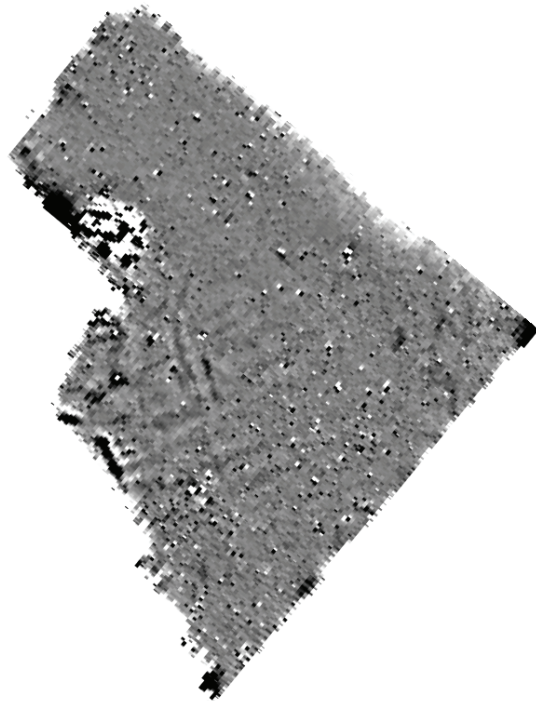




# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## Archaeological geophysical survey on land at Grays Lane, Paulerspury Northamptonshire



### Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton NN4 8BE  
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822  
e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)  
w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)



Northamptonshire  
County Council

Charlotte Walker

Report 10/59

March 2010



**STAFF**

Project Manager            Adrian Butler BSc MA AlfA  
Fieldwork                    John Walford BSc MSc  
Text and illustrations      Charlotte Walker BSc AlfA  
   Ian Fisher BSc

**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signature	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		26/03/10
Verified & Approved by	Steve Parry		26/03/10

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land at Grays Lane, Paulerspury, Northamptonshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct archaeological geophysical survey on land at Grays Lane, Paulerspury. A magnetometer survey was undertaken over an area of 1.5ha. Although there were no obvious archaeological features, three small, possibly linear features may represent former ditches. A strongly dipolar anomaly may possibly be the backfill of a former pond. Faint cultivation marks, probably the remains from ridge and furrow agriculture were also present.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Unknown	
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Unknown	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Grays Lane, Paulerspury	
Study area	1.5ha	
OS Easting & Northing	47266 24561	
Height OD	c 120m AOD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	John Walford	
Project Manager	Adrian Butler	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	20 March 2010	
End date	20 March 2010	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Content</b>
Physical	N/A	
Paper	N/A	Site survey records
Digital	N/A	Geophysical survey & GIS data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	
Title	Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land at Grays Lane, Paulerspury, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 10/59	
Author(s)	Charlotte Walker and Ian Fisher	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY ON LAND AT  
GRAYS LANE, PAULERSPURY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
MARCH 2010**

**ABSTRACT**

*Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct archaeological geophysical survey on land at Grays Lane, Paulerspury. A magnetometer survey was undertaken over an area of 1.5ha. Although there were no obvious archaeological features, three small, possibly linear features may represent former ditches. A strongly dipolar anomaly may possibly be the backfill of a former pond. Faint cultivation marks, probably the remains from ridge and furrow agriculture were also present.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their clients, David Wilson Homes South Midlands, to carry out a geophysical survey on land at Grays Lane, Paulerspury (NGR SP 7266 4561; Fig 1). The objectives of the geophysical survey were to identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The fieldwork consisted of an area magnetic gradiometer survey in a single field of 1.5ha (Fig 2).

**2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

The site is situated to the south-east of Grays Lane on the eastern edge of the village of Paulerspury. The village is approximately 4.5km south-east of the town of Towcester. The investigation site covers a roughly triangular area of land. The field is bounded by Grays Lane to the north-west, and the rear of properties fronting onto Watling Street (A5) c 60m to the north-east. It is bounded by agricultural land to the south. The development area is currently a pasture field.

The underlying geology of the area predominately comprises Upper Estuarine clays overlain by superficial deposits of Boulder Clay (CgMs 2010). The site lies at approximately 120m aOD.

**3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

A desk-based assessment of the development area was carried out by CgMs Consulting (2010). No previous archaeological investigation has been undertaken within the development area. There is very little evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site; a Mesolithic flint tool was found in the village in 1972 and Iron Age settlements have been found in the south and north-west of the parish.

The development area lies close to the route of the major Roman road, Watling Street, which is largely followed by the modern A5. There are at least five separate areas of Roman settlement identified within the parish including two sites with stone buildings. A possible location of the final battle of the Boudiccan revolt of the mid-1st century is

thought to lie at Cuttle Mill 1.2km to the north-west. Closer to the site, a Roman coin was found 150m to the south and a probable Romano-British settlement lies 450m to the west.

Although there is little evidence of the Saxon period within the parish, a possible cemetery lies at Pury End, 1.8km to the west and a 6th-century brooch was found 150m east of the site.

Paulerspury was mentioned in the Domesday Book and consisted of three manors during the medieval period. Settlement within Paulerspury manor developed to the west of Watling Street and consisted of five small hamlets or 'Ends'. Many of the Historic Environment Record points close to the development area date to the medieval and post-medieval periods and include extant ridge and furrow on the opposite side of Grays Lane, earthworks of tracks/lanes leading to various parts of the settlement and earthworks of former houses. The site was situated within an area of ancient enclosure; it did not lie within the open field system during this period. It is uncertain whether this enclosure relates to the creation of individual fields or former house plots (CgMs 2010).

#### **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 field was divided into a network of whole and partial, 30m x 30m grid squares. 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 destagging 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**

A contained area of strong negative and positive readings at the north-western part of the site may be caused by modern ferrous or ceramic debris. It is possible that the apparent rectilinear feature represents brick or stone rubble foundations, however, there appears to have been a small pond in this location up until at least the 1950s and the strong anomaly may represent its backfill.

Three small, possibly linear, features may be former ditches. One was situated too close to the edge of the survey area to properly interpret (a), while the other two could represent short lengths of parallel ditches (b). The very faint alternate linear positive and negative bands concentrated in the western part of the field probably represent a remnant pattern of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

## 6 CONCLUSION

The magnetometer survey at Grays Lane did not identify any definite archaeological features, although three small, possibly linear features may represent former ditches. A strongly dipolar anomaly may possibly be the backfill of a former pond. Faint cultivation marks were also present.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

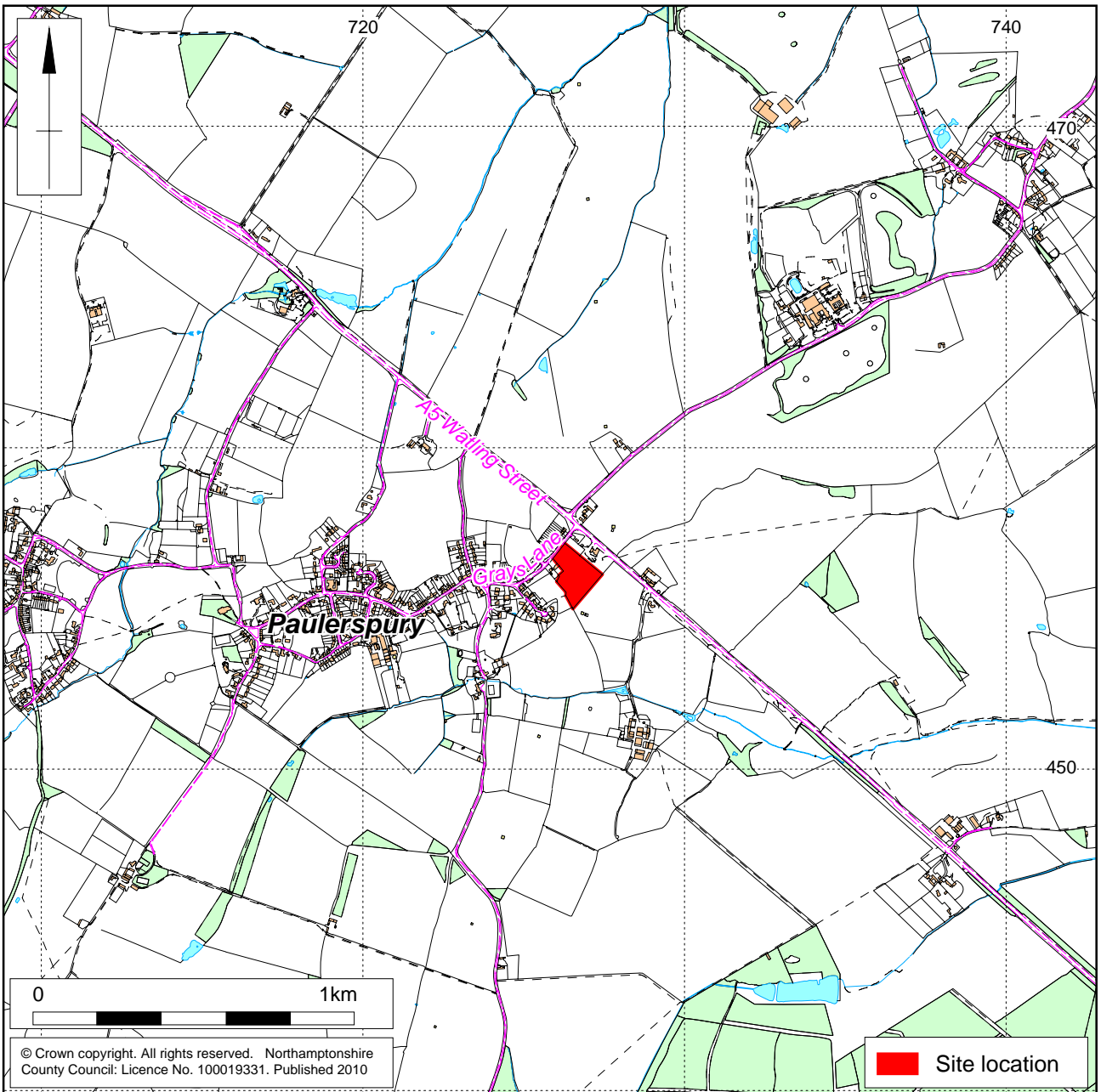
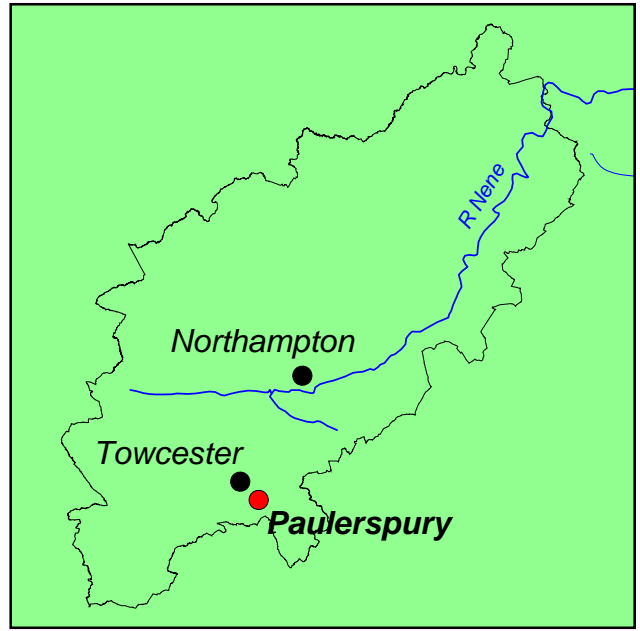
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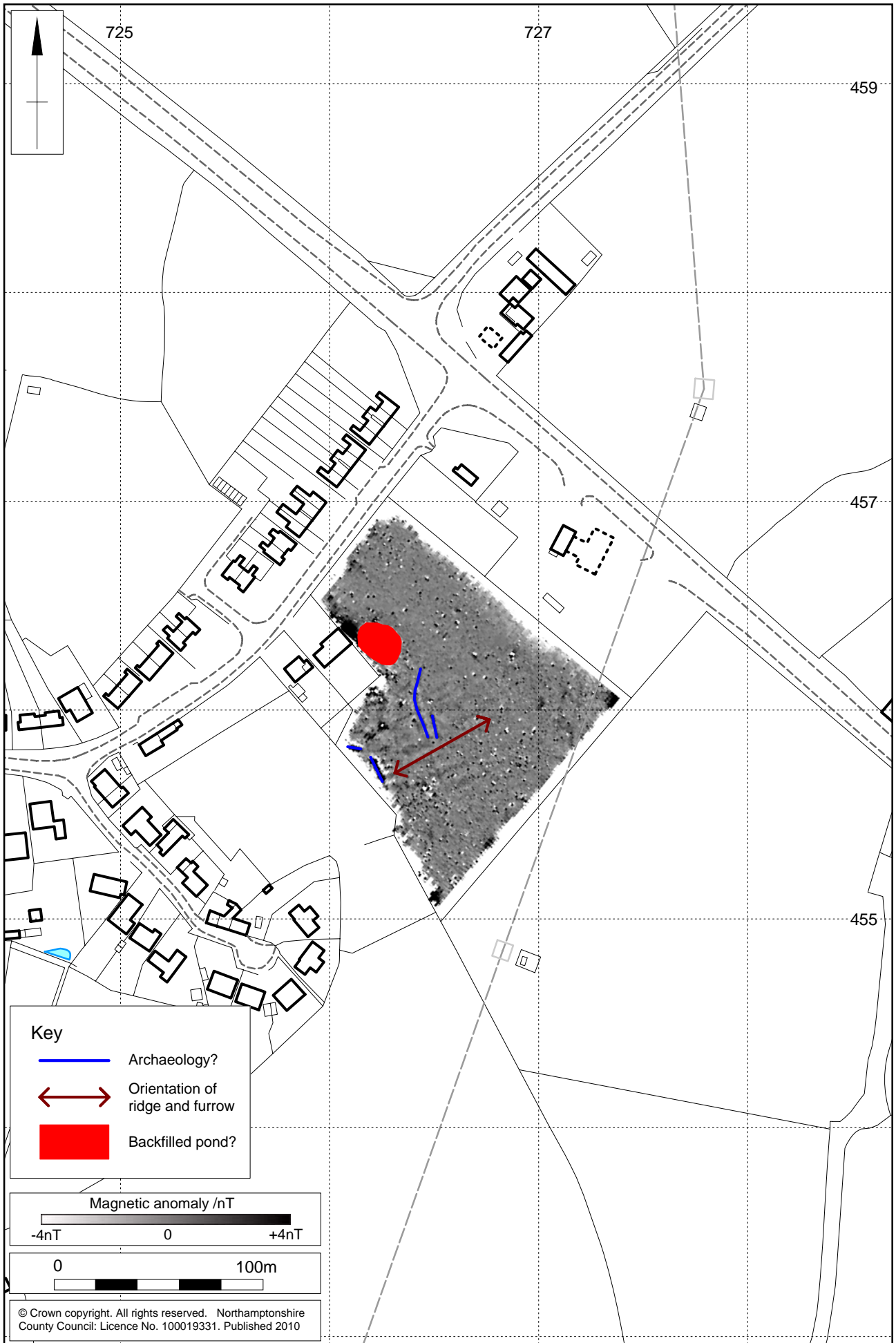


Scale 1:20,000

Site Location Fig 1









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