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Archaeological Excavation

13-15 High Market Place Kirkbymoorside

13-15 High Market Place : Kirkbymoorside

Archaeological Excavations

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Archaeological Excavations

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of 13-15 High Market Place, Kirkbymoorside was undertaken on January 9th, 1995 to determine the presence and nature of archaeological deposits which may be affected by development of the site for housing

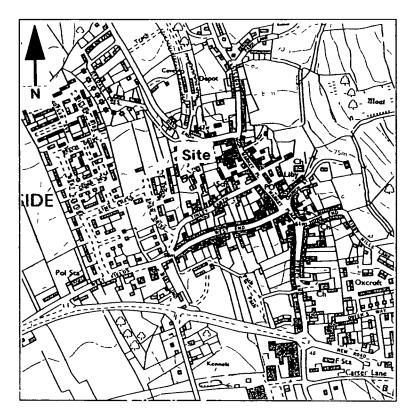


Figure 1

The site had been used as a haulage yard and most of the area was covered in a thick layer of concrete or tarmac (Pl 1) A number of services ran through the site from adjoining properties to the north of the site and also from High Market Place, formerly known as Beast Market

Kirkbymoorside stands on the northern edge of the Vale of Pickering on Carboniferous and Jurassic sandstone with soils of the Rivington 1 Association. The earliest evidence for the settlement of this area is illustrated by finds of stone axes at SE 6971 8699, SE 6875 8725, SE 6967 8676, SE 6928 8671, and a flint arrowhead and a barrow at SE 6979 8650 (Howe End). Roman activity is illustrated by sherds of pottery from SE 6979 8666 and SE 6943 8623. The name of the town is considered to be derived from Old Norse – 'kirkja' (church) 'by' (farm) 'mor' (moor) and 'hcafod' (head) translated into church at the heac of the moor. Pieces of Anglian carved stone are recorded in the Church of

All Saints and also from within the fabric of the Vicarage. The town is mentioned in Domesday and was part of the Mowbray fee held by the Stutevilles until the 14th century. The Stutevilles lost control of the town to the Nevilles who then held the manor until it passed to the Crown in 1569. Henry III granted a charter for a weekly market and annual fair to be held in the town in 1254.

Little archaeological assessment of the town has ocurred in the past Excavations have been limited to parts of the Neville Castle, principally in Manor Garth (Williams 1977) The central core of the medieval town, that is to say West End, High Market Place, High Street, the Square, Church Street and Howe End, remain to be evaluated The development of land to the rear of 13–15 High Market Place provided the possibility of well- stratified medieval or earlier deposits

Cartographic evidence (Figs 2-6) illustrates the static nature of the street frontage to the site from 1790 to present day. Examination of the back plot of 13-15 High Market Place shows that as early as 1790 agricultural buildings were housed on the site and their presence seems to remain unaltered until the 1960s when they were demolished. On the northern boundary of the site further buildings were built, extending the size of Prospect House. These buildings were built around 1900 and were demolished in the 1960s.

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