



## Blackrod Vistas and Views

This is a Supporting Document on the Vistas and Views of Blackrod Parish for Policy NE3 in Blackrod Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018.

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## Introduction

The village of Blackrod sits on high ground overlooking the wider parish of Blackrod which is nestled within a beautiful landscape located to the West of Bolton. There are also significant historic assets that are protected by a number of designations and these include Scheduled Ancient Monument, Listed buildings and Non-Designated Heritage Assets.

The purpose of this document is to identify important and significant views and vistas and where possible and in accordance with national, local and NDP policies protect them.

Whilst the majority of the village and parish enjoy beautiful views across fields and green belt it is proposed that only a few views and vistas should be given extra protection through the Neighbourhood Plan process due to their public accessibility and special nature. Although we would like to protect views and vistas in their entirety we are not able to do so and have concentrated on the wider views and vistas with specific features instead.

## Scope of this Document

This document sets out the reasons for the protected views, the definition of the protected views and the criteria the views were assessed against.

Each view and vista was assessed against the criteria detailed and includes photographs and parish location maps. All views and vistas as listed are recommended to be protected and include the reasons for our recommendation.

## Our Definition of a View and a Vista

Generally a view or vista is a sight of a landscape that can be taken in by the eye from a particular place. Three elements have been taken into account for this definition:

1. The Viewer – is the person who sees and determines that a view or vista exists and gives it meaning.
2. The Viewing Place – or location determines what is seen. This location is defined with each protected view or vista and the observed features are usually consistently visible, subject to weather conditions. This view or vista may also be seen from other points within the area or glimpsed when moving through the area.
3. The Landscape of the view/vista – this is formed from a number of different elements including the foreground, middle and long distance, focal points and any distinguishing historic or very special features.

For our definition vistas are viewed looking out of the village and views are looking towards the village.

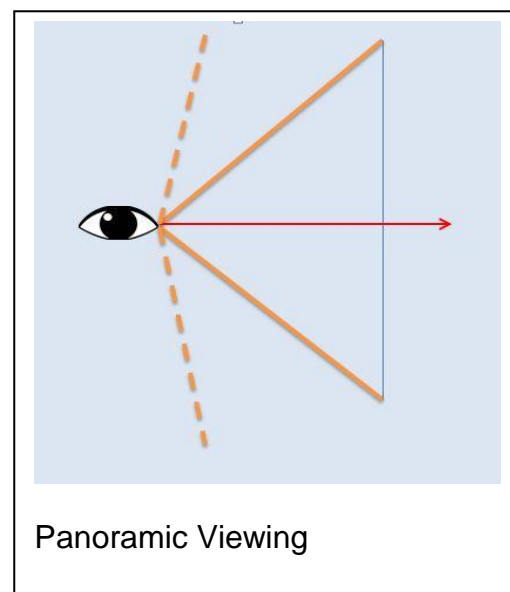
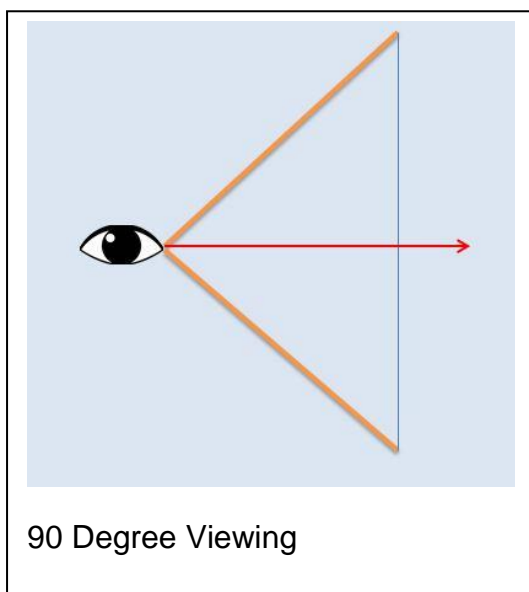
## Proposed Policies

It is proposed that protected views will be approximately 90 degrees and protected vistas may be wider than this subject to the viewed landscape and viewing point from which it is seen. The premise is that the view/vista should be preserved in such a way that any new development will be considered in keeping with the view/vista and not detrimental to the conservation of the view/vista.

As a priority national and local policies will be considered as will the policies within the “made” Neighbourhood Plan. Developments that adhere to all three groups of policies will be considered.

As an example, if a protected view/vista includes a line of roofs then adding one or two more roofs will not detract from the view/vista. However, adding either one roof that is appreciable higher than the other roofs or several roofs may be considered to significantly detract from the protected view/vista and therefore would not be supported by this Neighbourhood Plan.

**Design Policy DES1** also provides protection regarding local character and rural skylines.



Illustrative Diagrams.

## Criteria for a Protected View/Vista

To ensure consistency and protection of the most significant views or vistas the criteria proposed are detailed below:

Criterion	Reason
The view/vista must be accessible from a public road or public community space.	To ensure inclusion of the majority of residents and visitors including drivers, cyclists, horse riders and walkers.
There must be a specific reason for selecting the view/vista i.e. overreaching far view, view to an historic or public interest building, view of natural beauty.	To ensure that there is a valid reason for protecting the view/vista rather than blanket protection which may be too restrictive.

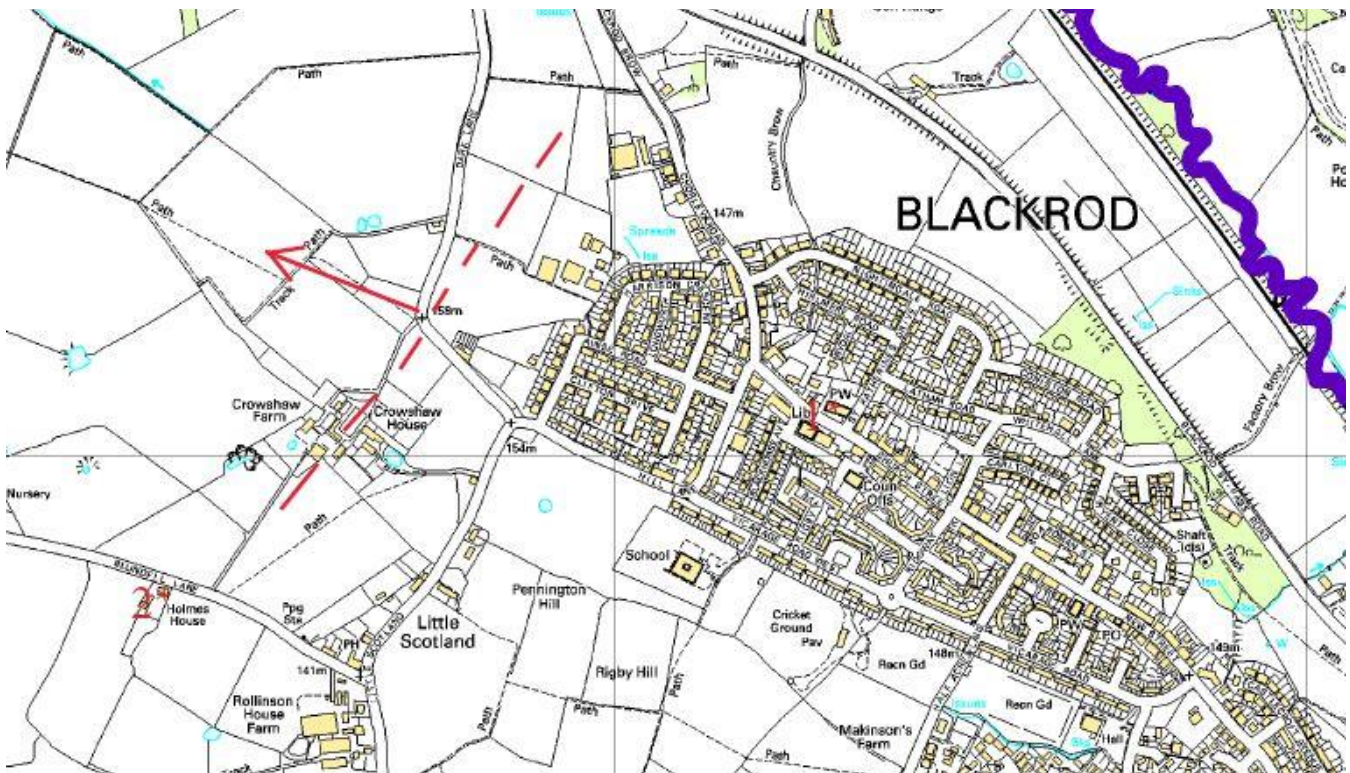
It is appreciated that many residents enjoy beautiful views and personal views from private residences or gardens which are important however this document focusses on vistas and views that can be enjoyed by the majority of the wider public.

Name	Description	Local Value	Landscape	Recreational	Wildlife	Why is it Special
1. Dark Lane	Layby and long view point with open aspect across countryside and moorland.	Uninterrupted 180 degree panoramic vista taking in Parbold Hill to the South, and the South Pennine Moor in the North.	Farmland, pasture and countryside, hedgerows, woods and moorland. Fylde plain and coastline, Cumbrian Hills, Angelzarke and Rivington Moors.	A vista from the highest point in the parish. With a seating area. Walkers, Residents and Tourist view point. Cumbria, Blackpool Tower and Rivington Pike can be seen.	Numerous birds; Heron, owls, Sparrow hawks, starlings, crows etc. Various species of wild flowers.	This is considered by locals to be the best view point in the parish. Set up looking down across the local landscape out towards the distant features. It is quiet and tranquil with an inspiring & invigorating impact. This vista is an important visual amenity.
2. Blundell Lane	Lane joining Little Scotland to Arley	Tranquil and peaceful location with views over local countryside and distant Lancashire and the Cumbrian Hills.	Farmland, pasture, grazing land, hedgerows and woods.	Popular route for walkers and links to the Leeds - Liverpool canal and the Rotary Way.	Numerous species of birds, wild flowers, Hawthorns, Oak, Blackberry and Elderberry bushes.	Popular walking route of residents and visitors to take in the views. With links to wider scenic walks and heritage of canal and Arley Hall, a scheduled monument.
3. Chorley Road (B5408)	Heading North - downhill out of the village.	Elevated vista looking out over green belt.	Open Green Belt, pasture and farmland.	Public access across farmland and used regularly by residents for walking, dog walking, running and health walks.	Wooded areas and hedgerows supporting numerous wildlife.	Walking, running, driving or cycling down this hill presents the viewer with a green expanse, of fields and trees over to Adlington which is very pleasing to the eye.
4. St. Katherines Drive	At the junction with Church Street, looking out towards Rivington.	One of the few view-points near the centre of the village out towards Rivington Pike.	From an elevated position looking across residential area to the South Pennine Moors.	Linking walks through the village and out to Rivington Pike area.	Trees and other flora.	Provides a focussed long view out of the village to Rivington Pike, the terraced gardens and moorland - scenic vista.

5. Red Lion Hotel - Whitehall Lane junction	To the junction with Whitehall Lane and Church Street.	One of only a few view-points near the centre of the village out towards Rivington Pike.	From an elevated position looking across residential area to the South Pennine Moors and Winter Hill.	A Local meeting point for cyclists and groups to view and explore the countryside.		Provides a picturesque backdrop to village life through a focused long view of Rivington Pike, open moorland and the reservoir.
6. New Street Car Park	Wide long vista over a residential area looking North – North East.	Central parking area, bus stop & shelter - local meeting place with long view over the South Pennine Moors.	A long view over residential area to SSI moorland, Quarry, Rivington Pike, reservoir and Winter Hill.	Local meeting point for residents and visitors with walking links through to the countryside and green belt.		This is a busy focal point of the village where the break in between development provides a wide long view over roof tops of the surrounding countryside and features.
7. Blackrod Cemetery	Panoramic vista over the North-North East side of the parish	Important green space for residents and visitors.	From an elevated position looking over residential areas, roads and motorway.	Local meeting place for residents, dog walkers and visitors.	Trees, shrubs and flowers attract numerous kinds of wildlife.	Similar to Dark Lane this is another best-view-point in the village with a wide panoramic of natural and man-made features. This vista is an important visual amenity.
8. Greenbarn Way	A wide, long vista at the end of the Greenbarn development opposite number 2 to 6.	Open space used by residents and dog walkers leading to uninterrupted views over farmland to Aspull Moor	Open green space leading to open farm land and countryside. Borsdane Brook and hedgerows forming boundaries.	Walks and public access across farmland joining Rotary Way, and access to fish ponds.	Trees and hedgerows, wild flowers and various birds such as Heron, finches, blackbirds etc.	This is an end of development open space with access to the countryside. A wide panoramic vista with surrounding trees, hedgerows and wild flora make this an important visual amenity.
9. Manchester Road	Long viewing points between the Primary School and number 568 Manchester Road.	Panoramic vista as approaching village from the A6 Westhoughton end. Looking out to Rivington Pike area.	Open green space across hedgerow to open grazing land.	Walks and public access across farmland and woods for residents, walkers and dog walkers.	Hedgerows, wild flowers and trees which attract various species of wildlife.	This is a main road into Blackrod which provides vistas over fields hedgerows across to Rivington Pike and Winter Hill beyond. For enjoyment of residents and visitors.

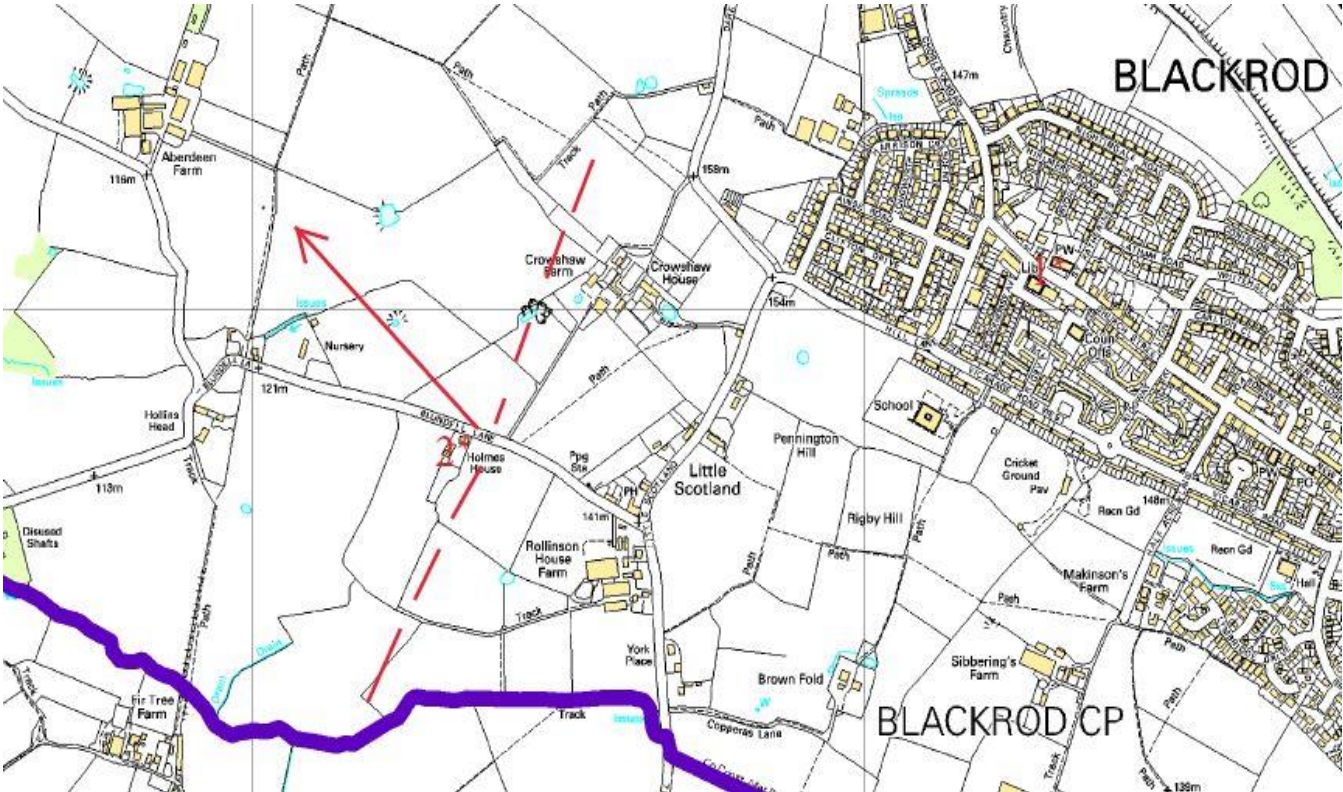
10. A6 Bypass	Panoramic vista along the A6 between Westhoughton boundary and Adlington boundary.	Scenic vista as moving down the A6 by car, walking, cycling or running. Long views over South Pennine Moor SSI.	Open green belt over hedgerow to wider countryside and farmland.	Access to green belt for dog walkers, pedestrians, cyclists, and runners. Linking rights of way.	Trees, hedgerows, wild flowers and native flora. Various species of wildlife along the route.	This is the main A6 bypass route through the parish and around the village. Offers links into the countryside from the village area and varied vistas along the route.
11. Chorley Road	View point between Edgwood and Crows Nest farm on the A6 road.	Scenic view of the village entrance with St.Katharines grade11 listed church tower on the skyline.	Gentle upwards slope eastward towards the village.	Linking walks to the village, church, and surrounding countryside.	Trees, hedgerows, wild flowers and native bird species.	This is a main route to and from the village with views of the church and surrounding green belt.

1. Dark Lane

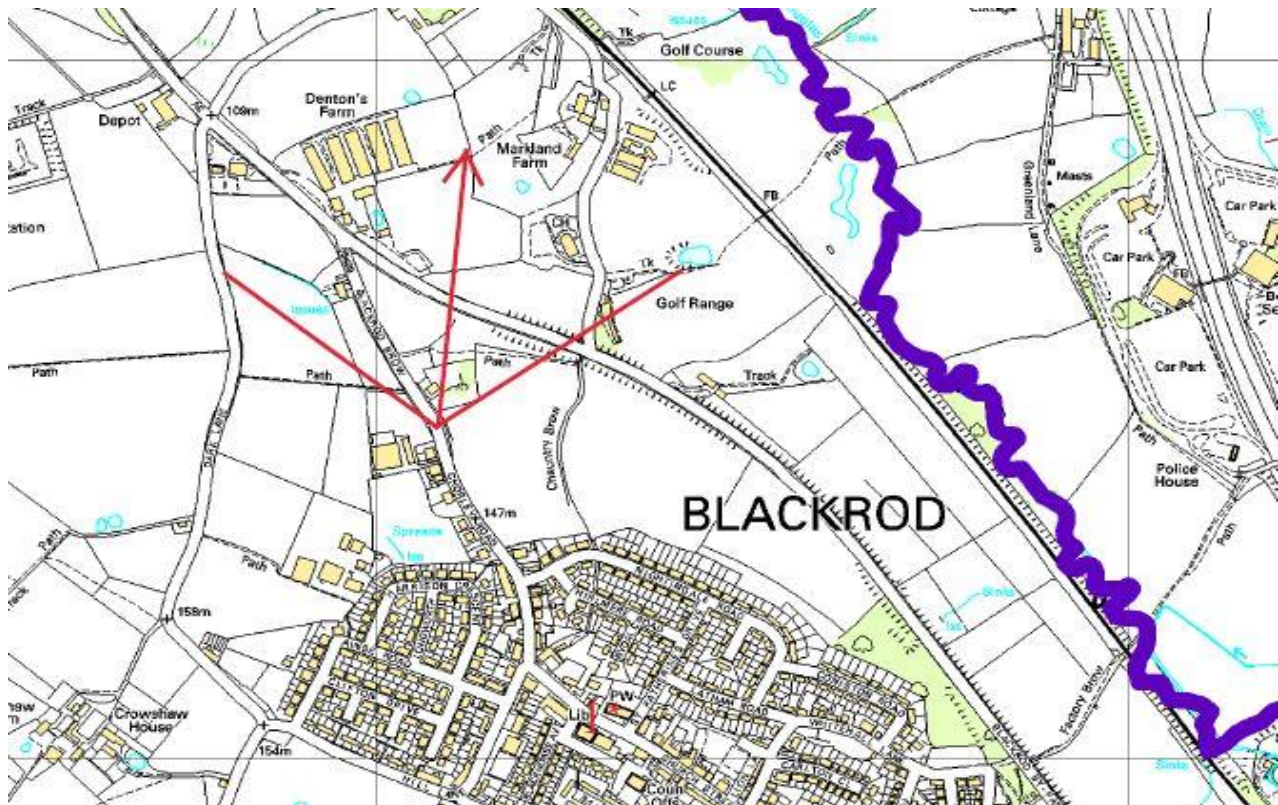




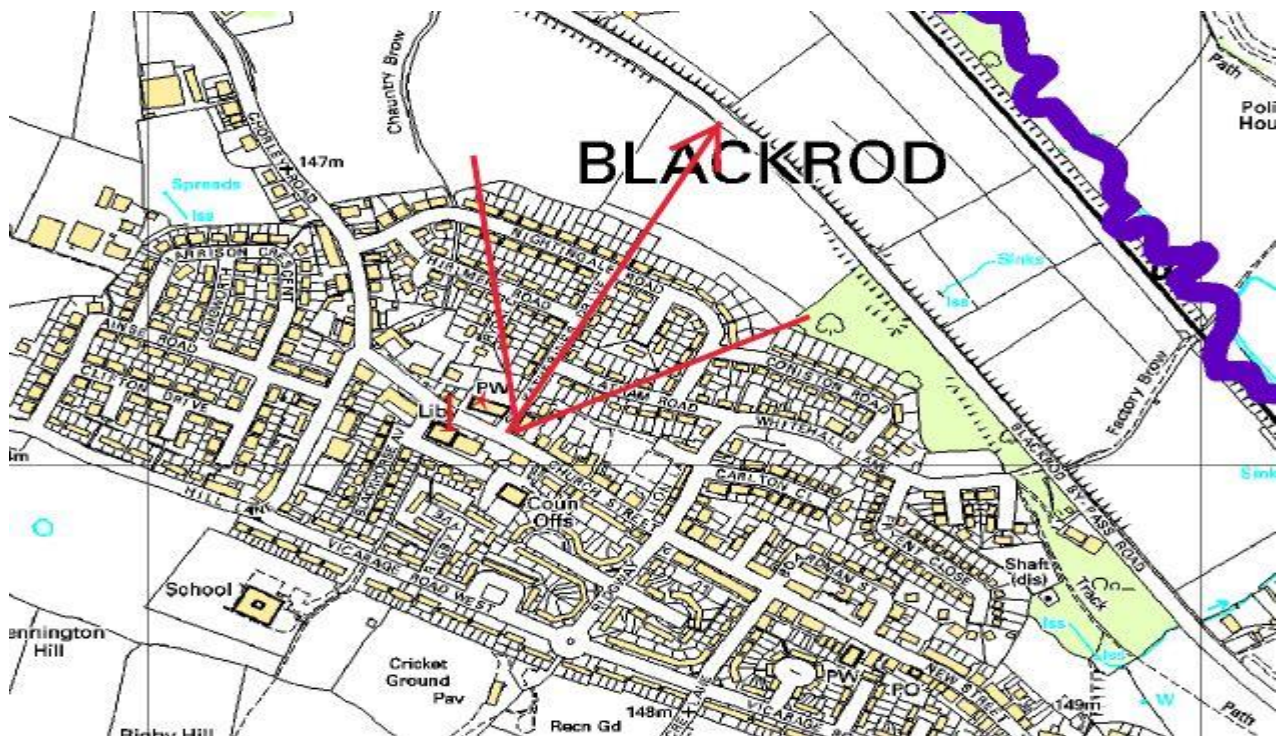
2. Blundell Lane



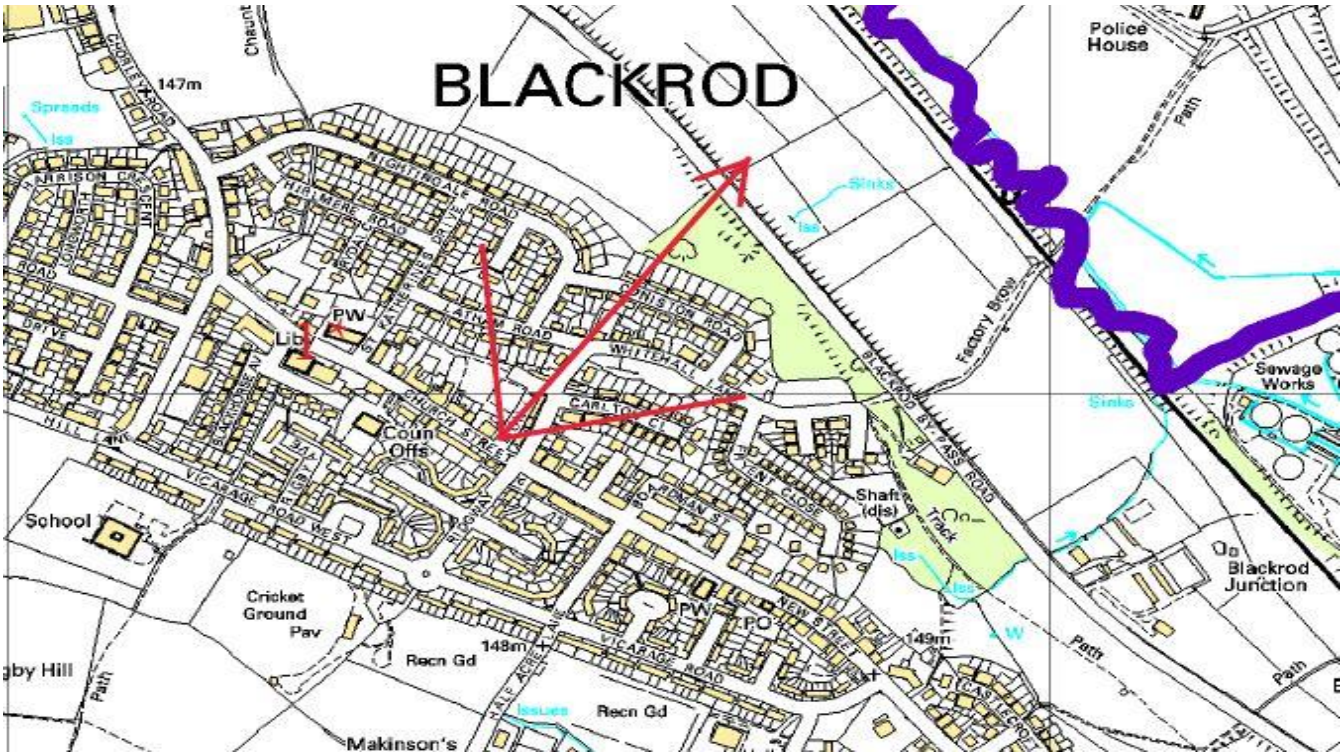
### 3. Chorley Road



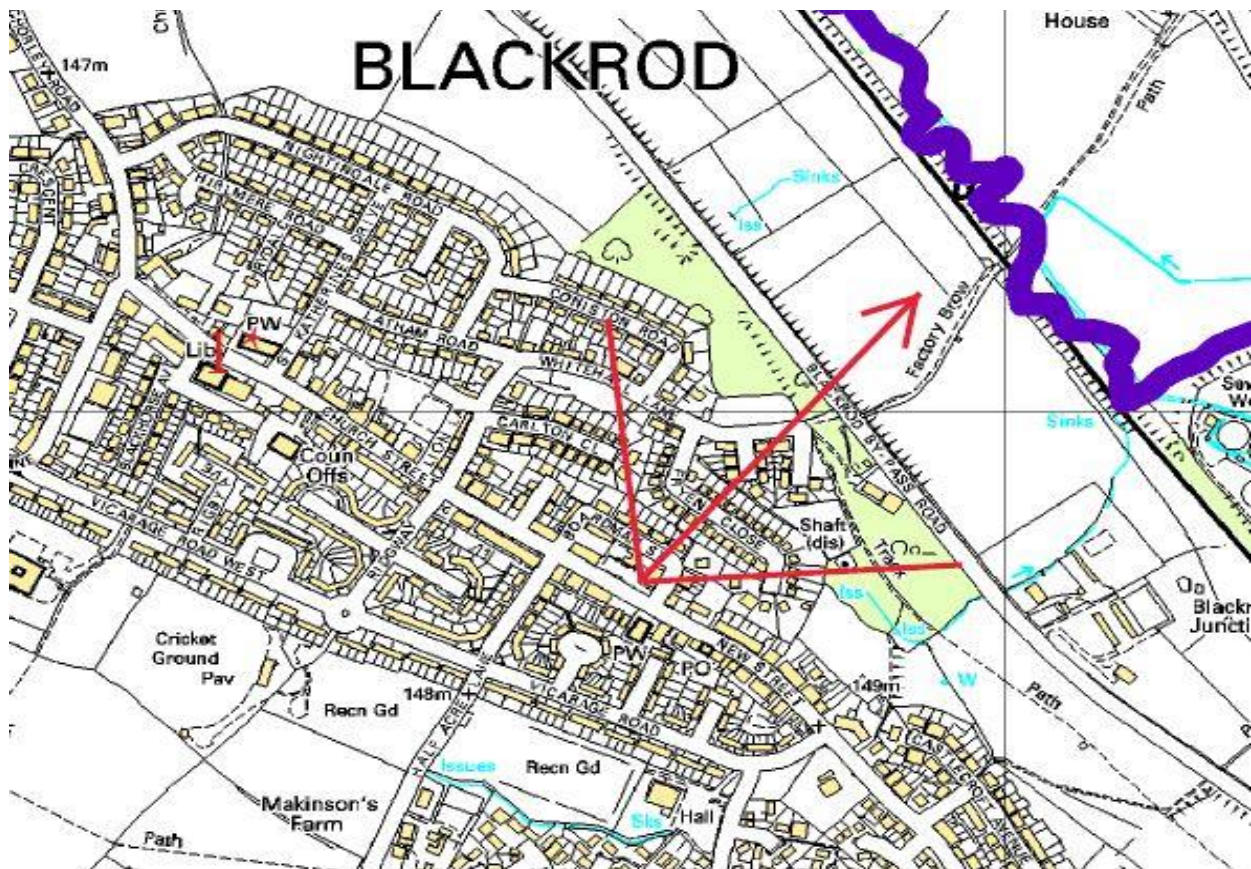
#### 4. St. Katharines Drive



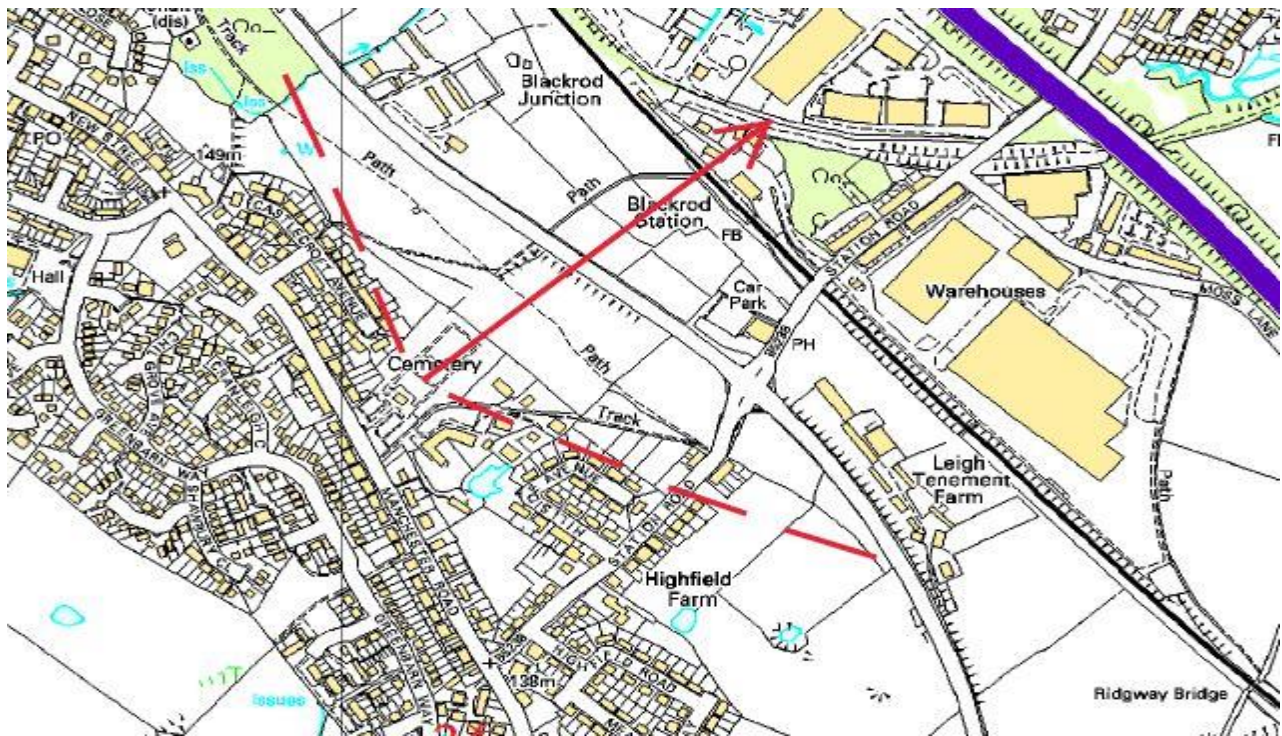
5. Red Lion Hotel – Whitehall Lane junction



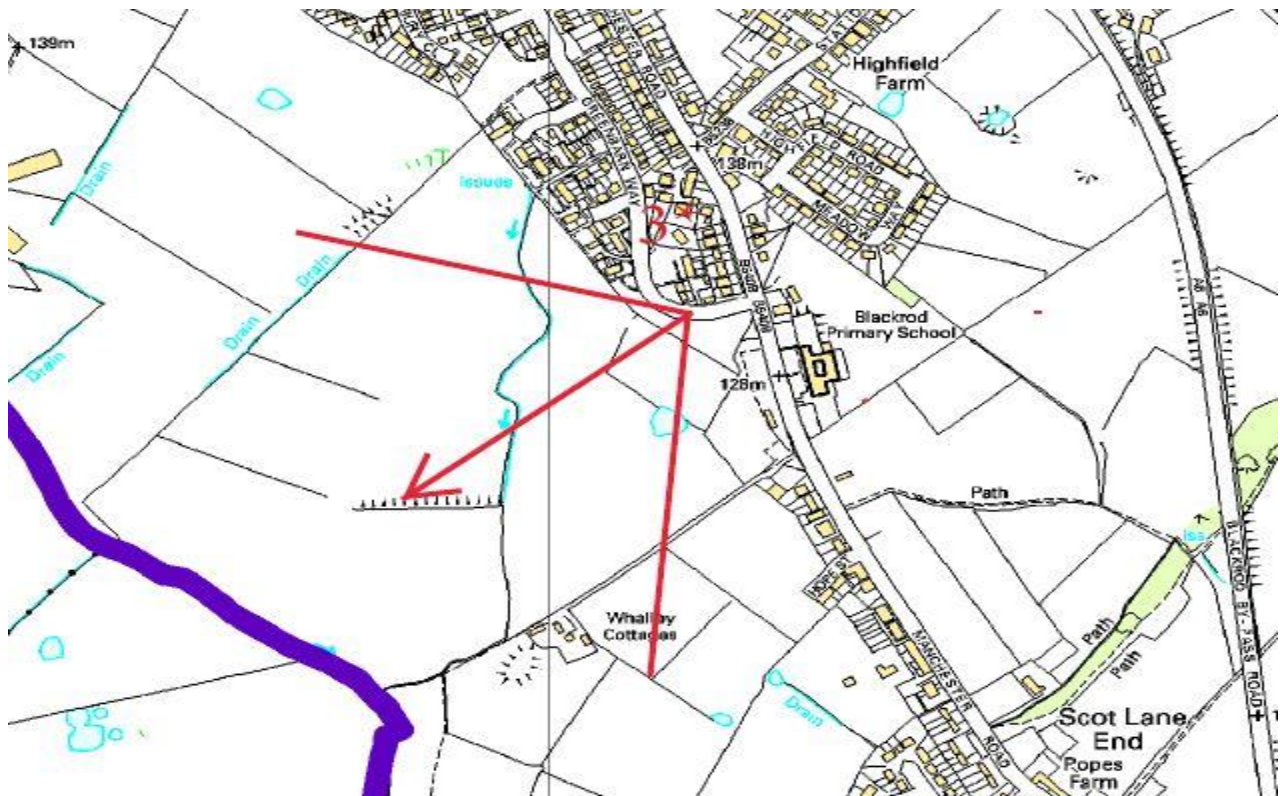
### 6. New Street Car Park



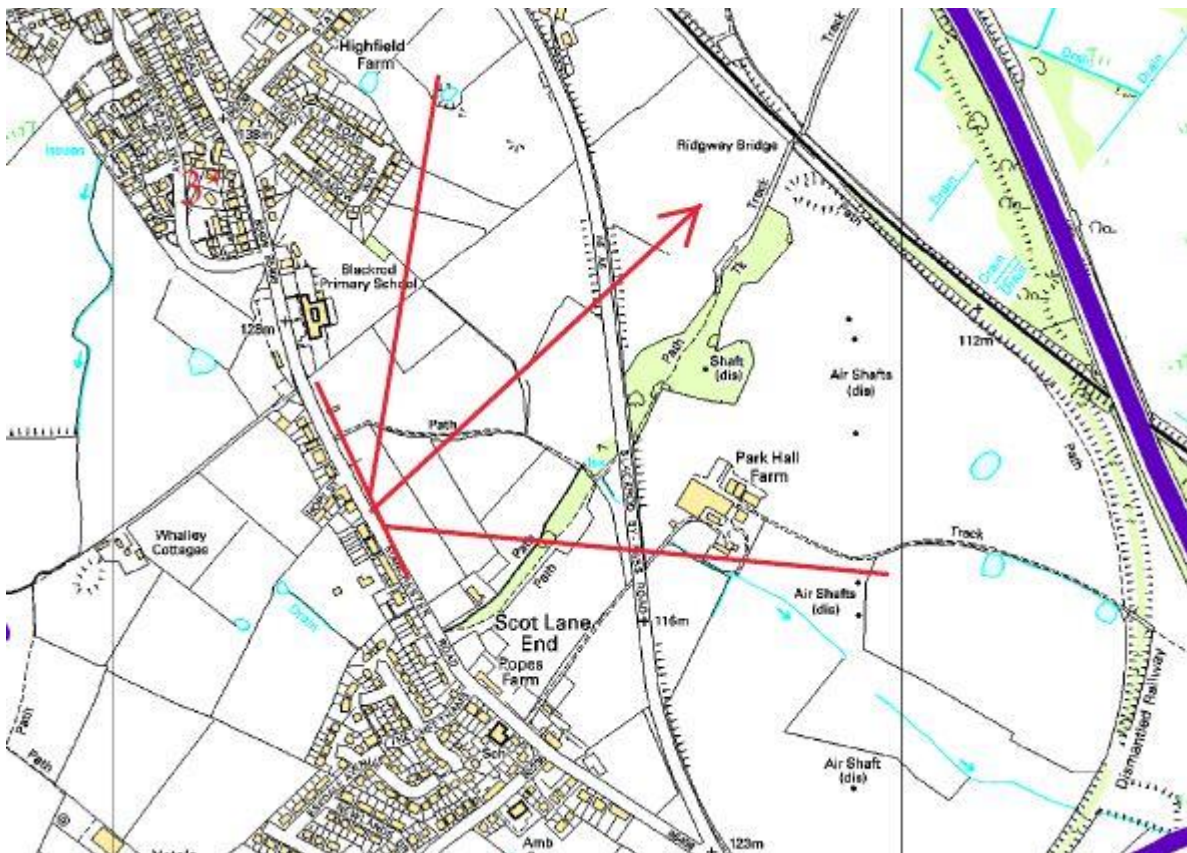
### 7. Blackrod Cemetery



8. Greenbarn Way

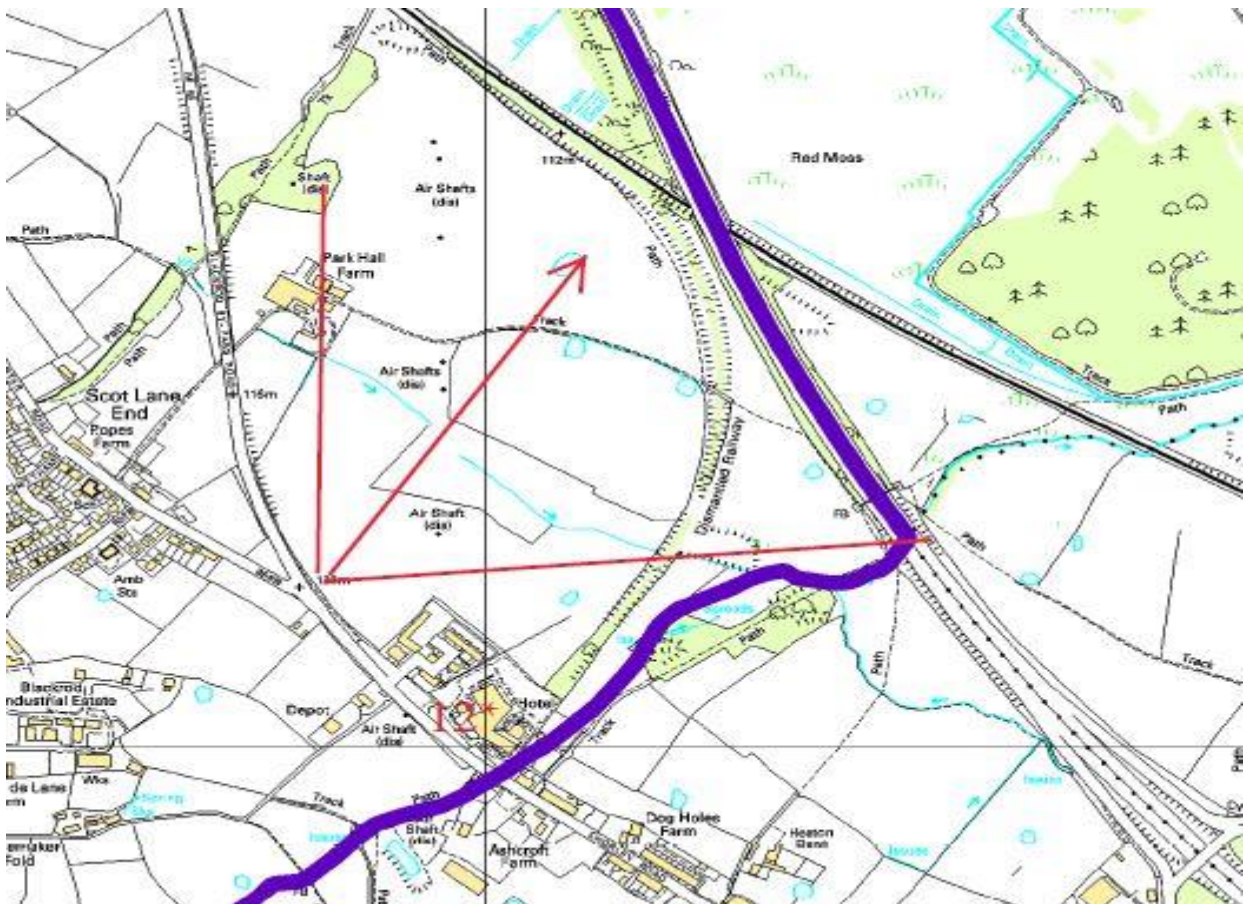


### 9. Manchester Road





### 10. A6 Bypass



11. Chorley Road

