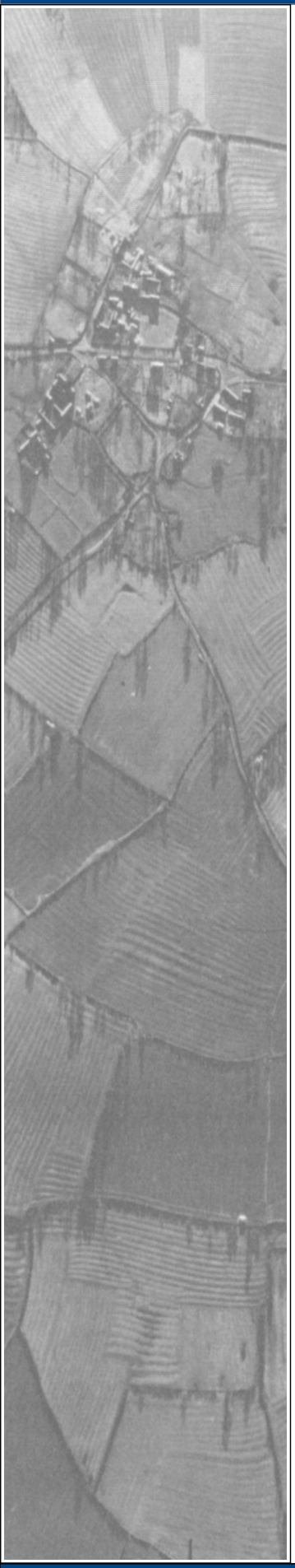

Yatton Rugby Football Club
Yatton
North Somerset

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY REPORT

for

Cotswold Archaeology

Kerry Donaldson & David Sabin

April 2023

Ref. no. J960

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS LTD

Yatton Rugby Football Club
Yatton
North Somerset

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY REPORT

for

Cotswold Archaeology

Fieldwork by David Sabin BSc (Hons) MCIfA
Report by Kerry Donaldson BSc (Hons) MCIfA
Report checked by David Sabin
Primary archive location - Archaeological Surveys Ltd, Yatesbury, Wiltshire

Survey date – 11th April 2023
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference – **ST 42435 66610**

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SUMMARY

A detailed magnetometry survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd at the Yatton Rugby Football Club, Yatton, North Somerset. The results indicate the presence of a series of land drains within the site, widespread discrete, dipolar responses to ferrous objects within the topsoil and magnetic disturbance from ferrous material within and surrounding the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Survey background

1.1.1 Archaeological Surveys Ltd was commissioned by Cotswold Archaeology to undertake a magnetometer survey of an area of land at Yatton Rugby Football Club. The site has been outlined for a proposed residential development (North Somerset Planning Application no: 22/P/0455/FUL), and the survey forms part of an archaeological assessment.

1.1.2 The geophysical survey was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Archaeological Surveys (2023) and approved by Cat Lodge, Principal Archaeologist for North Somerset Council, prior to commencing the fieldwork.

1.2 Survey objectives and techniques

1.2.1 The objective of the survey was to use magnetometry to locate geophysical anomalies that may be archaeological in origin so that they may be assessed prior to development of the site. The methodology is considered an efficient and effective approach to archaeological prospection.

1.2.2 Geophysical survey can provide useful information on the archaeological potential of a site; however, the outcome of any survey relies on a number of factors and as a consequence results can vary. The success in meeting the aims and objectives of a survey is, therefore, often impossible to predetermine.

1.3 Standards, guidance and recommendations for the use of this report

1.3.1 Archaeological Surveys Ltd is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and both company directors are Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA) and have therefore been assessed for their technical competence and ethical suitability and abide by the CIfA Codes of Conduct. The survey and report follow the recommendations set out by: European Archaeological Council (2015) Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology; Institute for

Archaeologists (2002) The use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations. The work has been carried out to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014, updated 2020) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey.

1.3.2 Archaeological Surveys Ltd provide a detailed geophysical survey report and it is recommended that where possible the contents should be considered in full. The Summary provides a brief overview of the results with more detail available in the Discussion and/or Conclusion. The *List of anomalies* within the Results provides a detailed assessment of the anomalies within separate categories which can be useful in inferring a level of confidence to the interpretation. Quality and factors influencing the interpretation of anomalies is also set out within the results.

1.3.3 It is recommended that the full report should always be considered when using data and interpretation plots; where this is not possible, in the field for example, the abstraction and interpretation plots should retain their colour coding and be used with a corresponding legend.

1.3.4 Where targeting of anomalies by excavation is to be carried out, care should be taken to place trenches over solid lines or features visible on the abstraction and interpretation plots. Archaeological Surveys abstraction and interpretation avoids the use of dashed or dotted line formats, and broken or fragmented lines used in interpretive plots may well correspond closely with truncation of archaeological features.

1.4 Site location, description and survey conditions

1.4.1 The site is located at Yatton Rugby Football Club, North Somerset. It is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) ST 42435 66610, see Figs 01 and 02.

1.4.2 The geophysical survey covers approximately 1.6ha within two rugby pitches, the north easterly pitch slopes down slightly towards the north east to approximately 5m AODN. The site lies on the northern edge of the village, although new residential dwellings were under construction to the north. The north eastern side of the survey area is bounded by mature trees with Stowey Rhyne just beyond. Trees and scrubby cover are located along part of the north western boundary with parking to the south west and the clubhouse to the south east. A phone mast, pitch lighting, steel container and mature trees are located adjacent to the northern part of the south eastern boundary. The pitches contain steel rugby goal posts and several other steel objects were identified around the periphery of the site.

1.4.3 The ground conditions across the site were generally considered to be favourable for the collection of magnetometry data. However, numerous above ground steel objects were identified within and surrounding the pitches and these were considered likely to produce severe magnetic disturbance.

Weather conditions during the survey were mainly fine.

Plate 1: Survey area looking north east

1.5 Site history and archaeological potential

1.5.1 A Heritage Statement has been prepared by Pegasus Group (2021) which outlines that the only archaeological investigation within the site was a desk-based assessment in 1999 and that it does not contain any designated or undesignated heritage assets. Within the surrounding vicinity there have been a number of archaeological investigations which have located evidence for Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age beaker pottery approximately 340m to the west along with Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British and post-Roman activity including settlement and burial features approximately 500m to the west. The site appears to have been in continual agricultural use since the post medieval period and was converted to use as a rugby ground in the 20th century.

1.6 Geology and soils

1.6.1 The underlying solid geology across the site is Mercia Mudstone with head deposits across the majority of the site and Tidal Flat deposits 1 along the north eastern edge (BGS, 2022).

1.6.2 The overlying soil across the survey area is from the Whimple 1 association (572d) and is a stagnogleyic argillic brown earth. This consists of a reddish, fine, loamy over clayey soil with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

1.6.3 Magnetometry survey carried out across similar soils has produced variable results as mudstone geologies can be associated with low magnetic susceptibility, although areas of long term occupation or industrial activity can alter the soils sufficiently to result in good magnetic contrast.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Technical synopsis

2.1.1 Magnetometry survey records localised magnetic fields that can be associated with features formed by human activity. Magnetic susceptibility and magnetic thermoremnance (also known as thermoremanence) are factors associated with the formation of localised magnetic fields.

2.1.2 Iron minerals within the soil may become altered by burning and the break down of biological material; effectively the magnetic susceptibility of the soil is increased, and the iron minerals become magnetic in the presence of the Earth's magnetic field. Accumulations of magnetically enhanced soils within features, such as pits and ditches, may produce positive magnetic anomalies that can be mapped by magnetic prospection. In addition, where soil is displaced by material of comparatively low magnetic susceptibility, such as many types of sedimentary rock, anomalies of negative value may occur which could be indicative of structural remains.

2.1.3 Magnetic thermoremnance can occur when ferrous minerals have been heated to high temperatures such as in a kiln, hearth, oven etc. On cooling, a permanent magnetisation may be acquired due to the presence of the Earth's magnetic field. Certain natural processes associated with the formation of some igneous and metamorphic rock may also result in magnetic thermoremnance.

2.1.4 The localised variations in magnetism are measured as sub-units of the Tesla, which is a SI unit of magnetic flux density. These sub-units are nano Teslas (nT), which are equivalent to 10^{-9} Tesla (T). Additional details are set out in 2.2 below and within Appendix A.

2.2 Equipment configuration, data collection and survey detail

2.2.1 The detailed magnetic survey was carried out using a SENSYS MAGNETO®MXPDA 5 channel cart-based system. The instrument has 5 fluxgate gradiometers (FGM650) spaced 0.5m apart with readings recorded at 20Hz. The cart is pushed at walking speed and not towed. Each sensor is not zeroed in the field as the vertical axis alignment is precisely fixed leaving sensor offsets that are removed during data processing. The fixing of the vertical alignment ensures the sensors are not unduly influenced by localised magnetic fields and that the vertical component of a magnetic anomaly is measured. The gradiometers have a recorded range of ±3000nT, and resolution is approximately 0.1nT. They are linked to a Leica

GS10 RTK GNSS with data recorded by SENSYS MonMX software on a rugged notebook computer system.

2.2.2 Due to the fixed offsets within the fluxgate sensors, as a result of the manufacturing and tensioning process, the survey data do not provide a visually useful dataset until a zero median traverse algorithm is applied. It is recognised that this has the potential to affect some anomalies detrimentally by removing linear features orientated parallel to survey transects. However, this has not been noted as a particular problem with the system due to the high resolution data collection, generally long length of traverses and variability within the magnetic characteristics of a linear anomaly.

2.2.3 Data are collected along a series of parallel survey transects to achieve 100% coverage of the surveyable land. The length of each transect is variable and relates to the size of the survey area and other factors including ground conditions. A visual display allows accurate placing of transects and helps maintain the correct separation between adjacent traverses. Data are not collected within fixed grids and data points are considered to be random even though the data are collected in a systematic manner covering all accessible areas (Aspinall, Gaffney and Schmidt, 2009).

2.2.4 Fluxgate sensors are highly sensitive to temperature change and this manifests as drift during the course of a survey. This can be particularly noticeable during the morning as temperatures rise and the equipment warms or cools. Sensor drift within the course of a traverse will appear as a line trending from negative to positive after processing with a zero median traverse algorithm. To remove the potential for temperature drift, data were collected after a 20 minute stabilisation period and traverses were limited to a time of generally <100s.

2.3 Data processing and presentation

2.3.1 Magnetic data collected by the MAGNETO®MXPDA cart-based system are initially prepared using SENSYS MAGNETO®DLMGPS software. The software effectively allocates a geographic position for each data point and can compensate for fixed offsets present within the FGM650 sensors. The offsets are positive or negative values present on all fluxgate gradiometer sensors. Some systems use manual or electronic balancing to effectively zero the sensors; however, this is a short term measure that is prone to drift through temperature changes and vibration and can easily be incorrectly set due to localised magnetic fields. The FGM650 sensors are very accurately aligned to the vertical magnetic gradient and are highly stable showing negligible drift on long traverses. The offset values are removed using TerraSurveyor software.

2.3.2 Survey tracks are analysed and georeferenced raw data (UTM Z30N) are then exported in ASCII format for further analysis and display within TerraSurveyor. The removal of the offset values (compensation) of the sensors is also carried out in TerraSurveyor using a zero median traverse function. Data are then

considered to be minimally processed. Note: without the zero median traverse function it is not possible to create a meaningful data plot as all sensors have a different offset value. Although a zero median traverse algorithm can remove anomalies aligned with the survey tracks, in practice this rarely occurs due to the use of long traverses, high resolution measurement and variability within the magnetic susceptibility of long linear features.

2.3.3 The minimally processed data are collected between limits of ±3000nT and clipped for display at ±3nT. Data are interpolated to a resolution of effectively 0.5m between tracks and 0.15m along each survey track.

2.3.4 Additional data processing has been carried out in the form of high pass filtering. This effectively removes low frequency variation along a traverse that has been caused by large magnetic bodies. Data treated to additional processing have been compared to unprocessed data to ensure that no significant anomalies have been removed.

2.3.5 Appendix C contains metadata concerning the survey and data attributes and is derived directly from TerraSurveyor. Reference should be made to Appendix B for further information on processing.

2.3.6 A TIF file is produced by TerraSurveyor software along with an associated world file (.TFW) that allows automatic georeferencing (OSGB36 datum) when using GIS or CAD software. The main form of data display used in the report is the minimally processed greyscale plot. Minimally processed data are considered by the manufacturer to be data that are compensated by SENSYS MAGNETO DLMGPS software, see 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. Note: traceplots are not considered to be appropriate as they do not provide an accurate or useful assessment of the magnetic anomalies due to the very high density of data collection. In addition, traceplots cannot be meaningfully plotted against base mapping and in areas of complexity traces may be lost or highly confused. Traceplots may be used to demonstrate characteristic magnetic profiles across discrete features where it is considered beneficial.

2.3.7 The raster images are combined with base mapping using ProgeCAD Professional 2021, creating DWG (2018) file formats. All images are externally referenced to the CAD drawing in order to maintain good graphical quality. The CAD plots are effectively georeferenced facilitating relocation of features using GNSS, resection method, etc.

2.3.8 An abstraction and interpretation is drawn and plotted for all geophysical anomalies located by the survey. Anomalies are abstracted using colour coded points, lines and polygons. All plots are scaled to landscape A3 for paper printing. Appendix E sets out CAD layer names with colour and graphic content for each interpretation category, see 3.3.

2.3.9 A brief summary of the results is set out within Section 3 to allow a rapid and objective assessment of features.

2.3.10 A digital archive is produced with this report, see Appendix D below. The main archive is held at the offices of Archaeological Surveys Ltd.

3 RESULTS

3.1 General assessment of survey results

3.1.1 The detailed magnetic survey was carried out over approximately 1.6ha.

3.1.2 Magnetic anomalies located can be generally classified as anomalies associated with land management, areas of magnetic debris and disturbance, strong discrete dipolar anomalies relating to ferrous objects and strong multiple dipolar linear anomalies relating to buried services or pipelines.

3.2 Data quality and factors affecting the interpretation or formation of anomalies

3.2.1 Data are considered representative of the magnetic anomalies present within the site. High magnitude magnetic disturbance caused by above ground steel objects is present around the periphery of the site and in the vicinity of the goal posts. The disturbance may obscure weak anomalies of anthropogenic origin should they be present within the affected zones.

3.2.2 It is unclear whether the pitches have been subject to any former landscaping; however, some linear anomalies within the more northerly pitch may be associated with drainage.

3.3 Data interpretation

3.3.1 The list of sub-headings below attempts to define a number of separate categories that reflect the range and type of features located during the survey. A general explanation of the characteristics of the magnetic anomalies is set out for each category in order to justify interpretation, see Table 1.

Interpretation category	Description and origin of anomalies
Anomalies relating to land management	Land drains can appear in a classic herringbone pattern of interconnected multiple dipolar linear anomalies, or as parallel linear anomalies. The multiple dipolar response indicates ceramic land drains.
Anomalies associated with magnetic debris	Magnetic debris often appears as areas containing many small dipolar anomalies that may range from weak to very strong in magnitude. They often occur where there has been dumping or ground make-up and are related to magnetically thermoremnant materials such as brick or tile or other small fragments of ferrous material. Strong discrete dipolar anomalies are responses to ferrous objects within the topsoil.
Anomalies with a modern origin	The magnetic response is often strong and dipolar indicative of ferrous material and may be associated with extant above surface features such as wire fencing, cables, pylons etc. Often a significant area around these features has a strong magnetic flux which may create magnetic disturbance; such disturbance can effectively obscure low magnitude anomalies if they are present. Fluxgate sensors may respond erratically adjacent to strong magnetic sources. Buried services may produce characteristic multiple dipolar anomalies dependant upon their construction.

Table 1: List and description of interpretation categories

3.4 Summary of anomalies

Area centred on OS NGR 342435 166610, see Figs 03 - 05.

3.4.1 A series of land drains have been located, with the majority in the northern part of the site. A service extends across the centre and then along the western edge and magnetic disturbance is evident from steel goal posts, lighting, a mast and fencing within and surrounding the site. Numerous and widespread strong, discrete, dipolar anomalies are responses to ferrous and other magnetically thermoremnant objects within the topsoil.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1.1 The geophysical survey located a series of land drains and magnetic disturbance from ferrous material within and surrounding the Yatton Rugby Football Club ground.

5 REFERENCES

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Appendix A – basic principles of magnetic survey

Iron minerals are always present to some degree within the topsoil and enhancement associated with human activity is related to increases in the level of magnetic susceptibility and thermoremnant material. Magnetic susceptibility is an induced magnetism within a material when it is in the presence of a magnetic field. This can be thought of as effectively permanent due to the presence of the Earth's magnetic field. Thermoremnant magnetism occurs when ferrous material is heated beyond a specific temperature known as the Curie Point. Demagnetisation occurs at this temperature with re-magnetisation by the Earth's magnetic field upon cooling.

Enhancement of magnetic susceptibility can occur in areas subject to burning and complex fermentation processes on biological material; these are frequently associated with human settlement. Thermoremnant features include ovens, hearths, and kilns. In addition thermoremnant material such as tile and brick may also be associated with human activity and settlement.

Silting and deliberate infilling of ditches and pits with magnetically enhanced soil can create an area of enhancement compared with surrounding soils and subsoils into which the feature is cut. Mapping enhanced areas will produce linear and discrete anomalies allowing an assessment and characterisation of hidden subsurface features.

It should be noted that areas of negative enhancement can be produced from material having lower magnetic properties compared to the topsoil. This is common for many sedimentary bedrocks and subsoils which were often used in the construction of banks and walls etc. Mapping these 'negative' anomalies may also reveal archaeological features.

Magnetic survey or magnetometry can be carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer and may be referred to as gradiometry. The SENSYS gradiometer is a passive instrument consisting of two fluxgate sensors mounted vertically 65cm apart. The instrument is carried about 10-20cm above the ground surface and the upper sensor measures the Earth's magnetic field as does the lower sensor but this is influenced to a greater degree by any localised buried magnetic field. The difference between the two sensors will relate to the strength of the magnetic field created by the buried feature.

There are a number of factors that may affect the magnetic survey and these include soil type, local geology and previous human activity. Situations arise where magnetic disturbance associated with modern services, metal fencing, dumped waste material etc., obscures low magnitude fields associated with archaeological features.

Appendix B – data processing notes

Clipping

Minimum and maximum values are set and replace data outside of the range with those values. Extreme values are removed improving colour or greyscale contrast associated with data values that may be archaeologically significant. Different ranges are applied to data in order to determine the most suitable for anomaly abstraction and display.

High Pass Filter

Removes low frequency anomalies within the data that are not considered to be archaeologically significant and may be natural in origin. A window passes over the data, the mean of all the data within the window is subtracted from the centre value. The size of the window is adjusted as is the weighting which may be uniform or Gaussian. The process is used to improve the visibility of anomalies of interest.

Zero Median/Mean Traverse

The median (or mean) of data from each traverse is calculated ignoring data outside a threshold value, the median (or mean) is then subtracted from the traverse. The process is used to equalise differences between the offset values of the gradiometer sensors. The process can remove archaeological features that run along a traverse but with the high resolution datasets created by the Sensys FGM650 sensors and the method of data collection this has not been a notable problem. In fact, the removal of offsets using software avoids carrying out a balancing procedure on site, which inevitably can never be done in magnetically clean

conditions and results in improperly aligned fluxgate sensors and/or electronic adjustment values.

Appendix C – survey and data information

Minimally processed data
Filename: J960-mag-proc.xcp
Instrument Type: Sensys DLMGPS
Units: nT
UTM Zone: 30U
Survey corner coordinates (X/Y):OSGB36
Northwest corner: 342342.45, 166722.40 m
Southeast corner: 342540.45, 166499.50 m
Collection Method: Randomised
Sensors: 5
Dummy Value: 32702
Dimensions
Survey Size (meters): 198 m x 223 m
X&Y Interval: 0.15 m
Source GPS Points: Active: 381389, Recorded: 381394

Stats
Max: 3.32
Min: -3.30
Std Dev: 2.02
Mean: 0.09
Median: -0.01
Composite Area: 4.4134 ha
Surveyed Area: 1.4986 ha
PROGRAM
Name: TerraSurveyor
Version: 3.0.37.0
GPS based Proce4
1 Base Layer.
2 Unit Conversion Layer (UTM to OSGB36).
3 DeStripe Median Traverse:
4 Clip from -3.00 to 3.00 nT

Filtered data
Filename: J960-mag-proc-hpf.xcp
Stats
Max: 3.32
Min: -3.30
Std Dev: 1.49
Mean: 0.06
Median: 0.00
GPS based Proce5
1 Base Layer.
2 Unit Conversion Layer (UTM to OSGB36).
3 DeStripe Median Traverse:
4 High pass Uniform (median) filter: Window dia: 150
5 Clip from -3.00 to 3.00 nT

Appendix D – digital archive

Archaeological Surveys Ltd hold the primary digital archive at their offices in Wiltshire. Data are backed-up onto an on-site data storage drive and at the earliest opportunity data are copied to CD ROM for storage on-site and off-site.

A PDF copy will be supplied to the North Somerset Historic Environment Record with greyscale images and abstraction layers made available on request. The report will also be uploaded to the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS).

Archive contents:

File type	Naming scheme	Description
Data	J960-mag.asc J960-mag.xcp J960-mag-proc.xcp J960-mag-proc-hpf.xcp	Raw data as ASCII CSV TerraSurveyor raw data TerraSurveyor minimally processed TerraSurveyor high pass filtered data
Graphics	J960-mag-**[area number/name]**-proc.tif	Image in TIF format
Drawing	J960-**[version number]**.dwg	CAD file in 2018 dwg format
Report	J960 report.odt	Report text in LibreOffice odt format

Table 2: Archive metadata

Appendix E – CAD layers for abstraction and interpretation plots

The table below sets out Archaeological Surveys Ltd CAD layer names with associated colours and graphical content. Where CAD files are available layers may be extracted for further CAD/GIS use. Note: hatched polygon boundaries are contained within layers with the RGB colour code 254, 255, 255 (near white) in order to prevent their visibility.

Report sub-heading and associated CAD layer names	Colour with RGB index		Layer content
Anomalies relating to land management			
AS-ABST MAG LAND DRAIN		Cyan 0,255,255	Line or polyline
Anomalies associated with magnetic debris			

AS-ABST MAG DEBRIS		132, 132, 132	Polygon (cross hatched ANSI37)
AS-ABST MAG STRONG DIPOLAR		132, 132, 132	Solid donut, point or polygon (solid)
Anomalies with a modern origin			
AS-ABST MAG DISTURBANCE		132, 132, 132	Polygon (hatched ANSI31)
AS-ABST MAG SERVICE		132, 132, 132	Line or polyline

Table 3: CAD layering

Appendix F – copyright and intellectual property

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Tel: 01249 814 231

Archaeological Surveys
Specialist Geophysical Surveyors

Geophysical Survey
Yatton Rugby Football Club
Yatton
North Somerset

Map of survey area

Survey location

Survey location

Site centred on OS NGR
ST 42435 66610

SCALE 1:25 000

0m 500m 1000m

SCALE TRUE AT A3

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	
KTD	DJS	FIG 01

342300
342350
342400
342450
342500
342550

166700
166650
166600
166550
166500

N

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Yatton Rugby Football Club
Yatton
North Somerset

Referencing information

Referencing grid to OSGB36 datum at 50m intervals

342450 166600

Survey tracks

Survey track start

Survey track stop

SCALE 1:1000

0m 10 20 30 40 50m

SCALE TRUE AT A3

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	
KTD	DJS	FIG 02

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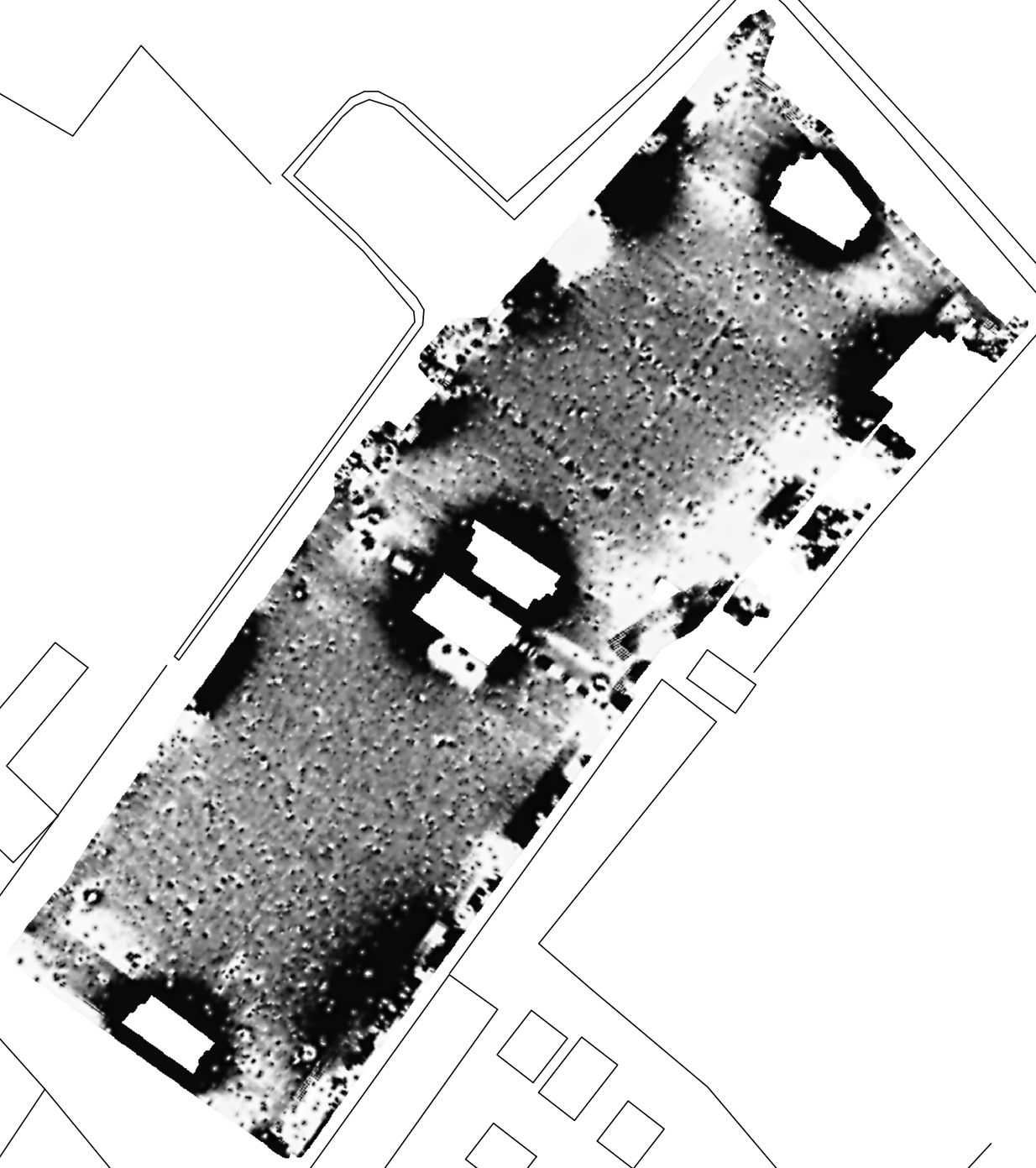
Yatton
North Somerset

Greyscale plot of minimally processed magnetometer data

N



-3nT +3nT

+3nT -3nT

SCALE 1:1000

0m 10 20 30 40 50m

SCALE TRUE AT A3

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	
KTD	DJS	FIG 03

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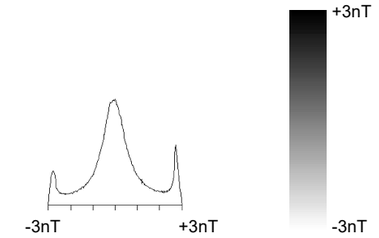
Greyscale plot of filtered magnetometer data



SCALE 1:1000

0m 10 20 30 40 50m

SCALE TRUE AT A3

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	
KTD	DJS	FIG 04

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Abstraction and interpretation of magnetic anomalies

N

- Positive/weak multiple dipolar linear anomaly - land drain
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremnant/ferrous material
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong multiple dipolar linear anomaly - pipeline / cable / service
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object

SCALE 1:1000

0m 10 20 30 40 50m

SCALE TRUE AT A3

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	
KTD	DJS	FIG 05