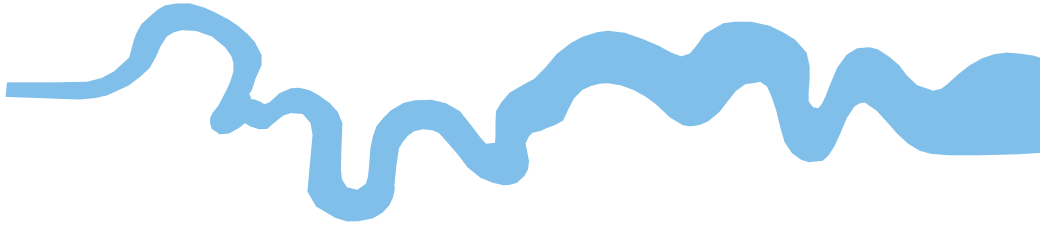


T V A S



EAST MIDLANDS

**Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy,
Cambridgeshire**

Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)

by Kyle Beaverstock

**Site Code: GROD 25/86
(TL 2207 6581)**

Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire

Geophysical Survey (Magnetic) Report

For Andy Josephs Associates

by Kyle Beaverstock

TVAS East Midlands

Site Code: GROD 25/86

June 2025

Summary

Site name: Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire

Grid reference: TL 2207 6581

Site activity: Magnetometer survey

Date and duration of project: 13 May 2025

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: GROD 25/86

CHER number: ECB7622

Oasis number: thamesva1-534403

Area of site: c. 3.6ha

Summary of results: A large number of magnetic anomalies suggestive of buried archaeological features were detected by the geophysical survey including several overlapping enclosures, discrete features such as pits, a potential ring ditch and a curvilinear feature that may represent a 'banjo' enclosure. The forms of these features as well as the finds in previous investigations around the site suggests that these anomalies represent occupational deposits ranging from the Bronze Age or Iron Age to the Roman period, with several distinct phases of occupation.

Location of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading in accordance with TVAS digital archiving policies. It will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) in due course along with a copy of this report.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 10.06.25 Tim Dawson✓ 03.10.25
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Land off Graveley Road, Offord D’Arcy, Cambridgeshire A Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 25/86

Introduction

This report documents the results of a geophysical survey (magnetic) carried out at Graveley Road, Offord D’Arcy, Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Andrew Joseph of Andrew Josephs Associates Ltd. 16 South Terrace, Sowerby, Thirsk, YO7 1RH.

A planning application is to be made to Huntingdonshire District Council for a residential development of up to 50 new dwellings with associated infrastructure (Fig. 2). Following a pre-application consultation Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) issued a Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation (CHET 2025a) and Design Brief for Geophysical Survey (CHET 2025b). These laid out the requirement for a programme of archaeological field evaluation and, specifically, geophysical survey respectively. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2023), and the District’s policies on archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock on the 13th of May 2025 and the site code is GROD 25/86

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading in accordance with TVAS digital archiving policies. It will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) in due course along with a copy of this report.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of the village of Offord D’Arcy, bounded by Graveley Road to the east, residential properties to the north and west and arable farmland to the south (Fig. 1). The River Great Ouse flows northwards *c.*510m to the west of the site. This *c.*3.6ha rectangular parcel of land is currently being utilised as arable farmland and sits at a height of *c.*20m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is recorded as Oxford Clay Formation mudstone with River Terrace Deposits 1-2 sand and gravel overlying it in the north-western half of the site and Oadby Member diamicton in the south-eastern half (BGS 2025). Sand and gravel geologies generally provide a variable magnetic response and are can be well suited to geophysical survey (EH 2008).

Site history and archaeological background

The proposal site lies within the rich archaeological landscape of the River Great Ouse valley where the gravel terraces were frequently settled between the prehistoric and Roman periods. A number of such sites are visible as cropmarks in the fields surrounding the site and within the site itself. The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) records the cropmarks of a system of linear features, pits and enclosures (CHER reference MCB18998) occupying the southern half of the proposal site and extending beyond to the south-west. Similar cropmarks 400m to the east and 260m to the south of the site (MCB18995 and MCB18999 respectively) suggest a landscape exploited for farming in the Iron Age and Roman periods. Evaluation trenching immediately to the west of the proposal site (ECB5302, Davey 2018) identified a small number of gullies of likely Iron Age date, adding support to this interpretation. Rescue excavations during quarrying at Diddington on the western bank of the River Great Ouse in 1986 (CHER 02482) uncovered further settlement evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date, including a ring ditch and cremation burial while aerial photography showing the area prior to the quarrying revealed that this was only part of a much wider complex visible then as cropmarks.

The utilisation of the landscape for farming during the medieval period is visible as cropmarks and surviving earthworks of ridge and furrow cultivation in fields all around the proposal site (e.g. MCB13635, MCB13636, MCB13637). Also of this period is the possible earthwork remains of a moat (MCB27291) which is visible in Lidar data and on satellite imagery 150m north-west of the site. Offord D’Arcy itself does not appear in Domesday Survey but it is known that a small church was built on the site of the current Grade I listed (list no. 1130249, CHER CB14897) St Peter’s Church, some 625m north of the site, by 1130.

Methodology

Sample interval

Data collection involved the traversing of the survey area along straight and parallel lines using two cart-mounted Bartington Grad601-2 fluxgate gradiometers. Even coverage was achieved with the use of regularly spaced markers at the ends of traverses and the real-time positional trace plot. Readings were taken at 0.13m intervals along traverses 1m apart, providing an appropriate methodology balancing cost and time with resolution. Traverses were walked at an alternating zig-zag pattern along a south-west to north-east orientation across the survey area. No significant obstructions were encountered; conditions were dry and bright.

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 European Archaeological Council (EAC 2015) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2002, 2020).

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 two dual sensor Bartington Instruments Grad 601-2 fluxgate gradiometers mounted upon a Bartington non-magnetic cart. A two-wheeled lightweight structure pushed by hand, the cart consisted a bank of four vertically-mounted Bartington Grad601-2 magnetic sensor tubes at 1m apart and a Trimble R2 Receiver, centimetre edition GPS. Readings were collected by two Bartington Grad601-2 loggers and collated using MLgrad601 software on a HP Pavilion x360 14-ek1511sa 14” 2 in 1 Laptop running Windows 11 mounted at the rear of the cart. 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.

The Trimble R2 Receiver, centimetre edition GPS system with centimetre real-time accuracy was used to tie the cart traverses 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 TerraSurveyor64 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	Effect
Clip from -2.29 to 2.09 nT	Enhance the contrast of the image to improve the appearance of possible archaeological anomalies.
De-stripe: median, all sensors	Removes the striping effect caused by differences in sensor calibration, enhancing the visibility of potential archaeological anomalies.
De-spike: threshold 1, window size 3×3	Compresses outlying magnetic points caused by interference of metal objects within the survey area.
De-stagger: all grids, both by -1 intervals	Cancels out effects of site's topography on irregularities in the traverse speed.

The raw data plot is presented as a greyscale plot shown in relation to the site (Fig. 2) with the processed data then presented as further figures (Figs. 3, 4), followed by a plan to present the abstraction and interpretation of the magnetic anomalies (Fig. 5). Anomalies are shown as colour-coded lines, points and polygons.

The greyscale plot of the processed data is exported from TerraSurveyor64 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 2.18.15 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. Mean nano Tesla (nT) readings will be represented by \bar{x} .

Results

A large number of magnetic anomalies were detected by the geophysical survey (Figs. 3-4). Around the field boundary to the north, west and south are areas of magnetic disturbance [**Figs. 7-9: 1**], these are characterised by high bipolar positive and negative responses and is likely caused by ferromagnetic material in the surrounding fencing. Across the site are a number of magnetic spikes [**2**] that are characterised by a high positive/negative point with an associated negative/positive response, these are likely caused by buried ferromagnetic objects. In the south-eastern corner is an area of magnetic debris [**3**] which this is characterised by relatively high irregular positive and negative responses and is either caused by ferromagnetic or thermomagnetic material such as those found in the made ground or disturbance in the underlying geology. In the north-west of the survey area are several areas of variation in the background readings [**4**]. These have no specific structure and often appear as

irregular or sinuous in form and are likely caused by natural features such as soil creep or as changes in the underlying geology or a soil type that contain unpredictable distributions of magnetic minerals and can be apparent in several locations across the site. There are also a number of parallel positive linear anomalies [5] which are orientated south-east to the north-west and measure between 27m and 112m long. These likely represent agricultural activity of medieval or post-medieval date such as ridge and furrow which aerial photography has shown to be extensive in this area.

In the west of the survey area is an L-shaped positive linear anomaly [6] running from the northern boundary to the south for 52m before turning to the west for 48m and into the western boundary. To the east is another positive linear anomaly [7] which runs from the north to the south for 47m before turning to the east for 60m and then to the south for 43m. These together very likely represents a cut feature such as the ditches of a trackway and enclosure, likely of Roman or possibly Iron Age date considering the finds recovered during the evaluation to the west. To the south of positive linear anomaly [6] are two short positive linear anomalies [8]. These run from the southern boundary to the north-west and measure 12m and 16m long, possibly representing cut features related to occupational deposits. Further to the east is another two positive linear anomalies [9] running from the southern boundary to the north-west and measuring 11m and 15m long, similarly these may also be internal features related to occupational deposits or possibly a narrow trackway.

Further to the east is another pair of positive linear anomalies [10] and [11]. Anomaly [10] runs from the southern boundary towards north-east for 8m before tuning to the north-west for 26m. Running parallel to the east is a positive linear anomaly [11] orientated south-east to the north-west and measures 28m long. These likely represent a trackway running from the edge of an enclosure and are likely related to positive linear anomalies [12] and [14] and a separate, overlapping phase to an enclosure represented by anomalies [6] and [7]. To the east is a positive linear anomaly [12] which runs from the west to the east before curving to the north-east and measures 50m in total, in the west of this is a small gap and possible entrance way. From the north-eastern end are two positive linear anomalies [21] and [29]. Anomaly [21] runs from the end of anomaly [12] to the south-east and turns to the north-east before curving round to the south-east and measuring 65m in total. To the north of this is positive linear anomaly [29] which runs from the eastern end of positive linear anomaly [12] to the north-east before curving to the east and measuring 145m in total. These are both likely related to positive linear anomaly [12] and may represent different phases of the enclosure ditch.

From the south-eastern end of anomaly [11] is positive linear anomaly [14] which runs to the south-east for 5m before turning to the east for 14m and the turning to the south-east for 8m and into the southern

boundary. From eastern side of anomaly [14] is positive linear anomaly [15] running towards the north-east before curving to the south-east for a total of 69m. These anomalies likely represent multiple phases of an enclosure ditch likely related to anomaly [11]. Between anomalies [12] and [15] are positive linear anomalies [13] and [20]. Positive linear anomaly [13] is orientated south-west to the north-east and measures 14m long, to the east of this is positive linear anomaly [20] which is orientated south-west to the north-east and measuring 140m in total. These anomalies [13] and [20] are likely related and are likely a phase of the enclosure ditch related to positive linear anomalies [6] and [7].

Along the southern boundary are a number of positive linear anomalies and discrete positive anomalies. On the west of these is a short length of positive linear anomaly [16] which runs from the southern boundary to the north-west and measures 10m in length. This likely represents a cut feature such as a ditch possibly relating to occupational deposits although there is not enough to be certain of its function. To the east of this are irregular positive linear anomalies [17], these are characterised by irregular patterns of linear anomalies, generally orientated from the north-west to the south-east and associated sub-rounded features attached. These likely represent discrete features such as pits intersecting with short linear anomalies and are probably related to occupational deposits. To the north-east of this is a curved positive linear anomaly [18] which runs from the south-west to the north-east and curves round to the south measuring 18m long. This likely represents a cut feature such as a ditch possibly related to occupational deposits. Surrounding these are a number of sub-rounded positive discrete features [19], these measure between approximately 2.4 and 4m in diameter and likely represent cut features such as pits.

To the south-east of positive linear anomaly [21] is positive linear anomaly [22] which runs from the south-west to the north-east for 33m before curving to the north for 8m in total. To the north of this is another positive linear anomaly which runs from the northern end of positive linear anomaly [22] towards the north for 13m before turning towards the north-east for 22m. To the south-east of this is a positive linear anomaly [24] which runs from the north towards the south for 13m, creating a short length of trackway with positive linear anomaly [22] before diverging to the south-east for 25m. These positive linear anomalies likely represent cut features such as ditches in the form of parts of an enclosure or boundary ditch. To the south of these is a positive linear anomaly [25] and a weak positive linear anomaly [26] along with parts of anomaly [22] and [24] possibly forming a small enclosure. Positive linear anomaly [25] runs from the southern boundary towards the north-west for 13m, weak positive linear anomaly [26] runs from the southern boundary towards the north-east for 12m long.

To the east of and parallel to anomaly [21] is weak positive linear anomaly [27] which is orientated north-west to the south-east measuring 23m long and may form part of a trackway for a boundary ditch or enclosure. To the north of this is a positive linear anomaly [28] which is orientate roughly west to east measuring 19m and is possibly contemporary with or related to positive linear anomalies [21] and [23] forming part of a field system or the periphery of an enclosure complex. From the northern side of positive linear anomaly [29] is a short length of positive linear anomaly [30] orientated south-east to north-west and measuring 17m long. This linear anomaly possibly represents part of a field system on the periphery of the enclosure complex represented by positive linear anomaly [29]. In the east are two curvilinear anomalies [31] and [32] the form of which does suggest a prehistoric origin and may represent a feature such as a 'banjo' enclosure with a diameter of c.30m. Positive linear anomaly [31] runs from the south-east to the north-west for before turning to the north before curving around to the west and then curving down to the south-west measuring a total of 64m long. To the south is the other positive linear anomaly [32], it runs from the south-east to the north-west running parallel to positive linear anomaly [31] creating an entranceway, it then turns to the south-west and curves around to the north measuring 29m in total. Within and around these are two positive discrete sub-circular anomalies [33], these likely represents cut features such as pits.

Further to the south is a weak positive linear anomaly [34] which is orientated north-west to the south-east measuring 92m long which may be related to the small enclosure represented by positive linear anomalies [25], [26] and parts of [24] and [22]. In the north of the site is a weak positive linear anomaly [35] which runs from the north to the south before curving to the east and then to the north-east, measuring 44m in total which likely represents a ring ditch possibly of prehistoric origin. To the north-east of the curvilinear anomaly is another weak positive linear which is orientated south-west to the north-east and measuring 72m long. This likely represents cut feature such as a ditch possibly relating to agricultural activity. Weak positive linear anomalies such as these may represent cut features however due to the low levels of the magnetic responses they may represent background variations in the geology which occur due to uneven distribution of magnetic minerals in some soil types or possibly variations in the underlying geology.

Conclusion

A large number of magnetic anomalies were detected by the geophysical survey, many of which very likely relate to archaeological features. The majority of these features are concentrated towards the southern boundary of the site in an area which was identified by aerial photography as being of interest with a few potential features

to the north of these along with traces of later agricultural activity. The features appear to show multiple overlapping enclosures as well as a possible ‘banjo’ enclosure. The forms of these features along with finds from nearby sites leads to the conclusion that these are very likely multiple phases of occupation ranging from the Bronze/Iron Age through to the Roman period. Although this appears to be the northern periphery of the enclosures it does appear to contain extensive agricultural and occupational deposits.

References

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- IFA, 2002, ‘The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluation’, IFA Paper No. 6, Reading
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Appendix 1. Survey and data information

Programme:

Name: TerraSurveyor64
Version: 4.0.18.1

Raw data

Name: GROD25-86_01_RAW
Desc: Imported as Composite from: GROD25-86_01.xyz
InstDesig: MLGrad Import
InstType: Magnetometer
SurveyDate: 13/05/2025
AssembleDate: 23/05/2025
ProcessDate: 23/05/2025
Units: nT
UTM Zone: 30U
SouthWest corner: 0.00 0.00
NorthWest corner: 0.00 171.52
NorthEast corner: 316.73 171.52
SouthEast corner: 316.73 0.00
Surveyed Area: 3.4107 ha
Survey Extent: 5.5306 ha
GPS Datum: WGS-84
Map Coordinate System: DDD
Survey Type: GPS
Average point interval : 1.24m
Interval & Radius : 0.13m 2m
Source GPS totals: Trackgroups:1 Tracks:1584, Points:110800

Base layer Stats

Max: 97.30
Min: -99.90
Std Dev: 3.93
Mean: 0.02
Median: 0.00

Minimally processed data

Name: GROD25-86_01_MIN
Top layer Stats
Max: 10.00
Min: -10.00
Std Dev: 1.89
Mean: 0.10
Median: 0.00

Base

CutTurnAngle 0.00
CutTurnThreshold 0
CutTurnLength 0.00
BreakOnJumpDistance 0.00
DiscardOverlapThreshold -1.00
DiscardOverlapMinTrack 0
DiscardOverlapMethod DelNew
PointReductionMode None
PointReductionCurve 0.00
PointReductionInterval 0.00
PointReductionWindow 0

DeStripe

Mode Track
Method Median
Orientation Along
MaintainMean ✗
ThresholdType None
ThresholdMin 2.00
ThresholdMax 2.00
Sectors 5
WindowLength 0
WindowWidth 0

Clip
Min -10.00
Max 10.00
SelectSD 0.00

Processed data

Name: GROD25-86_01

Top layer Stats
Max: 2.10
Min: -2.30
Std Dev: 1.06
Mean: 0.03
Median: 0.00

Base

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CutTurnThreshold 0
CutTurnLength 0.00
BreakOnJumpDistance 0.00
DiscardOverlapThreshold -1.00
DiscardOverlapMinTrack 0
DiscardOverlapMethod DelNew
PointReductionMode None
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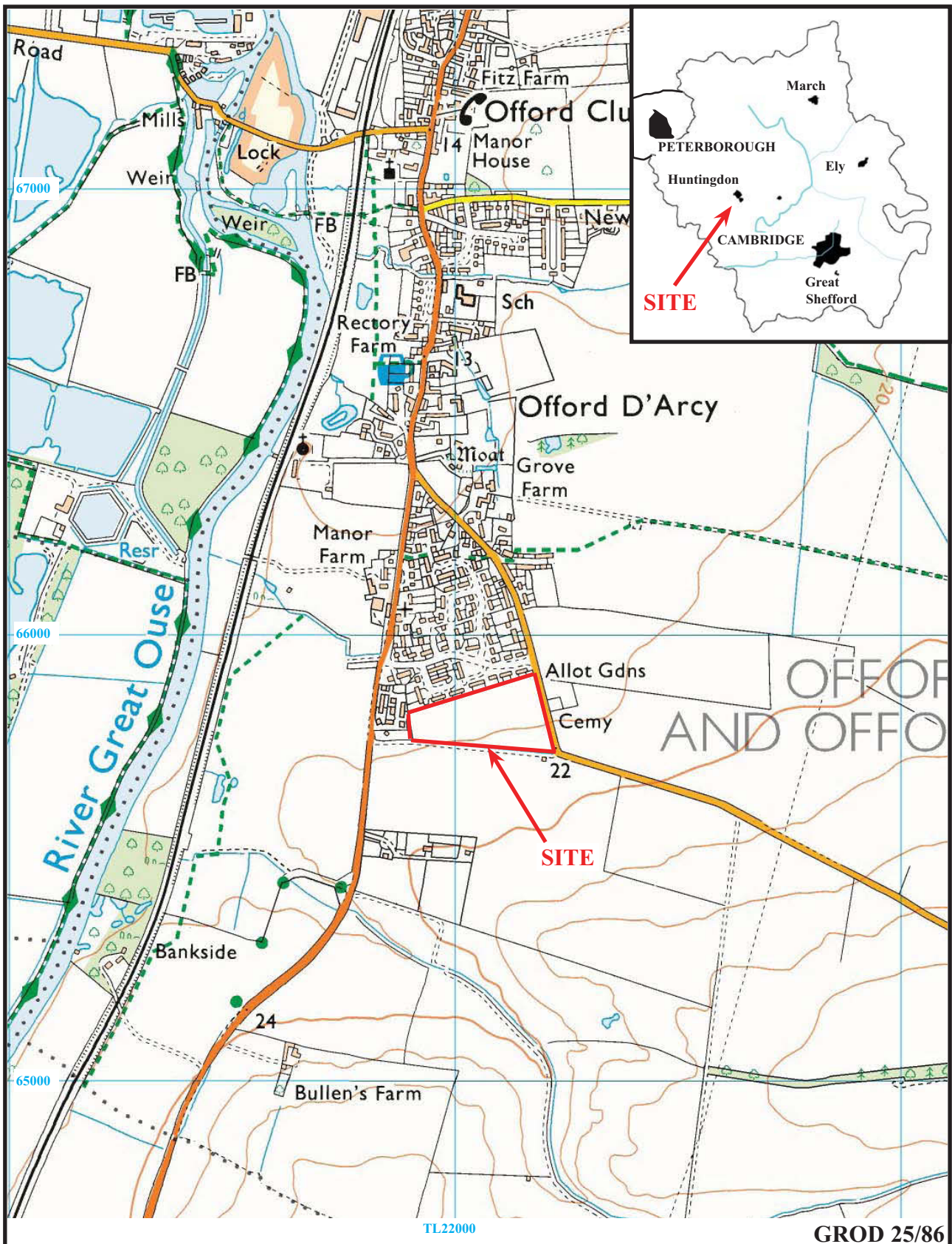
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SelectSD 0.00

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SelectSD 0.00

OASIS Summary for thamesva1-534403

OASIS ID (UID)	thamesva1-534403
Project Name	Magnetometry Survey at Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire
Sitename	Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire
Sitecode	GROD25/86
Project Identifier(s)	GROD25/86
Activity type	Magnetometry Survey
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	TVAS East Midlands
Project Dates	13-May-2025 - 13-May-2025
Location	Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire NGR : TL 22060 65810 LL : 52.27689618857874, -0.21235143074607 12 Fig : 522060,265810
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Cambridgeshire Local Authority District : Huntingdonshire Parish : Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy
Project Methodology	An area of 3.6ha was surveyed using two cart-mounted dual sensor Bartington Grad601-2 fluxgate gradiometers.
Project Results	A large number of magnetic anomalies suggestive of buried archaeological features were detected, including several overlapping enclosures, discrete features such as pits, a potential ring ditch and a curvilinear feature that may represent a 'banjo' enclosure. These anomalies probably represent deposits ranging from the Bronze Age or Iron Age to the Roman period.
Keywords	Banjo Enclosure - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditched Enclosure - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Andrew Josephs Associates Ltd
HER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	T Dawson
HER Identifiers	
Archives	



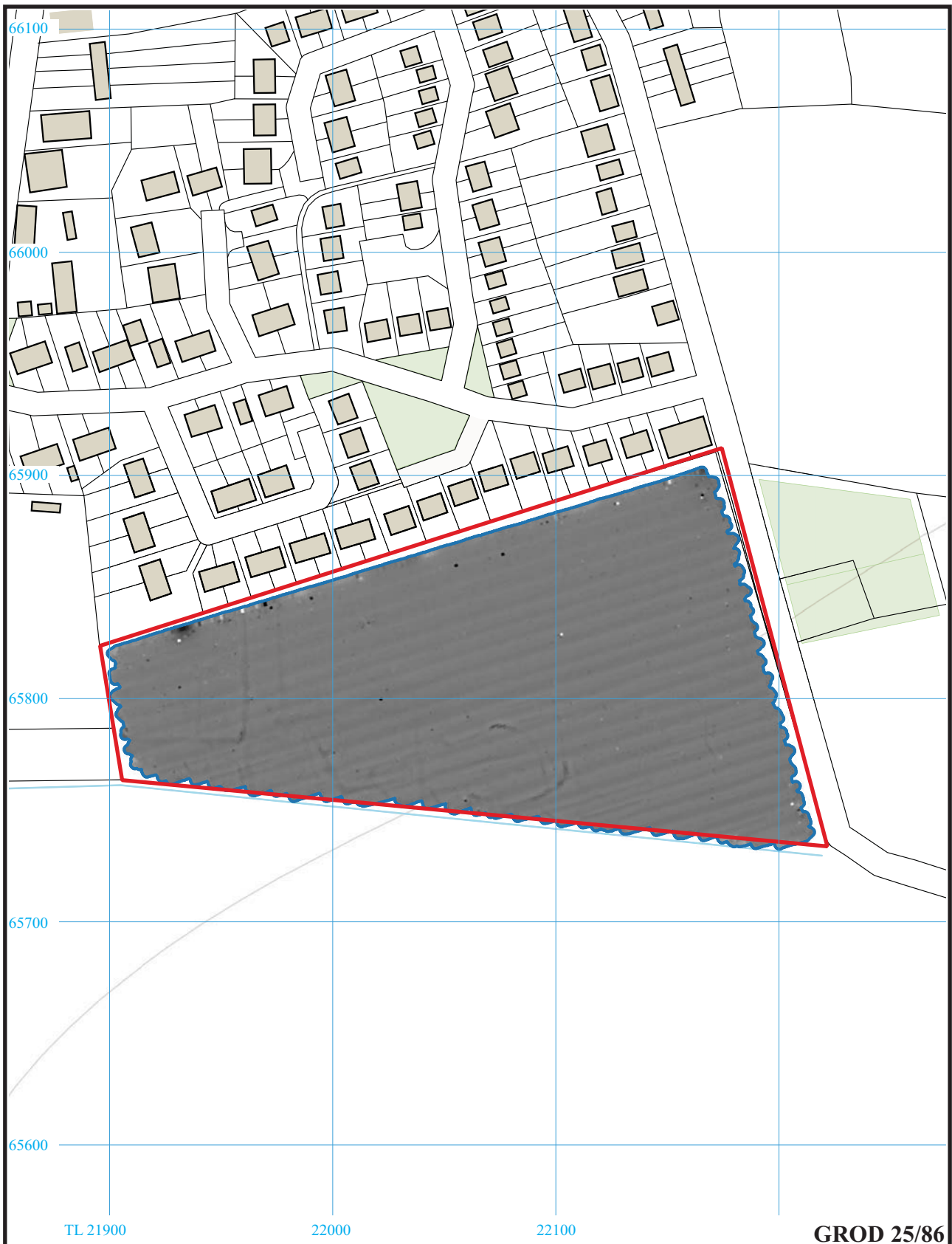
**Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy,
Cambridgeshire, 2025**

Geophysical Survey (magnetic)

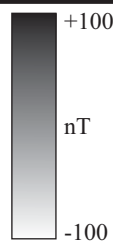
Figure 1. Location of site within Offord D'Arcy and
Cambridgeshire.

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Crown Copyright reserved





**Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy,
Cambridgeshire, 2025
Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)**
Figure 2. Plot of raw gradiometer data.



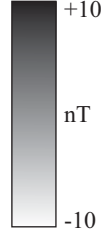


GROD 25/86



**Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy,
Cambridgeshire, 2025
Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)**

Figure 3. Plot of minimally processed gradiometer data.

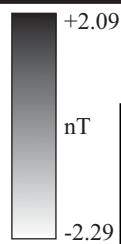


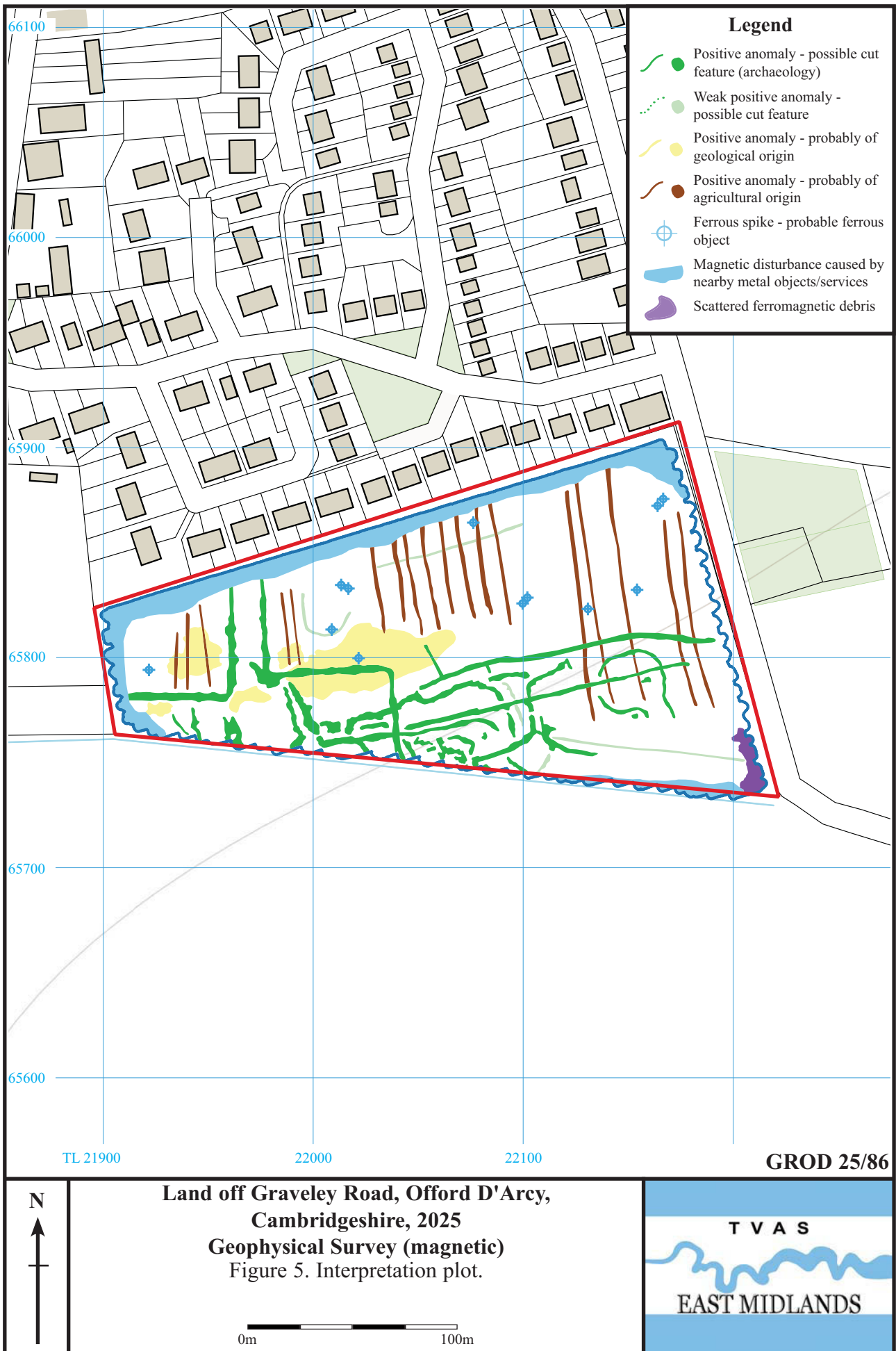


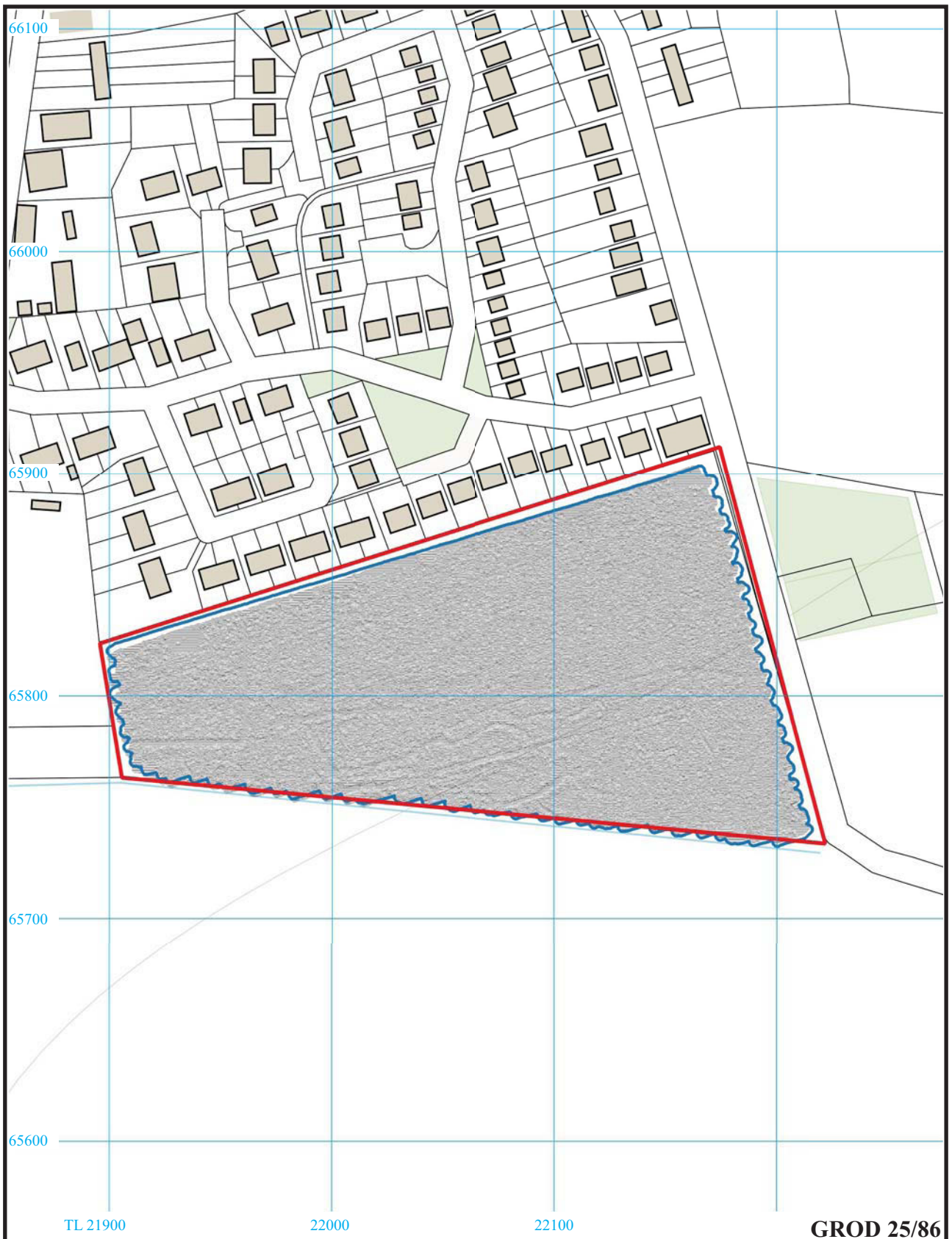
GROD 25/86



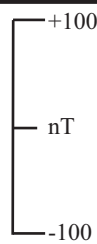
**Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy,
Cambridgeshire, 2025**
Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)
Figure 4. Plot of processed gradiometer data.

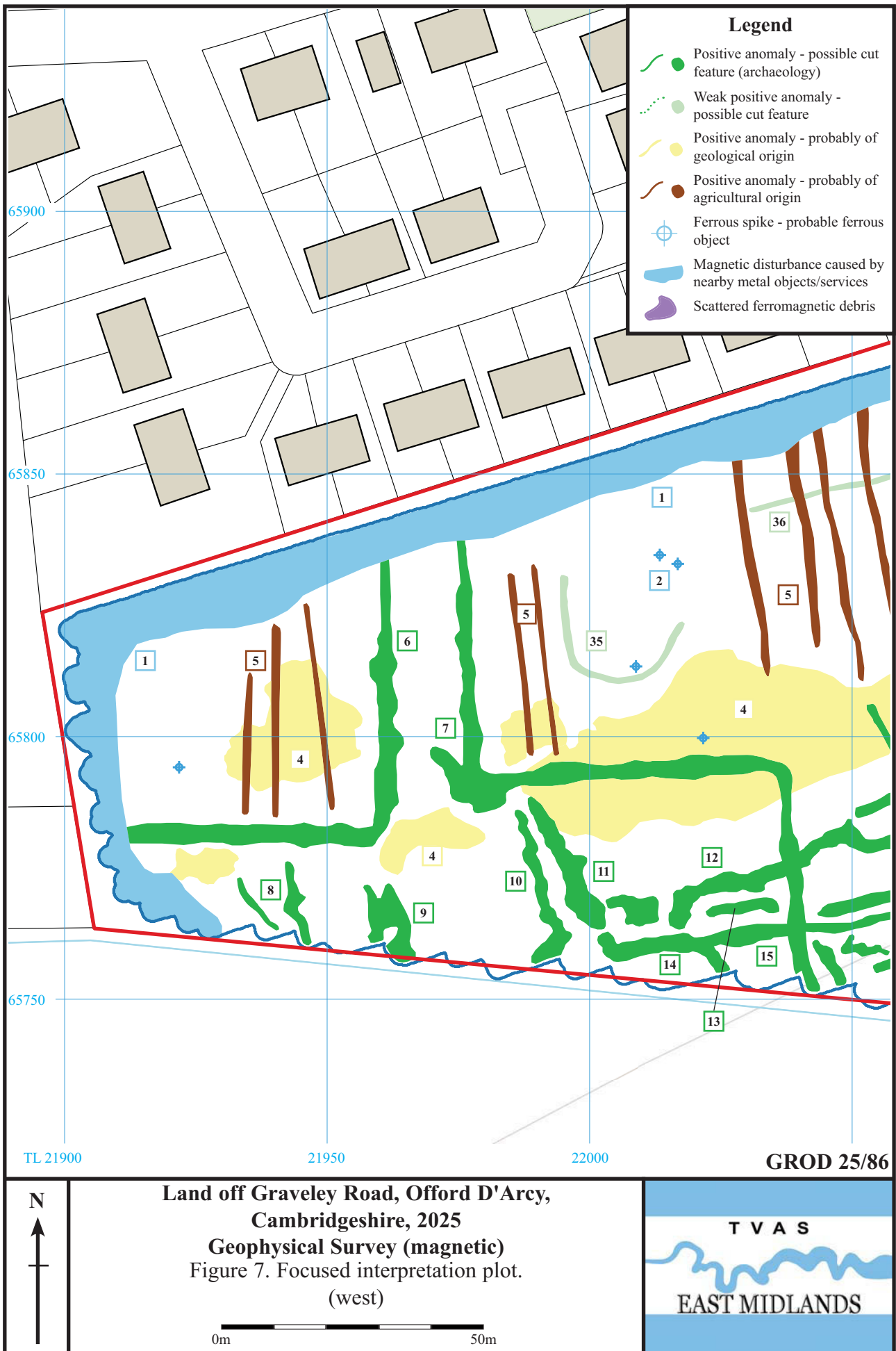


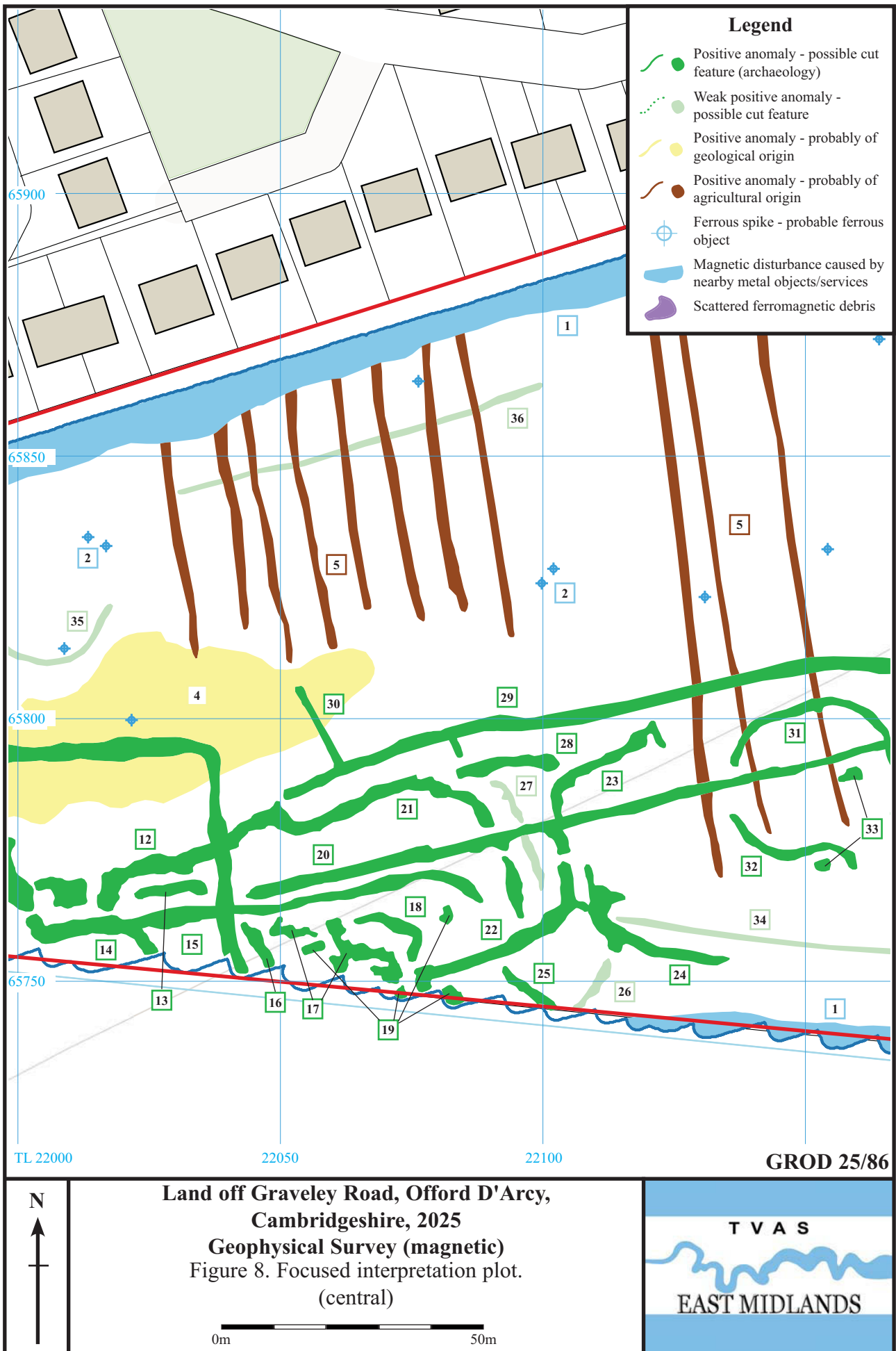




**Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy,
Cambridgeshire, 2025**
Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)
Figure 6. XY plot of processed gradiometer data.







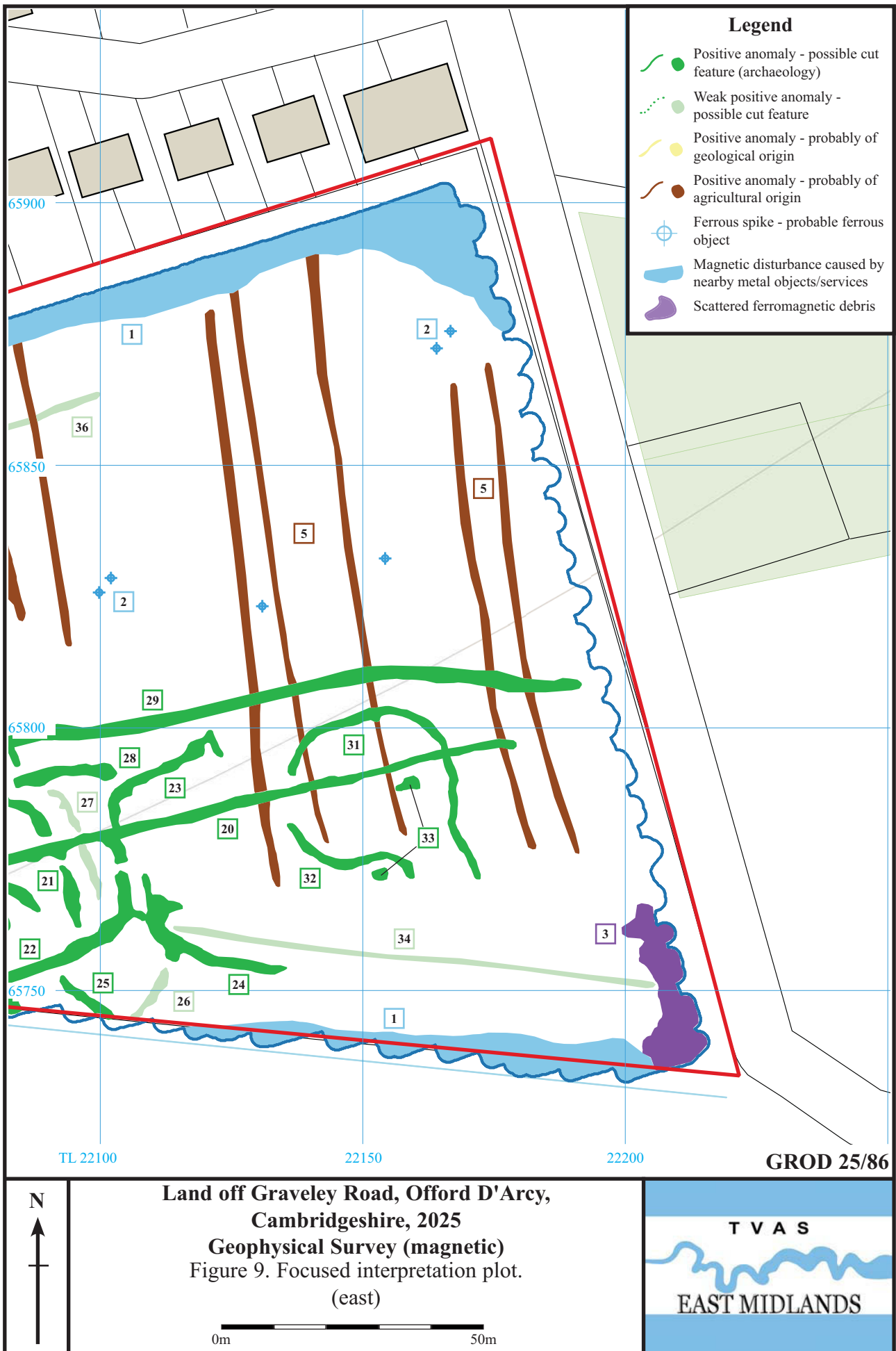




Plate 1. Survey area looking north-west from the south-east.



Plate 2. Survey area looking north from the south-east.



Plate 3. Survey area looking south-east from the north-west.



Plate 4. Survey area looking east from the west.

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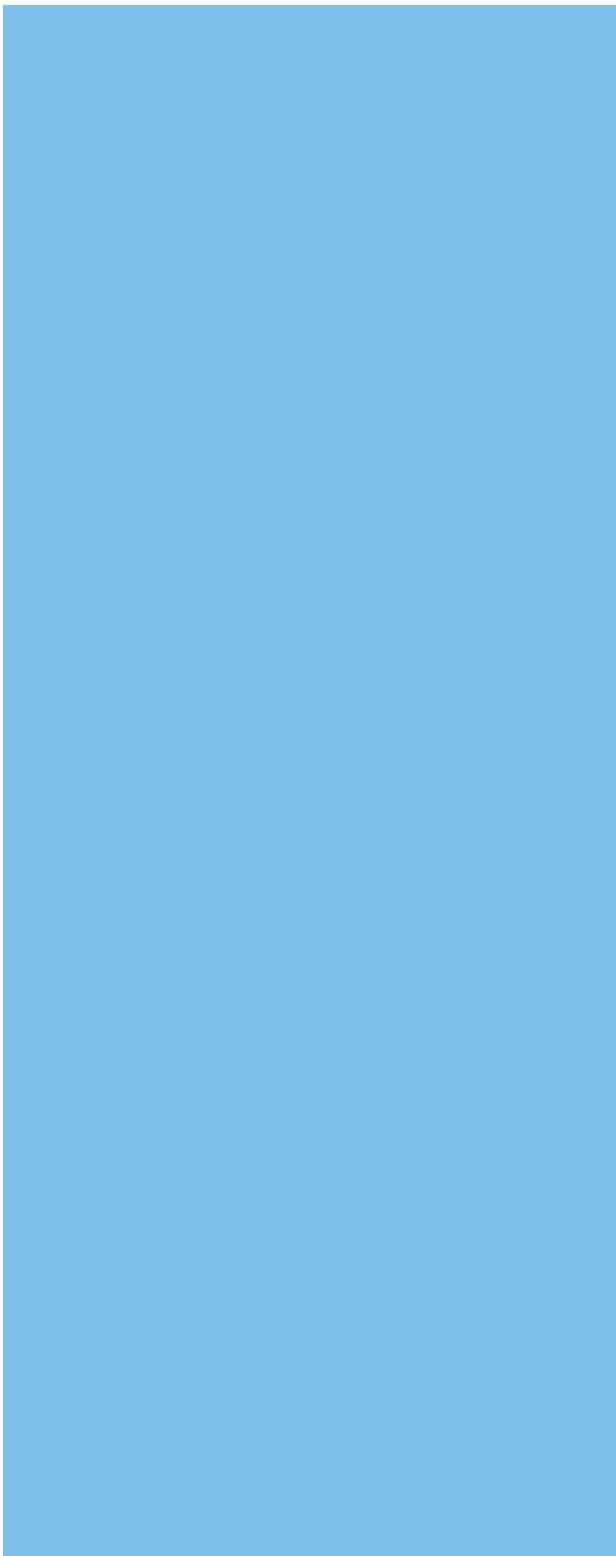
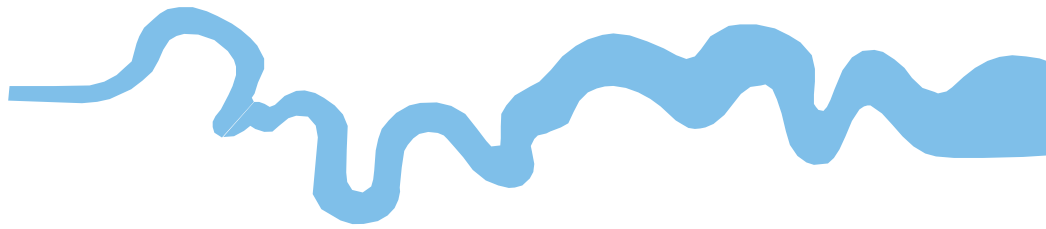
**Land off Graveley Road, Offord D'Arcy,
Cambridgeshire, 2023
Geophysical Survey (magnetic)
Plates 1 - 4.**



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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