

NYCC HER	
SNY	9548
ENY	2853
CNY	
Parish	6064
Rec'd	16-06-05

**Aldborough Roman Town
Aldborough
North Yorkshire
SE 4160 6660**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Authorised by *MJS*

Date:..... *13/5/05*

© MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

May 2005

**Aldborough Roman Town
Aldborough
North Yorkshire
SE 4160 6660**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents	Page
Figure List	2
Plate List	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Historical Background	3
3. Work Programme	4
4. Methodology	4
5. Results	4
6. Bibliography	4

Figure List

1. Site Location. Scale 1:50,000
2. Watching Brief Areas and Watching Brief Area

Plate List

1. View of sign to be replaced. Facing west
2. Location of Posthole 2. Facing north

Aldborough Roman Town
Aldborough
North Yorkshire
SE 4160 6660

Archaeological Watching Brief

An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Aldborough Roman Town, Aldborough, North Yorkshire on the 10th of March 2005. The work was undertaken on behalf of English Heritage and involved monitoring the excavation of two postholes. No archaeological features or finds were recorded during the Watching Brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The site of Aldborough Roman Town is situated to the north of the town of Aldborough,, North Yorkshire. at SE 4160 6660 (Fig. 1)
- 1.2 The areas located for the Archaeological Watching Brief were at the eastern end of an upstanding earthwork (part of the defensive wall to the town) and in an open area to the east of the mosaics (Fig. 2).
- 1.3 The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on the 10th of March 2005, at the bequest of English Heritage.
- 1.4 All maps within this report have been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL50453.

2. Historical Background

- 2.1 From the 2nd century until the 5th century AD the site of Aldborough was occupied by an important Roman town known by the Latin name of *Isurium Brigantium*. Isurium was established to act as a center of Roman government, administration and cultural

life. and situated in the territory of the Brigantes, which were the largest of the native British tribes (Dobinson 1995).

- 2.2 Despite its importance there is now little evidence of its past significance. However the remains of the Roman town wall and a fine mosaic floors along with the numerous coins and prestige and everyday finds found in Aldborough attest to its former importance to this area of Northern Roman Britain.

3. Work Programme

- 3.1 The aim of the brief was to enable the recording and recovery of archaeological remains, which may be have been affected by the excavation of the postholes for information boards.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 Two postholes (Pls. 1 - 2) were excavated by hand. Posthole 1 was into a previous housing whereas Posthole 2 was excavated into in situ deposits. The postholes measured 0.28m in diameter and 0.46m in depth. All work was carried out by hand in the presence of an archaeologist.

5. Results

- 5.1 Posthole 1 was a re-excavation of an existing posthole. Only re-deposited topsoil and brick rubble was observed.
- 5.2 Posthole 2 revealed a deposit of 7.5YR clay loam containing small brick and decayed sandstone fragments. This deposit was sealed by a 0.23m deep deposit of topsoil.
- 5.3 No archaeological features or any artefacts were identified during the Watching Brief..

6. Bibliography

Dobinson C 1995 Aldborough Roman Town

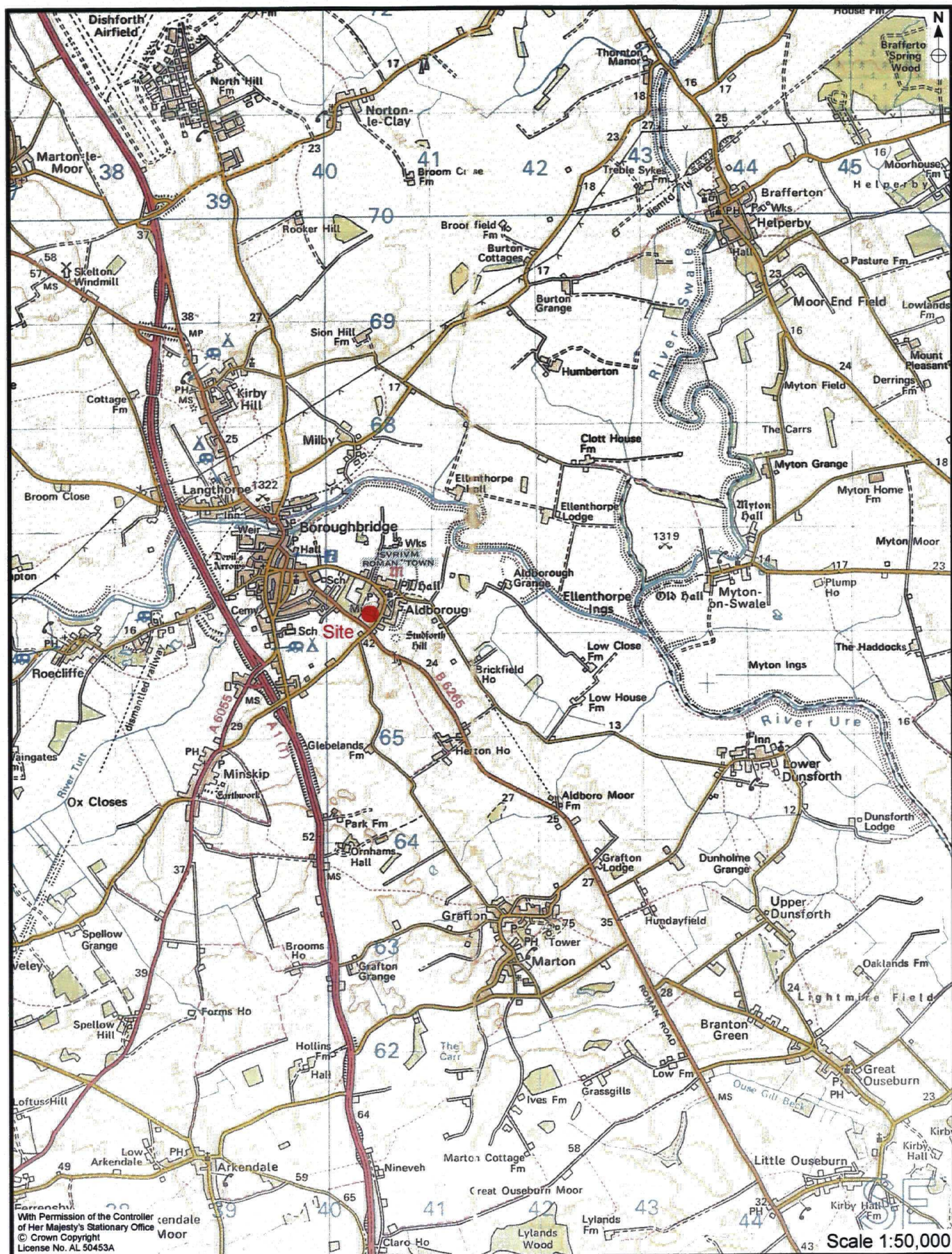


Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. Watching Brief Areas



Plate 1. View of sign to be replaced. Facing west.

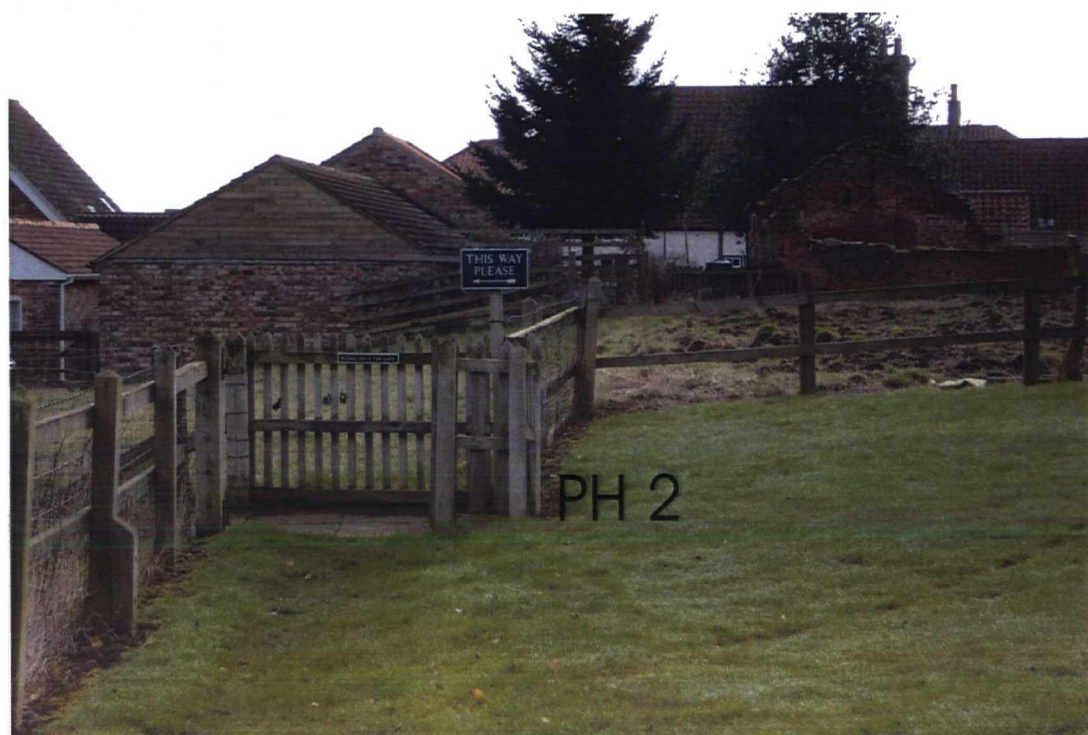


Plate 2. Location of Posthole 2. Facing north.