

**NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES LTD**  
**CLITHEROE STREET WATER MAIN, SKIPTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE**  
**Negative Watching Brief Report**

**Site name:** Clitheroe Street Water Main, Skipton                      **Grid reference:** SD 97867 51482

**Parish:** Skipton: Holy Trinity                      **District:** Craven                      **County:** North Yorkshire

**Administrative authority:** North Yorkshire County Council                      **Development:** Water Main

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

**Site supervisor:** Holly Drinkwater                      **Project manager:** Oliver Cooper

**Fieldwork Date(s):** 14/10/2019 – 18/10/2019

**NAA project number:** 1495                      **Site code:** SCS19

**NAA report number:** 19/102                      **Report date:** 18 October 2019

### **Reasons for watching brief**

The methodology for installation of the new water pipeline consisted of directional drilling from a launch pit excavated in Greenfield Street, passing beneath the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, into a reception pit excavated along the southern edge of the golf course to the north of the canal. A second reception pit was excavated at the southern edge of the golf course, 100m to the west, next to the existing water main. These reception pits were then linked by further directional drilling to negate the need for additional disturbance to the golf course.

An appraisal of the proposed work (NAA 2019) concluded that no archaeological mitigation was necessary for areas to the south of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, where the launch pit for the directional drilling was excavated. This area had been heavily disturbed by the construction of the 18th-century canal and by rows of 19th-century terraced housing and the potential for the survival of any archaeological remains was deemed low.

The area to the north of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal is currently in use as a local golf course within Aireville Park. Historic mapping prior to any large-scale 19th-century development shows the area to be primarily agricultural, comprising long, narrow strip-fields likely to be medieval in origin. Denuded earthworks relating to ridge and furrow can be seen running from north to south along the slope to the north of the reception pits and these have the potential to be medieval in date (Plate 1).

A geophysical survey conducted within Wyvern Park, to the south-east of the development area, identified agricultural and settlement activity that is likely of prehistoric or Roman origin, and there is the possibility that the field systems and settlement could continue to the north into the development area. No previous archaeological work has been undertaken in the area north of the canal and therefore there is some archaeological potential there.



*Plate 1: Ridge and furrow to the north of the reception pits, looking north-west.*

## **Results**

### **Reception Pit 1 (Plate 2)**

The first reception pit for the directional drilling was excavated by machine along the southern edge of the golf course, directly opposite the site compound located on Greenfield Street (Fig. 2). An area measuring 13.5m by 8.5m was stripped of topsoil to a depth of 0.3m, with a 1.1m deep L-shaped channel then dug into the natural clay geology to accommodate the water pipe. No archaeological features were recorded. Deposits comprised a 0.5m thick layer of black topsoil overlying a 0.1m thick mid-yellowish brown silty clay subsoil. The subsoil layer had accumulated directly above the natural stony clay. The only finds comprised several sherds of

transfer-printed 19th to 20th-century pottery from the topsoil which were not retained. The deposits within Reception Pit 1 probably relate to landscaping activity associated with the golf course.



*Plate 2: Reception Pit 1 showing accumulation of topsoil and subsoil. Looking south across the Leeds and Liverpool Canal towards the launch pit on Greenfield Street.*

### **Reception Pit 2 (Plate 3)**

The second reception pit was situated approximately 100m to the west of the first, directly in front of the drystone wall defining the southern edge of the golf course. The pit measured 2.2m by 1.5m and was excavated to a depth of 1m. As with the first reception pit, no archaeological features were encountered and deposits comprised a 0.36m thick layer of topsoil and 0.1m of mid-yellowish brown silty clay subsoil, heavily disturbed by rooting, which had accumulated over the natural stony clay.

There was no evidence for ridge and furrow in this area, suggesting that the area around the current works had been heavily disturbed by post-medieval activity, relating either to the construction of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal or to the landscaping of the present golf course. No further archaeological work is therefore deemed necessary along this edge of the canal.

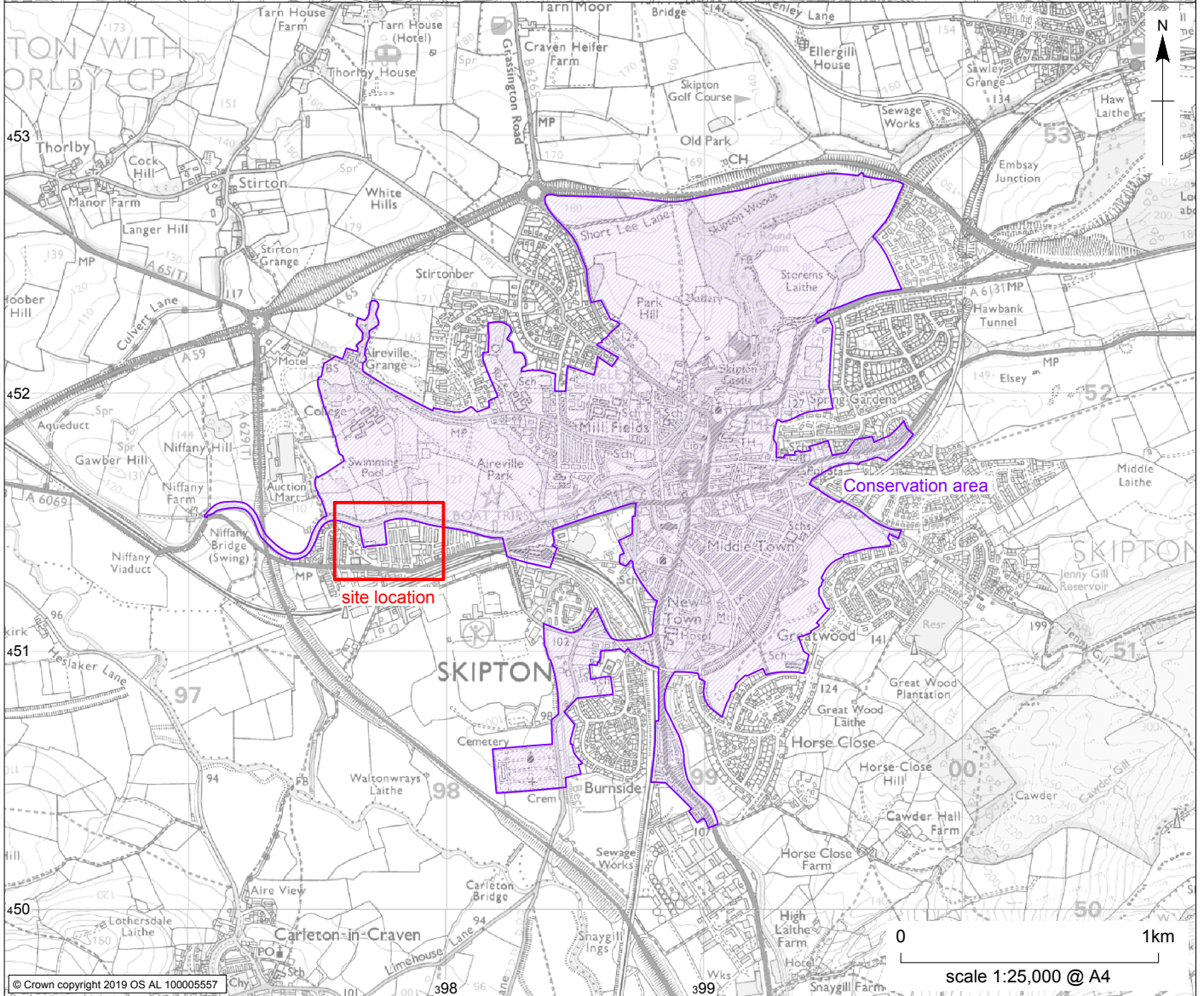
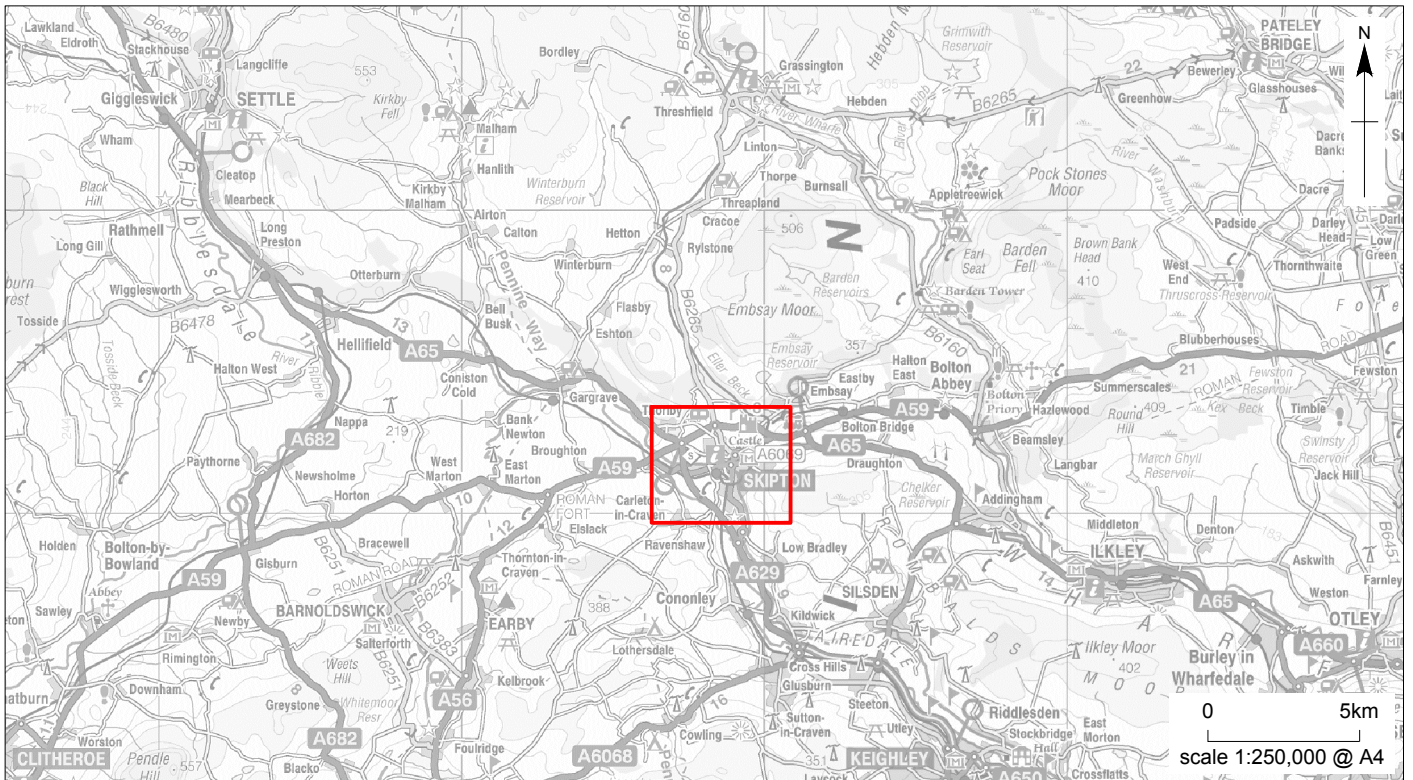


*Plate 3: Reception Pit 2 showing accumulation of topsoil and subsoil and substantial root disturbance. Looking south-east towards the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.*

**Documentation and archive deposition:** Due to the absence of archaeological features, no paper archive was created. The site was recorded via digital photography stored internally at NAA.

#### **Reference**

NAA (2019) *Clitheroe Street Water Main, Skipton, North Yorkshire: Desk-Based Cultural Heritage Appraisal*. Unpublished NAA client report 19/26.



© Crown copyright 2019 OS AL 100005557  
 © NAA 2019

Clitheroe Street, Skipton: site location

Figure 1



*Clitheroe Street Sipton: pit locations*

*Figure 2*