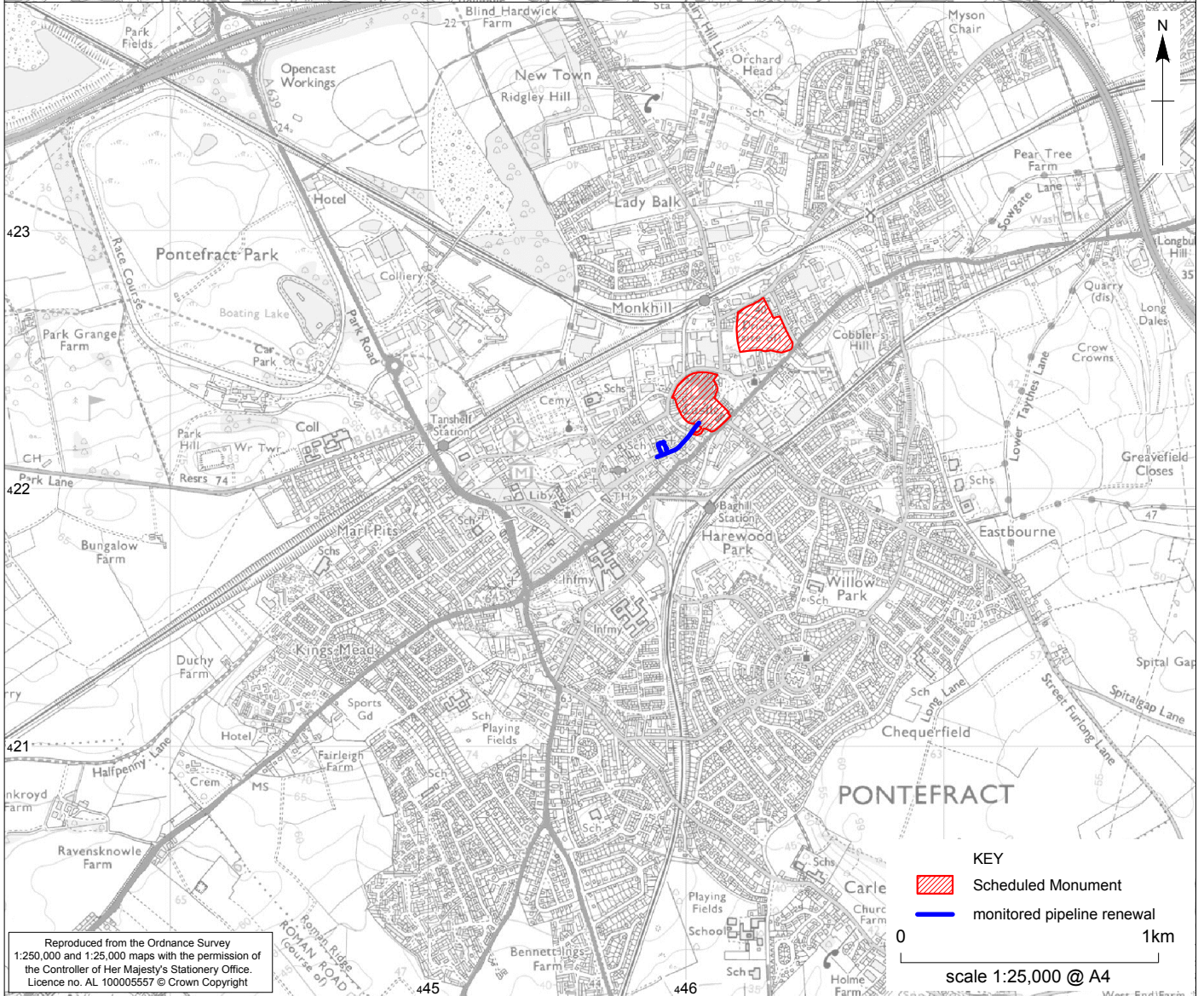
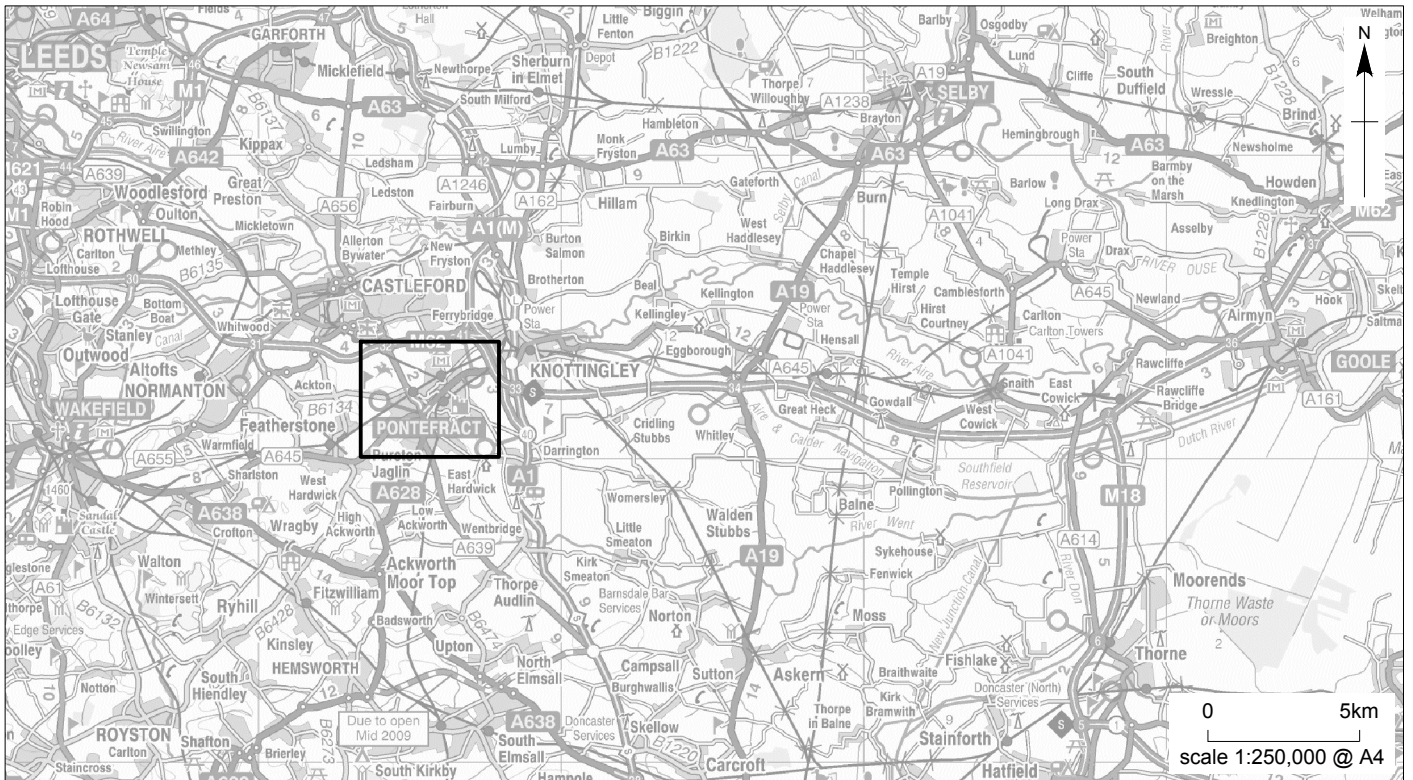
Overall, the bricks are typical of post-medieval urban areas and are not recommended for retention. The mortar samples, as well as the mortar adhering to the bricks, would benefit from analysis by a specialist, and their recommendations for retention or discard taken into account.

REFERENCES

Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002) *Minimum Standards for Recovery, Curation, Analysis, and Publication for Ceramic Building Material*. Draft Minimum Standards.

Davey, N. (1961) *A History of Building Materials*. London: Phoenix House Publications.

McComish, J. M. (2015) *A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials*. York Archaeological Trust Web Based Report No. 2015/36.

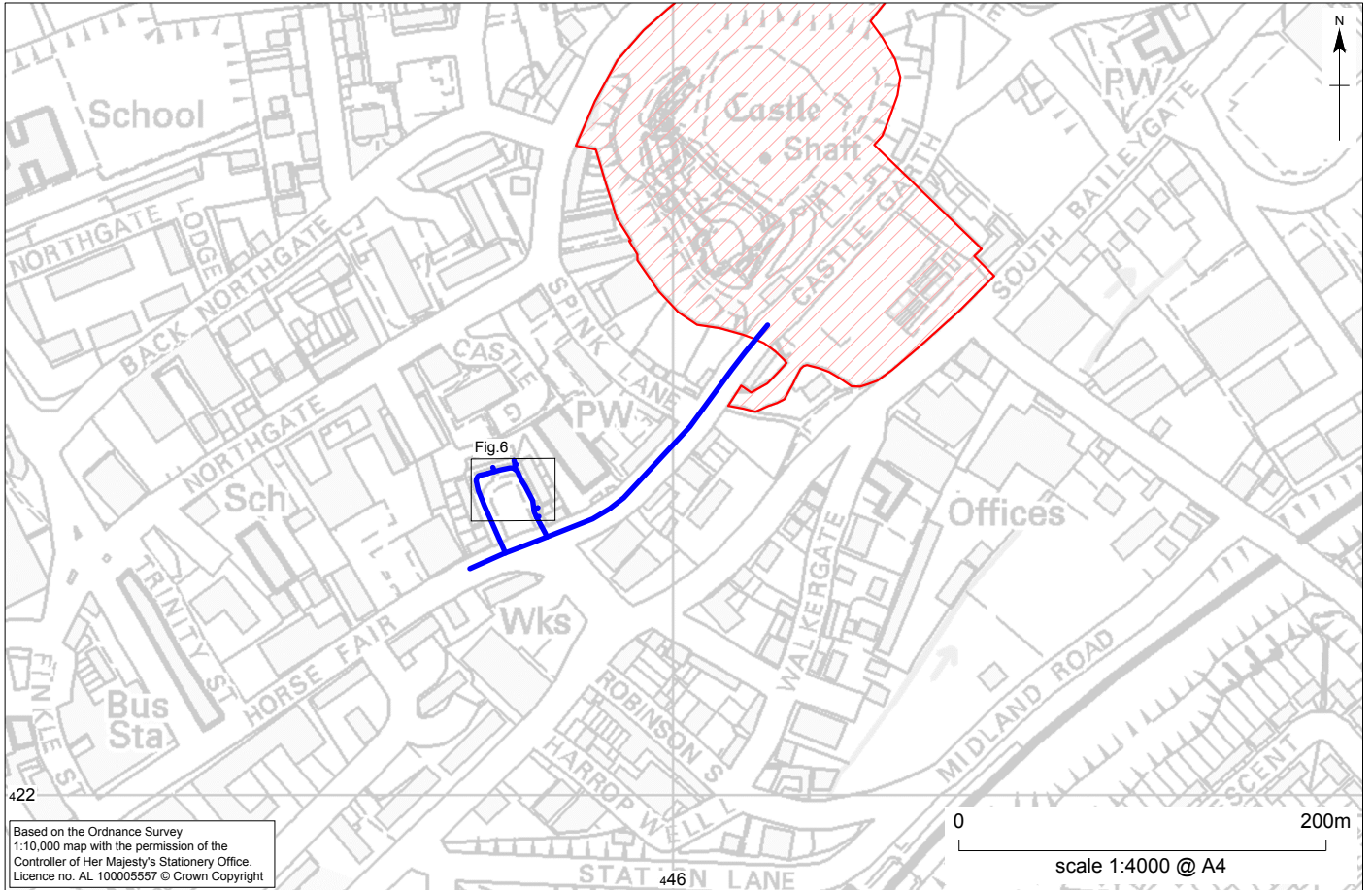


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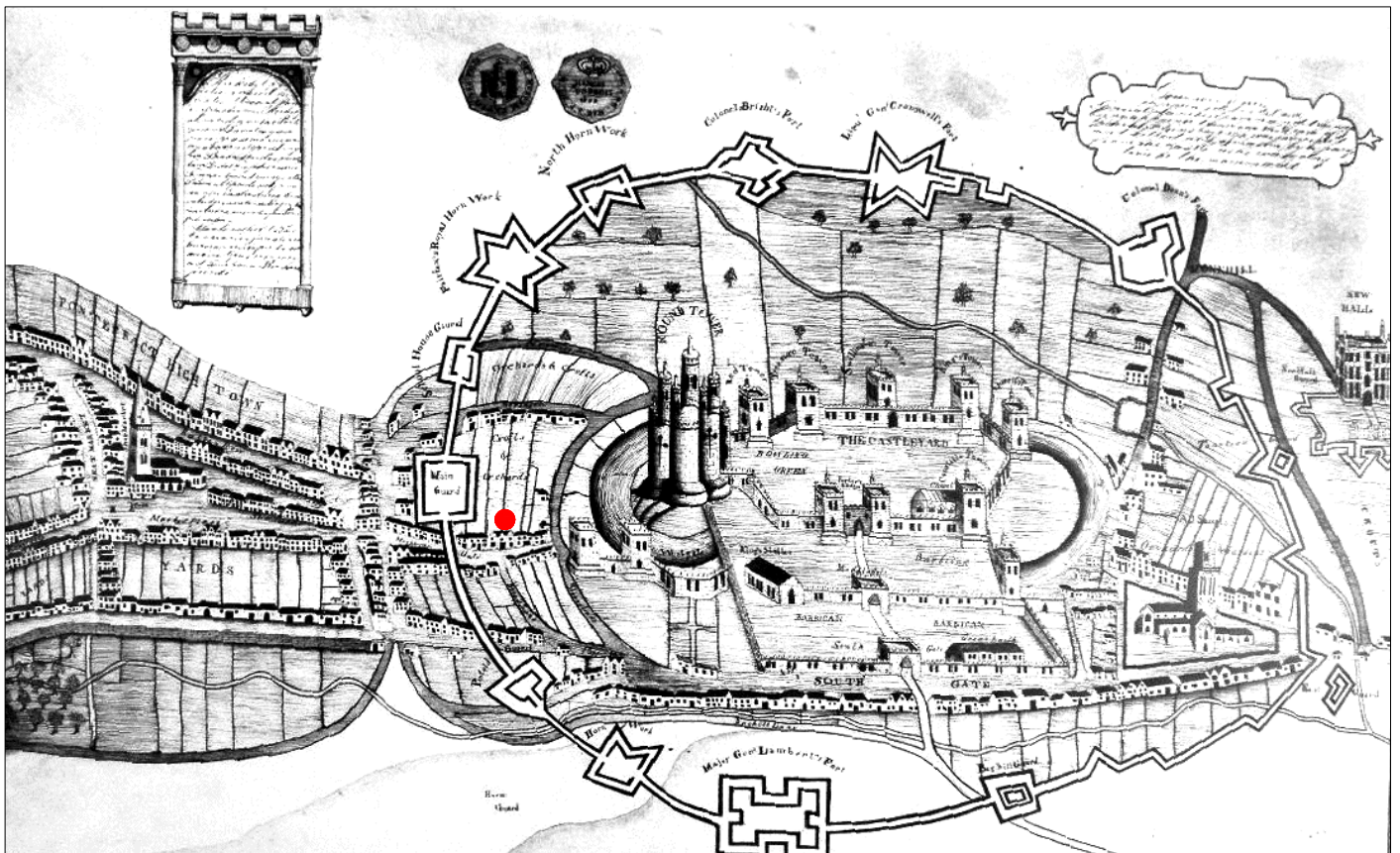
Horsefair, Pontefract: site location

Figure 1



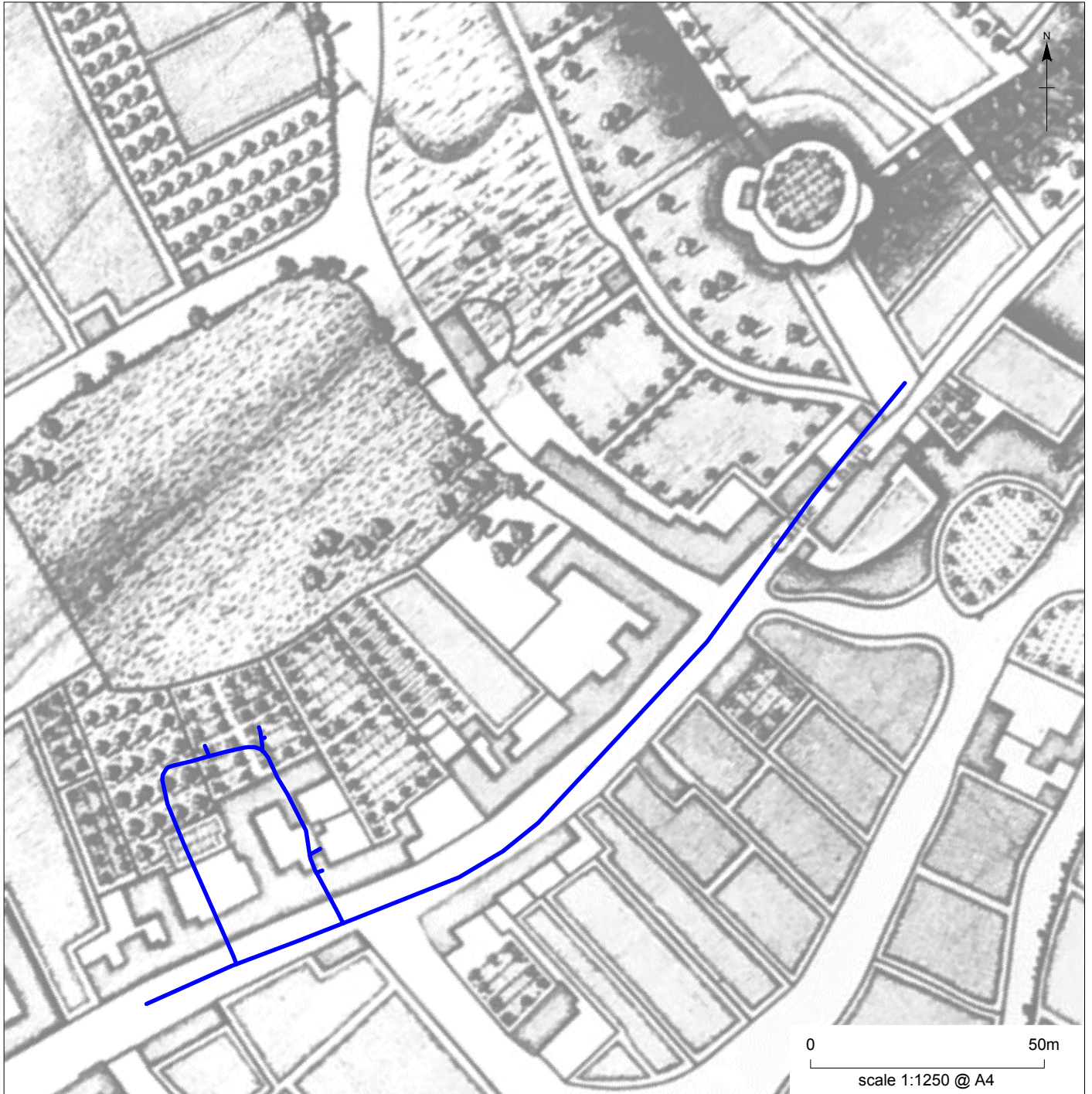
Horseshair, Pontefract: route of monitored pipeline renewal

Figure 2



Horseshair, Pontefract: approximate location of Micklegate Square
overlain on siege map of 1645

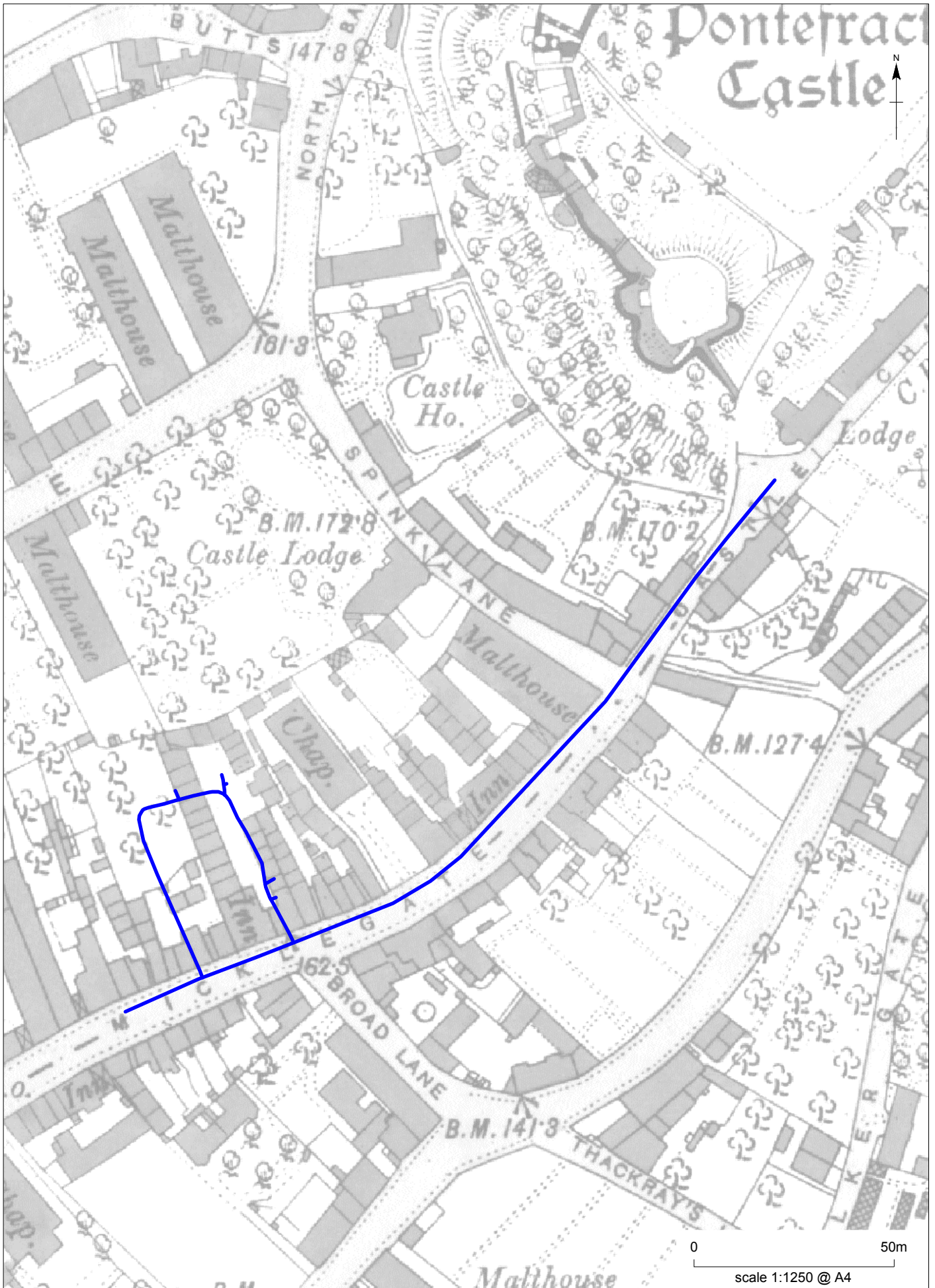
Figure 3



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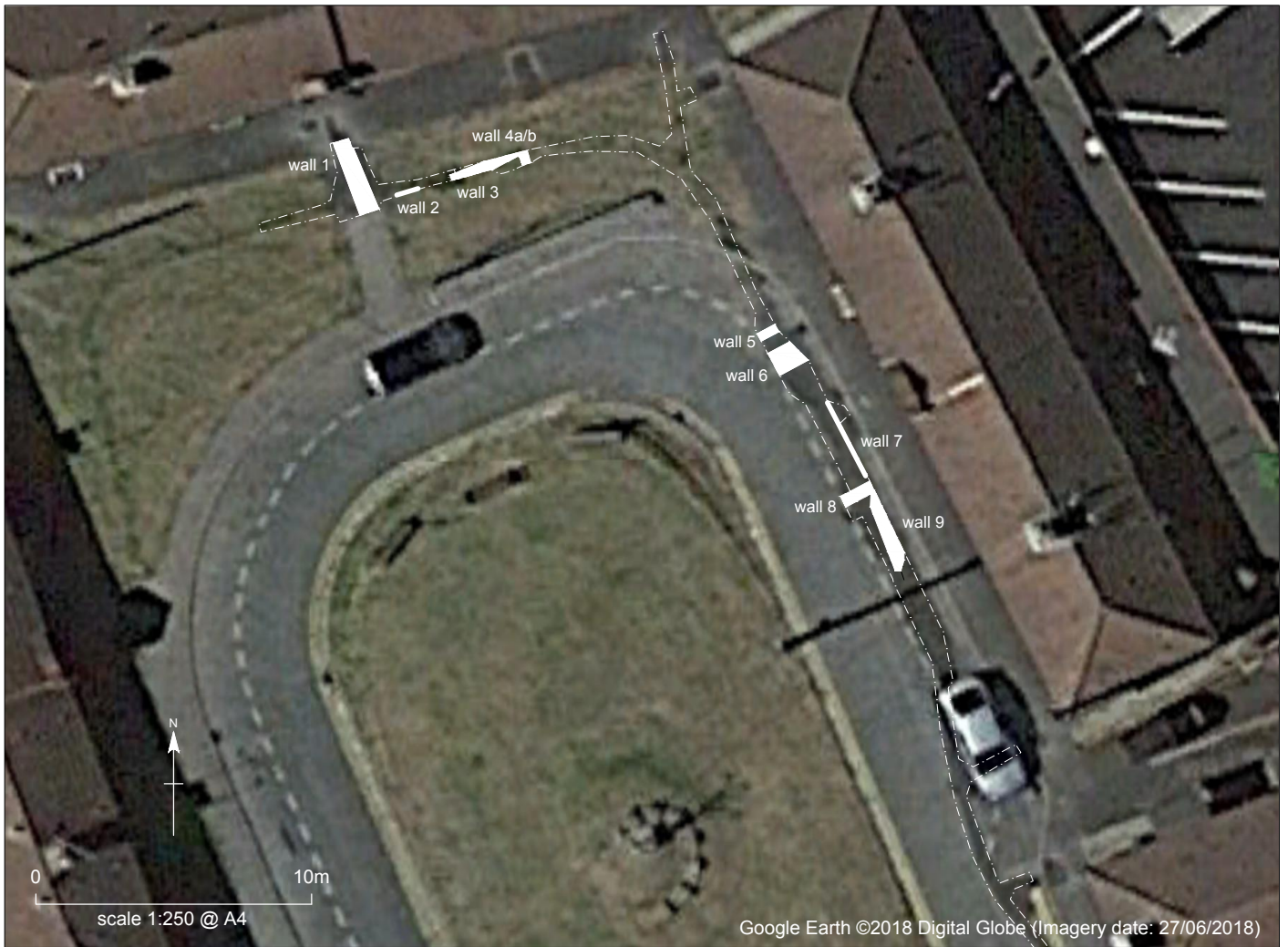
Horsefair, Pontefract: route of pipeline renewal overlain on Jollage's plan of 1742

Figure 4

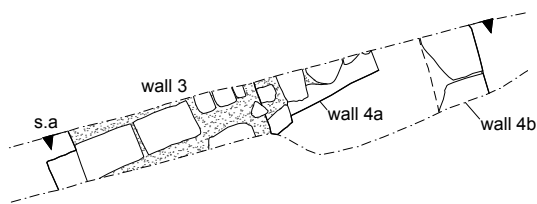


Horsefair, Pontefract: route of pipeline renewal overlain on 1893 25-inch Ordnance Survey map

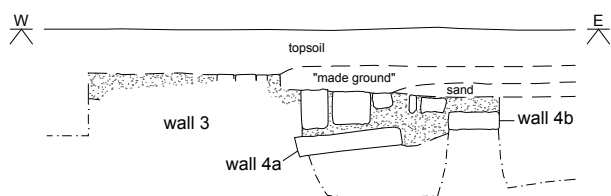
Figure 5



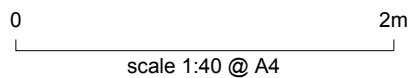
Walls 3, 4a and 4b



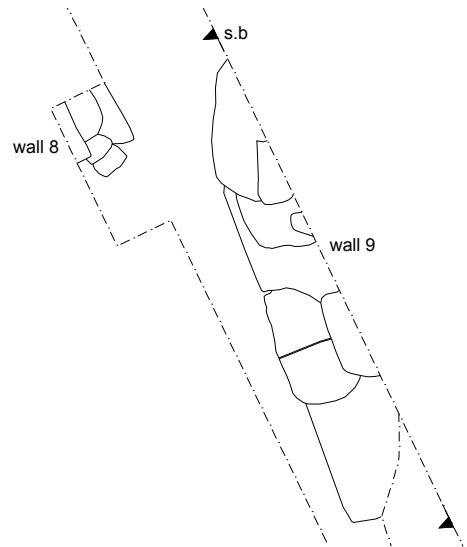
Section a



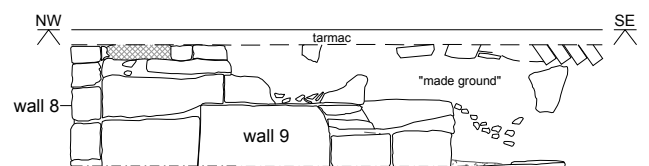
- KEY
- ash
 - mortar



Walls 8 and 9



Section b





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Horsefair, Pontefract: 1893 25-inch Ordnance Survey map showing excavated walls (red)

Figure 7