

LAND AT LYNHER CLOSE NORTH HILL LAUNCESTON CORNWALL

Results of an Archaeological Assessment and Geophysical Survey



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 180205



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Land at Lynher Close, North Hill, Launceston, Cornwall Results of an Archaeological Assessment & Geophysical Survey

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for Graeme Barriball (the Client)

Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological assessment and geophysical survey carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) for land at Lynher Close, North Hill, Launceston, Cornwall. The site is located to the north-west of the historic core of the village, and adjacent to 20th century housing.

The desk-based appraisal would suggest the site had been part of a single large agricultural field until the mid 19th century. Between the mid and later 19th century the field was subdivided, with the western half used as allotment gardens. The HER for the local area shows relatively few assets in close proximity; there is a Grade I church and other Listed buildings in the village. The site inspection noted a possible trackway along the south-eastern boundary of the site but no other evidence of earthworks or artefactual material.

The geophysical survey identified seven groups of probable and possible anomalies that relate to activity within the site. There are a number of positive and negative features that may relate to previous boundaries, as well as two positive features possibly representing relict field ditches. Most of the features identified are of unknown archaeological origin or date, though some may relate to the allotments and gardens depicted on historic Ordnance Survey maps.

Despite the proximity of designated heritage assets, and the location of this site within Anciently Enclosed Land, the geophysical survey would suggest the archaeological potential of this site is medium. However, all of the anomalies identified are orientated parallel or perpendicular to the historic field boundaries, and are likely to be relatively recent in date.



February 2018

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	LAND AT LYNHER CLOSE
PARISH:	NORTH HILL
COUNTY:	CORNWALL
NGR:	SX 27038 76858
PLANNING NO.	PA14/09758OUT
SWARCH REF.	NHL18

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Graeme Barriball (the Client) to undertake an archaeological assessment and geophysical survey for land at Lynher Close, North Hill, Launceston, Cornwall, in advance of a proposed residential development. This work was undertaken in accordance with best practice and ClfA guidelines.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

North Hill is a village and parish in Cornwall. The village lies just to the east of the River Lynher and Bodmin Moor. The village is located c. 9.9km south-west of Launceston and c. 4.3km south-east of the A30. The site comprises a relatively level field just north-east of Lynher Way, ranging in height from 166 to 169m AOD. The Church of St. Torney at North Hill is located c.230m south-east of the site.

The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy and fine silty soils over rock of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983); these overlie the slate and hornfelsed metamorphic bedrock of the Tavy Formation (BGS 2018).

1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

North Hill is a village and parish (previously Northill), which lies in the deanery and north division in the hundred of East (Lysons 1814). North Hill is first recorded in 1238 as *Northenle*; the church contains Norman elements dating from the early 14th century.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

This work was undertaken in accordance with best practice. The archaeological assessment follows the guidance for desk-based assessments as outlined in: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (ClfA 2014a) and *Understanding Place: historic area assessments in a planning and development context* (English Heritage 2012). The gradiometer survey follows the general guidance as outlined in: *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (English Heritage 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (ClfA 2014b).

LAND AT LYNHER CLOSE, NORTH HILL, LAUNCESTON, CORNWALL

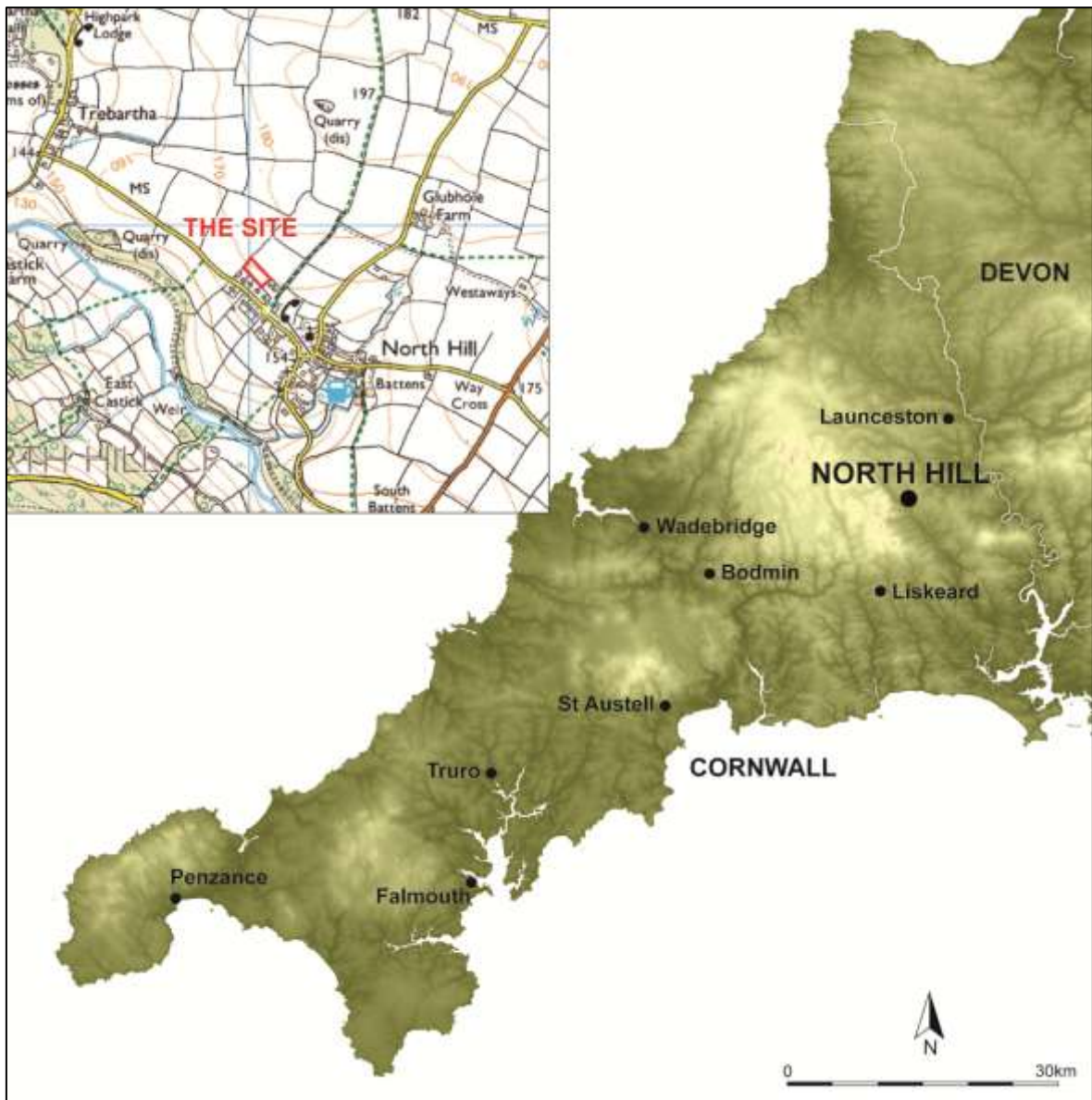


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

2.1 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

North Hill is a village and parish (previously Northill) in the deanery and north division in the Hundred of East (Lysons 1814). It is located c.9.9km south-west of Launceston and c.12.5km north of Liskeard. North Hill was recorded as *Northenle* in 1238, *Northindle* in 1270, and *Northulle* then *Northille* in the late 14th to 15th centuries (Watts 2004). The name has an unclear origin, possible deriving from the Old English elements *hind* and *lēah* meaning ‘hind wood or clearing’; or perhaps the Cornish elements *hen* and *le*, meaning ‘ancient place’. The HER records few heritage assets in the immediate area, although the settlement does contain a few important buildings, including the Grade I listed church dedicated to St Torney which has elements dating to the early 14th century. The site lies within an area identified as medieval enclosures in the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC).

2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

2.2.1 NORTH HILL TITHE MAP AND APPORTIONMENT 1841

The North Hill Tithe map of 1841 depicts much of the village in reasonable detail; below is an extract from the map centred on the site (Figure 2). The site is located in the eastern corner of a field, titled as *Garden Sanctuary* in the tithe apportionment, and listed as arable. The surrounding area consists mostly of arable, meadow and pasture; with a smaller garden plot, immediately below the site, which belongs to the same landowner (Table 1). The field name element *sanctuary* is of immediate interest, but as it is noted in the apportionment as glebe land, the field name is likely to relate to medieval or post-medieval ownership rather than anything older.

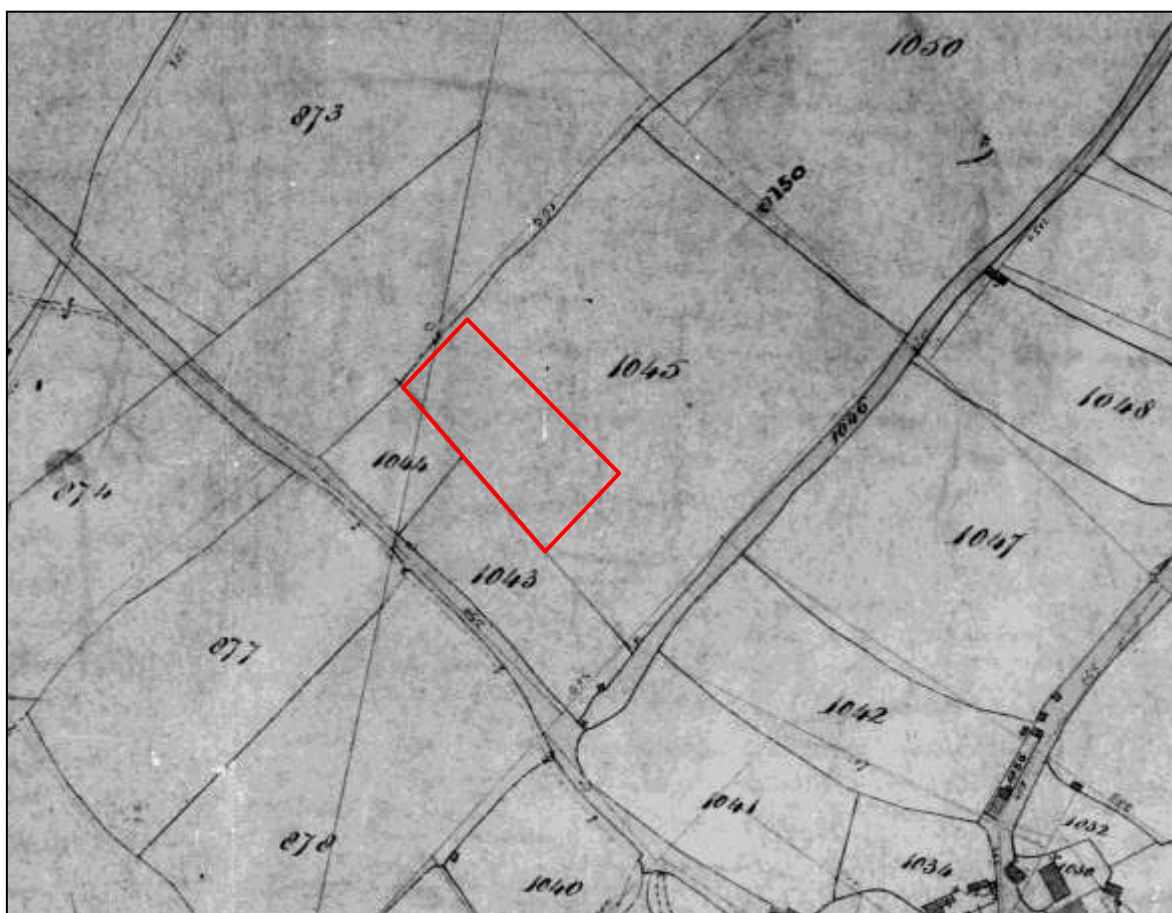


FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE NORTH-HILL TITHE MAP OF 1841. THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED (CRO).

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE NORTH HILL TITHE APPORTIONMENT OF 1841. THE SITE OCCUPIES THE PLOTS HIGHLIGHTED.

Landowner	Occupier	Farm name	Plot number	Plot name	Usage
Francis Rodd Esquire	Francis Rodd Esquire	Stoneford & Pt West Beriw	873	North Hill Park	Arable
	John Ralph	Tollcarne	874	Well Harriss Field	Meadow
Reverend Charles Rodd (Glebe)	Reverend Charles Rodd (Glebe)	Beriw	877	Lower Sanctuary	Arable
			878	Homer Sanctuary	Pasture
Francis Rodd Esquire	William Dingle	Foos Church Town	1041	Bowns Meadow	Meadow
Elizabeth Colling	Matthew Wevill	Pt Pethins	1042	Home Meadow	Meadow & Pasture
			1043	Garden Sanctuary	Arable
			1044	Garden	Garden
			1045	Garden Sanctuary	Arable
Reverend Charles Rodd (Glebe)	Reverend Charles Rodd (Glebe)	Beriw	1046	Lane	Road
			1047	Fair Park	Arable
Duke of Cornwall & Anne Heydon Adams & the Reverend Thomas Adams Collings	John Coad	Blighs	1047	Fair Park	Arable
Jane Coumbe	Jane Coumbe	Pt Pethens	1048	Fair Park	Meadow
Francis Rodd Esquire	William Dingle	Foos Church Town	1049	High Park	Arable occasional
Reverend Charles Rodd (Glebe)	Reverend Charles Rodd (Glebe)	Beriw	1050	Higher Sanctuary	Arable

2.2.2 OS FIRST & SECOND EDITION MAPS, 1881 AND 1907

The 1st edition OS map shows the field in which the proposed site is located to have been reduced, field boundary to the north cutting the older enclosure into two. The only other point of interest is the path or track shown bisecting the field.



FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE OS FIRST EDITION 25" MAP OF 1883. THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED (CRO).

The 2nd edition OS map is almost identical to the 1st edition, although the garden plot immediately to the south-east is shown as wooded. The field that contains the site, plot 1008, is labelled as *Allotment & Gardens*. However, as the path is shown on the 1st edition map this would suggest the allotments date to before 1883.



FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE SECOND EDITION OS 25" MAP OF 1906. THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED (CRO).

2.3 LATER CHANGES

During the course of the later 20th century the village has expanded out towards the site, with housing in the fields south of the proposed site, as well as to the south-east corner.

3.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

An area of c.0.32ha was the subject of a magnetometry (gradiometer) survey. The purpose of this survey was to identify and record magnetic anomalies within the proposed site. 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 on the 1st of February 2018 by P. Bonvoisin; the survey data was processed by P. Bonvoisin.

3.2 METHODOLOGY

The gradiometer survey follows the general guidance as outlined in: *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (English Heritage 2008) 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. The data was downloaded onto *Grad601 Version 3.16* and processed using *TerraSurveyor Version 3.0.25.0*. 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 +/- 3SD; DeStripe all traverses, median. DeStagger of particular grids.

Details: 0.32005ha surveyed; Max. 112.92nT, Min. -198.42nT; Standard Deviation 22.69nT, mean 0.13nT, median 0.00nT.



FIGURE 5: VIEW ACROSS SITE; VIEW FACING NORTH-WEST.

3.3 SITE INSPECTION

The site comprises the western section of the field bordering Lynher Close. The site is bounded by hedgebanks to the north-west and south-west; these were overgrown and partially degraded but may be stone-faced. The north-eastern side of the field is bounded by modern post-and-wire fencing. The south-east edge of the site is bounded by Lynher close; a possible trackway is visible as a depression running along the south-eastern boundary. Geotechnical test pits were noted on the site, as was HERAS fencing and a metal site cabin. No other earthworks or archaeological features and finds were noted. A full complement of site photographs can be found in Appendix 2.



FIGURE 6: VIEW ACROSS THE SITE, SHOWING THE CHURCH TOWER; VIEW FACING SOUTH-EAST.

3.4 RESULTS

Table 2 with the accompanying Figures 11 and 12 show the analyses and interpretation of the geophysical survey data. Additional graphic images of the survey data and numbered grid locations can be found in Appendix 1.

TABLE 2: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
1	Moderate positive, probable	Linear	Possible ditch	Indicative of a discrete cut feature. Responses of c. +12.08nT to +3.43nT.
2	Moderate positive, probable	Linear	Possible ditch	Indicative of a discrete cut feature. Responses of c. +7.98nT to +2.20nT.
3	Moderate negative with parallel moderate negative, probable	Parallel linears	Possible boundary	Indicative of raised ground with a parallel ditch or cut feature. Responses of c. +8.75nT to -9.73nT.
4	Moderate negative with flanking weak positive	Flanked fragmented linear	Possible raised ground/bank	Indicative of raised ground with flanking ditches or cut features. Responses of c. +4.45nT to -9.37nT.
5	Moderate negative, possible	Parallel linears	Possible ridges	Indicative of raised ground or earthworks. Responses of c. -0.89nT to -7.91nT

Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
6	Moderate mixed, possible	Amorphous area	Possible modern disturbance	Possible cut feature, origin unclear. Responses of c. +12.37nT to -15.00nT.
7	Strong mixed, probable	Amorphous area	Possible test pit	Possibly related to geological test pits, strong responses compared to the rest of the site, indicating modern origin. Responses of c. +17.46nT to -22.10nT.

3.5 DISCUSSION

The survey identified seven groups of anomalies. Cartographic and visual sources supporting the discussion and comments can be found in the desk-based appraisal above.

Groups 1 (+12.08nT to +3.43nT) and 2 (+7.98nT to +2.20nT) are moderate positive linear anomalies, indicative of discrete linear cut features such as ditches.

Group 3 (+8.75nT to -9.73nT) is a moderate parallel positive and negative linear anomaly; indicative of a raised and cut feature, such as a boundary.

Group 4 (+4.45nT to -9.37nT) is a fragmented moderate negative linear anomaly, bordered by fragmented weak positive linear anomalies. Indicative of a raised feature or earthwork with parallel cut features, such as a boundary.

Group 5 (-0.89nT to -7.91nT) are parallel moderate negative linear anomalies. The bulk of the area covered by these anomalies presents a low response, indicating that these features are relatively ephemeral.

Group 6 (+12.37nT to -15.00nT) is a moderate mixed amorphous area anomaly, possible cut feature with raised ground to the side. The high readings compared to the rest of the site and its amorphous form would suggest that this anomaly may represent modern disturbance. This would match with the occasional areas of disturbed ground that were present within the site.

Group 7 (+17.46nT to -22.10nT) are moderate to strong mixed anomalies, likely representing the positions of geological test pits that were noted on site.

Di-polar anomalies and areas of magnetic disturbance were also recorded across the site. Magnetic disturbance is mostly associated with metallic features around the boundaries of the site, such as metallic fencing and the site hut. The di-polar anomalies within the site appear associated with anomaly groups 1 and 2 and may represent ferrous material within buried or infilled features.

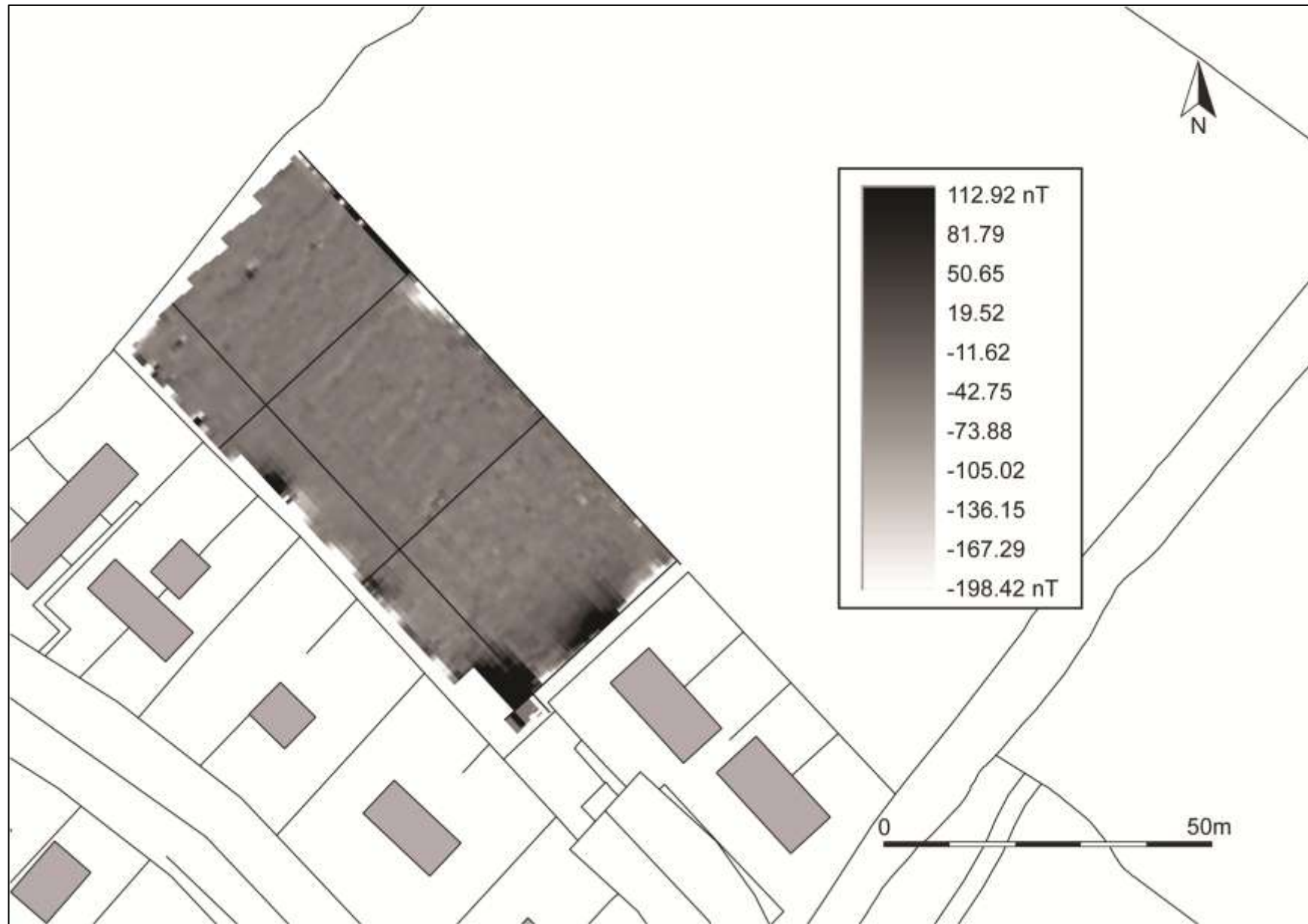


FIGURE 7: SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; MINIMAL PROCESSING.

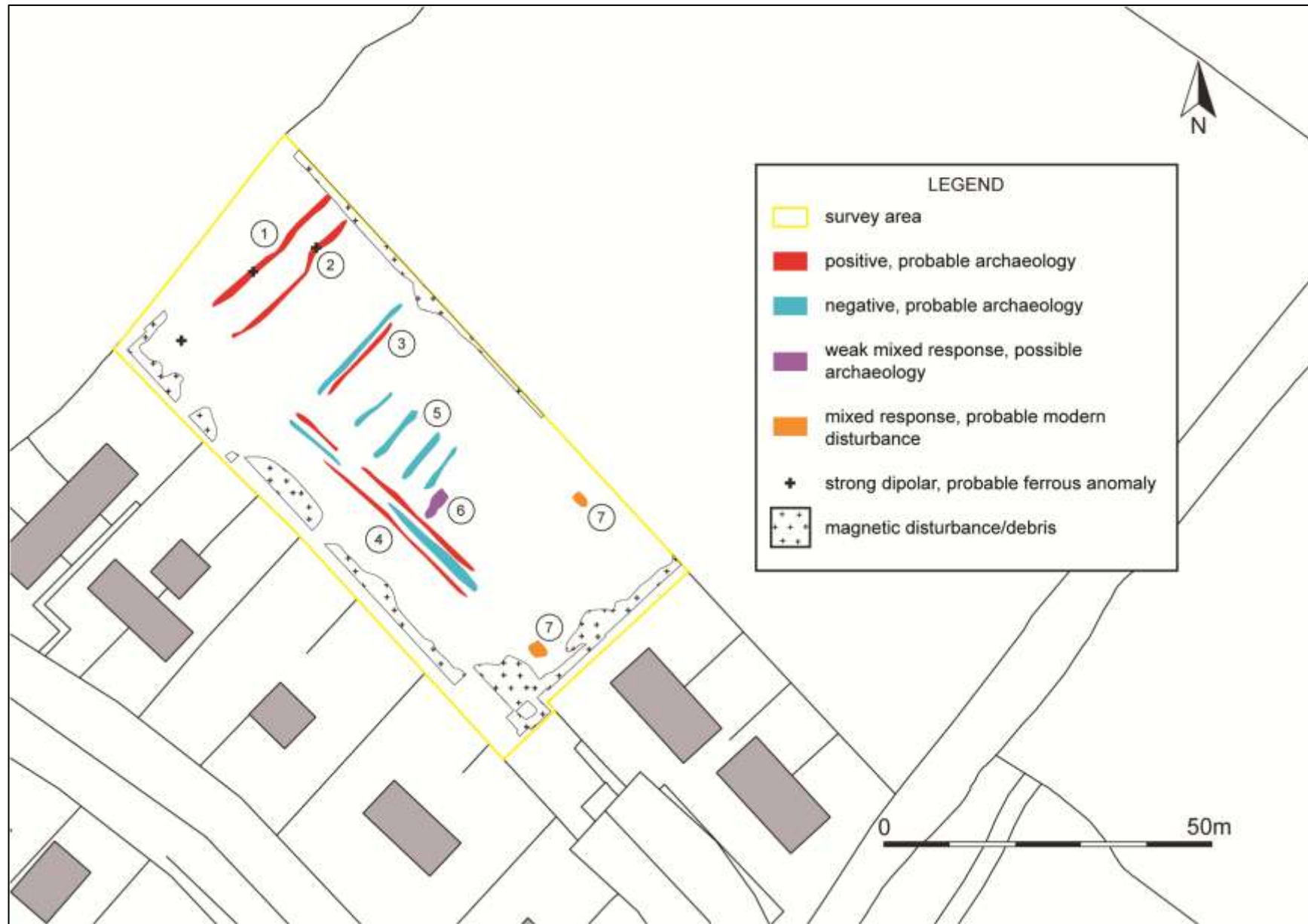


FIGURE 8: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The site is located in the parish of North Hill, a short distance north-west of the medieval core of the village. The documentary evidence indicated the site formed part of a single larger agricultural field before the mid to late 19th century. This field was subdivided between 1841 and 1883, with the western half allocated to allotments and gardens. In 1841 this field formed part of the Glebe attached to the church; this relationship presumably accounts for the otherwise rather unusual field-name element *sanctuary*.

The geophysical survey identified several potential archaeological features on this site. These features are all orientated parallel or perpendicular to the historic field boundaries, and probably relate to the allotment gardens noted on the historic OS maps. The results of the archaeological appraisal and geophysical survey would suggest that the archaeological potential of the site is *medium*, but given the probable post-medieval and modern origins of these anomalies, further archaeological works are unlikely to produce particularly meaningful results.

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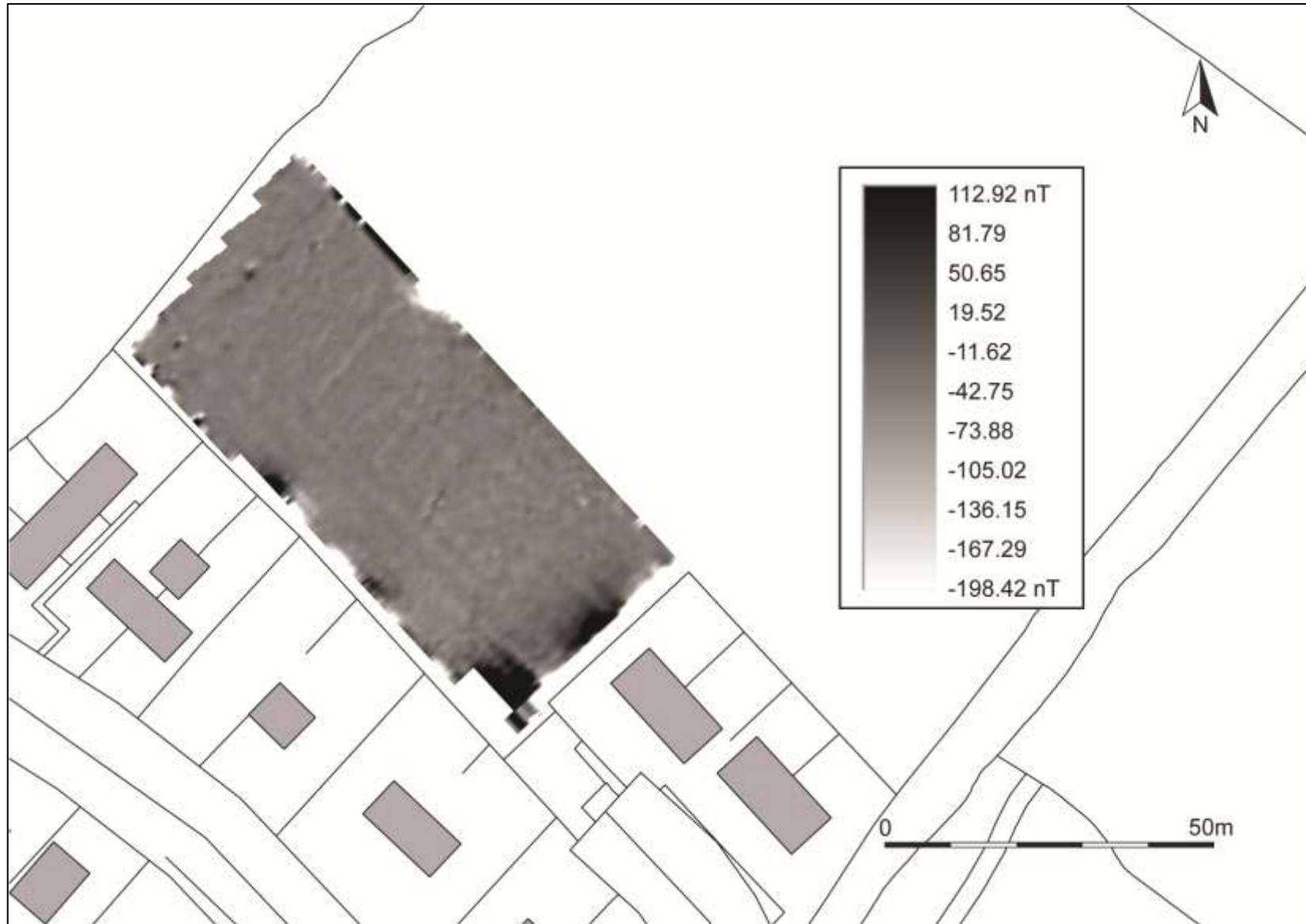
Cornwall Record Office

- North Hill tithe map and apportionment 1841
Ordnance Survey First Edition 25 Inch Map
Ordnance Survey Second Edition 25 Inch Map

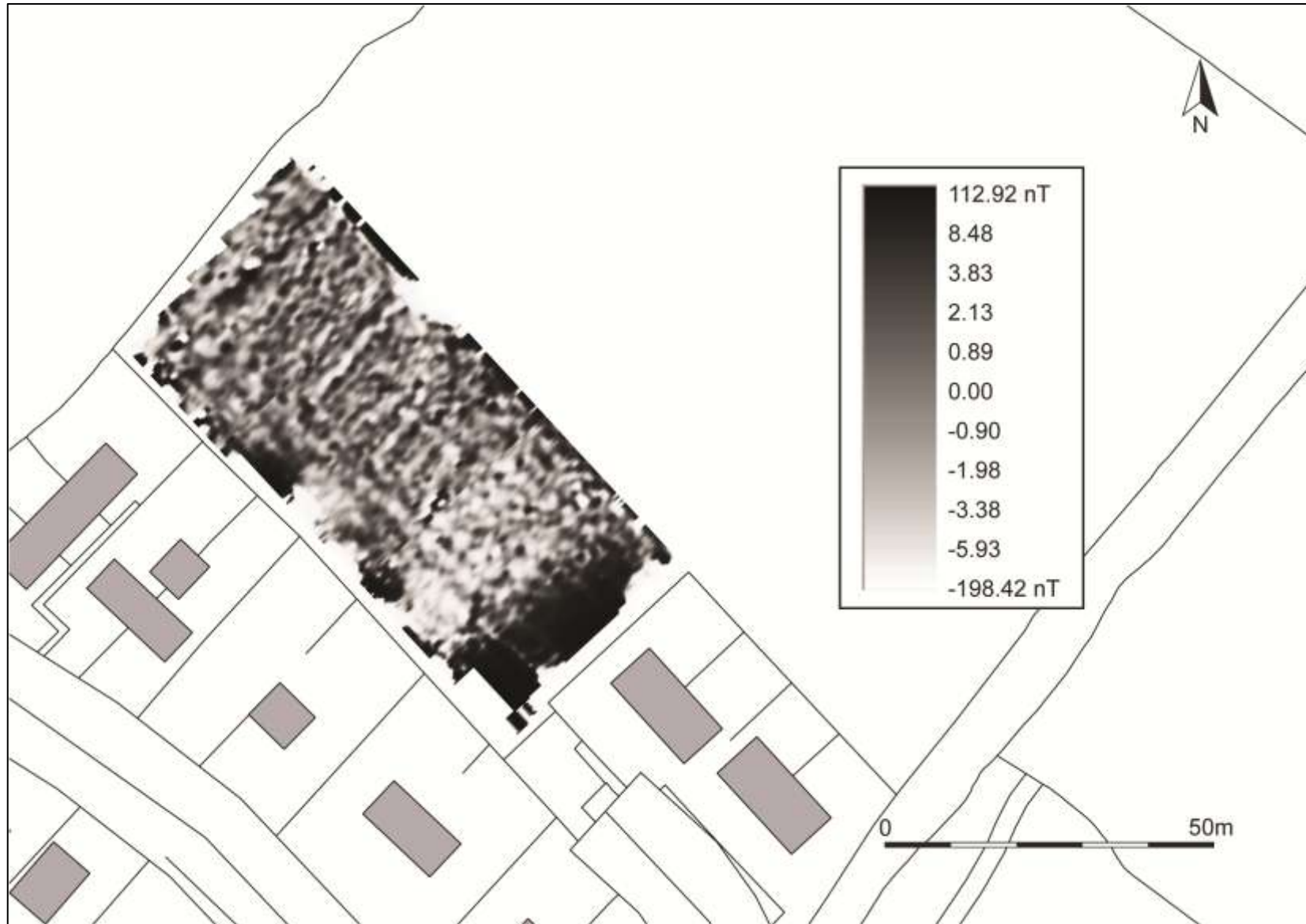
APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL GRAPHICAL IMAGES OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY



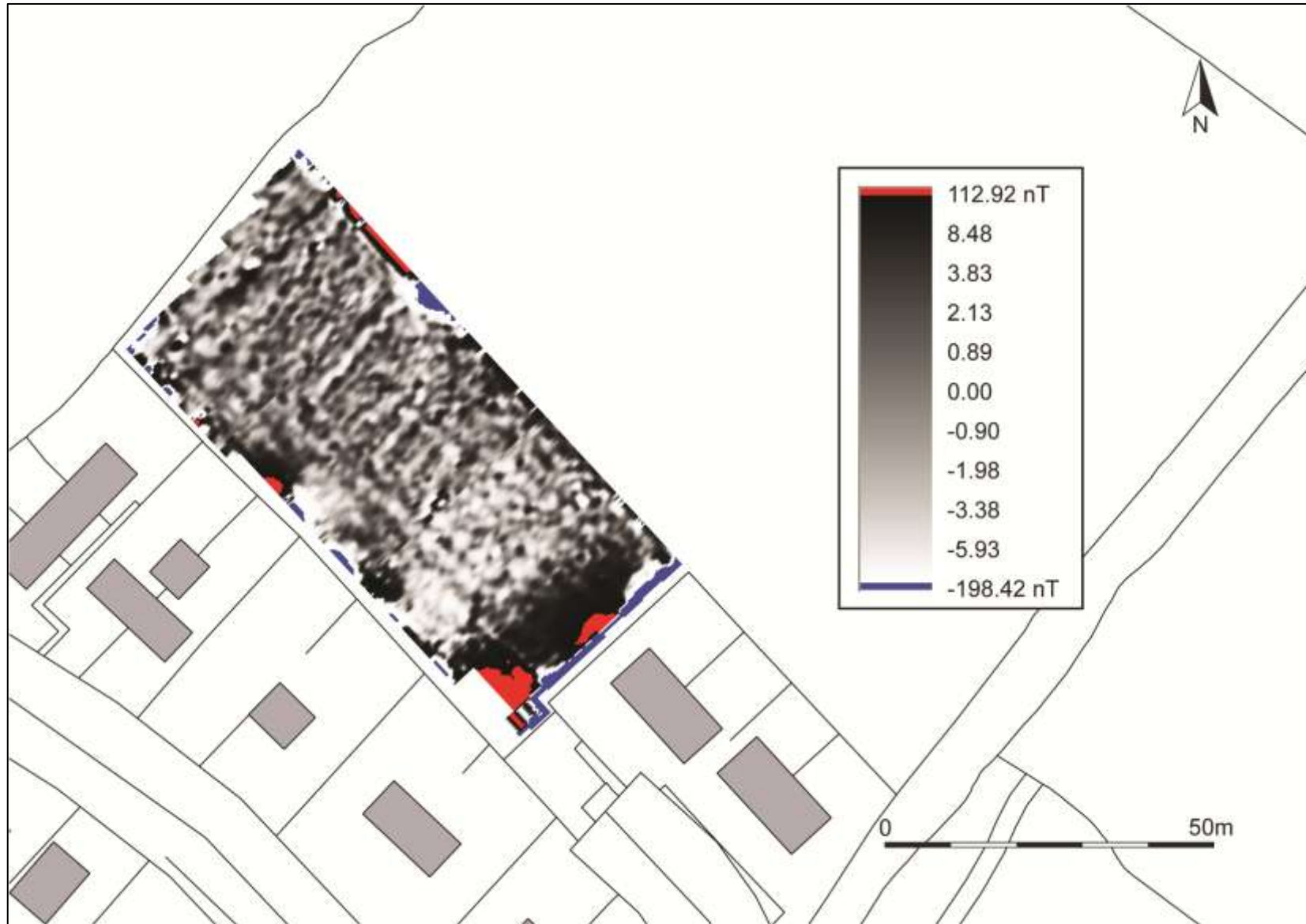
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY GRID LOCATION AND NUMBERING.



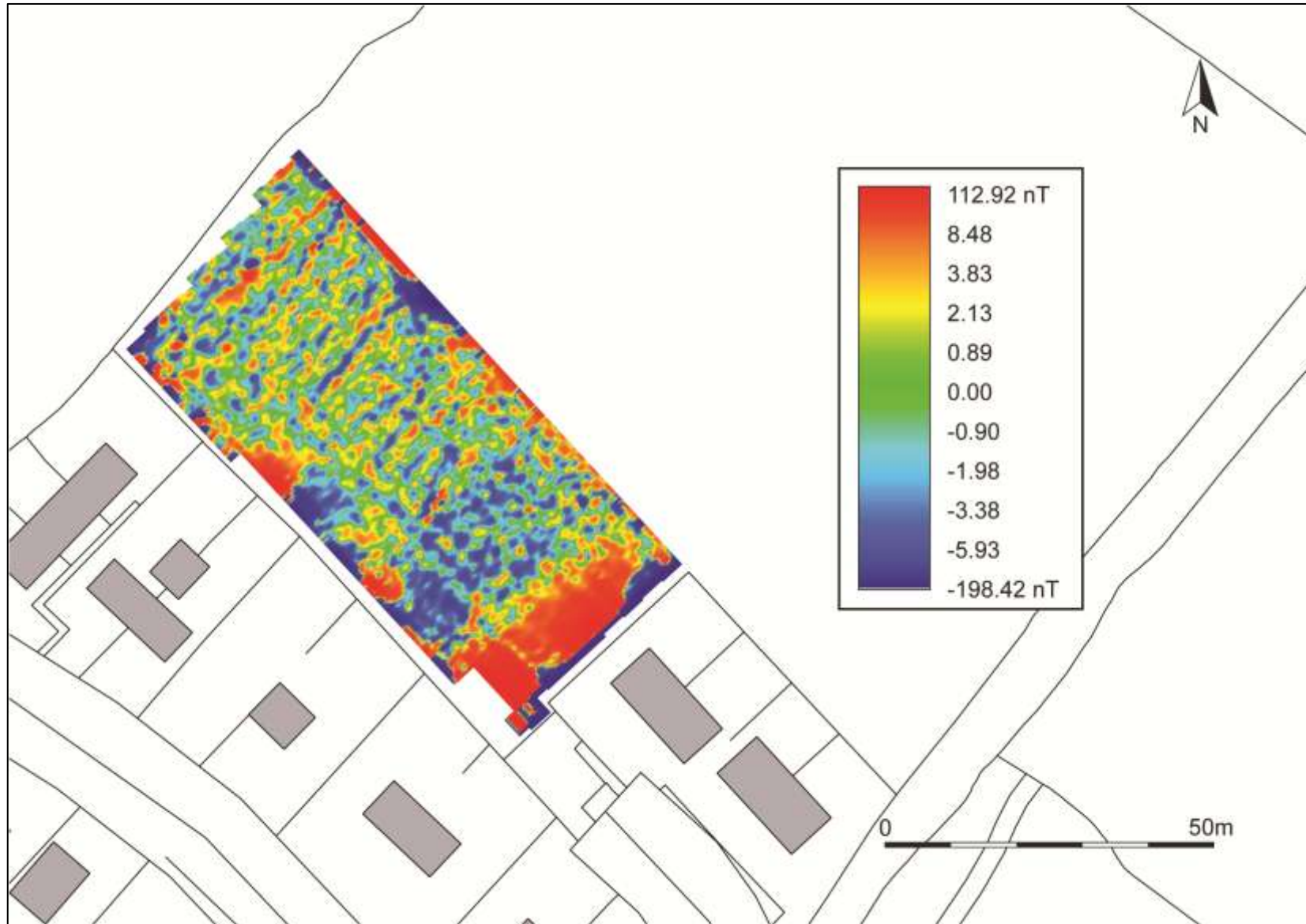
SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; GRADIATED SHADING.



SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; GRADIATED SHADING; BAND WEIGHT EQUALISED.



RED GREYSCALE BLUE SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; GRADIATED SHADING; BAND WEIGHT EQUALISED.



RED-BLUE-GREEN (2) SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; GRADIATED SHADING; BAND WEIGHT EQUALISED.

APPENDIX 2: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS: SITE INSPECTION



THE SOUTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SITE, SHOWING THE POSSIBLE TRACKWAY RUNNING PARALLEL TO THE BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (SCALE 1M).



THE SOUTH-WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



THE GEOTECHNICAL TEST PIT NEAR THE SOUTH CORNER OF THE SITE (SCALE 1M).



THE NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



THE GEOTECHNICAL TEST PIT PART WAY ALONG THE NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SITE (SCALE 1M).



THE NORTH-WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (SCALE 1M).



THE NORTH-WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 1M).



THE WESTERN CORNER OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (SCALE 1M).



THE SOUTH-WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST. THE TOWER OF THE CHURCH IS VISIBLE OVER THE GARDENS.



THE SOUTHERN CORNER OF THE SITE, SHOWING THE SITE CABIN AND HERAS FENCING.



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