

An archaeological evaluation report on phase 3 enabling development works, Tremough, Penryn, Cornwall



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This study was commissioned by John Trehy of Terence O'Rourke on behalf of the Tremough Development Vehicle Limited and carried out by the projects team of the Historic Environment Service (formerly Cornwall Archaeological Unit), Environment and Heritage, Cornwall County Council.

Within the Historic Environment Service, the Project Manager was Andy Jones.

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.

Freedom of Information Act

As Cornwall County Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.



The Historic Environment Service is registered as an archaeological organisation with the
Institute of Field Archaeologists

Cover illustration

[713], one of the large ditches in Trench 7, showing collapsed stone revetment

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Contents

1	Summary	7
2	Introduction	7
2.1	Project background	7
2.2	Aims	7
2.2.1	Key objectives were:	8
2.3	Methods	8
2.3.1	Evaluation trenching (Fig 2)	8
2.3.2	Treatment of finds	9
2.3.3	Archiving	10
2.3.4	Analysis	Error! Bookmark not defined.
3	Background	10
3.1	Location and setting	10
3.2	Geology and Soils	10
3.3	Landscape Characterisation	10
3.4	Site History	10
4	Results	11
4.1	Trench 1	11
4.1.1	Conclusions	11
4.2	Trench 2	12
4.2.1	Conclusions	12
4.3	Trench 3	12
4.3.1	Conclusions	12
4.4	Trench 4	12
4.4.1	Conclusions	13
4.5	Trench 5	13
4.5.1	Conclusions	13
4.6	Trench 6	14
4.6.1	Conclusions	14
4.7	Trench 7	14
4.7.1	Conclusions	16
4.8	Trench 8	16
4.8.1	Conclusions	16
4.9	Trench 9	16
5	Discussion	16
6	Recommendations	17
7	Inventory	18
8	Finds	27
8.1	Introduction	27
8.2	Discussion	32
9	References	33

9.1 Publications	33
10 Project archive	33

List of Figures

Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Trench plan showing areas of archaeological potential

Fig 3 Trench plans, trenches 1-5

Fig 4 Trench 6 and 7 plans

Fig 5 Trench 6 and 7 sections

Fig 6 Pit [603], Trench 6

Fig 7 Pit [709], Trench 7

Fig 8 Trench 7: ditch [713] (foreground with collapsed stone revetment), ditch [700] gully [706] and pit [709] visible in background

1 Summary

The Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council (HES) were commissioned by Terrance O'Rourke on behalf of the Tremough Development Vehicle Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation of a number of geophysical anomalies at Tremough, near Penryn, Cornwall in advance of expansion of the college. Geophysical survey results included a possible late prehistoric/Iron Age enclosure and what appeared to be an intriguing series of concentric ditches.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of eight trenches across those anomalies, which had the greatest potential to be significant archaeological features. The most interesting of these are those revealed in Trench 7 towards the southern extent of the site, where four concentric ditches of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date were identified, including one which appears to have has a stone-revetted bank on its exterior. A vertical sided pit was located within the structure formed by these ditches. Also present was a very large pit, possibly a quarry, which produced Beaker pottery of Early Bronze Age date. The results have helped characterise the nature and date of these anomalies enclosure and suggest a relationship with contemporaneous activity to the north at the main campus site where an extensive prehistoric landscape has been previously recorded (Gossip and Jones 2007). It is hoped that the results of this evaluation will help to guide mitigation measures for future development at the site.

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

HES were commissioned by Mr John Trehy of Terrance O'Rourke on behalf of the Tremough Development Vehicle Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Tremough, Penryn. The recommendations for recording set by Phil Copleston (Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, Cornwall County Council) guided the project design for this work (Jones 2008) which outlined the number and location of the evaluation trenches.

The proposed scheme covers an area of approximately 8.1 HA (Figs 1 and 2). A recent geophysical survey of the development area (Archaeological Surveys, Ltd 2008) identified a number of anomalies within the area, which had the potential to be of an archaeological nature. These included a circular anomaly defined by concentric rings, linear features and pit-type anomalies. Previous geophysical surveys, archaeological assessments and fieldwork by HES in the adjacent area have led to the identification of significant prehistoric and Romano-British remains, including Late Neolithic pits containing Grooved Ware, Bronze Age post-rings and Romano-British settlements and field systems (Gossip and Jones 2007).

The evaluation trenching was undertaken during late July-early August 2008.

2.2 Aims

The proposed development area contains a number of potentially important buried archaeological sites. The archaeological evaluation of this area therefore provided an opportunity to better understand the character and potential of this resource by recording sites and features affected by it.

The purpose of the evaluation trenching was to:

- To investigate, identify and describe and evaluate the archaeological resource.

- To assess the significance of the features which were identified by the geophysical survey via evaluation trenching.
- To set out proposals for further stages of archaeological mitigation (in particular, archaeological recording).

2.2.1 Key objectives were:

- To locate and record prehistoric and medieval settlement activity within the area of the proposed development.

2.3 Methods

Evaluation trenching was carried out in order to adequately assess the archaeological potential.

The evaluation has consisted of four stages: evaluation trenching, archiving, analysis, report.

2.3.1 Evaluation trenching (Fig 2)

The information from the geophysical survey was used to guide the programme of evaluation trenching and has tested the accuracy of the results from the survey. Geophysical anomalies were targeted to ascertain their character, and preservation. Nine 1.50m wide by 10m-38m long trenches were to be excavated across the site. However, in the event Trench 9 was not excavated as it was located in an area of dense vegetation with poor access. It is assumed that this area will be investigated as part of the mitigation.

- Trench 1 (24m long) was located within geophysical survey Area 2. This trench location was designed to investigate two curvilinear ditches which form a potential enclosure as well as to investigate the interior of the enclosure.
- Trench 2 (25m long) was located within geophysical survey Area 2. This trench was designed to investigate a linear feature, thought to represent a ditch and a large pit-type anomaly.
- Trench 3 (15m long) was located within geophysical survey Area 4. This trench was designed to investigate a linear feature, thought to represent a ditch.
- Trench 4 (16m long) was located within geophysical survey Area 2. This trench was designed to investigate two linear features, thought to represent ditches.
- Trench 5 (18m long) was located within geophysical survey Area 3. This trench was designed to investigate a linear feature, thought to represent a ditch.
- Trench 6 (10m long) was located within geophysical survey Area 3. This trench was designed to investigate a large pit-type anomaly.
- Trench 7 (38m long), was located within geophysical survey Area 3. This trench was designed to investigate a large circular segmented enclosure feature, thought to be of prehistoric date.
- Trench 8 (30m long) was located within geophysical survey Area 6. This trench was designed to investigate a linear feature, thought to represent a ditch and a large pit-type anomaly.
- Trench 9 (15m long) was to be located within Field 3. This trench was designed to investigate a circular anomaly, thought to represent a prehistoric structure. This trench was not excavated due to vegetation and access issues.

In advance of the evaluation HES discussed their work programme and working methods, any health and safety arrangements and the treatment of artefacts with the client.

Recording - general

- The positions of the trenches were be marked onto a scaled base map (linked to the National Grid). Prior to the start of the evaluation, the positions of the trenches were marked out on the ground (via offsets and tapes).
- All trenches were excavated down to the level of the archaeology or the top of the natural subsoil by wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Exposed features were then hand cleaned.
- Site drawings (plans and sections) were made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all drawings include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-point.
- The excavation of features was restricted to the minimum necessary to assess their likely potential.
- All features and finds have been accurately located at an appropriate scale. Trenches have been located using a Total Station EDM and these linked into the Ordnance Survey base map (Cornwall County Council CAD base maps).
- All archaeological contexts have been described to a standard format linked to a continuous numbering sequence. The context numbering system is as follows:

Trench 1: 100 - 115

Trench 2 200 - 205

Trench 3 300 - 304

Trench 4 400 - 407

Trench 5 500 - 508

Trench 6 600 - 608

Trench 7 700 - 726

Trench 8 800 - 804

- Finds were collected in sealable plastic bags, labelled with the context number and site code.
- Photography: scaled monochrome photography was used as the main record medium, with colour digital used selectively for illustrative purposes.
- Environmental Sampling strategy

Few layers or deposits were considered to have potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis. A single sample was taken from (720) which contained visible charcoal, but on reflection it was decided not to analyse this since it was possible that this represented a residual deposit.

2.3.2 Treatment of finds

All finds in significant stratified contexts predating 1800 AD (eg settlement features) have been plotted on a scaled base plan and described. A sample of post-medieval/modern finds were retained for the purposes of identification.

2.3.3 Archiving

An ordered and cross-referenced site archive has been produced. Site plans, photographs and other records have been completed and indexed, and artefacts have been washed and marked (where appropriate) and catalogued.

3 Background

3.1 Location and setting

The site is positioned on the southern slopes of a spur of land to the immediate west of Penryn, (centred on NGR SW 7684 3445) overlooking the town and with far reaching views to the south and distantly 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; Gossip and Jones 2007), 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). The underlying 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 (Cornwall County Council 1996). 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, including the landscape around Tremough Barton farm, were transformed into an Ornamental Landscape during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; the fields contained by the current project area are likely to have undergone significant changes during this period.

3.4 Site History

Tremough was part of the manor of Treliever 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 in the period 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; Gossip and Jones 2007; Gossip and Jones forthcoming).

Known sites

The development is situated close to an area of high 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', which as now been dated to the later prehistoric/Romano-British date (GSB 2000; Gossip and Jones forthcoming).

4 Results

NB: *all cuts are indicated by [], all fills and deposits by ().*

4.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the north-western corner of field 1 (Fig 2), positioned in order to evaluate two curving geophysical anomalies. The trench (Fig 3) measured 24m long and was excavated through topsoil (105) to the natural subsoil horizon at a depth of between 0.35m – 0.45m below the field surface. Subsoil (113) comprised yellowish brown clays derived from degraded granite and including frequent granite stones. Two linear features were revealed in the approximately the same location as the geophysical anomalies.

These were:

Ditch [108] (109) (110): a linear flat-bottomed ditch, 1.0m wide, 0.3 – 0.4m deep, occurring 0.35m below ground level. Possible Bronze Age and Late Iron Age or Romano British pottery was found within fill (109) suggesting that the ditch may have formed part of an enclosure or field system of this later date. Alternatively it could represent a parallel ditch to [111] below and form the other side of a removed Cornish hedge. If this is the case, all of the pottery is residual.

Ditch [111] (112): a linear ditch with a shallow concave profile 1.2m W, 0.15m deep, occurring 0.35m below ground level. Finds from fill (112) suggest that this is a post-medieval boundary ditch.

Posthole [114] (115): a possible posthole with a diameter of 0.30m and a depth of 0.10m, occurring 0.35m below ground level. Late IA/RB pottery suggests possible settlement activity of this date although this was abraded and could be residual.

Two sherds of unstratified Late Iron Age or Romano British pottery were also found on the spoil heap.

4.1.1 Conclusions

The excavated ditches and possible posthole may indicate prehistoric settlement activity or an enclosure. Alternatively the ditches could represent a relict post-medieval field boundary. Finds suggest that there is later prehistoric and/or Romano-British activity in the vicinity. Additional features such as postholes and pits are likely to be present in the wider vicinity since these are known to be hard to detect by geophysical survey in this geology.

4.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located to the south-east of Trench 1 and positioned to evaluate linear and amorphous geophysical anomalies (Figs 2 and 3). The trench measured 25m long and was excavated to the natural subsoil horizon at a depth of between 0.4m – 0.6m below the field surface. Subsoil (203) comprised yellowish brown clays derived from degraded granite and including frequent granite stones. A poorly defined linear depression, perhaps the remains of a buried soil, was revealed in approximately the same location as the linear anomaly. This comprised (202) a subsoil layer occurring 0.4 – 0.45m below ground level and a maximum of 0.2m thick and produced a sherd of abraded decorated Bronze Age pottery.

To the east of and sealed by this was (205), a low stony bank standing 0.15m above the natural subsoil and the top of which occurred 0.5m below ground level, possibly representing the remains of a hedge boundary aligned north-north-east to south-south-west.

4.2.1 Conclusions

The buried soil and bank indicate a field boundary and later colluvial or agricultural deposits pre-dating the reorganisation of farmland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is uncertain whether this boundary is prehistoric later in origin.

The presence of prehistoric or Romano-British features in the area beyond the trench cannot be ruled out on the basis of known activity of this period in the area. Decorated Bronze Age pottery provides evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity. Features such as postholes and pits may be present since smaller features may not be detected by geophysical survey in this geology.

4.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in a small field to the north of Tremough Barton farm and positioned to evaluate a northeast-southwest aligned geophysical anomaly (Figs 2 and 3). The trench measured 15m with a topsoil/subsoil depth of 0.6m which included colluvial subsoil sealed beneath topsoil.

The only potential archaeological feature in this trench was (303), an irregular stone spread occurring 0.5m below ground level, the possible remains of a relict post-medieval hedge boundary aligned northeast-southwest. This was sealed beneath (302), a mid brown light/loose silty clay loam topsoil and the colluvial subsoil comprising friable reddish brown silty clay within a natural hollow (or possibly the base of relict field boundary ditch) which accumulated around the stones of (303).

4.3.1 Conclusions

These features may represent the remains of a post-medieval boundary and associated agricultural processes pre-dating the reorganisation of farmland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Although the only feature identified in this trench is post-medieval in date the presence of prehistoric or Romano-British features cannot be entirely ruled out on the basis of known activity of this period in the area. However, geophysical survey suggests that the central area of this field has been largely disturbed by a service trench and the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits is therefore low.

4.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was positioned to the south of Trench 2 in order to evaluate a curvilinear geophysical anomaly with the appearance of an interrupted ditch (Figs 2 and 3). The trench

measured 16m and was stripped of topsoil/turf (400) and subsoil (401) to a depth of 0.35m. Below this was (402) a subsoil layer comprising compact dark greyish brown clay, with occasional charcoal flecks and small granite stones. This layer sealed two features.

At the southern end of the trench was [403], the remains of a shallow sub-rectangular pit with an asymmetrical concave profile 0.25m deep, 1.3m long and 1.10m wide occurring 0.35m below ground level. No finds were recovered from fill (404). To the north of this was [405], the cut of a northwest-southeast aligned linear ditch, with an irregular concave profile 1.1m wide 0.22m deep, occurring 0.50m below ground level. The fill (406), a dark greyish brown friable clay, with large angular granite blocks up to 0.4m long contained shell (limpets and bivalves) and is probably post-medieval in date.

4.4.1 Conclusions

Ditch [405] probably represents a post-medieval boundary and agricultural activity pre-dating the reorganisation of farmland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The pit [403] may be the result of an associated agricultural activity. However, although the only features identified in this trench are likely to be of post-medieval date the presence of prehistoric or Romano-British features cannot be ruled out on the basis of known activity of this period in the wider area. Small features such as postholes and pits may be present since these are known to be hard to detect by geophysical survey in this geology.

4.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in the northern half of the middle field to evaluate an approximately east-west aligned linear anomaly and measured 18m in length (Figs 2 and 3). Topsoil (506) comprised mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam 0.35m thick sealing a layer of colluvial mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam subsoil (507), 0.2m thick giving an overall overburden depth of up to 0.55m beneath which was the natural subsoil (508) comprising yellow rab (clay derived from degraded granite with some granite stones present).

Beneath the colluvial layer at the southern end of the trench were ditch cuts [501] and [505], probably representing ditches either side of a removed hedge. Ditch [501] was aligned northwest-southeast and had an asymmetrical concave profile, 1.1m wide 0.22m deep, occurring 0.35m below ground level. The loose topsoil-like fill (500) (a mid brown silty clay) contained a post-medieval horseshoe (not retained). Ditch [505] was a parallel linear cut 2.3m to the north of [501], with an asymmetrical concave profile 0.7m deep, occurring 0.35m below ground level, running parallel to ditch [501]. Unstratified finds from the spoil heap include a sherd of early medieval 'Gwithian style' ware (sixth to eighth centuries), post-medieval ceramics and a pre-1650 clay pipe bowl. Pit [503] was a small sub-rectangular cut measuring 1.0m wide, 0.1m deep of unknown function occurring 0.35m below ground level. The loose topsoil-like fill (502) (silty clay) contained no finds. The loose fill indicates that the pit is probably of modern origin.

4.5.1 Conclusions

The two ditches are characteristic features found either side of a Cornish hedge activity pre-dating the reorganisation of farmland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Although the only features identified in this trench are likely to be post-medieval in date, the presence of prehistoric or Romano-British features is likely in the wider area. Small features such as postholes and pits may be present as these are hard to detect by geophysical survey. Finds of early medieval 'Gwithian style' ware (sixth to eighth centuries) are uncommon, and may be particularly significant if suggestive of activity in the near vicinity.

4.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located to the south-east of Trench 5 to evaluate a large amorphous anomaly and measured 10m in length (Figs 2 and 4). The maximum depth of overburden was 0.75 including topsoil/turf (607) (0.55m thick) and colluvial subsoil (605) (0.3m thick).

At the western end of the trench and below colluvial layer (605) was cut [603], clearly defined against the natural subsoil/bedrock (606). This comprised the edge of a large pit (the geophysical anomaly suggests dimensions of around 13m long and 7m wide) with a steep but concave cut at least 0.9m deep but not excavated to its full extent for safety reasons (Figs 4, 5 and 6). The top of the cut occurred at 0.75m below ground level. The lower edges of the pit were cut through broken granite bedrock. From top to bottom the fills were:

Fill (600) was a mid reddish brown silty clay, compact, occasional large angular granite stones up to 300mm x 200mm and occasional charcoal flecks.

Fill (601), was a compact mid reddish brown silty clay, with moderate degraded granite, occasional charcoal flecks.

Fill (602), comprising plastic light reddish brown silty clay with occasional angular granite, occasional charcoal flecks.

Fill (604), was a friable mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent gritty degraded granite, occasional charcoal flecks (604).

Fill (603) contained a sherd of possible abraded Beaker ware, a sherd of very abraded Bronze Age pottery and a prehistoric retouched flint flake. An irregular arrangement of stones (608) found to the east of the pit were probably natural.

4.6.1 Conclusions

Feature [603] represents a large pit, possibly for the quarrying of bedrock. The Beaker sherd was abraded and may be residual, as could the flint. However, these finds and the proximity of Iron Age/Romano-British activity in Trench 7 strongly suggest that the pit dates to the later prehistoric/Romano-British period.

Additional features such as postholes and pits may be present in the wider vicinity as these are known to be hard to detect by geophysical survey in this geology.

4.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was located at the southern end of the middle field to evaluate four concentric curvilinear geophysical anomalies occurring to the east of the linear magnetic debris anomaly indicating the position of a large service trench (Figs 2, 4 and 5). The trench was 38m in length.

A series of ditches, a pit and a posthole were revealed beneath topsoil (721) (up to 0.10m – 0.15m thick) and its underlying colluvial subsoil (722) (up to approximately 0.45m thick, deeper towards the eastern end of the trench). All the features clearly cut the natural subsoil (723). Starting at the western end of the trench these features comprised:

Cut [703] (702), was a circular posthole 0.2m diameter, 0.1m deep, occurring 0.30m below ground level. The top of the cut was overlaid by a deposit of very compact redeposited natural, thought to be derived from the excavation of the large adjacent pipe trench. A large sherd from a Late Iron Age/Romano-British Cordoned Ware storage jar was recovered from this fill.

Cut [709], a large oval pit 1.7m to the east of [703]. It was located 0.35m below ground level, measuring 1.45m long, 1.30m wide and 0.95m deep (Figs 4, 5 and 7). The pit had near vertical

edges and a flat base. Top fill (708) comprised mid brown friable silty clay 0.8m thick containing large quantities of granite stones up to 0.3m in length and a decorated sherd of Iron Age/Romano-British pottery. This sealed primary fill (717), a dark brown, compact silty clay, with occasional granite stones 0.15m thick. A silty surface deposit (707) had accumulated around stones above the natural subsoil just to the east of the cut [709] and contained a sherd of early medieval pottery (eleventh to twelfth centuries AD).

To the east of this was [706] the cut of a curvilinear gully 0.55m wide, 0.2m deep occurring 0.35m below ground level. The profile was concave with a gently rounded base. Fill comprised (705) a mid greyish brown silty clay.

Situated to 0.9m to the east of [706] was concentric curvilinear ditch [700] 1.5m wide, 0.55 deep, with a very steep north-eastern edge, a more concave south-western edge and a flat base (Figs 4, 5 and 8). Stones set on edge at the base of the south-western edge may be deliberate. The top of the cut occurred 0.35m below ground level and the top fill (701) comprising mid greyish brown silty clay contained two sherds of Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery. Below this was primary fill (724), a gritty, light brown silty clay with stony inclusions on eastern side, 0.2m thick.

Located to 3.6m to the east of [700] was [713], the cut of large curvilinear ditch occurring 0.50m below ground level (Figs 4, 5 and 8). The west side the ditch had a 45 degree concave edge cut through natural subsoil/bedrock with a break of slope visible 0.9m below the top of the cut. The ditch was excavated to a depth of 0.95m but extended below this. Uppermost fill (704) comprised a compact mid reddish brown silty clay, containing frequent stone on the eastern side and including rubble collapse (710), 0.6m thick. (710) comprised a large boulder and a dense layer of smaller stones contained within the eastern side of the ditch cut, presumed to have collapsed from a stone-revetted bank on this (eastern) side. Finds from (704) include eight sherds of Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery. Below this were deposits (720), a gritty, light brown silty clay with stony inclusions on eastern side, (0.3m thick); (711) a light reddish brown silty clay, friable, with occasional charcoal and a sherd of Iron Age/Romano-British pottery, (0.15m thick); (716) a dark reddish brown silty clay, (0.1m thick) and (712) a gritty light yellowish brown silty clay, with moderate small stone inclusions, at least 0.25m thick. All of these deposits beneath (704)/(710) were clearly deposited/infilled from the western side of the ditch.

Cut [715] was a curvilinear ditch 3m to the east of [713], occurring 0.60m below ground level (Figs 4 and 5). The ditch had steep concave sides and a flat base, 1.8m wide at the top and 0.6m wide at the base, 0.7m deep. Top fill (714) was a light brown compact silty clay, with occasional granite fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. Also contained within this deposit was a small rimsherd of Late Iron Age pottery. Below this was (718) comprising mid reddish brown silty clay, with occasional degraded granite and occasional charcoal flecks 0.3m thick and beneath this, primary fill (719), a light yellowish brown friable and gritty silty clay, 0.1m thick.

Close to the eastern end of the trench and sealed beneath 0.6m of topsoil (721) and colluvium (722) was [726], the cut of a small pit sub-circular pit approximately 1m in diameter and 0.25m deep visible in southern section of trench with a concave profile and rounded base (Figs 4 and 5). The fill (725) comprised light brown silty clay with stony inclusions on the eastern side. Large stones were recorded on the adjacent subsoil surface.

Unstratified finds from the spoil heap included a prehistoric flint core rejuvenation flake, Iron Age/Romano-British pottery, Cornish Medieval Coarseware (thirteenth to fourteenth centuries) and Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (fifteenth to sixteenth centuries).

4.7.1 Conclusions

The gully and the three concentric ditches ([706], [700], [713] and [715], which were revealed in Trench 7 appear to correspond with the anomalies that were indicated by the geophysical survey. The conjectured overall diameter of the enclosure is approximately 50m enclosing a space with an area of 1700 square metres. The innermost ditch ([706]) would have a diameter of *c* 22m and an area of 394 square metres. The size of ditch [713] and its associated external stone-faced bank are particularly interesting and suggest a site of some significance. The form of the structure is very unusual in Cornwall and may represent a ceremonial monument, which dates to the latter part of the Iron Age.

There is a very strong possibility that other features associated with this structure are present in areas adjacent to the trench, including an area to the south of the adjacent Cornish hedge in the field to the south. Additional features such as postholes and pits are known to be hard to detect by geophysical survey in this geology.

4.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was excavated in the top of a steeply sloping field to the east of Trench 6. It was positioned to evaluate north-west south-east aligned geophysical anomalies (Figs 2 and 3).

The trench measured 30m long and contained topsoil (802) and colluvium/earlier ploughsoil (803) with a depth of up to 0.35m over natural subsoil (804). Towards the north-eastern end of the trench cut [801] marked a linear ditch with a concave profile, 1.1m wide and 0.25m deep, occurring 0.3m below ground surface. This was filled by (800) mid greyish brown, loose/friable silty clay and contained modern (late nineteenth century) ceramics. Unstratified finds from this trench included four sherds of Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware, fifteenth to sixteenth centuries AD.

4.8.1 Conclusions

This ditch probably represents a post-medieval boundary and agricultural activity pre-dating the reorganisation of farmland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Previous experience of this landscape (for example, Gossip and Jones 2007; Lawson-Jones 2002) suggests that the steep slopes in this field are unlikely to have been utilised by the prehistoric/Romano-British communities present in other areas of the site.

4.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was intended to be located in an area of dense geophysical anomalies in Field 3, Phase 1a, to the north of the main Phase 2 excavations. This was not excavated due to dense vegetation and lack of plant access.

5 Discussion

The main discovery from the evaluation trenching was the confirmation of the most definite feature on the geophysical survey as a later prehistoric multiple circuited enclosure in trench 7. This was found to be comprised of three ditches and a gully, with evidence for an external stone-bank. The large pit discovered within the interior of the enclosure is indicative of further significant features lie within the enclosure. The site is currently without a precise parallel in Cornwall, and morphologically the nearest immediate comparisons perhaps lie in Ireland with later prehistoric enclosures such as the Rath of Synods. Currently there are only two broadly comparable sites in Cornwall. Much simpler univallate Iron Age enclosures have recently been recorded at Camelford and St Newlyn East. However, both of these sites possessed internal ditches and external banks and neither appears to have been associated with

domestic activity, and in common with the Tremough enclosure both were not far from contemporary settlement areas. It is very likely that the Tremough site will also prove to be a later prehistoric ceremonial enclosure, and given the rarity of Iron Age sites of this type it is certainly of Regional importance.

The large pit in Trench 6 may be a quarry pit of similar date to the enclosure in Trench 7 and it is likely that smaller features such as pits and post holes can be expected to survive across this part of the proposed development.

With the possible exception of the ditch in Trench 1, the remaining features appear to be related to post medieval field divisions. However, it is unlikely that the geophysical survey will have been able to detect smaller structures such as the Bronze Age post-rings, which were found during the previous development of the site (Gossip and Jones 2007). It seems probable that comparable features will also exist on the plateau top. Indications of more ephemeral activity were provided by the scattering of later prehistoric pottery that was recovered from four of the evaluation trenches and by early medieval pottery from a fifth.

6 Recommendations

Based on the results from the geophysical survey, the evaluation trenching and previous recording on the site (Gossip and Jones 2007), it is recommended that, following the production of a written scheme, a controlled topsoil strip should be carried out in those areas where there is significant potential for buried archaeological remains to survive.

The areas of archaeological potential are shown on Figure 2 and are as follows:

- Geophysical Survey Area 1, where pit-type anomalies were encountered, which may well be similar to later prehistoric pits uncovered in the adjacent fields to the south (Gossip and Jones 2007).
- Geophysical Survey Area 2, where linear features and late prehistoric/Romano-British finds were encountered and further features, which were not detected by the geophysical survey are likely to exist.
- Geophysical Survey Area 3, where the multiple circuited enclosure prehistoric/Romano-British enclosure and quarry pit has been identified and further smaller features which were not detected by the geophysical survey are likely to exist. Prehistoric and Romano-British finds were also recovered from features in this area.
- Area of Trench 9. Although not evaluated, previous geophysical survey (Mercer 2001) indicates that there a substantial number of archaeological features in this area.

Archaeological remains identified by the topsoil strip would then be recorded through open area excavation. These works should form part of a targeted programme of archaeological recording carried out to record those sites and features of archaeological importance which would be affected by works.

A watching brief could be carried out on those areas which are thought to have less potential to contain archaeological remains (Geophysical Survey Areas 4 and 8).

7 Inventory

Context	Feature	Type (Cut, Deposit)	Cut	Fill	Description	Width/Length/ Thickness/Depth (m)	Top of deposit - depth below surface (m)	Period IA (Iron Age) RB (Romano- British) M (medieval) PM (Post- medieval)
TRENCH 1								
105	Topsoil	D	/	/	Topsoil and turf. Mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam	0.05m – 0.06m thick.	/	/
106	Subsoil	D	/	/	Subsoil, below topsoil, mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam. Possible ploughsoil horizon.	0.2m – 0.3m thick	0.05m	/
107	Subsoil	D	/	/	Layer below subsoil – possible buried soil, similar to (106) but not occurring along entire length of trench. Dark greyish brown compact clay. Overlies (109), top fill of ditch [108]. Possible eroded bank material.	Up to 0.2m thick	0.25m	/
108	Ditch	C	/	(109), (110)	Cut of ditch, flat bottomed with gentle concave sides	1.0m wide, 0.3 – 0.4m deep	0.35m – 0.40m	IA/RB
109	Ditch	D	[108]	/	Top fill of ditch [108]. Dark brown clay, slightly sticky, occasional charcoal flecks and stone fragments up to 0.10m in size	1.0m wide, 0.27m thick	0.35m	IA/RB
110	Ditch	D	[108]	/	Basal fill of ditch [108]	0.05m thick	0.70m	IA/RB
111	Ditch		/	(112)	Cut of ditch – irregular flattish bottomed concave sided ditch	1.2m W, 0.15m deep	0.35m	PM

Context	Feature	Type (Cut, Deposit)	Cut	Fill	Description	Width/Length/ Thickness/Depth (m)	Top of deposit - depth below surface (m)	Period IA (Iron Age) RB (Romano- British) M (medieval) PM (Post- medieval)
112	Ditch	D	[111]	/	Fill of ditch [111] comprising dark greyish brown plastic, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small stones. Post medieval pottery and glass recovered from the fill.	0.15m thick	0.35m	PM
113	Natural	D	/	/	Natural clay subsoil – yellow clay rab	/	0.35m – 0.45m	/
114	?posthole	C	/	115	Cut of irregular shallow posthole, disturbed by root activity	Diam 0.30m, depth 0.10m	0.35m	IA/RB
115	?posthole	D	114	/	Fill of posthole [114] mid brown silty clay, compact, occasional charcoal flecks	0.10m	0.35m	IA/RB
TRENCH 2								
200	Topsoil	D	/	/	Topsoil/turf. Mid greyish brown friable and rooty silty clay loam	0.05m thick	/	/
201	Subsoil	D	/	/	Subsoil/ploughsoil	0.26m thick	/	/
202	Subsoil	D	/	/	Layer below subsoil (201) – possible buried soil comprising dark greyish brown compacted clay loam.	0.2m thick	0.45m	PM?
203	Natural	D	/	/	Natural clay subsoil/bedrock - yellow clay rab	/	0.55m	/
204	Natural	D	/	/	Natural clay subsoil - yellow clay rab and large weathered stones	/	0.45m	/
205	?Hedge	D	/	/	Granite spread in natural subsoil (204), possible relict Cornish hedge, but could be natural	/	0.5m	PM?

Context	Feature	Type (Cut, Deposit)	Cut	Fill	Description	Width/Length/ Thickness/Depth (m)	Top of deposit - depth below surface (m)	Period IA (Iron Age) RB (Romano- British) M (medieval) PM (Post- medieval)
TRENCH 3								
300	/	/	/	/	VOID	/	/	/
301	Topsoil	D	/	/	Topsoil. Mid brown light/loose silty clay loam	0.5m – 0.6m thick	/	/
302	Subsoil	D	/	/	Colluvial subsoil. Friable reddish brown silty clay within possible natural hollow or base of relict field boundary ditch and accumulated around stones (303)	0.1m thick	0.6m	M/PM?
303	?Hedge	D	/	/	Stone spread – possible eroded bank/hedge	1.0m wide, 0.1m thick	0.5m	PM?
304	Natural	D	/	/	Natural clay subsoil – orange/yellow rab	/	0.6m	/
TRENCH 4								
400	Topsoil	D	/	/	Topsoil/turf - Mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam	0.05m thick	/	/
401	Subsoil	D	/	/	Subsoil, below topsoil, mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam. Probable ploughsoil horizon.	Up to 0.36m thick	0.05m	M/PM?
402	Subsoil	D	/	/	Layer below subsoil (401) comprising compact dark greyish brown clay, with occasional charcoal flecks and small granite stones. A single abraded sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from this deposit.	Up to 0.2m thick	0.35m	IA/RB?
403	Pit	C	/	(404)	Cut of pit, sub-rectangular with asymmetrical concave profile	0.25m deep, 1.3m long and 1.10m wide	0.35m	PM?

Context	Feature	Type (Cut, Deposit)	Cut	Fill	Description	Width/Length/ Thickness/Depth (m)	Top of deposit - depth below surface (m)	Period IA (Iron Age) RB (Romano- British) M (medieval) PM (Post- medieval)
404	Pit	D	[403]	/	Fill of pit [403], dark greyish brown compacted clay, and large angular granite blocks up to 0.4m long. Occasional charcoal flecks. Late medieval and post-medieval finds.	0.25m thick	0.35m	PM?
405	Ditch	C	/	(406)	Cut of NW-SE aligned linear ditch, asymmetrical concave profile	1.1m wide, 0.22m deep	0.50m	PM
406	Ditch	D	[405]	/	Fill of ditch [405] comprising dark greyish brown friable clay, large angular granite blocks up to 0.4m long and occasional charcoal flecks and shell (limpets and bivalves)	0.22m thick	0.50m	PM
407	Natural	D	/	/	Natural clay subsoil, decayed natural bedrock (yellow clay and granite blocks). Surface scarred with plough-marks	/	0.5m	/
TRENCH 5								
500	Ditch	D	[501]	/	Fill of ditch [501]. Loose topsoil-like fill (silty clay). Post-medieval horseshoe in fill.	1.0m wide, 0.22m thick	0.35m	PM
501	Ditch	C	/	(500)	Cut of shallow ditch parallel to [505].	1.0m wide, 0.22m deep	0.35m	PM
502	Pit	D	[503]	/	Fill of pit [503]. Loose topsoil-like fill (silty clay).	1.0m wide, 0.1m thick	0.34m	PM
503	Pit	C	/	(502)	Cut of shallow sub-rectangular pit.	1.0m wide, 0.1m deep	0.34m	PM

Context	Feature	Type (Cut, Deposit)	Cut	Fill	Description	Width/Length/ Thickness/Depth (m)	Top of deposit - depth below surface (m)	Period IA (Iron Age) RB (Romano- British) M (medieval) PM (Post- medieval)
504	Ditch	D	[505]	/	Fill of ditch [505]. Loose topsoil-like fill (silty clay). Post-medieval ceramics and glass.	0.7m thick	0.36m	PM
505	Ditch	C	/	(504)	Cut of linear ditch parallel to [501]. Ditches 2.5m apart.	0.7m deep	0.36m	PM
506	Topsoil	D	/	/	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam	0.35m thick	/	/
507	Subsoil	D	/	/	Colluvial subsoil below topsoil, mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam. Probable ploughsoil horizon or buried soil.	0.2m thick	0.35m	M/PM?
508	Natural	D	/	/	Natural subsoil	/	0.5m	/
TRENCH 6								
600	Pit	D	[603]	/	Top fill of pit [603] – mid reddish brown silty clay, compact, occasional large angular granite stones up to 300mm x 200mm, occasional charcoal flecks	0.35m thick	0.75m	IA/RB/Beaker?
601	Pit	D	[603]	/	Fill below (600) within pit [603] - mid reddish brown silty clay, compact, moderate degraded granite, occasional charcoal flecks	0.25m thick	1.1m	IA/RB/Beaker?
602	Pit	D	[603]	/	Fill below (601) within pit [603] - light reddish brown silty clay, plastic, occasional angular granite, occasional charcoal flecks	0.28m thick	1.35m	IA/RB/Beaker?

Context	Feature	Type (Cut, Deposit)	Cut	Fill	Description	Width/Length/ Thickness/Depth (m)	Top of deposit - depth below surface (m)	Period IA (Iron Age) RB (Romano- British) M (medieval) PM (Post- medieval)
603	Pit	C	/	(600), (601), (602)	Cut of sub-circular pit – irregular but steep and concave cut through natural rab/bedrock (606). Probable sub-circular shape in plan from geophysical anomaly. Not bottomed.	0.9m+ deep dimensions of geophysical anomaly approx 13m x 7m	0.75m	IA/RB/Beaker?
604	Pit	D	[603]	/	Fill below (602) within pit [603] - mid reddish brown silty clay, friable, frequent gritty degraded granite, occasional charcoal flecks	0.1m+ thick	1.6m	IA/RB/Beaker?
605	Subsoil	D	/	/	Colluvial subsoil	0.3m thick	0.55m	/
606	Natural	D	/	/	Natural clay subsoil – orange/yellow rab	/	0.75m	/
607	topsoil	D	/	/	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam	0.55m thick	0.75m	/
608	Natural?	D	/	/	Possible natural stones on the subsoil (606) surface	0.1m thick	c 0.75m	/
TRENCH 7								
700	Ditch	C	/	(701)	Cut of curvilinear ditch, very steep NE edge, more concave SW, stones set on edge at the base of the SW edge may be deliberate. Flat base	1.5m wide, 0.55 deep	0.35m	IA/RB
701	Ditch	D	[700]	/	Top fill of ditch [700], mid greyish brown silty clay. Compact.	1.5m wide, 0.4 thick	0.35m	IA/RB

Context	Feature	Type (Cut, Deposit)	Cut	Fill	Description	Width/Length/ Thickness/Depth (m)	Top of deposit - depth below surface (m)	Period IA (Iron Age) RB (Romano- British) M (medieval) PM (Post- medieval)
702	Posthole	D	[703]	/	Fill of [703], mid greyish brown silty clay. Compact. Contained Cordoned Ware sherd.	0.2m diameter, 0.1m deep	0.3m	IA/RB
703	Posthole	C	/	(702)	Cut of possible circular posthole	0.2m diameter, 0.1m deep	0.3m	IA/RB
704	Ditch	D	[711]	/	Top fill of large curvilinear ditch [713]. Mid reddish brown silty clay, compact, containing frequent stone on the eastern side including (710)	0.6m thick	0.5m	IA/RB
705	Gully	D	[706]	/	Fill of curvilinear gully [706], mid greyish brown silty clay	0.2m thick	0.35m	IA/RB
706	Gully	C	/	(705)	Cut of curvilinear gully [706], concave profile, gently rounded base	0.55m wide, 0.2m deep	0.35m	IA/RB
707	/	D	/	/	Deposit accumulated around stones east of pit [709]	0.1m long, 0.8m wide, 0.1m thick	0.3m	Early medieval?
708	Pit	D	[709]	/	Top fill of large pit [709], mid brown friable silty clay containing large quantities of granite stones up to 0.3m in length.	0.8m thick	0.33m	IA/RB
709	Pit	C	/	(708), (717)	Cut of large oval pit with near vertical sides and a flat base.	1.45m long, 1.30m wide, 0.95m deep	0.33m	IA/RB

Context	Feature	Type (Cut, Deposit)	Cut	Fill	Description	Width/Length/ Thickness/Depth (m)	Top of deposit - depth below surface (m)	Period IA (Iron Age) RB (Romano- British) M (medieval) PM (Post- medieval)
710	Ditch	D	[713]	/	Rubble collapse in deposit (704). Comprises large boulder and dense layer of smaller stones (first sized to 300mm x 200mm blocks) within matrix (704) and contained within the eastern side of the ditch cut. Presumed to have collapsed from this side.	c 0.6m thick	0.5m	IA/RB
711	Ditch	D	[713]	/	Fill below (720). Light reddish brown silty clay, friable, occasional charcoal. Clearly deposited/infilled from the western side of the ditch.	0.15m thick	1.0m	IA/RB
712	Ditch	D	[713]	/	Fill below (716) at excavated extent of ditch [713]. Gritty light yellowish brown silty clay, moderate small stone inclusions. Clearly deposited/infilled from the western side of the ditch.	0.25m+ thick	1.25m	IA/RB
713	Ditch	C		(704), (710), (711), (712), (716), (720)	Cut of large curvilinear ditch. 45 degree concave edge on west side, break of slope visible 0.9m below top of cut. Not bottomed.	0.95m+ deep	0.5m	IA/RB
714	Ditch	D	[715]	/	Top fill of ditch [715], light brown compact silty clay, occasional granite fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.25m thick	0.50m	IA/RB
715	Ditch	C	/	(714), (719), (718)	Cut of curvilinear ditch, steep concave sides and flat base	1.8m wide (top) 0.6m wide (base), 0.7m deep	0.50m	IA/RB

Context	Feature	Type (Cut, Deposit)	Cut	Fill	Description	Width/Length/ Thickness/Depth (m)	Top of deposit - depth below surface (m)	Period IA (Iron Age) RB (Romano- British) M (medieval) PM (Post- medieval)
716	Ditch	D	[713]	/	Fill below (711). Dark reddish brown silty clay. Clearly deposited/infilled from the western side of the ditch.	0.10m thick	0.95m	IA/RB
717	Pit	D	[709]	/	Fill of [709] below (708), dark brown, compact silty clay, occasional granite stones.	0.15m thick	0.8m	IA/RB
718	Ditch	D	[715]	/	Fill of [715] below (714), mid reddish brown silty clay, occasional degraded granite and occasional charcoal flecks	0.30m thick	0.85m	IA/RB
719	Ditch	D	[715]	/	Basal fill of curvilinear ditch [715], light yellowish brown friable, gritty silty clay	0.1m thick	1.15m	IA/RB
720	Ditch	D	[713]	/	Fill of ditch [713] below (704). Gritty, light brown silty clay. Stony inclusions on eastern side.	0.3m thick	0.95m	IA/RB
721	Topsoil	D	/	/	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam	0.10 – 0.15m thick	/	/
722	Subsoil	D	/	/	Colluvial subsoil – may be partly derived from eroded/ploughed bank deposits	Up to 0.45m thick	0.12m	IA/RB?
723	Natural	D	/	/	Natural clay subsoil – orange/yellow rab	/	0.45m	/
724	Ditch	D	[700]	/	Fill of ditch [700] below (701). Gritty, light brown silty clay. Stony inclusions on eastern side.	c 0.2m thick	0.35m	IA/RB

Context	Feature	Type (Cut, Deposit)	Cut	Fill	Description	Width/Length/ Thickness/Depth (m)	Top of deposit - depth below surface (m)	Period IA (Iron Age) RB (Romano- British) M (medieval) PM (Post- medieval)
725	Pit	D	[726]	/	Fill of pit [725] light brown silty clay. Stony inclusions on eastern side, and stone on surface.	c 0.25m thick	c 0.60m	IA/RB?
726	Pit	C		(725)	Cut of small pit sub-circular pit visible in southern section of trench. Concave profile, rounded base.	c 1m diameter, c 0.25m deep	c 0.60m	IA/RB?
TRENCH 8								
800	Ditch	D	[801]	/	Fill of ditch [801], mid greyish brown, loose/friable silty clay	0.25m thick	0.30m	PM
801	Ditch	C	/	(800)	Cut of linear ditch, concave profile	0.25m deep	0.30m	PM
802		D	/	/	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam	0.30m thick	/	/
803		D	/	/	Subsoil, below topsoil, mid greyish brown friable silty clay loam. Probable ploughsoil horizon.	0.05m thick	0.30m	?
804		D	/	/	Natural clay subsoil – orange/yellow rab	/	0.35m	/

8 Finds

C M Thorpe

8.1 Introduction

A total of 54 artefacts and two charcoal samples were recovered during this project.

Pottery comprises the largest group, 42 sherds in total, some 77.7% of the collection. There is also flint, stone, metalwork, glass, clay pipe, and charcoal within the assemblage.

The finds were initially processed by cleaning, and sorting.

Some 25 artefacts (46.3% of the total) came from unstratified contexts. These were collected from the spoil heaps derived from excavation stripping of the evaluation trenches, and cleaning of the surfaces of the excavation.

The rest of the artefacts were recovered from recognisable features, and were recorded by context.

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

Context No: T1. u/s

2 sherds prehistoric pottery ('Well made' gabbroic fabric) with burnished exteriors. Iron Age/Romano-British

1 sherd Cornish Medieval Coarseware. 12th to 13th centuries

Context No: T1. Context (109)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	5g	1		
Romano-British	5g	1		

1 abraded sherd prehistoric pottery (gabbroic admixture?). Bronze Age?

1 undiagnostic sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Iron Age/Romano-British

Context No: T1. Context (112)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Medieval	7g	1		
Glass				
Modern	3g	3		

1 sherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware. 15th to 16th centuries

3 shards Modern glass. 19th to 20th centuries

Context No: T1. Context (115)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	11g	1		

1 sherd prehistoric pottery (gabbroic fabric). Iron Age/Romano-British

Context No: T2. Context (202)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	4g	1		

1 small sherd prehistoric pottery (gabbroic fabric). Thin walled, decorated with a single horizontal cord impressed line. Bronze Age.

Context No: T5 u/s

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
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Pottery				
Early Medieval	11g	1		
Post-Medieval	82g	5		
Clay				
Other: Clay pipe	12g	1		

1 rimsherd from a platter? (gabbroic fabric). "Gwithian Style" Ware? Early medieval, 6th to 7th centuries

5 sherds Cornish Post-Medieval Glazed Red Earthenware including the rim from a flanged cream making dish and a jug handle scar. 16th to 17th centuries

1 complete clay pipe bowl, South western style. $\varnothing = 3.0mm$ Pre 1650

Context No: T6. u/s

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Medieval	18g	1		

1 sherd Cornish Medieval Coarseware. 12th to 13th centuries

Context No: T6. Context (603)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	8g	2		
Stonework				
Flint	2g	1		

1 abraded sherd prehistoric pottery (gabbroic admixture?). Thin walled, the exterior has been decorated with numerous horizontal lines composed of square sectioned comb stamped impressions. There is just a hint that this is possible part of an infilled panel from a geometric design. Beaker ware? Early Bronze Age.

1 very abraded sherd Prehistoric pottery. Bronze Age?

1 flint flake with retouch along one edge. Prehistoric. Neolithic/Bronze Age?

Context No: T7. u/s

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	12g	3		
Medieval	46g	2		
Metalwork				
Iron	2g	1		
Stonework				
Flint	4g	1		
Pebble	80g	3		

1 sherd heavily abraded Prehistoric pottery (gabbroic fabric). Iron Age/Romano-British?

2 sherds Prehistoric pottery ('Well made' gabbroic fabric) with burnished exteriors. Iron Age/Romano-British

1 sherd Cornish Medieval Coarseware. 13th to 14th centuries

1 large rimsherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware. Flanged cream making dish, with wavy incised line decoration. 15th to 16th centuries

3 water rounded pebbles

1 iron fragment.

1 flint core rejuvenation flake. Prehistoric. Neolithic/Bronze Age?

Context No: T7. Context (701)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Iron Age	24g	2		

1 rimsherd prehistoric pottery ('Well made' gabbroic fabric) with burnished exterior. Upright, slightly everted rim from a thin walled jar, similar to Mawgan-in-Pyder Type E (Threipland 1956). Iron Age.

1 body/neck sherd prehistoric pottery (gabbroic fabric). From a large storage jar. Iron Age/Romano-British

Context No: T7. Context (702)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Iron Age	118g	2		

1 large rim sherd prehistoric pottery ('Well made' gabbroic fabric) with burnished exterior. Decorated with applied horizontal cordons immediately below rim, and just above girth. Large Cordoned Ware storage jar similar to Mawgan-in-Pyder Type H (Threipland 1956). Late Iron Age/early Romano-British

1 small very abraded sherd Prehistoric pottery (gabbroic?).

Context No: T7. Context (704)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Iron Age	63.5g	8		

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (gabbroic fabric). Decorated with applied horizontal cordon immediately below rim. Cordoned Ware jar similar to Mawgan-in-Pyder Type P (Threipland 1956). Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British *circa* 1st Century AD

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery ('Well made' gabbroic fabric) with burnished exterior. Thin walled. Beaded, upright and slightly everted rim from a jar. Similar to Mawgan-in-Pyder Type B or D (Threipland 1956). Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British

5 sherds prehistoric pottery (gabbroic fabric). Iron Age/Romano-British

1 sherd Prehistoric pottery ('Well made' gabbroic fabric) with burnished exterior. Iron Age/Romano-British

Context No: T7. Context (707)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Early Medieval	10g	1		

Metalwork				
Iron	57g	1		
Charcoal	36g	1 sample		

1 body-sherd (gabbroic fabric). Hard-fired. Interior shows distinct vertical pulling marks. Exterior has slight traces of grass-marking. Sandy Lane Style 1 (SL1) or Sandy Lane Style 2 (SL2) pottery. Early medieval, 11th to 12th centuries AD

1 square sectioned, hand forged iron bar.

1 charcoal sample.

Context No: T7. Context (708)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	15g	1		
Stonework				
Pebble	56g	1		

2 sherds prehistoric pottery (gabbroic fabric). 1 sherd has been decorated with a single horizontal incised line. Iron Age/Romano-British

1 elongated water rounded slate pebble. Utilised as a whetstone? Numerous fine striations are visible on one surface. Prehistoric?

Context No: T7. Context (711)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Romano-British	6g	1		

1 sherd prehistoric pottery (gabbroic fabric). Iron Age/Romano-British

Context No: T7. Context (712)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Charcoal	60g	1 sample		

1 charcoal sample

Context No: T7. Context (714)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Iron Age	5g	1		

1 small rimsherd prehistoric pottery (gabbroic fabric). Thin walled. Upright simple rim from jar. Similar to Mawgan-in-Pyder Type B or Type E (Threipland 1956). Late Iron Age

Context No: Trench 8. u/s

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Medieval	78g	4		

4 sherds Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (1 jug handle scar). 15th to 16th centuries

8.2 Discussion

The earliest identifiable artefacts recovered during the course of this project are the two flints from context (603) and Trench 7 u/s. Although unfortunately undiagnostic, these could potentially be Neolithic in date.

The Beaker ware sherd from context (603) is the earliest pottery found. This dates from the Early Bronze Age (*c* 2000-1700 cal BC). It has been decorated with horizontal cob stamped lines that appear to be the infill of part of a geometric pattern. Although ascribed in the catalogue to the Middle Bronze Age (*c* 1500-1000 cal BC), the thin body-sherd recovered from context (202) decorated with a single line of fine impressed cord could also be a sherd of Beaker pottery.

A further, much abraded body-sherd from context (9) is in a gabbroic admixture fabric which is the fabric typical of Middle Bronze Age Trevisker Ware. Though the sherd is undiagnostic, it may indicate some activity in the area at this time.

Identifiable Iron Age material (13 sherds) was recovered from contexts (701), (702), (704), and (715). ‘Well made’ Gabbroic fabric predominates the collection, though ‘Standard’ gabbroic also occurs. Forms include Mawgan-in-Pyder Type E jars, Mawgan-in-Pyder Type B or D jars, and also Cordoned ware vessels such as Mawgan-in-Pyder Type P jars and Mawgan-in-Pyder Type H large storage jars. This range of vessels favours a date around the 1st century AD.

Some material (9 sherds) have been assigned to the Romano-British period, however none are diagnostic and it is possible that this material (especially considering the amount in ‘well made’ gabbroic fabric) is actually earlier, and of Iron Age date. This material was recovered from contexts Trench 1 (u/s), (9), (15), Trench 7 (u/s), (708), and (711).

Early medieval activity in the area was hinted at by a possible ‘Gwithian Style’ Ware platter rimsherd dating from the 6th to 7th centuries coming from Trench 5 (u/s) and a body-sherd of ‘Sandy Lane Style 1’ (SL1) or ‘Sandy Lane Style 2’ (SL2) pottery dating from the 11th to 12th centuries AD recovered from context (708).

There is a scattering of sherds from the medieval and post-medieval periods across the site. Some came from sealed contexts, though most are unstratified. This is typical of assemblages obtained from most Cornish fields close to farming communities the finds being derived from domestic midden material being utilised for the manuring and improvement of the fields.

It is recommended that all the prehistoric pottery and stonework be examined by Henrietta Quinnell a specialist in prehistoric ceramics and artefacts in order to confirm identification of the material.

All finds should be stored in sturdy boxes and be kept under stable conditions. Currently all the artefacts are being temporarily stored in the HES finds store, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Truro, Cornwall. Arrangements should be made for the return of artefacts to the landowner, or if they consent, for the final deposition of all objects within the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro. Copies of all archive material and drawing will be kept at the HES premises.

9 References

9.1 Publications

- Archaeological Surveys Ltd, 2008, *Tremough Campus, Penryn, Cornwall, Cornwall*, (Survey Ref: 235)
- Cornwall County Council, 1996. *Cornwall landscape assessment 1994*. Report prepared by CAU and Landscape Design Associates, Cornwall County Council, Truro
- Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1974. *Map sheet 352*
- GSB 2000. Project 2000/58, *Geophysical Survey at Tremough, Cornwall*.
- Gossip, J and Jones, A M, 2007, Archaeological Investigations of a Later Prehistoric and a Romano-British Landscape at Tremough, Penryn, Cornwall, BAR Brit Series **443**
- Gossip, J and Jones, A M, forthcoming. Archaeological excavations at Tremough, *Cornish Archaeology*
- Lawson-Jones, A, 2001. *Tremough, Penryn: an archaeological assessment and evaluation*. CAU, Truro
- Lawson-Jones, A, 2002. *Tremough Campus Penryn; Phase 1: excavations and landscaping works*, CAU, Truro
- Mattingly, J, 2001. Historical background, in Lawson Jones, A, 2001
- Mercer, E J F, 2001. *A geophysical survey carried out at Tremough Campus, Falmouth, Cornwall, Stratascan*
- Threipland, L M, 1956. An excavation at St Mawgan-in-Pyder, *Archaeologia*, **113**, 33-81

10 Project archive

The HES project number is **2008074**

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 containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration (file no 2008074)
2. Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRExxx).
3. Electronic drawings stored in the directory <R:\CAU\Drawings\CAD Archive\Sites T\Tremough Phase 3 2008074>
4. Black and white photographs archived under the following index numbers: GBP1977
5. Digital photographs stored in the directory <R:\Images\HES Images\SITES.Q-T\Tremough Phase 3 2008074>

This report text is held in digital form as: <G:\CAU\HE Projects\Sites\Sites T\Tremough 2008 CUC assessment 2008074\evaluation trenching and geophys 2008074\Tremough Stage 3 report 2008074.doc>

Artefacts and environmental material retrieved during the project will be stored at the Royal Cornwall Museum, River Street, Truro. The interim site code is TRM08.

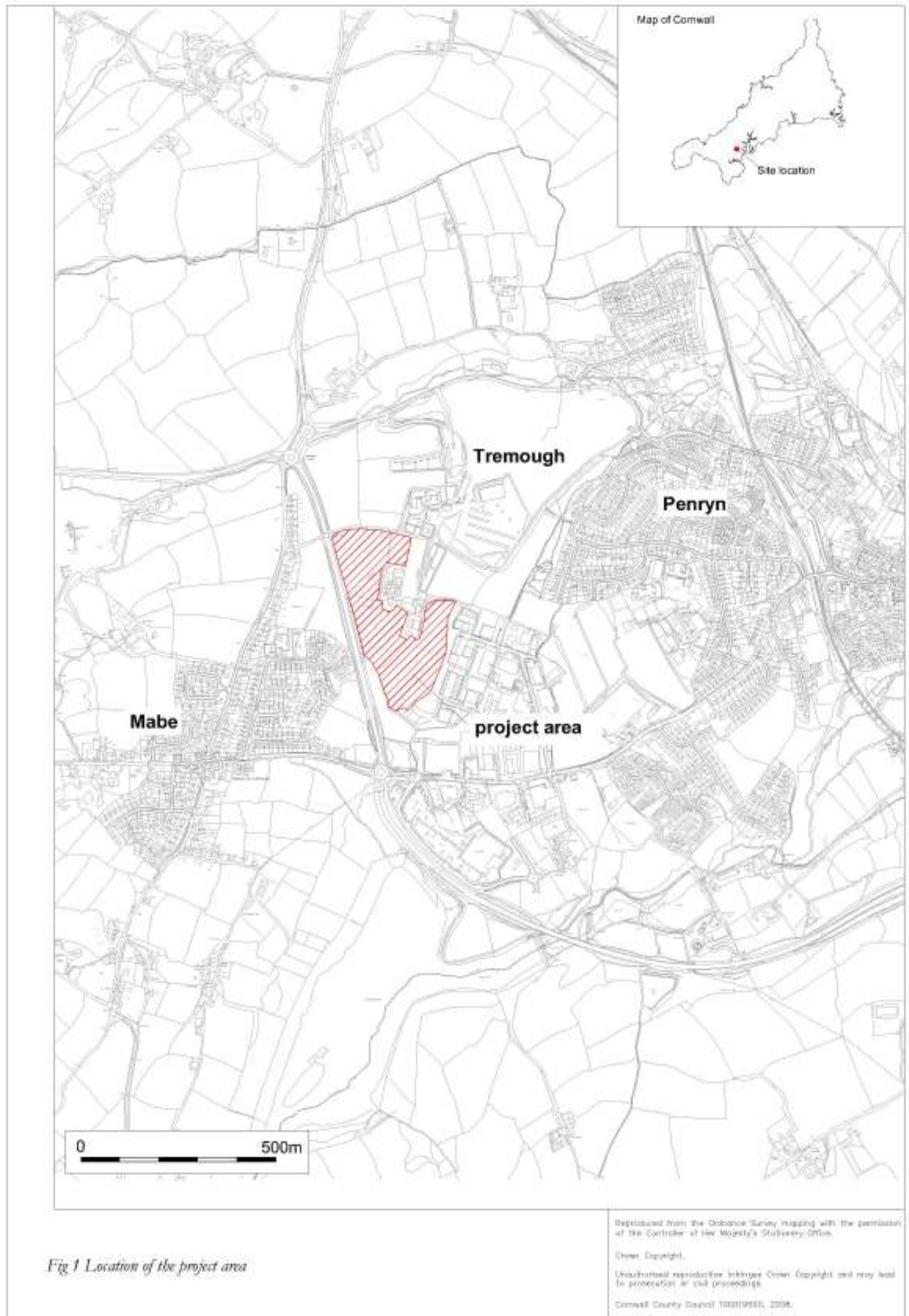


Fig 1 Location of the project area

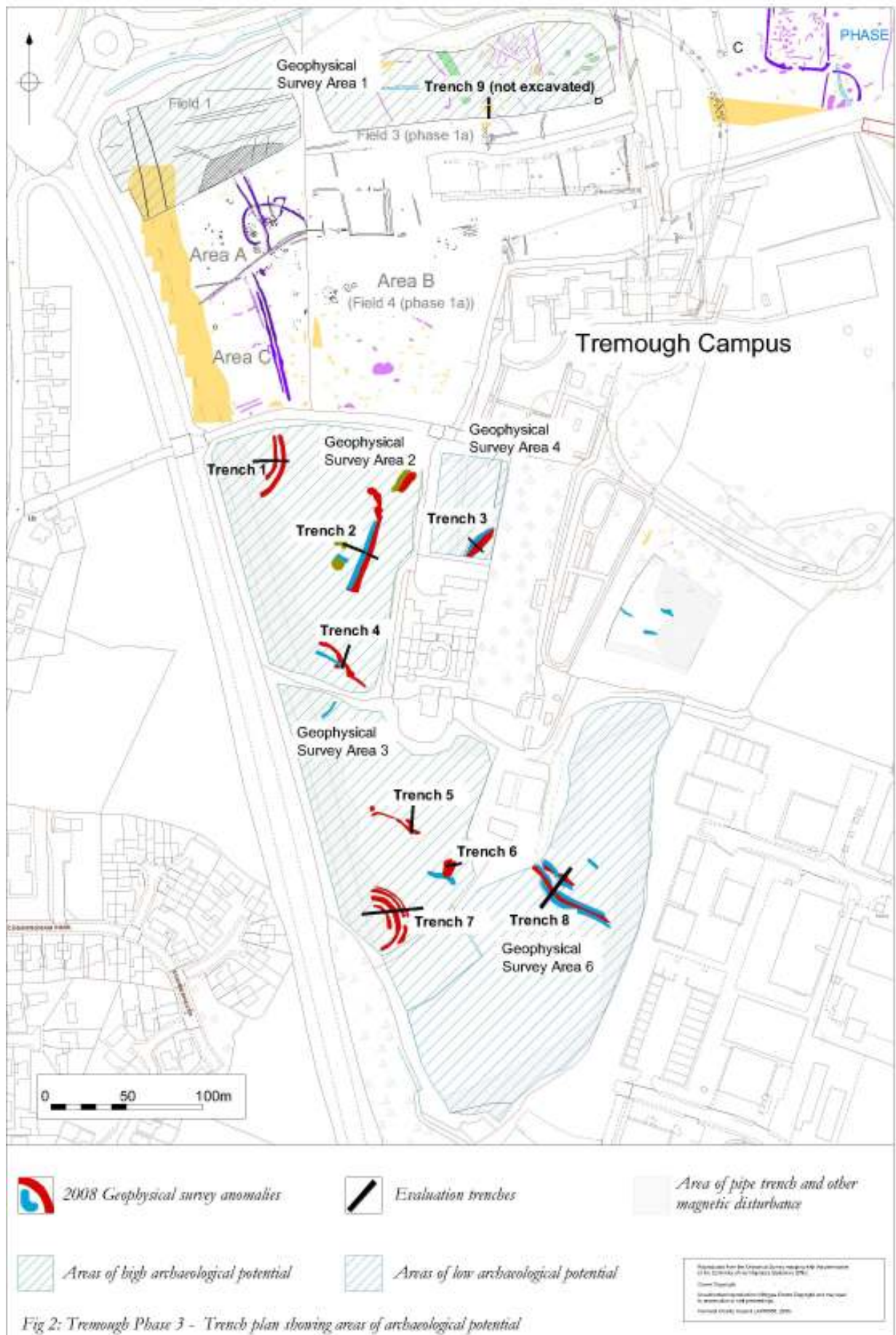


Fig 2: Tremough Phase 3 - Trench plan showing areas of archaeological potential

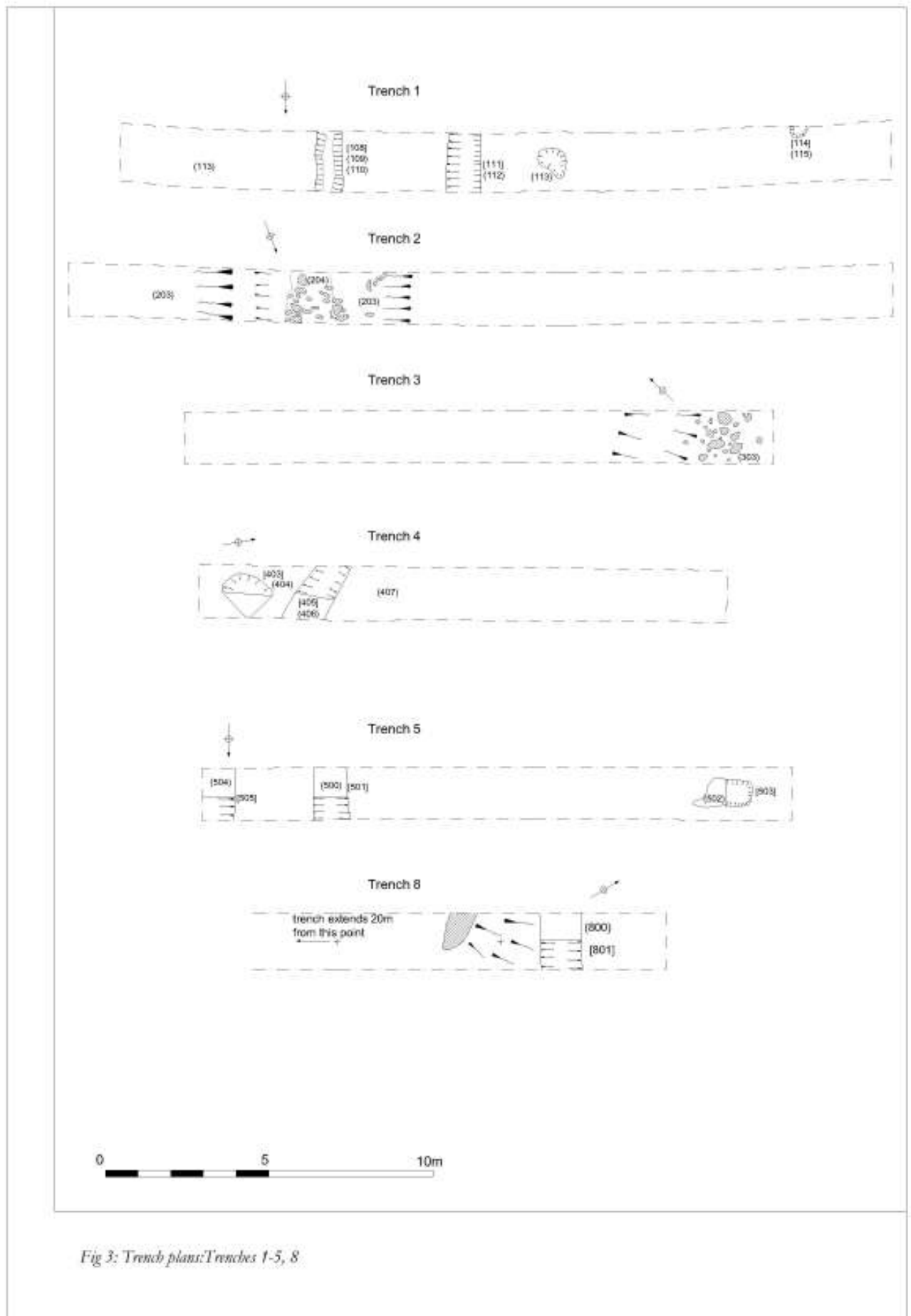


Fig 3: Trench plans: Trenches 1-5, 8

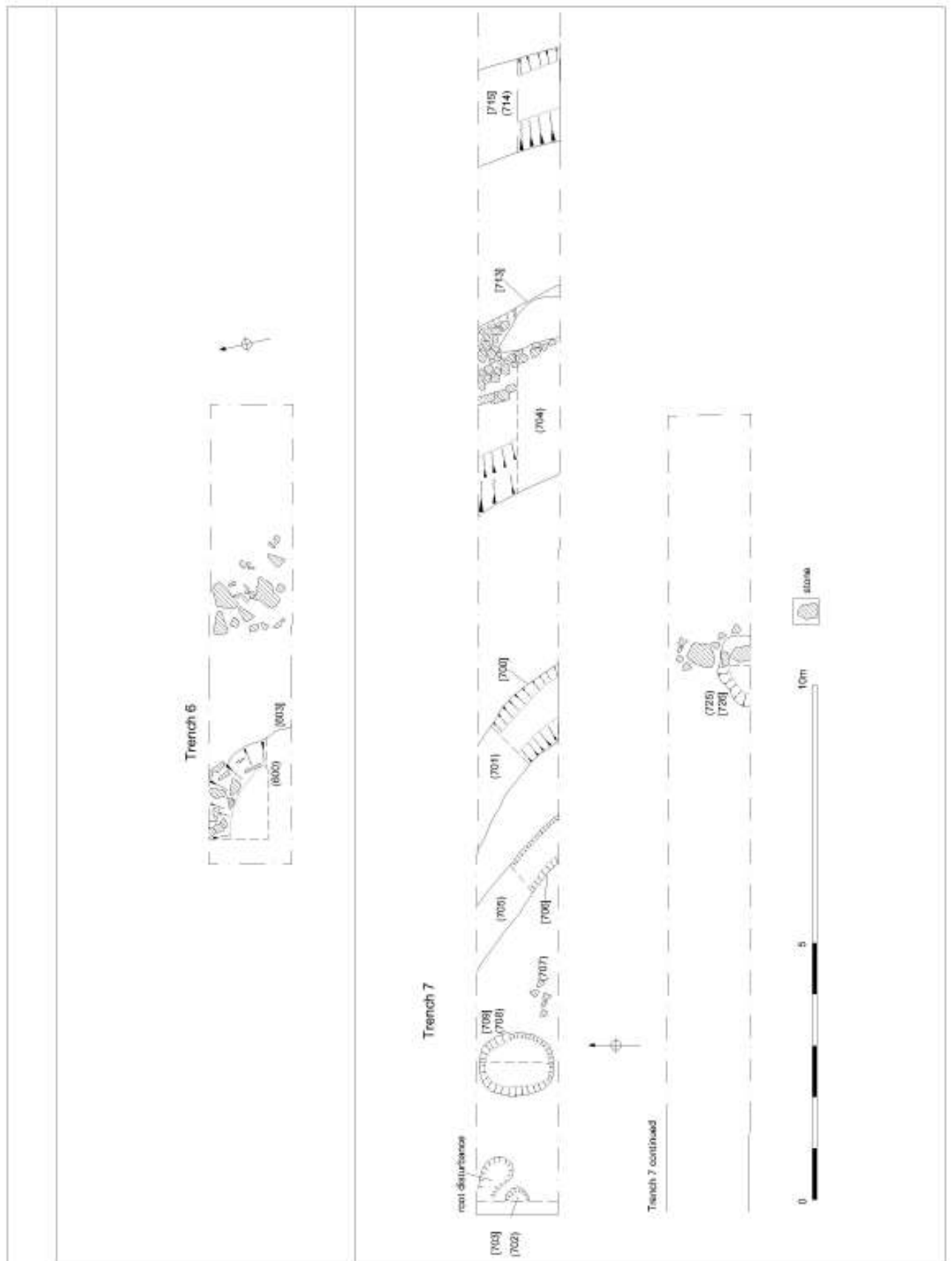


Fig 4: Trench 6 and 7 plans

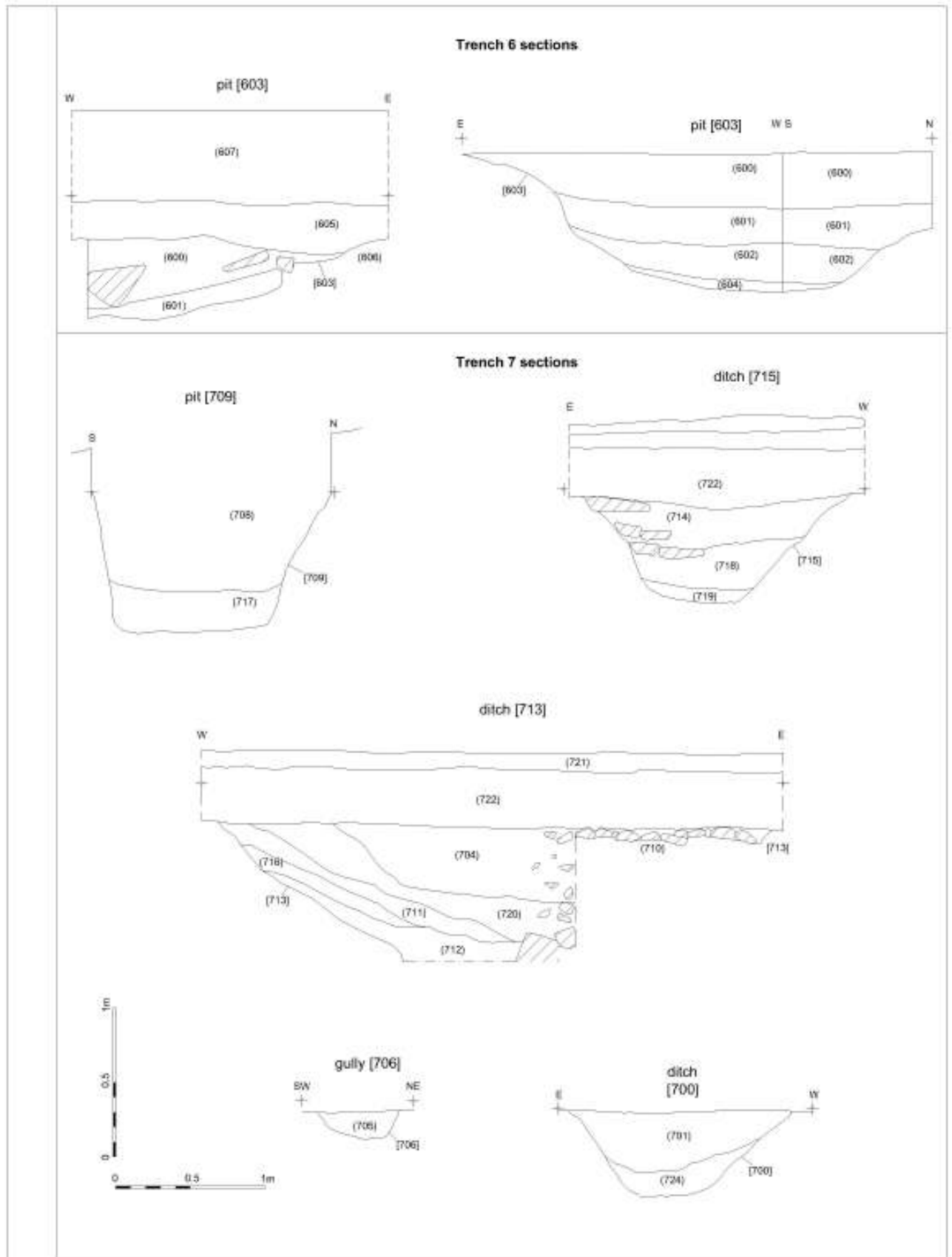


Fig 5: Trench 6 and Trench 7 sections



Fig 6: Pit [603], Trench 6



Fig 7: Pit [709], Trench 7



Fig 8: Trench 7: ditch [713] (foreground with collapsed stone revetment), ditch [700] gully [706] and pit [709] visible in background