

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Bower Road, Mersham, Kent



NGR: 605635 139327

Site Code: BOW/EV/16

(Planning Application: 15/00029/AS)

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## **Contents**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| List of Figures.....                             | 3  |
| List of Plates.....                              | 3  |
| 1. Summary.....                                  | 4  |
| 2. Introduction.....                             | 4  |
| 3. Site Description and Topography.....          | 4  |
| 4. Planning Background.....                      | 5  |
| 5. Archaeological and Historical Background..... | 5  |
| 6. Aims and Objectives.....                      | 6  |
| 7. Methodology.....                              | 7  |
| 8. Monitoring.....                               | 7  |
| 9. Results.....                                  | 7  |
| 10. Discussion.....                              | 13 |
| 11. Finds.....                                   | 14 |
| 12. Conclusion.....                              | 15 |
| 13. Acknowledgements.....                        | 16 |
| 14. References.....                              | 16 |
| 15. KCC Summary Form.....                        | 18 |

List of Figures:

Figure 1 – Location of site

Figure 2 – Trench location plan

Figures 3-5 Feature location plans

Figures 6-7 Feature section plans

Figure 8- Geology exposed in trenches

List of Plates:

Plate 1 – Trench 1 (looking SE)

Plate 2 – Trench 2 (looking SW)

Plate 3 – Trench 1 (looking NW)

Plate 4 – Trench 2 (looking NE)

Plate 5 – Trench 10 (looking SE)

Plate 6 – Trench 3 linear 305 (looking N)

Plate 7 – Trench 3 linear (looking SE)

Plate 8 – Trench 3 linear 305 (looking S)

Plate 9 – Trench 6 (looking W)

Plate 10 – Trench 6 linear 605 (looking W)

Plate 11 – Trench 6 linear 605 (looking W)

## **Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Bower Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent**

NGR: 605635 139327

Site Code: BOW-EV-16

### **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) have carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Bower Road, Mersham, near Ashford in Kent. A Planning Application (15/00029/AS) to develop this site for 8 dwellings and associated landscaping and other works was made to Ashford Borough Council, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.*

*The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC Specification A and Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council.*

*The results of the excavation of 12 evaluation trenches revealed that archaeological features were present within trenches 1, 3, 5 & 6 (Figure 2). The natural geology of Lower Greensand deposits was reached at an average depth of between 0.30m and 0.35m below the modern ground surface (Figure 7).*

*Dating evidence from pottery sherds and ceramic building material from the features excavated show farming activity from c.1150 to 1550AD. The layout of the ditches with their alignment NS/EW and spacing of about 8m suggest medieval ridge and furrow with each strip or ridge measuring a quarter of an acre in area- 11yards (8m) wide and 220 yards (200m) long, its length coming to be known as a 'furlong'. Ridges were created in order to create a self draining seed bed. The furrow was not a true ditch but more like an open drain and served as a boundary between ridges. The shallowness of ditches [305] and [605] may also suggest a ridge and furrow method of farming.*

### **2. Introduction**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the English Rural Housing Association to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2016) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

### **3. Site Description and Topography**

The proposed development site is located east of Mersham and south of Bower Road and adjacent to Bower Farm at NGR 605635 139327. The site was historically utilised for

agriculture although most of the surrounding land was a quarry until c.1960. The area of proposed development is about 4,950 sq m. The site is generally flat at about 70m OD.

The underlying geology is mapped as Hythe Formation- Sandstone and sub equal/subordinate Limestone, Interbedded. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 112 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Superficial Geology is not recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=ME13%207TS>) (BGS 2016).

The geology revealed on site was a mix of mid orange brown sandy silty clay. For a geological trench description see the individual trench descriptions and Figure 8.

#### **4. Planning Background**

Ashford Borough Council gave planning permission (15/00029/AS) for development of land at Bower Road, Mersham in Kent.

On the advice of the Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer (KCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

*(Condition 6) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*And following on from the evaluation has secured the implementation of:*

- 1. Any safeguarding measures, identified in the evaluation as necessary, to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or*
- 2. Further archaeological investigation in accordance with a timetable which has previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

#### **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

The application site lies within an area with known archaeology. A request for HER data from KCC provided the following information:

HER No: TR 03 NE 10 – 3 Anglo-Saxon graves orientated E – W were found in 1828 by a farm labourer digging stone for road mending on Bower Farm. The graves contained grave goods, including sword, spearhead buckles and bronze basin etc dated to 6<sup>th</sup> century. The site is c.200m south of the PDA and was quarried out by 1960 with no additional graves found.

HER No TR 03 NE 22 – Potsherds and small iron articles were found in holes in the quarry face at Bower Lane. Examination of the site, with the assistance of quarrymen located two holes, wells, in which a large number of C13th and C14th potsherds were found. Several small depressions in the quarry face contained similar sherds and small rusted iron objects. Bulldozing had destroyed what may have been evidence of buildings, only a hearth of burnt clay with several sherds remaining exposed. Half an acre was searched and finds included an iron spearhead, an iron ring, large numbers of sherds similar to those from the well, with many flint flakes and scrapers of Neolithic types. Wells and pits had been appearing regularly in the quarry for a year and assumed importance only when a quarryman had been trained to identify medieval pottery. About two acres had been quarried during this period, and four wells noted.

HER No: TR 03 NE 118 – Church of St John the Baptist is a 12<sup>th</sup> century church and Grade I listed building and c.150m north-east of the PDA.

HER No: TR 03 NE 63 and 64 – The southern limit of a previously identified medieval metalworking site was found in 1998 prior to Channel Tunnel Rail Link construction works. The area under investigation was located to the north of the existing London to Folkestone railway. Cut archaeological features were identified and these have been interpreted as a series of pits, and a large ditch. The ditch is believed to be the continuation of a ditch observed in an area previously under excavation, and is thought to represent the southern boundary to this site (a medieval metalworking site). Although no direct evidence for metalworking was evident the presence of the identified features suggests that the original limits of the medieval metalworking site continued to the east into the study area. This area is c.250 north-east of the PDA and so the southern boundary of the identified features is at some distance from the PDA.

## **6. Aims and Objectives**

According to the KCC Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

- 6.1 clarify the presence/absence of Early Medieval burial remains;
- 6.2 determine the presence/absence of prehistoric, Roman, Early Medieval and Medieval settlement and/or industrial activity;
- 6.3 clarify the extent of existing ground disturbance – whether ploughing or truncation for levelling during 20<sup>th</sup> century;
- 6.4 determine the extent of any remains associated with the post medieval Bower Farm;
- 6.5 assess the extent of significant archaeology including providing a statement of significance for any important archaeology revealed.

## 7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of twelve trenches within the footprint of the proposed housing development. A 7.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. However, the alignment of trenches was changed at the request of the client but the layout was designed to ensure that any surviving archaeological deposits, features and structures across the proposed development area (PDA) were sampled. All trenches were swept by an archaeologist using a Fisher CZ3D metal detector and a CAT scanner. No metal finds were retrieved. All trenches were accurately located to the national grid and the OD levels calculated using a differential GPS.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in **bold**. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC, HE, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance. In addition and fulfilling the requirements of the KCC specification human remains, environmental and medieval industrial specialists were on stand-by in case significant remains were exposed.

## 8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation and Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer KCC visited the site and discussed in detail the archaeological requirements and in a follow up visit signed the site off.

## 9. Results

The evaluation has identified four archaeological features within the 12 trenches (Figure 2).

### Trench 1

**9.1** The plan is recorded in Figures 2 & 4 and the geology in Figure 8 (see also Plates 1, 3). The trench lay on an NW to SE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**103**) was identified across the trench as mid orange brown sandy brickearth mixed with mid brown mottled brickearth (**104**) with outcrops of stone (**105**) at a depth of approximately 0.40m (70.23m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.63m OD at the SE end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil (**102**) 0.22m

thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil **(101)** 0.16m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer. Cutting the subsoil at the SE end of the trench was a possible ditch **[106]** infilled with a lighter orange brown soil **(107)** which included no finds.

## **Trench 2**

**9.2** The plan is recorded in Figure 2 and the geology in Figure 8 (see also Plate 2). The trench lay on an NNE to SSW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.50m. Undisturbed natural geology **(203)** was identified across the trench as mid orange brown sandy brickearth mixed with mid brown brickearth **(204)** with outcrops of stone **(205)** at a depth of approximately 0.21m (70.52m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.31m OD at the NNE end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil **(202)** 0.18m thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil **(201)** 0.03m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer. Two modern pipes, one blue plastic the other galvanised steel crossed the trench diagonally from the north corner of the site in a north to south direction.

No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

## **Trench 3**

**9.3** The plan is recorded in Figures 2 & 3 and the geology in Figure 8 (see also Plates 7, 9). The trench lay on an NW to SE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(303)** was identified across the trench as mid brown sandy brickearth mixed with mid brown mottled brickearth **(304)** at a depth of approximately 0.30m (69.81m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.19m OD at the NW end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil **(302)** 0.20m thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil **(301)** 0.19m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer. Cutting the subsoil at the SE end of the trench was a possible ditch **[305]** infilled with a deposit of dark brown sandy soil **(306)** which had been recut by **[303]** and the infill of mid brown sandy soil **(308)** which included four sherds (weight: 54gms) of Late Medieval pink-buff sandy ware with iron oxide inclusions, part jug rim and handle, one body sherd, c.1350-1450 AD. One Late Medieval Wealden buff sandy ware, jug body sherd (matt olive-green glaze), c.1350/1375-1450 AD and one Late Medieval Hareplain



/Biddenden hard sandy ware, body sherd, c.1475-1525/1550 AD the last element near-fresh, rest variably worn and probably residual in-context.

In addition six roof-tile fragments (weight: 328gms) one Wealden-type pink sandy with marl inclusions c.1375-1475/1500 AD, One Late Medieval-Post-Medieval Wealden-type pasty pink with marl inclusions, c.1475-1525/1550 AD and four Post-Medieval Wealden-type pink-buff - MC16-MC17 AD. The last four fragments near-fresh, rest rather worn and residual.

#### **Trench 4**

**9.4** The plan is recorded in Figures 2 & 5 and the geology in Figure 8. The trench lay on an NE to SW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(403)** was identified across the trench as very mottled light yellow brown clay with reddish brown patches at a depth of approximately 0.38m (69.85m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.23m OD at the SSW end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil **(402)** 0.20m thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil **(401)** 0.18m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer.

No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

#### **Trench 4a**

**9.4a** The plan is recorded in Figure 2 and the geology in Figure 8. The trench lay on an NE to SW alignment and measured approximately 10m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(4033)** was identified across the trench as mid orange brown brickearth and at the NE end of the trench merging into a mid brown brickearth **(4032)** at a depth of approximately 0.38m (69.86m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.22m OD at the NE end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil **(402)** 0.19m thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil **(401)** 0.19m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer.

No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

## Trench 5

**9.5** The plan is recorded in Figures 2, 3, 6 and the geology in Figure 8. The trench lay on an NNE to SSE alignment and measured approximately 14m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(503)** was identified across the trench as mid brown sandy brickearth mixed with mid brown mottled brickearth **(504)** at a depth of approximately 0.30m (70.04m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.48m OD at the W side of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil **(502)** 0.27m thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil **(501)** 0.17m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer. Staining the subsoil at the centre of the trench was a burnt area – probably a camp or bonfire **[505]** with a top layer of dark brown burnt sandy soil **(506)** which overlaid a semi-vitrified hard surface (507) which covered the in-situ scorched natural earth (508). No finds were retrieved from any of this area of this burnt and vitrified natural sandy soil. (Plates 12-14).

## Trench 6

**9.6** The plan is recorded in Figures 2, 3, 6 and the geology in Figure 8 (see also Plates 10, 11). The trench lay on an NW to SE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(603)** was identified across the trench as mid orange brown sandy brickearth mixed with mid brown brickearth **(604)** at a depth of approximately 0.28m (69.85m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.31m OD at the centre of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil **(602)** 0.27m thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil **(601)** 0.19m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer. Cutting the subsoil at the centre of the trench was a possible ditch **[605]** infilled with a deposit of dark brown sandy soil **(606)** which included two flints (weight: 18gms) -small flakes - unpatinated, one non-cortical, one semi-cortical, dark grey flint from land-sourced nodules. One is core trimming flake, one is a small reduce-flaked core - Mesolithic or Neolithic (probably Mesolithic) and 10 sherds (weight: 53gms). One Early Medieval-Medieval Canterbury sandy ware, body sherd, c.1150-1225 AD range.

Two Early Medieval-Medieval Potter's Corner Ashford sandy ware, body sherd scraps, c.1150-1225 AD range and four Medieval Potter's Corner Ashford shelly-sandy ware, body sherds, c.1175/1200-1250 AD emphasis plus two Ashford/Wealden sandy ware with sparse shell and flint inclusions, body sherd, c.1200/1225-1250 AD emphasis.

With one Ashford Wealden sandy ware with sparse shell, bodysherd, c.1225-1250/1275 AD emphasis. All rather worn (Plates 10-11 and Section D).

### **Trench 7**

**9.7** The plan is recorded in Figure 2 and the geology in Figure 8. The trench lay on an NW to SE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**703**) was identified across the trench as mid orange brown sandy brickearth mixed with mid brown brickearth and patches of sandstone (**704**) at a depth of approximately 0.33m (70.15m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.39m OD at the NW end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil (**202**) 0.14m thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil (**201**) 0.20m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer.

No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

### **Trench 8**

**9.8** The plan is recorded in Figure 2 and the geology in Figure 8. The trench lay on an NNE to SSW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**803**) was identified across the trench as mid orange brown sandy brickearth with mid brown brickearth in places (**804**) at a depth of approximately 0.32m (70.08m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.35m OD at the NNE end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil (**802**) 0.17m thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil (**801**) 0.20m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer.

No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

### **Trench 9**

**9.9** The plan is recorded in Figure 2 and the geology in Figure 8. The trench lay on an NNE to SSW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**903**) was identified across the trench as mid orange brown sandy brickearth mixed with mottled light yellow brown clay with reddish brown patches (**904**) and patches of rubbly chalk and flint (**905**) at a depth of approximately 0.33m (70.07m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.37m OD

at the NNE end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil **(902)** 0.17m thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil **(901)** 0.13m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

### **Trench 10**

**9.10** The plan is recorded in Figure 2 and the geology in Figure 8 (see also Plate 5). The trench lay on an NW to SE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1003)** was identified across the trench as mid orange brown sandy brickearth mixed with mid brown brickearth **(1004)** at a depth of approximately 0.30m (70.09m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.35m OD at the NW end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil **(1002)** 0.08m thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil **(1001)** 0.18m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer.

No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

### **Trench 11**

**9.11** The plan is recorded in Figure 2 and the geology in Figure 8 (see also Plate 6). The trench lay on an NE to SW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1103)** was identified across the trench as mid orange brown sandy brickearth mixed with mid brown brickearth **(1104)** at a depth of approximately 0.30m (70.10m OD) below the present ground surface at 70.38m OD at the NE end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light orange to brown subsoil **(1102)** 0.18m thick. Above this was a layer of sandy silty topsoil **(1101)** 0.10m thick, mid brown in colour and containing well mixed small stones. This probably represents a modern agricultural topsoil layer.

No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

## 10. Discussion

With numerous medieval archaeological sites in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce more evidence of archaeological activity. However, trenches 2, 4, 4a, 7, 8, 9 & 10 showed a typical sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural geology with no archaeology.

The other trenches 1, 3, 5 & 6 have each a single archaeological feature which may indicate the whisper of survival of a medieval ridge and furrow field system which may have surrounded the postulated medieval settlement remains of which were found during quarry workings in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was reported that remains of medieval buildings, wells and burnt hearths were regularly found (TR 03 NE 22).

Dating evidence from pottery sherds and ceramic building material from the features excavated show farming activity from c.1150 to 1550AD. The layout of the ditches with their alignment NS/EW and spacing of about 8m suggest medieval ridge and furrow with each strip or ridge measuring a quarter of an acre in area- 11yards (8m) wide and 220 yards (200m) long, its length coming to be known as a 'furlong'. Ridges were created in order to create a self draining seed bed. The furrow was not a true ditch but more like an open drain and served as a boundary between ridges. The shallowness of ditches [305] and [605] may suggest that they are not true field boundaries but gutters of a ridge and furrow now lost.

The KCC specification lists the specific aims of the archaeological evaluation:

6.1 clarify the presence/absence of Early Medieval burial remains;  
*There were no Early Medieval burials remains found*

6.2 determine the presence/absence of prehistoric, Roman, Early Medieval and Medieval settlement and/or industrial activity;  
*There are indications of Prehistoric activity in the recovery of lithic tools and the medieval pottery found in the shallow ditches may suggest the outlying ridge and furrow fields of a known medieval settlement located to the south-west of the PDA*

6.3 clarify the extent of existing ground disturbance – whether ploughing or truncation for levelling during 20<sup>th</sup> century;  
*The ground has been heavily disturbed by ploughing to a depth of about 30cm*

6.4 determine the extent of any remains associated with the post medieval Bower Farm;  
*The ditches found may be associated with the adjacent Bower Farm but given the dating evidence from the pottery the excavated field systems are medieval and pre-date*

## *Bower Farm*

6.5 assess the extent of significant archaeology including providing a statement of significance for any important archaeology revealed.

*Important archaeology has been revealed but given the depth and intensity of modern ploughing it is likely that further archaeological investigation will not add much to what has been excavated and recorded*

### **11. Finds**

The pottery sherds, lithics and fragments of building ceramics have been processed by Nigel MacPherson-Grant:

#### **Trench 3 Context 306**

4 sherds (weight : 54gms) =

2 Late Medieval pink-buff sandy ware with iron oxide inclusions, part jug rim and handle, 1 bodysherd, c.1350-1450 AD

1 Late Medieval Wealden buff sandy ware, jug bodysherd (matt olive-green glaze), c.1350/1375-1450 AD

1 Late Medieval Hareplain/Biddenden hard sandy ware, bodysherd, c.1475-1525/1550 AD

(Last element near-fresh, rest variably worn and probably residual in-context)

And 6 roof-tile fragments (weight : 328gms)

1 Wealden-type pink sandy with marl inclusions c.1375-1475/1500 AD

1 Late Medieval-Post-Medieval Wealden-type pasty pink with marl inclusions, c.1475-1525/1550 AD

4 Post-Medieval Wealden-type pink-buff - MC16-MC17 AD.

(last 4 fragments near-fresh, rest rather worn and residual)

#### **Trench 6 Context 606**

10 sherds (weight : 53gms)

1 Early Medieval-Medieval Canterbury sandy ware, bodysherd, c.1150-1225 AD range

2 Early Medieval-Medieval Potter's Corner Ashford sandy ware, bodysherd scraps, c.1150-1225 AD range

4 Medieval Potter's Corner Ashford shelly-sandy ware, bodysherds, c.1175/1200-1250 AD emphasis

2 Ashford/Wealden sandy ware with sparse shell and flint inclusions, bodysherd, c.1200/1225-1250 AD emphasis

1 Ashford/Wealden sandy ware with sparse shell, bodysherd, c.1225-1250/1275 AD

### **Trench 6 Context 606**

2 flints (weight : 18gms) -

Small flakes - unpatinated, one non-cortical, one semi-cortical, dark grey flint from land-sourced nodules. One is core trimming flake, one is a small reduce-flaked core - Mesolithic or Neolithic (probably Mesolithic)

Three 10ltr environmental samples were collected from fills (107, 508, 606). The samples were processed by flotation and a 2mm and 1mm residue sorted by eye and x20 magnification. No charred seeds or environmental material was observed in these samples.

## **12. Conclusion**

The evaluation trenches have revealed medieval archaeological features and artefacts which may suggest the ridge and furrow layout of medieval farming from the known nearby medieval settlement. However, the survival is very small and the evidence has been largely destroyed by modern ploughing, It may suffice to know that surrounding the medieval settlement was a open field system of strip farming that pre-dated enclosure farming of which there are few examples from Kent.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil **(100)** sealing the subsoil **(101)** which overlay the natural geology **(102)**. Cut into the natural geology were a number of ditches. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

### **12.1 Publication and Archive Deposition**

A PDF copy of the report will be issued to KCC Heritage who advises Ashford Borough Council on archaeological matters and the Local Studies Centre on the understanding that

the report will become a public document after an appropriate period of time. A digital copy of the accepted report will be submitted to the Kent HER and deposited on the SWAT Archaeology website. A PDF copy will also be deposited OASIS and ADS.

### **13. Acknowledgements**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, English Rural Housing Association for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen and Paul Wilkinson and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson

24/05/2016

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## Appendix 1

### Kent County Council HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land at Bower Rod, Mersham, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** BOW/EV/16

**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 residential housing whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed some archaeology.

**District/Unitary:** Ashford Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 605635 139327

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** May 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Upper Greensand

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Bower Road, Mersham, Kent

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

Field system ditches dated by pottery sherds to 1150-1550AD

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 25/05/2016

**PLATES**



Plate 1. Trench 1 (looking SE)



Plate 2. Trench 2 (looking SW)



Plate 3. Trench 1 (looking NW)



Plate 4. Trench 2 (looking NE)



Plate 5. Trench 10 (looking SE)



Plate 6. Trench 11 (looking SE)



Plate 7. Trench 3, Linear 305, looking south, one-metre scale



Plate 8. Trench 3, Linear [305], looking southwest, one-metre scale



Plate 9. Trench 3, Linear [305], looking southeast, one-metre scale





Plate 10. Trench 6, Linear [605], looking northwest, one-metre scale



Plate11. Trench 6, Linear [605], looking north, one-metre scale



Plate 12, Scorched area/fire site in Trench 5 during half-section excavation (one-metre scale)





Plate 13. Burnt area trench 5 from above when first exposed (one-metre scale)

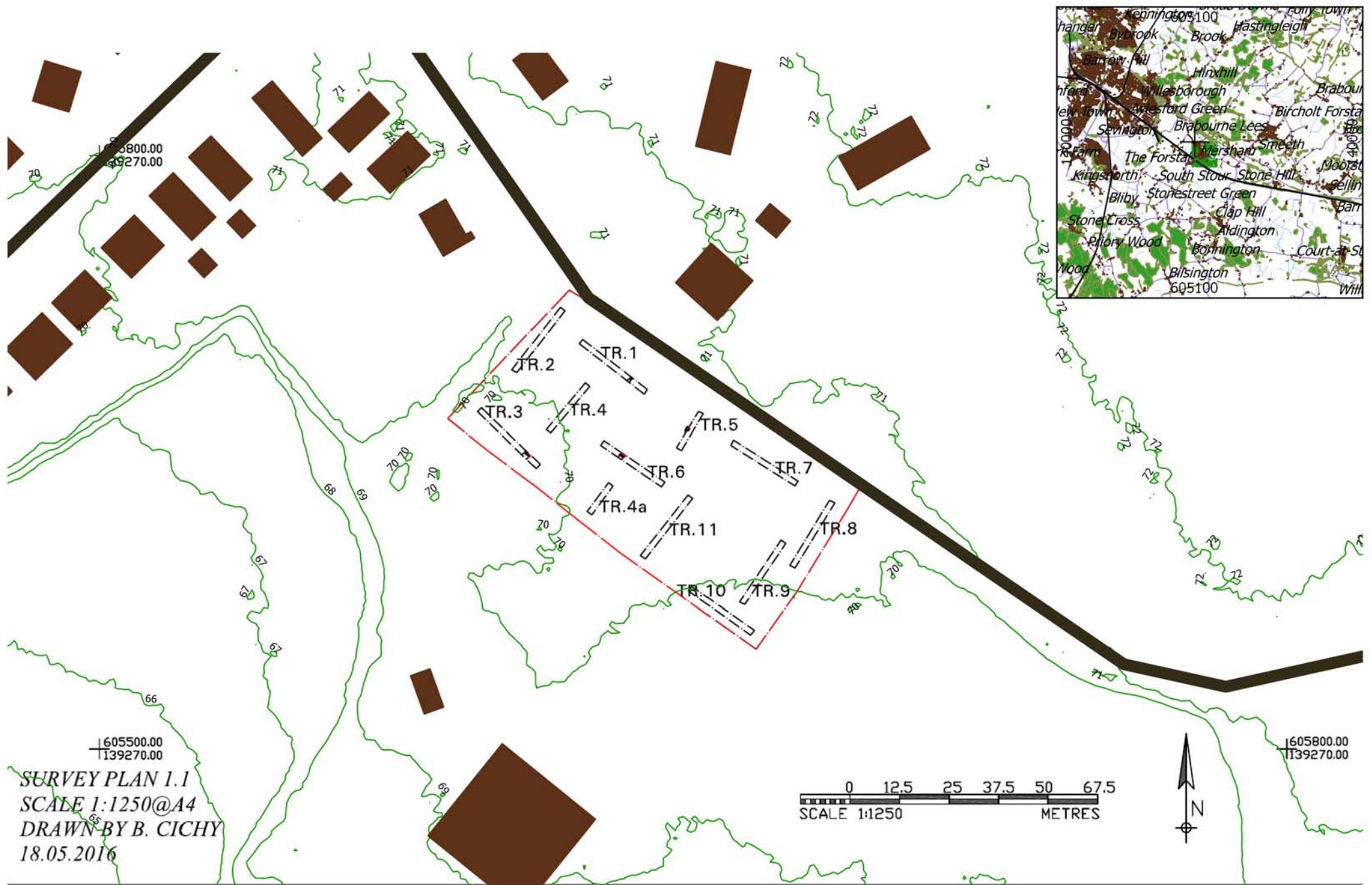


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:1250

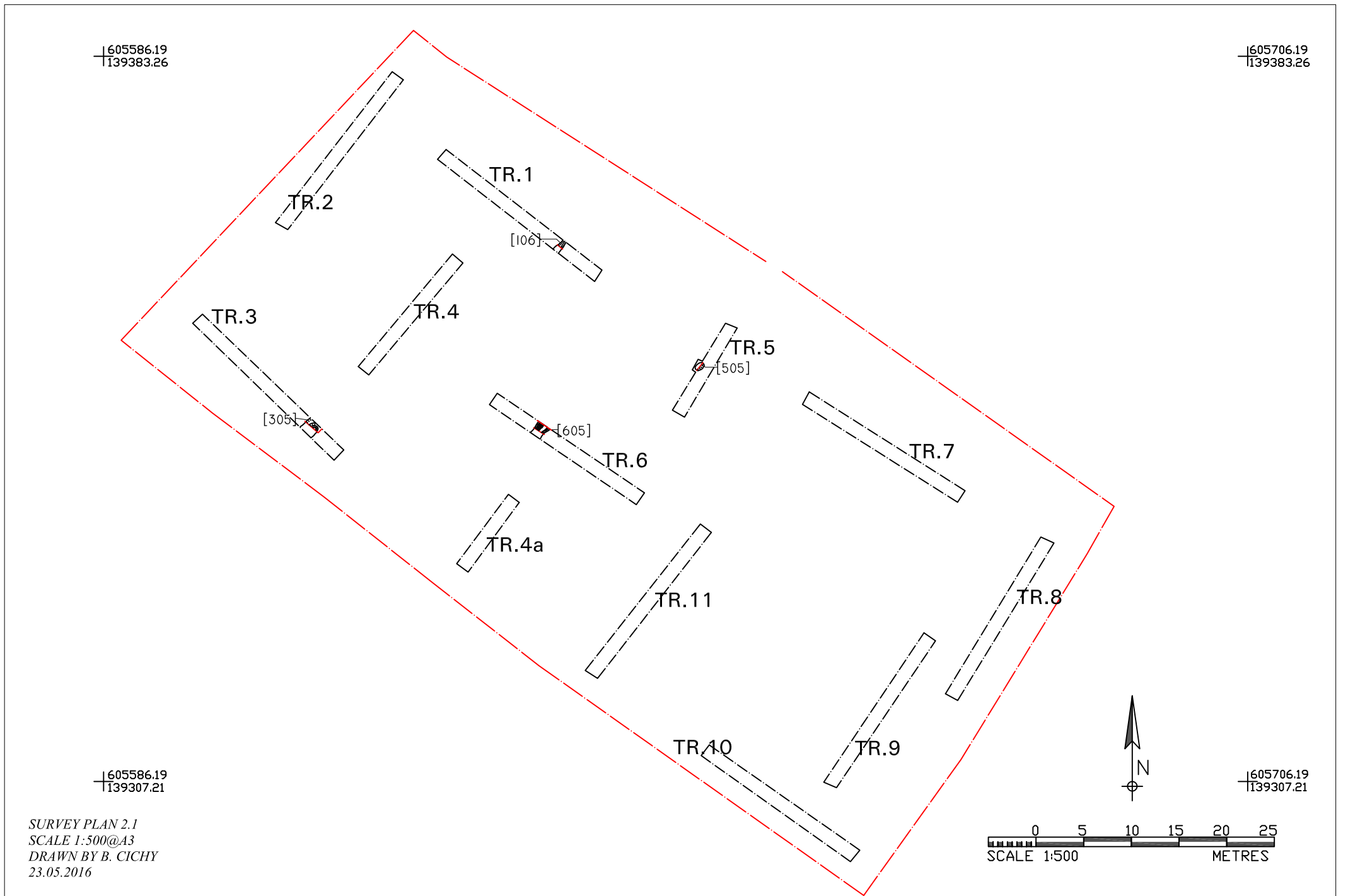


Figure 2: Trench location plan, scale 1:500

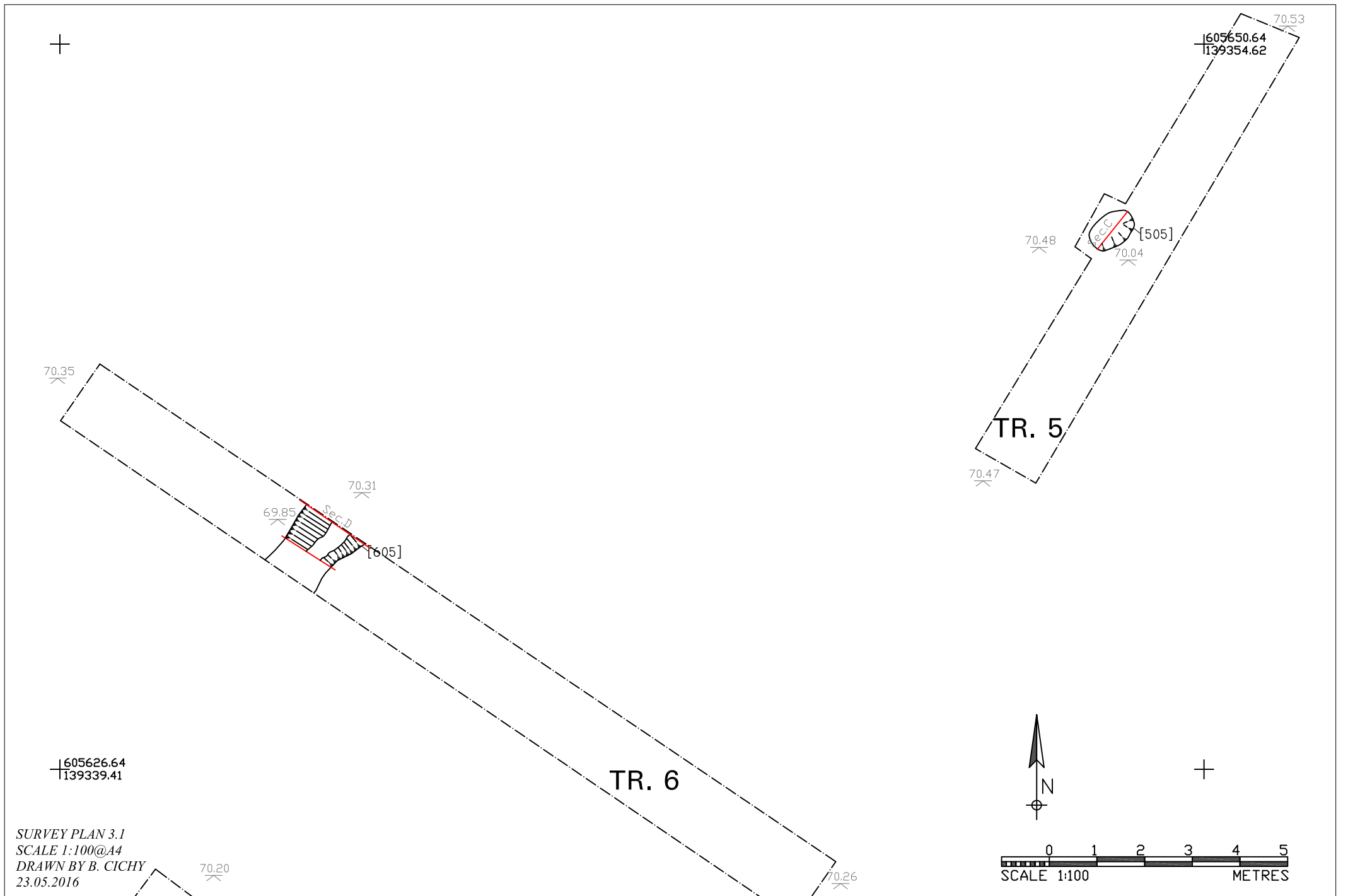


Figure 3: Feature location plan, scale 1:100

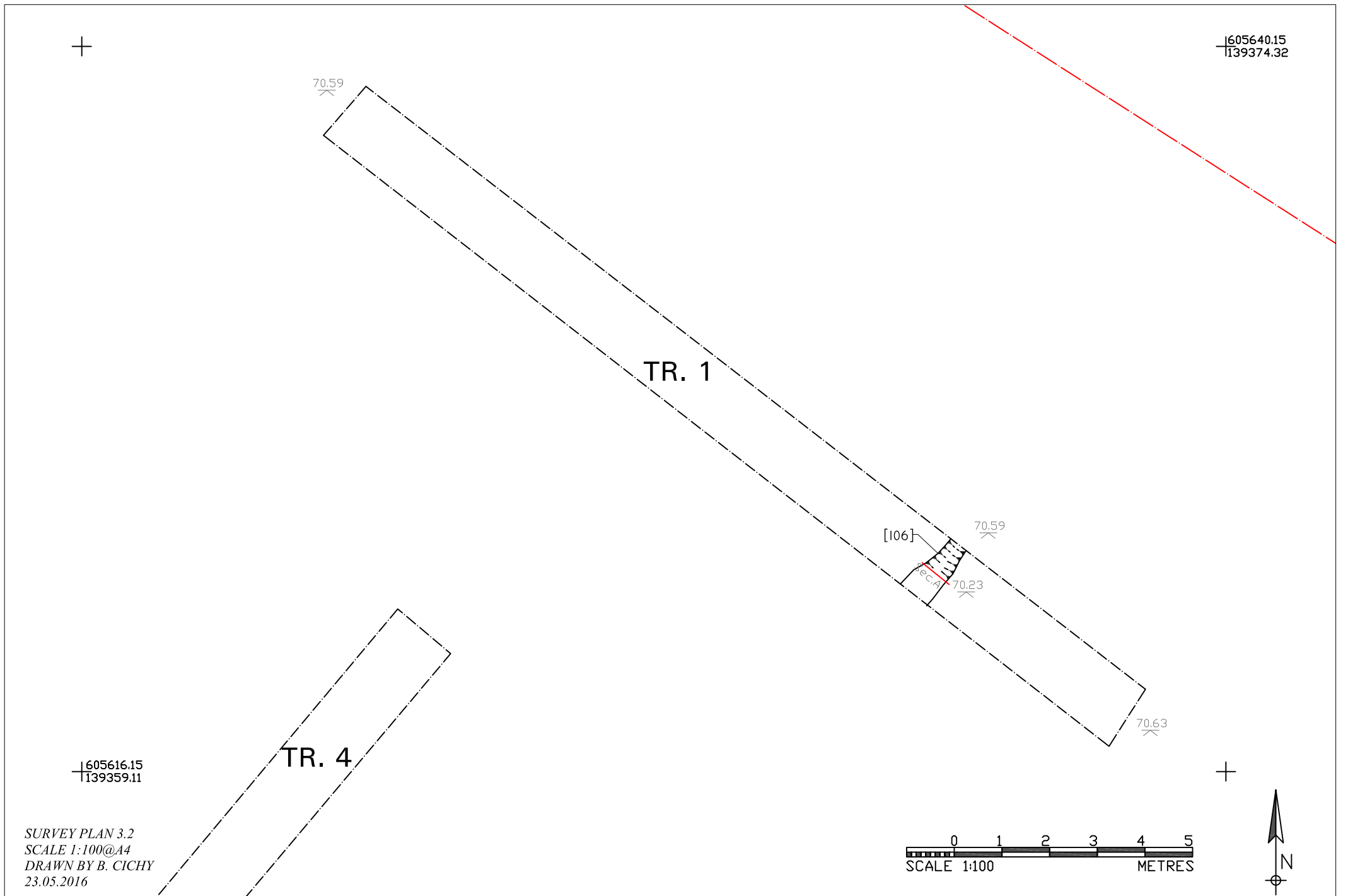


Figure 4: Feature location plan, scale 1:100



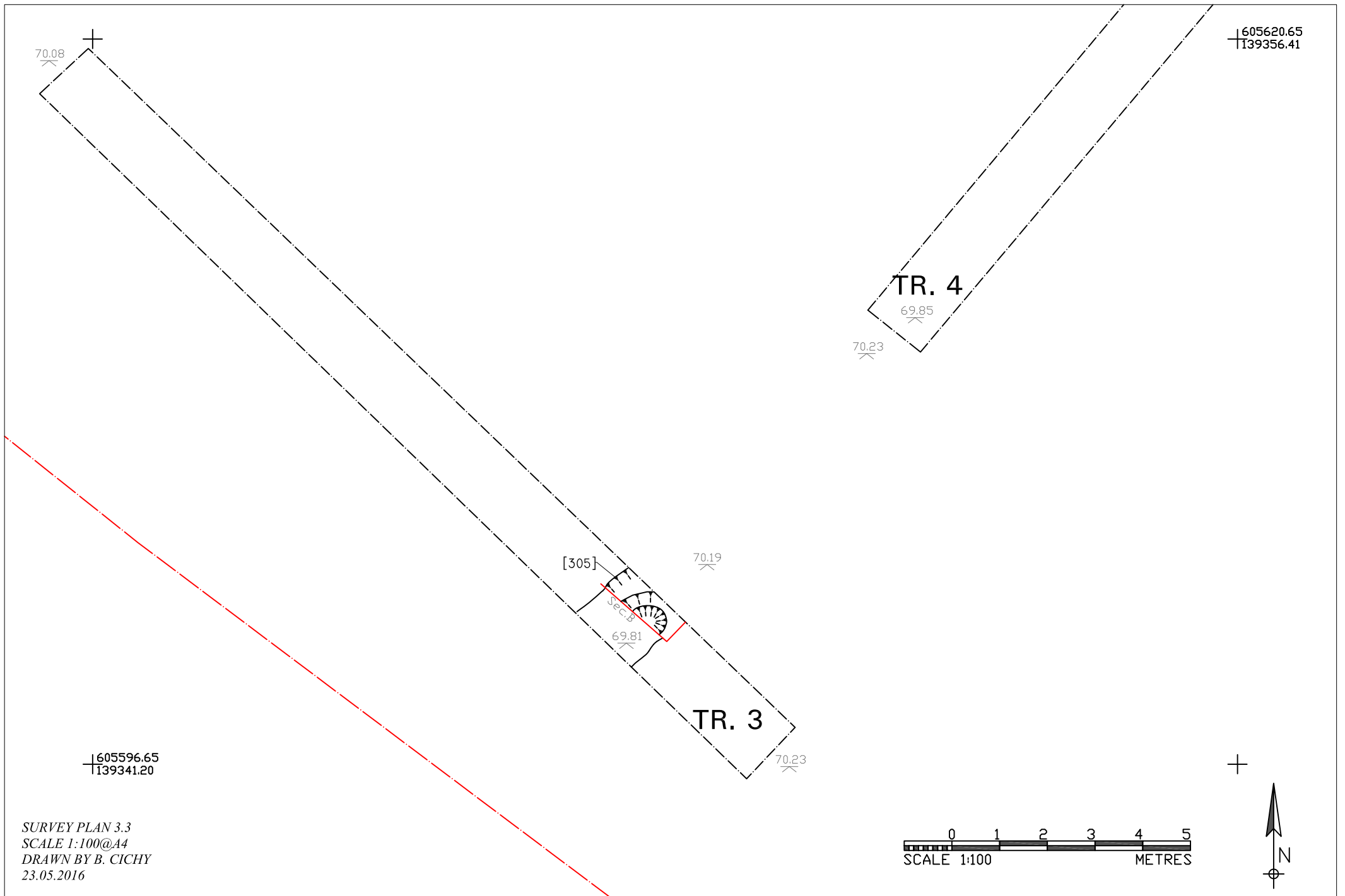


Figure 5: Feature location plan, scale 1:100

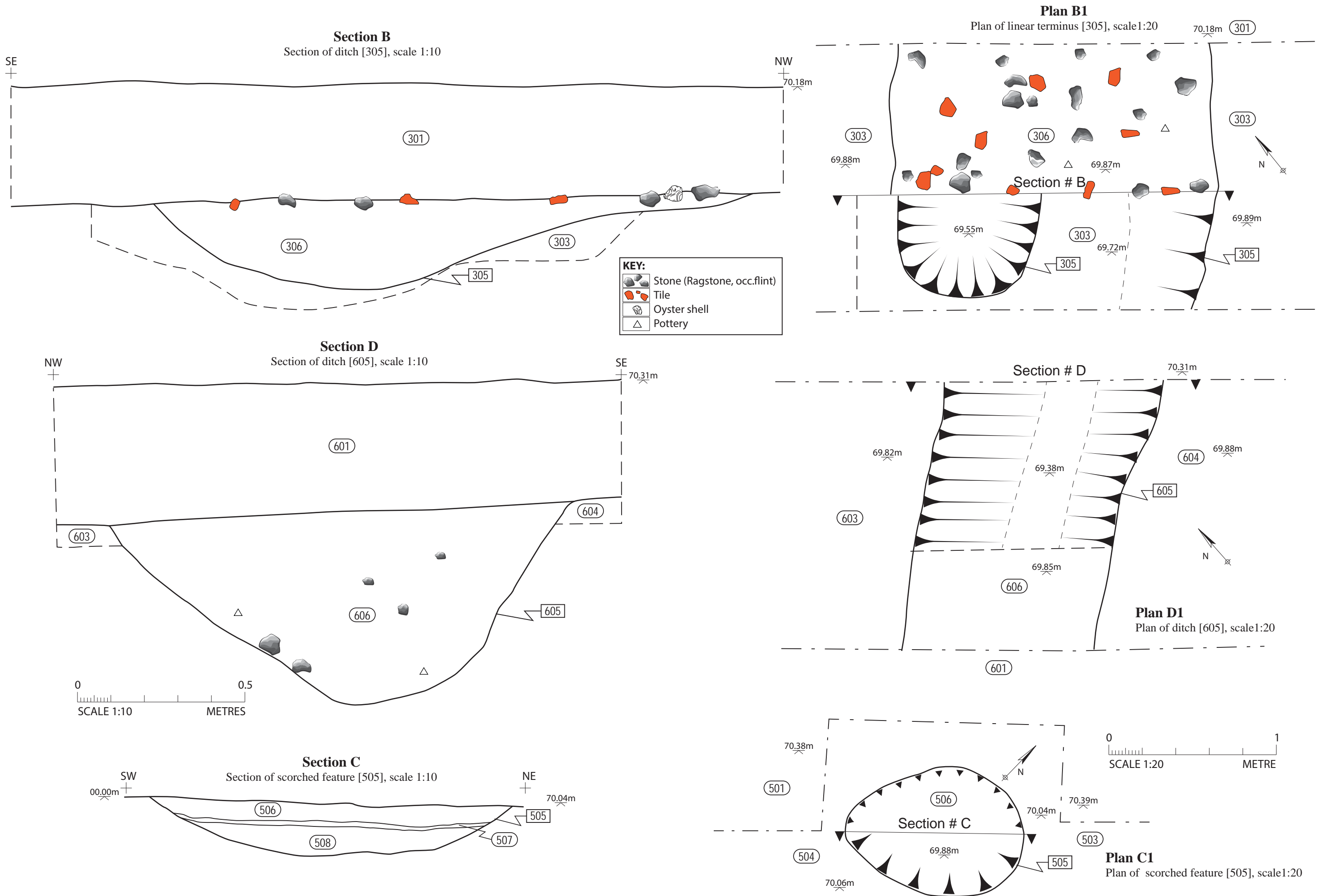


Figure 6: Features sections and plans.

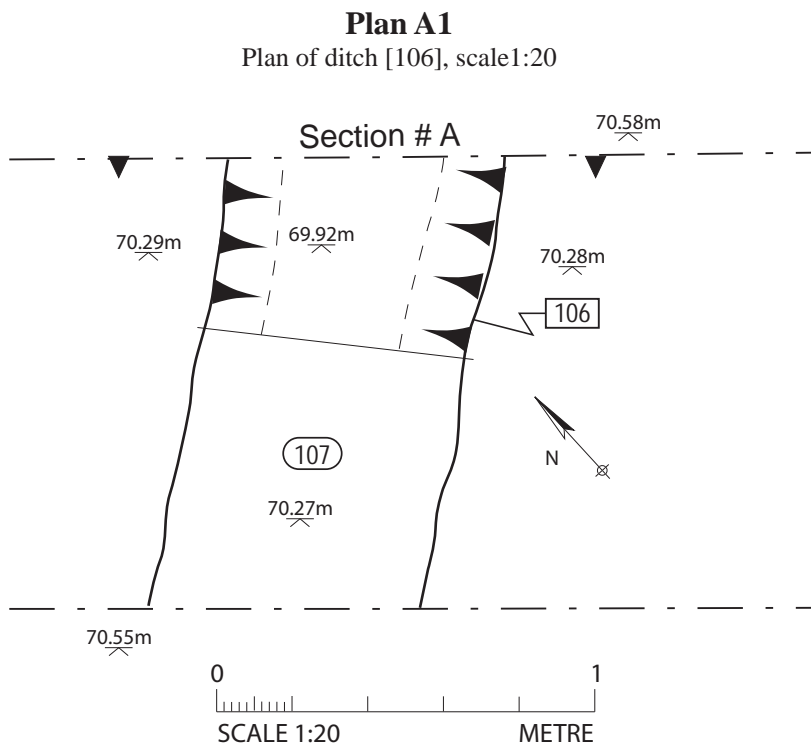
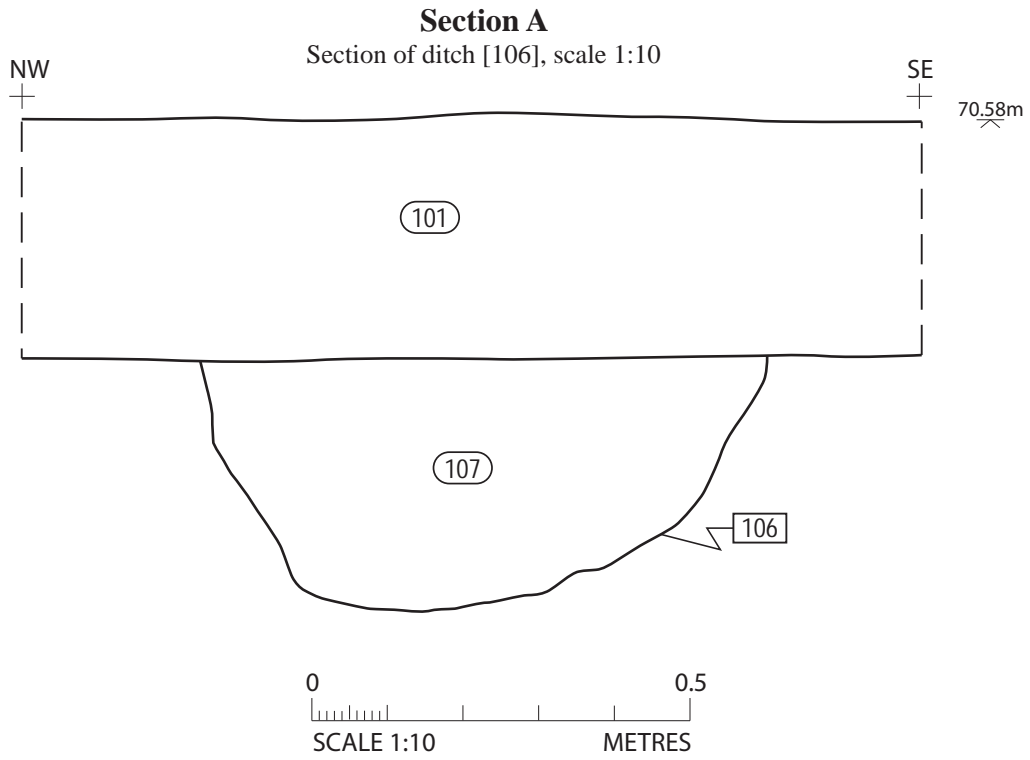


Figure 7: Features sections and plans.

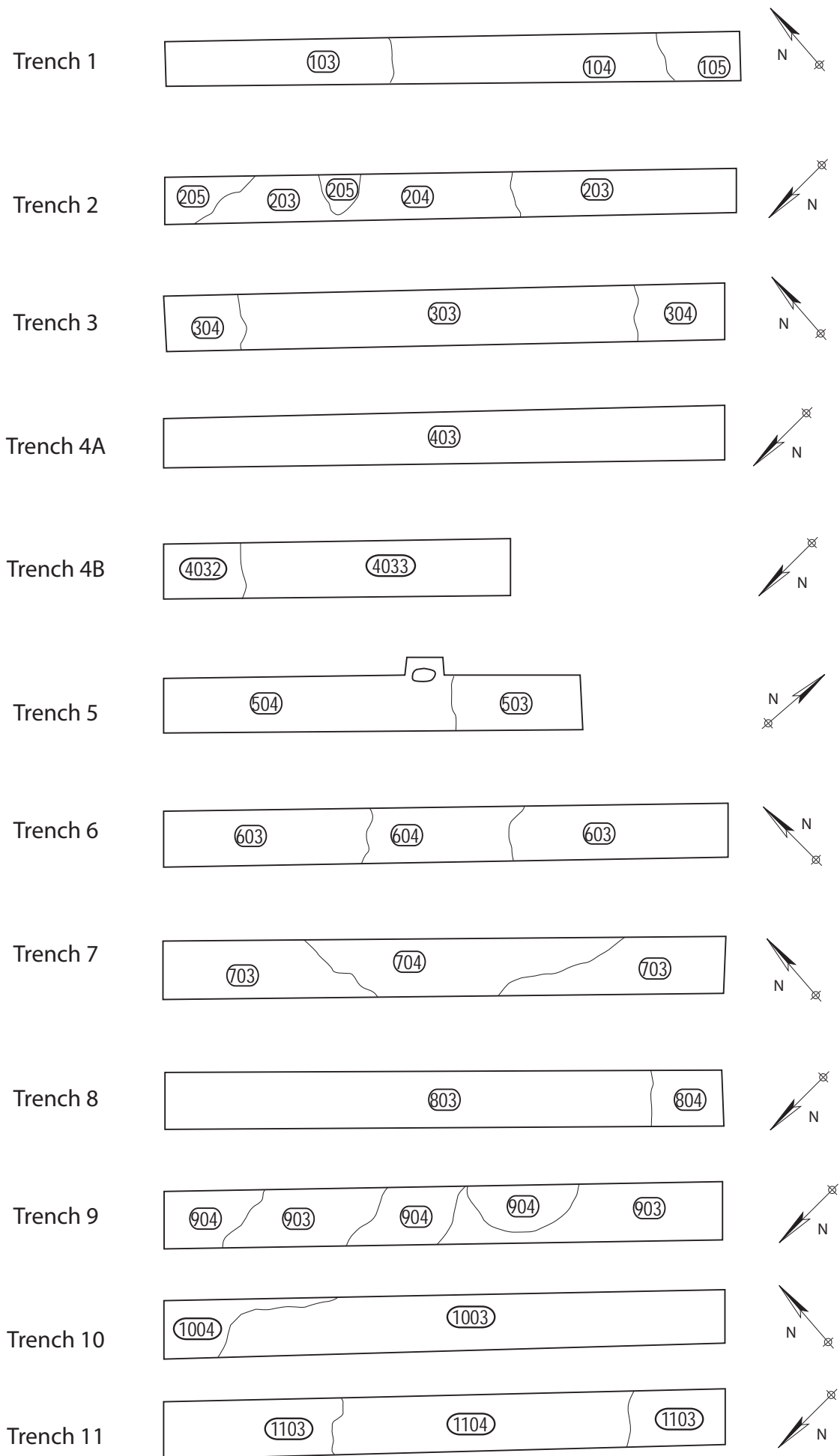


Figure 8: Geology exposed in trenches.