

PROPOSED GOLF COURSE AT DOVER LODGE FARM, CHAIN LANE, STAINING, BLACKPOOL, LANCASHIRE



Archaeological Desk- Based Assessment and Walkover Survey



Oxford Archaeology North

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Mr Wigglesworth

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Mr Wigglesworth to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey of land subject to a proposed nine-hole golf course (Planning Reference 05/0683) at Dover Lodge Farm, Chain Lane, Staining, Blackpool, Lancashire (NGR SD 35527 35825).

The assessment, undertaken in March and April 2006, covered a radius of 1km from the centre of the proposed development site and included visits to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record, the Lancashire County Record Office, and consultation of OA North's library. No sites with statutory designation were identified.

The majority of the proposed development site consists of undeveloped agricultural land, the lower parts of which are likely to have been marshland until the advent of comprehensive post-medieval drainage schemes. The site is, however, thought to hold considerable archaeological potential. A number of prehistoric finds have been made in the vicinity of the study area, the most significant of which are a number of probable Bronze Age finds from Marton Mere, 1km west of the study area; these included a number of well-preserved canoes, or coracle-like boats.

The palaeoenvironmental potential of the area is indicated by frequent isolated pockets of peat, one of which is known to extend into the proposed development area (Site **04**). In addition, a previous archaeological evaluation undertaken on the edge of the site (Site **14**) found well-preserved, waterlogged organic remains.

The putative route of Dane's Pad Roman road (Site **19**) passes through the proposed development area. Whilst the presence of this road has never been definitively proven, cartographic analysis found mention of the road in a former field name (Site **21**), and the walkover survey suggested the possible presence of road foundations at the same location (Site **32**).

Within the proposed development area are a number of other sites of archaeological potential. These include a cropmark site of possible prehistoric date (Site **03**); several disused gateposts (Sites **16**, **17** and **18**); the findspot of two Roman coins (Site **11**); and the sites of several buildings or structures: a toll gate (Site **29**), a wind pump (Site **23**), and an unidentified structure (Site **28**). In addition, several other former field names suggested the potential for possible associated buried remains (Sites **22**, **24**, **25** and **26**).

The assessed significance of the sites identified within the proposed development area, and the likely impact of any future development will have on them, has contributed to the recommendations for further archaeological assessment. These include a site-wide geophysical survey, followed by a programme of archaeological trial trenching, targeted on specific areas of potential identified by this assessment and by the geophysical survey. In addition, a palaeoenvironmental sample should be obtained from the identified area of peat deposits (Site **04**).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Mr Wigglesworth and Lancashire Rural Futures for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Leslie Mitchell at the Lancashire SMR, and all the staff of the County Record Office in Preston for their assistance with this project.

The assessment was undertaken by Anthony Lee, with the drawings produced by Marie Rowland and Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Following proposals by Mr Wigglesworth (Planning Reference 05/0683) for the construction of a nine-hole golf course at Dover Lodge Farm, Chain Lane, Staining, Blackpool, Lancashire (NGR SD 35527 35825), Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) recommended that a programme of archaeological investigation be undertaken, to further inform the planning process. The programme of investigation included a desk-based assessment, walkover survey, buildings investigation and metal detector survey. Following verbal communication with LCAS, it was agreed that the results of an initial investigation, comprising a desk-based assessment and a walkover survey only, would be used to assess the necessity for, and scale of, any further works on the site, including the metal detector survey and buildings investigation. In response, OA North compiled a project design (*Appendix 1*), which was approved by LCAS. Accordingly, OA North was commissioned by Lancashire Rural Futures on behalf of Mr Wigglesworth to undertake an archaeological assessment of the proposed development site, which covers an area of approximately 70ha within the central Fylde region of Lancashire, and is situated 4km east of Blackpool (Fig 1).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological investigation, undertaken in March and April 2006, consisted of an initial desk-based assessment and walkover survey. The results of this work, as detailed in this report, will be used to identify any requirements for any further archaeological work prior to development. An assessment of the significance of the known archaeological resource and the subsequent impact of the proposed development has been undertaken, employing the criteria used for scheduling monuments as detailed in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, Annex 4 (DoE 1990).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North in response to a request by Mr Wigglesworth, for an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey. The project design, which was compiled in accordance with a verbal communication with LCAS, was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 The study focused on an area within a 1km radius of the centre of the proposed development site, covering the site itself and its immediate surroundings. Relevant information from the wider area has been summarised in order to place the results of the assessment into context. All known archaeological sites within the study area and its environs have been included in the Site Gazetteer (*Section 4*). In order to undertake the desk-based assessment, several sources of information were consulted.
- 2.2.2 **Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (LSMR):** the Sites and Monuments Record held in Preston was consulted to establish the presence of known sites of cultural heritage interest. Recent archaeological reports and aerial photography was consulted from this source for the study area.
- 2.2.3 **Lancashire Record Office (LRO):** the LRO was visited to consult primary and secondary published sources.
- 2.2.4 **Portable Antiquities Scheme:** Dot Bruns, the regional Finds Liaison Officer, was consulted regarding any finds reported from within the study area.
- 2.2.5 **Oxford Archaeology North:** OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

2.3 WALKOVER SURVEY

- 2.3.1 Following the desk-based assessment, a Level 1 walkover survey was undertaken to relate the existing landscape to research findings. Features of cultural heritage interest identified within the landscape were recorded and accurately positioned, with respect to the OS national grid using a hand-held GPS. The survey was undertaken on the 20th and 24th March 2006.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the LRO on completion of the project and a paper copy, complete with an index to the archive, will be sent to the LSMR.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The proposed development site is situated within the central Fylde region of Lancashire, 4km east of Blackpool and 0.5km south-east of the village of Staining. The dominant topographical feature within the study area is the Main Dyke, which drains Marton Mere, 1km to the west of the study area. The landscape slopes gently from an approximate height of 15m AOD to 5m AOD at the Main Dyke. Early attempts to improve the fertility of the site are suggested by the presence of a number of former marl pits within and around the development site, many of which are now represented by ponds.
- 3.1.2 Geologically, the area is characterised by deep deposits of poorly-drained boulder clay glacial moraine (Middleton *et al* 1995). Depressions within the boulder clay have allowed the accumulation of isolated raw fen peat mosses, although this particular resource has been adversely affected in recent years by extraction and comprehensive drainage schemes (*ibid*).

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric period:** recent work by the North West Wetlands Survey details considerable prehistoric activity in the area (*ibid*). The earliest evidence for human activity is that for which the Fylde is most famous: the finding in 1970 of an elk skeleton within a small peaty hollow near Poulton-le-Fylde, 3.5km north-west of the study area (*ibid*). The complete skeleton of a male elk was unearthed, found in a series of lake deposits. Study of the skeleton, which was dated to 10,250 BC, found several barbed points embedded within the bones, the partial healing of which suggests that the animal was hunted, unsuccessfully, two or three weeks before its death (LUAU 1994). Mesolithic material is represented throughout the Fylde at a low level, but the large body of evidence for the Mesolithic occupation of the nearby south/central Pennine uplands, and wetland evidence from elsewhere in the North West, suggests that Mesolithic presence in the area should be expected (Howard-Davies *et al* 1988).
- 3.2.2 The edges of the mosslands and the surrounding higher ground have produced evidence for both Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, mainly in the form of individual finds, such as stone axes and hammers and metal weapons. The distribution of Neolithic polished stone axes and rough-outs indicates two local concentrations, centred on Marton Mere, 1km west of the study area, and Pilling Moss, 14km to the north. It can be argued that this distribution may reflect the proximity of navigable rivers (LUAU 1994).
- 3.2.3 Bronze Age finds show a similar distribution, with concentrations north and south of the River Wyre. Pilling Moss was clearly of significance in this period and evidence from Marton Mere indicates a similar continuity of activity from the Neolithic (*ibid*). The construction of the Main Dyke in the

nineteenth century resulted in a number of important finds of probable Bronze Age date, including a 'battle-axe of brass' with a 'skin cap or bag, without a seam' and two or three 'coracles or canoes...made of slight ribs of wood, covered with hydes..' (Thornber 1837, 18). Although no prehistoric sites been definitely identified within the study area, there is the possibility that a group of circular features identified on aerial photographs (Site **03**) may represent the site of prehistoric pits.

- 3.2.4 Little is known of Iron Age activity in the area; the lack of finds and evidence of settlement reflects the sparse distribution of evidence in lowland Lancashire as a whole. While Iron Age population densities in the area were probably lower than some other parts of northern England, the present lack of Iron Age material in Lancashire is probably due, above all, to poor archaeological visibility and survival, compounded by a general lack of artefacts and the recognition of datable material within chronologically non-specific artefact assemblages common to most northern sites (Hazelgrove 1996).
- 3.2.5 **Roman period:** little is known about the nature of Romano-British rural settlement in the Fylde, although a possible Roman road, known as Dane's Pad (Site **19**) runs through the study area. This was first identified by Thornber (1837) who provides a very clear picture of a substantially-built road, connecting the military fort at Dowbridge, Kirkham, 9km to the south-east, to the mouth of the River Wyre at Fleetwood, 13km to the north. Fleetwood has been suggested as the possible site of *Portus Setantiorum*, an unidentified Roman port mentioned in Ptolemy's *Geography* (*ibid*). The road was described as being substantially built, in parts on an agger; it ran through the 'low moss lands near Mythorp' where it could be seen clearly in the cutting of the Main Dyke (Middleton *et al* 1995, 99).
- 3.2.6 Although no conclusive evidence of this road has been discovered since Thornber's description, field examination of the putative route through the proposed development area observed the possible surface evidence of a former agger close to the north bank of Main Dyke (Site **32**; Plates 1 and 2; Section 3.5.3, below). Other Roman evidence in the study area comprises two coins found by a metal detectorist (Site **11**), one of which has been dated to the early fourth century AD (SMR index card 15376).
- 3.2.7 **Early medieval:** there is little evidence of activity on the area dating to the centuries prior to the Norman conquest, and place-names offer the best clues as to possible early medieval settlement. Staining is first mentioned in *Domesday Book* as *Staininghe*, from the Old English word *stan* or Old Norse *steinn*, both meaning 'stone' - probably 'boundary stone' - and the '-ing' suffix meaning 'place of' (Wyld 1911). Bulpit (1913, 38) asserts that the 'place of stones' refers to the nearby Roman road Dane's Pad (Site **19**). An alternative rendering, supported by the use of the plural form *Steyninges* in 1211-40, is the Anglo-Saxon '-ingas' suffix, meaning 'people associated with' and the personal name Stan (Mills 1976, 135).
- 3.2.8 **Late medieval:** in 1066, Staining, which was assessed as six ploughlands (originally enough to support six families), formed part of Earl Tostig's lordship of Preston (Farrer and Brownbill 1912). In 1086, when *Domesday*

was produced, the study area was part of a large tract of land, the foundation of the later ‘Honour of Lancaster’, which stretched into Yorkshire, Cheshire and Westmorland, and which was the fief of Count Roger de Poitou and remained so until forfeiture into the hands of Henry I in 1102 (*ibid*). Some of this land was then conferred upon the constable of Cheshire: either the first constable, Nigel, or his son, William fitz Nigel. To this land, nine further manors, including Staining, had been added (*ibid*).

3.2.9 Although medieval monastic sites are now a rare class of site in Lancashire, at the time of the foundation of Whalley Abbey in 1296, Staining is known to have been one of eight granges owned by Stanlaw Abbey (Platt 1969, 81). The foundation of some form of monastic property at Staining *c* 1134, attached to the priory of Runcorn, establishes the site as a grange earlier than hitherto popularly believed (LUAU 1990). Staining Grange appears to have remained in the hands of Stanlaw and its successor, Whalley, until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the sixteenth century (*ibid*). As is frequently the case with monastic sites, Staining has a relatively well-documented early history, but there are few specific references to buildings or to the extent of the estate that can be traced forward with certainty to the map sources of the past 150 years (*ibid*).

3.2.10 **Post-medieval:** the agricultural developments of the post-medieval period saw a number of changes in practice and it was during this time that many drainage schemes were undertaken to gain and improve land of arable quality. In 1815 a review of the region’s agriculture noted that ‘waste’ land could be drained and then improved with marl (Dickson 1815). Evidence of post-medieval agricultural improvement in the study area comes from the Main Dyke and the numerous disused marl pits, many of which are now ponds. Post-medieval expansion in the area would have occurred relatively slowly until rapid population growth in the nineteenth century and the more rapid subsequent changes that occurred in the twentieth century. The development of an urban centre at Blackpool and elsewhere in the region during the nineteenth century brought about increased population density and pressure on the surrounding countryside (LUAU 1994).

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

3.3.1 **Yates’ Map of Lancashire, 1786:** although not particularly detailed, two buildings are shown within the proposed development area. These are likely to have been Dover Lodge Farm and Mythorp Toll Gate (Site 29).

3.3.2 **Hardhorn-with-Newton tithe map, 1838 (Fig 3):** this map shows the development site north of the Main Dyke, which is itself shown for the first time, and which marked the boundary between the parishes of Poulton and Kirkham. A large number of small, mainly rectangular and sub-rectangular fields are shown, as well as buildings on the site of the existing farms and farmhouses: Dover Lodge Farm, Partridge Bank, Hall’s House Farm and Hawes House. The tithe award names several fields of archaeological interest: Dains’s Path Carr (Site 21) is situated on the putative route of Dane’s Pad Roman road (although the line of the road was not shown); Pit Carr (Site 22)

suggests that the present-day pond in this area is a former marl pit (the field name 'carr' also suggests that these fields were once poorly drained and rather boggy); Stable Field (Site 24) and Kiln Field (Sites 25 and 26) suggest that the named features may once have existed in these fields.

- 3.3.3 **Weeton-with-Preese tithe map, 1840 (Fig 3):** covering the development site south of the Main Dyke, the map shows a large number of rectangular and sub-rectangular fields. One building was identified, this probably being the Mythorp Toll Gate (Site 27). None of the field names give any indication of potential features of archaeological interest.
- 3.3.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1847, first edition 1:10560 (Fig 4):** the putative line of Dane's Pad Roman road (Site 19) is shown on this map, apparently being represented by linear earthworks close to where it had been bisected by the Main Dyke. Elsewhere, a track is shown extending eastwards from Dover Lodge Farm, to a small rectangular enclosure, which is known from later maps to have been a clay pit (Site 20). Mythorp Toll Gate (Site 27) is shown on the western edge of the proposed development site, as is Thatchplat Bridge (Site 30), and a foot stick (basic timber planked crossing point) over the Main Dyke (Site 31).
- 3.3.5 **Ordnance Survey, 1893, first edition 1:2500 (Fig 5):** a reorganisation of the landscape had taken place south of the Main Dyke, where the field pattern had been completely changed, with fewer and larger fields set at right angles to the Dyke. Mythorp Toll Gate (Site 27) is identified as Chain House, with a possible small structure to the east of the main building. The small rectangular enclosure first identified on the 1847 OS map is labelled as 'Old Clay Pits' (Site 20).
- 3.3.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1911-12, Second Edition 1:2500:** several more former field boundaries had been removed, and a small structure (Site 28) was identified close to 'Old Clay Pits' (Site 20).
- 3.3.7 **Ordnance Survey, 1932, Third Edition 1:2500:** no significant changes had taken place within the proposed development area.
- 3.3.8 **Ordnance Survey, 1938, Fourth Edition 1:2500:** a wind pump (Site 23) was identified in the field to the north-west of Hall's House Farm and the pylons, which remain to this day, were identified for the first time. Elsewhere, no significant changes had taken place.
- 3.3.9 **Ordnance Survey, 2005 (Fig 2):** the proposed development site remained largely undeveloped and unchanged, although several more field boundaries had been removed and a sewage works installed 250m south-south-east of Dover Lodge Farm.

3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

- 3.4.1 Although no recent archaeological interventions have been undertaken within the boundary of the proposed development site, there have been several such events in the vicinity.
- 3.4.2 ***Land South of Mythop Road, Mythop, Near Weeton, Lancashire: Archaeological Assessment (700m south of the proposed development area):*** an archaeological assessment of a proposed nine-hole golf course identified seven sites of cultural heritage interest south of Mythop, including the site of a former farmhouse (Site 06) and a putative medieval shrunken settlement (Site 02) (Egerton Lea 2003).
- 3.4.3 ***Petroleum Exploration Site, Mythop: Archaeological Evaluation (immediately east of the southern arm of the proposed development are) :*** no archaeological deposits were encountered during the evaluation, which was located adjacent to the southern portion of the proposed development area, although one trench revealed a probable palaeochannel with very humic organic soils and well-preserved wood (Site 14), which demonstrated the palaeoecological potential in this area (LUAU 1997b).
- 3.4.4 ***Chain Lane, Staining, Lancashire: Archaeological Watching Brief (Site 13, 500m north-west of the proposed development area):*** the site is known to have been occupied by a medieval moated monastic grange known as Staining Hall. The moat itself was identified in several of the service trenches, although no evidence of structural remains pre-dating the existing farm were recorded within the moated area. Several pieces of substantial structural oak timbers were recovered, suggesting the original hall probably comprised a timber structure (LUAU 1997a).
- 3.4.5 ***Staining Hall Farm, Staining: Archaeological Watching Brief (Site 12, 500m north-west of the proposed development area):*** no significant remains were encountered during the watching brief (LUAU 1995).
- 3.4.6 ***Staining Hall Farm, Staining: Archaeological Evaluation (Site 12, 500m north-west of the proposed development area):*** no excavated structures or any part of those still standing on the site could be assigned to the medieval period. It was assumed, therefore, that if any traces survive of the Pre-Reformation grange complex, they must lie either under the courtyards or the present farm buildings, or both (LUAU 1990a).
- 3.4.7 ***Norcross to M55 Link: Archaeological Assessment (1km west of the proposed development area):*** the collated results demonstrated the potential for evidence of prehistoric activity, and evidence of cultivation over a period of time in this agricultural landscape, with surface remains possibly dating from the medieval period, as well as evidence of settlement (LUAU 1994).
- 3.4.8 ***Land at Mythop Hall Farm, Mythop Lane, Weeton: Archaeological Evaluation (250m south-east of the proposed development area):*** a programme of trial trenching and environmental assessment of the site of a presumed prehistoric peat mire recorded no significant anthropogenic evidence, although it demonstrated the palaeoecological potential in this area (OA North 2005).

3.5 WALKOVER SURVEY

- 3.5.1 **Introduction:** the walkover survey aimed to determine both the survival of the above ground remains of sites recorded by the desk-based assessment and also to identify any hitherto unrecorded sites. All fields within the proposed development area were walked systematically. The vast majority of the area was arable land, although only one field had been recently ploughed.
- 3.5.2 **Results:** the only evidence of the putative line of Dane's Pad Roman road (Site **19**) was observed in the field immediately north of the Main Dyke. There was a high density of stones and gravel observed on the surface of the ploughed field, between the field boundary extending northwards from the Main Dyke and extending approximately 8m west (Site **32**; Plates 1 and 2; centred on SD 3644 3560), this may represent the remains of the road *agger* (raised foundations). This possibility is given more weight by the fact that the site was recorded within the former field identified as 'Dains's Path Field' in the Weeton-with-Preese township tithe award of 1838 (Site **21**) and is on the exact line of the road as shown on nineteenth century OS maps (Figs 4 and 5).
- 3.5.3 A pair of roughly-dressed sandstone gateposts (Site **16**; Plate 3) was situated on the western edge of the proposed development site; these would have provided access for livestock and vehicles to the fields in this area east of Chain Lane. Situated immediately to the south of these, a pair of higher status posts, with disused iron gate (Site **17**; Plate 3) were recorded. It is thought that these were installed to provide pedestrian access to a water pipeline that crosses the proposed development site (Mr Wigglesworth, pers comm). An identical gatepost and gate (Site **18**; Plate 3) was identified 235m to the east of Site **17**, although only one post was observed.

4. GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number	01
Site name	Staining Hall
NGR	SD 35200 36150
Site type	Grange, manor house, moat
Period	Medieval
SMR No	PRN1293
Sources	Farrer and Brownbill 1912; Thornber 1837; Knowles and Hadcock 1971; LUAU 1995
Description	Staining Grange was a Cistercian establishment, founded in <i>c</i> 1240, and was dependent on Stanlaw and Whalley Abbeys. The present hall, which is thought to be around 200 years old, still retains part of its ancient moat. The site has been subject to an assessment and evaluation by LUAU (1995); no traces of the former medieval hall were detected, although some traces of the moat were identified.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	02
Site name	Mythop
NGR	SD 35900 34680
Site type	Putative shrunken village
Period	Medieval
SMR No	PRN1624
Sources	P Iles pers comm
Description	Mythop consists of two farms, and it has been speculated that the hamlet may be a shrunken medieval village. However, examination of aerial photographs and a visual inspection of the area suggests that there are no earthworks indicating partial abandonment of a larger settlement.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	03
Site name	Main Dyke, Mythop
NGR	SD 35810 35500
Site type	Cropmark
Period	Unknown
SMR No	PRN2808
Sources	G Lee pers comm
Description	A small area of cropmarks can be discerned on aerial photographs, centred on SD 3581 3552. These comprise a short linear feature and a fairly regular grouping of small, circular features.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

Site number	04
Site name	Poultry houses, Dover Lodge Farm
NGR	SD 36100 36000
Site type	Enhanced natural feature
Period	Prehistoric
SMR No	PRN3470
Sources	SMR index card 3470
Description	A number of modern poultry sheds are located on a small area of peat that may contain palaeoecological information of significance to the understanding of human activity in the area. The peat deposits are thought to extend into the proposed development site, although the poultry houses themselves do not.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and may be affected

Site number	05
Site name	Main Dyke (South), Mythop
NGR	SD 35900 35400
Site type	Watercourse (enhanced natural feature)
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	PRN3703
Sources	OS geological map 1973
Description	A former watercourse runs approximately parallel to the Main Dyke, largely following the 8m contour.
Assessment	The site lies partially within the proposed development area and may be affected

Site number	06
Site name	Jolly's Farm, Mythop
NGR	SD 36200 34800
Site type	Farmhouse
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	PRN4850
Sources	McClintock and Watson 1979
Description	A brick and stone-built house, dated 1718 with the initials of the Jolly family, but altered in the nineteenth century to form two cottages. The structure is now demolished.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	07
Site name	Mythop Road, Weeton
NGR	SD 35850 34770
Site type	Gravel pit
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	PRN5945
Sources	OS 1847
Description	A gravel pit is shown on the first edition OS map, but not on the current sheet.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	08
Site name	Mereview
NGR	SD 34920 35550
Site type	Ridge and furrow
Period	Medieval/post-medieval
SMR No	PRN10496
Sources	LUAU 1994
Description	An area of ridge and furrow identified during an archaeological assessment of the proposed route of the Norcross to M55 Link Road.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	09
Site name	Mereview
NGR	SD 34970 35300
Site type	Ridge and furrow
Period	Medieval/post-medieval
SMR No	PRN10498
Sources	LUAU 1994
Description	An area of ridge and furrow identified during an archaeological assessment of the proposed route of the Norcross to M55 Link Road.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	10
Site name	Mythop
NGR	SD 36520 35140
Site type	Ridge and furrow
Period	Medieval/post-medieval
SMR No	PRN11356
Sources	LUAU 1997b
Description	An area of ridge and furrow identified during an archaeological assessment of a proposed petroleum exploration site.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	11
Site name	Chain Lane, Staining
NGR	SD 35500 35500 (the location sketch map drawn by the finder, which was inspected at the SMR, suggests the findspot is closer to SD 3548 3562)
Site type	Findspot
Period	Roman
SMR No	PRN15376
Sources	SMR index card 15376
Description	A <i>Sestertius</i> of Caracalla (AD 211-217), <i>aes</i> issue of <i>c</i> AD300-310, and an unidentified completely smooth ?Roman coin, found <i>c</i> 3-5m apart in a cart track by Mr S Mellor, Marton, Blackpool.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

Site number	12
Site name	Staining Hall Farm, Staining
NGR	SD 35197 36191
Site type	Archaeological intervention
Period	-
SMR No	PRN23574
Sources	LUAU 1990
Description	A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken in 1990, comprising trial excavations, a geophysical survey and a topographic survey (<i>Section 3.4.6</i> , above).
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	13
Site name	Chain Lane, Staining
NGR	SD 35197 36191
Site type	Archaeological intervention
Period	-
SMR No	PRN23575
Sources	LUAU 1997a
Description	An archaeological watching brief was carried out at the site of Staining Hall moated Grange in advance of the development of the site for housing. The medieval moat was identified, as well as several pieces of substantial oak timbers, suggesting that the original building probably comprised a timber structure. No early pottery or other artefacts were recovered.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	14
Site name	Petroleum exploration site, Mythop
NGR	SD 35839 35387
Site type	Archaeological intervention
Period	-

SMR No	PRN23583
Sources	LUAU 1997b
Description	An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the north of Mythop. The work comprised a desk-based study followed by a programme of trial trenching. No archaeological evidence was revealed during the fieldwork phase.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	15
Site name	Mythop windmill
NGR	SD 36210 34730
Site type	Windmill
Period	Medieval/post-medieval
SMR No	PRN25343
Sources	Egerton Lea 2003
Description	A windmill is shown on Yates' map of Lancashire dated 1786, which was not shown on the first edition OS map of 1847.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	16
Site name	Gateposts on Chain Lane, Staining
NGR	SD 3549 3538
Site type	Gateposts
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Walkover survey
Description	A pair of disused, roughly-dressed, stone gateposts represent the site of a former access point into the development area from Chain Lane. It is difficult to date the gateposts, but it is thought that they are most likely to date from the eighteenth/nineteenth century.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	17
Site name	Gateposts on Chain Lane, Staining
NGR	SD 3549 3537
Site type	Gateposts
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Walkover survey
Description	A pair of higher-status 'pedestrian' stone gateposts were located immediately to the south of the farm gateposts (Site 16). These were installed to provide access along the route of a water pipe that crossed (crosses?) the development area in an east/west direction. It is thought that the gates most likely date to the twentieth century.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	18
Site name	Gateposts 235m east of Chain Lane, Staining
NGR	SD 3575 3526
Site type	Gatepost
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Walkover survey
Description	A stone gatepost with attached iron gate. The post, which would have originally been one of a pair, was identical to those situated 235m to the west (Site 17).
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	19
Site name	Dane's Pad Roman road,
NGR	SD 3644 3560
Site type	Road/earthwork
Period	?Roman
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey first edition 1:10560, 1847; walkover survey
Description	The putative line of a Roman road linking Kirkham with a probable Roman harbour on the Fylde crosses the north-eastern corner of the study area. Earthworks are shown along the line of the road where it was bisected by the Main Dyke, on the first edition OS map, although these are no longer obvious on the ground.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected.

Site number	20
Site name	Old Clay Pits
NGR	SD 3595 3578
Site type	Pit
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey first edition 1:10560, 1847
Description	A clump of trees is marked 'Old Clay Pits' on the first edition OS map.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	21
Site name	Dains's Path Carr
NGR	SD 3659 3558
Site type	Former field name
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Hardhorn-with-Newton tithe award, 1838 (LRO DRB 1/95)
Description	A former field immediately north of the Main Dyke is identified as 'Dains's Path Carr' in the tithe award of 1838. The field was situated on the putative line of Dane's Pad Roman road.
Assessment	The site lies within the development and is likely to be affected.

Site number	22
Site name	'Pit Carr', south-west of Hall's House Farm
NGR	SD 3629 3567
Site type	Former field name
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Hardhorn-with-Newton tithe award, 1838 (LRO DRB 1/95)
Description	A former field is identified as 'Pit carr' in the tithe award of 1838; this suggests a marl pit may have been situated in the vicinity. A pond observed during the walkover survey, situated in the area of the former field, may represent the remains of this feature.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

Site number	23
Site name	Former wind pump near Hall House Farm
NGR	SD 3628 3590
Site type	Site of a wind pump
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey revised edition, 1938

Description	A wind pump is identified on the revised 1938 OS map. No evidence of the structure was observed during the walkover survey.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

Site number	24
Site name	'Stable Field' near Hall's House Farm
NGR	SD 3624 3586
Site type	Former field name
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Hardhorn-with-Newton tithe award, 1838 (LRO DRB 1/95)
Description	A former field was identified as 'Stable Field' in the 1838 tithe award; this suggests a stable may have existed in the vicinity.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

Site number	25
Site name	'Kiln Field' near Dover Lodge Farm
NGR	SD 3549 3587
Site type	Former field name
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Hardhorn-with-Newton tithe award, 1838 (LRO DRB 1/95)
Description	A former field was identified as 'Kiln Field' in the 1838 tithe award; this suggests a kiln may have existed in the vicinity.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

Site number	26
Site name	'Kiln Field' north of Dover Lodge Farm
NGR	SD 3551 3598
Site type	Former field name
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Hardhorn-with-Newton tithe award, 1838 (LRO DRB 1/95)
Description	A former field was identified as 'Kiln Field' in the 1838 tithe award; this suggests a kiln may have existed in the vicinity.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	27
Site name	Well near Main Dyke
NGR	SD 3648 3552
Site type	Site of a well
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey first edition 1:10560, 1847
Description	A well is shown on the first edition OS map, situated near to the south bank of the Main Dyke.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	28
Site name	Former structure west of Hall's House Farm
NGR	SD 3598 3583
Site type	Site of a building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-

Sources	Ordnance Survey second edition 1:2500, 1911
Description	A small, square-shaped structure was identified on the second edition OS map. The building is not shown on the 1938 revised edition.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

Site Number	29
Site name	Mythorp Toll Gate
NGR	SD 3546 3557
Site type	Site of a toll gate
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey first edition 1:10560, 1847
Description	A toll gate is identified at this location on the first edition OS map, with another smaller structure located a short distance to the east
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

Site Number	30
Site name	Thatchplat Bridge
NGR	SD 3550 3544
Site type	Bridge
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey first edition 1:10560, 1847
Description	Chain Bridge is identified as Thatchplat Bridge on the first edition OS map. The existing bridge is thought to be the that shown on the 1847 map.
Assessment	The site lies on the edge of the proposed development area and may be affected

Site Number	31
Site name	Main Dyke foot stick
NGR	SD 3555 3558
Site type	Site of a foot stick
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey first edition 1:10560, 1847
Description	A foot stick (basic timber-planked crossing) is shown at this location on the first edition OS map. It was not observed during the walkover survey.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

Site number	32
Site name	Possible evidence for Dane's Pad north of Main Dyke
NGR	SD 3644 3560
Site type	Field evidence: possible former road/trackway
Period	?Roman
SMR No	-
Sources	Walkover survey
Description	This was the only identified possible field evidence for Dane's Pad Roman road within the proposed development area. A concentration of stones and gravel was observed, immediately north of Main Dyke, on the exact presumed line of the road. The visible evidence is thought to possibly represent plough damage to the former <i>agger</i> (raised foundation) of the road.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REMAINS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 In total, 32 sites of archaeological interest were identified within the study area (Fig 2), of which 16 are situated within the boundaries of the proposed development site itself (Sites **3, 4, 11, 16-19, 21-25, 28, 29, 31** and **32**). Of these 32 sites, 15 were included on the Lancashire SMR (Sites **1-15**), 13 sites were identified from documentary and cartographic sources (Sites **19-31**), and four further sites were identified by the walkover survey (Sites **16-18** and **32**). No sites possessing statutory designation were identified. The detailed results of the assessment are shown in the Site Gazetteer (*Section 4*) and are summarised by period in Table 1, below.

Period	No of sites	Sites
Prehistoric (possible)	1	Cropmarks (Site 03); Peat deposit (Site 04)
Roman	3	Dane's Pad Roman road (Site 19); possible field name evidence for Dane's Pad Roman road (Site 32); findspot of two Roman coins (Site 11)
Medieval	4	Moated grange (Sites 01, 12 and 13); putative shrunken village (Site 02)
Medieval/post-medieval	4	Ridge and furrow (Sites 8-10); windmill (Site 15)
Post-medieval	19	An enhanced watercourse (Site 05); former buildings or structures (Sites 06 and 28); gravel pit (Site 07); gateposts (Sites 16-18); clay pit (Site 20); fieldnames (Sites 21, 22, 24-26); wind pump (Site 23); well (Site 27); toll gate (Site 29); bridge (Site 30); foot stick (Site 31)

Table 1: Number of sites by period

5.2 CRITERIA

5.2.1 There are a number of different methodologies used to assess the archaeological significance of undesignated sites; that to be used here is the 'Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments' which is included as Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990). The sites previously listed (*Section 4*, above) were each considered using the criteria, with the results presented below.

5.2.2 **Period:** granges are a rare class of medieval site in Lancashire, and the site of Staining Hall Grange (Site **01**) is regionally significant in this respect. Although the evidence for a shrunken village at Mythop is tenuous at best, its significance would be greatly enhanced if any proof of medieval settlement could be ascertained.

- 5.2.3 **Rarity:** the significance of the Staining Hall medieval Grange site (Site 01) is enhanced by its rarity. Although Roman roads are common sites throughout much of England, the route of Dane's Pad Roman road (Site 19) has never been satisfactorily ascertained, and so any such proof found within the proposed development area would be a regionally rare event.
- 5.2.4 **Documentation:** cartographic evidence has provided the strongest evidence (and in some cases the only clue) as to the former existence and location of several structures within the study area, including: a farmhouse (Site 06), gravel pit (Site 07), windmill (Site 15), clay pit (Site 20), wind pump (Site 23), well (Site 27), toll gate and associated structure (Site 29), and foot stick (Site 31). Furthermore, the study of fieldnames listed in the nineteenth century tithe awards (Sites 21, 22, 24-26) has provided clues as to possible features of hitherto unknown cultural heritage significance within the study area. However, within the utilised resources, the desk-based assessment could not locate any more detailed documentary records that might otherwise imbue any of these sites with greater significance.
- 5.2.5 **Group Value:** Staining Hall (Site 01) and the associated moat (Sites 12 and 13) represent part of the same complex and, therefore, possess clear and obvious group value. The putative route of Dane's Pad Roman road (Site 19), the 'Dains's Path Carr' fieldname (Site 21), and field evidence (Site 32) are also inextricably linked as cumulative evidence for the road passing through the study area. The gateposts (Sites 17 and 18) are contemporary structures, built for access to the water pipeline that passes through the study area.
- 5.2.6 **Survival/Condition:** the putative surface evidence of the Roman road (Site 32), although in a poor condition, suggests the possibility that further buried remains of this feature may survive. The possible survival of any hitherto unknown buried archaeological resource is increased due to the area being undeveloped agricultural land. It is not known whether deep ploughing will have adversely affected any such resource. The topography of the site indicates that the survival of any organic remains within the potential buried resource may be further improved by possible waterlogging of the deeper deposits, as was found to be the case in two archaeological evaluations undertaken in the study area (OA North 2005; LUAU 1997b).
- 5.2.7 **Fragility/Vulnerability:** the gateposts (Sites 16, 17 and 18) may be particularly vulnerable to destruction as they are relatively common features of the landscape, and their heritage value may not be immediately realised. The peat deposit, Site 04, is also potentially vulnerable to any drainage schemes, although the fact that it has survived similar process involved with the improvement of the surrounding agricultural land may indicate that is fed from a deeper water source or that it is a remnant of a much larger deposit. Although the line and foundations of the Roman road (Site 32) may survive in reasonable condition, it is likely that the upper elements, likely to be formed from less substantial stones, are vulnerable to continued deep ploughing.
- 5.2.8 **Diversity:** none of the sites are particularly diverse, although some of the former clay pits (eg Site 20) are now perhaps more valued for their ecological

potential as ponds, and the landscape as a whole contains a wide range of dated features.

- 5.2.9 Potential: there is the potential for fieldwork to ascertain with certainty whether Dane's Pad Roman road (Site 19) follows the route indicated by Thornber (1837) and by nineteenth century OS maps. Similarly, cartographic evidence indicates the potential for buried remains associated with the identified former structures within the proposed development site (Sites 23, 28 and 31), as well as field names that suggest the possible presence of former structures (Sites 21, 22, and 24-26). The findspot of two Roman coins (Site 11) suggests a small potential for buried remains or further artefacts of Roman date to exist in this part of the study area. A series of circular cropmarks identified on aerial photography (Site 03) are potentially archaeological features of prehistoric date. The identified peat deposits (Site 04) possess the potential for containing palaeoenvironmental evidence of significance to the understanding of human activity in the area across a long period of time.

5.3 SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.3.1 Of the 32 gazetteer sites, 25, summarised in Table 2, have been considered significant according to their criteria, from which their local, regional or national significance can be assessed. The remaining sites have been assessed as either being of low archaeological significance or lying outside the proposed development area and, therefore, not considered to be under any threat from the proposed development.

Sites	Significance
Staining Hall Grange moated site (Sites 01, 12 and 13)	Regional
Putative line of Dane's Pad Roman road (Site 19), fieldname indicating presence of Dane's Pad (Site 21), field evidence for Dane's Pad (Site 32)	Regional (if positively proven)
Site of former buildings, structures, or features (Sites 06, 07, 15, 20, 23, 27, 28, 29 and 31)	Local
Former fieldnames indicating potential for associated buried remains (Sites 21, 22, 24-26)	Local/regional
Gates and gatesposts (Sites 16-18)	Local
Findspot of two Roman coins (Site 11)	Local
Cropmarks (Site 03)	Local

Table 2: Summary of site significance

6. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 IMPACT

- 6.1.1 The precise development proposals showing the extent and locations of groundworks are in their very early stages and are yet to be finalised. It is assumed, however, that the majority of the known sites within the development interest boundary will potentially be adversely affected, principally through landscaping and levelling. The most significant of the known sites to be potentially affected is Dane's Pad Roman road (Site **19**), although it must be stressed that the existence of this road has not yet been proved. The circular cropmarks identified on aerial photographs (Site **03**) are potential archaeological features, and are also likely to be adversely affected by any landscaping associated with the proposed development.
- 6.1.2 The discovery of well-preserved prehistoric remains at Marton Mere, in the vicinity of the study area, has proved the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological settlement remains in the central Fylde area. It is assumed that the most likely location of any settlement remains within the proposed development area is to be found on the slightly higher ground, at the northern and southern fringes of the proposed development area. Previous archaeological evaluations situated adjacent to the proposed development area (OA North 2005; LUAU 1997b) did not find any archaeological deposits, but demonstrated clear palaeoenvironmental potential, through the discovery of well-preserved waterlogged deposits. The proposed development may have an adverse impact on any such archaeological or palaeoenvironmental buried remains, such as at Site **04**, both directly, in the form of physical disturbance; and indirectly, and potentially more seriously, through any change to drainage patterns or the water table.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 In consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, it is possible to make a number of recommendations for further archaeological works at the site; a summary of site-specific recommendations is presented in Table 2. Firstly, it is recommended that a site-wide programme of evaluation is undertaken, in order to assess the potential archaeological resource. This should consist of an extensive geophysical reconnaissance survey with trial trenching, with some of these trenches targeted on anomalies or features identified by the geophysics, as well as those sites identified by this assessment (Sites **04**, **19**, **21**, **22**, **23**, **24**, **25**, **28** and **32**). In addition, a programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling should be undertaken in the area of identified peat deposits (Site **04**). In the event of significant remains being encountered during the course of the proposed investigation, archaeological mitigation may be required, the nature of which would be dependent on the evaluation results.

6.2.2 The provisional plan of the proposed scheme suggests that some areas of land will not be physically disturbed by the proposed golf course. If this is indeed the case, then any such areas can be justifiably excluded from any evaluation area.

Site Nos	Type	Period	Impact	Recommendations
19, 32	Possible road	Roman	Likely to be affected	Metal detector survey and evaluation
11	Findspot of two coins	Roman	Likely to be affected if golf course is extended to 18 holes	Metal detector survey and evaluation if future planning application for golf course extension is submitted
16, 17, 18	Gateposts	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected if golf course is extended to 18 holes	Preservation <i>in situ</i> , if practical
23	Site of a wind pump	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Evaluation
28	Site of a structure	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Evaluation if area is to be disturbed during construction works
29	Site of Mythorp Toll Gate and associated structure	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected if golf course is extended to 18 holes	Evaluation if future planning application for golf course extension is submitted
21, 22, 24, 25	Former fieldnames indicating potential for associated buried remains	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Evaluation
4	Peat deposits	Prehistoric	Likely to be affected	Environmental sampling/evaluation

Table 3: Gazetteer sites at risk from development, with recommendations

6.2.3 The development area considered for this report (Fig 1) also includes the site of a potential extension to the proposed nine-hole golf course (the south-western area shown along Chain Lane). In assuming that this report will be used to inform any future planning application for the development of this area, the following recommendations are given: a site-wide geophysical survey should be undertaken, followed by a programme of trial trenching, with trenches targeted on anomalies or features identified by the geophysics. Consideration should also be given to the possibility of preserving and incorporating some or all of the identified gateposts (Sites 16, 17 and 18) into

development plans. This would provide the golf course with historical interest and a tangible link with the past, as well as helping to preserve these features for future generations.

- 6.2.4 Due to the large area of land covered by the proposed development, a metal detector survey is considered to be an impractical method of evaluation, and is, therefore, not recommended for the entire site. However, considering previous finds of Roman coins in the area of Chain Lane (Site **11**), it is recommended that, should proposals for the extended golf course be put into action, this area should be subject to a metal detector survey. Similarly, those parts of the route of Dane's Pad Roman road (Site **19**) that lie within the development area, together with a suitable margin, should also be metal-detected. A building survey, as suggested in the LCAS provisional programme, is also considered unnecessary, as the only building to be potentially affected by the current planning application is a modern structure of little or no heritage value (Plate 6). There are, however, a number of buildings at Dover Lodge Farm that are of historic interest, including the building situated closest to that which is subject to demolition proposals; it is, therefore, recommended that any future alteration to redevelopment proposals take into account this fact, and that a reassessment of recommendations be undertaken.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites

Figure 3: Composite extract from the Hardhorn-with-Newton (1838) and Weeton-with-Preese (1840) tithe maps

Figure 4: Extract from first edition 1:10560 OS map of 1847

Figure 5: Extract from the first edition 1:2500 OS map of 1893

Figure 6: Proposed golf course scheme design

PLATES

Plate 1: Site **32**, looking south. A considerable density of stones and gravel was observed on the putative line of Dane's Pad Roman road, in the field immediately north of Main Dyke.

Plate 2: Site **32**, putative Roman road, looking north

Plate 3: Sites **16** and **17**, disused gates, looking west

Plate 4: Site **18**, disused gate, looking west

Plate 5: Site **04**, poultry houses, looking west

Plate 6: Modern farm building subject to proposed demolition, looking north-west

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Mr Wigglesworth (hereafter the 'client') has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit a design for a programme of archaeological investigation to be undertaken in association with the proposed construction of a nine-hole golf course (Planning Reference 05/0683) at Dover Lodge Farm, Chain Lane, Staining, Blackpool, Lancashire (NGR SD 35527 35825). Should this application be successful, the client proposes to expand the nine-hole course to a full 18-hole course. Because the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) has recommended that a programme of archaeological investigation, comprising a desk-based assessment, walkover survey, historic buildings investigation and a metal detector survey, be undertaken prior to any development taking place on the site. The following document represents a project design for an initial scheme of archaeological investigation, consisting of a desk-based assessment and walkover survey, and has been written in accordance with a verbal communication with LCAS. The results of this first phase will help to establish both the necessity for and scale of, the remaining elements of the programme of investigation, but also, for any further exploratory or mitigative archaeological action within the development site.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 The development sites covers a *c* 70ha area within the Central Fylde region of Lancashire, just to the east of Blackpool. Current land use within the area would appear to be a mixture of pasture and arable. Geologically, the area is characterised by deep deposits of poorly-drained boulder clay glacial moraine (Middleton *et al* 1995). Depressions within the boulder clay have allowed the accumulation of isolated raw fen peat mosses, although this particular resource has been adversely affected by extraction and, more seriously, by comprehensive drainage schemes (*ibid*); indeed, it is known that the development area has been the subject of just such a scheme over the last 30 years (Mr Wigglesworth *pers comm*). Earlier attempts to improve the fertility of the site are suggested by the presence of a number of marl pits within and around the development site. Despite such activity in the area, however, previous work undertaken in Mythop and Weeton by OA North, both recently and under their former guise as Lancaster University archaeology Unit (LUAU), has demonstrated the presence of well-preserved peat deposits and organic remains with good potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis.
- 1.2.2 The earliest archaeological evidence for human activity in the immediate area comprises scatters of flints dated to the Late Neolithic and the Early Bronze Age (Middleton *et al* 1995). The better-drained soils around Whitprick Hill, *c* 2km to the south-east of the current development area, would appear to be a focus for prehistoric activity: several nineteenth century accounts attest to the one-time presence of barrows, cairns, and urns around Stanley House Farm, where a stone axe-hammer was also discovered (*ibid*). One barrow, at least, survives at Derby Hill Farm, just to the south-east of the development area. Within the development site itself, the conjectural route of the roughly north/south aligned Dane's Pad Roman Road runs through the north-eastern part of the site, between Hall's House Farm and Hawes House Farm. This road supposedly ran from the mid-first to mid-second century AD fortlet at Dowbridge, Kirkham, 5km to the south-east of Staining. Possible evidence for this road, in the form of a scatter of stones, has been located close to Mythop Hall farm, just to the south-east of the present development area (OA North 2005). An undated coin of uncertain provenience is also known to have come from the site (D Moir *pers comm*), while isolated Roman coins are known from the area of Weeton (Middleton *et al* 1995). Evidence for early medieval activity in the area includes a possible Anglo-Saxon weapon burial at Stanley House Farm. Medieval activity is known within the surrounding areas, including

unusual concentrations of pottery around Inskip, c 6km to the east, as well as agricultural earthworks such as ridge and furrow (*ibid*).

1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North has considerable experience of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 25 years. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.

1.3.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed as an initial scheme of archaeological investigation in order to identify and locate any known surviving archaeological deposits in and immediately around the development area. To this end, the following programme of archaeological work has been designed. The results of each stage will influence that which ensues and will provide information as to whether further mitigation works are required prior to, or during, ground works associated with the development. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 **Desk-based assessment:** to provide a desk-based assessment of the site to identify the archaeological potential prior to any development (in accordance with the IFA standards (1999)).

2.3 **Visual Inspection:** to conduct a walkover of the development site in order to identify surface features of potential archaeological interest, areas of disturbance, hazards and constraints to any further archaeological investigation.

2.4 **Report and Archive:** a written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the results of the desk-based assessment and the walkover survey. It would make an assessment of the archaeological potential of the area, and any recommendations for further work.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

3.1.1 **Introduction:** a desk-based assessment is usually undertaken as the first stage of a programme of archaeological recording. Following completion of the desk-based assessment and, prior to development of the site, further intrusive investigation may be required. The desk-based assessment is not intended to reduce the requirement for evaluation, excavation or preservation of known or presumed archaeological deposits, but it will provide an appraisal of archaeological constraints and a guide to any requirement for further archaeological work.

3.1.2 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the time scale of the project.

3.1.3 **Documentary and Cartographic Material:** this work will include consultation of the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as well as the County Records Office, both in Preston. Data from these sources will inform a review of all known and available resources

of information relating to a study area comprising a 1km radius centred on the site of the proposed development. The aim of this is to give consideration not only to the application site, but also its setting in terms of historical and archaeological contexts. These include:

- published and unpublished documentary sources
- data held in local and national archaeological databases
- printed and manuscript maps
- place and field-name evidence
- evidence for township, ecclesiastical and other ancient boundaries
- aerial photographs in both national and local collections
- other photographic/illustrative evidence
- local museum catalogues and artefactual evidence
- engineering/borehole data where applicable
- geological/soil surveys

- 3.1.4 **Lancashire SMR, Preston:** the SMR is a database of known archaeological sites within the County. It also holds an extensive library of published materials and aerial photographs for consultation.
- 3.1.5 **Lancashire County Record Office, Preston:** the office in Preston holds the main source of primary documentation; both maps and documents for the study area and its immediate surroundings.
- 3.1.6 **Map regression analysis:** a cartographic analysis will be undertaken as it has the potential to inform the post-medieval occupation and land-use of the area and its development through to its modern-day or most recent use. This provides one method of highlighting areas of potential archaeological interest. Particular emphasis will be on the early cartographic evidence and will include estate maps, tithe maps, and Ordnance Survey maps, through to present mapping, where possible. Also, although some inaccuracies must be allowed for, computerised superimposition of the current structures and the proposed development areas will greatly improve the understanding of the likely impact of any development, and can greatly influence the necessity for and placement of any evaluation trenches in any particular area.
- 3.1.7 **Geological/Soil Surveys:** a rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical and palaeoenvironmental information will be undertaken. It will be based on published geological mapping and any local geological surveys in the possession of the County Council or the client.
- 3.1.8 **Other Sources:** resources permitting, public libraries and OA North's own library will also be consulted for secondary sources, as will any relevant material in readily available private collections.

3.2 WALKOVER SURVEY

- 3.2.1 Following the desk-based assessment, the site will be visited in order to relate the existing topography and land use to research findings, and assess evidence not available through documentary sources. It will also provide an understanding for areas of impact by the proposed redevelopment.
- 3.2.2 The survey will note present land use, the condition and visibility of features identified in the documentary research and any features of potential archaeological interest, any areas of potentially significant disturbance, and hazards and constraints to undertaking further archaeological work on site. The location and extent of archaeological sites, as well as of any constraints, will be recorded to +/-1m accuracy using GPS equipment, tied into Ordnance Survey datum and will then be plotted onto plans at an appropriate scale.

3.3 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

- 3.3.1 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of the final report will be submitted to the client within two months of completion of fieldwork. Three copies of the report will be submitted to the Lancashire SMR. The report will include:

- a site location plan related to the national grid
- a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR
- the dates on which each phase of the programme of work was undertaken
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results
- an explanation to any agreed variations to the brief, including any justification for any analyses not undertaken
- a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained
- an interpretation of the desk-based assessment results and their significance, using the 'Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments' included as Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990)
- plans at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of sites identified during the desk-based assessment and walkover survey
- monochrome and colour photographs as appropriate
- a summary of the impact of the development on any archaeological remains and, where possible, a model of potential archaeological deposits within as-yet unexplored areas of the development site
- a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design
- the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.

- 3.3.2 This report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided in .pdf format on CD, if required. Recommendations concerning any subsequent mitigation strategies and/or further archaeological work following the results of the field evaluation will be provided in a separate communication.

- 3.3.3 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design,

and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

- 3.3.4 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991).

- 3.3.5 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is essential and archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Lancashire SMR (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects with the appropriate Record Office.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1 OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

5. PROJECT MONITORING

- 5.1 Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, LCAS will be kept fully informed of the work and its results, and will be notified a week in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork. After its submission to LCAS any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with LCAS in consultation with the client. Fieldwork will be monitored by the LCAS Assistant Archaeologist on behalf of the developer.

6. WORK TIMETABLE

6.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 6.1.1 Approximately six days will be required for this stage of the programme.

6.2 WALK OVER SURVEY

- 6.2.1 Approximately three days will be required for this element.

6.3 REPORT

- 6.3.1 Copies of the report, as outlined in *Section 3.3.1*, will be issued to the client and other relevant parties within two months of the completion of fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

6.4 ARCHIVE

- 6.4.1 The archive will be deposited within six months following submission of the report, unless otherwise instructed.

7. STAFFING

- 7.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. Current time-tabling precludes

the allocation of specific members of staff at this juncture, but OA North can guarantee that the desk-based assessment and walkover survey will be undertaken by an OA North supervisor experienced in such work and capable of carrying out projects of all sizes. All OA North Project Officers and Supervisors are experienced archaeologists capable of undertaking small-, medium- and large-scale projects in a range of urban and rural situations.

8. INSURANCE

- 8.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

9. REFERENCES

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, second edition, London

LUAU (Lancaster University Archaeological Unit), 1997 *Petroleum Exploration Site Mythop: Archaeological Evaluation Report*, unpubl rep

Middleton, R, Wells, C, and Huckerby, E, 1995 *The Wetlands of North Lancashire*, North West Wetlands Survey **3**, Lancaster

OA North, 2005 *Land at Mythop Hall Farm, Mythop Lane, Weeton, Lancashire*, unpubl rep

SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers), 1997 *Health and Safety Manual*, Poole

UKIC, 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*, London

UKIC, 1998 *First Aid for Finds*, London

APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE SUMMARY

Record group	Contents	Comments	Box/File Number
	Introduction Project Brief Project Design		1
A	Report Final Report		1
B	Primary Fieldwork Records		1
C	Primary Drawings Annotated Maps		1
D	Finds Compendium		N/A
E	Environmental Records		N/A
F	Photographic Record Photographic Indices Monochrome Colour Slides Digital		1
G	Electronic Media		

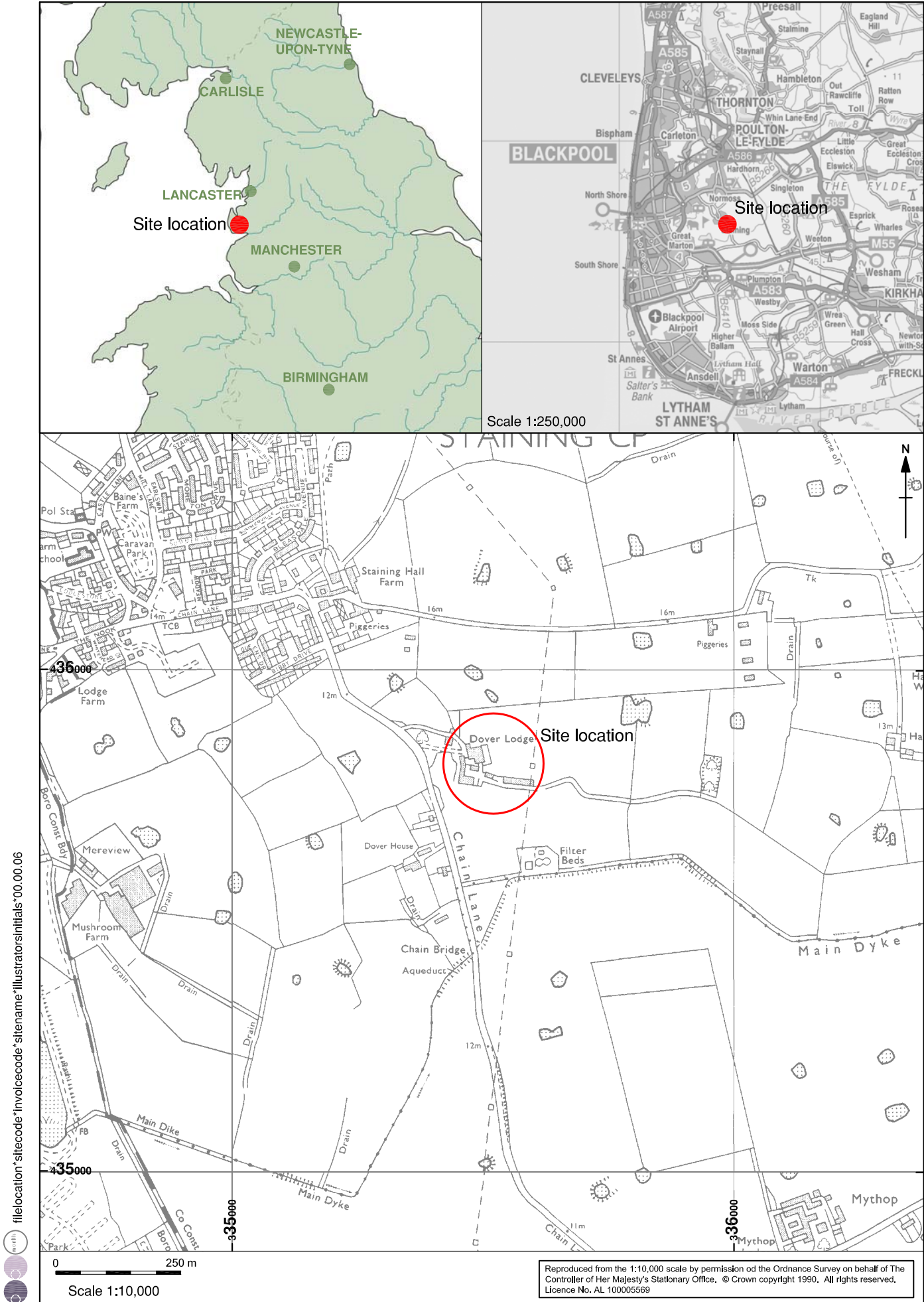


Figure 1: Site Location

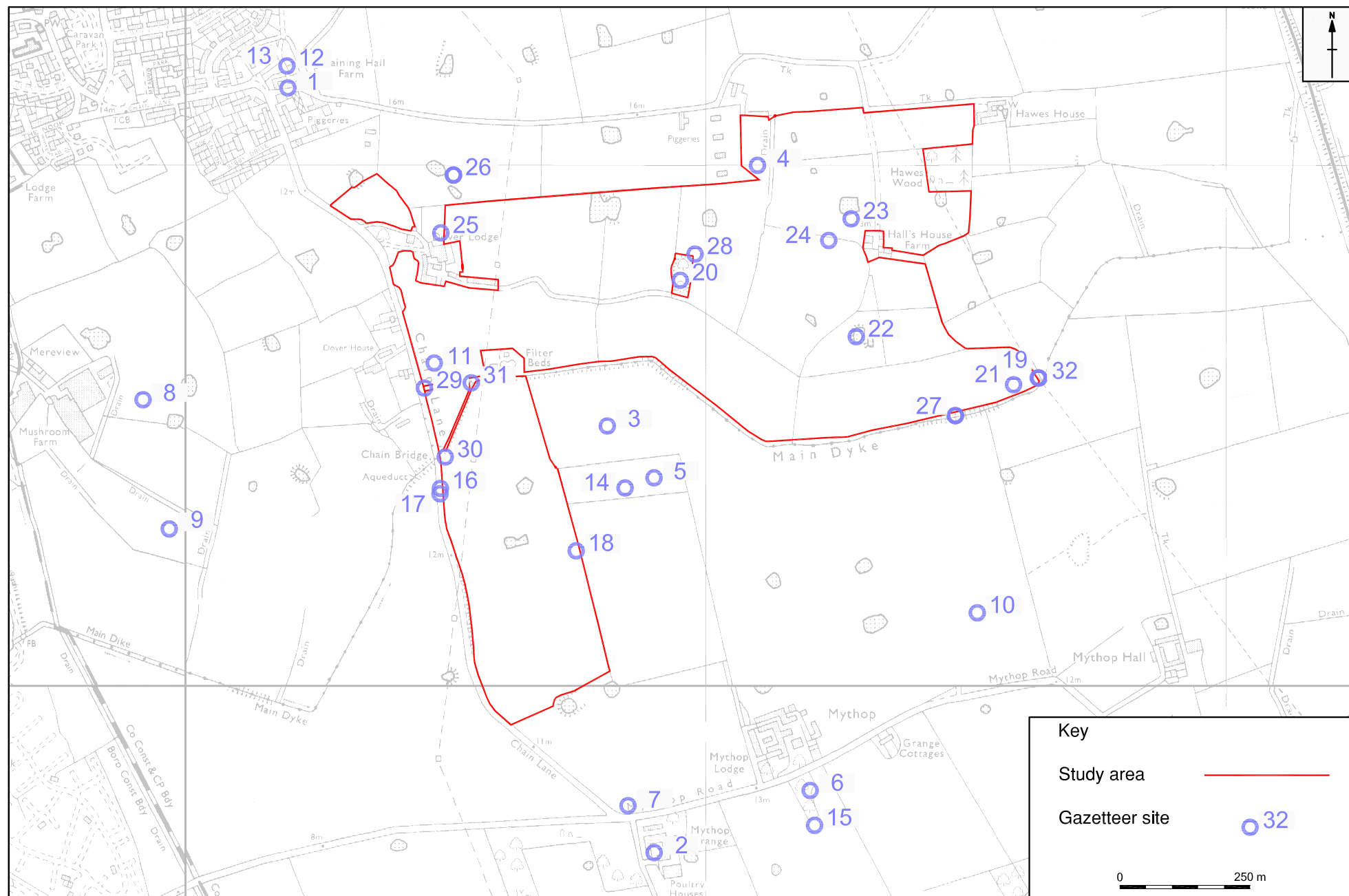
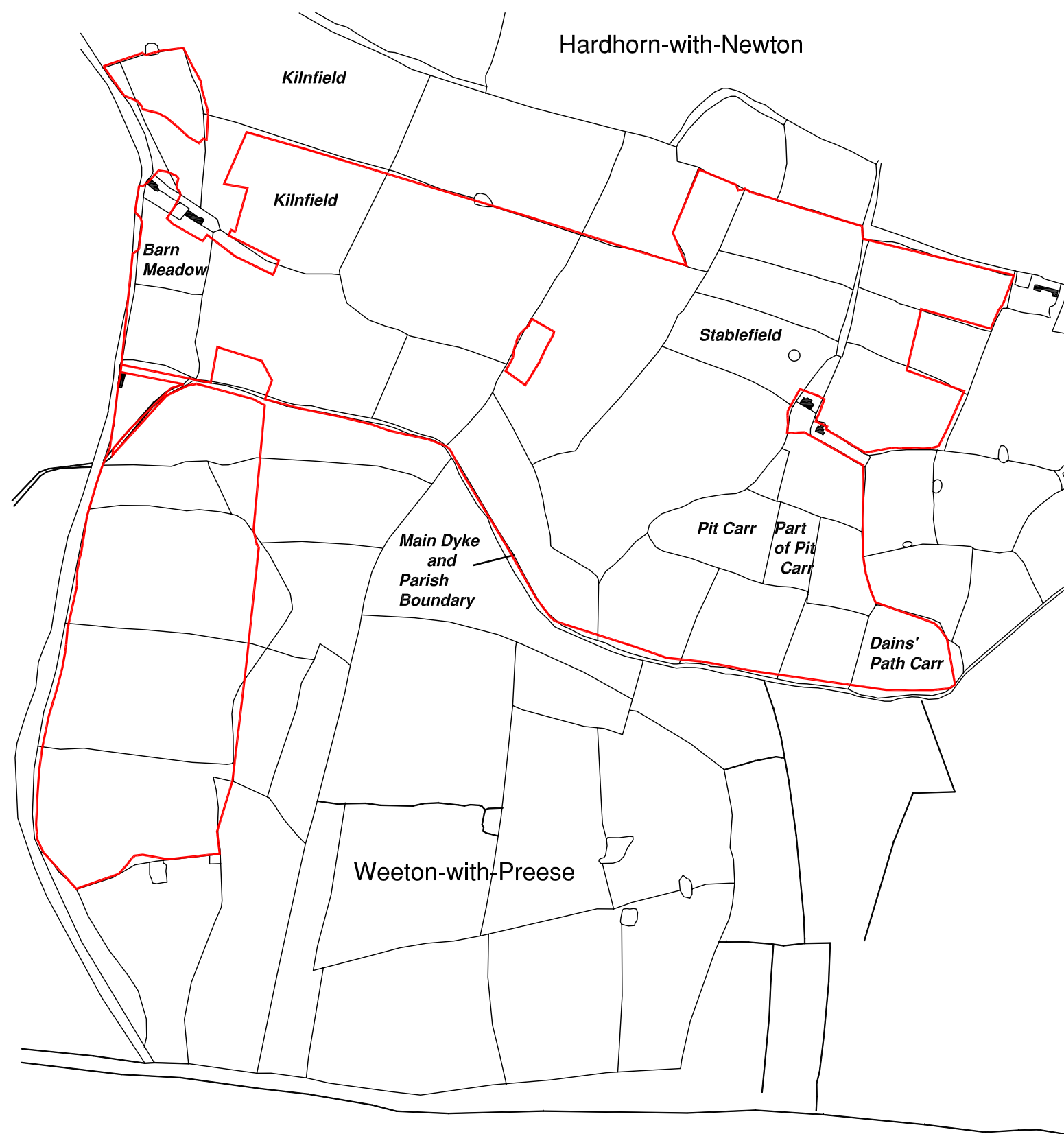


Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites



Key

Study area



Not to scale

Figure 3: Composite extract from the Hardhorn-with-Newton (1838) and Weeton-with-Preese (1840) tithe maps

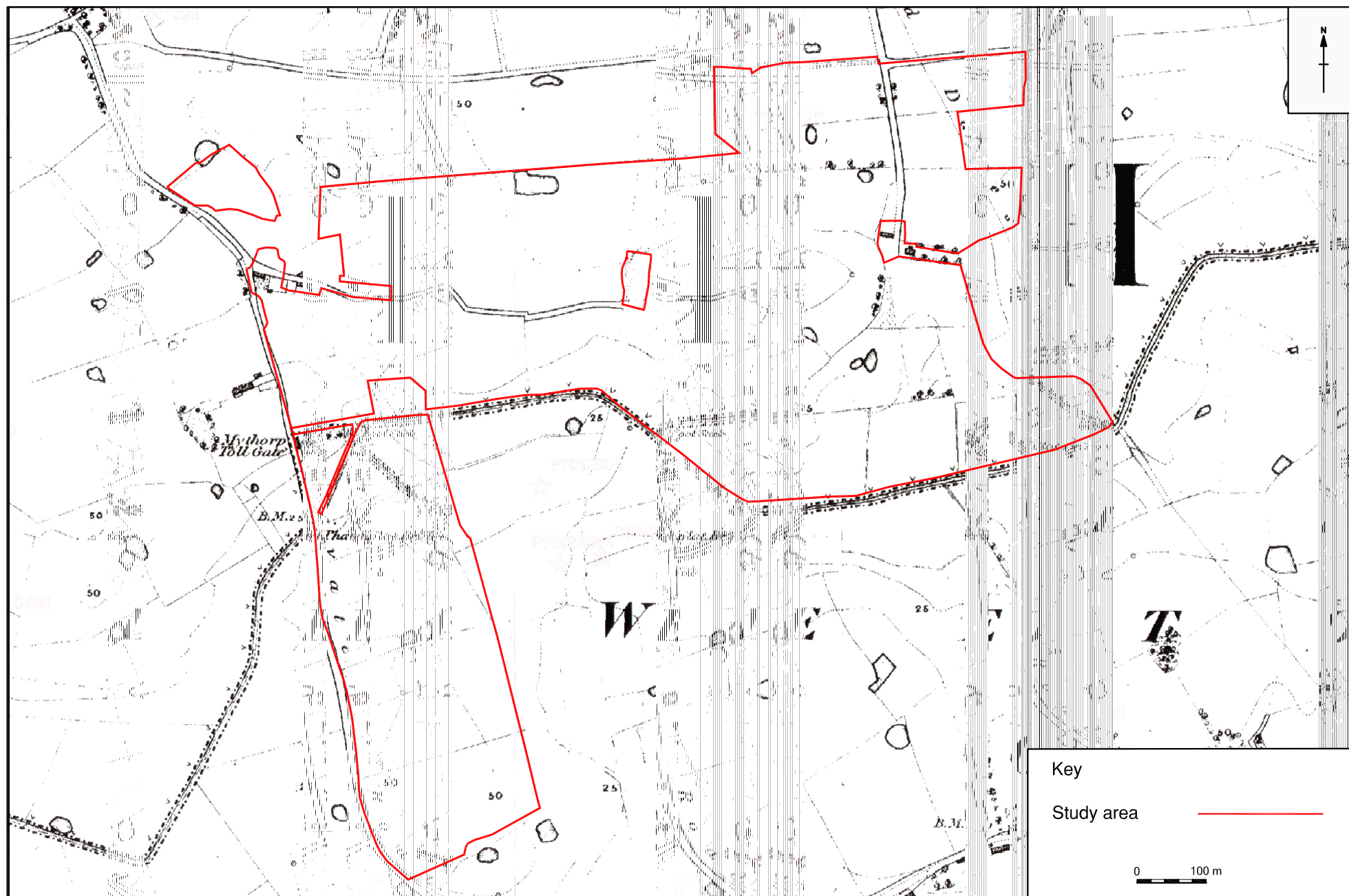


Figure 4: Extract from the First Edition 1:10560 Ordnance Survey Map of 1847

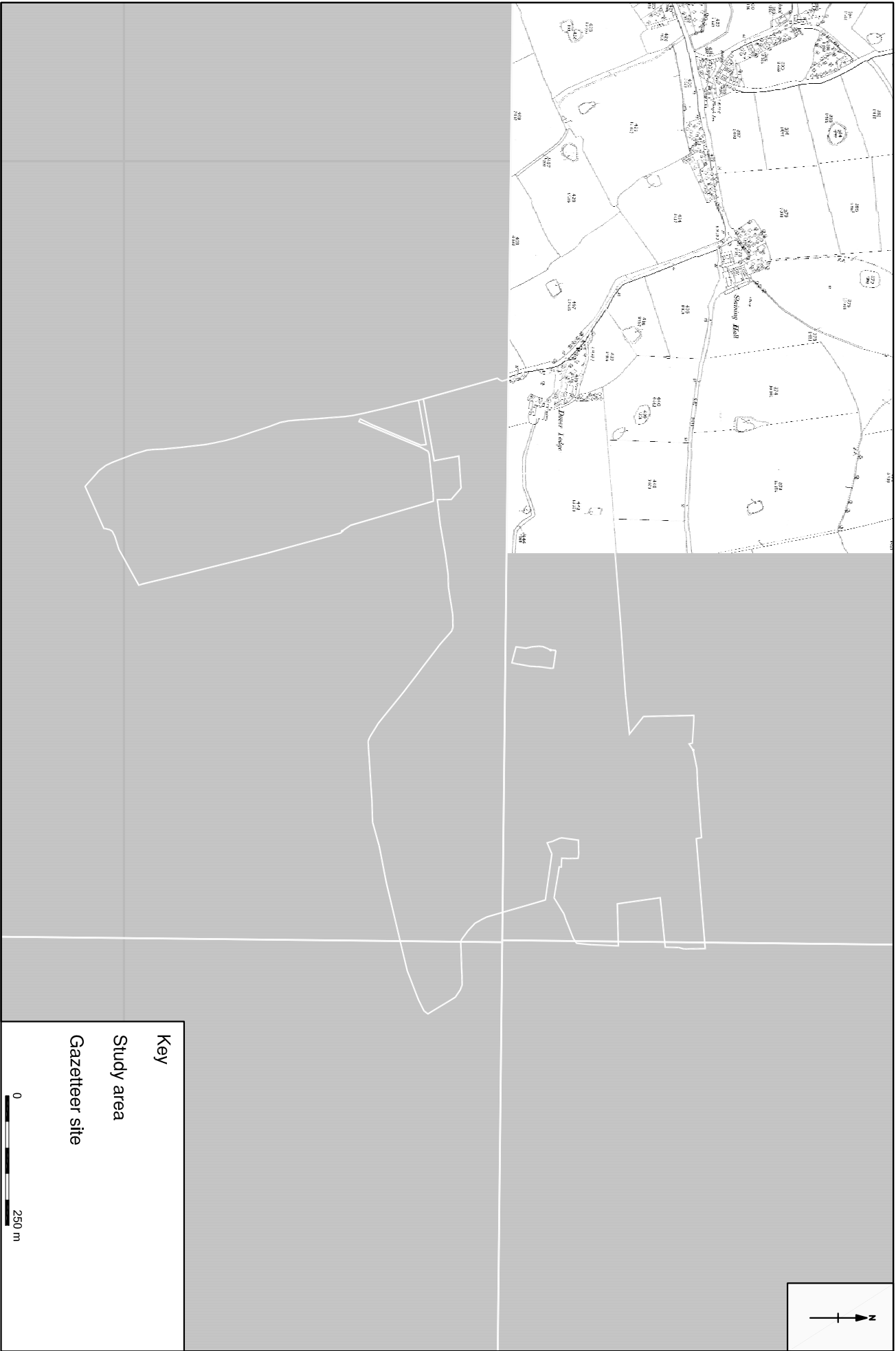


Figure 5: Extract from the First Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map of 1893