

NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES

The Esplanade, York City, Yorkshire

NEGATIVE WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site name: The Esplanade, York

Grid reference: SE 597521

Parish: York

District: York City

County: Yorkshire

Administrative authority: York

Development: Sewer Overflow Enlargement Investigations

Client: Costain Haswell

On behalf of: Yorkshire Water

Site supervisor: Sarah Wilkinson

Project manager: Peter Cardwell

Date(s): 20th April 2001

Report number: NAA 30/06

NAA project number: 380

Site code: EY01

Reasons for watching brief: An archaeological watching brief was conducted during investigations into a proposed enlargement of a sewer overflow. The remains of a Roman road and a series of burials had been recorded to the northeast of the site.

Results: The site was located on the River Ouse floodplain to the north of the centre of the city of York. The proposal to enlarge the sewer overflow involved the monitoring of two test pits 2 metres apart.

The test pits were excavated using a mini-digger KX36 with an 18 inch bucket. Any relevant sections were photographed and drawn and the soil descriptions recorded. Test pit 1 was 'L'-shaped and measured approximately 2.2m × 2m × 2.15m deep. Test pit 2 measured 1m × 1.7m × 2.1m deep.

Both pits demonstrated the presence of disturbed backfill deposits, which included lenses of mixed soil types, coal and ash. Post-medieval finds including pottery, clay tobacco pipe, glass and ceramic building material were recovered from both pits and later discarded.

Documentation: The archive consists of a photographic record consisting of several 35mm prints and slides; sketch drawings of the relevant sections and context sheets with soil descriptions.

Archive deposition: All finds were discarded.

April 2001



Figure 1 The Esplanade, York: site location