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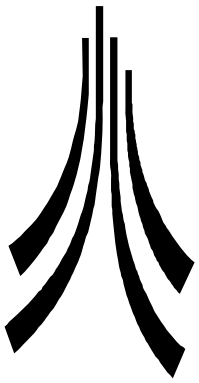

July 1997

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SITE

MYTHOP

Lancashire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Commissioned by:

Independent Energy UK

Petroleum Exploration Site, Mythop
Blackpool
Lancashire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Checked by Project Manager. ..... Date
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July 1997

CONTENTS

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The documentary research was undertaken by Caron Newman, and the trenching by Chris Wild and Andrea Scott. The report was compiled by Caron Newman and Chris Wild, and edited by Jamie Quartermaine (Project Manager) and Rachel Newman (Deputy Director). The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the north of Mythop Road, Mythop, near Weeton-with-Preece in Lancashire (centred on NGR SD 3585 3538). The study area is in a field of permanent pasture, with a proposed access road leading north from Mythop Road. The work was carried out by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) on behalf of Independent Energy UK, and comprised a desk-based study, compiling data from the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record and the Lancashire Record Office in Preston, followed by a programme of trial trenching.

The LUAU North West Wetlands Survey, for Lancashire (Middleton *et al* 1995), has established the potential for prehistoric activity within the locality of Mythop. There is also evidence for Roman activity in the form of the Dane's Pad Roman road, first identified in the nineteenth century, which is located to the east of the study area; however, recent work has not revealed conclusive evidence for its existence. Documentary evidence has demonstrated that Mythop was a medieval settlement, probably a small hamlet, consisting of a series farms strung out along Mythop Road. There is no evidence for medieval activity within the study area, but the proposed access road will extend through an area of former settlement, where it meets Mythop Road.

Six trial trenches were mechanically excavated within the exploration study area, and the topsoil was subject to sample sieving with a view to recovering any microliths or other artefacts. No artefacts or features of archaeological significance were recovered during the evaluation. One trench, however, situated in the low-lying area between two sandhills, revealed very humic organic soils and well-preserved wood, which demonstrated clear palaeoecological potential.

The development will not have an impact upon an identified archaeological resource and therefore it is recommended that no further archaeological investigation be undertaken. However, it is recommended that the proposed development alters the present drainage pattern as little as possible to prevent the deterioration of waterlogged deposits just outside the study area.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological assessment and evaluation was undertaken by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) on behalf of Independent Energy UK, on land off Mythop Road, Mythop in Lancashire (centred on NGR SD 3585 3538) in advance of hydrocarbons exploration. The evaluation study area lies within a pasture field to the north of the Mythop Road in the civil parish of Weeton-with-Preece, Lancashire, and comprises a small area at the north end of the field with a proposed access road leading north to it from Mythop Road (Fig 1).

1.2 The purpose of the study was to provide an accurate archaeological assessment and evaluation of the site, within its broader context, and to examine its land-use history. The aim of the desk-based survey was to collate existing information on the archaeology of the site and its surrounding area, and the programme of trial excavation was to identify any sub-surface archaeological remains.

1.3 The desk-based study consisted of a search of existing records held by the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston (LRO) as well as available secondary sources. Both published and unpublished sources were examined. The desk-based survey was undertaken between the 24th June and the 29th June 1997. The subsequent trial trenching programme was undertaken on 8th and 9th July 1997.

1.4 This report sets out the results of the work as a gazetteer in conjunction with a methodology statement, a brief text description of the results, an evaluation of the sub-surface potential of the study area, and an assessment of the impact that the exploration site proposals will have upon the archaeological resource.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A Project Design (*Appendix 3*) was submitted by LUAU in response to a request from Independent Energy UK, on land off Mythop Road, Mythop in Lancashire (centred on NGR SD 3585 3538). This was designed to meet the requirements of a Project Brief (*Appendix 2*) by the Lancashire County Archaeologist.

2.1.2 The Project Design provided for an initial archaeological evaluation involving a desk-based survey, followed by the excavation of trial trenches; the results are presented within this written report. The work has been carried out entirely in accordance with the Project Design.

2.2 DESK-BASED STUDY

2.2.1 Existing archaeological information was obtained from the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and aerial photographs held by the SMR were examined.

2.2.2 Manuscript maps and selected other documents were studied in the Lancashire Record Office (LRO) in Preston, along with published antiquarian sources. The availability of manuscript maps in the LRO was limited, comprising only the tithe map of 1840 (LRO DRB 1/196). A copy of the first edition Ordnance Survey (6 inches to one mile, Sheet 24, 1848) was also taken, but there were no other documents relevant to the study area.

2.2.3 Published archaeological sources were consulted, primarily the North West Wetlands Survey volume on North Lancashire (Middleton *et al* 1995). This provided background information on geology and topography, and also on the archaeological potential of the surrounding area.

2.3 TRIAL TRENCHING

2.3.1 A programme of trial excavation was formulated in accordance with the brief and in consultation with Peter McCrone of Lancashire County Council; it was intended that this would investigate approximately 3.5% of the study area, which was to be achieved through the excavation of six trenches of 12.5m in length. Within each trench a 1m square trench was hand excavated and the topsoil coarse sieved for the recovery of any artefacts, but particularly flints. The remaining excavation of the trenches was undertaken using a mechanical excavator (a JCB 3C) fitted with a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket, and was followed by manual excavation for the purposes of examining archaeological detail. All excavation was carried out stratigraphically, whether by machine or by hand. Excavation was undertaken to a depth of natural subsoils in all trenches.

2.3.2 Turf, topsoil and subsoil were separated during the excavation and mechanically backfilled in reverse order to ensure that the reinstatement was to as high a standard as possible.

2.3.3 The recording methods employed by LUAU accord with those recommended by English Heritage's Central Archaeology Service (CAS). Recording was in the form of *pro forma* Trench Sheets for each trench, which recorded the orientation, length, and depth of machining, and described the nature of the topsoil, subsoil (where applicable), and geological deposits. Where potential features were observed they were manually sampled and a full textual, drawn, and photographic record was maintained. Any finds recovered were bagged and recorded by either the trench number or, where appropriate, by the context number of the deposit from which they were recovered.

2.3.4 The positions of the trenches were recorded by taped measurement with respect to the boundaries of the site. This information was then overlaid on to mapping, digitised, under licence, from OS 1:10,000 mapping.

2.4 GAZETTEER OF SITES

2.4.1 The collated information on the site and its immediate environs has been presented in the form of a gazetteer in conjunction with an annotated map at 1:10,000 scale showing the locations of the sites (Fig 2). Locations are given as eight-figure National Grid References (NGR) where possible. A summary description of each site is provided in conjunction with a reference to the source of the information (SMR, cartographic, documentary) with references as appropriate. An evaluation has been given of the interpretation and archaeological potential of the site. Other sites within and around the study area, which were considered to be of background relevance, are mentioned in the text with appropriate SMR references.

2.5 ARCHIVE

2.5.1 A full archive of the desk-based survey and field inspection has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The archive will be deposited with the County Record Office with a copy of the report given to the SMR.

2.6 HEALTH AND SAFETY

2.6.1 Both Lancaster University and LUAU maintain Safety Policies, the latter based on the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) Health and Safety Manual (1991). In keeping with current Health and Safety at Work Regulations, prior to commencing on-site work, a risk assessment for each activity was completed. Due regard was given to all Health and Safety considerations during all aspects of the project. It is LUAU standard practice to scan the positions of all trenches for

underground cables using a U-scan meter. No services were revealed during the course of the evaluation programme.

3. TOPOGRAPHIC AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.1 LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1.1 The study area lies in the modern civil parish of Weeton-with-Preece, which was formerly a township within the parish of Kirkham. The township comprised the settlements of Weeton, Preece, Swarbrick and Mythop, each occupying a discrete area of higher land amongst the mosses (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 176). Mythop is the lowest lying of these at a height of only 15m AOD. These areas of relatively higher land are situated to the west of the Lytham-Skippool valley and to the east of the Marton Mere basin (Middleton *et al* 1995, 85). The area is now under permanent pasture, although in the nineteenth century there was a mixture of pasture and arable (LRO DRB 1/196) (Fig 3).

3.1.2 The study area is situated at the north end of a rectangular field, lying to the north of Mythop Road and the settlement of Mythop. The field is contained within a much larger field, whose boundaries are formed by Mythop Road to the south, Chain Lane to the west, the Main Dyke to the north, and a field boundary to the east.

3.2 GEOLOGY

3.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the area is Permo-Triassic mudstone. However, the character of the study area is formed by drift deposits which completely mask the solid geology (Middleton *et al* 1995, 5-6). The overlying drift deposits are glacial comprising boulder clay and sands and gravels.

3.2.2 Despite the general low-lying terrain, the topography around the site is generally undulating, reflecting the drifting and subsequent erosion of coastal sand deposits. Within the study area are two sand hills separated by a water worn gully.

3.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.3.1 The study area lies within the modern civil parish of Weeton-with-Preece, though historically Weeton-with-Preece was a township contained within the parish of Kirkham (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 176). In 1086 Mythop (called Midehope) was assessed as one ploughland, Weeton as three ploughlands. and Preece as two (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 176), all three forming part of Earl Tostig's lordship of Amanderness. In 1212 it is called Mithop, and Methop in 1286 (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 176). The name comes from a mixture of the Old Norse *midr* plus the Old English *hop*, meaning the middle 'hop' (Mills 1976, 114), that is the enclosed land in the marshes (Mills 1991, 382).

3.3.2 Following the Norman Conquest, Weeton, Preece and Mythop were divided, the latter being added to the fee (or inheritable land) of Penwortham (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 176). Although part of the Penwortham fee, it was held by the lords of Weeton in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries as the tenth part of a

knight's fee (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 178), a knight's fee being the payment given by the Crown in return for military service (Richardson 1986, 24).

3.3.3 The lords of Weeton were originally the Stanley family, descending to the Butler family and thence back to the Stanley family, who had become the Earls of Derby (Baines 1893, 369). Mythop also passed into the hands of the Earls of Derby, although it was occupied by a family called de Mythop in the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries (Baines 1893, 370; Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 178).

4. ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

4.1 CARTOGRAPHIC AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

4.1.1 Recent work by the North West Wetlands Survey in North Lancashire details considerable prehistoric activity in the area (Middleton *et al* 1995, 90). 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 as well as metal weapons. Such finds include a 'broken sword' from Mythop found in the nineteenth century (Middleton *et al* 1995, 90). The North West Wetlands Survey demonstrated that prehistoric activity, possibly indicative of mobile communities of people; however, evidence from pollen samples indicates that the area was also being exploited through woodland clearance and cereal growing which would suggest more permanent settlement (Middleton *et al* 1995, 99).

4.1.2 Very little is known about Iron Age and Roman activity in the area, although a possible Roman road known as the Dane's Pad runs nearby. The road was first identified in the nineteenth century, when it appears to have been a substantially-built feature running from Kirkham to the mouth of the River Wyre at Fleetwood (Middleton *et al* 1995, 99). It is supposed to have run through the low mosslands at Mythop, where it was once seen in the cutting of the Main Dyke, which lies just to the north of the study area. The course of the road is shown dotted on to modern Ordnance Survey maps, and it appears to run to the east of the study area. However, no evidence of the road was recognised during the North West Wetlands Survey fieldwork, even though at Mythop the topography would have required the road to run on an *agger* (raised foundations).

4.1.3 The SMR records a number of cropmark sites (Sites 07, 08, 09 and 10) in the area of Mythop, including one (Site 08) within the study area. None of these features had been investigated and therefore they cannot be dated. Many of them are probably relict water courses or former field boundaries; however, there is also a possible group of pits (Site 07), just to the north of the study area, which may be prehistoric.

4.1.4 In the medieval period, Mythop appears to have been only a small settlement, probably a hamlet within the township of Weeton-with-Preece (see above *Section 3.3.1*). It lay close to Staining Hall, to the north-west, which originated as a monastic grange (Site 02) in the thirteenth century, controlling much of the monastic land in the Fylde. There is little evidence to suggest the exact nature of that settlement at Mythop, but a document of 1653 describes a capital messuage (farm) called Mythopp (LRO DDK 1459/1). The land pertaining to the messuage is described and includes references to parcels of moss ground, a 'coppye' (coppice) and carr grounds. From this it can be seen that the land in the seventeenth century comprised both unreclaimed wet lands (the mosses), which covered the greatest extent, and reclaimed land (the carr), which was used for pasture (Middleton *et al* 1995, 107).

4.1.5 This capital messuage, called Mythopp, would have been one of several houses or farms in the settlement of Mythop. A messuage was the term for a house and the ground around it, and a capital messuage usually refers to the main house, or possibly manor house, of a settlement (Richardson 1986, 210). The property covered a total area of 251 acres and 8 roods, approximately a third of Mythop's total area as recorded in 1902 (Farrer and Brownbill 1912). It is reasonable to assume, therefore, that there may have been three or four other farms in Mythop. Although the SMR describes Mythop as a possible shrunken or deserted medieval village (Site 03), it is likely that the settlement was never more than a few farms, as it formed only part of a township with no recognition in that township's name. The tithe map of 1840 (LRO DRB 1/196) and the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1848 show a scattering of houses along Mythop Road, none of which are named on the accompanying tithe schedule. These houses are generally contained within small closes, many of which appear to have encroached into the road, possibly signifying post-medieval expansion. However, by the time of the tithe map in 1848, some of these closes had been abandoned.

4.1.6 Apart from the seventeenth century document mentioned above, little can be said about the types of houses in post-medieval Mythop. The SMR records a house dated 1718, now demolished (Site 05), called Jolly's Farm, a name which also occurs in the tithe map schedule of 1848 (LRO DRB 1/196). From the tithe map it appears that most of the houses were fairly small, and most were probably farms, although one house is described as Malt Kiln house and garden. The two largest properties, Mythop Hall and Mythop Grange, shown on the modern Ordnance Survey map, are not present on the tithe map of Ordnance Survey 1st edition, and would appear to be modern names.

4.1.7 The field systems, as shown on the mid-nineteenth century maps, also bear no relation to the modern field pattern. Only the course of the roads and the Main Dyke have remained the same. The closes around Mythop in the nineteenth century were semi-regular in appearance and do not appear to have had a medieval origin. However, as there appears to have been a medieval settlement at Mythop which was situated on slightly higher land than the surrounding mosses, then the area would have been farmed in the medieval period, as shown by the ridge and furrow noted just to the east of the study area by the North West Wetlands Survey (Middleton *et al* 1995, fig. 44, site LA82).

4.2 TRIAL TRENCHING

4.2.1 A total of six trenches was excavated to evaluate the archaeological potential of the proposed exploration site. The positions of the trenches are shown in Fig 2; the generalised trench description is given below (*Sections 4.2.2-4)* whilst the detailed descriptions for each excavated trench are given in *Appendix 1*.

4.2.2 ***General Trench Description:*** The trench dimensions varied from 12.2m to 13.6m in length due to the nature of the deposits. Trenches were laid out, in agreement with Peter McCrone (Lancashire County Council), to give a representative coverage

of the varying topography of the area. Trenches 1 and 2 were sited on the eastern sandhill; Trench 3 was located in the north/south aligned hollow between the two sandhills and Trenches 4, 5 and 6 were located on the western sandhill.

4.2.3 The soils of the two sandhills were similar, and typically comprised *c* 0.30m of topsoil overlying a 0.20m-0.40m deep light brown, silty sandy subsoil containing small sub-rounded pebbles and occasional clay patches. This in turn overlay yellowish brown silty sand, which was quite stoney on the upper parts of the site. Underlying these layers was a pinkish brown, natural boulder clay.

4.2.4 Trench 3, located in the small gully between the two sandhills, revealed a wide channel overlying the heavily leached boulder clay at the base of the slope. This channel, which underlay the light brown subsoil as seen in other trenches, was up to 0.50m thick and was filled with dark brown humic silty clay. It was rich in preserved wood, particularly at the base, which was below the local water table and had a modern land drain cut into it. It also contained occasional sand and gravel horizons. The gently sloping edges of the channel matched that of the surface topography, and it appears to be a natural feature relating to the wetter mossland history of the area.

4.2.5 No datable archaeological features were identified within any of the evaluation trenches. Those artefacts that were recovered from the evaluation were exclusively post-medieval in date and were recovered from the sieved topsoil deposits.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 The site has the potential to contain evidence of prehistoric activity. Work in association with the North West Wetlands Survey has shown that, in addition to isolated finds of prehistoric objects, there is a significant amount of evidence (flint scatters and pollen evidence) to indicate that parts of the area were being exploited and possibly farmed. The areas with the greatest potential are those which are slightly higher than the surrounding mosses: Mythop is one such area.

5.2 The evidence for the Roman road to the east is insubstantial. The medieval and post-medieval settlement at Mythop appears to have been restricted to the side of Mythop Road. The proposed access road to the site, where it joins Mythop Road, will extend through an area where possible structures may exist, but it does not appear likely that the main part of the study area will disturb any structural remains. The area adjacent to the modern road will not be affected by the establishment of the proposed access road and therefore this area was not evaluated.

5.3 No archaeological evidence, either artefactual or structural, for human activity was revealed within the evaluation trenches. However, this does not entirely preclude the possibility of archaeological remains from elsewhere within the site.

5.4 Trench 3 was of archaeological and palaeoecological significance in as much as it revealed humic organic soils containing the well-preserved remains of trees from the former moss that was identified during the desk-based study.

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6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 IMPACT

6.1.1 The evaluation has highlighted the archaeological potential of the locality around the study area; being on higher ground the site has an improved likelihood of containing early settlement remains. The evaluation trenches, however, did not recover evidence of any settlement or associated artefactual material that would be affected by the proposed development. There is potentially significant palaeoecological survival within the former stream course that extends through the study area (Trench 3). Part of the stream course will be disturbed by the development, which may also affect the drainage of the area to the south, resulting in dessication of the waterlogged deposits in that area.

6.1.2 The greatest identified potential is the area on either side of the Mythop road, where there was the now abandoned medieval hamlet of Mythop. This settlement possibly equates with that recorded in the Domesday Book. The proposed development access road will extend through this area, but it is understood that the most southerly section of this road will use existing surfaces and consequently will not have an impact upon any archaeological deposits.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.2.1 Current policy suggests that, wherever possible, archaeological remains are preserved *in situ*. This is embodied in the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* and the Department of the Environment *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*.

6.2.2 The evaluation of the proposed exploration site at Mythop, Lancashire has not revealed any significant or datable archaeological features which would be compromised by the proposed exploration site, and the identified resource was not of sufficient archaeological importance to justify recommending any further formal archaeological work.

6.2.3 It is, however, recommended that the reinstatement following the development should restore the present drainage of the area, to allow for the preservation of waterlogged deposits to the immediate south of the study area.

7. GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number **01**
Site name Dane's Pad
NGR SD 3675 3535 (closest point to study area)
Site type Road
Period Roman
Source Documentary (Middleton *et al* 1995, 99)
Description
The course of a Roman road, running from Kirkham towards Poulton-le-Fylde. Noted as an earthwork in the nineteenth century, there has been no physical indication of its presence during recent work.
Assessment
The grid reference is approximate and the site lies to the east of the study area.

Site number **02**
Site name Staining Hall
NGR SD 352 361
Site type Moated monastic grange
Period Medieval, founded 1240
Source SMR 1293
Description
A moated grange, founded in 1240. It controlled much of the monastic land in the Fylde.
Assessment
The site lies to the north of the study area.

Site number **03**
Site name Mythop
NGR SD 359 346
Site type Shrunken village
Period Medieval/post-medieval
Source SMR 1624; cartographic (DRB 1/196)
Description
Marked on the SMR as a possible shrunken or deserted medieval village, it is more likely that the settlement was always a hamlet strung out along Mythop Road, and expansion and shrinkage has occurred in the post-medieval period on a small scale.
Assessment
The proposed access road to the study area may affect former crofts.

Site number **04**
Site name Mythop
NGR SD 365 351
Site type Earthworks
Period Medieval?
Source Documentary (Middleton *et al* 1995, fig. 44, site LA82)

Description
An area of sinuous ridge and furrow.
Assessment
The site is to the east of the study area.

Site number **05**
Site name Jolly's Farm, Mythop
NGR SD 362 348
Site type Farmhouse
Period 1718
Source SMR 4850
Description
A farmhouse, now demolished.
Assessment
The site lies to the south of the study area.

Site number **06**
Site name Mythop Road, Mythop
NGR SD 358 347
Site type Gravel pit
Period Pre 1848
Source SMR 5945; documentary (OS 1st edition 1848)
Description
A gravel pit shown on Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1848 but not on modern maps.
Assessment
The site lies to the south-west of the study area.

Site number **07**
Site name Main Dyke, Mythop
NGR SD 358 355 (centred)
Site type Cropmarks
Period Unknown
Source SMR 2808
Description
Cropmarks, including a linear feature and groups of pits, seen on aerial photographs.
Assessment
The features lie just to the north of the study area.

Site number **08**
Site name Main Dyke, Mythop
NGR SD 358 354 (centred)
Site type Cropmarks
Period Unknown
Source SMR 3703

Description
Watercourses and other features seen on aerial photographs
Assessment
The site lies across and within the study area.

Site number **09**
Site name Weeton-with-Preece
NGR SD 363 343
Site type Cropmark
Period Unknown
Source SMR 3860
Description
A circular cropmark, which was possibly an enclosure.
Assessment
The site lies to the south of the study area.

Site number **10**
Site name Weeton-with-Preece
NGR SD 3641 3450 (centred)
Site type Cropmarks
Period Unknown
Source SMR 2807
Description
An aerial photograph shows cropmarks, probably the remains of old field boundaries or drainage ditches.
Assessment
The site lies to the south of the study area.

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8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

Lancashire Record Office (LRO)

DRB 1/196 1840 Plan of the Township of Weeton with Preece in the Parish of Kirkham and County of Lancaster, Charles Birkett, scale 6 inches to 1 chains

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8.2 PUBLISHED CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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APPENDIX 1
DETAILED TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 Hand excavation of topsoil revealed a dark brown sandy loam containing small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels to a depth of 0.31m. Small fragments of post-medieval brick and animal bone were recovered, along with a few pebbles of unworked chirt. The topsoil overlay 0.17m of reddish brown, silty sand containing large amounts of gravels and small sub-rounded pebbles up to *c* 0.08m diameter. This deposit became lighter in colour and more sandy with depth, to become a light yellowish brown sand with occasional pebbles. Several east/west aligned plough marks were observed at the top of this deposit and a modern land drain was cut into it. In the north-east corner of the trench a patch of pinkish brown boulder clay was observed. Further investigation revealed this to be a substantial lens (greater than 0.64m thick), at a depth of 0.98m below ground surface. It was not shown be underly the sand.

Trench 2 Hand excavation of topsoil revealed a dark brown sandy clay loam with far fewer pebbles than Trench 1, to a depth of 0.28m. The greater concentration of clay made the soil form balls when sieved and small fragments of post-medieval ceramics and glass were recovered. This overlay a yellowish brown silty sand similar to the subsoil in Trench 1, but this deposit, on the slope of the hill, was more leached, giving it a mottled appearance. Towards the western end of the trench, as the gradient increased this layer become more stoney and with larger sub-rounded cobbles (up to *c* 0.15m diameter). For the western 3m of the trench this overlay pinkish brown plastic natural boulder clay.

Trench 3 Small fragments of post-medieval brick, animal bone and rubber were recovered from the sieved topsoil which was a silty clay loam similar to Trench 2, and of a depth of 0.30m. At the eastern end of the trench this overlay leached pinkish grey boulder clay containing large amounts of sub-rounded stones up to 0.15m diameter. Some 2.9m from the eastern end of the trench the level of the boulder clay dropped gradually to a maximum level of 1.20m below ground surface to form a gully between the two sandhills. The gully was over 10m wide; the trench was extended east until the gradient of the western slope had been clearly established, but was still at a depth of 0.60m below ground surface. The upper fill of the gully/channel was a mid-brown silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded pebbles, to a maximum depth of 0.38m. This overlay up to 0.51m of very dark brown humic, organic, silty clay which contained several preserved pieces of unworked timber. One such timber crossed the entire width of the trench at a depth of 0.93m below ground surface. Within this peat-like deposit were occasional lenses of fine gravels and leached grey sands. The bottom of the deposit was below the local water table, hence the good preservation of timber in anaerobic conditions. A land drain was observed cut into the organic soil, the fill comprising the brown silty clay subsoil.

Trench 4 Hand excavation of the silty clay loam topsoil revealed several small fragments of modern brick, timber, and a small piece of unworked chirt. Underlying this at a depth of 0.29m was a light yellowish brown sandy subsoil very similar to that observed in Trench 2. At the eastern, downslope, end of the trench this deposit became more sandy and mineralised. A modern land drain was observed cut into this deposit.

Trench 5 Hand excavation of the silty clay loam topsoil revealed several small fragments of modern brick, timber, plastic and glass. This overlay natural mid-brown silt, clay subsoil to a depth of 0.45m. This in turn overlay a thin lens, 0.10m thick, of light yellowish brown sandy clay as observed elsewhere on the site. Underlying this was pinkish brown boulder clay.

Trench 6 Hand excavation of the silty clay loam topsoil revealed several small fragments of modern glass and a fragment of clay pipe. Underlying this, at a depth of 0.24m, was a light brown silty clay subsoil, containing several small sub-rounded pebbles, 0.15m thick. This overlay a natural yellowish

brown silty sand which was gravelly to a depth of 0.20m in patches. The surface of this layer revealed several east/west aligned plough marks and two modern land drains.

APPENDIX 2
PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 3
PROJECT DESIGN

Lancaster
University
Archaeological
Unit

March 1997

PROPOSED EXPLORATION SITE,
MYTHOP ROAD,
MYTHOP,
BLACKPOOL,
LANCASHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a brief provided by the Lancashire County Archaeology Service, dated February 1997, on behalf of Independent Energy UK Limited requesting an archaeological evaluation in advance of a planning application for a proposed Hydrocarbons Exploration Site at Mythop Road, Mythop, Blackpool, Lancashire.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The proposed development site lies between Mythop Road and Mythop Drain, Mythop, just to the east of Chain Lane. A number of archaeological sites are known in the general area (listed by the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record), and the site is thought to have significant potential for the preservation of prehistoric and palaeoenvironmental remains.

1.2 A planning application has been submitted by Independent Energy UK Limited with respect to a proposed hydrocarbons exploration site. As a result an archaeological evaluation of the site has been requested to inform the archaeological implications of the proposal.

1.3 The site lies at *c*10m OD in an area dominated by the Lytham to Skippool valley, Marton Mere and their associated wetlands. The site itself lies in an area of organic soils skirting the main peat areas along the Main Drain and Main Dyke watercourses. In common with much of the land here the area is shown as being under pasture by the North West Wetland Survey. Sites recorded within the wetlands survey immediately around Mythop include medieval ridge and furrow observed on pastureland nearby and a diffuse scatter of flints of late Neolithic / early Bronze Age date on arable land to the south of the study area. Other scatters of lithic material were also recovered in the surrounding area (Middleton *et al* 1995). Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) undertook an evaluation in 1990 at Staining Hall Farm, *c*800m to the north-west; which is believed to have been the site of a medieval moated grange, which controlled much of the monastic lands in the Fylde.

1.4 The Lancaster University Archaeological Unit has considerable experience of the evaluation and building recording of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 15 years. Evaluations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. In addition, advice has been supplied to clients for the preparation of Environmental Statements and building conservation projects. LUAU has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. LUAU and all its members of staff operate subject to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct.

1.5 LUAU has a wide experience of evaluations of all periods and site types. Similar projects in this area include the archaeological assessment of the Norcross to M55 Link (for Allott and Lomax) and of the assessment and watching brief of the Fairhaven to Clifton Rising Main, Lancashire (for North West Water Properties). In addition the English Heritage funded North West Wetlands Survey (NWWS), managed by LUAU, has undertaken a survey in the area, and has extensive in-house expertise, which would be made available during the project.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed, in accordance with the brief, to provide an accurate archaeological evaluation of the designated area, within its broader context. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 **Desk based survey**
A desk-top study of all relevant documentary and cartographic sources, in order to inform the successive phases. A review would be held following this element, in order to decide how to progress the successive stages.

2.2 **Trial trenching**
A limited programme of trial-trenching and palaeoenvironmental sampling would be undertaken, following a review of stages *2.2* and consultation with the County Archaeological Curator.

2.3 **Report**
A written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context and will evaluate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

2.4 **Archive**
An archive of a professional standard will be collated and deposited in an approved repository.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the objectives of the archaeological work summarised above.

3.2 **Desk based assessment**

3.2.1 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of material. The method statement is based on the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* compiled by the IFA.

3.2.2 ***Documentary and cartographic material***
This work should involve the rapid assessment of the full range of potential sources of information, although it will concentrate on information contained in the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record. This search will also make reference to appropriate sections of local histories, early maps, and such primary documentation (O.S. maps and estate plans etc) as may be reasonably available. Potential sources would include the Lancashire Record Office at Preston.

3.2.3 ***Aerial photography***
A survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. This will aid the identification of surviving archaeological and structural features in the designated area. Appropriate photographic material lodged either in the County Sites and Monuments Record or the County Record Office will be consulted.

3.2.3 ***Artefact evidence***
Local and regional museum catalogues will be consulted to produce a gazetteer of any artefactual evidence from the study area.

3.2.4 ***Physical environment***
A rapid desk based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical, and palaeoenvironmental information, including any available engineering and borehole data, will be undertaken. This will not only set any archaeological features in context but also serves to provide predictive data, that will increase the efficiency of the field investigation.

3.2.5 ***Access***
Liaison for basic site access will be undertaken with the Client. The precise location of any utility services or pipelines within the study area will also be established.

3.2.6 ***Collation of data and review***
The data generated by *3.2.2 - 3.2.5* will be collated and analysed in order to provide an assessment of the nature and significance of the known standing, surface and subsurface remains. It will also serve as a guide to the archaeological potential of the area to be investigated, and the basis for the formulation of the detailed field programme, and associated sampling strategy at review.

3.3 Trial trenching

3.3.1 ***Methodology***
A limited programme of trial excavation will be undertaken, in consultation with the County Archaeological Curator, in order to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation, and following the strategy outlined above. This will establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and, if established, will then briefly test their date, nature, and quality of preservation.

3.3.2 It is proposed that small trenches will be excavated, these will mainly be concentrated in the open part of the designated area, rather than the narrow access along the line of the field boundary. Small test pits may be included on the line of access to provide full coverage of the area if required, to test surface features or to investigate areas highlighted in the desk based survey as being of particular interest. It is not intended to disturb areas of established access, such as trackways.

3.3.3 A series of small trenches excavated at intervals across the area will allow a representative sampling of the nature of the deposits, and to allow for sample sieving of the topsoil. It is therefore proposed that six hand dug pits, 1m square, are excavated, and the topsoil coarse sieved, or hand sorted for the recovery of artefactual evidence, such as flint. Each pit should then be enlarged, excavated stratigraphically by mechanical excavator up to 10m by 2m, to test for evidence of subsurface features or remains. The resultant spoil from these trenches will be sorted, on site, for artefactual evidence.

3.3.4 Six trenches have been suggested at this stage, however the exact size and position of the trenches may be revised in light of the results of the desk-base study and field inspection. The location of the trenches will be agreed with the County Archaeological Curator. The exact trench locations may be varied slightly to avoid any drains or services which are identified as running across the site.

3.3.5 Excavation will normally be limited to the upper surface of significant archaeological deposits, followed by sampling of deposits/features, including any palaeoenvironmental deposits. However, where important deposits are identified, these would be left intact and the evaluation terminated, following consultation with the County Archaeological Curator.

3.3.6 To maximise the speed and efficiency of the operation the majority of the work (including removal of overburden) will be undertaken by a machine fitted with a 2m wide toothless bucket, operating only under archaeological supervision, although where deposits or remains of archaeological significance are encountered elements may be hand dug. All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Trenches will be accurately located with regard to local topographical features.

3.3.7 Any sediments of potential archaeological significance will be bulk sampled for subsequent assessment, and where necessary LUAU can call out an experienced palaeoecologist to assess deposits in the field. Bulk samples will be rapidly scanned and, if appropriate, a sub sample will be selected for assessment in post-excavation to identify their archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential.

3.3.8 Bulk samples not required for other forms of analysis will be sieved in post-excavation.

3.3.9 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the excavation of the trenches, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. LUAU 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 (1991) and risk assessments are implemented for all projects. As a matter of course the Unit uses a U-Scan device prior to any excavation to test for services.

3.3.10 Any livestock should be removed from the areas subject to trial trenching, or the area for investigation should be provided with secure fencing (suitable to the type of stock) by the Client for the duration of the field work.

At the conclusion of the evaluation, LUAU will reinstate all land disturbed to the satisfaction of the Client. However, responsibility for unavoidable loss of crop or production area resulting from the fieldwork will rest with the Client.

3.3.11 ***Recording***

All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.

3.3.11 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by Central Archaeology Service of English Heritage. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration. Samples will be collected for technological, pedological, palaeoenvironmental and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. LUAU maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeoecology specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.

3.4 Report

3.4.1 One bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further copy submitted to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, with an assessment of the overall archaeological resource, together with appropriate illustrations, including detailed plans and sections indicating the locations of archaeological features. Any finds recovered from the excavations will be assessed with reference to other local material and any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted and the potential of the site for palaeoenvironmental analysis will be considered. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail.

3.4.2 The report will summarise the results of the desk-based survey and the trial excavations. It will identify areas of defined archaeology and the location of trenches, and whether the results of the sampling were positive or negative. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the site within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map, section drawings, and plans if appropriate; it can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion. The report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on 3.5" disk (IBM compatible format).

3.4.3 ***Proposals***
The report will make a clear statement of the likely archaeological implications of the proposed development. It will highlight whether, as a first option, the preservation *in situ* of significant archaeological features should take place and possible strategies for the mitigation of the impact of the development, including design modification, will be considered. When conservation is neither possible, nor practical, it may be appropriate to suggest a further stage of more intensive archaeological work in order to mitigate the effects of development.

3.5 Archive

3.5.1 The results of the fieldwork will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork.

3.5.2 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct. LUAU conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. The expense of preparing such an archive is part of the project cost, but only represents a very small proportion of the total. This archive can be provided in the English

Heritage Central Archaeological Services format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files, and a synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and the report) will be included in the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record. A copy of the archive will also be available for deposition with the National Archaeological Record in London. LUAU practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum. The actual details of the arrangements for the deposition/loan and long term storage of this material will be agreed with the landowner and the receiving institution. Wherever possible, LUAU recommends the deposition of such material in a local museum approved by the Museums and Galleries Commission, and would make appropriate arrangements with the designated museum at the outset of the project for the proper labelling, packaging, and accessioning of all material recovered. The archive costs include a single payment of £11/m3 to the receiving museum as a one-off contribution towards the cost of long term storage and curation.

3.5.3 ***Confidentiality***

The evaluation report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

3.5 Project Monitoring

3.5.1 ***Independent Energy UK Limited***

If required, an initial meeting between the Client, the Curator and the contractor can be arranged. Further consultation will include the attendance of a representative of the Client (if required) at any meetings convened with the County Archaeological Curator to discuss the progress of the evaluation or the content of the report.

3.5.2 ***Lancashire County Archaeology Service***

Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with the Lancashire County Archaeological Curator in coordination with the client. LUAU will arrange a preliminary meeting with the Curator, if requested, and the Lancashire County Archaeology Service will be informed in writing at the commencement of the project. A one-off payment of £50 is included in the costings to cover the cost of a single monitoring visit.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

The phases of work would comprise:

4.1 ***Desk-based survey***

Two days would be required for this element

4.2 ***Review: formulate sampling strategy and evaluation programme***

To be completed immediately after 4.1: 0.5 day duration

4.3 ***Evaluation trial trenching***

Two days would be required to undertake this work.

4.4 ***Post-excavation assessment***

Palaeoenvironmental assessment, finds assessment, and bulk sample sieving

4.5 ***Prepare archive and report***

To be completed and submitted within five weeks following completion of all fieldwork.

4.6 LUAU can execute projects at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client. The project (fieldwork, report and archive) would be completed and submitted within six weeks following its commencement.

4.7 Schedule

Desk-based survey:	commence 16/6/97; completed by end June 1997
Trial trenching	completed within either week of 7/7/97 or 14/7/97
Report	submitted by end July 1997.

5. OUTLINE RESOURCES

The following resource base will be necessary to achieve the proposals detailed above.

The total cost quoted on the accompanying sheet is a fixed price, inclusive of all management, overheads, and other disbursement costs (travel and expenses), to undertake the programme of work as defined in the project brief and this project design. Any other variations from this programme of work at the Clients' direction will require recosting.

5.1 ***Desk based survey***
2 man-days Project Officer

5.2 ***Review***
0.5 man-day Project Officer (and internal management input)

5.3 ***Trial trenching***
2 man-days Project Officer
2 man-days Project Assistant

5.4 ***Post-excavation assessment***
1 man day Project Officer - palaeoecological assessment
1 man-day Project Assistant - sieving
0.25 man-day Project Officer - finds assessment

5.4 ***Evaluation report & archive***
3 man-days Project Officer
1 man-day Draughtsperson

The project will be under the direct line management of **Jamie Quartermaine, BA, MIFA** (Unit Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. All Unit staff are experienced, qualified archaeologists, each with several years professional expertise.

The desk-top assessment and report will be undertaken by **Caron Newman, BA**

ILLUSTRATIONS

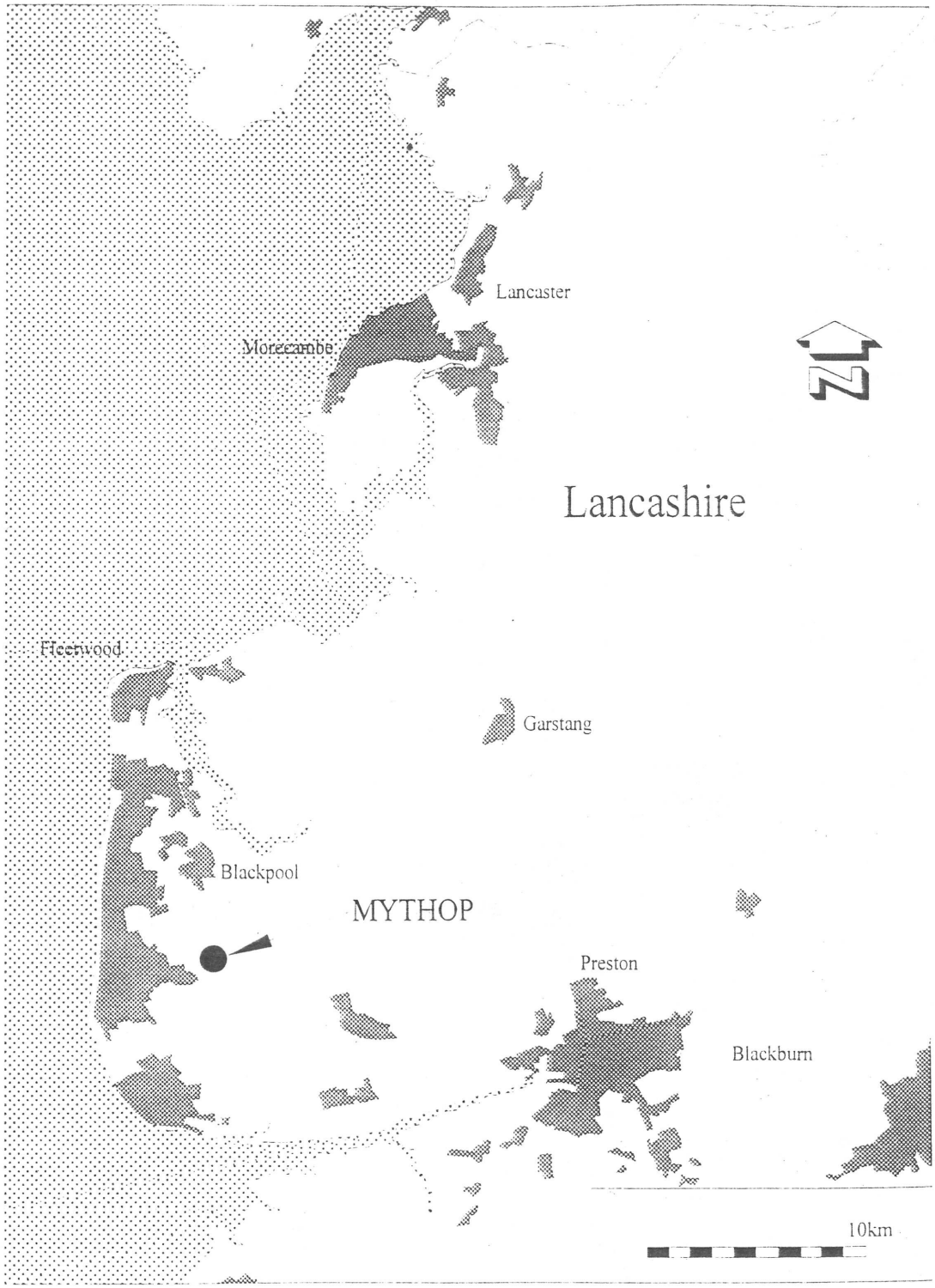

Fig 1 Site Location Plan

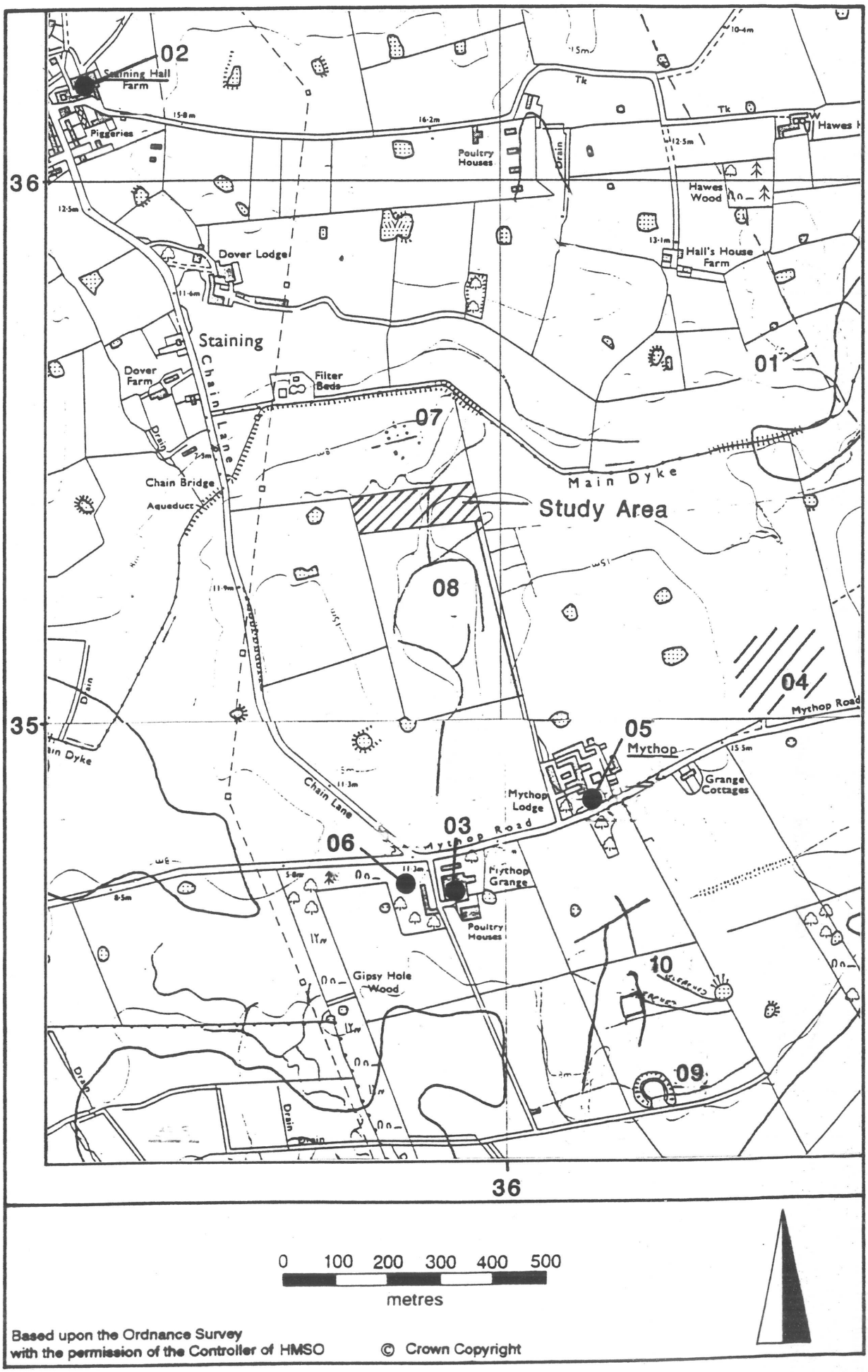

Fig 2 Documentary Study Site Map

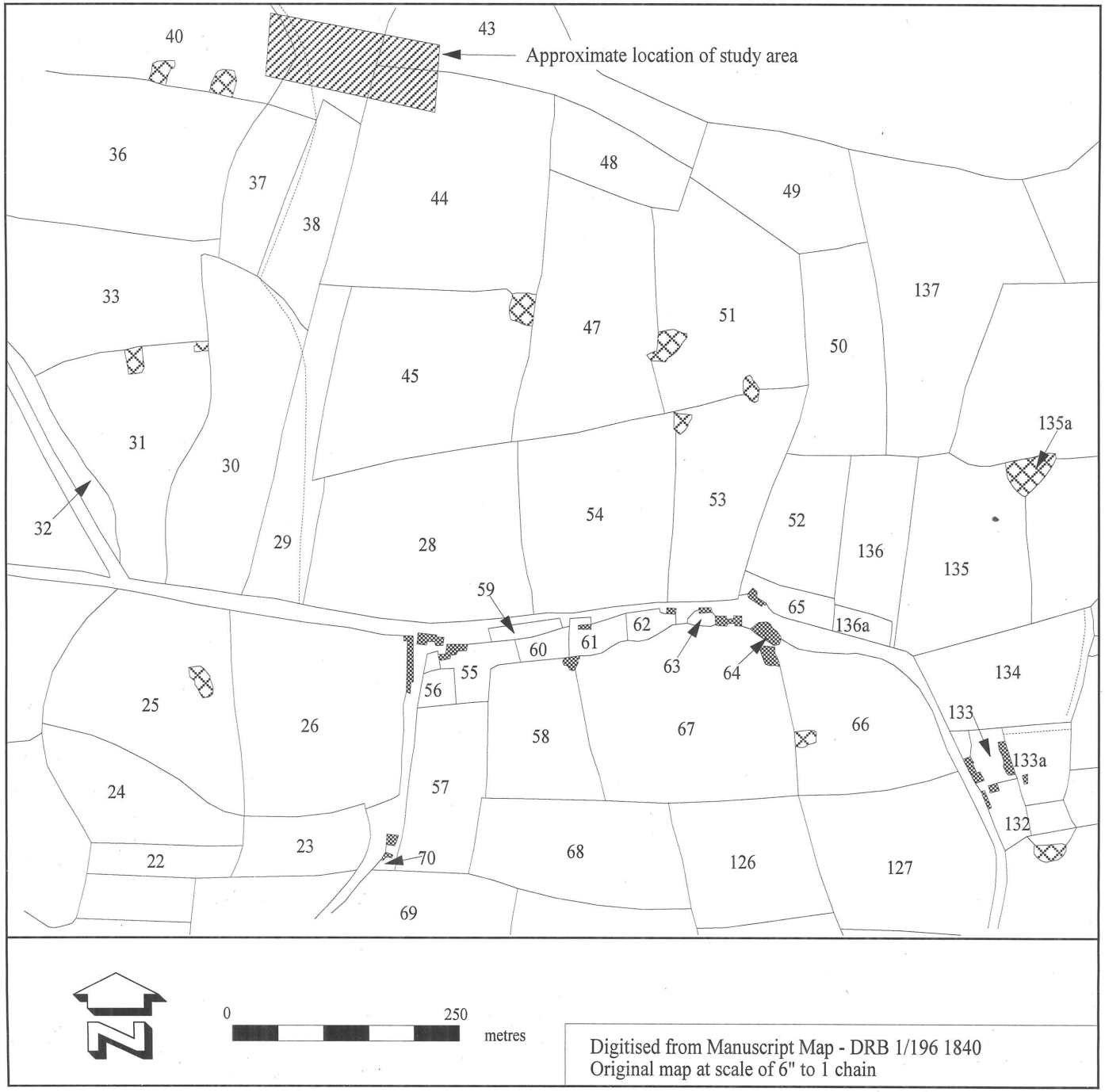

Fig 3 Plan of the township of Weeton with Preese in the parish of Kirkham
County of Lancashire (DRB 1/196 1840)

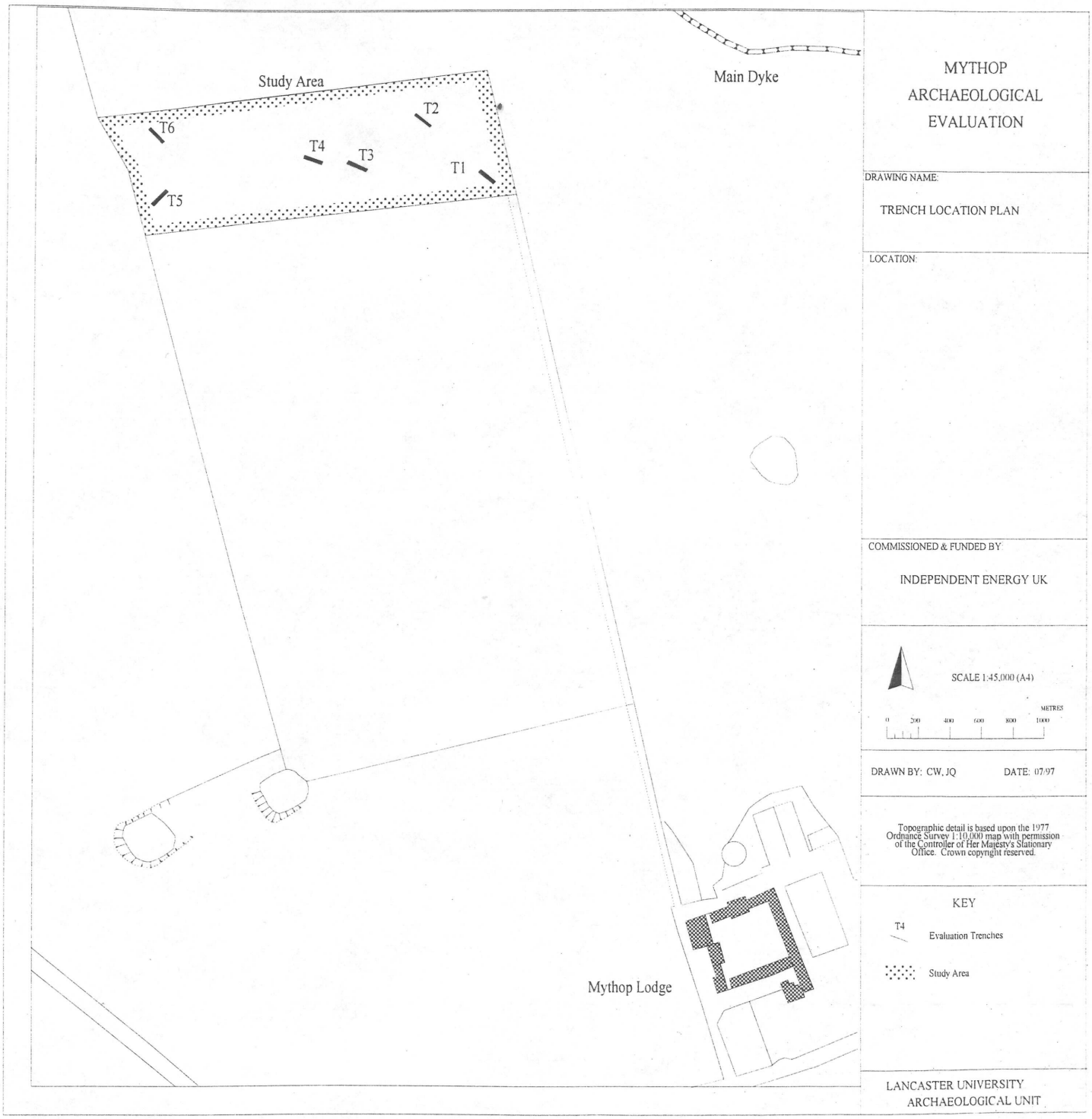

Fig 4 Trench Location Plan