

**NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES LTD**  
**RIVER TORNE, ROSSINGTON**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**

**Site name:** River Torne, Rossington      **Grid reference:** SK 613 963

**County:** South Yorkshire      **Administrative authority:** Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

**Development:** Water main renewal

**Client:** Yorkshire Water Services Ltd      **Contractor:** Morrison Utility Services Ltd

**Monitoring archaeologist:** Kevin Collins      **Project manager:** Oliver Cooper

**Site code:** RTR19      **NAA project number:** 1498      **NAA report number:** 19-80

**Date(s) of fieldwork:** 20/5/19 to 05/6/19      **Report date:** 22/08/19

### **Introduction**

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the renewal of a water mains at Stancil Farm, Stancil, Doncaster (SK 613963; Fig. 1). As part of the preliminary investigation, two boreholes were required adjacent to the River Torne and, in order to get the drill rig to the site, a heavily-rutted farm track (Plate 1) across a small paddock was refurbished (Fig 2). This involved the excavation of existing material and replacement with imported hardcore.

Archaeological monitoring was agreed with Historic England as the track refurbishment was partly within the Scheduled Monument of Stancil Roman Villa (1004789). There was also potential for exposing archaeological features and finds from the Iron Age, Anglo Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. The monitoring sought to record the presence of any archaeological remains associated with the villa or any of its associated features, and to ensure works were confined to the footprint of the existing trackway, preventing any damage to the Scheduled area.

The excavation of starter pits for two boreholes (one on either side of the River Torne) was also monitored.

## Background

An appraisal of the pipeline renewal (NAA 2019- see Table 1, below, and Fig. 2) established that, while Stancil Villa has not been examined in much detail, excavation at the site in 1938–9 revealed Romano-British pottery, oyster shells and flue tiles, and “80 skeletons and medieval and later glassware” (Historic England 2019), while fieldwalking in 1989 recorded, but didn’t remove, “substantial concentrations of limestone rubble, tile, pottery (both fine and coarse), some glass and glassy slag, plaster fragments and pieces of cement” (*ibid.*).



*Plate 1. View of rutted farm track prior to refurbishment*

## Results

The farm track excavations took place within the footprint of the existing track, thus preventing any damage to the Scheduled Monument. The trackway ran across a paddock in an almost north/south direction for a distance of 133m, with a width of 4m. The excavation was carried out using a 360° excavator with a ditching bucket, and spoil was carried to a stockpile by a dumper truck. The track ran from a gate adjacent to the farmhouse (SK 60831 96010) across the paddock to a second gate (SK 60885 96129); excavation continued for a distance of 3.5m into the adjoining field. The existing trackway, comprising 0.2m of topsoil (mid-yellowish brown



silty sand) mixed with brick and stone hardcore (Plate 2) was removed, revealing the natural sand. The heaviest concentrations of brick infill were located at the two gateways, extending over a distance of 10m along the southern end of the track and a distance of 8m at the northern end of the track.



*Plate 2. Bricks and rubble within old track surface*

Within the topsoil were several Roman and medieval pottery sherds and a few iron objects, which were recovered for assessment. No archaeological features were revealed within the excavated area.

On either side of the River Torne, the excavation of the starter pits for the two boreholes was monitored. The pits measured approximately 0.4m square and were hand-dug to a depth of c. 1.2m. The pits were in close proximity to the river; Borehole 1 was at SK 61252 96398 on the western side of the river (Plate 3) and Borehole 2, at SK 61316 96406, was on the eastern side. No archaeological finds or features were revealed within either of these starter pits, although the material within Borehole 2 was organic-rich (Plate 4), possibly indicating an earlier course of the river.





*Plate 3. Borehole 1 starter pit on west side of River Torne, showing natural silty clay*



*Plate 4. Clay and organic material from Borehole 2 starter pit on east side of River Torne*

Table 1. Heritage assets identified in appraisal (see Fig. 2 for locations)

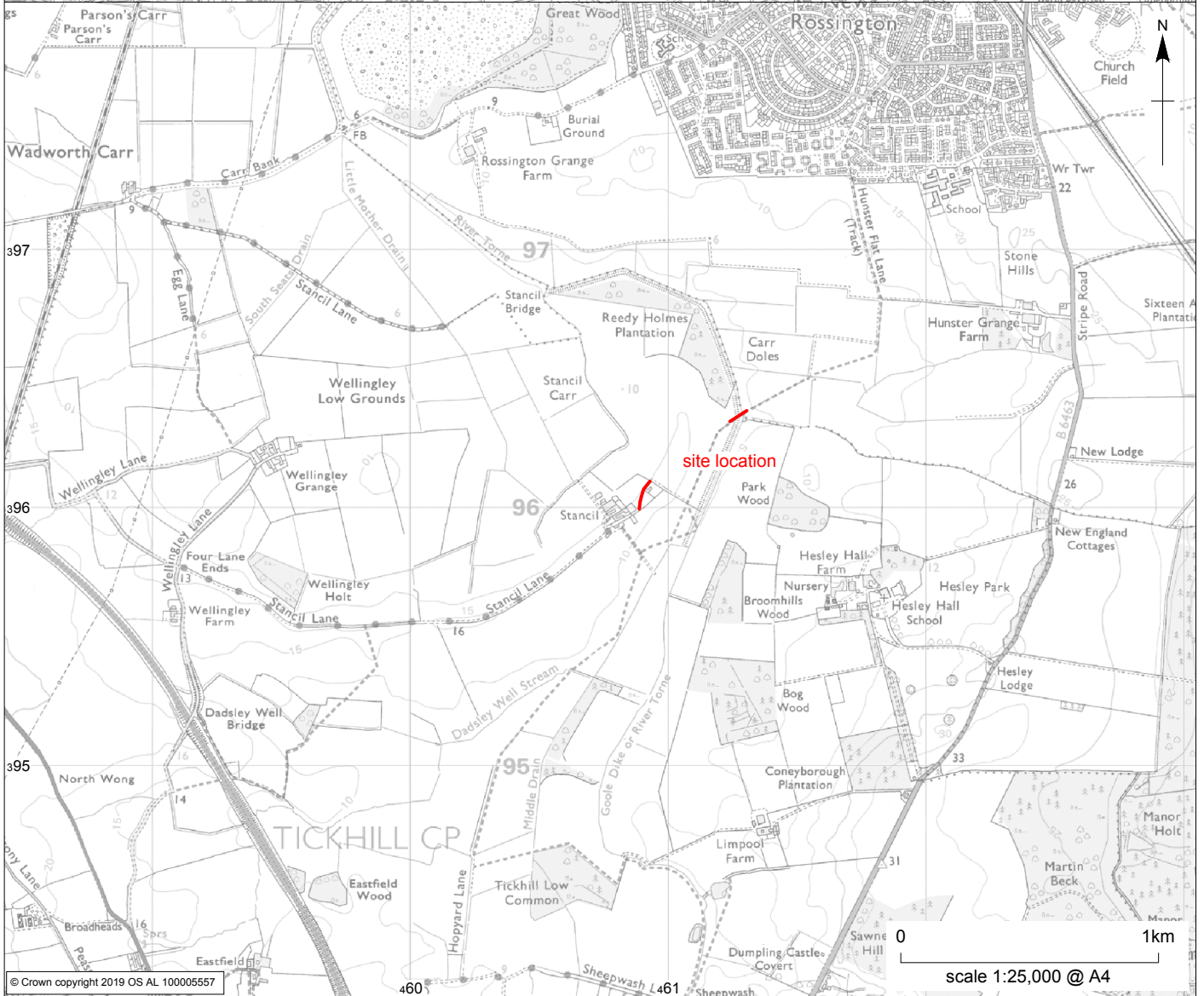
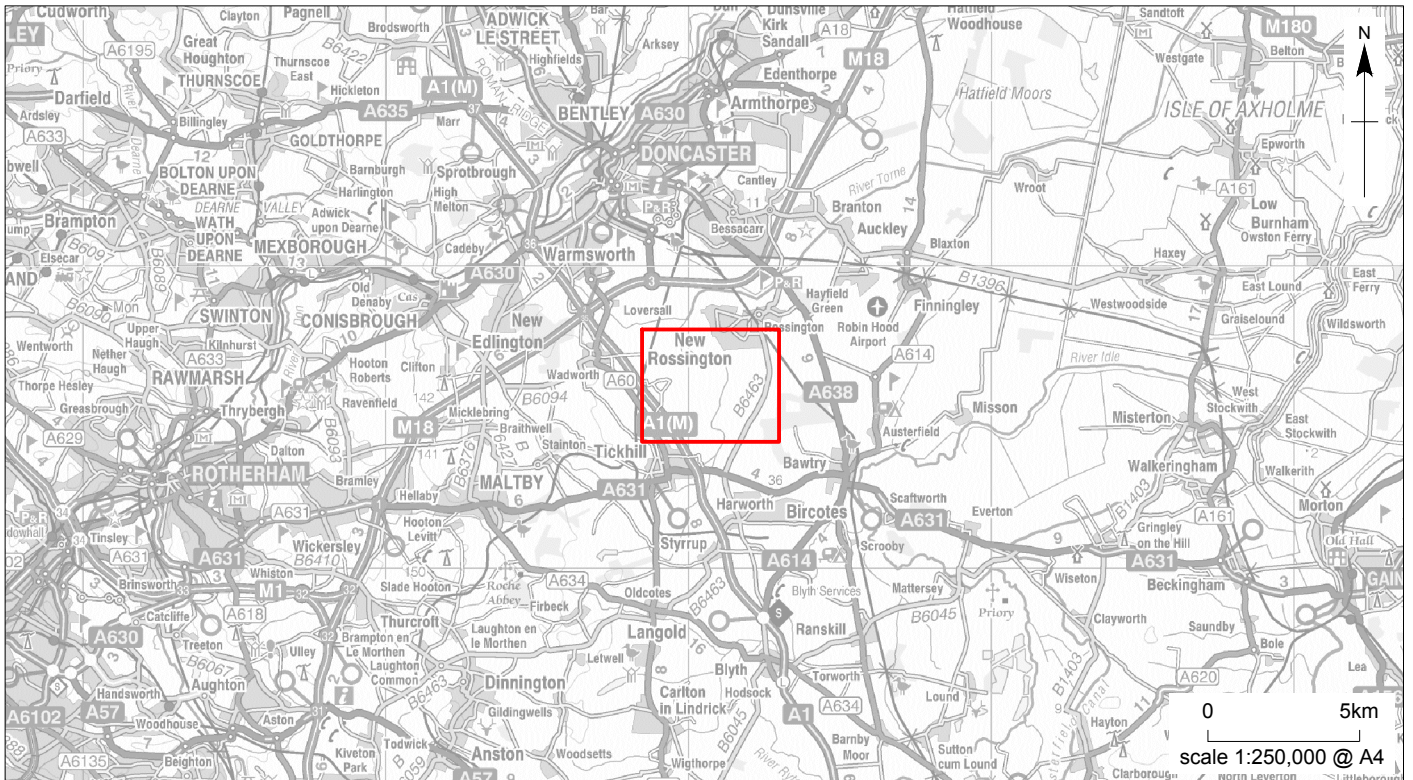
HA	Ref	NGR			Description	Period/date
1	1004789	SK	6090	9600	Stancil Villa (Scheduled Monument)	Roman
2	4414	SK	6090	9590	Finds from fieldwalking: coins, brooches, pottery, metalworking debris- part of above site	Roman and Anglo-Saxon
3	n/a	SK	6100	9610	Trackway (cropmark)	Iron Age to Roman
4	1436669	SK	6014	9635	Ditches (cropmarks)	Iron Age to Roman
5	1436704	SK	6028	9527	Field system, trackways and enclosures (cropmarks)	Iron Age to Roman
6	1436711	SK	6045	9590	Field system, trackways and enclosures (cropmarks)	Iron Age to Roman
7	620415	SK	6055	9713	Two circular enclosures (cropmarks)	Prehistoric to Roman
8	620409	SK	6112	9724	Field system, trackways and enclosures (cropmarks)	Iron Age to Roman
9	1025675	SK	6150	9560	Field system, trackways and enclosures (cropmarks)	Iron Age to Roman
10	620418	SK	6156	9601	Field system, trackways and enclosures (cropmarks)	Iron Age to Roman
11	320798	SK	6070	9600	Stancil shrunken settlement	Medieval
12	320858	SK	6161	9581	Hesley shrunken settlement	Medieval
13	1436822	SK	6142	9605	Ridge and furrow cultivation (earthworks)	Post-medieval

## References

Historic England (2019) *Pastscape: Monument No. 320822, Stancil Villa*. [Online] Available at: [https://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob\\_id=320822](https://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=320822) (accessed 13/03/2019)

Northern Archaeological Associates (2019) *River Torne, Rossington, South Yorkshire: Rapid Desk-Based Appraisal*. Unpublished client report 19/29





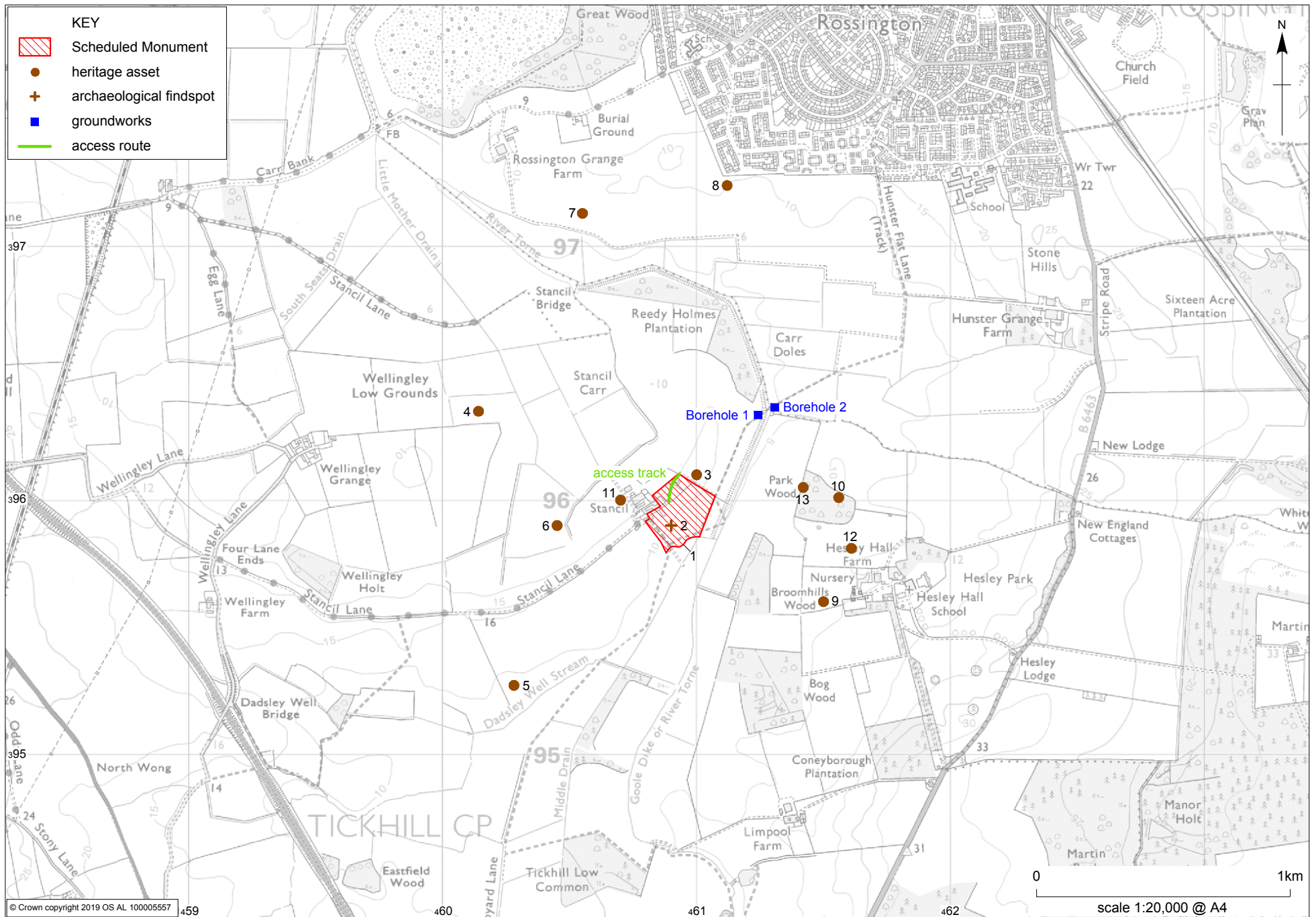
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River Torne, Rossington: site location

Figure 1





River Torne, Rossington: location of groundworks showing heritage assets within 1km

Figure 2