

Field to the North of Springfield House, off Jacksons Lane, Burgh-le-Marsh,
Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR:	TF50315 65265
Planning Ref.:	Pre-application
Archive acc. no.:	2013.129
Site code:	SHBE13
PCAS job no.:	1056

Prepared for

Diluce and Brown

by

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Summary

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd were commissioned to undertake a scheme of archaeological trial trenching in advance of a housing development on Field to the North of Springfield House, Burgh le Marsh; the results of which are to be used in support of the planning application.

Three trial trenches were excavated on the site yielding a sequence of natural deposits and drainage features leading to the Catchwater drain which bounds the site to the north and east.

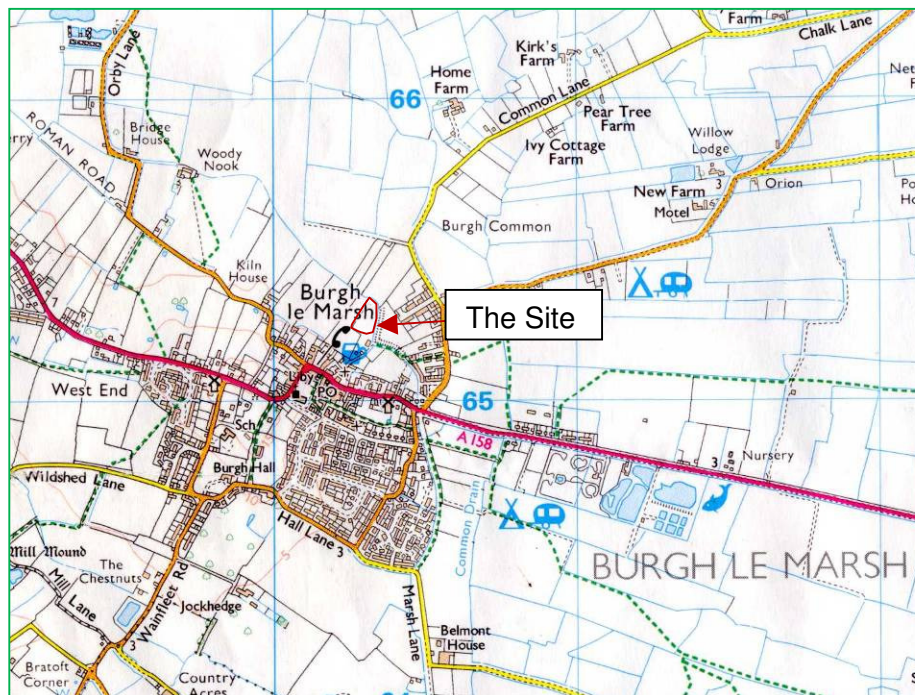


Figure 1: Location of the proposed development site at scale 1:25,000.(OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Diluce and Brown to carry out a scheme of archaeological evaluation trenching in advance of a housing development on 'Field to the north of Springfield House', Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire.

2.0 Location and Description (Fig. 1)

Burgh le Marsh is approximately 6.5km northwest of Skegness, and lies within the administrative district of East Lindsey. It is a former small market town, now categorised as a 'main village' in the ELDC Local Plan (ELDC 1997). Burgh le Marsh centres on High Street which was, until recently, the main road to Skegness, but a bypass has since taken the A158 around the northern edge of the village.

The proposed development site is located north of High Street, at the northern limits of existing residential developments. The site is currently pasture land bounded to the north and east by Catchwater Drain, to the south by residential housing and to the west by a tree/hedge boundary to playing fields.

The site Central National Grid Reference is TF 5031 6526

3.0 Geology and Topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is Tealby formation mudstones and clays and Claxby Ironstone Formation Clay. The drift geology comprises Till boulder clay; chalk rich sandy gravelly clay (BGS, 1996).

The site is relatively flat, lying at an approximate Ordnance Datum height of 3m OD.

4.0 Planning background

Planning permission is being sought for a housing development at 'Field to the North of Springfield House', Burgh le Marsh. The results of this evaluation will be used in support of this application.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

The site lies within the Lincolnshire Outmarsh, a term given to the coastal zone of east Lincolnshire to the north of Gibraltar Point. In this area the uneven topography of chalk hills, post-glacial boulder-clay and outwash sands and gravels has been buried and levelled by later sediments. During the early prehistoric period the land extended to the east of the present coastline, and until the Bronze Age the sea was not a significant influence on the area (Tann, 2011).

Infrequent Palaeolithic, and more commonly Mesolithic and Neolithic, artefacts indicate human activity where the post-glacial land surface was higher. Environmental evidence of cereal pollen suggests that some cultivation (and almost certainly occupation) was taking place locally during the Neolithic period (*Ibid.*).

The coastline moved inland during the Bronze Age, retreating gradually during the Iron Age. Salt processing was an important theme in the Outmarsh from the late Bronze Age to the late sixteenth century which exploited the exceptional seasonal tides; though the

concentrations of these are located to the northeast of Burgh le Marsh at Ingoldmells and Addlethorpe (*Ibid*).

A Roman settlement is believed to have existed at Burgh le Marsh, where burials have been found, and finds of pottery, tile and coins, although it has proved difficult to ascertain the size or status of this settlement (Whitwell, 1992). Plotting of present-day contours suggests that the settlement at Burgh le Marsh could have been on a south-facing coastline, in a position to serve a ferry linking Lincolnshire with the Norfolk coast. The post-glacial land surface of boulder-clay and gravels rose above 15m OD to the south-west of the modern settlement and this produced a relatively high spot in the surrounding landscape (Tann, 2011).

An archaeological evaluation conducted in advance of development off Chapman Avenue in 1997 found 2nd-4th century Roman pottery and occupation features. A Roman burial (HER 41574), surrounded by tiles, has been found in the Burgh le Marsh churchyard, and numerous findspots of 2nd-4th century pottery and metalwork have been recorded in the vicinity of the church and Hall Lane (HER 40583, 46732). These sites include indications of metal working and farming (*Ibid*)

The projected alignment of the Roman road from Lincoln (HER 51242) goes to Burgh le Marsh and may have extended beyond to 'Tric', another Roman coastal settlement to the south-east of modern Skegness (Margary 1973, 238-240). Its exact alignment east of Orby Road, through Burgh le Marsh remains uncertain but it may have passed to the south of High Street. This line crosses 'The Causeway' (HER 41532) (now within the Barnack housing estate) and the name has been interpreted as evidence of a Roman road (Tann, 2011).

Burgh le Marsh is mentioned in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086 as Burch/Burg (fortified place), and had acquired the 'marsh' qualifier by 1275 in order to distinguish it from Burgh on Bain, also in the South Riding of Lindsey (Cameron 1998, 23). The place name may refer to post-Roman fortifications but it is probable that Roman structures remained visible when the name was applied.

Few Anglo-Saxon finds have been reported from Burgh le Marsh, although several came from the high ground close to the church. They include two coins (HER 41544, 41547) found on separate development sites, and a scatter of pottery (41822). Saxon human remains (HER 43596) excavated from Cock Hill in 1933 were thought to date the site as a Saxon burial mound, but the bones are now believed to have been imported from elsewhere when the mound was constructed in the 17th century. Close to Hall Lane, on lower ground to the south, archaeological investigations have found a 5th-7th century loomweight and pottery from both the 5th-7th and 10-12th centuries. Saxon smithing slag and hearth bottoms indicated ironworking were found on the site, and a ditch was identified (Tann, 2011).

Medieval occupation material has been found at several locations within the settlement core but also close to Chapman Avenue (HER 41542) and to the east of Ingoldmells Road (HER 43361). To the east of the Catchwater Drain, findspots may indicate the spread of rubbish as manure on fields rather than dispersed habitation sites (*Ibid*).

The 1889 Pre WWII 1:25,000 map shows the site has open undeveloped land bounded by the Catchwater Drain (Old Maps.co.uk). This appears to have remained unchanged until the present. Outmarsh land was typically characterised by long, narrow grass fields separated by a network of water-filled ditches.

Although evidence from the prehistoric period through to the modern era have been identified from Burgh le Marsh and the surrounding area, the development site is seemingly devoid of recorded activity. Its location on low lying Outmarsh land, some

400m north of the proposed alignment of the Roman Road and outside the known medieval to present settlement makes this unsurprising.

6.0 Methodology

Three 2m x 20m trenches were positioned to evaluate potential archaeology within the proposed development footprints and their location confirmed by the ELDC Archaeological Advisor. They were located by hand using triangulation from existing boundaries. Trench 3 had to be relocated c. 8m to the southwest of its intended position due to the presence of a gas main.

The evaluation trenches were opened under archaeological supervision with a toothless bucket to the first archaeologically significant horizon or the natural geology where no archaeology was present. Archaeological deposits and features encountered were cleaned and defined by hand.

Where identified, archaeological features were examined sufficiently to determine their date, character and survival condition and then recorded by measured plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (1:100 and 1:20 respectively).

A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature was recorded on standard PCAS context recording forms. These were to be supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary. A colour slide film photographic record, supplemented by digital photography, was maintained during the course of the archaeological intervention, a selection from which is reproduced in Appendix 1.

No non-modern finds were recovered during the works

The fieldwork was carried out by Julian Sleaf from the 13th June to the 17th June 2013. . Following completion of the fieldwork the site boundary and trench locations were accurately recorded using GPS by Simon Savage.

7.0 Results (Figs. 2-3)

Trench 1 was situated in the southwest of the site and was orientated northeast-southwest. This revealed only natural deposits.

At 0.82m below the ground surface the natural drift geology, patches of mid orange sand, was revealed (105). This was sealed by a second drift deposit of mid greyish brown boulder clay (104). A 0.34m, thick stiff mid yellowish brown alluvial clay was observed to seal this (103), and a 0.20m thick mid brown clayey silt subsoil sealed that (102). The entire trench area was sealed by 0.21m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil and turf (101 & 100).

Trench 2 was positioned towards the southeast of the site and orientated northwest-southeast. This revealed only natural deposits and a series of modern drainage features.

The intervention revealed a similar deposit sequence to Trench 1. At its base, c. 0.80m below ground surface, boulder clay was exposed (204). This was beneath 0.24m of mid orangey brown alluvial sandy silt with moderate gravels (203). Sealing this was 0.24m of subsoil (202). Truncating the subsoil, running on a northeast-southwest alignment, were two modern land drains [205] & [207]. Both were c. 1m wide, filled with a mid-brown sandy silt (206) & (208), and both contained plastic pipes and frequent modern rubbish. The drains, which were not fully excavated, were sealed by topsoil and turf ((201) & (200) respectively).

Trench 3 was in the northeast of the site and was orientated northeast-southwest. This revealed natural deposits and two undated drains.

At the base of the trench c. 1m below ground surface the boulder clay was revealed (305). This was sealed by two distinct layers of alluvial clay (304) and (303). Truncating deposit (303) were two northwest-southeast aligned gullies [306] & [308]. Gully [306] was 0.76m wide, while [308] was slightly wider at 0.85m. These features were filled with mid-greyish brown silty clay (307) & (309). Although undated, the gullies are likely to represent drainage features, running to the Catchwater drain. These drains were sealed by the subsoil (302), and then topsoil (301) and turf layer (300).

8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The evaluation results indicate an area devoid of settlement activity, which is not unusual given its low lying nature and close proximity to the Catchwater drain. The trenches revealed a sequence of natural deposits and a series of drainage features leading to the Catchwater drain, bounding the site to the north and east. The earliest of the features were unfortunately undated by finds and were somewhat 'floating' between the subsoil and an alluvial deposit.

Given the nature of the site and the results obtained it is probably unlikely that further work would yield more significant archaeology, but could perhaps provide some form of dating evidence for the earlier drains.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology stated in the specification was a sufficient way of evaluating the archaeology on site, the results of which can be used to support the application for the development.

10.0 Project archive

The site archive, currently in the custody of PCAS Ltd., will be deposited with a bound copy of this report at The Collection, Lincoln, by December 2013. It may be consulted there by citing the global accession number, LCNCC 2013.129.

11.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. would like to thank Mr?? for this commission and for his co-operation during the groundworks.

12.0 References

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Old Maps.co.uk- <http://www.old-maps.co.uk>

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Field to the North of Springfield House, Burgh Le Marsh

Whitwell, J.B, 1992, *Roman Lincolnshire, History of Lincolnshire II*. History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Site shot looking North towards Catchwater Drain



Plates 2: Representative section of Trench 1 showing the boulder clay at the base of the trench (104). The alluvial deposit, subsoil and topsoil can clearly be seen in the section.



Plate 3: Trench 2 looking Northeast. The two modern drains can be seen running diagonally across the trench.



Plate 4: Representative section of Trench 3. The boulder clay can be seen in the base of the trench sealed by the alluvium and upper natural deposits.



Plate 5: Gully [306] looking southeast.



Plate 6: Gully [308] looking south.

Appendix 2: Context Register

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
100	Layer	Turf Layer, 0.10m thick	Modern
101	Layer	Dark brown clayey silt 0.21m thick topsoil	Modern
102	Layer	Mid brown clayey silt 0.20m thick subsoil	
103	Layer	Mid yellowish brown stiff alluvial clay with occasional limestone flecs, 0.34m thick	
104	Layer	Mid greyish brown clay with frequent limestone and chalk flecs, natural	
105	Layer	Bands of mid orange sand lying under 104, natural	

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
200	Layer	Turf Layer, 0.10m thick	Modern
201	Layer	Dark brown clayey silt 0.21m thick topsoil	Modern
202	Layer	Mid brown clayey silt 0.24m thick subsoil	
203	Layer	Mid orangey brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions, 0.24m thick alluvial deposit	
204	Layer	Mid greyish brown clay with frequent limestone and chalk flecs, natural	
205	Cut	Cut for modern drain leading to Main Drain to the north and east of the site. 1m wide 3m visible in length	
206	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent modern rubbish, sole fill of 205	Modern rubbish, cans, buckets etc
207	Cut	Same as 205	
208	Fill	Same as 206	

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
300	Layer	Turf layer, 0.11m	Modern
301	Layer	Mid brown clayey silt 0.24m thick topsoil	Modern
302	Layer	Mid orangey brown clayey silt 0.28m thick subsoil	
303	Layer	Pale orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions, 0.20m thick alluvial deposit	
304	Layer	Orangey greyish brown silty clay with manganese flecking, 0.20m thick alluvial deposit	
305	Layer	Mid greyish brown clay with frequent limestone and chalk flecks	
306	Cut	NW-SE aligned, flat based gully, 0.76m x 0.25m. Probable earlier drainage feature running to Main Drain	
307	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m thick sole fill of 306	
308	Cut	NW-SE turning S, flat based gully, 0.85m x 0.23m. Like 306	
309	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate small stones, 0.23m thick sole fill of 308	

Appendix 3: Oasis Form

OASIS ID: preconst3-155173

Project details

Project name Field to the North of Springfield House, Bugh le Marsh

Short description of the project Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd were commissioned to undertake a scheme of archaeological trial trenching in advance of a housing development on Field to the North of Springfield House, Burgh Le Marsh; the results of which are to be used in support of the planning application. Three trial trenches were excavated on the site yielding a sequence of natural deposits and a series of drainage features crossing the site leading to the Catchwater drain which bounds the site to the north and east.

Project dates Start: 13-06-2013 End: 17-06-2013

Any associated project reference codes SHBE13 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland

Monument type LAYERS Uncertain

Field to the North of Springfield House, Burgh Le Marsh

Monument type LAYERS Modern

Monument type GULLIES Uncertain

Methods techniques & "Sample Trenches"

Development type Housing estate

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process Pre-application

Project location

Country England

Site location LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY BURGH LE MARSH Field to the North of Springfield House, Burgh Le Marsh

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TF 50315 65265 53 0 53 09 46 N 000 14 55 E Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Organisation

Project brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
originator

Project design Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
originator

Project Will Munford
director/manager

Project supervisor Julian Sleep

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body



Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive No
Exists?

Digital Contents "none"

Paper Archive The Collection, Lincoln
recipient

Paper Contents "none"

Paper available Media "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Field to the North of Springfield House, Burgh Le Marsh

Author(s)/Editor(s) Keal, L

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher PCA Ltd

Place of issue or publication Lincoln

Description A4 heat bound grey literature report

Entered by laura (laura@pre-construct.co.uk)

Entered on 17 July 2013

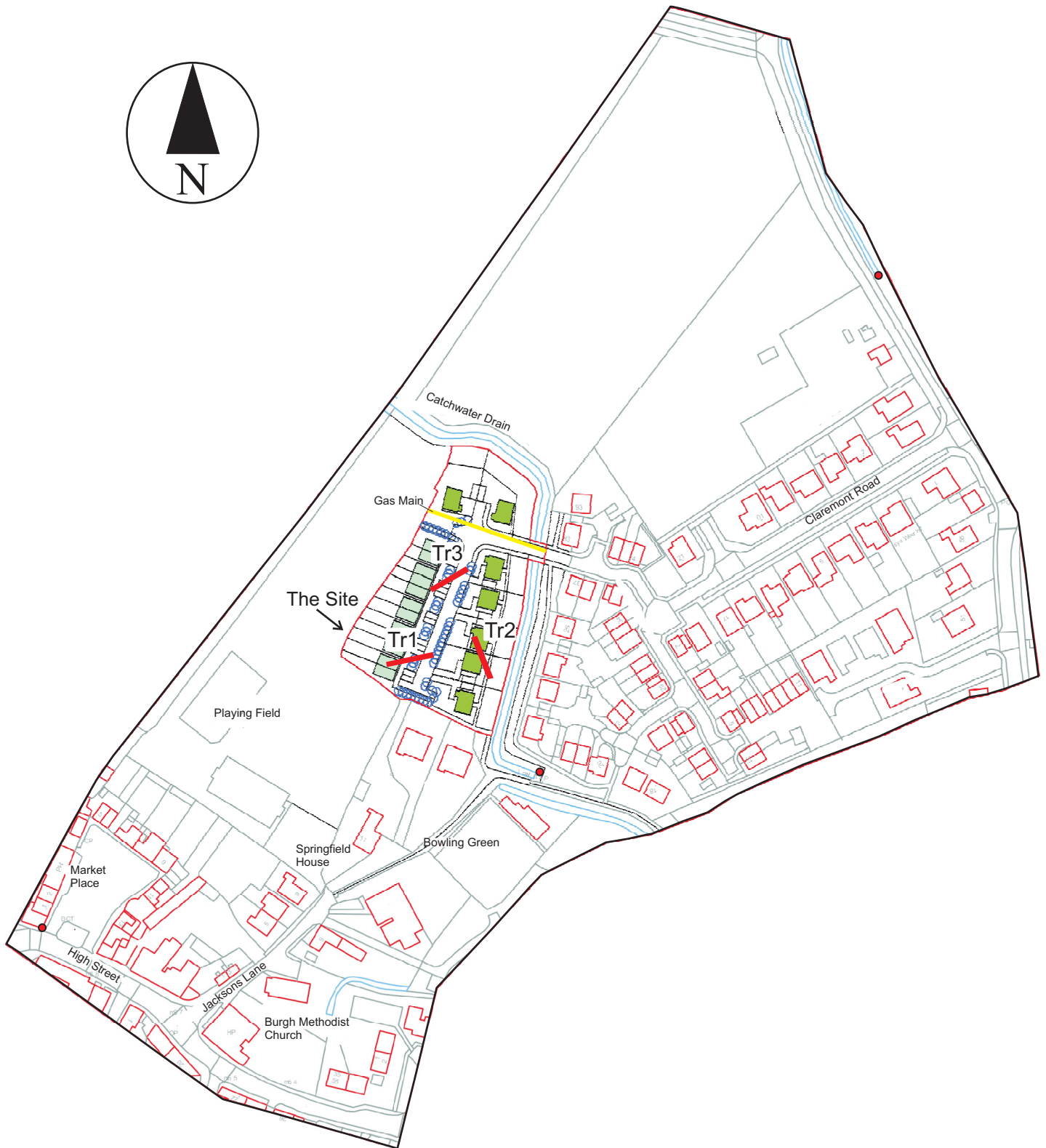


Figure 2: Site Location Map showing location of Trenches. Scale 1:2500@A4

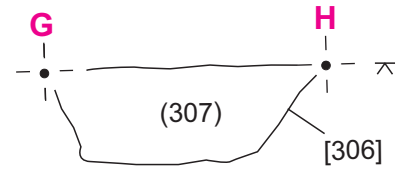
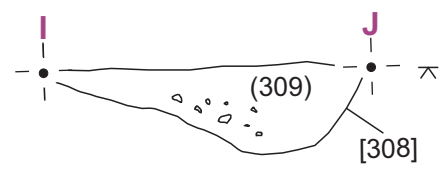
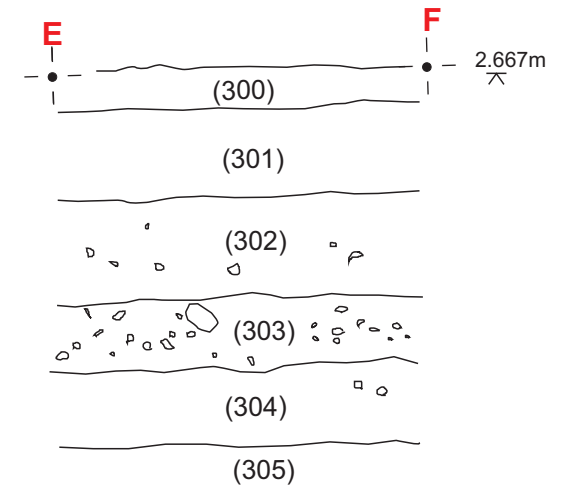
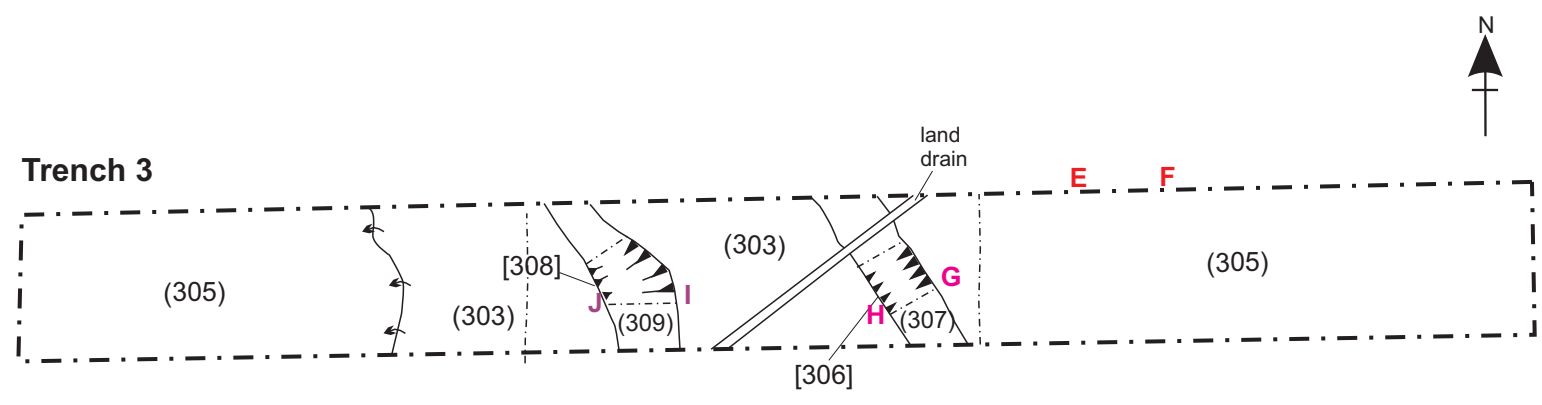
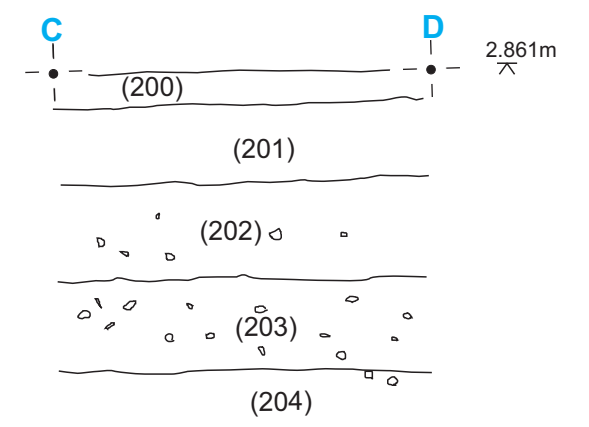
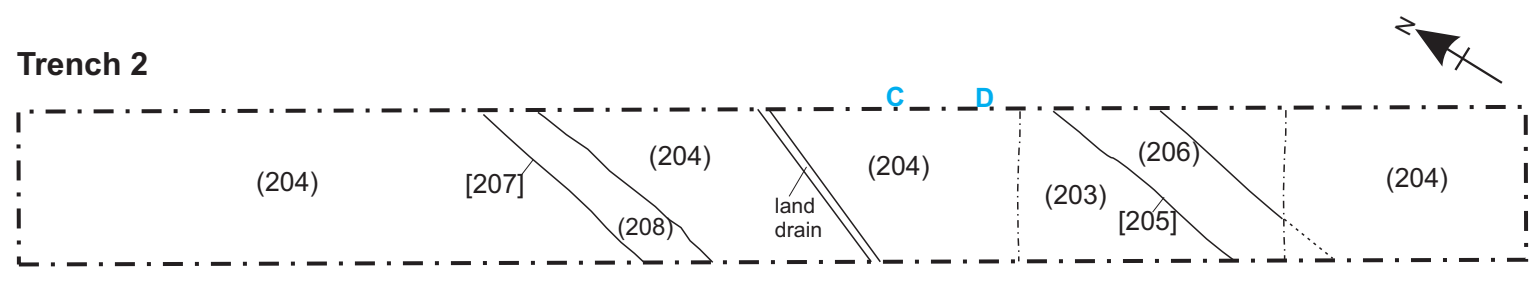
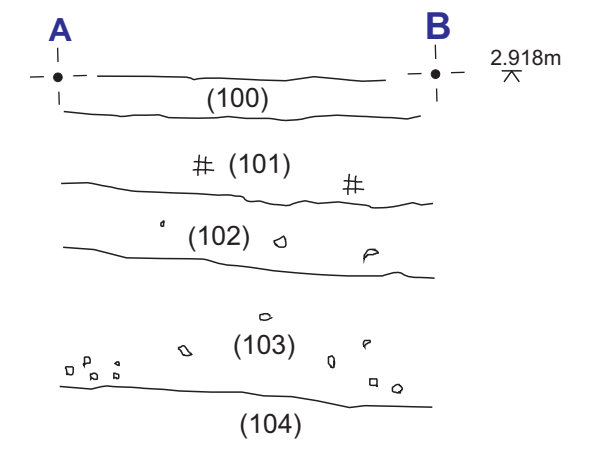
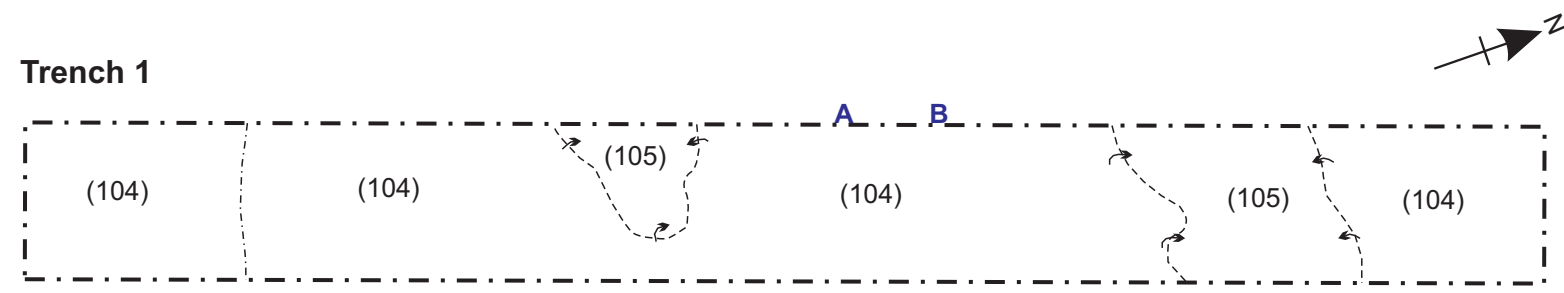


Figure 3: Trenches 1-3 Plans and Sections. Plans at 1:100, Sections at 1:20 @A3