



NEGATIVE  
WATCHING BRIEF  
REPORT

RYECROFT ROAD  
HAINWORTH  
WEST YORKSHIRE

prepared for  
Morrisons Utilities Service  
on behalf of  
Yorkshire Water

NAA 20-100  
November 2020

QUALITY ASSURANCE	
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Client Morrisons Utilities Service Ltd on behalf of Yorkshire Water Ltd

Location Ryecroft Road, Hainworth, West Yorkshire, BD21 5QP

District City of Bradford

Parish Keighley

Grid Ref SE 06516 38659 to SE 06670 38634

Site Supervisor Kev Collins

Fieldwork dates 27-30 October 2020

Development type Two sections of new water pipeline

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RYECROFT ROAD, HAINWORTH, WEST YORKSHIRE  
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### Reasons for watching brief

As part of the Pitts-Hainworth SRE Dedicated Inlet Main Project, a new section of water main was laid along Ryecroft Road and into an existing pumping station (SE 06653 38626; Fig. 1). The pipeline route crossed one of two alternative projected routes of a Roman road between Littleborough and Ilkley (W. Yorks. HER PRN 579; Margary 1973, road 720a; Haken 2018). David Hunter of West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service therefore recommended archaeological monitoring of groundworks on this part of the route, with recording of any archaeological features encountered and recovery of any finds.

### Results

Excavation of a trench 2m wide by 1.2m deep along Ryecroft Road, crossing the projected line of a Roman road at right angles, revealed that the area had been disturbed by the construction of the modern road and various modern utilities trenches (Plate 1). At the southern end of the road trench the pipeline route turned to the north-east into a field adjacent to the pumping station. This part of the route approximately followed the suggested line of the Roman road. Dark brown silty sand topsoil was stripped over an area of 15m x 5m to a depth of 0.20m (Plate 2). This revealed undisturbed natural sandstone and sand. Subsequent monitoring of 24m of 0.07m wide by 1.2m-deep pipe trench across this area also recorded only undisturbed natural geology (Plate 3), with no archaeological features or artefacts identified.

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered. However, due to the level of disturbance observed within the road trench, this negative result should not be taken as proof that Roman Road 720a does not pass through this area.

**Archive deposition:** Internal at NAA

### References

Haken, M. (2018) 'Roman Roads in Yorkshire', Roman Roads Research Association. *The Roads of Roman Britain: A Gazetteer*. [Online] Available at: <https://roadsfromainbritain.org/yorkshire.html> (accessed on 28/10/2020).

Margary, I. D. (1973) *The Roman Roads of Britain*. London: John Baker.





*Plate 1: sample section of road trench showing depth of disturbance*



*Plate 2: area in field during stripping, facing NE*



*Plate 3: pipe trench in field showing topsoil over natural  
Ryecroft Road, Hainworth, West Yorkshire: plates*