



Northamptonshire  
County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Geophysical Survey at

Green's Lodge Farm, Huncote

Leicestershire

December 2008



Adrian Butler

December 2008

Report 08/215

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Archaeological Geophysical Survey at Green's Lodge Farm, Huncote, Leicestershire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted an archaeological geophysical survey of land adjacent to Green's Lodge Farm, Huncote. Magnetometer survey, although conducted in an area of high archaeological potential, was unsuccessful in detecting features of any likely import. A north – south linear feature probably related to a post-medieval land division, whereas a putative surface indicated in the west of the site, could reflect a threshing floor or similar yard surface.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Agricultural	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Green's Lodge Farm, Forest Road, Huncote, Leicestershire	
Study area	1.5 ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 5200 9845	
Height OD	87m	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Richard Buckley, University of Leicester Archaeological Services	
Project Design originator	Richard Buckley	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher	
Project Manager	Adrian Butler	
Sponsor or funding body	James Bailey Planning	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	December 2008	
End date	December 2008	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Content</b>
Physical	n/a	
Paper	NA	Site survey records
Digital	NA	Geophysical survey & GIS data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Title	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	
Serial title & volume	Archaeological Geophysical Survey at Green's Lodge Farm, Huncote, Leicestershire	
Author(s)	NA Report 08/215	
Page numbers	Adrian Butler	
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Cover Photograph: Green's Lodge Farm by Ian Fisher, December 2008

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AT GREEN'S LODGE FARM,  
HUNCOTE, LEICESTERSHIRE**

**DECEMBER 2008**

*ABSTRACT*

*Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted an archaeological geophysical survey of land adjacent to Green's Lodge Farm, Huncote. Magnetometer survey, although conducted in an area of high archaeological potential, was unsuccessful in detecting features of any likely import. A north – south linear feature probably related to a post-medieval land division, whereas a putative surface indicated in the west of the site, could reflect a threshing floor or similar yard surface.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of James Bailey Planning, to undertake an archaeological geophysical survey of land adjacent to the north of Green's Lodge Farm, Huncote, Leicestershire (NGR SP 5200 9845, Fig 1). The work was undertaken to support a planning proposal for the development of a biogas plant on the site (Boutsikas 2008, 1).

The objective of the geophysical survey was to identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The programme consisted of a detailed magnetic gradiometer survey conducted over an area of approximately 1.4 hectares. Fieldwork was carried out in December 2008.

**2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

Huncote is a small village 9km west of Leicester, and the development site is a further 0.5km north of Huncote. The survey area was situated immediately north of the farm buildings of Green's Lodge, some farm equipment intruding into the area. On the western boundary a roughly metalled track was orientated north-east to south-west along side a relatively new soil bund. The majority of the site area consisted of a deeply rutted, flat, arable field, at an altitude of c87m aOD. Plastic slurry pipes lay east – west across the field and pools of liquefied mud were to be found around the margins and centre of the area.

The drift geology of the site consists of a foliated mix of glacial sands and gravel and till (British Geological Survey, Sheet 155; Boutsikas 2008, 4).

### **3      ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The background to the site is reviewed extensively in the ULAS Desk-Based Assessment (DBA; Boutsikas 2008). Finds in the vicinity date between the Palaeolithic and medieval. Many Iron Age finds have been made in close proximity to the site. Evidence for high-status Iron Age burials comes in the form of a metal-detected enamelled chariot lynch pin. A possible Roman settlement may exist immediately north-east of the site (Boutsikas 2008, 9-16).

### **4      METHODOLOGY**

Geophysical survey was carried out in accordance with English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines (EH 2008 & Gaffney, Gater and Ovendon 2002). The geophysical survey was carried out over a single area.

The 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 gradiometer coverage was composed of a total of 12 whole and partial 30m x 30m grid-squares forming one contiguous area. Each grid square was traversed at rapid walking pace in zigzag mode and magnetic data was recorded every 0.25m along traverses spaced at 1m intervals. All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines (EH 2008 & Gaffney, Gater and Ovendon 2002).

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 greytone plots. 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 was examined for weak magnetic anomalies under a variety of viewing regimes. The data is presented here in the form of a grey tone image highlighting a broad magnetic anomaly scale (-10nT / +10nT) which in turn was rectified to the Ordnance Survey base (Fig 2). An interpretative plot has been generated from the results (Fig 3), and both figures are referred to directly in the following section.

## 5 SURVEY RESULTS (Figs 2 & 3)

The survey extended over the track on the western boundary, to butt against the soil bund. Intense positive and negative magnetic anomalies resulted from the brick hardcore metalling of the track, with some suggestion of a ferrous component, perhaps iron slag, along the length. Results from the southern boundary of the survey also contained responses to deposits of brick waste, and centrally the magnetic 'shadow' of ferrous farm machinery.

Little of note was recovered from the main body of the survey. The area was found to be littered with the small, dipolar magnetic anomalies that generally indicate ferrous and ceramic litter. A linear band of dipolar magnetic anomalies was detected orientated south to north across the survey area. This feature may indicate a former field boundary visible on all pre-1957 Ordnance Survey mapping (Boutsikas 2008, 5-6).

A small area of relatively subdued, mixed positive / negative readings was detected in the west of the field. Although of no readily identifiable shape, it is possible that the data indicates a surface of some kind.

## 6 CONCLUSION

Magnetometer survey at Green's Lodge, although conducted in an area of high archaeological potential, was unsuccessful in detecting features of any likely import. A north – south linear feature probably relates to a post-medieval land division. The putative surface indicated in the west of the site, could reflect a threshing floor or similar yard surface.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

EH, 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*, English Heritage

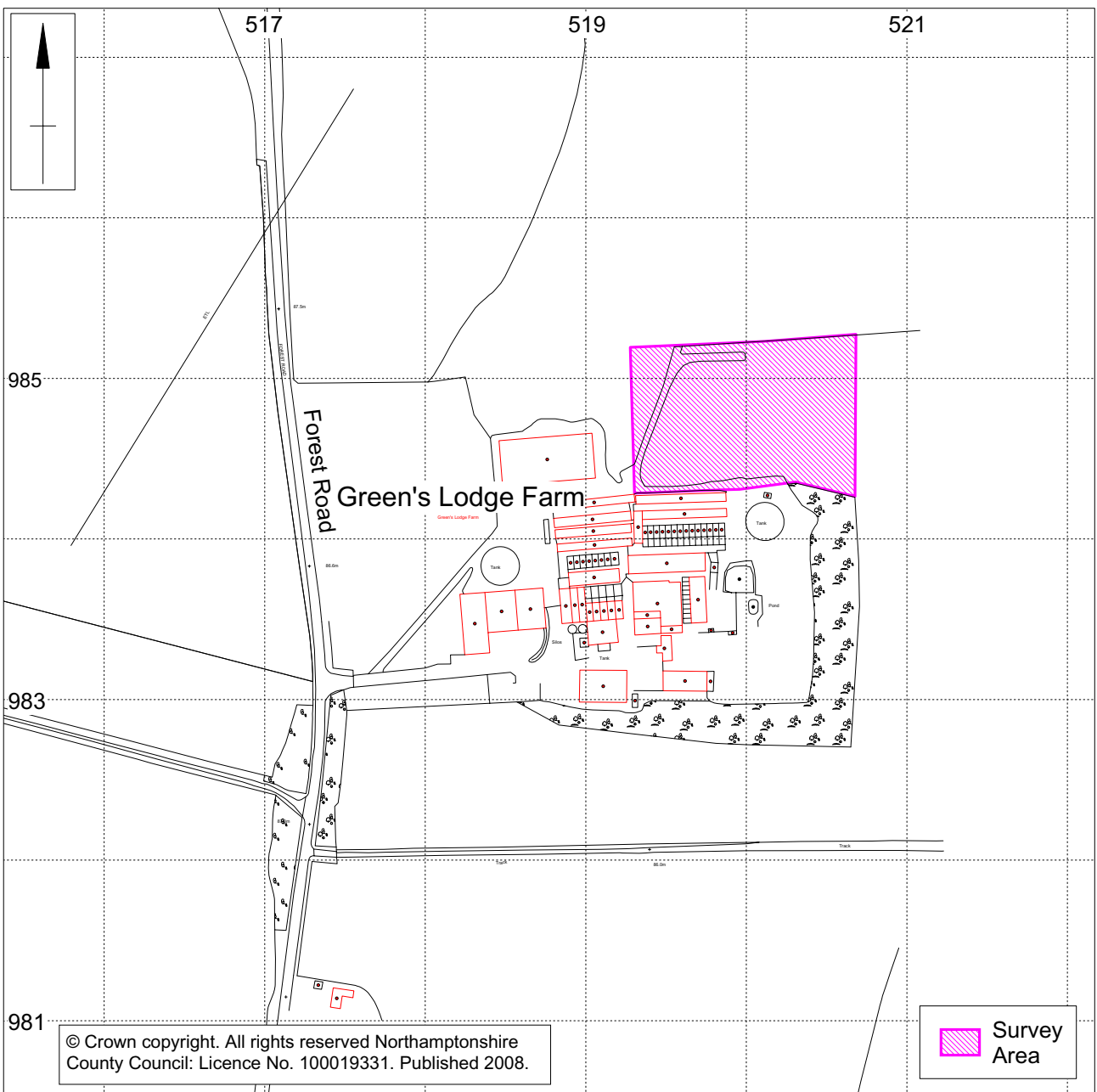
Gaffney, C, Gater, J, and Ovendon, S, 2002 *The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations*, Institute of Field Archaeologists Technical Paper, 6

Boutsikas, E, 2008 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for the Proposed Development of Land at Green's Lodge, Forest Road, Huncote, Leicestershire (SP 5200 9835)*, University of Leicester Archaeological Services Report **2008-088**

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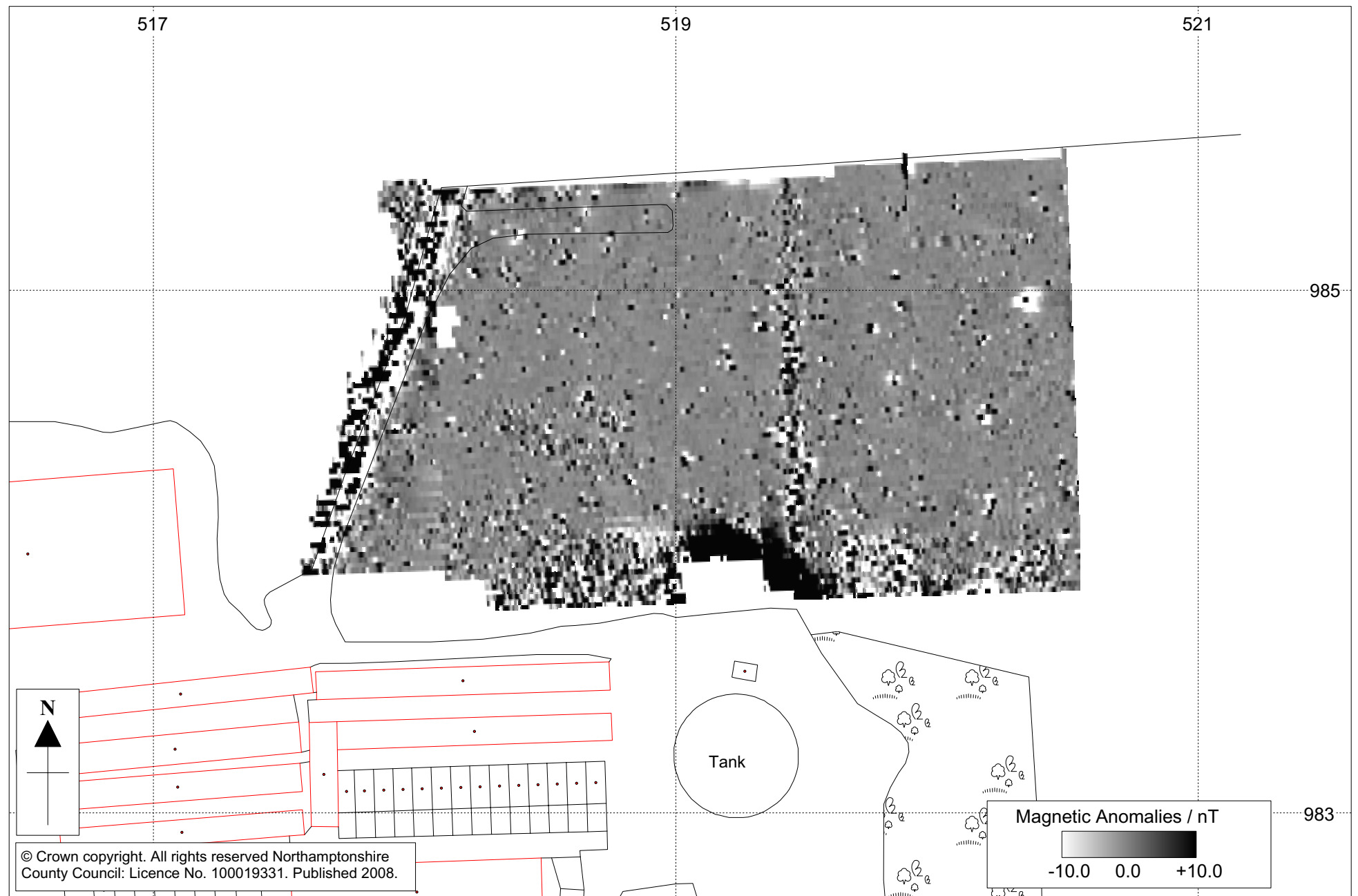
6 January 2009



Scale 1:4000

Site location Fig 1





Scale 1:1000 @ A4

Detailed Gradiometer Survey Results Fig 2

