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N.Y.C.C.
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Rec'd 10 JUL 2001

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Thirsk Town Hall Annexe, Westgate, Thirsk, North Yorkshire

Watching Brief Report.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
THIRSK TOWN HALL ANNEXE, WESTGATE, THIRSK, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1.0 Introduction

NYCC HER	
SNY	736
ENY	396
CNY	1839
Parish	2139
Rec'd	10/07/2001

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by On-Site Archaeology at Thirsk Town Hall Annexe, Westgate, Thirsk, North Yorkshire on behalf of Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Management Committee. This work was required to fulfil the archaeological condition attached to the planning application for the construction of an extension to the existing Town Hall. The archaeological watching brief consisted of 4 half days on site between 8th and 15th March 2001.

The watching brief comprised the observation of areas where the depth of excavation during the development impinged on areas of potential archaeology. These areas consisted of the foundation trenches for the new annexe building.

2.0 Site Location

The site is situated at NGR SE 4285 8188, towards the western edge of the town of Thirsk and approximately 200m to the southeast of the castle. The site covers an area 24m in length by 4.50m wide, being bounded by the existing Town Hall building and its boundary wall, set back approximately 15m to the south of the modern Westgate street front.

3.0 Methodology

Prior to the commencement of the archaeological watching brief a recent extension building had been demolished, including the removal of a concrete foundation slab, approximately 0.20m thick. A watching brief was maintained during excavations for the new foundations, for a total length of 38m. The foundations were dug by a back acting digger using a 0.60m bucket, to an average depth of 1.50m. Excavated material was examined for finds and the exposed sections and surfaces examined for features. Records were kept of the soil types and depths as excavation took place.

4.0 Results

Below the recent concrete slab the entire area of the site was covered by a homogenous, mid brown, silty sand (1000), containing occasional small pebbles, but no other inclusions. The depth of this subsoil ranged from 1.00m to 1.20m. This sealed the yellowish brown silty sand natural, (1001).

5.0 Conclusions.

No significant archaeological evidence was recovered from the site, either in the form of features, or artefacts. This lack of archaeological material would suggest that any significant activity of the medieval period and beyond would have been situated closer to the street frontage.

Context list.

Context	Description	Interpretation	Maximum depth
1000	Mid brown sandy silt, with occasional pebbles.	Subsoil	1.20m
1001	Mid yellow-brown soft silty-sand, with no inclusions.	Natural	Unknown