

**LAND TO THE SOUTH OF BUNTINGS LANE, STANGROUND,
PETERBOROUGH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Easting (X): 520093
Northing (Y): 295940
Planning application.: 16/02270/FUL
PCCHER event no.: PCCHER 54061
Site code: BLPE 17
PCAS job no.: 1850

Prepared for
Persimmon Homes

by
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Summary

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land south of Buntings Lane, Stanground in Peterborough, to advise planning application 16/02270/FUL.

This site was identified by the Peterborough City Archaeologist as having high archaeological potential for prehistoric and Roman dated remains, based on previous excavations in the vicinity.

Eleven trenches were investigated, giving a total area of 550m², an approximately 5% sample of the area of the site available.

The evaluation exposed a low level of archaeological remains in seven of the trenches. All of the features exposed were furrows of unknown date; nineteen in total, with no other archaeological remains being identified in any trench.



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

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was requested by Persimmon Homes to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation on land south of Buntings Lane, Stanground in Peterborough, to advise and inform planning application 16/02270/FUL.

To investigate the potential for archaeological remains, a programme of trial trenching was undertaken with the overall aim of informing any required mitigation strategy to be associated with the proposals.

The methodology adopted during the scheme followed current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
- ClfA Code of Conduct (2014 as revised);
- ClfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2014);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

This strategy was subject to the approval of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Services.

2.0 Location and Description (Figs. 1 and 2)

Peterborough, a Cathedral city on the banks of the River Nene in Cambridgeshire, has expanded over the last century to encompass a number of the smaller villages that lay in the surrounding area, including Stanground.

The site lies just outside of the A1139 Fletton Parkway ring road, just off junction 3a with the A605. Buntings Lane lies just off of the B1091 Peterborough Road, opposite Stanground Academy, with the site lying on the south side of Buntings Lane.

The site is an approximately rectangular unit, approximately 1.3 hectares in area, with c.1.1 hectares available for trenching. It is currently a paddock, with a stables on its eastern side.

The approximate central XY co-ordinates for the site are 520093 295940.

3.0 Geology and Topography

The solid geology of the area is Oxford Clay Formation mudstone, overlain by Mid Pleistocene glaciolacustrine deposits of clay, silt and sand in the northern part of the site and Oadby Member Diamiction in the southern part, described as grey brown clay and silty clay, with lens' of sand and gravel. These deposits result from glaciers scoured the landscape and depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravels from seasonal meltwaters (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site lies on the south bank of the River Nene, and on the east bank of the Stanground Lode, occupying a west facing slope in a low lying area, with levels across the site a little above 10m OD. The closest recorded benchmark lies on the side of the Stanground Academy c.200m to the east, which is recorded at 12.013m OD, 0.50m above existing ground level. (<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks/>).

4.0 Planning Background

A planning application to erect 52 dwellings with associated access, car parking and open space, with amended vehicular access and car parking arrangements for The Paddocks, Buntings Lane has been submitted to Peterborough City Council for consideration: Application 16/02270/FUL.

The City Archaeologist recommended a scheme of archaeological evaluation to investigate the below ground archaeological potential of the site. Modern archaeological investigations in the vicinity have identified prehistoric and Roman dated remains.

The results of this evaluation will inform and advise the planning decision.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A desk-based assessment for the site was prepared in 2013 by Archaeological Project Services (Cope-Faulkner, 2013). The following is a summary of this document.

Scatters of early prehistoric artefacts have been recovered from the wider area around the site; probably indicating transitory occupation. However, Bronze Age funerary monuments c.700m to the west of the site are the earliest confirmed features. There are also records of Iron Age occupation to the northwest of the site, excavated in the early 20th century. Roman settlement is also reported from this area, c.600m to the northwest, where excavations revealed the remains of floor surfaces, pits and more than a dozen burials, all indicating small scale settlement.

There are few Saxon dated archaeological monuments from the area, although both Stanground and neighbouring Old Fletton are recorded settlements in the Domesday Book. Stanground is recorded as having 16 villagers, 6 smallholders and a priest, with a church also listed, however the core of the historic settlement and the likely location of the church lay nearly 2km to the north on the south bank of the River Nene.

During the medieval and post-medieval periods the site was situated within agricultural land surrounding the village of Stanground. Ridge and furrow features have been recorded in several areas around the site, and parallel linear features are recorded approaching from the west, although they do not continue into the site itself.

Historic OS mapping records this area as being in use as allotments for much of the 20th century.

6.0 Methodology

To investigate the site, a trenching plan (Fig. 2) was proposed. Eleven trenches measuring 25m x 2m were opened, giving a total excavation area of 550m²; approximately a 5% sample of the area available for trenching.

The aims of the evaluation were to gather information relating to any below ground surviving heritage assets; record their location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality, and to assess any threat posed by the proposed development. It also aimed to define the archaeological sequence of activity within the site. The results of these investigations will determine the significance of the archaeological resource and inform any further archaeological investigation and/or mitigation that may be required.

Trenches were opened using a JCB excavator fitted with a 1.6m toothless bucket. Machine excavation was halted at the first archaeological horizon, or at the surface of the natural solid geology where no archaeological deposits were present; excavation thereafter was by hand.

Evaluation trenches were drawn in plan at scales of 1:50 or 1:100 as appropriate. Where archaeological features were present, these were sample excavated and drawn in section at scales of 1:20 or 1:10. Where no features were encountered, a sample profile of the trench section face was drawn. A photographic record in monochrome prints and colour slide formats, supplemented by high resolution digital photography, was maintained during the course of the archaeological intervention. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS context record sheets and trench record sheets, and an excavation site diary was also maintained. Finds were stored in labelled bags prior to their removal to the offices of PCAS for initial processing. Washed and marked finds were dispatched to appropriate specialists for assessment and reporting.

7.0 Results (Fig. 3 & 4)

A full context summary list appears as Appendix 1 and a number of photographs appear throughout the text.

7.1 Trenches containing archaeological remains (Fig. 3 & 4)

A total of nineteen furrows were identified in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10. Each of these was on an approximately N-S alignment and were fairly evenly spaced. It was decided, in consultation with the Archaeologist from Peterborough City Council Archaeological Services, that these need not be excavated and that individual trench plans depicting the furrows would suffice.

All of the trenches exposed a stratigraphy of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural substrate, with each of the furrows being cut through the subsoil and being sealed by topsoil.



Plate 1: Trench 1 (looking E).



Plate 2: Trench 2 (looking S).



Plate 4: Trench 7 (looking W).



Plate 5 (above): Trench 9 (looking W).

Plate 6 (left): Slot excavated through furrow [903] within Trench 9 (looking NNE).

7.2 Trenches containing no archaeological remains (Fig. 4)

No remains of archaeological interest were exposed in Trenches 4, 8 and 11. Excavations exposed a stratigraphy of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural clay substrate. This was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.5m below original ground level.



Plate 7: Representative section of Trench 11 (looking E).

8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation exposed a low level of archaeological remains in seven out of eleven trenches. All of the exposed features were furrows, with no other archaeological remains being encountered in any trench.

A total of nineteen furrows were identified over the entire site. Each was approximately 2m wide and these features were fairly evenly spaced and orientated approximately N-S, indicating that they were probably part of the same field system. No finds were recovered from any of the features, so the precise date of this agricultural activity is unknown.

The relatively low level of archaeological activity seen during the trenching would suggest that development on the site is archaeologically sterile.

The absence of any archaeology other than furrows within the development site would indicate that this area was not occupied in the later prehistoric and Roman periods; with it most likely being utilised for agricultural and/or pastoral purposes. The presence of the ridge and furrow indicates that this general trench continued into the post-Roman period, becoming more formalised during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank Persimmon Homes for this commission.

10.0 Effectives of Methodology

Intrusive evaluation was an appropriate method for gathering information about the sites archaeological potential, indicating that a fairly low level of archaeological features, namely furrows, were present within the proposed development area. The body of data produced by this evaluation will be able to inform the planning and development process.

11.0References

<http://list.historicengland.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx>
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

<https://www.old-maps.co.uk/> <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks/>

Cope-Faulkner, P, 2013, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Land at Buntings Lane, Stanground, Peterborough. APS report ref: 56/13

OS Explorer, Peterborough; March, Whittlesey, Chatteris & Oundle: Map sheet 227. 1:25000.
PCAS License no. 100049278

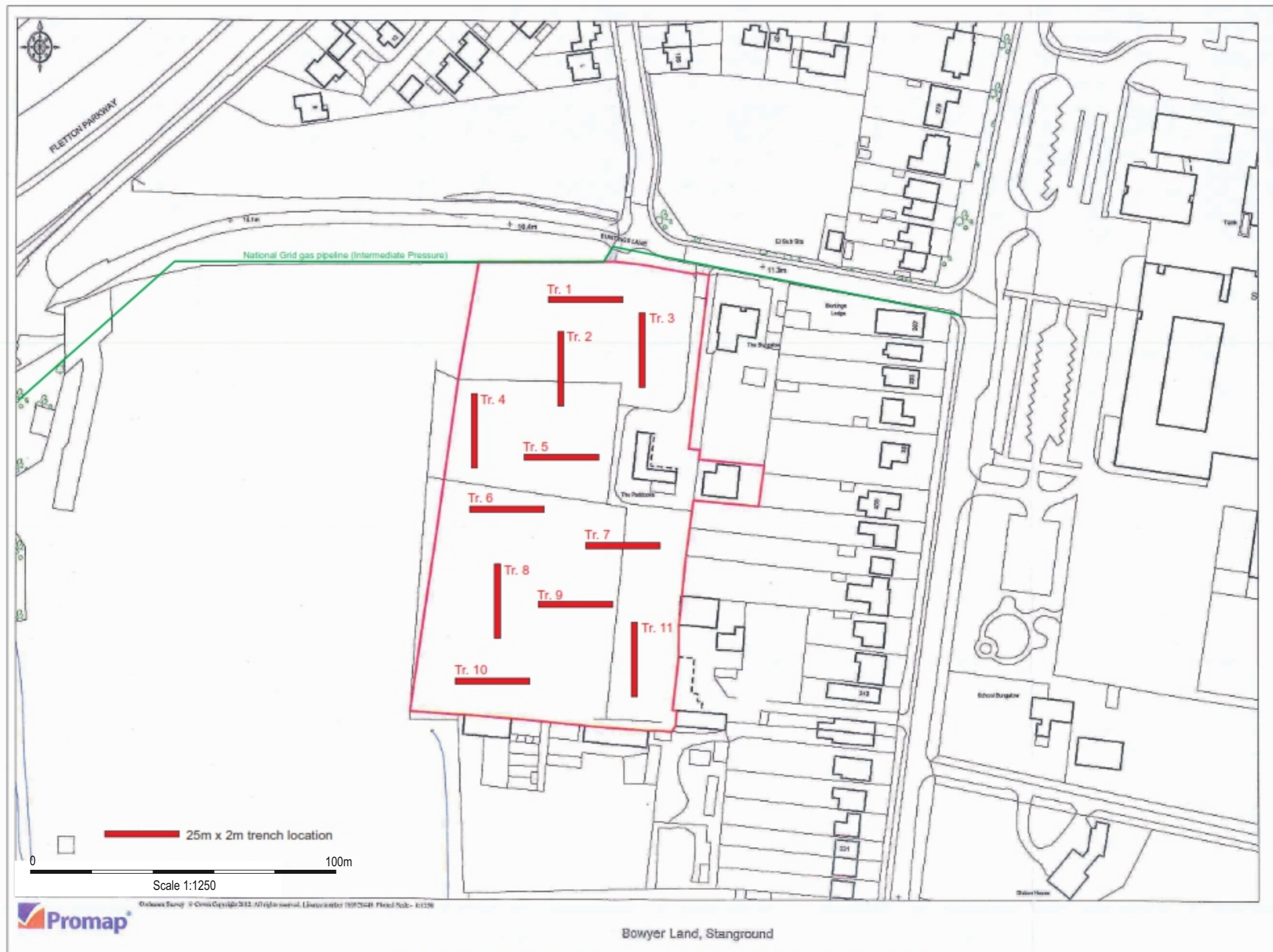


Figure 2: Trenching plan @ 1:1250

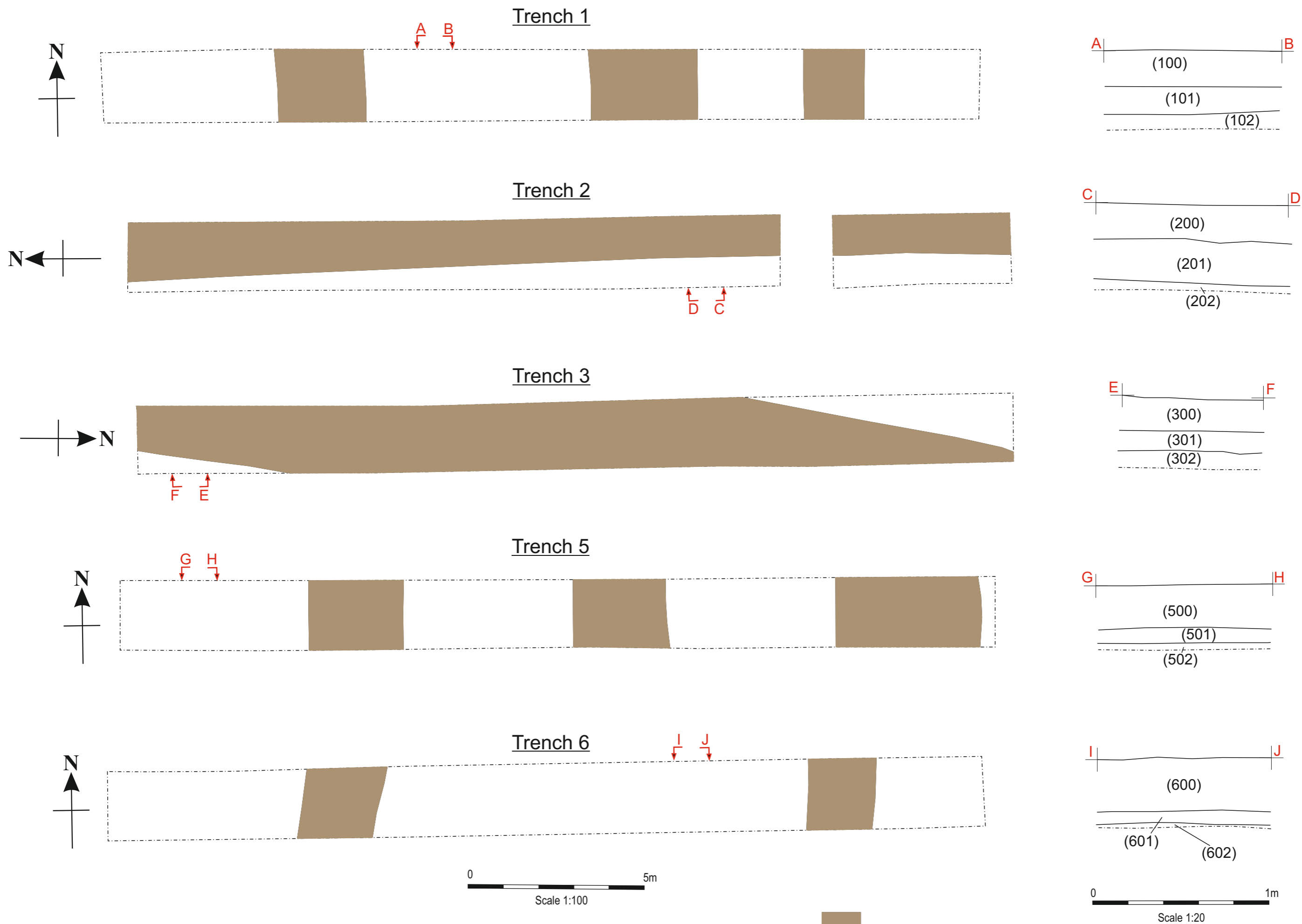


Figure 3: Plans (1:100) and sections (1:20) for Trenches 1-6.

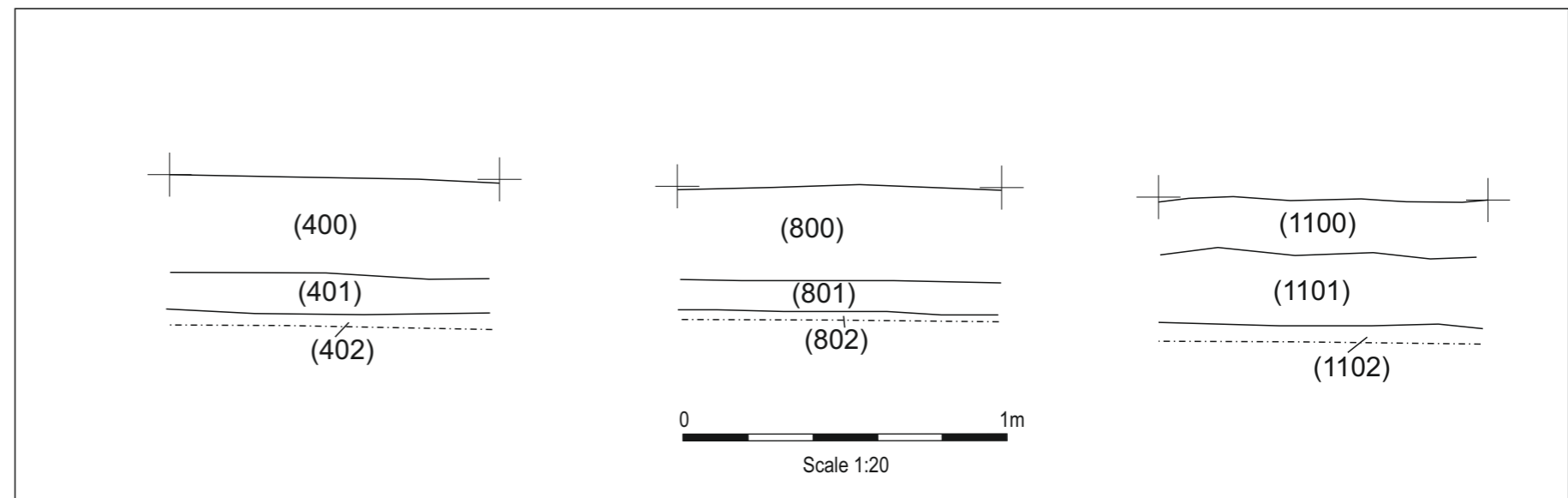
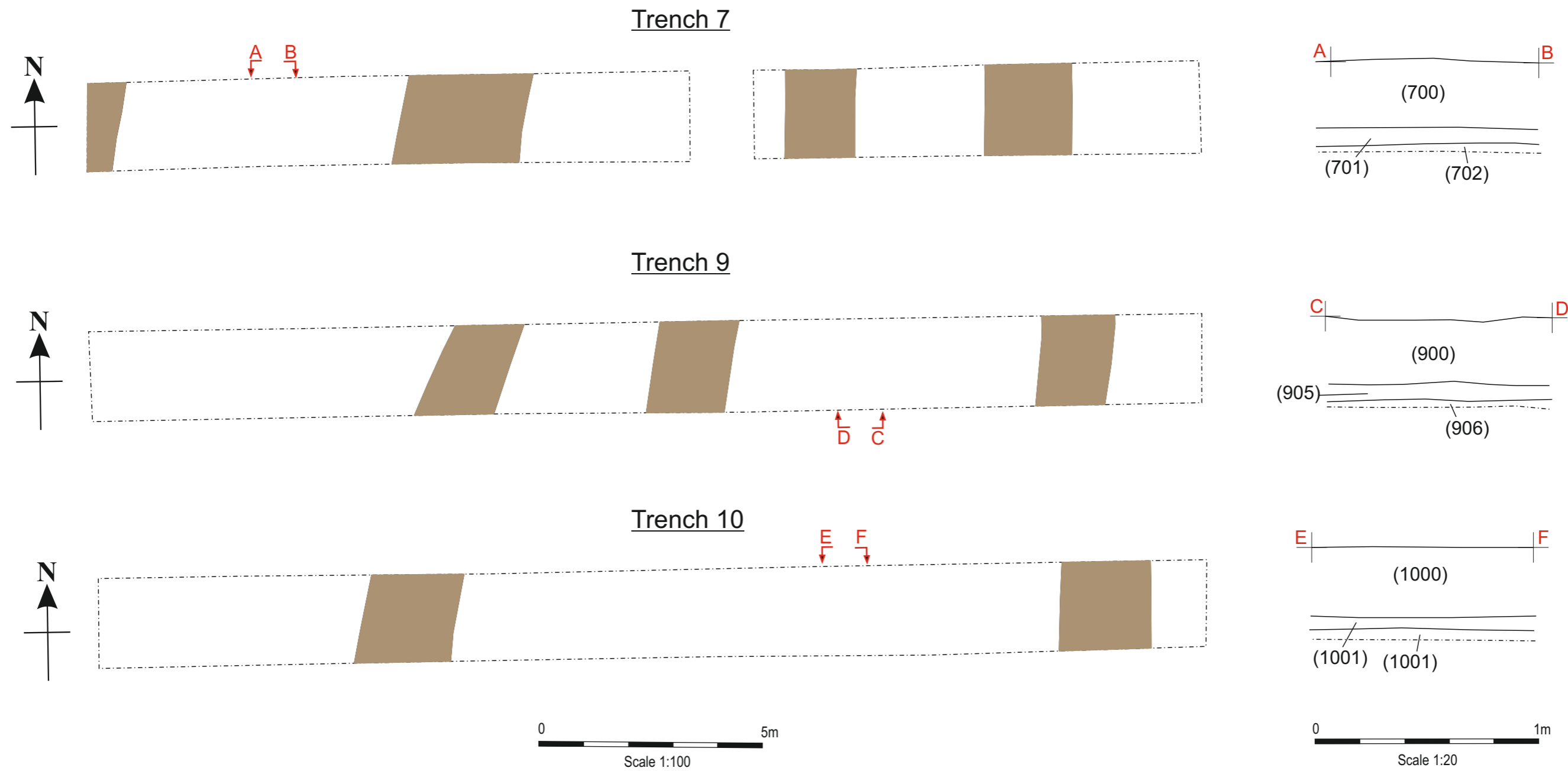


Figure 4: Plans (1:100) and sections (1:20) for Trenches 7-10; Inset representative sections (1:20) of archaeologically negative trenches.

1850 Buntings Ln., Peterborough Context Summary

Trench	Context	Feature	Type	Description
	1			Topsoil. Dark grey, moderate to firmly compacted silty clay containing occasional gravels and charcoal mottling. 0.22m thick.
	100	N/A	Layer	
	1			Subsoil. Mid brown, moderately to firmly compacted sandy clay. 0.16m thick.
	101	N/A	Layer	
	102	N/A	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown, sandy, gravelly clay.
	2			Topsoil. Dark grey, moderate to firmly compacted silty clay containing occasional gravels and charcoal mottling. 0.2m thick.
	200	N/A	Layer	
	2			Subsoil. Mid brown, moderately to firmly compacted sandy clay. 0.2m thick.
	201	N/A	Layer	
	202	N/A	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown, sandy, gravelly clay.
	3			Topsoil. Dark grey, moderate to firmly compacted silty clay containing occasional gravels and charcoal mottling. 0.2m thick.
	300	N/A	Layer	
	3			Subsoil. Mid brown, moderately to firmly compacted sandy clay. 0.17m thick.
	301	N/A	Layer	
	302	N/A	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown, sandy, gravelly clay.
	4			Topsoil. Dark grey, moderate to firmly compacted silty clay containing occasional gravels and charcoal mottling. 0.3m thick.
	400	N/A	Layer	
	4			Subsoil. Mid brown, moderately to firmly compacted sandy clay. 0.12m thick.
	401	N/A	Layer	
	402	N/A	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown, sandy, gravelly clay.
	5			Topsoil. Dark grey, moderate to firmly compacted silty clay containing occasional gravels and charcoal mottling. 0.25m thick.
	500	N/A	Layer	
	5			Subsoil. Mid brown, moderately to firmly compacted sandy clay. 0.08m thick.
	501	N/A	Layer	
	502	N/A	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown, sandy, gravelly clay.
	6			Topsoil. Dark grey, moderate to firmly compacted silty clay containing occasional gravels and charcoal mottling. 0.3m thick.
	600	N/A	Layer	
	6			Subsoil. Mid brown, moderately to firmly compacted sandy clay. 0.08m thick.
	601	N/A	Layer	
	602	N/A	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown, sandy, gravelly clay.
	7			Topsoil. Dark grey, moderate to firmly compacted silty clay containing occasional gravels and charcoal mottling. 0.3m thick.
	700	N/A	Layer	
	7			Subsoil. Mid brown, moderately to firmly compacted sandy clay. 0.18m thick.
	701	N/A	Layer	
	702	N/A	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown, sandy, gravelly clay.
	8			Topsoil. Mid brown grey, moderate to firmly compacted silty clay containing occasional gravels and charcoal mottling. 0.28m thick.
	800	N/A	Layer	
	8			Subsoil. Light brown, moderately to firmly compacted sandy clay. 0.1m thick.
	801	N/A	Layer	

8	802 N/A	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown, sandy, gravelly clay.
9			Topsoil. Mid brown grey, moderate to firmly compacted silty clay containing occasional gravels and charcoal mottling. 0.3m thick.
9	900 N/A	Layer	N-S orientated furrow. Shallow, uneven sides with a wide flat base.
9	901	901 Cut	of furrow [901]. Same as (900).
9	902	901 Fill	N-S orientated furrow. Shallow sides and a broad uneven base.
9	903	903 Cut	of furrow [903]. Same as (900).
9	904	903 Fill	Subsoil. Light brown, moderately to firmly compacted sandy clay. 0.09m thick.
9	905 N/A	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown, sandy, gravelly clay.
10	906 N/A	Layer	Topsoil. Mid brown grey, moderate to firmly compacted silty clay containing occasional gravels and charcoal mottling. 0.32m thick.
10	1000 N/A	Layer	Subsoil. Light brown, moderately to firmly compacted sandy clay. 0.06m thick.
10	1001 N/A	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown, sandy, gravelly clay.
11	1002 N/A	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey, moderate to firmly compacted silty clay containing occasional gravels and charcoal mottling. 0.17m thick.
11	1100 N/A	Layer	Subsoil. Mid grey, firmly compacted silt clay. 0.26m thick.
11	1101 N/A	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown yellow sandy clay. Frequent fragments of chalk and flint throughout.
	1102 N/A	Layer	

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Project details

Project name	LAND TO THE SOUTH OF BUNTINGS LANE, STANGROUND, PETERBOROUGH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was requested by Mr. P. Duggan to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land south of Buntings Lane, Stanground in Peterborough, in connection with planning app. 16/02270/FUL. The site was identified by the Peterborough City Archaeologist as having high archaeological potential for prehistoric and Roman dated remains, based on previous excavations in the vicinity and the high survival potential for buried remains as the site has not previously been developed. Eleven trenches measuring 25m x 2m were excavated, giving a total excavation of 550m ² , approximately a 5% sample of the area of the site available for trenching. The archaeological evaluation exposed a low level of archaeological remains in seven out of the eleven trenches. All of the features exposed were furrows, with no other archaeological remains being identified in any trench.
Project dates	Start: 06-03-2017 End: 14-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BLPE 17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	FURROW Uncertain
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH STANGROUND NORTH LAND TO THE SOUTH OF BUNTINGS LANE, STANGROUND, PETERBOROUGH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Study area	0 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 20097 95964 52.547885945024 -0.228655946911 52 32 52 N 000 13 43 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

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

Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

Project director/manager Will Munford

Project supervisor L. Brocklehurst

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Peterborough Museum

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Peterborough Museum

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Entered by Leigh Brocklehurst (leigh@pre-construct.co.uk)

Entered on 17 March 2017

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