

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY BY MAGNETOMETRY ON LAND OFF LEYS LANE, YAXLEY, SUFFOLK**

Planning Reference: Pre-application
NGR: TM 1186 7494
AAL Site Code: YELL 22
HER Code: YAX 069
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-514115



Report prepared for Lichfields
on behalf of Conrad Energy

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number AAL2023027

March 2023



Allenarchaeology



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Cover image: View from the eastern edge of site looking west

Executive Summary

- Lichfields, on behalf of Conrad Energy, commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake a geophysical survey using magnetometry on land off Leys Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk, to inform and support a future planning application for a Synchronous Condenser.
- The site lies within a wider area of archaeological interest, with a Bronze Age burnt mound approximately 600m to the east along with a few scatters of prehistoric finds closer to the site. Roman activity, although mostly associated with the Roman Road (now the A140) to the east of the site, is also represented by pottery scatters and PAS finds closer to the site and a single fragment of Roman pot recovered from an archaeological evaluation trench in the southern corner of the site.
- The survey has identified very little of archaeological interest, with former field boundaries seen on historic mapping revealed along with modern land drainage, a buried modern service and magnetic noise associated with the modern compound within the southwest part of the site and a track running through the site.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Lichfields, on behalf of Conrad Energy, commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) to undertake a geophysical survey using magnetometry on land off Leys Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk, to inform and support a future planning application for a Synchronous Condenser.
- 1.2 The site works and reporting conform to current national guidelines as set out in '*EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology*' (EAC 2016), '*The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations*' (Gaffney et al. 2002), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological geophysical survey*' (ClfA 2020), and a specification by this company (AAL 2023).
- 1.3 A draft report will be provided to SCCAS for review and comment before a final copy is issued. Following approval of the report by SCCAS, a digital copy of the approved final report will be submitted to the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) under the SHER Code YAX 069. Provision will also be made for a hard copy report to be submitted, however, the need for this will be discussed and agreed with SCCAS who will advise on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.4 A digital copy of the report will be uploaded to the OASIS website. The SHER will also be provided with a georeferenced copy of the digital survey data.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located c.600m north of the centre of the village of Yaxley, in the administrative district of Mid Suffolk. The site is approximately 4.0 hectares in area and is presently farmland. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 1186 7494 and is c.45m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Crag Group – Sand, with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geindex-onshore/>). Responses of magnetometry to the bedrock of sand is generally good, and response to the diamicton is variable (English Heritage 2008).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 The geophysical survey follows on from a heritage impact assessment which had been prepared to inform a planning application that will be submitted in due course for a Synchronous Condenser. This is the second stage of archaeological investigation, intended to provide detailed information that will allow the planning authority to make an informed decision as to whether further archaeological investigations will be required prior to or following the determination of a planning application for the proposed development.
- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being '*Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2021).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A prior desk-based assessment has been compiled for this site (AAL 2022), the results of which are summarised below.
- 4.2 The proposed development site is situated within a rural location on the outskirts of the village of Eye. Extensive archaeological works have taken place in the vicinity of the site as part of the Progress Power Project. The majority of the archaeology found as part of these works is situated outside of the study area to the east, including a Bronze Age burnt mound. A few scatters of prehistoric finds have been found nearer to the site and one worked flint was uncovered within a trench excavated along the access track, suggesting a low archaeological potential for the proposed development area.
- 4.3 Roman activity is well represented in the area, with a Roman road (now A140) in the east part of the study area forming a focus for activity. Pottery scatters have been found near to the site and a significant quantity of Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) finds are recorded in the study area, including on the site itself. Archaeological work in the southwest corner of the site exposed a ditch containing a single fragment of possible Roman tile, and a pit was excavated within the access track that contained a single fragment of Roman pottery, suggesting a moderate potential for Roman activity.
- 4.4 The site lies on the periphery of the early medieval to medieval settlement of Eye, but there have been many PAS finds in the study area, suggestive of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries to the north and south of the site, suggesting a moderate potential for early medieval activity.
- 4.5 Archaeological works in the southwest corner and southern extent of the site as well as to the immediate west have revealed ditches of a probable late medieval to post-medieval date, suggesting a high potential for further similar features to be present within the proposed development area.

5.0 Geophysical Survey Methodology

- 5.1 The geophysical survey consisted of a detailed gradiometer survey of as much of the development area as was suitable, coming to approximately 3.9 hectares. The survey was undertaken in a series of 30m grids across the site.

Summary of Survey Parameters

5.2 Fluxgate Magnetometer

Instrument:	Bartington Grad601-2 Dual Fluxgate Gradiometer
Sample Interval:	0.25m
Traverse Interval:	1.00m
Traverse Separation:	1.00m
Traverse Method:	Zigzag
Resolution:	0.01nT
Processing Software:	Terrasurveyor 3.0.37.30
Surface Conditions:	Pasture
Area Surveyed:	3.9 hectares
Date Surveyed:	Monday 20 th and Tuesday 21 st March 2023
Surveyors:	Ben Jenkins BSc (Hons)

Data Collection and Processing

- 5.3 The grids were marked using pre-programmed grids on the Leica GS08 Net rover. Magnetic data was collected on a north to south alignment due to the layout of the site boundaries. A traverse pattern close to north – south is preferable as the fluxgate gradiometer is set up and balanced with respect to the cardinal points. Since the data is plotted as north – south traverses there is considerable merit sampling the north – south response of a magnetic anomaly with as many data points as is possible, this is accomplished as the density collected along the traverse line is greater than that between traverses (Aspinall *et al.* 2008).
- 5.4 The data collected from the survey has been analysed using Terrasurveyor 3.0.37.30. The resulting data set plots are presented with positive nT/m values and high resistance as black and negative nT/m values and low resistance as white.

The data sets have been subjected to processing using the following filters:

- De-stripping
 - Clipping
 - De-staggering
- 5.5 The de-stripe process is used to equalise underlying differences between grids or traverses. Differences are most often caused by directional effects inherent to magnetic surveying instruments, instrument drift, instrument orientation (for example off-axis surveying or heading errors) and delays between surveying adjacent grids. The de-stripe process is used with care as it can sometimes have an adverse effect on linear features that run parallel to the orientation of the process.
- 5.6 The Bartington Grad 601-2 is set to record data within the range between -100 and 100 nT/m. The clipping process is used to remove extreme data point values which can mask fine detail in the data set. Excluding these values allows the details to show through.
- 5.7 The de-staggering process compensates for data correction errors caused by the operator commencing the recording of each traverse too soon or too late. It shifts each traverse either forward or backwards by a specified number of intervals.
- 5.8 Plots of the data are presented in processed linear greyscale (smoothed) with any corrections to the measured values or filtering processes noted, and as separate simplified graphical interpretations of the main anomalies detected.

6.0 Geophysical Survey Results (Figures 2 – 5)

- 6.1 For the purposes of interpreting the anomalies, the survey data has been processed to the values of -3 to 3 nT/m (Figure 3). This enhances faint anomalies that may otherwise not be noted in the data, with a few anomalies identified across the data set. These are discussed in turn and noted as single- or double-digit numbers in square brackets. Positive anomalies represent material that is more magnetically susceptible than the surrounding material, with negative anomalies representing material that is less magnetically susceptible.

- 6.2 The large, unsurveyed area within the southwestern part of the site and extending eastwards corresponds to a site compound and temporary haul road.



Plate 1: View along the edge of the haul road towards the site compound, looking west

- 6.3 The areas of magnetic noise [2] and [3] correspond with the effect of the heras fencing along the edges of the haul road and site compound area.
- 6.4 The linear area of magnetic noise [3] and [4], -20 to 20 nT/m with some higher spikes of noise, corresponds to a track through the site, running north, then west and northwest.
- 6.5 The short linear dipolar feature [5] within the northeast corner of the site, -100 to 100 nT/m, represents a buried modern service.
- 6.6 The long slightly curvilinear positive feature [6], aligned roughly east to west across the site, 2 to 4 nT/m, represents a former field boundary seen on historic mapping (Figure 6).
- 6.7 The positive linear feature [7], aligned roughly north to south, 1 nT/m, also corresponds with a former field boundary seen on historic mapping (Figure 6).
- 6.8 The positive linear feature [8], aligned roughly west to east, 2 to 4 nT/m, corresponds with another former field boundary seen on historic mapping (Figure 6). There appear to be dipolar areas [9] potentially associated with this feature, producing readings up to -100 to 100 nT/m, which may represent drainage along the field boundary. On site there appeared to be a shallow ditch running adjacent to the track, and this potentially corresponds to these features.



Plate 2: View along the track through the site, looking northwest

- 6.9 The potential positive linear features [10], [11] and [12], producing readings of 2 to 3 nT/m, represent modern land drainage.
- 6.10 The long potential positive linear feature [13], aligned roughly northwest to southeast, 2 to 3 nT/m, likely represents more modern land drainage, potentially corresponding with land drainage seen on a Google Earth historic image dated 2007.
- 6.11 While surveying was taking place on the site there were several metal marker posts in the field relating to borehole locations. [14], -100 to 100 nT/m, represents one of the metal posts.
- 6.12 Scattered throughout the entire site are many weak and strong dipolar responses, examples of which are highlighted as [15]. The characteristic dipolar response of pairs of positive and negative 'spikes' suggest near-surface ferrous metal or other highly fired material in the topsoil, which could represent small pieces of metal such as nails, horseshoes, or parts of a tractor.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The survey has identified very little of archaeological interest, with several former field boundaries seen on historic mapping revealed along with modern land drainage, a buried modern service, and magnetic noise associated with the modern compound within the southwest part of the site and a track running through the site.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The non-intrusive evaluation methodology employed is appropriate to the scale and nature of the site. Magnetometry was the prospection technique best suited to the identification of archaeological remains on the site. Other techniques would have required further justification and may have proved too time consuming or cost prohibitive.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Lichfields on behalf of Conrad Energy for this commission.

10.0 References

AAL, 2023, *Specification for a geophysical survey: on land off Leys Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk*. Unpublished planning document, Allen Archaeology Ltd

Aspinall, A, Gaffney, C, and Schmidt, A, 2008, *Magnetometry for Archaeologists*, Plymouth: Altamira Press

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Europae Archaeologiae Consilium (EAC), 2016, *EAC Guidelines for the use of geophysics in Archaeology, Questions to Ask and Points to Consider. EAC Guidelines 2*. European Archaeological Council

Gaffney C., Gater J., and Ovenden S., 2002, *The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations. IFA Paper No. 6*. The Institute for Archaeologists

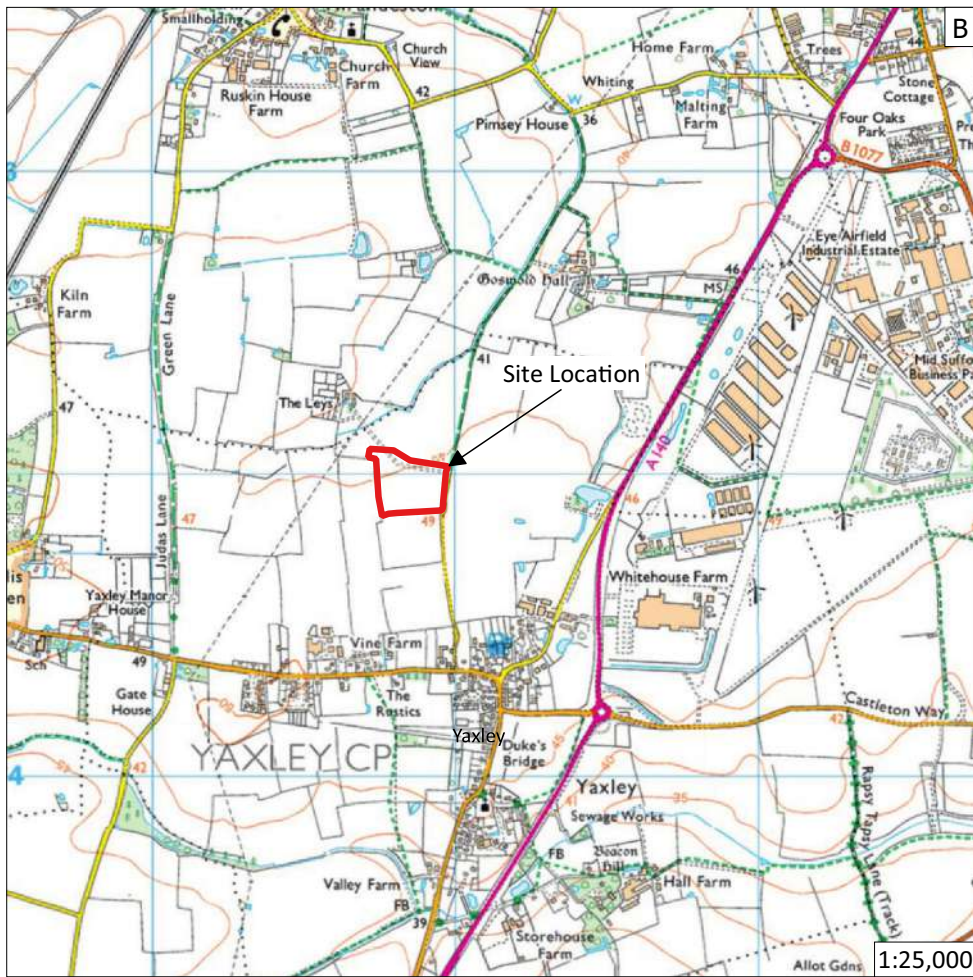
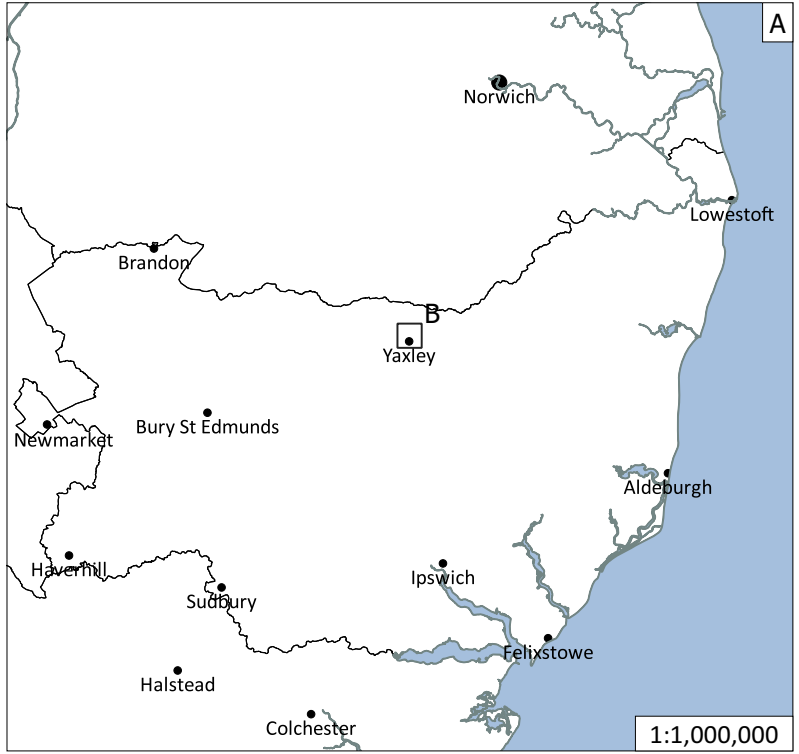
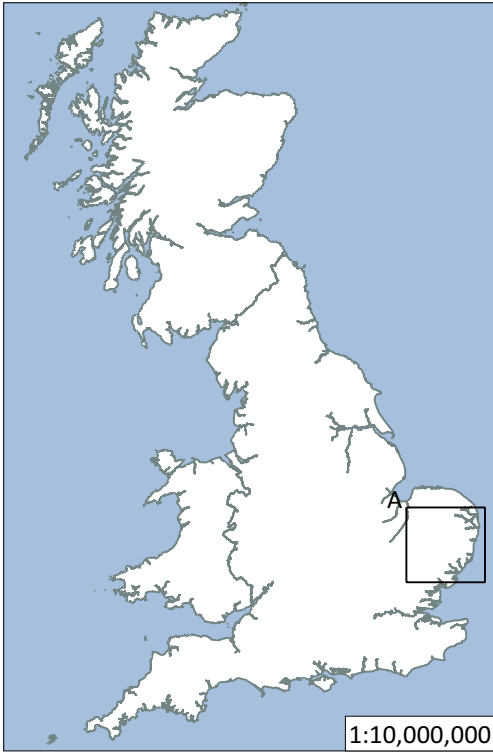


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	YELL 22
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	22/03/2023

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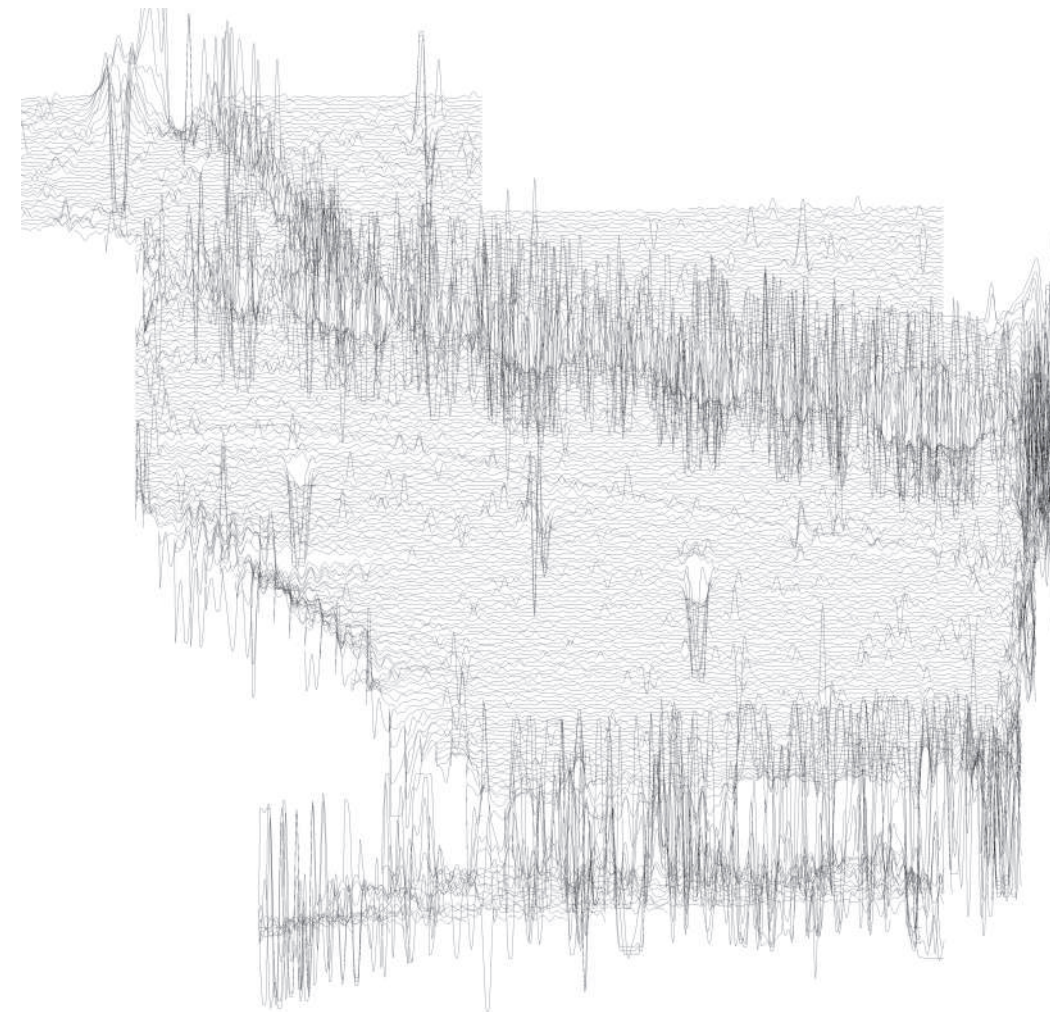
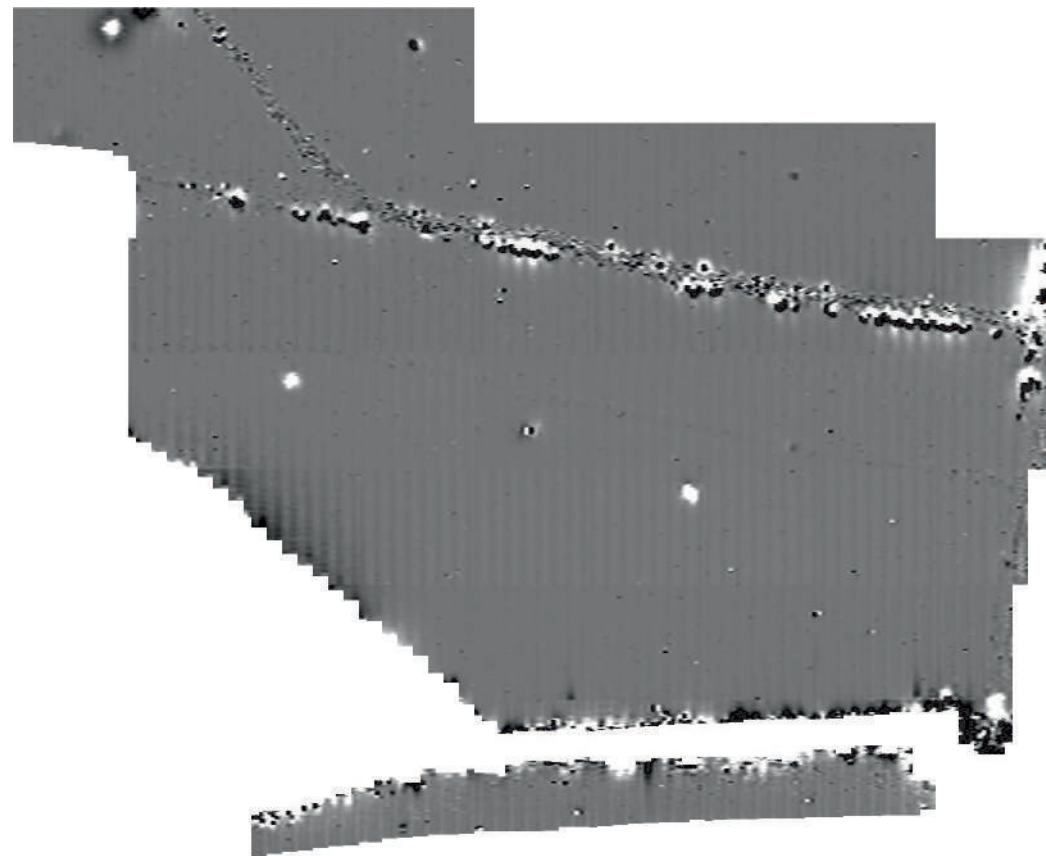
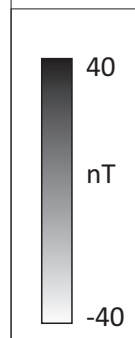
Lincoln
Birmingham
Cambridge
Praslin
Southampton

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Raw data (clipped to +/- 40 nT)

Trace Plot (ZMT and clipped to +/- 25nT)



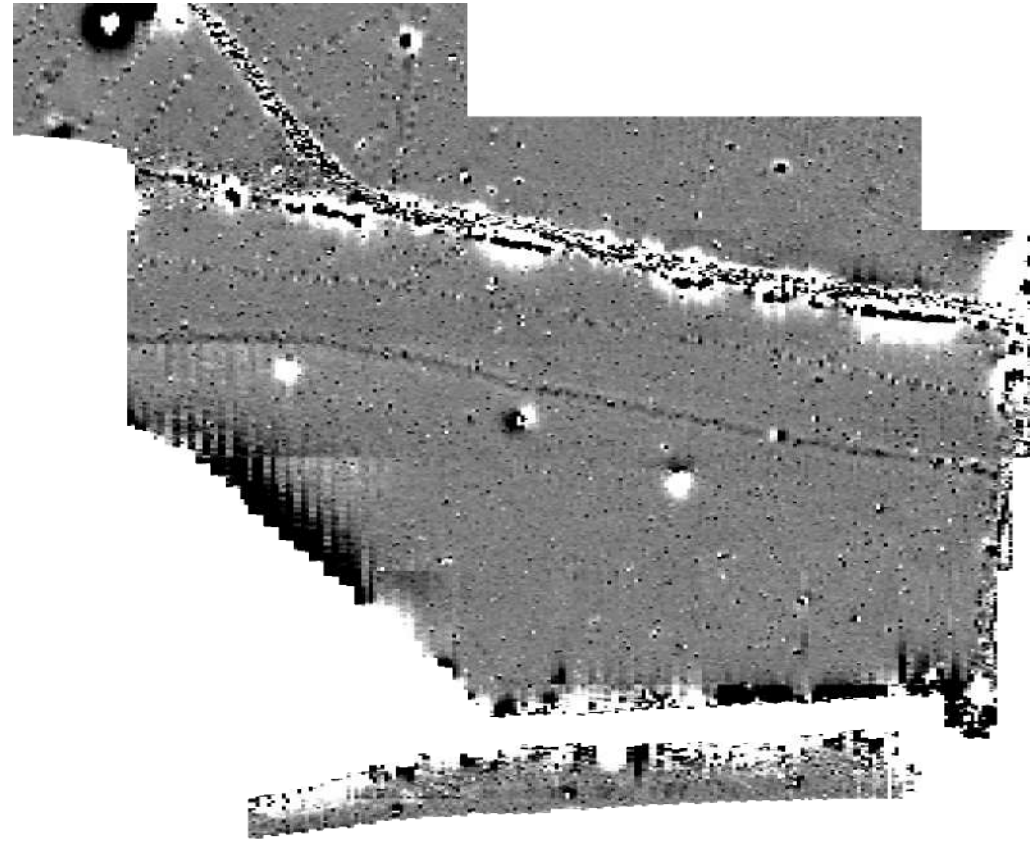
Site Code	YELL 22
Scale	1:2,000 @ A3
Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	22/03/23

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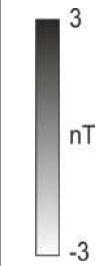
Lincoln
Birmingham
Cambridge
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Figure 2: Greyscale raw data and processed trace plot



- Key
- Positive anomaly
 - Magnetic noise
 - Dipolar anomaly
 - Linear dipolar anomaly
 - Survey boundary
 - Unsurveyed



Site Code	YELL 22
Scale	1:2,000 @A3
Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	22/03/2023

Figure 3: Processed greyscale plot and interpretation

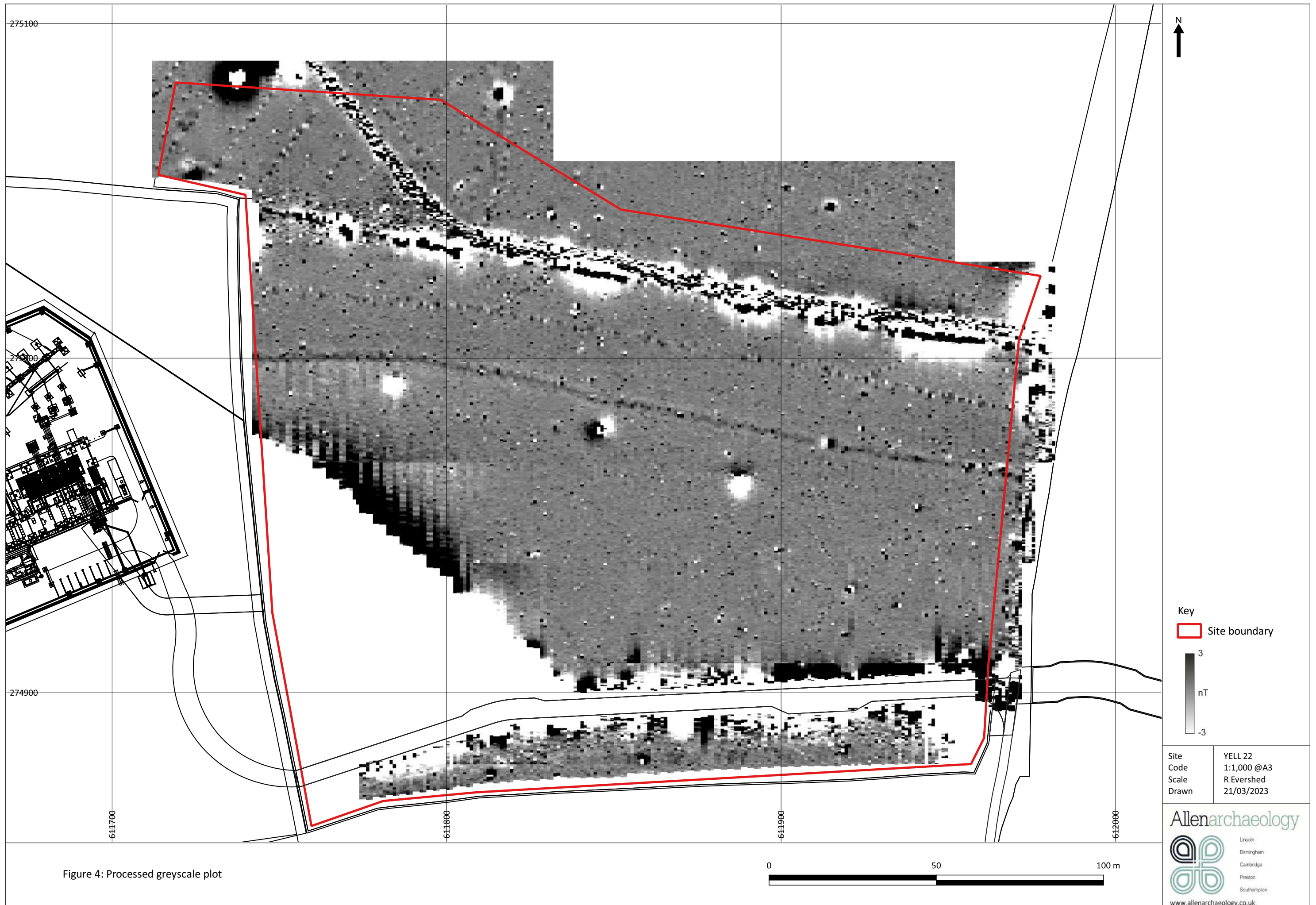


Figure 4: Processed greyscale plot

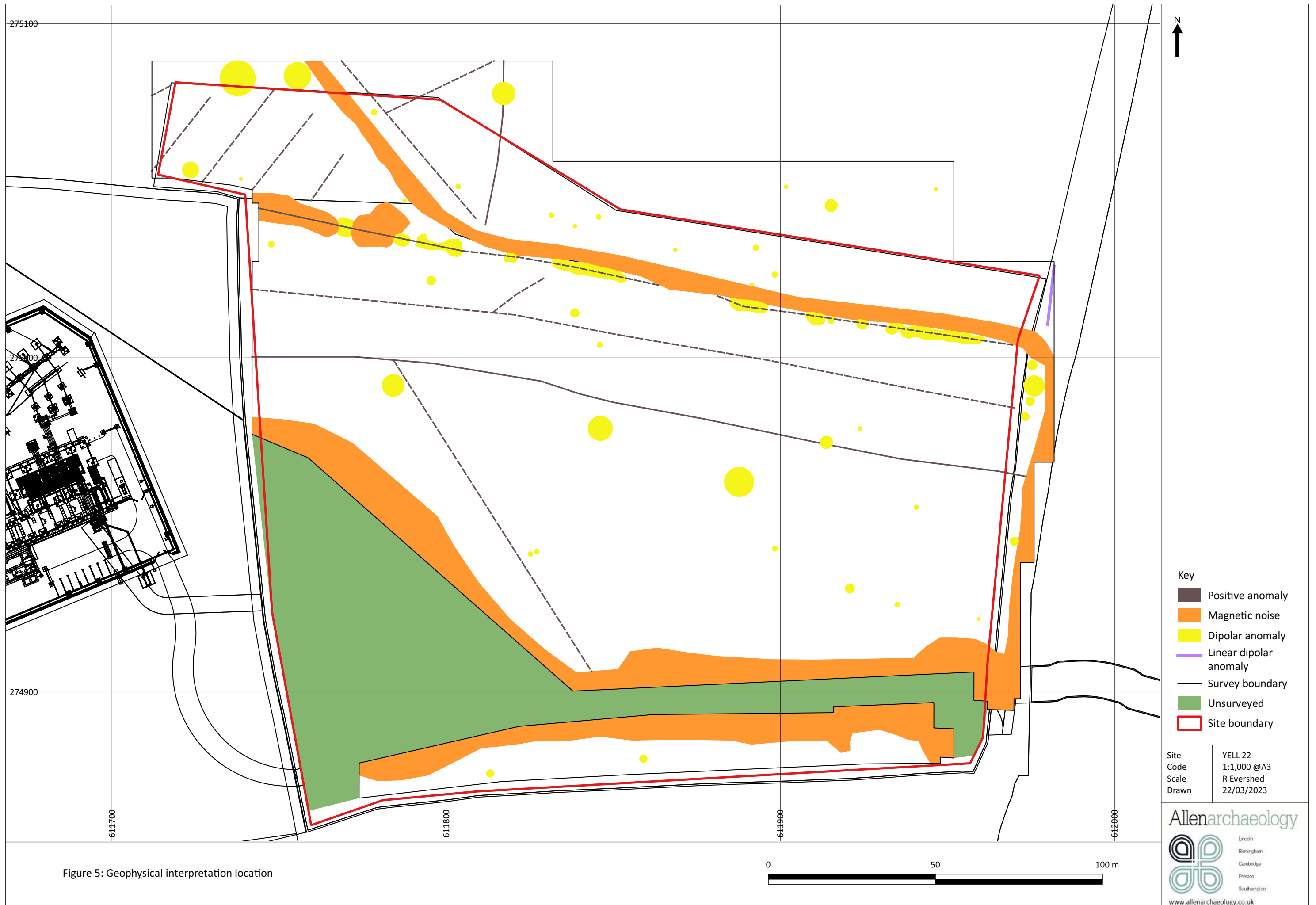
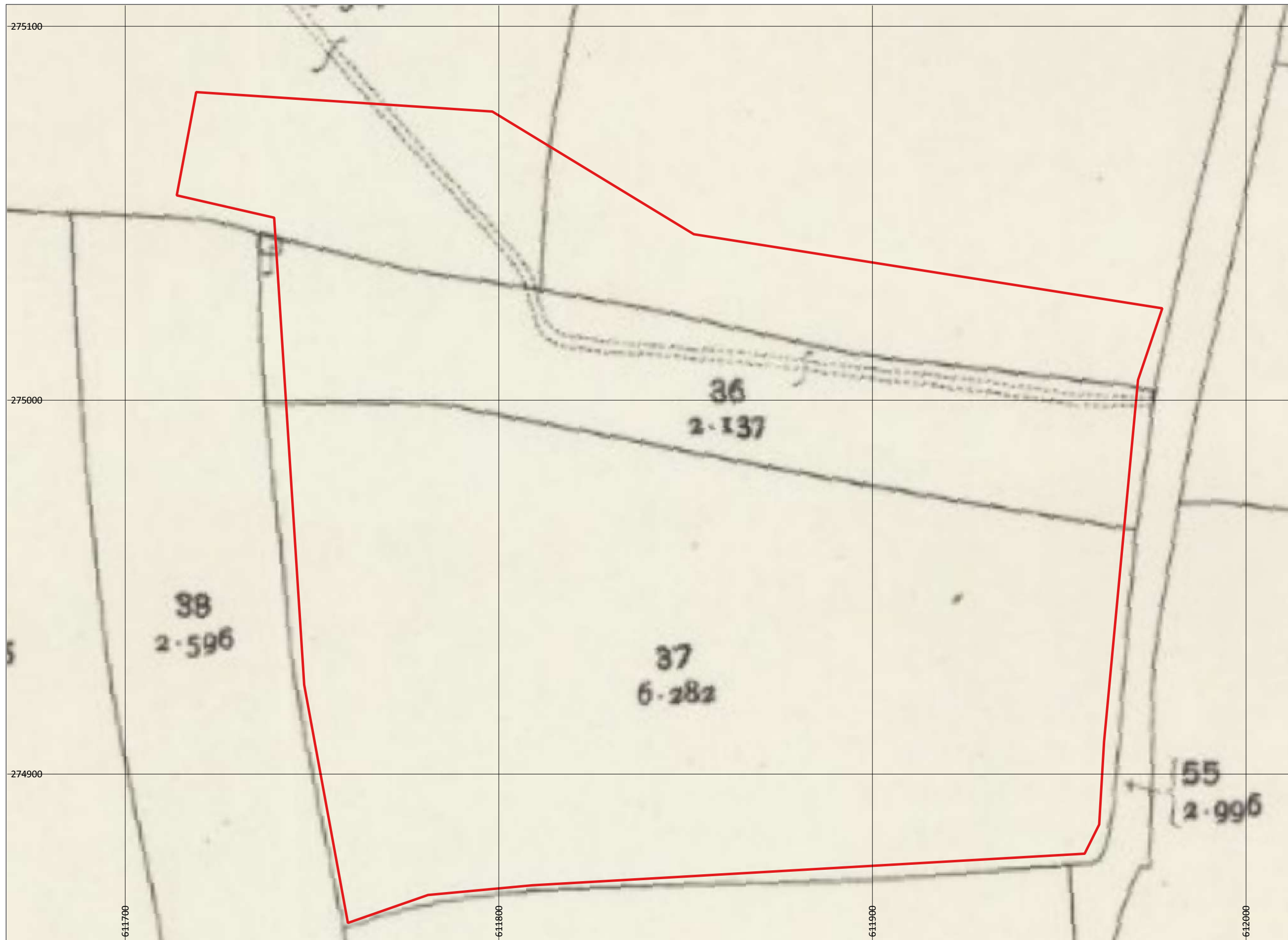


Figure 5: Geophysical interpretation location



Key
 Site boundary

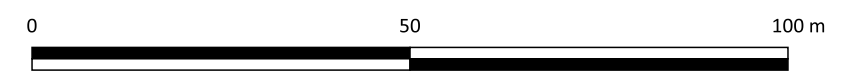
Site Code	YELL 22
Scale	1:1,000 @A3
Drawn	R Evershed
	22/03/2023

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Figure 6: Site boundary superimposed over 1904 OS map



Summary for allenarc1-514115

OASIS ID (UID)	allenarc1-514115
Project Name	Geophysical Survey by Magnetometry Survey on Land off Leyes Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk
Sitename	Land off Leyes Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk
Activity type	Magnetometry Survey, Geophysical Survey, MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY
Project Identifier(s)	
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Allen Archaeology Limited
Project Dates	20-Mar-2023 - 21-Mar-2023
Location	Land off Leyes Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk NGR : TM 11860 74940 LL : 52.3316220529219, 1.10796108573314 12 Fig : 611860,274940
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : Mid Suffolk Parish : Yaxley
Project Methodology	Lichfields, on behalf of Conrad Energy, commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake a geophysical survey using magnetometry on land off Leys Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk, to inform and support a future planning application for a Synchronous Condenser. The geophysical survey consisted of a detailed gradiometer survey of as much of the development area as was suitable, coming to approximately 3.9 hectares. The survey was undertaken in a series of 30m grids across the site.
Project Results	The survey has identified very little of archaeological interest, with former field boundaries seen on historic mapping revealed along with modern land drainage, a buried modern service, and magnetic noise associated with the modern compound within the southwest part of the site and the road/track running through the site.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Allen Archaeology Ltd

**SPECIFICATION FOR A GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY:
ON LAND OFF LEYS LANE, YAXLEY. SUFFOLK**

Planning Reference:	Pre-application
Client:	Lichfields on behalf of Conrad Energy
National Grid Reference:	TM 1186 7494
Date:	15th March 2023
AAL Site Code:	YELL 22
HER Code:	YAX 069

1.0 Summary

This document is the specification for an archaeological evaluation by geophysical survey on land off Leys Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk, which will be undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application for a Synchronous Condenser. The site works and reporting will conform to current national guidelines as set out in 'EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology' (EAC 2016), 'The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations' (Gaffney et al. 2002), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and guidance for archaeological geophysical survey' (ClfA 2020).

2.0 Site Location

The proposed development site is located c.600m north from the centre of the village of Yaxley, in the administrative district of Mid Suffolk. The site is approximately 4.0 hectares in area and is presently farmland. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 1186 7494 and is c.45m above Ordnance Datum.

The bedrock geology comprises Crag Group – Sand, with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geoindex-onshore/>).

3.0 Planning Background

The geophysical survey follows on from a heritage impact assessment which had been prepared to inform a planning application that will be submitted in due course for a Synchronous Condenser. This is the second stage of archaeological investigation, intended to provide detailed information that will allow the planning authority to make an informed decision as to whether further archaeological investigations will be required prior to or following the determination of a planning application for the proposed development.

The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being 'Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2021).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A prior desk-based assessment has been compiled for this site (AAL 2022), and the results of which are summarised below.

The proposed development site is situated within a rural location on the outskirts of the village of Eye. Extensive archaeological works have taken place in the vicinity of the site as part of the Progress Power Project. The majority of the archaeology found as part of these works is situated outside of the study area to the east, including a Bronze Age burnt mound. A few scatters of prehistoric finds have been found nearer to the site and one worked flint was uncovered within a trench excavated along the access track, suggesting a low archaeological potential for the proposed development area.

Roman activity is well represented in the area, with a Roman road (now A140) in the east part of the study area forming a focus for activity. Pottery scatters have been found near to the site and a significant quantity of PAS finds are recorded in the study area, including on the site itself. Archaeological work in the southwest corner of the site exposed a ditch containing a single fragment of possible Roman tile, and a pit was excavated within the access track that contained a single fragment of Roman pottery, suggesting a moderate potential for Roman activity.

The site lies on the periphery of the early medieval to medieval settlement of Eye, but there has been a large number of PAS finds in the study area, suggestive of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries to the north and south of the site, suggesting a moderate potential for early medieval activity.

Archaeological works in the southwest corner and southern extent of the site as well as to the immediate west have revealed ditches of a probable late medieval to post-medieval date, suggesting a high potential for further similar features to be present within the proposed development area.

5.0 Methodology

The geophysical survey will consist of a detailed gradiometer survey of the entire development area, extending to approximately 4ha.

The fieldwork will be carried out by a team of two experienced geophysicists from AAL over a period of two working days, commencing potentially end of March/beginning of April. The survey areas will be accurately located using a Leica GS08 RTK NetRover GPS. This will accurately 3D plot the areas of investigation and tie it into the National Grid.

The survey will be carried out using a Bartington Grad601-2 Dual Fluxgate Gradiometer with an on-board automatic DL601 data logger. This instrument is a highly stable magnetometer which utilises two vertically aligned fluxgates, one positioned 1m above the other. This arrangement is then duplicated and separated by a 1m cross bar. The 1m vertical spacing of the fluxgates provides for deeper anomaly detection capabilities than 0.5m spaced fluxgates. The dual arrangement allows for rapid assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. Data storage from the two fluxgate pairs is automatically combined into one file and stored using the onboard data logger.

Data collection will be undertaken in a zig-zag traverse pattern, using a sample interval of 0.25m and a traverse interval of 1m.

The fieldwork and reporting will be carried out in accordance with the procedures in *'Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation'* (English Heritage 2008) and *'The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations: IfA Paper 6'* (Gaffney et. al. 2002).

6.0 Post-Fieldwork Methodology

On completion of site operations each day, the survey results will be processed and reviewed.

On completion of the entire survey, a fully illustrated text will then be prepared that will contain the following information: -

- Aims and objectives
- Site location and description
- Geology, soils and land use
- Planning background
- Archaeological and historical background
- Overall plan of the site showing surveyed areas, accurately located to the national grid
- Detailed survey results and interpretation
- Survey location information
- Plans showing detailed and summary interpretation of results, including both processed and unprocessed data and xy trace plots
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria
- A text describing the results of the topographic survey;
- General site location plans at appropriate scales (1:25,000 and 1:2,500);
- Interpretation of the earthworks exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape;
- Appropriate photographs of the site
- A review of the effectiveness of the methodology

The timescale for completion of the post-excavation works is 3 days, with the reporting to be completed in 4 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

7.0 Archive

The documentation and records generated by the excavation will be assembled in accordance with the national guidelines in *'Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation'* (Brown 2011), and the local guidelines set out in *Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Archives Guidelines for Archive Preparation and Deposition* (SCCAS, 2022).

All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be completed and a copy will be included in the final report and also with the site archive.

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

8.0 Report Dissemination

Digital copies of the report will be sent to the client and the Local Planning Authority. An OASIS form detailing a summary account on the results of the project will be submitted to the ADS and the final report uploaded to OASIS and submitted to the SCCAS within two weeks of approval.

A draft report will be provided to SCCAS for review and comment before a final copy is issued. Following approval of the report by SCCAS, a digital copy of the approved final report will be submitted to the Suffolk HER. Provision should also be made for a hard copy report to be submitted, however, the need for this should be discussed and agreed with SCCAS who will advise on a case-by-case basis.

A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website. The HER will also be provided with a georeferenced copy of the digital survey data.

[https://allenarchaeology.sharepoint.com/sites/Management/Shared Documents/Counties/Suffolk/Yaxley Leys Lane \(YELL 22\)/Geophysical Survey/Documentation/YELL 22 WSI.doc](https://allenarchaeology.sharepoint.com/sites/Management/Shared Documents/Counties/Suffolk/Yaxley Leys Lane (YELL 22)/Geophysical Survey/Documentation/YELL 22 WSI.doc)

Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report will be prepared for the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

9.0 Curatorial Monitoring

Curatorial responsibility rests with the SCCAS.

Internal monitoring will be by the author of this specification.

10.0 Variations to the Proposed Scheme of Works

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written approval from the SCCAS.

Should any further investigation be required beyond the scope of this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

11.0 Health and Safety

All work will be carried out in a way that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice. Employees of Allen Archaeology Limited will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy, with senior staff responsible for monitoring compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation.

The archaeological site supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that all on-site archaeological work is carried out in a safety-conscious, sensible and responsible manner with due regard for the relevant health and safety requirements and legislation. All staff involved in the scheme will be provided with a Risk Assessment document prior to commencement of site operations.

12.0 Insurances

Allen Archaeology maintains Employers Liability Insurance to £10,000,000.00, Public Liability Insurance to £5,000,000.00 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to £2,000,000.00. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied upon request.

13.0 Copyright

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Figure 1: Site boundary outlined in red

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