

WATER MAIN RENEWAL, GILLYGATE, YORK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Site Name: Gillygate, York

Administrative Authority: City of York

Development: Water main relining

Client: Yorkshire Water Services Ltd

Contractor: Morrison Utility Services Ltd

Monitoring Archaeologist: Kevin Collins

Project Manager: Oliver Cooper

NAA Project Number: 1367

Monitoring Dates: 24/04/17 to 26/04/17

NAA Report Number: 17/92

NAA Report Date: 21/06/17

Reasons for watching brief

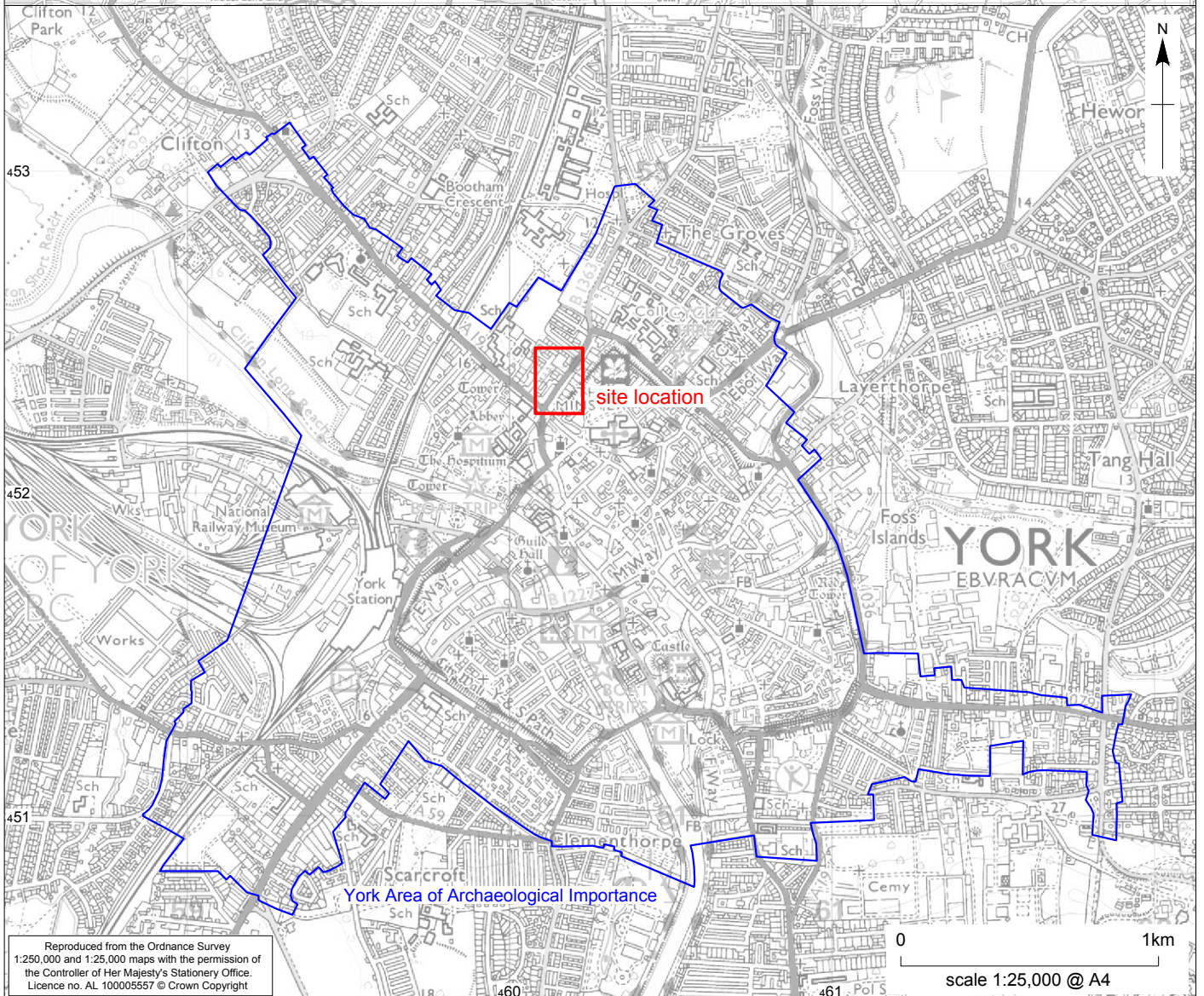
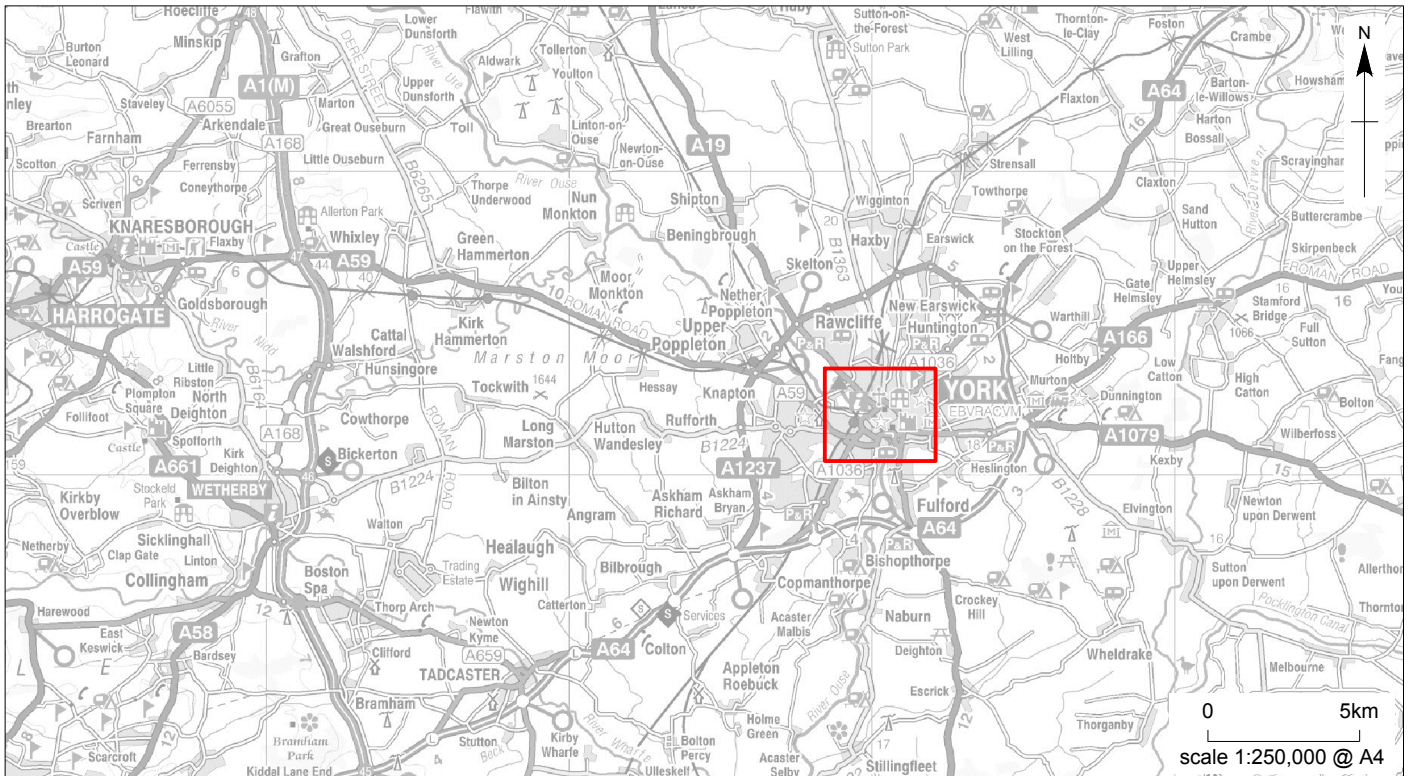
Archaeological monitoring was agreed through liaison with the City of York Archaeologist, as the work was within the York Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI). Gillygate runs approximately north-eastwards on the north-western side of York (Figure 1), immediately outside the Bar Walls, which formed the perimeter of the medieval city and were built on the ramparts of the Roman fortress. Previous fieldwork in the vicinity had recorded remains of Roman, Viking, medieval and post-medieval date.

Location

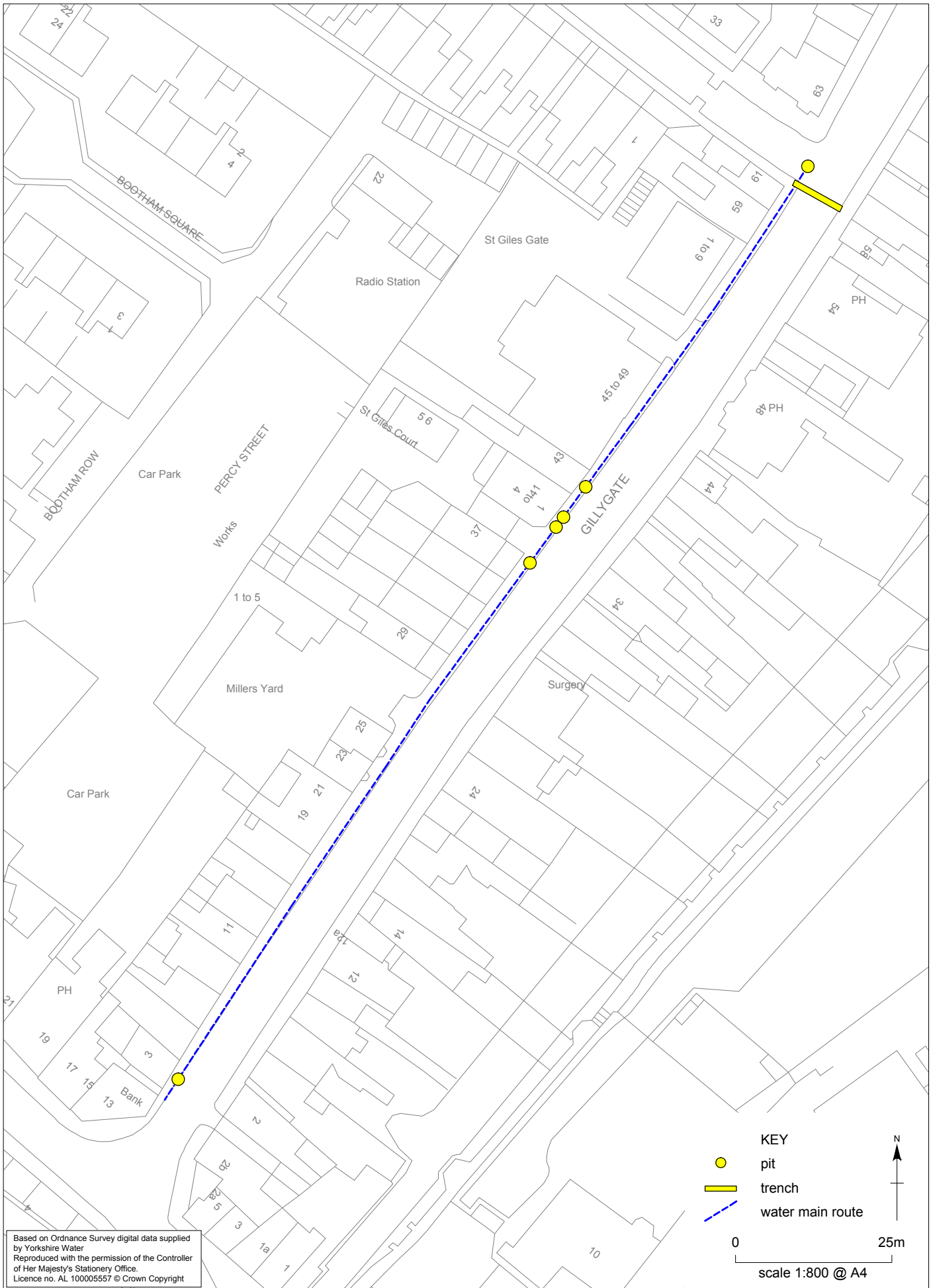
The planned scheme was to install a new section of water main along the western side of Gillygate (Plate 1), in an open-cut trench within the carriageway. However, exploratory holes indicated that there were too many existing services within the road to accommodate the renewal, and so the existing main was relined. This entailed the excavation of six pits within the footpath, and an open-cut trench across Gillygate from the corner of Portland Street (Figure 2), with a connecting pit at either end.

Results

Excavations were undertaken by hand, apart from the trench across Gillygate. The pits within the footpath were all approximately the same size, 1.5m x 1m x 1m deep. Two further pits, each measuring 1.5m x 1.2m x 1.2m deep, were excavated for the Gillygate road crossing; one on the corner of Portland Street, the other directly opposite. The interconnecting trench was 0.6m wide and 1.2m deep, rising to no more than 0.5m deep in the middle of the road due to the presence of a concrete casing for the main sewer. Each excavation contained similar redeposited materials, consisting of silty sand, clay and fragments of modern brick and tile (Plate 2), and most excavations revealed evidence of recent disturbance for service upgrades and the installation of fibre optic cables. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest.



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Gillygate, York: work location

Figure 2



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Gillygate, York: general view of Gillygate, looking south

Plate 1



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Gillygate, York: typical pit profile showing made ground and water main

Plate 2