

Appendix D

Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal – CF Landscape Design
(September 2013)

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

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

September 2013

Prepared by

CF Landscape Design
Oakleigh
Healey Road
Ossett
West Yorkshire WF5 8LN

On behalf of

RJH (Yorkshire) Ltd
Hillside Quarry
Cross Lane
Thurlstone
S36 9QJ

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2007 planning permission was granted for the re-opening and extension of Hillside Quarry for 3 years. In 2010 permission was granted to extend the working life of the quarry to 10 years. Since 2010 stone has been actively extracted from Hillside and the success of the quarry has led to various structures and uses that are not covered by the extant planning permissions. Namely, the 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. It is intended to apply for planning permission to regularise these structures and activities. This Landscape and Visual Appraisal will form part of the submission.
- 1.2 A Landscape and Visual Impact appraisal was submitted as part of the 2007 planning application and again in the 2010 application. These have been re-appraised and updated here to form part of the current application. In some cases, particularly in respect of the baseline landscape character, text from these earlier appraisals has been included verbatim, without reference to the original documents.
- 1.3 The report should be read with reference to the plans in the appendices and the drawings prepared by Linear Surveys, no's RJH/HQ/AUG2013-01 and RJH/HQ/AUG2013-02.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 In carrying out the appraisal the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, (3rd edition 2013)' published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment have been used, with the methodology being adapted to suit the individual circumstances. (These Guidelines have been updated after the previous appraisals were completed.)

Assessment Process

- 2.2 The aim of the LVIA is to identify, predict and evaluate potential key impacts and the resulting overall effects on Landscape Character and Visual Amenity arising from the proposed development.
- 2.3 **Landscape Character** is defined here as: The combination and distribution of physical components that contribute to landscape character. It is concerned with the 'contents' of the landscape.
- 2.4 **Visual Amenity** is defined here as: The assembly of components which provided an attractive visual setting or backcloth. It is concerned with the views of the landscape.
- 2.5 An **impact** is specific and applies to a particular element of the environment. In order to assess the impact of a proposed development on a particular element of the **environment**, it is firstly necessary to measure the degree of change caused to that element by the proposal. A description of the change to an element of the environment likely to be caused by a proposed development can be made factually.
- 2.6 An **effect** is a broader based view of the culmination of one or more impacts which involves not only a degree of professional judgement but also some extrapolation and generalisation.
- 2.7 In **appraising** the effect of a proposed development on Landscape Character and Visual Amenity a range of factors are considered. The effect of a proposal on landscape character is a product of the magnitude of change and the sensitivity of the landscape, or its ability to accommodate change. For visual amenity the magnitude of change to the view and the sensitivity of the viewer are combined to appraise the effect. Professional judgement is used to define impacts and appraise their effects but to develop and explain the conclusions reached a range of definitions and criteria area used in this report. These are set out in the following paragraphs.

Assessment Criteria and Definitions

Landscape Quality

- 2.8 Landscape Quality indicates the value which may be placed on the landscape, based on character, condition and aesthetic appeal. It takes into account judgements on the physical state of the landscape and its intactness, from visual, functional and ecological perspectives.
- 2.9 The criteria by which landscape quality has been assessed in this study are detailed below.

Exceptional/very good. Areas that exhibit a strong positive character with valued features that combine to give the experience of unity, richness and harmony. These are landscapes that may be considered to be of particular importance to conserve.

Good/medium. Areas that exhibit positive character but which may have evidence of degradation/erosion of some features. Change may be unlikely to be detrimental.

Poor/very poor. Areas generally negative in character with few, if any, valued features.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 2.10 Landscape Sensitivity is a measure of the landscape's ability to accommodate change. In many cases the higher the quality of a landscape the higher its sensitivity. However this depends on the nature and magnitude of the change, also on the individual nature of the landscape character under study. In addition a landscape that is highly visible from a number of points is likely to be more sensitive to change.

High. Areas of high value and high general visibility.

Medium. Areas of high to medium value where there is some scope for change involving features that are already present to some extent within the landscape, and if it can be accommodated within pockets of low visibility within the landscape, for example in valleys, within an enclosing landform or woodland.

Low. Areas of medium to low value of little harmony and unity where change would go unnoticed amongst a disparate range of features or may have a positive impact in removing or replacing degraded or derelict features.

Magnitude of Change to Landscape Character

2.11 The magnitude of change to Landscape Character arising from the proposed development is based on the interpretation of a combination of the following parameters

- The size of the area of ground affected by the development;
- The components and characteristics of landscape character affected by the development;
- Importance of the landscape character affected by the development within the study area;
- The proportion of the landscape characters, designations or land classification types affected by the development within the study area;
- The percentage of the landscape characters, designations or land classification types affected by the development.

2.12 The change to landscape character can be adverse, beneficial to varying degrees.

2.13 A measure of the overall effect of the proposals on landscape character is described according to the criteria set out below.

Table 2.11 Definition of Magnitude of Change

Effect score	Criteria
Major adverse.	The proposals would be at considerable variance with the local landscape. They would degrade, diminish or destroy a highly valued landscape or its characteristic features or elements. They would be substantially damaging to a high quality landscape.
Moderate adverse	The proposals would be out of scale with the landscape or at odds with the local pattern and landform. They would leave an adverse impact on a landscape of recognised quality.
Minor adverse	The proposals would not quite fit into the landform and scale of the landscape. They would affect an area of recognised landscape character.
Neutral	The proposals would complement the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape. Existing landscape quality would be maintained.
Minor beneficial	The proposals have the potential to improve the landscape quality and character; they would fit in with the scale, pattern and landform of the landscape; they would enable the restoration of valued landscape features partially lost through other land uses.
Major beneficial	The proposals would have the potential to fit in very well with the landscape character; to improve the quality of the landscape through removal of damage caused by existing land uses.

Visual Amenity

2.14 The effect of the proposals on visual amenity is a product of the sensitivity of the viewer (visual receptor) and the magnitude of the change. Thus a judgement on sensitivity and magnitude of change for each view has been made based on the following criteria and assessments.

2.15 The magnitude of change to Visual Amenity associated with the proposed development is defined as high, medium or low based on professional interpretation of the following combination of parameters.

- Sensitivity of the receptor.
- Scale of change in the view
- Degree of contrast with the existing view
- Distance of the viewpoint from the development
- Duration and nature of impact
- Angle of view in relation to main receptor activity
- Proportion of the field of view occupied by the development
- Background to the development

2.16 A measure of the sensitivity of visual receptors is described according to the definitions below.

Definition of Visual Receptor Sensitivity

High

- Users of outdoor recreational facilities including strategic recreational footpaths, cycle routes or rights of way, whose attention may be focused on the landscape.
- Views including important landscape features with physical, cultural or historic attributes.
- Views which would not easily absorb development.
- The principal views from residential buildings, beauty spots, viewpoints and picnic areas.

Medium

- Other footpaths.
- Secondary views from residential buildings.
- People travelling through or past the landscape on roads, trains or other transport routes.
- Views which would have moderate capacity to absorb development.

Low

- People engaged in outdoor sports or recreation (other than appreciation of the landscape).
- Commercial buildings, or commercially engaged pedestrians, whose attention may be focused on their work or activity rather than the wider landscape.
- Views which could easily absorb development.

- 2.17 A measure of the overall effect of the proposals on visual amenity is described according to the criteria set out below.

Definition of Magnitude of Change to Visual Amenity

High

- Fundamental change
- Dominant, controlling the view
- Creation or removal of a main focus
- May be intrusive or oppressive

Medium

- Material but not fundamental, noticeable change to the view
- Creation of a competing focus
- Some elements of the proposals fit the existing visual composition

Low

- Discernible but non-material change, a small change although still noticeable
- Little change to the focus of the view
- Fits the visual composition

Negligible

- No change or real perception of change in the view

Adverse or Beneficial

- 2.18 When assessing Visual Amenity the following categorisation has been used:

- Adverse - there is detriment to Visual Amenity;
- Neutral - the value of the view is not affected; and
- Beneficial - there is improvement to Visual Amenity.

3 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

3.1 National Context

- 3.1.1 In 1998 The Countryside Commission (now Agency) published a national Countryside Character Map identifying a series of Landscape Character Areas for the whole of England and Wales. The site, situated between the A629 and Scout Dike reservoir, lies within the Landscape Character Area 37, Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe. The study area represents the quieter, rural, broad upland plateau landscape aspects of the landscape character area, where the strong linear patterns of stone walled pastoral fields has a distinctive influence on the landscape. However the Don valley with its more intensive settlement along the base is also characteristic of the LCA, albeit on a smaller and less intense scale than the Calder valley settlements to the north.

3.2 Local Context

- 3.2.1 The site lies within Barnsley Borough Council administrative area. In the Local Development Framework – Preferred Options Oct 2005, the site is located within Green Belt. No other specific designations indicating a particular landscape, ecological or historic value pertain to this site or its immediate surroundings.
- 3.2.2 From Barnsley Borough Council's Landscape Character Assessment of 2002 the site falls within a landscape character zone identified as 'F2: Penistone Upland Rolling Farmland.' The key characteristics identified for this area, described below, are representative of the study area.
- **Stepped landform** rising to 364m at Hartcliffe Hill.
 - **Fields of pasture** comprising small to medium geometric field units strongly defined by distinctive stone walls.
 - **Linear or circular beech plantations** stand out on the skyline, sometimes enclosed by stone walls.
 - **Unimproved pasture with scrub** on steeper slopes.
 - **Scattered farmsteads** of local light coloured stone.
 - **Penistone** is the largest settlement in the area, lying on the edge of the Don Valley.
 - **Isolated trees** form silhouettes against the skyline.
 - **Pylons and power lines** are visually prominent on the skyline.
 - **Single lane rural roads** criss-cross the open countryside, bounded by stone walls.

- ***Disused industrial quarries, shafts and mines*** indicate the historical importance of the area for the extraction of coal and stone.
- ***Panoramic views*** over adjacent river valleys and towards the open moorland of the Peak District National Park.

3.2.3 The Upland Rolling Farmland landscape character type is found in 2 areas, Penistone and Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland divided by the River Don Valley identified as a separate Landscape Type, the Upland Don River Valley. As Hillside Quarry lies on the edge of the upland pastoral plateau, immediately above the River Don, the character of the study area is influenced by both the Upland Don Valley Landscape and Penistone Upland Farmland above. In this area the Don Valley is quite enclosed, defined by steep valley sides, with the village of Thurlstone in the valley bottom. Thurlstone, an old riverside wool weaving settlement, also extends up the valley sides, towards Hillside Quarry. The quarry lies on the northern edge of a ridge running from Hartcliff Hill north-eastwards dropping towards Thurlstone. This level topped ridge forms the southern limit of the River Don valley sides in this vicinity.

3.3 Site Landscape and Immediate Surroundings

3.3.1 The quarry sits on the top of a steep, scarp slope of unimproved grassland, scrub and heather immediately below the plateau area before it falls more gently towards the valley bottom. It is part of a small cluster of buildings, structures and trees at a 3-way road junction. The Water Board property with its Victorian dressed stone wall boundaries and tall mast structure, the telecoms mast and farmhouse conversion properties to the east, along with the large agricultural steel clad buildings west of the water board property and north of the road junction all combine to form a node of non- typical land-uses and structures that contrast with the simpler, more harmonious forms of the upland pastoral plateau landscape to the south and west of the quarry. Mature trees on the roadside and around the residential properties soften the potential impact of the structures, creating a defining feature in themselves.

3.3.2 Hillside is an active quarry site, but most of the operations, including the stone working within saw sheds, lie within the void, below ground level thus are not visible and do not contribute strongly towards the immediate landscape character. The dry stone walls of much of the quarry boundary are typical field boundaries with the new walling at the entrance and the Cross Lane boundary reflecting the vernacular, but on a slightly larger scale. The storage of finished stone and other materials, small plant and car parking just within the entrance area confers a minerals character to the area, as does the stockpiling of stone on land to the south of the main quarry area.

4 LANDSCAPE QUALITY AND SENSITIVITY

- 4.1 Landscape Quality indicates the value which may be placed on the landscape, based on character, condition and aesthetic appeal. Landscape sensitivity is a measure of the landscape's ability to accommodate change. In many cases the higher the quality of a landscape the higher its sensitivity. However this depends on the nature and magnitude of the change, also on the individual nature of the landscape character under study. In addition a landscape that is highly visible from a number of points is likely to be more sensitive to change.
- 4.2 The BMBC Landscape Character appraisal describes the Penistone Upland Farmland as having a "*strong*" character as a result of "*its strong topography, intact network of stone walls, rural upland character and panoramic views.*" However, its condition is described as "*moderate*" due to the decline of individual features such as stone boundary walls and low rates of woodland regeneration. This appraisal is appropriate to the study area, however the proximity of the urban elements of Thurlstone, new and converted farm dwellings, mixed small holdings, as well as the telecoms mast, water board apparatus and the quarry itself introduce more disparate elements into the landscape. The combination of the harmonious landscape of the plateau area and the edge of the valley mix of industrial and semi-urban elements confers a ***good-medium*** landscape quality.
- 4.3 The large scale exposed nature of the landscape; the low density settlement and the distinctive field pattern render the upland plateau landscape inherently sensitive to change of a large scale and/or urban nature. The higher enclosure resulting from landform, woodland and buildings within the River Don Valley render it less sensitive to change. Small scale developments such as conversion of farm buildings to residential property, woodland planting or countryside recreation development could be accommodated without detrimental influence on the landscape character. The precise siting of small scale developments would determine the ease with which it could be accommodated into the landscape. For example new developments in areas of relatively low visibility such as valley bottoms or within or next to woodland or existing residential, agricultural or industrial features could be accommodated without impairment to the landscape quality. The sensitivity of the study area landscape is assessed as ***medium***.

5 PROPOSALS

5.1 An understanding of the magnitude of the proposals is necessary in order to assess their subsequent effect on landscape character and visual amenity. The proposals involve several separate elements all associated with a currently active quarry. These are described briefly below, but full details can be found elsewhere in the planning application documents.

5.1.1 Stockpiles of cut stone on land to the south-east of the quarry. The area covered by the stockpiles would be 0.31ha of a 2.07ha field, most recently used for hay and grazing. The northern part of the field, immediately adjacent to the Yorkshire Water property would be used. Access would be direct from the southern part of the quarry. The stockpiles will be a maximum of 2.5m high. The Cross Lane boundary comprises a dry stone wall of 1.6m height, currently under construction. A single row of trees would be planted along this boundary. This would be a temporary use for 3 years.

5.1.2 Parking. Previous permitted planning applications allowed for parking for up to 10 vehicles although no delineation of their location has previously been agreed. Employee and visitor parking has been established on land located directly off the internal quarry access road.

5.1.3 Finished stone storage. It is proposed to store finished stone products on the area to the south-east of the internal access road, between this road, Cross Lane and the northern boundary of the Yorkshire Water property. This area covers approximately 920m². The stone products will be stored largely on pallets, up to 2.5m high.

5.1.4 Saw sheds. Saw sheds 60.4m long x 7.25m wide have been constructed on the base of the quarry floor. These are semi-open structures with a steel cladding roof, inclining from 6.9m to 4.36m height. They are currently in use for stone working. Additional sheds, 15m long x 8.2m wide, are proposed within the base of the quarry.

Scale of the Proposals

5.2 These proposals are all minor parts of a quarrying operation that is already present and on-going.

5.3 Activity will intensify on the area at the front entrance of the quarry, currently approved for access to the void area, but the area covered, (16% of the frontage area), and the scale of the stone storage and car numbers will result in only small scale changes.

- 5.4 The stone storage in mounds on the south-eastern field is of a greater scale introducing new structures to a currently open field. However the nature of the proposals is linked with quarrying and is set against the backdrop of the current quarry and Yorkshire Water property that includes some large steel clad sheds. As these are temporary proposals, lasting 3 years, their magnitude is reduced.
- 5.5 The saw sheds themselves are significant structures, but their location in the base of the quarry renders them invisible from outside the quarry thus their magnitude is very low.
- 5.6 Overall the magnitude of the proposals is small; although where the elements are in visually exposed locations it is increased.

6 VISIBILITY

General

- 6.1 The site sits relatively high, on the southern shoulder of the Don valley side. It is visible from the upper parts of the opposite (northern) side of the Don valley but also, due to the stepped topography, from more distant viewpoints from the northern edges of the Scout Dyke valley. (Ingbirchworth, Scout Dyke reservoir, Hoylandswaine and the A629). However, the role of the quarry in views from these distant northerly viewpoints is very minor, with the quarry almost indistinguishable in the broad views towards the Pennine landscape to the south and east.
- 6.2 From the west and south the rising plateau area and Hartcliff Hill prevent views of the current quarry.
- 6.3 Closer views of the site are available from the upper parts of Millhouse Green and Thurlstone, as well as the western edges of Penistone. In some cases the quarry sits on the skyline of views from the lower, valley viewpoints.
- 6.4 The saw sheds in the base of the quarry void are not visible from outside the site thus have been discounted from the visibility appraisal.
- 6.5 The area at the front of the site, near the access, is visible only very locally from immediately outside the site. Topography, woodland, tree growth and the Yorkshire Water property, walls and structures combine to severely limit views of this area. It is visible in distant cross valley views to the north.
- 6.6 The area of proposed cut stone stockpiles is on land open to views from the south and east.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (See dwg no CF/HQ/360/3 in Appendix A)

- 6.7 A computer generated model of visibility was produced to indicate potential visibility of the proposed stone stockpiles. As they are outside the existing active quarry area they represent new activity on non-quarry land. 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 and buildings that will block views of the proposed stockpiles. In particular, the buildings, structures and trees around the quarry at the Cross Lane- Hornthwaite Hill Road junction will block many of the views from across the valley in Thurlstone. Various points shown as visible in the ZTV have been

inspected in the field and been proved to be non-visible. However the ZTV has been used to develop a list of important viewpoints that have been visited and analysed.

- 6.8 Distance from the site has an obvious impact on the visibility, and due to the small increase in the quarrying area, views from beyond 1km are judged to be of low significance.

Analysis of Viewpoints

- 6.9 Individual views of the site have been assessed individually. A photograph representing each viewpoint is presented at the end of this report with a plan indicating the position of each viewpoint. (CF/HQ/360/2 in Appendix A)

6.9.1 View 1. From Hornthwaite Hill Road

Viewers from this point are most likely to be travelling by car thus passing quickly, although some walkers, cyclists and horse riders will also view it. For this latter group views of the natural landscape will form an important part of their enjoyment of their activity. The view is somewhat enclosed by topography, boundary walls and mature roadside trees. The quarry entrance, internal access and storage of materials, along with the backdrop of the agricultural buildings, forms a high proportion of the view. The view is very much an industrial, quarry view, contrasting negatively with the more natural landscape surrounding it. However the storage of materials near the entrance is only a small part of the disruptive elements and only where mounds or materials top the boundary walls are they particularly intrusive.

The sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed as **medium**, balancing the quick passage of car drivers with walkers or cyclists using the countryside for views of peaceful, rural scenes.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the storage of finished stone or car parking near the entrance is assessed as **low- medium, adverse**, as it will result in a small intensification of features already present that collectively confer a quarry, or industrial, character to the view.

6.9.2 View 2. From footpath 41, by Cross Royd Head Farm, north-east of site

This view is representative of views from footpath 41 as the viewer walks up hill towards Cross Lane and the quarry. This is the closest point the quarry area can be seen from this footpath; more distant ones are obtained from the lower slopes. The area of proposed stone storage is visible between the Yorkshire Water compound and adjacent open fields. The mounds are incongruous in terms of form, colour, texture, and in places break the skyline making them particularly disruptive in the view. However they are seen immediately adjacent to the walls and structures of the

Yorkshire Water compound. The mast and structure within the compound, as well as the stone boundary wall topped with steel palisade fencing are significantly more dominant and more disruptive in the view than the stone storage mounds. The visible extent, and thus the negative impact, of the mounds will be decreased once the boundary wall has been constructed, leaving only the tops of the mounds visible.

The sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed as **medium**, as appreciation of the landscape is part of walking along this footpath, although it is not a principal view or one of recognised importance.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the storage of finished stone in mounds is assessed as **low-medium, adverse** resulting from the impact of an increase in incongruous features on the skyline.

6.9.3 *View 3. From Cross Lane/bridleway 92 junction*

This close view of the proposed stone storage area will be seen most often by passing vehicular traffic but will be more important to the walkers, cyclists and horse riders using the road and bridleway for recreational purposes. Prior to stone storage on the field in the foreground, the view will have been of the Yorkshire Water compound and structures, the large agricultural shed, telecoms mast, and trees, all combining to indicate a change from the simple, open pasture-field plateau to the more diverse and enclosed Don valley. Vehicles currently working the existing quarry, (to the left of the photo), are seen on the skyline thus are particularly prominent and disruptive. The irregular outlines and texture of the stone storage mounds increases the clutter of the foreground resulting in deterioration in the quality of the view. However the mounds are seen against a backdrop of the adjacent property's walls, never against the sky, resulting in a reduction in their potential prominence. In addition, the boundary wall, currently under construction in the photograph, will contain the stone mounds, both visually and physically, providing a reinforcement of the plateau landscape structure. As the roadside wall will form a large proportion of the view, its impact will be high. The wind turbines on Royd Moor are a point of focal interest drawing the eye beyond the foreground.

The sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed as **medium**, as appreciation of the landscape is part of recreational enjoyment of the area, although it is not a principal view or one of recognised importance.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the storage of finished stone in mounds is assessed as **low-medium, adverse** resulting from the impact of an increase in disruptive clutter in a relatively large proportion of the view.

6.9.4 *View 4. From bridleway south of quarry.*

For much of its length along the southern boundary wall of the stone storage field, this bridleway runs along a slightly sunken track with the field walls and scrub vegetation obscuring most of the views. For walkers travelling eastwards, downhill, the main focus of the view will be directly ahead. However this viewpoint represents glimpsed views obtained to the north of the track as the user approaches the road. The telecoms mast and the mast on YW property form strong focal points for the view and contribute strongly to the incongruous grouping of partially industrial features in the mainly rural landscape. The stone storage mounds occupy a large proportion of the view seen against the backdrop of the walls and structures of the YW compound and agricultural shed. The irregular shape and texture of the mounds contrasts negatively with the more regular, solid walls behind, but the walls severely limit the impact of the stone mounds on the landscape beyond. The vehicles and plant involved in moving and importing stone introduce disruptive colours and movement to the view.

The sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed as **medium**, as appreciation of the landscape is part of recreational enjoyment of the area, although it is not a principal view or one of recognised importance.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the storage of finished stone in mounds is assessed as **low-medium, adverse**, resulting from the impact of the introduction of irregular forms and textures to a relatively large proportion of the view.

6.9.5 *View 5. From bridleway 92 south of quarry site, upper field corner*

As the bridleway rises up the view widens to encompass a panoramic view over the typical Southern Pennine Fringe landscape towards the more urban areas around Barnsley beyond. The quarry forms a strong part of the view due to its prominent foreground position and has a negative impact due to the current surface working involving large vehicles and plant. The proposed stone storage area is visible in the middle distance, but distance and proportion of the view occupied renders its impact quite small. In addition, from this higher viewpoint it is less prominent, being seen

against trees, walls and structures, and thus less disruptive, than from lower viewpoints.

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 it is not a principal view or one of recognised importance.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the storage of finished stone in mounds is assessed as **low, adverse**, resulting from the impact of the introduction of irregular forms and textures to a small proportion of the view.

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

As for views 4 and 5, high quality, long views will be important to the bridleway users with the main focus of the view being eastwards. This is a higher viewpoint so views over the quarry and proposed stone storage area are less easily obstructed by the path boundary walls than lower, closer viewpoints. The view is a panoramic one over the stepped escarpment and valley landform. As for view 5, the current quarry is a disruptive feature occupying a prominent part of the foreground. The importance of the stone storage area in the view is very low, although the forms and colours remain negative.

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 it is not a principal view or one of recognised importance.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the storage of finished stone in mounds is assessed as **low, adverse**, resulting from the impact of the introduction of irregular forms and textures to a small proportion of the view.

6.9.7 *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 proposed stone storage mounds will be visible but will form a very small part of the view and seen against the adjoining structures will be difficult to distinguish.

The view is an important part of recreational user's 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**.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the storage of finished stone in mounds is assessed as **negligible** due to the small proportion of the view occupied by the mounds and the strong competing focus of the wind turbines.

6.9.8 View 8. From bridleway 93, Sike Lane.

This bridleway is part of the well-used network of paths in the area where views of the landscape are a major part of the users' enjoyment. Due to the relatively level landform even small vertical elements such as walls easily obstruct views of other structures at a similar level. In this view only the very tops of the proposed stone storage mounds will be visible in the middle distance from only a few parts of the path where minor variations in landform and wall height allow. As for view 9 the main focus of the view is the wind turbines at Spicer Hill with the proposed stone storage mounds forming a very small proportion of the 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 it is not a principal view or one of recognised importance.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the storage of finished stone in mounds is assessed as **negligible** due to the very small proportion of the view occupied by the mounds and the strong competing focus of the wind turbines.

6.9.9 View 9. From junction of footpaths 41 and 86, east of quarry.

This is quite a wide view looking up towards Hartcliffe Hill, dominated by the distinctive pattern of stone-walled pasture fields. It is a low viewpoint relative to the quarry, thus existing quarry plant is seen moving across the skyline. In addition to quarry, the telecoms structure and YW mast break the skyline and these structures, together with the agricultural shed and other YW structures, interrupt the harmonious landscape pattern. Due to the distance from the viewer and the relatively small proportion of the view occupied, the disruption is minor, although elements on the skyline or breaking through it have a greater negative impact. The proposed stone storage mounds will be sited amongst these elements, increasing the disruptive influence by a small degree. However the scale of the mounds and distance from the viewer mean that their influence will be very small. The mounds will be on or very close to the skyline, however their mounded form and small part that will break through the skyline means that they will only be a weak interruption to it, relative to the quarry and the vertical structures.

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 it is not a principal view or one of recognised importance.

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

6.9.10 *View 10. From footpath 40 at corner of Rud Broom Road on western edge of Penistone.*

This is a similar view to view 9 but more distant and higher. Although taken from footpath 40, it is also representative of potential views from upper windows of houses on the eastern edge of Penistone. As for the previous view, the quarry lies on the skyline of the Hartcliff Hill ridge thus the irregularities and colours of the quarry form a quite prominent, discordant feature on the generally harmonious view of the rectangular fields of the plateau area. However the scale of the quarry is in keeping with the scale of the fields and its location against the buildings and apparatus of the Water Authority compound and other small buildings with surrounding woodland lessens its negative impact on the view. As this is a higher viewpoint, the stone storage mounds will not break the skyline, but will represent an intensification and small increase in the proportion of the view occupied by the disruptive elements.

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 it is not a principal view or one of recognised importance.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the storage of cut stone in mounds 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.

6.9.11 *View 11. From Sandringham Close, Thurlstone.*

This view represents views from housing on the upper, northern edge of Thurlstone. Many are obstructed by buildings or trees but there are some open views across the valley that include a long sweep of the escarpment and plateau of the southern valley side. The quarry forms a part of this view but its importance within it is reduced by its proximity to other non-pastoral features, (telecoms mast, water authority apparatus, horse related structures, woodland and heather scrub), and its position below the skyline. Views of the proposed finished stone storage and parked cars at the front of the quarry, near the entrance will be glimpsed. However the small scale of these

elements, distance from the viewer and competing, often larger, non-pastoral features will render the impact of the storage and car-parking very low.

The sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed as **low**, as appreciation of the view is generally incidental to other activities.

The magnitude of change to the view resulting from car parking and finished stone products near the quarry entrance is assessed as **low-negligible, adverse** due to the very small proportion of the view affected and the very small intensification of non-pastoral elements in the view.

7 EFFECT ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND VISUAL AMENITY

- 7.1 Landscape effects are likely to include both positive and negative, to varying degrees. They result from the interaction of landscape quality and sensitivity, with the degree and nature of the change.
- 7.2 Hillside quarry is located between the high quality, sensitive landscape of the pastoral, stone walled fields of the open plateau and the medium quality, more enclosed, varied landscape character of the River Don valley.
- 7.3 The quarry is already present in the landscape, part of a group of disparate features, comprising the Yorkshire Water compound, agricultural buildings, telecoms mast, residential property and woodland. This node of features is somewhat at variance with the open plateau fields and to a lesser extent the valley sides of the Don valley, conferring a reduction in landscape quality. As this group of features is located at the top of the valley sides, on the edge of the plateau area its influence is more strongly negative than if it were at a lower level. An increase in area or the numbers of types of structures and features are likely to impact negatively on landscape character.
- 7.4 The changes cover only a small increase in the area used for quarrying, (0.31ha of the field to the south used for stone storage in mounds), and a small intensification of use, with the area at the front (north-east) of the quarry being used for finished stone storage and parking. Taken with the grouping of other non-pastoral land uses the degree of change resulting from the proposals is small.
- 7.5 The texture, colour and shape of the proposed stone storage mounds will introduce new, and thus disruptive, features to the landscape, but despite their elevated position and visibility they will be part of the existing quarry, non-pastoral landscape thus the extent of their potential influence on the landscape is reduced. In addition, the impact of the stone storage mounds is a temporary one, lasting 3 years. In the context of the development and change in the landscape this is a short timescale. Once removed the site will return to a grassland field.
- 7.6 The finished stone storage and parking area to the front of the quarry, off the access road, will be a small intensification of the minerals landscape character, but its enclosed position and small degree of change limits its impact on landscape character.

- 7.7 The saw sheds in the base of the quarry do not contribute to the current landscape character apart from the internal quarry character, thus have no effect on the wider landscape.
- 7.8 No defining landscape features will be removed, with the exception of 0.31ha of a 2.07ha pastoral field that will be used for stone storage. The stone wall (currently under construction), along Cross Lane boundary represents an addition or strengthening of the landscape structure of the plateau area. The proposed tree planting along this boundary will create an extension of the woodland group at the junction of Hornthwaite Lane and Cross Lane that will increase the enclosure at this junction bringing positive benefits in reducing the negative impact of this grouping of non-pastoral structures.
- 7.9 Weighing these small positive effects against the small negative effects of the proposed stone storage mounds the effect of the proposals on landscape character is assessed as *minor, adverse*.
- 7.10 Of all the changes, only the proposed stone storage mounds on the south of the current quarry will have an appreciable effect on visual amenity. The saw sheds will not be visible, and the car parking and storage near the quarry access will only affect the close view from the entrance, where the proposals will result in a small intensification of minerals activity in the view.
- 7.11 In close views from the south and east the scale of the changes is quite high covering a large part of the view. In these views the mounds will introduce new textures, colours and irregular, untidy forms to a large part of the foreground. The greater the proportion of the view these encompass, the greater their negative impact on the view. However for most of these views the mounds will be seen against the backdrop of the Yorkshire Water compound boundaries and structures, the large agricultural building and the existing quarry. Only from the lower viewpoint on footpath 41 do the mounds break the skyline, thus becoming more prominent, but even here they are seen next to the YW boundary wall and structures that will be higher than the proposed mounds. The proposed stone wall along Cross Lane will provide a significant, positive feature in close views that will also reduce the visibility of the mounds in views from the east and south-east.
- 7.12 Some of the more distant views from the east will be changed by the proposed stone storage mounds. Most of these views are wide panoramas and the mounds will be too distant and small scale to have a significant effect. Even where the mounds appear on the skyline their impact on the view will be small as they will be seen along with the current quarry, telecoms mast and YW compound structures. Proposed tree planting

along the Cross Lane boundary will have the effect of increasing the size of the woodland in the view as well as obscuring some of the stone mounds.

7.13 In most of the distant views, particularly from the higher land to the west the wind turbines of Spicer Hill form a dominant focal point, drawing the eye towards them, thus reducing the potential effect of the proposed stone storage mounds.

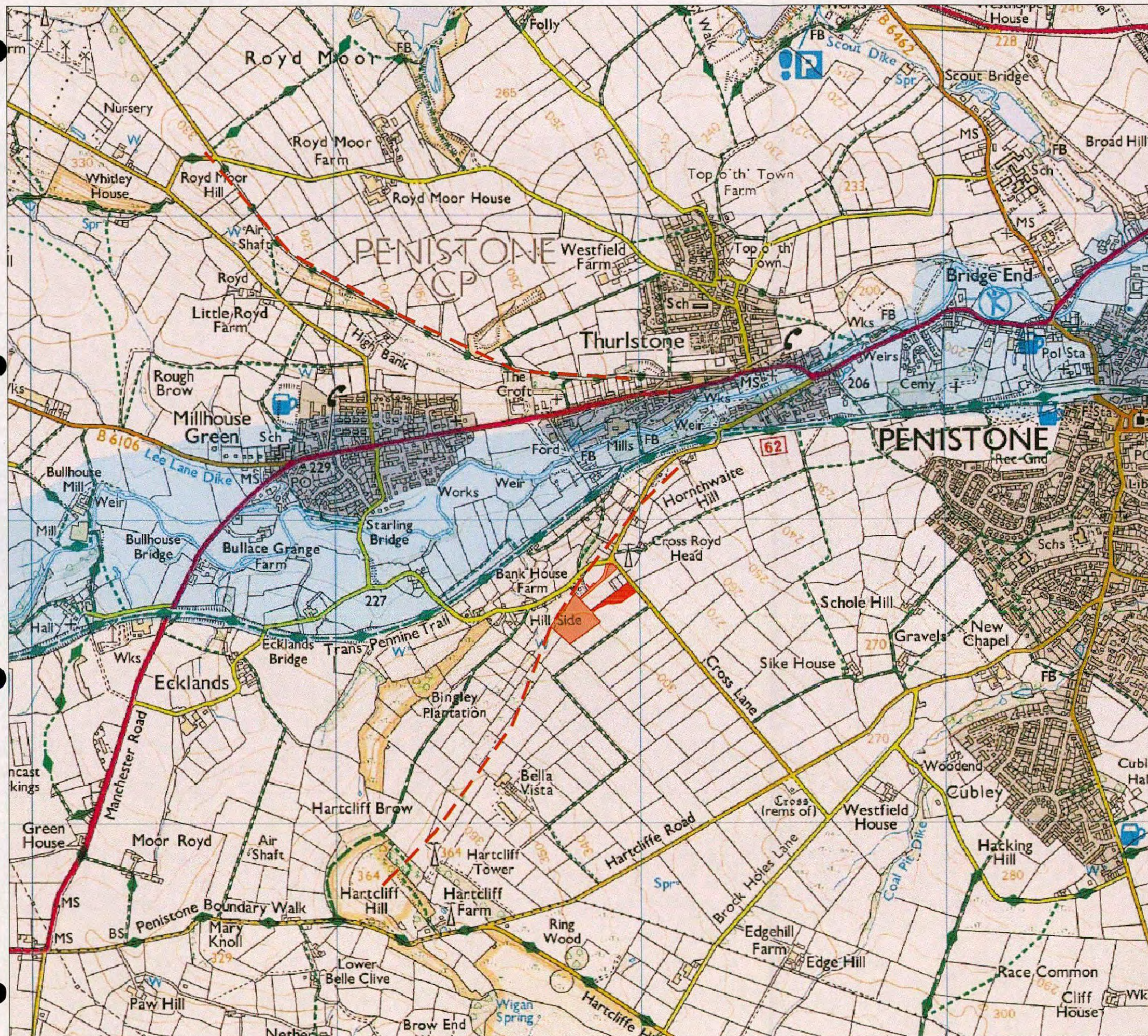
7.14 The effect of the proposals on visual amenity is assessed as ***minor adverse***.

APPENDIX A – DRAWINGS

Drawing No – CF/HQ/360/1 – Landscape Character

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

Drawing No – CF/HQ/360/3 - Zone of theoretical visibility for proposed stone storage mounds



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



Existing quarry.



Proposal areas

Landscape character types as identified in Barnsley MBC's Landscape Character Appraisal.



Upland River Don Valley



Upland Rolling Farmland



Approx boundary between top of Don Valley sides and upland plateau areas.



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
Crown Copyright. Licence no 100049021

cf landscape design

Oakleigh, Healey Road, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 8LN
Tel 01924 281164. Mob 07966 515360. e-mail catriona@landarch.demon.co.uk

project
LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL
Hillside Quarry, Thurlstone

drawing title
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

scale NTS Plot @ A3	date Oct 13	drawing no CF/HQ/360/1
------------------------	----------------	---------------------------



KEY



Existing quarry.

Proposal areas



Key to photographic viewpoints

43

Footpath numbers referred to in text.



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
Crown Copyright. Licence no 100049021

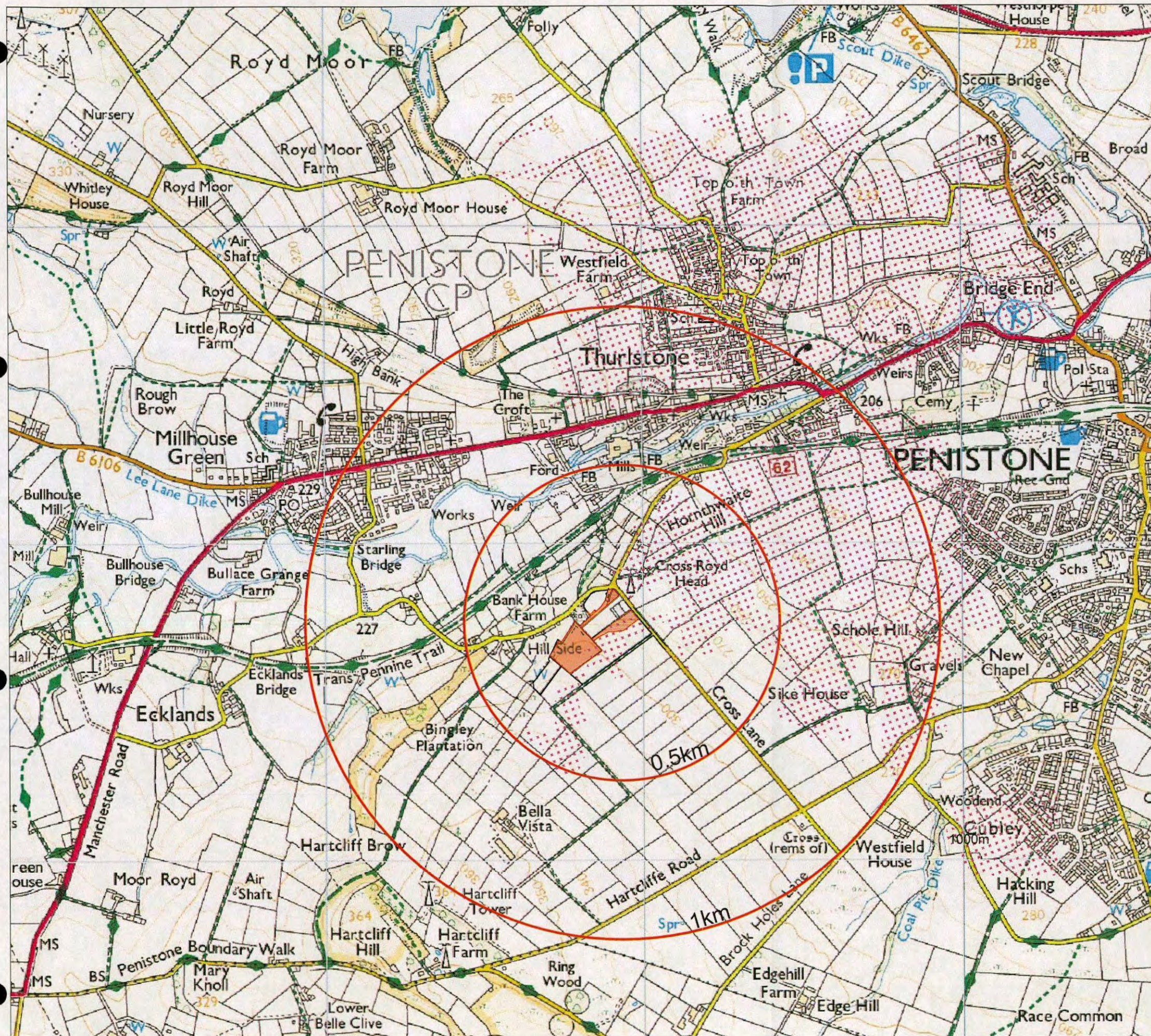
cf landscape design

Oakleigh, Healey Road, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 8LN
Tel 01924 281164. Mob 07966 515360. e-mail catriona@landarch.demon.co.uk

project LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL
Hillside Quarry, Thurlstone

drawing title KEY TO PHOTO VIEWPOINTS

scale	date	drawing no
NTS Plot @ A3	Oct 13	CF/HQ/360/2



KEY



Existing quarry.



Proposal areas.



Area from which the stone stockpiles are theoretically visible.

Note:

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



0m 500m 1000m

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
Crown Copyright. Licence no 100049021

cf landscape design

Oakleigh, Healey Road, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 8LN
Tel 01924 281164. Mob 07966 515360. e-mail catriona@landarch.demon.co.uk

project LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL
Hillside Quarry, Thurlstone

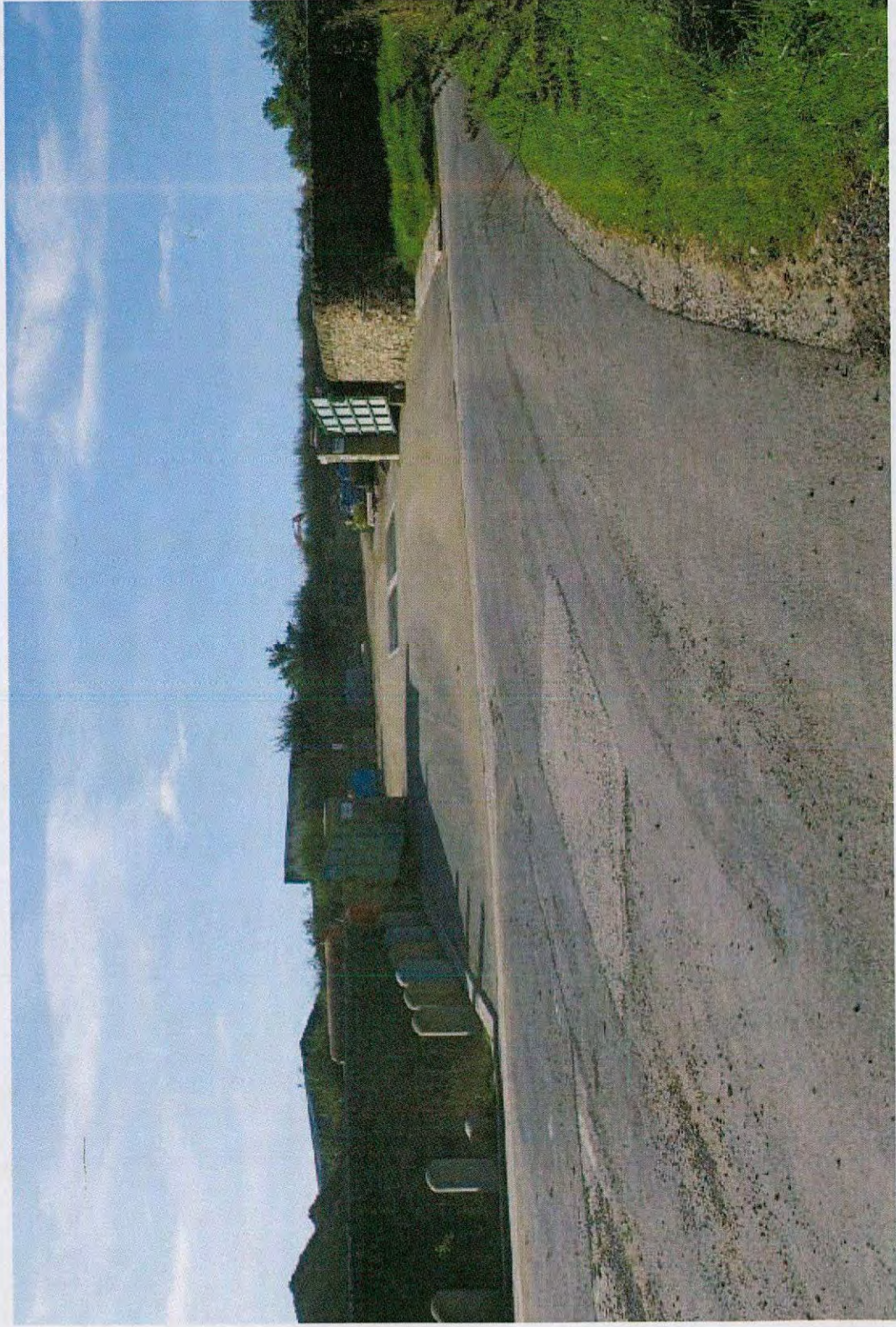
drawing title ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY FOR
PROPOSED STONE STORAGE MOUNDS

scale	date	drawing no
NTS Plot @ A3	Oct 13	CF/HQ/360/3

APPENDIX B – PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS

HILLSIDE QUARRY, THURLSTONE. ADDITIONAL STONE STORAGE

*View 1. From Entrance on Hornthwaite Hill Road
GR 422920 402890. Distance 50m. Bearing 009°*



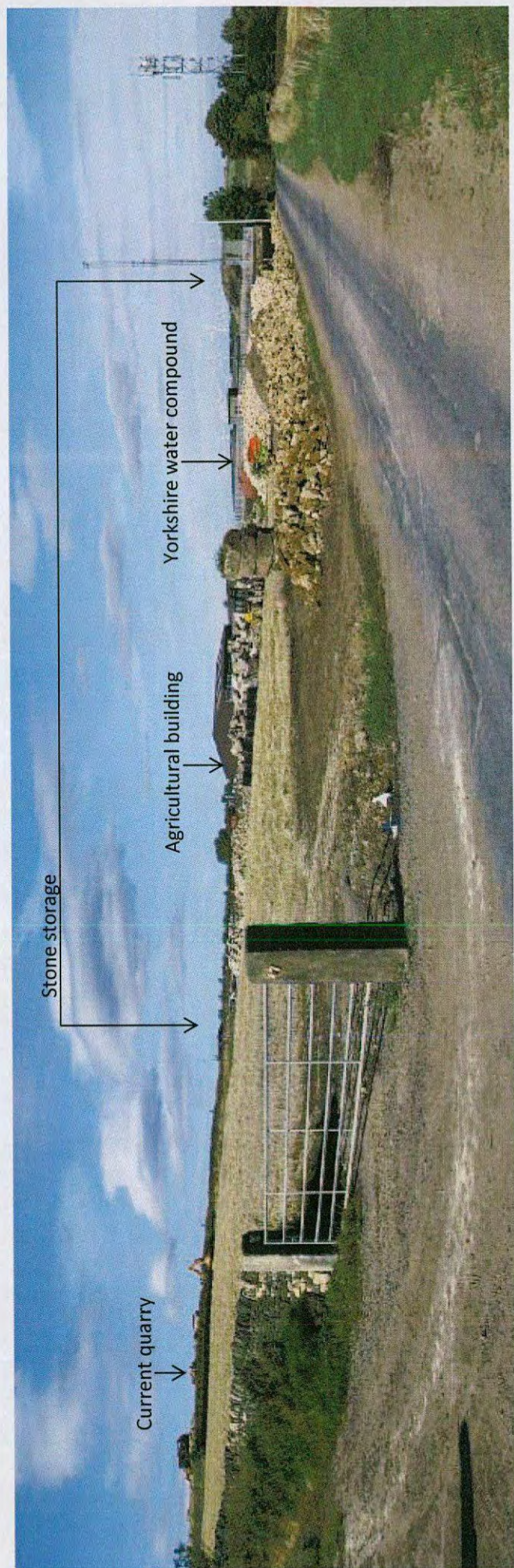
CF LANDSCAPE

September 2013

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

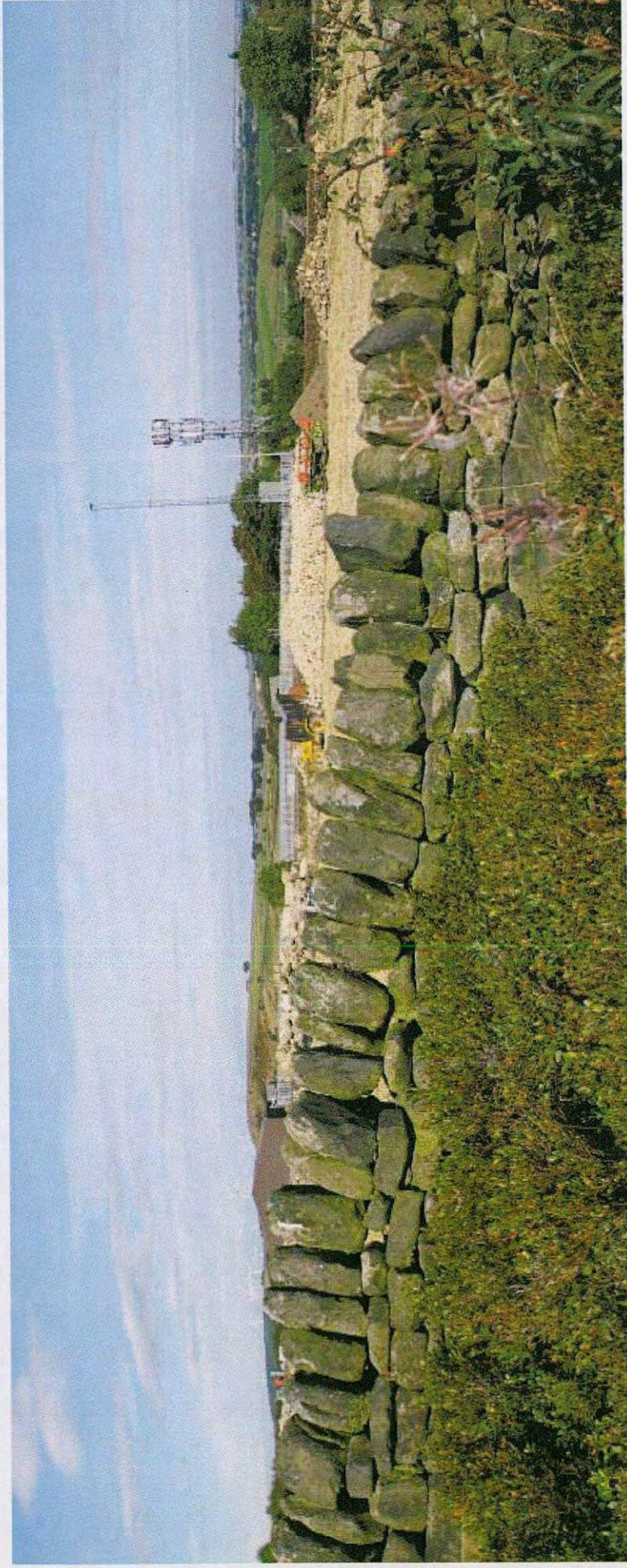


*View 3. From Cross Hill Lane/bridleway junction
GR 423040 402720. Distance 80m. Bearing 206°*

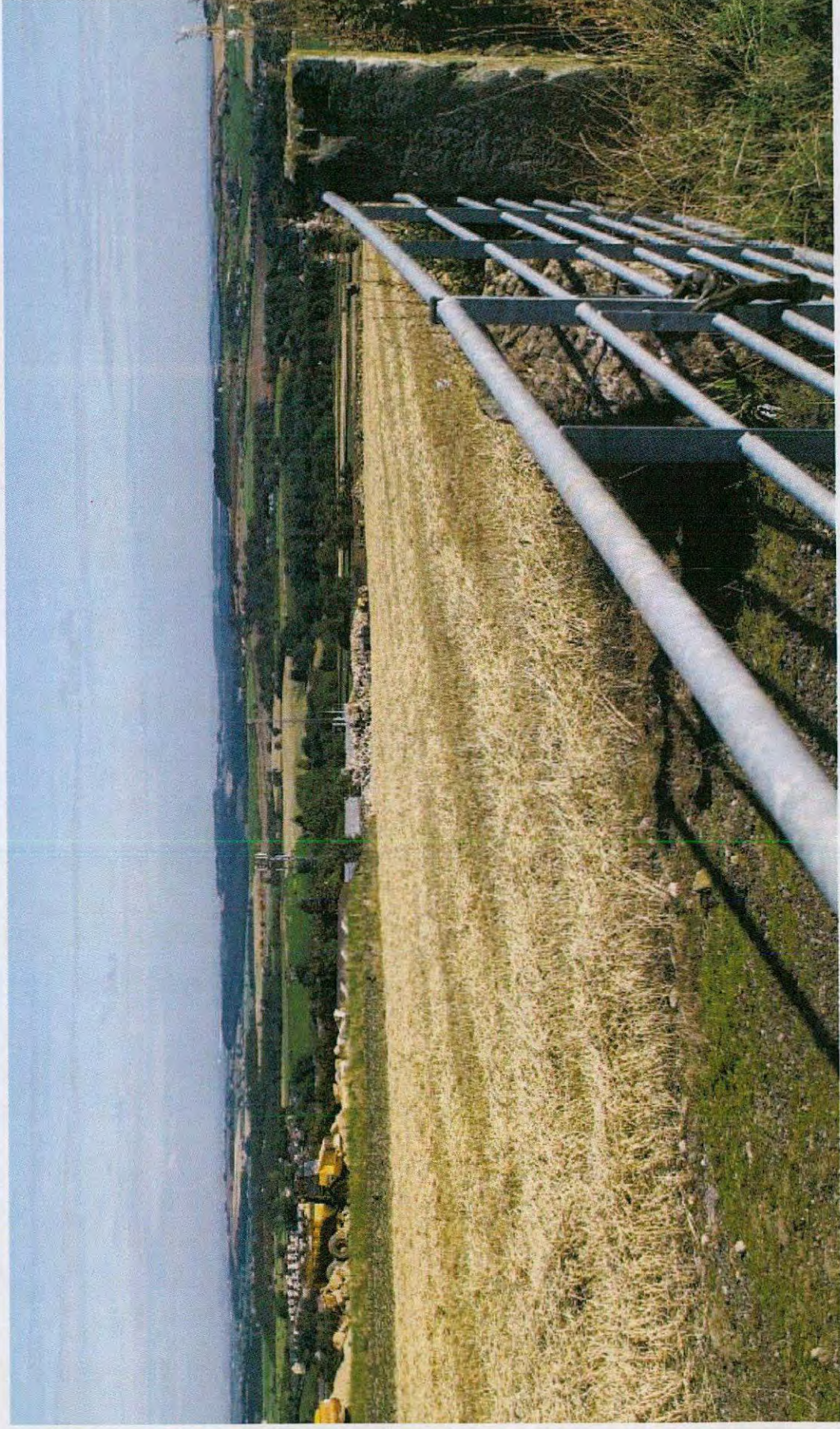


HILLSIDE QUARRY, THURLSTONE. ADDITIONAL STONE STORAGE

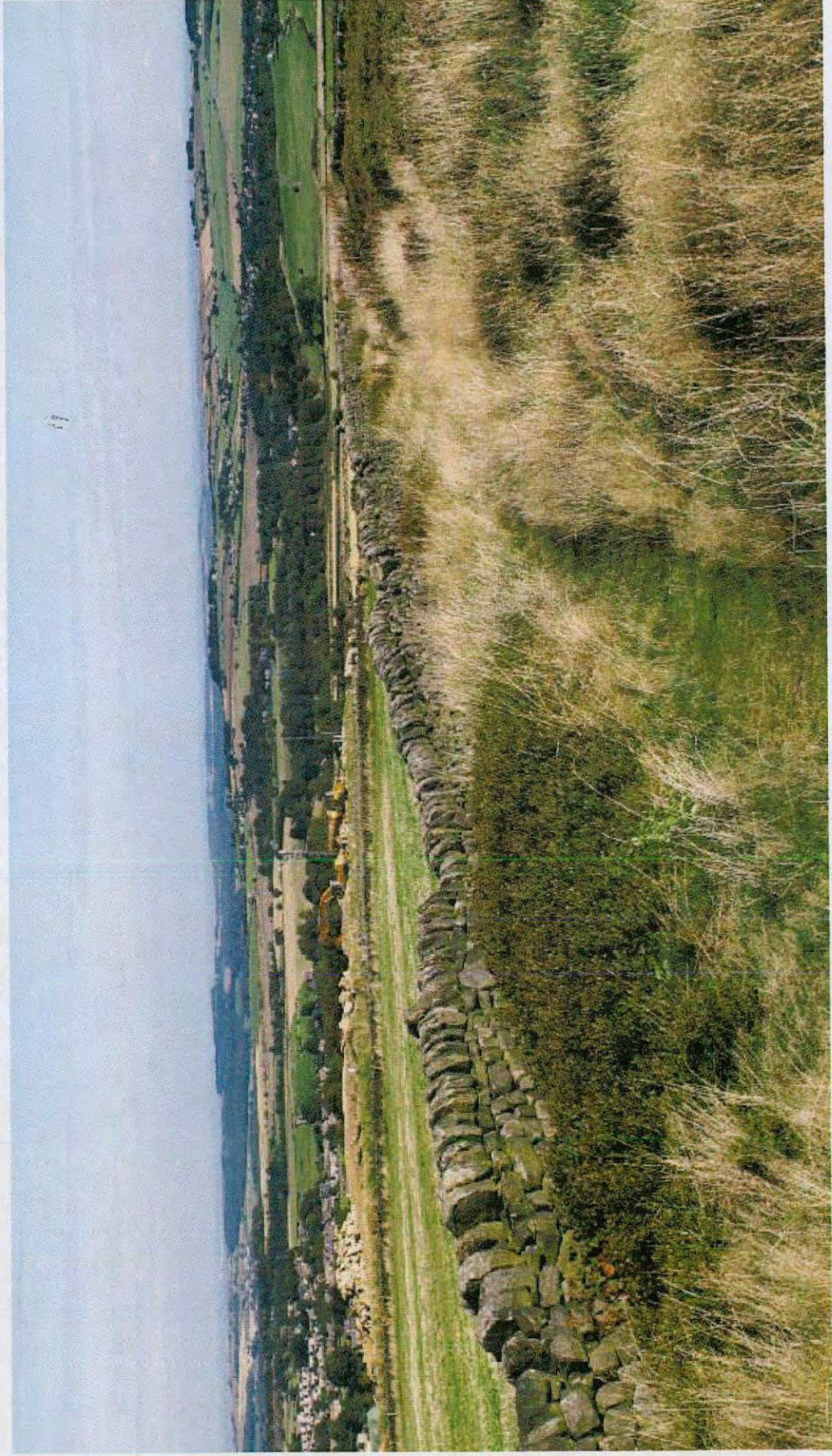
*View 4. From bridleway south of quarry.
GR 423007 402698. Distance 75m. Bearing 333°*



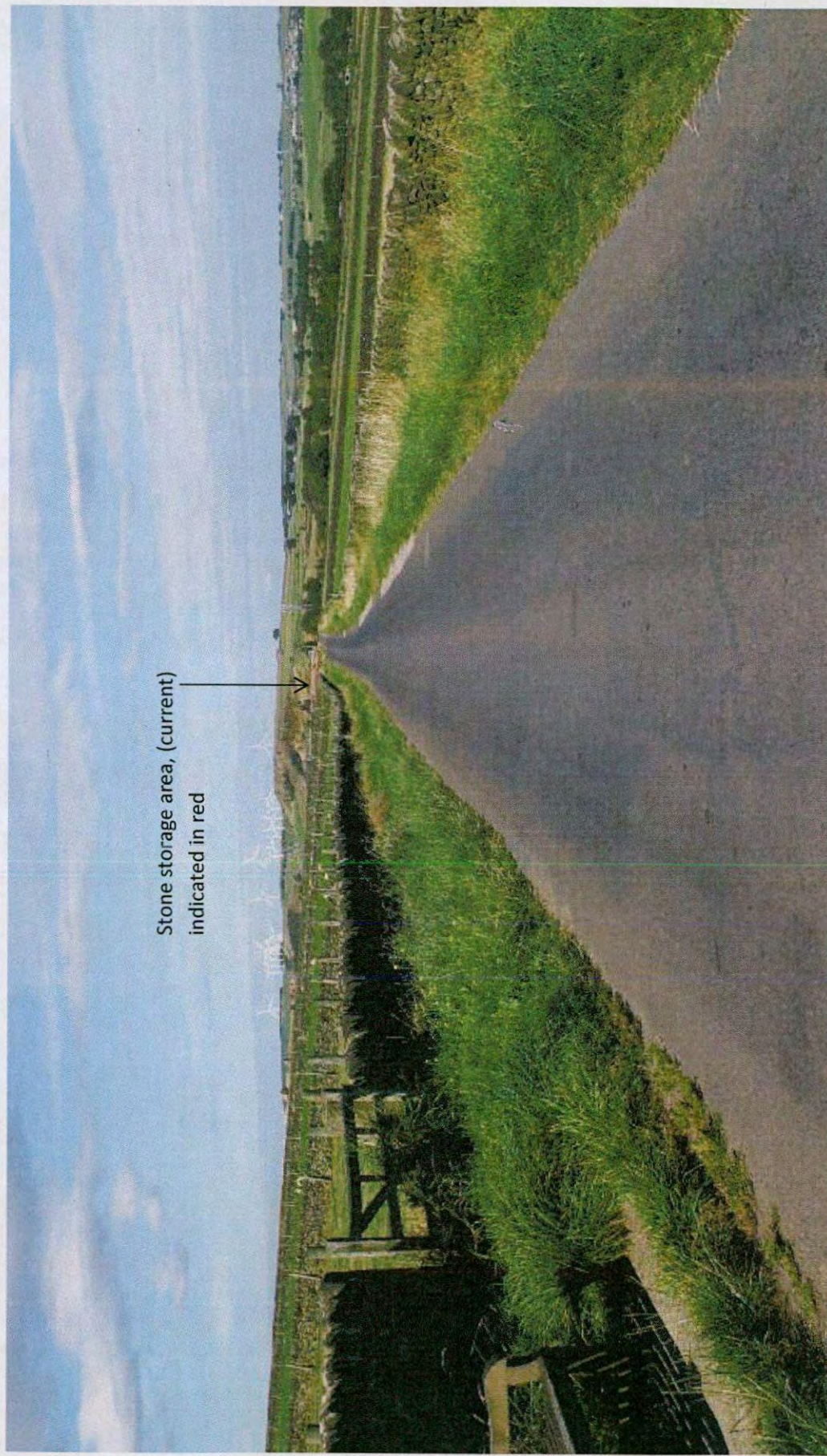
*View 5. From bridleway south of quarry site, upper field corner.
GR 422816 402553. Distance 117m. Bearing 026°*



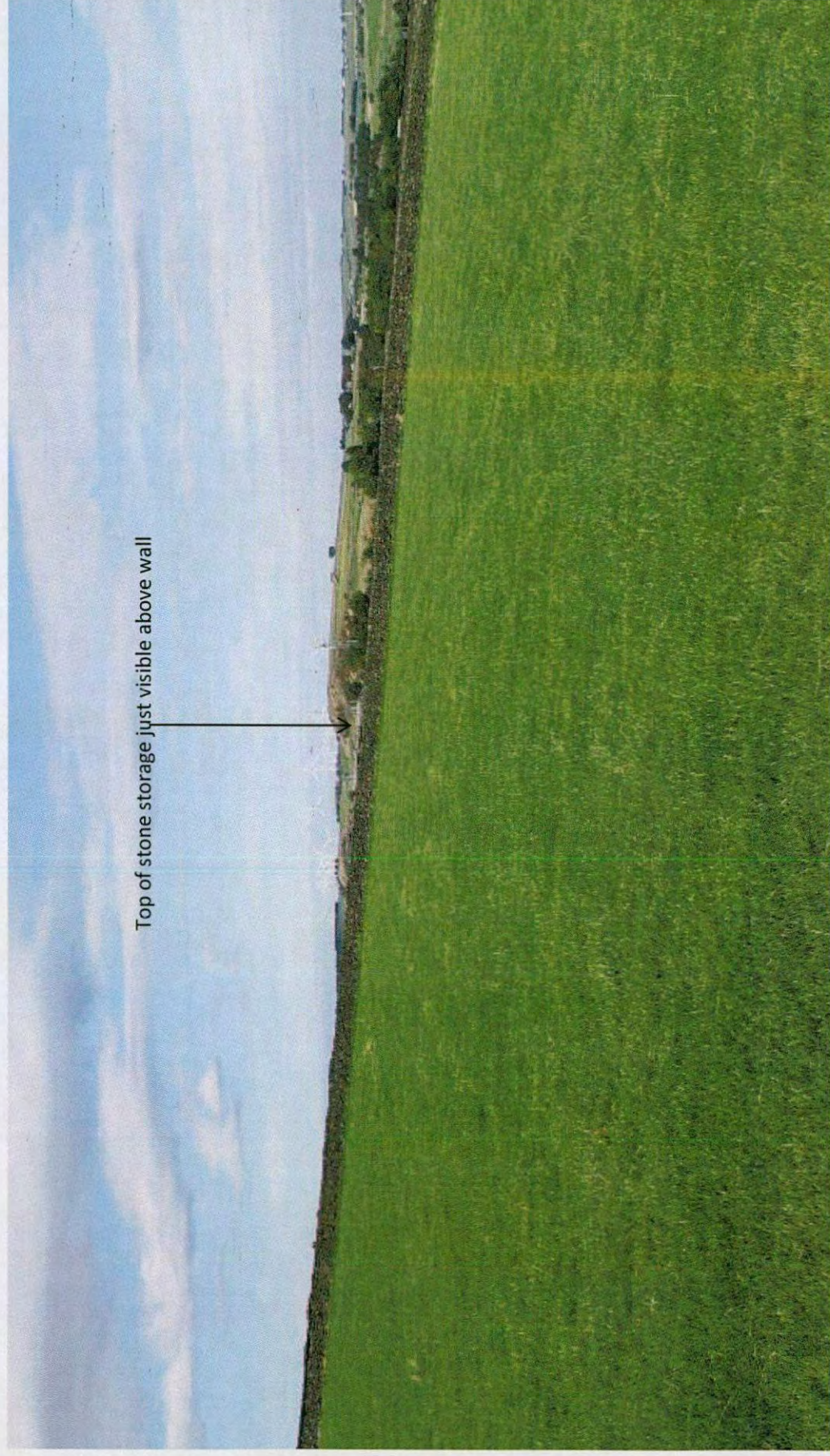
*View 6. From corner of bridleway, above quarry to south-west.
GR 422718 402484. Distance 315m. Bearing 036°*



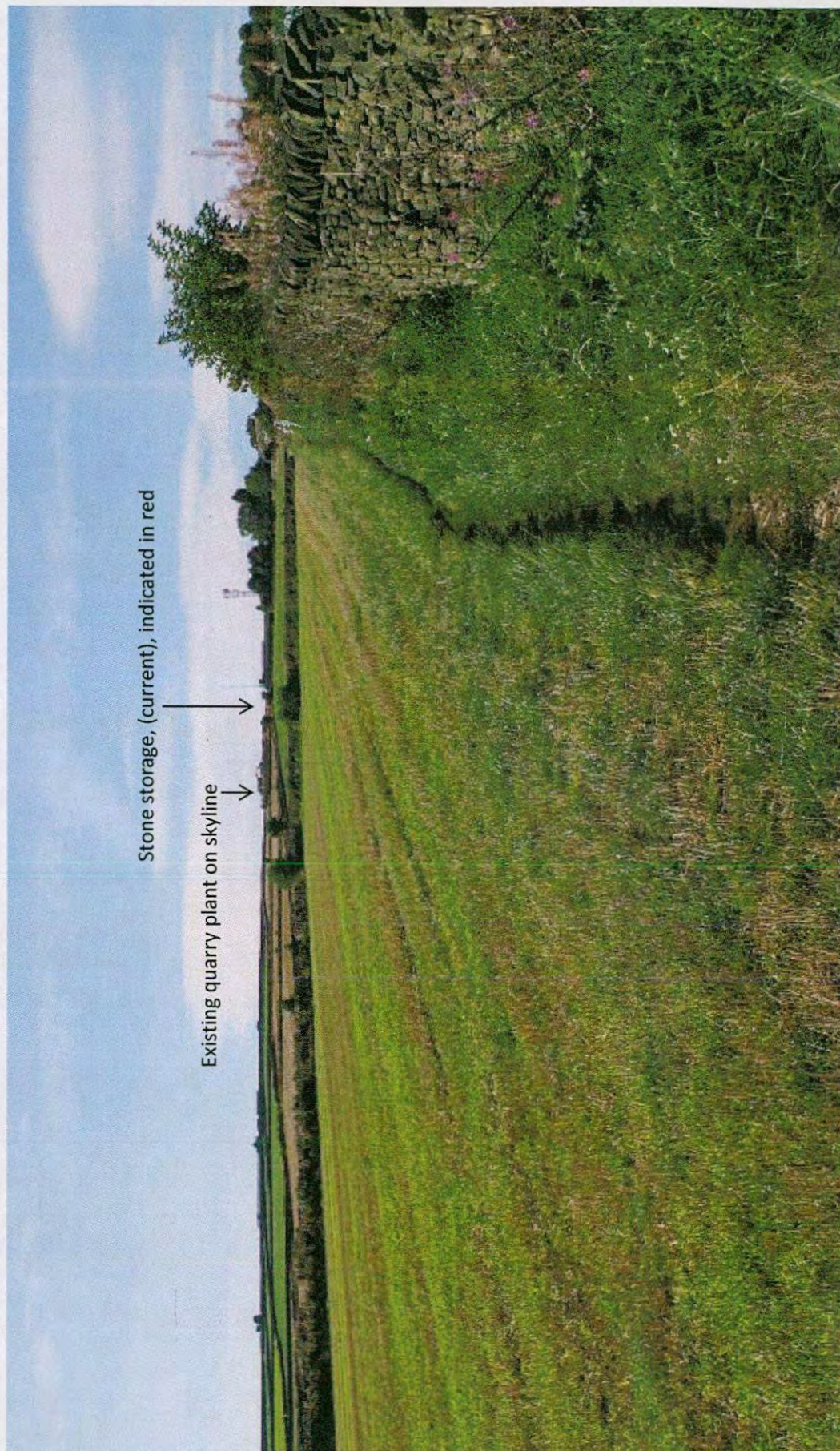
*View 7. From Cross Hill Lane to south-east of quarry.
GR 423453 402208. Distance 680m. Bearing 319°*



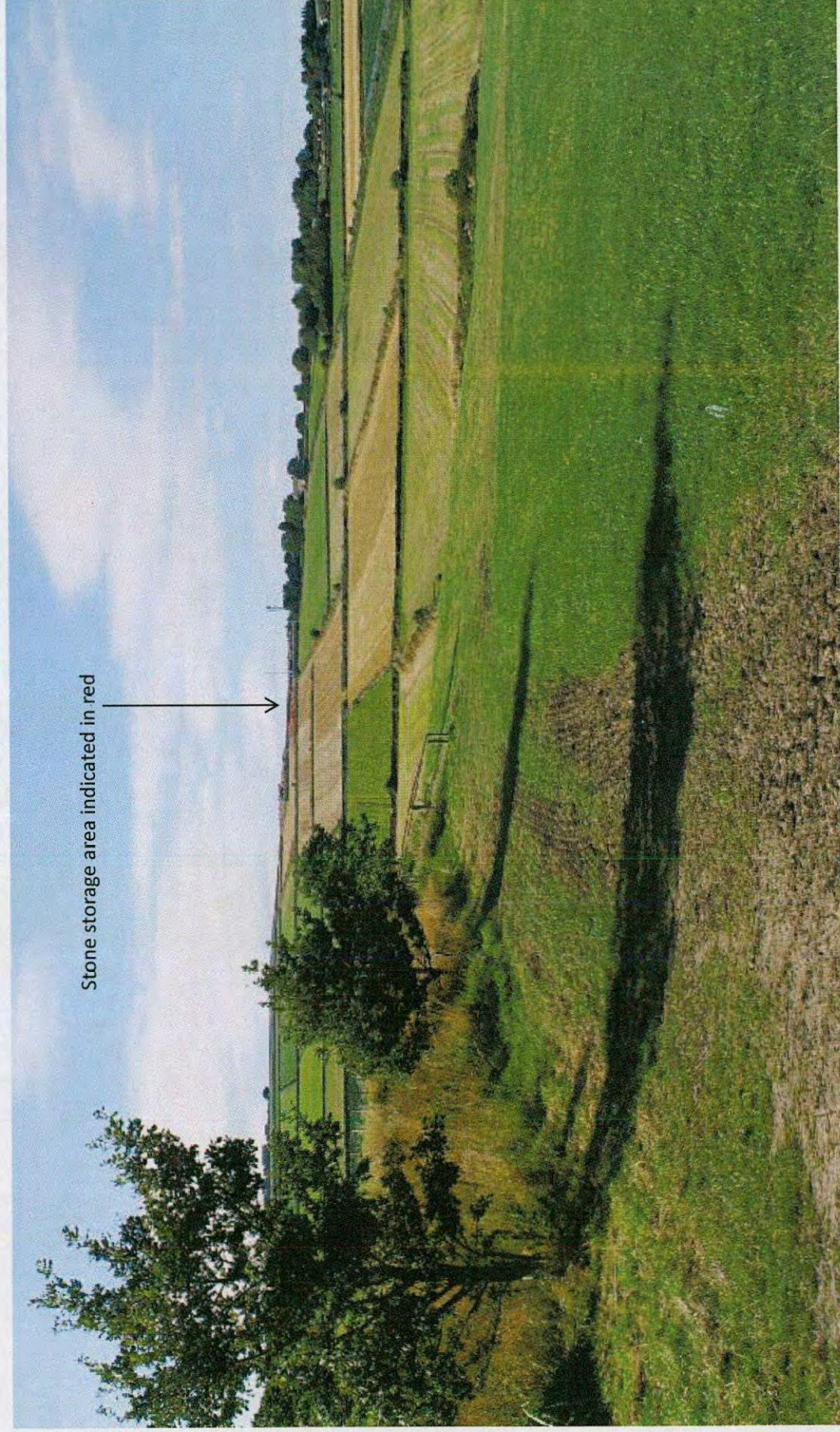
*View 8. From bridleway between Cross Hill Lane and Sike House.
GR 410618 423189. Distance 411m. Bearing 027°*



*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°*



*View 11. From Sandringham Close, Thurlstone.
GR 423159 403884. Distance 1.27 km. Bearing 194°*

