

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

**LONG ASHTON TO BEGGAR BUSH
TRUNK MAINS REHABILITATION SCHEME
LONG ASHTON
BRISTOL**

NGR: ST 5364 7024 - ST 5385 7108

JOB N^o: BA1118LATM



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Frontispiece: View looking southeast from the field containing evidence of medieval settlement earthworks (NGR ST 5320 7040) west of Keeds Wood Cottage, towards Keeds Lane

Report specification

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1. Non-Technical Summary

This archaeological desk-based assessment, undertaken prior to rehabilitation works on an existing water mains pipeline to the north of Long Ashton, Bristol, has identified that the pipeline route extends through a multi-period landscape of archaeological sensitivity, containing evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval settlement and land use.

- *The earthworks of a deserted medieval settlement, incorporating elements of an earlier Romano-British field system, lie approximately 95m west of the pipeline route at ST 5320 7040.*
- *Further to the north, a small section of the pipeline route extends through the western extremity of Ashton Park, a Grade II* listed historic landscape park which originated as a medieval deer hunting preserve and was extended to the west in the early 19th century.*
- *Evidence of disused post-medieval mines and quarries (chiefly of mid to late 19th century date and associated with limestone and iron ore/red ochre extraction) has been identified at several locations along the route (the closest recorded sites being located some 80-90m from the pipeline route).*
- *These disused mines and quarry features survive in a poor condition, heavily obscured by modern forestry plantation, and the possibility should be considered that unrecorded mining or quarrying features might be encountered in closer proximity to the pipeline route.*
- ***In view of the fact that the proposed scheme involves the rehabilitation of an existing water main, the route of which extends along existing public footpaths and roadways for the vast majority of its length, and the limited scope of any associated ground disturbance, the impact of any groundworks, in archaeological terms, is considered to be minimal.***

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology undertook this archaeological desk-based assessment on behalf of Bristol Water to determine the nature of the archaeological resource within the vicinity of a 2km section of water mains pipeline at Long Ashton, Bristol, prior to rehabilitation works.

The pipeline extends north from the southern end of Keeds Lane, Long Ashton (NGR ST 5364 7024), crossing a modern forestry plantation (Providence Plantation) and then proceeding northwards along Providence Lane/Longwood Lane before reaching the Beggar Bush Reservoir at NGR ST 5385 7108 (*fig.1*).

Copies of this assessment will be supplied in the first instance to Bristol Water for their consideration.

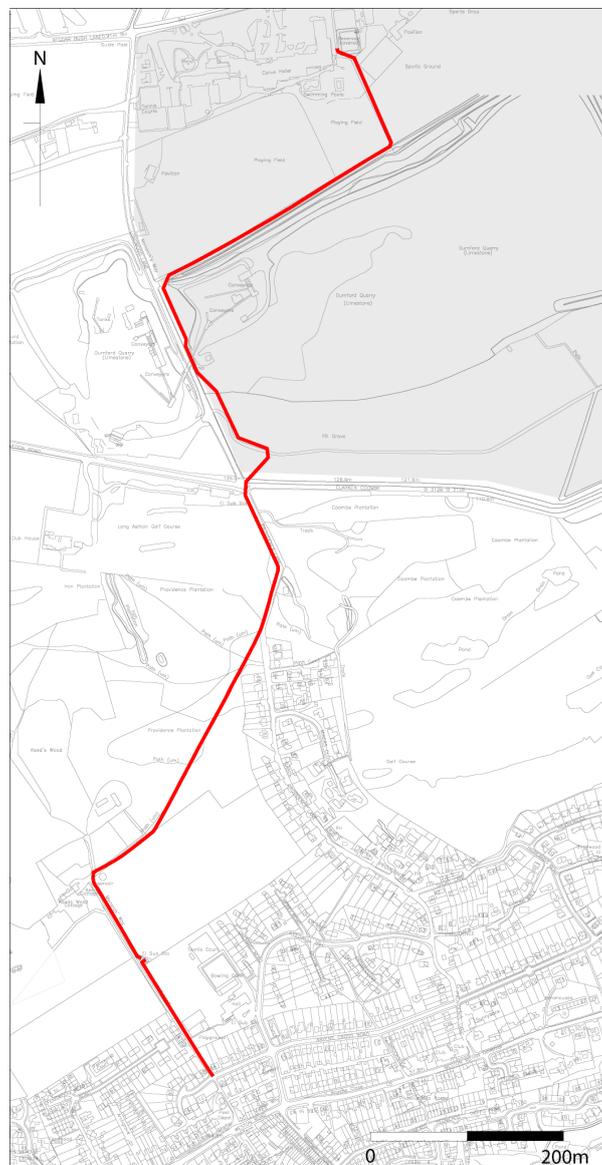


Fig.1: Site location plan showing the route of the existing water mains pipeline



2.1 Soils and Geology

The urban area of Long Ashton is classified as Unsurveyed in the Soil Survey for England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

However, two predominant soil types have been identified covering the majority of the pipeline route, consisting of:

1/Immediately north of Long Ashton, the stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the Whimple 1 series (572d) consisting of reddish fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging, overlying drift over Permo-Triassic reddish mudstone.

2/Extending from just south of Clevedon Road (B3128) to the route terminus at Beggar Bush Reservoir, the brown rankers of the CRWBIN series (313c) comprising very shallow and shallow well-drained loamy soils, often on steep slopes, overlying Carboniferous limestone.

3. Methodology

3.1 Archaeological Assessment

3.1.1 Research Aims

This archaeological desk-based assessment seeks to identify any known or potential archaeological resource within the study area and to establish its character, extent, quality and importance, within a local, regional and national context.

3.1.2 Research Methods

The research carried out for this detailed archaeological assessment consisted of the following elements:

3.1.3 Evaluation and study of archaeological databases

A search was made of the National Monuments Record (English Heritage) and the North Somerset Historic Environment Record for any sites of archaeological or historic interest in the vicinity of the study area (focused primarily on a corridor of 100m on either side of the pipeline route).

3.1.4 Evaluation and study of primary sources

Primary documentary sources relating to the study area, including estate maps, surveys and property deeds, were consulted at the Bristol Record Office and the Somerset Record Office.



3.1.5 Evaluation and study of secondary sources

Secondary sources relating to the study area were consulted using the collections held at the Bristol Record Office, Somerset Record Office and the North Somerset Historic Environment Record, including relevant articles in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society* and published and unpublished reports relating to archaeological work in the vicinity of the study area.

3.1.6 Evaluation and study of cartographic and other pictorial evidence

Historic maps of the Long Ashton area, including estate plans (dating back to the early 18th century) and Ordnance Survey 1st-4th edition maps (at scales of 1:2500 and 1:10000) relating to the study area were consulted using the collections held at the Bristol Record Office and Somerset Record Office. Collections of aerial photographs relating to the study area were consulted at the North Somerset Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record Centre.

4. Site Specific Analysis (Including Map Regression)

The specific study area comprises a 2km section of pipeline route extending north from the southern end of Keeds Lane, Long Ashton (NGR ST 5364 7024), traversing a modern forestry plantation (Providence Plantation) and then proceeding northwards along Providence Lane/Longwood Lane before reaching the Beggar Bush Reservoir at NGR ST 5385 7108.

4.1 Consultation of Archaeological Records

This section will analyse the available information from records of archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the pipeline route and discuss its implications for the nature of the archaeological resource within the study area and the likely depth and survival of significant archaeological deposits and features.

4.1.1 Prehistoric

No archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity has been identified within the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route. However, the route extends through a landscape containing evidence of relict field systems and occupation sites of Bronze Age and Iron Age date, suggestive of fairly intensive agricultural activity and settlement during this period.

A scatter of Neolithic flints recovered on the site of the Bristol and Clifton Golf Course at NGR ST 5315 7200 (HER 9855), approximately 650m northwest of the pipeline route, represents the earliest evidence of human activity recorded in the wider locality of the study area. Linear features interpreted as possible evidence of a field system of late prehistoric date has been identified within playing fields to the south of Longwood House at ST 5265 7135, approximately 1km west of the pipeline route (HER 00849).

Evidence of prehistoric agricultural activity has been identified approximately 350m southeast of the pipeline route, within fields situated immediately east of Durnford Quarry,

where aerial reconnaissance in 1933 had identified a series of broad terraces which were presumed to represent agricultural features of late prehistoric date (HER 00854).

An archaeological evaluation undertaken in this area in 1993, prior to a proposed extension to the quarry, appeared to confirm that the terraces, situated towards the eastern end of the site, formed part of a series of agricultural lynchets or cultivation features, which had been significantly eroded by later ploughing and more recent land management activity (Cross 1993). A small assemblage of worked flint was recovered from several of these features, together with a quantity of pottery, which was identified as being of probable Bronze Age date, sharing strong similarities with ceramics recovered from a settlement site at Savages Wood, Bradley Stoke (some 12km northeast of Durnford Quarry). Further evidence of prehistoric field systems has been identified to the east of this site, lying within the area of Ashton Park (Oxford Archaeological Unit 2001).

Further possible evidence of prehistoric land divisions in the wider locality of the pipeline route can be gleaned from a parliamentary enclosure plan dated 1814 detailing various waste lands and commons to be enclosed within the parish of Long Ashton (BRO 37959/46A). The plan marks a standing stone or monolith called the Hugging Stone, which stood immediately east of the junction of Beggar Bush and Longwood Lanes; it appears to have functioned as a marker denoting the boundary between the parishes of Long Ashton and Abbots Leigh to the north (Yorkston 1995). The fate of this boundary stone is unclear; it is not shown on the Long Ashton tithe map of 1842, although it is referred to as an extant boundary marker in a brief history of Abbots Leigh parish written in 1886 and the OS 1st edition map of 1884 marks a guide post in the approximate position of the standing stone.

4.1.2 Roman

Evidence of Romano-British occupation has been identified in two locations in the vicinity of the pipeline route. In January 1817, a substantial hoard of over 500 Roman silver *denarii* was discovered by workmen who were digging recently-enclosed ground on Leigh Down prior to cultivation. The description of the findspot, given by the early 19th century Bristol antiquary Samuel Seyer, appears to place it immediately to the west of Longwood Lane, within the southeast corner of the area now occupied by the western extension of Durnford Quarry (HER 847; approximate NGR ST 5356 7129). According to Seyer, the coins 'lay not more than six inches below the turf, not inclosed in any vessel', and may have been associated with 'a circular spot of black earth' located some nine or 10ft from the findspot (Seyer 1823, 165-6). Although Seyer's record of the discovered coins is probably incomplete, it appears that the hoard was deposited not later than 340 AD (based on the latest coin in the assemblage).

More substantial evidence of Romano-British occupation has been identified at the southern end of the pipeline route, comprising the remnants of a Romano-British field system located to the north of Fenswood Farm (approximately 90m west-southwest of the pipeline route), which appear to have been obscured by the earthworks of a later medieval farmstead (HER 00848; NGR ST 532 704). Located to the north and west of the farmstead earthworks is evidence of a lynchets or terrace, 2.5m high and oriented northeast-southwest, which has been interpreted as forming part of a wider field system probably established during the Romano-British period. The field containing the settlement and earlier cultivation features has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Ref. 22849); the earthworks are clearly visible on aerial photographs of the area dated 1946 and 1991; however, there is



no clear evidence to indicate an extension of the earthworks further to the east towards Keeds Lane.

It is possible that this field system may be associated with the Roman walled settlement site at Gatcombe, located approximately 550m west-southwest of the pipeline route (HER 189; SAM Ref. 22848). Excavations since 1954 have revealed a settlement displaying several phases of occupation, originating as a native Romano-British farmstead c.50-100 AD which was deserted towards the end of the 2nd century AD and then reoccupied in about 280-300 AD, with the establishment of a settlement, covering a trapezoidal area of some 7ha defended by a substantial stone wall. The settlement was abruptly abandoned in about 380 AD but subsequently appears to have been partially re-occupied as a farmstead in the early 5th century (Cunliffe 1968; Branigan 1977).

4.1.3 Medieval

The study area is located on the northern outskirts of the village of Long Ashton, first recorded in documentary sources as *Estune* in the Domesday Survey of 1086. It appears to have been a substantial estate, amounting to 20 hides, and was valued at £10 (Collinson 1791, II, 289). The estate was held by Bishop Geoffrey of Coutances in 1086 and appears subsequently to have been divided into several separate manors; the chief estate, that of Ashton Court, being acquired by the de Lyons family in the late 13th century (Collinson 1791, II, 290-91).

Archaeological evidence of medieval settlement activity has been identified towards the southern end of the pipeline route, represented by the earthworks of a deserted medieval settlement situated approximately 90m west-southwest of the route, where it runs along Keeds Lane just to the southeast of Keeds Cottage (NGR ST 5345 7054). The earthworks, which are scheduled, cover an area of some 15 acres and comprise up to six rectilinear enclosures (platform houses), with a group of three situated at the northwest end of a broad, slightly sunken holloway (6-8m wide) running northwest-southeast.

The enclosures themselves are defined by rubble banks (0.3-0.7m high), each surrounding a sunken platform. To the south, west and east of the enclosures are irregular depressions interpreted as quarries for the extraction of iron ore and white clay. Artefacts recovered from the site suggests a fairly lengthy period of occupation spanning the medieval and early post-medieval periods, with evidence of 12th-13th century ceramic sherds, together with scraps of 17th century clay pipe and 'Tiger Ware' pottery.

Another possible medieval site has been identified some 100m southeast of the southern end of the pipeline route, at Birdwell (adjacent to Lovelinch Gardens), which was reputedly the location of a well of medieval date (HER 42451). Documentary evidence for the origins of Birdwell is sparse, although it was recorded as a tenancy belonging to the estate of the Smyth family of Ashton Court as early as 1730.

A section of the pipeline route, extending for approximately 150m from NGR ST 53693 71180 to ST 53632 71310 along the eastern side of Longwood Lane, runs adjacent to (and partially within) the westernmost boundary of Ashton Park, a Grade II* registered historic park. Ashton Park originated as a medieval deer hunting preserve attached to the nearby manor house of Ashton Court that was enclosed by Thomas de Lyons in 1391, under a licence granted by King Richard II. Cartographic evidence, in particular a map of the Ashton



Court estate dated 1765, shows that the western boundary of the medieval deer park lay some distance to the east of Longwood Lane and it was not until the early 19th century that the Park was extended to the west, with the enclosure of a large area of unenclosed common land known as Ashton Hill.

An archaeological survey of Ashton Park undertaken in 2001 identified a series of probable medieval landscape features, including park boundary banks, pillow mounds, trackways and relict cultivation features (including lynchets and ridge-and-furrow); however, these appear to be concentrated almost exclusively within the central and eastern parts of the Park (Oxford Archaeology 2001). No evidence of landscape features associated with the medieval park (eg. park pales or rabbit warrens) has been identified in the vicinity of the pipeline route.

4.1.4 Post-Medieval

Post-medieval industrial extractive features (eg. quarries, limekilns) comprise the majority of the features recorded in the vicinity of the pipeline route, reflecting the intensive exploitation of this area for limestone and iron ore from the 17th century up to the present day (as represented by the existing Durnford Quarry, the site of which extends along both sides of Longwood Lane).

A quarry site of post-medieval date is recorded to the northeast of Fenn's Wood, approximately 250m northwest of the pipeline route at NGR ST 5321 7068 (HER 43860). Further to the northeast, a 300m section of pipeline route extends through a modern forestry plantation, to the northwest of which is an extensive complex of 19th century ironstone and ochre mining features (HER 2205). These mining features appear to be chiefly centred on ST 5351 7090, approximately 140m east of Providence Lane and probably correspond to the 'quarries' marked on the OS 1st edition map of 1884, which are recorded as disused by no later than 1903. Although almost completely obscured by dense woodland and undergrowth, evidence for mining features is still traceable, consisting of overgrown mounds (presumably spoil tips), quarry faces and a number of shafts. The pipeline route extends along a modern footpath running northeast from Keeds Cottage to Providence Lane directly through the forestry plantation, approximately 90m southeast of the main concentration of mining features (at its closest point).

However, an RAF vertical aerial photograph taken in 1946, before the establishment of the forestry plantation west of Providence Lane, appears to show evidence of ground disturbance suggestive of mining or quarrying activity further to the south. This appears to be confirmed by a recent survey of caving/mining sites in the local area, which identified two sites within the forestry plantation, comprising subterranean mine workings (apparently associated with a red ochre mine) at NGR ST 5370 7070 and the blocked remains of an adit to the west, possibly associated with the nearby ochre mine, at NGR ST 5356 7087 (Richards & Harding 2006).

These two sites are not recorded in existing archaeological datasets and are not marked on the OS 1st-3rd edition maps or earlier historic mapping of the area (dating back to c.1765), which suggests either that they date from before c.1765 or that their active lifespan lies within a period not covered by the historic mapping (possibly between c.1865 and 1885). The pipeline route appears to run approximately 90m northwest of the entrance to the mine workings at ST 5370 7070 while the adit entrance at ST 5353 7087 appears to be situated

approximately 100m west-northwest of the pipeline. While these mine workings appear to be situated at some distance from the pipeline route, the possibility that further evidence of unrecorded mining or quarrying features might be encountered close to the route cannot be discounted.

Another area of extensive ironstone/ochre mining is recorded at ST 5384 7105 (HER 43848) approximately 80m southeast of the pipeline route where it crosses the junction of Providence Lane and Clevedon Road (B3128). These mine workings, which lie within the boundaries of Long Ashton Golf Course, were apparently filled-in during the early 1960s following an accident; they may be identified with an extensive area of quarries to the east of Providence Lane first marked on the OS 1st edition map of 1885.

Evidence of Second World War military fortifications has been recorded in two locations in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route along Longwood Lane. These consist of a loopholed wall of concrete and stone, constructed in 1940-1 at the corner of Providence Lane and the B3128 road, and a similar loopholed wall built at the same date on the east side of Longwood Lane at the junction with a track to Leigh Dyke (HER 42240; 42241). Both walls were recorded as being extant and in good condition in 2001 (Defence of Britain Project 2001).

4.2 Documentary Study and Map Regression

4.2.1 c. 1700-1800

A significant body of documentary and cartographic evidence exists regarding the study area, much of which is contained within the records of the Smyth family of Ashton Court, whose extensive estates to the west of Bristol centred on the manor of Long Ashton, which was purchased by Sir John Smyth in 1545 and remained in the possession of the Smyth family until 1947.

The earliest surviving map of Long Ashton manor (BRO AC/PL/86), drawn up in 1765 on the basis of an earlier survey compiled in 1730 (BRO AC/M/11/32), shows that only the southernmost part of the study area (extending roughly northeast from Keeds Lane towards present-day Providence Lane) was enclosed at that point (*fig.2*). The course of Keeds Lane is clearly depicted on the 1765 map continuing northwards towards two houses, which appear roughly to correspond with the locations of present-day Keeds Cottage and Keeds Wood Cottage.



*Fig. 2: Extract from a plan of Ashton Court estate dated 1765 (based on an earlier survey of 1730)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Bristol Record Office)*

The pattern of field enclosure to the west of Keeds Lane, as shown on the 1765 map, is somewhat different from its present appearance; the large irregular field containing the remains of a possible medieval settlement and earlier field system is shown as divided into two separate enclosures, called 'Upper' and 'Middle Rowins'. The 1765 map shows the boundaries of these two enclosures as somewhat more regular compared to their present appearance and no indication is given of any relict earthwork features or quarries.

To the east of Keeds Cottage, the pipeline route runs due east along part of the northern boundary of a large, irregular arable field that is shown on the 1765 estate map as 'Newmans'. The eastern boundary of this field, abutting the edge of a vast tract of unenclosed common land on Ashton Hill, is highly irregular and meandering, possibly reflecting a natural feature such as a stream bed or perhaps an earlier field system; this field boundary appears to have been regularised when Providence Lane was laid out c.1813-14.

The 1765 map shows that the central and northern parts of the study area then lay within a large area of unenclosed common land known as Ashton Hill, extending roughly from Ashton Park in the east (the western boundary of does not yet appear to have extended as far as Longwood Lane) to Wraxhall in the west. The extent of this substantial swathe of open common at Ashton Hill is shown as essentially unchanged on a late 18th century estate map (BRO AC/PL/94) and it remained intact until the early 19th century, when it was enclosed by Act of Parliament, as shown on a draft enclosure plan dated 1814.



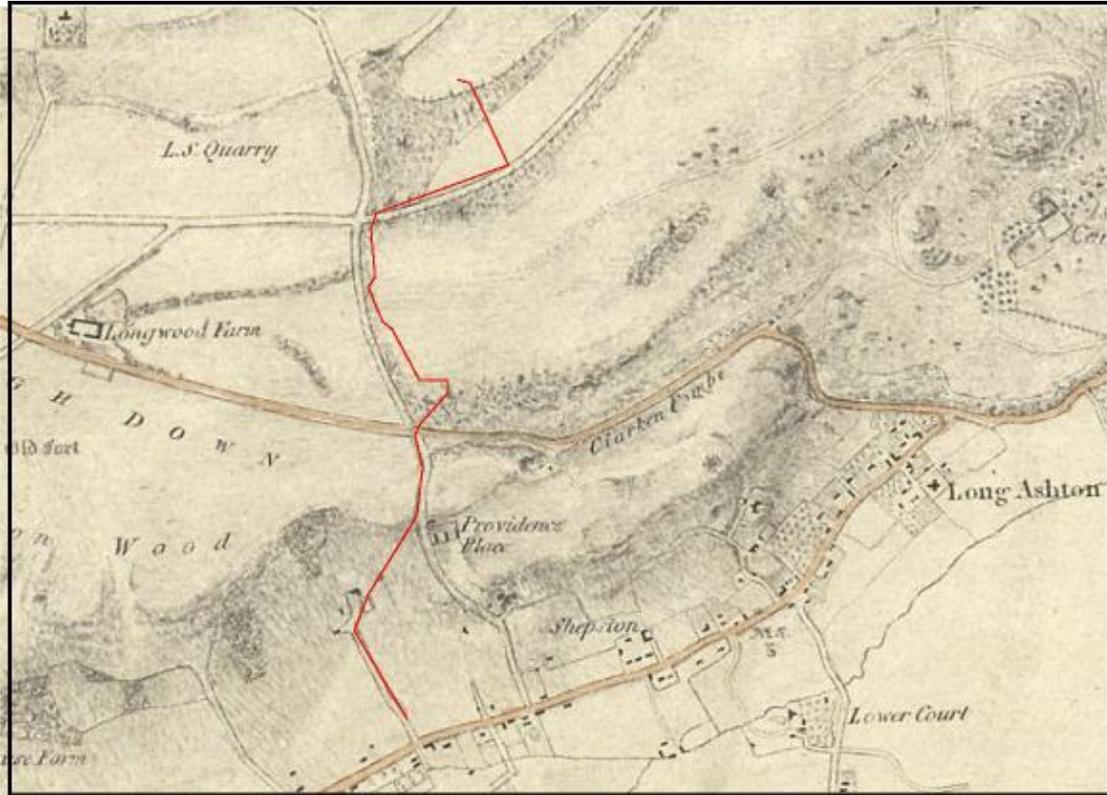
Fig. 3: Extract from a draft enclosure plan for Long Ashton parish dated 1814
 (Reproduced by courtesy of the Bristol Record Office)

4.2.2 c. 1800-1900

The enclosure plan of 1814 (BRO 37959/46A) is the earliest map to show the course of Providence Lane and its northward continuation, Longwood Lane and the present-day B3128 (Clevedon Road) running east-west, essentially on their present alignments (*fig.3*). Along the eastern side of Providence Lane, the enclosure map shows a series of small, regular strips of land which would appear to represent the nucleus of the 19th century hamlet, subsequently known as Providence. The same plan also depicts a series of large rectangular plots extending to the west of Providence Lane, along the southern side of the Clevedon Road, which would subsequently become a focus for industrial extractive activity, specifically limestone quarrying and iron ore mining. Further northwards, the enclosure plan marks the land to the east of Longwood Lane as 'Sir Hugh Smyth's new inclosure'; this would appear to have represented a substantial westward expansion of Ashton Park from the nucleus of the original medieval deer park, its westernmost boundary being defined by Longwood Lane.

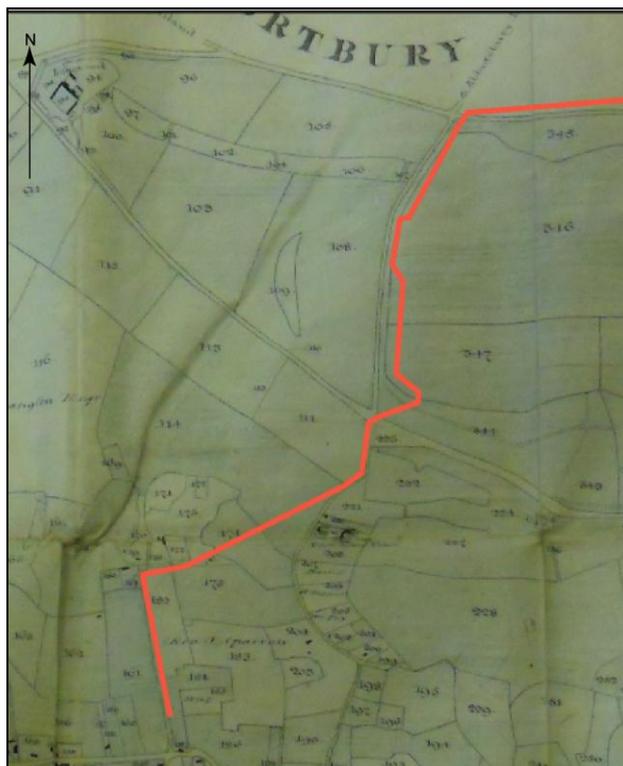
An OS surveyor's drawing of 1826 (*fig.4*), together with two detailed parish maps of Long Ashton dated 1826 and 1842 (the latter being the tithe map), a plan of the Ashton Court estate dated 1865 and the OS 1st edition map of 1884, illustrate the gradual development of the pattern of enclosure and settlement in the vicinity of the study area, together with the steady growth of mining and quarrying activity during the course of the 19th century.

The 1826 drawing, by Lieut. R. Dawson (at a scale of two inches to the mile) shows an initial growth of settlement at 'Providence', focused on a cluster of cottages collectively called 'Providence Place', situated on the eastern side of what would later be known as Providence Lane, which appear to have been the earliest houses in the neighbourhood and which gave their name to the surrounding settlement.

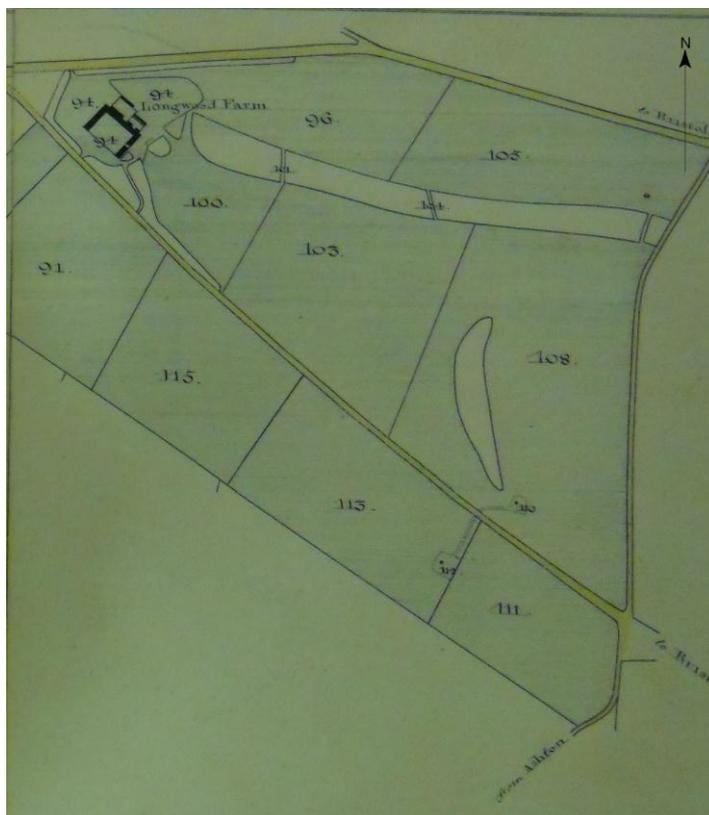


*Fig. 4: Extract from an Ordnance Survey drawing by Lieut. R. Dawson (1826)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Somerset Record Office)*

The 1826 parish map (BRO AC/PL/105), which contains a much greater level of detail than the OS drawing, shows that several cottages had also been erected to the south of Providence Place, occupying the plots marked on the enclosure map of 1814 (fig. 5).



*Fig. 5: Extract from a plan of Long Ashton parish dated 1826
(Reproduced by courtesy of Bristol Record Office)*



*Fig.6: Plan of an estate belonging to William Shaw, contained in the Long Ashton survey of 1826
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Bristol Record Office)*



The growth of this settlement was closely linked to the expansion of quarrying activity in this area. Although it is likely that limestone had been quarried in the locality since the medieval period, quarrying for limestone, iron ore and red ochre intensified steadily during the early to mid 19th century. A more detailed plan contained in the terrier accompanying the 1826 parish map, of an estate belonging to one William Shaw (*fig.6*), depicts two limekilns linked by a road, probably associated with adjacent quarry sites and situated within recently-enclosed plots of land (marked as Nos. 108 and 113) to the west of Longwood Lane on either side of Clevedon Road, with another limekiln situated further east, just to the south of the boundary of Ashton Park.

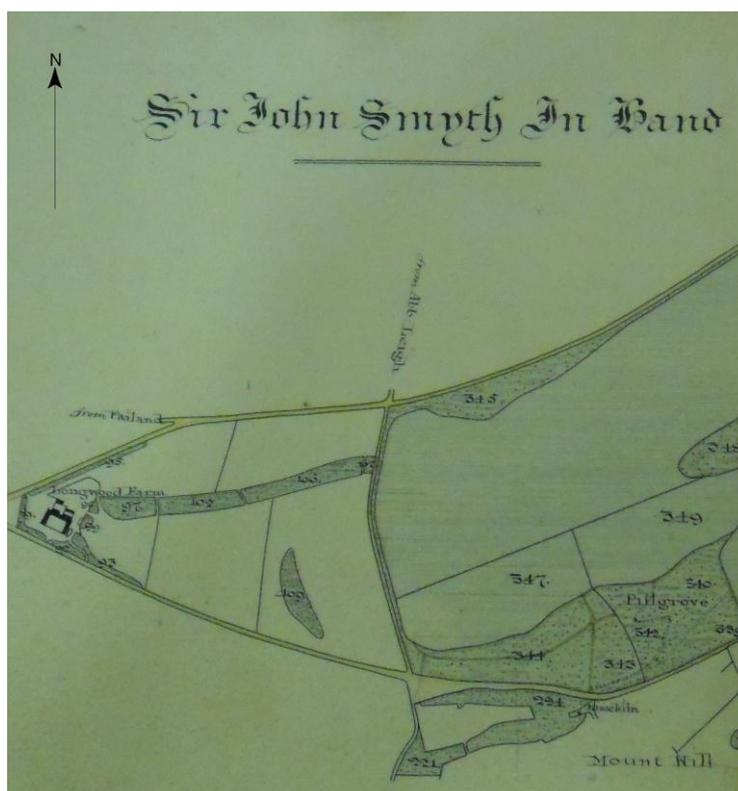


Fig. 7: Plan of an estate belonging to Sir John Smyth at Ashton Court contained in the Long Ashton survey of 1826, showing extensive landscaping activity to the E of Longwood Lane (Reproduced by courtesy of the Bristol Record Office)

Another detailed plan contained in the parish survey of 1826, this time of the estate of Sir John Smyth at Ashton Court (*fig.7*), shows that the recent extension to Ashton Park, its western boundary marked by Longwood Lane and its southern boundary by the Clevedon Road, had been extensively landscaped. An extensive belt of woodland had been planted, extending west from the New Barn to Longwood Lane, bordered to the north by large rectilinear pasture enclosures. No obvious evidence of quarrying activity is visible at this time to the west of Longwood Lane; however, further to the southeast, there is evidence of quarrying activity to the south of Clevedon Road, indicated by the presence of a limekiln.

The Long Ashton parish tithe map of 1842 (*fig. 8*) appears to show relatively little change to the overall pattern of enclosure within the study area; however, significant changes had taken place in terms of land use and settlement, with a rapid expansion in industrial extractive activity and an accompanying growth in settlement at Providence.



By the early 1840s, it appears that a substantial plot of land adjoining the west side of Providence Lane, immediately to the south of Clevedon Road, had been appropriated for the extraction of iron ore and red ochre. The Long Ashton tithe apportionment of 1842 marks three recently-enclosed rectilinear plots to the west of Providence Lane as 'Iron Pit Grounds' (one of which was formerly occupied by a limekiln as shown on the 1826 parish survey), clearly indicating that these plots were now being exploited for the mining of iron ore.

There is extant evidence for quarrying and mining features within the area covered by these plots, now largely obscured by a modern woodland plantation, which were almost certainly associated with iron ore and red ochre extraction. The complex of mines and quarries in this particular area appears to have been especially intensively worked during the period c.1850-80; they are still shown as extant on the OS 1st edition map of 1884 and appear to have remained in use until the early 20th century. Also of interest is the fact that the plot of land immediately to the north of 'Iron Pit Grounds' on the west side of Longwood Lane is listed in the tithe apportionment as containing a limekiln and quarry; this appears to be the earliest evidence for limestone quarrying activity in the area now occupied by Durnford Quarry.



*Fig. 8; Extract from the Long Ashton tithe map of 1842
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Somerset Record Office)*

The 1842 tithe map (*fig.8*) also shows significant settlement growth at Providence, from being only a small cluster of cottages, as shown on the 1826 map, the number of dwellings had increased to at least 15, consisting of a mixture of small detached cottages and clusters of terraced houses, several of which have survived in the vicinity of the Miners Arms public house (which itself appears originally to have been a miner's cottage).

A plan of the Ashton Court estate at Long Ashton, dated 1865 (BRO AC/PL/126) (*fig. 9*), shows relatively little change to the overall pattern of enclosure, apart from the establishment of a belt of woodland called The Brake, located to the north and northwest of Keeds Cottage. There is also some evidence to indicate a possible decline or shift in the focus of mining/quarrying activity. The fields marked as 'Iron Pit Grounds' on the 1842 tithe map to the east of Providence Lane are recorded in 1865 as being under arable and pasture, with a small narrow belt of woodland (Plot No. 408) marked as 'Iron Plantation', which may be identified as the location for the most significant recorded concentration of iron ore mining and quarrying features in this area.



*Fig. 9: Extract from the plan of Long Ashton manor dated 1865
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Bristol Record Office)*

The OS 1st edition map of 1884 (*fig. 10*) appears to show relatively little change in the overall pattern of enclosure or the extent of settlement growth at Providence, which appears to



have remained more or less unaltered since 1865, apart from the fact that the 1884 map specifically marks the location of a nonconformist ‘brethren’ chapel in the settlement.

However, the 1884 map is of particular importance as it provides the earliest accurate depiction of the extent of the quarry features in the vicinity of the study area. To the west of Providence Lane, the OS 1st edition map shows a complex of mining/ quarrying features situated within ‘Iron Plantation’ and extending to the south and southeast of the woodland plantation. No industrial extractive features are depicted further to the south, although the 1884 map does show a network of trackways extending to the south of Iron Plantation that may have been associated with mining or quarrying activity. To the east of Providence Lane, close to the junction with Clevedon Road (B3128), the 1884 map shows an extensive complex of quarry features extending to the east and southeast, while further north the quarry site located on the western side of Longwood Lane appears to have experienced steady growth, with at least two limekilns marked to the south of the quarry itself.

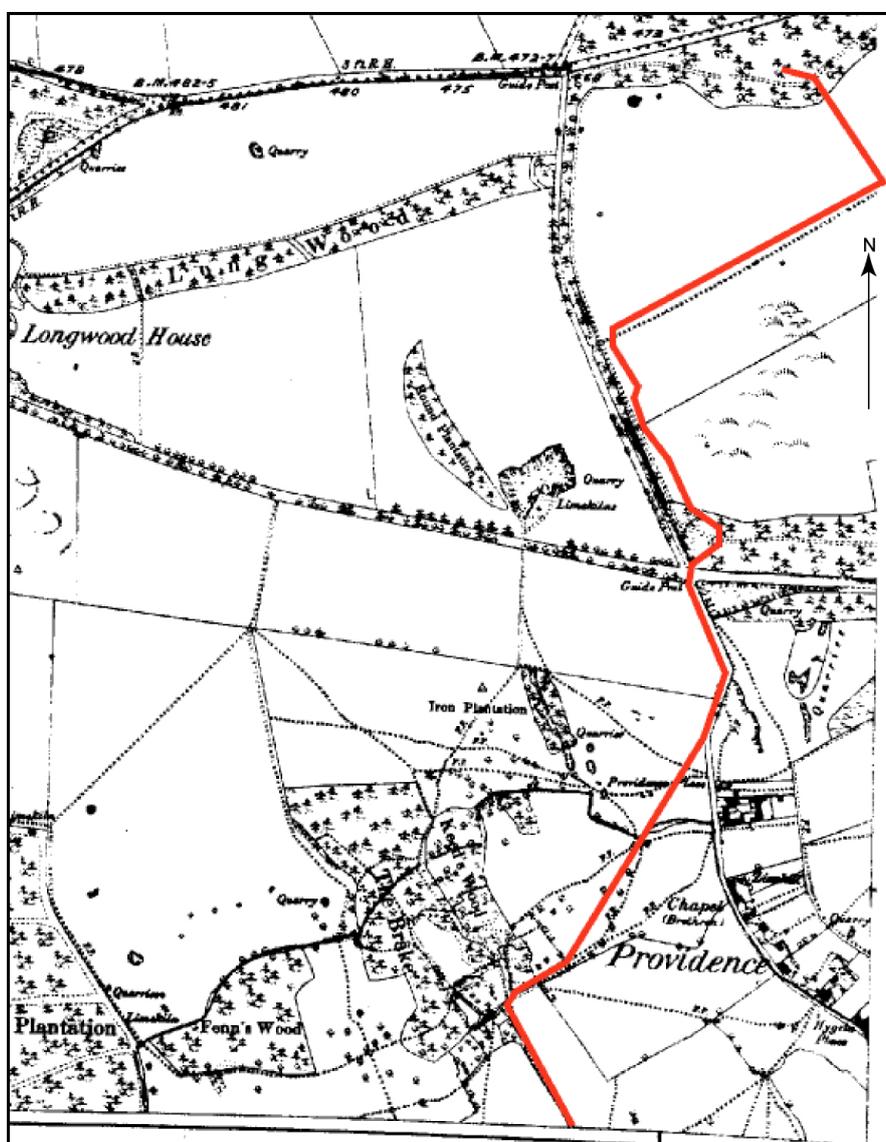


Fig. 10: Extract from the OS 1st edition 6-inch map of 1884
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Somerset Record Office)



4.2.3 c. 1900 to present

Comparison between the OS 1st edition map of 1884 and the OS 2nd edition map of 1904 (Fig. 11) reveals that there had been little alteration to the overall pattern of enclosure, with the exception of the northernmost tip of the study area, immediately to the southeast of the junction of Longwood Lane and Beggar Bush Lane, where a house marked as 'The Bungalow' had been erected, lying within a roughly oblong semi-wooded enclosure (the site of which is now occupied by the Corus Hotel and Fitness Club).

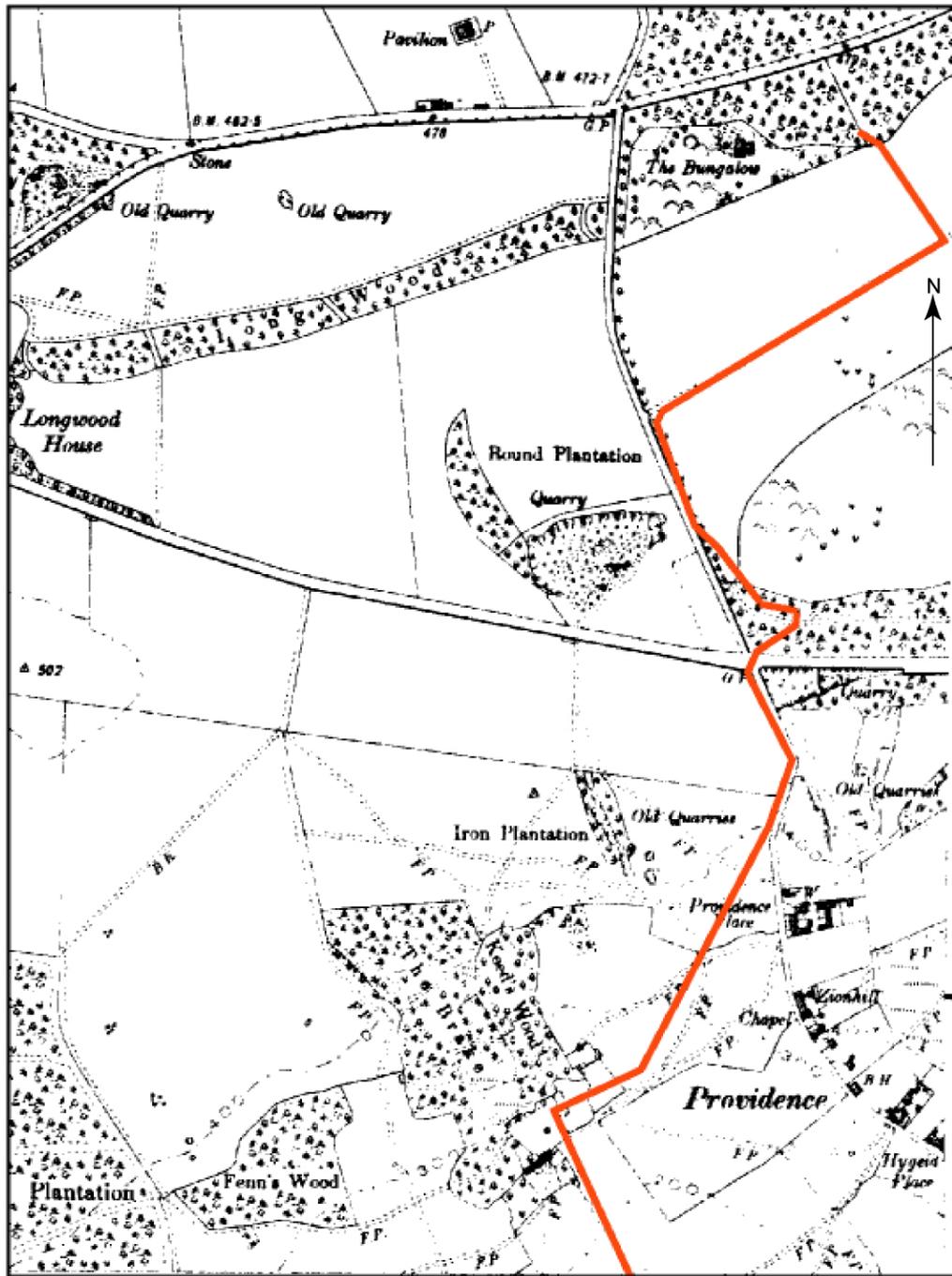
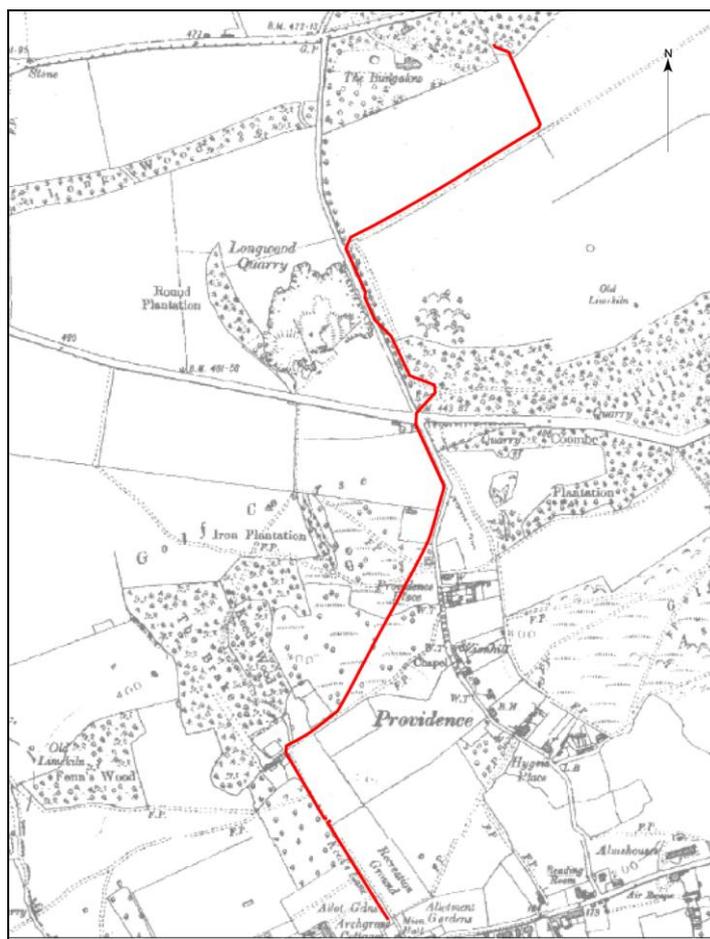


Fig. 11: Extract from the OS 2nd edition 6-inch map of 1904
 (Reproduced by courtesy of the Somerset Record Office)



The extent of the settlement at Providence also appears to have remained largely unchanged during the intervening 20 years. However, the complex of ironstone mines/quarries to the west of Providence, still shown as operational on the 1884 map, are marked as 'old quarries' on the 2nd edition map, indicating that they had fallen out of use before 1904. To the east of Providence Lane, part of the extensive ironstone quarry sites immediately to the north of Providence Place marked on the 1884 map are shown as disused by 1904, although one quarry, situated immediately south of the present B3128 road, still appears to have remained in use. Further to the north, the limestone quarry to the western side of Longwood Lane (which forms the nucleus of the existing Durnford Quarry site) is shown on the 1904 map as having been considerably enlarged and extended to the west.

A later OS map of 1932 (*fig. 12*) depicts some changes to the pattern of enclosure in the southern part of the study area, with allotments established on the west side of Keeds Lane and a recreation ground on the eastern side. The allotments may be associated with the Long Ashton horticultural research station established by Bristol University at Fenswood Farm in 1903; a substantial plot land extending north of Keeds Lane and to the west of Providence Lane was acquired by the university during the first half of the 20th century. The area occupied by the Long Ashton Golf Course (founded in 1903) also appears to have increased during the period 1904-32, gradually encroaching upon the fields to the east and west of Providence Lane



*Fig. 12: Extract from the OS 3rd edition 6-inch map of 1932
 (Reproduced by courtesy of Somerset Record Office)*

The disused ironstone quarries to the west of Providence are not specifically marked on the 1932 map, although the main concentration of quarry features is still traceable. The field enclosure to the south of these quarry features (now occupied by Providence Plantation comprising a tract of modern forestry) appears to be marked as disturbed ground, although the network of footpaths crossing this area shown on the 1884 and 1904 maps seem to have disappeared by the early 1930s.

To the east of Providence Lane, the extensive quarry complex north of Providence Place is not marked, although the extent of the quarry area, bounded on its north, south and east sides by a forestry plantation, is clearly delineated and some quarry features still appear to be visible. The quarry located immediately southeast of the junction of Providence Lane and the B3128 road is marked on the 1932 map and still appears to be in use at that time. Another feature worthy of note is the rapid expansion of the limestone quarry site to the west of Longwood Lane, marked as 'Longwood Quarry' on the 1932 map, which had extended considerably to the north and west since 1904.

The disposal of the Ashton Court estate after 1947 led to significant changes to the landscape within the study area, most notably the enlargement of the Long Ashton Golf Course in 1957 to cover a substantial area on both sides of Providence Lane and to the southeast of Providence. This considerable extension of the golf course area is depicted on the OS 6-inch map of 1961; at that date some of the field boundaries within the golf course (dating from the enclosure of the Ashton Hill common in 1841) were still intact; however, these appear to have been largely removed by the mid 1970s. The 1961 map also shows extensive allotments extending along both sides of Keeds Lane, in the southern part of the study area, which are also shown on an RAF vertical photograph of the area dated 1946. The extent of the limestone quarry to the west of Longwood Lane appears to have remained unchanged from that shown on the 1932 OS map.

Further significant change to the landscape pattern within the study area occurred from the late 1960s onwards, as shown on an OS 1:10000 plan dated 1977. To the west of Providence Lane, what had formerly been an area of disturbed open ground associated with mine working and quarrying activity, had been covered by a dense forestry plantation (Providence Plantation) established in the early 1970s.

The 1977 map also shows a significant growth in house-building activity along the western side of Providence Lane, while the limestone quarry to the north of the B3128, marked as 'Durnford Quarry', had been considerably expanded to the east and is shown as covering a substantial area on both sides of Longwood Lane. During the late 1990s, further housing development appears to have taken place within the hamlet of Providence, which has nevertheless managed to retain some of its distinctive character as a 19th century industrial settlement on the northern outskirts of Long Ashton.

5. Site Visit

A site visit was carried out on July 28th 2011 to assess the potential for extant archaeology on the site. The route of the pipeline was rapidly traversed and a photographic record was taken from key vantage points along the route. Evidence of possible mining or quarrying activity of probable 19th or early 20th century date was observed in close proximity to a short stretch of the pipeline route where it briefly extended along the western edge of Ashton Park. However, no other archaeological features were noted in the near vicinity of the pipeline route.



Plate 1: View looking east along trackway within woodland plantation of western fringes of Ashton Park



6. Conclusion

This archaeological assessment, based on a detailed consideration of documentary records, historic mapping and aerial photography, as well as sources of archaeological information held at the North Somerset Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record, has identified that the pipeline route extends through an archaeologically sensitive, multi-period landscape containing evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval settlement and land use.

The scheduled earthworks of a deserted medieval settlement, incorporating elements of an earlier Romano-British field system, lie approximately 95m west of the pipeline route, while further to the north, a small section of the pipeline route extends through the western part of Ashton Park, a Grade II* listed historic landscape park, which originated as a medieval deer hunting preserve and was extended to the west in the early 19th century.

No landscape features associated with the park or relict cultivation features of prehistoric, Romano-British or medieval date predating the park were identified in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route, which suggests that the likelihood of encountering such features should be regarded as low. However, the discovery of a Roman coin hoard on the site of present-day Durnford Quarry, apparently in close proximity to the pipeline route, indicates that the possibility of encountering evidence of Romano-British or earlier occupation cannot entirely be disregarded.

Evidence of post-medieval mining and quarrying activity (associated with the industrial extraction of limestone, iron ore and red ochre) has been recorded in several locations in relatively close proximity to the route, reflecting the intensive exploitation of the mineral resources in this area, particularly during the mid to late 19th century. It is possible that further, unrecorded evidence of mining or quarrying activity might well be encountered in close proximity to the pipeline route, although any extant remains of 19th century industrial extractive activity are likely to have been heavily disturbed and are viewed as being of low archaeological importance.

However, it should be emphasised that the proposed scheme involves the rehabilitation of an existing water main, the route of which extends along existing public footpaths and roadways for the vast majority of its length. In view of the limited nature of the archaeological resource in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route and the restricted scope of any ground disturbance associated with the rehabilitation works, the impact of these works, in archaeological terms, is viewed as being minimal.

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9. Cartography

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AC/PL/10 Sketch plan: Measure of lands at Long Ashton, Bishford and Knole, belonging to Sir J.H.Smythe - 1784

AC/PL/94 Plan of the manor of Long Ashton – undated late 18th c.

37959/46A: Plan of lands to be enclosed within the parish of Long Ashton - 1814

AC/PL/105 Map of manor of Long Ashton - 1826

AC/PL/119 Map of parish of Long Ashton - 1841

AC/PL/126 Map of the parish of Long Ashton prepared for Sir J.H. Greville Smyth, bart– 1865

9.2 Somerset Record Office

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OS 3rd edition 6 inch map (Somerset 5 NE) - 1932

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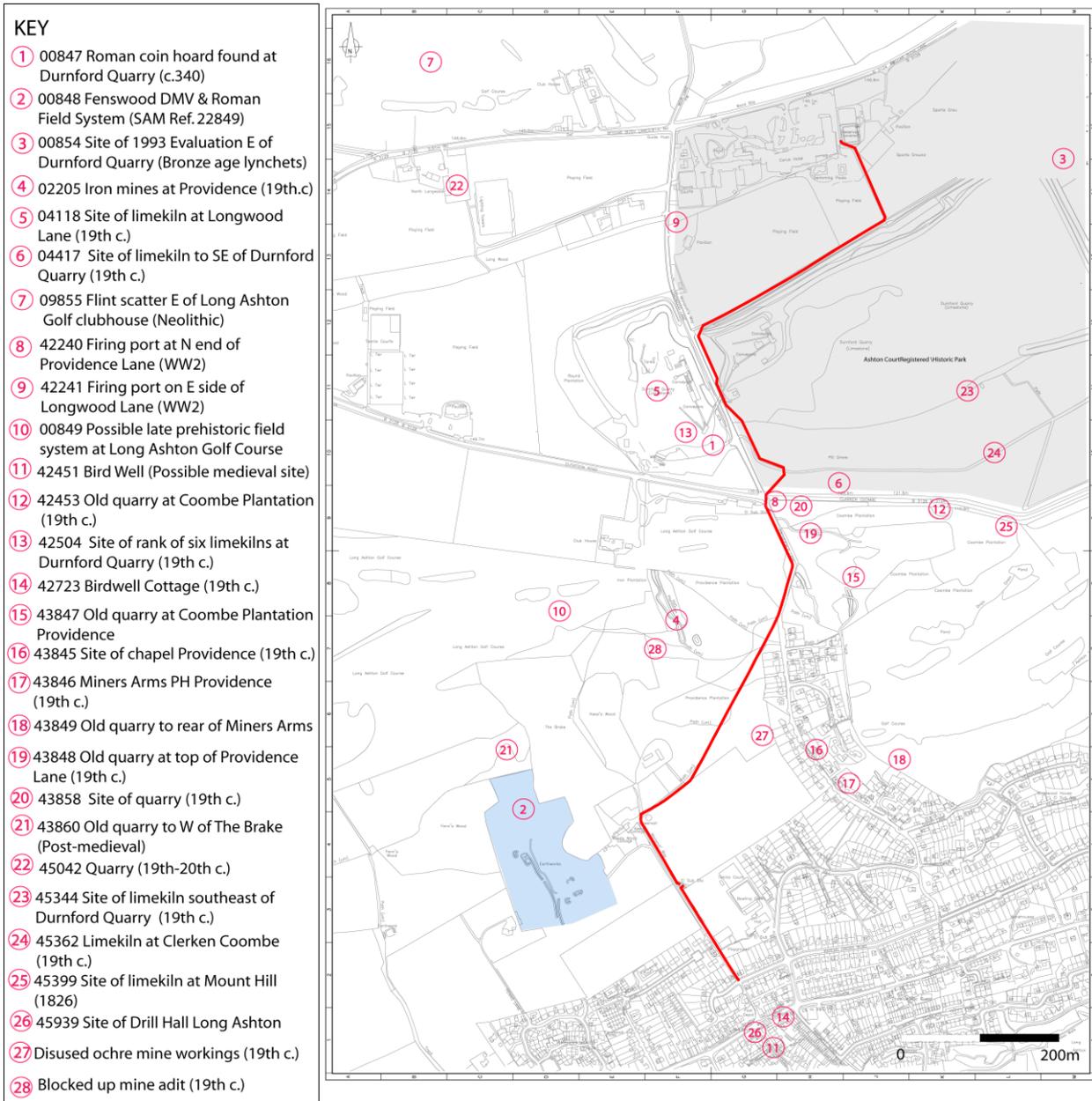


OS 1:10000 map – 1977

9.3 Aerial Photographic Records

Aerial photographic records, including RAF and OS vertical and oblique photographs of the study area dating back to 1946, were consulted at the North Somerset Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record Centre.

10. Appendix 1: Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites in the vicinity of the pipeline route (NGR ST 5364 7024 –ST 5385 7028)





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