

Land at Jurston Farm, Wellington, Somerset.

An Archaeological Geophysical Survey and Field Evaluation



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An Archaeological Geophysical Survey and Field Evaluation

for

C G Fry and Son Ltd

by



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Front cover image: General view from Jurston Lane across field 2, from the south-west. © Context One Archaeological Services 2014

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Non-technical summary

Context One Archaeological Services (COAS) carried out an archaeological field evaluation on land at Jurston Farm, Wellington, Somerset (centred on NGR ST 14847 20057), over 35 days between 17 September 2012 and 31 January 2014. A geophysical survey was carried out by GeoFlo Southwest Geophysical and Flotation Services on behalf of COAS, over 9 days between February and May 2012. The project was commissioned and funded by C G Fry and Son Ltd

The programme of archaeological works was requested by Mr Steve Membery (Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council). The Site is located c. 450m west of the planned medieval settlement of Wellington, which appears to have had Saxon origins. The discovery of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age and Bronze Age finds in the town indicates prehistoric activity in the area. The Site is also located c. 600m south of the Roman pottery production site of Cades Farm.

The evaluation identified two areas of archaeological interest, both of which would be impacted by the proposed development. A cluster of features in the southern central area date from the 11th and 12th centuries including a possible iron smelting furnace indicative of small-scale medieval industrial activity. Further investigation would be required to ascertain the extent and nature of the features, the geophysical survey indicating that many of the recorded features extend beyond the evaluation trenches. In the south-western area of the Site a number of features relate to the former cottages of Spread Elms. The cottages are present on the early 19th century tithe map however the presence of medieval and post-medieval finds indicates medieval or 16th century origins. Again, further investigation would be required to establish date, phasing and development of occupation. Elsewhere, the evaluation identified a comparatively tiny number of archaeological deposits and features in relation to the large area of the Site. Prehistoric activity is confined to Middle Bronze Age pottery (probably a single vessel) within a redeposited natural deposit. Roman activity may be indicated by a single possible Roman post-hole, although overall the identification of only six sherds of Roman pottery during the evaluation is surprising given the proximity of more intensive Roman occupation at Cades Farm.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an archaeological field evaluation on land at Jurston Farm, Wellington, Somerset (centred on NGR ST 14847 20057; the 'Site') intermittently between September 2012 and January 2014. The programme of work comprised a geophysical survey followed by targeted trial trenching following an earlier desk-based assessment.
- 1.2 The programme of archaeological works was requested by Mr Steve Membery (Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council). The Site is located c. 450m west of the planned medieval settlement of Wellington, which appears to have had Saxon origins. The discovery of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age and Bronze Age finds in the town indicates prehistoric activity in the area. The Site is also located c. 600m south of the Roman pottery production site of Cades Farm.
- 1.3 A previous Desk-Based Assessment carried out by COAS (Allum (Green) 2009) established that no archaeological events are known within the Site or immediate environs, although Jurston Farm to the east of the Site has possible late medieval origins. However, the assessment identified several parchmarks which had archaeological potential, unmapped boundaries, and the site of three cottages with possible medieval origins. Given that the pattern of land-use is relatively unchanged since the early 19th century it was considered that evidence of these features may have survived, together with other previously unidentified archaeological remains.
- 1.4 The programme of archaeological works comprised five elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy; a geophysical survey; archaeological field evaluation through trial trenching; post-excavation and report production; and archive deposition. The WSI was approved by Mr Membery on 20 July 2012 prior to the commencement of any Site works.

2. Site location and topography

- 2.1 The town of Wellington is situated c. 10km to the west-south-west of Taunton town centre in west Somerset (**Figure 1**). The Site (centred on NGR ST 14756 20293) occupies a large area extending along the east side of the town, c. 1km from the centre, and immediately to the west of Jurston Farm. It covers an area of c. 42ha over 21 fields including a garden belonging to Jurston Farm, a Victorian house with a garden (The Elms) and an enclosure containing 20th century farm buildings. Jurston Lane runs across the centre of the Site from approximately north-west to south-east. In general the land undulates gently, gradually rising towards the south and west. Heights above Ordnance Datum vary between c. 85m aOD in the south, c. 65m aOD in the east, c. 57m aOD in the north, c. 71m aOD in the west and c. 73m aOD in the centre.
- 2.2 The underlying geology throughout is of Sidmouth Mudstone Formation Triassic sedimentary mudstone (BGS 2014), parenting moderately to highly fertile loams and clays with impeded drainage.

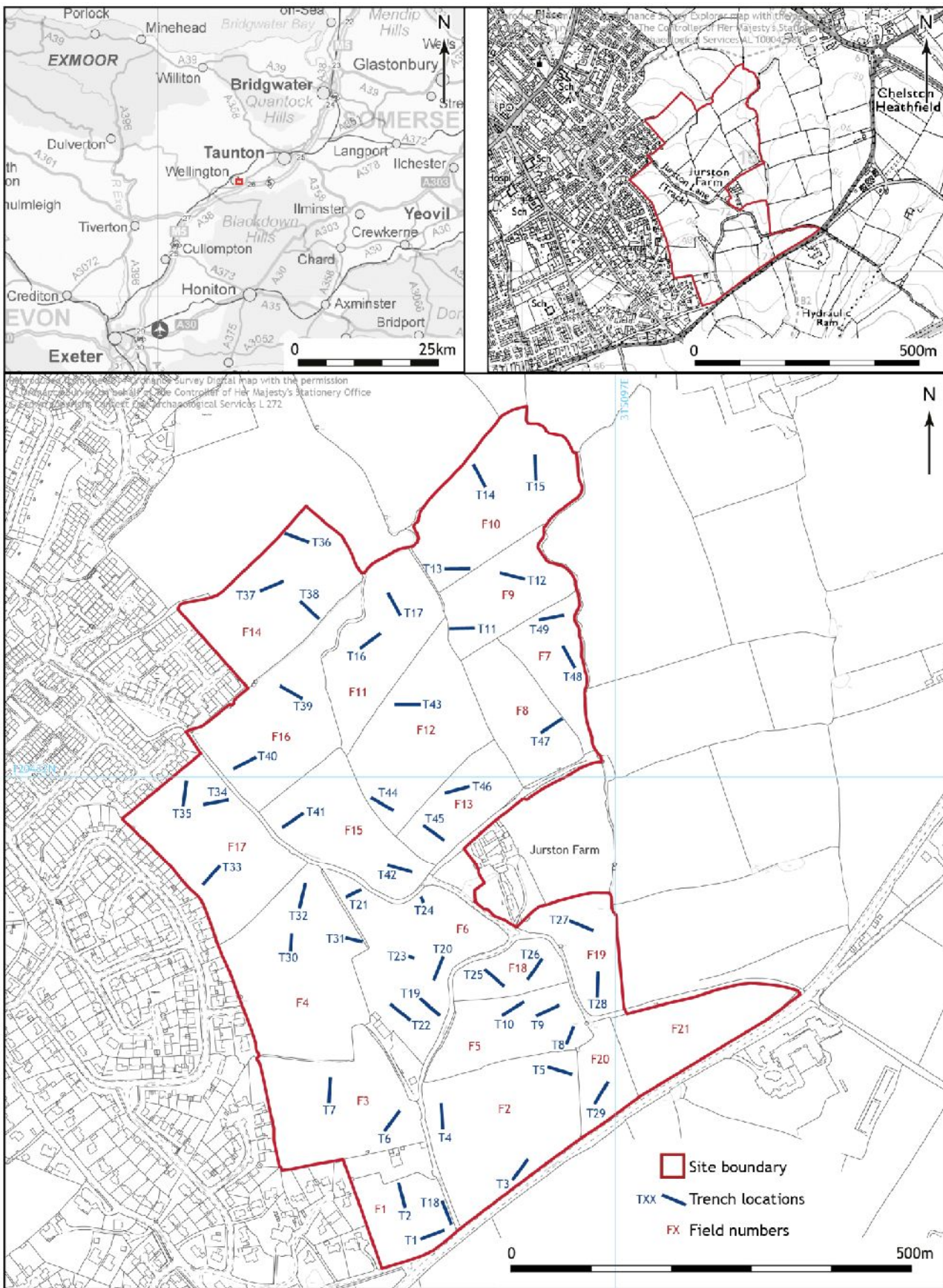


Figure 1. Site setting showing field numbers and evaluation trenches

3. Archaeological and historical background

- 3.1 A detailed account of the Site's archaeological and historical background was set out in a previous desk-based assessment (Allum (Green) 2009) the results of which are summarised here. The archaeological background for the Site was drawn from the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) and other published and unpublished secondary sources.
- 3.2 There have been no previous archaeological investigations on the Site and no archaeological events have been recorded, although Jurston Farm, just beyond the eastern limits of the Site, has possible late medieval origins and is a Grade II listed building (PRN 46309). An evaluation by AC Archaeology (2010; PRN 28356) located c. 200m north of the Site did not identify any evidence for archaeological activity.
- 3.3 The majority of the field and property boundaries on the Site pre-date 1841 and remain relatively unaltered to the present day. Analysis of historic maps and aerial photographs revealed a number of boundaries that are no longer present. These included a north-west to south-east boundary across the western side of F16 and a similarly aligned boundary which once divided F16 into two fields. Two relict boundaries visible on aerial photographs comprise one across the centre of F14 and another in F15 which aligns with the boundary on the other side of the trackway between F4 and F6. While these may represent short-lived boundaries that may not have been surveyed during map revisions, it was considered that they may be earlier in origin.
- 3.4 At the southern end of the Site (F1) three cottages and two gardens (Spread Elms) are shown on the 1841 tithe map. Demolished by 1890, the property boundary remains visible as a shallow earthwork and parchmarks on an aerial photograph may be associated with these cottages. By 1890, a Victorian house (The Elms) was present (located between F1 and F3) and by 1905 a small structure was in existence along the south-western side of F6, which appears to have been extended by 1964 into one large and two smaller structures within an elongated rectangular enclosure. Aerial photographs show that the main structure appears to be agricultural rather than residential and as this complex shares the same name as the house and garden to the south this perhaps suggests common ownership. Immediately adjacent to the western side and the north-western corner of the Site, the once open fields have been progressively developed with the appearance of housing estates between 1964 and the present day.

4. Geophysical survey

- 4.1 The geophysical survey was undertaken by GeoFlo Southwest Geophysical and Flotation Services from February to May 2012, with breaks to accommodate the agricultural cycle. The survey took place in order to identify the presence of any features of possible archaeological origin across the entire Site and to assist in locating trial trenches over areas of suspected archaeological potential.

Methodology

- 4.2 A detailed magnetic gradiometer survey was conducted across Fields 1 to 17, an area of c. 37ha. Fields 18 to 21 were added to the Site area after the geophysical survey had been completed; with the agreement of Mr Membery it was decided that the survey results did not warrant coverage of the additional fields. The survey was conducted in accordance with current guidelines (English Heritage 2008, *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*; IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*).
- 4.3 The location of the survey grid was established using a TopCon GRS-1 GPS system capable of 1-2cm accuracy. The magnetic gradiometer survey was carried out using a Bartington Grad 601-2 Dual

Sensor Gradiometer, comprising a double set of two vertically aligned fluxgates. A built-in data logger automatically recorded magnetic fluctuation between the vertical fluxgates in nano-Tesla (nT) at 0.25m intervals over traverses laid out 1m apart within 20m x 20m grids set out according to the orientation of the field. The instrument has a manufacturer's specified depth range exceeding 3m.

Data processing

- 4.4 The collected data was processed using industry standard Geoscan software, Geoplot 3.0v, which allows the presentation of data in dot-density, grey scale, pattern and X-Y (or *trace*) plots. The latter are particularly effective when used in conjunction with other graphical modes to emphasise ferrous magnetic anomalies or other distortions which show as accentuated peaks or troughs. The programme supports statistical analysis and filtering of the data.
- 4.5 Preliminary processing revealed extensive impact from modern ferrous magnetic features, characterised by sharp dipolar fluctuations ranging from approximately 30nT to over 3000nT. The following processing sequence was designed to mitigate the impact of modern ironwork:
- Readings exceeding 30nT either side of 0 were replaced by null (dummy) entries.
 - Any anomalous isolated readings were similarly replaced ('despike').
 - Typical regular error due to the zig-zag operation of the gradiometer was removed ('destagger').
 - The mean reading for every traverse was reset to 0 ('zero mean traverse').
 - The asymmetric data collection pattern was mitigated by the positive interpolation of data points along the Y axis using the calculation of $\sin X/X$ ('interpolate').

The data were then explored in polychrome, greyscale and trace formats within various graphical 'clip' parameters.

Results

- 4.6 Processed data from the magnetic gradiometer survey is presented as a greyscale plot (**Figure 2**). The survey identified numerous anomalies characterised as being of possible archaeological origin; negative anomalies, positive anomalies and areas of ferrous magnetic disturbance (**Figure 3**; **Appendix 3**).
- 4.7 The negative anomalies are located in 11 fields across the Site and are mostly linear features probably representative of earlier field boundaries or field systems. Of particular note are the very long features traversing F14 and F15. Two of the shorter linears in F7 appear to delineate an enclosure or the corner of a former ditched field boundary. A short negative anomaly in F13 appears to be slightly curvilinear. Finally, a slightly curved negative response in F2 may represent an enclosure or the corner of a former ditched field boundary.
- 4.8 Positive responses are present in all fields and comprise linear anomalies, including further very long features traversing the entire lengths of F14 and F15, and discrete responses. Some of the linear features may relate to stone from former hedgerows. The concentration of responses in F1 probably relates to the former cottages at Spread Elms (see **Figure 4**).

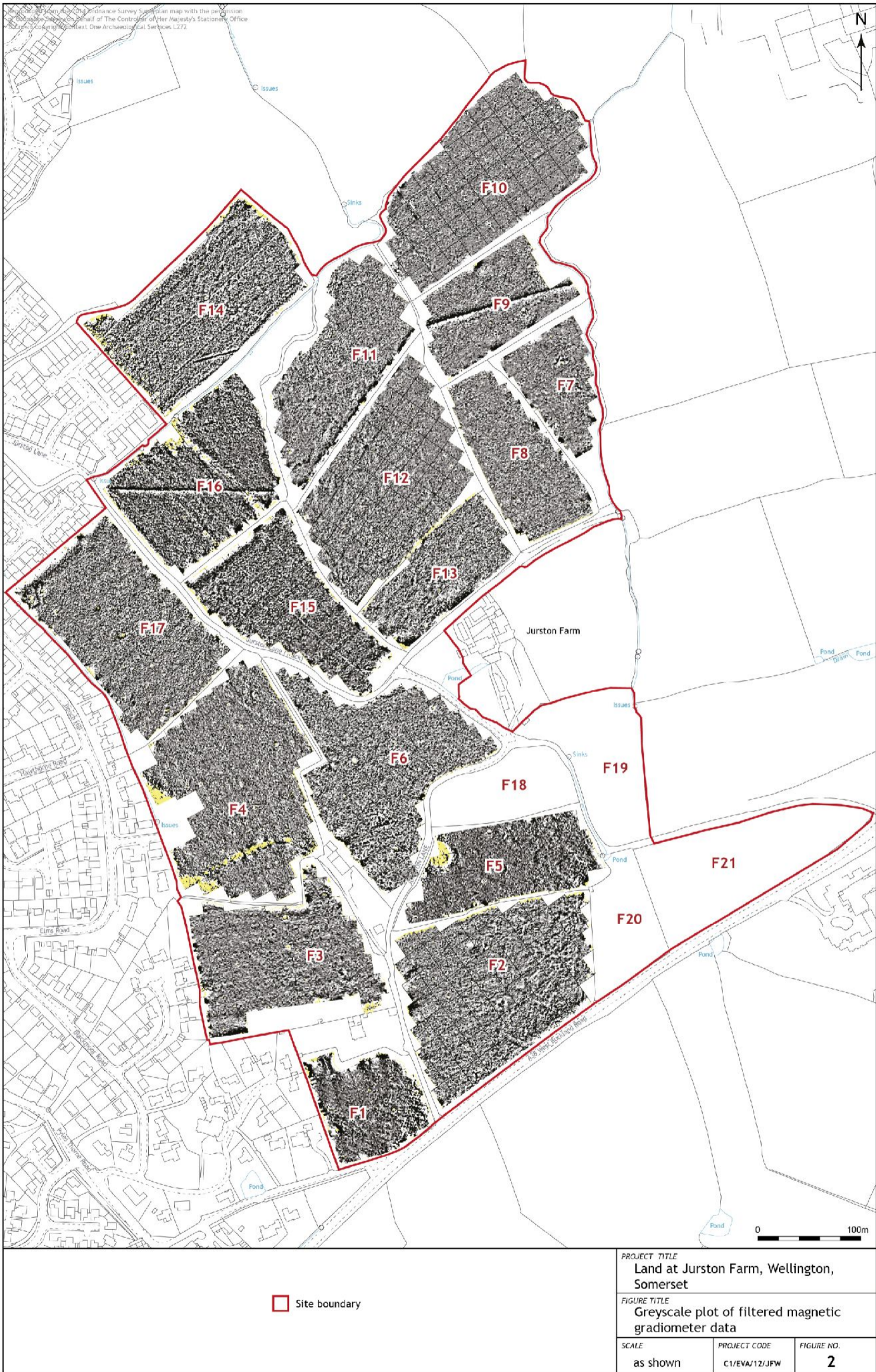


Figure 2. Greyscale plot of filtered magnetic gradiometer data

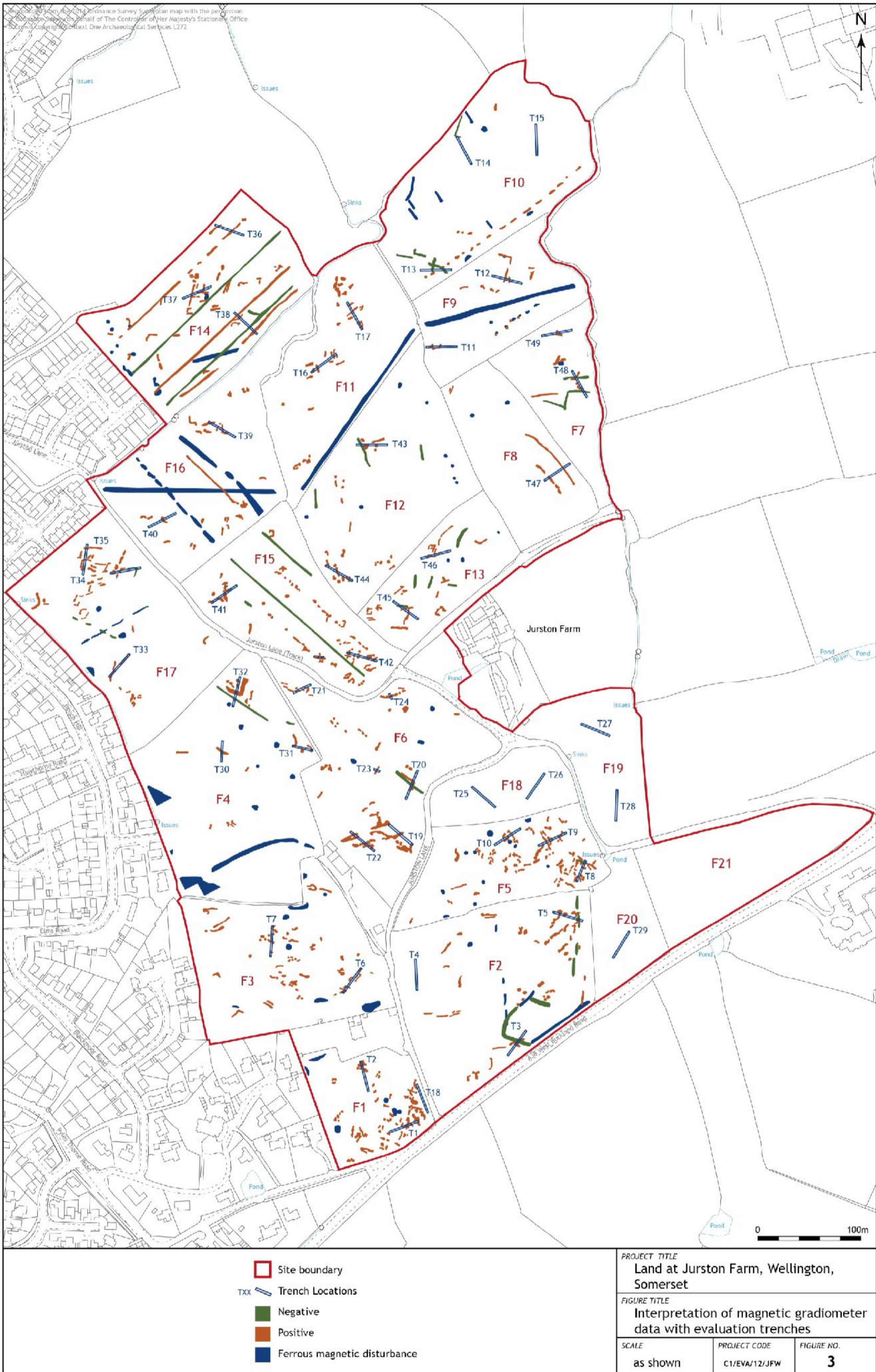


Figure 3. Interpretation of magnetic gradiometer data with evaluation trenches

- 4.9 Lines of magnetic disturbance are present in all fields and are the result of substantial nearby ferrous metal objects such as fences and underground services. Discrete magnetic responses are likely to be from modern rubbish. The two historic boundaries across F16 are also visible as lines of ferrous magnetic disturbance.

5. Evaluation trial trenching

Archaeological methodology



- 5.1 The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook* issued by Somerset County Council in 2011, and the codes, standards and guidelines set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1985, rev. 2012; 1990, rev. 2008; 1994, rev. 2008). Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.
- 5.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised forty-nine machine and hand excavated trenches; the majority of the trenches measured between 1.6m and 1.8m wide and 30m long, with a few trenches measuring between 18m and 20m long and two very short trenches in F6 (**Figure 1**). The combined area of the trenches equates to approximately 1% of the proposed development area. The rationale for the positioning of most trenches was dictated by the results of the geophysical survey, with the remaining trenches spread evenly to characterise the entire area. The trench locations were mapped relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum using a TopCon GRS-1 Global Positioning System receiving real-time calibrations to produce accuracies of 1-2cm.
- 5.3 A JCB-type wheeled, back-hoe machine fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket was used to remove the topsoil and, where appropriate, upper colluvial or alluvial soils under archaeological supervision. Surfaces and representative profiles were cleaned and recorded.
- 5.4 Profile sections of the deposit sequence across the Site were recorded for each trench using standard COAS *pro forma* profile sheets to illustrate the soil morphology. Each profile was recorded as a graphical representation accompanied by a brief description. A photograph including a suitable scale was also taken for each trench. Any dateable material found within a deposit was also noted.
- 5.5 All archaeological features/deposits were recorded as individual contexts and ascribed a unique number. Contexts referenced in this report are presented in standard terms, e.g. (100), (203). All features/deposits were drawn on dimensionally stable media at scales of 1:20 (plans) and 1:10 (sections) including representative sections and plans of the trenches. All features/deposits were recorded using standard COAS *pro-forma* recording sheets. Stratigraphic relationships were recorded using a "Harris-Winchester matrix" diagram. Soil colours were logged using a Munsell soil colour chart.
- 5.6 The location, extent and altitude of archaeological features and deposits were mapped relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum using a TopCon GRS-1 Global Positioning System receiving real-time calibrations to produce accuracies of 1-2cm.
- 5.7 A photographic record of the work was prepared and involved the use of digital images in .jpg format. This included shots of the excavated area, individual features, each profile section and working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 5.8 Mass produced post-medieval artefacts and ceramic building material (CBM) were noted but not collected as they were considered to be surplus to future research needs. All other finds were removed from Site for processing in preparation for assessment and archiving/discard.



- 5.9 Prior to assessment, all recovered finds, excluding metalwork, were first washed, air-dried and re-bagged. None of the finds required specialist treatment by a conservator. The finds were then separated into artefact types and quantified by context number, quantity and weight in grams. Specialist reports of the artefact assemblage were compiled using both descriptive and tabular formats (see **section 5 & Appendix 2**).
- 5.10 The finds will be retained by COAS until the programme of archaeological work has been completed. The Site landowner will then be contacted with a request to transfer the title of all retained finds to Somerset County Museums Service with the option of returning them to him/her as legal owners of the assemblage.
- 5.11 Should the Site landowner wish to donate the finds to Somerset County Museums Service and pay for their deposition, a request will be made to the Museum to issue a discard policy on the retained finds. Once a retention strategy has been agreed, all remaining finds will be marked with an accession number (TTNCM 47/2012) in preparation for deposition with the museum according to their prevailing Deposit Guidelines.


6. Results



- 6.1 A total of forty-nine trenches were excavated across twenty fields; it was not deemed necessary to place any trenches in the last field (F21) as no development works are proposed for this area. The deposit sequence for each field with archaeology or with pertinent information (for example, land drains) has been summarised in **Table 1** with relevant notes, a list of any archaeological features and representative trench plates. For full details of contexts see **Appendix 1**.
- 6.2 The archaeological sequence across the Site was broadly similar comprising soft silt topsoil/ploughsoil, above compacted silt subsoil, overlying clay or clay sand natural with alluvial and colluvial deposits and patches of river gravel. No archaeological features were identified and no finds were observed within fifteen of the twenty fields, across which thirty-three trenches had been excavated. The archaeologically sterile fields were concentrated in the northern, western and south-eastern areas of the Site. A further six blank trenches were located in fields 3, 5, 6 and 7.
- 6.3 Archaeological features were recorded within ten trenches across fields 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 (**Figure 4**). These fields are situated in the southern and central areas of the Site, with the exception of field 7 in the north-east. The features are detailed in **Table 1** and comprise eight pits, two post-holes, six ditches, six gullies, one structural feature and one rubbish deposit.
- 6.4 The earliest pottery dates to the Middle Bronze Age and was recovered from a suspected colluvial deposit (602) in Tr6 (see **section 7**). The earliest dateable feature was a post-hole [4805] in Tr48 yielding a single sherd of Roman pottery (see **Plate 10**); also within Tr48 was a single pit [4803], and this was dated to the medieval period (see **Plate 11**).
- 6.5 Three further possible medieval pits were recorded in F6 towards the centre of the Site, in close proximity to one another ([1907], [2205] and 2209) (see **Plates 12, 13 & 14**). Although no dateable material was recovered from these features, it is possible that they were broadly contemporary with medieval features recorded within the same trenches. In Tr19 these comprise a ditch [1903] aligned east to west (see **Plate 15**) and two gullies ([1905] [1911]) respectively aligned north-east to south-west and north to south. A circular post-hole [1909] and a curvilinear gully [1913] within the same trench may also be broadly contemporary although the features were undated.


Table 1. Summary of features per field


Field	Trench	Deposit sequence & notes	Features	Plates
1	1 2 18	<p>Topsoil (100) (200) (1800)</p> <p>Subsoil (101) (201) with rare charcoal (1801) with frequent limestone fragments</p> <p>Natural (102) (206) (1802)</p> <p>Tr2: modern water pipe running through centre of trench</p>	<p>Tr1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> modern ditch [103] (104) (105) <p>Tr2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undated sub-circular pit [202] measuring $>0.84 \times 0.80 \times 0.47$. Three fills: lower (203), middle (204) & upper (205). <p>T18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> post-medieval rubbish deposit (1803) post-medieval pit [1811] (1812) aligned E-W & measuring $>1.50 \times >2.56 \times 0.23$ post-medieval ditch [1809] (1810) aligned N-S & measuring $>1.90 \times >0.44 \times 0.61$. Cuts (1812) post-medieval/ modern structure [1813] measuring $>1.30 \times >2.10 \times 0.45$. Aligned E-W, possible structural/foundation cut filled with possible demolition rubble (1806) modern pits [1804] (1805) & [1807] (1808) 	 <p>Plate 1. Tr1 (from E; 2 x 1m scales)</p>  <p>Plate 2. Tr2 (from S; 2 x 1m scales)</p>

				 <p>Plate 3. Tr18 (from S; 2 x 1m scales)</p>
2	3 4 5	Tr3: four rubble-filled modern land drains Tr5: two modern land drains. Grey silty ?colluvium at N end where trench slopes downwards	None	N/A
3	6 7	Topsoil (600) (700) Subsoil (601) (702) Natural (602) (703) T6: MBA pottery found in natural near N end of trench where ground slopes down. No visible associated feature	T7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undated ditch [703] (704) aligned NE-SW, mostly truncated but measuring 1.60 x 1.70 x 0.25 	 <p>Plate 4. Tr7, ditch [703] (from SW; 1m scales)</p>

4	30 31 32	Tr30: stone drain & old water pipe Tr32: stone field drain	None	N/A
5	8 9 10	Ploughsoil (800) (900) (1000) Subsoil (901) (1001) Subsoil (902) Natural (801) (903) (1002) Tr8: modern land drain Tr9: NW end of trench under water	T8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undated gully [803] (804) aligned NE-SW and measuring >2.0 x 0.40 x 0.15 T10: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undated gully [1004] (1003) roughly aligned NE-SW & measuring >1.80 x 0.55 x 0.40 	 <p>Plate 5. Tr8, gully [803] (from SW; 1 x 0.2m & 1 x 1m scales)</p>

				 <p>Plate 6. Tr10 (from SW; 2 x 1m scales)</p>
6	19 20 21 22 23 24	Topsoil (1900) (2000) (2200) (2300) (2400) Subsoil (1901) (2001) (2201) (2301) (2401) Natural (1902) (2002) (2202) (2302) (2402)	<p>T19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medieval ditch [1903] (1904) aligned E-W & measuring >1.50 x 0.80 x 0.30 • medieval gully [1905] (1906) aligned NE-SW & measuring >1.50 x 0.90 x 0.07, ?structural • medieval gully [1911] (1912) aligned N-S & measuring >1.60 x 0.70 x 0.25 • ?medieval circular pit [1907] (1908) measuring 2.10 x 0.70 • ?medieval circular post-hole [1909] (1910) measuring >0.24 x 0.06 • undated curvilinear gully [1913] (1914) measuring >1.60 x 0.40 x 0.10 <p>T21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shallow medieval ditch [2102] (2103) measuring >2.0 x 0.50 x 	 <p>Plate 7. Tr 19 (from SE)</p>

			<p>0.20m</p> <p>T22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medieval ditch [2203] (2204) aligned E-W & measuring >2.60 x 2.50 x 0.40. Possibly re-cut • ?medieval circular pit [2205] (2206) measuring 0.60 x 0.34 • ?medieval sub-rectangular pit [2209] (2210) measuring >1.90 x 0.60 x 0.30. Associated with gully [2207] • ?medieval gully [2207] (2208) aligned E-W & measuring >0.50 x 0.60 x 0.35. Possible flue end of furnace/stoke hole 	 <p>Plate 8. Tr 22 (from E; 2 x 1m scales)</p>
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7	48 49	Topsoil (4800) (4900) Subsoil (4801) (4901) Natural (4802) (4902)	T48: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medieval irregular sub-circular pit [4803] (4804) measuring 1.80 x >0.70 x >0.50 • ?Roman circular post-hole [4805] (4806) measuring 0.30m x c. 0.15m 	 <p>Plate 9. Tr 48 (from SE; 1 x 1m scales)</p>
9	11 12	Tr11: modern field drain	None	N/A
11	16 17	Tr16: three modern land drains	None	N/A
12	43 44	Tr43: several land drains	None	N/A
13	45 46	Tr45: ceramic land drains	None	N/A
14	36 37 38	Tr36: two field drains	None	N/A
15	41 42	Tr41: geological banding. Investigated archaeologically but not archaeological. Tr42: two land drains	None	N/A
17	33 34 35	Tr33: field drain Tr34: two field drains	None	N/A
20	29	Tr29: two modern field drains	None	N/A

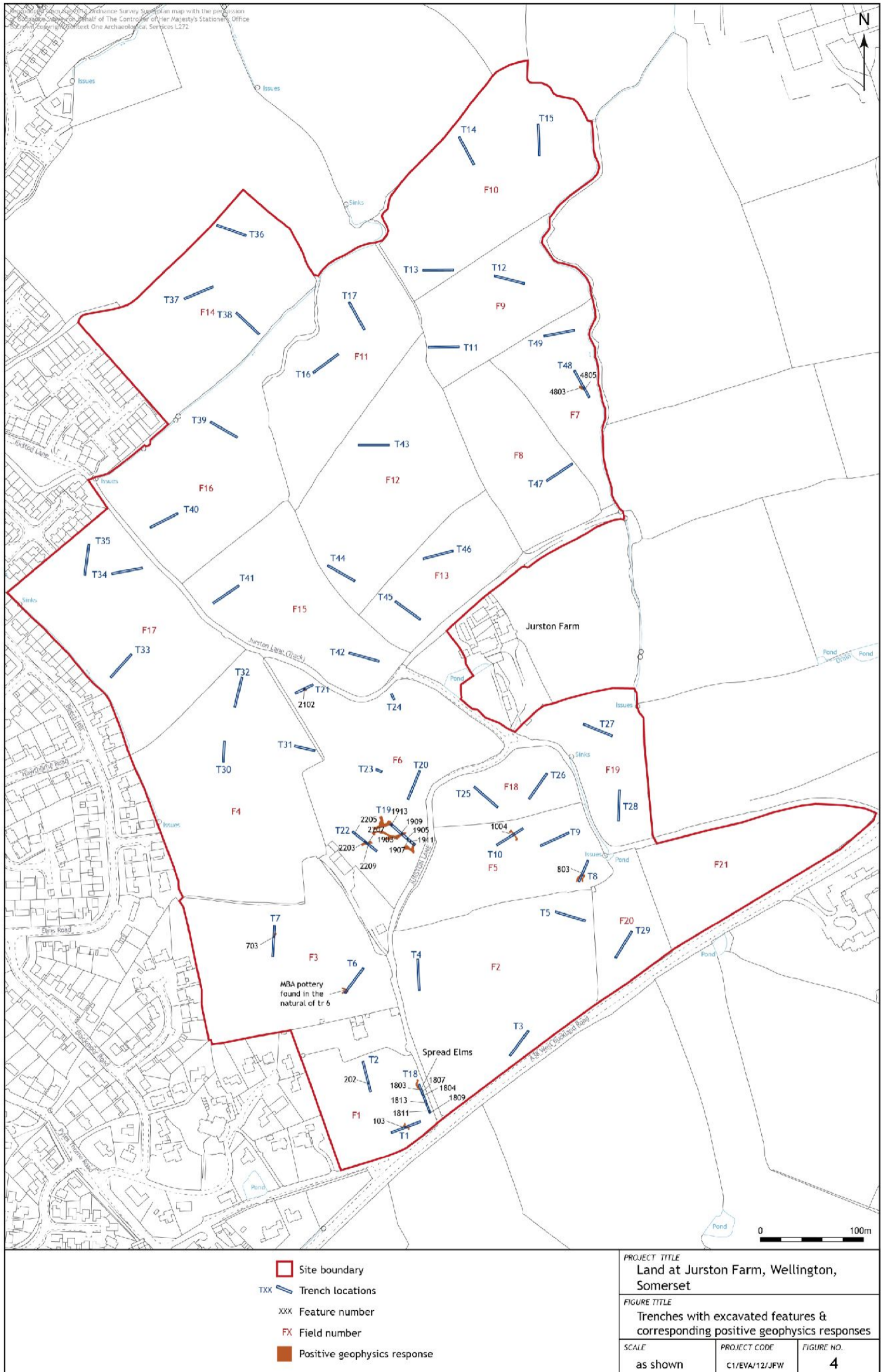


Figure 4. Trenches with excavated features & corresponding positive geophysics responses

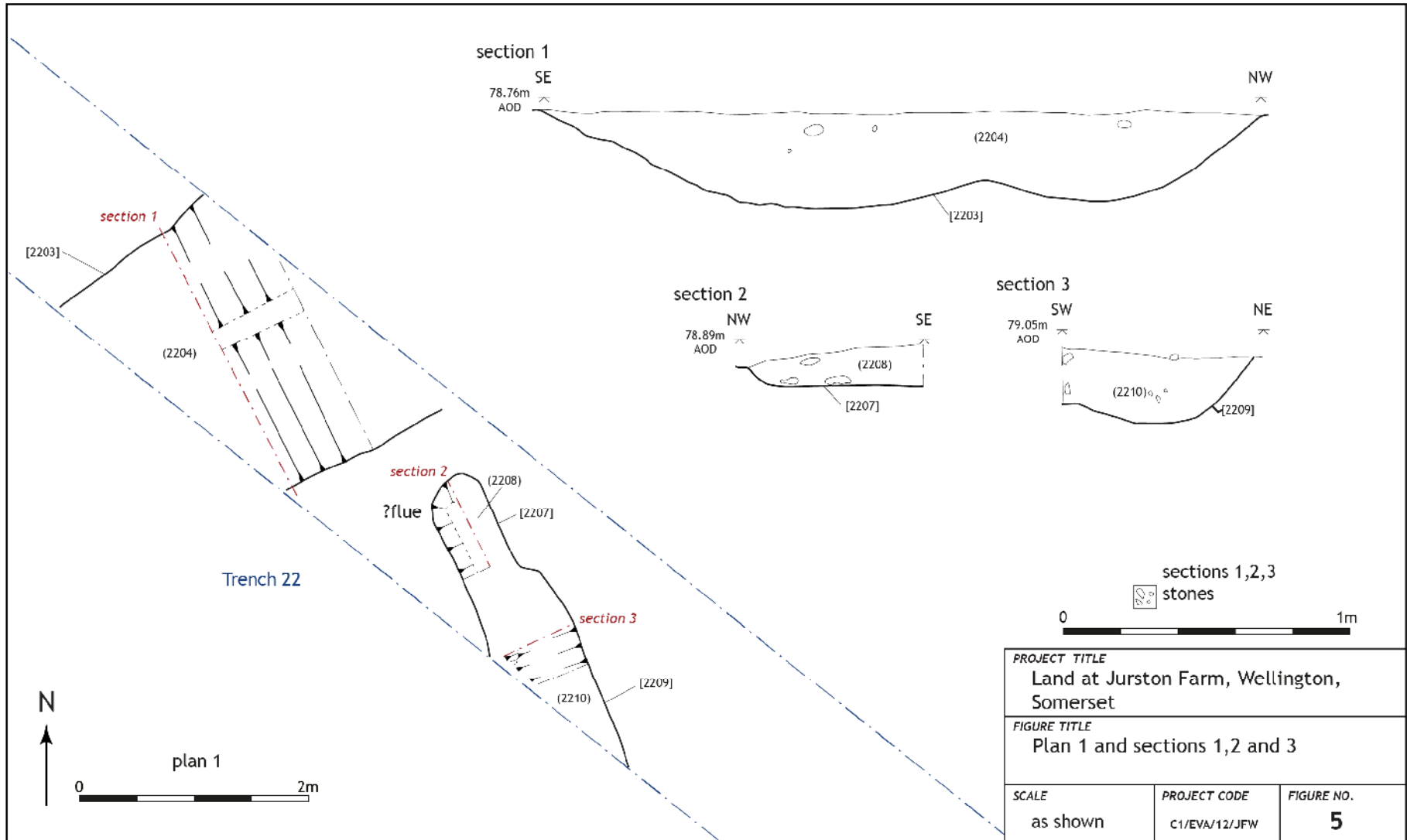


Figure 5. Plan 1 and sections 1, 2 & 3

Land at Jurston Farm, Wellington, Somerset.

- 6.6 Nearby, in Tr22 was a medieval ditch [2203] aligned north to south, with some evidence of re-cutting (see **Plate 16**; **Figure 5**). A further elongated shallow gully [2207] (see **Plate 17**) aligned east to west was recorded as the possible flue end of a furnace/ stake-hole, associated with a sub-rectangular furnace pit [2209] to the south-east (**Figure 5**). The two elements of the possible furnace were adjoining and shared the same alignment. Although no dateable material was found in either feature, two pieces of hearth lining and a fragment of iron smelting slag recovered from the nearby medieval ditch [2203] suggest a medieval date for the possible furnace. Slightly further north, in Tr21 but also within F6, was a shallow medieval ditch [2102].
- 6.7 The post-medieval features were located in the southern area of the Site (F1). In Tr18 these comprised a rubbish deposit (1803), a pit [1811] which had been cut by a ditch [1809] aligned north to south, and a post-medieval/ modern structural cut [1813] measuring >1.30 x >2.10 x 0.45 which had been back-filled with demolition rubble (1806). The remaining features in F1 were a modern ditch [103], two modern pits ([1804] [1807]) and an undated (pit [202]).
- 6.8 The three additional undated features were located across the southern area of the Site and comprised a ditch [703] and two gullies ([803] [1004]).



Plate 10. Post-hole [4805] (from SE; 0.25m scales)



Plate 11. Pit [4803] (from NE; 0.5m scales)



Plate 12. Pit [1907] (from SW; 1m scales)



Plate 13. Pit [2205] (from NW; 0.2m scales)



Plate 14. Pit [2209] (from N; 0.2m scales)



Plate 15. Ditch [1903] (from W; 1m scales)



Plate 16. Ditch [2203] (from W; 1 x 0.2m & 1 x 1m scales)



Plate 17. Gully [2207] (from NE; 0.2m scales)

7. The finds

- 7.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the field evaluation comprising pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), worked flint/ chert, slag, clay pipes, animal bone, metalwork, glass, stone, chert and burnt slate (see **Appendix 2:** . The pottery, CBM, worked flint/ chert and slag were assessed by Lorraine Mephram (Wessex Archaeology and comprises a limited range of material types, dominated by pottery. The assemblage includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval/modern date. A full list of these finds by context is given in **Table 1**. The remaining finds have been assessed by COAS with specialist input for the clay pipe and animal bone.

Lorraine Mephram (Wessex Archaeology, Report No. 89730.29)

POTTERY

- 7.2 The pottery assemblage (88 sherds; 1027g) ranges in date from prehistoric to modern. Condition varies; the assemblage is relatively fragmented, and the prehistoric material in particular is abraded. Mean sherd weight overall is 11.7g.

Bronze Age

- 7.3 Nine sherds from colluvial layer **602** are all in a soft, grog-tempered fabric with a soapy texture, and probably represent a single small vessel. The sherds are small and abraded, although some clean, probably modern breaks are also apparent. Two conjoining sherds come from the basal angle, and five conjoining sherds from the upper body; the latter carry a horizontal row of fingertip

impressions. Decoration and fabric type serve to date these sherds to the Middle Bronze Age; the vessel is paralleled, for example, within the Early/Middle Bronze Age assemblage from Norton Fitzwarren (Woodward 1989, fig. 18, 13).

Romano-British

- 7.4 Six sherds are Romano-British. All are in coarse greyware fabrics. One sherd from a handle was found unstratified; the other sherds, one from medieval pit **4803** and one from feature, are all undiagnostic.

Medieval

- 7.5 Seventeen sherds are medieval. All are in coarseware fabrics, although there is some variation apparent here. Four fabric groups are represented: flint/chert-tempered; quartzite-tempered, rock-tempered and calcareous (?limestone-tempered). The rock-tempered sherds contain soft, shiny, greyish inclusions. These are also characteristic of Romano-British 'Norton Fitzwarren-type' pottery, which has a presumed source to the south-west of Taunton, around Norton Fitzwarren (Timby 1989, 54) - in other words, local to the current site. These wares do not appear within the published type series for Taunton, although flint/chert-tempered, quartzite-tempered and limestone-tempered wares do fall within the range of 11th to 12th century wares (Pearson 1984; Burrow 1988). There is also some overlap with the nearby site at Longforth farm, Wellington, which yielded flint/chert-tempered wares (Wessex Archaeology 2013). There are no diagnostic forms amongst the Jurston farm sherds.

Medieval sherds provide the dating evidence for pit **4803**, ditches **1903**, **1905**, **2102** and **2203**, and gully **1911**, although quantities are small in each case.

Post-medieval/Modern

- 7.6 The remaining 56 sherds of pottery are post-medieval or modern in date. They consist largely of coarse redwares, mostly glazed and probably belonging mainly to open forms. They include a small number of slipwares (trailed slip and sgraffito technique). One likely source for at least some of the redwares is the 16th/17th century production centre at Wrangway, just to the south of Wellington, although there were several other centres across south Somerset and north Devon (Allan 2000, 123). While the slipwares are likely to be 17th or 18th century in date, the bulk of the redwares cannot be more closely dated within the post-medieval period.

Post-medieval pottery was found in ditch **103** in Trench 1, but most of the sherds came from Trench 18, in ditch **1809**, and pits **1804**, **1807** and **1811**.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL (CBM) AND CONCRETE

- 7.7 One small fragment of CBM from ditch **103** is heavily abraded and undiagnostic, but on fabric grounds (relatively fine, soft) could be of Romano-British date. A fragment from pit **1811** belongs to a flat roof tile of medieval type, and a second fragment from ditch **103** is from a post-medieval brick. Two pieces of modern concrete were found unstratified.

WORKED FLINT/CHERT

- 7.8 Four pieces were recovered, comprising a small flint flake from ditch **2203**, a flint core fragment from context **2201** and a chert flake and retouched flake found unstratified.

SLAG

- 7.9 A few small pieces of undiagnostic ironworking slag were recovered from ditch **1903** (two fragments) and pit **1907** (five fragments); pottery from **1903** suggests a medieval date. More diagnostic are the three fragments from ditch **2203**, which include two pieces of hearth lining, and a fragment of iron

smelting slag. Again, the associated pottery suggests a medieval date for this (11th/12th century).

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.10 As it stands, the finds assemblage is relatively small, and its potential is correspondingly limited. Finds have been recorded to an appropriate level, and no further work is warranted, although the illustration of the Bronze Age vessel from layer 602 is recommended. If, however, there is further mitigation work on the site, this assemblage should be reviewed together with any further material recovered from the site. The assemblage should be retained for long-term curation.

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Table 2: Finds list by context

Context	Material Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments	Date
105	CBM	1	21	undiagnostic fragment, soft fabric	?Roman
105	CBM	1	110	brick fragment	post-med
105	pottery	12	214	coarse redware, glazed (1 sgraffito ware)	post-med
105	pottery	1	1	white salt glaze	post-med
105	pottery	3	4	refined whiteware (2 transfer printed)	modern
105	pottery	1	1	Staffs-type marbled slipware	post-med
602	pottery	9	42	grog-tempered; 2 base sherds; 5 joining with fingertip impressed dec	MBA
1805	pottery	8	65	refined whiteware (7 transfer printed, 6 from 1 flatware vessel; 1 sponged, flared bowl)	modern
1808	CBM	1	1	undiagnostic	uncertain
1808	pottery	2	5	refined whiteware (1 transfer printed, 1 moulded, flatware rim)	modern
1808	pottery	1	23	coarse redware, glazed	post-med
1810	pottery	5	93	coarse redware, glazed (1 rim)	post-med
1812	CBM	1	20	roof tile (peg hole)	medieval
1812	pottery	22	438	coarse redware, glazed (3 trailed slipware; 1 sgraffito, 1 black-glazed)	post-med
1904	pottery	2	16	coarseware (sandy/flint-tempered)	medieval

1904	slag	2	24	undiagnostic ironworking slag	uncertain
1906	pottery	1	11	coarseware (sandy/flint-tempered)	medieval
1908	slag	5	82	undiagnostic ironworking slag	uncertain
1912	pottery	1	1	tiny sherd; ?shelly fabric	medieval
2103	pottery	3	31	coarseware (sandy/flint-tempered)	medieval
2201	flint/chert	1	14	flint core fragment	prehist
2204	flint/chert	1	1	small flint flake	prehist
2204	pottery	5	8	coarseware (sandy/flint-tempered)	medieval
2204	slag	2	194	hearth lining	?medieval
2204	slag	1	252	iron smelting slag	?medieval
4804	pottery	1	5	coarse greyware (abraded)	Roman
4804	pottery	2	10	coarseware (quartzite-tempered)	medieval
4804	pottery	3	21	coarseware (rock-tempered)	medieval
4806	pottery	4	26	coarse greyware	Roman
unstrat	concrete	2	76		modern
unstrat	flint/chert	2	47	chert: 1 flake; 1 retouched flake	prehist
unstrat	pottery	1	1	English stoneware	modern
unstrat	pottery	1	11	coarse greyware (handle)	Roman

OTHER FINDS

- 7.11 The remaining finds came from post-medieval/ modern or modern contexts within F1, with the majority recovered from features/ deposits within Tr18. These comprised 14 fragments of animal bone from contexts 105, 1808 and 1812; 18 pieces of ironwork (fragments of farm equipment and a nail) from contexts 105, 1805, 1808 (x13) and 1812; 2 shards of post-medieval glass from context 1806 and 2 shards of modern glass from context 1808; and 5 fragments of worked stone from context 1812 including 1 piece of burnt slate.

In addition, 8 fragments of ceramic clay pipe were recovered. From a brief visual inspection by Marek Lewcun (*pers comm.*) there are 3 stems from context (105) dated c. 1750-1910, 1 stem from the same context dated c. 1700-1800; a bowl fragment from context 1805 with a spur embossed with I on the left and P on the right, dated c. 1780-1820 and made by John Pratt of Taunton; a stem fragment from context 1810 dated c. 1630-1700; and an incomplete bowl with unmarked heel dated c. 1680-1710 and a stem fragment dated c. 1630-1700 from context 1812.

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8. Discussion & conclusion

- 8.1 The magnetic gradiometer survey indicated limited archaeological potential across the c. 37 hectares that were surveyed across fields 1 to 17. Most of the responses were thought to relate to former field boundaries (ditches and hedgebanks) and field systems however none of the negative geophysical anomalies were identified as archaeological features in any of the evaluation trenches. Some of the positive anomalies appeared as clusters of discrete responses particularly in the southern and central areas of the Site. The evaluation trenches established that some of these were archaeological features, reflecting areas of human occupation/ activity, including the former cottages at Spread Elms. A number of magnetic spikes and areas of magnetic disturbance were present across the Site, some of which may be masking archaeological features.
- 8.2 The excavated features across the Site comprised eight pits, two post-holes, six ditches, six gullies, one structural feature and one rubbish deposit. However, the majority of trenches contained little

or no archaeology, with more significant archaeological deposits discovered in fields 1, 3 and 6. Nine sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery probably belonging to a single vessel were recovered from a redeposited layer of natural sediment in field 3. Prehistoric flint came from a medieval ditch in field 6 and the subsoil within the same trench. In the north-eastern area of the Site a post-hole in field 7 contained a single sherd of Roman pottery although the fill was noted as being very similar to an adjacent medieval pit which also contained Roman pottery.

- 8.3 The remaining dateable features span the medieval to modern periods. The medieval features were predominantly located in field 6, with some yielding small quantities of medieval pottery identified as 11th to 12th century local coarseware fabrics. While there are no diagnostic forms amongst the Jurston farm sherds there is some overlap with the flint/chert-tempered wares recovered from a nearby site at Longforth farm, Wellington (Wessex Archaeology 2013). Two ditches ([1903] & [2203]) yielding 11th to 12th century pottery were recorded in the same area in field 6 and may represent a continuation of the same ditch from east to west (see **Figure 6**). Two nearby gullies ([1905] [1911]), and a further ditch [2102] in a different part of the field also contained pottery of the same date. A further seven features in field 6 were undated however they may be broadly contemporary with the medieval features recorded within the same trenches. These comprised three further possible medieval pits in close proximity to one another ([1907], [2205] and [2209]), a circular post-hole [1909] and a curvilinear gully [1913] (see **Figure 6**). Tentative evidence of iron smelting was represented by a possible flue [2207] and furnace [2209]. Although no dateable material was found in the furnace feature, two pieces of hearth lining and a fragment of iron smelting slag were recovered from the adjacent medieval ditch [2203] which may imply an 11th to 12th century date for the feature.
- 8.4 Evidence relating to the former cottages at Spread Elms comprised a rubbish deposit, pit, ditch and a structural cut back-filled with possible demolition rubble (see **Figure 7**). Post-medieval and modern material was recovered from these features along with a single fragment of medieval tile and 16th, 17th and 18th century pottery and clay pipe. The cottages were present on the early 19th century tithe map (see inset on **Figure 7**) however the finds indicate earlier origins for the buildings. The remaining features in field 1 comprised a modern ditch, two modern pits and an undated pit. Finally, three additional undated features were located across the southern area of the Site (a ditch and two gullies).
- 8.5 In conclusion, the evaluation identified two areas of archaeological interest, both of which would be impacted by the proposed development. A cluster of features in the southern central area date from the 11th and 12th centuries including a possible iron smelting furnace indicative of small-scale medieval industrial activity. Further investigation would be required to ascertain the extent and nature of the features, the geophysical survey indicating that many of the recorded features extend beyond the evaluation trenches (see **Figure 7**). In the south-western area of the Site a number of features relate to the former cottages of Spread Elms. The cottages are present on the early 19th century tithe map however the presence of medieval and post-medieval finds indicates medieval or 16th century origins. Further investigation would be required to establish date, phasing and development of occupation (see **Figure 7**). Elsewhere, the evaluation identified a comparatively tiny number of archaeological deposits and features in relation to the large area of the Site. Prehistoric presence in the environs is represented by Middle Bronze Age pottery (probably a single vessel) within a redeposited natural deposit. Roman activity may be indicated by a single possible Roman post-hole, although overall the identification of only six sherds of Roman pottery during the evaluation is surprising given that the Roman pottery production site of Cades Farm is located only c. 600m to the north. The remaining recorded features comprise a small number of modern and undated features.

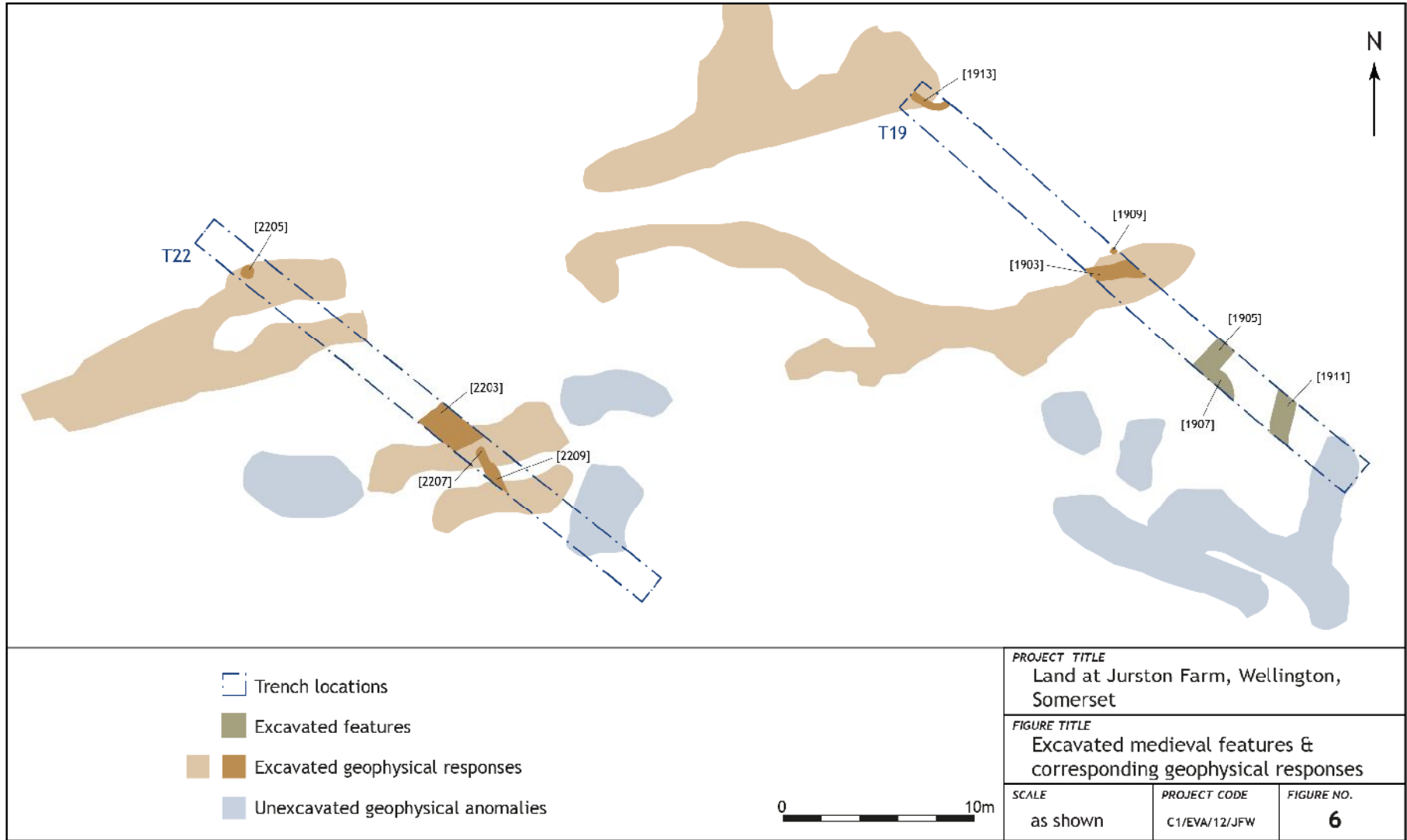


Figure 6. Excavated medieval features & corresponding geophysical responses

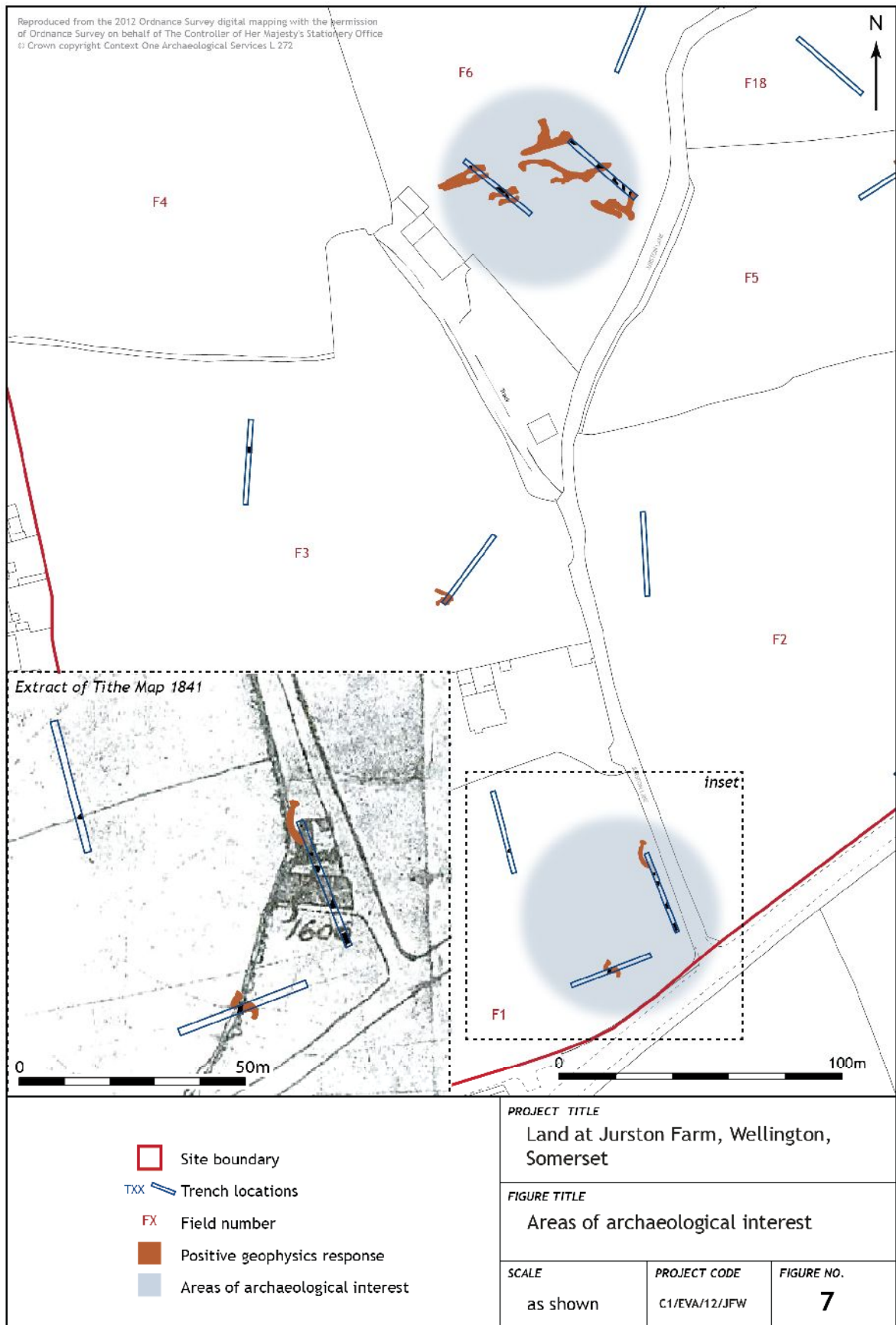


Figure 7. Areas of archaeological interest

Land at Jurston Farm, Wellington, Somerset.

9. Archive

9.1 The project archive is currently held by COAS and consists of the following:

Item	Number	Format
Context record sheets	51	Paper
Context summary sheets	3	Paper
Environmental sample register sheets	1	Paper
Evaluation trench recording sheets	48	Paper
Graphics register sheets	3	Paper
Photographic register sheets	14	Paper
A4 drawing sheets	15	Paper
Digital images	182	.JPG

9.2 The paper archive has been scanned as a single file in .PDF format and will form part of the physical Site archive to be deposited with Somerset County Museum.

9.3 Copies of this report will be deposited with the client/agent and included as part of the Somerset Historic Environment Record.

10. COAS acknowledgements

10.1 We would like to thank the following for their contribution to the successful completion of this project:

David Lohfink, Land and Planning Director (C G Fry Son Ltd)
Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer (Somerset County Council)

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Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH
103	Modern	Cut	Ditch. North-east to south-west, irregular U-profiled linear cut	104		101		1.60m	0.70m
104	Modern	Fill	Ditch [103], lower fill. Reddish brown (5YR 4/4), compacted clay silt including rare subangular stones (<30mm)	105		103		1.30m	0.12m
105	Modern	Fill	Ditch [103], earthwork/upper fill. Dark reddish brown (5YR 3/3), friable silty clay sparse subrounded stones and charcoal (<30mm)	100		105		3.10m	1.2m
202	Undated	Cut	Pit. East-west oriented lozenge planned, concave based and sided, pit	203				0.80m exc	0.47m exc
203	Undated	Fill	Pit [202], primary fill. Reddish brown (5YR 4/4), friable to firm silty clay including rare angular stones (<100mm)	204		202		0.57m exc	0.18m exc
204	Undated	Fill	Pit [202], middle fill. Reddish brown (5YR 4/4), soft silt including rare to sparse angular stones (<100mm)	205		203		0.70m exc	0.11m exc
205	Undated	Fill	Pit [202], middle fill. Friable to firm silt including rare angular stones (<50mm) and charcoal	201		204		0.80m exc	0.25m exc
602	Middle Bronze Age	Layer	Colluvium. Mid bright red brown/grey brown silty clay including rare subangular stones and manganese flecks	601			30m exc	1.60m exc	0.17m exc
703	Undated	Cut	Ditch. North-east to south-west, shallow, splayed U-profiled linear cut	704		702	1.6m exc	1.70m	0.25m
704	Undated	Fill	Ditch [103], lower fill. Reddish brown (5YR 4/4), compacted clay silt including rare subangular stones (<30mm)	701		703	1.6m exc	1.70m	0.25m
802	Undated	Fill	Gully [803], fill. Light grey, firm sandy clay including very rare small subrounded stones and manganese flecks	800		803	1.6m exc	0.40m	0.15m exc
803	Undated	Cut	Gully. North-east to south-west truncated V-profiled linear cut	802		803	1.6m exc	0.40m	0.15m exc
1003	Undated	Fill	Gully [1004] fill. Mid to light grey, firm, slightly sandy, silty, clay including rare subangular stones and frequent manganese flecks towards base	1001		1004	1.6m exc	0.55m	0.40m
1004	Undated	Cut	Gully. North-west to south-east oriented truncated V-profiled linear cut	1003		1002	1.6m exc	0.55m	0.40m
1803	18 th century	Deposit	Rubbish dump. Dark brown silty clay including rubble, CBM, pottery, glass, slate and china. Associated with demolished cottage	1800		1801	c. 6m exc	1.5m exc	

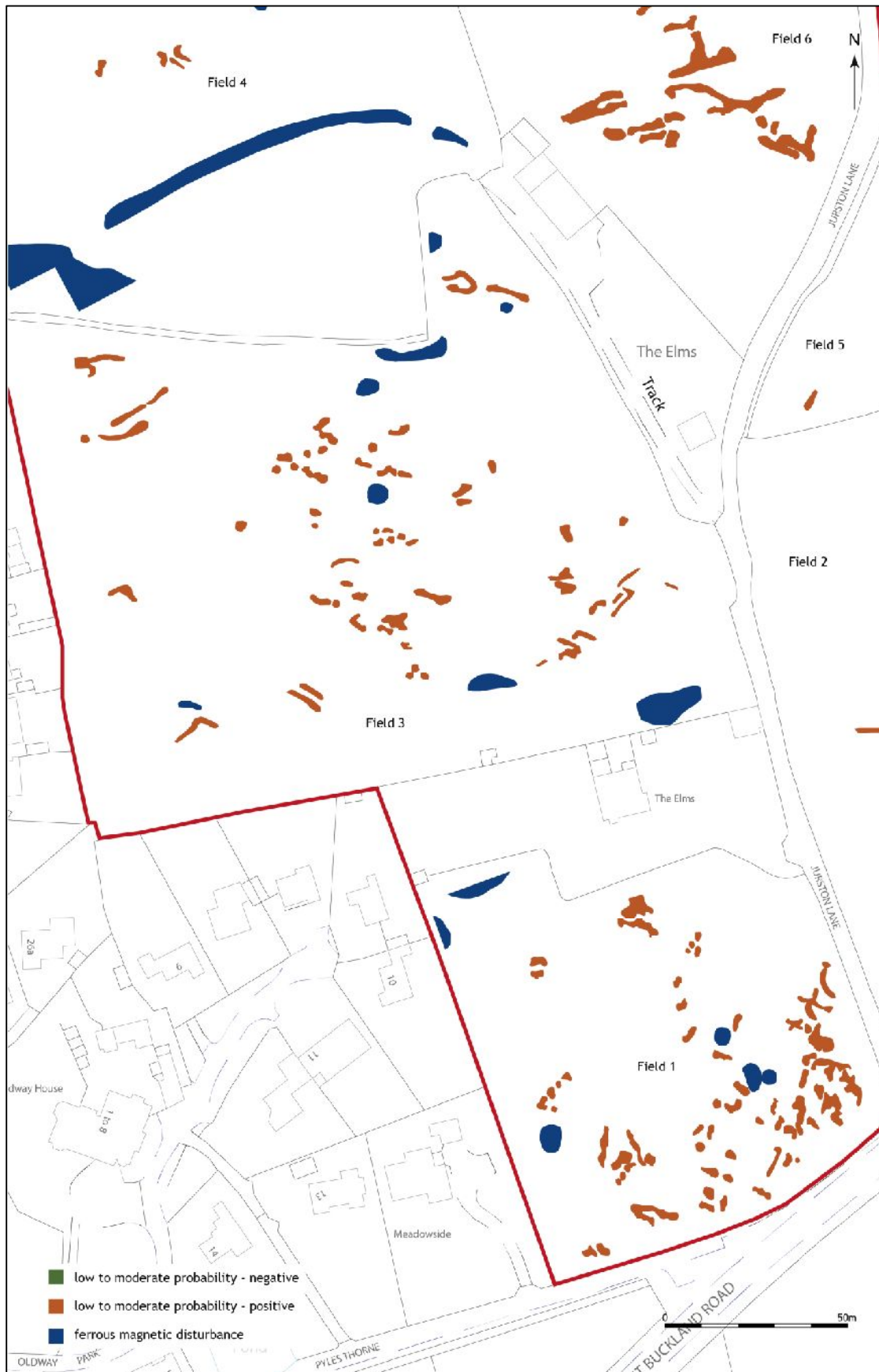
CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
1804	Modern	Cut	Pit. Cylindrical cut. Not fully excavated	1805		1801		1.5m exc	0.90m exc
1805	Modern	Fill	Pit [1804] fill. Brown (10YR 4/3), soft to friable, clayey silt including frequent subangular stones (<8mm) and rare charcoal flecks	1800		1804		1.5m exc	0.90m exc
1806	Post-medieval / modern	Deposit	Surface. Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) firm, silty clay including frequent angular stones and lumps of charcoal forming surface set within cut [1813].	1800		1813	1.3m exc	2.1 exc	
1807	Modern	Cut	Pit. East to west oriented, lozenge shaped, concave-sided and flat-bottomed cut	1808		1801	0.84m	0.58m	0.27m
1808	Modern	Fill	Pit [1807] fill. Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) soft silt including some stones (<6mm)	1800		1807	0.84m	0.58m	0.27m
1809	Post-medieval	Cut	Ditch. North to south oriented V-profiled linear cut	1810		1812	1.90m exc	0.44m exv	0.61m
1810	Post-medieval	Fill	Ditch [1809] fill. Dark yellow brown (10YR 4/3) friable to firm silty clay including rare subangular stones (<6mm)	1801		1809	1.90m exc	0.44m exc	0.61m
1811	Post-medieval	Cut	Pit. East to west oriented, lozenge shaped, concave-sided and flat and sloping-bottomed cut	1812		1802	1.50m exc	2.56m exc	0.23m exc
1812	Post-medieval	Fill	Pit [1811] fill. Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) firm silty clay including frequent charcoal lumps and flecks	1809		1811	1.50m exc	2.56m exc	0.23m exc
1813	Post-medieval / modern	Cut	Cut for surface (1806). East to west oriented irregular, V-profiled, linear cut	1806		1801	1.30m exc	2.10m exc	
1903	Medieval	Cut	Cut of boundary ditch. Linear E-W oriented, concave to straight sides / base.	1904		1902	1.5m	0.8m	0.3m
1904	Medieval	Fill	Ditch [1903] fill. Red 10R 5/8 sandy silt with occasional rounded gravel stones. Slow silting, must have been open and filled slowly.	1901		1903	1.5m	0.8m	0.3m
1905	Medieval	Cut	Cut of ditch / gully, could be part of a structure. Linear NE-SW oriented, concave sides and flat base.	1906		1902		0.9m	0.07m
1906	Medieval	Fill	Ditch [1905] fill. Dusky red 10R 3/3 sandy silt with occasional angular gravel stones.	1901		1905		0.9m	0.07m
1907	?Medieval	Cut	Cut of Pit. Sub circular with concave sides and a sloping base.	1908		1902	2.1m	2.1m	0.7m
1908	?Medieval	Fill	Pit [1907] fill. A bit of burning in this pit, may have been used for waste.	1901		1907			
1909	?Medieval	Cut	Cut of posthole. Circular shape in plan with concave sides and a flat base.	1910		1902			
1910	?Medieval	Fill	Posthole [1909] fill. Very dark red 2.5YR 3/3 friable silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles <0.02cm.	1901		1909			
1911	Medieval	Cut	Cut of linear fairly small gully. N-S oriented with concave sides and a sloping base.	1912		1902		0.7m	0.25m

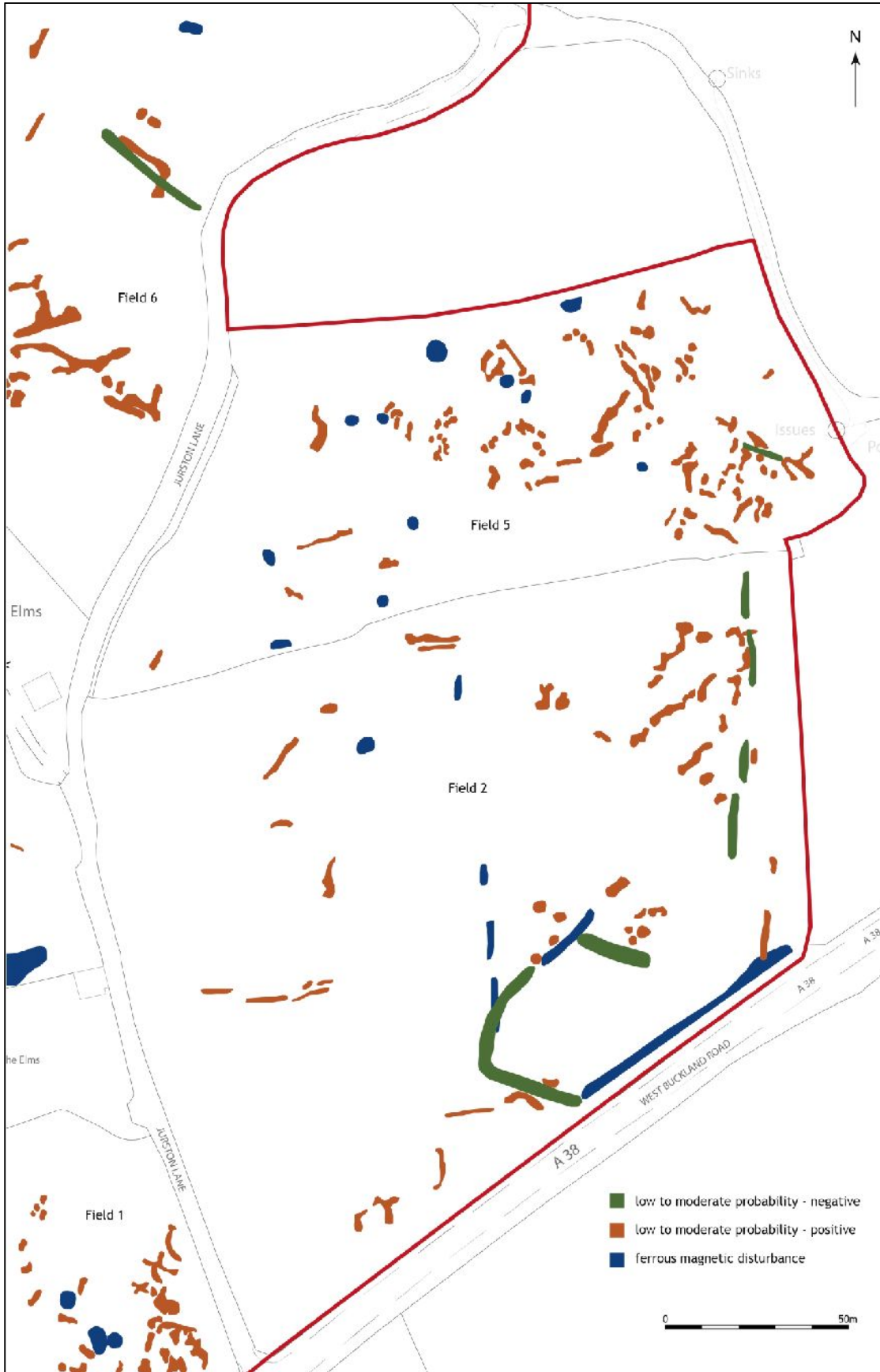
CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
1912	Medieval	Fill	Gully [1911] fill. Dark red 10YR ¾ soft silty clay sand with occasional rounded pebbles.	1902		1911		0.7m	0.25m
1913	?Medieval	Cut	Cut of curvilinear gully, with concave sides and a sloping base. Sinuous cut could prove interesting.	1914		1902	1.6m visible	0.4m	0.1m
1914	?Medieval	Fill	Gully [1913] fill. Grey 10R 6/1 soft - friable silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles.	1902		1913	1.6m visible	0.4m	0.1m
2102	Medieval	Cut	Cut of linear boundary ditch. N-S oriented with concave sides and a flat base.	2103		2101		0.95m	0.2m
2103	Medieval	Fill	Ditch [2102] fill. Light greyish brown silty clay sand with very rare large, 10cm rough stones and rare charcoal flecks. Presumably slowly silted over long period of time.	2100		2102		0.95m	0.2m
2203	Medieval	Cut	Cut of linear ditch. E-W orientated with concave - straight edges and a sloping base. Diffuse cut with blurred edges due to bioturbation, potentially a pit.	2204		2202		2.5m	0.4m
2204	Medieval	Fill	Ditch [2203] fill. Dark yellowish brown 10YR 4/4 soft sandy silt with occasional - moderate chert/quartz rounded frags.	2201		2203		0.4m	2.5m
2205	?Medieval	Cut	Cut of circular pit with concave sides and a sloping base.	2206		2202		0.6m	
2206	?Medieval	Fill	Pit [2205] fill. Light red 2.5YR 7/6 soft sandy silt with occasional angular stones.	2201		2205		0.6m	0.34m
?2207	Medieval	Cut	Cut of furnace flue. Linear shape, orientated E-W with concave sides and a sloping base. Section at E end of feature along the length of the flue gully.	2208		2202		0.6m	0.35m
?2208	Medieval	Fill	Furnace flue [2207] fill. Dark reddish brown 2.5YR sandy silt.	2201		2207			0.35m
?2209	Medieval	Cut	Cut of furnace. E-W orientated with concave sides and a sloping base. Forming the furnace pit.	2210		2201		0.6m	0.3m
?2210	Medieval	Fill	Furnace [2209] fill. Very dark brown 2.5YR sandy silt.	2201		2209		0.6m	0.3m
4803	Medieval	Cut	Cut of sub-circular irregular pit with concave sides and a sloping base.	4802		4804	1.8m		>0.5m
4804	Medieval	Fill	Pit [4803] fill. Very dark down 2.5YR friable silt with rare c. 0.15m rough angular stones and frequent charcoal flecks	4803		4801	1.8m		>0.5m
4805	?Roman	Cut	Cut of sub-circular ?posthole	4802		4806		0.3m	c. 0.15m
4806	?Roman	Fill	Pit [4853] fill. Very dark down 2.5YR friable silt with frequent large charcoal flecks	4801		4805		0.3m	c. 0.15m

Appendix 2: Finds by context

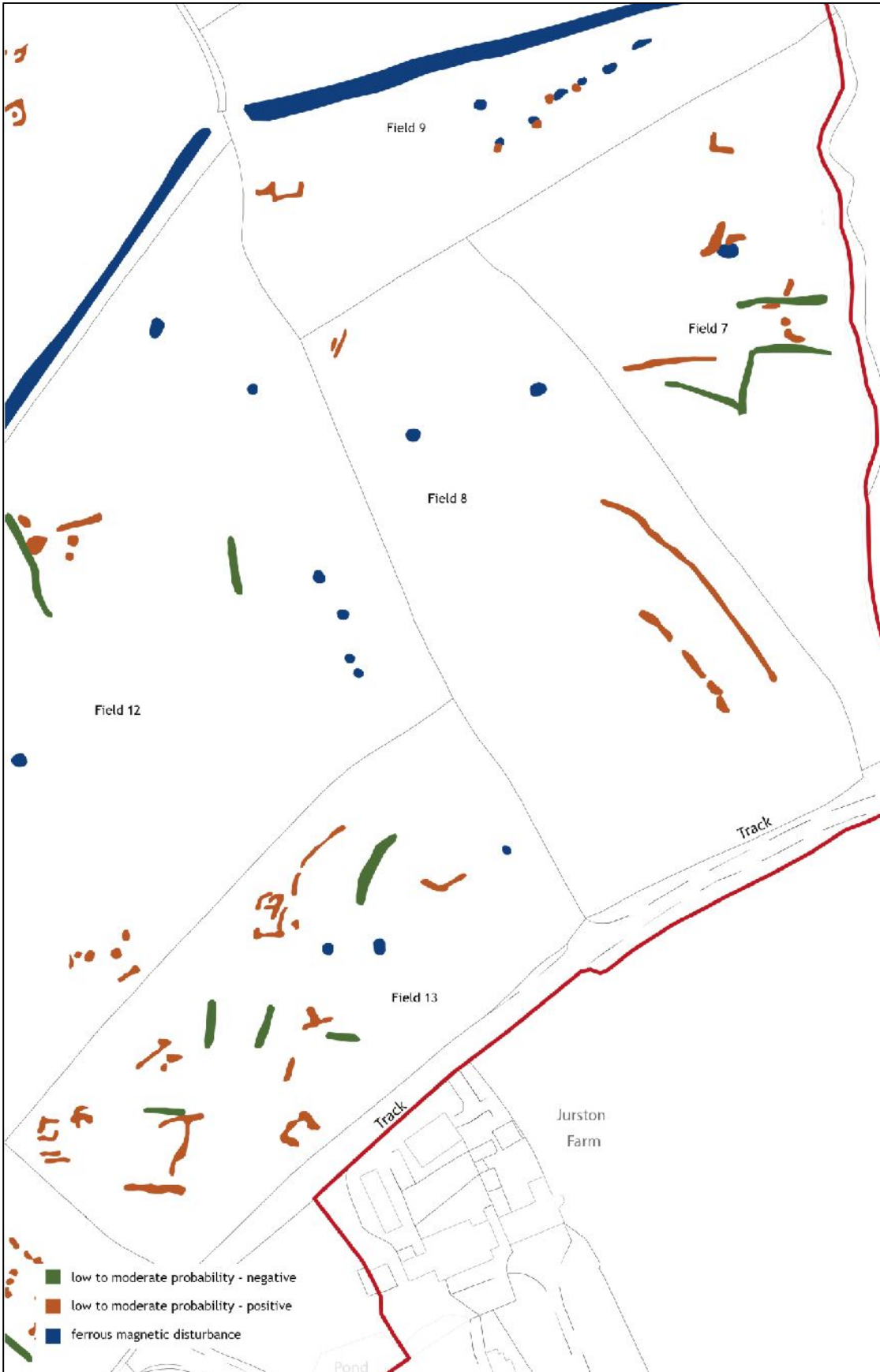
CONTEXT	POTTERY		BONE		CBM		FLINT/CHERT		METAL		GLASS		STONE		CLAY PIPE		MISC	
	no.	wt.	no.	wt.	no.	wt.	no.	wt.	no.	wt.	no.	wt.	no.	wt.	no.	wt.	no.	wt.
105	17	220	9	117	2	131			1	25					4	10		
602	9	42																
1805	8	65							3	53					1	5		
1806											2	29						
1808	3	28	1	2	1	1			13	193	2	10						
1810	5	93													1	4		
1812	22	438	4	243	1	20			1	14			5	32	2	162		
1904	2	16															2 (slag)	24
1906	1	11																
1908																	5 (slag)	82
1912	1	1																
2103	3	31																
2201							1	14										
2204	5	8					1	1									2 (furnace lining) & 1 (slag)	446
4804	6	36																
4806	4	26																
U/S	2	12			2	76	2	47										
TOTALS	88	1027	14	362	6	228	3	62	18	285	4	39	5	32	8	181	10	552

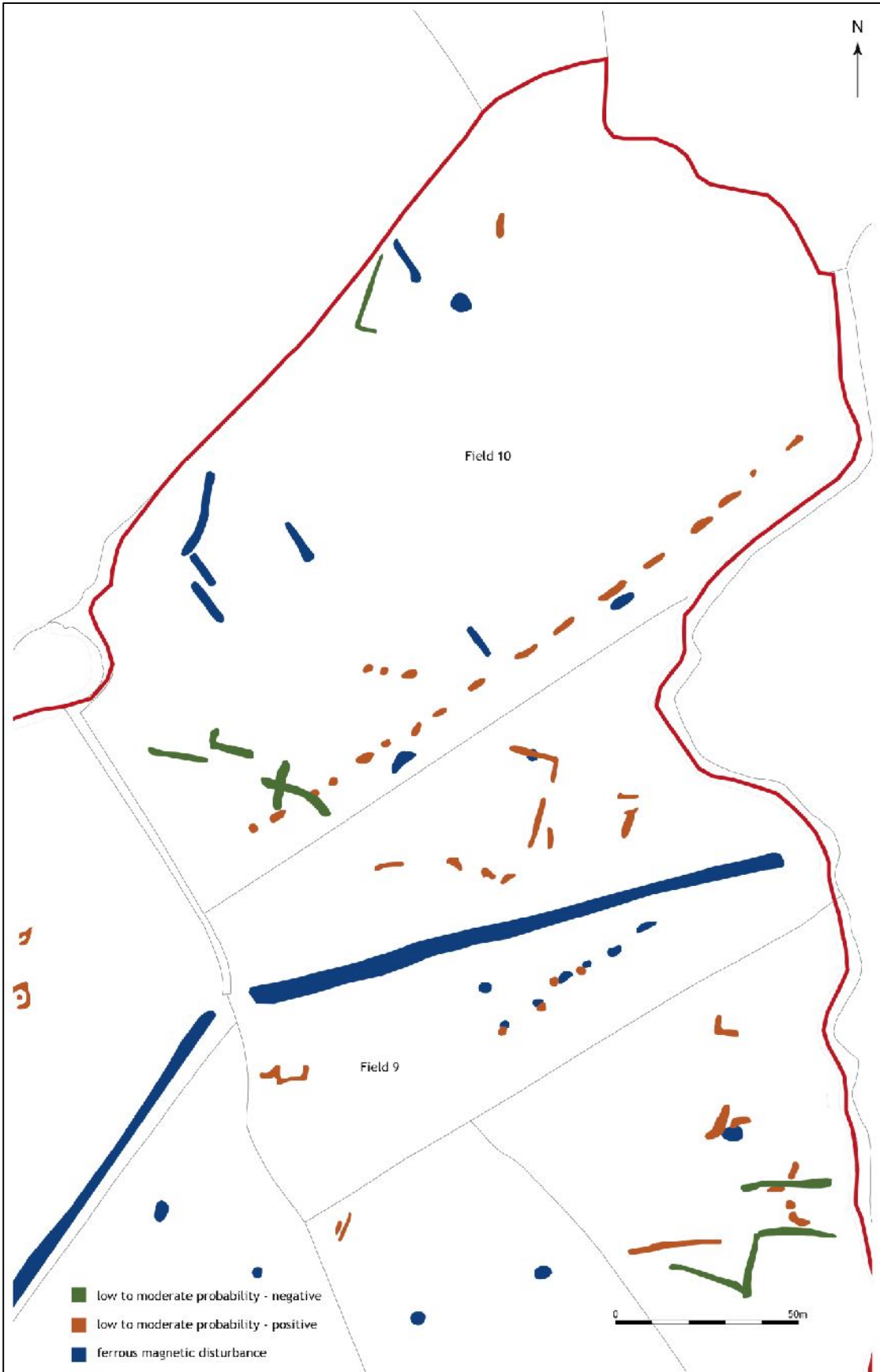
Appendix 3: Archaeological interpretation of magnetometer results per field





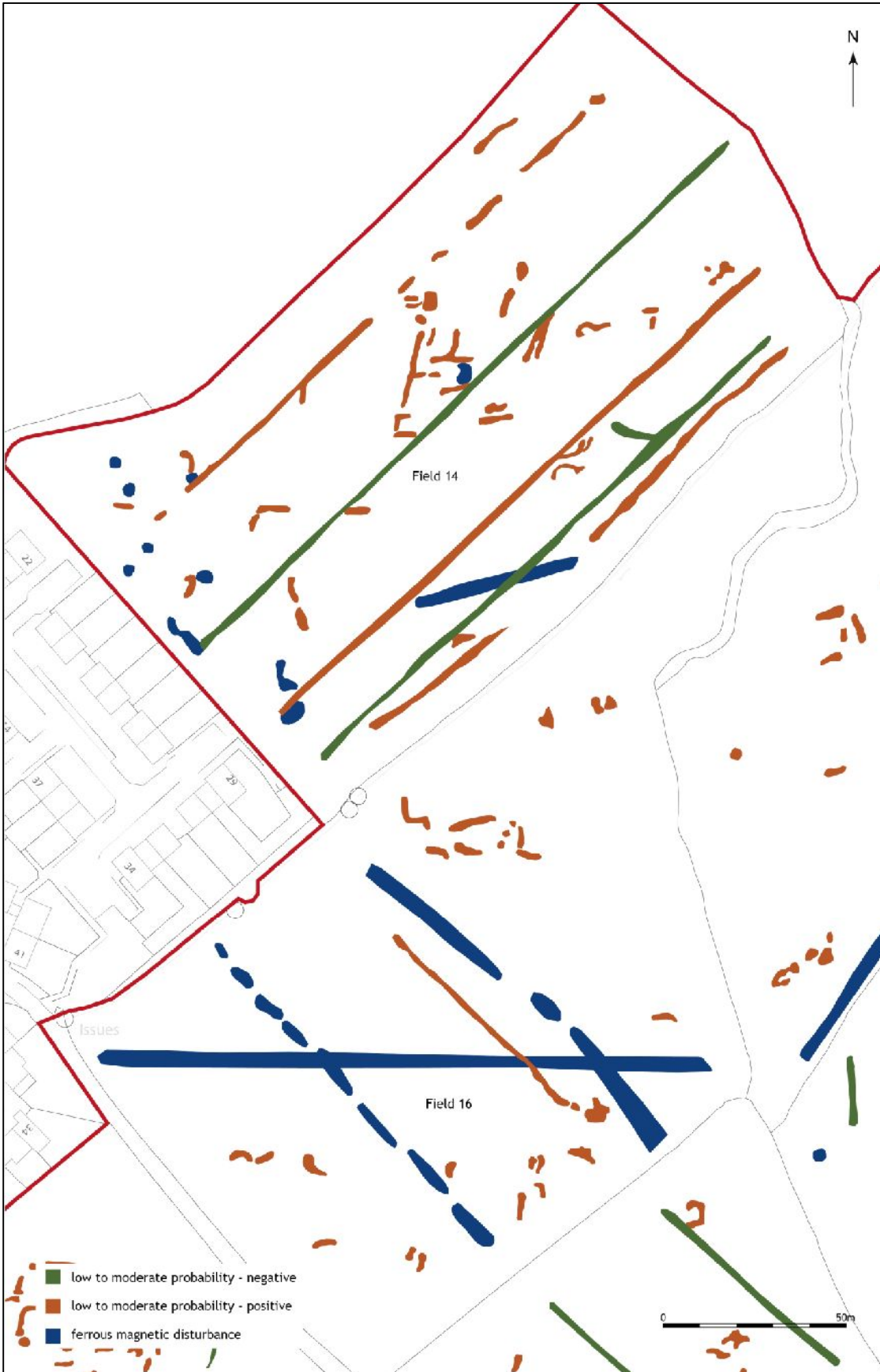
Land at Jurston Farm, Wellington, Somerset.

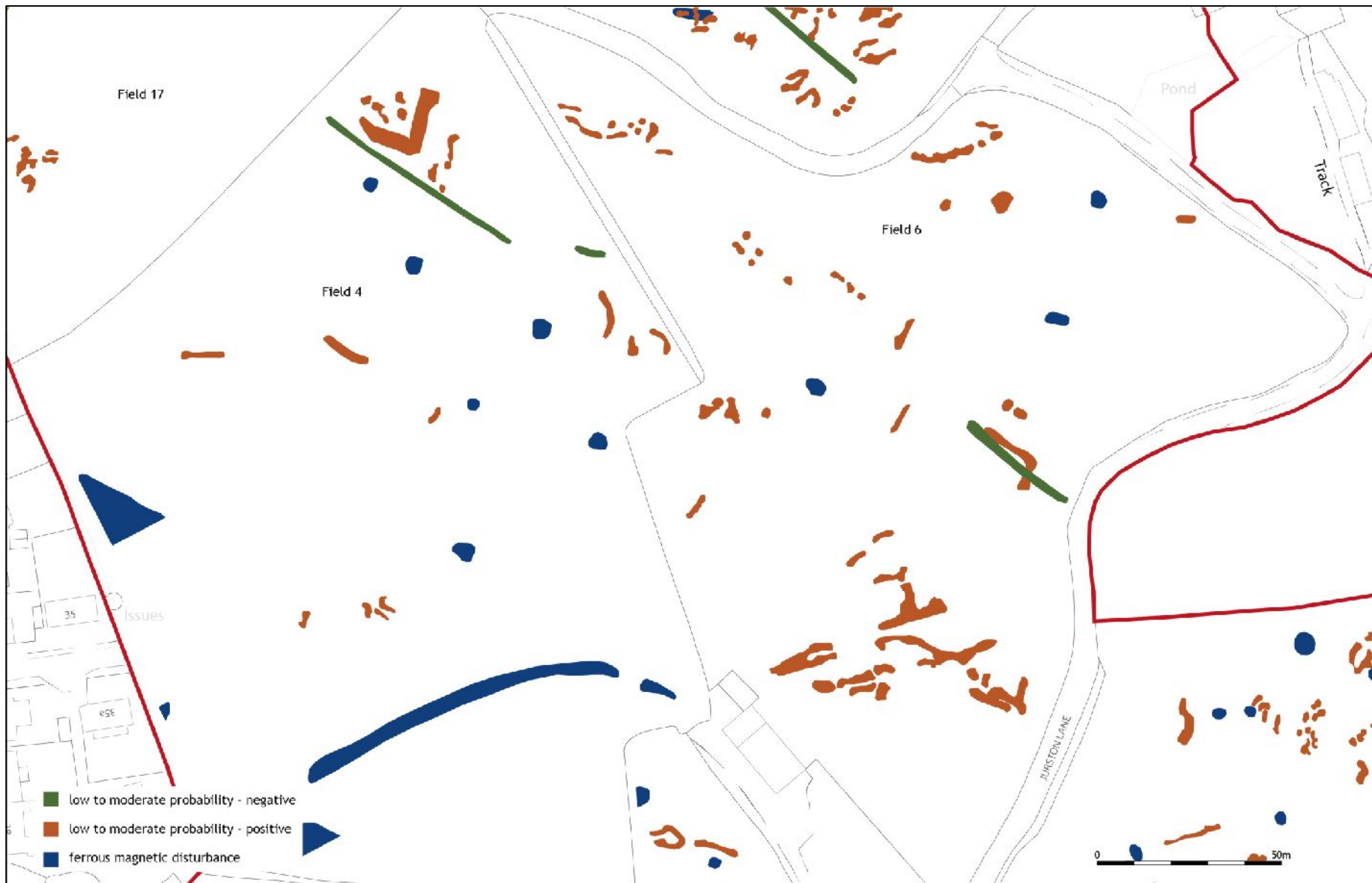




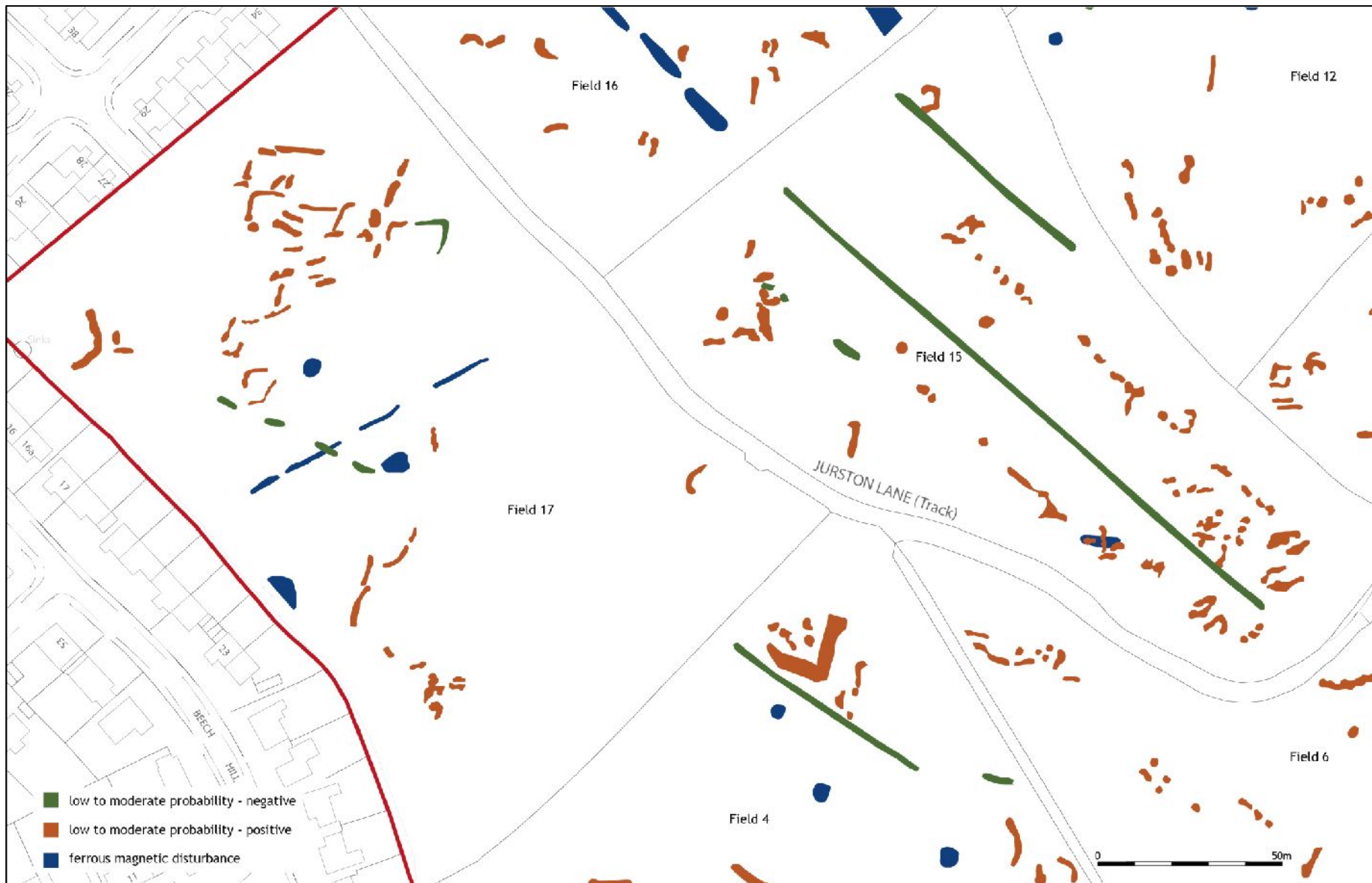


Land at Jurston Farm, Wellington, Somerset.





Land at Jurston Farm, Wellington, Somerset.



Land at Jurston Farm, Wellington, Somerset.