



Thurrock Flexible Generation Plant

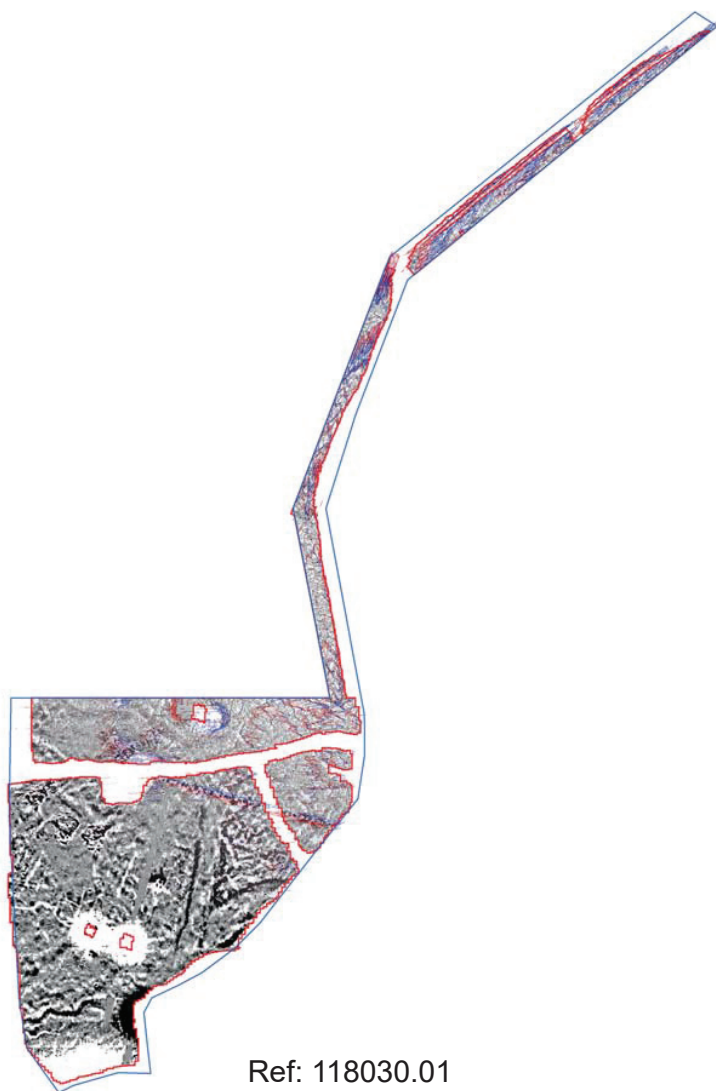
**Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Appendix 7.2: Geo-Physical Survey Report**

Date: September 2018



Land adjacent to Tilbury Substation Tilbury, Essex

Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report



Ref: 118030.01
September 2017

wessexarchaeology



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Summary

A detailed gradiometer survey was conducted over land adjacent to Tilbury Substation, Tilbury, Essex (centred on NGR 566194 176616). The project was commissioned by Statera Energy Ltd. with the aim of establishing the presence, or otherwise, and nature of detectable archaeological features in support of a planning application for the development of the site as an extension of the power station infrastructure to the south.

The Site comprises arable fields located to the east of Tilbury with a designated survey area covering approximately 17.3 ha. The geophysical survey was undertaken between 21st August 2017 and 25th August 2017. The detailed gradiometer survey has demonstrated the presence of several strong rectilinear anomalies that could be archaeological in origin.

The anomalies identified as being of probable archaeological interest are linear and rectilinear in plan. These anomalies are interpreted tentatively as possible archaeology as due to the high prevalence of geological responses across the survey area, and it is not clear whether the anomalies themselves are geological in origin.

Additionally, this archaeological investigation has detected several modern services traversing the Site along with several areas of increased magnetic response and possible evidence of irrigation or drainage.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Statera Energy for commissioning the geophysical survey. The assistance of Kirsty Cassie is gratefully acknowledged in this regard.



Land adjacent to Tilbury Substation, Tilbury, Essex

Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Statera Energy to carry out a geophysical survey at land north of Tilbury Substation, Tilbury, Essex (hereafter “the Site”, centred on NGR 566194 176616) (**Figure 1**). The survey forms part of an ongoing programme of archaeological investigation being undertaken in support of a planning application for the development of the Site as an extension of the power station infrastructure to the south.

1.2 Scope of document

1.2.1 This report presents a brief description of the methodology, followed by the detailed survey results and the archaeological interpretation of the geophysical data.

1.3 The Site

1.3.1 The Site is located immediately north of Tilbury Substation and 2.15 km east of Tilbury in Essex (**Figure 1**).

1.3.2 The survey comprises a larger southern area of approximately 14 ha currently utilised for pasture and arable cultivation, and a linear northern area of approximately 3 ha across arable fields and along the edge of an access track. The Site is bounded by Tilbury Substation to the south, and arable land to the east, west and north. The railway between Tilbury and Linford forms the northwestern boundary to the site.

1.3.3 The Site is relatively flat, lying at approximately 1m OD across the survey area.

1.3.4 Several overhead cables traverse across and around the periphery of the Site. Two parallel sets cross the centre of survey area, and a third set traverses the south-eastern corner. The northern, linear portion of the survey area may be impacted by the continuation of the overhead cables to the south. Three pylons relating to the overhead cables are present on Site within the survey area, and several others around the periphery.

1.3.5 The solid bedrock geology comprises Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formations. These are overlain by superficial deposits of alluvium (BGS online).

1.3.6 The soils underlying the Site are likely to consist of peelo-alluvial gley soils of the 813f (Wallasea 1) association (SSEW 1983). Soils derived from such geological parent material have been shown to produce magnetic contrasts acceptable for the detection of archaeological remains through magnetometer survey.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A summary of the archaeological and historical background follows to outline the baseline for the survival of buried archaeological remains within the vicinity of the Site, using information available from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE). The following is a background summarising the findings.



2.2 Summary of the known archaeological resource

2.2.1 Within the Site, there are two historical assets noted within the EHER. The site itself is historically recorded as within the West Tilbury Marshes and the southern portion referred to as Walton Common.

2.2.2 There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas, Historic Battlefields, or Listed Buildings identified within the Site.

2.2.3 A Neolithic arrowhead (Monument Number 413484) was retrieved in 1973, a Roman lamp was uncovered in Thurrock in 1910 (Monument Number 413495), and a Roman burial was uncovered in West Tilbury with associated finds (Monument Number 413490).

2.2.4 Tilbury Fort is situated approximately 1.4km to the south-west of southern boundary of the survey area. While this is outside the wider study area of the historic and archaeological background, the Fort has been in use as a naval defensive structure since the 16th Century and much later in the 20th Century as an anti-aircraft placement during WWII. This may be relevant when considering the recorded data concerning anti-glider ditches noted within the survey area.

2.2.5 The Site appears to have been predominantly occupied by arable farm and marsh land during the post-medieval period, and later in the mid-20th Century by anti-invasion structures. The archaeological potential for this period is considered moderate to high.

2.2.6 A large proportion of the wider area is covered by an area of known anti-glider ditches noted to be to the south-east of Bowater's Farm and north-east of Tilbury Power Station, forming part a network of aerial defence during WWII (MEX39674). Immediately north of the southern portion of the Site, a linear series of oyster beds is noted on historic aerial photographs from 1953 and 1955 (MEX39665).

2.2.7 Previous archaeological works undertaken in the wider study area include an archaeological watching brief by Oxford Archaeology (2006) that uncovered post-medieval remains of a farm building known to have occupied the site, comprising a wall and a fence. Further works were undertaken in Stanford Le Hope that uncovered no archaeological features or deposits.

2.2.8 No further evidence of any prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon or medieval activity is recorded within the Site, although the absence of recorded evidence is likely to reflect the limited number of archaeological investigations undertaken in the vicinity.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The geophysical survey was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology's in-house geophysics team between 21st August and 25th August 2017. Field conditions at the time of the survey were good throughout the period of fieldwork. An overall coverage of 14.2 ha was achieved, with any reduction the result of overgrown hedgerows bisecting the site along with other obstructions, which at the time of the survey included several pylons, pieces of farm machinery and the access track.

3.2 Aims and objectives

3.2.1 The aims of the survey comprise the following:

- to conduct a detailed survey covering as much of the specified area as possible, allowing for artificial obstructions;



- to clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site; and
- to determine the general nature of the remains present.

3.3 Fieldwork methodology

3.3.1 Individual survey grid nodes were established at 30m x 30m intervals using a Leica Viva RTK GNSS instrument, which is precise to approximately 0.02 m and therefore exceeds Historic England recommendations (2008).

3.3.2 The detailed gradiometer survey was conducted using a Bartington Grad601-2 fluxgate gradiometer instrument, which has a vertical separation of 1m between the fluxgate sensors and 1m horizontal separation between sensor housings. Data were collected at 0.25m intervals along transects spaced 1m apart with an effective sensitivity of 0.03nT, in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Historic England 2008). Data were collected in the zigzag method.

3.4 Data processing

3.4.1 Data from the survey were subject to minimal correction processes. These comprise a Zero Median Traverse function (± 5 nT thresholds) to correct for any variation between the two Bartington sensors used, and a de-step function to account for variations in traverse position due to varying ground cover and topography. These two steps were applied throughout the survey area, with no further interpolation applied.

3.4.2 Further details of the geophysical and survey equipment, methods and processing are described in **Appendix 1**.

4 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The detailed gradiometer survey has identified magnetic anomalies across the Site, along with weaker anomalies of likely geological origin and a large amount of high magnitude, ferrous anomalies. Results are presented as a series of greyscale plots, XY plots and archaeological interpretations at a scale of 1:2,000 (**Figures 2, 3, 5 and 6**). The data are displayed at -2 nT (white) to +3 nT (black) for the greyscale image and ± 25 nT at 25nT per cm for the XY trace plots.

4.1.2 The interpretation of the datasets highlights the presence of potential archaeological anomalies, ferrous/burnt, or fired objects, and magnetic trends (**Figures 4 and 7**). Full definitions of the interpretation terms used in this report are provided in **Appendix 2**.

4.1.3 Numerous ferrous anomalies are visible throughout the dataset. These are presumed to be modern in provenance and are not referred to, unless considered relevant to the archaeological interpretation.

4.1.4 It should be noted that small, weakly magnetised features may produce responses that are below the detection threshold of magnetometers. It may therefore be the case that more archaeological features may be present than have been identified through this survey.

4.1.5 Gradiometer survey may not detect all services present on Site. This report and accompanying illustrations should not be used as the sole source for service locations and appropriate equipment (e.g. CAT and Genny) should be used to confirm the location of buried services before any trenches are opened on Site.



4.2 Gradiometer survey results and interpretation

4.2.1 The geophysical survey has identified several features that are tentatively considered to be anthropogenic in origin and therefore, an interpretation of possible archaeology has been ascribed. These are predominantly located in the southern portion of the site, and comprise linear, curvilinear and rectilinear anomalies. Further anomalies likely to be geological or modern in origin have also been identified and interpreted as such in associated figures.

4.2.2 Towards the south-easternmost portion of the survey area (**Figure 7**), two parallel, moderate/high magnitude linear anomalies **4000** and **4001** have been identified aligned roughly north to south approximately 25m apart. **4000** is a more complete linear response, measuring approximately 180m long by 4.5m wide. **4001** is more fragmented and unclear against a much more variable magnetic background, measuring approximately 160m long by 5m wide. In addition, curvilinear anomaly **4002** can be seen branching to the north-east and curving round to the east from the approximate middle of **4001**. This anomaly is of a similar magnitude (+2 to +8 nT) and size to **4000** and **4001**. These anomalies have been interpreted as possibly archaeological in origin as due to their increased magnitude and alignment; they could be indicative of ditch-like features cut into the natural geology. It is considered possible that these anomalies may relate to WWII anti-glider ditches, although this interpretation is made less confident due to the strong magnetic background.

4.2.3 Several smaller and more discrete linear anomalies surround the anomalies at **4000**, **4001** and **4002**, appearing to intersect or form right angles with the parallel anomalies and therefore also tentatively considered to be archaeological in origin, as they may form part of the same network of ditch-like features, perhaps relating to anti-glider ditches.

4.2.4 Across the western portion of the southern area, several further linear and rectilinear anomalies **4003** to **4007** have been identified, with several smaller, discrete linear anomalies present. The responses are generally negative, measuring approximately 3m to 5m wide and of varying length. Their notable negative response against the background magnetic response and their form in plan suggest that these anomalies may be archaeological in origin. Their form and collinearity are consistent with enclosures or a network of ditches, perhaps relating to anti-invasion defences.

4.2.5 Towards the north-western extent of the southern area, several areas of increased magnetic response are noted (**4008**, **4009** and **4010**). Within these regions, several linear and rectilinear anomalies have been identified. The interpretation of these anomalies is uncertain, as it is not clear whether these responses are the result of modern dumps of debris or arise from more formalised features. The change in magnetic texture and apparent rectilinear form in plan suggest that they may be archaeological in origin, and it is possible that they relate to WWII emplacements.

4.2.6 Immediately north of the anomalies at **4008** – **4010**, a single linear anomaly on a north-west to south-east alignment has been identified (**4011**). This anomaly is typical of a ditch, with a weak positive response measuring approximately 35m long by approximately 2.5m wide against a locally low magnetic background. The anomaly is positioned to the north of an area of increased magnetic response and it may form part of a rectilinear feature with the anomalies at **4009**.

4.2.7 Several roughly linear anomalies **4012** can be seen near the southwesternmost extent of the survey area. These anomalies lie on a similar E-W alignment as the linear anomalies at **4004** and to the immediate west of **4009**. Due to their form and magnitude, the anomalies are considered to be of possible archaeological interest, perhaps also relating to the anti-glider ditches in the area. However, these anomalies are also consistent with infilled water management ditches of unknown date, as they appear to all connect with a water course to the west of the survey area.



- 4.2.8 Several linear and rectilinear anomalies have been identified in the northern portion of the larger southern area. **4013** is a negative linear anomaly of possible archaeological interest, although its location at the corner of the survey makes interpretation less definitive. Similarly, rectilinear anomaly **4014** is fragmented and lies at the edge of the survey area.
- 4.2.9 Several areas of increased magnetic response can be seen within the linear portion of the survey area (**Figure 4**), some of which are substantially stronger than others. Due to a lack of wider context and no clear form or consistency throughout the anomalies, they are interpreted as likely to be geological in origin and possibly relating to infilled former watercourses. Sinuous anomaly **4015** may be a canalised watercourse, although it is difficult to present a more definitive interpretation given the limited width of the survey area.
- 4.2.10 Several high magnitude, linear anomalies have been identified. Primarily, these are in the southern portion and the very north of the Site at **4016**, **4017**, and **4018** (**Figure 4**). The anomalies are typical of modern services, such as pipes. Similar responses **4019**, **4020** and **4021** can be seen across the northern portion of the larger area (**Figure 7**).
- 4.2.11 Several large high magnitude responses have been identified across the southern portion of the survey area. Several of these **4022**, **4023** and **4024** are associated with the pylons present in the field. Several linear bands of magnetic disturbance can be seen across the survey area, such as at **4025**, **4026**, **4027** and **4028**, due to interference from overhead cables. Anomalies at **4029** and **4030** along the southern boundary of the survey relate to the Tilbury Substation infrastructure immediately adjacent to the field boundary.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 The detailed gradiometer survey has been successful in detecting a small number of anomalies perhaps more likely to be of archaeological interest, which are largely confined to the southern part of the survey area. These anomalies are linear, rectilinear and curvilinear in form, and could be indicative of anti-glider ditches as well as associated infrastructure dating from WWII.
- 5.1.2 Many anomalies have been identified as being of possible archaeological interest due to their form in plan, although the limited evidence from archaeological investigations and finds in the surrounding area makes their interpretation less conclusive; many of the responses could conceivably be of either natural or anthropogenic origins. Any future intrusive investigation, such as archaeological trial trenches, would provide direct information on the archaeological nature, or otherwise, of these anomalies and a dynamic review of the geophysical interpretation during this phase of investigation may provide a greater understanding of the surrounding anomalies of uncertain provenance.



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Cartographic and documentary sources

Ordnance Survey 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales. Sheet 6, Soils of South East England*. Southampton.

Online resources

British Geological Survey *Geology of Britain Viewer* (accessed September 2017) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Old Maps (accessed September 2017) <https://www.old-maps.co.uk>



APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Survey Equipment and Data Processing

Survey methods and equipment

The magnetic data for this project was acquired using a Bartington 601-2 dual magnetic gradiometer system. This instrument has two sensor assemblies fixed horizontally 1m apart allowing two traverses to be recorded simultaneously. Each sensor contains two fluxgate magnetometers arranged vertically with a 1m separation, and measures the difference between the vertical components of the total magnetic field within each sensor array. This arrangement of magnetometers suppresses any diurnal or low frequency effects.

The gradiometers have an effective resolution of 0.03nT over a ± 100 nT range, and measurements from each sensor are logged at intervals of 0.25m. All of the data are stored on an integrated data logger for subsequent post-processing and analysis.

Wessex Archaeology undertakes two types of magnetic surveys: scanning and detail. Both types depend upon the establishment of an accurate 20m or 30m site grid, which is achieved using a Leica Viva RTK GNSS instrument and then extended using tapes. The Leica Viva system receives corrections from a network of reference stations operated by the Ordnance Survey and Leica Geosystems, allowing positions to be determined with a precision of 0.02m in real-time and therefore exceed the level of accuracy recommended by Historic England (English Heritage 2008) for geophysical surveys.

Scanning surveys consist of recording data at 0.25m intervals along transects spaced 10m apart, acquiring a minimum of 80 data points per transect. Due to the relatively coarse transect interval, scanning surveys should only be expected to detect extended regions of archaeological anomalies, when there is a greater likelihood of distinguishing such responses from the background magnetic field.

The detailed surveys consist of 20m x 20m or 30m x 30m grids, and data are collected at 0.25m intervals along traverses spaced 1m apart. These strategies give 1600 or 3600 measurements per 20m or 30m grid respectively, and are the recommended methodologies for archaeological surveys of this type (English Heritage 2008).

Data may be collected with a higher sample density where complex archaeological anomalies are encountered, to aid the detection and characterisation of small and ephemeral features. Data may be collected at up to 0.125m intervals along traverses spaced up to 0.25m apart, resulting in a maximum of 28800 readings per 30m grid, exceeding that recommended by Historic England (English Heritage 2008) for characterisation surveys.

Post-processing

The magnetic data collected during the detail survey are downloaded from the Bartington system for processing and analysis using both commercial and in-house software. This software allows for both the data and the images to be processed in order to enhance the results for analysis; however, it should be noted that minimal data processing is conducted so as not to distort the anomalies.

As the scanning data are not as closely distributed as with detailed survey, they are georeferenced using the GPS information and interpolated to highlight similar anomalies in adjacent transects. Directional trends may be removed before interpolation to produce more easily understood images.



Typical data and image processing steps may include:

- Destripe – Applying a zero mean traverse in order to remove differences caused by directional effects inherent in the magnetometer;
- Destagger – Shifting each traverse longitudinally by a number of readings. This corrects for operator errors and is used to enhance linear features;
- Despike – Filtering isolated data points that exceed the mean by a specified amount to reduce the appearance of dominant anomalous readings (generally only used for earth resistance data)

Typical displays of the data used during processing and analysis:

- XY Plot – Presents the data as a trace or graph line for each traverse. Each traverse is displaced down the image to produce a stacked profile effect. This type of image is useful as it shows the full range of individual anomalies.
- Greyscale – Presents the data in plan using a greyscale to indicate the relative strength of the signal at each measurement point. These plots can be produced in colour to highlight certain features but generally greyscale plots are used during analysis of the data.



Appendix 2: Geophysical Interpretation

The interpretation methodology used by Wessex Archaeology separates the anomalies into four main categories: archaeological, modern, agricultural, and uncertain origin/geological.

The archaeological category is used for features when the form, nature and pattern of the anomaly are indicative of archaeological material. Further sources of information such as aerial photographs may also have been incorporated in providing the final interpretation. This category is further sub-divided into three groups, implying a decreasing level of confidence:

- Archaeology – used when there is a clear geophysical response and anthropogenic pattern.
- Possible archaeology – used for features which give a response but which form no discernible pattern or trend.

The modern category is used for anomalies that are presumed to be relatively modern in date:

- Ferrous – used for responses caused by ferrous material. These anomalies are likely to be of modern origin.
- Modern service – used for responses considered relating to cables and pipes; most are composed of ferrous/ceramic material although services made from non-magnetic material can sometimes be observed.

The agricultural category is used for the following:

- Former field boundaries – used for ditch sections that correspond to the position of boundaries marked on earlier mapping.
- Ridge and furrow – used for broad and diffuse linear anomalies that are considered to indicate areas of former ridge and furrow.
- Ploughing – used for well-defined narrow linear responses, usually aligned parallel to existing field boundaries.
- Drainage – used to define the course of ceramic field drains that are visible in the data as a series of repeating bipolar (black and white) responses.

The uncertain origin/geological category is used for features when the form, nature and pattern of the anomaly are not sufficient to warrant a classification as an archaeological feature. This category is further sub-divided into:

- Increased magnetic response – used for areas dominated by indistinct anomalies which may have some archaeological potential.
- Trend – used for low amplitude or indistinct linear anomalies.
- Superficial geology – used for diffuse edged spreads considered to relate to shallow geological deposits. They can be distinguished as areas of positive, negative, or broad bipolar (positive and negative) anomalies.



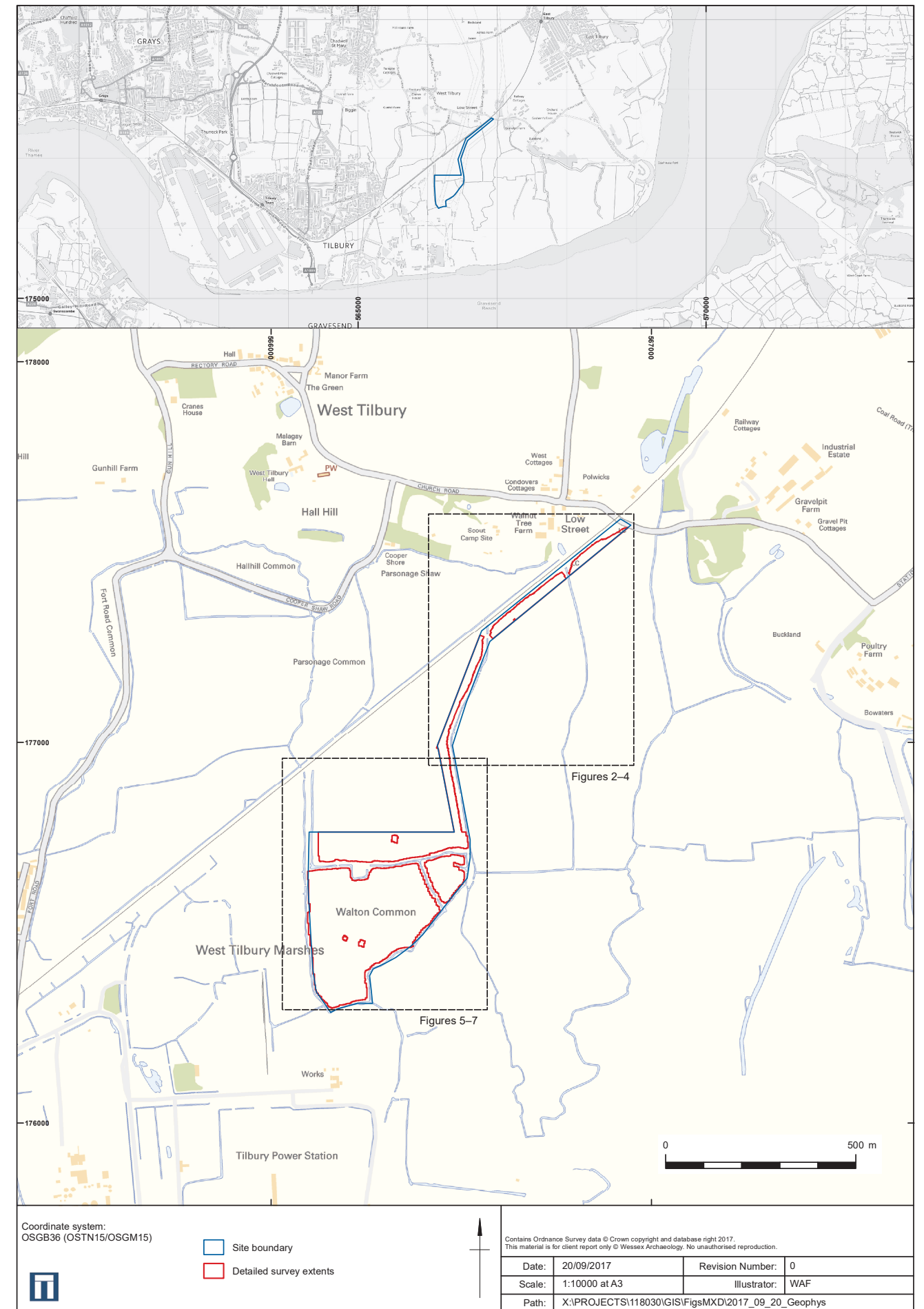
Appendix 3: OASIS form

Project Details:

Project name		Land adjacent to Tilbury Substation, Tilbury, Essex			
Type of project		Detailed gradiometer survey (Field evaluation)			
Project description		<p>A detailed gradiometer survey was conducted over land adjacent to Tilbury Substation, Tilbury, Essex (centred on NGR 566194 176616). The project had the aim of establishing the presence, or otherwise, and nature of detectable archaeological features in support of a planning application for the development of the site as an extension of the power station infrastructure to the south.</p> <p>The Site comprises arable fields covering approximately 17.3 ha located to the east of Tilbury. The geophysical survey was undertaken between 21st August 2017 and 25th August 2017, and has demonstrated the presence of several anomalies of possible archaeological origin.</p> <p>Several linear and rectilinear anomalies have been interpreted tentatively as possible archaeology due to the known presence of WWII anti-invasion defences and other emplacements nearby. Other anomalies are more clearly geological in origin.</p> <p>Several modern services can be seen, along with several areas of increased magnetic response and possible evidence of drainage.</p>			
Project dates		Start: 21-08-2017		End: 25-08-2017	
Previous work		Not Known			
Future work		Not Known			
Project Code:	118030	HER event no.	N/A	OASIS form ID:	wessexar1-296552
		NMR no.	N/A		
		SM no.	N/A		
Planning Application Ref.					
Site Status					
Land use		Pasture/Hay/Silage			
Monument type				Period	
Project Location:					
Site Address	Tilbury Power Station, East Tilbury, Essex			Postcode	RM18 8UJ
County	Essex	District	Tilbury / Thurrock	Parish	Tilbury
Study Area	17.3 ha	Height OD	1 m aOD	NGR	566194 176616
Project Creators:					
Name of Organisation		Wessex Archaeology			
Project brief originator		Statera Energy Ltd.	Project design originator		

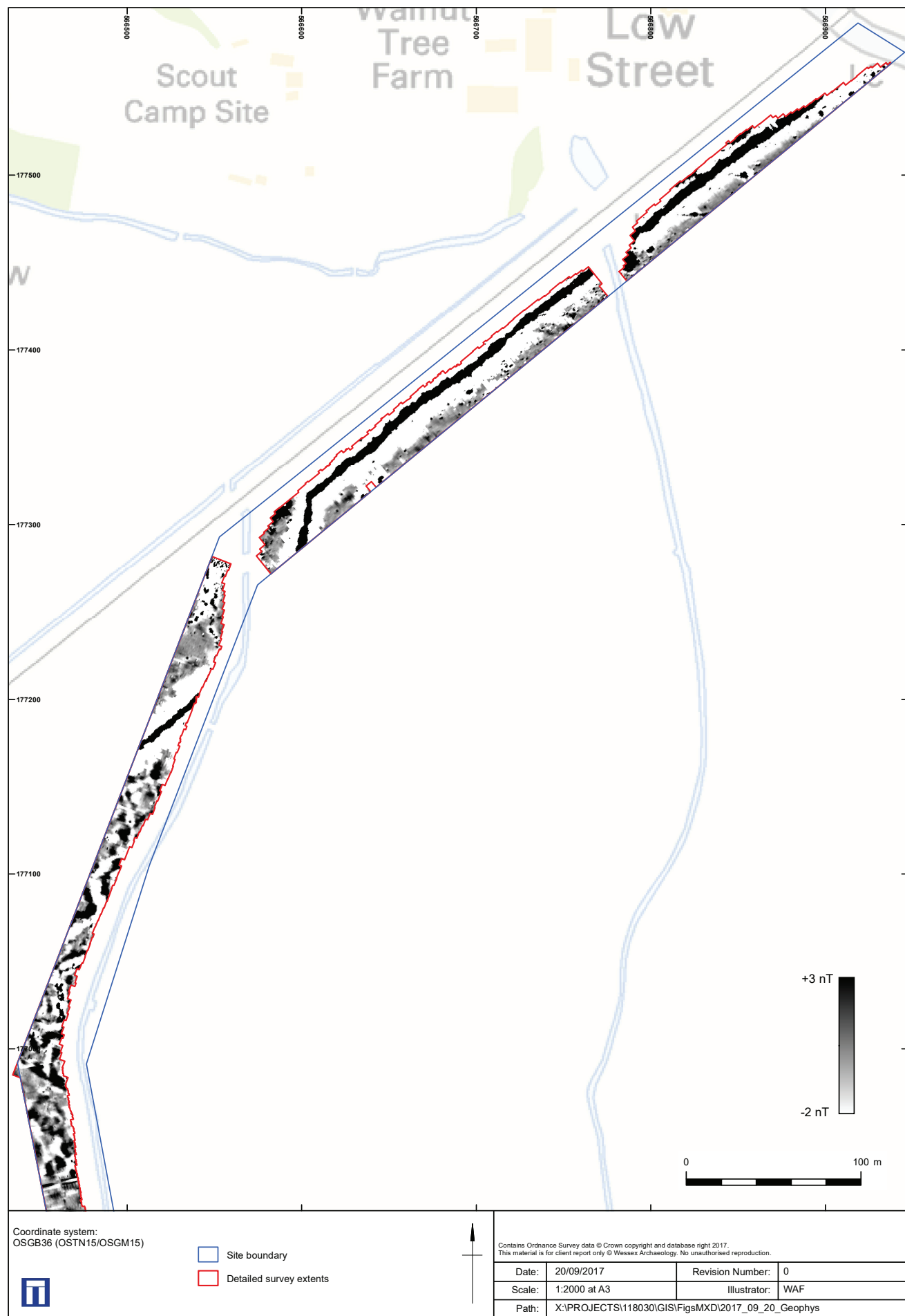


Project Manager	Ben Urmston	Project Supervisor	PV
Sponsor or funding body		Type of Sponsor	
Project Archive and Bibliography:			
Physical archive	N/A	Digital Archive	Geophysics, survey and report
Paper Archive	N/A		
Report title	Land Adjacent to Tilbury Substation, Tilbury, Essex		Date 2017
Author	Wessex Archaeology	Description	Unpublished report
		Report ref.	118030.01



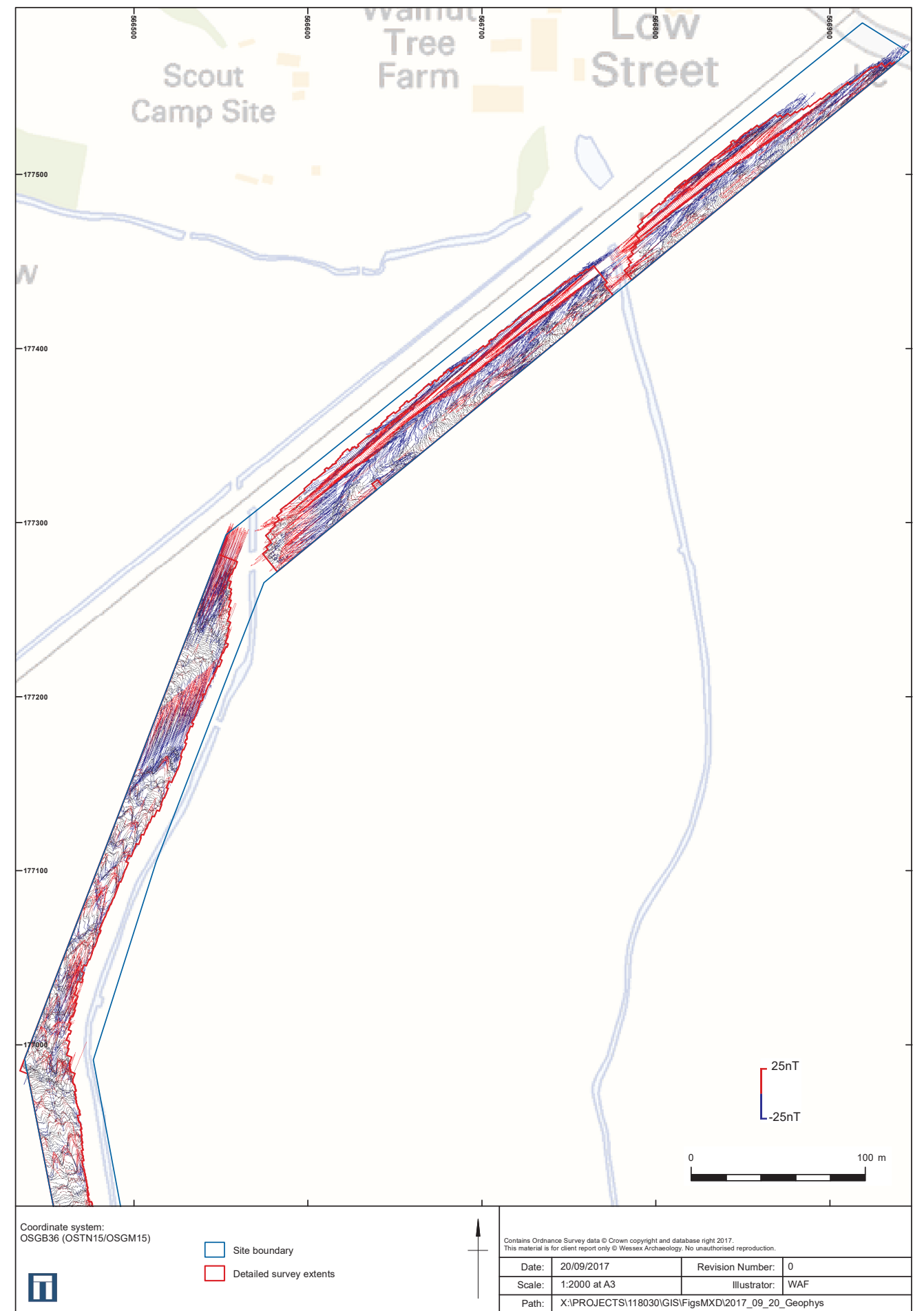
Site location

Figure 1



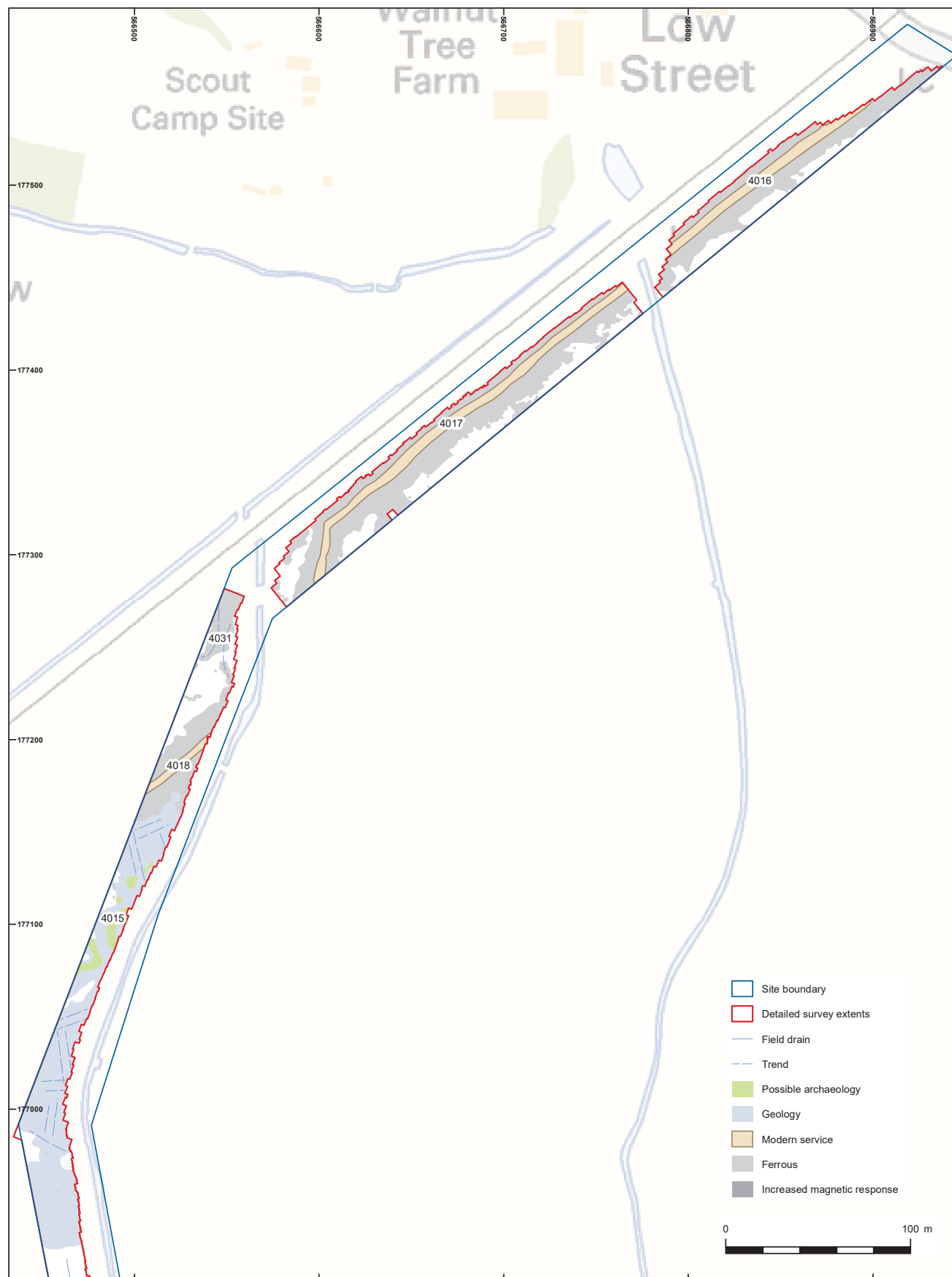
Greyscale plot of north end of site

Figure 2



XY Trace plot of north end of site

Figure 3



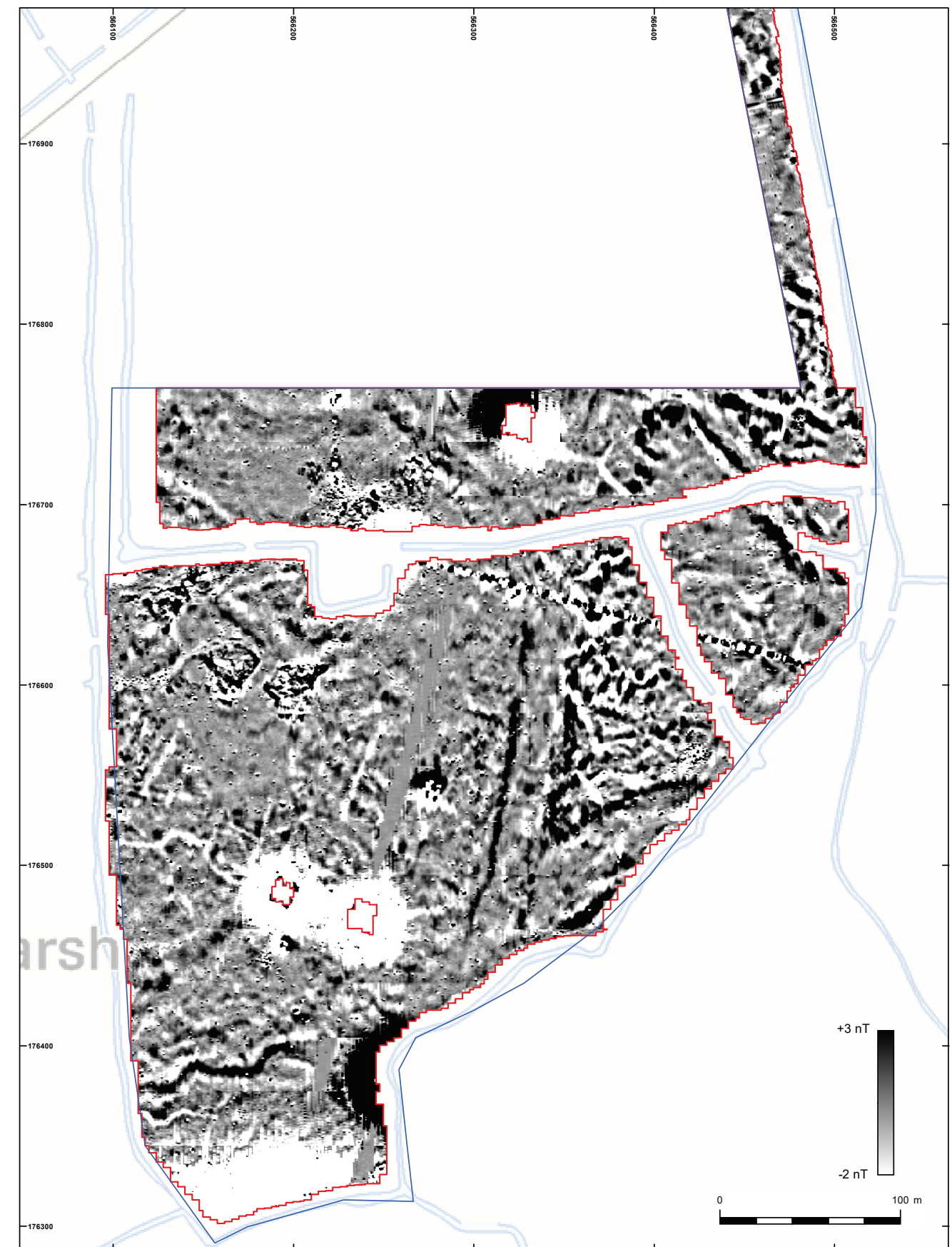
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Archaeological interpretation of north end of site

Figure 4



Coordinate system:
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Greyscale plot of south end of site

Figure 5

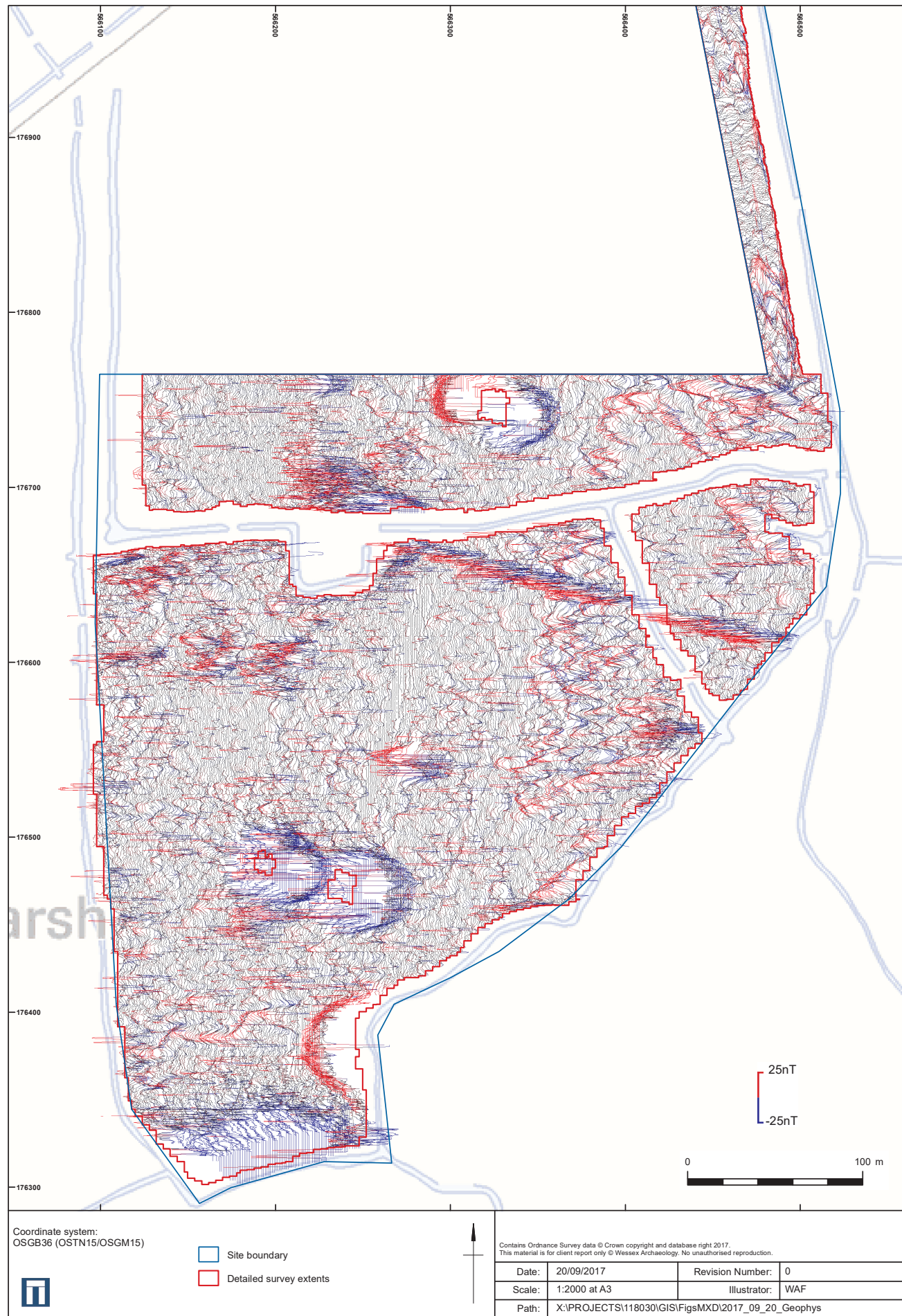


Figure 6

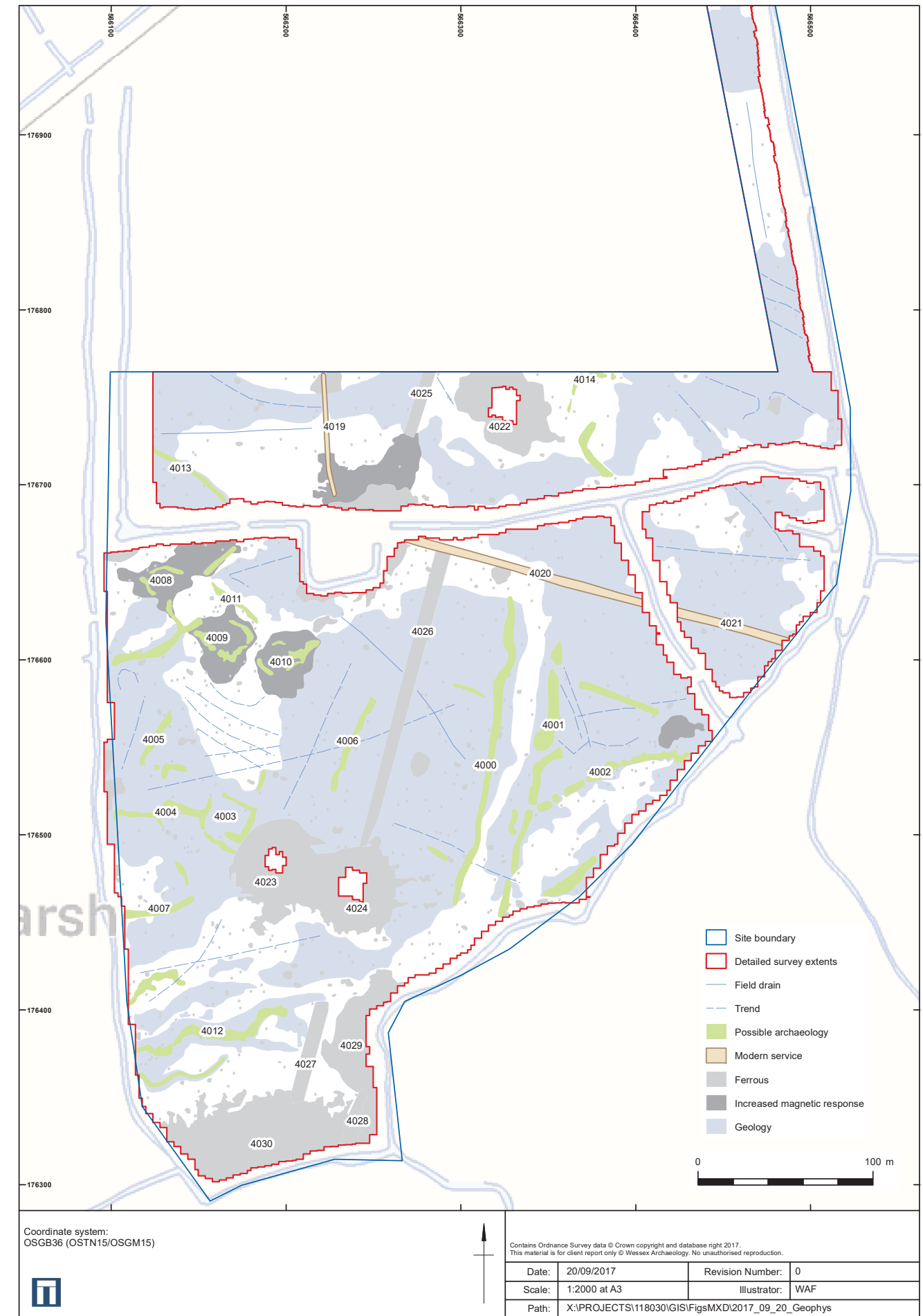


Figure 6



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