

HOME FARM LAND DRAINS
ARLINGTON COURT
ARLINGTON
DEVON

Results of a Geophysical Survey



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 230323



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HOME FARM LAND DRAINS, ARLINGTON COURT, ARLINGTON, DEVON

RESULTS OF A GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

By P. Webb
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Work undertaken by SWARCH for the National Trust (the Client).

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a geophysical survey carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land associated with Home Farm, Arlington Court, Devon, ahead of planned ecological alteration of the land. The site comprises seven fields – of which only small areas were surveyed – within the Arlington estate at Home Farm (fields F1-F3) and Barton Court (F4-F7). The survey areas cover largely steeply sloping ground on the northern banks of the Yeo river valley.

The survey identified 37 groups of anomalies across the seven fields. These were predominantly linear ditch and/or bank boundary features associated with phases of the existing and historic field-system, drainage features, and possible pits and/or tree-throws; anomalies associated with agricultural activity, metallic debris and ground disturbance were also apparent.

The degree of preservation of the identified features appears to be mixed, with some moderate to strong and others appearing poor. The majority of the anomaly responses are moderate to strong, indicating possible ceramic drainage features; whilst others are intermittent and barely discernible from the background geology. This suggests that these features only survive to a shallow depth, their intermittent nature suggesting only partial survival. However, it is possible that additional, even more ephemeral features, are masked by the background geology and modern disturbances.

The results of the geophysical survey would suggest that the archaeological potential for much of the site is low. The majority of the identified features relate to historic phases of field-system which are tentatively suggested as being medieval and post-medieval in date, with multiple episodes of land drainage features; though the presence of possible prehistoric activity in the surrounding area means that a prehistoric or Romano-British date cannot be ruled out.

Any development of the site is likely to encounter and destroy the buried archaeological resource (should it be present), further targeted evaluation trenching would validate and clarify the results of the geophysical survey, though may not produce any new evidence.



March 2023

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THE NATIONAL TRUST
THE LANDOWNER AND TENANT FOR ACCESS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	HOME FARM, ARLINGTON COURT
PARISH:	ARLINGTON
DISTRICT:	NORTH DEVON
COUNTY:	DEVON
NGR:	CENTRED ON SS 261275 140645
PLANNING NO.:	N/A
SWARCH REF.	ADSG23
OASIS REF:	SOUTHWES1-

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by the National Trust (the Client) to undertake a geophysical survey on land associated with Home Farm, Arlington Court, Arlington, Devon in an attempt to ascertain the position of existing drainage features ahead of planned ecological alteration of the land. This work was undertaken in accordance with best practice and ClfA guidance.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The survey area is located within the Arlington Estate, c.10km north-east of Barnstaple in the upper Yeo Valley and surrounding hill tops and downs. The land slopes steeply downwards from the north-east and east into the Yeo river valley; Arlington Court itself sitting on a natural terrace. The soils of the area are the freely draining slightly acid loamy soils of Soilscape 6 (CSAI 2023), overlying superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel along river valleys, and slate of the Morte Slate Formation (BGS 2023) at a height of between c.120m and c.210m AOD.

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the parish of Arlington, in the historic hundred and deanery of Sherwell. Arlington was an Anglo-Saxon manor held by Alwig in 1066 and by Alfred d'Epaignes from the King when the Domesday book assessed the manor of *Alferdintone* at one hide with land for 15 ploughs. In 1258 Sir William de Ralegh was lord of the manor, the family retaining ownership until 1384 when the manor came into the possession of the Chichester family by the marriage of John Chichester to Thomasine Ralegh; though the manor was not lived in by the family until the 1530s. Whilst no evidence of the early manor has been found, continuous occupation of the Arlington estate can be shown to last from 1539 until 1949 when it was given to the National Trust on the death of Miss Rosalie Chichester; the current house being built in 1820 (Walls *et al* 2015).

The proposal site lies within an area recorded on the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as *park /garden*: a park planted with ornamental trees or a garden round a house; and is surrounded by areas of *medieval enclosures based on strip fields*; *post-medieval enclosures*; *modern enclosures* and *woodland*.

At the time of the tithe survey (c.1842), the fields covered by the survey area were named *Gratton* (plot no. 508); *Great Broady Park* (plot no. 448), *Little Broady Park* (plots nos. 449 and 452); *Lower Barton* (plot no. 521); *Lower Part of Park* (plot no. 486); *Quarry Close* (plot nos. 453, 454 and 517); and *Wester Deer Park Land* (plot no. 512). All were owned by Sir John Palmer Bruce Chichester Bart. as part of the Arlington estate.

The features identified on the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) largely reflect the development of the estate, including the identification of commemorative monuments (MDV95670); the former deer park (MDV64325); landscaping and ornamental features (MDV64323; MDV109684; MDV109686); the possible sites of former buildings (MDV43971; MDV106013); and quarry pits (MDV32233; MDV32225; MDV32579). Previous archaeological work across the the Arlington estate has been limited, largely restricted to archaeological and historic landscape surveys (EDV5579), but includes: archaeological excavation (EDV5901) and building surveys (EDV4599; EDV6451)

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The geophysical (gradiometer) survey was undertaken in accordance with current best practice and ClfA guidance; and follows the guidance outlined in *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (English Heritage 2008b); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (ClfA 2014b); *EAC Guidelines for the use of geophysics in Archaeology: Questions to Ask and Points to Consider* (Europae Archaeologiae Consilium/European Archaeological Council 2016).

'Archaeological geophysical survey uses non-intrusive and non-destructive techniques to determine the presence or absence of anomalies likely to be caused by archaeological features, structures or deposits, as far as reasonably possible, within a specified area or site on land, in the inter-tidal zone or underwater. Geophysical survey determines the presence of anomalies of archaeological potential through measurement of one or more physical properties of the subsurface.' (Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey 2014).

The results of the survey will as far as possible inform on the presence or absence, character, extent and in some cases, apparent relative phasing of buried archaeology to inform a strategy to mitigate any threat to the archaeological resource.

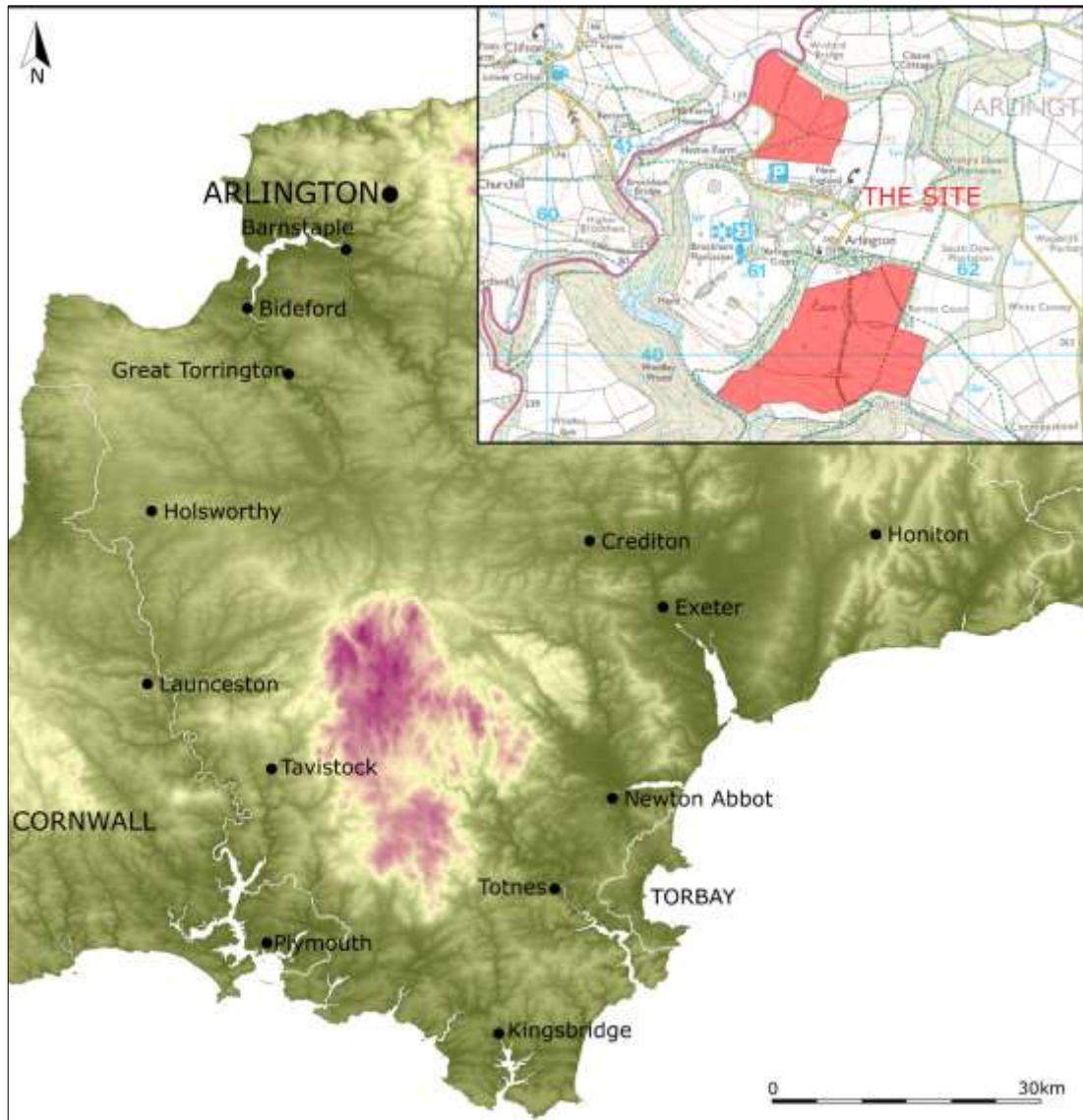


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED). CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432.

2.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

An area of c.55ha was the subject of a magnetometry (gradiometer) survey (c.13.5ha surveyed). The purpose of this survey was to identify and record magnetic anomalies within the proposed site with the intention of identifying the presence and approximate line of field drains – should they be present. While identified anomalies may relate to archaeological deposits and structures the dimensions of recorded anomalies may not correspond directly with any associated features. The following discussion attempts to clarify and characterise the identified anomalies. The survey was undertaken between 13th and 22nd March 2023 by P. Bonvoisin and P. Webb; the survey data was processed by P. Webb. Supporting photographic evidence from the site inspection can be seen in Appendix 1; detailed survey data in Appendix 2; and additional graphic images of the survey data and numbered grid locations can be found in Appendix 3.

2.2 SITE INSPECTION

The site comprises seven sub-rectangular fields (F1-F7, 56.7ha) within the Arlington estate. These can be split into two broad areas – to the north, fields F1-F3 (c.15.7ha) at Home Farm; and to the south, fields F4-F7 (c.41ha) at Barton Court – of which only parts were subject to geophysical survey (c.13.5ha). At the time of survey all fields were under pasture.

The topography varies across the site, between largely flat (F4) and moderately sloping (F1-F3) in the northern section, to steeply sloping (down to the south and west; F5-F7) in the southern area. Fields F1-F3 are bordered by woodland (plantation) to the north; pastoral fields (to the east and south); and by roads to the (south and west). Home Farm sits to the south-west. Fields F4-F7 are predominantly bordered by woodland (in all directions) with areas of pasture to the north-east and south-west; the river Yeo running along the southern edge. Barton Court sits to the east. All fields are bounded by sparsely tree-lined overgrown hedgebanks.

Clear earthwork features were only identified within fields F2 and F5, comprising a series of sub-rectangular possible terraces situated along the eastern boundary of F2 and the remains of a stone-faced hedgebank within F5. Other possible identified earthwork features included possible linear hollows running approximately east to west within field F3; whilst possible contour leats could be seen within field F7.

2.3 METHODOLOGY

The gradiometer survey follows the general guidance as outlined in: *EAC Guidelines for the use of geophysics in Archaeology: Questions to Ask and Points to Consider* (Europae Archaeologiae Consilium/European Archaeological Council 2016) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (ClfA 2014b).

The survey was carried out using a twin-sensor fluxgate gradiometer (Bartington Grad601). These machines are sensitive to depths of up to 1.50m. The survey parameters were: sample intervals of 0.25m, traverse intervals of 1m, a zigzag traverse pattern, traverse orientation was circumstantial, grid squares of 30×30m. The gradiometer was adjusted ('zeroed') every 0.5-1ha. The survey grid was tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid- and set out using a Leica CS15 GNSS Rover GPS. The data was downloaded onto *Grad601 Version 3.16* and processed using *TerraSurveyor Version 3.0.36.0*. The primary data plots and analytical tools used in this analysis were *Shade* and *Metadata*. The details of the data processing are as follows:

Processes:

Clip +/- 1SD; removes extreme data point values.

DeStripe all traverses, median; used to equalise underlying differences between grids (potentially caused by instrument drift or orientation, directional effects inherent in magnetic instrument, or differences in instrument set up during survey e.g. using two gradiometers).

DeStagger selected grids, all traverses out- and inbound by 0.25m to 0.50m reduces staggering effects within data derived from zig-zag collection method.

TABLE 1: SURVEY DETAILS (UN-ADJUSTED)

Field	Area Surveyed (ha)	Max (nT)	Min (nT)	Standard Deviation (nT)	Mean (nT)	Median (nT)
F1	2.6476	105.90	-111.55	7.72	-0.22	0.00
F2-F3	2.4139	111.86	-104.70	8.52	-0.35	0.00
F4	2.04	98.44	-105.63	4.26	0.16	0.00
F5	3.0241	101.15	-105.35	6.74	-0.12	0.00
F6	0.8979	112.68	-101.42	10.28	-0.63	-0.01
F7	2.4446	100.89	-50.76	3.36	0.13	0.00

2.4 RESULTS

Table 2 with the accompanying Figures 2-3 show the analyses and interpretation of the geophysical survey data.

TABLE 2: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
Field F1				
1	Strong positive & negative, probable	Linear	Historic boundary – double ditch & bank	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches flanking central banked/compacted material typical of traditional hedgebank construction. Orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Responses of -24.89nT to -0.24nT and +0.45nT to +30.98nT.
2	Moderate to strong positive & negative, probable	Linear	Drain	Indicative of cut and infilled features with stone or ceramic drains. Orientated between approximately north to south and east to west. Responses of between -24.36nT to -0.04nT and +0.18nT to +13.29nT.
3	Moderate negative, probable	Linear	Drain	Indicative of stone drains. Orientated between approximately north to south and east to west. Responses of between -18.21nT and -0.02nT.
4	Moderate to strong positive, possible	Linear	Drain	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches or gullies. Orientated approximately north to south. Responses of between +1.18nT and +25.23nT.
5	Weak to strong positive, possible	Discrete	Pit or tree-throw	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as pits. Weaker responses may indicate natural features such as tree-throws. Responses of between +3.40nT and +44.30nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic objects. Responses of between c./-105nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between c./-102nT.
Field F2				
6	Strong positive & negative, probable	Linear	Historic boundary – double ditch & bank	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches flanking central banked/compacted material typical of traditional hedgebank construction. Orientated approximately west-north-west to east-south-east. Responses of between -34.73nT to -0.13nT and +0.64nT to +37.37nT.
7	Moderate positive, probable	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches. Orientated approximately north-north-east to south-south-west. Responses of between +0.24nT and +13.88nT.
8	Moderate to strong positive & negative, probable	Linear	Double ditch & bank	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches flanking central banked material typical of traditional hedgebank construction. Orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Responses of between -23.63nT to -0.47nT and +0.13nT to +18.72nT.
9	Strong positive & negative, probable	Linear	Drain	Indicative of cut and infilled features with stone or ceramic drains. Orientated between approximately north-west to south-east and east-north-east to west-south-west. Responses of

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Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
				between -36.67nT to -0.17nT and +1.47nT to +28.57nT.
10	Strong negative, probable	Linear	Drain	Indicative of stone drains. Orientated between approximately north-east to south-west and west-north-west to east-south-east. Responses of between -27.17nT and -1.11nT.
11	Moderate positive, possible	Linear	Ditch or drain	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches or gullies. Orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Responses of between +0.75nT and +15.29nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic objects. Responses of between c./-105nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between c./-59nT.
Field F3				
12	Strong positive & negative, probable	Linear	Historic boundary – double ditch & bank	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches flanking central banked/compacted material typical of traditional hedgebank construction. Orientated approximately west-north-west to east-south-east. Responses of between -28.49nT to -0.45nT and +0.03nT to +27.87nT.
13	Strong positive, probable	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches. Orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Responses of between +0.21nT and +23.29nT.
14	Moderate to strong positive & negative, probable	Linear	Drain	Indicative of cut and infilled features with stone or ceramic drains. Orientated between approximately north to south and east to west. Responses of between -25.85nT to -0.02nT and +0.30nT to +13.55nT.
15	Weak to moderate negative, possible	Linear	Drain	Indicative of stone drains. Orientated between approximately north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east. Responses of between -12.73nT and -0.20nT.
16	Moderate positive, possible	Linear	Ditch or drain	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches or gullies. Orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Responses of between +0.37nT and +15.04nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic objects. Responses of between c./-105nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between c./-105nT.
Field F4				
17	Moderate to strong positive, probable	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches. Orientated between approximately north to south and north-west to south-east. Responses of between +0.13nT and +23.49nT.
18	Weak to moderate positive & negative, possible	Linear	Ditch or drain	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches with possible stone or ceramic drains. Orientated between approximately north-west to south-east and east to west. Responses of between -7.88nT to -0.07nT and +0.04nT to +13.19nT.
19	Weak negative, probable	Linear	Drain	Indicative of a stone drain. Orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Responses of between -9.37nT and -0.88nT.
20	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Ditch or drain	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches or gullies. Orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Responses of between +0.06nT and +11.10nT.
	Weak to moderate positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity	Linear striations covering the field with regularity. Indicative of ploughing. Weaker mixed positive and negative responses suggest shallow ploughing. Aligned approximately north-north-east to south-south-west. Responses of between -6.07nT to -0.09nT and +0.77nT to +6.56nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic objects. Responses of between c./-103nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between c./-106nT.
Field F5				
21	Weak positive & negative, probable	Linear	Historic boundary – double ditch & bank	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches flanking central banked/compacted material typical of traditional hedgebank construction. Orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Depicted on historic mapping. Responses of between -8.54nT to -0.21nT and +0.03nT to +4.40nT.
22	Weak positive, probable	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches. Orientated approximately north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east. Responses of between +0.35nT and +6.89nT.

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Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
23	Strong positive & negative, probable	Linear	Ditch & bank or drain	Indicative of a cut and infilled feature such as a ditch with associated banked/compacted material. Strength of responses may indicate ceramic drainage feature. Orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Responses of between -24.43nT to -0.49nT and +0.09nT to +41.40nT.
24	Moderate positive & negative, probable	Linear	Double ditch & bank	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches with associated banked/compacted material. Orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Responses of between -15.14nT to -0.31nT and +0.07nT to +19.06nT.
25	Moderate to strong positive & negative, probable	Linear	Ditch & bank	Indicative of a cut and infilled feature such as a ditch with associated banked/compacted material. Orientated approximately west-north-west to east south-east. Responses of between -6.02nT to -0.12nT and +0.28nT to +23.43nT.
26	Moderate positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity, ditch or drain	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches with associated banked/compacted material. Orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Weak responses may indicate poor survival or deeper cut agricultural activity or possible drainage features. Responses of between -12.00nT to -0.09nT and +0.28nT to +7.08nT.
27	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches. Orientated approximately north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east. Responses of between +0.02nT and 10.65nT.
28	Moderate to strong positive & negative, probable	Penannular	Ring-ditch	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches with associated banked/compacted material. Penannular shape typical of prehistoric round-house structures. Responses of between -22.80nT to -0.12nT and +0.24nT to 37.32nT.
29	Strong positive, probable	Discrete	Pits & post-holes	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as pits and post-holes. Weaker responses may reflect natural features such as tree-throws. Responses of between +1.57nT and +34.69nT.
	Weak to moderate positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity	Linear striations covering the field with regularity. Indicative of ploughing. Weaker mixed positive and negative responses suggest shallow ploughing. Aligned approximately north-east to south-west. Responses of between -0.01nT to -8.61nT and +0.16nT to +7.84nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic objects. Responses of between c. +/-102nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between c. +/-105nT.
Field F6				
30	Strong positive & negative, probable	Linear	Ditch & bank or drain	Indicative of a cut and infilled feature such as a ditch with associated banked/compacted material. Strength of responses may indicate ceramic drainage feature. Orientated between approximately north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east. Responses of between -16.21nT to -0.08nT and +0.08nT to +23.92nT.
31	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches. Orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Responses of between +0.16nT and +8.09nT.
32	Weak to moderate negative, possible	Linear	Drain	Indicative of stone drains. Orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Responses of between -12.19nT and -0.16nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic objects. Responses of between c. +/-102nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between c. +/-113nT.
Field F7				
33	Moderate positive & negative, probable	Linear	Historic boundary – ditch & bank	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches with flanking banked/compacted material. Orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Depicted on historic mapping. Responses of between -23.63nT to -0.85nT and +0.66nT to +12.32nT.
34	Moderate positive & negative, probable	Linear	Ditch & bank	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches with flanking banked/compacted material. Orientated approximately west-north-west to east-south-east. Responses of between -22.79nT to -0.05nT and +0.20nT to +25.31nT.
35	Weak to moderate positive, probable	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches. Orientated approximately north-north-east to south-south-west. Responses of between +0.17nT and +12.53nT.

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Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
36	Weak to moderate positive & negative, possible	Linear	Ditch or drain	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches with associated banked/compacted material. Orientated approximately west-north-west to east-south-east. Weak responses may indicate poor survival or possible drainage features. Responses of between -8.38nT to -1.09nT and +0.20nT and +25.31nT.
37	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Ditch or drain	Indicative of cut and infilled features such as ditches or gullies. Orientated approximately north-north-east to south-south-west. Responses of between +0.61nT and +9.65nT.
	Weak to moderate positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity	Linear striations covering the field with regularity. Indicative of ploughing. Weaker mixed positive and negative responses suggest shallow ploughing. Aligned approximately north-east to south-west. Responses of between -7.07nT to -0.12nT and +0.20nT to +9.21nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic objects. Responses of between c.+/-99nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between c.+/-72nT.

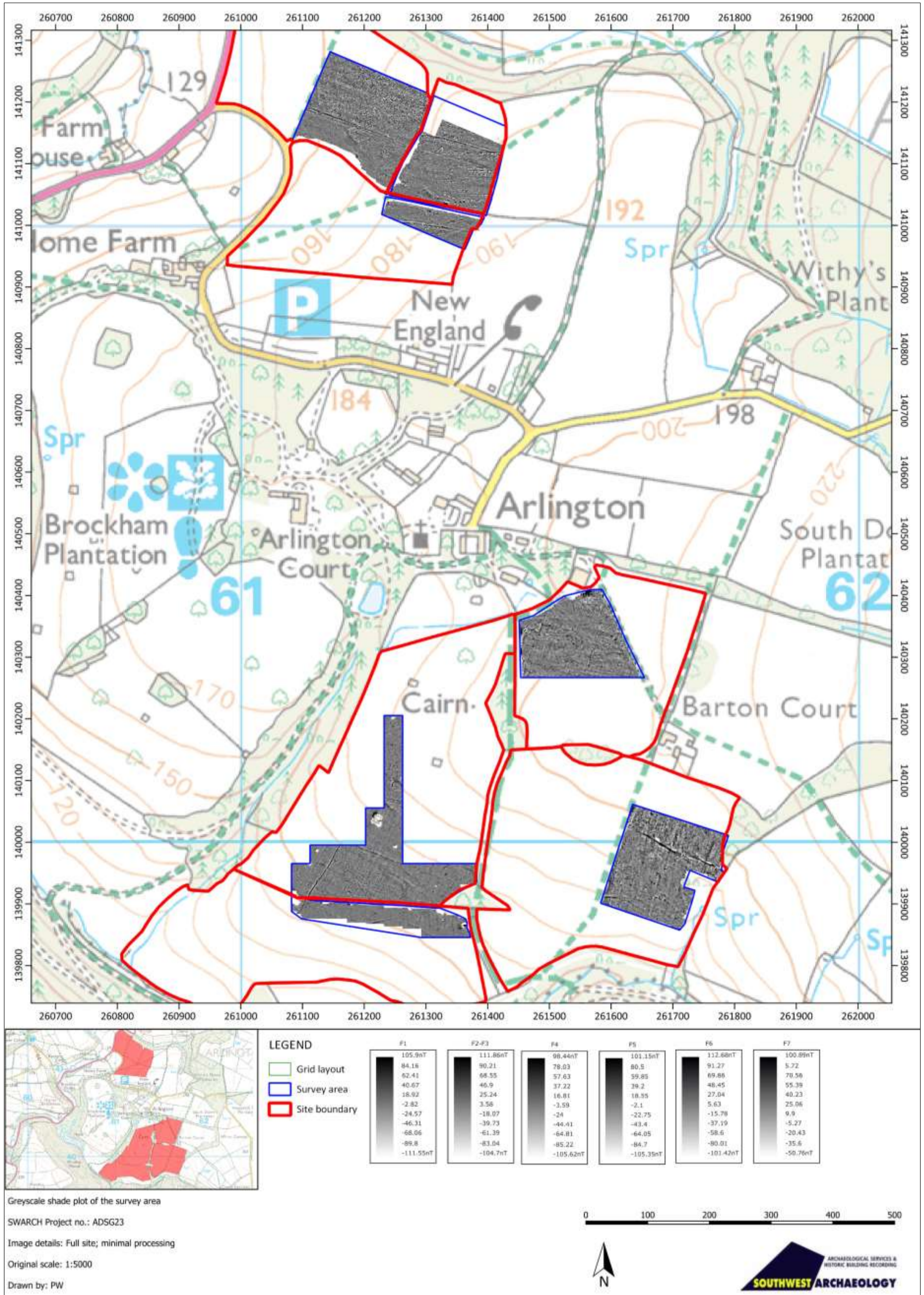


FIGURE 2: GREYSCALE SHADE PLOT OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; MINIMAL PROCESSING (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).

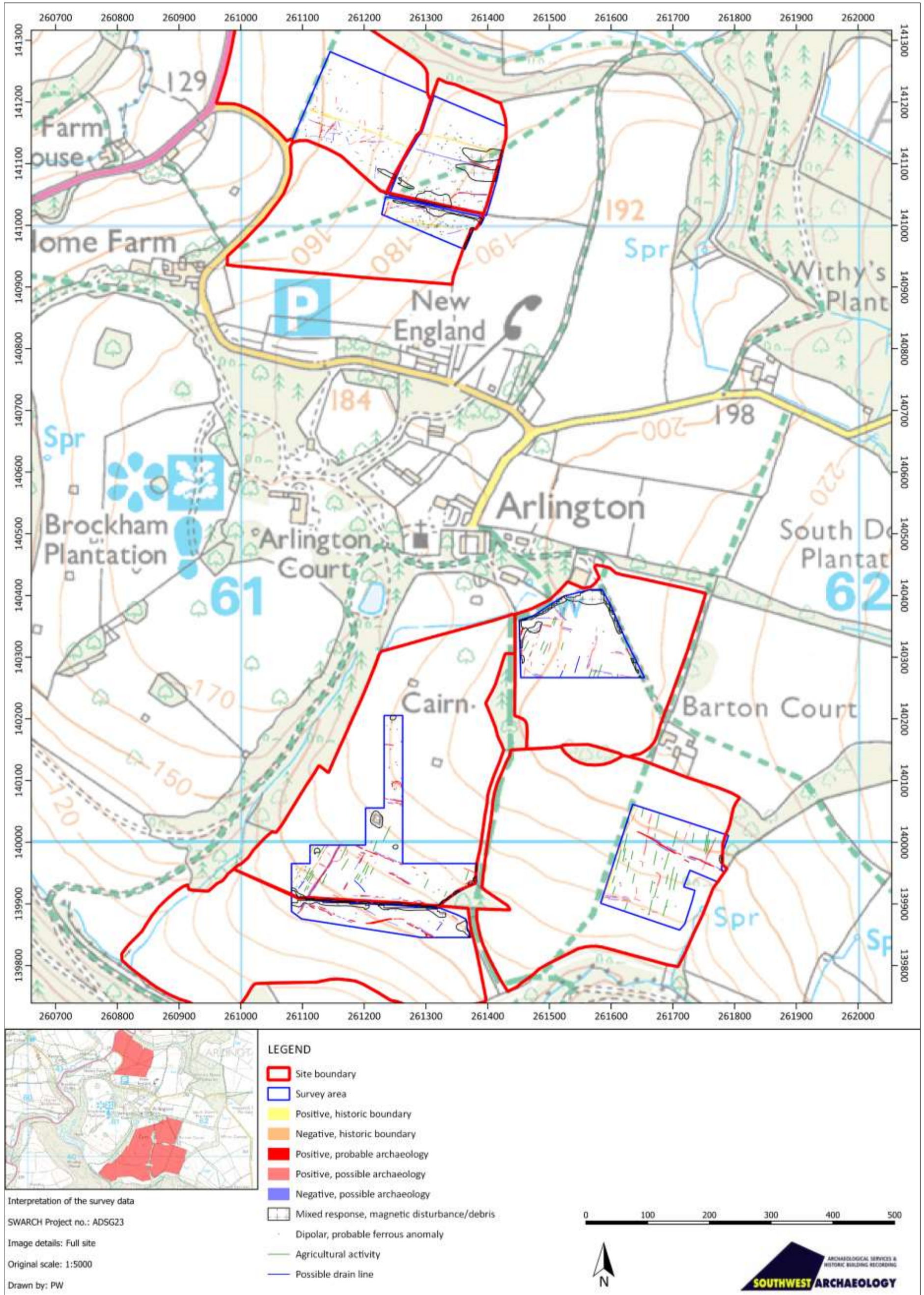


FIGURE 3: FULL SITE; INTERPRETATION OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).

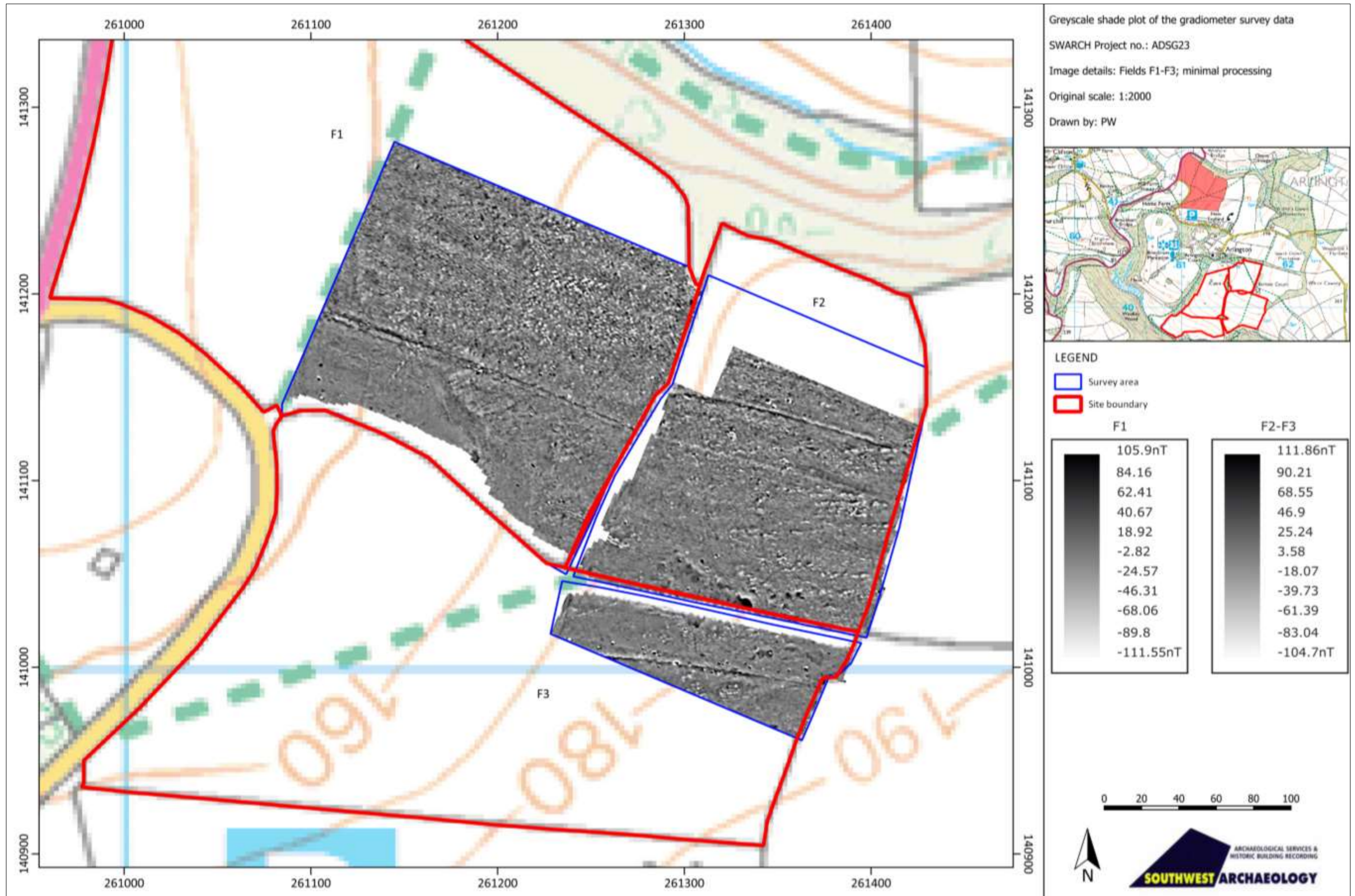


FIGURE 4: FIELDS F1-F3, GREYSCALE SHADE PLOT OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; MINIMAL PROCESSING (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 10022432).

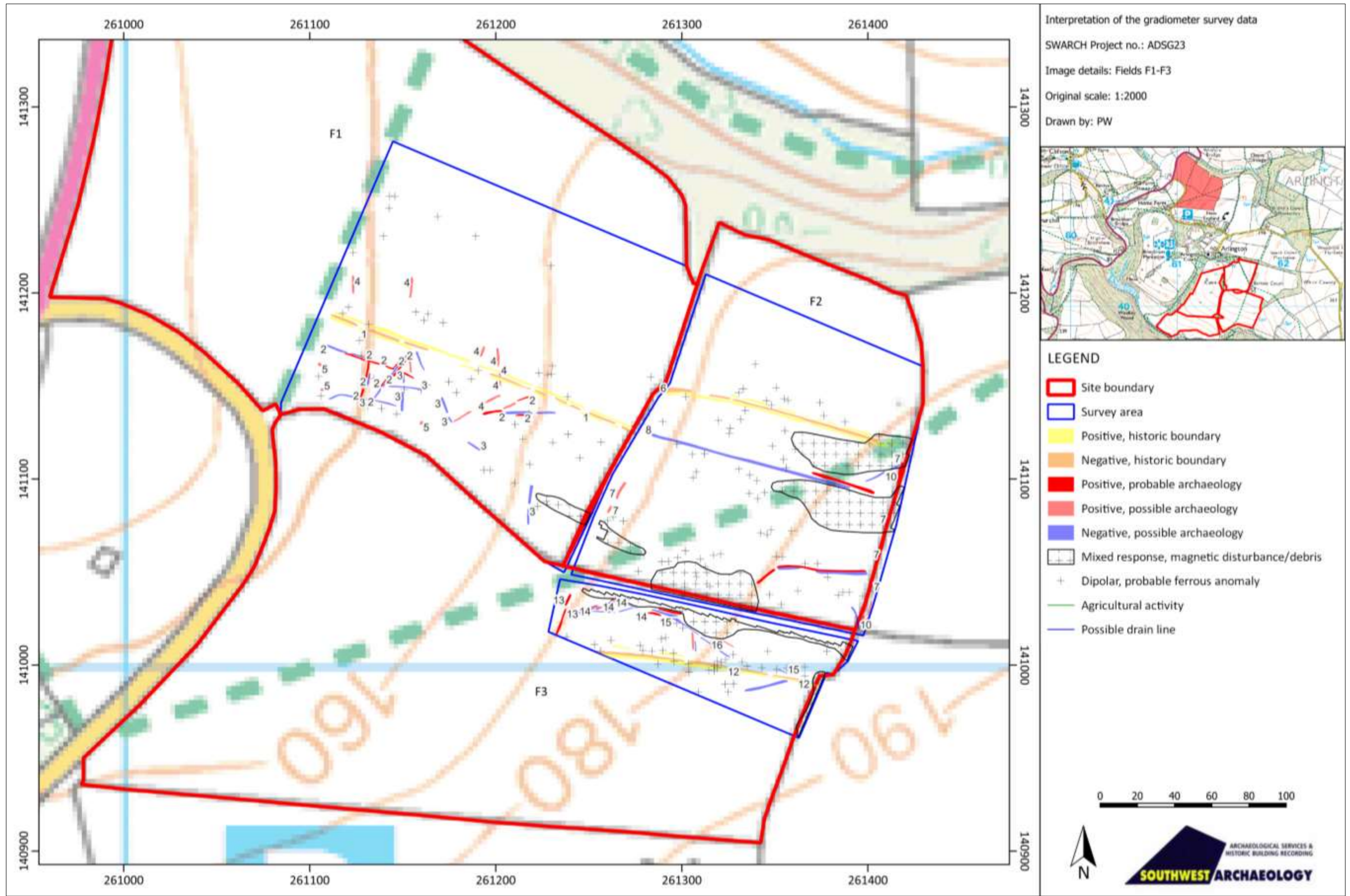


FIGURE 5: FIELDS F1-F3, INTERPRETATION OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).

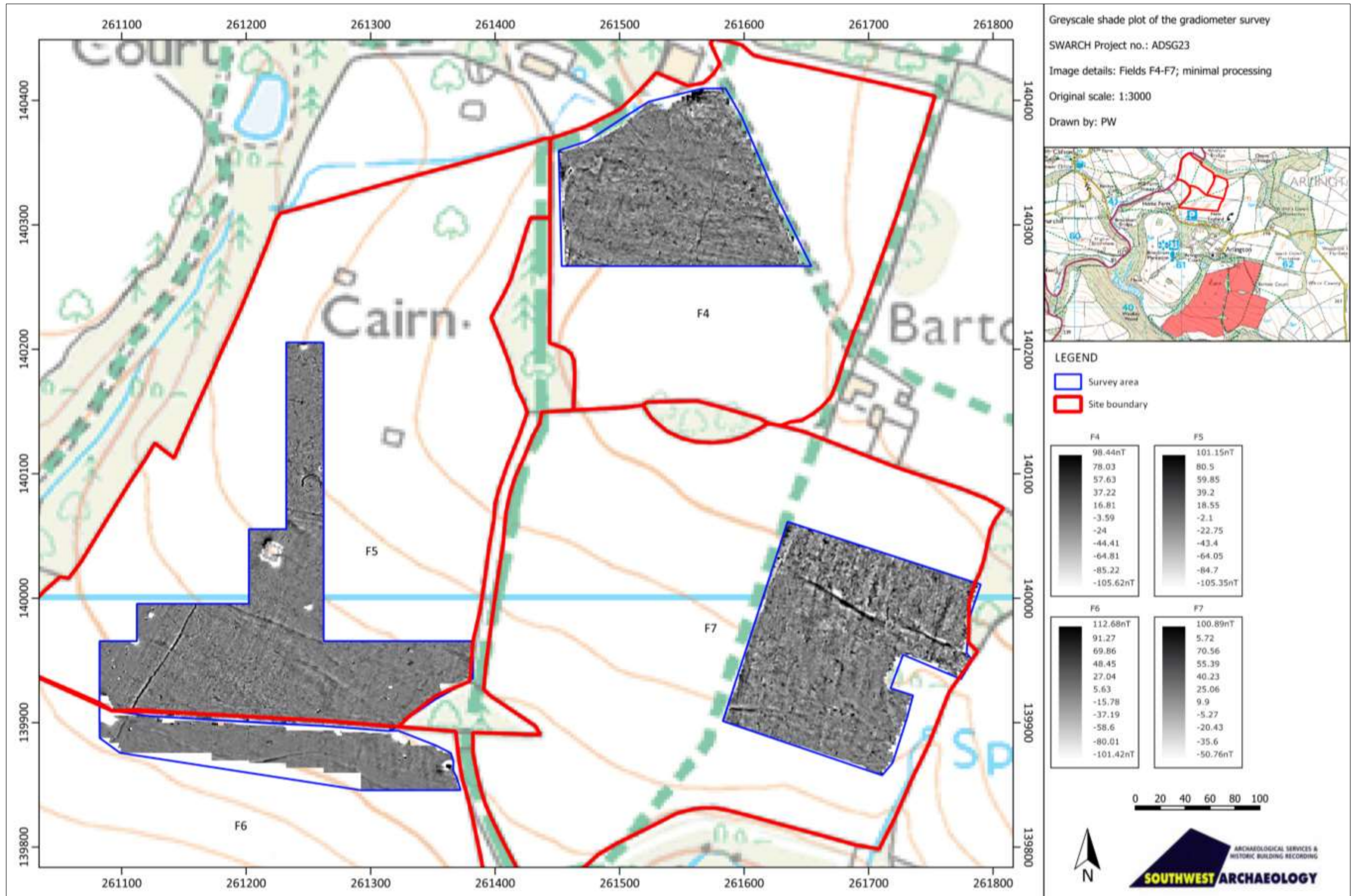


FIGURE 6: FIELDS F4-F7, GREYSCALE SHADE PLOT OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; MINIMAL PROCESSING (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 10022432).

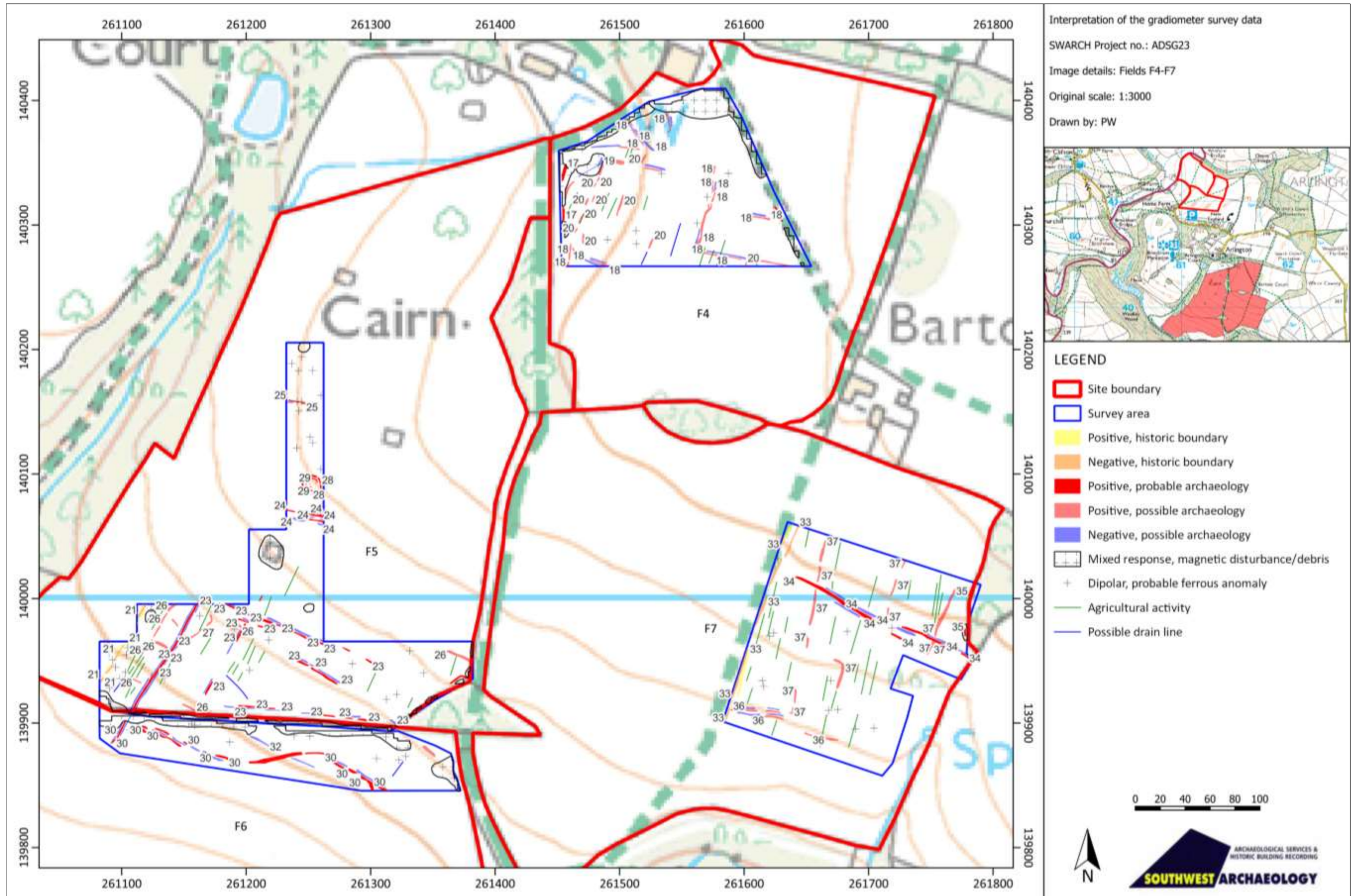


FIGURE 7: FIELDS F4-F7, INTERPRETATION OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).

2.5 DISCUSSION

The survey identified 37 groups of anomalies across the seven fields. These were predominantly linear ditch and/or bank boundary features associated with phases of the existing and historic field-system, drainage features, and possible pits and/or tree-throws; anomalies associated with agricultural activity, metallic debris and ground disturbance were also apparent.

The general response variation across the site was between +/-5nT with occasional clear background geological variation up to +/-10nT. The response strength of probable archaeological activity was moderate to high (typically between +/-25nT). The weaker responses of some of the anomalies may indicate that these are only likely to survive to a shallow depth; the stronger responses perhaps indicating the presence of more recent disturbance.

The anomaly groups identified include: historic ditch and bank boundaries removed during the 19th and 20th centuries (Groups 1, 6, 12, 21 and 33); further possible ditches associated with phases of the existing and historic field boundaries (Groups 7-8, 13, 17, 22, 24 and 25), possible ditches associated with phases of enclosure (Group 27); possible drainage features (Groups 2-4, 9-11, 14-16, 18-20, 26, 30-32 and 35-37); possible prehistoric settlement (Groups 28-29) and possible pits or tree-throws (Group 5).

2.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Whilst none of the identified features can at this stage be dated, the location of several of the anomaly groups corresponds with boundaries depicted on historic mapping, indicating that these features were in use from at least the middle of the 19th century and removed by 1888 (Groups 21 and 33); others surviving until the middle of the 20th century (Groups 1, 6 and 12). Whilst not mapped, further ditch features are positioned running parallel to and alongside existing field boundaries (Groups 7,13, 17 and 22) suggesting that they reflect slight shifts in the position of current field boundaries.

The historic field-pattern of the site is characterized as *park /garden* surrounded by areas of *medieval enclosures based on strip fields; post-medieval enclosures; modern enclosures and woodland*. The surviving boundaries of these fields are represented in the gently curving elements of the existing field-system. It is likely that many of the ditch and/or bank features form part of these earlier field-systems, having been removed by the mid-19th century. In some cases these boundaries are clearly congruent with the broad layout of this field-system (Groups 8, 24-25).

A penannular/circular feature within field F5 (Group 28) may represent a ring-ditch/drip gully of a roundhouse of prehistoric (Iron Age) date, an inner penannular/circular feature perhaps forming the construction of the building. A further series of features (Group 29) may be pits and/or post-holes associated with this structure. This would have been situated within an associated contemporary field-system, to which some of the identified linear features in the surrounding fields may have belonged, included a possible enclosure formed by the anomalies of Group 27.

By far the greatest number of anomalies appear likely to reflect phases of land drainage across the site. Several of these can be seen to form a herringbone pattern (Groups 2-4) with others appearing to form a less intensive layout (Groups 10-16). Given the apparent layout of these features they are likely to be ceramic drains, and though the response levels are weak for such features their strength may be masked by wet ground conditions. Further possible drainage features are in a more regular rectangular pattern (Groups 18-20, 23, 26, 31-32 and 34-37) or more sinuous features (Group 30) which follow contours; the strength of some of these responses more typical of ceramic drainage features. However, given the congruent alignment of these features with the existing and historic field pattern, it is possible that some relate to boundary features or agricultural activity.

A small number of possible pit features (Group 5) were identified across the site, though the weak nature of many of the responses suggests that they may be natural in origin, the anomalies reflecting tree-throws.

A caveat to the interpretation of several of the features, and in particular the possible prehistoric structure within field F5, is that the survey areas are contained within areas of a landscaped and ornamental park and garden and it is possible that this feature reflects an ornamental garden feature. Earthwork platform/terrace features were also identified along the eastern edge of field F2, and whilst this falls within a more clearly agricultural part of the site, the associated features may reflect landscaping activity.

The degree of preservation of the identified features appears to be mixed, with some moderate to strong and others appearing poor. The majority of the anomaly responses are moderate to strong, indicating possible ceramic drainage features; whilst others are intermittent and barely discernible from the background geology. This suggests that these features only survive to a shallow depth, their intermittent nature suggesting only partial survival. However, it is possible that additional, even more ephemeral features, are masked by the background geology and modern disturbances. This is particularly true of the northern edge of the site within fields F1 and F2, where natural rock outcrops were visible protruding through the pasture indicating a shallow depth to the topsoil.

The results of the geophysical survey would suggest that the archaeological potential for much of the site is *low*. The majority of the identified features relate to historic phases of field-system which are tentatively suggested as being medieval and post-medieval in date, with multiple episodes of land drainage features; though the presence of possible prehistoric activity in the surrounding area means that a prehistoric or Romano-British date cannot be ruled out.

Any development of the site is likely to encounter and destroy the buried archaeological resource (should it be present), further targeted evaluation trenching would validate and clarify the results of the geophysical survey, though may not produce any new evidence.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The site comprises seven fields – of which only small areas were surveyed – within the Arlington estate at Home Farm (fields F1-F3) and Barton Court (F4-F7). The survey areas cover largely steeply sloping ground on the northern banks of the Yeo river valley in the parish of Arlington, an Anglo Saxon manor given by William the Conqueror to Alfred d’Epaignes. The estate subsequently belonged to the Raleigh and Chichester families until it was passed to the National Trust in 1949.

The survey area lies within an area recorded on the HLC as *park /garden*: a park planted with ornamental trees or a garden round a house; and is surrounded by areas of *medieval enclosures based on strip fields; post-medieval enclosures; modern enclosures and woodland*.

The survey identified 37 groups of anomalies across the seven fields. These were predominantly linear ditch and/or bank boundary features associated with phases of the existing and historic field-system, drainage features, and possible pits and/or tree-throws; anomalies associated with agricultural activity, metallic debris and ground disturbance were also apparent.

The degree of preservation of the identified features appears to be mixed, with some moderate to strong and others appearing poor. The majority of the anomaly responses are moderate to strong, indicating possible ceramic drainage features; whilst others are intermittent and barely discernible from the background geology. This suggests that these features only survive to a shallow depth, their intermittent nature suggesting only partial survival. However, it is possible that additional, even more ephemeral features, are masked by the background geology and modern disturbances.

The results of the geophysical survey would suggest that the archaeological potential for much of the site is *low*. The majority of the identified features relate to historic phases of field-system which are tentatively suggested as being medieval and post-medieval in date, with multiple episodes of land drainage features; though the presence of possible prehistoric activity in the surrounding area means that a prehistoric or Romano-British date cannot be ruled out.

Any development of the site is likely to encounter and destroy the buried archaeological resource (should it be present), further targeted evaluation trenching would validate and clarify the results of the geophysical survey, though may not produce any new evidence.

4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY & REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS – SITE INSPECTION



1. F1, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



2. F1, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).



3. F1, DETAIL OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



4. F1, VIEW ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



5. F2, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



6. F2, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



7. F2, VIEW ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



8. F2, VIEW ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).



9. F3, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



10. F3, VIEW ALONG THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE EAST-SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



11. F3, VIEW ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).



12. F4, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



13. F4, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).



14. F4, VIEW ALONG THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



15. F4, VIEW ALONG THE WESTERN BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).



16. F5, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



17. F5, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



18. F5, VIEW ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).



19. F5, VIEW ALONG THE PARTIALLY SURVIVING STONE FACED HEDGEBANK BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



20. F5, DETAIL OF REMNANT OF STONE FACED HEDGEBANK; VIEWED FROM THE EAST-SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



21. F6, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



22. F6, VIEW ALONG THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).



23. F6, VIEW ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



24. F7, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



25. F7, VIEW ACROSS THE SOUTHERN EXTENT OF THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).



26. F7, VIEW ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



27. F7, DETAIL OF THE QUARRY; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).

APPENDIX 2: METADATA FOR GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY PROCESSING

GRADIOMETRY

GENERAL DATA FOR ALL FIELDS/SITE:

SITE

NAME: AD SG23
LOCATION: Arlington Court, Arlington, Bere Alston
COLLECTION METHOD: ZigZag
SENSORS: 2 @1m spacing
DUMMY VALUE: 32702
X&Y INTERVAL: 0.25m
INSTRUMENT TYPE: Bartington Grad 601
UNITS: nT
SURVEYED AREA: 13.4681ha

PROGRAM

NAME: TerraSurveyor
VERSION: 3.0.37.30

STATISTICS ADJUSTED AFTER PROCESSING

PROCESSES USED:

DeStripe: used to equalise underlying differences between grids (potentially caused by instrument drift or orientation, directional effects inherent in magnetic instrument, or differences in instrument set up during survey e.g. using two gradiometers).

DeStagger: reduces staggering effects within data derived from zig-zag collection method.

FIELD F1

STATS

MAX: 105.90
MIN: -111.55
STD. DEV.: 7.72
MEAN: -0.22
MEDIAN: 0.00
COMPOSITE AREA: 3.78ha
SURVEYED AREA: 2.6476ha

PROCESSES

PROCESSES: 3

- 1 Base Layer
- 2 DeStripe Median Traverse: Grids: All
- 3 DeStagger: Grids: f21-a.xgd f32-a.xgd f11-a.xgd f20-a.xgd f22-a.xgd f31-a.xgd f12-a.xgd f19-a.xgd f23-a.xgd f30-a.xgd f13-a.xgd f18-a.xgd f24-a.xgd f29-a.xgd f33-a.xgd f14-a.xgd f17-a.xgd f25-a.xgd f28-a.xgd f34-a.xgd f15a.xgd f16-a.xgd f26-a.xgd f27-a.xgd f35-a.xgd By: 0 intervals, 50.00cm

FIELDS F2-3

STATS

MAX: 111.86
 MIN: -104.70
 STD. DEV.: 8.52
 MEAN: -0.35
 MEDIAN: 0.00
 COMPOSITE AREA: 3.24ha
 SURVEYED AREA: 2.4139ha

PROCESSES

Processes: 9

- 1 Base Layer
- 2 DeStripe Median Traverse: Grids: All
- 3 De Stagger: Grids: All By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 4 De Stagger: Grids: g29-a.xgd By: 0 intervals, 50.00cm
- 5 De Stagger: Grids: g5-a.xgd By: 0 intervals, 50.00cm
- 6 De Stagger: Grids: g5-a.xgd By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 7 De Stagger: Grids: g9+g28-a.xgd By: 0 intervals, 50.00cm
- 8 De Stagger: Grids: g19+g32-a.xgd By: 0 intervals, 50.00cm
- 9 De Stagger: Grids: g35-a.xgd By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm

FIELD F4

STATS

MAX: 98.44
 MIN: -105.63
 STD. DEV.: 4.26
 MEAN: 0.16
 MEDIAN: 0.00
 COMPOSITE AREA: 3.15ha
 SURVEYED AREA: 2.04ha

PROCESSES

Processes: 24

- 1 Base Layer
- 2 DeStripe Median Traverse: Grids: All
- 3 De Stagger: Grids: All By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 4 De Stagger: Grids: All By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 5 De Stagger: Grids: a11.xgd a12.xgd a18.xgd a19.xgd By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 6 De Stagger: Grids: a4.xgd a5.xgd a11.xgd a12.xgd By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 7 De Stagger: Grids: a3.xgd a4.xgd By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 8 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 74, Left 0, Bottom 81, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 9 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 72, Left 0, Bottom 75, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 10 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 158, Left 120, Bottom 189, Right 239) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 11 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 164, Left 120, Bottom 171, Right 239) By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 12 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 168, Left 120, Bottom 169, Right 239) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 13 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 170, Left 120, Bottom 169, Right 239) By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 14 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 170, Left 120, Bottom 171, Right 239) By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 15 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 170, Left 120, Bottom 171, Right 239) By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 16 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 170, Left 120, Bottom 171, Right 239) By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 17 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 162, Left 0, Bottom 165, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 18 De Stagger: Grids: a16.xgd a17.xgd By: 0 intervals, 50.00cm
- 19 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 50, Left 240, Bottom 57, Right 359) By: 0 intervals, -50.00cm

20 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 70, Left 240, Bottom 73, Right 359) By: 0 intervals, 50.00cm
 21 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 60, Left 240, Bottom 63, Right 359) By: 0 intervals, 50.00cm
 22 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 60, Left 240, Bottom 63, Right 359) By: 0 intervals, 50.00cm
 23 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 54, Left 240, Bottom 61, Right 359) By: 0 intervals, -50.00cm
 24 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 50, Left 240, Bottom 55, Right 359) By: 0 intervals, 50.00cm

FIELD F5

STATS

MAX: 101.15
 MIN: -105.35
 STD. DEV.: 6.74
 MEAN: -0.12
 MEDIAN: 0.00
 COMPOSITE AREA: 9.9ha
 SURVEYED AREA: 3.0241ha

PROCESSES

Processes: 7

- 1 Base Layer
- 2 DeStripe Median Traverse: Grids: All
- 3 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 274, Left 120, Bottom 285, Right 239) By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 4 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 220, Left 240, Bottom 231, Right 359) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 5 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 214, Left 240, Bottom 221, Right 359) By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 6 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 276, Left 120, Bottom 277, Right 239) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 7 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 272, Left 120, Bottom 273, Right 239) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm

FIELD F6

STATS

MAX: 112.68
 MIN: -101.42
 STD. DEV.: 10.28
 MEAN: -0.63
 MEDIAN: 0.01
 COMPOSITE AREA: 1.8ha
 SURVEYED AREA: 0.8979ha

PROCESSES

Processes: 15

- 1 Base Layer
- 2 DeStripe Median Traverse: Grids: All
- 3 De Stagger: Grids: All By: 0 intervals, 100.00cm
- 4 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 122, Left 0, Bottom 123, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm

FIELD F7

STATS

MAX: 100.89
 MIN: -50.76
 STD. DEV.: 3.36
 MEAN: 0.13
 MEDIAN: 0.00
 COMPOSITE AREA: 3.24ha
 SURVEYED AREA: 2.4446ha

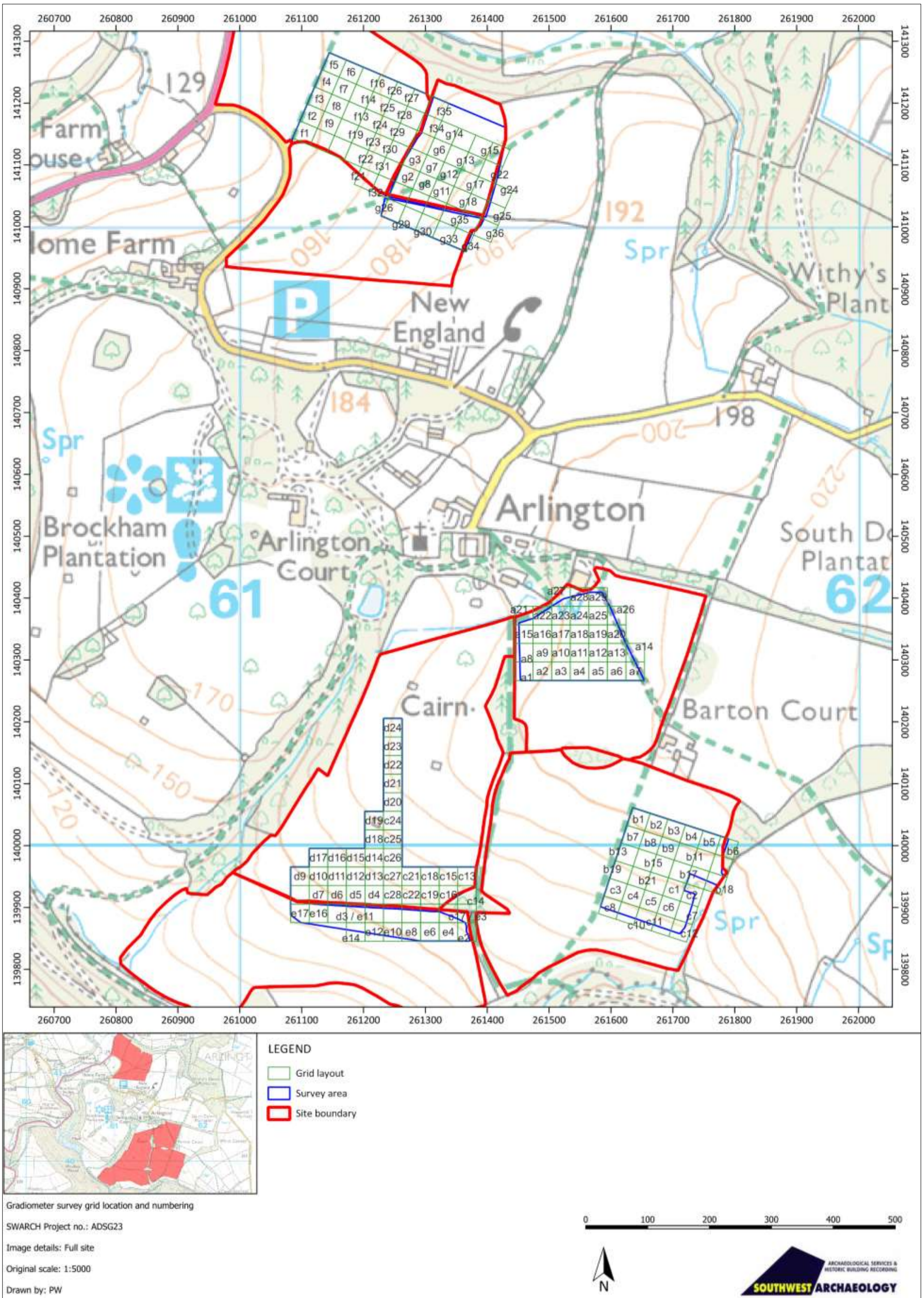
PROCESSES

Processes: 3

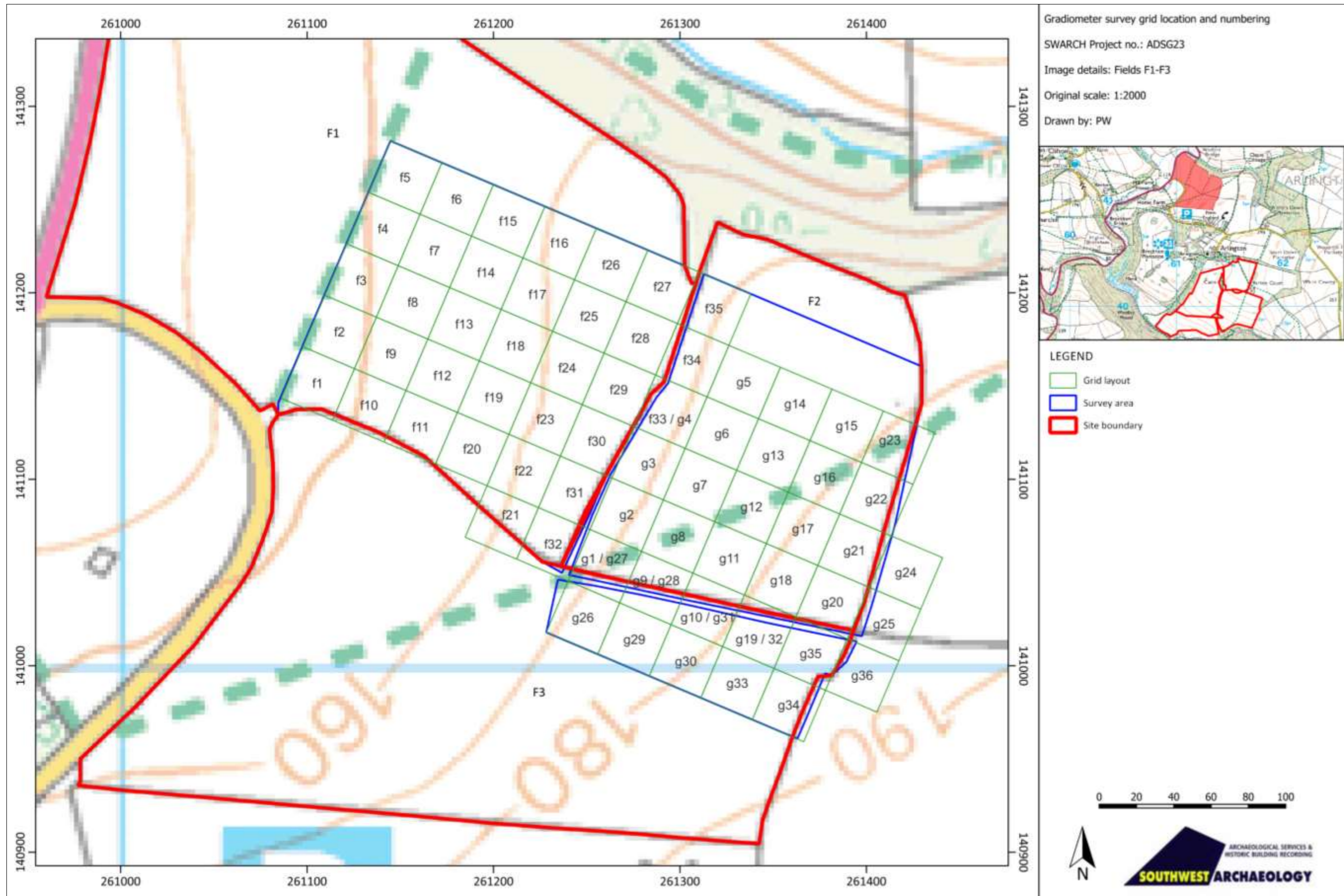
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- 3 De Stagger: Grids: All By: 0 intervals, 75.00cm

- 5 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 122, Left 0, Bottom 123, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 6 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 122, Left 0, Bottom 123, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
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- 8 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 130, Left 0, Bottom 131, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 9 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 130, Left 0, Bottom 149, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 10 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 130, Left 0, Bottom 137, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 11 De Stagger: Grids: b1.xgd b7.xgd By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 12 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 44, Left 0, Bottom 47, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 13 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 32, Left 0, Bottom 33, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, -25.00cm
- 14 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 32, Left 0, Bottom 33, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm
- 15 De Stagger: Grids: SubGrid (Area Top 70, Left 0, Bottom 71, Right 119) By: 0 intervals, 25.00cm

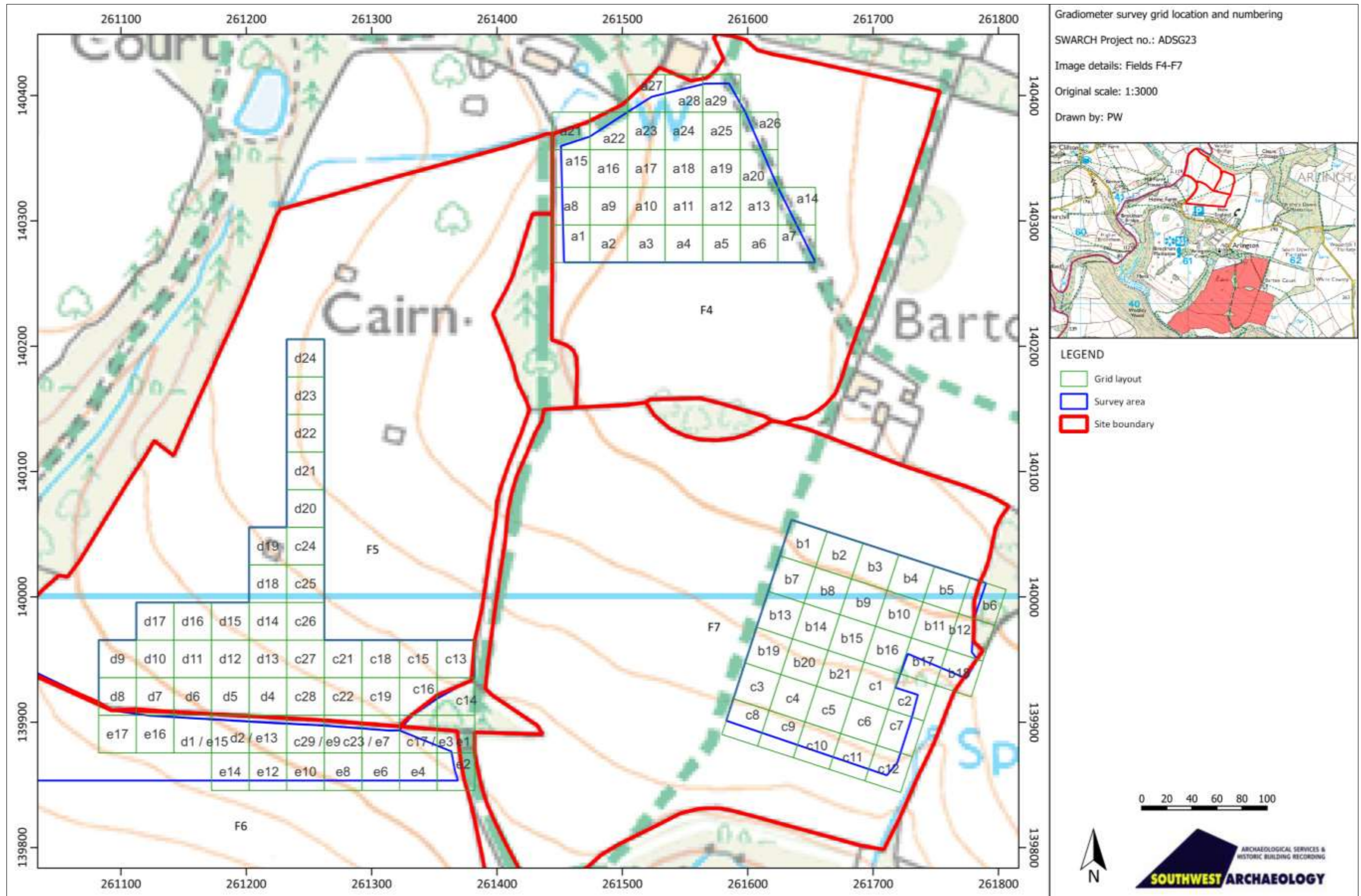
APPENDIX 3: ADDITIONAL GRAPHICAL IMAGES OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY



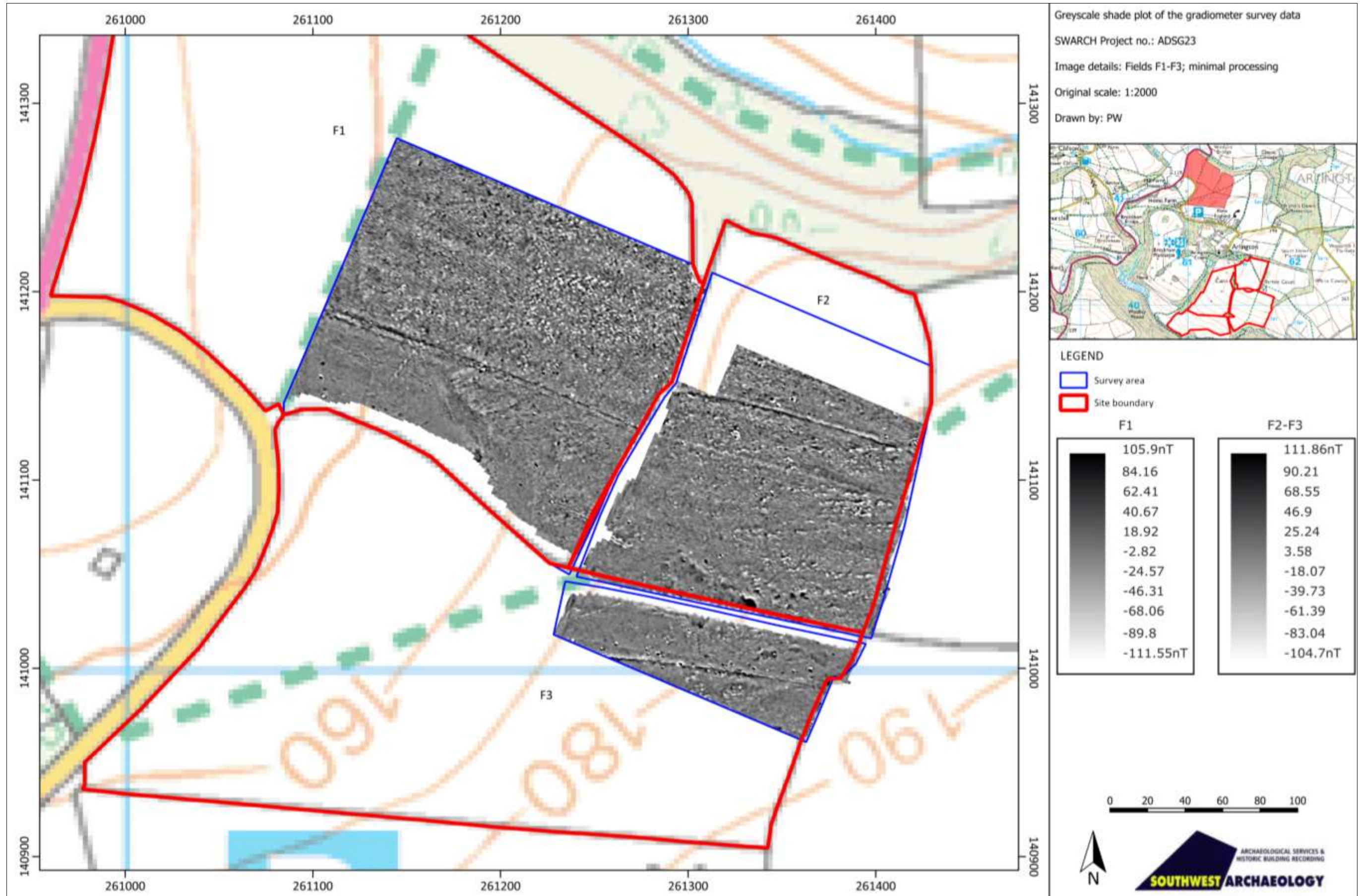
1. FULL SITE, GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY GRID LOCATION AND NUMBERING. (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).



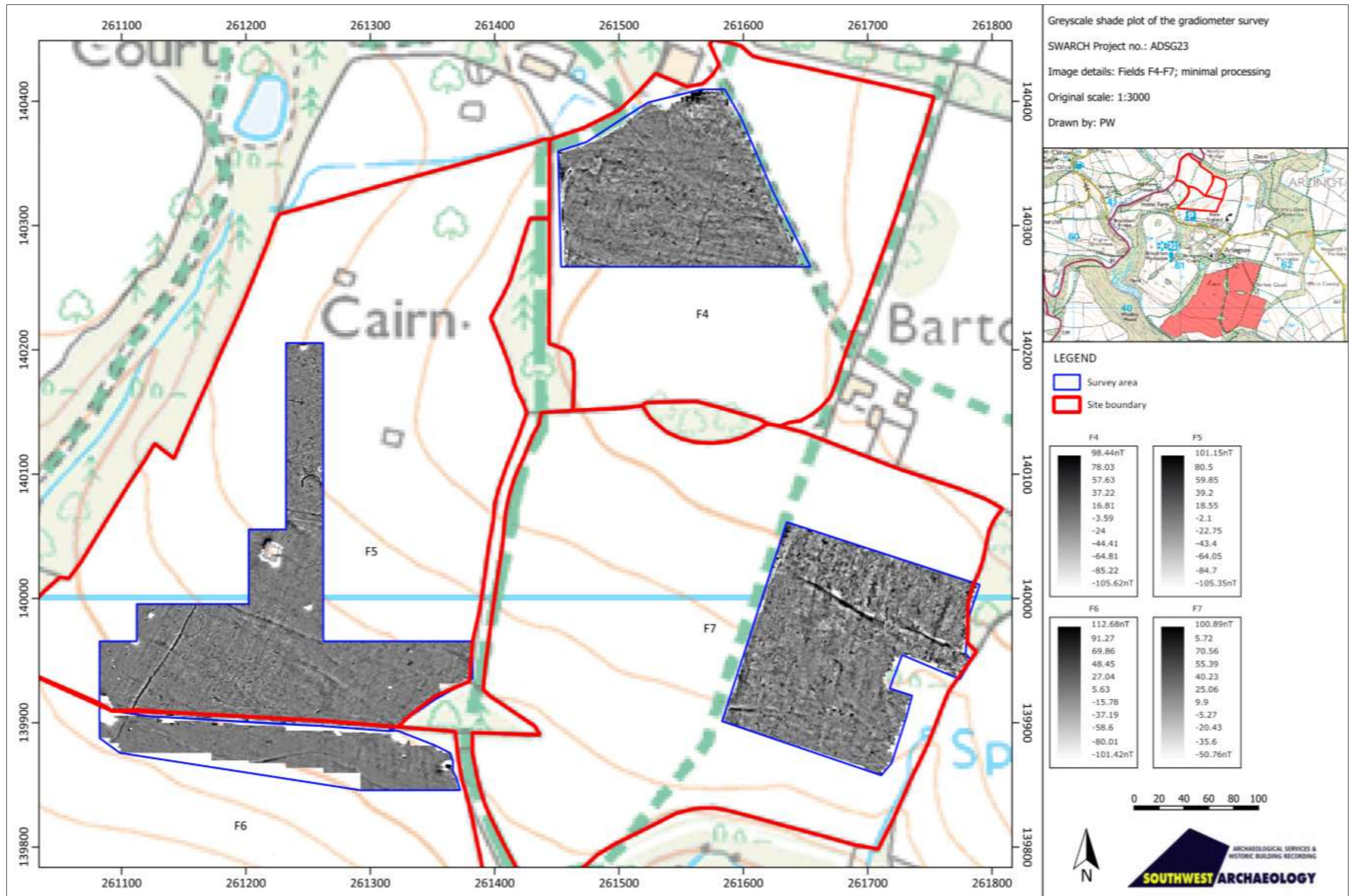
2. FIELDS F1-F3, GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY GRID LOCATION AND NUMBERING. (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).



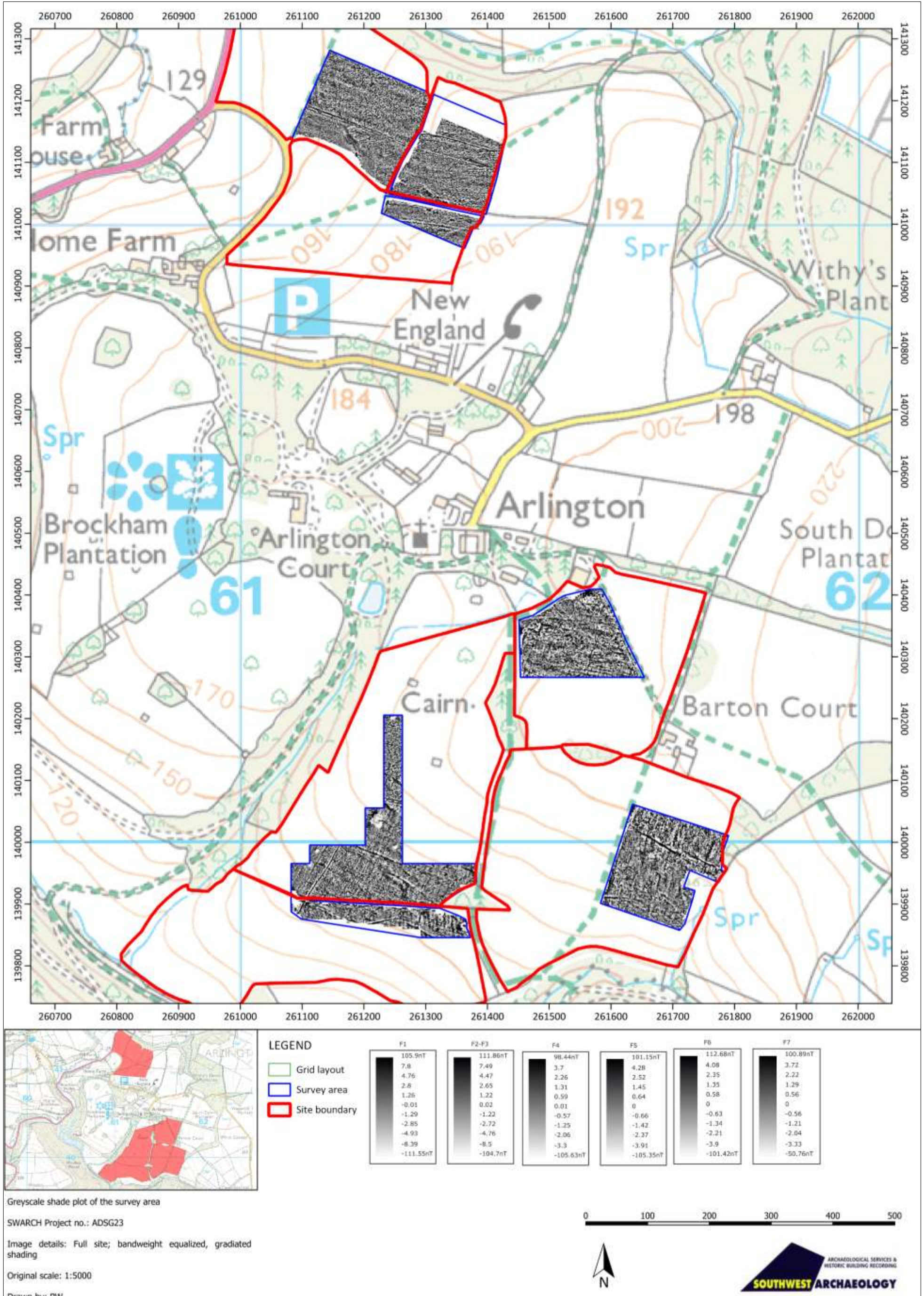
3. FIELDS F4-F7, GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY GRID LOCATION AND NUMBERING. (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).



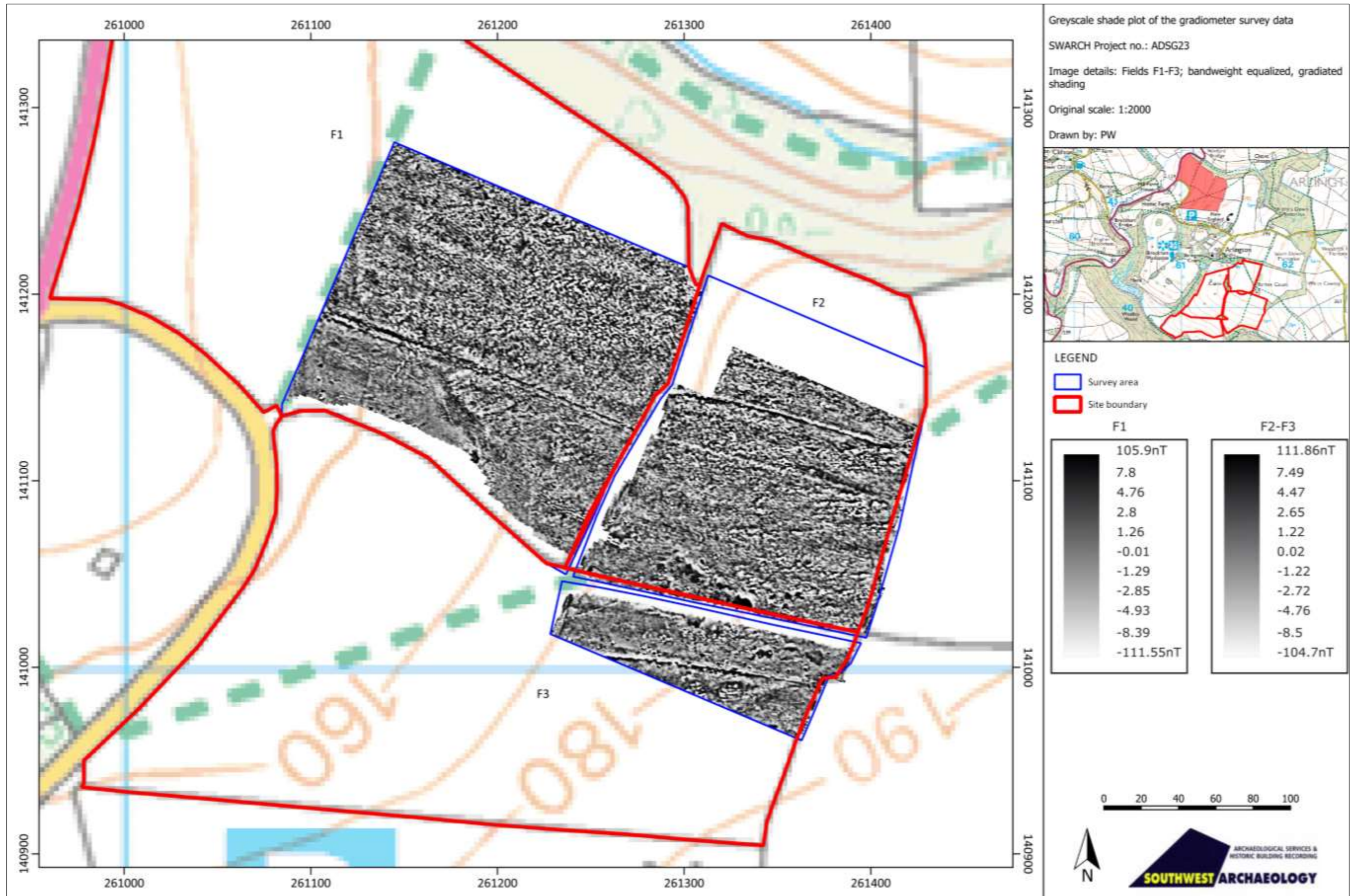
4. FIELDS F1-F3, GREYSCALE SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; MINIMAL PROCESSING. (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).



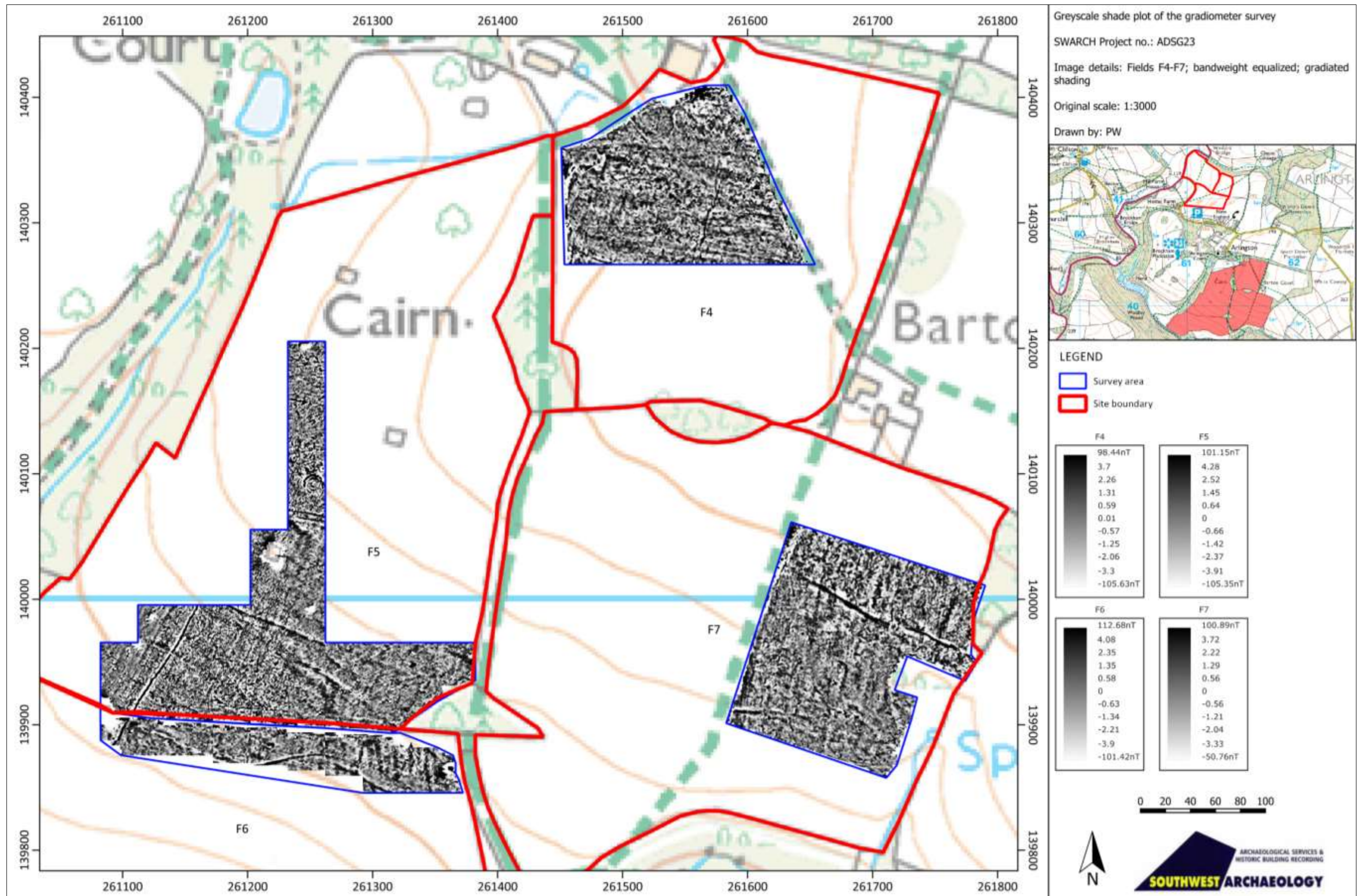
5. FIELDS F4-F7, GREYSCALE SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; MINIMAL PROCESSING. (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).



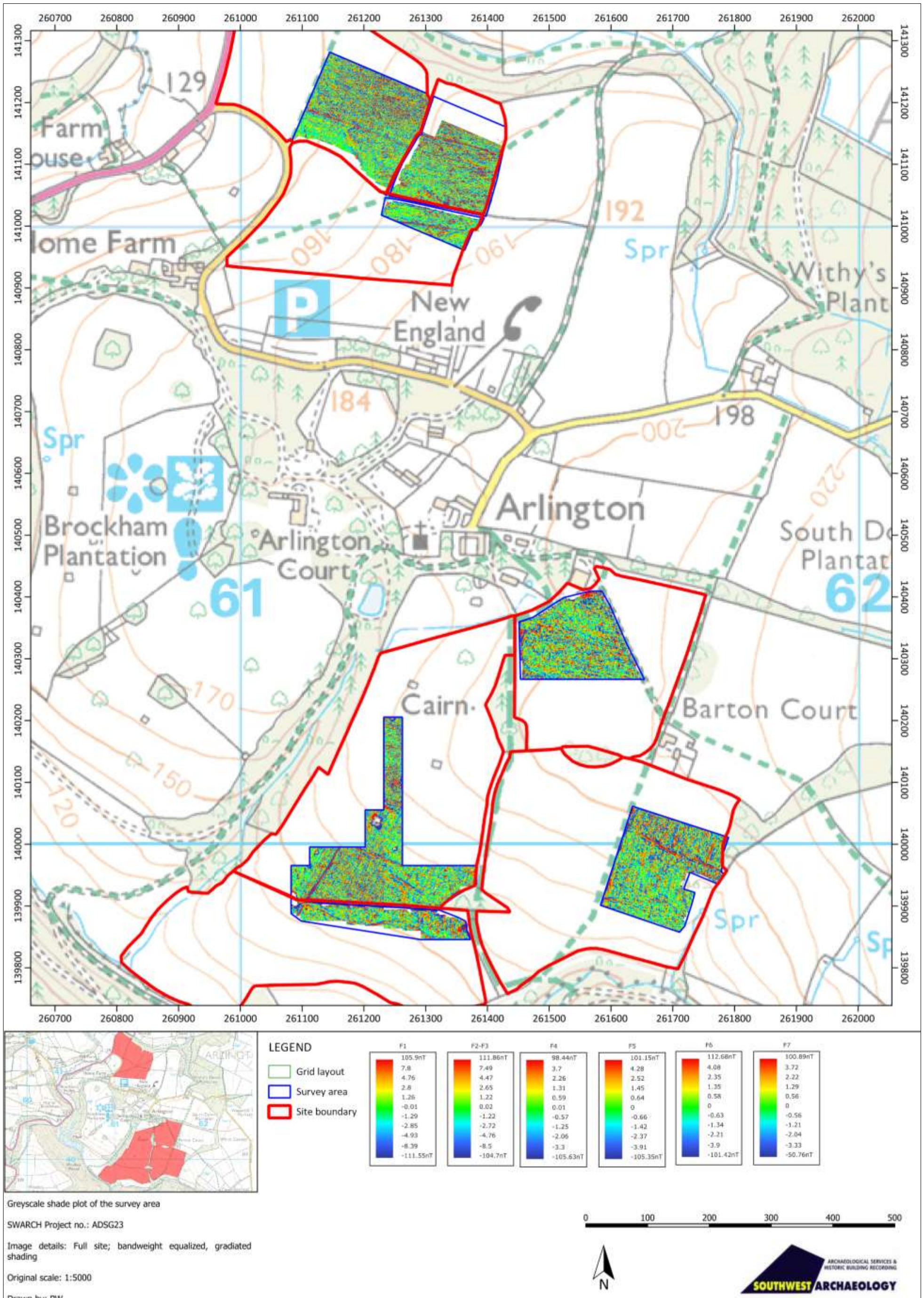
6. FULL SITE, GREYSCALE SHADE PLOT OF THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY DATE; BANDWEIGHT EQUALIZED, GRADIATED SHADING. (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).



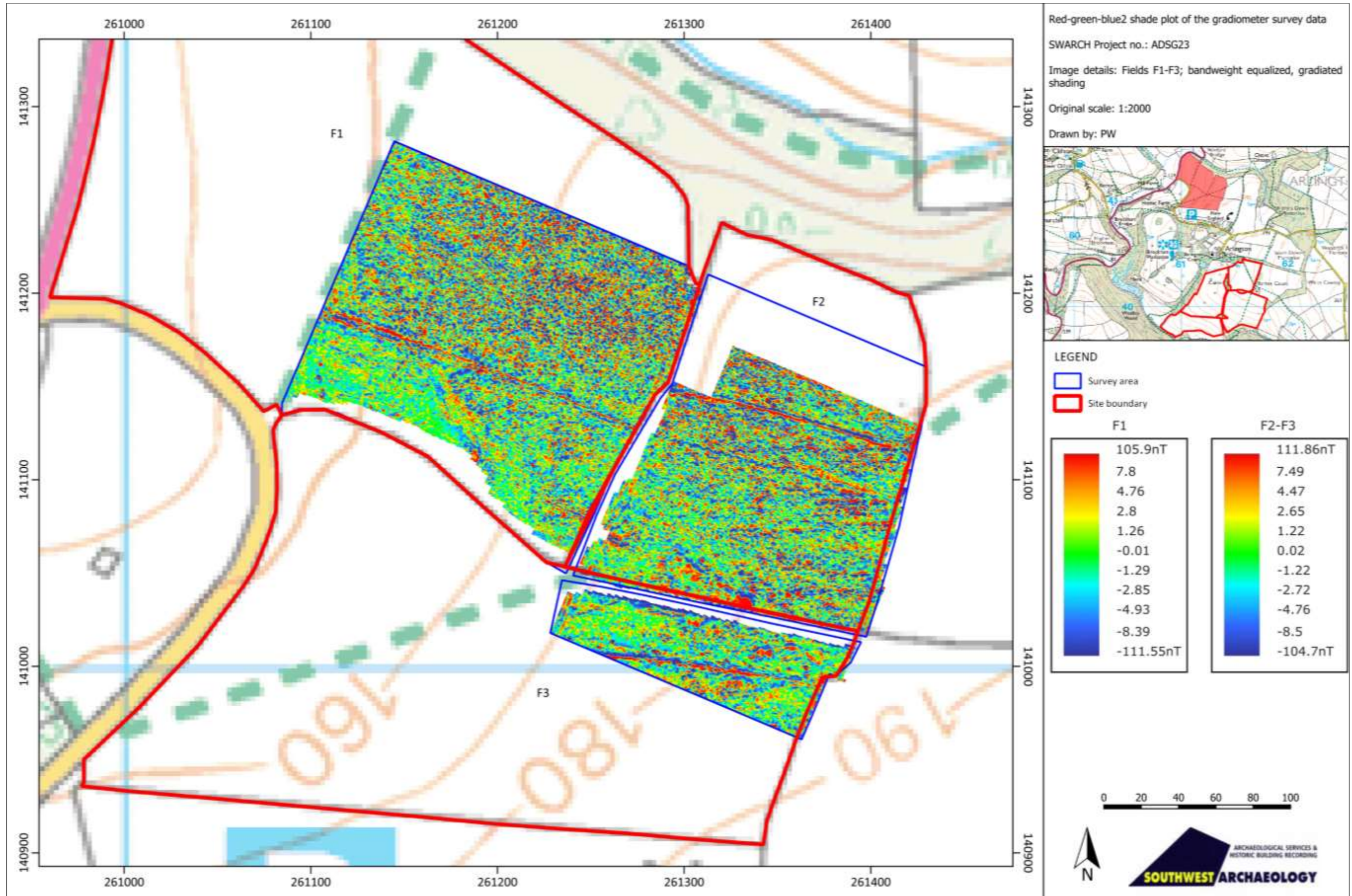
7. FIELDS F1-F3, GREYSCALE SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; BANDWEIGHT EQUALIZED, GRADIATED SHADING. (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).



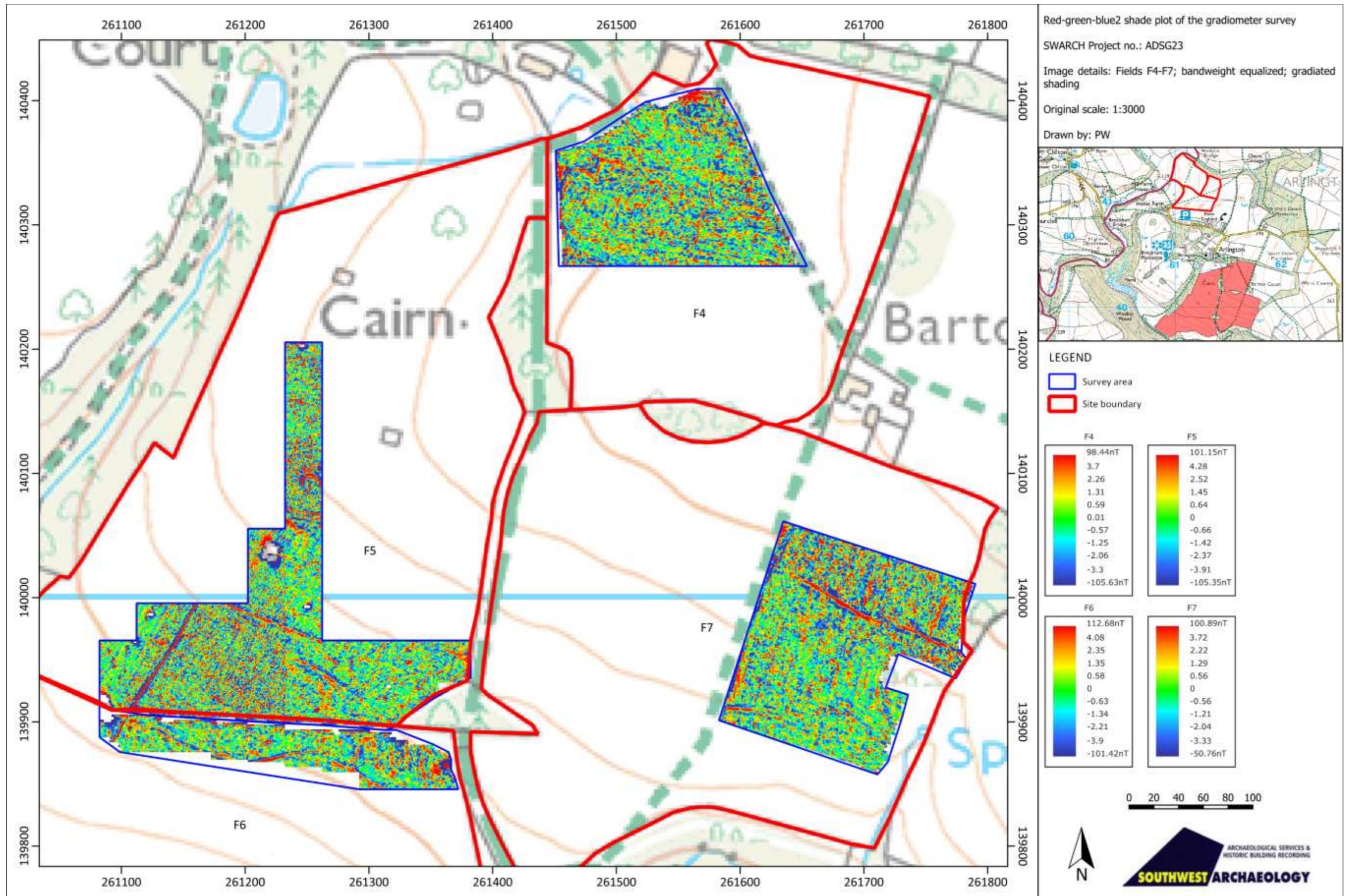
8. FIELDS F4-F7, GREYSCALE SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; BANDWEIGHT EQUALIZED, GRADIATED SHADING (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).



9. FULL SITE, RED-GREEN-BLUE2 SHADE PLOT OF THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY DATA; BANDWEIGHT EQUALIZED; GRADIATED SHADING. (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).



10. FIELDS F1-F3, RED-GREEN-BLUE2 SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; BANDWEIGHT EQUALIZED, GRADIATED SHADING. (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).



11. FIELDS F4-F7, RED-GREEN-BLUE2 SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; BANDWEIGHT EQUALIZED, GRADIATED SHADING. (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2023. LICENCE NUMBER 100022432).



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