Coyte Farm
St. Austell
Cornwall

Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxford archaeology south

October 2012

Client: Metric Developments

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 5449
NGR: SX 000 517

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client Name:	Metric Developments
Document Title:	Coyte Farm, St. Austell
Document Type:	Evaluation Report
Issue/Version Number:	1
Grid Reference:	SX 000 517
OA Job Number:	5449
Site Code:	TRURI:2012.24
Invoice Code:	STACOYEV
Receiving Museum:	Royal Cornwall Museum
Museum Accession No:	TRURI:2012.24

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Gerry Thacker Project Officer	Ken Welsh Senior Project Manager	Stuart Foreman Senior Project Manager	

Document File Location	X:\St.Austell Coyte Farm\Eval report text
Graphics File Location	\\San-access\invoice codes r thru z\S_codes\STACOYEV
Illustrated by	Anne Kilgour-Cooper and Georgina Slater

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: +44 (0) 1865 263800 e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net
f: +44 (0) 1865 793496 w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net
Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Coyte Farm St Austell

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Gerry Thacker

with contributions from John Cotter and illustrated by Anne Kilgour-Cooper and Georgina Slater

Table of Contents

List of Figures

Plates

Summary

Between 3rd and 7th September 2012 Oxford Archaeology carried out an Archaeological Evaluation at Coyte Farm, St.Mewan, St.Austell, Cornwall.

The evaluation was designed to further characterise a series of anomalies recorded during a geophysical survey of the site.

The most significant feature was a double-ditched enclosure, known as a 'round'. A small quantity of pottery recovered from one of the ditches and from a probable roundhouse gully within the enclosure supports the interpretation that it represents a small late prehistoric or Roman-period settlement.

Many of the other linear anomalies can be associated with boundaries marked on the 1838 St.Mewan or 1842 St.Austell Tithe Maps. However, the absence of dating evidence recovered from the evaluation means that it remains possible that some of the boundaries reflect medieval or even prehistoric alignments, although a number of double-ditched boundaries are perhaps most likely to be of post-medieval date on morphological grounds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between 3rd and 7th September 2012 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Coyte Farm, St.Mewan, St.Austell, Cornwall (centred on NGR SX 000 517). The investigation was carried out on behalf of Metric Developments under the direction of William Bedford of CgMs Consulting. The fieldwork was monitored on behalf of Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service. Fourteen evaluation trenches, the majority 50m x 2m were excavated within the proposed development area (Fig.1).

1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012) approved by Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The majority of the site lies on the Meadfoot Group, which comprises slate, siltstone and sandstone. The eastern side of the site includes an area of igneous intrusion of Devonian to Carboniferous age. Alluvium is mapped infilling a stream valley to the west of St.Mewan (Geology of Britain Viewer, British Geological Survey online).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site has been subject to desk-based assessment (CgMs, 2011) and geophysical survey (Stratascan 2012).

1.3.2 The trenches were positioned to investigate an extensive series of magnetic anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. These were suspected to be of different archaeological periods.

1.3.3 Place name evidence may suggest the location of Bronze Age funerary monuments within the study site and surrounding landscape, but no archaeological evidence has been found to corroborate this.

1.3.4 Trench 10 was placed to investigate a sub-circular double-ditched enclosure thought to be a late prehistoric or Roman-period settlement. The shape of the enclosures suggest that they are an example of a regionally distinctive settlement type known as a 'round'. Some of the field boundaries apparent on the geophysical survey plot may be contemporary with it.

1.3.5 The site has high potential for medieval and post-medieval settlement and agricultural features. The central area lies close to St. Mewan Parish Church (which has 13th century origins) and an associated burial ground. The historic landscape in the St. Mewan area is characterised as 'anciently enclosed land'. While many of the boundaries apparent on the geophysical survey appear to relate to the 19th century boundaries shown on the Tithe Map, it is possible that the field systems originated in earlier periods.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 OA would like to thank William Bedford of CgMs who commissioned the evaluation, and Daniel Ratcliffe who monitored the works on behalf of the Cornwall Council Historic Environment team. The evaluation was managed for OA by Stuart Foreman, and the fieldwork was undertaken by Gerry Thacker with the assistance of Jim Mumford, Gemma Stewart, Kevin Moon, Lee Grana and Jim Harris.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the investigation were as detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012).The specific aims were:

- To determine the level of preservation of the potential round identified in the geophysical survey, or any associated features, surviving on the site, and assess their significance;
- To determine, as far as is practicable, the extent to which the field system located by the geophysical survey is associated with the round;
- To examine other areas of interest identified by the geophysical survey;
- To inform the need for further archaeological works on the site.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The investigation followed the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012). It was carried out in accordance with Institute for Archaeologists Guidelines (IfA 2008) and OA standard methods (OA 1992).

2.2.2 The evaluation consisted of an array of 14 trenches targeted on a series of anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey (Fig. 2).

2.2.3 All trenches were laid out accurately by an experienced surveyor using a Leica GPS system tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels were related to Ordnance Survey datum level.

2.2.4 Trenches were machine-excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision.

2.2.5 A representative section was cleaned and recorded in all trenches. All trenches were photographed with black and white 35 mm film. A digital photographic record was also maintained.

2.2.6 Trench 13 was shortened slightly due to the presence of overhead power cables.

2.2.7 Features within Trenches 7 and 8 required additional hand cleaning after the initial machining due to the revealed features being obscured by trampling from livestock.

3 Results

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, beginning with a general description of soils and a stratigraphic account of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. This is followed by an overall discussion and interpretation. An index of all trenches giving the extent and depths of all deposits is presented in tabular form in Appendix A. The results of the finds and environmental analysis are presented in Appendices B and C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Natural geology was reached in all trenches and comprised silty clay with varying degrees of sand present. Within Trenches 9 and 11 there was a higher percentage of sandstone present, and sandstone bedrock was present within Trench 10. Within Trenches 7 and 8, a buried ploughsoil overlay the natural geology, and Trench 11 had a subsoil consisting of a thin layer of plough disturbed natural. To the north of the area and within the trenches occupying the lower part of the slope (Trenches 3, 5 and 6), a layer of colluvium had formed above the natural.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 With the exception of Trench 11, all trenches contained archaeological features. The majority of the features revealed were ditches, although a few pits were also present.

3.4 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

3.4.1 The features present within the trench (Plate 1) corresponded well with the anomalies present on the geophysical survey. Two parallel ditches (104 and 106) both had fairly shallow concave profiles, and are likely to represent field boundaries, the space in between probably occupied either by an embankment or a trackway. The ditches run parallel to a former field boundary *c*. 50m to the east that is shown on both the geophysical survey and the Tithe map of 1838. Ditch 102 was also present on the geophysical survey, and had moderately steep sides and a flat base. Ditch 102 is likely (on the basis of the geophysics) to form part of the same feature as ditch 204, within Trench 2 to the east.

3.5 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

3.5.1 Ditch 204 corresponded with a linear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey, which was also present within Trench 1. A second ditch (202), with steep sides and a flat base, also corresponded with a geophysical anomaly. Ditch 206 and ditch 208 were not identified as linear features on the geophysical survey, but do correspond to discrete anomalies interpreted as “possible cut features of archaeological origin”.

3.6 Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

3.6.1 Ditches 313 and 315 may represent a double ditched boundary, and correspond with a field boundary shown on the tithe map of 1838 and a linear anomaly on the geophysical survey. Ditch 313 (Plate 2) contained an un-mortared wall, and corresponded with a drop in ground elevation to the west, presumably a terrace. The ditch truncated an earlier ditch (311, Plate 2) which ran in a N-S direction. Ditch 315 contained plastic bags within the fill (316) indicating that it had been in-filled recently.

3.6.2 Ditch 303, which was flat based and very shallow, and ditch 305 with a shallow concave profile, both appear as linear anomalies on the geophysical survey. Ditches 309, and 317 were both very shallow, and were not identified by the geophysics. Pit 307 was flat based and does not correspond with a geophysical anomaly although a number of discrete anomalies of possible archaeological origin were recorded in this area.

3.7 Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

3.7.1 Ditches 402 and 404 may represent a double ditched boundary as seen on the tithe map of 1838 and as a linear anomaly in the geophysical survey. They delineate a terrace which steps down to the west (as with ditch 313 within Trench 3 above). To the east, ditch 406 (Plate 3) had a slightly irregular concave profile and also corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.

3.8 Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

3.8.1 A shallow ditch (507) towards the northern end of Trench 5 matched a WNW-ESE aligned geophysical anomaly, although a smaller NW-SE aligned ditch (505) was not identified. Towards the southern end of the trench, a large pit (513) produced a single worn body sherd in a soft grey-brown sandy fabric with abundant fairly coarse igneous/metamorphic inclusions, possibly of Late Iron Age or Roman date (although it is not particularly diagnostic and could be medieval). The pit was truncated by a WNW-ESE aligned ditch (511), and both of these features were present as geophysical anomalies.

3.8.2 Two parallel ditches (503 and 509), also represented on the geophysical survey, were very different in character. Ditch 505 was shallow with a concave profile, while ditch 503 was deeper, steeper sided and flat based.

3.9 Trench 6 (Fig. 5)

3.9.1 Ditch 605, towards the southern end of the trench, corresponded well with an ENE-WNW aligned geophysical anomaly, and had moderately steep sides converging to a flat base. Adjacent ditch 607 was considerably shallower, with a wider flat base, and may be a continuation of a linear anomaly located further to the west. Pit 603, probably a tree throw, was shallow with an uneven base, and corresponded with a magnetic spike on the geophysics, probably the result of a buried ferrous object, although none were recovered from the excavated segment.

3.9.2 Two further linear anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey, and apparently forming part of the same series of enclosures as represented by ditch 605, were not identified within the trench.

3.10 Trench 7 (Fig. 6)

3.10.1 Feature 703 corresponded well with an irregular anomaly from the geophysics plot, and proved to be a large pit, probably a quarry, the backfill of which contained pottery with a date of *c.*1825-1900. Towards the northern end of the trench, ditch 709 was wide and shallow with an uneven base, from which the sandstone bedrock protruded in places. It corresponded with a sequence of geophysical anomalies. Towards the southern end of the trench ditch 707 had gently sloping sides and a flat base, and is likely to correspond with a curvilinear field boundary which is shown on the 1838 tithe map. Ditch 707 was truncated by ditch 705, which terminated within the confines of the trench and contained fragments of clay pipe and pottery of 19th century date.

3.11 Trench 8 (Fig. 6)

3.11.1 Towards the western end of Trench 8, a shallow flat based ditch (803) corresponded with a N-S linear anomaly from the geophysics plot. A W-E aligned ditch immediately to the south-east (805) had a concave profile, and may be a continuation of a linear anomaly located to the east of the trench. A large irregular anomaly located within the central area of the trench was not identified on the ground. To the south-eastern end of the trench, ditch 807 had a wide concave profile, and may relate to the linear anomalies recorded to the north-west, but the correspondence is not exact.

3.12 Trench 9 (Fig. 6)

3.12.1 A very shallow and flat based ditch (904), towards the western end of Trench 9, corresponded with a linear anomaly, and may be a continuation to the south of ditch 707 within Trench 7 (and which is shown on the 1838 Tithe map). Towards the eastern end of the trench was ditch 906, which was also shallow with an undulating base, but in this case had no precise correlation with the geophysical survey plot. Feature 902 was extremely irregular in both plan and section and is likely to be the result of root action.

3.13 Trench 10 (Fig. 7)

3.13.1 This trench was placed to investigate a possible 'round' site identified by geophysical survey. The trench contained a complex of ditches (1003, 1005, 1007, 1009, 1011, Plate 4). Two sherds of probable Iron Age or Roman period pottery were recovered from two separate features (fill 1008 in ditch 1007 and fill 1014 in ditch 1011). Most of the features produced no finds and the fills contained no visible organic material. A soil sample from the lowest fill (1012) of ditch 1011 produced a very small quantity of chaff, indicative of background windblown material.

3.13.2 The most notable feature was ditch 1011 (Plate 5), which was steep sided with a flat base, and by far the deepest feature encountered during the evaluation. The ditch, which coincided with the larger inner ditch of the round, had been infilled predominatly from the southern side, perhaps indicating the former presence of an internal bank. Ditch 1005, which corresponded with the outer ditch of the round on the geophysics plot was considerably shallower, and more irregular, and had perhaps been truncated by a later pit although the evidence for this was not conclusive. Ditches 1007 and 1008 also corresponded with anomalies on the geophysics plot. Ditch 1007 forms part of the innermost ditch which, given its dimensions as indicated on the geophysical survey, is likely to be a drip gully for a roundhouse. Ditch 1003, which ran in a N-S direction was not present as a linear anomaly, but broadly coincided with an area of large discrete positive anomalies.

3.13.3 A number of other anomalies were not present as archaeological features within the trench.

3.14 Trench 12 (Fig. 7)

3.14.1 A ditch excavated at the western end of Trench 12 (1204) correlated with a large geophysical anomaly that ran in a NW-SE direction, turning to the south-west. This anomaly is likely to correspond with a morphologically similar field boundary shown on the 1838 tithe map, and the ditch contained pottery dating from *c.*1825-1900. Towards the eastern end of the trench, ditch 1202 also corresponded with a linear anomaly. Both ditches were fairly shallow and concave in profile, although ditch 1204 had a slightly irregular base.

3.15 Trench 13 (Fig. 5)

3.15.1 The trench contained two NW-SE aligned ditches (1302, 1304), of which 1304 was significantly larger, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Neither ditch produced artefacts and there were no associated features that might explain their function. The western ditch can be correlated with a series of rectilinear enclosures visible on the geophysics plot in the vicinity of Tregongeeves Farm. The eastern ditch corresponds with a boundary on a slightly different alignment which appears to belong to a different phase of enclosure. These enclosures are not shown on historic maps presented in the desk-based assessment, so are likely to pre-date the mid-19th century. They appear to be paddocks or similar small enclosures associated with the farm and are therefore most likely to be of medieval or post-medieval date.

3.16 Trench 14 (Fig. 5)

3.16.1 The trench contained two intercutting ditches on different alignments (1402, 1404) and two pits (1406, 1408) about 1m apart. None of the features produced any artefacts or showed any obvious organic material in the fills. The geophysics plot in this area includes both linear and discrete pit-like anomalies, but the correlation with specific features found in the trench is not clear. The ditches do not correspond with boundaries shown on the Tithe Map.

3.17 Finds and environmental summary

3.17.1 Finds were recovered from very few contexts, but these included the fills of the two ditches potentially associated with the round within Trench 10 (fills 1018, and 1014). Similar pottery was also recovered from a large possible quarry pit within Trench 5 (fill 514). The remainder of the finds were recovered from ditches within Trenches 7 and 12, probable former field boundaries, and included pottery, clay pipe and iron nails of post medieval date.

3.17.2 No fills of features had clear potential for containing environmental remains. The lowest fill of ditch 1011 (1012) within Trench 10 was sampled and proved to contain a poor assemblage of charred plant remains including a single small legume and a small grass seed along with infrequent glume bases of emmer/spelt wheat.

4 Discussion

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The archaeological features were generally easily identifiable within the trenches and weather conditions were good throughout the evaluation.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 The evaluation was largely successful in establishing the state of preservation of features within the site area. The features encountered are typically plough truncated with limited potential for preservation of organic materials.

4.2.2 Very limited dating evidence was recovered from any of the features, so their date and significance remains uncertain in most cases. Low density artefact assemblages are often a feature of Cornish archaeological sites, so may not necessarily indicate short-lived or low-level settlement activity.

4.2.3 The pottery from the 'round' enclosure ditch in Trench 10 generally supports the Iron Age or Roman-period date for this feature suggested by the shape of the enclosure, although the quantity of pottery recovered is insufficient to be considered reliable dating evidence on its own. The probable presence of a single structure within its interior is not unusual for such enclosures although larger examples are known, such as Trethurgy Round (Quinnell 2004). No evidence of crop processing or industrial activity was recovered during the evaluation. However, only a small area of the round was evaluated and a number of pit-like anomalies were identified in the interior by geophysical survey.

4.2.4 Many of the features can be associated with boundaries marked on the 1838 St. Mewan or 1842 St. Austell Tithe Maps. In the absence of archaeological dating evidence it remains possible that some of these boundaries reflect medieval or even prehistoric alignments, although there is no positive evidence for this. The double-ditched boundaries in Trenches 3, 5 and 6 are perhaps most likely to be of post-medieval date on morphological grounds.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained one W-E orientated ditch (102), and two N-S orientated ditches (104, 106). The natural was mid yellow brown clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.42
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
100	Layer	-	0.42	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
102	Cut	0.9	0.27	Cut of ditch	-	-
103	Fill	0.9	0.27	Fill of 102	-	-
104	Cut	1.36	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	-
105	Fill	1.36	0.3	Fill of 104	-	-
106	Cut	1.02	0.19	Cut of ditch	-	-
107	Fill	1.02	0.19	Fill of 106	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NE=SW
Trench contained four ditches. Ditches 202 and 208 were orientated N-S, Ditch 206 was orientated NW-SE, and ditch 204 was orientated NE-SW. The natural was mid yellow brown silty clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
200	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
202	Cut	1.8	0.65	Cut of ditch	-	-
203	Fill	1.8	0.65	Fill of 202	-	-
204	Cut	1.1	0.36	Cut of ditch	-	-
205	Fill	1.1	0.36	Fill of 204	-	-
206	Cut	1.7	0.27	Cut of ditch	-	-
207	Fill	1.7	0.27	Fill of 206	-	-
208	Cut	0.4	0.08	Cut of ditch	-	-
209	Fill	0.4	0.08	Fill of 208	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained six ditches and a pit. Ditches 303, 305, 313 and 315 ran in a NW-SE direction. Ditch 313 contained a dry stone wall marking a terrace within the field. Ditches 309, 311 and 317 ran broadly N-S. The trench contained a thin layer of subsoil, which overlay a natural of gravel rich mid orange brown silty clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.42
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
300	Layer	-	0.54	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
303	Cut	0.68	0.04	Cut of ditch	-	-
304	Fill	0.68	0.04	Fill of 303	-	-
305	Cut	0.98	0.18	Cut of ditch	-	-
306	Fill	0.98	0.18	Fill of 305	-	-
307	Cut	1.1	0.14	Cut of pit	-	-
308	Fill	1.1	0.14	Fill of 307	-	-
309	Cut	0.96	0.15	Cut of Ditch	-	-
310	Fill	0.96	0.15	Fill of 309	-	-
311	Cut	0.42	0.16	Cut of ditch	-	-
312	Fill	0.42	0.16	Fill of 311	-	-
313	Cut	2.15	0.47	Cut of ditch	-	-
314	Fill	2.15	0.47	Fill of 313	-	-
315	Cut	1.7	0.16	Cut of ditch	-	Modern
316	Fill	1.7	0.16	Fill of 315	Plastic	Modern
317	Cut	1.2	0.04	Cut of ditch	-	-
318	Fill	1.2	0.04	Fill of 317	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained a terrace running NNW-SSE, and a parallel running ditch (404). Ditch 406 was orientated NW-SE. Natural was a mid orange brown gravel rich silty clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
400	Layer	-	0.5	Topsoil	-	-

401	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
402	Cut	1.8	0.2	Cut for terrace	-	-
403	Fill	1.8	0.2	Fill of 402	-	-
404	Cut	1	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	-
405	Fill	1	0.2	Fill of 404	-	-
406	Cut	0.9	0.3	Cut of Ditch	-	-
407	Fill	0.9	0.3	Fill of 406	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained three ditches broadly aligned NW-SE (503, 505 and 509) and two running W-E, 507 and 511 which truncated pit 513. All features were overlain by the subsoil, which overlay a natural of firm mid orange brown silty clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.46
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
500	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
503	Cut	1.52	0.43	Cut of ditch	-	-
504	Fill	1.52	0.43	Fill of 503	-	-
505	Cut	0.83	0.13	Cut of ditch	-	-
506	Fill	0.83	0.13	Fill of 505	-	-
507	Cut	3.75	0.53	Cut of ditch	-	-
508	Fill	3.75	0.53	Fill of 507	-	-
509	Cut	1.34	0.16	Cut of ditch	-	-
510	Fill	1.34	0.16	Fill of 509	-	-
511	Cut	1.4	0.78	Cut of ditch	-	-
512	Fill	1.4	0.78	Fill of 511	-	-
513	Cut	4.6	1.5	Cut of pit	-	IA/Roman?
514	Fill	4.6	1.5	Fill of 513	Pottery	IA/Roman?

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two ditches both orientated NE-SW and a tree throw. All features were sealed by subsoil, which overlay a natural of light yellow brown silty clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.65
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
600	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.38	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
603	Cut	2	0.2	Cut of Tree throw	-	-
604	Fill	2	0.2	Fill of 603	-	-
605	Cut	1.1	0.5	Cut of ditch	-	-
606	Fill	1.1	0.5	Fill of 605	-	-
607	Cut	0.8	0.12	Cut of ditch	-	-
608	Fill	0.8	0.12	Fill of 607	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a quarry pit and three ditches. Ditch 709 was orientated NW-SE, as was ditch 705 which truncated N-S running ditch 707. All features were sealed by subsoil, which overlay a natural of mid reddish brown silty clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.38
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
700	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	Pottery, clay pipe	18-19C
701	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
703	Cut	15	1.2	Quarry cut	-	-
704	Fill	15	1.2	Fill of 703	Pottery, clay pipe	c1825-1900
705	Cut	0.4	0.25	Ditch cut	-	-
706	Fill	0.4	0.25	Fill of 705	Metal	Modern
707	Cut	1	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	-
708	Fill	1	0.2	Fill of 707	-	-
709	Cut	2.56	0.22	Cut of ditch	-	-
710	Fill	2.56	0.22	Fill of 709	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained two N-S running ditches (803 and 807) and a W-E running ditch 805. All ditches were sealed by subsoil, which overlay a natural of reddish brown silty clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.37
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
800	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
803	Cut	0.8	0.13	Cut of ditch	-	-
804	Fill	0.8	0.13	Fill of 803	-	-
805	Cut	0.8	0.1	Cut of ditch	-	-
806	Fill	0.8	0.1	Fill of 805	-	-
807	Cut	1.12	0.16	Cut of ditch	-	-
808	Fill	1.12	0.16	Fill of 807	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	W-E
Trench contained two N-S orientated ditches. Natural was a firm mid yellow brown sandy clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
900	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
902	Cut	0.35	0.3	Animal burrow	-	-
903	Fill	0.35	0.3	Fill of 902	-	-
904	Cut	1.07	0.05	Cut of ditch	-	-
905	Fill	1.07	0.05	Fill of 904	-	-
906	Cut	0.82	0.13	Cut of ditch	-	-
907	Fill	0.82	0.13	Fill of 906	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained five ditches. Ditch 1003 and 1007 were orientated N-S, Ditch 1011 was orientated NE-SW. Ditch 1005 ran W-E and ditch 1008 ran NW-SE. Natural was sandstone in a mid yellow brown clay sand, overlain by a thin layer of plough disturbed natural subsoil.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.26
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1000	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1003	Cut	0.52	0.11	Cut of ditch	-	-
1004	Fill	0.52	0.11	Fill of 1003	-	-
1005	Cut	1.34	0.61	Cut of ditch	-	-
1006	Fill	1.34	0.61	Fill of 1005	-	-
1007	Cut	0.79	0.39	Cut of ditch	-	-
1008	Fill	0.79	0.39	Fill of 1007	Pottery	LIA-Roman?
1009	Cut	0.7	0.13	Cut of ditch	-	-
1010	Fill	0.7	0.13	Fill of 1009	-	-
1011	Cut	1.9	1.4	Cut of ditch	-	-
1012	Fill	0.9	0.55	Lower fill of 1011	-	-
1013	Fill	0.5	0.3	Fill of 1011	-	-
1014	Fill	1.8	0.84	Upper fill of 1011	Pottery	LIA-Roman?

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. A potential ditch was investigated, but proved to be a variation in geology. Natural was a mid reddish brown sandy clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	W-E
Trench contained two ditches. Ditch 1202 was orientated NW-SE, and ditch 1204 ran ENE-WSW. Natural was an orange brown sandy clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.42
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1200	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-		Natural	-	-
1202	Cut	1.5	0.18	Cut of ditch	-	-
1203	Fill	1.5	0.18	Fill of 1202	-	-
1204	Cut	1.8	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	-
1205	Fill	1.8	0.3	Fill of 1204	Pottery	c11825-1900

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained two ditches, both orientated NW-SE. Natural was a sandstone rich light pinkish grey sandy silt.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	18.4
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1300	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1302	Cut	0.5	0.23	Cut of ditch	-	-
1303	Fill	0.5	0.23	Fill of 1302	-	-
1304	Cut	1.8	0.5	Cut of ditch	-	-
1305	Fill	1.8	0.5	Fill of 1304	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench contained two ditches one running W-E (1402), and one running NE-SW (1404). Two pits 1406 and 1408 were present within the eastern end of the trench. Natural was a mid orange brown sandstone rich sandy clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.38
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1400	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1402	Cut	0.9	0.15	Cut of ditch	-	-
1403	Fill	0.9	0.15	Fill of 1402	-	-
1404	Cut	0.56	0.08	Cut of ditch	-	-
1405	Fill	0.56	0.08	Fill of 1404	-	-
1406	Cut	0.84	0.19	Cut of pit	-	-
1407	Fill	0.84	0.19	Fill of 1406	-	-
1408	Cut	0.98	0.09	Cut of pit	-	-
1409	Fill	0.98	0.09	Fill of 1408	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 The pottery

By John Cotter

B.1.1 A total of 15 pottery sherds were recovered from 6 contexts, most of which were of 19th century date and derived from a possible quarry pit in Trench 7. The only potentially significant sherds are the possible late Iron Age and Roman sherds, which provide some limited dating for the features that produced them. Two sherds from Trench 10 provide supporting evidence that the enclosures apparent on the geophysics plots in this area are of late Iron Age or Roman date.

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
514	LIA/Roman?	1	5	Worn body sherd (bs) soft grey-brown sandy fabric with abundant fairly coarse igneous/metamorphic inclusions - mainly decayed white ?feldspar resembling chalk/limestone. Also angular quartz, coarse mica & finer black mineral. Poss Late Iron Age/Roman?? Less likely medieval? Traces of sooting ext (see also 1008 & 1014)
700	18-E19C	1	15	Bs Staffs/Bristol combed slipware - press-moulded dish. Slightly worn
704	c1825-1900	10	29	Mass-produced 'Victorian' tablewares incl Staffs blue transfer-printed dishes. Yellow ware. Blue-bodied ware. 2x Staffs white salt-glazed stoneware c1720-1780. 2x worn Creamware c1770-1830
1008	LIA/Roman?	1	22	Fairly worn probable body/wall sherd from wide shallow ?bowl with moulded horizontal cordon - now broken and resembling a rim. Worn internally along break. Diam at cordon c 320mm. Soft brown sandy fabric as in (514). Probably wheel-thrown? Fairly rough int. Smoothed or possibly burnished lower ext. Late Iron Age/Roman?? Less likely medieval?
1014	LIA/Roman?	1	44	Side fragment/near-profile of a tubular ?handle with flattened end or 'rim', max diam c40mm, 70mm long. Prob formed around a wooden stick? Worn in places. Soft brown sandy fabric as in 514 & 1008. Possible trace of sooting internally? Possibly industrial/crucible? Late Iron Age/Roman?? Less likely medieval?
1205	c1825-1900	1	5	Rim blue transfer-printed whiteware teacup - prob E19C?
TOTAL		**15**	**120**	

B.2 The clay pipe

By John Cotter

Context	Spot-date	Stem	Bowl	Mouth	Total sherds	Total weight	Comments
700	17-E18 C	1	0	0	1	6	Worn stem with bore of c3mm
704	19C	1	0	0	1	3	Fairly fresh narrow stem with bore of c2mm
TOTAL		2	0	0	2	9	

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Julia Meen

Introduction

C.1.1 One environmental sample was taken for the recovery of charred plant remains and artefacts during the evaluation. The sample was from context (1012), the lowest fill of a ditch dated to the Iron Age or Roman period. The sediment was dominated by angular stones, making up approximately 75% of its volume, with the remainder a strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) loamy sand.

Methodology

C.1.2 The sample was processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The sample was 20L in volume, and the entire sample was processed. The flot was collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues were sieved to 500µm and dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The dried flot was scanned for plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification and identifications made with reference to published guides and the comparative seed collection held at OAS. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

Results

Finds

C.1.3 No finds were recovered from the heavy residues.

Charred Plant Remains

C.1.4 The sample produced a flot of 10ml, of which 100% was assessed. The flot was dominated by modern root and sand, and also contained modern insects. A small number of pieces of charcoal of small diameter were present, but are unlikely to be of identifiable size. A single small legume (*Fabaceae*) and a small grass (*Poaceae*) seed were noted. Glume bases of emmer/spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) were observed infrequently.

Discussion and Recommendations

C.1.5 The single context which was sampled proved to contain a poor assemblage of charred plant remains, likely to be of little interpretable value. However, the fact that some charred remains were present demonstrates that this type of material does survive at this site and it may be that other surviving features may contain richer assemblages. The low quantity of chaff present suggests that it is background, probably windblown material. However, glume wheats, especially spelt, are a common find on rural Iron Age sites in Britain and it may be that further excavation could identify the origin of this background material.

C.1.6 If further excavations are carried out at the site, standard 40L bulk samples should be taken from a range of potentially datable features across the site and should be in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology, 2005 and English Heritage, 2011).

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

English Heritage, 2011 *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (second edition). Centre for Archaeology guidelines.

CgMs 2011 Land to the West of St.Austell, Coyte Farm, Archaeological Desk-based Assessment.

CgMs 2012 Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological works at Coyte Farm, St Austell, Cornwall.

Oxford Archaeology, 1992 Fieldwork Manual, (Ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992).

Oxford Archaeology, 2005 *Sampling guidelines.* Unpublished document (revised 2010).

Quinnell, H, 2004, Trethurgy: Excavations at Trethurgy Round, St Austell: Community and Status in Roman and Post-Roman Cornwall

Stace, C. 2010 *New Flora of the British Isles.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (third edition).

Stratascan 2012 Geophysical Survey Report, Land to the West of St.Austell, Coyte Farm

Appendix E. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Coyte Farm St Austell

Site code: TRURI:2012.24

Grid reference: SX 000 517

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 3rd - 7th September 2012

Area of site:

Summary of results: The evaluation was designed to further characterise a series of anomalies recorded during a geophysical survey of the site.

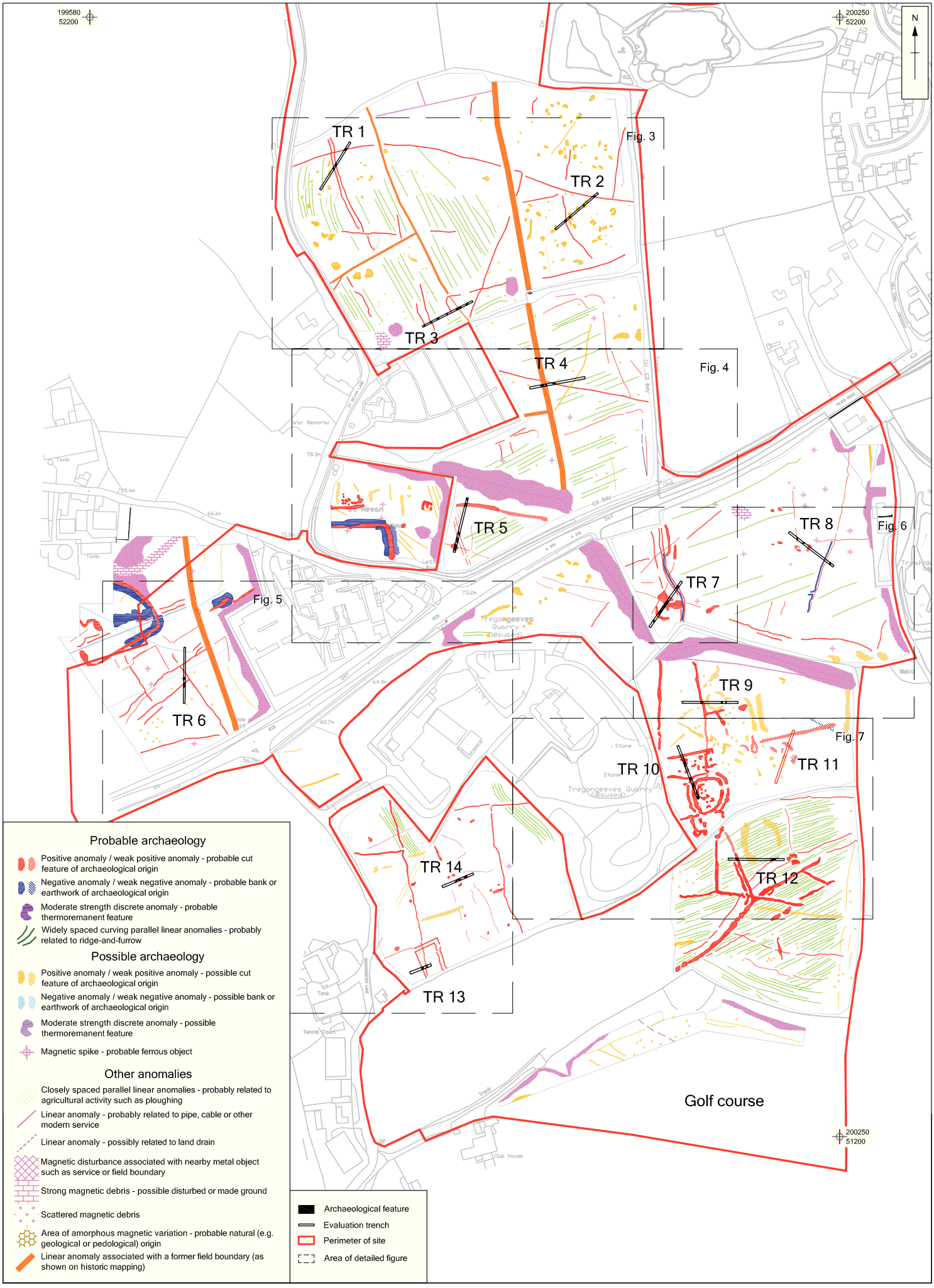
The most significant feature was a double-ditched enclosure, known as a 'round'. A small quantity of pottery recovered from one of the ditches and from a probable roundhouse gully within the enclosure supports the interpretation that it represents a small late prehistoric or Roman-period settlement.

Many of the other linear anomalies can be associated with boundaries marked on the 1838 St.Mewan or 1842 St.Austell Tithe Maps. However, the absence of dating evidence recovered from the evaluation means that it remains possible that some of the boundaries reflect medieval or even prehistoric alignments, although a number of double-ditched boundaries are perhaps most likely to be of post-medieval date on morphological grounds.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Royal Cornish Museum in due course, under the following accession number: TRURI:2012.24

Scale 1: 25,000

Figure 1: Site location



Geophysics data supplied by Stratascan

Figure 2. Trench locations with archaeological features and geophysics

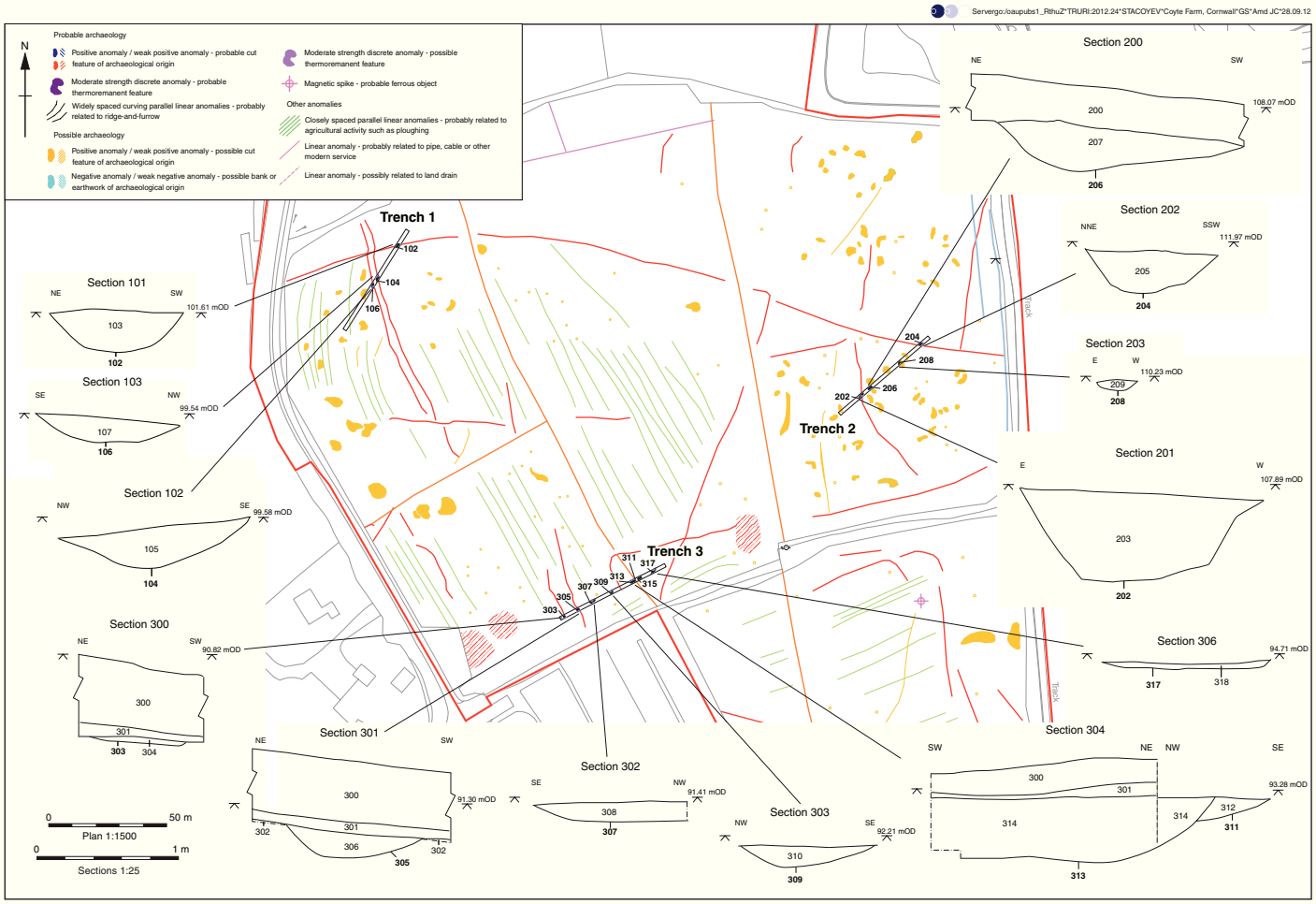


Figure 3: Trenches 1-3 and sections

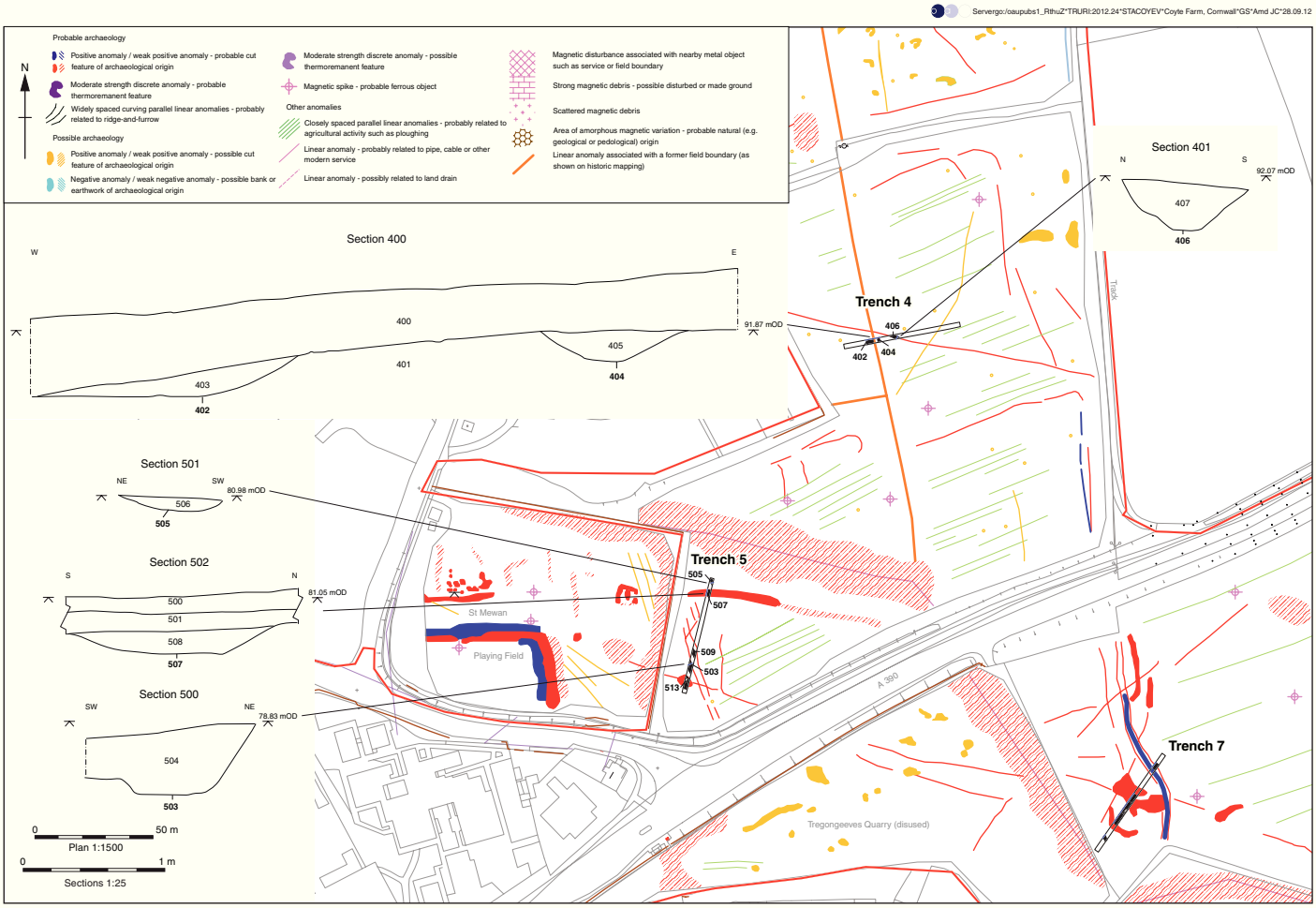


Figure 4: Trenches 4 and 5 and sections

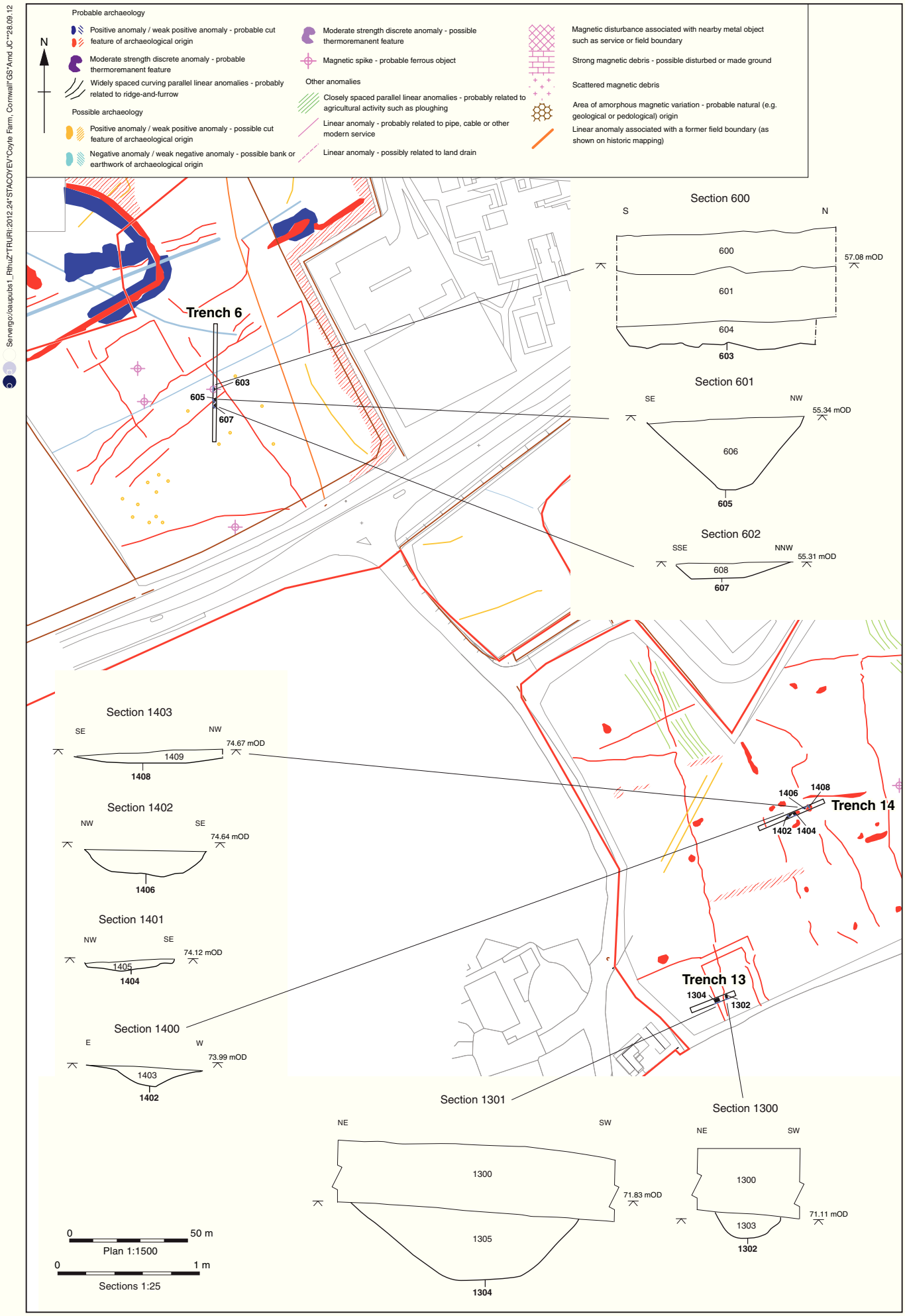


Figure 5: Trenches 6 and 13-14 and sections

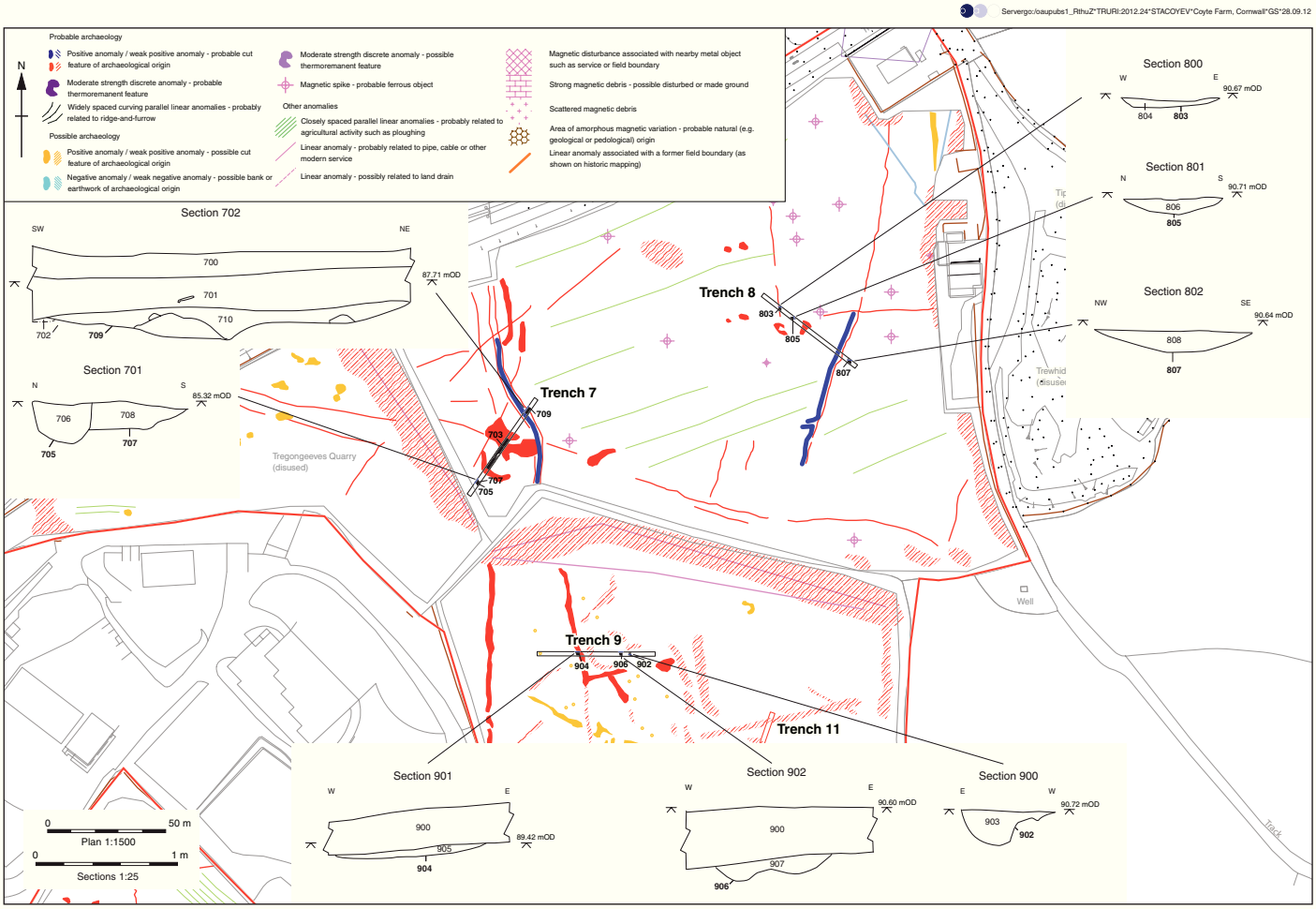


Figure 6: Trenches 7-9 and sections

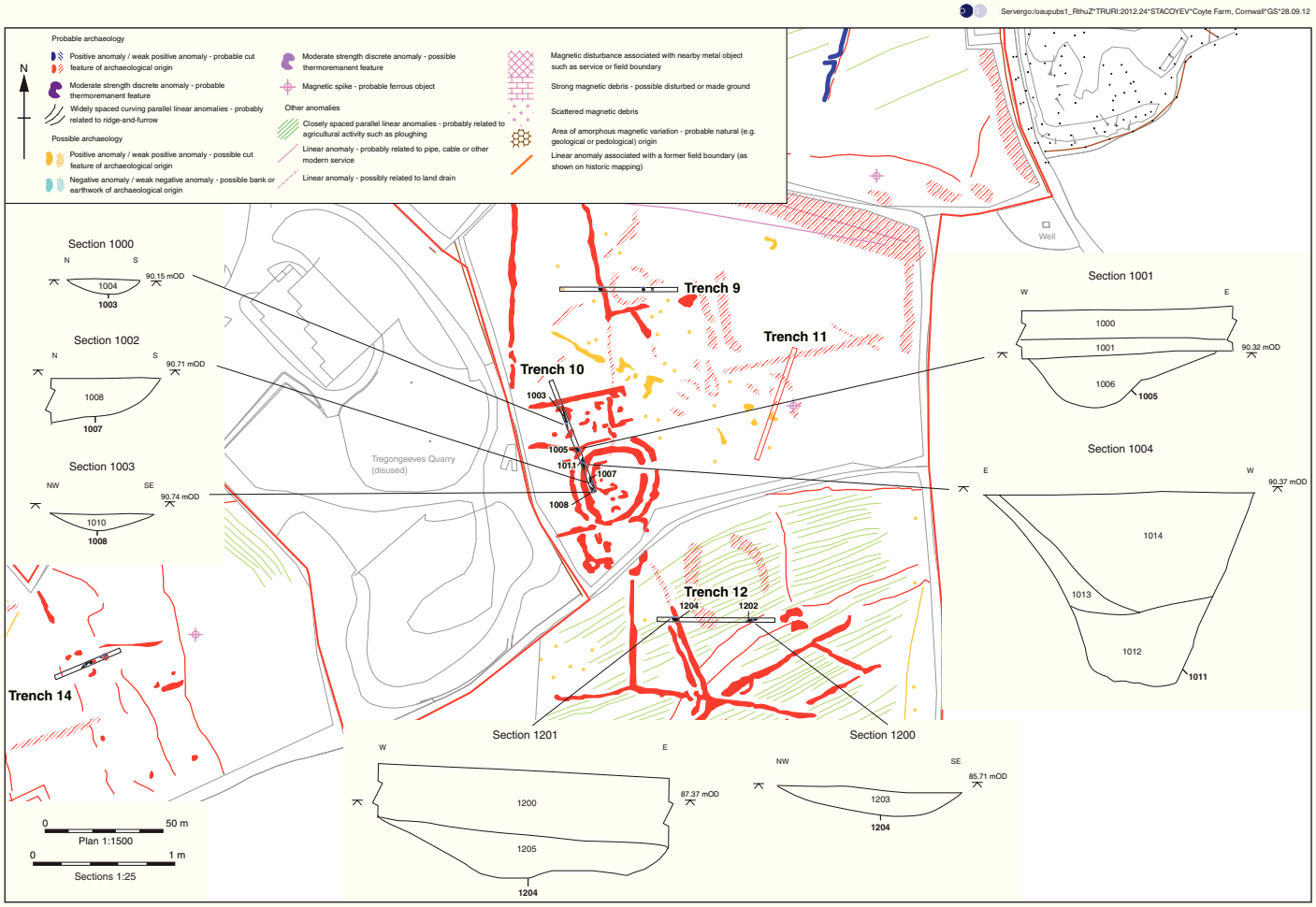


Figure 7: Trenches 10-12 and sections

Plate 1: Trench 1, general view

Plate 2: Trench 3, section 304, ditches 311 and 313

Plate 3: Trench 4, section 406, ditch 406

Plate 4: Trench 10, general view

Plate 5: Trench 10, section 1004, ditch 1011

Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net