

Appendix E

Addendum Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal – CF Landscape Design
(February 2014)

**Addendum to
Application for additional storage at
HILLSIDE QUARRY,
nr Thurlstone**

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

February 2014

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On behalf of
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Hillside Quarry
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 A Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal was prepared as part of a planning application for works at Hillside Quarry applying for permission for temporary stockpiles on adjacent land; the erection of saw sheds within the quarry void; the storage of finished stone adjacent to the access road; and car parking along the access road.
- 1.2 Due to on-going operational developments within the quarry and discussions with the local authority the application was not submitted before an additional soil storage area on land adjacent to the current quarry became necessary.
- 1.3 This report is an addendum to the LVIA completed in September 2013 for the planning application, (not submitted), to assess the impact of the additional proposed soil storage on landscape character and visual amenity. As such it should be read with the LVIA report as well as the drawings prepared by Linear Surveys, reference RJH/HQ/AUG2013-01 and RJH/HQ/AUG2013-02, in addition to the drawings and plans in the appendices to this report.

2 Proposals

- 2.1 In order to extract stone, (particularly block stone), to fulfil current demand, soil needs to be stripped from the current area of approved extraction. The existing soil bunds along the boundaries and other areas within the currently approved boundary are not sufficient to store all the soil. Thus it is proposed to utilise the upper part of the field immediately south-east of the current quarry covering an area of approximately 4800m² (The proposed stone storage is in the lower part of the same field). The bund will be up to 6m high with sides of 1 in 1.5 gradient except for the south-eastern side adjacent to the bridleway where slopes will be eased to 1 in 2.5.
- 2.2 To conserve soils and provide a green face to the mound as soon as possible it is proposed to strip the soils from the proposed area of soil storage and move to the outside (south-eastern, south-western, north-eastern) boundaries of the area, then move the current boundary soil bunds to the edges also. This will allow the creation of a bund around the outside edges of the area for soil storage, rich in topsoils that can be seeded at the first available season. As soil stripping from the working area progresses, the bunds will be extended from the outside towards the centre, with the better soils selected for the outside faces. In this fashion the soil mound will be constructed from the outside working in, providing a screen for activities within the bunding and a quick establishment of grasses on the outside faces, thus minimising the time of visual disruption.

- 2.3 Soils covering the quarry area are thin, and a layer of stony subsoil and overburden tops the quarry stone. It is anticipated this material will also be stored in the soil mound, forming the base and internal part of the mound. Some of this material will be screened, in situ, to extract saleable product.
- 2.4 The timescale for retaining a storage bund at the proposed location is for a temporary period not exceeding three years, which is also in keeping with the requirement to store finished and unfinished stone products in the northern part of the same field and the establishment of a finished products collection area along the existing quarry access road. These activities have, as previously detailed in the application, been proposed due to lack of operating space within the existing consented curtailment of the quarry. Three years is considered be a suitable timeframe for the quarry to develop such that the activities can be suitably housed within the quarry; otherwise accommodated under the existing permission or revisited as part of a subsequent application.

3 Effect on Landscape Character

- 3.1 A 6m high mound covering approximately 4800m², or just over one third of the field area is a significant feature within this upland plateau landscape and its size and form will be odds with the natural landform in the area. However the smooth, rectangular shape will reflect the rectilinear field pattern and scale of the landscape thus being less disruptive than small irregular mounds, even of a lesser scale.
- 3.2 The colour and texture of the mound will be disruptive in the early stages of construction with loose stone and soils contracting negatively with the smooth, green pasture fields. However, once greened up the textures and colours will contribute greatly to assimilating the mound into the surrounding landscape. As the outsides of the mound will be constructed and seeded early in the process, the disruptive stage will be minimised in both in time and area.
- 3.3 The position of the mound on the upland plateau results in it being a dominant feature in the landscape, although the early construction and seeding of the outside edges will reduce the dominance. The 'internal' construction of the mound will have little impact on character due to its very low visibility.
- 3.4 The mound and construction of the mound will increase the scale of the quarry overall, extending the minerals landscape character to a wider area. However the immediate vicinity already has a strong minerals character, that is supplemented by other non-pastoral elements of the reservoir with associated built structures, modern agricultural buildings and telecoms masts. The increase in quarrying features represented by the

soil mound is only a small increase in the features that already contribute towards a mineral or industrial character.

- 3.5 The soil mound will be a temporary change to the landscape and its projected 3 year presence is relatively short in terms of landscape change. The effect of a temporary, short term change on landscape character is of much lower magnitude than a permanent, or long term development.
- 3.6 The peaceful, tranquil nature of most parts of this upland plateau landscape has already been disrupted in the vicinity of the quarry. The construction of the external parts of the soil bund will result in an increase in noise and movement but once the edge bunds are complete and seeded the landscape (and viewers), will be sheltered from some of the noise and movement resulting from the existing quarry. This could bring positive benefits to the landscape.
- 3.7 The scale and form of the proposed soil mound will introduce a new feature of significant size to the landscape. However, although the scale of the proposed mound is large, it represents only a moderate increase in quarrying and other non-rural features in this area. The colour and simple form will result in a partial assimilation of the mound into the landscape. There will be some small benefits in screening discordant quarry activities. The mound is a temporary feature lasting for 3 years only. Taking these factors together the effect of the proposed soil mound on landscape character is assessed as *minor, adverse*.

4 Effect on Views

- 4.1 The Zone of Theoretical Visibility has been re-calculated to include the soil mound and can be seen in CF/HQ/360/3. As for the main report, the zone of theoretical visibility is based on the height of the land surface only. Thus the area from which the site is visible shown on the ZTV is a very generous estimate of visibility, and does not allow for the intricate pattern of woodland, individual trees, buildings and walls that will block views of the proposed soil mound. However it can be seen that the soil mound generally extends the zone from which the proposals will be visible, particularly towards the south and east. The following views judged most likely to be affected have been analysed in the light of the proposed soil mound. There are no dwellings and few roads or footpaths in this area.

- 4.2 Views from the east, footpath 41. Views 2 and 9 (and 10)

On the upper parts of this footpath the soil mound will not be visible mainly due to the topography that results in the area of proposed stone storage forming the horizon

between the Yorkshire Water compound and adjacent open fields. The soil mound will not be seen beyond these mounds and the new boundary wall. (View 2)

As the viewer moves downhill, the proposed soil mound will be seen on the skyline but from a greater distance. In these views the quarry is only a small part of a wide view looking up towards Hartcliffe Hill, dominated by the distinctive pattern of stone-walled pasture fields (View 9). The quarry, the telecoms structure and YW mast, an agricultural shed and other YW structures, combine to form a disruptive feature in the view. In particular, the current soil bunds around the existing quarry and working plant that interrupt the skyline have a small negative impact on the view. The proposed soil mound will also protrude beyond the skyline but the simple form and grass colour will be less disruptive than the current situation. Even though the proposed soil mound is significantly larger than the current boundary soil mounds it will still be a very small part of a wide view. The proposed mound will screen some of the plant movement that is particularly negative. Views from a greater distance (View 10), on the western edge of Penistone are similar and the proposals will have a similar effect, but from a greater distance and higher elevation the proposed soil mound will be an even smaller part of a wide view.

The sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed as *medium*, as appreciation of the landscape is part of the viewer's recreational enjoyment of the area, although these views are not of recognised importance.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the soil mound is assessed as *low-negligible, adverse*, due to the very small proportion of the view occupied by the mounds and small intensification of negative elements in the view.

4.3 View 3a. From Cross Lane, looking south west towards proposed soil mound.

A 6m high soil bund will form a significant feature in the centre of this close view. It will be discordant as an artificial feature breaking through the horizon. However, once greened up the colour and texture will be very similar to the foreground part of the field and will be much less incongruous. In addition it will add a foil to the currently visible quarry activities that form a jarring feature in the present view.

This view will be seen occasionally by walkers, cyclists and horse riders, and fleetingly from motor vehicles, but the main focus of the view is in the opposite direction north and north east towards Royd Moor and towards Penistone. Thus the sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed as *medium*.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the soil storage mounds is assessed as **medium, adverse** during the construction of the mound but reducing to medium, neutral following establishment of grass.

4.4 View 5a. From bridleway 92 at upper, southern corner of proposed soil mound.

This is the closest view of the soil mound, where it will be very dominant in the view simply due to its proximity. As well as close views of a large structure, long views towards the north and north-east will be completely blocked.

This situation will be experienced by the bridleway users only for a relative short length of the path, so although landscape views are an integral part of the user's enjoyment, the relatively low numbers of users and relatively short length to which it applies means that the sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed as **medium**.

The magnitude of the change to the view resulting from the soil storage mound is assessed as **high, adverse**.

4.5 View 6a. From corner of bridleway 92, above quarry to south-west.

From a higher, more distant viewpoint the mound will still form a dominant, discordant feature in the view due to its artificial shape and large size, although its colour and texture will reduce its negative effect. However from this higher viewpoint the panoramic views beyond the mound towards the north and north-east will be largely maintained. The current quarry is a disruptive feature occupying a prominent part of the fore-to-middle ground of the view with the more distant stone storage also presenting a negative feature. The proposed soil bund will screen the stone storage completely and will lower the dominance of the quarry activities by providing a less negative co-dominant feature in the view.

As for the previous viewpoint, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed as **medium**.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the soil mound is assessed as **medium, adverse**, resulting from the balance of the negative effect of a large mound at odds with the current landform and its positive effect on current negative elements associated with quarrying.

4.6 View 6b. From the highest part of bridleway 92.

This viewpoint is from the highest part of bridleway 92 from which the site is visible. The existing quarry, stone storage, agricultural buildings and associated clutter are discordant in the close-to-middle part of the panoramic view of typical Pennine Fringe

landscape. The soil mound will form part of this grouping but as a smooth, regular, green shape will be less discordant. The mound will screen the stone storage, agricultural building and other parts of this collection of dissonant features, as well as partially screening quarrying activities on the upper slopes. Views over the mound towards the upper parts of Thurlstone and Scoutswood reservoir beyond will be maintained.

As for the earlier viewpoints, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed as **medium**.

Balancing the negative aspects of the introduction of a large, unnatural structure to the view, with the benefits of screening discordant elements, the magnitude of change to the view resulting from the soil storage mound is assessed as **medium, neutral**.

4.7 View 7. From Cross Hill Lane to south-east of quarry.

This is a long view over the typical stone walled pasture plateau in the foreground towards Royd Moor ridge on the northern side of the Don valley, and the wind turbines on top at Spicer Hill. The quarry and the node of structures at the Hornthwaite Hill Road junction are visible in the middle distance, but the main focus of the view is the more distant wind turbines. The upper part of the proposed soil mound will be visible above the field walls close to the horizon and may just break through it but the distance is too great to have a significant effect on the view. The mound will help to screen current quarrying activity although as a very small part of the view this will be a small benefit.

The view is an important part of recreational users' enjoyment, with the seat indicating a popular resting point to appreciate it. However it is not on a designated footpath route and is not one of recognised importance. The sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed as **medium**.

APPENDIX A – drawings

Drawing No – CF/HQ/360/2a – Key to Photo Viewpoints

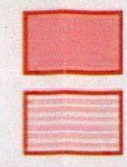
Drawing No – CF/HQ/360/3 - Zone of Theoretical Visibility for Proposed Soil Mound and Stone Storage Mounds

Drawing No – CF/HQ/360/4 – Proposals (including soil mound)

Drawing No – CF/HQ/360/5 – Proposals (including soil mound)- Outline working method.



KEY



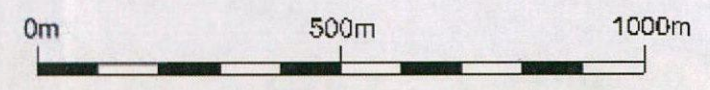
Existing quarry.
Proposal areas



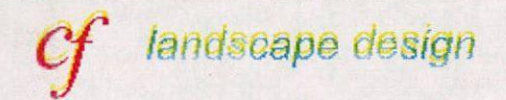
Key to photographic viewpoints used in addendum report only.

43

Footpath numbers referred to in text.



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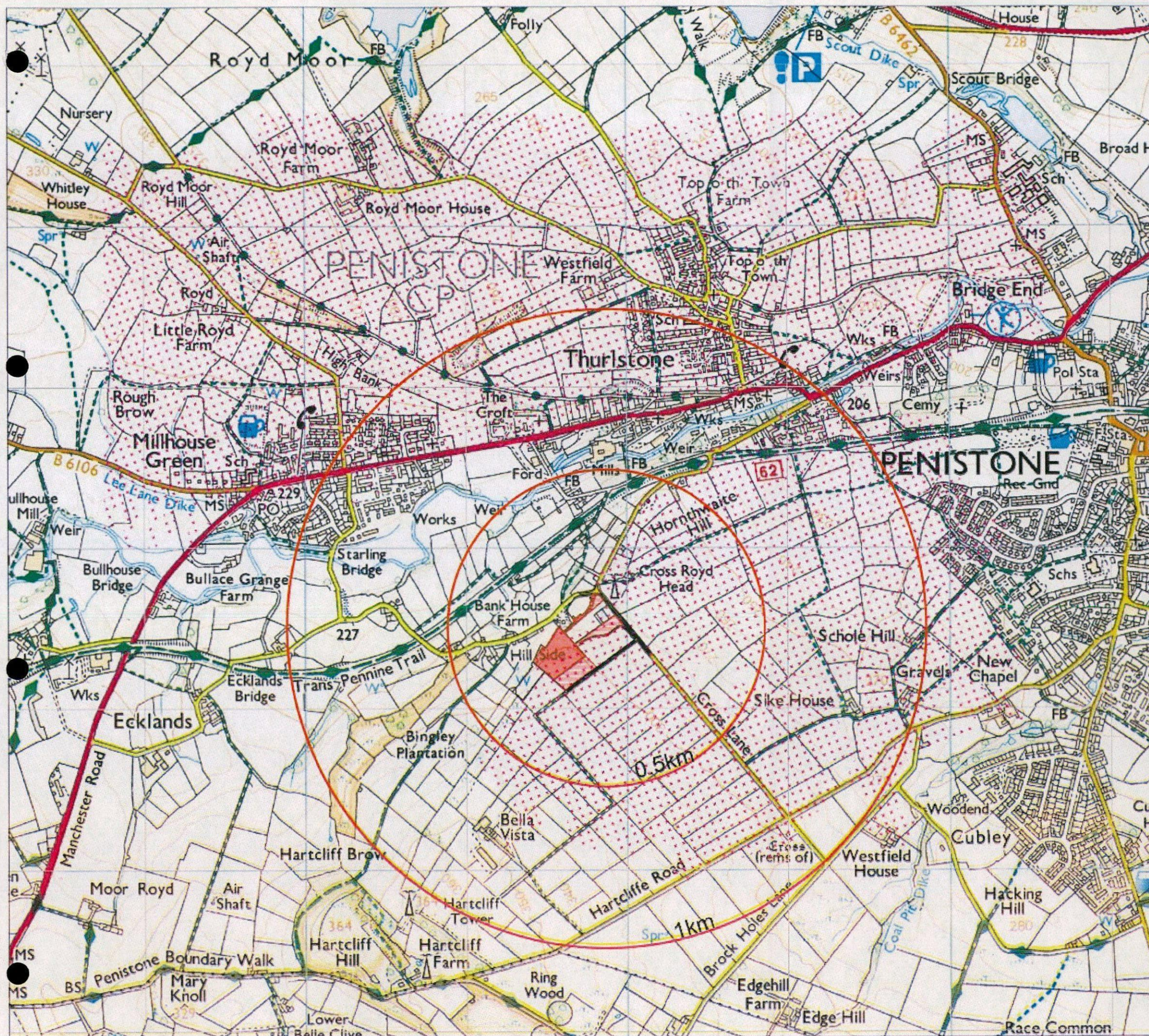


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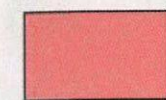
project LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL
Hillside Quarry, Thurlstone

drawing title KEY TO PHOTO VIEWPOINTS-
Relating to proposed soil mound addendum

scale	date	drawing no
NTS Plot @ A3	Oct 14	CF/HQ/360/2a



KEY



Existing quarry.



Proposal areas.



Area from which the stone stockpiles and soil mound are theoretically visible.

Note:

ZTV digitally calculated using heights of landform only. Heights of buildings, woodlands, individual trees and hedgerows not included in calculation.



0m 500m 1000m

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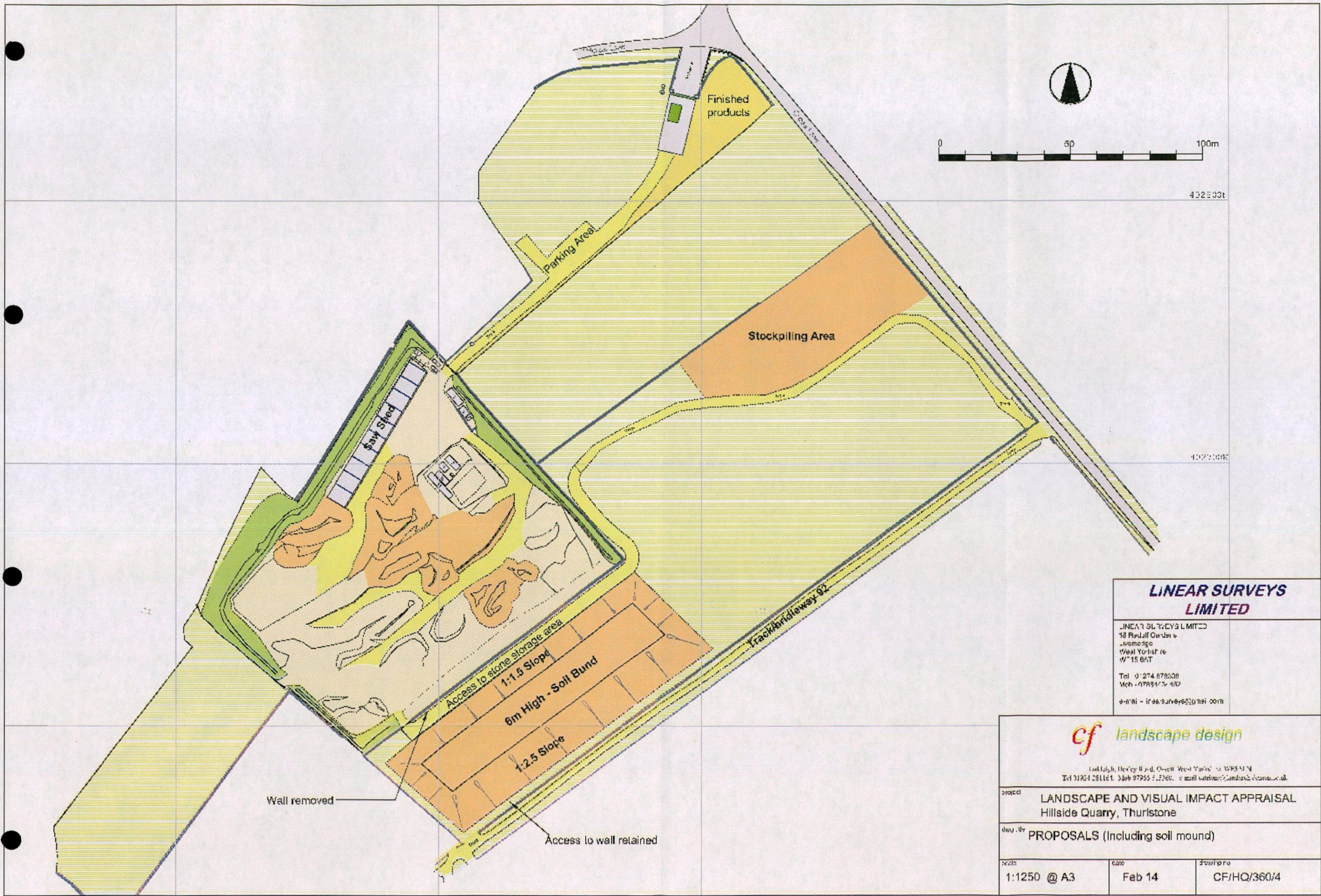
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Hillside Quarry, Thurlstone**

draw title **ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY FOR PROPOSED
STONE STORAGE MOUNDS AND SOIL MOUND**

scale	date	drawn by
NTS Plot @ A3	Oct 13	CF/HQ/360/3



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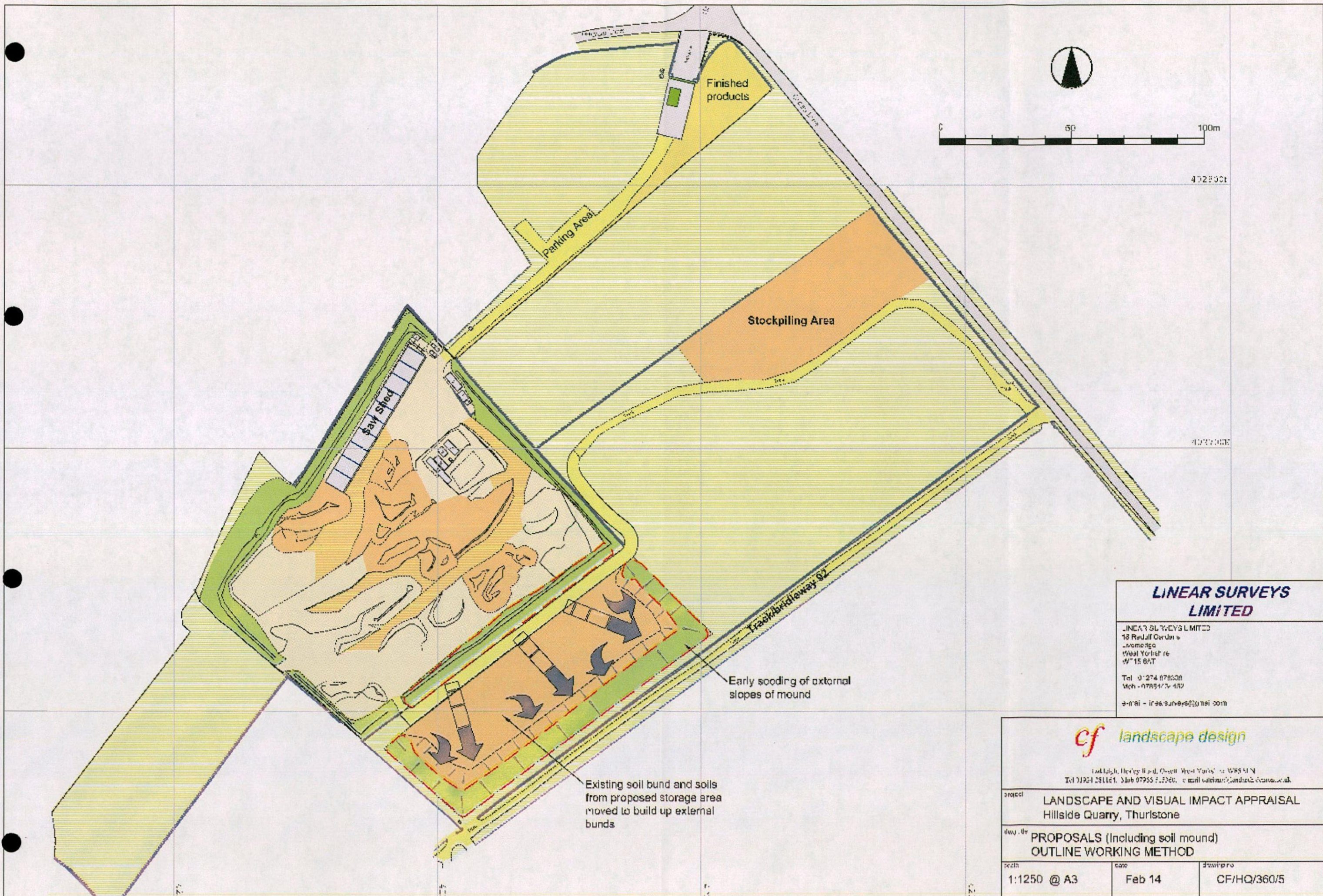
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Project: LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL
Hillside Quarry, Thurlstone

Drawn by: PROPOSALS (Including soil mound)

Scale: 1:1250 @ A3 Date: Feb 14 Drawing no: CF/HQ/360/4



APPENDIX B – PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS

View 2. From footpath 41, by Cross Royd Head Farm, north-east of site
GR 423035 402915. Distance 167m. Bearing 206°



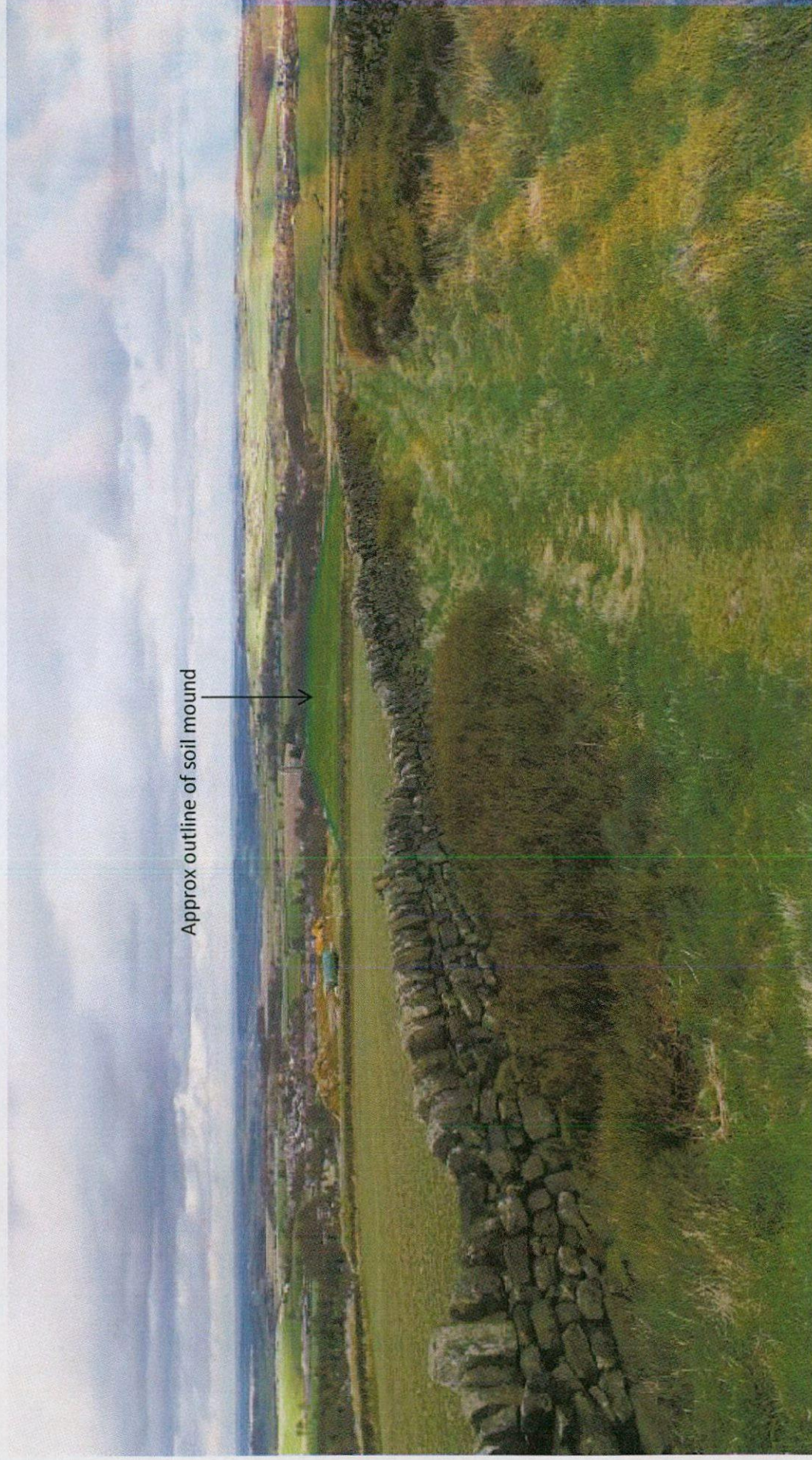
View 3a. From Cross Lane, looking south west towards proposed soil mound



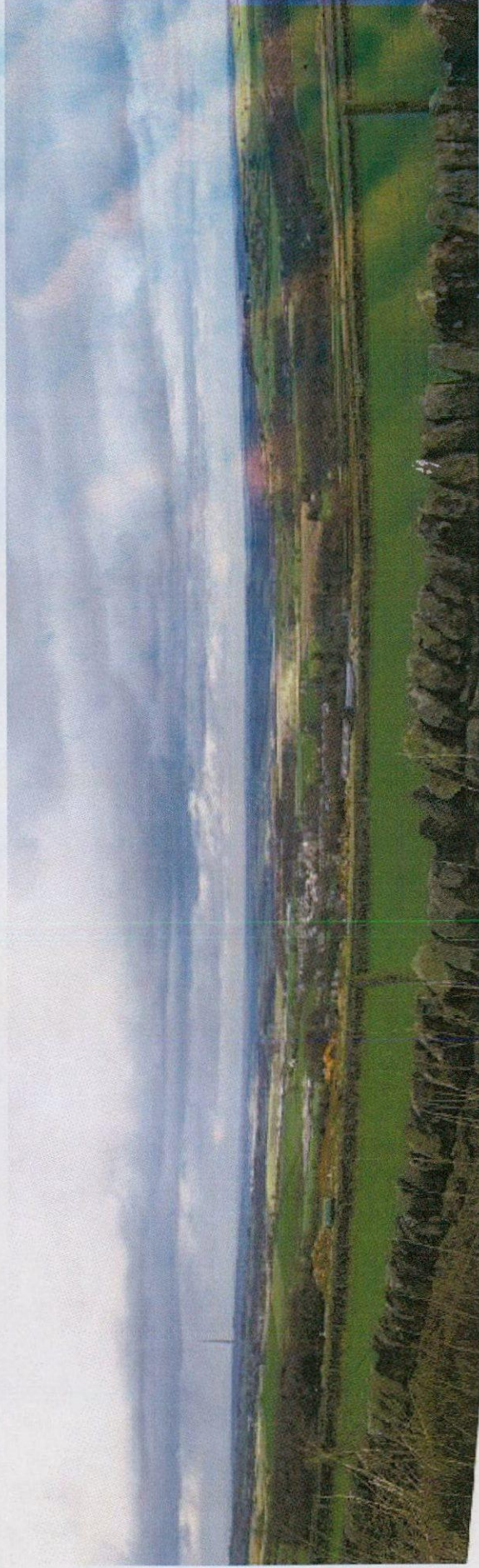
View 5a. From bridleway 92 at upper, southern corner of proposed soil mound.



View 6a. From corner of bridleway 92, above quarry to south-west.



View 6b. From the highest part of bridleway 92



View 7. From Cross Hill Lane to south-east of quarry.
GR 423453 402208. Distance 680m. Bearing 319°



View 9. From junction of footpaths 41 and 86, east of quarry.
GR 423550 403162. Distance 1.36 km. Bearing 242°



View 10. From footpaths at corner of Rud Broom Road on western edge of Penistone.
GR 423901 403156. Distance 1.43 km. Bearing 248°

