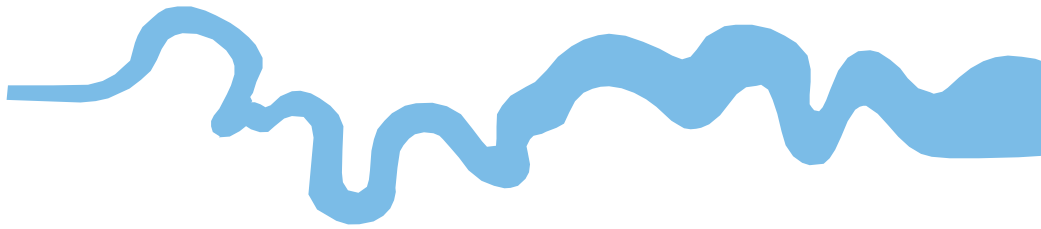


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Land at Halwyn Road,
Crantock, Cornwall**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Mariusz Paszkiewicz

Site Code: HRC23/117

(ST 0682 1271)

Land at Halwyn Road, Crantock, Cornwall

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Armour Heritage**

by Mariusz Paszkiewicz

TVAS South West

Site Code HRC 23/117

July 2023

Summary

Site name: Land at Halwyn Road, Crantock, Cornwall

Grid reference: ST 0682 1271

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 8th June and 10th July 2023

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

Site supervisor: Mariusz Paszkiewicz

Site code: HRC 23-117

Area of site: c. 4.1ha

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out as intended with four trenches and five percolation test pits opened as planned. The evaluation revealed a ditch and re-cut in trench 1 which corresponded well with anomalies identified by geophysical survey. Although no dating evidence was recovered, the linear features most likely form part of a wider field system associated with a prehistoric round identified by geophysical survey partially within the very northeast of the site. A pit and post hole in trench 4 are dated by pottery and flints to the Earlier Neolithic period. The site is considered to have high archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS Southwest, Taunton and will be deposited with a local museum and an accession number will be obtained in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 21.07.23

Land at Halwyn Road, Crantock, Cornwall Archaeological Evaluation Summary

by Mariusz Paszkiewicz

Report 23/117

Introduction

This report documents the fieldwork results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on a c. 4.1 ha parcel of land south of Halwyn Road, Crantock, Cornwall (SW 7950 6002) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Armour Heritage, Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, BA11 5DP, on behalf of the client.

A planning application (PA22/11300) has been submitted to Cornwall Council, for the development of a golf driving range facility with ancillary food and drinks facilities and mini golf putting area, with associated works, landscaping and new pedestrian link towards Crantock. Following discussions with the Cornwall County Archaeological Officer the evaluation proposed up to 4 trenches, each measuring 20m x 1.6m wide. Two trenches were to be positioned across the footprint of the proposed building and two further trenches positioned to assess the impact of an attenuation basin.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Mariusz Paszkiewicz, Dominika Golebiowska and Arkadiusz Piszcz on the 8th June and 10th July 2023 and the site code is HRC 23/117. The archive is presently held at TVAS Southwest, Taunton and will be deposited with the local museum and an accession number will be obtained in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The application site is located on eastern fringe of the coastal village of Crantock on the estuary of the River Gannel approximately 3 km southwest of Newquay in Cornwall (Fig. 1). The 4.1 ha site comprised a rectangular agricultural field and part of an adjacent pasture field to the west. The field are set with grass grown for silage and bounded by hedges with shrubs and trees. It is bounded to the north by Halwyn Road, to the east by pasture fields, and to the west and south by further agricultural fields.

The Site undulates gently and lies at elevations of between 58m (above Ordnance Datum) in the north to 44m aOD in the south. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology for the site consists of Trendrean Mudstone Formation – Mudstone and siltstone. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2017).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a written scheme of investigation (Farr 2023) and by a geophysical survey (Lefort 2022). In summary, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly HER has recorded a moderate range of sites and finds of prehistoric date for the environs of the site, including an undated, though likely prehistoric enclosure within the site (MCO29756). A number of ploughed out ditches were visible as cropmarks on an oblique aerial photograph taken in 1995. The ditches appeared to form part of a curvilinear enclosure measuring 51m by 48m and although the CHER location is not positioned directly across the round recorded in the geophysical survey, the dimensions are broadly comparable. Nevertheless, the location itself is a closer match to the field system recorded in the geophysical survey.

Archaeological evaluation (Weale 2016) ahead of development to the north of Halwyn Road, some 225m west of the Site, identified a series of field boundaries, indicating the existence of a prehistoric field system. It also located a stone-lined cist with two near complete Beaker pottery vessels of Early Bronze Age date.

The place name Crantock (Langorroc) derives from the name of St. Carantoc, an Irish missionary, and the Cornish name for a church enclosure (Weatherhill 2005) and can reportedly be traced back to the 5th century with the founding of a *lann* by St. Carantoc (Cornwall Council 2010). Crantock itself is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Langoroc*.

The geophysical survey revealed numerous linear anomalies of probable and possible archaeological interest, the most noticeable response relating to a curving double ditch at the north of the Site. The enclosure is located at a high point along the ridge and extends beyond the northern extents of the survey area. A group of clearly defined ditches crossing much of the site were also surveyed and indicate a field system of unknown date.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the Site, including its presence/ absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the area may be impacted by proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to ground truth the results of the geophysical survey;
- to clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development;

to identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site;
to assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried objects;
to produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in such detail as to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential;
to facilitate production of a mitigation strategy for the project;
and to relate (where appropriate) the archaeological results to their local, county and regional context.

The trenches were to be excavated mechanically under constant archaeological supervision to expose the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon or the natural geology. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above and in accordance with the county's requirements but without compromising the integrity of any features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining full excavation.

Results

Four trenches and five percolation pits were excavated as intended. The trenches ranged in length from 18.8m to 22.7m and from 0.43m to 0.56m in depth (Fig. 2). All were 1.8m wide. Only trenches with potentially archaeological features are discussed in detail below. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of section and geology is given in Appendix 1. All features of possible archaeological interest were cleaned, investigated, and are described below. The investigated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs. 2, 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 3)

This trench was aligned West -East and was 22.70m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of light brown grey sandy silty topsoil (50), above 0.19-0.38m light brown grey sandy silt with stones subsoil (51) above yellow light grey mudstone natural geology. Two North West -South East aligned linear ditches and one pit were identified and investigated. Pit (1) was at 19.2m from the West end of the trench which was 1.60m in diameter and 0.30m deep. The pit contained two fills but no dating evidence: Fill (52) was a light brown sandy silt with some limestone and (53) a dark grey brown sandy silt with an amount of charcoal and ash. This pit cut ditch (2).

Ditch 2 was 1.40m wide and 0.48m deep and with a single fill (54) of dark brown sandy silt with moderate amount of mudstone but no dating evidence. Ditch (2) cut ditch (3).

Ditch 3 was a minimum 0.79m wide and minimum 0.23m deep. The linear contained a single fill (55) of dark brown silty sand with some mudstone debris but no datable artefacts. The location of the pit and ditches corresponded reasonably well with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2, 3 and 4; Pls 2 and 4)

This trench was aligned West - East and was 20.20m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of light brown grey sandy silty topsoil (50) above 0.18-0.39m light brown grey sandy silt stony subsoil (51) above yellow light grey mudstone natural geology. Approximately 0.5m from the West end of the trench was a posthole (4) which was 0.30m in diameter and 0.13m deep and filled with brown sandy silt (56) which produced single flint flake and two fragments of Earlier Neolithic pottery. Some 0.5m further to the east was a circular pit (5) which was 0.80m in diameter and 0.30m deep. It had a single fill (57) of grey brown silty sand with moderate amount of quartz stone which produced four flint flakes and 61 fragments of Earlier Neolithic pottery.

Finds

Pottery by Cristina Mateos-Leal

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of *c.* 63 sherds, weighing *c.* 406g, dating to Earlier Neolithic. The condition of the pottery is quite poor and variably abraded.

The assemblage was sorted macroscopically into fabric groups based on the principal inclusions present in the clay, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. Codes follow those recommended in PCRG (1997) where letters are used to denote the main inclusions. The entire assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Broken sherds were counted as single pieces where joins could be made. In addition rims were measured for diameter and percentage present for the estimation of vessel equivalents (EVE) (Orton *et al.* 1993) and identified to broad form. Evidences of use in the form of residues were noted.

The resulting data was entered onto an MS Excel spreadsheet a copy of which is deposited with the site archive.

Table 1. Pottery fabrics

	Fabric	Description	No	No %	Wt	Wt %	EVE	EVE %
Coarse	GQ/1	Gabbroic quartz tempered ware	57	90.48	362	89.16	10.5	46.67
Medium	GQ/2	Gabbroic oxidized quartz tempered ware	4	6.35	36	8.87	7.5	33.33
Fine	GQ/3	Gabbroic oxidized sandy quartz tempered ware	2	3.17	8	1.97	4.5	20.00
		Total	63	100.00	406	100.00	22.5	100.00

Distribution of the pottery

The pottery comes from a posthole [4] and a pit [5] (Table 2). Three handmade different Gabbroic wares has been distinguished: gabbroic quartz tempered (GQ/1), gabbroic oxidized quartz tempered (GQ/2) and gabbroic oxidized sandy quartz tempered (GQ/3) (Table 1).

Table 2. Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in gr) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cut	Cxt	GQ/1		GQ/2		GQ/3	
		Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No
4	56	-	-	10	2	-	-
5	57	362	57	26	2	8	2
Total		362	57	36	4	8	2

Description fabrics and forms (Table 1)

GQ/1 (coarse), gabbroic quartz tempered ware with grey brown core and brown surfaces with common angular vein quartz inclusions (up to 7mm); common subangular feldspar pieces (1-5mm); sparse black iron (1mm) and sparse silver mica (0.5mm). External surfaces with “black paint” which is frequently on Cornish gabbroic pottery of this period. This fabric has thick walls. Smooth surfaces. Three rims recorded but only one identified as a cup Carn Brea P107-111 (Smith 1981, 166, fig. 70). One horizontal imperforate elongated lug as well, likely to come from a deep-bodied vessel.

GQ/2 (medium), gabbroic oxidized quartz tempered ware with common angular vein quartz (5mm); common sub-angular feldspar pieces (1-5mm); sparse black iron (1mm) and sparse silver mica (0.5mm). External “black paint”. This fabric has thin walls. Very smooth surfaces. Only one rim identified as a cup Carn Brea P107-111 (Smith 1981, 166, fig. 70).

GQ/3 (fine), gabbroic sandy oxidized quartz tempered ware with black outer surface with sparse angular vein quartz (2mm); common sub-angular feldspar pieces (1-2mm); sparse red iron (1mm), and sparse black iron (1mm). Burnished outer surfaces. Only one rim identified as a bowl Carn Brea P39-41 (Smith 1981, 166, fig. 67).

The assemblage represented belongs to the Hembury or South Western Early Neolithic Bowl ceramic tradition. The largest Cornish assemblage of this comes from the tor enclosure site of Carn Brea, Redruth (Smith, 1981). While it is not unusual for gabbroic clay to have inclusions of white vein quartz (Quinnell and Taylor 2016), this assemblage is marked by the size, frequency and appearance of the inclusions in the same way that it was in Gwel-an-Mor (Quinnell, 2022, 11).

Struck flint by Steve Ford

Five struck flints were recovered during the evaluation. They were all flakes except for a narrow flake.

Posthole 4 (56) contained a single flake. Pit 5 (57) contained three flakes and a narrow flake (blade) along with a small fragment of burnt flint (2g). The narrow flake might have been crested.

None of the pieces are closely datable but the narrow flake from feature 5 might be of mesolithic date but is more likely to be of earlier Neolithic date and be contemporary with the pottery also recovered from this feature.

Charred Plant Remains by Jo Pine

One sample was processed from the deposit encountered during the evaluation. The sample was floated and wet sieved to 0.25mm and air dried. The flot was examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 and x40. The only material present present in the sample was charcoal but is too small to allow identification.

Conclusion

The evaluation has successfully investigated the site as intended. Excavated trenches revealed a range of archaeological feature including ditches and pits. Pit and post hole in trench 4 dated by pottery and flints to the Earlier Neolithic period. The ditches in trench 1 corresponded well with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the linear feature in trench 1, it most likely forms part of the field system associated with the prehistoric enclosure immediately to the north.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

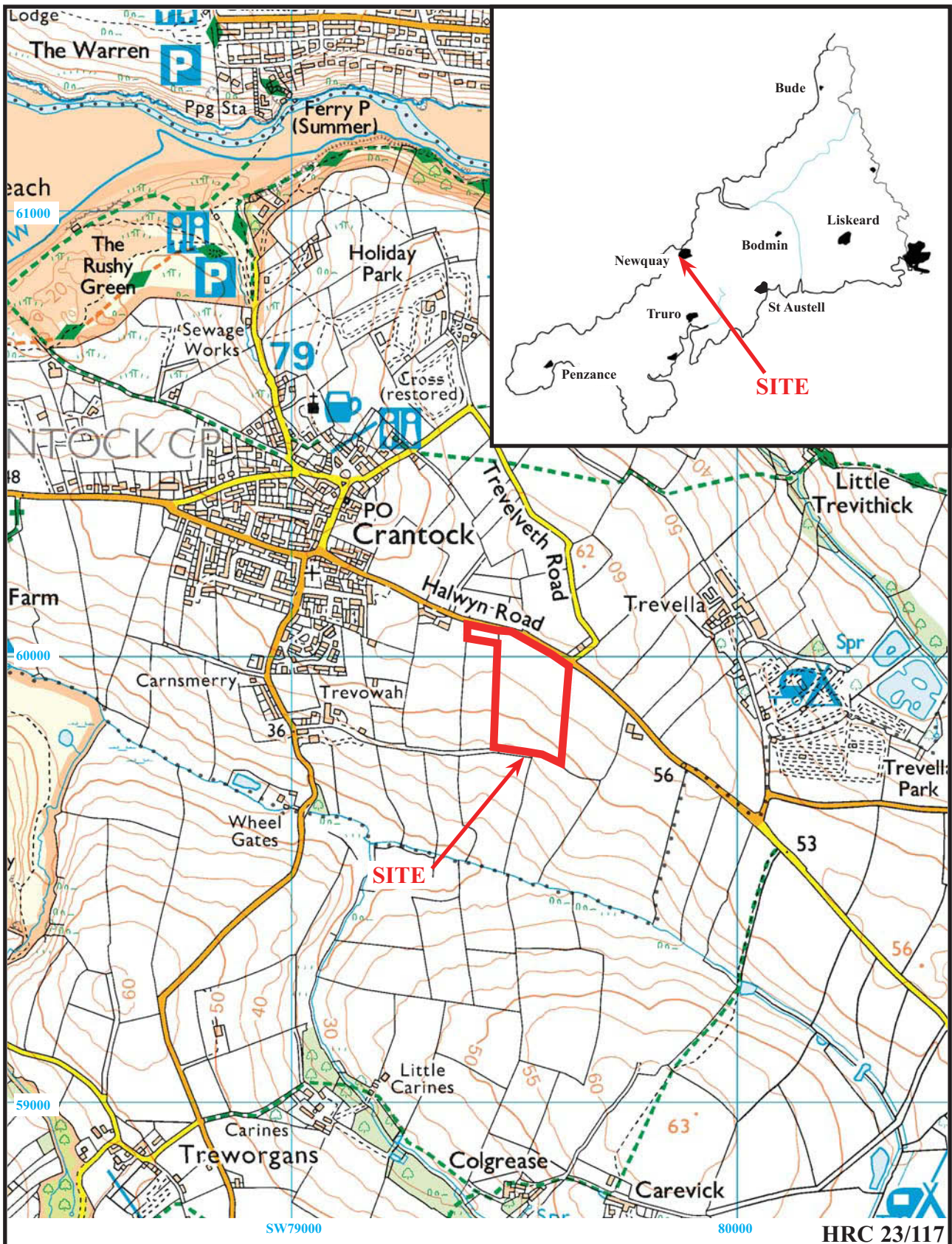
	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	22.70	1.60	0.40 - 0.56	0-0.19 Topsoil (50) light brown grey sandy silt; 0.19-0.38 Subsoil (51)- light brown grey sandy silt with debris; 0.38 + yellow light grey mudstone natural geology. Pit (1) and ditches (2) and (3). [Pls. 1 and 3]
2	20.30	1.60	0.53	0-0.23 Topsoil; 0.23-0.36 Subsoil; 0.36 + yellow light grey mudstone natural geology.
3	18.80	1.60	0.46	0-0.20 Topsoil; 0.20-0.40 Subsoil; 0.40 + yellow light grey mudstone natural geology.
4	20.20	1.60	0.43	0-0.18 Topsoil; 0.18-0.39 Subsoil; 0.39 + yellow light grey mudstone natural geology. Post hole (4) and pit (5) [Pls. 2 and 4]

Percolation pit details

	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	2.36	0.62	1.08	0-0.22 Topsoil (50) light brown grey sandy silt; 0.22-0.44 Subsoil (51) light brown grey sandy silt with debris; 0.44 + yellow light grey mudstone natural geology.
2	2.70	0.65	1.04	0-0.24 Topsoil; 0.24-0.50 Subsoil; 0.50 + yellow light grey mudstone natural geology.
3	1.90	1.64	0.62	0-0.28 Topsoil; 0.28-0.50 Subsoil; 0.50 + yellow light grey mudstone natural geology.
4	2.00	1.62	0.70	0-0.20 Topsoil; 0.20-0.40 Subsoil; 0.40 + yellow light grey mudstone natural geology.
5	2.28	1.6	0.55	0-0.22 Topsoil; 0.22-0.44 Subsoil; 0.44 + yellow light grey mudstone natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

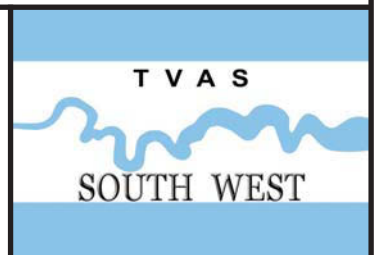
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	52, 53	Pit	Prehistoric?	
1	2	54	Ditch	Prehistoric?	Form
1	3	55	Ditch	Prehistoric?	Form
4	4	56	Posthole	Neolithic	Pottery
4	5	57	Pit	Neolithic	Pottery

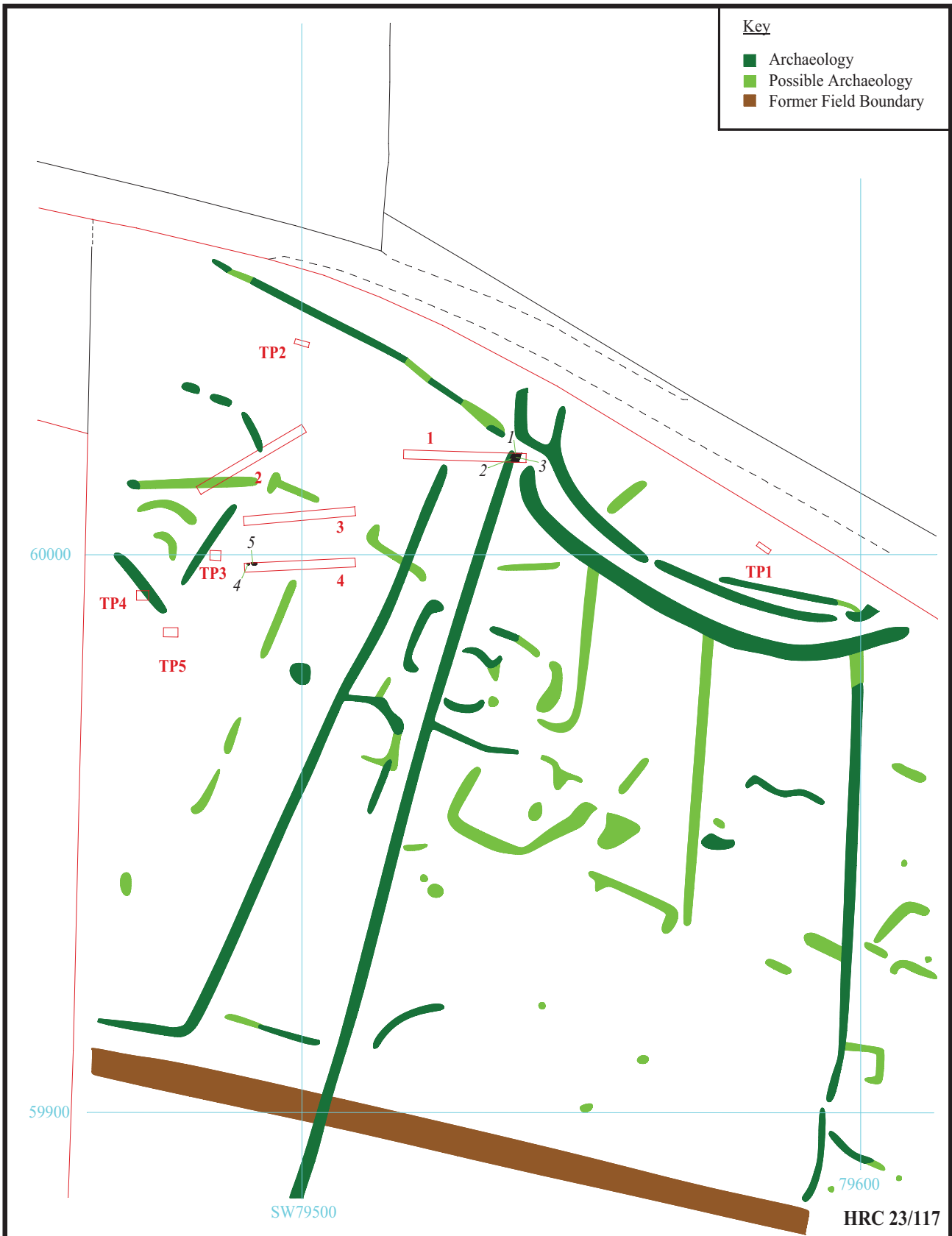


**Land south of Halwyn Road,
Crantock, Cornwall, 2023
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Crantock and Cornwall.

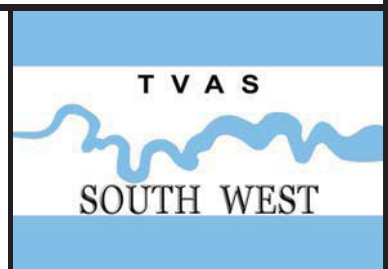
Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
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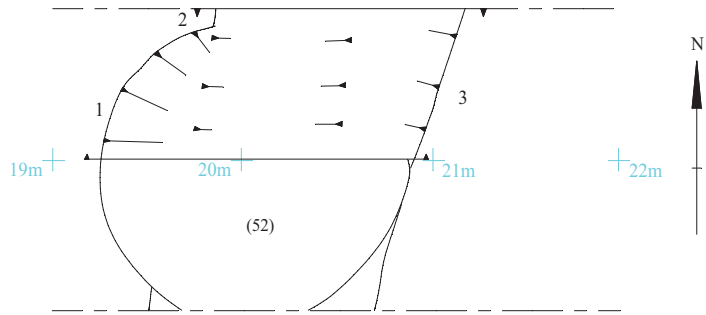


**Land south of Halwyn Road,
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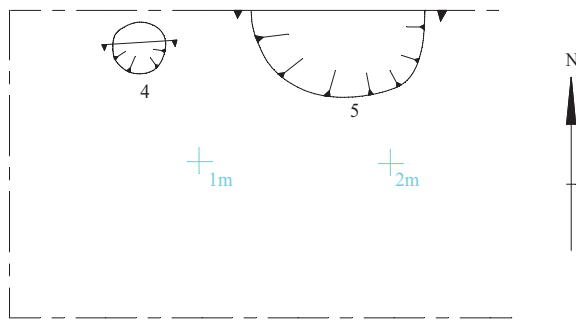
Figure 2. Site plan overlaying geophysical survey results.



Trench 1



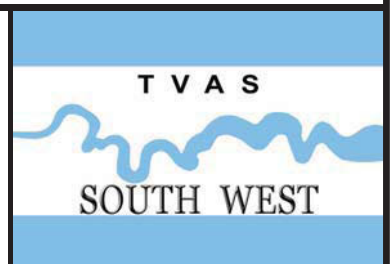
Trench 4



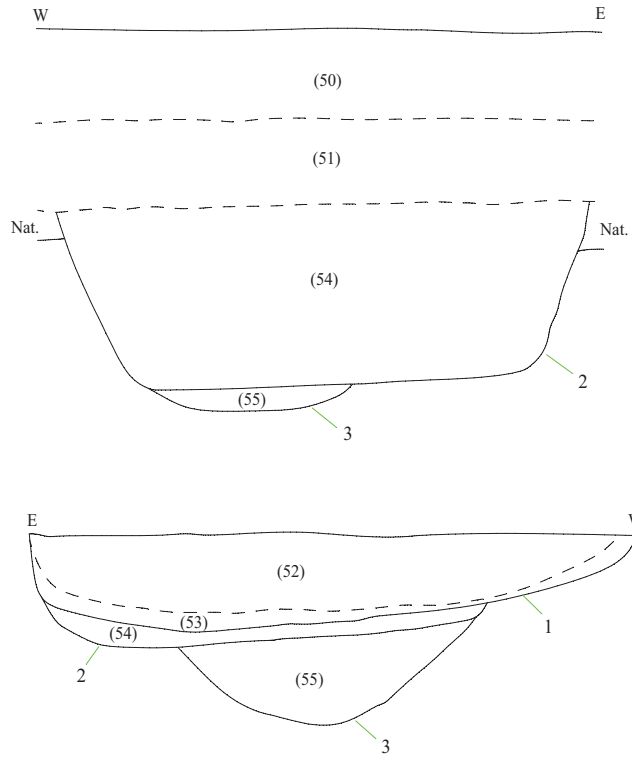
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Archaeological Evaluation**

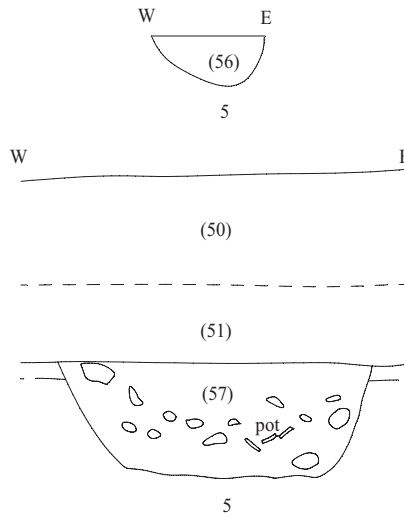
Figure 3. Details of trenches.



Trench 1



Trench 4



HRC 23/117

**Land at Crantock, Halwyn Road,
Crantock, Cornwall, 2023
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Sections

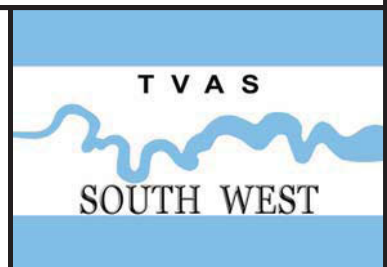




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking West, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.2m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking East, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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**Land at Halwyn Road, Crantock, Cornwall, 2023
Archaeological Evaluation**

Plates 1 and 2.





Plate 3. Trench 1, Features 1-3 looking South, Scales: 1m and 0.2m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, Posthole 4 and Pit 5 looking North, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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Land at Halwyn Road, Crantock, Cornwall, 2023
Archaeological Evaluation

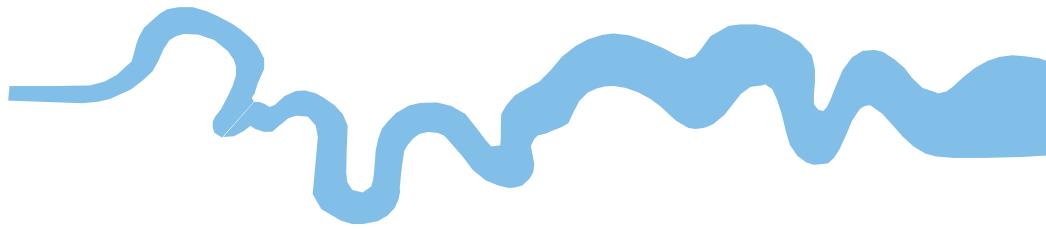
Plates 3 and 4.



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





**TVAS (South West),
Unit 21 Apple Business Centre,
Frobisher Way,
Taunton TA2 6BB
Tel: 01823 288284
Email: southwest@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk/southwest**

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