

**Coach House
Aldborough Roman Town
Boroughbridge
North Yorkshire
SE 4050 6629**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Authorised by

Date:.....

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Non-technical Summary

An Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, at The Coach House, Aldborough Roman Town, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire (SE 4050 6629) on the 12th of October 2009 and the 14th of November 2009. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the reduction of a floor surface within the coach house and the excavation of a service trench. No archaeological features or deposits 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 12th of October 2009 and the 14th of November 2009, by MAP Archaeological, Consultancy Ltd, at The Coach House, Hazeldene, Aldborough Roman town, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire (SE 4050 6629 – Fig. 1). The Brief was undertaken in order to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to a Planning Application Consent (Ref. No.08/04865/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 05.09.09
- 1.4 All work was funded by Mr Rathbone.

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 within the grounds of the property of Hazeldene, a large detached house, with the former two-story coach house located in the north-eastern corner of the garden which lies at the end of a gravel driveway (Fig 2: Pl. 1).

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 reduction of the floor surface and excavation of the service trench were carried out under direct archaeological supervision using a mini 0.75 tonne 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 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified or recovered during the groundworks.
- 6.2 During the reduction of the former floor surface within the coach house only three deposits were identified. The earliest of these was a 0.2m deep deposit of mixed sandy silt (context 3) that was sealed by a clay silt, (context 2) from which mid 19th century pot was recorded. This was sealed by the existing surface (context 1) made up of rubble including mortar and brick.
- 6.3 The only deposit identified during the excavation of the service trench following the removal of the gravel driveway was a mixed rubble deposit of brick, stone and mortar (context 4) and three services trenches and pipes were also encountered. The service trench measured 0.4m wide by a maximum of 0.6m deep and ran from the property Hazeldene to the coach house running a distance of c. 15m.

7. Discussion

- 7.1 No archaeological features or deposits were present during the groundworks where late post-medieval to modern deposits were encountered.

8. References

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

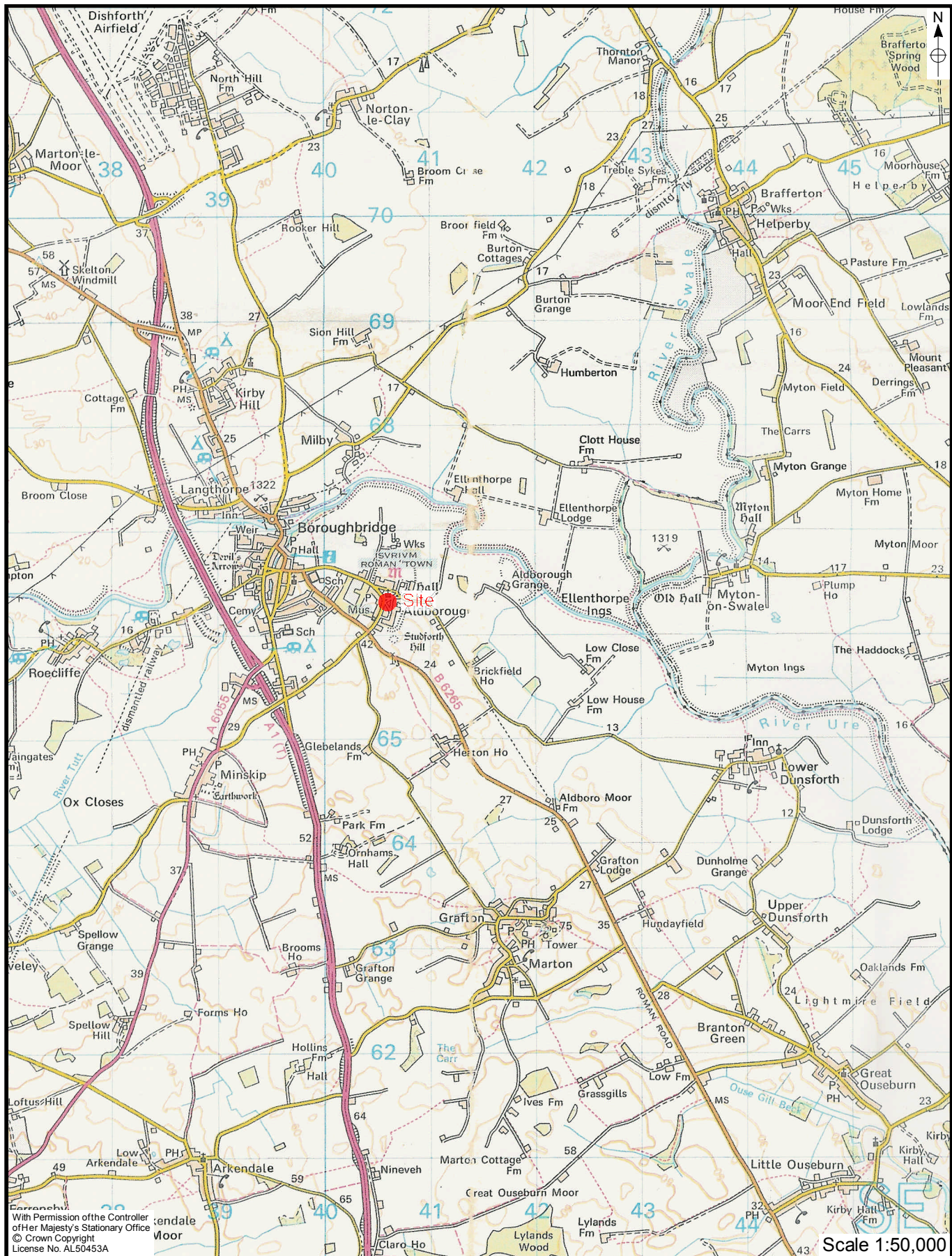


Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. Watching Brief Areas



Plate 1. Interior of Coach House Following Stripping. Facing South-East



Plate 2. Overall View of Service Trench. Facing South-West

APPENDIX 1

Coach House, Aldborough Roman Town

Context Listing

Context	Description
1	Deposit 10YR 3/3 rubble deposit within Coach House
2	Deposit 10YR 4/2 clay silt
3	Deposit 10YR 4/2 silty sand
4	Deposit 10YR 4/3, mixed modern rubble

APPENDIX 2

Photographic Archive Listing

Digital

Frame	Description	Scale	Facing
1	Excavation of service trench	N/A	North
2	Service trench	1x1m	North-east
3	Service trench	1x1m	North-east
4	Detail of service trench	1x1m	North-east
5	Detail of service trench	1x1m	West
6	Detail of service trench	1x1m	South
7	Overall view of service trench	N/A	South-west
8	Overall view of service trench	N/A	South-west
9	Interior of Coach House	N/A	South-east
10	Interior of Coach House	N/A	South-east
11	Interior of Coach House following stripping	N/A	South-east

APPENDIX 3

Project Team Details

Fieldwork

Mark Stevens & 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 LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING (“WATCHING BRIEF”)

**Coach House, Aldborough Roman Town, Boroughbridge, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
National Monument Number: 436**

- 1 The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains which are:
 - a) affected by proposed development only to a limited and clearly defined extent,
 - b) not available or susceptible to standard area excavation techniques, or
 - c) of limited importance or potential.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 or obligation. The scheme does **not** comprise a full specification or Bill of Quantities, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. No work on site should commence until the implementation of the scheme is the subject of a standard ICE Conditions of Contract for Archaeological Investigation or similar agreement between the Developer and the Archaeologist.
- 3 The Archaeologist should notify by letter or e-mail the County Archaeology Service (archaeology@northyorks.gov.uk) at least 10 working days in advance of the start of work on site.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.

- 8 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.
- 9 Upon completion of fieldwork, samples should be processed and evaluated, and all finds identified, assessed, spot-dated, properly stored, and subject to investigative conservation as needed. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist should 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.
- 10 A summary report should be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report should 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 should be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features should be illustrated with conventionally-scaled plans, sections, and photographs. Where few or no finds are made, it may be acceptable to provide the report in the form of a letter with plans attached.
- 11 Copies of the summary report should be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Section (HER), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage. A licence should be granted to the accepting museum and the County Council to use the documentation arising from the work for its statutory functions and to give to third parties as an incidental to those functions.
- 12 Upon completion of the work, the Archaeologist should make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). Submission of data to OASIS does not discharge the planning requirements for the Archaeologist to notify the County Archaeology Service of the details of the work and to provide the Historic Environment Record (HER) with a summary report on the work.
- 13 Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR) information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'. Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. The Archaeologist should inform the client of EIR requirements, and ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.
- 14 The County Archaeologist should 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 should be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If there is a need to remove human remains, an exhumation licence should be obtained from the Department for Constitutional Affairs (coroners@dca.gsi.gov.uk), or a faculty obtained where the remains are buried in land consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England.