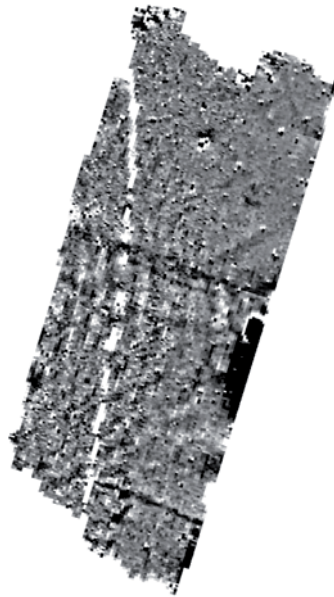




Northamptonshire
County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological geophysical survey
on land at Herne Road, Oundle
Northamptonshire
May 2008



Ian Fisher

May 2008

Report 08/97

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park

Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

MAY 2008

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

ON LAND AT HERNE ROAD, OUNDLE

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

MAY 2008

STAFF

Project Manager Adrian Butler BSc MA AIFA
Fieldwork Ian Fisher BSc
 Heather Smith BSc MA
Text and illustrations Ian Fisher

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signature	Date
Checked by	Adrian Butler	<i>AB</i>	23/05/08
Verified by	Pat Chapman	<i>PC</i>	23/05/08
Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>AC</i>	23/05/08

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land at Herne Road, Oundle Northamptonshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Twigden Homes, to undertake a gradiometer survey across a proposed development area on land between Ashton Road and Herne Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire. The survey covered all or part of five fields, totalling 2.7ha, identifying three potential archaeological anomalies. Gradiometer survey also mapped the medieval ridge and furrow and modern pipes.	
Project type	Geophysical Survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Land adjacent to Herne Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	Approx 2.7ha	
OS Easting & Northing	TL0455,8794	
Height OD	32m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher (NA)	
Project Manager	Adrian Butler (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Twigden Homes	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	May 2008	
End date	May 2008	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Survey notes
Digital	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Geophysical data, GIS data & text Report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	An Archaeological Geophysical Survey on Land at Herne Road, Oundle, Leicestershire	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 08/97	
Author(s)	Ian Fisher	
Page numbers	10	
Date	28/05/08	

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

ON LAND AT HERNE ROAD, OUNDLE

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

MAY 2008

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Twigden Homes, to undertake a gradiometer survey across a proposed development area on land between Ashton Road and Herne Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire. The survey covered all or part of five fields, totalling 2.7ha, identifying three potential archaeological anomalies. Gradiometer survey also mapped the medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, and modern pipes.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Twigden Homes, to undertake an archaeological geophysical survey of an area of land between Ashton Road and Herne Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire (NGR TL 0455 8794, Fig 1). The survey was required to inform a planning proposal for the development of the site.

The objectives of the geophysical survey were to identify the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The magnetometer survey of the 2.7ha area of land was undertaken in May 2008.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The proposed development site lies on the south-eastern edge of Oundle between Ashton Road and Herne Road. The plot is surrounded by modern development and is roughly rectangular in shape encompassing five fields of pasture and gardens (Fig 1).

The underlying geology of the proposed development site as mapped by the British Geological Survey comprises First Gravel terrace on the edge of the Nene valley alluvium (superficial deposits) over Lias or Oolitic Limestone (bedrock). The site lies at approximately 32m AOD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological background of the site is described in full in the desk-based-assessment (Prentice 2008).

The Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) identifies that the development area lies within the historic core of Oundle, south-east of the historic centre of Oundle. However, there are no Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, battlefields or parks and gardens within the development area. The EUS indicates that the area is a possible location for the Anglo-Saxon chapel of St Scythes. However, this is indicated by documentary sources only and there is, as yet, no archaeological evidence to support the theory.

No previous work has been conducted in the development area. Anglo-Saxon remains have been excavated in Oundle. Excavations east of East Road, to the northeast of the development area, did not find evidence of Saxon or medieval remains and suggest that early occupation did not extend to this side of the road.

A small Roman town is located 500m north-east at Ashton, on the other side of the river Nene.

4 METHODOLOGY

Geophysical survey was carried out in accordance with English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines (EH 1995 & Gaffney, Gater and Ovendon 2002).

The fieldwork was conducted over two days in May 2008. Two fields were not surveyable. Field 4 was uneven ground covered in a mixture of impenetrable high grasses and nettles, Field 5 was a garden with bird bath, pond allotment and beds in the south and kennels, bird bath, seats and planting in the north. The small useful area in both Fields made them worthless for magnetometer prospection.

Detailed 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 30m x 30m grid-squares. These were laid out manually, using tapes and an optical square. The survey consisted of twenty five whole and partial 30m x 30m 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.

The data was analysed using Geoplot 3.00u software. Low (negative) magnetism is shown as white

and high (positive) magnetism as black in the resultant greyscale plots. To avoid the introduction of errors, minimal manipulation was carried out on the data. The 'Zero Mean Traverse' function was applied in order to bring the average level of each data line into a balanced zero.

The processed data is presented here in the form of a greyscale georectified to the Ordnance Survey base (-3nT / +3nT scale; Figs 2 and 3). It was considered that other plotting regimes, such as 'stacked trace', would be uninformative over an area of this size. An interpretative plot has been generated from the results (Fig 3). These figures are referred to directly in the following section.

5 SURVEY RESULTS

Detailed Survey (Figs 2 and 3)

Field 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

A 1.8ha block was surveyed. The field was bisected north to south by an electric fence which is visible in the resultant plots. The survey revealed three parallel linear anomalies which may represent ditches, orientated north-west to south-east.

The survey detected medieval ridge and furrow cultivation orientated north to south across the southern part of the field. The ridge and furrow is just visible on the ground and the corresponding anomalies are weak. However, it would appear that the pair of ditches in the north are cut by the medieval ridge and furrow. The survey also mapped a ferrous anomaly on the south-east edge of the field, although nothing was visible on the ground.

Field 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

An area of 0.1ha was surveyed. No anomalies of archaeological significance were found. A single anomaly was detected in the centre of the field. This is the remains of a former iron fence post that can be seen in the field.

Field 3 (Figs 2 & 3)

A survey block of 0.3ha was surveyed and revealed two ferrous pipes crossing the north part of the field. Both are orientated north-west to south-east and converge in the west of the field. The survey area was reduced due to the height of vegetation around the edges of the field

Field 4

At the time of survey the field was overgrown and was not surveyable.

Field 5

Because of significant obstacles, Field 5, a garden, was not surveyed.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The detailed gradiometer survey identified possible archaeological remains in the form of three ditches. It did not locate the structural remains suggested by the Extensive Urban survey (EUS). Gradiometer survey also mapped former medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, ferrous pipes and other ferrous features.

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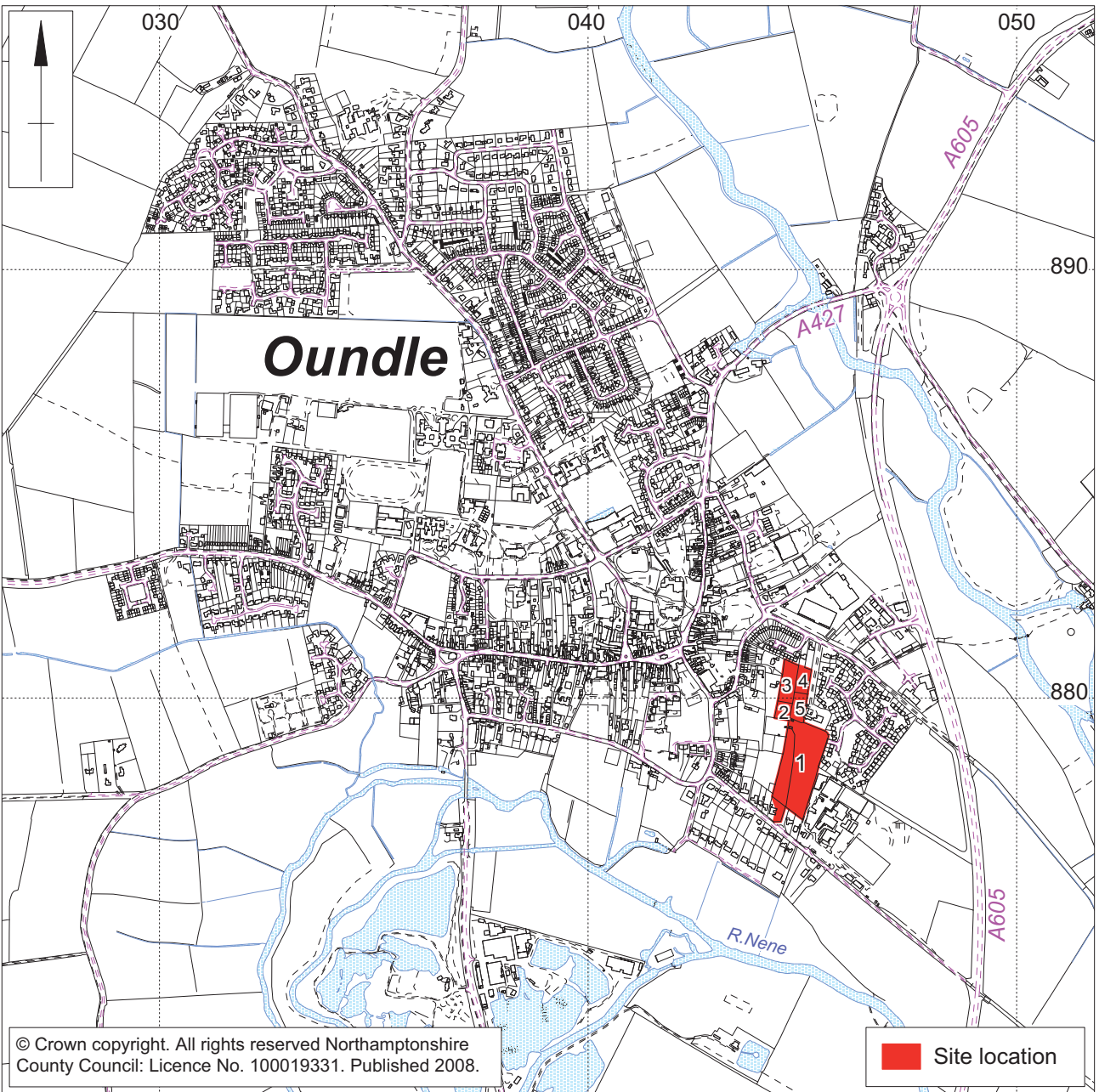
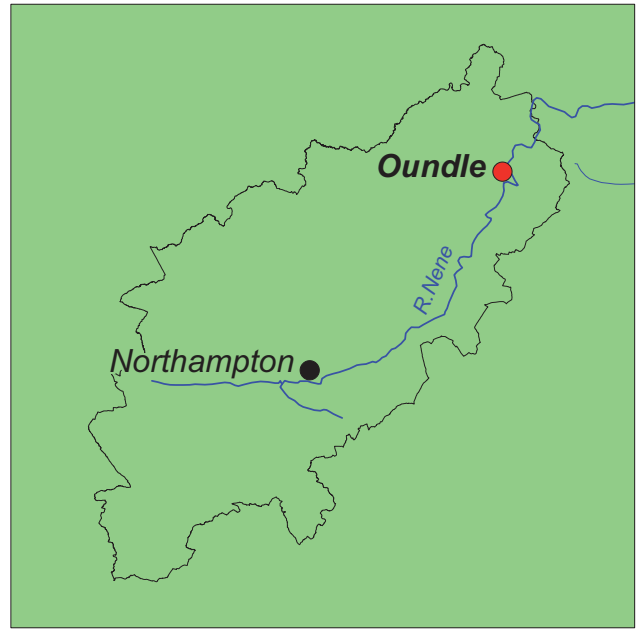
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28 May 2008



Scale 1:15,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:1500

Detailed Gradiometer Survey Results Fig 2



Scale 1:1500

Detailed Gradiometer Survey Interpretation Fig 3