

NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES

MARKET PLACE, THIRSK

NEGATIVE WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site name: Market Place, Thirsk

Grid reference: SE 429 821

Parish: Thirsk

District: Hambleton

County: North Yorkshire

Administrative authority: NYCC

Development: 'Scrape and line' refurbishment of water main.

Client: Yorkshire Water

Contractor: Laing Utilities

Site supervisor: Oliver Cooper

Project manager: Paul Johnson

Date(s): September 2003

NAA project number: 548

Reasons for watching brief:

The site of the excavation was within the historic centre of Thirsk town, close to listed buildings and the route of a Roman road. The excavation work was carried out in the Market Place. The work involved excavation of circa ten 2m x 1m pits 'in-line' to gain access to the water main.

Results:

The excavations within the Market Place were beneath the modern paved surface. The sequence of layers was: natural sandy gravel below a layer of modern subsoil containing occasional modern brick debris, a layer of modern dolomite hardcore, 100mm of reinforced concrete and then York stone slabs, tarmac or stone setts. No features of archaeological interest were revealed, and the only artefacts were a small number of sherds of 19th and 20th century pottery, and a number of fragments of brick and tile.