

LAND AT NORTH OF ALLER ROAD

DOLTON

TORRIDGE

DEVON

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment and Geophysical Survey



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 180908



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Land North of Aller Road, Dolton, Devon Results of a Desk-Based Assessment

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for Fearnley Lott Architects
On Behalf of the Client

Summary

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned to undertake a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey for land north of Aller Road, Dolton Devon, as part of the planning application for a residential development.

Dolton is a Domesday manor with likely early medieval origins and the site is within land characterised by the HLC as based on medieval strip fields, which corresponds to the field layout seen on the historic mapping. The site is adjacent to a possible medieval village, although it does not appear to have been proven, which has been overlaid or destroyed by a modern housing development.

The geophysical survey identified anomalies associated with historic field boundaries and medieval strip fields as well as modern disturbance and services. An undated ditch-type anomaly was also identified. It is possible that archaeological features or deposits have been obscured from the survey by the area of disturbed ground or debris in the north-east corner of the site; like-wise deposits in this area have been truncated by the modern disturbance. The eastern field of the proposed development site could not be surveyed, although it is likely to contain evidence of drainage associated with a 21st century pond feature.

Although there are no ostensibly significant archaeological deposits or features identified on the site in the geophysical survey, the potential for small discrete features is present and the potential for features associated with medieval activity or settlement around Dolton is high.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION: LAND NORTH OF ALLER ROAD
PARISH: DOLTON
DISTRICT: NORTH DEVON
COUNTY: DEVON
NGR: SS 57609 12272
PLANNING NO. 1/0701/2018/OUTM
DCHET REF: ARCH/DM/TO/33214A
SWARCH REF. DNA18
DEVON HER LICENCE NO.: ARCH/DM/TO/33214

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Fearnley Lott Architects (the Agent) on behalf of the Client to undertake a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey for land north of Aller Road, Dolton, Devon, as part of the proposed development. This work was undertaken in accordance with best practice and ClfA guidelines.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located c.330m to the east of the centre of Dolton, and c.1.85km south-west of the A3124. The site covers two fields, covered by scrub or pasture; ranging from 118m to 107m above ordinance datum (AOD) with the highest point along the northern boundary of the site, and sloping down to the south. The soils of this area are the well drained and fine loamy soils of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983). The bedrock of the area is formed of the sandstone of the Crackington Formation, a sedimentary bedrock (BGS 2018).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Dolton is named as Dvveltone/Du(v)eltona in 1086, and is a settlement with likely early medieval origins (Watts 2004). The Historic Landscape Characterisation of the local area is listed as medieval strip fields, which corresponds to the field layout seen on the historic mapping (see Figure 2).

The proposed site is located towards the eastern extent of the village of Dolton and immediately east-south-east of the site of a possible medieval settlement that has since been overlain or destroyed by 20th century residential developments. No (known) archaeological works were undertaken in advance of this development, although evaluation trenching in advance of a small housing development to the south of the site in 2007 failed to encounter any archaeological features or deposits of significance (TVAS 2007).

1.4 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* (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* (Cifa 2014b).

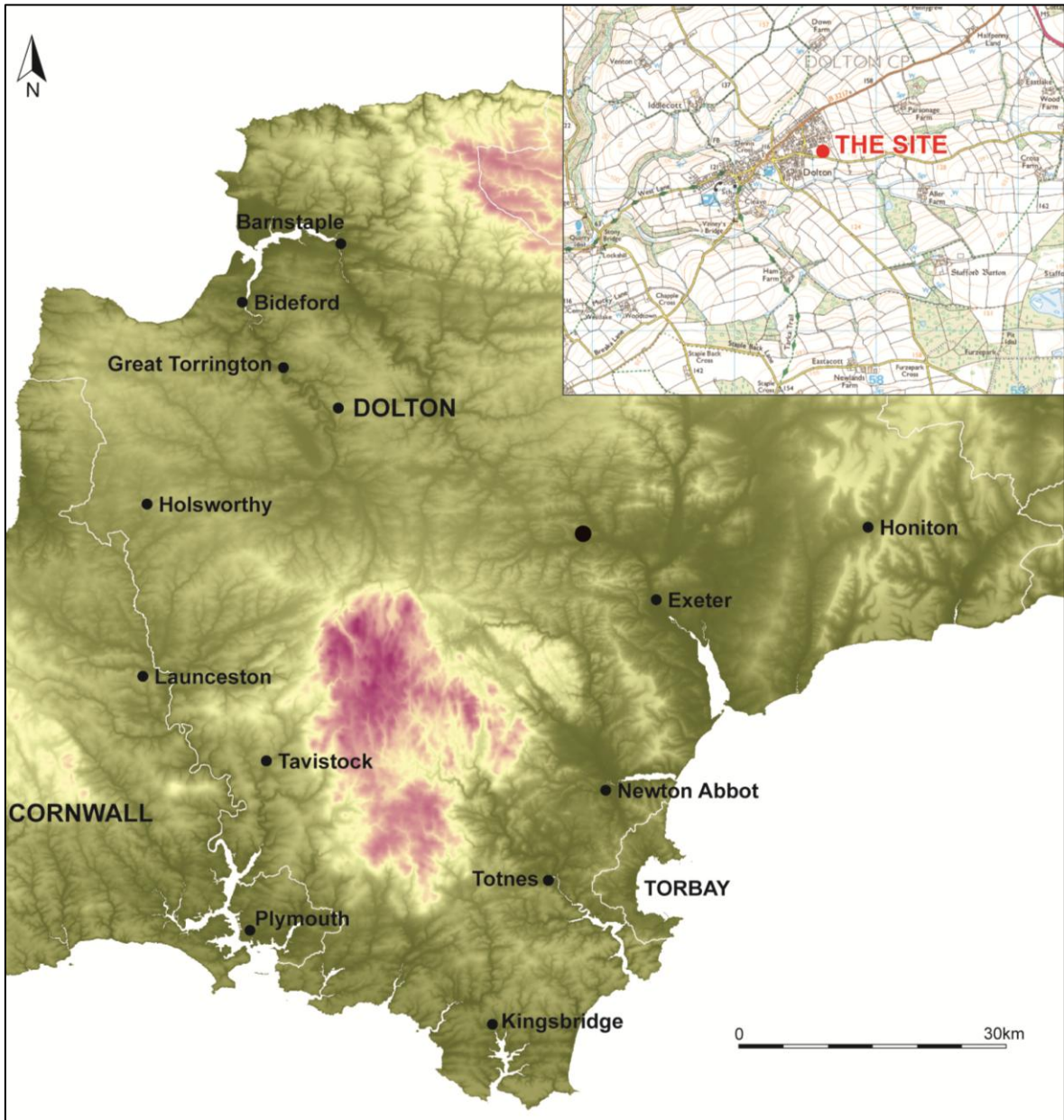


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

2.0 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.1 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

A number of historic settlements are located within the wider area, with three known medieval settlements within a 1km radius of the site. In Domesday there are two listings for a settlement titled Dolton, both are likely attributed to two holdings within the same settlement/parish (Mitchel & Williams 2002). Dolton (Dowlton) lay within the hundred of North Tawton and in the Deanery of Torrington; the manor (Dueltone) was held by Baldwin de Brioniis during the Domesday survey and was given through marriage to William Fitz Wimnud. At later points the manor had been property of both the Courtenays and Grenvilles. To the north-west of the proposal site lies the site of the manor of Iddlecott, which belonged to Sir Thomas Wise in 1619 (Lysons 1822). The name Dolton's second element 'ton' means 'farm, village, estate' with the meaning of the first element being unclear (Watts 2004).

2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

2.2.1 TITHE MAP AND APPORTIONMENT 1842

On the Dolton Tithe map, 1842 (Figure 2), the proposed development site covers three plots, 612, 701 and 776 (Figure 2), with only the lower extent of plot 612 being covered by the site. All are listed as arable (see Table 1), with plot 612 and 776 having a form consistent with medieval strip fields, as do multiple plots north of the site.

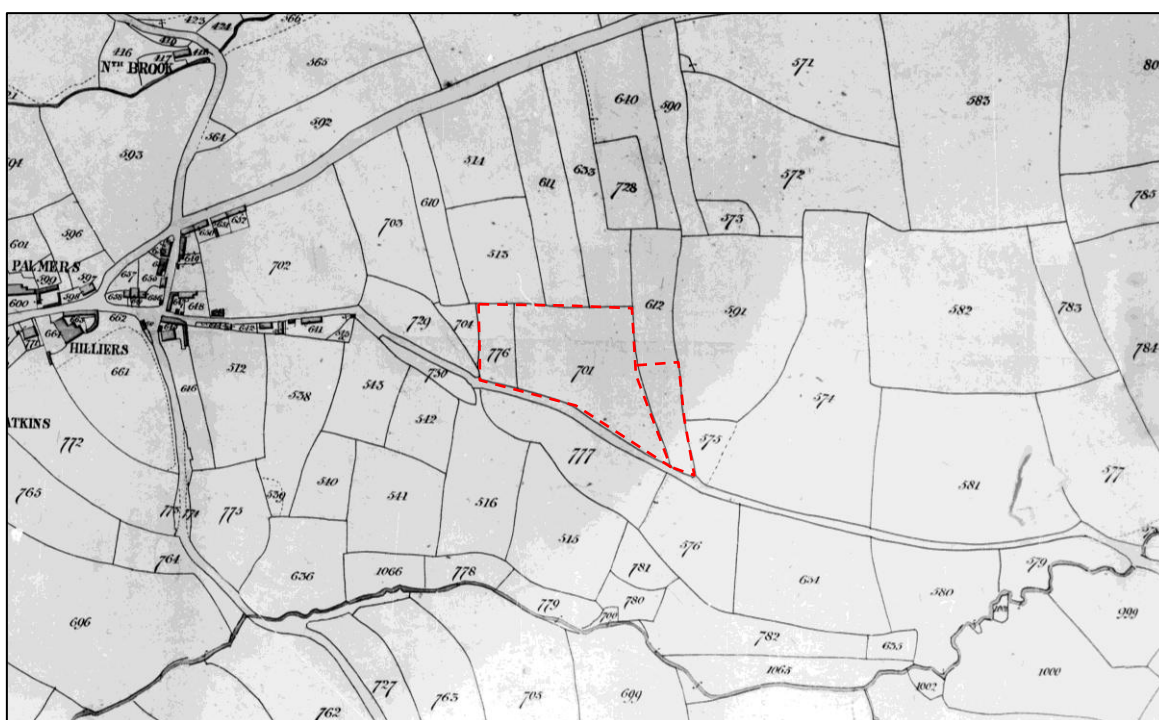


FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE DOLTON TITHE MAP OF 1842. THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED (DHC).

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE DOLTON TITHE APPORTIONMENT OF 1842. THE SITE OCCUPIES THE PLOTS HIGHLIGHTED.

Plot number	Landowner	Occupier	Farm name	Plot name	Usage
513	John Friend	John Friend	Part of Thornes and shop tenement	Parsonages Lane Lower Field	Arable
574	William Friend	William Friend	Hackwills	Long Morrowwell	Saplings
575				Coppice in Long Morrowwell	
590	William Arnold	William Risdon	Palmers	Higher Hole Hays	Arable
591				Lower Hole Hays & Blake	
610	Martha Owen	William Risdon	Arscotts	Long Orchard	Pasture
611				Middle Hill	Arable
612				Taylor's Field	
633	George Owen Esquire	George Owen Esquire	Sages	Middle Hill	Pasture
701	Robert Budd Senior	Robert Budd Senior	Court & part of Tuckers	Newer Park	Arable
704	John Heaman	John Heaman	North Ham	Little Field	
728			Scriggins	Jennys Field	
729	John Brysett	John Brysett	Higher Cleave	Cookbridge	
776	Frances Owen	Frances Owen	Atkins & Cottages	Little Cookbridges	
777				Great Cookbridges	

2.2.2 ORDNANCE SURVEY FIRST & SECOND EDITION MAPS, 1886 AND 1906

On the Ordnance Survey (OS) first and second edition maps (Figures 3 and 4, respectively) Plots 701 and 776 from the tithe map have now been merged into a single field, with the remains of the medieval strip fields still evident in the landscape, though some have been absorbed into larger areas. Conifer trees are shown along the southern boundary of the site running parallel to the road south of the site. Many of the other fields in the surrounding landscape had also been amalgamated by this time. Changes on the site between these two maps, c.1886 and 1906 include an approximate north-south boundary, parallel to the site's eastern boundary, across the new larger merged field.

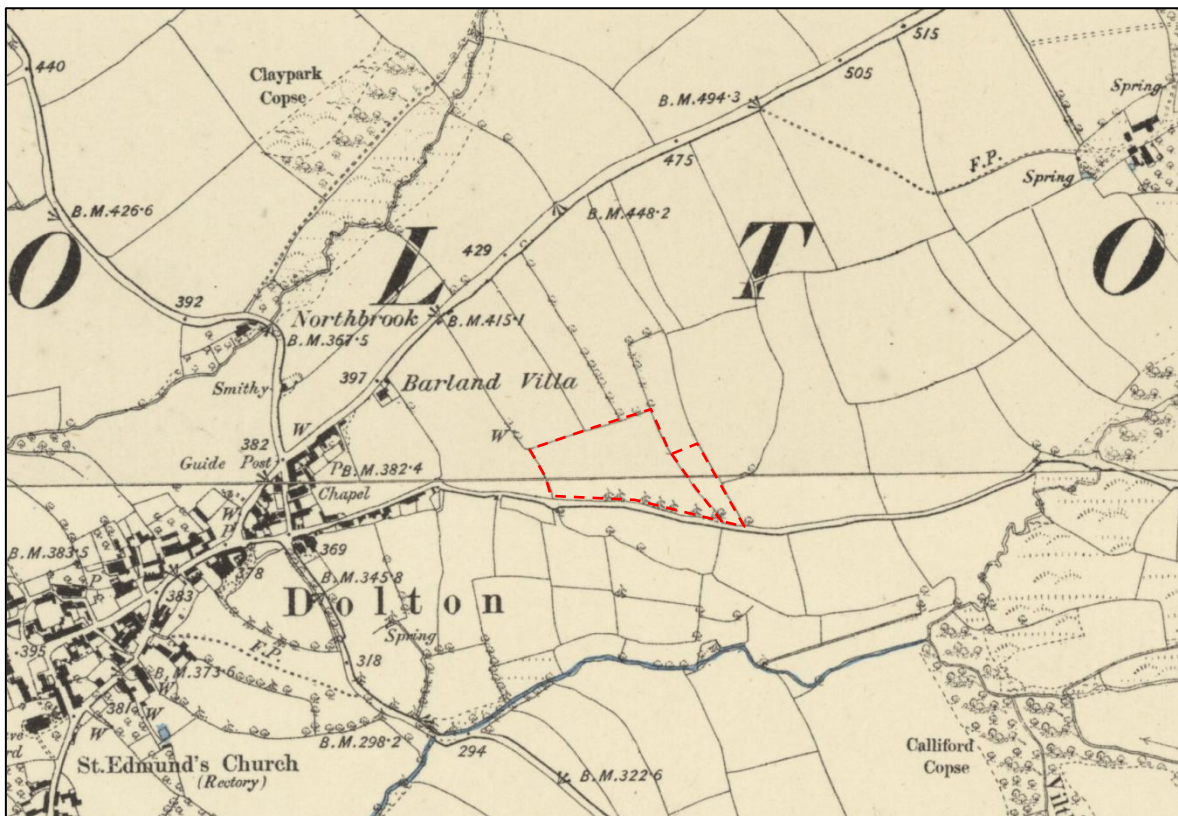


FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE OS FIRST EDITION 6" MAP OF 1886. THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED (DHC).

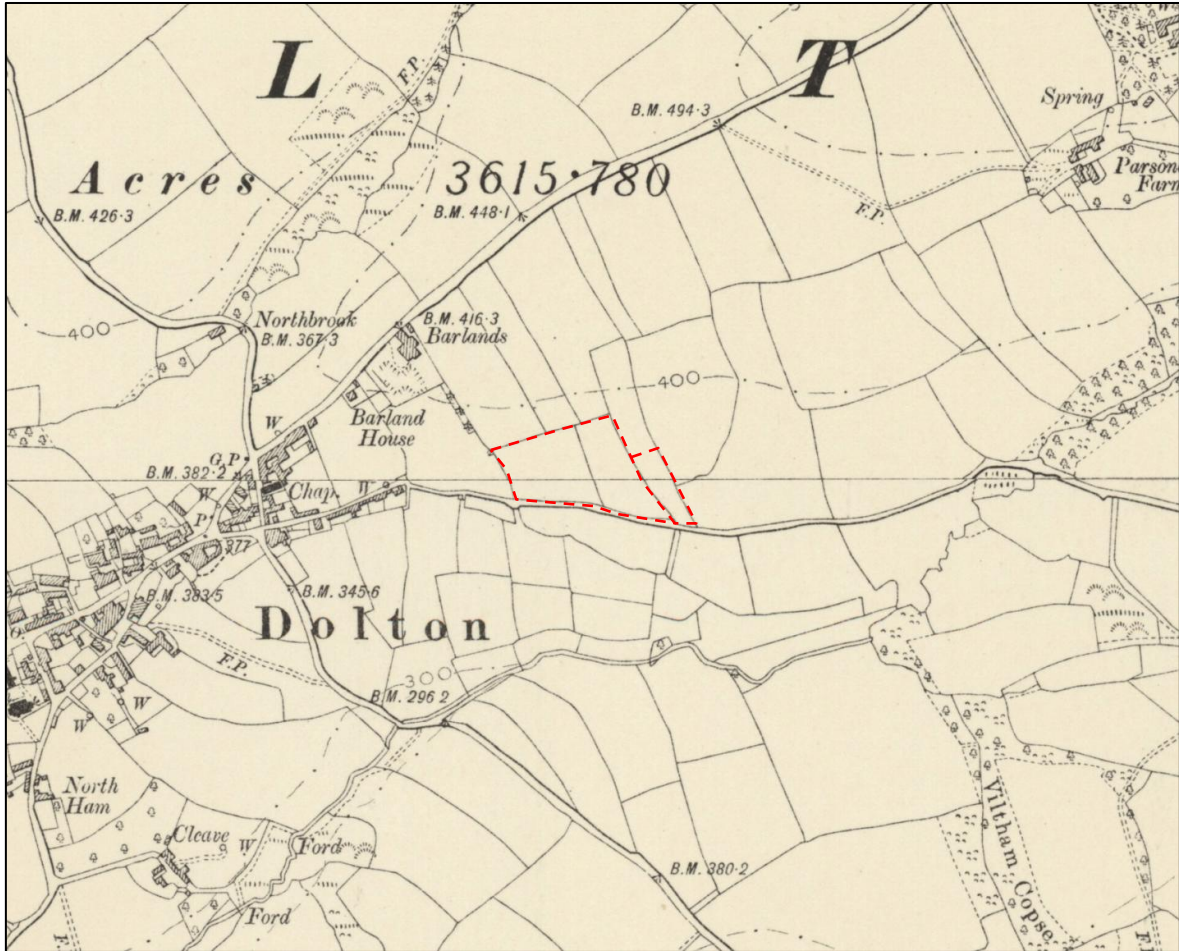


FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE SECOND EDITION OS 6" MAP OF 1906. THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SIRE IS INDICATED (DHC).

2.2.3 SUBSEQUENT CHANGES

In the 20th century changes in the wider land-/field-scape are relatively few. However, there are changes specific to the site. The boundary depicted across the site in 1906, that was not depicted on earlier mapping was absent from the cartographic record by 1955/6. Between 1964 and 1991, housing is shown to have been built up to the north and west boundaries of the site. Satellite imagery shows that the housing development to the immediate north-east of the site, including the division of the eastern field of the site in half occurred between 2002 and 2010. In or by 2010 the north-east corner of the site had evidently seen some ground disturbance, perhaps associated with the recent housing developments. The eastern field that composes the site also had its northern boundary defined and landscaping, including a pond, possibly associated with drainage and the recent housing estate had also been created in the eastern field. The site was not visible on public access LiDAR imagery.

2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

No archaeological works have been undertaken within the bounds of the site. Within the local area an archaeological evaluation was carried out south of Aller Road, prior to development, which revealed no features of archaeological significance (TVAS 2007).

Dolton Conservation Area includes most of the settlement, excluding the modern housing developments to the east and west ends of the village. The eastern extent of the Conservation Area lies c.175m to the west of the centre of the proposed development site. There are 31 Grade II Listed buildings and one Grade II* Listed building (St. Edmund's Church) within the Conservation Area.

The Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) revealed very little prehistoric material was present within a 1km search radius of the site; showing only a scatter of flints and pottery (MDV56014) c.850m south-east of the centre of the proposed development. An undated possible enclosure seen as a cropmark in 1984 (MDV68222) is located c.600m south-east of the centre of the proposed development site. Two carved saxon stones are incorporated within the font at St Edmund's church in Dolton (MDV317). A possible deserted medieval village lying immediately west-north-west of the site was documented as an earthwork (MDV315), which was destroyed by a modern housing development for which there was no archaeological monitoring. The aforementioned evaluation in 2007 near to, but south of the site did not corroborate this asset, for which the remaining extent and form are unknown.

The proposed site falls within an area characterised as medieval enclosures based on strip fields by the Devon Historic Landscape Character (HLC). Medieval settlements, listed on the HER, are located to the south-east and north-west of the site as well as a potential previous settlement adjacent to the site. The proposed site lies within an active medieval agricultural and settled rural environment.

The majority of the historical assets near to the site date to the 18th and 19th centuries and lie within Dolton Conservation Area. The historic mapping suggests that there was some change of boundaries in the field systems surrounding Dolton. However, some of the medieval strip fields survive and even partially remain at the time of this survey.

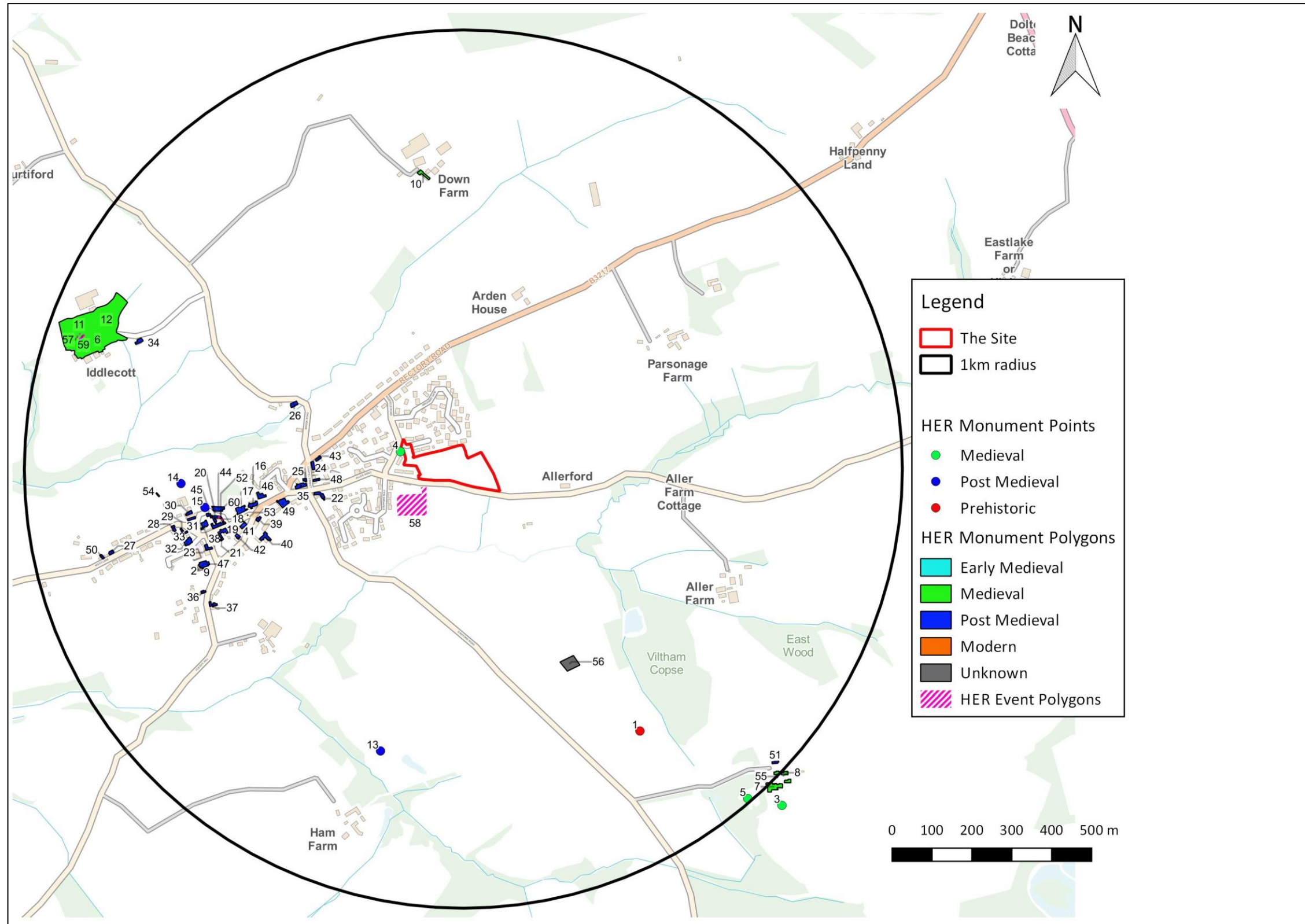


FIGURE 5: MAP OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS.

TABLE 2: NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS (SOURCE: DEVON HER AND OBSERVATIONS).

No.	HER No.	Name	Record	Description
1	MDV56014	Dolton, Scatter	Findspot	Scatter of Prehistoric flints and fragments of North Devon pottery recovered during fieldwalking to the southeast of Dolton
2	MDV317	St Edmund Parish Church, Font	Extant Structure	Font at St Edmund parish church in Dolton consisting of 2 intricately carved Saxon stones, the original purpose of which is unclear although it is suggested they may have formed a cross.
3	MDV11967	Stafford Barton Chapel	Documentary	Site of a chapel which existed in the 15 th century at Stafford Barton
4	MDV315	Dolton Deserted Settlement	Documentary	Former site of substantial earthworks, possibly of deserted medieval settlement, of agricultural or industrial origin. Destroyed by residential development.
5	MDV75346	Medieval Settlement at Stafford, Dolton	Documentary	Medieval settlement at Stafford Barton in Dolton was documented from 1086
6	MDV11972	West Iddlecott Manor House	Documentary	West Iddlecott was a former manor house first mentioned in the 11 th century
7	MDV11998	Stafford Barton	Extant Structure	Stafford Barton built in the 16 th century with later additions and alterations.
8	MDV18653	Stafford Barton Gatehouse and other Outbuildings	Extant Structure	Various outbuildings including a 16 th century gatehouse around the courtyard at Stafford Barton
9	MDV316	Dolton, St. Edmund's Parish Church	Extant Structure	St. Edmund's parish church in Dolton built in the 13 th century with early 16th century additions. Restored and apparently partially rebuilt in 1888.
10	MDV37831	Down Farmhouse, Dolton	Extant Structure	Farmhouse of circa 1500, with possibly 16th- and early 17 th century alterations and 17th century addition.
11	MDV37857	West Iddlecott Farmhouse	Extant Structure	West Iddlecott farmhouse with late medieval origins. Former manor house.
12	MDV74233	Iddlecott	Documentary	Iddlecott farmstead shown as an extensive range of buildings on the 19 th century map
13	MDV35171	QUARRY in the Parish of Dolton	Extant Structure	
14	MDV56276	Four Building Fragments	Findspot	Four architectural fragments found during garden clearance. Said to have come from Eggesford House.
15	MDV56277	ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENT in the Parish of Dolton	Findspot	Architectural fragments from MDV56276 incorporated into garden wall (Wilson-North).
16	MDV37819	Arscotts and Arscotts Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	Pair of early 19 th century houses with an unusual asymmetrical arrangement.
17	MDV37820	HOUSE in the Parish of Dolton	Extant Structure	Sages, fore street (north side).
18	MDV37821	Howard's, Halcyon Cottage and Sunnyside House, Dolton	Extant Structure	Row of three cottages, possibly originally four. Mid 17 th century to early 18th century in date.
19	MDV37822	Haircut Cottage and Atkins, Dolton	Extant Structure	Pair of late 17 th - or early 18 th century cottages.
20	MDV37823	Cobb Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	Mid 17 th century house with well-preserved plan form and the unusual existence of plank-and-muntin screens on the 1 st floor
21	MDV37824	Amy's Cottage, including outbuilding adjoining north (belonging to Hideaway Cottage)	Extant Structure	Early 18 th century cottage with 19 th century additions. Open fireplaces likely to be concealed. Formerly Listed as The Cottage.
22	MDV37825	Roselea, Dolton	Extant Structure	Small house of early 19th century date.
23	MDV37826	Merrymeet, Dolton	Extant Structure	Early to mid 17th century house, possibly with earlier origins. Likely to contain 17th century features such as fireplaces and ceiling beams and possibly good quality 19th century joinery. Roof structure may also be of interest.
24	MDV37827	The Nook and Adjoining Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	Pair of 18 th century cottages.
25	MDV37828	Honeysuckle Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	Early 18 th century cottage.
26	MDV37830	Northbrook, Dolton	Extant Structure	House of probable 17 th century date, possibly with earlier origins.
27	MDV37832	Fountain Cottage and Sunnyside, Dolton	Extant Structure	Pair of 18 th century cottages.
28	MDV37833	1 and 2 Thorn Cottages, Dolton	Extant Structure	Pair of early 19 th century cottages likely to have been one house.
29	MDV37834	Blandford house, Dolton	Extant	Small house of 17 th century or possibly earlier date.

			Structure	Likely to contain internal features of interest.
30	MDV37835	1 and 2 Hackwills, Dolton	Extant Structure	Pair of cottages, formerly three, dated 1724.
31	MDV37836	Sandscott and Ivy cottages, Dolton	Extant Structure	Pair of early- to mid 18 th century cottages.
32	MDV37837	Dolton, Royal Oak	Extant Structure	17 th century inn; heavily remodelled in early to mid 19 th century.
33	MDV37838	Merlin Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	Terraced cottage. Probably 18 th century, though it may have earlier origins.
34	MDV37839	Poole Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	Early to mid 17 th century house.
35	MDV37840	Madge's Cottage, Vine Cottage and The Old School Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	A row of 3 late 17 th to early 18 th century cottages.
36	MDV37841	The Retreat, Dolton	Extant Structure	Farmhouse of early 17 th century or possibly earlier origins.
37	MDV37842	North Ham, Dolton	Extant Structure	Former farmhouse of circa mid 17 th century date, with early 18 th century addition and early 19 th century remodelling. Survives in an unaltered state and preserves a surprising number of features from its 2 main phases.
38	MDV37880	HOUSE in the Parish of Dolton	Extant Structure	Homelea.
39	MDV37881	Cottage immediately to south of Arscotts and Arscotts Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	Small house of early 19 th century date.
40	MDV37882	Atkins House, Dolton	Extant Structure	Early 17 th century farmhouse, possibly with earlier origins.
41	MDV37883	Dolton, Ram's Head Inn	Extant Structure	Probable early 19 th century remodelling and extension of 17 th century cob and rubble building. Formerly known as New Inn.
42	MDV37884	The Gardens, Dolton	Extant Structure	Small house of late 17 th - to early 19 th century date.
43	MDV37885	Wheelwright's Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	Small house of late 17 th - or early 18 th century date.
44	MDV37886	Corner Cottage and Hodge's Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	Pair of mid 17 th century cottages with early 18 th century additions.
45	MDV37887	Northfield Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	Mid- to late 17 th century cottage.
46	MDV37888	Dolton, Union Inn	Extant Structure	17 th century cob and rubble inn, with early 19 th century addition.
47	MDV43864	St Edmund Parish Church, Paten	Extant Structure	18 th century Paten at St Edmund parish church in Dolton
48	MDV73815	Pear Tree Cottage including east end of The Old Forge, Dolton	Extant Structure	Former house, now 2 cottages, of late 17 th - or early 18 th century date.
49	MDV73816	Hilliers, Dolton	Extant Structure	A good example of a late Georgian house with a fine staircase.
50	MDV73818	Rose Cottage, Dolton	Extant Structure	Early 18 th century cottage.
51	MDV80906	Outbuilding, Stafford Barton	Extant Structure	Small rectangular outbuilding to north of main ranges of farm buildings, replaced in 1920s by a purpose built garage. Nineteenth century or earlier.
52	MDV80937	South View, Fore Street, Dolton	Extant Structure	South View, Fore Street, Dolton. A 17 th century cottage with 19 th and 20 th century alterations and additions.
53	MDV104085	Dolton War Memorial	Extant Structure	Cross commemorating the fallen of World War I and II.
54	MDV106005	Nissen Hut, Long Meadow	Extant Structure	Re-sited Nissen hut. Proposed for demolition in 2014.
55	MDV80907	Well in Courtyard at Stafford Barton	Extant Structure	Ornamental well in the centre of the forecourt at Stafford Barton, rubblestone and wrought iron in Arts and Crafts style. Probably built in the 1920s.
56	MDV68222	Enclosure south-east of Dolton	Cropmark	Square enclosure recorded as a cropmark in 1984 to the south-east of Dolton
Event records				
	Event ID	Name	Event Type	Details
57	EDV4283	Appraisal of West Iddlecott Farmhouse	Desk based assessment	Building appraisal was carried out by Exeter Archaeology in advance of alterations to the shippon-end of the building
58	EDV4365	Evaluation at Aller Road, Dolton	Evaluation	Evaluation prior to development to the south of Aller Road in Dolton in 2007. Four trenches were excavated

LAND NORTH OF ALLER ROAD, DOLTON, DEVON

				in 2007 to the south of Aller Road in Dolton but no features or artefacts of archaeological significance were exposed.
59	EDV5507	Inspection of West Iddlecott	Field visit	Inspection of the roof space provided information additional to that available to the Listing inspector
60	EDV5680	Survey of South View, Fore Street, Dolton	Building survey	Survey of South View, Fore Street, Dolton. A 17 th century cottage with 19 th -20 th century alterations and Additions. Application received requesting that South View be considered for listing. A rapid survey of South View, was carried out, but internal inspection was not possible.

3.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

3.1 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 30th of August 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* (CIfA 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: 0.8858ha surveyed; Max. 99.98nT, Min. -100.00nT; Standard Deviation 16.19, mean -1.82nT, median -1.72nT.

3.3 SITE INSPECTION

The site was comprised of two fields under pasture with short grass in the larger western field (Figures 6 and 7) and scrub in the eastern field. A small patch of more rough ground was located in the north-east corner of the western field. The eastern field was over grown with scrub and a possible pond was located in its southern half. The site boundaries were comprised of over-grown, deciduous tree lined bank boundaries. A full complement of site photographs can be found in Appendix 2.



FIGURE 6: VIEW ACROSS SITE; VIEW FACING NORTH-WEST.



FIGURE 7: VIEW ACROSS THE SITE; VIEW FACING EAST.

3.4 RESULTS

Table 3 with the accompanying Figures 8 and 9 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 3: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
1	Weak positive, probable	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of a cut linear feature, such as a ditch. Undated Associated with Groups 2 and 3. Response of c.+5nT.
2	Strong positive, probable	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of a cut linear feature, such as a ditch. Undated, cut by modern services. Associated with Groups 1 and 3, response obscured by Group 11. Response of c.+5nT to +29nT.
3	Weak to moderate positive, probable	Fragmented linear	Ditch	Indicative of a cut linear feature, such as a ditch. Undated, cut by modern services. Associated with Groups 1 and 2. Response of c.+7nT.
4	Moderate negative, probable	Fragmented linear	Stone lined drain or shallow service pipe	Indicative of a possible modern service or stone lined drain. It may run parallel to a short lived historic boundary (depicted 1906) or turn south-east at its south-end into disturbed ground. Possibly associated with Group 10. Response of <-6nT.
5	Strong negative to strong positive, probable	Parallel linears	Historic field boundary	Indicative of a bank and ditch boundary. Equates to boundary on 1842 mapping. Responses of c.+5nT to +20nT and c.-6nT to -17nT.
6	Moderate negative to moderate positive	Parallel fragmented linears	Agricultural activity/ trackway	Positive and negative responses that may be indicative of a field boundary that has shifted, although is most likely associated with machinery tracking or ploughing along this edge of the field. Responses of c.+3nT to +8nT and c.-6nT and -17nT.
7	Moderate negative to positive, probable	Broad linears	Agricultural (ridge and furrow)	Broad features associated with ridges that define relict strip fields. Possibly medieval. Responses between +7nT and +13nT and c.-10nT.
8	Strong negative, probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of a modern service pipe such as sewage/waste management. Response of <-30nT.
9	Strong negative, probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of a modern service pipe such as sewage/waste management. Response of <c.-15nT.
10	Moderate negative to positive, possible	Amorphous area	Modern disturbance / feature	At the southern end of an area of disturbed ground/debris this feature is most likely associated with/a continuation of the same response. If Group 4 is associated with this response it may be associated with a modern buried feature. Response of between +18nT and -14nT.
11	Very strong mixed, probable	Circular area	Modern service access	Indicative of man-hole covers associated with modern service access and nodal points. Responses of +/-100nT.
12	Very strong mixed,	Circular area	Modern service	Indicative of man-hole covers associated

Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
	probable		access	with modern service access and nodal points. Responses of +/-100nT.

3.5 DISCUSSION

The survey identified twelve groups of anomalies most of which relate to modern services or agricultural activity. The survey indicates that a degree of ground disturbance, which may include the spread of debris has occurred across the north-east corner of the site, and along the sites northern boundary. The general background geophysical response of the ground appeared to suggest that the topsoil may have been shallower to the south-east of the site. Cartographic and visual sources supporting the discussion and comments can be seen in the desk-based assessment above.

Groups 1, 2 and 3 are weak to strong positive (+5nT to +29nT) linear anomalies indicative of an undated ditch. Although undated these anomalies are parallel to the northern site boundary and perpendicular to Anomaly Group 5 and is probably associated with relict drainage of the extant field system. That these features appear intermittent may indicate that they have been partially truncated and/or that its depth relative to the surface varied. Anomaly Group 5 appears to cut these features, but they may have respected the boundary and existed on either side of it. These Groups are also cut by Anomaly Groups 4, 9 and 11.

Group 4 is a weak-moderate negative (<-6) linear anomaly indicative of a stony/stone-lined drain or shallow service pipe. It may have run parallel to a short lived historic boundary depicted on 1906 OS mapping, although ostensibly turns at its southern end to the south-east; possibly running towards Group 10 and onwards towards the pond that was installed in the eastern field of the site in the 2000's. It is probably associated with modern drainage or water supply. The historic field boundary, with which it possibly aligns, is better represented by a weak negative and positive response to the south of Group 4. However, this other anomaly conforms to the general direction of geological striations and possible ploughing meaning it is obscured and perhaps subsumed by this. The short lived boundary may have never been represented by a substantial feature.

Group 5 is a strong positive with parallel strong negative (c.+5nT to +20nT and c.-6nT to -17nT) linear anomaly that equates to a historic field boundary shown on the 1842 tithe map and absent from the 1886 OS mapping. It is cut by a modern service, Group 8.

Group 6 is a weak-moderate positive with parallel negative (c.+3nT to +8nT and c.-5nT to -10nT) linear anomaly that is indicative of a bank and ditch feature, such as a boundary. It may equate to a relict boundary that has shifted slightly to its current position along the south of the site. But similar parallel positive and negative responses form from agricultural practices such as ploughing or along ditched trackways. Based on the location and strength of these responses this Group is most likely associated with a track along the edge of the site, where soil can be worn thin and soil pushed to the edge of the site, perhaps into a boundary ditch.

Group 7 are two broad moderate positive with parallel negative (between +7nT and +13nT and c.-10nT) linear anomalies. These appear to define the interior space of medieval strip fields, for which boundaries in the landscape and historic boundaries can help define (similar to ridge and furrow).

Groups 8, 9, 11 and 12 are associated with a modern service, probable associated with a ceramic sewer pipe. Manhole covers were observed at Group 12 and were probably obscured by grass at Group 11. The responses of the pipe line, Groups 8 and 9 were between c.-15nT and -30nT within positive responses indicative of both the cut trenches and responses relative to the negative. Groups 11 and 12 were indicative of metallic features (manhole covers) with di-polar responses of between +/-100nT. These anomalies are probably associated with the modern housing developments that have taken place about the north and west site boundaries over the last 50 years.

Group 10 is a moderate positive and negative (+18nT to -14nT) amorphous anomaly associated with an area of disturbed ground/debris. It is probably part of this ground disturbance in the north-east of the site, but may be a, probable modern, feature obscured by the ground disturbance. This disturbance could be associated with drainage works associated with the housing development north of the site for which Group 4 could also be a part.

Di-Polar anomalies indicative of metallic debris for example and magnetic disturbance are also located across the site, particularly in its north-east corner. In this north-east corner ground disturbance, including a possible cut feature (rectangular) was visible on satellite imagery in c.2010 and during the site inspection during the geophysical survey the ground in this part of the site was more scrub-like with a slightly raised patch in this corner of the site.

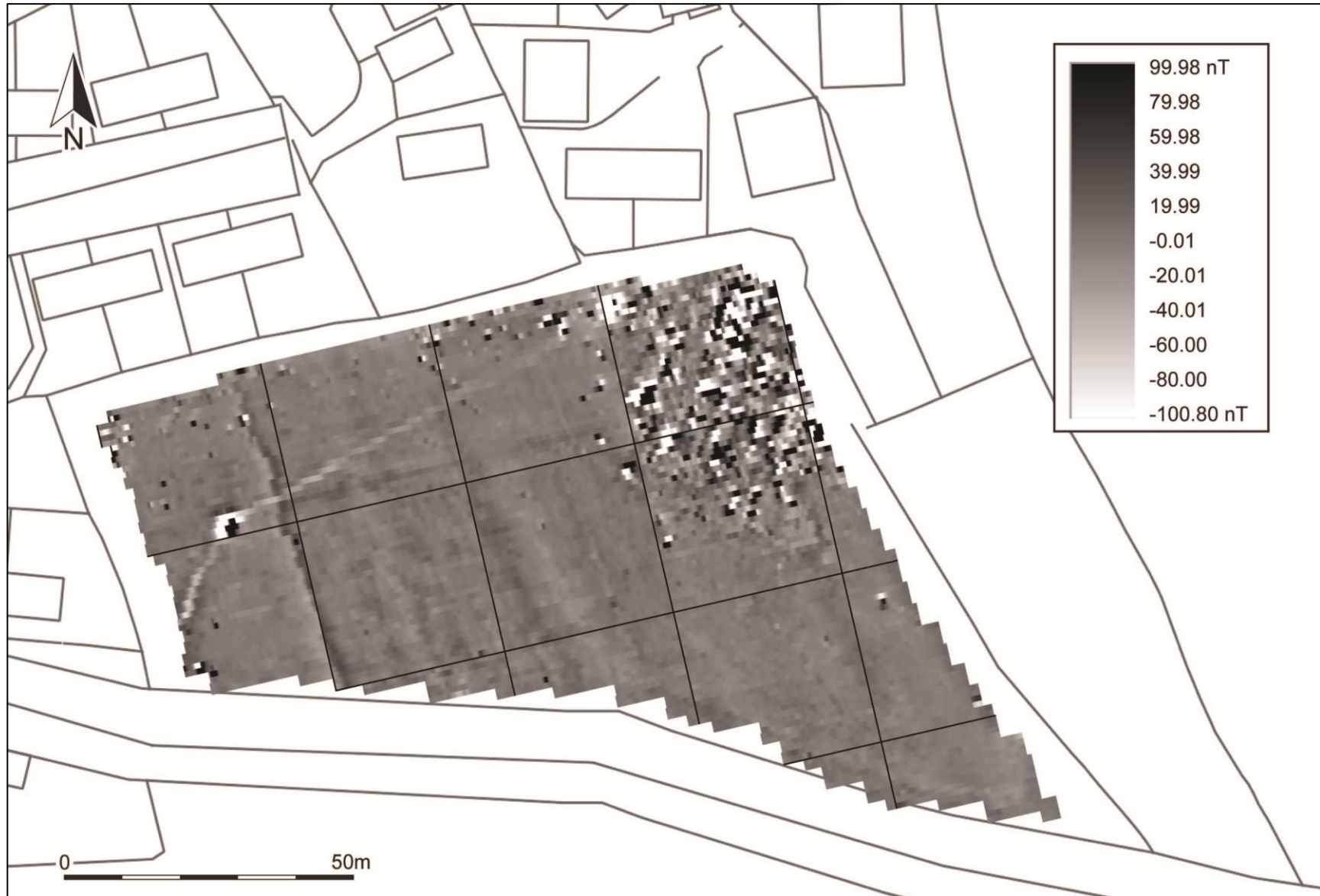


FIGURE 8: SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; MINIMAL PROCESSING.

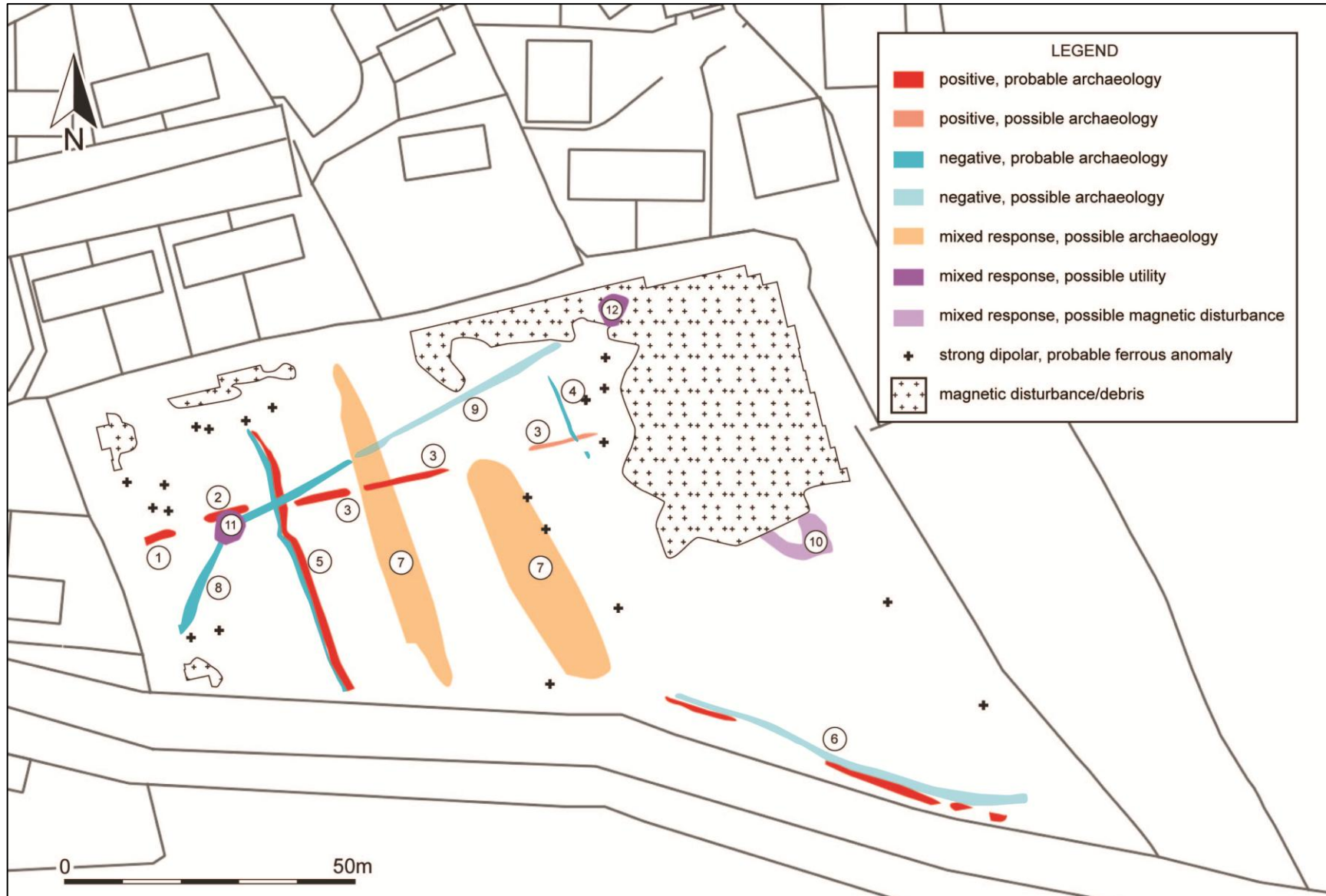


FIGURE 9: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Dolton is a Domesday manor with likely early medieval origins and the site is within land characterised by the HLC as based on medieval strip fields, which corresponds to the field layout seen on the historic mapping. The site is adjacent to a possible medieval settlement identified on aerial photos, although this cannot be verified or proven, as it has since been overlaid or destroyed by a modern housing development.

The geophysical survey identified anomalies associated with historic field boundaries and medieval strip fields as well as modern disturbance and services. An undated ditch (likely a further land division or drain) was also identified. It is possible that archaeological features or deposits have been obscured from the survey by the area of disturbed ground or debris in the north-east corner of the site; like-wise it is possible that deposits in this area have been truncated by this modern disturbance. The eastern field of the proposed development site could not be surveyed, although it is likely to contain evidence of drainage associated with a 21st century pond feature, which will have likely truncated any earlier remains.

Although there are no apparent significant archaeological deposits or features identified on the site in the geophysical survey, there remains potential for small discrete features to be present on the site and not identified by the survey, there is also slight potential for features or deposits associated with the medieval activity or settlement.

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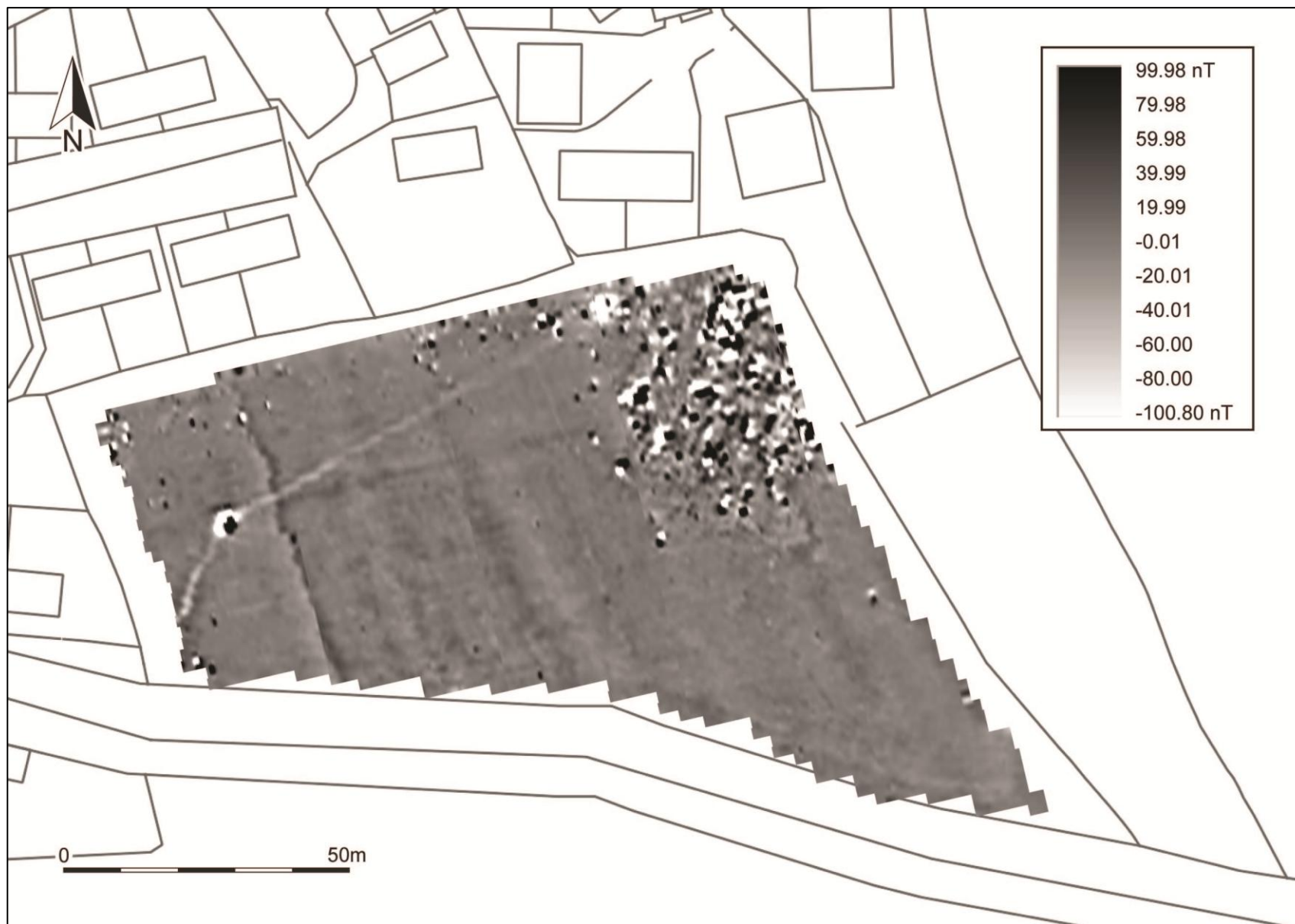
Devon Heritage Centre

- 1842 Dolton Tithe Map and Apportionment
1886 OS 6" map 1st edition
1906 OS 6" map 2nd edition

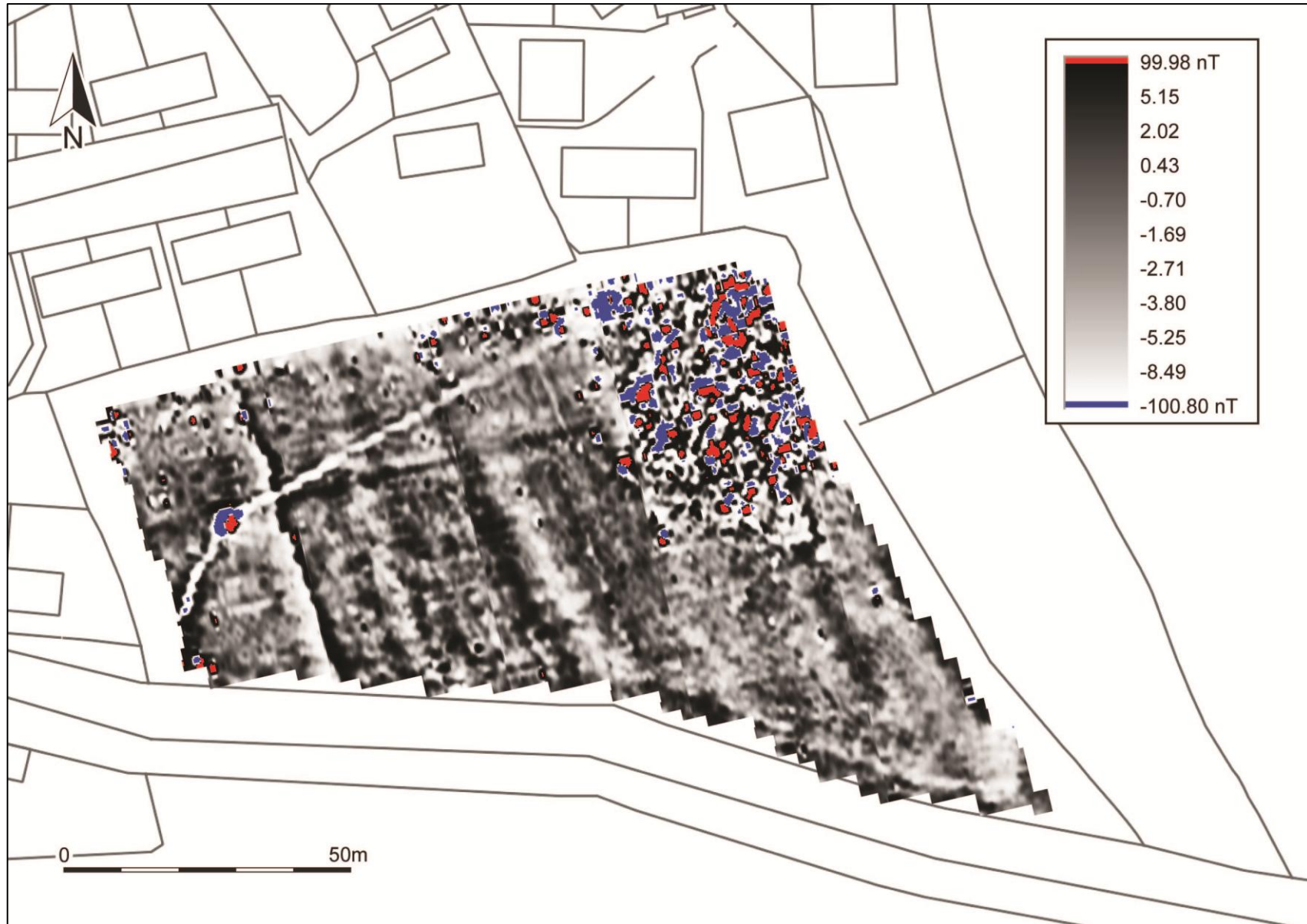
APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL GRAPHICAL IMAGES OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY



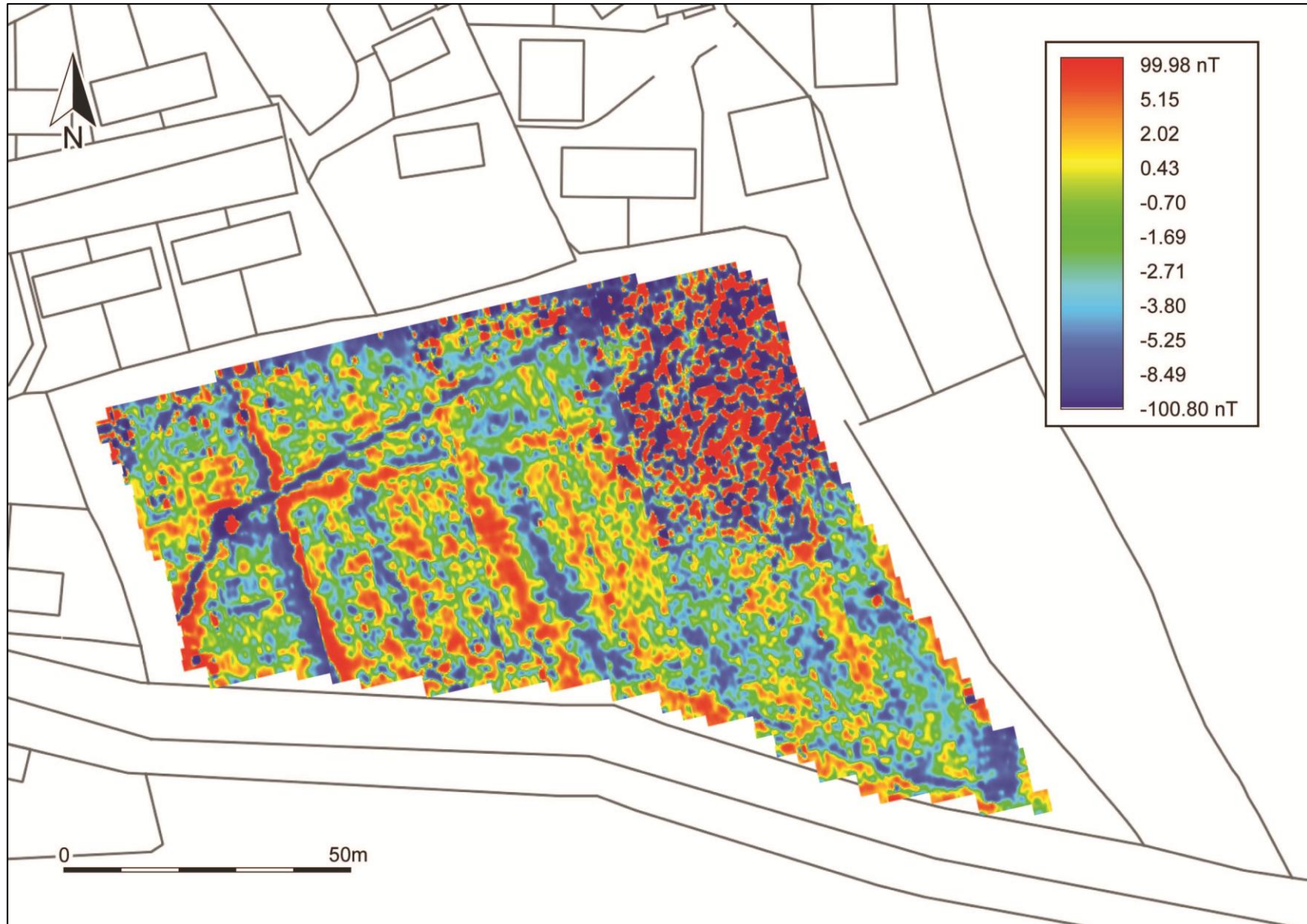
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY GRID LOCATION AND NUMBERING.



SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; GRADIATED SHADING.



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. ACCESS ACROSS BOUNDARY FROM THE ROAD ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).



2. MORE SCRUB-LIKE/RAISED GROUND IN THE NORTH-EAST CORNER OF THE WESTERN FIELD.



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