

NYCC HER	
SNY	11698
ENY	3952
CNY	6290
Parish	6064
Rec'd	12-11-07

**ALDENE, BACK LANE, ALDBOROUGH
BOROUGHBRIDGE, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

Planning Reference 6/64/11D/FULL

Scheduled Monument Number 436

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



JB Archaeological Services

On behalf of

Mr & Mrs Pollock

November 2007

Contents

Summary

1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Background	2
	Location	
	Geology and Soils	
	Topography and Land Use	
	Historical Background	
3.0	Aims and Objectives	3
4.0	Methodology	3
5.0	Results	3
6.0	Finds	4
7.0	Discussion and Conclusion	4

Illustrations

Front Cover. Finds assemblage from building work on Aldene, Aldborough.

Plates

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Plate 1 | General view of site looking east during ground reduction. |
| Plate 2 | General view of site looking west during ground reduction. |
| Plate 3 | Post-medieval finds assemblage. Scales 0.2m. |
| Plate 4 | Roman Samian pottery. Scale 0.1m. |

**ALDENE, BACK LANE, ALDBOROUGH
BOROUGHBRIDGE, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Summary

As the site lay within the Scheduled Monument area for Aldborough Roman Town (Monument Number 436), a condition on the planning application (6/64/11D/FULL) for an Archaeological Watching Brief was placed on the ground disturbance works for a new extension to Aldene on Back Lane, Aldborough, North Yorkshire (SE 40552 661473).

The ground work for the extension/alterations consisted of an overall ground reduction along with the digging of footings for the various walls and service trenches to the rear of the property. The ground works were undertaken on the 8th and 9th November 2007.

The results of the watching brief were generally negative as the ground had been heavily disturbed for the construction of an earlier, smaller extension in 1997. As with the earlier watching brief, areas of post-medieval/modern ground make-up were observed across most of the area of the extension. This make-up contained varying amounts of post-medieval/19th century pottery and glass. This make-up overlay the reddish sandy sub soil. A band of finer, less red sediment was observed on the western side of the site which appeared to cut into the subsoil. On investigation this appeared to be a natural, water lain feature. Two small sherds of undecorated Roman Samian pottery were recovered from the back fill of an earlier service trench.

No other archaeological finds or features were recorded during the ground works.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on the ground works for a new extension to Aldene on Back Lane, Aldborough, North Yorkshire (SE 40552 661073). The watching brief was a condition on the planning application (6/64/11D/FULL) as the site lay within the Scheduled Monument area for Aldborough Roman Town (Monument Number 436).
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted by JB Archaeological Services (JBAS) for Mr & Mrs Pollock, and was carried out on 8th and 9th November 2007.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Historic Background

- 2.1 The settlement of Aldborough lies largely within the boundaries of the Roman town of Isurium Brigantum and contains a range of well preserved archaeological monuments. The Roman town is recognised as being a civilian administrative centre for the area of the Brigantes tribe.
- 2.2 The post-medieval development of the site shows a series of buildings located in different parts of the site along with a number of minor boundary changes (see Cale, 1997 for details).
- 2.3 The place name for Aldborough is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Burg* and then as *Aldeburg* in 1145. The name derives from the Old English (*e*)*ald* and *burh* meaning 'old or disused stronghold' (Mills, 1998, 4).

Geology and Soils

- 2.4 The underlying solid geology of the site is of Permian and Triassic sandstones (British Geological Survey, 2001) which are overlain by a quaternary geology of alluvium (British Geological Survey 1977). The soils that have weathered from this are the Bishampton 1 association which are deep, fine loamy soils which are occasionally seasonally waterlogged (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

Topography and Land-use

- 2.5 Aldene is situated on the southern side of Back Lane which in turn is on the southern edge of the Roman Town. The property stands on a level area of ground at a height of c.37mOD with the remainder of the site rising steadily (to c.40mOD) to the south as it forms part of the earlier Roman defences. Parts of the garden have undergone minor landscaping to create steps etc. from one level to the next.
- 2.6 The area around Aldene is urban residential.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify and record any features of archaeological interest revealed or damaged during the ground works for the construction of the new extension. The specific aims were to:

- archaeologically record (graphically and photographically) any archaeological features revealed by the ground works
- recover any archaeological artefacts and environmental material exposed by the ground works

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 After the demolition of the existing extension, the previous footings and floors were removed using a tracked mechanical digger with a toothed bucket. Once the building rubble had been removed, the ground reduction, footings and services work was undertaken by the contractors using a tracked mechanical digger with a toothless bucket under direct archaeological supervision (Plates 1 & 2).

4.2 During all of the ground works the exposed ground surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and the resulting topsoil stockpiles were monitored for archaeological artefacts.

4.3 Drawings were produced of the archaeological features encountered, and these were also recorded photographically, on 35mm colour slide and black and white print film and digitally at 5m pixel resolution. 0.5m, 1m and 2m bi-coloured poles were used as scales and a north pointer for orientation. For the detailed photography a 0.4m bi-coloured scale was used.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 The watching brief was generally negative due to the extensive ground disturbance for the erection of the earlier extension in 1997. Due in part to this ground disturbance and the subsequent restoration after the 1997 extension was built, it was impossible to determine if any earlier ground surfaces survived (Plates 1 & 2).

5.2 Where an earlier wall had been removed along the western edge of the new development the extent of the modern ground raising could be seen. In places, up to 1.5m of material had been imported in order to level off the garden between the remains of the Roman defences and the area to the west of Aldene.

5.3 During the ground reduction on the western edge of the site a sinuous linear band of sandy sediment was observed running SW-NE. This band was c.0.75m wide but proved on excavation to only be 0.10m deep with an

irregular profile. No archaeological material was observed within the sediment and it appears to be a natural water lain feature.

- 5.4 In the area to the south of the kitchen extension of 1997 a small area (c. 1.2m²) of post-medieval/Victorian material was encountered. The material had been truncated to the north by the previous extension and during investigation a large fragment of concrete paving slab was encountered showing that the material had been re-deposited.
- 5.5 Within this re-deposited material a partially complete late 18th century back coarseware ceramic flask was encountered, unfortunately by the bucket of the machine (Plate 3). This suggests that a midden type deposit is, or was, close by. From the amount and spread of the post-medieval/Victorian material it appears quite possible that this material was originally spread across the 'yard' area as a simple form of surfacing. Two small sherds of undecorated Roman Samian pottery were recovered from the backfill of the service trench for the 1997 extension (Plate 4).
- 5.6 No other archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of the new driveway.

6.0 Finds

- 6.1 The small amount of mainly late post-medieval/Victorian artifactual material was recovered during the ground reduction; unfortunately all of it appears to have been re-deposited. The earliest material was two sherds of Roman Samian pottery one of which was a rim fragment, probably from a 16cm diameter bowl (Plate 4).
- 6.2 As already mentioned, a partially intact coarseware flask was heavily fragmented during machining and was found along with fragments of two substantial ceramic strap handles, blue and white transfer printed plates and similar 19/20th century material (Plate 3). In addition to this the bottoms of two 19th century green glass bottles were recovered. One was completely plain whilst the other was a two-piece mould made bottle with a manufactures mark of WE in the base and a vendors/product name ofDGSON HARROGATE on the side.

7.0 DISCUSSION and CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 As can be seen from above, the results of the watching brief were generally negative due to earlier disturbance. No direct evidence for Roman features were recorded and what Roman material survived had been re-deposited.
- 7.2 There was some evidence for the use of domestic refuse as a form of hard standing surface for a back yard and for a possible midden or refuse pit in the vicinity of the current extension.

References

- Cale KJ (1997) *Archaeological Investigation, Aldene, Back Lane, Aldborough, North Yorkshire*. Unpublished Archaeological Contractors Report to Mr & Mrs Crabtree.
- Mills AD. (1998) *Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. Oxford.
- 1977 Geological Survey Ten Mile Map South Sheet Quaternary. British Geological Survey
- 1983 Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1 Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales. Lawes Agricultural Trust, Harpenden
- 2001 Geological Survey 1:625,000 Map South Sheet Solid Geology. British Geological Survey

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mr & Mrs Pollock for inviting me to undertake the project and Mr P Roth of Ferguson Sayell Partnership for site liaison and supply of background material.

**ALDENE, BACK LANE, ALDBOROUGH
BOROUGHBRIDGE, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

ILLUSTRATIONS



Plate 1 General view of site looking east during ground reduction.



Plate 2 General view of site looking west during ground reduction.



Plate 3 Post-medieval finds assemblage. Scales 0.2m.



Plate 4 Roman Samian pottery. Scale 0.1m.