

PLATE 1



Study area, facing east south east.

PLATE 2

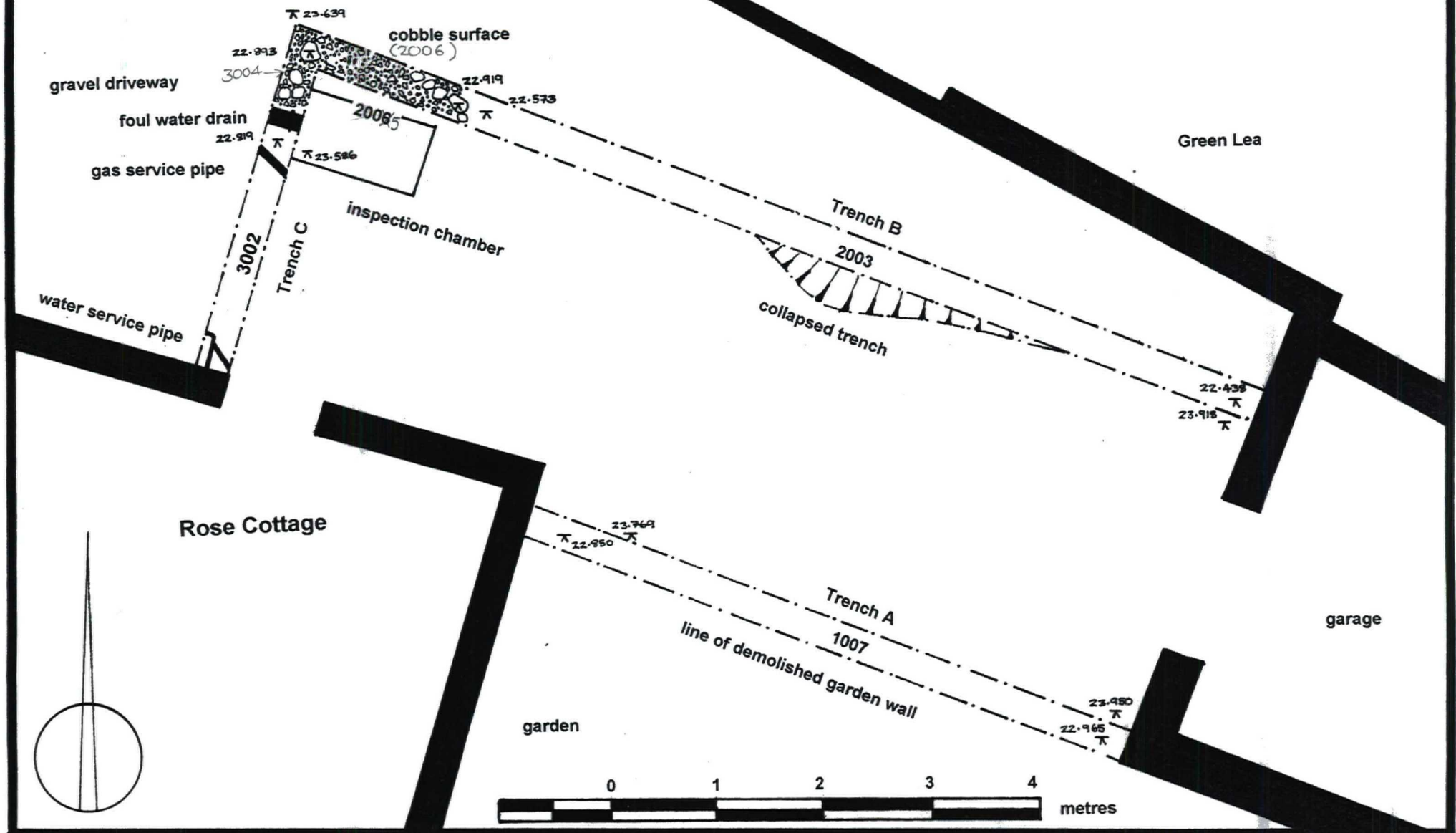


Study area, facing north north east.

FIGURE 2

SITE PLAN

All heights are given in metres AOD



THE AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

It is acknowledged that the study area may well contain the remains of the Roman and Medieval occupation of Aldborough, however, from the results of the desk top study it is anticipated that there has been a high level of ground disturbance across the site since the early 19th century and this may well have destroyed any archaeology that may have survived to this date.

It was agreed that a Watching Brief should be maintained on the ground disturbance associated with the proposed development.

The groundwork's would involve the excavation of three strip foundation trench's this would amount to a total length of 18.50 m, the trench would measure 0.70 m wide and up to 0.90 m deep.

English Heritage agreed that a small mechanical excavator could be used to excavate the trench's. The archaeologist would have to be present on site to monitor and record any archaeology revealed during the groundwork's.

If features of archaeological interest are revealed during the course of these excavations, reasonable time should be allowed for the archaeologist to record same.

CONCLUSION

The recent archaeological investigation conducted by Mr.K.J.Cale for Mrs.C.Hornby at Rose Cottage, Back Lane, Aldborough has provided further details concerning the nature, layout and development of the settlement.

The sandy sub-soil was identified within the southern extent of the study area at a high point of 22.965 m AOD, it would appear that this layer of alluvial drift falls away steeply to the north, unfortunately it could not be established from the limited window on the archaeology as to whether these variations in the levels of the surface of the sub-soil were natural or man made gradients. The nature and matrix of the sub-soil compares with that identified by M.U.Jones during excavations within Aldborough during 1964 at N.G.R. 4405 4661.

Evidence of Roman activity was identified within the north western extent of the site, here a deposit of sand was identified towards the base of excavation, the sand formed a sub base for a cobbled surface. The surface of the cobbles was identified at 22.893 m AOD, unfortunately only a small area of the surface was investigated, it would appear that the surface had been removed to the south and east by more recent excavations, it was therefore difficult to establish an alignment and exact interpretation for the surface. However, by nature this feature is comparable to the Late Roman road surfaces recently exposed during archaeological works at the Ship Inn, Aldborough. The location of this surface at N.G.R. 440666 466337 fits with the conjectural line of the eastern service road within the Roman defence's. It is therefore probable that the surface is a surviving section of the Late Roman road network.

No evidence was found to support any Anglo - Scandinavian, Medieval or Post Medieval occupation of the site.

The ground levels within the central and northern areas of the site had been made up entirely by a series of deposits associated with early 20th century landfill. These deposits measuring up to 0.60 m in depth increased in depth towards the north, this would corroborate the fall in slope suggested by the sub-soil. No structural evidence was found to suggest the nature and form of the pre 19th century buildings that from the cartographic sources are known to have occupied the site. The substantial quantity and depth of imported spoil on the site may suggest that the building was cellared.

Further to my discussions with Mr.O'Brian, Building Inspector, Harrogate Borough Council it was agreed that the cobble surface could remain in-situ beneath the concrete foundations. The Contractor John Ellis Builders Ltd. kindly agreed to seal the cobble surface with a plastic membrane overlaid with sand in an attempt to conserve same.

A small quantity of finds were recovered from these excavations, this assemblage was recovered from the early 20th century landfill deposits and included a very small quantity of Roman pottery together with a greater quantity of modern pottery, bottle glass and a sample of animal bone.

Kevin John Cale

April 1997

APPENDIX A

Foundation Trench Excavations

Trench A

Type: Foundation : strip : machine
N.G.R: 440668 466333

Length: 6.0 metres
Width: 0.90 metre
Depth: 0.78 metre

Planform: Liner
Aligned: East South East
Area: 5.40 square metres

Context No's: 1000 - 1007
Plate No: 1, 2
Fig. No: 2

The trench was excavated to contain the concrete foundations for the south elevation of the proposed extension. The trench was excavated on the line of an existing garden boundary wall that connected the detached, single storey garage with the eastern elevation of Rose Cottage. The trench was excavated into heavily disturbed ground associated with the construction of the former garden wall, the stratigraphy identified within the opposing sections reflected the differing land use on either side of this partition. The existing ground levels slope very gently downwards to the west north west.

The gravel (context 1000) surface of the former driveway was identified at 23.950 metres AOD, this relatively level surface butted to the former garden wall (context 1002). The garden wall prior to demolition measured up to 1.76 metres in height and 0.34 metres wide, the wall had been constructed out of early 19th century clamp bricks, up to three courses in width, the bricks were bedded in a white grey lime based mortar. The wall had been constructed on brick foundations that measured up to 0.69 metres in depth the nature and form of which were identical to the wall above ground level. To the south the wall was butted by a garden / topsoil (context 1004). The topsoil had not been cut by the foundation trench for the boundary wall and it would appear that this deposition of this layer post dates the construction of the garden wall. The surface of the topsoil was relatively level at 23.980 metres AOD, and the layer increased in depth towards the east.

Within the eastern extent of the trench the foundations of the single storey garage were exposed and it was confirmed that this brick built structure was constructed on concrete strip foundations (context 1003).

Towards the base of the north facing section of the trench a layer of clayey mortar sand was noted (context 1005) this layer contained a high quantity of lime, brick fragments, water worn pebble and had the characteristics of a construction or demolition level. The surface of the layer was relatively level and was identified at 23.430 metres AOD. The layer contained a small quantity of 19th century pottery, it is possible that the layer was deposited during the early 19th century demolition and alteration works to Rose Cottage.

The south facing section of the trench was dominated by a layer of heavily disturbed ground (context 1006) this layer of clayey sandy loam contained a moderate quantity of inclusions and 19th century pottery and glass. The layer shared similar characteristics with context 1002 identified within Trench B.

Both heavily disturbed layers (context 1005 and 1006) were bedded directly onto the natural sub soil (context 1007), the surface of these sands and gravel's was identified within the eastern extent of the trench at 23.270 metres AOD falling away on a gentle and constant gradient towards the west at 22.979 metres AOD. The upper surface of this layer was reduced by up to 0.32 metres in order to achieve the required depth of dig.

No features of archaeological interest were identified within Trench A.

Trench B

Type: Foundation : strip : machine
N.G.R: 440669 466337

Length: 9.0 metres
Width: 0.76 metre
Depth: 1.25 metres

Planform: Linear
Aligned: East South East
Area: 6.84 square metres

Context No's: 2000 - 2006
Plate No: 1, 3
Fig. No: 2

The trench was excavated to contain the concrete foundations for the north elevation of the proposed extension. The trench was excavated adjacent to the northern boundary of the property parcel and the southern gable of the neighbouring property, Green Lea. The trench was excavated into the surface of the existing driveway. The existing ground levels slope gently downwards to the west north west.

The gravel (context 2000) surface of the former driveway was identified at 23.918 metres AOD, the surface was bedded on a layer of heavily disturbed clayey sandy loam (context 2001), this layer had the same appearance and characteristics as context 1006 identified within Trench A, the layer can be dated to the mid / late 19th century and would appear to be related to the making up of ground-levels following the early 19th century demolition / alteration works to Rose Cottage.

This layer of clayey sandy loam was found to be sealing a layer of loamy sand (context 2002) this loosely compacted layer was identified within the opposing sections of the trench, the surface of which was situated at 23.328 metres AOD and falls away to the west on a constant and gradual gradient that is more acute than the declivity of the existing ground levels. The layer contained a high quantity of inclusions that were well mixed throughout the layer and were made up of brick fragments, land drain fragments, lime, charcoal and sand blotching. The layer contained a moderate quantity of 19th century pottery and glass together with a small assemblage of Roman pottery and animal bone fragments. The nature of the inclusions and finds material would suggest that this layer had been heavily disturbed prior to its deposition during the early 19th century, it would appear that the layer is of a similar date to context 2001. Towards the western extent of the trench the layer has been cut and disturbed during the construction of a brick inspection chamber (context 2005) for the combined foul / surface water drain.

Towards the base of the trench a layer of orange yellow sand (context 2003) was identified within the opposing sections of the trench, the surface of this layer was relatively level at 22.818 metres AOD. The layer was well compacted and contained a very low quantity of inclusions namely the occasional water worn pebble. To the eastern extent of the trench the layer was sealed by context 2002, within the central section of the trench the layer was sealed by an interface of black clayey silt (context 2004), towards the western extent of the trench the surface of this sand layer was imbedded with a cobble surface (context 2006). The depth of dig was achieved within this sand layer at 22.438 metres AOD, the layer was deemed to be a suitable load bearing surface by Harrogate Borough Council's Building Inspector.

The cobble surface (context 2006) was identified at 22.919 metres AOD within the western area of this trench and within the northern extent of Trench C. The surface consisted of tightly grouped water worn cobbles that measured less than 0.28 metres in size, these were heavily compacted into the surface of the sand (context 2003). Across the surface of these cobbles intermittent patches of sandy mortar crust was noted, this lamination measured up to 0.04 metres in depth and is comparable to a similar layer noted on the surface of the Late Roman road / Agger recently identified and inspected at The Ship Inn, Aldborough 1996. At its eastern extent the profile of the surface can be noted, it would appear that it is a single course in depth and bonded with a yellow grey coloured clay. It would appear that the surface has been previously disturbed and removed within the central and southern area of Trench C associated with the installation of services and drainage runs. Within Trench B the surface extends for up to 1.80 metres before terminating, at which point there is no evidence to suggest that the surface had ever extended any further to the east.

On the conclusion of the machine excavations and due to the unstable nature of the sections the central area of the north facing section collapsed into the trench, the hand clearance of this spoil revealed no further archaeological information.

PLATE 3



Plan view of cobble surface within trench's b and c, facing north north east.

PLATE 4



Profile of cobble surface within trench b, facing west north west.

Trench C

Type:	Foundation : strip : machine
N.G.R:	440662 466338
Length:	2.80 metres
Width:	0.65 metre
Depth:	0.76 metre
Planform:	Linear
Aligned:	East South East
Area:	1.82 square metres
Context No's:	3000 - 3003
Plate No:	1, 4
Fig. No:	2

The trench was excavated to contain the concrete foundations for the west elevation of the proposed extension. The trench was excavated across the width of the former driveway from the western extent of Trench B to the north facing elevation of Rose Cottage. The trench was excavated into the surface of the existing driveway. The existing ground levels slope gently downwards to the west north west.

The gravel (context 3000) surface of the former driveway was identified at 23.639 metres AOD, the surface was bedded on a layer of sandy mortar (context 3003) this layer contained a high quantity of inclusions dominated by brick and pan tile fragments and had the appearance of a layer of construction debris. The layer increased in depth towards the north to a maximum of 0.15 metres, to the south the layer terminates 1.0 metres distant from the northern elevation of Rose Cottage where it measures 0.08 metres in depth.

This rubble layer sealed a heavily disturbed layer of clayey sandy loam (context 3001), this layer had the same appearance and characteristics as context 1006 and 2001 identified within Trench's A and B, the layer can be dated to the mid / late 19th century and would appear to be related to the making up of ground levels following the early 19th century demolition / alteration works to Rose Cottage. The layer had been cut and disturbed during the installation of the brick inspection chamber and associated drainage and service runs.

A cobble surface (context 3004) was identified at 22.919 metres AOD within the northern area of this trench, the same as context 2006 identified within the western extent of Trench B. The surface consisted of tightly grouped water worn cobbles that measured less than 0.28 metres in size, these were heavily compacted into the surface of the sand (context 2003). Across the surface of these cobbles intermittent patches of sandy mortar crust was noted, this lamination measured up to 0.04 metres in depth and is comparable to a similar layer noted on the surface of the Late Roman road / Agger recently identified and inspected at The Ship Inn, Aldborough 1996. It would appear that the surface has been previously disturbed and removed within the central and southern area this trench during works associated with the installation of services and drainage runs.

Within the base of the central and southern extent of the trench a layer of orange yellow sand (context 3002) was identified, this layer was similar to the natural sub soil (context 1007) but contained a lower quantity of water worn cobbles, this layer had also been subject to a relatively high level of modern disturbance.