

**LAND AT FORD FARM,  
ST IVE,  
LISKEARD,  
CORNWALL.**

**NGR: SX 31260 66506**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Report No. 806  
June 2012



**LAND AT FORD FARM,  
ST IVE,  
LISKEARD,  
CORNWALL.**

**NGR: SX 31260 66506**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Quality Assurance**

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with  
AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2000)

Author: Andrew Hood

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012

Approved: Roy King

QA Checked: Diana King

June 2012

Report No. 806

## **CONTENTS**

Summary

Glossary of Archaeological Terms and Abbreviations

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
- 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Stratigraphic Data

## **FIGURE LIST**

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Trench and Feature Locations in Relation to Geophysics Results
- Figure 3: Trench Plans
- Figure 4: Sections

## **SUMMARY**

Between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012, Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Ford Farm, St Ive, Liskeard, Cornwall (NGR: SX 31260 66506 - centred).

The project comprised the excavation and recording of nine trenches across a proposed development area, in order to test and refine the results of a previous geophysical survey.

The evaluation revealed the presence of six ditches, three gullies and one posthole. In general, the features were fairly dispersed and mostly represented boundary ditches; although Trench 5 contained a total of five features, consisting of three gullies, one of which was associated with possible daub, a ditch and a posthole. These features were consistent with evidence for settlement at this location.

Due to a lack of artefactual material the identified deposits remained poorly dated; however, the site's general location and the morphology of the features within Trench 5 suggested that the possible settlement activity was most likely to date to the later Prehistoric or Roman periods. A Medieval date for some of the boundary ditches could not, however, be ruled out.

## GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

### CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

### Magnetic Survey

Geophysical survey technique used to define areas of past human activity by mapping spatial variations and contrast in the magnetic properties of soil, subsoil and bedrock.

### Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

### Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case *Tavy Formation* slate/shillet.

### NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

### OD

Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

### OS

Ordnance Survey.

### Post-medieval

The period between *circa* AD 1500 and AD 1900.

### Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; Palaeolithic – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; Mesolithic – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; Neolithic – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; Bronze Age – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; Iron Age – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

### Roman

The period between AD 43 and AD 410.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012 on land at Ford Farm, St Ive, Liskeard, Cornwall (NGR: SX 31260 66506 – centred). The project was commissioned by Michael Minsky of Electro Green Power Ltd.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Foundations Archaeology 2012) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).
- 1.3 The study area is an approximately L-shaped parcel of land, comprising four arable fields adjacent to, and east of, a minor road between St Ive and Vennhill, as shown in Figure 1. The site is located on land forming a gentle slope downwards towards the southeast. The underlying geology consists of *Tavy Formation* – Slate (Devonian). At the time of the fieldwork, the land use comprised arable crop.

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Screening opinion **PA11/01973** was submitted on the 24 January 2011 for the construction of a proposed 5MW solar farm on land at Ford Farm.
- 2.2 The proposed development area has been recorded on the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) as lying within land characterised as Post-medieval farmland. However, large areas of Anciently Enclosed Land are located immediately to the east and north of the site.
- 2.3 There are numerous archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development area, including MCO15754 MOOR Medieval settlement, MCO7976 CLEVELAND Iron Age round, Iron Age hillfort, Romano British hillfort, Romano British round, MCO7975 GOLDBURY - Iron Age hillfort, Iron Age round, Romano British hillfort, Romano British round, MCO15372 LEIGH - Medieval settlement, MCO8001 GREAT LEY - Prehistoric enclosure, Iron Age round; all of which are within 300m of the development area. A number of other similar sites are located within 600m of the site boundary.
- 2.4 An archaeological desk based assessment and geophysical survey (BaRAS 2012) has identified a number of possible archaeological features within the site (Figure 2). These include:
  - i/ a possible double ditched Prehistoric enclosure, of probable Iron Age date (Labels 3, 4, 5 and 6);
  - ii/ a large enclosure, possibly of Prehistoric date (Labels 8 and 10);

- iii/ a ditch (Labels 9 and 11), which was possibly part of another large enclosure to the south of enclosure 8/10;
  - iv/ a ditch (Label 17), which was possibly part of an enclosure to the north;
  - v/ a group of linear features in Field 4 (Labels 14, 15 and 16).
- 2.5 The development area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological features and deposits, predominately dating to the Prehistoric period. This did not prejudice the archaeological works against evidence related to other periods.
- 2.6 In light of the potential for the presence of archaeological features within the proposed development area, the Cornwall Council HEPAO required that an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in order to inform any future planning application.

### **3 AIMS**

- 3.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, in order to allow the characterisation of the on-site archaeological resource.
- 3.2 This aim was achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to identify and define the nature of archaeological deposits on site and date these, where possible;
  - ii) to attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover information about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
  - iii) where possible, to define a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefactual and environmental evidence;
  - iv/ a specific objective of this project was to establish the depths of archaeologically non-significant overburden within the site; in order to facilitate potential future mitigation of archaeological deposits, with a view to preservation *in-situ*. The archaeological evaluation, therefore, sought to minimize its impact upon archaeological deposits, whilst still achieving a coherent resource characterization.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 A total of nine trenches were excavated across the survey area, as shown in Figure 2. The majority of the trenches were targeted on geophysical anomalies, apart from Trench 3, which was located to provide a control sample.

- 4.2 Topsoil and non-significant overburden was removed to the top of the archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved by use of a 360° mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All mechanical excavation was conducted under the direction of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Thereafter, all additional excavation was conducted by hand.
- 4.3 The northern half of Trench 5 was trowel-cleaned in order to define two gully-type features. Ditch [404] was not fully excavated due to health and safety constraints.
- 4.4 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

## **5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 A full stratigraphic description of all contexts identified in the course of the project is detailed in Appendix 1. A summary discussion is given below.
- 5.2 Fields 1 to 3 comprised gently sloping land; however, Field 4 was situated on the western edge of a fairly steep valley, which sloped downwards from northwest to southeast.
- 5.3 The site stratigraphy generally comprised natural slate/shillet directly overlaid by ploughsoil. Intermittent subsoil was present within Trench 2 and colluvium was noted in Trench 8.
- 5.4 The evaluation revealed a total of ten features comprising six ditches, three gullies and one posthole. The features were fairly dispersed across Fields 1, 2 and 3, and mostly represented boundary ditches; although Trench 5 contained a total of five features, consisting of three gullies, one of which was associated with possible daub, a ditch and a posthole. The occurrence of these types of features was consistent with settlement activity. No features were present within Trenches 8 and 9, which were both located on the valley slope in Field 4.
- 5.5 No artefacts were recovered from any of the trenches or features. In light of the lack of recovered artefactual material, the identified features remain poorly dated; however, the general location of the site, along with the presence of gullies with daub in association with a posthole, suggested that the activity in Trench 5 probably dates to the later Prehistoric or Roman periods. A Medieval date for some of the boundary ditches could not, however, be ruled out.
- 5.6 There was a moderate correlation with the geophysical survey results; ditches [102]/[104], [402], [404], [510] and [702]/[704] all corresponded well with the geophysical plot. However, hand excavation indicated that a large geophysical linear feature located at the western end of Trench 4 (Figure 2 – Label 3)



actually represented a linear band of natural clay, as opposed to an archaeological feature. Likewise, the geophysical anomalies around Trenches 2, 8 and 9 were all associated with variations in the natural substrates. A number of linear geophysical features, such as Labels 6, 7 and 8, were not associated with either archaeological or visible geological features. Shallow features, such as gullies and postholes were not identified by the geophysical survey. Given the variable geophysical results it is not possible, at this stage, to confirm that the morphology and spatial extent of the possible settlement entirely corresponds with that postulated in the geophysical survey.

- 5.7 The occurrence of features directly beneath the ploughsoil, along with the shallow depth of gullies [502], [506] and [508], indicated that the site has been subjected to a high degree of plough truncation.
- 5.8 The evaluation has identified evidence for possible undated settlement activity in the northern half of Field 3, along with dispersed undated boundary ditches in Fields 1, 2 and 3. The archive is currently located at the offices of Foundations Archaeology but will be deposited, in due course, with the Royal Cornwall Museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

## **6 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

BaRAS. 2012. *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment & Geophysical Survey of land at Ford Farm, St Ive, Cornwall*. Unpublished.

Foundations Archaeology. 2012. *Land at Ford Farm, St Ive, Liskeard, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Unpublished.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Phil Coplestone of Cornwall Council, along with Peter Harfoot of Ford Farm, Michael Minsky of Electro Green Power Ltd. and Peter Whitehead of Whitehead Planning for their assistance during the course of this project.

Land at Ford Farm, St Ive, Liskeard, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<b>TRENCH 1;</b> 25m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light grey slate/shillet with occasional patches of orange brown clay. Average height of natural = 163.99m OD.		
101	na	na	0.36	Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments.	nat.	na
[102]	1.8	0.7	0.4	East - west aligned ditch with a steep profile. Contained fill 103.	nat.	103
103	1.8	0.7	0.4	Fill of ditch [102]; light brown silt clay, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	[102]	[104]
[104]	1.8	1.4	0.33	Re-cut of ditch [102] with a wide, rounded profile. Contained fill 105.	103	105
105	1.8	1.4	0.33	Fill of ditch [104]; dark brown silt clay, which contained frequent slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	[104]	101
				<b>TRENCH 2;</b> 50m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light grey slate/shillet with frequent patches of orange brown clay. Average height of natural = 164.05m OD.		
201	na	na	0.35	Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments.	202	na
202	na	na	0.2	Subsoil; light brown orange clay silt. Occurred intermittently within the trench.	nat.	201
[203]	2.15	0.78	0.43	East - west aligned ditch with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 204.	nat.	204
204	2.15	0.78	0.43	Fill of ditch [203]; light brown red clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and frequent small slate/shillet fragments.	[203]	201

Land at Ford Farm, St Ive, Liskeard, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<b>TRENCH 3;</b> 25m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light grey slate/shillet with occasional patches of orange brown clay. Average height of natural = 161.26m OD.		
301	na	na	0.32	Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments. No features present within the trench.	nat.	na
				<b>TRENCH 4;</b> 50m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light grey slate/shillet with occasional patches of orange brown clay. Average height of natural = 162.32m OD.		
401	na	na	0.36	Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments.	nat.	na
[402]	2.25	0.95	0.41	North - south aligned ditch with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fill 403.	nat.	403
403	2.25	0.95	0.41	Fill of ditch [402]; red brown clay silt, which contained frequent small slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	[402]	401
[404]	2.2	2.43	>1.04	North - south aligned ditch with steep, irregular sides. Not fully excavated. Contained fills 405, 406, 407, 408 and 409.	nat.	405
405	?	1.7	0.55	Fill of ditch [404]; grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent loose slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	[404]	406
406	?	0.58	0.33	Fill of ditch [404]; light brown orange silt clay, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments.	405	407
407	?	0.97	0.16	Fill of ditch [404]; grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent loose slate/shillet fragments.	406	408

Land at Ford Farm, St Ive, Liskeard, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
408	?	2.2	0.38	Fill of ditch [404]; light brown orange silt clay, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	407	409
409	2.2	2.43	0.25	Fill of ditch [404]; dark brown grey silt clay, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	408	401
				<b>TRENCH 5</b> ; 50m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light grey slate/shillet with rare patches of orange brown clay. Average height of natural = 160.69m OD.		
501	na	na	0.41	Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	nat.	na
[502]	2	0.7	0.12	Northwest - southeast aligned gully with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 503.	nat.	503
503	2	0.7	0.12	Fill of gully [502]; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	[502]	501
[504]	0.15	0.15	0.15	Sub-oval posthole with vertical sides and a rounded base. Contained fill 505.	nat.	505
505	0.15	0.15	0.15	Fill of posthole [504]; light brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments and frequent patches and lumps of charcoal. Possible remains of burnt post.	[504]	507
[506]	4.4	0.5	0.11	North - south aligned curvilinear gully with a shallow, rounded profile. Only partly present/visible within the trench. Contained fill 507.	nat.	507
507	4.4	0.5	0.11	Fill of gully [506]; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments.	[506], 505	501
[508]	2.8	0.42	0.16	Northeast - southwest aligned gully with a 'V' shaped profile. Only partly present/visible within the trench. Contained fill 509.	nat.	509
509	2.8	0.42	0.16	Fill of gully [508]; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and lumps, along with occasional flecks and lumps of pink clay (possible daub).	[508]	501

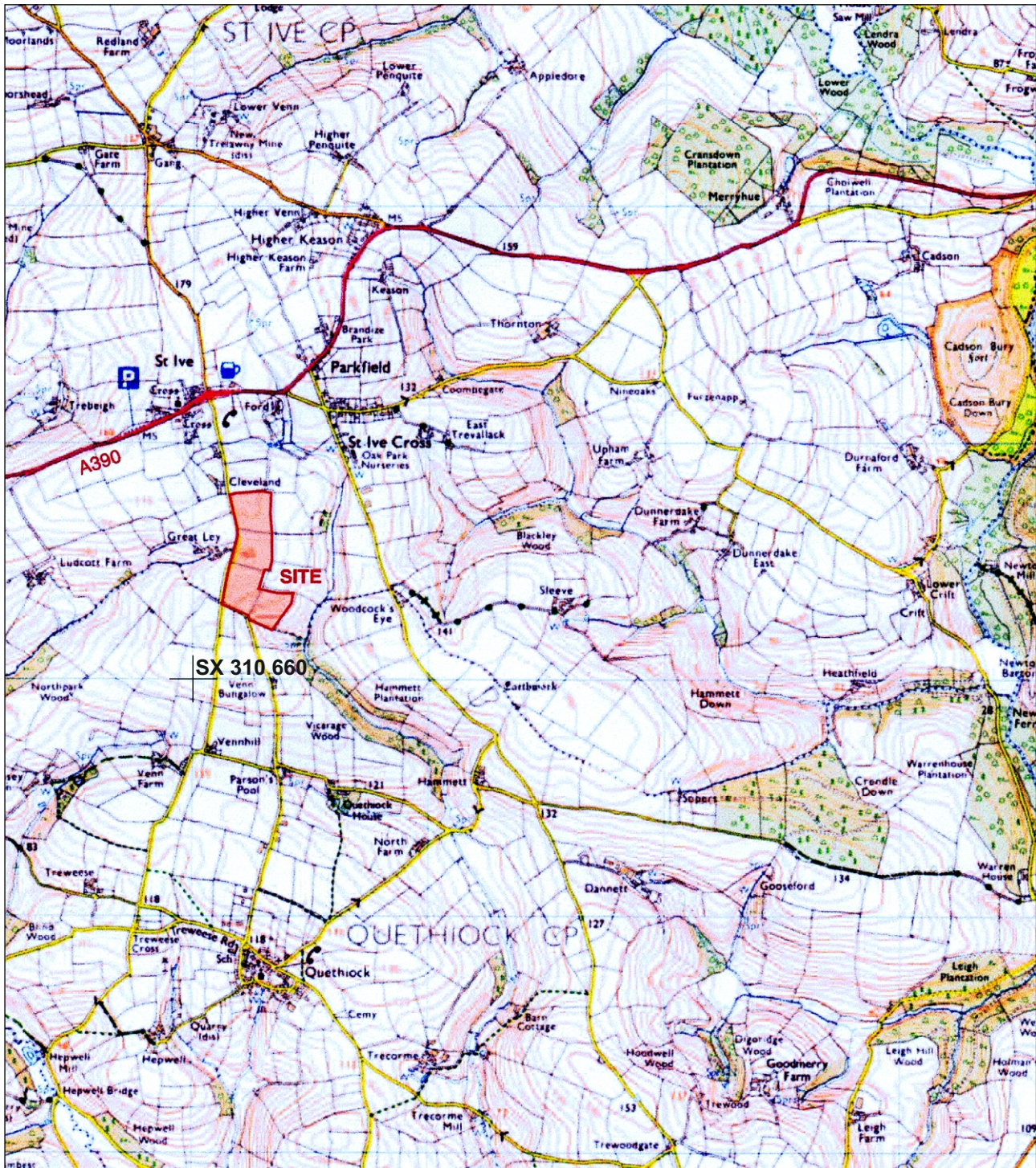
Land at Ford Farm, St Ive, Liskeard, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
[510]	1.8	1.3	1.2	East - west aligned ditch with a steep 'V' shaped profile. Contained fills 511, 512, 513 and 514.	nat.	511
511	?	0.48	0.39	Primary fill of ditch [510]; grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent loose slate/shillet fragments and frequent charcoal flecks and lumps.	[510]	512
512	?	0.61	0.2	Fill of ditch [510]; grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	511	513
513	?	0.92	0.4	Fill of ditch [510]; orange brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	512	514
514	1.8	1.3	0.35	Fill of ditch [510]; dark brown grey silt clay, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	513	501
				<b>TRENCH 6;</b> 25m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light grey slate/shillet with frequent patches of orange brown clay. Average height of natural = 158.63m OD.		
601	na	na	0.36	Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments. No features present within the trench.	nat.	na
				<b>TRENCH 7;</b> 25m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light grey orange slate/shillet with rare patches of orange brown clay. Average height of natural = 157.03m OD.		
701	na	na	0.4	Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments.	nat.	na
[702]	1.85	1	0.39	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a sloping edge and a flat base. Contained fill 703.	nat.	703
703	1.85	1	0.39	Fill of ditch [702]; light brown clay silt, which contained frequent slate/shillet fragments.	[702]	[704]

Land at Ford Farm, St Ive, Liskeard, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
[704]	1.85	1.4	0.42	Re-cut of ditch [702] with a rounded profile. Contained fill 705.	703	705
705	1.85	1.4	0.42	Fill of ditch [704]; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks and lumps.	[704]	701
				<b>TRENCH 8</b> ; 50m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light grey pink slate/shillet with occasional patches and bands of orange brown clay. Average height of natural = 146.77m OD.		
801	na	na	0.4	Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments.	802	na
802	na	na	0.2	Subsoil/colluvium; light red brown clay silt.	nat.	801
				No features present within the trench.		
				<b>TRENCH 9</b> ; 50m long by 1.8m wide. Natural = light grey slate/shillet with occasional patches of orange brown clay. Average height of natural = 144.63m OD.		
901	na	na	0.43	Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional slate/shillet fragments.	nat.	na
				No features present within the trench.		





© Crown Copyright  
 Reproduced under licence AL523064A  
**Site Code: FFS12**  
**Accession Code:**  
**FIGURE 1: Site Location**





**KEY - GEOPHYSICAL DATA**  
(ArchaeoPhysica Ltd. 2012)

Magnetic Data	Catalogue	Linear enhanced
Highpass filtered < 20s / nT	Points	Fills
18	Labels	Conjectural
0		Linear reduced
-18		Extents
> 20 nT		Former boundaries?
> 50 nT		Uncertain

**TR 8** = EVALUATION TRENCH LOCATION

**TR 8** = FEATURE PRESENT WITHIN EVALUATION TRENCH

© Crown Copyright  
Reproduced under licence AL523064A

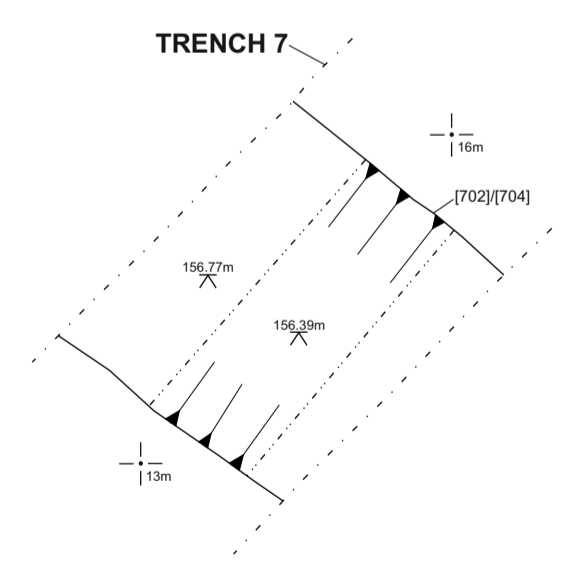
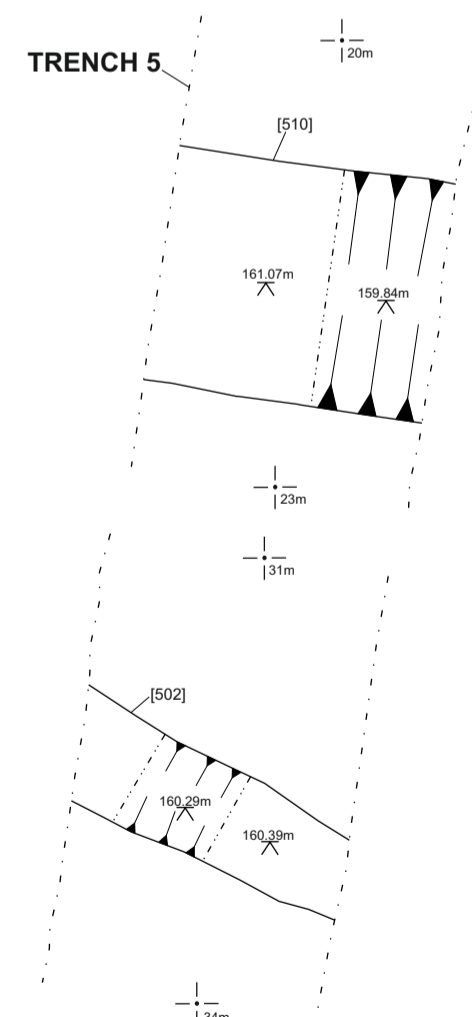
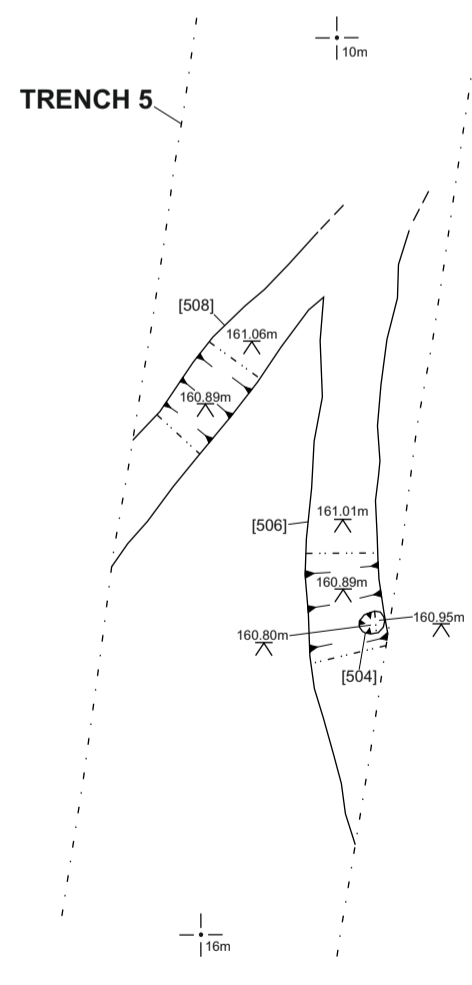
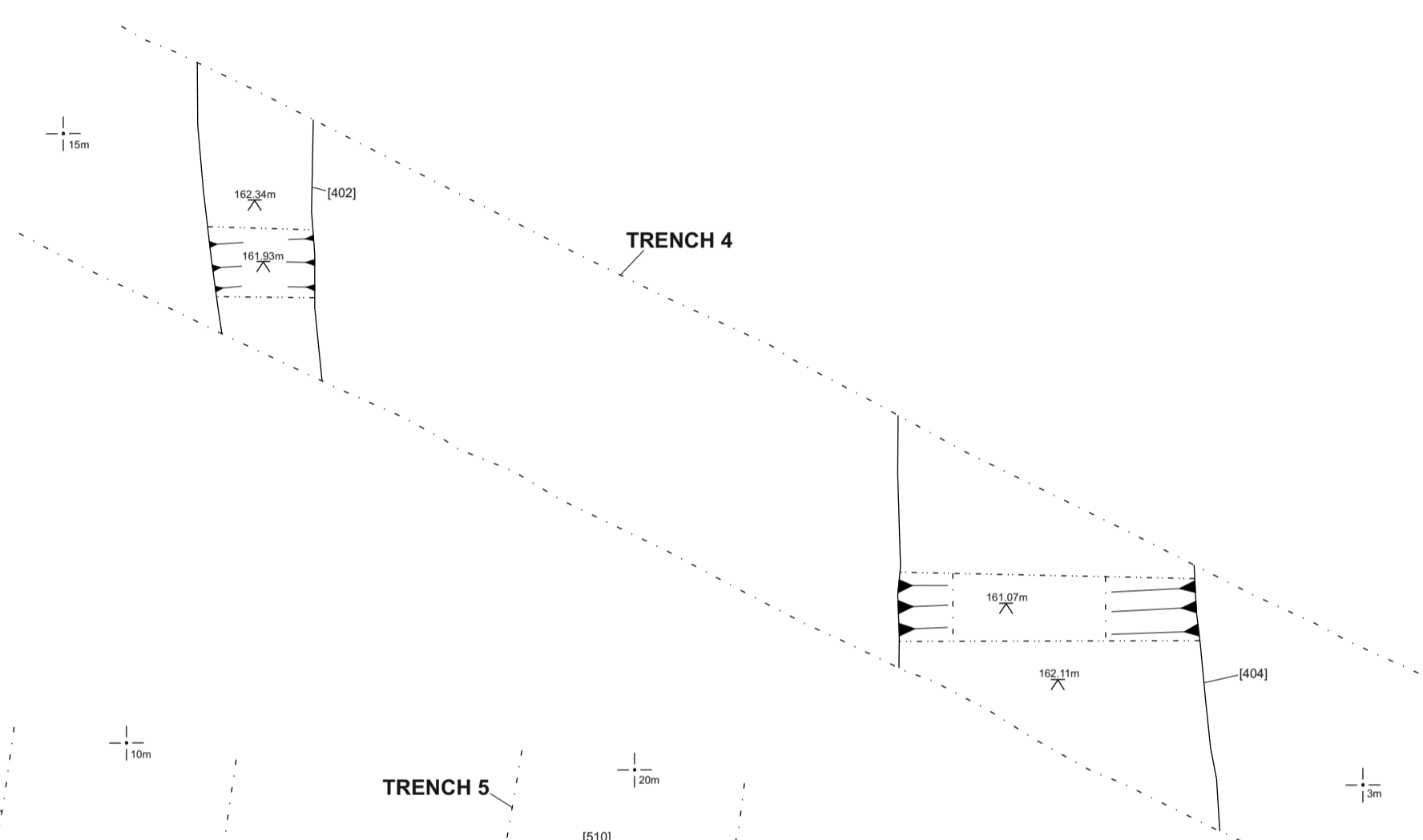
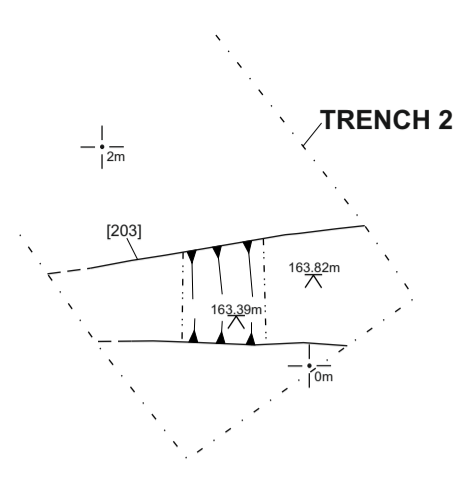
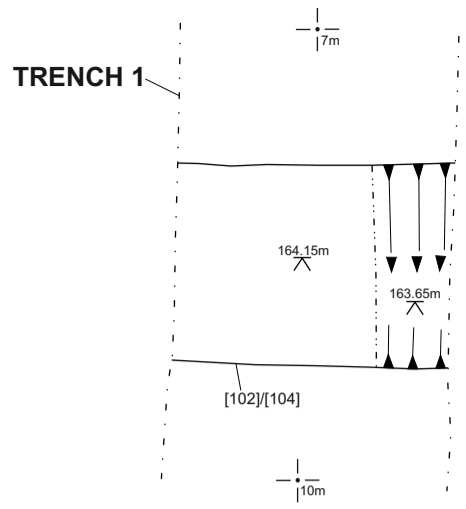
**Site Code: FFS12**  
**Accession Code:**

N

0m 100m

**FIGURE 2: Trench and Feature Locations in Relation to Geophysics Results**





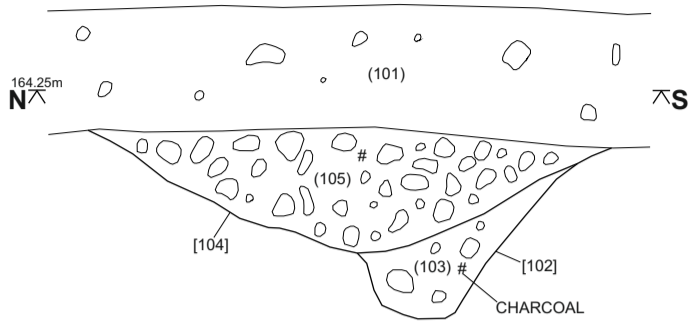
© Crown Copyright  
Reproduced under licence AL523064A  
**Site Code: FFS12**  
**Accession Code:**

**N**

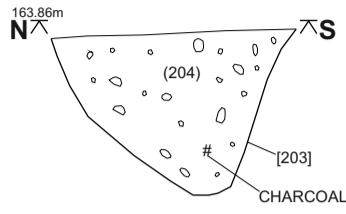
0m 2m

**FIGURE 3: Trench Plans**

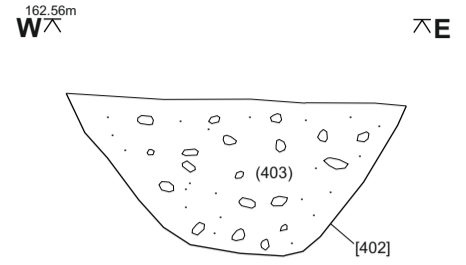
WEST FACING SECTION [102] and [104]



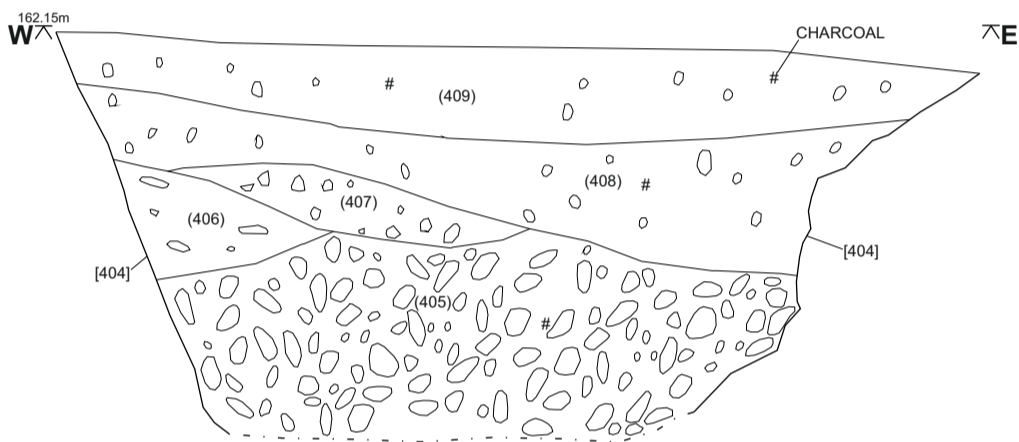
WEST FACING SECTION [203]



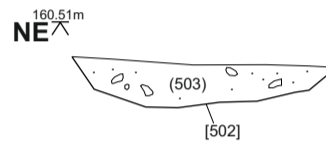
SOUTH FACING SECTION [402]



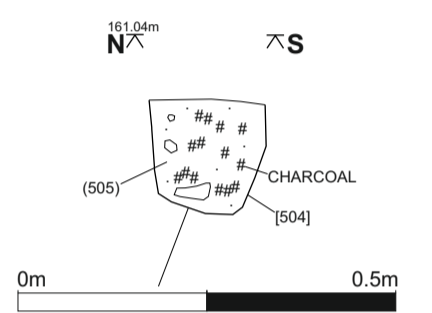
SOUTH FACING SECTION [404]



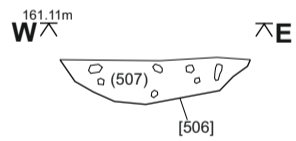
NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [502]



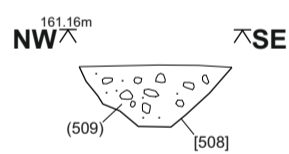
WEST FACING SECTION [504]



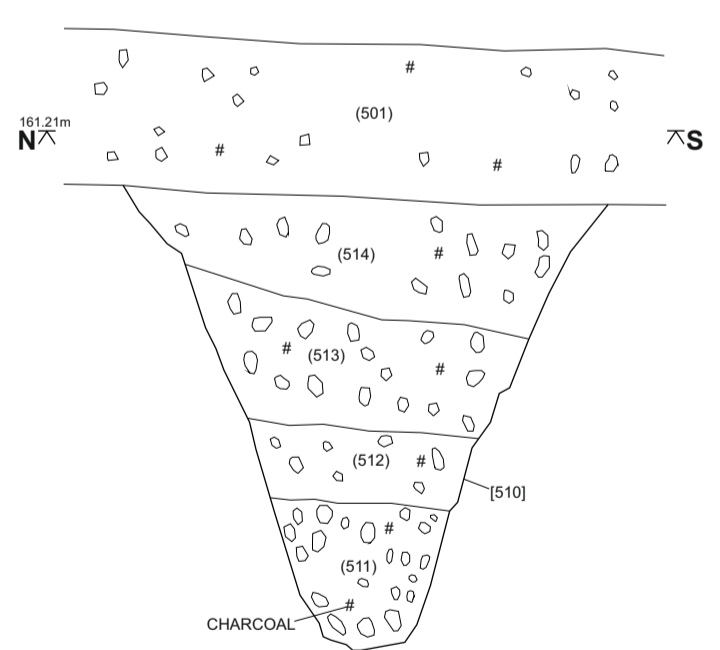
SOUTH FACING SECTION [506]



SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [508]



WEST FACING SECTION [510]



NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [702] and [704]

