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Phone: [REDACTED]
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Your ref: 3/2021/0660
Our ref: 3_2021_0660-LCC.DM_2
Date: 28th July 2025

Dear Ms Hopkins,

Planning Application: 3/2020/0660

Bowland Section. From land near the convergence of the Hornby Road, the Roman Road and Shooters Clough to land west of Newton in Bowland; with highway works at various locations from Pimlico Link Road, Clitheroe to Hallgate Hill, Newton in Bowland via Chatburn Road, Ribble Lane, Grindleton Road and Slaidburn Road; a haul route from land south of West Bradford Bridge to West Bradford Road, west of Healings Farm, West Bradford; a vehicle marshalling facility on land at the Ribblesdale Cement Works, West Bradford Road, Clitheroe and a park and ride facility at the existing Ribblesdale Cement Works car park to the west of West Bradford Road. Proposed works for and use of replacement section of aqueduct, including earthworks and ancillary infrastructure including: a new valve house building within fenced compound with permanent vehicular access provision. With the installation of a tunnel portal and an open cut connection area within a temporary construction compound, to include site accesses, storage areas, plant and machinery, and drainage infrastructure and a temporary haul route with bridge over the River Hodder. In addition, a temporary haul route with bridge over the River Ribble (as one of two options for vehicular access to the temporary construction compound); a series of local highway works together with a temporary satellite park and ride facility and a vehicle marshalling area.

We have recently received additional information from Jacobs (F. Greaves, e-mail dated 17/07/2025, a copy of which is attached for your information) regarding the need for the agreed scope of archaeological investigations (Vol 6, pp.12-13, section 10.7.1) to include (see paragraph 78):

"a geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental assessment would be undertaken to include North of Bradford Bridge (7014) paleochannel."

The information supplied has concluded that "none of the strata on site have specific geoarchaeological interest" and that the "targeted geoarchaeological work is not deemed necessary."

I can confirm that the HET is in agreement with the conclusions reached above, and that this element of the works outlined in section 10.7.1 is therefore no longer considered necessary.

Yours sincerely

Doug Moir

Planning Officer
Historic Environment Team



Moir, Douglas

From: Greaves, Freya [REDACTED] >
Sent: 17 July 2025 16:35
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/2021/0660 HARP Ribble Crossing geoarchaeology

Dear All,

Thank you for attending the call earlier this week to discuss the geoarchaeology requirements for HARP Ribble Crossing. Please see the requested details provided by Dr. Fish below, including an updated GI location plan, as discussed:

We have looked at the LiDAR/aerial photos for the site and reviewed the comprehensive past work on the archaeology and geoarchaeology of the Ribble by Oxford Archaeology/University of Liverpool that sets out the geoarchaeology research objectives for the region.

CONTEXT

The Ribble site near Clitheroe lies on a relatively narrow (c. 300m wide) section of active floodplain that is bound by bedrock bluffs. The floodplain mantled with alluvium that GI shows is around 2m thick (see details of boreholes below). There are a series of subtle undulations on the floodplain surface that are immediately downstream of the head of meander bend clearly shown in LiDAR. These features are recorded as palaeochannels in the Oxford Archaeology/University of Liverpool report that underpinned the EIA scoping report.

GROUND INVESTIGATION

New ground investigation data collected for the HARP project have been reviewed to understand the geoarchaeological context and potential. The new data confirms the BGS mapping. The upper unit proved by GI comprises a spread of Holocene (ie current interglacial covering the last 11.5k yrs) alluvium up to around 2m thick that is present across most of the Ribble floodplain and up the tributary valley of the Coplow Brook, where it thins to <1.5m. The alluvium contains woody debris, which is typical of contemporary river deposits. Below the alluvium is a variable sequence of glacial deposits laid down during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) of the Devensian glacial stage around 20-30k yrs ago. These include diamictons (subglacial tills) and cobble-rich units (high energy glaciofluvial outwash deposits). The exception is BH01, where soil rests directly on bedrock.

BH	Context	Stratigraphy
RC-BH01	on river Ribble margin/ floodplain	topsoil over bedrock
RC-BH02	on river Ribble margin/ floodplain	Topsoil, 1.3m of diamicton (subglacial till), bedrock
RC-BH03	on stream margin/ floodplain	Topsoil, >7m of diamicton (subglacial till) that is notably cobble-rich in its basal 2m
RC-TP01	on river Ribble valley side adjacent to BH01	Topsoil, >2.7m diamicton (subglacial till)
RC-TP02	on river Ribble valley side	Topsoil, >2.8m diamicton (subglacial till)
RC-TP03	on river Ribble valley side	Topsoil, 1.9m alluvium (with woody debris), cobble-rich diamictons (till)

RC-TP04	on river Ribble valley side	Topsoil, 2.6m alluvium (with woody debris), cobble diamicton
RC-TP05	on small tributary valley side	Topsoil, 2m alluvium, cobble diamicton
RC-TP06	on small tributary valley side	Topsoil, 0.5m alluvium, 2.2m soft clay with some gravel (glacial lake)
RC-TP07	on small tributary valley side	Topsoil, 1.35m alluvium, 1.4m clay with some gravel (glacial lake)
RC-TP08	on small tributary valley side	Topsoil, >0.9m cobble gravel
RC-TP09	on small tributary valley side	Topsoil, 0.9m alluvium / soft clay with wood (glacial lake), >0.7m cobble gravel
RC-TP10	on small tributary valley side	Topsoil, 0.6m alluvium, >0.3m soft clay diamicton (till/glacial lake)
RC-TP11	on small tributary valley side	Topsoil, 0.9m clay diamicton (till/head), 1.7m clay diamictons (till)

GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The low relief ridges and channels in the floodplain were identified by Oxford Archaeology as 'palaeochannels'. Given their location, morphology and GI records for the site, the features are instead interpreted as contemporary river features, including channels eroded during the early phase of a flood event when the river burst its banks and bars of sediment deposited during floods. Formation probably occurred in the historical period (ie last few 100s of years). The features are distinctly different to palaeochannels elsewhere in the Ribble that are described in the Oxford Archaeology report (e.g. at Brockholes) that are associated with older river units and that preserve a sequence of sediments recording past environmental change. GI has shown that alluvium is relatively thin at the site and the presence of bounding bedrock bluffs at the floodplain margin means the river will have tended to erode and rework older strata, meaning preservation of geoarchaeological records is unlikely.

In terms of regional geoarchaeological research objectives, the Oxford Archaeology report states that Lateglacial to Holocene river development in this region is well understood. The specific research objectives / uncertainties that are identified will not be addressed by the sediments on site. The alluvium is therefore of no particular geoarchaeological value. The glacial deposits in the region are well understood and the deposits encountered are not unusual or of specific value to geoarchaeology.

CONCLUSION

The floodplain features at Clitheroe are interpreted as active river features formed over the historical period and are not 'paleochannels' in the geoarchaeological sense. The alluvial deposits are typical of the region and are well characterised in the catchment. None of the strata on site have specific geoarchaeological interest and targeted geoarchaeological work is not deemed necessary.

Paul



