

**LAND OFF MAMSEY LANE**

**WILLITON**

**WEST SOMERSET**

**SOMERSET**

Results of a Geophysical Survey



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 210109



[www.swarch.net](http://www.swarch.net)

01769 573555

01872 223164

# LAND OFF MAMSEY LANE, WILLITON, WEST SOMERSET, SOMERSET

## RESULTS OF A GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

---

By P. Webb  
Report Version: Final  
Final Draft issued: January 11<sup>th</sup> 2020  
Finalised: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020

Work undertaken by SWARCH for Archaeology Collective  
on behalf of Savills & the Wyndham Estate

### SUMMARY

---

*This report presents the results of a geophysical survey carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land off Mamsey Lane, Williton, Somerset, as part of a planning submission for proposed development of the site. The site comprises 11 fields c.280m north-west of the historic core of Williton within a shallow valley and south facing slope to the south of Bridgwater Bay. The settlement has Saxon origins and was a major royal administrative centre, though was sub-divided in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. By the 14<sup>th</sup> century much of the manor was in the hands of the church, though following Reformation the lands were gradually re-united in the hands of the Wyndhams. The Somerset HLC describes the site as within 'Anciently Enclosed Land' with medieval or prehistoric origins. Much of the surrounding landscape contains evidence of Bronze Age funerary activity and prehistoric to Romano-British settlement and field-systems; whilst many of the surrounding farmsteads and settlements date to the medieval period.*

*The geophysical survey identified 51 groups of anomalies along with evidence of geological variation and agricultural ground disturbance. The anomaly groups identified included: eight historic boundaries; two historic boundaries with drains; two possible field boundary divisions formed of potential banks and ditches; seven ditches; two discrete anomalies which may correspond to pits, tree-throws or other natural features; and 22 features associated with modern services. Linear striations indicative of ploughing activity were also identified across the site.*

*Whilst all of the features identified by the geophysical survey are inherently undated, some such as anomaly Groups 44-45 only appear on late-19<sup>th</sup> mapping and can therefore be presumed to be of that date. Many of the other identified historic boundaries can only be said to be in-use during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and only their end-of use can be approximated; their origins pre-dating the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The curving nature and spacing of some of the suggested boundary features would suggest that these have origins in the medieval period, whilst the differing alignment of further boundary features would suggest that these represent a different, perhaps earlier phase of division, and may be prehistoric and/or Romano-British in origin.*

*Any development of the site is likely to encounter and impact upon the buried archaeological resource, and given the wider potential suggested by the surrounding prehistoric and medieval landscape, further archaeological mitigation may be required in the form of targeted evaluation trenching to validate and clarify the results of the geophysical survey.*

---



January 2021

South West Archaeology Ltd. shall retain the copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project. 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.

## CONTENTS

---

<i>SUMMARY</i>	2
<i>CONTENTS</i>	3
<i>LIST OF FIGURES</i>	3
<i>LIST OF TABLES</i>	3
<i>LIST OF APPENDICES</i>	3
<i>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</i>	4
<i>PROJECT CREDITS</i>	4
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	5
1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.3 BRIEF HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.4 METHODOLOGY	6
<b>2.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 INTRODUCTION	8
2.2 SITE INSPECTION	8
2.3 METHODOLOGY	10
2.4 RESULTS	11
2.5 DISCUSSION	14
2.5.1 Field F1	15
2.5.2 Field F2	15
2.5.3 Field F3	16
2.5.4 Field F4	16
2.5.5 Field F5	16
2.5.6 Field F6	17
2.5.7 Field F7	17
2.5.8 Field F8	18
2.5.9 Field F9	18
2.5.10 Field F10	19
2.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	22
<b>3.0 CONCLUSION</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY &amp; REFERENCES</b>	<b>25</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

---

*Cover plate: View across field F1 towards Williton and the Quantock Hills beyond; viewed from the north-west (no scale).*

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION.	7
FIGURE 2: SITE PLAN SHOWING FIELD LAYOUT.	9
FIGURE 3: SHADE PLOT OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.	20
FIGURE 4: INTERPRETATION OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.	21
FIGURE 5: INTERPRETATION OF 2020 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY WITH INTERPRETATION OF 2010 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY.	23

## LIST OF TABLES

---

TABLE 1: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.	11
---	----

## LIST OF APPENDICES

---

APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL GRAPHICAL IMAGES OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY	26
APPENDIX 2: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS	30

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

THE AGENT  
THE CLIENT AND TENANTS FOR ACCESS

## PROJECT CREDITS

---

DIRECTOR: DR. SAMUEL WALLS, MCIFA  
FIELDWORK: SEAN STEVENS; PETER WEBB  
REPORT: PETER WEBB  
EDITING: DR. SAMUEL WALLS, MCIFA  
GRAPHICS: PETER WEBB

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

---

<b>LOCATION:</b>	MAMSEY LANE/B3191, WILLITON
<b>PARISH:</b>	WILLITON
<b>DISTRICT:</b>	WEST SOMERSET
<b>COUNTY:</b>	SOMERSET
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 307241 141480
<b>PLANNING REF.</b>	3/39/20/003
<b>SWHT REF.</b>	AH/ARP/1/2020/0156
<b>SWARCH REF.</b>	WSG20
<b>HER REF:</b>	39844

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by the Archaeology Collective on behalf of Savills and the Wyndham Estate to undertake a geophysical survey on land off Mamsey Lane, Williton, Somerset, as part of a planning submission for residential development of the site. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Meek 2020) drawn up in consultation with the South West Heritage Trust (SWHT), and in line with best practice and ClfA guidelines in order to assess the potential impact on surviving archaeological remains and deposits of any development on the site. This phase of work builds upon previous heritage statement (Savills 2018), field-walking (HER ref. 28817), geophysical survey (HER 28826; Stratascan 2010), watching brief (HER 32034) and evaluation trenching (Cotswold Archaeology 2010) carried out over the eastern and southern parts of the site.

### 1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposal site is located on the western edge of Williton, Somerset, c.10km east-south-east of Minehead and c.20km north-west of Taunton in a shallow valley between the Washford River (c.2km to west) and Doniford Stream (c.1.1km to the east) at a height of between 35m and 45m AOD. The survey area comprises 11 sub-rectangular agricultural fields (c.25ha) forming the western half of the development site (c.43ha) (Figure 1). The soils of this area are the slowly permeable non-calcareous and calcareous reddish clayey soils of Worcester Association and bordering well drained reddish coarse and fine loamy soils of the Newnham Association (SSEW 1983). These overlie superficial deposits of clay and silt alluvium and sand and gravel river terrace deposits; and sedimentary bedrock of mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group (BGS 2021).

### 1.3 BRIEF HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Williton is a settlement historically in the parish of St Decumans in the Deanery of Dunster and the Hundred of Williton and Freemanners (GenUKI 2021). The settlement is Saxon in origin, the name from the Old English meaning 'enclosure on the Willet' and was a major royal administrative centre. In 1170 the manor was sub-divided between the Knights Templar and Robert FitzUrse, though Robert gave property and rights to the chapel to St Decumans; and the manor was further sub-divided in 1388, though most of the estates around Williton were reunited in the hands of the Wyndhams (Gathercole 2003).

The site falls within land designated on the Somerset Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as *Anciently Enclosed Land pre-17<sup>th</sup> century AD* (AEL). The Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) records that directly east of the site is a group of five Neolithic to Bronze Age round barrows (SAM1019032), whilst geophysical survey to the south-east identified features associated with possible prehistoric field-systems associated with the barrow cemetery (HER ref. 32209). The site

sits in a wider landscape of prehistoric activity, with flint scatters identified to the north (HER ref. 34192) and east at Egrove Farm (HER ref. 34193) and on Rydon Hill (HER ref. 34191) along with a bowl barrow cemetery at Bleary Plate (HER ref. 34182). The Saxon settlement of Williton is believed to lie immediately to the south of the site (HER ref. 35383), to the north of the Grade II\* listed rebuilt medieval chapel (List 1174922) and possible manor site, the village growing and developing through the medieval and post-medieval periods.

As well as the geophysical survey previously carried out across the eastern half of the site (HER ref. 32209) which identified possible prehistoric field-systems, further geophysical surveys within the site (HER ref. 28825; 28826) identified only modern features; fieldwalking across the northern end of the site (HER ref. 28817) only recovered only a few artefacts; and evaluation trenching at the southern end (HER ref. 32263) did not identify any archaeological features. A large number of archaeological investigations, including building survey, evaluation trenching, fieldwalking, geophysical survey, and watching brief have been carried out across the wider area, the most notable being evaluation trenching off Bank Street (HER ref. 28122) which identified Bronze Age and Iron Age features, as well as Roman artefacts.

Historic mapping shows relative continuity in the surrounding field-system; the 1841 St Decumans tithe map showing the site as being divided into a number of plots, largely belonging to the Earl of Egremont, with only a small amount of boundary alteration being carried out over the following centuries.

#### 1.4 METHODOLOGY

This work was undertaken in accordance with current best practice, ClfA guidance. Any desk-based assessment aspect of this report 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 geophysical (gradiometer) survey follows the general guidance as outlined in: *EAC Guidelines for the use of geophysics in Archaeology: Questions to Ask and Points to Consider* (Europae Archaeologiae Consilium/European Archaeological Council 2016) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (ClfA 2014b).

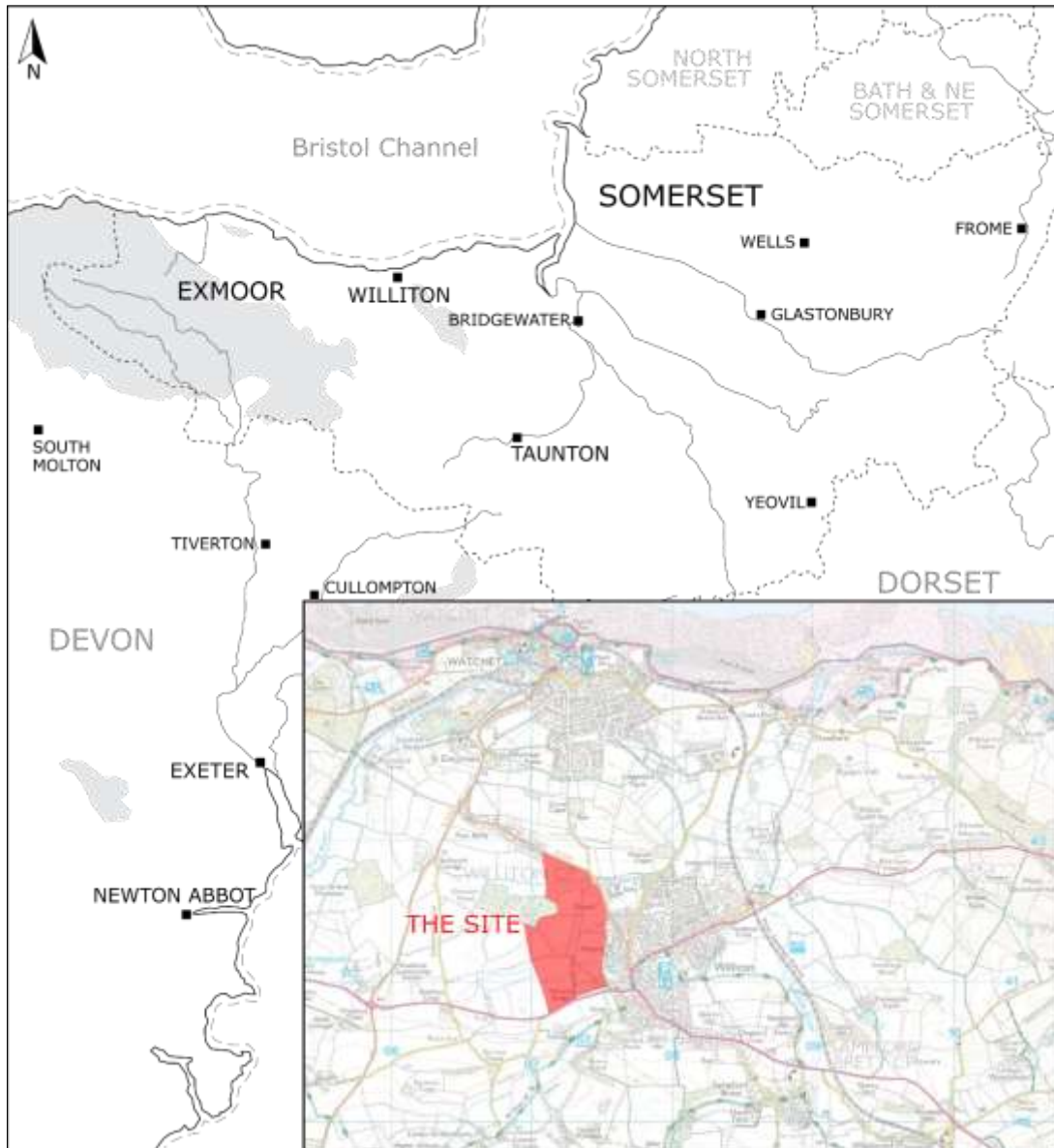


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

## 2.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

---

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

An area of c.24.6ha was the subject of a magnetometry (gradiometer) survey. The purpose of this survey was to identify and record magnetic anomalies within the proposal 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 between 2<sup>nd</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 by S. Stevens and P. Webb; the survey data was processed by P. Webb. Additional graphic images of the survey data and numbered grid locations can be found in Appendix 1; and supporting photographs from the site inspection can be seen in Appendix 2.

### 2.2 SITE INSPECTION

The site comprises 18 triangular to sub-rectangular fields forming a sub-rectangular block of agricultural land orientated approximately north to south; of which 11 (Fields F1-F11) were subject to geophysical survey (Figure 2). The site is set within a shallow valley between the Washford River and Doniford Stream, and is overlooked by the Quantock Hills (to the east) and Exmoor (to the west and south-west), and to the south of Bridgwater Bay. It is bounded to the north by the B3191 (North Road); to the east by the residential development of Williton; to the south by the A39 (Priest Street); and to the west by agricultural land and Outmoor Wood.

The majority of the survey area is relatively level, though was moderately steeply sloping down to the south across field F6. At the time of survey, much of the site (fields F1, F5-8, and F10) had recently been harvested of crops; F2-4 and F9 were under pasture; and F11 was in use as a covered storage area. The harvesting of crops and wet ground conditions meant that much of the survey area was heavily rutted and no earthworks or features were visible within these fields; the stored materials within F11 similarly masking any features. The only earthwork features identified were a series of linear gullies running approximately north to south and wider east to west orientated channel within field F2; whilst a short section of cob and stone wall suggestive of the former presence of a building (not depicted on historic mapping) at this location was identified in the south-western corner of field F11. Modern services were also identified through three metal man-hole covers within field F1 and a collapsed man-hole within field F10; whilst telegraph poles and pylons with overhead cables also cross the site. A stoned track forming a continuation of Mamsey Lane runs along the southern and western edge of F6 into Outmoor Wood.

Field boundaries across the site are predominantly formed of overgrown hedgebanks with internal ditches and post-&-wire fences, except between fields F2 and F3 & F4; and F7 & F8 where open drainage ditches form the boundaries, which between the latter was lined by tall reeds. The ditches along the eastern edge of field F5, and between F6 and F9 also forms part of a more substantial drainage feature.



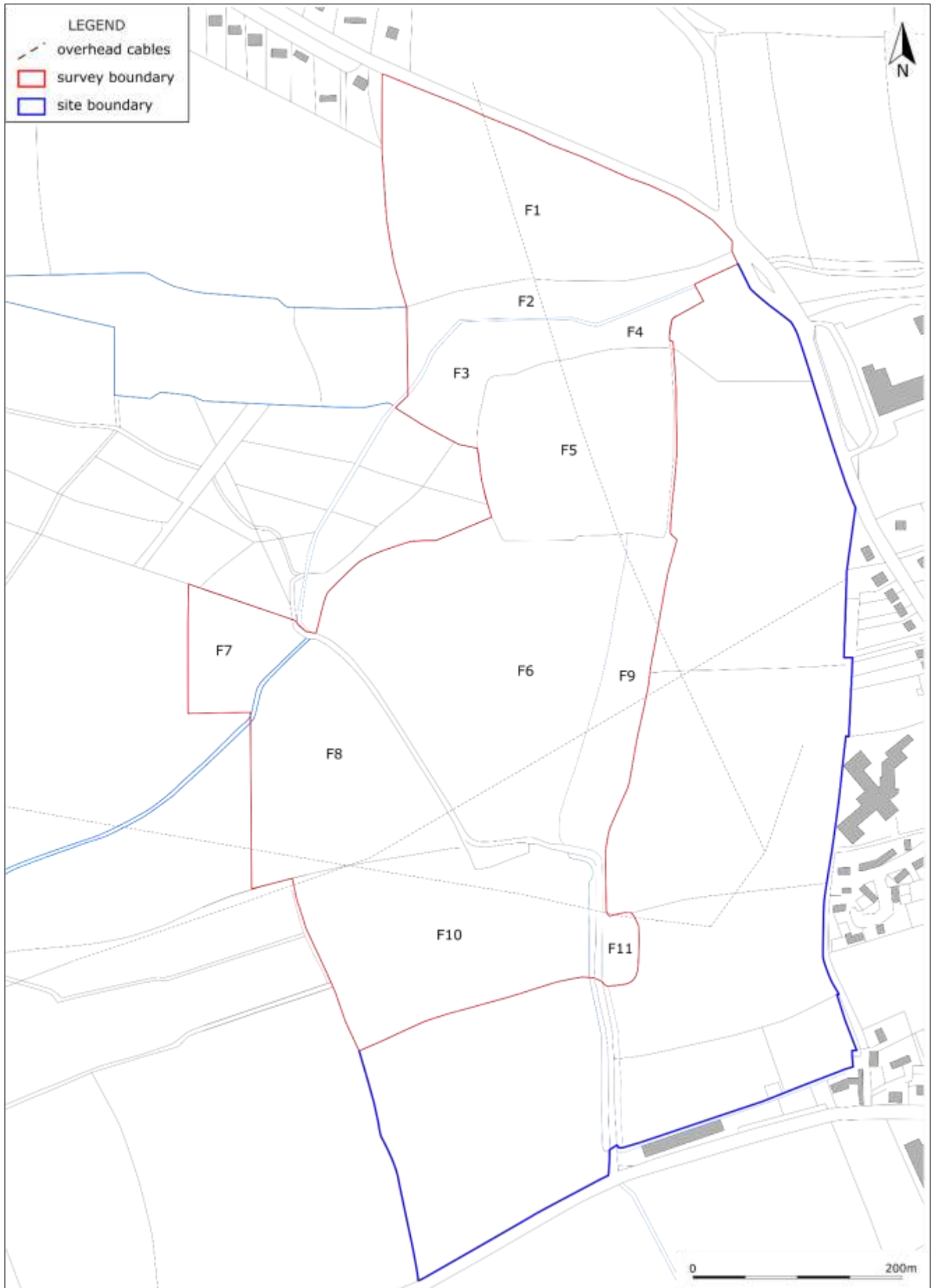


FIGURE 2: SITE PLAN SHOWING FIELD LAYOUT.

## 2.3 METHODOLOGY

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

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

Processes:

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

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

Details:

F1: 3.8092ha surveyed

Stats unadjusted: Max. 98.96nT, Min. -100.00nT; Standard Deviation 17.77nT, mean -1.03nT, median -0.06nT.

F2: 0.84355ha surveyed

Stats unadjusted: Max. 98.39nT, Min. -100.00nT; Standard Deviation 11.99nT, mean 0.94nT, median 1.39nT.

F3: 0.8565ha surveyed

Stats unadjusted: Max. 98.40nT, Min. -100.00nT; Standard Deviation 14.32nT, mean -0.08nT, median 0.51nT.

F4: 0.1991ha surveyed

Stats unadjusted: Max. 98.41nT, Min. -100.00nT; Standard Deviation 11.23nT, mean 0.03nT, median 0.70nT.

F5: 2.7266ha surveyed

Stats unadjusted: Max. 83.16nT, Min. -100.00nT; Standard Deviation 2.93nT, mean 1.10nT, median 1.19nT.

F6: 5.4128ha surveyed

Stats unadjusted: Max. 98.46nT, Min. -100.00nT; Standard Deviation 6.91nT, mean 0.83nT, median 0.42nT.

F7: 0.63565ha surveyed

Stats unadjusted: Max. 62.13nT, Min. -100.00nT; Standard Deviation 1.83nT, mean 0.78nT, median 0.76nT.

F8: 2.8437ha surveyed

Stats unadjusted: Max. 99.02nT, Min. -100.00nT; Standard Deviation 8.67nT, mean 1.13nT, median

0.70nT.

F9: 1.0091ha surveyed

Stats unadjusted: Max. 98.42nT, Min. -100.00nT; Standard Deviation 5.62nT, mean 0.11nT, median 0.29nT.

F10: 3.5217ha surveyed

Stats unadjusted: Max. 98.98nT, Min. -100.00nT; Standard Deviation 6.52nT, mean 0.76nT, median 0.56nT.

F11: Not surveyed.

## 2.4 RESULTS

Table 1 with the accompanying Figures 3 and 4 show the analyses and interpretation of the geophysical survey data.

TABLE 1: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
<b>Field F1</b>				
1	Weak positive & negative, possible	Linear	Historic boundary, ditch & banked material	Indicative of a cut and in-filled feature such as a ditch running to one side of compact/banked material. Intermittent response may indicate areas of poorer survival. Responses of between -3.66nT and +17.09nT.
2	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Historic boundary, double-ditches	Indicative of cut and in-filled features such as ditches. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poorer survival. Responses of between +1.74nT and +10.43nT.
3	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Ditches	Indicative of a cut and in-filled features such as ditches. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poorer survival. Responses of between +0.71nT and +14.40nT.
4	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with metallic service. Responses of between -100nT and +98.41nT.
5	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with metallic service. Responses of between -100nT and +98.41nT.
6	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with metallic service. Responses of between -100nT and +98.46nT.
7	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with metallic service. Likely associated with Groups 13, 18, 30 & 38. Responses of between -100nT and +98.46nT.
8	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with metallic service. Responses of between -100nT and +98.46nT.
9	Strong dipolar (mixed response), certain	Discrete	Modern service, pylon	Indicative of ferrous objects or cut and in-filled feature with surrounding ferrous objects. Upstanding pylons identified in this location. Responses of between -100nT and +98.41nT.
10	Moderate positive with weak negative, possible	Discrete	Ovoid, pit	Indicative of a discrete cut and in-filled feature such as a pit or tree-throw with surrounding compact/banked material. Responses of between -4.88nT and +27.39nT.
11	Weak positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity	Linear striations covering the entire site with regularity. Indicative of ploughing. Weak mixed positive and negative responses suggest shallow ploughing. Responses of between -2.83nT and +3.16nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic object. Responses of between c.+/-100nT.

LAND OFF MAMSEY LANE, WILLITON, SOMERSET

Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between +/-100nT.
<b>Field F2</b>				
12	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with ceramic service. Responses of between -15.08nT and +37.54nT.
13	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with metallic service. Likely associated with Groups 7, 18, 30 & 38. Responses of between -100nT and +98.41nT.
14	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with ceramic service. Masked by disturbed ground. Responses of between -12.89nT and +30.96nT.
15	Weak bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with ceramic service. Responses of between -10.93nT and +7.74nT.
16	Weak positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity	Linear striations covering the entire site with regularity. Indicative of ploughing. Weak mixed positive and negative responses suggest shallow ploughing. Responses of between -2.48nT and +1.76nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic object. Responses of between c.+/-100nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between +/-100nT.
<b>Field F3</b>				
17	Weak positive with weak negative, possible	Discrete	Ovoid, pit	Indicative of a discrete cut and in-filled feature such as a pit or tree-throw with surrounding compact/banked material. Responses of between -5.07nT and +15.07nT.
18	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with metallic service. Likely associated with Groups 7, 13, 30 & 38. Responses of between -100.47nT and +98.52nT.
19	Weak positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity	Linear striations covering the entire site with regularity. Indicative of ploughing. Weak mixed positive and negative responses suggest shallow ploughing. Responses of between -1.64nT and +4.90nT.
<b>Field F4</b>				
20	Moderate bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with ceramic service. Likely associated with Group 24. Responses of between -19.25nT and +11.08nT.
<b>Field F5</b>				
21	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Historic boundary, ditch	Indicative of a cut and in-filled feature such as a ditch. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poorer survival. Responses of between +0.21nT and +3.11nT.
22	Weak bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Historic boundary, ditch/drain	Indicative of in-filled cut feature such as a service trench/ditch containing a ceramic drain. Associated with Group 20. Responses of between -3.90nT and +4.75nT.
23	Weak positive, probable	Recti-linear	Enclosure, ditch	Indicative of a cut and in-filled feature such as a ditch. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poor survival. Responses of between +0.31nT and +4.40nT.
24	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Ditch OR Geological	Indicative of a cut and in-filled feature such as a ditch. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poor survival. Responses of between +0.13nT and +2.32nT.
25	Weak negative, certain	Discrete	Modern service, pylon	Modern pylon. Corresponds with position of upstanding pylon. Responses of between -5.91nT and -0.79nT.
26	Weak positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity	Linear striations covering the entire site with regularity. Indicative of ploughing. Weak mixed positive and negative responses suggest shallow ploughing. Responses of between -2.73nT and +5.41nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic object. Responses of between c.+/-100nT.
	Strong bipolar	Irregular	Modern	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by

LAND OFF MAMSEY LANE, WILLITON, SOMERSET

Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
	(mixed response)		disturbance	proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between +/-100nT.
<b>Field F6</b>				
27	Weak positive & negative, possible	Linear	Historic boundary, ditch & banked material	Indicative of a cut and in-filled feature such as a ditch running to one side of compact/banked material. Intermittent response may indicate areas of poorer survival. Responses of between -3.41nT and +5.07nT.
28	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Historic boundary, ditch	Indicative of a cut and in-filled feature such as a ditch. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poorer survival. Responses of between +0.38nT and +4.19nT.
29	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of a cut and in-filled feature such as a ditch. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poor survival. Responses of between +0.38nT and +6.11nT.
30	Moderate bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with metallic service. Likely associated with Groups 7,13,18 & 38. Responses of between -99.42nT and +98.57nT.
31	Moderate dipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with service cable. Responses of between -11.77nT and +95.48nT.
32	Moderate bipolar (mixed positive & negative), certain	Linear	Modern service, pylon	Indicative of modern service. Corresponds with upstanding pylon. Responses of between -11.74nT and +86.59nT.
33	Weak positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity	Linear striations covering the entire site with regularity. Indicative of ploughing. Weak mixed positive and negative responses suggest shallow ploughing. Responses of between -2.43nT and +2.63nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic object. Responses of between c.+/-100nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between +/-100nT.
<b>Field F7</b>				
34	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of an in-filled cut feature such as a ditch. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poor survival. Responses of between +0.47nT and +9.07nT.
35	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of an in-filled cut feature such as a ditch. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poor survival. Responses of between +0.38nT and +1.24nT.
36	Weak positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity	Linear striations covering the entire site with regularity. Indicative of ploughing. Weak mixed positive and negative responses suggest shallow ploughing. Responses of between -2.58nT and +2.37nT.
<b>Field F8</b>				
37	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of an in-filled cut feature such as a ditch. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poor survival. Responses of between +0.24nT and +3.36nT.
38	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Linear	Modern service	Indicative of modern service trenching with metallic service. Likely associated with Groups 7,13 & 18. Responses of between -100.21nT and +99.20nT.
39	Moderate bipolar (mixed positive & negative), certain	Linear	Modern service, pylon	Indicative of modern service. Corresponds with upstanding pylon. Responses of between -100.63nT and +98.38nT.
40	Weak positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity	Linear striations covering the entire site with regularity. Indicative of ploughing. Weak mixed positive and negative responses suggest shallow ploughing. Responses of between -2.63nT and +2.80nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic object. Responses of between c.+/-100nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between +/-100nT.
<b>Field F9</b>				
41	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Historic boundary, ditch	Indicative of an in-filled cut feature such as a ditch. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poor survival. Responses of between +0.57nT to +3.13nT.
42	Weak positive	Linear	Ditches and	Indicative of in-filled cut features such as ditches. Areas of

Anomaly Group	Class and Certainty	Form	Archaeological Characterisation	Comments
	with weak negative, possible		banked material	negative alongside may indicate presence of compact/bank material. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poor survival. Responses of between -3.00nT and +4.05nT.
43	Weak negative, possible	Linear	Drain	Indicative of buried stone feature such as a drain. Responses of between -7.40nT and -1.08nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic object. Responses of between c.+/-100nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between +/-100nT.
<b>Field F10</b>				
44	Moderate dipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Recti-linear	Historic boundary, ditch/drain	Indicative of an in-filled cut feature such as a ditch. Responses of between -18.95nT and +25.46nT.
45	Strong dipolar (mixed positive & negative), probable	Curvi-linear	Historic boundary, ditch, drain	Indicative of an in-filled cut feature such as a ditch or modern service such as a ceramic drain. Responses of between -53.64nT and +39.98nT.
46	Weak positive with negative, possible	Linear	Historic boundary, ditch and banked material	Indicative of an in-filled cut feature such as a ditch. Weak negative responses may indicate presence of compact/bank material. Responses of between -2.76nT - 0.17nt +0.07nT to 3.00nT.
47	Weak positive and negative, possible	Linear	Ditch and banked material	Indicative of an in-filled cut feature such as a ditch. Weak negative responses may indicate areas of compact/bank material. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poor survival. Responses of between -2.75nT and +8.46nT.
48	Weak positive, possible	Linear	Ditch	Indicative of an in-filled cut feature such as a ditch. Intermittent responses may indicate areas of poor survival. Responses of between +0.13nT and +5.76nT.
49	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), certain	Discrete	Modern service, pylon	Indicative of a modern service. Corresponds with the position of an upstanding pylon. Responses of between -14.74nT and +3.70nT.
50	Strong bipolar (mixed positive & negative), certain	Discrete	Modern service, pylon	Indicative of a modern service. Corresponds with the position of an upstanding pylon. Responses of between -14.09nT and +53.67nT.
51	Weak positive & negative, possible	Linear	Agricultural activity	Linear striations covering the entire site with regularity. Indicative of ploughing. Weak mixed positive and negative responses suggest shallow ploughing. Responses of between -2.34nT and +4.44nT.
	Strong dipolar (mixed response)	Discrete	Ferrous anomaly	Indicative of metallic object. Responses of between c.+/-100nT.
	Strong bipolar (mixed response)	Irregular	Modern disturbance	Indicative of disturbed ground and disturbance caused by proximity to metallic fences and debris. Responses of between +/-100nT.

## 2.5 DISCUSSION

The survey identified 51 groups of anomalies along with evidence of geological variation and agricultural ground disturbance. These were predominantly linear anomalies likely associated with phases of field division and agricultural activity, but also included modern disturbance/services. The identified anomaly groups include: possible ditch and bank field boundaries, ditch features, and modern services. Evidence of ploughing and metallic debris and ground disturbance was also identified.

The general response variation across the site was between +/-3T with occasional clear geological variation up to +/-5nT. The response strength of probable archaeological activity was weak to moderate (typically between +/-1nT and +/-20nT) though it is possible that those anomalies at the weaker end of the range may be natural or geological in origin.

The anomaly groups identified included: eight historic boundaries (Groups 1-2, 21-22, 27-28, 41 &

46); two historic boundaries with drains (Groups 44-45); two possible field boundary divisions formed of potential banks and ditches (Groups 42 & 47); eight ditches (Groups 3, 23, 24, 29, 34-35, 37 & 48); two discrete anomalies which may correspond to pits, tree-throws or other natural features (Groups 10 & 17); and 21 features associated with modern services (Groups 4-9, 12-15, 18, 20, 25, 30-32, 38-39, 43 & 49-50). Linear striations indicative of ploughing activity were also identified across the site (Groups 11, 16, 19, 26, 33, 36, 40, 51).

### 2.5.1 FIELD F1

Two historic boundaries (anomaly Groups 1-2) were identified within field F1, both aligned approximately north to south. The easternmost of these (Group 1) consists of weak positive (+1.33nT to +17.09nT) and negative (-3.66nT to -0.70nT) linear responses indicative of an in-filled ditch to one side of compacted/banked material. Towards the western end, Group 2 is formed of a pair of weak positive (+1.74nT to +10.43nT) linear anomalies indicative of in-filled ditches, and are likely to have flanked a central bank. Both groups are depicted on historic mapping dating from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and were only removed in the late 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century. Additional boundaries are depicted on the historic mapping, particularly to the east of the field associated with the Group 1 anomalies, though these were not identified by the geophysical survey; disturbance caused by modern service trenching likely to have destroyed any surviving trace.

Anomaly Group 3 comprises a series of short sections of weak positive (+0.71nT to +14.40nT) linear anomalies indicative of in-filled ditches. These features are not depicted on the historic mapping, though their broad curving north-west to south-east alignment follows the northern field boundary, and they are likely to form part of an earlier phase of the existing field-system.

Much of the field has been crossed by modern services (Groups 4-8), with strong bipolar responses (-100nT to -1.61nT; +8.70nT to +98.46nT) the creation of which may have destroyed nearby archaeological features. The position of an upstanding telegraph pole/pylon also corresponds with anomaly Group 9 (bipolar response; -100nT to -4.99nT; +55.10nT to +98.41nT).

Anomaly Group 10 comprises a single discrete feature with positive (+3.08nT to +27.39nT) and surrounding negative (-1.30nT to -4.88nT) responses indicative of an in-filled cut feature such as a pit with surrounding banked spoil material, probably the upcast from its excavation. Its singularity within the site and proximity to modern services may indicate that it denotes the point of a remove telegraph pole.

Linear striations (anomaly Group 11) of weak negative (-0.16nT to -2.83nT) and positive (+1.00nT to +3.16nT) responses orientated predominantly east to west, though with examples running north-north-west to south-south-east are present across the field, the regularity and weakness of the responses suggesting that they may represent shallow ploughing.

Modern disturbance, dipolar anomalies and magnetic disturbance are also located across the field, particularly around the site boundaries. This is likely due to the presence of ferrous objects and other metallic debris and the metallic components of fence lines and field boundaries.

### 2.5.2 FIELD F2

The anomalies identified within field F2 all appear to relate to modern services, Group 13 comprising strong bipolar responses (-101.41nT to -1.19nT; +9.29nT to +98.07nT) and forming a direct continuation of Group 7 from field F1; the weaker bipolar responses of Groups 12 (-15.08nT to -1.13nT; +1.06nT to +37.54nT), 14 (-12.89nT to -1.18nT; +1.31nT to +30.96nT) and 15 (-10.93nT to -1.92nT; +1.36nT to +7.74nT) suggesting that these may be ceramic drains associated with land-drainage rather than domestic utilities. This is particularly the case with the Group 15 anomaly which was identified in the site inspection as a shallow linear depression in the ground between

two larger drainage ditches.

Linear striations (anomaly Group 16) of weak negative (-2.48nT to -0.04nT) and positive (+0.12nT to +1.76nT) responses orientated east-north-east to west-south-west run across the field, the regularity and weakness of the responses suggesting that they may represent historic shallow ploughing before the field was laid to pasture.

Modern disturbance, dipolar anomalies and magnetic disturbance are also located across the field, particularly around the site boundaries. This is likely due to the presence of ferrous objects and other metallic debris and the metallic components of fence lines and field boundaries.

### 2.5.3 FIELD F3

A single discrete feature (Group 17) with positive (+1.39nT to +15.07nT) and surrounding negative (-5.07nT to -1.16nT) responses indicative of an infilled cut feature such as a pit with surrounding banked spoil material was identified within field F3. This feature appears very irregular, and may indicate a quarry pit, or a fallen tree.

The remaining linear anomalies identified within field F3 relate to modern services, Group 18 comprising a linear bipolar response (-100.47nT to -1.27nT; +6.37nT to +98.52nT) forming a direct continuation of Groups 7 and 13 from fields F1 and F2. Linear striations (anomaly Group 19) of weak negative (-1.64nT to -0.15nT) and positive (+0.29nT to +4.90nT) responses orientated north-east to south-west run across the field, the regularity and weakness of the responses suggesting that they may represent historic shallow ploughing before the field was laid to pasture.

Modern disturbance, dipolar anomalies and magnetic disturbance are also located across the field, particularly around the site boundaries. This is likely due to the presence of ferrous objects and other metallic debris and the metallic components of fence lines and field boundaries.

### 2.5.4 FIELD F4

A single linear anomaly (Group 20) with bipolar positive (+0.78nT to +11.08nT) and negative (-19.25nT to -0.44nT) responses orientated approximately north to south across the field associated with Group 22 (see below). The responses are indicative of an in-filled ditch with containing a ceramic drain.

Modern disturbance, dipolar anomalies and magnetic disturbance are also located across the field, particularly around the site boundaries. This is likely due to the presence of ferrous objects and other metallic debris and the metallic components of fence lines and field boundaries.

### 2.5.5 FIELD F5

Two historic boundaries are depicted on historic mapping, anomaly Group 21 corresponding with one present from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, though its very weak positive (+0.21nT to +3.11nT) and intermittent nature suggest very poor survival. A second historic boundary (Group 22) which does not appear on the historic mapping until 1930 when it is indicated as a drain with sluices, consists of weak bipolar (-3.90nT to -0.29nT; +0.80nT to +4.75nT) responses suggesting that it may contain a ceramic drain, and forms a continuation of anomaly Group 20 from field F4, continuing to the south as the current ditch/drain boundary between fields F6 and F9.

Anomaly Group 23 comprises two sections of weak positive (+0.31nT to +4.40nT) linear anomalies indicative of in-filled ditches. Both have right-angled turns and together would appear to form the northern and southern ends of a small rectangular enclosure orientated approximately north to south, its alignment suggesting that it formed part of an earlier phase of the existing field-system.



Anomaly Group 24 comprises a section of weak positive (+0.13nT to +2.32nT) linear responses indicative of an in-filled ditch. Its north-west to south-east alignment suggests that it may have formed part of an earlier phase of the existing field-system; though the very weak nature of the responses suggest that it may be geological in origin.

Modern services are also represented within this field, anomaly Group 25 comprising a discrete weak negative (-5.91nT to -0.79nT) anomaly corresponding with the position of an upstanding telegraph pole/pylon supporting overhead cables.

Linear striations (anomaly Group 26) of weak negative (-2.73nT to -0.57nT) and positive (+0.21nT to +5.41nT) responses orientated north-west to south-east run across the field, the regularity and weakness of the responses suggesting that they may represent historic shallow ploughing.

Modern disturbance, dipolar anomalies and magnetic disturbance are also located across the field, particularly around the site boundaries. This is likely due to the presence of ferrous objects and other metallic debris and the metallic components of fence lines and field boundaries.

#### 2.5.6 FIELD F6

Two historic boundaries (Groups 27-28) are depicted on historic mapping from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, anomaly Group 27 corresponding with a north to south orientated boundary and consisting of weak positive (+0.48nT to +5.07nT) and negative (-3.41nT to -0.54nT) linear responses indicative of an in-filled ditch to one side of compacted/banked material. The second boundary (Group 28) consists of weak positive (+0.38nT to +4.19nT) linear responses indicative of an in-filled ditch orientated approximately west-north-west to east-south-east. Its responses are generally very weak and it is unlikely to survive in particularly good condition.

Anomaly Group 29 comprises a series of short sections of weak positive (+0.38nT to +6.11nT) linear responses indicative of an in-filled cut ditch orientated approximately north-west to south-east. This feature does not appear on historic mapping, though its alignment matches the western boundary of the field, and it is likely that it represents an earlier phase of the existing field-system.

The majority of the remaining anomalies identified within field F6 represent modern services, Group 30 comprising strong bipolar responses (-99.42nT to -1.99nT; +7.13nT to +98.57nT) forming a continuation of the service trench identified in Groups 7,13, and 18; Group 31 a stretch of dipolar responses (-11.77nT to -1.47nT; +0.51nT to +95.48nT) indicative of a service cable; and Group 32 a discrete bipolar response (-11.74nT to -1.47nT; +5.94nT to +86.59nT) corresponding with an upstanding pylon supporting overhead cables.

Linear striations (anomaly Group 33) of weak negative (-2.43nT to -0.23nT) and positive (+0.31nT to +2.63nT) responses orientated both north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east run across the field, the regularity and weakness of the responses suggesting that they may represent historic shallow ploughing.

Modern disturbance, dipolar anomalies and magnetic disturbance are also located across the field, particularly around the site boundaries. This is likely due to the presence of ferrous objects and other metallic debris and the metallic components of fence lines and field boundaries.

#### 2.5.7 FIELD F7

Two sections of weak positive linear responses, comprising Groups 34 (+0.47nT to +9.07nT) aligned north-east to south-west and 35 (+0.38nT to +1.24nT) orientated approximately north-west to south-east were identified within field F7. Both are aligned with elements of the existing field-system and they are likely to represent an earlier phase.

Linear striations (anomaly Group 36) of weak negative (-2.58nT to -0.16nT) and positive (+0.22nT to +2.37nT) responses orientated approximately north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west run across the survey area within this field, the regularity and weakness of the responses suggesting that they may represent historic shallow ploughing, though may also correspond to significant rutting identified in the field at the time of the survey.

Modern disturbance, dipolar anomalies and magnetic disturbance are also located across the field, particularly around the site boundaries. This is likely due to the presence of ferrous objects and other metallic debris and the metallic components of fence lines and field boundaries.

#### 2.5.8 FIELD F8

A single linear weak positive (+0.24nT to +3.36nT) anomaly (Group 37) indicative of an in-filled ditch runs approximately east-north-east to west-south-west across the field. This feature corresponds with elements of the existing field-system and it is likely that it forms part of an earlier phase.

Modern services were also identified within field F8, anomaly Group 38 comprising a strong bipolar (-100.21nT to -1.26nT; +1.94nT to +99.20nT) linear anomaly that forms a continuation of the service identified in Groups 7, 13, 18 and 30; and discrete bipolar anomaly Group 39 (-100.63nT to -97.03nT; +2.12nT to +98.38nT) corresponding with the position of an upstanding pylon supporting overhead cables.

Linear striations (anomaly Group 40) of weak negative (-2.63nT to -0.17nT) and positive (+0.23nT to +2.80nT) responses orientated approximately east-north-east to west-south-west, but also north-west to south-east, run across the field, the regularity and weakness of the responses suggesting that they may represent historic shallow ploughing.

Modern disturbance, dipolar anomalies and magnetic disturbance are also located across the field, particularly around the site boundaries. This is likely due to the presence of ferrous objects and other metallic debris and the metallic components of fence lines and field boundaries.

#### 2.5.9 FIELD F9

A single historic boundary (Group 41) was identified within field F9, comprising a linear weak positive (+0.57nT to +3.13nT) anomaly indicative of an in-filled ditch orientated north-west to south-east. This feature corresponds with a boundary depicted on the 1841 tithe and 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps, but had been removed by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Anomaly Group 42 comprises a pair of weak positive (+0.22nT to +4.05nT) linear anomalies indicative of in-filled ditches orientated north-east to south-west. A linear weak negative (-3.00nT to -0.55nT) anomaly indicative of compacted/banked material runs to one side of the western of these ditches. These features are not depicted on the historic mapping, but run parallel to the existing boundaries of the field suggesting that they form an earlier phase of sub-division of the same field-system.

Anomaly Group 43 comprises a weak negative (-7.40nT to -1.08nT) linear response indicative of a possible stone feature, which given the nature of site with numerous drains and dykes, is likely to be a stone drain.

Modern disturbance, dipolar anomalies and magnetic disturbance are also located across the field, particularly around the site boundaries. This is likely due to the presence of ferrous objects and other metallic debris and the metallic components of fence lines and field boundaries.

### 2.5.10 FIELD F10

Three historic boundaries (Groups 44-46) were identified within field F10. The earliest, Group 46, comprises weak positive (+0.07nT to +3.00nT) with negative (-2.76nT to -0.17nT) linear responses indicative of an in-filled ditch with compacted/banked material to one side and is only depicted on the 1841 tithe map, being removed prior to the 1888 Ordnance Survey. By this time, the field was sub-divided by boundaries reflected in anomaly Groups 44 and 45, both represented by dipolar (-18.95nT to -1.01 and +2.04nT to +25.46nT; -53.64nT to -1.03nT and +2.26nT to +39.98nT respectively) responses indicating that despite being in-filled by the late 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century, the features are still likely to act as drains, now probably containing ceramic drains.

Anomaly Group 47 comprises weak positive (+0.46nT to +8.46nT) with negative (-0.42nT to -2.75nT) linear responses indicative of an in-filled ditch with accompanying compacted/banked material. It is aligned approximately north-east to south-west, parallel with the existing field boundaries, and is likely to have formed an earlier phase of the current field-system. Anomaly Group 48 comprises weak positive (+0.13nT to +5.76nT) slightly curvilinear responses indicative of an in-filled cut ditch. It is broadly orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, and whilst not exactly matching the existing boundary layout, is broadly similar to some elements, and may also represent an earlier phase of the current field-system.

Two discrete moderate to strong bipolar anomalies, Groups 49 (-14.74nT to -0.90nT; +1.93nT to +3.70nT) and 50 (-14.09nT to -1.81nT; +1.37nT to +53.67nT) were identified, both corresponding with upstanding telegraph poles/pylons supporting overhead cables.

Linear striations (anomaly Group 51) of weak negative (-2.34nT to -0.18nT) and positive (+0.25nT to +4.44nT) responses orientated approximately north-east to south-west, run across the field, the regularity and weakness of the responses suggesting that they may represent historic shallow ploughing.

Modern disturbance, dipolar anomalies and magnetic disturbance are also located across the field, particularly around the site boundaries. This is likely due to the presence of ferrous objects and other metallic debris and the metallic components of fence lines and field boundaries.

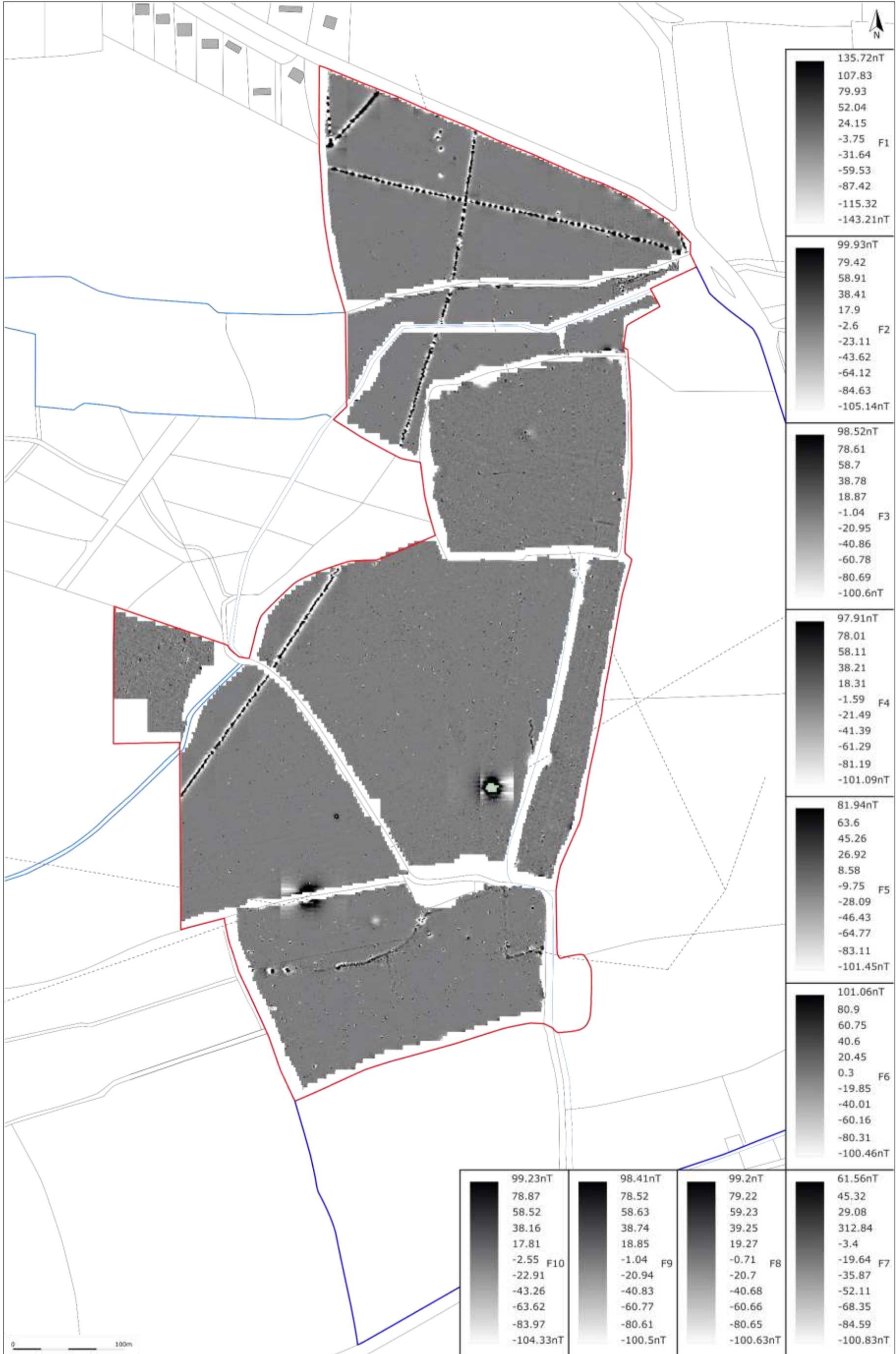


FIGURE 3: SHADE PLOT OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; MINIMAL PROCESSING.

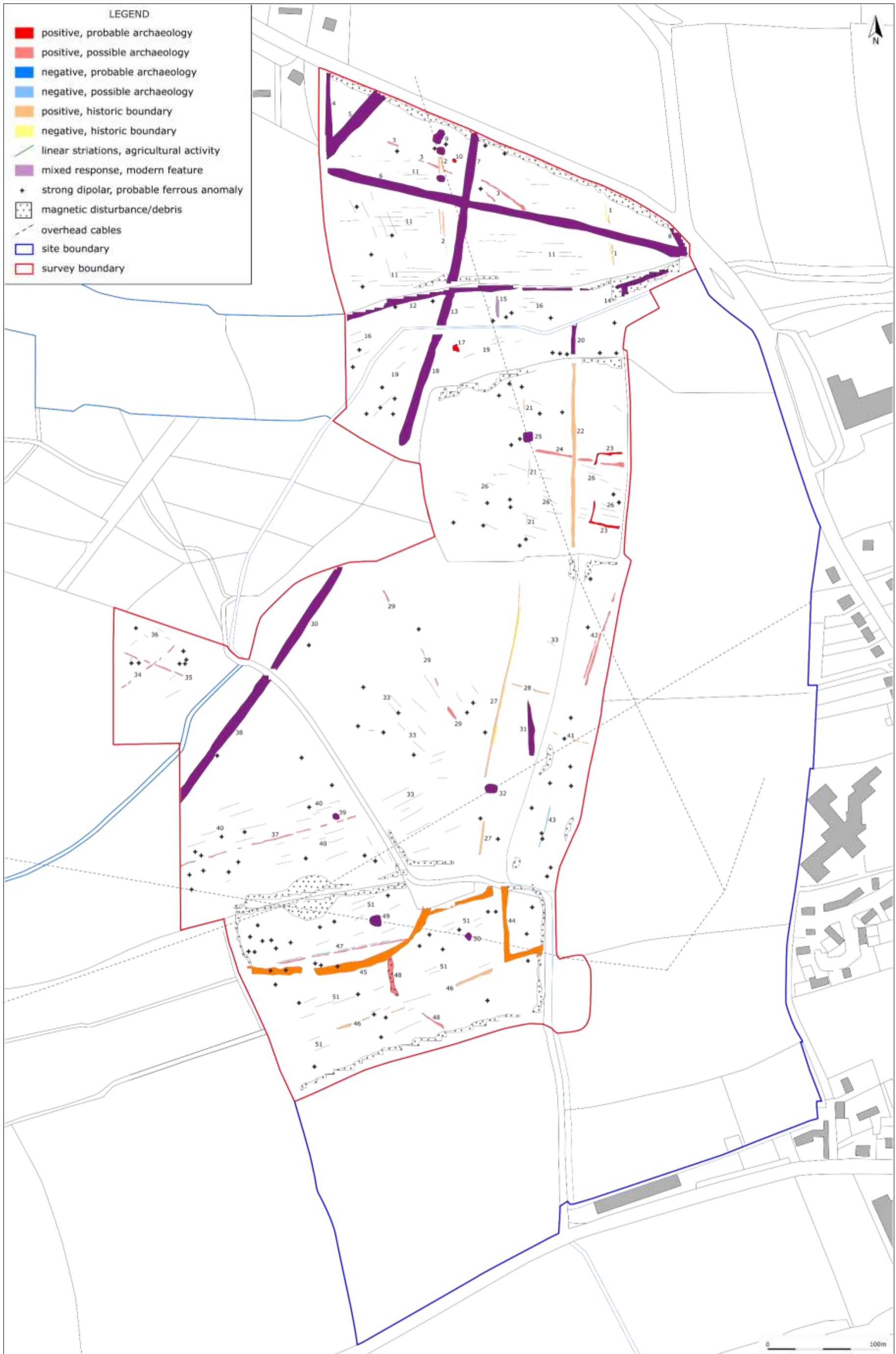


FIGURE 4: INTERPRETATION OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.



## 2.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The results of the geophysical survey would suggest that the archaeological potential for the site is *moderate*. A number of linear features were identified that can be related to historic boundaries and drainage features depicted on mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and later mapping (Groups 1-2, 21-22, 27-28, 41 & 44-46) and relating the previous phase of the existing field layout. Elements of this field-system are likely to be medieval in origin, the spacing and gently curving nature of some of the boundaries, particularly those on a broad north to south alignment, suggestive of strip-field divisions; with the more regularized straight boundaries additions during post-medieval enclosure. Some of the other ditch and bank features (e.g. 37, 47) are also likely to have formed part of this same medieval field-system, but were removed as part of the post-medieval enclosure. Others, however (e.g. Groups 23, 48) are less clearly associated and may pre-date it. Given the presence of possible prehistoric settlement features, and particularly barrow monuments, identified to the east and south-east by previous episodes of geophysical survey (Figure 5) and excavation it is possible that some of these features are associated with episodes of prehistoric activity.

The degree of preservation of the identified features appears to be poor. Other than the modern services, the vast majority of the anomaly responses are very weak and intermittent, some features being barely discernible from the background geology. This suggests that many of the identified features only survive to a shallow depth, and their intermittent nature indicating only partial survival. However, it is also possible that additional, even more ephemeral features, are masked by the responses of more recent episodes of ploughing (e.g. Groups 11, 16, 19, 51); whilst others have been destroyed by this historic agricultural activity.

Any development of the site is likely to encounter and destroy the buried archaeological resource, and given the potential suggested by the surrounding prehistoric and medieval landscape, it is suggested that further archaeological mitigation in the form of targeted evaluation trenching be carried out to validate and clarify the results of the geophysical survey.

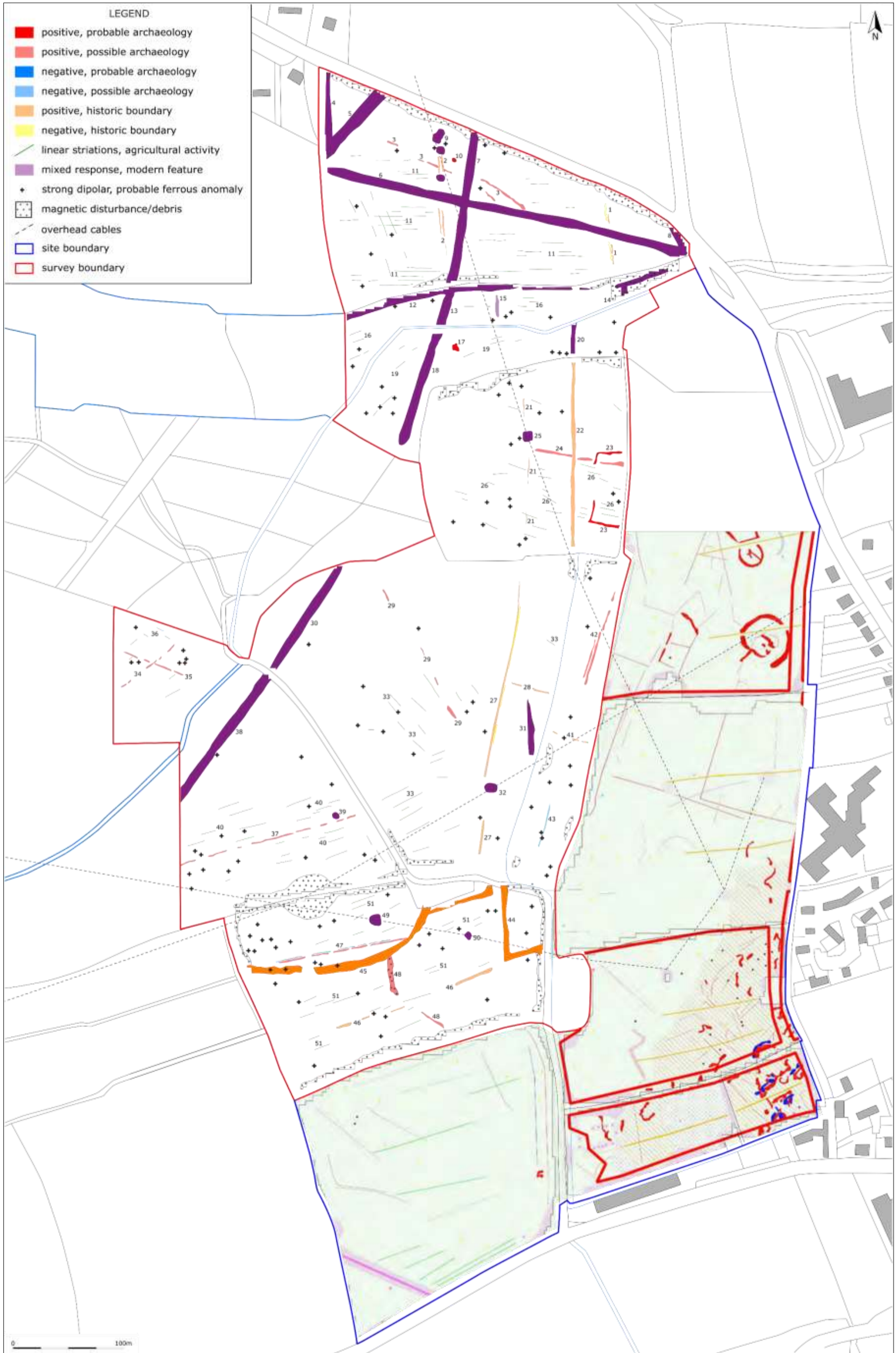


FIGURE 5: INTERPRETATION OF 2020 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY WITH INTERPRETATION OF 2010 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY (AFTER STRATASCAN 2010).

### 3.0 CONCLUSION

---

The site comprises 11 field c.280m north-west of the historic core of Williton within a shallow valley and south facing slope to the south of Bridgwater Bay. The settlement has Saxon origins and was a major royal administrative centre, though was sub-divided in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. By the 14<sup>th</sup> century much of the manor was in the hands of the church, though following Reformation the lands were gradually re-united in the hands of the Wyndhams. The Somerset HLC describes the site as within 'Anciently Enclosed Land' with medieval or prehistoric origins. Much of the surrounding landscape contains evidence of Bronze Age funerary activity and prehistoric to Romano-British settlement and field-systems; whilst many of the surrounding farmsteads and settlements date to the medieval period.

The geophysical survey identified 51 groups of anomalies along with evidence of geological variation and agricultural ground disturbance. The anomaly groups identified included: eight historic boundaries (Groups 1-2, 21-22, 27-28, 41 & 46); two historic boundaries with drains (Groups 44-45); two possible field boundary divisions formed of potential banks and ditches (Groups 42 & 47); eight ditches (Groups 3, 23, 24, 29, 34-35, 37 & 48); two discrete anomalies which may correspond to pits, tree-throws or other natural features (Groups 10 & 17); and 22 features associated with modern services (Groups 4-9, 12-15, 18, 20, 25, 30-32, 38-39, 43 & 49-50). Linear striations indicative of ploughing activity were also identified across the site (Groups 11, 16, 19, 26, 33, 36, 40, 51).

Whilst all of the features identified by the geophysical survey are inherently undated, some such as anomaly Groups 44-45 only appear on late-19<sup>th</sup> mapping and can therefore be presumed to be of that date. Even other the historic boundaries can only be said to be in-use during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and only their end-of use can be approximated; their origins pre-dating the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The curving nature and spacing of some of the suggested boundary features would suggest that these have origins in the medieval period, whilst the differing alignment of further boundary features would suggest that these represent a different, perhaps earlier phase of division, and may be prehistoric and/or Romano-British in origin.

Any development of the site is likely to encounter and impact upon the buried archaeological resource, and given the wider potential suggested by the surrounding prehistoric and medieval landscape, further archaeological mitigation may be required in the form of targeted evaluation trenching to validate and clarify the results of the geophysical survey.



## 4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY & REFERENCES

---

### *Published Sources:*

- Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists** 2014a (revised 2017): *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists** 2014b (revised 2017): *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey*.
- DW Consulting** 2016: *TerraSurveyor User Manual*.
- Europae Archaeologiae Consilium** 2016: *EAC Guidelines for the use of geophysics in Archaeology: Questions to Ask and Points to Consider, EAC guidelines 2*.
- English Heritage** 2008: *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*.
- Gathercole, C.** 2003: *An Archaeological Assessment of Williton*. Somerset County Council Extensive Urban Survey.
- Schmidt, A.** 2002: *Geophysical Data in Archaeology: A Guide to Good Practice*. ADS series of Guides to Good Practice. Oxbow Books, Oxford.
- Soil Survey of England and Wales** 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*.

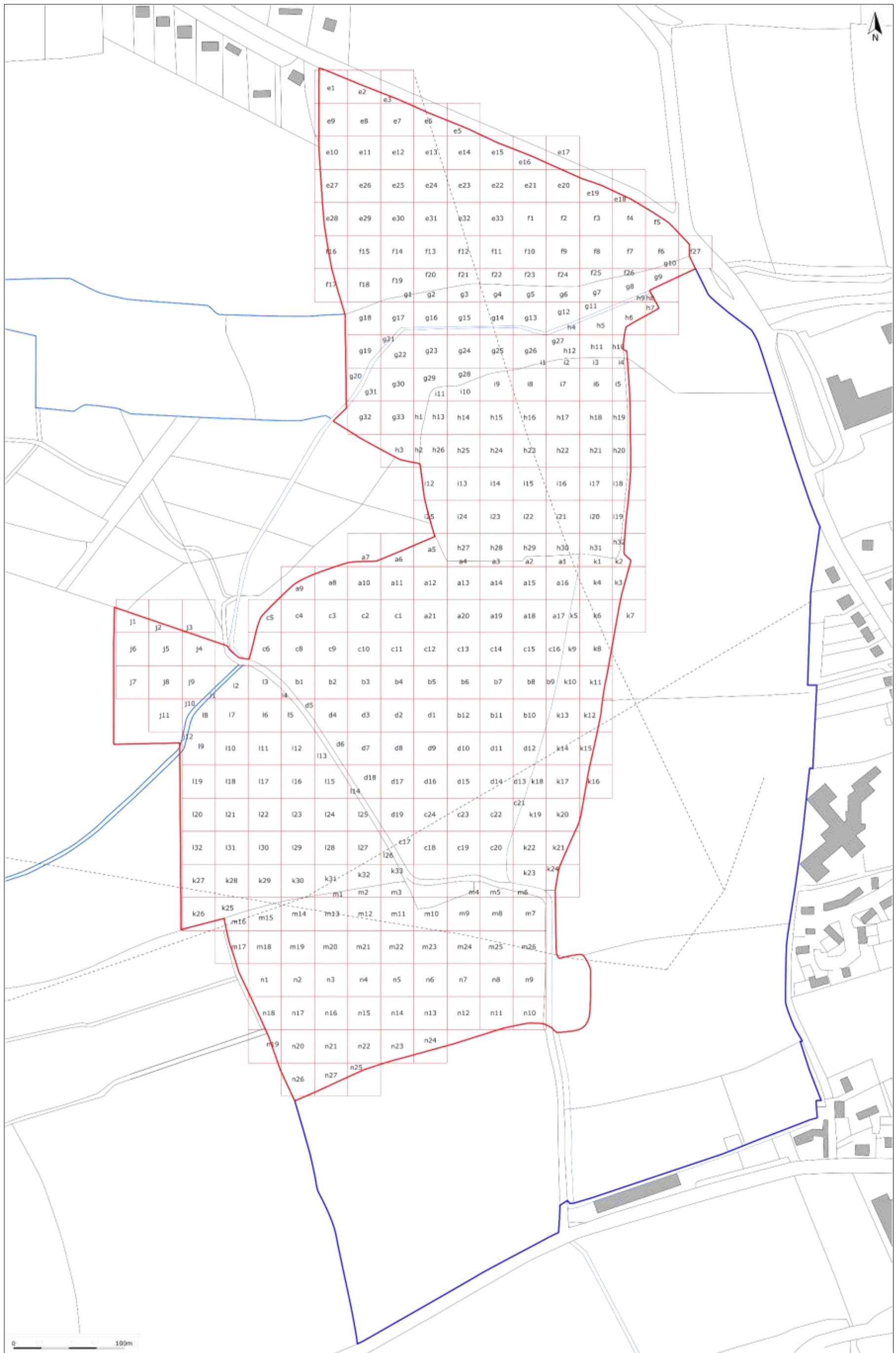
### *Unpublished Sources:*

- Cotswold Archaeology** 2010: *Land West of Williton, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation*. Cotswold Archaeology Report no. 10053.
- Meek, J.** 2020: *Land West of Williton, Taunton: Written Scheme of Investigation: Evaluation (Archaeological Geophysics and Trial Trenching)*. Archaeology Collective Report ref.:01388A.
- Savills** 2018: *Heritage Statement: Land West of Williton, Williton*. Savills Job ref.: 1772.
- Stratascan** 2010: *Geophysical Survey Report: Hinkley Off Site Developments for EDF Energy Ltd*. Stratascan Job ref.: J2676.

### *Websites:*

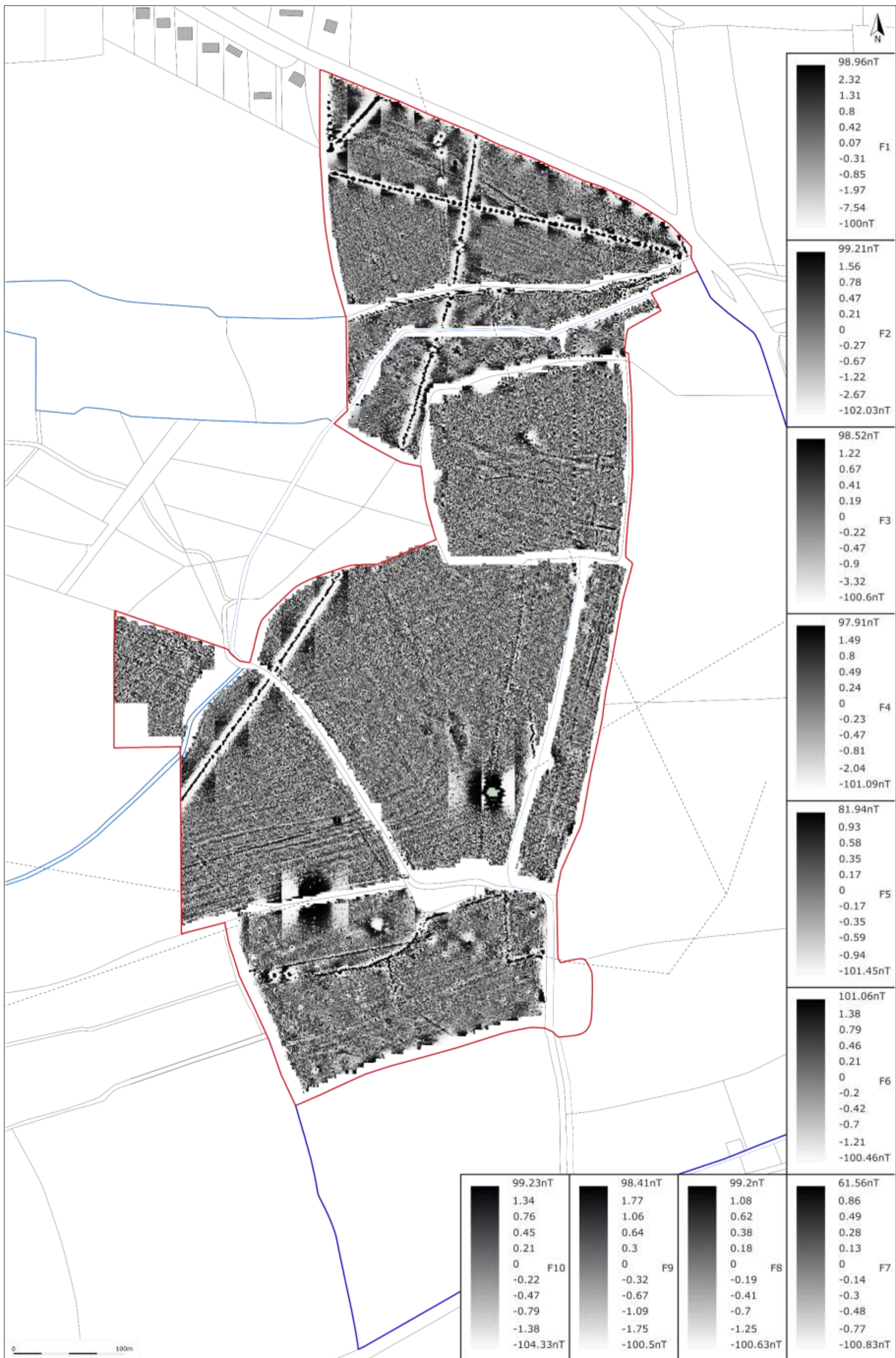
- British Geological Survey** 2021: *Geology of Britain Viewer*.  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
- GenUKI UK & Ireland Genealogy** 2021: *National Gazetteer of Great Britain & Ireland 1863*  
<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/SOM/Miscellaneous/.html>

APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL GRAPHICAL IMAGES OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY



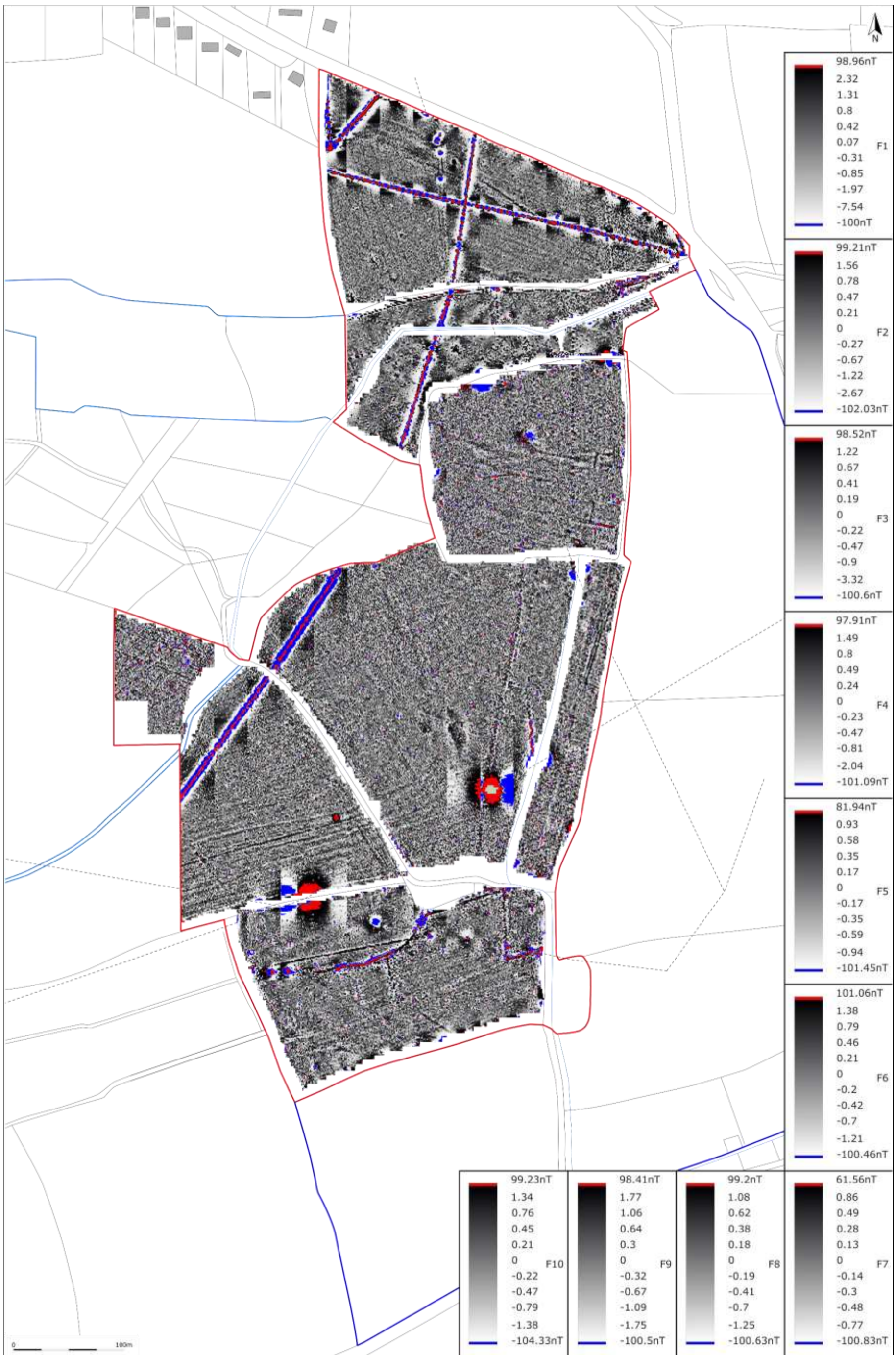
1. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY GRID LOCATION AND NUMBERING.





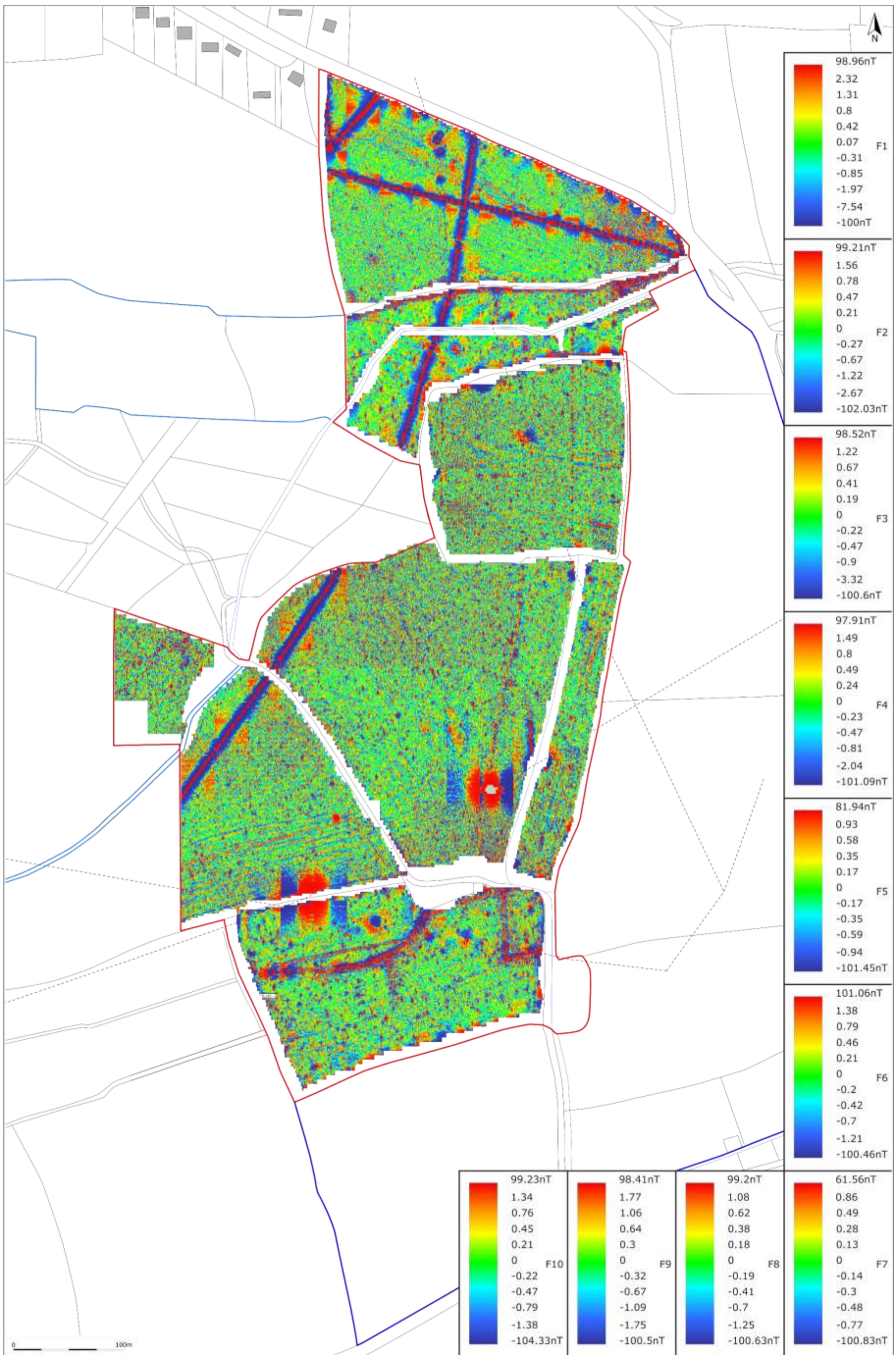
2. GREYSCALE SHADE PLOT OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; BAND WEIGHT EQUALISED; GRADIATED SHADING.





3. RED-GREY-BLUE SHADE PLOT OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; BAND WEIGHT EQUALISED; GRADIATED SHADING.





1. RED-GREEN-BLUE2 SHADE PLOT OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; BAND WEIGHT EQUALISED; GRADIATED SHADING.



APPENDIX 2: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS



1. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F1 FROM THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



2. DETAIL OF THE SOUTHERN HEDGEBANK AND DITCH BOUNDARY TO FIELD F1; VIEWED FROM THE WEST-SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



3. VIEW ALONG THE WESTERN EDGE OF FIELD F1; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).



4. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F1 FROM THE NORTH-WEST CORNER LOOKING TOWARDS THE QUANTOCK HILLS; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).





5. DETAIL OF THE NORTHERN ROADSIDE WALL BOUNDARY TO FIELD F1; VIEWED FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



6. DETAIL OF THE MAN-HOLE COVER TOWARDS THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF FIELD F1; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).





7. DETAIL OF THE MAN-HOLE COVER TOWARDS THE MIDDLE OF FIELD F1; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



8. DETAIL OF THE EASTERN-MOST MAN-HOLE COVER WITHIN FIELD F1; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).





9. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F2 FROM THE NORTH-WESTERN CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).



10. DETAIL OF THE EASTERN-MOST POSSIBLE DRAINAGE GULLY WITHIN FIELD F2; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).





11. DETAIL OF THE MIDDLE POSSIBLE DRAINAGE GULLY WITHIN FIELD F2; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).



12. DETAIL OF THE WESTERN-MOST POSSIBLE DRAINAGE GULLY WITHIN FIELD F2; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).





13. DETAIL OF ADDITIONAL POSSIBLE DRAINAGE FEATURES AT THE WESTERN END OF FIELD F2; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



14. DETAIL OF PIT FEATURE AT THE WESTERN END OF FIELD F2; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).





15. VIEW ALONG A POSSIBLE REMOVED BOUNDARY AT THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE FIELD F2 SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



16. DETAIL OF THE ACCESS 'TRACK' INTO FIELD F2; VIEWED FROM THE WEST-SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).





17. VIEW ALONG THE WESTERN DYKE BOUNDARY BETWEEN FIELDS F2 AND F3; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



18. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F3 FROM THE SOUTH-EASTERN CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).





19. VIEW ACROSS THE SOUTHERN PART OF FIELD F3 FROM THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



20. VIEW ALONG THE SOUTHERN HEDGE BANK AND DITCH BOUNDARY OF FIELD F3; VIEWED FROM THE WEST-SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).





21. DETAIL OF THE SOUTH-EASTERN HEDGEBANK AND DITCH BOUNDARY OF FIELD F3; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



22. DETAIL OF THE STONE BRIDGE OVER THE DYKE BETWEEN FIELDS F2 AND F4; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).





23. VIEW ALONG THE DYKE BOUNDARY BETWEEN FIELDS F2 AND F3 AND F4; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).



24. DETAIL OF THE DYKE/DITCH BOUNDARY BETWEEN FIELDS F3 AND F4; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).





25. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F4 FROM THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



26. VIEW ALONG THE EASTERN BANK AND DITCH BOUNDARY OF FIELD F4, FROM THE SOUTH-EASTERN CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).



27. DETAIL OF THE TUMULUS IN THE FIELD TO THE EAST OF FIELD F4; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).



28. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F5 FROM THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).





29. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F5 FROM THE NORTH-WEST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



30. DETAIL OF THE SOUTHERN HEDGEBANK AND DITCH BOUNDARY TO FIELD F5; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



31. VIEW ALONG THE NORTHERN EDGE OF FIELD F5; VIEWED FROM THE WEST-SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



32. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F6 FROM THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).





33. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F6 TOWARDS THE QUANTOCK HILLS FROM THE NORTH-WEST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



34. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F6; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).



35. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F6 FROM THE NORTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



36. VIEW ALONG THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF FIELD F6, SHOWING DETAIL OF THE TRACK AND WATERLOGGING; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).





37. VIEW ALONG THE TRACK ALONG THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD F6; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).



38. VIEW ALONG THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD F6, DETAILING THE EXTENT OF WATERLOGGING IN THE NORTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).





39. VIEW ALONG THE EASTERN EDGE OF FIELD F6 FROM THE NORTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).



40. DETAIL OF WEST HEDGEBANK BOUNDARY TO FIELD F6; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).





41. DETAIL OF THE EASTERN BANK AND DITCH BOUNDARY TO FIELD F6; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



42. VIEW ACROSS THE EASTERN EDGE OF FIELD F6, SHOWING THE EXTENT OF WATERLOGGING IN THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).





43. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F6 FROM THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



44. VIEW ALONG THE NORTH-EASTERN EDGE OF FIELD F7, SHOWING DETAIL OF WATER LOGGING AND RUTTING IN THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).





45. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F5 SHOWING DETAIL OF WATERLOGGING AND RUTTING IN THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



46. VIEW ACROSS THE FIELD F7 SURVEY AREA FROM THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



47. DETAIL OF THE SOUTHERN REED AND DYKE BOUNDARY TO FIELD F7; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



48. VIEW ALONG THE NORTHERN EDGE OF FIELD F8 SHOWING THE REED AND DYKE BOUNDARY WITH FIELD F7; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).





49. VIEW ACROSS THE FIELD F8 SURVEY AREA TOWARDS EXMOOR FROM THE NORTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



50. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F8 TOWARDS THE QUANTOCK HILLS FROM THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF THE SURVEY AREA; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



51. VIEW ALONG THE EASTERN EDGE OF FIELD F8; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



52. VIEW ALONG THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF FIELD F8 SHOWING DETAIL OF WATERLOGGING IN THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).





53. VIEW ACROSS THE FIELD F8 SURVEY AREA FROM THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



54. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F9 FROM THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).





55. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F9 FROM THE NORTH-WEST CORNER, SHOWING DETAIL OF OVERHEAD CABLES; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



56. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F9, SHOWING DETAIL OF TREE-LINED HEDGEBANK BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).





57. VIEW ALONG THE TRACK BETWEEN FIELDS F9 AND F10; VIEWED FROM THE EAST-SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



58. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F10 FROM THE NORTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).





59. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F10 TOWARDS EXMOOR FROM THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



60. VIEW ALONG THE EASTERN EDGE OF FIELD F10 SHOWING THE HEDGEBANK AND DITCH BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).





61. DETAIL OF THE WESTERN HEDGEBANK AND DITCH BOUNDARY OF FIELD F10; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).



62. VIEW ALONG THE WESTERN EDGE OF FIELD F10 SHOWING DETAIL OF WATERLOGGING TOWARDS THE NORTH-WEST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).





63. VIEW ACROSS FIELD F10, SHOWING DETAIL OF WATERLOGGING TOWARDS THE NORTH-WEST CORNER; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



64. VIEW ALONG THE NORTHERN EDGE OF FIELD F10 SHOWING DETAIL OF THE PYLONS AND OVERHEAD CABLES; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).





65. VIEW ALONG THE TRACK BETWEEN FIELDS F10 AND F11; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).



66. DETAIL OF THE REMAINS OF A COB AND STONE BUILT WALL IN THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD F11; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).





67. VIEW ACROSS THE COVERED STORED MATERIAL FILLING THE ENTIRETY OF FIELD F11; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



68. VIEW ALONG THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF FIELD F11; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).





69. DETAIL OF POSSIBLE WALL REMAINS WITHIN THE TRACK ALONG THE WESTERN EDGE OF FIELD F11; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).



THE OLD DAIRY  
HACCHE LANE BUSINESS PARK  
PATHFIELDS BUSINESS PARK  
SOUTH MOLTON  
DEVON  
EX36 3LH

01769 573555  
01872 223164  
[MAIL@SWARCH.NET](mailto:MAIL@SWARCH.NET)