

Land at Lower Hall Farm and Seed House Farm, Samlesbury, South Ribblesdale, Lancashire

LIDAR Analysis

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On behalf of Harleyford Aggregates Ltd
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Introduction

1. This document has been prepared by Archaeology Collective (part of HCUK Group) on behalf of Harleyford Aggregates Ltd, to inform planning proposals for mineral extraction zones with an access road, landscaping and bunds on land at Lower Hall Farm and Seed House Farm. It draws upon the results of a desk-based assessment produced by Archaeology Collective in 2019 and LIDAR data sourced from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)¹.
2. The Site is located at NGR SD 58998 31513 and lies to the east of Ribbleton, Lancashire (Figure 1) and currently comprises a combination of enclosed flat farmland on the floodplains of the River Ribble and undulating steep sided wooded valleys and small fields primarily used for pasture.
3. Due to access issues, the northern part of the Site (that part proposed for mineral extraction) was not walked over as part of the desk-based assessment. The planning officer for the Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Team has therefore agreed that an analysis of an existing LIDAR (light detection and ranging) survey can be used to identify previously unrecorded above ground archaeological sites and features in the Site. This technique is particularly useful

¹ <https://environment.data.gov.uk/DefraDataDownload/?Mode=survey>

as it can penetrate vegetation cover to record the ground surface, making it useful in examining densely wooded areas.

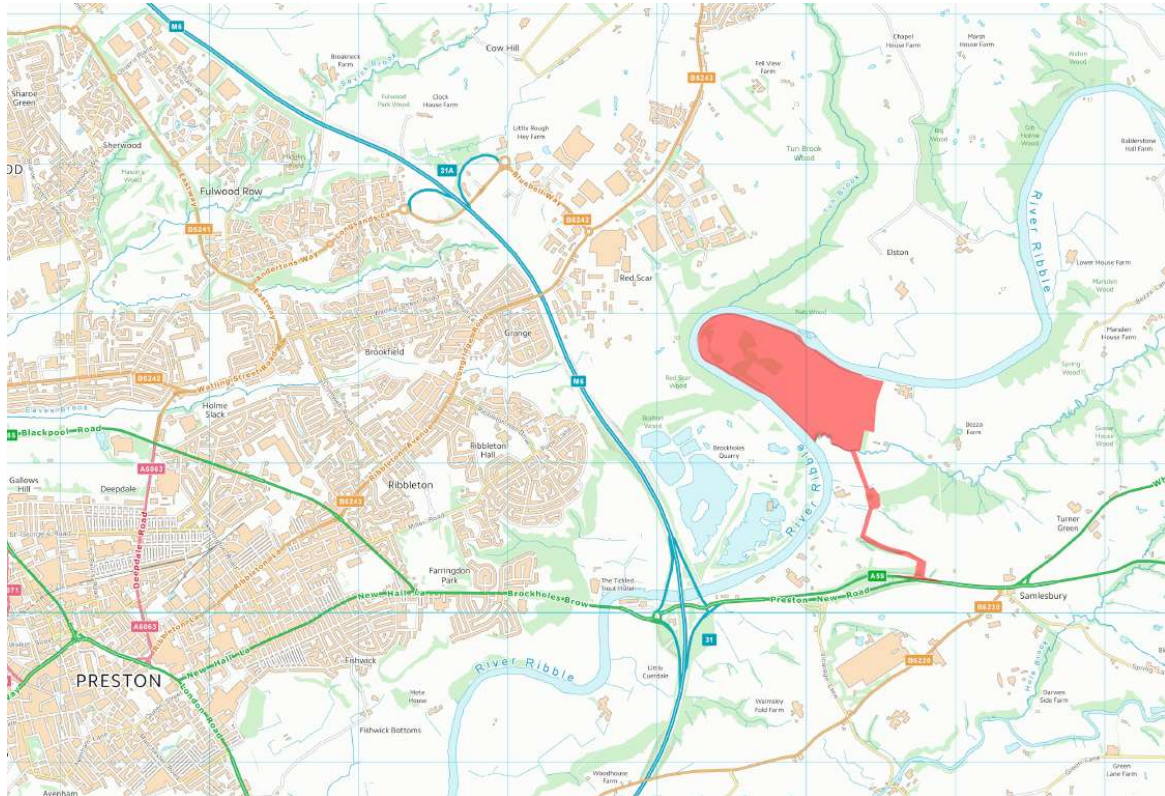


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Sources and Method

4. The LIDAR coverage of the Site (Figure 2) has been sourced from the DEFRA and can be found at www.environment.data.gov.uk/DefraDataDownload. The data (1m resolution from 2020) has been downloaded for the Site to enable interrogation through QGIS software using hillshade settings and variations of light angles and azimuth heights.

Interpretation

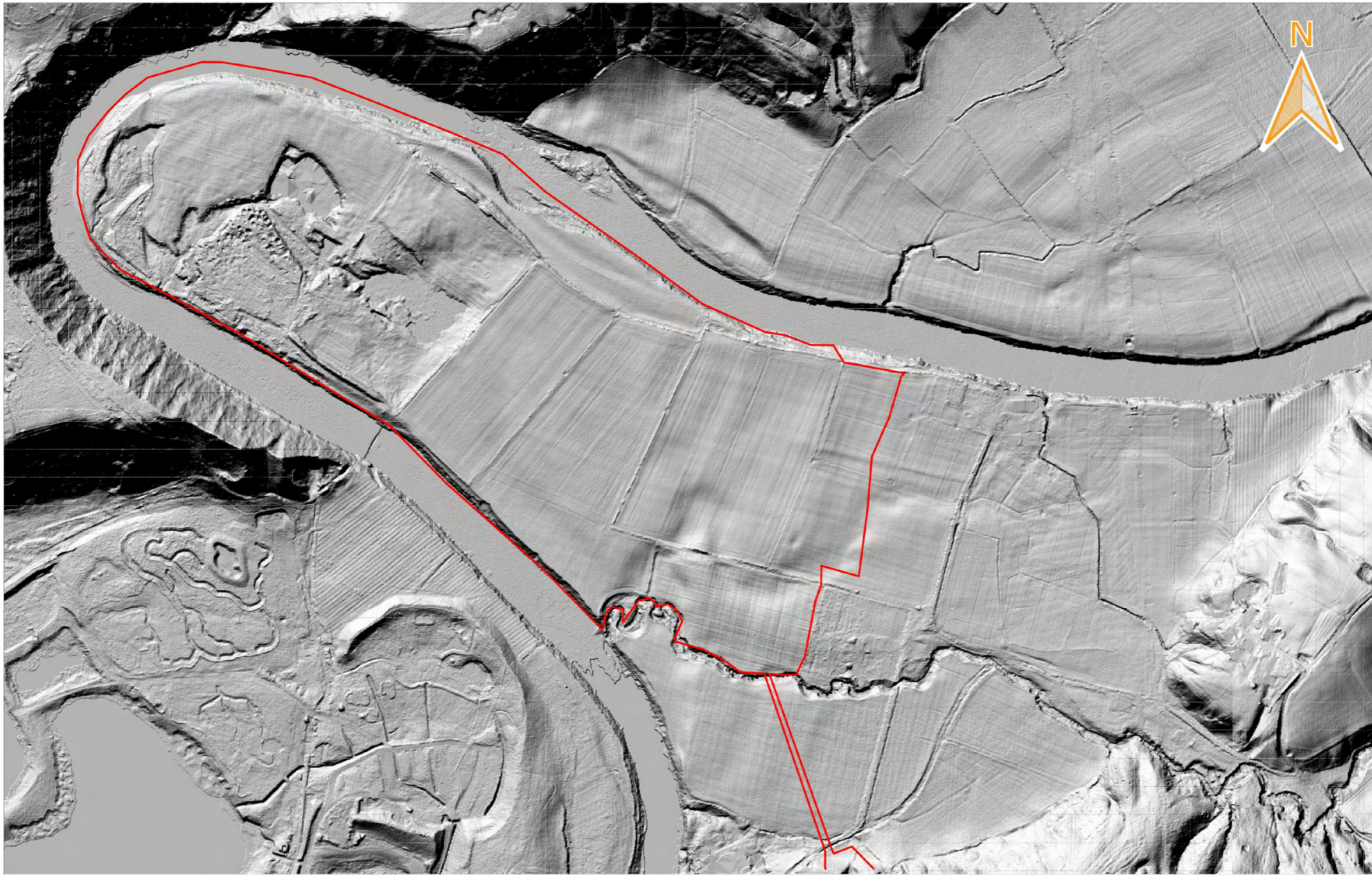
5. HCUK Group has identified four locations of pronounced landscape features visible in the LIDAR data within the proposed quarry site. These are marked up and numbered (1)-(4) on Figure 3. The first is an extensive area of historic quarrying

in the Site's eastern tip (1). This corresponds to modern quarrying illustrated on Ordnance Survey mapping from 1951-56 (Figure 4.4 in the DBA).

6. The second area of interest is an east-west aligned linear earthwork (2) which is located immediately north of a former watercourse (3). The earthwork which could represent a former field or land boundary underlines two modern field boundaries and tapers off at its eastern end.
7. At the confluence of the River Ribble and Bezza Brook, there is a defined arch (4) which appears to represent flood defences. The arch appears on Ordnance Survey mapping from 1951-56 (Figure 4.4 in the DBA) and is very likely associated with protecting the quarry during periods of flooding.
8. The modern landscape features are very clear and include tightly spaced furrows and hedgerows. Faint traces of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow can be seen underlying the modern plough furrows across the extent of the Site.
9. There appears no clear evidence for earthworks which may represent prehistoric or Roman features associated with settlement or land management.

References

Archaeology Collective 2018 *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: Land at Lower Hall Farm and Seed Farm House, Samlesbury*



Key:

Archaeology
Collective

HCUK
GROUP

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Figure 2


LIDAR coverage with the
proposed mineral extraction
area outlined red



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Figure 3 
Four locations of pronounced landscape features visible in the LIDAR data, which are marked up and numbered (1)-(4)