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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

ROSE COTTAGE,
BACK LANE

ALDBOROUGH S.A.M. NO.436

NORTH YORKSHIRE

N.G.R. 440669 466334

COUNTY / PARISH NO. 6064

REFERENCE NO. 6.64.446.FUL

FOR

MRS. C. HORNBY

JANUARY 1997

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**ROSE COTTAGE
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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 an extension between the existing dwelling and garage. The scope of the archaeological works included a rapid desk top study, and watching brief. The works were commissioned by the occupier of Rose Cottage, Mrs.C.Hornby.

LOCATION AND STATUS

Rose Cottage is situated within the eastern extent of the village of Aldborough, North Yorkshire and is located on the eastern side of Back Lane. The study area is situated to the immediate north east of Rose Cottages at N.G.R. 440669 466334.

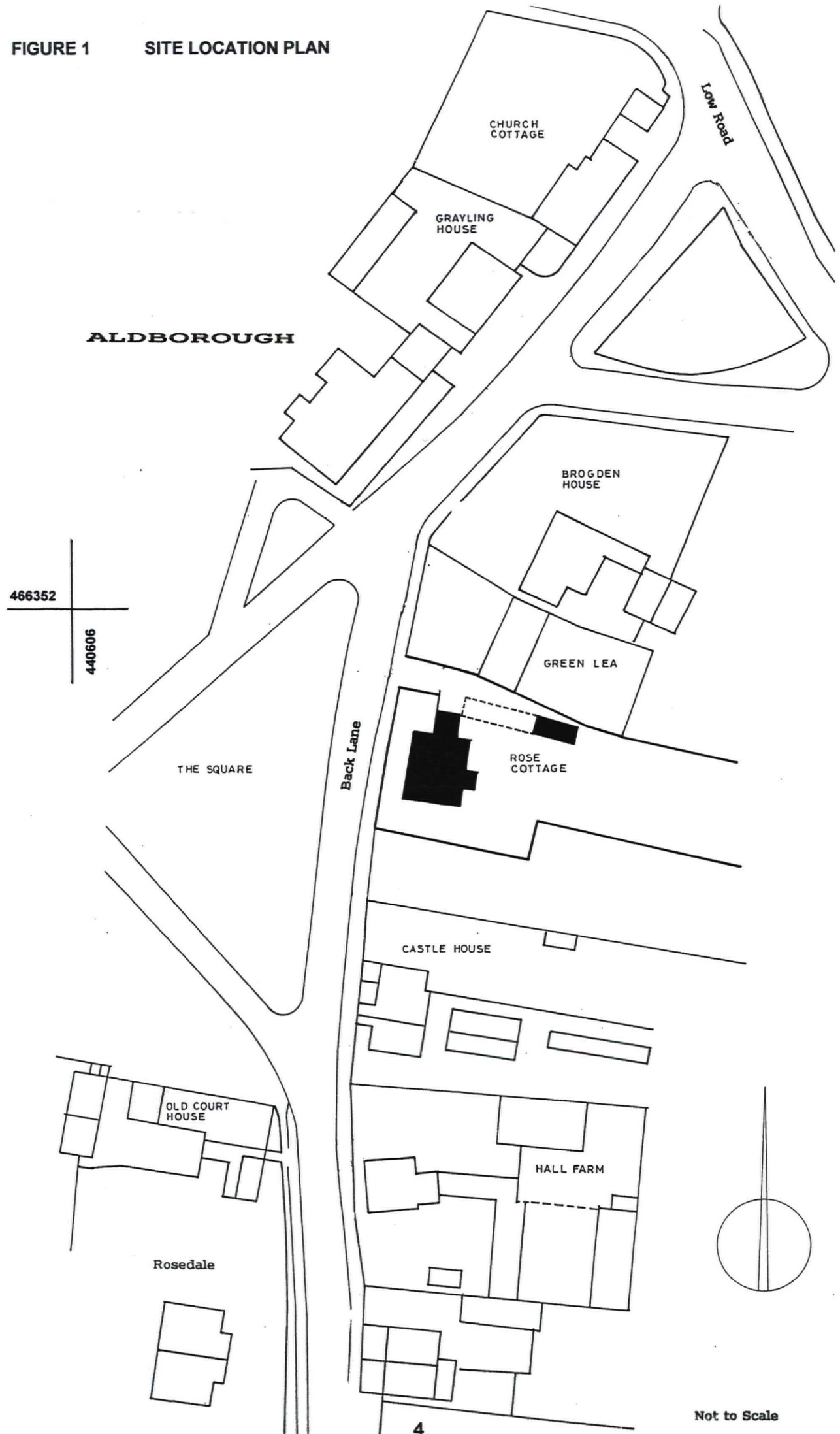
Below ground this site is Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (Isurium, North Yorkshire, S.A.M.No.436) located within the civil parish of Boroughbridge.

PLANNING HISTORY

Outline Planning Permission for the erection of a single storey side extension was granted by Harrogate Borough Council on Tuesday 12th November 1996 (Planning Application No.6.64.446.FUL).

A formal application for Scheduled Monument Consent was submitted by Mr.S.Whiteley to the Department of National Heritage on 24th October 1996 1996, prior to consent being granted Mrs.C.Hornby was instructed to 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



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The present village of Aldborough overlies the Roman town of Isurium and remains relatively well contained within the ancient town's perimeter defence's of the late 2nd century.

The Roman settlement was a civilian administrative centre or a civitas capital for the territory of the Brigantes, a tribal area that covered much of the north of England.

A preliminary desk top search of the study area has confirmed the following:-

The Immediate Environs:

The site is located within the central eastern extent of the Roman Town, situated to the immediate west of the unproven line of the eastern longitudinal internal service road. It is likely that the study area may contain the remains of this Roman road network together with those associated with adjacent buildings.

From the available cartographic evidence, the earliest of which dates to the early 19th century, it is evident that the existing properties within this area of the village reflect two main phases of building works:-

The most recent of which is associated with the construction of those detached properties that are strung out along the south side of Low Lane, these with the exception of Brogden House post date 1951, the site prior to this date was green field and was depicted as such as early as 1809.

Those properties situated on the eastern side of Back Lane occupy sites that have been developed since the medieval period. These properties are situated within narrow property parcels that are indicative of tenement strips that run from Back Lane to the line of the eastern Roman defences. Since 1809 when this area of development was first mapped it would appear that the major trend in development has been the in-filling of the central and eastern areas of the tenement strips.

The Square is a sub-rectangular area of open space that occupies a central location within the existing village is crossed by minor roads that effectively create four triangular shaped areas of grassed lawn. The form and nature of this area remains largely unchanged as far back as 1909, prior to this date the service roads bisecting The Square are not depicted. In 1809 a substantially sized building occupied the eastern side of The Square, the structure fronted onto Back Lane, this building had been demolished and removed from the site by 1855.

The Study Area:

It is anticipated that the site may well have been transected by the line of the Roman service road, it is also possible that it may have supported contemporary buildings.

The study area has undergone considerable changes since it was first depicted on the early 19th century map (1809 Enclosure Awards), in 1809 the study area is registered as property parcel 46. This unit appears as a narrow tenement strip extending as far east as the Roman defences with a large dwelling occupying the street frontage, the grounds are more extensive than the existing site. The developed area is aligned east south east and is considerably larger than the footprint of the existing development, it would appear that the building consisted of three attached components these were situated adjacent to the northern boundary of the property parcel. The dwelling is located on the site of the proposed development / study area. Access to the tenement strip from Back Lane was via a narrow aperture located on the south side of the dwelling.

By the mid 19th century (OS 6" 1855) it would appear that the entire property parcel had undergone alterations. The former tenement strip had been halved in size with the eastern extent being amalgamated with the eastern extent of neighbouring strips to form a large irregular shaped field. The remaining area being divided forming two sub-rectangular yards/gardens, the larger eastern unit supporting a recently constructed, detached outbuilding, the western unit containing a considerably reduced dwelling. The eastern half of the dwelling depicted in 1809 appears to have been demolished and western extent appears to have been rebuilt with the footprint shifting slightly to the south. Access to the rear of this property is via a recently constructed driveway situated on the northern side of the dwelling.

On the late 19th century maps (OS 6" 1898 & 1909) the property parcel is depicted in more detail. The internal property boundaries are as shown on the 1855 map, however, the former access from Back Lane is enclosed as yard area with a small extension attached to the north gable of the property. The study area is therefore partially built over.

By the mid 20th century (OS 6" 1951) the property parcel appears to be very similar in layout, area and planform to that shown half a century earlier, the construction of the neighbouring property, Green Lea, to the immediate north during this period has been mapped incorrectly with it being depicted as attached to Rose Cottage.

The existing Garage has been constructed since 1951.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

No known previous Archaeological work had been conducted within the study area and therefore no exact details could be provided regarding the state of Archaeological preservation or the depth at which Archaeological remains were likely to be encountered.

To the immediate west of the study area a recent programme of Archaeological works were undertaken along Back Lane on the village sewage network by Kevin Cale for Harrogate Borough Council / Yorkshire Water Services Ltd (07/97). These works failed to identify any significant archaeological features or deposits, the stratigraphy had been heavily disturbed over the last 250 years by successive service trench excavations.

To the south east of the study area recent building works (07/97) to the rear of the neighbouring property Castle House exposed a substantially constructed Well, the exact date of this feature could not be established and it was acknowledged that it could be Roman in origin. The site of the well is depicted and marked as a "Draw Well" on the 1851 map.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is situated within a gravel driveway located to the immediate north of Rose Cottage, the drive affords access from Back Lane to the existing detached garage. The site is contained to the east by the existing garage this is a single storey brick built structure with a pan tile roof. To the south the site is contained by the north facing gable of Rose Cottage and a brick built garden wall that connects the Garage with the dwelling. To the north the site is contained by the rendered south facing gable of the neighbouring property, Green Lea and a brick boundary wall.

The existing ground level across the site occupies an elevated aspect overlooking Back Lane, the site is relatively level at 23.639 m AOD and is relatively level sloping downwards, gently, to the west. The driveway falls away more steeply towards the west down onto Back Lane at 23.108 m AOD.