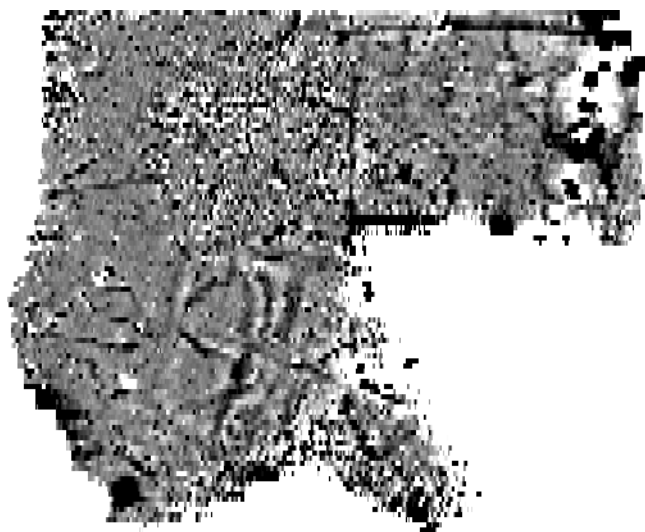




Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological geophysical survey of land at
Station Road, Bishop's Itchington, Warwickshire
November 2012



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Report 12/211

December 2012



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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman	<i>PC</i>	12/12/2012
Verified by	Mark Holmes	<i>MH</i>	11/12/2012
Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>AC</i>	12/12/2012

BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON

OASIS REPORT FORM 139112

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological geophysical survey of land at Station Road, Bishop's Itchington, Warwickshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey of a proposed development area at Station Road, Bishop's Itchington, Warwickshire. The survey results showed the area to contain a number of archaeological remains, including a possible medieval house platform, a large spread of brick rubble, and a network of enclosure and boundary ditches of indeterminate date.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None known	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Undated ditches and possible medieval settlement	
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Warwickshire	
Site address	Station Road, Bishop's Itchington	
Study area	c 1ha	
OS grid reference	SP 3886 5799	
Height OD	c 120m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	James Ladocha	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	30 November 2012	
End date	12 December 2012	
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	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	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 Station Road, Bishop's Itchington, Warwickshire , November 2012	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 12/211	
Author(s)	John Walford	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF LAND AT
STATION ROAD, BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE
NOVEMBER 2012**

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey of a proposed development area at Station Road, Bishop's Itchington, Warwickshire. The survey results showed the area to contain a number of archaeological remains, including a possible medieval house platform, a large spread of brick rubble, and a network of enclosure and boundary ditches of indeterminate date.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct a geophysical survey in advance of a proposed development on land to the east of Station Road, Bishop's Itchington, Warwickshire (NGR SP 3886 5799; Fig 1). The aim of the survey was to investigate whether there were any archaeological remains present which might be affected by the proposed development.

The fieldwork was conducted on 30th November 2012 and comprised the detailed magnetometer survey of c 1ha of land.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The proposed development area consists of an irregularly-shaped arable field located alongside Station Road, on the north-western edge of Bishop's Itchington (Fig 1). This field stands at an elevation of c 120m aOD and slopes gently down towards the south-west.

The solid geology of the area comprises limestones and mudstones of the Blue Lias formation. An overlying lobe of glacial till, with marginal deposits of sand and gravel, occurs immediately to the south-west, but it is not clear from the available mapping whether it extends into the proposed development area (BGS 2012).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Little is known about the archaeology of the proposed development area. The only relevant record on the Warwickshire HER is MWA9046, which records the presumed extent of the village in the medieval period and suggests that settlement may have extended up to the southern boundary of the area. Ordnance Survey maps of the proposed development area, dating from 1887 onwards, do not show any features of archaeological significance.

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 survey area was divided into a grid of 30m squares, which were established with a tape measure and optical square and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by means of a Leica 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.

All fieldwork methods complied with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and by the Institute for Archaeologists (EH 2008; IfA 2011) and with the written scheme of investigation for the project (NA 2012).

The survey data were 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. This plot has been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Fig 2). An interpretative overlay is shown in Figure 3, and a plot of the unprocessed survey data is presented in Figure 4.

5 SURVEY RESULTS

The survey data contains a dense and partially disjointed arrangement of intersecting archaeological anomalies, obscured in places by more recent disturbance. The overall complexity is such that it precludes a full and confident interpretation, but a few major features may be distinguished nonetheless.

In the southern half of the field there is a large sub-rectangular feature, largely defined by a broad, weakly negative magnetic anomaly. It measures approximately 35m long by 22m wide. Negative anomalies can indicate embanked features, built up with relatively non magnetic subsoil, and so the most plausible interpretation of this feature would be that it represents a ploughed-down house platform of medieval, or perhaps early post-medieval, date.

To the north, there is a large zone of magnetic 'noise' (densely clustered small dipolar anomalies), which coincides with a surface scatter of brick rubble. Assuming this is not recently imported dump of hardcore, it could mark the site of a demolished building.

Irregular positive linear anomalies, which probably represent sections of boundary and enclosure ditches, are present across much of the field. They do not form a particularly coherent layout, and they lack any diagnostic elements that would allow attribution to a particular historical period. It is possible that they relate to medieval or post-medieval settlement, but an earlier origin would also be plausible.

Some of the data from around the margins of the field is magnetically disturbed. There are magnetic halos, caused by adjacent fences and buildings, large dipolar anomalies, caused by ferrous objects, and general magnetic noise perhaps indicating accumulations of builders' rubble or domestic rubbish.

In the north-eastern part of the field, there is an intensely magnetic linear anomaly, of alternating polarity, which represents a modern pipeline.

6 CONCLUSION

The survey results indicate that the proposed development area contains a number of archaeological features, including a possible medieval house platform, a large spread of brick rubble, and various undated enclosure and boundary ditches. Unfortunately, the full extent and layout of the ditches cannot be satisfactorily defined, due to the complexity of the magnetic data set and the weak and fragmentary character of many individual anomalies.

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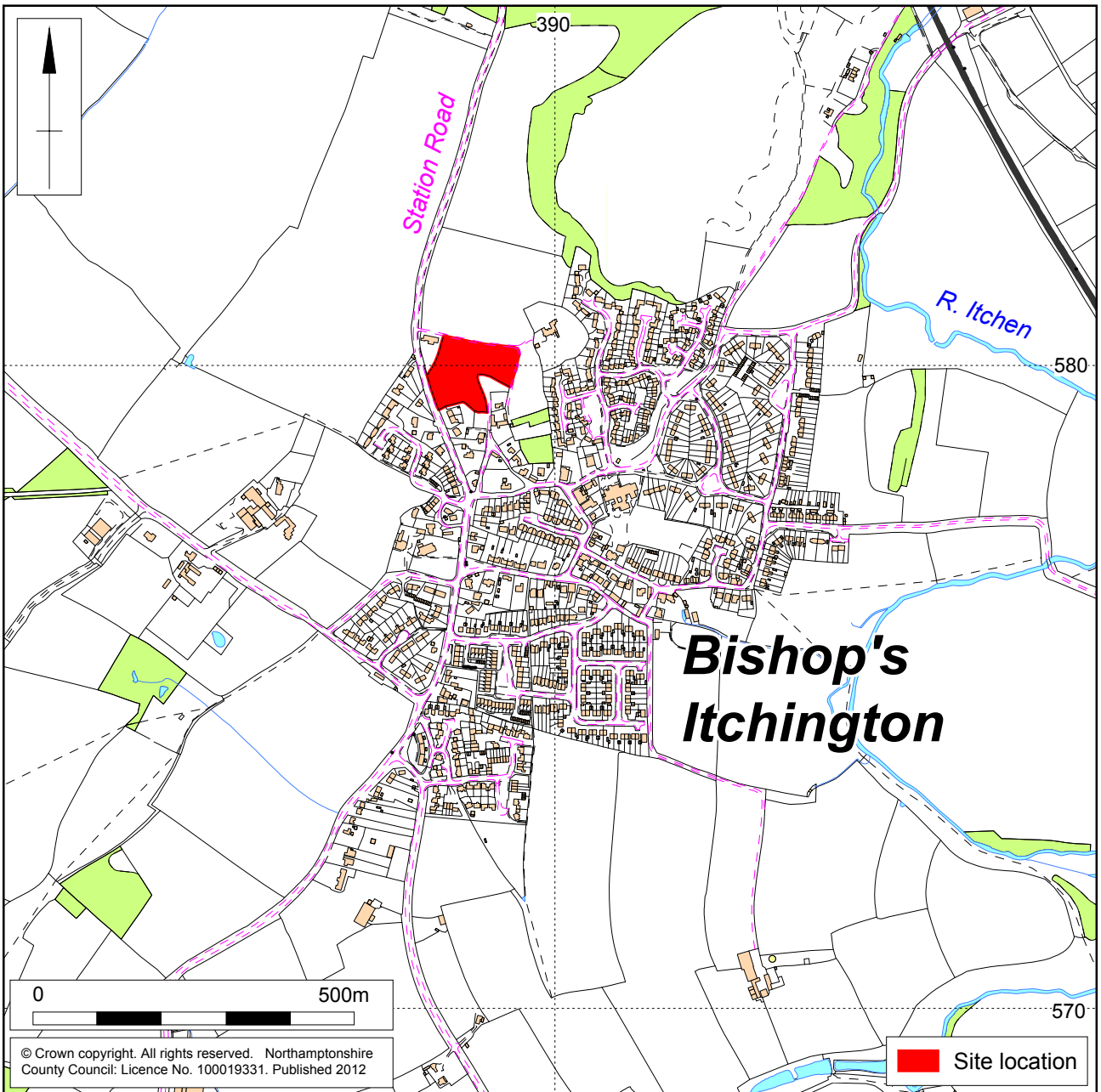
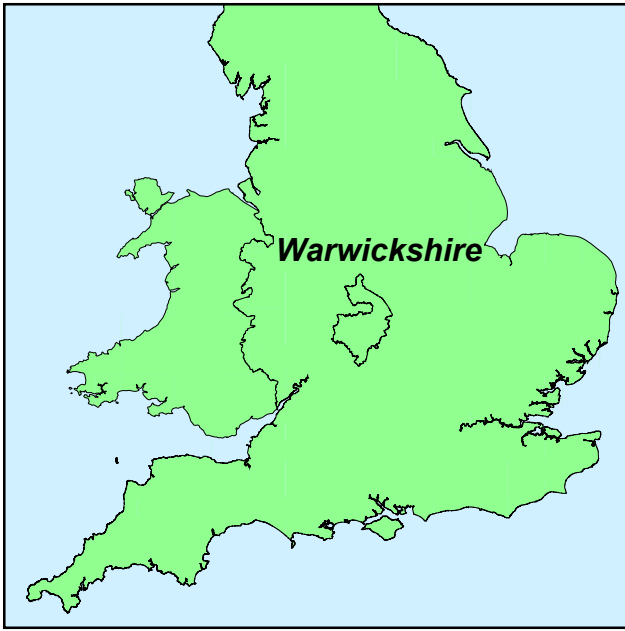
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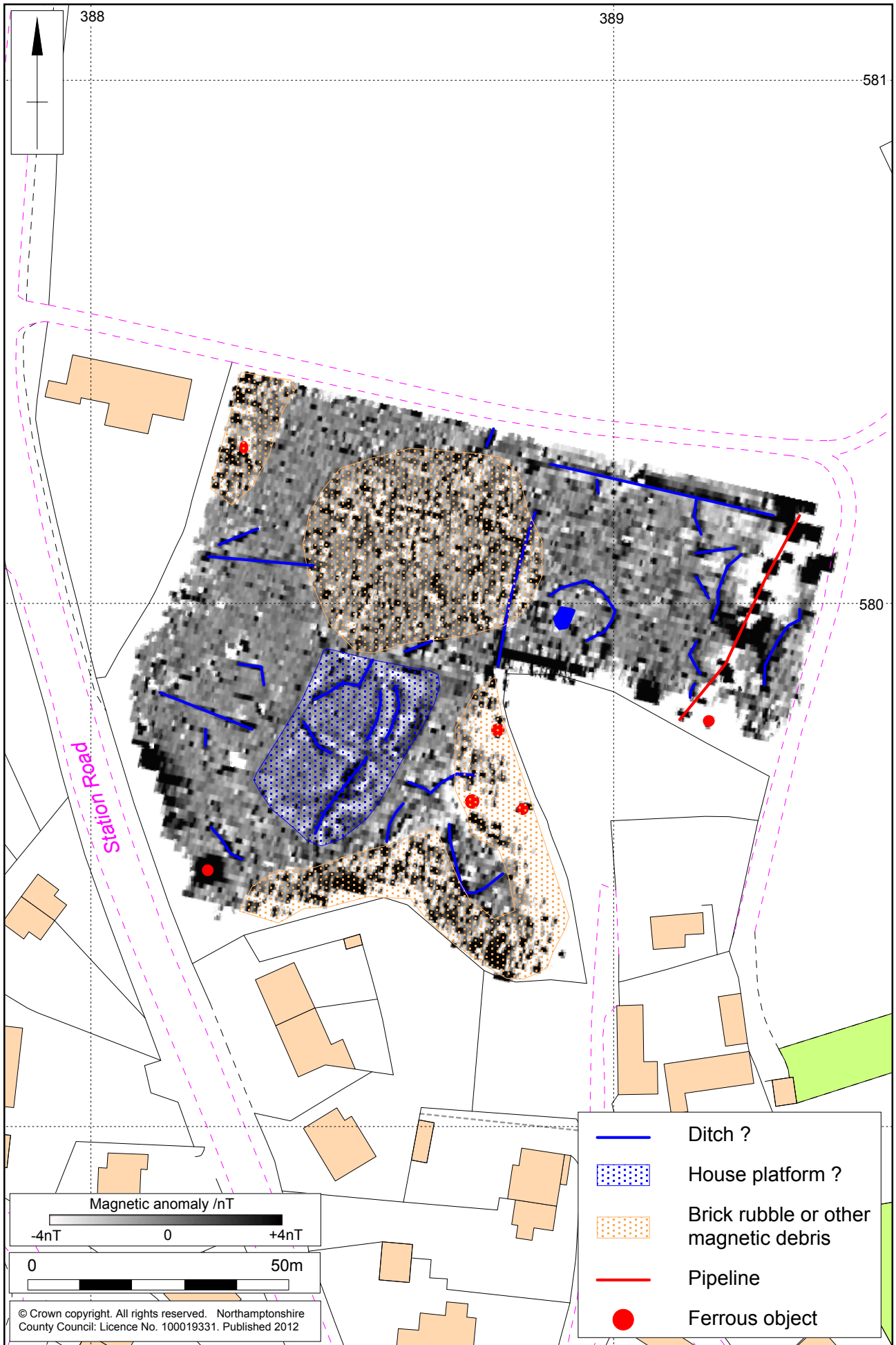
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Site location Fig 1



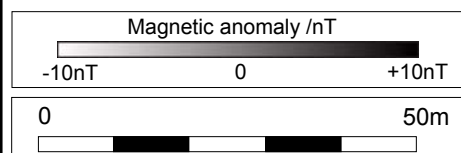
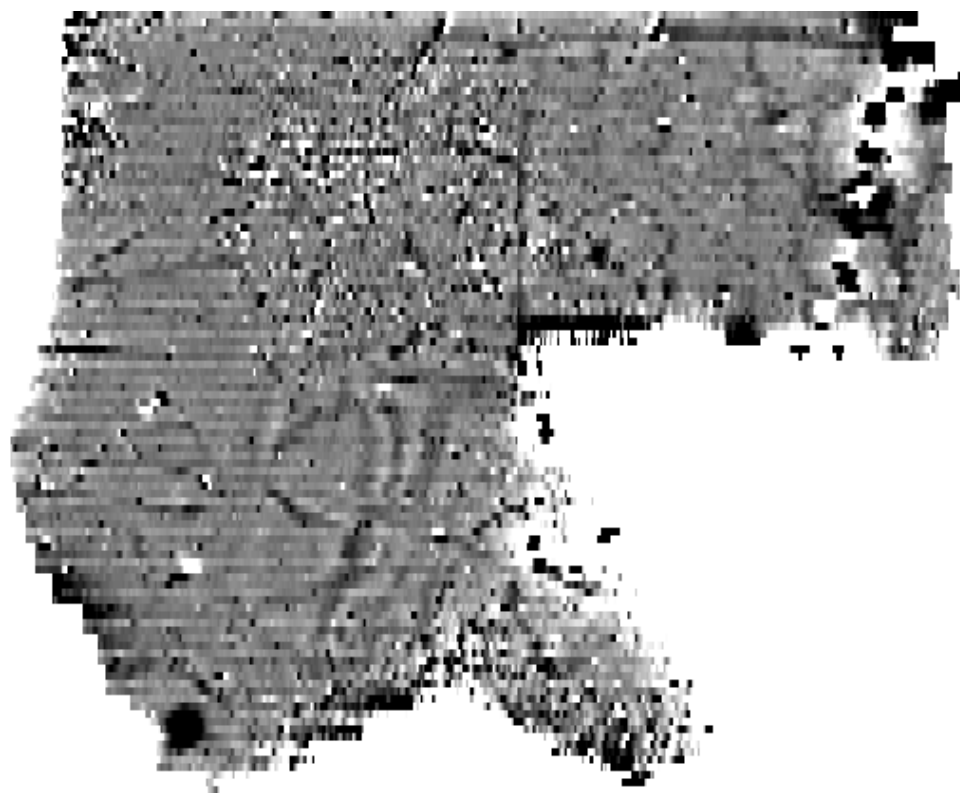
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Magnetometer survey results Fig 2



1:1000

Magnetometer survey interpretation Fig 3



1:1000

Unprocessed magnetometer data Fig 4



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