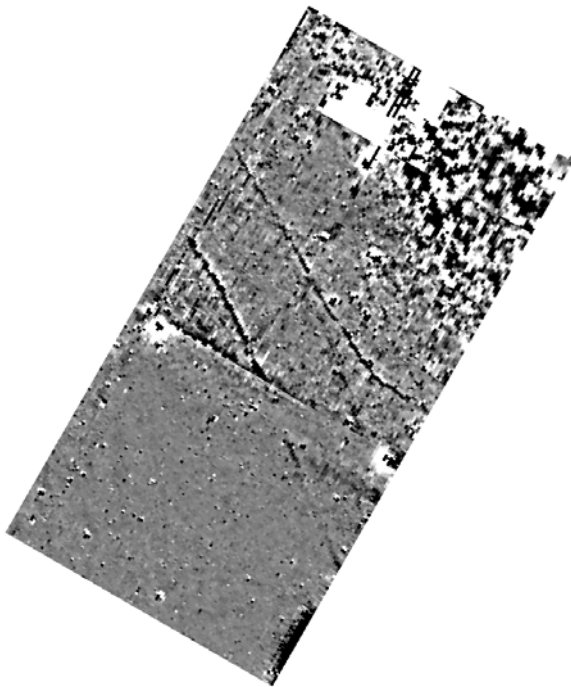




Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological geophysical survey on land at
Rooks Nest Farm, Finchampstead, Berkshire



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Report 10/85

May 2010



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QUALITY CONTROL

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Verified by	Pat Chapman	<i>PC</i>	27/05/10
Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>AC</i>	27/05/10

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land at Rooks Nest Farm, Finchampstead, Berkshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Wokingham Borough Council to conduct an archaeological geophysical survey on land at Rooks Nest Farm, Barkham Ride, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire. Magnetometer survey of c4ha area revealed the presence of archaeology in the form of three linear anomalies that could be ditches, and another that could be a former field boundary. Other anomalies in the area surveyed probably represent a scatter of brick rubble filling in a former pond, and the responses of ferrous fencing and isolated ferrous material.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Unknown	
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work	Trial trench evaluation	
Monument type/ period	Ditches, former field boundary	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Berkshire	
Site address	Rooks Nest Farm, Barkham Ride, Finchampstead, Wokingham	
Study area	c4ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SU 78981 65999	
Height OD	c 59m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Berkshire Archaeology	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Clements	
Project Manager	Adrian Butler	
Sponsor or funding body	Wokingham Borough Council	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	26 April 2010	
End date	27 April 2010	
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	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	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 on land at Rooks Nest Farm, Finchampstead, Berkshire, April 2010	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 10/85	
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Contents

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

Figures

- Cover Rooks Nest Farm Gradiometer Survey
Fig 1 Site Location, 1:20,000
Fig 2 Magnetometer Survey Results, 1:2500
Fig 3 Magnetometer Survey Interpretation, 1:2500

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY ON LAND AT
ROOKS NEST FARM, FINCHAMPSTEAD
BERKSHIRE
APRIL 2010**

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Wokingham Borough Council to conduct an archaeological geophysical survey on land at Rooks Nest Farm, Barkham Ride, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire. Magnetometer survey of c4ha area revealed the presence of archaeology in the form of three linear anomalies that could be ditches, and another that could be a former field boundary. Other anomalies in the area surveyed probably represent a scatter of brick rubble filling in a former pond, and the responses of ferrous fencing and isolated ferrous material.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by Wokingham Borough Council to carry out an archaeological geophysical survey on land at Rooks Nest Farm, Barkham Ride, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire, centred on NGR SU 7898 6599, (Fig 1). There is a proposal to change the site from agricultural use to an informal public open space with associated development. The area has been identified as having archaeological potential (Berkshire Archaeology 2010), and a geophysical survey was requested on part of the site most under threat, as one element of the archaeological evaluation of the site, prior to determination of the planning application (F/2009/1388).

The objectives of the geophysical survey were to identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the area. An archaeological gradiometer survey was carried out over a sample area of approximately 4ha, within the area of greatest proposed impacts (7.832ha) (Fig 2).

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site investigated is situated 1km to the north-west of Finchampstead, Berkshire. The sample area of c4ha was in two blocks within one field of Rooks Nest Farm. The field lies to the north of Barkham Ride road, whilst the Rooks Nest farm buildings are located on the other side of this road. The west and north sides of the field adjoin other agricultural fields, whilst to the east is an area of woodland and housing on the western edge of Finchampstead.

The current land use is pasture and the site lies at a height of c59m aOD. The geology consists of London Clay (Berkshire Archaeology 2010).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Brief (Berkshire Archaeology 2010), notes that little archaeological investigation has taken place in the area, but that it is identified as being of archaeological potential due to several nearby sites on the Berkshire HER. These include a moated site, part of which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and some adjacent listed buildings which are all located to the south of Barkham church and about 370m west of the current site. To the west of

the site fieldwalking revealed a series of finds dating from the Bronze Age to the medieval period.

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 two survey blocks were divided into a network of contiguous, 30m x 30m grid squares. These were set out manually by tape measure and optical square. The instruments were carried at a brisk but steady pace through each grid, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along the traverses, giving a total of 3600 measurements per grid.

All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and by the Institute for Archaeology (EH 2008; Gaffney, Gater and Ovendon 2002).

The data was processed using Geoplot 3.00u software. Striping, occasionally caused by slight mismatches in sensor balance, was removed using the 'Zero Mean Traverse' function (ZMT) and destaggering of the data was performed as necessary. The processed data is presented in this report in the form of a greyscale plot (scale +4nT to -4nT black ~ white). This has been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Fig 2). An interpretative plot has been produced and is shown overlain onto the data in Figure 3.

5 SURVEY RESULTS

A plot of the magnetometer survey results is shown in Figure 2 and the survey interpretation in Figure 3.

A weakly positive linear anomaly was detected orientated north-west to south-east across the southern survey block, this probably represents the location of a former ditch. Two similar but slightly stronger positive linear anomalies aligned north-northwest to south-southeast crossed the northern survey block, these were probably also former ditches.

A positive linear anomaly aligned north-west to south-east was located crossing the northern survey block, it appears to obscure the southernmost of the other linear features in this block. This could be the result of a former field boundary in this location as indicated on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of the area. It is also possible that a track ran along this boundary as it is quite wide on the map (www.old-maps.co.uk).

Areas of intense positive and negative anomalies occur along the southern edge of the southern block. An area of positive magnetic disturbance also runs along the eastern edge of the southern block and extends to the southern portion of the northern block. These are probably the result of a magnetic halo from ferrous fences along the field boundaries.

In the northern portion of the northern survey block an area of positive and negative anomalies probably represented thermoremanently magnetised materials such as considerable amounts of brick rubble. This area coincides with the location of the edge

of a former pond which has been filled in (A Glencross, pers comm).

Several discrete strong dipolar anomalies scattered across the field probably represent ferrous material.

6 CONCLUSION

The magnetometer survey indicates the presence of archaeology in the form of three linear anomalies that could be ditches, and another that could be a former field boundary. Other anomalies in the area surveyed probably represent a scatter of brick rubble in a former pond, and the responses of ferrous fencing and isolated ferrous material.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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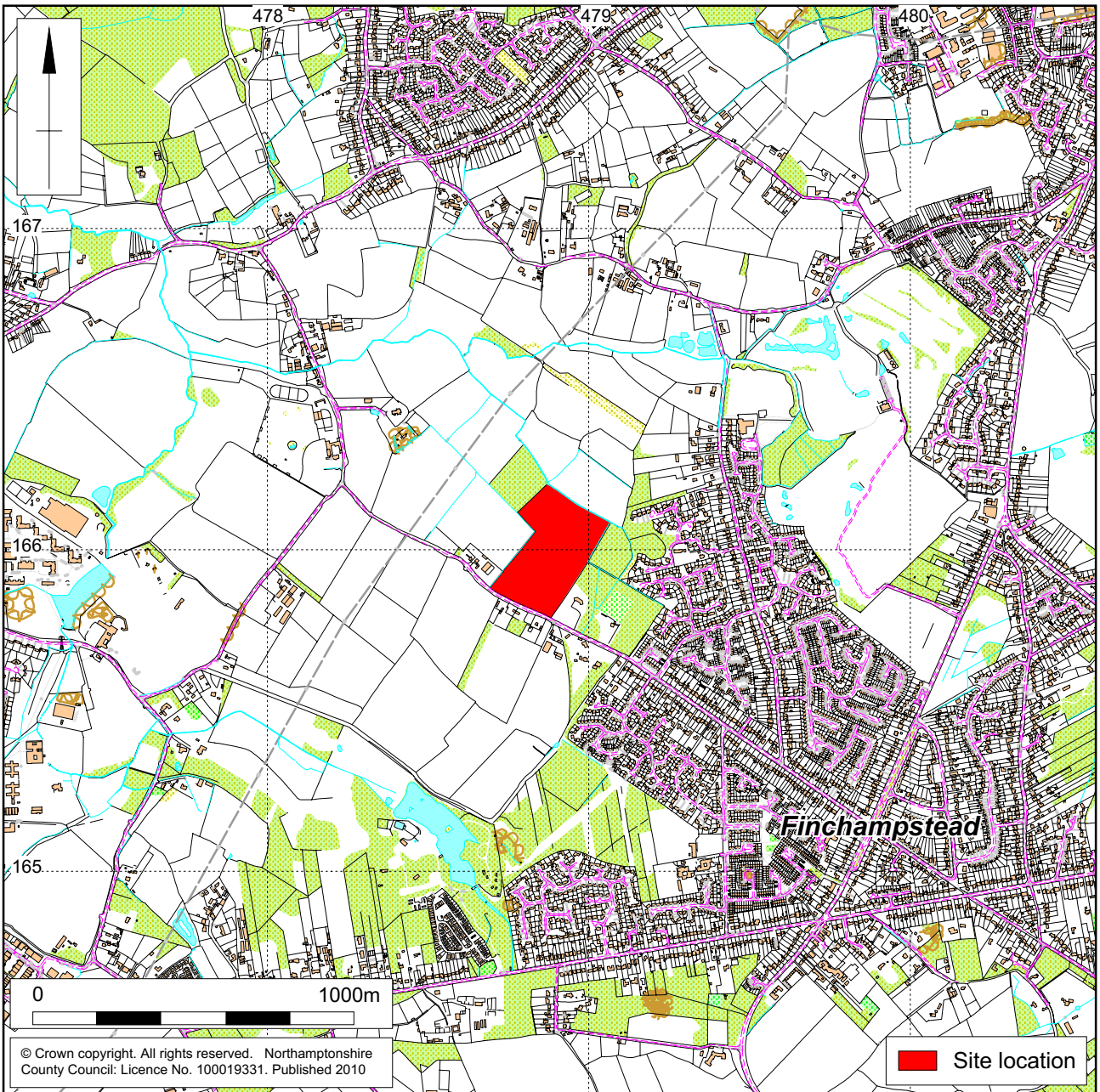
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Gaffney, C, Gater, J, and Ovendon, S, 2002 *The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations*, Institute of Field Archaeologists Technical Paper, **6**

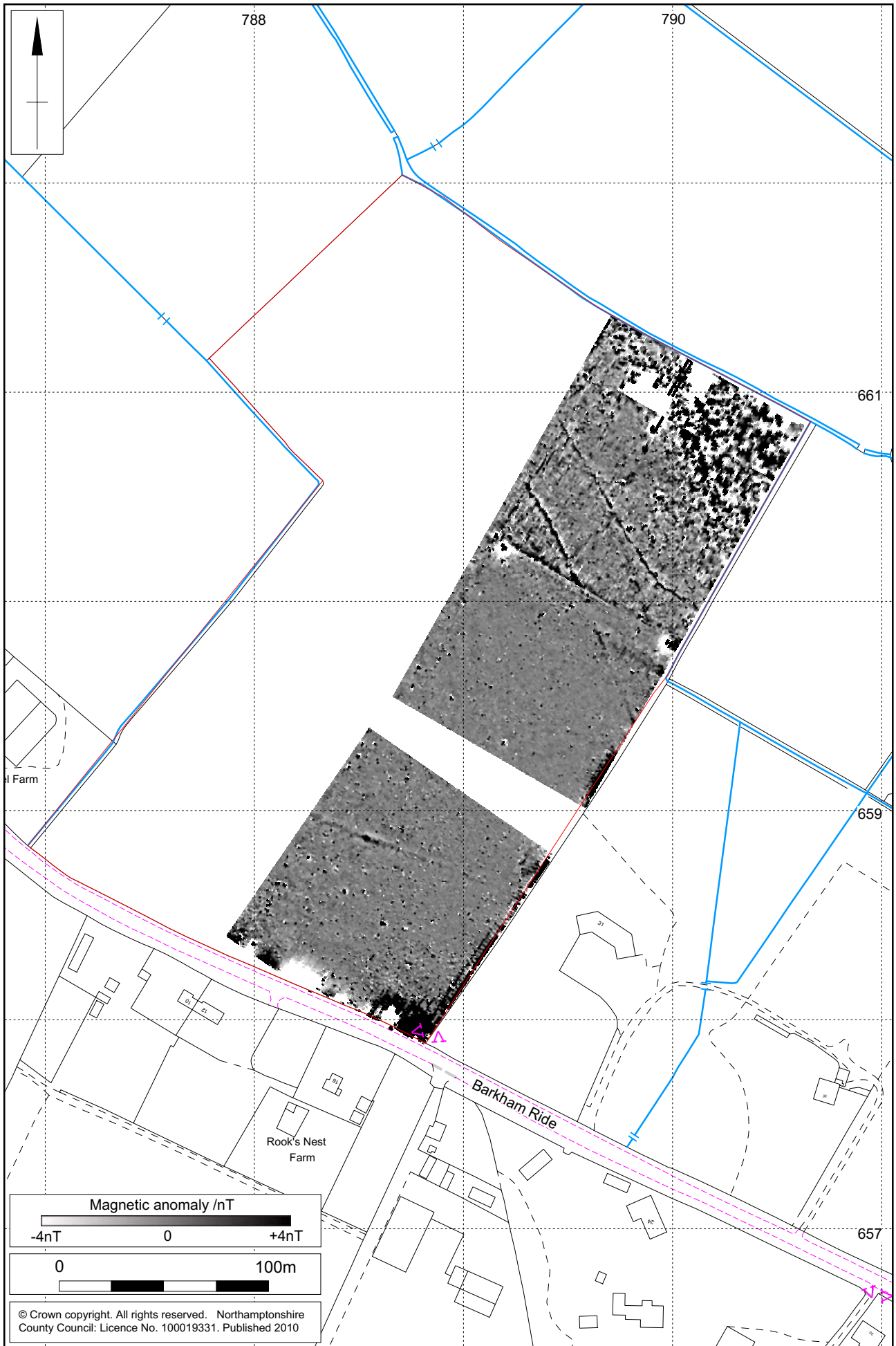
Websites

www.old-maps.co.uk Accessed 26/05/2010



Scale 1:20,000

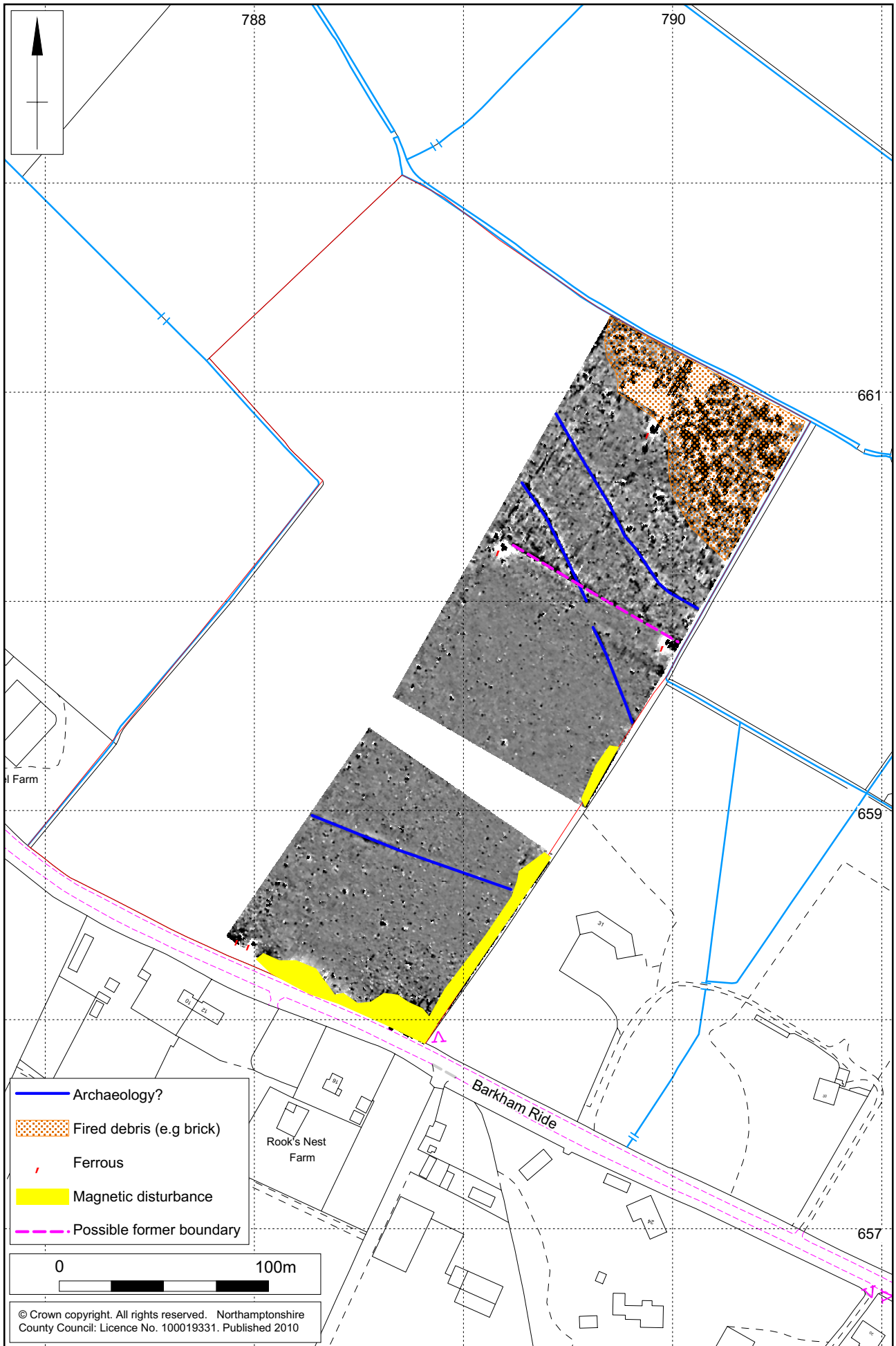
Site Location Fig 1



Scale 1:2500

Magnetometer Survey Results Fig 2

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Scale 1:2500

Magnetometer Survey Interpretation Fig 3