

35 Christchurch Churchyard



Site details

Site name

Christchurch Churchyard

Size

0.25 ha

History and Geology

Geology

The solid geology of the site lies within the Lower Coal Measures of the Upper Carboniferous period and is characterised by mudstone.

History

Christchurch Churchyard is first shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1855). The site of the churchyard is previously shown as agricultural land on Harrison's map of Southall Soake (1637) and corresponds to a plot of land labelled as *Steven Field*. It was given to the Church of England by the Duke of Norfolk and the churchyard was consecrated by the Archbishop of York on August 15th 1850 [100]. The churchyard is no longer open for burials.

Christchurch itself was built by private subscription, aided by grants from the Incorporated Society and the Church Commissioners, to serve the parish of Pitsmoor. The parish of Pitsmoor (originally including Pitsmoor, Neepsend and St. Cuthbert) was created on August 8th 1845, following the introduction of the New Parishes Act [100-104]. It was formed out of the parish of Sheffield and the chapelry of Attercliffe. The foundation stone of Christchurch was laid in 1849 and the completed church and churchyard were consecrated by the Archbishop of York on August 15th 1850. The church was built from dressed wallstone in the Early Decorated style of Gothic architecture. It was built to serve a community of 3,500 people and 750 houses, however by the time of the 1911 census there were 15,412 people and 3,450 houses in the parish of Pitsmoor.

Recommendations

Christchurch Churchyard is of local archaeological and historical significance. It was built during the mid nineteenth century at a time when 14 new parishes were created in the Sheffield region. Parish and census records indicate the subsequent rapid expansion of the local population during the mid nineteenth and early twentieth century. This expansion can be seen by the proliferation of terraced

housing at many of the sites within the study area. However, the church is still in use and therefore the erection of interpretative signage may be considered inappropriate.