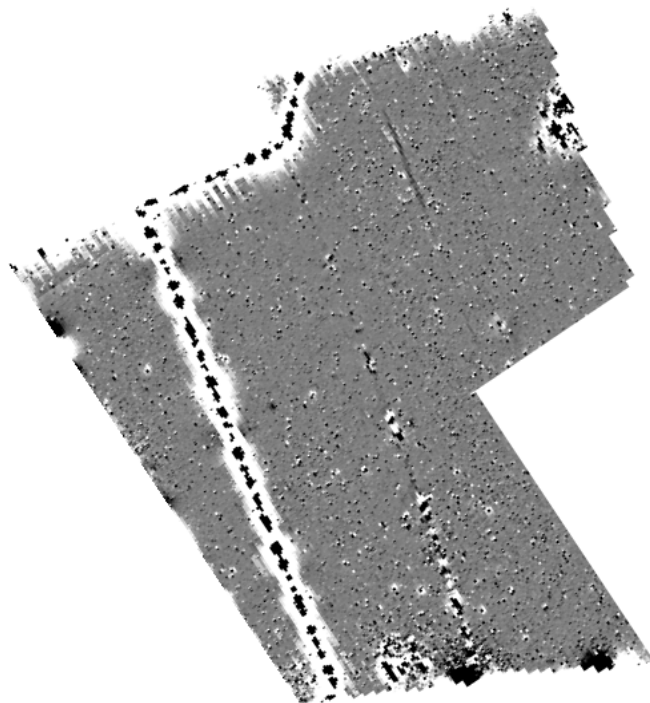




# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## Archaeological Geophysical Survey of land at Briar Farm, Harleston, Norfolk



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John Walford

Report 11/252

November 2011



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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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Checked by	Pat Chapman	<i>PC</i>	22/11/11
Verified by	Adam Yates	<i>AY</i>	22/11/11
Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>AC</i>	22/11/11

BRIAR FARM, HARLESTON

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological Geophysical Survey of land at Briar Farm, Harleston, Norfolk, November 2011	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a geophysical survey in advance of a proposed housing development at Briar Farm, Harleston, Norfolk. An area of c 5.1ha was subject to detailed magnetometer survey. This revealed one possible pit of indeterminate date, and areas of disturbance associated with recent ponds and buildings.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Gailey 2011)	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Undated pit	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Norfolk	
Site address	Briar Farm, Harleston	
Study area	c 5.1ha	
OS Easting & Northing	TM 251 832	
Height OD	c 30-35m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher	
Project Manager	Adrian Butler, NA; Suzanne Gailey, CgMs	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd.	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	31 October 2011	
End date	23 November 2011	
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	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	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 of land at Briar Farm, Harleston, Norfolk, November 2011	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 11/252	
Author(s)	John Walford	
Page numbers	5	
Date	23 November 2011	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF  
LAND AT BRIAR FARM, HARLESTON, NORFOLK  
NOVEMBER 2011**

**ABSTRACT**

*Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a geophysical survey in advance of a proposed housing development at Briar Farm, Harleston, Norfolk. An area of c 5.1ha was subject to detailed magnetometer survey. This revealed one possible pit, of indeterminate date, and areas of disturbance associated with recent ponds and buildings.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to carry out a geophysical survey in advance of a proposed housing development at Briar Farm, Harleston, Norfolk. The survey area consisted of two arable fields with a total area of c 5.1ha, centred at NGR TM 251 832 (Fig 1). The aim of the survey was to determine whether the site contained archaeological remains which could be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development.

**2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

The survey area consisted of two adjacent arable fields (Fields 1 and 2) which lie on the eastern edge of Harleston, just off Mendham Lane and slightly to the west of Briar Farm (Fig 1). The land in this area stands between the 30m and 40m contours, on a very gentle north-facing slope.

The solid geology of the area has been mapped as Lowestoft Till (Gailey 2011).

### 3 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

A desk-based assessment of the survey area (Gailey 2011) indicated that there were few known sites or findspots in its vicinity and that it lay outside the historic core of village of Harleston. Hence the assessment concluded that the area had a low potential to contain *in situ* archaeological remains.

The historic maps of the survey area (NCC 2011) show that three large rectangular buildings were erected in the western field during the last century, but have since been demolished. They also show that the eastern field was formerly divided into two, and that it contained two ponds which have subsequently been backfilled.

### 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).

A tape measure and optical square were used to establish a grid of 30m squares within each field of the survey area. These grids were then tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid with a Leica Systems 1200 dGPS.

The gradiometers were carried at a brisk but steady pace through each grid square, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along the traverses, giving a total of 3600 measurements per square. A single grid square of data was recollected on each day of survey, for quality management purposes, as required by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

All fieldwork methods complied with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and by the Institute for Archaeologists (EH 2008; IfA forthcoming).

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

The processed data is presented in this report in the form of a grey-tone plot, at a scale of +/- 4nT black/white. The plot has been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Fig 2). An interpretative overlay has been produced and is shown in Figure 3. A plot of the minimally processed repeat survey data is given in Figure 4.

## **5 SURVEY RESULTS**

### **Field 1**

No anomalies of archaeological interest were detected in this field. Instead, the data is dominated by magnetic noise indicative of building rubble and other modern debris. This material presumably derives from the former buildings which once stood in this area.

A few small magnetic halos around the margins of this field were produced by adjacent fences and structures. They are of no significance.

### **Field 2**

There is one small, positive magnetic anomaly in Field 2 which may represent a pit of indeterminate date. This is the only plausibly archaeological feature detected anywhere in the survey area.

A former field boundary, which is depicted on the Harleston tithe map and on subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping (NCC 2011), appears in the data as a weak linear anomaly passing from north to south through the centre of Field 2. It is associated with a sporadic chain of ferrous anomalies which suggest an accumulation of various pieces of scrap iron along the boundary.

Two positive linear anomalies occur to the east of the former field boundary, and are aligned parallel with it. It seems likely that these also represent old field boundaries, although they do not coincide with anything recorded on any of the available historic maps.

The locations of two former ponds, both now backfilled, are indicated by patches of intense magnetic noise lying against the southern and eastern boundaries of Field 2.

The intensity of the anomalies in these areas suggests that substantial quantities of ferrous scrap and / or brick rubble are present amongst the backfill material.

A modern pipe which crosses the field from south to north is represented in the data by a strong linear anomaly with alternating magnetic polarity. At its northern end, this pipe turns eastwards and follows the field boundary for some distance before exiting the field.

A number of magnetic halos occur around the margins of Field 2. As in Field 1, these anomalies are modern and of no significance.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

The survey has detected one magnetic anomaly which may represent a small pit of indeterminate date, and a far greater number of anomalies relating to modern features. The latter include a pipeline, former field boundaries, spreads of building debris and backfilled ponds.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

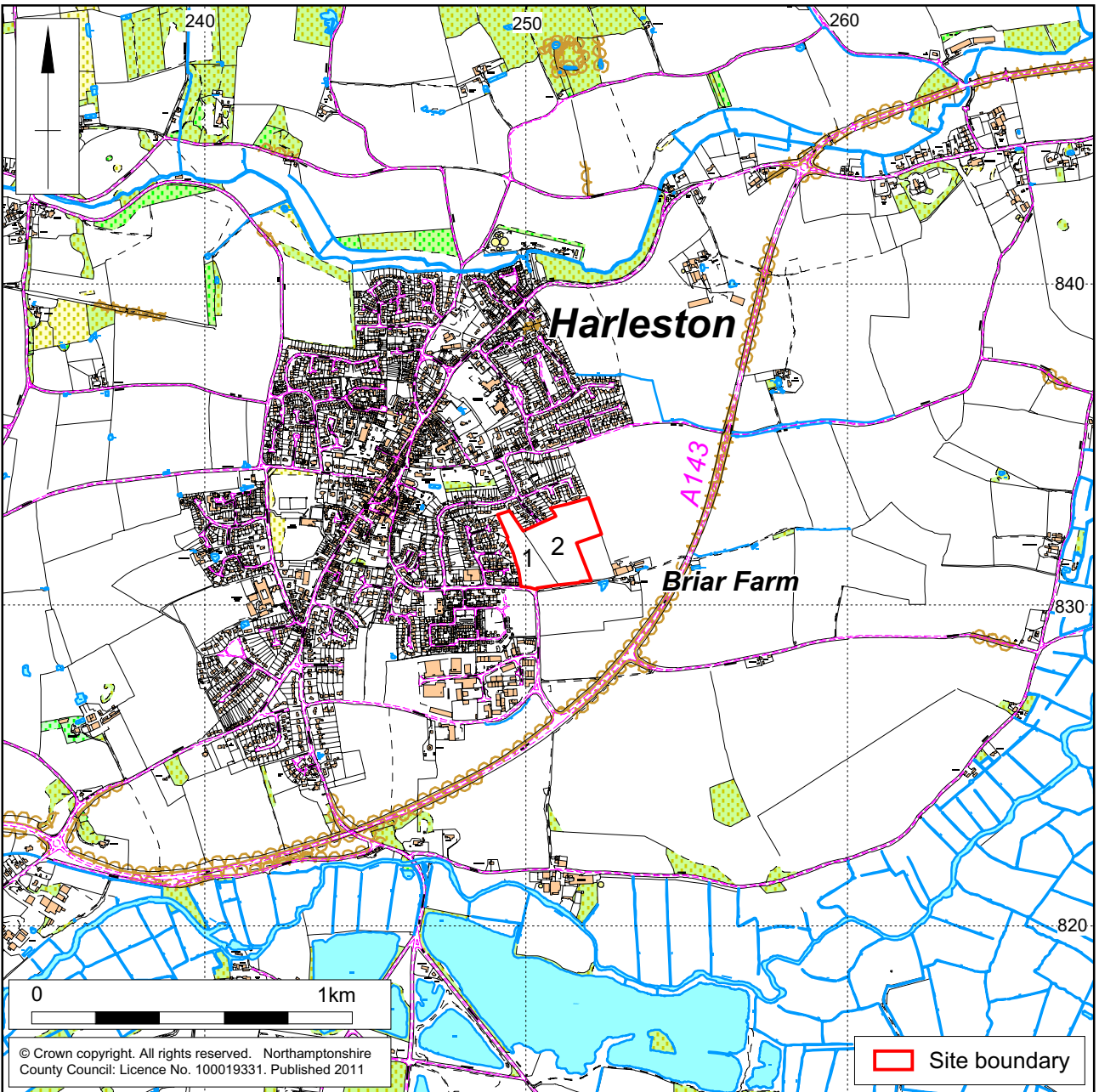
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Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1



1:2500

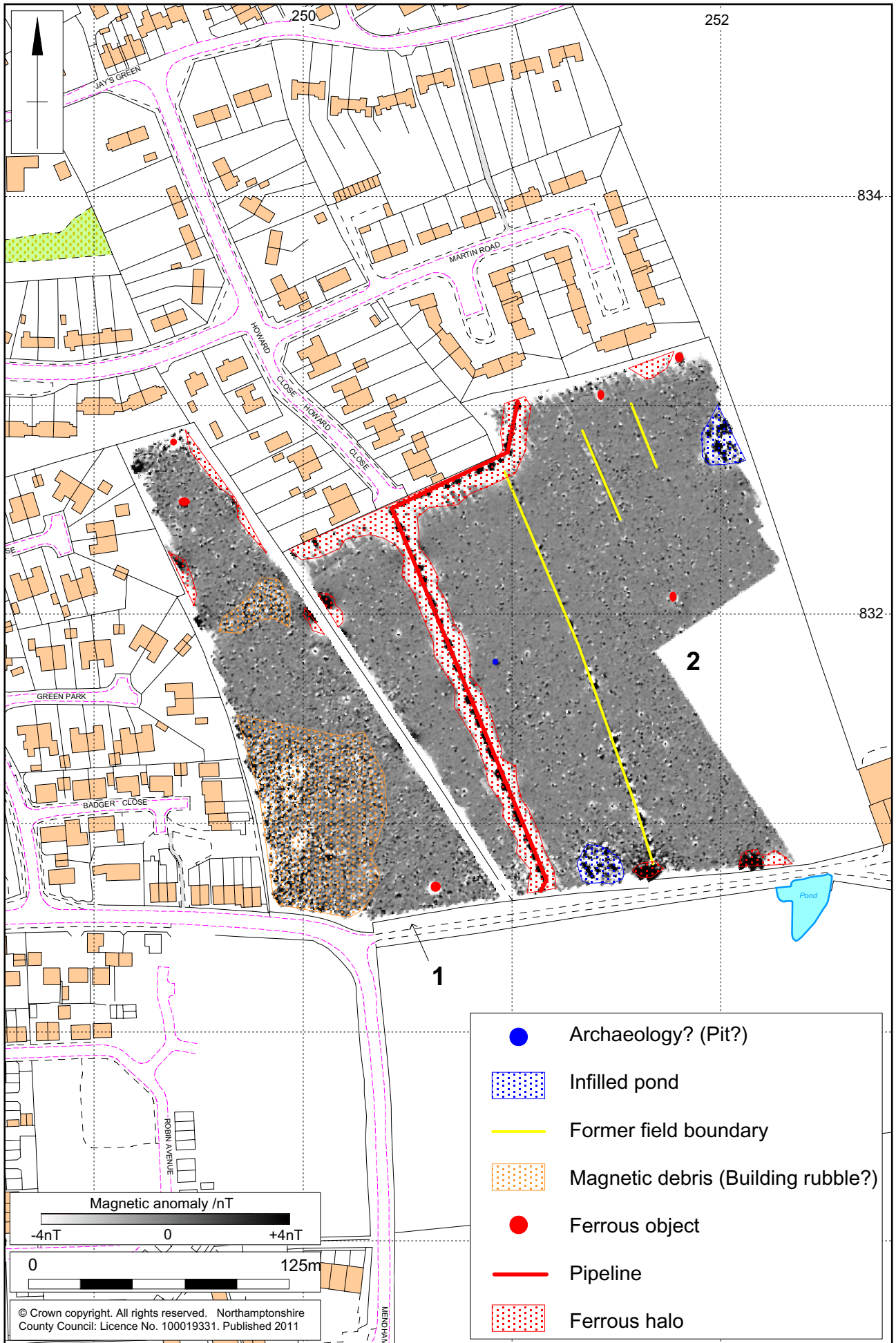
Magnetometer Survey Results Fig 2



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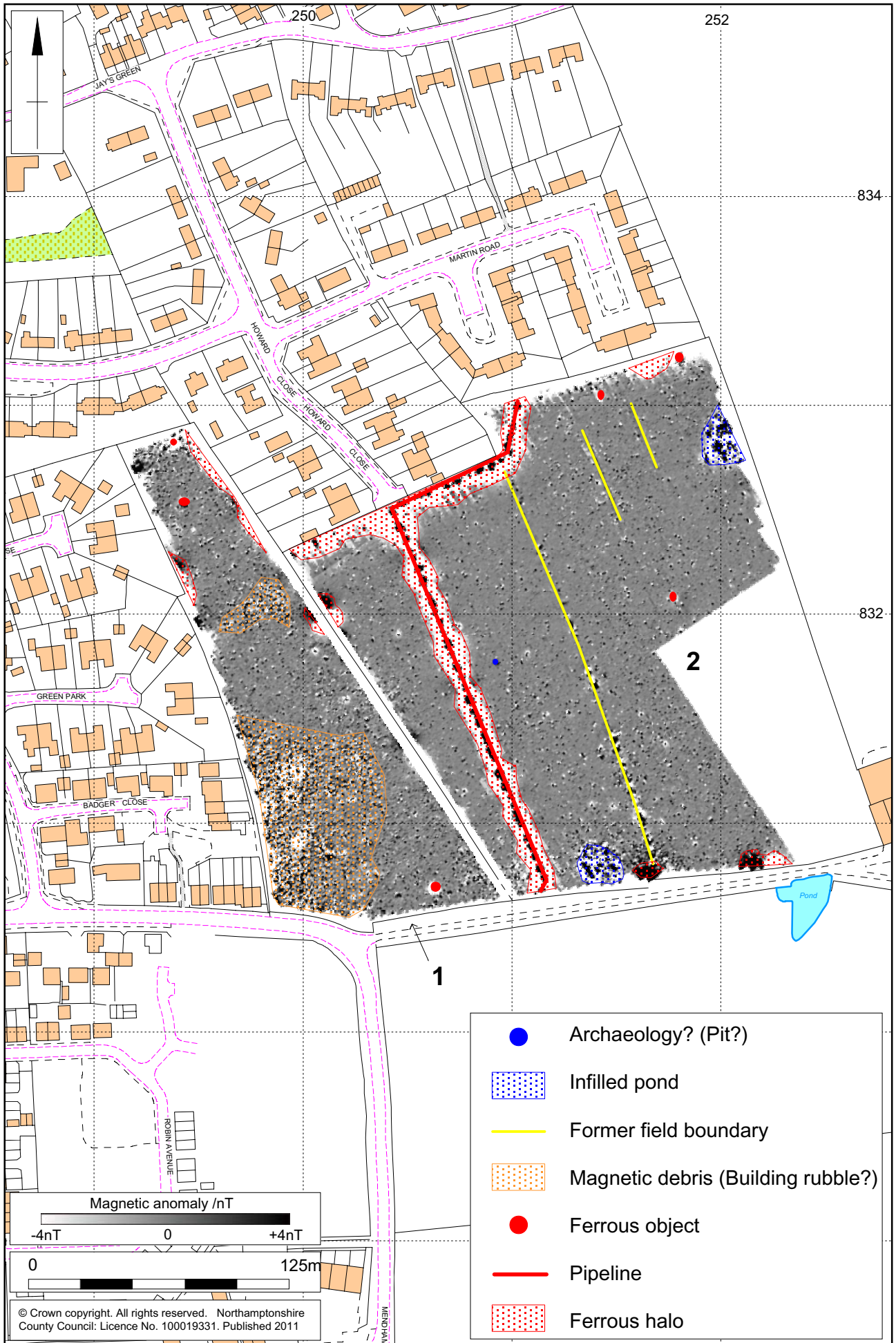
Magnetometer Survey Results Fig 2





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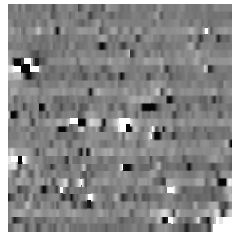
Magnetometer Survey Interpretation Fig 3



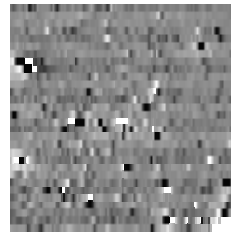
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Magnetometer Survey Interpretation Fig 3

Monday 31/10/2011

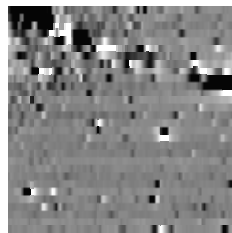


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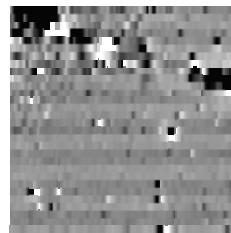


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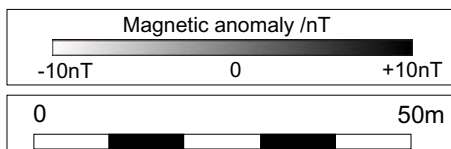
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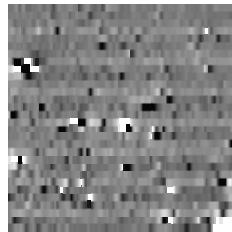
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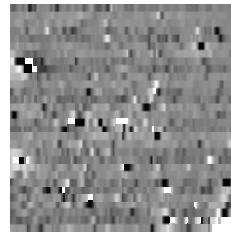
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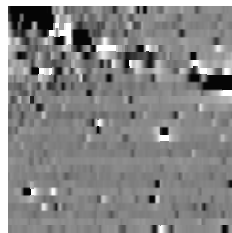


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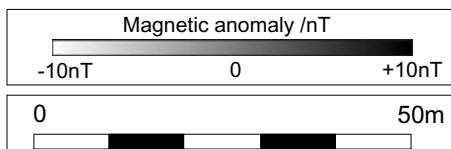
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F2R2



F2SB14







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