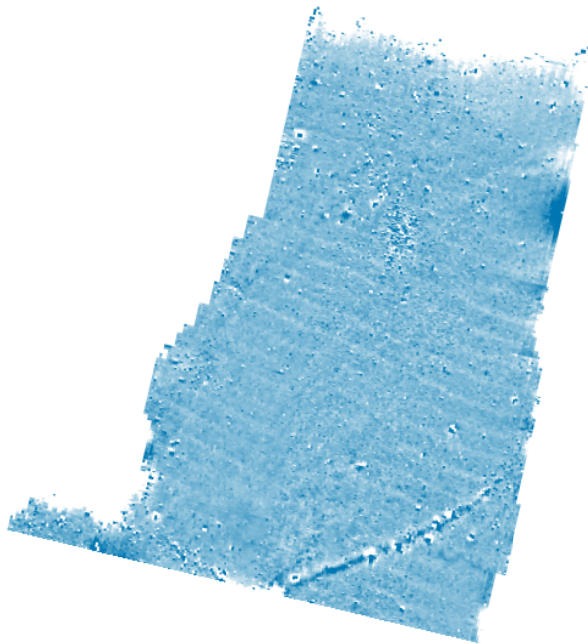




Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land at Narborough Road, Huncote, Leicestershire



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Report 10/23

February 2010



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QUALITY CONTROL

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Verified by	Adrian Butler	<i>AJB</i>	10/02/10
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land at Narborough Road, Huncote, Leicestershire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by University of Leicester Archaeological Services to conduct archaeological geophysical survey on land at Narborough Road, Huncote. Magnetometry of a 5.25ha area revealed a possible enclosure ditch, ridge-and-furrow and previous field boundaries relating to a standing bridge. Anomalies indicating a brick scatter were also detected.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Unknown	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Medieval Ridge-and-Furrow, possible enclosure ditch	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Narborough Road, Huncote	
Study area	5.25ha	
OS Easting & Northing	451900 297100	
Height OD	60m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)	
Project Design originator	Patrick Clay, ULAS	
Director/Supervisor	John Walford	
Project Manager	Adrian Butler	
Sponsor or funding body	ULAS	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	1 February 2010	
End date	10 February 2010	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical	N/A	
Paper	NA	Site survey records
Digital	NA	Geophysical survey & GIS data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	
Title	Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land at Narborough Road, Huncote, Leicestershire	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 10/23	
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- Cover Narborough Road Gradiometer Survey in Monochrome
Fig 1 Site Location, 1:20,000
Fig 2 Survey Results, 1:2500
Fig 3 Survey Interpretation, 1:2500

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY ON LAND AT
NARBOROUGH ROAD, HUNCOTE, LEICESTERSHIRE
FEBRUARY 2010**

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by University of Leicester Archaeological Services to conduct archaeological geophysical survey on land at Narborough Road, Huncote. Magnetometry of a 5.25ha area revealed a possible enclosure ditch, ridge-and-furrow and previous field boundaries relating to a standing bridge. Anomalies indicating a brick scatter were also detected.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), to conduct an archaeological geophysical survey on land at Narborough Road, Huncote, Leicestershire (NGR 451900 297100; Fig 1).

The objectives of the geophysical survey were to identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed 5.25 hectare development area. The fieldwork consisted of an area magnetic gradiometer survey.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site is situated to the south of Narborough Road as it enters the south-eastern edge of Huncote, in central Leicestershire. The investigation site covers a roughly L-shaped area of land adjacent to the housing of Ratcliffe Drive (Fig 2), and is spread over two fields. Field 1 is the northern part of a larger field, bounded to the north by Narborough Road, and to the west by housing and Field 2 (Fig 1). The eastern boundary is a wide, deep, overgrown cutting which shallows and narrows to the south. Field 2 is a smaller field bounded to the north by housing, and thick overgrown tree lines on its other boundaries.

At the time of the fieldwork the area was ploughed arable land with an old barn, under demolition, between Fields 1 and 2.

The maximum elevation of the site is approximately 60m AOD and Huncote appears to be situated on river terrace sand and gravels (www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex.htm 1:650,00

Geology of Great Britain, accessed 9/02/10).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There is no indication of any previous archaeological work having been carried out on the site. In the wider Huncote area there have been various investigations. These include archaeological works carried out by ULAS to the north of Huncote centred around the find spot of an Iron Age chariot lynch pin (Butler, pers comm). This revealed evidence of a small Iron Age farmstead as well as small amounts of Roman and medieval finds (Boutsikas 2008). Other examples include investigations carried out due to extensions of the Huncote Quarry. These have revealed material from the prehistoric to modern date (Boutsikas 2008).

4 METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted with Bartington Grad 601-2, twin sensor array, vertical component fluxgate gradiometers (Bartington and Chapman 2003). These are standard instruments for archaeological survey and can resolve magnetic variations as slight as 0.1 nanotesla (nT).

The area was split into Fields 1 and 2, with each of these divided into a network of contiguous, whole and partial, 30m x 30m grid squares. Field 1 consisted of 45 grids, and Field 2, 15 grids. These were set out manually by tape measure and optical square. The instruments were carried at a brisk but steady pace through each grid, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along the traverses, giving a total of 3600 measurements per grid.

All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and by the Institute for Archaeology (EH 2008; Gaffney, Gater and Ovendon 2002).

The data was processed using Geoplot 3.00u software. Striping, occasionally caused by slight mismatches in sensor balance, was removed using the 'Zero Mean Traverse' function (ZMT) and destaggering of the data was performed as necessary.

The processed data is presented in this report in the form of a greyscale plot (scale +4nT to -4nT black ~ white). This has been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Fig 2). An interpretative plot has been produced and is shown overlain onto the data in Figure 3.

5 SURVEY RESULTS

The major detected magnetic anomalies at Narborough Road were alternate linear positive and negative bands. These anomalies represent a ridge and furrow cultivation pattern and are present in both fields. In Field 1 they were orientated north-west to south-east, whereas in Field 2 they were north-east to south-west. Furthermore, in Field 2 it appears that ceramic field drains, chains of small dipolar anomalies, have been placed along the furrows at the same orientation.

Field 1 produced evidence of possible archaeology, a positive linear magnetic anomaly which runs from the south-west to the north-east, for approximately 48m, and then turns 90° to the south-east, and continues for a further 27m. This feature, possibly indicating a ditch, was located in the centre of the southern half of Field 1.

Also in Field 1, a positive linear anomaly was detected in the south-east corner of the survey area. This was a visible in-filled ditch that is orientated north-east to south-west, crossed by an old bridge that is located just outside of the survey area to the south. This may indicate an old field boundary. Another old boundary may also be identified in the south of Field 1 aligned north-west to south-east from the corner of the barn yard towards the bridge, represented by a line of dipolar anomalies indicating iron debris. This is not as strong an anomaly as the in-filled ditch and may represent a former fence line (Figs 2 & 3).

The area of magnetic disturbance detected in the central northern part of Field 1 may represent a possible brick scatter. However, there is no evidence of a building in that area.

6 CONCLUSION

The strongest evidence for archaeology within the magnetometer survey of land at Narborough Road was from the weak linear anomaly in Field 1. This may represent the

corner of an enclosure ditch. Survey also produced evidence of ridge-and-furrow in both fields. Previous field boundaries relating to the bridge that is still standing, just outside of the survey area, were also located.

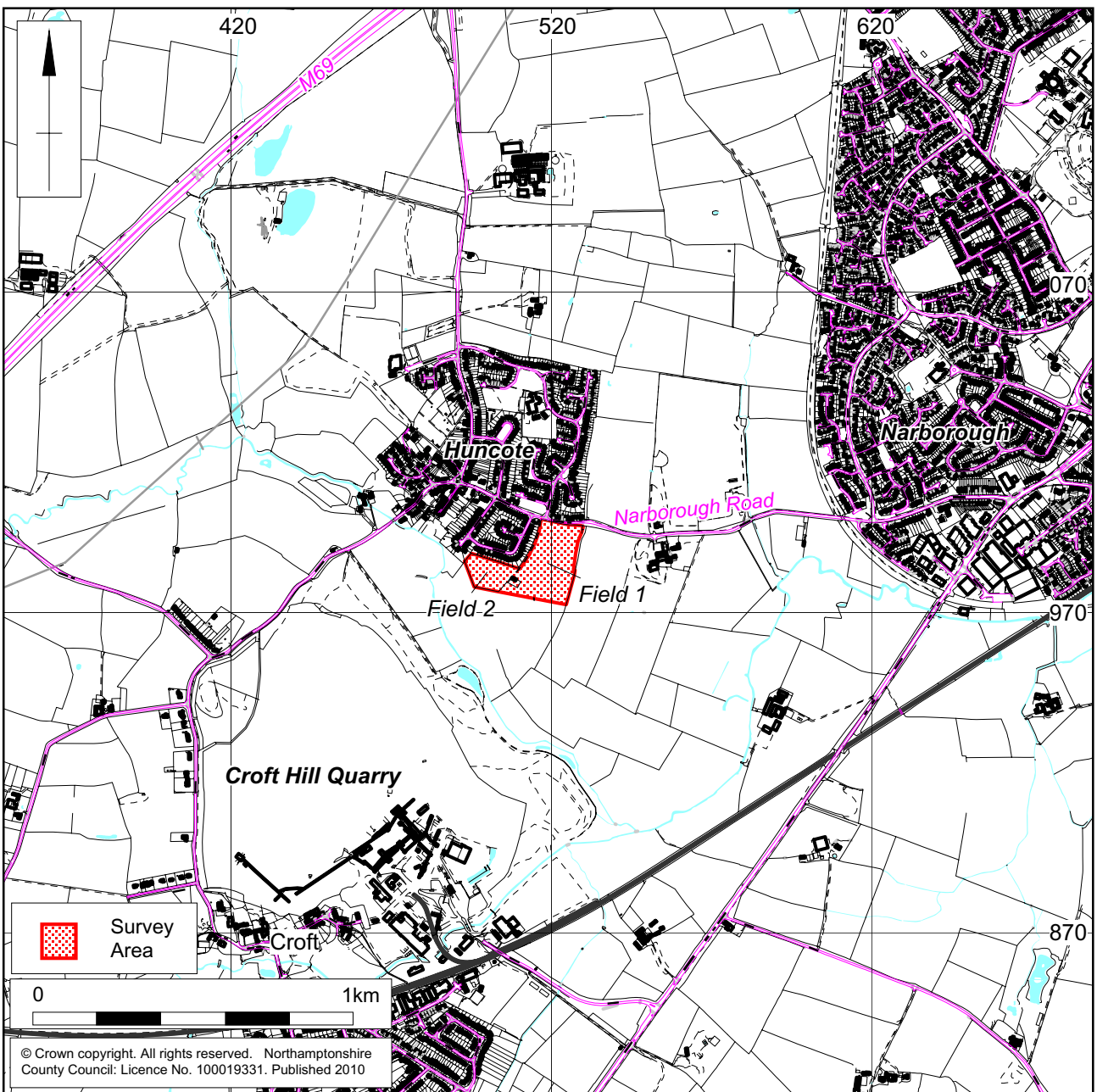
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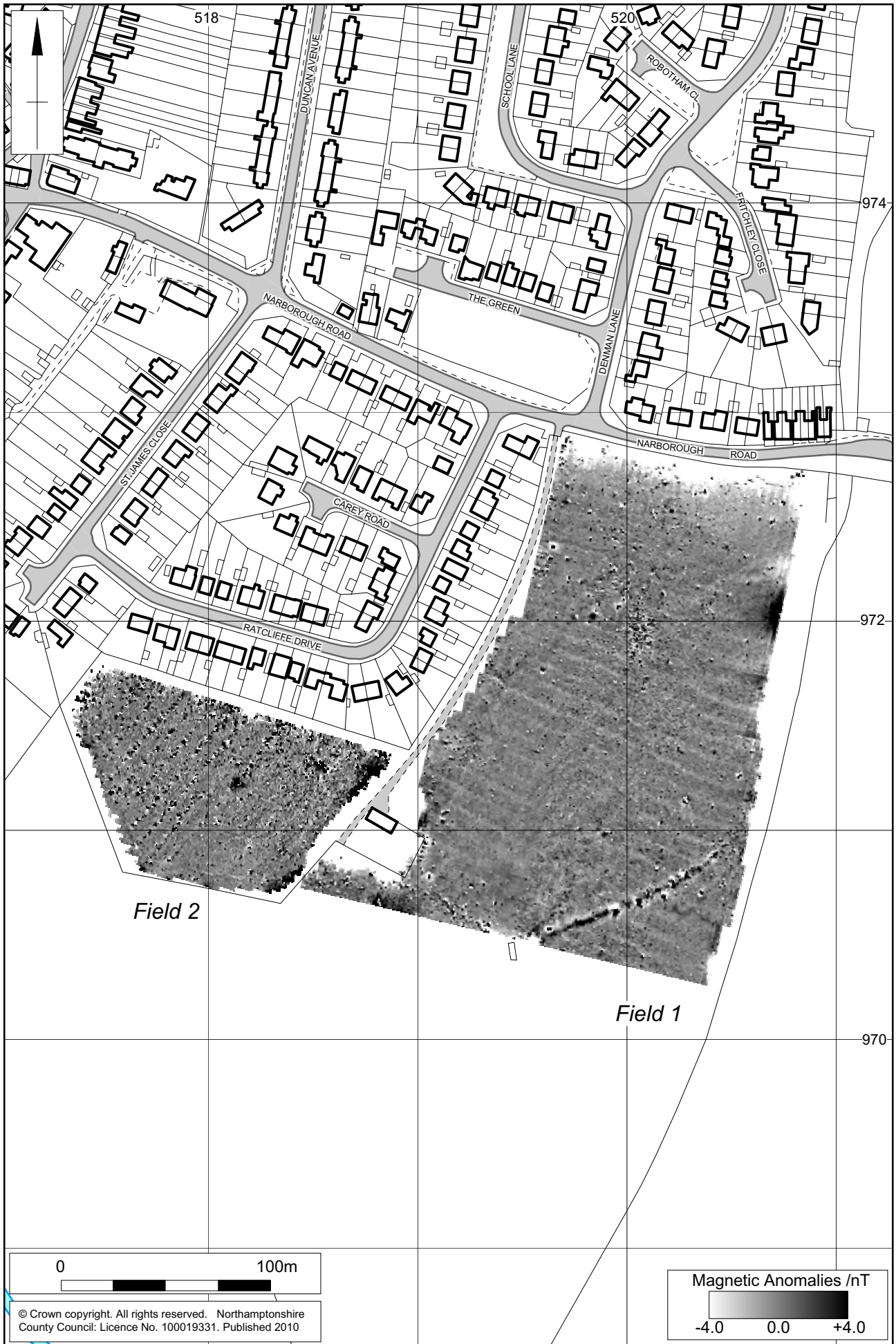
EH 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*, English Heritage

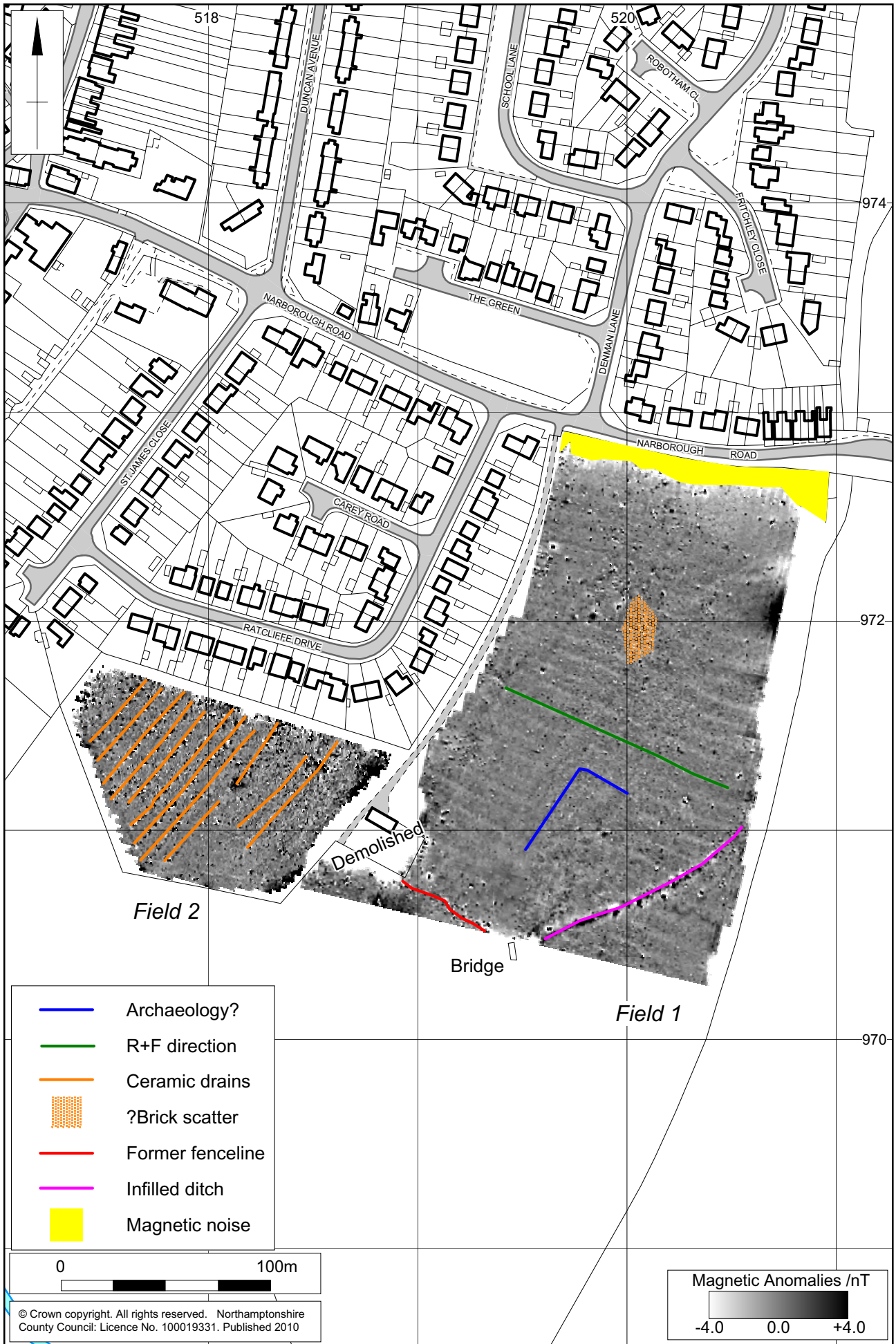
Gaffney, C, Gater, J, and Ovendon, S, 2002 *The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations*, Institute of Field Archaeologists Technical Paper, **6**



1:20,000

Site Location Fig 1







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