

Tremough 'Fort', Penryn, Cornwall

Archaeological Evaluation Archive Report



Historic Environment Service (Projects)

Cornwall County Council

A Report for the Midas Group

**Tremough
'Fort', Penryn, Cornwall**

Archaeological Evaluation: Archive Report

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Within the Historic Environment Service, the Project Manager was Andy Jones, assisted by James Gossip and Sean Taylor. The artefactual evidence was catalogued by Carl Thorpe, assisted by Natalie Cotterell.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of the Historic Environment Service projects team and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Cover illustration: section through enclosure ditch [100]

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1 Summary

The Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council were commissioned by the Midas Group to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation of a late prehistoric/Iron Age enclosure at Tremough, near Penryn, Cornwall in advance of landscaping works. The enclosure, popularly known as 'The Fort' was first identified in 2000 following a geophysical survey by GSB Prospecting (Project 2000/58) which revealed a rectangular ditched anomaly.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of two 20m long trenches across the enclosure ditch and into its interior, revealing a deep enclosure ditch and internal features probably indicative of settlement. Pottery dating to the Romano-British period, and including some which may be attributable to the Late Iron Age was recovered from these features. The results have helped characterise the nature and date of the enclosure and its relationship with a field system, enclosure and structure previously excavated to the east (Gossip and Jones forthcoming), and increased the understanding of late prehistoric and Romano-British settlement activity in the wider area.

It is recommended that specialists analysis of the stratigraphic data, artefactual material and environmental samples should be carried out and the results of this ultimately published in an academic journal (eg *Cornish Archaeology*).

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

HES was commissioned by Ian Taylor of the Midas group, to provide a project design and estimate for archaeological evaluation trenching of a prehistoric/Romano-British enclosure known as the 'fort' identified by a geophysical survey at Tremough (GSB 2000; Project 2000/58; Figs 1 and 2). This initial survey revealed a rectangular ditched enclosure with an internal length of 48m and a width of 38m (which enclosed an area of 0.18 hectares).

Previous archaeological investigations at Tremough by HES have revealed a significant number of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Romano-British features forming a complex pattern of occupation ranging from the Early Neolithic (4000-3500 BC) to the fourth century AD (Gossip and Jones forthcoming).

The trenching was carried out in advance of the burial of the site as part of a landscaping scheme and was intended to investigate the level of preservation and character of the archaeological features prior to their burial. The work was preceded by a project design agreed by Phil Copleston, the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, Cornwall County Council (CCC) based on his brief for archaeological recording (25/4/06)

2.2 Aims

2.2.1 Principal objectives of the excavation:

- To ensure that ground works were carried out in such a way as to allow adequate recording, as set out in Phil Coplestone's brief.
- To accurately locate all archaeological features and tie them into the Ordnance Survey mapping.
- To identify and describe the archaeological features and to record in detail the stratigraphical relationships.

- To recover artefacts and retrieve environmental and scientific dating evidence from all archaeological deposits and features.
- To record archaeological features in such a way to enable specialist analysis, interpretation, reconstruction and ultimately publication in an appropriate academic journal.

2.2.2 Research Objectives

The primary objective was to date the enclosure and associated activity, to characterise the nature of settlement activity within the enclosure and to establish its context in relation to the development of the historic landscape at Tremough.

2.2.3 Objectives of this report

The aim of this report is to provide an archive statement and to aid specialists in their analysis of the assemblage of artefacts, ecofacts, and soil samples collected during fieldwork.

The report includes a selection of key site drawings, which will assist specialists in understanding the phasing and layout of the site. Phase drawings are provisional at this stage.

As outlined in Section 6 this report is a precursor to outstanding stages of the project, namely analysis and publication.

2.3 Methods

2.3.1 Excavation Strategy

The evaluation was carried out over three days between May 8th and 11th 2006.

The HES archaeological team supervised the machine excavation of two trenches targeting specific geophysical anomalies (Fig 2).

The trenches were excavated across the line of the enclosure ditch and into the interior of the site. The removal of the overburden, topsoil and subsoil was carried out under archaeological supervision using a tracked machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The trenches were excavated cleanly to a level at which archaeological features or layers were revealed (ie, top of the 'natural').

- Trench 1 was aligned east to west and designed to provide a section through the enclosure ditch into the interior, where the densest settlement activity appeared to be present on the geophysical survey.
 - Dimensions: 20m long and 1.5m wide, an area of 32 square metres.
- Trench 2 was aligned north to south and designed to provide a section through the enclosure ditch into the interior, where activities associated with the entrance were likely to have occurred.
 - Dimensions - 20m long and 1.5m wide, an area of 32 square metres.

After the stripping had been completed areas of potential were hand-cleaned by trowel. All archaeological deposits were hand-excavated with the exception of the enclosure ditch which was carefully excavated by machine due to its depth and the scope of the evaluation. This excavation strategy was discussed in advance with the Planning Advice Officer, CCC. Postholes and gullies were initially excavated by half section and sections drawn at a scale

of 1:10. These were later excavated in totality in an attempt to recover artefactual and ecofactual evidence.

Trenches were surveyed using a Total Station EDM, the results being plotted directly into a CAD program (AutoCAD) and tied into the existing site survey. Both trenches were planned at a scale of 1:20, to include all archaeological features. Ultimately this data will be added as a layer to the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER).

A section and plan covering the length of each trench was drawn, recording all archaeological features. All drawings were made by pencil (4H) on drafting film and include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-arrow.

All sections were drawn at scales of 1:10, and all plans at 1:20. Each drawing was assigned its own unique number (see below). All field drawings were then scanned and digitised to enable redrawing using CAD and have been linked to the Ordnance Survey landline map.

Detailed records of all archaeological features were made and described to a standard format on *pro forma* context record sheets, with each context being allocated a unique number linked to a continuous numbering sequence. All cuts are presented within [] brackets, and all fills within () brackets. Blocks of numbers were assigned in advance of excavation to the various elements of the recorded archive (the unique numbering system following on from the archaeological recording over the main site).

- *Context numbers*
- Trench 1: 100-131
- Trench 2: 200-213
- *Sample numbers: 400-403*
- *Drawing numbers (graphic index): 300-309*

2.3.2 Photographs

A full photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation, with all excavated features subject to archive quality monochrome record photographs. Groups of features were photographed using both monochrome and digital photography. More general illustrative shots were taken using digital photography.

All photographs were recorded on *pro forma* sheets on site, with a description and details of the photographer, date, and orientation. Black and white photographs were assigned a film number and photograph (1-36) number, digital photographs were assigned a unique number generated automatically by the camera. Black and white photographs have been entered onto the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record photographic database. Digital photographs have been labelled with a description and stored in the images directory of the HES network drive.

2.3.3 Collection and Processing of Finds

All finds were bagged by context. Finds work was carried out to accepted professional standards and adhere to Institute of Field Archaeologists *Guidelines for Finds Work*.

In addition to the exposed natural subsoil and cut features all spoil heaps were inspected for unstratified artefacts.

All retained finds will be deposited in the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro.

2.4 Environmental Sampling strategy

Soil samples were taken from those features and layers that were considered to have the greatest potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis.

A total of four sample numbers were allocated for this area (numbers 400 – 403). The residues will be collected on a 500 micron mesh and the floats on a 250 micron mesh. Any residues should be sorted by hand into the following categories:

- Plant macrofossils – obvious plant remains such as grain or larger pieces of charcoal to be picked out.
- Pottery/stone fragments to be sorted from the coarse floats.

3 Background

3.1 Location and setting

The site is positioned on a spur of land to the immediate north-west of Penryn, (centred on NGR SW 7711 3491) overlooking the town and with far reaching views to the southeast and out to sea and the Carrick Roads (Figs 1 and 2). Valleys are situated to the north and east. It is located on one of the main roads into Penryn and has been the site of prolonged activity for millennia (Lawson-Jones 2001), culminating in the recent construction of the ‘hub’ of the new Combined Universities in Cornwall.

3.2 Geology and Soils

Geologically the site is at the junction between the igneous granite of Carnmenellis and the Devonian Mylor Beds. This has resulted in the majority of the exposed/recorded Tremough bedrock being categorised as metamorphic, with visible quartz veining and frequently contorted killas (Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1974).

Natural subsoil comprised a rab-like yellow clay.

3.3 Landscape Characterisation

A map-based assessment of historic land use across Cornwall was carried out in 1994 using field patterns and other physical indicators as a means of characterising the landscape. Tremough is located within an area of Anciently Enclosed Land, describing the agricultural heartland, with farming settlements documented before the seventeenth century. Irregular field patterns are recognised as having either prehistoric or medieval origins. Much, or even most of this zone will have been enclosed and farmed since the Bronze Age (c 1500 BC). The characteristic Cornish enclosed settlements or ‘rounds’ of the Iron Age and Romano-British period (400 BC – AD 400) are also found predominantly in Anciently Enclosed Land. Land cleared and improved in later prehistory or in the Early Medieval period was re-organised into extensive ‘strip-field’ systems, many of which are still recognisable (Cornwall County Council 1996).

Parts of Tremough were transformed into an Ornamental Landscape during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; the large field within which the ‘fort’ is located probably being incorporated into parkland surrounding the main house.

3.4 Site History

Tremough was part of the manor of Treliiever prior to 1066 and probably one of the 30 villein tenements mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 (Mattingly forthcoming). Tremough was first recorded in 1208 as ‘*Tremob*’ - the name Tremough appears to mean

‘the estate of swine’. Investigations by HES between 2000-2004 have identified evidence for some six millennia of activity ranging from Neolithic pits to a post medieval parkland landscape (Mattingly/Lawson-Jones 2001).

Known sites

The development is situated within an area of archaeological potential, including:

- Early and Later Neolithic pits associated with flint and pottery dating between *c* 3800-2300 cal BC.
- Bronze Age timber post-rings dating between 2000-1000 cal BC.
- A later prehistoric/Romano-British field system.
- A Romano-British settlement enclosure associated with a roundhouse.
- Medieval and later period field boundaries.
- Geophysical anomalies including the ‘fort’ of probable later prehistoric/Romano-British date (GSB 2000).

4 Results

4.1 Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4, 5 and 7)

Enclosure Ditch

[100] Enclosure ditch recorded at the southern end of the trench, comprising steep cuts on both side through the natural subsoil (rab) and weathered granite bedrock with a flat, very slightly concave base. The top of the cut measures 3.6m wide and the base 1.35m wide. At its deepest point the ditch is 1.95m deep (measured from the top of the cut), 2.25m below the present ground surface. The northern edge was one continuous cut whilst a slight step was apparent at a depth of 1.45m (from surface) on the southern (outside) edge at which point the cut became almost vertical. Three fairly homogenous fills were apparent, described below.

(101) Uppermost fill of enclosure ditch [100] comprising mid brown silt clay a maximum of 1.2m deep, with small stone inclusions and very rare flecks of charcoal. Sealed by topsoil (104).

(102) Sealed beneath (101) this comprised the middle fill of the ditch, a very similar brown silt clay to (101) up to 0.45m thick, somewhat darker and comprising a greater quantity of stones, some large, and apparently eroded from the southern edge of the cut. Very rare flecks of charcoal contained within this fill.

(103) Similar to (102) above it, a dark brown silt clay 0.55m deep, representing the basal fill of ditch [100], slightly ‘waxier’ in texture and containing a significant number of stones, particularly along the base of the cut. Absent, or very rare flecks of charcoal.

(104) Topsoil comprising mid brown loamy silt clay and small stones, 0.3 – 0.5m deep.

(105) Natural granite subsoil known locally as ‘rab’ comprising yellow or reddish clay derived from eroded granite bedrock.

Interior of the enclosure – earlier phase

[107] A shallow curvilinear gully a maximum of 0.20 deep and 0.35 wide, filled by (106), mid yellow brown silt clay with several large fragments of stone (131) (granite), particularly

towards its terminal against the western baulk of the trench. Deposit (106) also contained two sherds of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery.

[109] Shallow gully 0.35m wide and 0.14m deep cut into the natural subsoil, with a concave profile, filled by (108), a firm yellow/brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks containing a sherd of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery .

(110) Compact reddish brown lens of silt clay 0.18m thick sealed by ploughsoil (129), indistinguishable in plan but visible in section. This deposit contained four sherds of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery.

[115] Circular concave posthole cut into natural subsoil with steep sides and a rounded base, 0.22m deep and 0.28m in diameter. Filled by (116), mid grey/brown compact silt clay with no stone and occasional flecks of charcoal (sample no <402>).

[117] Shallow circular concave posthole cut into natural subsoil with a rounded base, 0.11m deep and 0.37m in diameter. Filled by (118), mid grey/brown silt clay with no stone, occasional flecks of charcoal and patches of redeposited rab.

[119] (120) Circular posthole cut into natural subsoil with steep sides and a 'V' shaped base, 0.28m deep and 0.40m in diameter. Filled by (120), mid grey/brown sticky silt clay with occasional stones and occasional flecks of charcoal. Sample no <403>.

[121] Circular posthole 0.16m deep and 0.22m in diameter. Steep near vertical eastern edge and shallow to west, with a flat base. Filled by (122), a dark orange brown silt clay.

[123] Circular posthole with steep eastern edge and shallower on western side cutting natural subsoil, a maximum of 0.2m deep and 0.28 in diameter. Filled by (124), dark orange/brown friable silt clay, occasional small irregular granite inclusions, some charcoal flecks including roundwood. A large fragment of charcoal was bagged as a find from this deposit. Large granite stone placed on top of feature at surface.

[125] Shallow posthole, concave edge on western side, near vertical on east, 0.16m deep and 0.25m in diameter, cut into the natural subsoil,. Fill (126) comprised mid orange brown friable silt clay with no additional inclusions with the exception of occasional flecks of charcoal. Granite stone in top of fill.

[127] Shallow gully 0.45m wide and 0.10m deep cut into the natural subsoil, with a concave profile parallel with [109], filled by (128), firm mid yellow brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks.

[130] Shallow circular scoop 0.05m deep and 0.17m in diameter, cut into the natural subsoil, with a concave profile filled by (131) mid red/brown clay with no inclusions.

Interior of the enclosure – later phase

(111) Numerous large granite stones in a yellow brown clay matrix overlying postholes [115], [117], [119], [121], [123], [125] and [130], of varying size, the largest measuring 0.55m long, 0.50m wide and 0.35m high. Filled possible gully [112] and contained a sherd of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery and a fragment of a slate whetstone. May indicate collapse of an adjacent stone wall.

[112] Shallow, indistinct possible curvilinear gully 0.10m deep– filled with large stones in matrix (111).

(113) A layer of burnt and decayed granite 0.10m thick immediately to the east of gully [107], and associated with (114). The burnt stone covered an area measuring approximately 0.45m long and 0.4m wide and was situated directly above natural subsoil.

(114) An area of red (oxidised) clay, probably the base of a hearth, 0.05-0.1m thick and approximately 0.7m wide and 0.50m long directly above natural subsoil and immediately to the south of gully [107].

(129) A lower ploughsoil horizon up to 0.20m thick, sealed by modern topsoil and comprising firm gritty clay silt containing occasional roots and charcoal flecks, mid yellow/brown with patches of lighter yellow clay. Less dark and 'loamy' looking than topsoil (104).

Summary

At least two phases of structural activity were recorded in Trench 1 in the interior of the enclosure. The earlier phase appears to comprise postholes and gullies perhaps relating to a post-built structure. The later phase is indicated by stone and areas of collapse overlying these postholes and probably represents a stone-built structure.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figs 5 and 6)

Enclosure Ditch

[200] enclosure ditch recorded at the western end of the trench, comprising steep cuts on both sides through the natural subsoil (rab) and weathered granite bedrock with a flat, very slightly concave base. The ditch ran slightly obliquely to the trench making excavation by machine difficult. Although difficult to record due to health and safety constraints this section conformed broadly to that recorded in Trench 1. Three fairly homogenous fills were again apparent suggesting consistency in the infill processes around the enclosure, and are described below.

(201) Uppermost fill of enclosure ditch [200] comprising mid brown silt clay a maximum of 1.2m deep, with small stone inclusions and very rare flecks of charcoal. Sealed by topsoil (211).

(202) Sealed beneath (201) this comprised the middle fill of the ditch, a very similar brown silt clay to (201) up to 0.4m thick, somewhat darker and comprising a greater quantity of stones, some large, mostly eroded from the southern edge of the cut. Very rare flecks of charcoal.

(203) Similar again to (202) above it, a dark brown silt clay 0.55m deep, representing the basal fill of ditch [200], slightly 'waxier' in texture and containing a significant number of stones, particularly along the base of the cut. Absent, or very rare flecks of charcoal.

Interior of the enclosure

[204] circular posthole cut into the natural subsoil, 0.18m deep and 0.25m in diameter with a flat base, a steep edge on its northern side but shallower and apparently disturbed on its southern edge. Filled by (205), dark yellowish brown silt clay with very occasional charcoal flecks (sample 401). Some root disturbance of the top edge of the cut was also visible. Sample no <401>.

[206] a possible pit visible cut into the natural subsoil against the southern baulk of the trench, 0.52m deep and 1.74m long (northeast-southwest), with a rather uneven concave base and lined with grey, plastic, clay (207), a maximum of 0.14m thick. Above this the feature was filled with (208), a mid brown silt clay up to 0.40m thick containing several large stones. Post-medieval artefacts were retrieved from this fill (? horseshoe fragment and clay pipe stem); it is possible that these may have been intrusive, although post-medieval pits were found nearby during earlier archaeological work (Lawson-Jones 2001).

[209] (210) cut of circular posthole 0.55m deep, 0.35m in diameter, with vertical sides and a flat base, filled with a dark brown 'sticky' clay silt, somewhat paler towards the top of the cut. Occasional charcoal flecks were recorded in the fill. Sample no <400>.

(211) Topsoil comprising mid brown loamy silt clay and small stones, 0.3 – 0.5m deep.

(212) a lower ploughsoil horizon between 0.25 and 0.4m thick, sealed by modern topsoil and comprising firm gritty clay silt containing occasional roots and charcoal flecks, mid yellow/brown with patches of lighter yellow clay. Less dark and 'loamy' looking than topsoil (211).

(213) natural granitic subsoil known locally as 'rab' comprising yellow or reddish clay derived from eroded granite bedrock.

Summary

Although numerous geophysical anomalies suggested more intense activity in Trench 2, fewer archaeological features were present and a less coherent structure than in Trench 1 was suggested by the posthole evidence. Some of this may have been a result of post-medieval disturbance as indicated by pit [206].

5 Discussion

5.1 Overview

The project was successful in its principal objective of establishing the level of preservation and character of archaeological features. A broad date has been established for the site, which is likely to be refined by further analysis. The character of the enclosure ditch has been established, and detailed information recorded on the archaeological potential within the enclosure. Inevitably it was not possible to record coherent plan forms for internal arrangements on the basis of two trial trenches. However, it was possible to demonstrate the character and potential of the archaeological deposits, evidence for phasing, and a range of feature types. There was also evidence for different types of use of the site in the two areas investigated.

5.2 The enclosure ditch

The enclosure ditch [100] and [200], previously identified only by geophysical anomaly, was recorded at the southern end of Trench 1 and the western end of Trench 2, and excavation by machine verified its width, depth and profile. Despite a disappointing lack of artefactual or environmental evidence in what were three rather homogenous and sterile fills the enclosure ditch sections yielded important information helping to characterise the enclosure as a whole. It is likely that an enclosure contained by a ditch of this size had a degree of importance and was more than just a temporary structure. The excavation of the ditch by its builders would have required a considerable investment of time and labour, and the status of the enclosure would have been a factor justifying this work. Since there was no evidence of recutting of the ditch from the two excavated sections, this could suggest that the structure was completed in a single phase of construction. This scenario may be hard to reconcile with the presence of both Iron Age and Romano-British material, although the date of the Iron Age pottery remains tentative and the majority of pottery recovered is likely to be Romano-British in date, whilst the enclosure ditch was devoid of pottery. It is possible that earlier phases of the ditch were completely removed by later recutting in the Romano-British period, leaving only the ditch cut visible today, or that the ditch was kept clean and not allowed to silt. It is also possible that during the Iron Age phase of activity no ditch was present. The ditch fills all appear to illustrate processes of

fairly even erosion, the ingress of the uppermost fills perhaps assisted by post-medieval ploughing.

A bank or rampart comprising the excavated subsoil must have been present, probably on the interior of the ditch; although none survived, the noticeable increase in subsoil depth towards the ditch in both trenches was probably indicative of the erosion of the rampart over the interior of the site. It is clear from the depth of the ditch that this bank would have been of considerable height and would have worked as a defensive barrier and a prominent landmark on the plateau, visible from the sea. Significant quantities of stone in the primary and secondary fills of the ditch (103)/(203) and (102)/(202) suggest that the bank may have been at least partly revetted or faced in stone. Examples of rounds with stone revetted ramparts have been recorded at Trethurgy (Quinnell 2004) and Nancemere (Gossip 2005).

5.3 The internal features

The excavated evidence from the internal features unfortunately reveals little as to the specific nature of settlement or function within the enclosure, but postholes, gullies and collapsed stone walling has provided a tantalising glimpse of parts of relict structures. In Trench 1 evidence for at least two phases of structure was suggested by postholes and stone walling. A possible three phases of activity were suggested by the archaeological evidence:

- Gully Structure (gullies [127] and [109])
- Post-Built Structure (postholes [115], [117], [119], [121], [123], [125] and [130])
- Stone Structure (walling (111), burnt stone (113), gully (107), construction cut(?) (112) and hearth (114))

On the basis of artefactual evidence it is probable that each of these phases occurred during the Romano-British period.

An arrangement of the seven postholes [115], [117], [119], [121], [123], [125] and [130] probably indicate part, or all of a post-built structure. An apparent relationship between one of these postholes [125] and linear gully [127] (parallel with gully [109]), and between the postholes and stone 'walling' (111) (with its associated gully [112]), suggests at least two and possibly three phases of activity in this area, with the post-built structure being later than the gullies and the stone walling later than the postholes.

The curvilinear gully [107] to the north indicates another structure where hearth activity (114) has taken place and was also associated with quantities of stone, perhaps rubble from walling. It is not known if this was purely domestic or had an industrial function, although the intensity of heat illustrated by the area of burnt stone (113) and the hearth base (114) must have been considerable. All Trench 1 features were sealed beneath a layer of old ploughsoil (129), which also sealed the oxidised clay deposit (110), probably representing internal erosion of the rampart.

In Trench 2 fewer features were recorded, but two postholes, [204] and [209] are likely to be structural in nature. Posthole [209] in particular was of considerable depth. The clay-lined pit [206] is probably post-medieval in date (unless both finds are intrusive), but its function is uncertain. All Trench 2 features, as in Trench 1 were sealed beneath a layer of old ploughsoil (212), indicating that preservation of buried archaeological features was good in both trenches and likely to be over the enclosure as a whole.

Only one 'round' enclosure of Romano-British date, at Trethurgy (Quinnell 2004), has been fully excavated, and although many others have been partially investigated the nature

of settlement and the variety of function of rounds is not fully understood. It should not be assumed therefore that the structural features within the enclosure at Tremough necessarily represent solely domestic use, and small scale industrial processes may also have taken place there. Excavations at Killigrew Round revealed that there was no obvious domestic settlement, and only areas of Iron smelting/working were identified (Cole forthcoming). It is interesting that both trenches suggest areas of 'open space' beyond the structural features towards the centre of the enclosure. At Trethurgy an open centre was also identified where houses had been arranged around the perimeter of the enclosure.

The evaluation at Tremough has provided a date for activity and elucidated the character of the enclosure ditch, perhaps hinting at special status or function, but further insights would require additional excavation.

A preliminary analysis of the pottery suggests that some sherds could be attributed to the Iron Age, whilst others are most probably Romano-British in date.

6 Recommendations

This report has covered the initial results from the evaluation. It is the first stage in the analysis of the results and is designed to provide a record to be used to target further assessment and analysis. The results of this stage of the excavation should be used in conjunction with those of the main site when considering assessment and analysis.

At the conclusion of this stage of this project the following tasks have been achieved:

- An archive report outlining the results of the excavation has been produced.
- All context, finds, and sample record sheets have been completed and archived.
- All photographs have been indexed and catalogued.
- All correspondence has been filed and stored within the archive boxes.
- All finds have been cleaned, catalogued and stored in acid free boxes.

Following the completion of the fieldwork and archiving the requirements for further work will need to be reviewed and outlined in an updated project design for assessment. The post excavation stages of the project are likely to include the following.

6.1 Updated project design

This will involve a review of structural and stratigraphic data and artefactual material, etc. and outline the tasks for the analysis stage. The outline of final publication, and the work required to produce it will also be determined.

6.2 Analysis

The analysis will involve the study of structural and stratigraphic data, artefacts, and environmental samples and will be governed by the updated project design.

- Liaise with specialists (e.g. environmental samples, radiocarbon dating and artefacts, etc) to for further analysis.
- Send off artefacts (ceramics, etc) to the appropriate specialist for analysis.
- Processing of environmental samples and send off residues to appropriate specialists.
- Send off material suitable for radiocarbon dating.

- Review results from analyses and agree final form of academic publication.

6.3 Academic / Final publication

The results of the evaluation will be appear in an academic journal (eg *Cornish Archaeology*).

7 Finds catalogue

By C.M. Thorpe BSc

A total of 44 artefacts were recovered during this project.

Pottery comprises the largest group 25 sherds in total, some 56.8% of the collection. There is also flint, stone, metalwork, clay pipe, daub/burnt clay and charcoal within the assemblage.

Some 19 artefacts (43% of the total) came from unstratified contexts, being collected from the spoil heaps derived from excavation of the trenches and cleaning of the surfaces of the excavation.

The rest of the artefacts came from recognisable features, recorded by context.

The total number of finds are summarised in the tables below.

Context No: Unstratified.

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	104g	9		
Post-Medieval	53g	4		
Stonework				
Flint	95g	2		
Pebble	269g	1		
Clay				
Tile	41g	2		

1 rimsherd, prehistoric pottery, gabbroic fabric. Flanged bowl (horizontal or slightly downward pointing) Trethurgy Type 20. Romano-British. 3rd to 4th centuries AD.

8 bodysherds, prehistoric pottery, gabbroic fabric. Three of the sherds have burnishing on exterior. Romano-British.

3 undiagnostic sherds (including 1 handle) Post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware (PMGRE). 17th to 18th centuries.

1 sherd Cornish Post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware (PMGRE). 17th to 18th centuries.

2 fragments of Post-medieval floor tile. 17th to 18th centuries.

2 flint pebbles (1 struck). Prehistoric.

1 water rounded quartzite pebble. Utilised?

Context No: (106) Fill of gully [107]

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	16g	2		

1 undiagnostic rimsherd, highly abraded, prehistoric pottery, gabbroic fabric. Everted rim from a jar. IA/ Romano-British.

1 undiagnostic sherd, highly abraded, prehistoric pottery, gabbroic fabric. IA/ Romano-British.

Context No: (108) Fill of gully[109]

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	110g	1		
1 body-sherd, prehistoric pottery, gabbroic fabric. Cordoned ware with one surviving horizontal cordon. Exterior surface burnished. IA/ Romano-British.				

Context No: (110) Buried soil?

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	22g	4		
4 bodysherds, prehistoric pottery, gabbroic fabric. 1 of the sherds has burnishing on exterior and traces of a cordon. IA/ Romano-British. 1 sherd has internal residue present.				

Context No: (111) Fill of gully or collapsed structure [112]

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	23g	1		
Stonework				
Slate	17g	1		
1 basal angle sherd, prehistoric pottery, gabbroic fabric. Romano-British. Sherd has internal residue present.				
1 fragment of a slate whetstone with one polished and striated facet. Prehistoric.				

Context No: (124) Fill of posthole [123]

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Charcoal	3g	1		
1 charcoal fragment.				

Context No: (131) Fill of posthole [130]

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	3g	1		
1 undiagnostic sherd, prehistoric pottery, gabbroic fabric. IA/ Romano-British.				

Context No: (202) Middle fill of ditch [200]

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Stonework				
Flint	0.5g	1		
Charcoal	1g	1 sample		
1 broken butt end of a flint blade. Mesolithic?				
Numerous fragments of charcoal.				

Context No: (205) Fill of posthole [204]

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	12g	2		
Clay				
Daub	4g	3		
1 basal angle sherd, prehistoric pottery, gabbroic fabric. IA/ Romano-British.				
1 undiagnostic sherd, highly abraded, prehistoric pottery, gabbroic fabric. IA/ Romano-British.				
3 fragments of burnt clay or daub. IA/ Romano-British.				
1 iron object, apparently square sectioned. Nail? Romano-British.				

Context No: Unstratified adjacent to [204]

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	8g	1		
1 undiagnostic sherd, abraded, prehistoric pottery, gabbroic fabric. IA/ Romano-British.				

Context No: (208) Fill of clay lined pit [206]

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Metalwork				
Iron	46g	2		
Industrial debris	6g	1		
Clay				
Other: clay pipe	2g	1		
1 iron object, part of an iron knife or sickle blade? IA/ Romano-British?				
1 undiagnostic Iron object.				
1 slag fragment.				
1 clay pipe stem fragment Ø= 1.5mm. 19 th century.				

Context No: (210) Fill of posthole [209]

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Stonework				
Pebble	80g	1		
Quartz	14g	1		

Clay				
Daub	26g	1		
1 water rounded pebble.				
1 quartz fragment.				
1 fragment of burnt clay or daub.				

The earliest identifiable artefact recovered during this project was the broken flint blade part of a microlith dating from the Mesolithic period recovered from context (202).

The Romano-British period is represented by some 21 potsherds. Most of the sherds were undiagnostic though there was one flanged bowl and a slack profiled rim from a jar. This material came from contexts (106), (108), (110), (111), (131), (205), (204), and was also found in unstratified ploughsoil. The pottery appears to be all gabbroic fabric. The everted rim from (106) could be very abraded Early Iron Age, or Romano-British, while the large Cordoned Ware sherd from (108) in a very well made fabric (with high burnish) could date from the 1st century BC to the 2nd century AD. The unstratified flange bowl rim (Trethurgy Type 20) is of a 2nd century date.

There is a scattering of post-medieval finds across the site. Those that are unstratified are most likely derived from domestic midden material being utilised for the manuring and improvement of the fields.

8 References

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9 Project archive

The HES project number is 2006038.

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of the Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

1. A project file (2006038) containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. Field plans stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE 587).
3. Electronic drawings stored in the directory R:\CAU\Drawings\CAD Archive\Sites T\Tremough Fort Evaluation 2006038
4. Black and white photographs archived under the following index numbers: GBP 1850
5. Digital photographs stored in the directory R:\Images\HES Images\SITES.Q-T\Tremough Fort 2006038
6. This report held in digital form as: G:\CAU\HE Projects\Sites\Sites T\Tremough 'fort' Evaluation trenching\Tremough Fort Archive Report 2006038.doc

Artefacts and environmental material retrieved during the project will be stored at the Royal Cornwall Museum, River Street, Truro.

9.1 Contents of the site archive

The site code is TRM06.

Primary Record

44 context records

context indices

graphic indices

environmental samples indices

photographic indices

4 environmental samples

44 bulk finds

4 sheets of field drawings containing 9 drawings

Selection of digital images for illustrative purposes

1 sheet of black and white contact prints

Archive comprises:

1 x A4 folders with context, drawing, environmental sample and photographic information

1 x A2 plastic folders containing field drawings (GRE 587)

1 x Box of artefacts

4 x Bags of sieved residues from the processed bulk soil samples

Correspondence file

Digital drawings and survey data

10 Inventory

10.1 Context Index

10.1.1 Trench 1

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Plan</i>	<i>Section</i>
100	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch	EDM	300
101	Deposit	Top fill of ditch [100]	/	300
102	Deposit	Middle fill of ditch [100]	/	300
103	Deposit	Basal fill of ditch [100]	/	300
104	Deposit	Topsoil	/	306
105	Deposit	Natural (rab)	/	306
106	Deposit	Fill of gully [107]	301	306
107	Cut	Cut of shallow gully	301	306
108	Deposit	Fill of gully [109]	301	306
109	Cut	Cut of shallow gully	301	306
110	Deposit	Possible buried soil – perhaps derived from erosion of enclosure bank	/	306
111	Deposit	Fill of gully or collapsed walling [112]	301	/
112	Cut	Gully or collapsed structure – filled with large stones	301	/
113	Deposit	Burnt/decayed stone overlying rab natural (105)	301	/
114	Deposit	Burnt/scorched clay overlying rab natural (105)	301	/
115	Cut	Cut of posthole	305	307
116	Deposit	Fill of posthole [115]	305	307
117	Cut	Cut of posthole	305	309
118	Deposit	Fill of posthole [117]	305	309
119	Cut	Cut of posthole	305	309
120	Deposit	Fill of posthole [119]	305	309
121	Cut	Cut of posthole	305	306
Context	Type	Description	Plan	Section
122	Deposit	Fill of posthole [121]	305	306
123	Cut	Cut of posthole	305	306
124	Deposit	Fill of posthole [123]	305	306

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Plan</i>	<i>Section</i>
125	Cut	Cut of posthole	305	308
126	Deposit	Fill of posthole [125]	305	308
127	Cut	Cut of shallow gully	305	306
128	Deposit	Fill of gully [127]	305	306
129	Deposit	Earlier ploughsoil	/	306
130	Cut	Cut of posthole	305	308
131	Deposit	Fill of posthole [130]	305	308

10.1.2 Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Plan	Section
200	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch	EDM	/
201	Deposit	Top fill of ditch [200]	/	/
202	Deposit	Middle fill of ditch [200]	/	/
203	Deposit	Basal fill of ditch [200]	/	
204	Cut	Cut of posthole	303	302
205	Deposit	Fill of posthole [204]	303	302
206	Cut	Cut of clay-lined pit	303	304
207	Deposit	Clay-lining in [206] below (208)	303	306
208	Deposit	Fill of [206] above (207)	303	306
209	Cut	Cut of posthole	303	306
210	Deposit	Fill of posthole [209]	303	306
211	Deposit	Topsoil	/	304
212	Deposit	Earlier ploughsoil	/	304
213	Deposit	Natural (rab)	/	304

10.2 Samples

Sample	Context	Description	Drawing No
400	(210)	Posthole [209]	304
401	(205)	Posthole [204]	304
402	(116)	Posthole [115]	307
403	(120)	Posthole [119]	309

10.3 Drawings

Drawing	Area	Plan/Section	Description	Contexts
300	T1	S	Section through ditch [100]	(101), (102), (103)
301	T1	P	Plan of Trench 1 features -	(108) [109], (111), [112], (106), [107]
302	T2	S	Section through posthole [204]	[204], (205)
303	T2	P	Plan of Trench 2 features -	[204] (205), [206] (207) (208), [209] (210)

Drawing	Area	Plan/Section	Description	Contexts
304	T2	S	North facing section Trench 2	(211), (212), (213), (208), (209), (207), [206], (210)
305	T1	S	West facing section Trench 1	(104), [107], (106), 129, [127], (128), (129), [109], (110)
306	T1	P	Excavation plan of Trench 2 features	(108), [109], [115] (116), [117] (116), [121] (122), [123] (124), [125] (126), [130] (131), [119] (120)
307	T1	S	Posthole [115]	(116)
308	T1	S	Postholes [115] [130]	(126), (131)
309	T1	S	Postholes [117] [119]	(118), (120)
310	T1	S	Postholes [123], [121]	(124), (122)

Fig 1: Location of Tremough 'Fort' showing position of evaluation area (Fig 2) and previous archaeological recording (including geophysical anomalies (GSB 2000).)

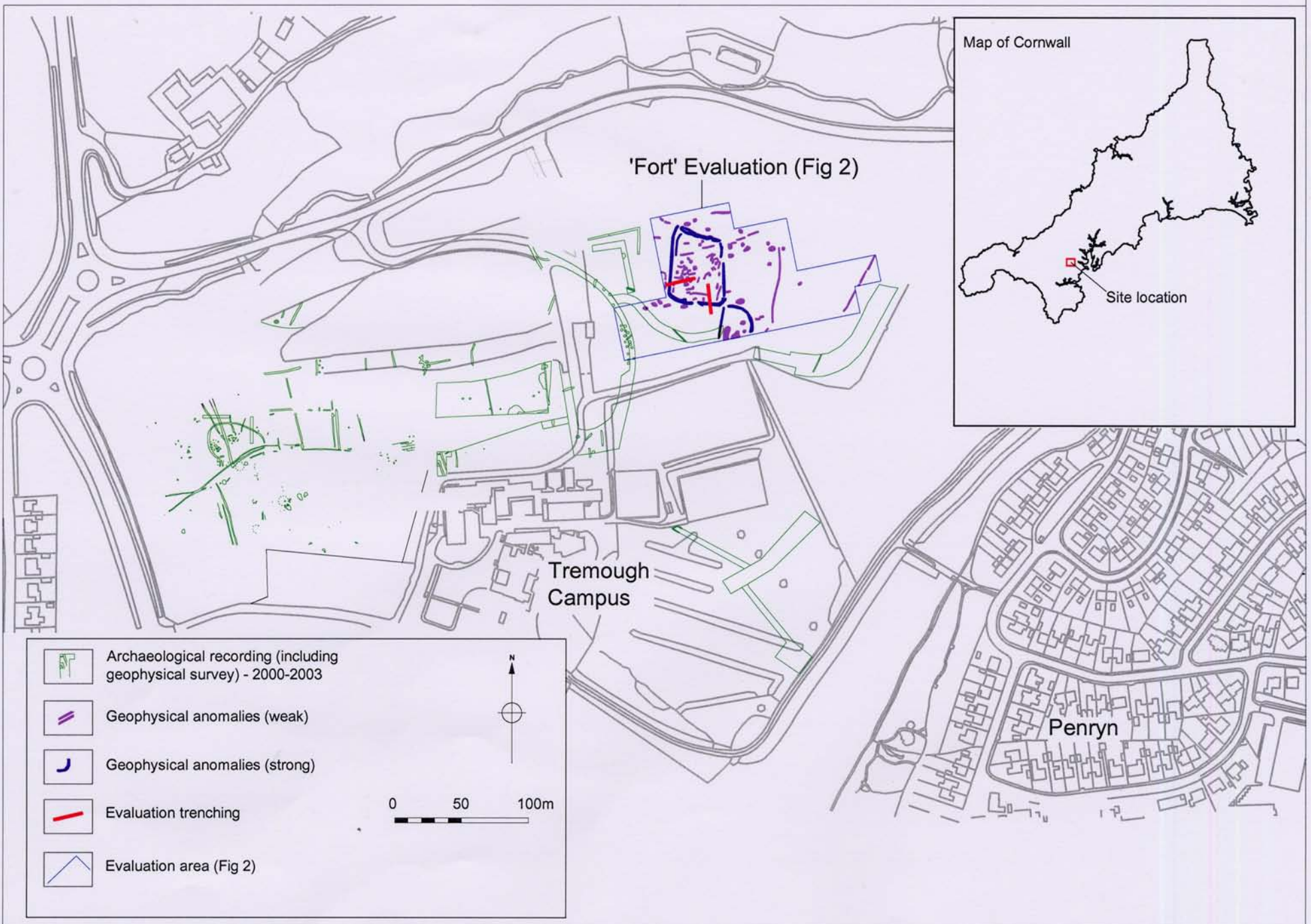
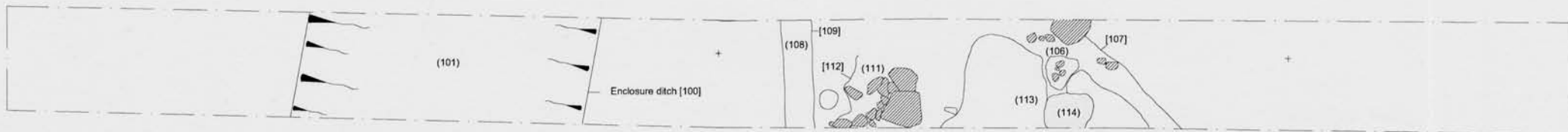




Fig 2: Location of Tremough 'Fort' showing position of evaluation trenches, geophysical anomalies (GSB 2000) and earlier archaeological interventions

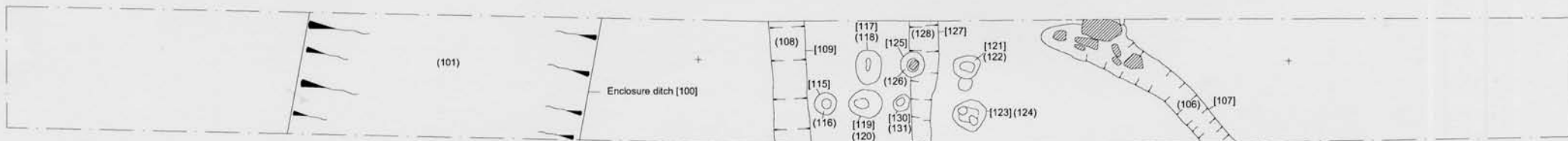


Trench 1 features - later phase



0 5m

Trench 1 features - earlier phase



0 5m

stone

burnt clay

Fig 3: Trench 1 plans

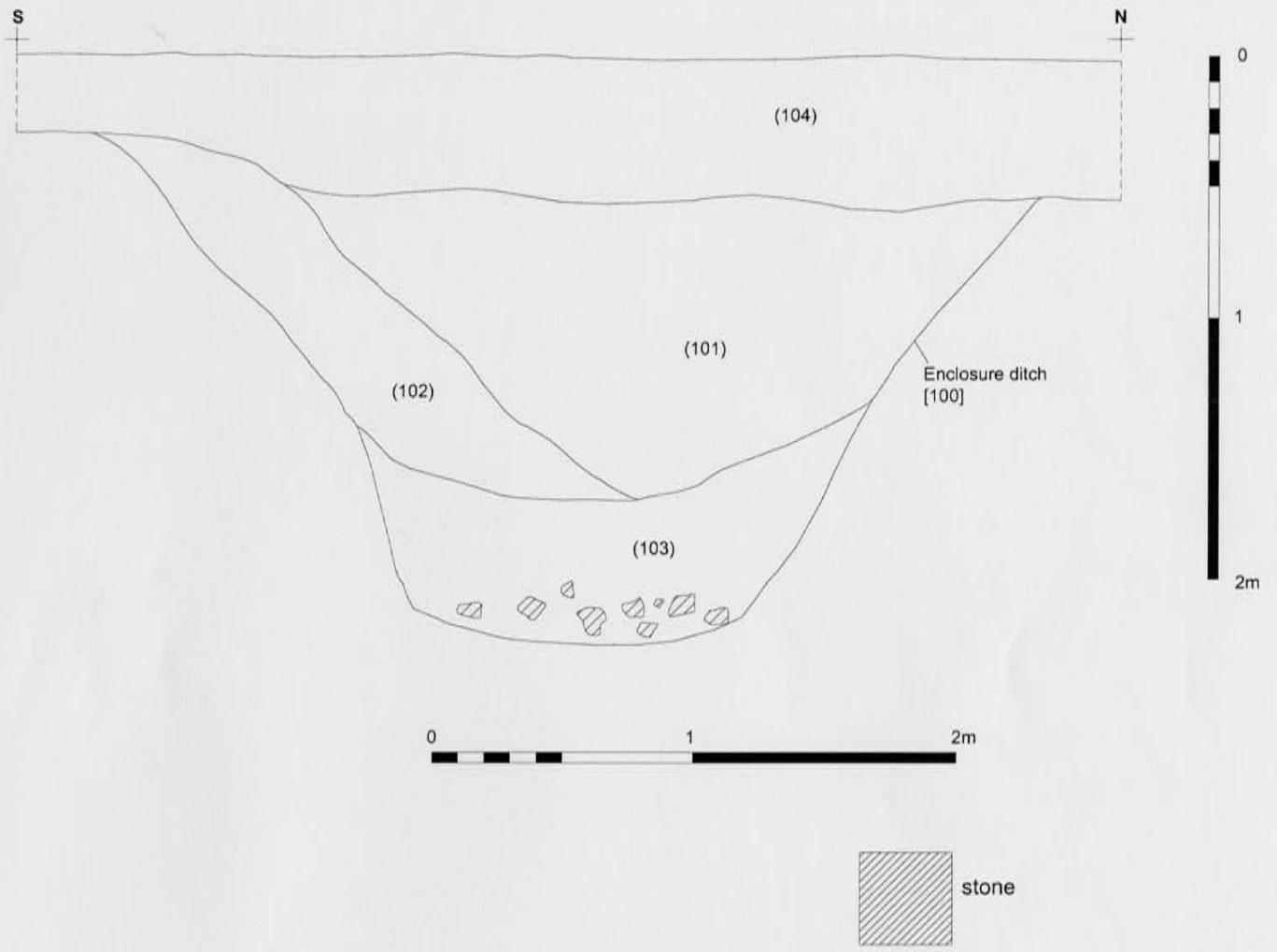


Fig 4: Trench 1 section through enclosure ditch [100]

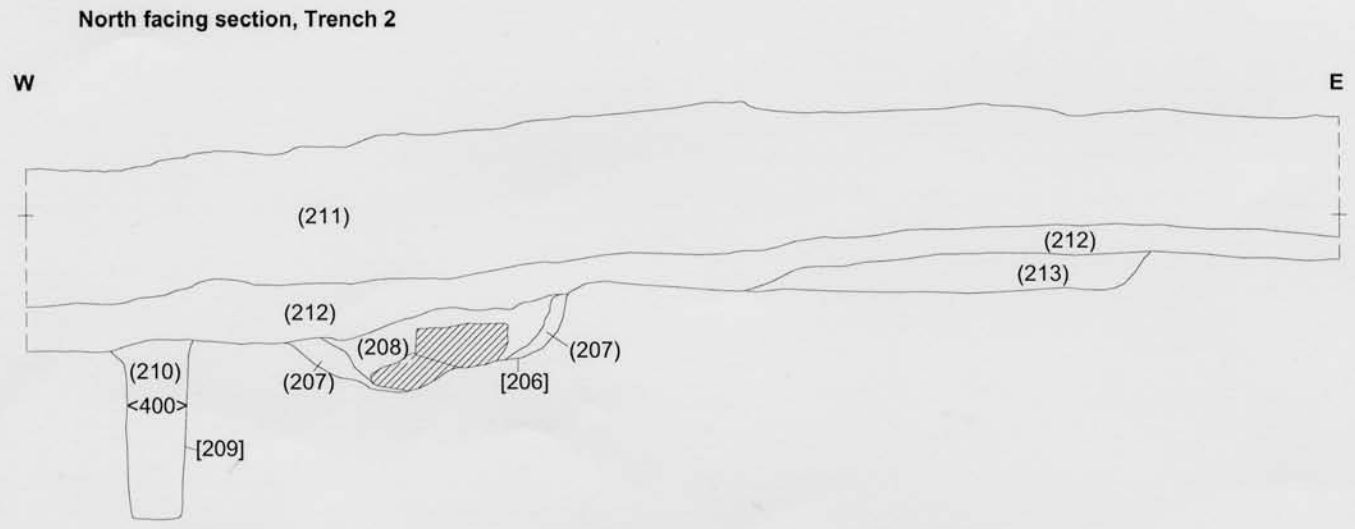
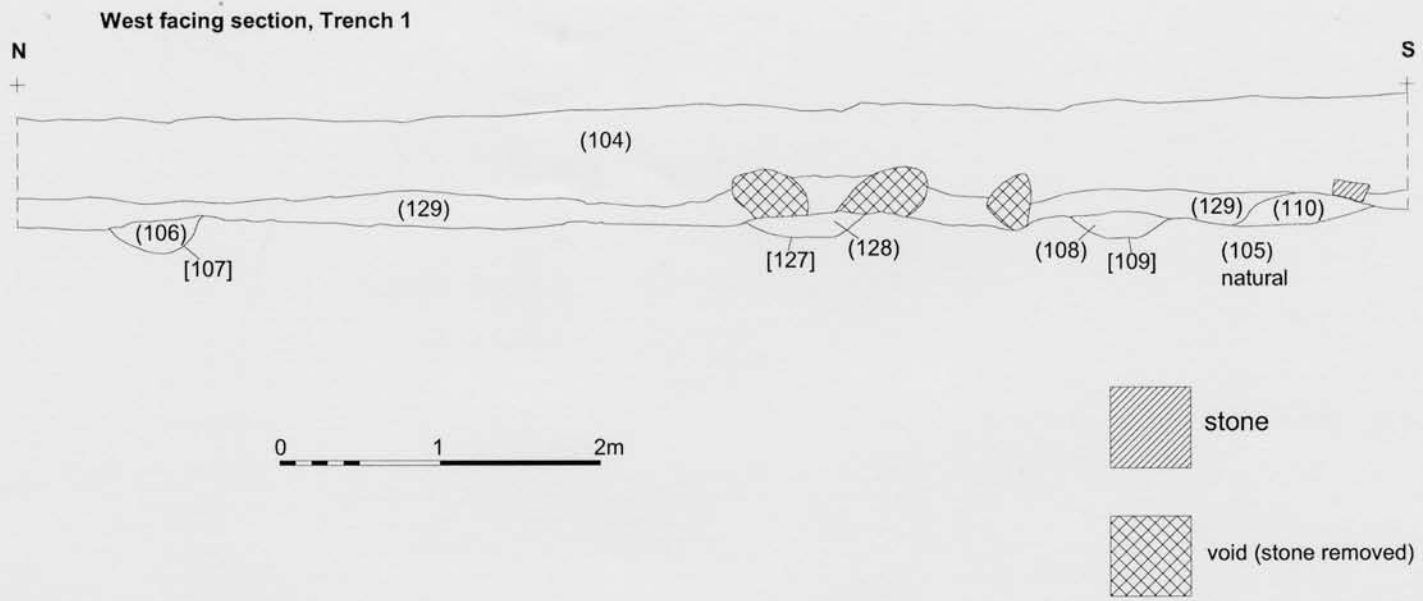


Fig 5: Trench 1 and 2 baulk sections

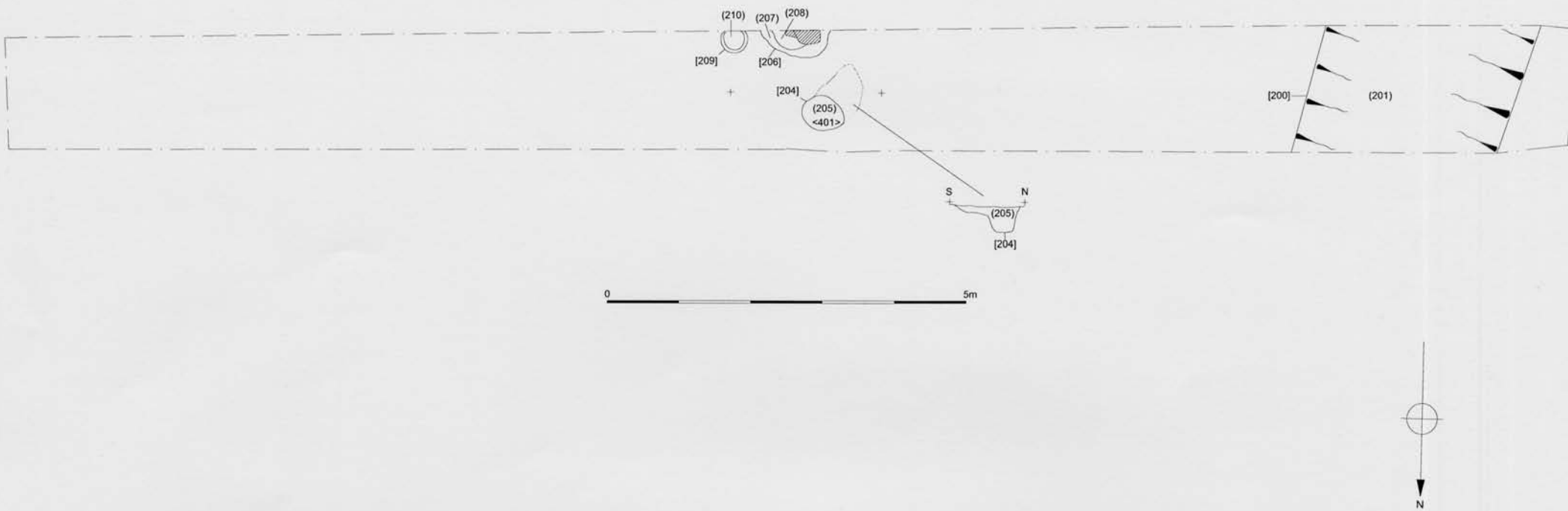


Fig 6: Trench 2 plan

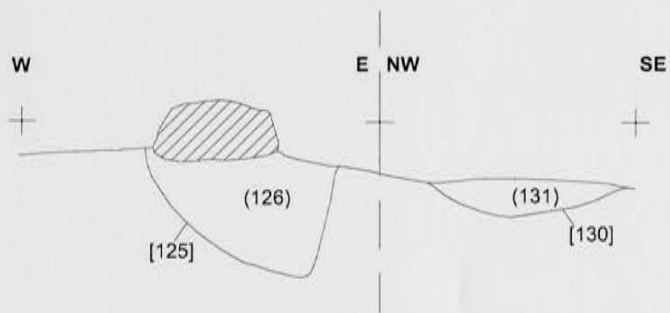
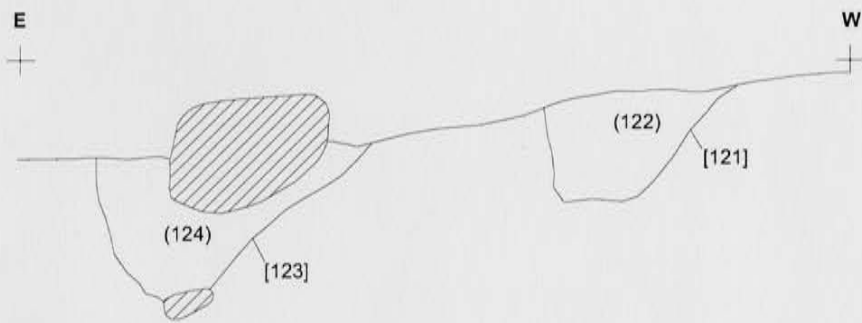
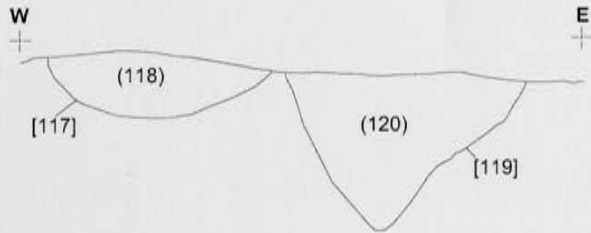
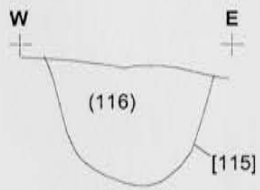


Fig 7: Trench 1 sections