#### LAND AT TREQUITE FARM, LISKEARD, CORNWALL.

#### NGR: SX 313 615 and SX 322 610

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

#### **Quality Assurance**

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## SUMMARY

In January and February 2013, Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Trequite Farm, Liskeard, Cornwall (NGR: SX 313 615 and SX 322 610).

The project comprised the excavation and recording of 23 trenches across a proposed development area, in order to test and refine the results of a previous geophysical survey.

The evaluation, in conjunction with the geophysical survey, has identified two areas within the site which contain significant archaeological remains.

Evidence for multiple phases of archaeological activity, possibly associated with at least two enclosures, was present within Fields 1 and 2 (Trenches 3, 4 and 5), at the northwest of the site. Artefactual evidence indicated that this activity had the potential to span the later Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval periods. The Medieval activity was associated with evidence for metal working.

A well preserved probable Middle Bronze Age terraced platform, which possibly contained a structure, such as a roundhouse, was present in Field 3 (Trench 11).

Numerous undated former agricultural boundaries were present across the site.

#### **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 *Torpoint Formation* - Mudstone and Siltstone and *Saltash Formation* - Slate, Siltstone and Basaltic Lava.

#### 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 in January and February 2013 on land at Trequite Farm, Liskeard, Cornwall (NGR: SX 313 615 and SX 322 610). The project was commissioned by Elgin Energy Ltd.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with the general principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012) and complied with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Foundations Archaeology, 2012b) and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008).
- 1.3 The site comprises two areas of agricultural land to the northwest of Padderbury (NGR: SX 313 615 – centred) and southeast of Trequite Farm (SX 322 610 - centred), as shown in Figures 1 and 2. The underlying geology comprises *Torpoint Formation* - Mudstone and Siltstone and *Saltash Formation* - Slate, Siltstone and Basaltic Lava (BGS: geology of Britain online viewer). At the time of the fieldwork the land comprised a mixture of recently ploughed fields and pasture.

# 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning reference **PA12/06172** relates to a new 10kw solar farm at Trequite Farm. An archaeological assessment of the site was required by Cornwall Council, in accordance with the NPPF.
- 2.2 The proposed development area has been the subject of an archaeological assessment, which included a geophysical survey undertaken by ArchaeoPhysica Ltd. (Foundations Archaeology, 2012a). The assessment highlighted the following archaeological potential within the proposed development area:
- 2.2.1 The site lies within an area of moderate-high potential for the recovery of Prehistoric data. The geophysical survey identified a probable barrow within the site area and another barrow is known from within 1km. A third barrow lies approximately 4.1km to the south.
- 2.2.2 The site contained moderate-high potential for the presence of Iron Age and Romano-British deposits. A cropmark showing a possible enclosure and associated linear feature is known from within the site area (HER 17817), although this did not appear on the geophysical survey. The geophysical survey identified a number of possible enclosures, located in Fields 1 and 2, which were associated with a spring. There was also evidence to support the presence of boundaries to strip fields, which may relate to 'Celtic' fields, although they are more likely to be Medieval in origin.
- 2.2.3 There is considerable evidence for activity of Iron Age and Roman date in the immediate vicinity of the site, including Padderbury Top hillfort and a number

of rounds, enclosures and field systems. Padderbury Top itself has good views across the site area.

- 2.2.4 The site contained low-moderate potential for the presence of finds and features of Early Medieval date. There is limited physical evidence for Early Medieval activity within 500m of the study area, although a number of settlements and field systems are known to have originated in this period. The location of any Early Medieval settlement is unknown, but there may have been scattered farmsteads or isolated dwellings in the immediate vicinity; it is most likely that any remains associated with this period would relate to slighted field boundaries. In general, the greater part of the site area is likely to have been used as downland pasture during this period.
- 2.2.5 The site contained moderate potential for the presence of Medieval finds and features. Occupation is recorded at Trequite from AD 1327 and at Padderbury from AD 1364, although there may have been settlement here from an earlier date, particularly at Trequite. It is likely that the site areas were in agricultural usage throughout this period and any remains associated with this activity are likely to comprise slighted field boundaries. It remains possible, however, that there was occupation on the site area during the Medieval period.
- 2.2.6 The site contained moderate-high potential for Post-medieval features. Cartographic evidence indicates that no buildings have existed within the boundaries of the site since the earliest cartographic representation in 1842 and it is likely that the site has been in agricultural usage throughout this period. Remains associated with this activity are likely to be predominantly related to slighted field boundaries.
- 2.3 The development area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological features and deposits.
- 2.4 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 Planning Reference PA12/06172.

## 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 23 trenches were excavated across the survey area, as shown in Figures 3 6. The majority of the trenches were located in order to test previously identified geophysical anomalies.
- 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 Where necessary, trenches were trowel cleaned in order to adequately define possible deposits.
- 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 pottery report is given in Appendix 2 and a report on recovered archaeometallurgical residues is presented in Appendix 3. A summary discussion is given below.
- 5.2 The geology varied between mudstone shillets and clay, with occasional basaltic lava outcrops and boulders. Visibility conditions were generally good. The overburden varied across the site; with some trenches containing natural deposits overlaid by subsoil and subsequently plough/topsoil, whilst others contained natural directly overlaid by the plough/topsoil.
- 5.3 There was no direct evidence for plough damage; although, trenches containing natural deposits overlaid by ploughsoil are likely to have suffered a degree of plough truncation. Preservation conditions were generally good where trenches contained subsoil.

- 5.4 The correlation between the geophysical survey results and the features present within the evaluation trenches generally varied between moderate to good, as shown in Figures 22 25. Some features predicted by the survey were not present, whilst a number of trenches contained features which were not predicted by the survey.
- 5.5 The evaluation revealed the presence of 36 ditches, three possible terraces, one posthole and nine other features.
- 5.6 Ditches [103], [203], [205], [602], [604], [703], [1002], [1004], [1006], [1103], [1105], [1202], [1303], [1402], [1404], [1406], [1602], [1703], [1705], [1802], [1902], [1904], [1906], [2003], [2005] and [2202] were predominately the remains of agricultural land boundaries. The evaluation trenching, in conjunction with the geophysical survey, has indicated that these ditches have variable alignments and are likely to represent multiple phases of agricultural landscape activity.
- 5.7 Features [207] and [209] were associated with charcoal flecks and burnt quartz. They were, however, very shallow and it was uncertain if they represented archaeological deposits or natural features which contained intrusive material.
- 5.8 **Trenches 3, 4 and 5** were targeted on two potential enclosures, with associated features, which were identified in the previous geophysical survey.
- 5.8.1 These trenches contained a total of 17 features, which included multiple ditches, two possible terraces and other cut features. Due to the density and size of the deposits, along with the limited nature of the investigation, interpretation was difficult; however, at least two, possibly three, stratigraphic phases ([304]/[307], [309], [311]) were identified within Trench 3. This, along with the recovery of a small amount of Iron Age, Roman and Medieval pottery from Trenches 3 and 4, indicated the potential for the remains of multi-period activity at this location. This appeared to correlate well with the results of the geophysical survey; although there was no evidence for postulated stone-built structural remains.
- 5.8.2 There was evidence for metal working in Trenches 3 and 4; Feature [309] contained a charcoal and slag-rich fill (310), pieces of possible slag were recovered from fills (320) and (416) and the base of Feature [313] was partially covered in a lens of charcoal-rich soil (314). Pottery recovered from fill (310) indicated that the metal working activity was most likely to date to the Medieval period.
- 5.9 **Trench 11** was targeted upon a discrete feature identified in the geophysical survey.
- 5.9.1 Feature [1107] consisted of an approximately 9m wide terrace, which had been cut into the natural south-facing slope. Partial excavation indicated the presence of Posthole [1113]/(1114), with a possibly associated 'packing' stone

(1109), at the north-eastern edge of the terrace. It is possible that the posthole/packing stone represented the remains of a former structure, possibly a house, which was situated within the terrace. Pottery recovered from fills (1108), (1111) and (1112) indicated that the terrace and associated possible structure were likely to date to the Middle Bronze Age. Prehistoric roundhouses, located within terraces, are known from numerous sites within Cornwall.

- 5.9.2 There was evidence for burning, in the form of discoloured natural deposits and a charcoal-rich soil lens (1108), both of which occurred intermittently across the base of the terrace. Posthole [1113]/(1114) was securely stratified beneath charcoal-rich deposit (1108), which suggested that the burning was most likely to be related to a demolition event, rather than being indicative of the structure's function.
- 5.9.3 The terrace and its internal features were all sealed by relatively thick in-fill deposits (1111) and (1112), which indicated the potential for very good preservation conditions.
- 5.9.4 The evaluation data from Trench 11 correlated well with the geophysical survey, which indicated the potential for a large, discrete feature.
- 5.10 **Trenches 20 and 21** were targeted on a possible penannular ditch identified in the geophysical survey, which was tentatively interpreted as the remains of a possible Prehistoric barrow.
- 5.10.1 Ditches [2102] and [2104] corresponded well with the geophysical survey results; however, there was no ditch-like feature present in the northern part of Trench 20. This, along with a complete lack of evidence for internal features within the area of the postulated penannular ditch, suggested that Ditches [2102] and [2104] more likely represented the remains of former agricultural boundaries; indeed, Ditch [2102] shared a similar alignment to two parallel Ditches, [1902] and [1904], which were present at the southwest end of Trench 19. The evaluation has indicated that, in contrast to the geophysical survey results, there is a low potential for the presence of a Prehistoric barrow at the location of Trenches 20 and 21.
- 5.11 The evaluation, in conjunction with the geophysical survey, has identified two areas within the site which contain significant archaeological remains.
- 5.11.1 Evidence for multiple phases of archaeological activity, possibly associated with at least two enclosures, was present within Fields 1 and 2 (Trenches 3, 4 and 5), at the northwest of the site. Artefactual evidence indicated that this activity had the potential to span the later Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval periods. The Medieval activity was associated with evidence for metal working.
- 5.11.2 A well preserved probable Middle Bronze Age terraced platform, which possibly contained a structure, such as a roundhouse, was present in Field 3 (Trench 11). The geophysical survey indicated that this was a discrete, isolated

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feature; however, the area to the north of the evaluation trench was not susceptible to geophysical survey due to interference caused by the underlying basaltic lava geology.

- 5.11.3 Numerous undated former agricultural boundaries were present across the site.
- 5.12 The archive is currently located at the offices of Foundations Archaeology but will be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum in due course.

## 6 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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#### 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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#### **APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data**

| схт   | L(m) | W(m) | D(m) | DESCRIPTION  | CUTS/LATER<br>THAN | CUT BY/EARLIER<br>THAN |
|-------|------|------|------|--|--------------------|------------------------|
|       |      |      |      | Trench 1: 50m by 1.8m; natural (at average 109.97m OD) = grey/beige/orange clay shillet.                                     |                    |                        |
| 101   | na   | na   | 0.28 | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.  | 102                | na                     |
| 102   | na   | na   | 0.15 | Subsoil; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet. Occurred intermittently within the trench.                 | nat.               | 101                    |
| [103] | 2.1  | 0.73 | 0.45 | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with near vertical sides and a rounded base. Contained fill 104.                         | nat.               | 104                    |
| 104   | 2.1  | 0.73 | 0.45 | Fill of ditch [103]; light brown/red silt clay, which contained occasional small stones.                                     | [103]              | 101                    |
|       |      |      |      | Trench 2: 30m by 1.8m; natural (at average 107.44m OD) = grey/beige/orange clay shillet.                                     |                    |                        |
| 201   | na   | na   | 0.3  | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.  | 202                | na                     |
| 202   | na   | na   | 0.14 | Subsoil; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet. Occurred intermittently within the trench.                 | nat.               | 201                    |
| [203] | 2.2  | 0.68 | 0.1  | North-northwest - south-southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 204.                            |                    | 204                    |
| 204   | 2.2  | 0.68 | 0.1  | Fill of ditch [203]; dark brown silt clay.   | [203]              | 201                    |
| [205] | 1.83 | 0.69 | 0.13 | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 206.                                     |                    | 206                    |
| 206   | 1.83 | 0.69 | 0.13 | Fill of ditch [205]; dark brown/grey silt clay.  |                    | 202                    |
| [207] | 0.97 | 0.57 | 0.05 | Possible cut feature with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 208. Uncertain if archaeological or natural feature.       | nat.               | 208                    |
| 208   | 0.97 | 0.57 | 0.05 | Fill of feature [207]; dark brown/grey silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.                                | [207]              | 202                    |
| [209] | 0.69 | 0.82 | 0.09 | Possible cut feature with a shallow, flat profile. Similar to feature [207]. Contained fill 210. Uncertain if archaeological | nat.               | 210                    |
|       |      |      |      | or natural feature.  |                    |                        |
| 210   | 0.69 | 0.82 | 0.09 | Fill of feature [209]; dark brown silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and occasional burnt quartz          | [209]              | 202                    |
|       |      |      |      | fragments.   |                    |                        |
|       |      |      |      | Trench 3: 50m by 1.8m; natural (at average 98.45m OD) = grey/beige shillet.  |                    |                        |
| 301   | na   | na   | 0.51 | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.  | 302                | na                     |
| 302   | ?    | 1.07 | 0.18 | Layer of mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet. Possible subsoil or colluvial layer. Occurred at the north | nat.               | [313]                  |
|       |      |      |      | end of the trench.   |                    |                        |
| 303   |      |      |      | Void.  |                    |                        |

| схт   | L(m) | W(m) | W(m) D(m) DESCRIPTION |   | CUTS/LATER<br>THAN | CUT BY/EARLIER<br>THAN |
|-------|------|------|-----------------------|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| [304] | 1.8  | 3.1  | 0.83                  | Wide cut feature with a gently sloping southeastern edge, which descended to a steep 'U' shaped profile at the northwest. | nat.               | 305                    |
|       |      |      |                       | Possibly associated with/part of feature [307]. Contained fills 305 and 306/327.  |                    |                        |
| 305   | ?    | 0.5  | 0.4                   | Primary fill of feature [304]; dark brown/grey silt clay, which contained frequent shillet.                               | [304]              | 306                    |
| 306   | 1.8  | 0.84 | 0.41                  | Secondary fill of feature [304]; light brown/orange silt clay, which contained occasional small stones.                   | 305                | [309]/[311]            |
|       |      |      |                       | Equivalent to fill 327 and, possibly, fill 308.   |                    |                        |
| [307] | 2.5  | 3.15 | 0.63                  | Wide cut feature with a gently sloping northwestern edge, which descended to a 'U' shaped profile at the southeast.       | nat.               | 308                    |
|       |      |      |                       | Contained fill 308.   |                    |                        |
| 308   | 2.5  | 3.15 | 0.63                  | Fill of feature [307]; light brown/orange silt clay, which contained occasional shillet.                                  | [307]              | [309]                  |
| [309] | 1.8  | 1.5  | 0.51                  | Cut feature with an uneven, rounded profile. Contained fill 310. Partly obscured by feature [311]/312.                    | 306, 308           | 310                    |
| 310   | 1.8  | 1.5  | 0.51                  | Fill of feature [309]; black/grey silt clay, which contained frequent charcoal flecks and lumps, along with               | [309]              | [311]?                 |
|       |      |      |                       | frequent (30 - 40%) slag lumps.   |                    |                        |
| [311] | 0.95 | 1.4  | 0.31                  | Cut feature with an uneven, rounded profile. Contained fill 312.  |                    | 312                    |
| 312   | 0.95 | 1.4  | 0.31                  | Fill of feature [311]; grey silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.  |                    | 301                    |
| [313] | 3.45 | 1.6  | 0.37                  | Cut feature with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fills 314, 315 and 316.   | 302                | 314                    |
| 314   | 1.4  | 1.2  | 0.04                  | Lens of black, charcoal-rich clay silt, which occurred intermittently across the base of feature [313]. No evidence for   | [313]              | 315                    |
|       |      |      |                       | <i>in-situ</i> burning.   |                    |                        |
| 315   | 3.45 | 1.6  | 0.28                  | Fill of feature [313]; orange/brown silt clay, which contained rare shillet.  | 314                | 316                    |
| 316   | ?    | 2.12 | 0.11                  | Fill of feature [313]; dark brown silt clay.  | 315                | 301                    |
| [317] | 6.7  | 1.8  | 0.38                  | Large cut feature, which had a sloping northwest edge and a flat base. The feature was cut into the natural slope and     | nat.               | 318                    |
|       |      |      |                       | appeared to form a terraced platform. Contained fills 318 and 319.  |                    |                        |
| 318   | 1.25 | 0.67 | 0.2                   | Primary fill of terrace [317]; beige/brown silt clay shillet.   | [317]              | 319                    |
| 319   | 7.5  | 1.8  | 0.24                  | Secondary fill of terrace [317]; brown/grey silt clay. Extended beyond feature [317] at the northwest.                    | 318                | 320                    |
| 320   | 8.7  | 1.8  | 0.32                  | Layer of dark brown/grey silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and lumps, occasional                      | 319                | 321                    |
|       |      |      |                       | slag lumps and occasional shillet.  |                    |                        |
| 321   | 10.5 | 1.8  | 0.38                  | Layer of light brown/grey silt clay, which contained occasional shillet.  | 320                | 301                    |

| схт   | L(m) | n) W(m) D(m) DESCRIPTION |      |   |       | CUT BY/EARLIER<br>THAN |
|-------|------|--------------------------|------|---|-------|------------------------|
| [322] | 2.2  | 1.3                      | 0.62 | Possible ditch or gully with a steep, variable profile. Contained fills 323 and 324. Occurred to the northwest of, and      | nat.  | 323                    |
|       |      |                          |      | possibly associated with, terrace [317].  |       |                        |
| 323   | ?    | 0.46                     | 0.28 | Primary fill of feature [322]; dark brown silt clay, which contained occasional small stones.                               | [322] | 324                    |
| 324   | 2.2  | 1.3                      | 0.34 | Secondary fill of feature [322]; brown/grey silt clay, which contained occasional shillet. Indistinguishable from fill 319. | 323   | 320                    |
| [325] | 3.1  | 0.42                     | 0.24 | East-northeast - west-southwest aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fill 326.                                   | nat.  | 326                    |
| 326   | 3.1  | 0.42                     | 0.24 | Fill of ditch [325]; dark brown silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.                                      | [325] | 301                    |
| 327   | 1.8  | 1.9                      | 0.2  | Fill of feature [304]; light brown/orange silt clay, which contained occasional small stones.                               | [304] | [311]                  |
|       |      |                          |      | Trench 4: 50m by 1.8m; natural (at average 104.82m OD) = variable beige/pink/brown clay shillet.                            |       |                        |
| 401   | na   | na                       | 0.32 | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.   | 402   | na                     |
| 402   | na   | na                       | 0.31 | Subsoil; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet. Occurred intermittently within the trench. nat.           |       | 401                    |
| [403] | 2.2  | 0.97                     | 0.12 | Northeast - southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 404. nat.                               |       | 404                    |
| 404   | 2.2  | 0.97                     | 0.12 | Fill of ditch [403]; dark brown silt clay.  |       | 401                    |
| [405] | 1.85 | 1.35                     | 0.45 | East-northeast - west-southwest aligned ditch with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fills 406 and 407.                   |       | 406                    |
| 406   | ?    | 0.6                      | 0.27 | Primary fill of ditch [405]; light brown silt clay.   | [405] | 407                    |
| 407   | 1.85 | 1.35                     | 0.2  | Secondary fill of ditch [405]; mid brown/grey silt clay.  | 406   | 402                    |
| [408] | 1.83 | 0.7                      | 0.27 | East-northeast - west-southwest aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fill 409.                                   | nat.  | 409                    |
| 409   | 1.83 | 0.7                      | 0.27 | Fill of ditch [408]; dark brown silt clay.  | [408] | 401                    |
| [410] | 1.85 | 1.07                     | 0.21 | East-northeast - west-southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 411.                             | nat.  | 411                    |
| 411   | 1.85 | 1.07                     | 0.21 | Fill of ditch [410]; dark brown silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.                                      | [410] | 402                    |
| [412] | 1.83 | 4.63                     | 0.6  | Large cut feature with a rounded, uneven profile. Contained fills 413 and 414. Similar to feature [415].                    | nat.  | 413                    |
| 413   | ?    | 3.7                      | 0.34 | Primary fill of feature [412]; light brown/orange silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. [412]              |       | 414                    |
| 414   | 1.83 | 4.63                     | 0.37 | Secondary fill of feature [412]; dark brown silt clay.  | 413   | 402                    |
| [415] | 1.85 | 5.8                      | 0.24 | Large cut feature with a shallow, uneven profile. Contained fill 416.   | nat.  | 416                    |
| 416   | 1.85 | 5.8                      | 0.24 | Fill of feature [415]; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and a single small fragment of      | [415] | 402                    |
|       |      |                          |      | possible slag.  |       |                        |

| схт   | L(m) | W(m) | D(m) | DESCRIPTION   | CUTS/LATER<br>THAN   | CUT BY/EARLIER<br>THAN |
|-------|------|------|------|---|--|------------------------|
|       |      |      |      | Trench 5: 20m by 1.8m; natural (at average 93.61m OD) = brown/orange clay shillet.                                    |  |                        |
| 501   | na   | na   | 0.31 | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.   | 502  | na                     |
| 502   | na   | na   | 0.47 | Subsoil; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.   | nat.   | 501                    |
| [503] | 1.9  | 1.23 | 0.46 | North - south aligned ditch with an uneven, rounded profile. Contained fill 504.                                      | nat.   | 504                    |
| 504   | 1.9  | 1.23 | 0.46 | Fill of ditch [503]; light brown/grey silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.                          | [503]  | 502                    |
| [505] | 1.85 | 0.7  | 0.31 | North-northwest - south-southeast aligned ditch with a rounded, uneven profile. Contained fill 506.                   | nat.   | 506                    |
| 506   | 1.85 | 0.7  | 0.31 | Fill of ditch [505]; light brown grey silt clay.  | [505]  | 502                    |
| [507] | 1.85 | 7.3  | 0.46 | Large cut feature, which had a sloping east edge and a flat base. The feature was cut into the natural slope and      | nat.   | 508                    |
|       |      |      |      | appeared to form a terraced platform. Contained fill 508.   |  |                        |
| 508   | 1.85 | 7.3  | 0.46 | Fill of feature [507]; dark orange brown clay silt, which contained occasional to frequent charcoal lumps and flecks, | [507]  | 502                    |
|       |      |      |      | along with occasional shillet.  |  |                        |
|       |      |      |      | Trench 6: 30m by 1.8m; natural (at average 104.67m OD) = variable beige/brown shillet.                                |  |                        |
| 601   | na   | na   | 0.3  | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.   | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet. nat. |                        |
| [602] | 4.1  | 1.1  | 0.11 | Northeast - southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 603.                              | nat.   | 603                    |
| 603   | 4.1  | 1.1  | 0.11 | Fill of ditch [602]; dark brown silt clay.  | [602]  | 601                    |
| [604] | 2    | 1.25 | 0.06 | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, uneven profile. Contained fill 605.                               | nat.   | 605                    |
| 605   | 2    | 1.25 | 0.06 | Fill of ditch [604]; dark brown silt clay.  | [604]  | 601                    |
|       |      |      |      | Trench 7: 30m by 1.8m; natural (at average 81.58m OD) = variable grey fragmented shillet with patches of brown clay.  |  |                        |
| 701   | na   | na   | 0.31 | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.   | nat.   | na                     |
| 702   |      |      |      | Void.   |  |                        |
| [703] | 2.2  | 0.96 | 0.2  | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 704.                              | nat.   | 704                    |
| 704   | 2.2  | 0.96 | 0.2  | Fill of ditch [703]; dark brown silt clay.  | [703]  | 701                    |
|       |      |      |      | Trench 8: 20m by 1.8m; natural (at average 71.69m OD) = orange grey clay shillet with patches of brown clay shillet.  |  |                        |
| 801   | na   | na   | 0.3  | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.   | 802  | na                     |
| 802   | na   | na   | 0.08 | Subsoil; mid brown clay silt.   | nat.   | 801                    |
|       |      |      |      | No archaeological features or finds within the trench.  |  |                        |

| схт    | L(m) | W(m) | D(m) | DESCRIPTION   | CUTS/LATER<br>THAN | CUT BY/EARLIER<br>THAN |
|--------|------|------|------|---|--------------------|------------------------|
|        |      |      |      | Trench 9: 30m by 1.8m; natural (at average 71.01m OD) = orange grey clay shillet with patches of brown clay shillet.        |                    |                        |
| 901    | na   | na   | 0.35 | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.   | nat.               | na                     |
|        |      |      |      | No archaeological features or finds within the trench.  |                    |                        |
|        |      |      |      | Trench 10: 30m by 1.8m; natural (at average 69.61m OD) = orange grey clay shillet with patches of brown clay shillet.       |                    |                        |
| 1001   | na   | na   | 0.53 | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.   | 1008               | na                     |
| [1002] | 1.9  | 0.67 | 0.07 | North-south aligned ditch with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 1003.  | nat.               | 1003                   |
| 1003   | 1.9  | 0.67 | 0.07 | Fill of ditch [1002]; dark brown silt clay.   | [1002]             | 1001                   |
| [1004] | 1.85 | 0.8  | 0.1  | North-south aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1005.   | nat.               | 1005                   |
| 1005   | 1.85 | 0.8  | 0.1  | Fill of ditch [1004]; dark brown silt clay, which contained occasional small stones and occasional charcoal flecks.         | [1004]             | 1001                   |
| [1006] | 1.85 | 3.2  | 0.42 | North-south aligned ditch with a shallow, gently sloping eastern edge, which descended to a 'U' shaped profile at the west. | nat.               | 1007                   |
|        |      |      |      | Contained fill 1007.  |                    |                        |
| 1007   | 1.85 | 3.2  | 0.42 | Fill of ditch [1006]; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.  | [1006]             | 1001                   |
| 1008   | na   | na   | 0.08 | Subsoil; mid brown clay silt. Occurred intermittently within the trench.  | nat.               | 1001                   |
|        |      |      |      | Trench 11: 30m by 1.8m; natural (at average 76.49m OD) = beige shillet.   |                    |                        |
| 1101   | na   | na   | 0.46 | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.   | 1102               | na                     |
| 1102   | na   | 8    | 0.27 | Subsoil; mid brown clay silt. Occurred at the southern part of the trench.  | nat.               | 1101                   |
| [1103] | 2.2  | 1.39 | 0.09 | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a wide, shallow profile. Contained fill 1104.                                      | nat.               | 1104                   |
| 1104   | 2.2  | 1.39 | 0.09 | Fill of ditch [1103]; dark brown silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.                                     | [1103]             | 1101                   |
| [1105] | 1.95 | 1.04 | 0.27 | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a wide, 'V' shaped profile. Contained fill 1106.                                   | 1102               | 1106                   |
| 1106   | 1.95 | 1.04 | 0.27 | Fill of ditch [1105]; dark brown silt clay.   | [1105]             | 1101                   |
| [1107] | 9    | 1.8  | 0.87 | Large cut feature, which had a near vertical, stepped northeastern edge and a flat base. The feature was cut into the       | nat.               | 1108                   |
|        |      |      |      | natural slope and appeared to form a terraced platform. Discoloured (red/pink) natural deposits, which occurred             |                    |                        |
|        |      |      |      | intermittently across the base of the feature, probably represented evidence for in-situ burning.                           |                    |                        |
|        |      |      |      | Contained fills 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111 and 1112. Associated with posthole [1113]/1114.                                      |                    |                        |
| 1108   | 7.6  | 1.1  | 0.07 | Lens of black, charcoal-rich clay silt, which occurred across the base of terrace [1107]. Contained frequent burnt shillet. | [1107], 1114       | 1110                   |

| CXT L(m) W(m |      | W(m) | D(m) | DESCRIPTION  | CUTS/LATER<br>THAN | CUT BY/EARLIER<br>THAN |
|--------------|------|------|------|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1109         | 0.47 | 0.22 | 0.15 | Dark grey/green basaltic lava boulder. No evidence for shaping or working. Appeared to have been wedged against the    | [1107]             | 1110                   |
|              |      |      |      | northeastern edge of terrace [1107]; possibly associated with posthole [1113]/1114.                                    |                    |                        |
| 1110         | 1.1  | 0.94 | 0.55 | Deposit of light brown silt clay and shillet.  | 1108, 1109         | 1111                   |
| 1111         | 6.85 | 1.1  | 0.26 | Fill of terrace [1107]; dark brown silt clay, which contained frequent charcoal flecks and frequent shillet fragments. | 1110               | 1112                   |
| 1112         | 9    | 1.8  | 0.63 | Fill of terrace [1107]; mid brown silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks, occasional shillet and two    | 1111               | 1101                   |
|              |      |      |      | basaltic lava boulders, which were similar to 1109.  |                    |                        |
| [1113]       | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.23 | Sub-circular posthole with near vertical sides and a rounded base. Contained fill 1114.                                | nat.               | 1114                   |
| 1114         | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.23 | Fill of posthole [1113]; mid brown silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small stones.  | [1113]             | 1108                   |
|              |      |      |      | Trench 12: 20m by 1.8m; natural (at average 73.39m OD) = brown/grey clay shillet.                                      |                    |                        |
| 1201         | na   | na   | 0.3  | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.  | nat.               | na                     |
| [1202]       | 2    | 0.84 | 0.14 | East-northeast - west-southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1203.                    |                    | 1203                   |
| 1203         | 2    | 0.84 | 0.14 | Fill of ditch [1202]; dark brown silt clay, which contained occasional shillet.  | [1202]             | 1201                   |
|              |      |      |      | Trench 13: 30m by 1.8m; natural (at average 76.03m OD) = beige/brown/orange clay shillet.                              |                    |                        |
| 1301         | na   | na   | 0.31 | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.  | 1302               | na                     |
| 1302         | na   | na   | 0.15 | Subsoil; mid brown clay silt. Occurred intermittently within the trench.   | nat.               | 1301                   |
| [1303]       | 1.85 | 1.2  | 0.17 | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 1304.                                 | nat.               | 1304                   |
| 1304         | 1.85 | 1.2  | 0.17 | Fill of ditch [1303]; mid brown clay silt, which contained rare charcoal flecks.                                       | [1303]             | 1302                   |
|              |      |      |      | Trench 14: 30m by 1.8m; natural (at average 67.15m OD) = grey/brown clay shillet.                                      |                    |                        |
| 1401         | na   | na   | 0.31 | Topsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.   | nat.               | na                     |
| [1402]       | 2.4  | 2    | 0.45 | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fill 1403.                                       | nat.               | 1403                   |
| 1403         | 2.4  | 2    | 0.45 | Fill of ditch [1402]; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet. [1402]                                  |                    | 1401                   |
| [1404]       | 2.18 | 0.9  | 0.17 | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 1405.                                 |                    |                        |
| 1405         | 2.18 | 0.9  | 0.17 | Fill of ditch [1404]; dark brown/orange silt clay, which contained occasional shillet.                                 | [1404]             | 1401                   |
| [1406]       | 2.5  | 1.52 | 0.47 | Northeast - southwest aligned ditch with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 1407.                                | nat.               | 1407                   |
| 1407         | 2.5  | 1.52 | 0.47 | Fill of ditch [1406]; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.  | [1406]             | 1401                   |

| схт    | L(m) | W(m) | D(m) | DESCRIPTION  | CUTS/LATER<br>THAN | CUT BY/EARLIER<br>THAN |
|--------|------|------|------|--|--------------------|------------------------|
|        |      |      |      | Trench 15: 20m by 1.8m; natural (at average 62.09m OD) = grey/brown clay shillet.                        |                    |                        |
| 1501   | na   | na   | 0.29 | Topsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.                                       | nat.               | na                     |
|        |      |      |      | No archaeological features or finds within the trench.   |                    |                        |
|        |      |      |      | Trench 16: 10m by 1.8m; natural (at average 51.11m OD) = grey/brown/beige clay shillet.                  |                    |                        |
| 1601   | na   | na   | 0.28 | Topsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.                                       | nat.               | na                     |
| [1602] | 1.9  | 1.3  | 0.22 | North-northeast - south-southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1603.    | nat.               | 1603                   |
| 1603   | 1.9  | 1.3  | 0.22 | Fill of ditch [1602]; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.                           | [1602]             | 1601                   |
|        |      |      |      | Trench 17: 20m by 1.8m; natural (at average 57.39m OD) = orange/brown clay shillet.                      |                    |                        |
| 1701   | na   | na   | 0.3  | Topsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.                                       | 1702               | na                     |
| 1702   | na   | na   | 0.1  | Subsoil; mid brown clay silt. Occurred intermittently within the trench.                                 | nat.               | 1701                   |
| [1703] | 2.2  | 0.73 | 0.14 | Northeast - southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1704.                | nat.               | 1704                   |
| 1704   | 2.2  | 0.73 | 0.14 | Fill of ditch [1703]; light brown silt clay.   | [1703]             | 1701                   |
| [1705] | 2.25 | 0.54 | 0.09 | Northeast - southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1706.                | nat.               | 1706                   |
| 1706   | 2.25 | 0.54 | 0.09 | Fill of ditch [1705]; light brown silt clay.   | [1705]             | 1701                   |
|        |      |      |      | Trench 18: 30m by 1.8m; natural (at average 67.02m OD) = orange/brown shillet.                           |                    |                        |
| 1801   | na   | na   | 0.45 | Topsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.                                       | nat.               | na                     |
| [1802] | 1.83 | 3.44 | 0.42 | East - west aligned ditch with a wide, shallow and uneven profile. Contained fill 1803.                  | nat.               | 1803                   |
| 1803   | 1.83 | 3.44 | 0.42 | Fill of ditch [1802]; dark brown clay silt, which contained rare charcoal flecks and occasional shillet. | [1802]             | 1801                   |
|        |      |      |      | Trench 19: 20m by 1.8m; natural (at average 73.29m OD) = beige/brown shillet.                            |                    |                        |
| 1901   | na   | na   | 0.33 | Topsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.                                       | nat.               | na                     |
| [1902] | 1.9  | 0.77 | 0.14 | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1903.                | nat.               | 1903                   |
| 1903   | 1.9  | 0.77 | 0.14 | Fill of ditch [1902]; dark brown silt clay.  | [1902]             | 1901                   |
| [1904] | 1.88 | 0.88 | 0.19 | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1905.                | nat.               | 1905                   |
| 1905   | 1.88 | 0.88 | 0.19 | Fill of ditch [1904]; dark brown silt clay.  | [1904]             | 1901                   |
| [1906] | 3.2  | 0.5  | 0.11 | North-northeast - south-southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1907.    | nat.               | 1907                   |
| 1907   | 3.2  | 0.5  | 0.11 | Fill of ditch [1906]; light brown silt clay.   | [1906]             | 1901                   |

| схт    | L(m) | W(m) | D(m) | DESCRIPTION   | CUTS/LATER<br>THAN | CUT BY/EARLIER<br>THAN |
|--------|------|------|------|---|--------------------|------------------------|
|        |      |      |      | Trench 20: 60m by 1.8m; natural (at average 81.20m OD) = beige/brown shillet.                                   |                    |                        |
| 2001   | na   | na   | 0.24 | Topsoil; dark brown clay silt.  | 2002               | na                     |
| 2002   | na   | na   | 0.27 | Subsoil; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet. Occurred intermittently within the trench.    | nat.               | 2001                   |
| [2003] | 1.85 | 2.2  | 0.37 | East - west aligned ditch with a wide, uneven profile. Contained fill 2004.                                     | nat.               | 2004                   |
| 2004   | 1.85 | 2.2  | 0.37 | Fill of ditch [2003]; light brown silt clay, which contained occasional shillet.                                | [2003]             | 2002                   |
| [2005] | 1.85 | 1.53 | 0.15 | East - west aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 2006.                                 | nat.               | 2006                   |
| 2006   | 1.85 | 1.53 | 0.15 | Fill of ditch [2005]; dark brown silt clay.   | [2005]             | 2002                   |
|        |      |      |      | Trench 21: 42m by 1.8m; natural (at average 79.89m OD) = beige/brown shillet.                                   |                    |                        |
| 2101   | na   | na   | 0.28 | Topsoil; dark brown clay silt.  | nat.               | na                     |
| [2102] | 2.6  | 0.7  | 0.22 | Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fill 2103.                                | nat.               | 2103                   |
| 2103   | 2.6  | 0.7  | 0.22 | Fill of ditch [2102]; orange/brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet and rare charcoal flecks.      | [2102]             | 2101                   |
| [2104] | 3.1  | 0.78 | 0.21 | Northeast - southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, uneven profile. Contained fill 2105.                        | nat.               | 2105                   |
| 2105   | 3.1  | 0.78 | 0.21 | Fill of ditch [2104]; light brown silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and occasional shillet. | [2104]             | 2101                   |
|        |      |      |      | Trench 22: 20m by 1.8m; natural (at average 76.16m OD) = beige/brown shillet.                                   |                    |                        |
| 2201   | na   | na   | 0.3  | Topsoil; dark brown clay silt.  | 2202               | na                     |
| 2202   | na   | na   | 0.08 | Subsoil; mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet. Occurred intermittently within the trench.    | nat.               | 2201                   |
| [2203] | 3.15 | 0.33 | 0.05 | West-northwest – east-southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 2204.             | nat.               | 2204                   |
| 2204   | 3.15 | 0.33 | 0.05 | Fill of ditch [2203]; red brown silt clay.  | [2203]             | 2201                   |
|        |      |      |      | Trench 23: 20m by 1.8m; natural (at average 78.53m OD) = grey shillet with patches of orange/brown clay.        |                    |                        |
| 2301   | na   | na   | 0.35 | Ploughsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional shillet.   | nat.               | na                     |
|        |      |      |      | No archaeological features or finds within the trench.  |                    |                        |

# **APPENDIX 2:** The Pottery

By Henrietta Quinnell

Trench 11

Trench across sub-circular terrace, with posthole indicating likelihood of a house.

Context (1111)

6 sherds 273 g

Four of these sherds are from a large gabbroic admixture vessel. Three of these conjoin and come from a base angle. The fourth is a rim, possibly from the same vessel as the base angle sherds. The rim is flat-topped with an external expansion and has four closely set lines of decoration surviving. This decoration is made by impressed cord, each line being of 'opposed parallel twist' or 'plaited cord' type. The rim form, decoration and fabric are entirely typical of Bronze Age Trevisker.

Two sherds are from a thinner vessel of gabbroic fabric, probably also Trevisker.

Context (1108)

9 sherds 105 g

Five sherds are from a thin-walled vessel in gabbroic admixture fabric. Two of these are rim sherds and have a typical Trevisker rim, flat-topped with some external expansion. The vessel appears to have been undecorated, not common amongst Trevisker Cornish assemblages but not unknown.

The remaining sherds are of a slightly different thicker Trevisker vessel in gabbroic admixture fabric: no formal features or decoration are present.

Context (1112)

1 sherd 3 g

Body sherd of gabbroic admixture fabric.

Trench 3

Trench contains multiple cut features with evidence for industrial activity.

Context (310)

4 sherds 21 g

Four body sherds in two different Medieval fabrics.

Context (320)

1 sherd 28 g

Sherd in unusual fabric with apparent grog inclusions. Appears to have been heated to a high temperature resulting in some vitrification on the inner side. The fabric does not appear to be of the type to have been used in crucibles or moulds (the presence of large inclusions is not usual in these). The best suggestion is that this is a Prehistoric, probably Bronze Age, sherd which has subsequently come into contact with industrial activity. However the presence of grog, which the inclusions appear to be, is unusual in Cornwall in Prehistory.

Trench 4

Trench contains multiple cut features with evidence for industrial activity.

Context (407)

1 sherd 1 g

This is of a fabric most likely to belong to the Middle/Late Iron Age but is too small for anything further to be said.

3 sherds 4 g

These are of Medieval fabric.

Context (411)

1 sherd 2 g

Sherd of granite derived fabric, highly micaceous, almost certainly South Devon Ware of the Roman period.

Context (413)

9 sherds 31 g

These are all of one Medieval fabric with a typical Medieval rim present.

Context (416)

2 sherds 7 g

Conjoining base angle sherds. Fabric not known but most likely to be a local fabric from the Iron Age.

4 sherds 11 g

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Two different Medieval fabrics.

# Comment

Trevisker

This material is most likely to belong to a domestic type settlement of the Middle Bronze Age 1500 -1100 BC. Trevisker ceramics occur both in the Early and the Middle Bronze Ages, but the finding of this material in the infill of a sub-circular terrace strongly suggests that it comes from the site of a hollow-floored Middle Bronze Age house. These houses are typically Cornish although probable examples have now been found in the Plym Estuary area of West Devon (Salvatore & Quinnell 2011) and very typically have elaborate closing deposits covering and infilling their floors, best known from Trethellan Farm, Newquay (Nowakowski 1991). The sherds from Trequite Farm appear to be fresh, which might support structured deposition.

The West Devon Middle Bronze Age sites at Staddon Heights and Plymstock Quarry have good radiocarbon dates for the Middle Bronze Age. They both produced assemblages of Trevisker pottery, wholly or largely of gabbroic admixture. This shows that gabbroic potting clays from the Lizard were in use as far as West Devon.

Recent studies of Trevisker ceramics have demonstrated that gabbroic admixture fabrics are frequently made of gabbroic clays brought into the area of use and mixed with local clays or temper (Quinnell 2012). The inclusions in the Trequite Farm sherds appear to be of igneous origin and quite possibly not of Lizard provenance. Petrological examination is highly desirable.

This is the first of these Middle Bronze Age house sites to be found in East Cornwall, as far as I am aware, and is, therefore, of significance.

# Iron Age

The probable Iron Age sherds from (407) and (416) represent a period which is virtually unknown so far in East Cornwall and are, therefore, of some interest.

## Roman

The Roman period South Devon sherd from (411) represents a fabric of regular, if infrequent, import into Cornwall.

## Medieval

Several different fabrics are represented. Medieval pottery in Devon and Cornwall is proving very difficult to tie to very close date horizons as basic forms of cooking pot and jug appear to have had long lives. A date generally centring on the 13th century AD may be suitable for the sherds, but the period represented may well extend for far more than a century.

#### References

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Salvatore, JP and Quinnell, H, 2011. Excavation of a Bronze Age roundhouse and other Prehistoric, Romano-British and early Medieval features at the Langage Energy Centre and Park, and the Choakford-Langage pipeline, Sparkwell, South Hams Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc. 69, 2011, 53-94.

# **APPENDIX 3: The Archaeometallurgical Residues**

By Dr. Tim Young

## Abstract

This report assesses the significance of four representative slag pieces from the slag-rich fill (310) of Feature [309].

Three pieces were smithing hearth cakes (SHCs), in two cases entire, in the third representing about 80% of the original cake. The two entire cakes were rather similar, being well-formed plano-convex cakes with rough lower surfaces and smooth upper surfaces, slightly lobate margins and deep fuel impressions in the upper surface. Below the upper layer there were large internal voids. The two cakes differed in weight, being 1460g and 550g.

The slightly broken example was a flatter, thinner, SHC, with an estimated original weight of approximately 390g. It too had an upper surface deeply dimpled by contact with the charcoal fuel, but its base was more irregular than the other examples, possibly because the slag had flowed slightly more. The proximal end of the cake showed a siliceous, glassy, slag coating with abundant derived grains and also some adhering blebs of pale fuel ash slag.

The fourth piece was a fragment from a very porous, slag mass about 65mm thick. The top had a slightly lobate and wispy morphology formed from a thin smooth skin of slag over the porous interior. The main body of slag was formed of small slag prills intermixed with small shale fragments. The identification of this piece is less certain and whilst it is most likely to be smithing slag, there is a light possibility it is from bloomery iron smelting.

The slag pieces are very well-preserved. This suggests they were deposited into the waste deposit soon after formation – in turn suggesting close proximity to the smithy itself. Although three of the slags can be attributed to formation during smithing, a detailed interpretation of process is not possible on this small sample. The SHCs fall within the weight range of typical SHCs of the Medieval period, it is not certain whether they represent primary smithing of raw blooms, secondary smithing (the end use of iron; blacksmithing), or even a bloom remelting process.

## Methods

All materials were examined visually with a low-powered binocular microscope where required. As an evaluation, the materials were not subjected to any high-magnification optical inspection, not to any form of instrumental analysis. The identifications of materials in this report are therefore necessarily limited and must be regarded as provisional. This project was undertaken for Andrew Hood of Foundations Archaeology.

## Results

All four of the pieces described below derive from context (310) at Trequite Farm (TFC12).

1) A large well-formed, plano convex, SHC (150mm x 145mm x 55mm). The bowl has a rough lower surface, probably a contact with ash/charcoal dust with some sand. The upper

10mm of the sides is lobate and smooth, grading around into a smooth but dimpled top. There are large cavities visible just below the upper surface. The upper surface very gently domed. This cake resembles a remelting cake in overall morphology. The cake weighs 1460g.

2) A fairly flat, plano-convex SHC (110mm x 140mm x 40mm). The base rough and slightly irregular, probably indicating a contact with charcoal dust/ash. The top is formed of smoothsurfaced slag, but highly irregular with dimples and wisps probably rising into the overlying fuel. There are deep cavities below the upper surface in places. There are some possible sub-vertical tool-marks around on edge, produced during extraction from the hearth. The proximal raised lobes show a brown surface. The upper surface becomes rougher near the distal margin. The cake weighs 550g.

3) C.80% of a flat, dense, very slightly concavo-convex SHC. The base is irregular, in places showing sub horizontal flowed sheets. The margins are similarly formed of poorly flowed, rounded, thin lobes. The upper surface is smooth proximally with a dark glassy surface with inherited sand, but this grades rapidly into a duller surface with deep dimples and lobes with underlying cavities. The broken surface shows some thin tubular vesicles in dense, possibly manganiferous bowl fill, below a thin porous layer associated with the dimpled top. A dark proximal glass bears superficial blebs of pale melt (or partial melt) – essentially a fuel ash slag. The fragment weighs 314g (suggesting the original SHC weighed approximately 390g).

4) This is probably a fragment from a sheet of porous slag comprising coalesced prills. The top is smooth, but irregularly lobate. The slag comprises prills of slag with abundant shale/slate flakes and zones of highly bloated ceramic. This slag originates either from a hearth or furnace highly contaminated by shale fragments from the substrate (shillet?) or from a hearth using very low grade coal fuel. The fragment weighs 128g and measures 85mm x 75mm x 35mm.

# Discussion

Notwithstanding the possibility that piece (4) might originate from iron smelting, the assemblage is indicative of iron-working (smithing). Smithing has been crudely divided into primary smithing, the working of raw bloom iron into a usable form, and secondary smithing, the end-use working of iron. The formation of slag in the smithing hearth is due to rapid oxidation of the hot iron in air with subsequent reaction of the iron oxides with silicate-rich material derived from melting of the hearth walls. Despite much research the a close interpretation of SHC morphology and chemistry with the tasks undertaken by the smith (forming, welding and heat-treating the iron) has not been achieved.

In recent years, a quite separate set of processes has been identified – those entailing remelting of bloom iron. This has been variously undertaken to homogenise the bloom, to manipulate its phosphorus content and to manipulate its carbon content. A late survival of such a remelting process was described by Evenstad in the late 18th century (Jensen 1968; Wagner 1990) in Norway.

In the face of a lack of good theoretical basis for classifying SHCs by composition, morphology or texture, it has been useful to categorise SHC assemblages by examination of their weight frequency distributions (e.g. Young 2012, for an intensively investigated assemblage).

For British Medieval SHC assemblages there are relatively few examples (Table 1). For most blacksmithing assemblages of 13<sup>th</sup> century or older age, the maximum SHC weight is significantly less than 1kg. Heavier SHCs than this is usually indicative of primary smithing processes.

After the 13th century there are some assemblages with maximum SHC weights above 1kg, for which there is no evidence for a connection with primary smithing. It has been argued that in some cases (e.g. Young 2009b) heavier SHCs may be indicative of the trading of unfinished bloom iron, which required final processing by the end-user smith.

The presence in the present assemblage of a cake of around 1.5kg is suspicious, but not conclusive (given the age) evidence for bloom processing (primary smithing).

#### Assessment

The well-preserved nature of these specimens suggests direct deposition of these residues, rather than any significant degree of reworking or residuality. This is likely to suggest that the smithy is very close. The good quality of the preservation would also mean that if detailed analytical investigation of material from the site should become indicated in the future, the quality of the material would be suitable for such work.

The significance of piece (4) is currently uncertain - it probably just indicates smithing in a ground level hearth with unstable sides, but might just be a residue from iron smelting.

A fuller interpretation of the slag assemblage could be made through quantification and measurement of the entire assemblage, to enable more detailed comparison with assemblages such as those in Table 1. The matrix of the feature fill could also be examined for micro-residues.

Finds of Medieval smithies are rather rare and thus worthy of full investigation when found. Examples of Medieval bloomsmithing sites are even rarer than blacksmithing sites, and no Medieval iron smelting is yet known from Cornwall (to the author's knowledge). Although the most likely interpretation of the present assemblage is that it fits within the small body of later Medieval smithing assemblages and is purely from blacksmithing, other interpretations are possible. A poorly-preserved Medieval village smithy would have local significance, but well-preserved examples would be regionally or even nationally significant, depending on preservation and the processes represented.

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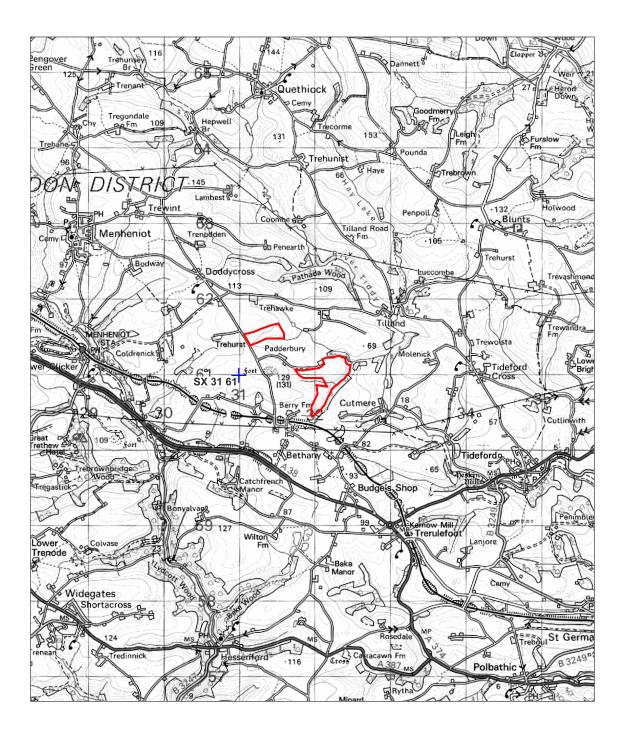
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|                     | Worcester 35 Mill<br>St | Worcester Willow<br>St | Prior Park<br>Cricklade | Worcester<br>Deansway | Worcester<br>Deansway | Burton<br>Dassett |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
|                     |                         |                        |                         | 11th - 13th (period   | 13th - 15th (period   |                   |
| Date                | 12th                    | 12th                   | 11th - 15th (total)     | 8)                    | 9)                    | 14th - 15th       |
|                     |                         |                        |                         |                       |                       |                   |
| SHC count           | 23                      | 28                     | 17                      | 61                    | 32                    | 60                |
| SHC min. wt         | 74                      | 86                     | 156                     | 168                   | 144                   | 130               |
| SHC max. wt         | 782                     | 770                    | 794                     | 1490                  | 1800                  | 1670              |
| SHC mean wt         | 233                     | 327                    | 329                     | 492                   | 499                   | 550               |
| %<500g              | 91%                     | 82%                    | 82%                     |                       |                       |                   |
| %<1000g             | 100%                    | 100%                   | 100%                    |                       |                       |                   |
| %>1000g             | 0%                      | 0%                     | 0%                      |                       |                       |                   |
| %>3000g             | 0%                      | 0%                     | 0%                      |                       |                       |                   |
| Modal 100g interval | 100-200g                | 100-300g               |                         |                       |                       |                   |

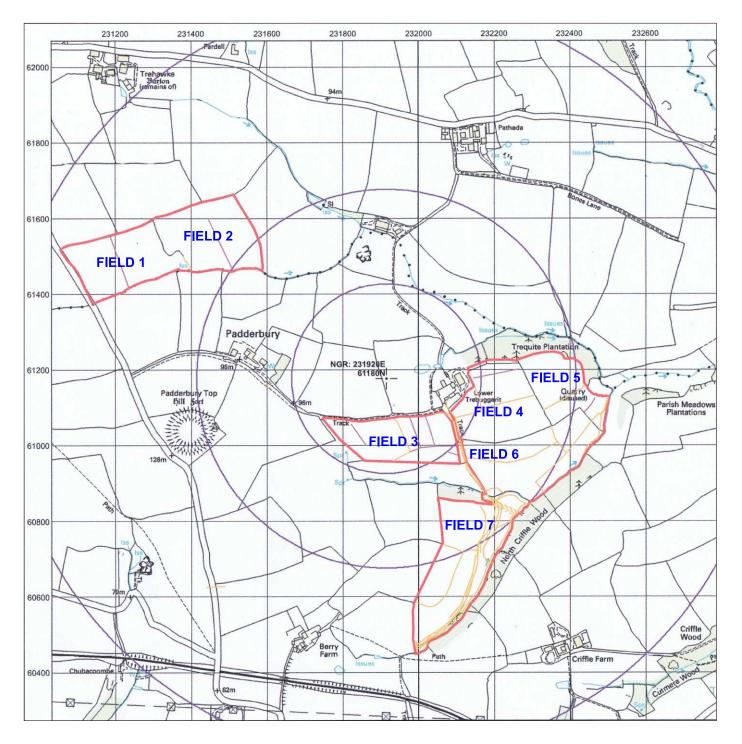
Table 1: Comparitive British blacksmithing SHC assemblages.

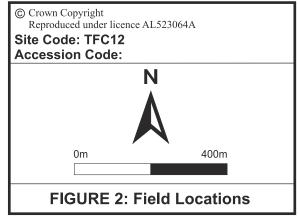
Worcester 35 Mill St from Young 2009a; Worcester Willow St from Young 2007; Prior Park, Cricklade from Young 2008; Worcester Deansway from McDonnell & Swiss 2004. Burton Dassett from McDonnell 1992.

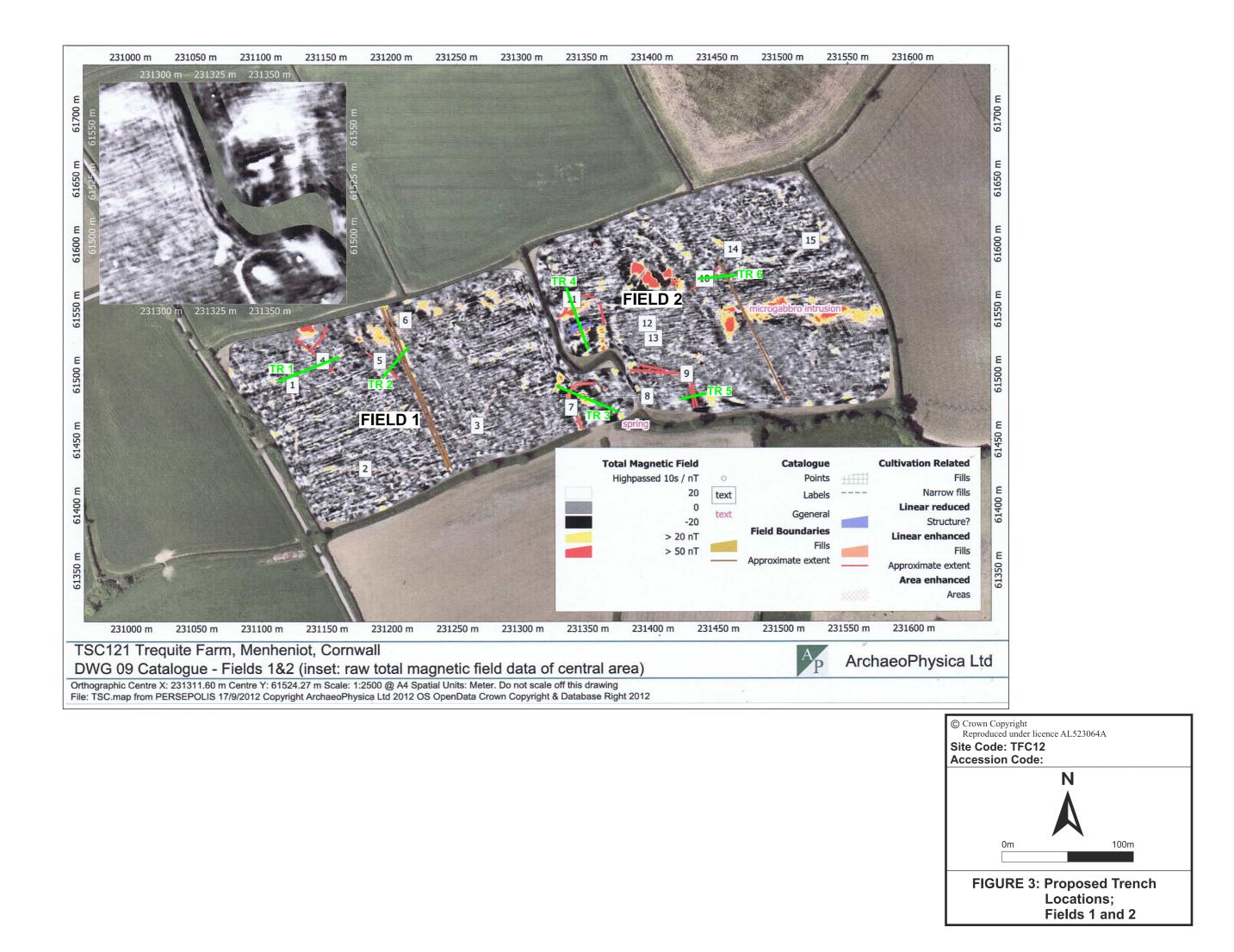


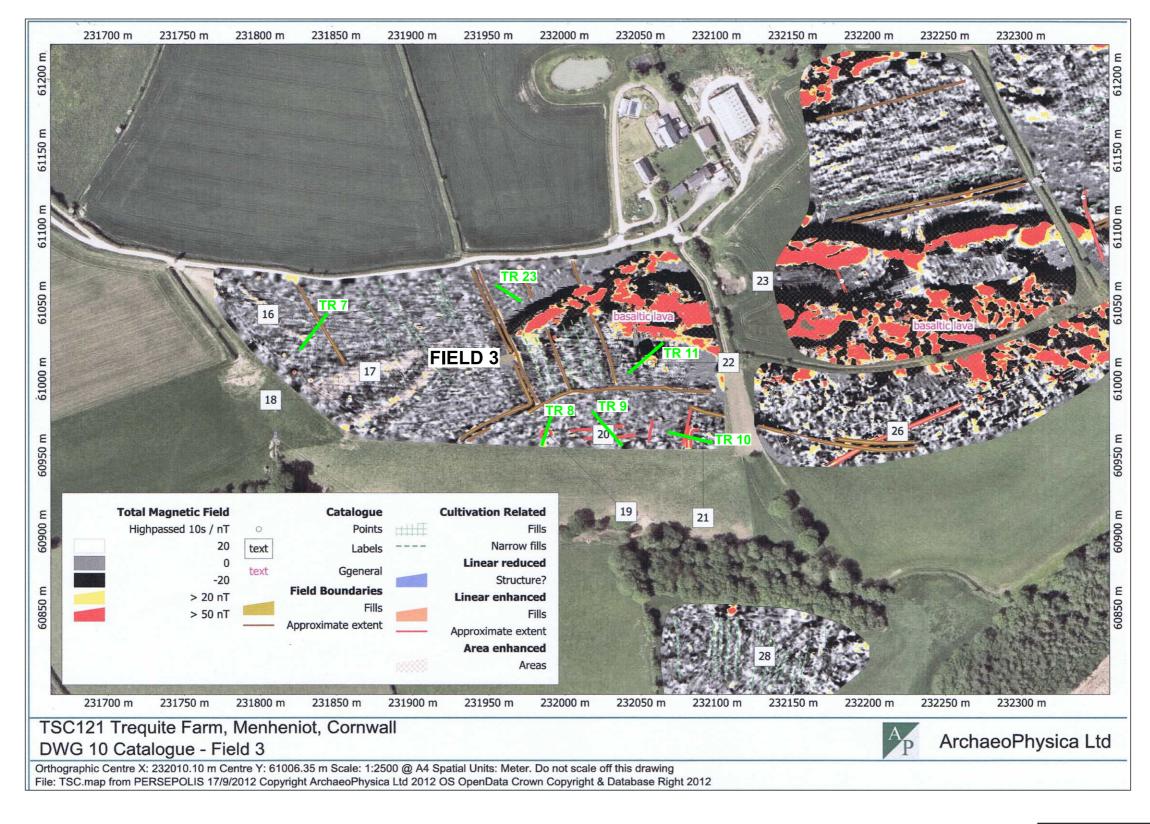
© Crown Copyright Reproduced under licence AL523064A Site Code: TFC12 Accession Code:

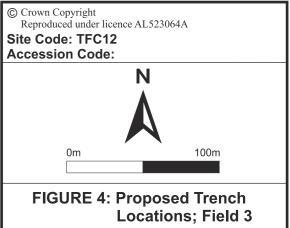
FIGURE 1: Site Location

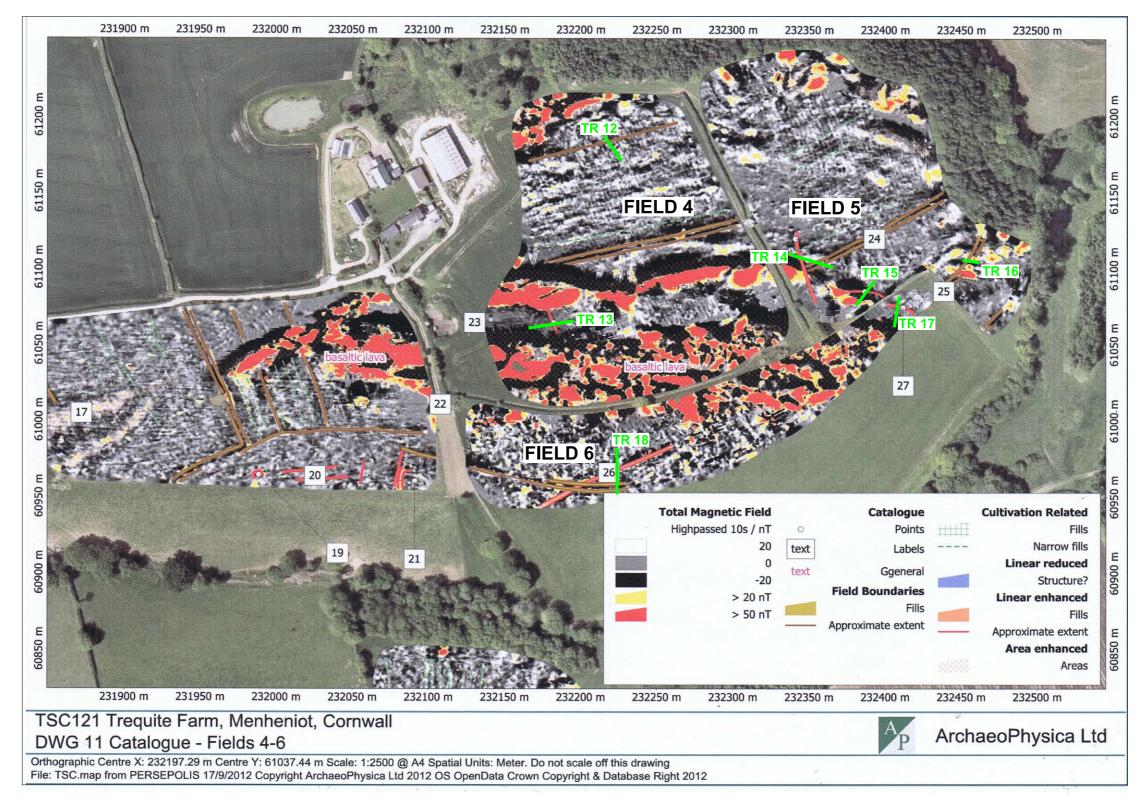


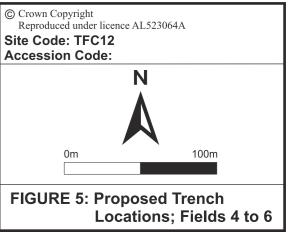


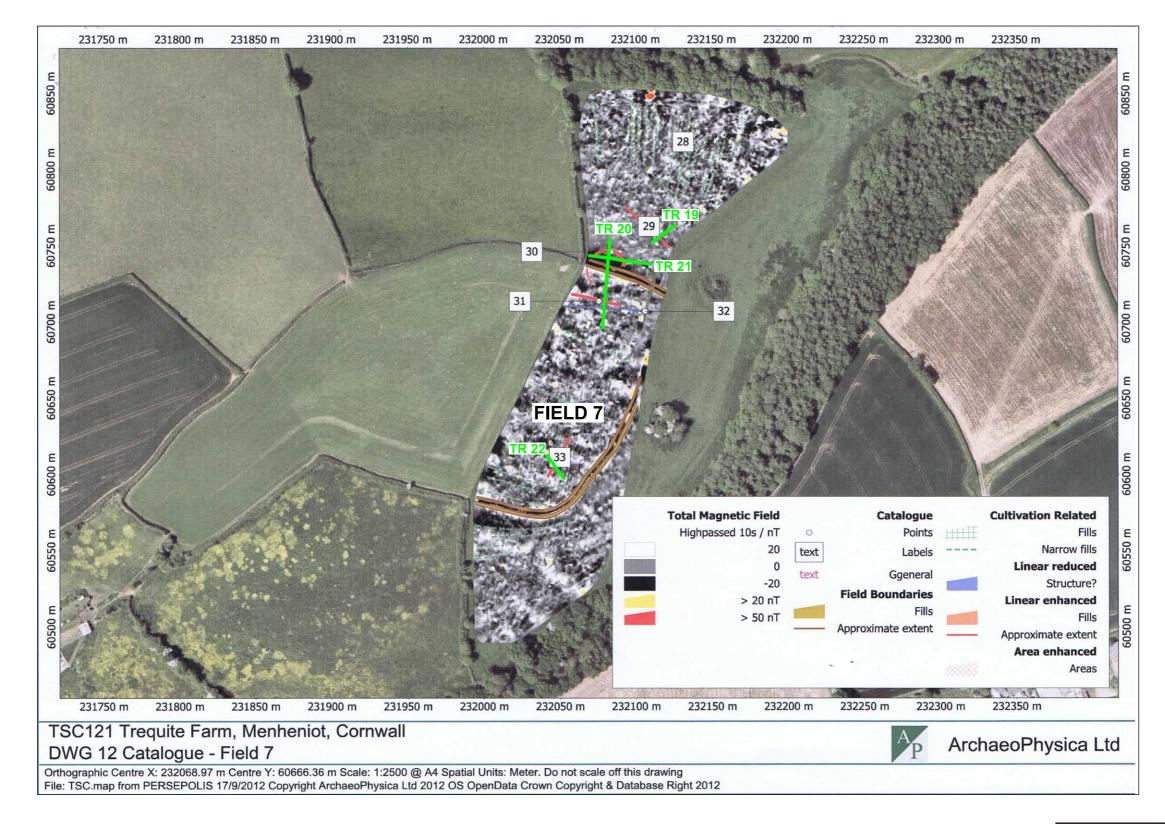


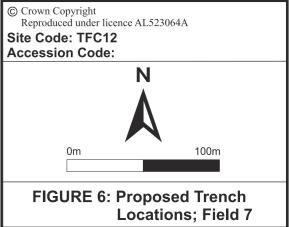


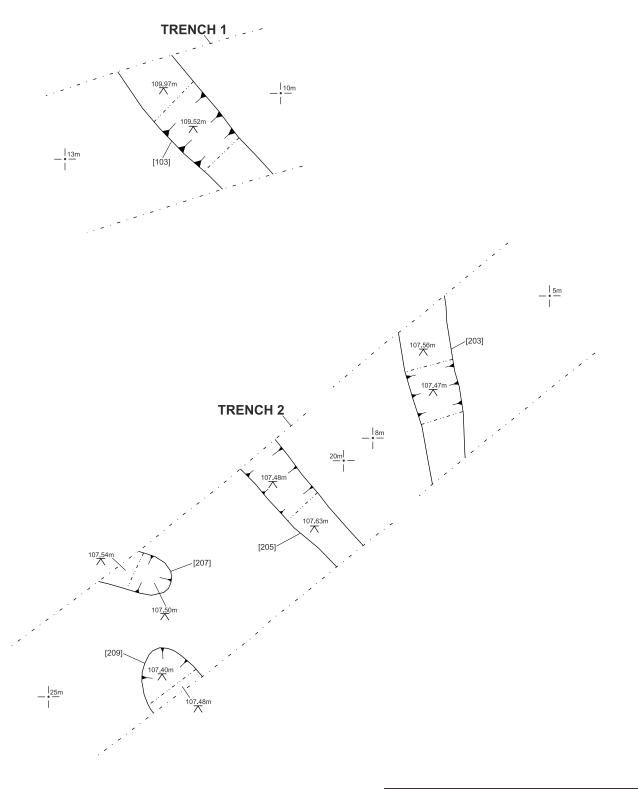


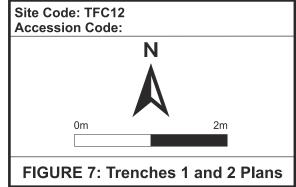


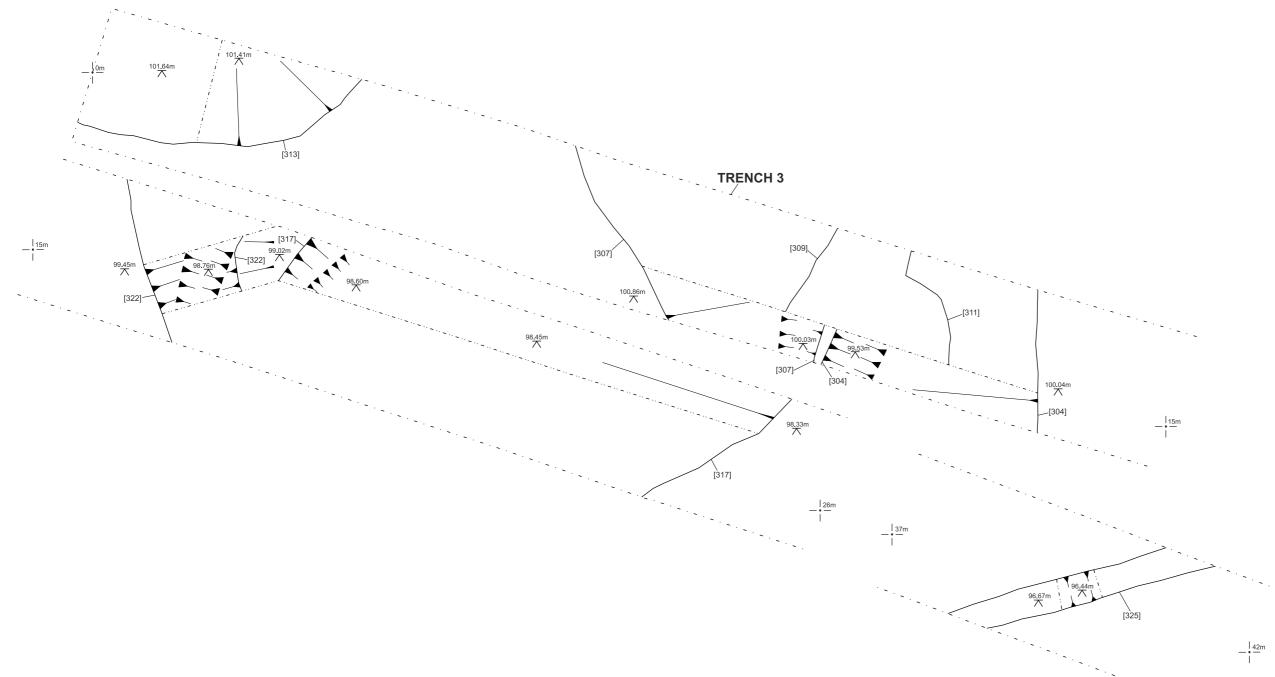


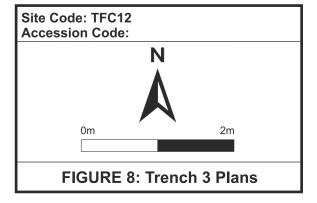


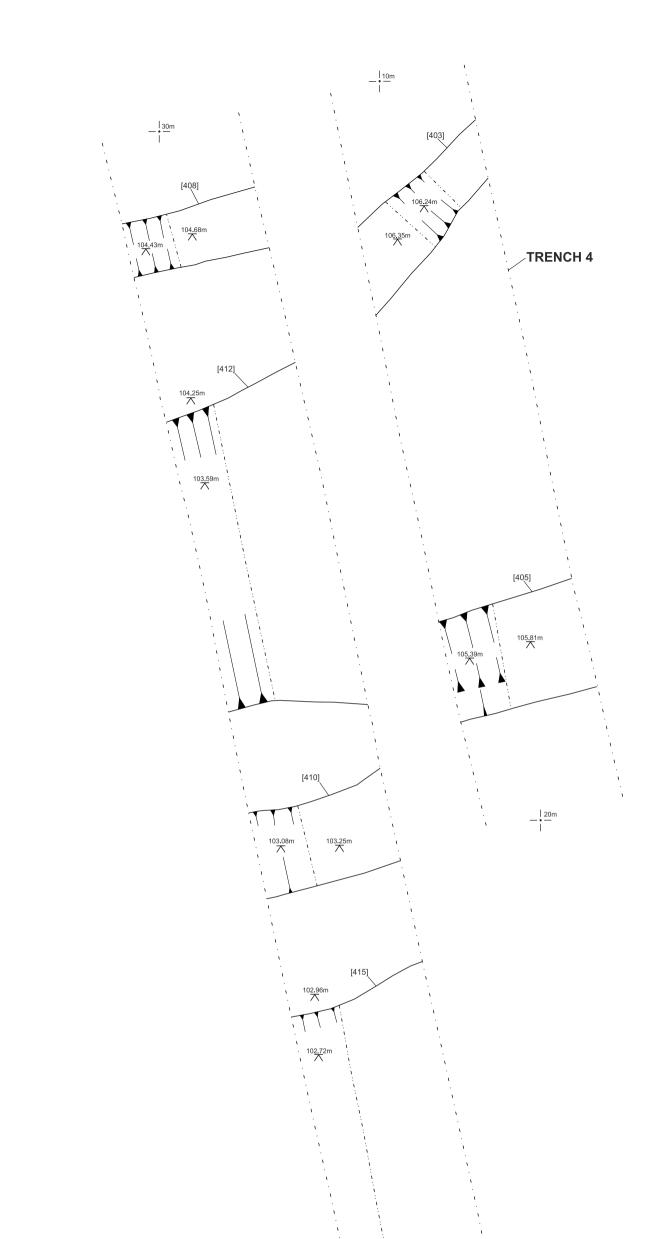


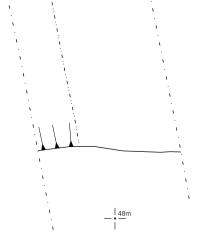


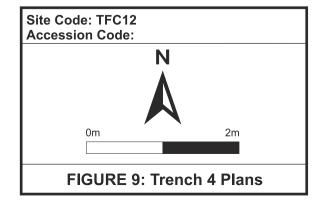


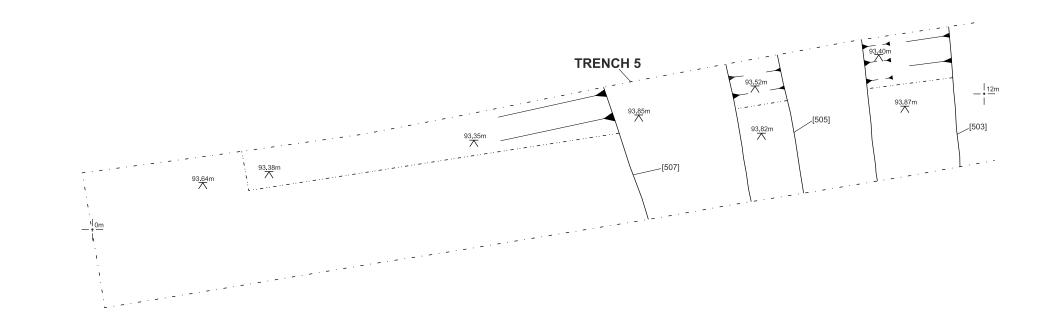


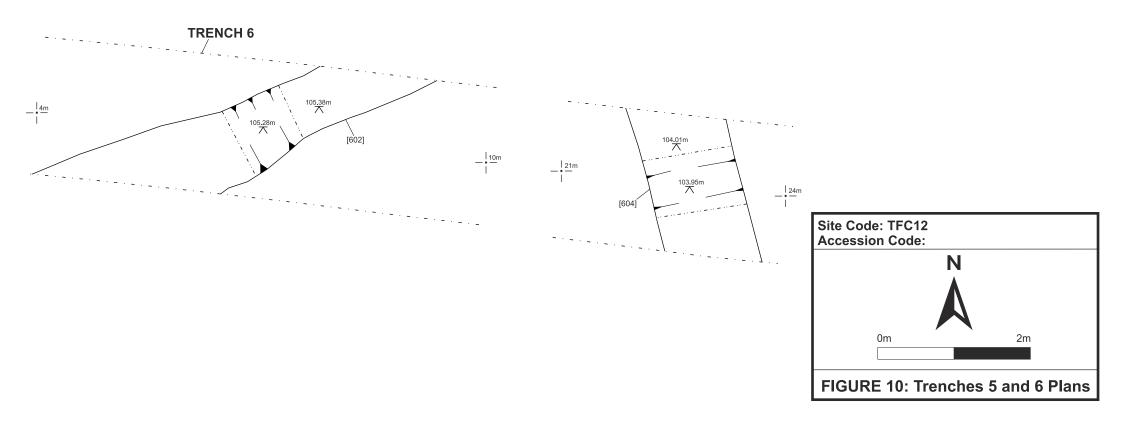


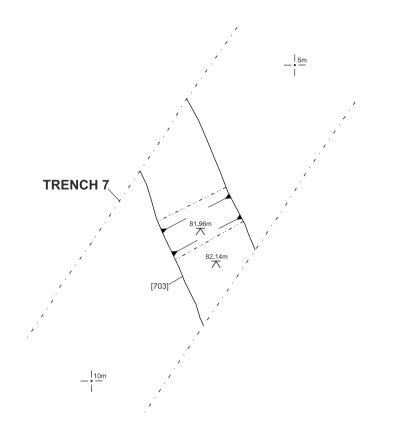


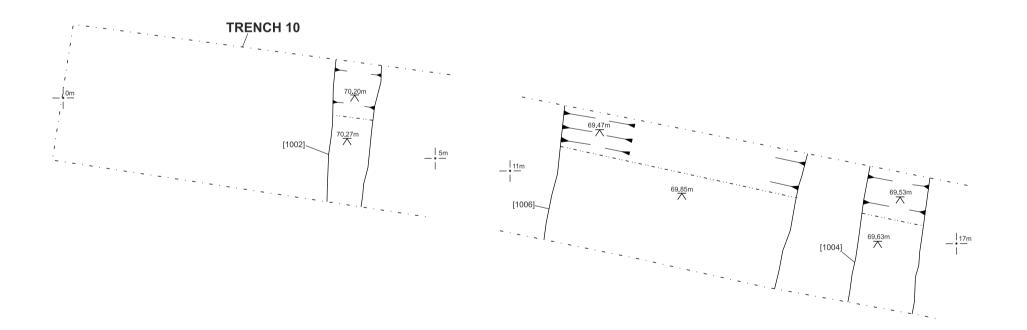


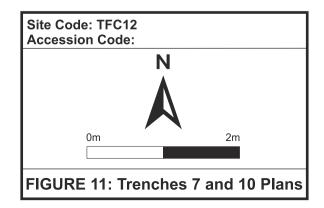


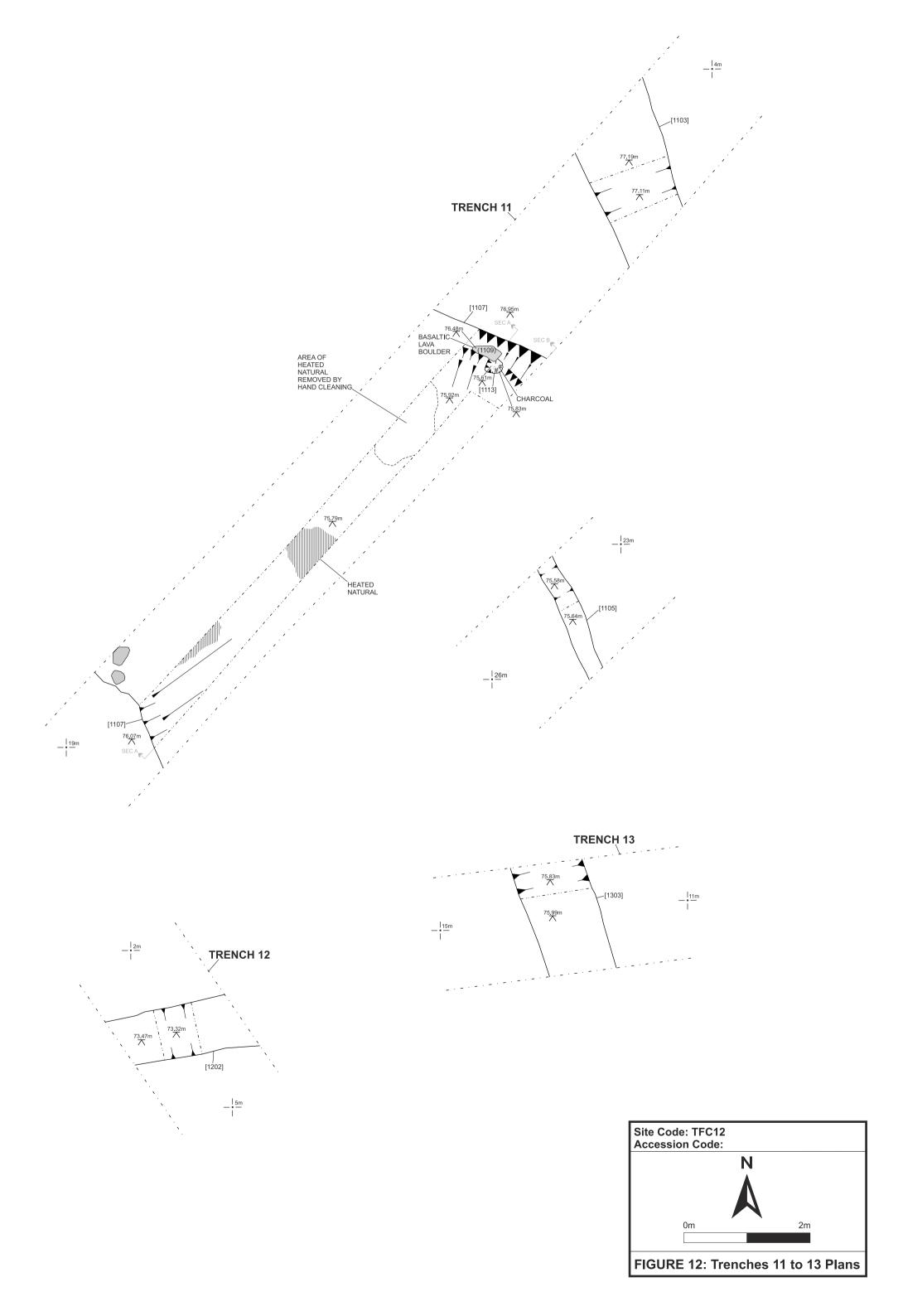


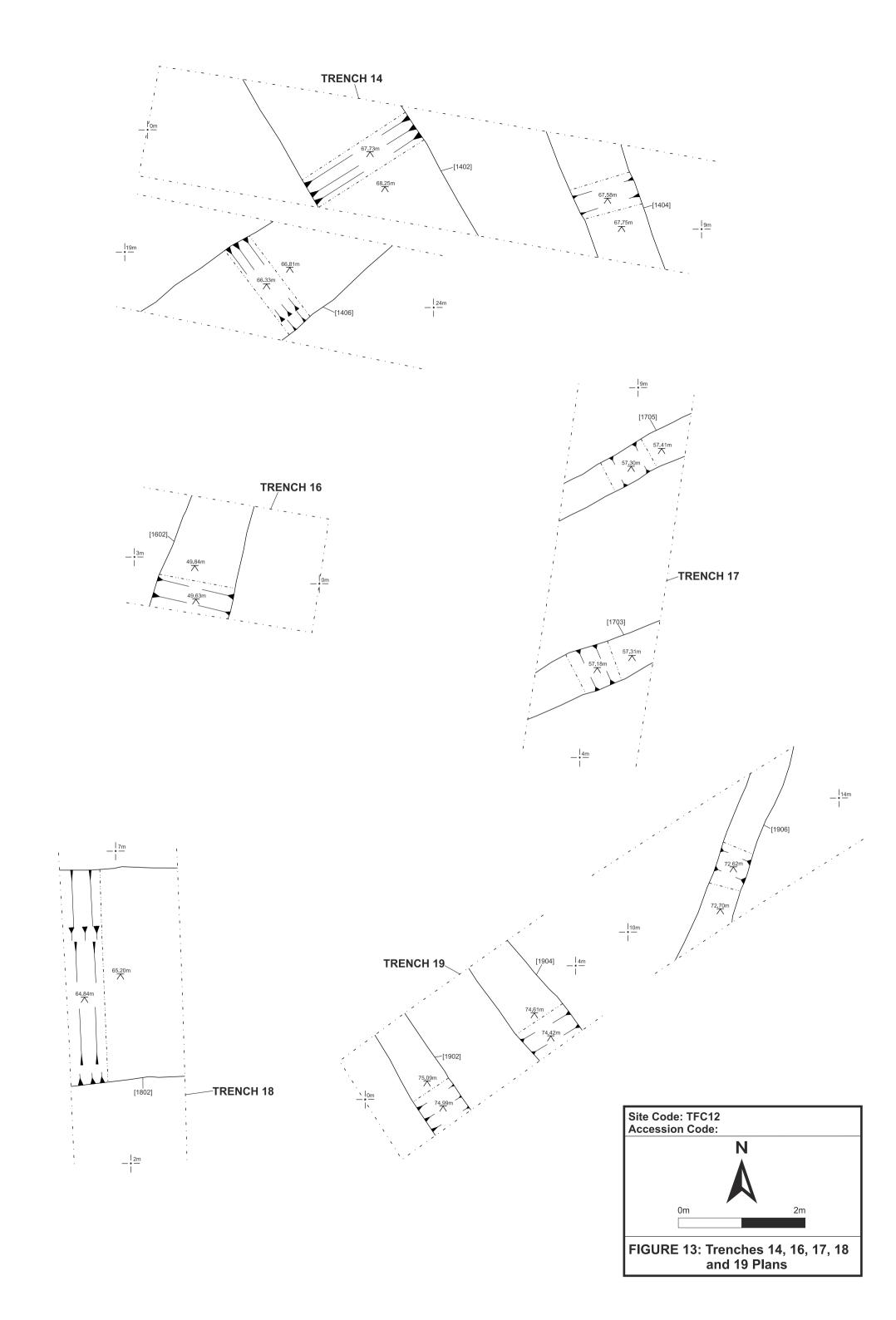


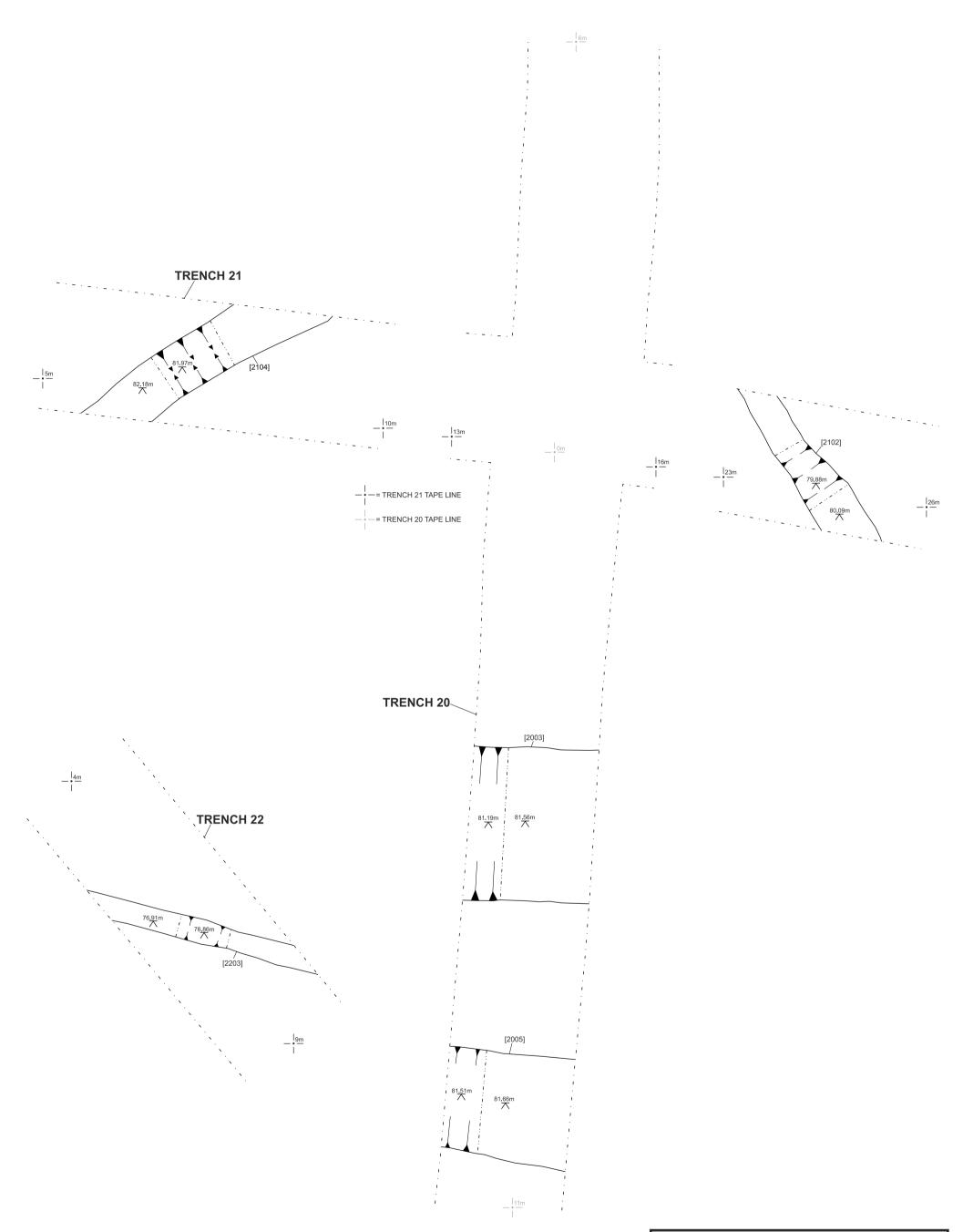


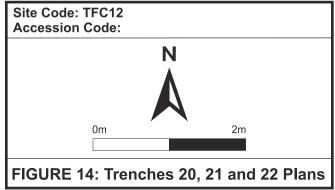


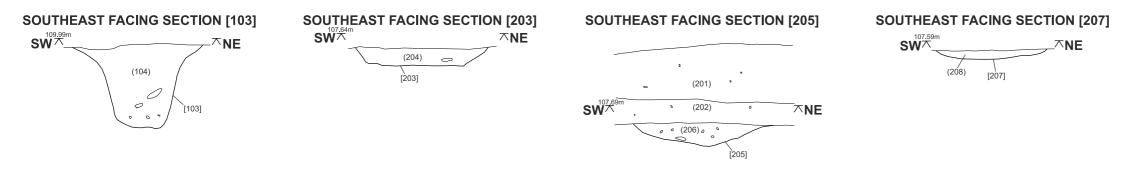




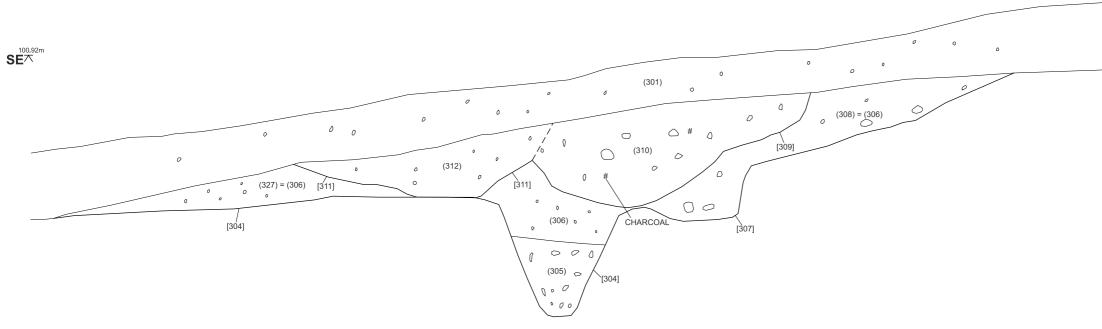




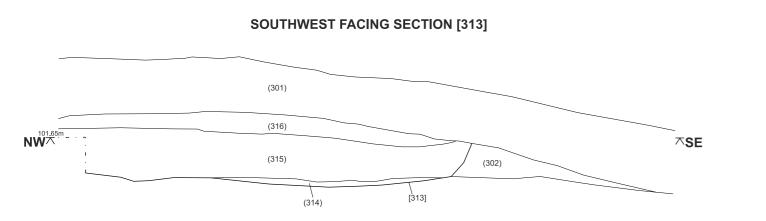


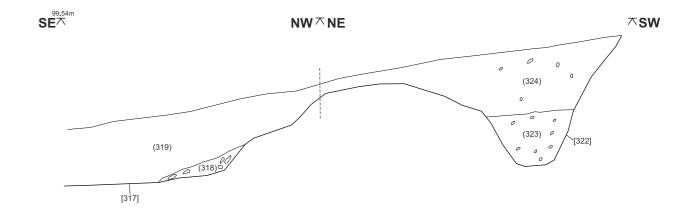


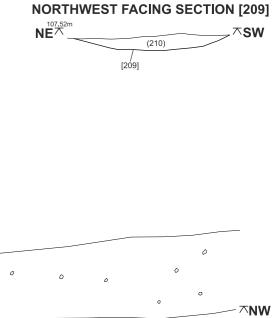
NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [304], [307], [309] and [311]

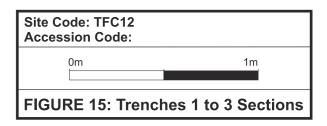


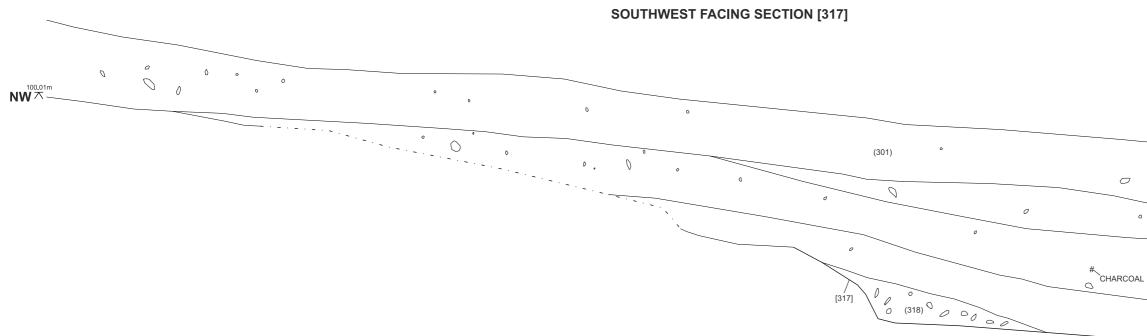
NORTHEAST and NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [317] and [322]



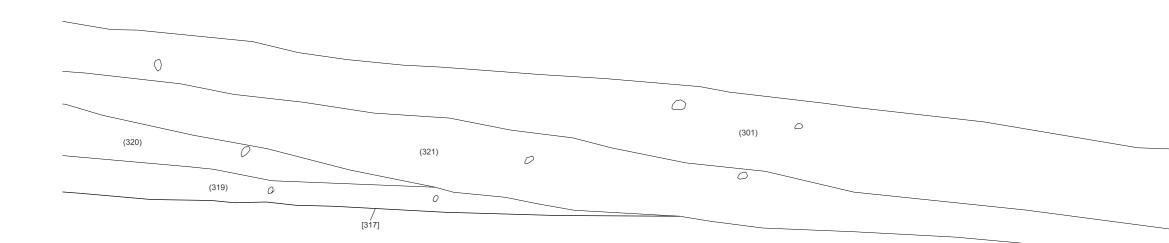


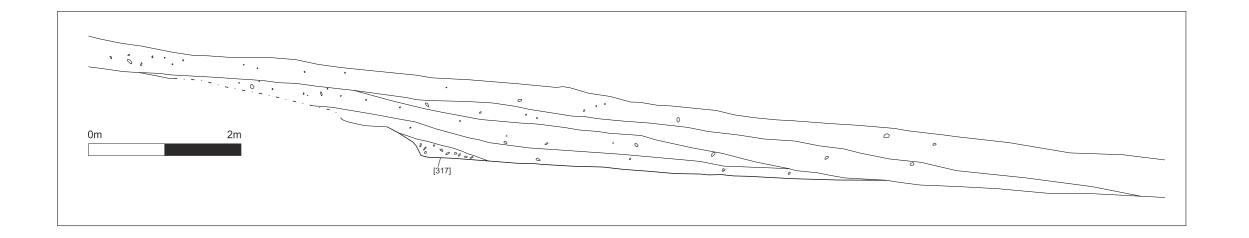






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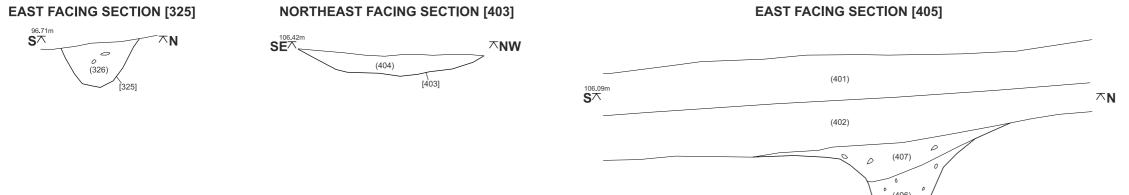


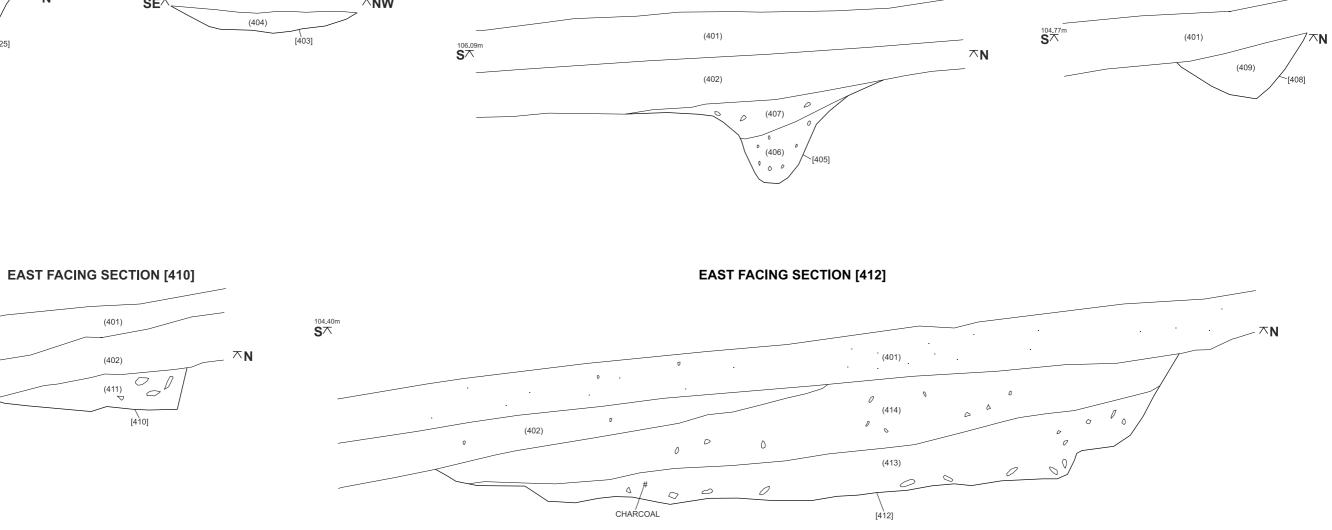
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|    |     |       | 0 | 0 |   |  |
|----|-----|-------|---|---|---|--|
| 0  | 0   | 0     |   |   |   |  |
| (3 | 20) | (321) |   |   |   |  |
|    | 0   |       |   | # | 0 |  |
|    | 0   | (319) |   |   | ۵ |  |
|    |     |       |   |   |   |  |

⊼SE

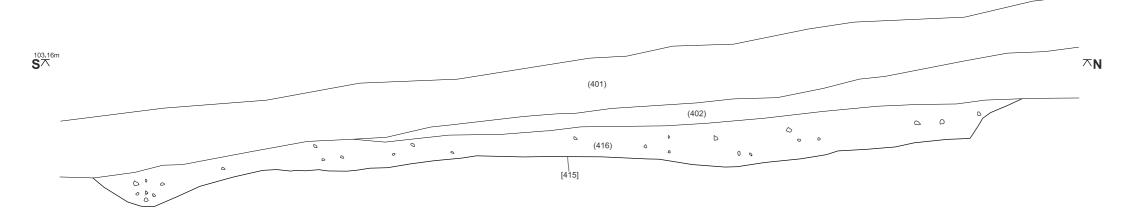
| Site Code: TFC12<br>Accession Code:          |    |  |  |
|--|----|--|--|
| 0m   | 1m |  |  |
| FIGURE 16: Trench 3 Section<br>Showing [317] |    |  |  |



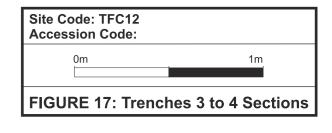


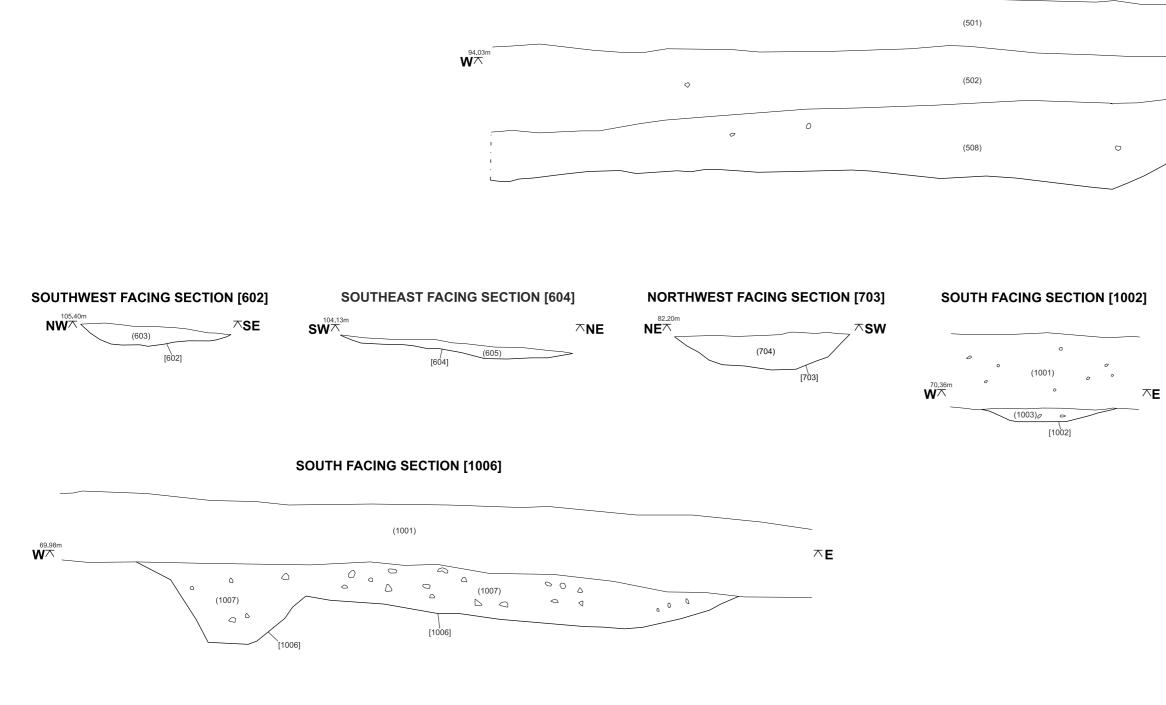


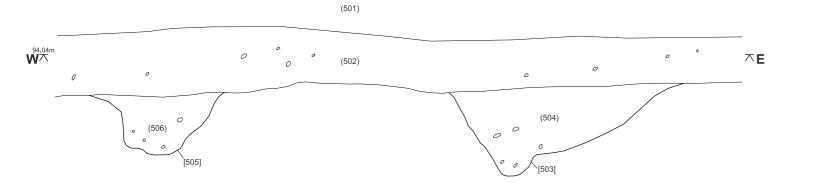
103.38m **S**不



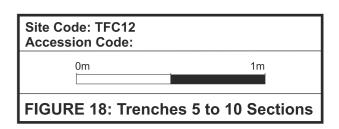
### EAST FACING SECTION [408]

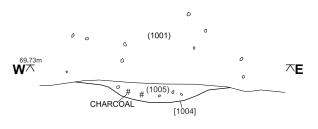




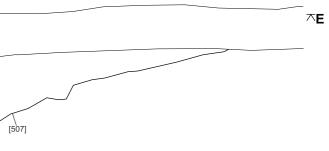


### SOUTH FACING SECTION [503] and [505]

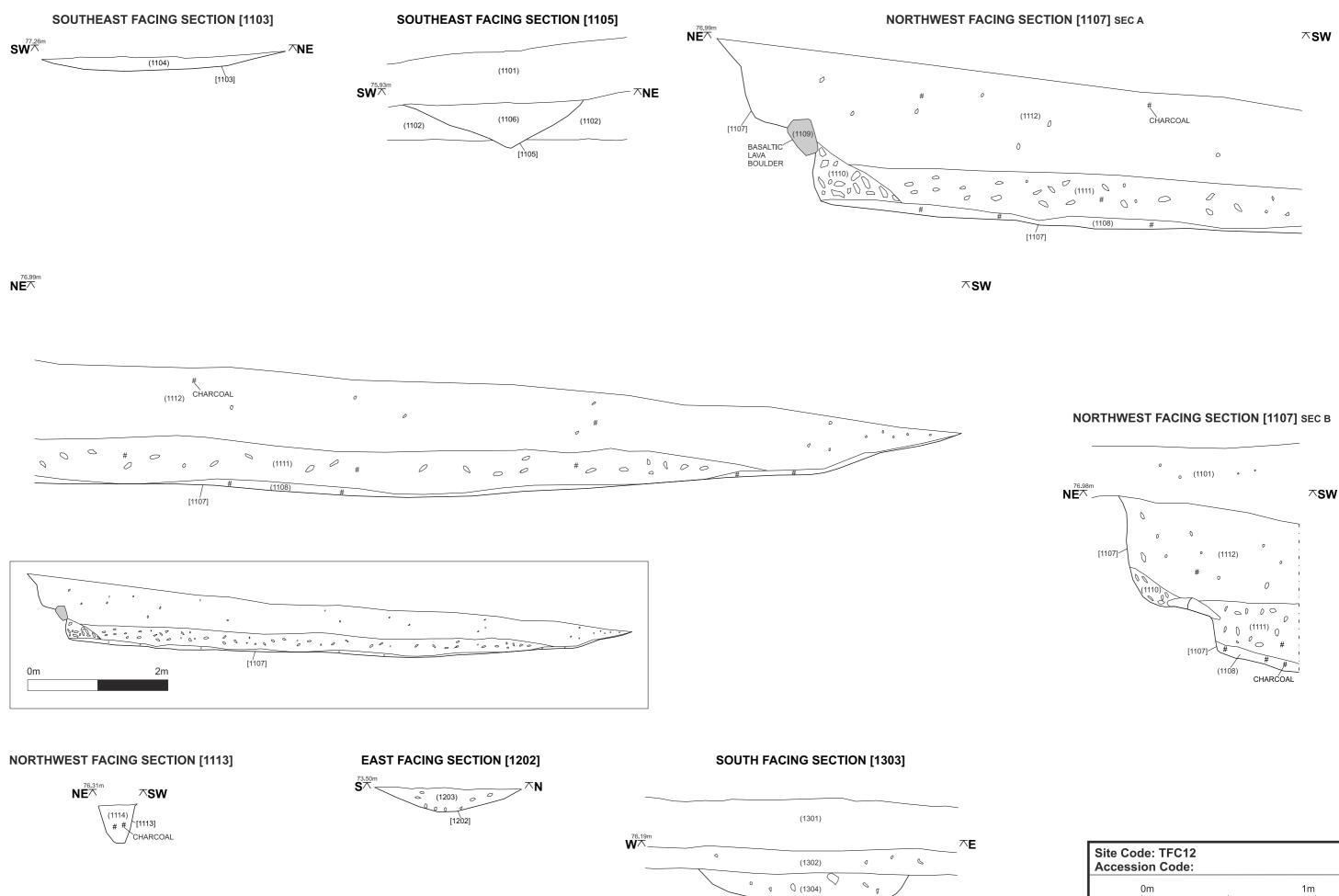




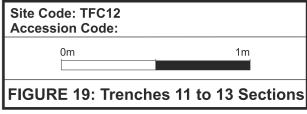


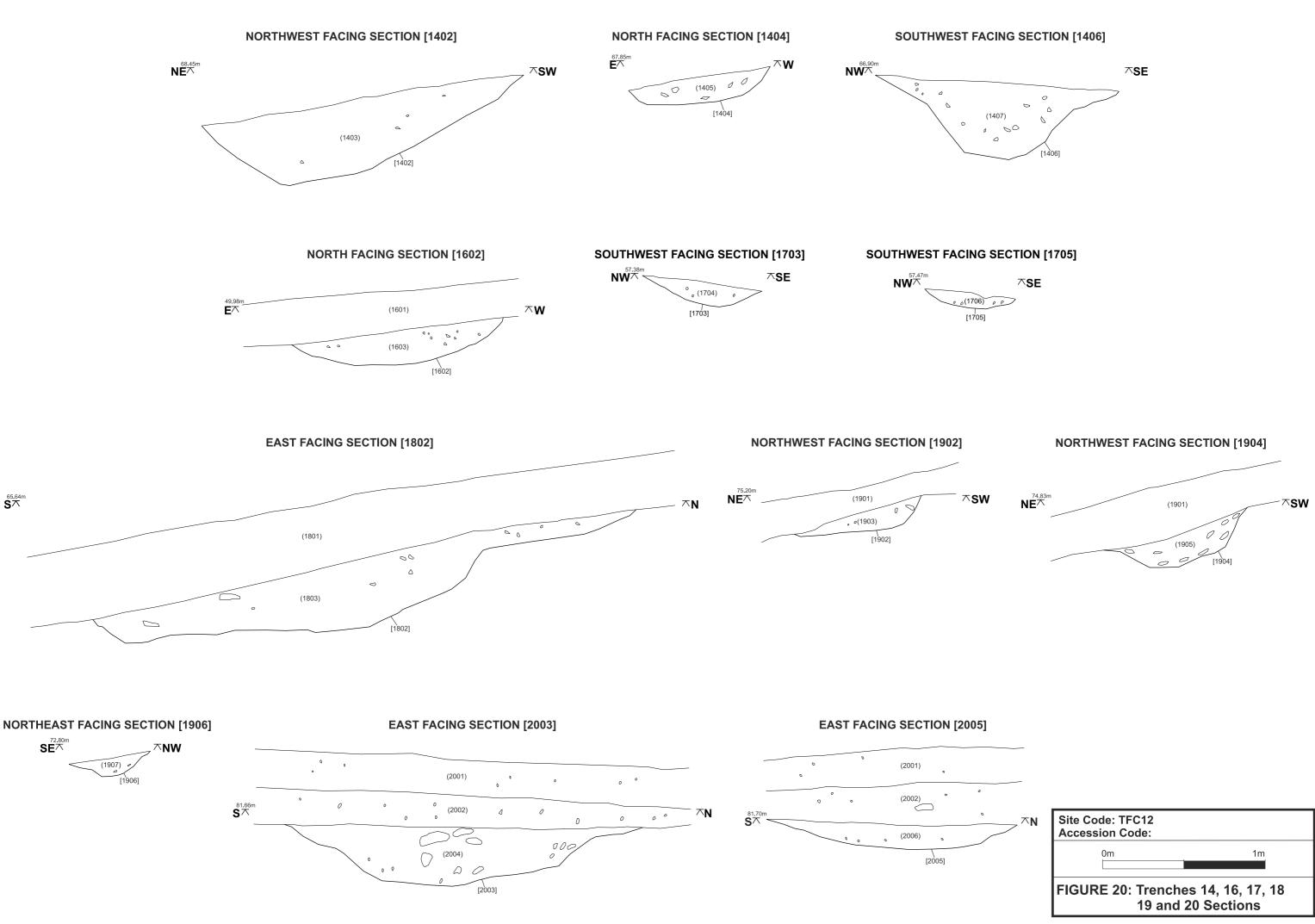


SOUTH FACING SECTION [507]



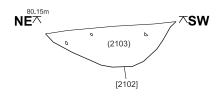
[1303]



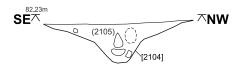


<sup>65.64m</sup> **S**⊼

# NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [2102]



# NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [2104]



# SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [2203]

SWA (2204) [2203]

| Site Code: TFC12<br>Accession Code:       |    |  |  |
|---|----|--|--|
| 0m  | 1m |  |  |
| FIGURE 21: Trenches 21 and<br>22 Sections |    |  |  |



