

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire

Client

RPS

Survey Report

19997

OASIS Ref. No.

Sumogeop1-535428

Date

29 July 2025



Survey Report 19997: Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire

Survey dates	22 July 2025
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Report Date	29 July 2025
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SUMO GeoSurveys is a trading name of SUMO Geophysics Ltd.

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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 Cart System	Traverse Interval 1.0m	Sample Interval 0.125m
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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.
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4 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 4.1 A detailed magnetometer survey was conducted over approximately 2.5 hectares at Windsor Drive, Devizes and it has not identified any anomalies of definite archaeological interest, apart from former ridge and furrow cultivation schemes. It is possible that some of the agricultural responses could represent former field boundaries or lynchets, though only one linear anomaly can be corroborated with a former field boundary on historic maps. Numerous anomalies have an uncertain origin; they could be archaeological, agricultural or natural.

5 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 **SUMO GeoSurveys** was commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for residential development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **RPS**.

5.2 Site Details

NGR / Postcode	SU 01784 61905 / SN10 2DQ
Location	The survey area is located to the northeast of Devizes, Wiltshire. Windsor Drive bounds the site to the west with agricultural fields to the south and east and a small, wooded area to the north.
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER
OASIS Ref. No.	Sumogeop1-535428
District	Wiltshire
Parish	Devizes CP
Topography	Gently sloping downwards from south to north.
Land Use	Arable
Geology	Bedrock: West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation - chalk.
(BGS 2025)	Superficial: None recorded.
Soils (CU 2025)	Soilscape 3: shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone.
Survey Methods	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Study Area	c. 2.5 hectares

5.3 *Archaeological Background*

- 5.3.1 Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) (KYP 2025) identifies a single heritage asset within the boundaries of the site, relating to linear earthworks possibly indicative of recent field boundaries or medieval ridge and furrow (MWI8832), though no other designated or non-designated heritage assets are present in the survey area. Immediately to the northeast, a series of ditches and pits (MWI74435; MWI74436) were identified during geophysical survey and subsequent excavation dated them to the Roman period. Former ridge and furrow cultivation (MWI74438) was also present in the geophysical survey to the northeast. A wide, linear bank and ditched feature (MWI72906) of probable post-medieval date is recorded in the field directly to the south, whilst additional linear ditches are present to the south-east (MWI8835) and are likely medieval / post-medieval in origin.

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 *Probable / Possible Archaeology*

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

6.2 *Ridge and Furrow*

- 6.2.1 Widely spaced, moderate strength linear anomalies have been mapped in the southwest of the survey area, on an approximate north-south alignment. These are thought to be a result of former ridge and furrow cultivation, since they run parallel to a former field boundary (see 6.1.1 below). Given that numerous ditches and boundaries of medieval / post-medieval date are recorded in the vicinity, it is also feasible that the responses reflect additional boundaries or lynchets.
- 6.2.2 Weaker, parallel linear anomalies aligned northeast-southwest are present across the southwest of the survey and are also indicative of a former ridge and furrow scheme or modern ploughing effects.

6.3 *Uncertain*

- 6.3.1 A number of weak linear and curvilinear trends, plus discrete anomalies, have been detected in the data and they have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain*. They generally lack the defined morphology of anomalies that would usually be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. The proximity of Roman ditches and pits suggests that an archaeological explanation cannot be ruled out entirely, however they are thought most likely to be a result of natural or agricultural processes.

6.1 *Former Field Boundary – Corroborated*

- 6.1.1 A moderate strength linear response runs approximately north-south across the southwest of the site and can be corroborated with a former field boundary that is visible on the 1840s Tithe Map and historic Ordnance Survey maps (Fig. 05).

6.2 *Service*

- 6.2.1 A strong dipolar linear anomaly has been identified in the northeast of the survey area and it is indicative of an underground service, such as a pipe. However, the short length of the response suggests it could relate to a drain or other modern ferrous object.

6.3 *Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance*

- 6.3.1 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.

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 often poor. The results from this survey indicate the presence of former ridge and furrow along with a former field boundary and numerous anomalies of uncertain origin. Consequently, there is no *a priori* reason why archaeological features would not have been detected, should they present.

8 CONCLUSION

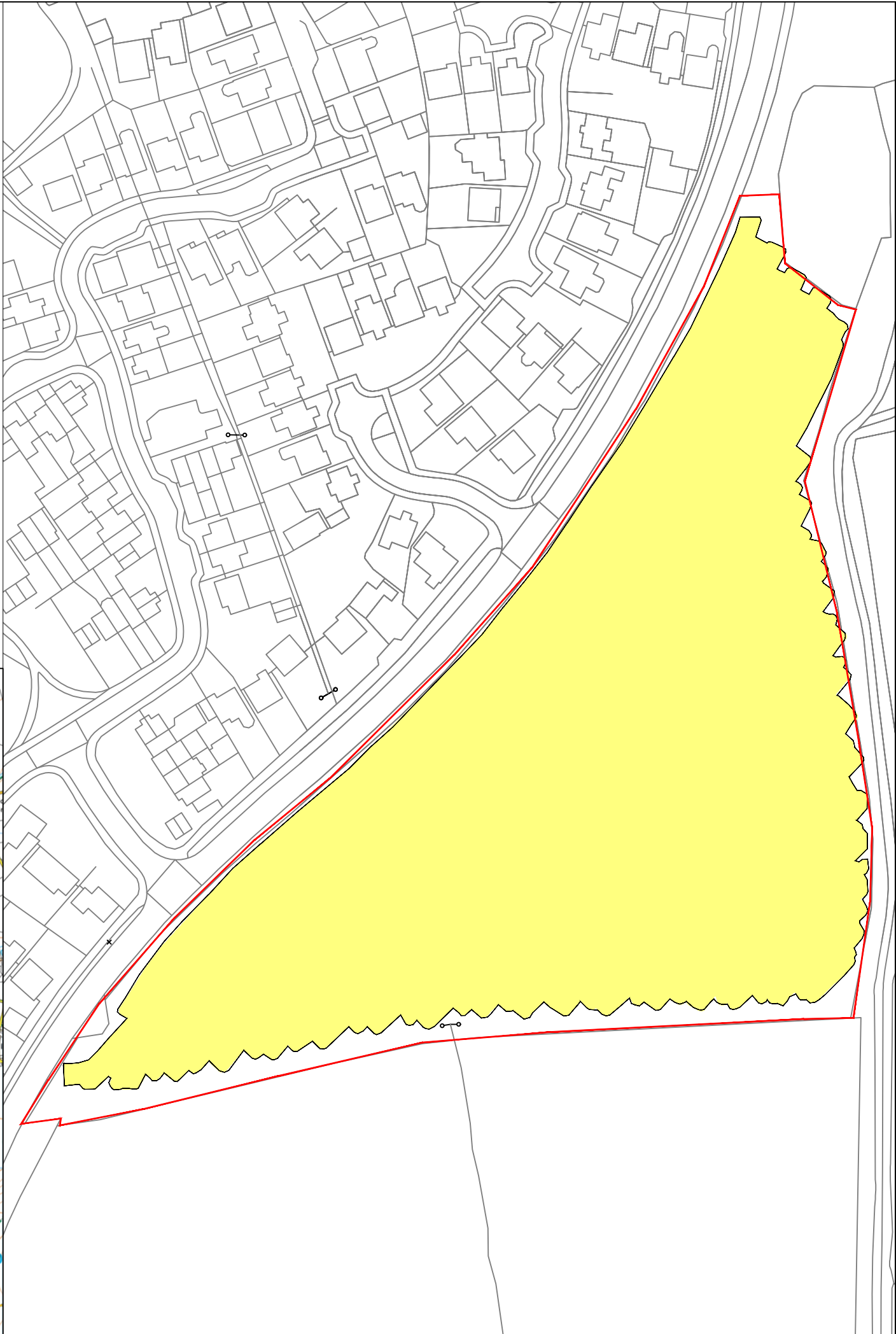
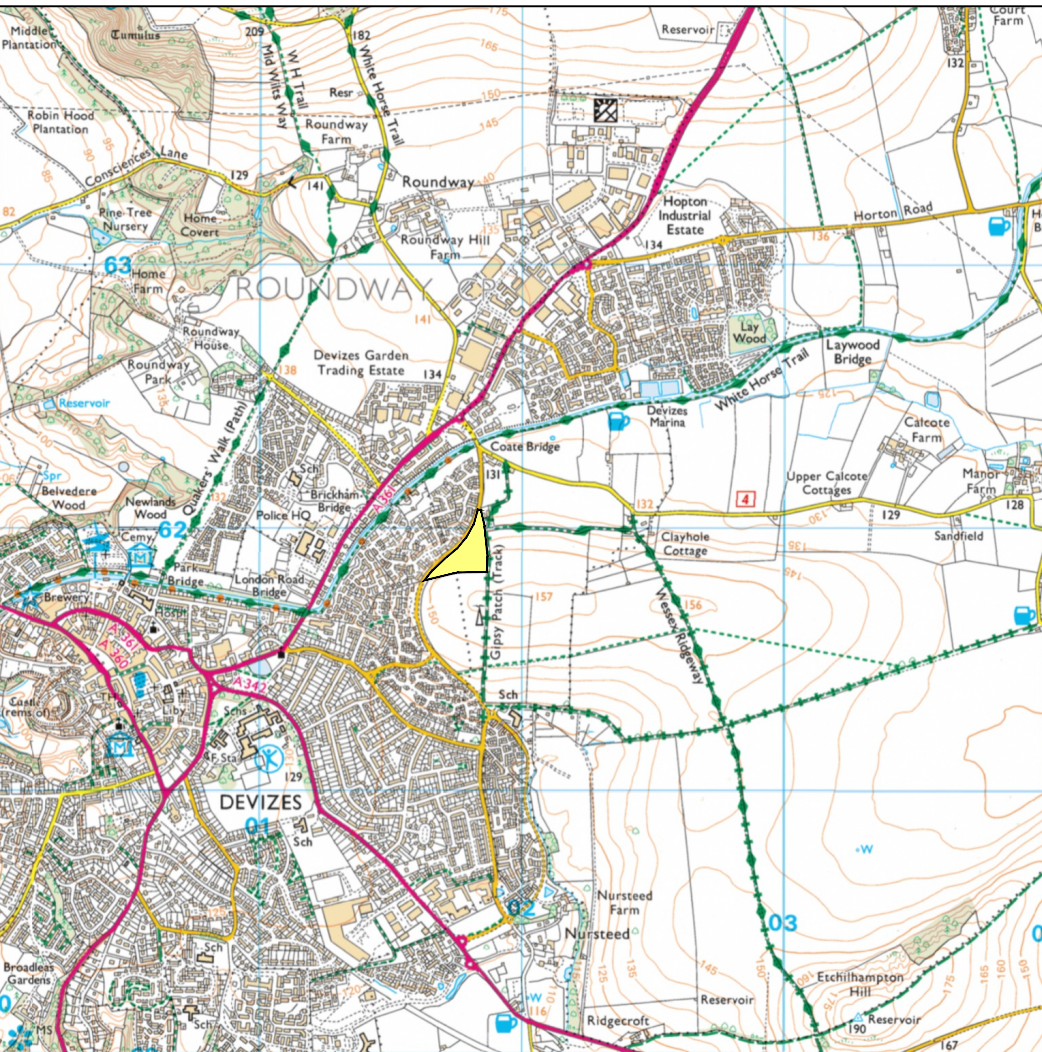
- 8.1 The magnetometer survey at Windsor Drive, Devizes has identified evidence for former ridge and furrow cultivation, though no other responses of definite archaeological interest have been identified. It is possible that some of the linear anomalies associated with the ridge and furrow could represent former field divisions or lynchets. Numerous linear, curvilinear and discrete anomalies have an uncertain origin and could be archaeological, given the proximity of Roman ditches and pits to the northeast, or be a result of natural or agricultural processes. A former field boundary can be corroborated with historic maps, whilst the remaining responses are modern and include a short service or drain plus areas of ferrous disturbance.

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)
- KYP 2025 *Wiltshire Historic Environment Record*, Know Your Place, website:
<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=wilts>

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 The Grey Literature will be archived with OASIS and the relevant HER within a period of 12 months.

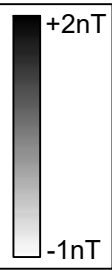


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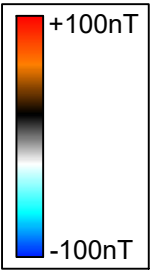
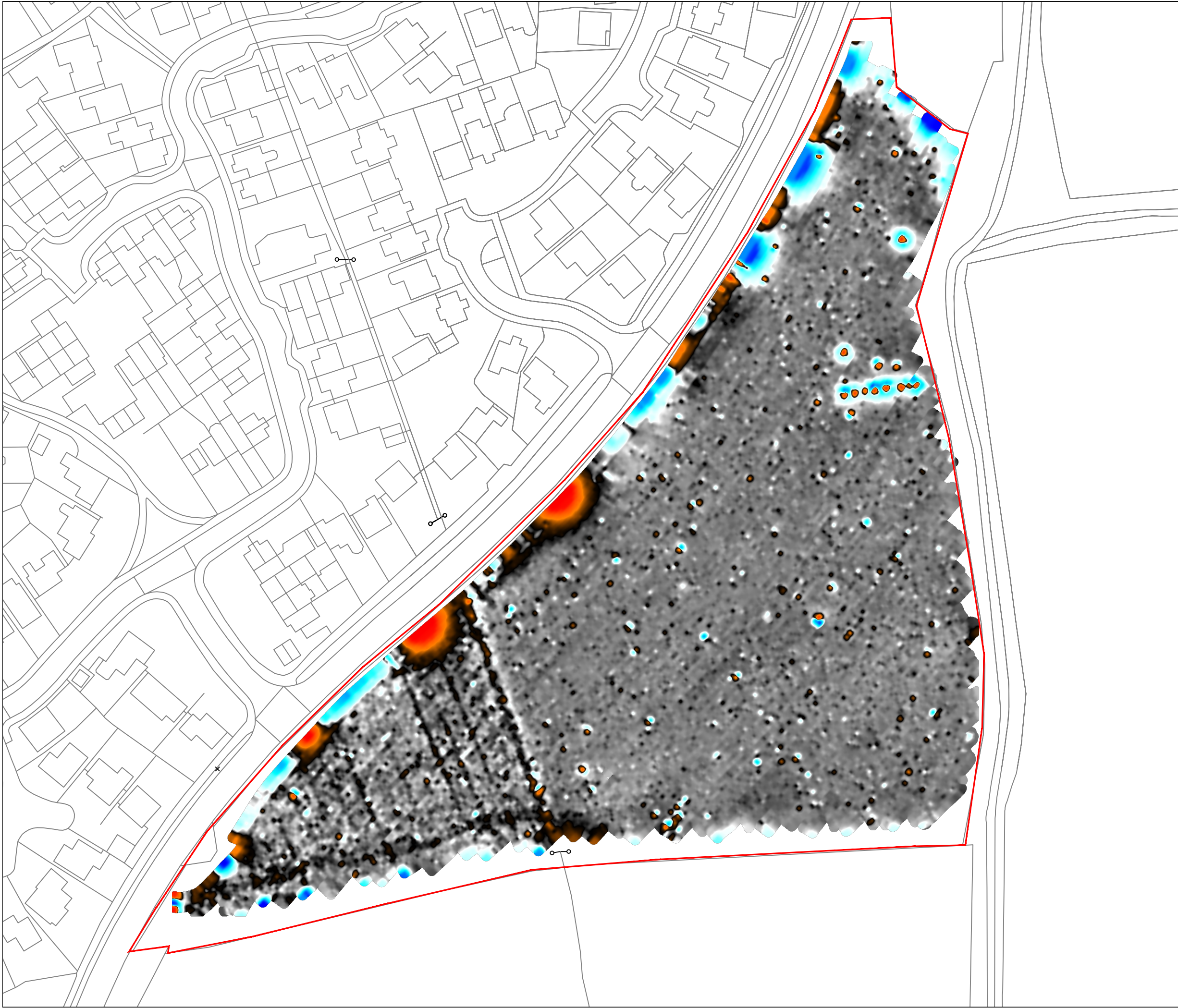
 Survey Area



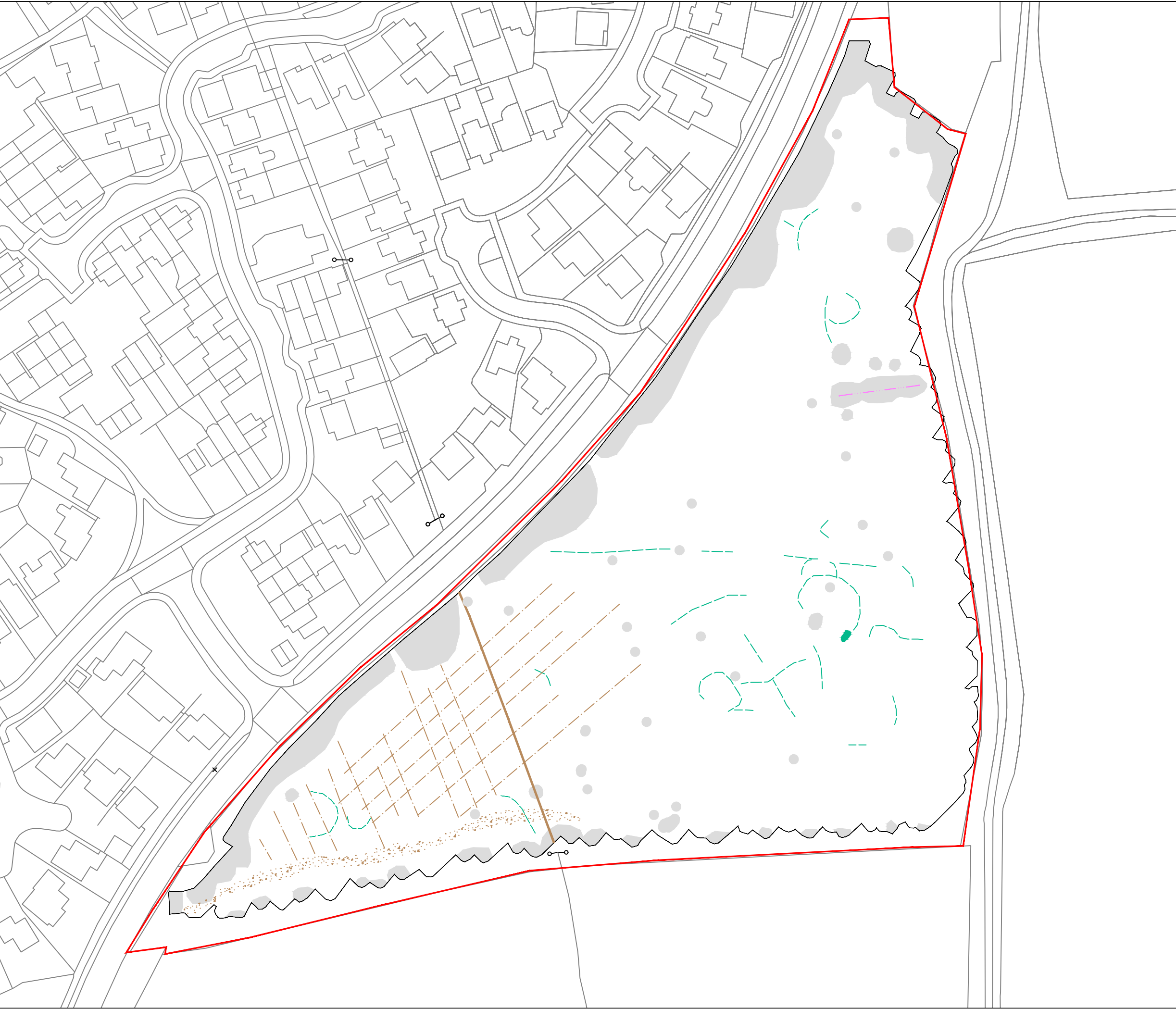
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Client: RPS	
Project: SUMO-19997: Land of Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire	
Scale: NOT TO SCALE	Fig No: 01



Title: Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plot	
Client: RPS	
Project: SUMO-19997: Land of Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire	
Scale: 0 metres 50 1:1000 @ A3	Fig No: 02



Title: Magnetometer Survey - Colour Plot	
Client: RPS	
Project: SUMO-19997: Land of Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire	
Scale: 0 50 metres 1:1000 @ A3	Fig No: 03

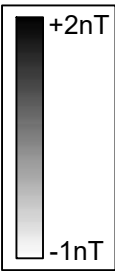
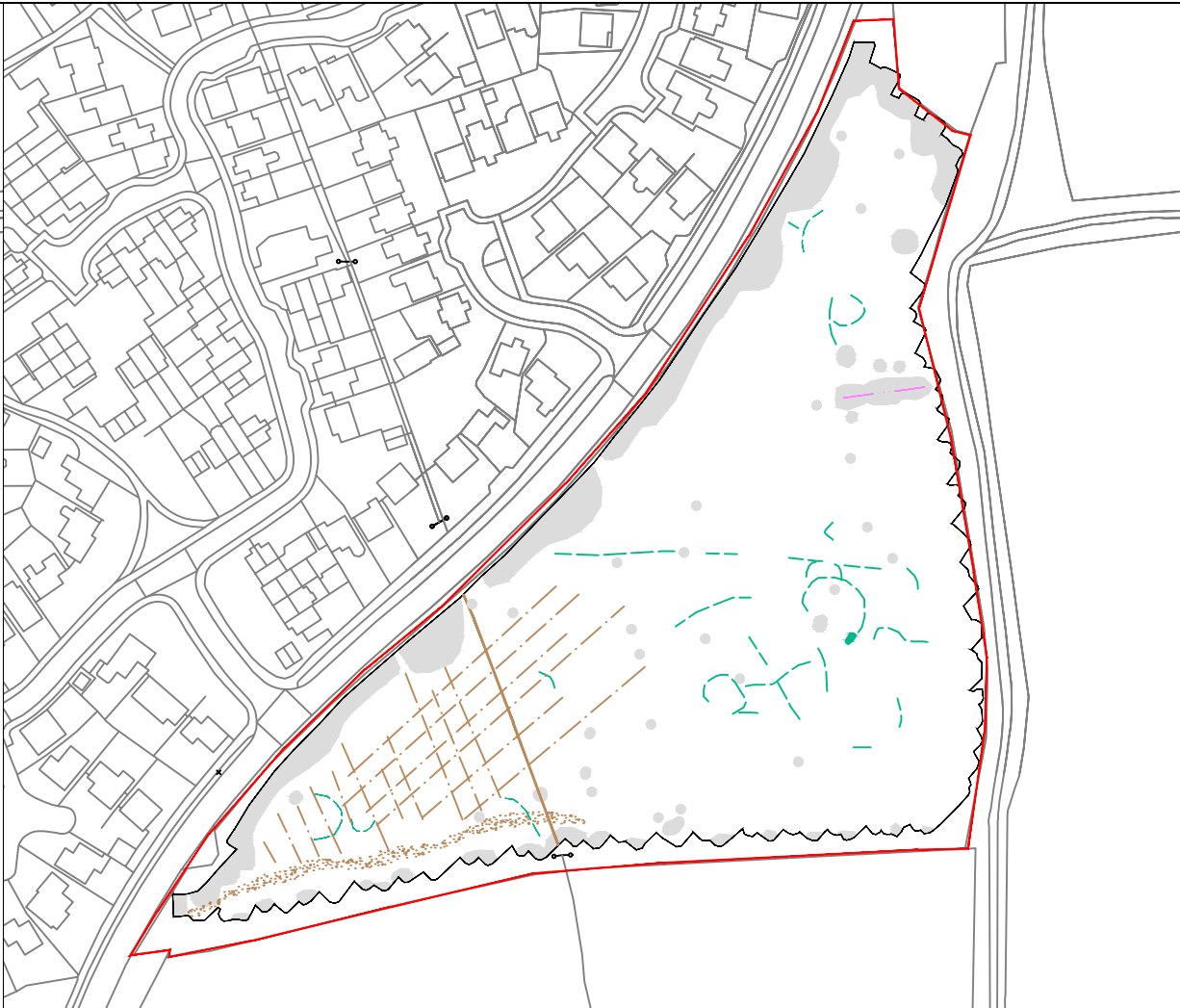


KEY

	Ridge and furrow
	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Service
	Ferrous



Title: Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation	
Client: RPS	
Project: SUMO-19997: Land of Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire	
Scale: 0 50 metres 1:1000 @ A3	Fig No: 04

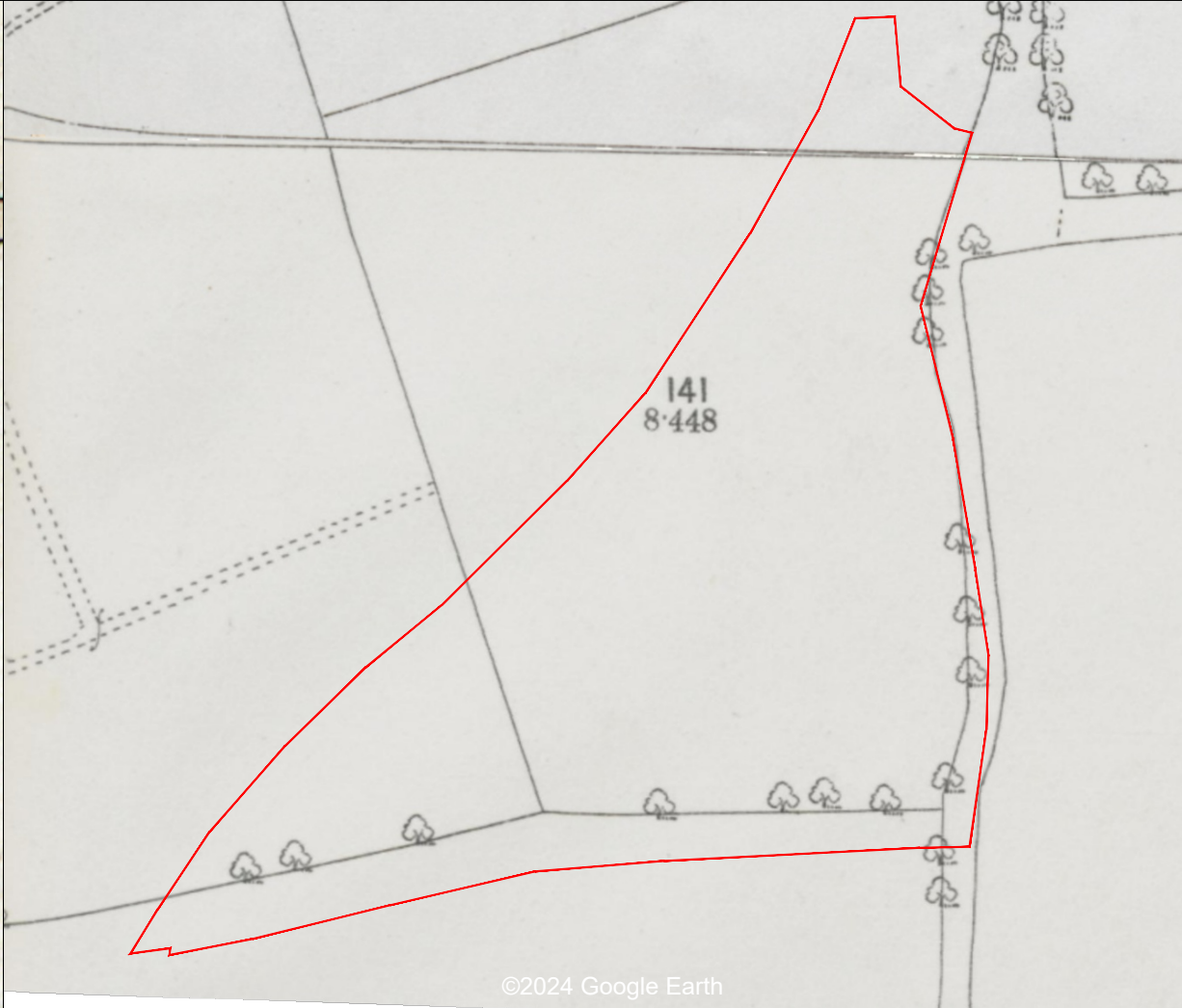


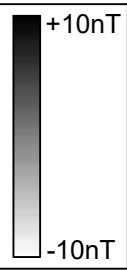
KEY

	Ridge and furrow
	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Service
	Ferrous

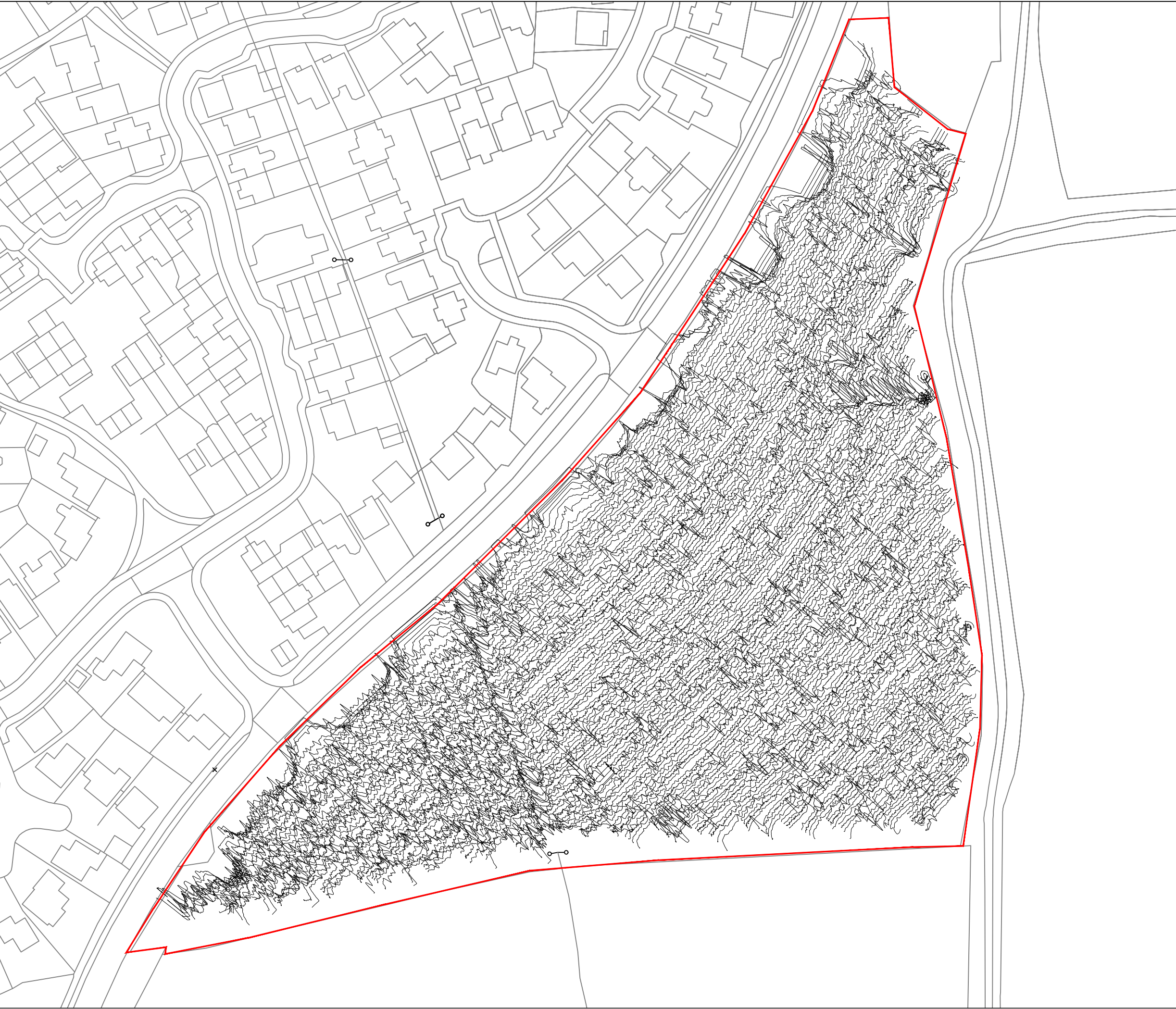


Title: Greyscale Plot / Interpretation / c. 1840s Tithe Map / 1844-1888 Ordnance Survey Map	
Client: RPS	
Project: SUMO-19997: Land of Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire	
Scale: NOT TO SCALE	Fig No: 05





Title: Minimally Processed Data - Greyscale Plot	
Client: RPS	
Project: SUMO-19997: Land of Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire	
Scale: 0 50 metres 1:1000 @ A3	Fig No: 06



Title: XY Trace Plot (clipped at +/-15nT)	
Client: RPS	
Project: SUMO-19997: Land of Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire	
Scale: 0 metres 50 1:1000 @ A3	Fig No: 07

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

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.

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.
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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.

<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.
<i>Uncertain Origin</i>	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 <i>Possible Archaeology / Natural</i> or (in the case of linear responses) <i>Possible Archaeology / Agriculture</i> ; 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 Sheet

OASIS Summary for sumogeop1-535428

OASIS ID (UID)	sumogeop1-535428
Project Name	Geophysical Survey, Magnetometry Survey at Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire
Sitename	Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire
Sitecode	19997
Project Identifier(s)	19997, 19997
Activity type	Geophysical Survey, Magnetometry Survey, MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	SUMO Geophysics Ltd.
Project Dates	22-Jul-2025 - 22-Jul-2025
Location	Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire NGR : SU 01784 61905 LL : 51.35621513686597, -1.975766782154978 12 Fig : 401784,161905
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Wiltshire Local Authority District : Wiltshire Parish : Devizes
Project Methodology	Data was 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. Readings relate to the difference in localised magnetic anomalies compared with the general magnetic background. Each data point is geographically referenced using an on-board Trimble RTK survey grade GPS system. Readings were taken at 0.125m centres along traverses 1.0m apart. Readings relate to the difference in localised magnetic anomalies compared with the general magnetic background.
Project Results	A detailed magnetometer survey was conducted over approximately 2.5 hectares at Windsor Drive, Devizes and it has not identified any anomalies of definite archaeological interest, apart from former ridge and furrow cultivation schemes. It is possible that some of the agricultural responses could represent former field boundaries or lynchets, though only one linear anomaly can be corroborated with a former field boundary on historic maps. Numerous anomalies have an uncertain origin; they could be archaeological, agricultural or natural.
Keywords	Ridge And Furrow - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Field Boundary - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation RPS
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Rebecca Fradgley
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Appendix D – Data Management Plan & Archive Selection Strategy

Data Management Plan

Project ID / OASIS Ref.

SUMO-19997 / sumogeop1-535428

Project Name

Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire

Project Description

Detailed magnetic survey over approximately 2.5 hectares at Windsor Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire

Client

RPS

Project Manager

Rebecca Fradgley

Field Leader

Darcy Hooper

Date DMP created

17.07.2025

Date DMP last updated

29/07/2025

Version

2

Technique - data

Detailed magnetic survey.

Manual – cart - other

Hand cart system

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

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SUMO Services Ltd, incorporated under the laws of England and Wales,
Company Registration No.4275993.
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