



Northamptonshire
County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological geophysical survey
at Caludon Castle, Coventry
West Midlands
June 2008



Ian Fisher

July 2008

Report 08/123

Northamptonshire Archaeology

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological geophysical survey at Caludon Castle, Coventry, West Midlands, June 2008	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted geophysical survey, on behalf of John Clarke OBE and Coventry City Council at Caludon Castle, Coventry. The geophysical survey comprised magnetometer and earth resistance survey over two Scheduled Ancient Monuments; Caludon Castle and a second moated site to the south. The survey recorded the foundations of a former building situated at Caludon Castle and the possible remains of a farm house. However, the survey did not shed any light on the second moated site, south of Caludon Castle.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	SAM 21615, 21616	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Parkland	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Medieval moated site	
Significant finds	Foundations of former building	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	West Midlands	
Site address	Farren Road, Coventry	
Study area	0.5ha	
OS Easting & Northing	437400 280050	
Height OD	85m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher	
Project Manager	Adrian Butler	
Sponsor or funding body	John Clarke OBE and Coventry City Council	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	June 2008	
End date	June 2008	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Survey notes
Digital	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Geophysical data, PDF of report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological geophysical survey at Caludon Castle, Coventry, West Midlands, June 2008	
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Cover: Remains of Caludon Castle, Ian Fisher 2008

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

AT CALUDON CASTLE, COVENTRY,

WEST MIDLANDS

JUNE 2008

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted geophysical survey, on behalf of John Clarke OBE and Coventry City Council at Caludon Castle, Coventry. The geophysical survey comprised magnetometer and earth resistance survey over two Scheduled Ancient Monuments; Caludon Castle and a second moated site to the south. The survey recorded the foundations of a former building situated at Caludon Castle and the possible remains of a farm house. However, the survey did not shed any light on the second moated site, south of Caludon Castle.

INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted geophysical surveys on behalf of John Clarke OBE and Coventry City Council in June 2008, on 0.5ha of land over two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM 21615, 21616) at Caludon Castle, Coventry (NGR SP 3740 8005, Fig 1). Magnetometer and earth resistance surveys were utilised to inform and aid in the interpretation of the site for a forthcoming publication.

BACKGROUND

Topography and geology

Caludon Castle is situated in parkland 4.5km north-east of Coventry, at an approximate height of 85m AOD. The park is bound by housing to the north, west and south and by industrial units to the east. The geology of Caludon Park is Glaciolacustrine deposits; yellow to brown stoneless clay and Till; brown or reddish brown pebbly clay (BGS 1994).

Historical background

The Scheduling description of the site includes the following information about Caludon Castle (EH 1992). The first recorded house was erected at Caludon by Stephen de Seagrave at the end of the 12th century. In 1354 the house was rebuilt, but fell into disrepair by the end of the 14th century. Lord Berkeley rebuilt the house in 1580 and further structural additions were made

throughout the 17th century. The site was abandoned in the mid-17th century, and reoccupied in the 18th with the construction of Caludon House (farm house) within the eastern part of the moated site. Later demolished in 1964.

Caludon Castle consists of the ruins, earthwork and buried remains of Caludon Castle and part of its associated water works. It measures 100m east to west and 80m north to south. The moat is 15m wide and is now dry. However, at the time of survey the western moat contained water. The eastern moat ditch was infilled, probably at the end of the 18th century. A length of standing masonry survives aligned with the northern part of the moat, it is 2m thick, 10m high and 12.5m long (see cover plate). To the north of Caludon Castle, there was a pool extending over 5ha, however, this is now dry. Until recently the retaining banks survived as earthworks to the west and north-east.

A hundred metres south of Caludon Castle lies a second moated site. This measures 70m east to west and 77m north to south and is situated on a north facing slope. The moat is dry and 12m wide. In recorded history, external banks have been visible beyond the northern and western parts of the moat. These were up to 7m wide and served as retaining banks. It is unknown where the original access to the site was, it is believed to have been via a bridge across the northern side of this moat. No earthworks are visible within the site.

METHODOLOGY

All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with English Heritage (2008) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines (Gaffney, Gater and Ovendon 2002). The area of survey was defined in advance by John Clarke OBE and Coventry City Council and a licence under Scheduled Ancient Monument Section 42 had been obtained from English Heritage by Coventry City Council.

The two sites were divided into a grid of contiguous 20m x 20m squares set out using tape and optical square. Survey proceeded along 20m long traverses at 1.0m intervals within the grid squares.

Earth Resistance Survey

Prospection by detailed earth resistance was carried out utilising Geoscan Research RM15 resistance meters in a 0.5m spaced 'Twin Probe' electrode array. Samples were taken every 1.0m along 1.0m traverses

Magnetometer Survey

All detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken using Bartington Grad601-2 fluxgate gradiometers. The Grad601-2 is constructed as a dual-sensor instrument with two vertical gradiometers separated on a yoke to enable two lines of survey to be recorded in tandem.

The areas were sub-divided into 20m x 20m grid-squares. These were laid out manually, using tapes and an optical square. The survey consisted of sixteen whole and partial 20m x 20m grid-squares. Each grid square was traversed at rapid walking pace in zigzag traverses spaced at 1m intervals and data recorded every 0.25m along these.

Processing

All data was analysed using Geoplot 3.00u software. Electrical resistance data grids were matched to provide a constant background level, with the 'De-spike' function applied in order to remove extreme outlying data values.

Magnetometer data was treated with the 'Zero Mean Traverse' function in order to bring the average level of each line of data into a balanced zero and thus the entire dataset onto a constant background level against which anomalies are highlighted. This data was also de-spiked. No other processing was necessary.

The processed data is presented here in the form of greyscale images, georectified onto scale Ordnance Survey mapping. Low (negative) data is shown as white and high (positive) data as black in the resultant greyscale plots, for both resistance and magnetic readings (Figs 2 to 5). Stacked trace plots have been included (Figs 6 & 7), showing the full data range of each survey for reference. Interpretative plots have been generated from the results (Figs 3 & 5). These figures are referred to directly in the following section.

SURVEY RESULTS

Gradiometer (Figs 2, 3 & 6)

The magnetometer survey incorporated much of the interior of the northern and southern moated sites, a total area of 0.5ha.

Moated site 1: Caludon Castle

The survey identified a path running around the perimeter of the site. It was not visible on the ground, but is marked on Ordnance Survey mapping indicating it was removed or buried recently.

Numerous ferrous anomalies, likely to indicate random iron debris, were recorded scattered across the site. More notable are the larger highly magnetic anomalies on the east side which may represent rubble from the demolition of the farmhouse that was located somewhere in the vicinity, possibly backfilled into cellars.

Moated Site 2

The small survey area only recorded ferrous anomalies. Nothing archaeologically significant was identified.

Earth Resistance (Figs 4, 5 & 7)

A total area of 0.5ha of earth resistance survey was carried out across the interior of the two moated sites.

Moated site 1

The survey successfully recorded the foundations of a rectilinear building which formerly occupied the moated site. It was represented in the form of narrow, linear, high resistance anomalies likely to reflect buried walls. In general, the detected features describe a rectangularly arranged building orientated north-north-west in a 'T-shape'. The anomalies apparently connect with the standing wall on the platform. In the west of the survey a broad high resistance anomaly was detected, possibly representing a demolition rubble from the walls of the building, or conceivably a further wall at that position.

In the eastern part of the moated site the survey identified three sub-rectangular high resistance anomalies that correlate to positive anomalies detected in the magnetic survey. These may represent demolition rubble of the farm house or in-filled cellars that are alleged to be within the site. The earth resistance survey recorded anomalies relating to a former footpath around the inner perimeter of the moat, coincident with those recorded in the gradiometer survey.

Moated Site 2

The survey identified a sinuous linear high resistance anomaly, orientated north to south. It is unclear what the anomaly represents. On the west side of the site, the survey revealed a linear low resistance anomaly. It is orientated north-east to south-west and may represent another path or beaten track.

CONCLUSION

Geophysical surveys on medieval moated sites at Caludon Castle, Coventry, have succeeded in

identifying archaeological features. Earth resistance survey successfully recorded the foundations of a former building that once stood within the moated site (Fig 8).

The anomalies would appear to describe a central north-north-west aligned hall (Fig 8: A), approximately 33m x 13m. The west and eastern walls may have had buttresses (Fig 8: B). To the south-east there was a small 'porch' providing former access to the southern end of the hall (Fig 8: C). A series of attached apartments or service rooms in the style of a manor house (Fig 8: D), were located to the north.

Assuming this is 'Caludon Castle' it is likely that the features represent more than a single building phase, although this is not identifiable by the geophysical methods used. Survey may have also identified the in-filled cellars of a former farm house which was also situated on Moated Site 1 (Fig 8: E).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful for the assistance of John Clarke, the client, for supplying extra information on the history of Caludon Castle.

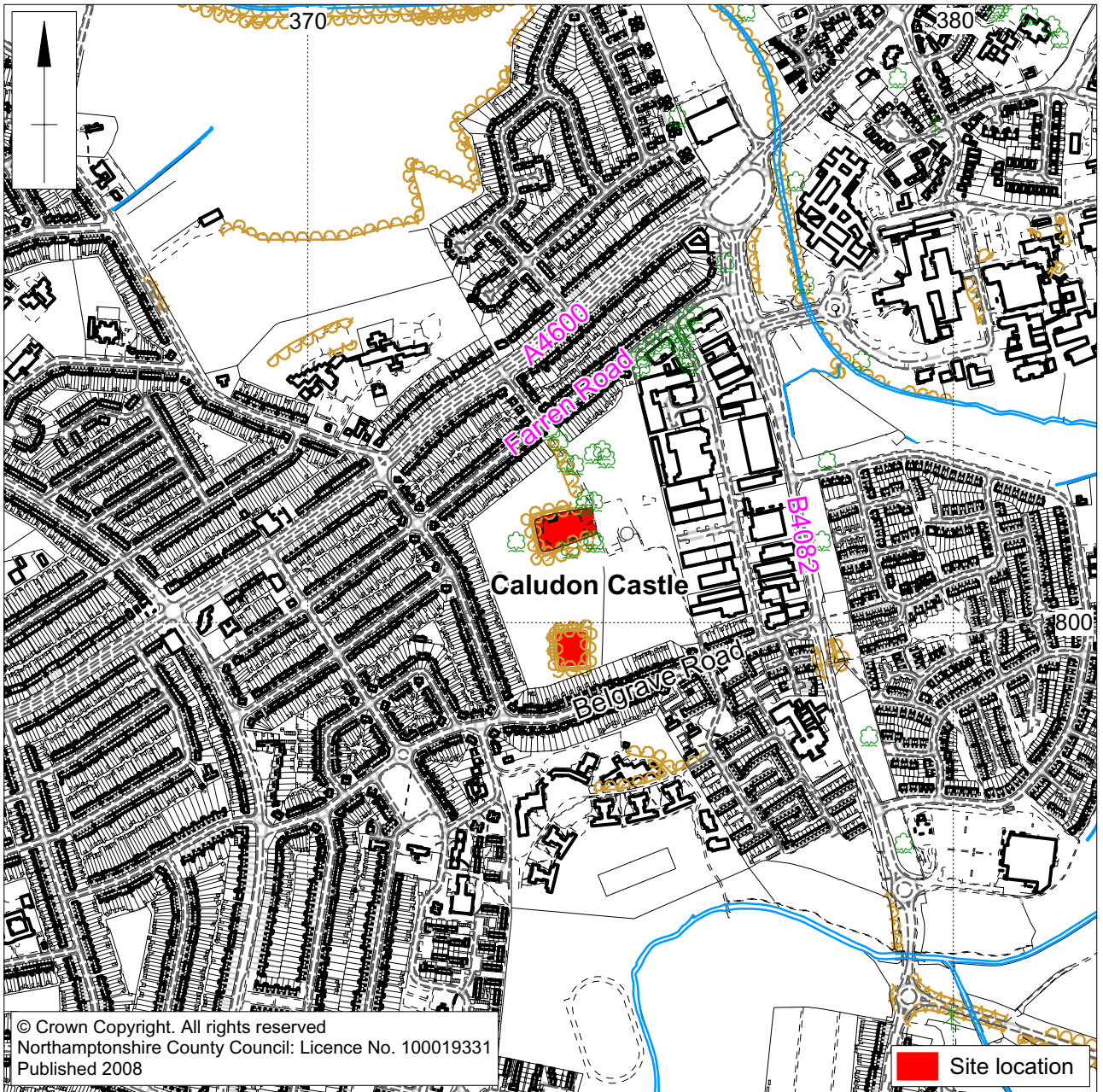
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Gaffney, C, Gater, J, and Ovendon, S, 2002 *The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations*, Institute of Field Archaeologists Technical Paper, 6



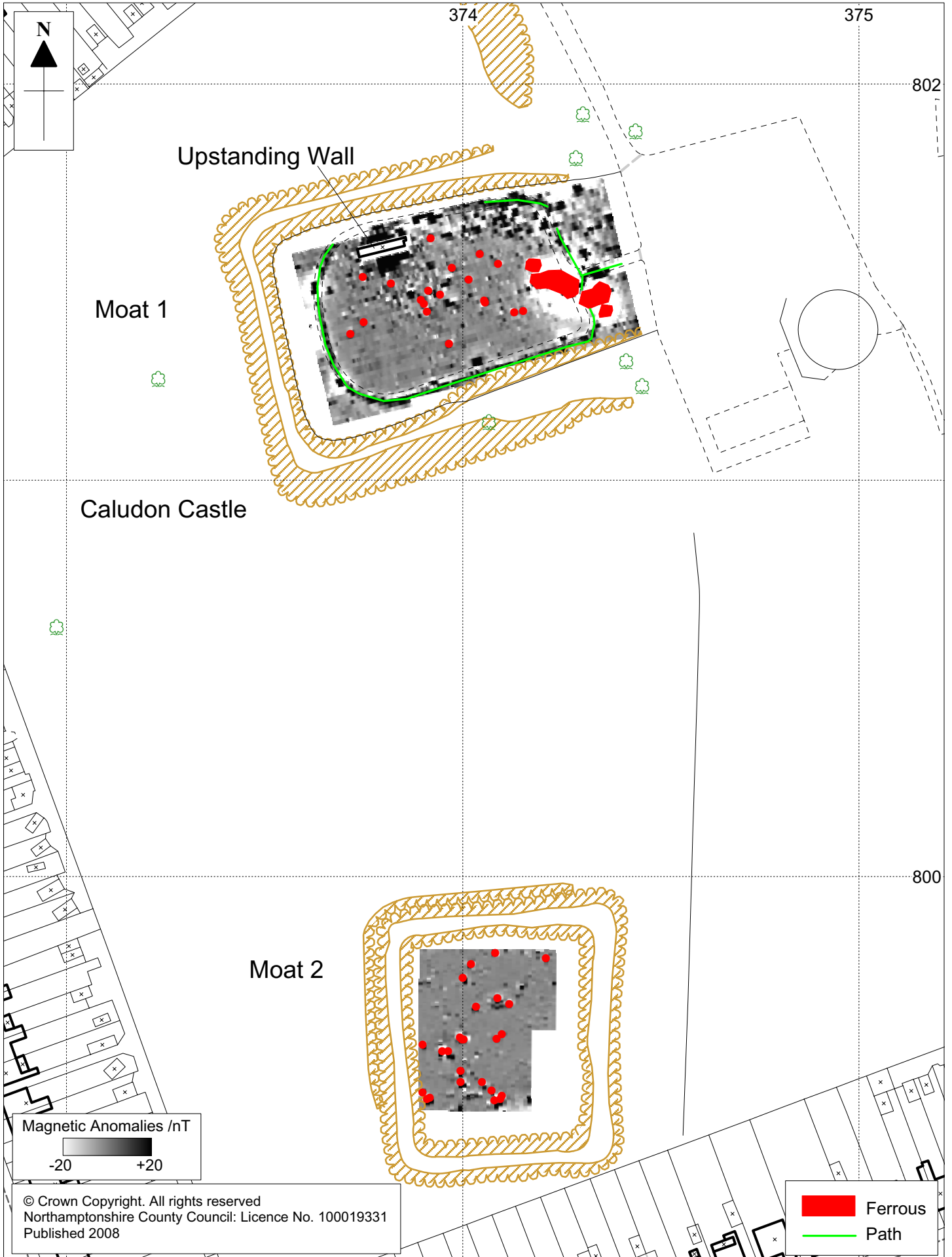
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Site location Fig 1



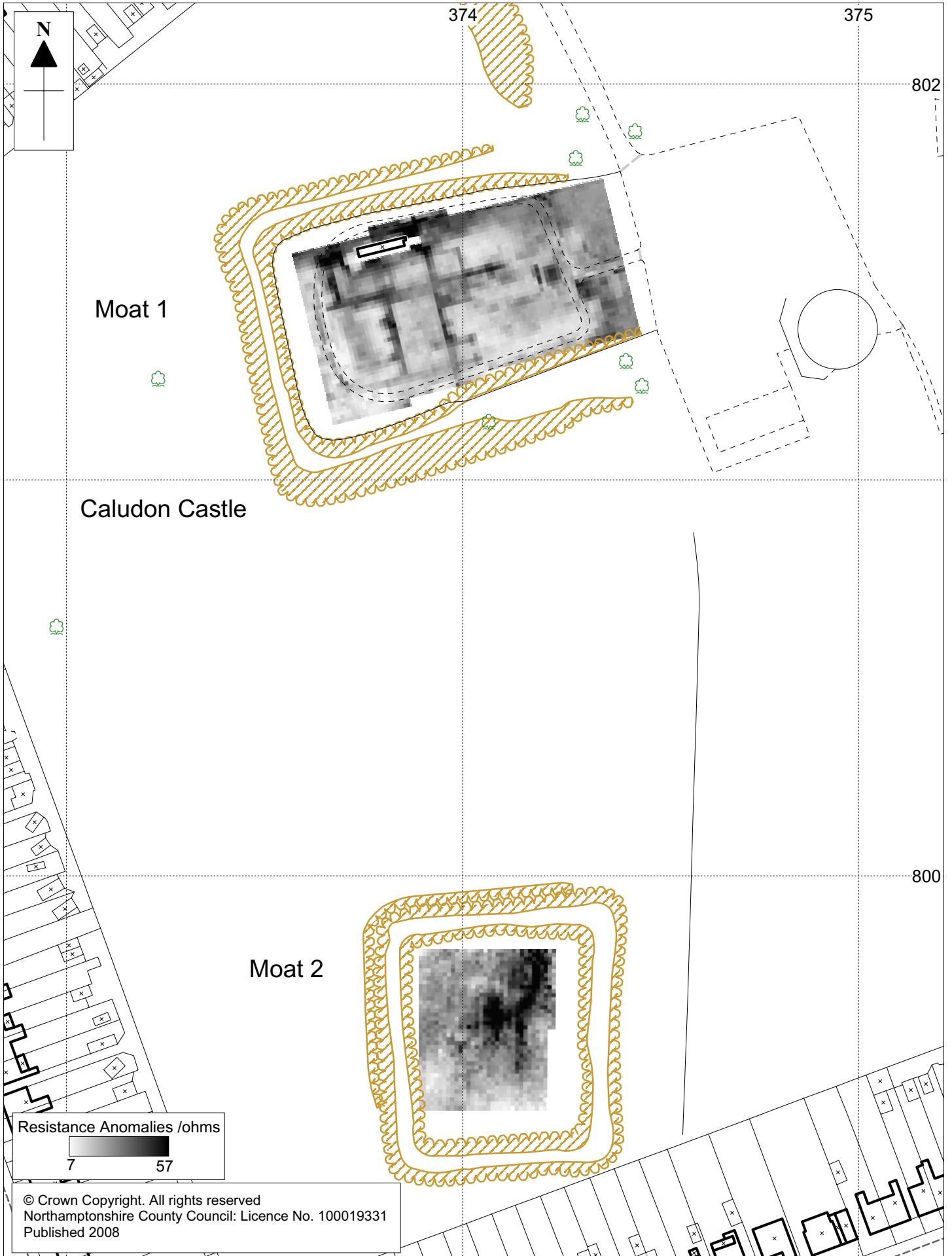
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Detailed Gradiometer Survey Results Fig 2



Scale 1:1250

Detailed Gradiometer Survey Interpretation Fig 3



Scale 1:1250

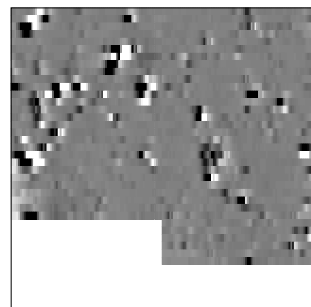
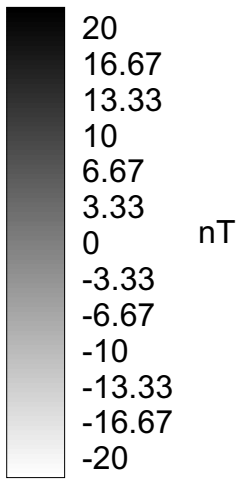
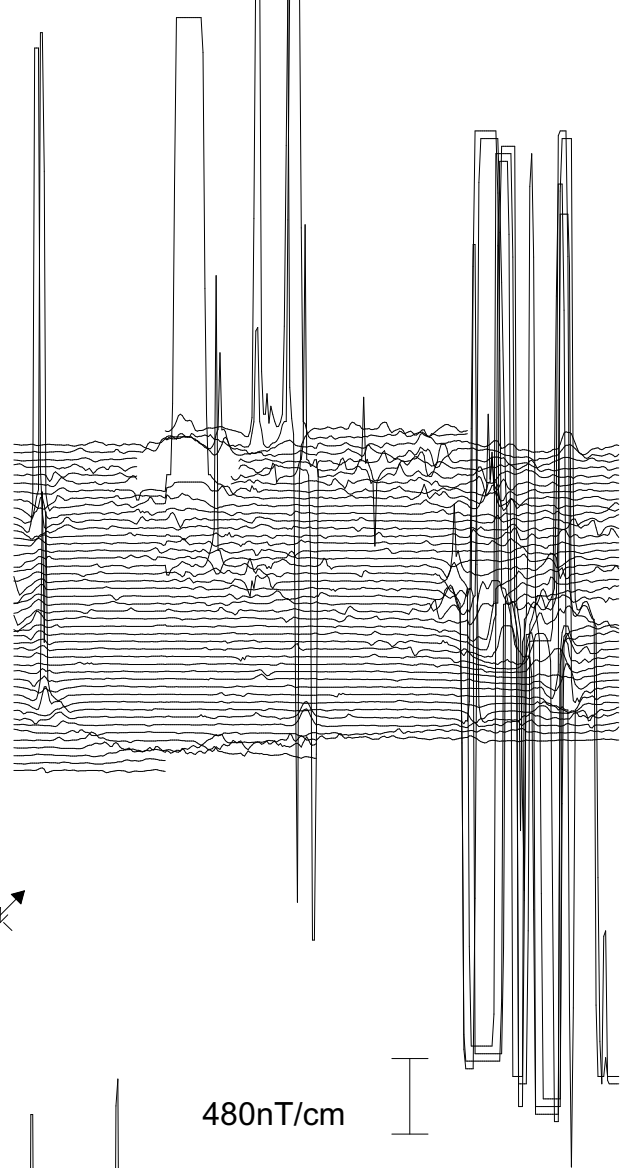
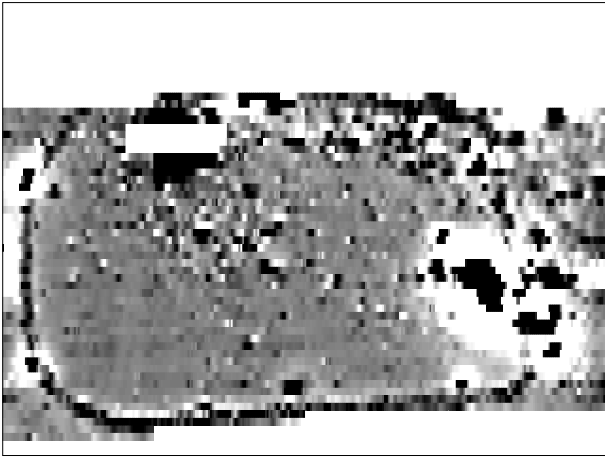
Earth Resistance Survey Results Fig 4



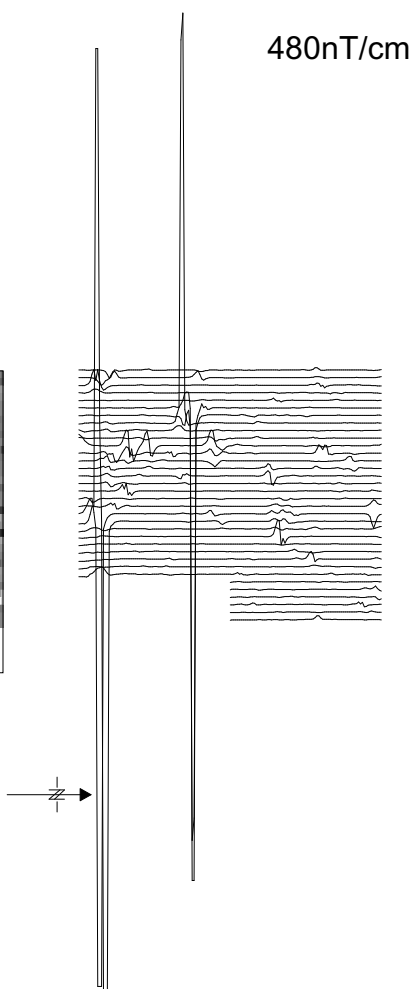
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Earth Resistance Survey Interpretation Fig 5

Moat 1



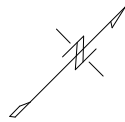
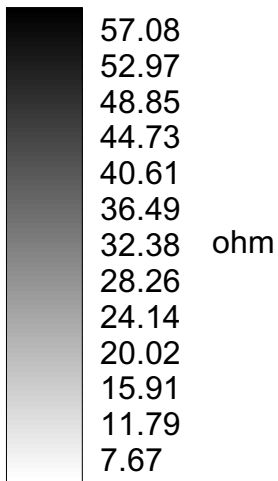
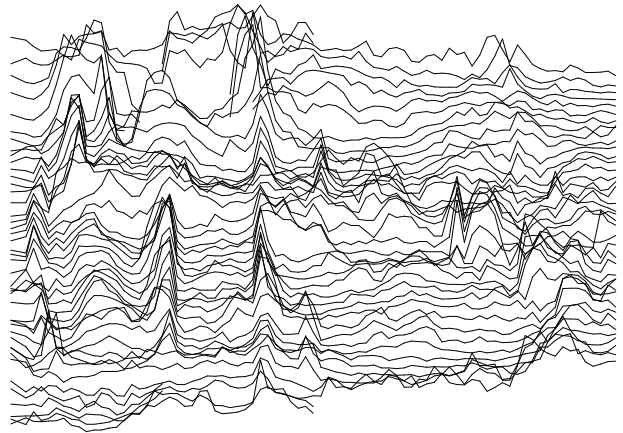
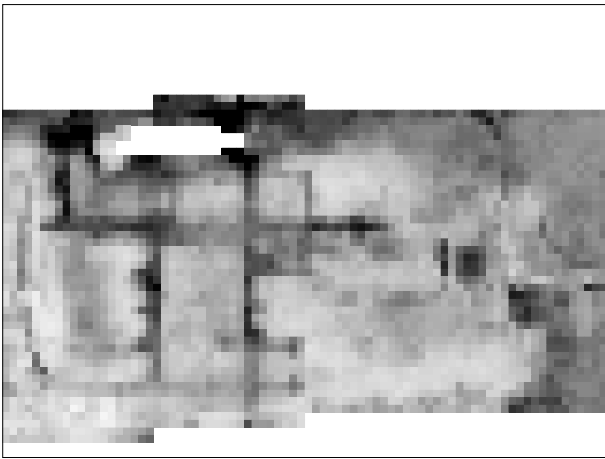
Moat 2



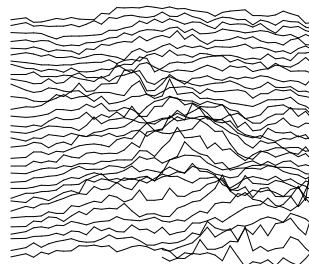
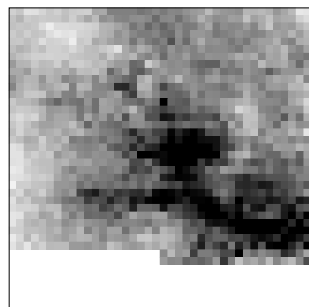
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Gradiometer Greyscale and Trace Plots Fig 6

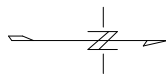
Moat 1

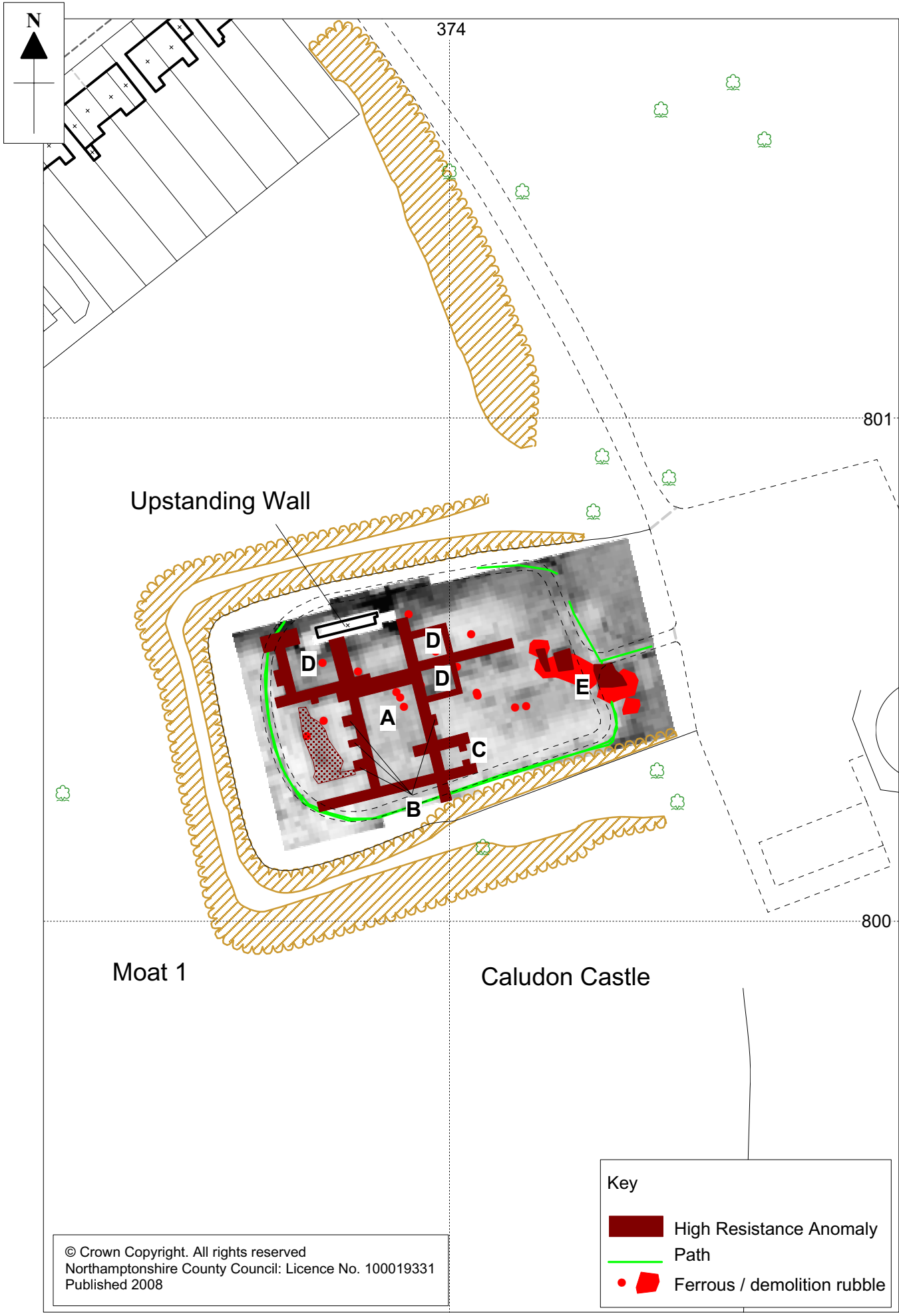


40.00ohm/cm



Moat 2





Scale 1:1000

Moat 1 Synoptic Plan Fig 8