

NYS 831

NYE 556

NYCC HER	
SNY	831
ENY	556
CNY	1956
Parish	6064
Rec'd	06/1999

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

**HAMBLETON VIEW, BACK LANE**

**ALDBOROUGH S.A.M. NO.436**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**N.G.R. 440622 466256**

**COUNTY / PARISH NO. 6064**

**APPLICATION NO. 6.64.82A.FUL - NYC 1956**

**FOR**

**MR. & MRS.N.BAILES**

**JUNE 1999**

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**HAMBLETON VIEW  
BACK LANE  
ALDBOROUGH**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
JUNE 1999**

## **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 two storey extension to the northern gable 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 Hambleton View, Mr. & Mrs.N.Bailes.

## **LOCATION AND STATUS**

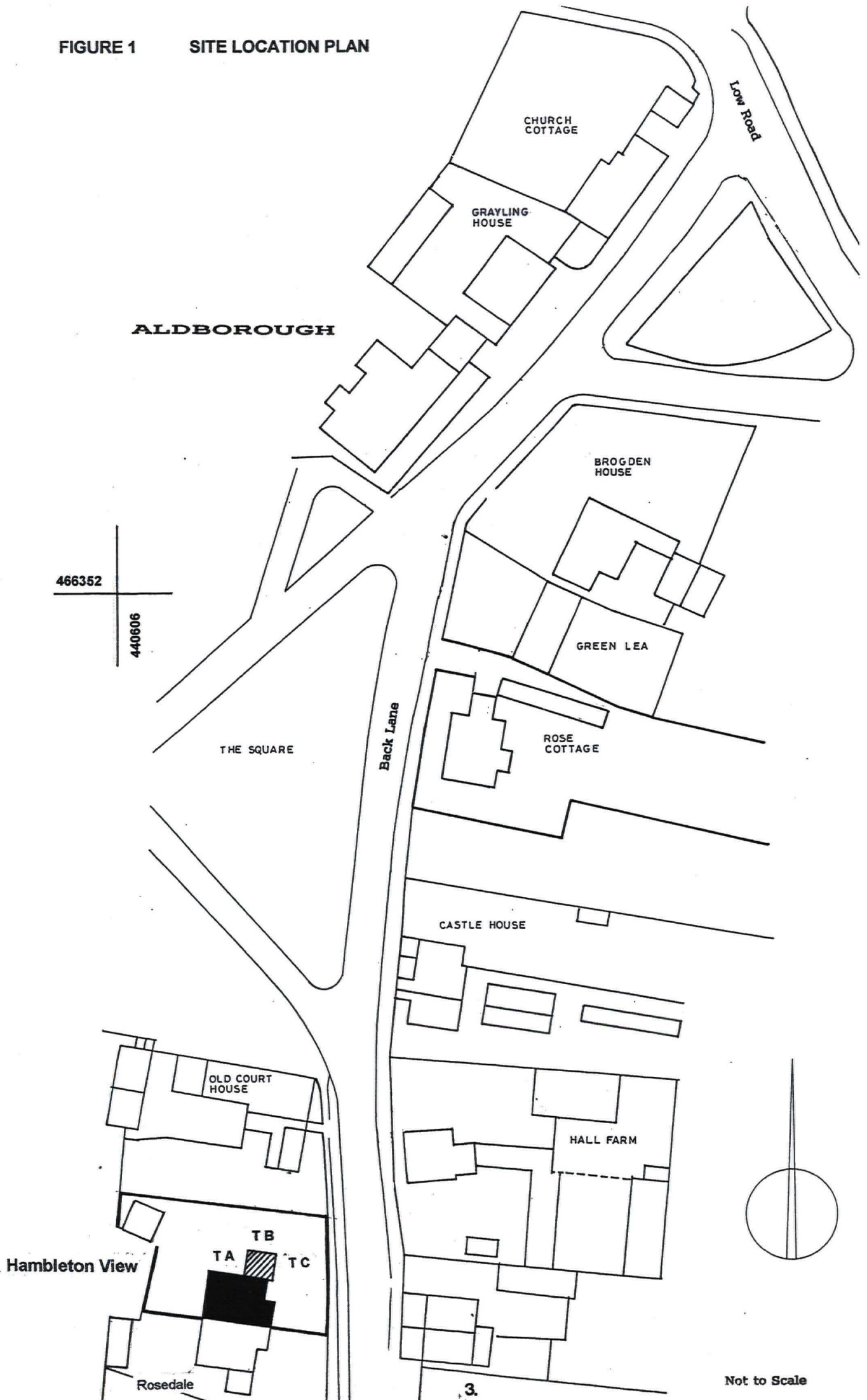
Hambleton View is situated within the southern extent of the village of Aldborough, on the western side of Back Lane. The study area is located on the northern elevation of the of the existing property.

Below ground in this area the site is Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (Isurium Brigantum, North Yorks, SAM 436) located at SE: 440622 466256 within the parish of Boroughbridge.

## **PLANNING HISTORY**

Outline Planning Permission for the erection of a two storey side extension was granted by Harrogate Borough Council. A Formal Application for Scheduled Monument Consent was submitted by Mr.S.Whiteley (Architectural Design) to the Department Media Culture and Sport. The Secretary of State granted consent on the 14th July 1998 on the condition that the applicant engage the services of an approved Archaeologist in order to maintain an Archaeological Watching Brief on the proposed ground disturbance.

FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION PLAN



466352

440606

ALDBOROUGH

CHURCH  
COTTAGE

GRAYLING  
HOUSE

BROGDEN  
HOUSE

GREEN LEA

ROSE  
COTTAGE

CASTLE HOUSE

HALL FARM

THE SQUARE

OLD COURT  
HOUSE

Hambleton View

TB

TA

TC

Rosedale

3.

Not to Scale

## SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is situated immediately adjacent to the north gable of Hambleton View, an area, until very recently occupied by a paved footway and lawned garden. The garden falls gently to the north east from 30.30 m AOD. The garden is accessed from the east off Back Lane at 28.30 m AOD via a flight of steps and from the west off a private driveway that leads onto the Main Street. The garden is contained to the east by a revetted wall / hedge, to the north by a lattice fence, and to the west by a detached garage. The ground levels to the north of the study area fall on a moderate gradient to the north, and rise to the south.

## HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### The Village:

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 Site:

The study area is situated within the southern extent of the Roman town, the site occupies an elevated aspect overlooking Back Lane and The Square.

### Archaeology:

A preliminary consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record, NYCC has confirmed that:-

The site has not been the subject of any previous archaeological investigation. However a recent programme of Archaeological works were undertaken on an adjoining site prior to the construction of an extension to the immediate south of "Rosedale". The works were conducted by Mark Whyman Esq. for the York NYE 1672 Archaeological Trust in 1988. Within the 0.80 m depth of dig archaeological features that were interpreted as Roman were identified. These linear features were found to be cutting the natural sub soil that was encountered at 30 m AOD.

This level is of particular interest given that the adjacent surface of Back Lane is situated at 28.30 AOD, the reason for this disparity in levels is not clearly understood.

The works identified three main stratigraphic deposits, namely;

- i. Topsoil - recently deposited associated with the 1970's landscaping round the dwelling.
- ii. Cultivated Soil - ascribed to previous agricultural/horticultural activity on the site and potentially Medieval in origin.
- iii. Natural Sub Soil - the surface of these sands was identified within the base of the excavation and the surface of which had been cut by the above mentioned Roman features.

#### Early Modern History:

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

During the early 19th century (1809 Enclosure Awards) the site is situated within the central area of a large undeveloped property parcel, that is located on the west side of Back Lane and to the rear of The Old Court House. The north western quadrant of the holding supports a building that is detached and to the rear of the Old Court House.

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 northern extent of the holding has been attached to The Old Court House. Land use within the holding appears to be orchard.

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

By the early 20th century (1910, OS 25") 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 99% of the holding undeveloped and it is understood from Mr. Bailes that the site was then owned by the Renton family who stabled horses across the area.

It would appear that the holding was developed during the late 1970's when a semi

detached building was erected within the central area of the holding, these two properties were named Rosedale and Hambleton View. The properties were accessed via a private drive off The Main Street from the west and two detached garage units were constructed with their respective garden/yard areas to the west of the dwellings.

## **AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

Prior to the commencement of works it was anticipated that, due to the above there was a moderate probability that archaeology survived in situ within the proposed development area. It was likely that any archaeological deposits or features would be sealed by overburden associated with recent landscaping activity round the property and this will all most certainly overlie a buried cultivated soil associated with the 18th/19th century orchard. There is the potential that these deposits will directly overlie sub soil, the surface of which may have been disturbed by Roman activity.

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 and 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.

PLATES 1, 2 & 3



General site shot, facing east north east.



General site shot facing west.



General site shot, following excavation, facing west north west.



- d. to assess the importance of any remains found and interpret them in terms of their historical context.

The watching brief was required to be maintained during:-

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

A total of 4 foundation trench's are to be excavated, it is anticipated that these will measure, in total 16 m long x 0.60 m wide base width. The exact depth of these excavations would be dictated by the suitability of the ground for load bearing.

- b. 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 0.26m of overburden will have to be removed from the footprint of the building.

- c. Exposing existing drain runs including the repositioning of one manhole and the construction of two new man holes. It is anticipated that these trench's will measure 10 m, the width and depth of these drainage runs is not known.

- d. The formation of one new foul drain approximately 1.5m long. The width and depth of these drainage runs is not known.

- e. The formation of one new surface water drain approximately 5 long to a soakaway pit the size and depth of which have not been established.

In order to satisfy the archaeological condition placed on these excavations, it will 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 and concluded on Monday 1st June 1999.

The watching brief was maintained during the excavations in advance of the excavation of all strip foundation trench's and for the relocation of the inspection chamber.

PLATE 4



Trench B, following excavation, south facing section.