

# An Archaeological Appraisal of Land off Ferry Boat Lane, Mexborough, South Yorkshire



On behalf of Mr L Chesman  
Chesman Decorators Ltd

**CS Archaeology**  
May 2012

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## 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report addresses the historical/archaeological potential of the Proposed Development Area (PDA), off Ferry Boat Lane, at Mexborough's historic centre.
- 1.2 The PDA consists of a rectangular plot of land overlooking the canal and the River Don. The PDA has been traced to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and where it occupied the site of a large building, which probably related to the home of the Savile family. Because of the hall's position it was affected by the course of Mexborough's new canal cut and was demolished c.1834. Some of the halls' building fabric was re-used within the 'new' parsonage which was built close but on higher ground.
- 1.3 The Savile family sold the 'Old Hall' at Mexborough, probably towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Certainly by 1633 the church owned the land where it formed part of the Church's Glebe (lands). In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the PDA was developed as a tennis court and then late in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the council built a block of flats across it's northern half.
- 1.4 During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century artefacts and structures from the area of the former home of the Savile family were revealed during excavation of the main sewer. These remains were located across the southern half of the PDA adjacent to the canal.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report has been commissioned by Lee Chesman (Chesman Decorators Ltd) as a condition on planning consent (App No. 12/00364/FUL) to redevelop the PDA for a single residential dwelling. The PDA abutts the lower end of Ferry Boat Lane, Mexborough, South Yorkshire.
- 2.2 Mexborough is situated between Doncaster (10kms east) and Rotherham (7.9 kms southwest). Joseph Hunter (1829, 390) describes Mexborough as lying south of Adwick extending 'eastwards to the point where meet the Dearne and Don'. The PDA is represented by a rectangular plot of sloping ground land (0.26 Ha) within the non-civil parish of Doncaster District but historically within the parish of Mexborough). The PDA lies within Mexborough's historic core.

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To ensure that any archaeological information identified through readily available desk-based sources is recorded and accurately presented on a modern base map (Figure 5).

## 4 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 APPRAISAL.

The following sources were consulted and the information obtained has formed the basis of the site appraisal:

- a) visual inspection of the site;
- b) data on sites, monuments and interventions held at SYAS HER;
- c) geotechnical data where available;
- d) survey drawings of any existing/former buildings on the site, including foundations and basements;
- e) plans and maps of the site and its environs, including historic pictorial and surveyed maps and including pre-and post war Ordnance Surveys up to the present day;
- f) trade and business directories;
- g) place name evidence;
- h) historical documents and photographs held in local libraries, archives and museums;
- i) appropriate archaeological and historical journals and books.

Constraints to data collection included an absence of any geotechnical data and the temporary closure of Mexborough's Library (Local History section) due to refurbishment.

NB data from the Local History Section at Mexborough Library was transferred to Doncaster Archives at Edward Road, but in reviewing this information no source for the key 1778 map of this appraisal was revealed.

## 5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Geological formations, natural topography and flora and fauna have always influenced the pattern of human settlement. These factors can never be assumed to be constant and therefore to have had a predictable influence at all times in the past. The influence of these factors on land use is a major element in determining the nature of the archaeological deposits (stratification) that have accumulated across archaeological sites.

### 5.2 Geology

5.2.1 The underlying geology of the PDA and study area consists of Late Carboniferous Middle Pennine Coal Measures overlain by heavy clay soils. The bedrock comprises of mudstones, siltstones and sandstones with coal seams. Throughout the PDA the bedrock is overlain by river deposited alluvium, which consists of a variety of deposits including: silt, clay and sand with inter-bedding of gravel and peat (BGS 2008).

### 5.3 Topography and Drainage

5.3.1 The PDA is situated half across the flood plain of the River Don. The PDA historically bordered the north bank of the River Don and was partly annexed when the 'new cut' of the canal was built, early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The PDA straddles the 25m AOD contour line, straddling the designated flood plain of the River Don.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The local history of the study area has been determined by an examination of relevant publications, articles, historical maps and plans. The archaeological background has been assessed through a number of sources as outlined above. The intention of the searches has been to assess the PDA's archaeological resource with respect to any historic buildings and potential sub-surface archaeology that will and could be affected by the proposed ground-works associated with the redevelopment of the PDA.

### 6.2 The Medieval Background (AD 1066 - 1530)

6.2.1 Surviving Medieval sites within Mexborough consist of the Church of St John the Baptist and the remains of Mexborough Hall immediately west of the church. The four open fields of Mexborough (Goodchild 1997, 202), which surrounded the village, may also have had medieval origins.

- 6.2.2 In the Domesday Book of AD 1086, Mexborough or 'Mechesburg' is recorded to have had three Saxon lords: Ulfac, Ulchil and Ulchel who between them owned 5 carucates<sup>1</sup>. The manor of Mexborough was gifted to Roger de Busli, who had a carucate in demesne<sup>2</sup>, eight villains and four borders, with three carucates. There was also a mill which was then valued at 8 shillings a year. The manor had dropped in value after the conquest from £6 to 40 shillings (Hunter 1828, 390), and was stark testament to the 'harrying of north' which disrupted the economy and power of the northern barons immediately after the Norman conquest.
- 6.2.3 Probably at the beginning of Norman control over the area and the River Don in particular, Mexborough featured a Motte and Bailey castle. This is extant and lies 1.5 kms northwest of the PDA. The castle still features prominent banks and is situated on the north (left hand) bank of the River Don. The castle commands an ancient ford across the River Don at Strafford Sands (Hey 1979).
- 6.2.4 Soon after acquiring the manor, De Busli granted it to Adam Swein fitz Aulric, and by the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Mexborough had passed to the Clunic Abbey of Bretton Priory. The two medieties<sup>3</sup> of the church came to belong to the 2 religious houses of Nostell and Bretton. Each continued respectively its share of the proceeds. This resulted in the provision of 2 parsons, one provided by Nostell the other by Monk Bretton. This was the situation until 1247 when Mexborough Church was allotted to the Archdeaconry of York. In 1263 the Archdeacon became the parson of Mexborough and appointed an 'incumbent' to be perpetual curate (NB 'per curacy' was depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1854: [Figure 3](#)). At this time when the two medieties had been consolidated the northern aisle of the church was pulled down and the arched columns infilled to provide an external wall. No vicar was ever ordained in it, which is why there is no list of vicars for the parish (Notes of Mexborough DA P43 2/D2).
- 6.2.5 In 1327 archbishop Melton allowed the manor to be rented out for profit. Later in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Edward III granted the manor free warren, which allowed certain species of game to be hunted. During the 1530s under the disillusionment of the monasteries Mexborough was granted to Morgan Wolfe and Thomas Calton and others (Hunter 1828, 391).

### 6.3 The Post-Medieval Background (AD 1530-1900)

- 6.3.1 Historically Mexborough was a small village. In 1801 the population was 417, which expanded to over 10,000 by 1901. Hunter, in 1828, notes that the population had doubled from 403 to 865, between 1811 and the 1821s, which provides a date for Mexborough's dramatic industrial and population expansion. This expansion took place west of the village in what became known as New Mexborough.
- 6.3.2 Mexborough's economy was based around coal mining, quarrying, brickworks and the production of ceramics. This period heralded considerable change and growth for Mexborough, particularly from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The catalyst for this change was an

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<sup>1</sup> The carucate was based on the area a plough team of eight oxen could till in a single annual season, and roughly comprised of 120 acres.

<sup>2</sup> Land retained by the lord of the manor for his own use as opposed to alienated land, given to free holders

<sup>3</sup> **Mediety** The strict meaning of the word is *equal parts*, sometimes referred to as a *Moiety*. An ecclesiastical parish required the appointment of a rector. Some parishes supported more than one rector and in that case the parish would be divided to suit the number of medieties both in the collection of tithes and the rectorial responsibility

improvement in communications across South Yorkshire due to the canal, the branch turnpike road and the railway.

- 6.3.3 A traveller on the canal reported that at Mexborough there was a community of 10,000 engaged in making railway wheels, glass bottles and grindstones for Sheffield, and further noted that the grindstone deposits were nearly as valuable as the coal (Chambers 1995).
- 6.3.4 The River Don was navigable upstream as far as Mexborough and from there entered a canal section around to Swinton (Figure 1: 1767-70, 1778. Improvements to the canal resulted in the 'New Cut' which predates the Tithe Map and Fairbank's map of 1840 (Figure 1 1839: Figure 2 1840).
- 6.3.5 Apart from the Domesday Reference to a mill on the Don at Mexborough no evidence has so far been revealed to confirm its presence. Spicer (1982), in a study of the Don Flour Mill (upstream of the PDA) found no previous evidenced a mill in the area, but a letter from the lord of the manor Mr. Saville (c.1723) reportedly complains of a lowering of the water level of the Don due to a diversion in the river. This diversion can be seen on a number of maps presumably as the 'New Cut', and suggests the possibility of a mill in the area which may have been owned by Mr Savile, the then lord of the manor.
- 6.3.6 During the Post Medieval period Mexborough had two notable gentry families, the Hornes and the Saviles. Members of each family are remembered in memorials in the church. The Savile family resided in Mexborough for 3-4 generations. Initially Samuel Savile of Wakefield, a descendent of the Saviles of Hullenodge, retired to Mexborough. He was a fellow of King's College Cambridge; he served the crown as a secretary to James Earl of Carlise in his embassy to France. And as a royalist during the civil war, was imprisoned at Hull. After long service and attendance at court. Samuel died in the year of the restoration (1660) aged 71 and is buried in St John's Church (Hunter 1828, 392: Glassby 1893, 63). Samuel's son also Samuel became captain of George Savile's Foot Regiment for Agbrig and Morley in 1666 (Hunter 1828, 392), he died aged 54 in 1685 and is also commemorated in the church as is William Savile.
- 6.3.7 The Savile's estate at Mexborough was sold to Sir Charles Savile of Methley Hall, Wakefield and his son John Savile who was born at Thyberg Hall, became the first Earl of Mexborough. Due to the industrialisation following the establishment of the Sheffield Doncaster Canal through the Mexborough estate interest and investment in Mexborough appears to have declined, especially when the earl's water powered metal working mill had to be relocated to Sheffield, a direct casualty of the canalization of the Rover Don. Then in c1834, Mexborough Parsonage, a large Elizabethan House which had been the home of Samuel Savile was demolished to make way for the construction of the canal we see today (Ashby 2006: Internet Source 4).

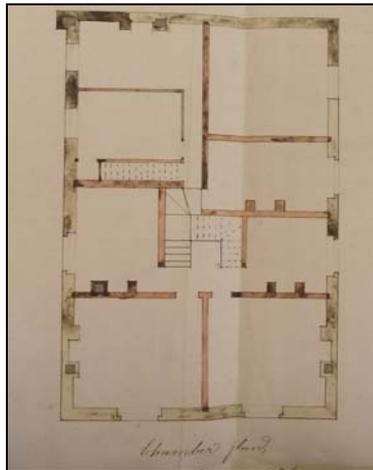
## 6.4 History of the PDA

- 6.4.1 Glassby (1893) notes the site of the 'Old Rectory' the former home of the Saviles in a walk round tour of Old Mexborough. In going down to the Ferry Glassby notes that the 'site is now covered by the swing bridge over the canal, a portion of the Vicars garden and church land, the house having been taken down to give place to the canal'. The hearth tax returns for 1672 show the status of these families with both Mr Horne and

Captain Savile having 8 taxable hearths apiece, in contrast to the majority of Mexborough's, 41 listed inhabitants who had between 1 and 2 hearths (Hey 1991, 47). NB There is no reference to a parsonage in the Mexborough hearth returns and the Savile's hall and the parsonage are believed, by documentary sources and the author, to be the same. Certainly a parsonage is mentioned in the terrier of 1633, indicating that by this time, the hall and the PDA had been transferred to the church.

- 6.4.2 By the 17<sup>th</sup> century Mrs Sarah Clay was lady of Mexborough and was eventually succeeded by Mrs Reeves during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Hunter 1828, 391).
- 6.4.3 **1633** there is a secondary reference to a terrier of the Mexborough's Glebe in The Sheffield Miscellany (nd, 116-7). *"Imprimis the Parsonage, House of Mexborough, two barens (i.e. barns), one stable, one croft adjoining to the house"*.
- 6.4.4 **1647** there is a report of a Colonel Rample condemned to death from killing a trooper at his quarters in Mr Savile's house in Mexborough (Glassby 1893, 63).
- 6.4.5 **1762**, no mention of a parsonage in the hearth tax returns. Two houses owned by Captain Saville and Mr Horne both comprise of 8 hearths.
- 6.4.6 **1764**, a terrier of Mexborough church property recorded 38 acres of glebe land, the parsonage, coach house and stabling for two horses, its cattle house, two large barns, orchard and fishpond a newly built farmhouse (for a tenant farmer), a house in the churchyard formerly used as a school, and timber amounting to 49 ash, 12 walnut, 2 elm and 2 pear trees (Goodchilde 1997, 203-4).
- 6.4.7 A further terrier of **1764**, notes the contents of the church lands. The parsonage boasted 10 rooms per floor with a cellar 8 x 5 yards. There was a marble fireplace in the dining room. Externally there were: 2 barns (30 x 6 & 20 x 7 yds), a coach house, coach house stable for 6 horses and a granary over the stable, another stable for 4 horses, a beast house all of stone covered with slate or thatch, a foldstead with stone fence, an orchard planted with several sorts of fruit, two fishponds in the said orchard, a water house and a piece of ground called the garden but was not used as such, the whole fenced within a stone wall. In the terrier acreages are provided and also the presence of a 'Green Yard' which does not feature above i.e. within the 'stone fence' which was slightly smaller (1 acre) than the church yard (1 acre, 2 rods). The terrier also notes the presence of 'Timber Growing', in the churchyard; 7 ash trees, 2 Walnut and 11 sycamore. The Green Yard consisted of 10 walnut, 2 elm and 2 pear (Mexborough Terrier 1764-1777).
- 6.4.8 Mexborough Terrier of **1825**, is similar to the above (of 1764) apart from a few details. *"The parsonage house is built partly of stone and partly of brick, and is covered with slates. It contains two cellars, seven lower rooms, one of which is floored with boards, the other six are paved or flagged. Also 10 chambers, five of which have boarded floors and five plaister. Belonging to the parsonage house are a barn thirty yards in length, and six yards in breadth, a stable for four horses, with a chamber over the same. A fold whose area is 0z. 1r. 1p. Two yards, one of which contains five walnut trees, and is in area 0a.1r. 33p. The other contains seven walnut trees and in area 0a. 3r. 12p. Also four cottages standing near the parsonage-house. The annual rent for which they let being upwards of £15. These four cottages were formerly a malt-kiln, &c."* (The Sheffield Miscellany nd, 117).

- 6.4.9 In **1833**, there is a letter from John Scott entitled 'Plans and specification of the intended new house at Mexborough' for £585 by Will Coates and John Scott Builders. In this specification allowance is made for the reuse of £75 of materials from the Old Rectory House. The new house is to have stone walls '*but the inner walls of reused brick from the Old Rectory House...flooring joists of oak made from the oak from the Old Rectory House*' Mexborough St. John the Baptist Parish Records, 167). Elevation and plan drawings of the build clearly show the re-used brick denoted by red walls in associated drawings of 1833 (below).



The 1833 plan of the new Parsonage, Mexborough ((DA P43/2/B1)

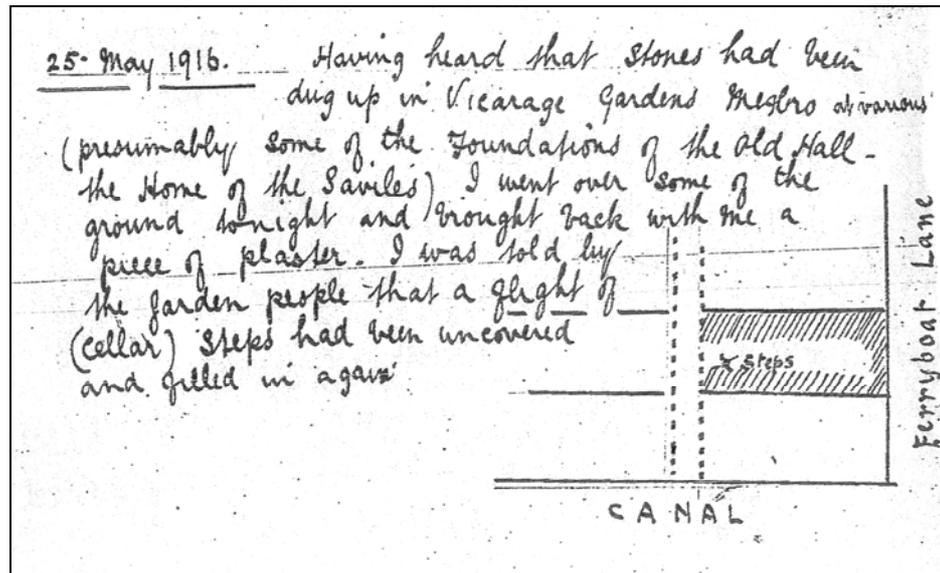
- 6.4.10 The Mexborough Tithe Map of 1839 (see below), features the PDA as the lower half of an enclosure called the 'Croft' (Apportionment No. 123) which lies east of Ferry Boat Lane. The croft is entirely featureless. It was owned by Rev. Henry Spencer Markham and tenanted by Benjamin Beevors. This depiction of the PDA must have been made shortly after the demolition of the hall c. 1833 (above).
- 6.4.11 The census records from **1841** and **1851**, confirm that Leonard J Hobson, Rector of Mexborough, and his family lived at the Parsonage and Whites trade directory confirms he was rector in 1833. In 1851 his family consisted of Leonard who was 73, his wife Dorothy (78), Ann (46) Leonard (44), Dorothy (40), Martha (30). There were two servants: Sarah White (27) and Edward Pashley (12).
- 6.4.12 A letter dated **1860**, held within the church documents (DA P43 2/D2), from the Reverend Hobson's daughter, Miss Ann Hobson, to an unknown person (possibly the Re. Ellerhaw). She wrote answering some questions about the parsonage, which is still preserved in the parish records. In this letter she states her "*father's papers are most voluminous*" and that "*there never was a Vicarage to my knowledge but a dilapidated old hall (so called) built upon the Rectorial Glebe and pulled down previous to the building the present Rectory House. The Rectory House was completed in 1834 and occupied by the incumbent paying a small acknowledgement of 5 shillings per annum. Ms Hobson also states that on the death of Archdeacon Markham an additional rent of 15 shillings per annum was checked for the house and £1 per annum for the tithe farm*". Also mention is made when "*a portion of the Glebe and Church yard was taken away when the canal was cut by act of Parliament and £400 was paid for the annexed land*". The £400 was doubled by the Queen

Ann's Bounty<sup>4</sup> to £923/10/6 in order to reduce bank annuities resulting in reduced payments from £30 to £20 which took place in 1845 on the death of Mr H Markham.

- 6.4.13 In a conveyance of the Parsonage House which itemises the assets and is dated **1861**. It states that "*All that Messuage or dwelling House with the stables, cowhouse, piggery and other buildings and the yard garden and croft (the PDA) or paddock*", a total of 1 acre 2 rods and 35 perches.
- 6.4.14 The Rev. Henry Ellershaw, B.A. (White **1862**) is now listed as the church's Incumbent.
- 6.4.15 In **1877**, the Vicarage House had £900 of improvements. This presumably entailed the southern extension to the building and possibly the demolition of the associated agricultural buildings which fronted onto Church Street.
- 6.4.16 In an edition of the Sheffield Miscellany (nd) an entry for Mexborough Parsonage-House, Rectory or Hall notes that it was the home of the Saviles and "*situated near the SW corner of the field or close adjoining the present Vicarage garden on the east. It was a half timbered house, according to the information supplied to me by an old inhabitant, who had frequently played in the garden as a boy...It had exceedingly fine walnut trees in the garden and fishponds...This fine old residence was pulled down when the canal was dug through a portion of its side on the SW about 1834. For many years, however, before its final destruction, it had been divided and merely let as tenements to the poor people. In 1884, some workmen while excavating through a main sewer parallel to the north bank of the canal, dug into the cellars of the Old Rectory, which had evidently not been destroyed with the house itself, but merely filled up with rubbish. Only one corner of this angle wall was interfered with by the drain, and the portion of cellar exposed by the excavations again filled in.. During the drainage operations here the workmen dug up a small bone fruit or paper knife, quaintly carved into a be-ruffed lady's head at the handle which is round while the blade is of course is flat. The initials W S cut on the blade rendered it probable that it belonged to one of the Saviles, of whom two at least bore the Christian name William... A fractured glass seal of a later date was also dug up at the same time and place- which I suspect was an emblem of Jacobite loyalty on the part of one of the Saviles...*" (Sheffield Miscellany). This account provides detailed account of a high status occupation with structural remains within the PDA.
- 6.4.17 Late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century The PDA is featured as the southern half the Parsonage's Kitchen Garden (Figure 4: 1909). The Kitchen garden extended to the west of Ferry Boat Lane from the canal to Church Street and contained 10 enclosed plots of land which were accessed via a central north-south trackway. A rectangular water closet 'WC' is depicted towards the northwest corner of the kitchen garden abutting the boundary with the 'Vicarage Garden'. To the southern boundary with the canal is a straight flight of stairs presumably accessing the canal and marked 'water'. Rents for each plot were set at 20 shillings per annum payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and August. Text pencilled below the plan indicates that the rent for plots 8, 9 & 9.5 had been reduced by 1905.
- 6.4.18 Information contained in a Leonard Harrop's Book (1916), recorded the probable location of plaster and cellar steps towards the southeast corner of the PDA.

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<sup>4</sup> Queen Anne's Bounty was a fund established in 1704 to augment the incomes of the poorer clergy of the Church of England



Extract from Harrop's book of 1916

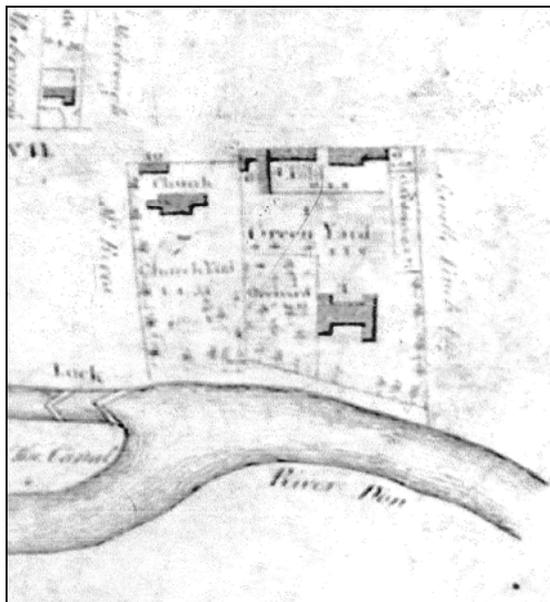
## 6.5 Map regression analysis of the PDA (Figures 2-4)

- 6.5.1 The earliest depiction of the PDA is in a highly detailed map of Mexborough. Its date is unknown but clearly predates the canalization of the River Don, and probably dates to the early 18<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century (see below). The hall is depicted just west of the crossing of the River 'Dunn' (Don). It is noticeable just how close the gabled hall is situated close to the north bank of the river. Apart from the church the hall is the most elaborate building within the village and features a 2 storey gabled façade, probably representing a central hall with two end wings. It is possible that the central hall and wings were from different periods and could go some way to explain the differing historic accounts of a brick and stone hall, and that the buildings development is associated with the great vernacular rebuilding period of the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Two chimney stacks are depicted which probably consisted of the 8 chimneys (noted below). Access to the hall is via a central gateway in the impressive enclosure wall which extends up onto Church Street and embraces the two barns. There is a further walled garden north of Church Street but all other boundaries are denoted as a single line probably denoting fence/hedges. NB the churchyard does not have a wall. This marked difference in boundary treatments emphasises the principal or wealthier halls/farmsteads.



Extract of an early 17<sup>th</sup> century map of Mexborough (DA DZMZ/9)

6.5.2 The earliest detailed depiction of the PDA dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century before the canal redefined the PDA's southern boundary. The plan depicts a very large building with an 'H' plan overlooking the River Don. There are no buildings immediately surrounding the building this land is occupied by an 'Orchard' and 'Green Yard'. There is an array of buildings to the north along Church Street featuring the two barns and associated buildings described in the above terriers. St John's Church is also depicted and all are on an east-west alignment. Access to the 'hall' is undefined standing within the Green Yard enclosure. There is however a gap between the two buildings fronting onto church street, this may have been an entrance, but not a formal entranceway which a high status building would expect. NB the enclosure abutting Ferry Boat Lane is undeveloped.



Map of Mexborough dated 1778 showing the hall of the Savile family overlooking the River Don with canal locks and a section of the navigation (Figure 2)

6.5.3 In the Tithe map, the PDA is featured as the lower half of an enclosure called the croft (Apportionment No. 123) east of Ferry Boat Lane. The croft is entirely featureless and it was owned by Rev. Henry Spencer Markham and tenanted by Benjamin Beevors. This depiction of the PDA must have been made shortly after the demolition of the hall c. 1834 (noted above).

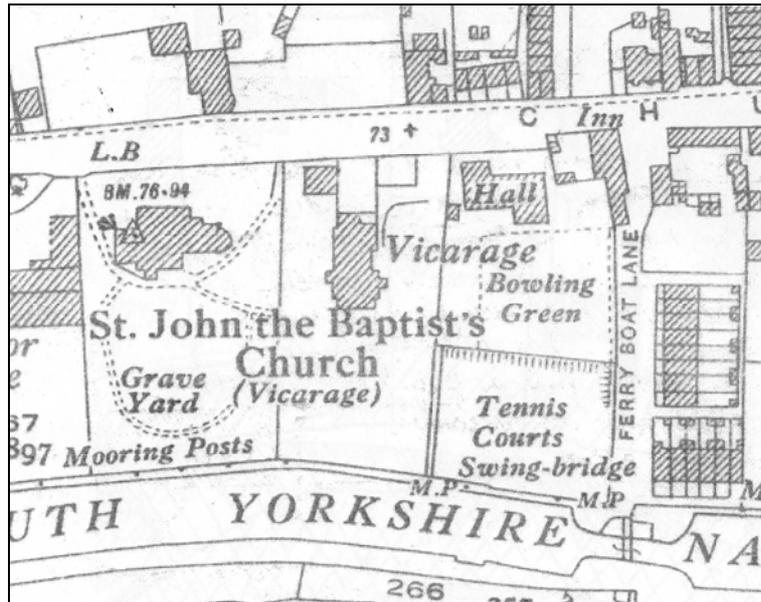


Extract from the 1839 Tithe Map (Figure 2)

Table 1: Apportionments from the Mexborough tithe map of 1839

Plot No.	Description	Quantities Acres/Roods/Perches	Tithe £/s/d
Landowner: Rev. Henry Spencer Markham		Occupied by : Benjamin Beevors	
120	Church and Yard	2/3/24	-
123	Croft	1/3/1	"/3/1
Landowner: Rev. Henry Spencer Markham		Occupied by : Hobson the Reverend, Leonard Jasper, Glassby and others	
122	Parsonage House, pleasure ground, stable barn, coach house Yard, Cottages	"/3/20	1/2/0
124	Garden		-
Landowner: Rev. John Hanby		Occupied by: George Sutton	
124a	Public House, Stable and saw pits and 4 cottages	-	-
Landowner: Rev. Rev. Henry Spencer Markham		Occupied by: George Sutton	
124	Garden		-

- 6.5.4 Both Fairbank's map and the 6" and 25" Ordnance Survey Maps of 1854 and 1894 (Figure 2) and the 1903 map depict a featureless PDA which remained undeveloped.
- 6.5.5 However reorganisation had been carried out probably late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with a central north-south road accessing regular plots of land. Apportionments of these land plots or allotments testify to their decreasing rentable values (Figure 4).
- 6.5.6 By 1928 the PDA had been developed as a tennis court with a bowling green immediately north of the present PDA. This development would have led to major cut and fill disturbance across the PDA.



Extract from the 1928 OS Map (Figure 3)

- 6.5.7 By 1967 the northern half the PDA had been developed by the council as a large block of flats. Ironically the plan of the flats resembled in plan the supposedly Elizabethan hall it eventually replaced. However the flats did not last and were pulled down relatively recently.

## 6.6 Walk over Survey (Plates 1-4)

- 6.6.1 This was undertaken on 5 May 2012. The principal features consisted of surface remains, and a building platform with rubble piles now largely obscured by vegetation, from the block of flats c. 1967 (Plate 1). East and south of the building platform is an apron of hard standing still featuring concrete kerbing, associated hard standing and two extant street lights. There was a surface drain (Figure 5) but whether or not this had been connected to the main sewer is unknown. The southern half of the PDA was earthfast and in general characterised by slightly irregular surfaces suggesting historic levelling of the site, probably associated with the construction of the flats c. 1967. Certainly no evidence for the early 20<sup>th</sup> century tennis court and bowling green remain.
- 6.6.2 Along the western boundary of the PDA is the churchyard wall, which post dates the 1778 map and may have been derived from the 'old hall's' perimeter wall

## 7 SIGNIFICANCE AND POTENTIAL

- 7.1 The PDA lies within the historic landscape characterisation area 'Commercial Core-Suburban 1800-2006 (HLC HSY5284). Historically the PDA has belonged to one of Mexborough's principal families, the Saviles, a connection which can be confirmed by church memorials.
- 7.2 Potentially significant remains, outlined above, lie within the southern half PDA (Figure 5) which is an area which is not going to be developed and has been subject to historic truncation by:
- o the canal during in the 1830s,
  - o the construction of a main sewer drain in 1884,
  - o site reduction associated with the construction of tennis courts and bowling green by 1928;
  - o modern truncation and levelling deposits associated with the modern block of flats c. 1967.
- 7.3 There is the possibility of revealing associated artefacts and features from the site of the hall as well as archaeological deposits that predate the later medieval period.

## 8 REDEVELOPMENT AND IMPACTS

### **8.1 Impacts to the PDA's known archaeological resource from the proposed development.**

8.1.1 No known archaeological assets will be affected by the proposed development.

8.1.2 The position of the Savile Hall is estimated to be at least 10m from the proposed buildings. Because structural remains were only revealed during deep excavation (exact depths are unknown).

### **8.2 Impacts to the PDA's unknown archaeological resource, from the proposed development.**

8.2.1 There are a range of potential archaeological features including artefacts from the site. To ensure that archaeological safeguards are in place prior to the development of the site, the following section proposes an appropriate mitigation strategy.

## 9 PROPOSED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

9.1 No development, including service should take place across the southern half of the PDA.

9.2 An archaeological watching brief for the entire ground works associated with the proposed new dwelling.

## 10 REFERENCES (DA- Doncaster Archives)

### 10.1 Bibliographic References

- English Heritage, 2010, Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment
- Glassby W. J.J. 1893, *Memorials of Old Mexborough*, Sheffield
- Goodchild J. 1997, *The Enclosure of Mexborough* in 'Aspects of Doncaster' (Ed. B Elliott), Wharnccliffe Publishing
- Hey, D. 1979, *The Making of South Yorkshire*, Moorland Publishing Company
- Hey D. 1991, *The Hearth Tax Returns For South Yorkshire*, The University of Sheffield
- Hunter J. 1828, *South Yorkshire: The History and Topography of the Deanery of Doncaster in the Diocese and County of York*, Volume I. London
- Mexborough Terrier 1764-1777, House and Lands belonging to the Church of Mexborough (DA DZMZ 52)
- Mexborough St. John the Baptist Parish Records: Memos and Indexes (DA P43 2/D1 and D2)
- Spicer L., 1982, *The Barnsley British Co-operative Society, Don Flours Mills, Mexborough*, unpublished collection of school papers (Adwick Road Juniors)
- SYAS, 2009, Sites and Monuments and HLC reports
- Whites Trade Directories of: 1833, 1843 1862

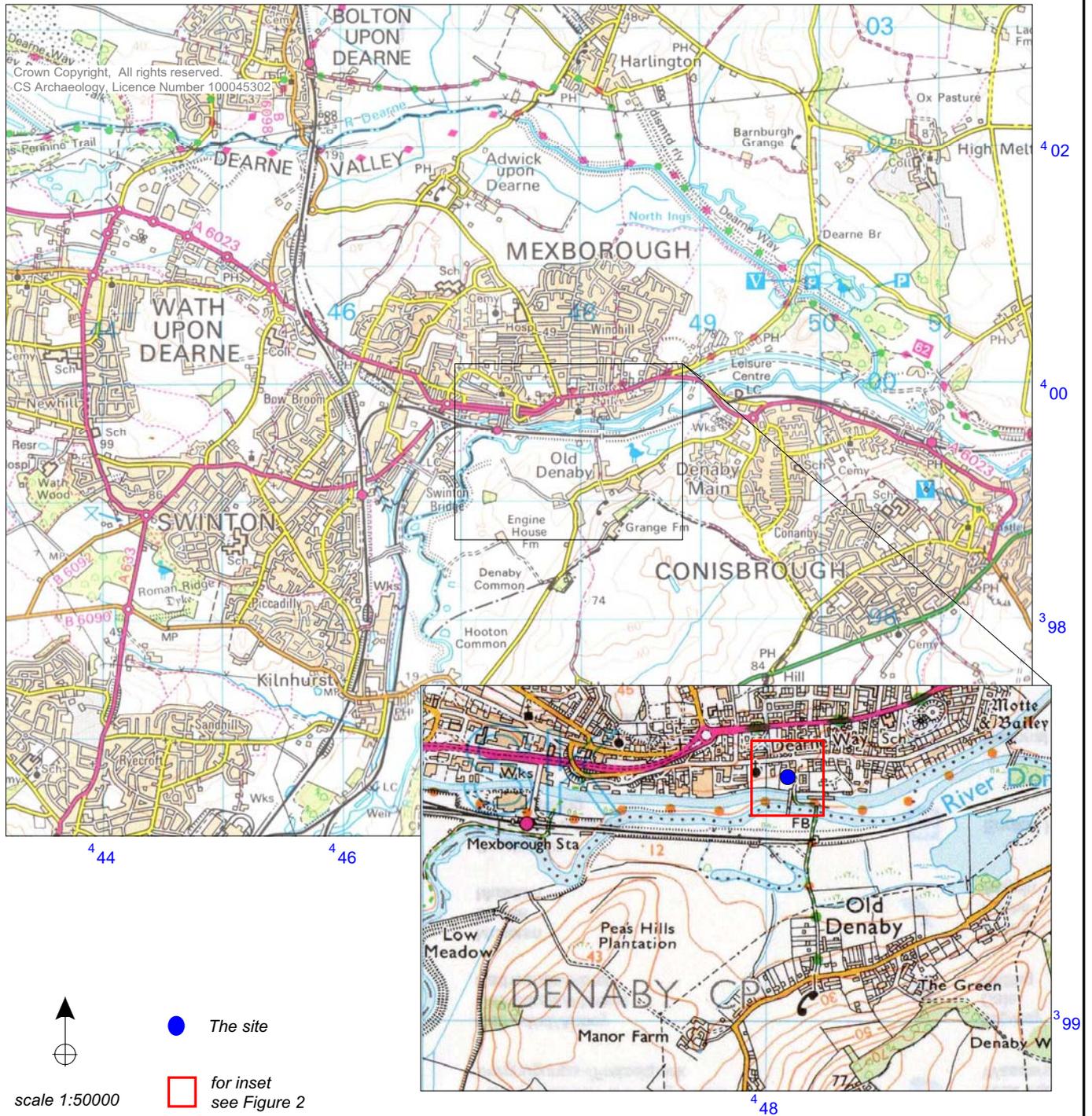
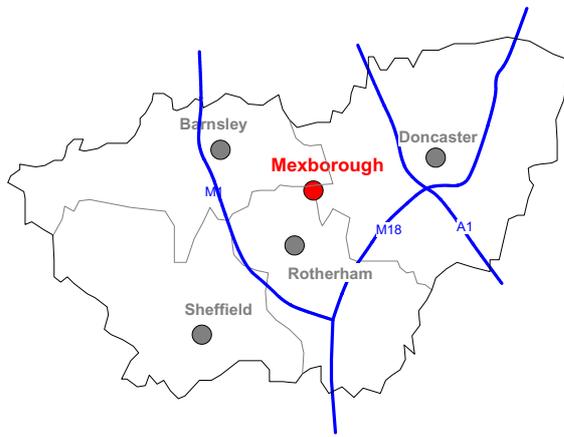
### 10.2 Cartographic References

- Extract of an early 17<sup>th</sup> century view of Mexborough from the Montagu Collection (DA DZMZ/9)
- 1778 Map with Building depictions in 3D (believed to have originated from the Mexborough Historical Society)
- 1833 *Minister or Curate House Mexboro*, by John Scott and William Coates, Builders, York (DA P43/2/B1)
- 1839 *The Mexborough Tithe Map* and apportionments (DA Ref: P43/9/B1)
- 1840 Fairbank's Map of the Proposed Turnpike
- 1854 6 inch, Ordnance Survey
- 1859 Mexborough Commons, Inclosure sale of Waste Lands (DA Ref: DxBax 5233/3)
- 1893 25 inch, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map
- 1903 25 inch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map
- 1928 25 inch, Ordnance Survey map
- 2008 1:50000, British Geological Survey map, sheet 87
- 2012 Ordnance Survey map of the PDA

### 10.3 Internet Sources

1. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a>
2. <http://www.old-maps.co.uk>
3. <http://sytimescapes.org.uk>
4. <http://www.joseflocke.co.uk/heritage/newsletters/october2006.htm> (JR Ashby)

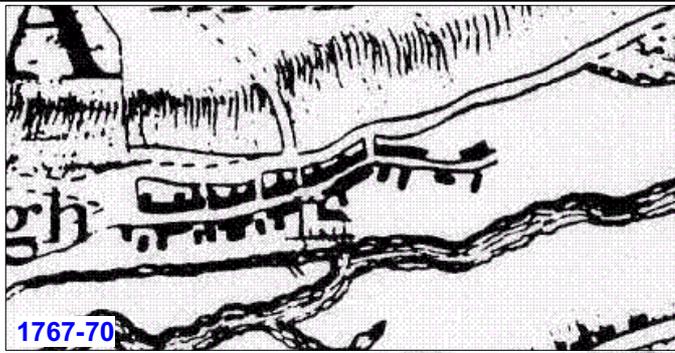
# FIGURES



An Archaeological Appraisal  
of Land off Ferry Boat Lane,  
Mexborough, South Yorkshire

Figure 1: Location Map

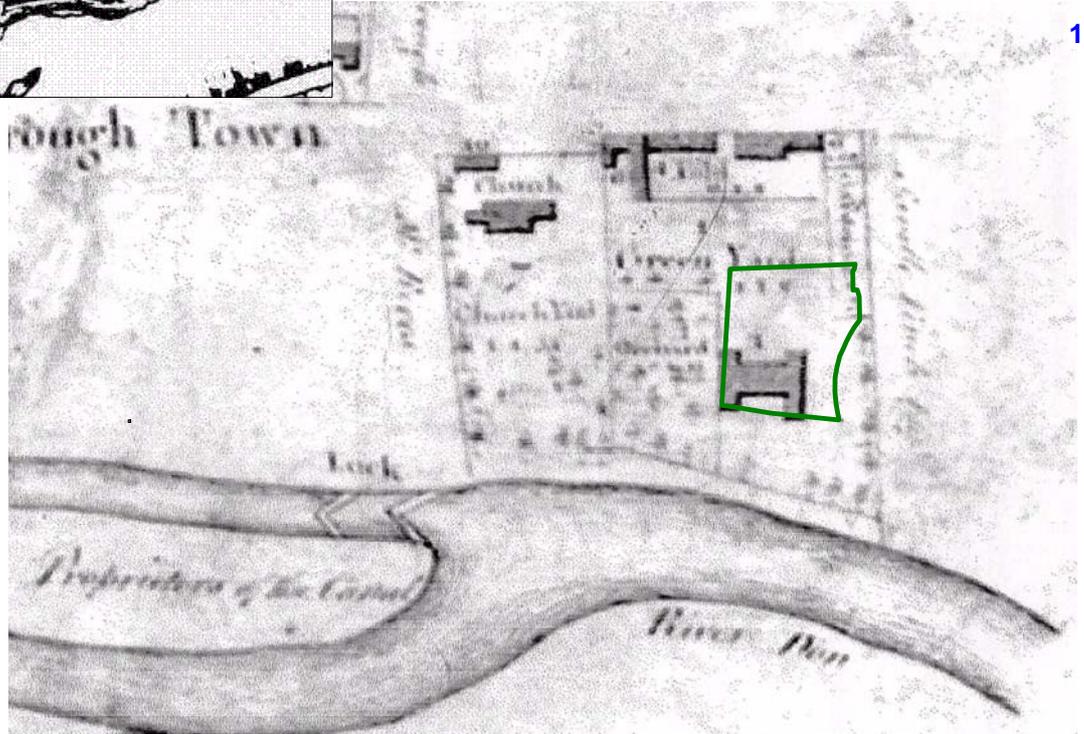
CS Archaeology  
May 2012



1767-70



1778

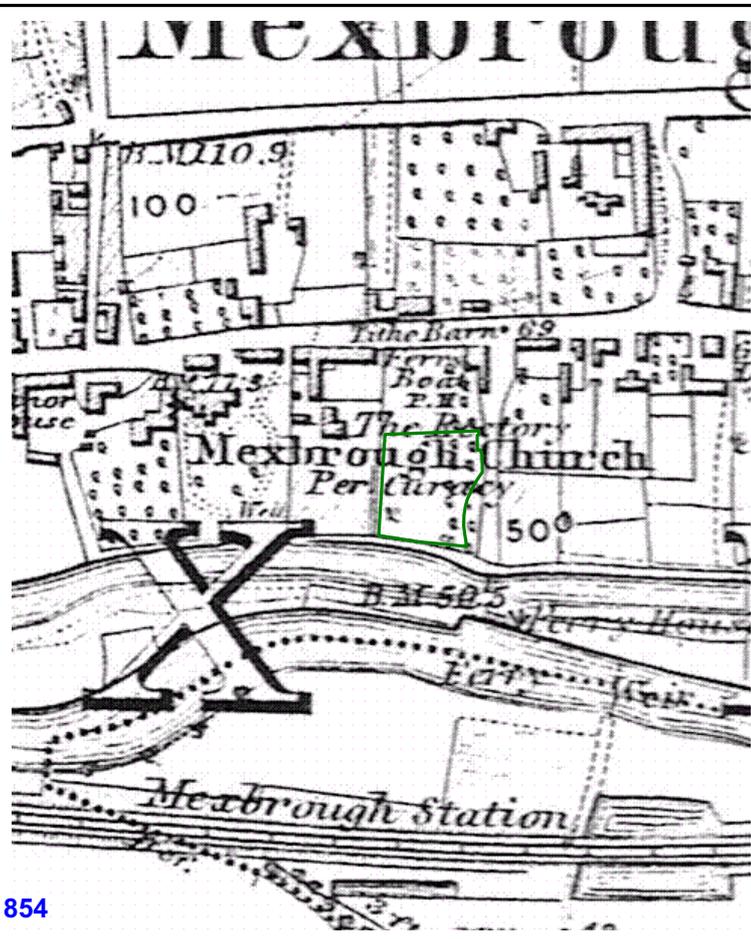


1839

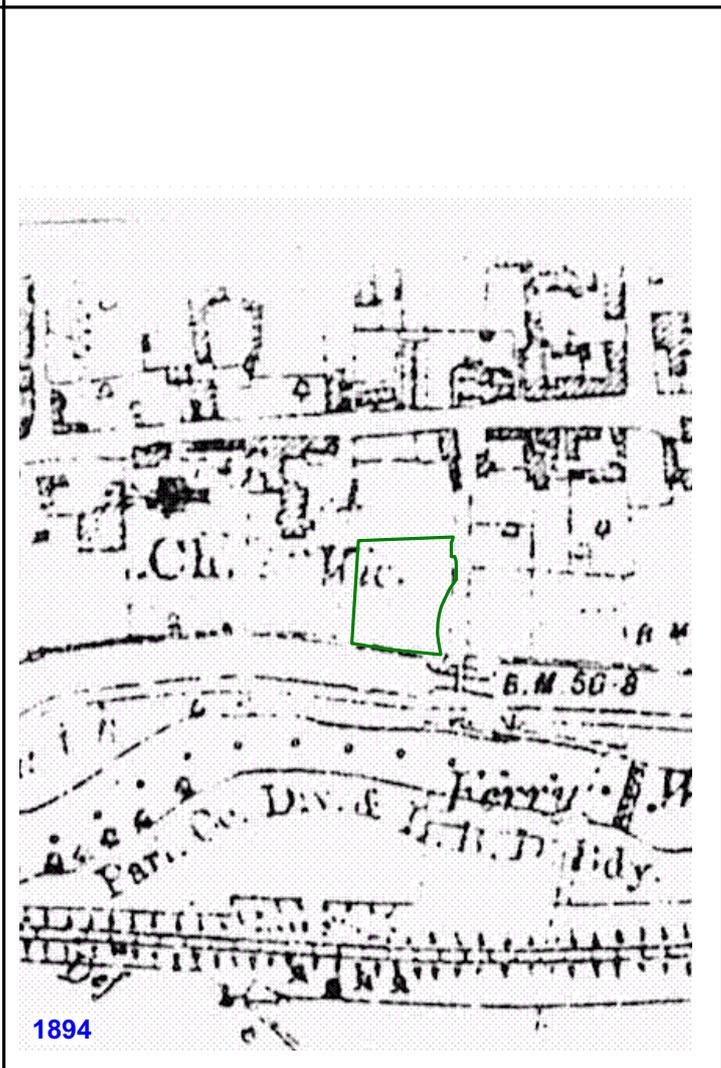
 The site boundary (0.26 Ha)



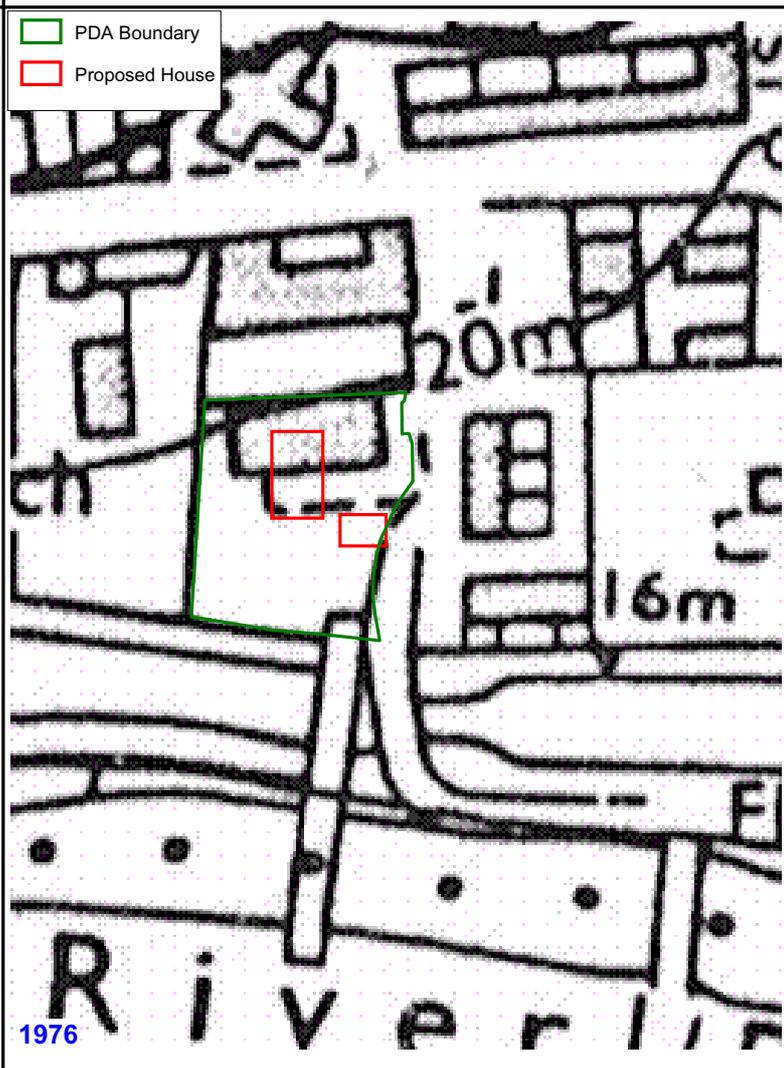
1840



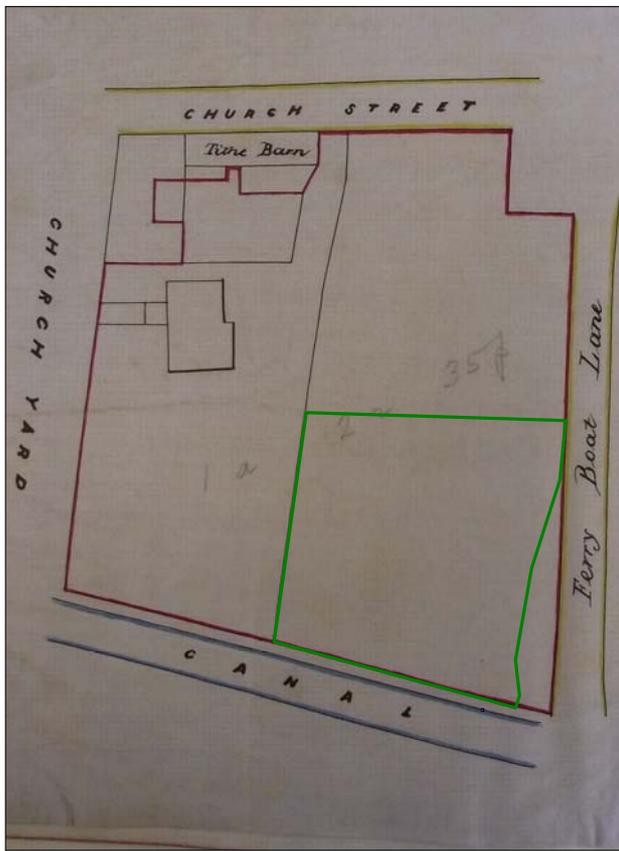
1854



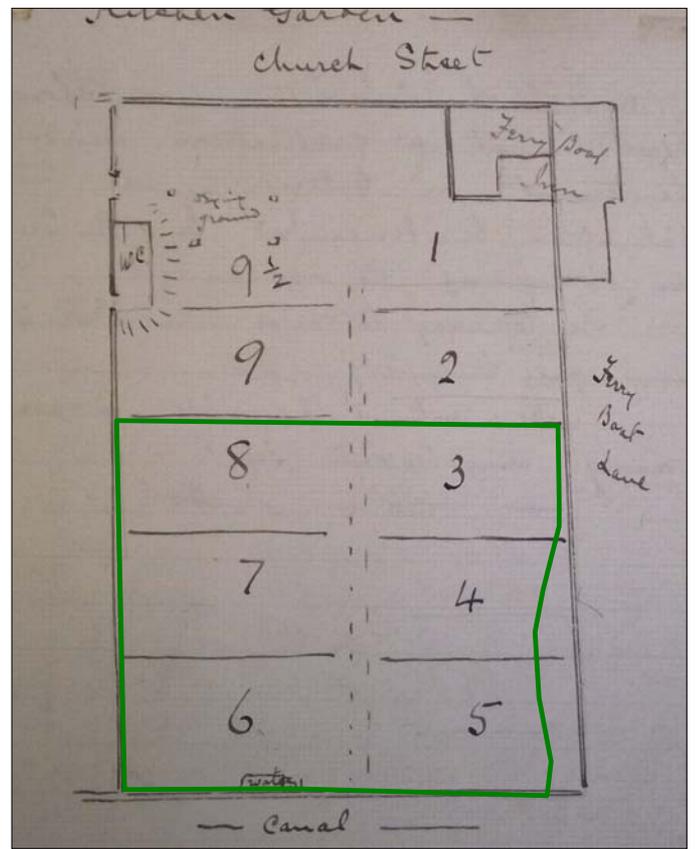
1894



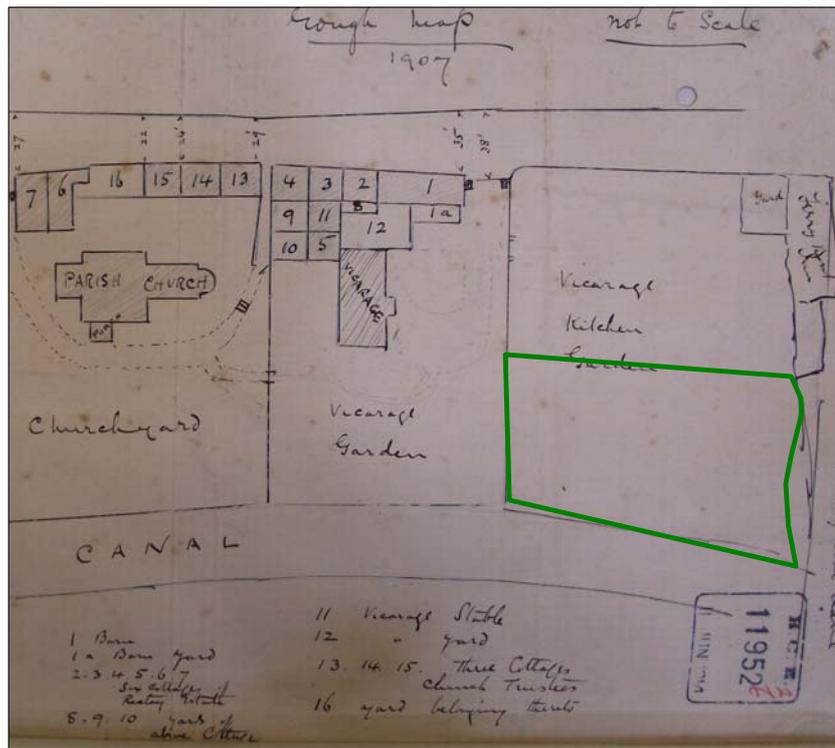
1976



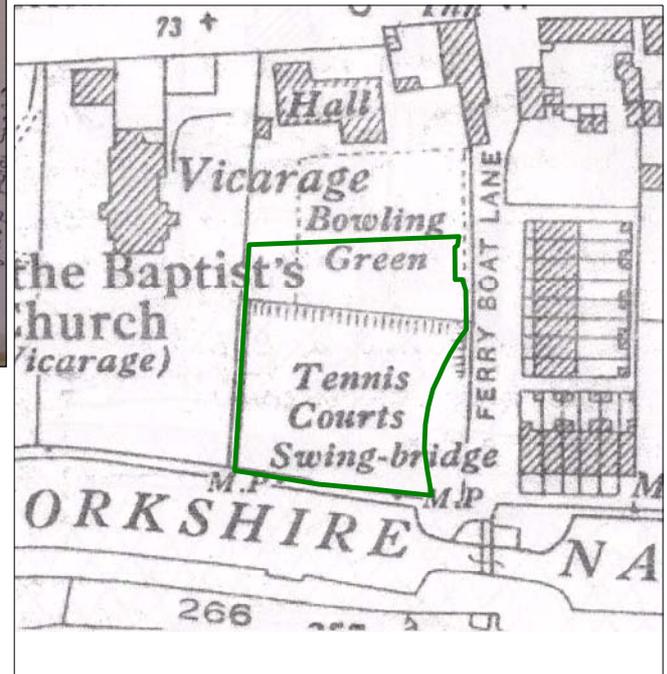
1904



Late C19th - 1905



1909



1928

 PDA Boundary (approximate extent)



not to scale



# PLATES



**Plate 1**, view across the building platform, looking west



**Plate 2**, view of the PDA with marked build up of material left of the churchyard wall, looking south



**Plate 3**, view of the PDA, looking northeast



**Plate 4**, view of the PDA from the canal foot bridge, looking northwest

# APPENDIX 1: Project Design

**PROJECT DESIGN FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPRAISAL OF  
LAND OFF FERRY BOAT LANE, MEXBOROUGH, SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

**For: Mr L Chesman  
Chesman Decorators Ltd.**

**CS Archaeology**  
May 2012

## 0 SUMMARY

- 0.1 This Project Design (PD) is in response to a condition, placed on planning consent (App No. 12/00364/FUL, Condition 14) for the erection of detached house and garage on approx 0.26ha of land.
- 0.2 This PD proposes that an archaeological appraisal is implemented to record any potential archaeological information and any site history in advance of construction, to help inform future archaeological management of the Proposed Development Area's (PDA).

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Details

- 1.1.1 *Site Name:* Land at Ferry Boat Lane
- 1.1.2 *Location:* Ferry Boat Lane, Mexborough (**Figure 1**)
- 1.1.3 *Status:* No statutory designations, but the PDA does lie within Mexborough's Historic Core
- 1.1.4 *Grid reference:* SK4806 9970
- 1.1.5 *Area of site (hectares):* c. 0.26

### 1.2 Archaeological Background

- 1.2.1 During the Anglo-Saxon period Mexborough formed one of a series of defensible burghs. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century the Normans developed these defenses into Motte and Bailey castles and Mexborough Castle (375 NE of the PDA) again formed a series of similar defences across South Yorkshire. Mexborough's castle overlooked the important crossing of the River Don at Strafford Sands and was associated with Conisborough Castle which was developed during the 1170s (Hey 1979).
- 1.2.2 Mexborough's church, dedicated to St John the Baptist, is much restored but is believed to date to the Late Norman/early medieval period. The church contains a Late Anglo-Saxon cross shaft (Ryder P F 1982). The exact layout of the medieval settlement is known but settlement between the castle and the church is likely, and the PDA lies 90m WSW of the church.
- 1.2.3 Historically Mexborough was a small village. It recorded that in 1801 the population was 417, this had expanded to over 10,000 by 1901. This dramatic increase in correlates with Mexborough's industrial expansion which principally involved western urban expansion of the village in what became known as 'New Mexborough' (CS Archaeology 2011).
- 1.2.4 Mexborough's economy was based around coal mining, quarrying, brickworks and the production of ceramics. This period heralded considerable change and growth for Mexborough, particularly from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The catalyst for this change was an improvement in communications across South Yorkshire (Sheffield and Doncaster). This was provided by the canal and the branch turnpike road (ibid).
- 1.2.5 A traveller on the canal reported that at Mexborough there was a community of 10,000 engaged in making railway wheels, glass bottles and grindstones for Sheffield, and further noted that the grindstone deposits were nearly as valuable as the coal (ibid).
- 1.2.6 Potteries were established alongside the canal at Swinton and Mexborough during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. And by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Mexborough became a strategically important railway junction. In 1840 the North Midland Railway from Derby to Leeds opened with a station at Swinton. Passengers from Doncaster had to travel via coach or canal 'aquabus' until a direct line was established 8 years later (ibid).
- 1.2.5 The PDA lies at the southern end of Ferry Boat Lane. The earliest detailed depiction of the PDA is in 1854 where the PDA is depicted as an orchard associated with the Rectory. It appears that the PDA was never developed until the later 20<sup>th</sup> century when a block of flats was built across the northern half of the PDA. The southern boundary of the PDA delineates the boundary of the Sheffield-Doncaster canal.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 This Project Design (PD) has been written in response to a condition on planning consent (Application No 12/00364/FUL).
- 1.3.2 This PD represents a summary of the archaeological requirements in advance of site work w.r. to redevelopment of the PDA. This is in accordance with Local Plan Policies and the National Planning Policy Guidance, PPS5.
- 1.3.3 This PD covers appraisal of the site through data collection of desk-based sources which will help and in form future archaeological management decisions.

## **2 OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 To ensure that any archaeological information identified through readily available desk-based sources are recorded and accurately presented on an modern base map.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Procedures and Objectives**

- 3.1.1 This project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and professional standards and guidance (IFA, 2001).

- 3.1 The following sources will be consulted and these will form the basis of the site appraisal (constraints of source availability will be noted):
  - a) visual inspection of the site;
  - b) data on sites, monuments and interventions held at SYAS HER;
  - c) geotechnical data if available;
  - d) survey drawings of any existing/former buildings on the site, including foundations and basements;
  - e) plans and maps of the site and its environs, including historic pictorial and surveyed maps and including pre-and post war Ordnance Surveys up to the present day.
  - f) trade and business directories;
  - g) place name evidence;
  - h) historical documents and photographs held in local libraries, archives and museums;
  - i) appropriate archaeological and historical journals and books;

### **3.2 Report Preparation**

- 3.2.1 Once the research has been completed, a full report of the results of the appraisal will be undertaken by CS Archaeology.

- 3.2.2 The degree of the disturbance/destruction by existing and previous buildings/structures on the site should be noted and recorded on plan (These may include basements, foundations trenches, services, etc.).
- 3.2.3 The results will be synthesised and put in context. The character of the archaeology likely to be present will be discussed.
- 3.2.4 The report will comment on the quality and reliability of the evidence and indicate whether it might be supplemented by site evaluation.
- 3.2.5 The report will be suitably illustrated with clear plans and possible sections.
- 3.2.6 A representative selection of photographs (not less than laser photocopy quality) of the site will be included to illustrate key points.
- 3.2.7 All maps examined will be reproduced (if possible) with the PDA outlined marked on them. If reproduction is not possible, the reason for will be provided.
- 3.2.8 The SYAS will be responsible for monitoring the project.
- 3.2.9 A printed and bound copy of the report will be supplied to SYAS for incorporation into the South Yorkshire SMR.
- 3.2.10 A digital copy of the report will also be sent to the SYAS in word and PDF format with image quality not less than 300 dpi.
- 3.2.11 A copy of this PD will be included as an appendix to the final report.
- 3.2.12 The final report will become publicly accessible once it has been deposited in the South Yorkshire SMR.

### **3.3 Report Submission**

- 3.3.1 Copies of the completed report will be submitted in both hard (if required) and digital formats to:
  - The Client: Mr L Chesman;
  - Mr A Lines and the HER at the SYAS.

### **3.4 Report Submission**

- 3.4.1 Upon completion of the field work a full report will be produced and copies with CD Rom containing the text of the report and illustrations (including all photos and slides taken), scanned at 300 dpi, will be provided with each copy of the printed report submitted to the client, Mr L Chesman, and Mr. A Lines of the SYAS. As a minimum, a summary or interim statement will be produced 6 weeks after completion of the fieldwork, and a full report within 3 months.
- 3.4.2 A summary report of an appropriate length, accompanied by illustrations, will be prepared and submitted in digital format (word/jpg >300dpi), for publication in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire*.

### **3.5 Publicity**

- 3.5.1 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, and an OASIS form will be completed for the project.
- 3.5.2 CS Archaeology will either arrange for copyright on the deposited material to be assigned to the Doncaster Archives in perpetuity; this licence will allow the archive to reproduce material, including for use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.
- 3.5.3 CS Archaeology is aware that this work may lead to further archaeological dissemination.

### 3.6 References

- CS Archaeology, 2011, *Land to the west of Station Road, Mexborough, South Yorkshire: An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment, unpublished client report*
- Hey D 1979, *The Making of South Yorkshire*, Moorland Publishing Company.
- English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*
- Institute of Archaeologists, 2001, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* Reading
- Watkinson D. & Neal V., 1998, *First Aid for Finds* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition), RESCUE & the Archaeological Section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.
- Ryder P F, 1982, *Saxon Churches in South Yorkshire*, SYCC
- Treasure Act, 1996, Code of Practice
- Planning for the Historic Environment 2010, National Planning Policy 5 (PPS5).

Any comments on this PD please address to Chris Scurfield at:

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