

**Rectory Farm,  
Laughton-en-le-Morthen  
South Yorkshire**

*Building Recording*

*November 2005*

*Report No. 1459*

Wortley Construction Limited

# Rectory Farm, Laughton-en-le-Morthen South Yorkshire

## Building Recording

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#### *Summary*

*A collection of 18th and 19th century farm buildings were recorded at Rectory Farm, Laughton-en-le-Morthen. A drawn and photographic survey was produced. The earliest buildings dated from the middle of the 18th century, with some evidence for the re-use of building materials from the 17th century. It was noted that many buildings had undergone a change of use.*

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS undertook initial survey work on Wednesday 7th September 2005 at Rectory Farm, Laughton-en-le-Morthen at the request of Nigel Addy, acting on behalf of Wortley Construction Limited.
- 1.2 The archaeological building recording was required as part of a condition placed upon planning application number BR2001/0442
- 1.3 The buildings are located at National Grid Reference SK 5184 8822 at the corner of the High Street and Abbey Close, Laughton-en-le-Morthen (Figs 1 and 2).
- 1.4 In March 2005 a desk-based assessment was undertaken by ASWYAS of the farm and its immediate area. The results of that assessment are reported in ASWYAS Report 1364.

## **2. Methodology**

- 2.1 Weather conditions on the survey days were generally bright and clear. Light levels were good and artificial light (other than fill-in flash) was not required.
- 2.2 A risk assessment had been prepared in advance. This highlighted few risks as the buildings were found to be in good repair.
- 2.3 Drawn survey. Sketch plans were produced on site and measurements added using a combination of hand tapes and remote EDM measurement. Survey data were processed at Archaeological Services offices at Morley, where plans and sections of all buildings were produced.
- 2.4 Photographic record. A medium format (Mamiya RB 6x7cm) camera was used to record, in general and in detail, the interior and exterior of the standing structures and their environs. The record was black and white. This was supplemented by the production of a small number of 35mm colour transparencies. All buildings within the complex (indicated on Figure 2) were recorded using this method.

- 2.5 Initial data were processed at Archaeological Services offices at Morley between September and November 2005. A final report and archive was produced in November 2005.

### **3. Historical Background**

- 3.1 Reference is made to the desk-based assessment (ASWYAS Report 1364) produced in March 2005
- 3.2 A map regression exercise undertaken as part of the assessment inspected ten maps dating from Jefferys' map of 1775 through to the 2000 edition of Ordnance Survey Sheet 58 NW, 1:10,000 scale (Brown et al, 2005). All indicated settlement on the site, with many of the extant buildings shown in clear detail from the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1855, Sheet 296 NW, 1 ft to 6 inch scale through to more recent maps.
- 3.3 It was noted from a number of additional sources that the village probably dates from the early medieval period (first mentioned AD 870) and is recorded in the Domesday Survey of AD1086 (Brown et al, 2005). Its relative importance at that time is reflected in the church and the proximity of a possible motte and bailey castle. In the late 13th century Laughton was a seat of one of the honorial courts of the honour of Tickhill and was clearly a thriving settlement.
- 3.4 In the post medieval period and more recently most of the land in the village has belonged to the Hatfield and St Ledger families. Partly because of this, the central core of the village has retained many 17th and 18th century buildings. The earliest buildings on the site of Rectory farm date from the mid 18th century, although there are indications of the re-use of building materials extending back into the 17th century. . A re-used mullioned window, inserted into the wall of Building F, originates from a domestic context, indicating earlier buildings on or near the present site.

### **4. Building Description** (see Figures 3, 4 and 5)

- 4.1 **Building A.** A detached, almost square, single-cell structure on the southern side of the site with internal dimensions of approximately 2m square. Construction of the substantial walls is of limestone rubble, with a catslide roof with slate cladding sloping to the south (Photograph 45). The structure has a single opening on the northern side which leads into a featureless dark interior. Probably a store room.

- 4.2 **Building B.** Situated to the west of Building A, and butting against the eastern wall of Building C this structure forms a small range of buildings with C and D. The building has internal dimensions of 2.5m by 3.5m and has a catslide roof with corrugated asbestos cladding facing north (Photograph 44). The wall construction is of limestone rubble with some clearly re-used sandstone ashlar. The interior has part rendered walls with a small window and breather in the southern wall and a door facing north. The building may have been more than a simple store room, possibly a workshop and tool store.
- 4.3 **Building C.** To the west of Building B, butting against the eastern wall of Building D. Single storey with internal dimensions 3m by 4m. The walls are constructed of large blocks of re-used sandstone, with some limestone in the rear southern wall. The roof has been removed (Photograph 42). The interior of the building has a moulded concrete floor with a small feeding trough adjacent to the southern wall (Photograph 38). Within the western wall (the eastern wall of Building D) is a square breather and a door opening with wooden lintel over (Photograph 39). Parts of the interior walls show signs of render. The building has been used to house animals, possibly pigs, in recent years.
- 4.4 **Building D.** A square building at the south-west corner of the site, attached to Building C to the east, and to Building E to the north. The building has several phases of construction. The earliest is probably the high gable with first floor window facing south (Photograph 1). Construction is of blocks of limestone with some sandstone, with quoins. Of similar date is the northern gable with first floor door (Photograph 37). The western random-coursed wall, shared with Building E, seems to be a later build (Photograph 2). The roof (probably later) is a single pitch structure comprising wall braced purlins to either side supporting common rafters clad in pantiles. Interior dimensions are approximately 3m square, with a door and breather in the eastern wall. The original two storey building could have been animal housing with hay loft above.
- 4.5 **Building E.** This is an infill structure between Building D to the south and Building F to the north. Its western wall meets Building F at a straight joint. The pitch of the pantile clad roof is the same as that of Building D, but the roof extends to the east to encompass a wider area (Photograph 42). To the south, first floor access can be gained to Building D, to the north similar access can be gained to Building F.

The structure probably functioned as a cart or machine shed with access to hay lofts either side.

4.6 **Building F.** A substantial two storey structure, possibly the earliest standing building on the site. From the rear the rough-dressed limestone wall may be a later phase contemporary with Building G. Within the elevation are a regular arrangement of triangular breathers (Photograph 3). The front elevation and southern gable are constructed of limestone rubble (Photograph 41). Within the front elevation is a door with wooden lintel on the ground floor with a square window opening on the first floor with the remains of a multi-pane wooden frame inserted. To the north of the door on the ground floor is an interesting window (Photograph 32) comprising re-used elements from a domestic mullioned window. The wooden frame is more recent. The ground floor has internal dimensions of 5.5m by 7m. The north and south walls bow outwards. Set within the northern wall are a series of three oak timbers (Photograph 33) with a small lantern shelf to the east. Adjacent to the western wall is a low animal feeding trough (Photograph 34). The floor is made of laid concrete with a raised area for milking cows (Photograph 36). In the southern wall is a second lantern shelf. At the centre of the eastern wall is an inset feature that may have been a fireplace (Photograph 35). The first floor, now accessed from Building E, occupies a similar plan, and has a window in the eastern wall. A wooden plank door joins with Building E (Photograph 65). The original access to the first floor may still have utilised the plank door to a flight of external stairs now removed. The roof structure comprises a single 'A' frame truss with a single purlin to either side (Photograph 64). The roof cladding is later corrugated asbestos. The most recent use for the building was as a milking parlour.

4.7 **Building G.** The rear wall of this building is shared with that of Building F. The front elevation is identified by the large re-used horizontal timber set into the wall at first floor height (Photograph 29). Its purpose is uncertain although it is possible that the matrix below is the result of the infilling of an earlier wide opening. Below the horizontal timber are a number of features. To the south is a stone blocked former door with a two pane window set within the top. To the north is a near square window with the remains of a softwood frame. To the extreme north is a ground floor door opening with two-part stable door with a square first floor window above. The roof cladding over this building is pantile. The interior of the building may have been divided into two by a horizontal floor, although all signs of

this, other than the existence of the first floor window, have now been removed. Interior dimensions are 5.5m by 5m. In the north-east corner, part of the floor had been partitioned off creating a vestibule within the building (Photograph 31). The roof is supported on an oak 'A' frame truss with diamond ridge and one large part-trimmed purlin to either side (Photograph 30). The building appears to butt against the walls of Building H to the north. Its original purpose may have been stabling.

4.8 **Building H.** Externally, the rear elevation of this building seems to be part of a uniform build of limestone rubble walling (Photograph 5) Central to the elevation of the building is a stone-blocked opening with a wooden lintel over, possibly an earlier doorway (Photograph 4). The east facing elevation (Photograph 23) has an area of stone blocking, not well defined, possibly a door or window. Towards the north is a doorway with a soft-wood frame leading into the building with a shuttered square window at first floor level. Inside, the building is dominated by the insertion of a later steel silo (Photograph 21). The inner walls are part rendered with two cupboards set into the southern wall (Photograph 18) and a lantern shelf set into the north wall (Photograph 22). The floor is of moulded concrete. Running along the length of the western wall is a raised feeding trough with a hay feeder above (Photograph 19). The roof is supported on a single oak 'A' frame truss with lightweight straining collar beam. To either side of the central diamond set ridge is a single part trimmed purlin (Photograph 20). The inner dimensions of the building are very similar to those of Building G. The building may have originally been a small byre with hay loft over. Its more recent use could have been for stabling.

4.9 **Building I.** Earlier than Building J and probably earlier than Building H, this structure is of four bays and has internal dimensions of approximately 5.5m by 10m. The rear elevation is almost featureless with the exception of corner quoins and blocked breathers (Photograph 6). The eastern elevation (Photograph 11) has a number of features on two levels. On the ground floor level to the south is a doorway with soft-wood frame, to the centre is a second door with splayed reveals, and towards the south a stone-blocked window (Photograph 12). At first floor level at the southern end is a deep window with a cast concrete sill and wooden lintel. At the northern end is a blocked window of similar proportion. The interior of the building is a single open space with a roof supported on three trusses. The central truss (Photograph 16) is an oak 'A' frame with



straining collar beam. The trusses to either side are of a later softwood queen post type with high straining beams. A central diamond set ridge has substantial oak purlins to either side. The inner face of the eastern wall has a number of features reflecting those visible on the outer elevation (Photographs 15 and 17). The features include a herringbone relieving arch above the central doorway. The first floor features such as the windows (Photograph 13) imply the former existence of an inserted floor. The building appears to have been constructed as a barn with either an original or an inserted hay loft.

4.10 **Building J.** Later open cart shed, single storey, of three bays. The rear and northern aspects (Photographs 6 and 7) show how the structure butts against Building I and how the walls are constructed of reclaimed limestone blocks and rubble. The eastern side is open and is supported at the centre by a cast-iron column (Photograph 9). The inside of the building has few features. The roof is supported on a single king post truss with side braces (Photograph 10). The part pantiled semi-hipped roof is supported on two purlins to either side of the ridge. There is slight evidence in the survival of a number of stone roofing slabs for an earlier form of cladding. The present concrete floor is later.

4.11 **Building K.** A detached, two-storey cottage immediately to the east of Building G. The building is constructed to a high standard with walls of fine cut and laid limestone ashlar. The southern elevation (Photograph 43) has a segmental arched breeze block-blocked window in the ground floor and a square window opening with soft-wood frame in the first floor. The hipped roof is clad in pantiles with stone ridge pieces. The eastern elevation (Photograph 46) has a wide segmental arched cart entrance that is considered to be of later date. The only feature in the northern elevation (Photograph 24) is a square window opening with soft-wood frame in the first floor. The western elevation is dominated by a flight of stone stairs which give access to a doorway at first floor level (Photograph 28). A former segmental arched passage doorway under the stairs has been blocked with stone. At the foot of the stairs is a blocked window. Within the ground floor, on the western wall, is a centrally placed chimney with a brick-blocked former fireplace. To the left the blocked window, to the right the blocked passage doorway. Within the northern wall are two lantern shelves or small cupboards. The frame for the floor above is supported on two soft-wood beams (Photograph 27). The floor plan is approximately 4.5m by 6m. The first floor has a

doorway with later plank door in the western wall, together with a centrally placed chimney stack (Photograph 67). In the north and south walls are central windows with lantern shelves set to the west. The roof structure is supported on two central king post braced trusses, both supporting side purlins and the timbers of the hipped roof (Photograph 66). The original cottage changed to agricultural use probably in the early 20th century when the cart entry was opened out and windows and doors became blocked.

4.12 **Building L.** This building forms part of a small range of three together with Building M, which it butts against to the north, and Building N beyond. The range is situated to the east of Building K. Externally the structure has an off-centre door in the south gable wall with a two part stable door (Photograph 49). There are no features in the western wall, but there is a slopping buttress supporting the eastern wall. Construction is a mixture of reclaimed stone comprising well-cut blocks of limestone and sandstone together with limestone and sandstone rubble. The roof has some original stone slabs close to the eaves, with later pantiles over the major part. The interior has patches of a lime-based render to the walls. It has a plan approximately 2.5m by 4m. At the northern end is a full-width animal feeding trough (Photograph 50). The roof is supported either side by a single soft-wood purlin with common rafters over.

4.13 **Building M.** A two-bay animal house situated between Buildings L and N. The external western elevation has a door opening with two part stable door towards the north and a slightly off-centre ten pane fixed window to its south (Photograph 47). The limestone block walls are of more uniform build than those of Building L. The southern gable has no visible features and the greater part of the northern gable is obscured by the later Building N (Photograph 53). The eastern elevation is featureless. The interior of the building has a trough and hay feeders adjacent to the southern wall (Photograph 52). Along the line of the ridge is a wooden partition supported at either end by posts. This divides the space into two, possibly for horse stalls. The northern wall has a later door leading into Building N with a lantern shelf to either side (Photograph 51). The single king post truss that supports the roof is obscured by the joists of a more recent hay loft. The floor is of moulded concrete.

4.14 **Building N.** A later lean-to structure built adjacent to the gable wall of Building M. Externally the building is featureless. Its walls are constructed of a mixture of limestone blocks and rubble. It has a

catslide roof facing north clad with corrugated asbestos sheeting. Internal access is from Building M. The roof is supported on a single purlin. In the eastern wall is a lantern shelf. Internal floor dimensions are approximately 2.5m by 3m.

- 4.15 **Building O.** A four-bay cart shed, more recently in-filled to form an animal house, to the north of Buildings K and N. The front south facing elevation has in the first bay from the west a partition wall constructed of horizontal soft-wood planks attached to a wooden framework with a timber post supporting the wall plate. Within the wall is an opening cut for a window (Photograph 25). The second bay is open and is defined at its eastern end by a supporting cast-iron column. The third and fourth bays have been in-filled with breeze block walling, although that in the third bay angles inwards. There is a window opening in the wall in the third bay and a line of breathers in the fourth bay. The two gable walls lack features, as does the rear wall (Photograph 58). All walls are constructed of poorly coursed limestone blocks and rubble. The maximum internal dimensions are approximately 5.25m by 10m. The first bay is fully divided by a return wooden partition and has a hay feeder set against the northern wall (Photograph 56). The remaining three bays form a single internal space. The roof is supported on three king post trusses with two purlins to either side.
- 4.16 **Building P.** Detached building to the north-east of Building O. The rear gable elevation has its lower courses constructed of coursed limestone rubble, whilst its upper courses are of larger roughly cut blocks of stone (Photograph 55). A small window opening is set within the gable. The west and eastern elevations (Photographs 58 and 59) are constructed of random stone work with blocks of various size and shape. The roof on the eastern side is clad with pantiles, on the western side with corrugated asbestos sheeting. The front northern elevation has a wall of more uniform build with a wide central doorway with a small opening in the upper gable (Photograph 60). The interior dimensions are approximately 4.5m by 5.5m. Along the length of the southern wall is an animal feeding trough (Photograph 61). A wooden partition divides off the eastern third of the space. Above the entry door is a stone blocked window (Photograph 62).

## **5. Phasing summary**

- 5.1 The phasing for the standing buildings falls into four main groups, but within the groups interrelated buildings demonstrate earlier and later construction dates. Phasing is based upon dating stylistic features, map evidence and relationships within adjoining buildings.
- 5.2 **Phase 1.** Mid to late 18th century. Buildings F and I are probably the earliest structures within this phase. Both have earlier looking 'A' frame trusses and diamond set ridge. The relationship of Building H to I is that H is later, and that G is later than H. Both have 'A' frame trusses. Building D may be the latest within the phase.
- 5.3 **Phase 2.** First quarter of the 19th century. Buildings K, M and P. All three buildings have king post trusses, although that of Building P may be slightly later. Their interrelationships cannot be demonstrated
- 5.4 **Phase 3.** Second quarter of the 19th century. Buildings C, E, J and O. Buildings J and O are of a similar style, with kingpost trusses and cast-iron column supports. They are allocated a later phase than other buildings with king post trusses as the columns appear to be of a later style. Buildings C and E are dated by their association with Buildings D and F.
- 5.5 **Phase 4.** Mid 19th century and later. Buildings A, B, L, and N. A group of un-associated single cell outbuildings, mainly constructed of reclaimed block and rubble. L and N clearly have to be later than M. B must be later than C.
- 5.6 These phase groups are based upon an approximation of construction dates and take no account of later alterations, improvements and change of use. For example, many buildings have moulded concrete floor surfaces, almost certainly laid around the middle of the 20th century. There is a strong suggestion the east wall of the long range (Buildings D-I) was rebuilt at the time Building E was created. Two of the three trusses in Building I have been replaced. The use of pantiles as a roofing material on site seems to post-date a general use of stone slabs. The use of asbestos sheeting belongs to the second half of the 20th century. Many buildings have undergone a change of use such as Building K changing from domestic to agricultural, and Building O from cart shed to animal house.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

### *Drawn Survey*

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### *Research*

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### *Photographic Survey*

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## **7. Sources**

- Brown, V., Roberts, I. and Thomas, A., 2005, *Rectory Farm, Laughton-en-le-Morthen, South Yorkshire. Desk-based Assessment*, ASWYAS Report 1364

***Appendix 1***  
***Specification***

***Appendix 2***

***Photographic Register***

*Fig. 1 General Location*

*Fig. 2 Detailed Location*

*Fig. 3*