

Survey Report SUMO-22669: Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett

Survey dates	2 & 11 June 2025
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3 SURVEY TECHNIQUE

- 3.1 Detailed magnetic survey (magnetometry) was chosen as the most efficient and effective method of locating the type of archaeological anomalies which might be expected at this site. All survey techniques followed the guidance set out by ClfA (2020) and the European Archaeology Council (EAC) (2016).

Bartington Grad 601-2	Traverse Interval 1.0m	Sample Interval 0.25m
Bartington Cart System	Traverse Interval 1.0m	Sample Interval 0.125m

The only processes performed on data are the following unless specifically stated otherwise:

Zero Mean Traverse	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero. The operation removes instrument 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.

4 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 4.1 A magnetometer survey of 5.75 hectares North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett has recorded magnetic responses that have been interpreted as being associated with the scheduled post mill (SM 1018126). Ridge and furrow cultivation has also been marked in the magnetic data. Uncertain anomalies are visible across the survey which are probably due to a combination of natural variations or agricultural processes. Former field boundaries plus relatively modern ploughing / cultivation have also been recorded in the survey. Zones of magnetic disturbance have been caused by spreads of demolition debris from former buildings, and a ferrous anomaly corresponds with the location an infilled pond.

5 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 **SUMO GeoSurveys** was commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **tor&co** on behalf of **Gleeson Land Limited**.

5.2 Site Details

NGR / Postcode	SU 08138 83179 / SN4 8LL
Location	The site is located 7km south-west of Swindon and 5.5km north-east of Lyneham. The site is bounded to the south by Swindon Road (A3102).
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER
OASIS Ref. No.	sumogeop1-533695
SM No:	1018126; MPP29000
Case No:	SL00234838
District	n/a
Parish	Lydiard Tregoze Civil Parish
Topography	Flat
Land Use	Arable
Geology (BGS 2025)	Bedrock: Amphill Clay Formation - Mudstone Kimmeridge Clay Formation – Mudstone Kimmeridge Clay Formation - Limestone Superficial: None recorded
Soils (CU 2025)	Soilscape 18: Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils
Survey Methods	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Study Area	5.75 ha

5.3 **Archaeological Background** (tor&co 2022)

- 5.3.1 A 1km search of the Wiltshire and Swindon historic environment record (WSHER) recorded several archaeological sites across the wider landscape with several within the site itself, dating primarily to the medieval and post medieval periods.
- 5.3.2 A scheduled monument represented by a post mill (SM 1018126) is located within the northern corner of the site; post mills were a form of windmill dating to the medieval period in which the wooden superstructure rotated about a central vertical post. The central post was mounted on cross timbers which were stabilised by being set into a mound, which is the only remaining noticeable feature on the site at present.
- 5.3.3 Historically, there are two former centres of settlement within the 1km study area. The WSHER records a possible deserted medieval village (DMV), located c.117m north-east of the site

(MWI31620). The DMV has associated ridge and furrow agricultural activity, extending to the immediate north and east of the site boundary (MWI31621), but does not appear, from an assessment of the LiDAR and other aerial mapping, to extend into the site boundary. The Medieval Settlement Research Group recorded the existence of this DMV in their 1983 annual report based on cropmarks identified on aerial photography. However, as far as it is possible to ascertain, this DMV has never undergone any other form of archaeological investigation.

- 5.3.4 Approximately, 474m to the north-west of the site the WSHER records a cluster of undated linear features, which would appear to represent elements of a remnant field system associated with the settlement at Midge Hall, which itself was formally a medieval moated site (MWI9344). The undated linear anomalies likely represent a medieval landscape, and aerial photography shows a possible holloway within the ridge and furrow cultivation marks (MWI9375 & MWI9385). Some of the earthworks are recorded extending into the survey area (MWI9375).

5.4 ***Aims and Objectives***

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

6 **RESULTS**

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

6.2 ***Post Mill Scheduled Monument (1018126)***

- 6.2.1 Within the north of the site barely discernible curving trends and a zone of very slightly increased magnetic response [1] have been detected which correspond with the location of a scheduled post mill (SM 1018126); the mound is also visible on the LiDAR imagery (see Figure 06). The responses are magnetically weak without corroborative evidence the anomalies they would not ordinarily warrant such a categorisation. There is no *a priori* reason why a post mill will result in magnetic enhancement of the soils.

6.3 ***Ridge and Furrow***

- 6.3.1 Magnetically weak, broad and parallel linear anomalies have been recorded in the west of the site which have been caused by historic ridge and furrow cultivation; it is also visible on the LiDAR data plot and as cropmarks (see Figure 06).

6.4 ***Uncertain***

- 6.4.1 Numerous linear trends, discrete anomalies and a zone of increased responses have been detected in the survey and assigned to the category of *Uncertain*. Many of these anomalies are located within the vicinity of the scheduled monument but it's unclear if they are directly associated. The zone of increased response [2] in the north-west of the site appears to be enclosed by a former field boundary; this may indicate a focus of activity within the historic land parcel. While archaeological origins cannot be entirely discounted for some of the uncertain anomalies, the majority have probably been caused by natural variations or agricultural processes and some of the pit-like responses may be due to buried ferrous debris.

6.5 ***Former Field Boundary – Corroborated / Conjectural***

- 6.5.1 Several linear anomalies have been detected in the survey which correspond with former field boundaries that are visible on several editions of historic mapping (see Figure 05).

- 6.5.2 Two parallel linear responses in the centre of the site have been interpreted as conjectural former field boundaries because they have similar magnetic signatures to the corroborated former field boundaries.

6.6 ***Agricultural – Ploughing***

- 6.6.1 In the centre of the site, closely spaced and ill-defined parallel trends are visible which have been caused by relatively modern ploughing or cultivation.

6.7 ***Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance***

- 6.7.1 Zones of magnetic disturbance have been detected which correspond with the locations of former buildings that are visible on historic mapping (see Figure 06). The subsequent demolition of the buildings and spreads of debris demolition debris is likely to have caused the disturbance.
- 6.7.2 A strong ferrous anomaly [3] has been recorded in the north-west of the site which corresponds with the location of a former pond (see Figure 05). There are a few other strong ferrous responses in the dataset which look magnetically similar, they could also be evidence of uncorroborated infilled ponds.
- 6.7.3 Ferrous responses close to boundaries are due to adjacent roads, buildings, 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.

7 **DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 Historic England Table 4 (EH 2008) states that the typical magnetic response on the local soils / geology is poor. The results from this survey indicate the presence of ridge and furrow cultivation but there is no *a priori* reason why the former post mill structure would result in magnetically enhanced features. Therefore, it is uncertain if archaeology would have been detected and the zones of magnetic disturbance will have masked any archaeological anomalies, if present.

8 **CONCLUSION**

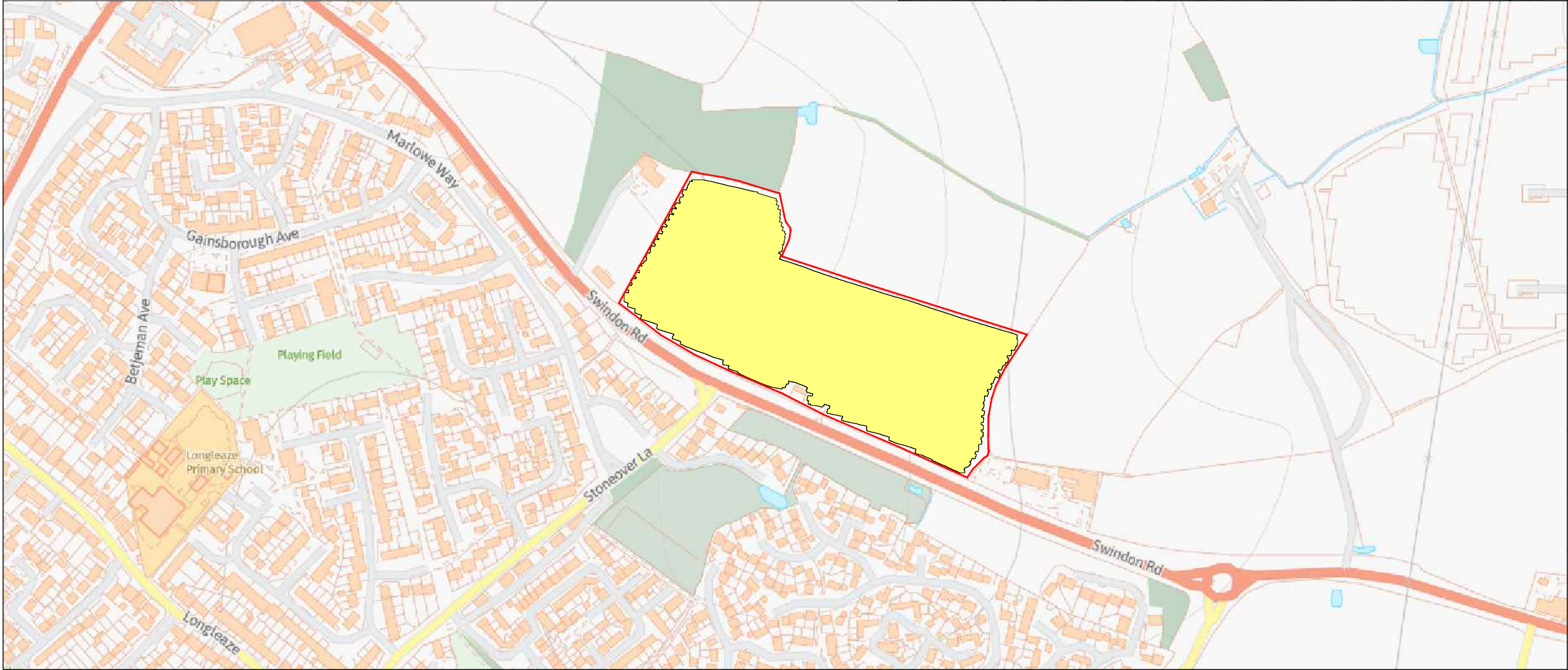
- 8.1 The magnetometer survey has recorded magnetic responses which have been interpreted as being associated with the scheduled post mill (SM 1018126) located in the north of the site. However, they are barely discernible above background levels and would not normally have been interpreted as being archaeological without corroborating evidence. However, ridge and furrow cultivation has been marked in the magnetic data. Numerous responses of uncertain origin have also been detected and while archaeological origins cannot be discounted for some of the anomalies, the majority are probably due to natural variations or agricultural processes. Former field boundaries plus relatively modern ploughing / cultivation have also been recorded in the survey. Zones of magnetic disturbance have been caused by spreads of demolition debris from buildings that were once located in the survey. A ferrous anomaly on the north-west of the site corresponds with the location an infilled pond.
- 8.2 The HER notes the locations of earthworks within the site, but no evidence for them has been detected in the survey. However, there is no guarantee that the survey would have detected them, especially if no cut feature is associated with the earthworks.

9 REFERENCES

- BGS 2025 *Geology of Britain Viewer*, British Geological Survey, website:
(<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion1=1#maps>)
- ClfA 2020 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey*. 2014 amended 2020. ClfA Guidance note. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfAS%26GGeophysics_3.pdf
- CU 2025 *The Soils Guide*. www.landis.org.uk. Cranfield University, UK. website:
<http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html>
- EAC 2016 *EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology*, European Archaeological Council, Guidelines 2.
- EH 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*. English Heritage, Swindon (now withdrawn, but used for evaluating suitability of soil types)
- tor&co 2022 *Land north of Swindon Rd, Royal Wootton Bassett Archaeological and Heritage Note (draft)*. tor&co, London

10 ARCHIVE

- 10.1 The minimally processed data, data images, XY traces and a copy of this report are stored in **SUMO GeoSurveys'** digital archive, on an internal RAID configured NAS drive in the Midlands Office. These data are also backed up to the Cloud for off-site storage.
- 10.2 Data is stored internally on a server; this is in turn backed up to Network Attached Storage (NAS) containing daily snapshots of the data. When data is removed from the server, it then archived onto a separate NAS. The NAS systems are set up using a RAID configuration for data redundancy using 4 separate hard disks. This means that if a hard disk fails, the data from the other three disks can be used to recreate the data from the failed hard disk. All data from the servers and Archive NAS drive are also backed up to the cloud-based services off site so in the event of a fire or other catastrophic event the data can still be retrieved. Once archived, raw data is not deleted and is stored indefinitely. SUMO currently has data in archives from the last 30+ years.
- 10.3 The Grey Literature will be archived with OASIS and the relevant HER within a period of 12 months.
- 10.4 A report of the geophysical survey shall be sent in electronic (pdf) format to melanie.barge@HistoricEngland.org.uk for approval in writing, no later than 3 months after the completion of the geophysical survey.
- 10.5 A copy of the approved geophysical survey report shall be sent to the local Historic Environment Record (HER) in their preferred format.
- 10.6 A record of the geophysical survey shall be made with the Archaeology Data Service <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/> using their online OASIS Data Collection form at <https://oasis.ac.uk/> no later than 3 months after completion of the survey. A copy of the approved geophysical survey report shall be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service using OASIS.



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 Survey Areas



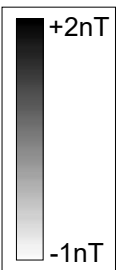
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Site Location

Client:
tor&co

Project:
SUMO-22669: Land North of Swindon Road,
Royal Wootton Bassett

Scale:
NOT TO SCALE

Fig No:
01



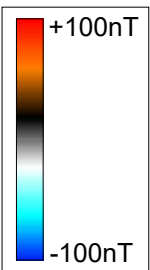
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Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plot

Client:
tor&co

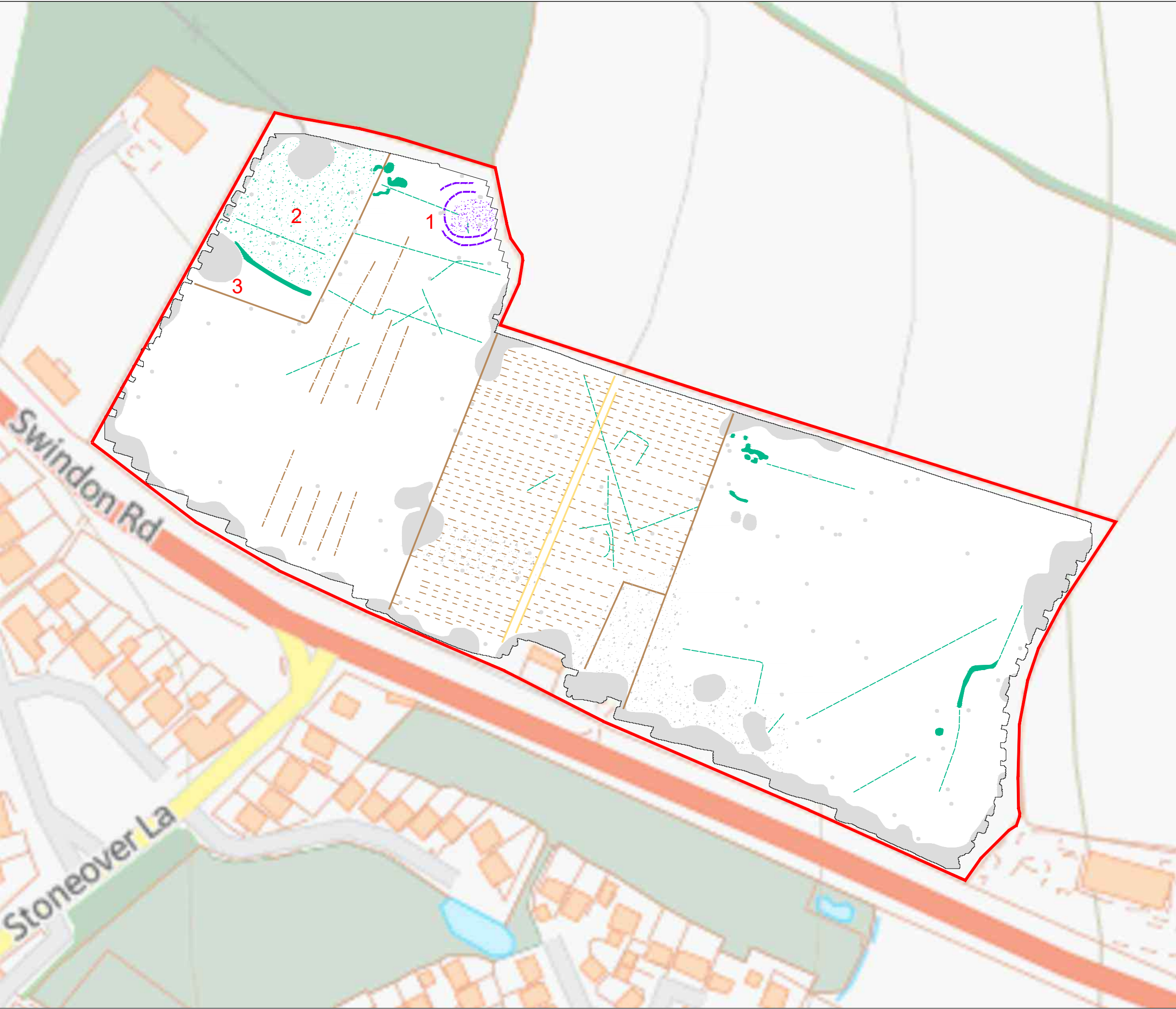
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SUMO-22669: Land North of Swindon Road,
Royal Wootton Bassett

Scale:
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1:1500 @ A3

Fig No:
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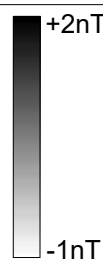
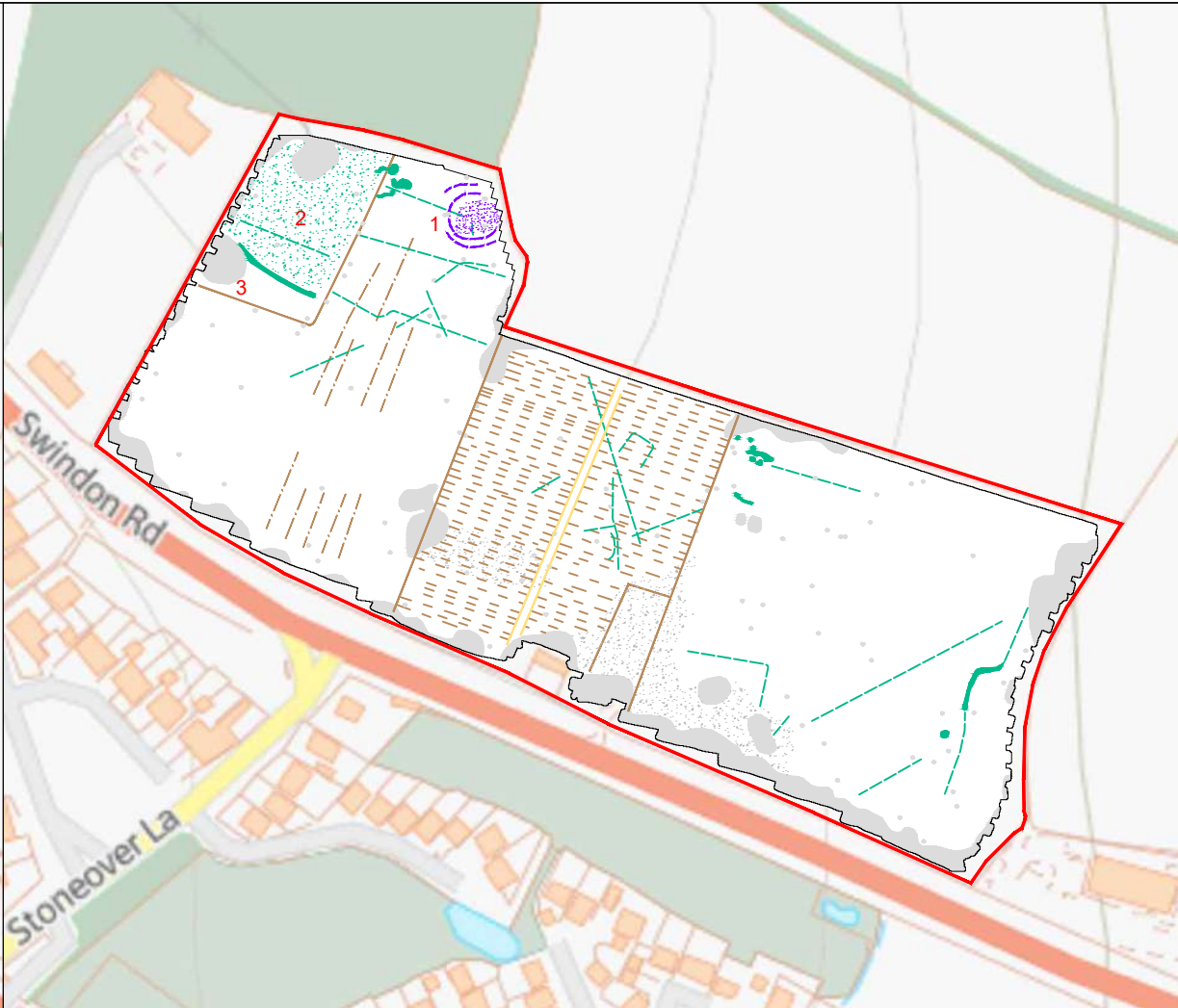


KEY

	Post Mill Scheduled Monument (1018126) (trend / increased response)
	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Former field boundary (conjectural)
	Agriculture (ridge and furrow)
	Agriculture (plough)
	Magnetic disturbance
	Ferrous



Title: Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation	
Client: tor&co	
Project: SUMO-22669: Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett	
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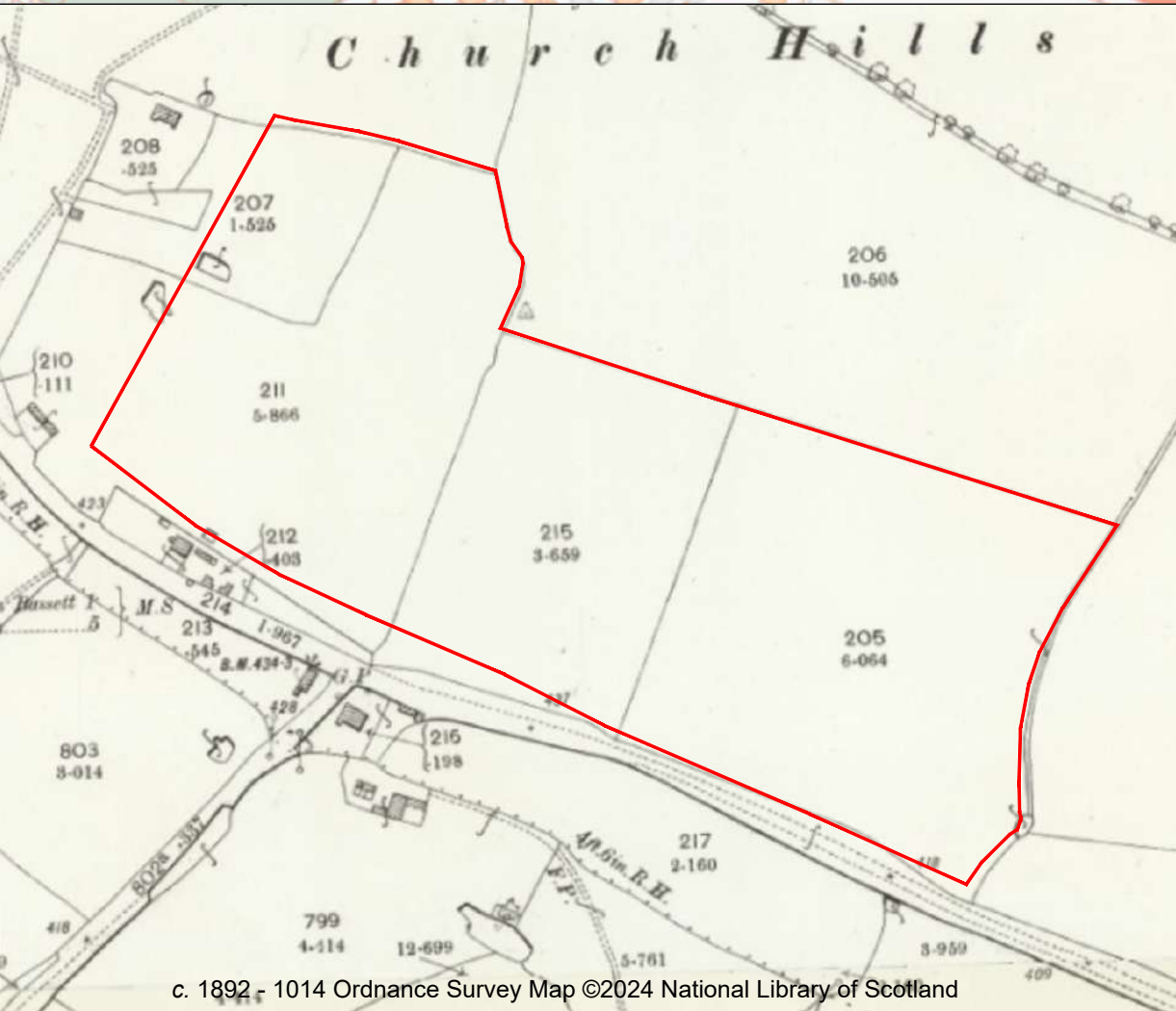


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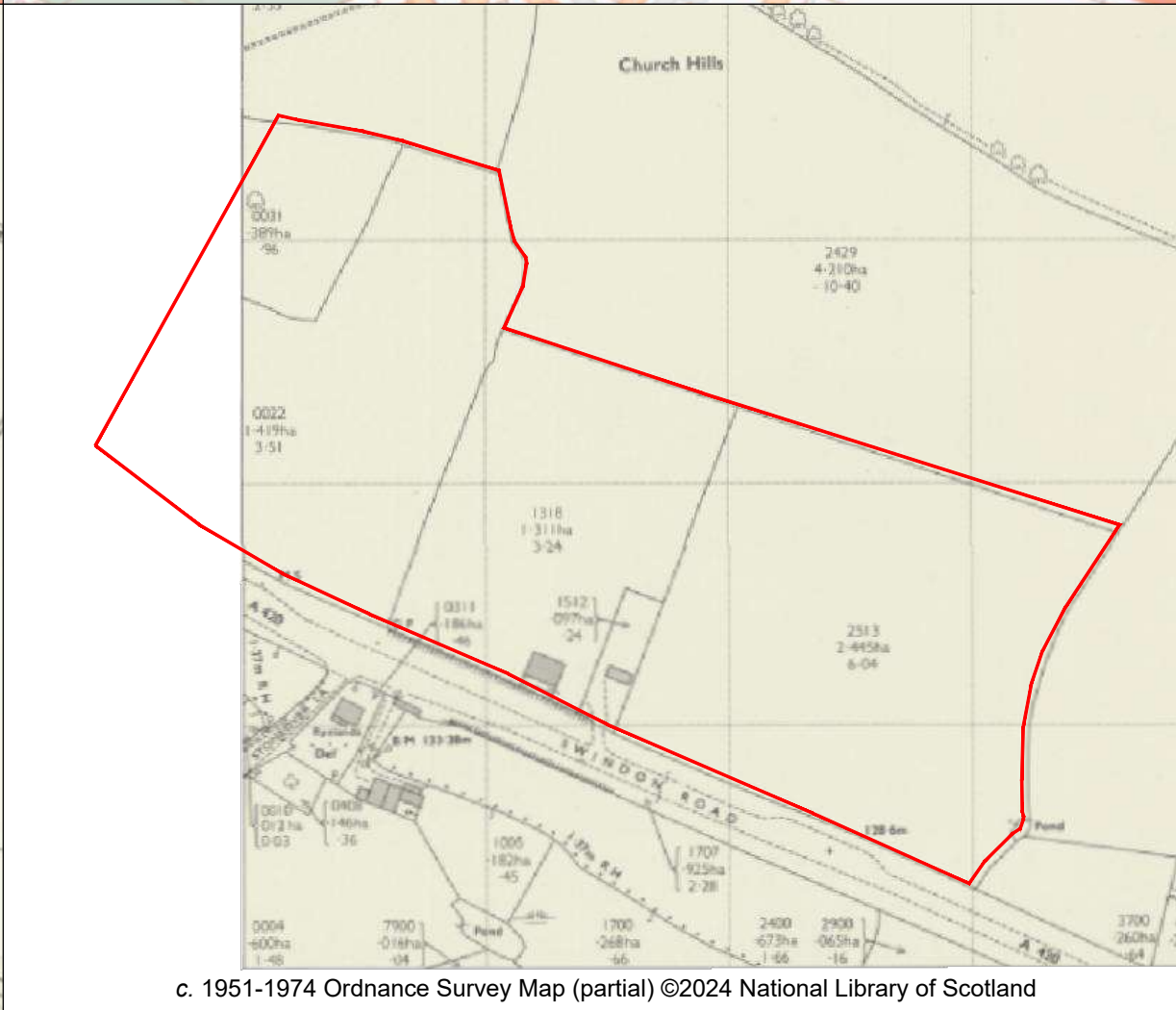
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	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Former field boundary (conjectural)
	Agriculture (ridge and furrow)
	Agriculture (plough)
	Magnetic disturbance
	Ferrous



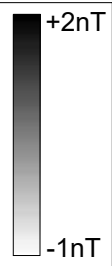
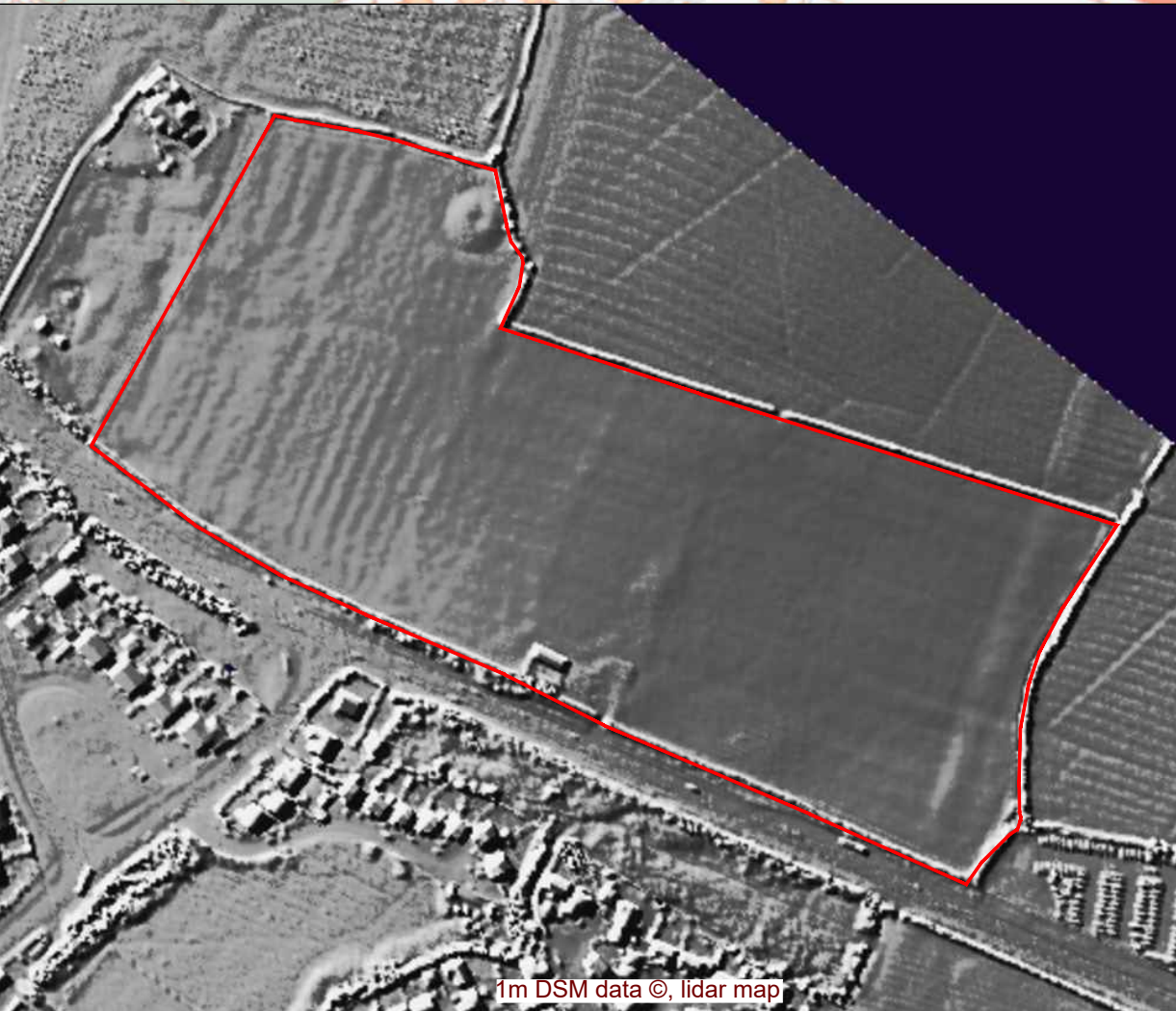
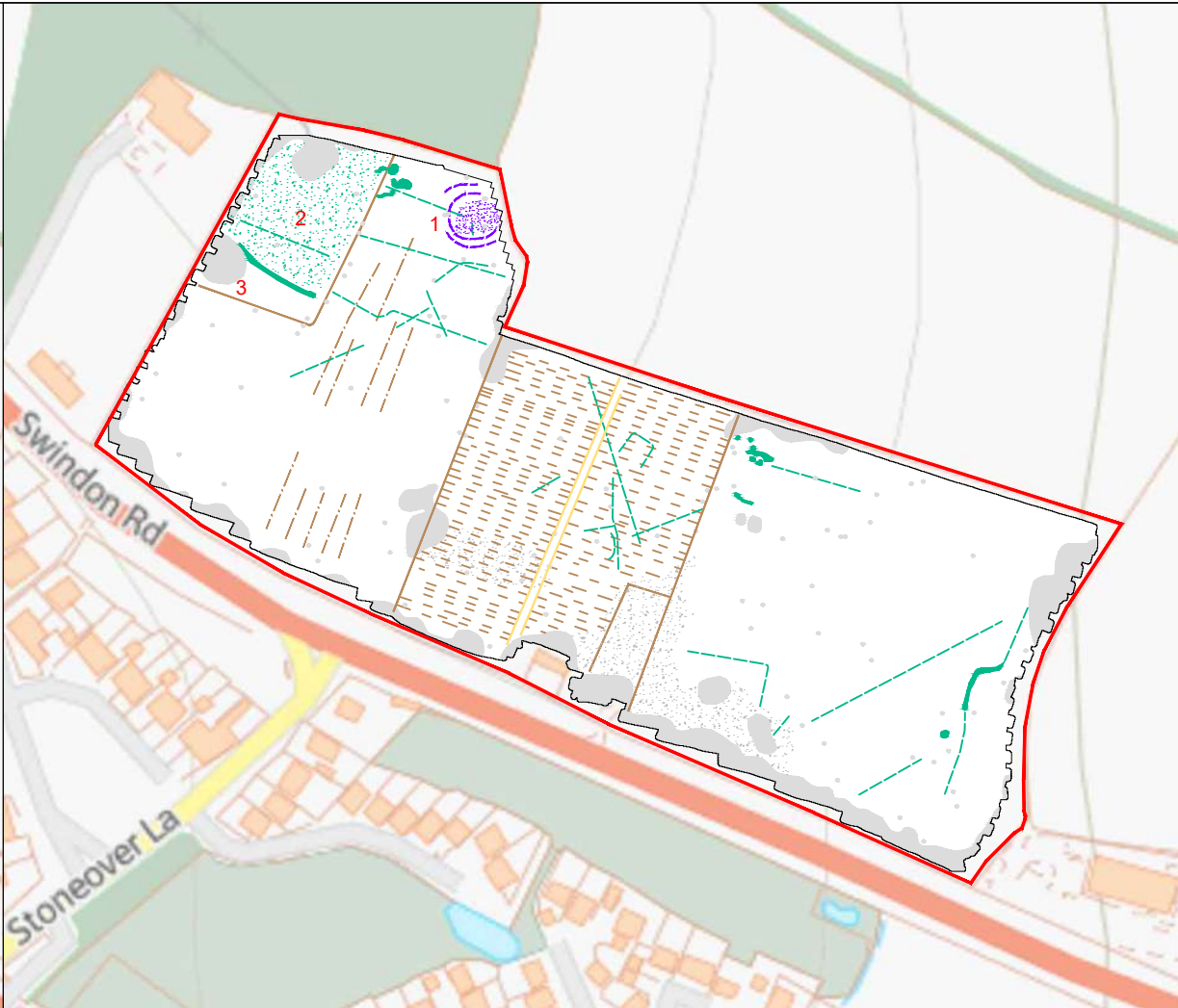
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Client: tor&co	
Project: SUMO-22669: Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett	
Scale: NOT TO SCALE	Fig No: 05



c. 1892 - 1914 Ordnance Survey Map ©2024 National Library of Scotland



c. 1951-1974 Ordnance Survey Map (partial) ©2024 National Library of Scotland

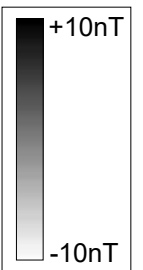


KEY

	Post Mill Scheduled Monument (1018126) (trend / increased response)
	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Former field boundary (conjectural)
	Agriculture (ridge and furrow)
	Agriculture (plough)
	Magnetic disturbance
	Ferrous



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Client: tor&co	
Project: SUMO-22669: Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett	
Scale: NOT TO SCALE	Fig No: 06



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Minimally Processed Data - Greyscale Plots

Client:
tor&co

Project:
SUMO-22669: Land North of Swindon Road,
Royal Wootton Bassett

Scale:
0 metres 75
1:1500 @ A3

Fig No:
07



Title:
XY Trace Plots (clipped at +/-15nT)

Client:
tor&co

Project:
SUMO-22669: Land North of Swindon Road,
Royal Wootton Bassett

Scale:
0 metres 75
1:1500 @ A3

Fig No:
08

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.

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 Grad 601-2	1.0m	0.25m
Magnetometer	Bartington Cart System	1.0m	0.125m
Magnetometer	MACS Cart System (Foerster)	1.0m	0.125m

Instrumentation:

Bartington instruments operate in a gradiometer configuration which comprises fluxgate sensors mounted horizontally, set 1.0m 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.

Bartington Grad 601-2

Hand-Held: Data will be collected using a Bartington Grad 601-2. The instrument consists of two paired sensors and readings are logged at 0.25m centres along traverses 1.0m apart across 30m grids. The collection of data at 0.25m centres provides an appropriate methodology balancing cost and time with resolution as per Historic England guidelines

Bartington Cart System

Data will be collected using a cart carrying four paired Bartington magnetic sensors. Each data point is geographically referenced using an on-board Trimble RTK survey grade GPS system. Readings will be taken at 0.125m centres along traverses 1.0m apart.

MACS Cart System (Foerster)

A multi-sensor array cart system (MACS) utilising 4 Foerster 4.032 Ferex CON 650 gradiometers, spaced at 1m intervals, with a control unit and data logger was used for the magnetic survey. Each data point is geographically referenced using an on-board RTK GNSS system. Readings will be taken at 0.125m centres along traverses 1.0m apart.

Data Processing

Zero Mean	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero.
Traverse	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.

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.

<i>Archaeology / Probable Archaeology</i>	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.
<i>Possible Archaeology</i>	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.
<i>Industrial / Burnt-Fired</i>	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.
<i>Former Field Boundary (probable & possible)</i>	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.
<i>Ridge & Furrow</i>	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.
<i>Agriculture (ploughing)</i>	Parallel linear anomalies or trends with a narrower spacing, sometimes aligned with existing boundaries, indicating more recent cultivation regimes.
<i>Land Drain</i>	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.
<i>Natural</i>	These responses form clear patterns in geographical zones where natural variations are known to produce significant magnetic distortions.
<i>Magnetic Disturbance</i>	Broad zones of strong dipolar anomalies, commonly found in places where modern ferrous or fired materials (e.g. brick rubble) are present.
<i>Service</i>	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.
<i>Ferrous</i>	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).

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.

Appendix C - OASIS Summary

OASIS ID (UID)	sumogeop1-533695
Project Name	Geophysical Survey at Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett
Sitename	Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett
Sitecode	SUMO-22669
Project Identifier(s)	SUMO-22669
Activity type	Geophysical Survey, MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	SUMO Geophysics Ltd.
Project Dates	02-Jun-2025 - 11-Jun-2025
Location	Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett NGR: SU 08151 83191 LL: 51.547552965953756, -1.883839955088668 12 Fig: 408151,183191
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Wiltshire Local Authority District: Wiltshire Parish: Lydiard Tregoze
Project Methodology	A temporary grid system was established over the site and marked out using canes. The location of the grid will was set out using an RTK GPS system theoretically accurate to some 0.01m and referenced to OS co-ordinates. Hand Held: Data was collected using a Bartington Grad 601-2. The instrument consists of two paired sensors (see below) and readings are logged at 0.25m centres along traverses 1.0m apart across 30m grids. Two sensors mounted 1m horizontally apart and very accurately aligned to nullify the effects of the earth's magnetic field. Cart: Data was also collected using a cart carrying four paired Bartington magnetic sensors. Four sensors mounted 1m horizontally apart and very accurately aligned to nullify the effects of the earth's magnetic field. Each data point is geographically referenced using an on-board Trimble RTK survey grade GPS system. Readings will be taken at 0.125m centres along traverses 1.0m apart. The collection of data provides an appropriate methodology balancing cost and time with resolution as per Historic England guidelines. Readings relate to the difference in localised magnetic anomalies compared with the general magnetic background.
Project Results	The magnetometer survey has recorded magnetic responses which have been interpreted as being associated with the scheduled post mill (SM 1018126)

	located in the north of the site. However, they are barely discernible above background levels and would not normally have been interpreted as being archaeological without corroborating evidence. However, ridge and furrow cultivation has been marked in the magnetic data. Numerous responses of uncertain origin have also been detected and while archaeological origins cannot be discounted for some of the anomalies, the majority are probably due to natural variations or agricultural processes. Former field boundaries plus relatively modern ploughing / cultivation have also been recorded in the survey. Zones of magnetic disturbance have been caused by spreads of demolition debris from buildings that were once located in the survey. A ferrous anomaly on the north-west of the site corresponds with the location an infilled pond. The HER notes the locations of earthworks within the site, but no evidence for them has been detected in the survey. However, there is no guarantee that the survey would have detected them, especially if no cut feature is associated with the earthworks.
Keywords	Post Mill - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ridge And Furrow - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Field Boundary - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Plough Marks - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation tor&co
HER	Scheduled Monument Casework - unRev - STANDARD Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Thomas Cockcroft
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Report generated on: 16-06-2025:1027

Appendix D – Data Management Plan & Archive Selection Strategy

Data Management Plan

Project ID / OASIS ID

SUMO-22669 / sumogeop1-533697

Project Name

Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett

Project Description

Detailed magnetic survey over approx. 5.75ha

Client

Tor&co

Project Manager

Thomas Cockcroft

Field Leader

Simon Lobel

Date DMP created

07.05.2025

Date DMP last updated

16.06.2025

Version

2

Technique - data

Detailed magnetic survey.

Manual – cart - other

Cart / Handheld magnetometers.

Documentation and metadata

All documentation and data produced are stored on SUMO servers in a specific job file.

Data storage, access and back-up

- SUMO Secure server during the project life set up in a RAID configuration (a RAID configuration incorporates a level of data redundancy meaning if a single hard drive in fails data can still be restored).

- Snap shots of the data will be made at several intervals during the day to allow data to be restored for up to 30 days if changed / deleted.
- Once the final report has been completed data will be moved onto NAS drive set up in a RAID configuration.
- All data is backed up to an off-site location (Cloud storage).

Archive Selection Strategy

Digital Data

Selection

It is proposed that only the final version of all born digital documents (reports, images and CAD files) will be selected for inclusion in the Preserved Archive. All raw and processed survey data will be included in the preserved archive. Below is what will constitute the selected archive:

- Raw data in XYZ format .csv and .png plus .pgw world file
- Processed data as .png plus .pgw world file
- Final survey report .pdf
- CAD and Vector graphics (interpretations) in .dwg format

De-selected digital data

The de-selected material will be retained on the SUMO Secure server and Cloud storage.

Documents

Not applicable – no archive

Materials

Not applicable – no archive



- Archaeological Geophysics
- Engineering Geophysics
- Measured Building Services
- Utility and Topographic Services
- Aerial Surveys
- Rail Surveys

SUMO GeoSurveys is a trading name of SUMO Geophysics Ltd.
SUMO Services Ltd, incorporated under the laws of England and Wales,
Company Registration No.4275993.
Registered Office Unit 8 Hayward Business Centre, New Lane, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2NL

Appendix 4: Evaluation interim summary report, Curra Terra October 2025

Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire – Evaluation Interim Summary Report

Gleeson Land Limited

Date: 13/10/2025

Prepared by: Charlotte Britton

Ref: 25575

Report to:	Gleeson Land Limited		
Report Title:	Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wooton Bassett, Wiltshire – Evaluation Interim Summary report		
Version:	V1.0		
Issue Date:	October 2025		
Report Ref:	25575		
Originated By:	C. Britton		
	Charlotte Britton		
	Archaeology Project Officer	Date:	14/10/25
Reviewed By:	SR		
	Stuart Ross		
	Senior Project Manager (Post Excavation)	Date:	15/10/2025
Approved By:	OG		
	Oliver Good		
	Technical Director of Archaeology	Date:	15/10/2025

Version	Author	Description	Date
V0.1	CB	First draft	14/10/2025
V0.2	SR	QA1/Edit	15/10/2025
V0.3	OG	QA2/Approval	15/10/2025
V1.0	OG	Client for review	15/10/2025

The report and the site assessments carried out by Cura Terrae on behalf of the client in accordance with the agreed terms of contract and/or written agreement form the agreed Services. The Services were performed by Cura Terrae with the skill and care ordinarily exercised by a reasonable Environmental Consultant at the time the Services were performed. Further, and in particular, the Services were performed by Cura Terrae taking into account the limits of the scope of works required by the client, the time scale involved and the resources, including financial and manpower resources, agreed between Cura Terrae and the client.

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This report is based on site conditions, regulatory or other legal provisions, technology or economic conditions at the time of the Service provision.

These conditions can change with time and reliance on the findings of the Services under changing conditions should be reviewed.

Cura Terrae accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of third-party data used in this report.

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1. Summary of Results

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Cura Terrae undertook an archaeological evaluation at Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire (hereafter ‘the Site’) on behalf of Gleeson Land Limited in September 2025. This report represents a provisional summary of the results.
- 1.1.2 The Site was centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 408122, 183193 (Fig. 1), was c.5.75ha in size and comprised an agricultural field located immediately north of Swindon Road (A3102) and north-east of the market town of Royal Wootton Bassett. The development area was c.5.5ha, and a Scheduled Monument was located within the Site to the north (Fig. 2).
- 1.1.3 The evaluation consisted of 43 Trenches measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width (Fig. 2). The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Cura Terrae 2025) approved by Wiltshire County Council.
- 1.1.4 All Trenches were successfully excavated as anticipated and features were plotted against the anomalies recorded during a previous programme of magnetometer survey (SUMO GeoSurveys 2025). The WSI detailed plans for 41 Trenches to be investigated, with an additional two Trenches (42 and 43) being subsequently excavated in response to the archaeological potential of the south-eastern extent of the development area (Fig. 4).
- 1.1.5 This interim summary report has been produced before any in-depth stratigraphic analysis has been undertaken, and prior to the processing, quantifying or assessment the finds and environmental samples recovered.

1.2 Results

- 1.2.1 Forty-three Trenches were excavated, with the archaeologically significant features being restricted to those in the south-eastern part of the development area. Evidence of possible Romano-British occupation was exposed in Trench 35, with evidence of medieval occupation being documented in Trenches 38, 39, 41, 42 and 43.
- 1.2.2 Evidence of post-medieval to modern agricultural activity was also exposed in 12 of the Trenches across the Site (2, 4, 6, 13, 16, 22, 25, 26, 34, 36, 37 and 39), corresponding with anomalies identified by geophysical survey and on features recorded by historic mapping.
- 1.2.3 No archaeological features were exposed in the remainder of the Trenches (1, 3, 5, 7-12, 14-15, 17-21, 23-24, 27-33). These have therefore been excluded from the results below.

Trenches 2 and 13

- 1.2.4 A post-medieval field boundary was exposed in Trenches 2 and 13, corresponding with identified magnetometer anomalies (Fig. 3). It was left unexcavated in Trench 2 but was investigated in Trench 13. The ditch (1303) was on a north-south alignment, had a shallow U-shaped profile and measured >2.5m in length, 1.45m in width and 0.37m in depth. An assemblage of animal bone, pottery and metal artefacts were recovered from its fill.

Trenches 4 and 6

- 1.2.5 Three ditches (403=603, 405 and 408) were exposed in Trenches 4 and 6, on the same east to west alignment (Fig. 3). Ditch 403=603 was located in the south-east of the Trench 4 and north of Trench 6 and was excavated exclusively in Trench 4. The ditch was >2.5m in length, 0.51m in width and 0.13m in depth. Ditch 405 was located in the centre of the Trench, was >2.6m in length, 0.73m in width and 0.25m in depth. Ditch 408 was in the north-west of Trench 4, >0.34 in length, >0.91m in width and 0.27m in depth. Pottery dating from the post-medieval period was recovered from fills of all three ditches, being consistent in type, suggesting that the ditches were likely contemporary, dating to the post-medieval period, likely representing drainage ditches associated with agricultural activity.

Trench 16

- 1.2.6 A post-medieval field boundary was exposed in Trench 16 that corresponded with identified magnetometer anomalies as well as historic mapping. The exposed ditch (1602) was aligned north-east to south-west, had a shallow regular U-shaped profile and measured 2.5m in length, 1.4m in width and 0.25m in depth (Fig. 3). An assemblage of animal bone and ceramic building material was recovered from its fill. Historic mapping shows the field boundary was infilled during the late 20th century.

Trenches 22, 25 and 26

- 1.2.7 The line of a single ditch was exposed in Trenches 22, 25 and 26 (2203=2502=2603) representing a former post-medieval field boundary, corresponding with identified magnetometer anomalies and historic mapping. The ditch was excavated in Trench 25, was aligned north to south, had a shallow U-shaped profile and measured >2m in length, 0.9m in width and 0.18m in depth (Fig. 4). A fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from its fill.

Trench 34

- 1.2.8 Ditch 3403 was exposed in Trench 34 orientated north to south, with a U-shaped profile measuring >1.05m in length, 0.81m in width and 0.15m in depth (Fig. 5). An assemblage of pottery and bone was recovered from its fill, and it likely represented a drainage ditch dating to the post-medieval period. It was truncated to the north by a modern furrow that was not excavated.

Trench 35

- 1.2.9 Evidence of possible Romano-British activity was located within Trench 35 and included boundary and drainage ditches and a single pit (Fig. 5).
- 1.2.10 Ditch 3503 was exposed in the north of Trench 35, likely representing a boundary. It was orientated north-west to south-east, had a deep U-shaped profile and measured >2.5m in length, 1.99m in width and 0.52m in depth (Plate 1). It contained two fills, from which a small assemblage of possible Roman pottery and ceramic building material were recovered.
- 1.2.11 Approximately 2m to the south of ditch 3503, a gully (3506) was exposed. Orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, it had a shallow U-shaped profile and measured >2m in length, 0.65m in width and 0.16m in depth (Plate 2). Four meters to the south, a second gully (3508) was exposed also being orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, being parallel to 3506. It had a shallow U-shaped profile and was >2.5m long, 0.6m wide and 0.14m deep.
- 1.2.12 Gully 3508 was truncated by gully 3510 that was aligned east to west across Trench 35. Gully 3510 had a shallow profile, measured >2m in length, 1.2m in width and 0.07m in depth (Plate 3).
- 1.2.13 Ditch 3514 was exposed c.5m south of, and was parallel to, gully 3510, also being aligned east to west. It had a shallow U-shaped profile and measured >2m in length, 0.9m in width and 0.16m in depth. An assemblage of pottery was recovered from its single fill.
- 1.2.14 Posthole 3512 was located c.1m to the north of ditch 3514. The posthole was circular in plan, with a shallow U-shaped profile, measuring 0.4m in diameter and 0.07m in depth. It contained one fill, from which an assemblage of possible Roman pottery was recovered (Plate 4).

Trenches 36 and 37

- 1.2.15 A single ditch (3603=3703) was exposed in Trenches 36 and 37 orientated north-east to south-west and was investigated exclusively in Trench 37 (Fig. 5). The ditch (3703) measured >1.07m in length, 0.46m in width and 0.08m in depth. An assemblage of pottery was recovered from its fill. Approximately 4m north-east of ditch 3603=3703 a second ditch was exposed (3705) that was orientated north-west to south-east, with a U-shaped profile measuring >2.25m in length, 0.64m in width and 0.16m in depth. An assemblage of pottery and animal bone was recovered from its fill, as well as an environmental sample. It was likely that both ditches represented drainage features dating to the post-medieval to modern period, although this should be confirmed during further assessment.

Trench 38

- 1.2.16 Evidence of medieval activity was exposed in Trenches 38, 39, 41, 42 and 43 including a layer of material that was recorded in Trenches 38, 42 and 43 (3808=3814=4203=4303). The layer may have been a single deposit and was may have been intentionally deposited. It contained frequent pottery sherds and animal bone and was rich in charcoal and organic matter and was potentially associated

with a building foundation. A 2m x 0.5m slot was investigated through layer 3808 in Trench 38, from which a substantial assemblage of pottery was recovered.

- 1.2.17 A probable waste pit (3810) was exposed c.2m towards the north end of Trench 38, which was circular in plan, measuring 1m in diameter and 0.47m in depth (Fig. 4). It contained three fills, from which a substantial assemblage of pottery and charcoal were recovered (Plate 5).
- 1.2.18 Layer 3807 was exposed immediately south of pit 3810, from which a significant assemblage of pottery was recovered having possibly been redistributed from layer 3814 to the south. Layer 3814 (3808=4203=4303) was located approximately 9m south-east of pit 3810 and may have represented a building foundation that was orientated east to west, running beyond the excavation area (Fig. 4). An excavated slot (3814) measured 1.3m in length, 0.51m in width and 0.14m in depth and contained a possible clay foundation layer.
- 1.2.19 Layer 3814 was truncated by wide ditch 3817 (continuing as 4204 in Trench 42), that was orientated north to south with a deep regular profile measuring 1.3m in length, 0.56m in width and 0.2m in depth. An assemblage of animal bone was recovered from its secondary fill, possibly representing food waste.
- 1.2.20 Approximately 5m south-east of layer 3814 and ditch 3817, gully 3823 was exposed (Fig. 4). It was orientated north-east to south-west, running beyond the Trench limit to the north-east, and had a deep V-shaped profile measuring 0.5m in length, 0.38 in width and 0.24m in depth. Gully 3823 potentially truncated layer 3814, suggesting it was of a later date. An assemblage of pottery was recovered from its fill.
- 1.2.21 Approximately 4m south-east of gully 3823, an additional gully (3803) was exposed, that also continued beyond the limits of excavation (Fig. 4). Likely representing a drainage ditch, it measured 0.55m in length, 0.39m in width and 0.21m in depth. The gully was truncated by possible pit 3805, that was irregular in plan, measuring c.1-1.05m in diameter and 0.33m in depth (Plate 6).
- 1.2.22 A modern ceramic land drain (3820) was also exposed in Trench 39, truncating layer 3808 (3814=4203=4303) and ditch 3817 (Plate 7).

Trench 39

- 1.2.23 A single pit (3903) was exposed in the south-east of Trench 39 that was circular in plan, with a U-shaped profile (Fig. 4). It measured c.0.59m in diameter and 0.23m in depth containing one fill with frequent charcoal inclusions (Plate 8). An assemblage of pottery and bone was also recovered. It was probable that the pit represented a waste pit that may have been contemporaneous with the features in Trenches 38 and 43 (see below) being of a medieval date.

Trench 41

- 1.2.24 Ditch 4103 was exposed in the north-eastern portion of Trench 41 that was orientated north-west to south-east (Fig. 4). It had an irregular shallow profile, measuring >1m in length, 1.14m in width and 0.17m in depth (Plate 9). Two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from its fill. It was likely that it was contemporaneous with the features exposed in Trenches 38, 42 and 43, being of a medieval date.

Trench 42

- 1.2.25 Pit 4213 was exposed c.6m from the north-western boundary of Trench 42 (Fig. 5). It was oval in plan, measuring 0.75m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.04m in depth. An assemblage of pottery was recovered from its fill. Approximately 1m east of pit 4213 a second pit (4211) was also exposed that was again oval in profile measuring 1m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.06m in depth (Plate 10). An assemblage of pottery was also recovered from its fill.
- 1.2.26 Approximately 0.5m to the east of pit 4211 was gully 4209, that was orientated north-west to south-east, with a shallow profile measuring 0.6m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.05m in depth potentially representing a land drain, which truncated a potential waste pit at its eastern edge (Fig. 5). Pit 4215 continued beyond the limits of the Trench but was oval in plan, measuring 0.9m in length, >0.9m in width and 0.46m in depth (Plate 11). An assemblage of pottery and bone was recovered from its fill.
- 1.2.27 Approximately 0.5m to the east of pit 4215 was ditch 4204 (=3817) (Fig. 5). Orientated east to west, it had a U-shaped profile, measured >2m in length, 0.8m in width and 0.3m in depth, and truncated layer 3808=3814=4203 suggesting it was of a later date. An assemblage of pottery and bone was recovered from its two fills, and two environmental samples were taken. A posthole (4207) was exposed in the lower fill of ditch 4204, that was circular in plan measuring >0.14m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.12m in depth. The fill of the posthole and the lower fill of the ditch were homogeneous indicating that the truncated of the posthole must have come after the formation of the ditch. It was possible that the posthole was used for structural support. An assemblage of pottery and bone was recovered from its fill.
- 1.2.28 Posthole 4217 was exposed approximately 4m to the east of ditch 4204 (Fig. 5). It was circular in profile with a shallow U-shaped profile, measuring c.0.49m in diameter and 0.07m in depth, and was likely contemporary with the other features recorded in Trench 42 (Plate 12).

Trench 43

- 1.2.29 Finally, the layer exposed in Trenches 38 and 42 (3808=3814=4203) that potentially represented a building foundation, was also present in Trench 43, in which the remains of a collapsed structure were potentially exposed. A test pit was excavated (4303; Fig.4) that was orientated east to west, measuring 1.2m in length, 1.2m in width and 0.23m in depth (Plate 13). The layer contained three fills from which limestone, potentially representing the demolition remains of a medieval building, were recovered. An assemblage of pottery and animal bone was also recovered as well as an environmental sample.

2. Interim Conclusions

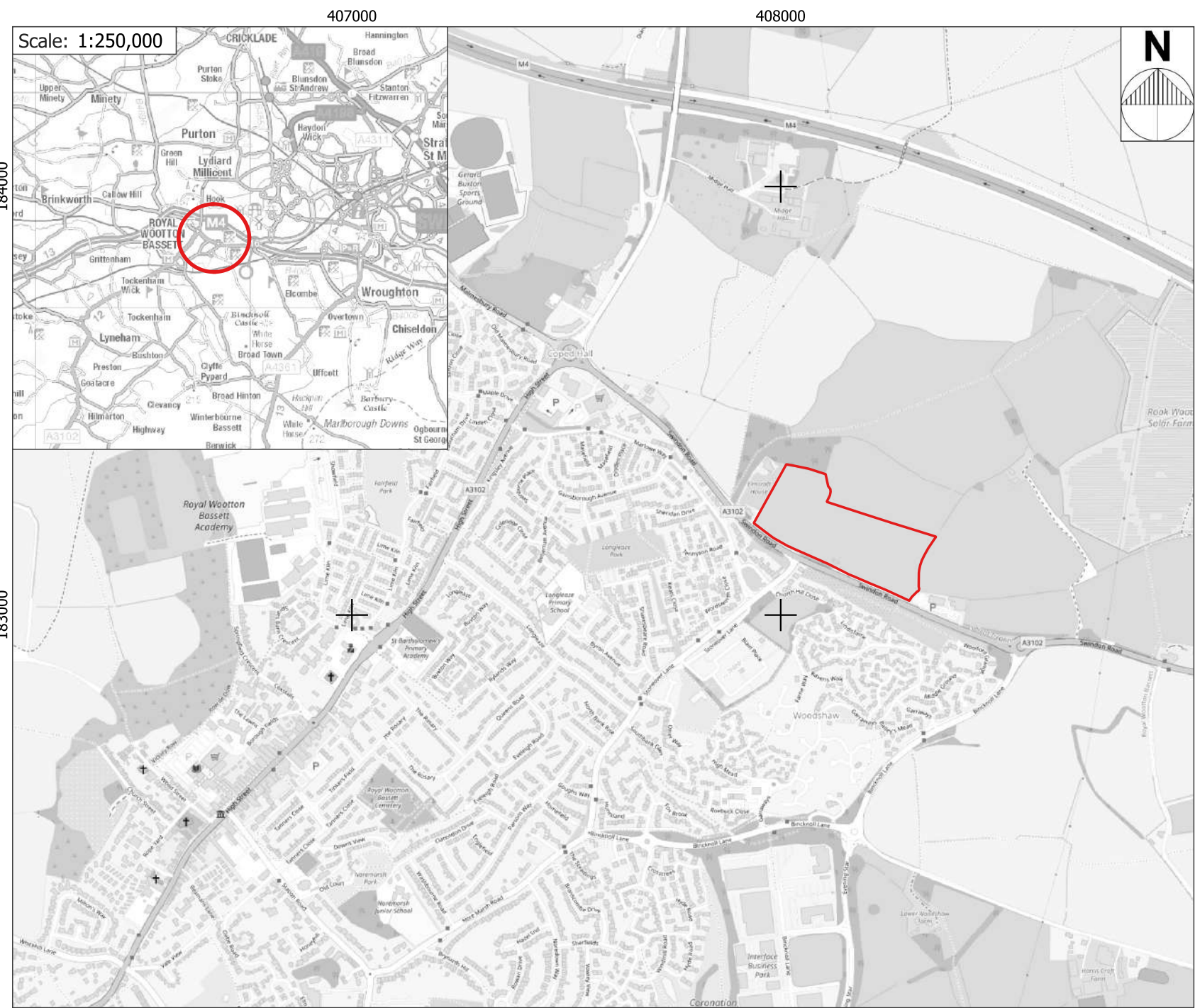
- 2.1.1 The excavated features of archaeological significance were identified in the south-east of the development area, representing possible agricultural activity dating to Romano-British period and settlement activity dating to the medieval period. Evidence of post-medieval to modern agricultural activity was also recorded across the development area.
- 2.1.2 Remains of a possible Romano-British date were limited to Trench 35, which were perhaps indicative of small-scale agricultural activity. Further stratigraphic analysis and assessment of the material recovered will confirm or deny the dating of these remains.
- 2.1.3 Evidence pertaining to medieval occupation was exposed in Trenches 38, 39, 41, 42 and 43 consisting of probable structural remains, waste pits and drainage features, likely being indicative of a small-scale domestic settlement. Evidence of possible subsistence patterns (food waste) was also recovered.
- 2.1.4 Confirmation of post-medieval to modern agricultural activity was exposed in 12 of the Trenches (2, 4, 6, 13, 16, 22, 25, 26, 34, 36, 37 and 39) corresponding to anomalies identified in the geophysical survey and on historic mapping, representing agricultural field systems known to have existed at the time. Former post-medieval to modern field boundaries, were exposed in Trenches 2, 13, 16, 22, 25 and 26 representing former boundaries that remained until the 20th century, when the three former fields comprising the Site were combined into one large field.
- 2.1.5 Processing, quantification and qualification of the finds and environmental samples recovered during trial trench evaluation will help understand the chronology and development of the Site, whilst possibly providing further insights into the function of the features excavated.

3. References

Cura Terrae. (2025). *Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire – Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished Report.

Sumo GeoSurveys. (2025). *Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett – Geophysical Survey Report*. Ref: SUMO-22669.

4. Figures and Plates



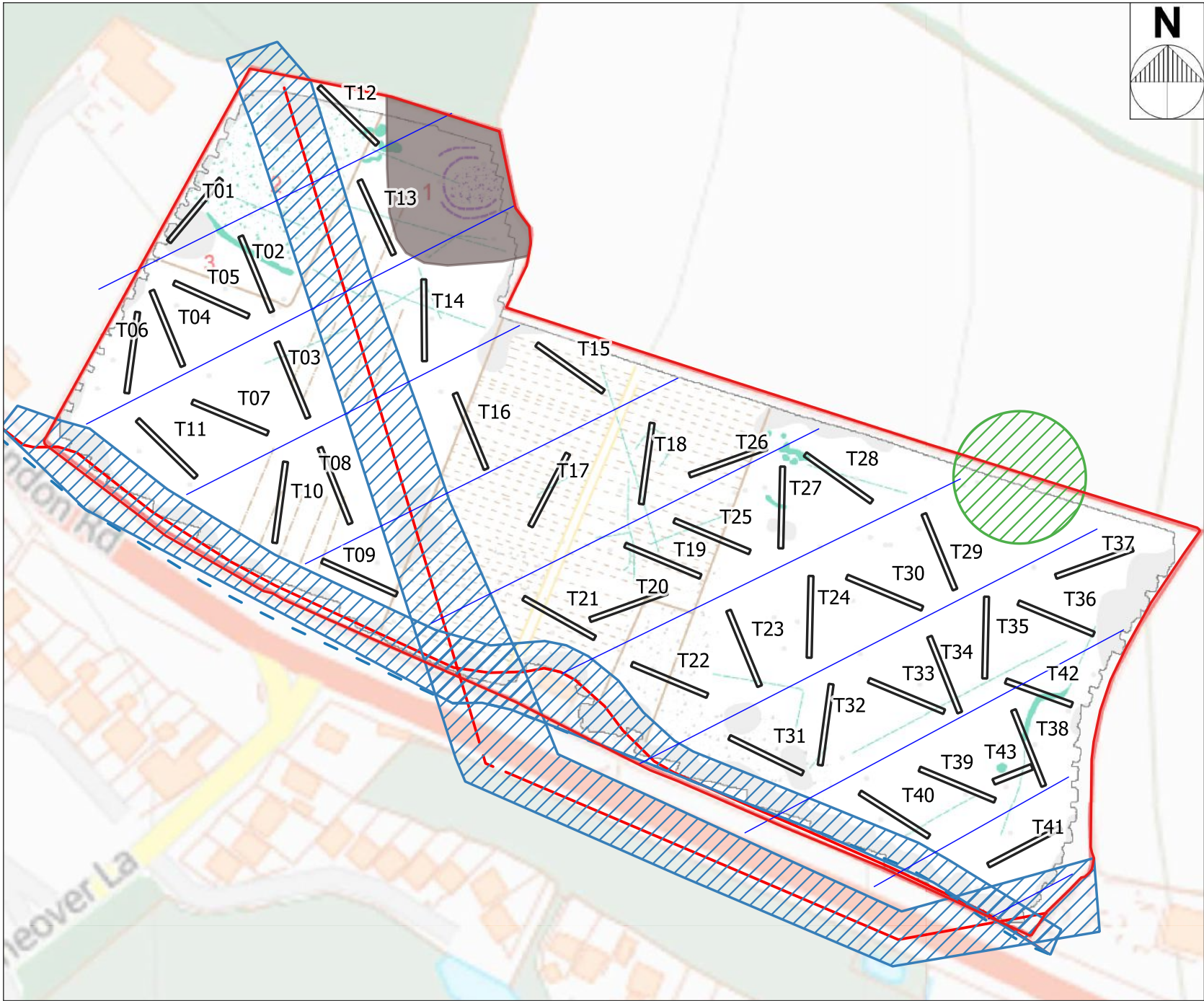
Key
Site Boundary

0 100 200 300 400 500 m

Gleeson Developments Limited
Land North of Swindon Road, Wiltshire

Figure 1
Site Location

A	21.07.2025	DP	PFP
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
Site centred on:		SU 08149 83209	

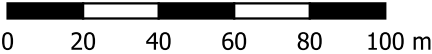


Key

- Site Boundary
- Scheduled Monument
- Trench
- Bat roost buffer zone
- Service buffer zone
- Electric
- Water
- Land Drains

KEY

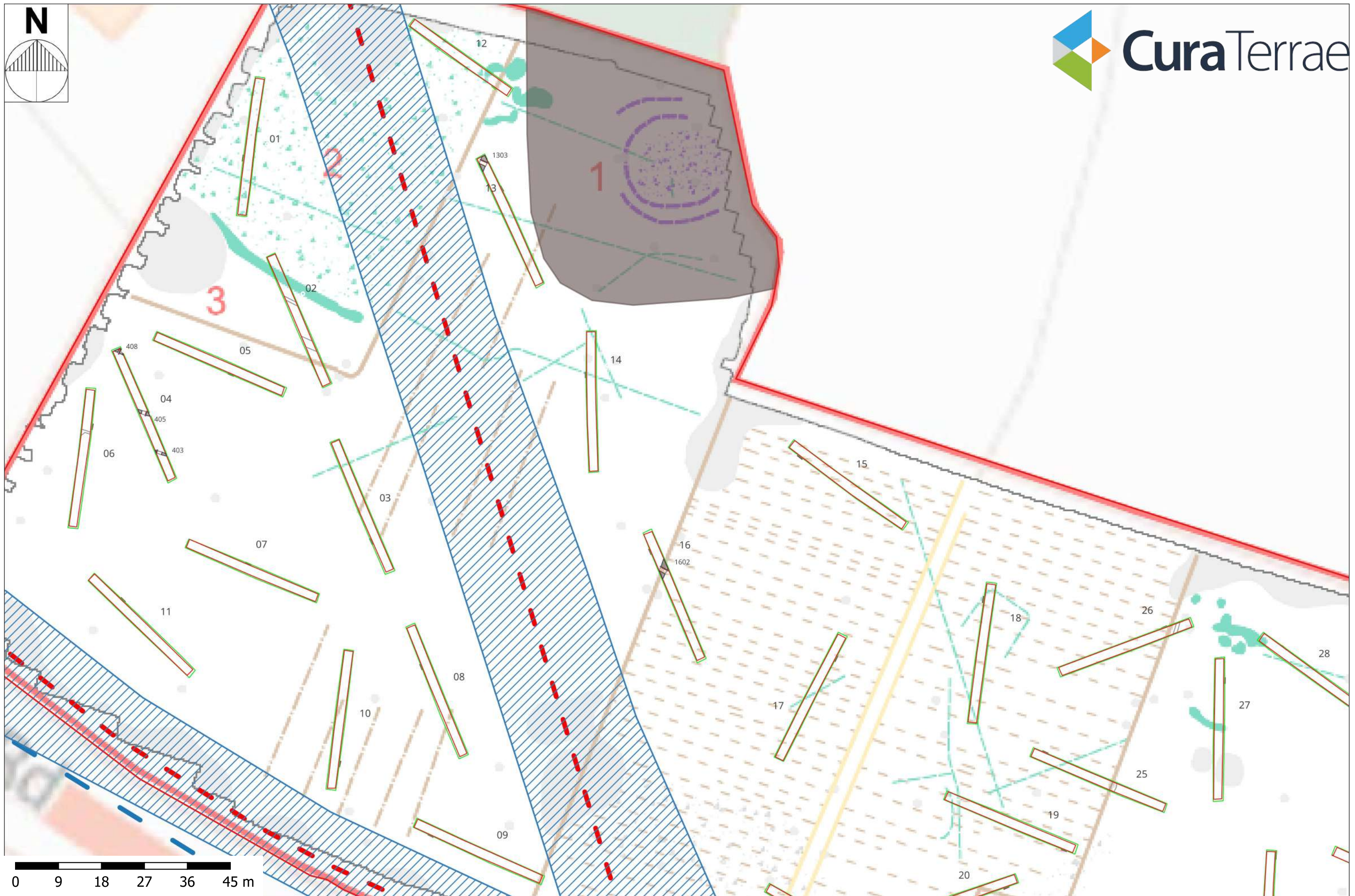
	Post Mill Scheduled Monument (1018126) (trend / increased response)
	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Former field boundary (conjectural)
	Agriculture (ridge and furrow)
	Agriculture (plough)
	Magnetic disturbance
	Fermous

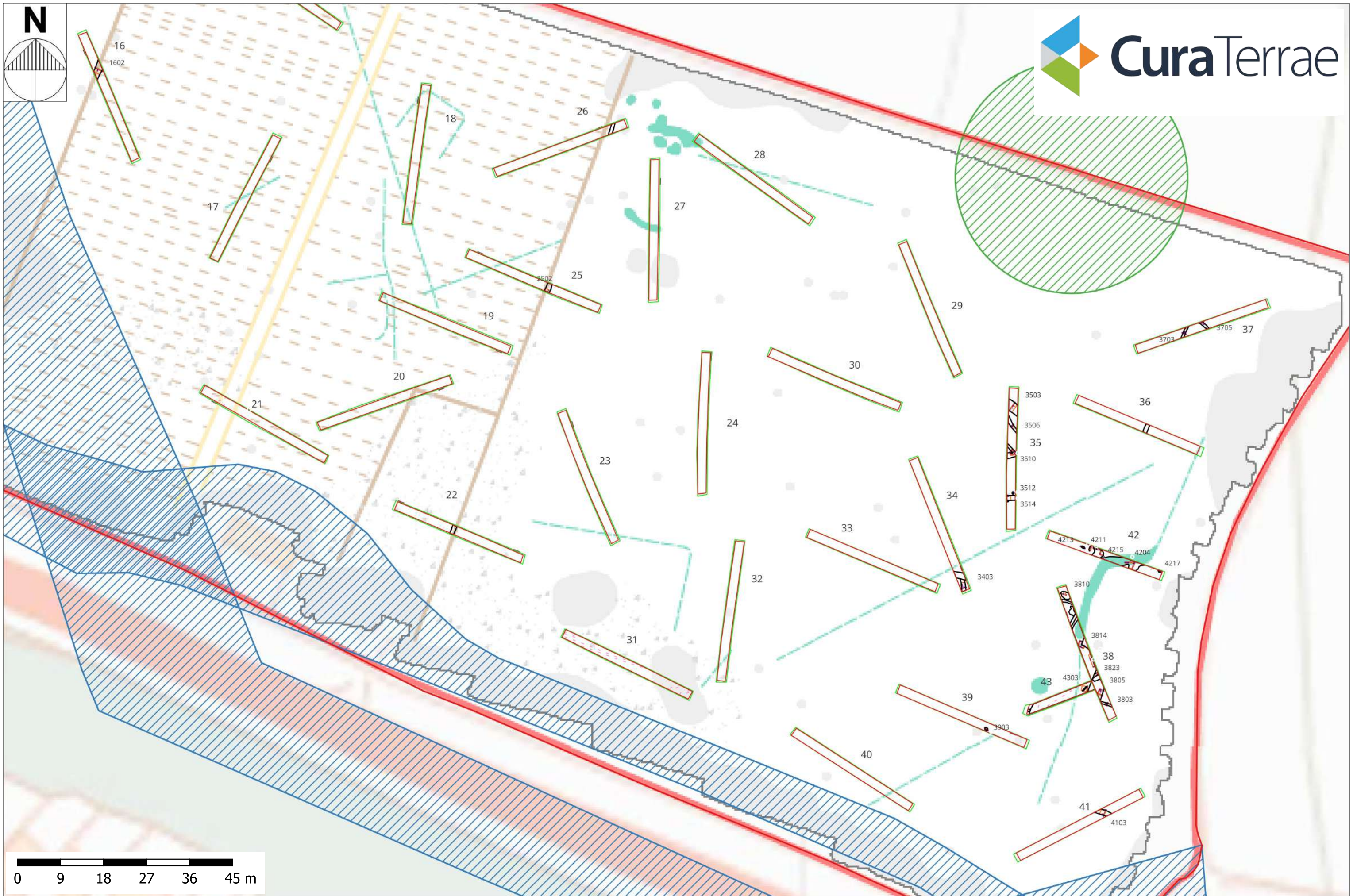


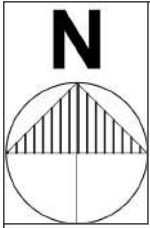
Gleeson Developments Limited
Land North of Swindon Road, Wiltshire

Figure 2
Proposed trench locations overlaid on
geophysical interpretation

A	21.07.2025	DP	PFP
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
Site centred on:		SU 08149 83209	







CuraTerra

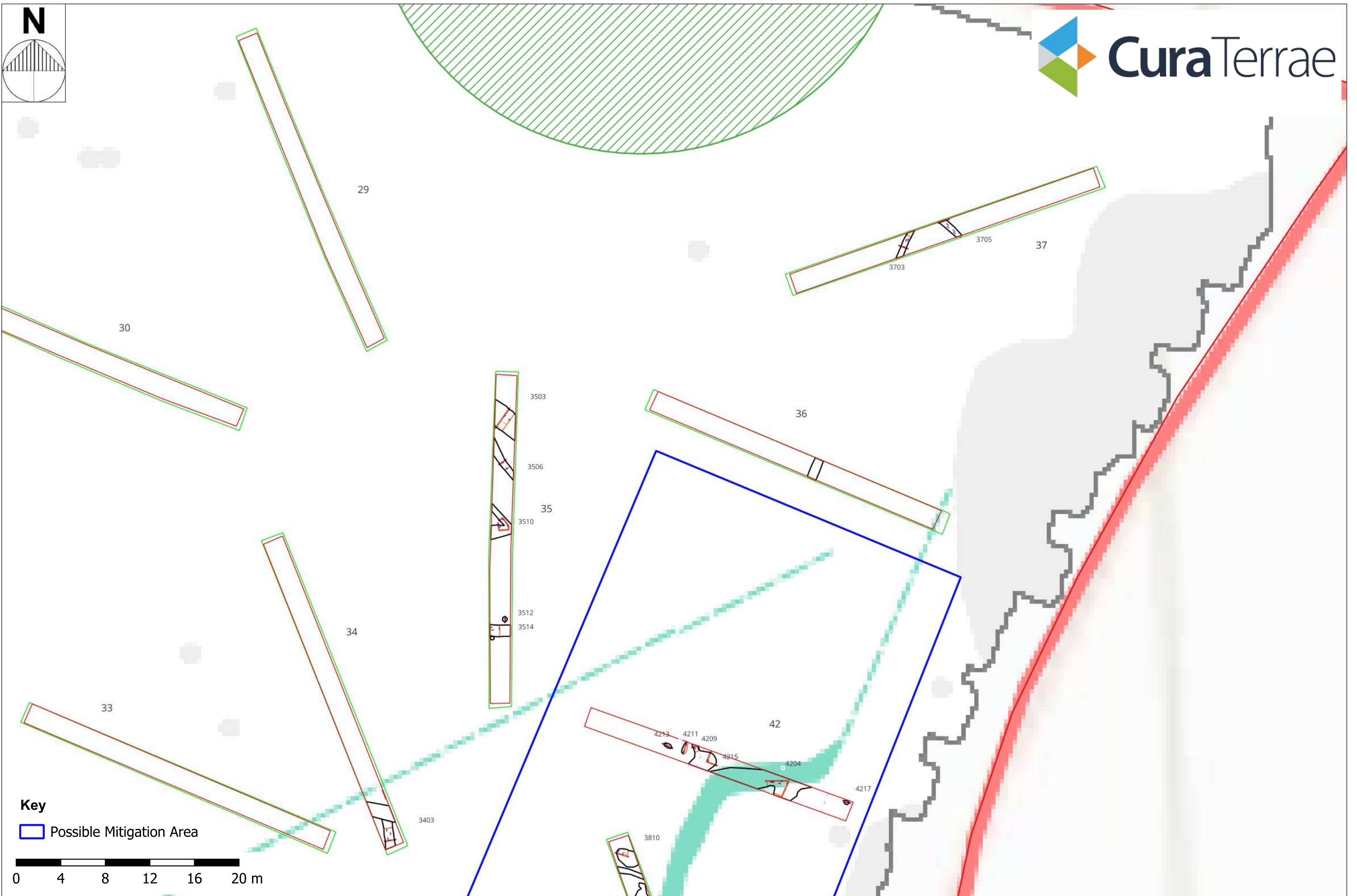


Plate 1: Section of ditch 3503 facing north-west



Plate 2: Section of gully 3506 facing north-west



Plate 3: Section of gullies 3508 and 3510 facing north-east



Plate 4: Section of posthole 3512 facing west



Plate 5: Section of pit 3810 facing south



Plate 6: Section of gully 3803



Plate 7: Section of ditch 3817, showing layer 3814 and drain 3820



Plate 8: Section of pit 3903 facing north-east



Plate 9: Section of ditch 4103



Plate 10: Section of pit 4211 facing west



Plate 11: Section of Pit 4215 facing south



Plate 12: Section of posthole 4217 facing north



Plate 13: Section of test pit 4303 facing south-east, with limestone structural remains in fill

