

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION
AT
HOPYARD FARM, DEFFORD,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Justin Hughes

With a contribution by Derek Hurst

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

6th December 2005

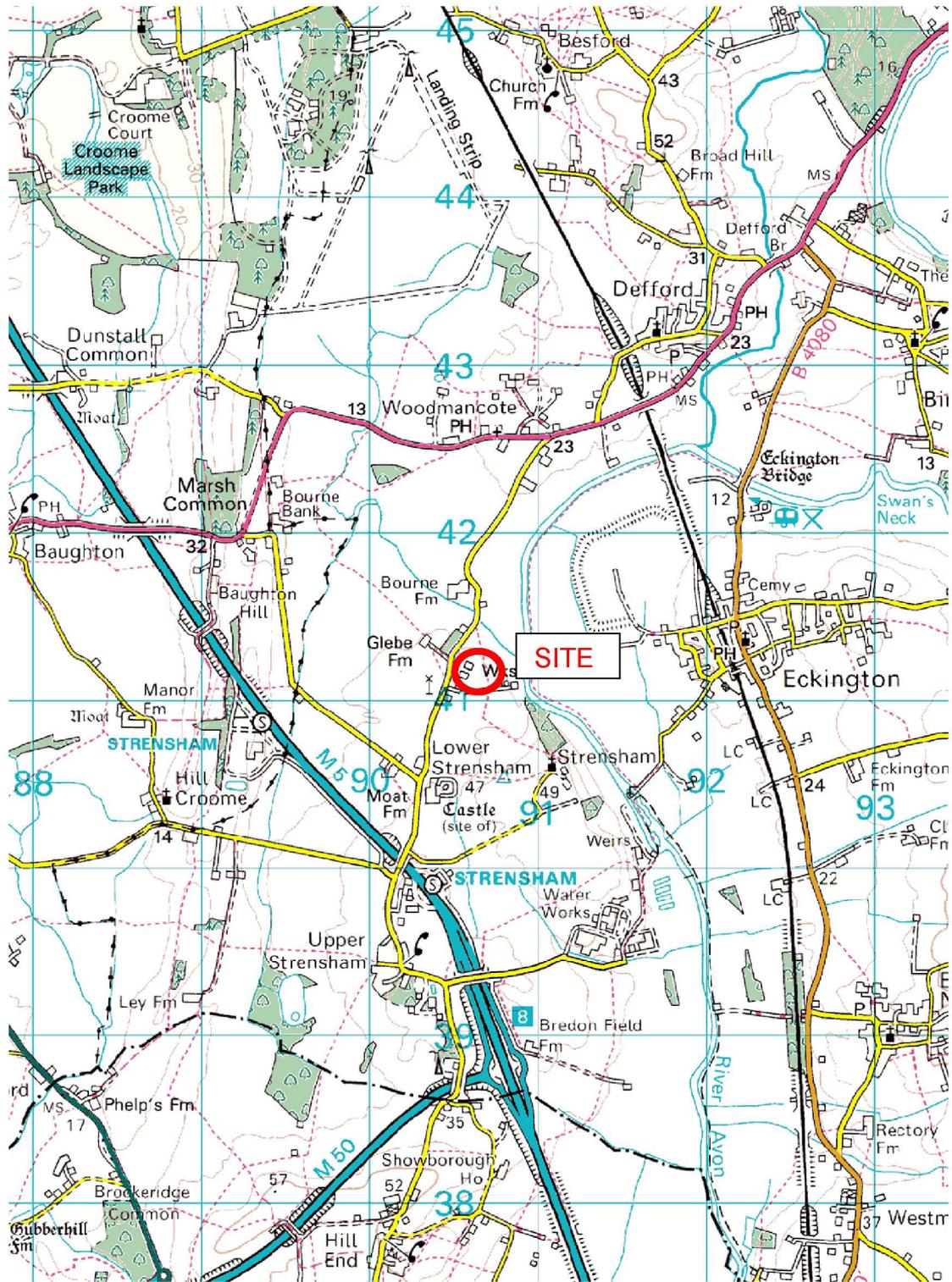
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 2819
Report 1356
WSM 34773



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0 500 1000 1500 2000 Meters



Figure 1

Archaeological Evaluation at Hopyard Farm, Defford, Worcestershire

Justin Hughes Project 2819

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Mr and Mrs Earl
<i>Site address</i>	Hopyard Farm, Bourne Road, Defford
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 90664119 (Fig 1)
<i>Sites and Monuments Record reference</i>	WSM 34773
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>reference</i>	W/04/0030
<i>Brief</i>	WHEAS 2003
<i>Project design</i>	WHEAS 2005
<i>Project parameters</i>	IFA 1999

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Associated archaeological sites

Cropmarks (WSM 6054), and finds recovered from fieldwalking (WSM 25858), have been recorded to the north of Hopyard Farm. The cropmarks have an indeterminate date, but comprise a trackway and an irregular enclosure. The artefacts recovered from the fieldwalking include two Late Iron-Age/Romano-British brooches and a coin, along with a second coin of medieval date (see Appendix 1).

Aims

The aim of the evaluation was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible. The sample trench was aligned southeast to northwest in order to investigate potential archaeological remains identified by the geophysical survey (see Appendix 2).

Methods

General specification for fieldwork	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	SMR/HER Sources cited by the SMR/HER
Date(s) of fieldwork	25 November 2005
Area of site surveyed	c 6400m ² (Fig 2)
Sampling area sampled	c 30 by 1.50m (Fig 2)
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	length 26m width 1.50m depth 0.26-0.30m

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated topsoil and subsoil deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified. The selected trench measured 26m by 1.50m and was cleaned by hand. Access to deep trenches was not required.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. This has allowed a clear statement with which to draw conclusions about the likely archaeological impact of the proposed fishing lake development.

Deposit description

Context	Type	Description	Date	Interpretation	Depth
101	Grey/brown loam	Loose, with granular structure	Modern	Topsoil	0-5 cm
102	Grey/brown sandy clay	Loose, becoming orangey in colour towards interface with 103	Modern	Subsoil	5-30cm
103	Orange brown clay	Compacted clay with moderate stony inclusions	Geology	Natural	30cm+

Discussion

Apart from a small number of residual finds comprising 4 pieces of land drain and 2 fragments of brick, all of post-medieval date, there would not appear to be any archaeological evidence of activity in the study area. The linear disturbance detected by the geophysical survey (Fig 2) was identifiable with known drainage (Mr Earl pers comm.) and, in the absence of any other counter-indications in the immediate vicinity of the anomaly, this was accepted to be of a modern character, and so confirmation by deeper excavation by machine was considered unnecessary. Overall there was no evidence of earlier activity on the site despite the proven presence of earlier (e.g. Roman) activity nearby.

Conclusions

The site investigated is under pasture and, apart from modern farming activity, there is little sign of earlier human occupation, and so the development does not pose a threat to any significant archaeological remains.

Archive

Photographic records AS3	1
Digital photographs	6
Trench records AS41	1
Drawings	1
Bags of finds	1
Computer disks	1

The project archive will be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
01299 250416

telephone

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank Mr Earl for his kind assistance in the conclusion of this project.

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- Illustrations:** Figure 1 Location plan showing Hopyard Farm
 Figure 2 Location of the machine trench, across anomalies identified by the geophysical survey
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Bibliography

CAS 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **399**

GSB Propection Ltd., *Hopyard Farm, Worcestershire*, Geophysical Report 2005/80

Hurst, J D, 1994 (as amended) *Pottery fabrics. A multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **445**

IFA, 1999 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

WHEAS 2003 *Brief for an archaeological evaluation at Hopyard Farm*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated February 2003

WHEAS 2005 Proposal for an archaeological evaluation at Hopyard Farm, Defford, Worcestershire, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated October 2005

Artefacts

Type	Count	Weight (g)	Date
CBM	2	100	Post-med
Land drain	4	50	Post-med

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PROJECT: 2005/80 HOPYARD FARM, DEFFORD

TITLE: Summary Interpretation

Based on a plan provided by the client

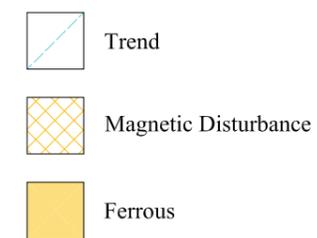
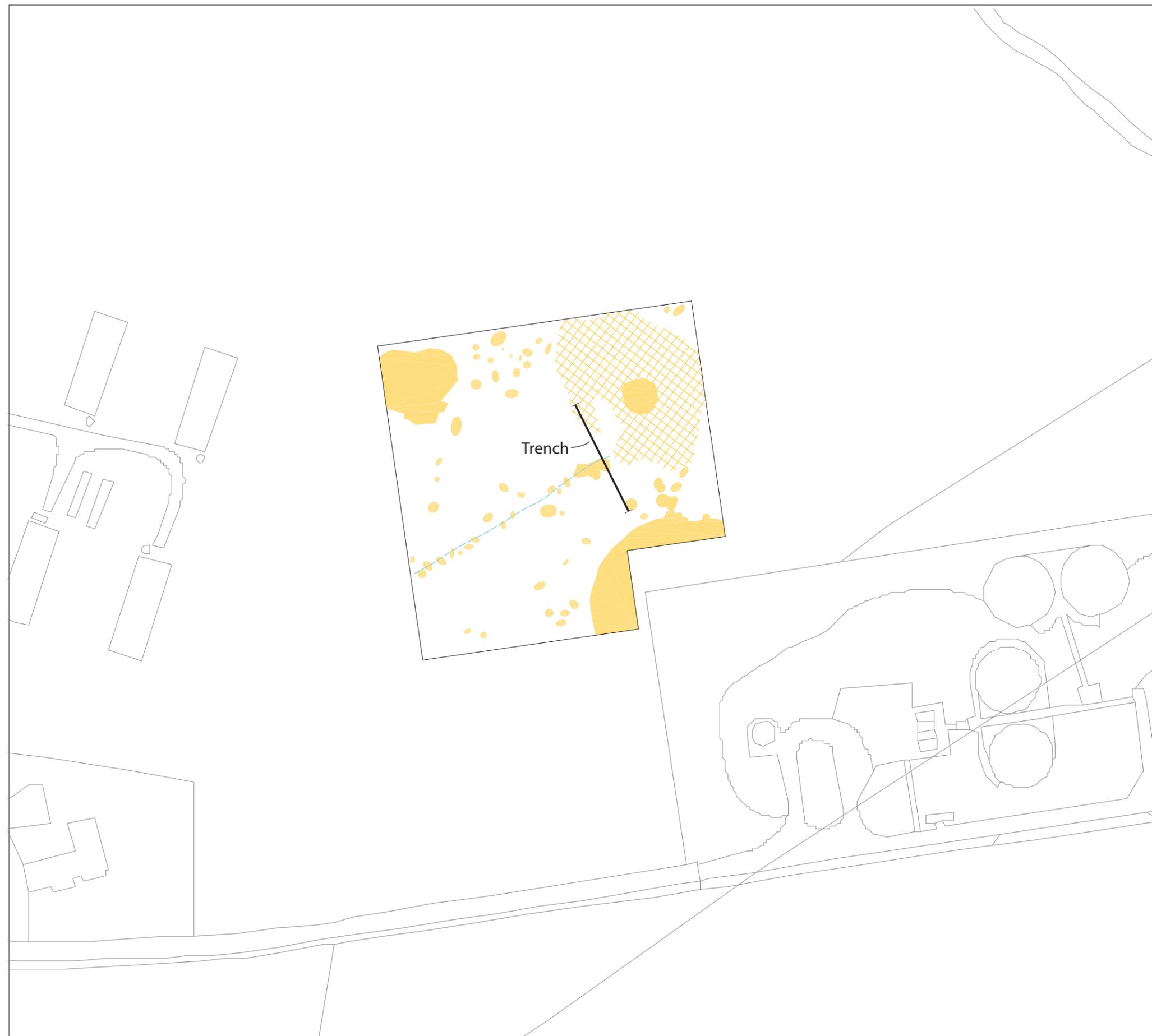


Figure 2

Appendix 1: Worcestershire Historic Environment Record referred to in text:

ENCLOSURE
WSM06054 Cropmarks at Bourne Farm,
Defford
TRACKWAY SO9085041749

WSM25858 Late Iron Age (?) Romano-British
Finds, S of Woodmancote,
Defford
OCCUPATION SITE 43 to 409 SO9085241793

Appendix 2

GSB Prospection Ltd

SURVEY RESULTS

2005 / 80 Hopyard Farm, Defford, Worcestershire

1. Survey Area

- 1.1 Approximately 0.6ha of detailed survey, using Bartington Grad 601-2 fluxgate gradiometers, was carried out over land at Hopyard Farm. The location of the survey grid is shown in Figure 1 at a scale of 1:1500.
- 1.2 The survey grid was set out by **GSB Prospection Ltd** and tied in to the existing field boundaries using tapes. Semi-permanent markers, in the form of wooden stakes, were left *in-situ* so as to aid reconstruction of the survey grid, if necessary. Detailed tie-in information has been lodged with the client and photos of the marker positions have been included on the accompanying Archive CD.

2. Display

- 2.1 Figures 2 and 3 are a summary greyscale image and interpretation diagram, respectively, plotted at scale of 1:1000. Figure 4 shows a greyscale image and an XY trace plot of the data at 1:500, with an accompanying interpretation diagram at the same scale to be found in Figure 5. The results are also supplied digitally on the accompanying Archive CD.
- 2.2 These display formats, and the interpretation categories used, are discussed in the *Technical Information* section at the end of the text.
- 2.3 Letters in parentheses within the report refer to specific anomalies of interest highlighted in the interpretation diagram.

3. General Considerations - Complicating factors

- 3.1 Conditions for survey were good over the majority of the application area. However, at the time of survey the presence of overgrown nettles and thistles along the south-eastern perimeter and in the north-east corner of the grid, complicated data collection somewhat but does not appear to have adversely affected data quality.

4. Results of Detailed Survey

- 4.1 A strong anomaly (A) is associated with a pile of modern rubble, including tarmac and bricks, which is visible on the ground surface. Extending out beyond (A) is a distinct area of magnetic disturbance (B) which dominates the north-east of the survey area. Whilst it is possible that this disturbance is of archaeological origin, representing say burnt or fired material, a more likely explanation would be a spread of the modern debris. This debris may be the result of hardcore dumped to consolidate the ground or perhaps the remains of a building associated with the construction phase of the adjacent sewage works.
- 4.2 A single linear trend (C) can be seen in the data, running on a north-east / south-west orientation, characterised by a series of ferrous responses. The cause of this linear trend is possibly the effect of a field drain or the remnants of an old fence.
- 4.3 The strong ferrous anomaly (D) is due to a telegraph pole standing at its centre. A 'halo' of large ferrous responses (E) can be seen in the south eastern most section of the survey area. The presence of a perimeter fence (standing approximately two metres high) is the source of this series of anomalies. The effects are stronger along the N-S oriented boundary due to the closer proximity of the fence.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The survey did not produce any clear archaeological type anomalies and whilst it is conceivable that the large area of magnetic disturbance identified is of an archaeological origin, it is most likely associated with visible ground disturbance and rubble spreads. The linear trend marked out by a series of ferrous anomalies is most probably a land drain or similar modern feature.
- 5.2 Despite the broad magnetic disturbance and ferrous anomalies from the telephone pylon and sewage works' perimeter fence it seems unlikely that they are masking any significant archaeological responses given the absence of such anomalies across the rest of the site.

Project Team: J Adcock & M Brolly
Project Assistants: J Anderson, I Wilkins, E Wood

Date of Survey: 2nd November 2005
Date of Report: 18th November 2005

References:

- SSEW 1983. *Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 5 ,South West England.* Soil Survey of England and Wales.
- WSM25858 2003 *Requirements for an archaeological evaluation at Hopyard Farm, Bourne Road Defford, Worcestershire.* Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document.

SITE SUMMARY SHEET

2005 / 80 Hopyard Farm, Defford, Worcestershire

NGR: SO 907 412 (approximate centre)

Location, topography and geology

The survey area lies approximately 1.5km to the west of Eckington and 0.75km to the north of Strensham, on land belonging to Hopyard Farm, adjacent to a sewage treatment works. The field slopes gently downhill towards the north. The site lies very close to the boundary of two soil categorisations: the Evesham 2 (411b) and the Fladbury 1 (813b) associations (SSEW 1993). The former comprise slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils with areas of non-calcareous clayey and fine loamy or fine silty over clayey soils. These are formed from Jurassic and Cretaceous clay. The latter association comprises stoneless clayey soils which in places can be calcareous and they are formed from river alluvium

Archaeology

Cropmarks and fieldwalking finds, found scattered to the north of the site, point to prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the area. However, there have been no previously recorded archaeological finds from the site itself. It is thought that the proposed development may affect a nearby archaeological site which has been registered on the County Sites and Monuments Record (reference WSM25858, Statutory Instruments 1988 no.1813) (Worcester County Council, 2003).

Aims of Survey

The remit of this survey was to locate and characterise any detectable archaeological remains within the area proposed for development into a fishing and irrigation lake. The survey forms part of a wider archaeological evaluation by **Worcestershire County Council**.

Summary of Results *

A large area of magnetic disturbance is obvious in the north eastern corner of the survey. The area in question contained rubble piles consisting of modern materials such as brick and tarmac. This observation has led to the non-archaeological interpretation of this response.

A scatter of small ferrous-like anomalies across the site suggests the presence of modern debris buried in the topsoil or on the surface. The major ferrous responses seen in the data are caused by the perimeter fencing and a telephone pylon.

A linear trend running from north east to south west, characterised by a series of ferrous anomalies, is most likely caused by a drainage ditch or other modern feature.

*** It is essential that this summary is read in conjunction with the detailed results of the survey.**

List of Figures

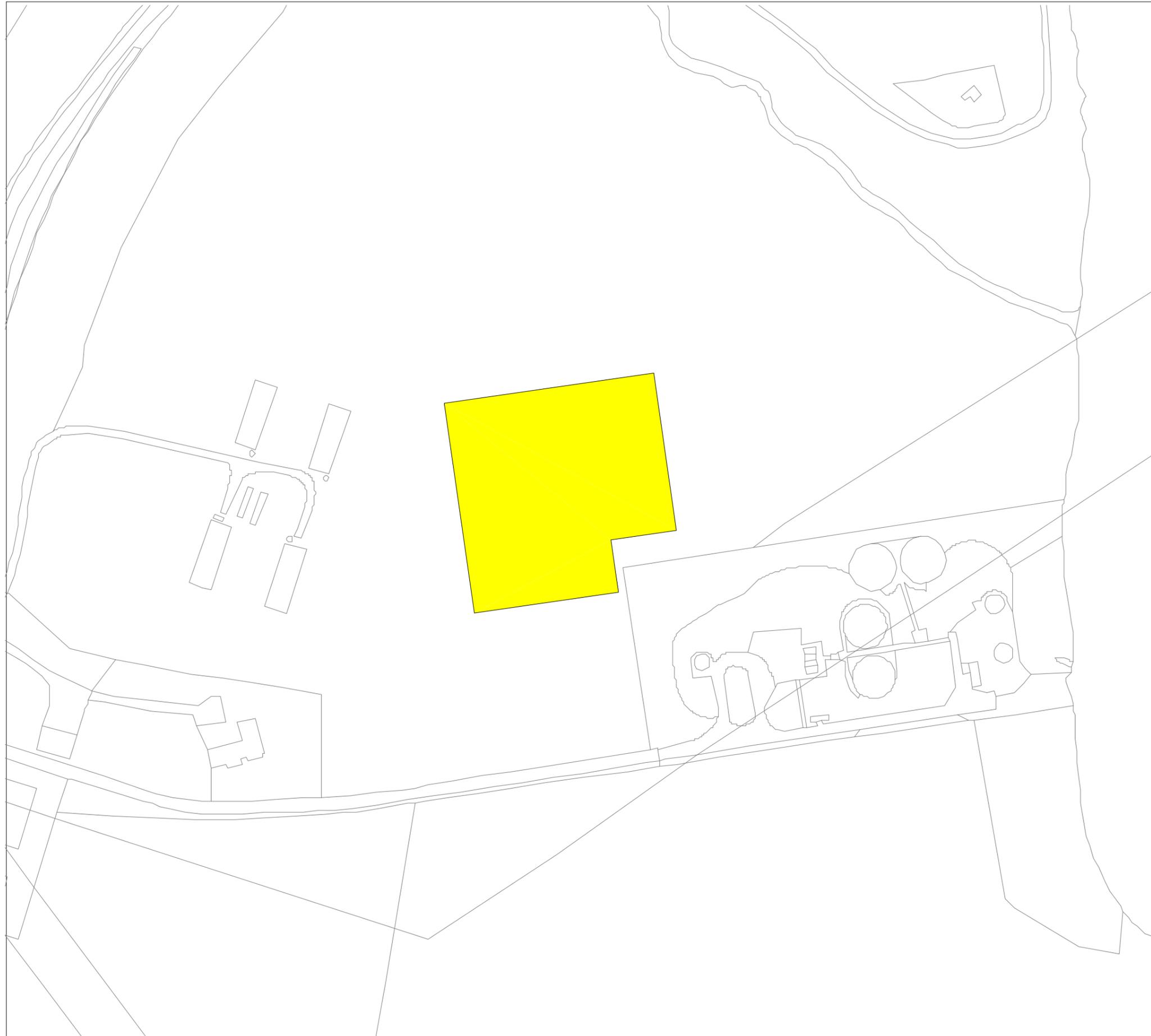
Figure 1	Location Diagram	1:1500
Figure 2	Summary Greyscales	1:1000
Figure 3	Summary Interpretation	1:1000
Figure 4	XY traces & Greyscale	1:500
Figure 5	Interpretation	1:500

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PROJECT: 2005/80 HOPYARD FARM, DEFFORD

TITLE: Location Diagram

Based on a plan provided by the client



 Gradiometer Survey



Figure 1

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PROJECT: 2005/80 HOPYARD FARM, DEFFORD

TITLE: Summary Greyscale

Based on a plan provided by the client

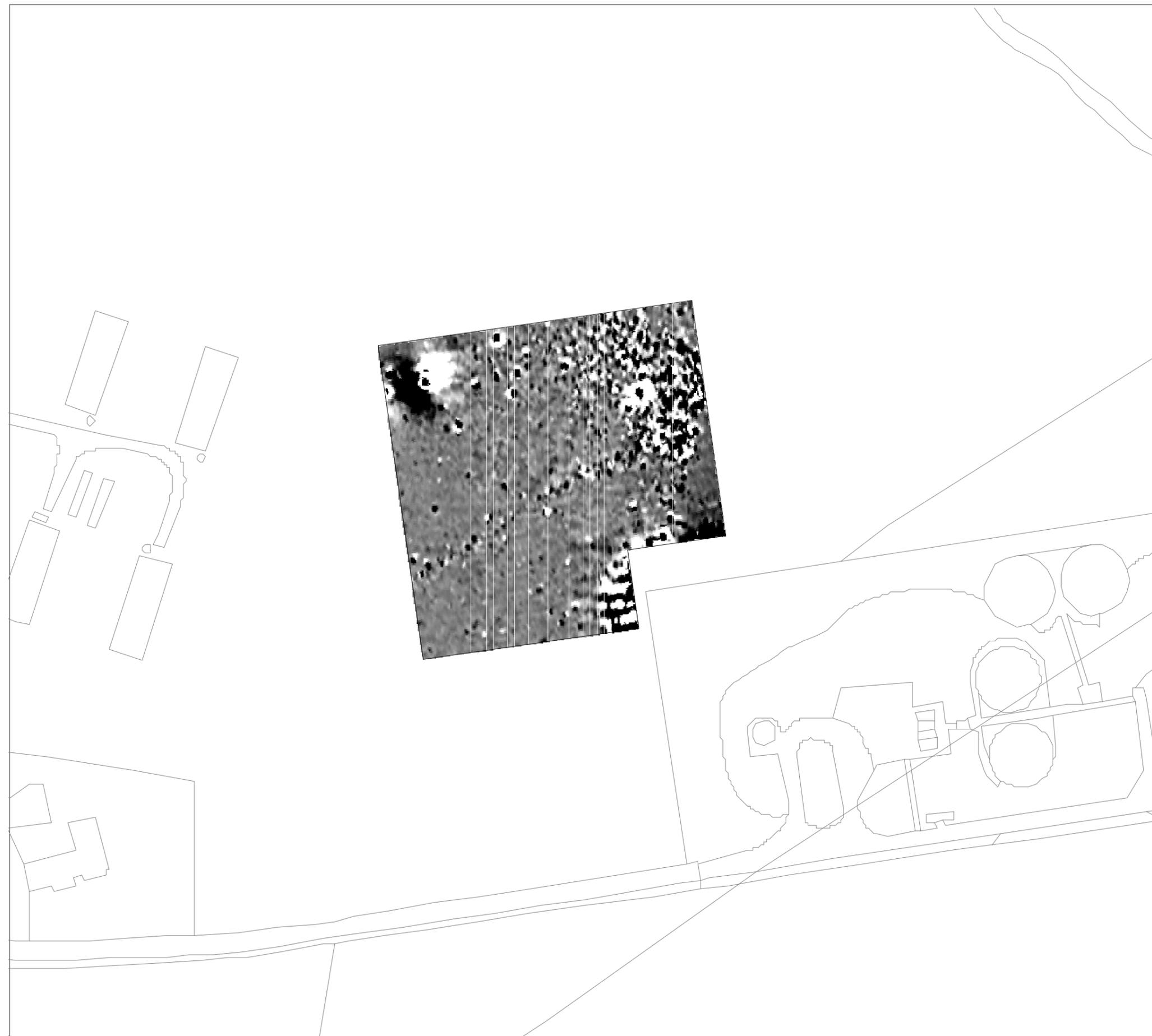


Figure 2

GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.

PROJECT: 2005/80 HOPYARD FARM, DEFFORD

TITLE: Summary Interpretation

Based on a plan provided by the client

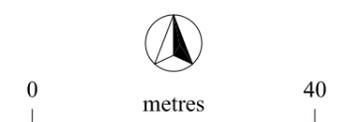
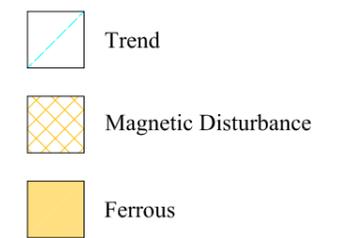
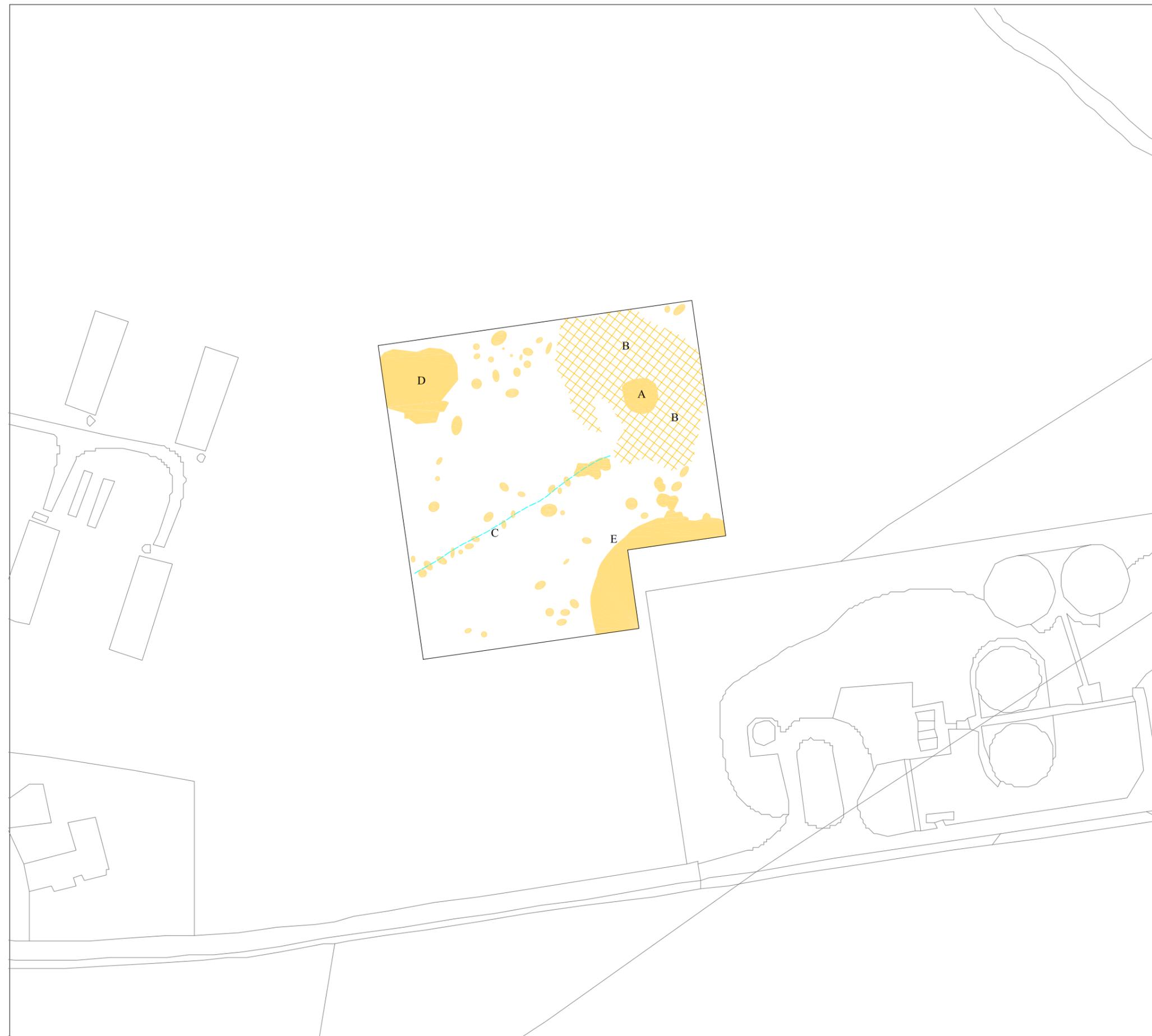
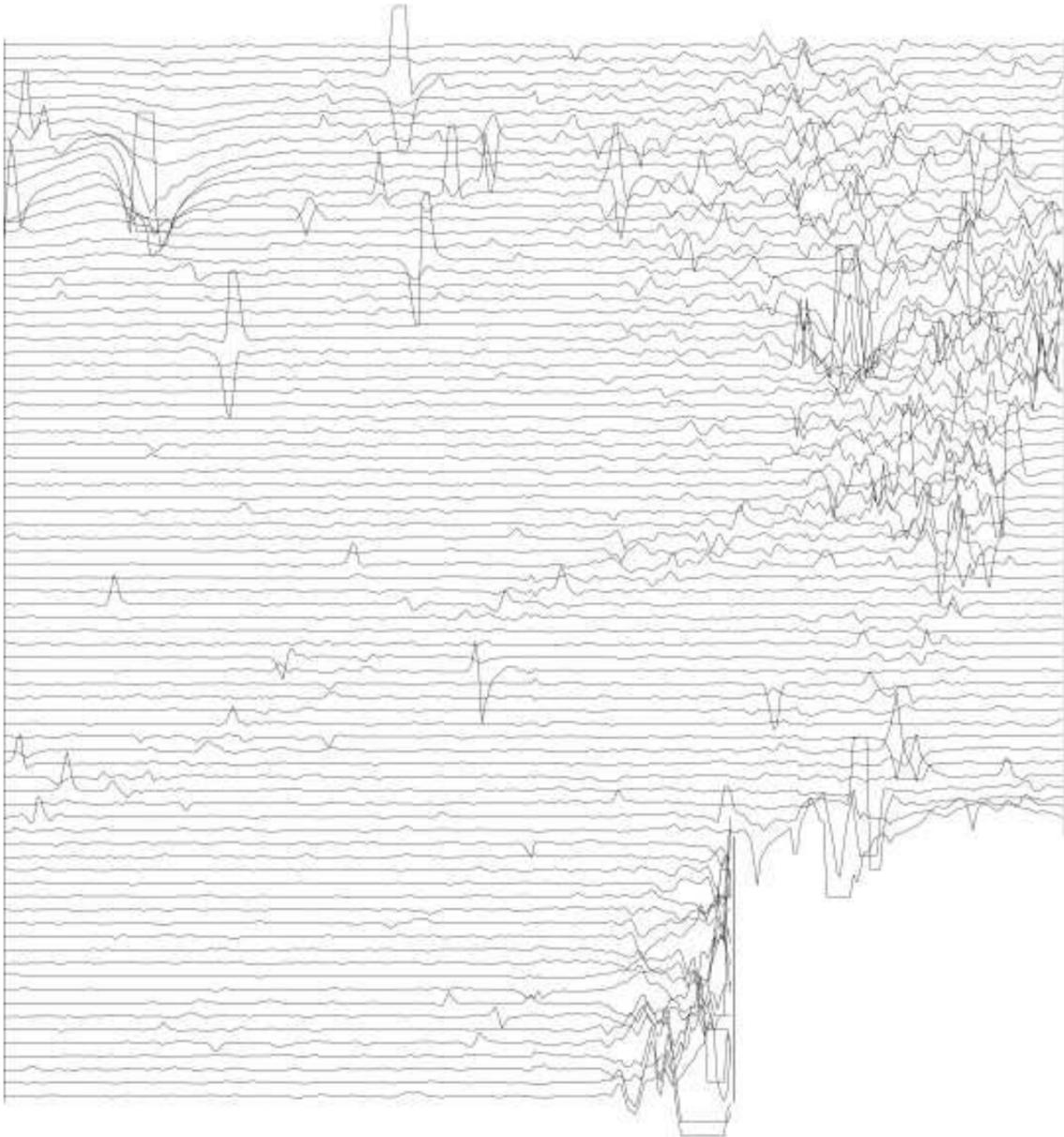
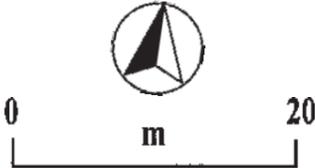
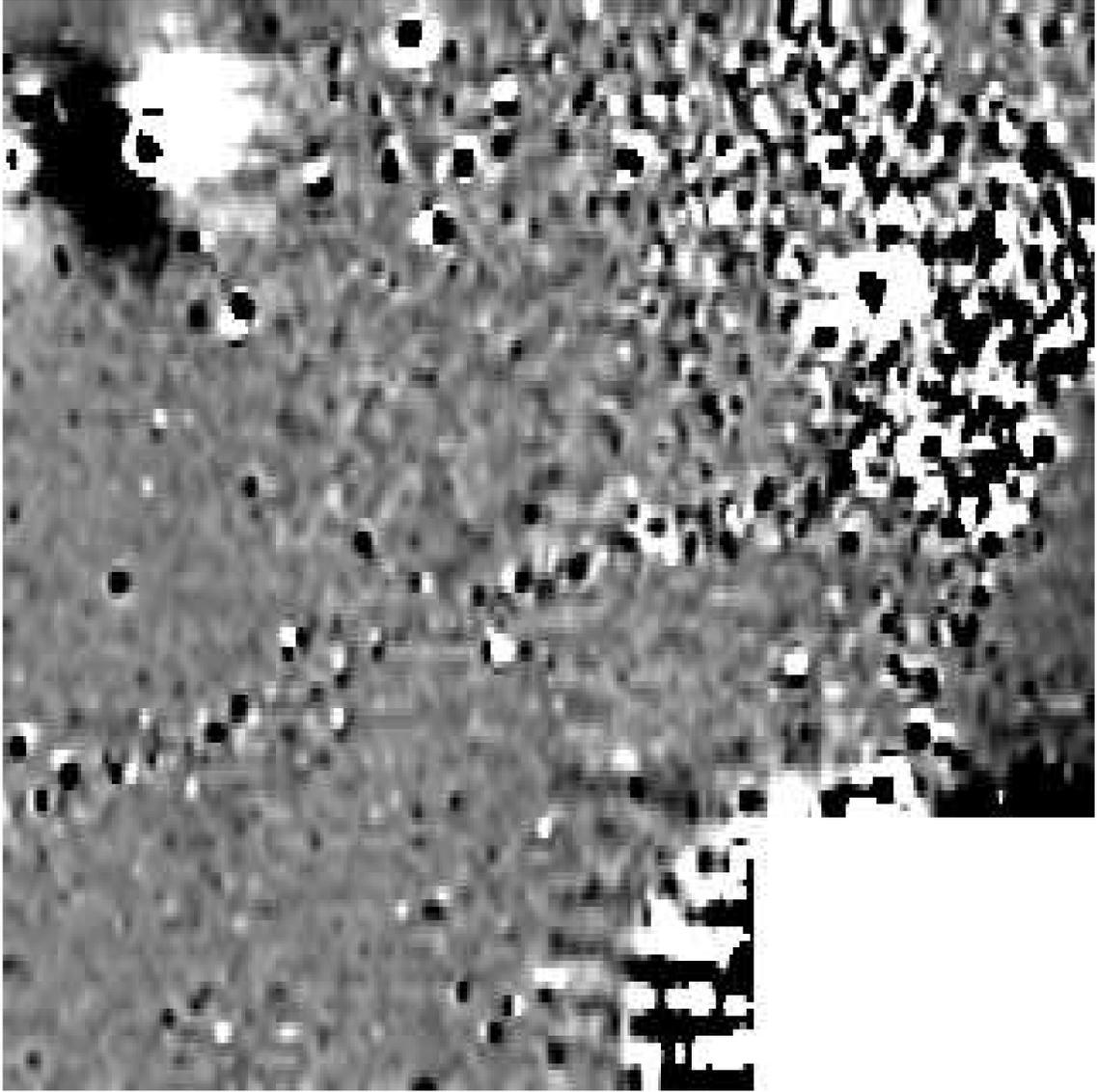


Figure 3

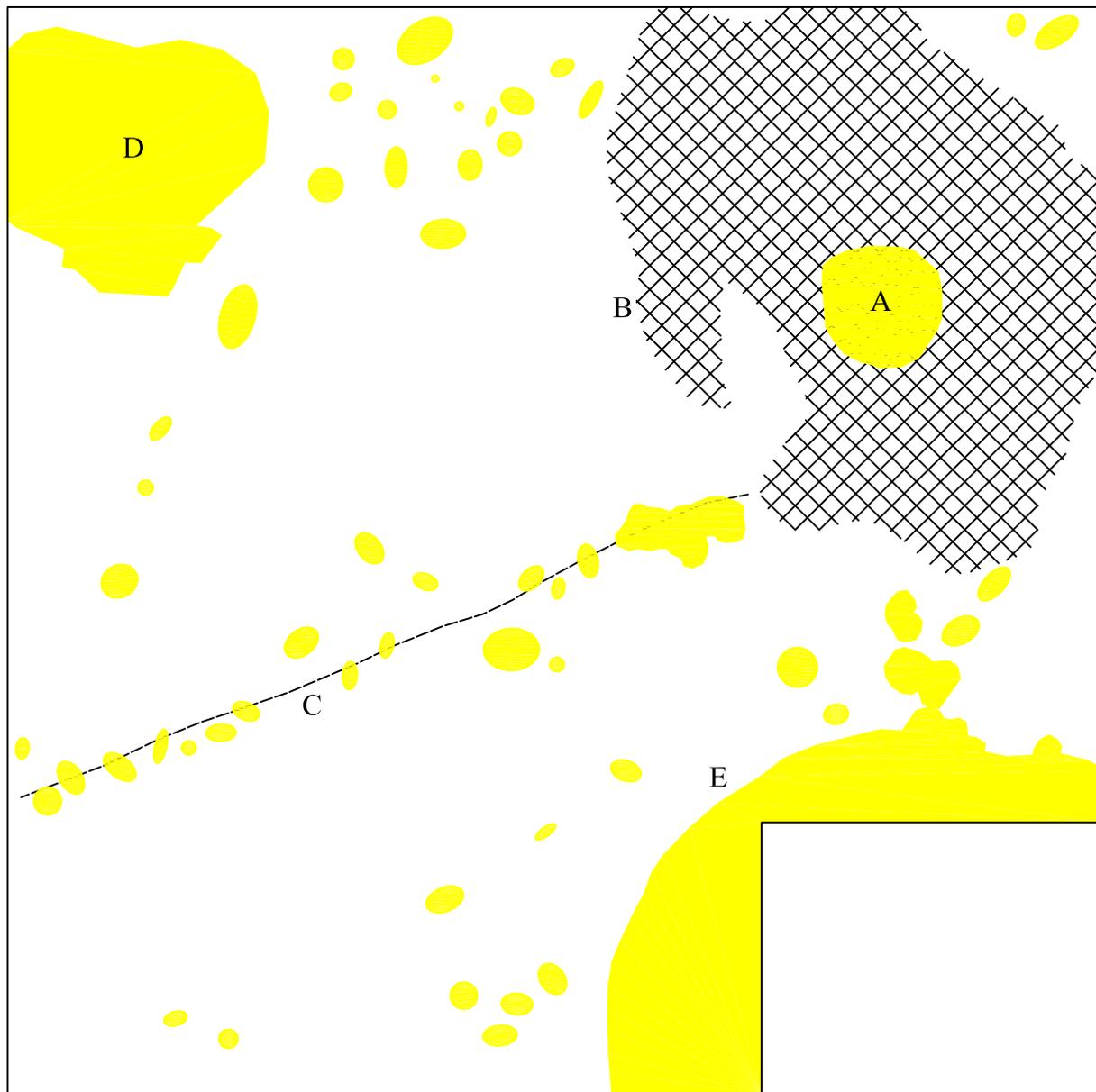
HOPYARD FARM, DEFFORD



15 nT



HOPYARD FARM, DEFFORD



Trend



Magnetic
Disturbance



Ferrous



0 m 20