Maiden Green and Willow Green, Truro, Cornwall

(NGR SW 79516 45694)

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

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AC archaeology

LAND AT MAIDEN GREEN AND WILLOW GREEN, TRURO, CORNWALL

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CONTENTS

List of figures

List of plates

Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation, carried out in support of a future planning application on land at Maiden Green and Willow Green, Truro, Cornwall (between NGRs SW 78458 45209 and SW 79841 45753) was undertaken by AC archaeology during November 2012. The site occupies 18 fields of arable and pasture farmland to the northwest and west of Treliske Hospital. The site lies in an area of known Bronze Age and Iron Age/Romano-British remains, including ring ditches and rounds – the latter designated as Scheduled Monuments

Geophysical surveys carried out across the site identified a large number of anomalies. Most of these probably relate to historic field systems, and associated agricultural practices, whilst others are likely to be earlier. These include two possible Bronze Age ring ditches, possible prehistoric or Romano-British field systems/boundaries, and possible prehistoric or Romano-British settlement enclosures with internal features.

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 14 trenches totalling 420m in length, with each trench measuring 1.80m in width. These were positioned to target a number of the geophysical anomalies, with the aim of establishing their significance.

An enclosure ditch of Middle Bronze Age date was exposed in area 10, whilst one side of a probable Bronze Age ring ditch was located in area 6. Further ditches of Bronze Age date were found in areas 6 and 8. Several of the features in area 8 where identified as being of post-medieval date, including what appears to be a large enclosure. All of the features in area G were also of post-medieval date. A small number of ditches were undated, but may represent parts of field systems earlier than the present landscape.

The Bronze Age enclosure and probable ring ditch are considered to be of Medium Significance, whilst most of the other features, including the post-medieval field boundaries are considered to be of Low Significance. The undated ditches are currently deemed to have an unknown significance.

1. INTRODUCTION (Figs 1-3)

1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation, carried out in support of a future planning application for residential development on land at Maiden Green and Willow Green, Truro, Cornwall, was undertaken by AC archaeology during November 2012. The work was commissioned by CgMs and was undertaken following consultation with Cornwall Historic Environment Advice Service (CHEAS). The location of the site is shown on Fig. 1.

1.2 The overall proposed development site comprises six fields at Maiden Green (Fig. 2) and 12 fields at Willow Green (Fig. 3), located to the west of Truro, and immediately north and west of Treliske Hospital and an adjacent industrial estate, extending between SW 78458 45209 and SW 79841 45753. The area slopes down towards a tributary of the River Kenwyn, although the western part of the site is generally flatter. It is situated at a height of between 70m and 90m aOD.

1.3 The underlying geology across the site comprises Devonian mudstone and sandstone of the Porthtowan Formation.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site has been subject to a desk-based assessment by CgMs (Smith 2010) and geophysical surveys by GSB Prospection (survey no. 2010/70) and Wessex Archaeology (report no. 87130.01) carried out in 2010 and 2012, respectively.

2.2 The site lies within an area of known Bronze Age funerary activity. Eight barrows were excavated in advance of the construction of Treliske Hospital, and two more are recorded in 'Barrow field' closer to the site. There are further clusters of barrows in the slightly wider landscape to the north and west of Willow Green. Further evidence for Bronze Age activity takes the form of an earthwork situated within the round at Governs.

2.3 The site lies within an arc of five fortified settlements known as rounds. The nearest, Penventinnie, is situated 150m to the north. Associated with this is a linear earthwork that extends for 1km to the west. An unenclosed Iron Age settlement is also located near Higher Besore, 500m to the southwest of the site. None these rounds have been excavated, but other examples in the county have a date range from the Iron Age through to the early post-Roman period.

2.4 No other early medieval finds, features or structures are recorded in the vicinity of the site. A number of medieval settlements are recorded in the vicinity, along with associated field systems, and it is likely that the site was agricultural land during this period.

2.5 This landscape pattern and usage continued throughout the post-medieval period, with the addition of a number of new farms. The Cornwall Historic Landscape Characterisation project identified the land within the site as mostly medieval farmland, post-medieval enclosed land, and modern enclosed land.

2.6 During the mid-19th century three lead mines were active and had been imposed on this agricultural landscape. During the later 20th century the area to the south of the site was developed as part of the growth of Truro, and includes Treliske Hospital and commercial premises.

2.7 The geophysical surveys have identified a large number of anomalies across the site. Whilst most of these probably relate to historic field systems, and associated agricultural practices, others are likely to be earlier. These include two possible Bronze Age ring ditches, possible prehistoric or Romano-British field systems/boundaries and possible prehistoric or Romano-British settlement enclosures with internal features.

3. AIMS

3.1 The aim of the trench evaluation was to quantify the significance of the remains, i.e. on a scale of local to national significance, so that CHEAS can advise the local planning authority of the weight that should be accorded to their conservation or otherwise as required by the National Planning Framework Policy. The evaluation aimed to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of a number of geophysical anomalies as determined by CgMs. It was not the aim to investigate the character of the whole site, although the results of the wider geophysical surveys are discussed where applicable. The potential significance of the remainder of the site will be made by the CHEAS.

4. METHODOLOGY (Figs 2-3)

4.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Passmore 2012).

4.2 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 14 trenches, including 10 at Maiden Green (Fig. 2) and four at Willow Green (Fig. 3), with a combined total length of 420m and with each trench measuring 1.8m in width. Trenches were positioned to target anomalies identified from the geophysical survey. Machine excavation ceased at the level at which natural subsoil or archaeological deposits were exposed.

4.3 All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 1.* Detailed sections or plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate, and all site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

5. RESULTS (Figs 4-11; Plates 1-16)

5.1 Trench 1 (Plan Fig 4a and sections Fig. 4b-c; Plates 1-2)
This trench was east-west aligned and was positioned to target a linear anomaly and a possible sub-circular shaped enclosure. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.33m below ground level onto mid grey yellow clay and shale natural subsoil (101). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.15m of mid brown clay-silt topsoil (100), over 0.18m of dark orange-brown sand-clay subsoil (102). A total of two ditches (F106 and F108) corresponding to the geophysical anomalies was recorded towards the eastern end of the trench.

Ditch F106 was north-south aligned, measured 1.90m wide by at least 1m deep and had steeply-sloping sides. Owing to the unstable nature of its fills, this feature was not fully excavated. It contained a sequence of at least three fills (103), (104) and (105). Upper fill (103) was 0.20m deep and comprised a mid yellow-brown compact sand-clay with abundant small shale fragments. This overlaid (104) that was 0.43m deep and comprised a mid orange-brown compact sand-clay with occasional medium sub-angular stones. Lower fill (105) measured at least 0.25m in depth and comprised a dark orange-brown compact sand-clay with abundant medium sub-angular stones. It was not fully excavated. A total of 8 sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from this fill.

Ditch F108 was north-south aligned, measured 0.73m wide by 0.70m deep, with steep to near-vertical sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (107) of mid orange-brown compact sand-clay containing abundant small shale fragments.

5.2 Trench 2 (Plan Fig. 5a and sections Fig. 5b-f; Plate 3)
This trench was north-south aligned and was positioned to target a series of linear and pit-like anomalies within a possible rectilinear enclosure (see trenches 3 and 4 below). The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.62m below ground level onto mid orange-brown sand-clay natural subsoil (202). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.43m of mid red-brown silt-clay topsoil (200), over 0.19m of mid red-brown silt-clay subsoil (201). A total of three ditches (F208, F212 and F214), roughly corresponding to the geophysical anomalies, and a pit (F203) were recorded.

Linear features

Ditch F208 was east-west aligned, measured 1m wide by 0.60m deep with a steep sloping north edge, a moderately-sloping south edge and a flat base. It had been cut through the subsoil 201. It contained a sequence of three fills (209), (210) and (211). Basal fill (211) was 0.07m deep and comprised a mid red-brown silt-clay with common small stones and occasional charcoal and baked clay. This was overlain by (210) which was 0.14m deep and comprised a mid red-brown silt-clay with occasional stones and occasional charcoal and baked clay. Upper fill (209) was 0.37m deep and comprised a mid red-brown silty-clay with common stones and occasional charcoal. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from fill 210.

Ditch F212 was east-west aligned, measured 1.10m wide by 0.31m deep, with moderately steep sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single mid grey-brown silt-clay (213) containing frequent stones.

Ditch F214 was similarly east-west aligned, measured 2m in width by 0.61m deep, and had steep sloping sides with a flat base. It contained a single mid grey-brown clay silt (215) containing frequent stones, from which a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was recovered.

Pit

Pit F203 was sub-circular in shape, measured 0.60m in diameter and had moderate sloping sides with a flat base. The natural subsoil below the pit was heat affected through burning. The pit contained a sequence of two fills (204) and (205). Basal fill (204) measured 0.10m deep and comprised a mid red-yellow silt-clay containing rare stones. This was overlain by (205) which measured 0.07m deep and comprised a mid grey-brown silt-clay containing rare stones.

5.3 **Trench 3** (Plan Fig. 6a and section Fig. 6b; Plate 4)

This trench was north-south aligned and was positioned to a target a one side of a large rectilinear anomaly, possibly an enclosure. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.50m below ground level onto mid yellow clay and shale natural subsoil (302). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.23m of mid red-brown clay-silt topsoil (300) over 0.27m of mid yellow-brown silt clay subsoil (301), from which CBM and a nail were recovered. A single ditch F303 corresponding to the linear anomaly was present.

Ditch F303 was east-west aligned and was located towards the southern extent of the trench. The ditch had been previously excavated in Trench 4 and was not investigated in Trench 3.

5.4 **Trench 4** (Plan Fig. 6c and sections Fig. 6d and Fig. 7a-b; Plate 5)

This trench was east-west aligned and was positioned to target a large rectilinear (enclosure) anomaly (see trench 3) with a second smaller rectilinear anomaly located within it. Due to the presence of the overhead power cable, the west end of the trench was moved to the south and, as a consequence also targeted further linear features outside the possible enclosure.

The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.35m below ground level onto mid-light brown-yellow clay and shale natural subsoil (402). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.20m of mid red-brown silt-clay topsoil (400), over 0.15m of mid grey-brown silt-clay subsoil (401). A total of three ditches were recorded (F403, F405 and F 411).

Ditch F403 was east-west aligned, and measured 0.73m wide by up to 0.1m deep, and had gentle sides with a flat base. It contained a single fill (404) of medium red-brown soft sand-clay-loam with rare small sub-angular stones, from which a sherd of 18th-century pottery and a sherd of residual medieval pottery were recovered. Ditch F405 was north-south aligned, and measured 0.62m wide by 0.11m deep, and had gentle sides with a flat base. It contained a single fill (406) of medium red-brown soft sand-clay-loam with rare small sub-angular stones. The feature was almost certainly contemporary with ditch F403.

Ditch F411 was aligned north-south, and measured 2.7m wide by 1.2m deep, with shallow sides becoming steeper and then near vertical towards the base. It contained a series of four fills (F407-410). The upper fill (407) was 0.39m deep and comprised a dark red-brown firm clay-silt with small angular shale fragments. This overlaid a dark black-brown firm clay-silt containing frequent small shale fragments (408). The next fill (411) was 0.55m deep and comprised a light grey-yellow friable silty-clay with moderate shale fragments of various sizes. This deposit may represent a collapse or deliberate infilling of an adjacent bank. The primary fill (410) was 0.66m deep and comprised a mid yellow-red friable silt-clay with moderate shale fragments of various sizes. Finds from this feature were a brick from upper fill 407, a rubbing stone fragment from middle fill 409, and an ox shoe from lower fill 410.

5.5 **Trench 5** (Plate 6)
This trench was northeast-southwest aligned and was positioned to target a small possible rectilinear anomaly. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m below ground level onto mid-light brown-yellow silty-clay and shale natural subsoil (502). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.10m of mid grey-brown clay-loam topsoil (500), over 0.30m of mid grey-brown clay-loam subsoil (501). No features were exposed within this trench.

5.6 **Trench 6** (Plan Fig. 7c and sections Fig. 7d-e; Plate 7)
This trench was north-south aligned and was positioned to target a linear anomaly. It was excavated to a depth of 0.46m from ground level onto yellow-brown soft silt-loam and shale natural subsoil (602). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.16m of medium grey-brown soft silt-clay-loam topsoil (600), over up to 0.3m of medium red-brown soft silt-clay-loam subsoil (601). A single ditch was exposed (F603).

Ditch F603 was aligned north south, measured 0.80m wide by 0.15m deep, and had gently-sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (604) of medium grey-brown soft silt-clay with rare stones.

5.7 **Trench 7** (Plan Fig. 7f and section Fig. 7g; Plate 8)
This trench was roughly east-west aligned and was positioned to target the same linear anomaly as investigated in trench 6, as well as a series of trends and less responsive anomalies. It was excavated to a depth of 0.42m from ground level onto yellow-brown soft silt-loam and shale natural subsoil (702). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.12m of medium grey-brown soft silt-clay-loam topsoil (700), over up to 0.3m of medium red-brown soft silt-clay-loam subsoil (701). A single ditch was exposed (F703].

Ditch F703 was aligned north-south and measured 0.62m wide. It was interpreted as the same feature as F603, and was therefore not excavated.

5.8 **Trench 8** (Plan Fig. 7i and sections Fig. 7h and Fig. 8a-b; Plate 9)
This trench was east-west aligned and was positioned to target a linear anomaly and a series of pit-type anomalies. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m from ground level onto mid yellow-brown soft gritty sand-silt-loam and shale natural subsoil (802). The overlying layer sequence comprised up to 0.2m of mid red-brown soft silt-clay-loam topsoil (800), over up to 0.3m of medium red-brown soft silt-clay-loam subsoil (801). A pit (F803) and a pit (F806) were exposed.

Pit F803 was partially exposed, measured 2.08m wide by 0.33m deep, and had sides of varying steepness and a flat base. It contained two fills. The upper fill (803) was 0.24m deep and comprised a medium brown-grey compact silt-clay with frequent sub-angular stone, whilst the lower fill (804) comprised a medium grey-brown compact silt-clay with frequent sub-angular stone.

Ditch F806 was aligned north-south, measured 1.1m wide by up to 0.58m deep, and had steep sides with a curving base. It contained two fills. The upper fill (807) was up to 0.19m deep and comprised a light brown-yellow soft clay loam with a large patch of shale fragments. The primary fill (808) was up to 0.28m thick and comprised a medium red-brown soft silt-clay-loam with frequent shale and quartz inclusions.

5.9 **Trench 9** (Plate 10)
This trench was north-south aligned and was positioned to target a series of faintly responsive curving anomalies. It was excavated to a depth of 0.40m from ground level onto yellow-pink compact clay with abundant sub-angular shale natural subsoil (902). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.15m of red-brown compact silt-clay-loam topsoil (900), over 0.25m red-brown compact silt-clay-loam with frequent shale fragments subsoil (901). No archaeological features were exposed.

5.10 **Trench 10** (Plan Fig. 8c and sections Fig. 8d-e and Fig. 9a-d; Plates 11-12)
This trench was east-west aligned and was positioned to target a circular anomaly, possibly a ring ditch, as well as further faintly responsive curving anomalies. It was excavated to a depth of 0.55m from ground level onto yellow-pink compact clay with abundant sub-angular shale natural subsoil (1002). The overlying layer sequence comprised up to 0.30m of red-brown compact silt-clay-loam topsoil (1000), over 0.25m red-brown compact silt-clay-loam with frequent shale fragments subsoil (1001). A series of ditches (F1008, F1012, F1016 and F1017) and pits (F1021 and F1013) were exposed and are described from west to east.

Ditch F1008 was aligned northwest-southeast, measured 1.34m wide by 0.76m deep, and had steep sides into a narrow base. It contained five fills. The upper fill (1003) was up to 0.31m deep and comprised a mid brownish-yellow silty-clay-loam with fragments of shale, from which two sherds of probable Bronze Age pottery were recovered. This overlaid a small deposit, 0.16m deep, of mid greyish-yellow silty -clay containing frequent flecks of charcoal (1004). The next fill was 0.53m deep and comprised a mid yellowish-brown clayey-silt with fragments of shale. Below this was a deposit 0.14m in depth of light greyish-yellow silty-clay. This deposit (1006) was concentrated on the northwest edge of the ditch and most likely represents a slump of natural clay into the side of the ditch. The primary fill measured 0.12m in depth and was composed of a mid yellowish-red silty-clay with fragments of shale. Ditch F1008 truncates north-south aligned ditch F1012. This ditch measured 1.30m wide by 0.44m deep and contained three fills. The upper fill (1009) measured 0.22m in depth and was composed of a mid reddish-brown clayey-silt with fragments of shale. Below this, fill (1010) measured 0.32m in depth and was composed of a mid brownish-yellow

silty-clay with fragments of shale. The primary fill (1011) was up to 0.15m deep and was composed of a mid brownish-yellow silty-clay with fragments of shale.

Pit F1021 was sub-circular in shape and measured 0.40m in width and 0.12m in depth, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (1022) up to 0.12m in depth composed of a mid reddish-brown silty-clay with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions and very occasional flecks of charcoal and burnt clay. The charcoal and burnt clay within this feature represent a deposit of burnt material, but it is not of a high enough concentration to suggest in-situ burning within the pit.

Ditch F1016 was north-south aligned, measured 0.52m in width and 0.44m in depth, and had steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills. The upper fill (1019) was up to 0.37m in depth and comprised a mid grey-brown silty-clay with common sub-angular stone inclusions. The primary fill (1018) was up to 0.07m deep and comprised a mid yellow-brown silty-clay with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. This truncates earlier ditch F1017 on its eastern edge. F1017 was also north-south aligned, measured 0.79m in width and 0.30m in depth, and had moderately steep sides with a flat base. It contained a single fill (1020) up to 0.30m in depth composed of a mid greyish-brown silty-clay with occasional sub-rounded stones. Both ditches F1016 and F1017 are cut through subsoil (1001) and overlain by topsoil (1000).

Pit F1013 was partially exposed. It measured 0.93m in width by 0.40m depth and had moderately steep sides and an uneven base. It contained a single fill (1014) up to 0.22m in depth comprising a light brown silty-clay with occasional sub-angular shale inclusions.

5.11 **Trench 11** (Plan Fig. 9e and sections Fig. 10a-b; Plate 13)
This trench was northwest-southeast aligned and was positioned to target rectilinear geophysical anomalies. It was excavated to a depth of 0.31m from ground level onto yellow-pink compact clay with abundant sub-angular shale natural subsoil (1101). The overlying sequence comprised up to 0.34m of mid brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil (1100) with occasional small fragments of sub-angular shale. A ditch and a large quarry pit were exposed.

Ditch F1107 was northeast-southwest aligned, measured 1.80m in width and 0.28m in depth, and had a steep side on its northwest edge and a gentler slope on its southeast edge with a flat base. It contained a single fill (1106) up to 0.28m deep composed of a dark brownish-grey clayey-silt with fragments of shale, from which two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered.

Quarry pit F1105 was partially exposed within the trench and measured 4.60m in width. The base of the feature was not fully excavated. The pit contained three fills. The upper fill (1102) was up to 0.29m in depth and comprised a mid greyish-brown clayey-silt with fragments of shale from which a sherd of post-medieval pottery and two fragments of clinker were recovered. Below this fill (1103) was up to 0.50m in depth and composed of a mid brownish-yellow silty-clay with fragments of shale of varying sizes. The lowest fill (1104) measured 0.80m+ in depth and was composed of a mid reddish-brown clayey-silt with fragments of shale of varying sizes.

5.12 **Trench 12** (Plan Fig. 10c and sections Fig. 10d-e; Plate 14)
This trench was north-south aligned and was positioned to target rectilinear geophysical anomalies. It was excavated to a depth of 0.50m form ground level onto yellow-pink compact clay natural subsoil with abundant sub-angular shale (1202).

The overlying sequence comprised up to 0.30m of mid brownish-grey silty-clay-loam topsoil (1200) with occasional sub-angular stones, overlying 0.20m of mid greyish-brown silty-clay-loam subsoil (1201) with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. A single ditch was exposed (F1204).

Ditch F1204 was northeast-southwest aligned, measured 1.01m in width and 0.15m in depth and had gently sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (1203) up to 0.16m in depth comprising a mid brownish grey-silty sandy-clay with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions.

5.13 **Trench 13** (Plan Fig. 11a and section Fig. 11b; Plate 15)
This trench was east-west aligned and was positioned to target rectilinear geophysical anomalies. It was excavated to a depth of 0.32m from ground level onto yellow-pink compact clay natural subsoil with abundant sub-angular shale (1301). The overlying deposit comprised a mid brown-grey firm clay-silt topsoil (1300) with occasional small sub-angular shale fragments. The trench contained three ditches (F1303, F1304 and F1306), although none of these were excavated as they appeared to be modern in date or had been investigated in trenches 11 and 12.

Ditches F1304 and F1306 were aligned northwest-southeast and measured 2.25m and 1m wide respectively and were separately by a gap of 2m. Ditch F1302 represented the terminus of ditch F1204 recorded in trench 12 and was 2.40m wide.

5.14 **Trench 14** (Plan Fig. 11c and sections Fig. 11d-e; Plate 16)
This trench was northeast-southwest aligned and was positioned to target rectilinear geophysical anomalies. It was excavated to a depth of 0.38m from ground level onto yellow-pink compact clay natural subsoil with abundant sub-angular shale (1401). The overlying deposit comprised a mid greyish-brown silty-clay-loam topsoil (1400) with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. Two ditches were exposed within the trench (F1403 and F1405).

Ditch F1403 was northwest-southeast aligned, measured 1.50m in width and 0.13m in depth and had gently sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (1402) up to 0.13m in depth comprising a mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. Post-medieval glass, pottery and clay pipe stem were recovered from this fill.

Ditch F1405 was northwest-southeast aligned and measured 1.30m in width. The feature was unexcavated as it is believed to have been damaged by ploughing activity. It contained a fill (1404) composed of a mid brownish-grey silty-clay with very occasional sub-angular stone inclusions.

6. THE FINDS, by Naomi Payne, with a contribution Henrietta Quinnell

6.1 Seven of the 14 evaluation trenches produced small quantities of artefacts, mainly from the fills of cut features. Much of the material recovered was post-medieval or undated, but there was also a small but significant assemblage of prehistoric pottery. The finds from the evaluation are summarised in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Trench	Context	Context Description	Prehistoric Pottery		Medieval Pottery		Post-medieval Pottery		CBM	
			No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1	105	Lower fill of ditch F106	8	379						
2	210	Middle of 3 fills of ditch F208			1	1				
	215	Single fill of ditch F214	1	6						
3	301	Subsoil							1	10
4	404	Fill of ditch F403			1	2	1	11		
	407	Upper fill of ditch F411							1	82
10	1003	Top fill of ditch F1008	2	11						
11	1102	Top fill of quarry pit F1105					1	5		
	1106	Primary fill of ditch F1107					2	14		
14	1402	Single fill of ditch F1403					1	8		
Totals			11	396	2	3	5	38	2	92

Table 1: Summary of the pottery and ceramic building material (weights in grams)

Trench	Context	Context Description	Glass		Clay Pipe		Iron		Slag		Worked stone	
			No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1	105	Lower fill of ditch F106										
3	301	Subsoil					1	1				
4	409	1 of 4 fills of ditch F411									1	263
	410	Primary fill of ditch F411					1	89				
11	1102	Upper fill of quarry pit F1105	1	1					4	7		
14	1402	Single fill of ditch F1403	1	12	1	1						
Totals			2	13	1	1	2	90	4	7	1	263

Table 2: Summary of other finds (weights in grams)

6.2 Prehistoric pottery by Henrietta Quinnell and Naomi Payne

A total of 11 sherds (396g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered. The majority (eight sherds) came from a single context, 105, the earliest excavated fill of a large ditch, F106, within Trench 1, and are typical of Bronze Age Trevisker type pottery. The sherds include two conjoining rim sherds and six body sherds, all in a similar fabric that is tempered with a gabbroic admixture. The degree of oxidation and reduction varies considerably across the collection. The sherds may well all derive from a single vessel, which would have been broadly biconical with a slightly everted flat-topped rim. Several of the sherds are decorated with impressed plaited cord linears, suggesting that this vessel was Early or (less likely) Middle Bronze Age in date. Two such linears run parallel to the rim and traces of further cord impressions can be seen adjacent to the lug impression. While Trevisker pottery with this and a variety of decorative styles was in use in Early and Middle Bronze Ages, its presence in

features associated with apparent non-ritual activity is usually Middle Bronze Age in date, broadly 1500-1100 cal BC.

Two of the body sherds are of particular interest because they shed light on the methods used in manufacturing such vessels. The two conjoining body sherds retain the oval impression of a lug, c. 8cm by 5.5cm, which has at some point fallen off. Off-centre within the depression left by the lug there are three deeply incised parallel lines, which were presumably intended to help secure the lug in position. If so, the attempt to lute the lug on was faulty as the impressions were clean and much of the surface in this area appears not to have meshed with that of the lug. Lugs generally are attached by forming a tongue or extension and putting this through the body of the pot. The use of grooved lines for the suggested luting of lugs has not previously been observed in pottery of this date from the south-west.

From Trench 2, a single body sherd was recovered from context 215, the middle of three fills within ditch F214. This sherd is reasonably small and quite abraded, but it contains a gabbroic admixture of Bronze Age type. The exterior surface has possible traces of incised decoration. Two further body sherds, also containing a gabbroic admixture and possibly of Bronze Age date, were found in context 1003, the upper fill of ditch F1008.

A good summary of current knowledge of Trevisker pottery is given in Quinnell 2012.

6.3 Medieval pottery

Two sherds of medieval pottery (3g) were recovered from Trenches 2 and 4. They are a small, abraded body sherd of medieval pottery from context 210, and a body sherd with traces of glaze on one surface from context 404. The fabrics appear to be Totnes-type ware dating from *c.* 1250-1450, although the sherd from Trench 4 was residual.

6.4 Post-medieval pottery

Five sherds of post-medieval pottery (40g) were recovered from four contexts within three trenches. A body sherd from an 18th-century Bristol/Staffordshire yellow slip ware plate was found in context 404. Context 1102 produced a base sherd from a creamware cup of late 18th- or early 19th-century date. From 1106 two body sherds were recovered: a piece of stoneware jar and a fragment of hand-painted blue on white pottery with geometric decoration, both also of 18th- to 19th-century date. The final sherd, from context 1402, is an undiagnostic base sherd of South Somerset earthenware. This is not more closely datable than 17th to 18th century.

6.5 Ceramic building material

Two pieces of CBM (92g) were recovered. Context 407 produced part of a brick. This contains large coarse inclusions and is most likely of later post-medieval date. A very small undiagnostic red earthenware fragment was found in the subsoil in Trench 3. This could be brick or tile, and cannot be closely dated.

6.6 Iron

Two iron objects (90g) were recovered. From the topsoil in Trench 3 there was an incomplete nail. Context 410 produced a probable ox shoe. Both finds are most likely of post-medieval date.

6.7 Other finds

A small quantity of other post-medieval or undated finds was located. Context 409 produced a broken piece of worked granite which has been used as a rubbing stone

or similar. This cannot be closely dated. A piece of window glass came from context 1102, and there was a sherd of English green bottle glass from context 1402. A fragment of clay pipe stem (1g) was also recovered from this context. Four pieces of undiagnostic industrial slag or clinker (7g) were recovered from context 1102.

7. COMMENTS

7.1 Evaluation of the geophysical survey

The evaluation trenches had been positioned to target a number of geophysical anomalies. Mostly, these were strong positive anomalies whose origins were likely to be archaeological and predate the historic field pattern visible in the present landscape (or recorded on historic maps and identifiable as geophysical anomalies). In every case, the geophysical anomalies were identified within the trenches, and therefore the overall interpretation of the positive anomalies interpreted as archaeology is upheld, and the surveys are representative of the major archaeological features within the site.

In two areas (6 and 7) at Maiden Green the trenches also targeted weaker positive anomalies and trends interpreted as of possible archaeological origin. In area 6 the geophysical survey identified several circular responses adjacent to a more substantial anomaly interpreted as a ring ditch. It was suggested that the former may represent badly denuded ring ditches, but "the interpretation is highly cautious because of the weak and/or poorly defined nature of the responses." In area 7, short linear anomalies and pit-like responses were recorded, and although it was noted that in part this may be due to natural causes, the possibility that some reflect badly-damaged archaeological features was presented. None of these anomalies was identified as archaeological features, and this is likely to be representative of the site as a whole.

7.2 Discussion

Area 6

The cluster of features in trench 10 represents several phases of activity. The earliest feature, F1012, may represent the anomaly interpreted from the geophysical survey as a ring ditch. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature. However, it was truncated by further ditch from which probable Bronze Age pottery was recovered. Feature F1021 to the east probably presents the geophysical anomaly in the centre of the 'ring ditch'. The east side of the 'ring ditch' was not exposed. To the west, ditches F1016 and F1017 were cut through the subsoil, and are therefore likely to be of later historic (probably post-medieval) date.

This area contains a large number of linear anomalies (of which only one, F806, was evaluated). Some of these represent field boundaries depicted on the 1840 tithe map, whilst others appear to be associated with this historic landscape (i.e. the present fields and removed boundaries within areas 4-6 and 7. The rectilinear nature of the anomalies within area 6 may indicate that they form part of an earlier (perhaps Iron Age or Romano-British) field system that has in part been incorporated into the medieval and later landscape. No dating evidence was recovered from ditch F806 to aid or disprove this interpretation.

Area 7

Features F603 and F703 represent the same north-south aligned ditch. Its date is unknown, but is likely to represent part of an early field system, predating the current historic landscape, but possibly contemporary with some of the anomalies present in

area 6 (and discussed above) The results of the geophysical survey indicate that it appears to be truncated by an east-west aligned anomaly that probably represents a former field boundary. This is not depicted on historic mapping, but appears to be associated with the present field boundaries.

Area 8

The results of the evaluation have indicated that the features within area 8 date from a number of periods. The earliest feature was ditch F214 in trench 2, which corresponds with a short length of ditch-like anomaly on the geophysical survey. Other features within this trench were undated; although ditch F208 contained a sherd of medieval pottery, the feature was cut though the subsoil and is likely to be of post-medieval date.

Features F403 and F405 were dated to the post-medieval period, and may represent removed field boundaries. However, they were very shallow, which was uncharacteristic of the archaeology across the whole site. Features F303 and F411 formed part of the same 'enclosure', identifiable on the geophysical survey. The finds from the fills of F411 would appear to indicate a post-medieval date for its infilling, although no ceramics were found to provide a close date. The geophysical anomaly appears to form three sides of a large enclosure that surrounds a valley (?former stream course) within the centre of the field. The function of such an enclosure is unclear, and it is possible that the ditches actually represent former field boundaries, predating the current west and south boundaries of area 8. That said, the excavated ditch F411 is particularly large for a post-medieval boundary ditch, and is more characteristic of the prehistoric period.

Area 10

The date of ditch F108 has not been established. No finds were recovered, and the geophysical survey does not provide any clarification. On the survey, the ditch appears to have been truncated by a historic field boundary, but conversely appears to truncate a second, contemporary field boundary (as well as a further anomaly). These field boundaries were depicted as upstanding on the 1840 Kenwyn tithe map.

If an early date is argued, then the feature might form part of an earlier field system, or perhaps, less convincingly, part of a hilltop enclosure.

Ditch F106 forms part of a large curving anomaly that is situated just off the top of the hill in the western side of area 10. Its size, *c*. 50m across, is likely to be indicative of an enclosure rather than a ring ditch. The geophysical survey, however, does not provide evidence for the southern extent, but does depict a gap (?entrance) in its north side, as well as single possible internal feature. The feature was dated to the Middle Bronze Age.

Area G

Ditches F1107, F1303, F1304 and F1403 and F1405 represent flanking drainage ditches for a removed field boundaries that were depicted as upstanding on the 1840 Kenwyn tithe map. The geophysical anomaly represented by features F1204 and F1306 is not depicted on the Kenwyn tithe map but its alignment and relationship with other anomalies indicates that they probably represent boundaries also of post-medieval date. Post-medieval finds were recovered from three of the features in this area.

8 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8.1 The importance of the excavated deposits has been assessed using non-metrical criteria based on a six-point scale of significance adapted from the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* (The Highways Agency 2001). The scale of values used to assess the relative significance of the Heritage Assets has been presented in Table 3 below. Regional research objectives are set out in the *South West Archaeological Research Framework* (SWARF; Webster 2007), and this has been referred to, to determine the significance of non-designated Heritage Assets. Comments from the CHEAS, made during a site visit, have also been used as a guide to significance.

SIGNIFICANCE (VALUE)		FACTORS FOR ASSESSING THE SIGNIFICANCE (VALUE) OF HERITAGE ASSETS
A	Very High	• Features, deposits and anomalies positively contributing to the significance of World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites); • Assets of acknowledged international importance; and • Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives.
B	High	• Features, deposits and anomalies that would meet the criteria for being designated as a Scheduled Monument or of exceptional quality and importance; and • Features, deposits and anomalies that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives.
C	Medium	• Features, deposits and anomalies that have exceptional qualities or contribute to regional research objectives.
D	Low	• Features, deposits and anomalies of local importance; • Features, deposits and anomalies compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations; and • Features, deposits and anomalies of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives.
E	Negligible	• Features, deposits and anomalies with very little or no surviving archaeological interest.
F	Unknown	• The importance of the resource has not been ascertained.

Table 3: Grading of the significance (value) after DMRB 2009

8.2 Features, deposits and anomalies of Very High and High Significance
There are no features, deposits and anomalies considered to be of Very High or High Significance. These would be worthy of preservation *in situ*, and the CHEAS has advised that the archaeology within the development site does not warrant this.

8.3 Features, deposits and anomalies of Medium Significance
The enclosure represented by ditch F106 is considered to be of Medium Significance in that its excavation may address Research Aim 3 as set out in SWARF:

Address apparent "gaps" in our knowledge and assess whether they are meaningful or simply biases in current knowledge.

If feature F1012 (and the possibly associated pit F1021) is considered to be part of a Bronze Age ring ditch then it would also be of Medium Significance since it may address the following Research Aims as set out in SWARF:

Research Aim 54: Widen our understanding of monumentality in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age.

Research Aim 57: Widen our understanding of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age mortuary practice.

8.4 Features, deposits and anomalies of Low Significance

All of the features in trenches 11-14 are considered to be of Low significance in that they relate to historic field systems, mostly depicted on historic mapping, and are therefore of local importance.

All of the features in area 8 are also considered to be of Low Significance. Whilst F214 was identified as being a prehistoric ditch, its significance is compromised by lack of information on its extent and context.

The large 'enclosure' anomaly represented by ditches F303 and F411 is also considered to be of Low Significance, given the uncertainty over its date, form and function. However, this level of significance could increase if further information on its date and character were to be established.

8.5 Features, deposits and anomalies of Negligible and Unknown Significance

Features F108, F603, F703 and F806 are all undated ditches that are likely to represent field boundaries predating the visible historic landscape. At present they are considered to be of Unknown Significance on the basis that they are undated. However, this level of significance could increase if further information on their date and character were to be established.

9. ARCHIVE AND OASIS ENTRY

9.1 The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ. They will be deposited at the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro.

9.2 The OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for this project is 138666.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 The evaluation was commissioned by Matthew Smith of CgMs, and managed by Andrew Passmore for AC archaeology. The fieldwork was carried out by Fiona Pink, Chris Caine, Paul Jones, Samantha Hogsden, Gareth Holes, Stella de-Villiers and Naomi Kysh. The report was written by Richard Sims, Fiona Pink and Andrew Passmore, with the illustrations prepared by Elisabeth Patkai.

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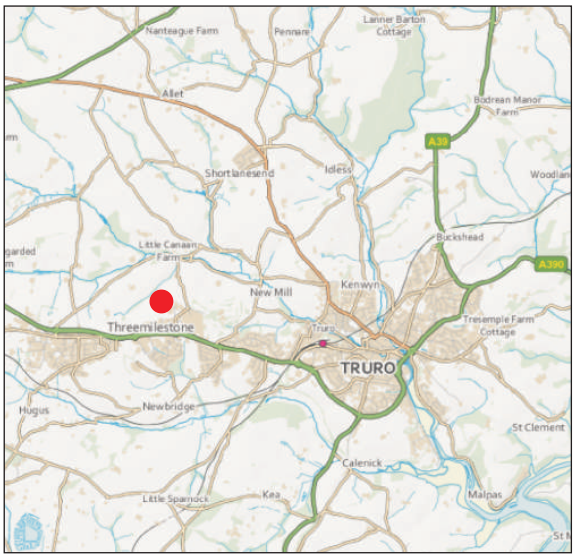

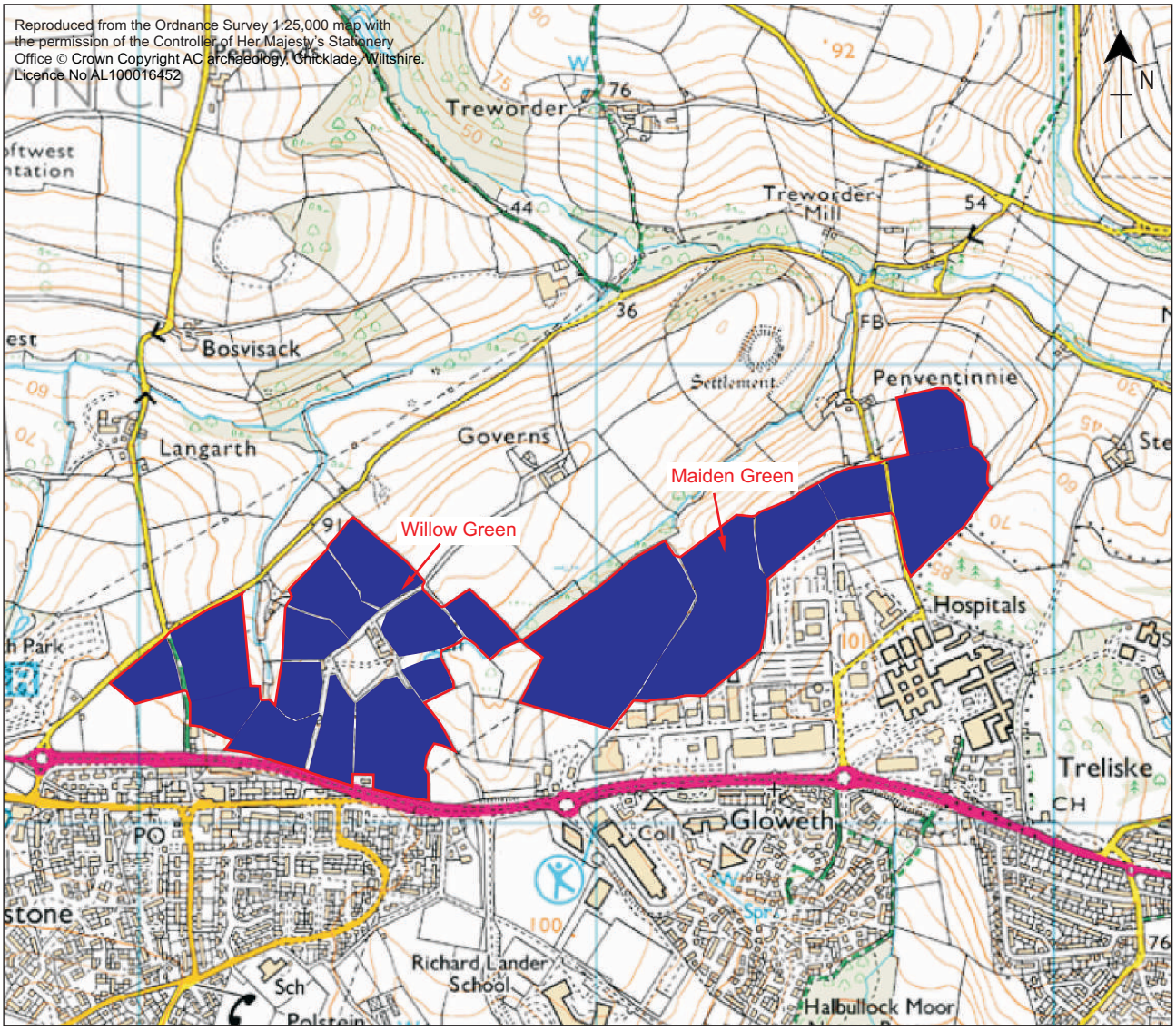

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Scale 1:15,000@A4

Application areas

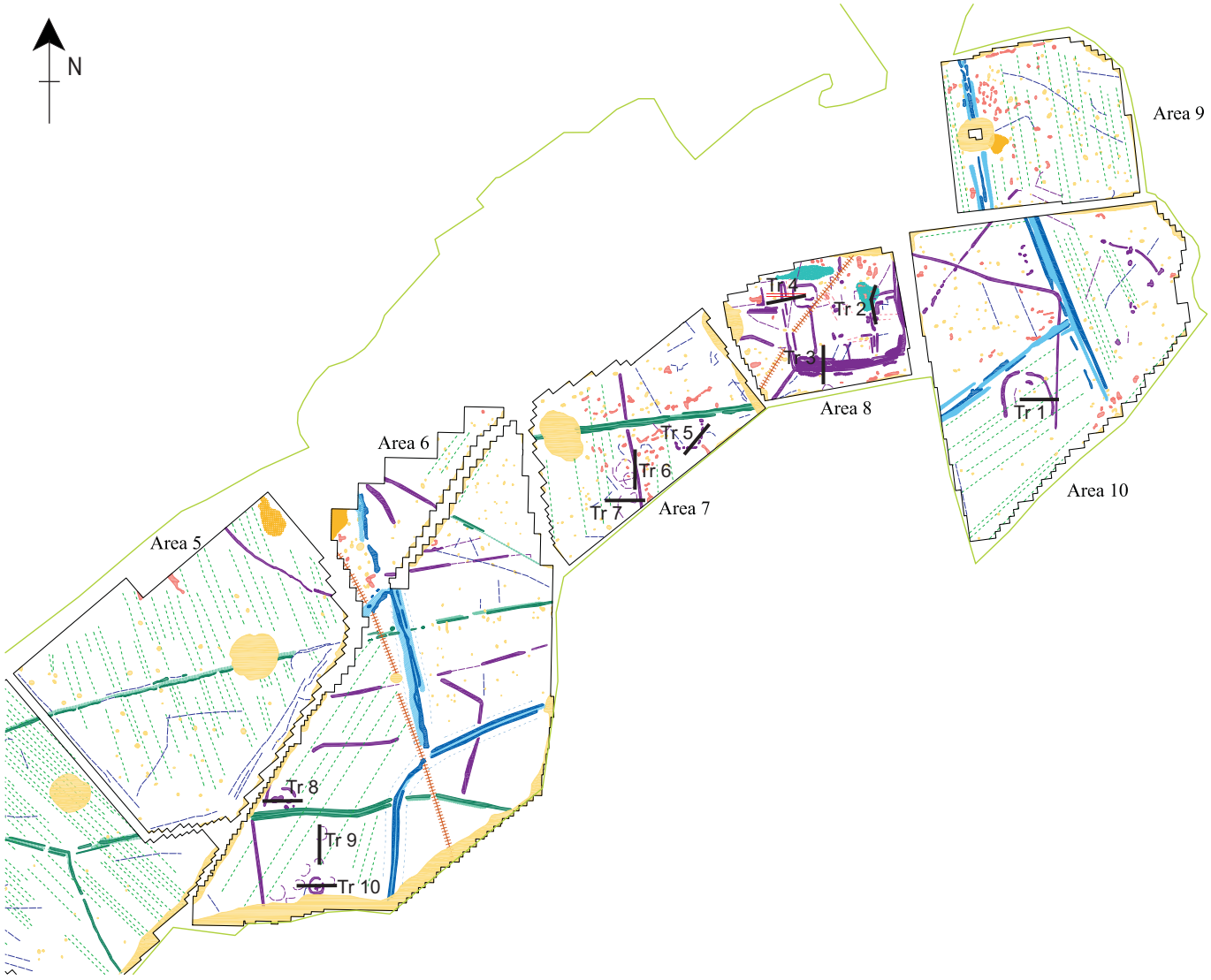
PROJECT

Maiden Green, Truro, Cornwall

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site

AC archaeology



Key

- Trench Location (30m x 1.8m)
- Old Filed Boundary - marked on 1880 maps (positive/negative response)
- ?Old Field Boundary (positive/ negative response)
- ?Archaeology (positive/trend)
- Increased Magnetic Response
- Uncertain Origin
- Trend (Uncertain Origin)
- ?Field Drain
- Ploughing
- ?Natural (positive/ negative response)
- Magnetic Disturbance
- Pipe
- Ferrous

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Scale 1:5000@A4

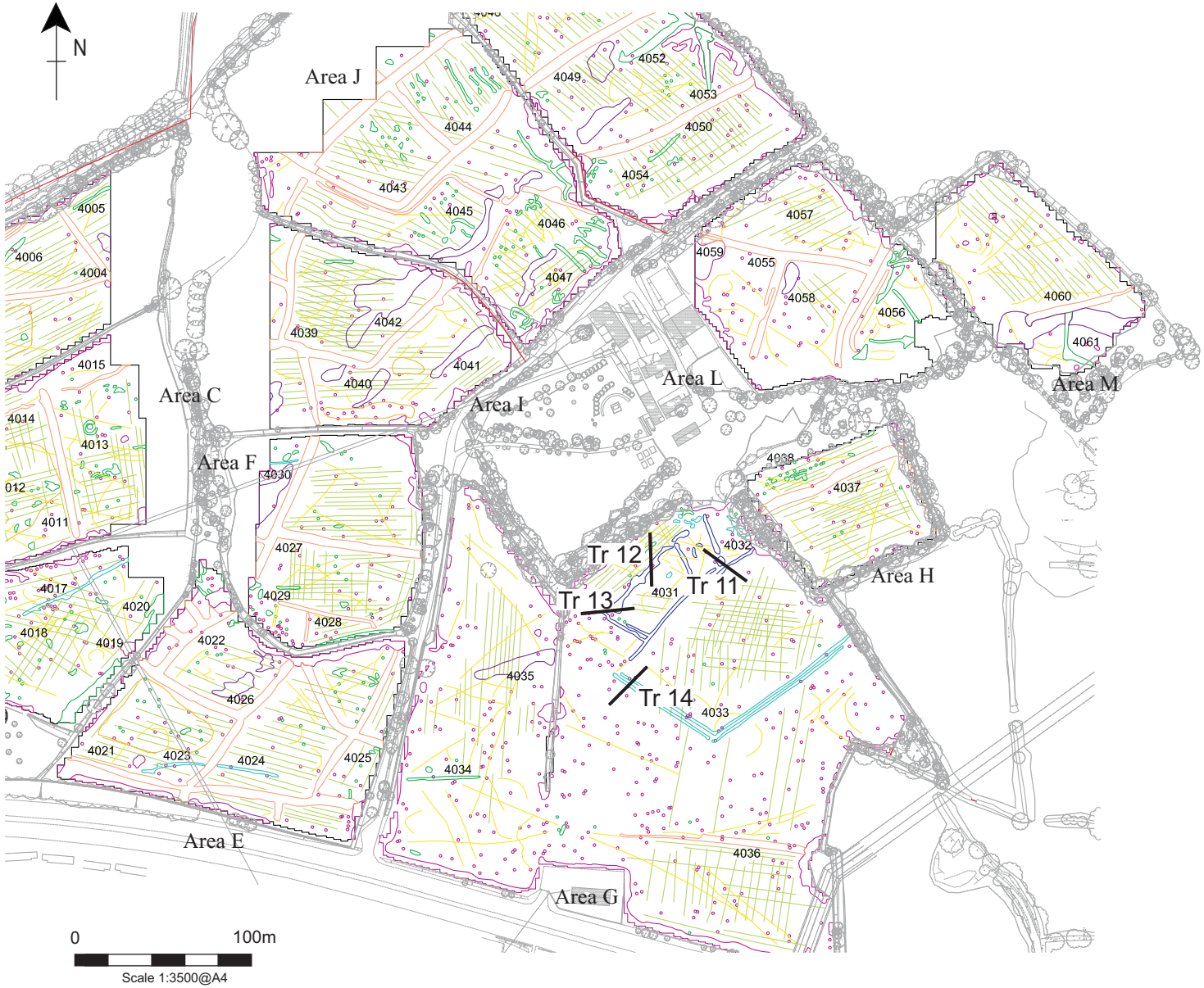
PROJECT

Maiden Green, Truro, Cornwall

TITLE

Fig. 2: Trench location plan, Trenches 1-10

AC archaeology



PROJECT

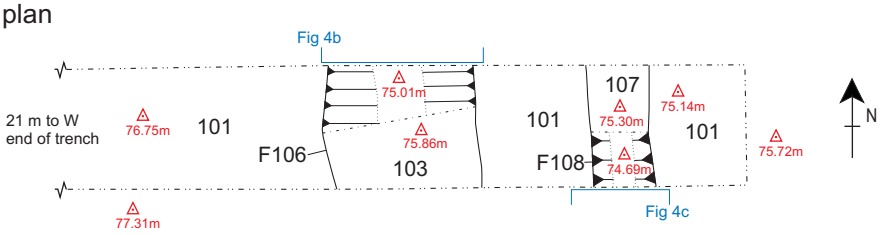
Maiden Green, Truro, Cornwall

TITLE

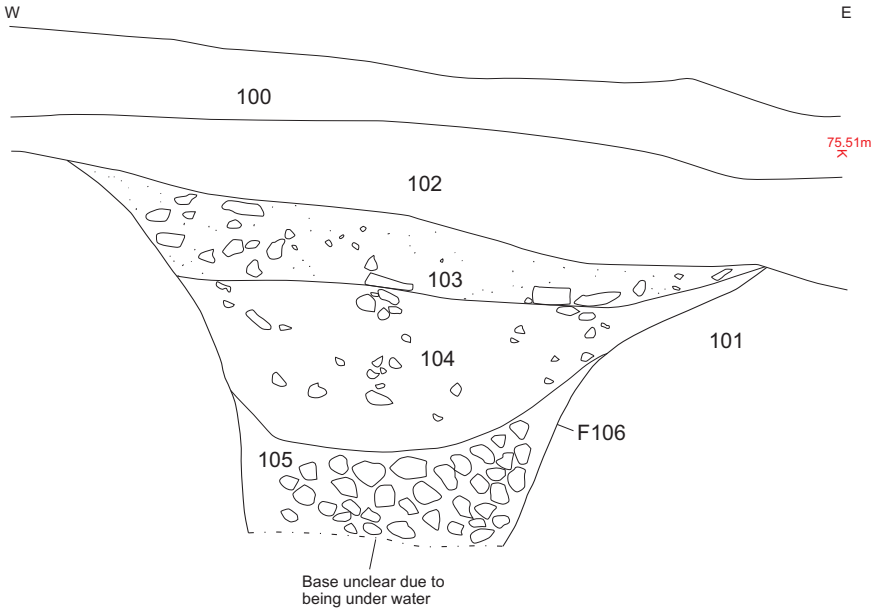
Fig. 3: Trench location plan, Trenches 11-14

AC archaeology

a) Trench 1, plan



b) Section of F106



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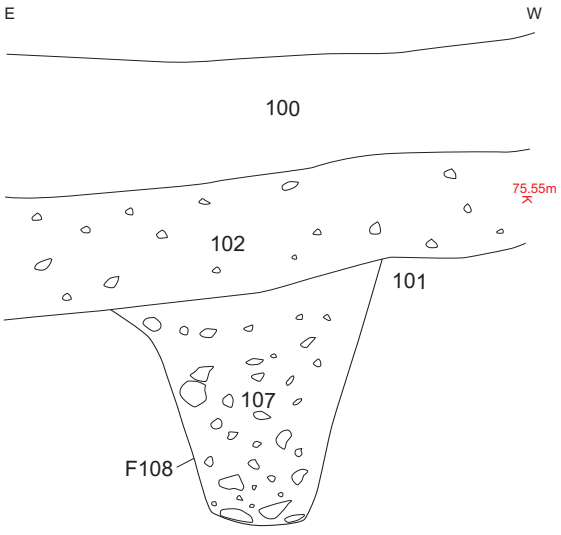

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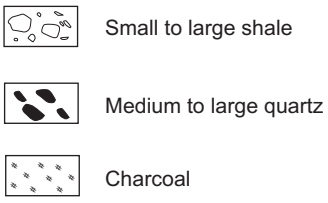

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Scale 1:100@A4

0 Sections 1m

Scale 1:20@A4

PROJECT

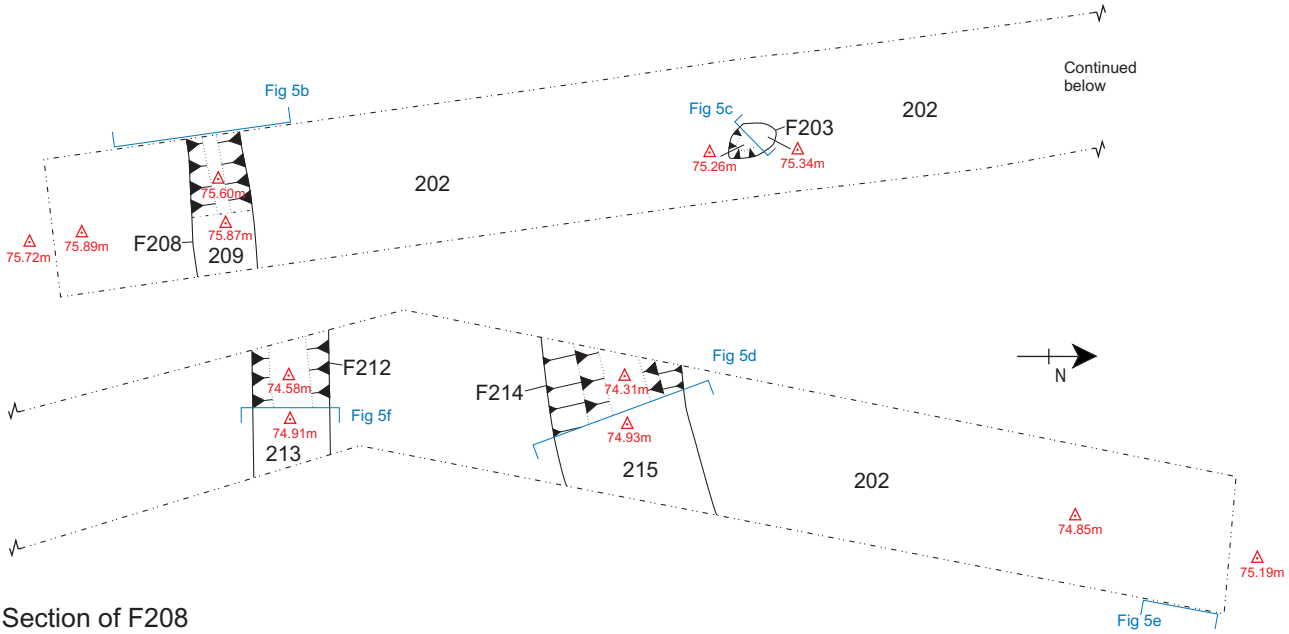
Maidon Green, Truro, Cornwall

TITLE

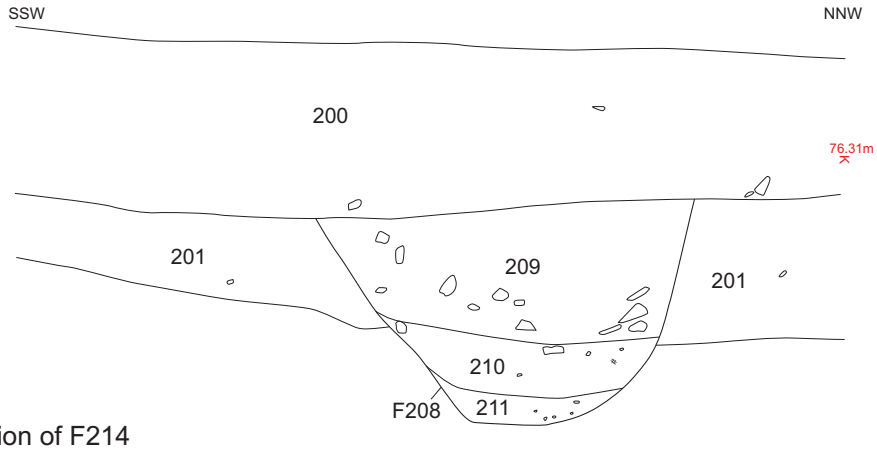
Fig. 4: Plan and sections, Trench 1

AC archaeology

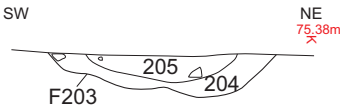
a) Trench 2, plan



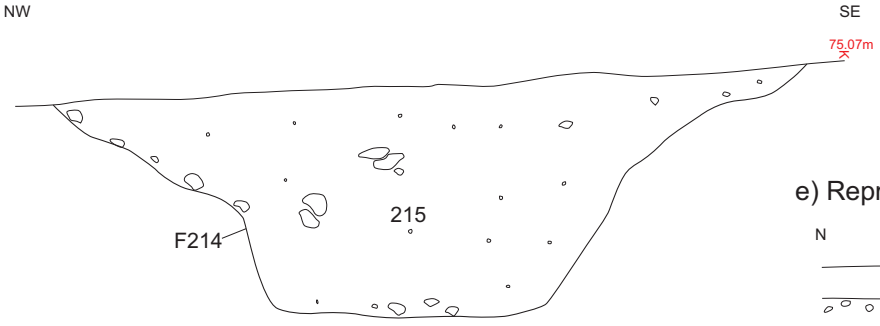
b) Section of F208



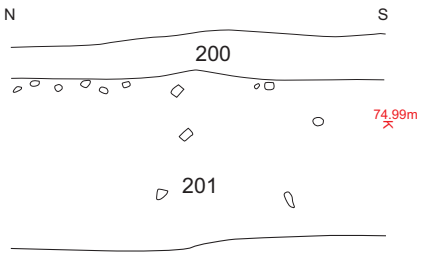
c) Section of F203



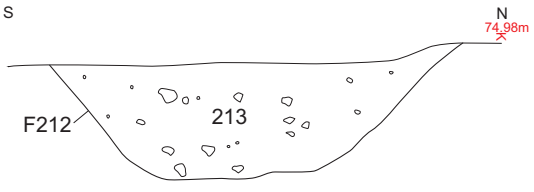
d) Section of F214



e) Representative section



f) Section of F212



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Scale 1:20@A4

PROJECT

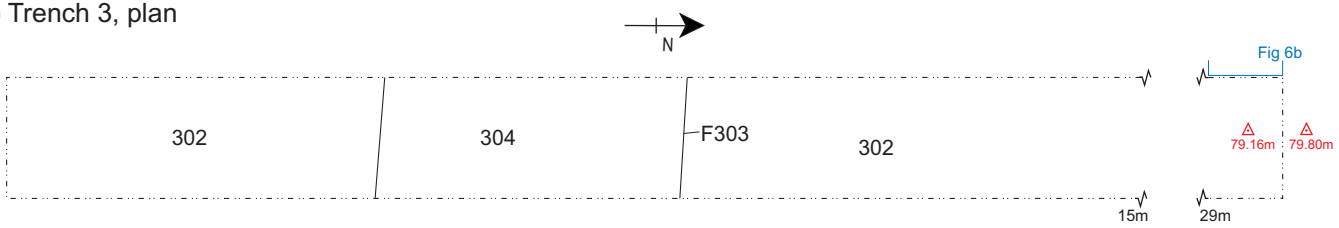
Maidon Green, Truro, Cornwall

TITLE

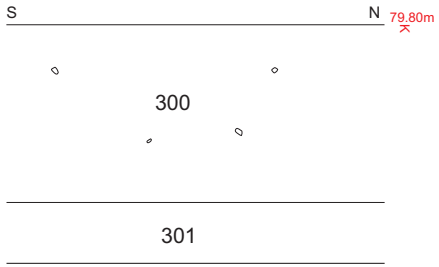
Fig. 5: Plan and sections, Trench 2

AC archaeology

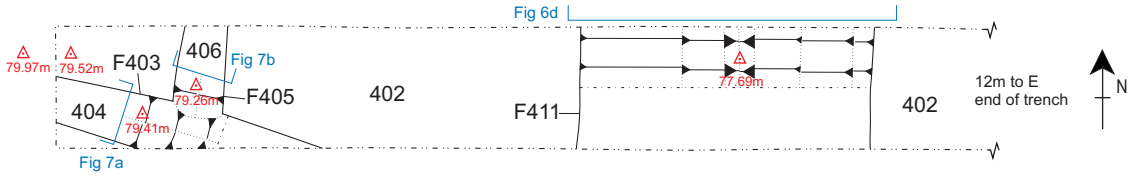
a) Trench 3, plan



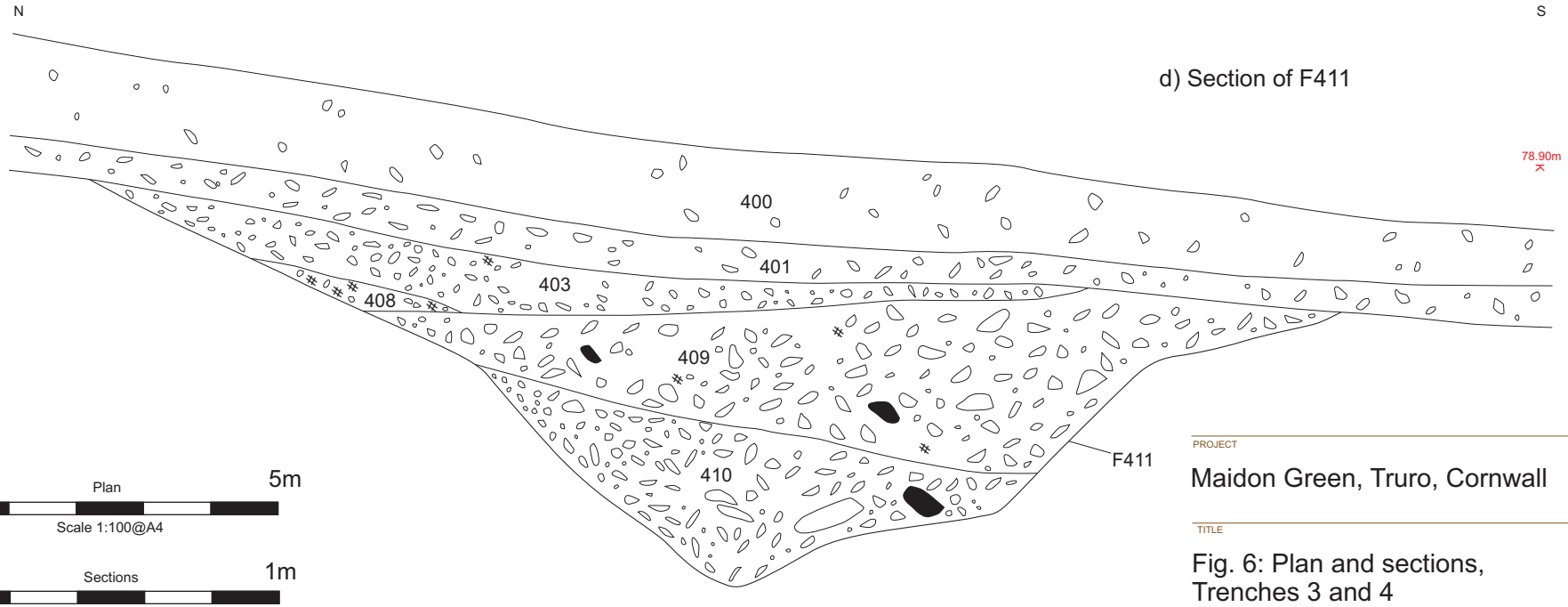
b) Representative section



c) Trench 4, plan



d) Section of F411



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PROJECT

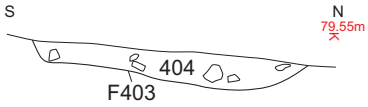
Maidon Green, Truro, Cornwall

TITLE

Fig. 6: Plan and sections, Trenches 3 and 4

AC archaeology

a) Section of F403



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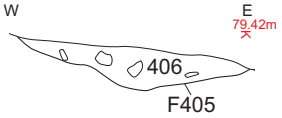
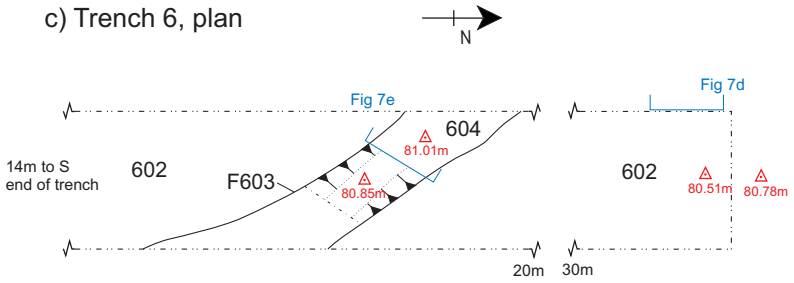
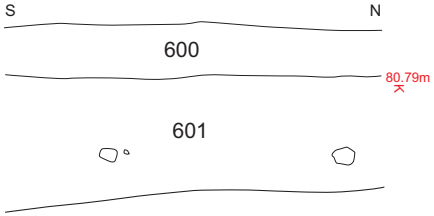


c) Trench 6, plan



d) Representative section



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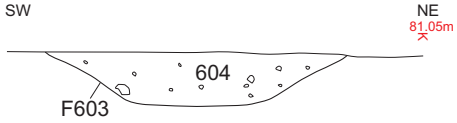
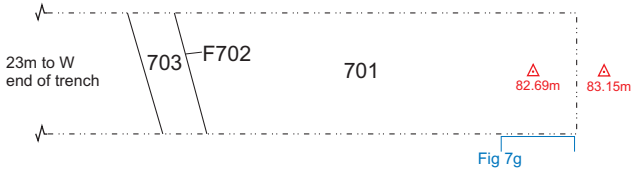


f) Trench 7, plan



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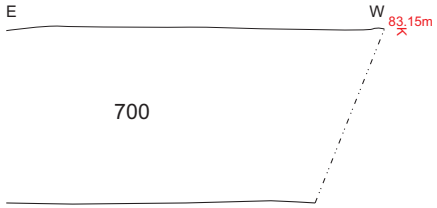

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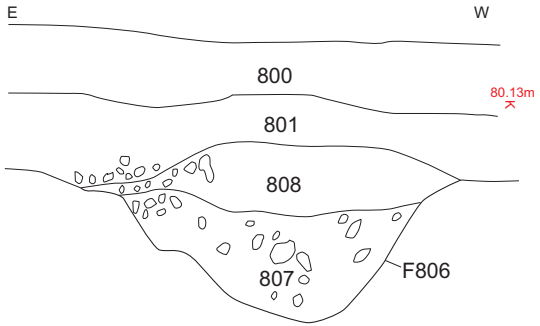
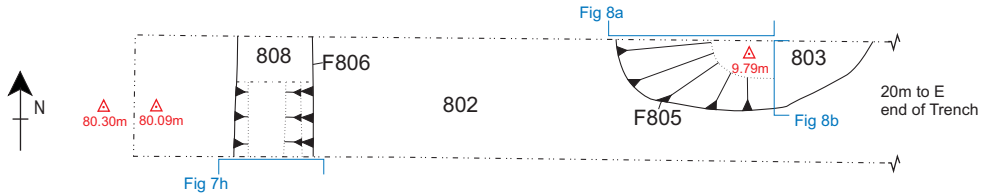


i) Trench 8, plan



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Scale 1:20@A4

PROJECT

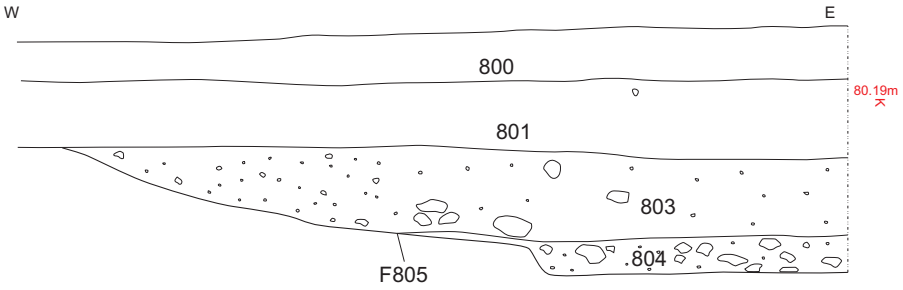
Maidon Green, Truro, Cornwall

TITLE

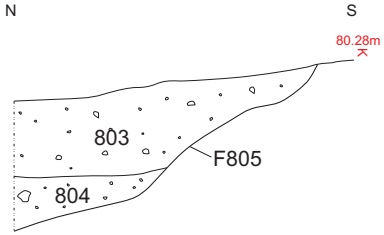
Fig. 7: Trench 4 sections, and plans and sections, Trenches 6, 7 and 8

AC archaeology

a) South facing section of F805



b) West facing section of F805



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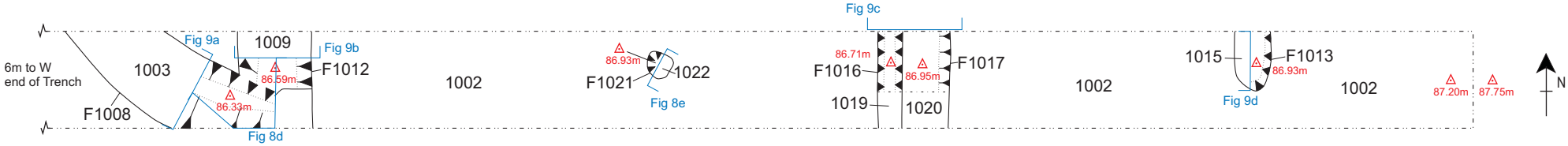
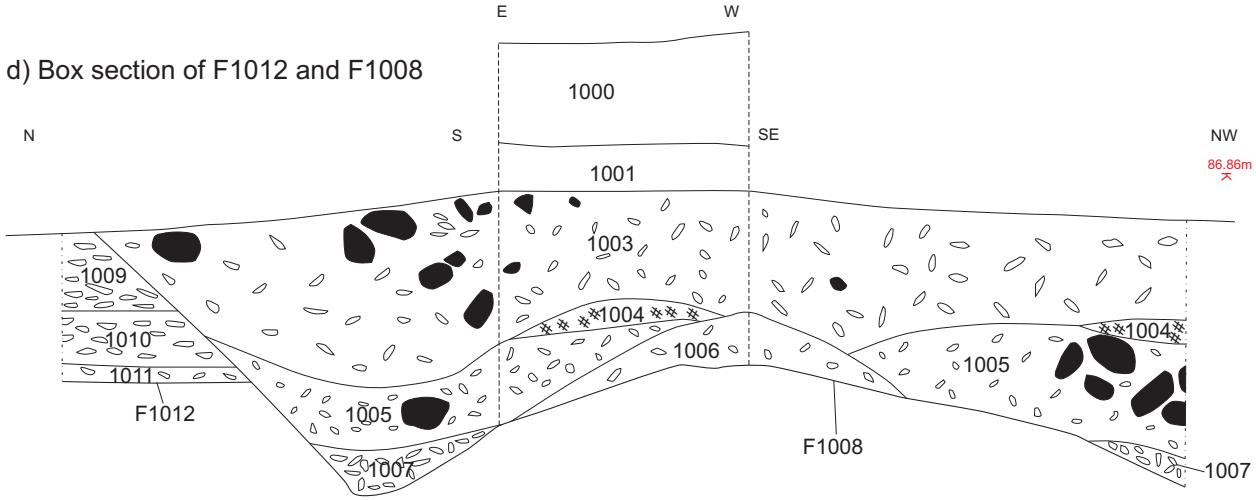
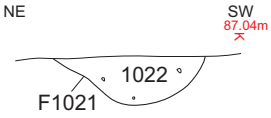


d) Box section of F1012 and F1008



e) Section of F1021



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0 Sections 1m

Scale 1:20@A4

PROJECT

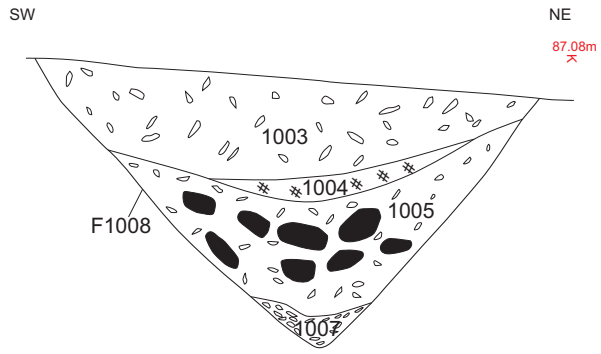
Maidon Green, Truro, Cornwall

TITLE

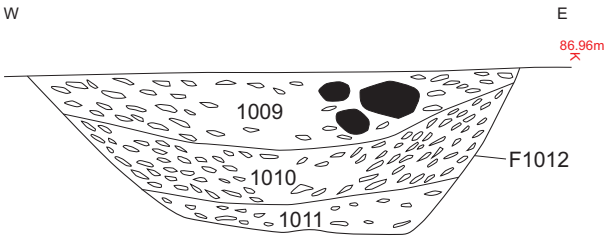
Fig. 8: Trench 8 sections, and plan and sections, Trench 10

AC archaeology

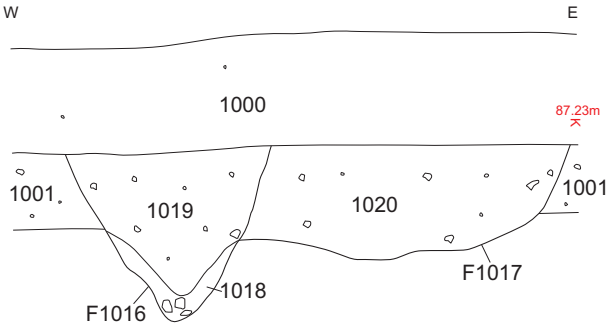
a) Section of F1008



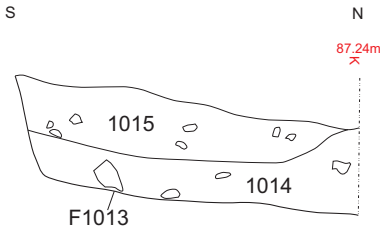
b) Section of F1012



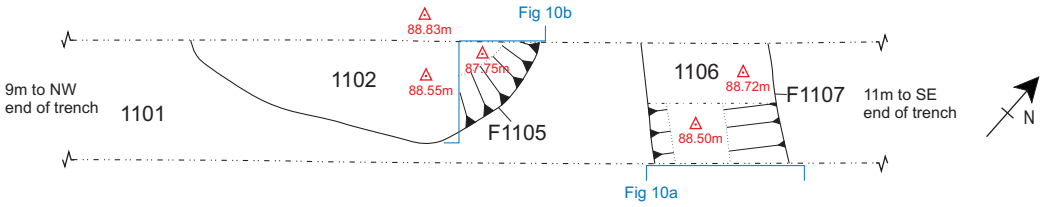
c) Section of F1016 and F1017



d) Section of F1013



e) Trench 11, plan



0 Plan 5m

Scale 1:100@A4

0 Sections 1m

Scale 1:20@A4

PROJECT

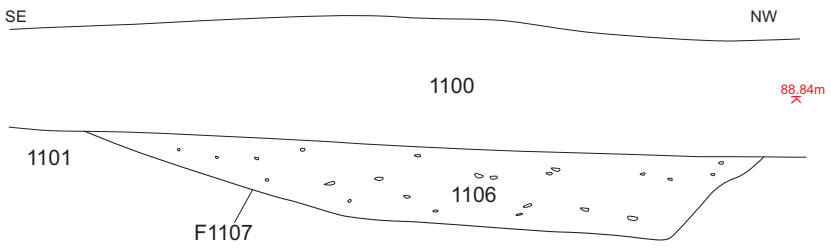
Maidon Green, Truro, Cornwall

TITLE

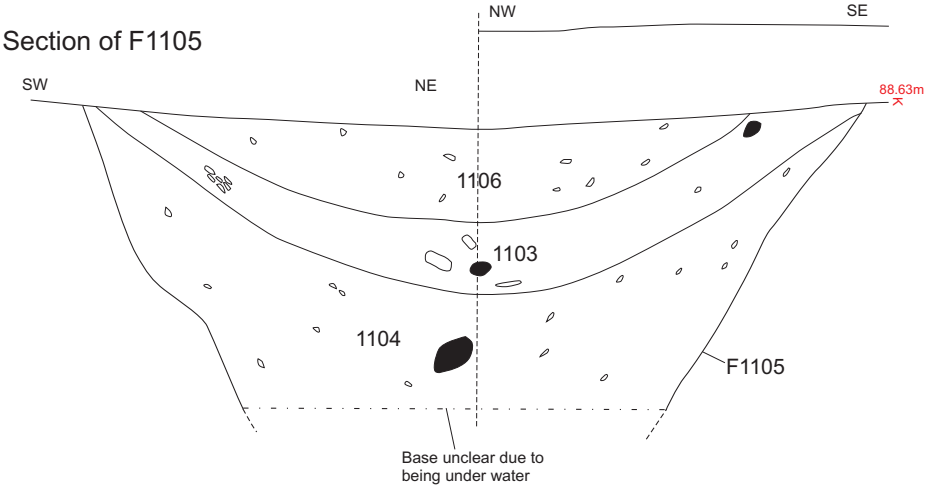
Fig. 9: Trench 10 sections, and plan of Trench 11

AC archaeology

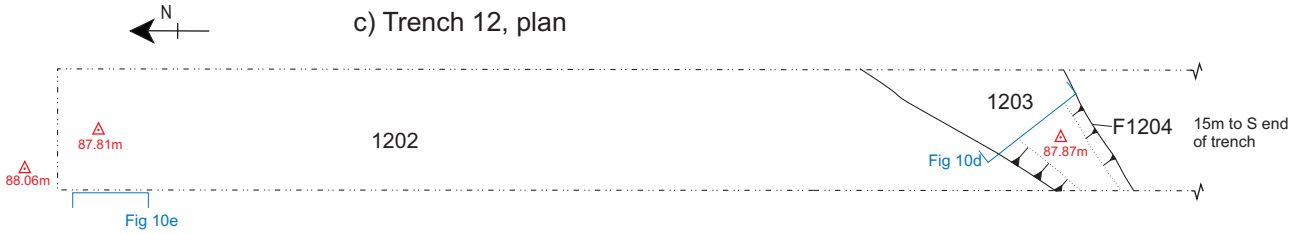
a) Section of F1107



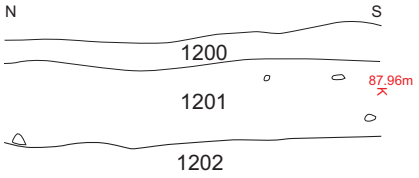
b) Section of F1105



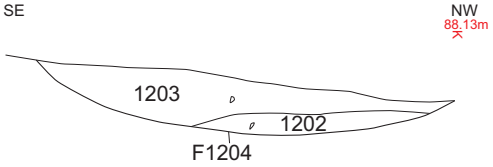
c) Trench 12, plan

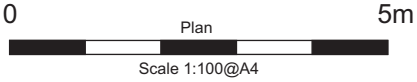


e) Representative section



d) Section of F1204





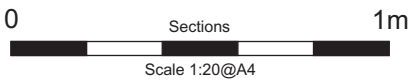


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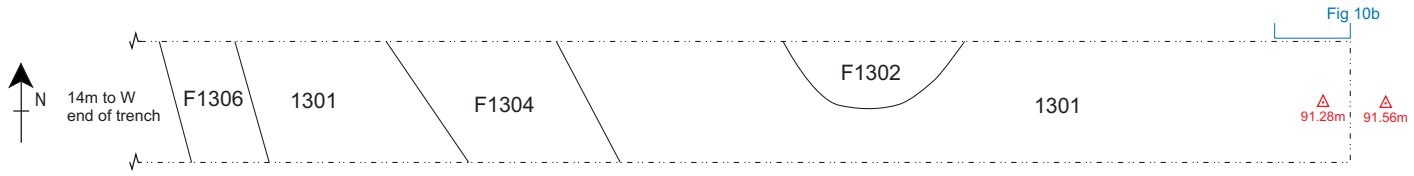
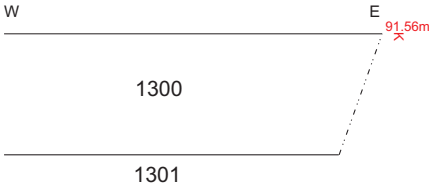
Fig. 10: Trench 11 sections, and plan and sections, Trench 12

AC archaeology

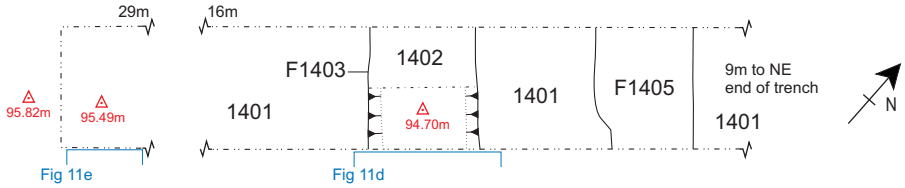
a) Trench 13, plan



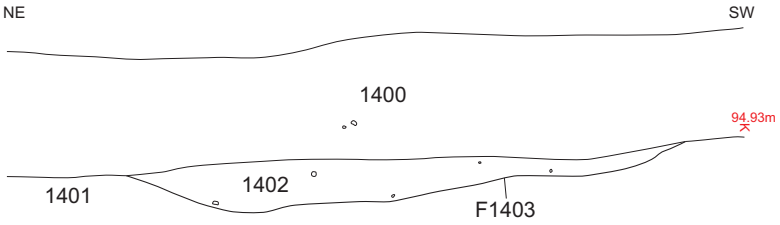
b) Representative section



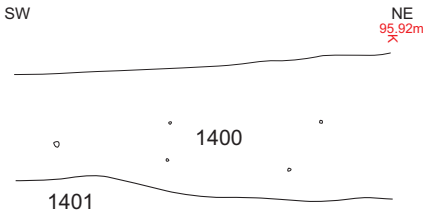
c) Trench 14, plan



d) Section of F1403



e) Representative section



0 Plan 5m

Scale 1:100@A4

0 Sections 1m

Scale 1:20@A4

PROJECT

Maidon Green, Truro, Cornwall

TITLE

Fig. 11: Plan and sections, Trenches 13 and 14

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Plate 1: Trench 1, ditch F106, view from the south.
1m scale

Plate 2: Trench 1, ditch F108, view from the north.
1m scale

Plate 3: Trench 2, ditch F214, view from the west.
1m scale

Plate 4:Trench 3, view from the south.
1m scale

Plate 5: Trench 4, ditch F411, view from the south.
1m scale

Plate 6: Trench 5, view from the west.
1m scale

Plate 7: Trench 6, ditch F603, view from the southeast.
1m scale

Plate 8: Trench 7, view from the southeast.
1m scale

Plate 9: Trench 8, pit F805, view from the south. 1m scale

Plate 10: Trench 9, view from the south. 1m scale

Plate 11: Trench 10, ditch F1012, with later ditch F1008 in the foreground, view from the west. 1m scale

Plate 12: Trench 10, ditches F1016 and F1017, view from the south. 1m scale

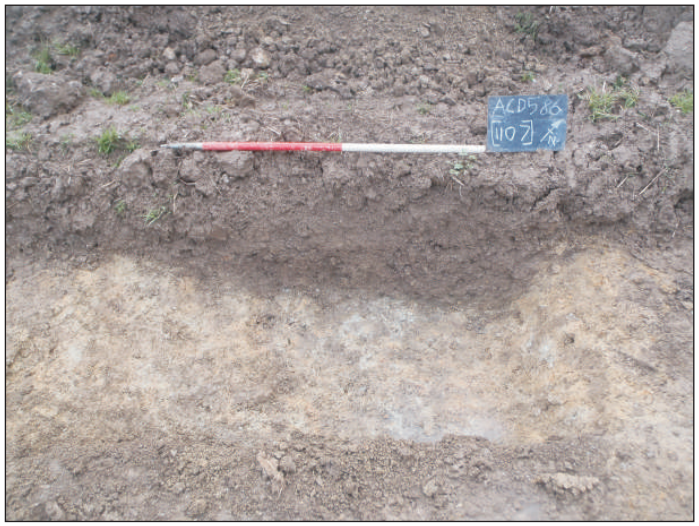

Plate 13: Trench 11, ditch F1107, view from the northeast. 1m scale

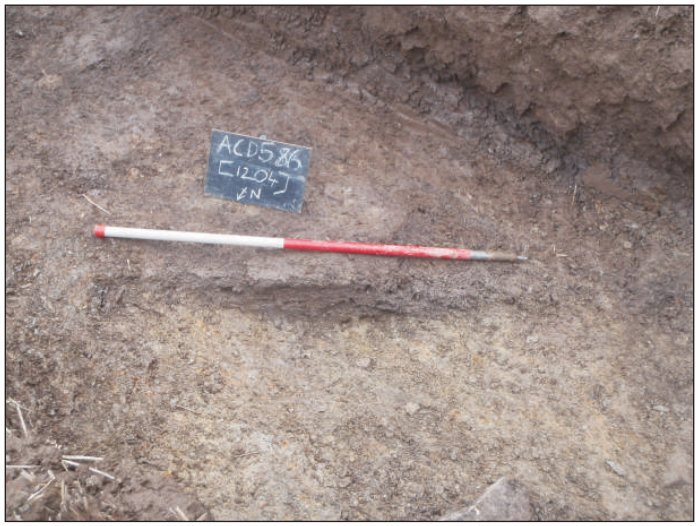

Plate 14: Trench 12, ditch F1204, view from the north. 1m scale

Plate 15: Trench 13, view from the east. 1m scale

Plate 16: Trench 14, ditch F1405, view from the south. 1m scale

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