Chard, Crimchard – Appendum

Archaeological Implications of the Geophysical Survey

By B Morris

Background

South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Andrew Penna (the Agent), acting on behalf of Mr Jeremy Sutcliffe of Barratt Homes (the Client), to undertake a geophyslcal (gradiometer) survey on 4.6ha land immediately to the north of Chard, in Somerset. This followed on from a desk-based assessment and walkover survey carried out by SWARCH in September 2013 (SWARCH report 130308). The geophysical survey was undertaken on 13-14th December by SWARCH personnel, and the data was processed by Stratascan; the results are summarised below.

Results

The geophysical survey failed to identify any features of archaeological significance (see Figure 1). Three linear anomalies were identified, running parallel with the north and south hedge boundaries, and are deemed to be agricultural in origin. There is also the expected scatter of ferrous material.

Discussion

The total absence of any features of archaeological interest is, on the whole, surprising given the agricultural merit of the land and its south-facing aspect. However, the fact that the survey failed to identify a field boundary removed after 1900 (see Figure 6 in SWARCH report 130308) implies the site (as suspected) has been very heavily damaged by modern agricultural cultivation. If the ditch(es) of this feature do not register, it is highly unlikely anything less substantial will have survived.

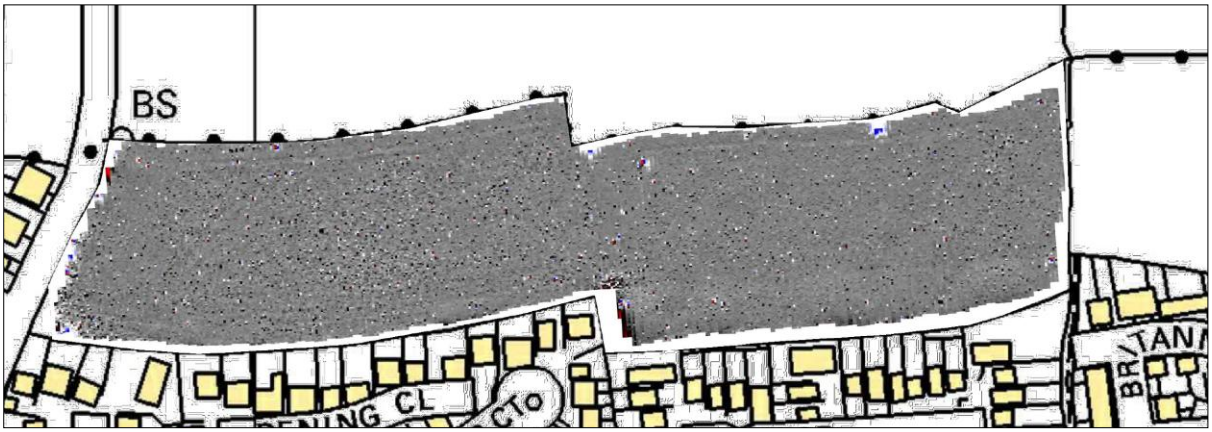

Figure 1: Shade plot of the geophysical survey results (Stratascan 2014, Figure 2).

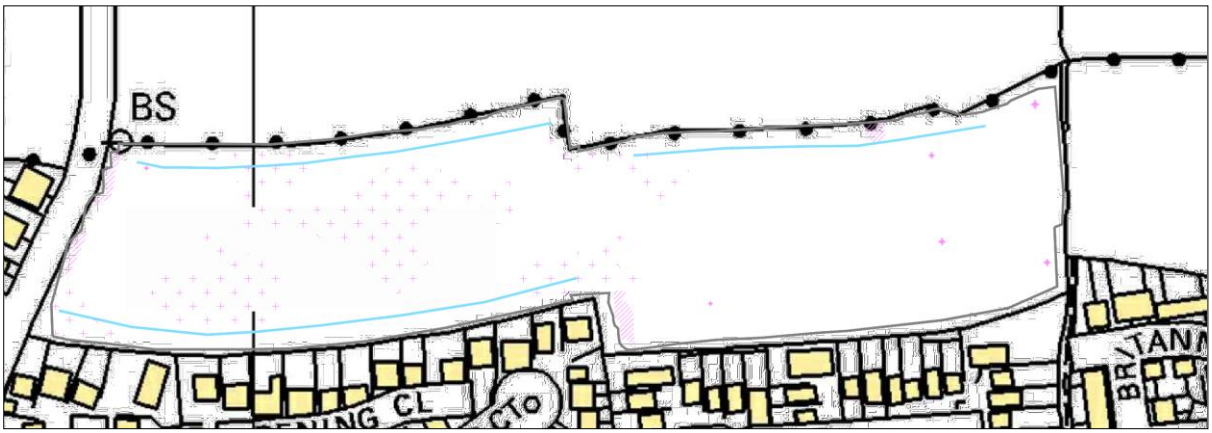

Figure 2: Interpretation of shade plot (Stratascan 2014, Figure 4).

Conclusion

There is no merit in undertaking any further investigative archaeological fieldwork.

References

Stratascan 2014: *Geophysical Survey Report: Chard, Crimchard, Somerset*. Report J6359.

Wall, S. 2013: *Land at Crimchard, Chard, Somerset: results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey*. SWARCH report 130308.