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COE LANE, TARLETON
LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Assessment Report

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Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TH

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SUMMARY

An archaeological assessment was carried out in advance of submission of a planning application on land adjacent to Coe Lane at Tarleton in Lancashire (centred on NGR SD 45402030). The assessment area comprises *c*7.9ha, bounded to the north by a housing estate, to the east by Coe Lane, to the south by Windgate (the main road crossing the river Douglas) and to the west by fields and properties east of Church Road. The work was carried out by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit on behalf of the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, and comprised a desk-based study, compiling data from the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record and the Lancashire Record Office in Preston, as well as a rapid identification survey.

Comparison of the present OS map with the earliest map surveyed in detail (1827 Valuation survey DDHe 111/52), and other supporting documentary evidence, indicates that the designated area has been continuously farmed within the last two centuries. The field boundaries within the study area, and to the east, have remained constant and there has been little additional building or change of use within the study area, excepting for the building and subsequent demolition of a Rectory.

The Sites and Monuments record contained one entry sited within the study area and eleven sites in the vicinity but outside the study area. The entry within the study area related to the Rectory recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1847 (Site 07). Six of the remaining sites were for seventeenth and eighteenth century Grade II listed buildings in Church Road and Plox Brow (Sites 11-16), two entries related to the two bridges over the canal and river Douglas (Sites 17 and 18), one entry was for Tarleton Cross (Site 19), one entry was for St Mary's Church (Site 05), and one was for an area of strip fields (Site 21).

The available documentary and cartographic evidence dates to the late medieval and early post-medieval periods only, and shows a slow development, largely to the north-west of the study area. Cartographic and aerial photographic evidence, however, exists for a possible early field system around the crossroads of Windgate. The popular supposition that the siting of St Mary's Church was related to the location of the earlier chapel of St Helens or of St Helen's Well (Baines 1870) may suggest that this crossroads was an early focus of settlement.

The rapid inspection of the buildings within the survey area shows none of any archaeological or historic importance. Agricultural in function, they are currently semi-derelict. The walkover survey revealed post-medieval features (ponds, water courses, and ridge and furrow-type earthworks) which suggest that this land has been put to continual farming use with the exception of the building of the 'Parsonage'. There is some evidence for a change in land ownership between 1847 and 1911 when a field boundary was inserted, although it is also possible that this represented a division between pastoral and arable use.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological assessment was undertaken by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) on behalf of the University of Manchester Archaeology Unit in advance of the submission of a planning application on land adjacent to Coe Lane, Tarleton in Lancashire (centred on NGR SD 45402030). The assessment area comprises *c*7.9ha, bounded to the north by a housing estate, to the east by Coe Lane, to the south by Windgate (the main road crossing the river Douglas), and to the west by fields and properties east of Church Road.
- 1.2 The purpose of the project was to provide an accurate archaeological assessment of the use and functions of the designated area throughout the early development and subsequent growth of Tarleton; it involved the execution of a desk-based study in conjunction with a rapid identification survey. The desk-based study collated existing information on archaeological evidence in the vicinity of the site and any historical evidence concerning the role of the designated area throughout the development of Tarleton village, including its expansion during the industrial revolution of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. An identification survey was designed to record the existence of any previously unrecorded archaeological evidence and to determine the significance of the archaeological resource. The desk-based study was undertaken between 9th and 18th July 1997 and the identification survey was undertaken on 29th July.
- 1.3 This report sets out the results of the work, as a site gazetteer, in conjunction with a text description of the desk-based and field results, an assessment of the archaeological potential within the study area, and an evaluation of the impact that the development proposals will have upon the archaeological resource.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 DESK-BASED STUDY

- 2.1.1 Existing archaeological information was obtained from the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Aerial photographs held by Lancashire County Council were examined (1:10,000 verticals, 1988), and a cover search has been requested from the NMR, but the results were not forthcoming within the duration of the present project.
- 2.1.2 Manuscript maps and selected other documents relating to Tarleton, and dating from the thirteenth century to the present day, were studied in the Lancashire Record Office (LRO) in Preston. The LRO catalogues of these documents summarise the information contained and were assessed for this desk-based study, as to whether they related to the immediate area of Tarleton or the designated area. Two maps, dating to 1827 and 1845, were examined, as well as the first and second edition of the OS maps. A list of the documents used is given at the end of this report (*Section 7*).
- 2.1.3 Other published antiquarian sources available in the LRO and the Lancaster University Library were examined. The archive of the North West Wetlands Survey, based at LUAU, was also inspected.

2.2 IDENTIFICATION SURVEY

- 2.2.1 A rapid visual inspection of the buildings within the study area was carried out, and a record made of standing structures. The archaeological features in the landscape were recorded following a walkover survey. Topographical aspects of the site which may indicate previous structures or disturbance were noted.

2.3 GAZETTEER OF SITES

- 2.3.1 The collated site specific information has been presented in the form of a gazetteer in conjunction with annotated scaled plans. It includes sites which lie immediately beyond the study area, but which provide some context to the assessment. A summary description of each building and archaeological feature is provided in conjunction with a reference to the source of information (field inspection, LSMR, cartographic and documentary) with references as appropriate. An assessment has been given of the interpretation and the archaeological potential of the site.

3. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1.1 The study area lies in the parish of Tarleton west of Coe Lane, to the east of the main Church Road and immediately north of Windgate Lane (the A565) which extends over the river Douglas. It is within an area to the south-west of the present village; it is today primarily pasture land, but there is surviving ridge and furrow within some of the fields. There are also a few extant greenhouses across the site reflecting a former use as a market garden.

3.2 GEOLOGY

- 3.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the area is of the Sherwood sandstone group overlain by the Mercia mudstone group, more specifically Keuper Marl. However, the character of the study area is formed by drift deposits of alluvium along the line of the river Douglas, within a larger area of Boulder Clay and Moraine drift deposits (OS Geological Survey 1977).
- 3.2.2 The soils in the study area are of slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, reddish loamy clayey soil, with a subsoil of Boulder Clay. To the west is the acid soil of raised bog peat with high ground water levels where uncultivated.

3.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.3.1 Tarleton lies at the boundary (the river Douglas) between the pre-Norman hundreds of West Derby and Leyland, but its growth seems to have been in the wake of their development, and of the administrative and economic centres of these Hundreds in the period following the Norman Conquest. For much of its history, it formed part of the large parish of Croston, gaining parochial status in 1821 (Baines 1870).
- 3.3.2 After the Norman Conquest of England, Roger de Poitou was granted the lands both to north and south of the river Ribble. Domesday Book in this area is variable in its level of recording, with only two vills mentioned in the whole of Leyland Hundred. The level of recording for West Derby is, however, much enhanced, although the named vills cluster towards the south of the Hundred (in the area now forming Merseyside). It is likely, however, that if Tarleton then formed a separate vill it would have been mentioned.
- 3.3.3 The earliest reference to Tarleton is from the Hesketh Muniments (LRO DDHe/143) which contain a sixteenth century copy of a document dated to 1220 stating: '*grant infrankelmoigne: Gilbert of Notton (to the Canons of Cockersand)... 1 carucute in Tarlton, to wit the moiety of the town and its appurtenances*' (Farrer 1898). It is further referred to in 1246 as *Thrarilton* within the Hundred of Leyland (Farrer and Brownbill 1908).
- 3.3.4 During the medieval period, Tarleton seems to have been divided into two parts, one held by the Banastres of Bretherton (less than a mile east of Tarleton), and the other

held by Roger de Montbegon, who passed it to Cockersand Abbey, who subsequently sold it to the Heskeths of Rufford in 1537 (Farrer and Brownbill 1908).

- 3.3.5 Tarleton was mentioned as a manor with land in 1336 (DDTo K/4/6), but there are no further references to a manor or manor house and the term may have been used loosely. The 1st edition OS map names a plot east of Hesketh Lane opposite Blackgate as the Old Manor Farm, but both the earlier maps (1827 valuation survey and the 1845 tithe map) have the same plot labelled simply 'meadow'.
- 3.3.6 There was a chapel in the early part of the thirteenth century, recorded in the Cockersand Cartulary (Farrer 1898); this may have been in the same position as the chapel dedicated to St Helen, which had a chantry founded in 1517, with a hermitage in the chapel yard, which is also recorded in the Cockersand Cartulary. The chapel and the hermitage were occupied until the Reformation.
- 3.3.7 The growth of Penwortham prior to the Norman Conquest, and subsequently of Preston as the main market of the area, at the crossing point of the river Ribble (Kenyon 1991) and of the parish of Hesketh, where there was an alternative crossing of the Ribble at Hesketh Bank, probably encouraged development of the settlement at Tarleton. The high north/south ridge, on which Tarleton is sited, formed a natural route skirting the Tarleton Mosses to the west, and, to the east, the flood plain of the river Douglas. Hesketh Lane, although it is shown as a minor road on Yates' map of 1786, was probably an important route, following the line of a natural feature leading to these northerly crossings. The baronial centre and market at Penwortham and the market at Croston (Phillips and Smith 1994) may also have encouraged development along the east/west routes along Plox Brow and Windgate Lane, both leading to the river crossings. The construction of the turnpike road along Windgate Lane may have resulted in the replacement of an earlier bridge or ford crossing. It is probable that Hesketh Lane remained the major route and was not superseded until the early eighteenth century development of the turnpike road crossing the navigable waterways of the canal and river Douglas.
- 3.3.8 The resource of the mosses for peat-cutting must have aided the economic viability of Tarleton throughout the medieval period. Such a resource would have been valuable; there are transactions of land recorded by the Cockersand Abbey cartulary in the early thirteenth century and further evidence concerning boundary disputes at the northern edge of Tarleton Moss in 1534 and 1543 (Middleton *et al* forthcoming).
- 3.3.9 During the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, when the population of the region as a whole was rapidly increasing, the population of the Hundred of Leyland was stagnating (Phillips and Smith 1994). Tarleton was no exception to this generalisation. There was no church or chapel in the township in this period since Sir Thomas Hesketh bought and demolished the old chapel of St Helen's during the Reformation (Haigh 1975, 149), the nearest place of worship then being Croston Parish church, some 2 1/2 miles away. It was noted that "*the inhabitants of ...the towns of Tarleton cannot pass into Croston Parish without a boat and neither can they pass with a boat in some seasons of the year, by reason of the great inundation of the said waters [river Douglas] there, the fenny part and the rivers ... overflowing the way for all the most part of winter time*". As a result of this survey a small chapel

was established for Tarleton, on Blackgate, but was soon in disuse after the Restoration of 1660 (Farrer and Brownbill 1908).

- 3.3.10 By the late seventeenth century the population and economic status of Tarleton was beginning to increase alongside the large population growth of the whole of the Hundred of Leyland (Phillips and Smith 1994). This may have been due to the availability of better land, as well as to the growth of industrialisation.
- 3.3.11 Sea banks were formed from Bank to Hesketh Banks to protect the region from flooding by the river Ribble. These are marked on Yates' map of 1786 although there is evidence that a bank may have existed in 1692 when the Martin Mere Sluice was constructed through an embanked salt marsh (Middleton *et al* forthcoming). Reclamation of Tarleton Mosses was evident in the seventeenth century; a document dated 1639/40 (DDHe/143) related to a lease from '*Sir Thomas Hesketh to three gentlemen of three closes of moss land lately reclaimed from the common or waste of Tarleton Moss, one at the south of Blacketh Hey, one at the north of the reederoome, and one to the west of Carr Hey*' (all west of Hesketh Lane). Reclamation was not however carried out on a large scale until the early nineteenth century when there is correspondence between Thomas Dalrymple Hesketh and G A Leigh-Keck between 1806 and 1813 regarding the ownership and drainage of the Croston and Tarleton Mosses (DDHe/143).
- 3.3.12 During the early eighteenth century lobbying began for the navigation of the river Douglas which was made an Act in 1720 and work was completed by 1742. The Leeds and Liverpool Canal was complete in 1783. From 1724 to 1753 the roads were greatly improved (Phillips and Smith 1994) and Windgate in Tarleton (the south edge of the study area) became a Turnpike with a Toll Bar at its eastern end (Fig 3). The relative ease of transport encouraged the growth of industries, and encouraged the development of Tarleton.
- 3.3.13 In 1719 the church of St Mary's was built on the south side of Windgate close to the bridge over the river Douglas. It was founded by Henrietta Maria Legh who felt that the people of Tarleton, Sollom and Holmes needed their own church with an ordained and fit person to administer the services, for the periods when the river could not be crossed (Lilford Muniments 1718). It should perhaps be noted that Henrietta Maria Legh lived on the opposite side of the river, nearest to this site.
- 3.3.14 Although Tarleton was eventually designated a separate parish in 1821, a new parish church of the Holy Trinity was not built, and on a more central site, until 1886.

4. ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

4.1 DESK-BASED STUDY

- 4.1.1 **North West Wetlands Survey:** there is little evidence for prehistoric settlement of this locality, although the Tarleton Mosses to the west have been surveyed in detail (Middleton *et al*, forthcoming). Settlement in the area of Hesketh Lane and Tarleton was difficult to assess, however, as part of this survey, due to the nature of the soils and the recent development of Hesketh Bank and Tarleton.
- 4.1.2 **Cartographic Evidence:** the earliest published map is that of Yates of 1786. This shows the township of Tarleton in some detail, clearly showing the Turnpike developed from Windgate (Site 03) and the nucleus of settlement along Church Road and Plox Brow. St Mary's church is shown but there is no evidence of ribbon development along Windgate.
- 4.1.3 Of the two unpublished maps predating the 1st edition OS map, the Valuation survey of 1827 has been traced from an earlier or draft version; it is finely drawn with a clear depiction of streets, roads, field boundaries and buildings (Fig 3). It is annotated with the names of the fields, some of which have the owner's name and the valuation of the field annotated in a different ink. The study area today has the same field boundaries as those of 1827 (demonstrating that little has changed) and includes the fields named Windgate, Chapel meadow, Tail Small, Meadow (then owned by the Reverend Edward Master, of the chapel of St Mary's), and New Hey. No buildings are shown within the designated area, although they are shown within properties along Hesketh (Church) Lane and Plox Brow. Two small buildings (Site 01) are shown immediately adjacent to the north side of Windgate, opposite St Mary's Church and on the east side of Coe Lane (these buildings are not within the survey area). The Toll Bar (Site 02) is shown on the north side of Windgate (where the site of the Windgate Farm buildings is now) but it is west of Windgate field and just outside the designated area. Windgate (Site 03) is depicted as being bounded to the north and south by fields. South of Windgate and to the east of a lane running southwards from Coe Lane (Site 04) is St Mary's Church (Site 05) (again beyond the study area).
- 4.1.4 The Tithe Map of 1845, for the most part, emphasises the unchanging nature of the field boundaries within the study area; Chapel Meadow and Tail Small, in particular, show unchanged form and usage. However, within Chapel meadow, immediately north of Windgate, there is a regular rectangle coloured in with blue (Site 06); elsewhere on the map ponds are shown with the same colour infill and it is therefore probable that this was a rectangular pond or reservoir. The meadow, still owned by the Reverend Edward Master, has by this time been split into three plots, the most easterly being the Parsonage and garden (Site 07), the central portion was called Pasture, and the most westerly was named as 'Meadow'. In the north of this latter field was a small plot named as outhouses and orchard (Site 08). This Parsonage is obviously new, probably in a grander position than that afforded by the building in Church Road in 1746. The field in the north of the designated area is unchanged today both in terms of its boundaries and name. Site 01 is marked on the Tithe as a plot with no building but is described as '*House and orchard*'. Site 02, the Toll Bar, is

marked with buildings and described as '*house and garden*'. Sites 03, 04 and 05 are also present on the Tithe Map (immediately outside the study area).

- 4.1.5 The 1st edition OS map, surveyed in 1845-6, again shows the same field boundaries as those on the Tithe Map, and also highlights the Parsonage buildings, gardens and outhouses (Sites 07 and 08). It shows the same rectangular feature as that shown on the Tithe but with no further indication as to its function. The field to the north (Tail Small) contains a possible pond (Site 09), although this is not shown on the earlier Tithe Map. Sites 01 to 06 are all present on this map and there is also shown a small plot in the south-east of Windgate, called Oak Cottage (Site 10) (all are outside the study area).
- 4.1.6 The 2nd edition OS map (1911) shows the same features, excepting that the Parsonage has been called the Rectory; additionally the field to the north of Site 07 (New Hey) has had a rectangular field split from its south-eastern corner, within which two buildings are marked.
- 4.1.7 The present OS map (revised in 1991) demonstrates that little has changed since the mid-nineteenth century. The field boundaries have remained throughout and, although some buildings have been altered, there are no new buildings within the designated area excepting for the modern nursery north-west of the old Rectory, which by this stage had been demolished. The lane, continuing south of Coe Lane, is now disused and has been incorporated into the land around St Mary's Church.
- 4.1.8 **Documentary Evidence:** medieval documentation relating to Tarleton can be found in three main collections of muniments, the Hesketh, the Lilford, and the Rawstorne muniments, relating to transactions of land undertaken by these families. Such documents are of interest in that they name the fields, the uses to which the land was put and, on occasion, buildings, but it is rarely possible to ascertain the precise location of such fields.
- 4.1.9 An early document in the Rawstorne muniments (DDR/14, AD 1320) granted '*from William the Demande of Tarleton to William son of Tarleton a selion in Tarleton lying atte Melegate, between lands late of grantor of north and lands of the Abbots of Cockersand on South, with one end towards the Mersce of John Banastre on the east and the other as far as Bournyldegate on west*'. Such names remain constant (whereas the owners change) and can be related to the field names and locations on a valuation survey of 1827 (DDHe 111/52) and the Tithe Map of 1845 (DRB 1/182). Melesgate (or Meolsgate) is found on the 1827 valuation as being to the north of the main east/west road Plox Brow (to the north of the study area).
- 4.1.10 A document of 1559/60 (DDHe/143) states '*from Sir Thomas Hesketh leased to Nycholas Nores of Tarleton 4 acres of arable, and 1/2 acre of meadow in town and fields of Tarleton at Milne Butt, Wylshaw, Forshaw Hey, Greve Marsh, Bendebacke Butt, Rye Flatt, Sowre Flatt, Tod Hey (butting on the Highway), Cowe Marsh, Lyttel Marsh, Jacke Croft, Meyles Gate, Waterdyche, Dandy Dore Butt, Wayne gate ... in the Meadowys of Tarleton*'. Water Dyche is shown on the 1845 Tithe Map as being immediately adjacent to the study area, and Wayne gate may be the Windgate field immediately west of Chapel Meadow and thus within the study area (Fig 3), although this name would originally have referred to the road itself. Both these fields were

designated as meadow or pasture on the 1845 tithe map. Jack Croft, although found on both maps, is a common name and cannot be related specifically to the study area.

- 4.1.11 **Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record:** the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held a report by Gifford and Partners (1995) relating to archaeological work undertaken in an area immediately to the west of the study area. The survey identified a former field boundary; to the east of this was a possible corral and in the south-east corner of their area was a borrow pit. Ridge and furrow was found in the north-eastern portion of the site, and this was truncated by field boundaries to the north and south; the shape of the ridge and furrow suggested post-medieval cultivation. West of the former field boundary was a possible modern field drain. The results from a magnetic susceptibility survey were inconclusive as there was little differentiation over the site. Some magnetic anomalies were identified as subsurface features and may have represented potential archaeological remains such as boundary ditches.
- 4.1.12 An examination of the SMR revealed one entry sited within the study area and eleven sites in the vicinity, which are listed in the site gazetteer (*Section 7*). The entry within the study area related to the Rectory recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1847 (Site 07: *Section 4.1.5*). Six of the remainder were for seventeenth and eighteenth century Grade II listed buildings in Church Road and Plox Brow (Sites 11-16, see *Section 4.1.13*), two entries related to the two bridges over the canal and river Douglas (Sites 17 and 18), one entry was for Tarleton Cross (Site 19), one entry was for St Mary's Church (Site 05: *Section 4.1.14*) and one was for an area of strip fields beside Coe Lane (Site 21).
- 4.1.13 The earliest recorded building is Ram's Head Inn (Site 24), which dates from the seventeenth century; it has an inscription on a lintel dating to 1640 and another in an outhouse dated 1714 (Farrer and Brownbill 1914). Many buildings in Church Lane and Plox Brow show evidence of seventeenth to eighteenth century features (Sites 11-16) and Yates' map of 1786 shows that buildings were clustered along these two streets; however, no buildings were shown on Windgate or Coe Lane (the southern and eastern edges of the study area).
- 4.1.14 St Mary's church (Site 05), on the south side of Windgate, dates from 1719 (Lilford Muniments 1718). The choice of location may have been due to its connection with the earlier chapel of St Helen or the Holy Well of St Helen, as suggested by Baines (1870), which may imply that this was the centre of an early settlement. It should be noted that dedications to St Helen often relate to early sites, or to pagan sites that have been Christianised, particularly holy wells (Newman, pers comm). Contemporary documents, however, make no reference to this as a reason for the location of the church, but simply refer to the '*parcel of land*'. The church is sited on a piece of high ground west of the river Douglas and on Windgate (the road leading over the river to Bank House where Henrietta Maria Legh lived) and it is possible that this land was chosen as it was close enough for her to monitor the use of the church, yet clear of the flood plain of the river Douglas.
- 4.1.15 **Aerial photographs:** there are two series of air photographs of the Tarleton area which are held by the SMR. One is a set of detailed photographs (Lancashire SMR 2830) showing the earthworks and differentiated 'crop' marks in the fields east of Coe

Lane. To the south is a field with a clear pattern of strip fields (site 21); in the field to the north is a series of possible oval enclosures, overlying less clear evidence of rig and furrow or strip fields (site 22).

4.1.16 There is also a set of Lancashire County Council photographs with a scale of $c1:10,000$ showing the area around Tarleton (LCC 37 88 179 and LCC run 3 9255). These show a marked change in the field pattern from the study area to that to the south and west of Tarleton, and in particular south of Windgate (Site 23). They show a series of narrow fields on either side of a major boundary continuing the line of Coe Lane to the south of Windgate, which have a characteristic aratral (reversed-S) curved shape and are typically the product of enclosing medieval ridge and furrow. They clearly contrast with the regular rectangular fields of the more recently reclaimed land immediately west of the river Douglas or west of Hesketh Lane and Church Road (5.1.3). The form of these fields is also represented, albeit less clearly, on the 1827 valuation survey (Fig 3: DDHe 111/52), where some of them are called '*Long Furlong*'. The air photographs also show a former back lane, cut by Windgate, which runs parallel to Coe Lane and is midway between Coe Lane and Hesketh Lane (again to the south of the study area). The aratral fields terminate at this lane suggesting that it has some antiquity.

4.1.17 **Place Name Evidence:** The earliest names of the individual fields of the study area are given in the 1827 Valuation Survey (LRO DDHe 111/252), the meaning of which might go some way to indicate the method of development of farming in this township. The field names 'hey' indicate the marginal nature of outlying fields and the piecemeal reclamation of the mosses. The meaning of Windgate might refer to the prevalent vegetation (the Norse *hvin* meaning 'gorse' (Field 1993)). Tail Small is an unusual field name, although 'tail' does occasionally refer to a tail of land (Field 1993) or narrow strip (Cameron 1982).

4.2 IDENTIFICATION SURVEY

4.2.1 **Earthworks:** the majority of features recorded during the walkover survey are agricultural in function and are water related. Site 06 in 'Chapel Meadow' appears to be a deliberately constructed water source, rectangular in shape, that relates to a series of ponds within the meadow. In the field north of this meadow, Site 09 is recorded as being a pond approximately 16m in diameter. The eastern side is revetted with stone and has a sluice/drain opening. The 'Meadow' (Site 25), which appears on the 1827 valuation survey, has been centrally divided by a north/south aligned boundary which was first recorded in 1847. In the western area of the field the walkover survey revealed a series of broad, 5m wide ridge and furrow-type earthworks aligned east/west and bounded to the west by a single north/south aligned ridge running parallel to the field boundary.

4.2.2 **Buildings:** the visual inspection recorded no standing remains within the limits of the survey area that are of any historic significance or have any archaeological potential. A ten bay block of semi-derelict glasshouses (Site 28) and a timber built stable block (Site 29) are the only upstanding remains. Both of these are of recent construction. The stable block is still in use.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 DESK-BASED STUDY

- 5.1.1 The historical background of the development and growth of the township of Tarleton has been examined in some depth as it was important to establish the pattern of settlement growth in relation to the documented streets and buildings. This was deemed important as the study area lies between the site of a possible early church and the main settlement today. The distance between the two may suggest some shifting of the settlement focus through time.
- 5.1.2 The designated area is not within the nucleus of the present village of Tarleton. Study of documentary and cartographic evidence indicates that the present township developed along Hesketh Lane, a route afforded by the natural high north/south ridge which leads to crossing places over the river Douglas at Hesketh Bank and Beconsall. It is possible that Windgate Lane formed a route to an alternative crossing place over the river Douglas to reach Bretherton and Bank House, and on towards the markets at Croston and Penwortham. The evidence suggests that such a crossing was originally by boat and was impassable during the winter months until at least the 1650s (*Section 3.3.9*). There may have been a bridge by 1720 when the new chapel was built (*Section 3.3.13*); the present Bank Bridge was possibly enlarged from an earlier narrower bridge (Site 17). This route, however, may only have been of real significance after the bridge had been built and when Windgate had become a turnpike in the 1740s.
- 5.1.3 The cartographic evidence shows that the land north of Windgate (the study area) comprised large arable or pasture fields (*Section 4.1.5*) with no farm buildings, and no ribbon development, although there were buildings at the west end (Toll Bar (Site 02) and Ram's Head Inn (Site 24)). No settlement is shown on the early maps, within the study area, until 1847 when the 1st edition OS map shows a Rectory and its garden and outhouses (Sites 07 and 08). These have now been demolished but the air photographs show a large rectangular boundary in the same location as that indicated on the 1st edition OS map. Comparison of the present OS map and the earliest surveyed map (1827 valuation survey: DDHe 111/52) shows that the field boundaries within the designated area and to the east have remained constant and there has been relatively little building or change of use within the study area. The area would appear to have been in use as farmland throughout the later post-medieval period.
- 5.1.4 The area to the south of Windgate Lane demonstrates a markedly different land-use pattern to that north of the lane. Air photographs (LCC run 3 9255 and LCC 37 88 179) and the 1st edition 6" map of 1847 show a formation of fields on either side of a major boundary continuing south of Coe Lane (*Section 4.1.17*). These fields have an elongated, arcually curved shape, that is characteristic of medieval ploughing. Such a field shape is not apparent in the regular rectangular fields of the more recently reclaimed land immediately west of Hesketh Lane and Church Road. Each of the nineteenth century maps show that there had been a lane continuing south of Coe Lane (this lane is now not used and is incorporated in the churchyard of St Mary's). The field plan seems to indicate that Windgate formed the boundary between the settlement area and the open fields of Tarleton, with fields aligned east/west, butting

onto Coe Lane. However, it might also be that Coe Lane reflects the contours of the terracing of the flood plain.

- 5.1.5 The siting of the chapel of St Mary's (*Section 3.1.13*) may be significant, although the available documentation concerning the sale of the plot and the foundation of the chapel suggests the site was chosen simply because of its location on a '*piece of high ground*' on the main road crossing the river Douglas and immediately due east of Bank House (where the founder lived). The alternative suggestion that the choice of location was due to its connection with the earlier chapel of St Helen or St Helen's Well (Baines 1870) may, however, have some foundation and be related to unrecorded knowledge regarding an earlier settlement of Tarleton. Although the available documentary and cartographic evidence does not make reference to any different sites for an early township, this documentation dates to the late medieval and early post-medieval period, by which time knowledge of any earlier medieval township may have become irrelevant.

5.2 IDENTIFICATION SURVEY

- 5.2.1 *Earthworks*: The ponds, water source and ridge and furrow all appear to be post-medieval in date. Their agricultural function would suggest that the survey area has been put to continual farming use since this period and supports the evidence of the desk-based study. The field boundary inserted within the 'meadow' (site 25) suggests some change of landownership between 1847 and 1908 or a possible change of land use from arable to pastoral. In either case this does not significantly change the farming practices of this landscape.
- 5.2.2 *Buildings*: The buildings recorded as part of the visual inspection are recent in date. Built for agricultural purposes, the glasshouse block is now semi-derelict and abandoned. The stable block, although still in use, is in a very poor state of repair. This evidence would suggest that although agricultural practices were carried on in this area until very recent times, they are in a state of decline or at least giving way to the temptations of financial benefits offered by developers.

6. SITE GAZETTEER

Site number 01
Site name Coe Lane (east)
NGR SD 45692017
Site type Building (two)
Period Post-medieval
Source Valuation survey 1827 (LRO Hesketh Muniments); 1st edition 25":1 mile OS 1847

Description

Two small buildings in a small rectangular plot in the north-east corner of a junction between Coe Lane and Windgate are shown on the 1827 valuation survey and OS 1st edition map. These are directly opposite St Mary's Church.

Assessment

Outside the area of assessment.

Site number 02
Site name Toll Bar
NGR SD 45182002
Site type Toll House
Period Post-medieval
Source Valuation survey 1827 (LRO Hesketh Muniments); 1845 Tithe Map (LRO DRB 1/182)

Description

A toll bar is marked on the map as a small square building within a square plot; it is probably contemporary with the development of the turnpike road (Site 03).

Assessment

Outside the area of assessment.

Site number 03
Site name Windgate
NGR SD 45202000 - 45992023
Site type Turnpike
Period Eighteenth century
Source 1st edn 25": 1 mile OS map 1847

Description

Old road known as Windgate Lane developed into a turnpike road c1724-53.

Assessment

At the southern boundary of the assessment area.

Site number 04
Site name Coe Lane (southern continuation)
NGR SD 45652013 (north end)
Site type Lane
Period Possibly medieval; Post-medieval

Source Valuation survey 1827 (LRO Hesketh Muniments); 1845 Tithe Map (LRO DRB 1/182); 1st edn 6": 1 mile map, 1847; Aerial photographs LCC 3/9255; LCC 37 88 179

Description

A lane, first shown on the 1827 valuation survey, continuing southwards from Coe Lane, west of St Mary's Church, and butted by east/west field boundaries. This is shown as a clear division or boundary on the aerial photographs.

Assessment

Outside the area of assessment.

Site number 05
Site name St Mary's Church, Windgate
NGR SD 45672013
Site type Church
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR 1334

Description

The church of St Mary's was built by 1720 and stands in its own 'chapel-yard'.

Assessment

There are no traces of a preceding structure in or around the present building, or of St Helen's Well. Aerial photographs show traces of ridge and furrow to the south of the church. The site is outside the area of assessment.

Site number 06
Site name Water source; Chapel Meadow
NGR SD 45502011
Site type Water source
Period Medieval?; Post-medieval;
Source Tithe Map 1845 (LRO DRB 1/182); 1st edn 25": 1 mile OS map 1847

Description

The 1845 Tithe Map shows a series of ponds, which are coloured blue and are for the most part irregular in shape. The defined site, within Chapel Meadow immediately north of Windgate, is the only one of these which is rectangular and thus may be a deliberately constructed water source.

Assessment

This lies outside the area of assessment.

Site number 07
Site name The Rectory
NGR SD 45412033
Site type Ecclesiastical
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR 7493; 1845 Tithe Map (LRO DRB 1/182); 1st edn 25": 1 mile OS map 1847; Air photograph SMR 2830

Description

Rectory buildings and garden first depicted on the 1845 Tithe Map, but marked as buildings on the 1st edition OS map of 1847. On the 2nd edition OS 1908 this site is referred to as the

'Rectory'. The buildings are demolished sometime between this date and 1967 although the boundary still exists. It now remains only as earthworks which are seen on the ground and in air photographs. It is associated with Site 08.

Assessment

The site is immediately east of the area of assessment.

Site number 08
Site name Outhouses and orchard
NGR SD 45452035
Site type Ecclesiastical
Period Post-medieval
Source 1845 Tithe Map (LRO DRB 1/182); 1st edn 25": 1 mile OS map 1847;
Description

In the north of this field was a small plot, named as outhouses and orchard on the 1845 Tithe Map; these were also marked as buildings on the 1st edition OS map. It is now demolished but was associated with Site 07.

Assessment

The site is immediately north of the area of assessment.

Site number 09
Site name Pond, Meadow (Rev Edward Master)
NGR SD 45422030
Site type Pond
Period Post-medieval
Source 1st edn 25": 1 mile OS map 1847; 1:2500 OS map 1991
Description

In the field to the north of Chapel Meadow is an irregular round shape, possibly a pond. It is, however, not shown on the earlier Tithe Map of 1845, but is shown by 1847. Field inspection demonstrated that the feature was a roughly circular pond *c* 16m in diameter, the eastern side is reveted with stone and has a sluice/ drain opening in the centre.

Assessment

The site is within the area of assessment. Probably a garden feature associated with the construction of the parsonage.

Site number 10
Site name Oak Cottage
NGR SD 45372008
Site type House
Period Post-medieval
Source 1st edn 25": 1 mile OS map 1847; 1:2500 OS map 1991, visual inspection

Description

A cottage first marked on the OS map in 1847 within a plot of land called Windgate. This plot (but not the cottage) is marked on the earlier Valuation map of 1827 (LRO He 111/52) and on the 1845 Tithe Map (LRO DRB 1/182). The size, location and name of the plot suggests that there was an earlier house with an associated toft. The house in its present form is brick-built

of two units and two storeys, with rear projections. The porch and windows are modern additions. It is typical of a north-west regional eighteenth century cottage in style but does not appear on a map until 1847.

Assessment

Situated outside the area of assessment. Low archaeological potential.

Site number 11
Site name Barn, Church Road
NGR SD 45222067
Site type House
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR 10661

Description

A seventeenth century barn, now altered and part of a shop. The interior shows original cruck and tie beams.

Assessment

Grade II listed building. The site is outside the area of assessment.

Site number 12
Site name Farm house, Church Road
NGR SD 45312074
Site type House
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR 10662

Description

A seventeenth/eighteenth century farmhouse, which has now been altered.

Assessment

Grade II listed building. The site is outside the area of assessment.

Site number 13
Site name Cottage, Gorse Lane
NGR SD 45092063
Site type House
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR 10663

Description

A cottage with a 1778 date on the lintel, although it has now been altered. It is of handmade brick with stone dressings and a slate roof.

Assessment

Grade II listed building. The site is outside the area of assessment.

Site number 14
Site name Farmhouse, Plox Brow
NGR SD 45382074
Site type House
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR 10664

Description

A seventeenth century farmhouse with eighteenth century additions, which has now been altered. It has a cruck frame with a linear three-bay plan.

Assessment

Grade II listed building. The site is outside the area of assessment.

Site number 15
Site name Farmhouse, Plox Brow
NGR SD 45452079
Site type House
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR 10665

Description

A farmhouse dated 1635 on the porch. It is constructed of handmade brick and has a slate roof with a three-bay linear plan.

Assessment

Grade II listed building. The site is outside the area of assessment.

Site number 16
Site name Farmhouse, Plox Brow
NGR SD 45472074
Site type House
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR 10666

Description

A farmhouse dated 1651 on the lintel. It is of hand-made brick and has a slate roof in a three-bay linear plan.

Assessment

Grade II listed building. The site is outside the area of assessment.

Site number 17
Site name Bank Bridge
NGR SD 46042027
Site type Bridge
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR 10658

Description

A public road bridge over the river Douglas. It is dated 1821 on the keystone on the southern side. It comprises three segmented arches with large rock-face blocked sandstone. There are differences between the stonework on the south and north sides suggesting that the north side represents an earlier, narrower bridge. Its name implies a connection with Bank House in Bretherton. It is beyond the area shown on the site location map (Fig 5).

Assessment

Grade II listed bridge. The site is outside the area of assessment.

Site number 18
Site name Bank Bridge

NGR SD 45982024

Site type Bridge

Period Post-medieval

Source SMR 10659

Description

A public road bridge over the canal, built c1790.

Assessment

Grade II listed bridge. The site is outside the area of assessment.

Site number 19

Site name Tarleton Cross

NGR Present position SD 45082041; original position SD 45072039

Site type Ecclesiastical

Period Medieval?

Source SMR 1335

Description

A stone cross base with an earth-filled socket; it is thought to have stood in centre of the township.

Assessment

Outside the area of assessment.

Site number 20

Site name Coe Lane

NGR SD 4525 2025

Site type Field boundary; Ridge and furrow

Period Medieval?; Post-medieval

Source SMR, Gifford and Partners

Description

The measured survey by Gifford and Partners found a former field boundary, to the east of the study area, interpreted as a possible corral, and also a borrow pit in the south-east corner of their designated area. Ridge and furrow earthworks were found in the north-east portion of the site, truncated by the present north and south field boundaries. The shape of the ridge and furrow suggests post-medieval cultivation. West of the former field boundary was a modern field drain. The results from the magnetic susceptibility survey were inconclusive; there was little differentiation over the site. Magnetic anomalies were found as subsurface features which may represent potential archaeological remains such as filled boundary ditches.

Assessment

Immediately west of the area of assessment.

Site number 21

Site name Coe Lane Fields

NGR SD 45702020

Site type Arable

Period Medieval?

Source Air photograph; SMR 1334

Description

A field showing a clear pattern of linear earthworks indicating strip fields.

Assessment

Immediately east of the area of assessment.

Site number 22
Site name Coe Lane Fields
NGR SD 45702033
Site type Arable
Period Medieval?
Source Air photograph

Description

A field showing a series of oval enclosures, overlying less clear evidence of ridge and furrow.

Assessment

Immediately east of the area of assessment.

Site number 23
Site name Coe Lane Fields (south)
NGR SD 45602002
Site type Arable
Period Medieval?
Source Air photographs (LCC 37 88 179 and LCC run 3 9255)

Description

A series of elongated, narrow fields and boundaries with aratral curves; they are not apparent in the regular rectangular fields of the more recently reclaimed land immediately west of Hesketh Lane and Church Road. The fields are butted on to either side of a major boundary continuing south of Coe Lane.

Assessment

Immediately south of the area of assessment.

Site number 24
Site name Ram's Head Inn
NGR SD 45191996
Site type Inn
Period Post-medieval/seventeenth century
Source 1st edition 25": 1 mile, 1847, OS map

Description

The date of the building is 1640, which was used as a coaching inn (Baines 1870). It is beyond the area of the site location map (Fig 5) but is shown on the 1827 valuation survey (Fig 3).

Assessment

Not within the area of assessment.

Site number 25
Site name Meadow (Rev Edward Master)
NGR SD 45402030
Site type Field

Period Medieval?; Post-medieval
Source Valuation Survey 1827, Walkover survey

Description

A field shown on the 1827 valuation survey (Fig 3) which by 1847 has been centrally divided by a north/south aligned boundary, with an area of woodland, and a house titled 'The Parsonage' in the eastern part. In the western part field survey recorded a series of broad, 5m wide ridge and furrow-type earthworks. The earthworks were aligned east/west and bounded to the west by a single north/south aligned ridge running parallel to the field boundary; the eastern end of the ridge and furrow appeared to have been truncated by the development of the eastern part of the field.

Assessment

Within the area of assessment, possibly related to the ridge and furrow Site 20.

Site number 26
Site name Oak Cottage Pond
NGR SD 45402030
Site type Pond
Period Post-medieval
Source OS 6" 1st edition map 1847, Walkover survey

Description

A pond c15m diameter to the north of Oak Cottage.

Assessment

Within the area of assessment.

Site number 27
Site name Tail Small ponds/drainage ditch
NGR SD 45152020
Site type Field boundary/drainage features
Period Post-medieval
Source Valuation Survey 1827, 1847, Walkover survey

Description

A broad linear depression roughly following the line of the boundary of the field named Tail Small on the 1827 valuation survey (Fig 3). The depression is generally 0.32m to 0.5m below the level of the ground surface, and has several deeper depressions which may be dried out ponds. The feature meets Coe Lane at the position of the wooden gate into Chapel Meadow. It seems likely the feature was a drainage ditch, possibly with a couple of ponds on the outer side of the boundary of Tail Small field; similar features still exist at the western edge of Chapel Meadow and New Hey.

Assessment

Within the area of assessment; of low archaeological potential.

Site number 28
Site name Glasshouses
NGR SD 45352031
Site type Agricultural greenhouses
Period Modern
Source Visual inspection

Description

A ten bay block of greenhouses in a semi-derelict condition.

Assessment

Within the survey area but of no archaeological importance.

Site number 29

Site name Stable

NGR SD 45392040

Site type Stable block

Period Modern

Source Visual inspection

Description

A four unit timber-built stable block still in use. In a very poor state of repair, surrounded by tarmac hardstanding.

Assessment

Within the survey area but of no archaeological importance.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig 1 Tarleton Study Area Location Map
- Fig 2 Yates, W, 1786 *Map of Lancashire*
- Fig 3 Valuation Survey of Sollom and Tarleton in 8 sections 1827 (DDHe 111/52)
- Fig 4 OS 1st edition 6":1 mile map 1847
- Fig 5 OS 25" to 1 mile 2nd edition map 1908
- Fig 6 Site Location Map



Fig 1 Tarleton Study Area Location Map

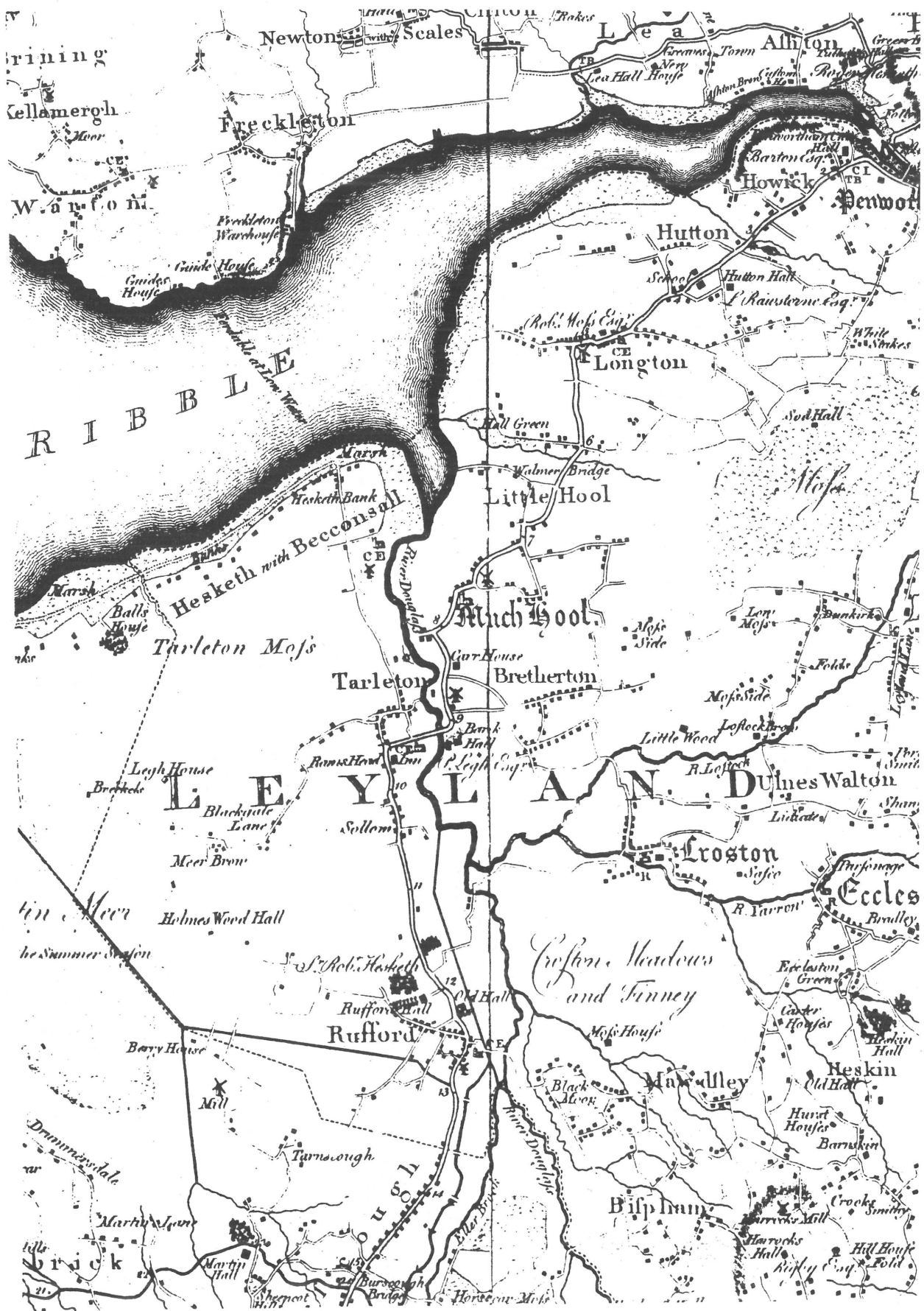


Fig 2 Yates, W, 1786 Map of Lancashire

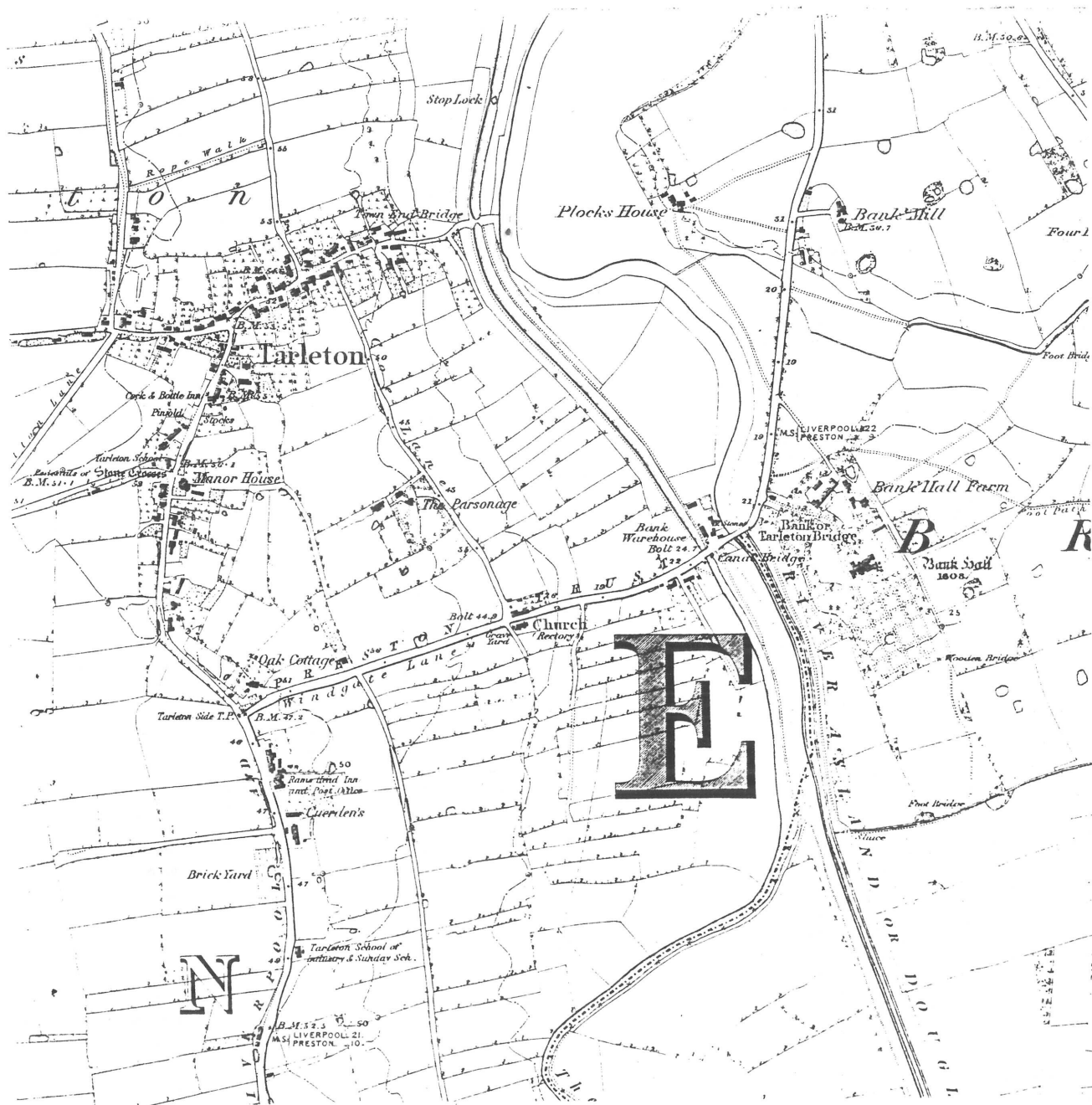


Fig 4 OS 1st edition 6" : 1 mile map 1847

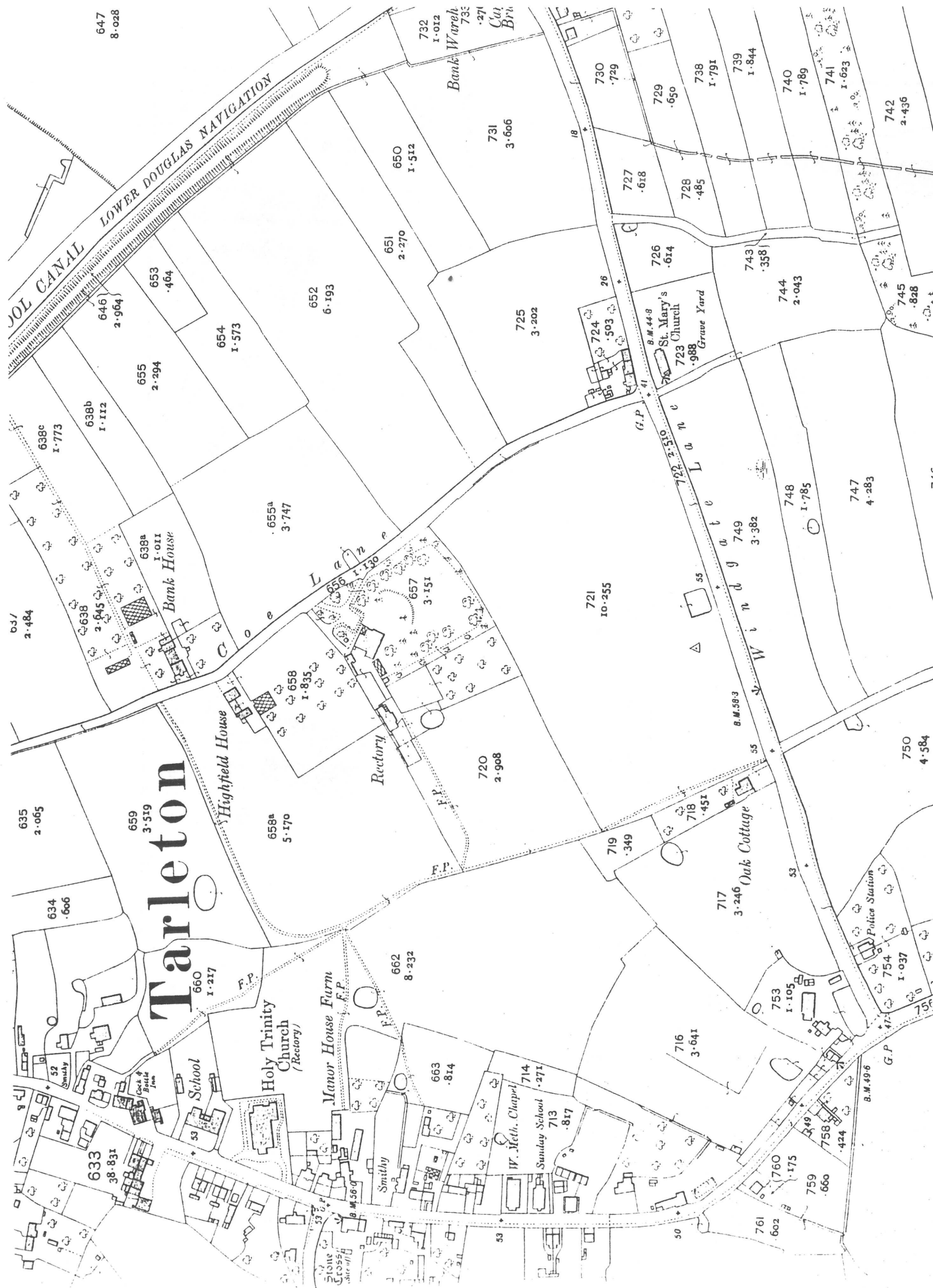


Fig 5 OS 25" to 1 mile 2nd edition map 1908

