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REPORT ON A WATCHING BRIEF AT 'THE COTTAGE' - BACK STREET
ALDBOROUGH (ISURIUM BRIGANTIUM).

5th JUNE 1989.

N.G.R. Ref. 406566I7

The proposed development site is situated on the North side of the cottage, which is situated in the South East corner of the village of Aldborough.

The voluntary commission was a Watching Brief on surface trenches for strip foundations for a domestic extension measuring 500 cm. X 250 cm.

On my arrival at the site the trench excavations had been completed and the process of laying the concrete strip foundation was due to commence.

The three trenches forming a rectangle to the rear of the cottage are identified as the :-

The South East Trench - Trench A.

The North East Trench - Trench B.

The North West Trench - Trench C.

All the trenches had been hand dug and the spoil deposited locally, I understand from the builders that this spoil will be used as backfill.

TRENCH A.

Length - 250 cm.

Width - 43 cm.

Depth (below existing ground level) - 68 cm.

The stratigraphy of this trench consisted of a 'natural' orange sandy Clay overlayed with fragments of red Sandstone and a dark brown sandy soil which was interspersed with coursed brick and a drainage feature, this was sealed with 10 cm. of Concrete.

The stratigraphy in this trench had been previously disturbed by :-

- A. The laying of a 10 cm. diameter earthenware foul sewer drain, running parallel to the rear of the cottage, approximately 70 cm. distant from cottage wall to center of pipe.
- B. The coursed brickwork in the North facing section, in the South East corner of the trench, this being of Early Victorian origin and being built upon the orange sandy clay and red Sandstone base.

Within the South Facing section at the North East end of the trench a 6 cm. deep band of light-grey cloured Concrete was identified, this being the floor to the earlier brick structure, this was situated 18 cm. below the surface and separated from the concrete above by a 8 cm. band of brick and lime Hardcore.

TRENCH B.

Length - 500 cm.

Width - 57 cm.

Depth - 69 cm.

The stratigraphy of this trench was consistent with that of Trench A. with the exception of a greater predominance of the red Sandstone in the North facing section of the trench.

Although this Sandstone was in an advanced state of decay it formed a rough course some 42 cm. below the present ground level and was bedded directly upon the orange sandy Clay, no evidence of bonding was identified.

The red Sandstone referred to in the North facing section of this trench showed little evidence in

the South facing section, this could ^{ear} bare out the fact that the 'wall' built of red Sandstone was aligned South East / North West and would therefore conform to the layout of the Roman street plan within the confines of the perimeter wall. However it would be unwise to formally conclude that this feature was that of an earlier structure due to its poor condition, although this cannot be ruled out.

TRENCH C.

Length - 200 cm.
Width - 49 cm.
Depth - 61 cm.

The stratigraphy remained consistent with Trenches A. and B. However the red Sandstone was confined to the North East corner of this trench. Upon the base of this trench and bedded within the remains of the red Sandstone two Earthenware Tile fragments were found, due to their thickness 32 mm and slight curvature it would indicate that these were Roof Tiles of possible Roman origin.

CONCLUSION.

I conclude from my observations that the Archaeological remains that were revealed as a result of trench excavations on this site are of Archaeological significance, namely the red Sandstone feature and the clay tile fragments. Due to the extremely short time available and advanced state of works it was not possible to prepare scale drawings, however notebook sketches are available if required.

THIS WATCHING BRIEF
AND REPORT WAS
CARRIED OUT BY

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