

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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## **Lennox Gate Pumping Station and Playing Fields Blackpool, Lancashire**

**Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment**

**Report No. Y164/14**

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## **SUMMARY**

A desk-based assessment was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd on behalf of United Utilities on Lennox Gate Pumping Station and nearby playing fields, Blackpool, Lancashire. The desk-based research identified no known archaeological remains within the proposed development areas and no archaeological remains were identified from site walkovers.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Project Background**

This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) during June 2014. The work was commissioned by United Utilities to evaluate the potential for archaeological remains within the proposed development areas (Figure 1). The CFA project code and number are LENG/2191.

#### **1.2 Proposed Development**

Lennox Gate is an existing pumping station which forms part of the existing wastewater treatment network in Blackpool. The potential for additional storm storage in the vicinity of Lennox Gate has been identified in addition to maintenance work to the existing pumping station. Two potential sites for storm storage and associated equipment are being considered, both of which are playing fields. (Fig. 1).

#### **1.3 Site Description**

The proposed development areas lie in the east of South Shore, Blackpool, and consist of Lennox Gate Pumping Station and two nearby playing fields; one, Arnold Avenue Field, to the north-west and the other, Fishers Field, to the south-east (Fig. 1). The proposed development areas cover approximately 4.5ha on fairly level ground between 8 and 10m above the Ordnance Datum (AOD). The geology of the area consists of Sidmouth Mudstone Formation overlain by blown, pale-brown, fine-grained sand (BGS 2012). The soils of the area are described as 'sandy dune soils' to the west of the site, and 'naturally wet, very acidic, sandy and loamy soils' to the east (Landis 2014).

#### **1.4 Previous Archaeological work**

No intrusive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development areas.

## 2. METHODS AND STANDARDS

CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work was conducted in accordance with relevant IfA Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 1994), English Heritage guidance (EH 2008), and CFA's standard methodology.

### 2.1 Desk-based Research

Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted on 17 June 2014, for sites, find spots or monuments within the proposed development areas and within a 100m buffer. The Local and Family History Centre at Blackpool Central Library was visited on the 19 June 2014 for local histories, historic mapping and other secondary sources.

In addition to the above, internet sources were consulted for information relating to general background, listed buildings and other heritage resources within the study area, and CFA's library was consulted where relevant.

### 2.2 Site Walkover

The walkover of the site took place on 19 June 2014. General photographs and notes were taken of the site areas, to describing the general topography and any potential archaeological remains, or any indication of former land use.

At the time of the walkover, conditions were warm, dry and cloudy with very good visibility. Fisher's Field was systematically traversed, and the Pumping Station and Arnold Avenue Playing fields were assessed from their perimeters; accessibility was limited due to private ownership. The surrounding area was also traversed.

### 2.3 Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, finds, plans, reports, and photographs will be ordered to nationally recognised standards (Brown 2011).

The archive currently consists of:

Digital Photographs	1 x CD
Notes and Research materials	1 x A4 folder
Survey data and photographs	
All non-confidential correspondence	
This Report	-

Should further work be undertaken on the site then the archive resulting from such work would be incorporated into the current archive to be deposited together.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BASELINE**

#### **3.1 Desk Based Research**

The following information is largely taken from the *Blackpool: historic town assessment programme* (Hartley and Mitchell 2005), personal communication with Tony Sharkey, Local History Librarian at Blackpool Central Library, English Heritage's PastScape and the *Lancashire Enclosure Act 1769: a transcript* (Lightbown and Lightbown 2008).

The study area lies on land which was originally known as Layton Hawes, now part of South Shore, to the south of Blackpool.

There is only slight evidence of prehistoric activity for Blackpool and its surrounding area. In 1837 Rev William Thornber noted that a perforated stone hammer had been found in the mosslands of Layton Hawes. This, along with other stone hammers within the Flyde, form a corpus of late Neolithic and early Bronze Age finds; the largest period group of artefacts associated with its wetland marshes. The three known prehistoric sites logged in the Lancashire SMR are all of Bronze Age origin.

While there is a scattering of Roman coin find spots and a putative Roman Road between Kirkham and Fleetwood, there is very little other evidence for Roman and post-Roman activity in the area. The study of place names may provide evidence of early medieval activity, though at the present time this appears to be lacking.

During the medieval period the area that is now Blackpool was a series of very small, nucleated settlements with attached open field systems, under the holdings of various manors. The Domesday Book records Bispham, Layton and Marton as being held by Earl Tostig. The township of Layton never grew beyond a village despite securing a royal charter in 1257. The only evidence for post-medieval activity in the area is ridge and furrow identified in playing fields to the west of Arnold Avenue.

The proposed development areas are within an area formerly known as 'Layton Hawes', which is recorded as an area of 1800 acres of common land stretching from the modern Manchester Square to the south end of St. Anne's Road. In the mid 18th century the area was enclosed and regularised in preparation for development (Act signed in 1769).

The Enclosure Act included instructions for the construction and maintenance of watercourses which flowed from the various lakes around the land plots and for the construction of various cambered roads, which were designed to be 10m wide and include ditches for surface run-off, and mapped as access to land enclosures.

The settlement first developed along the north-east margins. By the early 19th century the land was known as South Shore, entirely separate from Blackpool. The first house recorded in this area was built in 1819. By 1838 there were 50 properties and the settlement started to become known as a resort. Throughout the later half of the 19th century, South Shore grew to become an increasingly attractive suburb forming in a gridiron street pattern still visible today. It became completely absorbed by Blackpool in 1890.

### 3.2 Cartographic Sources

The following presents a selection of Ordnance Survey, Tithe and Enclosure Maps from the 18th century to the recent past.

#### *1767 Enclosure Maps*

The study area at this time shows the land having been enclosed with various roads being laid out in a grid formation, which later formed the gridiron road system still used today. Highfield Road to the south of Fisher's Field was known as Milker's Gate Lane and St. Anne's Road as Sunday Leach Lane. John Fisher is recorded as occupying land to the north-west of Fisher's Field (and possibly part of the present-day playing field), and this may account for its name.

#### *1838 Tithe Maps*

By the time the tithe maps were produced, the lakes of Layton Hawes recorded on the Enclosure Maps, have disappeared, with the exception of small linear bodies of water to the north-east of Fisher's Field; the drainage channel from what was Sunday Leach appears to have been straightened and managed and land plots have become much more regularised. Four buildings were recorded to the west of Arnold Avenue Playing Fields.

#### *1847 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 Lancashire and Furness Map*

This map shows Sunday Leach Lane has become Middle Lane by this date and the west side of Milker's Gate Lane has become Harrow Side Lane. The land itself changed very little in regards to its enclosure, with the exception of a new access track to the buildings identified on the tithe map, west of Arnold Avenue Playing Field.

#### *1891 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Lancashire and Furness Map*

By the 1890s the land within the study area has become more intensively enclosed and regularised. Pedder's Lane appears on the map for the first time; an 'Old Clay Pit' lies to the north of Arnold Avenue Playing Field, and buildings appear to the north of Fisher's Field.

#### *1911 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Lancashire and Furness Map*

The OS Map shows development of Blackpool into the surrounding land beyond its coastal settlement, with the Kirkham and Blackpool railway line having been constructed to the north of the study area. New developments can be seen along the centre of Pedder's Lane and along other roads, The 'Old Clay Pit' has gone by this date as have the structures to the north of the present Fisher's Field.

#### *1932 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Lancashire and Furness Map*

The 1932 OS map shows residential development becoming recognisable as today's town plan, including modern street names. Arnold Avenue appears on the map for the first time and Arnold Avenue Playing Field is as it is today. New development is

limited to the south-east of the study area, along Highfield Road. To the south development is limited by Blackpool Reservoir.

#### *1938 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 Lancashire and Furness Map*

By 1938 the study area is pretty much as it appears today. Arnold Avenue Playing Field is recorded as a Football Ground and Fisher's Field is still demarcated by the enclosures of the 1890s. Blackpool Corporation Pumping Station appears for the first time, although the housing developments around it, i.e. Moyneux Drive, Lennox Court and Emerson Avenue, have not yet been constructed. Blackpool Reservoir is no longer in existence and the developments along the south side of Highfield Road start to take shape.

#### *1955 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 Lancashire and Furness Map*

By 1955 the south side of St. Luke's Street is fully established and the beginnings of Emerson Avenue are taking place. Very little else is changed from the previous map.

#### *1964 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Lancashire and Furness Map*

The present day town plan was almost established by the later half of the 1900s, including the south-west of the study area, and there is very little change between the OS maps during this time. By 1964 St. Luke's Street is recognisable as it is today, and for the first time Fisher's Field is recorded as Playing Fields.

#### *1982 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Lancashire and Furness Map*

In the 1982 OS maps, the large structures forming the previous housing development to the north-east of the Pumping Station have gone, and proposed plans for both Moyneux Drive and Lennox Court are mapped.

### **3.3 HER sites**

The HER records no sites or features of cultural heritage interest within the study area.

### **3.4 Site Walkover**

The pumping station (Plate 1) is situated on the north side of Lennox Gate, and surrounded by housing to the west, north and east. The grounds were fenced off, inaccessible for public access and at the time of the walkover survey the grass was overgrown.

Arnold Avenue Playing Field was surrounded by housing development to the west and south, and was bordered by Arnold Avenue in the north, and St. Anne's Street to the east. This land was privately owned by ArnoldKEQMs and was inaccessible. Inspection of its perimeter showed no upstanding remains though the grass was overgrown. The actual ground surface was slightly higher than the modern street level and two ground-level concrete features were identified along the eastern and northern



edges of the playing field in the north-east corner, though these are likely to be modern (Plate 2).

Fisher's Field was a maintained playing area; the north-east corner was a children's play area with an astroturf football pitch (Plate 3). With the exception of the northern-most edge, which was slightly undulating and disturbed, the playing fields had been marked up as football pitches (Plate 4). There were no visible up-standing archaeological remains.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

There are no known archaeological sites or findspots within the proposed development areas or the study area.

The intrinsic and historic value needs to be considered in regards to any alterations of the pumping station itself; once belonging to Blackpool Corporation and first visible on the 1938 OS map.

Ridge and furrow have been identified to the west of Arnold Avenue Playing Field, and this field was enclosed by the 1930s with very limited development. Fisher's Field has also not been developed since its enclosure, but appears to have undergone some landscaping. The probability that there are significant archaeological remains within the playing fields is low. However, remains of post-medieval or early modern enclosure boundaries and watercourses may survive below ground, though these may be considered only of local or lesser importance.

## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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EH, 2008, *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment*, English Heritage

Hartley, L. and Mitchell, S. 2005 *Lancashire Historic Town Survey Programme: Blackpool – historic town assessment report*. Lancashire County Council

IfA, 1994, *Standards and Guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*, Institute for Archaeologists, Revised November 2012

Lightbown, A. and Lightbown T. 2008 *Layton Hawes Enclosure Award 1769: a transcript*.

### Cartography

Enclosure Map 1767

Tithe Map 1838

Ordnance Survey 1847-1848 1st Edition *Lancashire and Furness* 1:10560 Map

Ordnance Survey 1891-1893 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:2500 edition map

Ordnance Survey 1894-1895 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:10560 edition map

Ordnance Survey 1911 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:2500 edition map

Ordnance Survey 1913-14 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:10560 edition

Ordnance Survey 1932 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:2500 edition map

Ordnance Survey 1932-33 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:10560 map

Ordnance Survey 1938 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:2500 map

Ordnance Survey 1955 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:10560 map

Ordnance Survey 1961-62 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:2500 map

Ordnance Survey 1967 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:10560 map

Ordnance Survey 1973 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:10000 map

Ordnance Survey 1983 *Lancashire and Furness* 1:10000 map

### On-line Resources

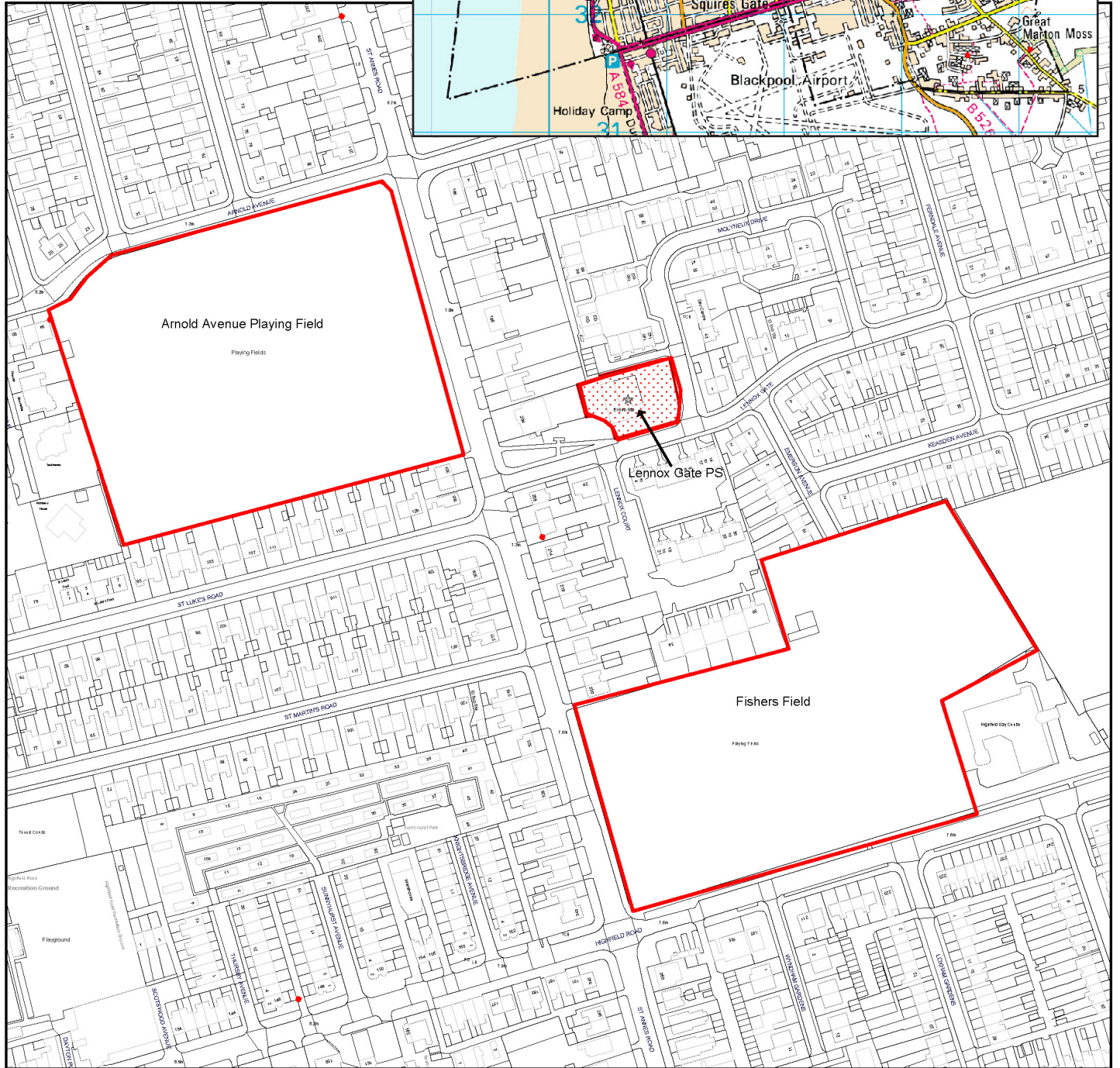
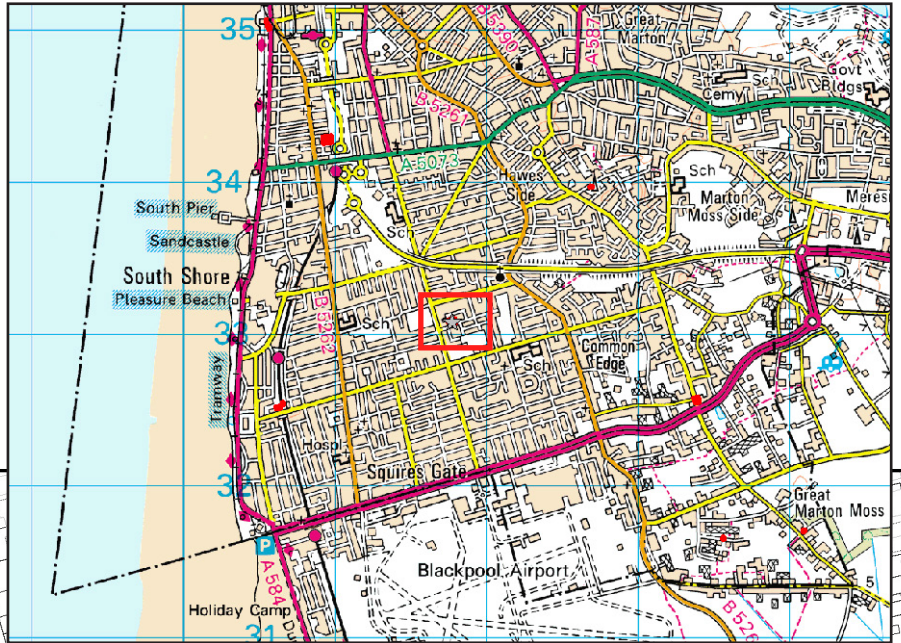
Old Maps; <http://www.old-maps.co.uk> (Accessed 18 June 2014)

BGS 2012 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk> (Accessed 17 June 2014)

LandIS 2011, <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes> (Accessed 17 June 2014)

Pastscape 2014 <http://www.pastscape.org.uk/default.aspx> (Accessed 18 June 2014)

## Figure 1



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Title:  
**Site Location**

Project:  
**Lennox Gate Pumping Station and Playing  
 Fields, Blackpool, Lancashire**

Fig. No: **1** Report: **Y164/14** Drawn: **LW** CKD: **ML** Date: **24/06/14**

Client:  
**United Utilities**

Scale:  
**NTS**



**Plates 1-4**



Plate. 1 - Pumping Station at Lennox Gate



Plate. 2 - Arnold Avenue Playing Filed



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Plate. No: 1-2	Report: Y164/14	Drawn: LW	Checked: LW	Date: 24/06/14
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Project: <b>Lennox Gate Pumping Station and Playing Fields, Blackpool, Lancashire</b>	Client: <b>United Utilities</b>
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Plate. 3 - Fisher's Field's Playground



Plate. 4 - Fisher's Field



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Plate. No: 3-4	Report: Y164/14	Drawn: LW	Checked: LW	Date: 24/06/14
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Project: Lennox Gate Pumping Station and Playing Fields, Blackpool, Lancashire	Client: United Utilities
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