

# Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Conningbrook Park, Willesborough Road, Ashford, Kent

Site Code: CON -EV-18

NGR Site Centre 602843 144222



SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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## **Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Conningbrook Park, Willesborough Road, Ashford in Kent.*

*The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 12 trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, revealed archaeological features and trenches 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, revealed outcrops of gravel.*

*The purpose of the archaeological evaluation was to clarify landscape features identified on historic mapping, aerial photographs and from the commissioned geophysical survey.*

*The trenching was focused on these features and identified them as field boundaries dating from the Late Medieval to Post-Medieval phases of agricultural activity if not earlier.*

*It should be noted that the purpose of this evaluation was of this type of archaeological activity and not on the possible significant Palaeolithic remains which may be found in the southern area of the site.*

*This work will need to be carried out by geoarchaeological and Palaeolithic specialists and based on a Palaeolithic DBA to a WSI provided by KCC Heritage.*



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Conningbrook Park, Willesborough Road, Ashford in Kent (**Figure 1**). The land has a planning proposal for the erection of mixed residential housing.

1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in October 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2018), prior to commencement of work.

#### **1.1.4 Site Description and Topography**

The PDA is situated south east of Kennington, on the north eastern side of Willesborough Road in Ashford and covers an area of just over 80 acres. The centre of Ashford is circa 2km to the south west. The eastern side of the PDA is bordered by the Canterbury to Ashford Railway line. To the east of the railway line is the river of The Great Stour.

The northern boundary of the PDA borders arable farmland. The north western corner borders residential housing and The Conningbrook Hotel, which are on the on the eastern side of Willesborough Road at the northern end with Spearpoint Corner, Canterbury Road and Canon Woods Way. The southern end of the PDA forms a point where Willesborough Road crosses the railway line.

To the south east of that is the Julie Rose Stadium and the Conningbrook Country Park with its lakes formed from the quarrying that took place in recent decades. The PDA lies within in the Great Stour Valley at an average height of 40m AOD.

The lowest part is half way along the eastern boundary at 33 AOD with the highest part to the west by Spearpoint Corner at 47m AOD. The site is presently arable farmland. In the north eastern part of the site, there is a drain on a north east / south west axis. The PDA also has a number of public footpaths that cross the site.

There are two footpaths that traverse across the site on a west /east axis, one from Spearpoint Corner, with a pathway that passes between Spearpoint Cottage and Conningbrook Manor Hotel. The other is from Canterbury Road that passes between the Croft Hotel and residential houses.

These two paths eventually converge west of the drain to cross over the drain to head towards a crossing over the railway.

There is also a third path that starts north of the PDA at the end of Orchard Lane, traversing in a south easterly direction until it reaches the northern boundary of the PDA on the north eastern side where it too crosses the railway.

The OS location to centre of site is NGR 602843 144222 (Figure 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the local geology at the PDA consists of bedrock comprising of Folkestone Formation – Sandstone. The Lower Greensand Group is a geological unit, which forms part of the underlying geological structure of southeast England.

South of London in the counties of West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent, which together form the wider Weald, the Lower Greensand can usually be subdivided to formational levels with varying properties into the Atherfield Clay Formation, the Hythe Formation, the Sandgate Formation, Bargate Formation and the Folkestone Formation.

The Lower Greensand is one of the most landslide-susceptible formations in the UK. The Lower Greensand Group was deposited during the Early Cretaceous Period, which lasted for approximately 40 million years from 140 to 100 million years ago.

There are three types of superficial deposits located within the PDA. The majority is Head Brickearth - Clay and Silt. Head deposits and brickearths are commonly associated with river valleys as is the case here. Brickearth deposits are normally 2-4m thick that overlay the bedrock. It is this brickearth that provides the rich soil needed for agriculture.

Along the far eastern side is Alluvium – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel associated with the Great Stour with the far southern tip of River Terrace Deposits, 3 – Sand and Gravel. The area to the south east has had gravel extraction and this is tip of that area.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

Details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Desk Based Assessment produced by SWAT Archaeology (2018).

The entire PDA is in the Palaeolithic area designated PCA 37 being a band north and east side of Stour valley through the Wealden gap and north of Ashford. It includes brickearth spreads and

possible terrace outcrops. Higher level terrace deposits (mapped as T4) probably date to the later Middle Pleistocene, 500,000-300,000 BP. Lower terrace deposits (T3, T2 and T1) probably date to the late Middle and Late Pleistocene, 300,000-10,000 BP. The geology at the site includes Terrace 3 deposits. From this area, several surface findspots of hand axes are recorded in the HER, three from accurately located sites, and two from the general Ashford area. One of those accurately located hand axes is of bout coupé form (TR 04 SW 445) 1km WNW of the PDA and also at Conningbrook Manor, 1km to the SSE of the PDA. The Palaeolithic finds at Conningbrook manor (Area 36) are thought to extend into area 37. There given the PDA contains terrace deposits (3), then there is considered a moderate/high chance of finding Palaeolithic remains according to the Stour Palaeolithic Survey (SWAT DBA 2018). This work of investigation will be a separate exercise undertaken by geoarchaeological and Palaeolithic specialists.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2018)**

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018) were to:

3.1.2 *'The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the adjacent Medieval remains and later archaeological activity.'*

3.1.3 *The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with a geophysical survey and evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements'.*

(SWAT Archaeology 2018: 6)

#### **3.2 General Aims**

3.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

- establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;
- ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation;

- determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource, if present, and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CifA 2017).

### **4.2 Fieldwork**

4.2.1 A total of 12 evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Figure 2).

4.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

4.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CifA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

### **4.3 Recording**

4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights.

4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

## **5 RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 A total of 12 evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

### **5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence**

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, revealed archaeological features and trenches 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, revealed outcrops of gravel.

5.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 3, 3a provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-24 include selected site photographs.

### **5.3 Overview**

5.3.1 The 12 trenches were located across the site to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains and to focus on cropmarks and geophysical survey anomalies.

#### **5.3.2 FINDS**

5.3.3 Finds from Trench 2 include: (205) 7 fragment PM ? ridge-tile (weight : 99gms) – fairly large, chipped, only slightly worn, pale orange slightly sandy fabric with mica flakes – later C16-C17 AD probably (209) 2 PM Staffordshire white stoneware (c.1725-1775/1780 AD emphasis; same vessel)

5.3.4 Finds from Trench 3 include (306) 2 PM-LPM Wealden-type earthenware (lid-seated storage-jar, thumb-tipped under rim cordon, iron-flecked glaze, c.1700/1725-1775 AD emphasis probably)

5.3.5 Finds from Trench 4 include (405) 3 PM-LPM Notts/Derby stoneware (flagon base, buff with iron slip, c.1700/1750- 1800 AD probable emphasis)

5.3.6 Finds from Trench 5 include (506) 4 LPM red earthenware –flower-pot type (pot stand dish, c.1825-1875/1900 AD emphasis)

5.3.7 Finds from Trench 11 include (1106) 1 PM English tin-glazed earthenware (c.1675/1700-1750 AD)

## **6 Discussion**

### **6.1 Archaeological Narrative**

- 6.1.1 Archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5 and 11.
- 6.1.2 Trench 1 was located in the central area of the site on the west side where aerial photographs had shown a potential linear. Three areas of gravel were identified but no archaeological features (Plates 1, 2).
- 6.1.3 Trench 2 was positioned across a potential linear shown on the OSSD map of 1797 and the geophysical survey of 2018. A wide ditch was identified and excavated producing pottery dating from the late 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> century (Figures 4, 6. Plates 3, 4).
- 6.1.4 Trenches 3 and 4 were located on the same linear and confirmed the identification of a field system dating back to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century if not before (Plates 5, 6, 8).
- 6.1.5 Trench 5 was located on a linear some 2.4m wide and identified in aerial photography but not the geophysical survey and dated by pottery sherds to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Figures 3, 3a. Plates 9, 10).
- 6.1.6 Trench 11 was located in the south west area of the site and identified a field boundary ditch located by the geophysical survey. Pottery sherds are of 19<sup>th</sup> century date (Figures 3, 3a. Plates 22, 23).

### **6.2 Conclusions**

- 6.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are not likely to impact on surface archaeological remains. The correlation between the earliest OS mapping, aerial photographs and geophysical survey indicate the site was and is farmland with field divisions being dated back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century but may be much older as ditches are regularly cleaned out so dating evidence in the form of discarded pottery sherds show not the inception of the field systems but the last use which may be hundreds or even thousands of years later than its first use.
- 6.2.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work show that the proposed development is not likely to impact on any surface archaeological remains. However, additional test pits will be required by specialist contractors to assess the potential for geoarchaeological and Palaeolithic remains.

## **7 ARCHIVE**

### **7.1 General**

- 7.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- 8.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project.
- 8.1.2 Paul Wilkinson and Bartek Cichy supervised the archaeological evaluation and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Dr Paul Wilkinson MClfA produced the draft text for this report.

## **9 REFERENCES**

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Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent

Date: 27/10/2018

## Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1	Dimensions: 20m x 1.8m Depth: 0.48m Trench alignment: WSW-ESE WSW-end Ground Level: 46.63m ESE-end Ground Level: 46.87m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown clayey sandy silt with occ. flints, brick fragments.	0.00-0.3
102	Subsoil	Firm compaction, mid brown sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints	0.3-0.45
103	Natural	Mid orangish brown, clayey silty sand with outcrops of flint gravel	0.45+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m Depth: 0.42m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE WNNW-end Ground Level: 44.68m SSE-end Ground Level: 43.88m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
201	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown clayey sandy silt with occ. flints	0.00-0.3
202	Subsoil	Firm compaction, mid brown sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints	0.3-0.45
203	Natural	Varied throughout the trench: Mid orangish brown, silty sand with freq. manganese pebble. Red coarse sand. Sub angular flint gravel. Mid orangish brown sandy silt with moderate flints.	0.45+
[204]	Cut of ditch	E-W aligned linear ditch with steep sides and concave base. Continuation of the ditch exposed in Trenches 3 and 4.	0.45-0.95
205	Fill of [204]	Firm compaction, pale brown silt with moderate flints. Iron square profiled nail and seven tile fragments were recovered from the context.	0.45 – 0.95
206	Secondary fill of [204]	Firm compaction, pale orange brown, sandy silt with occ. coal	0.45 - 0.6
207	Secondary fill of [204]	Firm compaction, Mid grayish brown, sandy silt, occ. charcoal flecks , sub angular flint and seven tile fragments.	0.45 – 0.6
[208]	Cut of ditch	E-W aligned linear ditch with shallow sides and concave base. Continuation of the ditch exposed in Trenches 3 and 4.	0.45 - 0.72
209	Fill of [204]	Firm compaction, pale brown silt with moderate flints. Contemporary with (285) 2 sherds pot	0.45 - 0.72

Trench 3	Dimensions: 18.1m x 1.8m Depth: 0.54–0.8 m Trench alignment: NNW - SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 44.31m SSE-end Ground Level: 46.87m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
301	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints, and modern tile fragments.	0.00-0.3
302	Subsoil	Firm compaction, mid grayish brown sandy silt	0.3-0.54



		with occ. modern tile fragments, charcoal flecks and orangish brown patches of clayey silt.	
303	Subsoil	Firm compaction, mid brown sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints	0.3-0.7
304	Natural	Mid orangish brown, clayey silty sand with outcrops of flint gravel	0.54+
[305]	Cut of field boundary ditch	WSW-ESE aligned linear field boundary ditch had shallow sides and wide flat base. Continuation of the ditch exposed in Trenches 2 and 4.	0.54-1.1
306	Secondary fill of [305]	Firm compaction, pale brown sandy silt with occ. flint, tile fragments. Recovered finds: few fragments of tile and brick, Iron square profiled pins and sherds pot	0.54-1.1

Trench 4	Dimensions: 18m x 1.8m Depth: 0.7m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 40.93m SSE-end Ground Level: 40.49m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
401	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown clayey sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments.	0.00-0.3
402	Subsoil	Firm compaction, mid brown clayey sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints and modern brick fragments.	0.3-0.55
403	Natural	Mid orangish brown, silty sand	0.55+
[404]	Cut of field boundary ditch	WSW-ESE aligned linear field boundary ditch had shallow sides and wide slightly concave base. Feature was 2.4 m wide. Continuation of the ditch exposed in Trenches 2 and 3.	0.55-0.9
405	Fill of [404]	Firm compaction, mid brown sandy silt with occ. flints, small fragments of brick and tile, moderate small and medium roots. Three pot sherds.	0.55-0.9

Trench 5	Dimensions: 18m x 1.8m Depth: 0.7m Trench alignment: WSW-ESE WSW-end Ground Level: 39.25m ESE-end Ground Level: 37.64m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
501	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown sandy clayey silt with occ. sub angular flints, tile fragments.	0.00-0.3
502	Subsoil - modern layer	Firm compaction, mid orangish brown with dark brown patches, clayey sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints and modern tile fragments.	0.3-0.4
503	Subsoil - modern layer	Firm compaction, mid brown with dark brown patches silt with occ. sub ceramic flecks, CBM fragments and iron slag	0.4-0.62
(504)	Subsoil-colluvial	Firm compaction, mid orangish brown clayey sandy silt with occ. subangular flints and CBM.	0.3-0.9
505	Cut of field boundary ditch	N-S aligned linear field boundary ditch had shallow sides and wide concave base. Feature was 2.4 m wide.	0.6-1.1
506	Fill of [505]	Firm compaction, mid orangish brown clayey sandy silt with occ. subangular flints, fragments of tile and pot.	0.6-1.1

507	Natural	Mid orangish brown, silty sand	0.62+
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Trench 6	Dimensions: 20m x 1.8m Depth: 0.48m Trench alignment: WSW-ESE WSW-end Ground Level: 39.68m ESE-end Ground Level: 38.72m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
601	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown clayey sandy silt with occ. flints, tile fragments and chalk.	0.00-0.28
602	Subsoil	Firm compaction, mid brown with orange brown patches sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints	0.28-0.66
603	Natural	Mid orangish brown, clayey silty sand with occ. outcrops of flint gravel	0.66+

Trench 7	Dimensions: 20m x 1.8m Depth: 0.42m Trench alignment: WSW-ESE WSW-end Ground Level: 46.15m ESE-end Ground Level: 45.28m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
701	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown clayey sandy silt with occ. flints, brick and tile fragments.	0.00-0.3
702	Subsoil	Firm compaction, mid orange brown sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints	0.3-0.42
703	Natural	Sub angular flint gravel and mid brown silt patches	0.42+

Trench 8	Dimensions: 28m x 1.8m Depth: 0.55m Trench alignment: WSW-ESE WSW-end Ground Level: 39.63m ESE-end Ground Level: 38.93m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
801	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown sandy clayey silt with occ. flints, brick fragments, wire, charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.3
802	Subsoil	Firm compaction, mid orange brown sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints	0.3-0.4
803	Subsoil - colluvium and fill of [804]	Firm compaction, pale brown silt	0.4-0.7
[804]	Cut of natural gully	Curvilinear N-S aligned gully had shallow sides and uneven base. Shaped by flowing water.	0.55-0.7
805	Natural	Flint gravel and mid orange brown coarse sand	0.55+

Trench 9	Dimensions: 29.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.7m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 40.27m SSE-end Ground Level: 39.46m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
901	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown clayey sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments.	0.00-0.3
902	Subsoil	Firm compaction, mid orangish brown sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints	0.3-0.55
903	Natural	Mid orangish brown coarse sand with freq. flint gravel	0.55+
[904]	Cut of field boundary ditch	WSW-ENE aligned linear field boundary ditch had moderate sides and wide flat base. Feature was 1.6 m wide and re cut by [906].	0.3-0.64
905	Fill of [904]	Firm compaction, pale brown silt with occ. small flints. Recovered finds: Fragment of metal rim barrel and metal junk.	0.3-0.64

[906]	Re cut of field boundary ditch – Holloway /track way	WSW-ENE aligned linear field boundary ditch had steep sides, wide flat base covered with gravel and shallow gully at the base alongside northern edge. Feature was 3.6m wide.	0.3-0.7
907	Primary fill of [906]	Flint gravel with occ. CBM fragments. Recovered finds: glass flagon, coal clinker, coal, glass, iron nail.	0.3-0.8
908	Machinery backfill of [906]	Firm compaction, dark brown silt with occ. coal, bones, CBM, coal clinker	0.3-0.8
909	Machinery backfill of [906]	Firm compaction, pale brown silt with occ. chalk and flint	0.3-0.7
910	Top fill of [906] – buried topsoil	Mid compaction, dark grayish brown, occ. modern CBM and iron junk. Recovered modern finds: CBM, glass, bone, pottery, coal clinker	0.3-0.4
[911]	Cut of ditch	E-W aligned linear ditch with steep sides and concave base. Feature was 1.6 m wide.	0.3-0.84
912	Secondary fill of [911]	Firm compaction, pale brown silt with occ. sub angular flints	0.3-0.84

Trench 10	Dimensions: 25.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.6m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 39.22m SSE-end Ground Level: 39.08m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown clayey sandy silt with occ. flints. Recovered residual flint flake	0.00-0.3
1002	Subsoil	Firm compaction, mid orange brown sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints	0.3-0.48
1003	Natural	Mid orangish brown, clayey silty sand with lens of flint gravel or coarse sand	0.48+

Trench 11	Dimensions: 15m x 1.8m Depth: 0.6m Trench alignment: WSW-ESE WSW-end Ground Level: 40.04m ESE-end Ground Level: 39.60m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1101	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown clayey sandy silt with occ. sub angular flint, chalk and charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.34
1102	Subsoil	Firm compaction, mid brown clayey sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints and coal flecks	0.34-0.6
1103	Natural	Firm compaction, mid orangish brown sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints	0.6+
[1104]	Cut of ditch	Linear N-S aligned ditch had moderate sides and concave base and poorly defined edges. Feature was 3.6m wide.	0.34-1.1
1105	Primary fill of [1104]	Mid compaction, dark grayish brown clayey coarse sandy silt.	1-1.1
1106	Secondary fill of [1104]	Mid compaction, dark orange brown sandy silt with cc. sub angular flints. Small medieval pottery sherd and 3 tile fragments (one Roman tegula) were recovered from the context.	0.7-1
1107	Tertiary fill of [1104]	Mid compaction, dark brown sandy silt with occ. flint cobbles. Small tile and pot fragments were recovered from the context.	0.3-0.7

Trench 12	Dimensions: 25.25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.56m Trench alignment: E-W E-end Ground Level: 38.99m W-end Ground Level: 39.46m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1201	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brown sandy clayey silt with occ. flints and chalk flecks	0.00-0.3
1202	Subsoil	Mid compaction, mid orange brown sandy silt with occ. sub angular flints	0.3-0.45
1203	Natural	Mid orangish brown coarse sand with lens of flint gravel or pale brown silt	0.45+
1204	Land drain	Drain trench with ceramic pipe	0.3-0.55

### Kent County Council HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land at Conninbrook Park, Willesborough Road, Ashford, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** CON/EV/18

**Site Address:** As above

#### Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for the erection of residential development whereby Ashford Borough Council requested that Archaeological works be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological works included an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed historic field systems.

**District/Unitary:** Ashford Borough Council

#### Period(s):

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 602843 144222

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** October 2018

**Unit undertaking recording:** Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Folkestone Formation-Sandstone

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Conningbrook Park, Willesborough Road, Ashford, Kent

#### Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

Historic field systems

**Location of archive/finds:** SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 27/10/2018

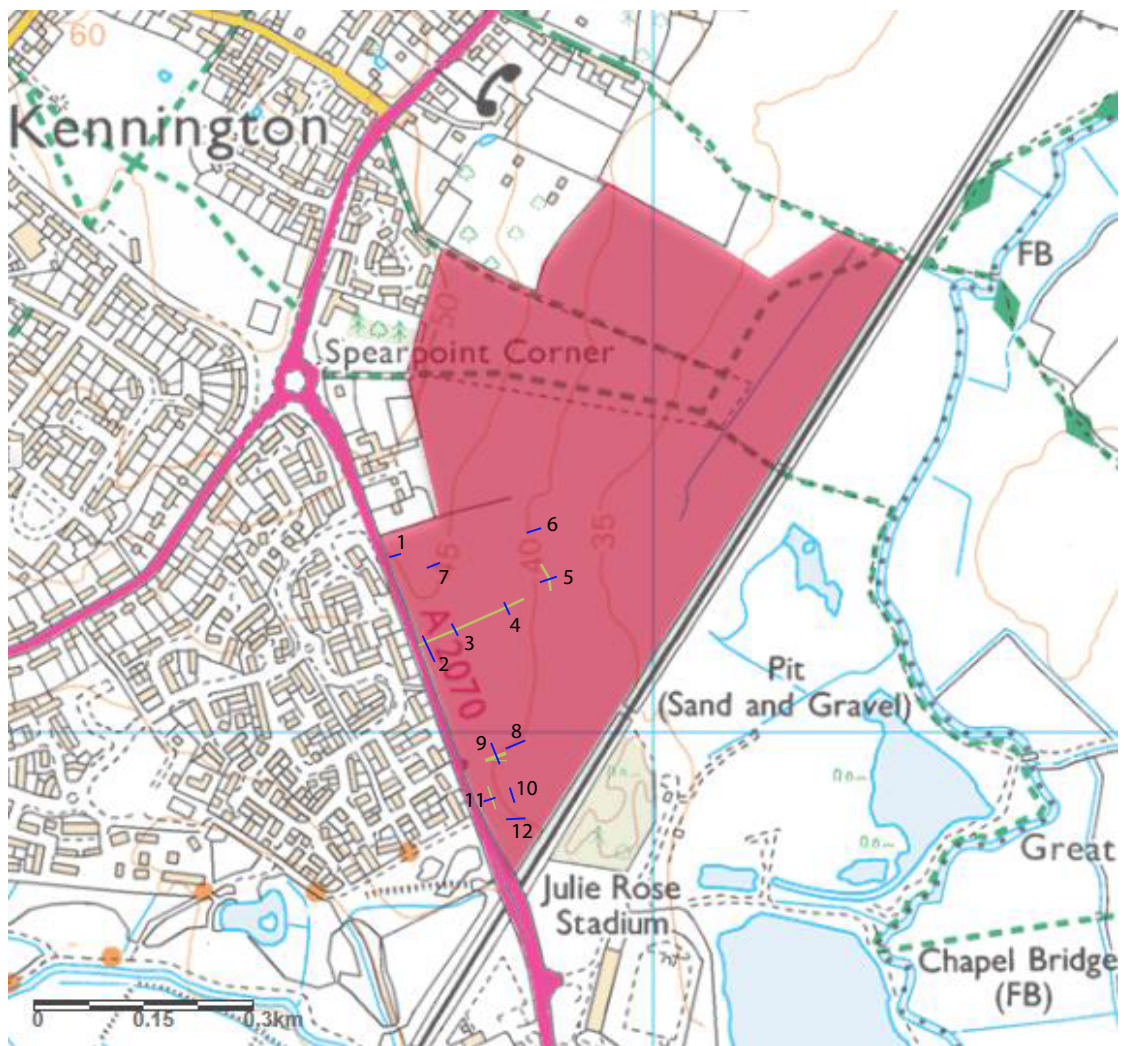


Figure 1: Site location map showing trench location (blue) and extrapolated features (yellow); scale 1:10000





Figure 2: Trench plan showing extrapolated features superimposed on 2013 aerial photograph blended with 1797 OSD and cropmarks highlighted in red.



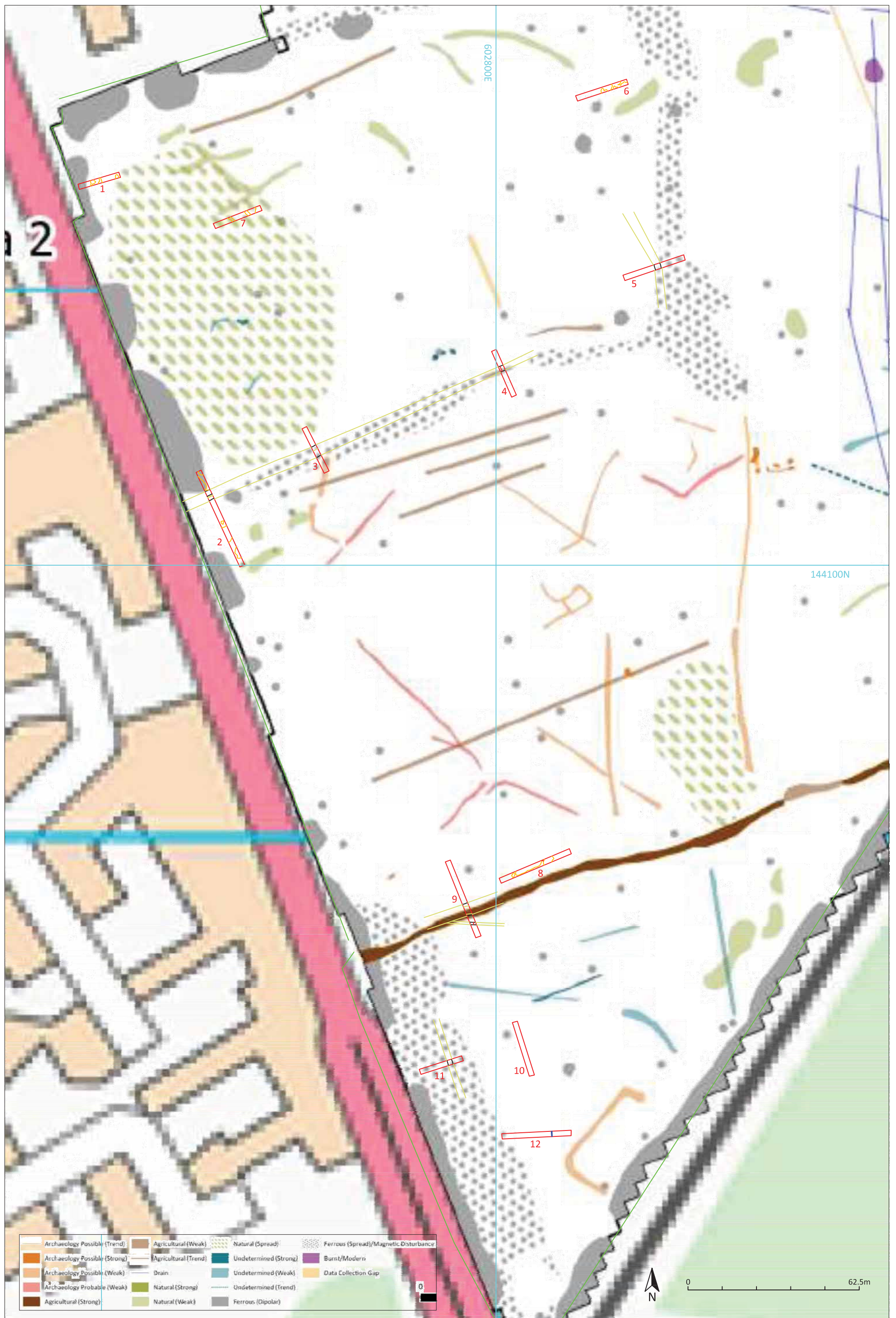


Figure 3: Trench plan showing extrapolated features superimposed on geophysical interpretation layout



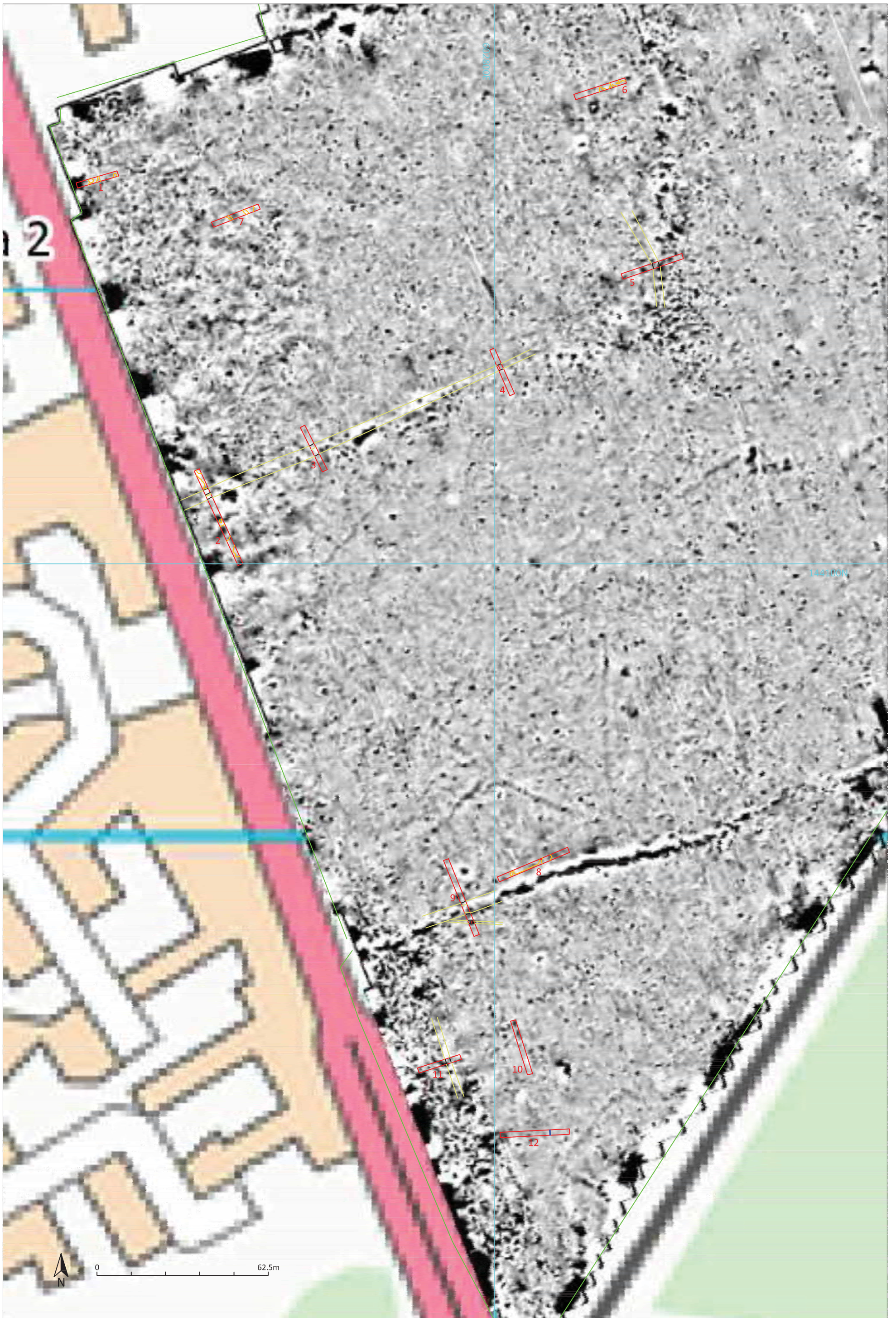


Figure 3a: Trench plan showing extrapolated features superimposed on geophysical layout



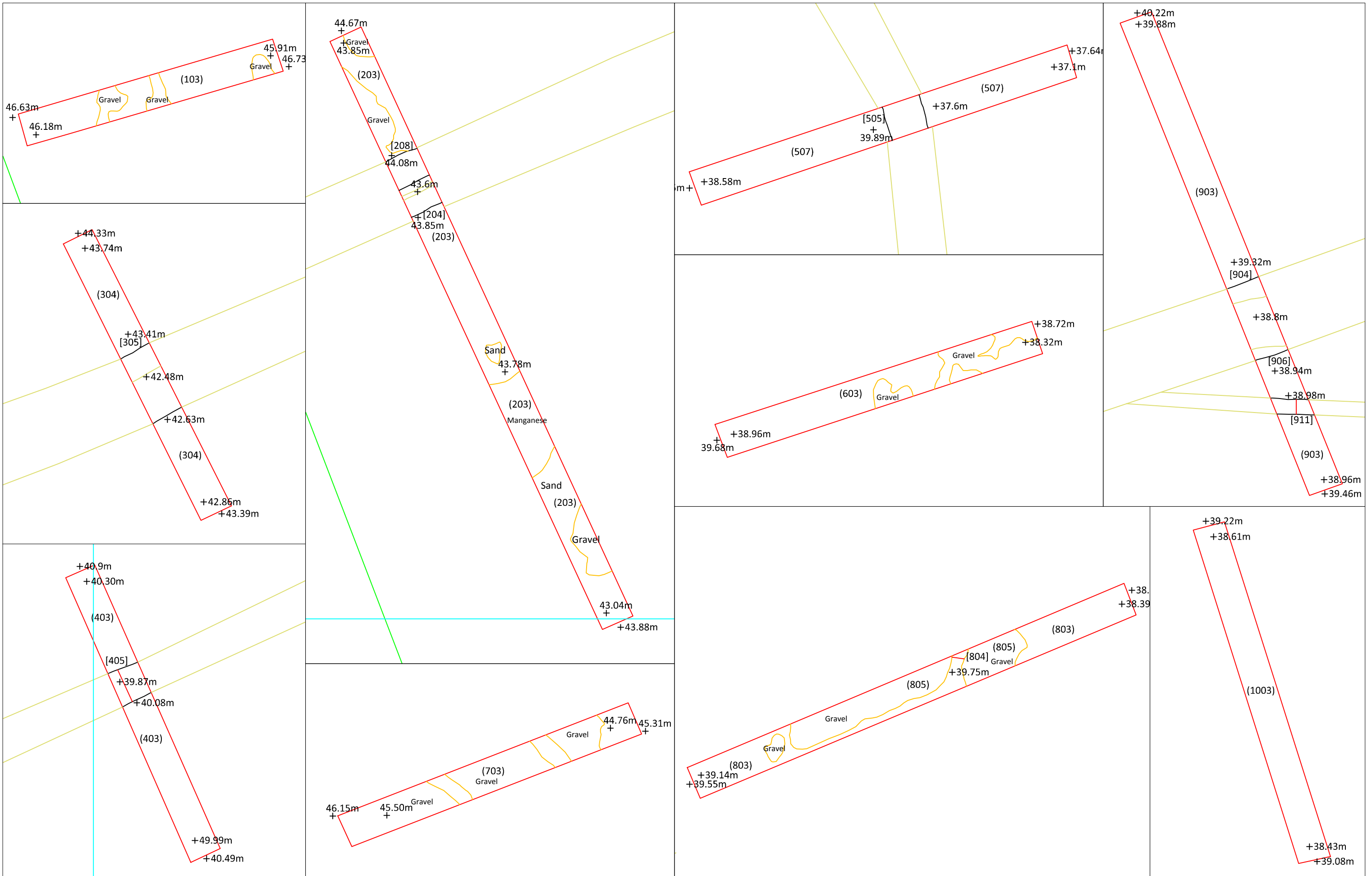
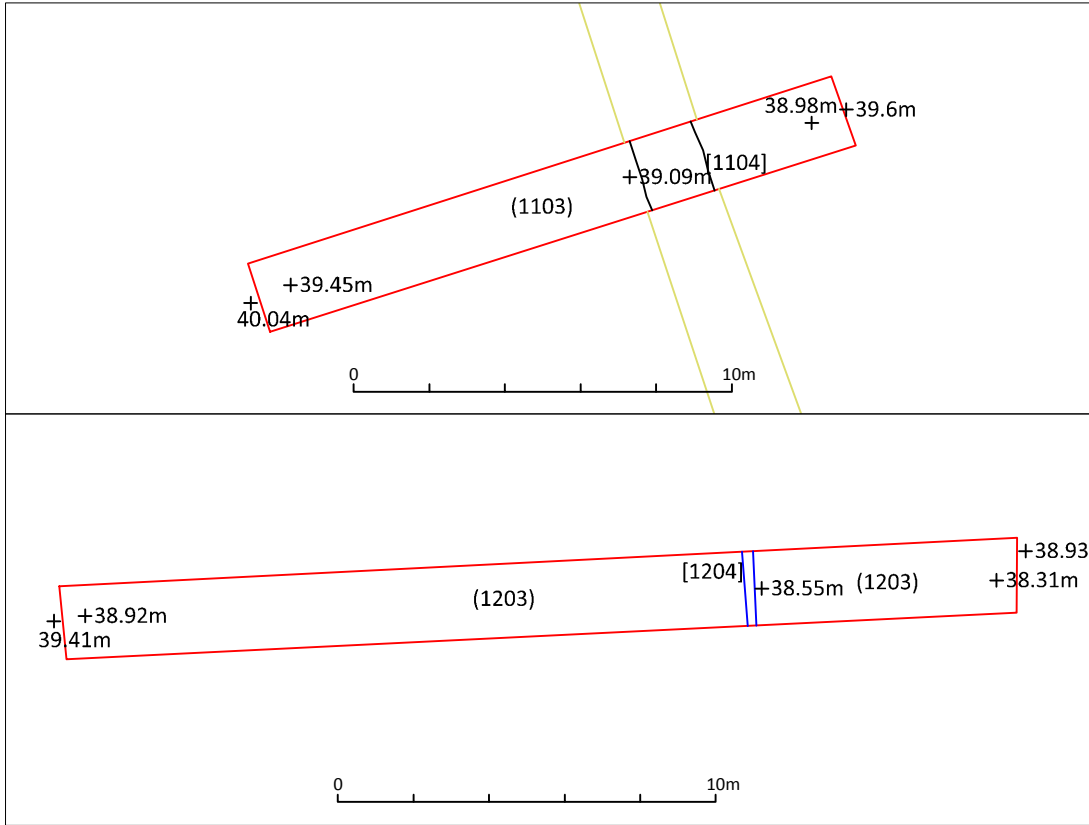


Figure 4: Plans of Trench 1-10



*Figure 5: Plans of Trench 11 and 12*

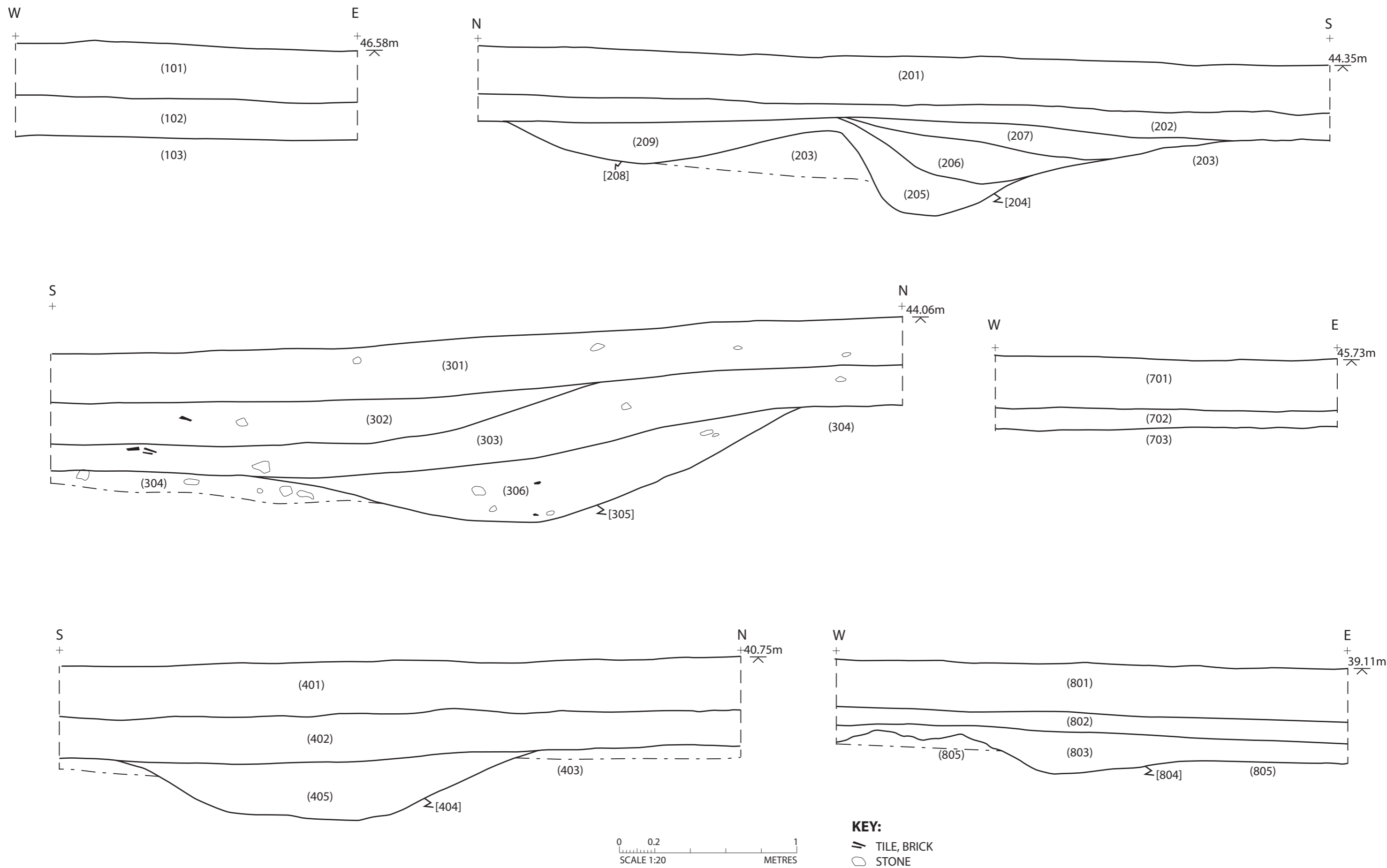


Figure 6: Sections - Trench 1-4, 7 and 8

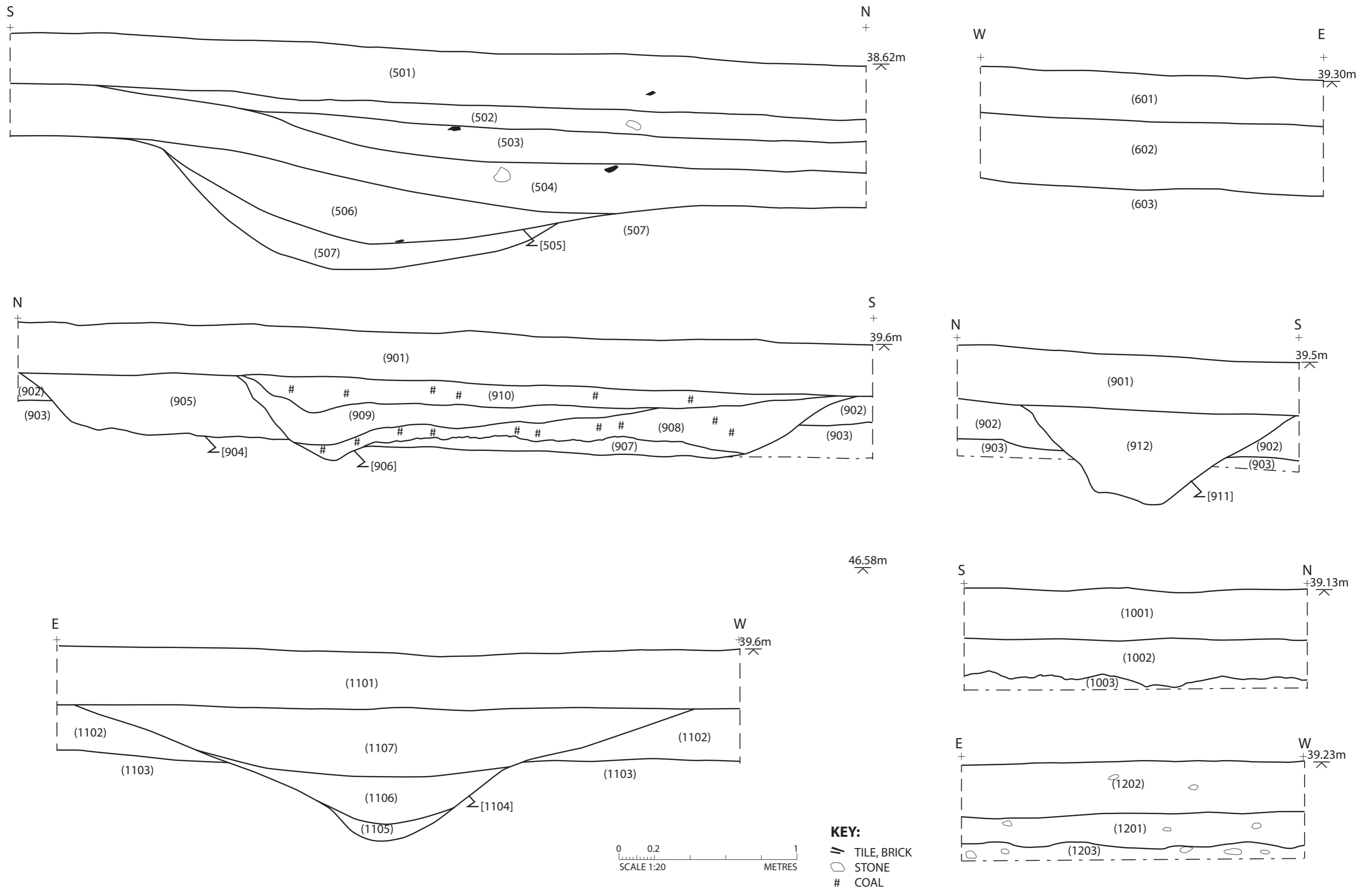


Figure 7: Sections - Trench 5, 6 and 9-12



Plate 1: Looking north east at Trench 1



Plate 2: Looking south-south-east at Trench 2





Plate 3: Looking at variations in natural exposed in Trench 2





Plate 4: Looking east north east at section of field boundary ditches [208 and 204] exposed in Trench 2



Plate 5: Looking north –north-west at Trench 3





Plate 6: Looking west-south-west at section of field boundary ditch [305] exposed in Trench 3



Plate 7: Looking south-east-south at Trench 4





Plate 8: Looking west-south-west at section of field boundary ditch [405] exposed in Trench 4



Plate 9: Looking west-south-west at Trench 5





Plate 10: Looking north at section of field boundary [505] exposed in Trench 5



Plate 11: Looking west-south-west at Trench 6





Plate 12: Looking north at section through top soil an sub soil exposed in Trench 6



Plate 13: Looking west-south-west at Trench 7





Plate 14: Looking north at section of Trench 7



Plate 15: Looking west at Trench 8



Plate 16: Looking north at section of Trench 8 with excavated natural feature [804]



Plate 17: Looking north at Trench 9





Plate 18: Looking east at section of field boundary [904] and its re cut [906].



Plate 19: Looking east at section through field ditch [911] and overlaying deposits



Plate 20: Looking north west north at Trench 10



Plate 21: Looking west at section through topsoil and subsoil exposed in Trench 10





Plate 22: Looking west at Trench 11



Plate 23: Looking south at section through ditch [1104] exposed in Trench 11





**Plate 24: Looking at Trench 12**