

NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES

Market Place, Thirsk, North Yorkshire

NEGATIVE WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site name: Thirsk Market Place

Grid reference: SE 430 822

Parish: Thirsk

District: Hambleton

Administrative authority: North Yorkshire County Council

Development: Sewer storage facility

Client: Yorkshire Water Services Ltd

Contractor: J.N. Bentley

Planning application reference: N/A

Site supervisor: David Fell

Project manager: Oliver Cooper

Date(s): 06/02/07 – 19/03/07

Report number: 07/41

NAA project number: 800

Site code: TMP 07

Reasons for watching brief:

Deep ground works in close proximity to buildings and structures of architectural and historical significance were proposed in the market place in Thirsk. Any unrecorded below ground remains would be potentially impacted upon by the works.

Results:

In total, the excavation of two pits, and one linear and two sub-circular trenches were monitored. The two pits, both *c.* 1m by 0.75m, were excavated to a depth of 1m in order to locate electricity cables and sewer pipes. Trench 3, *c.* 2.5m diameter, was excavated to a depth of 4.5m in order to house a storage tank. Trench 4, which measured approximately 3m by 1.5m by 3m deep and was oriented north-west to south-east, linked the existing sewer system adjacent to shop number 93, with Trench 3. A larger storage tank was constructed in Trench 5, which was *c.* 3m in diameter, and was excavated to a depth of 4.5m. Trench 5 abutted Trench 3, effectively creating one large excavation aligned east to west. No archaeological deposits were identified in any of the trenches.

A number of 19th-to 20th-century sewer pipes and fragments of ceramic piping were identified during the excavations but were not retained. Although no archaeological features or deposits were identified, the excavations afforded an opportunity to view the drift geology to a depth of 4.5m. The works revealed 0.8m of steel-reinforced concrete, beneath which was a layer of builders' sand which overlay 1.5 m of natural sand. This was underlain by grey clay which extended beyond the limit of excavation.

Documentation: Location plan

Archive deposition: The documentation will be internally archived.