

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Park Farm, Bradbourne, Derbyshire



Park Farm looking south

ARS Ltd Report 2011/28
March and April 2011

Planning application no: 10/00624/FUL
Oasis no: archaeol5-97534

Compiled By:
Kate Mapplethorpe
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Angel House
Portland Square
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB
admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Checked By:
Dr. Gareth Davies
Tel: 01629 814540
Fax: 01629 814657

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Park Farm, Bradbourne

ARS Ltd Report 2011/28

March and April 2011

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Contents

List of Figures.....	3
Executive Summary.....	4
1. Introduction.....	5
1.1. Location and Scope of Work.....	5
1.2. Geology and preservation.....	5
1.3. Historical Background.....	6
2. Methodology.....	6
3. Results.....	8
4. Conclusion.....	11
5. Publication and archiving.....	12
6. Publicity, confidentiality and copyright.....	12
7. Statement of indemnity.....	12
8. Acknowledgements.....	12
9. References.....	13
Appendix I: Drawings.....	14
Appendix II: OASiS Form	17

List of Figures

1.	Site location.....	5
2.	Site plan.....	7
3.	View of preserved tree.....	9
4.	View of possible cut mark on preserved tree.....	9
5.	Photograph showing the visible stratigraphy.....	10
6.	Plan of preserved tree.....	15
7.	Sample section.....	16

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Robert McGuinness of RLM Associates on behalf of Mr. David Alsop to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Park Farm, Bradbourne, Derbyshire. The monitoring was carried out during flood mitigation groundworks.

The historical remains in the area of Park Farm include a late 17th-early 18th century farm 100m to the west, and remains associated with the nearby medieval village of Netherton. House platforms are present as earthworks on the north-west bank of the stream, along with the remains of medieval ridge and furrow.

A preserved tree, which had fallen naturally, was recovered from the alluvial layer which overlay the natural shale bedrock. No anthropogenic features of archaeological significance or buried land surfaces were revealed.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1. In March 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Robert McGuiness of RLM Associates on behalf of Mr David Alsop to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Park Farm, Bradbourne, Derbyshire (Fig. 1). The site is centred at SK 22006 52380.
- 1.1.2. The work was carried out during flood mitigation groundworks requested by the Local Planning Authority in response to an application for planning permission for the building of a boundary wall around the perimeter of Park Farm.



Figure 1. Site location

Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

1.2. Geology and preservation

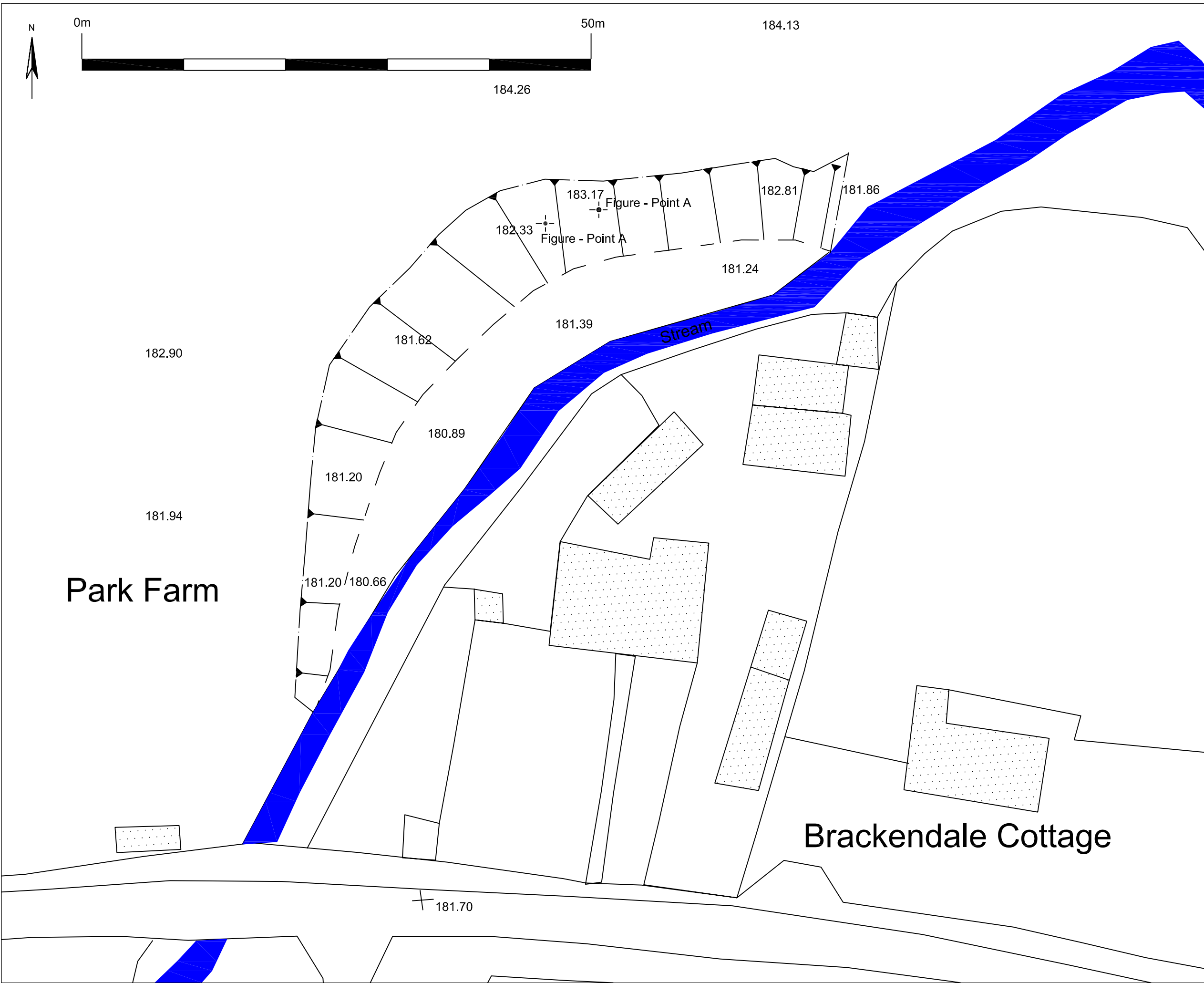
- 1.2.1. The solid geology of the site suggested by the British Geological Survey (1979) consists of interbedded limestone and mudstone of Widmerpool Formation. However, upon excavation it was found that the geology instead consisted of a shale and sandstone deposit with localised patches of boulder clay, overlain by alluvium.
- 1.2.2. The close proximity of the stream suggested that there was the potential for water-logged conditions throughout the site, as well as possible anaerobic conditions, depending on the depth of deposits and overburden.

1.3. Historical Background

The historical remains in the area of Park Farm include a late 17th to early 18th century farm 100m to the west, and remains associated with the nearby medieval village of Netherton. Medieval house platforms are present as earthworks on the north-west bank of the stream, along with the remains of medieval ridge and furrow. These remains have been entered in the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (DHER 2018).

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. The specification required that a watching brief should be carried out to observe any ground works taking place for the proposed development, in order to identify any potential archaeological remains. This involved monitoring the levelling of the area immediately north of the stream bank to a width of approximately 10 metres (varying depending on the location) and the chamfering of the subsequent slope that was created by the removal of the excess ground.
- 2.2. The area was excavated by machine, using a back-acting toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The machine removed the topsoil (001) in spits until the first potential archaeological horizon (003) was exposed. The surface was then cleaned using hand tools in order to expose any archaeological features. On finding no archaeological features the machine continued to excavate to the required depth.
- 2.1. A single context recording system was employed. Each layer encountered was given a unique context number and a full written description. Photographs were taken in black and white print and colour transparency in order to record the ground work, and plans and section drawings were also created.



Archaeological Research Services Ltd
 Angel House
 Portland Square
 Bakewell
 Derbyshire
 DE45 1HB

Site Code: PAR11
 Drawing Ref: 1
 Date: 06/04/2011
 Drawn: KM

Figure 2:
 Site plan

Key:

Notes:

Copyright/Licencing:
 This drawing
 © A.R.S. Ltd
 Ordnance Survey data if applicable
 © Crown Copyright, all rights reserved
 reproduced with permission. Licence
 No. 100045420

3. RESULTS

3.1 *Topsoil*

The topsoil (001) covered the whole of the excavated area and was an average depth of around 0.25m. It consisted of fine dark greyish brown sandy silt with inclusions of small stones.

3.2 *Subsoil*

The subsoil (002) consisted of bright mid yellowy orange sandy clay with a small amount of rounded pebble inclusions and was present throughout the excavated area. It was a maximum depth of 0.82m, with this depth staying fairly constant throughout. No features were observed other than two modern land drains situated towards the outer boundary of the excavated area.

3.3 *Alluvium*

Throughout the excavated area an alluvial clay deposit (003) was present directly beneath the subsoil layer, indicating that during the past this area was part of a flood plain. The stream is situated at the bottom of the valley, and so the alluvial layer will likely not be present further up the slope, above the level of flooding.

3.4 *Preserved tree*

A preserved, waterlogged tree was uncovered resting towards the lower extent of (003), approximately 0.1m above the natural shale. The tree was situated in a small, natural gully in the shale which had silted up with alluvium. The top part of the trunk remaining appears to have been charred, and several possible chop marks are also visible in the tree bark, though none indicating that the tree had been felled. The lower trunk and root area are present, however the upper trunk is missing, possibly indicating that this part of the tree was taken away. Hazelnuts were found around the area of the roots and a hollow was evident filled with alluvium around the area of the roots, indicating that the tree was positioned in this location before it fell.



Figure 3. View of the preserved tree looking north-east. The base of the tree is towards the left of the photograph. Scales = 1m.



Figure 4. Possible cut mark at the base of the trunk. The mark is wedge-shaped with smooth sides. Scale graduation = 0.2m

3.5 *Natural substratum*

Directly below the alluvial layer the natural substrata (004) and (005) were observed. (004) consisted of a shale and sandstone deposit of an unknown depth that extends across the entirety of the area that was excavated to this depth. Patches of a dark orange till deposit (005) were also visible in areas. The shale deposit begins approximately 2.6m below ground level at 147.33 OD.

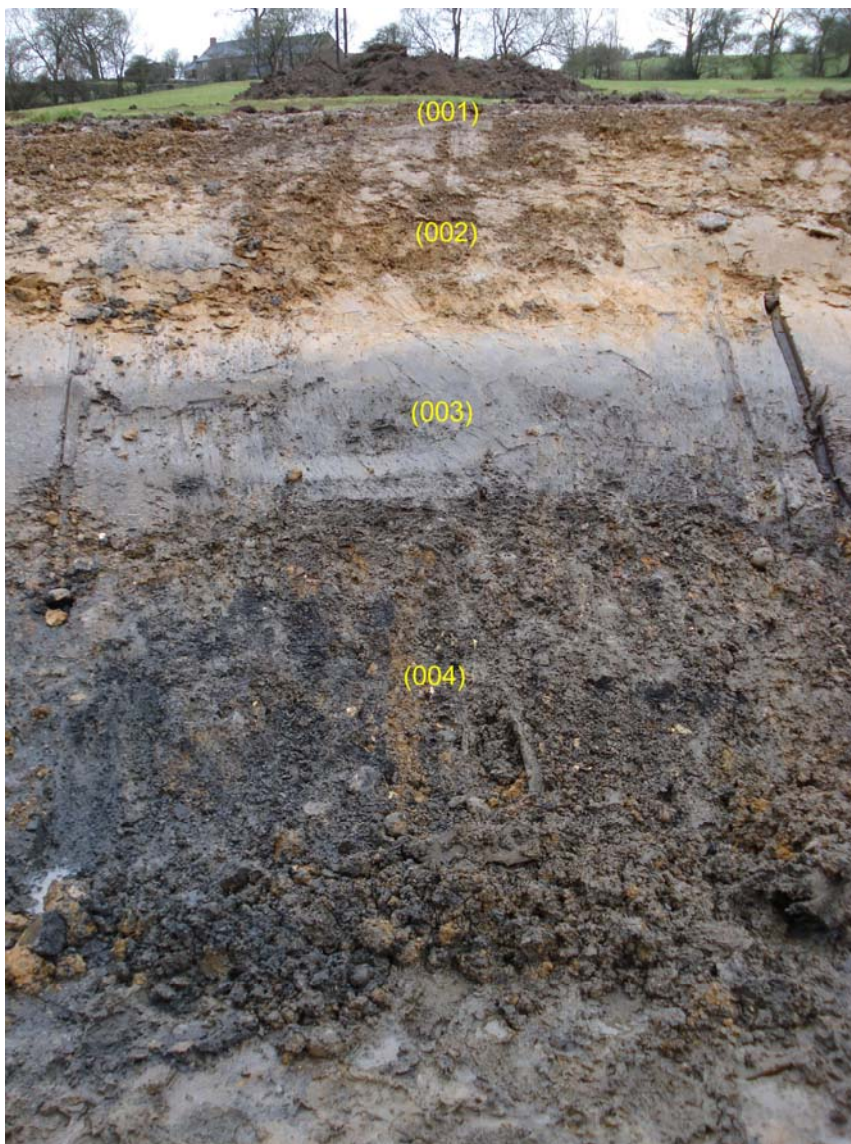


Figure 5. Photograph showing the stratigraphy of the excavated slope (looking north).

3.4 No other features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during the excavation process.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1. The potential chop marks and charring present on the tree suggest human activity in the immediate area, though no other features were observed that indicated habitation. The tree was located within, and towards the base of, the alluvial deposit, in a perceptible hollow. The tree therefore dates to early in the sequence of alluviation. The tree appears to still be in its original position, as the roots, and cavity caused by its falling, are still evident.

- 4.2. Other than the buried tree, there were no archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds located within the trenches. The presence of the alluvial layer in this area suggests that this was, and still is, a flood plain. Therefore, any features related to the medieval occupation of the area (evidenced by the house platforms to the west of the field) will be located further up the slope, away from the stream.

5. ARCHIVING AND PUBLICATION

- 5.1 A summary of the project, with selected drawings, illustrations and photographs, will be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication. The results of the work will be published at least in summary form in Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.
- 5.2 A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data. The archive will be deposited by September 2011. The Buxton Museum accession number for the project is DERSB 2010.62.

6. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

- 6.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 6.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

7. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

- 7.1 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.

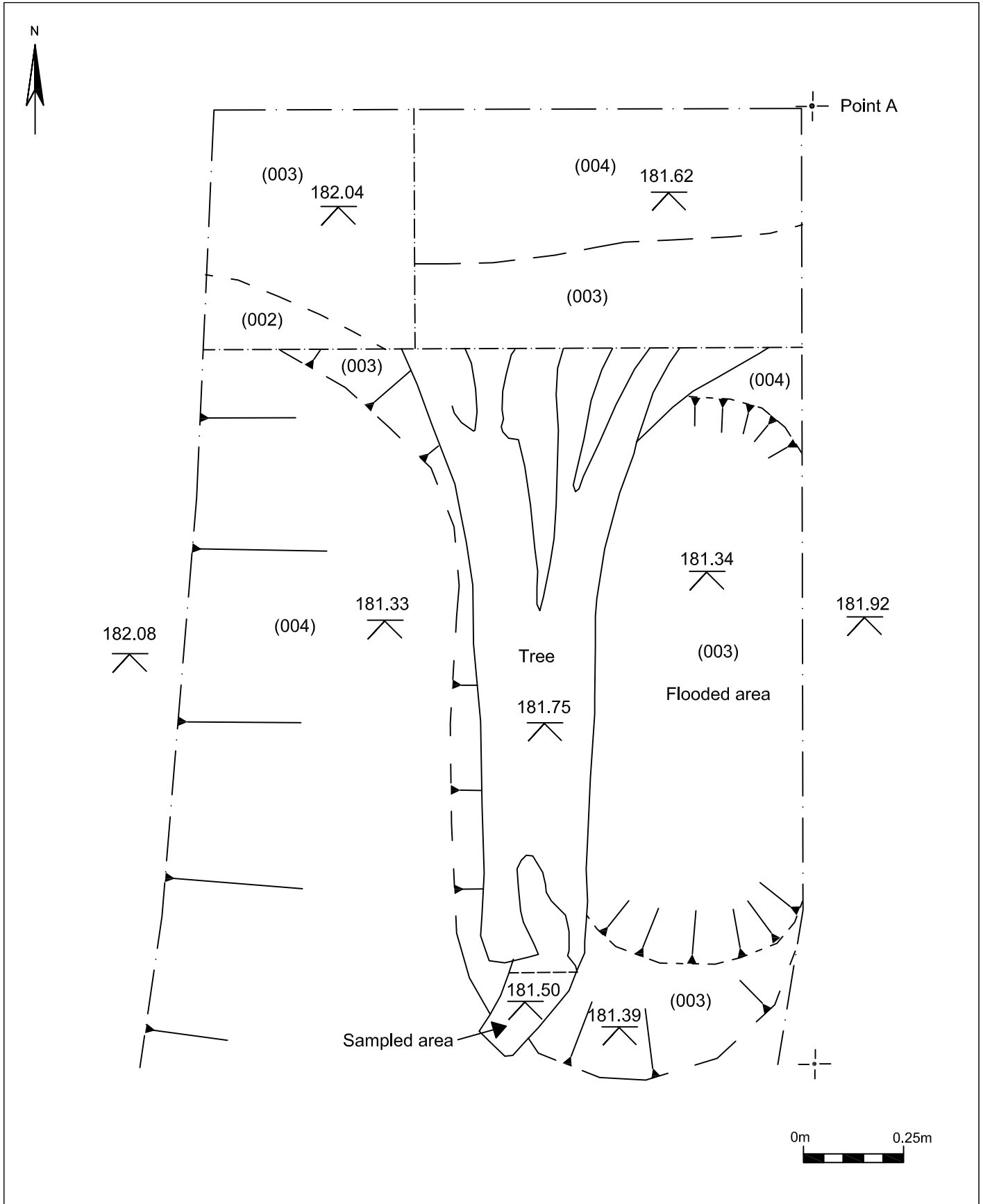
8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular Robert McGuinness of RLM Associates, Mr David Alsop and also Steve Baker of Derbyshire County Council.

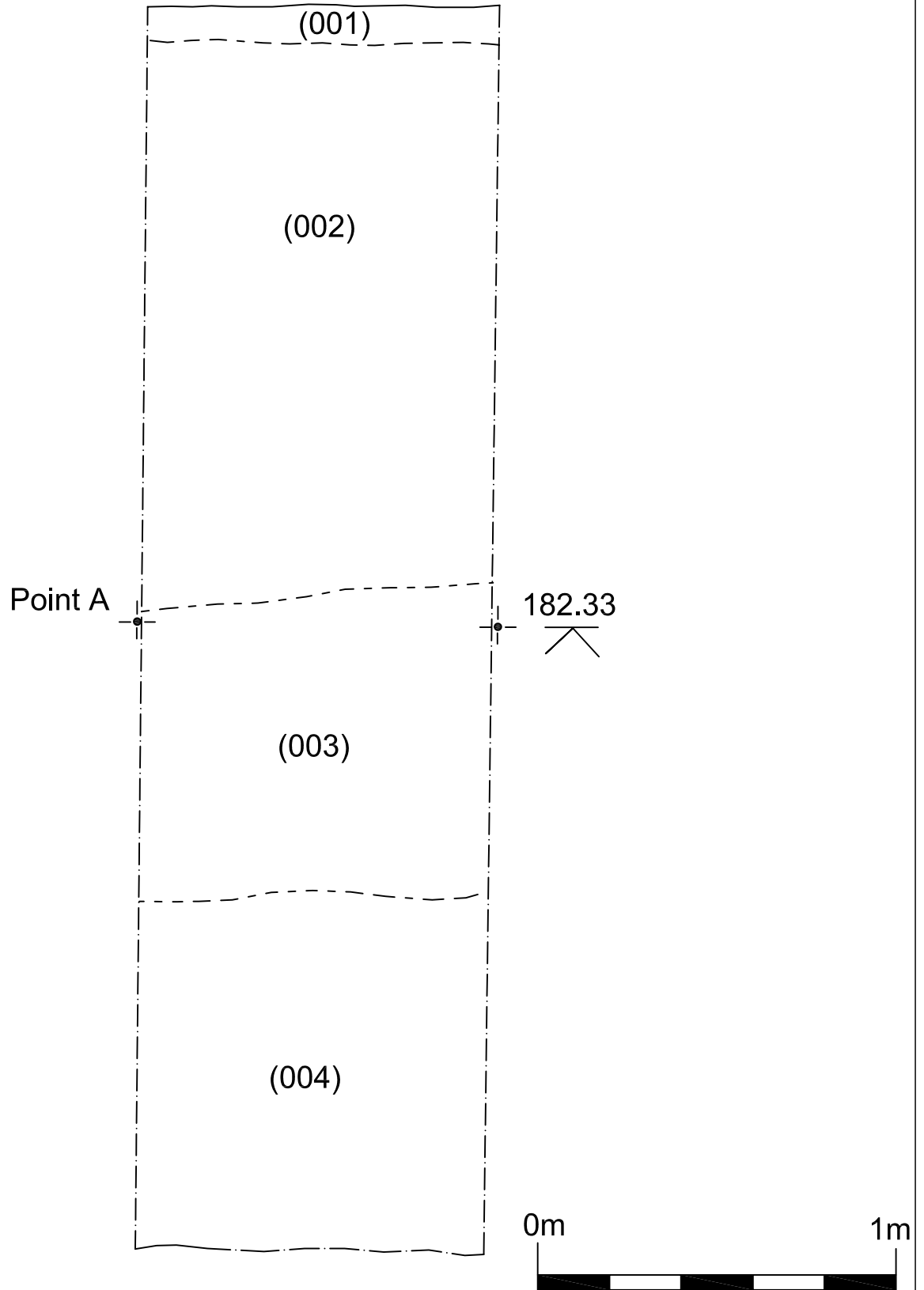
9. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 1979. *Geological Survey 1:50000 Map*. Third Edition (Solid). Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

APPENDIX I: DRAWINGS



<p>Archaeological Research Services Ltd Angel House Portland Square Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1HB</p> <p>Site Code: PAR11 Date: 01/04/2011 Drawn: KM</p>	<p>Figure 6: Plan of exposed tree</p> <hr/> <p>Notes:</p>	<p>Key:</p>	<p>Copyright/Licencing: This drawing © A.R.S. Ltd</p> <p>Ordnance Survey data if applicable © Crown Copyright, all rights reserved reproduced with permission. Licence No. 100045420</p>
--	---	-------------	---



Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Angel House
Portland Square
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Figure 7: Sample section

Key:

Site Code: PAR11
Date: 01/04/2011
Drawn: KM

Notes:

Copyright/Licencing:

This drawing
© A.R.S. Ltd

Ordnance Survey data if applicable
© Crown Copyright, all rights reserved
reproduced with permission. Licence
No. 100045420

APPENDIX II: OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol5-97534

Project details

Project name	Park Farm, Bradbourne
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief at Park Farm, Bradbourne
Project dates	Start: 30-03-2011 End: 01-04-2011
Previous/future work	Not known / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	2018 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	FARMHOUSE Post Medieval
Monument type	HOUSE PLATFORM Medieval
Monument type	RIDGE AND FURROW Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE DERBYSHIRE DALES BRADBOURNE Park Farm, Bradbourne
Postcode	DE6
Study area	1875.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 22006 52380 53.0679048678 -1.671544771440 53 04 04 N 001 40 17 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 180.66m Max: 184.26m

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	James Brightman
Project supervisor	Kate Mapplethorpe

Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner
 Name of sponsor/funding body Mr. David Alsop

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
 Physical Archive ID DERSB 2010.62
 Physical Contents 'Wood'
 Digital Archive recipient Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
 Digital Archive ID DERSB 2010.62
 Digital Contents 'Wood'
 Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
 Paper Archive recipient Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
 Paper Archive ID DERSB 2010.62
 Paper Contents 'none'
 Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at Park Farm, Derbyshire
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Mapplethorpe, K.
 Other bibliographic details ARS 2011/28
 Date 2011
 Issuer or publisher Archaeological Research Services Ltd.
 Place of issue or publication Bakewell
 Entered by Kate Mapplethorpe (kate@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
 Entered on 11 May 2011

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice
 © ADS 1996-2006 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Friday 3
 February 2006
 Cite only: /dl/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page