



**Archaeological geophysical survey  
on land north of Overwoods Road  
Hockley, Warwickshire  
November 2015**

Report No. 15/222

Author: Adam Meadows

Illustrator: Adam Meadows





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**OASIS REPORT**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>Oasis No. molanort1-233535</b>	
Project name	Archaeological geophysical survey on land north of Overwoods Road, Hockley, Warwickshire.		
Short description	MOLA Northampton was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on land north of Overwoods Road, Hockley, Warwickshire. The survey identified several linear and curvilinear anomalies of potential archaeological interest among prevalent geological features.		
Project type	Geophysical survey		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current Land use	Arable		
Future work	Trial trench evaluation		
Monument type/ period	Undated linear and curvilinear features		
Significant finds	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Warwickshire		
Site address	Overwoods Road, Hockley		
Study area	c 3.6ha		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 235 999		
Height OD	c 101m – 112m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Warwickshire County Council Planning Archaeologist		
Project design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Adam Meadows		
Project Manager	Huw Sherlock		
Sponsor or funding body	Walton Homes		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	24 November 2015		
End date	24 November 2015		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	Location	Content	
Physical	N/A		
Paper	MOLA Northampton	Site survey records	
Digital		Geophysical survey & GIS data	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report		
Title	Archaeological geophysical survey on land north of Overwoods Road, Hockley, Warwickshire, November 2015		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton Reports 15/222		
Author(s)	Adam Meadows		
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# Archaeological geophysical survey on land north of Overwoods Road, Hockley, Warwickshire November 2015

## ABSTRACT

*MOLA Northampton was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on land north of Overwoods Road, Hockley, Warwickshire. The survey identified several linear and curvilinear anomalies of potential archaeological interest among prevalent geological features.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Walton Homes to conduct a geophysical survey on c 3.6ha of arable land to the north of Overwoods Road, Hockley (NGR SP 235 999; Fig 1). A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken on 24th November 2015, following consultation with Warwickshire County Council's Planning Archaeologist.

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Location and geology

The survey area comprises a single arable field set to the east of Hockley and west of the M42 just south of the Warwickshire and Staffordshire county boundary (NGR SP 235 999). It is a triangular field bounded to the south by Overwoods Road, to the north by Freasley Lane and by an agricultural field to the east.

Situated on a north-east facing slope, the survey area stands at an elevation of c 101-112m aOD. Its geology is mapped as Halesowen Formation Sandstone with no superficial drift deposits (BGS 2015).

### 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) does not record any previous archaeological work or findspots within the survey area. The earliest find recorded in the vicinity is a flint artefact discovered approximately 100m north of Junction 10 of the M42, north of the survey area (MWA 5320). During the construction of the M42 three postholes dating from the Roman period were also discovered at this junction. These are thought to suggest the presence of a settlement in this area (MWA 4881).

The survey area is located near to two medieval villages. These are the shrunken village of Whateley, located c 500m south of the survey area (MWA 19572), and the medieval settlement of Freasley, c 400m east of the survey area, near Polesworth (MWA 13160). Freasley Lane, just north of the survey area appears to be a potential 'hollow-way' (*pers obs*) though no record of this was found on the HER.

### 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 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 Historic England and by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (HE 2015; ClfA 2014).

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 plot of the unprocessed data is presented in Figure 4.

### 4 SURVEY RESULTS

The survey has detected a magnetically variable geology resulting in several weak erratic linear anomalies. Some of the anomalies within the data are more pronounced and may be of archaeological interest.

Two linear anomalies of potential archaeological significance are located within the southern portion of the survey area. One of these meanders predominantly in a north-east to south-west orientation, appearing to run parallel to Freasley Lane. The second anomaly is a short straight linear orientated south-east to north-west intersecting the meandering linear anomaly before continuing a short distance south-east. In the northern part of the survey area there is a curvilinear anomaly that could represent the partial remains of a ring ditch.

The faint erratic linear anomalies present in survey data are probably the result of small geological fissures in the ground or natural variances in the magnetism of the soil. These readings could potentially obscure any weakly magnetic archaeological features. The geological readings in the data also include a narrow band of irregularly-shaped anomalies that span the southern half of the field, following a break in slope.

### 5 CONCLUSION

The magnetometer survey has mapped three linear features that may prove to be of archaeological interest. These include two linear anomalies that are likely to represent ditches and a curvilinear anomaly that may be the remains of a ring ditch. Due to the nature of these potential features it is impractical to provide an approximate age, though the potential ring ditch, if correctly identified, will most likely prove to be prehistoric.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

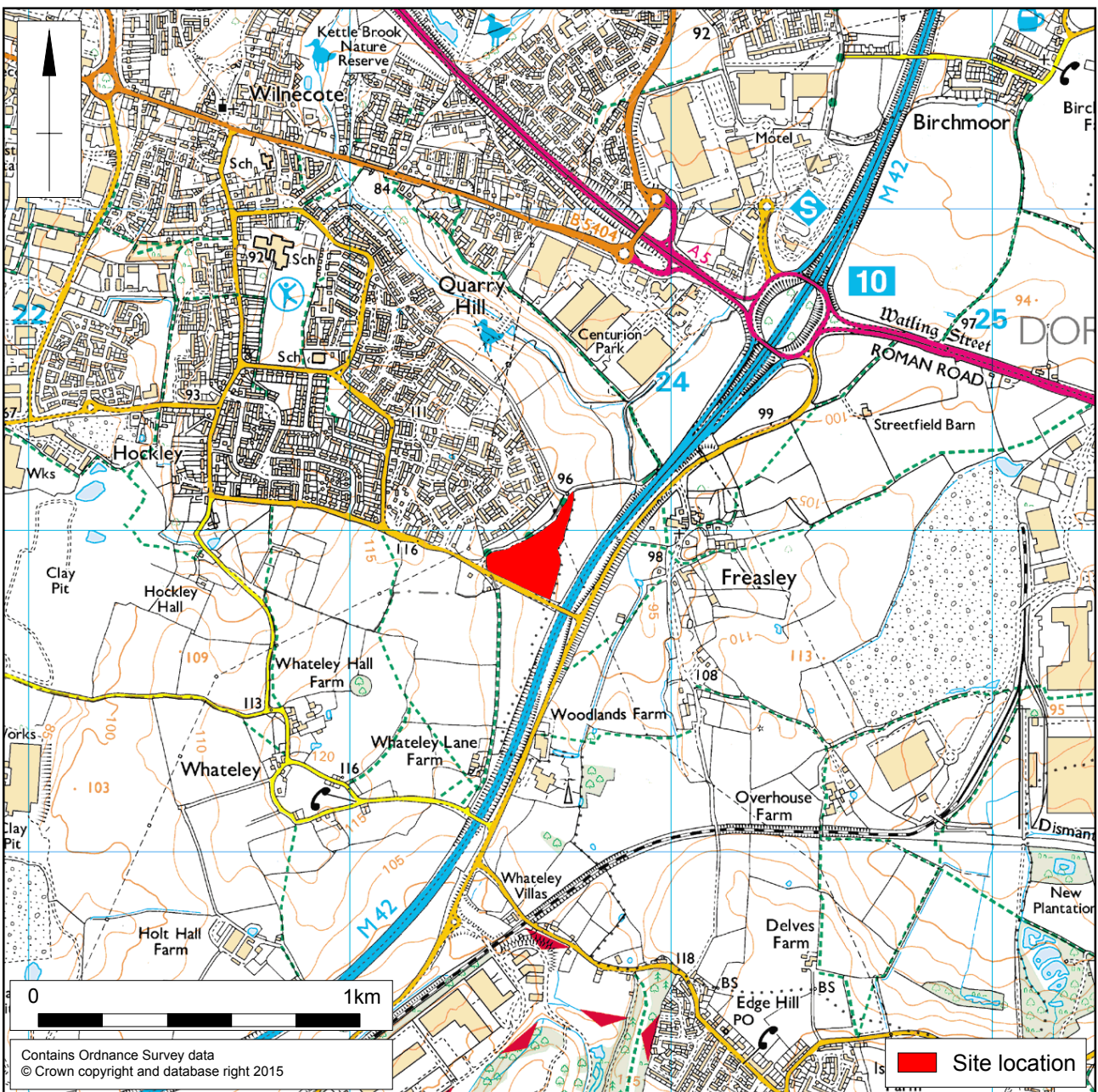
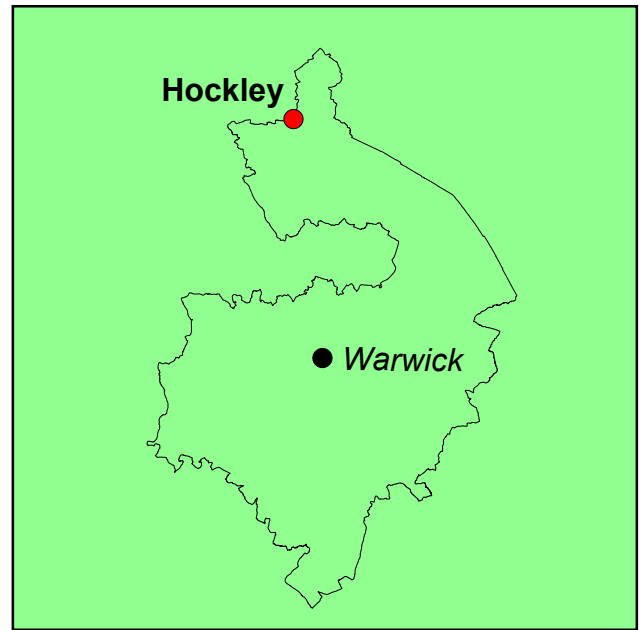
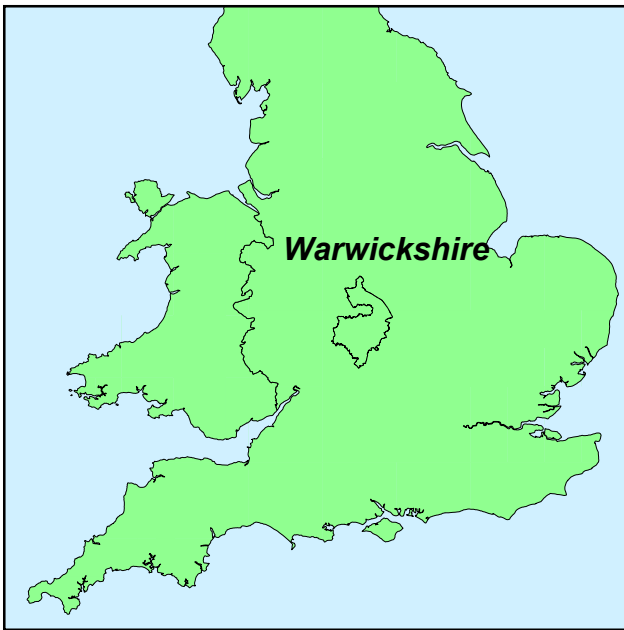
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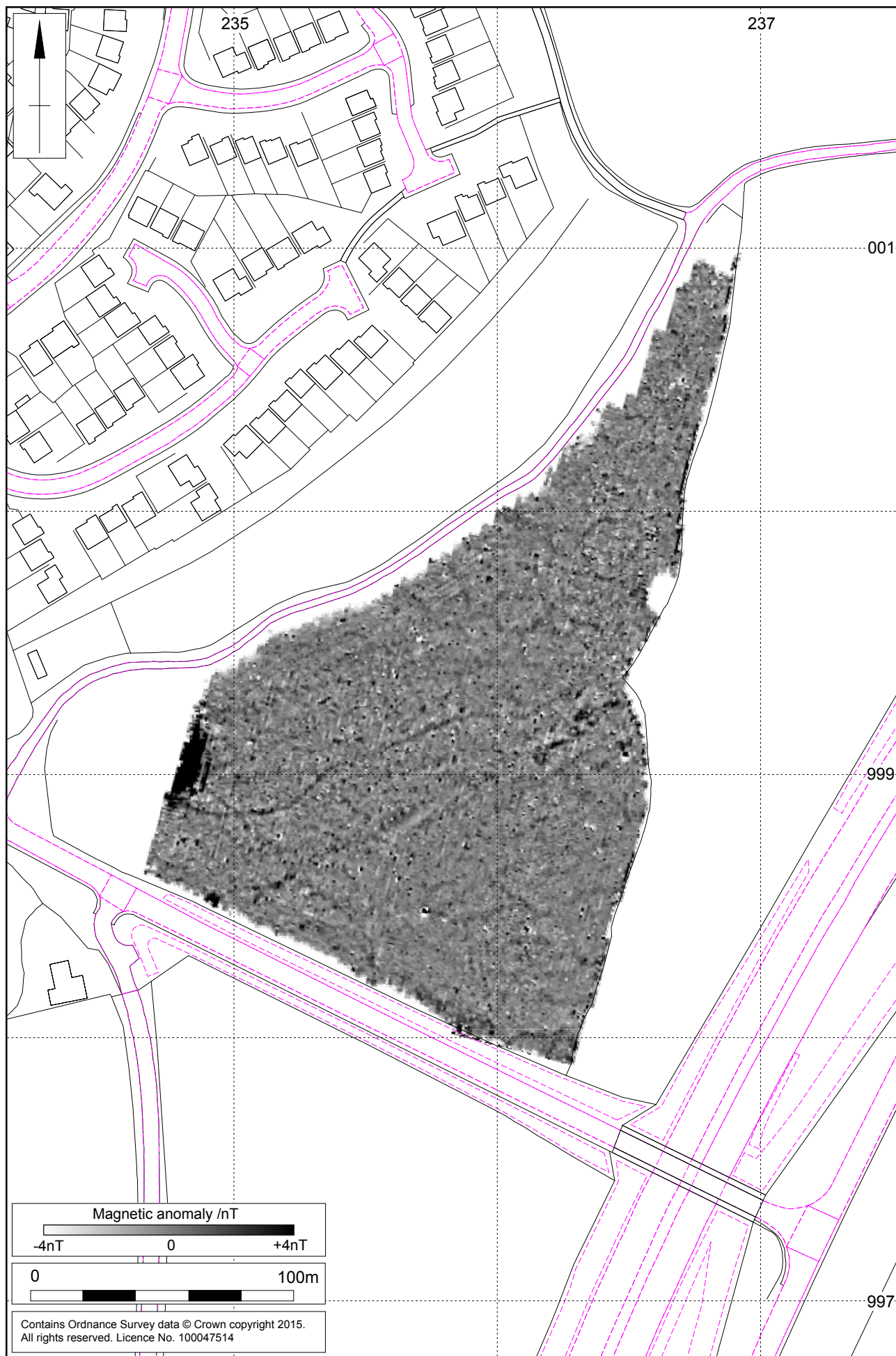
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08 December 2015



Scale 1:20,000

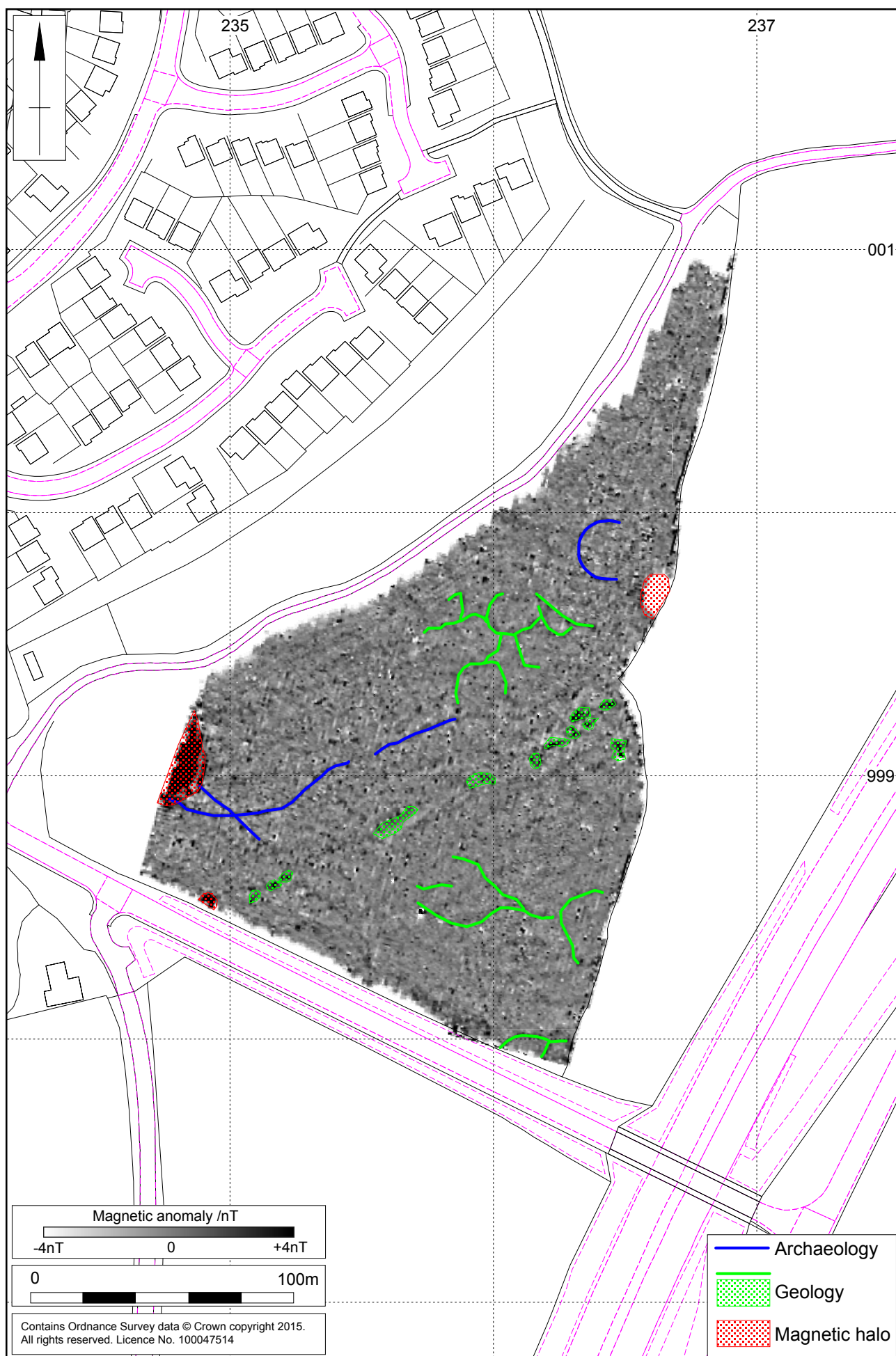
Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:2000

Magnetometer survey results Fig 2





Scale 1:2000

Magnetometer survey interpretation Fig 3



Scale 1:2000

Unprocessed magnetometer data Fig 4



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