STRATASCAN

Geophysical Survey Report

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF CHURCH LANE, SPROUGHTON

for

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

OCTOBER 2012

Job ref. 3197

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Document Title:	**Geophysical Survey Report Land to the south of Church Lane, Sproughton**
Client:	**Archaeological Solutions Ltd**
Stratascan Job No:	**J3197**
Survey Date:	**October 2012**
Techniques:	**Detailed magnetic survey (gradiometry)**
National Grid Ref:	**TM 125 445**

The site viewed from the west, looking east.

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Project Manager:	**Simon Haddrell B.Eng (Hons) AMBCS PIFA**
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Checked by:	**Peter Barker C.Eng MICE MCIWEM MIFA FCInstCES**

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LIST OF FIGURES

1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A detailed gradiometry survey was conducted over approximately 1.1ha of agricultural land located to the south of Church Lane in Sproughton. The data has identified few anomalies indicative of archaeological activity, however two positive responses are seen (one linear and one discrete) which are indicative of in-filled cut features which may be of archaeological origin.

In addition, two areas of disturbed or made ground are noted, areas of magnetic disturbance and spikes associated with ferrous material and two swathes of amorphous magnetic variation of probable natural origin.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background synopsis

Stratascan were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by Archaeological Solutions Ltd.

2.2 Site location

The site is located in Sproughton, west of Ipswich and is situated between the A14 and the B1113 at OS ref: TM 125 445.

2.3 Description of site

The survey area consists of approximately 1.1ha of agricultural land. The site had been recently harvested at the time of the survey leaving ground cover of short stubble.

2.4 Geology and soils

The underlying geology is Thanet Sand Formation and Lambeth Group – Sand and Clay (British Geological Survey website). The drift geology is River Terrace Deposits – Sand and Gravel (British Geological Survey website).

The overlying soils are known as Ludford which are typical argillic brown earth soils. These consist of deep well drained fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 4 Eastern England).

2.5 Site history and archaeological potential

The following is taken from the 'Brief for a Geophysical Survey and a Trenched Evaluation at Land at Church Road, Sproughton' by Jess Tipper, Archaeological Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service:

Archaeological Background

There is high potential for encountering important heritage assets of archaeological interest at this location, which has not been the subject of any previous systematic investigation. Important archaeological remains are recorded to the east and south-east (HER no. SPT 002 and SPT 005). The site has good potential for the discovery of important unknown archaeological sites and features in view of its proximity to known remains and also given the landscape setting overlooking the valley of the River Gipping, which is topographically favourable for early occupation. There is also high potential for encountering palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological deposits, and the east part of the site has the potential for former land surfaces buried by later sedimentation.

2.6 Survey objectives

The objective of the survey was to locate any features of possible archaeological significance in order that they may be assessed prior to development.

2.7 Survey methods

Detailed magnetic survey (gradiometry) was used as an efficient and effective method of locating archaeological anomalies. More information regarding this technique is included in the Methodology section below.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Date of fieldwork

The fieldwork was carried out on one day on the 5th October 2012. Weather conditions during the survey were dry and sunny.

3.2 Grid locations

The location of the survey grids has been plotted in Figure 1 together with the referencing information. Grids were set out using a Leica Smart Rover RTK GPS.

An RTK GPS (Real-time Kinematic Global Positioning System) can locate a point on the ground to a far greater accuracy than a standard GPS unit. A standard GPS suffers from errors created by satellite orbit errors, clock errors and atmospheric interference,

resulting in an accuracy of 5m-10m. An RTK system uses a single base station receiver and a number of mobile units. The base station re-broadcasts the phase of the carrier it measured, and the mobile units compare their own phase measurements with those they received from the base station. A SmartNet RTK GPS uses Ordnance Survey's network of over 100 fixed base stations to give an accuracy of around 0.01m.

3.3 Survey equipment and gradiometer configuration

Although the changes in the magnetic field resulting from differing features in the soil are usually weak, changes as small as 0.2 nanoTeslas (nT) in an overall field strength of 48,000nT, can be accurately detected using an appropriate instrument.

The mapping of the anomaly in a systematic manner will allow an estimate of the type of material present beneath the surface. Strong magnetic anomalies will be generated by buried iron-based objects or by kilns or hearths. More subtle anomalies such as pits and ditches can be seen if they contain more humic material which is normally rich in magnetic iron oxides when compared with the subsoil.

To illustrate this point, the cutting and subsequent silting or backfilling of a ditch may result in a larger volume of weakly magnetic material being accumulated in the trench compared to the undisturbed subsoil. A weak magnetic anomaly should therefore appear in plan along the line of the ditch.

The magnetic survey was carried out using a dual sensor Grad601-2 Magnetic Gradiometer manufactured by Bartington Instruments Ltd. The instrument consists of two fluxgates very accurately aligned to nullify the effects of the Earth's magnetic field. Readings relate to the difference in localised magnetic anomalies compared with the general magnetic background. The Grad601-2 consists of two high stability fluxgate gradiometers suspended on a single frame. Each gradiometer has a 1m separation between the sensing elements so enhancing the response to weak anomalies.

3.4 Sampling interval, depth of scan, resolution and data capture

3.4.1 Sampling interval

Readings were taken at 0.25m centres along traverses 1m apart. This equates to 3600 sampling points in a full 30m x 30m grid.

3.4.2 Depth of scan and resolution

The Grad 601-2 has a typical depth of penetration of 0.5m to 1.0m, though strongly magnetic objects may be visible at greater depths. The collection of data at 0.25m centres provides an optimum methodology for the task balancing cost and time with resolution.

3.4.3 Data capture

The readings are logged consecutively into the data logger which in turn is daily down-loaded into a portable computer whilst on site. At the end of each site survey, data is transferred to the office for processing and presentation.

3.5 Processing, presentation of results and interpretation

3.5.1 Processing

Processing is performed using specialist software. This can emphasise various aspects contained within the data but which are often not easily seen in the raw data. Basic processing of the magnetic data involves 'flattening' the background levels with respect to adjacent traverses and adjacent grids. Once the basic processing has flattened the background it is then possible to carry out further processing which may include low pass filtering to reduce 'noise' in the data and hence emphasise the archaeological or man-made anomalies.

The following schedule shows the basic processing carried out on all minimally processed gradiometer data used in this report:

1. *Destripe* (Removes striping effects caused by zero-point discrepancies between different sensors and walking directions)

2. *Destagger* (Removes zigzag effects caused by inconsistent walking speeds on sloping, uneven or overgrown terrain)

3.5.2 Presentation of results and interpretation

The presentation of the data for each site involves a print-out of the minimally processed data both as a greyscale plot (Figure 3) and a colour plot showing extreme magnetic values (Figure 4). Magnetic anomalies have been identified and plotted onto the 'Abstraction and Interpretation of Anomalies' drawing for the site (Figure 5).

4 RESULTS

The difference between *probable* and *possible* archaeological origin is a confidence rating. Features identified within the data set that form recognisable archaeological patterns or seem to be related to a deliberate historical act have been interpreted as being of a probable archaeological origin. Features of possible archaeological origin tend to be more amorphous anomalies which may have similar magnetic attributes in terms of strength or polarity but are difficult to classify as being archaeological or natural.

The following list of numbered anomalies refers to numerical labels on the interpretation plots (Figure 5).

Probable Archaeology

None of the anomalies identified within this data set have been classified as of probable archaeological origin.

Possible Archaeology

1. A single positive linear response has been identified in the centre of the survey area and is indicative of a former cut feature such as a ditch and may be of archaeological origin.

2. A discrete positive anomaly is also noted in the west of the area and may be associated with an in-filled pit of possible archaeological origin.

3. A number of magnetic 'spikes' (strong focussed values with associated antipolar response) are seen scattered across the site and indicate ferrous metal objects. Although most of these are likely to be modern debris, some may be of archaeological interest. Particular attention may be paid to those found in association with other potentially archaeological anomalies.

Other Anomalies

4. A high amplitude linear anomaly can be seen in the east of the survey area, adjacent to the field boundary. This response is indicative of a modern pipe or service.

5. Areas of magnetic disturbance are the result of substantial nearby ferrous metal objects such as fences and underground services. These effects can mask weaker archaeological anomalies, but on this site have not affected a significant proportion of the area.

6. Two patches of high amplitude magnetic disturbance have been noted and are indicative of heavily disturbed or made ground.

7. Two areas of amorphous magnetic variation have been identified in the east and west of the site and have been classified as of probable natural origin associated with either the geology or pedology of the area.

5 CONCLUSION

The detailed gradiometer survey carried out at Sproughton has identified few anomalies of possible archaeological origin. A single linear response is identified which may be associated with a former ditch and a discrete anomaly which may indicate an in-filled pit.

Anomalies indicative of ferrous material are evident – a modern pipe or service is seen in the east of the site and magnetic spikes are scattered across the area. Two patches of possible made ground are also noted alongside areas of amorphous variation which are likely to be of natural origin.

6 REFERENCES

British Geological Survey, n.d., *website*: (http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion1=1#maps) Geology of Britain viewer.

Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983. *Soils of England and Wales, Sheet 3 Eastern England*.

APPENDIX A – Basic principles of magnetic survey

Detailed magnetic survey can be used to effectively define areas of past human activity by mapping spatial variation and contrast in the magnetic properties of soil, subsoil and bedrock.

Weakly magnetic iron minerals are always present within the soil and areas of enhancement relate to increases in *magnetic susceptibility* and permanently magnetised *thermoremanent* material.

Magnetic susceptibility relates to the induced magnetism of a material when in the presence of a magnetic field. This magnetism can be considered as effectively permanent as it exists within the Earth's magnetic field. Magnetic susceptibility can become enhanced due to burning and complex biological or fermentation processes.

Thermoremanence is a permanent magnetism acquired by iron minerals that, after heating to a specific temperature known as the Curie Point, are effectively demagnetised followed by re-magnetisation by the Earth's magnetic field on cooling. Thermoremanent archaeological features can include hearths and kilns and material such as brick and tile may be magnetised through the same process.

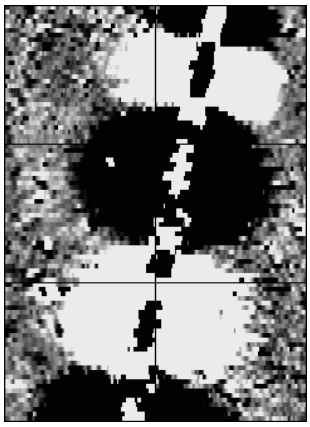
Silting and deliberate infilling of ditches and pits with magnetically enhanced soil creates a relative contrast against the much lower levels of magnetism within the subsoil into which the feature is cut. Systematic mapping of magnetic anomalies will produce linear and discrete areas of enhancement allowing assessment and characterisation of subsurface features. Material such as subsoil and non-magnetic bedrock used to create former earthworks and walls may be mapped as areas of lower enhancement compared to surrounding soils.

Magnetic survey is carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer which is a passive instrument consisting of two sensors mounted vertically either 0.5 or 1m apart. The instrument is carried about 30cm above the ground surface and the top sensor measures the Earth's magnetic field whilst the lower sensor measures the same field but is also more affected by any localised buried field. The difference between the two sensors will relate to the strength of a magnetic field created by a buried feature, if no field is present the difference will be close to zero as the magnetic field measured by both sensors will be the same.

Factors affecting the magnetic survey may include soil type, local geology, previous human activity, disturbance from modern services etc.

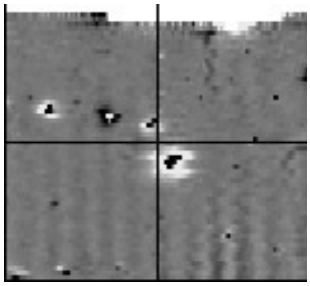
APPENDIX B – Glossary of magnetic anomalies

Bipolar



A bipolar anomaly is one that is composed of both a positive response and a negative response. It can be made up of any number of positive responses and negative responses. For example a pipeline consisting of alternating positive and negative anomalies is said to be bipolar. See also dipolar which has only one area of each polarity. The interpretation of the anomaly will depend on the magnitude of the magnetic field strength. A weak response may be caused by a clay field drain while a strong response will probably be caused by a metallic service.

Dipolar

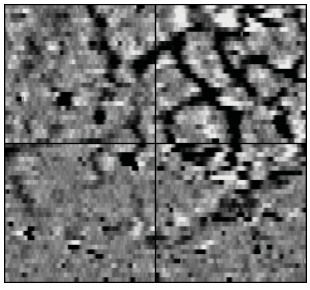


This consists of a single positive anomaly with an associated negative response. There should be no separation between the two polarities of response. These responses will be created by a single feature. The interpretation of the anomaly will depend on the magnitude of the magnetic measurements. A very strong anomaly is likely to be caused by a ferrous object.

Positive anomaly with associated negative response

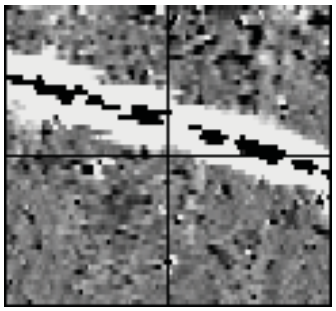
See bipolar and dipolar.

Positive linear



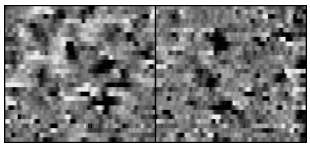
A linear response which is entirely positive in polarity. These are usually related to in-filled cut features where the fill material is magnetically enhanced compared to the surrounding matrix. They can be caused by ditches of an archaeological origin, but also former field boundaries, ploughing activity and some may even have a natural origin.

Positive linear anomaly with associated negative response



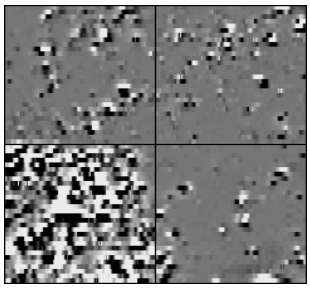
A positive linear anomaly which has a negative anomaly located adjacently. This will be caused by a single feature. In the example shown this is likely to be a single length of wire/cable probably relating to a modern service. Magnetically weaker responses may relate to earthwork style features and field boundaries.

Positive point/area



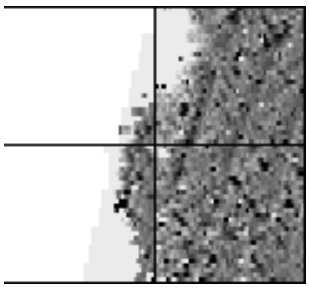
These are generally spatially small responses, perhaps covering just 3 or 4 reading nodes. They are entirely positive in polarity. Similar to positive linear anomalies they are generally caused by in-filled cut features. These include pits of an archaeological origin, possible tree bowls or other naturally occurring depressions in the ground.

Magnetic debris



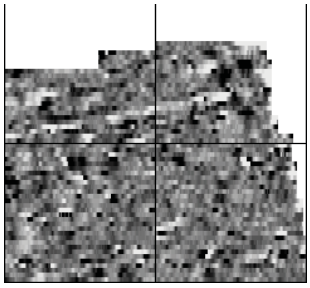
Magnetic debris consists of numerous dipolar responses spread over an area. If the amplitude of response is low (+/-3nT) then the origin is likely to represent general ground disturbance with no clear cause, it may be related to something as simple as an area of dug or mixed earth. A stronger anomaly (+/-250nT) is more indicative of a spread of ferrous debris. Moderately strong anomalies may be the result of a spread of thermoremanent material such as bricks or ash.

Magnetic disturbance



Magnetic disturbance is high amplitude and can be composed of either a bipolar anomaly, or a single polarity response. It is essentially associated with magnetic interference from modern ferrous structures such as fencing, vehicles or buildings, and as a result is commonly found around the perimeter of a site near to boundary fences.

Negative linear

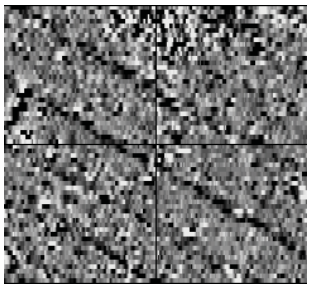


A linear response which is entirely negative in polarity. These are generally caused by earthen banks where material with a lower magnetic magnitude relative the background top soil is built up. See also ploughing activity.

Negative point/area

Opposite to positive point anomalies these responses may be caused by raised areas or earthen banks. These could be of an archaeological origin or may have a natural origin.

Ploughing activity



Ploughing activity can often be visualised by a series of parallel linear anomalies. These can be of either positive polarity or negative polarity depending on site specifics. It can be difficult to distinguish between ancient ploughing and more modern ploughing, clues such as the separation of each linear, straightness, strength of response and cross cutting relationships can be used to aid this, although none of these can be guaranteed to differentiate between different phases of activity.

Polarity

Term used to describe the measurement of the magnetic response. An anomaly can have a positive polarity (values above 0nT) and/or a negative polarity (values below 0nT).

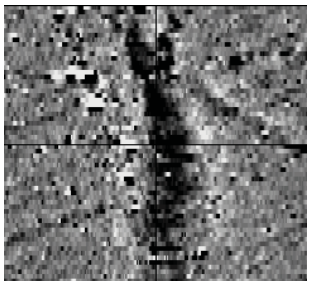
Strength of response

The amplitude of a magnetic response is an important factor in assigning an interpretation to a particular anomaly. For example a positive anomaly covering a $10m^2$ area may have values up to around 3000nT, in which case it is likely to be caused by modern magnetic interference. However, the same size and shaped anomaly but with values up to only 4nT may have a natural origin. Colour plots are used to show the amplitude of response.

Thermoremanent response

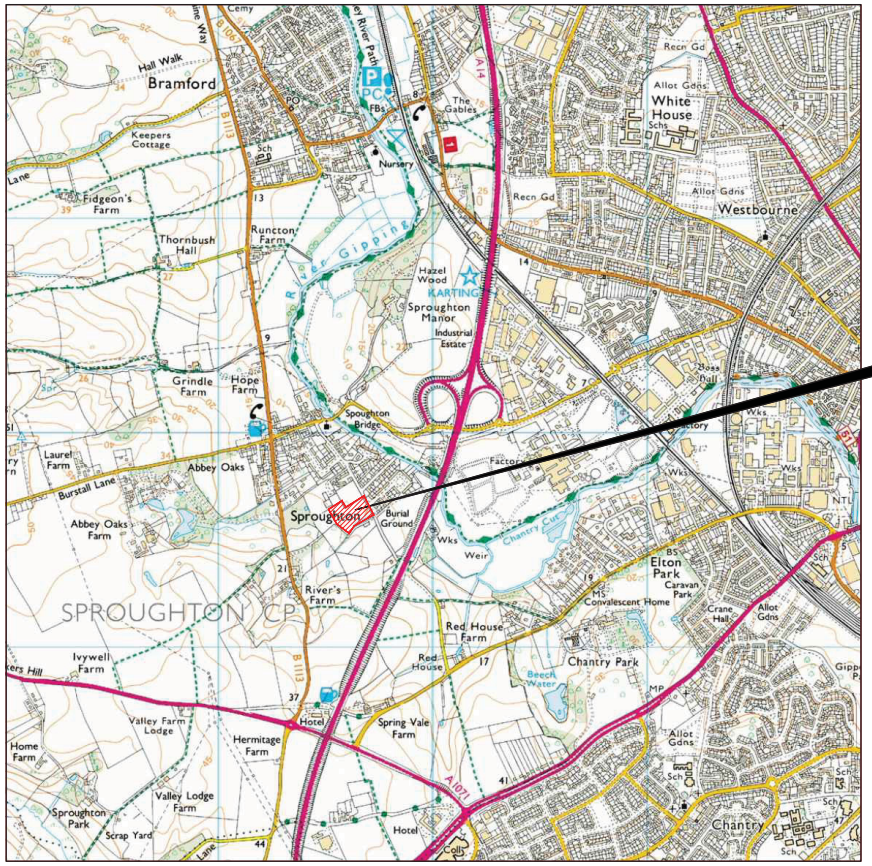
A feature which has been subject to heat may result in it acquiring a magnetic field. This can be anything up to approximately +/-100 nT in value. These features include clay fired drains, brick, bonfires, kilns, hearths and even pottery. If the heat application has occurred in situ (e.g. a kiln) then the response is likely to be bipolar compared to if the heated objects have been disturbed and moved relative to each other, in which case they are more likely to take an irregular form and may display a debris style response (e.g. ash).

Weak background variations



Weakly magnetic wide scale variations within the data can sometimes be seen within sites. These usually have no specific structure but can often appear curvy and sinuous in form. They are likely to be the result of natural features, such as soil creep, dried up (or seasonal) streams. They can also be caused by changes in the underlying geology or soil type which may contain unpredictable distributions of magnetic minerals, and are usually apparent in several locations across a site.

47
46
45
44
43



11 12 13 14 15

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Amendments

Issue No.	Date	Description
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-	-	-

Site centred on NGR: TM 125 445

Client: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTION

Project Title: LAND TO THE SOUTH OF CHURCH LANE, SPROUGHTON

Job No. 3197

Subject: LOCATION PLAN OF SURVEY AREA

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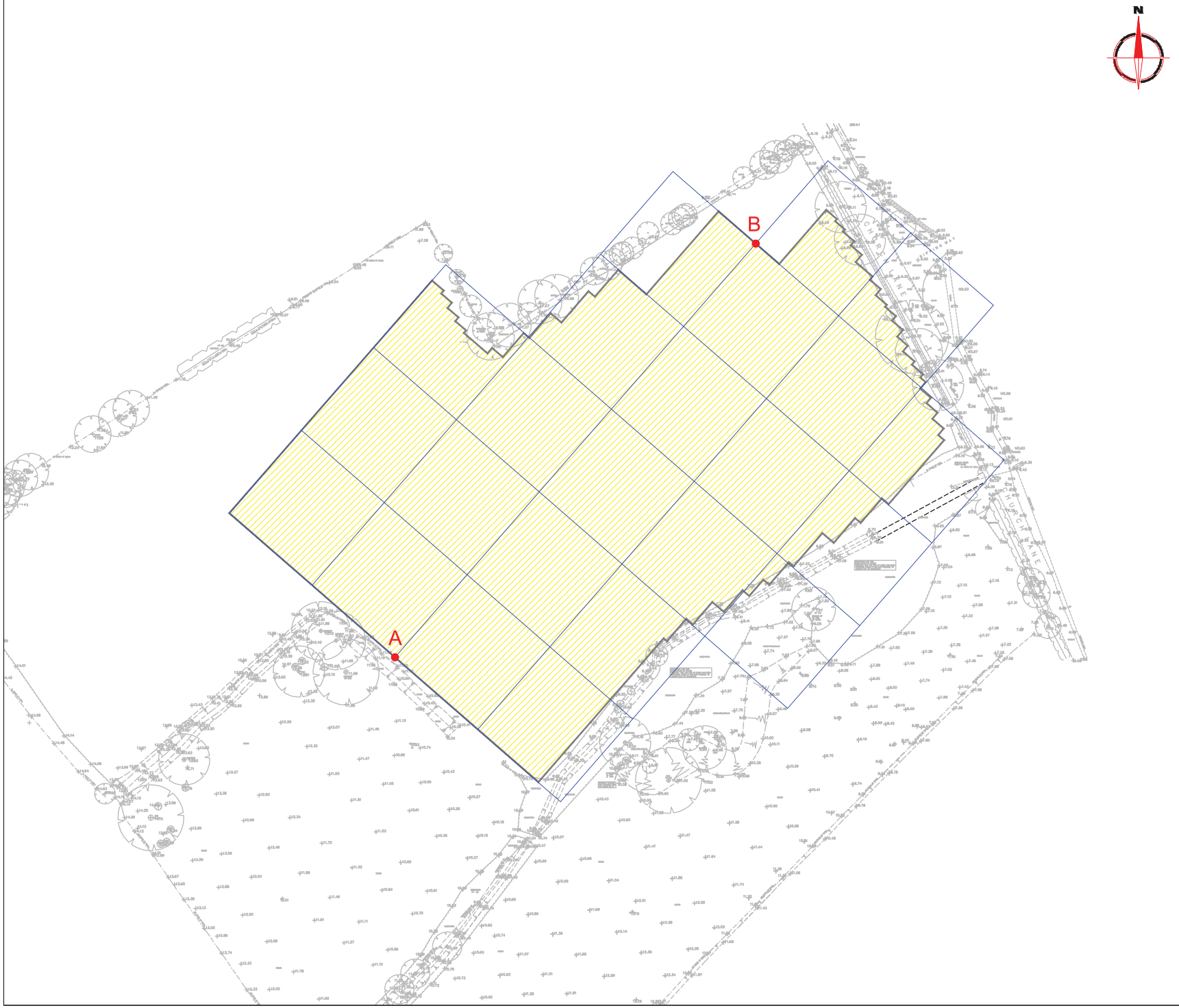
SUMO GROUP MEMBER

Scale: 1:25000 (0m 500 1000m)

Plot	Checked by	Issue No.
A3	DGE	01
Survey date	Drawn by	Figure No.
OCT 2012	BPM	01



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OS GRID REFERENCES

A	612570.07 , 244566.10
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KEY

Survey area

Client

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTION

Project Title — Job No. 3197

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF CHURCH LANE, SPROUGHTON

Subject

LOCATION OF SURVEY GRIDS AND REFERENCING

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ims ISO 9001 certified UKAS — ims ISO 14001 certified UKAS

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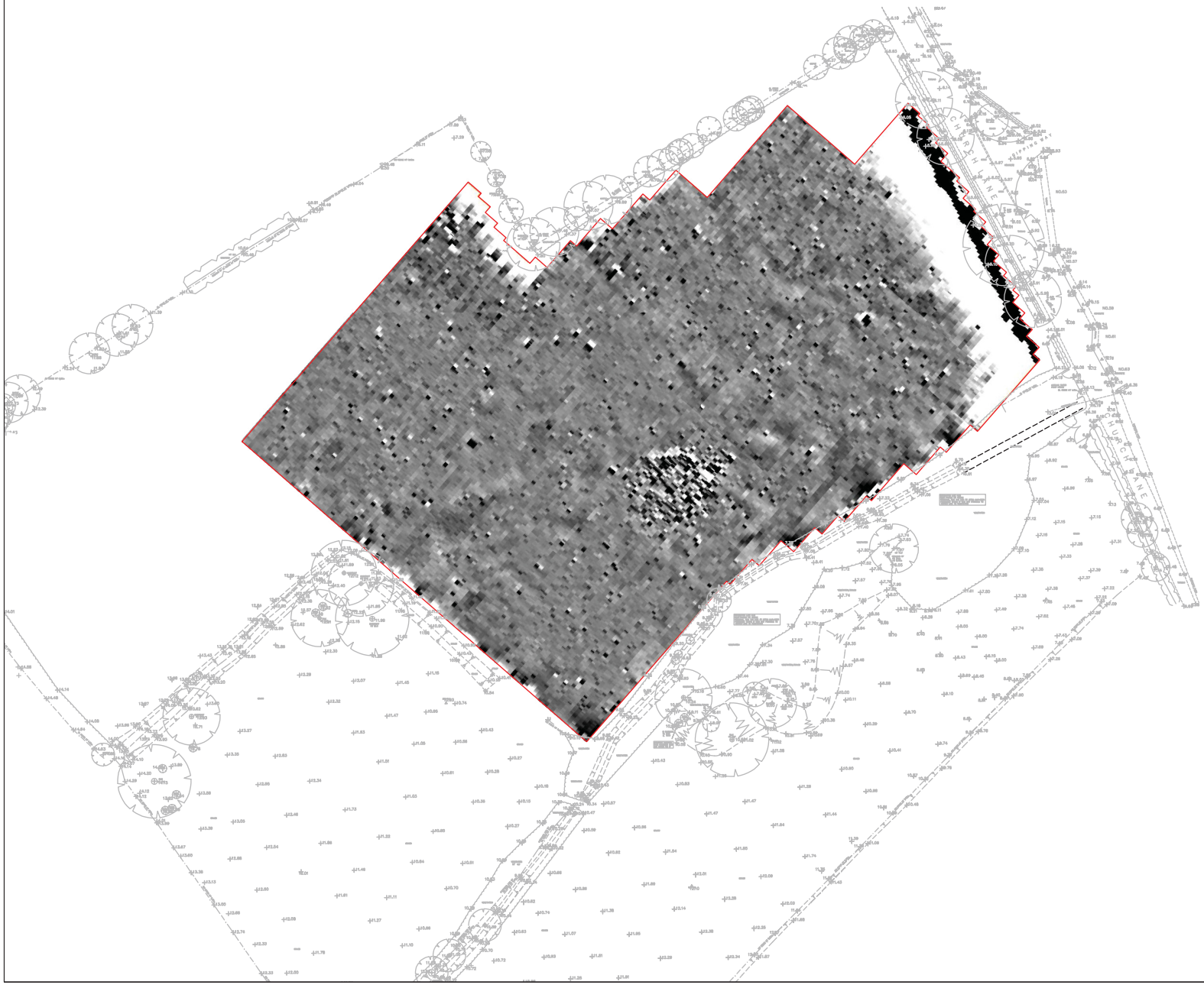

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Plotting parameters

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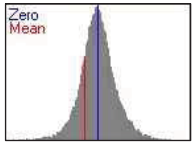
Minimum -3nT (white)



-3nT +3nT

Client

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTION

Project Title Job No. 3197

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF CHURCH LANE, SPROUGHTON

Subject

PLOT OF PROCESSED GRADIOMETER DATA

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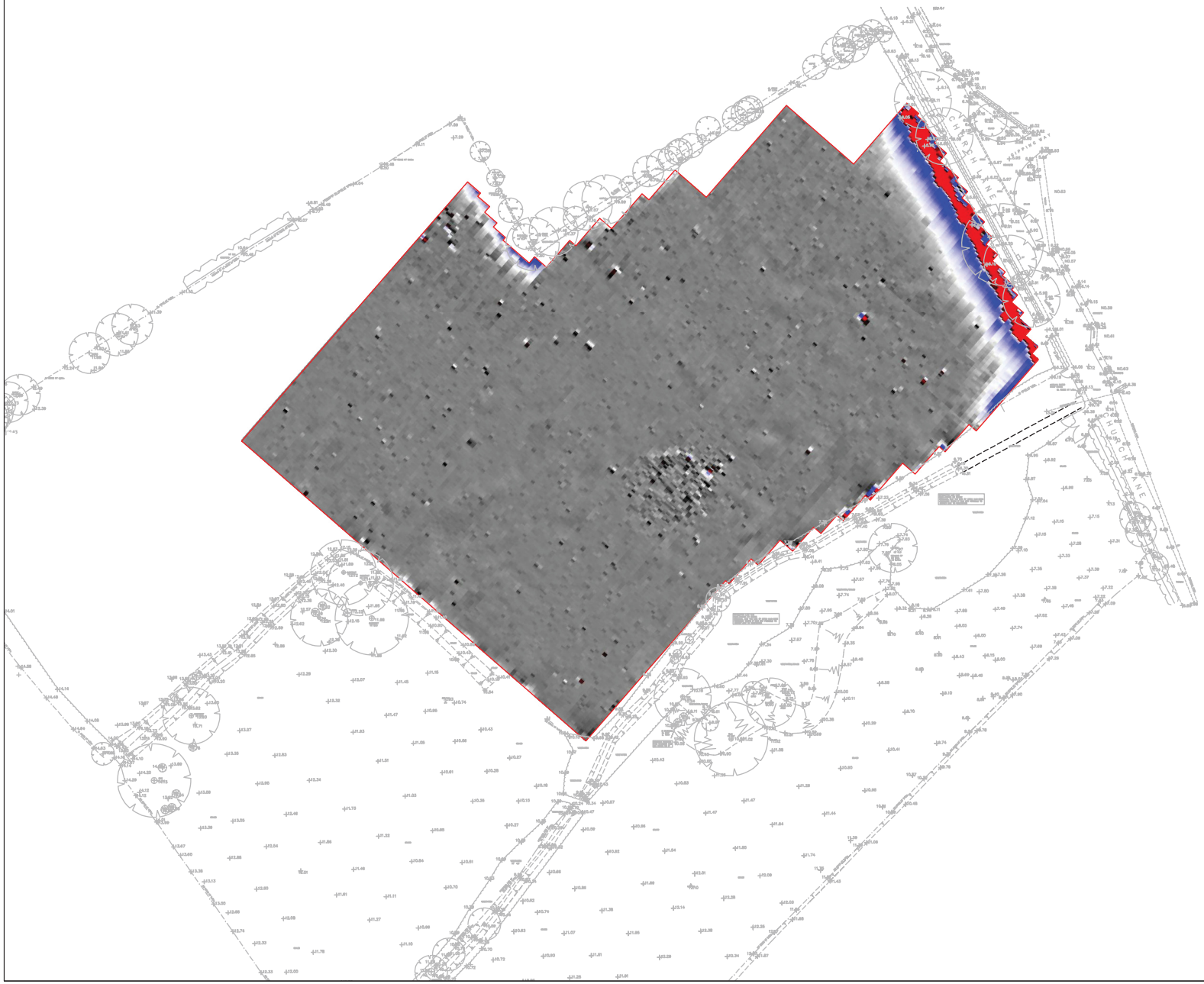
Survey date	Drawn by	Figure No.
OCT 2012	TD/BPM	02



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Issue No.	Date	Description
-	-	-
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Plotting parameters

Maximum +250nT (red)
Minimum -250nT (blue)

+250nT

-250nT

Client

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LAND TO THE SOUTH OF CHURCH LANE, SPROUGHTON

Subject

COLOUR PLOT OF GRADIOMETER DATA SHOWING EXTREME VALUES

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Scale 1:1000 — 0m 10 20 30 40 50

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A3	DGE	01
Survey date	Drawn by	Figure No.
OCT 2012	TD	03

Amendments

Issue No.	Date	Description
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KEY

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Moderate strength discrete anomaly - probable thermoremanent feature
- Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Moderate strength discrete anomaly - possible thermoremanent feature
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

OTHER ANOMALIES

- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
- Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
- Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
- Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
- Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
- Scattered magnetic debris
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin

Client

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTION

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LAND TO THE SOUTH OF CHURCH LANE, SPROUGHTON

Subject

ABSTRACTION AND INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER ANOMALIES

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Scale 1:1000 (0m 10 20 30 40 50)

Plot	Checked by	Issue No.
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Survey date	Drawn by	Figure No.
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