



<b>Site Name:</b> Land at Higher Trestrayle Farm, Probus, Truro, Cornwall	<b>Planning Reference:</b> PA21/03913
<b>Grid Reference (10-Fig):</b> SW 90765 46958	<b>OS Map Number:</b> OSGB36
<b>Parish:</b> Probus	<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-503716
<b>Site Type:</b> Agricultural	
<b>Period:</b> Undated/Modern	<b>Form:</b> Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Event
<p><b>Description:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client (the Client) during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dairy and slurry lagoon on land at Higher Trestrayle Farm, Probus, Truro, Cornwall. The work was carried out by P. Webb on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation and ClfA guidelines (Boyd 2022).</p> <p>The site is located immediately to the north-east of Higher Trestrayle Farm, c.1.15km south-east of the centre of Probus, and is situated on agricultural land on an east facing slope to a tributary of the River Fal, at a height of between c.50m and c.70m AOD (Figure 1). The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils over slate or slate rubble of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the interbedded sandstone and argillaceous rocks of the Portscatho Formation (BGS 2021).</p> <p>Higher Trestrayle Farm is situated within an area of archaeological potential, being recorded on the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as 'Farmland: Medieval'. This is included as 'Anciently Enclosed Land' which 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. The Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) identifies the farm itself as being first recorded in 1510, whilst the nearby farmsteads of Lower Trestrayle and Trevorva both have earlier medieval origins, being recorded in 1278. The surrounding landscape includes cropmark/earthwork evidence of possible medieval field-systems (MCO21185, MCO30027); as well as a possible prehistoric field-system (MCO21184) and Iron Age settlement sites (MCO8210) to the south-west and (MCO8745) to the west. Limited archaeological fieldwork has been carried out in the immediate area, though geophysical survey has confirmed the presence of an Iron Age 'round' on land to the south-west of Trestrayle Farm (MCO54992; Bampton 2020); and an Iron Age settlement with 'round' at Parkengear Farm to the north-west has been confirmed by geophysical survey and episodes of watching brief (ECO437, ECO4194, ECO4240, ECO4241, ECO5053). A further geophysical survey carried out as an earlier stage of this development identified a series of features likely associated with post-medieval or modern drainage (Webb 2021).</p> <p>Groundworks had already commenced prior to archaeological monitoring, including a full site strip and the excavation of the deep slurry lagoon. A sub-rectangular area measuring c.75m×55m and orientated approximately north-west to south-east was re-stripped to the depth of weathered natural by mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil (100), mid yellow-brown friable silt-loam c.0.10-0.15m thick; overlying intermittent colluvial subsoil (101), mid yellow-grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt up to 0.20m thick; which overlay the natural (102), shillet within firm yellow clay. The only features that were identified were a series of linear cuts orientated approximately north-east to south-west ([103]) and north-west to south-east ([105], [107] and [109]), each measuring c.0.35m wide and where excavated, 0.10m deep with near vertical sloping sides, clear to sharp break of slope and flat base. The features contained single fills: (104), (106), (108) and (110) respectively, mid yellow-brown firm to soft silt-clay with re-deposited natural yellow clay. No finds were recovered.</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> No features of archaeological interest were identified during the works, the features that were identified likely to represent modern drainage of the land.</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b>  <b>Bampton, J.</b> 2020: <i>Land at Higher Trestrayle Farm, Probus, Truro, Cornwall: Results of a Geophysical Survey</i>. SWARCH Report No. 200809.  <b>Boyd, N.</b> 2022: <i>Land at Higher Trestrayle Farm, Probus, Truro, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI no. PWHT21WSIv1.  <b>British Geological Survey</b> 2021: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a>  <b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.  <b>Webb, P.</b> 2021: <i>Land at Higher Trestrayle Farm, Probus, Truro, Cornwall: Results of a Geophysical Survey</i>. SWARCH Report No. 210723.</p>	
<b>Land Use (Area):</b> Agricultural	<b>Land Use (Site):</b> Agricultural
<b>Date of Site Visit:</b> 03.09.21	
<b>Recorder's Name, Address, and Phone Number:</b> P. Webb, South West Archaeology Ltd., Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH, 01769 573 555	

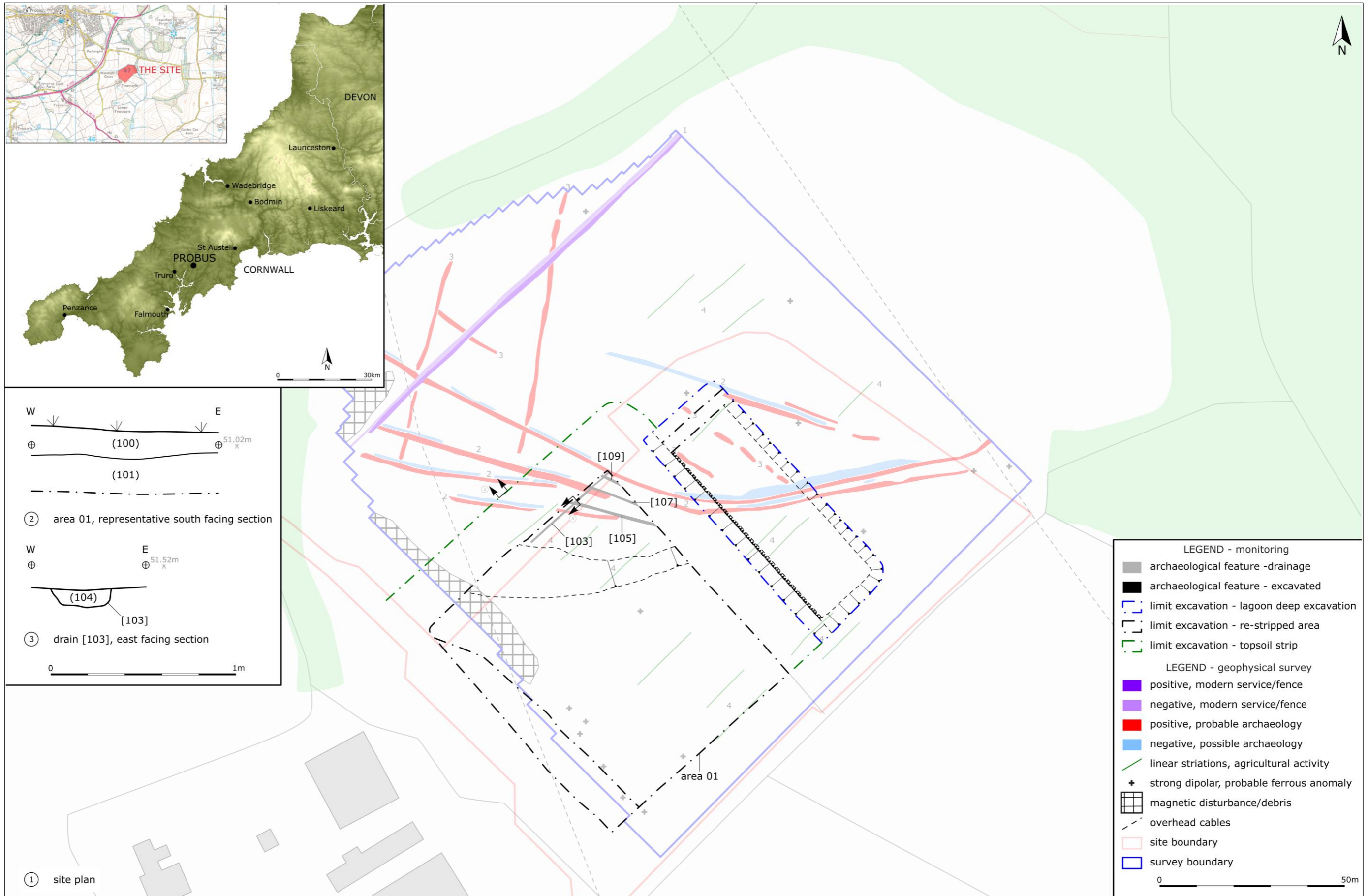


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION, PLAN AND SECTIONS. LEVELS BASED ON AN ARBITRARY TBM OF 50M AOD.

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FIGURE 2: AREA 1 POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



FIGURE 3: DRAIN [103], NORTH-EAST FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).