

NYCC HER	
SNY	5116
ENY	86
CNY	679
Parish	6064
Rec'd	10-07-00

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

PEAR TREE COTTAGE, LOW LANE

ALDBOROUGH S.A.M. NO.436

NORTH YORKSHIRE

N.G.R. 440564 466483

COUNTY / PARISH NO. 6064

FOR

MS.N.WILLIAMS

by K. CALE

MAY 2000

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
LOCATION AND STATUS	2
PLANNING HISTORY	2
FIGURE 1 – SITE LOCATION PLAN	3
SITE DESCRIPTION	4
HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	7
SUMMARY	8
PLATES 1 & 2 - GENERAL SITE PHOTOGRAPHS	9
PLATE 3 - DETAIL OF TRENCH STRATIGRAPHY	10
FIGURE 2 – TRENCH SECTIONS	11
CONCLUSION	12
APPENDIX A – TRENCH EXCAVATIONS	14

**PEAR TREE COTTAGE
LOW LANE
ALDBOROUGH**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
MARCH 2000**

INTRODUCTION

An Archaeological Investigation was made in conjunction with ground disturbance associated with a small domestic development within the village of Aldborough. The nature of the ground disturbance relates to construction of a single storey extension to the north elevation of the existing dwelling.

The scope of the archaeological works included a rapid desk top study, and watching brief. The works were commissioned by the owner / occupier of Pear Tree Cottage, Ms.N.Williams.

LOCATION AND STATUS

Pear Tree Cottage is situated within the northern extent of the village of Aldborough, on the north side of Low Lane. The study area is located on the northern elevation of the existing property.

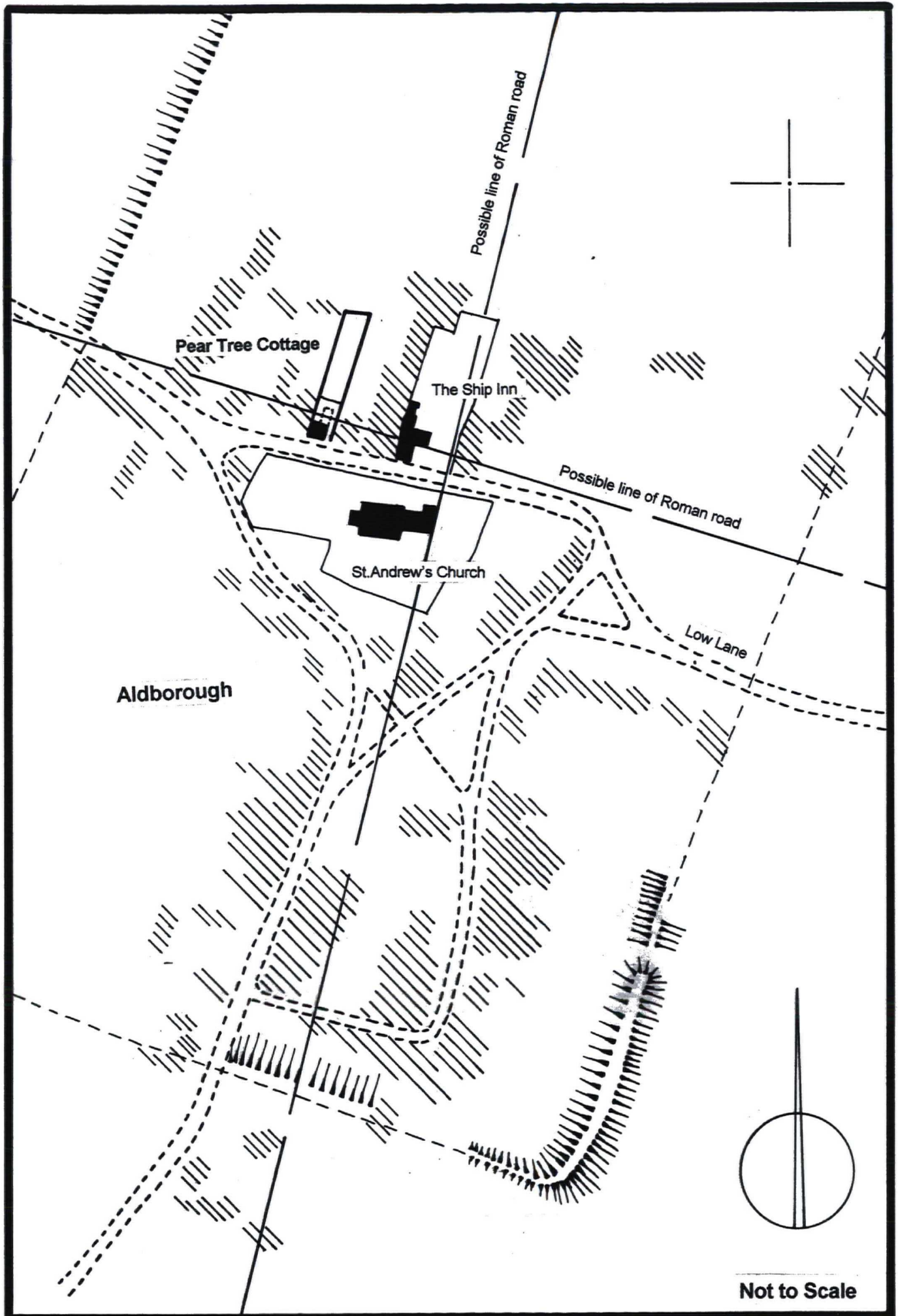
Below ground in this area the site is Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (Isurium Brigantum, North Yorks, SAM 436) located at SE: 440564 466483 at 20.90m AOD, within the parish of Boroughbridge.

PLANNING HISTORY

An application for Planning Permission for the erection of a rear extension to form a kitchen and sun lounge together with a detached garage was submitted to Harrogate Borough Council in November 1999. An Application for Scheduled Monument Consent was launched by Mr.S.Whiteley (Architectural Design) on the 18th November 1999 and granted on the 29th February 2000.

FIGURE 1

SITE LOCATION PLAN



Subsequently the original application was withdrawn and a revised scheme was re-submitted. The new scheme, Application No.6.64.508.A.FUL 00/00471/FUL, dated 3rd February 2000 allows for a single storey rear extension to form a kitchen and a breakfast room.

No revision of the Scheduled Ancient Monument has been made, as the proposed development area is considerably less than the previous application.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is situated immediately adjacent to the north elevation of Pear Tree Cottage. Approximately 20% of the study area has, until very recently, been occupied by a single storey brick extension with the remainder part lawn / garden. The existing ground levels fall very gently to the north from 20.90 m AOD. The southern half of the site has been subjected to a moderate level of previous disturbance, namely, strip foundations and drainage trenches.

The site is accessed via a gravel/concrete treaded drive that runs down the eastern side of the property parcel from Low Lane.

The site is contained to the south by the existing dwelling. To the west by a brick boundary wall, 1.5m in height, this wall has a concrete coping, areas of the east facing elevation of this wall area covered with lime wash and plaster (indicating the location of a now demolished ancillary building). To the north the site is contained by a post/rail and wire fence that partitions the remainder of the garden that extends to the north. To the east the boundary is defined by the west facing gable of the adjacent dwelling and ancillary building from which a brick wall, 1.10m high, extends to the north.

Until very recently a detached garage was situated between the site and the eastern boundary. This prefabricated concrete structure was demolished and removed from site. The concrete floor slab from which was left in situ.

Pear Tree Cottage is brick built detached dwelling with twin stacks and an interlocking clay pan-tile roof. The elevations of the property have been cement rendered (recently removed from the street frontage elevation). The windows have been recently replaced. The pitch of the roof is approximately 30 degrees, comparatively shallow with the neighbouring dwelling to the east, which is 40 degrees. Overall, the dwelling appears to have late 18th century origins.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

General Background:

The present village of Aldborough overlies the Roman town of Isurium Brigantum and remains relatively well contained within the ancient town's perimeter defences. The defences contain an almost rectangular area of approximately 74 acres.

The Roman settlement was a civilian administrative centre, or civitas capital for the territory of the Brigantes, which covered much of the north of England. There is no substantial evidence of military occupation at Isurium.

The Transport Network:

The greater proportion of the existing road network within the village is Medieval and Post Medieval in origin. The study area is situated adjacent to the line of one such road and it is highly likely that the medieval properties were situated adjacent to this network of service roads with interspersed green and open market areas.

The Settlement Pattern:

The existing area of settlement in the northern extent of the village lies within the confines of the perimeter defences of the Roman town and is situated adjacent to the main road network.

The Study Area:

The site is situated within the central area of the Roman town. The site occupies a low-lying aspect adjacent to Low Lane.

The site has not been the subject of any previous archaeological investigation.

From available cartographic evidence details concerning the more recent history of the site and its environs can be established: -

During the early 19th century (1809 Enclosure Awards) the site is situated within the south south western extent of a linear property parcel, that is located on the north side of Low Lane. This narrow strip of land is identified as Plot No.72 and is aligned north north east. The street frontage is developed with a small L shaped property. This building has a principal north north east alignment. Access to the property parcel is off Low Lane in the south east corner of the site.

The remainder of the property parcel is devoid of buildings and features. The form and size of this holding has the appearance of a medieval tenement plot.

In the mid 19th century (1855, OS 6") the size and planform of the property parcel is unchanged, with the exception that the detached property in the southern extent of the holding has been extended to form a moderately sized building with a square planform. The property parcel is largely devoid of trees with the exception of the far north eastern extent which may indicate part orchard.

During the late 19th century (1898, OS 6") the property parcel remains unchanged.

By the early 20th century (1910, OS 25") the south western extent of the holding has been further developed. A detached building has been constructed against the west boundary wall a short distance to the rear of the building that occupies the street frontage. This new building has a rectangular planform and is aligned north north east. A boundary projects eastward from this building to the eastern boundary of the holding, forming a yard to the rear of the principal building. The remainder of the property parcel remains unchanged with no change of land use with the exception that the orchard trees are not depicted.

In the mid 20th century (1951, OS 6") the property parcel remains unchanged with 90% of the holding undeveloped.

By the late 20th century (1973) the detached and smaller of the two buildings within the holding had been demolished. The property parcel supports two buildings, the larger roadside development is named as Pear Tree House. The planform of which suggests that since the mid 20th century a rear extension has been formed. A small outbuilding / garage has been constructed to the rear of the property. This detached building is situated adjacent to the eastern boundary and shares the same north north east alignment. The internal boundary wall has by this date been removed. The former outbuilding on the western boundary wall has been demolished. Access into the holding remains unchanged off Low Lane.

In summary, it would appear that the configuration of the property parcel is medieval in origin. The holding has been developed along its street frontage continuously since the early 19th century. Since which time some ancillary development has taken place to the rear of this building including the construction of a two detached outbuildings and the formation of a partition wall / boundary. The remainder of the property parcel which accounts for 80% of the holding remains unchanged since the early 19th century as open space / gardens.

AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

Prior to the commencement of works it was anticipated that, due to the above there was a low probability that archaeology survives in situ within the proposed development area. Should any archaeology survive in situ it is likely that this will be sealed by overburden associated with the formation of recent yard surfaces and the construction of the outbuildings to the rear of the main dwelling. It is possible that these construction levels may overly stratigraphy associated with activity within the medieval / post medieval tenement strip. In turn these deposits may overly Roman layers or sub soil.

It was therefore recommended that an archaeologist be appointed to maintain a Watching Brief on the machine / hand excavations.

The aims of this archaeological investigation are as follows:

- a. to record any finds, features or structures of archaeological interest and obtain information on the presence, extent, character, date and depth of these remains;
- b. The archaeology will be recorded using professionally approved techniques, standard forms and conventions. All excavation trenches and archaeological features will be recorded by plans, photographs, and sections where possible.
- c. to liaise with the Client, English Heritage (EH), Heritage Unit at NYCC and the Contractor regarding recommendations to the proposed development to ensure the minimum damage to any significant archaeological remains which have been identified at or above the maximum depth of excavation; and
- d. to assess the importance of any remains found and interpret them in terms of their historical context.

It was agreed that the archaeological watching brief was required during:-

- i. The machine and hand excavation of the proposed strip foundation trench's.

A total of 3 foundation trench's are to be excavated, it is anticipated that these will measure, in total 18.500 m long x 0.900 m deep x 0.600 m wide base width. The exact depth of these excavations will be dictated by the suitability of the ground for load bearing.
- ii. The excavation of overburden within the area of the proposed extension for oversite concrete and sub base. It has been calculated that to form the solid floor construction approximately 0.100m of overburden will have to be removed from the footprint of the building.

- iii. Exposing existing drain runs including the repositioning of one manhole and the construction of two new manholes. It is anticipated that the trenches will measure 7m in length, the width and depth of these drainage runs is not currently known.
- iv. The formation of a surface water drain, which is proposed to discharge to the north of the development. It is anticipated that this drain will measure 8.9m long. The width and depth of this run is not known.

Prior to the commencement of site works it had been anticipated that it would be necessary to form a soakaway. Subsequent discussions with the appointed Contractor confirmed that in this instance it would not be necessary to form a soakaway as an alternative means of discharging surface water had been found. This modification in the design would not require any additional ground disturbance.

In order to satisfy the archaeological condition placed on these excavations, it would be necessary for the principal archaeologist: -

to be present, on site, during these excavations down to the required depth or to the surface of any archaeology that maybe encountered.

SUMMARY

The Archaeological Watching Brief commenced on Tuesday 28th March 2000 and concluded on Wednesday 29th March 2000.

The watching brief was maintained during the excavations in advance of the excavation of all strip foundation trenches and the part reduction of ground levels prior to the construction of a concrete slab floor.

The Natural sub-soil was not encountered during the works.

The earliest anthropogenic feature / deposit was a gravel and sand surface. The layer was identified within the southern extent of the site at 203.71 metres AOD, at its apex, sloping on a gentle gradient down to the north and south. The gravels and sands (2.5YR5/4) were extremely well compacted, concrete like in appearance. In places, the surface had been previously disturbed during the formation of foundation and drainage trenches for the former rear extension. In order to achieve the necessary depth of dig up to 0.36m of this layer were excavated. It was confirmed that the layer was made up of 70% water worn pebbles and angular limestone fragments, measuring <0.08m in size, these were suspended within a sand matrix. Lenses of iron panning were noted within the layer. The southern extent of the surface had been cut and disturbed during the construction of the existing dwelling. The northern extent of the layer had been cut and removed to form a 0.20m step.