

# LAND AT TREGODDICK FARM, VINGOE'S LANE, MADRON, CORNWALL

(Centred on NGR SW 4541 3199)

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

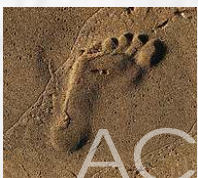
Planning Reference: Cornwall Council PA18/02055

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Prepared by:  
Paul Rainbird

Report No: ACD1870/3/0

Date: June 2019



archaeology

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| Report Author | Paul Rainbird  |
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| Checked by    | John Valentin  |
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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of AC archaeology and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

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## Summary

*An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology during June 2019 on land at Tregoddick Farm, Vingoe's Lane, Madron, Cornwall (NGR SW 4541 3199). The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of five trenches totalling 100m in length, with each 1.7m wide. A previous geophysical survey identified one anomaly running northeast-southwest in the southern part of the field which was thought to represent a linear archaeological deposit or recent ground disturbance.*

*The evaluation has established that the results interpreted from the geophysical survey were generally accurate, with the targeted blank locations revealing negative results. The single geophysical anomaly was found to be of geological origin. There were no archaeological features, deposits or finds and no evidence was found to indicate that the medieval settlement of Tregoddick was located here or that the medieval settlement of Madron previously extended into this area.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation on land at Tregoddick Farm, Vingoe's Lane, Madron, Cornwall (NGR SW 4541 3199) was undertaken by AC archaeology during June 2019. The evaluation was required by Cornwall Council as supporting information for a planning application, following consultation with their Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment). The location of the site is shown on *Fig. 1*.
- 1.2 The archaeological works have been commissioned by the site owner. The application area covers approximately 0.5 hectares and comprises an access track and field to the south of Tregoddick Farm, on the northeast edge of the village of Madron. The land lies between 115m and 121m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The site is bounded by Vingoe's Lane to the northwest, Tregoddick Farm to the northeast, land associated with the properties 'Skeldar' and 'Monteray' to the southeast and a residential property and garden to the southwest. The underlying solid geology comprises Hornfelses Slate and Hornfelses Siltstone of the Mylor Slate Formation, a metamorphic bedrock formed approximately 359 to 383 million years ago in the Devonian period. There are no superficial deposits recorded within the application area (British Geological Survey 2019).

### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been the subject of a Historic Environment Impact Assessment (Costen 2018) and geophysical survey (Dean and Edwards 2018). There is one heritage asset recorded within the site, comprising the medieval settlement of Tregoddick which was recorded in 1297 as 'Tregudek'. The exact location of the settlement remains unknown as it is not depicted on historic maps, although the land within the application area forms part of the tenement of Tregoddick at the time of the Madron tithe survey of 1841.
- 2.2 The geophysical survey identified one anomaly running northeast-southwest in the southern part of the field which was thought to represent a linear archaeological deposit or recent ground disturbance. Other areas of modern disturbance were also noted including the presence of possible service cables or pipes.

### 3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of the work was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site, with particular reference to an anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The results of the work will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation and whether or not the significance and state of survival of any buried archaeological remains is great enough to influence the layout of the proposed development should planning consent be obtained.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (revised December 2014). It comprised the machine-excavation of five trenches totalling 100m in length, with each 1.7m wide. Trenches were positioned in areas to be affected by development, as well as to target an anomaly and blank areas identified by the previous geophysical survey (*Fig. 1*).
- 4.2 All trenches were located with a Leica Net rover GPS accurate to 1cm. The removal of soils within the trenches was undertaken in 20cm spits (maximum) under the control and direction of the site archaeologist. Stripping by mechanical excavator ceased at the level at which archaeological deposits or natural subsoil was 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 2* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections and plans were produced at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, while all site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

### 5. RESULTS

#### 5.1 Introduction

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in the five trenches and they are described below.

#### 5.2 Trench 1 (*Plan Fig. 1; Plate 1*)

This trench was positioned in the north corner of the site in a blank area as interpreted from the results of a previous geophysical survey. It was approximately E-W aligned and measured 10m long and 1.7m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.81m slightly into the natural subsoil. A modern land drain was present close to the west end of the trench. The deposit sequence is described in Table 1.

Table 1: Trench 1 deposit sequence

| Context no. | Description                 | Depth b.g.s. | Interpretation |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 100         | Dark grey silty clayey loam | 0-0.67m      | Topsoil        |
| 101         | Light brown sandy clay      | 0.67m+       | Natural        |

#### 5.3 Trench 2 (*Plan Fig. 1; Plates 2-3*)

This trench was positioned in the northwest part of the site in a blank area as interpreted from the results of a previous geophysical survey. It was approximately NW-SE aligned and measured 20m long and 1.7m wide and was excavated to a

maximum depth of 0.7m slightly into the natural subsoil. The deposit sequence is described in Table 2.

Table 2: Trench 2 deposit sequence

| Context no. | Description                  | Depth b.g.s. | Interpretation |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 200         | Dark grey silty clayey loam  | 0-0.5m       | Topsoil        |
| 201         | Mid reddish-brown silty sand | 0.5-0.7m     | Subsoil        |
| 202         | Light brown sandy clay       | 0.7m+        | Natural        |

#### 5.4 Trench 3 (Plan Fig. 1; Plate 4)

This trench was positioned in the west side of the site in a blank area as interpreted from the results of a previous geophysical survey. It was approximately NE-SW aligned and measured 10m long and 1.7m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.24m slightly into the natural subsoil. The deposit sequence is described in Table 3.

Table 3: Trench 3 deposit sequence

| Context no. | Description                  | Depth b.g.s. | Interpretation |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 300         | Dark grey silty clayey loam  | 0-0.65m      | Topsoil        |
| 301         | Dark grey clayey loam        | 0.65-0.85m   | Colluvium      |
| 302         | Mid reddish-brown silty sand | 0.85-1.03m   | Subsoil        |
| 303         | Light brown sandy clay       | 0.7m+        | Natural        |

#### 5.5 Trench 4 (Plan Fig. 1; Plate 5)

This trench was positioned in the centre of the site in the position of an anomaly as interpreted from the results of a previous geophysical survey. It was L-shaped and aligned approximately NE-SW and NW-SE with a total length of 40m and width of 1.7m wide. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m slightly into the natural subsoil. The deposit sequence is described in Table 4. The geophysical anomaly coincided with a change in the underlying geology.

Table 4: Trench 4 deposit sequence

| Context no. | Description                  | Depth b.g.s. | Interpretation |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 400         | Dark grey silty clayey loam  | 0-0.49m      | Topsoil        |
| 401         | Mid reddish-brown silty sand | 0.49-0.61m   | Colluvium      |
| 402         | Light brown sandy clay       | 0.61m+       | Natural        |

#### 5.6 Trench 5 (Plan Fig. 1; Plate 6)

This trench was positioned in the south of the site in a blank area as interpreted from the results of a previous geophysical survey. It was L-shaped and aligned approximately NE-SW and NW-SE with a total length of 20m and width of 1.7m. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.31m slightly into the natural subsoil. The deposit sequence is described in Table 5.

Table 5: Trench 5 deposit sequence

| Context no. | Description                  | Depth b.g.s. | Interpretation |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 500         | Dark grey silty clayey loam  | 0-0.99m      | Topsoil        |
| 501         | Mid reddish-brown silty sand | 0.99-1.3m    | Colluvium      |
| 502         | Light brown sandy clay       | 0.61m+       | Natural        |

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has established that the results interpreted from the geophysical survey were generally accurate, with the targeted blank locations revealing negative results. The single geophysical anomaly was found to be of geological origin.
- 6.2 The main finding of the evaluation is the confirmation of the historic landscape characterisation which mapped the historic field pattern as 'Farmland: Prehistoric', characterised as 'agricultural heartland with farming settlements documented prior to the 17th century and whose field patterns are morphologically distinct from straight sided fields of later division' (Cornwall Council 2019). No evidence was found to indicate that the medieval settlement of Tregoddick was located here or that the medieval settlement of Madron previously extended into this area.

## 7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The most significant finding from the evaluation is that the proposed development site has historically been in agricultural use with no evidence found for *in situ* settlement.

## 8. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 8.1 The paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project code of **ACD1870**. It will be held until it is known if any further archaeological work on the site is required. Longer-term storage arrangements will be made once a decision has been made on the future acceptance of archives by the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro. Also at this stage, if required a digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) standards, guidelines and the *AC archaeology Data Management Plan for Digital Archives* (Coles 2018).
- 8.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed using the unique identifier **356250**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

## 9. SOURCES CONSULTED

British Geological Survey, 2019, Geology of Britain Online Viewer ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

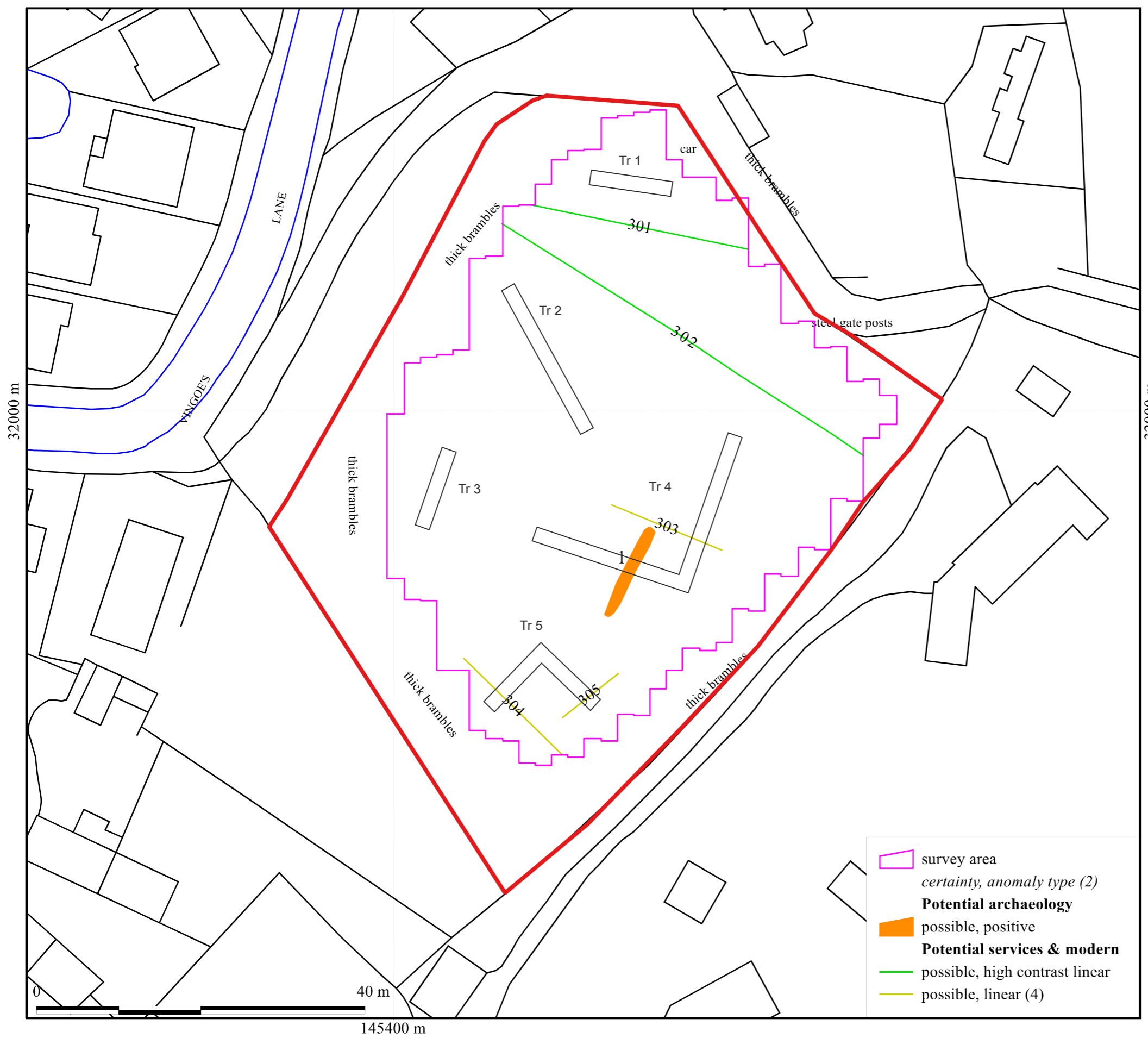
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Cornwall Council 2019, *Cornwall Council Interactive Map* (<https://map.cornwall.gov.uk>)

Dean, R. and Edwards, M., 2018. *An Archaeological Magnetometer Survey. Land at Tregoddick, Madron, Cornwall*. Substrata Report Number **1806MAD-R-1**.

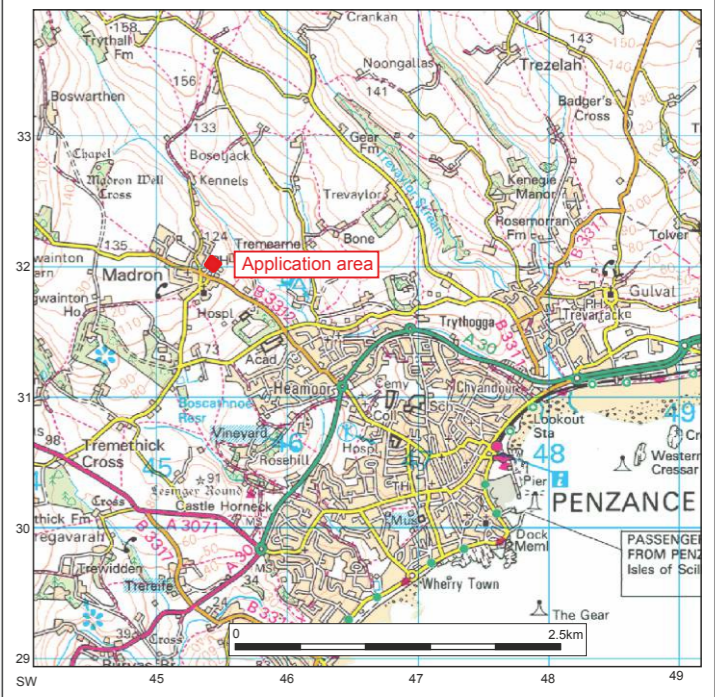
Valentin, J., 2019, *Land at Tregoddick Farm, Vingoe's Lane, Madron: Project Design for an Archaeological Trench Evaluation*. Unpublished AC archaeology document, ref. **ACD1870/2/0**.



British Grid  
centre X: 145423.12 m, centre Y: 31996.67 m

Scale: 1:500 @ A3. Spatial Units: Meter. Do not scale off this drawing

Geophysical survey: Copyright Substrata Limited.  
Base map: Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2018.  
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Legend

- Site
- Evaluation trenches



- survey area
- certainty, anomaly type (2)*
- Potential archaeology**
- possible, positive
- Potential services & modern**
- possible, high contrast linear
- possible, linear (4)



PROJECT  
Land at Tregoddick Farm,  
Vingoe's Lane, Madron, Cornwall

TITLE  
Fig. 1: Location of site and evaluation trenches





Plate 1: View of Trench 1, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 2: View of Trench 2, looking northwest (1m scale)



Plate 3: Representative section in Trench 2, looking northeast (1m scale)



Plate 4: View of Trench 3, looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 5: View of Trench 4, looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 6: View of Trench 5, looking northwest (1m scale)

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