The Dr. James Still Historic Office

Archaeological Dig Summary

Summary

In 2016 and 2017 the Dr. James Still Community Archaeology Project (DJSCAP) was a resounding success. The funds received from the New Jersey Historical Commission grant allowed the Dr. James Still Historic Office and Education Center (DJSHOEC) (under the auspices of the Medford Historical Society) to increase visitor participation at the historic site of Dr. James Still in Medford, NJ.

We used funds to carry-out a geophysical survey under the expertise of Dr. Tim Horsley of Horsley Archaeological Prospection, LLC. The survey consisted of collecting ground penetrating radar, soil resistivity, and magnetometry data. The collection of data was open to the public with numerous visitors dropping by and asking questions about the process.

Archaeological excavations was a great success in both the content of artifacts retrieved and the number of volunteers and visitors to the site. The project was able to garner a diverse community ranging in age, gender, class, and race. In addition, the project garnered the attention of people outside of Medford, NJ creating an opportunity for those in New Jersey to gain experience at the site. Numerous visitors came to the site to ask about archaeology due to the visibility of the project.
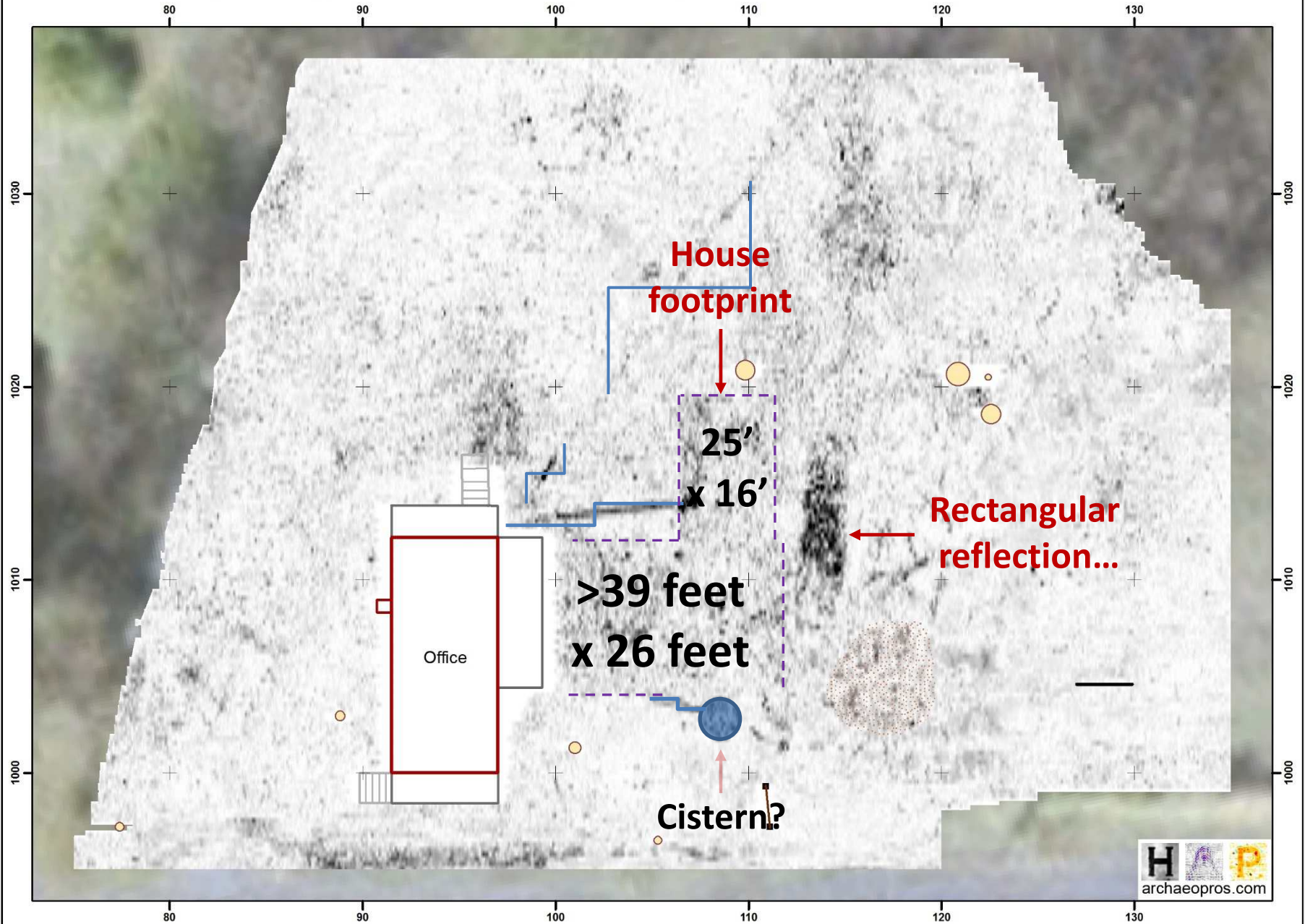
Summary

While excavating what what was discovered was an the imprint of Dr. Still's house foundation. Artifacts were found that dates to the 1868/1869 which correlates to the period of the house's construction. We now have a distinct layer that allows us to better date the artifacts we recover (the slab being the 1868/1869 period, below being before, and above it being after).

Additionally, the common understanding of the Still house was that the building itself was a raised structure with no foundation or basement. Archaeology testing exposed a corner foundation that went 36 inches deep. Further excavations demonstration that this foundation seems to follow the outline of the house. This was surprising because the GPR data missed the foundation walls.
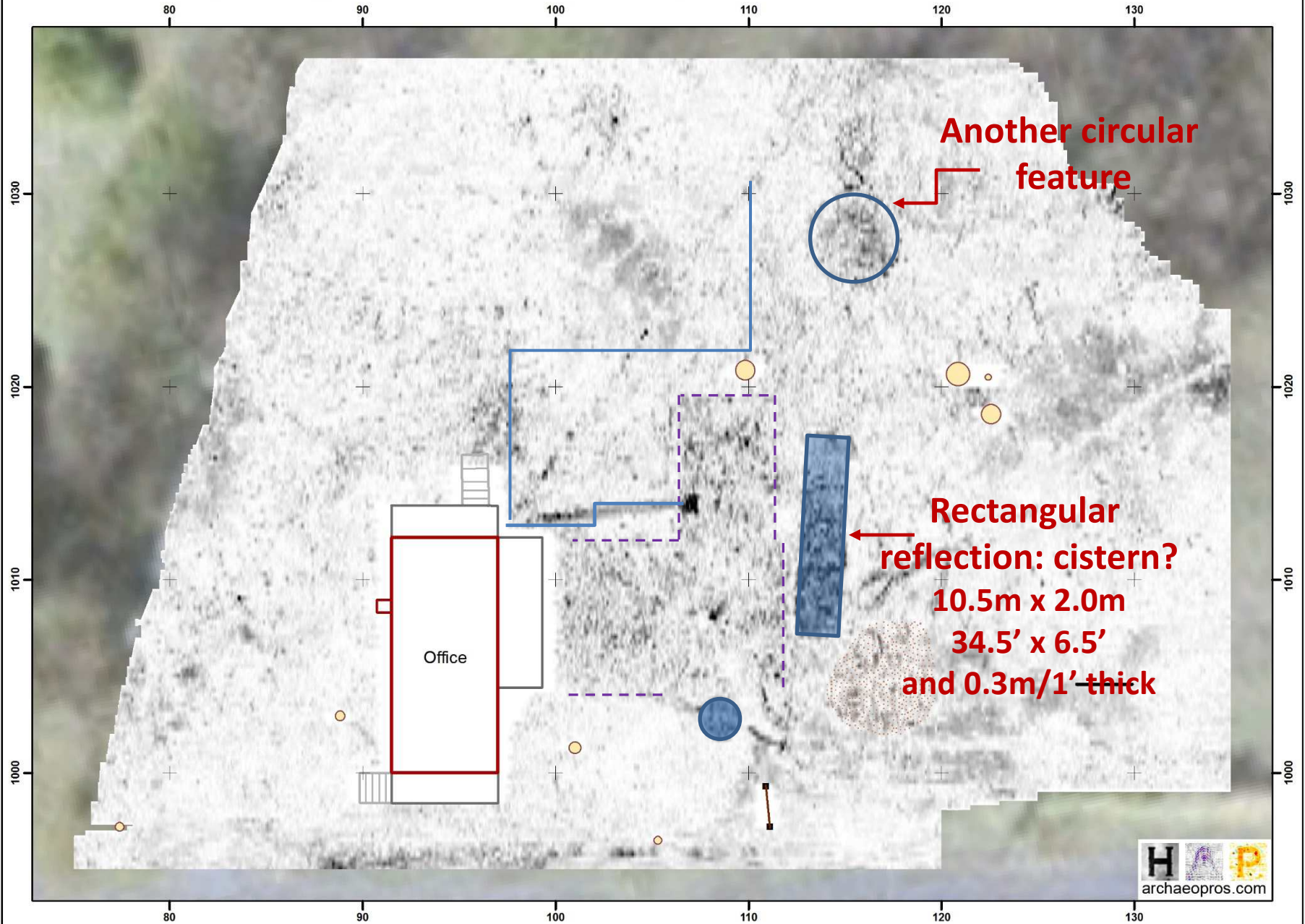
The Dr. James Still Historic Office and Homestead. Geophysical surveys, May 7-11, 2016.
GPR time-slice corresponding to approximately 0.35 to 0.40 m.b.s (1' 2" - 1' 4").

House footprint

Rectangular reflection…

25' x 16'

>39 feet x 26 feet
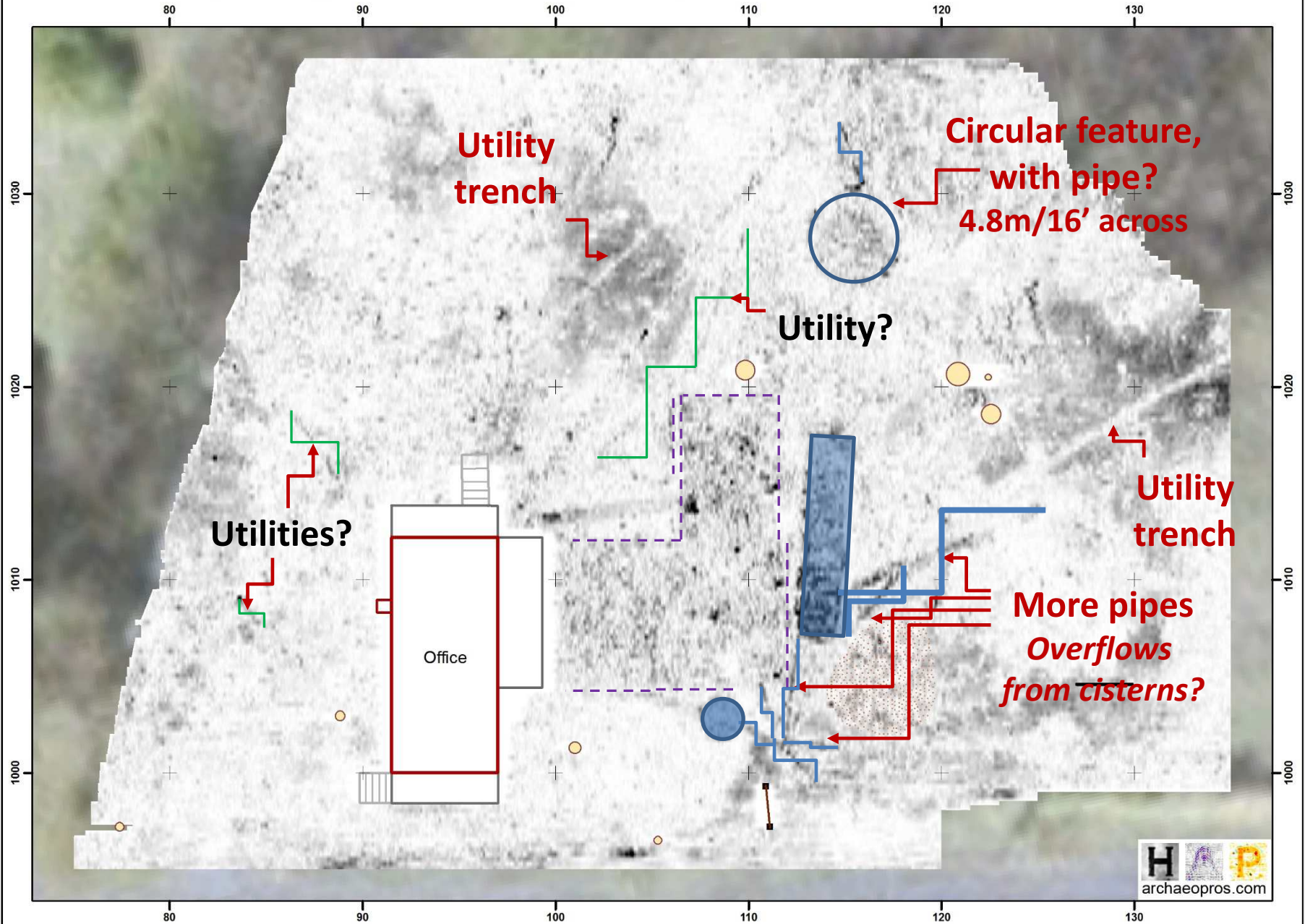
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Cistern?

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The Dr. James Still Historic Office and Homestead. Geophysical surveys, May 7-11, 2016.

GPR time-slice corresponding to approximately 0.40 to 0.45 m.b.s (1' 4" - 1' 6").

Another circular feature

Rectangular reflection: cistern?
10.5m x 2.0m
34.5' x 6.5'
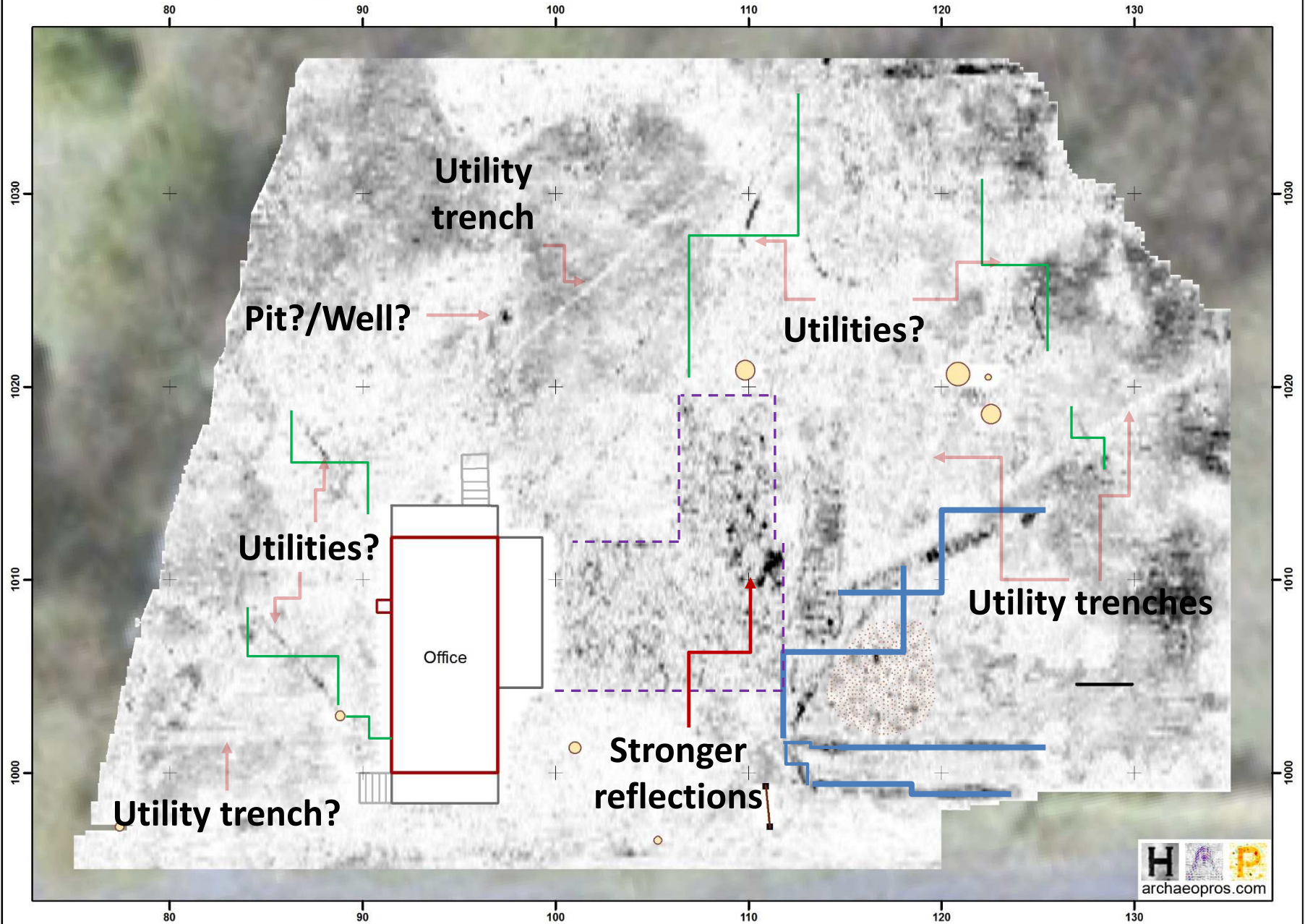**and 0.3m/1' thick**

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The Dr. James Still Historic Office and Homestead. Geophysical surveys, May 7-11, 2016.
GPR time-slice corresponding to approximately 0.45 to 0.50 m.b.s (1' 6" - 1' 8").

Utility trench

Circular feature, with pipe? 4.8m/16' across

Utility?

Utility trench

Utilities?

More pipes *Overflows from cisterns?*
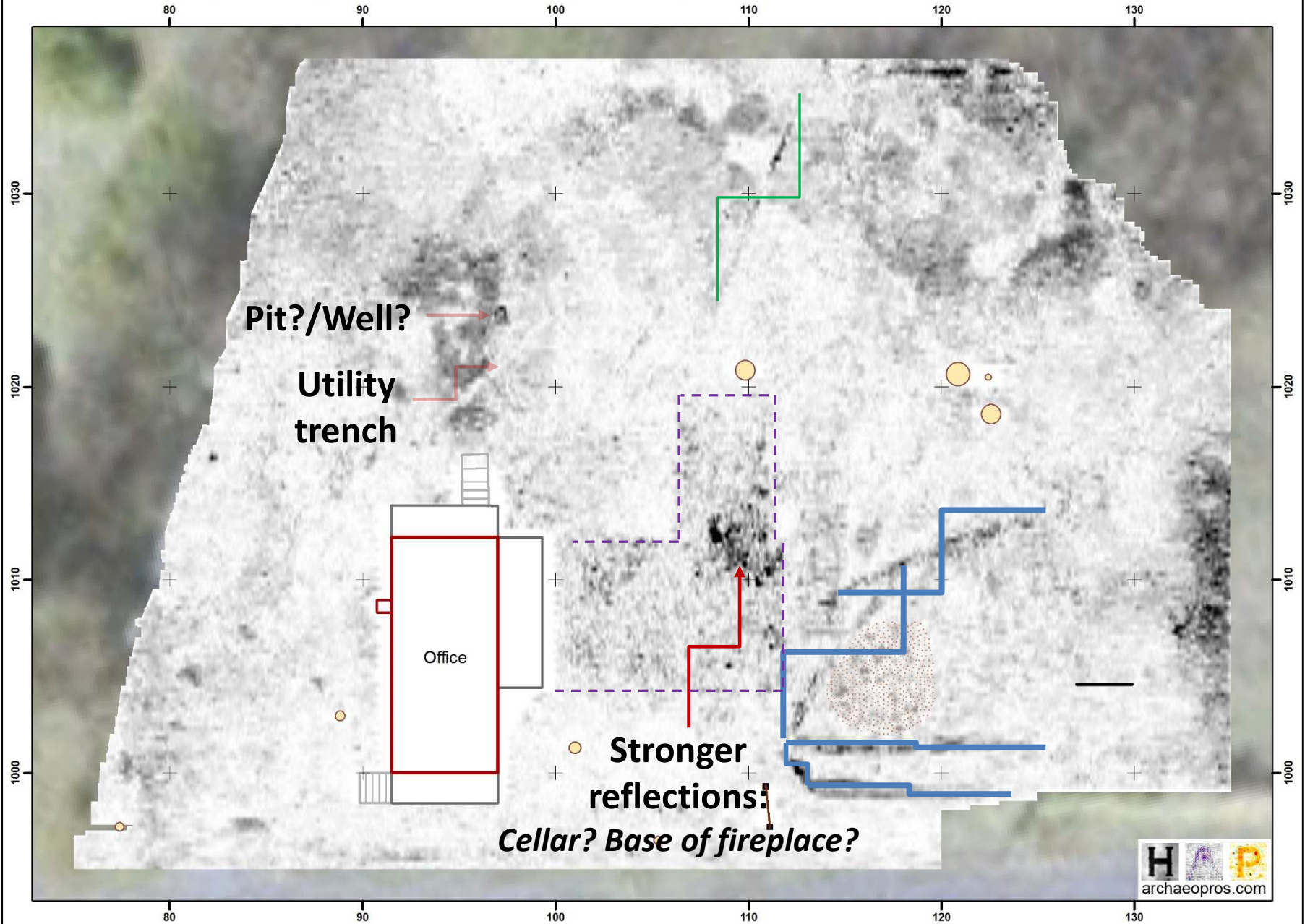
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The Dr. James Still Historic Office and Homestead. Geophysical surveys, May 7-11, 2016.
GPR time-slice corresponding to approximately 0.55 to 0.60 m.b.s (1' 0" - 2').

The Dr. James Still Historic Office and Homestead. Geophysical surveys, May 7-11, 2016.
GPR time-slice corresponding to approximately 0.65 to 0.70 m.b.s (2' 2" - 2' 4").

Pit?/Well?

Utility
trench

Office

Stronger
reflections:
Cellar? Base of fireplace?

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Photographs from the Dig

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