

LOSK LANE, BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE,

Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief

2009

Prepared by L.Platt



Trent & Peak
ARCHAEOLOGY

Project code: LLB

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SUMMARY

- Trent and Peak Archaeology was contracted by H. J. Banks Ltd., to carry out a watching brief on ground works associated with the erection of a monitoring mast at Losk Lane, Bolsover, Derbyshire.
- The area covered by the watching brief lies in the vicinity of an undated crop mark enclosure, and flint tools from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age have been recorded in fields to the north of the development site.
- The site lies on a ridge forming the west edge of the Trent basin. The land form slopes gently to the east, whilst c.0.5km to the west it falls away sharply forming the east edge of Scarsdale. The field in which the site is located slopes gently to the east but is otherwise flat and featureless. The underlying geology of the site is lower magnesian limestone with overlying mid Permian marl in places.
- Prior to the commencement of groundworks, a brief site walk over was conducted in order to recover any finds that may have been brought to the surface by recent ploughing. No finds were observed in the vicinity of the site.
- Five trenches measuring c.2.5m x 1.8m were machine excavated to provide anchor points for the wind monitoring mast and each of these was closely monitored.
- In each of the areas the removal of the topsoil revealed a subsoil of orange/brown silt. This varied in depth ranging from 100mm in Area 02 to 400mm in Area 04. This freshly exposed surface was closely examined for features and finds before it was removed to reveal the rock head.
- There was no evidence of any archaeological remains in any of the five areas. The spoil from each excavation was searched by hand but no finds were recovered.
- Representative sections of each trench were recorded by scale drawing and photography.
- There was no impact on the archaeological resource during the current phase of development. However, the ground-works comprised only c.1.1% of the total field area and given the proximity of the site to a crop mark enclosure and prehistoric lithic scatters, future intrusive works would continue to merit archaeological mitigation.

**LOSK LANE, BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE
REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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Archive Deposition

The recommended recipient for the project archive is Sheffield Museum, who are not currently accepting archives or issuing accession numbers. The archive for this project (code LLB) will be retained by Trent & Peak Archaeology until such time as this situation is resolved or alternative arrangements agreed with Derbyshire County Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Trent and Peak Archaeology was contracted by H.J.Banks Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the intrusive ground works associated with the erection of a wind monitoring mast, centred on SK 482 674. The mast will facilitate the recovery of data to inform a planning application for the construction of a wind farm at Losk Lane.
- 1.2 The mast is to be positioned on agricultural land lying between Losk Lane and Ling Lane, within the boundary of the proposed wind farm.
- 1.3 Bolsover District Council had been advised that the proposed ground works may have an adverse impact on archaeological remains. As mitigation, a programme of archaeological work (watching brief) was requested (condition No. 2 of the planning consent, Planning Application ref: 08/00705/FUL).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An analysis of air photographs, undertaken as part of a Desk Based Assessment by West Yorkshire Archaeological Services (WYAS), revealed a rectilinear crop mark enclosure at the north end of the site, close to the proposed location of the weather mast (Pollington 2008). In addition, the Derbyshire County Council Historic Environment Record indicates that numerous flint tools, possibly dating from the early Mesolithic to the Bronze Age have been recovered during field walking in the fields to the north of Losk Lane (Webb 2008).

3 SITE GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The site lies on a ridge forming the west edge of the Trent basin. The land form slopes gently to the east, whilst c.0.5km to the west it falls away sharply forming the east edge of Scarsdale. The ridge is picked out by a sequence of small villages including Teversall, Ault Hucknall, Glapwell, and Palterton. Approximately 1.5 km to the north of the site is the spring which forms the start of the River Poulter, one of the tributaries of the Trent.
- 3.2 The underlying geology of the site is lower magnesian limestone with overlying mid Permian marl in places (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 112)
- 3.3. The field in which the site is located slopes gently to the east but is otherwise flat and featureless.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 All intrusive ground work was carried out using a wheeled excavator with a smooth-edged ditching bucket in order to ensure production of a clean surface suitable for the identification of archaeological remains.
- 4.2 Each trench was given a unique number, e.g. Area 01-05 and its location marked on an over all site plan (Figs 1 and 2). A section of each trench was recorded by drawing at 1:20 and the individual layers in the section described in accordance with the TPA manual (Figs 3 to 7).

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 Prior to the commencement of groundworks, a brief site walk over was conducted in order to recover any finds that may have been brought to the surface by recent ploughing and seed drilling. No finds were observed in the vicinity of the site.

- 5.2 Five small trenches were machine excavated to provide anchor points for the mast. The mast itself was to be placed directly on the existing ground surface, secured by wires connecting it to the anchor points and involved no other intrusive works.
- 5.3 The individual trenches (Areas 01-05) measured approximately 2.5 x 1.8m, and each was allocated a unique area number. In all cases the removal of the topsoil revealed a layer of orange-brown silt. This varied in depth across the excavated, ranging from 100mm in Area 02 to 400mm in Area 04. In all of the trenches this freshly exposed surface was closely examined for features and finds before it was removed to reveal the rock head. There was no evidence of any archaeological remains in any of the five areas. The spoil from each excavation was searched by hand but no finds were recovered.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 There was no impact on the archaeological resource during the current phase of development. No archaeological finds or deposits were observed during the watching brief.
- 6.2 The groundworks comprised only c.1.1% of the total field area and given the proximity of the site to a crop mark enclosure and prehistoric lithic scatters, future intrusive works would continue to merit archaeological mitigation.

7 REFERENCES

Pollington 2008 *Desk-based Assessment, Losk Lane, Bolsover, Derbyshire* (WYAS).

Webb, A. 2008 *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Losk Lane, near Bolsover* (WYAS).

Appendix 1: Summary context list

- 0001 topsoil, mid brown loam.
- 0002 subsoil, reddish orange silt, Area 01
- 0003 subsoil, Area 02, reddish orange silt, same as 0001.
- 0004 subsoil, Area 03, reddish orange silt, same as 0001.
- 0005 subsoil, Area 04, reddish orange silt, same as 0001.
- 0006 subsoil, Area 05, reddish orange silt, same as 0001.
- 0007 rockhead (magnesian limestone), Area 01 – 05.

Appendix 2 - OASIS RECORD FORM

Project Name	Losk Lane Bolsover, LLB
Short Description <i>Max 250 words</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trent and Peak Archaeology was contracted by H. J. Banks Ltd., to carry out a watching brief on ground works associated with the erection of a monitoring mast at Losk Lane, Bolsover, Derbyshire. The watching brief area lies in the vicinity of an undated crop mark enclosure. Flint tools from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age have been recorded in fields to the north of the site. The site lies on a ridge forming the west edge of the Trent basin. The underlying geology of the site is lower magnesian limestone with overlying mid Permian marl in places. Five trenches measuring c.2.5m x 1.8m were machine excavated to provide anchor points for the wind monitoring mast and each of these was closely monitored. There was no evidence of any archaeological remains in any of the five trenches. The spoil from each excavation was searched by hand. No finds were recovered. Representative sections of each trench were recorded by scale drawing and photography. There was no impact on the archaeological resource during the current phase of development.
Project Type	
Site Status (e.g. Conservation or Archaeological Area)	Archaeological Area
Previous Work	none
Current Land Use	Agricultural, arable
Future Work	
Monument Type/Period	N/A
Significant Finds	none
Project Date	
Start Date	29/9/09
End Date	29/9/09
Project Location	
County	Derbyshire
Site Address	Losk Lane, Bolsover, Derbyshire
Study Area (Sq. M or ha)	
OS Easting & Northing	NGR448252367427
Height OD	
Project Creators	
Organisation	Trent & Peak Archaeology
Project Design Originator	WYAS

Supervisor	L.Platt	
Project Manager	Dr. Howard Jones	
Sponsor or Funding Body	Developer	
Archives		
Archives	Location (accession Number)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc.)
Physical	none	
Paper	Site records, report	
Digital	photographs	
Bibliography		
Type (e.g. Grey lit., journal article etc.)	Grey lit.	
Title	Losk Lane, Bolsover, Derbyshire, Report of an Archaeological Watching brief.	
Serial title & Vol.	N/A	
Author	L.Platt	
Page numbers	5	
Date	20/11/09	

Appendix 3: SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT LOSK LANE, NEAR BOLSOVER

Specification prepared on behalf of Ms Frances Cunningham of HJ Banks Ltd.

Planning Application ref: 08/00705/FUL

1. Summary

1.1 A limited amount of archaeological work consisting of a watching brief is proposed to identify and record any archaeological remains which are revealed or disturbed by the groundworks during the erection of a wind monitoring mast at this site.

1.2 This specification has been prepared by Alistair Webb of Archaeological Services WYAS on behalf of the client for submission to Bolsover District Council.

NOTE: The requirements detailed in paragraphs 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 10.1 are to be carried out by the archaeological contractor prior to the commencement of fieldwork

2. Site Location & Description

Grid Reference: SK 482 674

2.1 The proposed location of the mast is on agricultural land lying between Losk Lane and Ling Lane (see attached figure) within the site boundary of a proposed windfarm.

2.2 The site lies in Bolsover District.

3. Background

3.1 Planning approval is to be sought for the erection of a wind farm (no of turbines not yet specified) and supporting infrastructure for the creation of a windfarm at Losk Lane. Prior to the submission it is necessary to gather data on wind speed, direction etc. The erection of a monitoring mast to gather this data is a necessary first step.

3.2 Bolsover District Council have advised that there is potential that important archaeological remains may be affected by the proposed development and that a programme of archaeological work is required. The archaeological work is required under condition No.2 of the planning consent.

4. Archaeological Interest

4.1 Analysis of air photographs undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS as part of the research for a Desk-based Assessment (Pollington 2008) revealed a rectilinear cropmark enclosure at the northern end of the site close to the proposed location of the weather mast. Additionally records on the DCCHER show that numerous flint tools, possibly dating from the early Mesolithic to the Bronze Age, have been recovered during fieldwalking in the fields to the north of Losk Lane.

It is therefore considered that the (albeit limited) groundworks for the erection and anchoring of the weather mast has the potential to adversely impact on any surviving archaeological features or deposits.

5. Aim of the Watching Brief

5.1 The aim of the watching brief is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits that are disturbed or revealed during the groundworks.

5.2 This work will mitigate the destruction of buried archaeological remains through 'preservation by record'.

6. General Instructions

6.1 Health and Safety

6.1.1 The archaeologist on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. In this case, where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose. This work will require the preparation of a Risk Assessment of the site, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations.

6.2 Confirmation of Adherence to Specification

6.2.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the selected archaeological contractor will confirm adherence to this specification in writing to the LPA, or state (with reasons) any proposals to vary the specification. Should the archaeological contractor wish to vary the specification, then written confirmation of the agreement of Bolsover District to any variations is required prior to work commencing. Unauthorised variations are made at the sole risk of the contractor. Modifications presented in the form of a re-written specification/project design **will not** be considered by Bolsover District.

6.3 Confirmation of Timetable and Contractors' Qualifications

6.3.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor will provide Bolsover District **in writing** with:

- a projected timetable for the site work;
- details of the staff structure and numbers;
- names and CVs of key project members (the project manager, site supervisor, any proposed specialists, sub-contractors *etc.*),

6.3.2 All project staff provided by the archaeological contractor will be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles. The timetable should be adequate to allow the work to be undertaken to the appropriate professional standard, subject to the ultimate judgement of Bolsover District.

6.4 Notification and Monitoring

6.4.1 The recording exercise may be monitored as necessary and practicable by Bolsover District in its role as curator of the county's archaeology. DCCHER should be provided with as much notice as possible (in writing) of the intention to start the watching brief. A copy of the site specific risk assessment of the site will accompany the notification.

6.4.2 The museums officer named in paragraph 10.1 will be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as DCCHER.

7. Fieldwork Methodology

7.1 In order to maximise the potential for identifying archaeological remains all groundworks will be undertaken using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

7.2 An archaeologist will be present on site during the excavation/ground reduction of any area below a depth of 0.15m, whether this is for the base for the mast or any anchoring cables or other infrastructure. The archaeologist should view the area as it is being dug and any trench sections after excavation has been completed. Where archaeology is judged to be present, the excavated area should be rapidly cleaned and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds should then be quickly hand excavated, sampled if appropriate, and recorded.

7.3 Features/deposits of archaeological concern should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report. Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) **must** include heights O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) **must** include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features.

7.4 The actual areas of ground disturbance (even if no archaeological remains are present) should be recorded on a suitable base map/development plan and the stratigraphic sequence and the depth/nature of the excavations will be briefly recorded. If archaeological remains are identified, their location is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on an up-to-date 1:1250 O.S. map base.

7.5 Excavated soil should be searched as practicable for finds. All artefacts are to be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified 20th century material, which may be noted and discarded.

7.6 All securely stratified contexts should be sampled for environmental analysis and scientific dating. Additional 'spot' samples should be taken if suitable material is encountered during the watching brief.

7.7 The intention of the archaeological watching brief is not to unduly delay the work of other contractors on site, however, a degree of flexibility is also expected of the developer in order that the archaeologist can fulfil the terms of this specification (see 8.1 below). The archaeologist shall not excavate any area beyond those scheduled for destruction by the development.

7.8 If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, the watching brief reveals below-ground conditions which indicate that potentially archaeological levels are absent, the archaeologist should contact DCCHER to discuss reducing or curtailing the requirements. The work may only be curtailed with the prior agreement of DCCHER and written confirmation will be provided by DCCHER.

8. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

8.1 Should there be, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant more detailed recording than possible within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor is to urgently contact DCCHER with the relevant information to enable the matter to be resolved with the developer.

8.2 Any human remains that are discovered must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. WYAAS will be notified as soon as possible. If removal of burials is necessary, this must comply with a valid Department of Constitutional Affairs licence and any local environmental health regulations.

8.3 The terms of the Treasure Act, 1996 must be followed with regard to any finds, which might fall within its purview. Any such finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

9. Post-excavation Analysis and Report Preparation

9.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. Finds of 20th century date should be quantified and summarily described, but can then be discarded if appropriate. All finds of 19th century or earlier date should be retained and archived.

9.2 A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and fully labelled photographs/slides. Labelling should be in HB pencil on the *back* of the print and should include film and frame number; date recorded and photographer's name; name and address of site; national grid reference. Photographic prints should be mounted in appropriate archivally-stable sleeves. A quantified index to the field archive should form an appendix to the report. The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive (see Section 10 below). In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be deposited in the DCCHER.

9.3 A fully illustrated report should be produced, which should include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of the results, placing them in a local and regional, and if appropriate, national context. It is not envisaged that the report is

likely to be published, but it should be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers.

9.4 Location plans should be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the areas investigated (a scale of 1:50,000 is not regarded as appropriate unless accompanied by a more detailed plan or plans). Plans should be at an appropriate scale showing: areas excavated and the identified (and, where possible, predicted) archaeological features/deposits. Trench and feature plans must include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features. Section drawings must include O.D heights and be cross-referenced to an appropriate plan.

9.5 All artefacts and environmental material will be analysed by a qualified and experienced specialist. Artefact analysis is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue. Finds critical for dating and interpretation should be illustrated.

9.6 Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, and as an appendix, a copy of this specification.

10. Archive Deposition

10.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant museum archaeological curator in writing to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. The letter should be copied to DCCHER. In this case the contact is at Weston Park Museum, Sheffield.

10.2 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with Weston Park Museum.

10.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet Weston Park Museums' requirements with regard to the preparation of excavation archives for deposition and to make provision for any costs associated with the deposition of archives.

11. Report Submission and Deposition with the SMR

11.1 The archaeological contractor will supply a copy of the report **directly** to Derby County Council Record Office within a period of **two months** following completion of fieldwork, unless specialist reports are awaited. In the latter case a revised date should be agreed with DCCHER. Completion of the project and a recommendation from DCCHER regarding the planning condition are dependant upon receipt by DCC Record Office of a satisfactory report that has been prepared in accordance with this specification.

11.2 The report will be supplied on the understanding that it will be added to the County Historic Environment Record and will become publicly accessible once it is deposited with DCCHER, unless confidentiality is explicitly requested in which case it will become publicly accessible six months after deposition.

12. General Considerations

12.1 Authorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

12.1.1 It should be noted that this specification is based upon records available in the County Historic Environment Record. If, upon visiting the site or at any time during the course of the recording exercise, it appears in the archaeologist's professional judgement that:

- i) a part or the whole of the site is not amenable to recording as detailed above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results,

then it is expected that the archaeologist will contact DCCHER as a matter of urgency. If contractors have not yet been appointed, any variations which DCCHER considers to be justifiable on archaeological grounds will be incorporated into a revised specification, which will then be re-issued to the developer for redistribution to the tendering contractors.

12.2 Unauthorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

12.2.1 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained DCCHER's consent in writing to any variation of the specification prior to the commencement of on-site work or (where applicable) prior to the finalisation of the tender. Unauthorised variations may result in DCCHER being unable to recommend either further work or the discharge of the planning condition to the Local Planning Authority based on the archaeological information available and are therefore made solely at the risk of the contractor.

12.3 Technical Queries

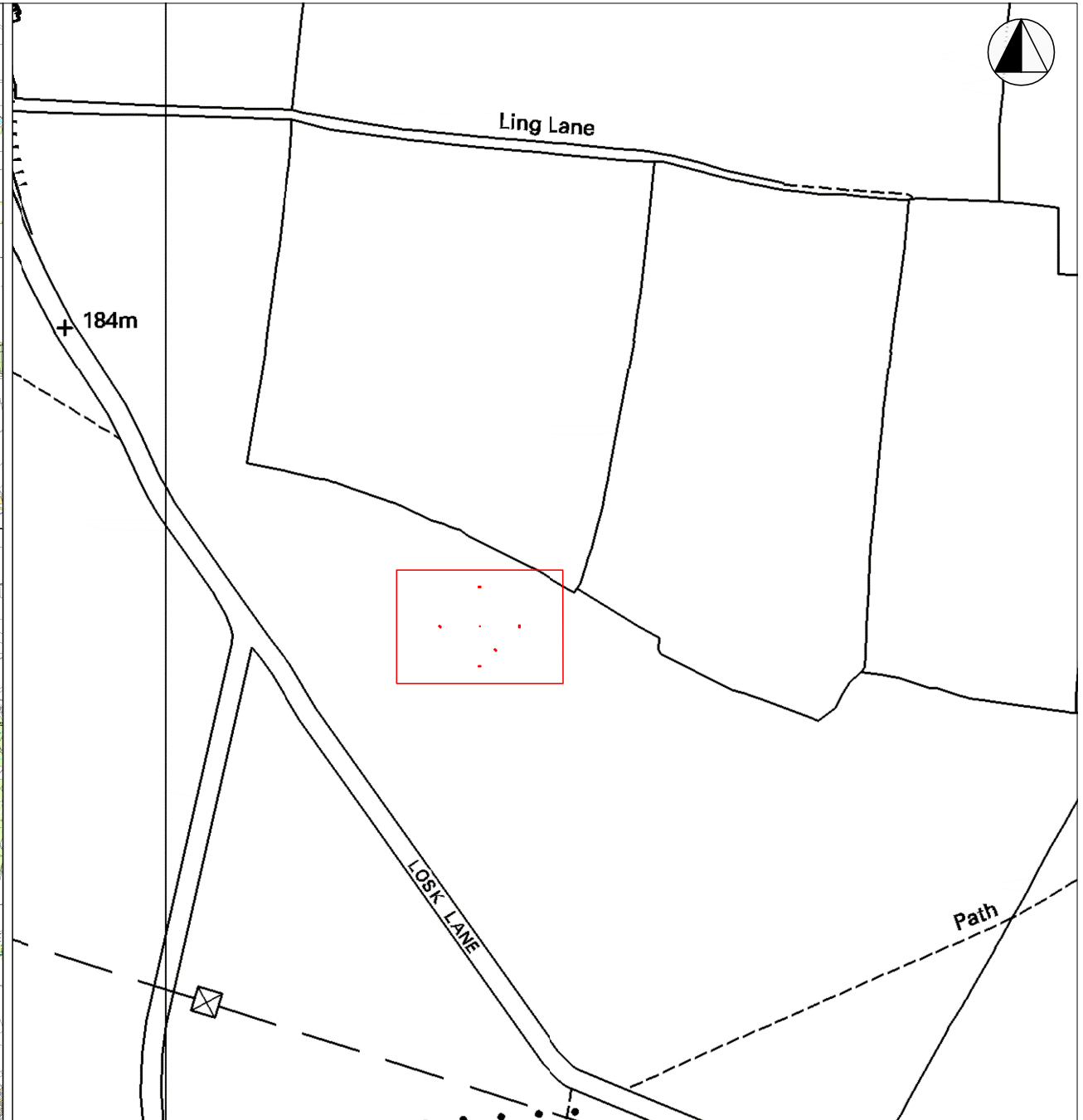
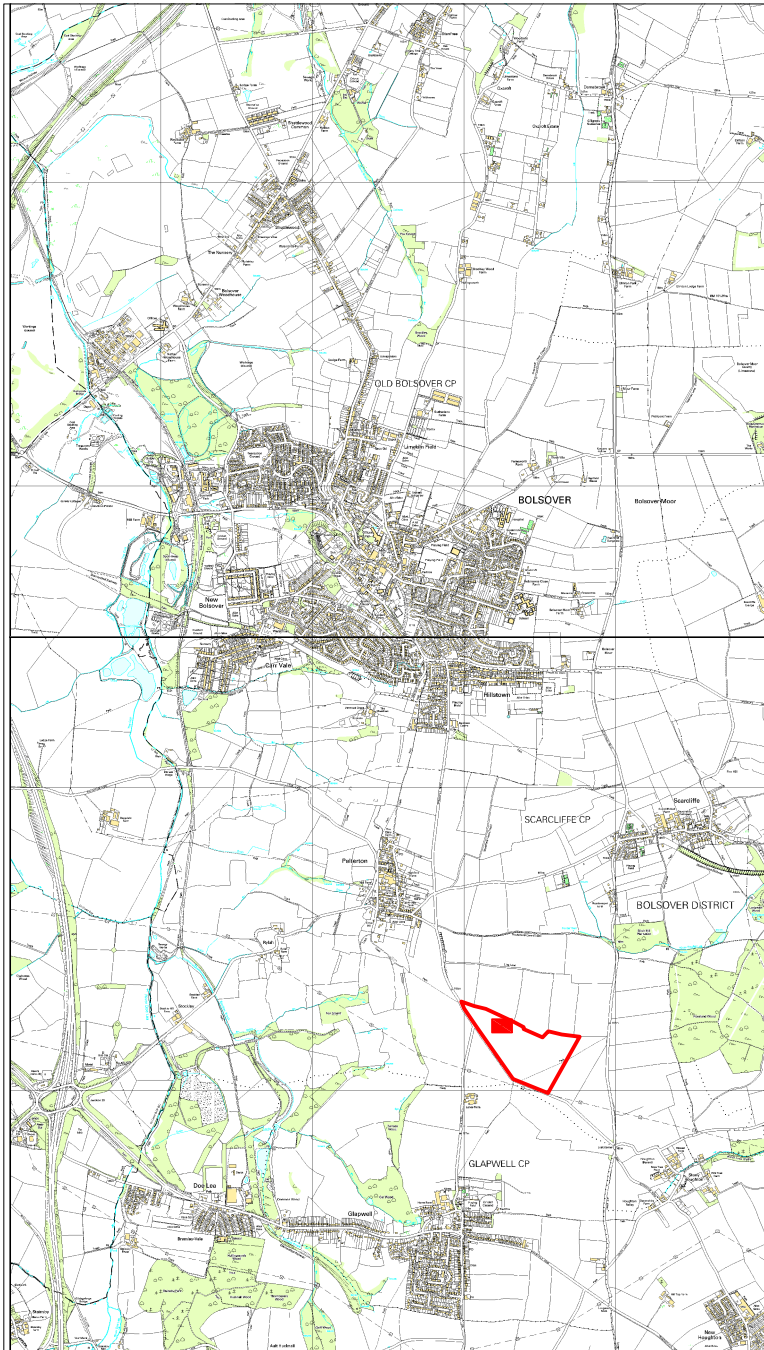
12.3.1 Any technical queries arising from the specification detailed above should be addressed to DCCHER without delay.


12.4 Publicity

12.4.1 If the project is to be publicised in any way (including media releases, publications etc.), then it is expected that DCCHER will be given the opportunity to consider whether its collaborative role should be acknowledged, and if so, the form of words used will be at DCCHER's discretion.

12.5 Valid Period of Specification

12.5.1 This specification is valid for a period of one year from date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.




LLB: Losk Lane, Bolsover
Fig 1: Site location, showing area detailed in Figure 2
Scale 1:50000 / 1:5000 at A4 LP/DW 30/09/2009

(Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618).



■ Area 01

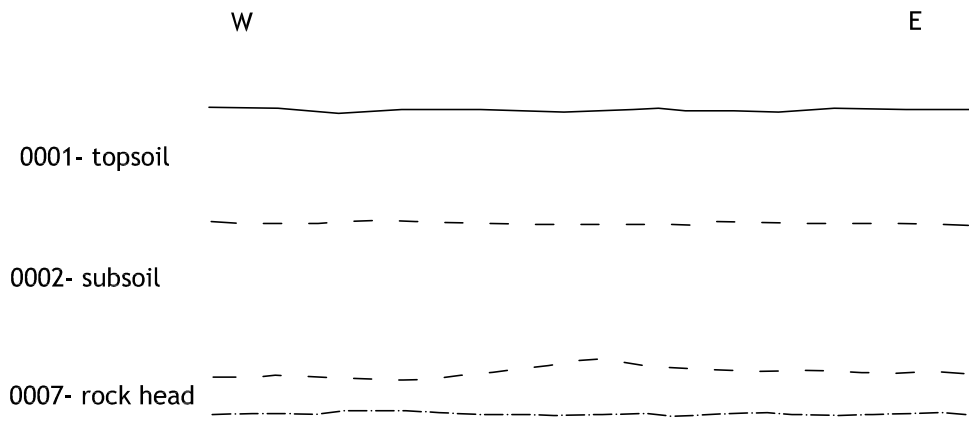
Location of test mast

◆ Area 04

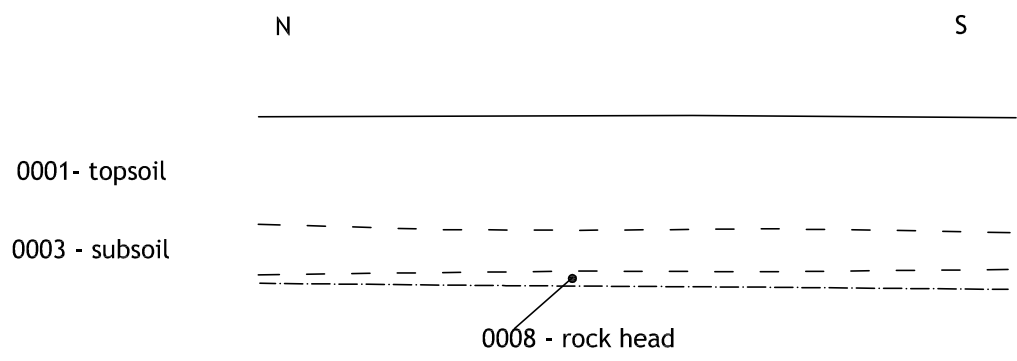
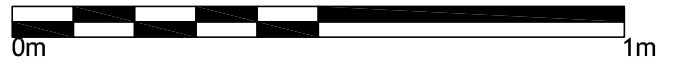
■ Area 02

◆ Area 05

■ Area 03

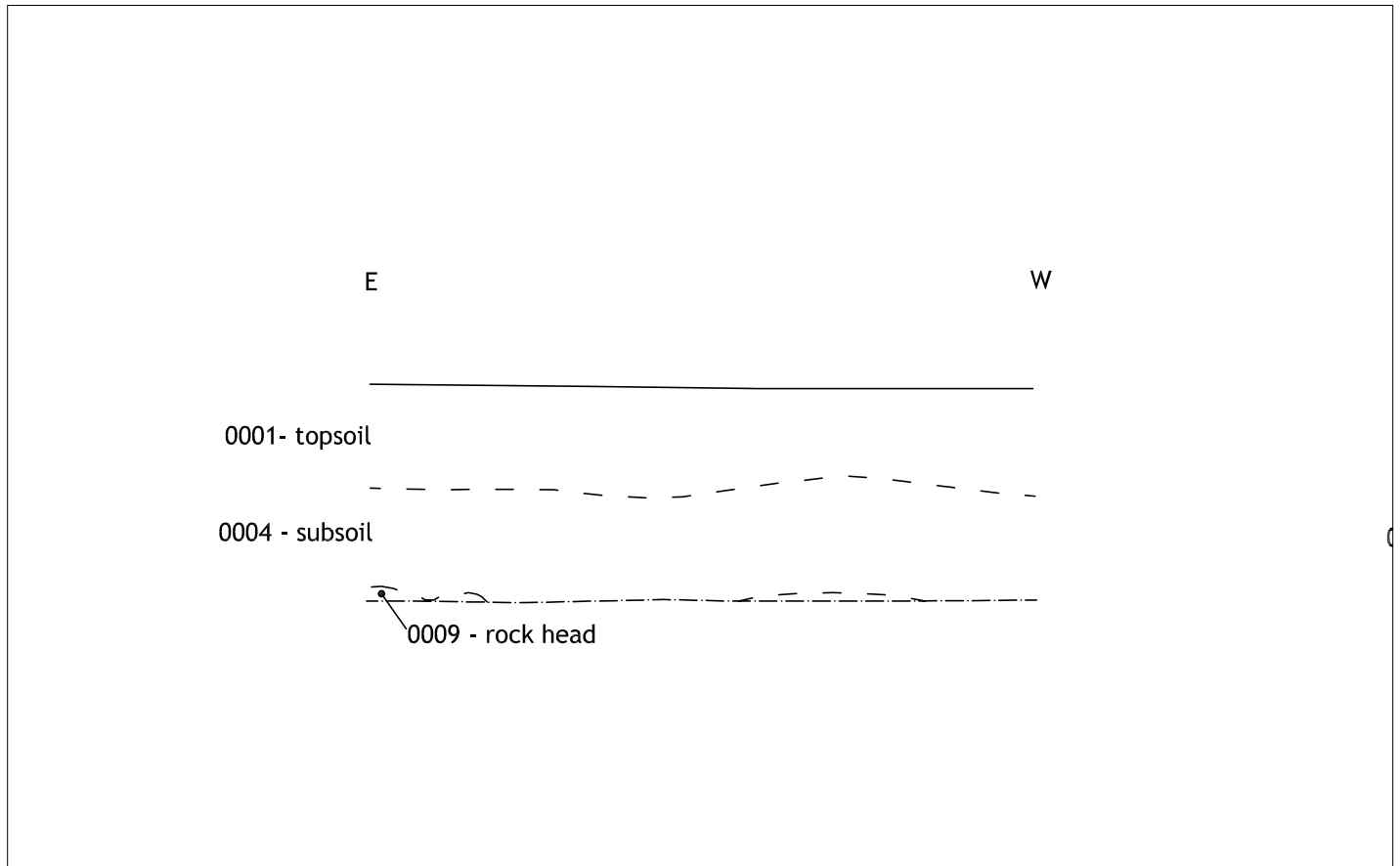


LLB: Losk Lane, Bolsover
 Fig 3: South facing section of Area 01
 Scale 1:20 at A4 LP/PW 22/10/2009

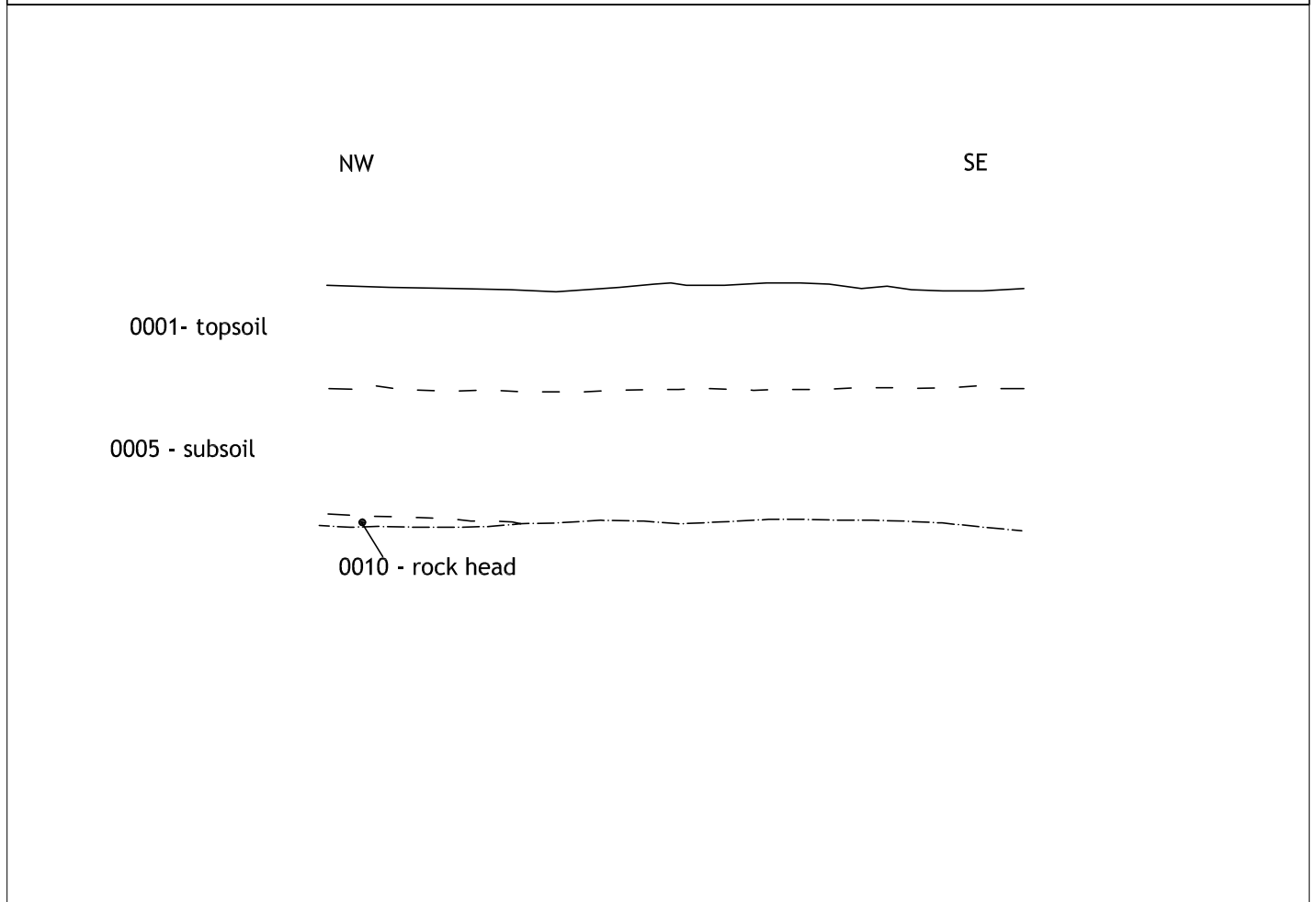
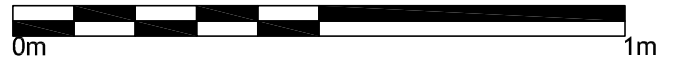


LLB: Losk Lane, Bolsover
 Fig 4: West facing section of Area 02
 Scale 1:20 at A4 LP/PW 22/10/2009





LLB: Losk Lane, Bolsover
 Fig 5: North facing section of Area 03
 Scale 1:20 at A4 LP/PW 22/10/2009



LLB: Losk Lane, Bolsover
 Fig 6: South east facing section of Area 04
 Scale 1:20 at A4 LP/PW 22/10/2009



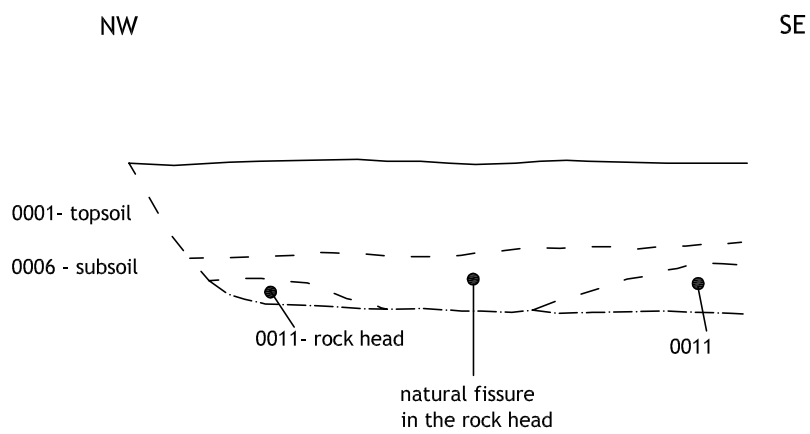




Plate 1. View of field prior to work starting, looking north east.



Plate 2 Machining Area 02.



Plate 3. Area 01 topsoil removed exposing subsoil.



Plate 4. Area 01 with rockhead exposed.



Plate 5. Representative section. North facing section of Area 03