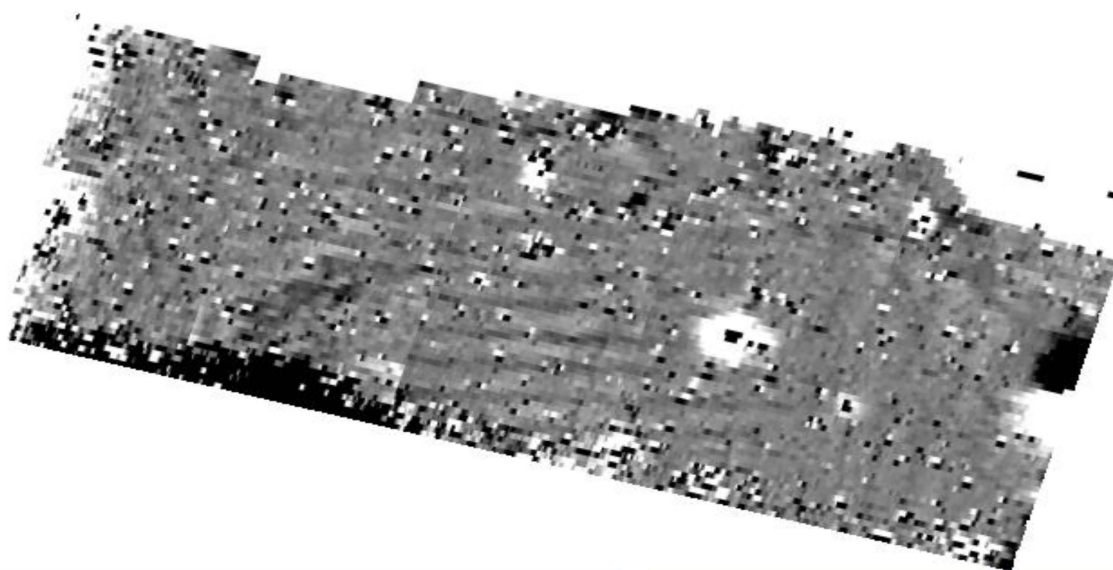




# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological geophysical survey on land south of Main  
Street/Warren Farm, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire  
September 2013



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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**OAS/S REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project title	Archaeological geophysical survey on land south of Main Street/Warren Farm, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire, September 2013	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on 2.6ha of pasture land south of Main Street Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire. The survey identified undated ditches in the north-east corner of the site, possibly representing the corner of a boundary plot, along with extensive ridge and furrow cultivation.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Previous work	Unknown	
Current land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Undated ditches. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation	
Significant finds		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Claybrook Road, Ullesthorpe	
Easting Northing	SP 503 877	
Area (sq m/ha)	2.6 ha	
Height aOD	105m aOD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Clements (NA)	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	16/9/2013	
End date	17/9/2013	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession nos.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>
Physical	X.A153.2013	
Paper		Site survey records
Digital		Survey data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Title	Archaeological Geophysical survey on land south of Main Street/Warren Farm, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire, September 2013	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 13/181	
Author(s)	Paul Clements	
Page numbers	19 pages of text and figures	
Date	14 October 2013	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY ON LAND  
SOUTH OF MAIN STREET/WARREN FARM, ULLESTHORPE  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
SEPTEMBER 2013  
ACC NO: X.A153.2013**

**Abstract**

*Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on 2.6ha of pasture land, south of Main Street, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire. The survey identified undated ditches in the north-east corner of the site, possible representing the corner of a boundary plot, along with extensive ridge and furrow cultivation.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to conduct a detailed magnetometer survey on 2.6ha of pasture land at Main Street, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire (NGR SP 503 877). The field work was conducted on the 16th and 17th September 2013 and conformed to a specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2013).

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Location and geology**

The survey area at Main Street comprised five small pasture fields. The site is bounded by Claybrook Road to the north, residential housing to the east and west and open pasture fields to the south. The site lies at c 105m aOD.

The site is underlain by Mercian mudstone, predominately red, less commonly green-grey, mudstones and subordinate siltstones with thick halite-bearing units in some basal areas. The overlying superficial deposits are Oadby Member Diamicton deposits (BGS 2013). The soils are identified as slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid base-rich loam and clay soils (Landis 2013).

**2.2 Historical and archaeological background**

A desk based assessment (Thornton 2013) was prepared in advance of works and the following background information is taken from this.

A number of Mesolithic flint blades found 600m to the north-east of the site might suggest evidence of an occupation site. Further Neolithic and Bronze Age flint implements have been found in the vicinity, although only in quantities considered to represent a 'background noise' of prehistoric activity. It is considered that the site has moderate potential for prehistoric remains, but a low potential for significant remains. A few sherds of Roman pottery and a ring have also been found in the vicinity. It is considered that there is a low potential for Roman remains.

The site is recorded as lying adjacent to the historic core of the village of Ullesthorpe. While the village is likely to have Saxon origins, it is considered that activity of this date is likely to be concentrated further north. It is considered that the site has low potential for Saxon remains.

Some 130m south-west of the site are the scheduled earthwork remains of a possible medieval moated manor house and associated fishponds, as well as several house platforms. At some point in the medieval period the focus of the village shifted to its present location and this part of the village was deserted.

The site lies between the scheduled remains and the slightly later shifted village core and it is considered that the site may have formed part of the deserted village. Earthwork ridge and furrow is visible within the southern fields of the site on aerial photographs. The presence of these features was confirmed by a site visit. These earthworks may mask earlier settlement. The potential for medieval settlement remains is therefore considered to be high.

### **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 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 measurement to field boundaries and other points of detail. 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.

### **4 SURVEY RESULTS**

Two possible features of archaeological interest were identified by the survey. In the north eastern corner of the survey area, the corner of a possible rectilinear enclosure and a separate linear ditch were detected.

The enclosure is represented by two ditches set at right angles, and on the same alignment as the adjacent field boundary. The single linear ditch is situated c 20m at

the south of the enclosure. It projects out from the field boundary but is set on a different, north-west to south-east alignment.

Multi-directional furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were identified across all of the survey area except for the north-east field containing the archaeological anomalies.

Two concentrations of large ferrous anomalies towards the south and east of the survey may indicate locations of backfilled quarry pits or dumps of modern material.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

The survey has detected ditches which may form the south-western corner of an enclosure fronting onto the Claybrook Road. Although undated, their position may suggest that they represent plot boundaries continuing the line of settlement along the road. The undated ditch to the south is of unknown function. No ridge and furrow cultivation was present in the field, suggesting that this area may have been part of the medieval settlement core. The survey, however, did detect evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation in the surrounding fields, along with anomalies indicating ground disturbance such as infilled pits, or similar.

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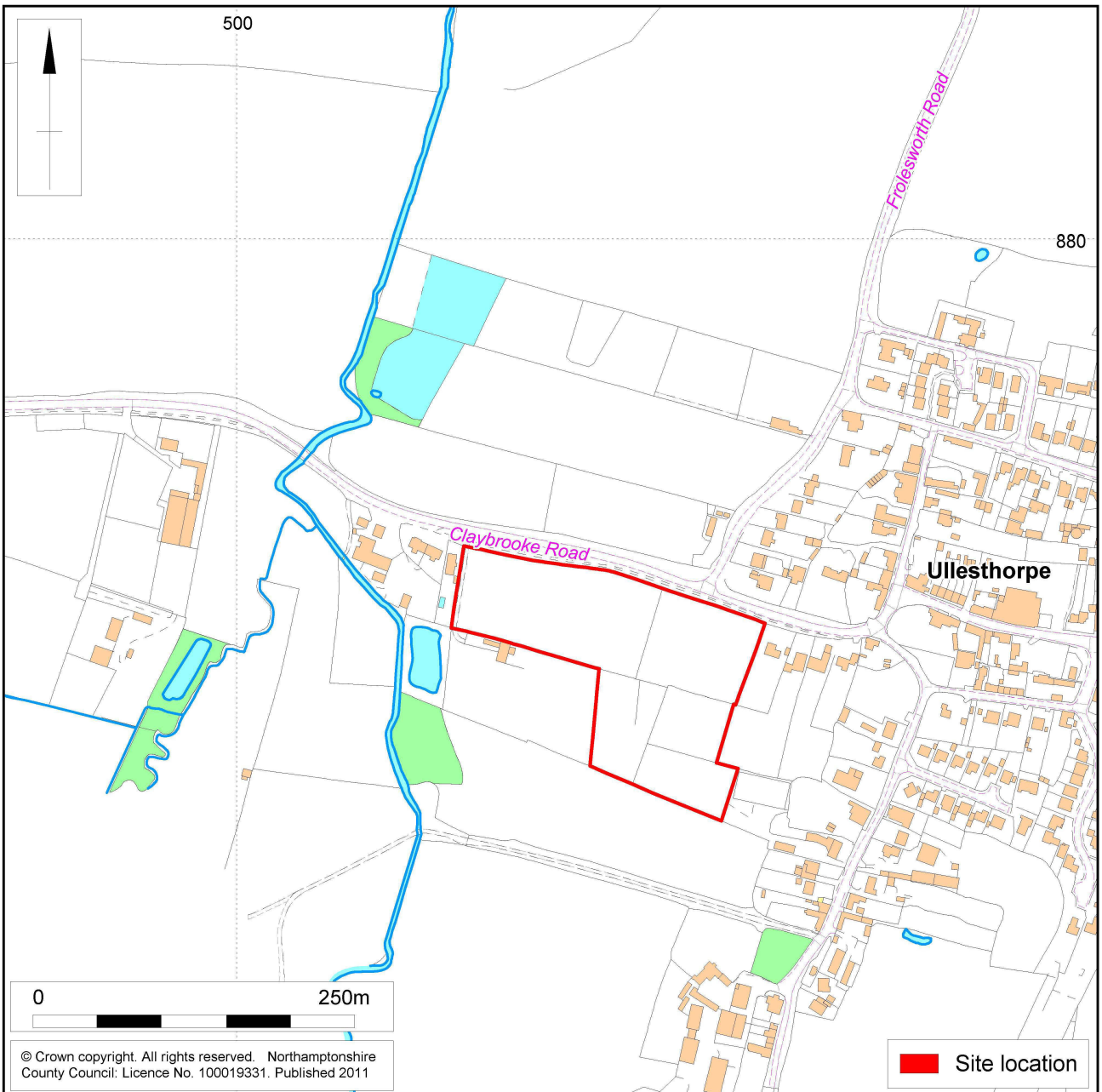
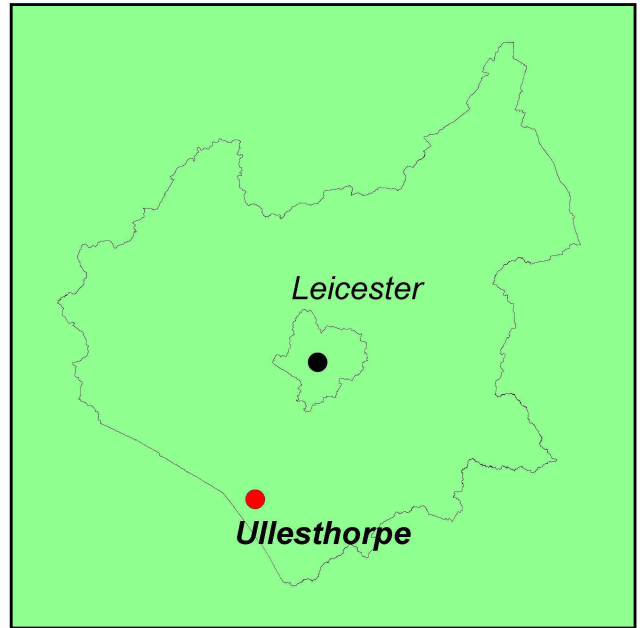
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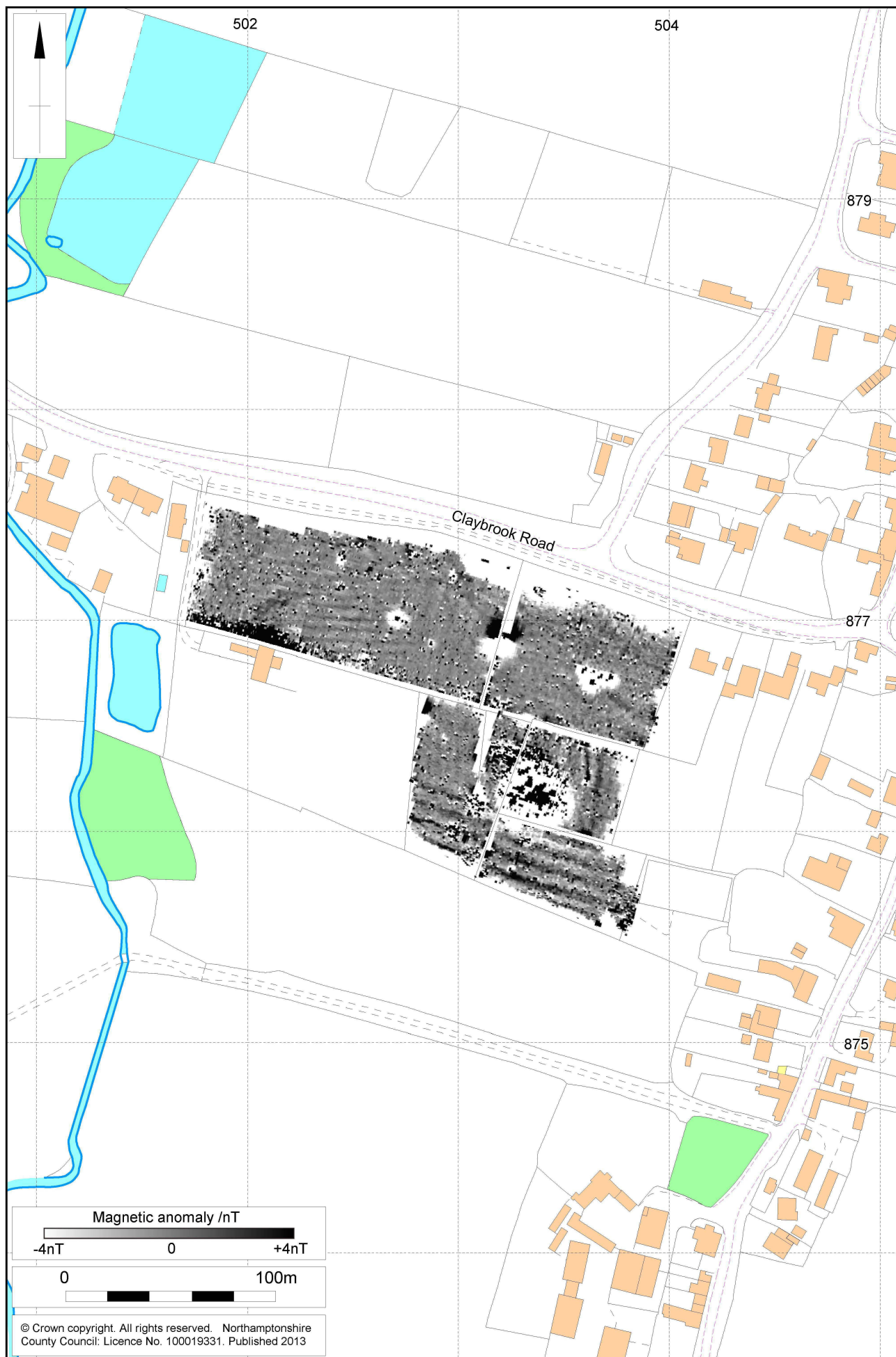
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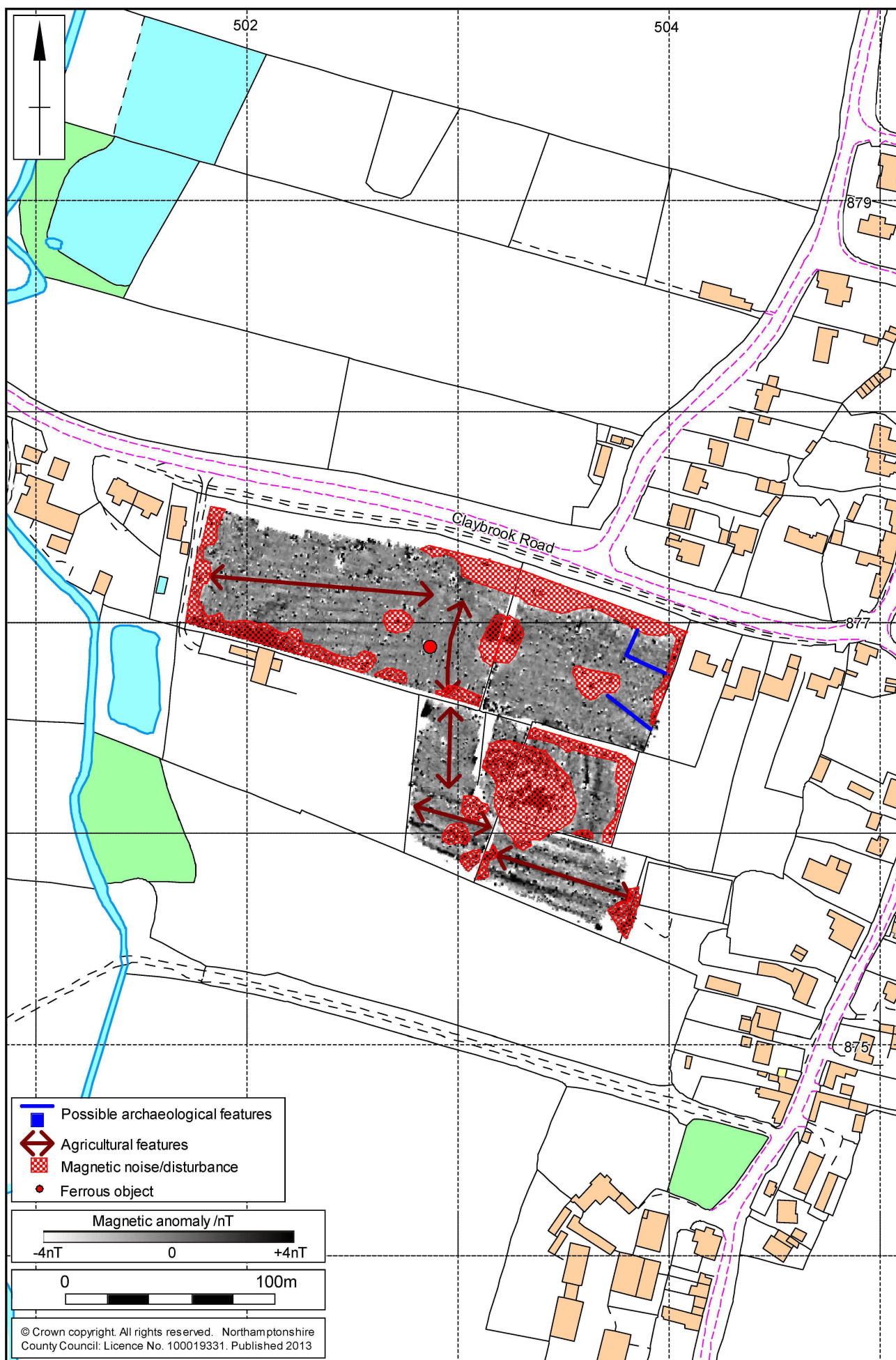
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Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1





1:2500

Claybrook Road magnetometer survey interpretation

Fig 3



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