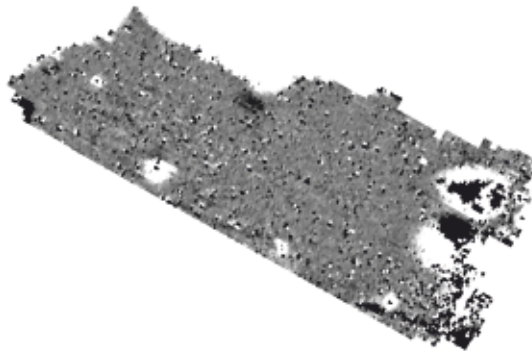




Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological geophysical survey of land at
Rowland Way, Atherstone, Warwickshire
December 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

James Ladocha
Report 12/212
December 2012



STAFF

Project Manager: Adam Yates BA MfA

Fieldwork: James Ladocha BA
Adam Meadows BSc

Text and Illustrations: James Ladocha

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman	<i>PC</i>	13/12/2012
Verified by	Adam Yates	<i>AJ</i>	13/12/2012
Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>AC</i>	13/12/2012

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 139236
Project name	Archaeological geophysical survey of land at Rowland Way, Atherstone, Warwickshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey of a proposed development area at Rowland Way, Atherstone, Warwickshire. The survey detected no features of archaeological interest. The remains of a 19th-century small farm building, and related pond, were detected along with a number of ferrous objects related to the land use at time of survey.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment	
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Warwickshire	
Site address	Rowland Way, Atherstone	
Study area	c 3ha	
OS grid reference	SP 30437 98827	
Height OD	c 73m – 83m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Phoenix Consulting Archaeology	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	James Ladocha	
Project Manager	Adam Yates	
Sponsor or funding body	Phoenix Consulting Archaeology	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	4 December 2012	
End date	5 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BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	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 Rowland Way, Atherstone, Warwickshire, December 2012	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 12/212	
Author(s)	James Ladocha	
Page numbers	4	
Date	13 December 2012	

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

Cover	Magnetometer survey results	
Fig 1	Site location	1:10,000
Fig 2	Magnetometer survey results	1:2500
Fig 3	Magnetometer survey interpretation	1:2500
Fig 4	Unprocessed magnetometer data	1:2500

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF LAND AT
ROWLAND WAY, ATHERSTONE, WARWICKSHIRE
DECEMBER 2012**

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey of a proposed development area at Rowland Way, Atherstone, Warwickshire. The survey detected no features of archaeological interest. The remains of a 19th-century small farm building, and related pond, were detected along with a number of ferrous objects related to the land use at time of survey.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology to conduct a geophysical survey in advance of a proposed development on land to the north of Rowland Way, Atherstone, Warwickshire (NGR SP 30437 98827; 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 4th and 5th December 2012 and comprised the detailed magnetometer survey of c 3ha of land.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The proposed development area consists of two fields under a regime of permanent pasture. The site is bound to the south and west by Rowland Way and Old Holly Lane respectively, to the east by Innage Brook and a modern housing estate, and to the north by Durno Nurseries (Fig 1). The land is gently undulating and stands at an elevation of between 73m and 83m aOD.

The solid geology of the area comprises Triassic Mudstones of the New Red Sandstone Formation, bordering Cambrian rocks of the Upper, Middle and Lower Tremadoc Series

to the south, and Carboniferous rocks of the Upper Westphalian Series to the west (Richmond 2012).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A comprehensive desk-based assessment of the site has been prepared by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology (Richmond 2012). In summary, there are no recorded archaeological or historic sites or finds within the proposed development area. The nearest recorded archaeological entry relates to a series of earthworks 330m to the west, believed to be the remains of a deserted settlement. A small farm building, together with a nearby pond, is shown on Ordnance Survey maps between 1887 and 1965 on the site. The rubble remains of the building were still visible at the time of survey.

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.

5 SURVEY RESULTS

The survey data contains a zone of magnetic 'noise' (densely clustered small dipolar anomalies) at the boundary between the two fields. This coincides with the rubble remains of the small farm building seen on the 1887-1965 Ordnance Survey maps. To the north of this is an area of strong positive anomalies. This disturbed ground most likely represents the backfill of the pond related to the small farm building.

The dipolar anomalies scattered across the site are caused by ferrous objects. The majority of these were above ground and related to the horses kept in the fields at the time of survey.

The series of weak positive linear anomalies aligned north-west to south-east in field 2 may represent land drains.

6 CONCLUSION

The survey has detected no features of archaeological interest, and this suggests that no substantial remains exist within the proposed development area. However, the negative results do not entirely preclude the existence of small or ephemeral remains (eg postholes, cremations, etc) as such things rarely produce clear and diagnostic magnetic anomalies (EH 2008, 14).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bartington, G, and Chapman, C, 2003 A high-stability fluxgate magnetic gradiometer for shallow geophysical survey applications, *Archaeological Prospection*, **11**, 19-34

EH 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*, English Heritage

Gaffney, C, and Gater, J, 2003 *Revealing the Buried Past: Geophysics for Archaeologists*, Tempus Publishing

IfA 2011 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey*, Institute for Archaeologists

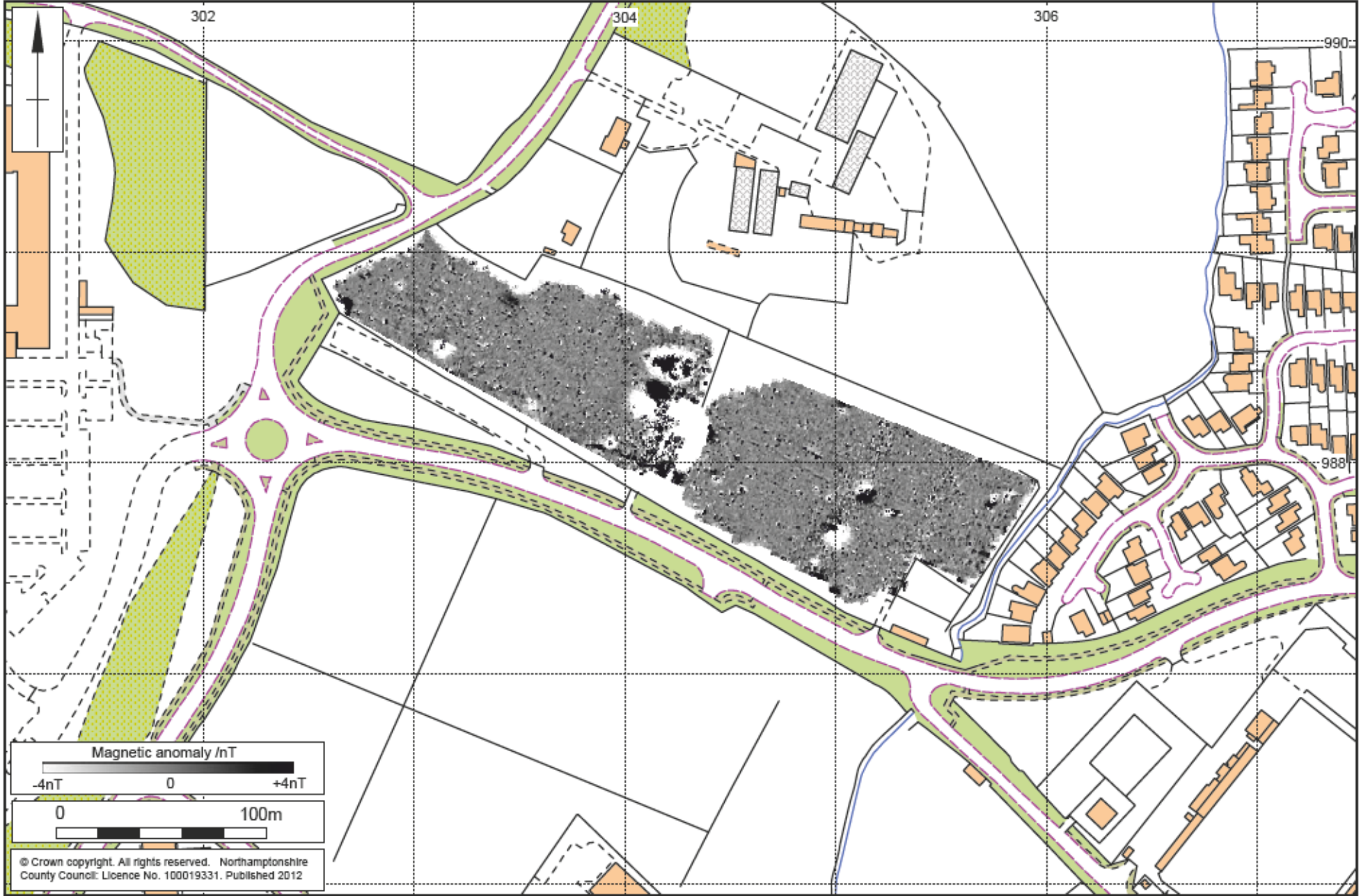
Richmond, A, 2012 *Desk-based assessment: Land north of Rowlands Way, Atherstone, Warwickshire*, Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:2500 (A4)



Geophysical survey results Fig 2

Magnetic anomaly /nT
-4nT 0 +4nT

0 100m

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019331. Published 2012

Scale 1:2500 (A4)

Geophysical survey interpretation Fig 3





Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



CONTRACTORS HEALTH & SAFETY ASSESSMENT SCHEME
Accredited Contractor
www.has.gov.uk



**Northamptonshire
County Council**



UVDB

empowered by **Achilles**