LANCASHIRE
HISTORIC TOWN
SURVEY PROGRAMME

LONGRIDGE

HISTORIC TOWN
ASSESSMENT REPORT

JUNE 2006

Lancashire County Council and Egerton Lea Consultancy
with the support of English Heritage and Ribble Valley Council
The Lancashire Historic Town Survey Programme was carried out between 2000 and 2006 by Lancashire County Council and Egerton Lea Consultancy with the support of English Heritage.

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CONTENTS

Contents..................................................................................................................................i
Figures .................................................................................................................................. iii
Plates ................................................................................................................................... iii
SUMMARY ............................................................................................................................ 1
1. INTRODUCTION .............................................................................................................. 3
   1.1 Project background ..................................................................................................... 3
   1.2 Project aims ................................................................................................................ 3
   1.3 Project outputs ............................................................................................................ 4
   1.4 Project methodology ................................................................................................... 4
2. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA ............................ 7
   2.1 Geographical Location ............................................................................................... 7
   2.2 Geology ....................................................................................................................... 7
   2.3 Landscape Setting ...................................................................................................... 7
   2.4 Study Area .................................................................................................................. 7
3. SOURCES ........................................................................................................................ 8
   3.1 Published works .......................................................................................................... 8
   3.2 Manuscripts ............................................................................................................... 8
   3.3 Cartographic evidence .............................................................................................. 9
   3.4 Archaeological evidence .......................................................................................... 9
4. HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT.............................................. 10
   4.1 Place name ................................................................................................................. 10
   4.2 Prehistoric .................................................................................................................. 10
   4.3 Romano-British ......................................................................................................... 10
   4.4 Post-Roman and early medieval ............................................................................... 10
   4.5 Medieval .................................................................................................................... 10
   4.6 Post-medieval .............................................................................................................. 11
   4.7 Industrial and Modern ............................................................................................... 12
5. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER AND NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE.............................................. 18
   5.1 Surviving Plan Components ..................................................................................... 18
   5.2 Building Materials .................................................................................................... 23
   5.3 Housing Types .......................................................................................................... 24
   5.4 Communication Networks ....................................................................................... 25
   5.5 Spaces, Vistas and Panoramas ................................................................................ 25
   5.6 Plan Form .................................................................................................................... 25

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5.7 Survival ..................................................................................................................... 26
6. DESIGNATIONS ............................................................................................................. 27
  6.1 Listed Buildings ......................................................................................................... 27
  6.2 Scheduled Monuments ............................................................................................. 27
  6.3 Conservation Areas and Registered Parks ............................................................... 27
7. BIBLIOGRAPHY ............................................................................................................. 28
8. APPENDICES ................................................................................................................ 31
  1. Post medieval sites ..................................................................................................... 31
  2. Industrial era sites ....................................................................................................... 32
FIGURES
1. Location map of survey area
2. Detail of town, showing survey area and contour data
3. Historic Landscape Characterisation – character areas for Lancashire
4. Detail of Longridge as mapped in 1850
5. Archaeological sites recorded for Longridge
6. Post-medieval sites, areas and communication routes in Longridge
7. Industrial era sites, areas and communication routes in Longridge
8. Historical urban development
9. Present Historic Townscape Character: HTC Types and Areas
10. Designations

PLATES
1. Club Row Terraces 1794 – 1804
2. King Street Terrace with cellar loomshop
3. Mersey Street detail
4. Only Surviving remains of Crumpax Mill
5. The White Bull
6. Railway Station building attached to Towneley Arms
7. Church of St Paul’s, Berry Lane
8. Side back view of Co-op Society Building 1880
9. Parish Church of St Lawrence
10. King Street Terraces
11. Tootle Height Quarry (now caravan park)
12. Brick terraces, Preston Road
SUMMARY

The Lancashire Historic Town Survey Programme

This assessment report is a key end product of a survey of Lancashire’s historic towns carried out by the county’s Archaeology and Heritage Service, with the Egerton Lea Consultancy, between 2001 and 2006. The project, part of a national programme of work coordinated by English Heritage, comprised a three-stage survey of the historical and archaeological aspects of each of the thirty-three towns selected in Lancashire. The programme aims to re-evaluate the national archaeological resource and to provide comprehensive, rigorous and consistent base-line information against which research, regeneration and land use planning objectives may be set. The programme has three principal outputs: new data added to the Lancashire Sites & Monuments Record, a comprehensive report (submitted as this document) that contains background information on the historical development and the current archaeological knowledge of each town, and a shorter Historic Environment Management Guidance report, which outlines strategies for conservation and enhancement.

Longridge – Archaeological and Historical Summary

Very little is known about the early history of the township of Dilworth, but it was part of Earl Tostig’s Preston fee in 1066 and was afterwards given to Count Roger of Poitou. It later became part of Ribchester, and was thus considered to be merely a hamlet of the central township and part of the Honor of Clitheroe, but the process by which this occurred is not known. In 1200 Dilworth was held by Adam de Singleton, who granted moieties to the Lord of Ribchester and a local family or families (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 52).

Alston and Hothersall were supposedly part of Dilworth before the Conquest, but when Dilworth was granted to Roger of Poitou, Alston and Hothersall remained in the King’s hand, held of him in thegnage (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 61). In 1212 Alston was held in chief by Thomas de Burnhull, but was later divided between the lords of Samlesbury and Lathom, and the manor descended to the de Hoghtons and Earls of Derby, respectively (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 62). The entire area was sparsely populated at this time with much waste ground and few settlements. Other than scattered farmsteads the first settlement would appear to be that which grew up around the Chapel of St Lawrence, a chapel of ease (Till 1993, 2). It is of unknown foundation but is mentioned in the rental of the Earl of Derby’s Estates in 1521/1522 (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 66). At that time Alston with Hothersall and Dilworth formed part of the Parish of Ribchester. The chapel was positioned close to the boundary between the two townships in order to serve the two communities (Till and Till 1990, 5).

Saxton’s map of 1577, Speed’s 1610 map as well as Morden’s map of 1695, mark Longridge Chapel. However it is Yate’s Map from 1786 (Harley 1968) which is the first to show any recognisable settlement. The chapel is situated amidst a network of roads running off in all directions. There are a few other buildings shown in the same area and ribbon development on either side of the road going north, what is now Fell Brow, which was the main road from Preston to Clitheroe. The settlement is referred to as ‘Fell End’ (Harley 1968).

In the seventeenth century neither the township of Dilworth nor Alston appeared to be very prosperous places. There were various charities including Richard Hoghton’s Charity, maintained by income from land rent, the value of which was halved in 1613 because of over ploughing. In 1649 the poor of Alston were said to be more numerous than those in Elston (Harland 1870, 109). In 1650 Longridge Chapel had neither minister nor maintenance although the district contained 140 families who asked the legislature to afford...
them an endowment in order to appoint a minister and to constitute their district a parish (Smith 1888, 26). The endowment was not forthcoming until 1735 (Till and Till 1990, 6) and the parish of Longridge was not formed until 1868 (Till 1993, 12).

**Development of the Nineteenth Century Town**

Longridge was not considered a town until the latter part of the nineteenth century. Although there is a thoroughfare called 'Market Place', there are no records of a market of any size taking place there (Tupling, 1936, 1947). Even in the nineteenth century Baines mentions there are no public markets nearer than Preston and calls Longridge a 'large, thriving stone-built village', although there were cattle fairs taking place three times a year (Harland 1870, 109). These fairs had been held on a customary basis in Ribchester, but were transferred to Longridge in the late nineteenth century (Smith and Shortt 1890, 71), probably because it was a more significant settlement by that date.

By the time of the 1801 census there were almost 1200 inhabitants in the two townships, a figure which had grown to over 1900 by 1821, suggesting fairly rapid growth in the area (Baines 1825, 634). Even so, in 1837 growth around St Lawrence Chapel had stagnated. Instead, settlement expanded considerably up past the Market Place, where the road continues first as King Street and then High Street (LR0 DRB/1/63, LRO DRB/1/5). At this time, just before the advent of the railway, there were three butchers' shops, a saddlers, two shops, two warehouses and a school (LRO DRB/1/63), as well as a weaving shop and a loom shop in the top part of the town (LRO DRB/1/5). To the south west of Longridge Chapel, a separate settlement had developed, called Newtown, which between 1825 and 1840, increased the size of Longridge by 20%.

The advent of the railway in 1840 (Parker 1972, 5) led to other industries opening in Longridge, including steam-powered cotton mills and brass and iron foundries. This led to substantial growth in Longridge over the second half of the nineteenth century (OS 1847 1:10560; OS 1893 1:2500), transforming it from a thriving village to a full fledged town. In the 1841 census there were 1,006 people in 191 houses; and by the 1881 census this has almost trebled to 2,975 people living in 689 houses (Till 1993, 114). Longridge was finally formed into an ecclesiastical parish in 1861. It became a Local Government District in 1883 and an Urban District Council in 1884 (Kelly 1898, 551). Between 60-70% of the workforce was employed in the cotton industry, 20% in the stone extraction industry and less than 10% in agriculture (Till 1993, 109).
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

This report is an archaeological and historic urban landscape assessment of Longridge and forms part of the Lancashire Historic Town Survey. The survey comprises an assessment of thirty-three towns within the county, with a report produced for each town.

The Lancashire project is part of English Heritage’s national Extensive Urban Survey Programme, which grew out of the Monuments Protection Programme. This still ongoing programme aims to re-evaluate the national archaeological resource and to provide comprehensive, rigorous and consistent base-line information against which research, regeneration and land use planning objectives may be set. The recognition that urban areas themselves are archaeological monuments has led to a shift away from the identification of individual sites within towns to a more holistic appreciation of the entire historic urban fabric.

The Lancashire project is being undertaken by Lancashire County Council with Egerton Lea Consultancy and is funded by both the County and English Heritage. It is based on a survey commissioned by Lancashire County Council and carried out by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit in 1997, which resulted in the compilation of the Lancashire Extensive Urban Archaeological Survey Assessment Report in January 1998 (LUAU 1998a). This report was used to develop a specification for the assessment of individual towns, the Lancashire Historic Town Survey Project Design, which was submitted by the Archaeology and Heritage Service of the Environment Directorate of Lancashire County Council to English Heritage in January 2001. The full project commenced later in 2001 with the compilation of first stage reports by Egerton Lea on the pre-1900 historic elements of each town. To this the Council’s Archaeology and Heritage team have added post-1900 data and an overall assessment of the nature and significance of the resource, to produce this report.

1.2 Project aims

The principal aim of the project has been to review and evaluate the archaeological and historical resource for the thirty-three defined towns within the post-1974 county of Lancashire. The resource was identified and assessed for significance, and strategies were proposed for its management.

Key objectives included the

- quantification of previous archaeological work,
- analysis of urban origins and development,
- identification and assessment of the broad historic character of each town,
- assessment of the potential for the preservation of significant archaeological deposits, and the
- identification of future research objectives.

The assessment was then to be used to help define new archaeological and conservation guidance strategies for each town. The Historic Town Survey for Lancashire forms part of the developing Lancashire Historic Environment Record Centre (an expanded version of the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record). Here it is maintained as a nested dataset amongst the other conservation datasets used to assist in planning decision-making within the county (LCC 2001).
1.3 Project outputs
Principal project outputs include

- **Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) data.** New information added to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record. The SMR is the primary database for information on historical sites and archaeological remains in the county. It is used as a research and planning tool and is consulted as part of the development process.

- **Historic Environment GIS Data.** GIS-based information, supplied to those districts with the technology to receive it. The information includes data relating to SMR sites and statutory designated areas, the development of the individual towns over time, and the historic plan components that make up the present urban area.

- **Historic Town Assessment Report.** A comprehensive report, submitted as this document, that contains background information on the historical development and the current archaeological knowledge of each town. It also describes the historical interest of the surviving buildings, structures and plan components. The assessment report forms the basis for the strategies submitted as Historic Environment Management Guidance.

- **Historic Environment Management Guidance.** Based upon the assessment report, the final stage of the survey involved the formulation of a strategy for planning, conservation and management of the historic environment within each town. The strategy is presented as guidance with recommendations for local authorities and key agencies.

All the outputs, but in particular this Historic Town Assessment Report and its linked Historic Environment Management Guidance, will be used to inform a variety of planning, regeneration and research requirements, including:

- The continuing preparation of Local Plan policy and the preparation of Local Development Frameworks and thematic or Area Action Plans;
- Adoption as Supplementary Planning Documents;
- Input into Community Strategies and other neighbourhood initiatives;
- Input into regeneration and tourism strategies;
- Providing a context for Conservation Area appraisal, review and the establishment of new Conservation Areas;
- Facilitating the decision-making process for Housing Renewal initiatives, particularly within and adjacent to the East Lancashire Pathfinder areas;
- Input into National, Regional and Local Research frameworks.

It is intended that this assessment report and the management strategies should be accessible not only to planners, prospective developers and others involved in the planning process, but also to all those who have a general interest in a particular town and its historic environment. To this end, the information will also be made available on the County Council’s website and at public libraries and record offices.

1.4 Project methodology
The project is based on the developing mechanisms for Extensive Urban Survey that have been applied elsewhere in England; these include the initial assessment undertaken for Tetbury in Gloucestershire (Heighway 1992), and work carried out in Cheshire, Essex and Somerset. In addition the recent Cornwall Industrial Settlements Initiative has influenced the approach, as many of Lancashire’s towns owe their urban origins to industrialisation.
The Lancashire survey includes an additional aspect, however – urban characterisation. This specifically targets the broad archaeological and built heritage resource of the nineteenth-century industrial towns, a distinctive and significant feature of Lancashire’s historic landscape. This aspect reflects the growing emphasis placed on characterisation for managing change in both the rural and urban environments. It also reflects the importance of local character in the definition of a sense of place, as emphasised in English Heritage’s policy statement *Power of Place* (2000).

The methodology adopted for the Lancashire project followed the three-stage process of many of its predecessors, comprising:

- **Stage 1** – Data-gathering
- **Stage 2** – Assessment
- **Stage 3** – Strategy

The data-gathering methodology involved historical research and a field visit. Most information was entered directly into the Lancashire Historic Town Survey database, which was developed from existing databases. This was then used for analysis and, through the use of the ArcView GIS program, for the production of coloured base maps showing sites, designations, development phases, historic plan components and character areas.

The field visits examined the modern topography of each settlement, assessed likely areas of survival and destruction of deposits and structures, and created a basic photographic record in monochrome print and colour digital formats.

The assessment stage tries to answer two broad questions: firstly ‘How has the settlement developed over time?’ and secondly, ‘What is the physical evidence of the past in today’s townscape?’

In answering the first question the assessment included a chronological appraisal of the development of each town under the following headings:

- Prehistoric – up to cAD70
- Romano-British – cAD70-400
- Post-Roman and Early Medieval – 400-1050
- Medieval – 1050-1550
- Post-Medieval – 1550-1750
- Industrial and Modern – 1750-present

These chronological ‘snapshots’ or ‘timeslices’ (presented below in Section 4) offer descriptions of settlement history that will include many buildings, structures and land uses that no longer exist today, but which afford greater understanding of how the town has come to look as it does. It is arranged from the perspective of the distant past looking towards the present.

To answer the second question, ‘What is the physical evidence of the past in today’s townscape?’, the assessment stage included an appraisal of the surviving historic character of each town. This effectively reverses the approach outlined above, to view a town from today’s perspective, but acknowledging the time-depth evident in the place. For example, the analysis does not attempt to reconstruct the medieval town, but instead maps the medieval elements (be they buildings, roads or other patterns) that survive in the town of today.

In order to do this each town was divided into a series of discrete and identifiable blocks of townscape that share common characteristics of date, building form and function. These plan components are generic in that they may be found across the county – ‘Bye-law
terraced housing’ for example – and are termed Historic Urban Character Types. However, at a detailed local scale they will show unique differences resulting in the most part from alternate histories – for example the bye-law terraces of Darwen will differ from those in Blackpool. These are termed Historic Urban Character Areas. Differences between areas of the same character type may also be found in terms of condition and survival, or in the presence and absence of individual structures. It follows that one character type may support a large range of character areas. The Historic Urban Character Areas for each town, grouped under their relevant Type, are described below in the Statement of Historic Urban Character.

Once Historic Urban Character Types had been identified, they were assessed according to the following criteria (the equivalent criteria used by the Secretary of State for scheduling ancient monuments are shown in parentheses):

- **Townscape rarity (period, rarity)** – of urban character types and subtypes.
- **Time depth (period, survival, diversity, potential)** – visibility, survival and potential of evidence for earlier periods (both urban and non-urban) within the type.
- **Completeness (group value, survival)** – measure of association with buildings and features and their survival; also measure of association with adjacent areas of townscape.
- **Forces for change (fragility/ vulnerability)**. Measured through datasets including indices of deprivation, allocation as derelict land or brownfield, allocation within Local Plans or other redevelopment proposals, local authority housing stock information and census data.

Assessment that culminated in the mapping and evaluation of current historic character types within the town of today formed the starting point and foundation for the development of strategies for the future. The final stage of work, the preparation of Strategy, comprised the preparation of Historic Environment Management Guidance for every surveyed town.

The primary aim of the Strategy was to produce management guidance for conservation and enhancement. To facilitate this the historic environment within Lancashire’s towns was divided into individual assets and broader areas for which appropriate strategies were devised.
2. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

2.1 Geographical Location
The town of Longridge is located at NGR SD 794 338 (centred). It is situated below the south-western end of the Long Ridge, which marks the northern side of the rolling landscape of the valley of the River Ribble. Longridge lies approximately 9km from the centre of Preston. To the north-east of the town the land rises sharply towards the end of the Long Ridge, at around 200m aOD.

2.2 Geology
The solid geology comprises Dinantian Rocks, which underlie the entire area. Beneath the Longridge Fell, the Dinantian Rocks are concealed by the Silesian (Pendle Grit) outcrop (British Geological Survey 1992, 4). The sandstones that predominate the Pendle Grit are evident in the disused quarries of Longridge which are said in their heyday to have produced 30,000 tonnes of stone annually (British Geological Survey 1992, 85). This stone has been used as building material within Longridge itself and for many major civil buildings in Lancashire and Liverpool Docks (British Geological Survey 1992, 95). Therefore, the geology of the area has been of major importance to the early industrial expansion and prosperity of Longridge.

The drift cover consists primarily of glacial till deposits (British Geological Survey 1992, 64).

2.3 Landscape Setting
Longridge developed first as a dispersed settlement, centred around the chapel of St Lawrence on the sides of the valley of the River Ribble, below the dominant Long Ridge. The post medieval nucleated settlement grew along the main road to the north of the chapel. Its historic core, the area around the chapel, now lies on the southern edge of the defined urban area. The town ranges in height from around 93m aOD at Newtown, to around 110m aOD at St Lawrence’s Church, up to about 133m aOD at the Market Place in the town centre. The highest point in the defined urban area is at the former Tootle Height quarries, to the north-east of the town which is at a height of around 178m aOD.

Longridge lies within the valley of the River Ribble and forms part of the Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill countryside character area (Countryside Commission 1998, 91-6). This is a transitional landscape which surrounds the dramatic uplands of the Bowland Fells, and comprises a diverse area of rolling pasture land (Countryside Commission 1998, 91-2). Water supplies are plentiful, with streams draining the fells.

2.4 Study Area
Longridge's urban area was defined in relation to Lancashire's Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, which outlined urban areas in accordance with their extent c 1990. However, at the northern end of the urban area, the boundary has been extended slightly beyond the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project urban area, to include the extensive former quarries of Tootle Height.

Although, the urban area defined for Longridge is still largely confined to the nineteenth century ribbon development along the main roads. Much of the defined urban area of Longridge was the result of twentieth century development.
3. SOURCES

3.1 Published works

Early nineteenth century historians and topographers do not mention Longridge as such. Corry’s *History of Lancashire* notes “the townships of Dilworth and Dutton are remote and comparatively uninteresting” (Corry 1825, 278). Baines in 1825 mentions Longridge as a “populous village” (Baines 1825, 63) but his 1831 map shows Alston and Longridge Fell but not Longridge (Baines 1831, map). The 1870 revised version, however, devotes three pages to Longridge and states, “Longridge is a large, thriving stone-built village situated near the summit of the Fell” (Harland 1870, 110-11). The earliest publication to deal with the town’s history in detail is Tom Smith’s *A History of Longridge and District* (1888). This is an academic and lengthy which deals with settlement origins, family history, ecclesiastical history, growth of the town and district and much more. Tom Smith was born and lived in Longridge and had a first-hand knowledge of the expansion and later decline of some of the industries of the place including stone quarrying and hand loom weaving. He also interviewed many of the older inhabitants of Longridge while writing the book which gives a ring of authenticity to his facts although it also contains a lot of anecdotal material. Conversely, the *Victoria County History* has very little on Longridge itself and what it does have is mostly taken from Tom Smith’s book. It divides Longridge into the townships of Dilworth and Alston with Hothersall and gives some manorial history and background information about the Chapel of St Lawrence, and dates for the other religious institutions.

A modern, well researched and referenced book is JM Till’s *A History of Longridge and Its People* (1993). This covers much of the same ground as Smith did 100 years earlier but in a more academic way. It goes up almost to the present day and contains many useful plans and old photographs. JM Till together with MR Till has also written a short publication on *The History of St Lawrence with St Paul’s, Longridge* (1990) which gives a comprehensive account of the history and development of both these churches. This also contains many excellent photographs. There is also a good account of the Preston and Longridge Railway written by Norman Parker, *The Preston and Longridge Railway* (1972). *Longridge – the Way We Were* (1999) edited by Mike Pattinson, was written for the Millennium and contains information on the twentieth century history of Longridge.

Longridge is covered by the late nineteenth century trade directories including *Slater’s Commercial Directory* (1851, 1885, 1895), and *Kelly’s Directory of Lancashire* (1898). Longridge did not have its own newspaper but there are many articles about nineteenth century Longridge in the *Preston Herald* and the *Preston Pilot*. There has not been time to consult these in any detail as part of the extensive urban survey. There is one unpublished undergraduate thesis by Richard Willcocks, ‘A history of Longridge’ (1979), held by Longridge Library.

3.2 Manuscripts

Relevant documentary references to Longridge can be found in records relating to the townships of Alston with Hothersall and Dilworth. Many manuscripts have brief references to Alston within the Earls of Derby Estate Records (LRO DDK). These include a plea copy taken from the Lancaster Plea Roll, that details the recovery of several manors including Alston in 1514 (LRO DDK 3/91), a copy of an *Inquisition Post Mortem* from 1521 (LRO DDK 3/14) and various leases in Alston from 1662-1834, mainly for yeomen, husbandmen and farmers (LRO DDK L/1-32). A significant document is the Alston Survey of 1630 (LRO DDK 1541/1) which unfortunately was unavailable because of its fragile state. The Alston Book (LRO PR 872), which gives details of eighteenth century government in Alston township by the Select Vestry, is also in a fragile state and could not be looked at.
The Hoghton family papers relate to Dilworth and include a conveyance by bargain and sale 20 April 1614, between members of the Hoghton family and Edward Radclyf of Dilworth, a husbandman (LRO DDX/493). The Kenyon of Peel collection (LRO DDKe) contains various title deeds. LRO DDH 994-1007 contains the articles of agreement and accounts for the Building Society formed in 1793.

There are various other relevant collections which followed Longridge's establishment as a parish in 1861, including parish records (LRO PR 2939) and urban district council records (LRO UDLo). There are some excellent plans surviving for the National School (LRO DDX/595/36), Longridge Industrial Co-operative Society (LRO DDX/595/37), the churches of St Lawrence and St Paul (LRO PR 2939) and St Wilfrid’s Roman Catholic registers (LRO PR 2905, 3313).

Photographic collections for Longridge are held in the Local Studies Collection at Clitheroe Library. The Longridge Library also has photocopies of three collections (under collection LL photos) which can be ordered from the library.

3.3 Cartographic evidence

No estate maps covering the defined urban area of Longridge prior to the commencement of the expansion of the town, were noted, although the 1630 Survey of Alston, which could not be accessed, may contain map material. The earliest large-scale maps of the area are the Tithe Award Maps of 1837 for Alston with Hothersall and Dilworth (LRO DRB 1/5, DRB 1/63). These provide a view of the village similar to that depicted on the first edition 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map of 1847 and show concentrated development along King and High Streets, the main Preston to Clitheroe Road. Development at Newtown appears to be the same. Between the 1837 surveys and 1847 the railway has been built and its precise line deviates from that projected on the Tithe Maps.

Ordnance Survey maps examined include the 1:10560 first edition map of 1847, sheets 53 and 54, the 1:2500 maps of 1893, sheets 53.8, 53.12, 54.5 and 54.9. Some information can be gleaned from earlier small-scale mapping, such as Yates, 1786 (Harley 1968).

3.4 Archaeological evidence

Following an initial examination of the nineteenth and early-twentieth century OS mapping undertaken at the commencement of the LEUS, there were 21 sites recorded for the Longridge study area in the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (LSMR). Of these six, or 29%, were listed buildings. The majority of the remainder were structures recorded from the Ordnance Survey map coverage or other nineteenth century documentary sources. Consistent with Longridge’s growth in the nineteenth century, only 38% (including the listed building entries) of sites in the LSMR were known to have origins pre-dating 1800; two of these were prehistoric findspots, one was medieval and the remainder post-medieval in date.

No archaeological investigations of any kind or detailed building surveys are known to have been undertaken within Longridge. Tom Smith mentions an old cross found in the chimney flue of a house near the Church of St Lawrence which may have been medieval (Smith 1888, 73).
4. HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Place name

The name Longridge is simply derived from Old Norse, meaning the long ridge, from the nearby Longridge Fell and is first mentioned as Langrig in 1246. The fell gave name to Longridge Chapel which is first mentioned in 1521 as the Chapel of Langgrige and in 1554 as Longerydche Chapel (Ekwall 1922, 140).

The place name was not officially applied to the settlement until well into the post-medieval period. In fact it is still called ‘Fell End’ on Yates’ map of 1786. In 1868 the ecclesiastical district of Longridge was formed, the chapel of ease under Ribchester becoming the parish church of Longridge (Smith 1888, 1). Prior to this Longridge formed part of the two townships of Dilworth and Alston with Hothersall, a division which clearly influenced the later growth of Longridge as a place. Both names are thought to have Old English origins (Ekwall 1922 145), Dilworth from dile + word meaning the vetch enclosure (Mills 1976), and Alston from Ælf + tun meaning the Ælf’s farmstead, Hothersall probably from Huder + halh, meaning Huder’s land in the bend of a river.

4.2 Prehistoric

Two Bronze Age socketed axes are recorded within the defined urban area, although the grid references given are only six figures and the exact findspots within the parish are unknown.

4.3 Romano-British

There are no known Romano-British sites within the defined urban area for Longridge although Stukeley mentions a "street which is the Roman road running directly northwest up the fell called Green Gate…it passes over Langridge, so through Bowland forest" (Smith 1888, 5). This lies well to the east of the study area. Kestor Lane, which is within the study area, could be a Latin derivative (OS 1847 1:10560).

4.4 Post-Roman and early medieval

Nothing is known about any settlement in the two townships. At the time of the Domesday Survey the area was thought to consist of scattered farmsteads and much waste ground (Till and Till 1990, 5).

4.5 Medieval

The first suggestion of settlement other than scattered farmsteads is the reference to the Chapel of St Lawrence in a rental of the Earl of Derby’s Estates in 1521 (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 66). In 1537 it was noted that “one lytell bell belonging to the chapel of Longerydche” had not been surrendered. (Smith 1888, 49), and is still in the tower. The bell has been dated to the fourteenth century, suggesting an earlier foundation for the chapel (Till and Till 1990, 19). There is no evidence of any settlement near the chapel, however, before the first half of the eighteenth century (Harley 1968), when the chapel clearly stood on an area of ground surrounded by an intricate road network. The Chapel of St Lawrence has been rebuilt and altered on several occasions and now contains no known medieval fabric. The five roads which converge on the Chapel of St Lawrence indicates that it was an important gathering place for the community from an early date. This is the only likely settlement nucleus in the late medieval period.
There are no other buildings within the present study area which are known to date from the medieval period; the house with the oldest datestone is at Crumpax, 1596 (Till 1993, 19). There is no mill site or manorial hall recorded within the study area.

4.6 Post-medieval

Saxton’s map of 1577, Speed’s 1610 map as well as Morden’s map of 1695, mark Longridge Chapel. However it is Yates’ map of 1786 (Harley 1968) which is the first to show any recognisable settlement. The chapel is situated amidst a network of roads running off in all directions. There are a few other buildings shown in the same area and ribbon development on either side of the road going north, which is now Fell Brow and was the main road from Preston to Clitheroe. The settlement is referred to as ‘Fell End’ (Harley 1968).

In the seventeenth century neither the township of Dilworth nor Alston appeared to be very prosperous places. There were various charities, including Richard Hoghton’s Charity, maintained by income from land rent, the value of which was halved in 1613 because of over ploughing. In 1649 the poor of Alston were said to be more numerous than those in Elston (Harland 1870, 109). In 1650 Longridge Chapel had neither minister nor maintenance, although the district contained 140 families who asked the legislature to afford them an endowment in order to appoint a minister and to constitute their district a parish (Smith 1888, 26). The endowment was not forthcoming until 1735 (Till and Till 1990, 6) and the parish of Longridge was not formed until 1868 (Till 1993, 12).

By the early seventeenth century, a number of other farmsteads and named properties are known to have existed within the defined urban area for Longridge. These include Hacking Hobs dated to 1608, Sharley Fold of 1619 and Daniel Plat dated to c 1615. By the end of the eighteenth century, the site of the chapel was known as Fell End, and to the north of the chapel, a linear settlement had developed on both sides of the main road running along the top of Long Ridge between Kestor Lane and Burey (Berry) Lane. A number of scattered buildings are shown to the north of Berry Lane, and to the south and east of the church, at Fell Brow, where some houses were in existence by the seventeenth century (Till 1993, 19). Longridge also had a school which was, according to a surviving plaque on the site, “erected by privat contributions for the publick good”, built in 1731. It shared the discrete area of land occupied by the chapel, along with five cottages and the Duke William Inn (Till 1990, 7).

Up until the eighteenth century, the economy was primarily an agrarian one with some trade in besoms (brooms) and lime (Smith 1888, 60). The formation of one of the country’s earliest building societies in 1793 (LRO DHH 994, LR0 DHH 995), however, implies that some sort of expansion was already beginning in the upper town in the late eighteenth century. The Society built the houses on Club Row, each of which had cellars for hand loom weaving (Till 1993, 64). The articles of the Society stated that the subscribers did not have to live in the houses, but could tenant them out to incomers (LRO DDH 994), and therefore suggests the beginnings of a planned cottage industry in Longridge. A second building society was formed in 1798, which constructed a row of houses on King Street. These were purpose-built for hand loom weavers, having through cellars with windows at both ends so that they could accommodate two looms. Behind these were outside toilets and stone sheds for nail working, another flourishing small
industry of the time (Till 1993, 67). By the late eighteenth century both townships had their own Select Vestries which controlled the affairs of each side of the village. This would have required considerable cooperation to oversee the poor, highway maintenance, constabulary, and matters pertaining to the church (Till 1993, 8).

4.7 Industrial and Modern

Longridge in the Early-nineteenth Century

Longridge was not considered a town until the latter part of the nineteenth century. Although there is a thoroughfare called ‘Market Place’, there are no records of a market of any size taking place there (Tupling, 1936, 1947). Even in the nineteenth century Baines mentions there are no public markets nearer than Preston and calls Longridge a ‘large, thriving stone-built village’, although there were cattle fairs taking place three times a year (Harland 1870, 109). These fairs had been held on a customary basis in Ribchester, but were transferred to Longridge in the late nineteenth century (Smith and Shortt 1890, 71), probably because it was a more significant settlement by that date.

By the time of the 1801 census there were almost 1200 inhabitants in the two townships, a figure that had grown to over 1900 by 1821, suggesting fairly rapid growth in the area (Baines 1825, 634). Even so, in 1837, growth around St Lawrence Chapel had stagnated. Instead, settlement expanded considerably up past the Market Place, where the road continues first as King Street and then High Street (LR0 DRB/1/63, LRO DRB/1/5). At this time, just before the advent of the railway, there were three butchers’ shops, a saddlers, two shops, two warehouses and a school (LRO DRB/1/63), as well as a weaving shop and a loom shop in the top part of the town (LRO DRB/1/5). To the south west of Longridge Chapel, a separate settlement had developed, called Newtown, which between 1825 and 1840, increased the size of Longridge by 20%.

Longridge in the early nineteenth century prospered in a small way with its flourishing hand loom weaving industry. This continued to be the case until around 1825-1830, and the weavers, including women, were considered to be reasonably well off (Smith 1888, 41). In 1825, a purpose-built settlement for hand loom weavers and nail makers was built at Newtown, south-west of the Chapel of St Lawrence. Newtown was the product of Dr Edmund Eccles, who planned a house for himself with a small hamlet. The houses had no cellars so the workrooms for weaving and nail making were constructed as an above ground through room. Dr Eccles lived at the Doctor’s House, built in 1825 which was a combined farm and surgery, and was the only medical practitioner in either Alston or Dilworth from 1825-1871 (Till 1993, 73-81). Although not named, the Market Place at the top of Berry Lane was in existence by 1837. It may have been located here because this was where the boundary line for the two townships met and was therefore a place acceptable to everyone. Its role as a market place may pre-date the nineteenth century, as this is the focus of some of Longridge’s earliest buildings, including a number of inns. It
acted as a focus for settlement, and this had become the densest area of building by 1837 (LRO DRB/1/5).

**Longridge in the Mid-nineteenth Century**

The advent of the railway in 1840 (Parker 1972, 5) led to other industries opening in Longridge, including steam-powered cotton mills and brass and iron foundries. Stone quarries were also evident (Slater 1851, 752). This led to substantial growth in Longridge over the second half of the nineteenth century (OS 1847 1:10560; OS 1893 1:2500), transforming it from a thriving village to a town. In the 1841 census there were 1,006 people in 191 houses; and by the 1881 census this had almost trebled to 2,975 people living in 689 houses (Till 1993, 114). Longridge was finally formed into an ecclesiastical parish in 1861. It became a Local Government District in 1883 and an Urban District Council in 1884 (Kelly 1898, 551). Between 60-70% of the workforce was employed in the cotton industry, 20% in the stone extraction industry and less than 10% in agriculture (Till 1993, 109).

Occupations were numerous and varied and include ten grocers and four butchers. A Guild was held on St Lawrence Day and “three annual fairs for cattle, pedlery and pleasure” (Slater 1851, 455). There was considerable development in housing provision from the middle of the century. Between 1851 and 1861, for example, ninety-nine houses were built between the Old Oaks and Market Place. Some of this new build included infilling, but there was also a new development at Pitt Street (Derby Road) of thirteen houses at Silver Street, of sixteen houses, and eleven on Berry Lane. Between 1861 and 1871 with the opening of new mills, the population rose by over 60% (Till, 1993, 114).

**Longridge in the Late Nineteenth Century**

Longridge continued to flourish into the late nineteenth century, and housing expansion continued and more new shops were opened (Till 1993, 10). There was evidently a considerable number of middle-class houses in the settlement, as in 1885, it was described as having many private residences, including superior cottages (Slater 1885, 343). Longridge also acquired another Anglican church, St Paul’s, plus two non-conformist chapels. Most of the new housing provision developed along the existing roads, infilling between existing settlement. Most of the late nineteenth century housing in Longridge was directly linked to the textile mill, including sixteen houses on Silver Street built exclusively for Stonebridge Mill (Till 1993, 109), and later on Mersey Street and Chatburn Road (Till 1993, 108).
The Textile Industry

The handloom weaving textile industry was well-developed and organised by the early nineteenth century, with purpose-built houses. Water-powered mills had developed along Cowley Beck, outside the defined urban area, but these were superseded with the introduction of steam power in the nineteenth century (Till 1993, 102). The opening of the railway in 1840 stimulated the growth of the new steam-powered mills at Longridge, and between 1850 and 1874 four textile mills opened. In 1850 George Whittle built the first steam-power operated cotton factory close to Stone Bridge on Silver Street. This was followed, in 1851, by Crumpax Mill on a green field site in Berry Lane. The next was Victoria Mill in 1862 built on the north side of the town, followed in 1874 by Queen’s Mill near Stone Bridge Mill. These were all relatively large mills and all except Queen’s Mill were built from stone from the local quarries. Queen’s Mill was brick built, and was owned by shareholders and known locally as the ‘Co-op Mill’ (Till 1993, 102-106). All four mills were strategically located directly next to the railway, and Crumpax Mill had a short branch line connecting it to the main Longridge Line. A steam operated bobbin mill also opened in Victoria Street.

The Stone Quarries

Stone quarrying was one of Longridge’s major industries. The sandstone was of excellent quality and there was a ready market for it for municipal and other large buildings in Lancaster, Preston and as far away as Liverpool (Smith 1888, 43). The stone quarries at Tootle Heights, which were working by 1837 (LRO DRB 1/63), were of major importance to the early development of the town. The need to transport the stone to Preston for working and redistribution was the prime motivation behind the opening of the railway in 1840, and this accelerated its development from a village into a town. Stone was being supplied for Liverpool Docks as early as 1821 (Till 1993, 54). The stone was also used for the building expansion on Berry Lane and for many local churches as well as for municipal buildings and churches throughout Lancashire (British Geological Survey 1992, 95). By the late nineteenth century, in addition to Tootle Height Quarry, there was also Spencer’s Quarry, Lord’s Quarry and Nook Fold and Green Banks Quarries, as well as an old quarry shown by Seven Acre Farm (OS 1893 1:2500). The quarries prospered until about the 1880s, when competition from brick and concrete caused a decline in the industry (Till 1993, 48).

Other Industries

Two brass and iron foundries were built in the 1870’s on Inglewhite Road (Till 1993, 10). Other industries ancillary to the textile industry were also evident, especially nail making. Nail making was a largely cottage industry, and took place in many of the hand loom weaving cottages. In fact many nail makers repaired looms, and in 1851 there were 19 nail makers (Till 1993, 68).

Commercial Development

By 1837, Longridge had three butchers’ shops, a saddler’s and a cottage shop, all situated on King Street (LRO DRB 1/63), which probably includes the Market Place. There was no
development on Berry Lane in the first half of the century, though it later became the commercial centre. By the end of the nineteenth century, there was a concentration of public buildings at the top of Berry Lane, including three schools, three churches and the Cooperative Society (OS 1893 1:2500). Five pubs were located in or near Market Place. The development of Berry Lane was probably encouraged by the location of the railway station there. As well as three banks, Berry Lane had the Towneley Arms, with its park-like gardens, and numerous shops, many of which are still in existence. By the late nineteenth century, Longridge also had two surgeons, a chemist, six boot and shoe makers, ten inns and public houses and four beer retailers and twenty-four shopkeepers (Slater 1885, 343-347).

**Pubs, Inns and Hotels**

A total of twenty public houses and inns have been recorded for Longridge (Till 1993, 126). Of these the oldest are thought to be those around Market Place and the former Duke William, which was situated directly in front of the Church of St Lawrence. In order to get to the church tower the yard of the inn had to crossed, and it has been suggested that the former Duke William was eighteenth century in origin and there may have been an earlier inn on the site (Till and Till 1990, 7). The inn was relocated on the opposite side of the road on Fell Brow, and the eighteenth century building was eventually demolished in 1880 in order to extend the churchyard. The White Bull is another of Longridge’s oldest inns, dating to at least 1776, and it is where the Select Vestry of Dilworth met to discuss township matters (Till 1993, 120). The Towneley Arms on Berry Lane was built shortly after the advent of the Preston and Longridge Railway in 1840 and abutted the station building. Part of the canopy of the station still survives. Other public houses include the Quarryman’s Arms at Tootle Height, The Crown, The Spencer’s Arms, The Red Lion, The Dog Inn, The Swarbrick Arms, The Weaver’s Arms, The Wheatsheaf, The Mason’s Arms, The Old Oak, The Grey Horse, Stone Bridge Inn, The Bull and Royal, The Forrest’s Arms, The Durham Ox, The Black Bull and The White Lion.
Anglican Churches

The Chapel of St Lawrence underwent rebuilding in 1716, 1784, 1822 and 1900. The tower was added in 1841 (Till and Till 1990, 6). In 1784 the chapel was both repaired and enlarged at a cost of over £123 (Till and Till 1990, 9). A tablet dated 1822 in the tower records “this chapel was enlarged and 309 additional sittings obtained…”. The renovation of 1900 considerably altered the character of the church, replacing the round headed gallery windows with rectangular ones, enlarging the chancel and creating a new vestry (Till and Till 1990, 14-15). In the 1870s there were attempts to build and endow a new Anglican church closer to what had now become the town centre, at Berry Lane (Anon 1876). But it was not until 1886 that the foundation stone was laid for the Church of St Paul on the east side of Berry Lane (www.imagesofengland.org.uk). The church, a chapel of ease to St Lawrence’s Church, was completed in 1888, but the tower by ACM Lillie was not added until 1937 (Till and Till 1990, 26-35). The first recorded Catholic mission was in 1765 and in 1774, the upper floor of a barn on Alston Lane was converted to a chapel (Blundell 1941, 174). It was not until 1869, however, that a purpose built school and chapel were built on Pitt Street, followed in 1886 by a new stone church, dedicated to St Wilfrid, adjacent to the existing one. A steeple was added in 1890 (Till and Till 1990, 130).

Non-conformist Chapels

Non-conformists met in private houses until the nineteenth century. Wesleyan Methodism, for example, came to Longridge in 1788 with meetings at a farmhouse at Knowe Green. In 1806 a room in Langton Row was used, and the first chapel, Mount Zion Chapel, was built on Calf Coat Lane in 1836 (Till 1993, 133). This was replaced by a chapel on Berry Lane in 1884. The Congregationalists, or Independents, built their first chapel in 1865 on Berry Lane and had a day school which opened in 1866 as an alternative to the Church of England School (Till 1993, 132). Particular Baptists also met in Longridge (Smith 1888, 77), and in 1728 the house of George Abbot was registered as a Quaker Meeting Place (LR0 QSP/1286/28), but neither appear to have had purpose-built places of worship.

Schools

The school near the Chapel of St Lawrence was demolished, possibly for the expansion of the cemetery, and a new building was erected in 1832 across the road on the junction of Lower Lane and Chapel Hill (Till 1993, 4). The building still stands and is now a funeral directors. The Longridge National School was built on Berry Street (LRO DDX 595/36) in 1865-6. These premises were later enlarged, to provide a separate Infants School by the late nineteenth century (OS 1893 1:2500). Other schooling provision was provided by the adjacent Congregational Chapel, and by the Roman Catholic church on Pitt Street. There was also a college at Alston, outside the defined urban area built in 1854 (Till 1993, 140).

Public Buildings

The earliest public building in Longridge was the workhouse, situated somewhere on Fell Brow, and which closed in 1839 (Till 1993, 72). The workhouse contained a loom shop.
The most significant public building was the Longridge Co-operative Industrial Society, an imposing building built on Berry Lane in 1880 and enlarged in 1888 (LRO DDX 595/37). The building contained a savings bank, reading room and library in addition to shops and stores. Concerts and entertainments were also held in the Hall which could accommodate 800, and it would have been a focal point for the town. The ground floor is still used as commercial premises, but the remainder is disused. A second Co-operative store branch was opened in Lee Street in 1886 (Smith 1888, 87). There was also a Post Office in King Street, until 1880, when it was replaced by one in Berry Street (www.ribblevalley.gov.uk). The Police House was originally next to the Duke William Pub on Fell Brow, and the constabulary shield can still be seen on the building which is now a private house. In 1880 the police station moved to Derby Road, its current location.

**Public Utilities**

In the nineteenth century the water supply for Longridge came from a number of wells. The development in Newtown was built around Pump Street where a handpump was the only source of water (Till 1993, 40) and it can be assumed that the situation was similar in other parts of the village at that time. By 1892 the Preston Water Works had built four large reservoirs at Longridge, in order to supply Preston with water (OS 1893 1:2500). By the same date, however, the Inspector of Nuisances reported that out of 700 houses in the village only 307 had sewage tanks, the rest emptied directly into brooks and ditches in the neighbourhood (LRO UDLo1/4). Gas came to Longridge in 1867 and was supplied by a private company (LRO DDX 256). Gas was expensive and the local inhabitants resisted having it installed. There were, however, several gas lamps in operation by 1883 (Till 1993, 149). The gas works were on the west side of Pitt Street near the junction of Berry Lane (OS 1893 1:2500). The area has been redeveloped but the entrance survives (www.ribblevalley.gov.uk).
5. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER AND NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

5.1 Surviving Plan Components

Church and Churchyard (Areas 1-3)

- St Lawrence’s Church and Churchyard (Area 1)
  The chapel of St Lawrence was first mentioned in 1521, although a bell has been dated to the fourteenth century, suggesting an earlier foundation for the chapel. The chapel has been rebuilt and altered on several occasions and now contains no known medieval fabric and is nineteenth century in character. The present-day churchyard also contains the site of a school, established in 1731, and the original Duke William Inn.

Plate 9: Parish Church of St Lawrence

- St Wilfrid’s Church and Churchyard (Area 2)
  The first Roman Catholic church and school were built on this site in 1869, with the present St Wilfrid’s Church built adjacent to the original in 1886. The character area comprises the stone-built church and presbytery. The church contains a nave with a clearstorey, a lower chancel at the west end with a polygonal apse, an east porch and a north east tower. It is listed at grade two.

- St Paul’s Church and Churchyard (Area 3)
  St Paul’s Church was built in 1886-8 by Ewan Christian, with a west tower of 1936-7 by A C M Lillie. It is constructed from sandstone with a slate roof and is listed at grade two. The character area also includes Church Street, which was formerly known as Calder Street, prior to the church being built and the adjacent vicarage.
Commercial Centre (Area 4)
The town centre covers Berry Lane and Market Place, and comprises primarily commercial buildings, as well as some public buildings and domestic accommodation. It includes three public houses in the Market Place, plus the Towneley Arms and the former Station Inn in Berry Lane. The Co-operative Society building is a major commercial feature on Berry Lane.

Textile Industry (Area 5-6)
- Stonebridge Mill (Area 5)
A former cotton mill, Stonebridge Mill was the first steam powered mill in Longridge, built in 1850-1 by George Whittle. It was sited by the railway where a platform was built to assist the loading and unloading of materials.
- Queens Mill (Area 6)
Queens Mill was built in 1874 and was sited adjacent to the railway. It was the only mill owned by shareholders and was registered as the Longridge Manufacturing and Spinning Company Ltd.

Utilities (Area 7)
Situated on the northern edge of the survey area, the character area comprises Dilworth Upper and Lower Reservoirs.

Rural Settlement (Areas 8-17)
Surviving remnants of rural settlements provide small but distinct pockets of early fabric within the present urban area. These sites date from before 1850, and in some cases are relatively early. When established, rural settlement sites often lay some distance from the then urban centre. Whilst the locations of these sites are often still of a semi-rural nature, buildings now tend to lie adjacent to or within twentieth century suburban developments. Sites include farms and former farms, and small groups of cottages, usually in the form of short rows.
- Higher Broom Hill (Area 12)
An area of post medieval settlement, including the Quarryman's Arms, a watershot-built stone house, dated 1808.
- Sharley Fold (Area 13)
A former farmhouse and its grounds, now on the edge of the town centre. Dated 1619, it is one of the few surviving buildings still with a stone flag roof.

Handloom Weavers' Settlement (Areas 18-19)
- King Street and Club Row (Area 18)
An area of purpose-built handloom weavers' cottages, built between 1793 and 1804 by terminating building societies. Club Row was constructed first by the country's earliest building society, each cottage having a cellar for handloom weaving. A second building society was formed in 1798, which constructed a row of houses on King Street. These were purpose-built for handloom weavers, having through cellars with windows at both ends so that they could accommodate two looms. Behind these were outside toilets and
stone sheds for nail working. The cottages on King Street Terrace and Dilworth Lane survive, but some of the Club Row cottages were demolished to make way for the Health Centre.

- Newtown (Area 19)
Two court developments purpose-built between 1825 and 1835 as handloom weavers' cottages, which were also designed to accommodate nail making. The houses had no cellars so the workrooms for weaving and nail making were constructed as an above ground through room. There is a total of 26 houses, plus the Doctor’s House, which was a combined farm and surgery and was lived in by the developer, Dr Eccles Shorrock. Included in the character area is the Old Oak Inn, which was constructed in 1838.

Middle-class Housing (c1860-1914) (Areas 20)
- Lower Lane (Area 20)
A small area of middle-class houses, comprising detached, late-nineteenth century villas, and including a former vicarage.

Bye-law Terraced Housing (Areas 21-26)
Discrete areas of nineteenth-century terraced housing, built mostly along main roads, and in short terraces along branch roads. One of the smallest areas is Cut Thorn, originally probably a farm, but in the second half of the nineteenth century a terrace of eight houses were constructed here for millworkers. There are two roof levels suggesting the cottages were constructed in two stages.

The terraced housing comprises two-up, two-down through houses with rear yards, many have ginnels providing access to the rear of the properties. All were constructed in the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, mostly in rock-faced stone, but later houses were also constructed in brick. Houses on Alexandra Road, off Derby Road, have bay windows. Although many of the terraces are quite plain, some have classical detailing, such as pedimented doorways, or round-headed doorways with prominent keystones.

Twentieth Century Hospital (Area 27)
Longridge Community Hospital is a twenty bed hospital constructed in the late twentieth century on previously undeveloped land. It is situated adjacent to St Wilfred’s Roman Catholic church.

Public Landscape Gardens (Areas 28)
- Towneley Gardens (Area 28)
These formal gardens are situated next to the Towneley Inn. They were originally associated with the inn, but are now the only public open space within the town centre.
Agricultural Areas (Areas 29-30)
The survey area for Longridge includes two agricultural areas, Willows Farm and Seven Acre Farmhouse, situated on the northern edge of the survey area.

Twentieth Century Industrial/Commercial Areas (Areas 31-37)
Modern industrial and commercial areas are spread throughout the Longridge survey area. These character areas include: a supermarket, garages, a council depot, a builders yard, a timber yard, a dairy, a household waste disposal centre, an industrial estate and other industrial works.

A number of the character areas were constructed in areas of previous industrial and domestic use. For example: the superstore on Inglewhite Road (area 32) is constructed on the site of Pitt Street Mill, a corn and bone mill extant in 1892; area 31 was formerly the site of Crumps Oak Mill, a cotton mill demolished in 1859 and is now a garage and a car park; area 34 is now a builders yard but was formerly Victoria Street Bobbin Works, although there is one surviving building of the bobbin mill and area 30 comprises a household waste disposal centre situated on the site of Chapel Hill Quarry (OS 1893 1:2500, 53.12).

Twentieth Century Public (Areas 38-39)
These character areas comprise a civic hall and a fire station. However small individual buildings such as community or health centres may also occur elsewhere in the survey area, as features within residential character areas rather than forming separate character areas in their own right.

Twentieth Century Recreational Areas (Areas 40-41)
- John Smith Playing Field (Area 40)
On the northern edge of the town, this public open space occupies part of the area of former quarrying at Tootle Hill, and the railway line which led to it. However once the railway was dismantled the area was used as a landfill before being landscaped into today's park. There are the remains of an iron crane within the playing field.

- Recreation Ground North of Kestor Lane (Area 41)
This area comprises a playground, a recreation ground, a playing field and a bowling green. It was formerly a cricket ground (OS 1893 1:2500, 53.8).

Twentieth Century School/College (Areas 42-44)
There are three defined character areas that comprise modern educational establishments in Longridge. Two of the areas comprise primary schools with playing fields, situated on the edge of the survey area adjacent to twentieth century residential areas. The larger character area comprises two high schools set in extensive playing fields, adjacent mainly to twentieth century residential and industrial areas.

Caravan Site (Area 45)
- Beacon Fell Caravan Site (Area 45)
The caravan site is on the site of several former quarries including, Tootle Height, New England, West End, Spencer’s, Nook Fold and Copy Quarries. It is adjacent to a covered reservoir and Dilworth Upper Reservoir.

Plate 11: Tootle Height Quarry (now caravan park)

**Individual Housing (1918 to 2003) (Areas 46-51)**

This character type mainly comprises areas of houses set in large gardens, generally situated towards the edges of the survey area, in fact five out of the six areas lie on the boundary itself, however none of these extend beyond it. There are no areas of this type in the town centre. The houses are most often detached, but some areas include semi-detached and terraced dwellings. Some of the individual areas are of a small size, containing as few as a single house or from two to ten houses, although there are larger areas.

**Inter- & Immediate Post-War Housing (1918 to c1950) (Areas 52-55)**

Housing of this type is spread throughout the survey area of Longridge and comprises large housing estates generally situated towards the edges of the survey area. These areas tend to represent expansion outwards from the terraced housing developments of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The larger estates tend to feature formal layouts of semi-detached houses and short rows, all with individual front and rear gardens. Areas immediately adjacent to the nineteenth century terraced housing can include terraces that are very similar in character to the earlier nineteenth century terraces, as well as terraces where the individual houses are slightly wider than their earlier counterparts.

**Late Twentieth Century Housing (c1970 to 2003) (Areas 56-61)**

There are six defined late twentieth century housing areas in Longridge and these are found throughout the survey area, some close to the commercial centre.

There are three large estates of this date situated towards the edge of the survey area and three smaller areas of infill either within or adjacent to earlier housing. Some areas contain detached houses, often quite close together, whilst others contain a mix of detached and semi-detached dwellings. There are also flats, sheltered accommodation, staggered rows
of houses or garaging within these areas. This character type includes areas of very recent
development, built in the early years of the twenty-first century.

Later Post-War Housing (c1950 to c1970) (Areas 62-66)
Residential development of the 1950s and 1960s form part of the wider twentieth century
suburban development of Longridge, and lie adjacent to earlier and later residential areas.
The larger estates do not go beyond the boundary of the defined survey area, with open
fields beyond.
The layouts of the larger estates generally include long avenues, and house-types tend to
be homogeneous, although areas of semi-detached houses can include small groups that
are detached and vice versa. Houses built in short rows are also present. The detached
houses are often set close together. Individual dwellings may have a front and a rear
garden, or may have a garden only to the rear.

Open Ground (Areas 67-72)
Open ground additional to formal recreational areas and parks can be found throughout the
Longridge survey area, including small areas close to the centre of the town. These sites
tend to be of small to medium size, and most are now grassed over. Several appear
disused, although some may be in informal recreational use (such as for dog-walking).
Open ground in Longridge includes, land associated with twentieth century industrial and
commercial areas, open areas associated with housing estates and areas of open
countryside within the survey area. Some sites may represent waste ground or be awaiting
development; function is not always apparent. The character areas represent pockets of
land that appear to have never been previously developed.

Ribbon development (Areas 73)
- Fell Brow (Area 73)
Late eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings developed as ribbon settlement along Fell
Brow, the road leading north from the church to the Market Place. The character area
includes Alston Boys’ School, built in 1832 and now a joinery and undertakers, the Duke
William pub built in 1814 to replace the former pub in the churchyard and the Old Police
Station built in 1880. There is also evidence of former cellar loom shops in some of the
cottages in this area.

5.2 Building Materials
With the ready availability of such good local sandstone, it is not surprising that
most of the houses and public buildings
built in Longridge before the twentieth
century used this stone rather than brick. The quarry at Tootle Height was supplying
building stone from at least 1837 (LRO
DRB 1/63). The earliest surviving houses, such as some on Fell Brow and off the
Market Place, are of random sandstone
rubble construction. By the end of the
eighteenth century, many of the cottages, including the club houses on King Street
and Club Row, were built of watershot

Plate 12: Brick Terraces, Preston Road
sandstone. Ashlared stone was used for more high status buildings. Usually it is the
decorative elements on these houses which are considerably eroded. The former
Swarbrick Arms on Market Place, for example, has decorative elements in red sandstone
which has eroded badly. Snecked sandstone rubble has been used for the Church of St
Wilfrid, coursed, rock-faced sandstone for the Church of St Paul. Many of the later terraces
of mill workers' houses were also built of rock-faced sandstone, though many houses, of all
dates, have been rendered.

Queen's Mill was the only mill to be built in Longridge using local clay bricks. These were
handmade and came from a clay pit in Lee Street on the north side of the mill (Longridge
and District Local History Society 1977, 34). The terraces next to it on Chatburn Road are
also built in brick as are some on Silver Street. These survive in good condition.

The principal roofing material on older properties may have been originally sandstone flags,
but now most of these have been replaced with slate or synthetic materials.

5.3 Housing Types

A house on Fell Brow, externally at least, appears to be one of the oldest surviving in the
town. Now one house, it was originally two small cottages as can be seen by a blocked
doorways and the remains of quoining over one of the doorways. The doors would have
opened straight onto the road. The defined urban area for Longridge contains some former
sandstone-rubble built, vernacular-style farmsteads, including Daniel Plat on the western
dge of the town, Sharley Fold, dated 1619 (www.imagesofengland.org.uk), and Hacking
Hobs, said to be dated to 1606, at Newtown (www.imagesofengland.org.uk).

Longridge has a considerable number of surviving hand loom weavers’ cottages. The
houses on Club Row (High Street) date from the late 1790s, and were purpose-built to
contain basement loom shops, which were entered at lower ground level to the rear. Each
house is of one bay, with the doors of adjacent houses paired, with a third door leading
through a ginnel to the rear yard (www.imagesofengland.org.uk). They also had a coal
shed and a “necessary” (LRO DDH 995). The houses on King Street had an access lane
which separated the house/weaving shop from the sheds and yards, and was accessed via
a wide archway at either end. Those at Newtown were built around a court with a central
access lane separating the rows of houses and yards, presumably to facilitate getting
materials in and out of the cottages.

Longridge has a large number of nineteenth century mill workers’ terraced houses. Many
are stone-built, but there are some, such as the houses on Silver Street and Chatburn
Road which are brick built. The houses on Chatburn Road have passages between
houses to provide access to the rear yards as do those on Mersey Street. The yards for
the Chatburn Road houses are larger than average, and these houses appear to have
been of a higher status than others in the town, although at the time they were built, the
railway ran directly opposite their front doors. Many houses have been modernised,
including replacement windows, but they still retain much of their original character.

There are also some high status houses of note, that were intended for the more important
inhabitants of Longridge, such as mill owners and clergy. They include Alston Villa on
Chapel Hill, believed to be the home of George Whittle, the founder of Stonebridge Mill,
and the Old Parsonage which has a dated rainwater head of 1692, and Strickland House
dated 1798, on the High Street (www.ribblevalley.gov.uk). The Limes at the top of Berry
Lane was built in the 1880s and was at one time home to the cotton trader, James Kay
Junior. It is now a nursery school. The Manse was built in 1865 on Berry Lane by the
Reverend Booth, who also designed and built the Congregational Church on Berry Lane.
5.4 Communication Networks
The existing main road network appears little altered from the late eighteenth century (Harley 1968) and is probably based on the medieval road system, which evolved as access roads to the chapel. The main route was the road from Preston to Clitheroe, which travelled along the top of the Long Ridge. It was along this road that the Chapel of St Lawrence was established, which became the focus of settlement and was later to become the commercial heart of Longridge. There were also cross routes to Goosnargh and Ribchester. None of these roads were ever significant enough to be upgraded as turnpike roads.

The sandstone quarries at Tootle Height and elsewhere prompted the need for better transport, and led to the establishment of the Preston and Longridge Railway in 1840. It started as a horse tramway single line, with horses pulling the empty wagons up to the Tootle Height Quarries. Whereas three horses could draw three tonnes of stone it was estimated that forty tonnes a day could be transported by rail. The Preston terminus, however, was almost a mile from any other railway link. The railway was solely for industrial use at first (Parker 1972, 4-8), and it was not until 1847 that there were plans to widen the line and adapt it for steam. The first steam powered locomotive came into use in 1848 (Till 1993, 93), paving the way for the further industrial expansion in Longridge. The railway declined rapidly in the twentieth century with the development of motor transport, and plans to extend the railway beyond Longridge to Hellifield never materialised. Passenger traffic fell with the advent of regular bus services and ended in 1930 (Till 1993, 100), although goods traffic continued until November 1967 (Parker 1972, 19).

5.5 Spaces, Vistas and Panoramas
Late nineteenth century Longridge had very little public space, however, its elevated position gave its inhabitants the chance to enjoy scenic vistas from Tootle Height. Later the Preston and Longridge Railway was utilised for holiday and Sunday outings. It brought parties from industrial Preston out to the countryside, to enjoy the views from Longridge. On 13 June 1840 the Preston Pilot noted, “We noticed in our last that the directors arranged extra trains on Whit Monday. Parties availed themselves of quick transport to and from the upper end of the line. Others went by early trains for a day’s ramble on the hills to enjoy a view of the beautiful and almost unlimited variety of scenery which presents itself from the heights above Longridge, there being no less than 418 conveyed along the line. Some trains came down the steepest part of the incline at nearly 40mph. Fare 4d. each way” (Preston Pilot, 13th June 1840). In 1858 a party of over 1500 people enjoyed a similar Sunday School outing accompanied by bands of music (Preston Pilot, 4th Sept 1858).

Even with considerable expansion in the late nineteenth century, Longridge was still a small town. Most of its terraced housing was in relatively small blocks, and there were large areas of open fields between the main roads which were the focus of settlement. These open spaces provided an easily accessible link to the open countryside. Further, the many reservoirs to the south and east of the town, limited development and therefore contributed to a feeling of space away from the heart of the town.

5.6 Plan Form
The road pattern had probably formed in the medieval period and was the base around which the later settlement formed piecemeal and in an unplanned manner, mostly as ribbon development. It is possible that there was a small settlement nucleus around the Chapel of St Lawrence by the late medieval period, which would have been unplanned in form. In the post medieval period, a small ribbon development followed the road north from the chapel, along Fell Brow (Harley 1968). Again growth would have been organic and the settlement form was unplanned. The remainder of the settlement pattern comprised scattered
farmsteads. The importance of the road pattern is reflected by the way the modern town’s layout is still dominated largely by this road system. Although there has been extensive twentieth century development at Longridge it has always conformed to this early pattern of roads.

From the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, there was small-scale planned development, most notably the hand loom weavers’ cottages at Newtown, as well as the Building Society developments on the east side of King Street and High Street. These latter two developments, however, followed earlier development as ribbon settlements along the main roads.

Longridge’s main period of growth was in the second half of the nineteenth century, following the opening of the railway, and the establishment of large-scale industry. There was a change to small-scale planned development, which took the form of rows of terraced houses, often at right-angles to the existing road system, but not at a scale large enough to be considered grid-iron development. These streets included Lee Street, Chatburn Road, Severn Street, Irwell Street and Mersey Street. Other short terraces were built off Pitt Street on the west side of the town, and there was a short, isolated terrace at Cut Thorn (Till 1993, 114). Berry Lane had become the commercial and civic centre by the late nineteenth century, shifting the focus of Longridge from the traditional centre around the Church of St Lawrence.

5.7 Survival

Areas of below ground potential are constrained by later development, but given Longridge’s late development as an urban centre, any pre-nineteenth century below-ground remains are likely to be limited and especially concentrated around the known earlier farms. The area of greatest potential is probably around the Church of St Lawrence, the original settlement focus. Though the church has medieval origins there is no known evidence to conclude that there was other settlement around it of medieval origin. Within the area of the extended churchyard itself are the remains of the former eighteenth century school, as well as the original Duke William Inn. There are areas of undeveloped land around the church, which may be susceptible to infill development, which may destroy earlier, unquantified remains.

Only six structures are listed in Longridge, including three nineteenth century structures. There are a number of eighteenth and early-nineteenth century buildings, such as some of the former hand loom weavers’ cottages, the original Wesleyan Methodist chapel and the Church of St Lawrence, which are not listed. Longridge is notable for the number and quality of its surviving hand loom weavers’ cottages, but only one row has been protected through listing.

Although Longridge has lost many of its nineteenth century industrial remains, its commercial centre and stock of nineteenth century housing survives largely intact, and is in good condition. Longridge never grew into a large urban community, and its growth remained largely restricted to the existing road network. Nor did it develop large areas of grid-iron development. This, along with its late development, meant that it was not subject to clearances in the twentieth century, and it survives well as a late nineteenth century town.
6. DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Listed Buildings

There are no listed buildings graded I or graded II* within the defined urban area for Longridge.

There are only six grade II listed structures within the defined urban area for Longridge. This includes the nineteenth century churches of St Paul and St Wilfrid, but not the original Longridge church of St Lawrence. Two of the older farmhouses, Sharley Fold of 1619, and Hacking Hobs, dated to the early seventeenth century are included, along with the Building Society houses on Higher Road. The tunnel portal for the former railway is also listed grade II.

Although the row of hand loom weavers' cottages at 6 to 44 Higher Road are listed grade II, in general lower status houses, especially the surviving weaving cottages, are under-represented in the listings for Longridge. Most notably, the planned hand loom settlement at Newtown is not listed. A number of post medieval farmsteads, including Daniel Plat, the Old Parsonage and Strickland House are also unlisted.

6.2 Scheduled Monuments

There are no scheduled monuments listed for the defined urban area for Longridge.

6.3 Conservation Areas and Registered Parks

There is one conservation area within the defined urban area for Longridge. This covers the present-day town centre, based on Berry Lane, but also including the Market Place, King Street and Derby Road. The Market Place and King Street part of the conservation area includes the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century hand loom weavers’ cottages and the post medieval ribbon development. The remainder of the conservation area, covering Berry Lane and Derby Road, comprises the late nineteenth century expansion of the town, including the commercial and civic centre, as well many of the mill workers’ terraced houses. The conservation area is limited in its coverage, as it does not include the areas of early nineteenth century settlement along Fell Brow and Newtown.

There is no registered park or garden within the defined urban area for Longridge.
7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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OS   Ordnance Survey
PRO  Public Record Office, Kew

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LRO DDK 3/14  Inquisition post mortem of 1521 includes Alston
LRO DDK 1541/1  Survey of Alston 1630
LRO DDX 256  Longridge Gas Company minutes, 1866-1942
LRO DDX 493  Dilworth deed 1614
LRO DDX 595/36  Plans, elevations of Longridge National Schools, 20 August 1866
LRO DDX 595/37  Plans of Longridge Industrial Co-operative Society, 8 Sept 1879
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OS 1847  1:10,560 Sheet 54 1st edn, Southampton
OS 1893  1:2500 Sheet 53.12, Southampton
OS 1893  1:2500 Sheet 54.9, Southampton
OS 1893  1:2500 Sheet 54.5, Southampton
OS 1893  1:2500 Sheet 53.8, Southampton
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### 8. APPENDICES

1. Post medieval sites as shown on figure 6

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2. Industrial era sites as shown on figure 7

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Fig. 1 Location map of survey area
Lancashire Historic Landscape Characterisation

Figure 3: Historic Landscape Characterisation map of Lancashire

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Fig. 4 Detail of Longridge as mapped in 1847
Fig 5: Archaeological Sites Recorded for Longridge

KEY
- Survey Area
- Prehistoric Site
- Medieval Site
- Post-medieval Site
- Industrial-era Site
Fig 6: Post-medieval Sites, and Areas Recorded for Longridge

KEY

- Survey Area
- Post-medieval Site
- Post-medieval Settlement Area

See Appendix 1 for identification of sites
Fig 7: Industrial-era Sites and Communication Routes Recorded for Longridge

KEY
- Survey Area
- Industrial-era Site
- Railway
- Road

See Appendix 2 for identification of sites
Longridge

Figure 8. Historical Urban Development

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Longridge
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Figure 9. Present Historic Townscape Character - HTC types and areas
Fig 10: Designated Sites and Areas in Longridge

KEY
- Survey Area
- Conservation Area
- Listed Building
  Grade II

17959 - Sharley Fold
17960 - 6 to 44 Higher Road
17961 - St Wilfred's Church
17962 - St Paul's Church
17966 - Hacking Hobs
17967 - Tunnel Portal off Chaigley Road