

**MAP**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE Ltd.**

**52 St. James' Green**  
**Thirsk**  
**North Yorkshire**

**SE 4315 8230**  
**13/00570/FUL**  
**MAP 10.16.2013**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**MAP  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE LTD**


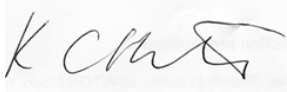
**St. James' Green/Piper Lane  
Thirsk  
North Yorkshire**

**SE 4315 8/230**

**13/00570/FUL**

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**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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| <b>Report Prepared By</b><br> | <b>Report Authorised By</b><br> |
| <b>Date:</b><br><b>29/04/2014</b>  | <b>Date:</b><br><b>29/04/2014</b>   |

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**Archaeological Watching Brief**

***Non Technical Summary***

*An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd during excavation of foundation trenches for eight dwellings on St. James Green/Piper Lane, Thirsk (Planning Ref. 13/00570/FUL).*

*The Work was undertaken in January and February 2014 with the archaeological observation during the excavation of the foundation trenches.*

*No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the excavation down to natural deposits.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was undertaken on the 10th January 2014 to the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014 by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd, at St. James Green/Piper Lane, Thirsk, North Yorkshire (SE 4315 8230: Fig. 1). The work was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, sent to the Hambleton District Council Planners (Ref. 13/00570/FUL).
- 1.2 The Archaeological Watching Brief was designed to provide the appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, in accordance with the

recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012).

- 1.3 All work was funded by Joanna Whitwell.
- 1.4 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

## **2. Site Description**

- 2.1 The site lies within the medieval town of Thirsk, North Yorkshire and is situated to the east of St. James' Green, *formerly the site of the market of the borough of Old Thirsk, at SE 43083 82410 (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the south by St. James' Green Methodist Church and commercial buildings, to the west by residential properties, to the east by residential properties and a garage, and to the north by Stammergate.*
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Newport 1 Association, which are characterised by deep well-drained sandy soils over a geology of glaciofluvial drift (Mackney 1984).

## **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 3.1 The name Thirsk derives for the Old Swedish *Thraesk*, meaning lake or fen (Ekwall 1974). The town is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Tresche*. There were two manors at the time of Domesday, one held by the king and the other by Hugh FitzBaldrick (Williams & Martin 2003). The twin manors are reflected in the growth of the town, which developed as Old Thirsk, to the east of the River Codbeck, and New Thirsk, to the west of the river.
- 3.2 Roger de Mowbray's charter of foundation of the Priory of Newburgh suggests that a borough had been founded at Old Thirsk by 1145 AD

(Bulmer 1990). A market was established on St James' Green, to the east of the current development, but it is thought that the establishment of Thirsk Castle on the opposite side of Codbeck stimulated the development of New Thirsk, the growing economic importance of which was reflected in change of focus of the market to its present location in Market Place.

- 3.3 The *Chapel of St. James*, mentioned in the Newburgh Priory charter, is thought to have been founded on St. James' Green prior to 1145. The chapel was demolished before the Reformation and its exact location is now not known. A Wesleyan chapel was established on the Green in 1816 and a Parochial School was founded on the Green in 1812 (ibid.).
- 3.4 The London to Darlington Railway was completed in 1841, passing a mile to the east of the town and a station was established at Thirsk. Improved communications as a result of the railway boosted the economic growth of the town during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Industries within the town at this time included tanning, leather-working, milling, malting, brewing, linen-weaving, bleaching, dyeing and agricultural engineering.
- 3.5 The Thirsk Directory of Trades and Professions list two brewers as active within the town from 1829 to 1840. These were Richard Meek and Edward Rhodes, both of whom operated from premises in Kirkgate. By 1890 Richard Meek was no longer in business and Edward Rhodes' business had apparently passed to a relative, listed as Quintin Rhodes (Bulmer 1990). A Mrs. Samuel Cass is also recorded as operating a brewery on Kirkgate. Also in 1890, a Thomas Tweedy is listed as a brewer at Long Street, this being the first reference to the establishment of a brewery at the current site. By 1926, the business had passed to William Barker (Barber 1990). Very little else is known about the history or products of the Long Street brewery, which is thought to have ceased production in the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (ibid.).

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief were to observe, record and recover any archaeological finds, deposits or remains, which could be affected by the ground works, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

#### **5. Methodology**

- 5.1 The foundation trenches for the house and garage were excavated by mechanical excavator, under archaeological supervision.
- 5.2 All work was carried out in line with the Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct.
- 5.4 A photographic record was maintained throughout the Watching Brief on a digital camera.

#### **6. Results (Fig. 2: Pls. 1-4)**

- 6.1 The foundation trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trenches were 700mm wide and between 200mm and 600mm deep.
- 6.2 No archaeological finds or artefacts were uncovered during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the dwellings.

#### **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 During the Watching Brief, no finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

## **8. List of Contributors**

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| On-Site Archaeologist | Zara Burn and Paula Ware |
| Report                | Kelly Hunter             |
| Figures and Plates    | Kelly Hunter             |



Figure 1. Site Location



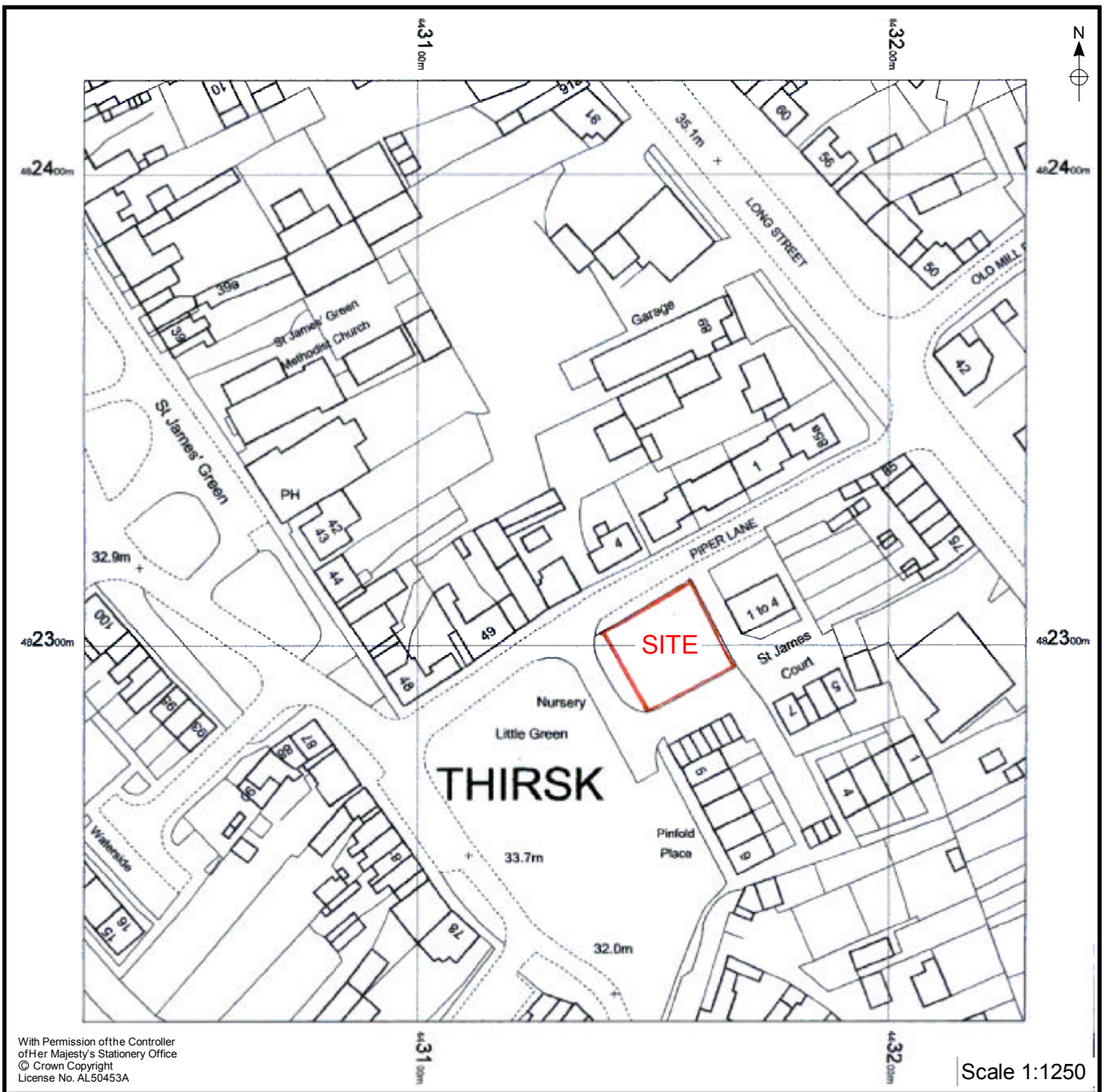


Figure 2. Watching Brief Area.



Plate 1. Genberal View of Foundation Trenches. Facing South-west.



Plate 2. General View. Facing North.



Plate 3. Foundation Trench. Facing South.



Plate 4. Foundation Trench. Facing South.

