

# St Lawrence Vicarage, High Street, Hatfield, South Yorkshire

National Grid Reference: SE 664 095 (centred)

## Archaeological Watching Brief

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Checked by:	Passed for submission to client:
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## OASIS SUMMARY FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
OASIS identifier	arcus2-36080	
Project title	St Lawrence Vicarage, High Street, Hatfield, South Yorkshire	
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief undertaken during topsoil stripping in preparation for construction of access road and domestic housing.	
Project dates	2006	
Previous/future work	Archaeological field evaluation undertaken by Tony Sumpter Archaeological Consultancy in 2004	
Monument type and period	Field drains and rubbish pit. Post-medieval period	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Ceramic pottery. Medieval Ceramic pottery. Post-medieval	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County/Parish	South Yorkshire / Hatfield	
Site address	St Lawrence Vicarage, High Street, Hatfield, South Yorkshire	
Site co-ordinates	SE 664 095	
Site area	Access road, 94m by 7m Housing plot, 27m by 24m	
Height OD	5.80mAOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	ARCUS	
Project brief originator	Roy Sykes, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	
Project design originator	Sean Bell, ARCUS	
Director/supervisor	Chris Swales, ARCUS	
Project manager	Anna Badcock, ARCUS	
Sponsor or funding body	HSL Developments Ltd	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Archive Type	Location/Accession no.	Content (e.g. pottery, metalwork, etc)
Physical	Doncaster Museum, Chequer Road	Pottery
Paper	Doncaster Museum, Chequer Road	Site records. Unpublished client report
Digital	South Yorkshire SMR	Text files
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief for Access Road and Plot A at St Lawrence Vicarage, High Street, Hatfield, South Yorkshire	
Report no	1016.2(1)	
Author	Chris Swales	
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## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLATES**

### **Illustrations**

- 1** Site Location
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- 3** Archaeological Features within access road and Plot A
- 4** Sections across features on access road and Plot A strip

### **Plates**

- 1** South facing section of ditch [003] exposed during access road strip, and truncating a small rubbish pit [005] located to the west.
- 2** General view, looking north, of topsoil stripping at the south end of the access road with disturbance by tree root action in foreground.
- 3** General view, looking north across Plot A, of ditches [100] and [003], orientated north-south, and the evaluation trench, orientated east-west.
- 4** North facing sections of ditch [100] and rubbish pit [102] exposed during stripping across Plot A.

## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

*ARCUS was commissioned by HSL Developments Ltd to carry out a watching brief during the construction of an access road at St Lawrence Vicarage, High Street, Hatfield, South Yorkshire. The access road was to service two plots within the vicarage upon which four detached houses were to be built. The archaeological works were initiated after a desk top assessment and evaluation of the area. These demonstrated the potential for surviving medieval and early post medieval features associated with the High Street frontage.*

*The access road ran from the High Street to the rear gardens of the vicarage. This amounted to a strip 7m wide and 94m long running in a north-south direction. Very little of archaeological significance was detected. The southern extent of the trench was badly disturbed by tree root action and only spreads of nineteenth-century rubble were seen. One ditch was recorded in this southern half of the access road. This contained eighteenth-century ceramics and represents a drainage/boundary ditch within the gardens. The only other features visible were a twentieth century brick built land drain and the current standing garden wall. No features were visible in the northern most 50m of the trench. A further watching brief was deemed necessary to monitor construction on Plot A of the development. Plot A was situated immediately to the north of the High Street. This uncovered two further ditches dated to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, along with a late nineteenth-century rubbish pit.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

ARCUS was commissioned by HSL Developments Ltd to undertake archaeological mitigation works at St Lawrence Vicarage, High Street, Hatfield, South Yorkshire. This mitigation work followed a planning application for the construction of four detached houses within the grounds of the vicarage (Planning Application No: 04/0424/P/FUL). The project design was prepared at the request of South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS). The SYAS brief required an archaeological watching brief during groundwork on site. Initially this meant monitoring the construction of an access road prior to work on Plots 1 and 2. After the discovery of limited archaeological remains along the access road SYAS required monitoring of groundwork on Plot A. This watching brief follows two phases of previous work; an archaeological desktop assessment (Sumpter, 2004a) and an archaeological evaluation within the vicarage (Sumpter, 2004b). The watching brief was run in accordance with government guidance as set out in DOE Planning Policy Guidance – Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16, 1990) and the ARCUS Project Design (ARCUS 2006).

## 1.1 Site Location and Land Use

The site is located at St Lawrence Vicarage, High Street, Hatfield, South Yorkshire (NGR SE 664 095) (**Illustration 1**). The plot is currently occupied by the vicarage attached to St Lawrence church. The vicarage stands 75m east of the parish church and 65m back from the High Street frontage. Surrounding the vicarage are its associated gardens. To the south and west the garden was neatly grassed over with flower beds and shrubberies. To the north of the vicarage lay the kitchen garden. This northern area was bounded by a public footpath. The area between the vicarage and the frontage was a former orchard. This area was wild and overgrown. The gardens themselves were on a very slight incline with the northern area being the highest point. The plot also houses neighbouring properties that sit on the High Street frontage. These are nineteenth-century structures with twentieth-century modifications.

## 1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The archaeological and historical background is summarized from the reports of previous archaeological work undertaken by Tony Sumpter Archaeological Consultancy (Sumpter, 2004a & 2004b).

### 1.2.1 Prehistoric and Roman Period

A flint core, dating from the Prehistoric Period, was recovered from the topsoil during the archaeological field evaluation.

A stone axe-hammer dating from the Early Bronze Age and two bronze spearheads dating from the Middle Bronze Age have been found within 1000m of the vicarage.

To the southwest of Hatfield a Roman field system with droveways has been recorded from the air, and two sherds of Roman pottery have been recovered within 1000m of the vicarage. No material of Roman date was identified during the field evaluation (Sumpter, 2004a & 2004b).

### 1.2.2 Medieval Period

In AD 731 Bede noted Hatfield as *Haethfelth*, meaning heathy open land. Hatfield is also the presumed site of the battle at which Edwin, King of Northumbria fought. A manor house to the southwest of the application area is reputedly the site of his palace.

Hatfield is recorded as Hedfeld in the Domesday survey of 1086 which records the presence of a church with a priest, arable land and woodland pasture. The parish church of St Lawrence dates from the Norman Period with elements dating from the thirteenth, fifteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The monastic grange of Roche is believed to have stood approximately 950m to the northwest of the application area.

A number of sherds of fourteenth and fifteenth century date were recovered during the field evaluation. These were interpreted as coming from residual contexts.

### 1.2.3 Post-medieval Period

During the reign of Charles I, Cornelius Vermuyden began a programme of works to drain the Isle of Axholme upon which Hatfield stands. This had a significant effect on the local economy, allowing agriculture to become dominant.

Though the majority of adjacent properties date from the nineteenth century, a small number of timber-framed buildings lie within 200m of the application area and finds dating from the sixteenth century and later have been recovered from the local area.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

The specific aims of the archaeologically monitored topsoil strip were;

- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological remains present.
- to provide information that will enable the remains uncovered to be placed with their local and regional context and an assessment of the significance of the archaeology of the site to be made.

### 2.2 Methodology

The removal of modern deposits was monitored at all times by a professional archaeologist. Excavation and recording was carried out in accordance with the project design (ARCUS, 2006), the guidelines issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999) and with current industry best practice.

Two separate areas within the proposed development were monitored and excavated. These areas of excavation are identified by the nomenclature established in the project design (ARCUS, 2006) and are shown in **Illustration 2**.

#### 2.2.1 Access Road

A south-north trench was stripped for the construction of an access road for Plots 1-4. The trench commenced from the High Street to the south and continued to the rear gardens of the vicarage. The trench was 7m wide and continued for 94m. The area had a moderate potential for medieval and post medieval archaeological remains to survive. This was due to its close proximity to the High Street and Saint Lawrence Church, both of which are medieval in origin. Residual fourteenth and fifteenth-century pottery had also been recovered from the evaluation trenches (Sumpter, 2004b). There was also a small chance of uncovering Roman or prehistoric remains. These would most likely take the form of pits and ditches relating to agricultural field systems and/or settlement in the area. Fragments

of Roman and Prehistoric material culture have been recorded within a few hundred metres of the site. The southern section of the access road was considered to offer the most archaeological potential.

### 2.2.2 Plot A

An area of 27m by 24m was stripped. Plot A lay directly to the north of the High Street and immediately to the east of the access road. The area stripped offered moderate potential for medieval and post medieval remains to survive. These would most likely take the form of external features relating to dwellings that fronted on to the High Street. Pits, drainage ditches and middens were all thought likely to be present. As with the access road there was a small chance of uncovering Roman and Prehistoric features.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Access Road

The topsoil plus any tree and shrub roots were removed along the length of the access road by a JCB with a toothless bucket. The southern 12m of the trench was badly disturbed by tree root action which extended into the subsoil (**Plate 2**). This root disturbance meant the subsoil at the south of the trench was mixed with topsoil material. Topsoil [001] was consistently 0.3m thick along the trench and sat above subsoil [002]. The topsoil was a dark grey-brown silty loam. It contained frequent smashed glass, brick rubble, rusty iron work and occasional nineteenth-century pottery. There was no sign of the residual fourteenth and fifteenth-century pottery found in the evaluation (Sumpter, 2004b). Subsoil [002] was a light yellow-brown sandy silt which was very friable. The subsoil was disturbed by root action throughout the trench.

At the very northern limit of the access road machining uncovered a thin spread of brick rubble at the interface of the topsoil and subsoil. Brick rubble spread [011] was 0.05m thick and covered an area of 3m by 3m. This rubble lay immediately to the east of nineteenth-century garden wall [010]. Wall [010] is part of the still standing garden wall which separates the vicarage gardens from properties to the west. Layer [011] represents building waste from the construction of wall [010].

Elsewhere in the trench several features were cut through subsoil [002] (**Illustration 3**). At 30m along the trench from the High Street a red brick land drain was uncovered. Land drain [008] was made from machine made, frogged red brick. The structure was one skin thick and one course high covering 1.1m by 0.74m in area. The southern 0.3m of the structure was capped by a sandstone slab. Beneath this slab the drain extended to more than five courses deep without the foundation being reached. The drain sat within construction cut [007]. At 12m along the trench from the High Street and near the eastern edge of the access road a ditch was revealed. The southern terminus of the ditch [003] was present with the ditch itself extending for 8m to the north before disappearing beneath the trench edge. Ditch [003] was 0.5m wide and 0.35m deep (**Plate 1**). At its base the fine yellow sand natural was visible. Two slots along its length recovered eighteenth-century ceramics from fill [004]. This north-south ditch cut through a small pit [005]. Pit [005] was some 0.5m in diameter and 0.2m deep. Pit fill [006] contained clinker and eighteenth-century ceramics.

### 3.2 Plot A

The topsoil and any tree bases were removed with a toothless bucket. The southern extent



of the plot was badly disturbed by root action which extended into the subsoil and natural. Topsoil [106] was 0.3m thick and sat above subsoil [107]. Both the topsoil and subsoil follow the same description as on the access road.

Several features were cut through subsoil [107]. Ditch [003], which had originally been recorded on the access road trench, extended into Plot A. This drainage ditch continued along its south-north orientation and extended beyond the northern limit of Plot A. Two further ditches on this south-north orientation were also recorded (**Illustration 3**). Ditch [100] was situated 3m to the west of ditch [003]. 18m of ditch [100] original length was visible. At its southern terminus the ditch changed orientation and started on a northwest-southeast alignment. The ditch was 0.8m wide and 0.1m deep (**Plate 4**). It contained the same dark grey brown fill as [003]. It seems likely that ditch [100] would have continued further to the south and north. However, the ephemeral nature of ditch [100] made its exact path difficult to establish. The ditch was truncated by an east-west evaluation trench excavated by Tony Sumpter (**Plate 3**). Ditch [104] was located 5.3m to the west of ditch [100]. Ditch [104] was again aligned south-north. 9.5m of its length were visible. Its southern terminus was truncated by the evaluation trench. Its northern terminus lies beyond the northern limit of Plot A. [104] was 0.5m wide and 0.28m deep. It contained mid red-brown fill [105] with seventeenth-century ceramics. Situated between ditches [100] and [104] a small rubbish pit was recorded. Pit [102] was 0.51m wide and 0.2m deep. It contained nineteenth and twentieth-century domestic waste.

### 3.3 Ceramics

The pottery assemblage consisted of twenty-five sherds of pottery and ceramic building material weighing 612 grams and representing a maximum of twenty-one vessel and objects. The data are summarised in Table 1.

The pottery assemblage ranges in date from the later medieval period to the early twentieth century but the greater part dates to the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Medieval pottery is represented by a single sherd of Coal Measures Purple ware, recovered from context [105]. This is a type manufactured in the Don Valley during the later medieval and early post-medieval period and found widely on sites dating to this period (Cumberpatch 2004).

Early modern wares include the sherds of Redware, Late Blackware, Mottled ware, Tin Glazed Earthenware and Creamware from contexts 4, 6 and 105. Individual date ranges for these wares have been indicated in the accompanying data table. The absence of Pearlware from these contexts suggests that they date to the eighteenth century rather than the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Comparable assemblages are known from sites across South Yorkshire although to date little synthetic work has been published dealing with the implications of such deposits (Cumberpatch in prep).

Context [103] produced the latest material from the site including tablewares and part of a stoneware bottle. The latest identifiable item was a plate with a geometric frieze around the rim and a maker's mark on the underside. This identified the maker as Wedgwood & Co Ltd of Staffordshire. A similar mark is illustrated by Godden (1991: 656) and is suggested to post-date the year 1906.

Although small in size, the pottery assemblage from St Lawrence's Vicarage, Hatfield, is not without interest, largely by virtue of its diversity which tends to suggest a history of activity on the site extending back to the later medieval period. Further excavation would probably be required in order to determine the nature of this activity but there is nothing

in the pottery assemblage to suggest that it is not of a domestic type.

## 4 DISCUSSION

Very little of archaeological significance was seen in the development area. Along the Access Road topsoil [002] contained a mix of nineteenth and twentieth-century glass bottles and tin cans. Beneath this only three cut features were visible; drain [008], ditch [003] and small pit [005]. Land drain [008] and its associated cut [007] were almost certainly twentieth-century in origin. North-south ditch [003] and pit [005] contained eighteenth-century pottery in their fills and represented garden features associated with the property that existed on the plot prior to the vicarage. The vicarage was built in 1841. Pit [005] was a rubbish pit.

Ditch [003] continued into Plot A and ran parallel with south-north aligned ditches [100] and [104] within this area. Ditches [003] and [100] contained identical fills and were in all likelihood contemporary. They may form a walkway associated with the pre-1841 property, which was defined by two parallel ditches. This walkway would have extended to the High Street. Ditch [104] had a very different fill to any other feature on site. [104] represented an earlier drainage ditch associated with the early post-medieval field system and produced one sherd of late fifteenth to early sixteenth-century pottery as well as seventeenth to eighteenth century pottery. Pit [102] within Plot A was a rubbish pit within the vicarage gardens and contained frequent late nineteenth and early twentieth-century ceramics.

Whilst Plot A produced a sherd of medieval pottery it seems certain that this material was residual within ditch [104]. The ditch is thought to be seventeenth to eighteenth-century in date and was the earliest recorded feature on site. All other features on site were eighteenth-century and later. No cut features relating to the medieval occupation of the area were visible. The northern most 50m of the access road contained no archaeological features (**Plate 2**). The archaeological potential for plots 2-4 is therefore deemed to be low.

## 5 ARCHIVE

The project archive, including finds, will be deposited with Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster.

Copies of the report will also be deposited with the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record, maintained by SYAS, and with the client, HSL Developments Ltd, Thorne.

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## 7 ILLUSTRATIONS

## 8 PLATES



**Plate 1.** South facing section of ditch [003] exposed during access road strip, and truncating a small rubbish pit [005] located to the west.



**Plate 2.** General view, looking north, of topsoil stripping at the south end of the access road with disturbance by tree root action in foreground.



**Plate 3.** General view, looking north across Plot A, of ditches [100] and [003], orientated north-south, and the evaluation trench, orientated east-west.



**Plate 4.** North facing sections of ditch [100] and rubbish pit [102] exposed during stripping across Plot A.



## 9 TABLES

### 9.1 List of Contexts

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
001	Deposit	Topsoil
002	Deposit	Subsoil
003	Cut	North-south linear feature interpreted as drainage ditch
004	Deposit	Fill of cut [003]
005	Cut	Small Pit
006	Deposit	Fill of pit [005]
007	Cut	Construction cut for land drain
008	Structure	Red brick within cut [008]
009	Deposit	Backfill of cut [007]
010	Structure	Standing garden wall, orientated north-south
011	Deposit	Brick rubble spread
100	Cut	North-south linear feature
101	Deposit	Fill of cut [100]
102	Cut	Rubbish pit
103	Deposit	Fill of cut [102]
104	Cut	North-south linear feature
105	Deposit	Fill of cut [104]
106	Deposit	Topsoil. Same as [001]
107	Deposit	Subsoil. Same as [002]

## 9.2 List of Ceramic Material

Ctxt	Type	No.	Wt.	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
004	Brown Glazed Fineware	2	9	2	BS	Hollow ware	Shiny brown glaze int & ext	C18th	Fine dark red fabric; one with a rilled profile
004	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	20	1	Base	Bowl	U/Dec	C18th - EC19th	
004	Ceramic building material	3	165	3	Fragment	Brick	U/Dec	Undated	
004	Creamware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
004	Mottled ware	1	7	1	BS	Hollow ware	Dark mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	Bright orange fabric; coarser than normal
004	Mottled ware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Dark mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
006	Tin Glazed Earthenware	1	1	1	BS	Flatware	Blue curvilinear decoration int	LC17th - C18th	Anglo-Dutch
103	Bone china	1	14	1	Profile	Saucer	Green line on top of rim	MC19th - EC20th	
103	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	53	1	Shoulder	Bottle	U/Dec	C19th	
103	Whiteware	3	135	1	Flat base	Pie dish	U/Dec	M - LC19th	Oval pie dish; unmarked with tripod stilt scars
103	Whiteware	2	64	2	Rim	Pie dish	U/Dec	M - LC19th	

<b>Ctxt</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>ENV</b>	<b>Part</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Decoration</b>	<b>Date range</b>	<b>Notes</b>
103	Whiteware	4	72	2	Rim & base	Plate	Overglaze printed frieze around rim	1906+	Maker's mark; ... Porcelain / Wedgwood & Co Ltd / England
105	Ceramic building material	1	41	1	Fragment	Brick	U/Dec	Undated	
105	Coal Measures Purple ware	1	7	1	BS	Hollow ware	Purple glaze ext	LC15th - C16th	
105	Late Blackware	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Shiny brown glaze int & ext	C18th	
105	Redware	1	16	1	BS	Pancheon	Clear glaze int	LC17th - C18th	Abraded
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>21</b>					