GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING

Southside, Horebeech Lane, Horam, East Sussex

Client
Archaeology Collective

Survey Report
13748

Date
October 2018

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GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

Project name:
Southside, Horebeech Lane, Horam, East Sussex

SUMO Job reference:
13748

Client:
Archaeology Collective

Survey date:
4 October 2018

Report date:
16 October 2018

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1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A detailed magnetometer survey was conducted over approximately 1.9 ha of rough pasture at Horebeech Lane, Horam. No definite archaeological anomalies have been identified. A few linear trends have uncertain origins but are thought unlikely to have an archaeological provenance. Land drains, underground services and an area of modern made ground have also been detected.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background synopsis

SUMO Geophysics Ltd were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for residential development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **Archaeology Collective**.

2.2 Site details

NGR / Postcode	TQ 583 167 / TN21 9DZ
Location	The site subject of a planning application Ref: WD/2018/0509/MAJ - Land Adjacent to Old Orchard House, Horebeech Lane, Horam, is situated immediately south of Horebeech Lane. The former London, Brighton & South Coast Railway, now the Cuckoo Trail, forms the south-western boundary of the site.
HER/SMR	East Sussex
District	Wealden
Parish	Horam CP
Topography	Sloping down slightly from south to north
Current Land Use	Rough pasture
Geology	Solid: Wadhurst Clay Formation - mudstone. Superficial: none recorded (BGS 2018).
Soils	Wickham 1 Association (711e) - slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine silty over clayey, fine loamy over clayey and clayey soils (SSEW 1983).
Archaeology	East Sussex HER (2018) does not record any heritage assets within the site. The only records within a 1km radius relate to listed buildings, a 19th century railway station, a watermill and farm buildings / barns.
Survey Methods	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Study Area	*c.* 2.5 ha - approximately 0.6 ha could not be surveyed due to uneven and hillocky ground.

2.3 Aims and Objectives

To locate and characterise any anomalies of possible archaeological interest within the study area.

3 METHODS, PROCESSING & PRESENTATION

3.1 Standards & Guidance

This report and all fieldwork have been conducted in accordance with the latest guidance documents issued by Historic England (EH 2008) (then English Heritage), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and the European Archaeological Council (EAC 2016).

3.2 Survey methods

Detailed magnetic survey was chosen as an efficient and effective method of locating archaeological anomalies.

Technique	Instrument	Traverse Interval	Sample Interval
Magnetometer	Bartington Cart System	1.0m	0.125m

More information regarding this technique is included in Appendix A and B.

3.3 Data Processing

The following basic processing steps have been carried out on the data used in this report:

De-stripe; de-stagger; interpolate

3.4 Presentation of results and interpretation

The presentation of the results includes a 'minimally processed data' and a 'processed data' greyscale plot. Magnetic anomalies are identified, interpreted and plotted onto the 'Interpretation' drawings.

When interpreting the results, several factors are taken into consideration, including the nature of archaeological features being investigated and the local conditions at the site (geology, pedology, topography etc.). Anomalies are categorised by their potential origin. Where responses can be related to other existing evidence, the anomalies will be given specific categories, such as: *Abbey Wall* or *Roman Road*. Where the interpretation is based largely on the geophysical data, levels of confidence are implied, for example: *Probable*, or *Possible Archaeology*. The former is used for a confident interpretation, based on anomaly definition and/or other corroborative data such as cropmarks. Poor anomaly definition, a lack of clear patterns to the responses and an absence of other supporting data reduces confidence, hence the classification *Possible*.

4 RESULTS

Specific anomalies have been given numerical labels [1] [2] *which appear in the text below, as well as on the Interpretation Figure(s).*

4.1 ***Probable / Possible Archaeology***

4.1.1 No magnetic responses have been recorded that could be interpreted as being of archaeological interest.

4.2 ***Uncertain***

4.2.1 A few weak linear trends [1] are visible in the west of the site and have uncertain origins. It is unlikely that they have archaeological provenance, and it is probable that they are of modern origin.

4.3 ***Agricultural –Land Drains***

4.3.1 A series of linear anomalies [2] in the south of the site are likely to be a result of field drains; they could be associated with the former South Coast Railway which lies immediately to their west.

4.3.2 A weak linear trend [3] in the north of the area has also been categorised as relating to a land drain. The strong ferrous response at its centre is marked as a manhole related to a drain on the topographic mapping and the linear responses appear to connect to this.

4.4 ***Natural / Geological / Pedological / Topographic***

4.4.1 Across the site, a large number of small, negative responses are visible. The area that could not be surveyed comprised numerous small tumps and hillocks; it is likely that the small responses visible across the area are a result of similar features that have since been ploughed out / levelled.

4.5 ***Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance***

4.5.1 Two strong bipolar linear anomalies have been mapped and are a result of underground services, such as pipes.

4.5.2 An area of strong magnetic disturbance is visible in the north-west of the site. This is indicative of made ground and is likely to be related to the use of hardcore or other similar material to consolidate the field entrance.

4.5.3 Ferrous responses close to boundaries are due to adjacent fences and gates. Smaller scale ferrous anomalies ("iron spikes") are present throughout the data and are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris (or brick / tile) in the topsoil; they are commonly assigned a modern origin. Only the most prominent of these are highlighted on the interpretation diagram.

5 DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

5.1 Historic England guidelines (EH 2008) Table 4 states that the average magnetic response on mudstone is variable. The results from this survey indicate the presence of land drains and other linear anomalies of uncertain origin. As a consequence, the technique is likely to have detected any archaeological features, if present.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 The survey at Horebeech Lane, Horam has not revealed any anomalies of definite archaeological origin. A series of land drains and two underground services have been mapped, along with linear anomalies of uncertain origin. An area of made ground is visible in the north-west, with several other areas of magnetic disturbance across the site.

7 REFERENCES

BGS 2018 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer [Accessed 16/10/2018] *website*: (http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion1=1#maps)

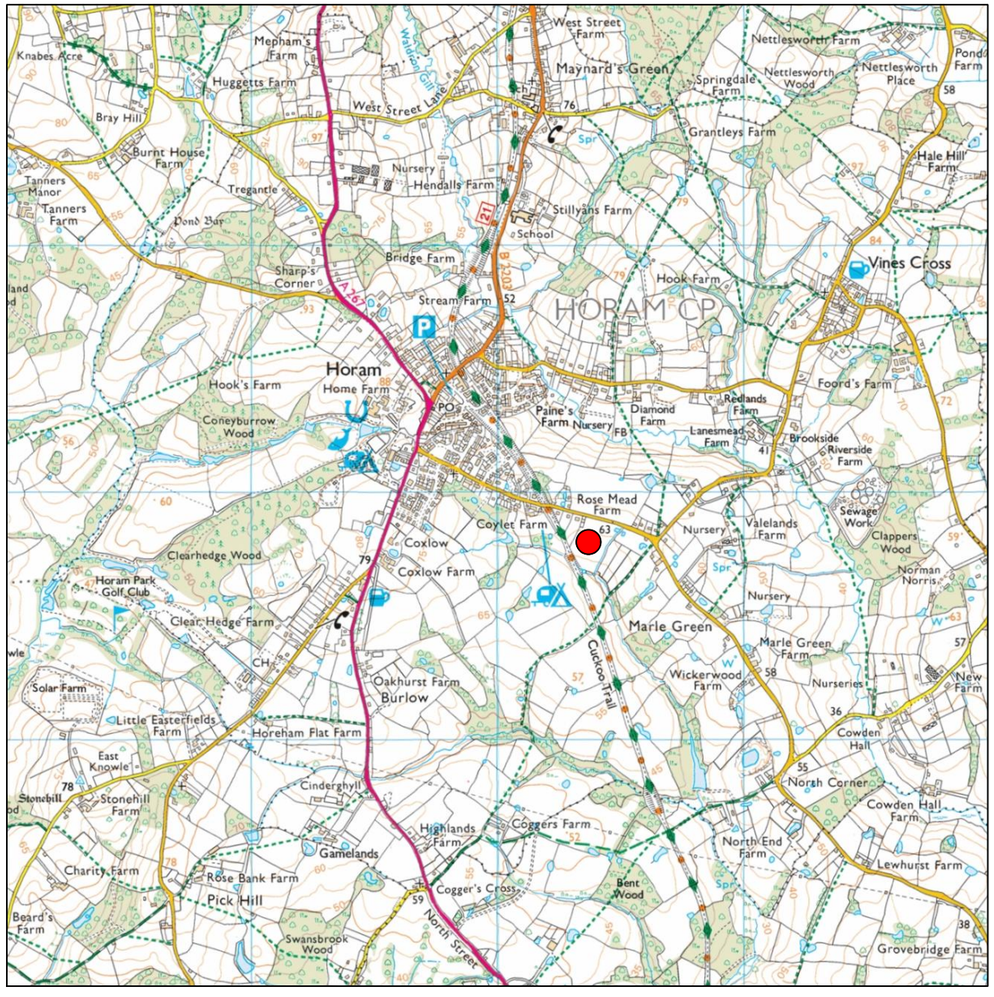
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N

Site Location

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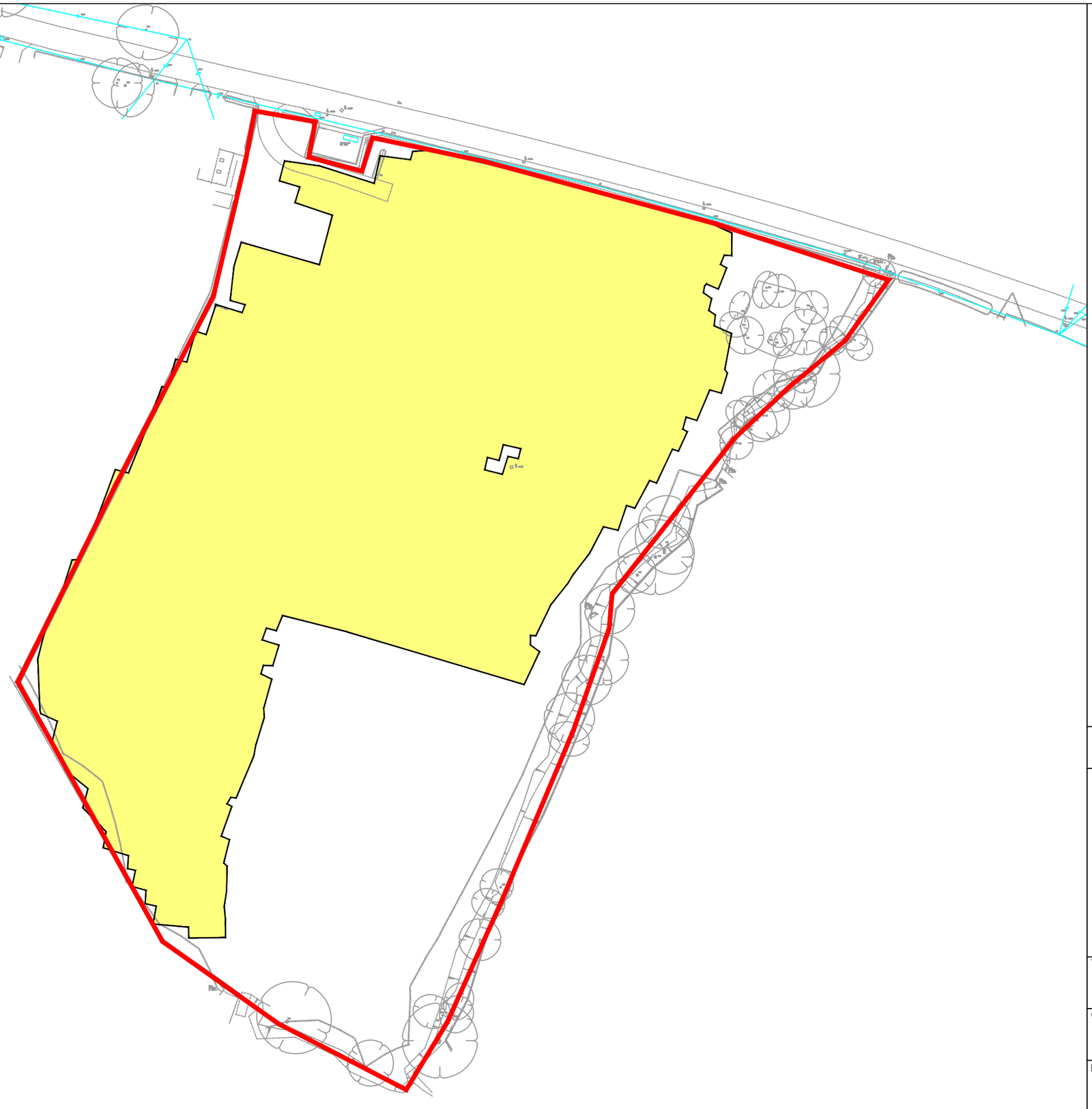
Title:
Site Location Diagram

Client:
Archaeology Collective

Project:
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Scale:
0 metres 1000
1:25000 @ A3

Fig No:
01



N

Survey Area

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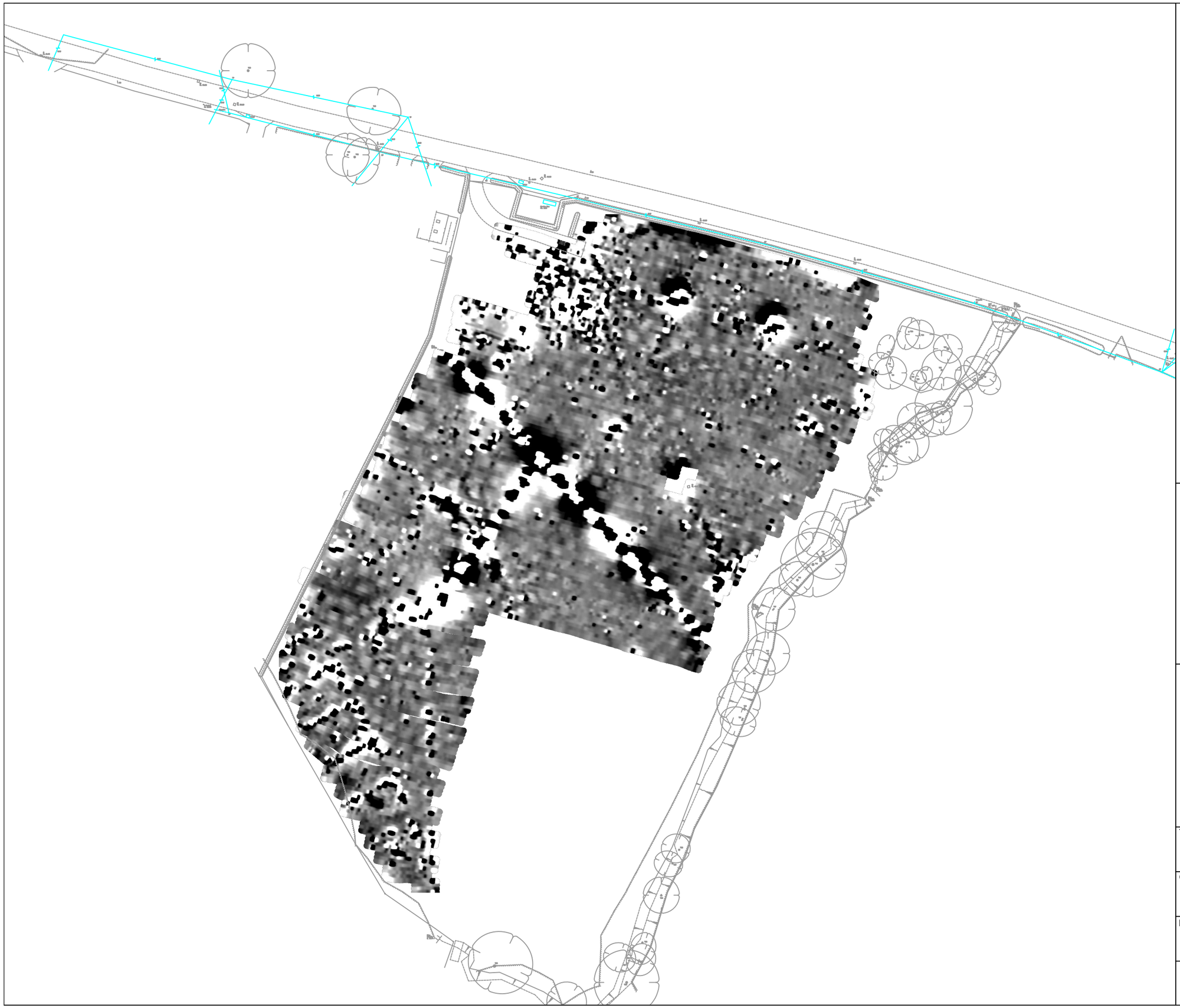
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Location of Survey Area

Client:
Archaeology Collective

Project:
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Scale:
0 metres 50
1:1000 @ A3

Fig No:
02



N

+2nT

-2nT

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Title:

Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plot

Client:

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Project:

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Scale:

0 metres 50

1:1000 @ A3

Fig No:

03



N

KEY

	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend)
	Land drain
	Magnetic disturbance - made ground
	Service
	Ferrous

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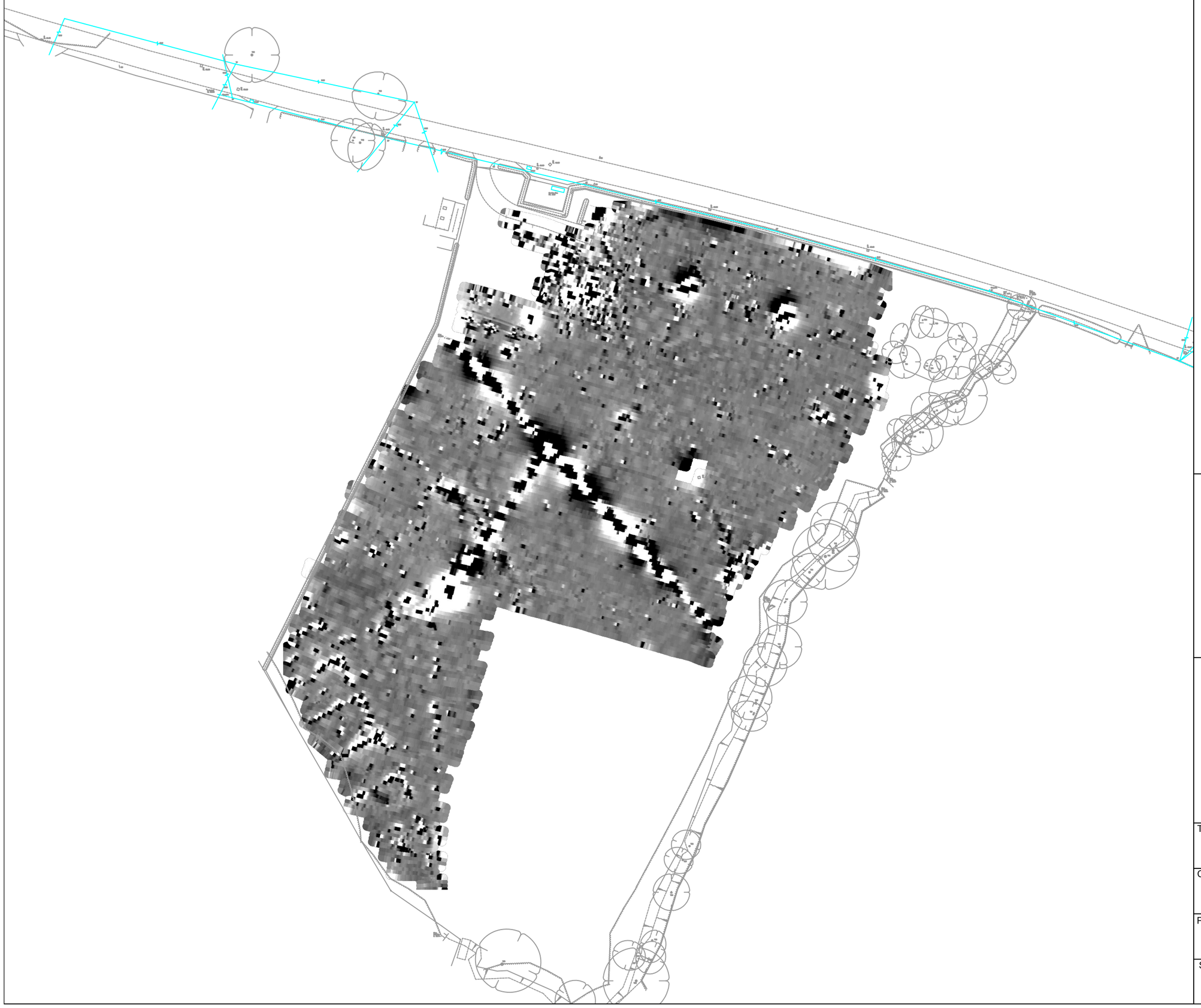
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Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation

Client:
Archaeology Collective

Project:
13748 - Southside, Horebeech Lane, Horam, East Sussex

Scale:
0 metres 50
1:1000 @ A3

Fig No:
04



N

+5nT

-5nT

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GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING

Title:

Minimally Processed Data - Greyscale Plot

Client:

Archaeology Collective

Project:

13748 - Southside, Horebeech Lane, Horam, East Sussex

Scale:

0 metres 50

1:1000 @ A3

Fig No:

05

Appendix A - Technical Information: Magnetometer Survey Method

Grid Positioning
For hand held gradiometers the location of the survey grids has been plotted together with the referencing information. Grids were set out using a Trimble R8 Real Time Kinematic (RTK) VRS Now GNSS GPS system.

Every point that is recorded using the cart system is referenced using a Trimble R* RTK GNSS system. An RTK GPS (Real-time Kinematic Global Positioning System) can locate a point on the ground to a far greater accuracy than a standard GPS unit. A standard GPS suffers from errors created by satellite orbit errors, clock errors and atmospheric interference, resulting in an accuracy of 5m-10m. An RTK system uses a single base station receiver and a number of mobile units. The base station re-broadcasts the phase of the carrier it measured, and the mobile units compare their own phase measurements with those they received from the base station. This results in an accuracy of around 0.01m.

Technique	Instrument	Traverse Interval	Sample Interval
Magnetometer	Bartington Cart	1.0m	0.125m

Instrumentation: Bartington Cart
Bartington instruments operate in a gradiometer configuration which comprises fluxgate sensors mounted vertically, set 0.5m apart. The fluxgate gradiometer suppresses any diurnal or regional effects. The instruments are carried, or cart mounted, with the bottom sensor approximately 0.1-0.3m from the ground surface. At each survey station, the difference in the magnetic field between the two fluxgates is measured in nanoTesla (nT). The sensitivity of the instrument can be adjusted; for most archaeological surveys the most sensitive range (0.1nT) is used. Generally, features up to 1m deep may be detected by this method, though strongly magnetic objects may be visible at greater depths. The Bartington Cart can collect four lines of data per traverse with gradiometer units mounted laterally with a separation of 0.5m. The readings are logged consecutively into the data logger which in turn is daily down-loaded into a portable computer whilst on site. At the end of each site survey, data is transferred to the office for processing and presentation.

The Bartington magnetometer cart system collects data at 10Hz which approximates 0.125m.

The readings are logged consecutively into the data logger which in turn is daily down- loaded into a portable computer whilst on site. At the end of each site survey, data is transferred to the office for processing and presentation.

Data Processing

Zero Mean Traverse	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero. The operation removes striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set.
Step Correction (De-stagger)	When gradiometer data are collected in 'zig-zag' fashion, stepping errors can sometimes arise. These occur because of a slight difference in the speed of walking on the forward and reverse traverses. The result is a staggered effect in the data, which is particularly noticeable on linear anomalies. This process corrects these errors.

Display

Greyscale/ Colourscale Plot	This format divides a given range of readings into a set number of classes. Each class is represented by a specific shade of grey, the intensity increasing with value. All values above the given range are allocated the same shade (maximum intensity); similarly, all values below the given range are represented by the minimum intensity shade. Similar plots can be produced in colour, either using a wide range of colours or by selecting two or three colours to represent positive and negative values. The assigned range (plotting levels) can be adjusted to emphasise different anomalies in the data-set.

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Interpretation Categories

In certain circumstances (usually when there is corroborative evidence from desk-based or excavation data) very specific interpretations can be assigned to magnetic anomalies (for example, *Roman Road, Wall,* etc.) and where appropriate, such interpretations will be applied. The list below outlines the generic categories commonly used in the interpretation of the results.

Archaeology / Probable Archaeology	This term is used when the form, nature and pattern of the responses are clearly or very probably archaeological and /or if corroborative evidence is available. These anomalies, whilst considered anthropogenic, could be of any age.
Possible Archaeology	These anomalies exhibit either weak signal strength and / or poor definition, or form incomplete archaeological patterns, thereby reducing the level of confidence in the interpretation. Although the archaeological interpretation is favoured, they may be the result of variable soil depth, plough damage or even aliasing as a result of data collection orientation.
Industrial / Burnt-Fired	Strong magnetic anomalies that, due to their shape and form or the context in which they are found, suggest the presence of kilns, ovens, corn dryers, metal-working areas or hearths. It should be noted that in many instances modern ferrous material can produce similar magnetic anomalies.
Former Field Boundary (probable & possible)	Anomalies that correspond to former boundaries indicated on historic mapping, or which are clearly a continuation of existing land divisions. Possible denotes less confidence where the anomaly may not be shown on historic mapping but nevertheless the anomaly displays all the characteristics of a field boundary.
Ridge & Furrow	Parallel linear anomalies whose broad spacing suggests ridge and furrow cultivation. In some cases, the response may be the result of more recent agricultural activity.
Agriculture (ploughing)	Parallel linear anomalies or trends with a narrower spacing, sometimes aligned with existing boundaries, indicating more recent cultivation regimes.
Land Drain	Weakly magnetic linear anomalies, quite often appearing in series forming parallel and herringbone patterns. Smaller drains may lead and empty into larger diameter pipes, which in turn usually lead to local streams and ponds. These are indicative of clay fired land drains.
Natural	These responses form clear patterns in geographical zones where natural variations are known to produce significant magnetic distortions.
Magnetic Disturbance	Broad zones of strong dipolar anomalies, commonly found in places where modern ferrous or fired materials (e.g. brick rubble) are present. They are presumed to be modern.
Service	Magnetically strong anomalies, usually forming linear features are indicative of ferrous pipes/cables. Sometimes other materials (e.g. pvc) or the fill of the trench can cause weaker magnetic responses which can be identified from their uniform linearity.
Ferrous	This type of response is associated with ferrous material and may result from small items in the topsoil, larger buried objects such as pipes, or above ground features such as fence lines or pylons. Ferrous responses are usually regarded as modern. Individual burnt stones, fired bricks or igneous rocks can produce responses similar to ferrous material.
Uncertain Origin	Anomalies which stand out from the background magnetic variation, yet whose form and lack of patterning gives little clue as to their origin. Often the characteristics and distribution of the responses straddle the categories of *Possible Archaeology* / *Natural* or (in the case of linear responses) *Possible Archaeology* / *Agriculture*; occasionally they are simply of an unusual form.

Where appropriate some anomalies will be further classified according to their form (positive or negative) and relative strength and coherence (trend: weak and poorly defined).

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Appendix B - Technical Information: Magnetic Theory

Detailed magnetic survey can be used to effectively define areas of past human activity by mapping spatial variation and contrast in the magnetic properties of soil, subsoil and bedrock. Although the changes in the magnetic field resulting from differing features in the soil are usually weak, changes as small as 0.1 nanoTeslas (nT) in an overall field strength of 48,000 (nT), can be accurately detected.

Weakly magnetic iron minerals are always present within the soil and areas of enhancement relate to increases in *magnetic susceptibility* and permanently magnetised *thermoremanent* material.

Magnetic susceptibility relates to the induced magnetism of a material when in the presence of a magnetic field. This magnetism can be considered as effectively permanent as it exists within the Earth's magnetic field. Magnetic susceptibility can become enhanced due to burning and complex biological or fermentation processes.

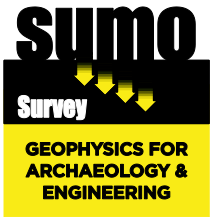
Thermoremanence is a permanent magnetism acquired by iron minerals that, after heating to a specific temperature known as the Curie Point, are effectively demagnetised followed by re-magnetisation by the Earth's magnetic field on cooling. Thermoremanent archaeological features can include hearths and kilns; material such as brick and tile may be magnetised through the same process.

Silting and deliberate infilling of ditches and pits with magnetically enhanced soil creates a relative contrast against the much lower levels of magnetism within the subsoil into which the feature is cut. Systematic mapping of magnetic anomalies will produce linear and discrete areas of enhancement allowing assessment and characterisation of subsurface features. Material such as subsoil and non-magnetic bedrock used to create former earthworks and walls may be mapped as areas of lower enhancement compared to surrounding soils.

Magnetic survey is carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer which is a passive instrument consisting of two sensors mounted vertically 1m apart. The instrument is carried about 30cm above the ground surface and the top sensor measures the Earth's magnetic field whilst the lower sensor measures the same field but is also more affected by any localised buried feature. The difference between the two sensors will relate to the strength of a magnetic field created by this feature, if no field is present the difference will be close to zero as the magnetic field measured by both sensors will be the same.

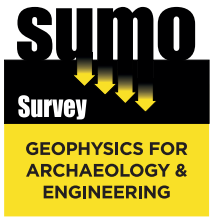
Factors affecting the magnetic survey may include soil type, local geology, previous human activity and disturbance from modern services.

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