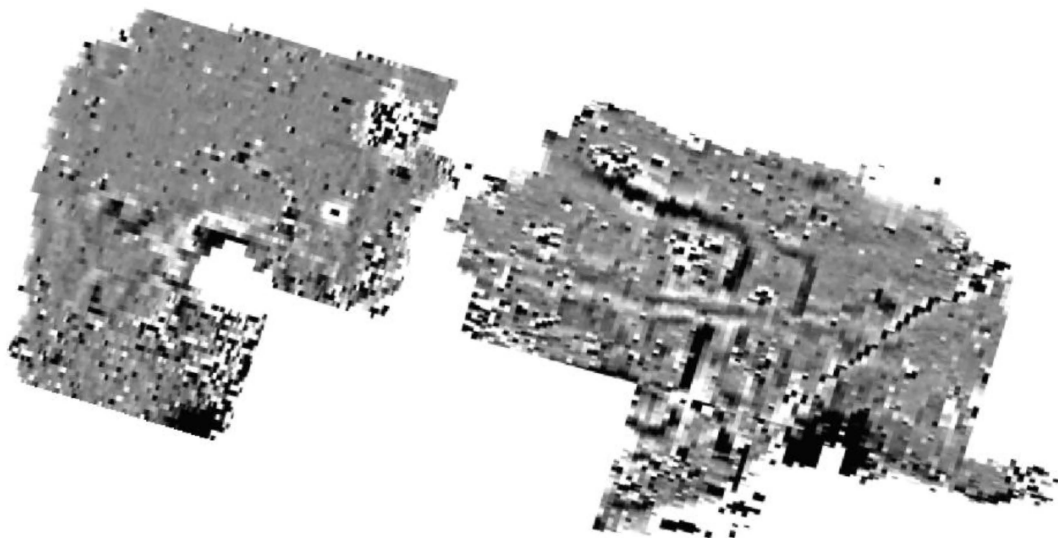




Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological geophysical survey on land north of Hall
Lane, Ullesthorpe Leicestershire
September 2013



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QUALITY CONTROL

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Verified by	Mark Holmes	<i>MH</i>	11/10/13
Approved by	Steve Parry	<i>SP</i>	14/10/13

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological Geophysical survey on land north of Hall Lane, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire, September 2013	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on 1.7ha of land north of Hall Lane, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire. The survey has identified a series of enclosures, possibly of medieval date and relating to an earlier village layout.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Previous work	Unknown	
Current land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Medieval village elements	
Significant finds	Ditched enclosures	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Hall Lane, Ullesthorpe	
Easting Northing	SP 506 880	
Area (sq m/ha)	1.7 ha	
Height aOD	115m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
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	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	17/9/2013	
End date	17/9/2013	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession nos.)	Contents
Physical	X.A154.2013	
Paper		Site survey records
Digital		Survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological Geophysical survey on land north of Hall Lane, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire, September 2013	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 13/201	
Author(s)	Paul Clements	
Page numbers	19 pages of text and figures	
Date	14/10/13	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY ON LAND
NORTH OF HALL LANE, ULLESTHORPE
LEICESTERSHIRE
SEPTEMBER 2013
ACC NO: X.A154.2013**

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey on 1.7ha of land north of Hall Lane, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire. The survey has identified a series of enclosures, possibly of medieval date and relating to an earlier village layout.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to conduct a detailed magnetometer survey on pasture land totaling 1.7ha at Hall Lane, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire (NGR SP 506 880). The field work was conducted on the 17th September 2013 and conformed to a specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2013).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

The Hall Lane survey area comprised two pasture fields set at at c 115m aOD. This area was bound by residential housing to the south and open arable fields to the north, east and west. Earthworks were visible in both fields forming rectangular enclosures.

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 250m to the 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 relatively small quantities. A few sherds of Roman pottery and a ring have also been found in the vicinity. It was considered that there was a low potential for prehistoric or Roman remains

The site is recorded as lying within 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 to the south. It was considered that the site has low potential for Saxon remains.

South of the present village are the Scheduled earthwork remains of a possible 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.

Earthwork ditches are present within the site and these may be the remains of medieval settlement tofts and crofts. The potential for medieval remains was 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

The survey identified a rectilinear enclosure in the central part of the survey area. The majority of the enclosure is contained within the eastern field and comprises a series of ditches defining an area c 60m long by 40m wide. There is a possible internal division towards the eastern side. The enclosure is aligned north-east to south-west and corresponds to extant earthworks.

At the eastern end of the enclosure further, parallel ditches are present which represent either a separate, smaller enclosure or an annexe/sub-division of the main enclosure.

The western side of the enclosure is much less magnetically strong than those at the east. It relates to an extant earthwork in the western field but despite further earthworks being visible here, no further archaeological features were identified.

A weak linear anomaly aligned east-west runs through the enclosure, forking outwards at its eastern end.

Areas of concentrated magnetic disturbance in both fields may be of recent origin, but they may also relate to the enclosures and be of an earlier date. The line of an existing hardcore path was also detected by the survey.

5 CONCLUSION

The survey has detected ditched enclosures at Hall Lane relating to visible earthworks within the survey area. As these lie within the area thought to be the core of the medieval settlement of Ullesthorpe and since no ridge and furrow cultivation was detected by the survey it is likely that they represent medieval settlement evidence, as suggested by the previous desk-based assessment (Thornton 2013).

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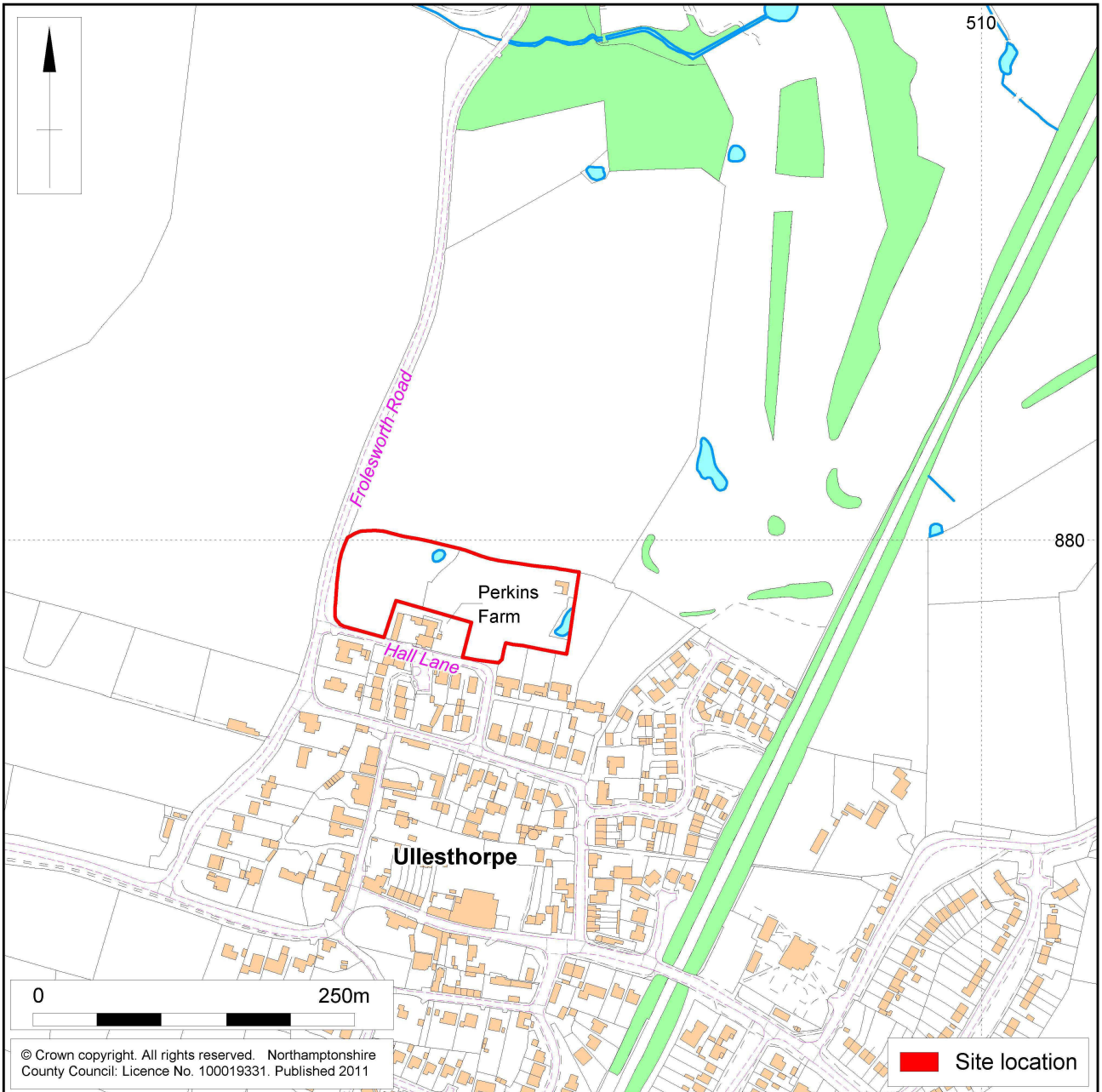
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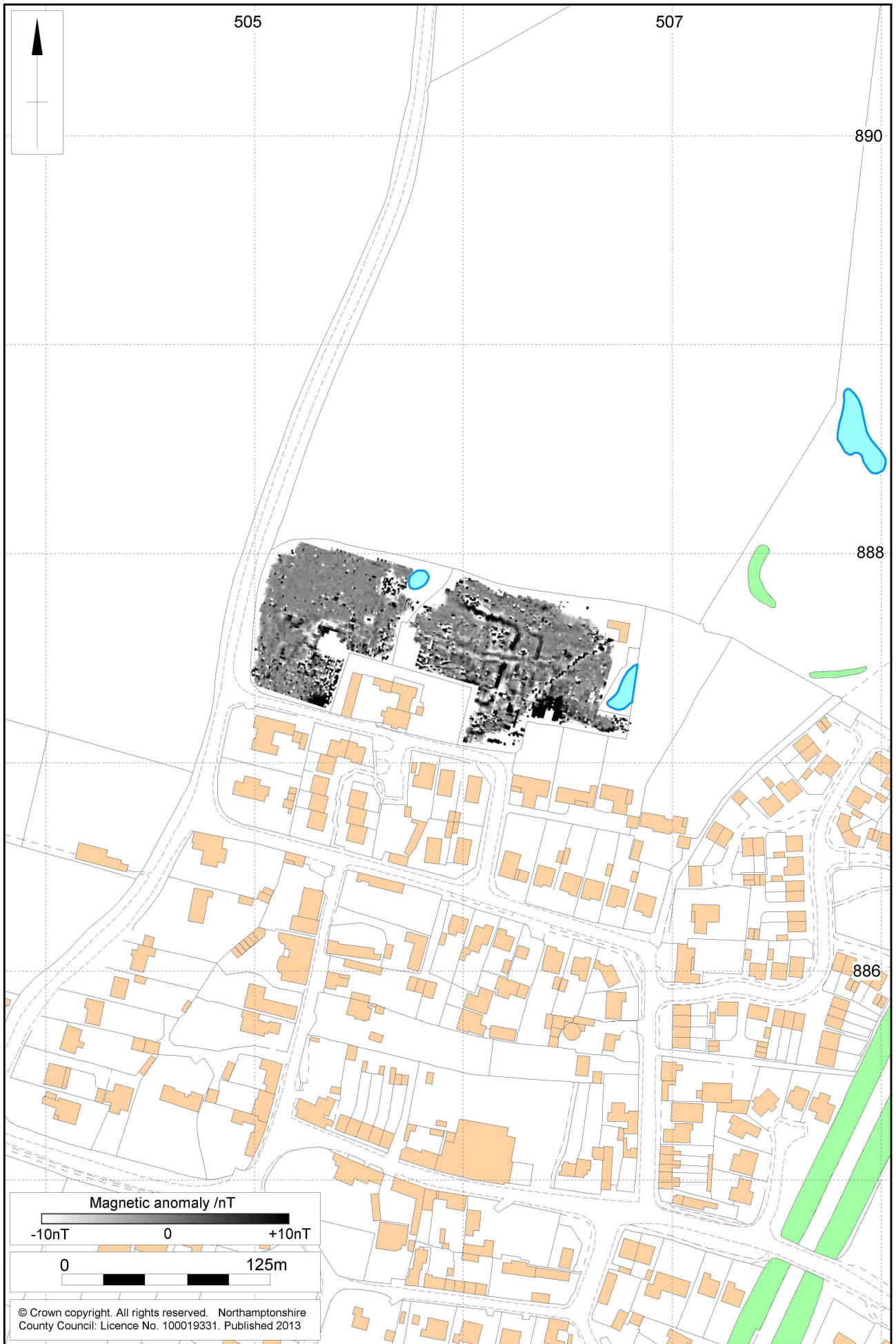
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Landis 2013 <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> Cranfield University National Soil Resources Institute



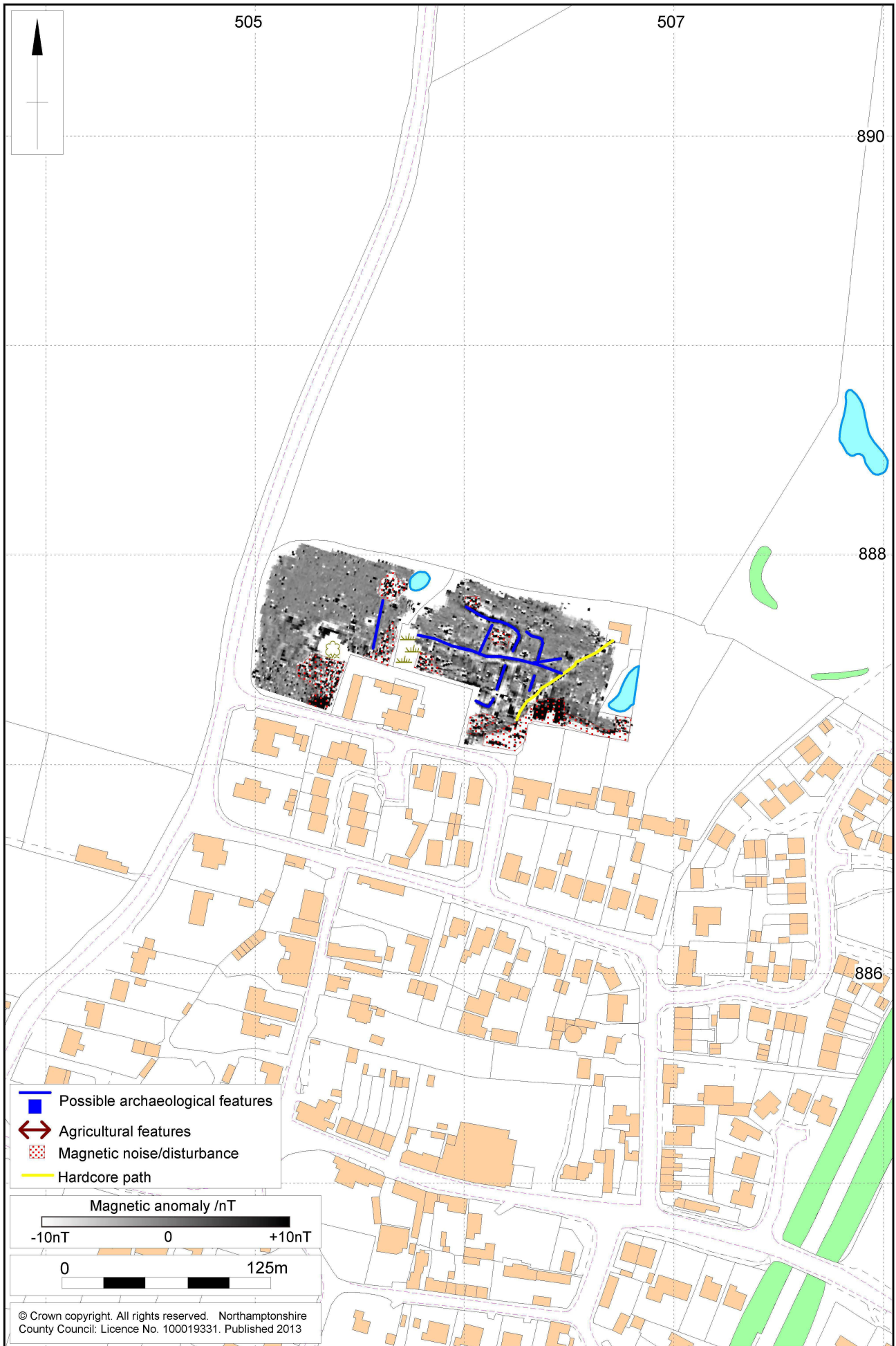
Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1



1:2500

Hall Lane magnetometer survey results Fig 2



1:2500

Hall Lane magnetometer survey interpretation Fig 3



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