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## Project Report 1234.1 (1)



By Richard Jackson

Prepared for:  
Neways Building and Maintenance Contractors  
31 Burncross Road  
Chapelton  
Sheffield  
S35 1SB

# St John's Church, Chapeltown, Sheffield

National Grid Reference: SK 351 966

## Archaeological Watching Brief

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### Fieldwork

Richard Jackson

### Reporting

Richard Jackson

### Illustrations

Chris Swales

### Archive

Justin Wiles

Checked by:	Passed for submission to client:
Date:	Date:
Richard Jackson <i>Project Archaeologist</i>	Richard O'Neill <i>Project Manager</i>

## OASIS SUMMARY FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
OASIS identifier	Arcus2-53001	
Project title	St John's Church, Chapelton	
Short description of the project	<p>ARCUS were commissioned by Neways Building and Maintenance Contractors to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the insertion of a drainage pipe into the graveyard of the former church of St John's, Chapelton. This watching brief was undertaken at the request of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) in line with PPG 16.</p> <p>The monitored works comprised a 25 metre pipe trench excavated from the northwest corner of the church to a nearby existing drain. Despite the close proximity of standing gravestones, no human remains were impacted upon during the monitored excavations.</p>	
Project dates	06-10-08 to 08-10-08	
Previous/future work	None/unknown	
Monument type and period	Post-Medieval Church	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County/Parish	South Yorkshire/Ecclesfield	
Site address	St John's Church, Lound Side, Chapelton, Sheffield, S35 2	
Site co-ordinates	SK 351 966	
Site area	c. 1575 m <sup>2</sup>	
Height OD	103-102m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	ARCUS	
Project brief originator	SYAS	
Project design originator	Jim McNeil	
Project supervisor	Richard Jackson	
Project manager	Richard O'Neill	
Sponsor or funding body	Neways Construction limited	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Archive Type	Location/Accession no.	Content (e.g. pottery, metalwork, etc)
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	Weston Park Museum, Sheffield	Report, context sheets
Digital	South Yorkshire HER	Pdf copy of report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	An Archaeological watching brief at St John's Church, Chapelton, Sheffield	
Report no	1234	
Author	Richard Jackson	
Date	December 2008	

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## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLATES**

### **Illustrations**

- 1 Site Location Map
- 2 Site Plan

### **Plates**

- 1 Hand excavation of pipe trench, northeast facing.
- 2 Continued hand excavation of pipe trench, south facing.
- 3 Mechanical excavation of remainder of trench, south facing.

## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

*ARCUS were commissioned by Neways Buildings and Maintenance Contractors to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the insertion of a drainage pipe into the graveyard of the former church of St John's, Chapeltown. This watching brief was undertaken at the request of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) in line with PPG 16.*

*The monitored works comprised a 25 metre pipe trench excavated from the northwest corner of the church to a nearby existing drain. Despite the close proximity of standing gravestones, no human remains were impacted upon during the monitored excavations.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

ARCUS was commissioned by Neways Building and Maintenance Contractors to carry out an archaeological watching brief on small-scale excavations within the graveyard of the former St John's Church, Chapeltown, in advance of re-development. The works comprised a 25 metre trench to accommodate a sewerage pipe leading off from the northwest corner of the church. This watching brief was recommended by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) in line with government guidance as set out in DOE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG16).

## 1.1 Site location and land use

The site (centred on SK 351 966) is located on the southwest side of Lound Side, to the northwest of the centre of Chapeltown (**Illustration 1**). The church and associated graveyard are bounded to the south by an unadopted road known as Housley Park, to the east by Lound Side, and to the west by private dwellings. The north end of the site is bounded by a former ecclesiastical building which has subsequently been converted for use as a dwelling. The complex of ecclesiastical buildings continues to the north, and is currently occupied by St John's Methodist Church.

## 1.2 Geology and soils

The underlying geology of the site is Westphalian A Coal Measures.

# 2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on this site. The church of St John has been disused for the last seven years. The grave markers located throughout the graveyard shows the most intensive period of use for the church was in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

# 3 AIMS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

The archaeological fieldwork was required to obtain information on the extent and preservation of any archaeological deposits.

The aims of the investigations were:

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

# 4 METHODOLOGY

The northern 15m of the route of the drainage pipe was excavated by hand, due to the close proximity of the church building and standing grave markers (**Plates 1 and 2**). The remainder of the trench was excavated with a mini-digger, and ran due south to

the existing services at the southwest corner of the graveyard (**Illustration 2**). All excavations were closely observed by the monitoring archaeologist. Working shots were taken throughout the course of the excavations.

## 5 RESULTS

The total linear extent of the pipe trench measured 25 metres in length. The excavated width measured 0.4m, and the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.8m below ground level at the point of intersection with the church foundations.

The stratigraphical sequence as observed in the trench sections was quite straightforward. The uppermost 0.4m comprised dark brown clay silt with occasional clasts of yellow clays. There was no particular coherence to the distribution of clay clasts, and therefore their presence was interpreted as evidence of landscaping and building activities relating to the original church construction phase.

The lower 0.4m of excavated stratigraphy comprised a mixture of *in situ* clay, re-deposited clay and loose lenses of coal. These lenses may possibly relate to naturally occurring coal deposits which were disrupted and re-deposited by the construction of the Church.

The monitored excavations at St John's showed there to be a complete absence of any disarticulated bones, articulated burials or charnel within the excavated areas. This is typical of small scale Victorian cemeteries, such as the one serving St John's.



## 6 PLATES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

## 6 PLATES AND ILLUSTRATIONS



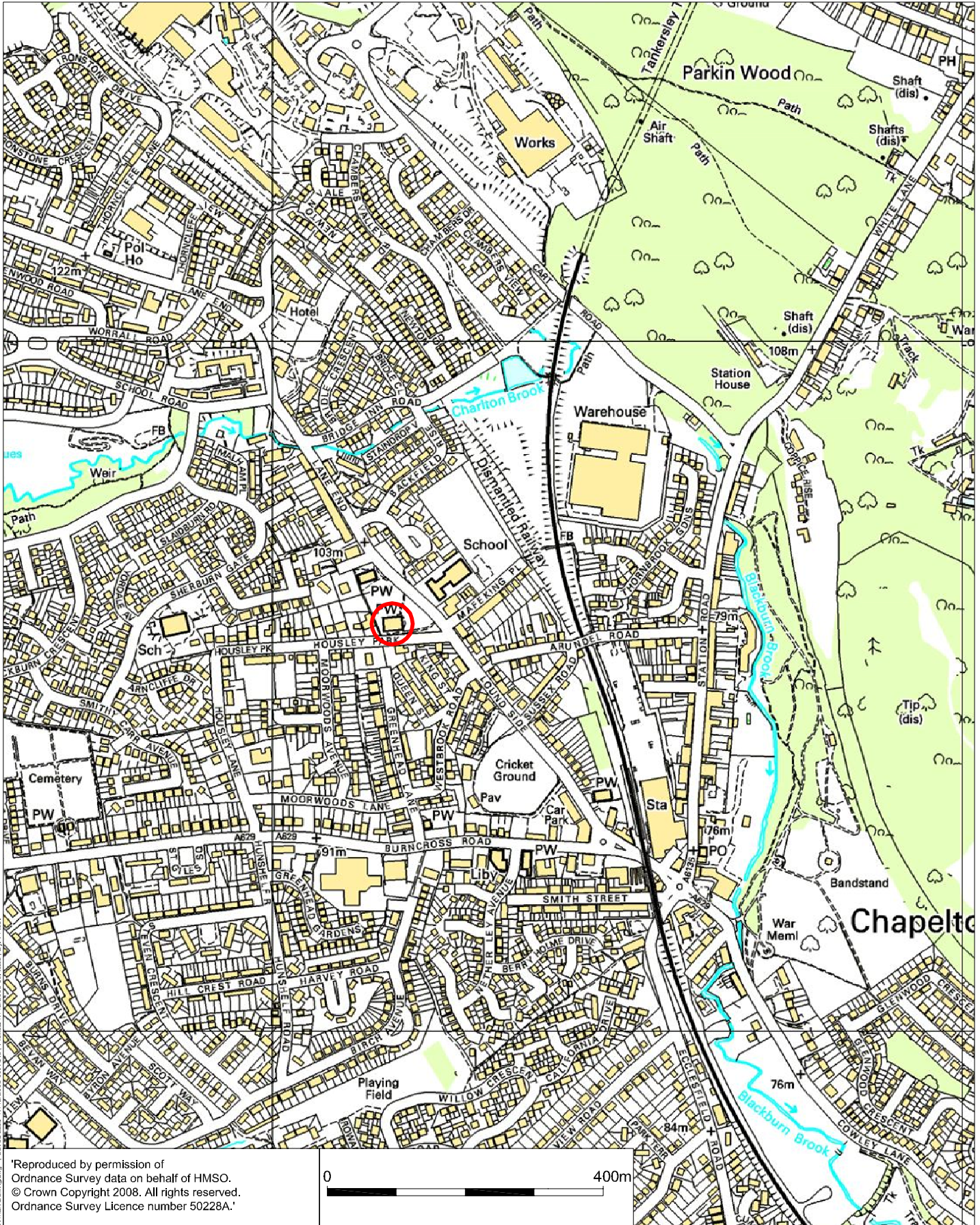
Plate 1 – Hand excavation of pipe trench, northeast facing.



Plate 2 – Continued hand excavation of pipe trench, south facing.



Plate 3 – Mechanical excavation of remainder of trench, south facing.



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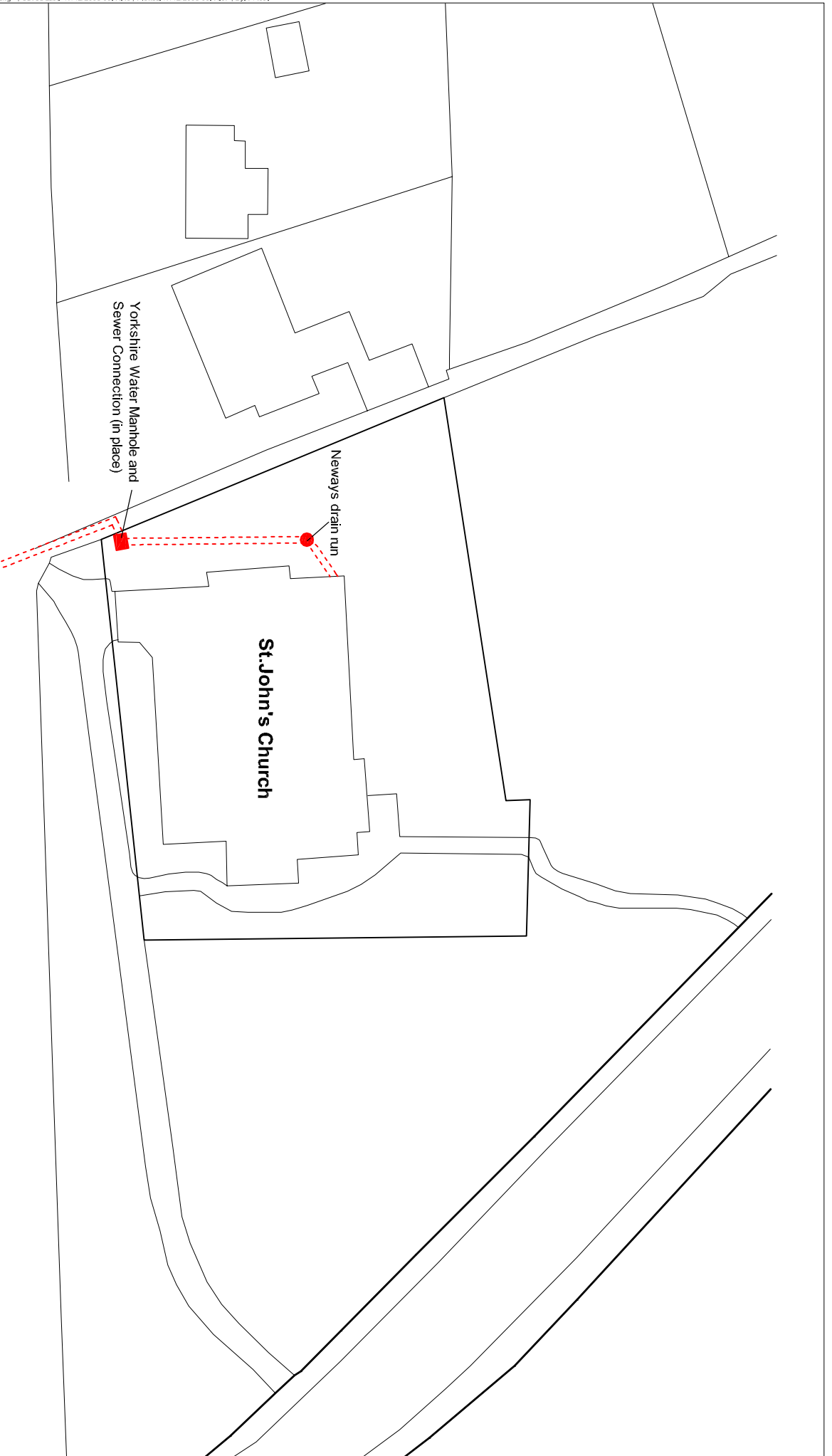
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Project:  
**St. John's church, Chapelton**

Title:  
**Site Location Map**

Scale	1:7500	Date	December 2008
NGR	SK 351 966	Drawn	CS
Project No.	1234	Illustration No.	1



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**Project:**

**St. John's church, Chapeltown**

**Title**

**Site Location Map**

**Scale**

c. 1:500

**NGR**

SK 351 966

**Project No.**

**1234**

**Date**

December 2008

**Drawn**

CS

**Illustration No.**

**2**

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