Archaeological geophysical survey at Northam Close, Eye Green Peterborough

June 2014

Report No. 14/136

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Illustrator: Ian Fisher

MOLA
MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY

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OASIS REPORT

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No. molanort1-183969	
Project name	Archaeological geophysical survey at Northam Close, Eye Green, Peterborough	
Short description	MOLA was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on land at Northam Close, Eye, Peterborough. The survey identified two possible undated ditches and a pit.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (forthcoming)	
Current Land use	Set-aside	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Undated ditches and a pit	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Peterborough	
Site address	Northam Close, Eye Green	
Study area	*c* 0.8ha	
OS Easting & Northing	TF 229 038	
Height OD	*c* 8-9m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA Northampton	
Project brief originator	Bletsoes	
Project design originator	MOLA Northampton	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes	
Sponsor or funding body	Bletsoes	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	27 June 2014	
End date	27 June 2014	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical	N/A	
Paper	MOLA Northampton EGNC 14	Site survey records
Digital		Geophysical survey & GIS data
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	
Title	Archaeological geophysical survey at Northam Close, Eye Green, Peterborough, June 2014	
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton Reports 14/136	
Author(s)	Ian Fisher	
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ABSTRACT

MOLA was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on land south of Northam Close, Eye Green, Peterborough. The survey identified two possible undated ditches and a pit.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by Bletsoes to conduct a geophysical survey on land south of Northam Close, Eye Green, Peterborough (NGR TF 229 038; Fig 1). A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken on 27th June 2014 and covered a total area of approximately 0.8ha.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

The survey area consisted of a single field located on the northern edge of Eye Green immediately south of Northam Close. It is bounded to the west by Crowland Road, by residential property to the north and south and arable fields to the east. At the time of the survey the field was part set-aside and part crop.

The survey area lies at between 8m to 9m aOD. The geology of the area is recorded as Oxford Clay (BGS 2014).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

A desk-based assessment of the survey area is being undertaken (Simmonds 2014).

The survey area lies within an area of archaeological interest, however, none of the entries in the Peterborough City's Historic Environment Record (HER) relate directly to the survey area.

Approximately 300m to the south of the survey area, a 19th-century antiquarian recorded Anglo-Saxon inhumation and cremation burials during gravel extraction (PHER REC 03055, 03112). It is not known how many burials were uncovered, but finds included iron spearheads, a knife, an ivory purse ring, a sleeve clasp and a globular pot decorated with swastika motifs. It is believed the burials date to the mid 6th-century. Excavations in 1991 attempted to relocate these burials, but found the area was heavily truncated by quarrying and no archaeological remains were recorded.

Extensive archaeological remains have been recorded at Tanholt Farm 1.7km south-east of the survey area. Archaeological excavations prior to gravel extraction identified Neolithic activity (PHER REC 51348) and a settlement dating from the Bronze Age to the Romano-British period (PHER REC 51315, 51698, 51700 and 51699).

3 METHODOLOGY

The magnetometer survey was conducted with Bartington Grad 601-2, twin sensor array, vertical component fluxgate gradiometers (Bartington and Chapman 2003). These are standard instruments for archaeological survey and can resolve magnetic variations as slight as 0.1 nanoTesla (nT).

A network of 30m grid squares was established across the field. The grid was set out with a tape measure and optical square and was tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by means of a Leica Viva dGPS. The gradiometers were carried at a brisk but steady pace through each grid square, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along the traverses, giving a total of 3600 measurements per square. All fieldwork methods complied with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and by the Institute for Archaeologists (EH 2008; IfA 2011).

The survey data was processed using Geoplot 3.00v software. The striping was removed using the 'Zero Mean Traverse' function and destaggering of the data was performed where necessary. The processed data is presented in this report in the form of a greyscale plot at a range of +4nT (black) to -4nT (white). This has been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Fig 2) and is shown with an interpretative overlay in Figure 3. A raw data plot is presented in Figure 4.

4 SURVEY RESULTS

The survey identified two positive linear anomalies that may represent ditches. One is orientated east to west in the central part of the survey area. The second is located in the northern part of the survey area. It is an L shaped feature that could not be fully surveyed to the east as under crop and may be part of an enclosure. There is a break in the northern arm of the ditch. A single sub-circular pit has also been identified.

Magnetic noise has been recorded around the edges of the survey area. This is due to fences and modern rubbish.

A strip on the eastern edge of the survey area was not surveyed as it was under crop.

5 CONCLUSION

The survey identified two linear anomalies that may represent ditches. One of which may be part of a larger enclosure. A pit was also identified. The linear features extend beyond the survey area and thus their full form could not be ascertained.

No other archaeologically significant features were detected.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bartington, G, and Chapman, C, 2003 A high-stability fluxgate magnetic gradiometer for shallow geophysical survey applications, *Archaeological Prospection*, **11**, 19-34

BGS 2014 *Geoindex*, http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html, British Geological Survey, consulted 04 July 2014

EH 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*, English Heritage

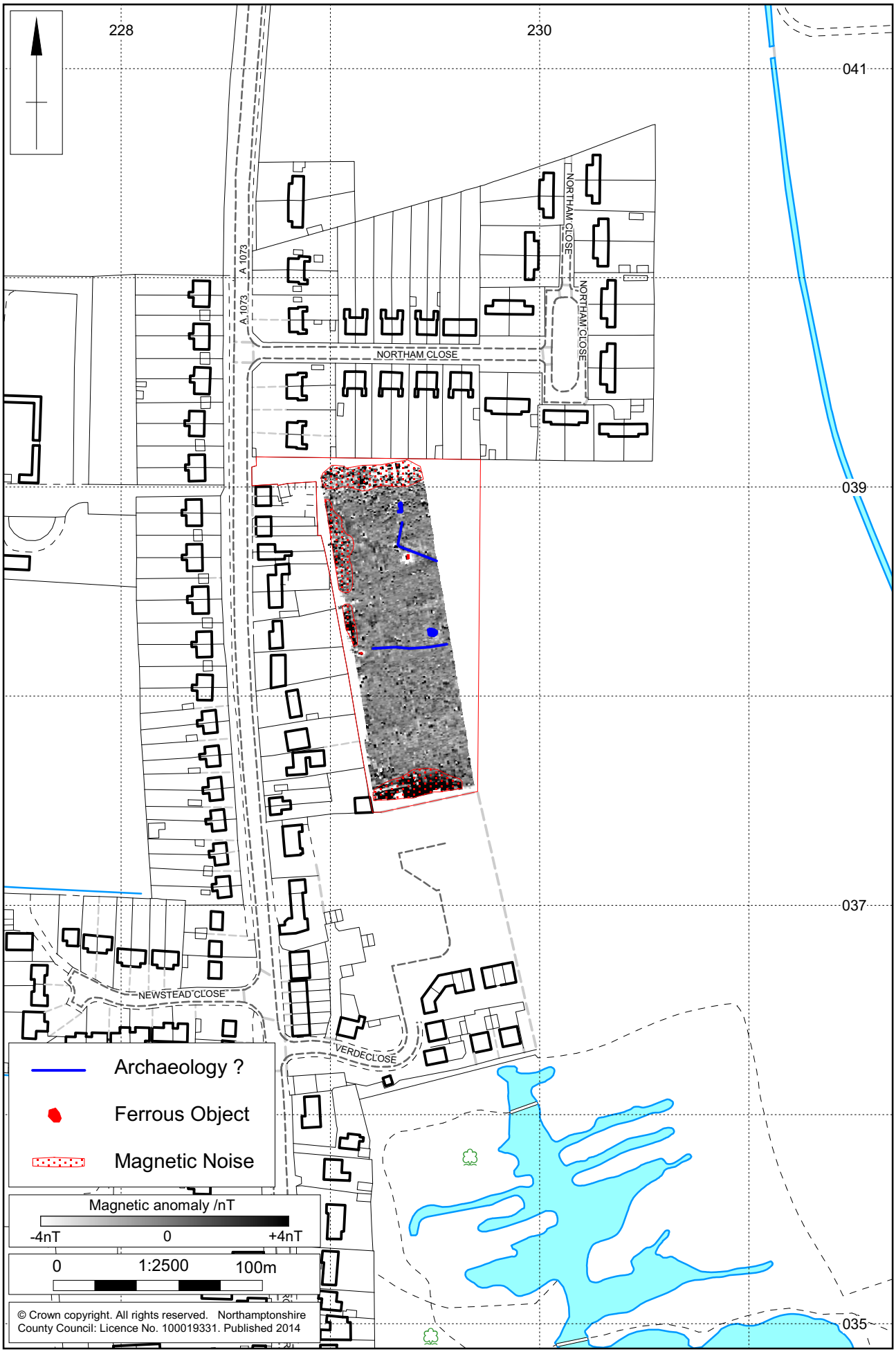
IfA 2011 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey*, Institute for Archaeologists

MOLA
9 July 2014

1:20,000

Site Location Fig 1

1:2500 (A4) Magnetometer survey results Fig 2



1:2500 (A4) Magnetometer survey interpretation Fig 3

1:2500 (A4) Magnetometer survey raw data Fig 4

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