



WYAS  
**Archaeological  
Services**

**Land at Rudham Stile Lane**

**Fakenham**

**Norfolk**

Geophysical Survey

Report no. 2867

May 2016

**Client:** CgMs Limited



# **Land at Rudham Stile Lane, Fakenham, Norfolk**

## **Geophysical Survey**

### *Summary*

*A cart-based geophysical (magnetometer) survey, covering approximately 46 hectares, was carried out on agricultural land at Rudham Stile Lane, Fakenham, Norfolk. The survey was undertaken within a proposed development area which lies in close proximity to a number of HER monument records from prehistoric to post-medieval periods. A ring ditch was identified in the western area of the site with a second smaller circular feature in the south central area. Features relating to post-medieval brick production were identified in the form of clay extraction pits and possible kilns. The survey also identified several former field boundaries which are shown on 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping of the area. The archaeological potential of the proposed development area is identified as low to moderate.*

## Report Information

Client: CgMs Consulting Limited  
 Address: Sherwood House, Sherwood Avenue, Newark,  
 Nottinghamshire, NG24 1QQ  
 Report Type: Geophysical Survey  
 Location: Fakenham  
 County: Norfolk  
 Grid Reference: TF 9244 3086  
 Period(s) of activity: Prehistoric, post-medieval, modern  
 Report Number: 2867  
 Project Number: 6335  
 Site Code: RSL16  
 OASIS ID: Archaeol11-252215  
 Norfolk Event Number: ENF140689  
 Date of fieldwork: April 2016  
 Date of report: May 2016  
 Project Management: Christopher Sykes BA MSc  
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 Illustrations: Christopher Sykes  
 Photography: Christopher Sykes  
 Research: Christopher Sykes

Authorisation for  
distribution: -----



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## **1 Introduction**

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of Trinity College, Cambridge (the Client), to undertake a cart-based geophysical (magnetometer) survey of land to the north of Rudham Stile Lane, Fakenham, Norfolk, to inform a proposed planning application. Guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) was followed, in line with current best practice (CifA 2014; David *et al.* 2008) and in accordance with a WSI (ASWYAS 2016) approved by the Senior Historic Environment Officer at Norfolk County Council. The survey was carried out between the 4th and 22nd April 2016 to provide additional information on the archaeological resource of the Proposed Development Area (PDA).

### **Site location, topography and land-use**

The PDA consists of a number of fields totaling approximately 46 hectares, bound by Rudham Stile Lane to the south, the A148 to the north, Water Moor Lane to the west and Thorpland Road to the east (see Fig. 1). The PDA is located on the immediate northern periphery of Fakenham, c.25km northeast of Kings Lynn, c.45km to the northwest of Norwich. Field 1 was under weathered ploughed soil with Field 2 under stubble. Field 3 was drilled, with Fields 4 – 6 under pasture, used for grazing. A rectangular area within Field 3, and a small area to the west of Field 4 were overgrown and therefore unsuitable for survey. Similarly, a small area in the northwest corner of the PDA. The survey area is centred at TF 9244 3086 and at a height above Ordnance Datum (aOD) of approximately 50m and predominantly level.

### **Soils and geology**

The underlying bedrock comprises chalk, overlain by superficial deposits of clay, silt and sands and gravel. The gravel consists of Sheringham Cliffs Formation (BGS 2016), with soils in the area of the Barrow association (581f). These are characterised as well draining coarse loams over clay and sand (SSEW 1983).

## **2 Archaeological Background**

A synopsis of the known archaeological finds within a 1km radius of the site is discussed below, based upon information from an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site (Gajos 2015).

Whilst there are no known prehistoric remains within the PDA, a number of findspots and archaeological features are in close proximity to the site. The Norwich Long Lane – a prehistoric trackway - passes through the north-eastern extent of the PDA, following the course of the current A148. Two findspots of prehistoric artefacts (MNF49049 and MNF57556) have been found within a 1km radius.

Two Bronze Age ring ditches (MNF29569) have been identified from cropmarks within 500m of the PDA. It is possible that they are associated with the Norwich Long Lane which extends from Pensthorpe to Burnham Thorpe.

Metal-detecting within the wider landscape has revealed pottery sherds and coins from the Roman epoch (MNF 57556, MNF 11954, MNF 19730).

The Medieval and post-medieval periods are represented in industrial and transport developments with a brick manufacturing (both firing and material extraction) industry in the area, indicated by the name of the farm to the south of Field 2 – Brick Kiln Farm – and part of the Wymondham to Wells railway which was closed in 1964.

### **3 Aims and Methodology**

The main aim of the geophysical survey was to provide sufficient information to enable an assessment to be made of the impact of the development on potential sub-surface archaeological remains and for further evaluation or mitigation proposals, if appropriate, to be recommended. To achieve this aim, a magnetometer survey covering all amenable parts of the PDA was undertaken (see Fig. 2).

The general objectives of the geophysical survey were:

- to provide information about the nature and possible interpretation of any magnetic anomalies identified;
- to therefore determine the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological features; and
- to produce a comprehensive site archive and report

#### **Magnetometer survey**

The magnetometer survey was undertaken using a Sensys Magneto MXPDA cart-based instrument. The instrument has 5 fluxgate gradiometers spaced 0.5m apart with readings recorded at 20Hz. The gradiometers have a range of recording between 0.1nT and 10,000nT. They are linked to a Trimble R6 RTK dGPS system with data recorded by Sensys Magneto MXPDA software on a rugged PDA device. The data was stored on an SD memory card within the PDA and later downloaded to a computer for processing and interpretation. MAGNETO (Sensys GmbH) and TerraSurveyor V3.0.25.0 software was used to process and present the data. Further details are given in Appendix 1.

#### **Data processing**

The gradiometer data have been presented in this report in greyscale formats. The data in the greyscale images have been interpolated and selectively filtered to remove the effects of drift

in instrument calibration and other artificial data constructs and to maximise the clarity and interpretability of the archaeological anomalies. TerraSurveyor V3.0.25.0 software was used to process and present the data recorded by the cart-mounted system.

## **Reporting**

A general site location plan, incorporating the 1:50000 Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping, is shown in Figure 1. Figure 2 displays processed magnetometer data at a scale of 1:5000. An overall interpretation is displayed in Figure 3 at a scale of 1:5000. The processed data, together with an interpretation of the survey results are presented in Figures 4 to 15 at a scale of 1:1250.

Technical information on the equipment used, data processing and survey methodologies are given in Appendix 1. Technical information on locating the survey area is provided in Appendix 2. Appendix 3 describes the composition and location of the archive. A copy of the completed OASIS form is included in Appendix 4. A repeat track of the data is provided in Appendix 5.

The survey methodology, report and any recommendations comply with guidelines outlined by English Heritage (David *et al.* 2008) and by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). All figures reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping are with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (© Crown copyright).

*The figures in this report have been produced following analysis of the data in 'raw' and processed formats and over a range of different display levels. All figures are presented to most suitably display and interpret the data from this site based on the experience and knowledge of Archaeological Services staff.*

## **4 Results and Discussion (see Figures 3 to 15)**

### **Summary**

Due to the number and intensity of modern ploughing, coupled with the sensitivity of the instrument, clear ploughing trends have not been indicated. This is to prevent the archaeologically unimportant trends obscuring more important features. These features are identified in Field 2 and Field 3 and reflect the cultivation trends.

### **Ferrous anomalies**

Ferrous anomalies, as individual 'spikes', or as large discrete areas are typically caused by ferrous (magnetic) material, either on the ground surface or in the plough-soil. Little importance is normally given to such anomalies, unless there is any supporting evidence for an archaeological interpretation, as modern ferrous debris or material is common on rural

sites, often being present as a consequence of manuring or tipping/infilling. There is no obvious pattern or clustering to their distribution to suggest anything other than a random background scatter of ferrous debris in the plough-soil.

A linear response of magnetic disturbance, caused by the creation and subsequent dismantling of the Wymondham to Wells railway has been recorded in Field 1, following the course of the old railway bed.

A service pipe runs through Field 3 from the narrow strip of land which protrudes into the field, to the north-east corner of the field. A small service pipe can be seen in Field 5, between the A148 and Laurel Farm poultry complex in the area. The pasture fields in this part of the PDA have notable magnetic responses from fencing, buildings and associated service furniture (ie man-hole covers). Within the pasture fields of Fields 4 – 6 a number of magnetic responses are caused by interference from metal feeding equipment, nearby structures and fencing.

### **Geological anomalies**

Clay extraction pits for the possible manufacture of bricks have been identified adding to those already known to exist. These occur almost exclusively in Field 2, and can be noted in the landscape, with a mixture of slight and notable depressions.

Smaller discrete low magnitude anomalies have been identified throughout and are thought to be caused by variations in the depth and composition of the soils and the superficial deposits from which they derive.

### **Agricultural anomalies**

Due to the number and intensity of modern ploughing, coupled with the sensitivity of the instrument, clear ploughing trends have not been indicated. This is to prevent the archaeologically unimportant trends obscuring more important features. These features are identified in Field 2 and Field 3 and reflect the cultivation trends.

As a cultivation practice, ploughing disturbs the subsoil causing variations in the magnetic susceptibility of the soil. As the furrows are backfilled, the magnetic signal of the infill differs from that of the surrounding area. These types of anomalies are not considered to be of archaeological interest.

Marginally magnetically stronger linear responses have been recorded across the survey area (marked as Agricultural on the interpretation diagrams), these broadly correlate with former field boundaries identified in the DBA and are shown on the 1844 Tithe and later Ordnance Survey mapping.

### **Possible archaeological anomalies**

Several anomalies consistent with the thermo-remnant magnetic response given by a kiln structure have been identified. They occur in Fields 2 and 3 in close proximity to the clay extraction pits. These probably relate to the known brick manufacture on the site of Brick Kiln poultry farm. A discrete circular anomaly (**B**) of 18m in diameter can be seen in Field 3 to the west of the rectangular unsurveyed strip of land however the magnetic responses are very weak in this instance and hence it has been given a possible archaeological interpretation.

### **Archaeological anomalies**

A ring ditch (**A**) has been recorded in Field 2 measuring approximately 31m in diameter. Whilst the magnetic responses are relatively weak against background readings, this small contrast in comparison to the rest of the site is quite clear.

*The results and subsequent interpretation of data from geophysical surveys should not be treated as an absolute representation of the underlying archaeological and non-archaeological remains. Confirmation of the presence or absence of archaeological remains can only be achieved by direct investigation of sub-surface deposits.*

## **5 Conclusions**

Remains of a possible ring ditch have been detected in the northwest of the area and there is the possibility of a further smaller ring ditch between Brick Kiln poultry farm and the rectangular strips within Field 3.

Features relating to known brick manufacture within the PDA are represented by clay extraction pits and possible kiln features. Linear ditches within the data relate to boundaries shown on the historic mapping. The former route of the Wymondham to Wells railway is clear within the southwestern corner of the survey area. Modern ploughing trends can be seen throughout the data and reflect the alignment of the current crop. Therefore the archaeological potential of the site is moderate to low in the western area and low in the eastern area of the PDA.

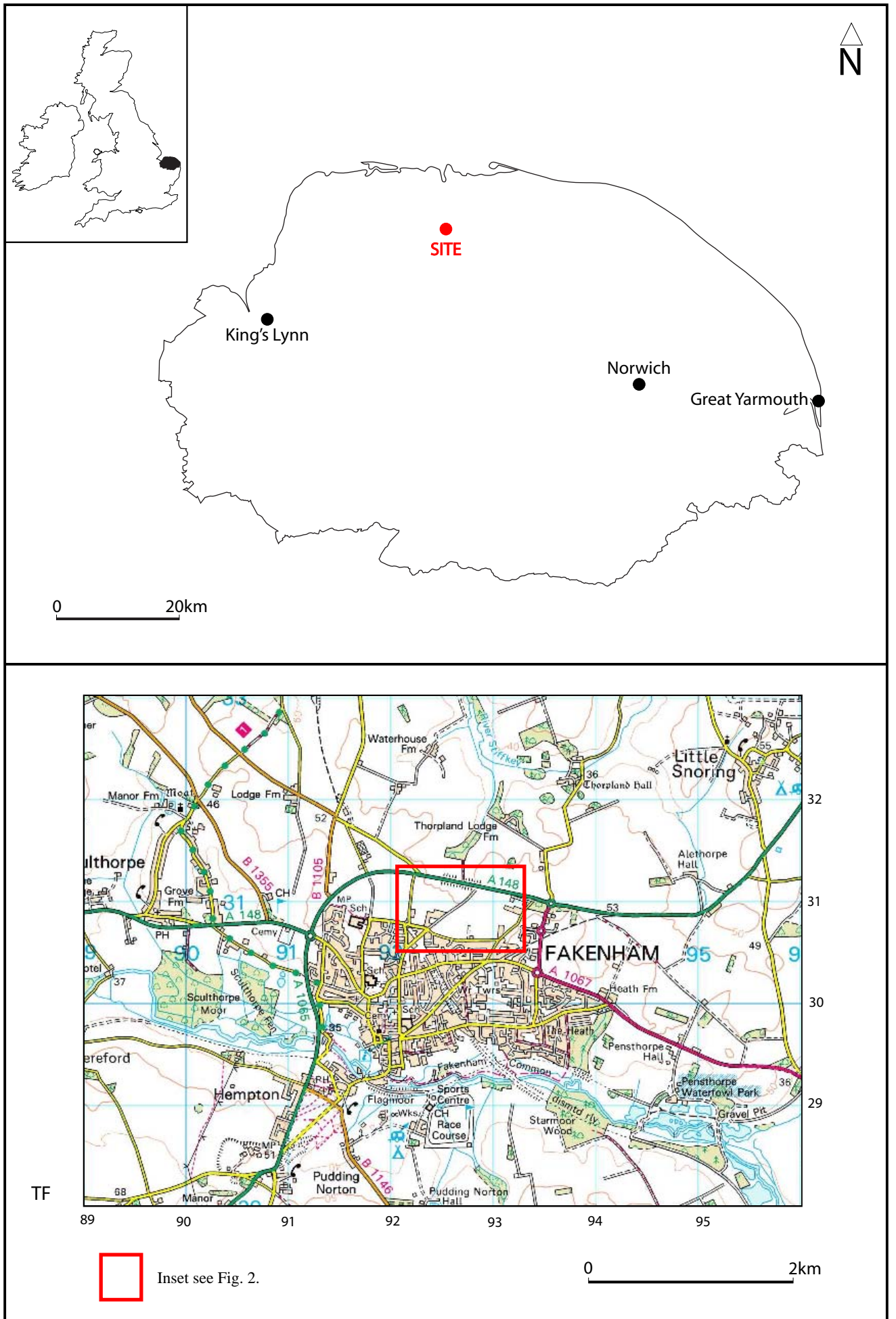


Fig. 1. Site location

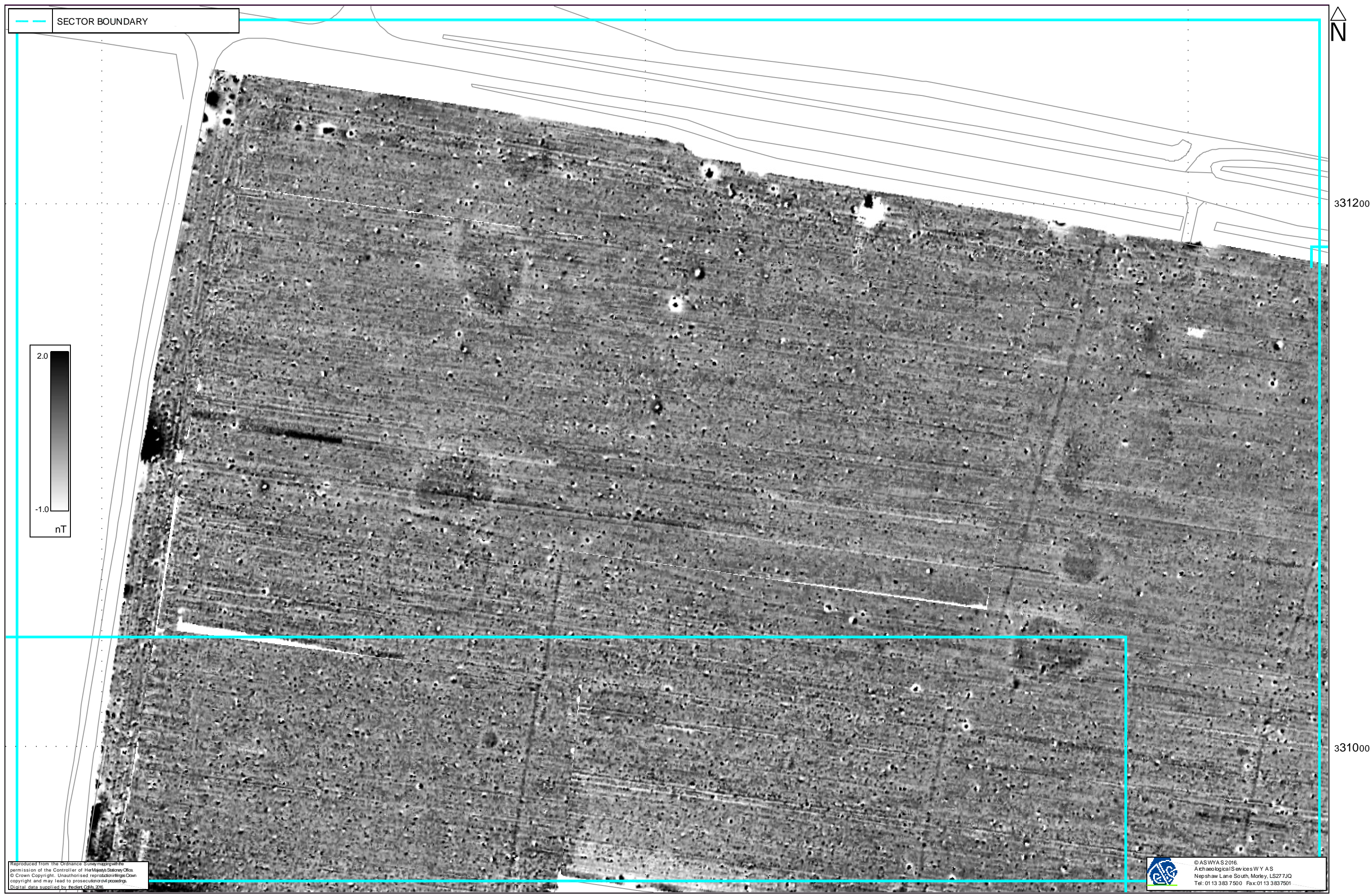




Fig. 2. Survey location showing greyscale magnetometer data (1:5000 @ A3)



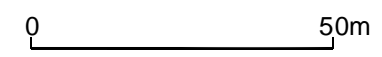


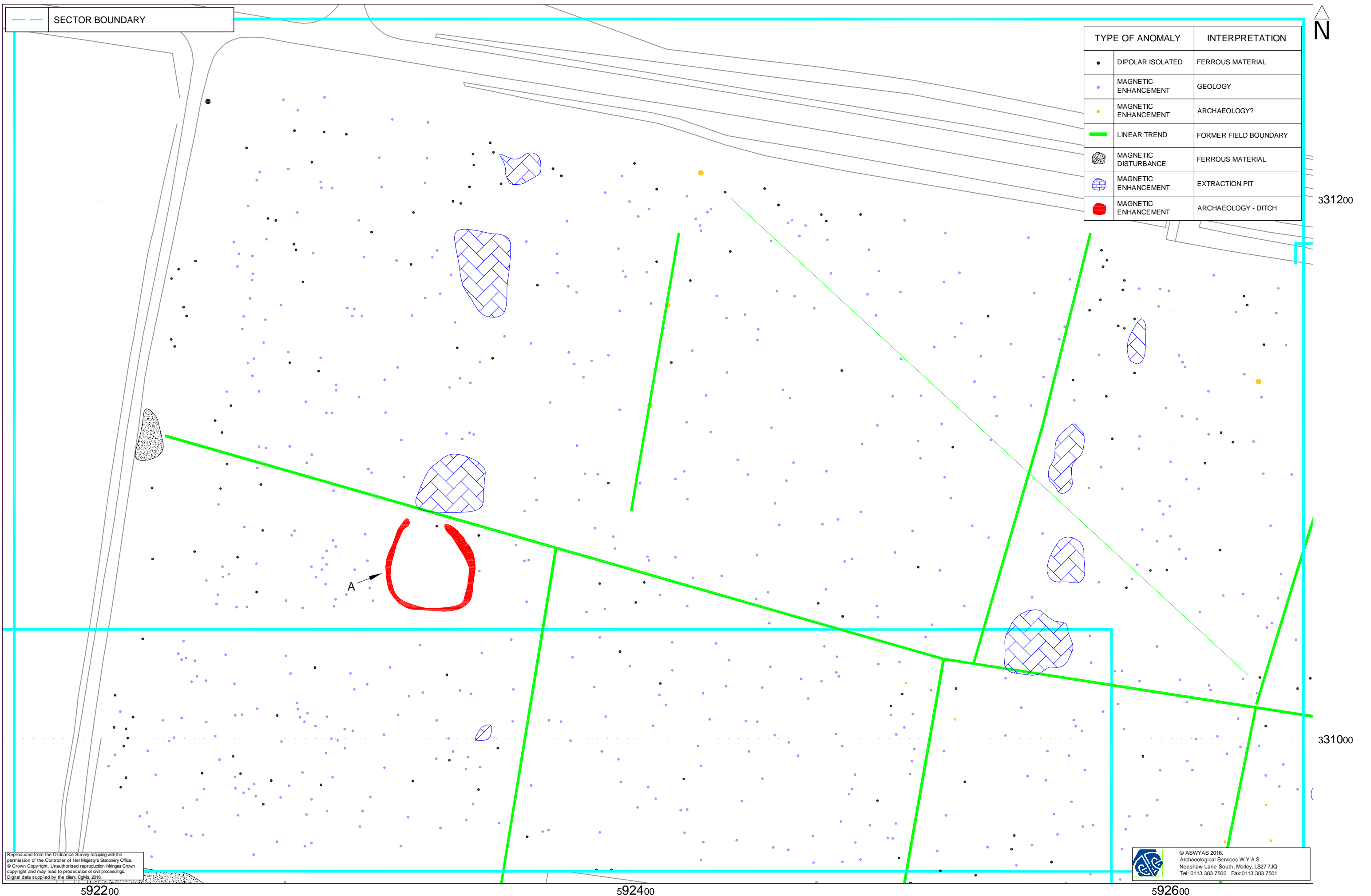


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Fig. 4. Processed greyscale magnetometer data; Sector 1 (1:1250 @ A3)





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Fig. 5. Interpretation of magnetometer data; Sector 1 (1:1250 @ A3)

0 50m





Fig. 6. Processed greyscale magnetometer data; Sector 2 (1:1250 @ A3)

0 50m

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Fig. 7. Interpretation of magnetometer data; Sector 2 (1:1250 @ A3)

0 50m

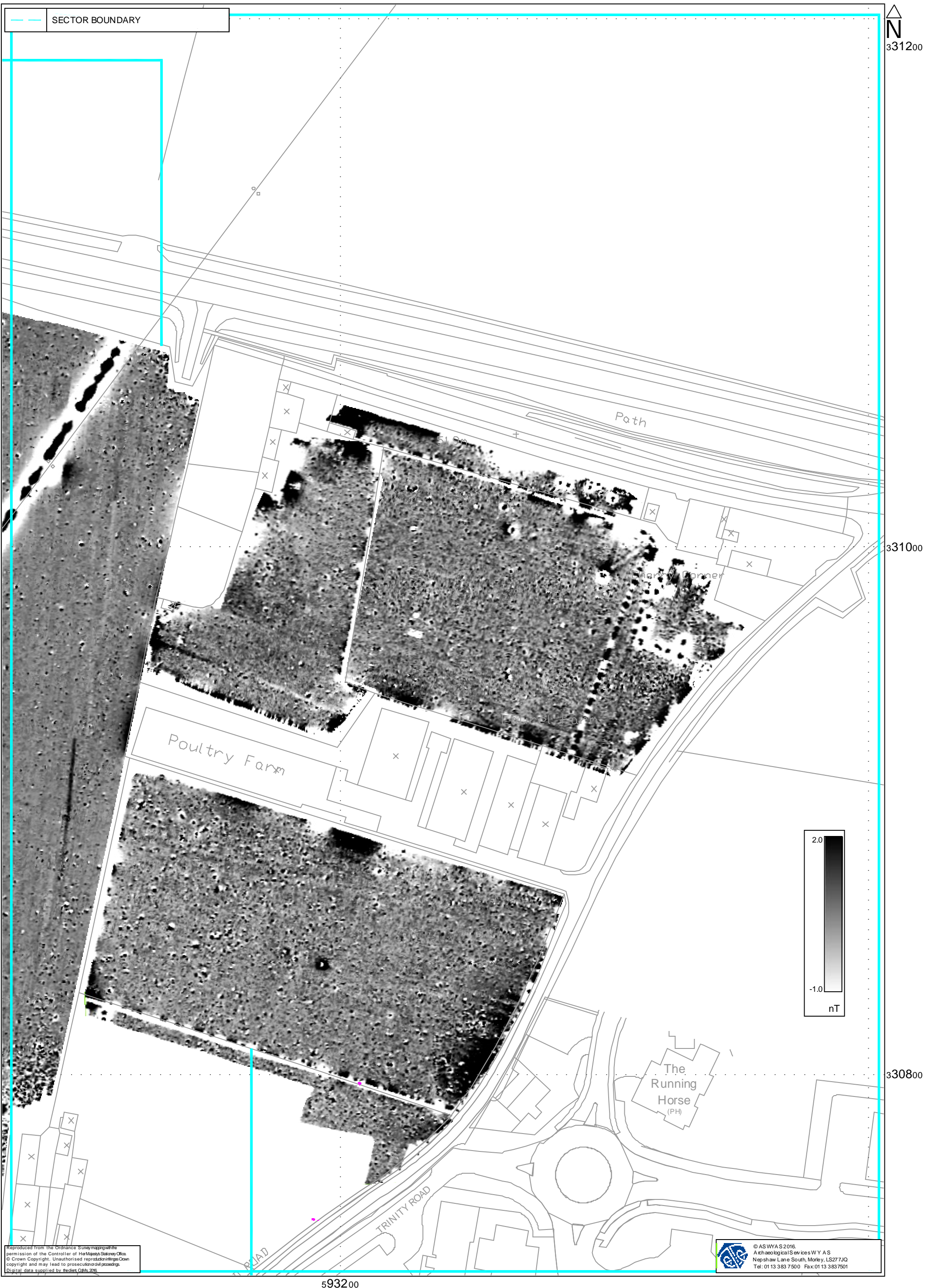


Fig. 8. Processed greyscale of magnetometer data: Sector 3 (1:1250 @ A3)



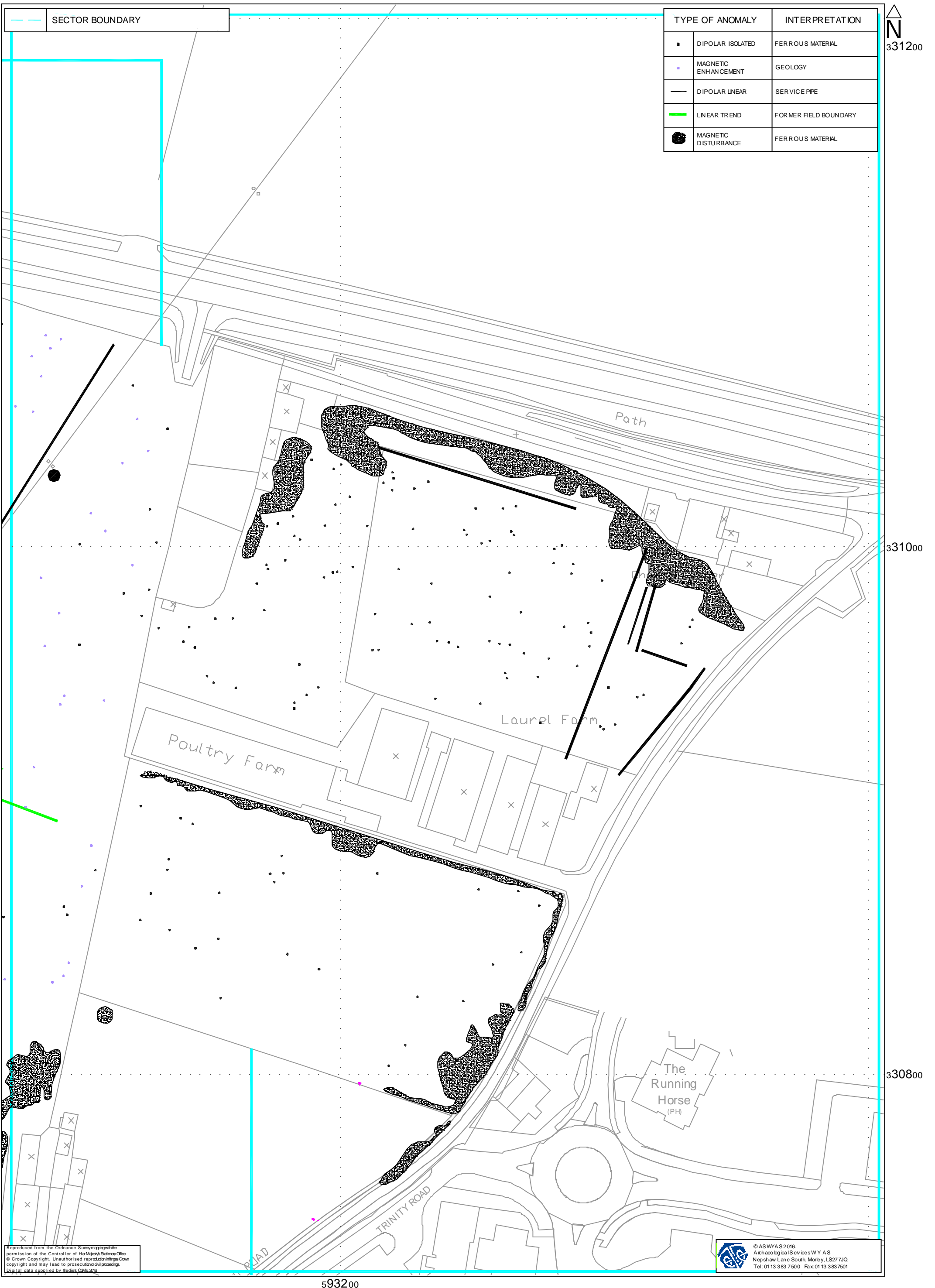


Fig. 9. Interpretation of magnetometer data: Sector 3 (1:1250 @ A3)

0 50m



Fig. 10. Processed greyscale magnetometer data; Sector 4 (1:1250 @ A3)



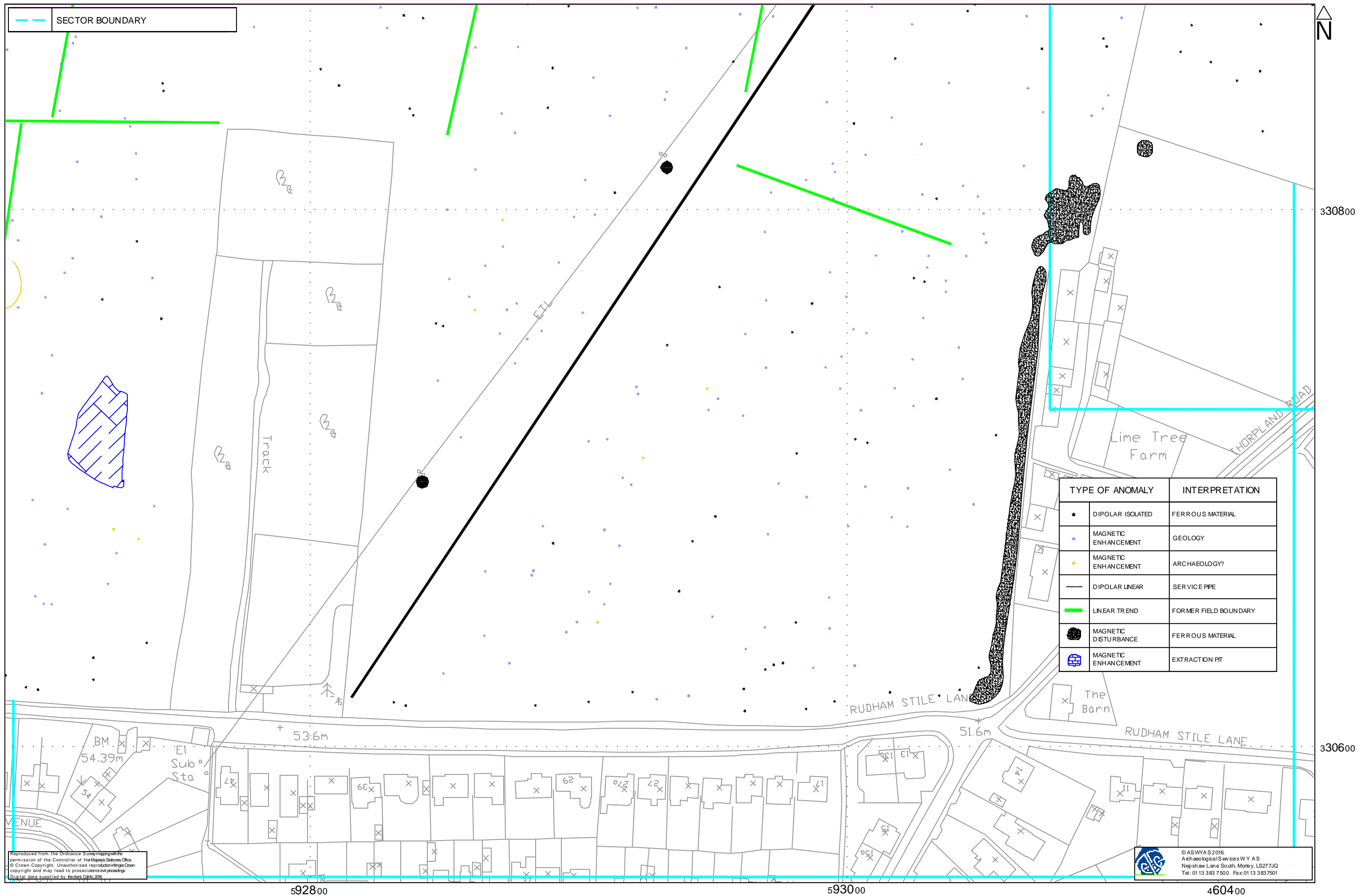
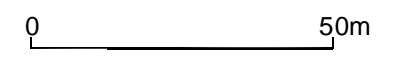


Fig. 11. Interpretation of magnetometer data; Sector 4 (1:1250 @ A3)

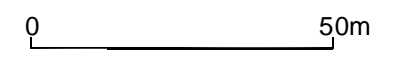


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Fig. 12. Processed greyscale magnetometer data; Sector 5 (1:1250 @ A3)



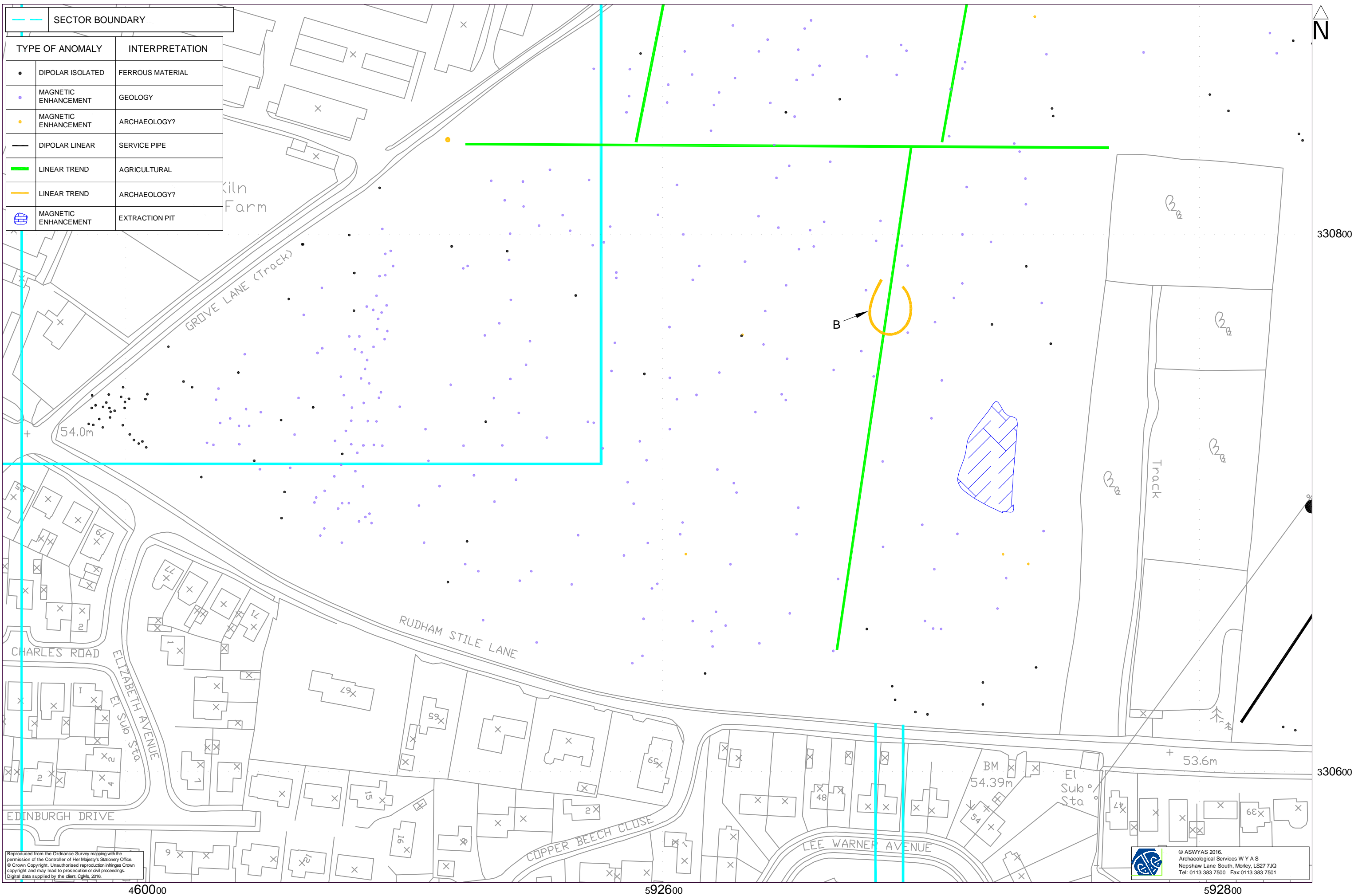


Fig. 13. Interpretation of magnetometer data; Sector 5 (1:1250 @ A3)



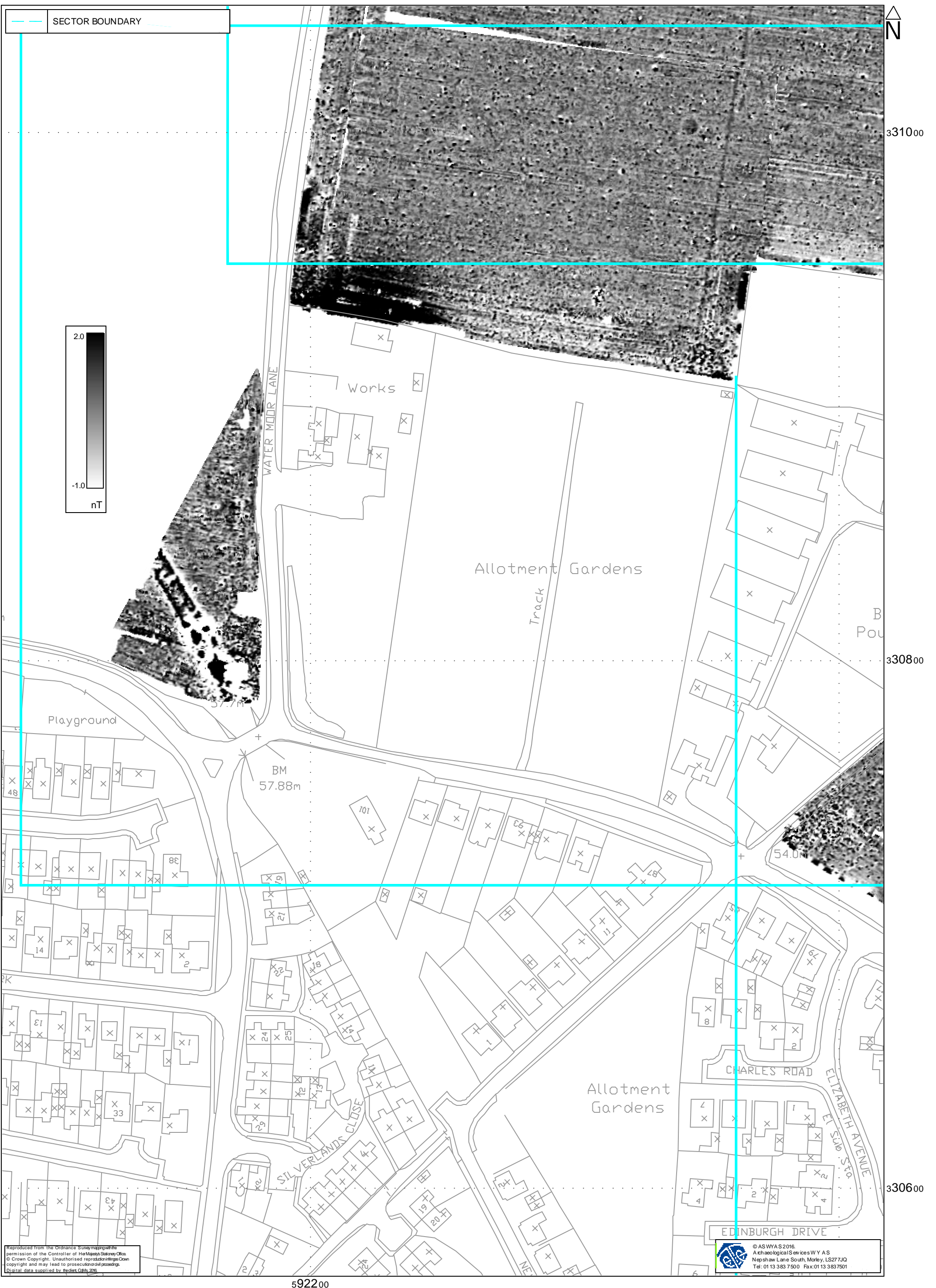


Fig. 14. Processed greyscale magnetometer data: Sector 6 (1:1250 @ A3)

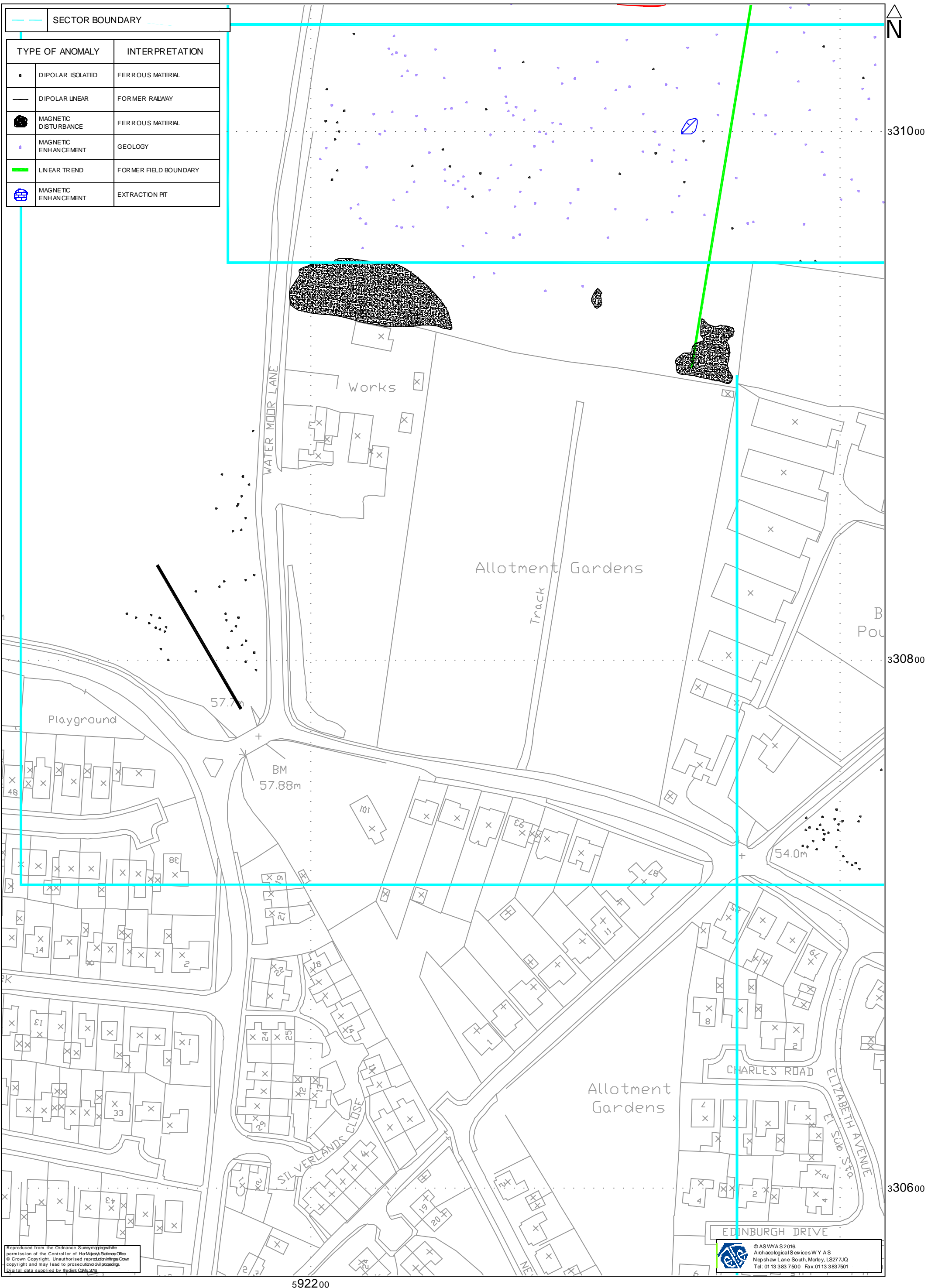


Fig. 15. Interpretation of magnetometer data: Sector 6 (1:1250 @ A3)





*Plate 1. General view of Field 1, looking southwest.*



*Plate 2. General view of Field 2, looking east.*



*Plate 3. General view of Field 2, looking southwest.*



*Plate 4. General view of Field 4, looking northwest.*



*Plate 5. General view of Field 5, looking southwest.*



*Plate 6. General view of Field 6, looking northeast.*



*Plate 7. General view of Field 3, looking northwest.*



*Plate 8. General view of Field 3, looking northeast.*

## **Appendix 1: Magnetic survey - technical information**

### **Magnetic Susceptibility and Soil Magnetism**

Iron makes up about 6% of the Earth's crust and is mostly present in soils and rocks as minerals such as maghaemite and haemetite. These minerals have a weak, measurable magnetic property termed magnetic susceptibility. Human activities can redistribute these minerals and change (enhance) others into more magnetic forms. Areas of human occupation or settlement can then be identified by measuring the magnetic susceptibility of the topsoil because of the attendant increase (enhancement) in magnetic susceptibility. If the enhanced material subsequently comes to fill features, such as ditches or pits, localised isolated and linear magnetic anomalies can result whose presence can be detected by a magnetometer (fluxgate gradiometer).

In general, it is the contrast between the magnetic susceptibility of deposits filling cut features, such as ditches or pits, and the magnetic susceptibility of topsoils, subsoils and rocks into which these features have been cut, which causes the most recognisable responses. This is primarily because there is a tendency for magnetic ferrous compounds to become concentrated in the topsoil, thereby making it more magnetic than the subsoil or the bedrock. Linear features cut into the subsoil or geology, such as ditches, that have been silted up or have been backfilled with topsoil will therefore usually produce a positive magnetic response relative to the background soil levels. Discrete feature, such as pits, can also be detected. The magnetic susceptibility of a soil can also be enhanced by the application of heat and the fermentation and bacterial effects associated with rubbish decomposition. The area of enhancement is usually quite large, mainly due to the tendency of discard areas to extend beyond the limit of the occupation site itself, and spreading by the plough.

### **Types of Magnetic Anomaly**

In the majority of instances anomalies are termed 'positive'. This means that they have a positive magnetic value relative to the magnetic background on any given site. However some features can manifest themselves as 'negative' anomalies that, conversely, means that the response is negative relative to the mean magnetic background.

Where it is not possible to give a probable cause of an observed anomaly a '?' is appended.

It should be noted that anomalies interpreted as modern in origin might be caused by features that are present in the topsoil or upper layers of the subsoil. Removal of soil to an archaeological or natural layer can therefore remove the feature causing the anomaly.

The types of response mentioned above can be divided into five main categories that are used in the graphical interpretation of the magnetic data:



*Isolated dipolar anomalies (iron spikes)*

These responses are typically caused by ferrous material either on the surface or in the topsoil. They cause a rapid variation in the magnetic response giving a characteristic 'spiky' trace. Although ferrous archaeological artefacts could produce this type of response, unless there is supporting evidence for an archaeological interpretation, little emphasis is normally given to such anomalies, as modern ferrous objects are common on rural sites, often being present as a consequence of manuring.

*Areas of magnetic disturbance*

These responses can have several causes often being associated with burnt material, such as slag waste or brick rubble or other strongly magnetised/fired material. Ferrous structures such as pylons, mesh or barbed wire fencing and buried pipes can also cause the same disturbed response. A modern origin is usually assumed unless there is other supporting information.

*Linear trend*

This is usually a weak or broad linear anomaly of unknown cause or date. These anomalies are often caused by agricultural activity, either ploughing or land drains being a common cause.

*Areas of magnetic enhancement/positive isolated anomalies*

Areas of enhanced response are characterised by a general increase in the magnetic background over a localised area whilst discrete anomalies are manifest by an increased response on two or three successive traverses. In neither instance is there the intense dipolar response characteristic exhibited by an area of magnetic disturbance or of an 'iron spike' anomaly (see above). These anomalies can be caused by infilled discrete archaeological features such as pits or post-holes or by kilns. They can also be caused by pedological variations or by natural infilled features on certain geologies. Ferrous material in the subsoil can also give a similar response. It can often therefore be very difficult to establish an anthropogenic origin without intrusive investigation or other supporting information.

*Linear and curvilinear anomalies*

Such anomalies have a variety of origins. They may be caused by agricultural practice (recent ploughing trends, earlier ridge and furrow regimes or land drains), natural geomorphological features such as palaeochannels or by infilled archaeological ditches.

**Methodology: Gradiometer Survey**

The magnetometer survey was undertaken using a Sensys Magneto MXPDA cart-based instrument. The instrument has 5 fluxgate gradiometers spaced 0.5m apart with readings recorded at 20Hz. The gradiometers have a range of recording between 0.1nT and 10,000nT. They are linked to a Trimble R6 RTK dGPS system with data recorded by Sensys Magneto MXPDA software on a rugged PDA device. The data was stored on an SD memory card

within the PDA and later downloaded to a computer for processing and interpretation. MAGNETO (Sensys GmbH) and TerraSurveyor V3.0.25.0 software was used to process and present the data.

The detailed gradiometer data has been presented in this report in processed greyscale format. The data in the greyscale images has been interpolated and selectively filtered to remove the effects of drift in instrument calibration and other artificial data constructs and to maximise the clarity and interpretability of the archaeological anomalies.

TerraSurveyor V3.0.25.0 was used to compensate (destripe) interpolate and clip the data. The same program was used to produce the greyscale images. All greyscale plots are displayed using a linear incremental scale.

The results and subsequent interpretation of data from geophysical surveys should not be treated as an absolute representation of the underlying archaeological and non-archaeological remains. Confirmation of the presence or absence of archaeological remains can only be achieved by direct investigation of sub-surface deposits.

## **Appendix 2: Survey location information**

An initial survey station was established using a Trimble VRS differential Global Positioning System (Trimble R6 model). The cart data was geo-referenced using the geo-referenced survey station with a Trimble RTK differential Global Positioning System (Trimble R6 model). The accuracy of this equipment is better than 0.01m. The survey grids were then super-imposed onto a base map provided by the client to produce the displayed block locations. However, it should be noted that Ordnance Survey positional accuracy for digital map data has an error of 0.5m for urban and floodplain areas, 1.0m for rural areas and 2.5m for mountain and moorland areas. This potential error must be considered if co-ordinates are measured off hard copies of the mapping rather than using the digital co-ordinates.

*Archaeological Services WYAS cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party.*

### **Appendix 3: Geophysical archive**

The geophysical archive comprises:-

- an archive disk containing compressed (WinZip 8) files of the raw data, report text (Microsoft Word 2000), and graphics files (Adobe Illustrator CS2 and AutoCAD 2008) files; and
- a full copy of the report.

At present the archive is held by Archaeological Services WYAS although it is anticipated that it may eventually be lodged with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). Brief details may also be forwarded for inclusion on the English Heritage Geophysical Survey Database after the contents of the report are deemed to be in the public domain (i.e. available for consultation in the Norfolk Environment Record).

## **Appendix 4: Oasis form**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

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**OASIS ID: archaeol11-252215**

## Project details

Project name	Rudham Stile Lane, Fakenham
Short description of the project	A cart-based geophysical (magnetometer) survey, covering approximately 46 hectares, was carried out on agricultural land at Rudham Stile Lane, Fakenham, Norfolk. The survey was undertaken within a proposed development area which lies in close proximity to a number of HER monument records from prehistoric to post-medieval periods. A ring ditch was identified in the western area of the site with a second smaller circular feature in the south central area. Features relating to post-medieval brick production were identified in the form of clay extraction pits and possible kilns. The survey also identified several former field boundaries which are shown on 19th century mapping of the area. The archaeological potential of the proposed development area is identified as low to moderate.
Project dates	Start: 04-04-2016 End: 22-04-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	6335 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	TRACKWAY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	RING DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	FIELD BOUNDARIES Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Geophysical Survey"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Solid geology	CHALK (INCLUDING RED CHALK)
Drift geology	GLACIAL SAND AND GRAVEL
Techniques	Magnetometry

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK NORTH NORFOLK FAKENHAM Rudham Stile Lane, Fakenham
Study area	46 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 9244 3086 52.840409622532 0.857593450675 52 50 25 N 000 51 27 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 50m Max: 50m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Services WYAS
Project brief originator	CgMs
Project design originator	CGMS
Project director/manager	C. Sykes
Project supervisor	C. Sykes

### Project archives

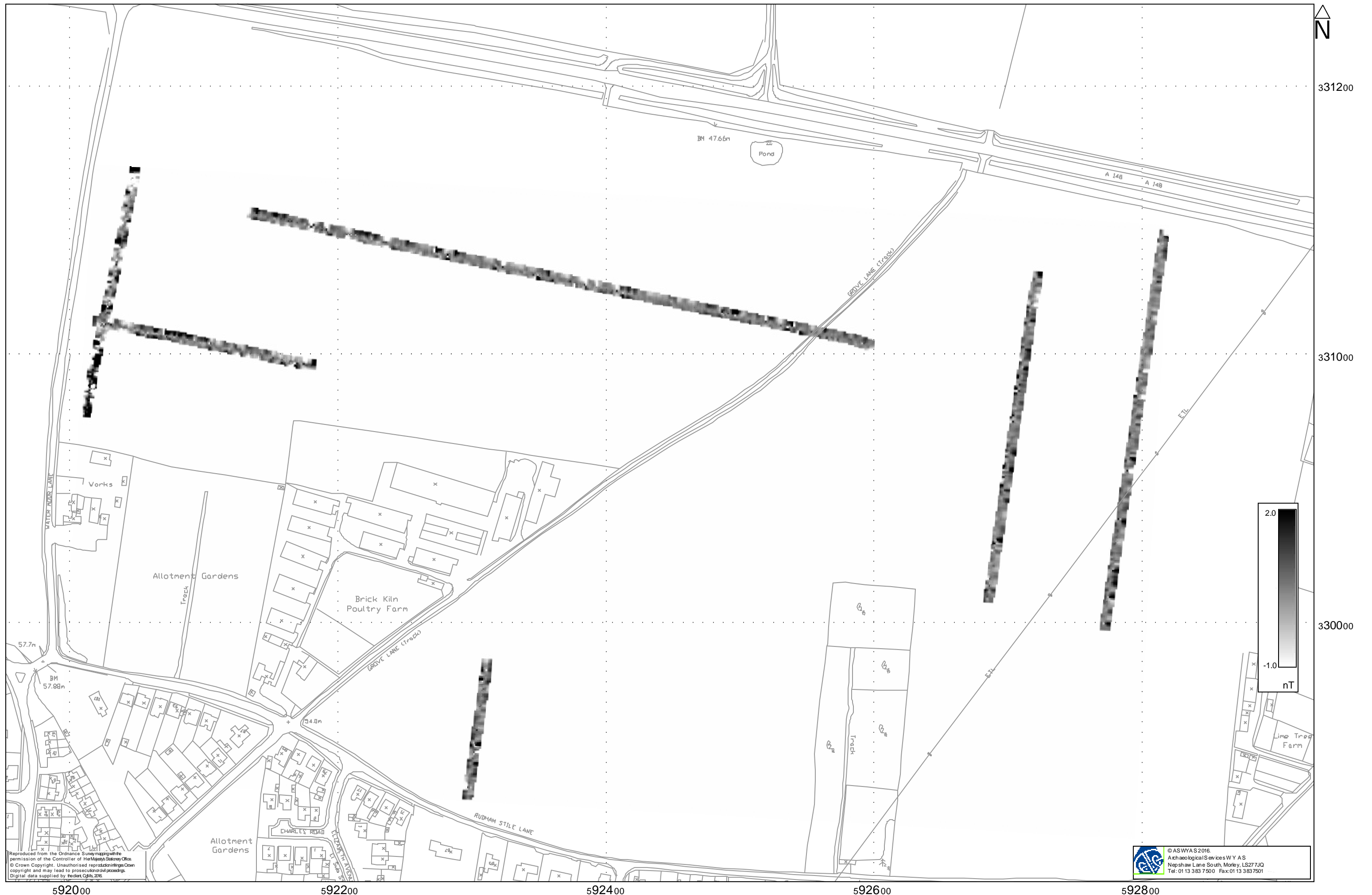
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	CgMs
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Geophysics", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Rudham Stile Lane, Fakenham
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sykes, C
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	ASWYAS
Place of issue or publication	Morley, Leeds
Description	A4 report with A3 figures
Entered by	Emma Brunning (emma.brunning@aswyas.com)
Entered on	20 May 2016

## **Appendix 5: Repeat track**





Appendix 5. Repeat tracks (1:2500 @ A3)

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