

Walsall Wood Head Gear Sculpture – Trust Land Report

Service Area: Regeneration

Wards: Aldridge North and Walsall Wood

1. Summary of report

This report requests Council as trustees on behalf of Cannock Chase and Pelsall District Miners Charity, for land at Oak Park, Walsall Wood to approve proposals for a piece of public art celebrating the mining heritage of the area.

2. Recommendations

That Council acting as trustees on behalf of Cannock Chase and Pelsall District Miners Charity, for the land approves the installation of the piece of public art to the site at Oak Park, Walsall Wood subject to planning permission being granted and consent being given for the long-term maintenance of the installations

3. Background information

- 3.1 As part of the September 2007 Cabinet approved Strategic Corridors and Gateways programme, £194,910 has been allocated to improve the A461 corridor, and in particular the section of the corridor within Walsall Wood local centre, in order to improve the visual appearance of the area through a series of environmental and highway improvements and through the installation of public artwork.
- 3.2 Of the total budget, £45,000 was allocated to public artwork and the appointed company, Industrial Heritage Stronghold has devised five pieces of public artwork that will make a public art trail through Walsall Wood. Each of these pieces celebrates the areas industrial heritage and community spirit with artworks depicting the use of the canal network, mining history and community cohesion.
- 3.3 The largest piece of the art trail is a replica of the Walsall Wood No.1 Pit Mine Head Gear, which will be situated close to its original site at the rear of the Oak Park Leisure Centre. The sculpture will be 13.75m in height and covers a total area of 60.56m². The land is currently maintained by the Greenspaces Service and discussions are currently taking place to agree whether their service can maintain the artwork on a long-term basis.
- 3.4 Design drawings and a location plan for this site can be seen in the appendix.

4. Resource considerations

- 4.1 The artwork fabrication and installation will be funded through the Council's Strategic Corridors and Gateways Programme 2008/09: This programme was approved by Council in February 2008. This funding is subject to formal approval of slippage funds into 2009/2010.
- 4.2 It is hoped that subject to a satisfactory agreement being reached that the future maintenance will be undertaken by the Greenspaces Service who currently maintain the existing open space. Should no agreement be reached then alternative methods of maintaining this artwork are being explored by senior managers in the Neighbourhood and Regeneration Directorates.

5. Citizen impact

- 5.1 The aim of the Strategic Corridors and Gateways Programme is to improve the quality of the environment along key commuter routes in to Walsall town centre and between the district centres in order to raise their visual appearance and attract people and businesses to live, work and invest in the borough. The environmental improvements that have been implemented as part of the Walsall Wood project have seen improvements made to the open areas at Brooklands Road/ Coppice Road and the frontage of the library along with highways and lighting improvements along the main High Street. These improvements have improved both the image and environment of Walsall Wood and it is felt that the artwork trail that includes the Mine Head at Oak Park will further improve the quality of the area.
- 5.2 Community consultation has been undertaken recently to ensure that the opinions of the Walsall Wood community have been considered and more than 90% of the forty one responses that were received concerning the Mine Head were positive. A planning application has also been submitted to the planning authority and through neighbourhood consultation it will give residents of Walsall Wood a further opportunity to comment on the Mine Head proposals.

6. Community safety

- 6.1 The aim of the community workshops was to engage the community in the design process as a means of encouraging residents to take 'ownership' of the sculptures. The consultation exercises have helped to limit any concerns or issues that residents may have had about the sculpture's robustness and to demonstrate how anti-vandalism design has been incorporated. The consultation has also sought to engage the input of the Police and Council departments in the design process.
- 6.2 The structure will be constructed from robust materials that will be difficult to physically damage and the piece has been designed so that it will be difficult to make an attempt to climb the structure. Consultation with the Police has been undertaken to ensure that their views on these issues have been considered and it is hoped that any concerns that residents may have will be limited by involving the Police in the ongoing consultations.

7. Environmental impact

It is felt that this structure will enhance the physical appearance of the environment around Walsall Wood and encourage residents to use this open space, which is currently underused.

8. Performance and risk management issues

8.1 Performance

These designs support the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan's vision that Walsall will be a great place to live, work and invest, where people feel proud to live, having high quality distinctive design of buildings and space.

8.2 Risk

(i) Risk identified that all relevant individuals and groups must be consulted fully on proposals for the area. Planning consent is being sought from the local authority for the sculpture, which will allow for further consultation, whilst consent has already been given by the Charities Commission for the sculpture.

(ii) Consideration for any risk to public safety was made through the installation of the sculpture and discussions were held with a Risk and Insurance Officer to discuss any issues that may arise. The officer was happy that the structure was low risk to the safety of the community, however he suggested some design changes which were made and have been incorporated into the design drawings.

9. Equality implications

9.1 The project has aimed to engage with all sectors of the Walsall Wood community. The project steering group was invited to represent a number of community organisations and partners, including local residents, faith groups, businesses and pupils from Shire Oak School.

9.2 Industrial Heritage Stronghold have been discussing proposals with local schools and Wolverhampton College, whilst also visiting local residents who remember the original Mine Head before it was demolished in the 1960's. The consultation event on Saturday 7th March was held at a centrally located venue on Walsall Wood High Street and was held at a time when the majority of residents would be available to take part.

10. Consultation

10.1 A public consultation event took place on the 7th March and attracted approximately seventy individuals with forty one providing feedback on the pieces of public artwork. Positive responses from the public about the head gear sculpture included;

- "Fantastic looking piece, very representative of an old mining village".
- "Great symbol of Walsall Wood's past".
- "I am very pleased the pit [sculpture] has been proposed for Walsall Wood as my Grandfather worked down the pit for many years".
- "A great idea, a modern sculpture showing off the tradition of Walsall Wood".
- "Very well designed and a great place to erect it".
- "Excellent as a reminder of our past heritage".
- "Will be a lasting commemoration of the history of mining in Walsall Wood".
- "Keeps history of Walsall Wood as a mining village".

10.2 Further consultation had been held with the Walsall Wood Arts Steering Group, which includes a number of local residents from the area and the three local ward members. All members agreed to the proposals before the project was moved forward to public consultation. The Brownhills and Aldridge North LNP, were also consulted before the full public consultation and were also in full support of the proposals for the pieces of public art. The Walsall Wood Arts Steering Group will continue to be engaged in the delivery of the project through to completion.

Background papers

- Walsall Strategic Corridors and Gateway Initiative A454 and A461 Regeneration Framework Cabinet Report 19th September 2007
- Walsall Wood Art Work Location Plan
- Walsall Wood Design Drawings

Author

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Signed:

Executive Director:

Date: 7 April 2009

DRAWING NOTE:

No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing.
The Contractor shall verify all dimensions on site.
Final structures dimensions are subject to change.

Date of drawing (1st edition) 23/1/2009

Width of top section 2000mm.

Top section and bracing bars to be constructed from 100mm x 100mm x 5mm angle iron.

Wheels to be fabricated with 25mm rod spokes, 12mm rolled steel strap and 8mm plate for profile aspect.

Diameter of wheel 3500mm

Bolted gusset plates to be profile cut from 12mm steel plate.

Structural sections to be 230mm x 80mm x 12mm mild steel channel section.

Sectional Front Elevation
Looking North North West from Oak Park onto Coppice Road.

Total height of headgear (excluding flagpole) 13750mm

Height to winding wheel axle 9750mm

Height of text plate 3750mm

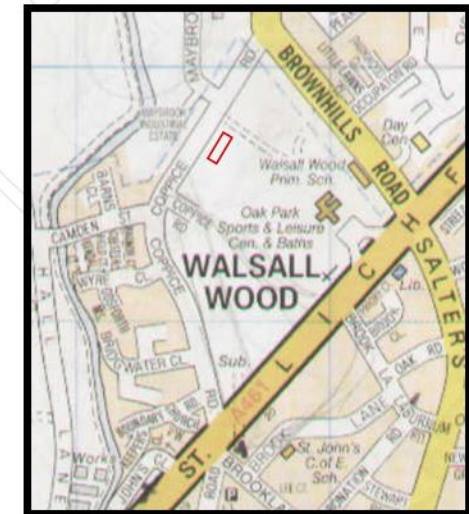
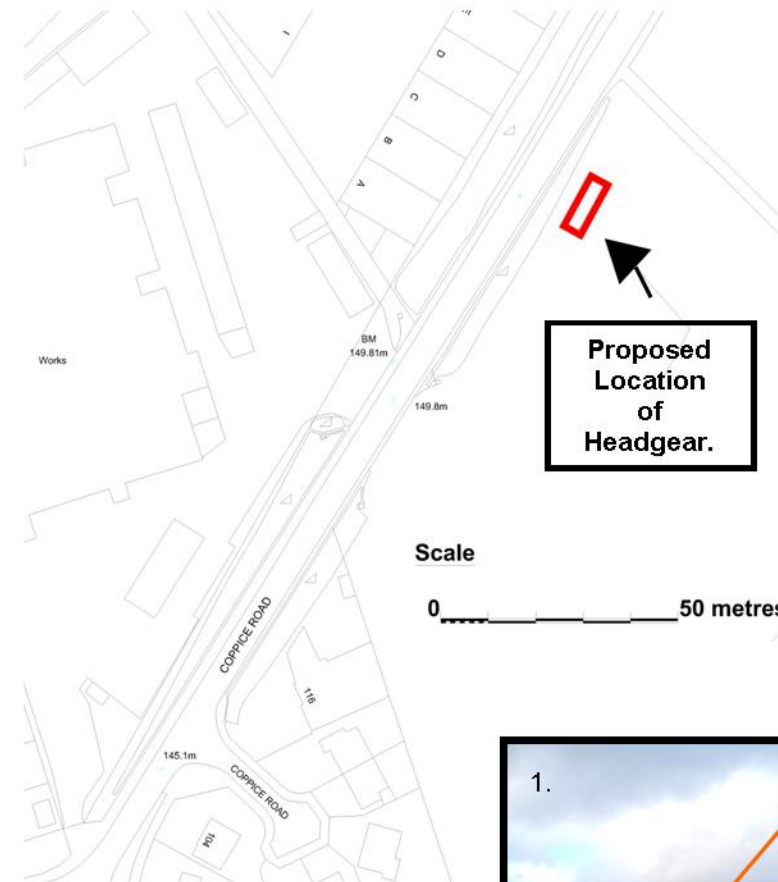
Height to bracing strut 2750mm

Width of base section 3500mm

Total length of Headgear to be 12750mm

WALSALL WOOD – HEAD GEAR SCULPTURE

TO BE SITUATED IN OAK PARK, COPPICE ROAD END.



Existing Site Photo's

1. Looking North from Oak Park to Coppice Road.
2. Looking NNW from the High Street above the subway, across the re-claimed Colliery railway area, now Oak Park.
3. Looking NNW from Oak Park onto Coppice Rd.



NOTE:

No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing but from scale model acc.
The Contractor shall verify all dimensions on site.
Final structures dimensions are subject to change.

Date of drawing (1st edition) 23/1/2009



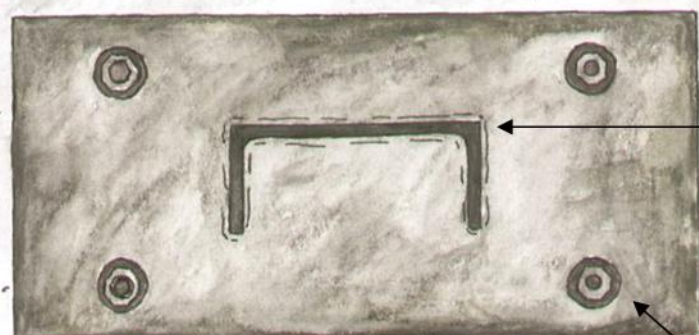
WALSALL WOOD — HEAD GEAR SCULPTURE



TO BE SITUATED IN OAK PARK, COPPICE ROAD END.

SIDE ASPECT AND BASE PLATE DETAILS.

Width of Plate 420mm



Base Plate detail
(birdseye view).

Structural sections to be 230mm x 80mm x 12mm rolled mild steel channel section and welded to the base plate.

Length of plate 730mm

Upright of one of the 230mm channel steel legs of the winding gear.

All legs of the winding gear, including bracing diagonal section to be cobbled at base to prevent interference with the structural bolts etc.

4 x 25mm 8.8 locknuts and according washers to each base plate. Fixed with 'Loctite' thread fastening solution.

Leg strut and base plate attachment detail.



Plate depth 20mm.

25mm Threaded holding down bolts to be cast into the concrete pad with washers at the base. Four to each base plate.

Total height of headgear (excluding flagpole) 13750mm

Width of headgear at top section 3000mm

The flag will be laser cut from copper with the letters BCB as fitting for the period.

2 Winding Wheels to be spaced equally either side of the Text panel.

Headgear side aspect looking North-East

Gusset plates on the side aspect also to be 12mm steel. And found at every joint for both aesthetic and structural Reasons.

Width of base section at ground level 4750mm



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4 Lightwoods Rd Pedmore,
Stourbridge DY9 0TW.
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E-Mail: mr.l.perry@gmail.com

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Date of drawing (1st edition) 23/1/2009



WALSALL WOOD — HEAD GEAR SCULPTURE



TO BE SITUATED IN OAK PARK, COPPICE ROAD END.
VISUALISATIONS TAKEN FROM THE ACCOMPANYING SCALE MODEL

Utilising Site Photo's Of The Oak Park Site



1. The artwork looking North-North-West from Oak Park onto Coppice Rd.
2. The Pitt Head seen from the High Street looking directly North along Oak Park.
3. Looking upon the Pithead diagonally North from Oak Park to Coppice Road.



All visualisations are artistic representations only and in such act as an approximate estimate to the finished piece. Measurements such as angles, height and site placement are subject to change. The images above act as a guide to the understanding of the piece only.

NOTE:

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The Contractor shall verify all dimensions on site.

Final structures dimensions are subject to change.

Date of drawing (1st edition) 23/1/2009

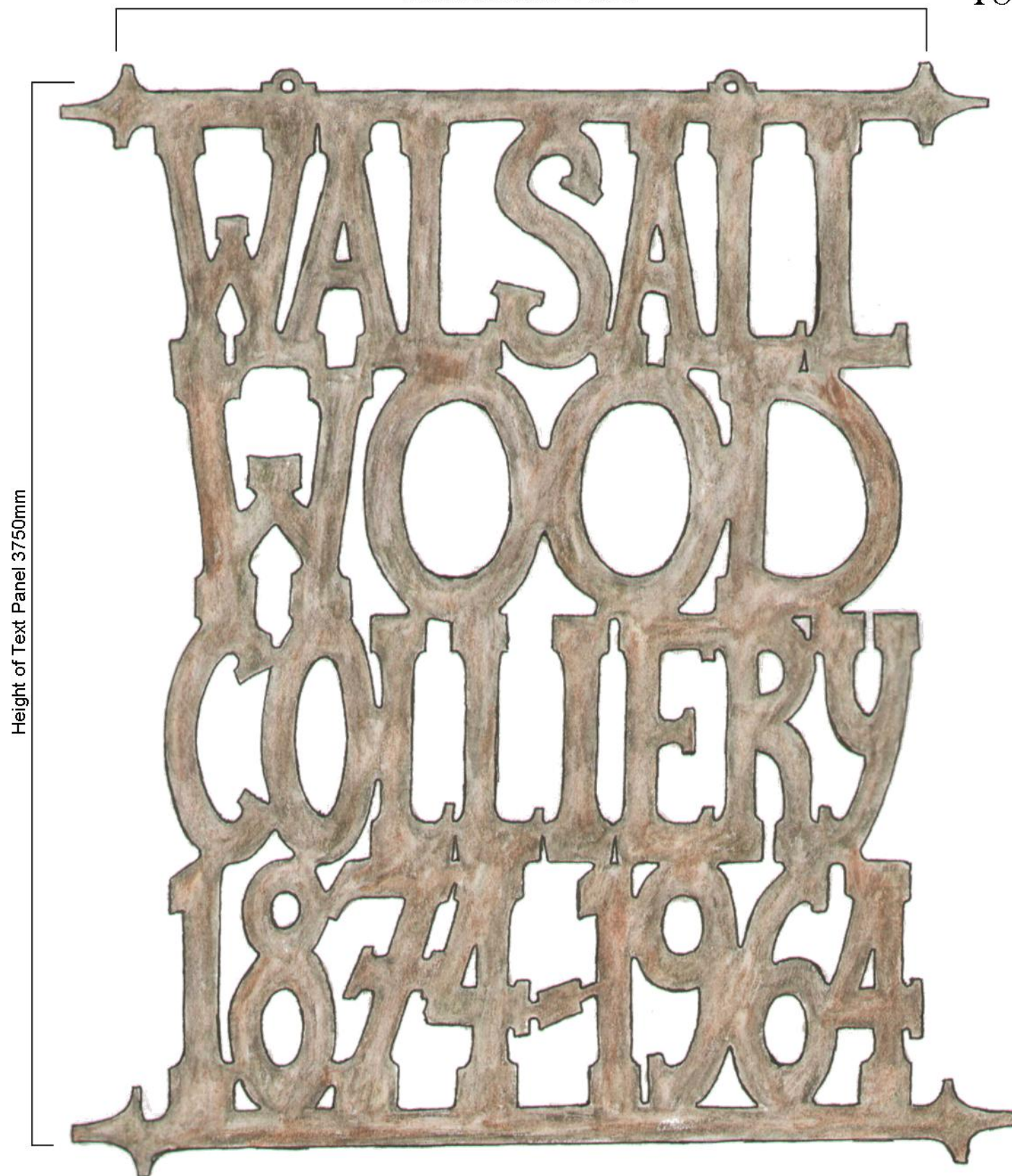
Details of the Text

The Text will be laser cut from two pieces of 8mm mild steel and welded together at the point where the bottom of the 'WOOD' text and the 'COLLIERY' text meet to give the impression of a singular piece. As well as being welded they will be re-enforced with 5mm x 50mm x 50mm angle iron to prevent buckling or bowing over time.

There will be two securing eye holes cut into the plate at the top of the text and re-enforced with 10mm steel matching plates. The text will then be suspended from a supporting joist with shackles and threaded eye bolts.

The finish of the text will be self coloured, this will allow the steel to weather naturally and orange with time. This is so that the text appears slightly different in colour and patina to the black of the Headgear. Though the text will be allowed to weather it will not corrode or thin beyond levels of safety for over a century, possibly two.

Width of text Panel 2750mm

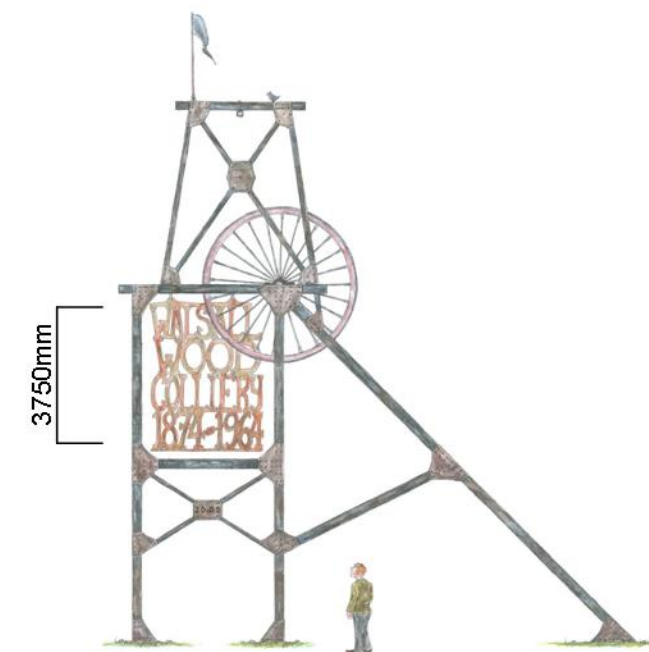


Height of Text Panel 3750mm

HEADGEAR TEXT

TO BE HUNG BETWEEN THE WINDING
WHEELS.

GENERAL OVERVIEW .

**Walsall Wood Colliery 1874—1964**

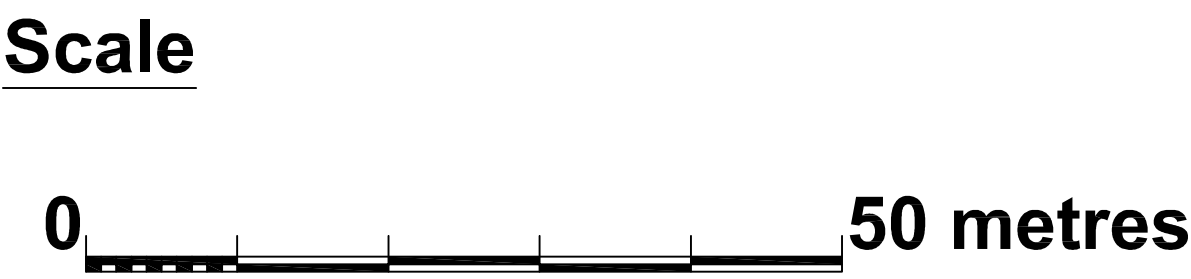
After research from numerous books, interviews with past workers in the Walsall Wood Colliery and most notable, an interview with Brian Rollins, (writer and editor of most of the literature on the subject of the Cannock Chase Coalminers) it has been agreed un-questionably that the appropriate dates are 1874— 1964.,

These dates describe the beginning and end of the life of Walsall Wood Colliery. From 1874, when the first pit was sunk at the Colliery to 1964 when Geoff Trawford was the last man out of the Pitt Bottom, in his black and Coal was never to be drawn from that place again.

At it's peak it drew an impressive 6,5000 tonnes of coal from the earth in a week despite the poor working conditions and constant hazards that the workers faced daily.

**Proposed Location
of Sculpture**

**Existing Football
Pitch 90.6M. x 56.3M.**



19th March 2009: location of existing football pitch shown.

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Walsall Council

REGENERATION - DEVELOPMENT & DELIVERY

PROJECT: **PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE**

LOCATION: **COPPICE ROAD, WALSALL WOOD**

DRAWING TITLE: **PROPOSED LOCATION**

SCALE: **1:500 @ A0 size**

DRAWN BY:

APPROVED BY:

DRAWING No.: **ERS 41781/1**

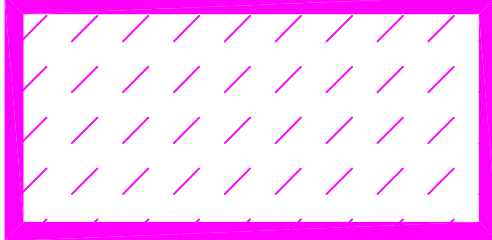
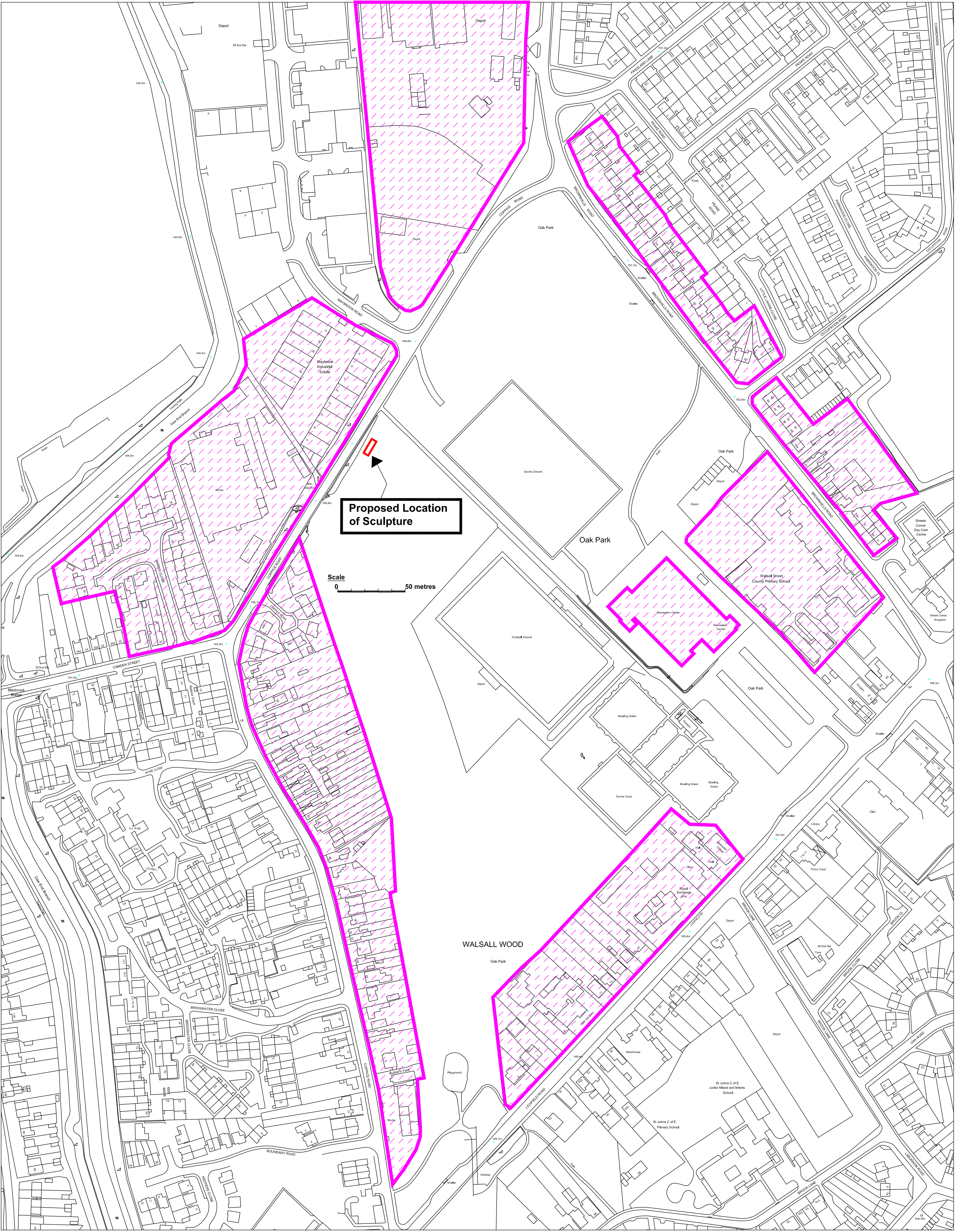
REVISION:

DATE: **15.01.2009**

DATE:

FILE No.:

IMPORTANT
The Contractor will be responsible for setting out the work. All dimensions must be obtained or checked on the site. Figured dimensions to be used in preference to scale.



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REGENERATION - DEVELOPMENT & DELIVERY

PROJECT: PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE

LOCATION: COPPICE ROAD, WALSALL WOOD

DRAWING TITLE: PROPOSED LOCATION

SCALE: 1:1250 @ A0 size

REVISION:

DRAWN BY:

DATE: 15.01.2009

APPROVED BY:

DATE:

DRAWING No.: ERS 41781

FILE No.:

IMPORTANT
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