

LAND AT NORTHORPE TRAFALGAR FARM, GAINSBOROUGH ROAD, LINCOLNSHIRE (NOTF13)

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

Work undertaken for Acorus Rural Property Services

March 2013

Report produced by Andrew S. Failes BA (Hons) MA

OASIS Ref: archaeol1-146030 National Grid Reference: SK 9600 9208

APS Report No: 32/13



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1. SUMMARY

Detailed magnetic gradiometer survey was undertaken for Acorous Rural Property Services on land at Northorpe Trafalgar Farm, off Gainsborough Road in the Parish of Grayingham. The survey encompassed an area of c. 4ha.

Magnetometer survey identified few anomalies of potential archaeological origin. A small cluster of discrete positive anomalies to the southwest of the centre of the survey area and a single discreet positive anomaly to the northwest may represent cut features but no clear pattern is evident and little more can be said on the basis of form alone.

Magnetic disturbance is present in the southwestern corner of the field, but with the exception of occasional metal items in topsoil there is little indication of modern disturbance across the field as a whole.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

Geophysical survey is a non-intrusive method of archaeological evaluation. Evaluation is defined as 'a limited of non-intrusive programme and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 2008).

2.2 Background

Archaeological Project Services was

commissioned by *Acorous Rural Property Services* to undertake detailed magnetometer survey on land at Northorpe Trafalgar Farm, off Gainsborough Road, Grayingham, Lincolnshire. The survey was carried out on the 27th to 28th of February 2013.

2.3 Topography and Geology

The survey area at Northorpe Trafalgar Farm lies in the parish of Grayingham, Lincolnshire, 3km southwest of Kirton in Lindsev and 12km northeast Gainsborough. The investigation area lies in a field to the east of a poultry farm (Fig 2), sloping gently down to the south and centred on National Grid Reference SK 9600 9208 (Fig. 2). It is situated at a height of c. 15m OD. Soils at the site are alluvial soils of the Flandrian Age, consisting of soft to firm consolidated silty clay (BGS 50000 scale digital geology).

3. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

3.1 Methods

Location and layout of the survey area is shown in Figure 3. The investigation area comprised a rectangular block of land *c*. 165m wide by 240m long, extending north from the southern field boundary and amounting to approximately 4ha in total. The field had been ploughed and harrowed and was in good condition for survey.

Survey was undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (2008) and IfA (2011) guidelines and codes of conduct. The survey grid was laid out using differential GPS equipment using Ordnance Survey correction data to allowing accurate positioning and relocation where necessary.

The magnetic survey was carried out using

a dual sensor Grad601-2 Magnetic Gradiometer manufactured by Bartington Instruments Ltd. This records subtle changes in the magnetic field resulting from differing features in the soil. Changes as small as 0.2 nanoTesla (nT) in an overall field strength of c. 49,000nT can be detected using accurately instrumentation. although in practice instrument interference and soil noise can limit sensitivity.

The mapping of anomalies in a systematic manner allows interpretation of the type of material present beneath the surface. Strong magnetic anomalies are generated by buried iron-based objects or by kilns or hearths, usually resulting in a bipolar (positive/negative) response. More subtle positive anomalies representing pits and ditches can be seen where these contain more topsoil which is normally richer in magnetic iron oxides and provides a contrast with the natural subsoil (but this can vary depending on the nature of the underlying deposits). A negative anomaly may result from upcast bank material. Wall foundations can also show as negative anomalies where the stone is less magnetic than the surrounding soil, or as stronger positive and negative anomalies if of brick, but are not always responsive to the technique. It should be noted that not all features will be responsive and absence of anomalies does not necessarily indicate absence of archaeological features.

Magnetometers measure changes in the Earth's magnetic field. With two sensors configured as a gradiometer the recorded values indicate the difference between two magnetic measurements separated by a fixed distance. The Grad601-2 consists of two high stability fluxgate gradiometers suspended on a single frame with a 1m separation between the sensing elements giving a strong response to deep anomalies.

Sampling interval and data capture

Readings were taken at 0.25m centres along traverses 1m apart. This equates to 3600 sampling points in a full 30m x 30m grid. The Grad 601 has a typical depth of penetration of 0.5m to 1.0m although a greater range is possible where strongly magnetic objects have been buried in the site.

Readings are logged consecutively into the data logger which is downloaded daily either into a portable computer whilst on site or directly to the office computer. At the end of each job, data is transferred to the office for processing and presentation.

Processing and presentation of results Processing is performed using specialist ArcheoSurvevor software. This emphasise various aspects contained within the data but which are often not easily seen in the raw data. Basic processing of the magnetic data involves flattening the background levels with respect to adjacent traverses and adjacent grids (Destripe or zero mean traverse). Despiking is also performed to reduce the effect of the anomalies resulting from small iron objects often found agricultural land. Further processing can then be carried out which may include low pass filtering to reduce 'noise' in the data and hence emphasise the archaeological or man-made anomalies.

The following are the processing techniques carried out on the processed gradiometer data used in this report:

- 1. DeStripe (sets the background mean of each traverse within a grid to zero and is useful for removing striping effects)
- 2. Despike (useful for display and allows further processing functions to be carried out more effectively by removing extreme

data values)

Parameters: X radius = 1; Y radius = 1; Threshold = 3SD; Spike replacement = mean

3. Clip (excludes extreme values allowing better representation of detail in the mid range): -3 to 3nT.

3.2 Results

The presentation of the data for the site involves a print-out of the raw or minimally processed data as greyscale and trace plots (Figs 4, 5; clipped for display but otherwise unprocessed), together with greyscale plots of the processed data (Figs 6, 7). Magnetic anomalies have been identified and plotted onto an interpretative drawing (Fig. 8) and are described below.

Discrete positive anomalies

A cluster of discrete positive anomalies **A**, towards the southwest of the centre of the survey area and a single discreet positive anomaly **B** to the northwest have been highlighted. These possibly indicate cut features, although no clear pattern is evident and little more can be said on the basis of form alone.

Modern/magnetic disturbance

Strong bipolar responses occur in the southwestern corner of the field and probably represent modern disturbance.

Iron spikes (discrete bipolar anomalies)
Iron items within the topsoil give a distinctive localised bipolar (strong positive with associated strong negative) response. Such items usually derive from

relatively recent management or agricultural use of the land – broken or discarded pieces of agricultural machinery or other modern debris. These are widely scattered across the site

4. DISCUSSION

Magnetometer survey identified few anomalies of potential archaeological origin. A number of discrete positive anomalies towards the central western area of the survey area and a single discrete positive anomaly to the northwest may represent cut features but no clear pattern is evident and little more can be said on the basis of form alone.

Magnetic disturbance is present in the southwest corner of the survey area, but with the exception of occasional metal items in the topsoil there is little indication of modern disturbance across the field as a whole. A possible faint area of magnetic disturbance was also recorded on a northeast-southwest alignment extending from the centre of the site which may represent a change in natural geology.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Henry Doble who commissioned the project on behalf of Acorus Rural Property Services. Steve Malone (APS) edited the report along with Tom Lane (APS).

6. PERSONNEL

Project coordinator: Steve Malone Geophysical Survey: Andrew Failes, Jonathon Smith Survey processing and reporting: Steve Malone, Andrew Failes

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Clark, A., 1996 *Seeing Beneath the Soil*, London, 2nd edn.

English Heritage, 2008 Geophysical

Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation.

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

IfA, 2008 Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation.

IfA, 2011 Standard and Guidance for Geophysical Survey.

8. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

If A Institute for Archaeologists



Figure 1: General Location Plan

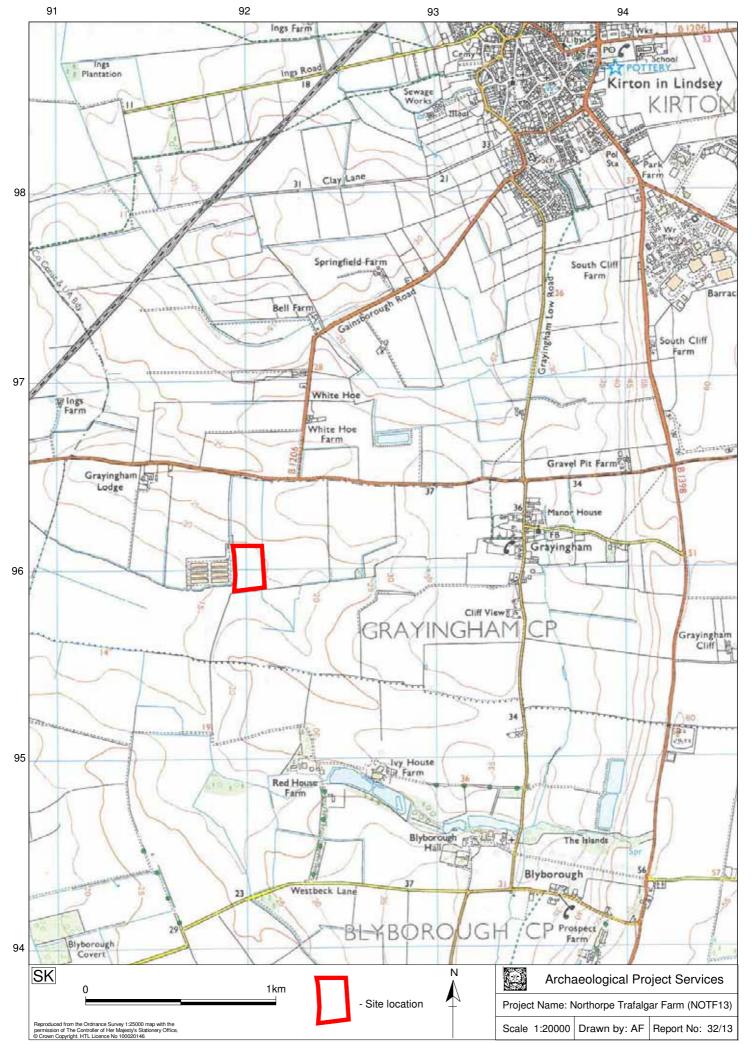


Figure 2 - Site location

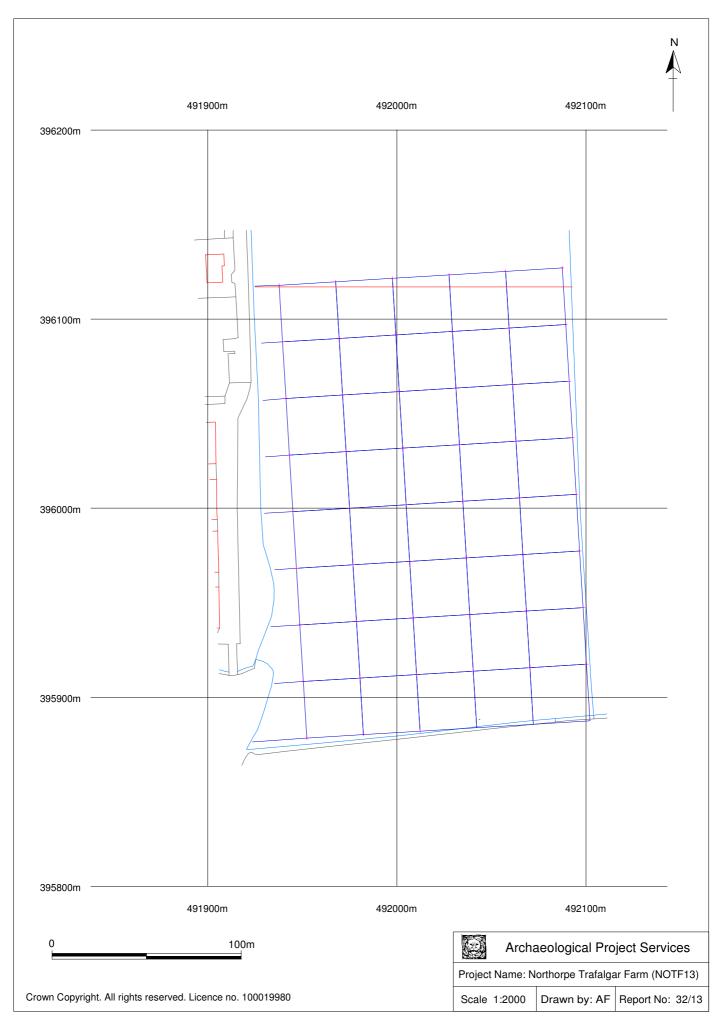


Figure 3 - Location and layout of survey area

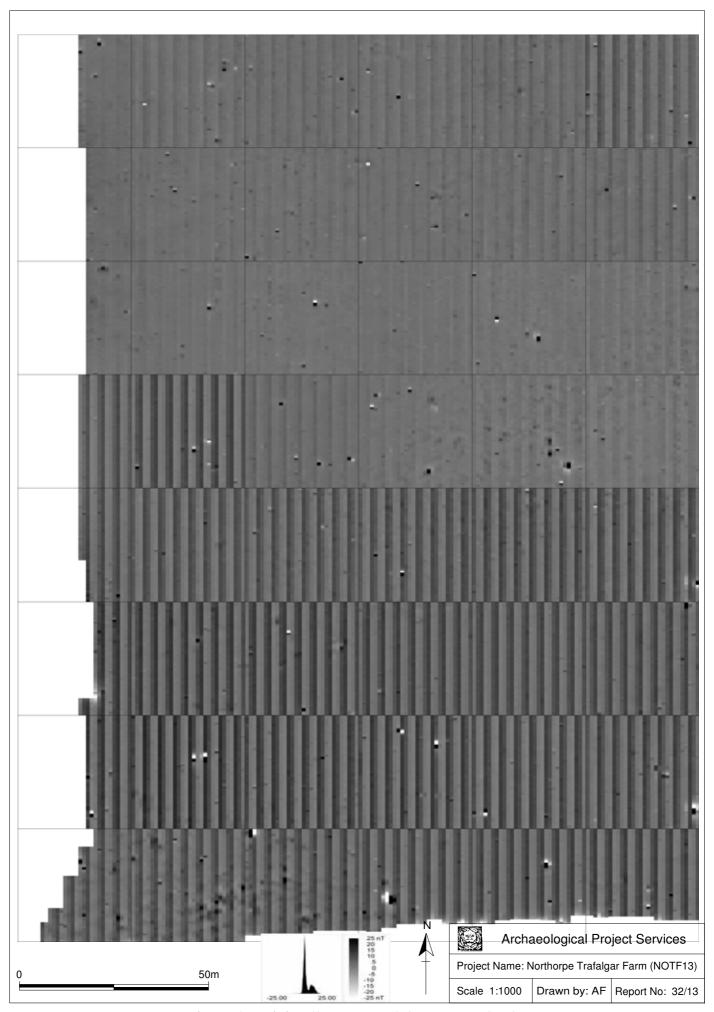


Figure 4 - Minimally processed data greyscale plot

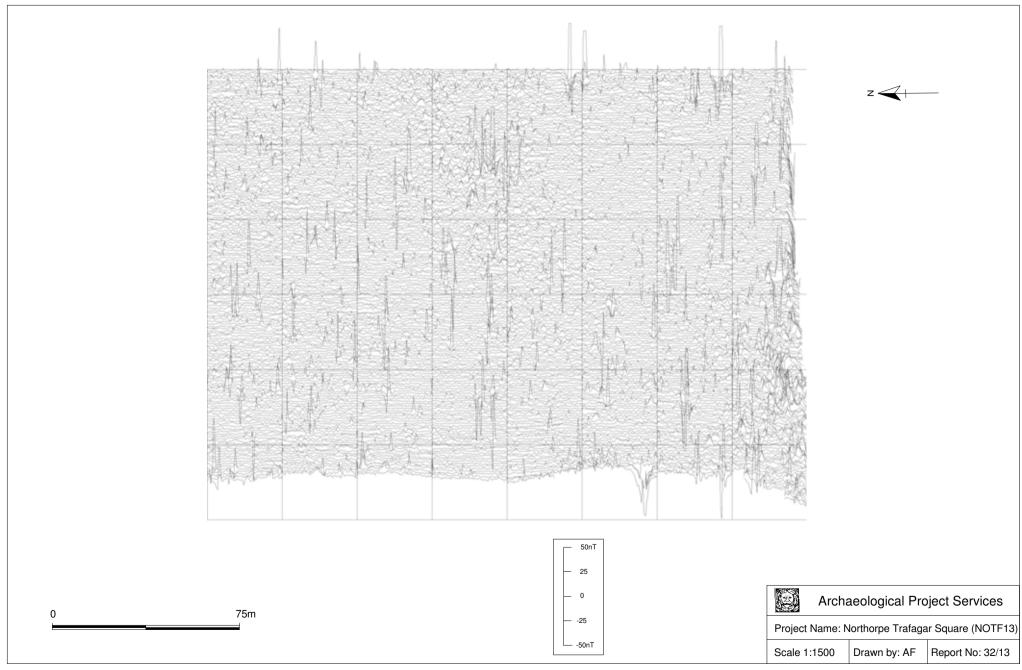


Figure 5 - Minimally processed data trace plot

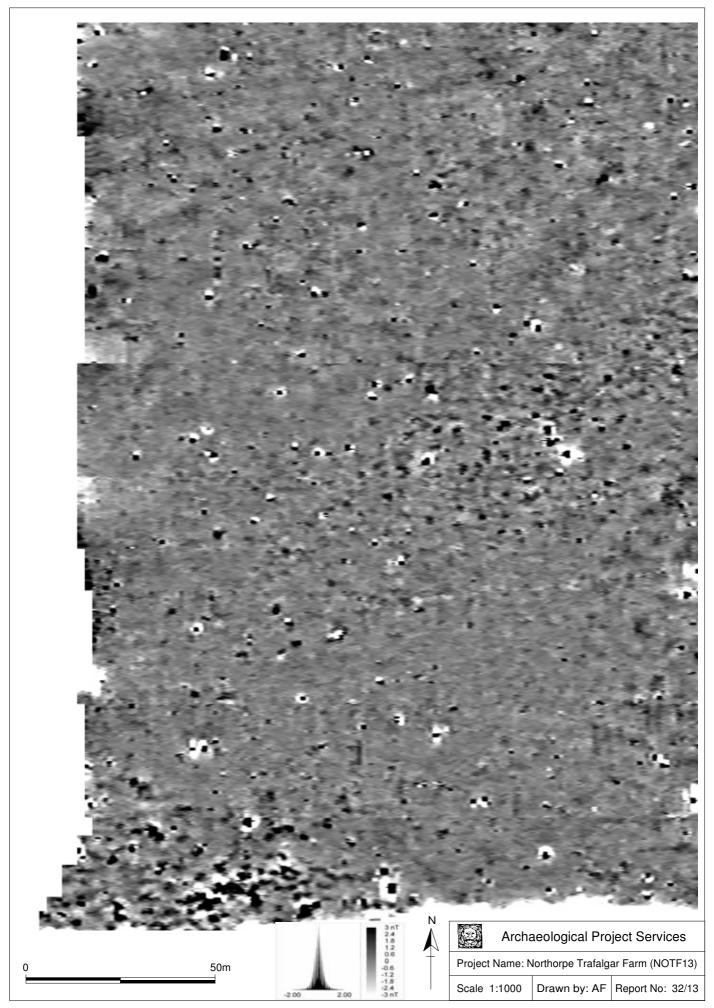


Figure 6 - Processed data greyscale plot

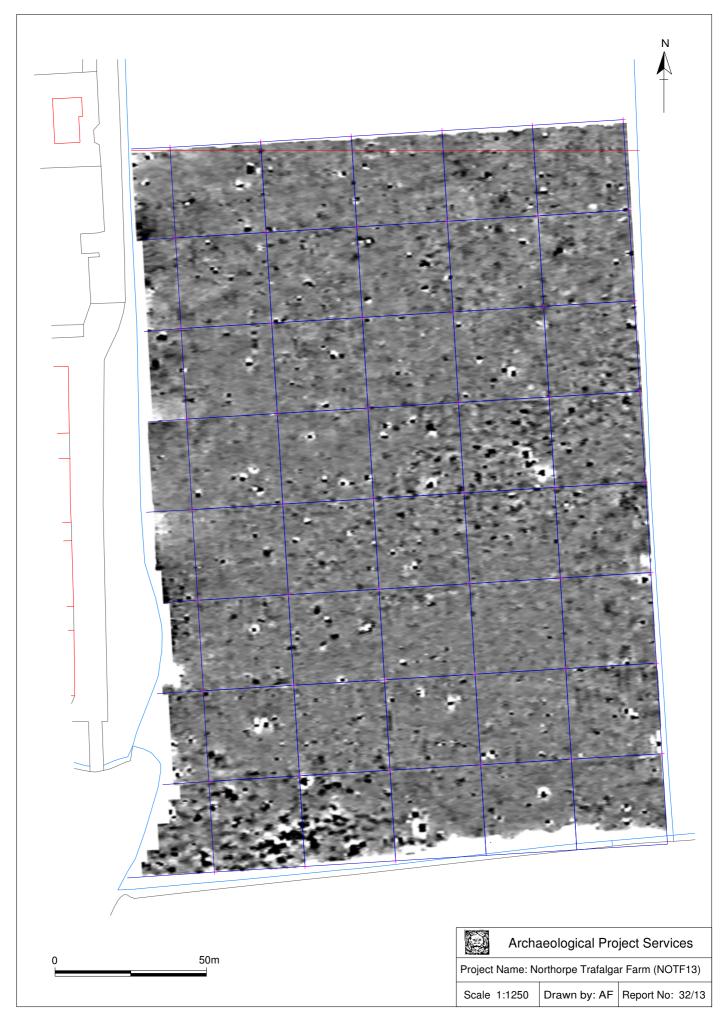


Figure 7 - Processed data greyscale overlain on base map

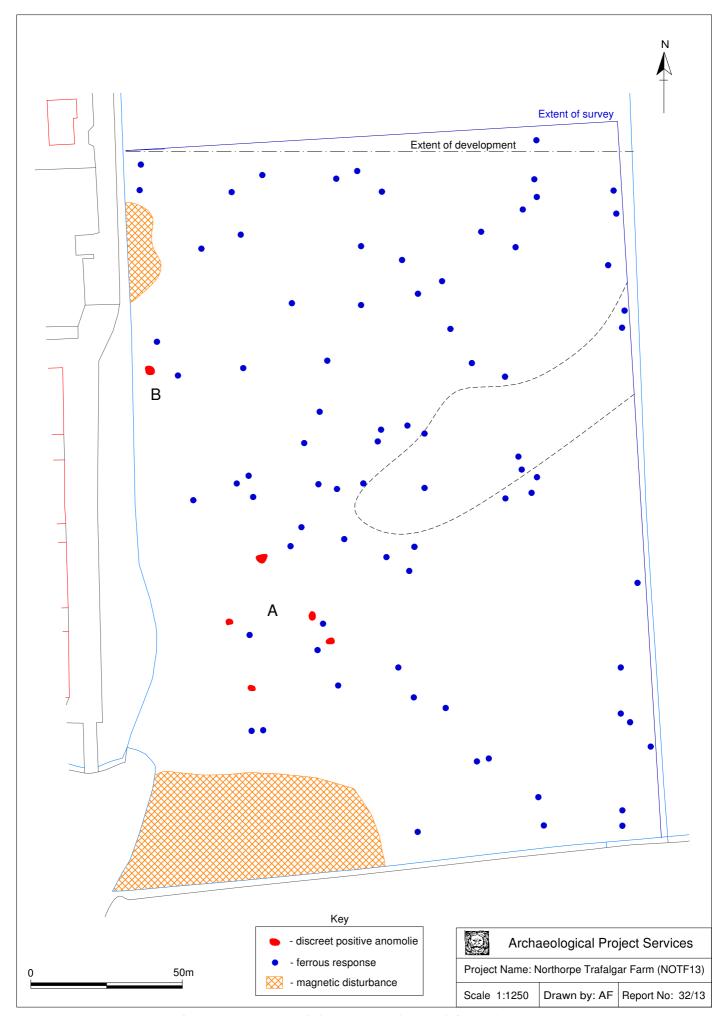


Figure 7 - Processed data greyscale overlain on base map

Appendix 1 THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 2 Daily record sheets
- 1 Report text and illustrations Digital data

File names	notf13-01.xgd	notf13-19.xgd	notf13-37.xgd	
	notf13-02.xgd	notf13-20.xgd	notf13-38.xgd	
	notf13-03.xgd	notf13-21.xgd	notf13-39.xgd	
	notf13-04.xgd	notf13-22.xgd	notf13-40.xgd	
	notf13-05.xgd	notf13-23.xgd	notf13-41.xgd	
	notf13-06.xgd	notf13-24.xgd	notf13-42.xgd	
	notf13-07.xgd	notf13-25.xgd	notf13-43.xgd	
	notf13-08.xgd	notf13-26.xgd	notf13-44.xgd	
	notf13-09.xgd	notf13-27.xgd	notf13-45.xgd	
	notf13-10.xgd	notf13-28.xgd	notf13-46.xgd	
	notf13-11.xgd	notf13-29.xgd	notf13-47.xgd	
	notf13-12.xgd	notf13-30.xgd	notf13-48.xgd	
	notf13-13.xgd	notf13-31.xgd		
	notf13-14.xgd	notf13-32.xgd	notf13-c1.xcp	
	notf13-15.xgd	notf13-33.xgd	notf13-t1.xcp	
	notf13-16.xgd	notf13-34.xgd		
	notf13-17.xgd	notf13-35.xgd		
	notf13-18.xgd	notf13-36.xgd		
Explanation of codes used in file names	xgd files are magnetom	eter grids, named with	site code and number	
	in the order surveyed.			
	xcp files are composites containing record of all the data and			
	processes used to produce the end product			
Description of file formats	escription of file formats All files are in plain text xml format with header data definit		der data defining	
	survey and processing parameters			
List of codes used in files	D indicates a "dummy" value within the composite data			
Hardware, software and operating systems	ArcheoSurveyor 2.5.15 running under Windows 7			
Date of last modification	01/03/13			
Indications of known areas of weakness in				
data				

All primary records are currently kept at:

The Collection

 $Archaeological\ Project\ Services,\ The\ Old\ School,\ Cameron\ Street,\ Heckington,\ Sleaford,\ Lincolnshire\ NG34\ 9RW$

The ultimate destination of	of the project archive is:
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Site Code: NOTF13

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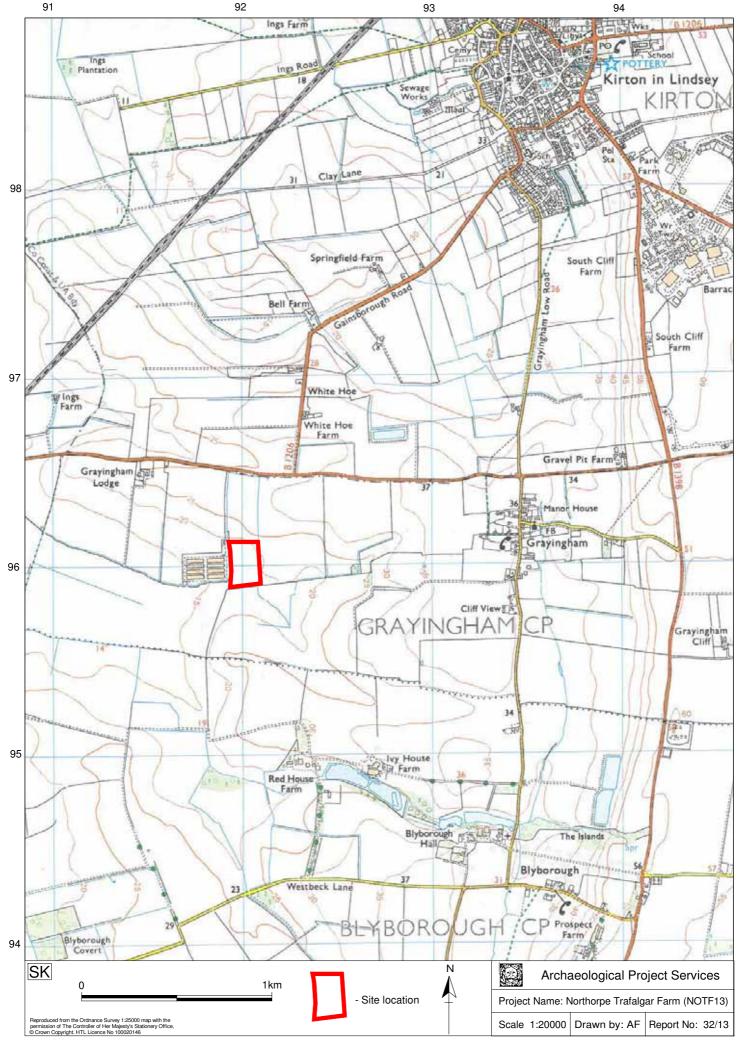


Figure 2 - Site location

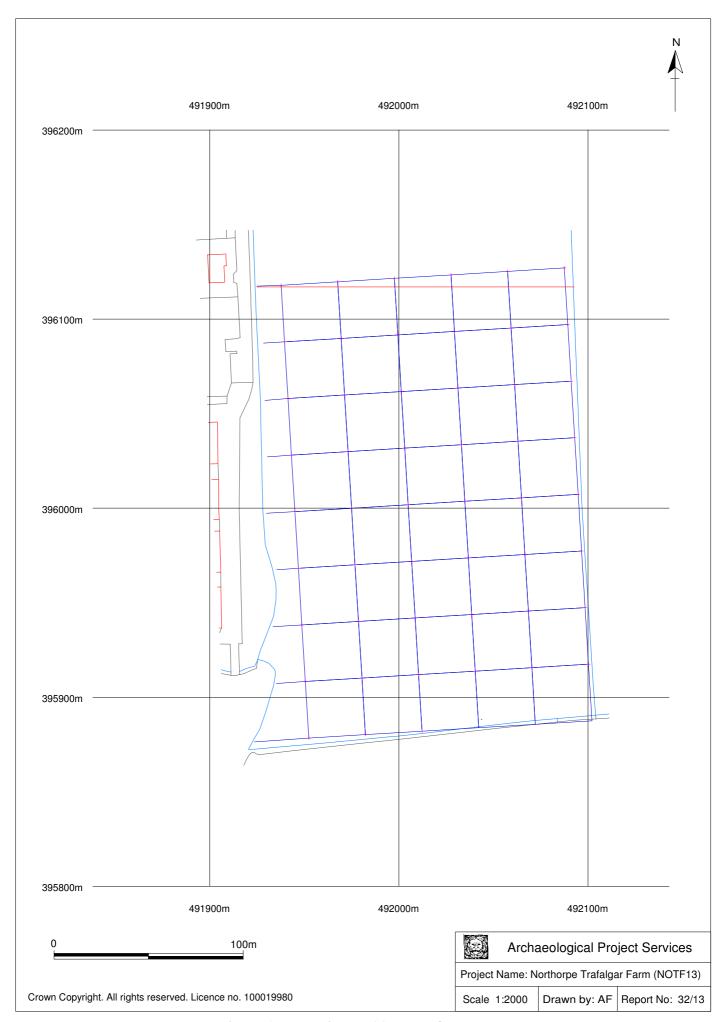


Figure 3 - Location and layout of survey area

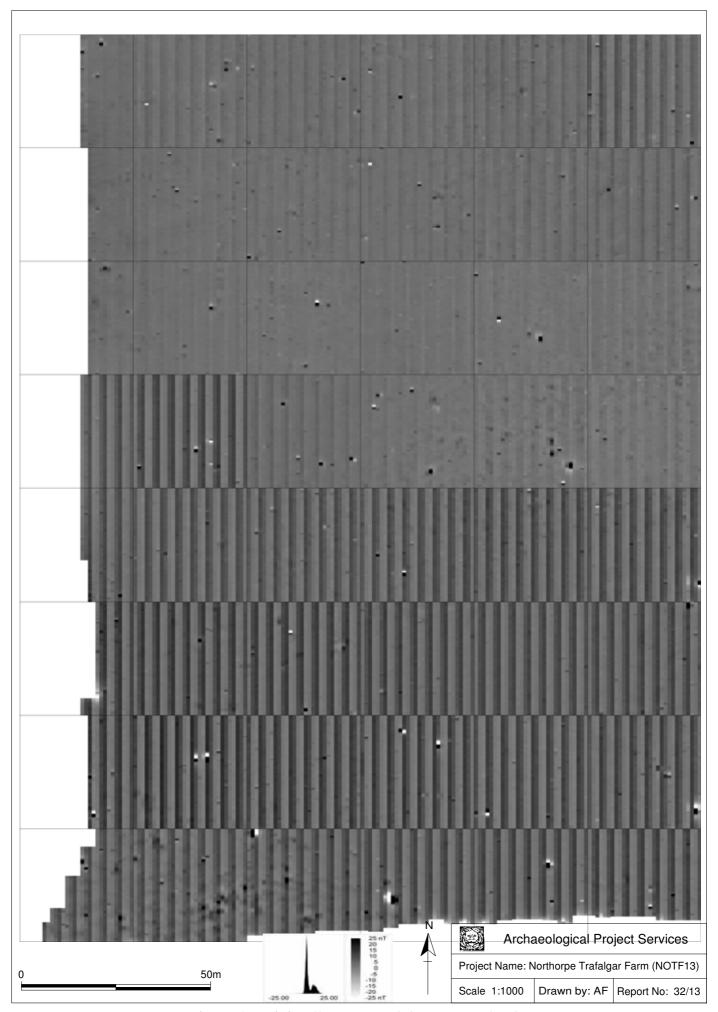


Figure 4 - Minimally processed data greyscale plot

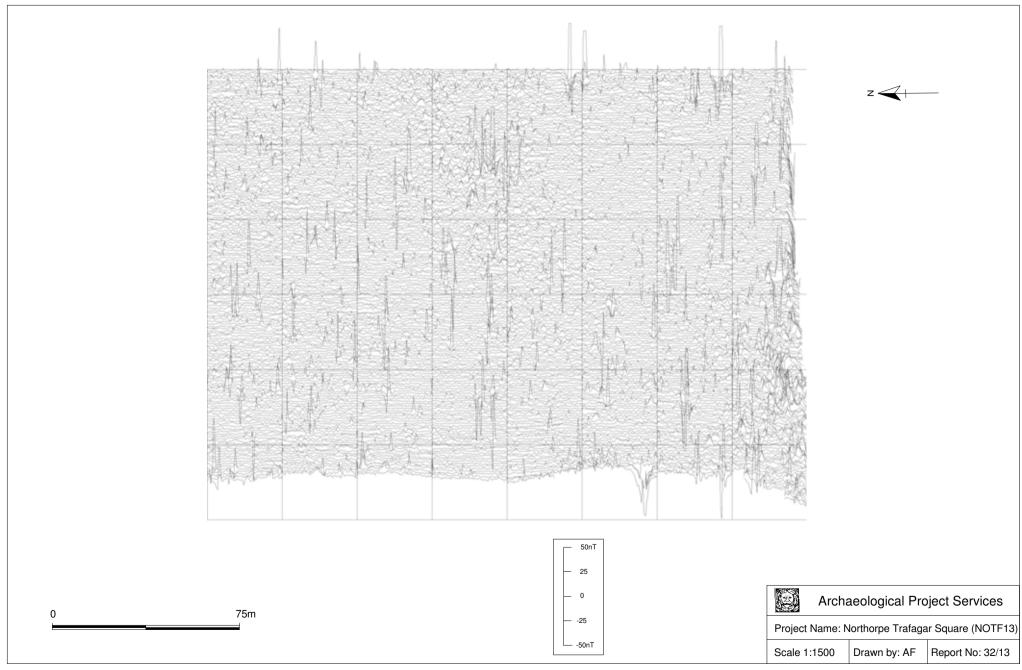


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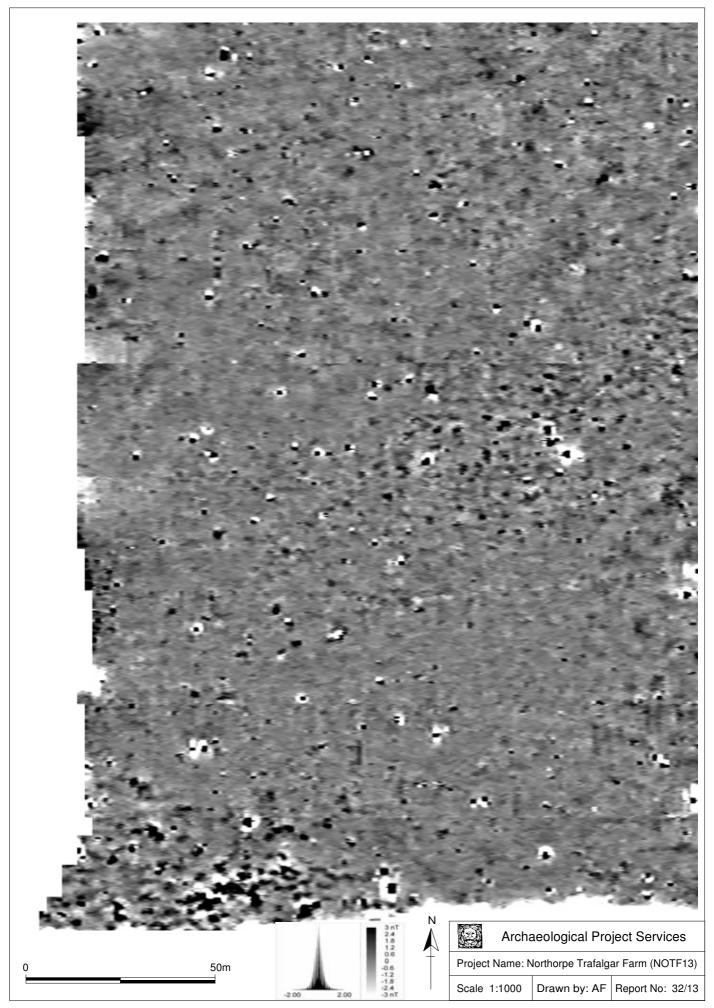


Figure 6 - Processed data greyscale plot

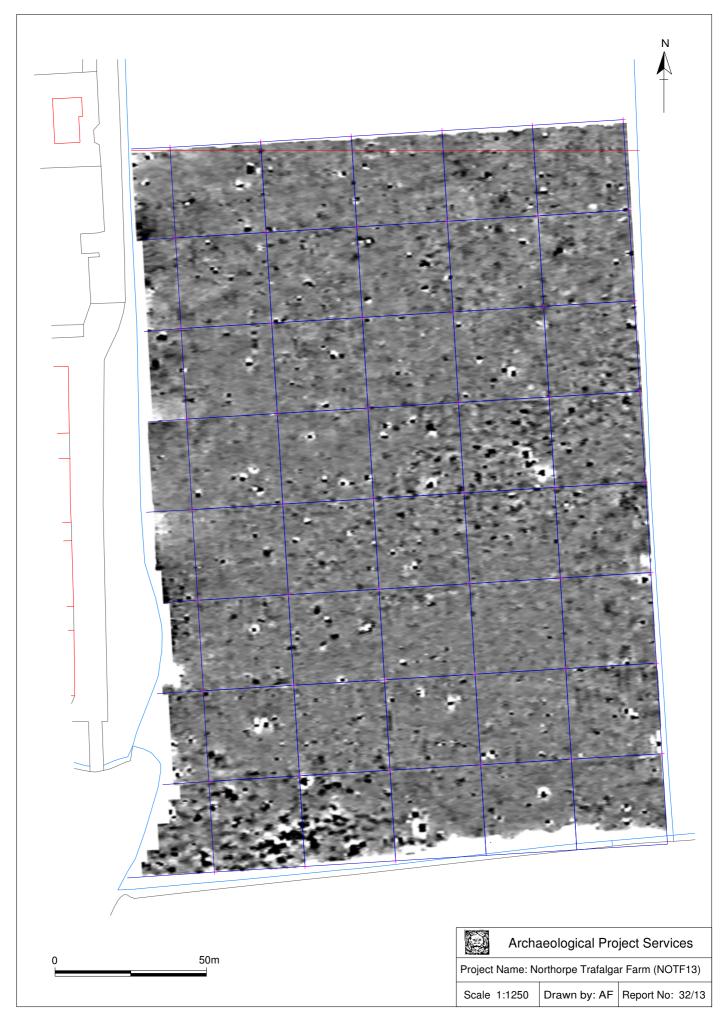


Figure 7 - Processed data greyscale overlain on base map

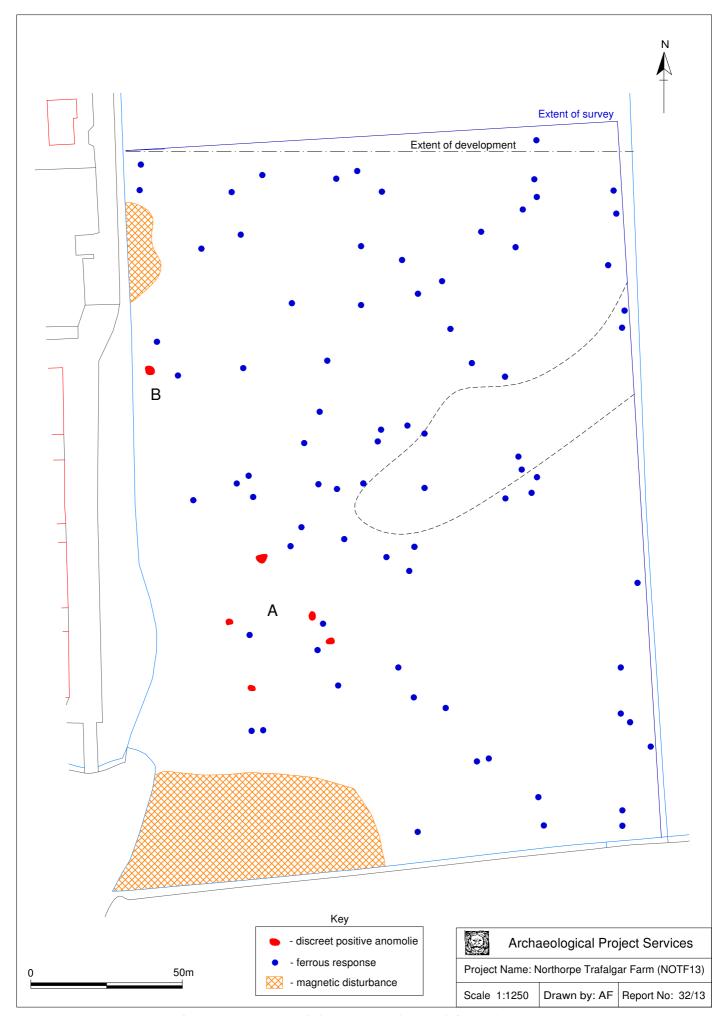


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	notf13-05.xgd	notf13-23.xgd	notf13-41.xgd	
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	notf13-12.xgd	notf13-30.xgd	notf13-48.xgd	
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	notf13-14.xgd	notf13-32.xgd	notf13-c1.xcp	
	notf13-15.xgd	notf13-33.xgd	notf13-t1.xcp	
	notf13-16.xgd	notf13-34.xgd		
	notf13-17.xgd	notf13-35.xgd		
	notf13-18.xgd	notf13-36.xgd		
Explanation of codes used in file names	xgd files are magnetom	eter grids, named with	site code and number	
	in the order surveyed.			
	xcp files are composites containing record of all the data and			
	processes used to produce the end product			
Description of file formats	escription of file formats All files are in plain text xml format with header data definit		der data defining	
	survey and processing parameters			
List of codes used in files	D indicates a "dummy" value within the composite data			
Hardware, software and operating systems	ArcheoSurveyor 2.5.15 running under Windows 7			
Date of last modification	01/03/13			
Indications of known areas of weakness in				
data				

All primary records are currently kept at:

The Collection

 $Archaeological\ Project\ Services,\ The\ Old\ School,\ Cameron\ Street,\ Heckington,\ Sleaford,\ Lincolnshire\ NG34\ 9RW$

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