

**Detailed Magnetometer Survey
Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex**

**NGR: 591809 121470
(91809 21470)**

**Site Code: RYR17
OASIS ID: archaeol6-304290
ASE Project No: 171151
ASE Report No: 2017527**

**Rother District Council
Planning Reference: RR/2017/2097/P**



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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL), was commissioned by Greensleeves Care to undertake a geophysical survey on land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex, NGR 591809 121470. The work was undertaken on Monday 11th December 2017.

Evidence for possible archaeological features was identified within the survey. The possibility of these anomalies relating to medieval pottery production or the camp kitchens of the American Revolutionary war 1775-1783 era encampment is discussed. In addition, anomalies likely to relate to the former anti-tank lines observed in 1940 aerial photography were noted.

Statement of Indemnity

Geophysical survey is the collection of data that relate to subtle variations in the form and nature of soil and which relies on there being a measurable difference between buried archaeological features and the natural geology. Geophysical techniques do not specifically target archaeological features and anomalies noted in the interpretation do not necessarily relate to buried archaeological features. As a result, magnetic and earth resistance detail survey may not always detect sub-surface archaeological features. This is particularly true when considering earlier periods of human activity, for example those periods that are not characterised by sedentary social activity.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned by Greensleeves Care (hereafter 'the client') to undertake archaeological investigations, initially encompassing geophysical survey, on Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex, (hereafter 'the site') centred on NGR 591809 121470 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 An application for the construction of a new Nursing Care Home has been submitted to Rother District Council (RDC; Planning Reference RR/2017/2097/P) supported by an archaeological desk-based assessment (Sevenoaks Environmental Consultancy Ltd 2017; see below). The East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) Archaeologist (Greg Chuter) in his capacity as advisor to RDC recommended a programme of archaeological fieldwork be undertaken on the site to support the application, initially comprising a geophysical survey.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ASE for a geophysical survey (ASE 2017).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 According to the online British Geological Survey 1:50,000 mapping, the bedrock geology of the site consists of Wadhurst clay formation – mudstone (BGS 2017).

1.2.2 The survey was undertaken over the eastern part of a single field and an existing access route along the southern boundary of the Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital (Figure 2).

1.3 Aims of geophysical investigation

1.3.1 The geophysical survey comprised a detailed magnetometer survey within all accessible areas (as shown on Figure 2). The general aims of the geophysical survey were:

- To identify, insofar as possible, anomalies that may be of archaeological origin.
- To enable the site's archaeological potential to be better understood and for informed decisions to be made by the ESCC Archaeologist regarding the need for any further investigation of the site either pre- or post-determination of any planning consent granted for the site.

1.4 Scope of report

1.4.1 This report details the findings of the survey undertaken on the 11th December 2017. The project was conducted by John Cook with the assistance of Sophie Morrish. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A desk-based assessment (DBA) has already been prepared by Sevenoaks Environmental Consultancy Ltd (2017) and is summarised below with due acknowledgement with relevant, additional information included. The reader is directed to the DBA for more detailed information.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 No evidence for prehistoric activity was identified within 0.5km of the site.

2.3 Romano-British

- 2.3.1 Roman activity within 0.5km of the site is limited to a possible villa complex c.500m to the south and artefactual evidence of a further high-status building c.485m to the east of the site.

2.4 Early Medieval

- 2.4.1 A settlement at Playden is recorded in the Domesday Book, demonstrating its Anglo-Saxon origins. No archaeological remains have been identified within 500m of the site although local tradition suggests the presence of a possible early cemetery of late-Roman or Anglo-Saxon date to the southeast of the site.

2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 Playden is recorded as a substantial settlement with 37 households in Domesday. The Church of St. Michael built circa 1190, with additions of the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries, lies c.200m northeast of the site. The site of a medieval chapel and hospital are believed to lie c 120m east and c.200m south of the site respectively. A standing building (St. Anthony of Padua) is located 400m southeast of the site and is believed to have been constructed between 1467-1499.
- 2.5.2 The Scheduled remains of a medieval pottery and tilery are located 450m south of the site. Investigation of the land immediately to the west and north of the Scheduled Monument demonstrate that contemporary activity associated with pottery and tile production is much more widespread (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1997; ASE 2001). Furthermore, recent excavations to the south of the Scheduled Monument identified medieval activity continuing downslope, including two timber-framed buildings constructed c. 1225-1375.
- 2.5.3 A dump of misfired wares dating to 1250-1350 and likely associated with a nearby kiln was identified during construction of the car park beside the ambulance station 50m north of the site (ASE 2006).

2.6 Post-medieval

- 2.6.1 Cartographic sources and limited archaeological fieldwork has identified the presence of structures (possibly associated with an early 19th century barracks) and small pond within or in close proximity to the site. Evidence of a

Revolutionary and Napoleonic military encampment of 1783-1815 was identified when the new hospital was built.

2.7 The Archive

- 2.7.1 The digital and paper archive derived from this project will be housed at Archaeology South-East's Sussex offices and will be combined with any further archive generated in the event of further fieldwork being required.

3.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

3.1 Geophysical survey

3.1.1 A fluxgate gradiometer (magnetometry) survey was undertaken across approximately 0.5ha of land as depicted on Figure 2. The work was undertaken on Monday 11th December 2017 in heavy snow and strong winds.

3.2 Applied geophysical instrumentation

3.2.1 The Fluxgate Gradiometer employed was the Bartington Instrumentation Grad 601-2. The Grad 601-2 has an internal memory and a data logger that store the survey data. This data is downloaded into a PC and is then processed in a suitable software package.

3.2.2 30m x 30m grids were set out using a GPS (see below). Each grid was surveyed with 1m traverses and samples were taken every 0.25m.

3.2.3 Data was collected along north-south traverses in a zigzag pattern beginning in the south west corner of each grid, following the contours of the site.

3.3 Instrumentation used for setting out the survey grid

3.3.1 The survey grid for the site was geo-referenced using a Leica Viva SmartRover. The GPS receiver collects satellite data to determine its position and uses the mobile phone networks to receive corrections, transmitting them to the RTK Rover via Bluetooth to provide a sub centimetre Ordnance Survey position and height. Each surveyed grid point has an Ordnance Survey position; therefore, the geophysical survey can be directly referenced to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

3.4 Data processing

3.4.1 All of the geophysical data processing was carried out using TerraSurveyor published by DW Consulting. Minimally processed data was produced using the following schedule of processing. Due to the very high positive readings of some of the magnetic disturbance, the values were replaced with a dummy value so as to avoid detrimentally affecting the dataset when further processed. The first process carried out upon the data was to apply a DESPIKE to the data set which removes the random 'iron spikes' that occur within fluxgate gradiometer survey data. A ZERO MEDIAN TRAVERSE was then applied to survey data. This removes stripe effects within grids and ensures that the survey grid edges match.

3.5 Data presentation

3.5.1 Data is presented using images exported from TerraSurveyor into AutoCAD software and inserted into the geo-referenced site grid. Data is presented as raw and processed data greyscale plots (Figures 3 and 4).

4.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 Description of site

4.1.1 The survey was undertaken over the eastern part of a single field and an existing access route along the southern boundary of the Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital (Figure 2). General site photographs are shown in Figure 9 and their locations recorded on Figure 2.

4.2 Survey limitations

4.2.1 Physical obstructions encountered on site, noted on Figure 2, included areas of fallen branches, hidden dips, wire fences, piles of logs and a livestock trailer as well as the steepness of the terrain, particularly in the north-west corner of the site. In addition, the effectiveness of magnetometer surveys depends on a contrast between the absolute magnetic susceptibility of the topsoil to the underlying subsoil (Clark 1996). Features may also be difficult to detect where there has been significant primary silting and development of significant overburden. Areas where physical obstructions form a barrier to survey, or a health and safety issue, have been omitted. The site lies over Wadhurst clay formation - mudstone. The response to magnetometer survey is variable on this geology (English Heritage 2008).

4.3 Introduction to results

4.3.1 The results should be read in conjunction with the figures at the end of this report. The types of features likely to be identified are discussed below.

Positive Magnetic Anomalies

4.3.2 Positive anomalies generally represent cut features that have been in-filled with magnetically enhanced material.

Negative Magnetic Anomalies

4.3.3 Negative anomalies generally represent buried features such as banks or compacted ground that have a lower magnetic signature in comparison to the background geology.

Magnetic Disturbance

4.3.4 Magnetic disturbance is generally associated with interference caused by modern ferrous features such as fences and service pipes or cables.

Magnetic Debris

4.3.5 Low amplitude magnetic debris consists of a number of dipolar responses spread over an area and is indicative of ground disturbance.

Dipolar Anomalies

4.3.6 Dipolar anomalies are positive anomalies with an associated negative response. These anomalies are usually associated with discreet ferrous

objects or may represent buried kilns or ovens.

Bipolar Anomalies

- 4.3.7 Bipolar anomalies consist of alternating responses of positive and negative magnetic signatures. Interpretation will depend on the strength of these responses; modern pipelines and cables typically produce strong bipolar responses.

Thermoremanence

- 4.3.8 Thermoremanence is most commonly encountered through the magnetizing of clay through the firing process although stones and soils can also acquire thermoremanence.
- 4.3.9 Magnetism from ferromagnetic materials (iron) and from thermoremanence are forms of permanent magnetism and in most cases a magnetometer will not enable the separation of anomalies into the two categories. The interpretation of these anomalies into either category relies on field strength within an area. Magnetic anomalies due to iron normally rise and fall rapidly, forming a 'spike' in the data.

4.4 Interpretation of fluxgate gradiometer results (Figure 5)

- 4.4.1 The interpretation of fluxgate gradiometer results should be read in conjunction with the figures at the end of the report. Specific examples of anomaly types may be numbered in the figures and text but not all anomalies are numbered.
- 4.4.2 Evidence of possible archaeological activity included the following described anomalies. The most obvious possible archaeological anomalies are the strong positive anomalies (coloured dark green) in the west of the site. These are likely to be due to cut features such as pits and ditches possibly filled with thermoremanent material. Further moderate positive anomalies may also relate to cut features, although, these may have a natural origin. In addition, plough marks create linear anomalies that may be mistaken for ditches.
- 4.4.3 Areas of magnetic debris may relate to a scattering of near surface ferrous material, demolished buildings, former field boundaries, ground disturbance or made ground (dotted brown).
- 4.4.4 Dipolar anomalies (pink dots) may relate to possible thermoremanent magnetic enhancement, such as kilns or furnaces, but are more likely due to near surface ferrous (iron) objects.
- 4.4.5 Areas of magnetic disturbance caused by large nearby metallic objects and nearby services (shaded brown) are noted mostly in the eastern half of the survey and may obscure any underlying archaeological features.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Discussion

- 5.1.1 The magnetometer survey did reveal a number of anomalies across the investigation site, discussed below. However, it should be noted that this technique does not allow for specific dating of features and may not detect certain features such as small post holes or magnetically inert features. In addition, magnetometry is a near surface technique and therefore areas of overburden may mask subtle features.
- 5.1.2 The strongest evidence for possible archaeological features was represented by strong positive penannular shaped anomalies (A1, Figure 5). These anomalies may represent ditches or the remains of kilns or ovens. The site lies on the western slope of a south facing promontory, above the town of Rye, that has significant evidence for medieval activity. The site of a pottery and tilery was uncovered in the 1930s (Vidler 1936). The excavation uncovered large quantities of pottery and tiles as well as three kiln structures. Further investigation (GSB 1997; ASE 2001) indicated that activity contemporary with the kilns is much more widespread on Rye Hill. Evidence for medieval pottery production within the vicinity of the site was found in the form of a dump of misfired wares (ASE 2006) which, in addition to the pottery and tile kilns found to the south, indicate that the site sits within an area of pottery production.
- 5.1.3 A counterpoint to the possibility that the anomalies at A1 are kilns is that, although strong, the anomalies are relatively 'quiet' magnetically. An alternative cause may relate to the former use of the site as an encampment during the period of the American Revolutionary war 1775-1783. Previous work prior to the construction of new hospital buildings (ASE 2006) revealed a late 18th to early 19th century occupation layer as well as three possible post-holes dating to this period.
- 5.1.4 The layout for an encampment of this period was organised in rows, depending on local topography, as recorded by Bland in 1762 (Figure 8). Given the properties of these anomalies it seems possible that they relate to the camp kitchens. A pen and ink drawing of the camp dating to 1779 is shown as Figure 7b (Rye Castle Museum 2017). Although this does not show the kitchens, when compared to the layout in Bland (Figure 8) the orientation would be correct, with the kitchens on the western side of the site. If the northernmost anomaly relates to the northernmost kitchen within the camp, then this would indicate that the camp was slightly to the south of where originally thought (ASE 2006).
- 5.1.5 Dipolar anomalies (A2, Figure 5) may indicate thermoremanent features such as kilns or furnaces. However, these anomalies are more likely to represent near surface ferrous (iron) objects.
- 5.1.6 Moderate and weak positive linear anomalies (A3) are noted across the site (Figure 5) and may relate to pits and ditches. However, these anomalies could also be caused by former plough activity or natural features.
- 5.1.7 Areas of magnetic debris (A4, Figure 5) are likely to be caused by ground disturbance or made ground such as that caused by a former building or areas of consolidation in field entrances and boundaries. In particular, the anomalies

noted in the north-east corner of the survey correspond to a line of anti-tank 'pimples' noted on the 1940 aerial photograph (Figure 7a).

- 5.1.8 A strong magnetic anomaly in the east of the site (A5, Figure 5) may relate to an archaeological feature. However, its strength and proximity to known services (Figure 10) may indicate that it is a modern feature such as a buried inspection chamber.
- 5.1.9 The eastern part of the site (A6, Figure 5) is dominated by magnetic debris, dipolar anomalies and corresponding magnetic disturbance. These anomalies may relate to dumps of material such as pottery. However, the proximity of known services and nearby boundaries indicate a more modern origin.
- 5.1.10 With regards to the site-specific research aims, several possible archaeological features were encountered across the site. It is impossible to attach confident dates to these features based upon these survey results, but anomalies relating to probable archaeology have been identified that may relate to medieval activity or 18th to 19th century military occupation of the site.

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Acknowledgements

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Greensleeves Care for commissioning the survey and Greg Chuter (ESCC) for his monitoring and guidance.

HER Summary

HER enquiry number	N/A				
Site code	RYS17				
Project code	171151				
Planning reference					
Site address	Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex				
District/Borough	East Sussex				
NGR (12 figures)	591809 121470				
Geology	Wadhurst clay formation - mudstone				
Fieldwork type				Survey	
Date of fieldwork	15th to 21st December 2017				
Sponsor/client	Greensleeves Care				
Project manager	Neil Griffin				
Project supervisor	John Cook				
Period summary					
Project summary	<p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL), was commissioned by Greensleeves Care to undertake a geophysical survey on Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex, NGR 591809 121470. The work was undertaken on Monday 11th December 2017.</i></p> <p><i>Evidence for possible archaeological features was identified within the survey. The possibility of these anomalies relating to medieval pottery production or the camp kitchens of the American Revolutionary war 1775-1783 era encampment is discussed. In addition, anomalies likely to relate to the former anti-tank lines observed in 1940 aerial photography were noted.</i></p>				
Museum/Accession No.	N/A				

OASIS form

OASIS ID: [archaeo16-304290](#)

Project details

Project name	Detailed Magnetometer Survey Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL), was commissioned by Greensleeves Care to undertake a geophysical survey on Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex, NGR 591809 121470. The work was undertaken on Monday 11th December 2017. Evidence for possible archaeological features was identified within the survey. The possibility of these anomalies relating to medieval pottery production or the camp encampment of the American Revolutionary war 1775-1783 era encampment is discussed. In addition, anomalies likely to relate to the former anti-tank lines observed in 1940 aerial photography were noted.
Project dates	Start: 11-12-2017 End: 11-12-2017
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	171151 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	RYR17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	KILN Medieval
Monument type	OVEN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Geophysical Survey"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Solid geology (other)	Wadhurst Clay formation - mudstone
Drift geology	Unknown
Techniques	Magnetometry

Project location

Country England

Site location	EAST SUSSEX ROTHER PLAYDEN Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex
Postcode	TN31 7SQ
Study area	0.6 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 91809 21470 50.960070122075 0.731642627213 50 57 36 N 000 43 53 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Vasilis Tsamis
Project supervisor	John Cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Greensleeves Care

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	ASE
Digital Media available	"Geophysics", "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	ASE
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Detailed Magnetometer Survey Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, J.
Other bibliographic details	Report Number:2017527
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	ASE

Place of issue or
publication Portslade

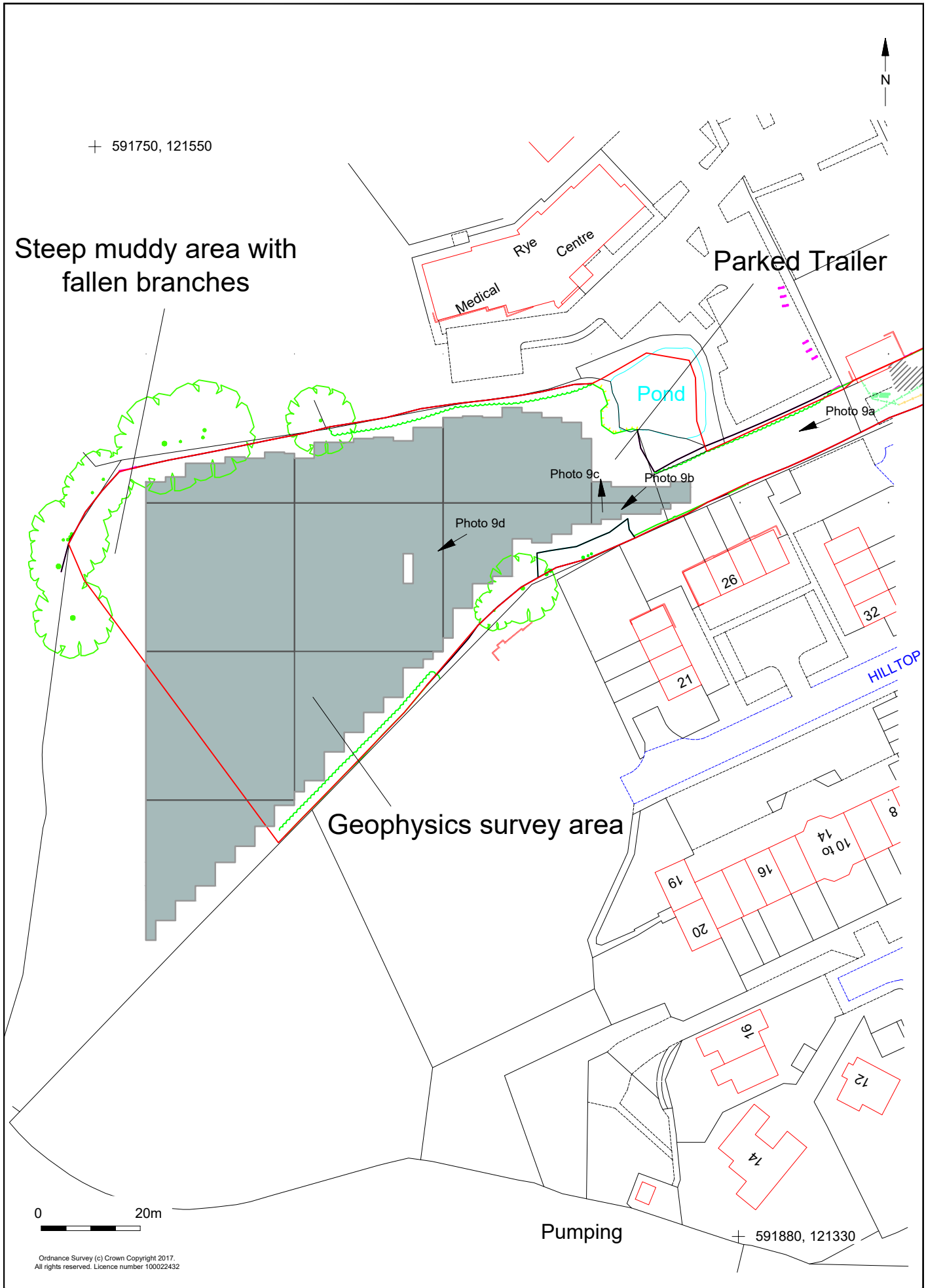
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© Archaeology South-East		Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 171151	December 2017	Site Location		
Report Ref: 2017527	Drawn by: JC			



+ 591750, 121550

Steep muddy area with fallen branches

Rye Centre
Medical

Parked Trailer

Pond

Photo 9a

Photo 9b

Photo 9c

Photo 9d

26

32

21

HILLTOP

Geophysics survey area

8

10 to 14

16

19

20

9

12

7

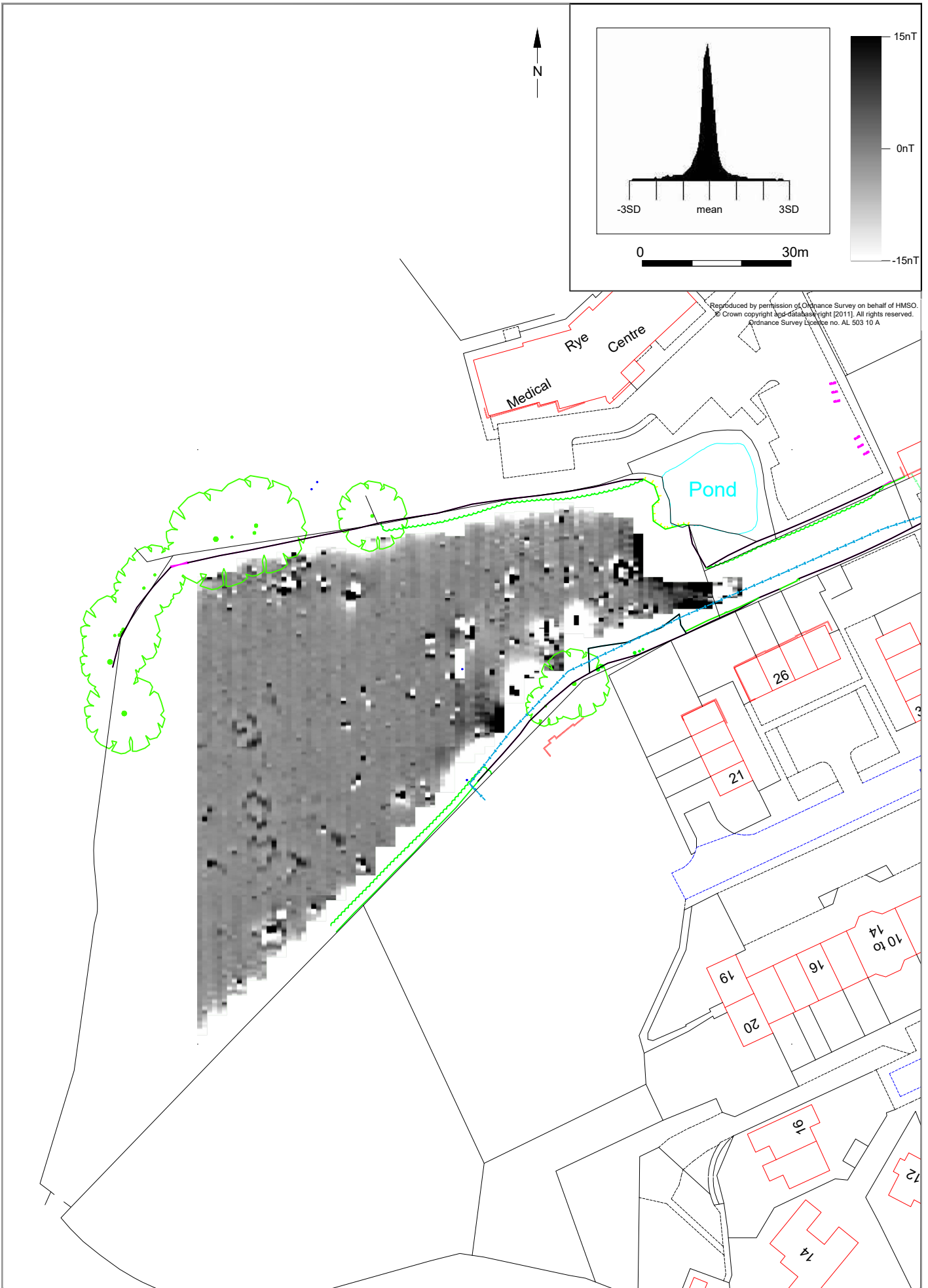
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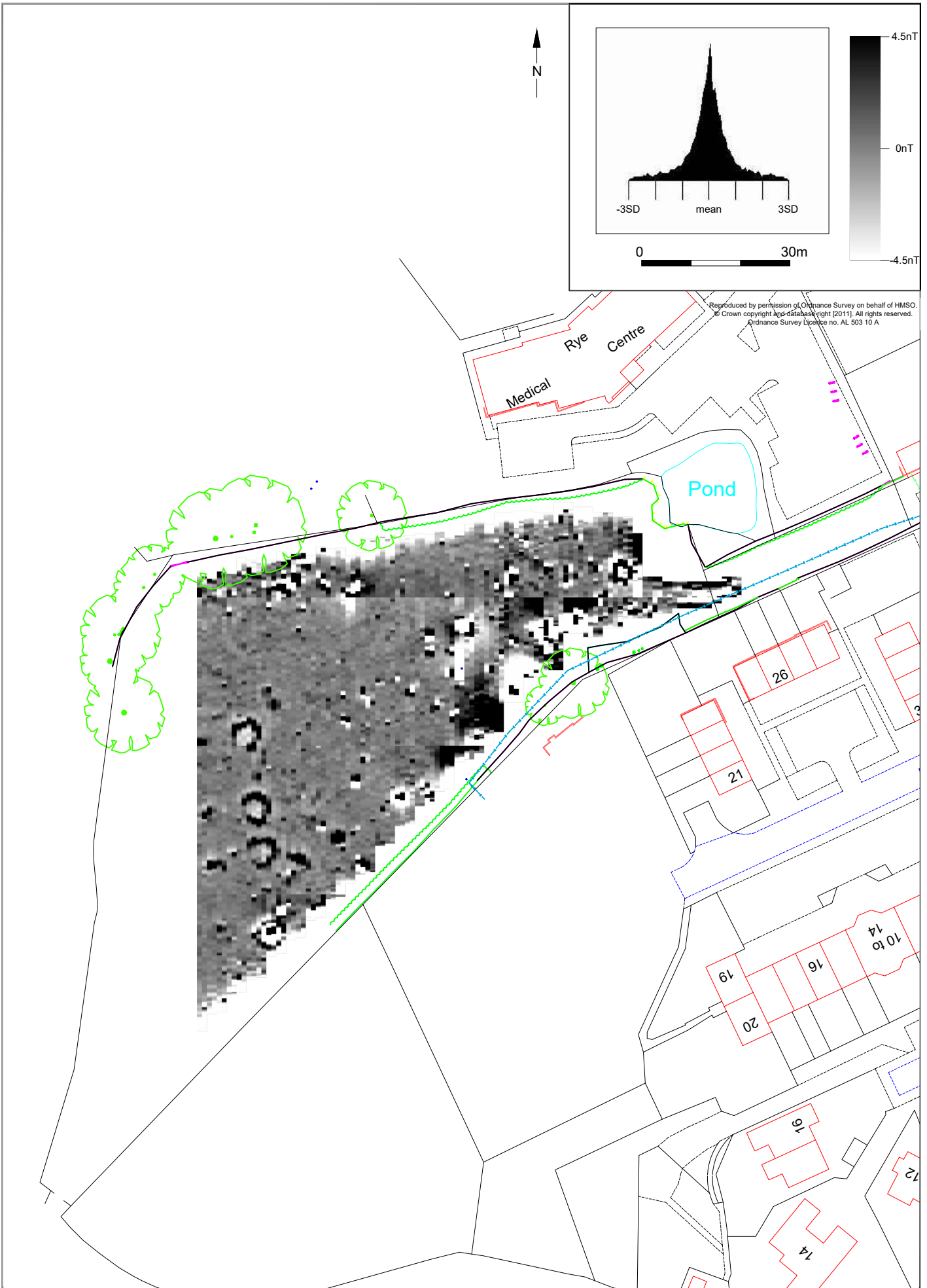
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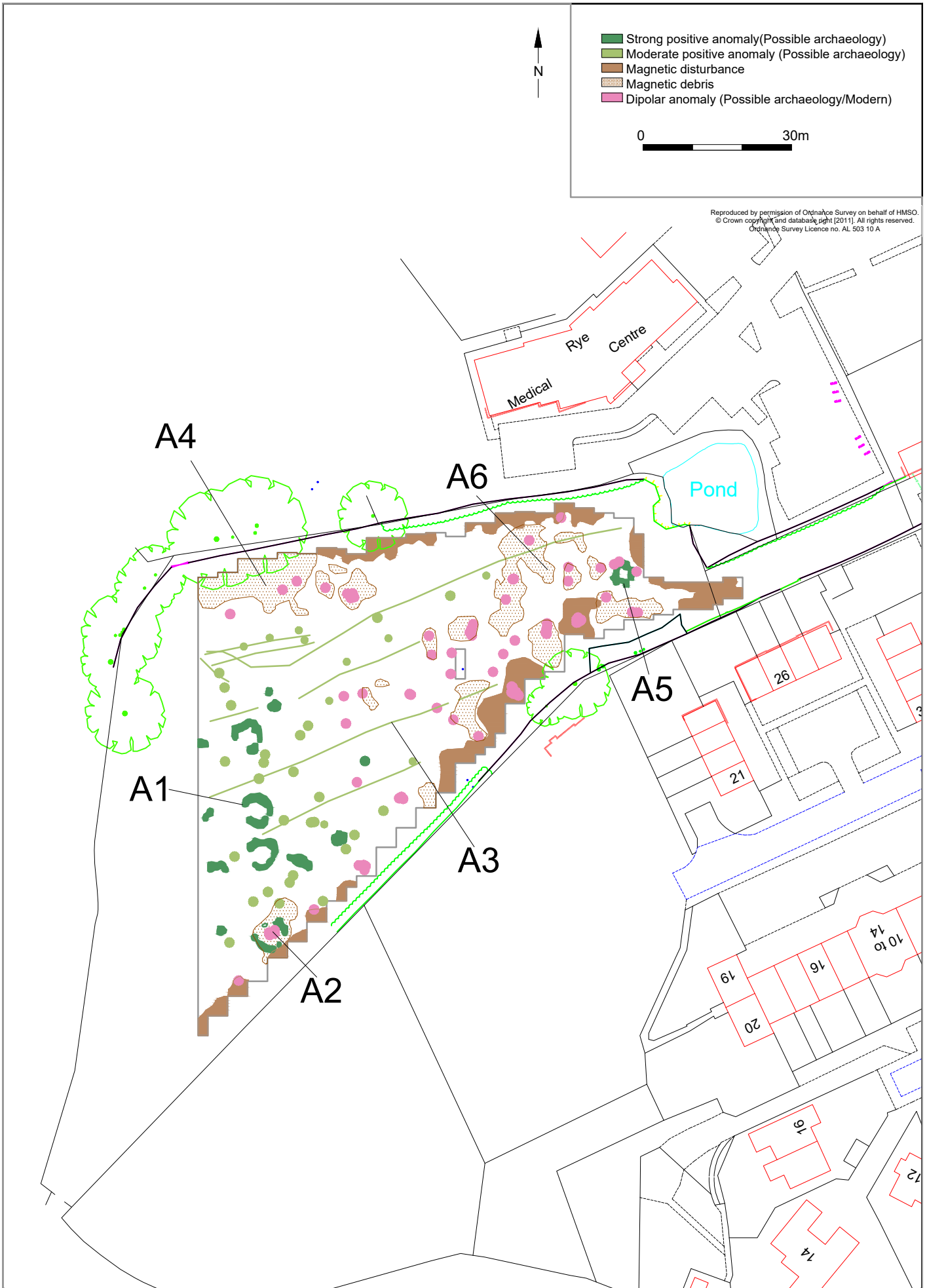
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 171151	December 2017	Location of geophysics survey area	
Report Ref: 2017527	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 171151	December 2017	Raw data	
Report Ref: 2017527	Drawn by: JC		



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Project Ref: 171151	December 2017	Processed data	
Report Ref: 2017527	Drawn by: JC		



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Fig. 6a Oblique Google Earth imagery



Fig. 6b Oblique Google Earth 3D imagery with geophysical survey data overlain

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Fig. 7a Oblique Google Earth imagery 1940 aerial photograph (KCC 2017) showing line of anti-tank "pimples" and former workhouse

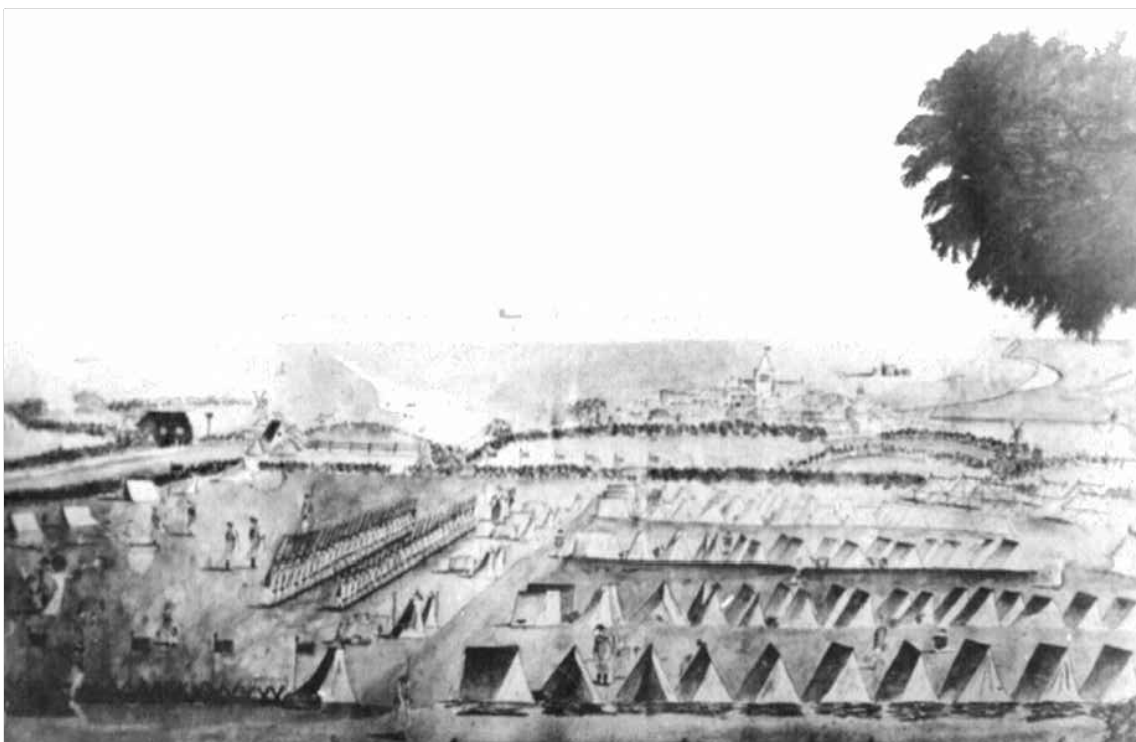


Fig. 7b Pen and ink drawing depicting Army camp on Rye Hill 1779 (Rye Castle Museum)

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 171151	December 2017	Google Earth image and drawing of Rye camp 1779	
Report Ref: 2017527	Drawn by: JC		

*Plan of the Encampment of a Battalion of Foot of 9 Companies
each consisting of two private Men*

Page 201.

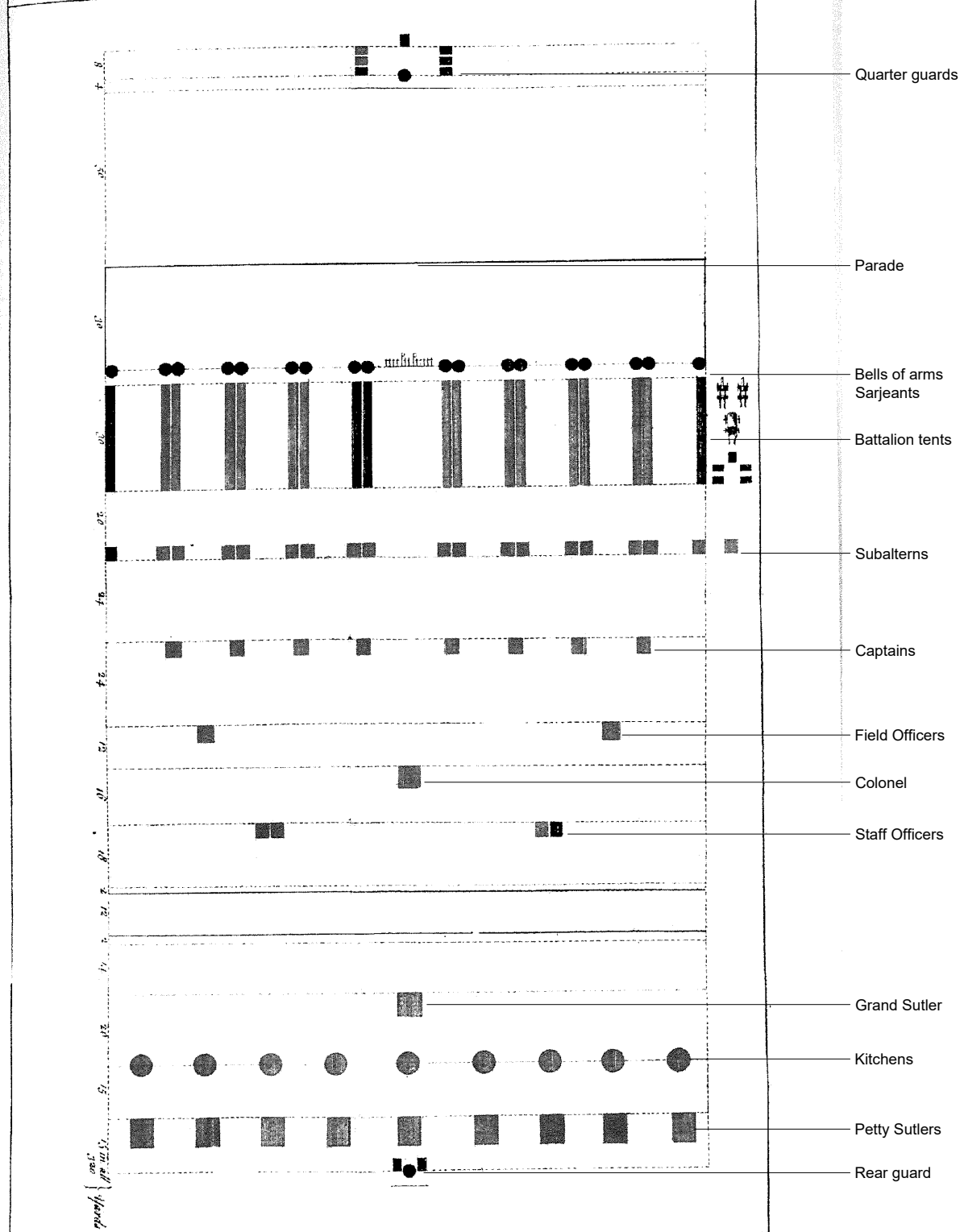




Photo 9a



Photo 9b

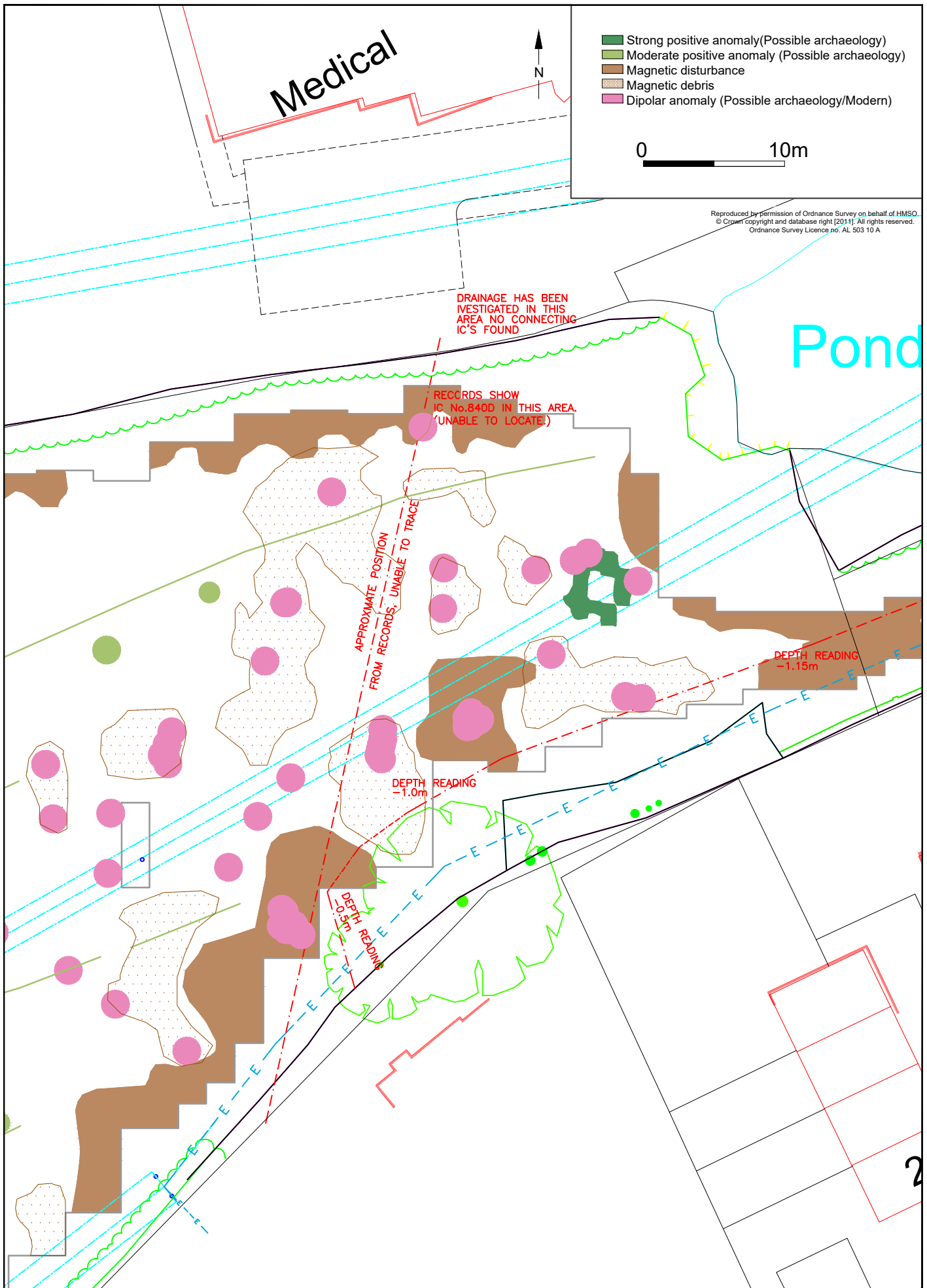


Photo 9c



Photo 9d

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex	Fig. 9
Project Ref: 171151	December 2017	Site photographs	
Report Ref: 2017527	Drawn by: JC		



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© Archaeology South-East		Land at Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Playden, East Sussex	Fig. 10
Project Ref: 171151	December 2017	Utility mapping survey information with Interpretation overlain	
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