



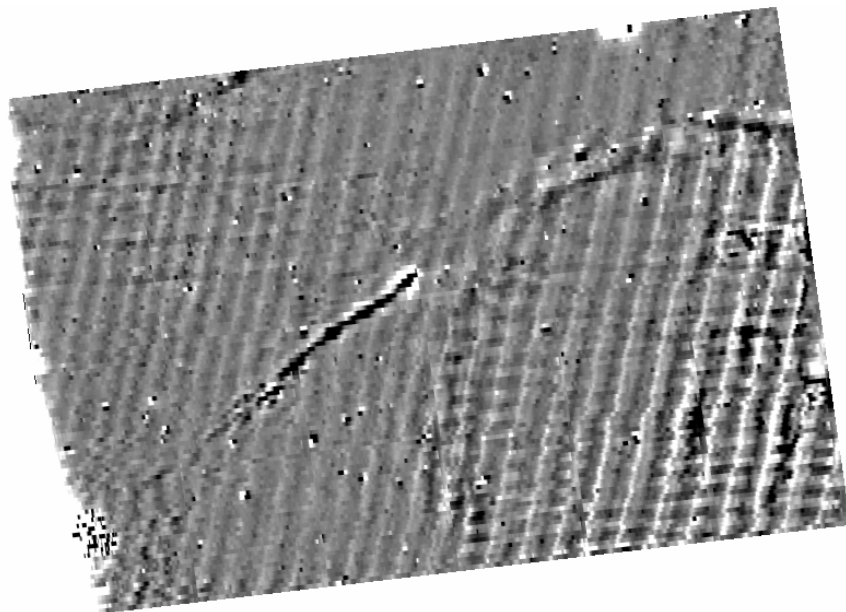
Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An Archaeological Geophysical Survey of
the Site of the Proposed Naseby Battlefield

Visitor Centre, Northamptonshire

November 2009



John Walford
December 2009

Report 09/173

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



STAFF

Project Manager Adrian Butler BSc MA AlfA

Fieldwork Paul Clements BA
 Jonathan Elston BA

Text John Walford MSc

Illustrations John Walford MSc

QUALITY CONTROL

| | Print name | Signature | Date |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Checked by | Pat Chapman | <i>PC</i> | 1/12/2009 |
| Verified by | Adrian Butler | <i>AB</i> | 1/12/2009 |
| Approved by | Andy Chapman | <i>AC</i> | 1/12/2009 |

OASIS REPORT FORM 72800

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Project name | An Archaeological Geophysical Survey of the Site of the Proposed Naseby Battlefield Visitor Centre, Northamptonshire | |
| Short description | Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by David Hickie Associates, on behalf of the Naseby Battlefield Trust, to conduct an archaeological geophysical survey on the proposed site of the Naseby Battlefield Visitor Centre in the parish of Naseby, Northamptonshire. A total area of 2.6ha was subjected to detailed magnetic gradiometer survey. This work revealed two anomalies which were provisionally interpreted as ditches and others for which a geological explanation is preferred. Evidence for two phases of ridge and furrow cultivation was also found. | |
| Project type | Geophysical survey | |
| Site status | Registered battlefield | |
| Previous work | None | |
| Current Land use | Pasture | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| Monument type/ period | Undated ditch?, Ridge and furrow | |
| Significant finds | None | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| County | Northamptonshire | |
| Site address | Land adjacent to Sibbertoft Road, Mill Hill, Naseby | |
| Study area | 2.6ha | |
| OS Easting & Northing | SP 6875 7895 | |
| Height OD | c 175-185m AOD | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Organisation | Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) | |
| Project brief originator | Northamptonshire County Council, County Archaeologist Advisor | |
| Project Design originator | Northamptonshire Archaeology | |
| Director/Supervisor | Paul Clements | |
| Project Manager | Adrian Butler | |
| Sponsor or funding body | Naseby Battlefield Trust | |
| PROJECT DATE | | |
| Start date | 23 rd November 2009 | |
| End date | 23 rd November 2009 | |
| ARCHIVES | | |
| | Location | Content |
| Physical | N/A | |
| Paper | NA | Site survey records |
| Digital | NA | Geophysical survey & GIS data |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| | Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report | |
| Title | An Archaeological Geophysical Survey of the Site of the Proposed Naseby Battlefield Visitor Centre, Northamptonshire | |
| Serial title & volume | Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 09/173 | |
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE SITE OF THE
PROPOSED NASEBY BATTLEFIELD VISITOR CENTRE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

NOVEMBER 2009

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by David Hickie Associates, on behalf of the Naseby Battlefield Trust, to conduct an archaeological geophysical survey on the proposed site of the Naseby Battlefield Visitor Centre in the parish of Naseby, Northamptonshire. A total area of 2.6ha was subjected to detailed magnetic gradiometer survey. This work revealed two anomalies which were provisionally interpreted as ditches and others for which a geological explanation is preferred. Evidence for two phases of ridge and furrow cultivation was also found.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by David Hickie Associates, on behalf of the Naseby Battlefield Trust, to conduct an archaeological geophysical survey in the parish of Naseby, Northamptonshire. The survey area lies at SP 6875 7895, to the north of the A14 and immediately east of Sibbertoft Road (Fig 1). The purpose of the survey was to investigate the archaeological potential of this area prior to the proposed construction of a visitor centre and associated features.

Fieldwork took place on 23rd November 2009 and comprised a detailed magnetic gradiometer survey of two areas, one of 2.2ha and one of 0.4ha, both within the same field.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The two survey areas lie within a small pasture field which occupies a south-west facing slope. The north-eastern corner of the field stands at an elevation of c 186m AOD and the south-western corner at c 174m. A small stream rises at the south-eastern corner of the field and defines its southern boundary.

The geological mapping of the area shows that the northern field boundary coincides almost exactly with a junction between surface exposures of boulder clay and the Upper Lias. The latter stratum outcrops across almost the entire field, except in the north-eastern corner where it is capped by a small outlier of boulder clay.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The survey area has been assessed as having a high potential to contain archaeological remains (NCC 2009). It lies approximately 300m to the west of a group of cropmarks which represent a henge, two bowl barrows and other enclosures (Northamptonshire HER record 1025). Ridge and furrow earthworks survive within the survey area itself

The Battle of Naseby was fought in 1645 in fields immediately to the north-west of the survey area. The survey area itself lies just outside the extent of the registered battlefield.

4 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).

The two survey areas were divided into 30m grid squares by means of a tape measure and optical square and tie-in measurements were taken from the field boundaries. The gradiometers were carried at a brisk but steady pace through each grid, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along the traverses, giving a total of 3600 measurements per grid.

All fieldwork methods complied with the guidelines issued by English Heritage, and by the Institute for Archaeologists (EH 2008; Gaffney, Gater and Ovendon 2002).

The survey data was processed using Geoplot 3.00u 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 greyscale plots (scale +4nT to -4nT black ~ white). These have been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Fig 2, top). An interpretative diagram has been produced and overlain onto the data (Fig 2, bottom).

5 SURVEY RESULTS

Area 1

The data collected from this area is dominated by a set of parallel and close-spaced linear anomalies aligned north to south. These coincide with the extant ridge and furrow earthworks. A second, less distinct, set of such anomalies runs from east to west. These are interpreted as indicating an earlier phase of ridge and furrow cultivation.

Two parallel positive linear anomalies run from north-east to south west. The northern of the pair is quite ill defined but the southern exhibits strong magnetic enhancement. Both might represent infilled ditches, although this is not an entirely convincing interpretation.

The south-eastern corner of Area 1 is surrounded by a broad and diffuse curvilinear anomaly. Whilst it is tempting to interpret this as part of a ploughed-down enclosure, other factors suggest that a geological origin is more likely. In particular, the anomaly coincides with the approximate location of the outcrop of boulder clay, referred to in Section 2 above, and with a large patch of poor crop growth on an aerial photograph held by NCC (Cities Revealed 2000; Fig 3). For this reason, the anomaly is thought to be an edge effect marking the transition between the boulder clay and the Lias. An area of increased magnetic noise within the same area is perhaps best attributed to magnetic inhomogeneities within the clay.

A dense cluster of intense magnetic noise occurs near the south-western corner of Area 1. This coincides with a gate into the field, and probably represents a patch of modern hardcore. A random scatter of small dipolar anomalies across the rest of the area indicates the presence of small buried pieces of ferrous debris.

Area 2

As with Area 1, Area 2 is dominated by the north - south lineations caused by the ridge and furrow earthworks. One area of weak magnetic noise also occurs. The latter is undiagnostic and of unknown origin.

Negative ferrous halos occur adjacent to both field boundaries, presumably due to the presence of wire fences. A random scatter of small dipolar anomalies across the area indicates the presence of small buried pieces of ferrous debris.

6 CONCLUSION

The survey results are somewhat ambiguous, but perhaps indicate the presence of archaeological remains on the site. Two parallel linear anomalies are thought likely to represent infilled ditches. A large curving anomaly is of less certain origin. It could conceivably represent an archaeological feature but is more probably related to a geological boundary.

The survey has detected clear evidence for ridge and furrow. Two directions of ploughing are apparent, one relating to the surviving earthworks and the other aligned perpendicularly to these.

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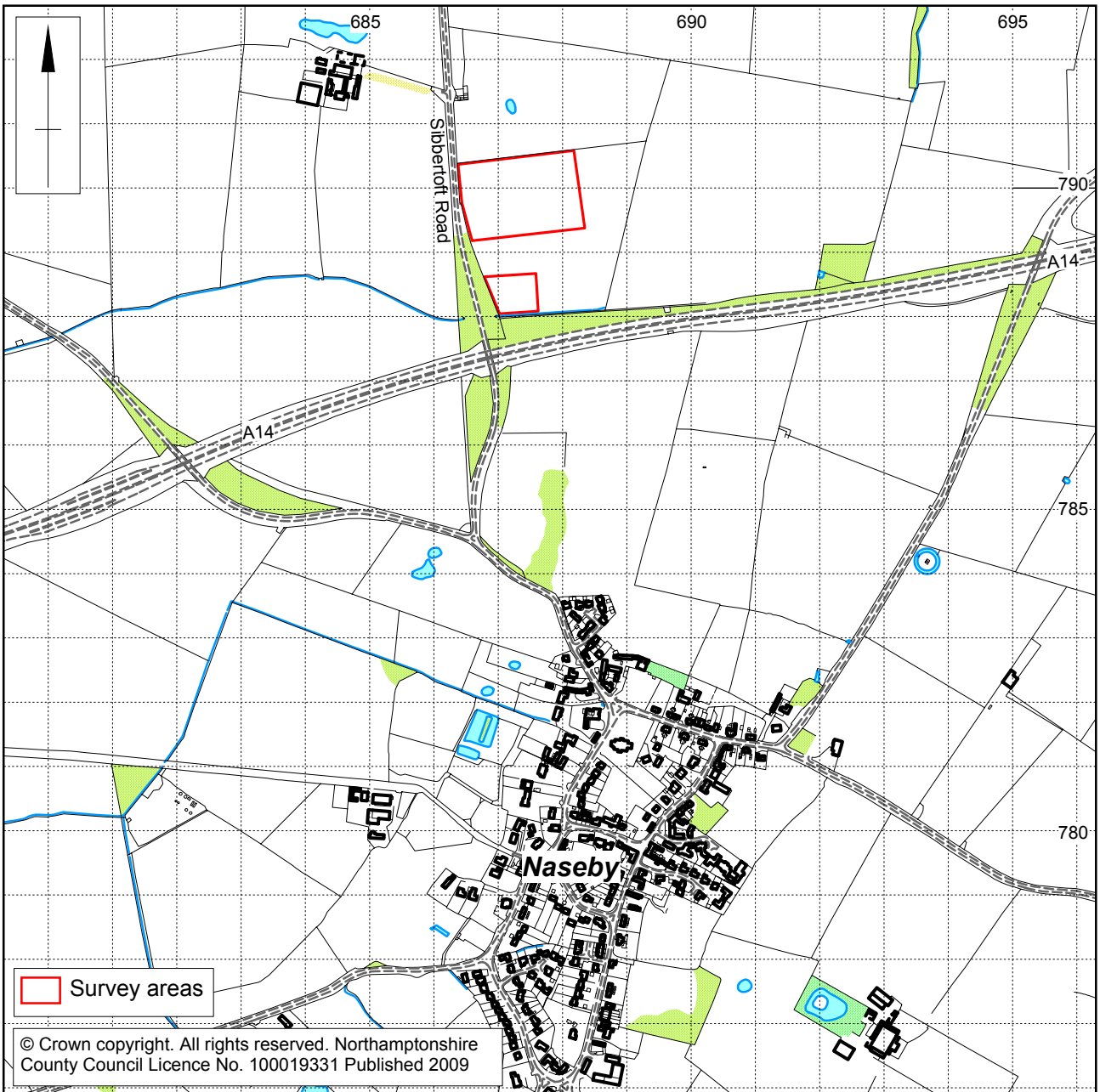
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Cities Revealed 2000 Aerial Photography, copyright The GeoInformation Group

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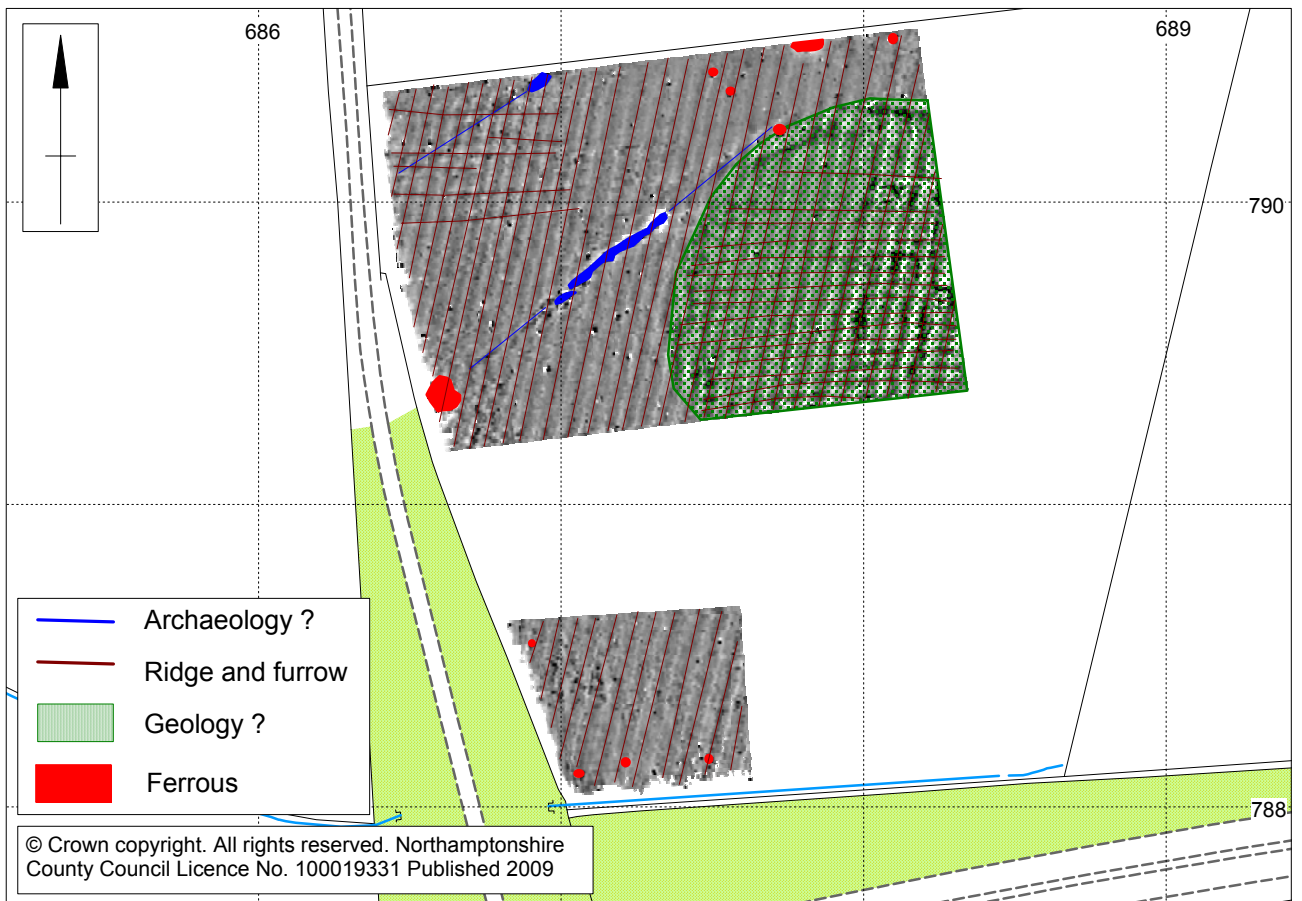
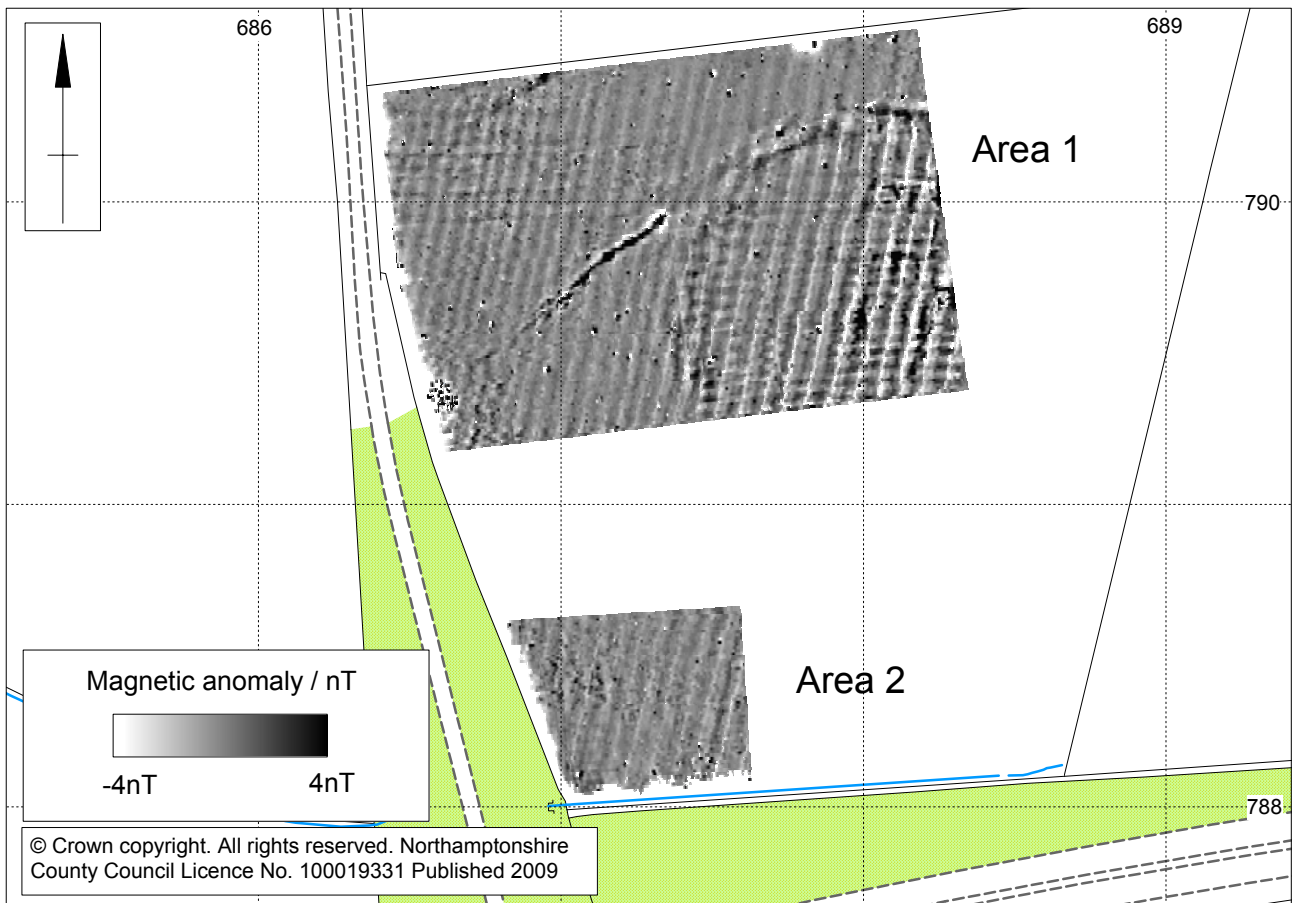
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Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:2500

Magnetometer survey results (above) and interpretation (below)

Fig 2



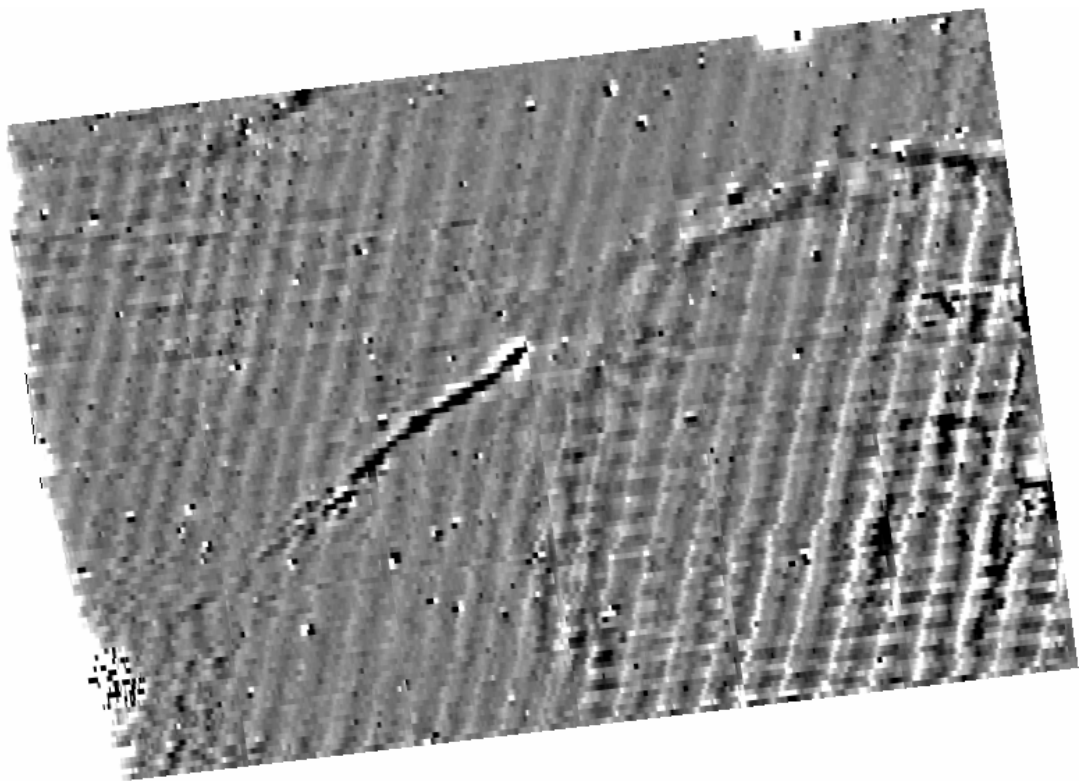
Scale 1:2500

Magnetometer results overlain onto aerial photograph Fig 3



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