

RAME CROSS WENDRON CORNWALL

Results of a Geophysical Survey



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no 161230

Rame Cross, Wendron, Cornwall Results of a Geophysical Survey

By J. Bampton
Report Version: Final
30th December 2016

Work undertaken by SWARCH for Terry Kennedy of 3MS Construction (the Client)

SUMMARY

South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Terry Kennedy of 3MS Construction (the Client) to undertake a geophysical survey on land at Rame Cross, Wendron, Cornwall. The work was carried out to inform potential future development, and for related off-site analysis and reporting.

The site is located immediately north of Rame Croft at Rame Cross, off the A394, at the top of a north facing valley slope in probable post-medieval farmland.

The survey identified no significant geophysical anomalies. Some ground disturbance was evident close to the field boundaries, particularly along the northern boundary adjacent to Rame Croft. Late 19th century mapping does indicate a small boundary in the south-west corner of the field, the removal of which may account for some of this disturbance. It is probable that the nature of the underlying igneous geology may have dampened the responses of the survey; however, such comprehensive lack of features is compelling and thus probably reliable.

The development would be unlikely to disturb significant archaeological deposits.

No further archaeological works are recommended in this instance.



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PROJECT CREDITS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Location: Land at Rame Cross
Parish: Wendron
County: Cornwall
NGR: Centred on SW 72674 34082
SWARCH ref: PRC16

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Terry Kennedy of 3MS Construction (the Client) to undertake a geophysical survey on land at Rame Cross, Wendron, Cornwall to inform potential future development, and for related off-site analysis and reporting. This work was carried out in accordance with ClfA guidelines and a Project Design (PD) (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation with Sean Taylor, Senior Development Officer, Historic Environment, Cornwall Council.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Rame Cross is located off of the A394, c.4.5km west of Penryn and c.8.3km north-east of Helston. The site is located in a square field on the northern boundary of a settlement at Rame Cross, Rame Croft, on a north facing slope in an area of hilly agricultural land at a height of between c.193m and 200m AOD.

The soils of this area are the well drained humose gritty loamy soils, occasionally with thin ironpan of the Moor Gate association (SSEW 1983), overlying the Microgranite, igneous bedrock of the Carnmenellis Intrusion (BGS 2014).

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The settlement of Rame is situated in the parish of Wendron, which lies in the Deanery and west division of the hundred of Kerrier (Lysons 1814). The place-name is first recorded as *Raan* c.1556 and as *Rame* in 1650 and has an unknown derivation, although, 'rame' in Old English refers to a post or barrier (Watts 2002; Padel 1985). Other place-names in the area commonly refer to 'valleys' such as *Herniss*, *Nancrossa* and *Butteriss*, which have settlements with origins by the 13th, 14th and 16th century respectively (HER; Padel 1985).

The cartographic record (see Appendix 3) shows very little change across the site over the last two centuries, other than the possible further enclosure of the land-scape between the early and mid 19th century, depending on the accuracy of the 1809 Surveyor's draft map. The 1841 tithe apportionment indicates that the site (plot no.3039) and most of the surrounding fields were part of the estate of *Rame*, which was largely shared between William and Nicholas Williams. The site itself was referred to as *Square Field* and was under pasture. The majority of the surrounding fields were listed as under pasture with some *furze*, perhaps reflecting the poor quality of the soil; although *arable* use was not uncommon. The majority of the field-names were prosaic, describing a fields shape, use, or relative location, although some may be of interest, including; *Shop Field*, *Bucka Field* or *Pots Filed*. Some of these may describe a fields use or proximity to something, or relate to a personal name. A small boundary is shown in the south-west corner of the site on the 1888 Ordnance Survey 1st edition map, although it is absent by the time of the 1909 2nd edition map. Late 19th-early 20th century quarry activity can be seen to be taking place through by the development of

small quarries in the landscape, one immediately south of the site, by 1909. Rame itself grew as a settlement through the 20th century. A compliment of supporting cartographic sources can be seen in Appendix 3.

1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within land recorded on the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record as 'Post-medieval Enclosed Land' - *Land enclosed in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, usually from land that was previously Upland Rough Ground and often medieval commons. Generally in relatively high, exposed or poorly-drained parts of the county*, by the Cornwall Council Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC). Furthermore, this is included as 'Anciently Enclosed Land' (AEL). AEL is land which is likely to have been enclosed and in intensive cultivation since the medieval period or earlier with the potential for the survival of archaeological remains of prehistoric and early historic periods. During consultation, Sean Taylor (SDOHE) noted that although the Historic Landscape Assessment has characterised the area as Post-Medieval enclosed land, it should be characterised as Farmland: Medieval. The site therefore may have the potential to include Prehistoric to Medieval surface and sub-surface archaeology.

There are a number of heritage assets close to the site, including a group of five possible barrows (HER No. 18413) and a replica of a Medieval Cross at Rame Cross, the original of which is now at Scorrier House (HER No. 18372 and 18373). A frequent number of post-medieval roadside quarries are also in the local area (e.g.HER No. 55860). A full list of nearby heritage assets can be seen in Appendix 4. The site is less than 2km east of the Wendron Mining District of the World Heritage Site.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

This document follows the methodology outlined in the Project Design (Appendix 1).

Aspects of a desk-based appraisal required for the informed discussion of the survey data follows the guidance as outlined in: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (CIfA 2014a), *Understanding Place: historic area assessments in a planning and development context* (English Heritage 2012), and *The Setting of Heritage Assets, GPA3* (Historic England 2015).

The gradiometer survey follows the guidance outlined in *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (English Heritage 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (CIfA 2014b).

'Archaeological geophysical survey uses non-intrusive and non-destructive techniques to determine the presence or absence of anomalies likely to be caused by archaeological features, structures or deposits, as far as reasonably possible, within a specified area or site on land, in the inter-tidal zone or underwater. Geophysical survey determines the presence of anomalies of archaeological potential through measurement of one or more physical properties of the subsurface.' (Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey 2014).

The results of the survey will as far as possible inform on the presence or absence, character, extent and in some cases, apparent relative phasing of buried archaeology to inform a strategy to mitigate any threat to the archaeological resource.

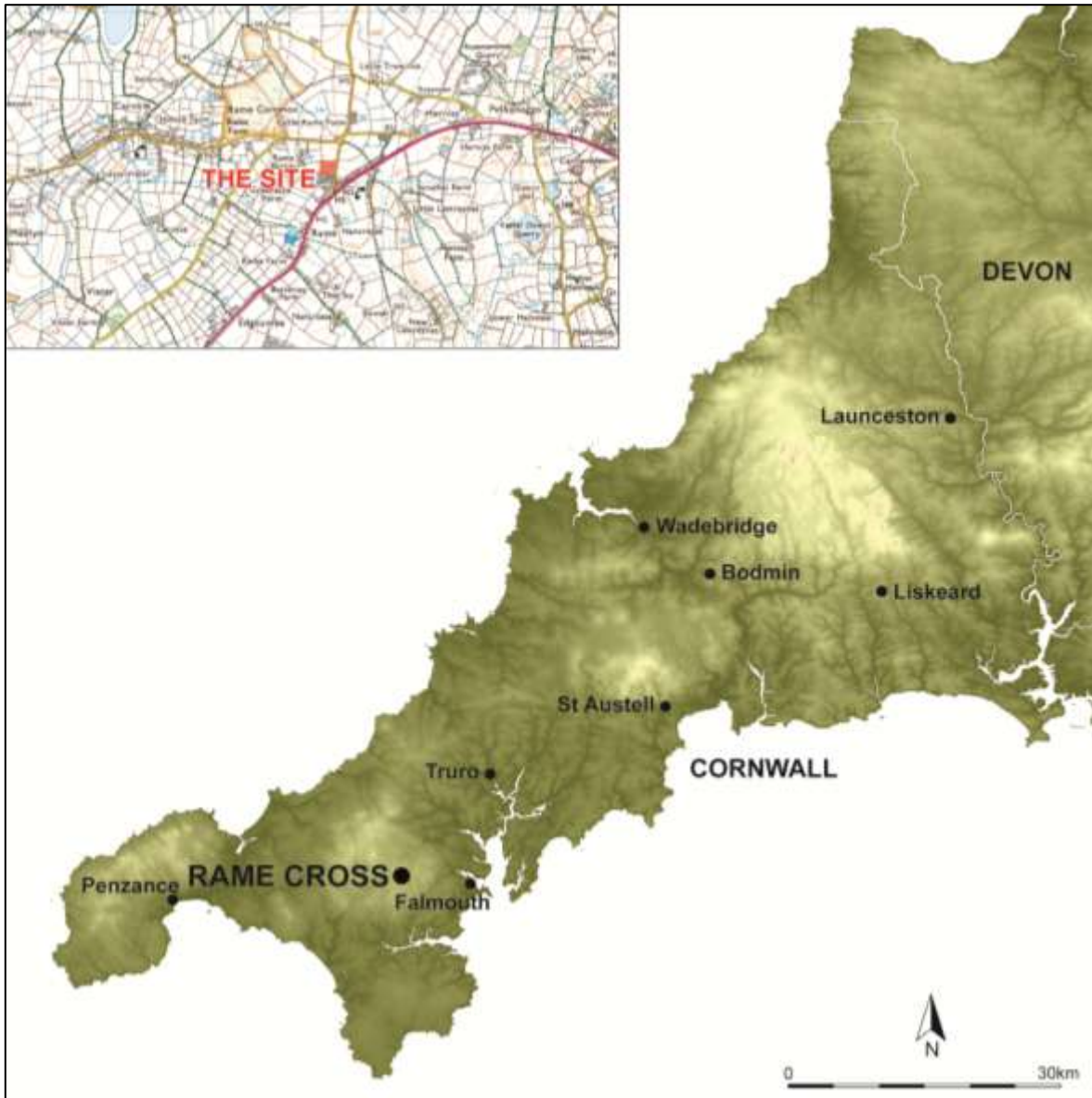


Figure 1: Site location (the site is indicated).

2.0 GRADIOMETER SURVEY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this survey was to identify and record magnetic anomalies within the proposed site. While the anomalies may relate to archaeological deposits and structures, the dimensions of recorded anomalies may not directly correspond with any associated archaeological features. The following discussion attempts to clarify and characterise identified anomalies. The survey was undertaken on the 15th of December 2016 by J. Bampton in showery conditions. The survey data was processed by J. Bampton. An area of approximately 0.70ha was surveyed.

The survey identified no significant geophysical anomalies. Some ground disturbance was evident close to the field boundaries, particularly along the northern boundary adjacent to *Rame Croft*. Late 19th century mapping does indicate a small boundary in the south-west corner of the field, the removal of which may account for some of this disturbance. Local sources indicate the possible presence of soak-aways in this same corner of the field. It is probable that the nature of the underlying igneous geology may have dampened the responses of the survey; however, such comprehensive lack of features is compelling and thus probably reliable.

2.2 SITE INSPECTION

The site was a single large field bounded by Cornish hedgebanks and occasional remnants of barbed wire fencing along the eastern, road-side, boundary. The hedge banks were general devoid of trees but contained grass, bracken, brambles and gorse. The hedgebanks appeared to have been relatively well maintained or at-least not particularly eroded. The site was under pasture with short grass and it sloped down gently to moderately to the north-north-east into a valley complex to the north. No earthworks were visible on the ground, although worn patches of ground were visible where animal feeders may have been located or animals may have scratched at the dirt. A gully, either a ditch or wheel ruts was visible in the topsoil along the western boundary and the southern hedgebank bordering *Rame Croft* appeared to have been altered/rebuilt in places, particularly at its west end. The south hedgebank incorporated a block built structure in its middle and a block-built trough at its east end. There were frequent mole-hills in the north-west of the site and the topsoil was particularly dark. A compliment of supporting photographs of the site can be seen in Appendix 1.

2.3 METHODOLOGY

The gradiometer survey follows the general guidance as outlined in: *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (English Heritage 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (CIfA 2014b).

The survey was carried out using a twin-sensor fluxgate gradiometer (Bartington Grad601). These machines are sensitive to depths of up to 1.50m. The survey parameters were: sample intervals of 0.25m, traverse intervals of 1m, a zigzag traverse pattern, traverse orientation was circumstantial, grid squares of 30×30m. The gradiometer was adjusted ('zeroed') every 0.5-1ha. The survey grid was tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The data was downloaded onto *Grad601 Version 3.16* and processed using *TerraSurveyor Version 3.0.25.0*. The primary data plots and analytical tools used in this analysis were *Shade* and *Metadata*. The details of the data processing are as follows:

Processes: Clip +/- 3SD; DeStripe all traverses, median; DeStagger, offset in- and outbound by -2 intervals (all grids).

Details: 0.67855ha surveyed; Max. 119.07nT, Min. -99.65nT; Standard Deviation 6.01nT, mean 0.27nT, median 0.00nT.

2.4 RESULTS

Table 1 with the accompanying Figures 2 and 3 show the analyses and interpretation of the geophysical survey data. Additional graphic images of the survey data and numbered grid locations can be found in Appendix 2.

Anomaly group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
-	-	-	-	No anomaly groups were identified

TABLE 1: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

Rame Cross, Wendron, Cornwall

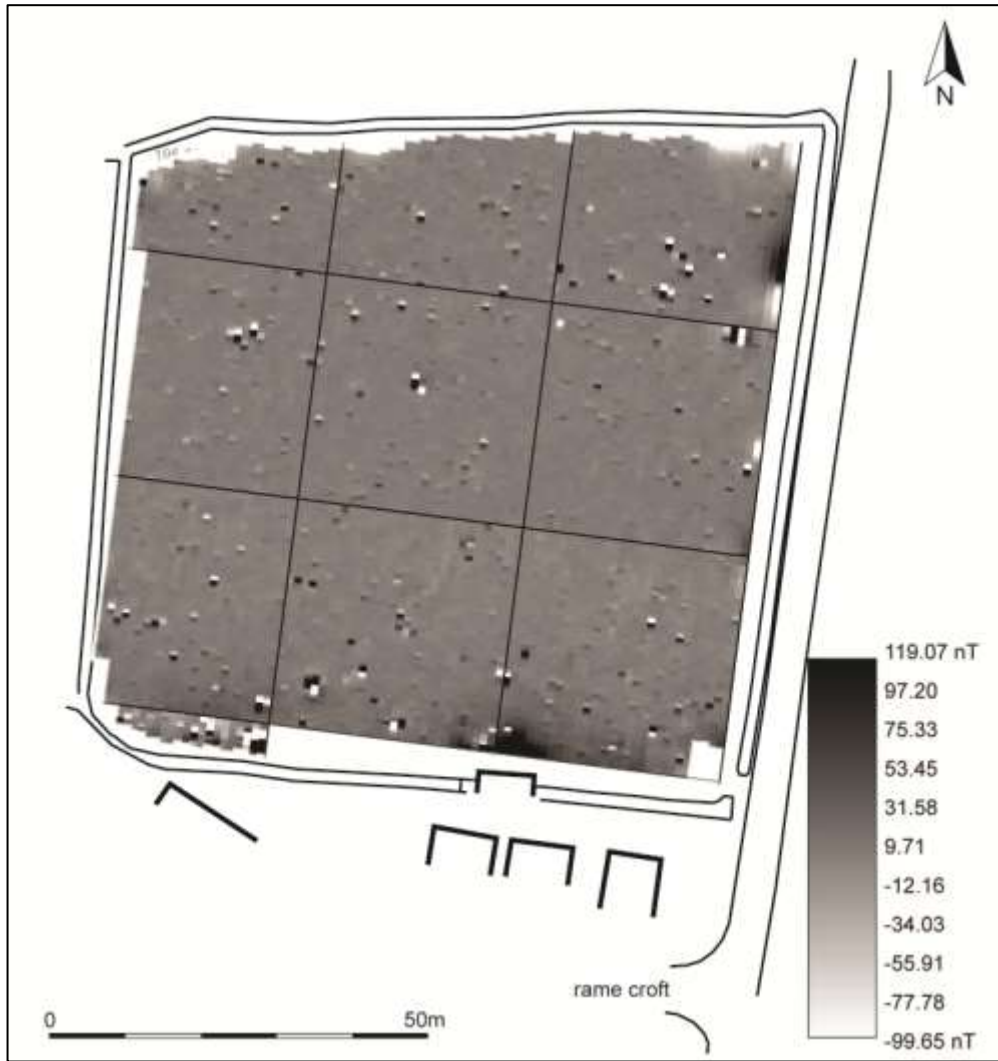


FIGURE 2: SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; MINIMAL PROCESSING.

Rame Cross, Wendron, Cornwall

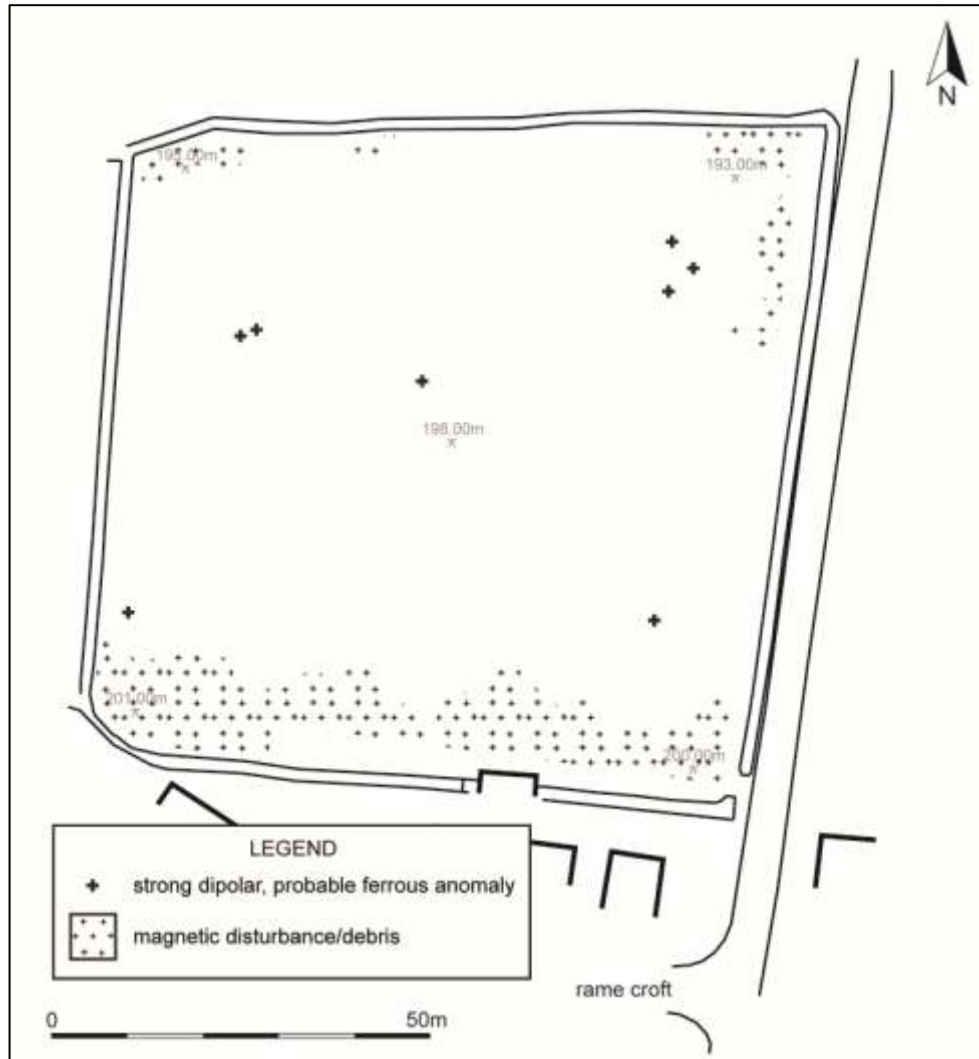


FIGURE 3: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

2.5 DISCUSSION

The survey identified no groups of anomalies.

The sites geophysical response was particularly quiet, which is indicative of the igneous geology that accounts for the high ground in this area. It is probable that the nature of the underlying igneous geology may have dampened the responses of the survey; however, such comprehensive lack of features is compelling and thus probably reliable.

Some ground disturbance was evident close to the field boundaries, particularly along the northern boundary adjacent to *Rame Croft*. The 1888 Ordnance Survey 1st edition map does indicate a small boundary in the south-west corner of the field, the removal of which may account for some of this disturbance. Local sources indicate the possible presence of soak-aways in this same corner of the field.

The trace of possible land drains running parallel to the slope may be discernible with the eye of faith; however, such features may be indistinguishable from the natural geology and/or soils. The entire site had a response of between +/-1nT with only occasional sporadic responses that were higher. The majority of stronger responses indicated the presence of ferrous objects or debris, such as farm machinery or old pieces of fence.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The survey identified no significant geophysical anomalies. Some ground disturbance was evident close to the field boundaries, particularly along the northern boundary adjacent to *Rame Croft*. Late 19th century mapping does indicate a small boundary in the south-west corner of the field, the removal of which may account for some of this disturbance. It is probable that the nature of the underlying igneous geology may have dampened the responses of the survey; however, such comprehensive lack of features is compelling and thus probably reliable.

Validation of the geophysical survey ditch may be achieved through archaeological evaluation trenching. However, despite the possible dampening of responses by the underlying geology, the lack identifiable geophysical anomalies suggest that the development would be unlikely to disturb significant archaeological deposits.

No further archaeological works are recommended in this instance.

4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Wendron Tithe Map, 1842

Wendron Tithe Apportionment 1841

Ordnance Survey 1st edition map, published 1888

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map, published 1909

British Library:

Redruth Surveyor's Draft Map, 1809

APPENDIX 1: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS: SITE INSPECTION



SOUTHERN SITE BOUNDARY, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER/ENTRANCE OF THE SITE; LOOKING WEST.



EASTERN SITE BOUNDARY, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER/ENTRANCE OF THE SITE; LOOKING NORTH.

Rame Cross, Wendron, Cornwall



SOUTHERN SITE BOUNDARY, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER/ENTRANCE OF THE SITE; LOOKING WEST.



THE SITE, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF THE SITE; LOOKING SOUTH-EAST.

Rame Cross, Wendron, Cornwall



SOUTHERN SITE BOUNDARY, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER/ENTRANCE OF THE SITE; LOOKING WEST.

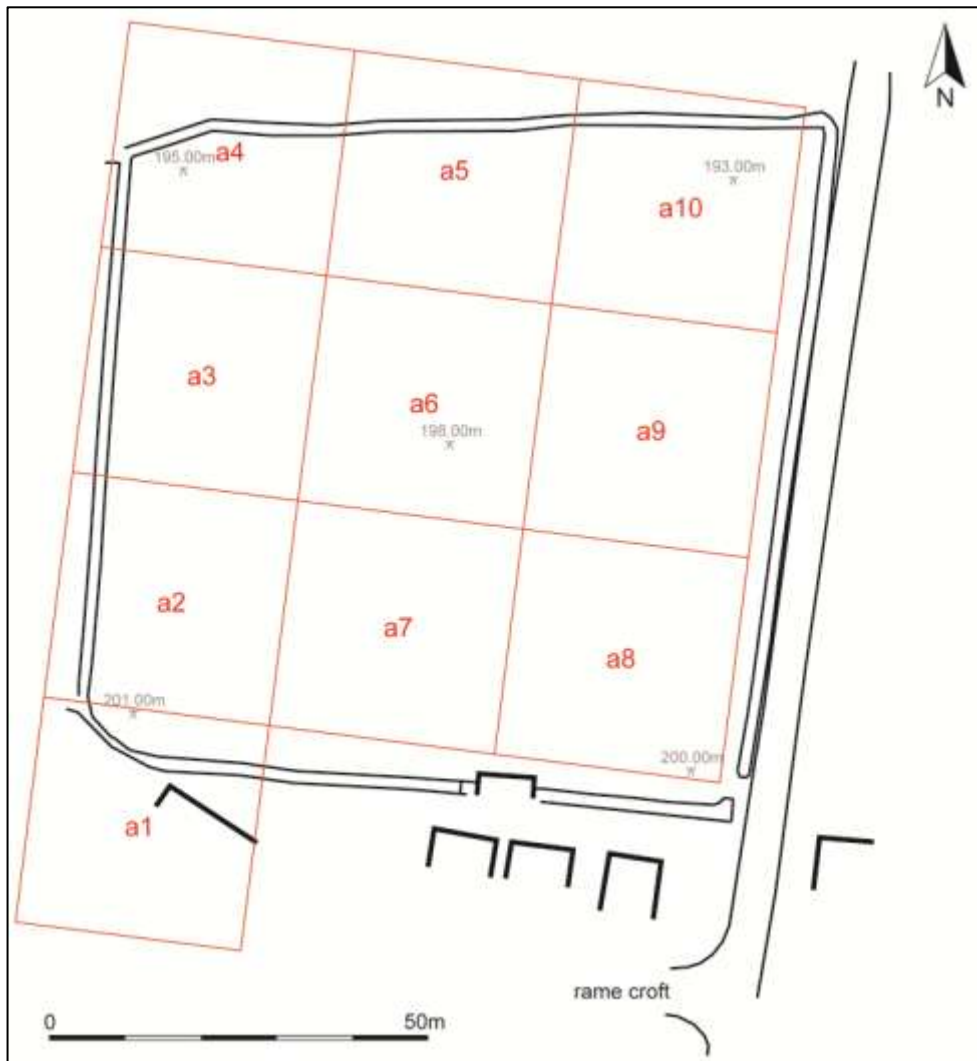


STRUCTURE IN THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE SITE; LOOKING SOUTH-EAST.



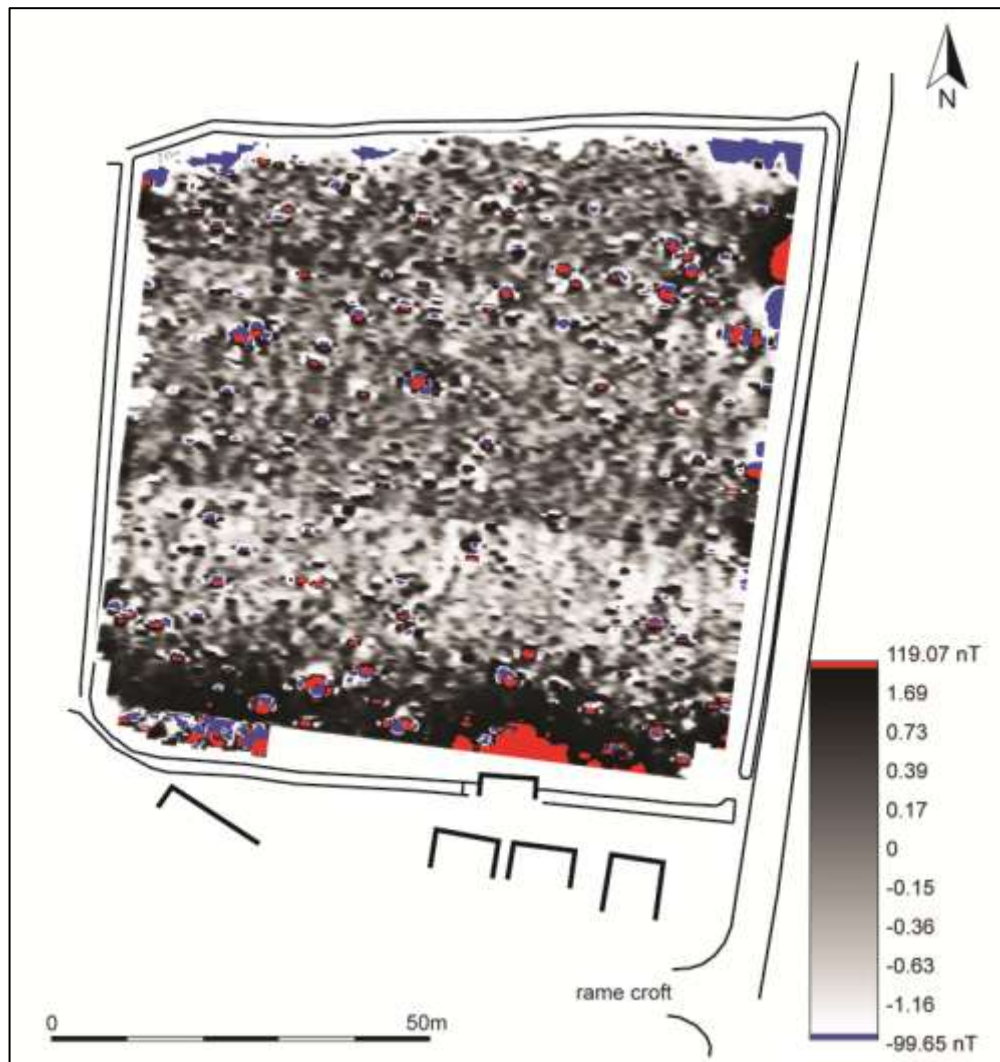
STRUCTURE IN THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE SITE; LOOKING SOUTH-WEST.

APPENDIX 2: ADDITIONAL GRAPHICAL IMAGES OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY



SITE GRID LOCATION AND NUMBERING.

Rame Cross, Wendron, Cornwall



RED-GREY-BLUE SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA, BAND WEIGHT EQUALISED, GRADIATED SHADING.

APPENDIX 3: CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES



ORDNANCE SURVEY SURVEYOR'S DRAFT MAP FOR REDRUTH, 1809; THE SITE IS INDICATED (BL).



WENDRON TITHE MAP, 1842; THE SITE IS INDICATED (CRO).

Rame Cross, Wendron, Cornwall



ORDNANCE SURVEY 1ST EDITION, 6 INCH SERIES, SURVEYED 1788, PUBLISHED 1888; THE SITE IS INDICATED (CRO).



ORDNANCE SURVEY 2ND EDITION, 6 INCH SERIES, SURVEYED 1906, PUBLISHED 1909; THE SITE IS INDICATED (CRO).

APPENDIX 4: NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS

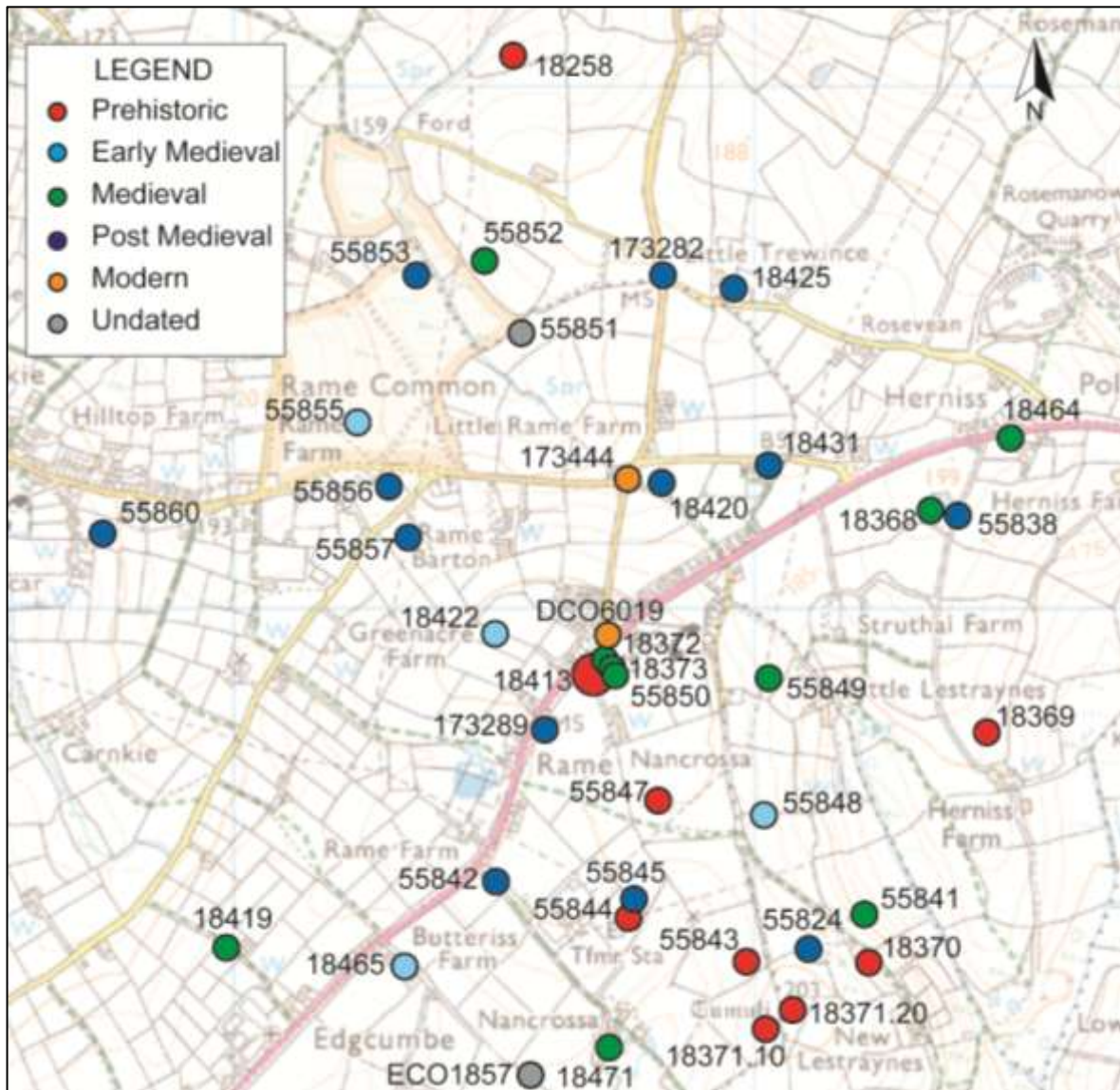


Figure 4: MAP OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS ACCORDING TO THE CORNWALL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER).

HER No.	Name	Record	Description
18258	MENERDUE - Iron Age round, Romano British round	Documentary	The field-name 'Round Field' suggests the site of a round but there are no remains.
18413 to 18413.05	RAME - Bronze Age barrows	Documentary	A group of 5 alleged barrows. According to Hunt a barrow at this location is recorded by Thomas in 1851, but she gives no further details.
18369	HERNISS FARM - Iron Age round, Romano British round	Documentary	The field-name 'Round Field' suggests the site of a round but there are no remains.
55847	RAME - Bronze Age mound, Post Medieval mound	Cropmark	A possible mound is visible as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. Possible agricultural mound
55844	RAME - Bronze Age mound, Post Medieval mound	Cropmark	Two possible mounds are visible as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs.
55843	NEW LESTRAYNES - Bronze Age mound, Post Medieval mound	Cropmark	A possible mound is visible as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. Although the possibility of this feature being a barrow cannot be ruled out, the appearance of the cropmark is such that a modern agricultural origin is equally likely.
18371.10	NANCROSSA - Bronze Age barrow	Extant	One of a small cemetery consisting of two barrows. Both SAM's.
18371.20	NANCROSSA - Bronze Age	Extant	One of a small cemetery consisting of two barrows

Rame Cross, Wendron, Cornwall

	barrow		(see also 18732.1). It is listed Dowson and Henderson records that the site was formerly ploughed, and that it is separated from the barrow to the south-west by the old 'ridgeway' dividing two parishes. The OS describe this site as "a bowl barrow 24m diameter and 1.1m high". Mercer gives the dimensions as 8.0m by 1.0m.
18370	NEW LESTRAYNES - Iron Age round, Romano British round	Documentary	The field-name 'Round Meadow' suggests the site of a round but there are no remains.
18465	BUTTERISS FARM - Early Medieval settlement, Medieval settlement	Documentary	The settlement of Butteriss is first recorded in 1556.
55848	LITTLE LESTRAYNES - Early Medieval extractive pit	Cropmark	A shallow hollow is visible as a faint earthwork on vertical aerial photographs taken in 1964 in a field to the south-west of Little Lestraynes. The feature is approximately 10m across and is considered likely to be an extractive pit of post medieval or earlier origin.
18422	RAME - Early Medieval pound	Documentary	The field name 'Pound Field' is recorded at this location on the Tithe Map suggesting the possible site of a pound.
55855	RAME COMMON - Early Medieval path	Cropmark	A series of linear ditched features are visible as cropmarks on Rame Common. These features are considered likely to be pathways across the common, however, they may be the remains of a field system of medieval or earlier date.
55852	LITTLE TREWINCE - Medieval field system	Extant	The field system between Little Trewince and Menerdue is considered to be of medieval or earlier origin. Banked field boundaries which fit into this extant field pattern, are visible as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs.
18464	HERNISS - Medieval settlement	Documentary	The settlement of Herniss is first recorded in 1290. The name is Cornish and contains the elements hydr, 'long' and nans, 'valley'. Herniss is still occupied; a hamlet is recorded at this location on the 1974 OS map.
18368	HERNISS - Medieval cross	Documentary	The field-name 'Cross Field' suggests the site of a cross but there are no remains.
55849	LITTLE LESTRAYNES - Medieval field boundary	Documentary	A short stretch of zig-zagging bank is visible as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs and is therefore probably a plough-levelled field boundary of medieval (or earlier) origin.
55841	LITTLE LESTRAYNES - Medieval field boundary, Post Medieval field boundary	Cropmark	A plough-levelled field bank is visible as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs to the south of Little Lestraynes. This area is marked as farmland enclosed in the 20th century on the CAU 1994 landscape types map although the extant field system is marked on the 1880 1st edition OS map of the area. This field boundary fits into the modern field pattern and is therefore considered likely to be post medieval in date.
18471	NANCROSSA - Medieval settlement	Documentary	The settlement of Nancrossa is first recorded in 1383. The name is Cornish and contains the element nans, 'valley', with another element of unknown meaning. Nancrossa is still occupied; a farmhouse and outbuildings are recorded at this location on the 1974 OS map.
18419	EDGCUMBE - Medieval chapel	Documentary	The field-name 'Chapel Field' suggests the site of a chapel but there are no remains.
18372	RAME - Medieval cross	Extant	The base of a cross indicating the former site of a wheel-headed cross now in the grounds of Scorrier House.
18373	RAME - Medieval cross	Extant	A likely duplication of the record of a cross base

Rame Cross, Wendron, Cornwall

			belonging to a cross removed to Scorrier House in the C19.
55850	RAME - Medieval extractive pit, Post Medieval extractive pit	Cropmark	A curvilinear depression, visible on vertical aerial photographs is likely to be an extractive pit or quarry of post medieval (or earlier) date.
55853	RAME COMMON - Post Medieval spoil heap	Extant	A single round mound is visible as an earthwork on vertical aerial photographs. The feature lies on the NE edge of Rame Common and is considered likely to be a spoil heap of post medieval date.
173282	LITTLE TREWINCE - Post Medieval milestone	Extant	A milestone, C18 or early C19, survives on the west side of an unclassified road approx 120m west of Little Trewince - H7 over T10.
18425	LITTLE TREWINCE - Post Medieval workhouse	Extant	The field name "Work House Field" is recorded at this location on the 1841 Stithians Tithe Map.
18431	RAME - Post Medieval hull	Extant	Tangye records a hull at this location, described as an excellent example.
18420	RAME - Post Medieval nonconformist chapel	Documentary	The field-name 'Chapel Field' refers to the adjacent Methodist chapel.
55856	RAME COMMON - Post Medieval quarry	Extant	A quarry and spoil heap are visible on aerial photographs lying on the southern edge of Rame Common. The quarry is recorded on the modern Mastermap 2006 suggesting it is abandoned.
55857	RAME BARTON - Post Medieval field system	Extant	The field system immediately to the south of Rame Common is considered to be of post medieval origin.
55860	CARNKIE - Post Medieval quarry	Extant	Two small C19 or C20 quarries lie to the south of the road at Carnkie. On the modern Mastermap 2006 the quarries are not recorded suggesting that they have been infilled. The western quarry has a building recorded on its eastern side.
55838	HERNISS - Post Medieval quarry	Extant	A post medieval granite quarry lies to the south of Herniss Cottages. It is marked on the OS 1st edition map of the area and is visible on vertical aerial photographs.
173289	RAME - Post Medieval milestone	Extant	A milestone, approx mid C19, survives on the SE side of the A394 at Rame - HELSTON 6, PENZANCE 9 and FALMOUTH 6, TRURO 10. Grade II Listed. List Entry No. 1309550.
55842	RAME FARM – Post Medieval quarry	Cropmark	A curvilinear depression, is visible as a low-level earthwork on vertical aerial photographs. It is considered likely to be an extractive pit or quarry of post medieval (or earlier) date.
55845	The field system to the south of Rame is considered to be post medieval in origin.	Extant	The field system to the south of Rame is considered to be post medieval in origin.
55824	NEW LESTRAYNES – Post Medieval quarry	Extant	Post medieval granite quarries lie to the north of New Lestraynes. They are marked on the OS 1 st edition map of the area and are visible on vertical aerial photographs.
DCO7619	Rame Farm, Halfway House including walls and gate piers	Extant	Grade II Listed. List Entry No. 1328446. 18 th or 19 th century Farmhouse
173444	LITTLE RAME FARM - Modern signpost	Extant	A cast iron signpost survives at a cross roads approx 140m SW of Little Rame Farm. Grade II Listed. List Entry No. 1142041.
DCO6019	Guidepost at SW727339	Extant	Grade II Listed. List Entry No. 1141997
55851	LITTLE RAME FARM - Undated enclosure	Cropmark	Faint cropmarks of a curvilinear ditched enclosure are visible on vertical aerial photographs.
ECO1857	Archaeological Evaluation of the Butteriss Downs and Lancarrow windfarm sites	Event	A 1992 CAU Report lists local heritage assets. HES Report reference 1992R009.

LIST OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS (SOURCE: CORNWALL HER).



The Old Dairy
Hacche Lane Business Park
Pathfields Business Park
South Molton
Devon
EX36 3LH

Tel: 01769 573555
Email: mail@swarch.net