



# The Round House, Evesham, Worcestershire

Ground Penetrating Radar  
Survey Report

Ref: 240611.03  
December 2021



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## Document Information

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Document subtitle                Ground Penetrating Radar Survey Report  
Document reference                240611.03

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Site location                        The Round House  
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    Evesham  
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County                                Worcestershire  
National grid reference            403721 243790 (SP 03721 43790)

WA project name                    The Round House, Evesham - TGS  
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**Quality Assurance**

Issue and date

Author Approved by

1 14/12/2021

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AJS', written over a horizontal line.

AJS



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## Summary

A ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey was conducted over land at the Round House, Evesham (centred on NGR 403721 243790). The project was commissioned by Faithful & Gould Ltd with the aim of establishing the presence, or otherwise, and nature of detectable archaeological features, to inform the preliminary stage of restoration works prior to being carried out upon the building.

The site comprises an area surrounding a building called The Round House (or 'Booth Hall') located in the centre of the town of Evesham, covering an area of 458 m<sup>2</sup>. The geophysical survey was undertaken on 12 November 2021 and has detected a series of high and low amplitude, planar, point, and linear anomalies related to the extensive utility network in this area.

The survey has not identified any anomalies that can be interpreted as archaeology. Two areas thought to be associated with the foundations of the building have been identified. There is no evidence for below ground structures, such as cellars, extending beyond the footprint of the building.

The modern services form a complicated network throughout the area and suggest multiple phases and purposes of construction. The visible high and low amplitude anomalies display the detectable positions of those services and/or service trenches respectively, however it is unlikely all services have been detected within the remit of this survey.

## Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Faithful & Gould for commissioning the geophysical survey. The assistance of Cosmo Phillips is gratefully acknowledged in this regard.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Brett Howard and Joanne Instone-Brewer. Brett Howard processed and interpreted the geophysical data, wrote the report, and prepared the illustrations. The geophysical work was quality controlled by Alexander Schmidt. The project was managed by Tom Richardson on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



# The Round House, Evesham, Worcestershire

## Ground Penetrating Radar Survey Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Faithful & Gould Ltd to carry out a geophysical survey at The Round House, Evesham (centred on NGR 403721 243790) (**Figure 1**). The survey forms the preliminary stage of restoration works to be carried out upon the building.

#### 1.2 Scope of document

1.2.1 This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed by the detailed survey results and the archaeological interpretation of the geophysical data.

#### 1.3 The site

1.3.1 The site is located to the immediate south of Bridge Street, near the corner of Vine Street, in Evesham town centre, in the county of Worcestershire.

1.3.2 The survey comprises paved pedestrian areas within a 10 m perimeter of The Round House and incorporates areas of the Market Square and Bridge Street. The area was bound by retail buildings to the north, south, and east, with Evesham Town Hall to the west.

1.3.3 The site is on a west facing slope, dropping from 39 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the eastern edge to 36 m aOD in the west.

1.3.4 The solid geology comprises Mudstone of the Blue Lias and Charmouth Formation, which is overlain by superficial deposits of New Inn Sand and Gravel Member (BGS 2021).

1.3.5 The soils underlying the site are unrecorded due to the urban environment of the site (SSEW SE Sheet 6 1983).

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The site has previously been subject to detailed analysis and comprehensive archive research in the form of a Heritage, Design & Access Statement (Faithful & Gould 2020). Relevant extracts from this report were utilised in the WSI prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2021) and have been reproduced below where appropriate for archaeological context.

2.1.2 In addition, a search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 100 m study area has provided information about the known archaeology within the vicinity of the site.

#### 2.2 Summary of the archaeological resource

2.2.1 The site is centred on the Grade I listed 'Round House' (NHLE 1156077) and lies within Evesham Conservation Area 6. The Round House dates to the late 15th century, being well restored in 1964 – 1965.

2.2.2 The site lies within an area of Palaeolithic potential identified by the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology service for the National Heritage Protection Plan Project.



- 2.2.3 The evidence for early occupation at Evesham is slight. Prehistoric features and finds include lithic implements dated between the Early Mesolithic to Late Iron Age at 1 Swan Lane and 23 – 25 Mill Street, as well as late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery and a pit dated between the Early Neolithic to late Iron Age at Abbey Gate.
- 2.2.4 Outside the study area, a possible farmstead of Iron Age date was identified during the development of the former municipal offices site to the rear of Almswood House. However, an evaluation at 71 – 73 High Street, Evesham found no evidence to suggest the Iron Age site extended that far south.
- 2.2.5 There is no direct evidence for Romano-British activity within the study area. However, significant deposits of Roman and medieval date were discovered at 13 Vine Street, including gullies or ditches dated between the 2nd and 3rd centuries, as well as Roman pottery and roof tiles. Romano-British to post-medieval occupation features have also been found at Abbey Gate, with the possibility that this site is on the fringes of a Roman settlement that existed further north. However, there is no indication that this possible settlement extended as far north as The Round House.
- 2.2.6 Evesham Abbey was originally founded on land granted to Egwin, the Bishop of Worcester from 692 – 710, by King Ethelred. By 714, the Abbey's endowment included no fewer than 22 towns.
- 2.2.7 In 1055, following the granting of status as a 'port' or market town by Edward the Confessor, the populated area expanded westwards and northwards with the present-day Market Place becoming the new town centre, displacing the previous town centre presumed to be in the location of Merstow Green. The Merstow Green/Bewdley Street area, which lies 60 m north-east of the Round House, is both in the area of original nucleus of the settlement and at the southern edge of the early medieval planned town (Bewdley Street would seem to be the boundary of this).
- 2.2.8 Market Place and High Street form a funnel-shaped marketplace, which, with Vine Street, was probably laid out in the late 11th to early 12th century, when Evesham was developed as a town.
- 2.2.9 By the early 1300s, the town was well known as a centre for wool and cloth production along with trading thereof including to overseas cities, with Evesham firmly cemented as one of Worcestershire's principal cloth-making towns by the 1400s, and arguably one of some national importance. The main street layout of what is now the centre of town was firmly established by this time, and elements of this can still be seen in the "in the form of burgage plots, the siting of buildings, the location and shape of the marketplaces, the bridging point and street plans", with The Round House featuring prominently as a survivor of these times.
- 2.2.10 The HER identifies 11 medieval buildings including The Round House within the study area, many of which are also listed buildings. The timber framed buildings identified include a 15th or 16th barn at the rear of King Charles Inn, 11 High Street dated to the 16th century, Abbot's Lantern 9 (formerly 8) Market Place - a late 15th century shop, Walker Hall alms house dated from the 15th century, and the 15th – 16th century Vicarage.
- 2.2.11 Excavations behind 12 – 18 Bridge Street (80 m east of the site) revealed occupations layers from various phases within pre-14th and 15th – 20th century date ranges. A smaller scale Bridge Street excavation, 85 m to the south-east, similarly found medieval and post-medieval material including pottery, a roof tile, and a clay pipe. The only other below-ground archaeological excavation recorded in the HER within the study area found cattle bones at the junction of the High Street and Bridge Street.
- 2.2.12 In the early 1900s the town of Evesham continued to grow, and approximately 80 years ago it was extended to incorporate the previously separate villages of Greater and Little Hampton to the South, on the other side of the River Avon.





- 2.2.13 19th century and modern features included within the HER Study Area include houses, a shop, Methodist Church and brewery, a public library dated 1908 – 1909, an Inter-war public house, and several Second World War sites. These represent the piecemeal redevelopment of this part of the town during this period, with these more recent structures and features contrasting against the predominantly medieval and post-medieval built environment.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The geophysical survey was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology's in-house geophysics team on the 12 November 2021. Field conditions were good throughout the period of survey. An overall coverage of 458 m<sup>2</sup> was achieved, allowing for urban furniture and pedestrian activity.
- 3.1.2 The methods and standards employed throughout the geophysical survey conform to that set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex archaeology 2021), as well as to current best practice, and guidance outlined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA 2014) and European Archaeologiae Consilium (Schmidt *et al.* 2015).

#### **3.2 Aims and objectives**

- 3.2.1 The aims of the survey comprise the following:
- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the detectable archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices; and
  - To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.
- 3.2.2 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the geophysical survey are:
- To conduct a geophysical survey covering as much of the specified area as possible, allowing for on-site obstructions;
  - To clarify the presence/absence of anomalies of archaeological potential; and
  - Where possible, to determine the general nature of any anomalies of archaeological potential.

#### **3.3 Fieldwork methodology**

- 3.3.1 Due to the lack of GPS positioning caused by buildings, a grid was manually applied with temporary chalk across the site, using careful measurements and offsets, which served to encompass the building for the purposes of accurate positioning of the GPR system.
- 3.3.2 The survey was conducted using an Impulse Radar Crossover 4080 system with a dual frequency antenna. The Crossover 4080 antenna was mounted on a rough terrain cart which is fitted with an odometer to measure horizontal distance along the ground surface. This was deployed across the GPR area, with data collected along traverses spaced 0.5 m apart. The 800 MHz antenna was determined to provide the best quality data in this instance, and the data was collected every 0.02 m with an effective time window of 50 ns.
- 3.3.3 The GPR survey was undertaken in accordance with European Archaeologiae Consilium recommendations (Schmidt *et al.* 2015).



- 3.3.4 Further details of the geophysical and survey equipment, methods and processing are described in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3.5 **Data processing**
- 3.3.6 Data from the survey were subjected to common radar signal correction processes. These comprise amplitude and wobble correction of the radar profile to correct for variance in temperature and soil moisture content, background and bandpass filtering to remove noise in the data from the surrounding area, and XYZ mean line to correct for mosaic effects from variance in the day-to-day conditions during the survey. These steps were applied to all datasets collected across the Scheme.
- 3.3.7 The approximate depth conversion for the 800 MHz antenna is shown in **Table 1** below. These depths have been calculated on the assumption that the GPR pulse through the ground is 0.106 m/ns for the 800 MHz antenna. It is possible to determine more precisely the average velocity of the GPR pulse through the ground is excavated features at a known depth can be identified in the data. Radargrams were analysed for suitable hyperbolic reflections, which can be used to determine the velocity of the GPR pulse through the subsurface deposits.
- 3.3.8 Further details of the geophysical and survey equipment, methods and processing are described in **Appendix 1**.

**Table 1** Relative velocity to depth conversion based on a dielectric constant of 8.01 for the 800 MHz antenna

Time Slice	Time (ns)	Depth (m)	Time Slice	Time (ns)	Depth (m)
1	0-1.86	0-0.1	11	18.84-20.69	1.0-1.1
2	1.88-3.74	0.1-0.2	12	20.72-22.58	1.1-1.2
3	3.77-5.62	0.2-0.3	13	22.61-24.46	1.2-1.3
4	5.65-7.51	0.3-0.4	14	24.49-26.35	1.3-1.4
5	7.54-9.39	0.4-0.5	15	26.38-28.23	1.4-1.5
6	9.42-11.28	0.5-0.6	16	28.26-30.11	1.5-1.6
7	11.3-13.16	0.6-0.7	17	30.14-32	1.6-1.7
8	13.19-15.04	0.7-0.8	18	32.03-33.88	1.7-1.8
9	15.07-16.93	0.8-0.9	19	33.91-35.77	1.8-1.9
10	16.96-18.81	0.9-1.0	20	35.8-37.65	1.9-2.0

## 4 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The ground penetrating radar survey has identified anomalies across the site. Results are presented as a series of greyscale plots and archaeological interpretations at a scale of 1:400 (**Figures 2 and 3**), a plot of traverse positions at a scale of 1:250 (**Figure 4**), and a mosaic of timeslices (**Figure 5**).
- 4.1.2 The GPR survey was undertaken across all practicable areas of the site with minimal obstruction.
- 4.1.3 The 800 MHz antenna used in this survey has the potential of detecting features to a depth of 2 m in optimal conditions, however the total depth reached varies depending on the specific conditions of each area.
- 4.1.4 For ease of interpretation, the most representative timeslices have been selected for presentation with the interpretation image detailing the salient results from each relevant c.0.1 m section. This is then followed by a graphical summary of all the timeslices to provide



a summary and more complete understanding of how these features may relate to each other.

- 4.1.5 All features are described in terms of their geophysical character. It is important to stipulate that all the depths referred to in this report are approximate levels below the current ground surface. The interpretation of the GPR data highlights the presence of utilities, in the form of high amplitude responses (**Figures 3**).
- 4.1.6 It should be noted that small features and waterlogged features may produce responses that are below the detection threshold of the GPR antenna. Excessive disturbance can also impede the ability of geophysical techniques to detect archaeology. It may therefore be the case that more archaeological features are present than have been identified through the geophysical survey.
- 4.1.7 The GPR survey may not detect all services present on site. This report and accompanying illustrations should not be used as the sole source for service locations and appropriate equipment (e.g. CAT and Genny) should be used to confirm the location of buried services before any trenches are opened on site.

## 4.2 Survey results and interpretation

- 4.2.1 The survey area is dominated by numerous linear anomalies formed of hyperbola responses. These are seen throughout the timeslices, but are most evident between depths of 0.5 m – 1 m. These anomalies are indicative of modern services. Given the complexity and number of services, it is likely that more are present than have been identified by this survey.
- 4.2.2 Several areas of high amplitude response have also been identified across the site. While the majority of these are most likely related to disturbance or modern features associated with the services, there are two areas that may be associated with The Round House. Along the eastern wall of the building, two areas have been identified at **4000** and **4001**. The anomaly at **4000** covers 4 m north – south by 1.7 m east – west and is present in the data between depths of 0.15 m and 0.5 m. The anomaly at **4001** covers 4.5 m north – south by 2.1 m east – west and is present in the data between depths of 0.15 m and 0.35 m. Both anomalies are formed of hyperbola and discrete responses, indicative of a solid surface. It is likely these relate to the construction of The Round House, but further interpretation is not possible from the survey data alone.

## 5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 The survey has not identified any anomalies that can be interpreted as archaeology. Two areas thought to be associated with the construction of The Round House have been identified. These are most likely associated with the foundations of the building. There is no evidence for below ground structures, such as cellars, extending beyond the footprint of the building.
- 5.1.2 The modern services form a complicated network throughout the area and suggest multiple phases and purposes of construction. The visible high and low amplitude anomalies display the detectable positions of those services and/or service trenches respectively, however it is unlikely all services have been detected within the remit of this survey.



## REFERENCES

### Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] 2014 *Standards and guidance for archaeological geophysical survey*. Reading, CIfA

Schmidt, A, Linford, P, Linford, N, David, A, Gaffney, C, Sarris, A and Fassbinder, J. 2015 *Guidelines for the use of geophysics in archaeology: questions to ask and points to consider*. EAC Guidelines 2, Belgium: European Archaeological Council.

Wessex Archaeology 2021 *Written Scheme of Investigation for the Round House, Evesham*

### Cartographic and documentary sources

Ordnance Survey 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales Sheet 6, Soils of West England*. Southampton.

### Online resources

British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer (accessed December 2021) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Google Earth (accessed December 2021)

Heritage Gateway (accessed December 2021) <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

Magic Maps (accessed December 2021) <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

National Library of Scotland (accessed December 2021) <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore>

Old Maps (accessed December 2021) <https://www.old-maps.co.uk>



## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: SURVEY EQUIPMENT AND DATA PROCESSING

#### Survey Methods and Equipment

The ground penetrating radar (GPR) data were collected using a cart mounted shielded antennae with central frequencies suitable for the types of target being investigated. Lower frequency antennae are able to acquire data from deeper below the surface, whereas higher frequencies allow high resolution imaging of near-surface targets at the expense of deep penetration. The exact make and model of equipment varies.

The depth of penetration of GPR systems is determined by the central frequency of the antenna and the relative dielectric permittivity (RDP) of the material through which the GPR signal passes. In general, soils in floodplain settings may have a wide range of RDPs, although around 8 may be considered average, resulting in a maximum depth of penetration c. 2.5m with the GPR signal having a velocity of approximately 0.1m/ns.

The GPR beam is conical in shape, however, and whilst most of the energy is concentrated in the centre of the cone, the GPR signal illuminates a horizontal footprint, which becomes wider with increasing depth. At the maximum depth of the antenna, it becomes impossible to resolve any feature smaller than the horizontal footprint for the corresponding depth. The size of the footprint is dependent upon central frequency, and its size increases as the central frequency decreases.

The vertical resolution is similarly dependent upon the central frequency; for the 300MHz antenna, features of the order of 0.05m may be resolved vertically. Antennae with lower frequencies can therefore penetrate more deeply but are less resolute in both horizontal and vertical directions. Choice of antenna frequency is guided largely by the anticipated depth to the target and the required resolution.

GPR data for detailed surveys are collected along traverses of varying length separated by 0.5m with cross lines collected running perpendicular to these traverses at wider separations. The data sampling resolution is governed by the data logger and a minimum separation of 0.05m between traces is collected for all surveys.

#### Post-Processing

The radar data collected during the detail survey are downloaded from the GPR system for processing and analysis using commercial software (GPR Slice). This software allows for both the data and the images to be processed in order to enhance the results for analysis; however, it should be noted that minimal data processing is conducted so as not to distort the anomalies.

*Typical data and image processing steps may include:*

- Gain – Amplifies GPR data based upon its position in the profile, which boosts the contrast between anomalies and background. A wobble correction is also applied during this step;
- Background Filter - is used to remove banding noises that are seen across the radargrams
- Bandpass – Removes GPR data lying outside a specified range, which removes high- and low-frequency noise.

Typical displays of the data used during processing and analysis:

- Timeslice – Presents the data as a series of successive plan views of the variation of reflector energy from the surface to the deepest recorded response. The variation in amplitude is represented using a greyscale with black indicating high amplitude and white indicating low amplitude responses.



- Radargram – Presents each radar profile in a vertical view with distance along the profile expressed along the x axis and depth along the y axis. The amplitude variation is expressed using a greyscale.



## Appendix 2: Geophysical Interpretation

The interpretation methodology used by Wessex Archaeology separates the anomalies into four main categories: archaeological, modern, agricultural and uncertain origin/geological.

The archaeological category is used for features when the form, nature and pattern of the anomaly are indicative of archaeological material. Further sources of information such as aerial photographs may also have been incorporated in providing the final interpretation. This category is further sub-divided into three groups, implying a decreasing level of confidence:

- Archaeology – used when there is a clear geophysical response and anthropogenic pattern.
- Possible archaeology – used for features which give a response, but which form no discernible pattern or trend.

For the interpretation of GPR datasets two additional categories are also employed:

- High Amplitude – used for features which give a notably high amplitude response but display no discernible pattern.
- Low Amplitude – used for features which give a notably low amplitude response but display no discernible pattern.

The modern category is used for anomalies that are presumed to be relatively modern in date:

- Modern service – used for responses considered relating to cables and pipes. GPR is known to be very effective at locating buried utilities and they are often identifiable within the radargrams as strong hyperbolic reflectors.

The agricultural category is used for the following:

- Former field boundaries – used for ditch sections that correspond to the position of boundaries marked on earlier mapping.
- Ridge and furrow – used for broad and diffuse linear anomalies that are considered to indicate areas of former ridge and furrow.
- Ploughing – used for well-defined narrow linear responses, usually aligned parallel to existing field boundaries. These can sometimes repeat or 'ring' through GPR datasets, particularly if there are ploughing furrows on the surface.

The uncertain origin/geological category is used for features when the form, nature and pattern of the anomaly are not sufficient to warrant a classification as an archaeological feature. This category is further sub-divided into:

- Trend – used for low amplitude or indistinct linear anomalies.
- Superficial geology – used for diffuse edged spreads considered to relate to shallow geological deposits. They can be distinguished as areas of high and/or low amplitude response but are commonly amorphous in form.



### Appendix 3: OASIS form

#### Project Details:

<b>Project name</b>	The project title				
<b>Type of project</b>	Ground penetrating radar survey (Field evaluation)				
<b>Project description</b>	<p>The site comprises an area surrounding a building called The Round House (or 'Booth Hall') located in the centre of the town of Evesham, covering an area of 458 m<sup>2</sup>. The geophysical survey was undertaken on 12 November 2021 and has detected a series of high and low amplitude, planar, point, and linear anomalies related to the extensive utility network in this area.</p> <p>The modern services form a complicated network throughout the area and suggest multiple phases and purposes of construction. The visible high and low amplitude anomalies display the detectable positions of those services and/or service trenches respectively, however it is unlikely all services have been detected within the remit of this survey.</p> <p>There is no radar evidence to suggest any discernible features with archaeological potential. This may be due to the multiple phases of urban redevelopment in the area, around The Round House, removing or obscuring any existing archaeological features.</p> <p>and cut down if necessary.</p>				
<b>Project dates</b>	<b>Start:</b> 12-11-2021		<b>End:</b> 12-11-2021		
<b>Previous work</b>	Yes				
<b>Future work</b>	yes				
<b>Project Code:</b>	240611	<b>HER event no.</b>	N/A	<b>OASIS form ID:</b>	wessexar1-503328
		<b>NMR no.</b>	N/A		
		<b>SM no.</b>	N/A		
<b>Planning Application Ref.</b>					
<b>Site Status</b>	None				
<b>Land use</b>					
<b>Monument type</b>		<b>Period</b>			

#### Project Location:

<b>Site Address</b>				<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>County</b>	Worcestershire	<b>District</b>	Wychavon	<b>Parish</b>	Evesham
<b>Study Area</b>	458 m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Height OD</b>	36 - 39 m aOD	<b>NGR</b>	403721 243790

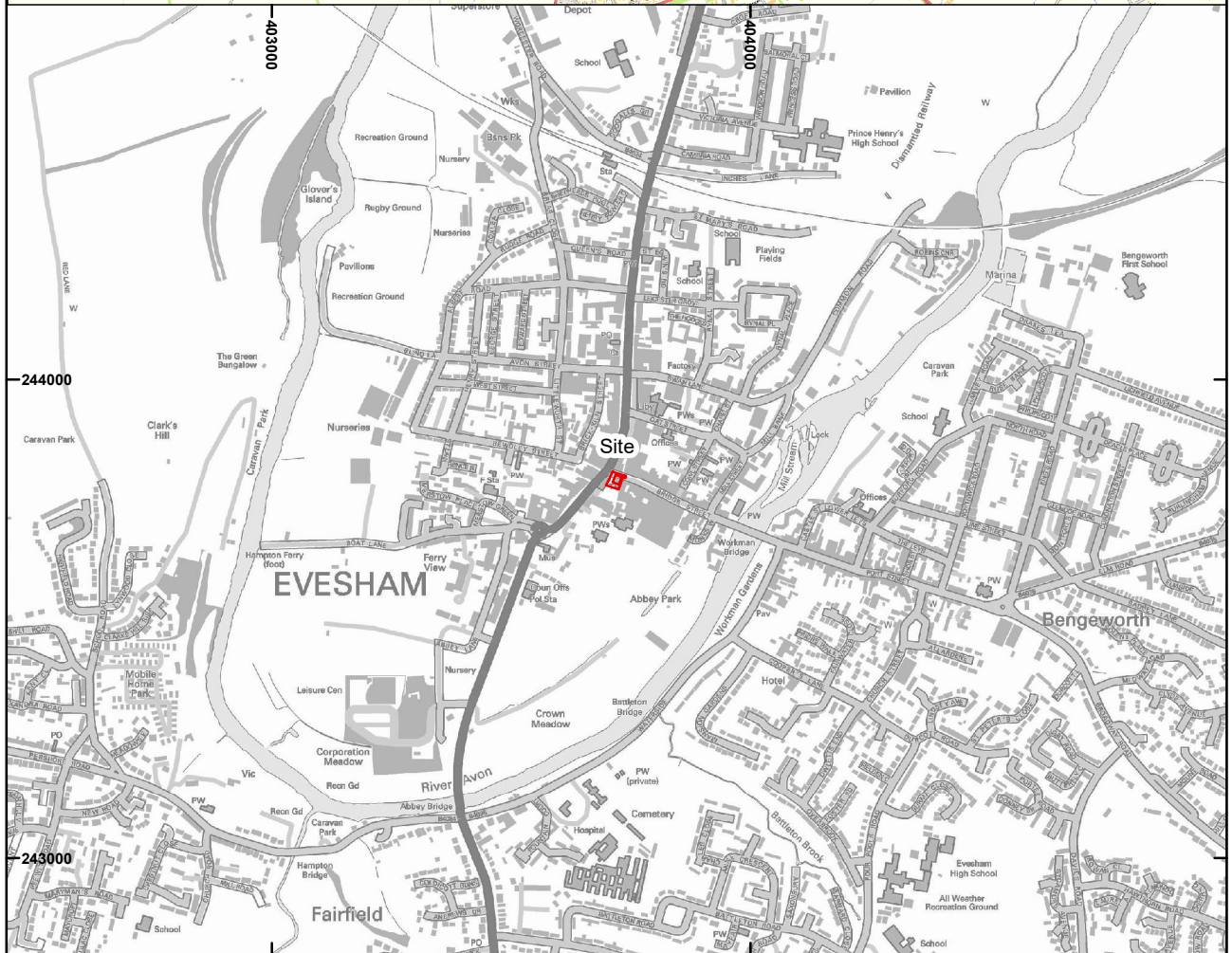
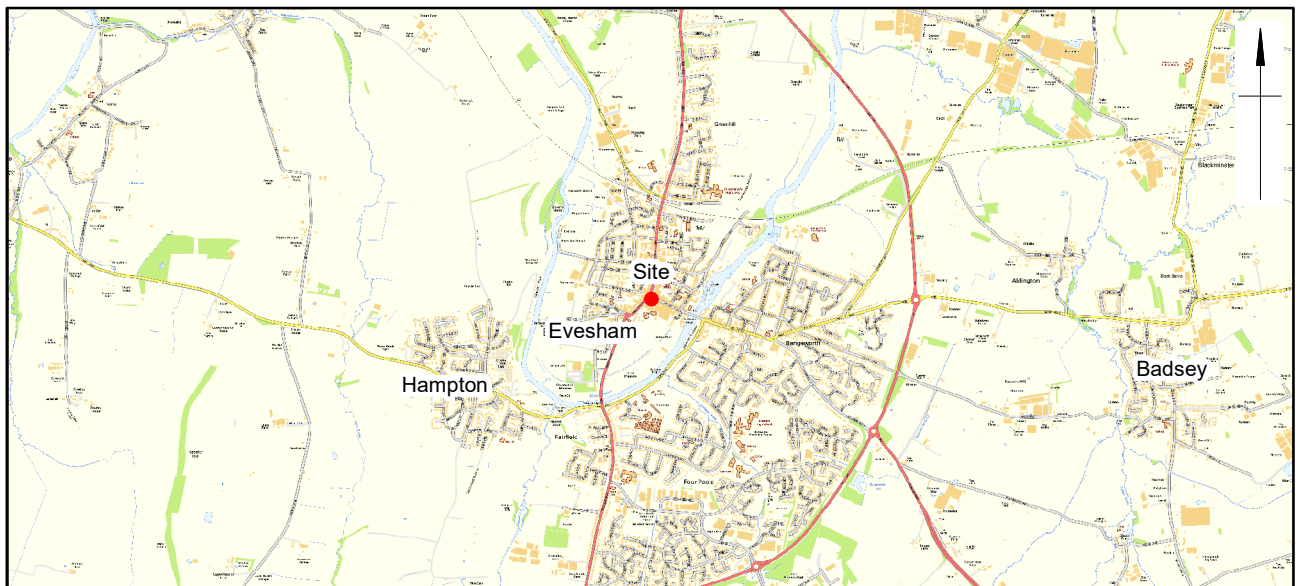
#### Project Creators:



<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Wessex Archaeology				
<b>Project brief originator</b>	Faithful & Gould Ltd		<b>Project design originator</b>	Wessex Archaeology	
<b>Project Manager</b>	Tom Richardson		<b>Project Supervisor</b>		
<b>Sponsor or funding body</b>	Faithful & Gould Ltd		<b>Type of Sponsor</b>		

#### Project Archive and Bibliography:

<b>Physical archive</b>	N/A	<b>Digital Archive</b>	Geophysical survey and report	<b>Paper Archive</b>	N/A
<b>Report title</b>	The Round House, Evesham, Worcestershire Ground Penetrating Radar Survey Report			<b>Date</b>	2021
<b>Author</b>	Wessex Archaeology	<b>Description</b>	Unpublished report	<b>Report ref.</b>	240611.03

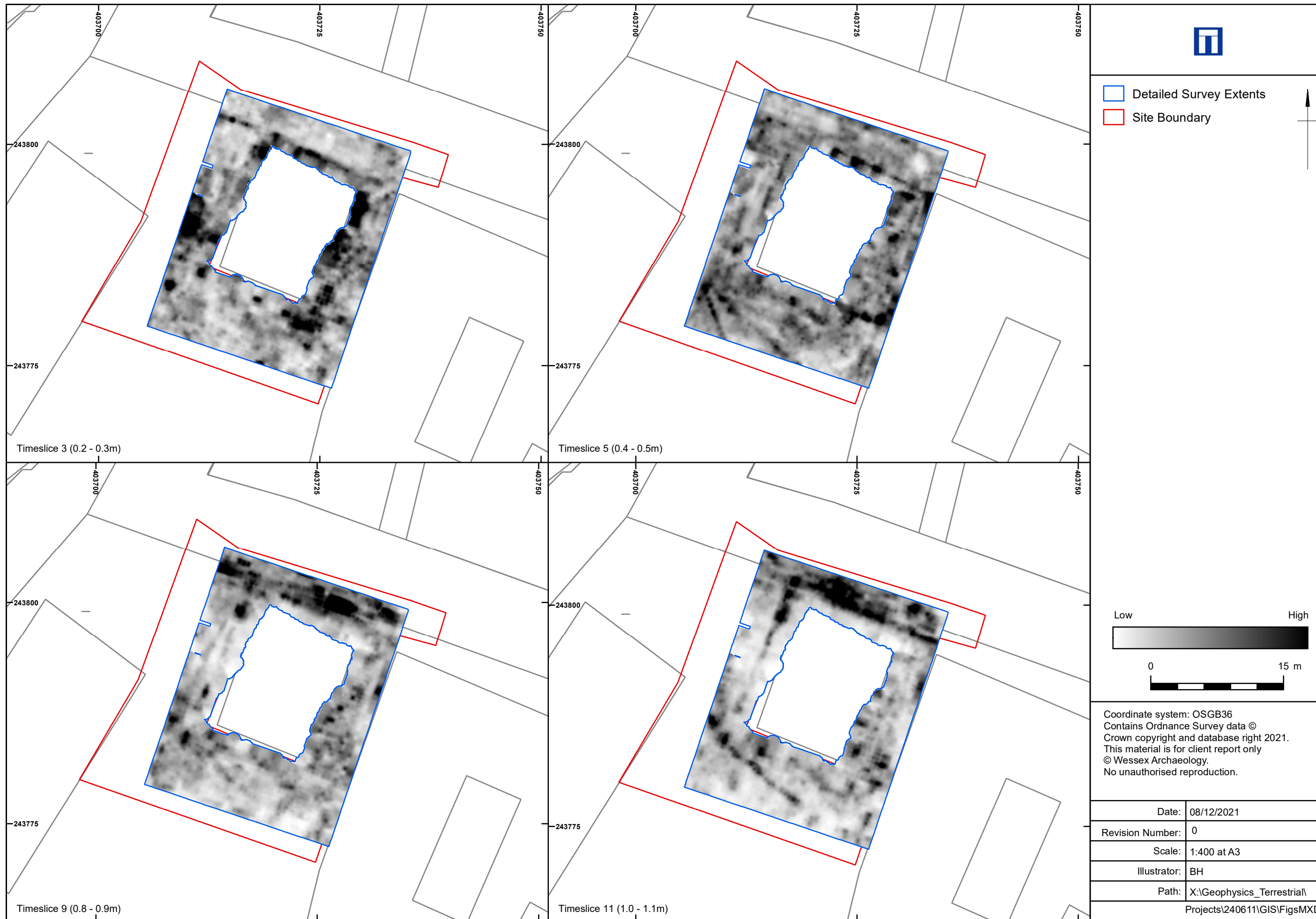




 Site Boundary  	Coordinate system: OSGB36 Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2021 All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100022432. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	08/12/2021	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:15 000 & 1:50 000 at A4	Illustrator:	BH
	Path:	X:\Geophysics_Terrestrial\Projects\240611\GIS\FigsMXD		

Site location and survey extent

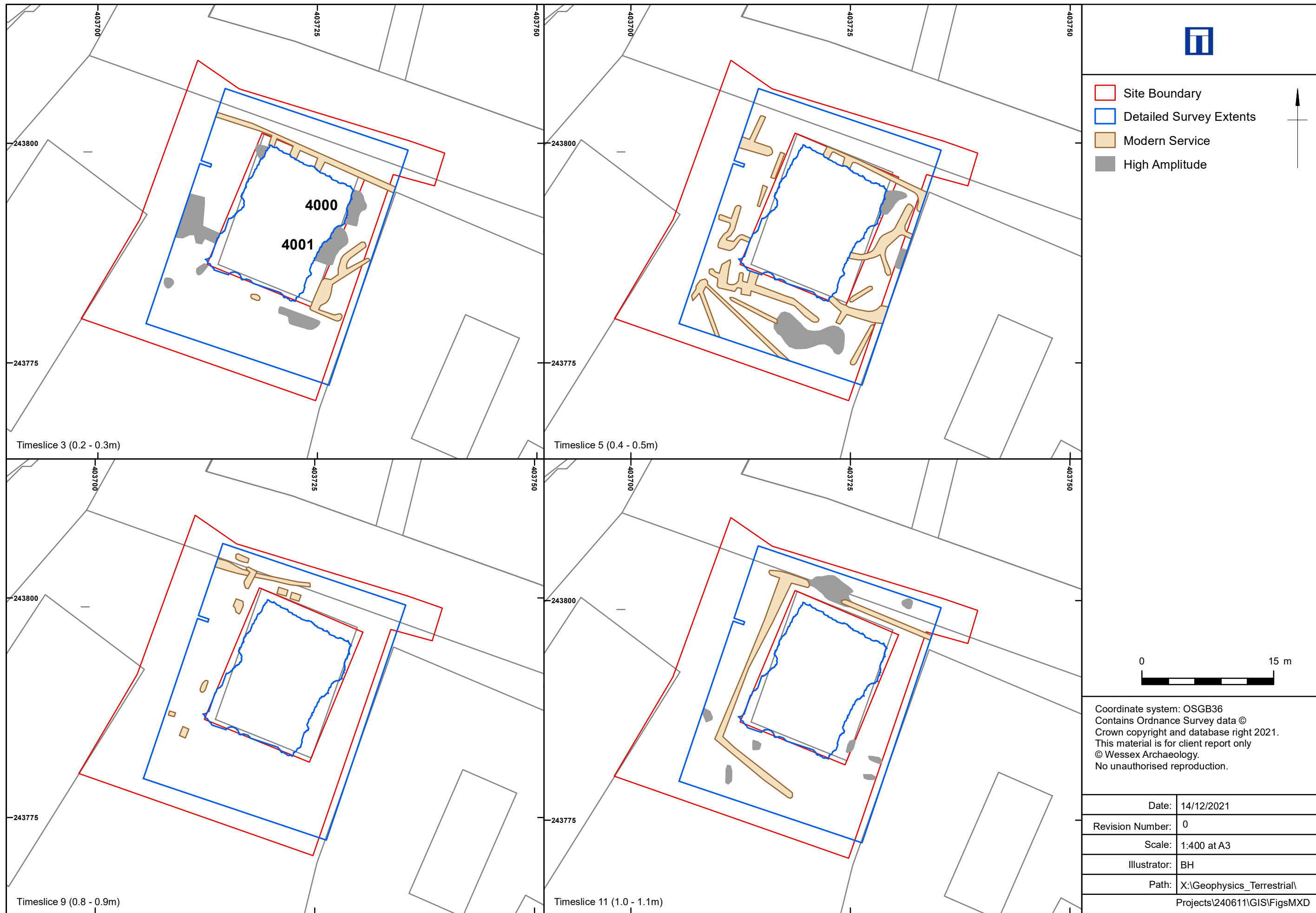
Figure 1



GPR survey: timeslice plots

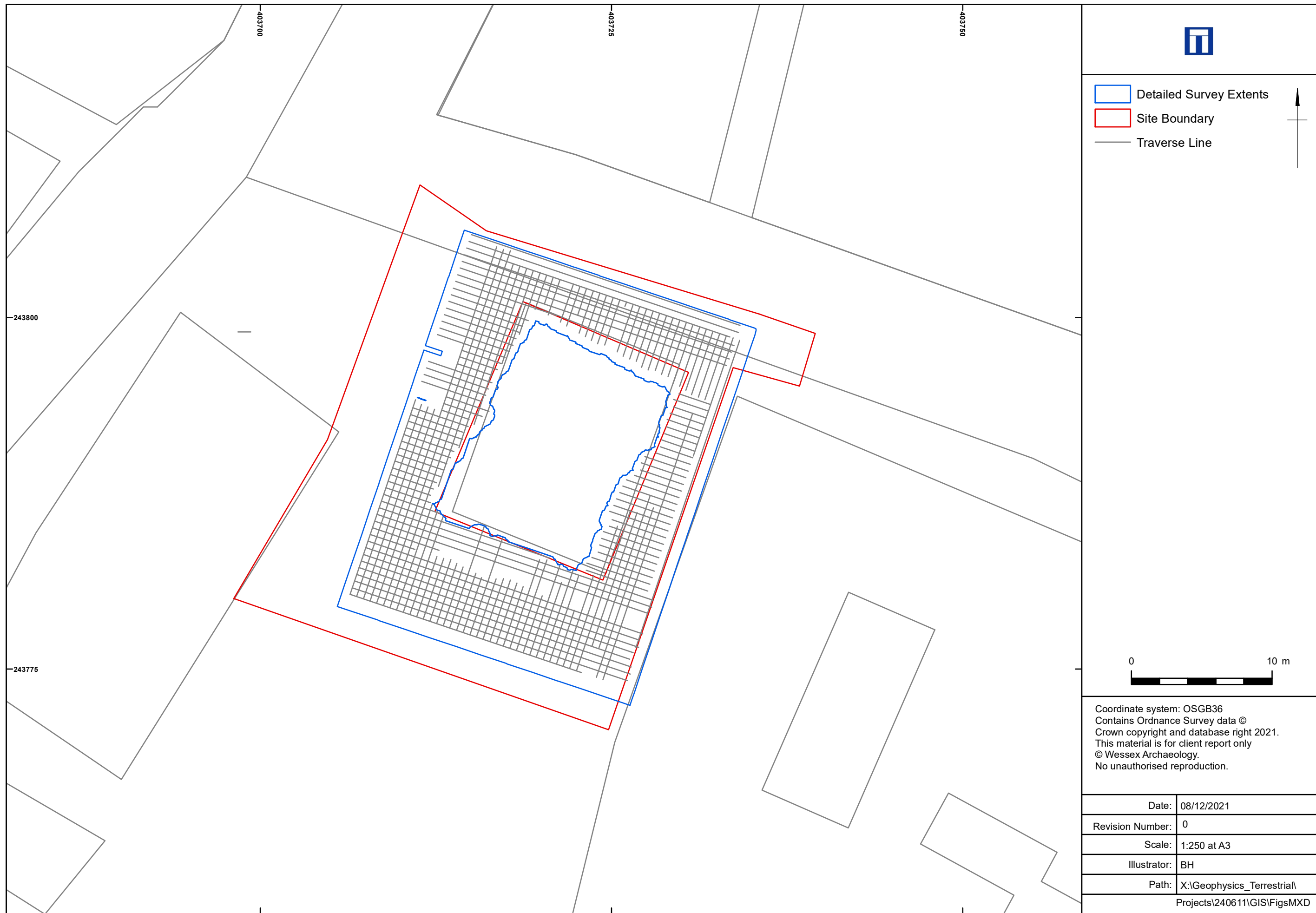
Figure 2

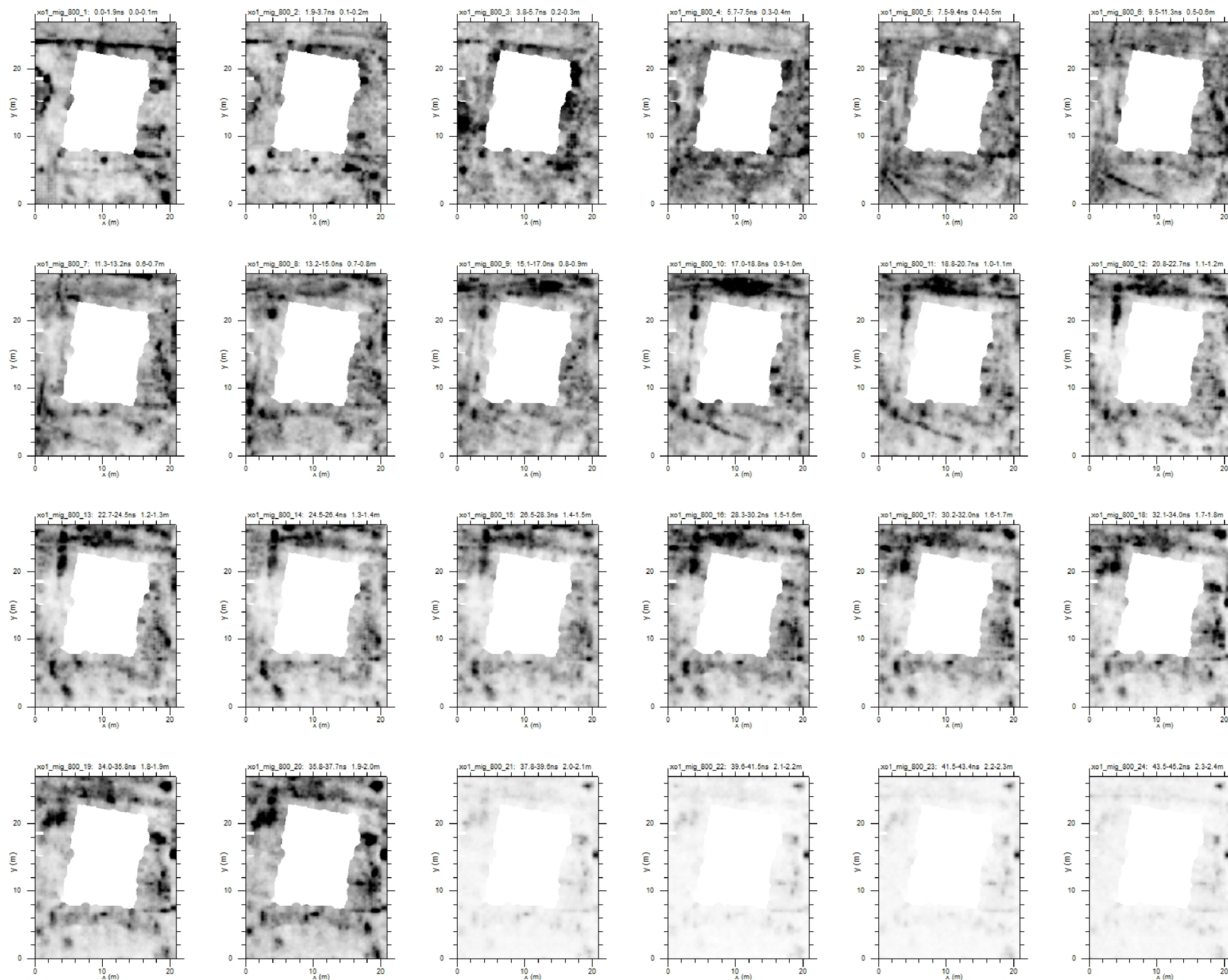




GPR survey: timeslice interpretation

Figure 3





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GPR survey: timeslice mosaic

Figure 5



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