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HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



UNITED UTILITIES

WESTBY MAIN, LANCASHIRE

STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION

March 2015

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March 2014

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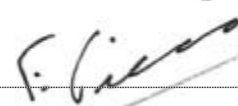
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Plate 3: Field 3 facing West prior to being stripped

Plate 4: Field 4 facing West

SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Lorna Church of United Utilities to undertake an archaeological evaluation. The work was required to ascertain whether any archaeological remains would be impacted by the pipeline excavation. The close proximity of the pipeline to the Roman settlement of Kirkham and the medieval settlement of Little Plumpton meant that the route of the pipeline had the potential to impact upon hitherto unknown archaeological features.

During the course of the machine strip of the pipeline easement and associated groundworks no archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thanks Lorna Church of United Utilities who commissioned the project. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thanks Ken Davies of Lancashire County Council who supplied the HER details and the staff of Lancashire Archives who assisted with documentary research.

The desk based assessment was undertaken by Richard Newman.

The report was written by Rick Buckle and Richard Newman and the figures were produced by Adrian Bailey. Frank Giecco managed the project and edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of Project

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Lorna Church of United Utilities to undertake a strip, map and sample excavation during groundworks ahead of the laying of a pipe for a new water main. The pipeline route runs for a distance of 2.4km from the Westby Service Reservoir (SD 3933 3293) to Staining Wood (SD 3707 3261), in the parish of Kirkham, Lancashire. Part of the pipeline will follow an existing carriageway but most of the route passes through arable and pasture agricultural fields. The pipeline route is known to run close to the sites of a supposed shrunken village of medieval date at Little Plumpton, a possible medieval moated site to the west of Little Plumpton and the route of the 'Dane's Pad' a colloquial name for the remains of the Roman road from Kirkham to Fleetwood.

1.1.2 The primary purpose of the strip, map and sample excavation is to record any archaeological remains that are revealed during the groundworks for the laying of the water main.

1.1.3 The scope of works for evaluation was discussed and agreed in advance with Doug Moir, development control archaeologist with the Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Service.

1.1.4 The term pipeline corridor is used to refer to the route of the pipeline easement and the term study area to the wider 0.5km envelope surrounding the pipeline corridor.

1.2 Statutorily and Non-Statutorily Designated Sites

1.2.1 The pipeline corridor does not contain any heritage assets that are afforded statutory protection, such as Scheduled Monuments and listed buildings.

1.2.2 Neither the pipeline corridor nor the study area contains any heritage assets that are afforded protection through non-statutory designation.

1.2.3 There is one designated asset within the study area, the grade II Roman Catholic church of St Anne in Great Plumpton.

1.3 National Planning Policy and Legislative Framework

1.3.1 National planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment are set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*, which was published by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in March 2012. Sites of archaeological or cultural heritage significance that are valued components of the

historic environment and merit consideration in planning decisions are grouped as 'heritage assets'; 'heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource', the conservation of which can bring 'wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits...' (DCLG 2012, Section 12.126). The policy framework states that the 'significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting' should be understood in order to assess the potential impact' (DCLG 2012, Section 12.128). In addition to standing remains, heritage assets of archaeological interest can comprise sub-surface remains and, therefore, assessments should be undertaken for a site that 'includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest' (DCLG 2012, Section 12.128).

1.3.2 NPPF draws a distinction between designated heritage assets and other remains considered to be of lesser significance; *'great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be; substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional'* (DCLG 2012, Section 12.132). Therefore, preservation in-situ is the preferred course in relation to such sites unless exception circumstances exist.

1.3.3 It is normally accepted that non-designated sites will be preserved by record, in accordance with their significance and the magnitude of the harm to or loss of the site as a result of the proposals, to *'avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposals'* (DCLG 2012, Section 12.129). *Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest will also be subject to the policies reserved for designated heritage assets if they are of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments* (DCLG 2012; Section 12.132).

1.4 Local Planning Policies

1.4.1 The study area is within the local planning authority area of Fylde Borough Council. This Council have a Local Development Plan which currently retains policies from the 1999 Local Plan. The relevant policy for the current scheme is EP 21 as provided in Fylde Borough Local Plan as altered October 2005. Policy EP 21 states:

- in considering development proposals, particular regard will be given to the archaeological significance of the area. where there is an identified archaeological

interest on a site, developers may be required to provide an archaeological assessment or, if necessary, a field evaluation

- proposals affecting the site or setting of remains of national importance will not be permitted
- in relation to proposals affecting remains of local importance, consideration will be given to the merits of the case taking into account the importance of the remains and the need for the proposed development
- where preservation of the remains in situ is justified, the developers will be required to make adequate provision for their maintenance. Where preservation of the remains in situ is not justified, developers will be required to make adequate provision for the recording of the remains before development commences.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake a strip, map and sample excavation along the route of a pipeline from Westby Service Reservoir to Staining Wood, near Great Plumpton in the parish of Kirkham, Lancashire. All work undertaken was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists, as set out in *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (IfA 2012). The scope of the programme of work was discussed in advance with Doug Moir of the Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Service.

2.1.2 The following abbreviations are used in this report:

- HER Historic Environment Record
- IfA Institute for Archaeologists
- NHL National Heritage List
- OS Ordnance Survey

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 A brief desk-based assessment was undertaken to provide a contextual background for the on-site recording work.

2.2.2 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with professional guidelines (IfA 2012) and local curatorial requirements. A further search of online resources was undertaken in order to identify any designated sites such as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, around the pipeline route. This was done in order to help assess the possible impact of the proposed development on archaeologically sensitive areas. The principal sources of information were historical maps and secondary sources.

2.2.3 **Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER):** the HER maintained by Lancashire County Council was consulted November 2014, in order to obtain information regarding known designated heritage assets (for example Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas), and non-designated heritage assets, i.e. sites of historic or archaeological interest which are not designated.

2.2.4 Designated heritage assets were also checked against the National Heritage List. One designated asset was identified within the study area. There were a total of eight

HER non-designated heritage assets within the study area. Full details of all these assets are included in Appendix 1 and their locations are represented by site numbers in Figure 4. Designated assets are given their National Heritage List reference number and non-designated heritage assets their HER number.

2.2.5 **Lancashire Archives, Preston** The first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps and the tithe map were consulted at Lancashire Archives, Preston and a search was done for any other relevant documentary or cartographic information. No other relevant information was located.

2.2.6 **Wardell Armstrong Archaeology:** various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology library and these were examined.

2.2.7 **Websites:** various websites were checked for information relevant to the pipeline's background information, these included Google Earth™, the British Geological Survey and Lancashire County Council and English Heritage for their digital site datasets.

2.3 Strip, Map and Sample

2.3.1 The top-soil / plough-soil was removed ('stripped') under direct archaeological control and supervision and the intention was that any revealed archaeological remains would be then planned and excavated ('mapped' and 'recorded').

2.3.2 The area to be stripped was specified by Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology) and included the pipeline easement and all associated access tracks and site compounds.

2.3.3 A mechanical excavator cleared the route of the pipeline easement and all associated grounds work under the monitoring conditions of an archaeological watching brief. As no archaeological remains were noted in agreement with Lancashire County Council the excavation of the pipeline trench was not monitored and no further work was undertaken.

2.4 Reporting

2.4.1 A digital copy of the report will be deposited with the HER at Lancashire County Council's offices in Preston, where viewing will be made available on request.

2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Cumbria County Council support the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of

grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this study will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national scheme. The OASIS reference code for this project is **wardella2-206163**.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, Topography and Geology

3.1.1 The study area is situated in the parish of Kirkham and the township of Great Plumpton and stretches between OS grid reference SD 3933 3293 in the east and OS grid reference SD 3707 3261 in the west.

3.1.2 **Topography:** The study area is comprised of primarily low lying farm land consisting of a mixture of arable and pasture/meadow. In broad terms the land is between 10 and 20m aOD rising towards the north end east. The study area lies within National Character Area 32: Lancashire and Amounderness Plain. This is characterised as an area of undulating low lying farmland to the east becoming flatter former mossland in the west (Natural England 2014, 8). The study area lies mainly in the latter landscape but abuts the mosslands at its western extremity.

3.1.3 **Geology:** The sedimentary geology consists of Triassic sedimentary rocks such as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone formed approximately 200 to 251 million years ago in a local environment dominated by hot deserts (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home>).

3.1.4 The drift geology consists of glacial till formed up to 3 million years under ice age conditions (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home>).

3.2 Historic Landscape Character

3.2.1 The study area is within the Lancashire historic landscape type known as post-medieval enclosure. The assertion is that post-medieval enclosures pre-dating 1850 dominate the fieldscape of the mid to western Fylde (Ede with Darlington 2002, 40).

3.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.3.1 **Introduction:** This historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources and from records consulted during the desk-based assessment. It is intended only as a summary of historical developments around the study area. References to the Historic Environment Record (HER) and National Heritage List (NHL) are included where relevant. The location and description of individual heritage assets within the approximate 0.5km wide study area are depicted on Figure 3 and summarised in Appendix 1.

3.3.2 **Prehistory:** The study area lies to the north-east of Lytham Moss and is likely to have been within the zone of settlement from which the mosses were exploited during

prehistory. Bronze Age ‘spears’ are said to have been found along the line of Dane’s Pad Roman road (Middleton *et al* 1995, 90). No archaeological remains of prehistoric date have been found from within the study area. A recent study of the Staining Wood area concluded that the western end of the study area had a low potential for unknown archaeological remains with the most likely discoveries being isolated prehistoric lithics (CgMs 2014; PRN 39122).

- 3.3.3 **Roman:** Kirkham is the site of a Roman fort. The eastern end of the pipeline corridor is close to Dane’s Pad, an ancient road route believed to be the Roman road from Kirkham to a likely Roman port in the Fleetwood area (PRN 26142).
- 3.3.4 **Early medieval:** The place-name Plumpton is of Anglo-Saxon origin combining the prefix *plumb*, usually taken to be a reference to plum trees and the suffix *tun* meaning a settlement (Ekwall 1960, 369). No archaeological remains have been found of this date in the study area nor are there any reported artefacts.
- 3.3.5 **Medieval:** The first reference to Plumpton appears in Domesday Book when it consisted of two ploughlands (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 175). The settlement of Little Plumpton was also known in the medieval period as Little Field Plumpton and may have originated as an ancillary settlement of Great Plumpton, developing as a result of population growth. It was in existence by the 13th century and by 1323 it consisted of eight cottages with 96 acres of land (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 175). Field names to the north of Little Plumpton noted on the mid-19th century tithe map include references to carr, moor and meadow, suggesting that the area may have been carved out of manorial waste that was wetland.
- 3.3.6 Typically of a wet lowland landscape the area featured moated sites during the medieval period. Within the study area there are possible moated sites probably associated with Little Plumpton. These survive in part as earthwork remains (PRN 15219 and PRN 15220).
- 3.3.7 The area in the post-medieval period featured numerous ponds, many of which may have originated as marl pits. At Great Plumpton a line of ponds situated on the rear boundaries of the still definable medieval crofts, suggest that they originated as extraction pits for building materials for the buildings occupying the crofts. The pipeline route may cut across the rear of the crofts of Little Plumpton.
- 3.3.8 Little Plumpton is stated in the Lancashire HER to be a possible shrunken medieval settlement (PRN 1623). The settlement depicted on maps of the 1840s (Lancashire

Archives DRB1/8; OS 1st ed), however, appears to be similar to the medieval settlement of eight cottages referred to in 1323. In the 14th century it probably consisted of a single row on the north side of the Preston Road, though by the 19th century settlement expansion had led to some development on the south side of the road. By 1893 the settlement had shrunk substantially (OS 2nd ed), but this was not unusual in Lancashire in the 19th century when a number of settlements shrank as people moved away to find employment in industry (McNeil and Newman 2006, 169). Today the density of buildings and the extent of the developed settlement area are probably greater than at any time in the past, but these structures and the settlement extent relate to only a few farmsteads. The recent statement made by Arup (2013, 5) when assessing the archaeological impact of shale gas exploration that the 'villages were relocated during the course of extensive improvements in the 19th century' is an inaccurate assumption, unsupported by evidence. Changes in farming and the improvement of the Preston New Road have led to a gradual and accretive change in the nature of the settlement and a shift in its focus rather than a physical shrinkage. That said, comparison of 19th century maps of Little Plumpton with Google Earth™ satellite imagery, indicates that some abandoned former properties should survive below ground as archaeological remains on the margins of the current settlement.

- 3.3.9 **Post-medieval:** Enclosure of the open common fields associated with the Plumptons was probably completed early in the post-medieval period. It seems likely that the enclosed post-medieval fields have been progressively regularised and rationalised from the 19th century (Arup 2013, 7).
- 3.3.10 At the eastern end of the study area was a small settlement called Mills which was in existence in the late 18th century. On both the 1840 tithe map and the 1847 OS map it is shown as featuring a windmill and a corn drying kiln. These sites were destroyed by the construction of the Westby covered reservoir (PRN 6407).
- 3.3.11 **Industrial and modern:** The Westby reservoir was built in the early 20th century. Other industrial and modern developments of archaeological interest are the now dismantled Blackpool South to Kirkham railway (PRN 39117) and the realignment and improvements of the Preston New Road. Two milestones associated with this road occur within the study area and are first recorded on the 1911 OS 25 inch to a mile map (PRN 37331 and PRN 37332).

3.3.12 **Previous archaeological research:** Three previous desk-based assessments have been undertaken that cover at least parts of the study area. In 2007-08 Oxford Archaeology North considered the archaeological implications of the aggregate extraction of the Kirkham moraine using both desk-based assessment and LiDAR survey (PRN 30740). In 2013 Arup produced a desk-based assessment as part of an Environmental Statement for shale gas exploration focused to the north of the Preston New Road. In 2014 CgMs undertook a desk-based assessment of Staining Wood in advance of a potential 21.6 hectare development (PRN 39122).

3.3.13 **Designated assets:** There is one designated asset within the study area, the grade II listed 19th century Roman Catholic Church of St Anne (NHL 1072004). The pipeline route will not have a direct impact on the asset and any indirect impact on setting will be temporary during the construction process.

4 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1.1 The watching brief took place between December 2014 and January 2015 starting adjacent to Staining wood farm and ending at Westby reservoir. The easement and associated groundworks strip was carried out using a mechanical excavator and involved the removal of the topsoil and subsoil down to the natural geology. United Utilities' works also involved the creation of trackways and access points as part of the compensation package to the landowners and these areas were also observed as part of the watching brief. It was not deemed necessary to observe the excavation of the pipe trench because the archaeological impact was deemed negligible. The stripped area was divided up into 4 fields for the purposes of simplifying the record keeping process.

4.1.2 **Field 1** started at the main compound adjacent to Staining wood farm and continued east, ending at Plumpton Lane. The stripped area followed the line of Blackpool road before heading uphill and behind Little Plumpton Farm. The field was in use as pasture, although evidence of past quarrying was observed outside of the stripped area. The topsoil was a dark brown sandy clay to a depth of 0.10m. The subsoil was a mid brown sandy clay with a thickness of 0.20m. The natural geology within this field ranged from a grey boulder clay to an orangey brown clay that tended to be found on the higher parts of the field. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in this field.



Plate 1: Field 1 from main compound

4.1.3 **Field 2** ran from Plumpton lane to a large hedge exactly halfway between Plumpton Lane and Fox Lane Ends. Field 2 was used as pasture and significant measures had been undertaken to enhance the drainage of the lower parts of the field. The topsoil was a dark brown silty clay to a depth of 0.10m and the subsoil was a mid brown silty clay that was 0.20m thick. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in this field.



Plate 2: Field 2

4.1.4 **Field 3** was characterised along its western margin by mossland that gradually gave way to undulating arable land levelling out towards Fox Lane ends. Significant efforts to provide adequate drainage for the low lying parts of this field had been undertaken over the years. A complex network of Modern and Post-medieval culverts and drains were exposed during the topsoil strip. Despite these efforts to adequately drain this field, the land remained very wet, and several small pools of standing water were visible outside the stripped area. The topsoil within the eastern half of field 3 was a mid brown sandy silt to a depth of 0.15m and the subsoil was a dark brown sandy silt. The natural geology was an orangey brown clay in part with mid brown peat where the mossland was encountered, though the contractor endeavoured to avoid excavating through peat wherever possible. The eastern part of field 3 had mid brown clayey silt topsoil to a depth of 0.10m and a dark brown clayey silt measuring 0.15m in thickness. The natural geology in this area was an orangey brown clay with bands of brown clay. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this field.



Plate 3: Field 3 facing west prior to being stripped

4.1.5 **Field 4** represented the final stage of the topsoil strip and ran between Fox Lane Ends and the Westby reservoir. Situated on high ground offering a view Eastward of the entire length of the stripped area. The ground here was very waterlogged which created constraints during the topsoil strip and resulted in parts of the field being underwater immediately after being stripped. Because of the close proximity to the Westby reservoir the field had been at least partially truncated from the construction of the reservoir and associated water mains at the Eastern end. The Western end of field 4 had mid brown sandy silt topsoil to a depth of 0.10 and a dark brown sandy silt subsoil that was 0.20m in thickness. The natural geology was only evident at the Eastern end of the field and was a light brown sandy clay. The Eastern end of the field was all made ground beneath the subsoil and was a mid brown sandy clay. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this field.



Plate 4: Field 4 facing west

4.1.6 ***Finds*** were located within topsoil and subsoil deposits and were exclusively of Post medieval and Modern date and therefore were noted but not retained.

4.2 **Conclusion**

4.2.1 The close proximity to the Roman site at Kirkham and the putative route of Dane's Pad Roman road might be expected to be influential on the archaeological resource to be encountered during the construction of the Westby pipeline, but no evidence of Roman activity was noted.

4.2.2 The medieval settlement of Little Plumpton lay close to the route of the pipeline and it was considered possible that the pipeline might encounter the rear boundaries of crofts associated with Little Plumpton, but no such evidence was noted. No medieval remains were encountered.

4.2.3 No other archaeological discoveries were made during the watching brief undertaken on the stripping of the pipeline easement and associated groundworks.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Ordnance Survey 1893 First Edition 25 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Map

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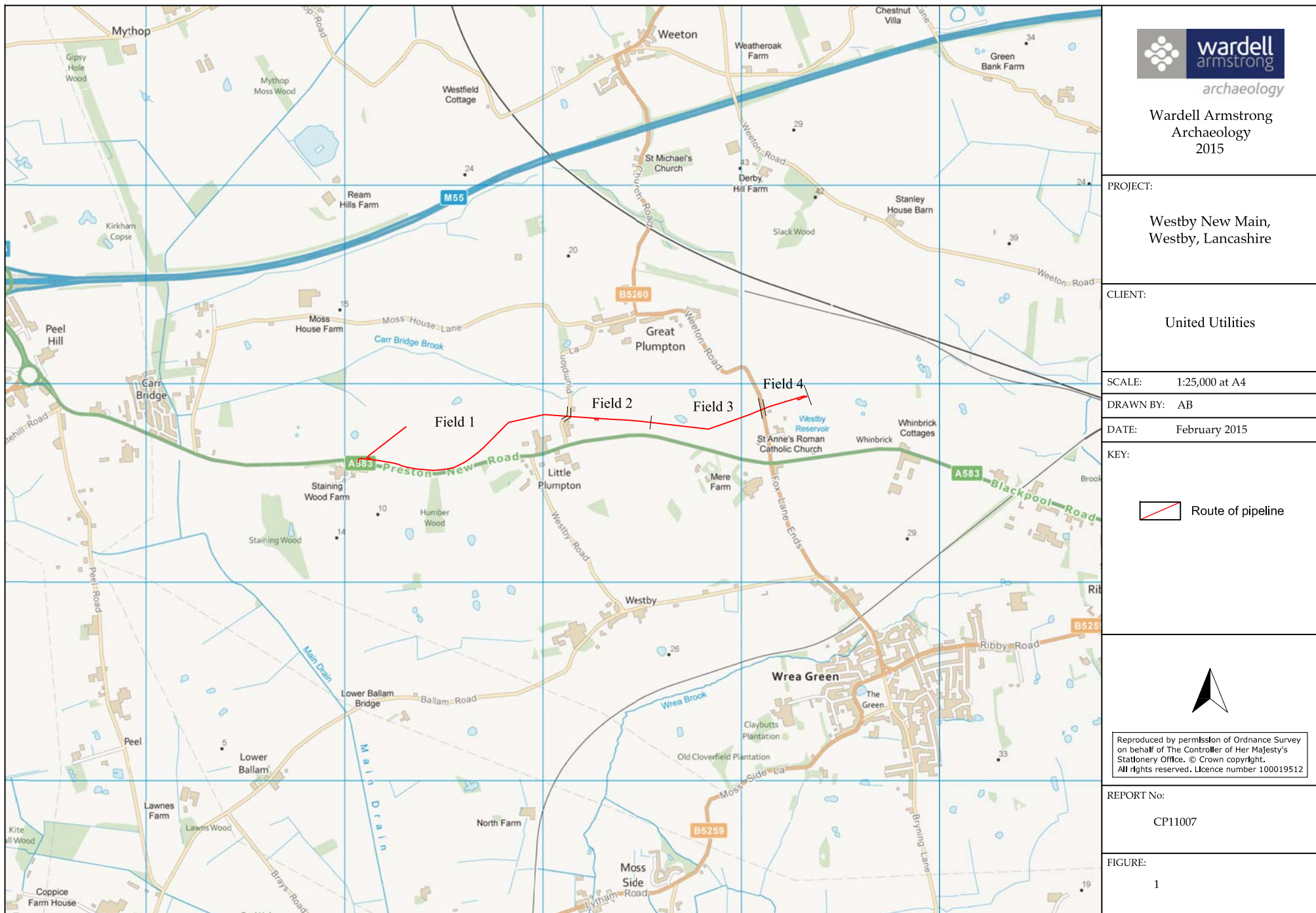


Figure 1: Site location.

STOKE-ON-TRENT
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