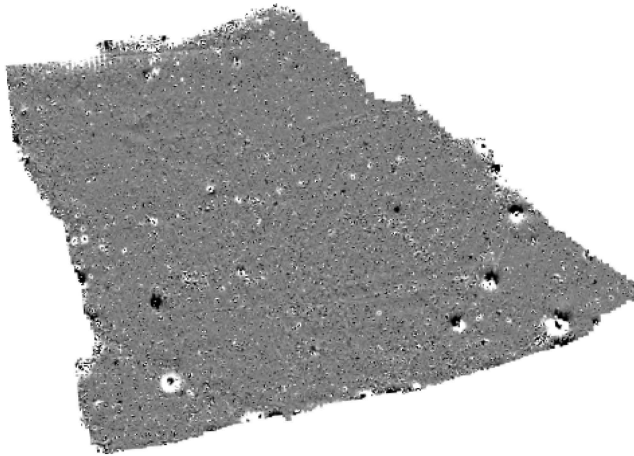




Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Geophysical Survey of land east of
Watmore Road, Winnersh, Berkshire
January 2013



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Report 13/18

January 2013



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM**OASIS No: 141598**

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological geophysical survey of land east of Watmore Lane, Winnersh, Berkshire January 2013	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey of a proposed development area at Watmore Lane, Winnersh, Berkshire. The survey results showed the area to contain a number of ferrous objects, including a drain and possible former fence line.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None known	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Berkshire	
Site address	Watmore Lane, Winnersh	
Study area	c 11.5ha	
OS grid reference	SU 7900 7070	
Height OD	c 42-50m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	7 January 2013	
End date	8 January 2013	
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BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	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 east of Watmore Lane, Winnersh, Berkshire January 2013	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 13/18	
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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

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

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF LAND EAST OF
WATMORE LANE, WINNERSH, BERKSHIRE
JANUARY 2013**

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey of a proposed development area at Watmore Lane, Winnersh, Berkshire. The survey results showed the area to contain a number of ferrous objects, including a drain and possible former fence line.

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 Watmore Lane, Winnersh, Berkshire (NGR SU 7900 7070; 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 7th-8th January 2013 and comprised the detailed magnetometer survey of c 11.5ha of land.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The proposed development area consists of a single grass field located east of Watmore Lane, on the south-eastern edge of Winnersh (Fig 1). This field stands at an elevation of c 42-50m aOD and slopes gently down towards the north-east. It is bound to the north and west by modern housing, agricultural land to the south and to the east by Emm Brook.

The solid geology of the area comprises London Clay with a localised capping of river terrace gravels (BGS 2013).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Little is known about the archaeology of the proposed development area. A desk-based assessment of the survey area indicated no known sites or find-spots, and that few archaeological sites are known to exist in the wider vicinity (Dix 2012).

A few Neolithic and Bronze Age artifacts have been found within the vicinity of the survey area. The most immediately relevant of these are a Neolithic arrowhead found c 400m to the north-west, at Winnersh Primary School, and a Bronze Age urn found c 250m to the north, in the Merryhill Green area (Dix 2012, 10-11).

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 significant amount of anomalies that indicate ferrous objects, probably of agricultural origin, within the topsoil and subsoil. However, two trends can be seen within these anomalies. In the south-east corner of the field, three of the anomalies joined by a faint linear anomaly represent manhole covers (visible on the surface) and a drain. It is on a north-east alignment. In the centre of the field several ferrous anomalies are aligned on a roughly east to west alignment. Although there is no evidence on the ground, these may represent a former fence line.

No archaeological features were detected by the survey.

6 CONCLUSION

The survey results indicate a large number of ferrous anomalies within the field representing a drain and possible former fence and items of agricultural origin. However, no anomalies of archaeological significance were identified.

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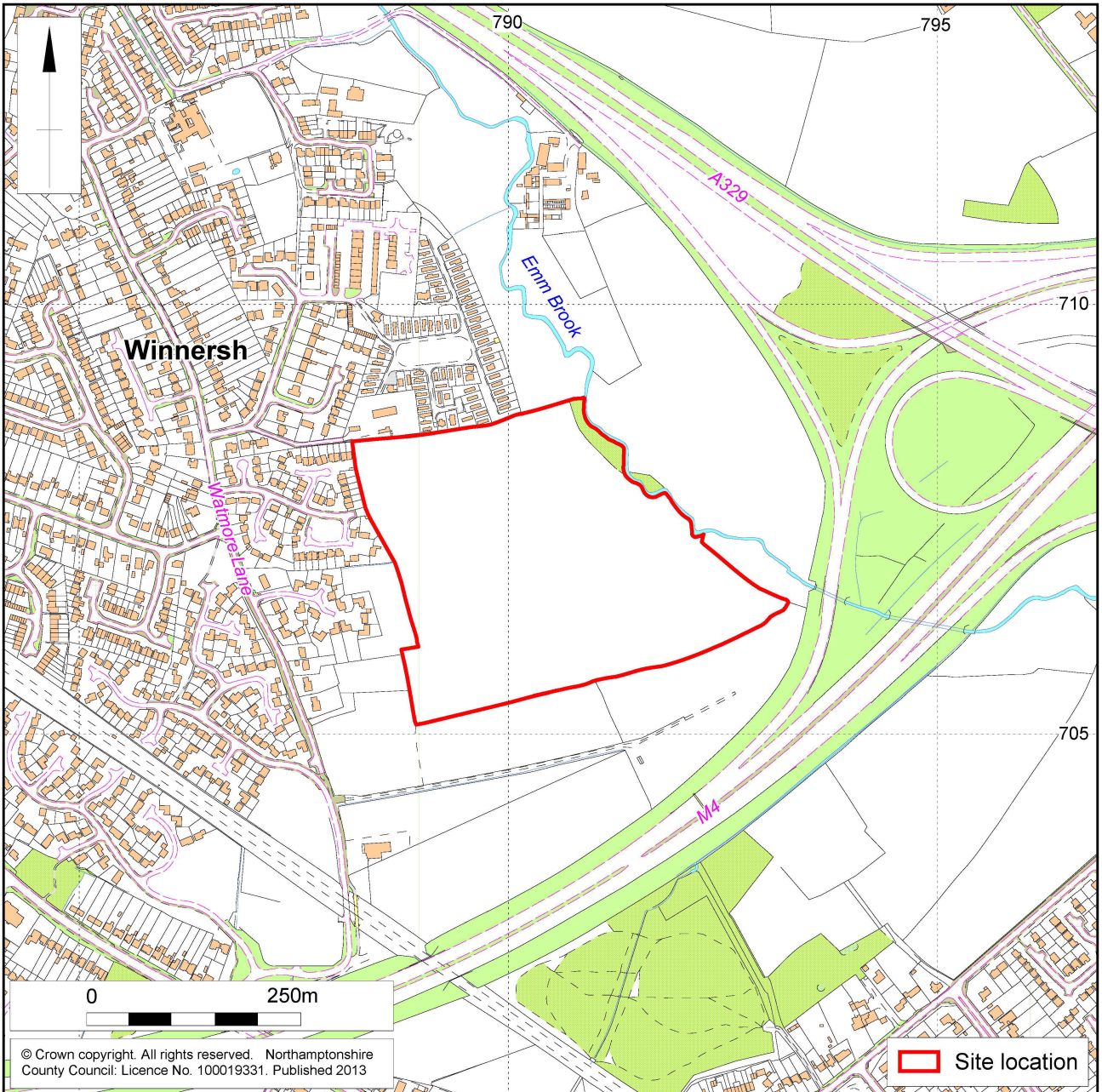
Dix 2012 *Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment Land East of Watmore Lane, Winnersh, Berkshire CgMs Consulting*

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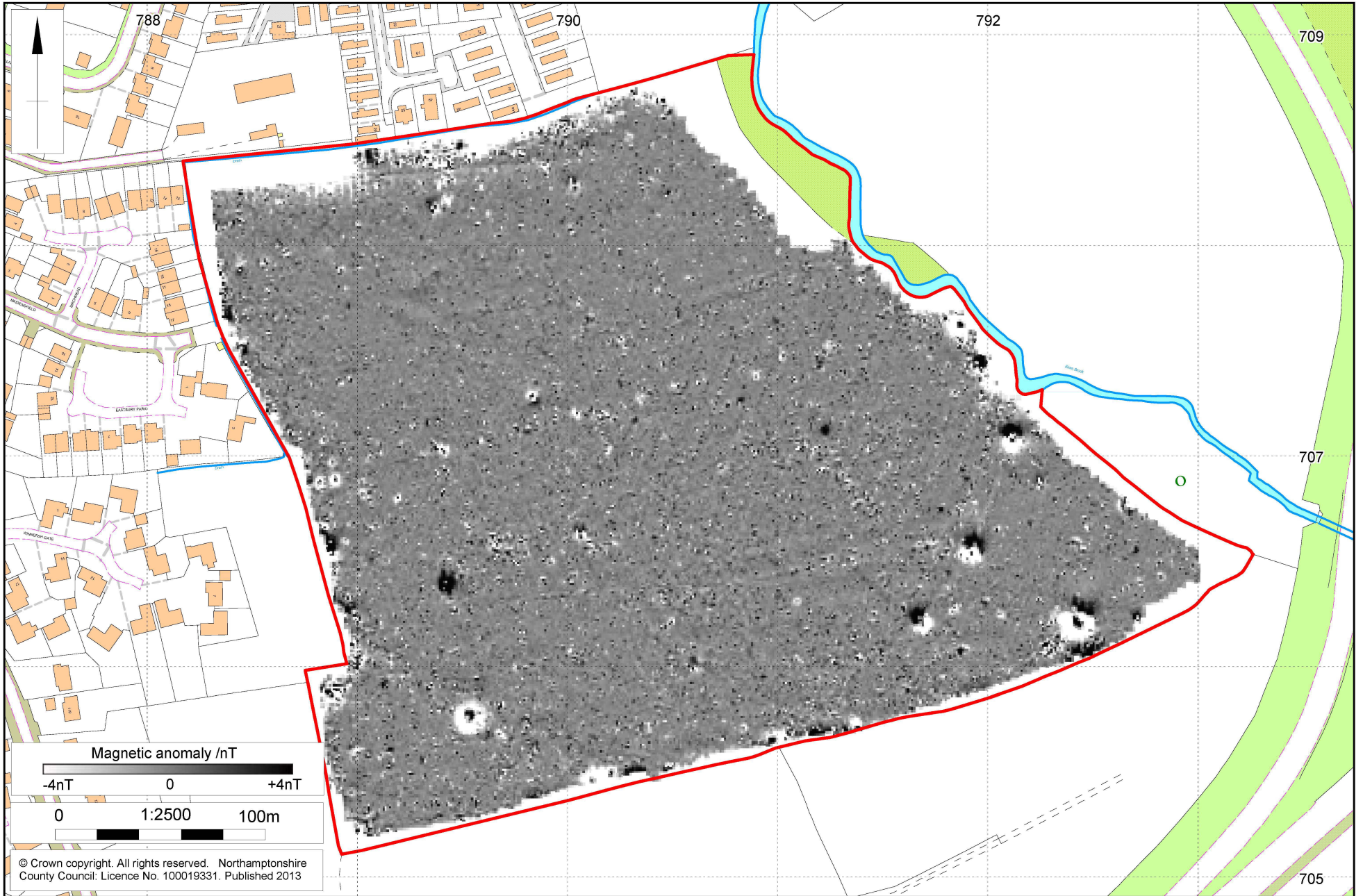
Scale 1:7500

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:2500 (A4)

Winnersh Magnetometer Survey Results

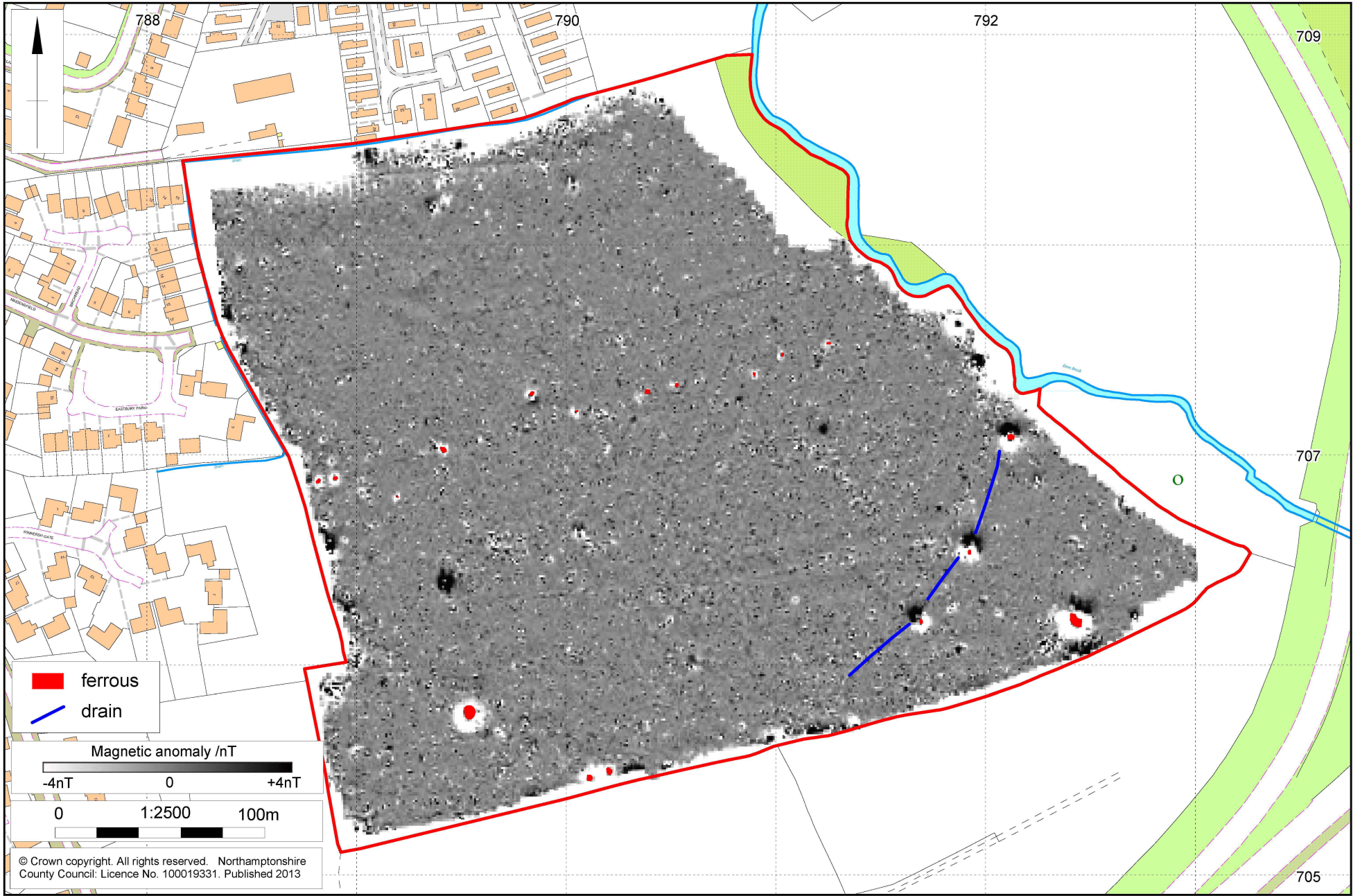
Fig 2



Scale 1:2500 (A4)

Winnesh Magnetometer Survey Interpretation

Fig 3





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