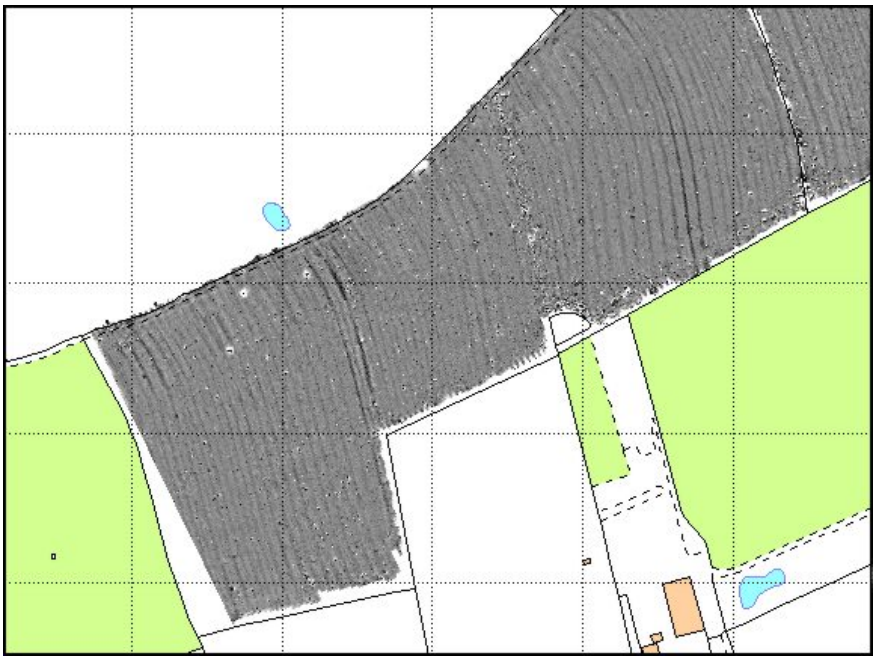

Archaeological geophysical survey of land at Hall Farm, Hannington Lane, Walgrave Northamptonshire October 2014

Report No. 14/231

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OASIS REPORT

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No. molanort1-196186	
Project name	Archaeological geophysical survey of land at Hall Farm, Hannington Lane, Walgrave, Northamptonshire. (Previously referred to as Walgrave Road, Hannington)	
Short description	MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on land at Hall Farm, Hannington Lane, Walgrave, Northamptonshire. The survey identified medieval or early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and a single linear feature of unknown origin but little else of archaeological significance.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Hall Farm, Hannington Lane, Walgrave	
Study area	*c* 18ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 817 718	
Height OD	*c* 125 – 134m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA Northampton	
Project brief originator		
Project design originator	MOLA Northampton	
Director/Supervisor	Olly Dindol	
Project Manager	John Walford	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	13 October 2014	
End date	19 October 2014	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical	N/A	
Paper	MOLA Northampton	Site survey records
Digital		Geophysical survey & GIS data
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	
Title	Archaeological geophysical survey of land at Hall Farm, Hannington Lane, Walgrave, Northamptonshire, October 2014	
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton Reports 14/231	
Author(s)	Olly Dindol	
Page numbers	3	
Date	9 December 2014	

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ABSTRACT

MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on land at Hall Farm, Hannington Lane, Walgrave, Northamptonshire. The survey identified medieval or early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and a single linear feature of unknown origin but little else of archaeological significance.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct a geophysical survey on 18ha of arable land to the east of Hall Farm, Hannington Lane, Walgrave, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 817 718; Fig 1). A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken on the 13 October 2014, following consultation with the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Planning Advisor.

The project was recorded under the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) as event number ENN107718. The site was initially referred to as Walgrave Road, Hannington and may be referred to as such in previous documentation.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

The development area comprises *c* 18ha of land located immediately north-east of the village of Hannington, centred on NGR SP 817 718 (Fig 1). It is currently divided into 2 fields, an L-shaped field to the west and a rectangular shaped field to the east. The survey area is surrounded on all sides by a mixture of pasture and arable fields.

The survey area lies at a height of between 125m – 134m aOD and slopes eastwards. The bedrock geology of the area as recorded by the British Geological Survey comprises of Northampton Sand Formations, which consists of Ooidal Ironstone. The superficial geology overlying the ironstone is Oadby Member soils, which consists of deposits of sands, gravels and Pre-Devensian laminated clays (BGS 2014).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The Northamptonshire HER indicates no archaeology within the survey area. Potential archaeology identified by the HER in the surrounding area is sparse, with the survey area lying 600m to the north-east of the historic core of Hannington, which is home to the 13th-century Church of St Peter and St Paul (HER 87 SW 3). Furthermore 350m to the south of the site lies a number of fields where potential archaeology, including a double ring ditch and enclosures of a ditched trackway (HER 87 SW 2), were identified via cropmarks from aerial photographs.

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).
An independent network of 30m grid squares was established across each of the fields to be surveyed. The grids were set out with a tape measure and optical square and were 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 greyscale plots 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 (Figs 2 & 4) and is shown with an interpretative overlay in Figures 3 and 5. Separate plots of the unprocessed data are presented in Figures 6 and 7.

4 SURVEY RESULTS

The only archaeological features detected are represented by a series of positive parallel linear anomalies and one other weakly positive linear anomaly. The parallel linear anomalies are aligned from north-west to south-east, the overall shape and layout of these anomalies is characteristic of medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

The other linear anomaly lies in the western field, and is exceptionally weak. It runs west from a corner of the modern field boundary, and then turns towards the north-west. It could possibly represent a ditch, but it could also represent a relatively modern field drain.

In both fields linear bands of dipolar anomalies can be observed running across site from south to north. These are old field boundaries and can be identified in older Ordnance Survey maps, having been removed only in the last twenty years. Moreover, in the easternmost corner of the eastern field, a pair of parallel evenly spaced linear bands of dipolar anomalies can be seen running west to east. Each band has a weakly alternating polarity, which is characteristic of modern field drains.

Random scatters of ferrous objects were also identified across the two fields, as well as large areas of magnetic noise along the field edges. The ferrous objects are probably the result of modern rubbish, whilst the magnetic noise is the result of the accumulations of modern debris, such as brick rubble or scrap metal in the upper soil layers.

5 CONCLUSION

The only archaeological features detected by the survey consisted of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation which, due to heavy ploughing is no longer visible on the surface, and a small linear feature of unknown origin. Hence it can be inferred that the proposed development area may be of little archaeological interest. However, given the recognised limitations of magnetometer survey (EH 2008:14), the presence of a few minor or ephemeral archaeological features cannot be absolutely ruled out.

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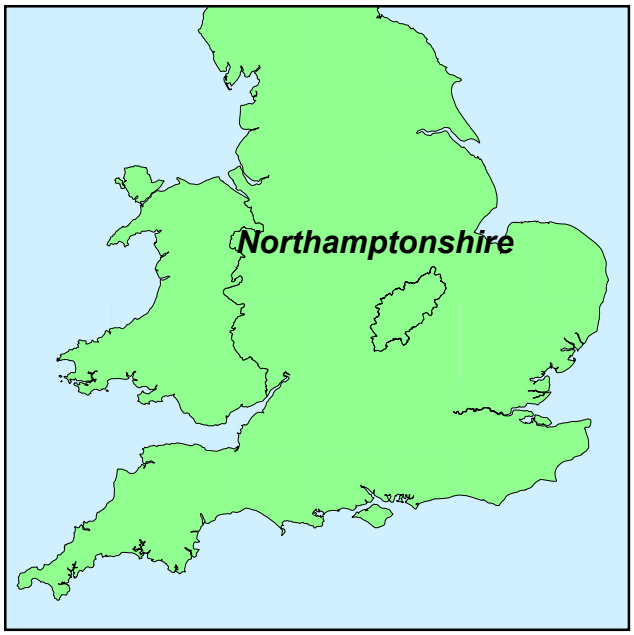
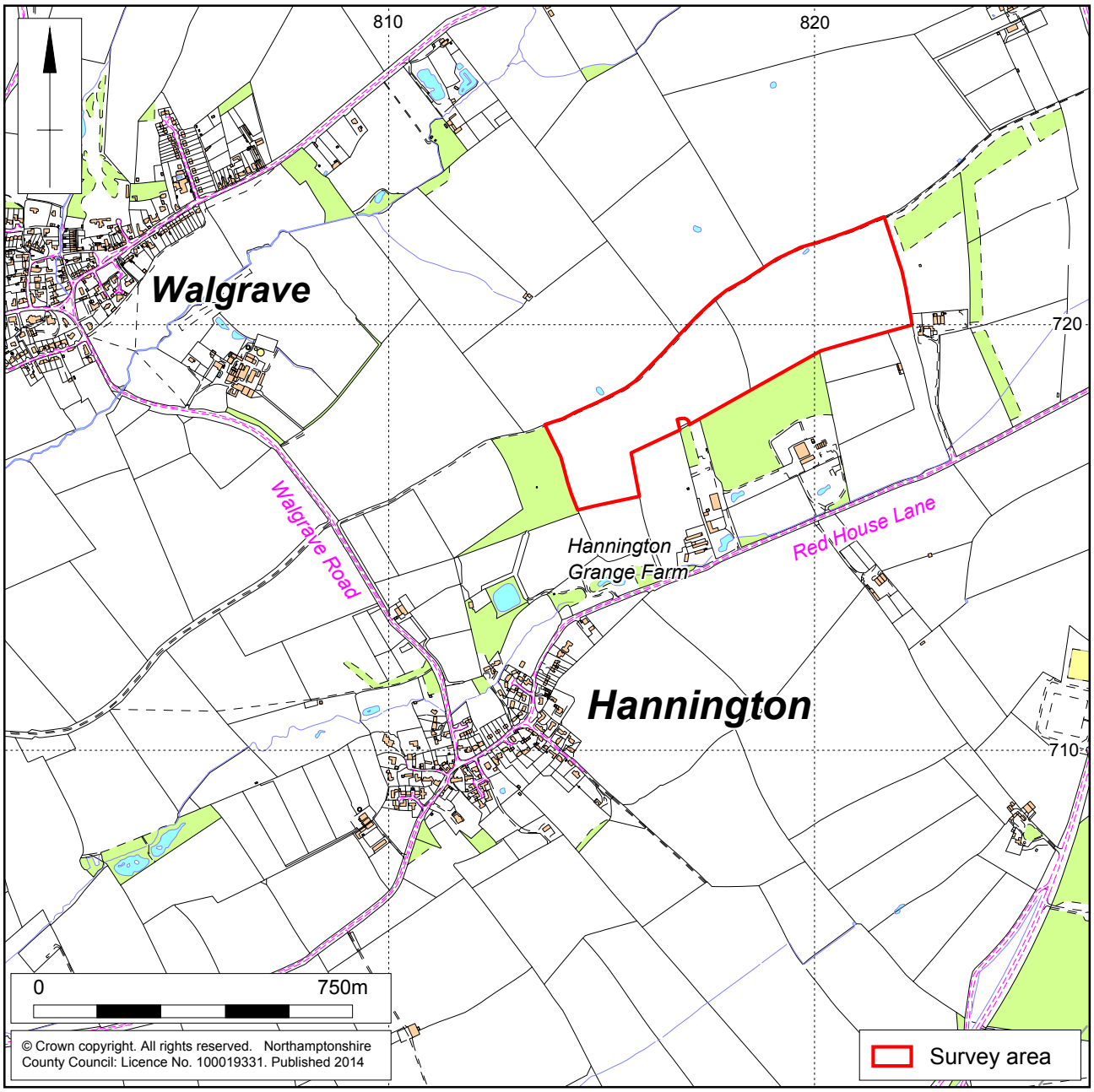
9 December 2014





Scale 1:15,000

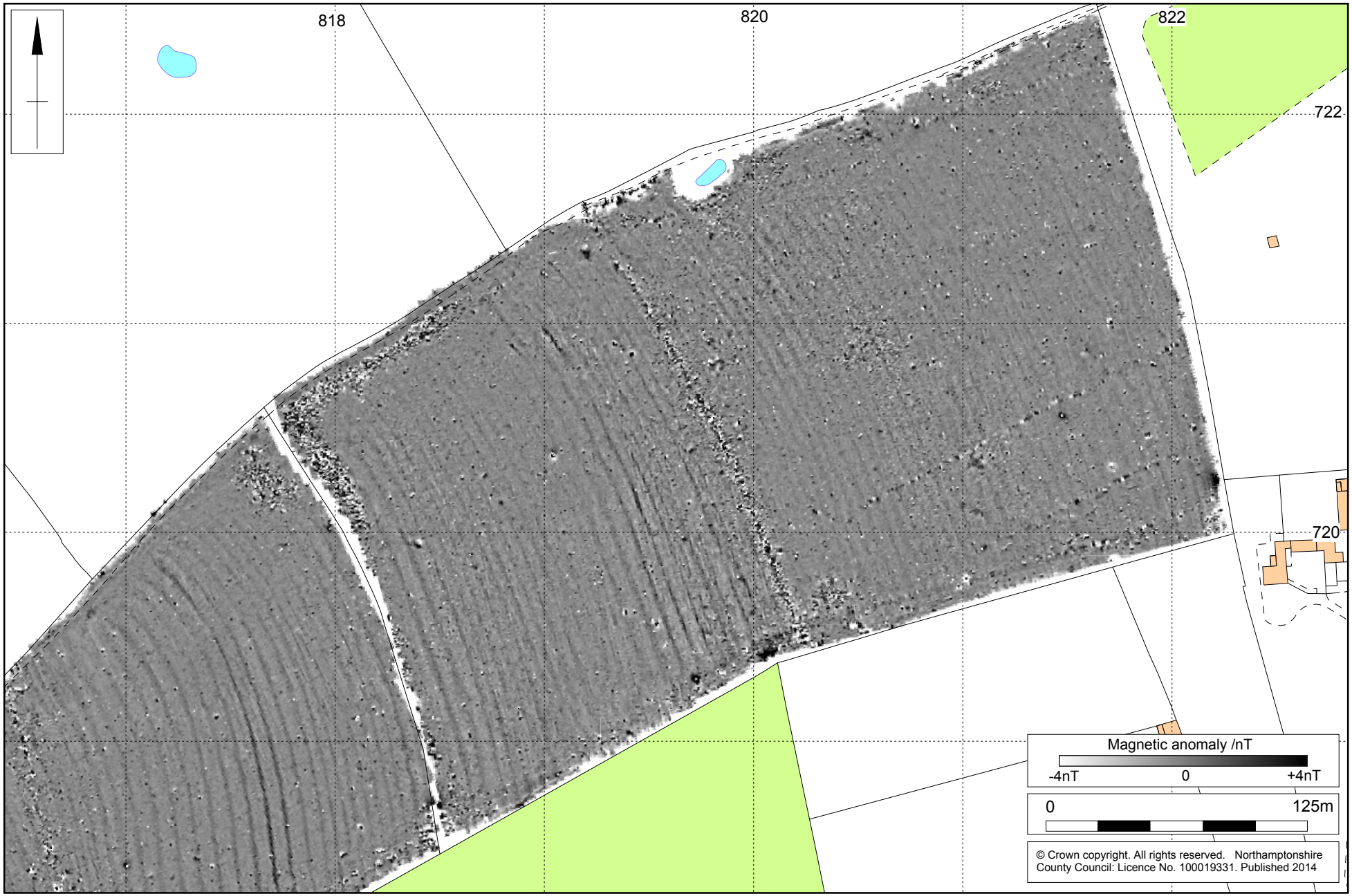
Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:2500

Magnetometer survey results (West) Fig 2

Scale 1:2500

Magnetometer survey interpretation (West) Fig 3



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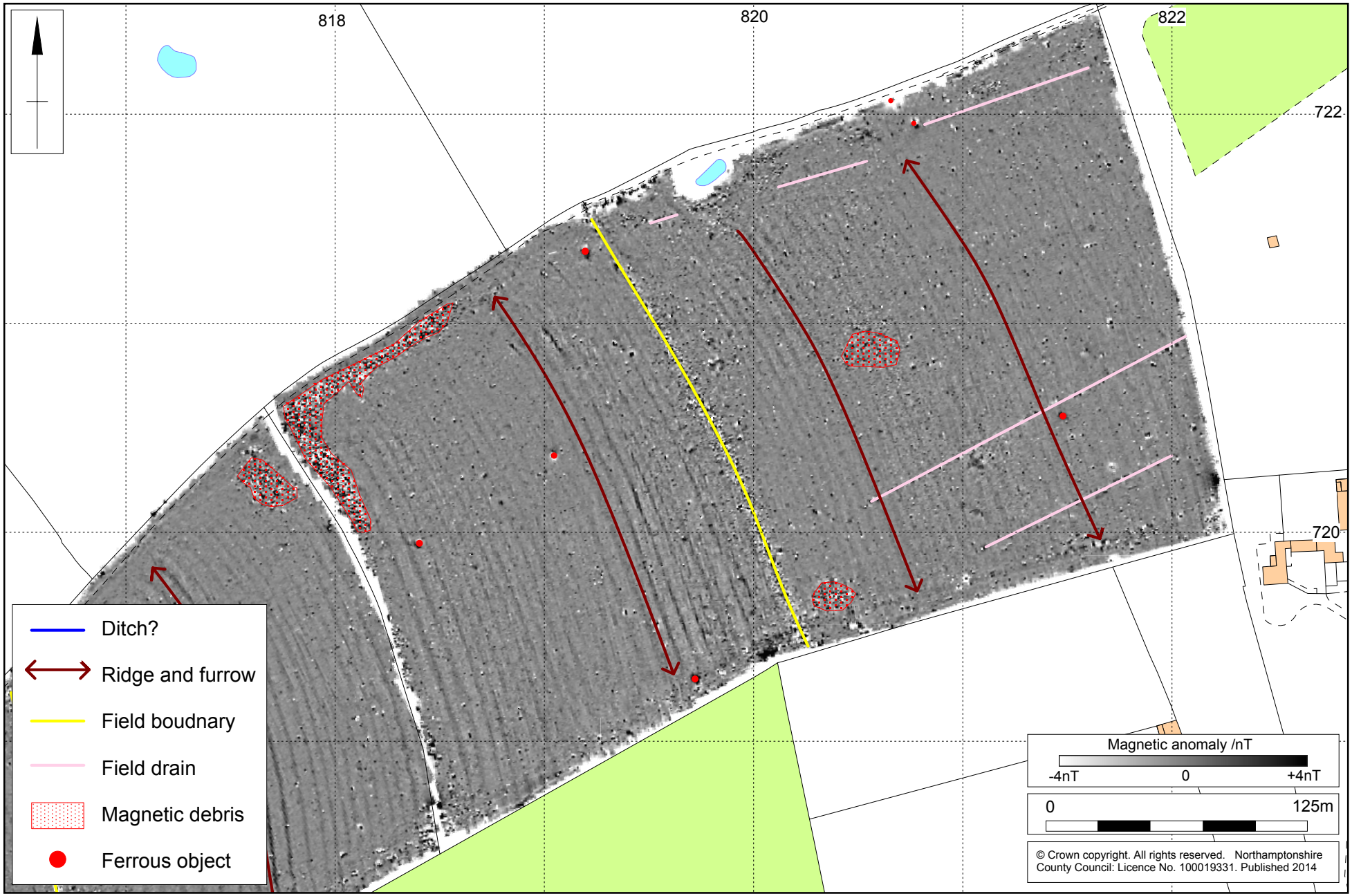
Magnetometer survey results (East) Fig 4



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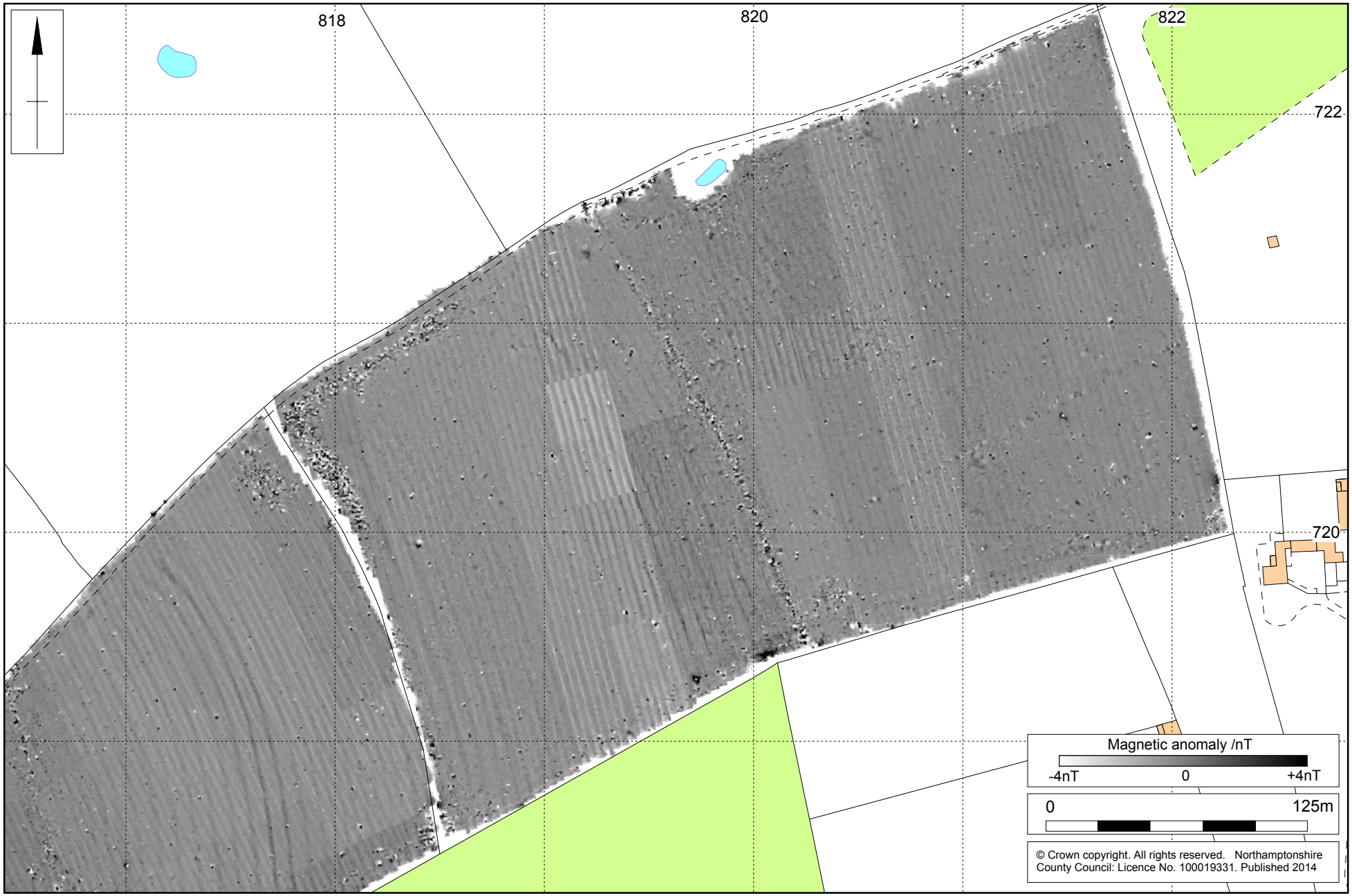
Magnetometer survey interpretation (East) Fig 5

Scale 1:2500

Unprocessed magnetometer data (West) Fig 6



Scale 1:2500

Unprocessed magnetometer data (East) Fig 7

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