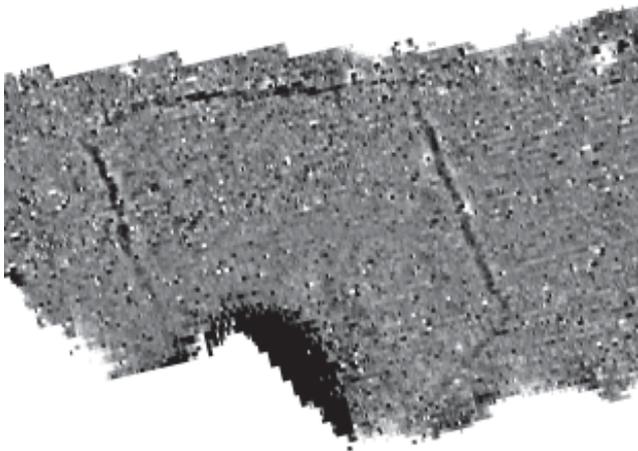




# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological geophysical survey of land off  
Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire  
February-March 2013



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Report 13/54

March 2013



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Verified by	Adam Yates	<i>AY</i>	21/03/13
Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>AC</i>	21/03/13

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS No: 145945</b>
Project name	Archaeological geophysical survey of land off Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on a proposed development site at Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. The survey identified one sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, which may be of later prehistoric or Romano-British date, and some other features which may relate to post-medieval pottery and brick manufacture. A line of positive anomalies in the northern part of the site maybe archaeological in origin, but a geological interpretation is also possible.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Archaeological and Heritage Assessment (Crutchley 2012)	
Current Land use	Mixed agriculture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Undated enclosure	
Significant finds	Undated enclosure	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Worcestershire	
Site address	Land off Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove	
Study area	c 60ha	
OS grid reference	SO 950 720	
Height OD	c 95 - 105m aOD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	The Environmental Dimension Partnership	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher, Chris Chinnock	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes	
Sponsor or funding body	The Environmental Dimension Partnership	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	25 February 2013	
End date	08 March 2013	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	Location	Content
Physical	N/A	
Paper	NA	Site survey records
Digital	NA	Geophysical survey & GIS data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	
Title	Archaeological geophysical survey of land off Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, February - March 2013	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 13/54	
Author(s)	John Walford	
Page numbers	6	
Date	18 March 2013	

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>SURVEY RESULTS</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>5.1 Archaeological and historic features</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>5.2 Modern features</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>5.3 Unidentified and miscellaneous features</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>6</b>

## Figures

Cover	Magnetometer survey results from Field 12	
Fig 1	Site location	1:20,000
Fig 2	Overview of magnetometer survey results	1:7500
Fig 3	Magnetometer survey results, Fields 7 & 12-17	1:2500
Fig 4	Magnetometer survey interpretation, Fields 7 & 12-17	1:2500
Fig 5	Magnetometer survey results, Fields 3-7 & 10-12	1:2500
Fig 6	Magnetometer survey interpretation, Fields 3-7 & 10-12	1:2500
Fig 7	Magnetometer survey results, Fields 1, 2, 8 & 9	1:2500
Fig 8	Magnetometer survey interpretation, Fields 1, 2, 8 & 9	1:2500
Fig 9	Unprocessed magnetometer survey data, Fields 1-8	1:2500
Fig 10	Unprocessed magnetometer survey data, Fields 9-14	1:2500
Fig 11	Unprocessed magnetometer survey data, Fields 15-17	1:2500

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF LAND OFF  
PERRYFIELDS ROAD, BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE  
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2013**

**ABSTRACT**

*Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on a proposed development site at Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. The survey identified one sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, which may be of later prehistoric or Romano-British date, and some other features which may relate to post-medieval pottery or brick manufacture. A line of positive anomalies in the northern part of the site maybe archaeological in origin, but a geological interpretation is also possible.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP), to conduct a magnetometer survey on a proposed development area at Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire (NGR SO 950 720; Fig 1). The aim of the survey was to investigate whether the proposed development would damage or destroy any significant archaeological remains.

The fieldwork was conducted from 25th February to 8th March 2013 and comprised the detailed magnetometer survey of c 53.5ha of land.

**2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

The proposed development area comprises an elongated parcel of land lying between the M5 motorway and the western edge of Bromsgrove. It extends from Kidderminster road in the south to Stourbridge Road in the north and is bisected by Perryfields Road (Fig 1). The land is in mixed agricultural use, with arable and pasture fields, a fruit farm and a turf farm. The fruit farm was not covered by the survey, due to the difficulty of surveying tree-covered ground.

Most of the proposed development area lies around 95m to 105m aOD, on the south-eastern side of the Battlefield Brook. Bands of alluvium and terrace gravel run alongside the brook in the northern part of the area, but elsewhere the geology comprises Triassic deposits belonging to the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation (BGS 2013).

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

Whilst no archaeological sites are known to occur within the proposed development area, a few are present in surrounding landscape (Crutchley 2012). The most notable of these are a ring ditch (WSM09868) and an irregular four-sided enclosure (WSM09869), both of presumed prehistoric date. Both lie to the west of the proposed development area, on the far side of the M5 (Fig 1).

A few scattered finds hint at Roman activity in and around the proposed development area, but no substantial remains are known. Evidence for Saxon activity is completely lacking. Medieval remains are more abundant, but are concentrated around settlement sites at Fockbury (WSM 12323) and Barnsley Hall (WSM 12154), both of which lie outside the proposed development area. The only medieval feature recorded within the area is a former wayside cross, which stood at the junction of Perryfields Road and Kidderminster Road (WSM 06757).

There is some tenuous historical and toponymic evidence for a battle having taken place in or close to the proposed development area at a date prior to the 17th century. The historian Dugdale identified Bromsgrove as the site of “the Battle of the Standard”, and the local placenames Battlefield Farm and Battlefield Brook have obvious implications. However, there is a lack of firm corroborating evidence, and the reality or otherwise of the battle remains an open question (Crutchley 2012, 13-14)

Historic field names suggest that there may have been post-medieval brick and pottery manufacturing sites in the general vicinity of the proposed development area (Crutchley 2012, 11), and the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1883) shows a brick works and clay pits alongside Perryfields Road at NGR SO 953 720. There is also evidence, on the Ordnance Survey draft of 1814, for settlement at Redcross Farm and Sheepcote Grange, and for a building marked as a ‘turnpike’ at the junction of Kidderminster and Perryfields Roads. However, the historic mapping suggests that this industrial activity

and settlement was relatively localised, and the majority of the proposed development area was in agricultural use during the 19th and 20th centuries.

#### **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).

An independent system of 30m grid squares was established across each of the fields to be surveyed. The grids were established with a tape measure and optical square and were tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by means of 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.

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 2013).

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 greyscale plots, at a scale of +/- 4nT black/white. These plots have been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Figs 3, 5 and 7). This report also includes interpretation diagrams (Figs 4, 6 and 8) and plots of the unprocessed survey data (Figs 9 to 11).

## 5 SURVEY RESULTS

### 5.1 Archaeological and historic features

The survey has detected an archaeological site in Field 12, where a set of positive linear anomalies define the greater part of a trapezoidal ditched enclosure (Figs 3 to 6). This measures approximately 75m from east to west, and more than 100m from north to south. Its precise date is unknown, but its shape and size suggest a late prehistoric or Romano-British date would be most likely.

Approximately 100m to the east of the enclosure, there are a pair of short positive linear anomalies which project northwards from the edge of Field 12. Whilst these are not certainly archaeological, there is a possibility that they represent part of a small ditched enclosure extending beneath Perryfield Road.

In Field 8, there is a short positive curvilinear anomaly which is largely concealed by the halo from an adjacent pipeline (Figs 7 and 8). It is possible that this represents one edge of a ring ditch or an enclosure, but the evidence is too tenuous to permit a firm conclusion.

Close to the entrance of Field 14, there is large and irregular positive anomaly which attains a maximum intensity of 53nT, and is surrounded by a zone of weak magnetic noise (Figs 3 and 4). The strength of the main anomaly would be consistent with a deposit of ceramic debris or burnt soil, and the noise could have been produced by a low-density scatter of similar material. It is possible, therefore, that the anomaly represents a feature associated with the local brick industry – for instance a former kiln or a dump of waste within an old clay pit.

A much smaller, more tightly defined patch of magnetic noise occurs in Field 9, alongside a weak and discontinuous L-shaped linear anomaly. The linear anomaly probably represents a ditch (perhaps an old field boundary) and the patch of noise might indicate a small deposit of ceramic debris. It is significant to note that this field was named as 'Brickyard Piece' on the tithe map of c 1840 (Crutchley 2012, 12).

### 5.2 Modern features

The southern part of the survey area is crossed by a large number of intensely magnetic linear anomalies which relate to modern pipes and other services (Figs 7 and 8, Field 2).

The positive linear anomalies identified in Fields 1 (Figs 7 and 8), 10 and 14 (Figs 5 and 6) have been interpreted as old field boundaries. In Fields 6 and 14 positive linear anomalies indicate the presence of land drains (Figs 5 and 6, 3 and 4). Two intensely magnetic linear anomalies indicate a path (Field 10) and a road (Field 14).

Field 13, which was used as a works compound during the construction of the M5, exhibits very extensive magnetic disturbance (Figs 3 and 4). This suggests the ground has been heavily disturbed and contains large quantities of ferrous debris and hardcore. One particularly massive ferrous anomaly, which occurs in the western half of the field, indicates the presence of a very substantial iron object. A band of similar magnetic noise, present in the north of Field 3, presumably represents the access track leading to the compound.

Other areas of magnetic noise indicate smaller concentrations of ferrous debris or hardcore. A well defined example in Field 16 coincides with a rectangular mound.

To the east of Redcross Farm an area of magnetic noise/disturbance maybe the remnants of former buildings or rubbish discarded from the farm (Figs 7 and 8). The remains of a building are indicated by a group of ferrous anomalies to the north of Redcross Farm (1920-1960 Ordnance Survey Map).

The magnetic noise/disturbance in Field 1 may also indicate the remains of a former building.

### **5.3 Unidentified and miscellaneous features** (Figs 4 to 5 and 7 to 8)

There are a number of weakly positive linear anomalies of indeterminate origin in Fields 8, 14 and 17 (Figs 3 and 4, 7 and 8). It is possible that some of them represent ditches, but others may relate to field drains, plough marks, or other insignificant features.

In Field 15 there is a discontinuous, slightly curving, line of small positive anomalies which lies roughly parallel to the brook. Individually, these anomalies could represent pits, but their overall arrangement is more suggestive of a geological cause (Figs 3 and 4).

## 6 CONCLUSION

The survey has detected a trapezoidal enclosure of probable late Prehistoric or Roman date and a possible ring ditch or enclosure of archaeological interest. Superficially similar enclosures have been excavated at Meriden Quarry in Solihull (Stevens 2006) and Airfield Farm, Leicestershire (Clarke & Chapman 2009). Both these are middle Iron Age in date.

Two areas of possible archaeological interest, areas of magnetic noise/disturbance, may relate to post-medieval pottery or brick manufacture (Fields 14 and 9).

A line of discrete pit-like anomalies could be archaeological or geological in origin.

Former field boundaries and buildings were detected by the survey, but most of the anomalies detected are of modern origin and indicate modern activity in the survey area.

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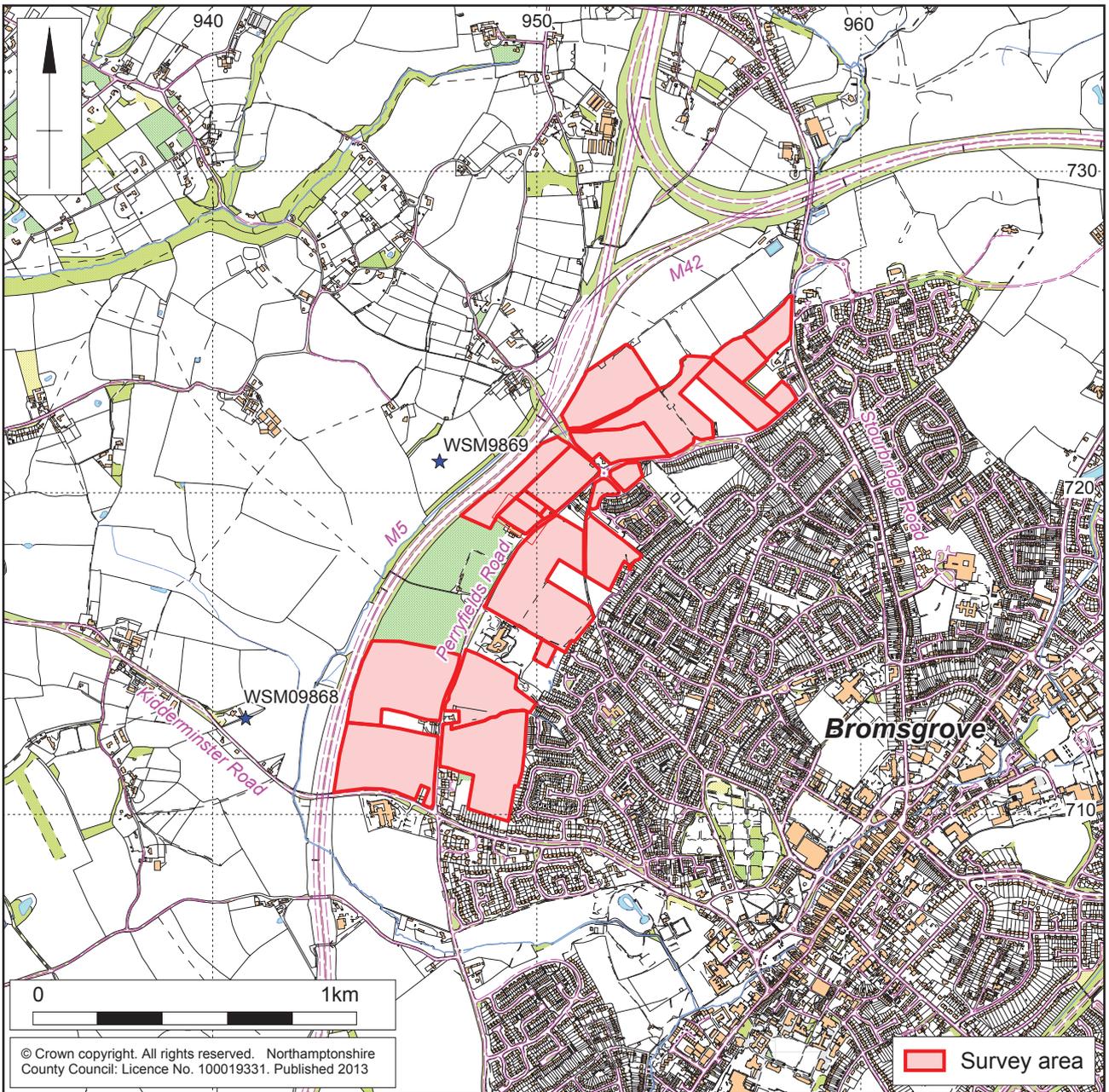
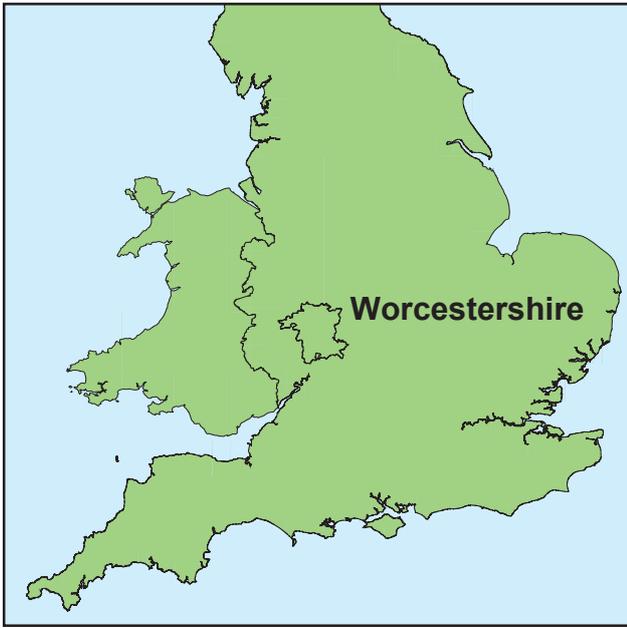
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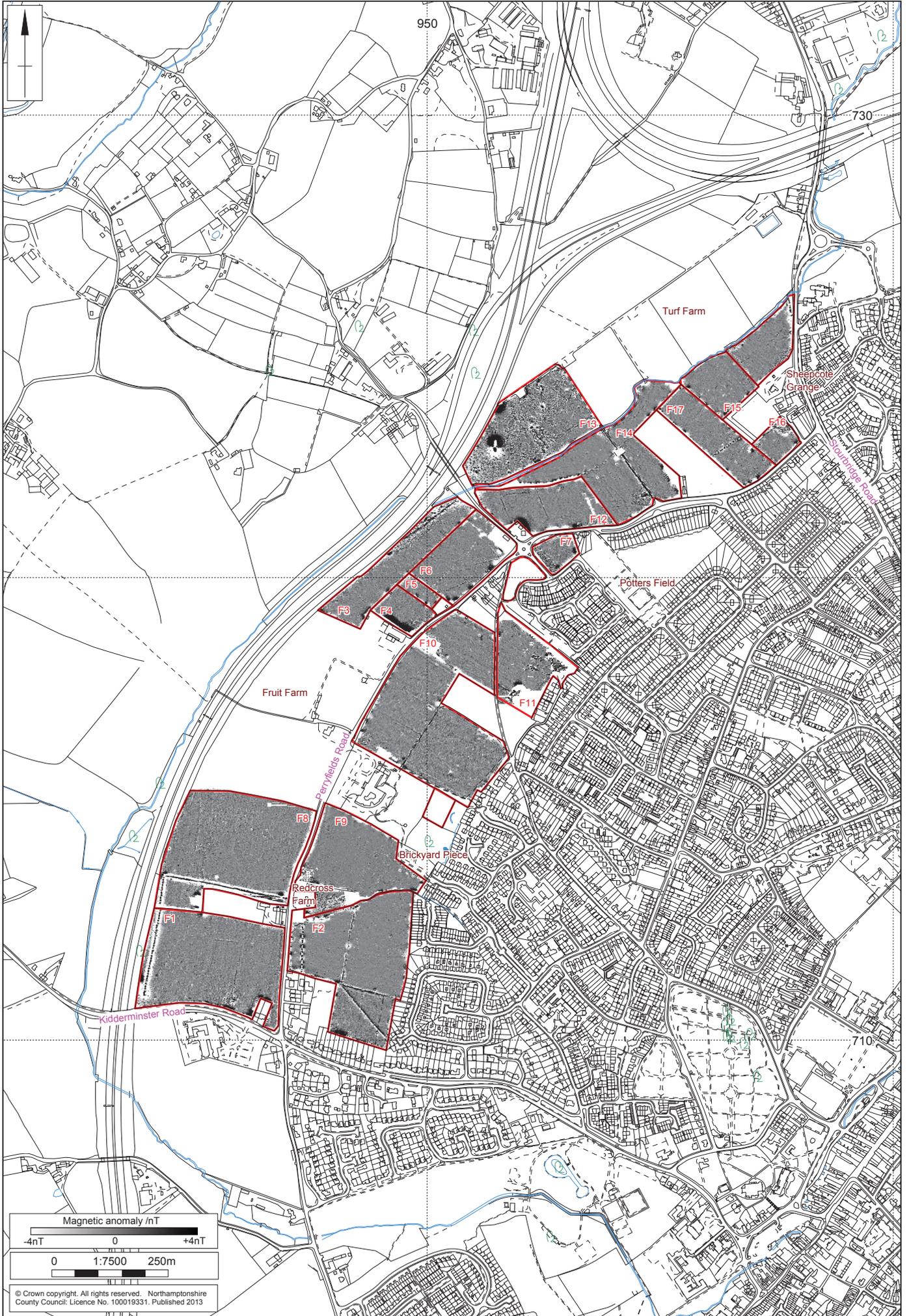
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Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1



Magnetic anomaly /nT

-4nT 0 +4nT

0 1:7500 250m

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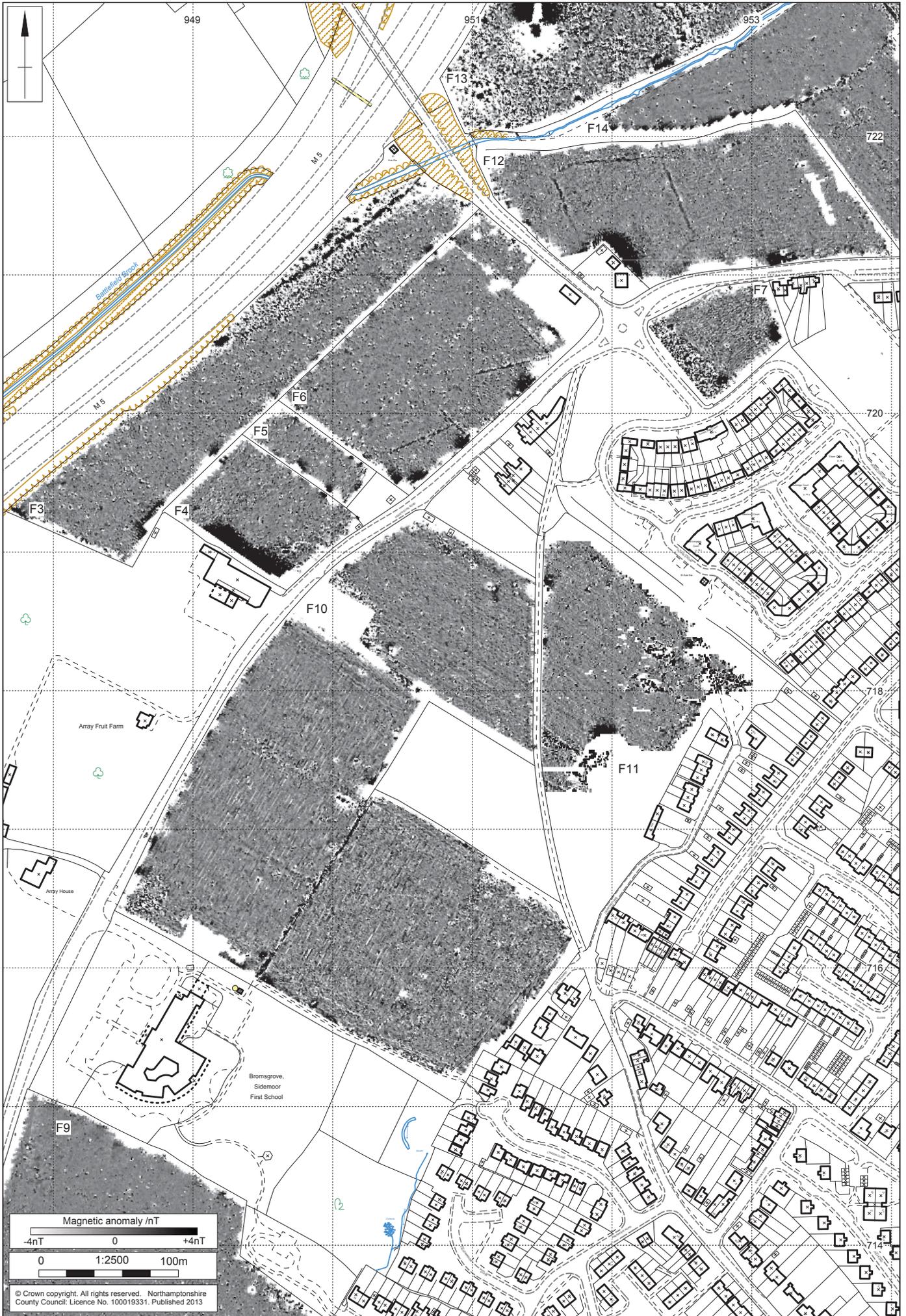
Magnetometer Survey Results Fields 7 & 12-17 Fig 3

Scale 1:2500 (A3)



Magnetometer Survey Interpretation Fields 7 & 12-17 Fig 4

Scale 1:2500 (A3)





Magnetic anomaly /nT

-4nT 0 +4nT

0 1:2500 100m

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- Archaeology
- Former Field Boundary
- Land drain
- Modern Services
- Road/Path
- Electric Fence
- Unidentified Linear Feature
- Magnetic Noise/Disturbance
- Ferrous object
- Geology
- Unsurveyed



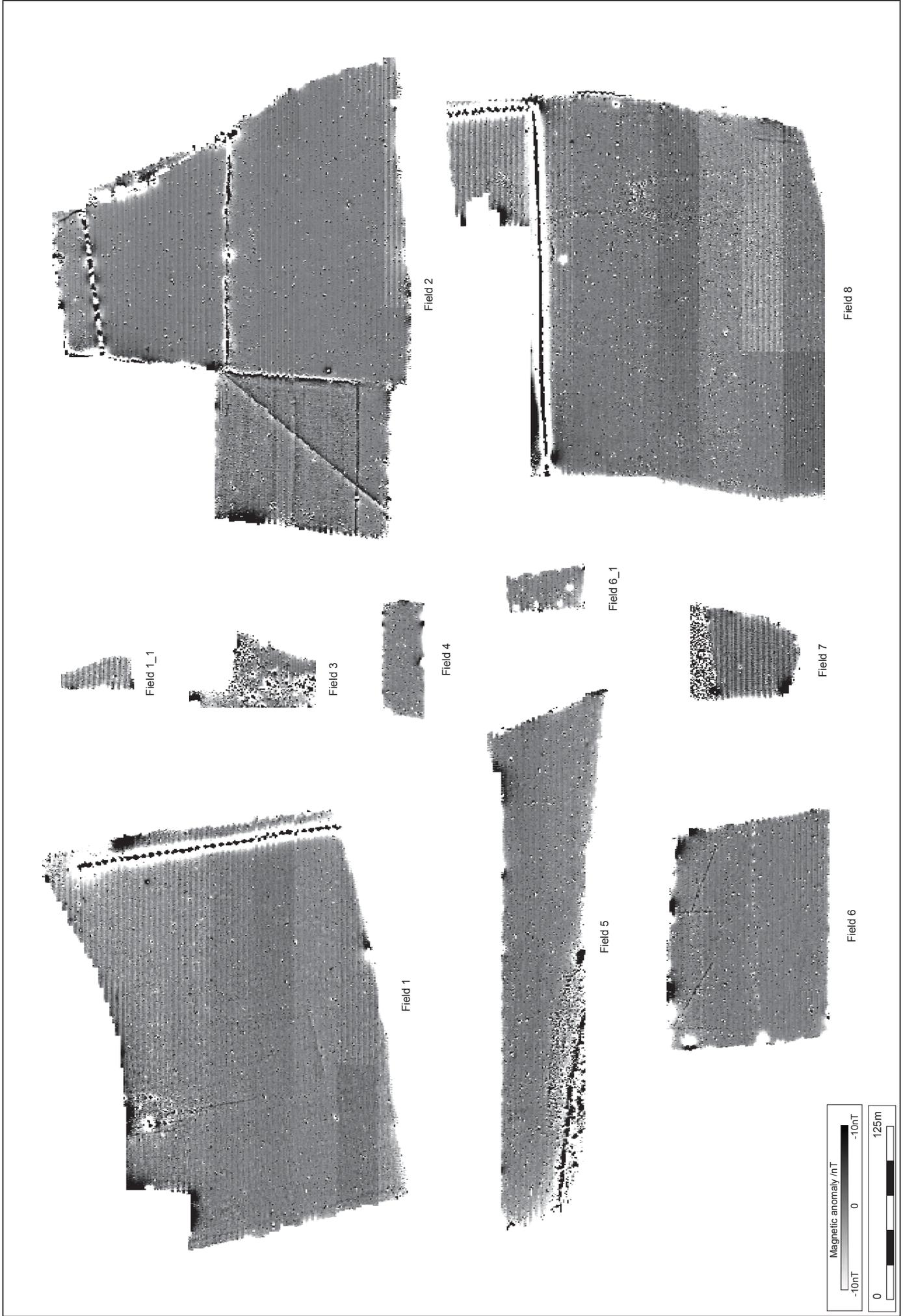
Magnetometer Survey Results Fields 1, 2, 8 & 9 Fig 7

Scale 1:2500 (A3)

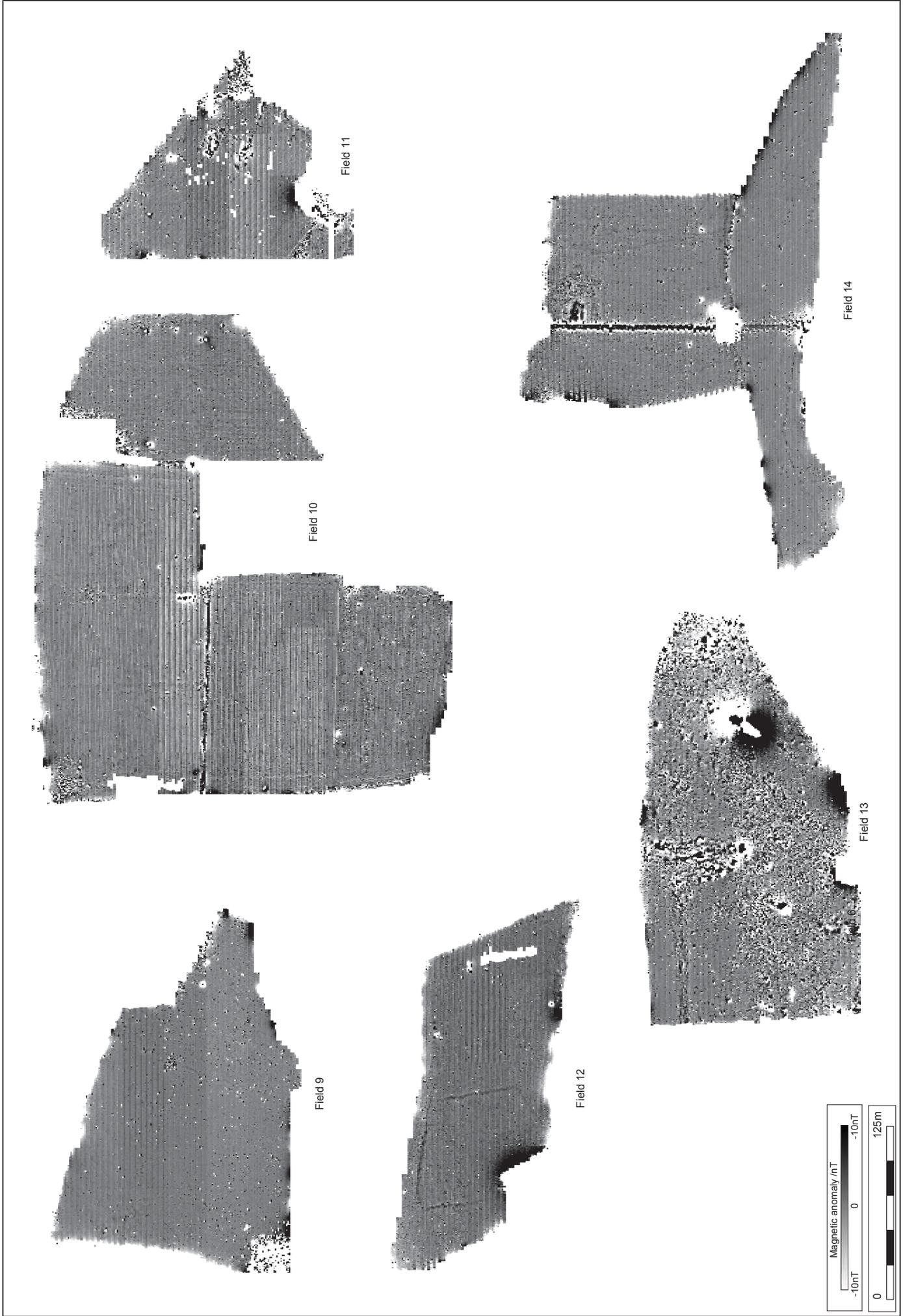


Magnetometer Survey Interpretation Fields 1, 2, 8 & 9 Fig 8

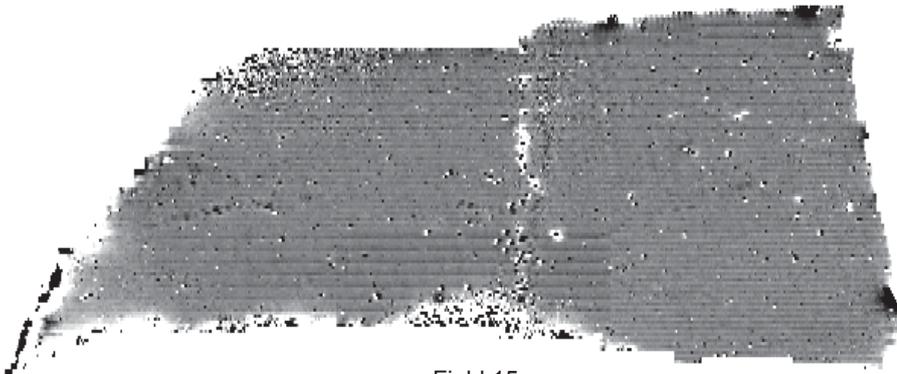
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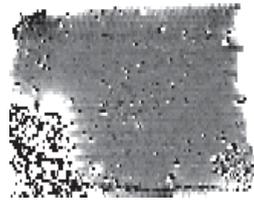
Unprocessed magnetometer data Fig 9



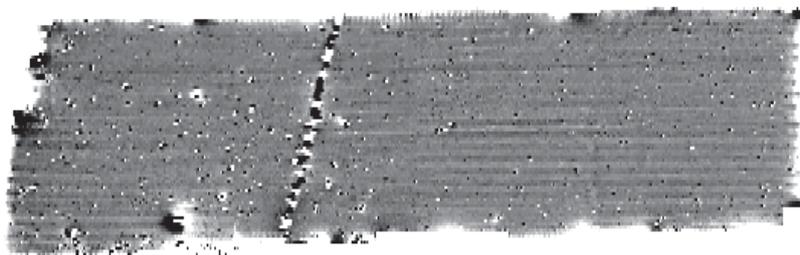
Unprocessed magnetometer data Fig 10



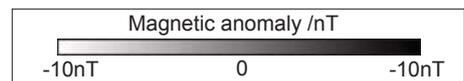
Field 15



Field 16



Field 17





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