

# NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES LTD

*The Paddock, Cleasby, North Yorkshire*

## NEGATIVE WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

**Site name:** The Paddock, Cleasby

**Grid reference:** NZ 25075 13050

**District:** Richmondshire

**County:** North Yorkshire

**Administrative authority:** Richmondshire District Council

**Development:** Residential

**Client:** Dere Street Homes

**Planning application reference:** 1/94/10A/OUT

**Site supervisor:** Derek Evans

**Project manager:** Richard Fraser

**Date(s):** December 2010 to February 2011 (intermittent)

**NAA project number:** 966

**Site code:** TPC10

**NAA report number:** NAA 11/24

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### Reasons for watching brief

The watching brief was maintained during site infrastructure works in advance of residential development of The Paddock, Cleasby, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1), and fulfilled a condition attached to planning permission granted for the development. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with recommendations set out in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site (NAA 2010a) and a subsequent written scheme of investigation (NAA 2010b).

The site lay within an area of archaeological potential, a detailed account of which is included in the DBA. Cleasby is first recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. Its plan, with the village centred on a common green, is typical of medieval villages in the Tees Valley. The watching brief site lay to the immediate east of the wedge-shaped village green, from which it was separated by a row of 18th/early-19th century buildings. The northern and southern boundaries of the site continue those of the green, and it is possible that the site may be the original eastern end of the medieval village green, which was cut off by 18th century development.

Historic cartography shows that the site has been open greenspace for at least the last 150 years, and there is no evidence for former buildings within its boundary. Prior to the development, the site served as an extended domestic curtilage associated with grade II-listed Cleasby House, which was built c.1780 and lies to the immediate south of the site, on the opposite site of Stapleton Road.

## **Results** (Plates 1-4)

The monitored groundworks comprised the following excavations (Fig. 2):

- a temporary drainage trench (Trench 1; 0.9m wide, 1m deep);
- a trench for a new stream culvert at the southern limit of the site (Trench 2; 2m wide, 0.4m deep);
- a trench to expose an existing sewer pipe (Trench 3; 1m wide, 0.8m deep);
- new sewer channels (Trenches 4 to 6; 3m to 4.4m wide, max. 3m deep).

All excavations were carried out by a back-acting excavator operating under constant archaeological supervision.

The natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.6m to 0.8m below the present ground surface. It comprised sandy gravel in the north-eastern part of the site and became gradually clayier as it moved south- and westwards, until it was orange-brown sandy clay at the southern site limit.

The natural deposits were sealed by up to 0.55m of orange-brown silty clay subsoil, which was covered in turn by the grey-brown clay-silt topsoil layer (which measured between 0.25m and 0.4m in thickness).

No archaeological deposits or pre-modern artefacts were encountered. This is consistent with cartographic evidence showing that the site has been open greenspace for at least the last 150 years, and does not contradict the hypothesis that the site may constitute the original eastern end of the medieval village green.

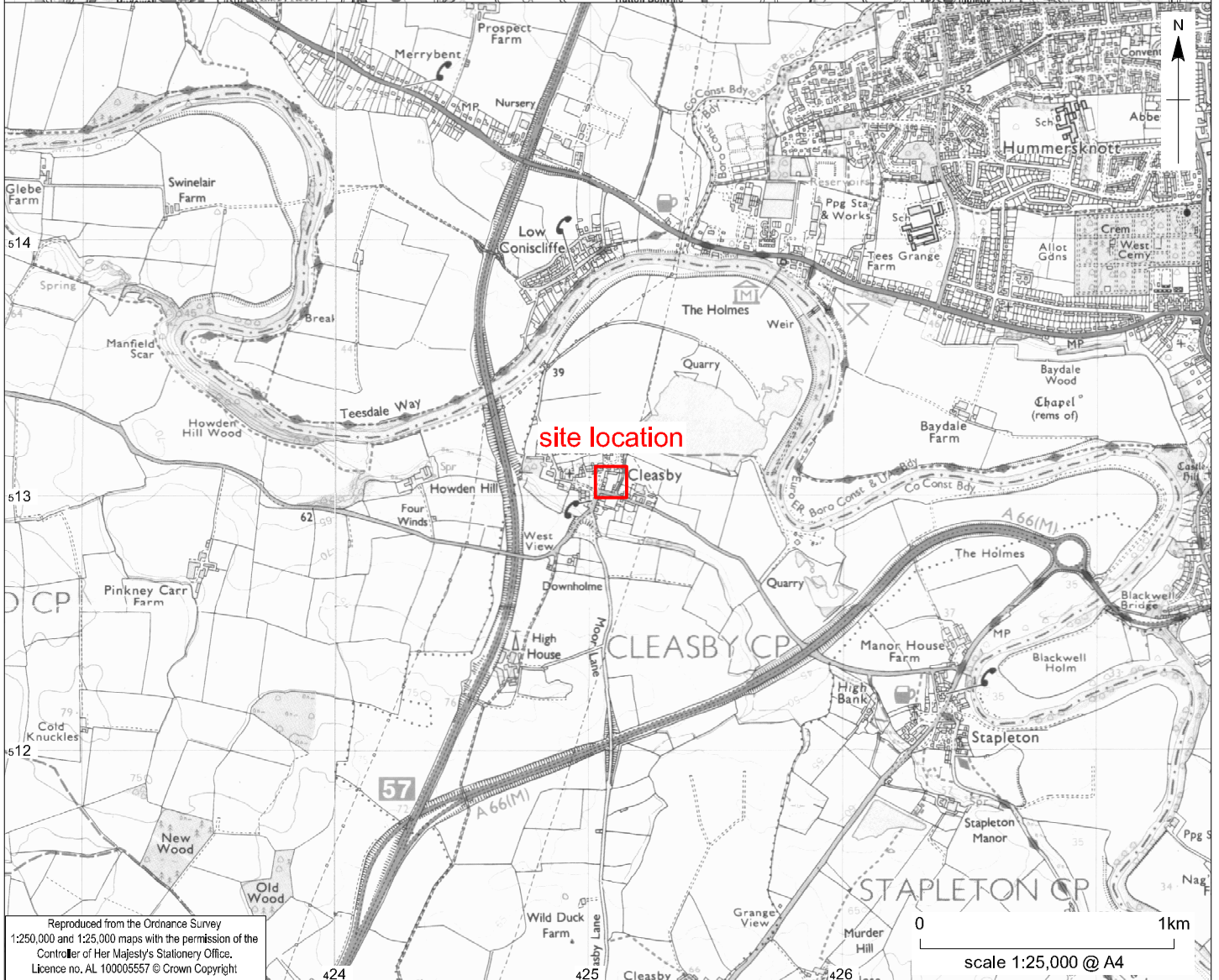
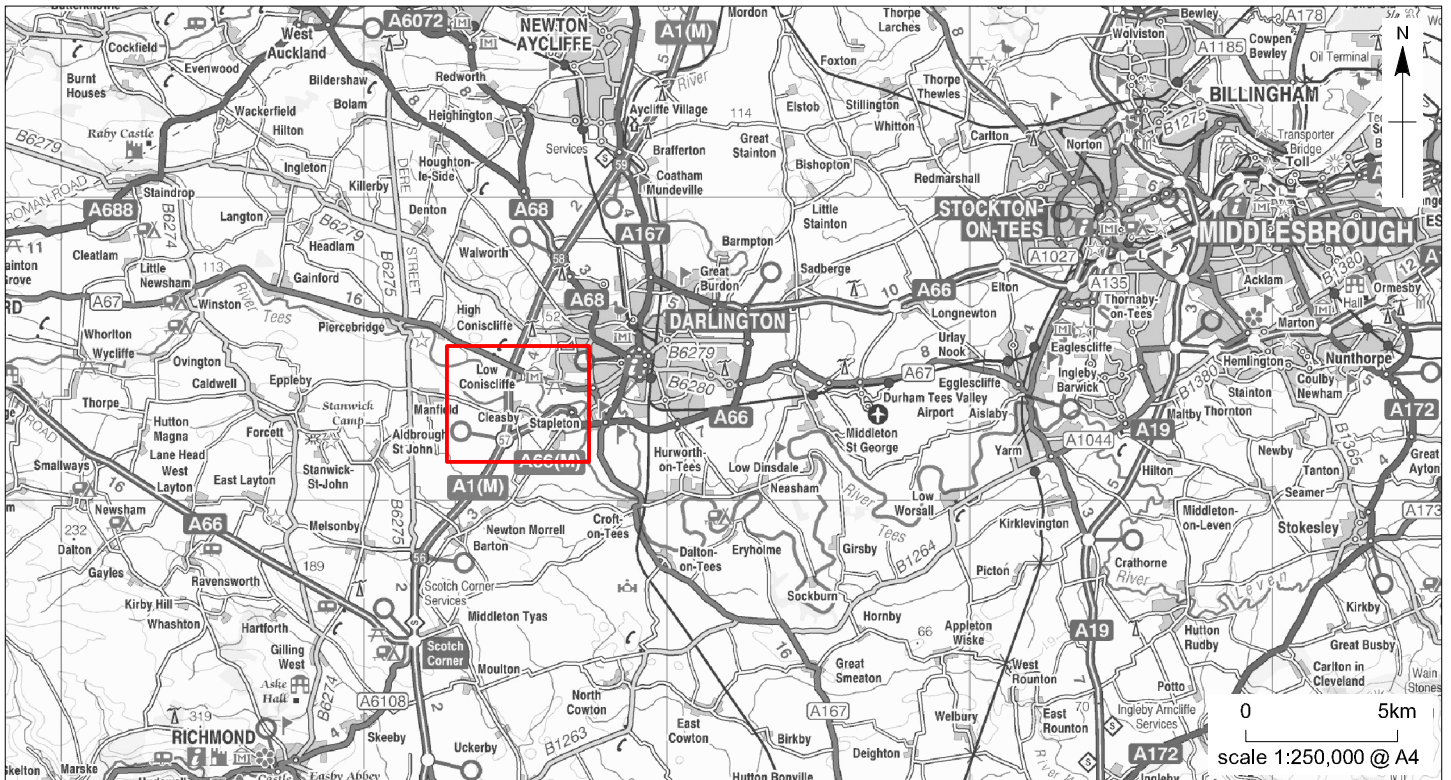
## **Conclusions**

In the light of the negative result from the watching brief on the sewer, drainage and culvert excavations, further groundworks associated with the residential development of the site (including the excavation of foundation trenches) can be undertaken without the need for archaeological monitoring. This is in compliance with the watching brief written scheme of investigation (NAA 2010b), and advice from Beverley Booth, Post-Determination Planning Officer, Richmondshire District Council.

**Archive deposition:** The site records will be archived internally.

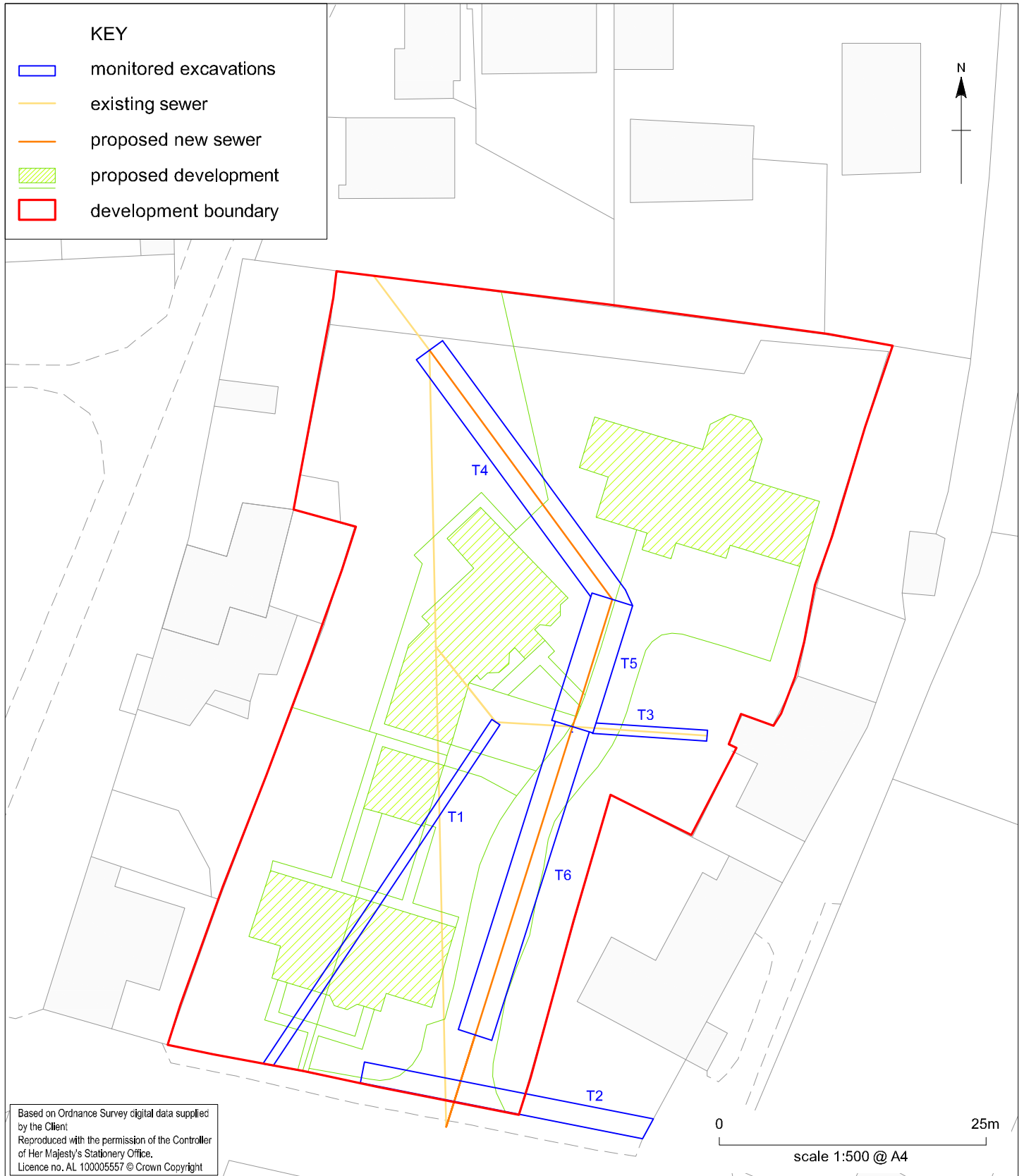
## **References**

- NAA (Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd) (2010a) *The Paddock, Cleasby, North Yorkshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* NAA Report **10/58**
- NAA (Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd) (2010b) *The Paddock, Cleasby, North Yorkshire: Archaeological Watching Brief – Written Scheme of Investigation* NAA Report **10/72**



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The Paddock, Cleasby: monitored groundworks

Figure 2



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*Trench 1, facing north-east*

*Plate 1*



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*Trench 2 (eastern end), facing south-east*

*Plate 2*





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*Trenches 6 (foreground) and 5, facing north*

*Plate 3*



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*Trench 6, facing south*

*Plate 4*