

Land at Viaduct Hill Hayle Cornwall

Archaeological Evaluation



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For: **Burrington Estates**

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: Land at Viaduct Hill

Location: Hayle, Cornwall

Type: Evaluation

National grid reference (NGR): 157320 37750

Planning authority: Cornwall Council

Planning reference PA20/11368

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Site Code: VHH21

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ISCA Archaeology in May and June 2021 at Land at Viaduct Hill, Hayle, Cornwall. A total of 11 trenches were excavated.

The evaluation trenches were located to target several geophysical anomalies as well as a representative sample of the proposed development area, and in turn identified several archaeological features, all located towards the north-west corner of the site. These features included a possible circular enclosure, linear ditches and three postholes, all of which were cut into the underlying natural geology and sealed by the subsoil. The undated circular enclosure feature consisted of two shallow, possibly concentric ditches, although one ditch contained 17th century material, which may indicate a later field boundary. The linear ditches were dated to the medieval period whist the postholes were undated. A large post-medieval quarry pit was also noted in this area. Elsewhere across the site, the evaluation identified several linear ditches and gullies that are likely to represent extant post-medieval field system elements. These later features cut through the subsoil and were sealed by the plough soil. Towards the northern edge of the site, a large circular anomaly was investigated and produced abundant 20th century material. This feature is potentially an infilled World War II bomb crater or quarry pit.



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out a report of an archaeological evaluation carried out by ISCA Archaeology (ISCA) between 26 May 2 June 2021 at Land at Viaduct Hill, Hayle, Cornwall, centred at NGR 157320 37750 (Fig 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Origin3, on behalf of Burrington Estates. This report sets out the background, methodology and the results of the evaluation to inform a planning application (PA20/11368) for the proposed development of 85 residential dwellings.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced prior to the commencement of the evaluation (ISCA 2021) and drawn up in consultation with Historic Environment Planning Archaeology (HEP (Arch)) and approved by Peter Dudley, Senior Development Officer, Historic Environment Archaeologist, Cornwall Council. The evaluation was also carried out in line with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2020).

The Site

- 1.3 The proposed application site (henceforth referred to as the 'Site') is within an area totalling approximately 2.8 hectares, which is presently in use as agricultural land. A moderate slope falls away to the north, approximately 42m 32m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The Site is located on the south-east fringes of Hayle and approximately 160m west of the A30 trunk road. The north of the Site is bounded by the South West Mainline railway, with residential development beyond, and residential development to the south-west and north-east (Figs. 1 and 2).
- 1.4 The majority of the Site is mapped as the Mylor Slate Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 359 to 383 million years ago in the Devonian Period. To the northern edge of the Site, mudstones and sandstones of the Porthtowan Formation, which formed approximately 372 to 393 million years ago, also in the Devonian Period, are present. No overlying superficial deposits are recorded. (BGS 2021)

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The Site has been the subject of a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2020) and a geophysical survey (Substrata 2019, Fig. 2). The following sections utilise



information contained in those documents, which should be referred to for full archaeological details.

Mesolithic and Neolithic (10000BC - 2400BC)

2.2. Several Historic Environment Records (HER) indicate activity in the vicinity of Mesolithic and Neolithic date. A single Mesolithic chopper and a Neolithic greenstone axe were found during recent excavations undertaken in fields directly south-west of the Site. In addition, a find spot of a Neolithic axe was found on Trevassack Farm, approximately 150m to the south-west of the Site. Although evidence of Neolithic activity in the vicinity is limited, it is likely that the Hayle estuary would have formed an important location for resource exploitation during this period.

Bronze Age (2400BC - 700BC)

- 2.3 Recent excavations at Trevassack Farm revealed a large pit containing Bronze Age pottery and amber beads as well as evidence for cereal cultivation. This suggests that a Bronze Age settlement was located within the vicinity.
- 2.4 The HER records a possible Bronze Age barrow located approximately 150m to the south of the Site. However, this HER entry is only based on a fieldname, recorded on the 1842 Phillack Tithe Award Map (Fig. 16) and no physical remains have yet been identified.

Iron Age to Romano-British (700BC – AD410)

- 2.5 Evidence of Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement has recently been identified through excavation directly to the south-west of the Site. These excavations revealed several features including rectilinear, linear, and curvilinear enclosure ditches with associated gullies and pits. Two principle curvilinear structures, representing the main phase of activity, have been dated to between 100BC and AD100 and indicated a complex series of smelting furnaces and a dwelling. A third structure dated to between AD200 to AD300 was possibly associated with cereal cultivation and processing. Imported amphora fragments from the excavations suggest trading with the post-Roman world from AD400.
- 2.6 Although no Romano-British evidence has previously been recovered or recorded from the Site, it is highly possible that remains from the excavated settlement to the southwest extend into it, especially given their proximity.



Early Medieval and Medieval (AD410 - AD1539)

- 2.7 It is likely that during this period the Hayle estuary had become established as an important centre for water-borne trade. Imported pottery dating between the 5th to 7th centuries, thought to indicate international trade, have been recovered. The earliest documented evidence of a settlement at Hayle dates to 1130 when it was called *Egloshayle*, from the Cornish for church, *eglos*, and *heyl*, the name of the estuary. The oldest part of Hayle is probably Phillack, according to Cahill (2000).
- 2.8 During the Medieval period, the wider environs around Hayle were probably comprised of a range of small hamlets and farmsteads, set within a network of agricultural land and lanes. The nearby settlement of Trevassack is first recorded in 1284 and combines the Cornish tre, meaning estate or farmstead, with a personal name. The HER records the field name 'Cross Croft' on the Phillack Tithe Award Map and may suggest the former presence of a medieval cross, though traces of it have not yet been recorded.

Post-medieval and modern (AD1540 – AD2000)

- 2.9 During the Post-medieval period, the settlement of Hayle developed in response to increased demand from local mining activities. Its location, close to the North Cornish mines, would have been fundamental in its development as a port, especially in trading with the coal fields and smelters of South Wales. The port and settlement of Hayle are now incorporated within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS). The area is considered to be of international significance, specifically relating to its 18th and 19th century mining history.
- 2.10 There are no mining remains identified within the vicinity of the Site. However, there are several Post-medieval houses recorded nearby. Fields to the north of the Site are recorded in the HER as 'inner-' and 'outer burying grounds' on the 1842 Phillack Tithe Award Map. No remains have been noted and the area is now mostly built over, although the southern tip of the 'outer burying ground' extends into the Site.
- 2.11 The northern edge of the Site is bounded by the South-West Mainline Railway line. The line originally ran between Penzance and Redruth and was opened in 1852, then extended to Truro in 1855.



2.12 Throughout the 20th century the Site remained unchanged, though during World War II Hayle was a strategic port and there are several pillboxes recorded around the town. The HER records two bomb craters within the Site, visible on aerial photographs and measuring up to 8m in diameter. One crater is located close to the northern boundary, not far from the railway line, the second, 100m further south, on the eastern edge of the Site, is not far from the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement in the adjacent field and may possibly represent earlier activity.

Geophysical survey (Fig. 2)

2.13 A geophysical survey (Substrata 2019, Fig. 2) was undertaken as part of the Heritage Assessment and is summarised below: -

'Twenty-one groups of magnetic anomalies were identified as having the potential to represent buried archaeological deposits. Of the most interest is a group of curvilinear and linear features recorded in the northwest corner of the field (Trenches 1-3). These are suggestive of a prehistoric enclosure with associated features. Elsewhere, boundaries recorded on the 1842 Phillack Tithe Award Map (Fig. 16) are recorded, most notably the southwest to northeast boundary (Trench 5). Other possible boundaries recorded in the geophysical survey are not recorded on the Phillack Tithe Award Map (Trenches 4-7). These features appear to form a contemporary layout which is likely to predate the 1842 Map, as they are not shown on either this map, nor are they shown on the later 19th and 20th century Ordnance Survey maps. These may have Medieval origins, or possibly be associated with the Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement excavated directly to the south-west. To the north of the Site is a large circular anomaly (Trench 11), referenced in the HER as a possible World War II bomb crater.'

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the likely archaeological resources within the Site, and if present, to provide a detailed description of their character, extent, date, quality, and state of preservation. The presented information will facilitate Cornwall Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets noted at the Site, and to consider the requirement for, and



methods of, any further archaeological mitigation work in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG2019).

4. METHODOLOGY - ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

4.1 The definition of an archaeological field evaluation is:

'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts and their research potential, within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, reports on them and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.' (CIfA, 2020)

4.2 The purpose of an archaeological field evaluation is to:

'to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- a. The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- b. The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource
- c. The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research'. (CIfA 2020)
- 4.3 The fieldwork evaluation comprised the excavation of 11 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). One trench was 57.5m long (Trench 5) and the rest were approximately 30m long. All trenches were 1.6m wide. The total area excavated measured *c*. 578m² (just over 2% of the Site). The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies as well as to give a representative sample of the remainder of the Site. Trench 1 was extended



3.6m further to the south to establish the nature of a large cut feature present at that location.

- 4.4 Trench 11 was located to test the anomaly noted on both the aerial photographs and the geophysical survey to the north of the Site, which had been interpretated as a possible World War II bomb crater. The excavation of this trench was undertaken in the presence of an Unexploded Ordnance Officer from 6 Alpha. The area in and around the suspected bomb crater was metal-detected, machined in 50 100mm spits and then re-detected. The pit was found to contain very loose material and was machine excavated to a depth of 2m (though the pit extended below this depth), rapidly recorded from the surface, and then immediately backfilled due to safety constraints.
- 4.5 All the trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica GPS and scanned for live services by trained ISCA Archaeology staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the ISCA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services.
- 4.6 All trenches were excavated by a wheeled mechanical excavator (JCB) equipped with a toothless grading bucket and machining was conducted under constant archaeological supervision, ceasing when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate was revealed.
- 4.7 Where archaeological deposits were revealed, these were excavated by hand. Deposits were also assessed for their paleoenvironmental potential (see section 7.1)
- 4.8 Each excavated trench, whether archaeological remains were present or not, is associated with a minimum of a pro-forma trench sheet including project details, trench dimensions, soil descriptions, depth and nature of the overburden and the nature of the underlying natural substrate. All trenches were surveyed using a Leica GPS with aOD levels.
- 4.9 Where archaeological remains were present, each feature and context were recorded by written and measured descriptions. All works were carried out in accordance with the Code of Approved Practice as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and recorded according to CIfA guidelines and best practice.



- 4.10 Upon completion of the evaluation, all trenches were backfilled by mechanical excavator in reverse order, with plough soil and subsoil backfilled separately.
- 4.11 ISCA will make arrangements with the Royal Cornwall Museum for the deposition of the Site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive (comprising digital photographs and other relevant digital data) will be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).
- 4.12 A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix 2, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. **RESULTS (FIGS. 3 – 15)**

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix 1. Details of the artefactual materials recovered from the Site are given in Section 6.
- 5.2 The natural geology consisted of a yellow-brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular mudstone and quartz stones and sub-rounded gravels. It was exposed in all 11 trenches at a depth of 0.4m 0.6m below the present ground surface. It was sealed by a yellow-brown sandy silt subsoil, generally 0.15m 0.25m thick, which was not always present across the full extent of some trenches and only 0.06m deep in Trench 1. This was in turn covered by 0.25m-0.35m of plough soil. At the time of the evaluation the Site had been recently ploughed, though no crop had yet been sown.
- 5.3 Of the 11 trenches, eight contained archaeological and/or modern features and three (Trenches 8, 9 and 10) were blank.

Trench 1 (Figs. 3 – 4)

A large circular/crescent shaped anomaly noted on the geophysical survey in the north-west corner of the Site was investigated. To the northern end of the trench two ditches were recorded, both of which aligned with the survey plot. The northern ditch [107] measured 1.45m wide and 0.41m deep and contained two fills (105) and (106). The ditch was aligned north-east/south-west. No datable material was recovered from either fill.



- 5.5 Located roughly 1.2m to the south of ditch [107] was a secondary ditch [104] which was orientated on a similar alignment. This second ditch measured 2.2m wide and 0.32m deep. No pottery was recovered from its single fill (103); however, a large iron nail was located towards the base of the ditch, and a single small clay pipe stem fragment (dated after 1600AD) was located towards the upper part of the fill. It should be noted that although this southern ditch is located on what appears to be a possible inner ditch forming the crescent feature as seen on the geophysical plot, it is also located in the same vicinity as a northeast/south-west aligned field boundary as seen on the 1842 Phillack Tithe Map (Fig. 16).
- To the southern end of the trench was a large pit [109] which extended beyond the trench limits. This pit was at least 5.3m long and 1m deep. It is possible that this pit also extended into the western edge of Trench 2 (see Section 5.11 below). This large pit contained two fills (108) and (110). The upper fill (108) was 0.15m thick and consisted of a sealing layer of redeposited clay, whilst the lower fill (110) comprised a large quantity of small to medium sized angular stones within a very loose sandy silt matrix. Both fills contained dateable pottery. Fill (108) contained two sherds of late 16th to early 18th century pottery, likely from the same vessel, whilst the lower fill (110) contained a single sherd of a late 15th to 17th century jug or jar. The pit had been originally excavated to a depth where the underlying bedrock was present.
- 5.7 Across the trench, the subsoil layer (101) was only intermittently present and survived to a maximum depth of 0.06m. Subsoil was not present towards the north of the trench, where the two ditches were sealed directly by the overlying plough soil (100). To the south, the large pit [109] was clearly cut through the subsoil.

Trench 2 (Figs. 5 – 7)

This trench was located just to the east of Trench 1 and targeted further geophysical anomalies. A large linear ditch [205] was located towards the western end of the trench and was aligned roughly north/south, though it may have had a slight curve to the south-west. The ditch measured 4.8m wide and 0.22m deep and contained two fills (203) and (204). The upper fill (203) contained two sherds of 14th to 15th century pottery. This ditch was not represented clearly on the geophysical survey, although is the survey does contain a defuse anomaly that may indicate this feature. The overlying subsoil (201) sealed the upper fill of this ditch.



- 5.9 To the centre of the trench was a north/south aligned ditch [207]. This ditch measured 1.7m wide and 0.5m deep and contained a single fill (206) which produced no datable material. This ditch is closely aligned with the north/south anomaly noted on the geophysical survey.
- 5.10 Three closely grouped postholes [209], [211] and [213] were located towards the eastern end of the trench. These postholes were all roughly 0.3m diameter and varied between 0.1m-0.38m deep. No datable material was recovered, and it was not clear whether they were sealed by or cut through the subsoil layer.
- 5.11 To the eastern edge of the trench was a partially visible feature [215] which appeared to be a continuation of the large pit [109] recorded in Trench 1 (see Section 5.6 above). The upper fill (214) was of a similar material to (108). This feature was only recorded in plan.
- 5.12 The subsoil layer (201) was only present towards the western end of the trench, ditch [207] and the three postholes were sealed directly by the overlying plough soil (200).
- 5.13 To the centre of the trench was a north-west/south-east aligned ditch [217] which measured 1.5m wide by 0.48m deep and contained a high percentage of stones. This ditch clearly truncated the subsoil layer (201) and suggested a later date. Although this ditch is likely to be recent, it does not appear on the 1842 Phillack Tithe Map.

Trench 3 (Figs. 8 – 9)

This trench was also located in the north-west corner of the Site, near Trenches 1 and 2. This trench contained a possible continuation of ditch [207] (in Trench 2 to the north) as implied by the geophysical survey and was seen towards the western end of the trench ditch [310]. Here this ditch was aligned slightly north-east/south-west and measured at least 1.58m wide (though it had been truncated to the south-west) and 0.84m deep. The ditch contained two fills (308) and (309). The upper fill (308) contained five sherds of pottery dating to the 14th to 15th centuries, along with shell and small animal bone fragments (one sherd of pottery from the upper fill (203) from ditch [205] in Trench 2 may have been part of the same vessel). This early ditch was re-cut by ditch [307]. This later ditch measured 2.26m wide and 0.84m deep. Ditch [307] contained three fills (303), (304), (305) and (306) and of these, the secondary fill (305) contained a single sherd of pottery of a pre-11th century date, though this is likely to



have been residual as this is a later re-cut of ditch [310] which was dated to the 14th to 15th century.

- 5.15 To the eastern end of the trench was a second ditch [312]. This shallow ditch appeared on the geophysical survey as a north/south aligned anomaly. The ditch measured 1.57m wide and 0.29m deep and no datable material was recovered from its single fill (311).
- 5.16 Both the ditches within this trench were sealed by the overlying subsoil (301).

Trench 4 (Fig. 10)

5.17 A single north-west/south-east aligned ditch/gully [404] was noted towards the centre of the trench. The ditch/gully measured 1.08m wide and 0.26m deep. The single fill (403) contained a sherd of 17th to early 18th century pottery, along with a clay pipe fragment dating to the 14th to 15th century. This feature clearly cut through the subsoil (401) deposit which was visible across the entire trench.

Trench 5 (Figs. 11 – 12)

- 5.18 This trench was located to investigate three well-defined geophysical anomalies as well as the negative area between. To the north of the trench the geophysical survey indicated two closely aligned features, which consisted of two parallel ditches set roughly 1.2m apart. The northern ditch [504] measured 0.56m wide and 0.13m deep. The southern ditch [506] measured 1m wide and 0.25m deep. There was no indication of a remnant bank or hedge line between, or on either side of the two ditches. Ditch [506] truncated a thin layer (0.13m) of subsoil (501) which appeared to have been caused by recent ploughing. There was no subsoil present in the vicinity of ditch [504], and this ditch was directly overlain by plough soil (500).
- 5.19 To the southern end of the trench was ditch [508] which was also aligned to an anomaly on the geophysical plan. The ditch measured 1.24m wide and 0.5m deep and contained a fill (507) consisting of a large proportion of sub-angular stones. Here the ditch could be seen cutting through the overlying subsoil layer (501).

Trench 6 (Fig. 13)

5.20 Two parallel ditches [603] and [605] were recorded towards the south-east end of this trench.

The ditches were aligned north-west/south-east and were 1.4m apart. The south-east ditch



[603] measured 1.45m wide and 0.42m deep, and the north-east ditch [605] measured 1.04m wide and 0.44m deep. Both ditches contained similar, stone-rich fills (602) and (604 respectively). No datable material was recovered from either ditch; however, both the ditches were clearly cutting through the subsoil (601) layer.

Trench 7 (Fig. 14)

5.21 To the centre of this trench were two small, shallow parallel ditches or gullies. These ditches were 1.45m apart and were both aligned north-west/south-east. The ditches aligned with two linear geophysical anomalies. The western ditch [704] measured 0.95m wide and 0.12m deep and the eastern ditch [706] measured 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep. No dateable material was recovered, though ditch [706] clearly truncated the subsoil (701) layer. There was no subsoil present in the vicinity of ditch [704], which was directly overlain by plough soil (700).

Trench 11 (Fig. 15)

This trench was located to investigate a large circular anomaly to the central northern edge of the Site. This feature appeared on both the geophysical survey, and on aerial photographs. This pit [1104] extended 7m into the trench and was excavated by machine to a depth of 2m below the present surface. The pit contained two fills, the upper fill (1102) consisted of a 0.6m thick layer of re-deposited natural sandy clay sealing a very loose deposit (1103) of industrial waste, slag, and modern glass (which was not retained). The pit was not fully excavated due to safety constraints, but clearly extended to a greater depth than 2m below the present surface. No other features were observed within this trench.

6. ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE (by John Allan)

6.1 All finds recovered on the Site during the evaluation were retained, cleaned, and marked. The finds assemblage consists of thirteen sherds of pottery, a single iron nail and two clay pipe fragments. The pottery sherds are listed by fabric type followed by the number of sherds/minimum number of vessels, and comments about forms, glaze and any other features.

The following abbreviations are used:

CMC: Cornish medieval coarseware

CPMC: Cornish post-medieval coarseware



14

Context 103

One clay pipe stem, large bore, after 1600, probably 17th century.

Context 108

CPMC: 2/1 Internal glaze, sooted exterior, from a jar or pipkin. Late 16th–early 18th century.

Context 110

CPMC: 1/1 Basal angle from a large wheel-thrown jug or jar, the fabric with much muscovite. Late 15thC–17th century.

Context 203

CMC: 2/2 Thin, unglazed, oxidised bodysherds, hard-fired, the fabric of one with much muscovite, too worn to determine whether wheel-thrown or hand-made but one probably from the same vessel as in (308). 14th–15th century.

Context 305

Thin (5mm) hand-made body or base sherd, not in the tradition of medieval and later Cornish coarsewares, the fabric blackened with sparse clear & white quartz grains up to 2mm. Three grass or grain impressions on the outer surface. No diagnostic features, but the fabric indicates a pre-1200 date.

Context 308

CMC: Five sherds from at least three unglazed wheel-thrown jars, one with an applied vertical strip, all tempered with a muscovite-rich sand. Late14th–16th century, possibly late medieval.

Context 403

CPMC: 1/1 Probable cup base with internal glaze, 17th-early18th century. Also, one clay pipe stem, 17th -18th century.

Comment

6.2 With one exception the collection spans the period between the later Middle Ages (the late 14th or 15th centuries) and the 17th century. There is no modern (post-1700) material at all within the retained assemblage. There is very little reliably dated late medieval or early modern pottery from this part of Cornwall, so only broad dates and identifications can be offered. These sherds belong to a fabric type whose temper is composed of granite-derived



sands, almost certainly dug from the beds of local streams. This material makes up the local coarsewares of most of medieval and later Cornwall. Several local pottery kilns are documented within easy reach of Hayle: at Madron, Penzance, Truro, Feock, Kenwyn, Constantine and Mawgan-in-Meneage (Douch 1969; most recent mapping in Allan *et al.* 2018). Examination of the petrology of different kilns shows little distinction between individual kiln sites (Taylor and Allan 1998–9), and it is unlikely that the products of specific kilns will ever be distinguishable. There is one exception: the bodysherd from context (305), although featureless, its fabric indicates a date before *c.* 1200AD, when the medieval tradition arises. It is probably a post-Roman sherd, but a prehistoric date is also possible.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 All archaeological deposits were assessed for their paleoenvironmental potential and although no deposits were noted to have any potential, samples were taken from four features, fills (103), (106), (206) and (305), and these will be temporarily retained and processed if required.

8. DISCUSSION

- The majority of the archaeological features were identified within the north-west corner of the Site. To the northern end of Trench 1 two ditches [104] and [107] were located where the potential circular enclosure was noted on the geophysical survey. The northernmost of these two ditches [107] was undated and possibly relates to the circular feature, whose form suggests a possible prehistoric or medieval enclosure. The southern of the two ditches [104] produced a single iron nail and small clay pipe fragment. This southern ditch is aligned with a possible north-east/south-west aligned field boundary recorded on the 1842 Phillack Tithe Map. The later material recovered from the southern of these two ditches [104] may suggest that this ditch is in fact a much later field boundary ditch. Within the possible circular feature/enclosure, as noted in the geophysical survey, no internal discrete features were revealed, though since this is located on a higher area of land it is therefore the most likely to have been subjected to truncation by ploughing, as seen by the paucity and intermittent nature of the subsoil in several trenches across the Site, especially in this north-west corner.
- 8.2 The ditches recorded within Trenches 2 and 3 [205], [207], [307], [310] and [312] may relate to early field boundary ditches as they are sealed by the subsoil, which suggests an earlier date than the field boundaries noted elsewhere (Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7). These earlier



ditches may relate to either early field systems or a possible secondary enclosure in this north-west corner. Material recovered from the ditches within suggests a medieval date. The single fragment of pre 11th century pottery was recovered from a later ditch re-cut [307] and may suggest activity of this period close-by, though material may also have been brought out to the fields from nearby as part of the manuring process.

- Elsewhere across the Site, several ditches and gullies are likely to represent the extant remains of Medieval/Post-medieval field boundaries. The two ditches located to the north of Trench 5 [504] and [506] appeared on the 1842 Phillack Tithe Map (Fig 16) and the later 1877-1879 Ordnance Survey Map. The central ditch in Trench 2 [217], the southern ditch in Trench 5 [508] and the two in Trench 6 [603] and [605] contained a large proportion of stone that may have derived from former stone-faced hedge banks associated with these ditches. The ditch in Trench 4 may be a continuation of one of the ditches seen in Trench 7. All these field boundary ditches were generally cut through the subsoil layer and are potentially of a post-medieval date, as indicated by the presence of pottery dating to the 17th to early 18th century recovered from the gully in Trench 4. Though these field boundaries had clearly gone out of use by 1842 as they do not appear on the Phillack Tithe Map. It is also in this period that the possible quarry pit(s) as seen in Trenches 1 and 2 [109] and [219] may have been excavated.
- The large anomaly located to the northern edge of the Site was recorded in the HER as being that of a World War II bomb crater, though due to the Site's proximity to the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement in the adjacent field, this could potentially have been an earlier feature. The excavation of this anomaly revealed a large pit (over 2m deep from the present ground surface) containing modern material, including industrial waste, slag, and 20th century glass. Although no obvious exploded ordnance was observed, it is likely that this anomaly is an infilled bomb crater, or a modern extraction/quarry pit.

Geophysical results

8.5 Apart from the quarry pit noted to the south of Trench 1, and the three postholes and ditch [205] within Trench 2, the recorded archaeological features corresponded well to the geophysical survey and no extra archaeological features were observed.



9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The archaeology within the proposed development area is concentrated towards the north-west corner of the Site. The geophysical survey and the subsequent evaluation identified the presence of a possible circular enclosure of probable prehistoric or Medieval date, along with numerous ditches which contained Medieval material. A probable post-medieval quarry/extraction pit was also located in the north-west corner. Elsewhere across the Site were post-medieval (17th to early 18th century) field boundary ditches, and a large pit to the north of the Site of 20th century origin which may have been either another extraction pit, or the remains of a WWII bomb crater.

10. ISCA PROJECT TEAM

10.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Sworn, with assistance by Jerry Austin and Tim Brown. This report was written by Simon Sworn. The finds report was written by John Allan and the illustrations compiled by Tim Brown. The project was managed for ISCA by Simon Sworn and Parris Stubbings.



11. REFERENCES

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Report 1907HAY-R-1



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DISCRIPTIONS (BY TRENCH)

Trenc	h 1			Length – 33.6m Width – 1.6m Dep	th – 0.44r	n O	rientatio	n – NW/SE
Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date
100	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	>33.6	>1.6	0.34	
101	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones	>33.6	>1.6	0.06	
102	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown compact silty clay, occasional sub-rounded stones	>33.6	>1.6	-	
103	Fill	104	Ditch	Mid yellow-brown firm sandy silt, occasional small sub-angular stones	>1.6	2.2	0.32	17th C
104	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW curvilinear cut, gentle concave sides and shallow base	>1.6	2.2	0.32	
105	Fill	107	Ditch	Mid grey-brown friable sandy silt, occasional small sub-angular stones	>1.6	1.45	0.32	
106	Fill	107	Ditch	Mid brown-yellow compact sandy silt, frequent medium sub-angular stones	>1.6	0.51	0.25	
107	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW curvilinear cut, moderate convex sides, and 'U' shaped base	>1.6	1.45	0.41	
108	Fill	109	Quarry pit	Mid grey-brown loose sandy silt, occasional small sub-angular stones. Possibly same as 214	>5.3	>1.6	0.15	L16th C- E18th C
109	Cut		Quarry pit	Large flat based cut, steep/vertical sides, and flat base. Possibly same as 215	>5.3	>1.6	1	
110	Fill	109	Quarry pit	Medium-large sub-angular stones within a very loose mid brown sandy silt matrix	>5.3	>1.6	0.5	L15th C- 17th C

Trencl	ո 2			Length – 29.3m Width – 1.6m Dep	th – 0.48r	n O	rientatio	n – NE/SW
Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date
200	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	>29.3	>1.6	0.3	
201	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones	>29.3	>1.6	0.18	
202	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown compact silty clay, occasional sub-rounded stones	>29.3	>1.6	-	
203	Fill	205	Ditch	Mid brown firm sandy clay, occasional small sub-angular stones. Not fully excavated	>1.6	4.8	0.36	14th C- 15th C
204	Fill	205	Ditch	Light yellow-brown firm silty clay, frequent small sub-angular stones	>1.6	>1.9	0.22	
205	Cut		Ditch	N/S linear cut, gentle irregular sides and shallow base	>1.6	4.8	0.5	
206	Fill	207	Ditch	Mid brown compact sandy clay, frequent medium sub-angular stones	>1.6	1.7	0.5	
207	Cut		Ditch	N/S linear cut, stepped side to W, regular, straight 45° side to E. 'U' shaped base	>1.6	1.7	0.5	
208	Fill	209	Posthole	Mid yellow-brown firm sandy silt, occasional small sub-angular stones	0.3	0.3	0.1	
209	Cut		Posthole	Circular cut with moderate, concave sides and base	0.3	0.3	0.1	



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210	Fill	211	Posthole	Mid yellow-brown firm sandy silt, occasional small sub-angular stones	0.34	0.3	0.38
211	Cut		Posthole	Circular cut with steep/vertical sides and shallow concave base	0.34	0.3	0.38
212	Fill	213	Posthole	Mid yellow-brown firm sandy silt, occasional small sub-angular stones	0.36	0.28	0.33
213	Cut		Posthole	Circular cut with steep sides and shallow concave base	0.36	0.28	0.33
214	Fill	215	Quarry pit	Mid grey-brown firm silty sand, occasional small sub-angular stones, possibly same as 108	>1.16	>0.7	Un- ex
215	Cut		Quarry pit	Un-excavated sub-rectangular cut, partially exposed in west of trench. Possibly same as 109	>1.16	>0.7	Un- ex
216	Fill	217	Ditch	Mid brown loose silty clay, frequent large sub-angular quartz stones	>1.6	1.5	0.48
217	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE linear cut, moderate concave sides with gentle concave base	>1.6	1.5	0.48
218	Fill	217	Ditch	Mid green-brown firm silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded stones	>1.6	1.1	0.09

Trencl	า 3			Length – 30.5m Width – 1.6m Dep	th – 0.6m	Orientation – E/W		
Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date
300	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	>30.5	>1.6	0.32	
301	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones	>30.5	>1.6	0.28	
302	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown compact silty clay, occasional sub-rounded stones	>30.5	>1.6	-	
303	Fill	307	Ditch re-cut	Mid brown-grey firm sandy silt, frequent medium sub-angular stones	>1.6	2.25	0.27	
304	Fill	307	Ditch re-cut	Light yellow-grey firm re-deposited natural silty clay	>1.6	>1.4	0.21	
305	Fill	307	Ditch re-cut	Mid grey-brown firm sandy silt, occasional small sub-angular stones	>1.6	2	0.64	Pre- 1200AD
306	Fill	307	Ditch re-cut	Mid yellow-grey compact silty clay, frequent medium sub-angular stones	>1.6	0.85	0.5	
307	Cut		Ditch re-cut	NE/SW curvilinear cut, moderate convex sides, and 'U' shaped base. Re-cut of ditch 310	>1.6	2.26	0.84	
308	Fill	310	Ditch	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt, frequent medium sub-angular stones	>1.6	>0.93	0.6	14th C- 15th C
309	Fill	310	Ditch	Mid yellow-grey re-deposited natural silty clay	>1.6	>0.79	0.26	
310	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW linear ditch cut, moderate convex side to NE, flat base. Re-cut by 307	>1.6	>1.58	0.84	
311	Fill	312	Ditch	Light yellow-brown loose silty sand, occasional small sub-angular stones	>1.6	1.57	0.29	
312	Cut		Ditch	N/S linear cut, moderate stepped side to E, moderate straight side to W, shallow concave base	>1.6	1.57	0.29	



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Trencl	ո 4			Length – 29.8m Width – 1.6m Dep	th – 0.52n	n O	rientatio	n – NE/SW
Context	Туре	Fill	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date
No. 400	Layer	of	Plough soil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	>30	>1.6	0.31	
401	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones	>30	>1.6	0.21	
402	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown compact silty clay, occasional sub-rounded stones	>30	>1.6	-	
403	Fill	404	Ditch	Mid brown-grey firm sandy silt, occasional small sub-angular stones	>1.6	1.08	0.26	14th C- 15th C
404	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE linear cut with gentle concave side to SW and convex side to NE. Shallow concave base	>1.6	1.08	0.26	

Trencl	ո 5			Length – 57.5m Width – 1.6m Dep	th – 0.45r	n O	rientatio	n – NW/SE
Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date
500	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	>57.5	>1.6	0.35	
501	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones	>57.5	>1.6	0.2	
502	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown compact silty clay, occasional sub-rounded stones	>57.5	>1.6	-	
503	Fill	504	Ditch/gully	Mid/light grey-brown loose sandy silt, occasional small sub-angular stones	>1.6	0.56	0.13	
504	Cut		Ditch/gully	NE/SW linear cut with gentle concave sides and shallow concave base	>1.6	0.56	0.13	
505	Fill	506	Ditch/gully	Mid/light grey-brown loose sandy silt, occasional small sub-angular stones	>1.6	1	0.25	
506	Cut		Ditch/gully	NE/SW linear cut with gentle concave sides and shallow concave base	>1.6	1	0.25	
507	Fill	508	Ditch/gully	Mid orange-brown firm sandy loam, frequent large angular quartz stones	>1.6	1.24	0.5	
508	Cut		Ditch/gully	NE/SW linear cut with steep concave sides and shallow, flat base	>1.6	1.24	0.5	



Trench	า 6			Length – 30m Width – 1.6m Depth	– 0.45m	Orie	entation	– NE/SW
Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date
600	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	>30	>1.6	0.25	
601	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones	>30	>1.6	0.2	
602	Fill	603	Ditch/gully	Light red-brown friable sandy silt, frequent large sub-angular stones	>1.6	1.45	0.42	
603	Cut		Ditch/gully	NE/SW linear cut with moderate concave sides and shallow concave base	>1.6	1.45	0.42	
604	Fill	605	Ditch/gully	Light red-brown friable sandy silt, frequent large sub-angular stones	>1.6	1.04	0.44	
605	Cut		Ditch/gully	NE/SW linear cut with moderate concave sides and shallow concave base	>1.6	1.04	0.44	
606	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown compact silty clay, occasional sub-rounded stones	>30	>1.6	-	

Trencl	h 7			Length – 30m Width – 1.6m Depth	n – 0.45m	Orie	entation	– NW/SE
Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date
700	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	>57.5	>1.6	0.35	
701	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones	>57.5	>1.6	0.2	
702	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown compact silty clay, occasional sub-rounded stones	>57.5	>1.6	-	
703	Fill	704	Ditch/gully	Mid/dark red-brown compact sandy silt, frequent sub-rounded stones	>1.6	0.95	0.12	
704	Cut		Ditch/gully	NW/SE linear cut with shallow concave sides and shallow concave base	>1.6	0.95	0.12	
705	Fill	706	Ditch/gully	Mid/dark red-brown compact sandy silt, frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	>1.6	0.9	0.2	
706	Cut		Ditch/gully	NE/SW linear cut with moderate concave sides and shallow concave base	>1.6	0.9	0.2	

Trencl	า 8			Length – 30m Width – 1.6m Dep	oth – 0.44m	Orie	entation	– NW/SE
Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date
800	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	>30	>1.6	0.28	
801	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones	>30	>1.6	0.14	
802	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown compact silty clay, occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	>30	>1.6	-	



Trenc	h 9			Length – 30.6m Width – 1.6m D	epth – 0.45n	n O	Orientation – NW/SE			
Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date		
900	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	>30.6	>1.6	0.28			
901	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones	>30.6	>1.6	0.26			
902	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown compact silty clay, occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	>30.6	>1.6	-			

Trencl	ո 10			Length – 30m Width – 1.6m	Depth – 0.43n	n 0	rientatio	n – NE/SW
Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	>30	>1.6	0.28	
1001	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones	>30	>1.6	0.15	
1002	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown compact silty clay, occasional sub-rounded and sub-angula stones	>30 ar	>1.6	-	

Trench 11				Length – 30m Width – 1.6m Dep	oth – 2m	– 2m Orientation – N/S			
Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date	
1100	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	>30	>1.6	0.35		
1101	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown loose sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones	>30	>1.6	0.25		
1102	Fill	1104	Pit/bomb crater	Mixed yellow-brown firm re-deposited natural silty clay, frequent large subangular stones	>1.6	>7	0.6		
1103	Fill	1104	Pit/bomb crater	Light grey very loose sand, ash, clinker, slag waste industrial deposit. Not fully excavated	>1.6	>7	>0.9		
1104	Cut	1104	Pit/bomb crater	Large circular, steep sided pit/bomb crater, not fully excavated	>1.6	>7	>1.60		
1105	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown compact silty clay, occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	>30	>1.6	-		



APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: iscaarch2-502293

Project Name Land at Viaduct Hill, Hayle, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

Short description at of the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ISCA Archaeology in May – June 2021 at land Viaduct Hill, Hayle, Cornwall. A total of 11 trenches were excavated.

The evaluation trenches were located to target several geophysical anomalies as well as a representative sample of the proposed development area, and in turn identified several archaeological features all located to the northwest corner of the site. These features included a possible circular enclosure, linear ditches and three postholes, all of which were cut into the underlying natural geology and sealed by the subsoil. The undated circular enclosure feature consisted of possibly two shallow, concentric ditches, though one ditch maybe a later field boundary which contained 17th century material. The linear ditches were dated to the medieval period whist the postholes were undated. A large post-medieval quarry pit was also noted in this area. Elsewhere across the site, the evaluation identified several linear ditches and gullies that are likely to represent extant post-medieval field system elements. These later features cut through the subsoil and were sealed by the plough soil. Towards the northern edge of the site, a large circular anomaly was investigated and produced abundant 20th century material. This feature is likely to be an infilled World War II bomb crater or quarry pit.

Project dates 26 May – 2 June 2021

Previous/Future work None/Not known

Associated project Site code: VHH21

reference codes Planning application: PA20/11368

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Reason for Investigation National Planning Policy Framework

Position in planning

process

Application

Current land use Cultivated

Monument type None

Significant finds None

Methods and techniques

Targeted trenches

Development type Housing

PROJECT LOCATION

Site location Viaduct Hill, Hayle, Cornwall

Study area (size) 2.8ha

 Site coordinates
 157320 37750

 Height aOD
 42m (max), 32m (min)



PROJECT CREATORS

Name of Organisation ISCA Archaeology

Project Manager Simon Sworn

Project Supervisor Simon Sworn

Type of sponsor/ funding body

Developer

PROJECT ARCHIVES

Physical Pottery, metalwork, clay pipe

Digital Photographs, survey, report

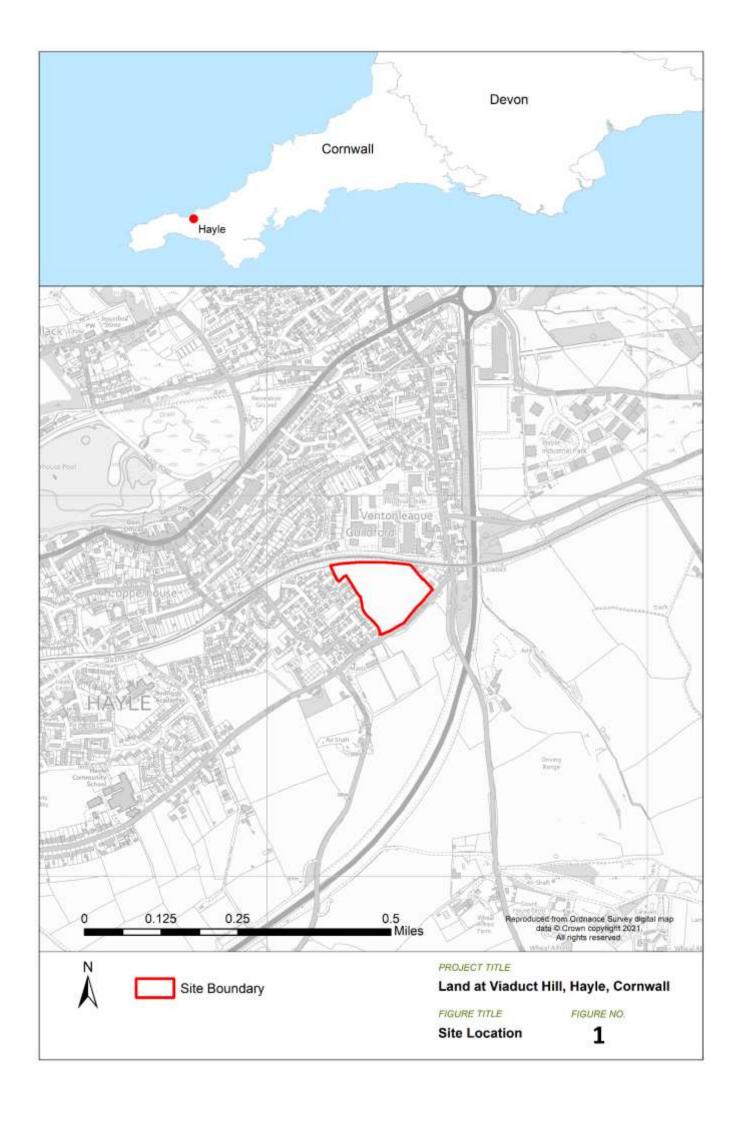
Paper Trench sheets, Photograph sheets, drawings

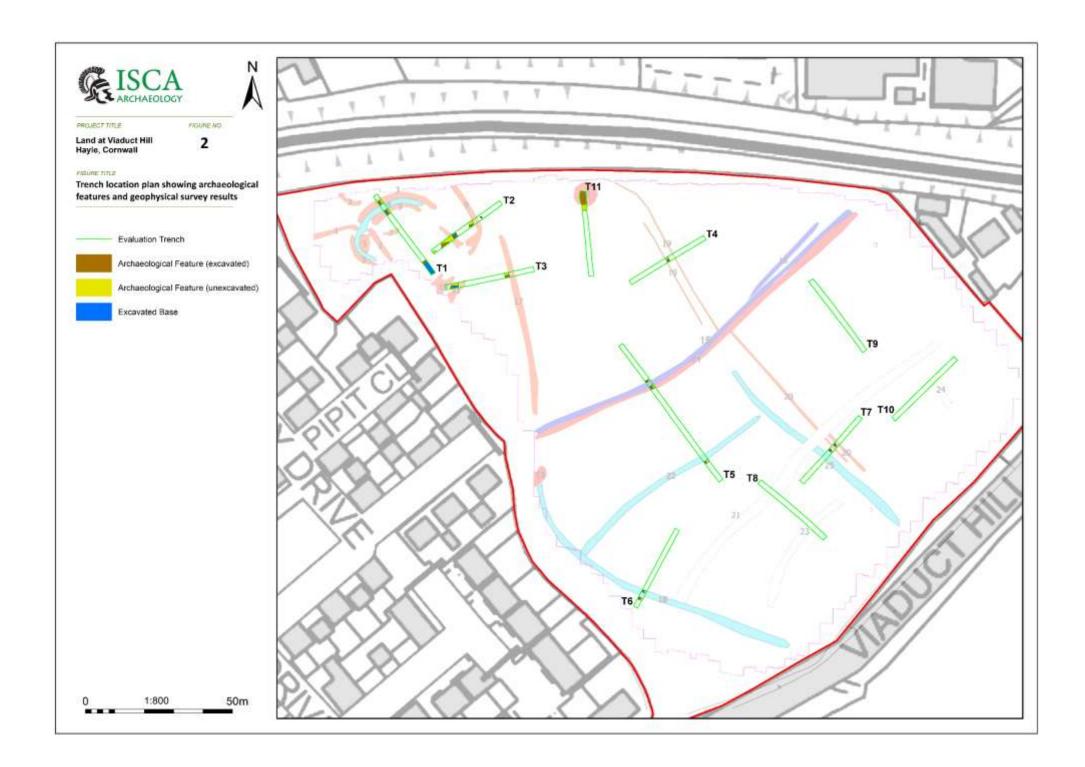
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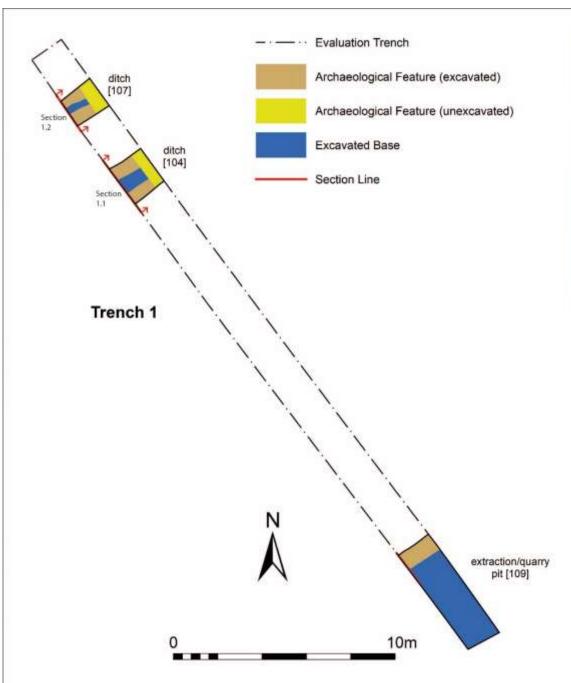
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

ISCA Archaeology 2021 Land at Viaduct Hill, Hayle, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation. ISCA typescript report R02-00003-2











Trench 1, general view. Scales at 2x1m. Facing southeast



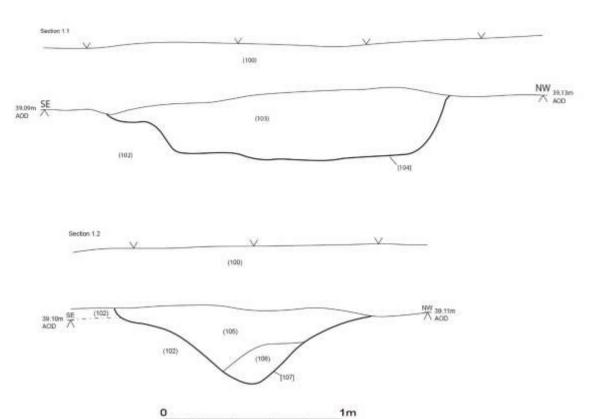


Trench 1, enclosure ditch 104. Scale at 1m. Facing southwest



Trench 1, enclosure ditch 107. Scale at 1m. facing southwest





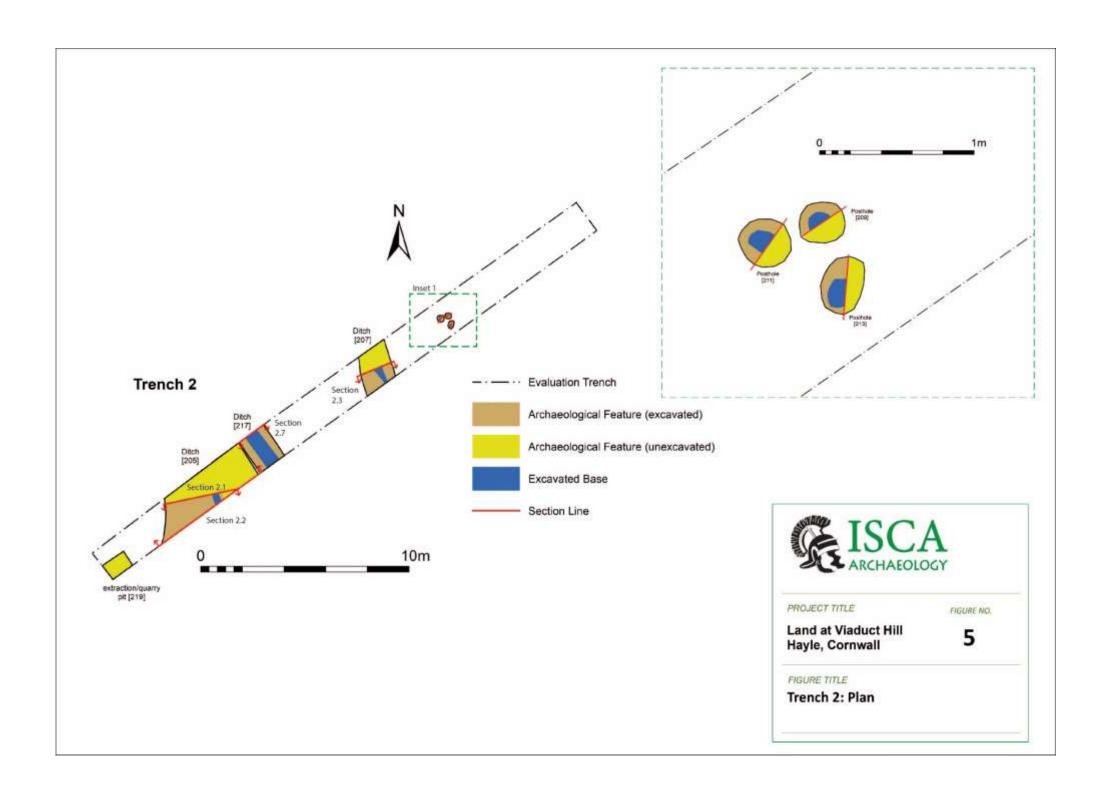


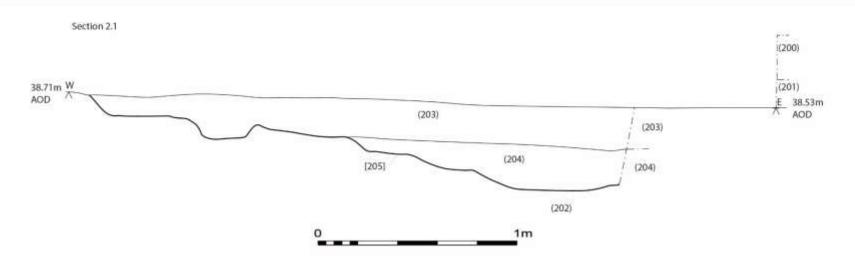
Land at Viaduct Hill Hayle, Cornwall 4

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: Sections and photographs

Trench 1, possible quarry pit 109. Scale at 2m. Facing northeast







Trench 2, large ditch 205. Scale at 1m. Facing northeast



PROJECT TITLE

FIGURE NO.

Land at Viaduct Hill Hayle, Cornwall

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FIGURE TITLE

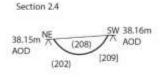
Trench 2: Section and photograph

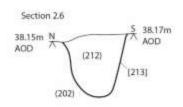


Trench 2, ditch 207. Scale at 1m. Facing north

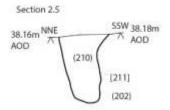


Trench 2, postholes 209, 211 and 213. Scale at 0.3m. Facing southeast











PROJECT TITLE

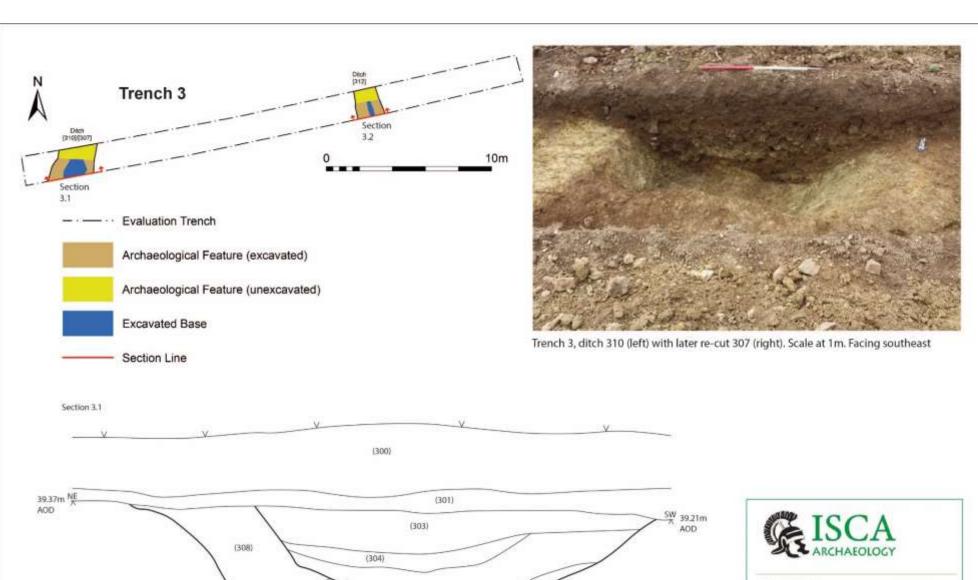
FIGURE NO.

Land at Viaduct Hill Hayle, Cornwall

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FIGURE TITLE

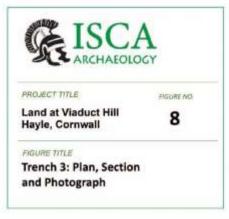
Trench 2: Sections and photographs

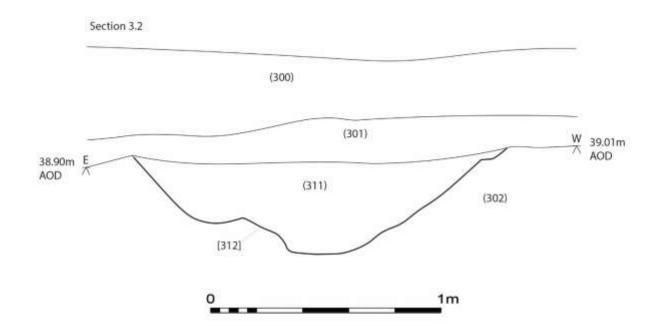


(305)

(309) [307]

[310]

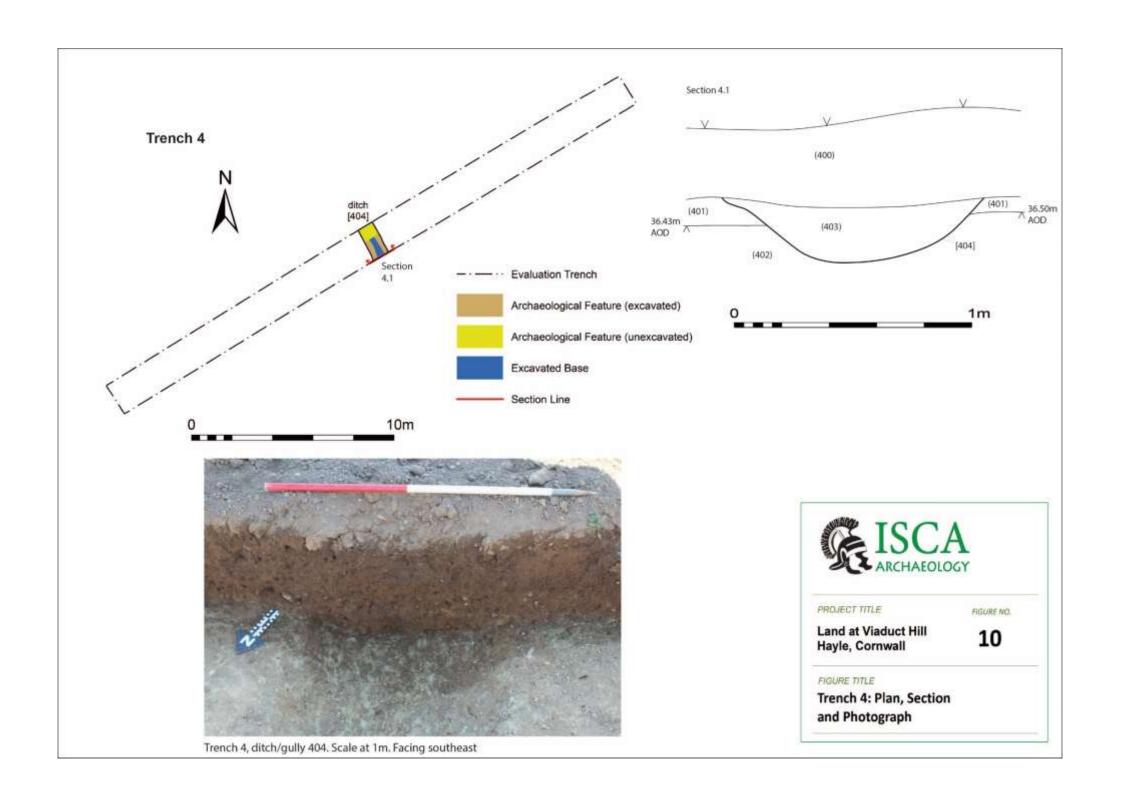


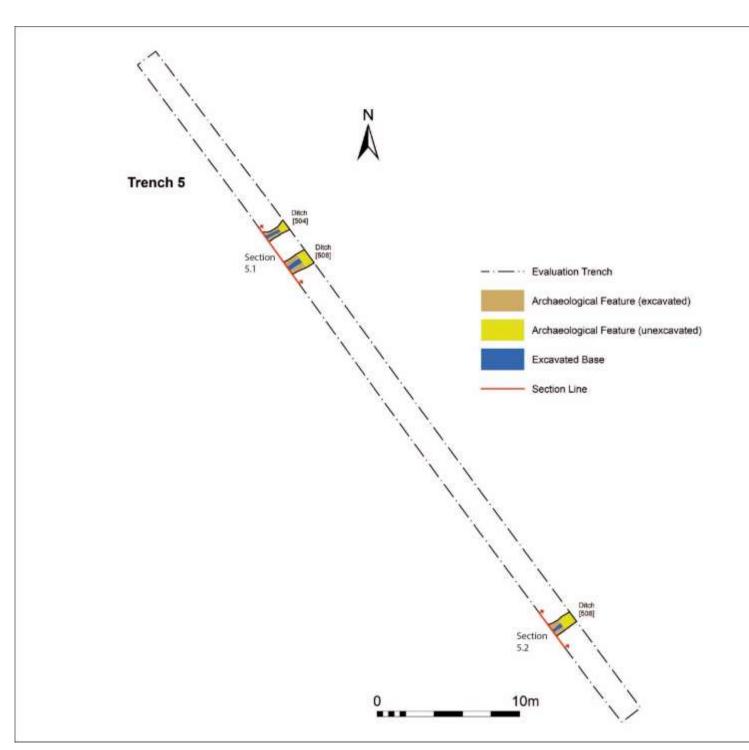




Trench 3, ditch 312. Scale at 1m. Facing south







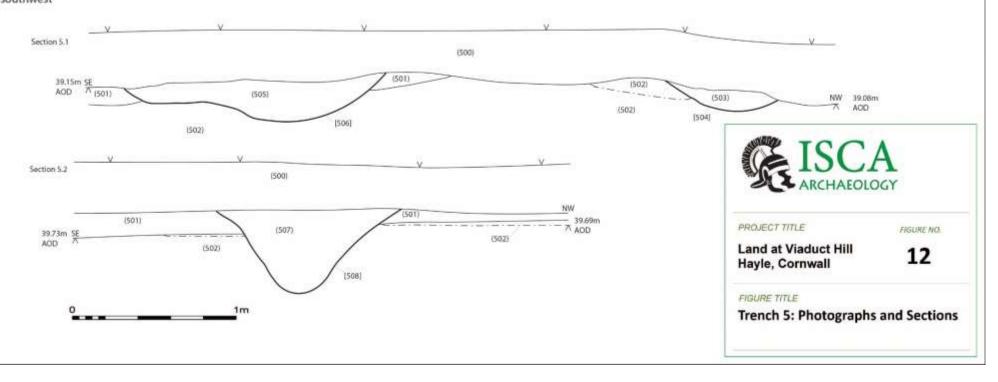


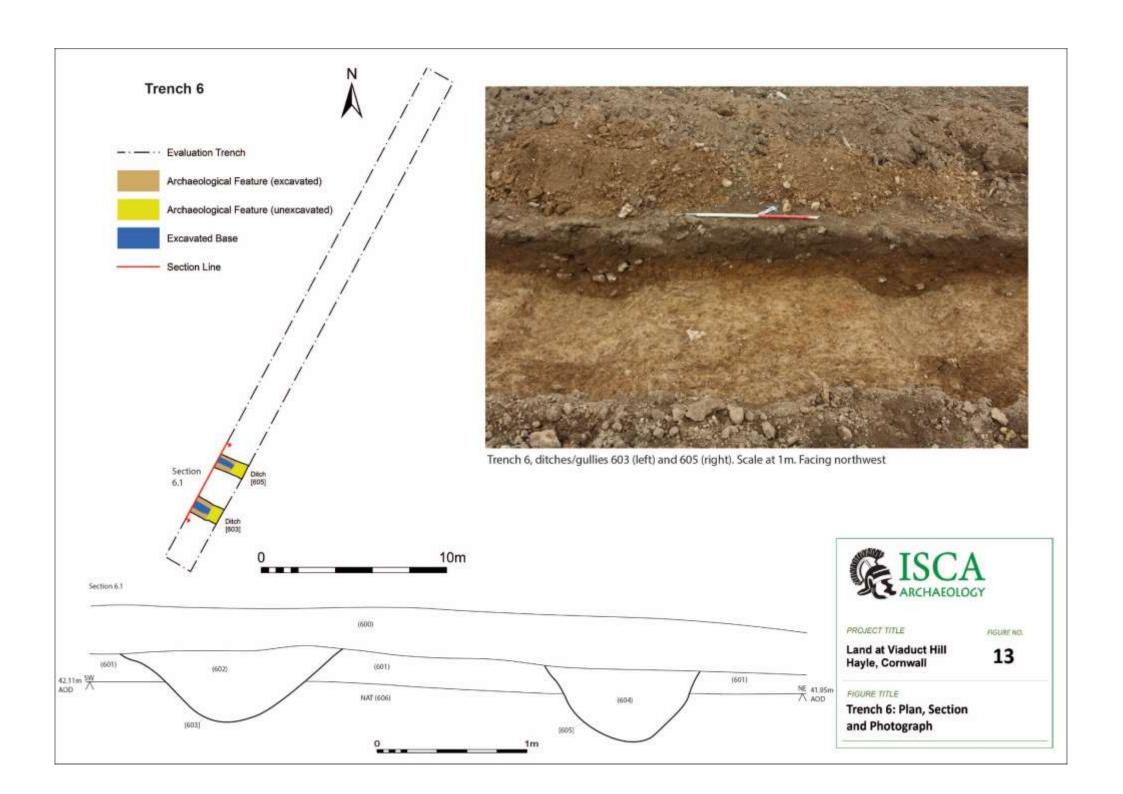


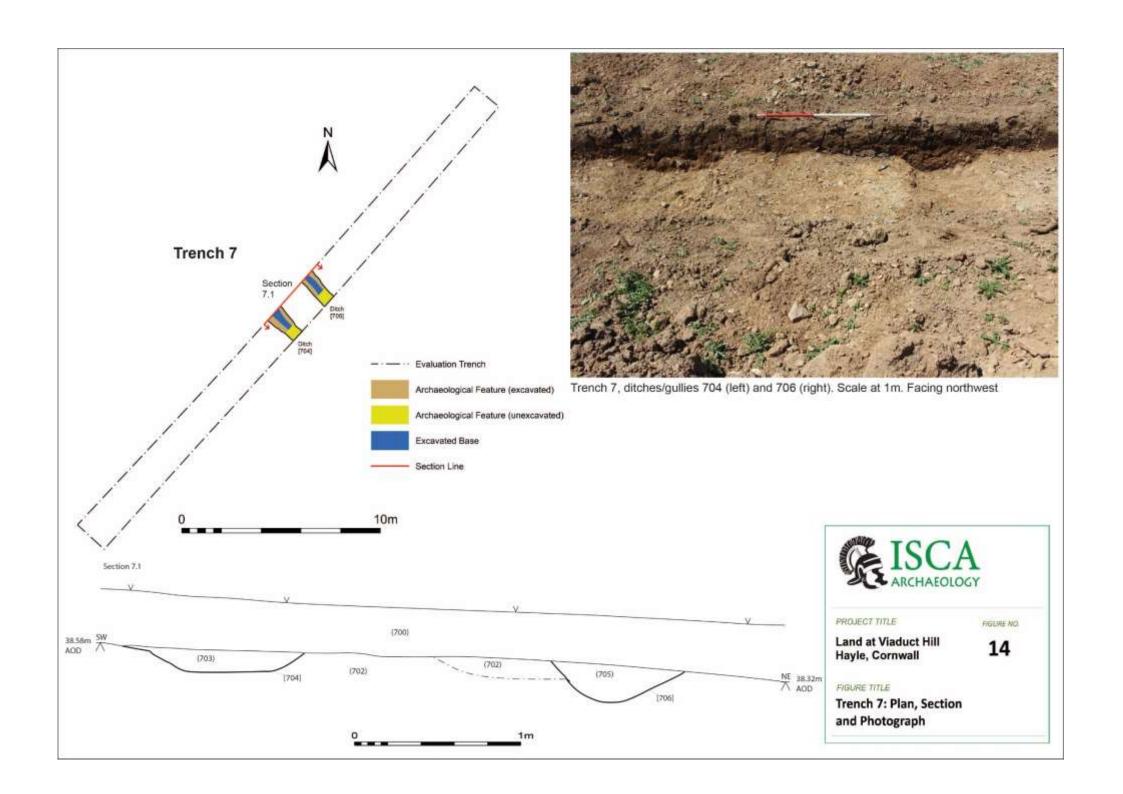
Trench 5, field boundary ditches/gullies 504 (right) and 506 (left). Scale at 1m. Facing southwest

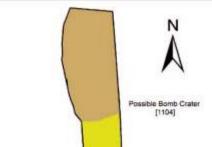


Trench 5, ditch/gully 508. Scale at 1m. Facing southwest





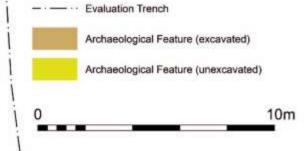


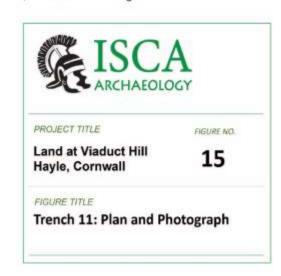


Trench 11



Trench 11, ash and clinker infill of possible bomb crater 1104, scale at 2m. Facing southwest







Z

PHOJECT TITLE

Land at Viaduct Hill Hayle, Cornwall FIGURE NO.

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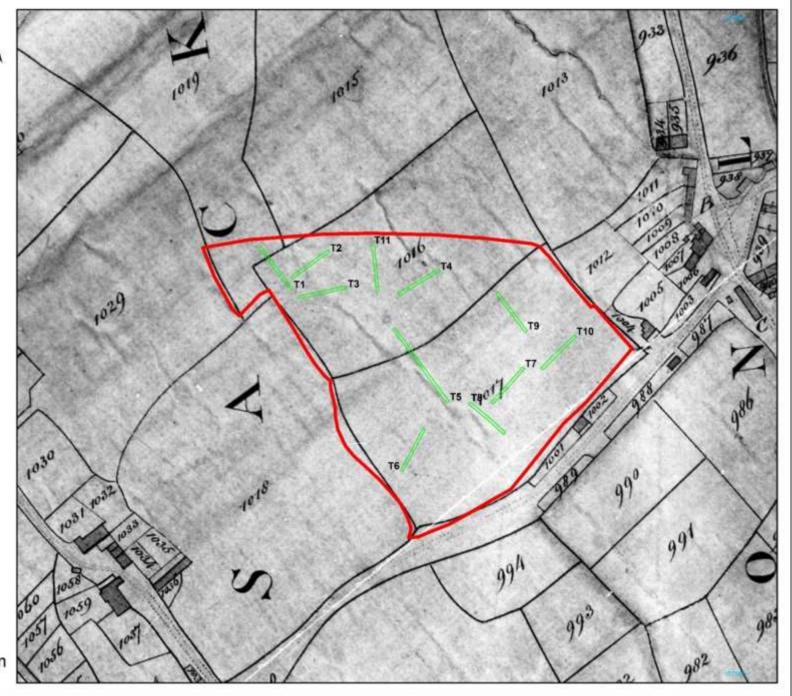
FIGURE TITLE

Extract from the 1842 Phillack Tithe Map

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Evaluation Trench



0 1:1,500 100m