

LAND at BURROUGH HOUSE NORTHAM DEVON

Results of a Geophysical Survey



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Land at Burrough House, Northam, Devon

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Results of a Geophysical Survey

For

Nigel Gale

Of

RGP Architects (the Agent)

By



SWARCH project reference: NBH15
OS Map copying Licence No: 100044808
National Grid Reference: SS 45089 28804
Planning Application Ref: 1/1050/2015/FUL
Project Director: Dr. Bryn Morris
Fieldwork Managers: Joe Bampton
Project Officer: Peter Webb
Fieldwork: Peter Webb
Research: Peter Webb
Report: Joe Bampton, Peter Webb
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Graphics: Joe Bampton, Peter Webb

November 2015

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Summary

This report presents the results of a Geophysical survey carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land at Burrough House, Churchill Way, Northam, Devon as part of the planning documentation for a proposed housing development.

The geophysical survey indicates a single linear anomaly of archaeological origin was present within the area of the proposed development; the survey also identified a pair of parallel land drains, and an extant bank in the north-west corner of the site. The linear anomaly is probably part of the wider medieval field system as identified in the Devon County Council HLC. An extant bank on the site, although undated, is probably associated with the adjacent Burrough House, and may also have medieval antecedents. Although not necessarily significant in themselves, these two features may possibly be associated with Burrough House on the edge of the medieval settlement. The survey identified no subterranean feature/anomalies that can be exclusively associated with Burrough House such as outbuildings or enclosures.

Any development is likely to disturb potential archaeological deposits or remains identified in the survey.

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Acknowledgements

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Nigel Gale of RGP Architects (the Agent)
Nick Loosemore of Loosemore Builders (the Client)
Steve Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET)
Staff at the Devon Heritage Centre (DHC)

1.0 Introduction

Location: Land at Burrough House, Churchill Way
Parish: Northam
County: Devon
NGR: SS 45089 28804
Type of survey: Gradiometer
Date of survey: 18.11.2015
Area surveyed: 0.7ha

1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at Burrough House, Churchill Way, Northam, Devon (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Nigel Gale of RGP Architects (the Agent) on behalf of Nick Loosemore of Loosemore Builders (the Client) in order to establish the historic background for the area and identify any archaeological features that might be affected by the construction of a proposed housing development.

1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

Northam is located off the A386, approximately 3km north of Bideford and 1.5km east of the tourist resort of Westward Ho! on a ridge of land overlooking Northam Burrows and Bideford Bay to the north. The site is situated immediately to the east of the southern extent of Northam Conservation Area. The proposed development would span a single flat, irregular field on land bordering Churchill Way to the west and Goats Hill Road to the south at an altitude of approximately 60m AOD (see Figure 1).

The settlement of Northam is situated on the well drained fine loamy soils of Neath Association (SSEW 1983). These soils overlie the sedimentary bedrock of the Bideford Formation (BGS2015).

1.3 Historical Background

Northam, in the hundred of Shebbear, is recorded in the Domesday Book as belonging to the king, and held by Caen and in *tre* by Beothic with land for 20 ploughs (Williams and Martin 2002). The place-name is derived from Old English (*north + hām*) meaning 'north homestead or estate' (Watts 2004).

The development site lies immediately to the south-west of Burrough House, which whilst the current buildings date to the later 19th century, is situated on the site of a 16th century mansion demolished in 1868. Late 19th and 20th century mapping shows an east-west aligned bank running across the northern part of the site, and this may indicate that the area of the mansion may have been more extensive than the historic mapping shows. The 1838 Northam parish tithe map identifies the site (plot 359) as belonging to Louisa Loper (Barton) and occupied by James Partridge. It was listed as pasture and named *Paddock*. A compliment of cartographic sources including the 1838 tithe map and late 19th century and 20th century Ordnance Survey maps can be seen in Appendix 3.

1.4 Archaeological Background

Prehistoric activity has been identified to the west of the development site in the form of a Bronze Age bowl barrow (Mon. Id. 33102) and Bronze Age artefacts (Mon. Id. 32974) have been recovered to the north of the site. Early Medieval activity is also recorded in the vicinity of the site, as the Battle of Cynwit, fought between the West Saxons and Vikings in 878AD is said to have taken place near Northam (potentially near Kenwith Castle). The former mansion located at Burrough House, was supposedly dated to the early 16th century, whilst the site of a 17th century windmill was identified during excavations along Windmill Lane. Further post-medieval industrial activity is represented by limekilns along the River Torridge, at the end of Limers Lane. The Devon County Council Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) lists the site as within an urban development but the surrounding landscape is primarily comprised of medieval enclosures based on strip fields. The fields to the south-south-east of the site are listed as modern enclosures adapting medieval fields.

1.5 Methodology

This document follows the methodology outlined in the Project Design (Appendix 1).

The gradiometer survey follows the guidance outlined in *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (English Heritage 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (ClfA 2014).

'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 leading to the formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource.

Land at Burrough House, Northam, Devon

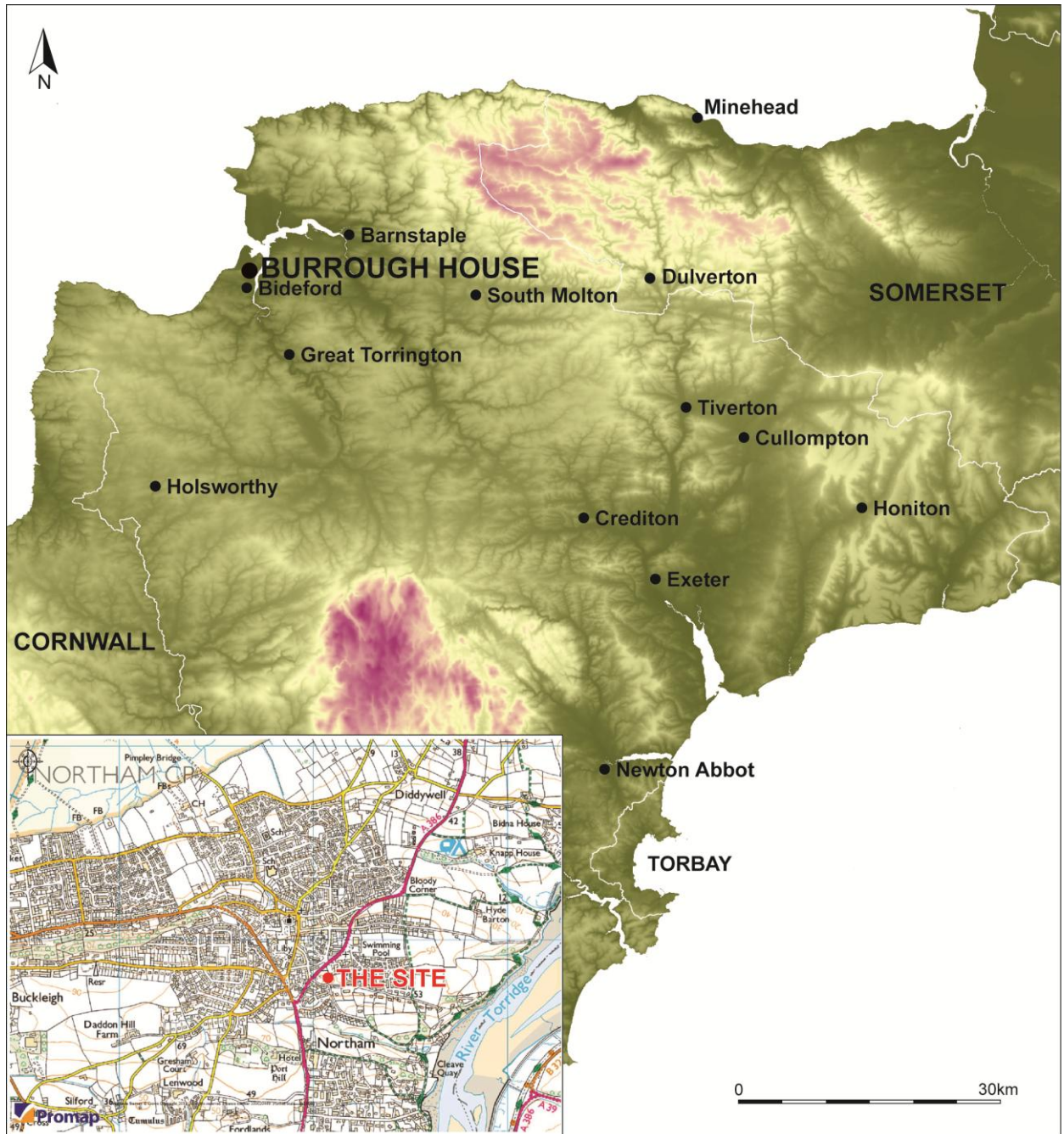


Figure 1: Site location (the proposed extent of the development is indicated).

2.0 Gradiometer Survey

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of this survey was to identify and record magnetic anomalies. While the anomalies may relate to archaeological deposits and structures, the dimensions of recorded anomalies may not directly correspond with any associated archaeological features. The following discussion attempts to clarify and characterise any identified anomalies.

The gradiometer survey was undertaken by P. Webb on the 18th November 2014 in very wet conditions. The field contained long tufts of grass suitable for rough grazing. The topography was relatively flat with slight undulations.

The survey identified three anomaly groups of probable archaeological origin. Group 1 was comprised a curvi-linear anomaly that is not represented in the cartographic record. It is probably part of the pattern of medieval strip fields that is visible in the wider landscape. Anomaly Group 1 could potentially define a boundary of the 16th century *Burrough House*. Group 2 represents an extant earthen bank. Group 3 represents two parallel weak linear anomalies, which may be indicative of land drains. The remaining anomalies were a modern track and recent topsoil disturbances and debris.

2.2 Methodology

The gradiometer survey follows the guidance outlined in *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (English Heritage 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (CIfA 2014).

The survey was carried out using two twin-sensor fluxgate gradiometers (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. The data was downloaded onto *Grad601 Version 3.16* and processed using *TerraSurveyor Version 3.0.25.0*. The primary data plots used in this analysis were *Shade, 3D & Relief*, and *Metadata*. The details of the data processing are as follows:

Processes: Clip +/- 3SD; DeStripe all traverses, median; DeStagger, offset outbound by -1 interval (all grids); Interpolate X and Y, double resolution.

Details: 0.7ha surveyed; Max. 110.08nT, Min. -115.71nT; Standard Deviation 14.56nT, mean -0.99nT, median -0.01nT.

2.3 Results

Figures 2 and 3 with the accompanying Table 1 show the analyses and interpretation of the geophysical survey data. Additional graphic images of the survey data can be seen in Appendix 2.

Anomaly group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological characterisation	Comments
1	Weak positive, probable	Curvi-linear	Relict Field Boundary	Probable medieval field boundary based on strip fields. Associated with the sinuous examples in the wider landscape as listed on the HLC.
2	Mixed, probable	Linear	Extant Bank	Possible medieval bank associated with Burrough House. Extant.
3	Weak negative, probable	Linear	Field/landdrain	Two parallel linear anomalies with a very weak response (<-6nT) indicative of a possible land drains; perhaps containing re-deposited natural with stone.

Table 1: Interpretation of Gradiometer Survey data.

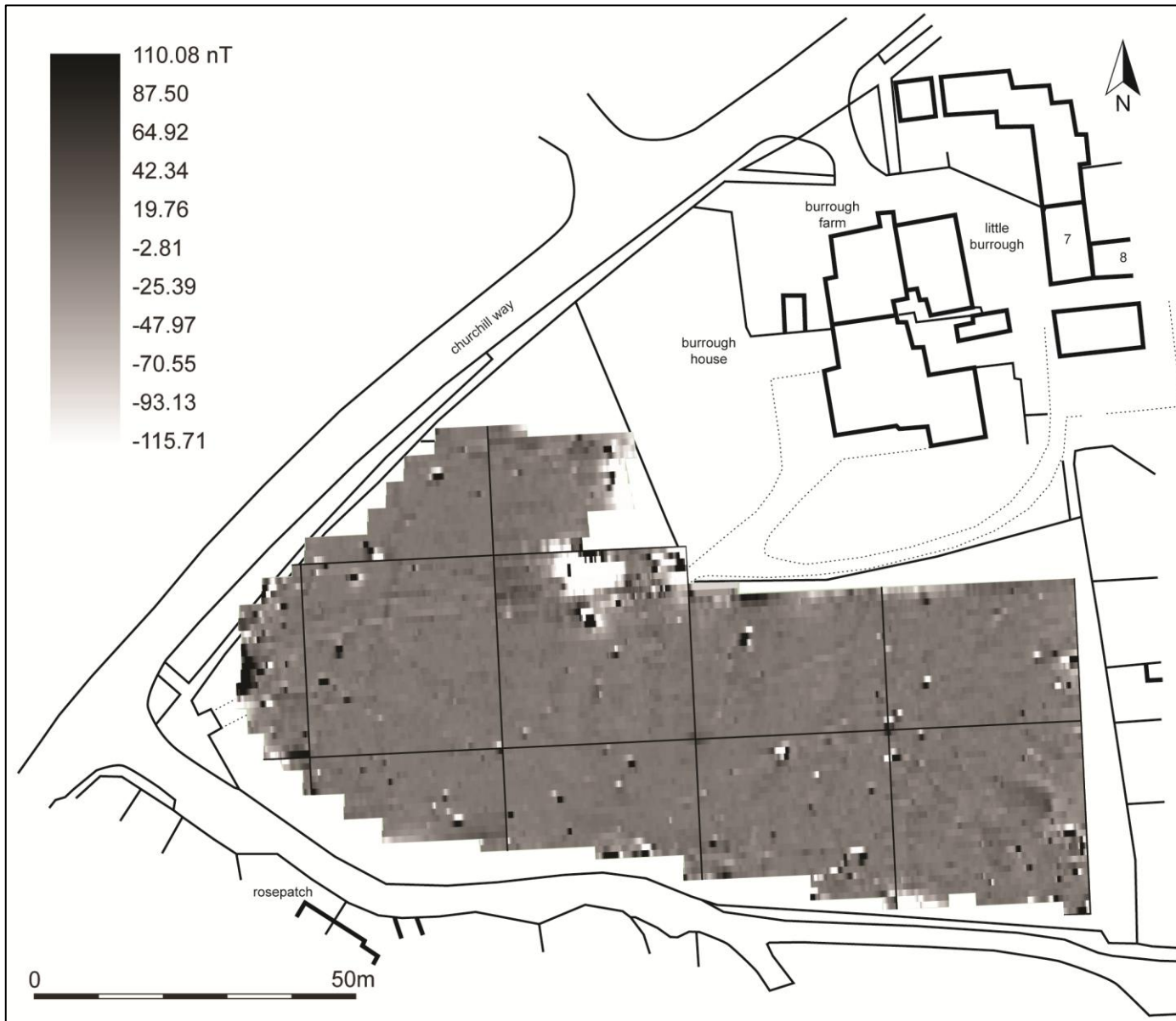


Figure 2: Shade plot of gradiometer survey results.

Land at Burrough House, Northam, Devon

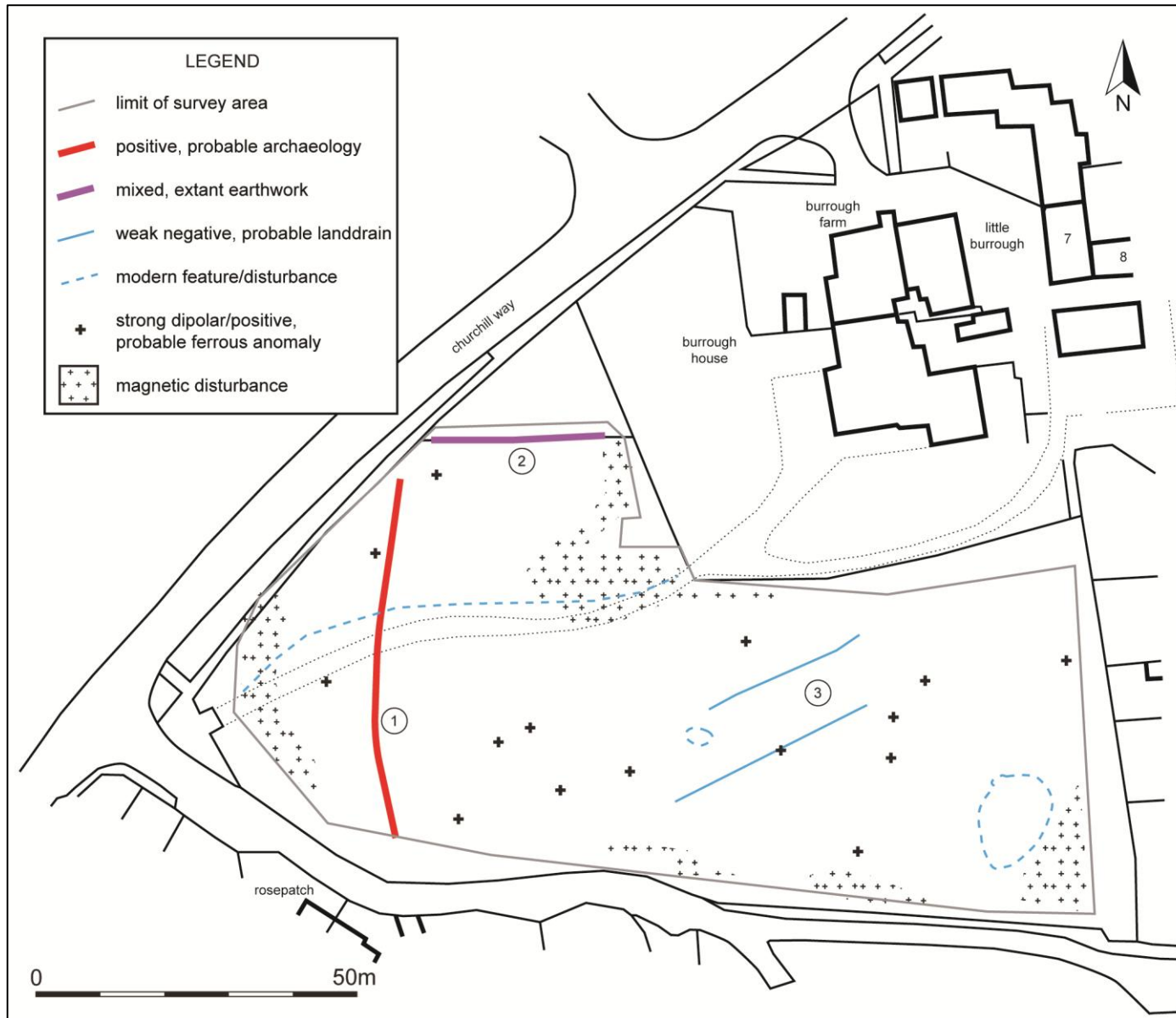


Figure 3: Interpretation of gradiometer survey data.

3.0 Discussion and Conclusion

3.1 Gradiometer Survey

Anomaly Group 1 equates to a probable medieval field boundary associated with the wider extant fieldscape, although it is absent from the cartographic record. It aligns with a very short section of approximately north-south orientated boundary to its south that is visible on the late 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping, but is not shown on the 1838 tithe map (see Appendix 3). Either the short boundary was inserted into a pre-existing pattern of boundaries or the anomaly represents a short lived 19th century feature. It is more likely part of the field system based on medieval strip-fields which is identified on the HLC in the wider area. It appears to run parallel to an extrapolated line of the curving boundary that runs from half way along the southern boundary to the south-east, parallel with a street named *Clevelands Park*.

Anomaly Group 2 represents an extant bank that was visible in the gradiometer survey as a mixed linear anomaly. This bank is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st and later edition maps, but is not shown on the tithe map as a boundary. The shading on the site of the 1804 Surveyor's Draft, although not an accurate depiction, does tentatively depict that the site once had an east-west boundary in the location of the bank defining a north-western annex. The triangular section of land north of the boundary was overgrown with scrub and could not be surveyed.

Anomaly Group 3 represents potentially two parallel linear features. Their weak response, similar to the background variation suggests that they are relatively insubstantial and perhaps only surviving within the topsoil; and/or backfilled with re-deposited natural. A negative response may imply an earth bank but the strength of these responses implies a less substantial stony feature, such as a land drain or shallow feature within the topsoil.

The survey also identified a large amount of modern disturbance from metallic debris across the site, disturbance near its boundaries, a track across the west half of the site and some patches of recent ground disturbance and shallow tracks in the topsoil that were visible during the survey.

3.2 Conclusion

The geophysical survey indicates a single linear anomaly of archaeological origin was present within the area of the proposed development, a pair of parallel land drains, and identifies an extant bank in the north-west corner of the site. The linear anomaly is probably part of the wider medieval field system as identified in the HLC. The bank, although undated, is probably associated with the adjacent 16th century and later Burrough House property. Although not necessarily significant in themselves, these potential features may possibly be associated with Burrough House on the edge of a medieval settlement. The survey identified no unknown subterranean feature/anomalies that can be exclusively associated with Burrough House such as outbuildings or enclosures.

Any development is likely to disturb potential archaeological deposits or remains identified in the survey.

4.0 Bibliography & References

Published Sources:

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey*.

English Heritage 2008: *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

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British Library (BL) 2015: Barnstaple, Devon – 1804 Surveyor's Draft

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Historic Environment Records 2015: *Heritage Gateway*.

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx>

Devon County Council 2015: Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

<http://gis.devon.gov.uk/basedata/viewer.asp?DCCService=hlc> [accessed 26.11.2015]

Unpublished Sources:

Torridge District Council: *Northam Conservation Area*

Devon Heritage Centre:

Northam Tithe Map (1838) and Apportionment (1840)

Appendix 1 Project Design

PROJECT DESIGN FOR GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AT LAND AT BURROUGH HOUSE, CHURCHILL WAY, NORTHAM.

Location: Land at Burrough House, Churchill Way
Parish: Northam
County: Devon
NGR: SS 45089 28804
Proposal: Proposed housing development for Loosemore Builders & Son Ltd.
OASIS Record ID: Southwes1-231924
Date: 25th November 2015

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a Project Design (PD) which has been produced by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Nigel Gale of RGP Architects (the Agent) on behalf of Nick Loosemore of Loosemore Builders. (the Client). It sets out the methodology for a geophysical survey to be undertaken in advance of the application for planning for the above development and for related off site analysis and reporting. The PD and the schedule of work it proposes were drawn up in line with best practice.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Northam is located on the summit of a hill forming the eastern valley side of the River Torridge. The settlement is recorded in Domesday as being land of the king held by Caen and Beorthic with land for 20 ploughs (Williams and Martin 2002). The name *Northam* (OE north + hām) meaning 'north homestead or estate' (Watts 2004).

The development site lies to the south-west of Burrough House, dating to the 19th century, but situated on the site of a 16th century mansion demolished in 1868. Late 19th and 20th century mapping shows an east-west aligned bank running across the northern part of the site, towards the site of the mansion, and this may indicate that the mansion may have been more extensive than the historic mapping shows.

The HER records the 16th century mansion of Burrough House along with numerous 18th and 19th century buildings within Northam. To the south and east are sites associated with the limekilns situated along the River Torridge

The proposed development site lies immediately to the east of the Northam Conservation Area (adopted in 1987), though is identified on the Torridge District Local Plan as an area of amenity land.

3.0 AIMS

3.1 The principal objectives of the work will be to:

- 3.1.1 To observe and identify archaeological features through geophysical survey.
- 3.1.2 To analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

4.0 METHOD

4.1 Geophysical Survey:

The programme of work shall include a magnetometer survey of c.1 hectare, covering the fields in which the proposed development would be located. The results of this survey will inform whether an archaeological evaluation or further archaeological recording of any potential buried remains or other mitigation is required.

4.2 The Client will provide SWARCH with details of the location of existing services and of proposed groundworks within the site area, and of the proposed construction programme.

4.4 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site, particularly when working with machinery. As a minimum: high-visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear will be worn.

4.4.1 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times.

4.4.2 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.

5.0 REPORTING

- 5.1 The type of report produced will be agreed with the HET in view of the results. If a full report is produced it will include the following elements:
- 5.1.1 A report number, date and the OASIS record number;
 - 5.1.2 A copy of this WSI;
 - 5.1.3 A summary of the project's background;
 - 5.1.4 A description and illustration of the site location;
 - 5.1.5 A methodology of the works undertaken, and an evaluation of that methodology;
 - 5.1.6 Plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;
 - 5.1.7 A summary of the project's results;
 - 5.1.8 An interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
 - 5.1.9 A summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
 - 5.1.10 A location plan and overall site plan including the location of areas subject to archaeological recording;
 - 5.1.11 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
 - 5.1.12 A consideration of the evidence within its wider context;
 - 5.1.13 Specialist assessment or analysis reports where undertaken.
- 5.2 DCHET will receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork.
- 5.7 A copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations*) database under reference Southwes1-192760 within 3 months of completion of fieldwork.

6.0 MONITORING

- 6.1.1 SWARCH shall agree monitoring arrangements with the HET and give two weeks' notice, unless a shorter period is agreed, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.
- 6.1.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report - see 8.0 below.
- 6.1.3 SWARCH will notify the HET upon completion of the fieldwork stage of these works.

7.0 ARCHIVE

- 7.1 On completion of the project an ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)(<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/morphe-project-managers-guide/>). The digital element of the archive will be transferred to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) for long-term curation. A reference number will be obtained from the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND), with regard deposition of the material (finds) element of any archive created by these works.
- 7.2 The archive will consist of two elements, the digital archive and the material archive.
- 7.2.1 The digital archive, including digital copies of all relevant written and drawn records and photographs, will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and in compliance with their standards and requirements.
 - 7.2.2 The material archive, comprising the retained artefacts/samples and the hardcopy paper record (if requested) will be cleaned (or otherwise treated), ordered, recorded, packed and boxed in accordance with the deposition standards of the MBND, and in a timely fashion.
 - 7.2.3 If the MBND wishes to retain the hardcopy paper archive, it will be deposited with the rest of the material archive under the same accession number. Should the MBND decline the hardcopy paper archive, that archive will be offered to other appropriate museum bodies or the HET. If a suitable third party cannot be found, the hardcopy paper archive will be retained by SWARCH for 3 years and then destroyed.
- 7.3 SWARCH will, on behalf of the MBND obtain a written agreement from the landowner to transfer title to all items in the material archive to the receiving museum.

- 7.4 If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.
- 7.5 SWARCH will notify the HET upon the completion of:
i) deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and
ii) deposition of the material (finds) archive with the museum.
- 7.6 The condition placed upon this development will not be regarded as discharged until the report has been produced and submitted to the HET and the LPA, the site archive deposited and the OASIS form completed.
- 7.7 The archive will be completed within 3 months of the completion of the final report.

8.0 CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORY PROTECTED SPECIES

Even where groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of SWARCH personnel, it remains the responsibility of the Client - in consultation with SWARCH, the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

9.0 PERSONNEL & MONITORING

- 9.1 The project will be managed by Dr. Samuel Walls; the archaeological monitoring and building recording will be undertaken by SWARCH personnel with appropriate expertise and experience. Where necessary, appropriate specialist advice will be sought (see list of consultant specialists in Appendix 1 below).

Peter Webb

South West Archaeology

The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfield Business Park, South Molton, Devon EX36 3LH Telephone: 01769 573555 email:mail@swarch.net

Appendix 1 – List of specialists

Building recording

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Tel: 01271 830891

Curatorial Thomas Cadbury Curator of Antiquities Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Bradninch Offices, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS Tel: 01392 665356

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Plant macro-fossils Julie Jones juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk

Pollen analysis Ralph Fyfe Room 211, 8 Kirkby Place, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 8AA

Pottery

Prehistoric Henrietta Quinnell 39D Polsloe Road, Exeter EX1 2DN Tel: 01392 433214

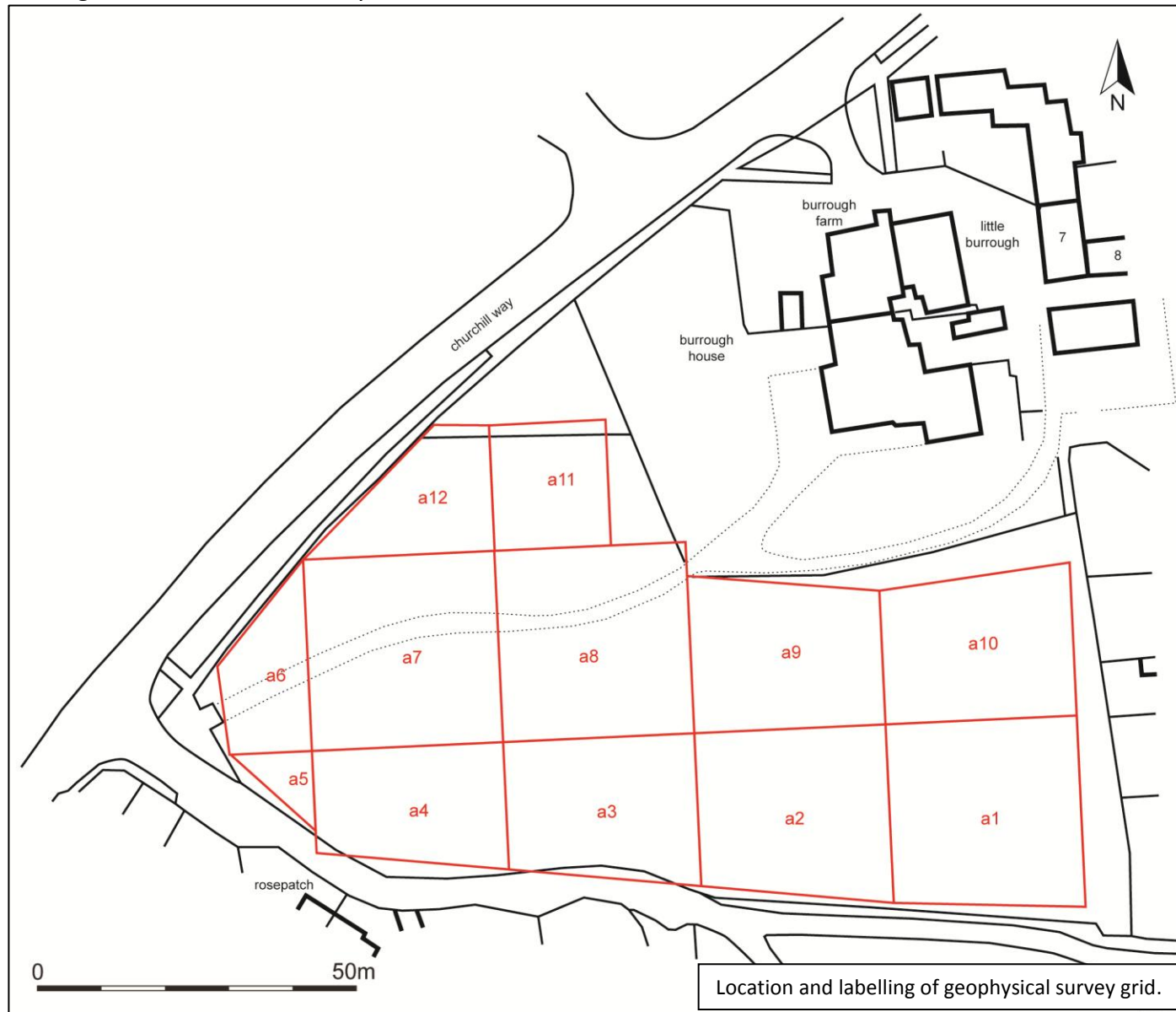
Roman Alex Croom, Keeper of Archaeology Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, Baring Street, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE332BB Tel: (0191) 454 4093
alex.croom@twmuseums.org.uk

Medieval John Allen, 22, Rivermead Road Exeter EX2 4RL Tel: 01392 256154

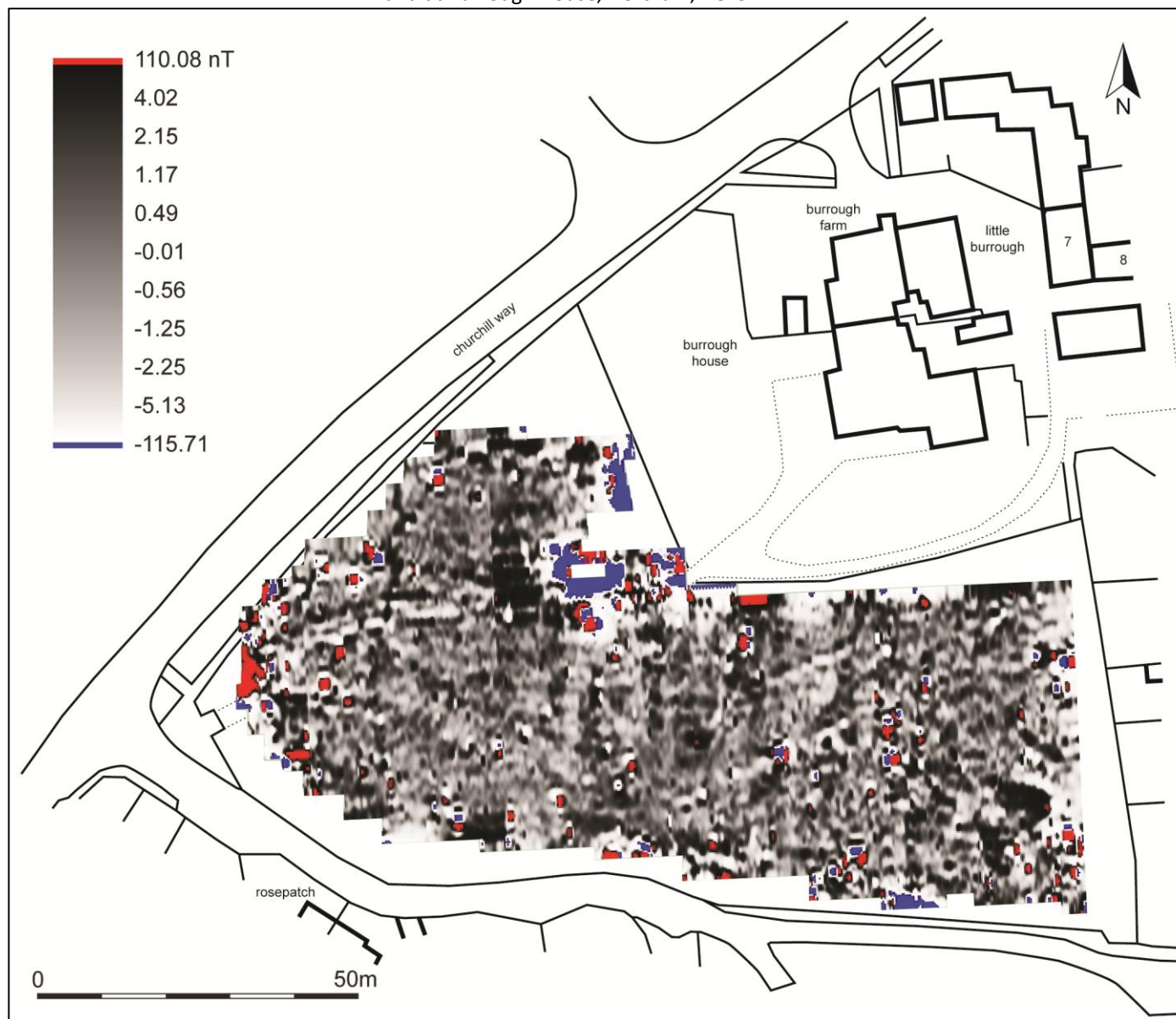
john.p.allan@btinternet.com

Post Medieval Graham Langman Exeter, EX1 2UF Tel: 01392 215900 email: su1429@eclipse.co.uk

Appendix 2
Additional Graphic Images of Gradiometer Survey Data

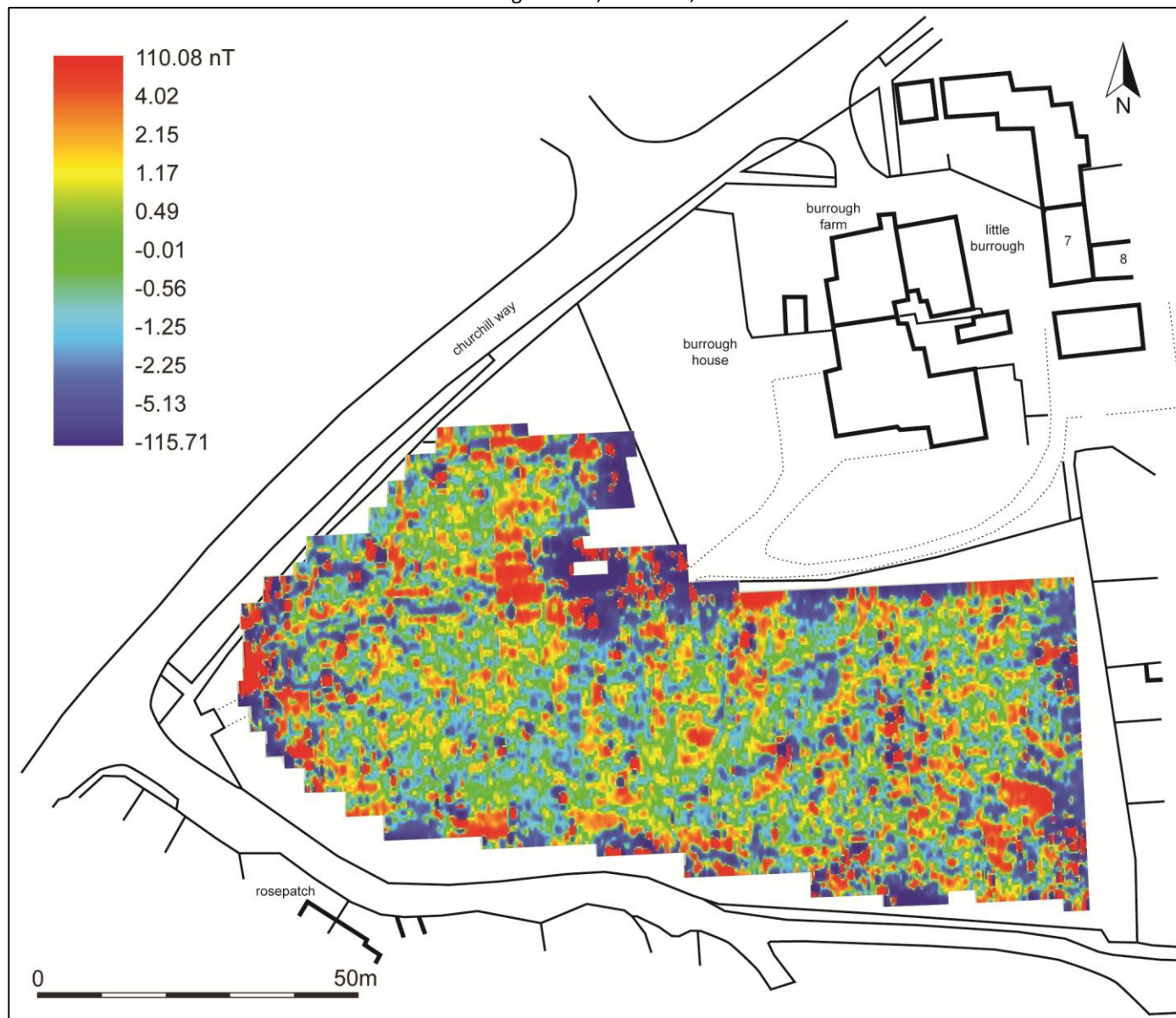


Land at Burrough House, Northam, Devon



Red-greyscale-blue shade plot of survey data; band weight equalised, gradiated shading.

Land at Burrough House, Northam, Devon



Red-blue-greyscale(2) shade plot of survey data; band weight equalised, gradiated shading.

Appendix 3
Historic mapping

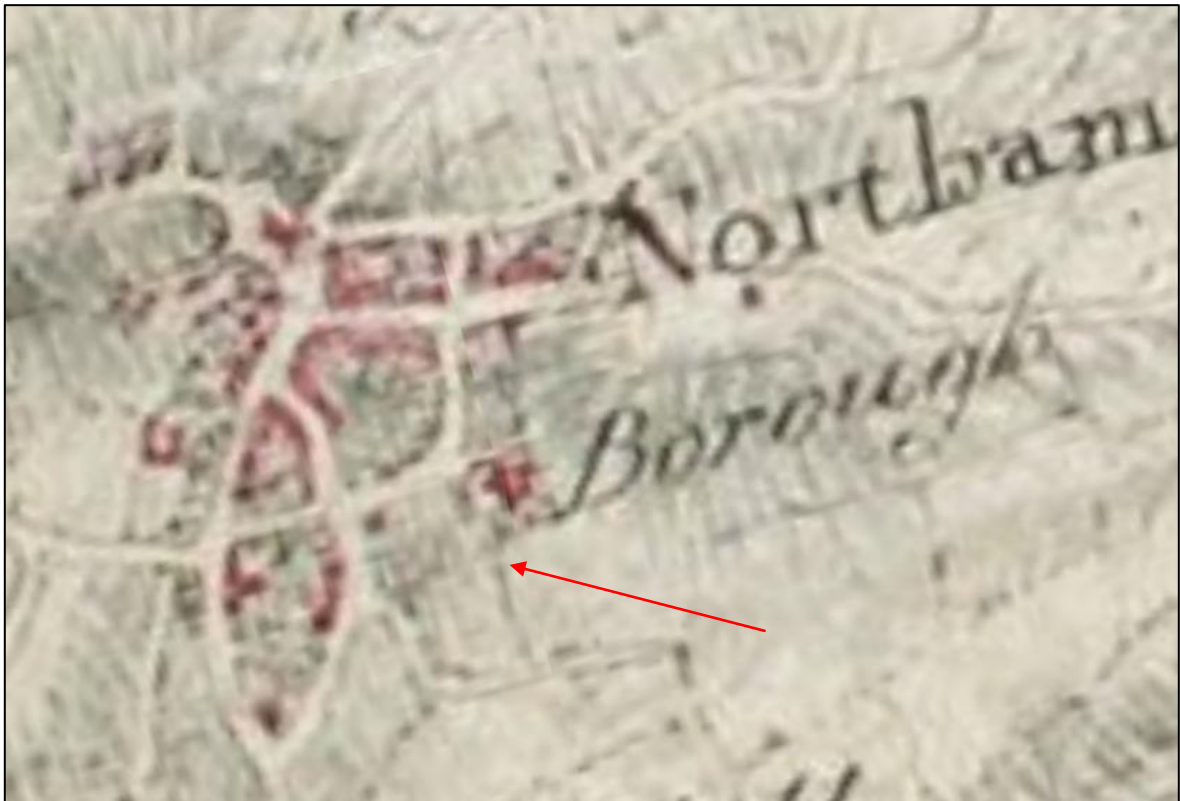


Figure 4: Ordnance Survey, Surveyors Draft map of Barnstaple, 1804 (DHC).



Figure 5: Extract from the Northam Tithe Map, 1838 (DHC) (the site is indicated outlined in red).



Figure 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Map, 1887 (DHC) (the site is indicated outlined in red).

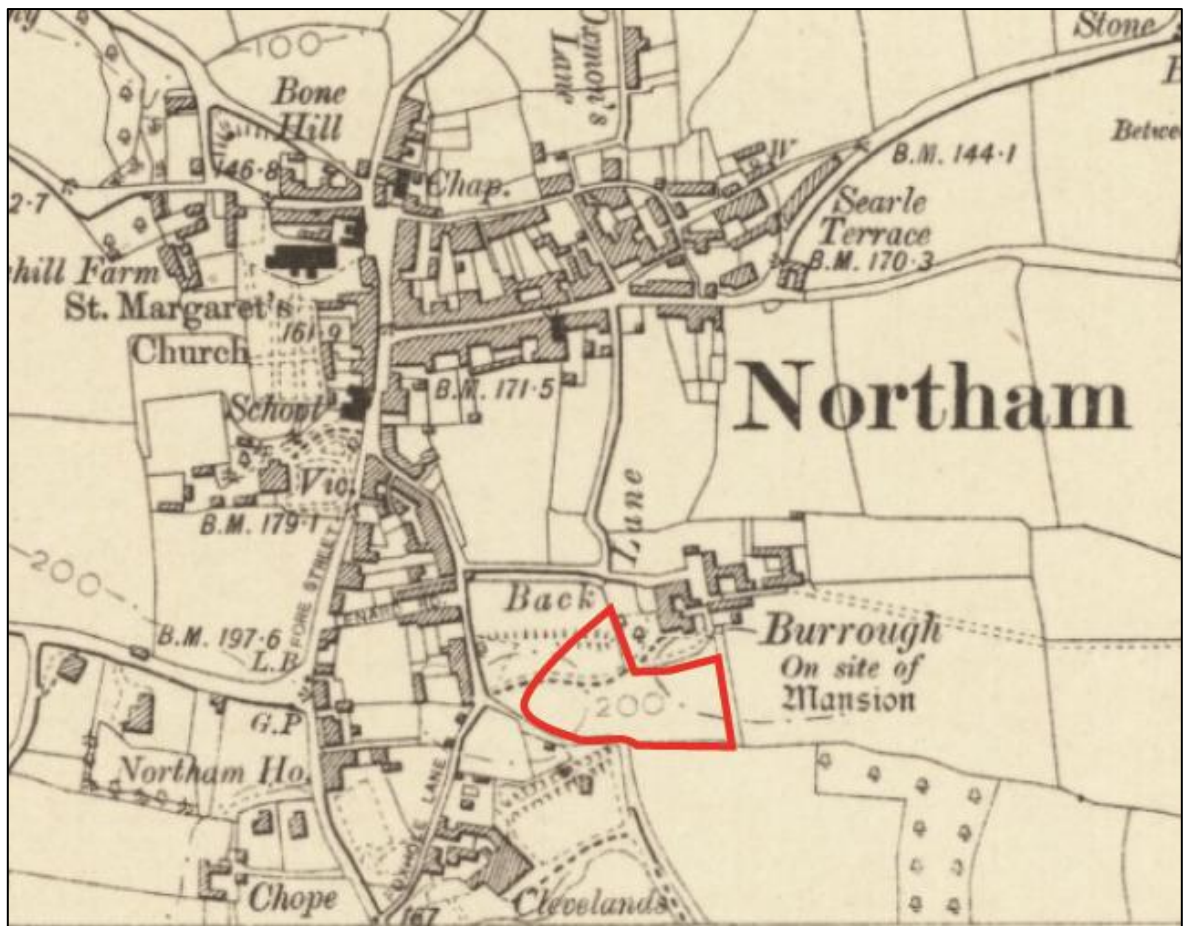


Figure 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition Map, 1903 (DHC) (the site is indicated outlined in red).

Land at Burrough House, Northam, Devon

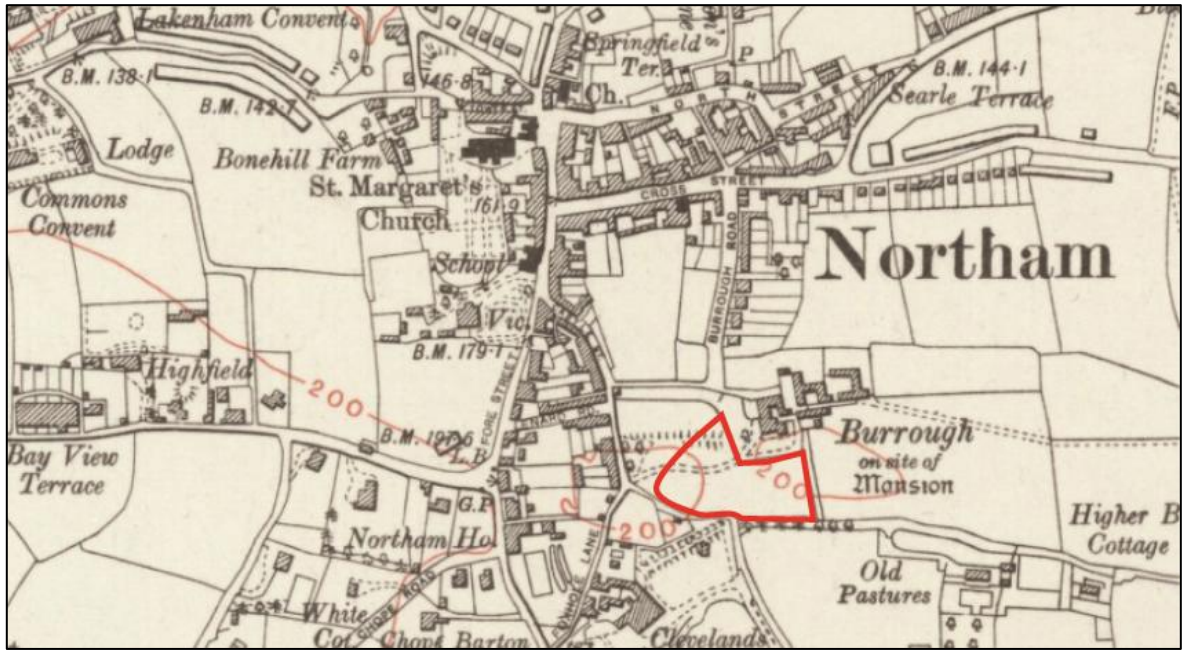


Figure 8: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map, 1943 (the site is indicated highlighted in red).

Appendix 4
Supporting Photographs



View across site from the entrance in the south-west corner; from the west.



View across the site from the south-east corner; from the south-east.

Land at Burrough House, Northam, Devon



View across the site from the southern boundary; from the south-east.



View across the site from the south-east corner; from the south-east.

Land at Burrough House, Northam, Devon



View across the site from the north-east corner; from the east.



View along the access road to Burrough House; from the south-west.

Land at Burrough House, Northam, Devon



View along the access track to the site entrance; from the north-east.



View of the bank feature in the north corner of the site; from the south.



View of the scrub and brambles to the north of the bank feature; from the south.



View along the bank feature; from the east.

Land at Burrough House, Northam, Devon



View along the bank feature; from the west.



View along the north-west site boundary; from the north-east.

Land at Burrough House, Northam, Devon



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