

## **GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT**

## Land off Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath, Solihull

Client

# University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)

For

**Persimmon Homes** 

Survey Report

## SUMO-03401

OAIS Ref. No.

### sumogeop1-427727

Date

## August 2021



#### Survey Report 03401: Land off Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath, Solihull

Survey dates	27 July 2021
Field co-ordinator	Jay Griffiths BA
Field Team	Jordan Morris BA
Report Date	04 August 2021
CAD Illustrations	Thomas Cockcroft MSc
Report Author	Thomas Cockcroft MSc
Project Manager	Simon Haddrell BEng AMBCS PCIfA
Report approved	Dr John Gater BSc DSc(Hon) MCIfA FSA

#### SUMO Geophysics Ltd

Cowburn Farm Market Street Thornton Bradford BD13 3HW

T: 01274 835016

SUMO Geophysics Ltd Vineyard House Upper Hook Road Upton upon Severn Worcestershire WR8 0SA

T: 01684 592266

www.sumoservices.com geophysics@sumoservices.com

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	LIST OF FIGURES	1
2	SURVEY TECHNIQUE	1
3	SUMMARY OF RESULTS	2
4	INTRODUCTION	2
5	RESULTS	3
6	DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT	3
7	CONCLUSION	3
8	REFERENCES	4

Appendix A	Technical Information: Magnetometer Survey Methods, Processing and Presentation
Appendix B	Technical Information: Magnetic Theory
Appendix C	OASIS Data Collection Sheet

#### 1. LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 01	NTS	Site Location
Figure 02	1:1200	Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plot
Figure 03	1:1200	Magnetometer Survey - Colour Plot
Figure 04	1:1200	Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation
Figure 05	1:2000	Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plot / Interpretation /
		1904 OS Mapping / Google Earth
Figure 06	1:2000	Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plot / Interpretation /
		1904 OS Mapping / LiDAR
Figure 07	1:1200	Minimally Processed Data - Greyscale Plots
Figure 08	1:1000	XY Trace Plots (clipped at +/-15nT)

#### 2. SURVEY TECHNIQUE

Detailed magnetic survey (magnetometry) was chosen as the most efficient and effective method of locating the type of archaeological anomalies which might be expected at this site.

Bartington Grad 601-2

Traverse Interval 1.0m

Sample Interval 0.25m

#### 3 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

3.1 A magnetometer survey of 3.4 ha of land off Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath has not recorded any magnetic responses that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest. Trends of uncertain origin are present within the dataset; they are likely to be due to a combination of agricultural and natural processes. Ridge and furrow cultivation plus relatively modern ploughing is also visible in the dataset.

#### 4 INTRODUCTION

4.1 **SUMO Geophysics Ltd** were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for residential development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)** on behalf of **Persimmon Homes**.

#### 4.2 Site details

NGR / Postcode	SP 10820 77027 / B90 1PH
Location	The site is located 2.5 km north-west of Cheswick Green and 2.6 km south-west of Shirley. The survey area is bounded to the south by Tythe Barn Lane, to the west by Akamba Heritage Centre and to the east by houses off Whitchurch Lane.
HER	Warwickshire HER
OASIS Ref. No.	sumogeop1-427727
District	Solihull
Parish	Dickens Heath Civil Parish
Topography	Flat
Current Land Use	Arable Agriculture
Geology (BGS 2021)	Bedrock: Mercia Mudstone Group – mudstone Superficial: Glaciofluvial Deposits, Mid Pleistocene - sand and gravel Till, Mid Pleistocene - diamicton
Soils (CU 2021)	Soilscape 17: Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils.
Archaeology (ULAS 2021)	An archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). Historically Dickens Heath was a hamlet within Hockley Heath in the Hemlingford Hundred. The Historic Environment Records for Solihull and Worcestershire contain no known archaeological sites in the survey area. There is a possible prehistoric enclosure to the north of the site, and extant medieval ridge and furrow in the vicinity. The site also lies adjacent to the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal. There is low potential for archaeological remains from Prehistoric, Roman and Post-Medieval periods. There is low to moderate potential for Medieval remains such as ridge and furrow earthworks.
Survey Methods	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Study Area	3.4 ha

#### 4.3 Aims and Objectives

To locate and characterise any anomalies of possible archaeological interest within the study area.

#### 5 RESULTS

#### 5.1 Probable / Possible Archaeology

5.1.1 No magnetic responses have been recorded that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest.

#### 5.2 Uncertain

5.2.1 A number of trends have been detected in the survey which lack the defined morphology of anomalies that would normally be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. They are isolated and may be due to underlying geology or agricultural processes, hence the uncertain categorisation.

#### 5.3 Agricultural – Ridge and Furrow / Ploughing

- 5.3.1 Broad and parallel linear anomalies aligned north-south have been recorded in the eastern half of the survey area which indicate a past ridge and furrow agricultural regime. Numerous closely spaced, parallel and magnetically weak linear trends aligned east-west are visible across the whole dataset. Two linear bands at the western extent of the survey are ploughing headlands.
- 5.3.2 The ploughing is visible on aerial imagery and in the Lidar data pot of the area (see Figures 05 and 06). The Lidar plot seems to indicate the ridge and furrow cultivation is also present in the western half of the field; no field divisions are visible on historic mapping.

#### 5.4 *Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance*

5.4.1 Ferrous responses close to boundaries are due to adjacent fences and gates. Smaller scale ferrous anomalies ("iron spikes") are present throughout the data and are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris (or brick / tile) in the topsoil; they are commonly assigned a modern origin. Only the most prominent of these are highlighted on the interpretation diagram.

#### 6 DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

6.1 Historic England guidelines (EH 2008) Table 4 states that the typical magnetic response on the local soils / geology is generally poor. The results from this survey indicate the presence of ridge and furrow ploughing plus uncertain linear trends; as a consequence, there is no *a priori* reason why archaeological features would not have been detected, if present.

#### 7 CONCLUSION

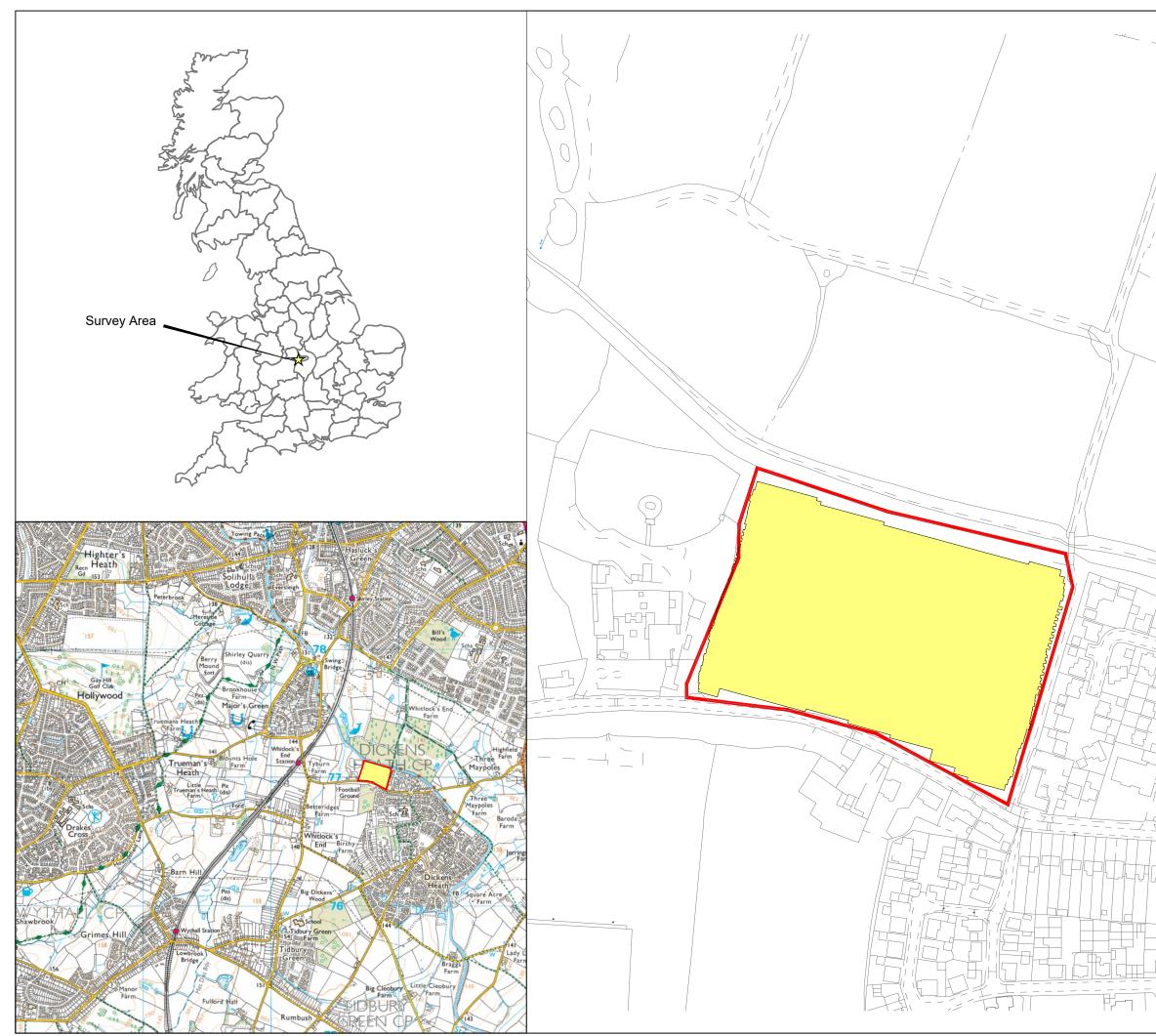
7.1 The magnetometer survey has not recorded any magnetic responses that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest. Linear trends have been detected in the survey and classified as uncertain; they are likely to have been caused by a combination of agricultural and natural processes. Ridge and furrow ploughing plus relatively modern ploughing is also visible in the magnetic data.

Services (ULAS), Leicester

#### 8 REFERENCES

BGS 2021	British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer [accessed 04/08/2021] <i>website</i> : ( <u>http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion1=1#maps</u> )
CIfA 2014	Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey. Amended 2016. CIfA Guidance note. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GGeophysics 2.pdf
CU 2021	The Soils Guide. Available: www.landis.org.uk. Cranfield University, UK. [accessed 04/08/2021] website: <u>http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html</u>
EAC 2016	EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology, European Archaeological Council, Guidelines 2.
EH 2008	Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation. English Heritage, Swindon https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/geophysical- survey-in-archaeological-field-evaluation/geophysics-guidelines.pdf/
ULAS 2021	An archaeological desk-based assessment for land north of Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath, Solihull, West Midlands. University of Leicester Archaeological

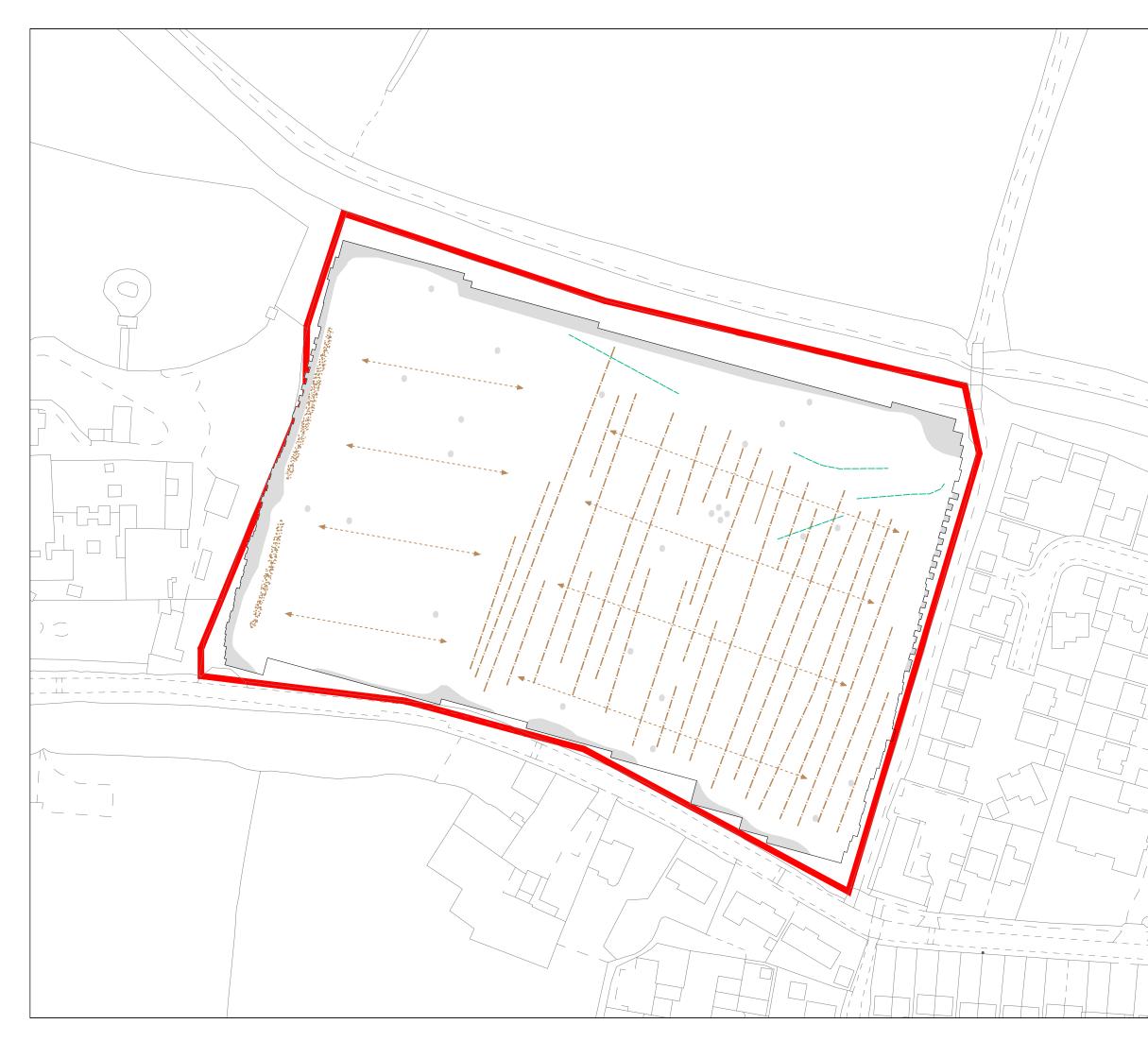
© SUMO Geophysics Ltd



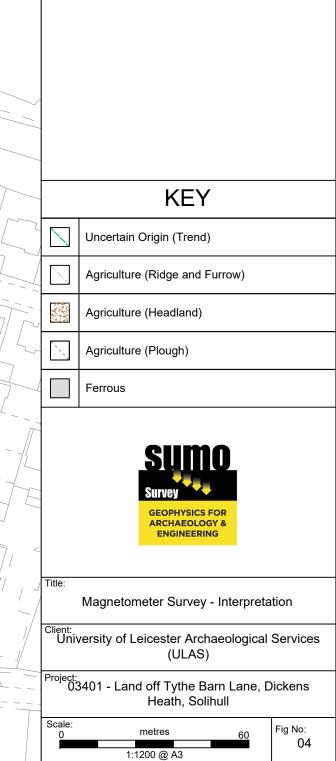
<u>Sh</u>	the contro	ed from Ordnance Survey's 1:29 Iler of Her Majesty's Stationery o: 100018665	5 000 map of 1998 with Office. Crown Copyright	the permission of reserved.
		Survey Areas	Ň	
		SUIVEY SUIVEY ARCHAEK ENGINE	SICS FOR DLOGY &	
	Title:	Site Lo	cation	
	Client: Univ	versity of Leicester A	Archaeological	Services
	Project: 03	3401 - Land off Tyth Heath,	e Barn Lane, D Solihull	lickens
	Scale:	NOT TO SCALE		Fig No: 01







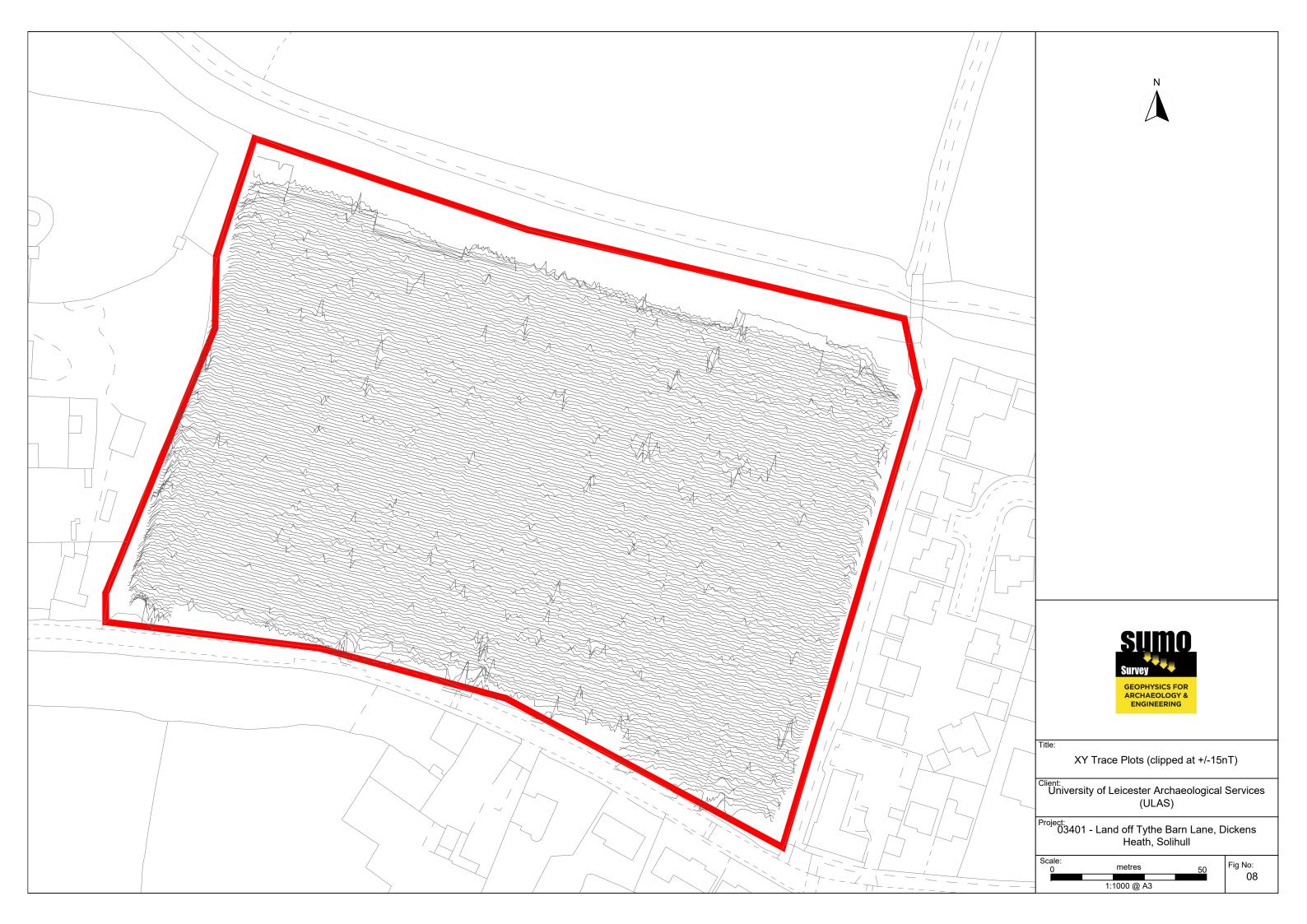












Appendix A - Technical Information: Magnetometer Survey Method, Processing and Presentation

#### Standards & Guidance

This report and all fieldwork have been conducted in accordance with the latest guidance documents issued by Historic England (EH 2008) (then English Heritage), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and the European Archaeological Council (EAC 2016).

#### **Grid Positioning**

For hand held gradiometers the location of the survey grids has been plotted together with the referencing information. Grids were set out using a Trimble R8 Real Time Kinematic (RTK) VRS Now GNSS GPS system.

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 rebroadcasts the phase of the carrier it measured, and the mobile units compare their own phase measurements with those they received from the base station. This results in an accuracy of around 0.01m.

Technique	Instrument	Traverse Interval	Sample Interval
Magnetometer	Bartington Grad 601-2	1m	0.25m

#### Instrumentation: Bartington Grad 601-2

Bartington instruments operate in a gradiometer configuration which comprises fluxgate sensors mounted vertically, set 1.0m apart. The fluxgate gradiometer suppresses any diurnal or regional effects. The instruments are carried, or cart mounted, with the bottom sensor approximately 0.1-0.3m from the ground surface. At each survey station, the difference in the magnetic field between the two fluxgates is measured in nanoTesla (nT). The sensitivity of the instrument can be adjusted; for most archaeological surveys the most sensitive range (0.1nT) is used. Generally, features up to 1m deep may be detected by this method, though strongly magnetic objects may be visible at greater depths. The Bartington instrument can collect two lines of data per traverse with gradiometer units mounted laterally with a separation of 1.0m. 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.

Data Processing Zero Mean Traverse Step Correction (De-stagger)	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero. The operation removes striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set. When gradiometer data are collected in 'zig-zag' fashion, stepping errors can sometimes arise. These occur because of a slight difference in the speed of walking on the forward and reverse traverses. The result is a staggered effect in the data, which is particularly noticeable on linear anomalies. This process corrects these errors.
<b>Display</b> Greyscale/ Colourscale Plot	This format divides a given range of readings into a set number of classes. Each class is represented by a specific shade of grey, the intensity increasing with value. All values above the given range are allocated the same shade (maximum intensity); similarly, all values below the given range are represented by the minimum intensity shade. Similar plots can be produced in colour, either using a wide range of colours or by selecting two or three colours to represent positive and negative values. The assigned range (plotting levels) can be adjusted to emphasise different anomalies in the data-set.

#### Presentation of results and interpretation

The presentation of the results includes a 'minimally processed data' and a 'processed data' greyscale plot. Magnetic anomalies are identified, interpreted and plotted onto the 'Interpretation' drawings.

When interpreting the results, several factors are taken into consideration, including the nature of archaeological features being investigated and the local conditions at the site (geology, pedology, topography etc.). Anomalies are categorised by their potential origin. Where responses can be related to other existing evidence, the anomalies will be given specific categories, such as: Abbey Wall or Roman Road. Where the interpretation is based largely on the geophysical data, levels of confidence are implied, for example: Probable, or Possible Archaeology. The former is used for a confident interpretation, based on anomaly definition and/or other corroborative data such as cropmarks. Poor anomaly definition, a lack of clear patterns to the responses and an absence of other supporting data reduces confidence, hence the classification Possible.

#### **Interpretation Categories**

In certain circumstances (usually when there is corroborative evidence from desk-based or excavation data) very specific interpretations can be assigned to magnetic anomalies (for example, *Roman Road, Wall,* etc.) and where appropriate, such interpretations will be applied. The list below outlines the generic categories commonly used in the interpretation of the results.

Archaeology / Probable Archaeology	This term is used when the form, nature and pattern of the responses are clearly or very probably archaeological and /or if corroborative evidence is available. These anomalies, whilst considered anthropogenic, could be of any age.
Possible Archaeology	These anomalies exhibit either weak signal strength and / or poor definition, or form incomplete archaeological patterns, thereby reducing the level of confidence in the interpretation. Although the archaeological interpretation is favoured, they may be the result of variable soil depth, plough damage or even aliasing as a result of data collection orientation.
Industrial / Burnt-Fired	Strong magnetic anomalies that, due to their shape and form or the context in which they are found, suggest the presence of kilns, ovens, corn dryers, metal-working areas or hearths. It should be noted that in many instances modern ferrous material can produce similar magnetic anomalies.
Former Field Boundary (probable & possible)	Anomalies that correspond to former boundaries indicated on historic mapping, or which are clearly a continuation of existing land divisions. Possible denotes less confidence where the anomaly may not be shown on historic mapping but nevertheless the anomaly displays all the characteristics of a field boundary.
Ridge & Furrow	Parallel linear anomalies whose broad spacing suggests ridge and furrow cultivation. In some cases, the response may be the result of more recent agricultural activity.
Agriculture (ploughing)	Parallel linear anomalies or trends with a narrower spacing, sometimes aligned with existing boundaries, indicating more recent cultivation regimes.
Land Drain	Weakly magnetic linear anomalies, quite often appearing in series forming parallel and herringbone patterns. Smaller drains may lead and empty into larger diameter pipes, which in turn usually lead to local streams and ponds. These are indicative of clay fired land drains.
Natural	These responses form clear patterns in geographical zones where natural variations are known to produce significant magnetic distortions.
Magnetic Disturbance	Broad zones of strong dipolar anomalies, commonly found in places where modern ferrous or fired materials (e.g. brick rubble) are present.
Service	Magnetically strong anomalies, usually forming linear features are indicative of ferrous pipes/cables. Sometimes other materials (e.g. pvc) or the fill of the trench can cause weaker magnetic responses which can be identified from their uniform linearity.
Ferrous	This type of response is associated with ferrous material and may result from small items in the topsoil, larger buried objects such as pipes, or above ground features such as fence lines or pylons. Ferrous responses are usually regarded as modern. Individual burnt stones, fired bricks or igneous rocks can produce responses similar to ferrous material.
Uncertain Origin	Anomalies which stand out from the background magnetic variation, yet whose form and lack of patterning gives little clue as to their origin. Often the characteristics and distribution of the responses straddle the categories of <i>Possible Archaeology / Natural</i> or (in the case of linear responses) <i>Possible Archaeology / Agriculture</i> ; occasionally they are simply of an unusual form.

Where appropriate some anomalies will be further classified according to their form (positive or negative) and relative strength and coherence (trend: weak and poorly defined).

#### Appendix B - Technical Information: Magnetic Theory

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. Although the changes in the magnetic field resulting from differing features in the soil are usually weak, changes as small as 0.1 nanoTeslas (nT) in an overall field strength of 48,000 (nT), can be accurately detected.

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; 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 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 feature. The difference between the two sensors will relate to the strength of a magnetic field created by this 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 and disturbance from modern services.

## **OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England**

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | FAQs | Log out

#### **Printable version**

#### OASIS ID: sumogeop1-427727

#### **Project details**

Project name	Land off Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath, Solihull
Short description of the project	A magnetometer survey of 3.4 ha of land off Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath has not recorded any magnetic responses that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest. Trends of uncertain origin are present within the dataset; they are likely to be due to a combination of agricultural and natural processes. Ridge and furrow cultivation plus relatively modern ploughing is also visible in the dataset.
Project dates	Start: 27-08-2021
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SUMO-03401 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	RIDGE AND FURROW PLOUGHING Post Medieval
Monument type	PLOUGHING Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Geophysical Survey"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Solid geology (other)	Mercia Mudstone Group – mudstone
Drift geology (other)	Glaciofluvial Deposits, Mid Pleistocene - sand and gravel / Till, Mid Pleistocene - diamicton
Techniques	Magnetometry

#### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WEST MIDLANDS SOLIHULL DICKENS HEATH Land off Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath, Solihull
Postcode	B90 1PH
Study area	3.4 Hectares

Site coordinates SP 10820 77027 52.390780418977 -1.840986639659 52 23 26 N 001 50 27 W Point

#### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Sumo Geophysics
Project brief originator	ULAS
Project design originator	Sumo Geophysics
Project director/manager	Simon Haddrell
Project supervisor	Thomas Cockcroft
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client Business
Name of sponsor/funding body	University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Warwickshire HER
Digital Archive ID	SUMO-03401
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Geophysics","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No

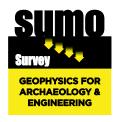
#### Project bibliography 1

	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	
Title	Land off Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath, Solihull
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cockcroft, T
Other bibliographic details	SUMO-03401
Date	2021
lssuer or publisher	SUMO Geophysics Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Upton-Upon-Severn
Description	6 pages of A4 descriptive text 8 pages of A3 figures
Entered by	thomas cockcroft (tom.cockcroft@sumoservices.com)
Entered on	5 August 2021



Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice © ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012 Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page

Cookies Privacy Policy



- Laser Scanning
- Archaeological
  Geophysical
  Measured Building
  Topographic
  - TopographicUtility Mapping

SUMO Services Ltd, incorporated under the laws of England and Wales, Company Registration No.4275993. Registered Office Unit 8 Hayward Business Centre, New Lane, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2NL