

Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave, Derbyshire

Archaeological Evaluation



Initial strip of trench 3

ARS Ltd Report 2013/53

July 2013

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Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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Executive Summary

Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by East Midlands Housing Association to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a 0.4 hectare parcel of land off Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave, Derbyshire. An archaeological survey completed in 2010 established that there was potential for archaeological remains at the site, particularly relating to lead mining from the medieval period onwards. As a result, the Senior Conservation Archaeologist for the Peak District National Park advised that an archaeological field evaluation be carried out in advance of the proposed construction of eight houses on the site.

The evaluation was undertaken on 24th and 25th June 2013 and consisted of three trenches, one measuring approximately 20 metres by 2 metres, and two measuring 10 metres by 2 metres. All three trenches displayed possible evidence of past mining activity, probably dating to the 18th and 19th centuries.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by East Midlands Housing Association to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land off Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave, Derbyshire (figure 1), in advance of the proposed construction of eight affordable houses on the site (planning application number NP/DDD/0313/0179).

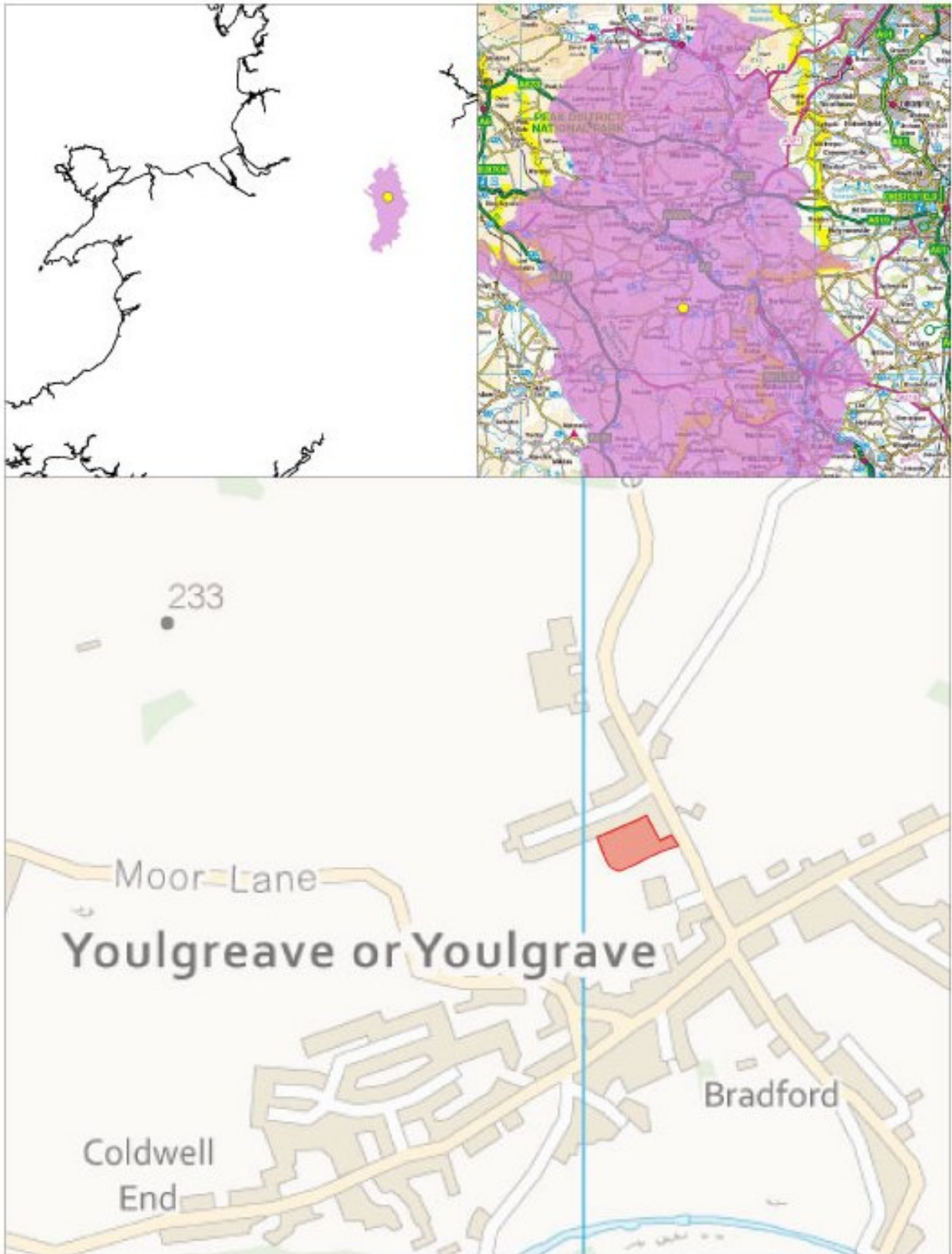
1.1.2 On the advice of the Peak District National Park Authority, an archaeological field survey was completed in 2010 which highlighted the potential of the site to contain archaeological remains of local interest, comprising primarily agricultural and industrial activity dating from the medieval period through to the 19th century (Burn and Smalley 2010).

1.1.3 A condition of the planning consent required a scheme of archaeological evaluation trenching in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). An archaeological field evaluation programme was agreed with the Peak District National Park Authority, comprising three trenches placed to target earthworks identified in the 2010 field survey (figure 2).

1.2 Location, Land Use and Geology

1.2.1 The site is located off Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave, Derbyshire, and is centred at approximately NGR SK 2107 6448 (figure 1). The site comprised 0.4 hectares of grassed land which has a long history of pastoral use.

1.2.2 The solid geology of the site is Limestone with subordinate sandstone and argillaceous rocks (British Geological Survey 2013).



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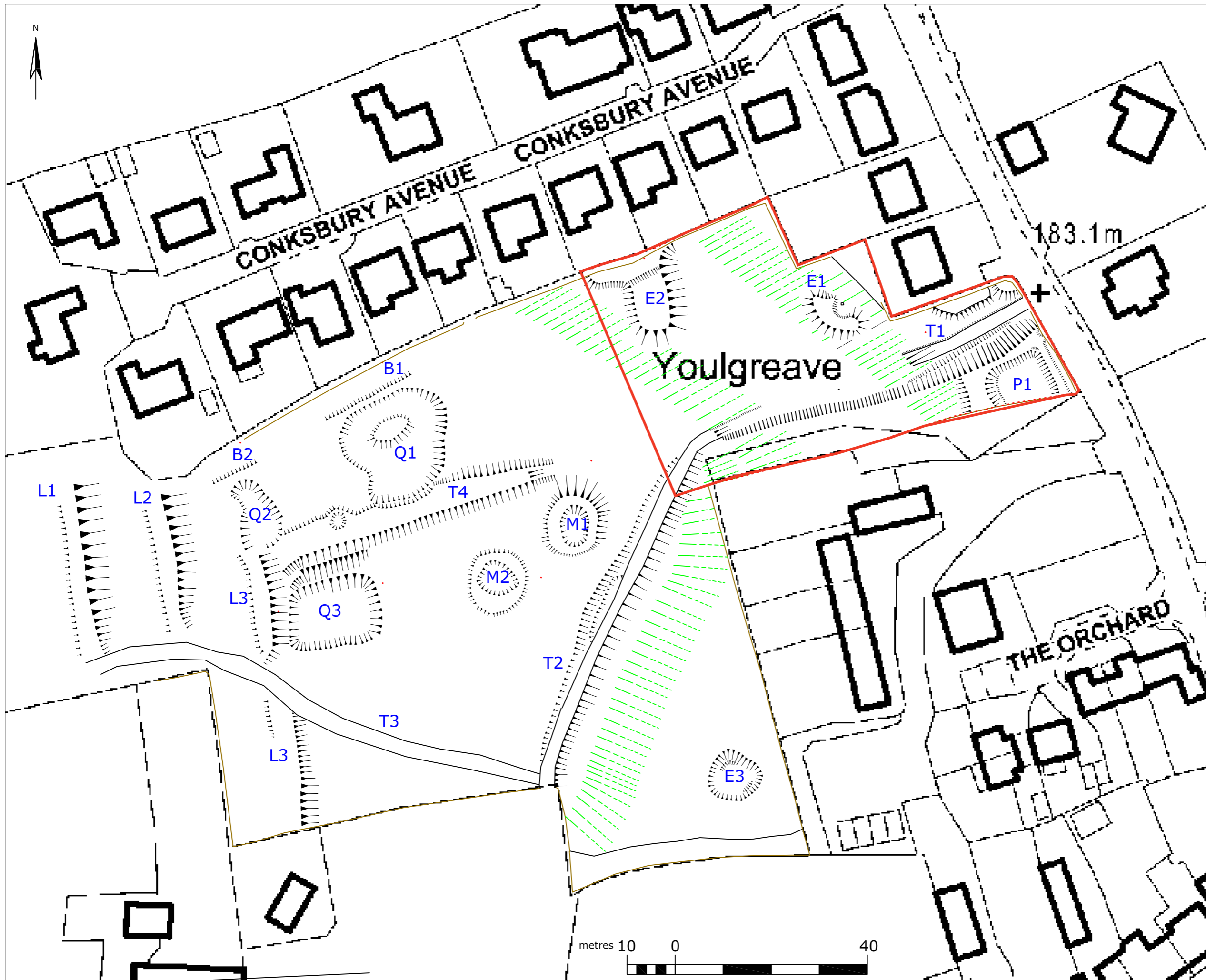
Figure 1. Location of site

2 Background

2.1 The antiquity of mining in the area is attested by the name Youlgreave, *Auld Grove* or ‘Old Mine’, but its mining activity dates mainly from the 18th and 19th centuries (Ford and Rieuwerts 2000).

2.2 No HER sites were located within 150m of the development site and few assets are located within the wider area. A number of post-medieval features, including a fountain and mounting block, are situated within Youlgreave. The parish church, built in the late 12th century but which has seen numerous renovations through into the late 19th century, is located 200m to the south-east of the development area. The only other archaeological remains found in the vicinity were two flint daggers, dating to the early Bronze Age, which were located 0.5km to the north-west of the development area.




2.3 The National Park’s GIS data relating to mining remains indicates that there was a line of shafts running across the southern edge of the proposed development site, though these are shown as removed. A topographical survey undertaken by ARS Ltd in 2010 (Burn and Smalley 2010) in the proposed development area identified the potential presence of both truncated and upstanding mine shaft spoil heaps, a trackway, a small enclosure which may reflect the foundations of a building, and other features potentially related to mining activity (figure 2), as listed below.



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Site Code: You 13
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 Scale: 1:750 at A3

Figure 2: Analytical field survey hachure plan (after Burn and Smalley 2010, fig. 7)

- Key:
-  Study Area
 -  Earthworks
 -  Natural Slope

Notes:

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2.3.1 Features within the development area

2.3.1.1 Tracks. The entrance to the site is through a gateway in the eastern boundary. This gate leads straight onto a well-used track (**T1**). T1 is a heavily rutted depression that runs uphill to the west for approximately 25m. This track becomes more ephemeral as it goes up the slope but is clearly still in use due to the presence well-worn wheel ruts. A second track (**T2**) can be seen running from the gateway in the southern field boundary in a north-easterly direction towards the western end of T1. T2 is a slight depression that follows the contours on the top of a natural break of slope. Track 3 (**T3**) comes from the same gateway as T2 but heads in a westerly direction. Both tracks T1 and T2 are still in use and appear to be contemporary as T2 is most likely the continuation of track T1. T3 is most likely a later diversion of the route of these tracks to the western edge of the field.

2.3.1.2 Possible Building Hollow. At the eastern end of the development area is a rectilinear depression measuring approximately 15m by 10m (**P1**). This feature is located on an area of elevated ground surrounded by a low earthwork bank with a central hollow. This may represent a hollow for a small building or alternatively the remains of a small mine shaft with an associated building, possible similar to a coe, over its entrance. This type of site can be seen elsewhere in the Peak District where a small a coe is located over, or in proximity to, a winding shaft. These buildings would have been used for basic shelter, storing tools, clothing and food.

2.3.1.3 Other Earthworks. A number of other earthworks are evident within the field. In the western area of the site is a curvilinear earthwork with an associated drain cover (**E1**). The extant earthworks here seem too large to be related to the construction of a small drain. It is more likely that the earthworks are related to former small-scale extraction. There is evidence of rubble backfill and this appears to fill a circular depression which could be the top of a small shaft, although it does appear too small for this interpretation to be definitive. To the west of **E1**, on an area of level ground between two natural breaks of slope, is another irregular shaped positive earthwork (**E2**). The origin of this feature is unknown but may represent a spoil heap from a former lead mining complex or shallow stone quarry beyond the northern limits of the study site, which would be no longer extant due to 20th century developments in this area. This feature may also have been cut by the possible field boundary evident further to the west as B1 and B2.

2.3.2 Features outside the development area:

2.3.2.1 Quarries and Mines. Three large shallow depressions (**Q1**, **Q2** and **Q3**) are evident in the central region of the field. These features are likely to represent areas of surface quarrying for the underlying limestone. To the east of the possible quarry features are two “doughnut-shaped” features (**M1** and **M2**) which may represent mine shafts. These may represent small-scale exploratory workings or test pits along an area of outcropping limestone. There is no evidence on available mapping for any mine activity and it is therefore most likely that the remains relate to small-scale workings dating to the 18th or early 19th century and were abandoned by the time of the OS 1st edition in 1854.

2.3.2.2 Lynchets. Towards the top of the natural slope in the western limits of the field are three linear earthworks with a north-south orientation (**L1**, **L2** and **L3**). These features may be related to former strip lynchets. However, the nature of the underlying limestone geology does suggest that these features could be natural, and represent bedding planes close to the surface. It is considered that their regularity in dimensions and spacing suggest an archaeological origin as being more likely.

2.3.2.3 Field Boundaries. Two linear earthworks (**B1** and **B2**) are evident in the northern limits of the site. These features may be related to a former field boundary seen on the early editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping. The southern linear edge of quarry Q3 may also delineate a second relict field boundary seen on the Ordnance Survey map regression. It is important to note that all features identified as relating to small-scale industry fall within these two relict field boundaries (B1 and B2 and the southern edge of Q3), highlighting what may have been the original land holding when these workings were in operation.

3 Aim and Objectives

3.1 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to target and excavate potential archaeological features with the objective of determining the nature and date of the archaeological features and to recover any information relating to mining activity.

3.2 Trench-specific objectives

- Trench 1. One 2m x 20m trench to investigate T1 (track) and P1 (possible building foundations).
- Trench 2. One 2m x 10m trench to sample the line of the track between T1 and T4.
- Trench 3. One 2m x 13m trench to investigate M1 (possible mine shaft top).

4 Methodology

4.1 A detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ARS Ltd and agreed with the Peak District National Park Authority (Appendix II). In total three evaluation trenches were agreed to be opened in the development area, one measuring 20 by 2 metres and two measuring 10 by 2 metres (figure 3).

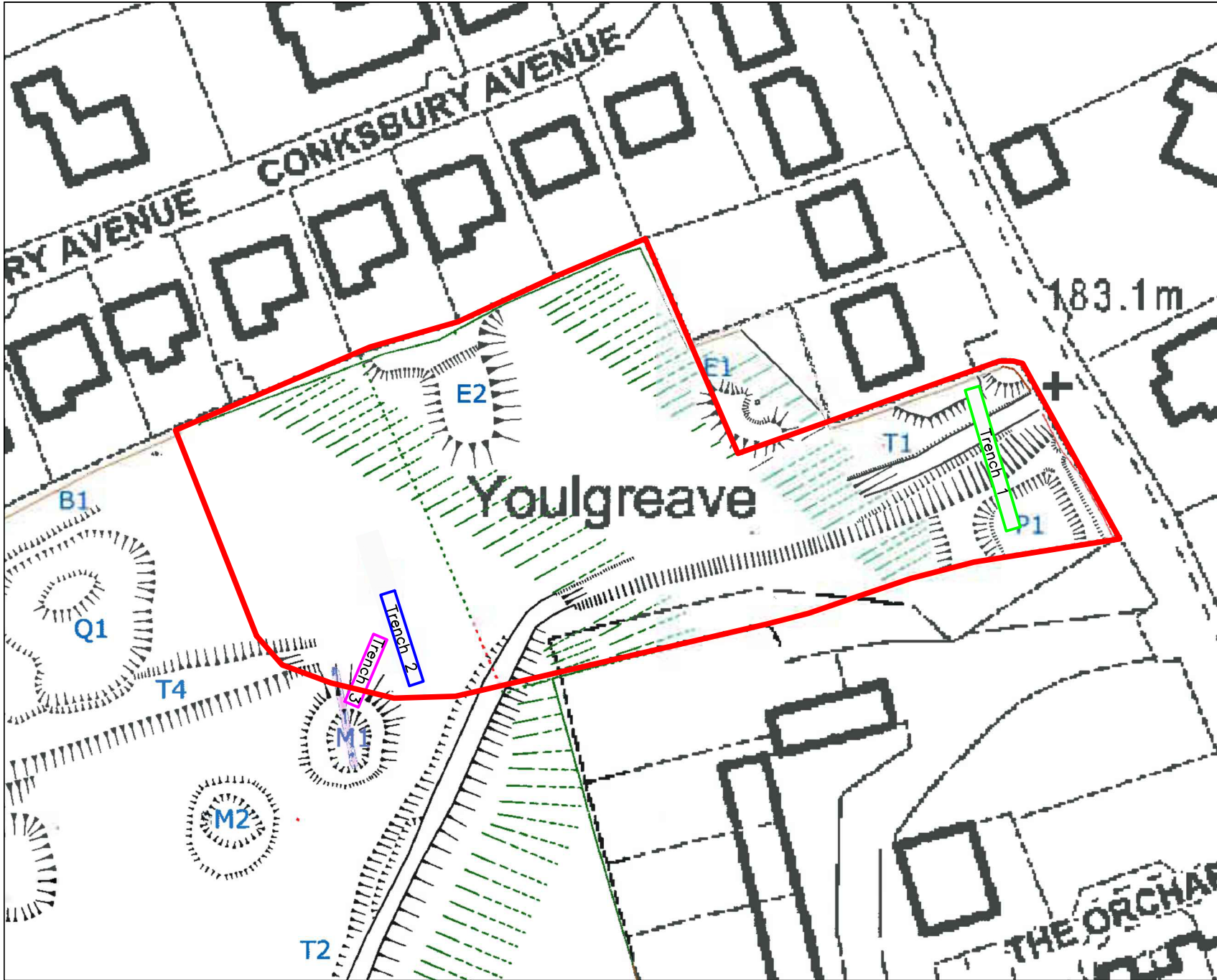
4.2 Topsoil was removed mechanically by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The topsoil was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. The location of the trenches was recorded accurately in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.3 Each of the features identified during the stripping process was subject to hand cleaning and sample excavation and recording. This involved the sectioning of features to determine their form and dimensions, and the collection of artefacts. All features were photographed using a digital SLR with a maximum of 7 megapixels. All sections were drawn at 1:10 and features planned at 1:20.

4.3. All the deposits and cuts were described in the field on pro-forma context sheets. The sheets contain prompts for the recording of sediment composition, compaction and colour, the dimensions of the deposit, its relationship to other deposits and features, artefact content, environmental samples, drawing and photographic records and an interpretative discussion to ensure consistency across all records. All features were described in accordance with MoLAS conventions. Drawings were produced and registers of all contexts, samples, finds, levels, and drawings were also made.

4.4 All retained finds were treated in accordance with the English Heritage guidance document *A Strategy for Care and Investigation of Finds (1995)* and the UKIC's document *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*.

4.5 A risk assessment was undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations were adhered to at all times.



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 Drawing Ref: Figure 3
 Date: June 2013
 Drawn: RD / LS

Figure 3. Location of evaluation trenches

Key

- 20m x 2m Evaluation Trench
- 13m x 2m Evaluation Trench
- 10m x 2m Evaluation Trench

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5 Results

5.1 Trench 1

5.1.1 Trench 1 was placed over modern track (T1) and possible building foundations (P1) and was aligned NW/SE. Due to the presence of a live telephone cable aligned SE/NW running through the trench, a baulk measuring approximately 2m wide was left in place in order to ensure the telephone cable was safeguarded from the groundworks. This essentially split the trench into two sections, the northern end measuring approximately 13.5 metres in length, and the southern end measuring approximately 5.25 metres in length. The trench was located in the eastern area of the site and measured 2 metres in width (NE/SW).

5.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a thin layer of light grey-brown topsoil (101) c.0.20 metres thick, over subsoil (102) composed of orange-brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular limestone pebbles, angular chert pebbles and angular fluorspar pebbles (maximum 0.27 metres thick).

5.1.3 A rectangular feature [103] was observed cut into the subsoil (102). As observed in plan the feature measured 2 metres in length by 1 metre in width; however the full extent of the feature is unknown as it extended into 2 section edges. The feature was filled with soft mottled orange and dark brown clay, containing frequent chert chips and abundant loosely-packed limestone cobbles and boulders. The feature was excavated to a depth of 0.60m and, in consultation with Sarah Whiteley, Senior Conservation Archaeologist of the Peak District National Park Authority Cultural Heritage team, was subsequently abandoned due to the excavated depth against the section edge exceeding 1m. The high proportion of limestone cobbles and boulders suggests that the feature was deliberately backfilled and the regular shape and square corners of the feature indicate that it is not a natural feature. Although the full extent of the feature was not fully revealed, it did not continue on the other side of the baulk, hence it can be assumed that it terminates somewhere within the baulk and is therefore is no more than 4m in length. The depth of the feature, although not bottomed, suggests it may be related to mining activity, and certainly the shape and dimension are comparable to other known mine shafts within the Peak District (see section 7).



Figure 4. Feature [103]



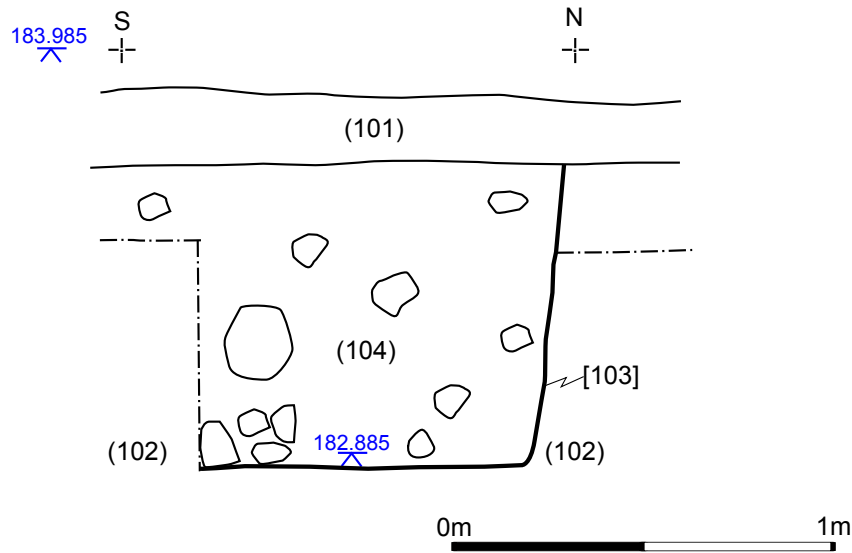
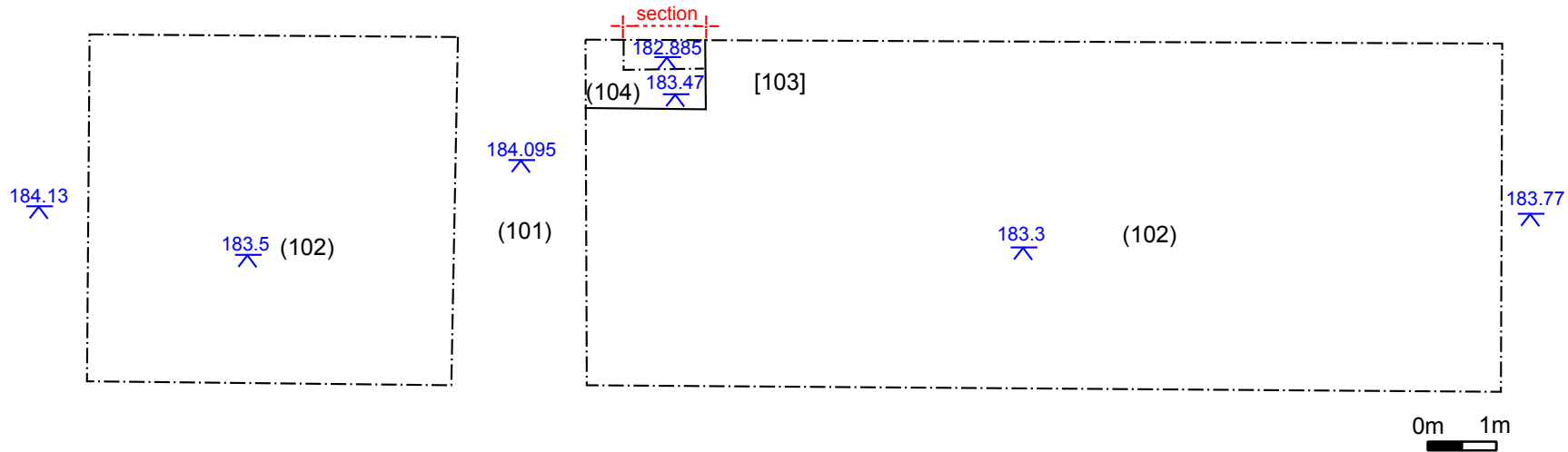
Figure 5. General view of trench 1



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Site Name: Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave
Site Code: You 13
Scale: Plan 1: 100 @ A4
Section 1: 20 @ A4

Trench 1 Plan and Section
Figure: 6
Initials: LS
Date: 1st July 2013



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5.2 Trench 2

5.2.1 The location of trench 2 was designed to sample the anticipated line of the track between identified track T1 and T4. The trench originally measured 10m in length (NW/SE) by 2m in width (NE/SW), but was extended to measure 13m in length as a contingency for the spit of ground left in trench 1 due to the presence of the live telephone cable. The trench was located in the south-western area of the site.

5.2.2 The stratigraphic sequence comprised a thin layer of fine mid-grey brown topsoil (201) c.0.30 metres thick, as observed in trench 1. The topsoil overlay fine mid-orange silty clay subsoil (202), c.0.32 metres thick with frequent limestone cobbles and pebbles and angular fluorspar pebbles. Directly underneath the subsoil lay the natural substratum (205), a mixed deposit comprising orange sandy clay with frequent inclusions of limestone cobbles and boulders and angular fluorspar pebbles.

5.2.3 Cut into the subsoil and natural substratum was [203], a c.2.20 metre deep, 4 metre wide feature. The feature extended beyond both edges of the trench hence its full length is unknown. It was filled with a fine dark brown silt (204), very similar to topsoil (201) although slightly darker, perhaps due to a higher moisture content. Two fragments of pottery were recovered from (204) dating to the 18th and 19th centuries (section 6). Both sides of the cut displayed evidence of following the natural contour and cutting into the limestone bedrock and is indicative of open-trench mining, used to extract ore from the bedrock. Such a function may explain the irregular edges of the feature. There was no evidence of the feature continuing into trench 3; however, along the same alignment was feature [303], which may represent associated mine-workings.

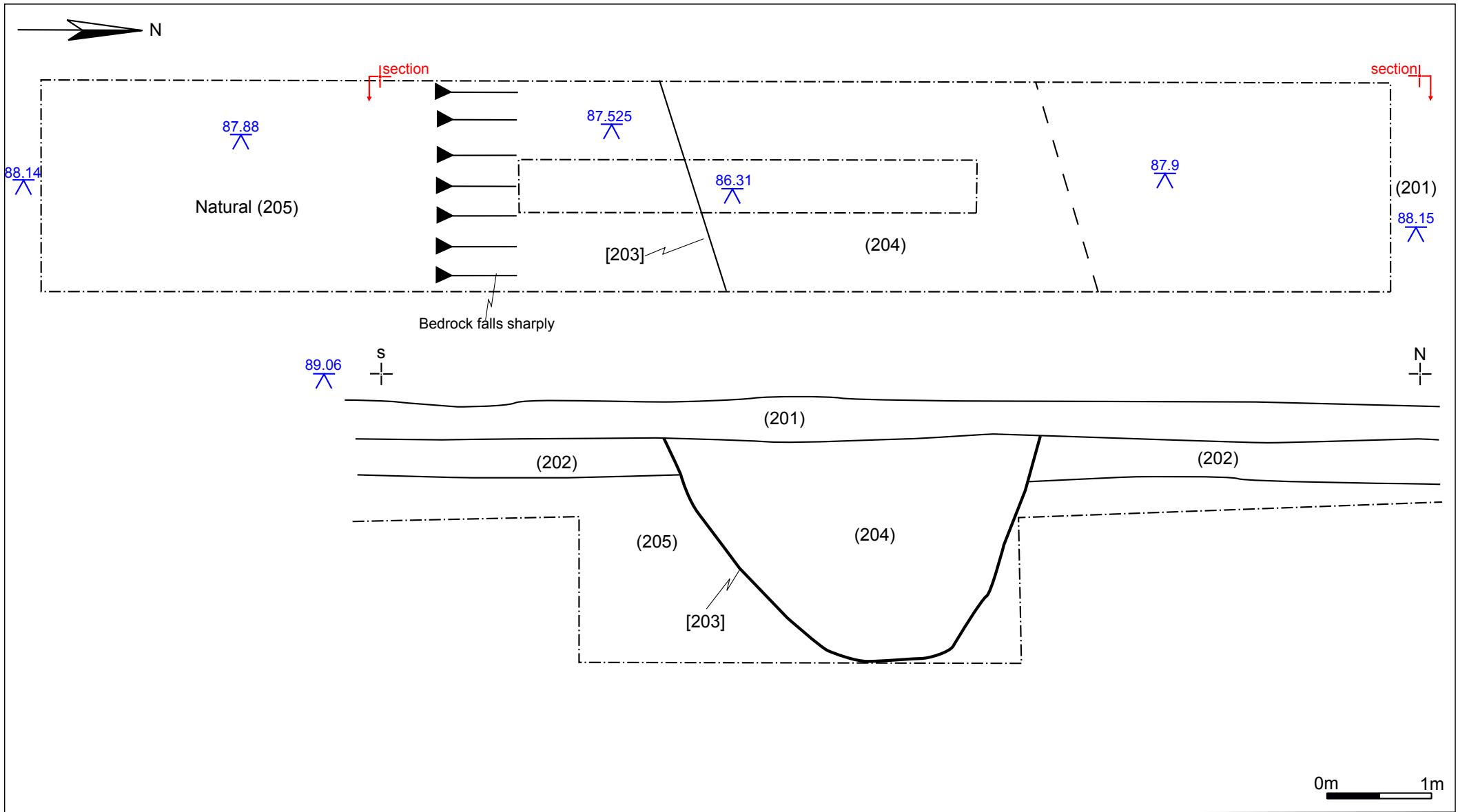
5.2.4 After discussion with the landowner, John Upton, it became apparent that track T1 was established as a track and entranceway within the last 5 years; beforehand, access to the field was gained from a gate and track in an E/W aligned wall higher up the field than T1, with the older trackway skirting the edge of the field. With this in mind, it is not surprising that no evidence of a track was identified in trench 2 given that track T1 is a very recent addition and the previous track was aligned along a different route through the field.



Figure 7. General view of trench 2 after initial stripping and before excavation of features. The dark stain towards the rear of the trench indicates the location of [203]



Figure 8. Feature [203]



<p>Archaeological Research Services Ltd Angel House Portland Square Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1HB</p>	<p>Site Name: Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave Site Code: You 13 Trench 2 plan and section Scale: 1: 50 @ A4</p>	<p>Trench 2 plan and section Figure: 9 Initials: LS Date: 2nd July 2013</p>	<p>Key</p>	<p>Copyright / Licencing © A.R.S. Ltd Ordnance Survey data if applicable ©Crown Copyright, all right reserved Reproduced with permission. Licence No. 100045420</p>
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5.3 Trench 3

5.3.1 Trench 3 was positioned to target M1, a possible mine shaft top. The trench was located in the south-western area of the site and measured 10 metres in length (NW/SE) by 2 metres in width (NW/SW).

5.3.2 The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a thin layer of mid-grey brown silty topsoil (301) (*c.*0.10 metres thick), over subsoil (302) (*c.*0.11 metres thick) composed of orange silty clay with frequent limestone cobbles and pebbles and angular fluorspar pebbles.

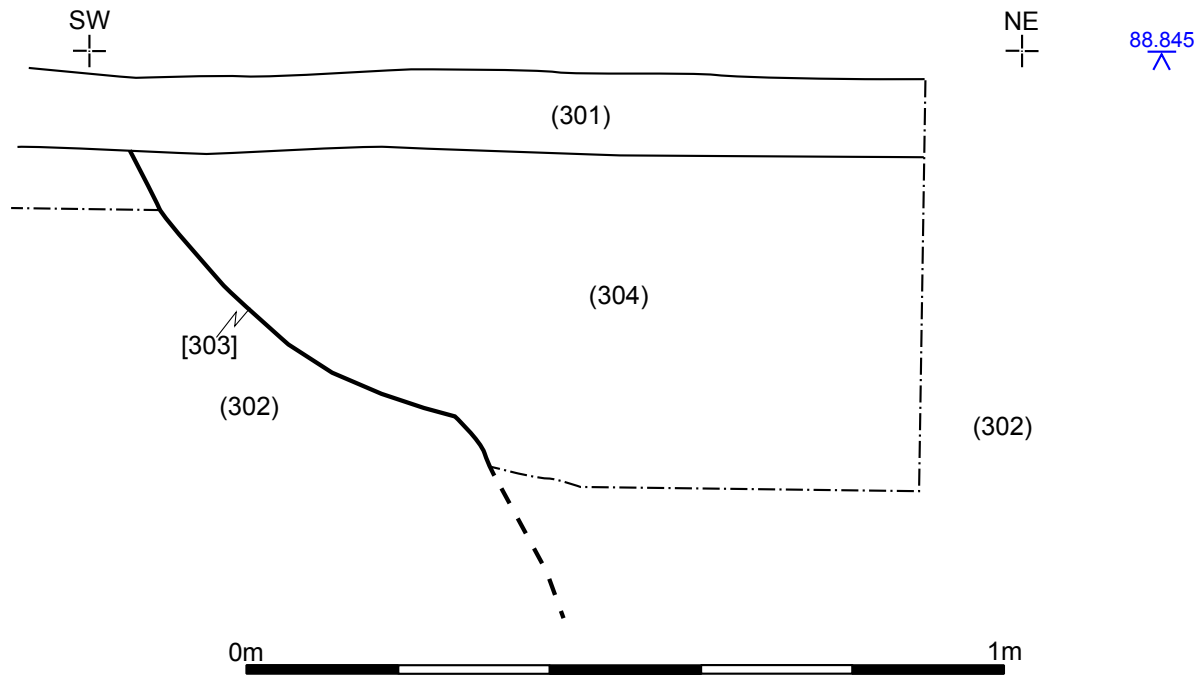
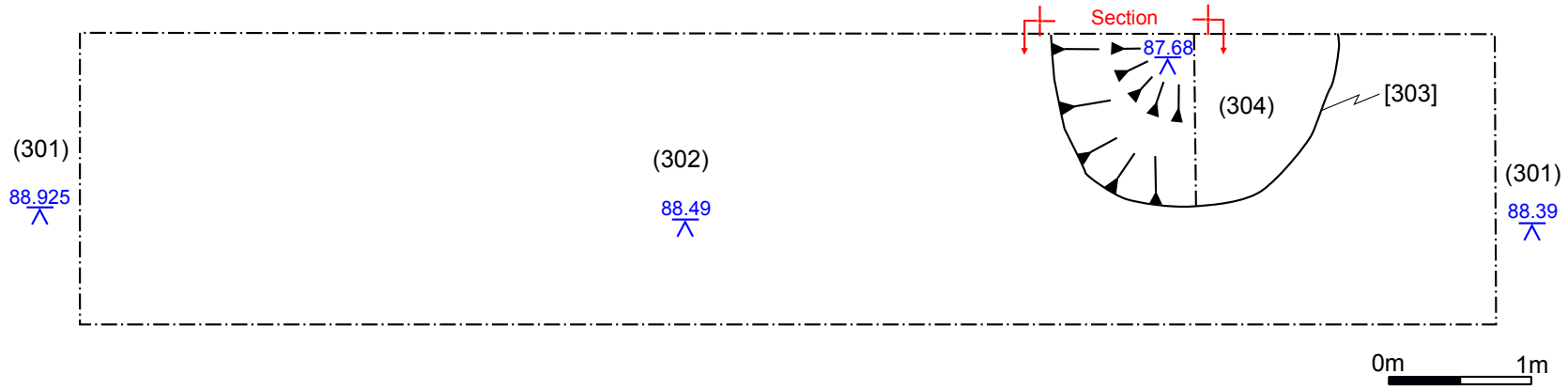
5.3.3 Feature [303] was cut into the subsoil (302) and was a 2 metre diameter semi-circular cut. The full extent of the feature was not fully revealed as the cut extended into the section edge; however it is assumed that the feature was fully circular. The feature was filled with single fill (304), dark orange sandy clay with abundant limestone cobbles and pebbles, loosely packed. The high presence of limestone and the loose arrangement is indicative of a deliberate backfill. From the surface of the cut to a depth of approximately 0.70m the cut tapered toward the centre and became narrower, to a diameter of approximately 1m. The full extent of the deposit was not reached but exceeded 1 metre; given that the feature may represent mine workings and hence extend downwards considerably further, in consultation with Sarah Whiteley, Senior Conservation Archaeologist of the Peak District National Park Authority Cultural Heritage team it was deemed unsafe to excavate the feature further. This feature was in very close proximity to [203] observed in trench 2 and may be an extension of the working of the same mineral seam.



Figure 10. General shot of trench 3 after initial strip and before excavation of features.



Figure 11. Feature [303]



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Site Name: Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave
Site Code: You 13
Trench 3 plan and section
Scale: Plan 1: 50 @ A4
Section 1: 10 @ A4

Trench 3 plan and section
Figure: 12
Initials: LS
Date: 2nd July 2013

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6 Pottery

Dr Robin Holgate BSc DPhil MIfA FSA

6.1 The ceramic material was catalogued according to ware type and ‘sherd family’. The assessment conformed to the minimum standards established by the *Medieval Pottery Research Group* (2001). The pottery was washed, bagged and then sorted by type. The ware types and fabrics were examined by eye and sorted into ware groups on the basis of fabric, form, glaze and decorative technique. An estimation of the range of forms was based on ‘sherd profile and diagnostic features such as rim and base fragments. An approximate date was established for the contexts based on ceramic ware types and an overall date for each deposit based on the datable pottery types present was established. The information is recorded in table 1.

Area/ Trench	Context	Description	No. of ‘sherds	Date
Tr 2	204	Small rim ‘sherd probably from a Late Blackware beaker	1	18 th century
Tr 2	204	Base ‘sherd of brown-glazed stoneware bottle	1	19 th century

Table 1. Provisional date range of archaeological deposits based on ceramic evidence

7 Discussion and Conclusion

7.1 Youlgreave is located within an area rich in lead ore and well known for lead mining (figure 13). The earliest record of lead mining in Youlgreave dates from 1320, however it was from the 1880’s onwards that the Youlgreave-Middleton vein was heavily exploited (Rieuwerts 2008) and it is likely that it is this period to which the features identified during this investigation relate.

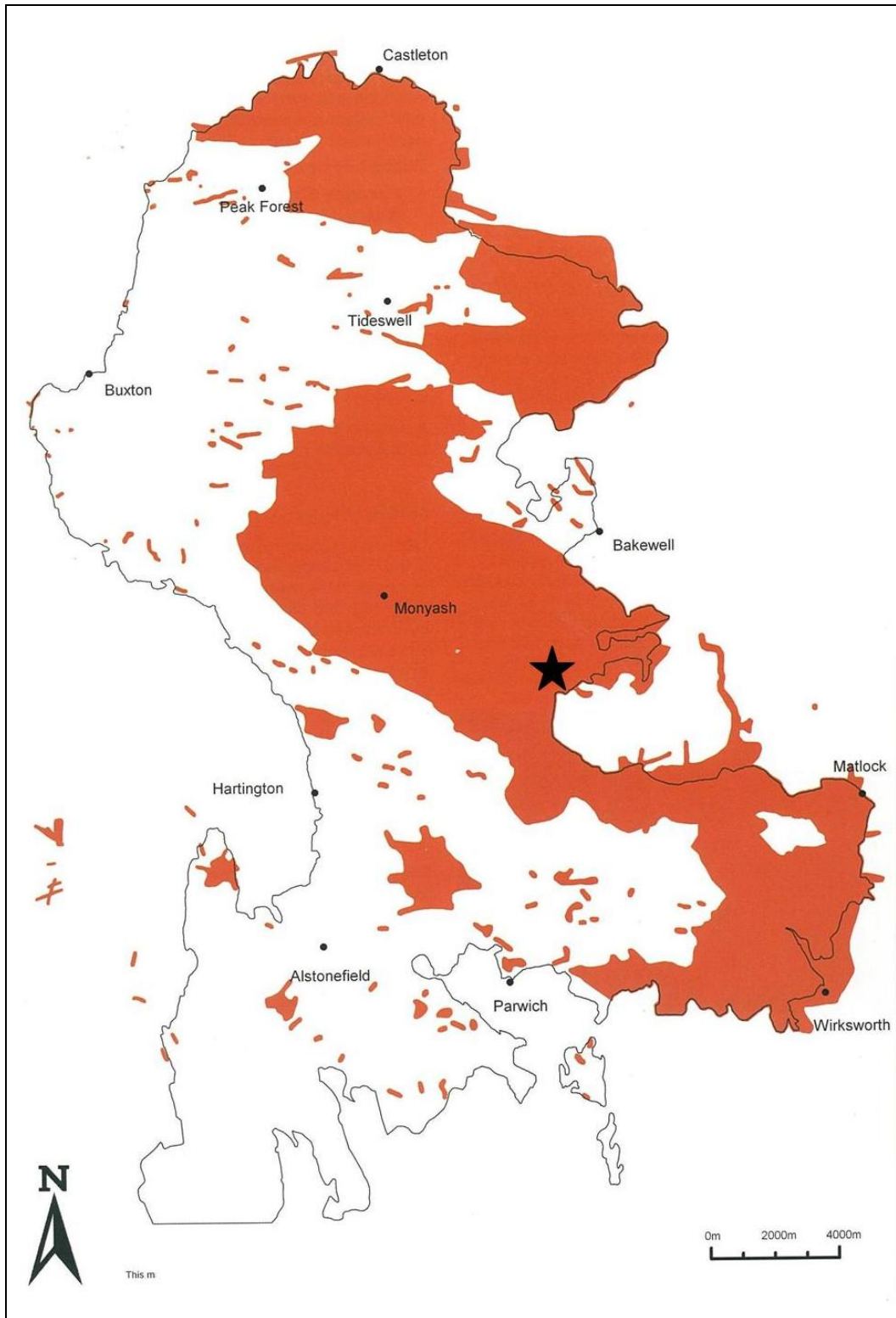


Figure 13. The location of the lead orefield (red) and the relative location of Youlgreave (star). After Barnatt and Penny 2004, chapter 2.8)

7.2 The full extent of feature [103] in trench 1 could not be established due to the confines of the trench; however it did not continue through the baulk and into the southern end of the trench, hence it can be presumed that it measures no more than 4 metres in length. The fill of the feature suggests that it was deliberately backfilled with large limestone cobbles, and although the depth is unknown, it exceeded 0.60m. The likely extent and depth of this feature suggests that it is likely to be associated

with mining activity. A small mine shaft entrance similar in size and dimension is illustrated in figure 14 and it may be that [103] is a comparable shaft.



Figure 14. Mine workings at Moss Rake, Bradwell in 1906. The small shaft entrance with the hand windlass in the foreground is comparable in shape and dimension to feature [103] observed in trench 1. (After Barnatt and Penny 2004, chapter 2.10)

7.3 Feature [203] identified in trench 2 is similar to opencast/openwork mining techniques described by (Rieuwerts 1998: 112) as ‘veins or pipes worked open to the day’ used to extract lead and fluorspar. Such workings can take several forms including narrow veins and scrins, large trenches likened to enormous plough furrows or linear quarries. The slightly irregular form of [203] and the fact that it appears to cut into the limestone bedrock suggests that bedrock was removed from this feature possibly for its mineral content. The fill of the feature was slightly different to the other features observed on the site, containing less limestone cobbles and filled instead with a silty material, suggesting that it was left open to be naturally backfilled, rather than deliberately backfilled.

7.4 Feature [303] observed in trench 3 was in close proximity to trench 2 and may represent mining along the same seam as the suspected open trench mine remains observed in [203] in trench 2. [303] was a circular feature 2 metres in diameter at the surface and gradually tapering toward the centre, reaching an overall diameter of 1m. The overall depth is unknown but exceeds 1 metre and may represent open cast/open works mining of the type described by Rieuwerts (1998: 112), comprising deep, almost circular holes worked at points of local, near surface ore enrichment. It may alternatively represent an entrance shaft or ventilation shaft related to deeper underground mines that were not impacted as part of this investigation.

7.5 Although the precise functions of the three features identified in this investigation have not been determined, the character of the features implies that they are related to mining activity. In the

20th century the Peak District became Britain's main source of fluorspar (Barnatt and Penny 2004), and the presence of fluorspar in the subsoil in all 3 trenches, and the additional knowledge that Youlgreave is located in an area well-known for lead mining activity, supports the interpretation of mining relating features.

8 Archives

8.1 A digital, paper and physical archive has been prepared and will be deposited with The Buxton Museum (accession number DERB 2010: 45) This consists of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs, finds and electronic data associated with the project.

9 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

9.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

9.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

10 Statement of Indemnity

10.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

11 Acknowledgements

11.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank those involved in the project for their help and advice, especially John Upton who provided assistance in opening up the trenches, and Sarah Whiteley, Senior Conservation Archaeologist of the Peak District National Park Authority Cultural Heritage team.

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APPENDIX I – ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS
CONTEXT RECORDS

Trench 1

Context Number	Trench Number	Description
101	1	Light grey-brown sandy-silt topsoil
102	1	Orange-brown silty clay subsoil
103	1	Rectangular cut
104	1	Fill of [103]. Soft orange-brown clay with subangular limestone cobbles

Trench 2

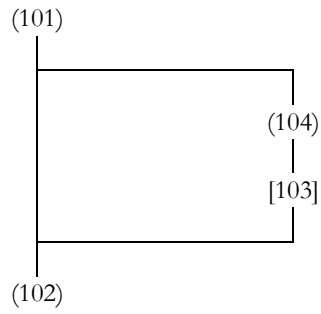
Context Number	Trench Number	Description
201	2	Grey-brown silty topsoil
202	2	Orange silty-clay subsoil
203	2	Cut
204	2	Dark brown fine silt fill of [203]
205	2	Natural substratum – limestone bedrock

Trench 3

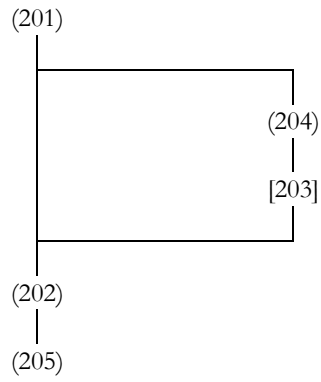
Context Number	Trench Number	Description
301	3	Grey-brown silty topsoil
302	3	Orange silty-clay subsoil
303	3	Circular cut
304	3	Fill of [303]. Dark orange sandy with limestone cobbles

HARRIS MATRICES

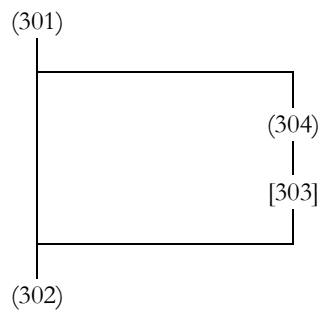
Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3

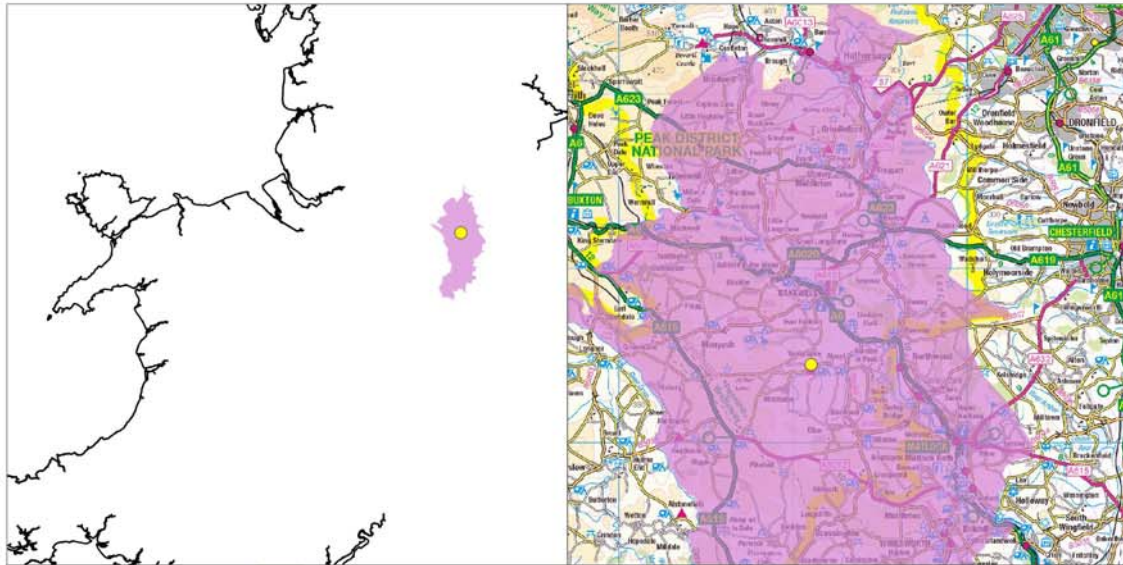




Land Off Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave Derbyshire Written Scheme of Investigation

1. Background

- 1.1 A proposal for residential development for local housing needs on a parcel of land measuring 0.4 hectares off Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave, Derbyshire (NGR SK 2107 6448) has been made to the Peak District National Park Authority (Fig.1). The solid geology of the site comprises Limestone with subordinate sandstone and argillaceous rocks (BGS, 625000: Version 5, 2008).
- 1.2 The Senior Conservation Archaeologist for the Peak District National Park Authority has been consulted regarding this proposal and has reason to believe that archaeological remains exist on the site but their state of preservation is unclear. The Peak District National Park Authority has advised that the archaeological implications of the proposal cannot be adequately assessed on the basis of the available information. It has been recommended therefore that an archaeological field evaluation should be carried out. This recommendation is in line with government guidance as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (DCLG 2012).
- 1.3 The site of the proposed development corresponds to an area in which earthwork remains of lead mine shafts have been identified. The National Park's GIS data relating to mining remains indicates that there was a line of shafts running across the southern edge of the proposed development site, though these are shown as removed. A topographical survey was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) in the proposed development area in 2010. This confirmed the presence of both truncated and upstanding mine shaft spoil heaps, a trackway and small enclosure which may reflect the foundations of a building.
- 1.4 The proposed development would severely damage or destroy the archaeological earthworks present on the site. It has been recommended therefore that an archaeological evaluation should take place to obtain further information on the presence, complexity and extent of these remains.



Site name/code: Youlgreave
 Date: 26/06/2013
 Drawn by: JT
 Scale: Varies

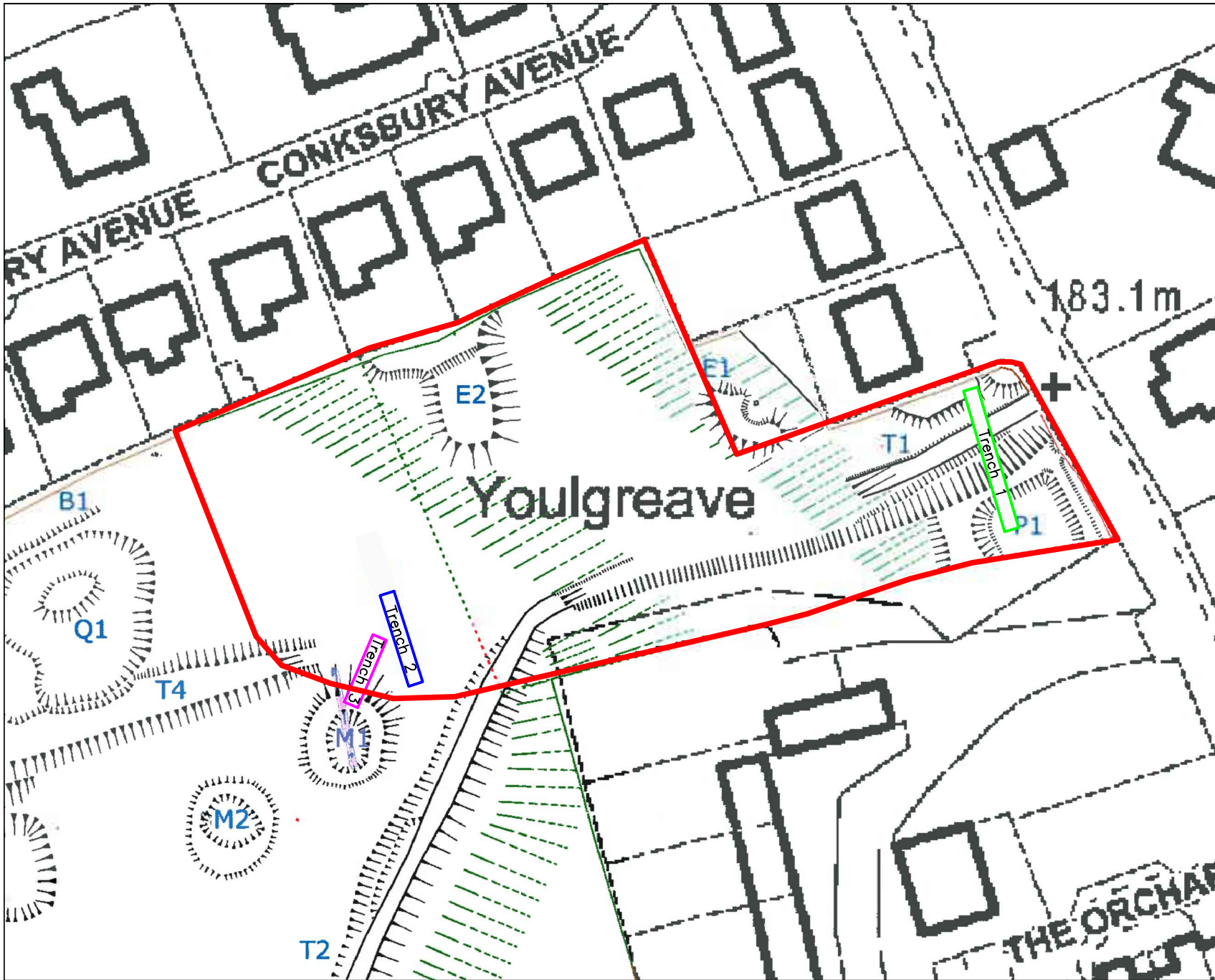
This drawing: Copyright ARS Ltd
 Ordnance Survey mapping (if applicable):
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**Figure 1:
 Site location**



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 DE45 1HB

Site Code: Youlgreave
 Drawing Ref: Figure 2
 Date: June 2013
 Drawn: RD

Conksbury Lane,
 Youlgreave - Figure 2 -
 Location of Trenches 1
 to 3

Key
 20m x 2m Evaluation Trench
 13m x 2m Evaluation Trench
 10m x 2m Evaluation Trench

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2. Objectives of the evaluation

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluation should be to gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character and extent of the earthwork remains within the area of proposed development.
- 2.2 The evaluation should investigate the area(s) indicated on the accompanying plan (see Fig. 2).

3. Project Management and Standards

- 1.1. The project will be carried out in compliance with the Institute of Archaeologists (IfA) *Codes of Conduct* (2012) and will follow the IfA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2009).
- 1.2. All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified and experienced for their respective project roles and have practical experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and will be fully briefed on the work required by this specification. Each member of staff will be fully conversant with the aims and methodologies of the evaluation and will be given a copy of this WSI to read. All members of staff employed by ARS Ltd are fully qualified and experienced archaeologists, which will ensure that appropriate decisions will be made in the field. ARS Ltd holds full Employer's Liability (£5 million), Public Liability (£5 million) and Professional Indemnity (£2 million) insurance.

4. Evaluation Methodology

- 4.1 The following features are to be sampled as described below (please refer to the plan in Fig. 2):
 - T1 (track) and P1 (possible building foundations) – one 2m x 20m trench in the location shown.
 - One 2m x 10m trench to sample the line of the track between T1 and T4 in the location shown.
 - M1 (possible mine shaft top) – one 2m x 13m trench in the location shown.
- 4.2 Topsoil will be removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over areas that have previously been stripped until the area has been signed off by ARS Ltd.
- 4.3 The areas will be appropriately cleaned using hand tools in order to expose the full nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits.
- 4.4 All spoil removed during groundworks will be scanned visually to recover small finds. Any finds so recovered will be recorded and their location noted on a site plan at a relevant scale. The finds will be retained and recorded.

- 4.5 All archaeological features will be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective.
- 4.6 Isolated, discrete features such as pits and postholes not belonging to structures or industrial activities will be 50% sampled, although if they produce artefacts then provision is made for full excavation.
- 4.7 Sampling of linear features such as ditches and gullies will be sufficient to determine their character, stratigraphy and relationship to other features and attempts made to obtain dating evidence.
- 4.8 Any deposits relating to funerary/ritual activities, such as burials and cremation deposits, will be 100% excavated. Domestic/industrial activity (such as walls, postholes, floors, hearths) will be sufficiently excavated to understand their form and function and to recover potential dating evidence and artefact and ecofact assemblages.
- 4.9 Area deposits such as buried soils, or middens, will be hand excavated at a minimum 10%. Subsequent excavation by machine will be considered. Large intrusions, such as reservoirs, will be sufficiently excavated by machine, within safe limits, to provide information on their character.
- 4.10 Limited representative samples of bricks from brick-built structures, and selective products of the brick working process will be retained for specialist analysis where appropriate.
- 4.11 Discovery of any human remains will be reported to the coroner and excavated following receipt of the appropriate Ministry of Justice Guidelines.
- 4.12 For deposits that have potential for providing environmental or dating evidence, a minimum of 10 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% of the sample if smaller. This material will be floated and passed through graduated sieves, the smallest being a 500 μ mesh. Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the English Heritage Scientific Adviser will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.13 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. Deep sections such as those across ditches or pits will be shored as necessary. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site.

Recording

- 4.14 The site will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded using a single context planning system in accordance with the ARS Ltd field recording manual.

- 4.15 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn where required at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as appropriate. In addition to relevant illustrations, provision for rectified photographic recording shall be made, if deemed necessary.
- 4.16 The stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 4.17 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with above ordnance datum (AOD) levels.
- 4.18 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken using a digital camera, and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. A selection of working shots will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation.
- 4.19 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled.

Finds Processing and Storage

- 4.20 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with IfA's *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. (2008) and those set out by UKIC (1990).
- 4.21 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.
- 4.22 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.
- 4.23 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated. .
- 4.24 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

- 4.25 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and Buxton Museum prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.
- 4.26 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of Buxton Museum.

5. Site Monitoring

- 5.1 Reasonable prior notice of the commencement of the evaluation is to be given to the Senior Conservation Archaeologist of the Peak District National Park Authority Cultural Heritage team.
- 5.2 With regard to site inspections, ARS Ltd will liaise with the Senior Conservation Archaeologist in order that the site can be inspected when field work is near to completion, but before any trenches have been backfilled.

6. Report

- 6.1 A report shall be produced to include background information, a summary of the works carried out and a description and interpretation of the findings. The report should also include the following.
 - 6.1.1 A location plan showing all excavated areas with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads.
 - 6.1.2 Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections.
 - 6.1.3 Specialist descriptions of artefacts or ecofacts.
 - 6.1.4 An indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development.
 - 6.1.5 Data files relating to measured survey should be provided as both a print out and in an electronic format to be agreed with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record.
- 6.2 Copies of the final report are to be deposited with the Peak District National Park Cultural Heritage team and with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record. Reports should be provided in both paper and electronic form.
- 6.3 The report should not give an opinion on whether preservation or further investigation is considered appropriate, but should provide an interpretation of results, placing them in a local and regional context.

- 6.4 The results of the work will be published in the appropriate issue of Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire and, if of regional or national significance, within an archaeological journal.
- 6.5 The Derbyshire Historic Environment Record supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact Derbyshire Historic Environment Record prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Derbyshire Historic Environment Record may place the information on a web-site.

7. Deposition of Archive and Finds

- 7.1 Upon completion of fieldwork all samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, assessed, spot-dated and properly stored. A field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data.
- 7.2 The field archive will be compiled in a format to be agreed by the repository museum which, in this case, will be Buxton Museum. Buxton Museum has been contacted and an accession number obtained which is DERB 2010: 45.

8. Changes to Methodology or Work Programme

- 8.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior approval of the Senior Conservation Archaeologist of the Peak District National Park Authority Cultural Heritage team.

References

Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). 2012. *The National Planning Policy Framework*. London, The Stationery Office.

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Institute for Archaeologists. 2012. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation). 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: archaeol5-154427

Project details

Project name	Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave, Derbyshire. An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	On 24th and 25th June 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a 0.4 hectare parcel of land at land off Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave, Derbyshire. An archaeological survey completed in 2010 established that there was potential for archaeological remains at the site, particularly relating to lead mining from the medieval period onwards. As a result, the Senior Conservation Archaeologist for the Peak District National Park advised that an archaeological field evaluation be carried out in advance of the proposed construction of 8 houses on the site. The evaluation consisted of 3 trenches, one measuring approximately 20 metres by 2 metres, and two measuring 10 metres by 2 metres. All three trenches displayed possible evidence of past mining activity, probably dating to the 18th and 19th centuries.
Project dates	Start: 24-06-2013 End: 25-06-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ARS 2010/46 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE DERBYSHIRE DALES YOULGREAVE Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave
Postcode	DE45 1WR
Study area	0.40 Hectares
Lat/Long Datum (other)	NGR SK 2107 6448

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project design originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Robin Holgate
Project supervisor	Laura Strafford
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
Physical Archive ID	DERB2010:45
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Archive ID	DERB2010:45
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Archive ID	DERB2010:45
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Conksbury Lane, Youlgreave, Derbyshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Strafford, L
Other bibliographic details	ARS 2013/53
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	ARS Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bakewell
Description	A4 colour spiral bound
Entered by	Laura Strafford (laura@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	4 July 2013

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