

BUNT24



LAND NORTH OF THE A507 AND WEST OF A10, BUNTINGFORD, EAST HERTFORDSHIRE

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

PLANNING REF. 3/24/0966/OUT

commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd
on behalf of Hallam Land Management

December 2024

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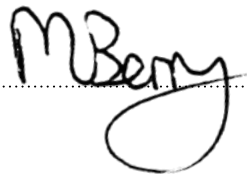
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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd (the Consultant) on behalf of Hallam Land Management (the Client) to undertake a geophysical (magnetometer) survey on land west of Buntingford, East Hertfordshire, where the Client intends to submit a planning application for a residential development and associated infrastructure and landscaping. This geophysical survey report will be submitted as part of the planning application for the proposed development. The results may also inform future archaeological strategy, if required.

The survey has identified a range of magnetic anomalies indicative of agricultural, geological, modern and archaeological activity against a relatively uniform magnetic background. These include anomalies indicative of several former field boundaries and two former ponds evident on historic mapping, traces of historic (ridge and furrow) ploughing, modern cultivation, field drains as well as an area of former quarrying and natural variations in the magnetic background adjacent to Thistley Vale Brook.

Two areas of probable archaeological settlement activity have been recorded, in the north and at the south-eastern boundary of the site. In the north two groupings of irregular shaped enclosures with associated ditches are mapped south of Throcking Lane and west of the A10. A ring ditch 17m in diameter is recorded within the larger grouping of enclosures, though generally few anomalies are identified outside the general plan of the archaeological activity. A spread of magnetic disturbance considered of likely modern origin could be masking associated anomalies of archaeological potential adjacent to the A10. At the south-eastern boundary of the site a large curvilinear enclosure with internal sub-divisions is also recorded. The survey has also recorded a possible trackway, and several faint linear and curvilinear trends and high magnitude discrete responses of uncertain origin.

The results of the survey support the findings of an earlier archaeological assessment which concluded that the site had moderate potential to contain finds and features from the prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman periods. However, the detail afforded by the current survey has greatly enhanced the understanding of the archaeological potential of the site with the clear mapping of distinct areas of archaeological activity and specific features within them.

Overall, based on the results of the geophysical survey, the archaeological potential of the site is assessed as locally high in the areas of archaeological activity recorded in the north and at the south-eastern boundary, and moderate to low elsewhere.

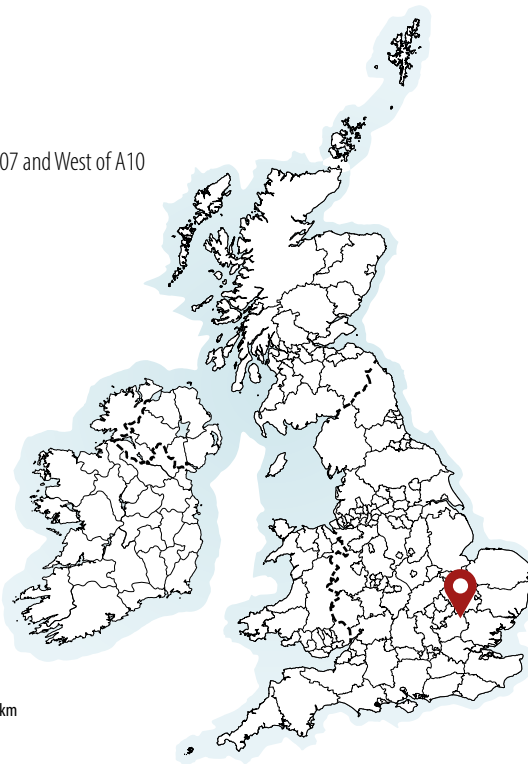
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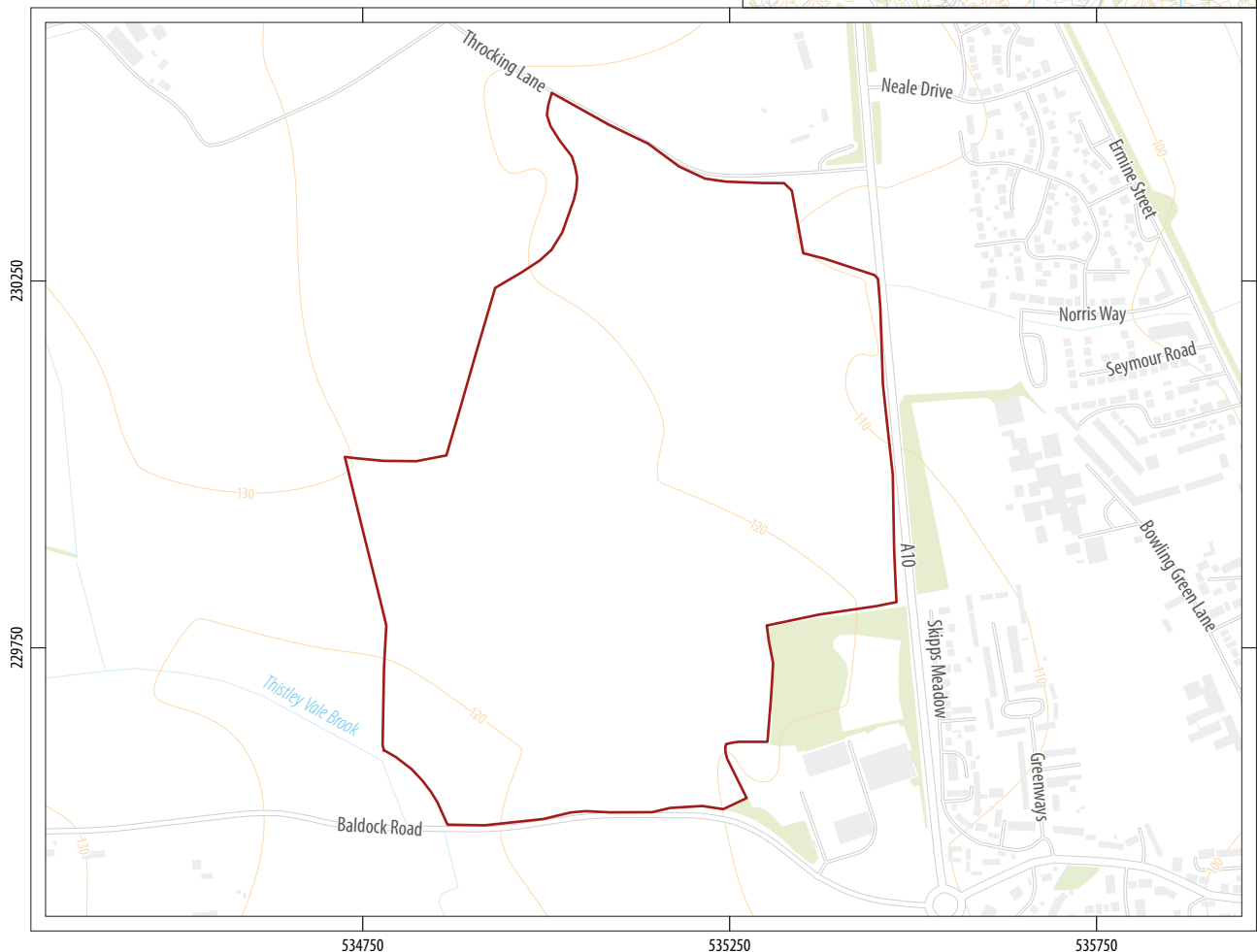
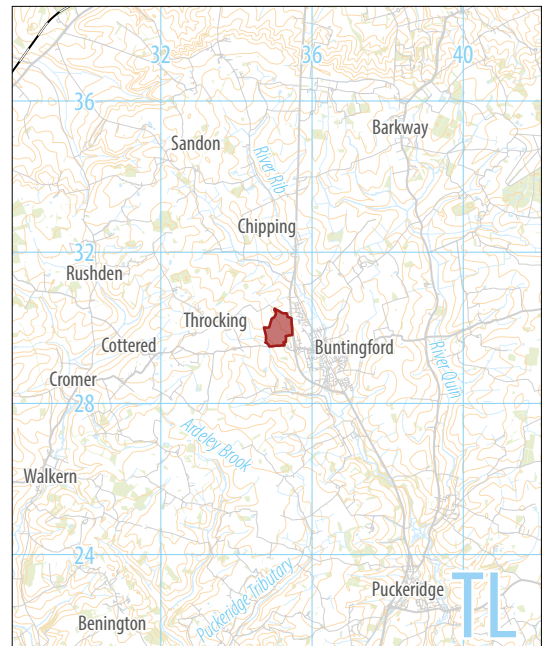
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Land North of the A507 and West of A10
Buntingford
East Hertfordshire



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 200m
1:10,000 @ A4

proposed development area

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GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd (the Consultant) on behalf of Hallam Land Management (the Client) to undertake a geophysical (magnetometer) survey on land west of Buntingford, East Hertfordshire (Illus 1), where the Client intends to submit a planning application for a residential development and associated infrastructure and landscaping. This geophysical survey report will be submitted as part of the planning application for the proposed development. The results may also inform future archaeological strategy, if required.

The scheme of work was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the previous and recently updated National Planning Policy Framework (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, MHCLG 2024) and with the Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey (WSI) (Headland Archaeology 2024).

The WSI was produced to the standards laid down in the European Archaeological Council's guideline publication, EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology (Europae Archaeologia Consilium 2016) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey (CIfA 2020). The survey was also carried out in line with the same best practice guidelines.

The survey was carried out between November 18th and November 21st, 2024.

1.1 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND LAND-USE

The proposed development area (PDA - site) is located immediately west of Buntingford and comprises one partial and one complete arable field (F1 and F2), covering approximately 48 hectares and centred at NGR TL 35047 29905. The PDA is bounded on three sides, to the north by Throcking Lane, to the south by Baldock Road, and to the east by the A10. Further agricultural land extends to the west.

At the time of survey, both fields had recently been re-drilled with new crops (Illus 2 and Illus 3).

Topographically the site rises from approximately 110m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) along its eastern boundary to approximately 125m AOD across the centre of the site. The site rises again to a height of 130m AOD along its western boundary. Thistley Vale Brook flows adjacent to the south-western corner of the site and flows southwards into the River Rib about 1.5km to the south-east.

1.2 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The bedrock geology comprises sedimentary Cretaceous chalk of the Lewes Nodular and Seaford Chalk Formations. This is overlain by diamicton superficial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation (NERC 2024).

The soils are classified as lime-rich loams and clays with impeded drainage in the Soilscape 9 Association (Cranfield University 2024).



ILLUS 2 F1, looking west

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following archaeological background has been adapted from an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA - Orion Heritage 2024) which establishes the archaeological and historic baseline of the site and immediate hinterland.

The majority of the site is considered to have been subject to minimal past impacts. There have been no previous archaeological investigations within the site and there are no Scheduled Monuments that require assessment in relation to the proposed development. There are no findspots recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) within the site however the site is considered to have a moderate potential to contain finds and features from the prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman periods and a low potential for all other periods based on information contained in the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER).

A 1km study area around the site contains examples of localised findspots of worked flints which attests to a low level of movement across the landscape during the prehistoric periods, though at present there is no evidence to suggest that this activity extends into the site.

A multi-period prehistoric site was identified through an evaluation and excavation approximately 350m to the east of the site (MHT31671). The investigations noted activity from the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age and included finds of flints, pottery, a hollow way, a roundhouse, ditches, cremations and post holes.

Three sub-circular pits are recorded 150m to the south of the site which were observed during construction of the Buntingford bypass (MHT2259). The pits were undated, were charcoal rich and contained animal bone.

An evaluation 180m to the south-east of the site recorded undated ditches, post holes and two pits (MHT11435). An undated cremation burial is recorded 465m to the south-east of the site (MHT30580).

The majority of previously identified Iron Age – Romano British activity lies to the east of the site, close to the route of Ermine Street Roman road (MHT9271) which is hypothesized to have exploited an earlier Iron Age route. The evidence relates largely to field systems and occupation evidence with a possible Roman villa present to the south-east.

The Park Farm Industrial Estate 50m to the north-east of the site has been the subject of a geophysical survey (EHT7520), an evaluation (EHT7529) and an excavation (EHT8058). The evaluation comprised 51 trenches and recorded evidence of prehistoric flints, an Iron Age field system and settlement features alongside post-medieval extractive pits.

A possible Iron Age field system is noted 510m to the south-east of the site (MHT31162). The ditches contained Iron Age pottery however nearby pits, post-holes and burnt material were undated.

An area of Iron Age occupation has been recorded 260m to the east of the site on higher ground on the western side of Ermine Street



ILLUS 3 F2, looking north-east

(MHT30412). An evaluation recorded post holes in this area as well as pits and gullies containing Iron Age pottery. The interpretation notes that the site likely forms part of a farmstead and field system (MHT30410) although the focus of activity might be elsewhere.

An evaluation 325m to the east of the site recorded shallow ditches, interpreted as hollow ways which contained Iron Age pottery and prehistoric flint flakes (MHT30411).

There are no recorded HER entries within the site from the Saxon, early medieval, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The historic core of Buntingford is focused within a Conservation Area 700m to the east of the site along the High Street. The site was likely located within the rural hinterland to settlement throughout these time periods.

Historic map regression (Orion Heritage 2024; Figures 4–11 and NLS Maps 2024) shows that the site has remained under agricultural use for much of its recent history but with removal of several former field boundaries. Localised more recent impacts associated with the installation of a modern service through the site and possibly from construction of the adjacent A10 could be expected.

The HER notes two 1947 aerial photographs which show linear earthworks within the central north of the site (EHT2358-59).

Nearby magnetometer surveys across similar prevailing geological conditions (Stratascan 2015, Heritage Network 2012 and Headland

Archaeology 2023) have yielded positive results and indicate that the geological conditions across the PDA are receptive to magnetometer survey.

3 AIMS, METHODOLOGY & PRESENTATION

3.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the geophysical survey were to gather information to establish the presence/absence, character, and extent of any archaeological remains within the PDA, and thereby support any forthcoming planning application and inform any further investigation strategies.

The aims of the survey are:

- › to provide information about the nature and possible interpretation of any magnetic anomalies identified,
- › to therefore determine the likely presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological features, or other geophysical anomalies, and provide an interpretation; and,
- › to produce a comprehensive site archive and report.

3.2 METHODOLOGY

Magnetic survey methods rely on the ability of a variety of instruments to measure very small magnetic fields associated with buried archaeological remains. A feature such as a ditch, pit or kiln can act like a small magnet, or series of magnets, that produce distortions (anomalies) in the earth's magnetic field. In mapping these slight variations detailed plans of sites can be obtained, as buried features often produce reasonably characteristic anomaly shapes and strengths (Gaffney & Gater 2003). Further information on soil magnetism and the interpretation of magnetic anomalies is provided in Appendix 1.

Magnetometry is the most widely used geophysical survey technique in archaeology as it can quickly evaluate large areas and, under favourable conditions, identify a wide range of archaeological features including infilled cut features such as large pits, gullies and ditches, hearths, and areas of burning, and kilns and brick structures. It is therefore good at locating settlements of all periods, prehistoric field systems and enclosures, and areas of industrial or modern activity, amongst others. It is less successful in identifying smaller features such as post-holes and small pits (except when using a non-standard sampling interval), unenclosed (prehistoric) settlement sites and graves or burial grounds. However, magnetometry is by far the single most useful technique and was assessed as the best methodology for this site.

The survey was undertaken using four Bartington Grad601 sensors mounted at 1m intervals onto a rigid carrying frame. The system was programmed to take readings at a frequency of 10Hz on roaming traverses (swaths) 1m apart. These readings were stored on an external weatherproof laptop and later downloaded for processing and interpretation. The system was linked to a Trimble R12 Real Time Kinetic (RTK) differential Global Positioning System (dGPS) outputting in NMEA mode to ensure a high positional accuracy for each data point.

MLGrad601 and MultiGrad601 (Geomar Software Inc.) software was used to collect and export the data. Anomaly GeoSurvey v1.12.3 (Lichenstone Geoscience) and QGIS v.3.28.5 software was used to process and present the data respectively.

3.3 DATA PRESENTATION AND TECHNICAL DETAIL

A general site location plan is shown in Illus 1 at a scale of 1:10,000. Illus 2 and Illus 3 are site condition photographs. Illus 4 shows the location and direction of the site condition photographs and heritage assets, at 1:6,000. Illus 5 and Illus 6 show overviews of the processed magnetometer data and interpretation respectively, also at a scale of 1:6,000. Fully processed (greyscale) data, minimally processed (XY trace plot) data and interpretative plans are presented by Sector, also at 1:2,500, in Illus 7 to Illus 12 inclusive. Smaller-scale plots of three Areas of Archaeological Activity (AAA's) are shown at a scale of 1:1,000 in Illus 13 to Illus 21.

Technical information on the equipment used, data processing and magnetic survey methodology is given in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 details the survey location information and Appendix 3 describes the composition and location of the site archive. Data processing

details are presented in Appendix 4. A copy of the OASIS entry (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) is reproduced in Appendix 5.

The survey methodology, report and any recommendations comply with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Headland Archaeology 2024), guidelines outlined by Europae Archaeologia Consilium (EAC 2016) and by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020). All illustrations using Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping are reproduced with the permission of the controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office (© Crown copyright).

The Illustrations in this report have been produced following analysis of the data in 'raw' (minimally processed) and processed formats and over a range of different display levels. All illustrations are presented to display and interpret the data to best effect. The interpretations are based on the experience and knowledge of Headland Archaeology management and reporting staff.

4 RESULTS & DISCUSSION

4.1 SITE CONDITIONS

Magnetometer survey is generally recommended over any sedimentary bedrock and responses over Cretaceous chalk are particularly good (English Heritage 2008; Table 4). The results of previous magnetometer surveys nearby (Stratascan 2015, Heritage Network 2012 and Headland Archaeology 2023) which yielded positive results demonstrated the suitability of the technique over the prevailing geological conditions. Therefore, magnetometry was the most appropriate non-intrusive geophysical technique for evaluating the PDA, taking account of the limitations noted in Section 3.2 and above.

Surface conditions were generally poor across both fields, being heavy and uneven underfoot (Illus 2 and Illus 2 inclusive). Despite this data quality was good with only minimal post-processing required. No problems were encountered during the fieldwork, and full coverage of the site was achieved.

The magnetic background is relatively uniform within the PDA, with the exception of the south-west corner and part of the eastern limit where different more variable backgrounds are recorded close to Thistley Vale Brook and the A10 respectively. Against this magnetic background, anomalies of various origin, including of agricultural, natural and archaeological origin have been recorded (Illus 6), although some of the responses are low magnitude and not easy to discern.

The identification of archaeological activity in the survey data from both fields, confirms that there was sufficient magnetic contrast for the detection of potentially archaeological features, notwithstanding the limitations of magnetometer survey to identify the types, sizes, and period of archaeological features as described in Section 3.2. The results of the survey are therefore determined to provide a good indication of the archaeological potential of the PDA.

The anomalies are discussed below according to their interpreted origin.

4.2 ANOMALIES OF FERROUS AND MODERN ORIGIN

Ferrous anomalies, characterised as individual 'spikes', are typically caused by ferrous (magnetic) material, either on the ground surface or in the plough-soil. Little importance is normally given to such anomalies, unless there is any supporting evidence for an archaeological interpretation, as modern ferrous debris is common on most sites, often being introduced into the topsoil during manuring or tipping/infilling.

A large spread of magnetically enhanced amorphous discrete anomalies have been recorded adjacent to the A10 in the east of F1 (Illus 6 – MD1). The strong magnetic response of these anomalies strongly indicates an anthropogenic cause however no extant features were noted at the time of survey and no clues as to a cause are evident on historic mapping. A modern origin, perhaps relating to the construction of the adjacent A10 Buntingford Bypass in the late 1980s is considered most likely. However given the immediate proximity of archaeological activity recorded at AAA1 South, a possible archaeological cause cannot be entirely dismissed.

Two smaller areas of magnetically enhanced anomalies are identified within F1, towards the north-western and southern boundaries respectively (Illus 6 – FP1 and FP2). These locate now infilled former ponds, as recorded on the 1883–1884 OS map.

In the western part of F1, an amorphous spread of weakly enhanced magnetic anomalies possibly identifies an area of quarrying (Illus 7 – Q1). Whilst there is no historic map evidence to support this interpretation the signature of the magnetic response is characteristic of extraction, which given the proximity of archaeological enclosures at AAA1 North and South could be archaeological in origin.

Bands or small areas of magnetic disturbance recorded along the field edges are likely to be due to the accumulation of ferrous debris around field margins or to ferrous material in the boundary itself. For example, the 1937–61 OS map shows two former pylon bases were located at corners on the eastern boundary of the site in F1 and F2.

The survey has not identified any buried services.

4.3 ANOMALIES OF AGRICULTURAL ORIGIN

Ten low magnitude linear anomalies that correspond to former field boundaries recorded on historic OS mapping have been identified (Illus 6 – FB1 to FB10). In the north of F1, five former boundaries (FB1 to FB5) in the location of enclosures recorded at AAA1 North and South slightly complicates the interpretation of the archaeological anomalies here (see below).

A series of faint parallel linear trend anomalies aligned east to west across part of F2, possibly identifies traces of ridge and furrow cultivation.

Two higher magnitude linear anomalies also recorded across the southern part of F2 locate modern land drains.

Low magnitude parallel trend anomalies recorded throughout the PDA reflect the orientation of modern ploughing and are largely aligned with extant field boundaries.

4.4 ANOMALIES OF GEOLOGICAL ORIGIN

Within the very south-west corner of F2, a distinct area of geological variation is recorded as a spread of amorphous discrete anomalies and several curvilinear anomalies adjacent to Thistley Vale Brook.

A second area of variation is noted in the north-east of F2 consisting of vaguely curvilinear, broad, discrete anomalies that likely represent natural variations in overlying superficial deposits and/or upper soil horizons.

4.5 ANOMALIES OF UNCERTAIN ORIGIN

Towards the centre of F1, a strongly magnetically enhanced anomaly, (Illus 6 – U1) has been interpreted as of uncertain origin on the basis that it cannot be confidently interpreted in any other category. The anomaly response is indicative of an anthropogenic cause and could represent multiple adjacent anomalies rather than a single feature. An archaeological cause cannot be dismissed due to proximity to the archaeological activity noted immediately to the east at AAA1 South.

Individual very low magnitude linear ditch-like anomalies in F2 are interpreted as of uncertain origin as they do not form any coherent pattern or align with modern or possible historic cultivation patterns. The anomalies are considered most likely to be natural or agricultural in origin although a possible archaeological interpretation cannot be entirely ruled out.

4.6 ANOMALIES OF POSSIBLE OR PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORIGIN

Two foci of archaeological activity have been identified. An extended area of activity is recorded in the north and east of centre in F1 (Illus 13 to Illus 18 inclusive – AAA1 North and AAA1 South), and a curving enclosure is recorded at the south-eastern boundary of F2 (Illus 19 to Illus 21 inclusive – AAA2).

The archaeological anomalies at AAA1 collectively cover approximately 3.75 hectares and likely identify settlement activity. They are comprised of one larger grouping of irregular shaped enclosures with associated ditches centred at NGR 535300 230220 (AAA1 South) and as many as three small adjoining irregular shaped enclosures recorded approximately 150m to the north-west centred at NGR 535075 230400 (AAA1 North). A large ring ditch/circular enclosure approximately 17m in diameter is recorded as a low magnitude anomaly towards the centre of the activity at AAA1 South. It remains uncertain, but is considered possible, that the magnetic disturbance at the eastern boundary of F1 (MD1) is masking further archaeological responses associated with the activity recorded at AAA1 South.

Multiple field boundaries (FB1 to FB6) recorded in F1 as linear trend anomalies with similar magnetic signatures to archaeological ditch-like features, complicate the interpretation in areas where they overlap, particularly at AAA1 North.

Between the two clusters of enclosures the survey has recorded several low magnitude linear ditch-type anomalies (Illus 6 - D1) of possible archaeological origin.

The second focus of archaeological activity (AAA2) is recorded at the south-eastern boundary of F2 where a large curvilinear enclosure with internal sub-divisions (Illus 21) is identified at NGR 535275 229725. The survey has likely recorded the extent of the archaeological features here as largely confined to the limits of the PDA.

Elsewhere in F2, a parallel curvilinear ditch-like feature aligned broadly east to west possibly identifies a trackway (TW?1 – Illus 12), though no association with other anomalies of possible archaeological potential recorded by the survey is identified.

5 CONCLUSION

The survey has identified a range of magnetic anomalies indicative of agricultural, geological, modern and archaeological activity against a relatively uniform magnetic background. These include anomalies locating several former field boundaries and two former ponds evident on historic mapping, traces of historic (ridge and furrow) ploughing, modern cultivation and field drains, an area of former quarrying and natural variations in the magnetic background adjacent to Thistley Vale Brook.

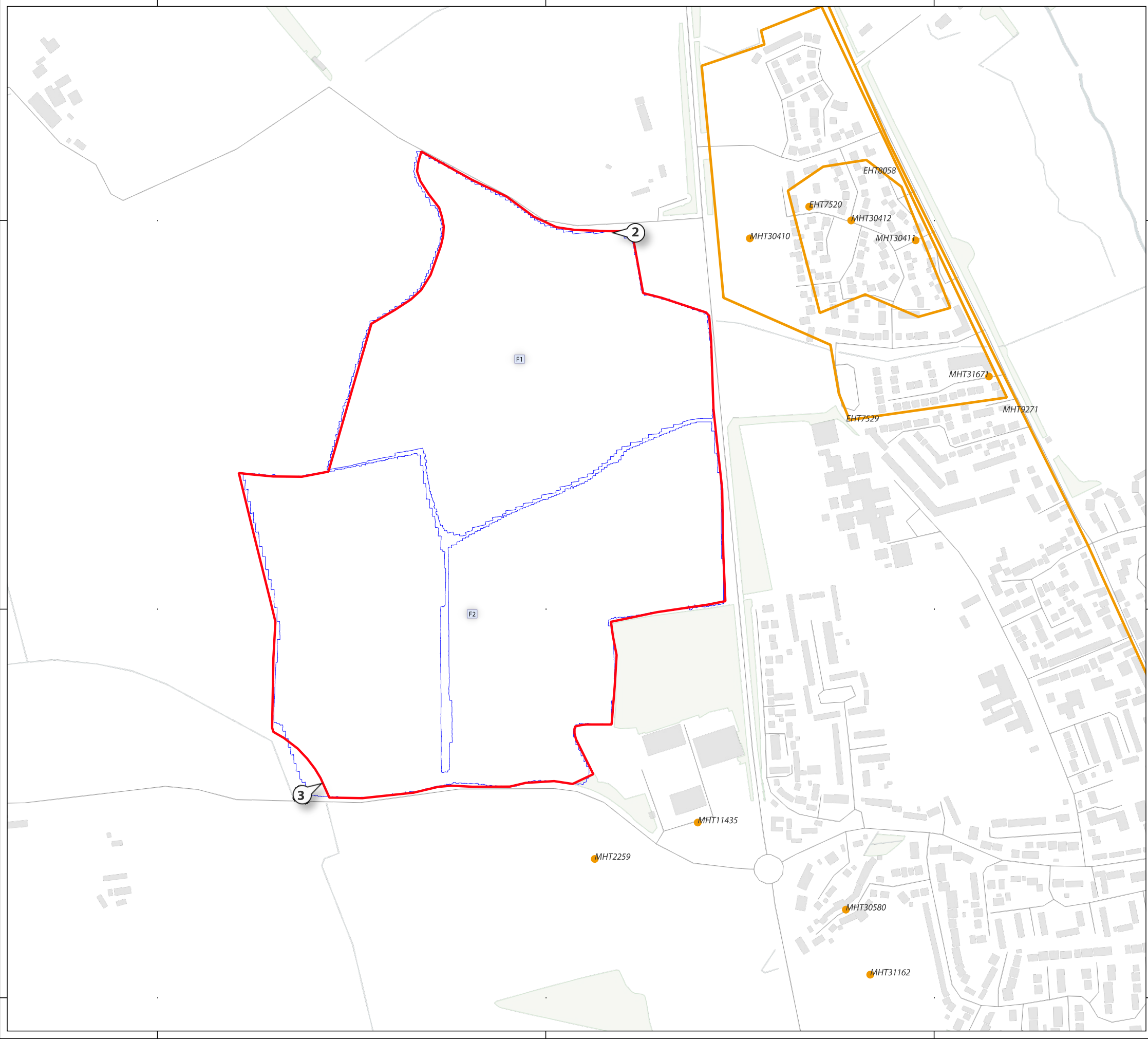
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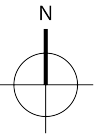
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Overall, based on the results of the geophysical survey, the archaeological potential of the site is assessed as locally high in the areas of archaeological activity recorded in the north and at the south-eastern boundary, and moderate to low elsewhere.

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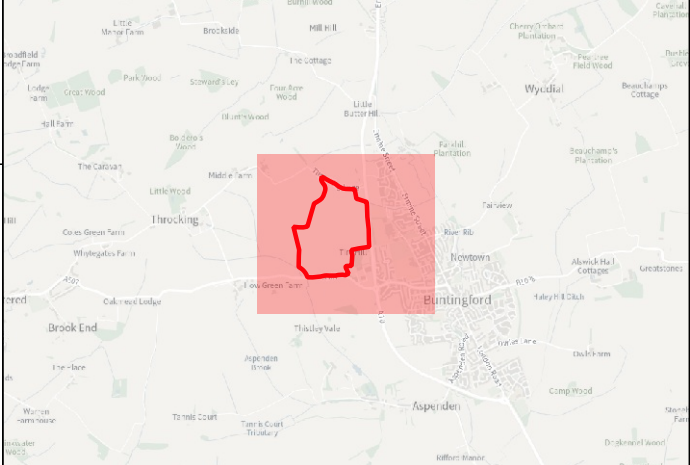






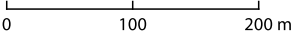
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Key

-  Proposed Development Area
-  Survey Extent
-  Location and Direction for Illus 02 to 03
-  Heritage Assets
-  Heritage Assets

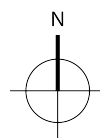


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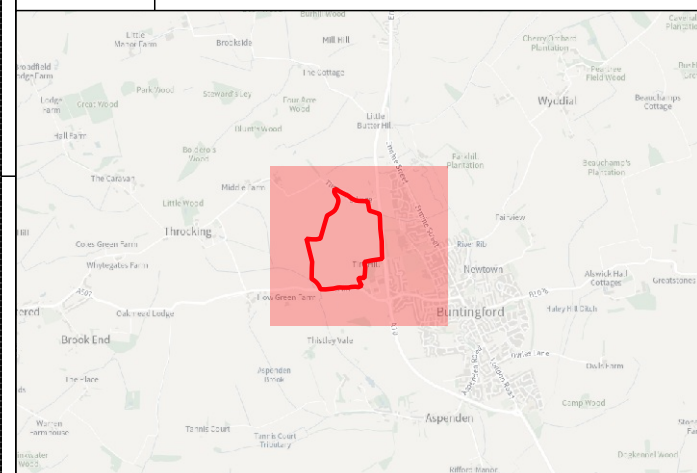
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Illus 04 Survey location showing photograph locations

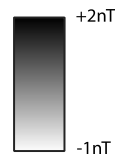


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Key

-  Proposed Development Area
 Survey Extent
 Area for Illus 07 to 13
 Area for Illus 13 to 21



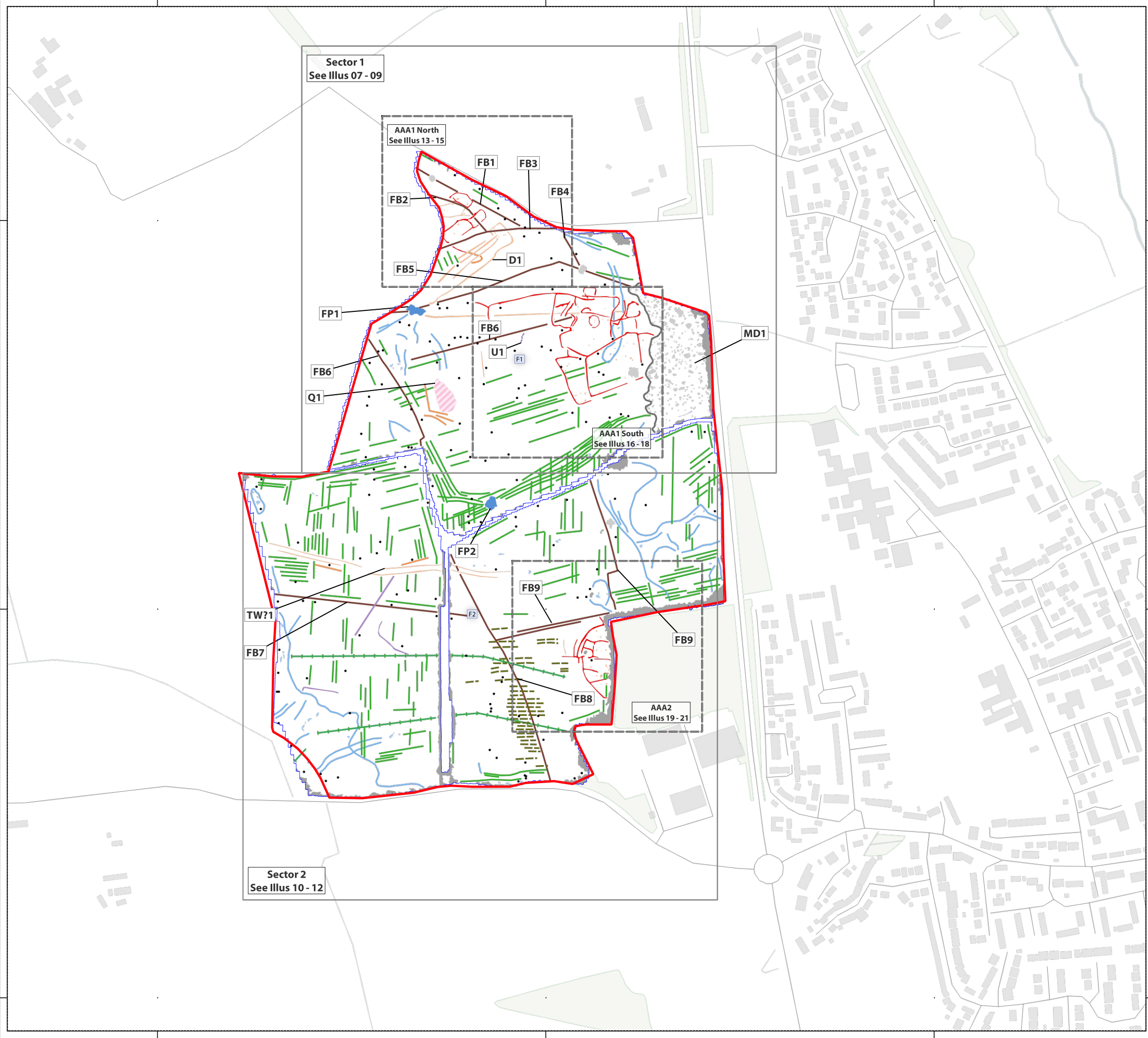
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Illus 05 - Overall greyscale plot of processed magnetometer data



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Proposed Development Area

Survey Extent

Area for Illus 07 to 13

Area for Illus 13 to 21

Ferrous Objects

Possible Archaeology

Agriculture

Field Boundary

Field Drain

Natural

Uncertain

Ridge and Furrow

Magnetic Disturbance

Archaeology

Magnetic Disturbance (Above Ground)

Magnetic Disturbance (Below Ground)

Natural

Possible Archaeology

Quarry

Uncertain

Former Pond

Abbreviation	
D	Ditch
FB	Former Field Boundary
FP	Former Pond
MD	Magnetic Disturbance
Q	Quarry
TW?	Trackway
U	Uncertain

0100200

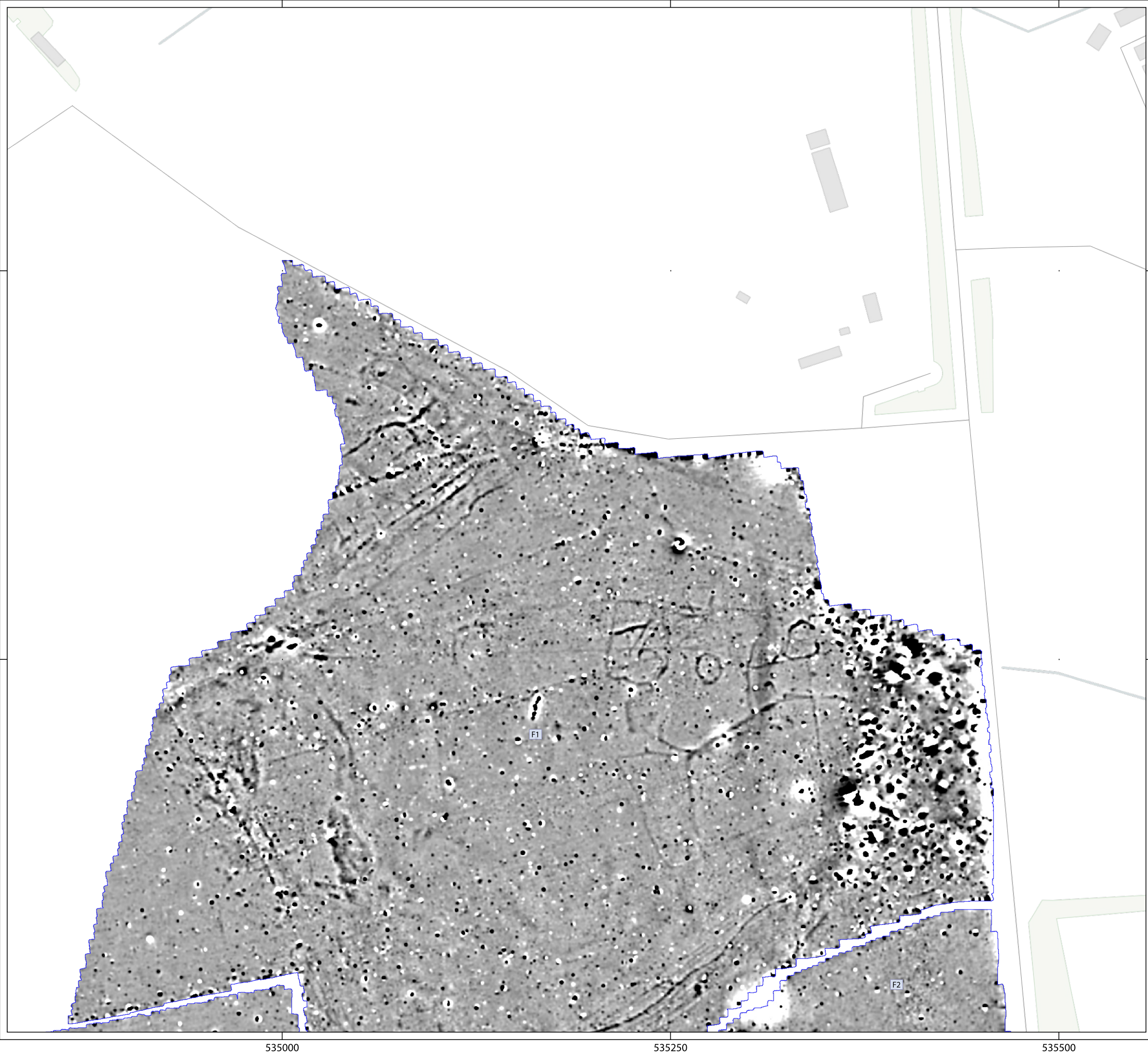
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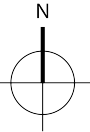
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Illus 06 - Overall interpretation of magnetometer data

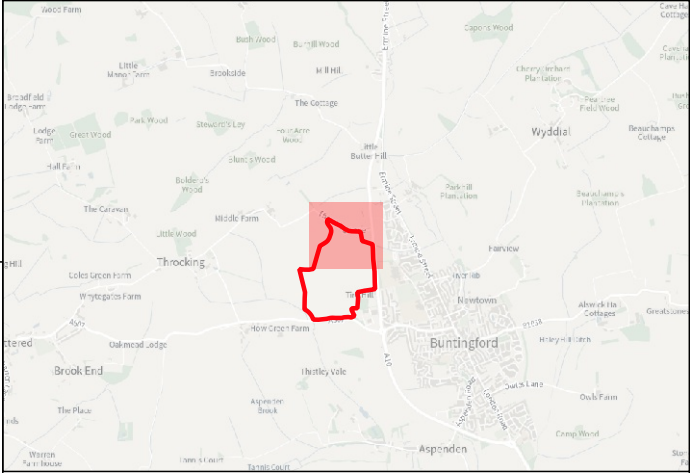






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Key

 Survey Extent



+2nT

-1nT

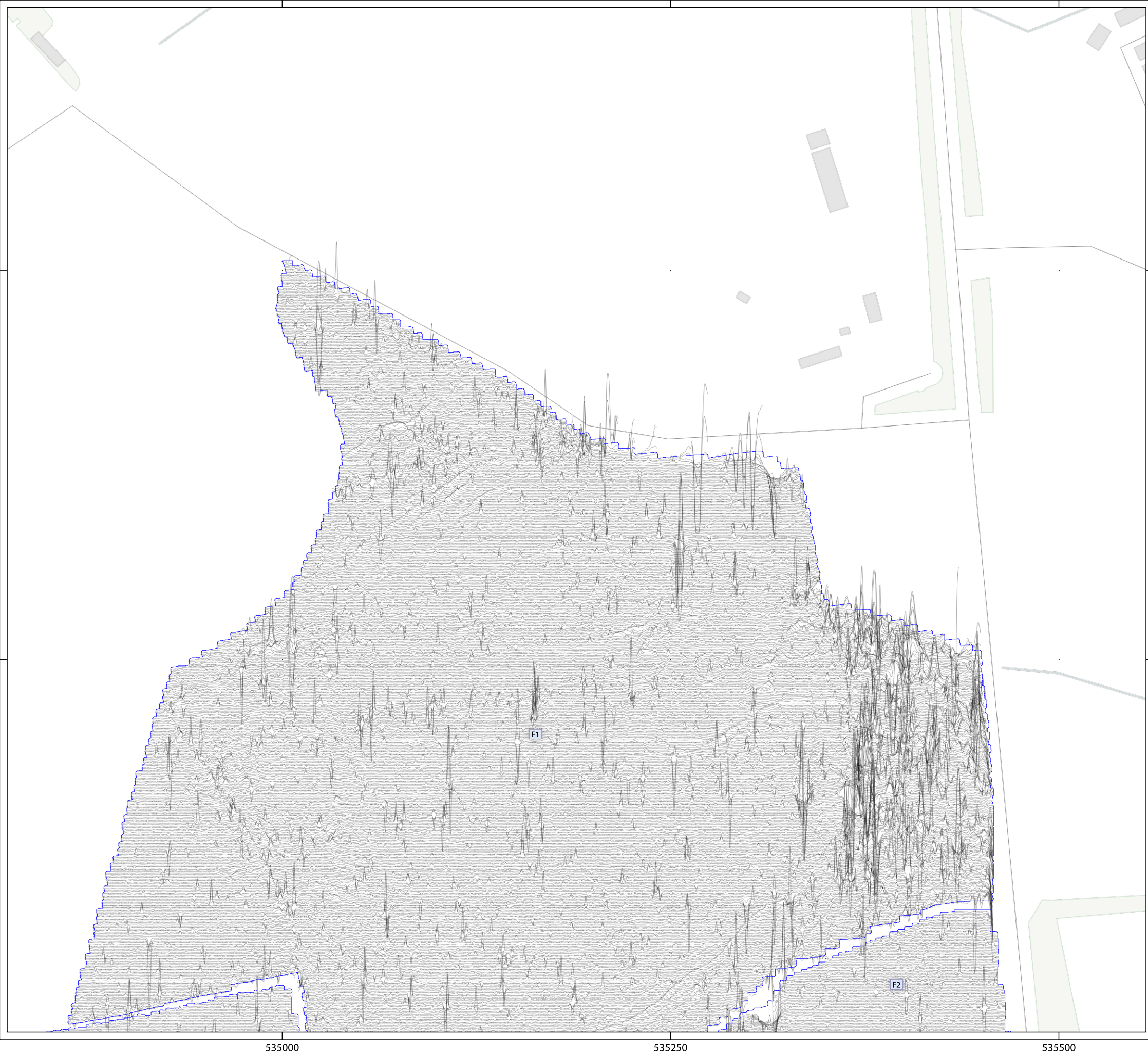
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Illus - 07 Processed greyscale magnetometer data; Sector 1



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Key

Survey Extent

XY Trace (25nT/cm)

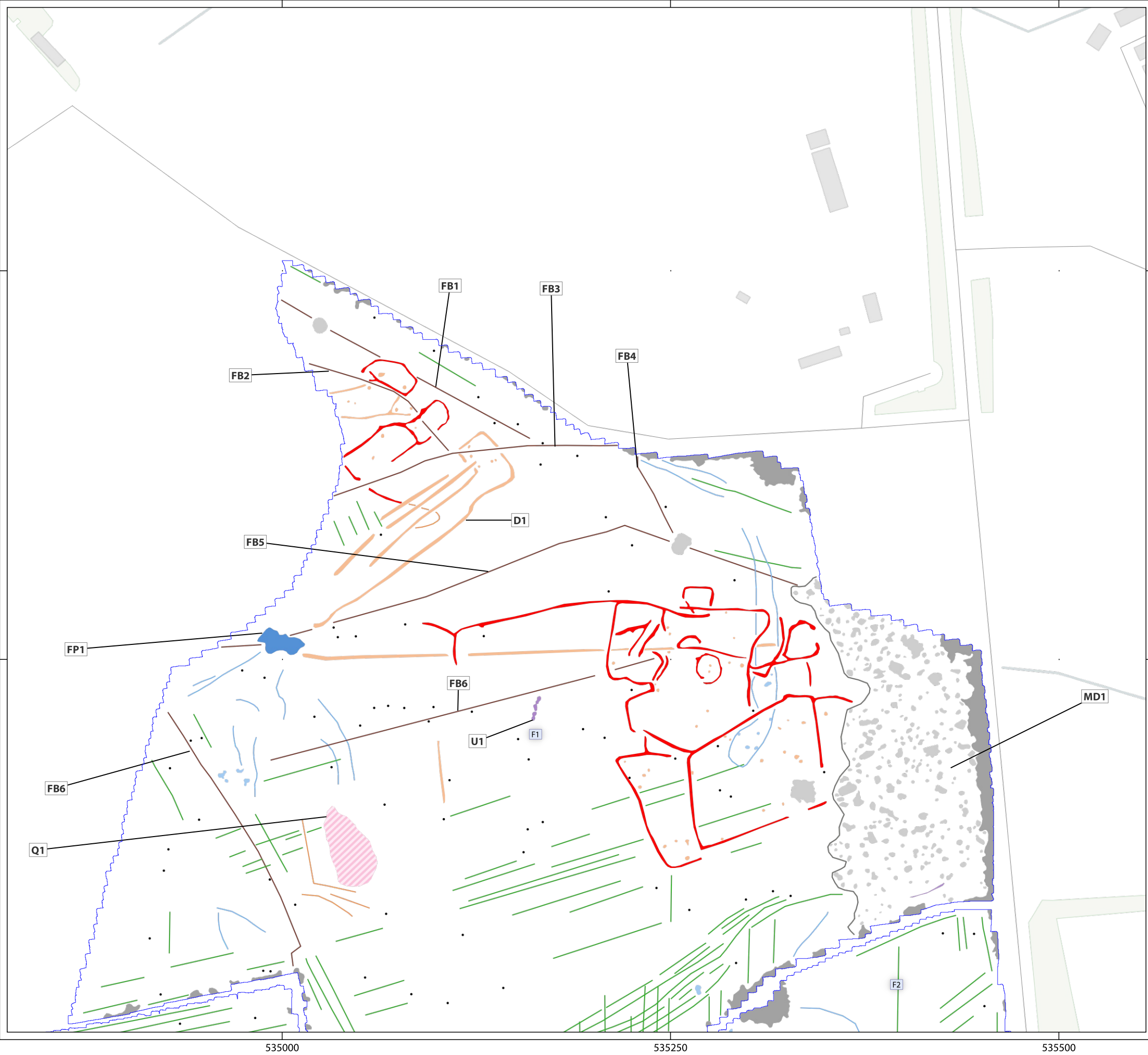
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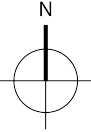
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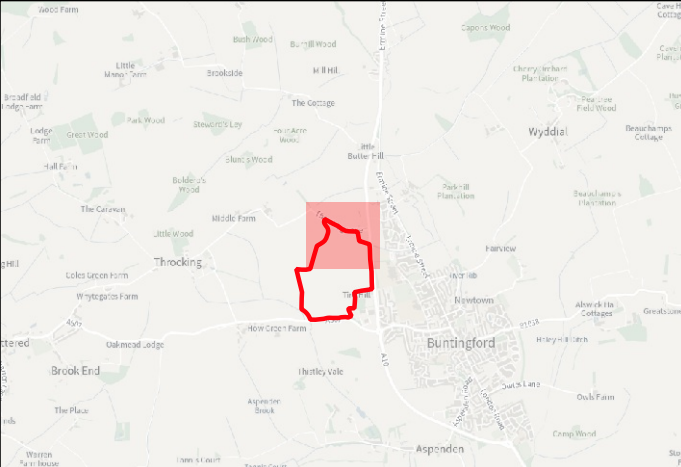






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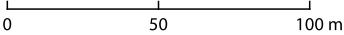
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Key

-  Survey Extent
-  Ferrous Objects
-  Possible Archaeology
-  Agriculture
-  Field Boundary
-  Natural
-  Magnetic Disturbance
-  Archaeology
-  Magnetic Disturbance (Above Ground)
-  Magnetic Disturbance (Below Ground)
-  Natural
-  Possible Archaeology
-  Quarry
-  Uncertain
-  Former Pond

Abbreviation	
D	Ditch
FB	Former Field Boundary
FP	Former Pond
MD	Magnetic Disturbance
Q	Quarry
U	Uncertain

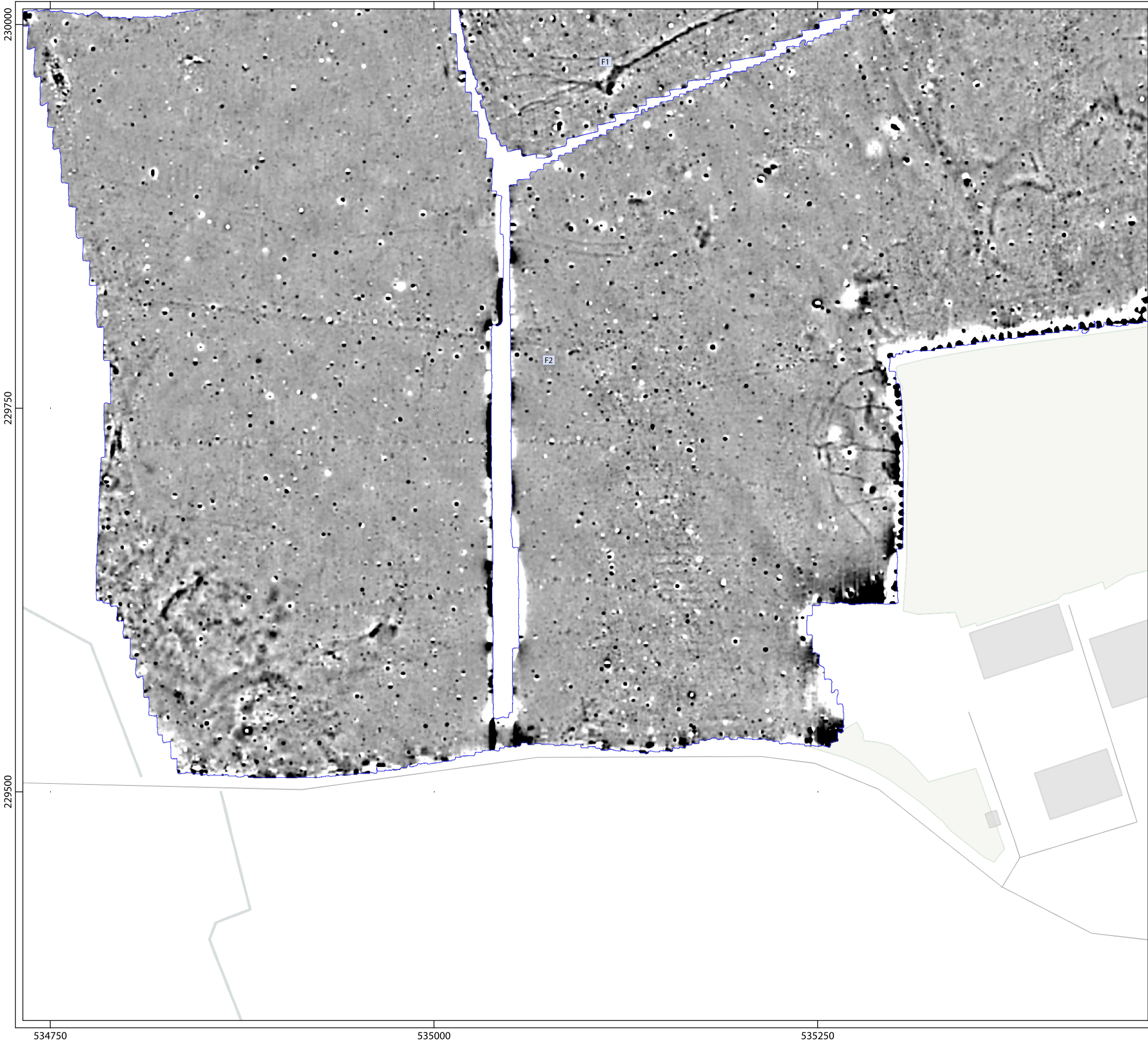


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Illus - 09 Interpretation of magnetometer data; Sector 1



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Key

Survey Extent

+2nT

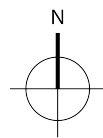
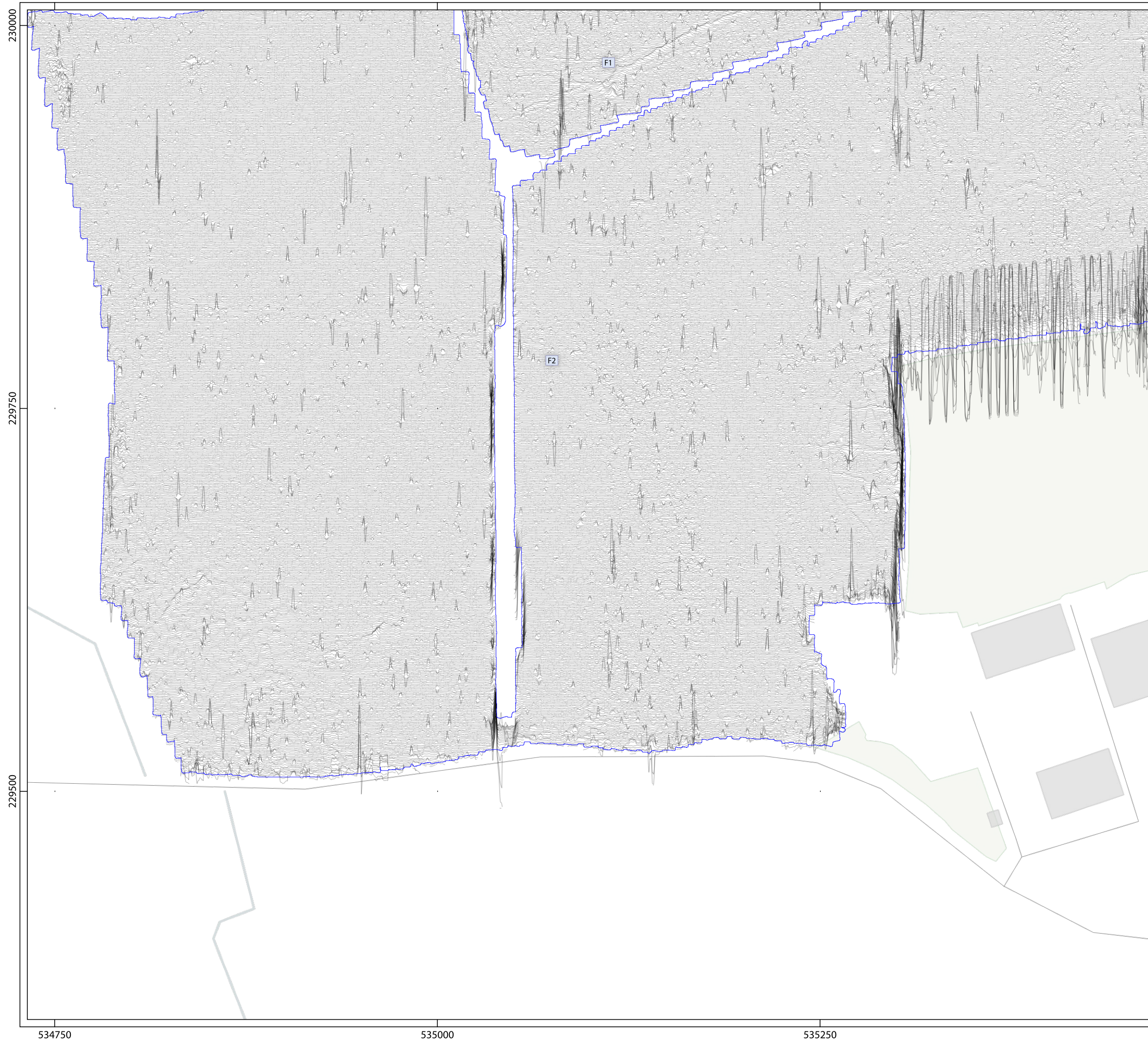
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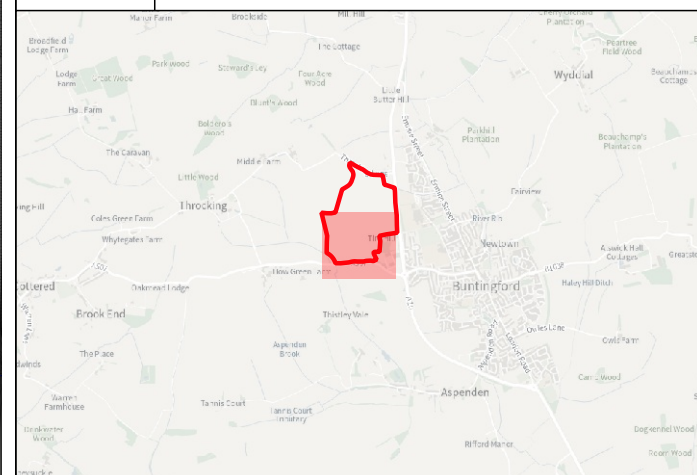
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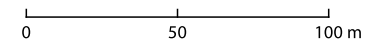
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Key

☐ Survey Extent

— XY Trace (25nT/cm)

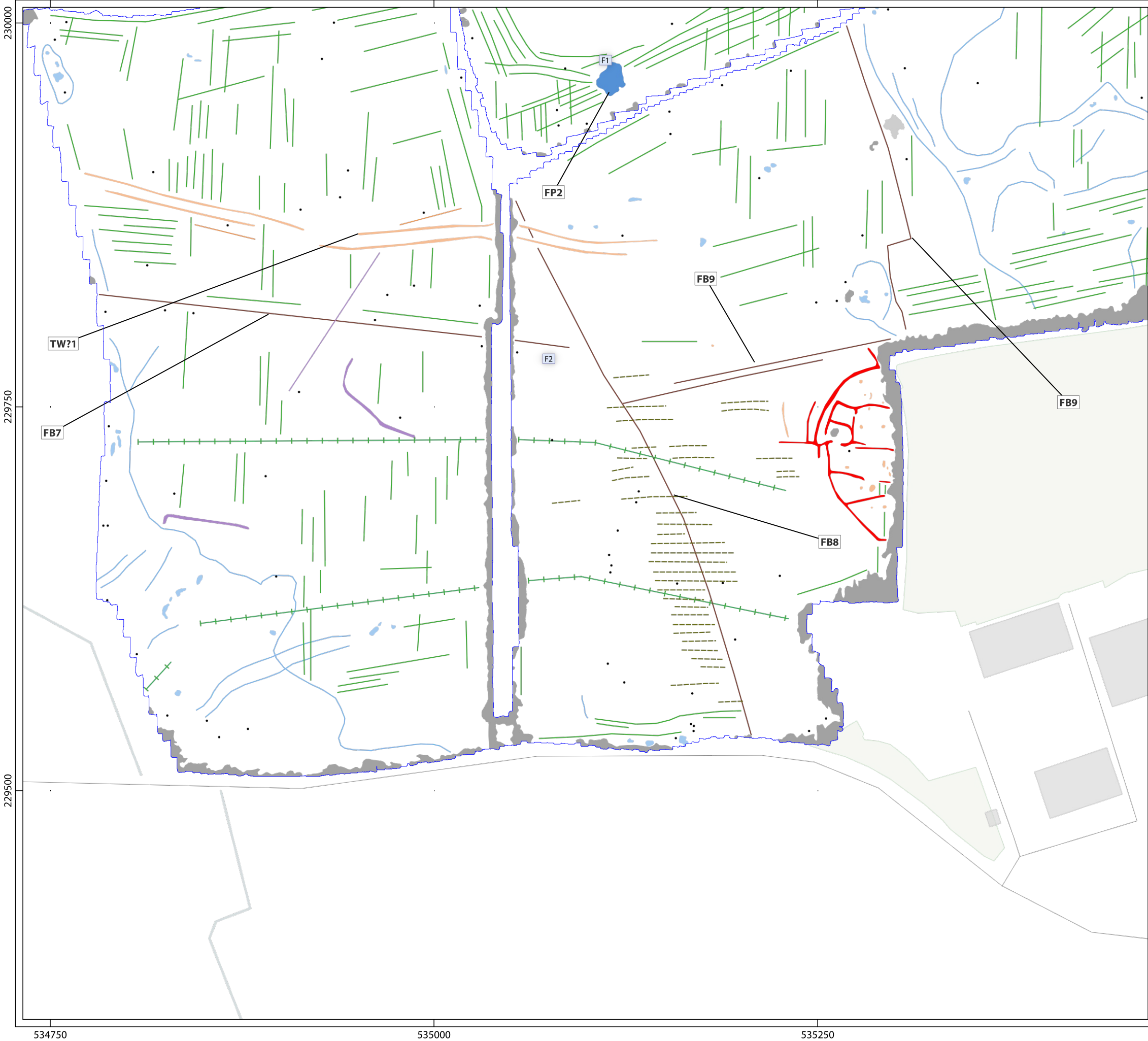


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Illus - 11 XY trace plot of minimally processed magnetometer data; Sector 2



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Key

Survey Extent

Ferrous Objects

Possible Archaeology

Agriculture

Field Boundary

Field Drain

Natural

Uncertain

Ridge and Furrow

Archaeology

Magnetic Disturbance (Above Ground)

Magnetic Disturbance (Below Ground)

Natural

Possible Archaeology

Uncertain

Former Pond

Abbreviation

FB

Former Field Boundary

FP

Former Pond

TW?

Trackway

0

50

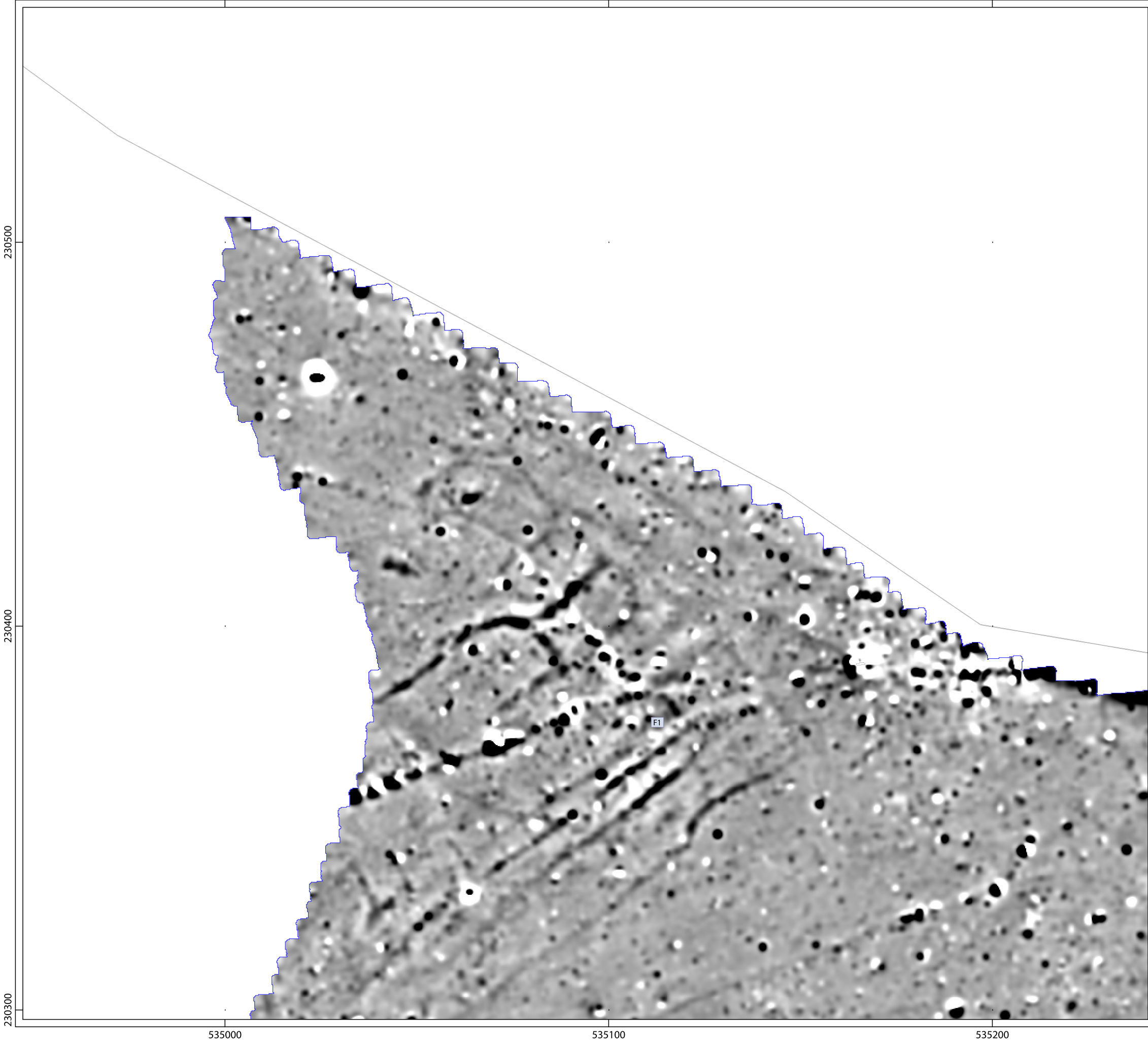
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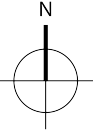
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Illus - 12 Interpretation of magnetometer data; Sector 2

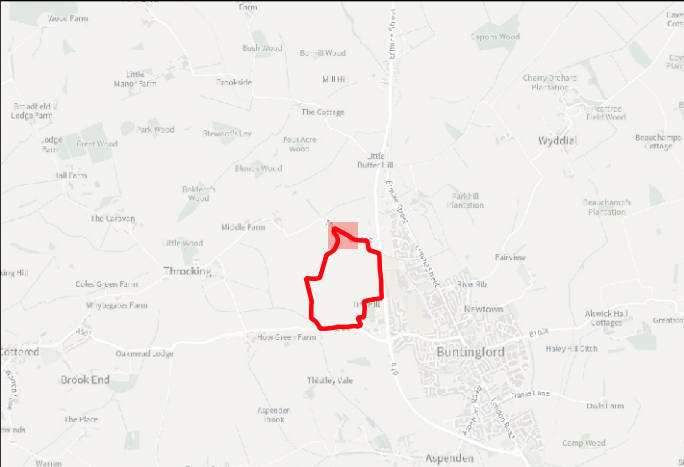






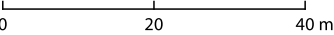
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Key

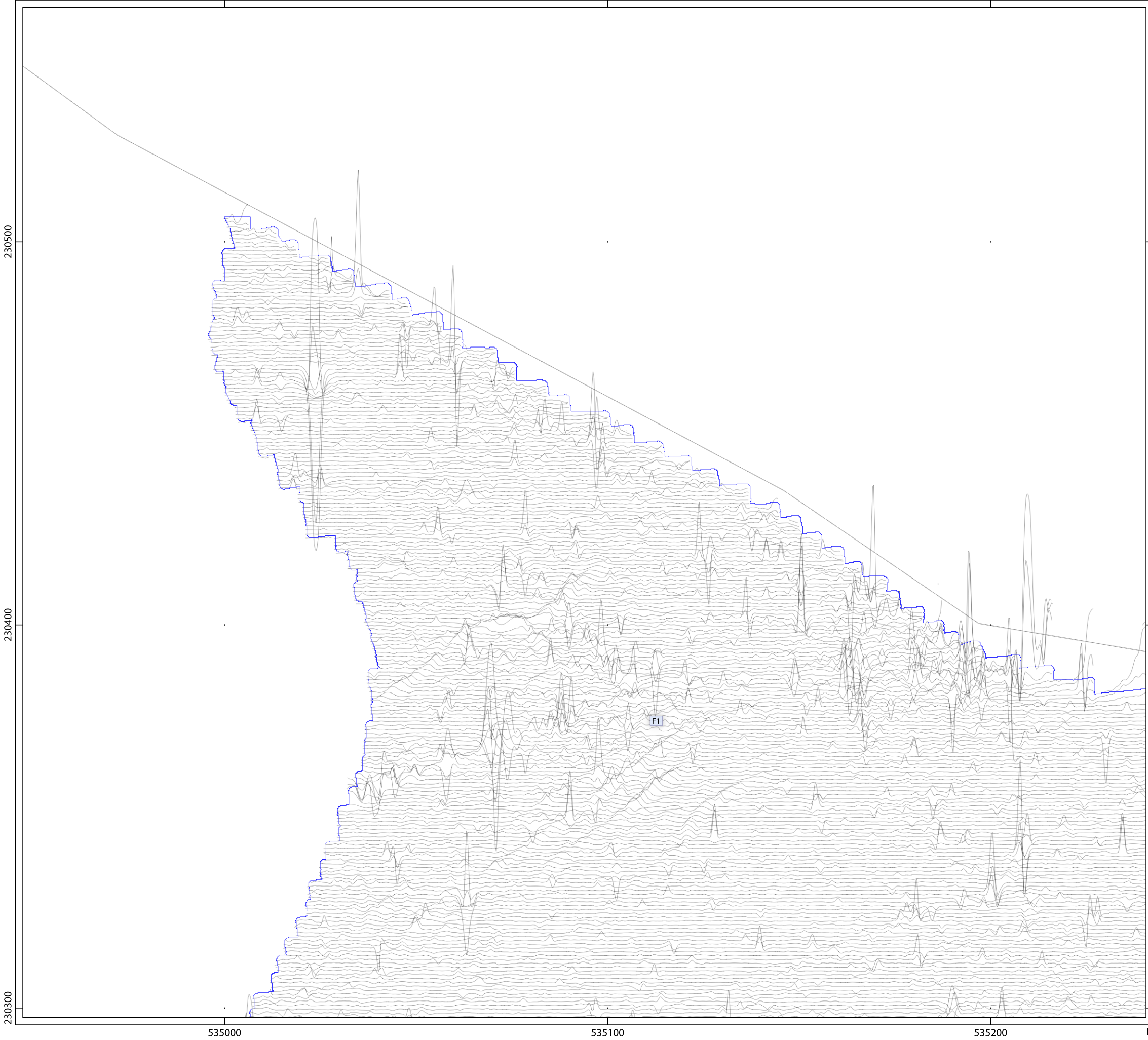
 Survey Extent

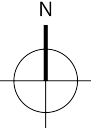


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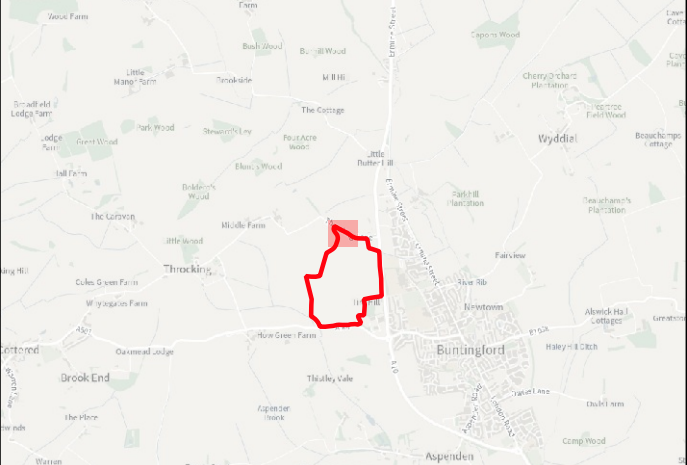






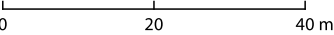
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Key

-  Survey Extent
-  XY Trace (25nT/cm)

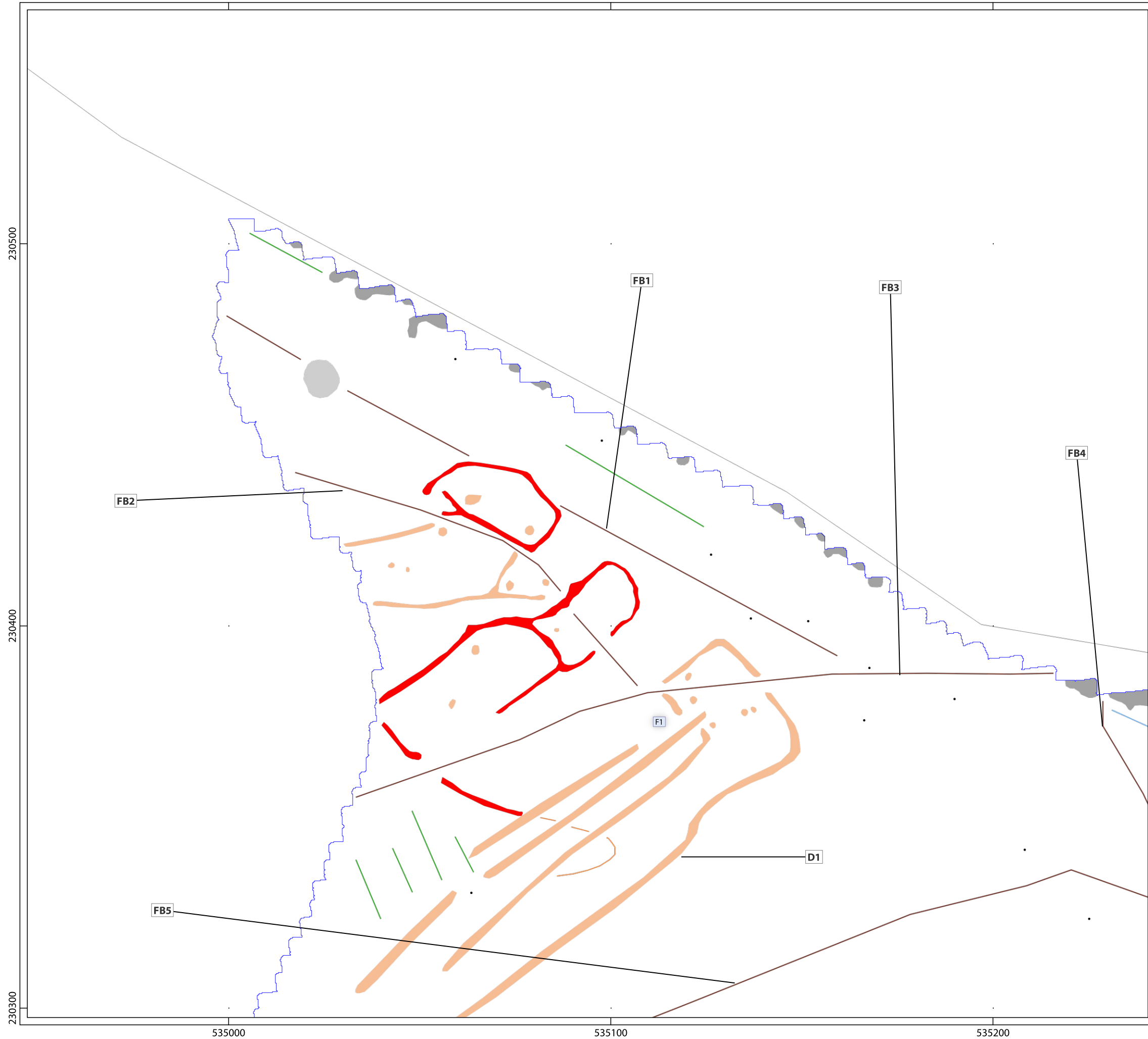


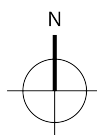
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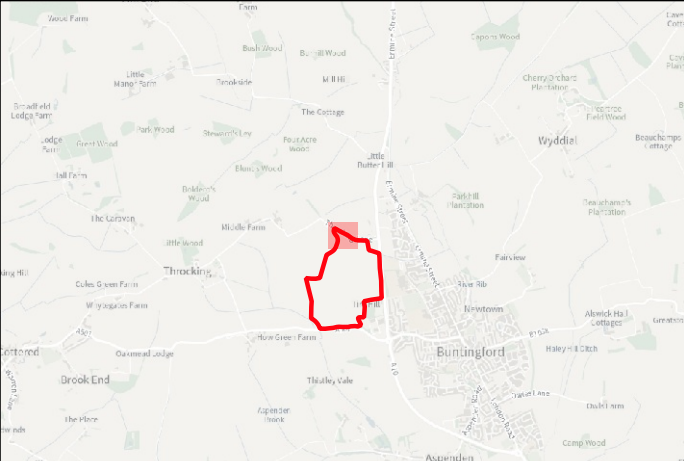
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Illus - 14 XY trace plot of minimally processed magnetometer data; AAA1 North





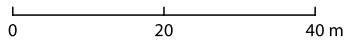
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Key

- Survey Extent
- Ferrous Objects
- Possible Archaeology
- Agriculture
- Field Boundary
- Natural
- Archaeology
- Magnetic Disturbance (Above Ground)
- Magnetic Disturbance (Below Ground)
- Possible Archaeology

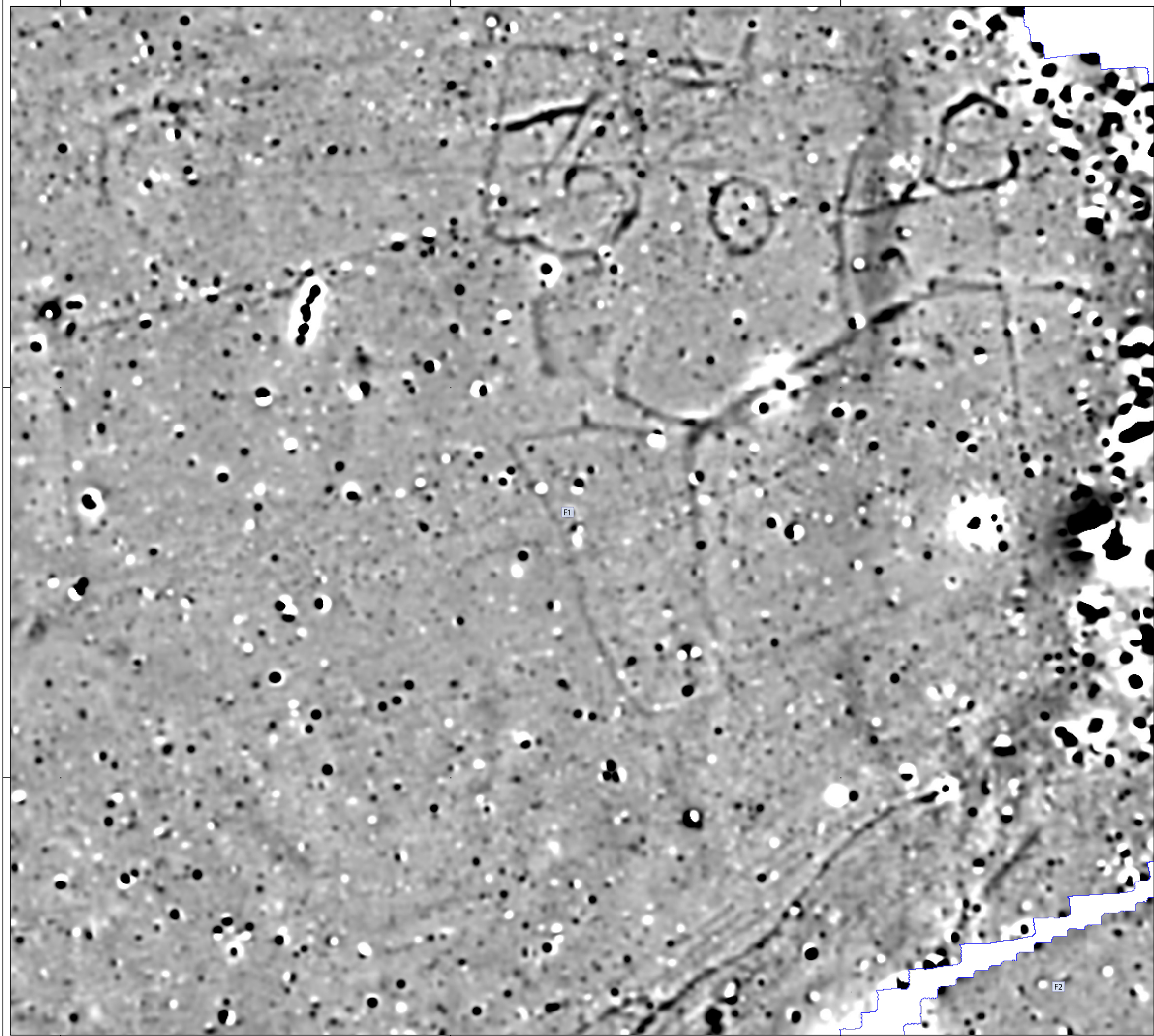
Abbreviation	
D	Ditch
FB	Former Field Boundary



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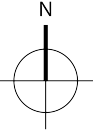
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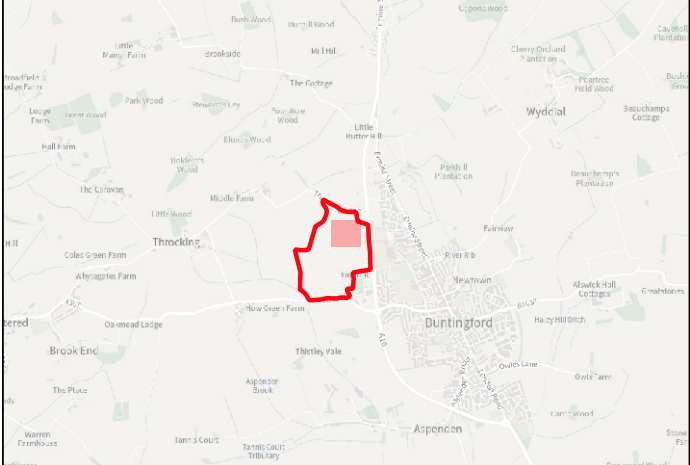
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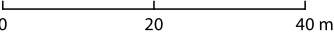
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Key

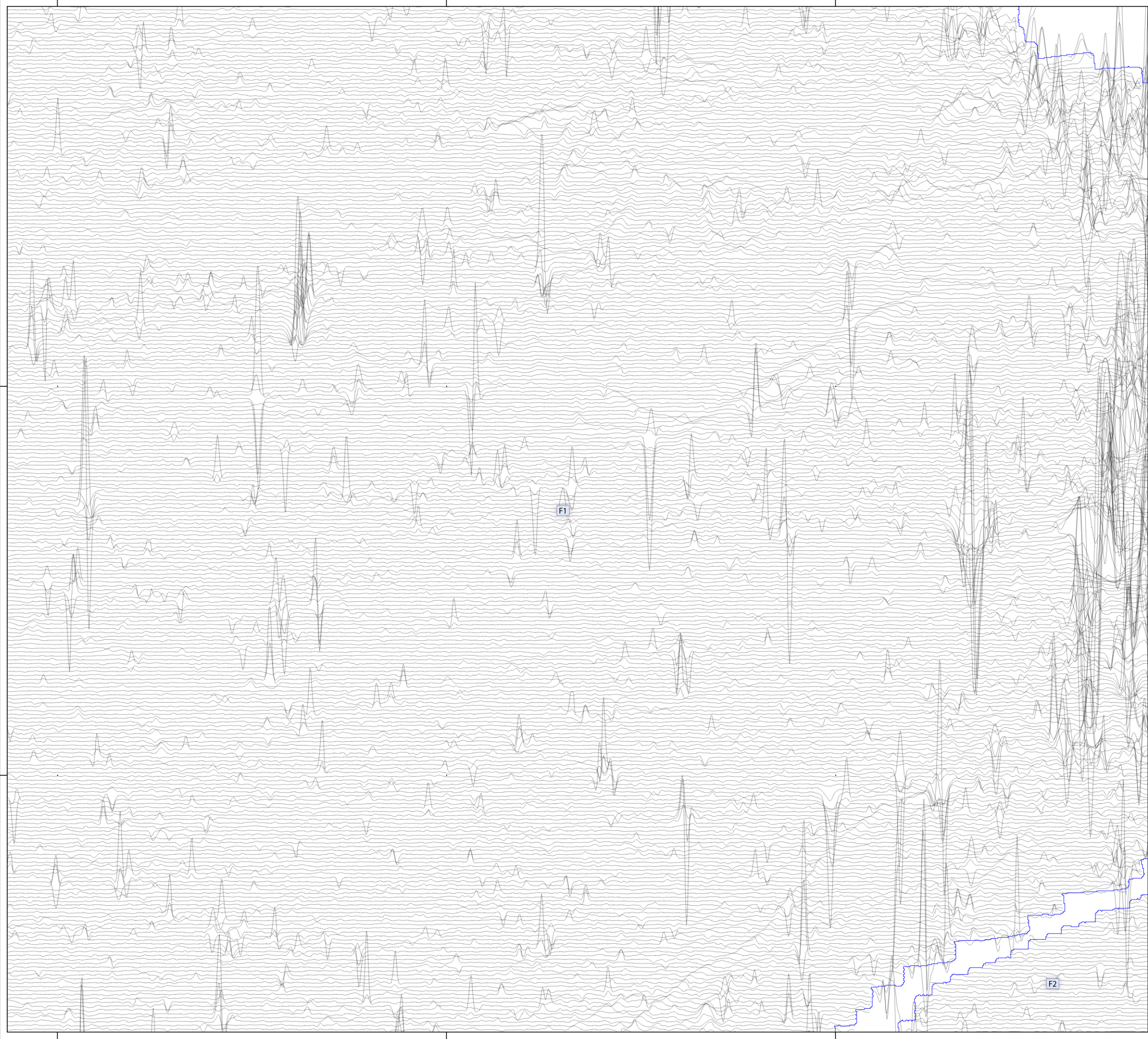
 Survey Extent



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Key

Survey Extent

XY Trace (25nT/cm)

02040

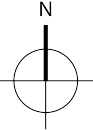
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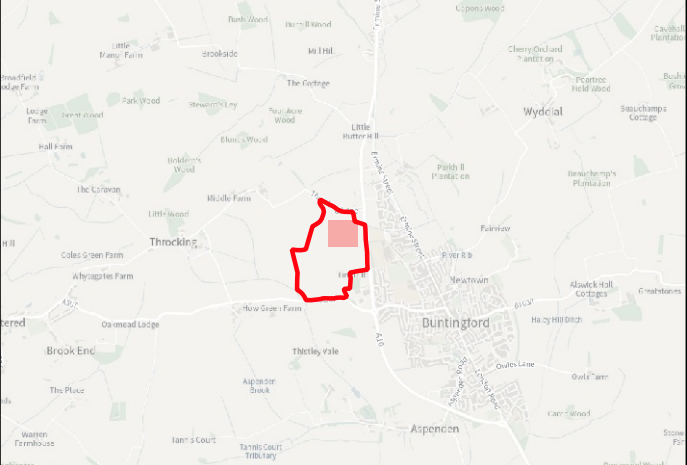






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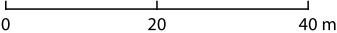
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Key

- Survey Extent
- Ferrous Objects
- Agriculture
- Field Boundary
- Natural
- Magnetic Disturbance
- Archaeology
- Magnetic Disturbance (Above Ground)
- Magnetic Disturbance (Below Ground)
- Natural
- Possible Archaeology
- Uncertain

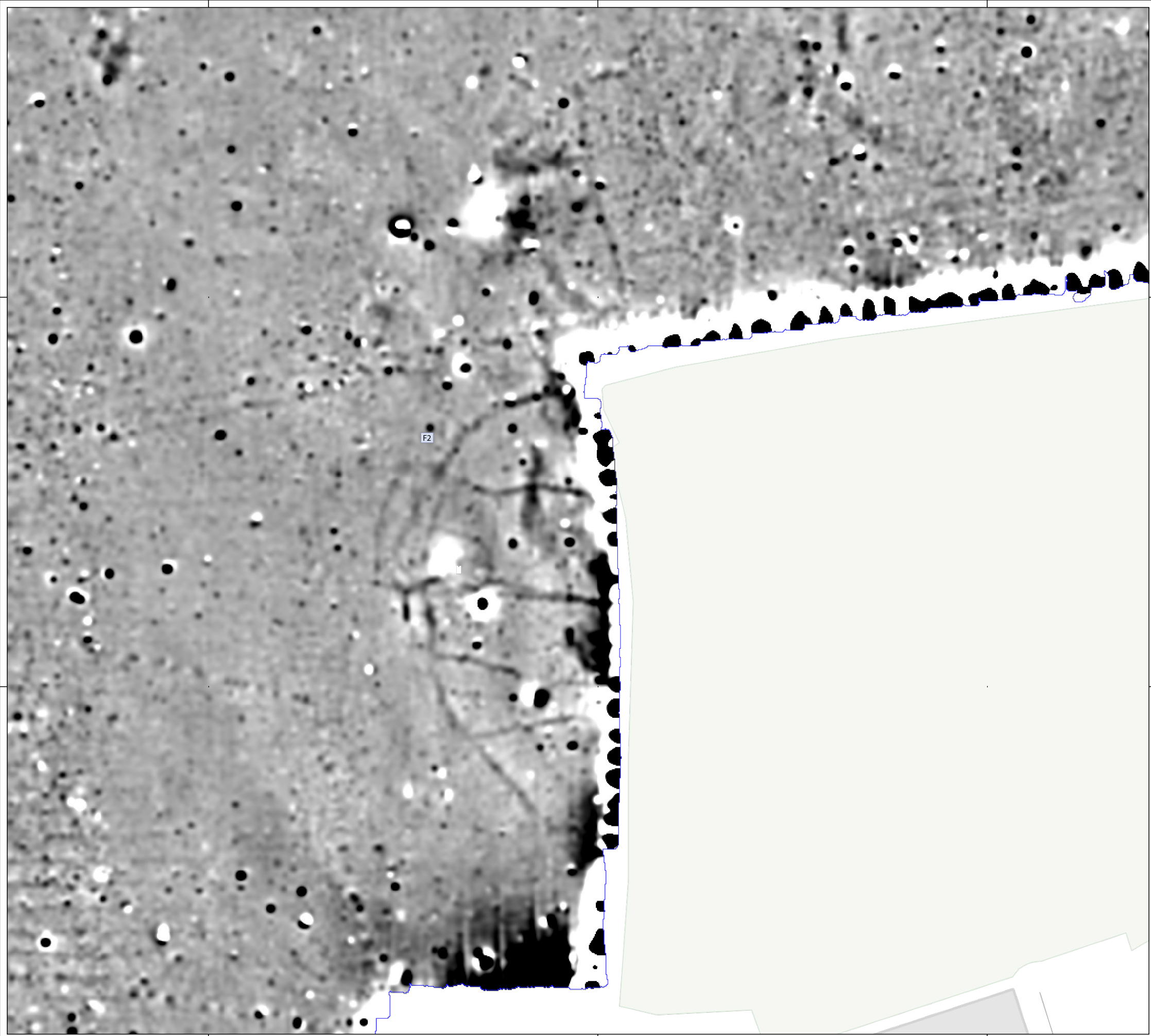
Abbreviation	
FB	Former Field Boundary
U	Uncertain



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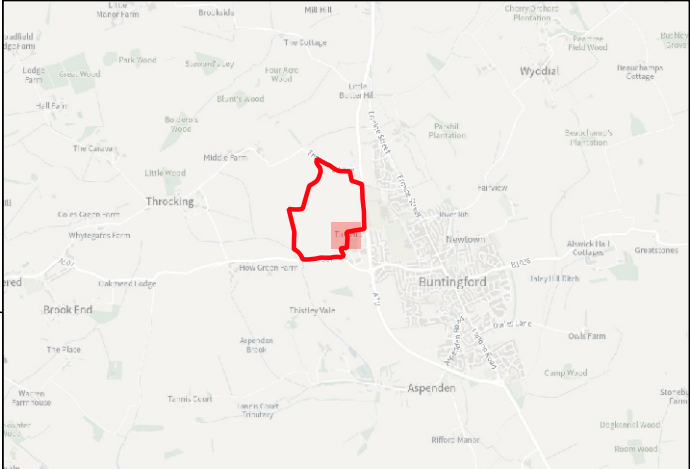
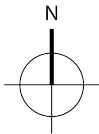
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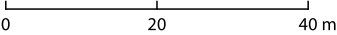
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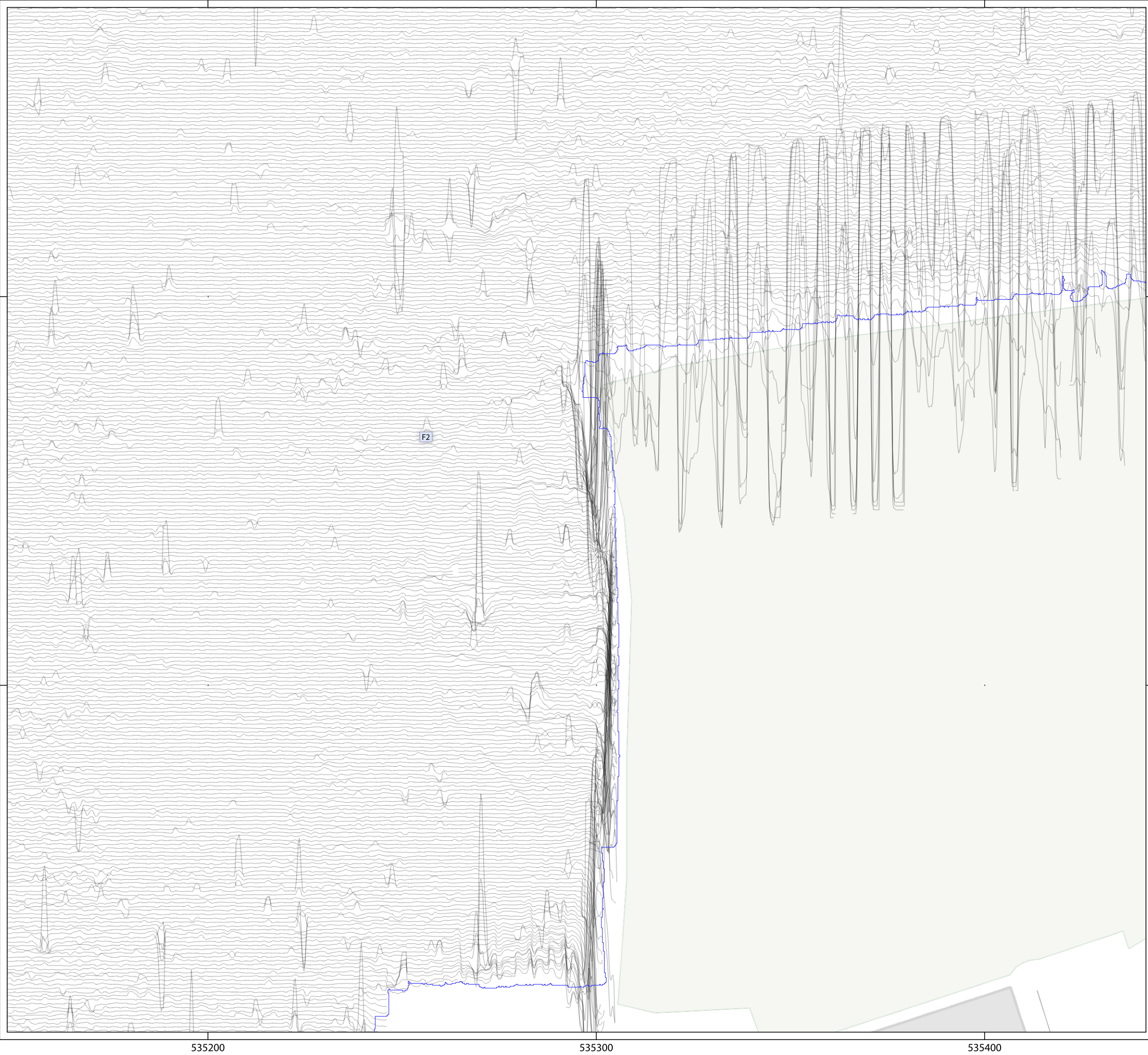


Key
 Survey Extent



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Key

Survey Extent

XY Trace (25nT/cm)

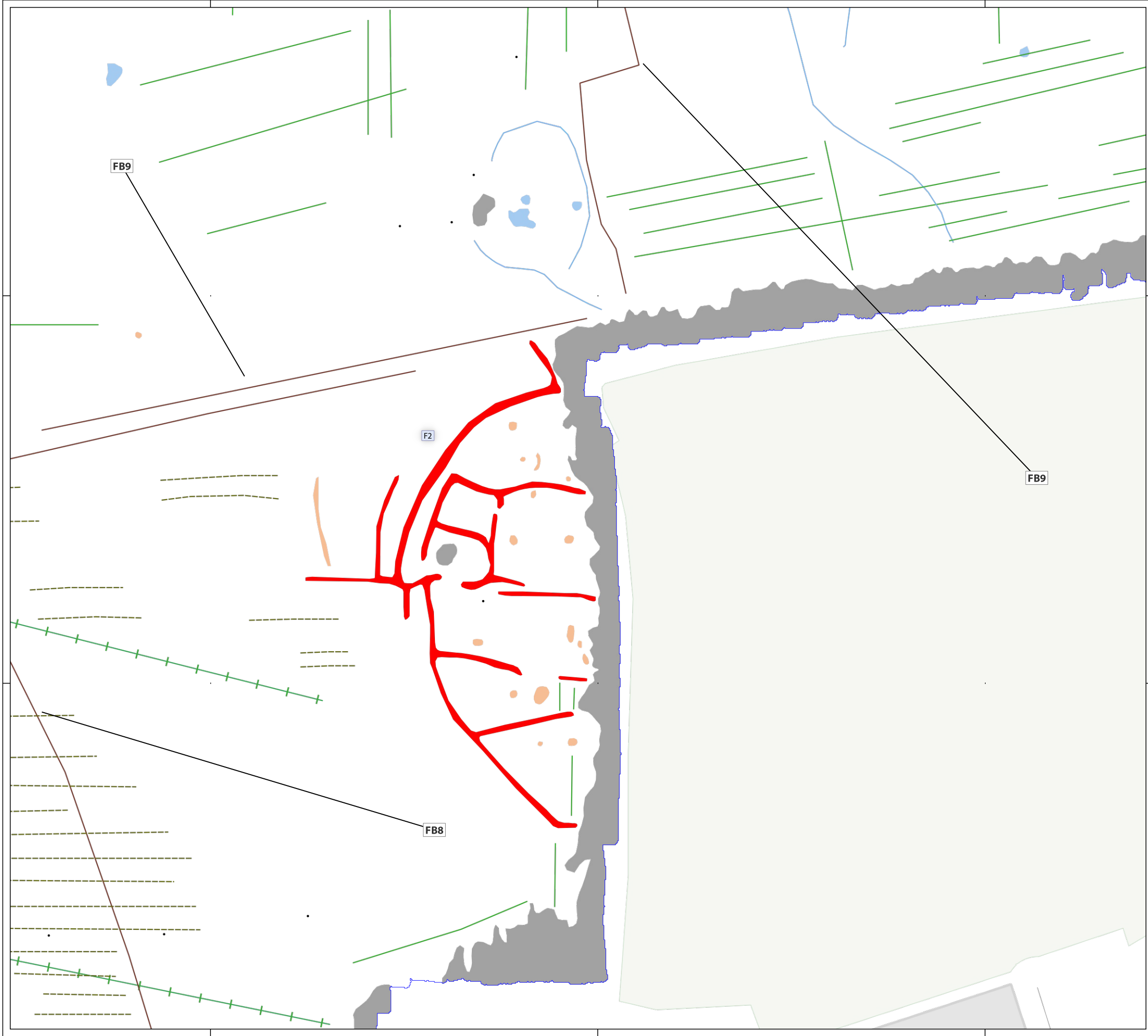
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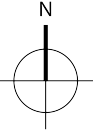
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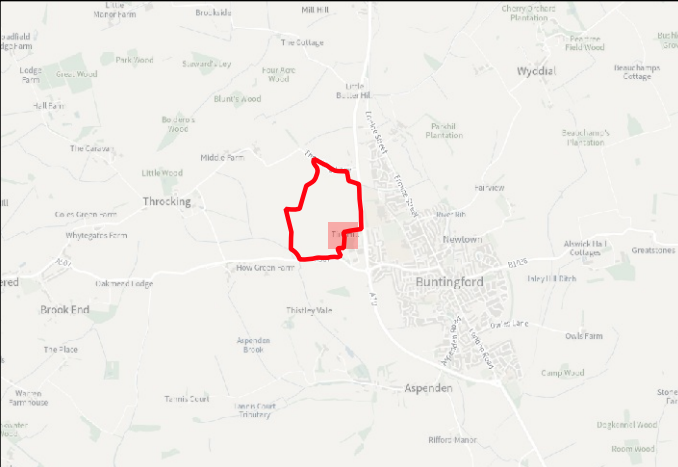






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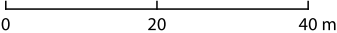


Key

-  Survey Extent
-  Ferrous Objects
-  Agriculture
-  Field Boundary
-  Field Drain
-  Natural
-  Ridge and Furrow
-  Archaeology
-  Magnetic Disturbance (Above Ground)
-  Natural
-  Possible Archaeology

Abbreviation

FB	Former Field Boundary
----	-----------------------



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7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

Magnetic susceptibility and soil magnetism

Iron makes up about 6% of the earth's crust and is mostly present in soils and rocks as minerals such as maghaemite and haematite. These minerals have a weak, measurable magnetic property termed magnetic susceptibility. Human activities can redistribute these minerals and change (enhance) others into more magnetic forms so that by measuring the magnetic susceptibility of the topsoil, areas where human occupation or settlement has occurred can be identified by virtue of the attendant increase (enhancement) in magnetic susceptibility. If the enhanced material subsequently comes to fill features, such as ditches or pits, localised isolated and linear magnetic anomalies can result whose presence can be detected by a magnetometer (fluxgate gradiometer).

In general, it is the contrast between the magnetic susceptibility of deposits filling cut features, such as ditches or pits, and the magnetic susceptibility of the topsoil, subsoil, and rock, into which these features have been cut, which causes the most recognisable responses. This is primarily because there is a tendency for magnetic ferrous compounds to become concentrated in the topsoil, thereby making it more magnetic than the subsoil or the bedrock. Linear features cut into the subsoil or geology, such as ditches, that have been silted up or have been backfilled with topsoil will therefore usually produce a positive magnetic response relative to the background soil levels. Discrete feature, such as pits, can also be detected.

The magnetic susceptibility of a soil can also be enhanced by the application of heat. This effect can lead to the detection of features such as hearths, kilns, or areas of burning.

Types of magnetic anomaly

In most instances anomalies are termed 'positive'. This means that they have a positive magnetic value relative to the magnetic background on any given site. However, some features can manifest themselves as 'negative' anomalies that, conversely, means that the response is negative relative to the mean magnetic background.

Where it is not possible to give a probable cause of an observed anomaly a '?' is appended.

It should be noted that anomalies interpreted as modern in origin might be caused by features that are present in the topsoil or upper layers of the subsoil. Removal of soil to an archaeological or natural layer can therefore remove the feature causing the anomaly.

The types of response mentioned above can be divided into five main categories that are used in the graphical interpretation of the magnetic data:

Isolated dipolar anomalies (iron spikes) These responses are typically caused by ferrous material either on the surface or in the topsoil. They cause a rapid variation in the magnetic response giving a characteristic 'spiky' trace. Although ferrous archaeological artefacts could produce this type of response, unless there is supporting evidence for an archaeological interpretation, little emphasis is normally given to such anomalies, as modern ferrous objects are common on rural sites, often being introduced into the topsoil during manuring.

Areas of magnetic disturbance These responses can have several causes often being associated with burnt material, such as slag waste or brick rubble or other strongly magnetised/fired material. Ferrous structures such as pylons, mesh or barbed wire and buried pipes can also cause the same disturbed response. A modern origin is usually assumed unless there is other supporting information.

Lightning-induced remnant magnetisation (LIRM) LIRM anomalies are thought to be caused in the near surface soil horizons by the flow of an electrical current associated with lightning strikes. These observed anomalies have a strong bipolar signal which decreases with distance from the spike point and often appear as linear or radial in shape.

Linear trend This is usually a weak or broad linear anomaly of unknown cause or date. These anomalies are often caused by agricultural activity, either ploughing or land drains being a common cause.

Areas of magnetic enhancement/positive isolated anomalies Areas of enhanced response are characterised by a general increase in the magnetic background over a localised area whilst discrete anomalies are manifest by an increased response (sometimes only visible on an XY trace plot) on two or three successive traverses. In neither instance is there the intense dipolar response characteristic exhibited by an area of magnetic disturbance or of an 'iron spike' anomaly (see above). These anomalies can be caused by infilled discrete archaeological features such as pits or post-holes or by kilns. They can also be caused by pedological variations or by natural infilled features on certain geologies. Ferrous material in the subsoil can also give a similar response. It can often therefore be very difficult to establish an anthropogenic origin without intrusive investigation or other supporting information.

Linear and curvilinear anomalies Such anomalies have a variety of origins. They may be caused by agricultural practice (recent ploughing trends, earlier ridge and furrow regimes or land drains), natural geomorphological features such as palaeochannels or by infilled archaeological ditches.

APPENDIX 2 SURVEY LOCATION INFORMATION

The magnetometer data was georeferenced using a Trimble RTK differential Global Positioning System (Trimble R12 model). The accuracy of this dGPS equipment is better than 0.01m.

The survey data were then super-imposed onto a base map provided by the client to produce the displayed block locations. However, it should be noted that Ordnance Survey positional accuracy for digital map data has an error of 0.5m for urban and floodplain areas, 1.0m for rural areas and 2.5m for mountain and moorland areas. This potential error must be considered if coordinates are measured off hard copies of the mapping rather than using the digital coordinates.

Headland Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party.

APPENDIX 3 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY ARCHIVE

The geophysical archive comprises an archive disk containing the raw data in XYZ format, a raster image of each greyscale plot with associated world file, and a PDF of the report.

The project will be archived in-house in accordance with recent good practice guidelines (http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/Geophysics_3). The data will be stored in an indexed archive and migrated to new formats when necessary.

APPENDIX 4 DATA PROCESSING

The gradiometer data has been presented in this report in processed greyscale and minimally processed XY trace plot format.

Data collected using RTK GPS-based methods cannot be produced without minimal processing of the data. The minimally processed data has been interpolated to project the data onto a regular grid and de-striped to correct for slight variations in instrument calibration drift and any other artificial data.

A high pass filter has been applied to the greyscale plots to remove low frequency anomalies (relating to survey tracks and modern agricultural features) to maximise the clarity and interpretability of the archaeological anomalies.

The data has also been clipped to remove extreme values and to improve data contrast.

APPENDIX 5 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FROM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID (UID): headland1-530481

Project Name:	Geophysical Magnetometry Survey at Land North of the A507 and West of A10, Buntingford, East Hertfordshire
Activity type:	Geophysical Survey, Magnetometry Survey, MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY
Sitecode(s):	BUNT24
Project Identifier(s):	p24-357
Planning Id:	[no data]
Reason for Investigation:	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work:	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
Project Dates:	18-Nov-2024–21-Nov-2024
HER:	Hertfordshire HER
HER Identifiers:	[no data]
Project Methodology:	The survey was undertaken using four Bartington Grad601 sensors mounted at 1m intervals onto a rigid carrying frame. The system was programmed to take readings at a frequency of 10Hz on roaming traverses (swaths) 1m apart. These readings were stored on an external weatherproof laptop and later downloaded for processing and interpretation. The system was linked to a Trimble R12 Real Time Kinetic (RTK) differential Global Positioning System (dGPS) outputting in NMEA mode to ensure a high positional accuracy for each data point. MLGrad601 and MultiGrad601 (Geomar Software Inc.) software was used to collect and export the data. Anomaly GeoSurvey v1.12.3 (Lichenstone Geoscience) and QGIS v.3.28.5 software was used to process and present the data respectively.
Project Results:	The survey has identified a range of magnetic anomalies indicative of agricultural, geological, modern and archaeological activity against a relatively uniform magnetic background. These include anomalies indicative of several former field boundaries and two former ponds evident on historic mapping, traces of historic (ridge and furrow) ploughing, modern cultivation, field drains as well as an area of former quarrying and natural variations in the magnetic background adjacent to Thistley Vale Brook. Two areas of probable archaeological settlement activity have been recorded, in the north and at the south-eastern boundary of the site. In the north two groupings of irregular shaped enclosures with associated ditches are mapped south of Throcking Lane and west of the A10. A ring ditch 17m in diameter is recorded within the larger grouping of enclosures, though generally few anomalies are identified outside the general plan of the archaeological activity. A spread of magnetic disturbance considered of likely modern origin could be masking associated anomalies of archaeological potential adjacent to the A10. At the south-eastern boundary of the site a large curvilinear enclosure with internal sub-divisions is also recorded. The survey has also recorded a possible trackway, and several faint linear and curvilinear trends and high magnitude discrete responses of uncertain origin. The results of the survey support the findings of an earlier archaeological assessment which concluded that the site had moderate potential to contain finds and features from the prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman periods. However, the detail afforded by the current survey has greatly enhanced the understanding of the archaeological potential of the site with the clear mapping of distinct areas of archaeological activity and specific features within them. Overall, based on the results of the geophysical survey, the archaeological potential of the site is assessed as locally high in the areas of archaeological activity recorded in the north and at the south-eastern boundary, and moderate to low elsewhere.
Keywords:	[no data]
Subject/Period:	Ditched Enclosure; UNCERTAIN FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Subject/Period:	Ring Ditch; UNCERTAIN FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Subject/Period:	Ditch; UNCERTAIN FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Archive:	[no data]



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