

NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES LTD

Randy Mere to Ruswarp Water Main, North Yorkshire

NEGATIVE WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site name: Randy Mere to Ruswarp water main **Grid reference:** NZ 8177 0264

Parish: Egton CP **District:** Scarborough **County:** North Yorkshire

Administrative authority: North York Moors National Park Authority

Development: Water main inspection prior to replacement/repair

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

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

Monitoring date(s): 1 May 2012

NAA project number: 1054

NAA report number: NAA 12/76

Reasons for watching brief

The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a trench to inspect a water main running from Randy Mere Service Reservoir to Ruswarp Water Treatment Works, North Yorkshire.

The monitored inspection trench was within the route of a known pannier way. Also known as trod ways, pannier ways are thoroughfares constructed of sandstone slabs laid end to end. They are difficult to date accurately, but many are assumed to be medieval in origin (AD 1095–1536). Pannier ways were laid to facilitate the movement of ponies across boggy/uneven ground, and are common on the North York Moors.

Given this archaeological potential, archaeological monitoring of the inspection trench was requested by Graham Lee, Senior Archaeological Officer for the North York Moors National Park Authority.

Results

The inspection trench measured approximately 1.6m in length, 1m in width, and 0.65m in depth. It was excavated by hand (Plate 1).

The natural subsoil was not exposed in the trench. The water main was sealed by up to 0.5m of mid-yellowish brown clayey silt with some large stony inclusions. This deposit was sealed in turn by the modern topsoil (Plate 2). No archaeological structures, artefacts or deposits were present within the trench.

A stone slab lay immediately adjacent to the trench (Plate 3); this remained undisturbed. This stone slab may be associated with the pannier way, although its provenance remained uncertain.

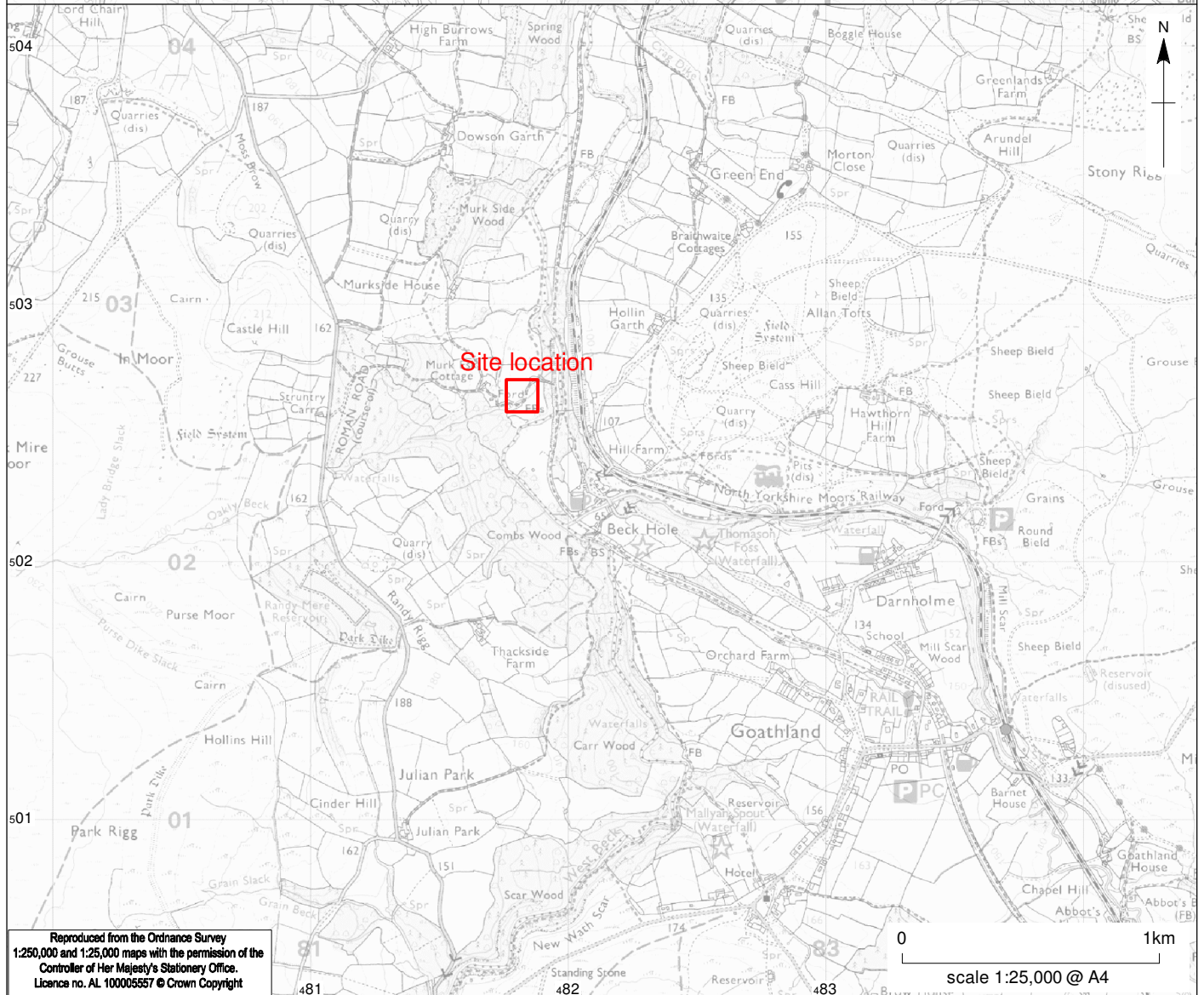
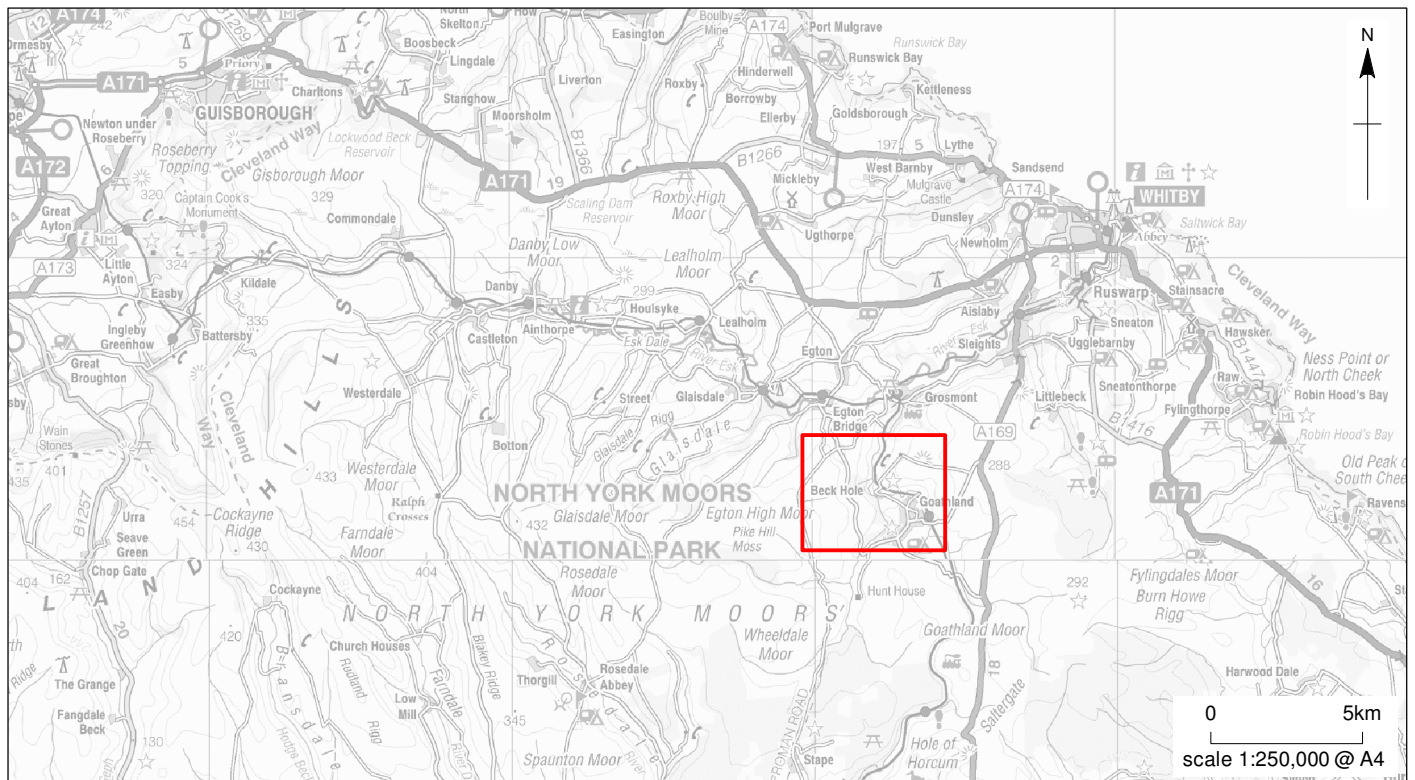
There were no other *in situ* stone slabs visible in this area, although it is possible that they are now buried and survive beneath the topsoil. Some of the pannier way slabs may have been used to construct a footbridge which crosses the nearby Oakley Beck.

Given the possibility that the trod is now buried, it is recommended that archaeological monitoring is undertaken for any pipeline renewal off the line of the existing main.

Archive deposition: The site records will be archived internally.

Report date: 18 July 2012

Authors: Kevin Collins & Derek Evans



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Randy Mere to Ruswarp Water Main: site location

Figure 1



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*Randy Mere to Ruswarp Water Main:
hand-excavation of inspection trench*

Plate 1



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*Randy Mere to Ruswarp Water Main:
inspection trench*

Plate 2



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*Randy Mere to Ruswarp Water Main:
stone slab adjacent to inspection trench*

Plate 3