

**Studforth House
Back Lane
Aldborough
North Yorkshire
SE 4049 6610**

Archaeological Recording Brief

Authorised by

Date:.....

**Studforth House
Back Lane
Aldborough
Boroughbridge
North Yorkshire
(SE 4049 6610)
Archaeological Recording Brief Report**

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Non-technical Summary

An Archaeological Recording Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at Studforth House, Back Lane, Aldborough, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire (SE 4049 6610) on the 2nd of March and June 2010. The work involved monitoring during the excavation of footings for a two storey extension to the rear of Studforth House and drainage works associated with the extension. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified during the works.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was conducted on the 2nd of March and June 2010 by MAP Archaeological, Consultancy Ltd. at Studforth House, Back Lane, Aldborough Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire (SE 4049 6610 Fig. 1 & 2). The Brief was undertaken to in order to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to a Planning Application Consent (Ref. No.05/02300/FUL).
- 1.2 The Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording Brief was designed to provide an appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, following the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG 16)*.
- 1.3 The site code for the project was MAP 06.02.10
- 1.4 All work was funded by Mrs. C Lawson Tancred.

1.5 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 is located to the rear of Studforth House on flat ground that was formerly an extension to the property. (Fig 2 & Pl. 1). The site is bounded by adjacent properties to the north and south, Back Lane to the west and farmland to the east and south-east. The area to the south-east of Studforth House formed the south-eastern corner of the Roman fort and Boundary wall, the earthworks of a ditch are still visible.

2.2 The site stands on soils of the Bishampton association, deep fine loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging associated with well drained fine and coarse loamy soils in an undulating landscape. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy soils.

3. **Historical Background**

3.1 From the 2nd century to the 5th century AD the site of Aldborough was occupied by an important Roman town known by the Latin name of *Isurium Brigantium*. Isurium was established to act as a centre of Roman government, administration and cultural life and situated in the territory of the Brigantes, which were the largest of the native British tribes (Dobinson, 1995)

3.2 Despite its importance there is now little evidence of its past significance. However the remains of the Roman town wall and a fine mosaic, floors along with the numerous coins and prestige of everyday finds found in Aldborough attest to its former importance to this area of Northern Roman Britain.

4. **Aims and Objectives**

4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording Brief were to record and recover archaeological remains, which could be affected by proposed development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks associated with the construction of the two storey extension involved the excavation of foundation and service trenches. This work was carried out under direct archaeological supervision using a mini back acting excavator.
- 5.2 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 5.3 All deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.
- 5.4 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the recording brief on a digital camera.

6. Results

- 6.1 The proposed extension was to be attached to the eastern gable end of Studforth House with the foundation trenches measuring 7.3m long by 5.4m wide and between 1m and 0.75m deep. The service trench measured 0.3m wide and up to 0.5m deep (Fig.3 & Pl. 2). No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified or recovered during the groundworks.
- 6.2 Only two deposits were recorded in the above trenches, a 0.4m deep mixed sandy silt with few cobbles (context 2) representing undisturbed natural that was sealed by a 0.65m deep mixed topsoil and rubble (context 1) from which 19th and 20th century material was recorded including brick and mortar fragments. The depth of Context 1 suggested the ground may have been levelled at some point in the 19th or 20th centuries.

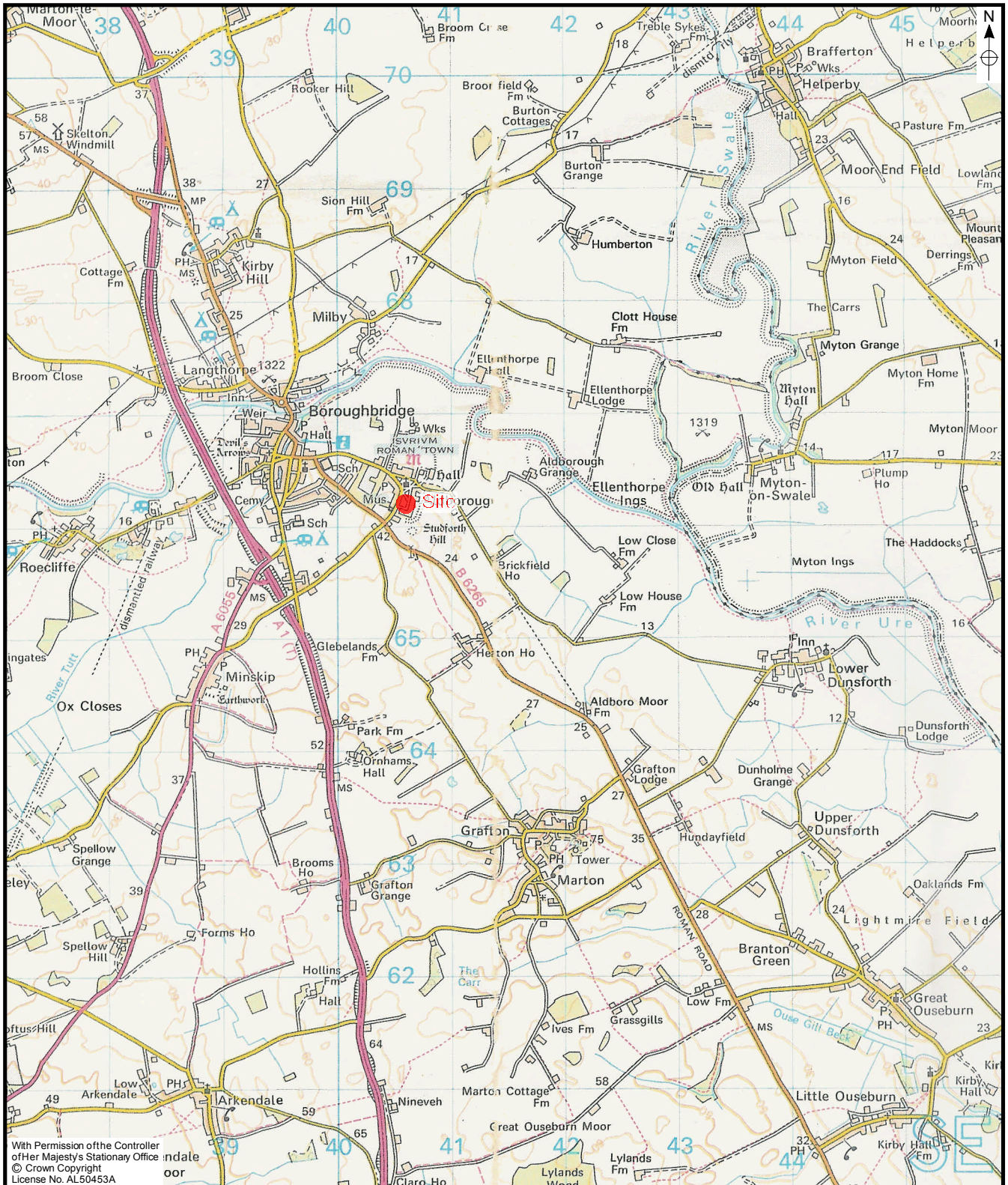
7. Discussion

- 7.1 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the groundworks that were located in an archaeologically sensitive area close to the south-eastern corner of

the ditched and walled perimeter of the Roman Town. Only undisturbed natural material was recorded sealed by the levelling mixed topsoil and rubble deposit.

8. References

Mackney, D. 1984 Soils of England and Wales-Sheet 1, Northern England.



MAP

Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

SITE: Studforth House, Back Street, Aldborough

CLIENT: Mrs Lawson-Tancred

TITLE: Archaeological Watching Brief

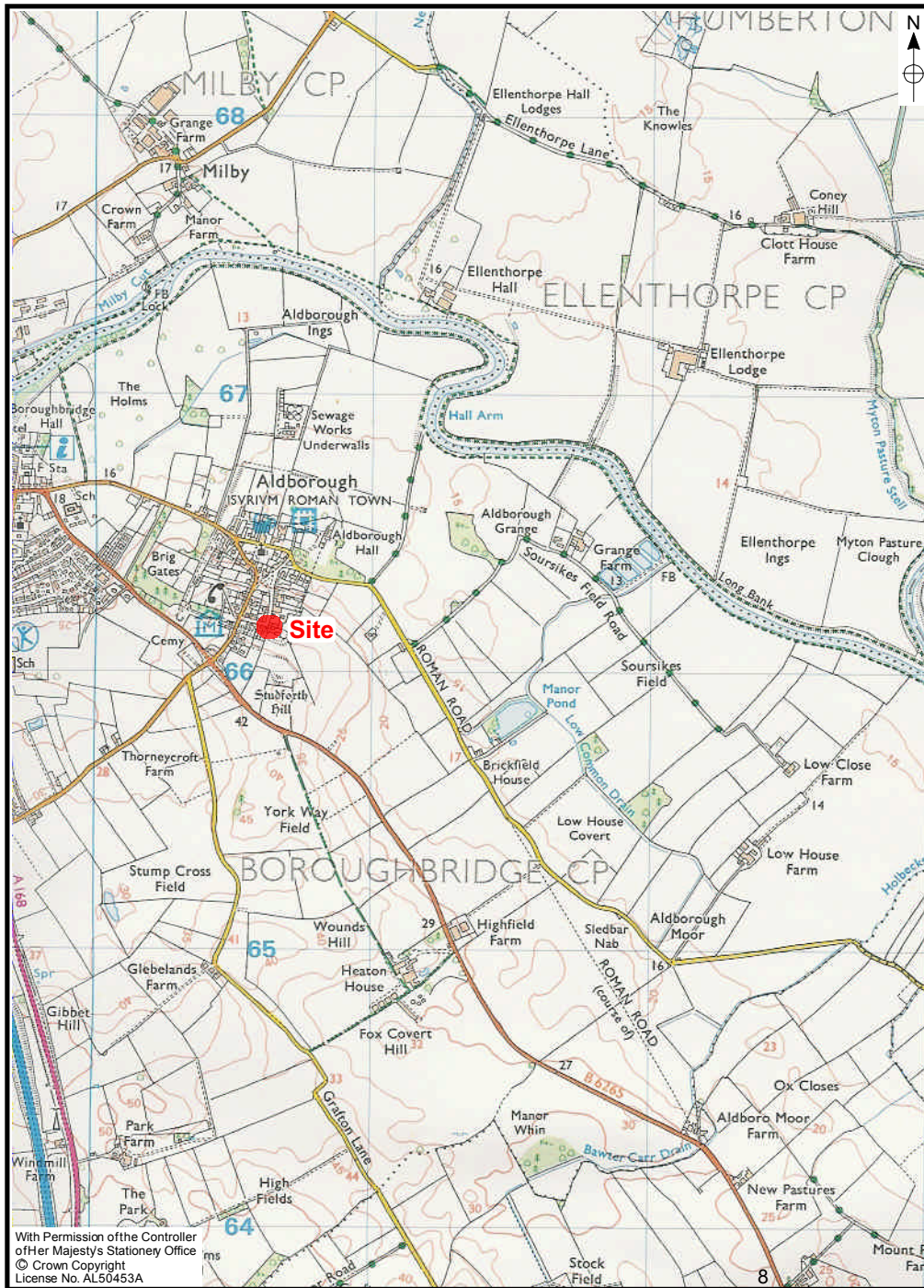
Figure 1.

Scale: 1:50,000

DRAWING REF.:

DRAWN BY: TWS

REVISIONS:



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MAP

Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

SITE: Studforth House, Back Street, Aldborough

CLIENT: Mrs Lawson-Tancred

TITLE: Site Location.

Figure 2.

Scale: 1:25,000

DRAWING REF.:

DRAWN BY: TWS

REVISIONS:



Plate 1. Excavation of Foundation Trenches. Facing North-east.



Plate 2. Excavated Foundation Trench. Facing South-west.



Plate 3. Section after removal of wall. Facing West.



Plate 4. Section after removal of wall. Facing West.



Plate 5. General Shot after removal of floor.



Plate 6. General Shot after removal of floor.



Plate 7. General Shot of Drainage Trench.



Plate 8. General Shot of Drainage Trench.



Plate 9. Section of Drainage Trench.



Plate 10. Section of Drainage Trench. Facing South-west.



Plate 11. Section of Drainage Trench. Facing North-east.



Plate 12. Shot showing length of Trench. Facing North.

APPENDIX 1

Studforth House, Back Lane, Aldboroutgh, North yorkshire

Context Listing

Context	Description
1	Deposit 10YR 3/3 mixed topsoil and rubble
2	Deposit 10YR 4/2 natural clay silt

APPENDIX 2

Photographic Archive Listing

Digital

Frame	Description	Scale	Facing
1	Pre-excavation shot	N/A	North-east
2	Excavation of foundation trenches	N/A	North-east
3	Excavation of foundation trenches	N/A	North-east
4	Foundation trench	1x1m	West
5	Foundation trench	1x1m	West
6	Service trench	1x1m	South-west
7	Service trench	1x1m	South-west
8	Service trench	1x1m	South-west
9	Foundation trench	1x1m	North-west
10	Foundation trench	1x1m	South-east
11	Foundation trench	1x1m	South-west
12	Service trench	1x1m	North-east

APPENDIX 3

Project Team Details

Fieldwork

Paula Ware & Charlie Morris

Post-excavation

Charlie Morris *report*

Mark Stevens *editorial*

Kelly Hunter *CAD and illustrations*

MAP

Archaeological Consultancy Ltd

STANDARD WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING (“RECORDING BRIEF”)

STUDFORTH HOUSE, BACK STREET, ALDBOROUGH 05/02300/FUL

An Archaeological Recording Brief will be undertaken on behalf of Mrs Lawson-Tancred, during the erection of one two storey extension.

The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains, which could be affected by proposed development. The area is to be stripped under archaeological supervision and any features/deposits exposed excavated and recorded to correct archaeological standards

1. The work should not require the construction programme or development to be held up while archaeological investigation takes place, although some developers may give such a facility.
2. The WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements needed to comply with an archaeological planning condition. The scheme does not comprise a full specification, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. The details of implementation must be specified in a contract between the developer and the selected archaeological contractor.
3. The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) should be supervised by the Archaeologist contracted to carry out the WSI. The Archaeologist should be informed of the correct timing and schedule of overburden removal.
4. Removal of overburden by machine should be undertaken using a back-acting excavator fitted with toothless or ditching bucket only. Where materials are exceptionally difficult to lift, a toothed bucket may be used temporarily. Subsoils (B horizons) or deep, uniform fills of features may also be removed by back-acting excavator but only in areas specified by the Archaeologist on site, and only with archaeological supervision. Bulldozers or wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits. Where reinstatement is required, topsoil should be kept separate from other soil materials.
5. Metal detecting within the development area, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording such that metal finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice.

6. Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the Archaeologist should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they should immediately tell the Archaeologist. The sampling of deposits for palaeo-environmental evidence should be a standard consideration, and arrangements should be made to ensure that specialist advice and analysis are available if appropriate.
7. Heavy plant should not be operated in the near vicinity of archaeological remains until they have been recorded, and the Archaeologist on site has allowed operations to recommence at that location. Sterile subsoils (C horizons) and parent materials below archaeological deposits may be removed without archaeological supervision. Where reinstatement is required, subsoils should be backfilled first and topsoil last.
8. Upon completion of fieldwork, samples will be processed and evaluated, and all finds cleaned, identified, assessed, spot-dated, and properly stored. A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist will arrange for either the County Archaeologist or an independent post-excavation specialist to inspect the archive before making arrangements for the transfer of the archive to an appropriate museum or records office.
9. A report will be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report will contain planning or administrative details of the project, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate, and catalogues of finds, features, and primary records. All excavated areas will be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features will be illustrated with conventionally scaled plans, sections, or photographs. Where few or no finds are made, a summary report the form of a letter with plans will be submitted.
10. Copies of the summary report will be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Unit (SMR), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage.
11. The County Archaeologist will be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work will be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If human remains are encountered, they will be exhumed subject to the conditions of a Home Office licence.