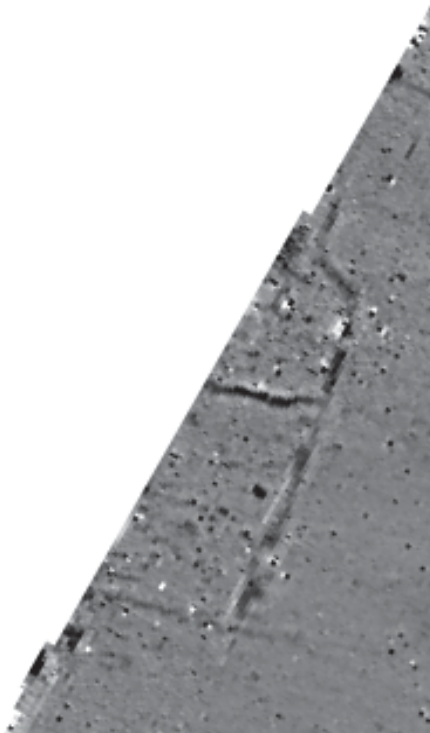




Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Geophysical Evaluation of
land adjacent to Norwich Road, Scole, Norfolk
September 2011



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Report 11/221

October 2011

Event Number: ENF127884



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QUALITY CONTROL

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Checked by	Pat Chapman	<i>PC</i>	27/10/2011
Verified & Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>AC</i>	27/10/2011

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological Geophysical Evaluation of land adjacent to Norwich Road, Scole, Norfolk September 2011	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out magnetometer survey in advance of a proposed development scheme at Norwich Road, Scole, Norfolk. An area of c 4.6ha was subject to detailed magnetometer survey. This revealed a complex of ditches of uncertain interpretation. Their layout is suggestive of an enclosure of Iron Age or Romano-British date, but their alignment with a pair of adjacent field boundaries raises the possibility that they are of more recent origin.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Iron Age or Romano-British settlement (possible)	
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Norfolk	
Site address	Norwich Road, Scole	
Study area	c 4.6ha	
OS Easting & Northing	TM 1542 7943	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Norfolk County Council (NCC)	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	John Walford	
Project Manager	Adrian Butler	
Sponsor or funding body	Chaplin Farrant Ltd.	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	16 September 2011	
End date	25 October 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	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	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 Evaluation of land adjacent to Norwich Road, Scole, Norfolk September 2011	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 11/221	
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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
4	METHODOLOGY	2
5	SURVEY RESULTS	3
6	CONCLUSION	3
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	4

Figures

Fig 1	Site Location	1:20,000
Fig 2	Magnetometer Survey Results	1:2,500
Fig 3	Magnetometer Survey Interpretation	1:2,500
Fig 4	Repeat Survey Data Grids	1:1000

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL EVALUATION
LAND ADJACENT TO NORWICH ROAD, SCOLE, NORFOLK
SEPTEMBER 2011
EVENT NUMBER: ENF127884

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out magnetometer survey in advance of a proposed development scheme at Norwich Road, Scole, Norfolk. An area of c 4.6ha was subject to detailed magnetometer survey. This revealed a complex of ditches of uncertain interpretation. Their layout is suggestive of an enclosure of Iron Age or Romano-British date, but their alignment with a pair of adjacent field boundaries raises the possibility that they are of more recent origin.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by Chaplin Farrant Ltd to carry out detailed geophysical survey to inform a planning application on land east of Norwich Road, Scole, Norfolk. The survey area consisted of a single arable field, c 4.6ha in extent, centred at NGR 615420 279430 (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 and therefore inform on the need for further assessment work.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site is located on the northern edge of Scole, Norfolk. The field in question is situated immediately to the east of the Norwich Road and north-west of the limit of housing. There is a single property, 'Red House' in the north-western corner, arable fields to the north and east, a pasture field to the south and allotments and a playing field to the south-east.

The solid geology of the area has been mapped as White Chalk; the drift is on the boundary between Diamicton Till (north and north-east) and Sand and Gravel (south-west) (BGS 2011).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

To date no archaeological work has been carried out in the proposed development area, although it is situated in a region of some archaeological interest. The site lies adjacent to the *Pye Road* Roman road (Norwich Road; Albone, 2011), and immediately opposite from '*High House*', a 17th century timber framed building (EH list entry no. 1373334). 500m to the south of the site, numerous interventions have located a Roman town and possible fort (NGR: TM149 786 <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/record.jsf?titleId=1076775>).

Features and artefacts of both Late and Early Prehistoric date have been located in the surrounding landscape (ibid). The site lies within the area of the Scole-Dickleburgh co-axial field system (Albone, 2011).

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 divide the survey area into a grid of 30m squares, and this grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid with a Leica System 1200 dGPS. The gradiometers were then 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 of data was recollected on each day of survey, for quality management purposes as required by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Albone 2011).

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

A set of positive anomalies describe a likely sub-rectangular ditched enclosure adjacent to the Norwich Road. There appears to be a small extension to the north, possibly a separate enclosure, giving an overall length of c 97m. The large enclosure is divided into two by a positive magnetic linear anomaly, probably representing a ditch that cuts east to west across the enclosed area. A discrete positive anomaly in the southern part of the enclosure may indicate a pit. The survey did identify further discrete anomalies inside the enclosure, but these are not clear enough to interpret with confidence.

The south-western corner of the survey area was found to contain positive linear anomalies which perhaps describe part of a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure.

The date of the main enclosure is uncertain. Its morphology suggests it could be a settlement enclosure of Iron Age or Romano-British date, but the fact it aligns closely with field boundaries on the opposite side of Norfolk Road argues for a later origin. Of course, it is also possible that it represents an early enclosure preserved and fossilised in a later configuration of fields.

Positive magnetic linear anomalies, interspersed with strong dipolar (paired positive/negative) magnetic anomalies indicating ferrous debris, follow a north - south alignment near the eastern boundary of the site. These, and further examples on a south-east to north-west orientated in the north of the survey area are likely to represent

the remains of historic field boundaries, removed between the 18th and 20th centuries (www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/emap).

6 CONCLUSION

The survey has located a ditched enclosure of indeterminate date, which has some possible discrete internal features. It could represent an Iron Age or Romano-British site, or part of a later system of field boundaries. This site clearly extends across the western boundary into the current line of Norwich Road.

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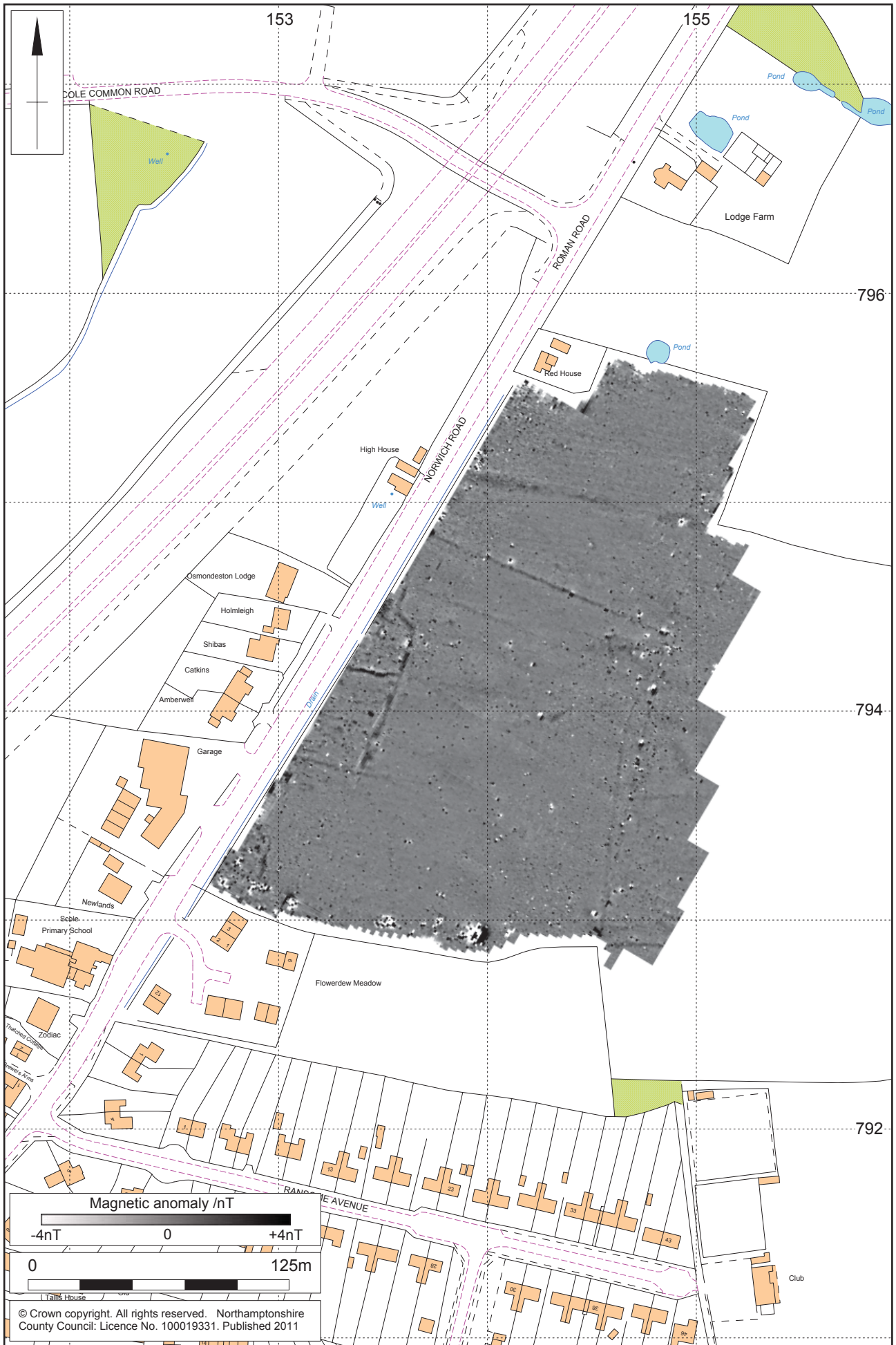
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Norfolk County Council 2011 www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/emap, accessed 18/10/2011



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



1:2500

Magnetometer survey results, Fig 2



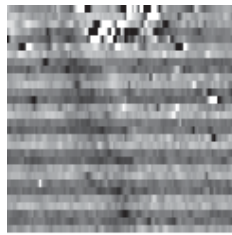
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Magnetometer survey interpretation, Fig 3

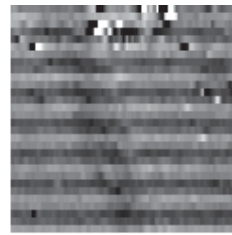
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26/09/11

B15

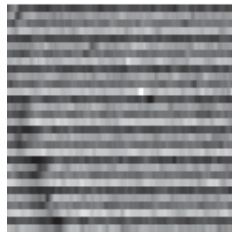


RA1

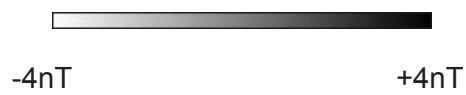
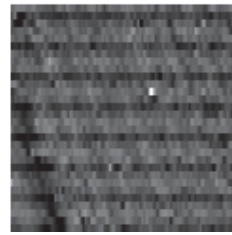


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RA10



BB2



Scale 1:1000





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