

Stay in touch! If you have an interesting topic you'd like to share or a question just get in touch and we'll publish or try to answer.

I for one am relieved that we weren't out digging this month; what a combination of rain, snow and wind! On the positive side, at least the ground will be soft for the next month or two, so digging will possibly be a little easier. We'll be looking at upcoming projects at our meeting on Wednesday 23 February, which was postponed from last Wednesday due to Storm Dudley. If you intend to come to the meeting please let me know at secwya@gmail.com.

LIDAR Trails.

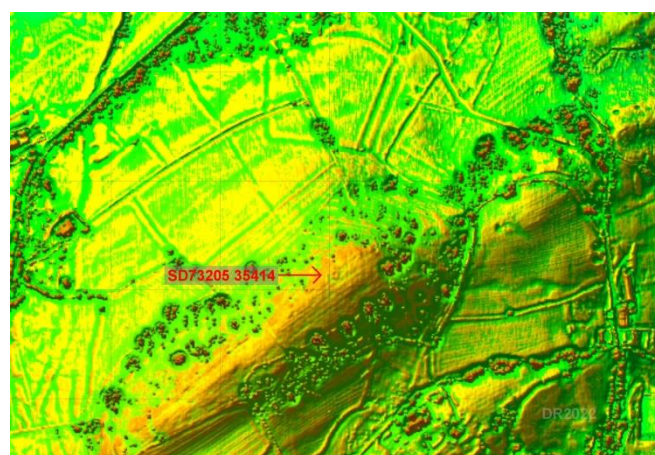
We received an enquiry from a resident of Whalley in the Ribble Valley regarding a feature he had observed on the hillside south of the town. The feature, clearly visible on these Google-Earth and LiDAR images, appears to pre-date the field boundaries that are recorded in 1848.



The enquirer had contacted LCC's Historic Environment Record Department who responded that it had not been previously recorded and there was no obvious explanation; the location didn't appear suitable for a settlement, nor did it appear to be Roman. Joanne at HER suggested contacting a 'local archaeology group' for possible help.

I explained that Whalley was a little out of our area but forwarded his query to David Ratledge who couldn't offer further information but did provide further LiDAR images, on one of which (*above right*) there appeared another odd feature. The images were forwarded to LCC HER who contacted Wyre Archaeology to ask for a grid reference for this new feature. David Ratledge

was able to do this and the new feature has now been entered on the HER. In addition to David R's suggestion that the feature may have been a beacon, Joanne thought it may have a WWII origin such as a searchlight installation or Royal Observer Corps aircraft lookout post. Without further investigation the feature has been entered in the HER as 'earthwork' but Joanne would be pleased to receive any information that could throw further light on this feature. If you have any ideas please let me know.



Longer term members will possibly recall that in 2015 a WA team led by Chris Clayton and David Ratledge assisted the Roman Roads Research Association with a dig on the suspected line of the Lancaster to Watercrock Roman road at Bolton-le-Sands. The Dig Report is in members' area of our WA website.



Mike Haken, RRRA Chairman, wielding his trowel at Bolton-le-Sands November 2015

The RRRA offers a programme of lectures, some of which are open to non-members. This Thursday there will be an open lecture on the road over High Street in Cumbria. As their invitation says:

Dear member,

RRRA TALKS *If you haven't already booked, here is a talk not to be missed. John will analyse the course and layout of this well-known spectacular route, long thought to be a Roman road and assess what the evidence suggests.*

Please book your place via Eventbrite through our [talks page](#) where future talks in our monthly schedule can be seen and previous ones can be watched on catch up if you missed them.

David Ratledge tells me that the lecture will hopefully conclude with his LiDAR video of High Street (download speed permitting). It's released on YouTube at 8.00pm on Thursday. Find it at: <https://youtu.be/QBbmKEjFXM4>

If you'd like to be involved in any digs but haven't signed up to the DiggersRegister, please just email secwya@gmail.com

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Lancashire's Roman Roads (David Ratledge): www.twithr.co.uk
 Roman Roads Research Association: <http://www.romanroads.org>
 Lancashire Archaeological Society: <https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com>
 Wigan Archaeology Society: www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk
 University of the 3rd Age: <https://u3asites.org.uk/lytham-st-annes>, <https://u3asites.org.uk/wyre-lancs>, <https://u3asites.org.uk/preston>

Membership Benefits: Full Membership: 10 meetings with voting rights, group membership of Council for British Archaeology and CBA(NW) and Lancashire Local History Federation, free training, participation in digs, basic kit loan, personal dig insurance, WA Newsletter, Wigan AS and Lancashire Local History Federation newsletters, Lancaster Uni's Centre for Regional Studies circulars. (*£12 individuals, £18 two family members at same address, full-time students up to age 21 free*). **Associate Members:** newsletter and circulars as above (*£5*).

WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Acting Chair	Dave Berry
Immediate Past Chair	Chris Clayton
Treasurer	Simon Millward-Hopkins
Secretary	Dave Hampson
Committee Members	Mike Edwards, Peter Scott, Helen Coulthard.
	Two Vacancies.

CONTACTS

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EMAIL secwya@gmail.com
Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested.