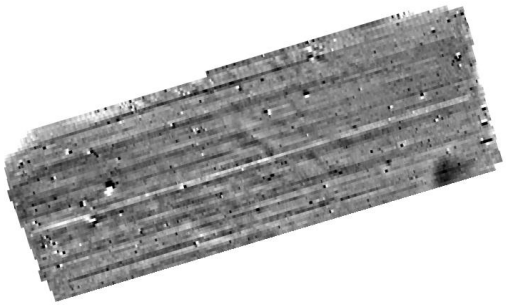
Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological geophysical survey of the land to the rear of 1-27 Thorpe Road, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire November 2013



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

Garreth Davey

Report 13/237

November 2013

STAFF

Project Managers: Mark Holmes BA MA MIfA

Fieldwork Garreth Davey BA
Christopher Pennell BA

Text: Garreth Davey

Illustrations: James Ladocha BA

QUALITY CONTOL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Mark Holmes		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	**OASIS No. 165901**	
Project title	Archaeological geophysical survey of the land to the rear of 1-27 Thorpe Road, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire, November 2013	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Lanchester Land and Planning, on behalf of Norman Paske to conduct an archaeological geophysical survey on land to the rear of 1-27 Thorpe Road, Earls Barton. A magnetometer survey was undertaken over an area of 1.26ha. The survey identified no significant archaeological features.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Previous work	Unknown	
Current land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Station Road, Earls Barton	
Easting Northing	SP 8532 6288	
Area (sq m/ha)	1.26ha	
Height aOD	*c* 58m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council, Liz Mordue	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Garreth Davey (NA)	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Lanchester Land and Planning	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	8/11/2013	
End date	25/11/2013	
ARCHIVES	**Location (Accession nos.)**	**Contents**
Physical		N/A
Paper		Site survey records
Digital		Survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological geophysical survey of the land to the rear of 1-27 Thorpe Road, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire, November 2013	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 13/237	
Author(s)	Garreth Davey	
Page numbers	3	
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE LAND TO THE REAR OF 1-27 THORPE ROAD, EARLS BARTON NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NOVEMBER 2013

Abstract
Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Lanchester Land and Planning, on behalf of Norman Paske, to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on 1.26ha of land to the rear of 1-27 Thorpe Road, Earls Barton. The survey identified no clear significant archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Lanchester Land and Planning, on behalf of Norman Paske, to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on 1.26ha of land to the rear of 1-27 Thorpe Road, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 8532 6288). The fieldwork was conducted on the 8 November 2013 and conformed to a specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2013), following a brief issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2013a and 2013b) as a condition of a planning application (ref: WP2013/0398/OM) for development of the land.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

The survey area comprised a single pasture field of 1.26ha. The site is located on the southern edge of Earls Barton, behind the gardens of 1-27 Thorpe Road and is west of Station Road. To the south and west the field is bounded by further pasture fields.

The site lies at *c* 58m aOD and slopes very slightly from north to south. It is situated on river terrace sand and gravels on top of a base geology mapped as primarily Whitby Mudstone (BGS 2013).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The field immediately west of the survey area has cropmarks suggesting possible linear features and enclosures. These have been dated by fieldwalking finds which suggest the area contains sites of the Romano-British period. Alongside this activity, medieval ridge and furrow is also evident throughout the fields surrounding the survey area (HER 9407). Further south, there is also evidence to suggest that the riverine gravel deposits were also occupied in the prehistoric and later periods.

3 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 grids was established within the field 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 tape measured distances from the field corners. The gradiometers were carried at a brisk but steady walking 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 and with the agreed method statement for this project (EH 2008; IfA 2011; NA 2013).

The survey data was 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 grey-tone plots, at a scale of +/- 4nT black/white. The plots have been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Fig 2). An interpretative overlay has been produced and is shown in Figure 3. The raw data is available in Figure 4.

4 SURVEY RESULTS

The survey has identified linear positive anomalies that run approximately east to west, along with a negative anomaly following the same alignment through the centre of the field. The positive anomalies probably represent historic plough lines; where as the negative anomaly follows the line of a current path across the field. The scatter of dipolar anomalies across the site probably represent ferrous objects.

In the centre of the field there are two curvilinear anomalies orientated north-west to south-east, it is likely that these are geological features. The area of positive magnetic disturbance in the south-east could represent a pit, however, due to its scale and diffuse nature it is more likely to be geological.

5 CONCLUSION

The geophysical survey detected evidence for undated ploughing. There are also a number of magnetic anomalies caused by possible ferrous objects which may relate to farming works. It is unlikely that these are of an archaeological nature. Geological features are also evident.

No other significant archaeological anomalies were detected.

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Websites

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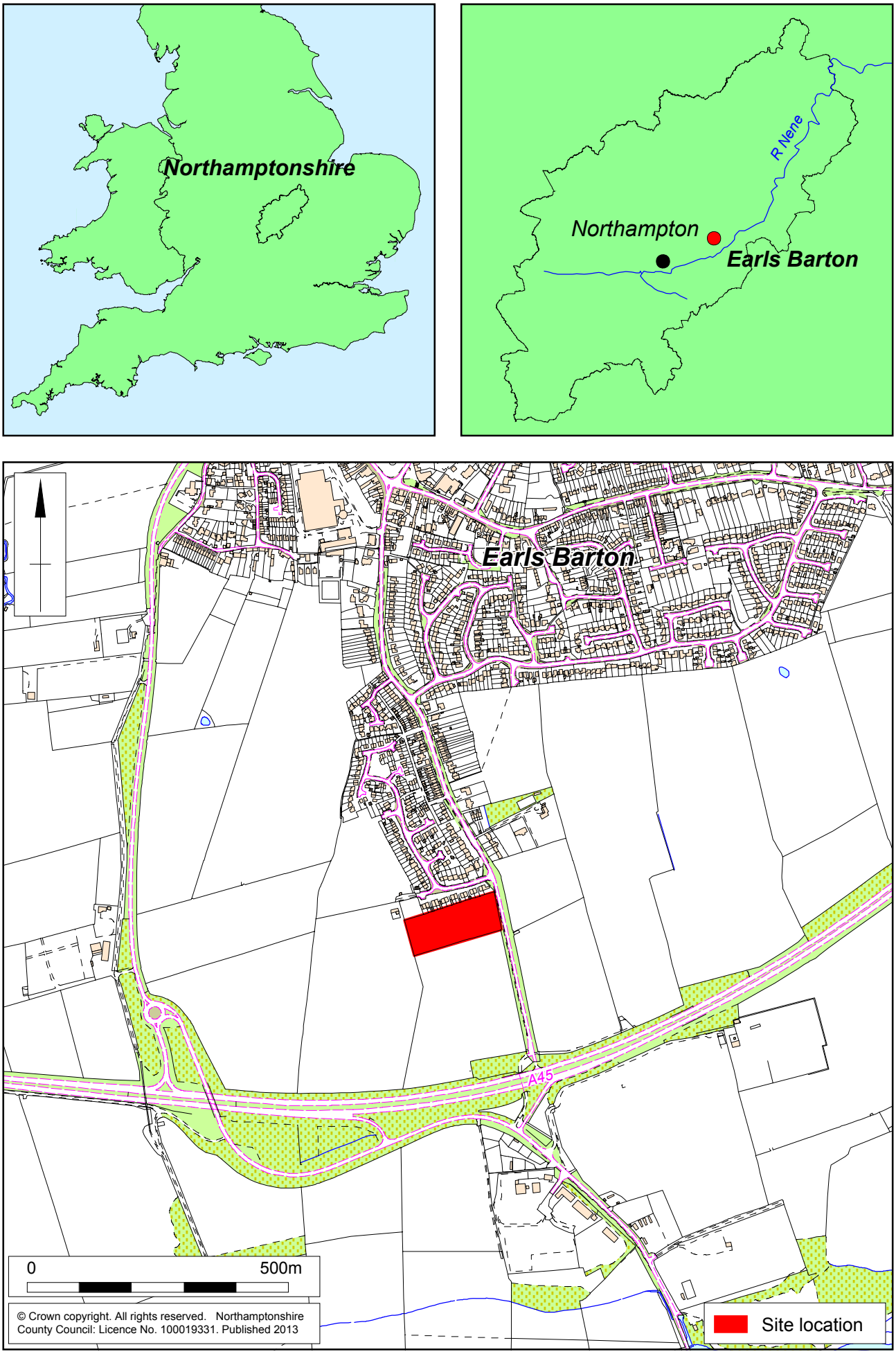
Northamptonshire Archaeology
A service of Northamptonshire County Council 11 December 2013



Scale 1:10,000

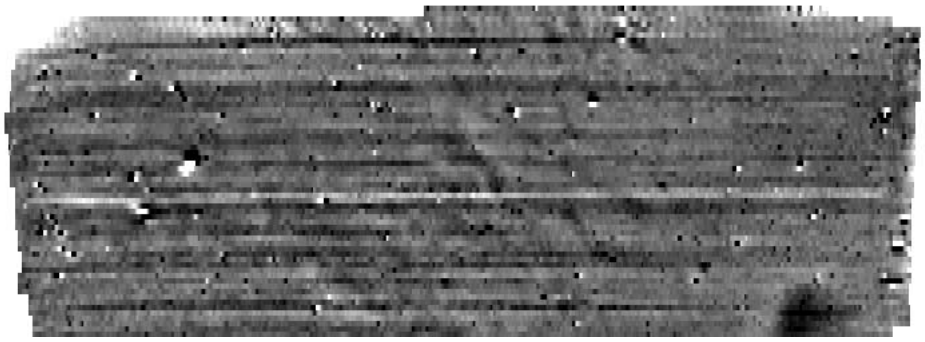
Site location Fig 1

1:2000

Magnetometer survey results Fig 2

1:2000

Magnetometer survey interpretation Fig 3



Raw geophysical data Fig 4

Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

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

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

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IfA

Northamptonshire County Council