LAND SOUTH OF GRAMPOUND ROAD

PROBUS

CORNWALL

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 210112

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES & HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
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LAND SOUTH OF GRAMPOUND ROAD, PROBUS, CORNWALL
RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

By Dr. B. Morris, ACIfA
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Report Revised in Light of HEP Comments: 18th March 2021

Work undertaken by SWARCH for GK Heritage Consultants Ltd. on behalf of St. Ewe Free Range Eggs

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation trenching carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land to the south of Grampound Road, Probus, Cornwall. The site is located beyond the southern edge of the village, adjacent to existing industrial units.

The site is located beyond the southern limits of Grampound Road, next to the main road and south of a set of existing industrial units. This field lies on the northern edge of the historic ecclesiastical parish of Probus on land identified as anciently enclosed, north of an area of cropmarks covering c.60ha and containing a Prehistoric and/or Romano-British fieldsystem with multiple settlements. A geophysical survey carried out in 2020 determined this fieldsystem extended into and across the site. Six evaluation trenches were opened to target and characterise the geophysical anomalies here.

Eight archaeological features were identified: six ditches (one with probable recuts) and two possible features, these being either pits, large postholes or perhaps tree-throws. In addition, other natural features were also identified, including at least three further tree-throws. Two of the ditches were quite substantial, only c.1.2m wide but up to 0.8m deep with very steep sides. The fills of these features was clean with a noted absence of charcoal. No finds were recovered from the site.

The absence of finds, and the clean nature of the fills, would suggest the site was remote from contemporary settlements and areas of activity, and the features are interpreted as agricultural field boundaries, albeit quite substantial ones. In the absence of dating material, given the fills and the proximity of the cropmarks to the south, it is most likely these field boundaries are Prehistoric and/or Romano-British in date. The possible recuts in ditch [107] would suggest this field boundary were maintained for some time.

In relation to the issues raised by the HEP Arch on trenches 1 and 2, a watching brief should be carried out in these areas during groundworks.

January 2021

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION: LAND SOUTH OF GRAMPOUND ROAD
PARISH: PROBUS
COUNTY: CORNWALL
CENTROID NGR: SW 91610 49890
PLANNING REF: PA20/06883
SWARCH REF: GREE20
OASIS REF: SOUTHWES1-423237

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by GK Heritage Ltd. (the Agent) on behalf of St Ewe Free Range Eggs (the Client) to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching as part of the planning requirements for a proposed egg packing facility on land to the south of Grampound Road, Probus, Cornwall. It follows on from a geophysical survey (Sumo 2020) and desk-based assessment (GK Heritage Ltd. 2020a) carried out for the site.

This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (GK Heritage Ltd. 2020b).

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site consists of a single sub-rectangular field of c.3.1ha located beyond the southern edge of Grampound Road. The unnamed B-road between Fraddon and the A390 runs along the eastern boundary, a parish lane to Helland Barton runs along the southern boundary, and the track to Resparveth Farm runs along the northern boundary. The field lies on a very gentle west-facing slope at the head of a coombe, at a height of c.75-80m AOD (Figure 1).

The soils on the site are the well-drained fine loamy and fine silty soils over rock of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie siltstones and mudstones of the Grampound Formation (BGS 2021).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located on the northern edge of the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Probus, in the Deanery and west division of the Hundred of Powder. On the tithe map the field (no.1346) is described as Dry Close and belonged to Resparva Farm, owned by Earl Mount Edgcumbe and thus parcel of the Manor of Trelowthas that the Edgcumbes obtained following the attainder of Sir Henry Bodrugan in the late 15th century (Lysons 1814).

Record on the Cornwall and Scilly HER for the immediate area are fairly sparse, with a post-medieval quarry (now an industrial unit) to the south-west corner of the field (MCO45530) and a post-medieval milestone on the road to the north (MCO53388). The tithe apportionment lists that the field to the north was called Cross Close, which may imply the presence of a medieval cross (MCO5304). However, the most significant known archaeological remains are those which lie to the south: here the cropmarks of an extensive Late Prehistoric fieldsystem (MCO30032-34) with enclosures (MCO8700-3; MCO8698-9; MCO30042), probable houses or structures (MCO30038-9) and barrows (MCO3739-41) has been identified covering c.60ha. The geophysical survey that was carried out (Sumo 2020) identified a series of linear anomalies that are likely to form an extension of that landscape.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (GK Heritage Ltd. 2020). Six trenches, each 1.6m wide and totalling *c.*175m in length, were laid out using a Leica GS08 dGPS and opened by a JCB excavator to the depth of weathered natural or archaeological deposits (whichever was higher) using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. Exposed archaeological deposits were excavated by hand and in accordance with the WSI and CIfA guidelines.

The evaluation was designed to test the geophysical survey and to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the site to inform further planning decisions. The archaeological work took place in late November 2020.

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED; CROPMARKS SHOWN IN BLUE).

2.0 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Six evaluation trenches were opened, each 1.6m wide and totalling *c.*175m in length. They were opened by a JCB excavator, provided by the client, to the top of archaeological levels using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. Trench #2 was subsequently extended at each end to catch the archaeological features it was intended to sample. The archaeological features were excavated by hand and in accordance with the WSI and CIfA guidelines. The evaluation took place between the 25th and 30th November 2020.

The evaluation identified a total of 8 archaeological features and a series of natural features (tree-throws, disturbed natural etc.). There were no finds, and the fills of the features were clean. None of the features could be dated but all are considered to be Prehistoric in date. Stratigraphic relationships were observed and indicate some phasing. A complete description of the contexts can be seen in Appendix 1; the photographic archive can be found in Appendix 2.

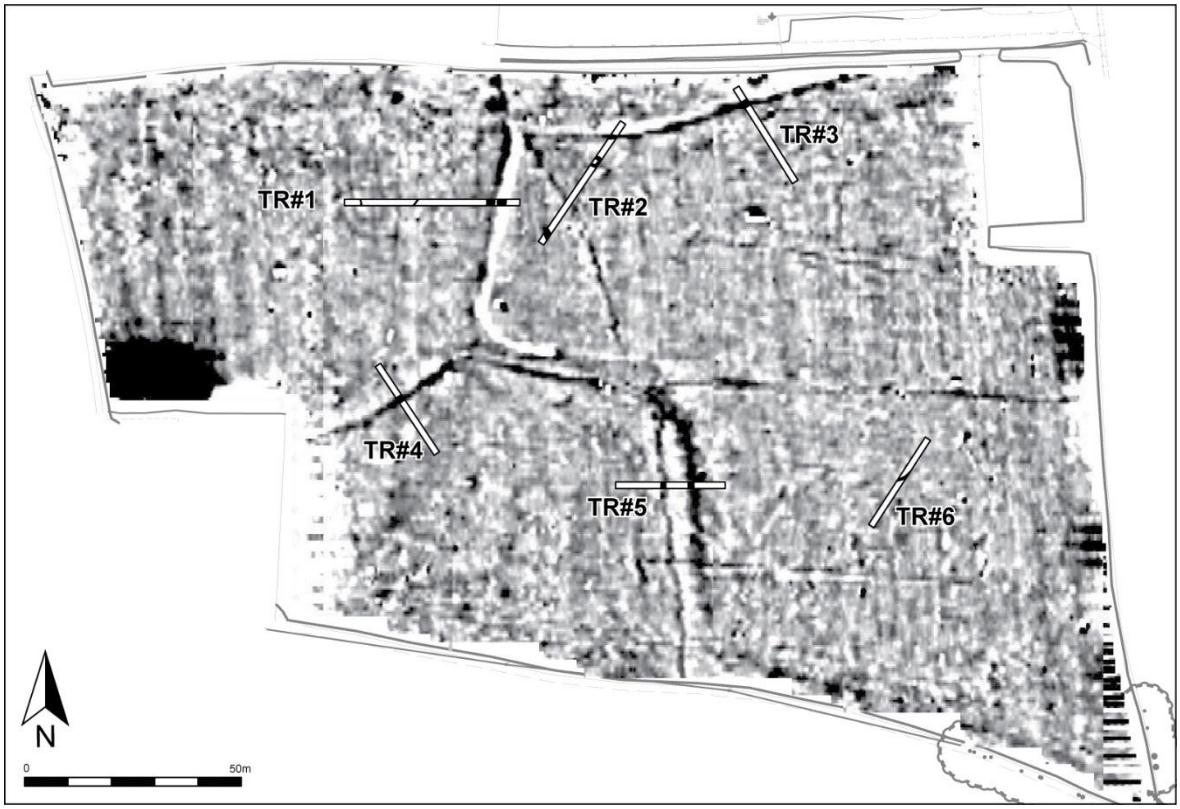

FIGURE 2: PLAN SHOWING THE TRENCHES AND IDENTIFIED FEATURES IN RELATION TO THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY (AFTER SUMO 2020, FIG.2).

2.2 RESULTS

2.2.1 DEPOSIT MODEL

The upper stratigraphy of the site was fairly consistent: a soft mid- slightly reddish-brown slightly sandy silt loam formed the topsoil, which was between 0.25-0.35m thick. In places this overlaid a lighter and more yellowish-red brown soft silty subsoil up to 0.35m thick. The natural varied considerably across the site. For the most part the natural consisted of pale and relatively soft weathered shillet, but in Trenches #5 and #6 bands of hard shattered rock rose up to within 0.3m of the surface. Trenches #2 and #3 featured a wide band of loose sub-angular platey stone in a soft dark silty matrix (which appears to form a band along the northern edge of the site), and in

Trench #1 the surface of the natural was irregular and disturbed, with the subsoil transitioning unevenly to the weathered shillet below.

FIGURE 3: THE EASTERN END OF TRENCH #1, WITH TREE-THROW [105] IN THE FOREGROUND, WITH FEATURES [107] AND [109] IN THE BACKGROUND. VIEWED FROM THE WNW (SCALE 2M).

2.2.2 TRENCH #1

Trench #1 was 41m long and 1.6m wide, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m below current ground levels. This trench was located to target one clear linear geophysical anomaly and a slight and indistinct linear anomaly that appeared to form part of a rectangular enclosure or possible structure (see Figures 4-5 and 13).

As noted (above), the transition from the subsoil to the natural was very uneven in this trench. The indistinct linear was not identified; two possible features were investigated in that part of the trench and both are considered to be natural (i.e. irregular features with clean yellowish-red brown fills similar to the subsoil and different to the fills of the features encountered on the site). The only caveat is that they were associated with large platey stones up to 300mm across which were otherwise only found in this trench.

The clear linear anomaly was determined to relate to a cluster of features at the eastern end of the trench. A shallow tree-throw [105] flanked a relatively wide (1.25m) and deep (0.8m) ditch [107]. The ditch appeared to feature several recuts [113] [123], and cut an earlier feature [109], the latter either the terminus of a ditch or possibly a discrete deep pit or large posthole.

The tree-throw [105] spanned the width of the trench and was 2.3m wide. It sloped gently but unevenly down to the east where its fill (104) appeared to run under the natural, at a maximum depth of 0.15m. The fill (104) was a clean firm mottled silt, yellowish-red brown trending to pale olive with depth.

Of the two other features, the earlier one, feature [109], was c.1.3m wide and 0.85m depth, with steep but irregular sides and a concave base. It may have been a discrete feature like a pit or a large deep posthole, or the terminus of a ditch, but this could not be determined within the confines of the trench. It contained a sequence of three fills. The basal fill (120) was a moist clean

yellow-brown silt containing abundant shillet fragments up to 80mm across. The upper two fills (110) (119) were both soft, clean silt loams containing common to frequent sub-angular stone, trending from reddish-brown to mid grey/greenish-grey with depth. There were no finds, and the only charcoal observed was a single fragment on the surface of (110).

FIGURE 4: THE NORTH-FACING SECTION OF FEATURES [109] (LEFT) AND [107] (RIGHT); VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 2M).

FIGURE 5: THE SOUTH-FACING SECTION OF FEATURES [107] (LEFT) AND [109] (RIGHT); VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 2M).

Feature [109] was cut by ditch [107]. As noted, ditch [107] was 1.25m wide and 0.8m deep, with very steep or vertical sides and a flat base. It contained multiple fills, the lower ones tipping in from the east. The basal fill (118) was a moist yellowish-brown slightly clayey silt <0.1m thick containing frequent shillet fragments. This was sealed by fill (117), a soft, slightly reddish-grey slightly clayey silt loam 0.1m thick. This was in turn sealed by a thin (0.06m) lens of material (116) comprising a band of redeposited grey shillet. Most of the feature was filled by (115), a firm grey clay-silt with rusty mottling. This fill was largely stoneless with only occasional large platey stones tipping in from the east. This fill was up to 0.4m thick, and notable as the most obviously clayey fill encountered on the site. The uppermost surviving fill (121) was a soft mid greyish-brown silt loam containing frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded platey stones up to 200mm across, the layer

being up to 0.3m thick. All these fills were clean, no charcoal was noted, and there were no finds. It is possible that both [109] with [105] represent two halves of the same (large) tree-throw feature, cut through by ditch [107] at a (much?) later date.

The uppermost levels of ditch [107] appeared to have recut by feature [113]. This feature was c.0.8m wide and c.0.5m deep. It appears to have had sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (114), a soft mid greyish-brown silt loam, containing a single thin band of shillet fragments tipping in from the west. Feature [113] then appears to have been cut by a final feature, cut [123], c.1.1m across and 0.38m deep with an asymmetric profile. It contained two fills (108) and (120), both soft mid-to-dark greyish-brown silt loams, separately by a thin line of shillet fragments tipping in from the east. All these fills were clean, no charcoal was noted, and there were no finds.

2.2.3 TRENCH #2

Trench #2 was 34m long and 1.6m wide, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m below current ground levels. This trench was located to target two clear linear geophysical anomalies; neither feature was visible in the original 30m trench and so it was extended at either end. A tree-throw was identified in the centre of the trench (see Figure 14).

Tree-throw [207] consisted of a roughly circular gully 0.75-1.0m wide that defined a feature c.3m in across. The shallow gully was filled (208) with a clean light yellowish-red slightly sandy silt.

The east-west geophysical anomaly at the northern end of the trench was a ditch [205] c.1.2m wide; this was not excavated as the same feature had been sampled earlier in Trench #3 (ditch [303]). The unexcavated fill (206) was a clean soft dark grey silt loam.

FIGURE 6: THE EXCAVATED SLOT IN FEATURE [203], WITH NORTH-FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).

The north-south geophysical anomaly *should* have been located squarely in the centre of the extended trench, but it was not identified. At the southern end of the trench, however, a feature *was* identified (Figure 6). Interpreted as a ditch, it was 1.3m wide and 0.7m deep, with very steep or near vertical sides, asymmetric profile, and a gently concave base. The eastern side was more irregular and ballooned out to the east and south; the western side may have been under-excavated. The feature contained a series of fills. The basal fill (213) was a firm greyish-brown

slightly clayey silt 0.15m thick, with frequent small shillet flakes lending a greasy texture. This was sealed by a thin (0.08m) layer of mid-to-light slightly yellowish-brown silt (212), tipping in from the east. This was sealed by fill (211), a thicker (0.2m) layer of soft brownish-grey slightly sandy silt. This layer contained frequent, poorly sorted blocky quartz stones up to 160mm across. Tipping down onto this material from the west was a thick (0.4m) deposit of soft yellowish-red brown silt (210) with clear worm burrows. It is possible the next fill in the sequence (209) lies in a recut, as this consists of a thick layer of soft dark grey silt loam up to 0.4m thick. The final fill (204) was a soft yellowish-red brown silt loam with worm burrows and occasional small sub-angular stones <60mm across. A small discrete positive anomaly is shown here on the geophysical survey, so it seems likely, *contra* its identification in the field, that this was another large Prehistoric tree-throw. All of its fills were clean, no charcoal was noted, and there were no finds. However, the presence of a notable amount of quartz in its lower fills might – if it was not a wholly natural feature – hint at a Bronze Age date.

2.2.4 TRENCH #3

Trench #3 was 25.5m long and 1.6m wide, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m below current ground levels. This trench was located to target a clear linear geophysical anomaly. The natural across the northern half of the trench was loose but very stony, and the bedrock was noted as being very disturbed here (see Figure 14).

A single feature was identified. Ditch [303] (also observed as ditch [205] in Trench #2) was c.1.5m wide and 0.56m deep, with steep but irregular stony sides and a flattish base 0.5m across (Figure 7). The highly fractured and twisted nature of the bedrock here left the profile distinctly irregular. The ditch contained three fills. The basal fill (306) was a soft pale yellowish-red brown slightly clayey silt loam 0.15m thick, with occasional small stones. This was sealed by fill (305), c.0.15m thick and slightly darker and less clayey than (306), with larger (up to 150mm) but occasional sub-angular stones. The upper fill (304) was quite different: loose and friable dark greyish-brown silty loam containing frequent poorly sorted platey sub-angular stones 80-180mm across. All these fills were clean, no charcoal was noted, and there were no finds.

FIGURE 7: THE EXCAVATED SLOT IN DITCH [303], WITH SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (SCALE 2M).

FIGURE 8: THE NORTH-EAST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [403]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).

2.2.5 TRENCH #4

Trench #4 was 25m long and 1.6m wide, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m below current ground levels. This trench was located to target a clear linear geophysical anomaly (see Figure 14). A single feature was identified (Figure 8). Ditch [403] was 1.35m wide and 0.56m deep with an asymmetric profile: steeper to the north-west and shallower to the south-east, dropping to a narrow concave base. The ditch contained three fills. The basal fill (406) was a soft-to-firm brownish-yellow silt 0.2m thick, with frequent shillet fragments. This was sealed by (405), a soft mid yellowish-brown silty loam 0.2m thick. The upper fills (404) was a thin (0.1m) band of fairly soft mid-to-light yellowish-brown silty loam, containing frequent shillet fragments <60mm, occasionally larger. All these fills were clean, no charcoal was noted, and there were no finds.

FIGURE 9: THE NORTH-FACING SECTION OF DITCH [503]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 2M).

2.2.6 TRENCH #5

Trench #5 was 25m long and 1.6m wide, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.3-0.6m below current ground levels. This trench was located to target two clear linear geophysical anomalies separated by what was interpreted in the geophysical survey as a possible bank. Two ditches were identified (see Figure 14).

FIGURE 10: THE NORTH-FACING SECTION OF DITCH [505]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 2M).

Ditch [503] was 1.3m wide and 0.7m deep, with an asymmetric profile and steep, nearly vertical sides and a flat base (Figure 9). This feature contained multiple fills. The basal fill (509) was a soft-to-firm very stony brownish-yellow silt up to 0.16m thick. This was sealed by fill (508), a soft but stony yellowish-brown silt loam up to 0.18m thick. This was, in turn, sealed by (507), a soft yellowish-brown silt loam up to 0.25m thick, containing common sub-angular to sub-rounded stone 40-80mm across. Both (507) and (508) appeared to tip in from the east. The upper fill (504) was a soft slightly yellowish-brown silt loam 0.22m thick, with only occasional small stones. With the exception of (504), which did contain occasional charcoal flecks, all these fills were clean, and no charcoal was noted. There were no finds.

Ditch [505] was 1.45m wide but only 0.20m deep with a shallow concave profile (Figure 10). The base was irregular and stony. It contained a single fill (506), a soft clean slightly yellowish-brown silt loam. This became increasingly stony with depth. There were no finds. This feature was visible in plan but proved quite ephemeral. The geophysical response would imply a more substantial feature, though it is possible the survey was skewed by the relative depth of soils here over the band of stony natural in the middle of the trench.

2.2.7 TRENCH #6

Trench #6 was 25m long and 1.6m wide, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.3-0.6m below current ground levels (see Figure 14). This trench was located in a blank area on the geophysical survey and the only feature to be identified was a tree-throw. The identified tree-throw [603] gully was 3.6m+ long, 0.8m wide and 0.42m deep (Figure 11), with the strongly asymmetric profile characteristic of tree-throws. It contained two fills. The upper fill (604) was an almost stoneless soft mid reddish-brown silt loam. This graded imperceptibly into the lower fill (605), a soft light yellowish-green brown slightly sandy silt containing common shillet fragments derived from the loose base and sides of the feature.

FIGURE 11: THE EXCAVATED SLOT IN TREE-THROW [603]; VIEWED FROM THE WSW (SCALE 2M).

2.2.8 FINDS

No finds were recovered from the site, either from features or from the topsoil. This is despite the fact the spoil was checked for artefacts and all the features were hand-dug. The fills of the features were clean and lacked the charcoal often encountered. The absence of these indicators would suggest the site was relatively remote from settlement activity for extended periods.

2.3 DISCUSSION

The evaluation identified a total of 10 archaeological features. All, or almost all, were ditches and had been identified through the geophysical survey. The apparent absence of finds, and almost total lack of identified charcoal, would suggest these features were located at some distance from contemporary settlement or funerary activity. One of the clear linears shown identified by the geophysical survey was not identified on the ground; this may be because the fills were so clean to be indistinguishable from the natural (and thus *unlike* the fills of the genuine features). This would indicate these were principally agricultural field ditches, albeit quite substantial ones.

The excavated ditches were not very wide, but two of them (ditches [105] and [503]) were quite deep – perhaps up to 1.5m deep – with very steep sides, indicating they were intended to be significant boundaries. Associated banks were not identified but for [105] and [503] material did tip in from the east, implying they lay to the east. It ditch [107] was recut several times, this would indicate it was relatively long lived as well.

Close study of the aerial photograph used by Sumo (2020; fig.5) to interpret some geophysical anomalies as modern would suggest only one of those boundaries is modern and this renders the posited layout of the Prehistoric field boundaries more readily intelligible (see Figure 12). Other features are also more obvious in the raw data: a parallel series of slight north-south anomalies that might represent the traces of plough strips, and the noisy data along the northern edge of the field that probably reflects the loose, stony natural here.

The slight possible sub-rectangular feature or structure sampled by Trench #1 was not identified. The only features in this area appeared to be natural. It is possible a more extensive – i.e. open

area – investigation would stand a better chance of exploring this geophysical anomaly. However, as it appears within the processed data rather than in the raw data, there is the possibility it is a product of the data processing rather than a real feature.

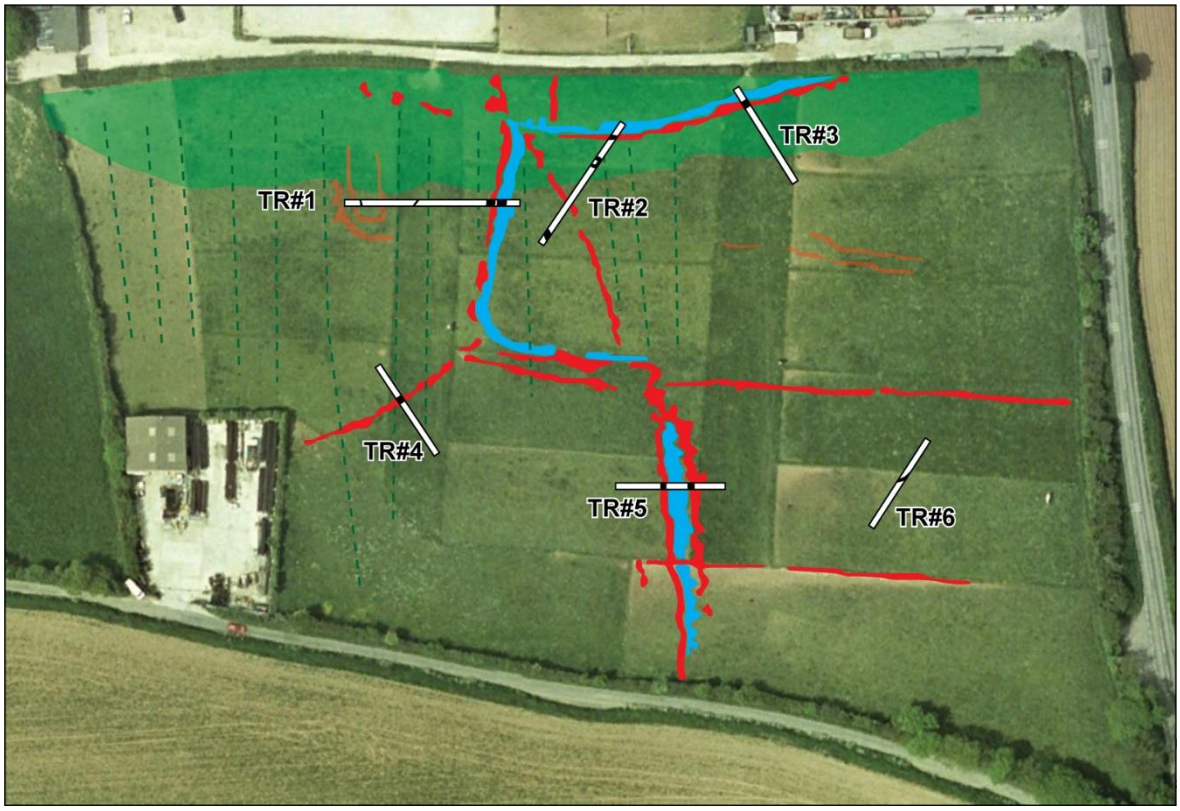

FIGURE 12: PLAN SHOWING THE TRENCHES IN RELATION TO A REINTERPRETATION OF THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF 2000 (AFTER SUMO 2020, FIG.5). APPROXIMATE AREA OF LOOSE STONY NATURAL SHOWN IN GREEN.

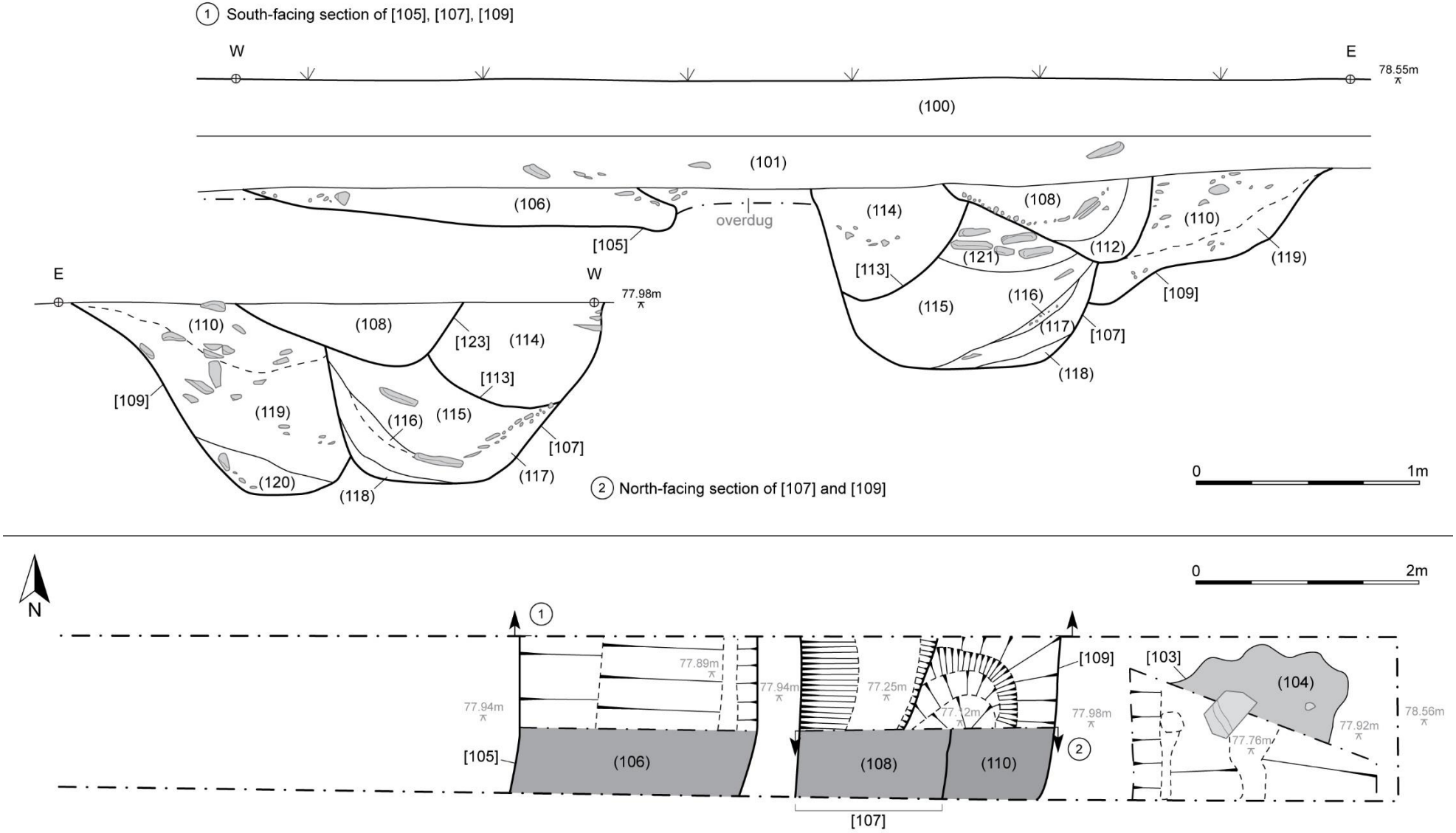

FIGURE 13: PLANS AND SECTIONS OF TRENCH #1.

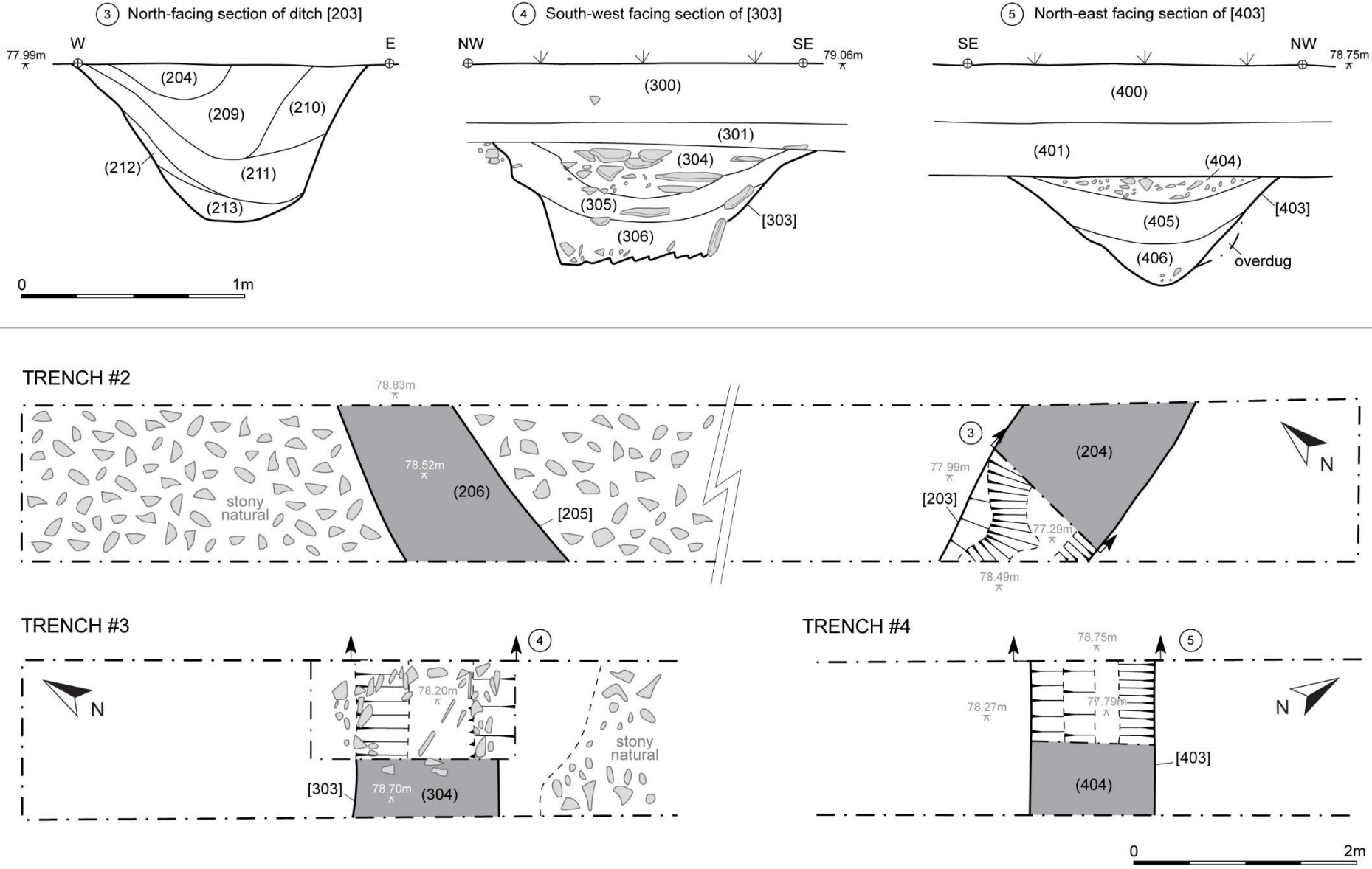

FIGURE 14: PLANS AND SECTIONS OF TRENCHES #2, #3 AND #4.

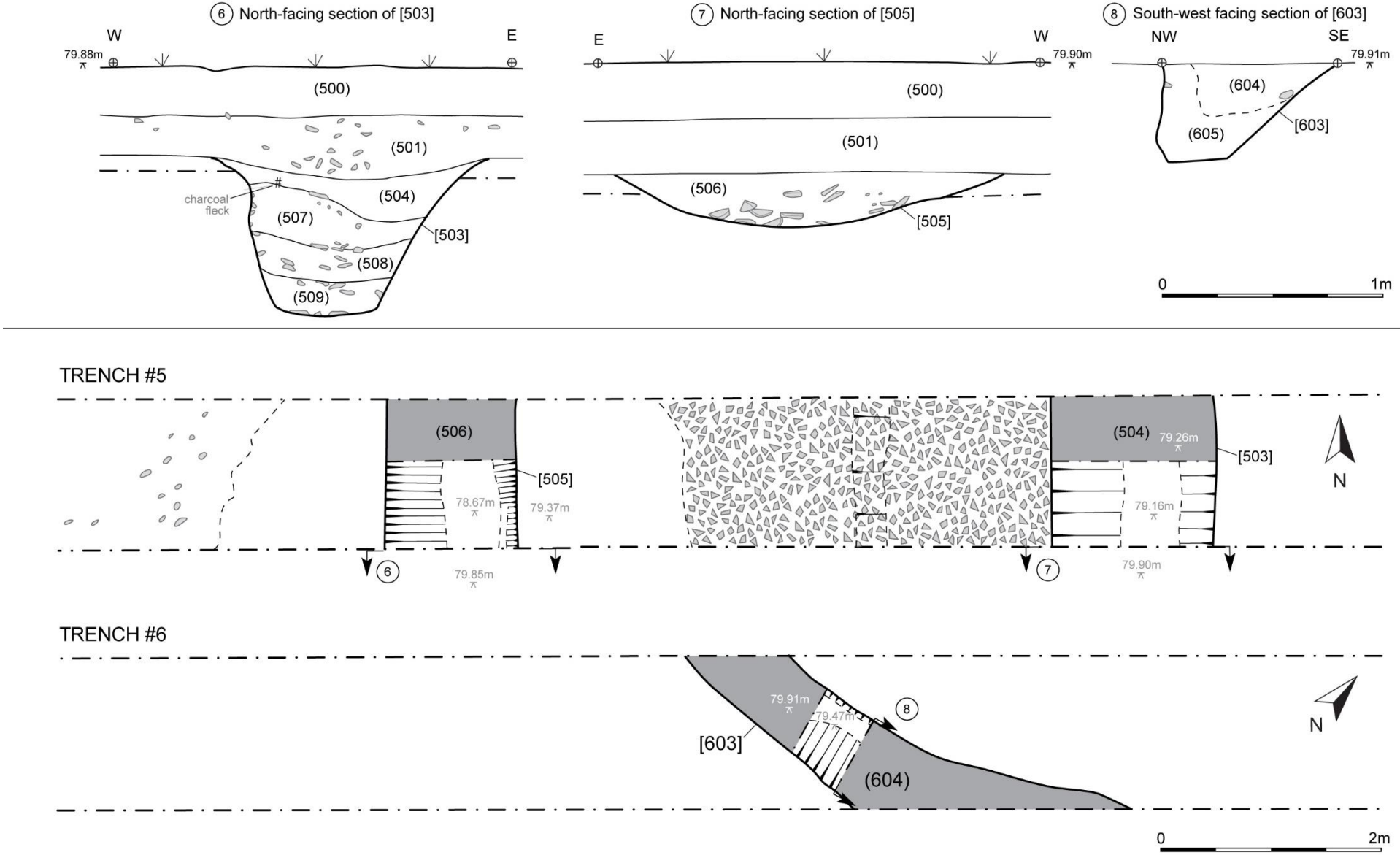

FIGURE 15: PLANS AND SECTIONS OF TRENCHES #5 AND #6.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The site is located beyond the southern limits of Grampound Road, next to the main road and south of a set of existing industrial units. This field lies on the northern edge of the historic ecclesiastical parish of Probus on land identified as anciently enclosed, north of an area of cropmarks covering c.60ha and containing a Prehistoric and/or Romano-British fieldsystem with multiple settlements. A geophysical survey carried out in 2020 determined this fieldsystem extended into and across the site. Six evaluation trenches were opened to target and characterise the geophysical anomalies here.

Eight archaeological features were identified: six ditches (one with probable recuts) and two possible features, these being either pits, large postholes or perhaps tree-throws. In addition, other natural features were also identified, including at least three further tree-throws. Two of the ditches were quite substantial, only c.1.2m wide but up to 0.8m deep with very steep sides. The fills of these features was clean with a noted absence of charcoal. No finds were recovered from the site.

The absence of finds, and the clean nature of the fills, would suggest the site was remote from contemporary settlements and areas of activity, and the features are interpreted as agricultural field boundaries, albeit quite substantial ones. In the absence of dating material, given the fills and the proximity of the cropmarks to the south, it is most likely these field boundaries are Prehistoric and/or Romano-British in date. The possible recuts in ditch [107] would suggest this field boundary were maintained for some time.

In relation to the issues raised by the HEP Arch on trenches 1 and 2, a watching brief should be carried out in these areas during groundworks.

4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY & REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Description	Relationships	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot date
TRENCH #1					
(100)	Layer	Topsoil. Soft mid- slightly reddish-brown slightly sandy silt loam. Clean. Largely stone free.	Overlies (101)	0.25-0.35m	Modern
(101)	Layer	Subsoil. Soft mid- slightly yellowish-red brown slightly sandy silt. Clean. Common sub-angular to sub-rounded stones, poorly sorted, 30-80mm across, generally platey, occasionally much larger, up to 300mm across.	Overlain by (100);	<0.35m	-
(102)	Layer	Natural. Pale mottled grey weathered shillet; yellowish-red patches and mottling. Irregular undulating surface with inclusions of material similar to (101).	Cut by [103][105][109]	-	-
[103]	Cut	Irregular undulating hollow up to 1.7m across. Probably natural.	Cuts (102); filled by (104)	0.15m	-
(104)	Fill	Fill of [103]. Firm mottled yellowish-red -brown to pale olive greenish-brown clayey silt. One large angular stone in the centre, lying flat, 300mm across. Clean. Probably natural.	Fill of (104); overlain by (101)	0.15m	-
[105]	Cut	Probable tree-throw. Spans the trench and 2.3m wide and 0.15m deep. Slopes gently but unevenly to the west, where the fill appears to run under the natural.	Cuts (102); filled by (106)	0.15m	-
(106)	Fill	Fill of [105]. Firm mottled silt, yellowish-red brown trending to pale olive with depth. Clean. Common small sub-angular stones <60mm across.	Fill of [105]; overlain by (101)	0.15m	-
[107]	Cut	Ditch. 1.25m wide and 0.8m deep. Orientated north-south. Very steep or vertical sides, steepest to the west. Flat base. Multiple fills	Cuts (110); filled by (121)(115)(116)(117)(118)	0.8m	-
(108)	Fill	Fill of [123]. Soft mid greyish-brown silt loam. Clean. A thin band of shillet fragments tipping in from the west.	Fill of [123]; overlain by (101)	0.22m	-
[109]	Cut	Cut. Perhaps a deep pit of large posthole. Possibly also one side of a large tree-throw (with [105]). If a feature, the northern terminus is caught within the excavated segment. 1.3m wide and 0.85m deep. Steep, slightly irregular profile to east; truncated by [107] to west. Concave base.	Cuts (101); filled by (110)(119)(120)	0.8m	-
(110)	Fill	Fill of [109]. Soft yellowish-red brown silt loam. Clean. Common poorly sorted sub-angular stone 60-120mm across.	Fill of [109]; cut by [107]	0.3m	-
[111]	Cut	Probable natural feature. Irregular linear 0.6m wide and 0.35m deep. Asymmetric profile, steeper to west. Possible tree-throw?	Cuts (102); filled by (112)	0.35m	-
(112)	Fill	Fill of [111]. Soft, stony yellowish-red brown silty, similar to (101). Occasional large platey stones up to 300mm across and 60mm thick.	Fill of [111]; overlain by (101)	0.35	-
[113]	Cut	Ditch, recut of [107]? 0.8m wide and 0.5m deep. Orientated north-south? Sloping sides, partly following the west side of ditch [107], and a concave base.	Cuts (121); filled by (114)	0.5m	-
(114)	Fill	Fill of [113]. A soft mid greyish-brown silt loam. A single thin band of shillet fragments tipping in from the west. Clean.	Fill of [113]; cut by [123]	0.5m	-
(115)	Fill	Fill of [107]. Firm grey clay-silt with rusty mottling. Largely stoneless, occasional large platey stones up to 250mm across tipping in from the east.	Fill of [107]; overlies (116); overlain by (121)	0.4m	-
(116)	Fill	Fill of [107]. Thin band of redeposited grey shillet.	Fill of [107]; overlies (117); overlain by (115)	0.06m	-
(117)	Fill	Fill of [107]. Soft, slightly reddish-grey slightly clayey silt loam.	Fill of [107]; overlies (118); overlain by (116)	0.1m	-
(118)	Fill	Fill of [107]. moist yellowish-brown slightly clayey silt. Frequent platey shillet fragments derived from the sides of the cut.	Fill of [107]; overlain by (117)	0.1m	-
(119)	Fill	Fill of [109]. Soft mid grey/greenish-grey silt loam. Clean. Frequent poorly sorted sub-angular stone 60-150mm across.	Fill of [109]; overlies (120); overlain by (110)	0.5m	-
(120)	Fill	Fill of [109]. Moist clean yellow-brown silt. Abundant shillet fragments up to 80mm across.	Fill of [109]; overlain by (119)	0.16m	-
(121)	Fill	Fill of [107]. soft mid greyish-brown silt loam containing frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded platey stones up to 200mm across, the layer being up to 0.3m thick	Fill of [107]; overlies (115); cut by [113]	0.32m	-

(122)	Fill	Fill of [123]. Soft mid-to-dark greyish-brown silt loam. Clean.	Fill of [123]; overlain by (108)	0.12m	-
[123]	Cut	Cut, recut of [107]? 1.1m wide and 0.38m deep. Orientated north-south? Appears asymmetric in profile but, if so, the asymmetry is different in the two facing sections.	Cuts (115)(110); filled by (108)(122)		-
TRENCH #2					
(200)	Layer	Topsoil. Soft mid- slightly reddish-brown slightly sandy silt loam. Clean. Largely stone free.	Overlies (201)	0.25-0.35m	Modern
(201)	Layer	Subsoil. Soft mid- slightly yellowish-red brown slightly sandy silt. Clean. Common sub-angular to sub-rounded stones, poorly sorted, 30-80mm across, generally platey, occasionally much larger, up to 300mm across.	Overlain by (200);	<0.35m	-
(202)	Layer	Natural. Pale mottled greyish-yellow to pinkish-white to the southern end of the trench. Gritty to the north, trending into loose platey sub-angular stones in a dark silty matrix.	Cut by [203][205][207]	-	-
[203]	Cut	Ditch or possible tree-throw. 1.3m wide and 0.7m deep. Orientated north-west to south-east. Very steep or vertical sides. Asymmetric profile with a gently concave base. The eastern side was more irregular and ballooned out to the east and south; the western side may have been under-excavated.	Cuts (202); filled by (204)(209)(210)(211)(212)(213)	0.7m	-
(204)	Fill	Fill of [203]. Soft yellowish-red brown silt loam. Clean but for worm burrows. Occasional small sub-angular stones <60mm across.	Fill of [203]; overlies (209); overlain by (202)	0.15m	-
[205]	Cut	Ditch. Unexcavated. 1.2m wide. Orientated east-west.	Cuts (202); filled by (206)	-	-
(206)	Fill	Fill of [205]. Unexcavated. Soft dark grey silt loam. Clean	Fill of [205]; overlain by (202)	-	-
[207]	Cut	Tree-throw. Roughly circular gully 0.75-1.0m wide that defined a feature c.3m in across. Gullies 0.2m deep with fairly gently sloping sides.	Cuts (202); filled by (208)	0.2m	-
(208)	Fill	Fill of [207]. Light yellowish-red slightly sandy silt. Clean	Fill of [207]; overlain by (201)	0.2m	-
(209)	Fill	Fill of [203]. Soft dark grey silt loam.	Fill of [203]; overlies (21); overlain by (204)	0.4m	-
(210)	Fill	Fill of [203]. Soft yellowish-red brown silt. Clean. Worm burrows. Tipping down from the west.	Fill of [203]; overlies (211); overlain by (210)	0.36m	-
(211)	Fill	Fill of [203]. Soft brownish-grey slightly sandy silt. Frequent, poorly sorted blocky quartz stones up to 160mm across.	Fill of [203]; overlies (212); overlain by (210)	0.2m	-
(212)	Fill	Fill of [203]. Mid-to-light slightly yellowish-brown silt. Tipping in from the east.	Fill of [203]; overlies (213); overlain by (221)	0.08m	-
(213)	Fill	Fill of [203]. Firm greyish-brown slightly clayey silt 0.15m. Frequent small shillet flakes lending a greasy texture.	Fill of [203]; overlain by (212)	0.15	-
TRENCH #3					
(300)	Layer	Topsoil. Soft mid- slightly reddish-brown slightly sandy silt loam. Clean. Largely stone free.	Overlies (301)	0.25-0.35m	Modern
(301)	Layer	Subsoil. Soft mid- slightly yellowish-red brown slightly sandy silt. Clean. Common sub-angular to sub-rounded stones, poorly sorted, 30-80mm across, generally platey, occasionally much larger, up to 300mm across. Does not survive across the northern half of the trench.	Overlain by (300);	<0.35m	-
(302)	Layer	Natural. Pale mottled greyish-yellow to pinkish-white to the southern end of the trench. Gritty to the north, trending into loose platey sub-angular stones in a dark silty matrix.	Cut by [303]	-	-
[303]	Cut	Ditch. c.1.5m wide and 0.56m deep. Orientated east-west. Steep but irregular stony sides and a flattish base 0.5m across. The highly fractured and twisted nature of the bedrock here left the profile distinctly irregular.	Cuts (302); filled by (304)(305)(306)	0.56m	-
(304)	Fill	Fill of [303]. loose and friable dark greyish-brown silty loam containing frequent poorly sorted platey sub-angular stones 80-180mm across.	Fill of [303]; overlies (305); overlain by (301)	0.24m	-
(305)	Fill	Fill of [303]. thick and slightly darker and less clayey than (306), with larger (up to 150mm) but occasional sub-angular stones	Fill of [303]; overlies (306); overlain by (304)	0.15m	-
(306)	Fill	Fill of [303]. soft pale yellowish-red brown slightly clayey silt loam. Clean. Occasional small stones <40mm across.	Fill of [303]; overlain by (305)	0.15m	-
TRENCH #4					
(400)	Layer	Topsoil. Soft mid- slightly reddish-brown slightly sandy silt loam. Clean. Largely stone free.	Overlies (401)	0.25-0.35m	Modern

(401)	Layer	Subsoil. Soft mid- slightly yellowish-red brown slightly sandy silt. Clean.	Overlain by (400); overlies (402)	<0.35m	-
(402)	Layer	Natural. Pale mottled yellowish- to pinkish-white weathered natural. Occasionally stony.	Cut by [403]	-	-
[403]	Cut	Ditch. 1.35m wide and 0.56m deep. Orientated north-east to south-west. Asymmetric profile, steeper to the north-west and shallower to the south-east, dropping to a narrow concave base.	Cuts (402); filled by (404)(405)(406)	0.56m	-
(404)	Fill	Fill of [403]. Fairly soft mid-to-light yellowish-brown silty loam. Clean. Frequent shillet fragments <60mm, occasionally larger.	Fill of [403]; overlies (405); overlain by (401)	0.1m	-
(405)	Fill	Fill of [403]. Soft mid yellowish-brown silty loam. Clean.	Fill of [403]; overlies (406); overlain by (404)	0.2m	-
(406)	Fill	Fill of [403]. Soft-to-firm brownish-yellow silt. Clean. Frequent shillet fragments	Fill of [403]; overlain by (405)	0.2m	-
TRENCH #5					
(500)	Layer	Topsoil. Soft mid- slightly reddish-brown slightly sandy silt loam. Clean. Largely stone free.	Overlies (501)	0.25-0.35m	Modern
(501)	Layer	Subsoil. Soft mid- slightly yellowish-red brown slightly sandy silt. Clean. Common sub-angular to sub-rounded stones, poorly sorted, 30-80mm across.	Overlain by (500); overlies (502)	<0.35m	-
(502)	Layer	Natural. Pale mottled grey to greyish-yellow weathered shillet, yellowish-red mottling in places, towards each end. Rises up to the centre of the trench in a band of hard shattered rock.	Cut by [503][505]	-	-
[503]	Cut	Ditch. 1.3m wide and 0.7m deep. Orientated north-south. Asymmetric profile and steep, nearly vertical sides and a flat base.	Cuts (502); filled by (504)(507)(508)(509)	0.7m	-
(504)	Fill	Fill of [503]. Soft slightly yellowish-brown silt loam. Occasional small stones <40mm. Occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [503];	0.22m	-
[505]	Cut	Ditch. 1.45m wide and 0.20m deep. Orientated north-south. Shallow concave profile.	Cuts (502); filled by (506)	0.2m	-
(506)	Fill	Fill of [505]. Soft slightly yellowish-brown silt loam. Clean. Increasingly stony with depth.	Fill of [505];	0.2m	-
(507)	Fill	Fill of [503]. Soft yellowish-brown silt loam. Clean. Common sub-angular to sub-rounded stone 40-80mm across.	Fill of [505];	0.25m	-
(508)	Fill	Fill of [503]. Soft but stony yellowish-brown silt loam. Clean.	Fill of [505];	0.18m	-
(509)	Fill	Fill of [503]. Soft-to-firm very stony brownish-yellow silt. Clean.	Fill of [505];	0.16m	-
TRENCH #6					
(600)	Layer	Topsoil. Soft mid- slightly reddish-brown slightly sandy silt loam. Clean. Largely stone free.	Overlies (601)	0.25-0.35m	Modern
(601)	Layer	Subsoil. Soft mid- slightly yellowish-red brown slightly sandy silt. Clean. Common sub-angular to sub-rounded stones, poorly sorted, 30-80mm across.	Overlain by (600); overlies (602)	<0.35m	-
(602)	Layer	Natural. Pale mottled grey to greyish-yellow weathered shillet; yellowish-red mottling in places. Rises up towards the southern end of the trench in a band of hard shattered rock, and again at the southern end of the trench.	Cut by [603]	-	-
[603]	Cut	Probable tree-throw. The visible gully was 3.6m+ long and 0.8m wide. Orientated roughly east-west. Strongly asymmetric profile, vertical/undercut to the north and sloping at 45 to the east.	Cuts (602); filled by (604)(605)	0.42m	-
(604)	Fill	Fill of [603]. Soft mid reddish-brown silt loam. Clean. Almost stoneless.	Fill of [603]; overlies (605); overlain by (601)	0.28m	-
(605)	Fill	Fill of [603]. Soft light yellowish-green brown slightly sandy silt. Clean. Common to frequent small platey shillet fragments.	Fill of [603]; overlain by (604)	0.24m	-

[100] cut
(101) fill or layer
archaeological feature – cut

APPENDIX 2: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS

1. LEFT: TRENCH #1; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (SCALE 2M).
2. RIGHT: TRENCH #1; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (SCALE 2M).

3. TR#1: THE POSSIBLE FEATURE [103] PRE-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 2M).

4. TR#1: THE POSSIBLE FEATURE [103] UNDER EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 2M).

5. TR#1: THE NORTH-FACING SECTION OF POSSIBLE FEATURE [103]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 2M).

6. TR#1: TREE-THROWN [105]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 2M).

7. TR#1: TREE-THROW [105]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (SCALE 2M).

8. TR#1: DITCH [107] (RIGHT) AND FEATURE [109] (LEFT) POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 2M).

9. TR#1: DITCH [107] (RIGHT) AND FEATURE [109] (LEFT) POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).

10. TR#1: AS ABOVE, WITH TREE-THROW [105] IN THE BACKGROUND; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).

11. TR#1: DETAIL OF THE SOUTH-FACING SECTION OF DITCH [107]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 2M).

12. TRENCH #2 (ORIGINAL LENGTH); VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (SCALE 2M).

13. TR#2: NORTH-FACING SECTION OF [203]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).

14. TR#2: FEATURE [203], POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 2M).

15. TR#2: DITCH [205], PRE-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE ESE (SCALE 2M).

16. TR#2: AS ABOVE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 2M).

17. TR#2: TREE-THROW [207], POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE ENE (SCALE 2M).

18. LEFT: TRENCH #3; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).
19. RIGHT: TRENCH #3; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (SCALE 2M).

20. TR#3: SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [303]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (SCALE 2M).

21. TR#3: AS ABOVE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (SCALE 2M).

22. LEFT: TRENCH #4; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).
23. RIGHT: TRENCH #4; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (SCALE 2M).

24. TR#4: EXCAVATED SLOT THROUGH DITCH [403]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).

25. LEFT: TRENCH #5; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (SCALE 2M).
26. RIGHT: TRENCH #5; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (SCALE 2M).

27. TR#5: SOUTH-FACING SECTION OF DITCH [503]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 2M).

28. TRENCH #6: VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (SCALE 2M).

29. TR#6: WSW-FACING SECTION OF TREE-THROW [603]; VIEWED FROM THE WSE (SCALE 0.5M).

30. TRENCH #6; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (SCALE 2M).

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