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Your ref: 3/2016/0531

Date: 2nd September 2016

FAO A Birkett

Dear Mr Macholc,

Planning Application 3/2016/0531: Retention and extension of unauthorised agricultural access track; Land adjacent to Gregsons Farm, Settle Road, Newsholme BB7 4JF

The area in which the proposed track is to be built is the centre of a cluster of known heritage assets noted on the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, including the designated Castle Haugh, Little Painley Barrow and Gisburn Park. Undesignated heritage assets include a series of earthworks, including ridge and furrow cultivation remains, hollow ways representing former road lines, possible settlement activity and a number of other earthworks of uncertain origin (see attached HER map and data extract).

The track section that has already been constructed seems to follow the line of a track shown on the OS 1:10,560 mapping of 1853 (sheet Yorkshire 166, see attached) and later 1:2,500 county series mapping. This historic line appears to be an original access to Low Laithe but varies from that proposed in that it remains to the north of the field boundary rather than crossing it and continuing along its south side. It seems probable that the metalling encountered during the construction of the first part of the new track relates to the surfacing of the historic track, and could be expected to continue along the north side of the field boundary.

The track does not directly impact any of the three designated heritage assets noted above, nor does it appear to have any significant impact on their settings, although you may wish to obtain a definitive opinion on this from Historic England.

The proposed track would also appear to have only a limited impact on the undesignated heritage assets, and that would be concentrated in the area where the track deviates from the historic line to run south of the field boundary. Whilst it would be preferable for the new track to remain on the historic line, rather than the proposed shift to the south, we would not raise any fundamental objections to the route as currently proposed.

We would, however, like to make the applicant aware of our interest in the earthworks across this block of fields and to note that some of these, the hollow ways and potential settlement site in particular, could well be of medieval origin and of regional or national importance. It is also possible that a number of small circular features noted along the top of the first terrace could (it should be stressed this is only a possibility) be of prehistoric origin and associated with the nearby Little Painley Barrow. We would prefer to see these earthworks retained as far as is possible and would like to be consulted should any potentially damaging works (ploughing, drainage, levelling, etc.) be being considered.

Please note that the above comments have not benefitted from a site visit, but have been informed by available aerial photography and LiDAR.

Yours sincerely

Peter Iles