

RAPID APPRAISAL OF ENGINEERING IMPACT

(on behalf of Bristol Water)

WARREN LANE
LONG ASHTON
NORTH SOMERSET

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Report specification

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Executive Summary

This Rapid Appraisal in response to a request from Bristol Water in advance of impending engineering works has identified that the proposed route comprises two sections only of a new water main extending both along and to the E of Warren Lane, on the eastern edge of the settlement of Long Ashton and approximately 100m SE of the eastern boundary of the Roman walled settlement and associated field system at Gatcombe (designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument).

Earthworks possibly representing field enclosures associated with a deserted medieval settlement at Fenswood have also been identified in the field immediately to the N of the study area.

The potential for encountering archaeological deposits and features on the route of the proposed pipeline has therefore been assessed as **moderate**, based on the fact that, while the two sections of pipeline considered here are limited in length, they are located in relatively close proximity to the Roman settlement at Gatcombe and earthworks possibly associated with a deserted medieval settlement and field system.

Conclusion: Border Archaeology thus concludes that archaeological observation of the groundworks is appropriate if an open-cut trenching methodology is used but is unlikely to be of benefit if directional drilling technique is adopted due to the relative paucity and dimensions of the access pits.

A copy of this Appraisal will be supplied to Bristol Water and remitted to North Somerset Council for their approval.

1. Introduction

The study area consists of two new sections of water main to be installed in Warren Lane, Long Ashton to make supplies available for a new housing development. Section 1 extends for approximately 45m along Warren Lane, extending NW of the junction with Weston Road. Section 2 extends along a stretch of new road (approximately 60m in length) to the E of Warren Lane (*fig. 1*).

Evaluation and study of archaeological databases

A search was made of the North Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) for any sites of archaeological or historic interest within a 200m corridor (100m on either side of the pipeline route).

Evaluation and study of primary sources

Primary documentary sources relating to the study area, where deemed necessary, were consulted at Bristol Record Office and Somerset Heritage Centre

Evaluation and study of secondary sources

Secondary sources relating to the study area were consulted using the collections held at the Bristol Record Office and Somerset Heritage Centre, including relevant articles in the *Proceedings of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society*, as well as published and unpublished reports relating to archaeological work in the vicinity of the study area.

Evaluation and study of cartographic and other pictorial evidence

Historic maps dating back to 1765 including estate maps of Long Ashton and the 1841 tithe map and apportionment for Long Ashton parish were consulted at Bristol Record Office and Somerset Heritage Centre. Copies of the Ordnance Survey 1st-4th edition 6 inch and 25 inch maps and later OS 1:2500 and 1:10000 scale maps (c.1960 to present) were obtained from the Somerset Heritage Centre.

Aerial photographic records, including vertical and oblique photos ranging from the late 1940s to the present day, were consulted at Somerset Heritage Centre.

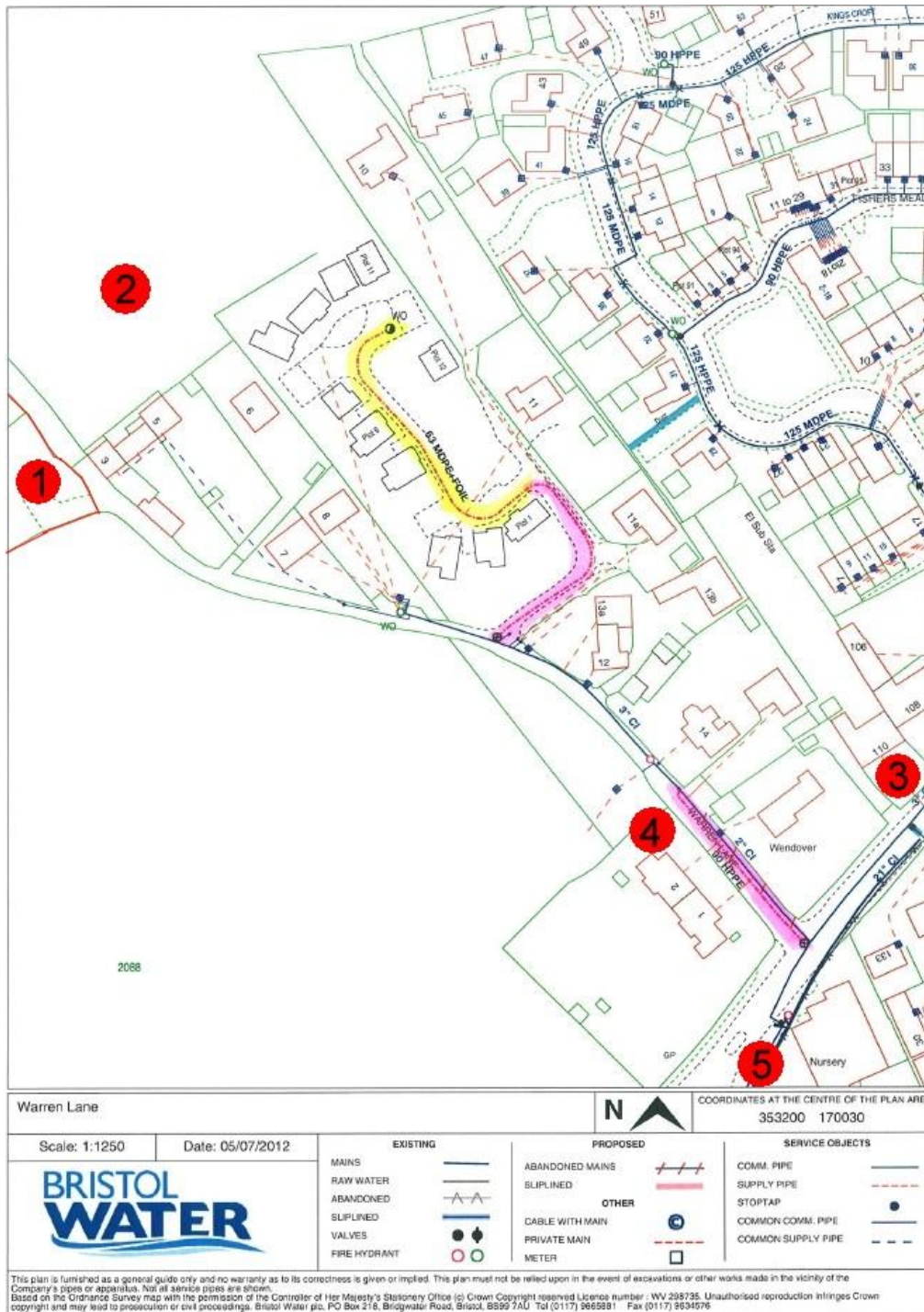


Fig. 1: Plan showing pipeline route (marked in pink) and location of sites listed in the North Somerset Historic Environment Record within the pipeline corridor

1/HER 189: Roman walled settlement at Gatcombe and associated field system (extent of Scheduled Ancient Monument denoted in red)

2/HER 42423: Linear earthworks possibly field boundaries of medieval origin

3/HER 42421: No. 110 Weston Road, Grade II listed house of late 18th-early 19th c. date

4/HER 46034: Site of WWII Anderson shelter to rear of No. 2 Warren Lane

5/HER 42422: Milestone at junction of Weston Road and Wild Country Lane of early 19th c. date

2. Assessment

The proposed route comprises two sections of a water mains pipeline extending both along and to the E of Warren Lane, on the eastern outskirts of Long Ashton, a settlement of medieval origin first recorded as 'Estune' in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Consultation of the North Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) identified two areas of significant archaeological interest in the vicinity of the route, namely a Roman walled settlement and associated field system at Gatcombe (HER 189; SAM Ref. 22848) and a series of earthworks of possible medieval date to the E of Warren Lane (HER 42423)

The pipeline route lies (at its closest point) approximately 90m SE of the Scheduled Area of the Roman walled settlement site and associated field system at Gatcombe. Excavations on the site 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. A period of reoccupation occurred 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 380AD but subsequently appears to have been partially re-occupied as a farmstead in the early 5th century (Cunliffe 1968; Branigan 1977).

Extending to the N and E of the walled settlement at Gatcombe (within the fields immediately W of Warren Lane) are the remains of an extensive field system of probable Romano-British date, comprising a series of lynchets up to 2m high with field banks ranging from 0.3-0.6m in height (HER 842).

Approximately 80m N of the pipeline route, the North Somerset HER records a series of earthworks in the field immediately to the NE of the recent residential development at Warren Lane, consisting of linear depressions and banks which are visible on aerial photographs of the area. It has been suggested that these earthworks represent an extension of a deserted medieval settlement and associated field boundaries (incorporating components of an earlier, Romano-British field system) at Fenswood (HER 848), located approximately 300m NE of the pipeline route (Newns, 2009). However, it is possible that some of these earthworks could also be associated with the lynchet features visible in the fields immediately to the W of Warren Lane.

Only three other sites are recorded in the North Somerset HER in the vicinity of the route, all of which are of post-medieval/modern date. These consist of a Grade II listed detached property of late 18th-19th century date at No. 110 Weston Road (HER 42421) approximately 50m E of the study area, a milestone of early 19th century date at the junction of Weston Road and Wild Country Lane (HER 42422) and the site of a Second World War Anderson domestic shelter to the rear of No. 2 Warren Lane (HER 46034).

3. Map Regression Analysis

This section will briefly review evidence of historic mapping relating to the area traversed by the pipeline route.

The earliest map to show the study area is a plan of Long Ashton manor dated 1765 (*fig. 2*) which shows the course of Warren Lane continuing roughly northwards from Weston Road towards a large expanse of unenclosed pasture forming part of Ashton Hill and then turning sharply NE, crossing Clarken Combe Road and heading towards Leigh Woods. It is possible that the name 'Warren Lane' may be derived from an extensive rabbit warren which is first documented in 1392 (Collinson, 1791,

II, 291). The fields to the E of Warren Lane are depicted on the 1765 map as narrow strip enclosures aligned N-S which may well represent the remnants of a much more extensive open field system of medieval date, the layout of which had already been disrupted by early post-medieval enclosure.



*Fig.2: Extract from a plan of the manor of Long Ashton dated 1765
(Reproduced by courtesy of Bristol Record Office)*

The area of the pipeline route within the modern housing development E of Warren Lane is shown on the 1765 map as lying within a rectangular enclosure marked as Plot No. 65, with an oblong structure oriented N-S shown adjoining the E side of Warren Lane and another, smaller building located further to the SE within an enclosed paddock. To the N of Plot No. 65, the 1765 map shows a smaller rectangular field enclosure (which covers the N part of the recent housing development) which is marked as Plot No. 66. Both plots are marked with the initials E.G., presumably referring to the then owner, Edward Gore Langton.

An undated map of Long Ashton manor, probably drawn up in the late 18th or early 19th century, shows the boundary of this field (now marked as Plot No. 249) as unchanged. The oblong structure adjoining the E side of Warren Lane is shown as intact; however, the smaller building to the SE appears to have been removed by that date. A terrier produced in 1802 to accompany this map records Plot No. 249 as consisting of a 'house, barn and orchard', while the plot to the N (marked as No. 251) is referred to as 'Home Close'. The course of Warren Lane extending N of Weston Road is shown as unchanged; however, the lane is shown as terminating at the point where it reaches the

southern edge of the unenclosed pasture of Ashton Hill (close to the SE corner of what is marked on the OS 1st edition and later mapping as 'George's Hill Plantation').

A later map of Long Ashton manor dated 1826 (*fig. 3*) shows that some alterations to field boundaries had taken place since the late 18th century. The boundary between the two plots E of Warren Lane marked as Nos. 249 and 251 on the late 18th century map had been removed to form one long rectangular plot (listed as Plot No. 140) which was then used as an orchard. The complex of buildings to the S are shown as lying within a small, roughly quadrangular enclosure listed as Plot No. 146 and described as a 'Farmhouse, yard and outbuildings', then owned by William Gore Langton.

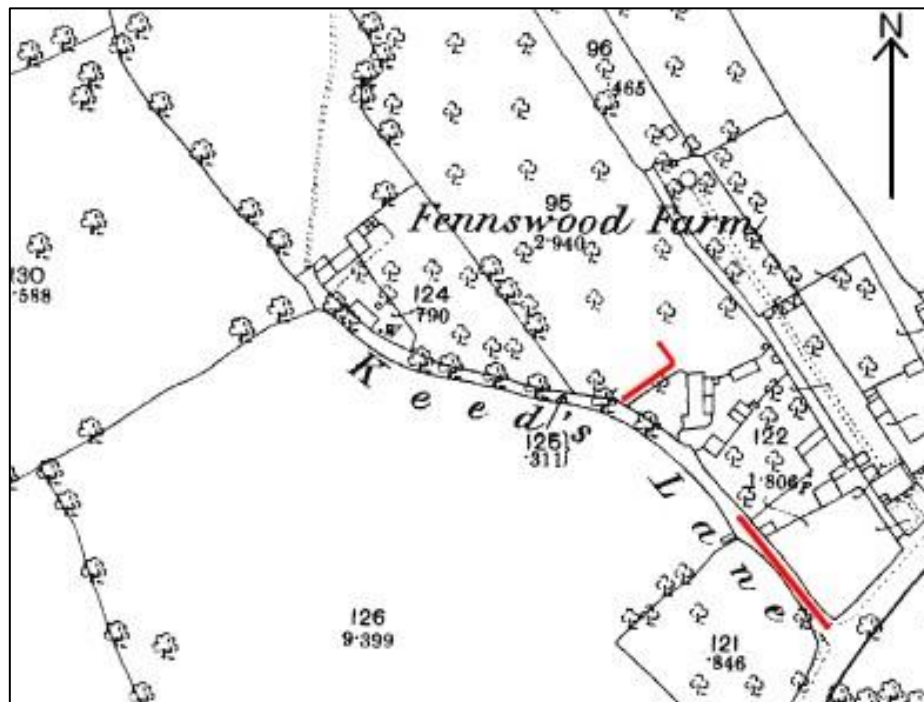


*Fig. 3: Extract from a plan of the manor of Long Ashton dated 1826
 (Reproduced by courtesy of Bristol Record Office)*

The Long Ashton tithe map of 1841 indicates that the layout of the farm buildings and the long rectangular field enclosure to the E of Warren Lane had remained largely unchanged since 1826. However, a cottage and outbuildings had been built further to the NE along Warren Lane. The farm buildings are shown as lying within a roughly square enclosure (Plot No. 387) described as comprising a house, outbuildings, yard and garden', while the long rectangular enclosure to the N of the farm (Plot No. 386) is listed as an orchard. Both plots were owned by William Gore Langton and tenanted by a farmer named Thomas Keedwell.

The OS 1st-2nd edition maps of 1882 and 1903, respectively, show little significant change to the pattern of land use and enclosure within the study area had occurred since the early 1840s (*fig. 4*).

A number of additional outbuildings had been built to the E of the oblong building adjoining Warren Lane, while the long plot to the N is shown as occupied by orcharding.



*Fig. 4: Extract from the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1882
 (Reproduced by courtesy of Somerset Heritage Centre)*

By the early 1930s, significant changes to the topography of the study area had occurred, as shown on the OS 3rd edition map of 1931. Although the course of Warren Lane remained unaltered, the extensive orchard to the E of the lane was now occupied by a detached house (Warren Lodge) and its gardens, which essentially remained intact until the construction of the recent housing development.

4. Aerial Photography

Consultation of RAF vertical photographs of the study area dated 1946 and 1966 indicates the presence of two distinct groups of earthwork features to the N and W of the study area, then occupied by the extensive landscaped gardens surrounding Warren Lodge (in existence by no later than 1931). The aerial photographs show several linear features aligned NE-SW extending from the field to the W of Warren Lane into the pasture field immediately to the rear of the property, which may well represent cultivation terraces or lynchets. The date of these features is uncertain; they could be associated with the known Romano-British field system to the E of the walled settlement at Gatcombe, or they could be of later, medieval date.

Within the same pasture field, to the N of these lynchet features, the aerial photographs show an extensive complex of depressions and banks, including holloways, field boundaries and possible house platforms. The origin of these features remains unclear but it is possible that they could be associated with the deserted medieval settlement at Fenswood, located further to the NE.



5. Conclusion

This rapid appraisal of readily available sources of archaeological and historical information concerning the route of a proposed pipeline at Warren Lane, Long Ashton has reached the following conclusions:

- 1/ The pipeline route runs approximately 90m SE of the eastern edge of the scheduled area of the Roman settlement and associated Romano-British field system at Gatcombe. Earthworks possibly representing field enclosures associated with a deserted medieval settlement at Fenswood have also been identified in the field immediately to the N of the study area.
- 2/ The potential for archaeological evidence of Roman or later medieval settlement/cultivation activity to be identified in the vicinity of the pipeline route has been assessed as **moderate**.
- 3/ While the area has been disturbed by landscaping activity associated with the early 20th century detached house and gardens (Warren Lodge) and by more recent activity associated with the construction of the adjacent residential development, this disturbance may not be particularly extensive.
- 4/ Consequently, there remains **moderate** potential for the discovery of archaeological features and deposits associated either with the Romano-British settlement to the W or the medieval settlement and associated field system lying immediately to the N and NE of the study area.

6. References

North Somerset Historic Environment Record: HER Printout

National Monuments Record, Swindon: NMR Printout

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Cartography

BRO AC/PL/86 Map of manor of Long Ashton measured by W Williams 1730 and drawn by Thomas Jeffery -1765

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

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

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

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

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

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

OS 1st edition 25 inch map (Somerset 5.4; 5.8) - 1882

OS 1st edition 6 inch map (Somerset 5 NE) - 1884



OS 2nd edition 25 inch map (Somerset 5.4; 5.8) - 1903

OS 2nd edition 6 inch map (Somerset 5 NE) -1904

OS 3rd edition 25 inch map (Somerset 5.4; 5.8) - 1931

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

OS provisional edition 6 inch map (Somerset 5 NE) – 1961

Aerial Photography

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 Somerset Heritage Centre.