

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Western Area, Land at Campdown, Purbrook,
Portsmouth, Hampshire**

Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)

by David Sanchez

Site Code: CPP16/152

(SU 6914 0718)

Western Area, Land at Campdown, Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire

Geophysical Survey (Magnetic) Report

For Radian Group Ltd.

by David Sanchez

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code CPP 16/152

April 2017

Summary

Site name: Western Area, Land at Campdown, Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 6914 0718

Site activity: Magnetometer survey

Date and duration of project: 5th - 13th April 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Sanchez

Site code: CPP 16/152

Area of site: 7.6ha

Summary of results: The geophysical survey was successfully completed on the majority of the proposed area. A range of magnetic anomalies were recorded, most of these appear to be caused by buried services, and area of possible made ground and field boundaries. Only three linear anomalies located across the south area of the surveyed fields may be of archaeological origin.

Location of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading in accordance with TVAS digital archiving policies.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 10.05.17 Tim Dawson✓ 10.05.17
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Western Area, Land at Campdown, Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire A Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)

by David Sanchez

Report 16/152c

Introduction

This report documents the results of a geophysical survey (magnetic) carried out on a parcel of land at Campdown, Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire (SU 6914 0718) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Alice Hart of Radian Group Limited, Collins House, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh SO50 6AD.

Planning permission is to be sought for residential development on land at Campdown, Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire. To further inform the development layout with regards to the extent of any deposits associated with the Roman landscape, a geophysical survey has been requested for the 7.6ha area of the site that remains unsurveyed. The results of the survey may be used to provide targets for subsequent trenching. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the Borough's heritage policies. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Sanchez, Cecilia Galleano, Teresa Vieira and Virginia Fuentes between 5th and 13th April 2017 and the site code is CPP 16/152.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading in accordance with TVAS digital archiving policies.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a parcel of land to the east of College Road, in the south-east margins of the village of Purbrook, just north of the Portsmouth City Boundary. The full site comprises of an irregular parcel of land covering an area of approximately 26.7ha and is bordered by South Downs College to the north-west, the A3(M) to the east and open farmland to the south with a golf course to the south-west. Although undulating, the site has a general slope of approximately 57m above Ordnance Datum in the north to approximately 27m in the south and is currently used as pasture field for horses and cows. This report documents the results of the survey undertaken in the western field of the site, which comprise a 7.6ha area between the South Downs College to the north and the golf course to the south, bordered to the west by College Road, plus a long strip at the southern edge of the eastern field which was unsurveyed during the previous works on site (Beaverstock 2016). The main field comprises an irregular parcel of land but with a general slope to the south-east and a sharp depression in the central area between two small hills located to the south-west and north-east. The underlying geology is

recorded as London Clay and Wittering Formations (BGS 1998). Site conditions during the survey were dry and clear (Pl. 1-4).

Site history and archaeological background

A detailed analysis of the archaeological background can be found in the desk-based assessment (McManus-Fry 2016). To summarise, the archaeological potential of the site centres round the Scheduled Ancient Monument, Littlepark Wood Roman Villa (List No. 1001859) and a section of the Chichester to Bitterne Roman Road which both lie within the site boundary. Excavations in 1926 revealed that remains of the Roman villa were still present making the presence of below ground archaeological deposits extremely likely. Additionally, earlier evaluation to the south revealed several prehistoric findspots within the site and fieldwork beyond the site boundary to the east revealed small scale Iron Age occupation (Bray and Platt 2015).

Geophysics survey carried out on the eastern field of the site revealed a range of magnetic anomalies likely to be of archaeological origin, suggesting the presence of a large square courtyard with buildings along the northern and western ranges with a further enclosure to the east and a ditch-lined trackway leading southwards towards the line of the Roman road, also identified as magnetic anomalies (Beaverstock 2016)

Methodology

Sample interval

Data collection required a temporary grid to be established across the survey area using wooden pegs at 20m intervals with further subdivision where necessary. Readings were taken at 0.25m intervals along traverses 1m apart. This provides 1600 sampling points across a full 20m × 20m grid (English Heritage 2008), providing an appropriate methodology balancing cost and time with resolution. The majority of the survey area was carried out as planned, however there were several notable obstructions. Trees and significant vegetation were present in two areas in the central part of the field as in some areas surrounding the south, west and northwest edges of the field and on one field boundary aligned NE - SW in the east side. Several isolated small trees were also located on the SW and NE quarters of the field, and on the NE corner frequent metal obstructions (cart, water troughs, etc) obstructed the survey.

The Grad 601-2 has a typical depth of penetration of 0.5m to 1.0m. This would be increased if strongly magnetic objects have been buried in the site. Under normal operating conditions it can be expected to identify buried features >0.5m in diameter. Features which can be detected include disturbed soil, such as the fill of a

ditch, structures that have been heated to high temperatures (magnetic thermoremnance) and objects made from ferro-magnetic materials. The strength of the magnetic field is measured in nano Tesla (nT), equivalent to 10^{-9} Tesla, the SI unit of magnetic flux density.

Equipment

The purpose of the survey was to identify geophysical anomalies that may be archaeological in origin in order to inform a targeted archaeological investigation of the site prior to development. The survey and report generally follow the recommendations and standards set out by both English Heritage (2008) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2002, 2011, 2014).

Magnetometry was chosen as a survey method as it offers the most rapid ground coverage and responds to a wide range of anomalies caused by past human activity. These properties make it ideal for the fast yet detailed surveying of an area.

The detailed magnetometry survey was carried out using a dual sensor Bartington Instruments Grad 601-2 fluxgate gradiometer. The instrument consists of two fluxgates mounted 1m vertically apart with a second set positioned at 1m horizontal distance. This enables readings to be taken of both the general background magnetic field and any localised anomalies with the difference being plotted as either positive or negative buried features. All sensors are calibrated to cancel out the local magnetic field and react only to anomalies above or below this base line. On this basis, strong magnetic anomalies such as burnt features (kilns and hearths) will give a high response as will buried ferrous objects. More subtle anomalies such as pits and ditches, can be seen from their infilling soils containing higher proportions of humic material, rich in ferrous oxides, compared to the undisturbed subsoil. This will stand out in relation to the background magnetic readings and appear in plan following the course of a linear feature or within a discrete area.

A Trimble Geo7x handheld GPS system with sub-decimetre real-time accuracy was used to tie the site grid into the Ordnance Survey national grid. This unit offers both real-time correction and post-survey processing; enabling a high level of accuracy to be obtained both in the field and in the final post-processed data.

Data gathered in the field was processed using the TerraSurveyor software package. This allows the survey data to be collated and manipulated to enhance the visibility of anomalies, particularly those likely to be of archaeological origin. The table below lists the processes applied to this survey, full survey and data information is recorded in Appendix 1.

Process

Clip from -1.80 to 2.20 nT

Interpolate: y doubled

De-stripe: median, all sensors

De-spike: threshold 1, window size 3×3

Effect

Enhance the contrast of the image to improve the appearance of possible archaeological anomalies.

Increases the resolution of the readings in the y axis, enhancing the shape of anomalies.

Removes the striping effect caused by differences in sensor calibration, enhancing the visibility of potential archaeological anomalies.

Compresses outlying magnetic points caused by interference of metal objects within the survey area.

The raw data plot is presented as a greyscale plot shown in relation to the site (Fig. 3) with the processed data then presented as a second figure (Fig. 4), followed by a third plan to present the abstraction and interpretation of the magnetic anomalies (Fig. 5). Anomalies are shown as colour-coded lines, points and polygons. Due to the shape of the survey area the survey results have been presented as detail figures for the western and eastern halves (Figs. 6-11). The grid layout and georeferencing information (Fig. 2) is prepared in EasyCAD v.7.58.00, producing a .FC7 file format, and printed as a .PDF for inclusion in the final report.

The greyscale plot of the processed data is exported from TerraSurveyor in a georeferenced portable network graphics (.PNG) format, a raster image format chosen for its lossless data compression and support for transparent pixels, enabling it to easily be overlaid onto an existing site plan. The data plot is combined with grid and site plans in QGIS 2.16.2 and exported again in .PNG format in order to present them in figure templates in Adobe InDesign CS5.5, creating .INDD file formats. Once the figures are finalised they are exported in .PDF format for inclusion within the finished report.

Results

Several magnetic anomalies were recorded over the course of the geophysical survey but most of them are unlikely to be archaeological in origin. Three weak linear anomalies were recorded in different areas of the south third of the surveyed field and could be result of the presence of cut type features as ditches or gullies.

One weak linear positive anomaly was recorded at 16m of the south limit of the site [Fig. 10: 9] and it was aligned SW - NE. A second positive anomaly of linear shape [Fig. 11: 10] was recorded 22m to the east of the field boundary [2], and was aligned WNW - ESE. Finally the third anomaly of possible archaeological origin recorded during the survey was located at the east end of the long strip surveyed of the eastern field and consisted of a positive linear anomaly [11] aligned NW - SE crossing the full surveyed strip.

Several other magnetic anomalies were mapped on the surveyed area that are unlikely to be archaeological in origin. The long strip surveyed of the eastern field is divided in two by a line of mixed strong positive and negative responses, continuation of the same anomaly recorded by the previous survey and caused by a raised trackway that crosses the ground at this point and is most likely constructed hardcore [1].

At the east side of the site, fitting with the north-east limit of the surveyed a strong magnetic disturbance aligned NE - SW follows a field boundary still visible on the site, caused by the presence of traces of a metal fence mostly buried but still visible in some areas [2]. A second similar anomaly started at the southern limit of the site, just 15m to the west and was aligned NW - SE [Fig. 10: 3] and is likely to have a similar origin.

A line of strong magnetic spikes and patches of magnetic disturbance [4] aligned WNW - ESE cross the field from the west limit and continue beyond the limit of the current survey area, where it was recorded by the previous survey undertaken on the site (Beaverstock 2016). Two metal manhole covers were observed on this line and suggest the presence of a buried pipeline made of non-ferrous material. A second line of magnetic debris [5] aligned NE - SW is recorded in the west side of the field and it is likely to be caused for a second non-ferrous material pipeline as a manhole cover was observed on this line near of the SW corner of the field. One more linear magnetic anomaly with mixed positive and negative responses was recorded at the north of the field [6], aligned WNW - ESE and is likely to correspond with a trackway from the entrance of the site at the north-west corner of the site.

The main magnetic anomaly recorded during the survey [7] consisted of a large mixed strong positive and negative anomalies aligned NW - SE from the NW limit of the surveyed area and located in the ground depression of the central area of the field, with a length of 187m and a width between 48 and 72m. It has a squared south-eastern limit and is likely to be caused by a large dump of debris, probably modern in date, which appears to have been used to infill or level a stretch of the dry valley between two slopes. The other large anomaly recorded in this field consisted of a line of mixed strong positive and negative readings following the west limit of the site [8]. This is likely to be caused by buried modern services of ferrous material.

Various other patches of magnetic disturbance were recorded around the field boundaries and are likely to be caused by near-by metal objects, such as fences. Frequent strong magnetic spikes were also detected across the entire survey area and are probably result of the presence of buried ferrous objects of unknown date.

Conclusion

The geophysical survey was successfully completed on the majority of the proposed area. A range of magnetic anomalies were recorded but most of these appear to be caused by buried services and traces of field boundaries of modern date. A large anomaly in the central area is likely to be caused by dump of modern debris. Only three linear anomalies located across the south area of the surveyed fields may be of archaeological origin.

References

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Appendix 1. Survey and data information

Programme:

Name: TerraSurveyor
Version: 3.0.25.0

Raw data

Survey corner coordinates (X/Y):
Northwest corner: 468650.72, 106874.74 m
Southeast corner: 468930.72, 106214.74 m
Direction of 1st Traverse: 353.46858 deg
Collection Method: ZigZag
Sensors: 2 @ 1.00 m spacing.
Dummy Value: 2047.5

Dimensions

Composite Size (readings): 1120 x 660
Survey Size (meters): 280 m x 660 m
Grid Size: 20 m x 20 m
X Interval: 0.25 m
Y Interval: 1 m

Stats

Max: 97.97
Min: -100.00
Std Dev: 33.08
Mean: -2.68
Median: -0.14
Composite Area: 18.48 ha
Surveyed Area: 7.8067 ha

Source Grids: 248

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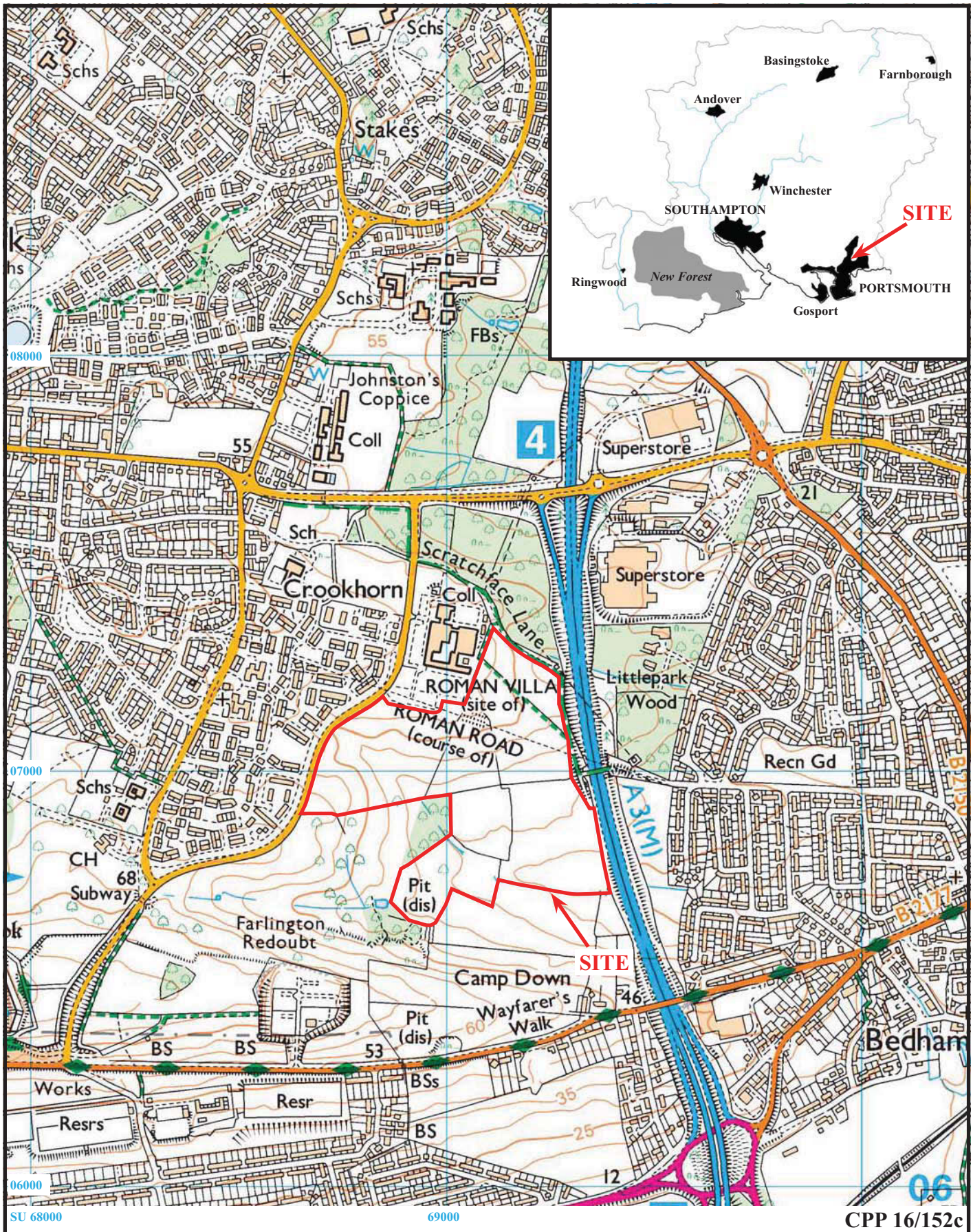
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Processed data

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 Median: 0.01

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 4 Interpolate: Y Doubled.
 5 Clip from -1.80 to 2.20 nT



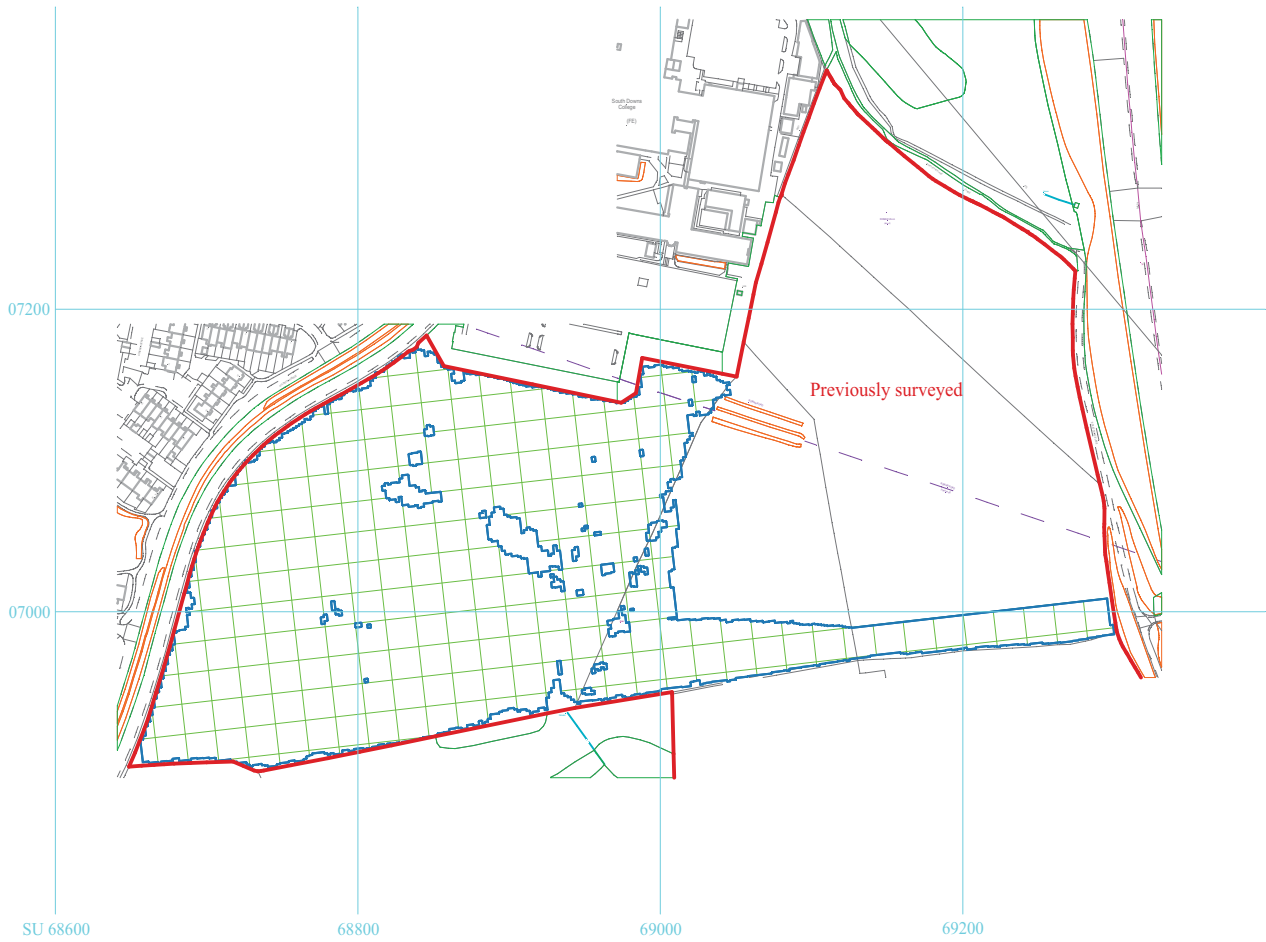
**Western Area, Land at College Road, Campdown,
Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 2017
Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)**

Figure 1. Location of site within Camp Down and Hampshire.

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THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

CPP 16/152c



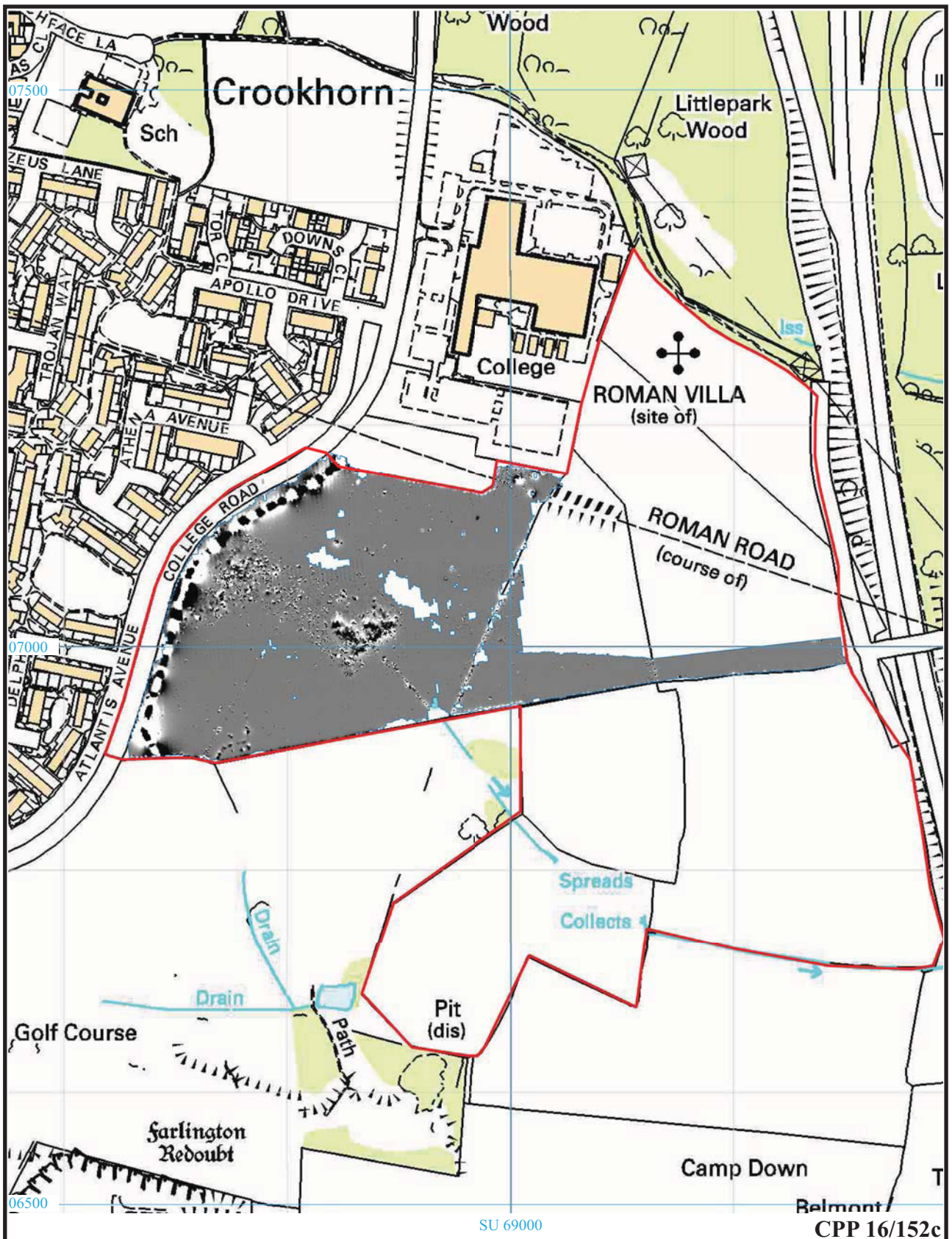
CPP 16/152c

**Western Area, Land at College Road, Campdown,
Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 2017
Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)**

Figure 2. Survey grid layout.

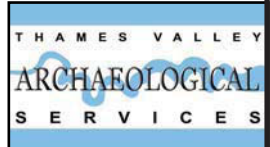


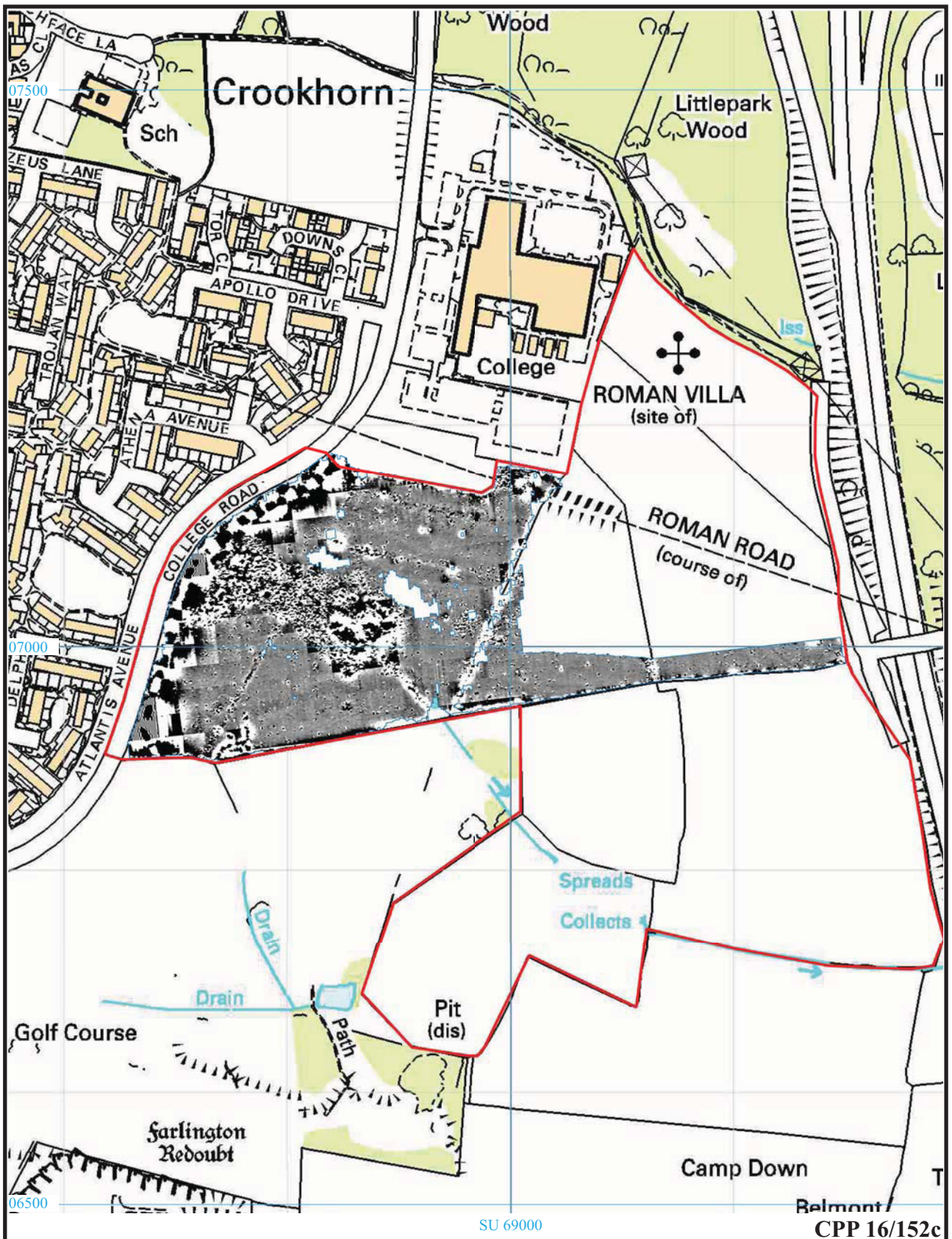
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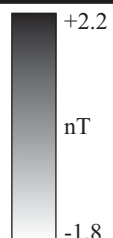
Western Area, Land at College Road, Campdown,
 Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 2017
 Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)
 Figure 3. Plot of raw gradiometer data.

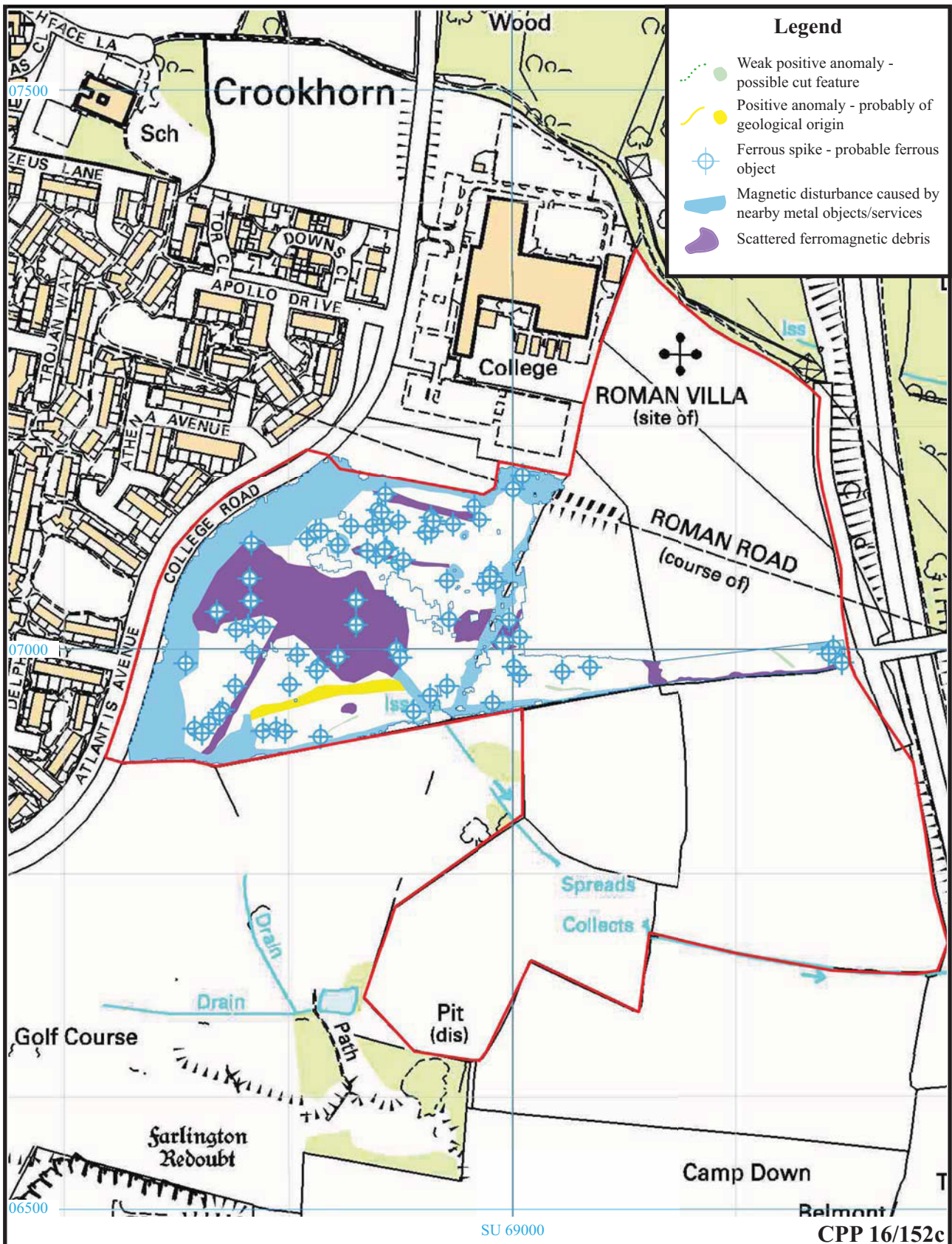
0m 250m





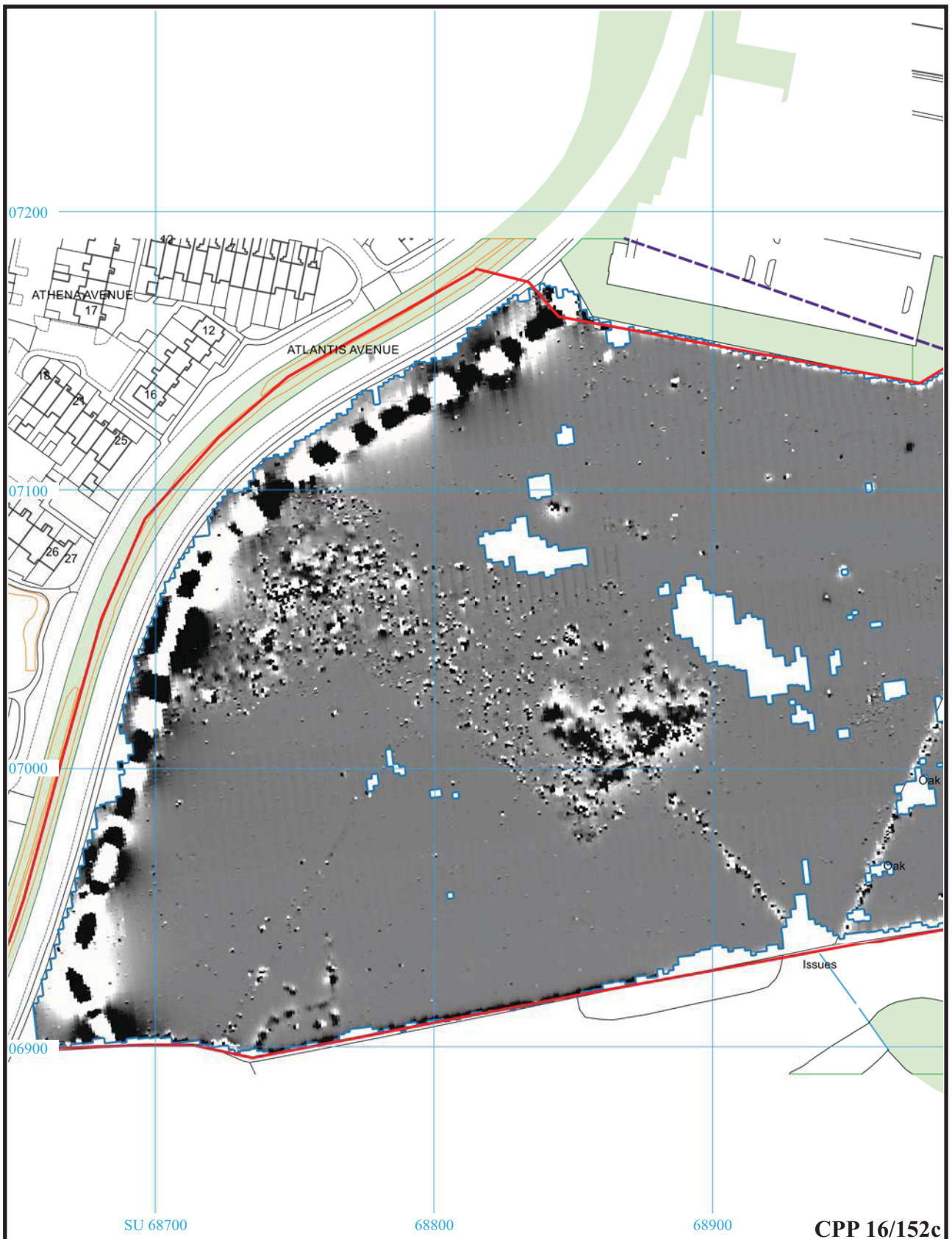
Western Area, Land at College Road, Campdown,
 Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 2017
 Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)
 Figure 4. Plot of minimally processed gradiometer data.





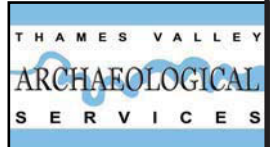
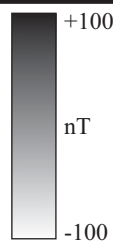
Western Area, Land at College Road, Campdown,
 Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 2017
 Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)
 Figure 5. Interpretation plot.



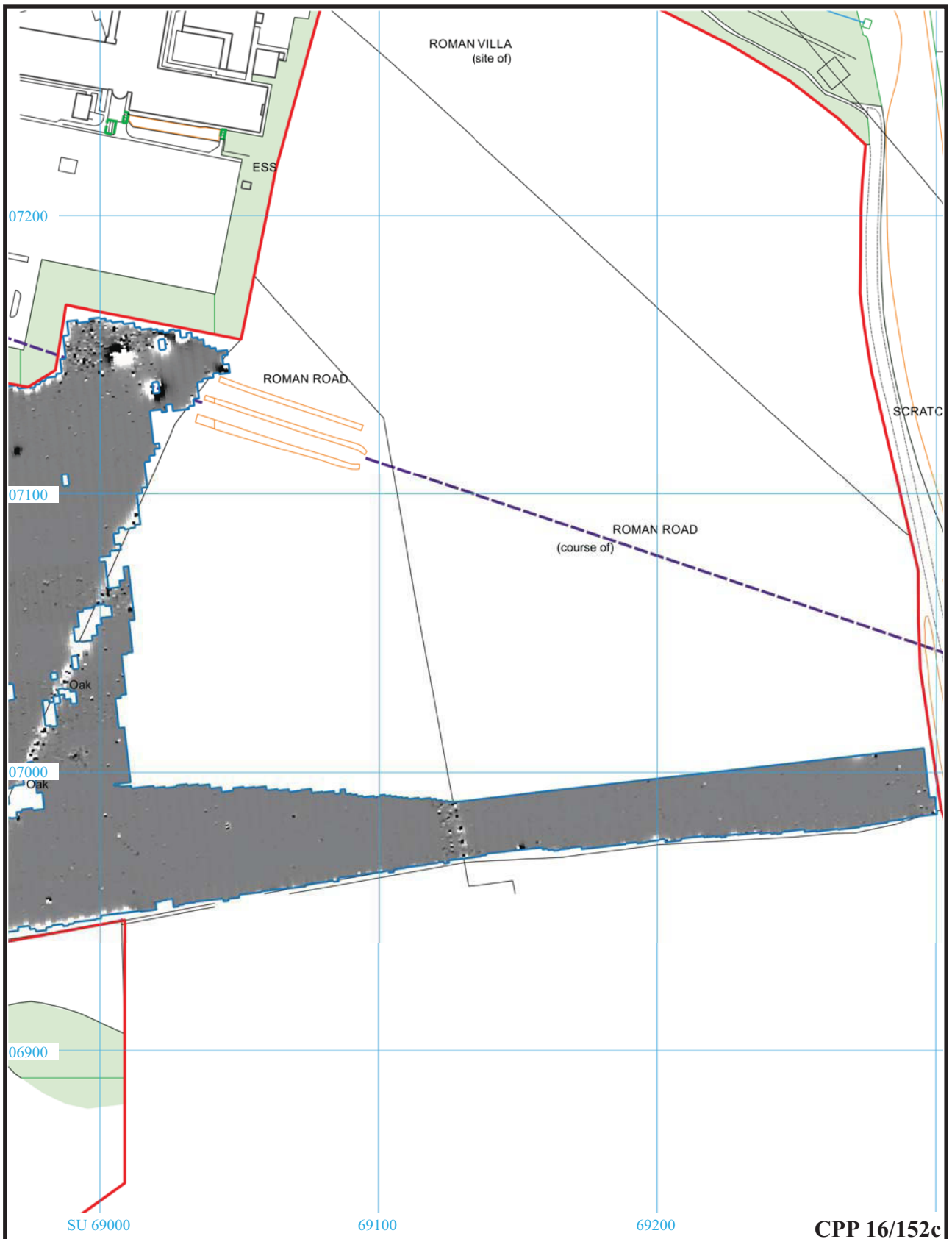


**Western Area, Land at College Road, Campdown,
Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 2017
Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)**

Figure 6. Plot of raw gradiometer data - west.



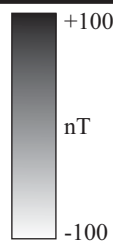
CPP 16/152c



CPP 16/152c



**Western Area, Land at College Road, Campdown,
Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 2017**
Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)
 Figure 7. Plot of raw gradiometer data - east.



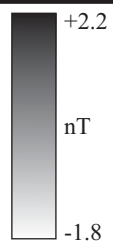


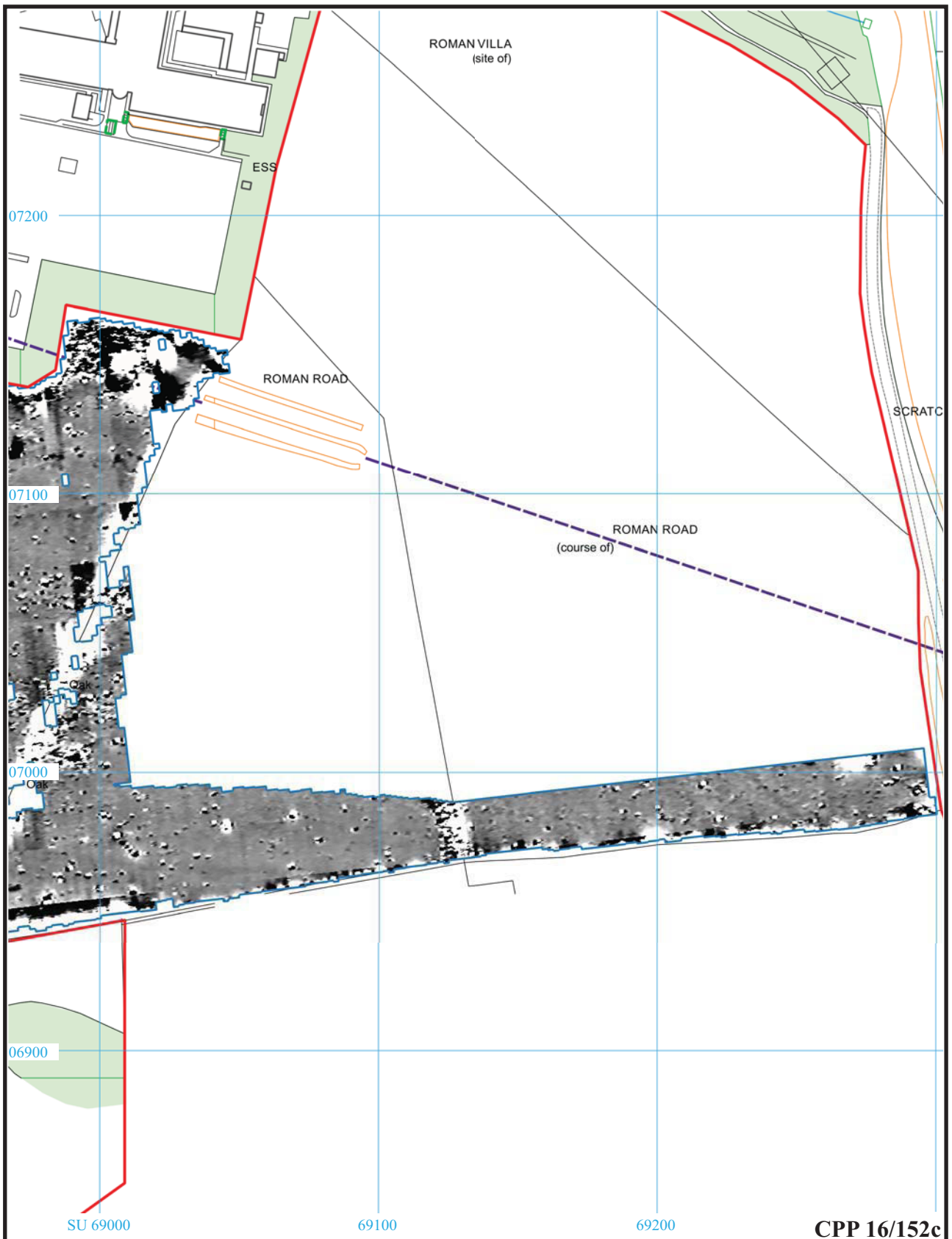
CPP 16/152c



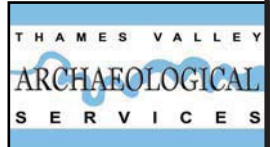
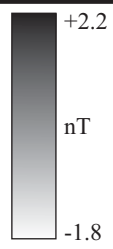
**Western Area, Land at College Road, Campdown,
Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 2017
Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)**

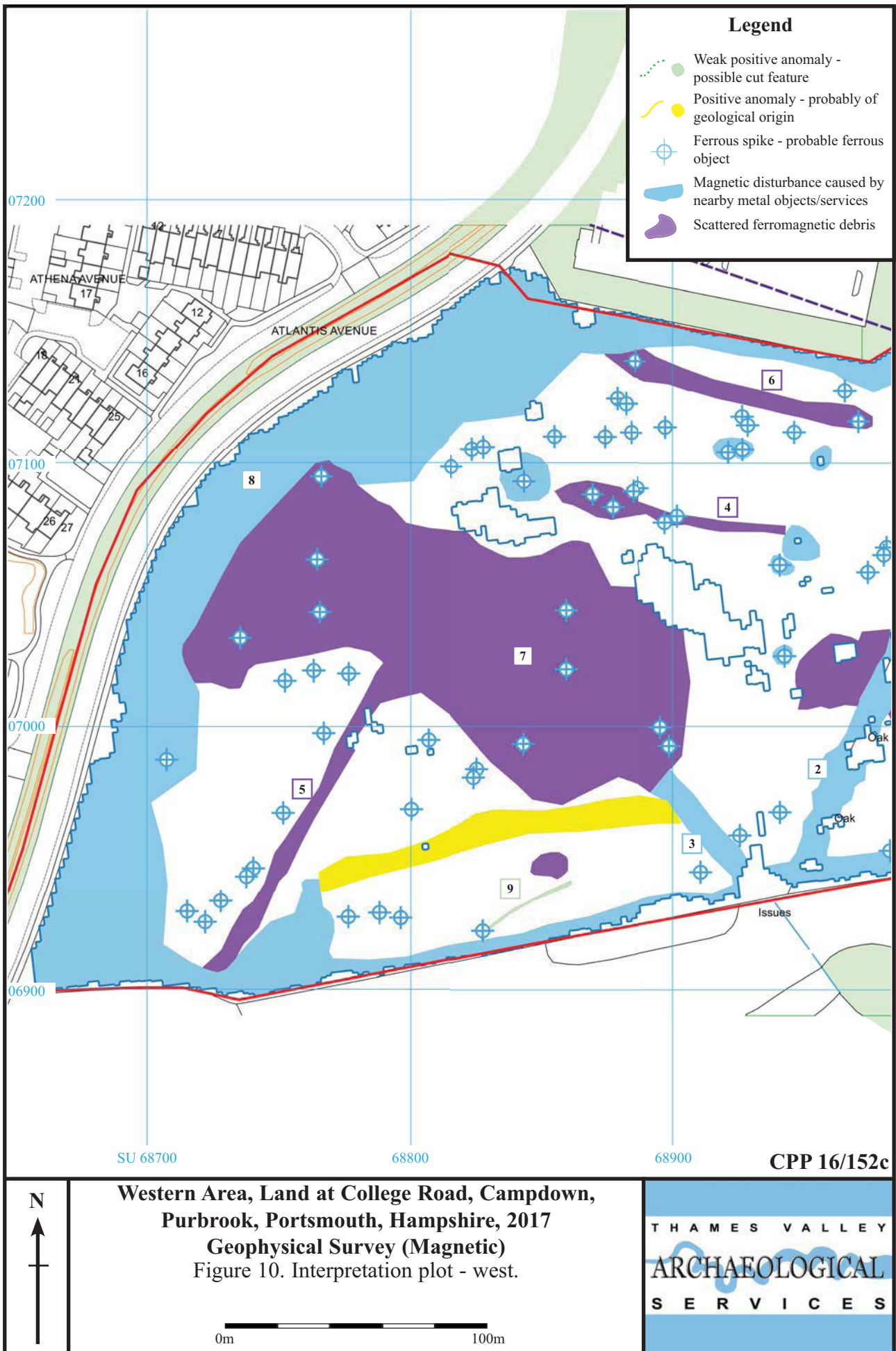
Figure 8. Plot of minimally processed gradiometer data - west.

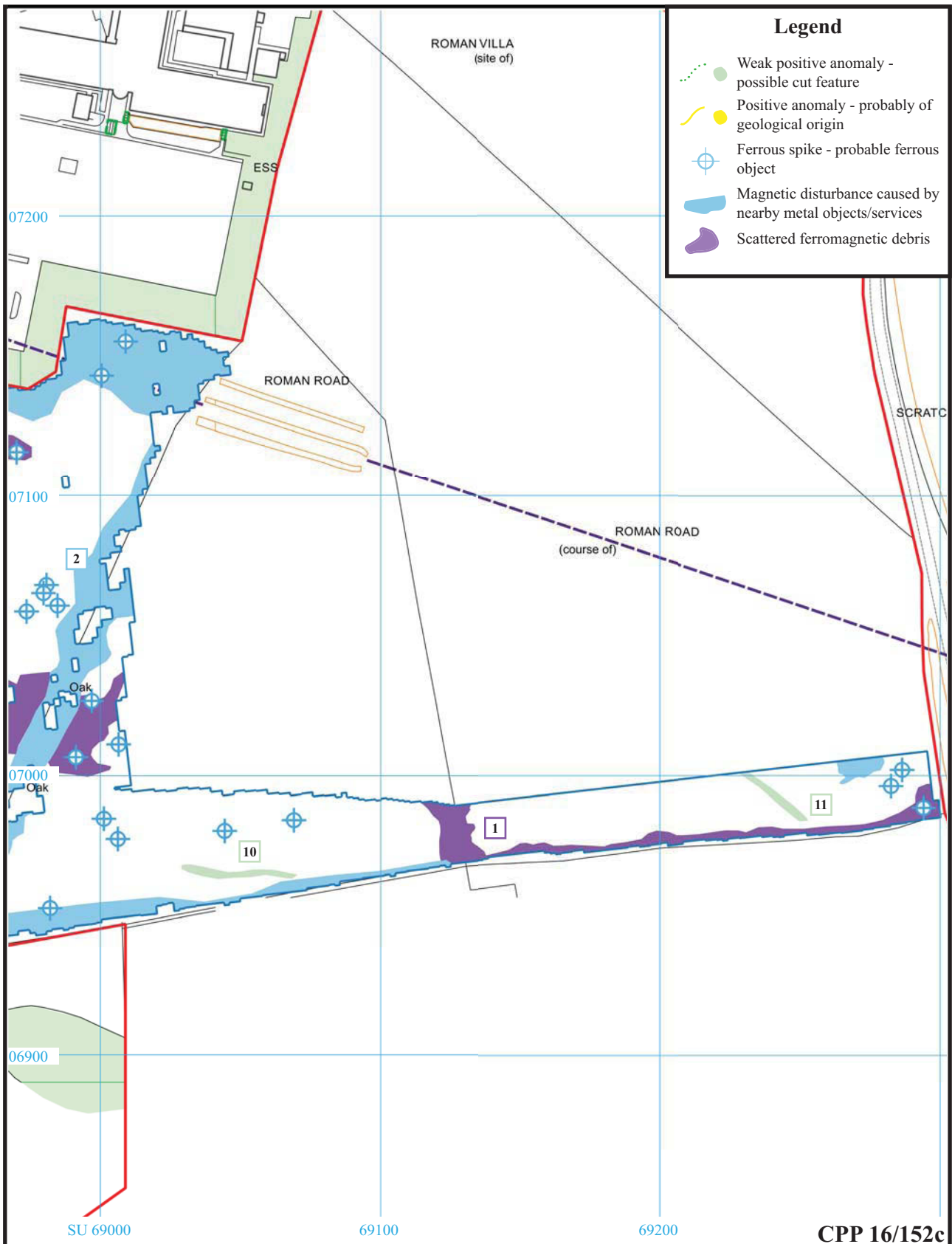




**Western Area, Land at College Road, Campdown,
Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 2017**
Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)
 Figure 9. Plot of raw gradiometer data - east.



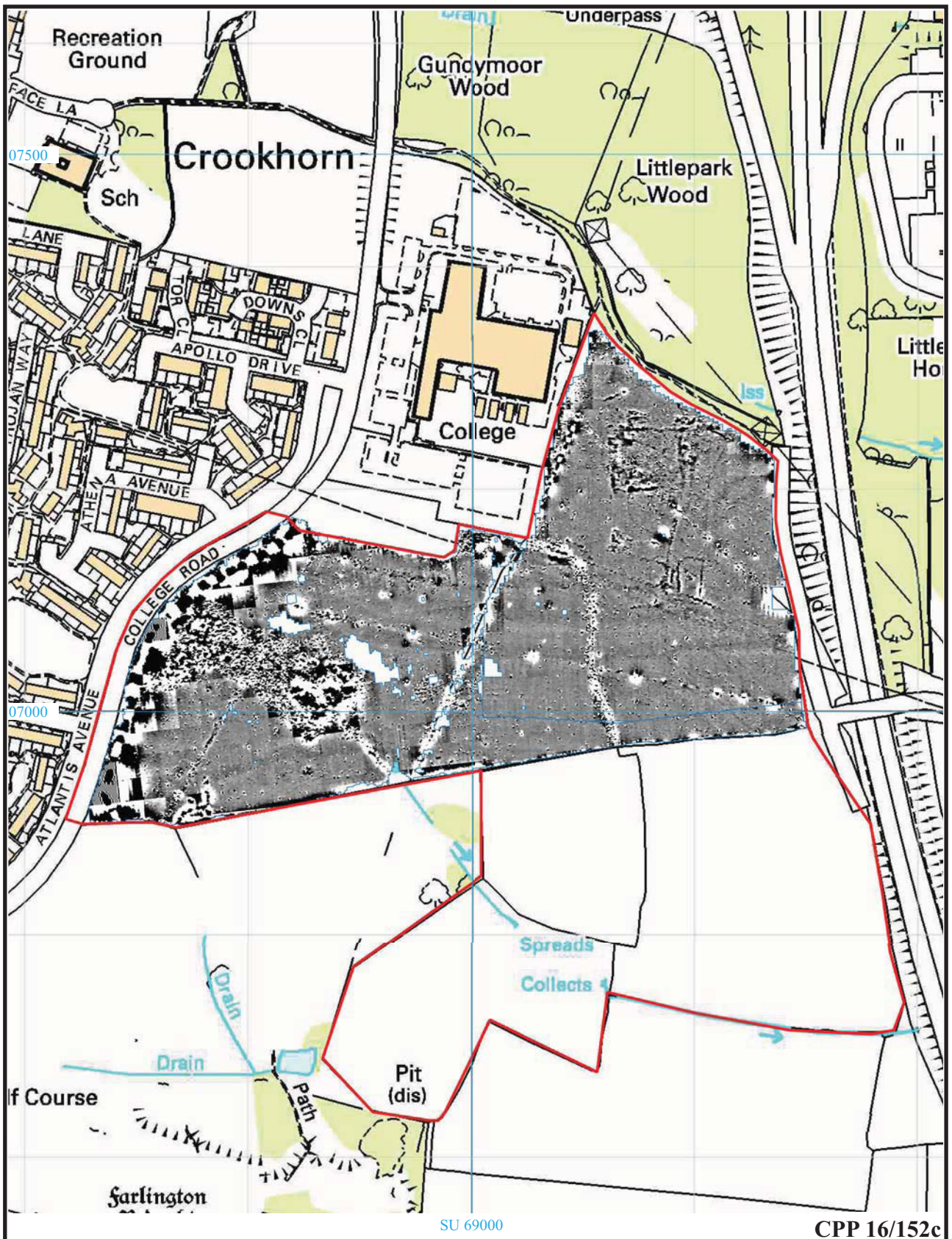




**Western Area, Land at College Road, Campdown,
Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 2017**
Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)
 Figure 11. Interpretation plot - east.

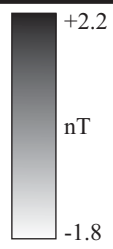


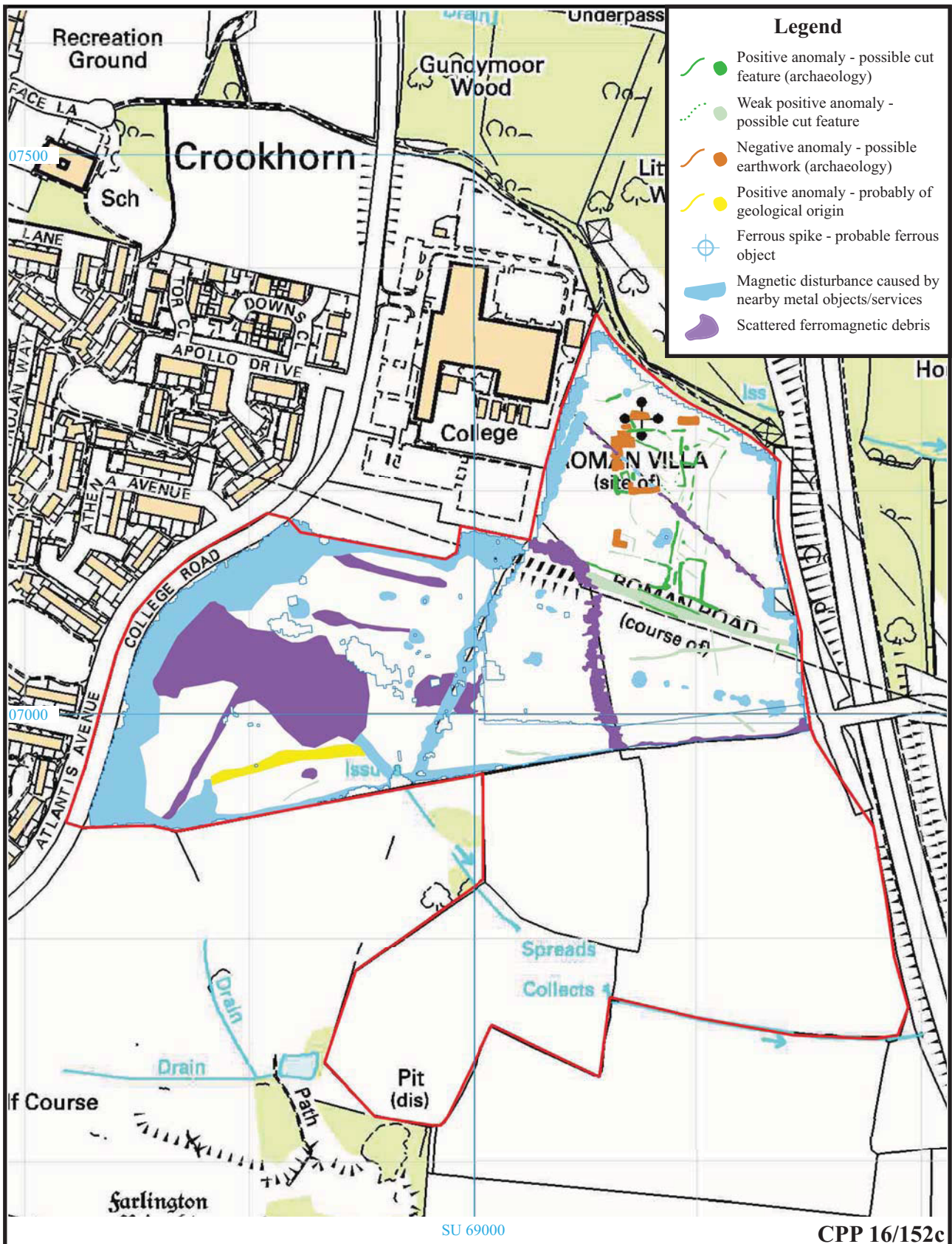
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Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)
 Figure 12. Plot of minimally processed gradiometer data for
 Western and Eastern areas.

0m 250m





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Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)
 Figure 13. Interpretation plot for Western and Eastern areas
 showing Roman villa site.

0m 250m



Plate 1. The survey area, looking west along the northern boundary from the north-eastern corner.



Plate 2. The southern half of the survey area, looking east along the southern boundary.



Plate 3. The survey area, looking north-east across the area of probable modern made ground.



Plate 4. The survey area, looking north-north-east towards the college.

CPP 16/152c

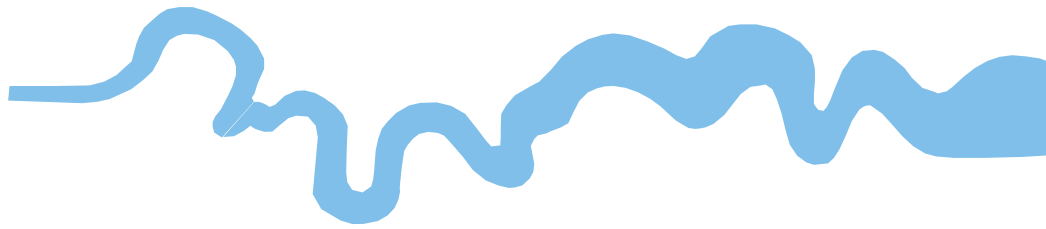
**Western Area, Land at College Road, Campdown,
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Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)
Plates 1 to 4.**

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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