

NYCC HER	
SNY	8728
ENY	2325,2326
CNY	
Parish	6064
Rec'd	11.03.97

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

BACK LANE

ALDBOROUGH S.A.M. NO.436

NORTH YORKSHIRE

N.G.R. 440638 466514

COUNTY / PARISH NO. 6064

FOR

THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL

ON BEHALF OF

YORKSHIRE WATER SERVICES

MAY - OCTOBER 1996

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES	2
LIST OF PLATES	2
INTRODUCTION	5
LOCATION AND STATUS	5
PLANNING HISTORY	5
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	6
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	7
THE AIMS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION	8
SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION	9
THE C.C.T.V.SURVEY	11
SUMMARY OF THE C.C.T.V. SURVEY	11
THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	12
SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	12
CONCLUSION	14
APPENDIX A - TRIAL HOLE EXCAVATIONS	17
APPENDIX B - REPAIR HOLE EXCAVATIONS	32
APPENDIX C - SERVICE TRENCH EXCAVATIONS	37
APPENDIX D - EMERGENCY REPAIR HOLE EXCAVATIONS	42

LIST OF FIGURES

SITE LOCATION PLAN		3
FIGURE 1	- TRIAL TRENCH NO.1	19
FIGURE 2	- TRIAL TRENCH NO.2	20
FIGURE 3	- TRIAL TRENCH NO.3	24
FIGURE 4	- TRIAL TRENCH NO.4	30
FIGURE 5	- TRIAL TRENCH NO.5	31
FIGURE 6	- ILLUSTRATION OF SELECTED FINDS	43

LIST OF PLATES

PLATE 1	- SITE LOCATION	4
PLATE 2	- TRIAL TRENCH NO'S 1 AND 2	18
PLATE 3	- TRIAL TRENCH NO.3	22
PLATE 4	- TRIAL TRENCH NO.4	27
PLATE 5	- TRIAL TRENCH NO.5	28
PLATE 6	- CULVERT, TRIAL TRENCH NO'S 3 AND 4	23
PLATE 7	- CULVERT, TRIAL TRENCH NO.5	29
PLATE 8	- SERVICE TRENCH'S A, B AND C.C.T.V UNIT	38

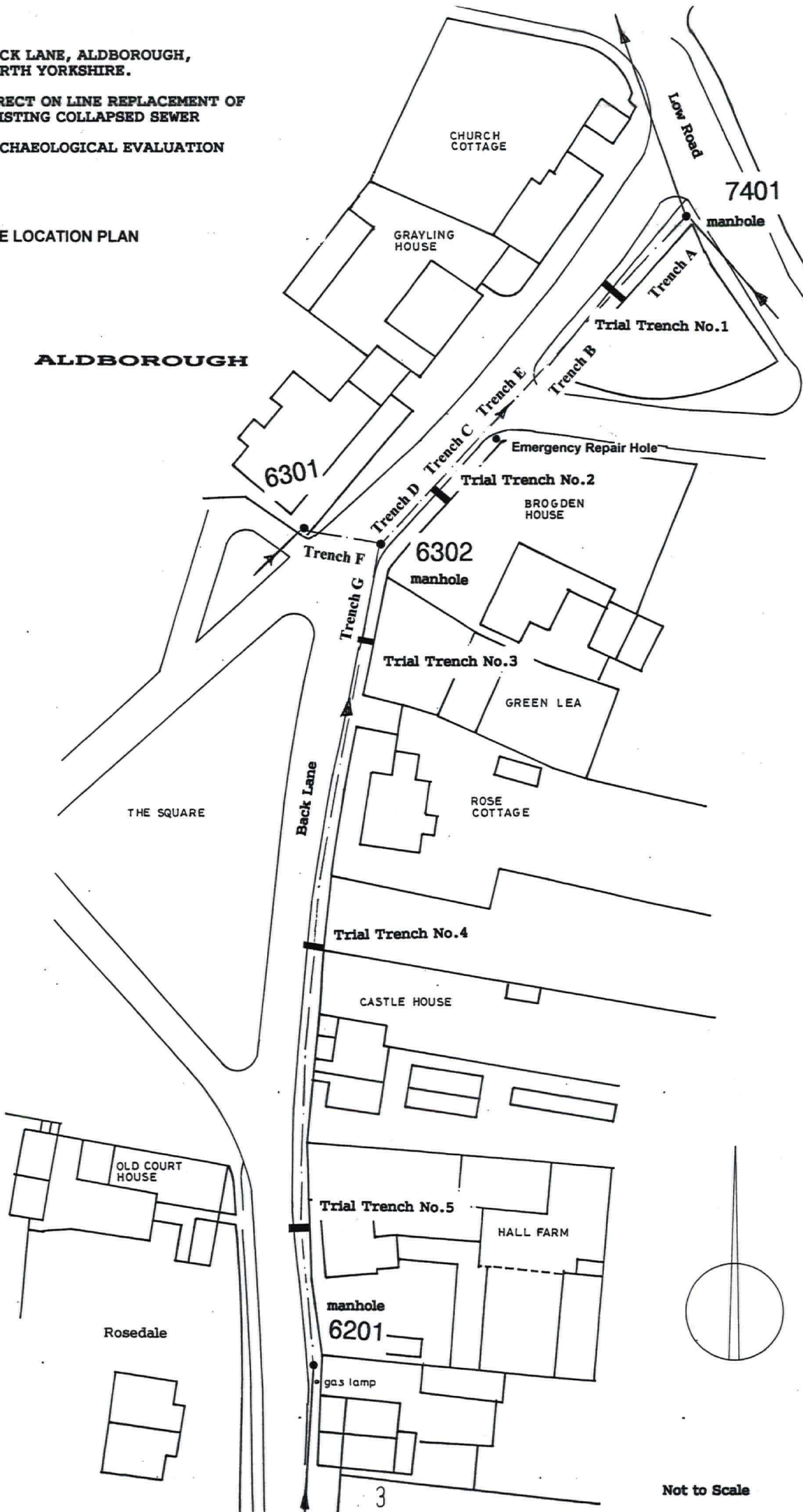
BACK LANE, ALDBOROUGH,
NORTH YORKSHIRE.

DIRECT ON LINE REPLACEMENT OF
EXISTING COLLAPSED SEWER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SITE LOCATION PLAN

ALDBOROUGH



Not to Scale

PLATE 1



Northern extent of study area



Central section of study area



Southern extent of study area

**BACK LANE
ALDBOROUGH**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
MAY-OCTOBER 1996**

INTRODUCTION

An Archaeological Investigation was made in conjunction with ground disturbance associated with the replacement of a collapsed sewer servicing the village of Aldborough. The nature of the ground disturbance relates to consolidation and replacement of the sewage network along the central and northern section of Back Lane. The scope of the archaeological works included a rapid desk top study, an evaluation and watching brief. The works were commissioned by the Department of Technical Services, Harrogate Borough Council on behalf of Yorkshire Water Services.

LOCATION AND STATUS

Back Lane is situated within the north eastern corner of the village of Aldborough, North Yorkshire. The curvilinear track that is the study area straddles the highway, verge and footway on the eastern side of Back Lane between N.G.R. 440641 466254 and 440704 466407 (Manholes 6201 and 7401).

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

A formal application for Scheduled Monument Consent was submitted by Harrogate Borough Council to the Department of National Heritage on 6th March 1996, prior to consent being approved Harrogate Borough Council were instructed to engage the services of an approved Archaeologist in order to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation of the site.

The Archaeologist prepared and submitted a detailed Specification of Works (14/05/96) pertaining to the proposed Archaeological works to English Heritage and the Department of National Heritage for their consideration and approval. On the 24th May 1996 Harrogate Borough Council received instruction from English Heritage that the Archaeological Evaluation could proceed.

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.

The site is located within the central eastern extent of the Roman Town, situated to the immediate west of the eastern longitudinal internal service road. It is likely that the study area may have supported large buildings associated with the main administrative nucleus of the Roman settlement. The north eastern extent of the study area is situated within the south west quadrant of the cross-roads on the main eastern thoroughfare leading out of town.

The greater proportion of the existing road network within the village is Medieval and Post Medieval in origin. The study area is situated on 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. It was anticipated that the existing verge and footways were developed during the medieval period.

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

The Transport Network

The size and alignment of the existing road network is depicted as early as the Ordnance Survey 6", 1898 edition.

A similar road network is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 6", 1855 edition, however, from this source it would appear that the junction of Back Lane with Low Lane differed from the 1898 Edition. The existing triangular area of lawn and gardens that denotes the configuration of the present junction is a late 19th century feature. These gardens were created following the re-routing of the eastern extent of Low Lane and formed part of a major programme of landscaping works within the grounds of Aldborough Hall.

Prior to the creation of this triangular green Low Lane proceeded out of the village on a more direct east south east alignment with Back Lane adjoining same on a tangent. The area presently occupied by the green formed the north western corner of a large field. This field is shown as supporting a relatively high number of mature trees that are contained within the south east corner.

On a 1809 land ownership map of the village and the surrounding area the basic road network is depicted as on the Ordnance Survey 1855 map.

The Settlement Pattern

The existing area of settlement in the eastern 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.

From the available cartographic evidence it is evident that the existing properties within 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

This 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 occupies the eastern side of The Square, the structure fronts onto Back Lane, this building had been demolished and removed from the site by 1855.

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.

Archaeological features have been discovered close to the study area these include a tessellated floor surface, this was exposed in situ to the east of the site.

The mosaic floor is depicted on the OS 25", 1909 map beneath the Vicarage at N.G.R. 440650 466380, no further details about this feature are available but it's location would suggest that the site was developed during the Roman period.

To the south south west of the study area a recent programme of Archaeological works were undertaken at "Rosedale" Back Lane by Mark Whyman Esq. for the York Archaeological Trust. This site occupies an elevated aspect overlooking Back Lane and The Square. Archaeological features that were interpreted as Roman were identified as 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 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The Evaluation

It was agreed that an Archaeological evaluation would be undertaken with the objective of determining the nature of the buried ground levels overlying the 160 metre length of existing sewer track and to determine the form, nature and age of the sewer. Prior to these works commencing little was known about the existing sewer and it was possible that sections could even be Roman in origin.

It was anticipated that there was a low potential of revealing stratified Archaeological deposits as it was likely that these had been heavily disturbed during the installation of 19th century and modern services. However, as the exact line of the sewer had not been determined prior to the commencement of these works it was accepted that previously undisturbed ground may be encountered. It was felt that the stratification would most likely be Post Medieval and Medieval associated with the laminations of earlier road surfaces and property boundaries.

The evaluation would help determine at what depth any Archaeology would be encountered and as to whether this would conflict with the required excavation depths for any repairs. It would also provide a useful opportunity for a structural inspection of the sewer.

It was agreed that the evaluation would consist of the excavation, by hand, of five trial trench's. The size, location and alignment of each had been determined so as to best determine the location of the sewer and in order to provide a suitably sized sample and overall cross section of the buried ground levels within the study area.

SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION

(See Appendix A)

The existing sewer was identified within each of the five Trial Trench's, in each instance the surface of this structure was exposed, cleaned and recorded.

The following information relating to the sewer was obtained:-

The Location of the Sewer

The line of the sewer was as anticipated i.e. following the eastern side of Back Lane, situated beneath the footway and the adjacent grass verge.

The Nature of the Sewer

The sewer was of two types:-

A modern ceramic salt glazed pipe with a 0.22 metre diameter. This pipe had been installed within the northern extent of the study area and was identified within Trial Trench's 1 and 2. It's northern terminus was suspected to be manhole 7401, the southern extent of this track was situated between Trial Trench No.3 and manhole 6302.

The construction trench associated with the installation of the ceramic drain was identified the fill of this trench contained a large number of broken brick and occasional sandstone slab fragments this would suggest that the installation of this ceramic drain resulted in the disturbance of an earlier structural feature. The fill contained finds that were predominantly modern and 19th century in origin.

A box culvert was identified along the remaining length of the study area. The culvert had been constructed out of a well bedded and tightly jointed arrangement of limestone sets and bricks that form the base of the structure and upon which the opposing brick sides had been constructed, these elevations were five courses in height and a single brick's width.

The bricks were hand made, of a clamp type, in a soft pink orange fabric that contained a low quantity of inclusions. The brick size was unusual 0.23 m x 0.12m x 0.05 m, and are indicative of 18th century brickwork. The bricks were bedded on a soft, light grey, lime based mortar.

The structure was capped with large slab-like fragments of roughly shaped Magnesian Limestone, the joints between which were pointed with the same mortar that beds the brickwork. Within Trial Trench No.3 the capping stones were sandstone and were not pointed.

The depth of the internal dimensions of the culverted sewer measures 0.35m wide x 0.31m deep.

It was revealed that the sewer was not an isolated track but was connected to a number of branch drains. These connecting drains were predominantly modern ceramic drains that service the adjacent properties and had broken into the existing sewer, however, in at least two locations the connections were contemporary with the culverted sewer and shared a similar form and material to the main.

The construction trench associated with the installation of the culvert was identified but had been truncated and heavily disturbed by the installation of electric and water services. The fill of the construction trench contained a small assemblage of 18th century pottery. Within Trial Trench's No's. 4 and 5 the construction trench had been cut into a heavily compacted sand that is suspected to be the natural sub-soil.

The Sub-Soil

The naturally deposited sub-soil, a heavily compacted, fine grained, orange yellow sand with occasional water worn pebbles was identified within the southern extent of the study area. Within Trial Trench No.4 the surface of this sand was identified at 23.841 m AOD, in Trial Trench No.5 at 25.568 m AOD.

Archaeological Features

Within the east facing section of the construction trench for the ceramic sewer pipe within Trial Trench No.1 the remains of a highly compacted pebble surface was identified at 20.097 m AOD and was found to be bedded on a layer of disturbed ground, a Late 18th Century date of construction has been established for this surface.

Within the north western corner of Trial Hole No.5 the natural sub soil was identified at 25.568m AOD within the surface of which a narrow slot like cut was revealed, this feature had the appearance of a beam slot and was filled by a sandy loam. This feature was not excavated as it was not threatened by the proposed works, however, it is suspected that it may be structural component of a Medieval or possible Roman building.

Archaeological Finds

A small assemblage of finds were recovered from these works. The finds were predominantly found within those heavily disturbed layers and fill deposits associated with the installation of services. The finds included pottery sherds of modern and late 19th century date together with Roman pottery including non decorated Samian Ware and coarse pottery.

A bronze caster like object (see figure 6) was recovered from the fill of the construction trench associated with the modern ceramic sewer pipe within Trial Trench No.2. The patination found on the object would suggest that the artefact is possibly Roman.

THE C.C.T.V. SURVEY

On completion of the evaluation and in order to best determine the general condition of the sewer track Harrogate Borough Council, Department of Technical Services commissioned Pipeline Inspection Services to undertake a C.C.T.V. survey of the sewer between manholes 6201 and 7401.

The survey involved the exploration of the internal area of the sewer by a remote controlled vehicle mounted with a close circuit television camera. The archaeologist was kindly invited onto site to monitor these works and was subsequently provided with a V.C.R. copy and detailed report on the survey.

SUMMARY OF THE C.C.T.V. SURVEY

The following information relating to the sewer was obtained:-

That there were several clayware connections along the line of the sewer, these service the properties on the eastern side of Back Lane. It was noted that where these connections had been made with the culverted sewer they had been forced resulting in the displacement of brickwork.

Furthermore, there are at least two further culverted sewers connecting with the main, these were noted within the central and southern extent of the track. These branch culverts appear to be similar in size and form to the main and have been carefully keyed into same, it is suspected that each of these culverts are contemporary and reflect a single, extensive programme of drainage works within the village.

The C.C.T.V. Survey confirmed that the culvert was found to be in generally good condition and in working order.

Between manhole 6302 and Trial Hole No.3 it was noted that the culvert reduces to a fractured clayware pipe with a 0.20m diameter, it is believed that this connection is the main reason for the recent exfiltration and flooding.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

On the conclusion of the above it was agreed that an Archaeological Watching Brief should be maintained on that ground disturbance required by Harrogate Borough Council in order to repair and replace sections of the sewer, this would involve the excavation, by hand, of:-

- i. A trench on the line of the clayware sewer between manholes 7401 and 6302.
- ii. A trench on the line of the clayware sewer between manhole 6302 and Trial Trench No.3.
- iii. The consolidation of manhole 6302.
- iv. A trench on the line of the clayware sewer between manhole 6302 and 6301.
- v. Seven box type excavations between manhole 6201 and Trial Trench No.3 on the line of the stone culvert.

The scope and nature of the Archaeological Watching Brief was set out in a detailed Specification of Works (02/07/96), this document was forwarded to the Client, English Heritage and The Department of National Heritage for their consideration and approval.

It was agreed that a watching brief should be maintained on each of the above works. This would involve the archaeologist being present on site during these excavations to monitor the works and record any archaeology exposed during same.

SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The Repair Holes (See Appendix B)

The repair holes were each excavated down onto the culverted sewer in order to consolidate the forced connections. A total of seven repair holes were excavated, the form and nature of the culvert was as noted within the previous Trial Trench's. No further archaeological features or deposits were identified.

The Service Trench (See Appendix C)

The trench was excavated on the line of the existing clayware sewer pipe and consequently the ground disturbance was largely confined to the recently disturbed ground of the existing construction trench (cut / fill) for this pipe. Prior

to the commencement of these works it was realised that the archaeological information gained may be restricted to the recovery of finds and the possibility of noting features within the opposing sections of the trench.

No further significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during this phase of works. However, evidence of an early 18th road surface that would appear to be contemporary with the brick culvert was noted. This feature survived as intermittent sections of cobbling and a single section of kerblin and was situated within the northern and central sections of the trench. Unfortunately, no evidence of the line of the Roman Service road was identified, it is suspected that this is largely due to the high level of post 17th century disturbance.

It became clear that the 18th century culverted sewer had originally extended nearly the full length of the existing sewer track. Within the central northern section of the study area this structure had been demolished and replaced with a clayware sewer. It would appear that towards the northern extent of the study area the culvert did not follow the line of the existing clayware pipe but doglegged to the east north east towards a cast iron vent stack (now capped) that is situated within the triangular shaped green at N.G.R. 440702 466392.

These excavations produced a moderate quantity of finds these were predominantly modern and 19th century in origin together with a small assemblage of Roman pottery. The greater part of the latter consisted of coarse pottery this was predominantly 'hard grey ware', together with occasional sherds of 'black burnished ware' and a small assemblage of Samian ware. Four fragments of Samian were decorated (see figure 6), one being decorated with a zoomorphic relief motif that depicts the torso of a bounding lion, a second fragment has a makers manufacture stamp on it's base with the text **STA**

A small assemblage of Tesera were also recovered from the fill of the trench, these small cubes of fired clay had been formerly part of a Roman mosaic floor. The Tesera were concentrated at NGR 440677 466380 which is approximately 26 metres due east of a previously identified mosaic pavement. It is possible that these dislocated fragments were deposited in their present location as a result of landfill, alternatively their presence may also point to the site of mosaic floor surface or the continuation of that identified at NGR 440650 466380.

The Repairs to Manhole 6302

The necessary consolidation work to the manhole inspection chamber were conducted without any ground works.

CONCLUSION

The recent archaeological investigation conducted by Mr.K.J.Cale for Harrogate Borough Council's Department of Technical Services on behalf of Yorkshire Water Services Ltd. at 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 25.568 metres AOD. It would appear that this layer of alluvial drift falls away to the north on a gradient that is more acute than the declivity of the existing ground levels as the sub-soil was not identified within the central and northern extent of the study area. The surface of the sub-soil had been cut by modern service trench's and a narrow slot like trench, unfortunately the age of this feature was not established but a Roman date of origin can not be discounted given the results of the archaeological investigation at Rosedale, Back Lane (M.Whyman, 1988, Y.A.T).

No evidence of a Roman road surface was identified, it had been anticipated that the remains of this feature may have been encountered within the northern extent of the study area where the conjectural line of a Roman Service road would have intersected the trench excavations, but unfortunately it would appear that this section of the road had been destroyed by subsequent ground disturbance.

A concentration of Tesera that were recovered from the highly disturbed fill of Service Trench E at NGR 440677 466380 may indicate the approximate site of a Roman mosaic floor.

The earliest activity within the study area that can be accurately established is a Late Medieval / Post Medieval deposit of loamy silty sand that was identified in the base of the service trench excavations within the northern extent of the study area at N.G.R. 440697 466340. A small quantity of medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the fill the service trench's and from the excavations within the centre and south of the study area. This assemblage was predominantly 13th and 14th century in origin with occasional sherds dating to the 15th and 16th centuries. The presence of this pottery would suggest medieval activity within the eastern extent of the village, although it suspected that within the northern extent of the study area it's presence is a result of night soiling / manuring within those fields immediately adjacent to the village.

The late medieval layer was sealed by a Post Medieval road or yard surface, this feature was intermittently exposed within Service Trench A as a linear arrangement of roughly shaped sandstone sets and within Trial Trench No.1 as a pebble surface, the upper surface of each share a common level situated at 19.993 m AOD. It is likely that the surface originally formed part of a 16/17th

century service road the line of which appears to have survived into the early 19th century and is depicted on the 1809 Land Ownership map of the village.

During the early 18th Century a major programme of improvements were undertaken within the eastern extent of the village. It was during this period that a number of properties fronting onto Back Lane were constructed (or rebuilt) and in conjunction with this a network of culverted drains were installed to dispose of foul and surface water. The form and nature of this culvert was inspected along the centre and southern extent of the study area and it can be concluded that the construction of this feature reflects a single, large scale programme of works that were most probably designed, undertaken and financed by a single benefactor, possibly the Duchy of Newcastle.

It is suspected that the culvert was planned and constructed as a subterranean feature, no evidence was found to suggest that the culvert was situated on the line of a former stream or drainage channel. No contemporary paved or cobbled floor surfaces were found associated with this feature, however the stratigraphic sequence would indicate that the construction trench for the culvert was excavated into the surrounding ground levels with the capping stones being flush with the ground levels of the early 18th century. Shortly following it's construction the archaeological evidence would suggest that both culvert and the associated ground levels were obscured and buried with imported spoil, this may reflect a major programme of 18th century landscaping within the eastern extent of the village.

The culvert appears to have remained in good working order until the late 19th / early 20th century when the northern extent of the structure was demolished and replaced with a ceramic type land drain.

The recent works found the surviving section of the culverted sewer to be in a good state of repair and working order, minor consolidation works were required to make good isolated sections of the culvert, otherwise the culvert has been left in situ and continues to service the eastern extent of the village.

It has been confirmed that the existing topography and ground levels within the study area have altered little since the late 19th century, evidence for gravel footways from this period were identified immediately beneath the existing tarmac pavements. The installation of electric, gas and water services down the eastern side of Back Lane has, unfortunately, lead to a high level of ground disturbance.

As a result of this Archaeological Investigation it is recommended that the following points are addressed when any future ground works are undertaken within the study area.

- I. There is a need to establish the line of the Roman service road, it is suspected that this lies buried beneath the triangular green at the junction

of Back Lane with Low Lane. Whilst it is acknowledged that this site may have been partially disturbed during 19th century modifications to the sewer it is anticipated the general level of archaeological preservation will be good as the site was until the mid 19th century green field, for this same reason attention should also be given to any ground works sighted to the south of this green within the service road.

- ii. An attempt should be made to establish the nature and extent of the assemblage of Tessera, it is possible that sections of mosaic pavement lie undisturbed beneath the lawns of Brogden House and within those gardens of properties to the immediate west of the study area.
- iii. There is need to address the reasons for the paucity of evidence for stratified medieval and Roman deposits within the entire line of the study area.
- iv. Every effort should be made to confirm the nature and height above sea level of the sub soil, the identification of what is suspected to be the surface geology within the southern extent of the study area at a level so close to the existing ground levels is a point of great interest, which if proven may have implications for the level of preservation of archaeology within this area of the site.

The finds and Archive from these works has been deposited with the Curator of Harrogate Museums and Art Gallery Service, Mercer Gallery, Old Swan Road, Harrogate. Tel. 01423 503340

Kevin John Cale

February 1997

APPENDIX A

Trial Trench Excavations

Trial Trench No.1

Type: Exploratory Excavation:hand
N.G.R: 440692 466396

Length: 1.3 metres
Width: 1.1 metre
Depth: 1.43 metres

Planform: Rectangular
Aligned: South East
Area: 2.5 square metres

Context No's: 2000 - 2013
Plate No: 2
Fig. No: 1 and Site Location Plan

The trial trench was excavated so as to ascertain the nature of the buried ground levels within the northern extent of the study area and is situated adjacent to the triangular green near the junction of Back Lane with Low Lane. The trial trench was excavated into the highway, grassed verge and tarmac footway. The existing ground levels slope very gently downwards to the north.

The tarmac (context 2001) and sub-base (context 2002) of the existing footway were broken and loosened by a compressed air jackhammer and then removed. The turf (context 2000) was cut and removed from the adjacent verge.

A buried topsoil (context 2004) was identified beneath the grass verge, the layer contained modern and late 19th century finds. This layer of sandy loam had been cut by the construction trench (context 2005) that had been excavated for the instatement of the ceramic sewer pipe.

The construction trench was aligned north east and contained a single fill of loamy sand within the base of which the salt glazed sewer pipe was exposed. The invert of the sewer measured 19.576 m AOD. The surrounding fill (context 2006) contained a high quantity of broken brick and occasional fragments of broken sandstone flag. It was later established that this rubble was in fact the remains of an earlier brick and sandstone culverted sewer.

Within the south west corner of the trench the buried topsoil sealed a layer of orange yellow sand (context 2007), this layer had accumulated upon a pebble surface (context 2008).

The pebble surface was bedded level and extremely well compacted, the surface was identified at 20.097 m AOD. The surface is suspected to be Late 18th century in origin, whilst it is acknowledged that the surface is situated on the conjectural line of the Roman service road the surface was bedded within a layer of loamy sand (context 2009) that contained 18th century pottery. The surface had been cut and disturbed during the installation of a 19th century water service (context 2010) and during the installation of the sewers.

Trial Trench No.2

Type: Exploratory Excavation:hand
N.G.R: 440669 466372

Length: 2.06 metres
Width: 1.13 metres
Depth: 1.2 metres

Planform: Rectangular
Aligned: South East
Area: 2.32 square metres

Context No's: 3000 - 3012
Plate No: 2
Fig. No: 2 and Site Location Plan

The trial trench was excavated so as to ascertain the nature of the buried ground levels within the central northern extent of the study area and is situated adjacent to the grounds surrounding Brogden House. The trial trench was excavated into the highway, grassed verge and tarmac footway. The existing ground levels slope very gently downwards to the north.