

LAND AT STEVENTON ROAD

DRAYTON

ABINGDON

OXFORDSHIRE

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment and Geophysical Survey



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 180823



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Land at Steventon Road, Drayton, Abingdon, Oxfordshire Results of a Desk-Based Assessment and Geophysical Survey

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10th September 2018

Work undertaken by SWARCH for Aardvark EM
On Behalf of Enso Energy (the Clients)

SUMMARY

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Aardvark EM Ltd. (the Agent) on behalf of Enso Energy (the Clients) to undertake a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey for land at Steventon Road, Drayton, Abingdon, as part of the pre-application works required for the development of a gas peaking station.

The proposed site is located towards the southern edge of the parish- and village of Drayton, a Domesday Manor, on land that was enclosed in the 19th century, although may have been subject to medieval and later agricultural practices accounting for ridge and furrow earthworks within the landscape. The landscape surrounding the site includes a variety of archaeological sites and assets from a range of periods including cropmarks; Bronze Age pottery findspots; Romano-British settlements and field systems and Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings.

The geophysical survey identified very little in the way of obviously significant potential archaeological features; although possible pits and anomalies associated with earthworks that were visible on the ground and from LiDAR data may be of significance in understanding the pre-19th century enclosed agricultural landscape. The geophysical survey also identified modern services.

Despite the relatively bland geophysical survey results the overall archaeological potential of the site is high. Previous field work conducted at Abingdon Road reported that previous geophysical survey did not identify all features later identified in fieldwork. It is likely that any buried archaeological resource may have been partially or fully truncated by agricultural activity. Given the geophysical survey results but high archaeological potential of the area it seems most appropriate for any further mitigation to be in the form of conditioned watching brief.



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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of South West Archaeology Ltd. and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information available at the time of production.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	LAND AT STEVENTON ROAD
PARISH:	DRAYTON
DISTRICT:	ABINGDON
COUNTY:	OXFORDSHIRE
NGR:	SU 47325 93398
PLANNING NO.	PRE-APPLICATION
SWARCH REF.	DASR18

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Aardvark EM Ltd. (the Agent) on behalf of Enso Energy (the Clients) to undertake a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey for land at Steventon Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire, as part of the pre-application works required for the development of a gas peaking station. This work was undertaken in accordance with best practice and ClfA guidelines, a project design (PD) for the geophysical survey was produced in consultation with Hugh Coddington.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located on agricultural land just off the A34, close to its crossing over the B4017, approximately 750m south west of Drayton and 1.4km north of Steventon in the parish of Drayton at approximately 59m AOD. The soils of this area are the well drained fine and coarse loamy soils of the Sutton 1 Association (SSEW 1983). The bedrock of this area is formed by the mudstones of the Gault formation with superficial deposits of sand and gravel recorded of the Summertown-Radley sand and gravel member (BGS 2018).

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed site is located towards the southern edge of the parish of Drayton, formerly in the county of Berkshire until 1974. Drayton did not become an ecclesiastical parish until 1867, having previously been a dependency of St Helens, Abingdon (VCH 1924). At Domesday Drayton was divided into two parts held by Ednod from Harold and Godwin from the King respectively. An inclosure act was passed affecting Drayton in 1810-11 (VCH 1924). The place-name of Drayton is derived from the Old English *dræg* and *tūn* meaning 'settlement at a portage or where loads have to be dragged' (Watts 2004), probably associated with trade along the River Thames. *Steventon*, to the south of the proposed site was also formerly located within Berkshire. It was enclosed in 1885 and was the last place on the Berkshire Downs to move away from the old system of agriculture (VCH 1924). It had a railway station on the Great Western Railway which opened in 1840 and closed in the mid twentieth century. Steventon is surrounded by brooks and ditches, the Mere Dike running closest to the proposed development site. The manor of Steventon passed from Harold to the King at Domesday and was given by Henry I to the abbey of Bec in Normandy and passed through grant to Westminster Abbey until the dissolution. Henry VIII granted the manor to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster who retained possession until 1869 when it was transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (VCH 1924).

1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Archaeological work in the surrounding area has demonstrated the high archaeological potential of this area from the Prehistoric to Post Medieval periods. Extensive Anglo Saxon activity is known in the area, particularly around Sutton Courtenay where sunken featured buildings

(grubenhauser) were excavated by notable Anglo-Saxon scholar E.T. Leeds in the 1920-30s. Further structures in this area have subsequently been discovered and some excavation has taken place. Other archaeological work in the vicinity of the site has revealed boundary features from the Bronze Age to the Anglo Saxon periods at Manor Farm, Drayton to the north of the site (EOX1628). A Romano-British settlement and field system was uncovered during evaluation trenching for the Abingdon Reservoir site (EOX911) to the west of the proposed development site. During evaluation trenching at Halls Close, north of the site, evidence of human activity from the Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post Medieval periods was uncovered (EOX6172). The Oxfordshire HER identifies a possible grubenhaus within the field of the proposed development and a Romano-British settlement and field system with evidence of earlier Iron Age activity just to the north-west.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

This work was undertaken in accordance with best practice. The desk-based assessment follows the guidance as outlined in: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (CIfA 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* (CIfA 2014b).

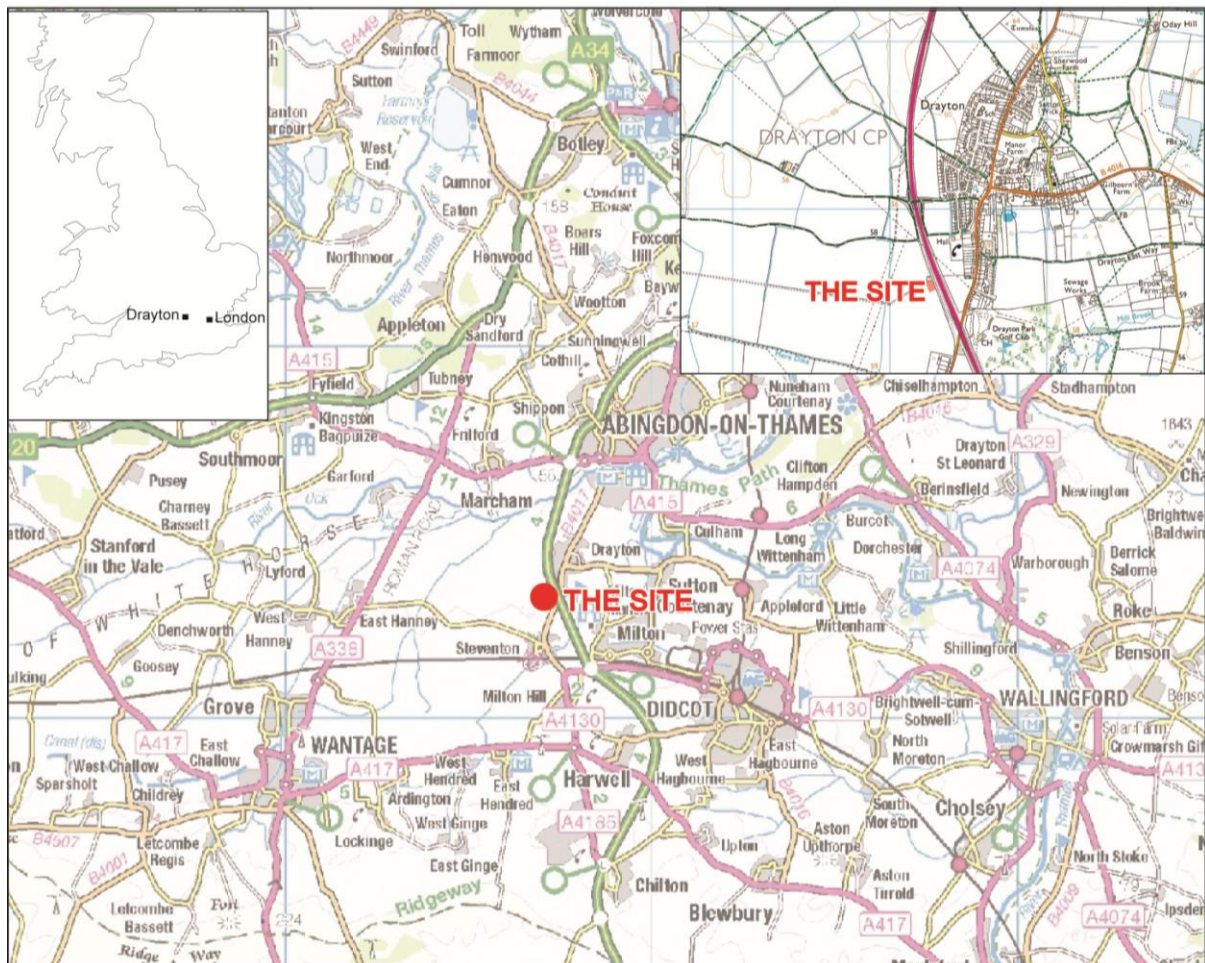


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

2.0 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.1 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

The proposed site is located towards the southern edge of the parish of Drayton, formerly in the county of Berkshire until 1974. Drayton (historically known as Draigtun, Draitune, Draiton and Drettun) did not become an ecclesiastical parish until 1867, having previously been a dependency of St Helens, Abingdon (VCH 1924). In the AD950's the king granted land in Drayton to a thegn, Eadwold, who passed the land on to Abingdon Abbey on his death, although by 983 it seems that the manor was held by the king, of which he gave half to a Wulfgar (VCH 1924). At Domesday Drayton was divided into two parts held by Ednod from Harold and Godwin from the King respectively. The former became the manor of West Drayton (VCH 1924). There is a reference to Drayton Wik in 1291. An inclosure act was passed affecting Drayton in 1810-11 (VCH 1924). The place-name of Drayton is derived from the Old English *dræg* and *tūn* meaning 'settlement at a portage or where loads have to be dragged' (Watts 2004), probably associated with trade along the River Thames. *Steventon*, to the south of the proposed site was also formerly located within Berkshire and historically known as Stiventune, Estiventona, Stiveton, Stivington, Estiventon, Stuvinton, Steveington and Stephyngton. It was enclosed in 1885 and was the last place on the Berkshire Downs to move away from the old system of agriculture (VCH 1924). It had a railway station on the Great Western Railway which opened in 1840 and closed in the mid twentieth century. Steventon is surrounded by brooks and ditches, the Mere Dike running closest to the proposed development site. The manor of Steventon passed from Harold to the King at Domesday and was given by Henry I to the abbey of Bec in Normandy and passed through grant to Westminster Abbey until the dissolution. Henry VIII granted the manor to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster who retained possession until 1869 when it was transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (VCH 1924).

2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

The first cartographic source available to this study is the 1811 Ordnance Survey (OS) surveyor's draft map of the Wantage area (Figure 2). The area of the site is shown as a large open field defined by winding boundary tracks to its north and south, with relatively little development at the south end of Drayton. The wider field scape of post-medieval enclosure within open field systems is notable on this map.



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE 1811 ORDNANCE SURVEY SURVEYOR'S DRAFT MAP (BL).

An enclosure map for Drayton from 1815 shows the numerous subdivisions of the arable land. The site is shown within a relatively large open field, Plot No.2, which was owned by a Sir George Jerningham, Baronet and later Baron of Stafford.

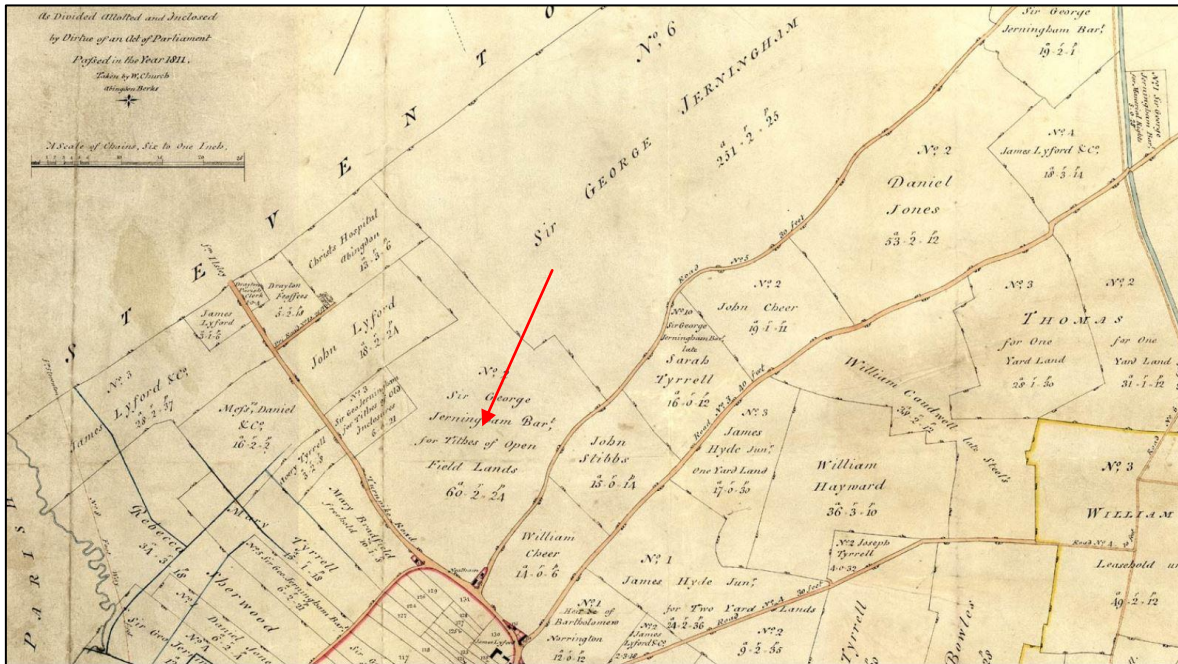


FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE 1815 DRAYTON ENCLOSURE MAP (DRAYTON VILLAGE).

The Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st and 2nd edition maps (Figures 4 and 5, respectively) show that some divisions of land as shown on the 1815 enclosure map survived into the 20th century, such as the western boundary of the field in which the site is located, although many of the divisions have been lost and the fields opened. The most significant change concerning the site is the presence of a structure and track way that will come to define the north corner of the site.

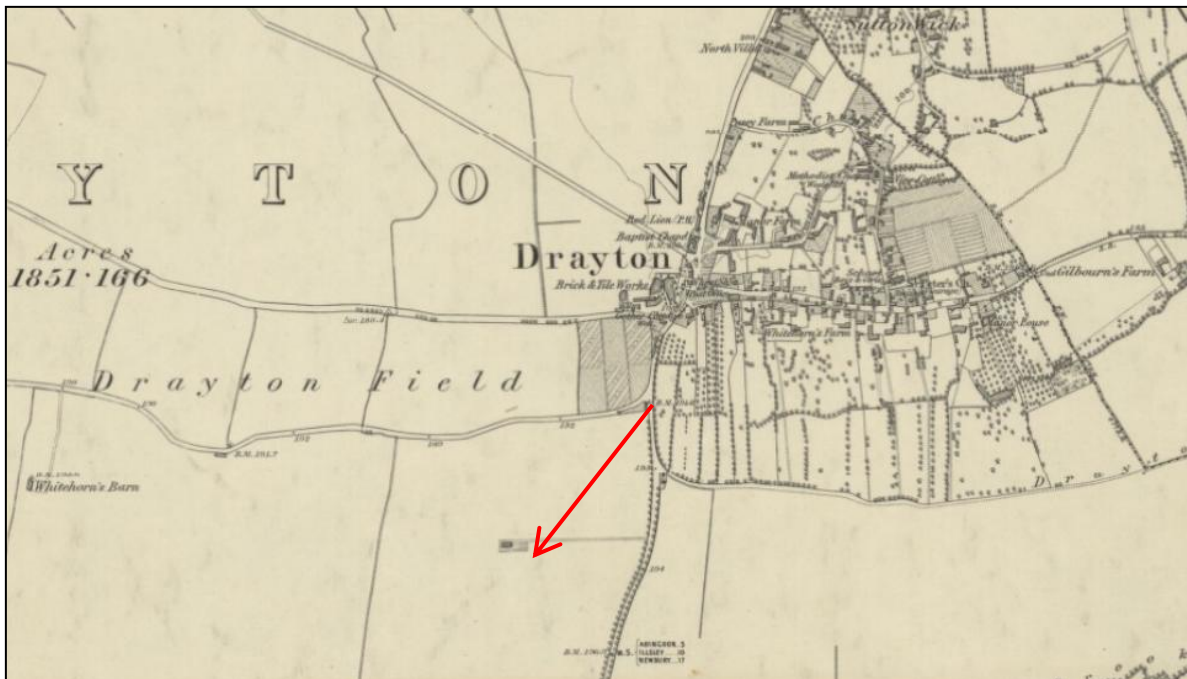


FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE OS 6 INCH MAP, PUBLISHED 1883 (SURVEYED 1875). THE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.

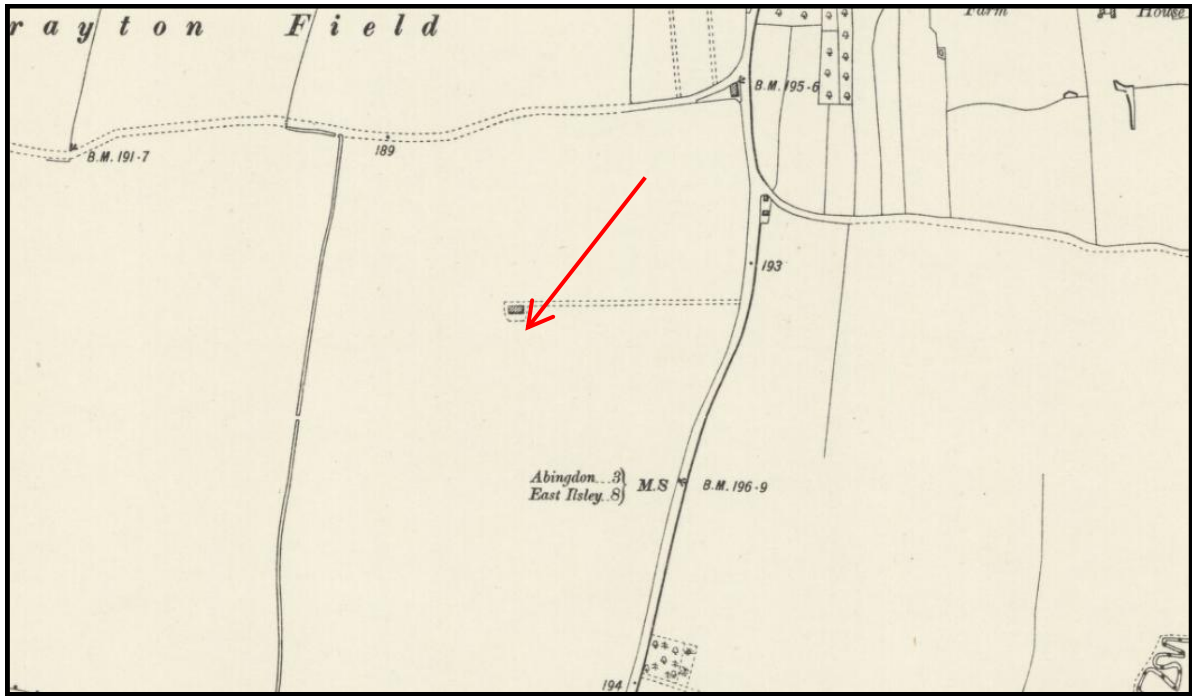


FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE OS 6 INCH MAP, PUBLISHED 1900 (SURVEYED 1898). THE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.

Later significant changes to the site through the 20th century include the encroachment of Drayton from the north towards the site; but most considerably, the construction of the A34, forming the north-eastern boundary of the site and the development of a track way leading west towards *Drayton Copse* forming the north-west boundary of the site. An electricity sub-station was also built in the later 20th century to the south-west of the site, north of Steventon.

2.3 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND LIDAR IMAGERY

A 2009 aerial photograph (Figure 7) shows the cropmarks of relict field boundaries and ridge and furrow in the same field as the proposed gas peaking station. These same features, along with more detailed aspects of possible enclosures and or track ways or substantial boundaries are also visible on LiDAR imagery (Figure 6).



FIGURE 6: LIDAR IMAGE OF THE SITE SHOWING RIDGE AND FURROW AND RELICT BOUNDARIES. THIS IS A QGIS-GENERATED IMAGE (HILLSHADE 315_35_1) OF ENVIRONMENT AGENCY SURVEY DATA © ENVIRONMENT AGENCY COPYRIGHT AND/OR DATABASE RIGHT 2017. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. THE APPROXIMATE SITE IS INDICATED.



FIGURE 7: 2009 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH; THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS OUTLINED IN YELLOW (© INFOTERRA LTD & BLUESKY).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Archaeological work in the surrounding area has demonstrated the high archaeological potential of this area from the Prehistoric to Post Medieval periods. Extensive Anglo Saxon activity is known in the area, particularly around Sutton Courtenay where sunken featured buildings (grubenhäuser) were excavated by notable Anglo-Saxon scholar E.T. Leeds in the 1920-30s. Further structures in this area have subsequently been discovered and some excavation has taken place. Other archaeological work in the vicinity of the site has revealed boundary features from the Bronze Age to the Anglo Saxon periods at Manor Farm, Drayton, to the north of the site (EOX1628). A Romano-British settlement and field system was uncovered during evaluation trenching for the Abingdon Reservoir site (EOX1911) to the west of the proposed development site. During evaluation trenching at Halls Close, north of the site, evidence of human activity from the Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post Medieval periods (EOX6172). These and other nearby events are listed in Table 2 and depicted in Figure 9. The Oxfordshire HER identifies a possible grubenhaus within the field of the proposed development and a Romano-British settlement and field system with evidence of earlier Iron Age activity just to the north-west.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation classifies the field in which the development sits as part of an enclosure landscape reorganised by the A34 which dissects it, having previously been large prairie type fields. Some cropmark evidence for ridge and furrow was observed in 1999 aerial photographs in this field. The fields to the north of the development are identified as late nineteenth century piecemeal enclosure (Oxfordshire HLC, data supplied by Oxfordshire HER).

There are a number of Listed Buildings within a 1km radius of the development, all within the eastern part of the settlement of Drayton. Two are Grade II* (the Church of St Peter and the Manor House) while the remainder are Grade II listed. There are no Conservation Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Historic Battlefields or World Heritage Sites within 1km of the proposed site. The nearest scheduled monuments are a settlement site *list entry no 1004852* (1.2km), Sutton Wick Settlement Site *list entry no 1003671* (2.2km), Settlement site *list entry no 1004853* (2.3km) and the nearest registered park and garden is Sutton Courtenay Manor Grade II (2.8km).

3.1.1 PREHISTORIC 150,000BC - AD43

A number of prehistoric sites have been identified within 1km of the proposed development site including Prehistoric track ways and pits dating from the later Prehistoric to Saxon periods (MOX10363), a Prehistoric/Roman field system to the south of Drayton (MOX10440) a number of Prehistoric pits (MOX10466; MOX26979) to the north of Drayton as well as a number of multi period pits dating from the Neolithic to Modern periods to the south of Drayton (MOX27010). Prehistoric boundaries (MOX10470; MOX27032) and evidence for Prehistoric settlement are located to the east of the proposed development site (MOX11058). A Mousterian hand axe was discovered to the south of Drayton (MOX475). A Bronze Age food vessel was discovered just to the south of the proposed site (MOX6766) and a Bronze Age inhumation burial and pottery was uncovered to the north west of the site (MOX6771).

3.1.2 ROMAN AD43 – AD410

Three sites from the Roman period have been identified within 1km of the proposed site; a pipeline passed through an early-middle Saxon settlement to the north east of Drayton believed to be part of the field system of the Drop Short Roman Villa estate (MOX23779). Just to the west of the site a Romano-British settlement and field system has been identified (MOX23876) and to the north west of the site Roman pottery has been encountered (MOX6780).

3.1.3 EARLY MEDIEVAL AD410 - AD1066

Archaeological evidence dating to the Saxon period has been uncovered close to the proposed development site, including settlements with grubenhaus including one to the north west of Milton (MOX11071), a possible grubenhaus just to the south west of the proposed site (MOX24726); a Saxon brooch was found close to this location (MOX6770).

3.1.4 MEDIEVAL AD1066 - AD1540

A number of features dating to the Medieval period are recorded in the Oxfordshire HER. These include buildings such as No 12 Manor Farmhouse (MOX10458), The Manor House, Drayton (MOX18886), No 3 Church Lane (MOX20178), No 69 High Street (MOX467). Field systems with ridge and furrow dating to the Medieval period and earlier are recorded to the south west of Drayton (MOX23842; MOX26829). Medieval boundaries and pits have been uncovered to the south of Drayton (MOX26874). The church of St Peter in Drayton, along with its churchyard cross date to the Medieval period (MOX463, MOX466).

3.1.5 POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN AD1540 - PRESENT

A number of the Post Medieval buildings located along the High Street (12 buildings) and Church Lane (6 buildings) in Drayton are Grade II listed. There are two further listed buildings off Gravel Lane. The site of the Drayton Brickworks is located at the western end of the High Street (MOX10419). A Post Medieval milestone is located to the south east of the proposed site along the B4017 (MOX10380).

There are no sites of modern date identified on the Oxfordshire HER within 1km of the proposed site.

3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The distribution of sites and range of periods represented by assets listed within 1km of the site on the Oxfordshire HER would indicate that the landscape around the site was utilised from the Neolithic period onwards. The landscape surrounding the site includes a variety of archaeological sites and assets from a range of periods including cropmarks; Bronze Age pottery findspots; Romano-British settlements and field systems and Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings. Despite ostensible modern ploughing across the site, the relatively recent enclosure of the land/open field system may allude to a reasonable survival of features from truncation; however, historically the landscape has been subject to forms of ploughing that form ridge and furrow features as is evident in aerial imagery. As a whole the archaeological potential of the site is high.

LAND AT STEVENTON ROAD, DRAYTON, ABINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE

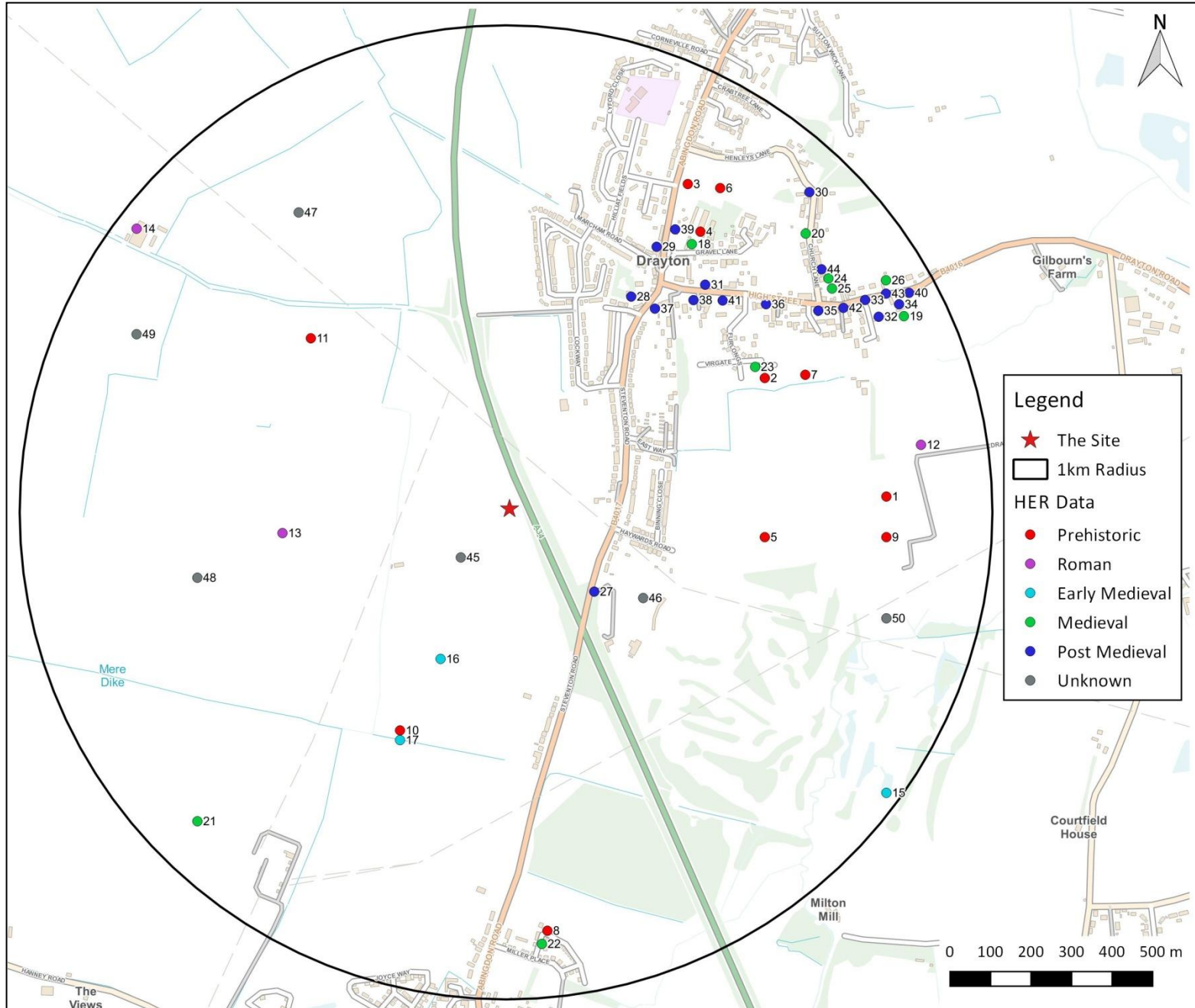


FIGURE 8: MAP OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS. (SOURCE: OXFORDSHIRE HER).

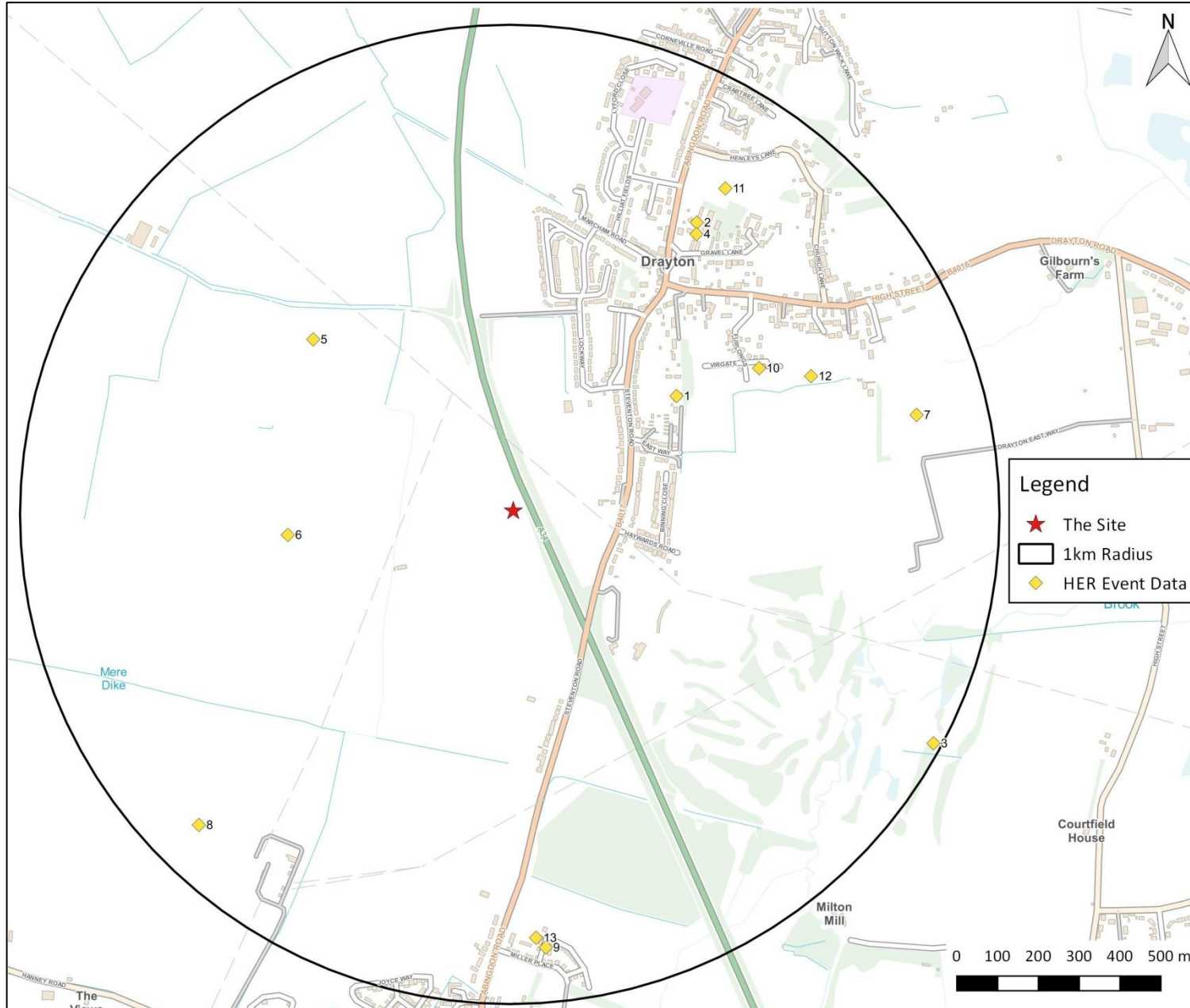


FIGURE 9: MAP OF NEARBY EVENT RECORDS (SOURCE: OXFORDSHIRE HER).

TABLE 1: NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS (SOURCE: OXFORDSHIRE HER).

No.	Mon ID	Name	Record	Designation
1	MOX10363	Later Prehistoric & Saxon Track ways and Pits	Cropmark	
2	MOX10440	Prehistoric/Roman Field System	Cropmark	
3	MOX10466	Prehistoric/Medieval Features, Finds (Manor Farm)	Findspot	
4	MOX10470	Bronze Age to Saxon/Medieval Boundary Ditches at Manor Farm, Drayton	Archaeological Excavation	
5	MOX11058	Possible Late Prehistoric Settlement Complex	Cropmark	
6	MOX26979	Dense spread of archaeological material from both Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon periods	Archaeological Excavation	
7	MOX27010	Multi period pits and ditches from Neolithic to Post Medieval in date	Archaeological Excavation	
8	MOX27032	Later Prehistoric and Roman field systems	Archaeological Excavation	
9	MOX475	Mousterian Hand axe	Findspot	
10	MOX6766	Bronze Age Food Vessel	Findspot	
11	MOX6771	Romano British Burial and Pottery	Findspot	
12	MOX23779	Early-Middle Saxon/Medieval Settlement, High Street	Archaeological Excavation	
13	MOX23876	Romano-British settlement and Field system with middle Iron Age activity	Cropmark	
14	MOX6780	Roman Pottery and Other Material	Findspot	
15	MOX11071	Cropmarked Settlement Complex NW of Milton: Grubenhauser	Cropmark	
16	MOX24726	Possible Anglo Saxon grubenhauser at Site 36/37, SW of Drayton (Cleeve to Fyfield Water Main)	Archaeological Excavation	
17	MOX6770	Saxon Brooch	Findspot	
18	MOX10458	No 1 and Attached Barn & Outbuilding, Gravel Lane	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
19	MOX18886	THE MANOR HOUSE, HIGH STREET	Extant Structure	Grade II* Listed
20	MOX20178	NO 3 (OLDENHOLME), CHURCH LANE	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
21	MOX23842	Medieval and earlier field systems	Cropmark	
22	MOX26829	Medieval Ridge and Furrow, Abingdon Road	Geophysical Survey	
23	MOX26874	Medieval occupation features	Archaeological Excavation	
24	MOX463	Church of St Peter, Church Lane	Extant Structure	Grade II* Listed
25	MOX466	Medieval Churchyard Cross, Church of St Peter, Church Lane	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
26	MOX467	No 69, High Street	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
27	MOX10380	Milestone	Extant Structure	
28	MOX10419	Drayton Brickworks (site of)	Documentary	
29	MOX10422	Baptist Church, The Green	Extant Structure	
30	MOX10423	Former Methodist Chapel	Extant Structure	
31	MOX18885	NO 3 (THE OLD POUND), HIGH STREET	Extant Structure	
32	MOX18887	BARN APPROXIMATELY 35 METRES WEST SOUTH WEST OF THE MANOR HOUSE, HIGH STREET	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
33	MOX18888	BARN APPROXIMATELY 55 METRES NORTH WEST OF THE MANOR HOUSE, HIGH STREET	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
34	MOX18889	SUMMERHOUSE APPROXIMATELY 15 METRES NORTH OF THE MANOR HOUSE, HIGH STREET	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
35	MOX18890	No 44 High Street	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
36	MOX18891	NO 30 (MAGPIE COTTAGE), HIGH STREET	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
37	MOX18893	NUMBER 15 AND ATTACHED STABLE BLOCK, THE GREEN	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed

38	MOX19288	NO 20 (POND HOUSE), HIGH STREET	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
39	MOX19289	NO 12 (MANOR FARMHOUSE), THE GREEN	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
40	MOX19303	FORE COURT WALLS APPROXIMATELY 20 METRES NORTH OF THE MANOR HOUSE WITH CENTRAL GATES AND GATEPIERS, HIGH STREET	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
41	MOX19304	No 24 High Street	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
42	MOX19726	Nos 56 & 58 High Street	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
43	MOX20229	WATER STANDPIPE, HIGH STREET	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed
44	MOX465	St Peter's Vicarage and School (site of)	Documentary	
45	MOX10441	Undated Linear Features	Cropmark	
46	MOX10442	Undated Linear Features	Cropmark	
47	MOX10452	Undated Banks	Cropmark/Earthwork	
48	MOX10453	Undated Linear Feature	Cropmark	
49	MOX10454	Undated Linear Feature	Cropmark	
50	MOX418	Pits within Drayton Cropmark Complex		

TABLE 2: NEARBY EVENT RECORDS (SOURCE: OXFORDSHIRE HER).

No.	EVUID	Event name	Details
1	EOX355	17 Eastway	Watching brief of two house plots revealed no archaeological deposits, features or finds. Oxford Archaeological Unit
2	EOX641	Manor Farm	Excavation. Thames Valley Archaeological Services
3	EOX666	Drayton Golf Course Extension	Watching brief and evaluation revealed no archaeological deposits, features or finds. Trust for Wessex Archaeology
4	EOX1628	Excavations at Manor Farm, Drayton, Oxfordshire	Excavation revealed Bronze Age to Anglo-Saxon boundary features. Oxford Archaeology
5	EOX1900	Archaeological Evaluation of Site 102	Drayton. Geophysics survey and trenching. Cotswold Archaeology
6	EOX1911	Evaluation of Abingdon Reservoir Site 411	Evaluation revealed Romano-British settlement and field system. Oxford Archaeological Unit
7	EOX2690	LINEAR Sewer Pipe, High Street	Watching brief of sewer pipe. John Moore Heritage Services
8	EOX2888	Evaluation in Plot 412	Steventon. Trial trenching targeting linear crop features. Oxford Archaeology
9	EOX5836	Archaeological Geophysical Survey at Abingdon Road	Revealed furrows and ridge and furrow. Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA)
10	EOX5934	Land South of High Street	Evaluation revealed medieval and post-medieval features and residual Anglo-Saxon pottery. Oxford Archaeology
11	EOX6126	Land at Manor Farm	Evaluation revealed two phases of activity; late post-medieval boundary features. Thames Valley Archaeological Services
12	EOX6172	Land at Halls Close	Evaluation revealed Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval. Cotswold Archaeology
13	EOX6187	Land at Abingdon Road	Evaluation revealed land drains and furrows depicted on a geophysical survey and also ditch features that did not appear on a geophysical survey. Cotswold Archaeology

4.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

An area of c.1.0ha 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 31st August 2018 by P. Bonvoisin; the survey data was processed by P. Bonvoisin.

4.2 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: 0.9638ha surveyed; Max. 109.14nT, Min. -156.00nT; Standard Deviation 11.99, mean -0.47nT, median 0.00nT.

4.3 SITE INSPECTION

The site was comprised of the north corner of a single large field that had been recently ploughed (Figures 10 and 11). The site was relatively level and the field-scape appeared to be subject to substantial amounts of drainage. Broad linear earthworks of ridges and dips were visible running south from the north-west boundary of the site, within the survey area; and west from the north-east boundary of the site, just south of the survey area. These ridges were noticeable in the wider field-scape. A well consolidated gravel track way lined the north-east and north-west boundaries of the site with a wooden fence and tree lined verge along the north-east boundary of the site, against the A34 and a copse of trees beyond the track in the north corner of the site. A full complement of site photographs can be found in Appendix 2.



FIGURE 10: VIEW ACROSS THE NORTH-WEST END OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



FIGURE 11: VIEW ACROSS THE NORTH-EAST END OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).

4.4 RESULTS

Table 3 with the accompanying Figures 12 and 13 shows the analysis 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 3: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
1	Weak-moderate positive, possible	Ovoid	Pit or Tree-throw	Indicative of a cut feature, such as a pit or tree-through. Undated. Response of c.+9nT to +13nT.
2	Weak positive, probable	Fragmented linear	Agricultural topography (ridge and furrow)	Indicative of a band of built-up material and possible shallower topsoil that corresponds to a ridge / topographic feature that was visible on the ground. Undated. Associated with Group 3. Response of c.+1nT to +3nT.
3	Weak positive, possible	Fragmented linear	Agricultural topography (ridge and furrow)	Comparable- and parallel to Group 2 anomaly. A comparable ridge on this alignment could be seen immediately south of the survey area. Response of c.+1nT.
4	Weak positive and negative, probable	Linear	Agricultural activity: Plough scars	Narrow and dense alternate response linear features indicative of modern ploughing and ostensibly cutting other groups. Response of +/-1nT.
5	Strong bipolar, probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of a modern metallic service pipe, possibly a gas main. Responses of c.+81nT to c.-152nT.
6	Moderate-strong bipolar, probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of a modern service, possibly a very small/deep metallic service, possibly small electric service or possible thermo remnant deposit. Responses of c.+21nT to c.-25nT.

4.5 DISCUSSION

The survey identified six groups of anomalies most of which relate to modern services or agricultural activity. The survey indicates that modern services run along the north-west boundary of the site and that ploughing will have truncated (to an unknown degree) any buried archaeological resource. Two possible pits and linear anomalies associated with visible earthworks were identified in the survey.

The generally weak responses of anomalies recorded in this analysis may indicate a degree of truncation or more likely the geological nature of the anomalies and their natural origins. Two possible pits with weak responses may be natural features: similar anomalies were too weak to represent more than geological variation. The weak nature of the anomalies that correspond to topographical/earthwork features may indicate their presence within the topsoil but perhaps not as deep cut feature.

Group 1, are two weak-moderate positive (+9nT to +13nT) ovoid anomalies indicative of cut features such as pits or tree-throws. Their weak response may indicate a natural origin and their alignment with other anomaly groups (Groups 3 and 4) may indicate their association with agricultural activity.

Group 2 is a weak positive (+1nT to +3nT) fragmented linear response that corresponds to an earthwork that was visible on the ground during the survey and on LiDAR imagery. This anomaly may be associated with a historic field system or enclosure defined on satellite and LiDAR images or may be associated with agricultural practices similar to those that form ridge and furrow. It could be associated with Group 3, where a possible amorphous pit-like anomaly is located at their confluence.

Group 3 is a weak positive (+1nT to +3nT) fragmented linear response that corresponds to an earthwork that is visible on LiDAR imagery. This anomaly may be associated with a historic field system or enclosure defined on satellite and LiDAR images or may be associated with agricultural practices similar to those that form ridge and furrow. It could be associated with Group 2, where a possible amorphous pit-like anomaly is located at their confluence.

Group 4 are the narrow and densely packed parallel negative and positive responses indicative of modern ploughing; with a response within the parameters of the underlying geology, ± 1 nT. These appeared to cut other anomaly Groups 2 and 3 and also occur in multiple, although approximately north-south directions. This group may obscure, subsume or include aspects of ridge and furrow signatures.

Groups 5 and 6 are bipolar responses indicative of modern, usually metallic services. Group 5 had a response of between +81nT and -152nT and is comparable to the response of a metallic pipe, such as a gas main. Group 6 had a response of $c. \pm 25$ nT and could represent a smaller service for electric, a small deep metallic service or a thermo remnant deposit such as a highly fired ceramic pipe. The Group 6 anomaly possibly continues along the north-east boundary of the site, accounting for the response of magnetic disturbance or debris along that part of the site; although it could be accounted for by material associated with the track way along that boundary.

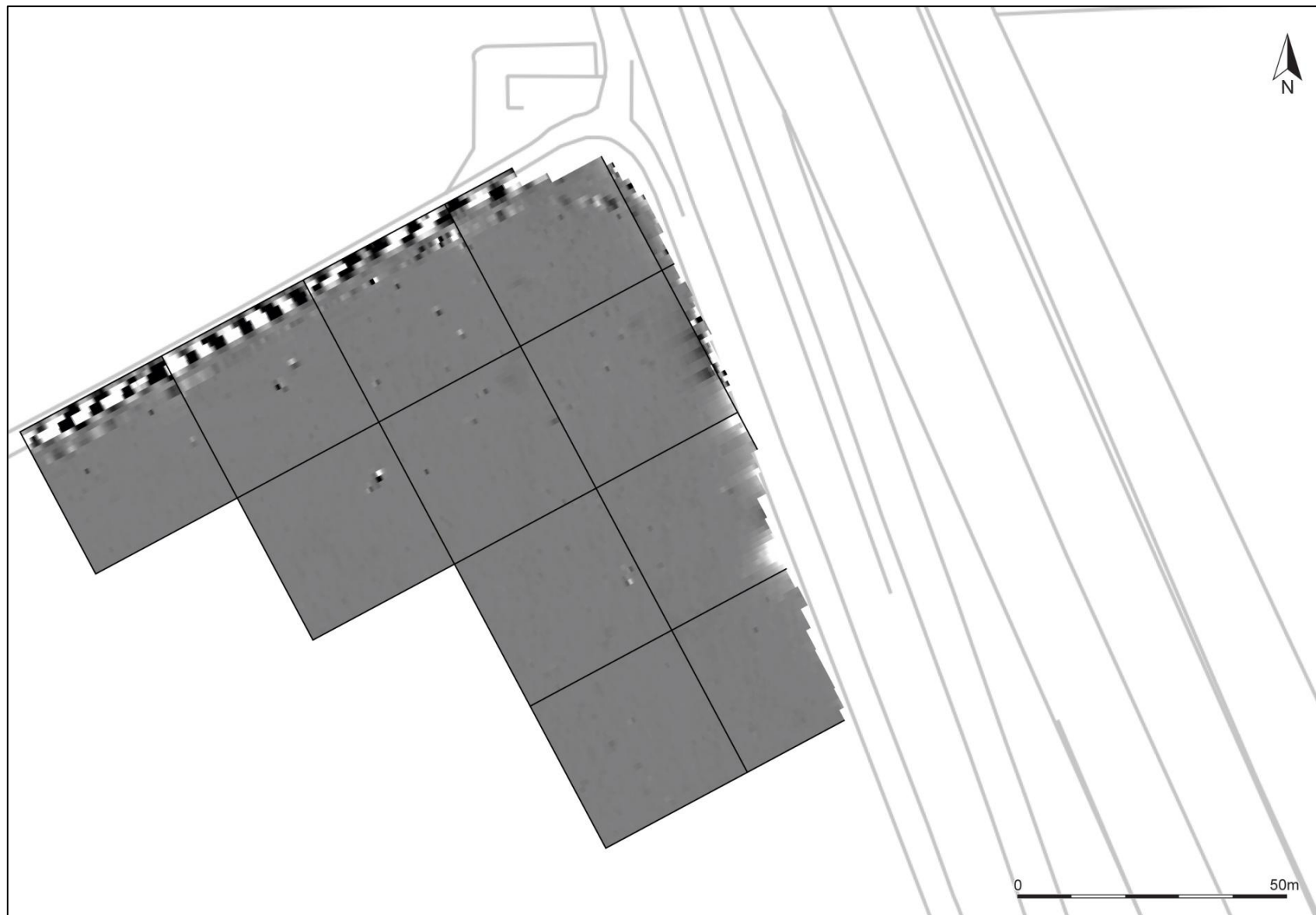


FIGURE 12: SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; MINIMAL PROCESSING.



FIGURE 13: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The proposed site is located towards the southern edge of the parish- and village of Drayton, a Domesday Manor, in land that was enclosed in the 19th century, although may have been subject to Medieval and later agricultural practices accounting for extensive ridge and furrow earthworks within the wider landscape. The wider area includes a wide variety of archaeological sites and assets from a range of periods. The landscape surrounding the site includes a variety of archaeological sites and assets from a range of periods including cropmarks; Bronze Age pottery findspots; Romano-British settlements and field systems and Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings.

The geophysical survey identified very little in the way of obviously significant potential archaeological features, although possible pits or natural features and anomalies associated with earthworks that were visible on the ground and from LiDAR data may be of significance in understanding the pre-19th century enclosed agricultural landscape. The survey did identify modern services along the north-west boundary of the site, beside a track way. These services may in part continue along the north-eastern boundary of the site.

Despite the relatively bland geophysical survey results the overall archaeological potential of the site is high. Previous field work conducted at Abingdon Road (EOX6187) reported that previous geophysical survey did not identify all features later identified through intrusive investigation of the site. It is likely that any buried archaeological resource may have been partially or fully truncated by agricultural activity. Given the limited geophysical survey results but high archaeological potential of the area it seems most appropriate for further mitigation to be in the form of conditioned watching brief.

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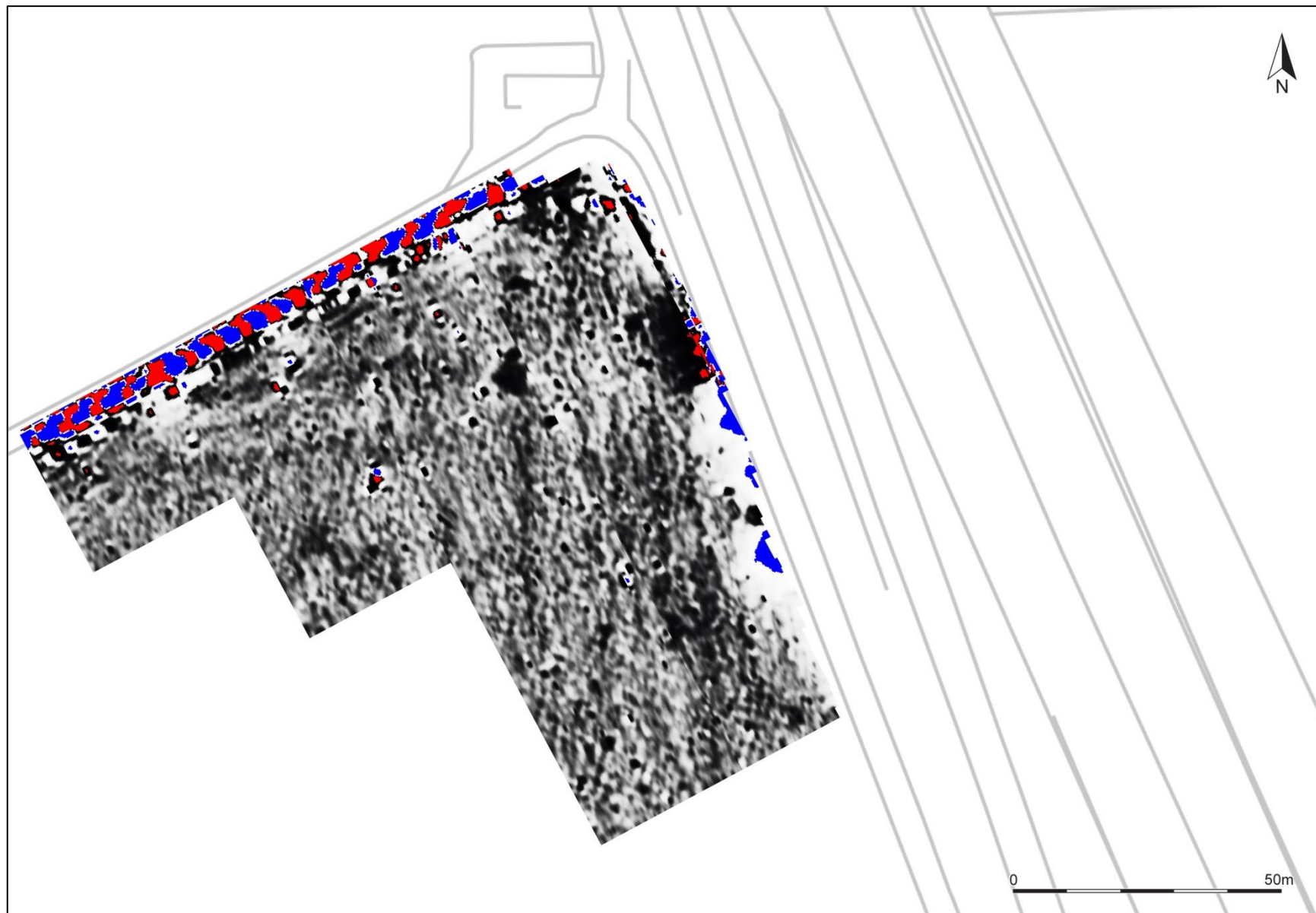
Google Earth

2009 aerial photograph (2018 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky)

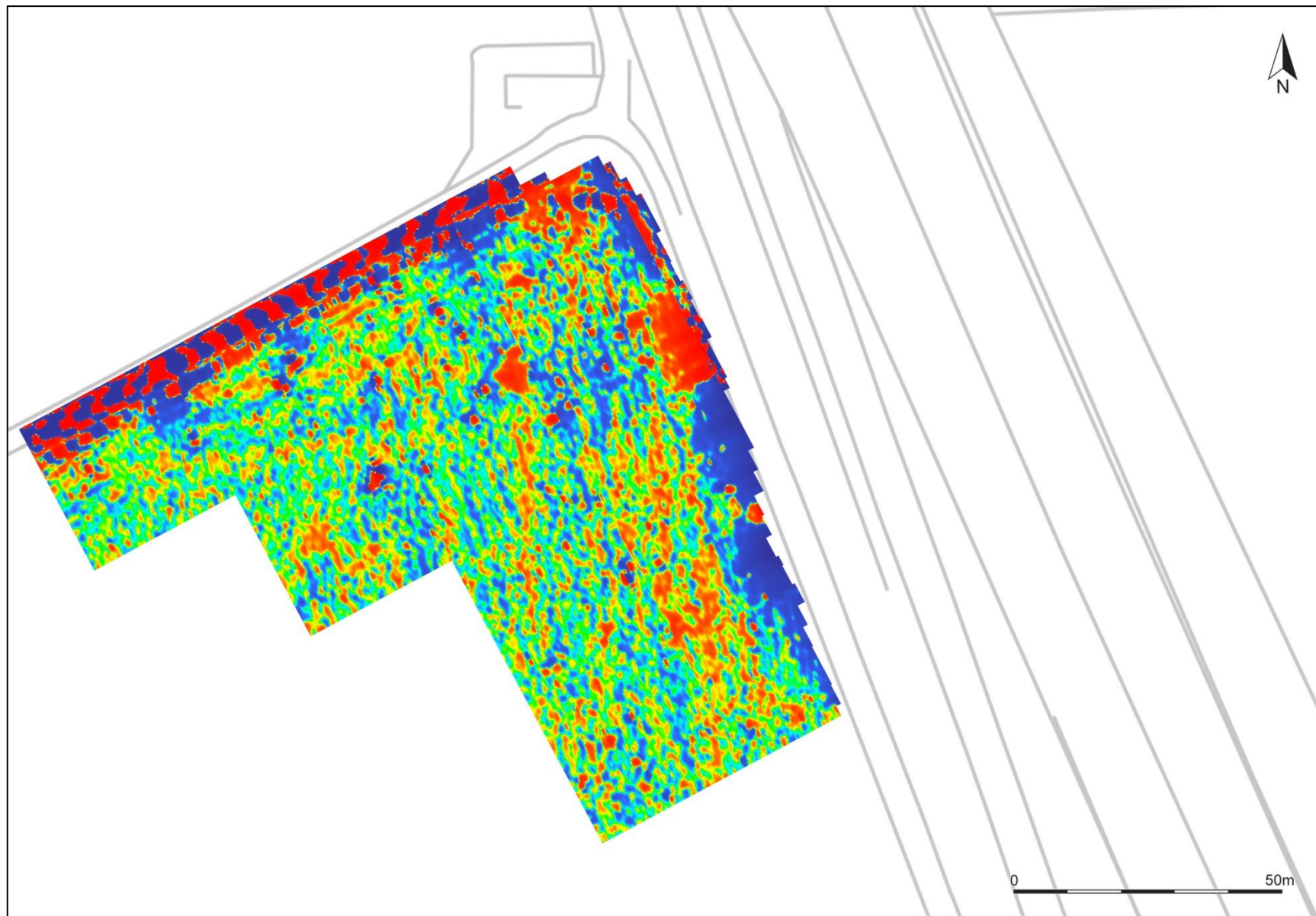
APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL GRAPHICAL IMAGES OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY



GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY GRID LOCATION AND NUMBERING.



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



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

APPENDIX 2: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS: SITE INSPECTION



1. THE NORTH CORNER OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



2. THE NORTH-WEST PART OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



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