

LAND AT TREVITHICK MANOR FARM, TREVEMPER, NEWQUAY, CORNWALL - PHASE A

NGR SW 827 600

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

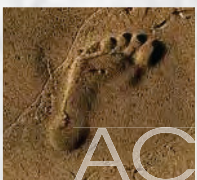
Cornwall Council Planning Reference: PA15/02184
(Condition 15)

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On behalf of:
Persimmon Homes South West

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archaeology

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Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation, carried out on Phase A land at Trevithick Manor Farm, Trevemper, Newquay, Cornwall, was undertaken by AC archaeology during September 2015. The site occupied approximately 1.4 hectares of formally agricultural land to the southeast of Newquay. It had been subject to a previous geophysical survey which identified a series of anomalies thought to represent possible ditches and pits.

The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of ten trenches totalling 271.5m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. These were positioned to target the anomalies identified from the previous geophysical survey.

Archaeological features were identified in four of the trenches, with these consisting of a small number of post-medieval to modern ditches. These included a double-ditch representing the position of a former hedgebank, a probable associated plot sub-division or drain and a 19th century ditch, the line of which was consistent with the boundary of a smithy that formally extended onto the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AC archaeology during September 2015 on land at Trevithick Manor, Trevemper, Newquay, Cornwall (centred on NGR SW 827 600; Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South West, and was required under condition 15 of planning consent granted by Cornwall County Council, Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (hereafter HEPAO) for the construction of 55 dwellings and associated highways, drainage and open space infrastructure.
- 1.2 The site forms part of a wider outline application area, of which the current work forms Phase A. The Phase A area occupied approximately 1.4 hectares of formally agricultural land and was located on the southeastern outskirts of Newquay, to the west of Hendra Holiday Park and the Kings Head Inn public house (Plate 1). The site lay at approximately 50m AOD on ground that sloped gently towards the north and the underlying solid geology comprised mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Meadfoot Group (British Geological Society Online Viewer)

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The wider outline planning application extends over 18 separate and adjoining fields and has been subjected to various geophysical surveys (GSB Prospection 2011, Marsh 2012) and trial trench evaluation (Taylor 2011). This work had established that the present site was located within an immediate landscape containing buried evidence for multiphase prehistoric settlement and land division, including an Iron Age settlement enclosure and Middle Bronze Age roundhouses to the southeast, associated Iron Age field systems across the whole site and an Iron Age or Roman industrial structure to the southwest, with a function connected to the processing of cereal grains.
- 2.2 On the site itself the geophysical survey suggested that fragments of possible prehistoric linear features may have continued into this area, and in several areas more amorphous and irregular features may have related to buried settlement evidence.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The main aim of the trial trenching was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site. The results of the work will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation. The general aim of

any follow-up work will be to investigate and record any heritage assets with archaeological interest that may be present within the development site and will be affected by the construction works.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2015), submitted to and approved by the Cornwall HEPAO prior to commencement on site. It comprised the machine-excavation of 10 trenches totalling 171m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. Trenches were positioned to target anomalies identified from the previous geophysical survey, and were positioned using a Leica Viva GS08 Plus GNSS Network RTK Rover GPS with sub 100mm accuracy. The removal of soil overburden was undertaken using a tracked 360° excavator fitting with a 1.6m wide grading bucket under the control and direction of the site archaeologist.
- 4.2 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 2* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections or plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

Archaeological features were present in four of the trenches (Trenches 1, 3, 6 and 7), with these discussed in detail below. The remaining trenches are summarised in tabulated form in Appendix 1. The natural subsoil on the site consisted of a light yellow to light grey laminated and fragmented sandstone, shale and mudstone in a silty-clay matrix.

5.2 Trench 1 (Detailed plan Fig. 3a and section Figs 3b; Plate 2)

This trench measured 10m long, and was positioned to target an approximately east to west aligned linear anomaly. The trench was excavated to a depth of between 0.35-0.52m below existing levels onto the natural subsoil (context 102). This was overlain by a maximum of 0.34m of subsoil (101) beneath 0.18m of topsoil (100). A single linear feature was exposed within the trench (F103), but did not correspond with the location of the targeted anomaly.

Probable ditch F103 was northwest to southeast aligned and measured 1.65m wide and 0.18m deep, with moderately-steep irregular sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a single fill (104) which consisted of a dark brown silty-loam (104) mottled with re-deposited natural subsoil and had inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular mudstone and sandstone fragments and charcoal flecks. Fill 104 contained 19th to 20th century pottery (not retained).

5.3 Trench 3 (Detailed plan Fig. 3c and sections Figs 3d; Plates 3 and 4)

Trench 3 measured a total of 51m long and was positioned to investigate two approximately north to south aligned linear anomalies and an east to west aligned linear anomaly shown on the geophysics results. The trench was excavated to a depth of between 0.40m to 0.60m through a localised recently-dumped mixed soil and aggregate deposit (300), topsoil (301) and subsoil (302) onto natural subsoil (303). Two parallel linear features were exposed that corresponded with the north to south aligned anomalies (F304 and F306). The other targeted anomaly was not encountered.

Parallel ditches F304 and F306 measured between 1m to 1.60m wide and 0.13m to 0.14m deep with shallow concave profiles. The ditches each contained similar mid yellowish-brown silty-loam fills (305 and 307) with small sub-rounded shale, sandstone, schist and mudstone

gravels and occasional charcoal. An iron object and a sherd of post-medieval pottery were recovered from ditch fills 305 and 307.

5.4 Trench 6 (Detailed plan Fig. 4a and section Figs 4b; Plate 5)

This trench measured 31m long, and was positioned to target two linear anomalies identified from the previous geophysical survey. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m below ground level onto the natural subsoil (602). Overlying this was 0.35m of subsoil (601) beneath 0.20m of topsoil (600). The trench contained a single linear feature (F603) which was consistent with position of an approximately east to west aligned linear anomaly. The second targeted linear anomaly was not encountered.

Ditch F603 measured 0.90m wide and 0.10m deep with moderately-steep sloping sides and a flattish base. The ditch contained a single fill (604) consisting of a dark yellowish-brown silty-loam small sub-rounded shale, sandstone, schist and mudstone and occasional charcoal inclusions.

5.5 Trench 7 (Detailed plan Fig. 4c and Plate 6)

Trench 7 measured 68m long and was positioned to target three large and amorphous geophysical anomalies. It was excavated onto natural subsoil (702), which was present at a depth of between 0.25m and 0.65m beneath subsoil (701) and topsoil (700). The geophysical anomalies were found to relate to geological variation. However, two north to south aligned linear features were exposed (703 and 704) that broadly corresponded with the projected line of ditches F304 and F306 extending from Trench 3.

The parallel linear features measured 1.15m and 1m wide respectively and were comprised of mid yellowish-brown silty-loams. No finds were recovered from these unexcavated probable ditches.

6. THE FINDS *by Naomi Payne*

6.1 Introduction

All finds recovered on site during the evaluation were retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. They were then quantified according to material type within each context and the assemblage was scanned to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. The only finds from the evaluation were an iron object and a sherd of post-medieval pottery.

6.2 Metalwork

A single iron object or fragment (41g) was recovered from context 305, fill of hedge bank ditch F304. This is highly encrusted and cannot be identified without an x-ray. However, as its context indicates a post-medieval date, it is unlikely to be significant.

6.3 Post-medieval pottery

A single sherd (39g) of post-medieval pottery was recovered from context 307, fill of hedge bank ditch of F306. This is a body sherd from a large North Devon Gravel Tempered vessel dating from the 17th or 18th century.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The results of the trial trenching have shown that the geophysical survey results were mixed, with three of the trenches having corresponding archaeological features present. While some of the anomalies were not encountered, others could be attributed to variations in the geology. The exposed archaeological features consisted of shallow ditches that were cut into the natural subsoil, which was present at a depth of between 0.25m and 0.6m below existing levels.

- 7.2** Trench 1 ditch F103 was demonstrated to be 19th to 20th in date. The position of this ditch is roughly consistent with the plot boundary of a former smithy, which is depicted on the Ordnance Survey First-Edition 6-inch map of 1879-80.
- 7.3** The linear features present in Trenches 3 and 7 are likely to represent exposed sections of the same parallel ditches. These are likely to have formed the flanking ditches for a former historic hedgebank boundary. This interpretation is consistent with the post-medieval date suggested by the recovered pottery from ditch F306. Ditch F603 in Trench 6 was undated. However, its alignment at right angles to the ditches exposed in Trenches 3 and 7, as well as its similar shallow profile, suggests that it represents an associated former sub-division or drain.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1** A small number of ditches were exposed within the trial trenches that are all likely to be post-medieval to modern in date. Evidence for a post-medieval field boundary and a probable associated plot sub-division were exposed. These represent features that are consistent with the known historic agricultural land use of the site. A former smithy, whose plot formally extended into the site was probably represented by another exposed ditch, the position of which corresponded with its boundary as shown on a 19th century Ordnance Survey map that includes the site.
- 8.2** Despite the general archaeological potential on the site and the suggestion of activity based on the results of the previous geophysical survey, there was no evidence for prehistoric or Romano-British activity within the Phase A area.

9. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 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, prior to deposition under a museum-allocated accession number at the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro.
- 9.2** An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **227744**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1** The work was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South West. Fieldwork was undertaken by Ben Pears and Naomi Kysh with the illustrations for this report prepared by Sarnia Blackmore.

11. SOURCES CONSULTED

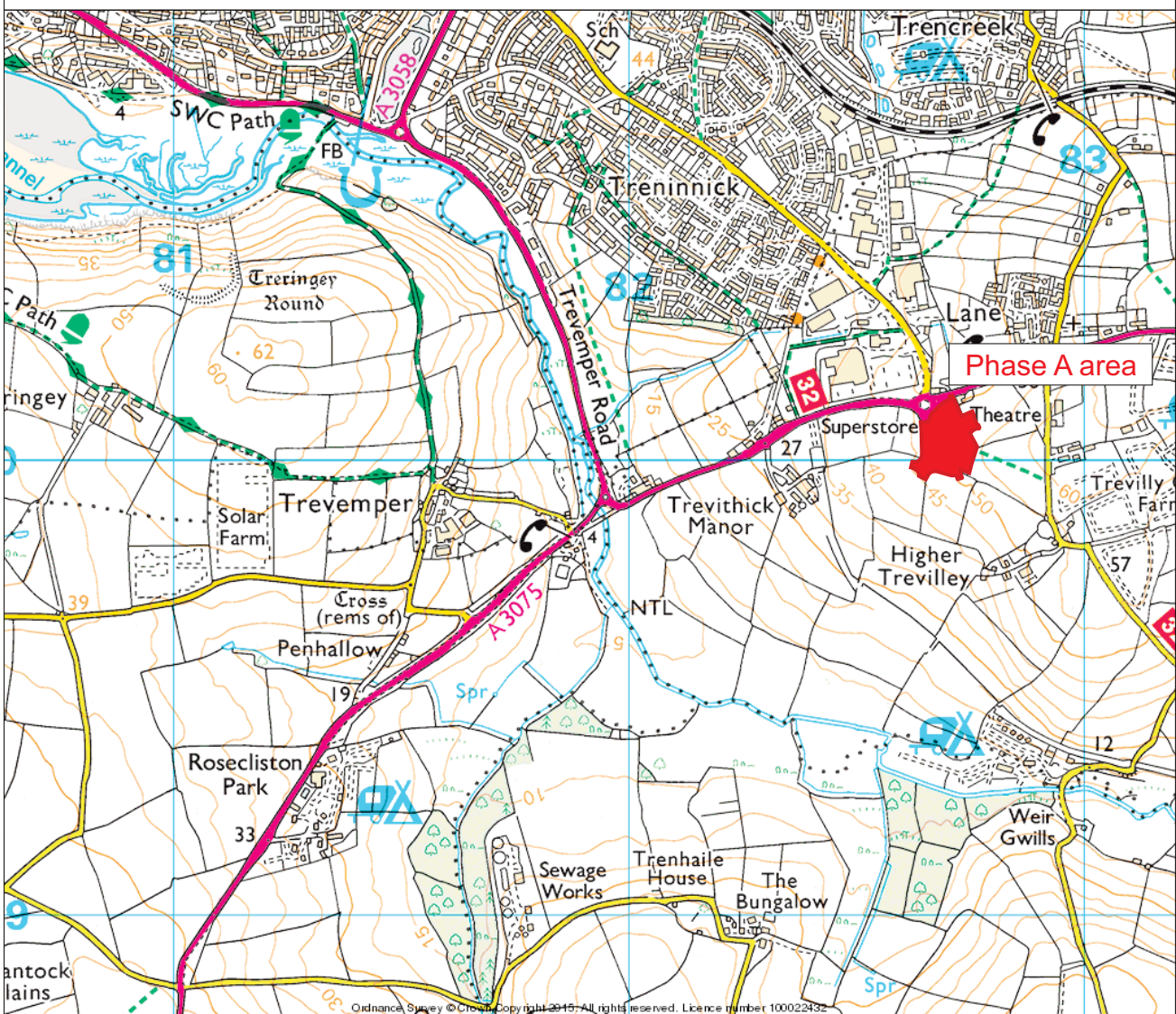
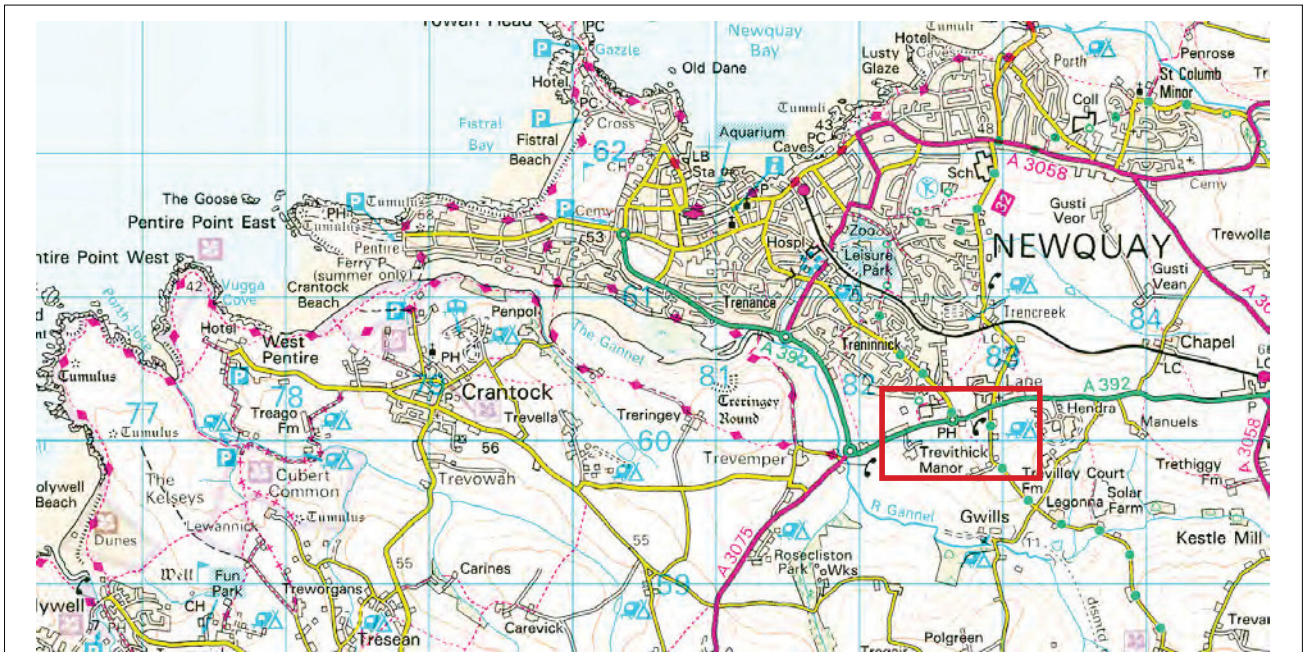
GSB Prospection. 2011, *Geophysical Survey Report 2011/05, Trevithick Manor, Cornwall*, GSB Prospection, Bradford

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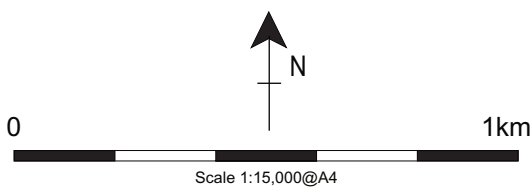
Ordnance Survey First-Edition 6-inch map 39NE surveyed 1879-80 published 1888

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Valentin, J. 2015, *Land at Trevithick Manor Farm, Trevemper, Newquay, Cornwall: Project design for Archaeological Investigation and mitigation, Planning Application Ref. Cornwall Council Planning Reference PA15/02184 (Condition 15)*, AC archaeology document no. ACD1185/1/1.



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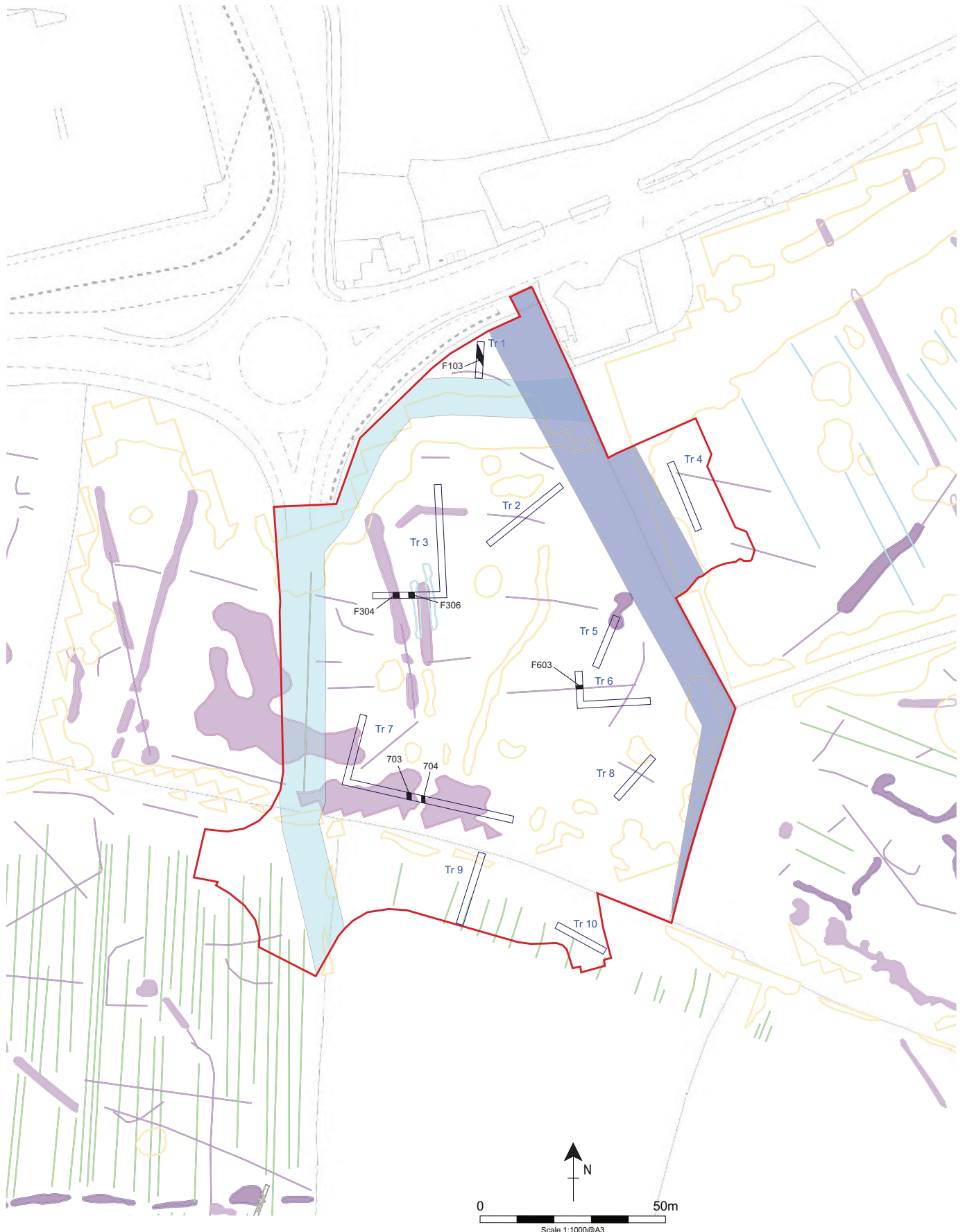
PROJECT

Land at Trevithick Manor, Newquay, Cornwall

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location






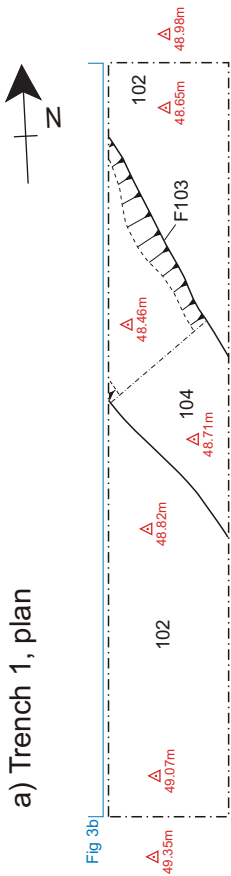
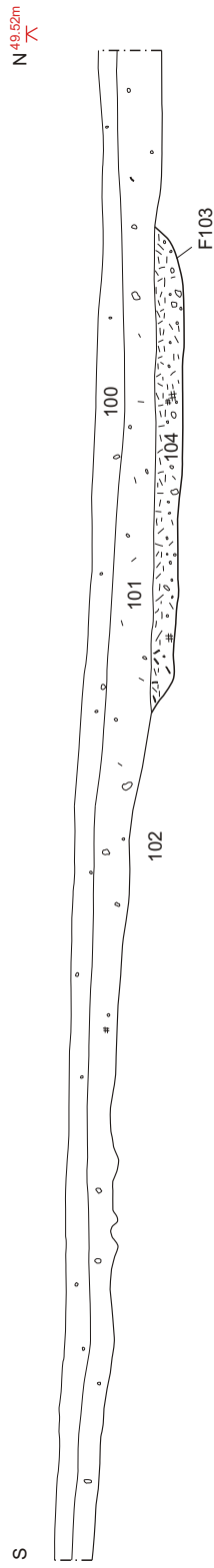
- | | |
|---|---|
|  Phase A: Development Area |  Overhead cable buffer |
|  Trenches showing archaeological features identified |  Buried service buffer |

Fig. 2: Location of trenches in relation to the geophysics results

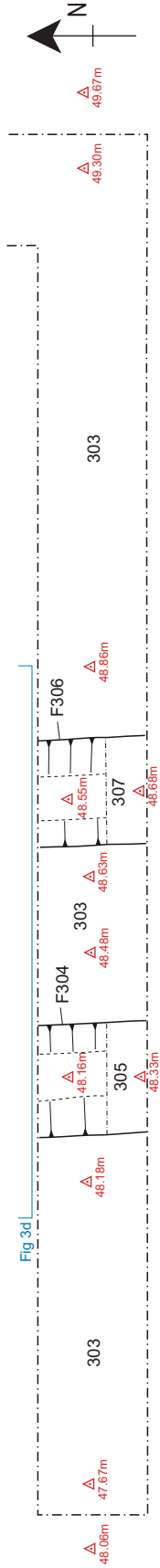
a) Trench 1, plan



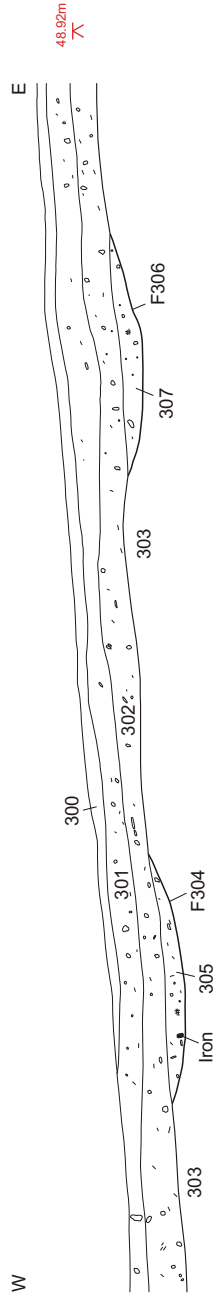
b) Section of F103



c) Trench 3, plan



d) Section of F304 and F306



0 5m

Plan

Scale 1:100@A4

0 3m

Section

Scale 1:50@A4

PROJECT

Land at Trevithick Manor, Newquay, Cornwall

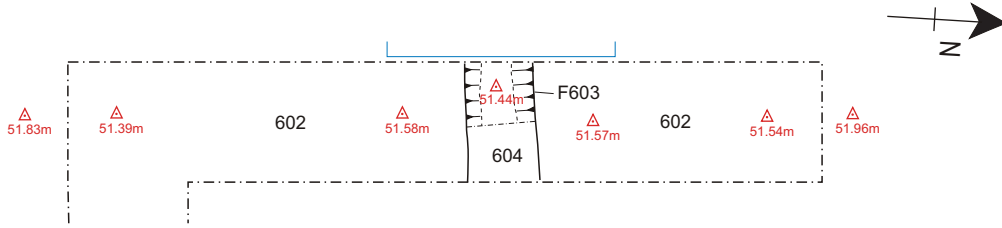
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Fig. 3: Trenches 1 and 3, plans and sections

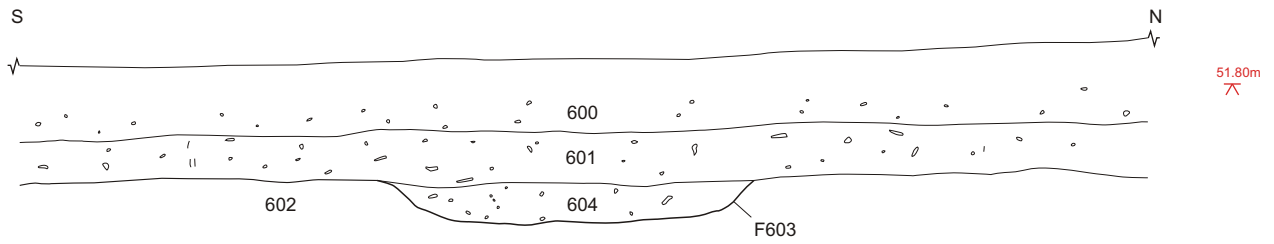


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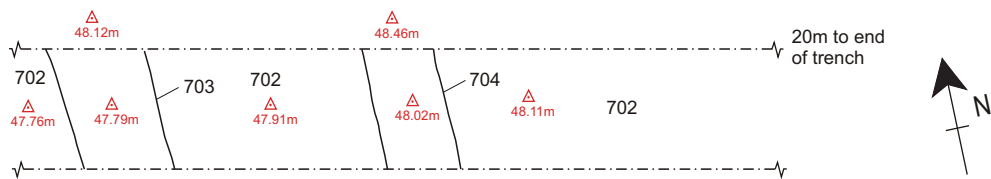
a) Trench 6, plan





b) Section of F603

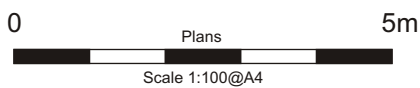
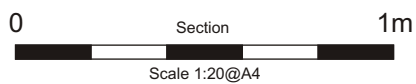


c) Trench 7, plan



Key

-  Stone inclusions
-  Charcoal



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Fig. 4: Trench 6, plan and section and Trench 7 plan





Plate 1: General view of site looking northeast with the King's Head Inn public house in background,



Plate 2: Trench 1, showing ditch F103, looking southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Trench 3, showing ditch F304, looking north (scale 1m)



Plate 4: Trench 3, showing ditch F306, looking north (scale 1m)



Plate 5: Trench 6, showing ditch F603, looking west (scale 1m)



Plate 6: Trench 7, showing probable ditches 703 and 704, looking north (scale 1m)

Appendix 1

Tabulated Negative Trench Descriptions

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED NEGATIVE TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No. 2			
Dimensions – 25m x 1.60m			
Orientated – NE-SW			
Context	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0-0.24m	Mid brown to dark brown silty-loam with inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded to tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.5-15mm at 5-10%	Topsoil
201	0.24-0.4m-	Dark yellowish brown to dark yellow silty clay loam with inclusions of small sub-rounded to sub-angular and tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.10-30mm at 2-5% occurrence	Subsoil
202	0.4m+	Light yellow to white laminated and fragmented sandstone, mudstone and shale geology with tabular inclusions of rock between c.10-30mm at +20% occurrence.	Natural subsoil

Trench No. 4			
Dimensions – 20m x 1.60m			
Orientated – NW-SE			
Context	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
400	0-0.12m	Mid brown to dark brown silty-loam with inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded to tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.5-15mm at 5-10%	Topsoil
401	0.12-0.67m	Dark yellowish brown to dark yellow silty clay loam with inclusions of small sub-rounded to sub-angular and tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.10-30mm at 2-5% occurrence	Subsoil
402	0.67m+	Light yellow to white laminated and fragmented sandstone, mudstone and shale geology with tabular inclusions of rock between c.10-30mm at +20% occurrence.	Natural subsoil

Trench No. 5			
Dimensions – 15m x 1.60m			
Orientated – NNE-SSW			
Context	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
500	0-0.24m	Mid brown to dark brown silty-loam with inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded to tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.5-15mm at 5-10%	Topsoil
501	0.24-54m	Dark yellowish brown to dark yellow silty clay loam with inclusions of small sub-rounded to sub-angular and tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.10-30mm at 2-5% occurrence	Subsoil
502	0.54m+	Light yellow to white laminated and fragmented sandstone, mudstone and shale geology with tabular inclusions of rock between c.10-30mm at +20% occurrence.	Natural subsoil

Trench No. 8			
Dimensions – 15m x 1.60m			
Orientated – NE-SW			
Context	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
800	0-0.24m	Mid brown to dark brown silty-loam with inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded to tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.5-15mm at 5-10%	Topsoil
801	0.24-0.64m	Dark yellowish brown to dark yellow silty clay loam with inclusions of small sub-rounded to sub-angular and tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.10-30mm at 2-5% occurrence	Subsoil
802	0.64m+	Light yellow to white laminated and fragmented sandstone, mudstone and shale geology with tabular inclusions of rock between c.10-30mm at +20% occurrence.	Natural subsoil

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED NEGATIVE TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No. 9			
Dimensions – 20m x 1.60m			
Orientated – NNE-SSW			
Context	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
900	0-0.26m	Mid brown to dark brown silty-loam with inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded to tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.5-15mm at 5-10%	Topsoil
901	0.26-0.33m	Dark yellowish brown to dark yellow silty clay loam with inclusions of small sub-rounded to sub-angular and tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.10-30mm at 2-5% occurrence	Subsoil
902	0.33m+	Light yellow to white laminated and fragmented sandstone, mudstone and shale geology with tabular inclusions of rock between c.10-30mm at +20% occurrence.	Natural subsoil

Trench No. 10			
Dimensions – 16m x 1.60m			
Orientated – WNW-ESE			
Context	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
1000	0-0.27m	Mid brown to dark brown silty-loam with inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded to tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.5-15mm at 5-10%	Topsoil
1001	0.27-0.39m	Dark yellowish brown to dark yellow silty clay loam with inclusions of small sub-rounded to sub-angular and tabular sandstone, shale, schist, mudstone fragments c.10-30mm at 2-5% occurrence	Subsoil
1002	0.39m+	Light yellow to white laminated and fragmented sandstone, mudstone and shale geology with tabular inclusions of rock between c.10-30mm at +20% occurrence.	Natural subsoil

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