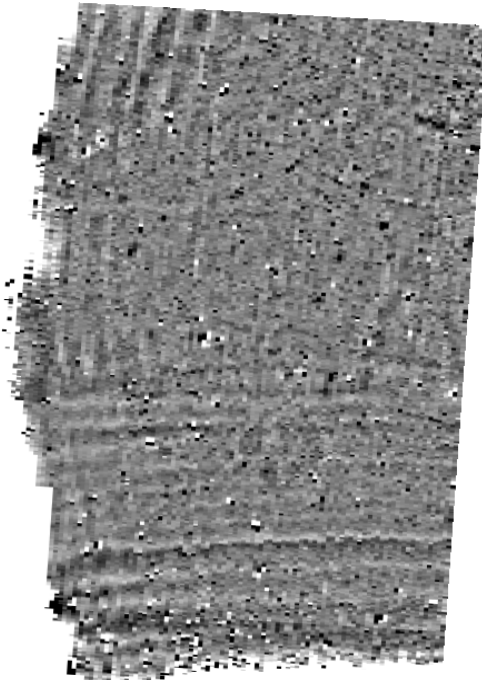




# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land at Station Road, Scraptoft, Leicestershire X.A129.2010



### Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Ian Fisher

Report 10/126

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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Verified & Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>AC</i>	28/07/2010

**OAS/S REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land at Station Road, Scraftoft, Leicestershire X.A129.2010	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct archaeological geophysical survey on land at Station Road, Scraftoft, Leicestershire. Magnetometry of a 4ha area revealed little archaeology other than evidence of two curvilinear ditches, four pits and Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Unknown	
Current Land use	Horse Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Medieval Ridge-and-Furrow cultivation	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Station Road, Scraftoft	
Study area	4ha	
OS Easting & Northing	46485 30530	
Height OD	c100m AOD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design originator	Mike Dawson, CgMs	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher	
Project Manager	Adrian Butler	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	15 July 2010	
End date	16 July 2010	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Content</b>
Physical	N/A	
Paper	NA	Site survey records
Digital	NA	Geophysical survey & GIS data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	
Title	Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land at Station Road, Scraftoft, Leicestershire X.A.129.2010	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 10/126	
Author(s)	Ian Fisher	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY ON LAND AT  
STATION ROAD, SCRAPTOFT, LEICESTERSHIRE**

**X.A129.2010**

**JULY 2010**

*ABSTRACT*

*Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct archaeological geophysical survey on land at Station Road, Scraptoft, Leicestershire. Magnetometry of a 4ha area revealed little archaeology other than evidence of two curvilinear ditches, four pits and Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, to conduct an archaeological geophysical survey on land at Station Road, Scraptoft, Leicestershire (NGR 464825 305225; Fig 1).

The objectives of the geophysical survey were to identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed four hectare development area. The fieldwork consisted of an area magnetic gradiometer survey. Leicestershire Museums Service has provided the Accession Number X.A.129.2010 for this work.

## **2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

The site is situated on the eastern side of Scraptoft, adjacent to the east of Station Road and south of Covert Lane. The investigation area covers a rough 'inverted-L' shape in two fields, bordered to the south and west by housing, and arable fields to the north and east (Fig 1). At the time of fieldwork the field was pasture for horses, the main fields divided by electric fences into small paddocks (Fig 2).

The investigation area is located on the south-facing slope of Scraptoft Hill and sits at approximately 100m AOD. The site appears to be situated on boulder clay in the south and sand and gravel in the north, both over a Mercia mudstone solid stratum which is exposed centrally to the site area ([www.geodata.bgs.ac.uk/website/leicester/viewer.htm](http://www.geodata.bgs.ac.uk/website/leicester/viewer.htm)).

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

Details of the archaeological background to the site may be found in a desk-based assessment by CgMs (Dawson 2010). This found no indication of any previous

archaeological work having been carried out on the site, although a 3rd-century Roman pot was found in a garden adjacent to the west. In the wider area there are five records in the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (LHER) for the fields immediately north-east of the site, south of Covert Lane. Aerial photography indicates possible, undated, enclosures approximately 200m to the north-east of the site (LHER2285). The enclosures correspond with fieldwalking finds indicating a possible Roman settlement (LHER2280) orientated along Covert Lane from the edge of the current site 300m north-east. Anglo Saxon finds suggesting the presence of a cemetery were recovered in the same area (LHER2281).

#### **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 divided into a network of 45 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 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**

Possible archaeology was identified in Fields 1 and 4 (Figs 2 & 3).

### **Field 1**

The survey detected a curvilinear positive magnetic anomaly that may represent an enclosure ditch and four discrete positive anomalies indicating possible pits. Ridge and furrow cultivation was also identified, orientated north to south and east to west.

### **Field 2**

The field was divided up into smaller paddocks by electric fencing. The survey identified a ridge and furrow cultivation pattern, orientated north to south, and two unknown ferrous objects in the western part of the field.

### **Field 3**

No archaeological features were detected by the survey. The survey detected thermoremnently magnetised anomalies representing the brick debris of a former building that was visible on the ground.

### **Field 4**

A curvilinear feature was identified by the survey that may indicate the presence of an enclosure ditch. North to south ridge and furrow cultivation was also detected.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

The magnetometer survey of land at Station Road, Scraptoft produced evidence of archaeological remains. Two curvilinear ditches, four pits and ridge-and-furrow cultivation patterns the only features of note.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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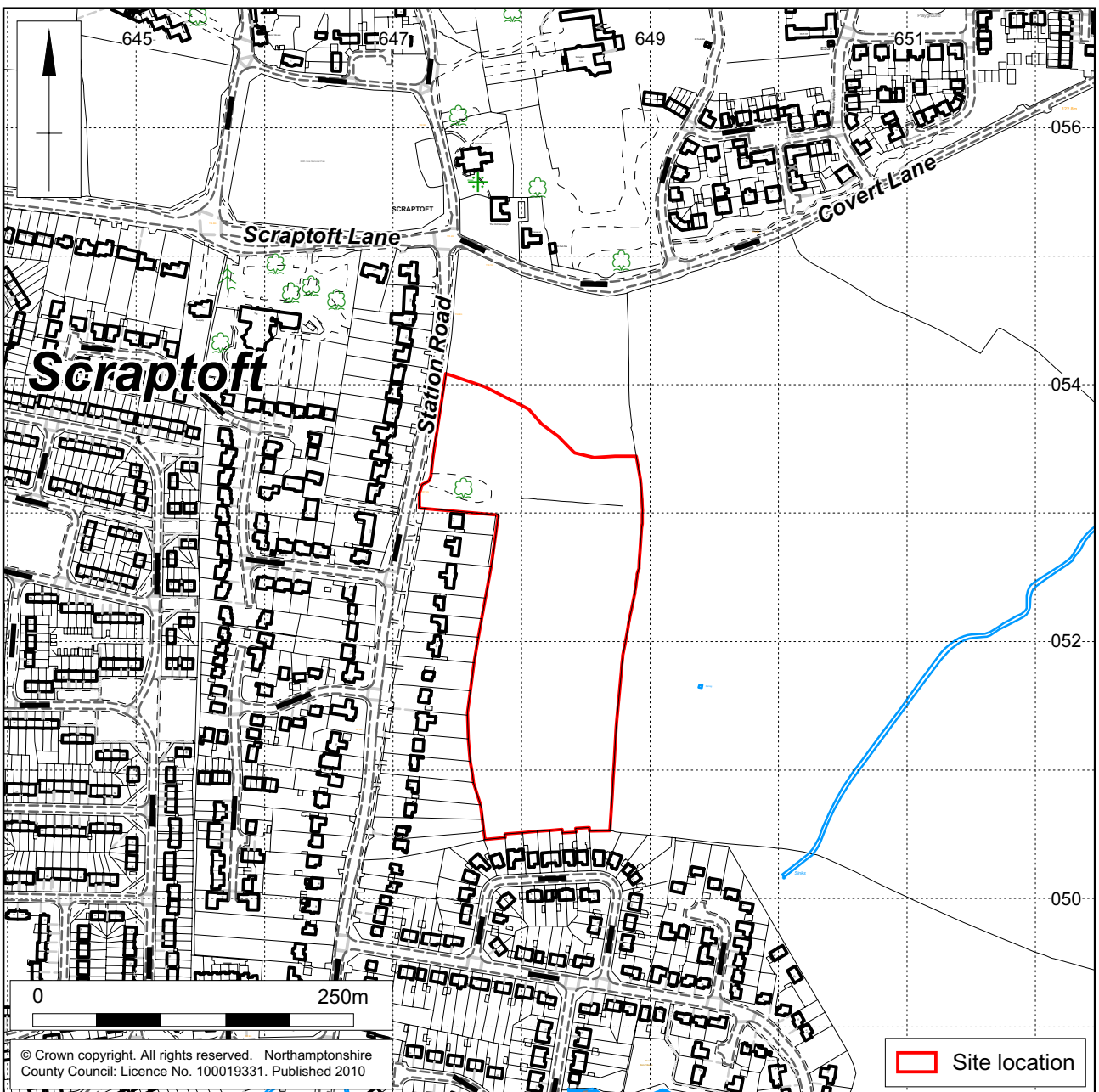
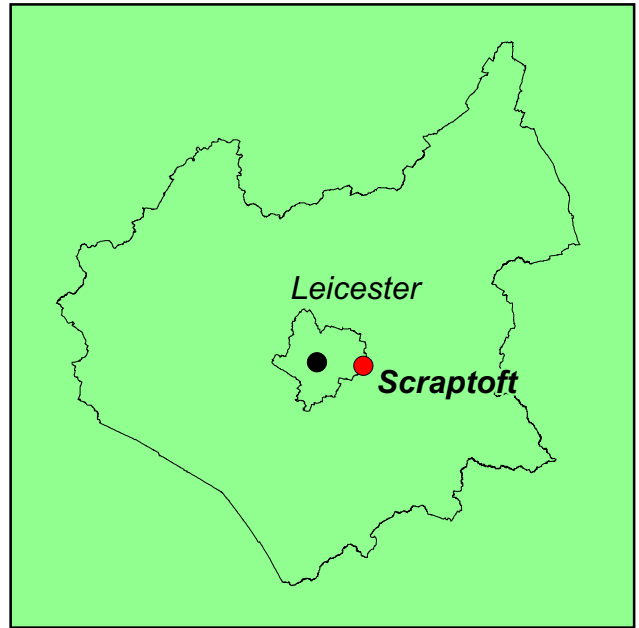
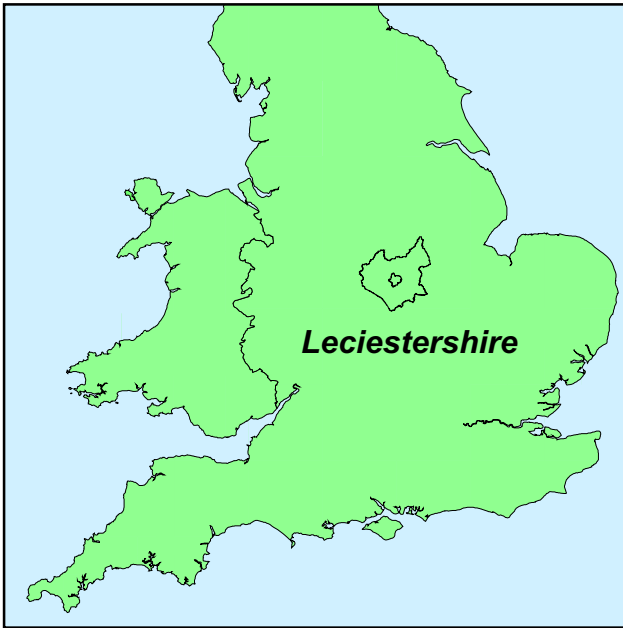
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Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1







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