

Land South of Longsight Road, Langho, Lancashire

Heritage Assessment

Hallam Land Management Limited

Introduction

A heritage impact has been prepared on behalf of Hallam Land Management Limited in support of an outline planning application for residential development with all matters reserved except for access to, but not within, the site. The proposal is for residential development, a car park serving users of Langho train station and associated open space, landscaping and drainage.

The Site is located about 6.5km northeast of the centre of Blackburn in Lancashire. It is a broadly rectangular and comprises just over 20 hectares of agricultural land to the south of Longsight Road, centred on NGR SD 7021, 3444. It is bounded to the north by Longsight Road and a row of private dwellings, and to the east by Pringle Homes' Northcote Park modern residential development. To the west the Site abuts Whitehalgh Lane and the railway to the south.

The Site sits astride an unnamed tributary of the River Calder, running north-south, and is further divided by other current and relict watercourses/ditched boundaries of former fields interspersed with depressions which probably represent former ponds. The Site slopes gently from c.100m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south, to c.78m aOD to the north. Solid geology is predominantly Bowland Shale Formation mudstone overlain by Devensian Till.

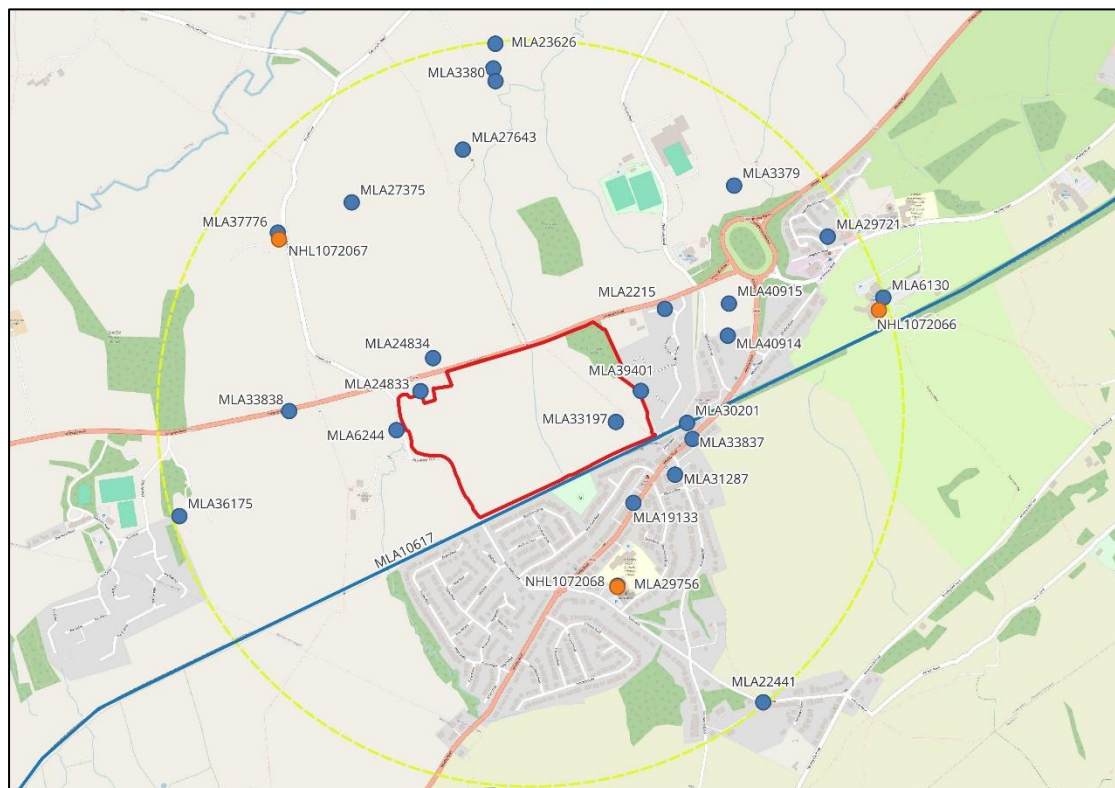


Figure 1: Location of known heritage assets within 1000m of the Site (Designated Sites in orange)

Sources Consulted

The baseline information for this assessment has been drawn from the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER) for an area of 1000m from the Site boundary. The National Heritage List for England was consulted for information on designated heritage assets, identified below with their 'NHL' number. All non-designated assets are prefixed MLA in the summary below. Events are prefixed ELA. Data from other digital sources, such as Heritage Gateway was also consulted. Historic Ordnance Survey maps were inspected for evidence of past development and land use. A selection of reports and internet sources were consulted for additional information.

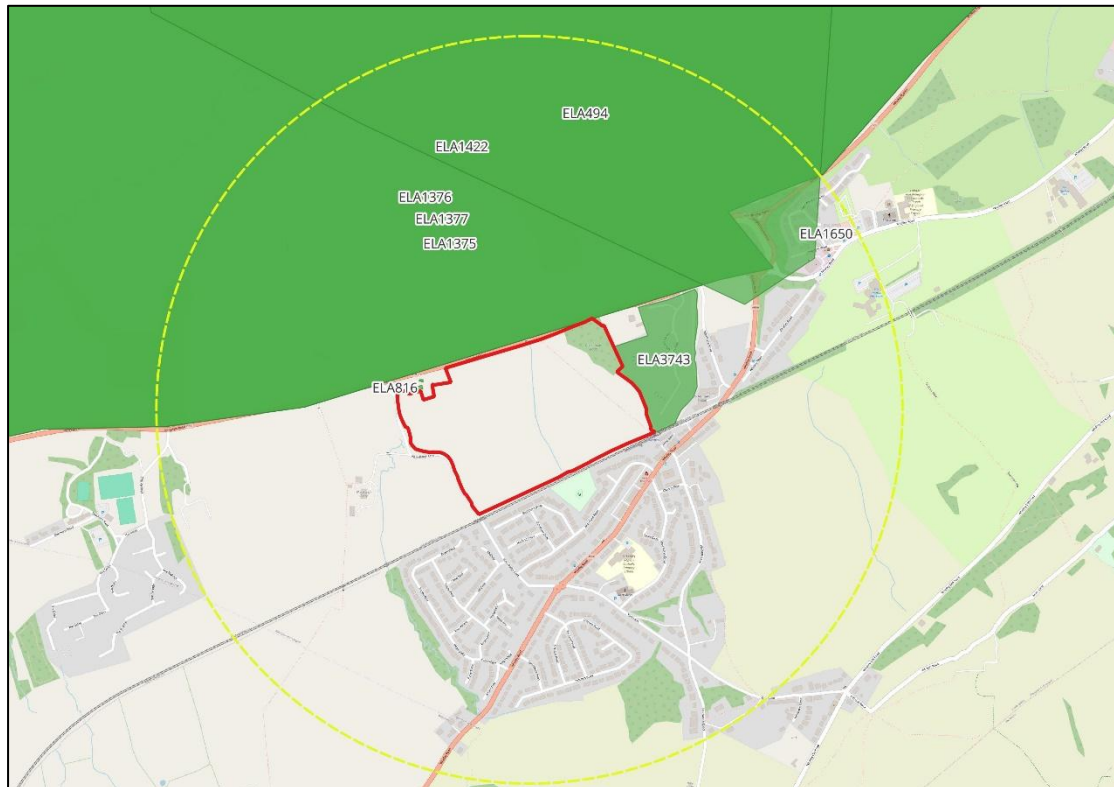


Figure 2: Heritage Events

Archaeological & Historical Summary

There are no designated assets within the Site. The three designated assets within the study area are all Grade II listed buildings: Mytton Fold Farmhouse (NHL1072066) is a house of 1702 on the edge of 700 metres to the east; Rileys Farmhouse (NHL1072067) is an early mid-18th century house on Chapel Lane 570 metres to the northwest; Lower Woodcock Farmhouse (NHL1072068) sits south of Whalley Road 345 metres from the Site in the centre of Langho. None of these assets have any appreciable relationship with the Site.

A worked flint fragment, probably from a broken blade of Mesolithic to Neolithic date is recorded within the Site (**MLA33197**) and a Bronze Age scraper was found during fieldwalking in the field to the east of the Site (MLA39401). The provenance of neither of these finds can be relied upon (D. Moir pers comm.).

There are no known assets of Roman date within the Site, although a linear feature running alongside the Longsight Road was suspected to be a Roman road. However, there is a known Roman road less than 2km to the north and there is evidence of a road has been recorded along the line of this feature; it is more likely to be a field boundary or a pre-turnpike road line (MLA2215).

There is no evidence for Early Medieval activity in the study area. Langho is not mentioned in the Domesday Book. The settlement of Langho was located in the township of Billington, which at the Conquest is believed to have been comprised of two manors: Chew, in the possession of the Lord of Clitheroe, and another which was divided later into a number of freehold estates granted to the ancestors of the Bradyll, Hacking, Cunliffe, Bolton and Dean families (BHO). Langho is first mentioned in the 13th century and derives from the Old English for 'Long nook of land' (Mills 2011). This placename refers to Old Langho which is a settlement to the north of the study area just south of Brockhall Village.

Cunliffe House, which lies on the western edge of the study area, is a farmhouse of 1763, although the name is one of the freehold estates mentioned above and referenced in 1246 (MLA36175).

Up until the 19th century the area was predominantly agricultural. An enclosure award for Billington (and Wilpshire) was made under an Act of 1788 (BHO). A late 18th century barn was located at Petre House Farm (MLA29721) and another at Lower Woodcock Farm (MLA29756).

Several farms/agricultural buildings with 19th century origins are recorded in the area, such as Wildman's Farm (MLA24834) and an associated barn (MLA24833) just north of the Site; a farmhouse and barn at Duxberry's (MLA3380) to the north of the study area and a possible barn to the north of Duxberry's (MLA23626). A stable of 1896 has been recorded at Lower Fold (MLA27643) just to the south of Duxberry's and a disused field boundary is shown on 19th century mapping between Lower Fold and Rileys (MLA27375). Another possible field boundary is recorded at the Petre's Inn roundabout as a linear earthwork (MLA3379) and a well is located on 19th century mapping on the very southern edge of the study area (MLA22441).

Longsight Road was one of several roads managed by the Clitheroe to Blackburn and Mellor Brook Trust established in 1776 (<http://www.turnpikes.org.uk/>). Milestones are known to have been located on the Whalley Road to the south of the Site: MLA19133 in the 19th century and MLA33837 by the early 20th century. A further early 20th century milestone is located on Longsight Road (MLA33838).

A so-called Pineapple token (said to be an anti-slavery token) of 1788 was found to the east of the Site (MLA40914) and a cheap copper alloy finger ring, known as a Fairing ring, was found nearby (MLA40915).

The Bolton, Blackburn, Clitheroe and West Yorkshire Railway opened in 1847, an amalgamation of two earlier companies (MLA10617). A station was established at Langho in 1853 (MLA30201).

Increased industrialised manufacturing within the area is indicated by Spring Mill, just south of the Whalley Road in Langho, which was a weaving shed built in 1864 (MLA31287) and replaced by a public house in 1964. A building labelled 'Engine House' on 19th century OS mapping west of Whitehalgh Lane may have housed a steam engine although it is not clear to what industry it relates (MLA6244).

Over to the west of the study area a lunatic asylum was recorded on 1848 OS mapping, though is reported to have been established by 1776 (MLA6130) and St. Mary's Roman Catholic chapel is also marked on the same mapping at Chapel Lane over to the west (MLA37776), believed to have been built in 1836.

The LiDAR imagery shows ponds and ditched field boundaries that had largely disappeared as significant land management features by the end of the 19th century. The LiDAR also shows that previous ploughing regimes survive as low earthworks, some of which predates some of the field boundaries. A sunken curvilinear feature, possibly a former hollow-way or field boundary, survives in the northeast corner within a small copse (Green Nook Wood) and predates the mid-19th century OS mapping.

Allotment gardens and a building are shown on the 1932 OS map in the southeast corner and can be seen on LiDAR imagery.

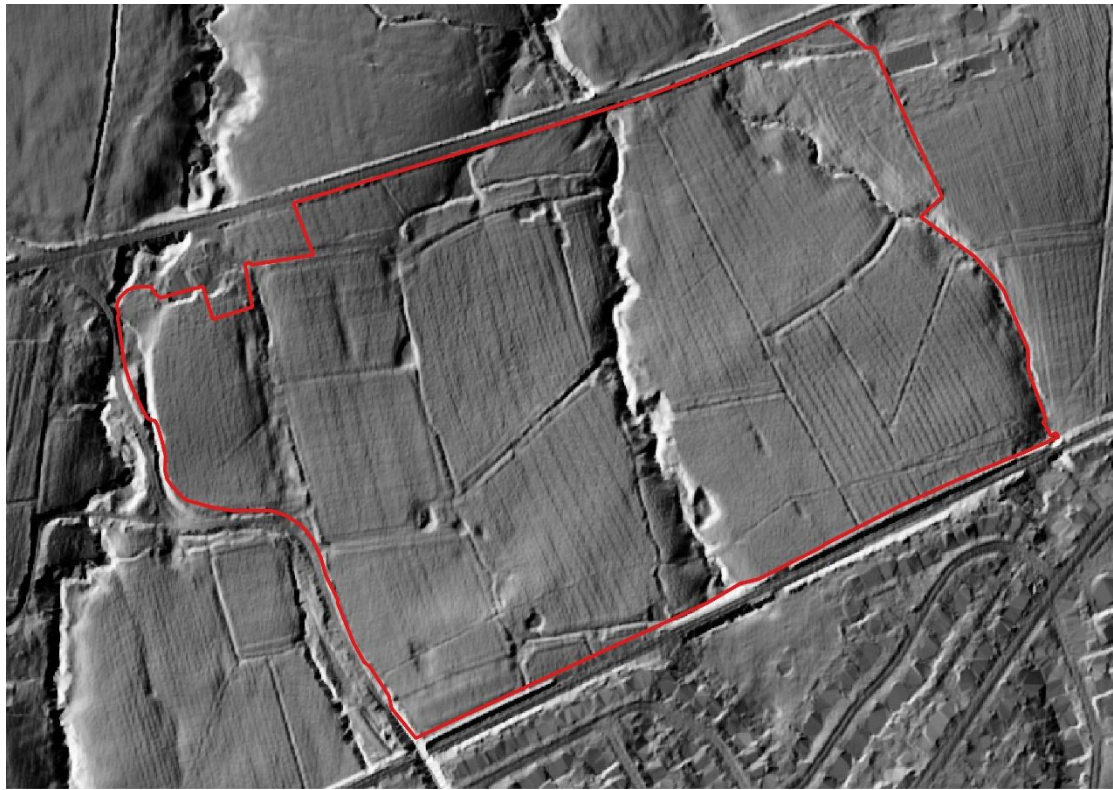


Figure 3 LiDAR image from Environment Agency 1m resolution data

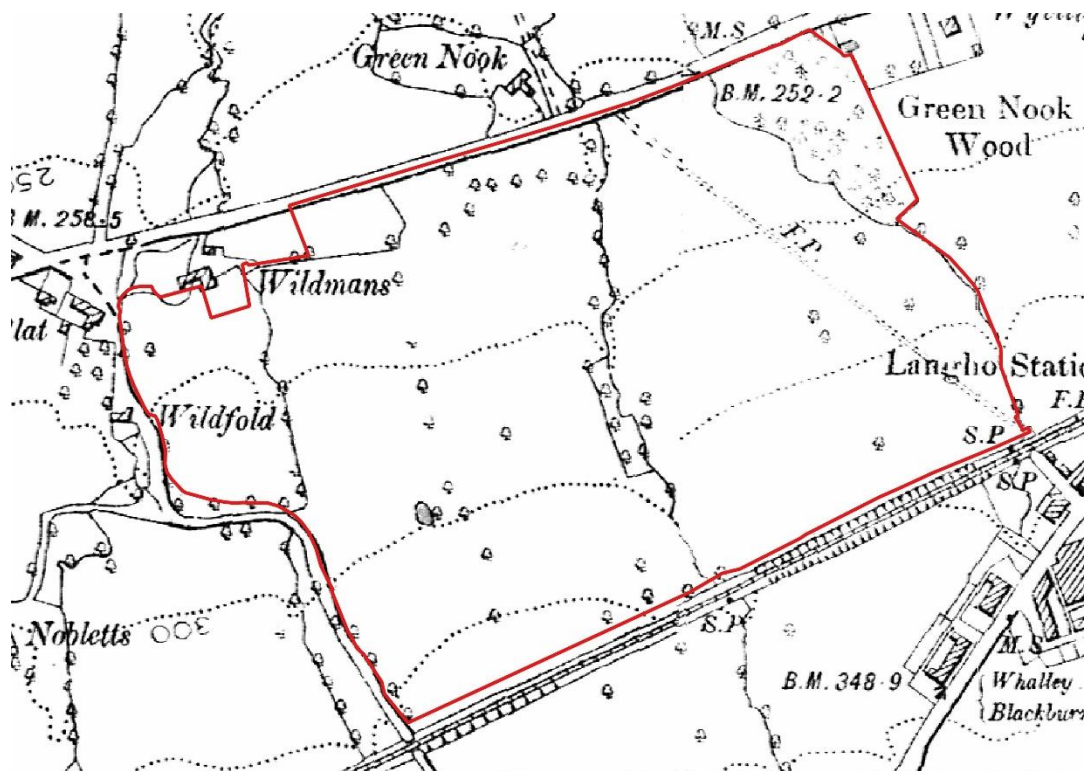


Figure 4 Ordnance Survey 1895 1:10,560

Table 1: Assets within 1000m of the Site

Ref No	Name	Period
MLA2215	Road; Field Boundary; Linear Feature	Uncertain
MLA3379	Field Boundary	Uncertain
MLA3380	Farmhouse; Barn	Post-medieval
MLA6130	Psychiatric Hospital	Post-medieval
MLA6244	Engine House; Building; Farmstead	Post-medieval
MLA10617	Railway	Post-medieval
MLA19133	Milestone	Post-medieval
MLA22441	Well	Post-medieval
MLA23626	Building; Barn?	Post-medieval
MLA24833	Site	Modern
MLA24834	Farmhouse; Combination Barn; Barn	Post-medieval
MLA27375	Field Boundary	Post-medieval
MLA27643	Stable; House	Post-medieval
MLA29721	Combination Barn	Post-medieval
MLA29756	Combination Barn	Post-medieval
MLA30201	Railway Station	Post-medieval
MLA31287	Cotton Mill	Post-medieval
MLA33197	Findspot	Prehistoric
MLA33837	Milestone	Post-medieval
MLA33838	Milestone	Post-medieval
MLA36175	Country Estate; Farmhouse	Medieval-Post-medieval
MLA37776	Roman Catholic Chapel; Church School	Post-medieval
MLA39401	Findspot	Prehistoric
MLA40914	Findspot	Post-medieval
MLA40915	Findspot	Post-medieval

Table 2 Heritage Events within 1000m of the Site

Ref No	Description
ELA494	Brockhall Village, Billington, Lancashire: Desk Based Assessment
ELA816	Wildman's Farm Barn, Longsight Road, Langho: Building Survey
ELA1375	ALSF Aggregate Extraction in the Lower Ribble Valley: Desk Based Assessment & Aerial/LIDAR Survey
ELA1376	ALSF Aggregate Extraction in the Lower Ribble Valley: Field Survey
ELA1377	ALSF Aggregate Extraction in the Lower Ribble Valley: Core Sampling and OSL
ELA1422	Former Stable at Lower Fold, Langho: Building Survey
ELA1650	Petre House Farm: Building Survey
ELA3743	Longsight Road (land off), Langho: DBA

Conclusions

The proposed development will have no direct or indirect effect on any designated assets.

The presence of two pieces of worked flint of unreliable provenance cannot be taken as significant evidence for prehistoric potential although, as for the Roman period for which there is no evidence in the study area, the Site's potential for archaeological remains of this period remains ambiguous; rather than a real absence of archaeology, the paucity of evidence may be due to a lack of fieldwork in the area, nor is the generally pastoral nature of the land use conducive to the formation of cropmarks. It is not expected that any remains would be of more than Regional importance due to current and former arable regimes. The potential for medieval and later remains which are not agricultural is Low.

Bibliography

BHO 'Townships: Billington', in *A History of the County of Lancaster: Volume 6*, ed. William Farrer, J Brownbill (London, 1911), British History Online <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol6/pp325-334> [accessed 24 October 2024].

Kelly, H, 2014, Land off Longsight Road, Langho, Lancashire Historic Environment Assessment, TEP unpublished report ref: 4397

Williams, A and Martin, G.H, 2003, *Domesday Book, A Complete Translation*

Ordnance Survey Maps at 1:10,560, 1:10,000, 1:2500 – 1851, 1891, 1997, 1932, 1967-9, 1974