# **HyNet North West**

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT (VOLUME III)

# **Appendix 8.4 Geophysical Survey Report**

# **HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline DCO**

**Planning Act 2008** 

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 – Regulations 5(2)(a)

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. NOTE

- 1.1.1. The Study Area of the geophysical survey encompasses a 60 m wide corridor buffered around the proposed line of the Newbuild Carbon Dioxide Pipeline, four Above Ground Installation (AGI) locations, and three Block Valve Station (BVS) locations which are sited on the Newbuild Carbon Dioxide Pipeline. It does not cover the entirety of the Newbuild Infrastructure Boundary and excludes the three proposed BVS locations sited on the existing Flint Connection to Point of Ayr Terminal Pipeline.
- 1.1.2. The survey started on 21 February 2022 and was based on the indicative route of Newbuild Carbon Dioxide Pipeline at that time. The design was altered during and after the survey and the route shown within the report should not be taken to represent the final design.

HyNet CO₂ PIPELINE Page 1 of 1





# Geophysical Survey Report HyNet CO2 Pipeline

For WSP

Magnitude Surveys Ref: MSSJ1172

**HER Event Number: TBC** 

OASIS Number: magnitud1-507170

May 2022



**Unit 17, Commerce Court** 

**Challenge Way** 

**Bradford** 

**BD4 8NW** 

01274 926020

info@magnitudesurveys.co.uk

Report By:

Filippo Carrozzo MSci

**Report Approved By:** 

Finnegan Pope-Carter BSc (Hons) MSc FGS

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#### **Abstract**

Magnitude Surveys was commissioned to assess the subsurface archaeological potential of a c. 173.5ha area of land along the proposed route of the HyNet CO2 Pipeline. The pipeline runs between a point southeast of Flint, Wales, north of Chester, to another east of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. A fluxgate gradiometer survey was successfully completed across c. 147.7ha; the remaining area was not surveyed due to access constraints or unsuitable ground conditions. The survey has detected a single area of possible archaeological activity in the form of possible pit alignment. Additional anomalies have been categorised as being of 'Undetermined' origin; these are isolated, fragmentary, or ephemeral, and may be the result of natural variations, archaeological or agricultural activity. Throughout the survey corridor, agricultural activity has been detected, including recent ploughing trends, former field boundaries, drainage regimes, and ridge and furrow. Past industrial activity has been identified in the form of infilled extraction pits/ponds and a large amount of ferrous material near mapped former brickworks. Natural variations have been identified in areas with tidal, sand and gravel deposits. Modern interference has not impacted the quality of the geophysical data with magnetic disturbance generally limited to surrounding services, pylons, current field boundaries and some of areas modern debris and green waste.

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#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Magnitude Surveys Ltd (MS) was commissioned by WSP to undertake a geophysical survey over a c. 173.5ha area of land along the proposed route of the HyNet CO2 Pipeline. The pipeline runs between a point south-east of Flint, Wales (SJ 2532 7114), north of Chester, to another east of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire (SJ 4689 7610).
- 1.2. The geophysical survey comprised hand-pulled cart-mounted and hand-carried GNSS-positioned fluxgate gradiometer survey. Magnetic survey is the standard primary geophysical method for archaeological applications in the UK due to its ability to detect a range of different features. The technique is particularly suited for detecting fired or magnetically enhanced features, such as ditches, pits, kilns, sunken featured buildings (SFBs) and industrial activity (David et al., 2008).
- 1.3. The survey was conducted in line with the current best practice guidelines produced by Historic England (David *et al.*, 2008), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020) and the European Archaeological Council (Schmidt *et al.*, 2015).
- 1.4. It was conducted in line with a WSI produced by MS (Adams, 2021).
- 1.5. The survey commenced on 21st February 2022 and took 6 weeks to complete.

#### 2. Quality Assurance

- 2.1. Magnitude Surveys is a Registered Organisation of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), the chartered UK body for archaeologists, and a corporate member of ISAP (International Society for Archaeological Prospection).
- 2.2. The directors of MS are involved in cutting edge research and the development of guidance/policy. Specifically, Dr Chrys Harris has a PhD in archaeological geophysics from the University of Bradford, is a Member of ClfA and is the Vice-Chair of the International Society for Archaeological Prospection (ISAP); Finnegan Pope-Carter has an MSc in archaeological geophysics and is a Fellow of the London Geological Society, as well as a member of GeoSIG (ClfA Geophysics Special Interest Group); Dr Paul Johnson has a PhD in archaeology from the University of Southampton, is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, has been a member of the ISAP Management Committee since 2015, and is currently the nominated representative for the EAA Archaeological Prospection Community to the board of the European Archaeological Association.
- 2.3. All MS managers, field and office staff have degree qualifications relevant to archaeology or geophysics and/or field experience.

# 3. Objectives

3.1. The objective of this geophysical survey was to assess the subsurface archaeological potential of the survey area.

### 4. Geographic Background

4.1. The survey area was a route between a point south-east of Flint, Wales, (SJ 2532 7114), north of Chester, to another point east of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire (SJ 4689 7610) (Figure 1). Gradiometer survey was undertaken across c. 147.7ha covering 156 fields (Figure 2 & 3), with the remaining areas deemed not to be surveyable due to access constraints or unsuitable ground conditions. The survey areas were numbered according to the order they were surveyed in.

#### 4.2. Survey considerations:

-	Survey	Ground Conditions	Further Notes
	Area		
	1	The survey area consisted of pasture grassland.	The survey area was bordered by hedges and wire fencing to the north and south, the field continued to the east and west. An overhead electrical cable cut across the north of the survey
			area orientated north-west south-east.
	2	The survey area consisted of pasture grassland.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the north, west and south, the field continued to the east.
	3	The survey area consisted of an arable field with young crop. The field sloped down from the south-east to the north-west.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the south, hedges to the north-east, the field continued to the east and west.
	4	The survey area consisted of a pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the east and west, the field continued to the north and south.
	5	The survey area consisted of an arable field gently sloping down from the north to the south.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the north and south, the field continued to the east and west.
	6	The survey area consisted of an arable field covered by young crop.	The survey area was bordered by metal fencing and hedges to the north and west, the field continued to the south.
y	7	The survey area consisted of an arable field.	The survey area was bounded by wire fencing and hedges to the east and west, the field continued to the south and north.
	8	The survey area consisted of an arable field covered by young crop, gently sloping down from north to south.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing and hedges to the east and west, the field continued to the south and north.
•	9	The survey area consisted of a flat pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the east and south-west, the field continued to the south and north. A metal trough was located along the eastern field border.
	10	The survey area consisted of an arable field covered by young crop.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing and hedges to the north-east and south-west, the field continued to the south and north.
	11	The survey area consisted of an arable field covered by young crop.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing and hedges to the north and west, the field continued to the south and north.

12	The survey area consisted of an arable field with young crop gently sloping from north to south.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing and hedges to the east and west, the field continued to the south and north. Overhead cables cut across the survey area form north to south, a telegraph pole was at the centre of the survey area.
13	The survey area consisted of an arable field, with young crop, which gently sloped down from north to south.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing and hedges to the east and west, the field continued to the south and north.
14	The survey area consisted of an arable field, with young crop, which gently sloped down from north-east to the south-west.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing and hedges to the north, north-west and south, the field continued to the east and west. Overhead cables cut across the north of the survey area orientated east west.
15	The survey area consisted of a pasture field which gently sloped down from east to west.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the north and south, with the field continuing to the east and west. An overhead cable cut across the north of the survey area heading east to west.
16	The survey area consisted of a pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the north and south, with the field continuing to the south and north. Across the centre of the survey area a hedge and trench cut across the survey area.
17	The survey area consisted of a flat pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing and hedges to the north and south, the field continued to the east and west. Overhead cables cut across the survey area orientated north-east south-west.
18	The survey area consisted of a flat arable field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the north, the field continued to the north-west and south-east, a farm track went along the south-western border.
19	The area consisted of an arable field with crop stubble.	The survey area was bordered by hedges and trees in the north-west corner, a gravel track along eastern most border. No physical boundary was along the north or south borders.
20	The survey area consisted of an arable field, gently sloping from south to north. The area to the south-east and north-east was not surveyed due to the presence of a ditch and dense vegetation.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the south-east and south-west, a ditch to the north-east, the field continued to the north-west.
21	The survey area consisted of an arable filed with young crop, sloping down from the southwest to the north.	The survey area was bordered by a wire fence and hedges to the south-east, by hedges to the north and south-west, the field continued to the north-west.
22	The survey area consisted of an arable field, with young crop,	The survey area was bordered by hedges and wire fencing to the north, and north-east, central

	which gently sloped down from the south-west to the northeast.	area of the east and south, the field carried on in all other directions.
23	The survey area consisted of two pasture fields which gently sloped down from the south to the north. Small ponds and waterlogged areas meant some areas were not surveyed.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the south-west and north, field continued in all other directions. The survey area was partial cut by a field boundary oriented east west.
24	The survey area consisted of a flat pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by a hedge and wire fencing to the north and east, the field continued to the south and west.
25	The survey area consisted of a flat pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by a hedge and wire fencing to the north and east, the field continued to the south and west.
26	The survey area consisted of a flat pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the north, east and west, the field continued to the south. A pile of bricks was in the north-east.
27	The survey area consisted of a pasture field sloping from the south-east to the north. Tall vegetation along the northern edge could not be surveyed.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the north and east, the field continued to the south.
28	The survey area consisted of a gently sloping pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the south and west, the field continued to the north.
29	The survey area consisted of a flat arable field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the east and west, the field continued to the north and south. Overhead cables crossed the south-west of the survey area.
30	The survey area consisted of an arable field sloping down from the north to south.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the east and west, metal fencing at the centre of the field, overhead cable ran along the south- west. The field continued in all other directions.
31	The survey area consisted of an arable field gently sloping down from north to south.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the north-east and south-west, field continued to the north-west and south-east. An overhead cable crossed the north of the survey area orientated east west.
32	The survey area consisted of a pasture field, sloping gently down from north to south. An area to the north and south-east was not surveyed due to being fenced off.	The survey area was bordered by electrical fencing to the north-east, south-west and southeast.
33	The survey area consisted of a pasture field, sloping down form the north-west to the southeast.	The survey area was bordered by electrical fencing to the east and west, the field continued to the north and south.
34	The survey area consisted of a pasture field sloping down from	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the west, east and south-west, field continued in

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	the north-east down to the south-west.	all other directions. Metal drain cover was recorded in the centre of the field. A canal ran along the southern edge of the field.
35	The survey area consisted of a pasture field sloping down from north to south.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the east and south, a tree line to the west and the field continued to the north. A drain cover was recorded in the centre of the survey area. A canal was to the south-east.
36	The survey area consisted of a pasture field sloping down to the east, west and south from the north.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the northwest and metal fencing to the northeast, the field continued in all other directions.
37	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by a wire fencing
37	pasture field which sloped down from the northeast to the south.  A waterlogged area at the centre of the field could not be	to the north and south-east, a metal fence was to the west, the field continued in all other directions. Some metal farm equipment was present in the north of the field.
	surveyed.	
38	The survey area consisted of a flat pasture field. An area of slurry/manure was not surveyed in the south-east corner.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the south, metal fencing to the west and southeast, wooden fencing to the north and northeast.
39	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by metal fencing
	flat pasture field. An area of slurry/manure was not surveyed in the south-east corner.	to the west, wooden fencing and metal fencing to the south, wire fencing to the north and an iron barn to the west. Telegraph poles where in the east and west corners.
40	The survey area consisted of a pasture field that sloped steeply from south-west to north-east.	The survey area was bordered by telegraph poles with overhead wires to the north. Field 39 was on the eastern boundary and the two were separated by a metal gate and fence. The south and west boundaries were undefined and open to the field.
41	The survey area consisted of a pasture field which sloped from the north down to the south.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the north and north-west, a metal barrier was also present in the north-west, the field continued to the south and north.
42	The survey area consisted of a horse pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the west, electrical fencing to the east, the field continued to the south and north.
43	The survey area consisted of horse pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the east and electrical fencing to the west, the field continued to the south and north.
44	The survey area consisted of a flat, grass pasture field that was waterlogged in places.	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the west, south and part of the northern boundaries. Other areas were open to the rest of the field. An area on the southern boundary was not surveyed due to the presence of young trees and being heavily waterlogged.
45	The survey area consisted of a flat, very waterlogged, arable	The survey area was open to the field on the northern, southern and part of the western

46	field with stubble still present from harvested crop.  The survey area consisted of a flat, slightly wet/ waterlogged grass field.	boundaries. The eastern boundary and part of the western edge were defined by hedges. Parts of the northern and southern boundaries were not surveyed due to being heavily waterlogged. The survey area was bordered with hedges on the south-western, north-eastern and eastern boundaries. The remaining boundaries were open to the field and undefined. Telegraph poles and everhead cables were located along the
		and overhead cables were located along the south-western boundaries.
47	The survey area consisted of a flat, slightly wet grass field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the eastern and southern borders. The remaining north-western boundary was open to the field. A metal gate was located along the eastern boundary.
48	The survey area consisted of a flat, slightly wet grass field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the eastern, western and south-western boundaries. The northern and southern boundaries were undefined and open to the remaining field. Metal gates were located on the eastern and western boundary. A ditch and stream were located on the eastern boundary
49	The survey area consisted of a flat, slightly wet/waterlogged grass field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the western and eastern boundaries. A wooden post and barbed wire fence formed a further part of the eastern boundary. The remaining boundaries were undefined and open to the remaining field area.
50	The survey area consisted of a flat, slightly wet/waterlogged grass field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the eastern and part of the southern boundaries. The northern and remaining southern boundaries were undefined and open to the reaming area of the field. The western boundary was defined by a wooden post and barbed wire fence, part of this area was not surveyable due to being heavily waterlogged. Overhead power cables ran along the southwestern corner of the field.
51	The survey area consisted of mostly dry arable field with wheat crop. The field sloped gently down from northeast to southwest.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the northern and south-eastern boundaries. The remaining boundaries were undefined and open to the field. Overhead cables crossed the survey area from a post on the eastern boundary to the north-western corner.
52	The survey area consisted of mostly dry arable field with wheat crop. The field sloped gently down from north-east to south-west.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the north-western, western and southern boundaries. Slight ditch ran along the survey area from the north-west to the eastern boundaries. The remaining boundaries were open to the field.

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54	The survey area consisted of a flat, slightly wet arable field with wheat crop.  The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by a wood and metal fence to the northeast, a hedge on the south-west and undefined boundaries on the remaining boundaries. A hedge crossed part of the survey area from the southern boundary.  The survey area was bordered by a hedge on the
	flat, very waterlogged, arable field with corn stubble present.	southern and eastern borders. The remaining boundaries were open to the field. Parts of the field on the north-eastern corner and eastern boundaries were not surveyed due to being heavily waterlogged.
55	The survey area consisted of a flat, slightly wet, arable field with corn crop.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the north-eastern and south-western borders. The remaining boundaries were undefined and open to the field.
56	The survey area consisted of an arable field sloping slightly from west to east.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the western and south-western boundaries, and vegetation on the west. The remaining boundaries were all undefined.
57	The survey area was a mostly dry horse pasture field that sloped from north-west down to the south-east.	The survey area was bordered by a wood and metal fence to the south-east, hedges on the eastern and northern boundaries. The remaining boundaries were all open to the field. A metal gate was located in the south-eastern corner.
58	The survey area consisted of flat, slightly wet arable fields with wheat crop.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the north-eastern and south-western boundaries, the remaining boundaries were undefined. Part of the survey area was not surveyable due to tractor ruts and a boggy ground.
59	The survey area consisted of flat, slightly wet arable fields with wheat crop.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the north-eastern and south-eastern boundaries. A metal gate was located on the south-eastern corner. The western boundary was undefined. Overhead cables crossed the western border and ran diagonally across the survey area to the south-eastern boundary.
60	The survey area consisted of a flat, slightly wet, arable field with wheat crop.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the north-eastern boundary, and a wooden fence on the south-western boundary. The remaining boundaries were undefined.
61	The survey area consisted of flat, mostly dry arable fields	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the northern and western boundaries. The remaining boundaries were undefined.
62	The survey area consisted of flat, mostly dry arable fields	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the eastern and southern boundaries. A metal fence was located in the south-eastern corner. The remaining boundaries were undefined.
63	The survey area consisted of flat, waterlogged horse pasture.	The survey area was bordered by a wooden fence and hedges on the north-western boundaries and a wooden post and electric fence

		on the south-eastern boundaries. The remaining boundaries were open to the field.
64	The survey area consisted of	The survey area was bordered by a wooden
	flat, waterlogged horse pasture.	fence on the south-western boundary. The
	maty materies pastar er	remaining boundaries were undefined.
65	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered to the north-east
05	The survey area consisted of a	1
	flat, slightly wet, boggy and	by hedges and a metal fence. The remaining
	waterlogged arable field with no	borders were undefined. An area in the middle
	visible crop present.	of the survey area was not surveyed due to being
		very waterlogged.
66	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to
	pasture field.	the east and a wooden fence to the west. A wire
		fence bisected the survey area from north to
		south on the south-west side. Areas were not
		surveyed due to being waterlogged, and multiple
		pieces of agricultural equipment were present.
67	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing as
07		,
	pasture field.	well as trees and hedgerows to the north, east,
		west and south-west. There was no physical
		boundary to the south.
68	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing
-	pasture field.	and hedgerows to the north and west, and wire
		fencing to the east. There was no physical
		boundary to the south, apart from one small
	<u> </u>	stretch of electric fencing in the south-west.
69	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by metal fencing
	waterlogged pasture field.	and hedgerows to the south, a metal fence to the
	The second design of the second secon	west, and no physical boundaries to the north
		and east. Over half of the area was not surveyed
		due to the presence of pigs.
70	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by metal fencing
/0		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	school playing field.	and trees to the north and east, and by no
		physical boundary to the south and west.
71	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by metal fencing
1	waterlogged pasture field.	to the south and west, with trees to the east and
		south. A hedgerow bisected the survey area
		from north to south-west. Standing water
		caused some areas to be not surveyable.
72	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by hedgerows to
	waterlogged pasture field.	the north, east and west, and by no physical
		boundary to the south. A pile of branches was
		present in the north of the survey area which
		was not surveyed.
73	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by trees to the
/3	waterlogged pasture field.	east, a ditch to the south and north and no
	wateriogged pasture field.	
		physical boundary to the west. Piles of branches
		were collected to the north-west which resulted
		in an area that could not be surveyed.
74	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by hedgerows and
	pasture field.	a ditch to the south and north, and by no physical
		boundary to the east and west.
<u> </u>		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

75	The survey area consisted of a pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing and hedgerows to the north-east, south, and part of the west. The other boundaries were undefined.
76	The survey area consisted of a waterlogged pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing, trees, and hedgerows to the north-east, east, south, and south-west. The other boundaries had no physical boundary. Small areas of long grass and standing water were not able to be surveyed.
77	The survey area consisted of a waterlogged pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing and hedgerows to the north, east and west, and by no physical boundary to the south.
78	The survey area consisted of a pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by a ditch and hedgerow to the north-west, by a horse paddock to the north, and by a hedgerow to the south. Half of the survey area was encompassed by
79	The survey area consisted of a waterlogged pasture field.	electric fence.  The survey area was bordered by metal fencing and a hedgerow to the west, and a ditch and hedgerow to the south. The other boundaries
80	The survey area consisted of a pasture field.	consisted of no physical boundary.  The survey area was bordered by wire fencing, a ditch and hedgerows to the north and south, and by no physical boundary to the east and west.
81	The survey area consisted of a pasture field.	The survey area was bordered to the north-west by a ditch and a hedgerow and to the south-east by a hedgerow. The other boundaries consisted of no physical boundary.
82	The survey area consisted of a pasture field. The land sloped down from south to north at the north of the field and from west to east in the south of the field.	The survey area was bordered to the north, south and east by hedges. The remaining borders were undefined and open to the field. A metal gate was in the south-eastern corner of the survey area.
83	The survey area consisted of a pasture field sloping down to the north and east.	The survey area was bordered by hedges and barbed wire to the south, and by treeline to the east. A metal gate was present on the southeastern border. The field continued to the northeast and south-west.
84	The survey area consisted of an undulating arable stubble field in the north, and pasture in the south, sloping down to the south.	The survey area was bordered by hedgerow and barbed wire to the east, by a treeline in the south and by a hedge in the north. The field continued to the west.
85	The survey area consisted of a pasture field, sloping down from a peak in the centre of the survey area.	The survey area was bordered by a footpath and barbed wire to the south and east. To the west and south-west, the area was bordered by treelines. The field continued to the north.
86	The survey area consisted of a flat pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by treelines to the north, east and west. A wire fence was present

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		along the eastern border. The field continued to the south.
87	The survey area consisted of a pasture field sloping down to the east and west from a central topographic high.	The survey area was bordered by a tree line in the north-east corner, and by metal fencing to the south. The field continued to the north-west and south-east. Overhead cables ran from northeast to south-west in the southern region of the survey area.
88	The survey area consisted of a pasture field sloping down to the south-west.	The survey area was bordered by wire fence to the east and the west. The field continued to the north and south.
89	The survey area consisted of a pasture field sloping down to the north-east.	The survey area was bordered by hedges and wire fence in the east and west, with overhead cables running along the eastern border. The field continued to the north and south.
90	The survey area consisted of a flat pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by a metal fence to the north-east and south-west. The field continued to the north-west and south-east.
91	The survey area was a flat pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges and wire fence in the north and south. On the northern boundary, there was a drain cover and a playing area. The field continued to the east and west.
92	The survey area was a flat pasture field.	The area was bordered by hedges in the north. The field continued in all other directions.
93	The survey area consisted of a flat dry pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by treelines to the north-east and south-west. Metal gates were present on these borders. The field continued to the north-west and south-east.
94	The survey area consisted of a pasture field sloping down to the south.	The survey area was bordered by hedges and trees to the north and the south. The field continued to the east and west. A metal fence is present on the northern boundary.
95	The survey area consisted of a dry flat pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by hedgerow to the north-east and north-west. A metal gate was present on the north-eastern border. The field continued to the south.
96	The survey area consisted of a dry field with overgrown vegetation.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on all borders. In the eastern corner there was an electric pylon with overhead wires.
97	The survey area was a dry pasture field, sloping gently down to the east.	The survey area was bordered by treelines to the north, west and south. The eastern border was made up of hedgerow.
98	The survey area was dry pasture field, sloping gently to the east.	The survey area was bordered by trees and wire fence in the south and west. The eastern border was made up of hedgerow. The field continued to the north.
99	The survey area was a dry pasture field sloping down to the south.	The survey area was bordered by treelines to the north, east and south. The field continued to the west. Overhead cables ran approximately east to west through the centre of the survey area. A

		metal gate was present in the southwest corner of the survey area.
100	The survey area was a flat, dry pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences in the north, east and south. The field continued to the west. A metal gate was located on the southern border.
101	The survey area was pasture field gently sloping down to the north.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences in the north, east and south. The field continued to the west. A small area of waterlogged ground was present at the southern border which could not be surveyed.
102	The survey area was a flat, dry pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences in the north, west and south. The field continued to the east. Metal gates were present on the southern border of the survey area, and a wooden gate at the northern border.
		Telegraph poles and overhead cables ran east to west in the southern part of the survey area.
103	The survey area was a flat, dry pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences to the west and north. The field continued to the east. Metal gates were present on the northern boundary.
104	The survey area was a dry pasture field sloping down gently to the south.	The survey area was bordered by treelines to the east and west. The northern border consisted of hedges and the field continued to the south. Overhead cables ran east to west near to the southern border.
105	The survey area was a dry pasture field sloping down gently to the south.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences to the east and west. The field continued to the north and south.
106	The survey area was flat and under arable cultivation with wheat crop present. Some areas were wet underfoot and an area in the south-east was unable to be surveyed due to deep tractor ruts.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences to the north and south, and continued to the east and west
107	The survey area was a dry pasture field sloping gently down to the south-east.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences to the north, west and south. The field continued to the east. A metal gate was present on the northern boundary.
108	The survey area was a dry pasture field sloping gently down to the south-east.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences to the north and south. The field continued to the west and east. A metal gate was present on the southern boundary.
109	The survey area was a dry pasture field sloping gently down to the north.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences to the north and south. The field continued to the west and east. A metal gate was present on the northern boundary.

110	The survey area was a dry pasture field sloping gently down to the north-west.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences to the northeast and south. The field continued to the north-west and southeast. A metal gate was present on the southern boundary.
111	The survey area was a flat, dry arable field with young crop	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences to the south. The area was bordered by a ditch alongside vegetation to the north. The field continued to the east and west. A ditch ran through the centre of the survey from north to south, and at the northern and southern edges there were tractor ruts. These areas could not be surveyed.
112	The survey area was a dry arable field with young crop, sloping down to the north.	The survey area was bordered by ditches and vegetation to the north-west and south-east. The field continued to the north-east and southwest.
113	The survey area was a dry arable field with young crop, sloping down to the north.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences to the south-west and north. The field continued to the east and west. Telephone poles and overhead cables ran in the southern part of the survey area from north to south.
114	The survey area was a flat, dry pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges, wire and wooden fences to the east and west. The field continued to the north and the south. In the north-east corner, there was a shack with debris that could not be surveyed. Fence posts were seen running north-east to south-west through the centre of the survey area. Overhead cables ran north to south in the eastern part of the survey area.
115	The survey area comprised a pasture field that sloped gently from south-west to north-east and steeply from west to east.	The survey area was bordered on the west by a hedgerow, a wire fence on the south and east. The north boundary was undefined. An area in the south-west corner was not surveyed due to being unsuitable as a result of tractor churn, an area on the eastern boundary was not surveyed due to the presence of bushes and trees.
116	The survey area was comprised of a grass pasture field that sloped from west to east.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the south border, hedges with a wire fence and ditch on the north border, the remaining borders were undefined and continued into the surrounding field. An area of trees located in the north of the survey area, along the north boundary meant that part of this area was not surveyed.
117	The survey area was comprised of a grass pasture field that sloped gently from north-west to south-east.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the north-east and south-west borders. The remaining borders were undefined and open to the field.

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	118	The survey area was comprised of a grass pasture field that sloped from north-west to south-east.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the north-east and south-east boundaries. The remaining boundaries were all undefined and open to the surrounding field. A metal gate was located partway along the south-east boundary. An area of marshy land ran diagonally across the survey area from southwest to a point on the north-east boundary.
	119	The survey area comprised a flat grass pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by a wooden fence with hedges on the north, and a wooden fence on the south. The west and east boundaries were undefined.
	120	The survey area comprised a flat, grass pasture field.	The survey area was bordered on the north-west and part of the western boundaries by a wooden fence, the south-western and southern boundaries were comprised of a wooden fence and trees. The eastern boundary was undefined.
			A metal gate was located on the western boundary, extending down to the south-west corner of the survey area.
	121	The survey area comprised a flat, dry, grass pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by a wood fence to the south and west, a wood fence with trees to the north and the east was undefined. Overhead cables ran from a point on the northwest corner across the north-east section of the
_	122	The survey area comprised an area of made ground and debris.	survey area, exiting to the south-east.  The survey area was bordered by a metal gate on the north-east, the east and part of the south boundaries were undefined. An area of debris, mounds and overgrown vegetation comprised the west and half of the south boundaries, this area was not surveyed.
	124	The survey area comprised an arable stubble field that sloped gently in the north from northeast to south-west and steeply from north to south in the south of the area.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the north, an area of vegetation that was not surveyed on the south, beyond which was another wire fence. The remaining boundaries were undefined.
	125	The survey area was comprised of a wet pasture field. The field sloped substantially from southeast to north-west in the north-west of the survey area, then from west to east towards the south of the survey area.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing on the northern and southern boundaries. The remaining boundaries were all undefined.
	126	The survey area was a wet grass pasture field that sloped gently from east to west.	The survey area was bordered by hedges with a wooden fence on the south boundary, the remaining boundaries were all undefined. A metal trough was located towards the southeast corner of the survey area.

127	The survey area comprised a wet grass pasture field that sloped from north-east to southwest in the bottom of the survey area.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the eastern boundary, a hedge with a wooden fence through it on the west and the remaining boundaries were all undefined.
128	The survey area comprised a wet grass pasture field. The field sloped from north to south.	The survey area was bordered to the west and south by hedges, the east boundary followed a treeline in the middle of the field, the remaining north, part of the southern and south-western boundaries were all undefined. Overhead cables crossed the site south-east corner, exiting on the south-west boundary.
129	The survey area comprised a grass field. The field sloped from south to north.	The survey area was bordered by hedges on the north-eastern and north-western boundaries, the remaining boundaries were all undefined.
130	The survey area comprised a flat grass pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges along the length of the southern border with a metal gate in the middle. The remaining boundaries were all undefined and open to the field. A trackway bisected the field running from the metal gate in the south to the northern boundary.
131	The survey area comprised an arable field gently sloping, down from north-west to south-east.	The survey area was bordered by hedgerows to the north and east, the field continued to the west and south. There was a telegraph pole in the norther boundary with overhead cables following the northern boundary.
132	The survey area comprised a mostly flat pasture field. A large circular depression was in the northeast corner of the survey area.	The survey area was bordered by hedgerows on the western and part of the southern boundaries. A wire fence was to the east and crossed the field along the northern boundary.
133	The survey area comprised a wet, flat arable field.	The survey area was bordered to the north by hedgerow and on the south by a wire fence. The remaining borders were undefined. Telephone wires crossed the survey area diagonally from the south-east corner to a point on the west border. Electricity wires from pylons outside the survey area crossed in the north diagonally from west to east.
135	The survey area comprised a very wet pasture field.	The survey area was bordered on all sides by wire fencing. Overhead wires passed over the north-west corner of the survey area.
136	The survey area comprised a grass pasture field sloping down from the north to the south.	The survey area was bordered to the east and west by a combination of hedges and a wire fence with wooden posts. Part of the southern boundary was formed of trees, beyond which was the A55. The northern and southern boundaries were undefined. Overhead cables ran along the west boundary and diagonally

			across the north-east corner to the eastern boundary.	
	137	The survey area comprised a grass pasture field sloping down from north to the south.	The survey area was bordered by a forested area to the east, treeline to the west and fencing to the north. The field continued to the south.	
	138	The survey area comprised a very wet pasture field.	The survey area was bordered on all sides by wire fencing. Overhead wires passed near the survey area.	
	139	The survey area comprised a very wet pasture field. The area sloped gently down to the south-west from the north-west.	The survey area was bordered to the west, south and east by wire fencing. The northern boundary was undefined. An area in the centre and a second to the east were not surveyed due to the	
			presence of bushes.	
	140	The survey area comprised a very wet pasture field that sloped from north-west to south-east.	The survey area was bordered to the east and west by a wire fence. The remaining boundaries were all undefined. A pylon was located along the northern boundary. In the north-east corner	
			overhead wires passed across the survey area to the south.	
	141	The survey area comprised a grass pasture field.	The survey area was bordered to the west and east by hedges and a wire fence, the remaining boundaries were undefined.	
	142	The survey area comprised a grassland field.	The survey area was bordered to the north and east by a line of a trees and a stream. The remaining boundaries were all undefined.	
	146	The survey area comprised a long grass pasture field that sloped gently down from east down to the west.	The survey area was bordered by wire fencing to the east, west, and part of the southern borders, the remaining borders were undefined. An area along the southern border of the survey area was not surveyed to boggy ground conditions.	
	147	The survey area was a grassland field, which sloped down from south-east down to the northwest.	The area was mostly overgrown with bales of hay and a large embankment.	
y	148	The survey area was a pasture field, which sloped down from south-east down to the northwest.	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the east and west, the field continued to the north and south.	
	149	The survey area was a pasture field, which sloped down from south-east down to the north.	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the east, south-east and west, the field continued to the north and south-west.	
	150	The survey area was a flat, pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the north-east and west, the field continued to the north-west and south-east.	
	151	The survey area was a flat, pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the south-east and north-west, the field continued to the west and east. A partial hedge bisected the southern part of the survey area.	
	152	The survey area was a pasture field, which sloped down from west down to the east.	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the east and west, the field continued to the north	

		and south. A tree was in the centre of the survey
		area.
153	The survey area was a flat,	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the
	pasture field.	south-east and north-west, the field continued
		to the west and east.
154	The survey area was a flat,	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the
	pasture field.	south-east and north-west, the field continued
	-	to the west and east.
155	The survey area was a flat,	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the
	pasture field.	south-east, south-west and north-west, the field
456	The second secon	continued to the south-east.
156	The survey area was a flat,	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the
	pasture field.	south-west and north-west, the field continued to the west and east.
157	The survey area was a flat,	
157	pasture field.	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the south-east and north, the field continued to the
	pasture neid.	west and east.
158	The survey area was a flat,	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the
150	pasture field.	south-west, the field continued to the north and
	pastare nera.	east.
159	The survey area comprised a	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the
and the same	wet, flat arable field.	south and a metal fence to the north, the field
		continued to the west and east.
160	The survey area consisted of a	The survey area was bordered by hedges to the
	wasteland/grassland fie <mark>ld and</mark>	east and west, the field continued to the north
	was very overgrown along the	and south.
	northern boundary.	

- 4.3. The underlying geology of the survey corridor consists, of east of the River Dee, the Kinnerton sandstone formation (Areas 1-5, 46-53, 56, 58-62, 65, 132-133, 141, 150, & 159), with a band pebbly (gravelly) sandstone of the Chester Formation (Areas 6-45, 54-55, 63-64, 147-149, 152, 155-158), bisecting it. To the west of the river the underlying geology comprises mixture of mudstone, sandstone and conglomerate of the Etruria Formation (Areas 79-81, 142, 151, & 153-154), mudstone, siltstone and sandstone from the Pennine Middle Coal Measures (Areas 66-78, 83-84, 93-94, 96-98, 100-103, 106-107, 111-112, 114, 119-122, 126-128, 135, & 138-140), sandstone and (subequal/subordinate) argillaceous rocks of Gwespyr Sandstone Fomation (Areas 85-89, & 118), interbedded mudstone from the Bowland Shale Formation and sandstone of the Hollin Rock Formation (Areas 57, 92, 99, 104-105, 129-131, 136-137, & 160).
- 4.4. The superficial geology across the survey area mostly consists of Devensian diamicton and till (Areas 3, 5-17, 20-28, 33, 37-40, 42-50, 52, 54-56, 58-59, 63-64, 66, 68-69, 90-91, 93-132, 135-140, 146-150, 155-157, & 159-160), with areas of clay, silts and sand from tidal flat deposits near to the Rivers Dee and Mersey (Areas 1-2, 4, 53, 60-62, 65, 67, 70-81, 133, 141-142, & 151-154). Across the survey area bands of blown sand, sand, (Area 41) and Glaciofluvial deposits, Devensian of sand and gravel are also present (Areas 57, 83-89, 92, & 149) (British Geological Survey, 2022).

4.5. Across the survey area the majority of the soils consist of slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Areas 3-33, 41-45, 50, 54, 57, 63-64, 66-69, 72-75, 78, 83-84, 88-132, 135-140, 146-149, 155-156, & 160). However, east to west further soils include: Loamy and sandy soils with naturally high groundwater and a peaty surface to the north-east (Areas 1 & 2); freely draining slightly acid sandy soils in the east (Areas 28 & 149); slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Areas 34-40, 152, & 157); loamy and clayey soils of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater(Areas 53, 60-62, 65, 70-71, 76-77, 79-81, 133, 141-142, & 151-154); freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Areas 85-87); in addition to slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils in the west (Areas 93, 114, & 96). (Soilscapes, 2022).



#### 5. Archaeological Background

- 5.1. The following is a summary of an Existing Baseline produced and provided by WSP (WSP, 2022).
- 5.2. Within close proximity of the survey area, there is a single scheduled monument. This is a late medieval moated site, fishpond, and connecting channel at Elton, c.60m north of Area 9.
- 5.3. Evidence of prehistoric activity in close proximity to the survey area consists of three Bronze Age round barrows between Northop Hall and Northop (101848, 100051, and 100049) that are noted on the HER report as having been destroyed. Additional evidence of prehistoric activity consists of a standing stone near Northop (97726), a hillfort near Hawarden (132195), Mesolithic and Bronze Age peat layers (MCH25132) near Ince, and isolated finds.
- 5.4. Roman presence in this area began around mid-1st century AD following the Roman conquest of south-east England in 47 AD. The Roman fort of Castra Deva in the modern city of Chester was established in 79 AD as a permanent military installation. The lines of Roman roads are noted within the HER records (MCH1278 and MCH6164; CPAT Refs. 104572, 128773, 46802 and 47802) and it is thought that remains of the roads could extend across the survey area. The presence, extent, and survival of the roads or any associated features have not been confirmed through archaeological investigation. Additional evidence of Roman activity surrounding the survey area is limited to isolated finds.
- 5.5. The whole of survey area is located on the Mercian side of the Wat's Dyke but little evidence of Saxon activity has been identified. The only evidence of Saxon activity near the survey area is a cross shaft currently located within Grade I listed St Mary's Church in Thornton-le-Moors approximately 200m west of the survey area. Medieval activity is limited to moated sites such as ones near Elton and Thornton-le-Moors Green (NHLE 1012122). Medieval agricultural activity within the survey area consists of ridge and furrow remains (97837 and MCH25127 15191) and later medieval field boundaries (99060).
- 5.6. The post-medieval period saw an increase in industrial activity within both Cheshire and Flintshire. North Wales was known for its rich mineral deposits with increasingly honeycombed with marl pits (85036 and 85035), sand pits (85032), clay pits (99035), and collieries (103786, 99047 and 103806) around and within the survey area. Brickfields were established in the late post-medieval period within the survey area near Ewloe Green and Northop Hall to take advantage of the clay and lime deposits. Developing infrastructure included local railway lines (99043), tramways (99039), and the construction of the Wirral branch of the Ellesmere Canal (MCH18836 10101/0/0), all of which are crossed by the survey area.

# 6. Methodology

#### 6.1. Data Collection

6.1.1.Magnetometer surveys are generally the most cost effective and suitable geophysical technique for the detection of archaeology in England. Therefore, a magnetometer survey should be the preferred geophysical technique unless its use is precluded by any specific survey objectives or the site environment. For this site, no factors precluded the recommendation of a standard

- magnetometer survey. Geophysical survey therefore comprised the magnetic method as described in the following section.
- 6.1.2.Geophysical prospection comprised the magnetic method as described in the following table.
- 6.1.3. Table of survey strategies:

Method	Instrument	Traverse Interval	Sample Interval
Magnetic	Bartington Instruments Grad-13 Digital Three-Axis Gradiometer	1m	200Hz reprojected to 0.125m

- **6.1.**4. The magnetic data were collected using MS' bespoke hand-pulled cart system and hand-carried GNSS-positioned system.
- 6.1.4.1. MS' cart and hand-carried system was comprised of Bartington Instruments Grad 13 Digital Three-Axis Gradiometers. Positional referencing was through a multi-channel, multi-constellation GNSS Smart Antenna RTK GPS outputting in NMEA mode to ensure high positional accuracy of collected measurements.

  The RTK GPS is accurate to 0.008m + 1ppm in the horizontal and 0.015m + 1ppm in the vertical.
- 6.1.4.2. Magnetic and GPS data were stored on an SD card within MS' bespoke datalogger. The datalogger was continuously synced, via an in-field Wi-Fi unit, to servers within MS' offices. This allowed for data collection, processing and visualisation to be monitored in real-time as fieldwork was ongoing.
- 6.1.4.3. A navigation system was integrated with the RTK GPS, which was used to guide the surveyor. Data were collected by traversing the survey area along the longest possible lines, ensuring efficient collection and processing.

#### 6.2. Data Processing

6.2.1.Magnetic data were processed in bespoke in-house software produced by MS. Processing steps conform to the EAC and Historic England guidelines for 'minimally enhanced data' (see Section 3.8 in Schmidt *et al.*, 2015: 33 and Section IV.2 in David *et al.*, 2008: 11).

<u>Sensor Calibration</u> – The sensors were calibrated using a bespoke in-house algorithm, which conforms to Olsen *et al.* (2003).

<u>Zero Median Traverse</u> – The median of each sensor traverse is calculated within a specified range and subtracted from the collected data. This removes striping effects caused by small variations in sensor electronics.

<u>Projection to a Regular Grid</u> – Data collected using RTK GPS positioning requires a uniform grid projection to visualise data. Data are rotated to best fit an orthogonal grid projection and are resampled onto the grid using an inverse distance-weighting algorithm.

<u>Interpolation to Square Pixels</u> – Data are interpolated using a bicubic algorithm to increase the pixel density between sensor traverses. This produces images with square pixels for ease of visualisation.

#### 6.3. Data Visualisation and Interpretation

- 6.3.1. This report presents the gradient of the sensors' total field data as greyscale images, as well as the total field data from the lower sensors. The gradient of the sensors minimises external interferences and reduces the blown-out responses from ferrous and other high contrast material. However, the contrast of weak or ephemeral anomalies can be reduced through the process of calculating the gradient. Consequently, some features can be clearer in the respective gradient or total field datasets. Multiple greyscale images of the gradient and total field at different plotting ranges have been used for data interpretation. Greyscale images should be viewed alongside the XY trace plot (Figures 62, 65, 68, 71, 74, 77, 80, 83, 86, 89, 92, 95, 98, 101, 104, 107, 110, 113, 116, 119, 122, 125, 128, 131, 134, 137, 140, 143, 146, 149, 152, 155, 158, 161, 164, 167, 170, 173, 176, 179, 182, 185, 188, 191, 194, 197, 200, 203, 206, 209, 212, 215, 218, 221, 224, 227, 230, 233, 236, 239, 242, & 245). XY trace plots visualise the magnitude and form of the geophysical response, aiding anomaly interpretation.
- 6.3.2.Geophysical results have been interpreted using greyscale images and XY traces in a layered environment, overlaid against open street maps, satellite imagery, historical maps, LiDAR data, and soil and geology maps. Google Earth (2022) was also consulted, to compare the results with recent land use.
- 6.3.3.Geodetic position of results All vector and raster data have been projected into OSGB36 (ESPG27700) and can be provided upon request in ESRI Shapefile (.SHP) and Geotiff (.TIF) respectively. Figures are provided with raster and vector data projected against OS Open Data.

#### 7. Results

#### 7.1. Qualification

7.1.1.Geophysical results are not a map of the ground and are instead a direct measurement of subsurface properties. Detecting and mapping features requires that said features have properties that can be measured by the chosen technique(s) and that these properties have sufficient contrast with the background to be identifiable. The interpretation of any identified anomalies is inherently subjective. While the scrutiny of the results is undertaken by qualified, experienced individuals and rigorously checked for quality and consistency, it is often not possible to classify all anomaly sources. Where possible, an anomaly source will be identified along with the certainty of the interpretation. The only way to improve the interpretation of results is through a process of comparing excavated results with the geophysical reports. MS actively seek feedback on their reports, as well as reports from further work, in order to constantly improve our knowledge and service.

#### 7.2. Discussion

- 7.2.1.The geophysical results are presented in combination with satellite imagery and historical maps (Figure 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, & 59).
- 7.2.2.The fluxgate gradiometer survey has responded well to the environment of the majority of the survey area with one area of possible archaeology identified. However, it should be noted that the limited extent of the survey area has provided a reduced context for interpreting the data. As such, it is not always possible to provide a definitive interpretation of all the anomalies detected. As such, an archaeological origin for anomalies categorised as undetermined should not be discounted. Agricultural activity in the form of mapped and unmapped former field boundaries and recent ploughing was also identified, along with evidence of historical agricultural practice in the form of multiple ridge and furrow regimes.
- 7.2.3.Modern interference has impacted the data along many parts of the survey corridor. This has taken the form of magnetic disturbance around field edges where they are bounded by roads or metal fencing, along with multiple buried services. The effects of this are locally significant and the haloes from the magnetic disturbance will have obscured any weaker anomalies, if present, within their vicinity.
- 7.2.4.Natural variations relating to superficial geology are present in some areas of the survey corridor and are most visible in the total field data. Some of these variations take the form of discrete positive anomalies, which are likely to be caused by unsorted and unstratified deposits of till, sands, gravels and tidal deposits. It should be noted that it is possible that some of these anomalies have an anthropogenic origin, as they can be difficult to distinguish in the magnetic results from those produced by natural processes. Broad bands of

- both strong and weak, positive and negative anomalies cross the survey area in several places. Many of these are in places where the corridor crosses areas of tidal deposits that cause variations in the superficial geology.
- 7.2.5.In the east of the survey corridor, south of Elton, evidence of possible archaeological activity has been identified in the form of possible pit alignment (Figure 211), which could date from prehistory to the medieval period. However, due to the limited context provided by the survey corridor it is not possible to provide a more definitive interpretation. While this anomaly has a magnetic signal typical of infilled pits, it could be caused by modern agricultural activity such as a drain.
- 7.2.6. The historical agricultural utilisation of the landscape is evident throughout the survey corridor. This consists of numerous mapped former field boundaries and divisions, in addition to several anomalies which could possibly represent unmapped subdivisions. Ridge and furrow have also been identified. These trends are typical of pre-mechanised agriculture, but due to the limited extent of the survey area it is not possible to identify whether these are of post-medieval or of medieval origin. Several other linear trends have been identified which could relate to ridge and furrow but have been categorised as agricultural trends because their origin cannot be identified with certainty. Recent agricultural practice is present throughout the survey corridor in the form of several networks of field drains and agricultural trends which align with the recent ploughing regime.
- 7.2.7.The industrial use of the landscape was also recorded through multiple possible extractions areas, both mapped and unmapped. In addition, large spreads of magnetic debris were identified within Areas 68, 69, 135, 138, 139, 91 & 140. This has been interpreted as a result of local industry seen on historical mapping (Figures 21 & 23) such as brickworks, mining shafts, extraction pits, and a former railway line, including a large concentration of such activity south-east of Shotton.
- 7.2.8.Anomalies of undetermined origin have been detected throughout the survey corridor. These have been identified in a number of different forms and magnetic signals, with varying sizes and orientations. In some cases, it has not been possible to provide a more definitive interpretation of these anomalies because of the limited context provided by the narrow survey corridor. However, these anomalies generally lack any pattern, distinct morphology, or shape which would allow for a more-certain categorisation of their cause. Most of these anomalies will be geological, pedological, or agricultural in origin. However, it is not possible to completely rule out an archaeological origin for any of these anomalies. Many smaller or weaker discrete anomalies, which, taken individually, would not be considered to be obviously of anthropogenic origin, have been highlighted and categorised as Undetermined where they

form linear, circular or other patterns that could be suggestive of past human activity.



#### 7.3. Interpretation

#### 7.3.1. General Statements

- 7.3.1.1. Geophysical anomalies will be discussed broadly as classification types across the survey area. Only anomalies that are distinctive or unusual will be discussed individually.
- 7.3.1.2. Data Artefact Data artefacts usually occur in conjunction with anomalies with strong magnetic signals due to the way in which the sensors respond to very strong point sources. They are usually visible as minor 'streaking' following the line of data collection. While these artefacts can be reduced in post-processing through data filtering, this would risk removing 'real' anomalies. These artefacts are therefore indicated as necessary in order to preserve the data as 'minimally processed'.
- 7.3.1.3. **Ferrous (Spike)** Discrete dipolar anomalies are likely to be the result of isolated pieces of modern ferrous debris on or near the ground surface.
- 7.3.1.4. **Ferrous/Debris (Spread)** A ferrous/debris spread refers to a concentration of multiple discrete, dipolar anomalies usually resulting from highly magnetic material such as rubble containing ceramic building materials and ferrous rubbish.
- 7.3.1.5. Magnetic Disturbance The strong anomalies produced by extant metallic structures, typically including fencing, pylons, vehicles and service pipes, have been classified as 'Magnetic Disturbance'. These magnetic 'haloes' will obscure weaker anomalies relating to nearby features, should they be present, often over a greater footprint than the structure causing them.
- 7.3.1.6. **Undetermined** Anomalies are classified as Undetermined when the origin of the geophysical anomaly is ambiguous and there is no supporting contextual evidence to justify a more certain classification. These anomalies are likely to be the result of geological, pedological or agricultural processes, although an archaeological origin cannot be entirely ruled out. Undetermined anomalies are generally distinct from those caused by ferrous sources.

#### 7.3.2. Magnetic Results - Specific Anomalies

- 7.3.2.1. Possible Archaeology (Strong) Crossing Area 41 from south-east to north-west are a series of discrete positive anomalies (Figure 211). These have been identified as a possible pit alignment due to the separated nature of the anomalies and the weakly positive magnetic signal which is suggestive of infilled pits. It is not possible to provide a date for these anomalies based on the magnetic data alone and due to the constraints of the survey area providing a limited context for its interpretation, it is possible that these are modern agricultural in origin.
- 7.3.2.2. **Undetermined (Weak & Strong)** Within Areas 9 and 10 are several linear and curvilinear anomalies which have been categorised as undetermined (Figures 226 & 229). These anomalies are typically weak or lack any

morphology that would allow for a confident interpretation, but many do cut perpendicularly to the agricultural regime. A scheduled monument consisting of a moated Medieval site (see Section 5) is located c.50m north of these areas and because of this proximity it should not be discounted that these anomalies have an archaeological origin.

- 7.3.2.3. **Undetermined (Weak & Strong)** Within Area 158 a strong fragmented curvilinear anomaly [**158a**], c. 300m in length, with clear cut edges, has been identified (Figure 172). The north-eastern end appears to align with a mapped field boundary, curving to follow the agricultural regime within the field (Figure 39). As such it is considered likely that this anomaly is agricultural in origin, likely a former track or similar feature. However, this anomaly does not align with any feature visible on available historical mapping or satellite imagery. As such its origin is uncertain.
- 7.3.2.4. **Agricultural (Strong & Weak)** Numerous linear anomalies have been identified along the survey corridor that appear to collocate with former field boundaries, visible on historical mapping. Examples of these are present in Areas 12, 15, 18, 52, 75, 106 & 109 (Figures 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 49, 51, & 53). These anomalies exhibit a variety of different magnetic signals, with some appearing to have been truncated by subsequent ploughing. Several linear anomalies are also present which do not match with mapped field boundaries, but due to their similarity in magnetic signal, and positioning often fitting with the wider pattern of boundaries in the landscape, they have also been categorised as agricultural (Figure 5, 13, 15, 17, 25, 29, 33, 43, 45, 49, & 51).
- 7.3.2.5. Agricultural (Trend) Throughout the length of the survey corridor, multiple weakly positive, parallel linear anomalies and striations have been identified, that appear to run concordantly with the alignment of recent ploughing visible in satellite imagery and will be caused by this activity. Further linear anomalies have been identified throughout the survey area, that do not appear to match the current agricultural regimes, but that are consistent with agricultural activity. Due to the small survey areas, it is difficult to always be certain of what agricultural activity caused them, and they therefore could be related to drainage features, ridge and furrow, or other agricultural activity (Figures 61, 64, 67, 88, 91, 94, 97, 112, 118, 121, 127, 136, 142, 145, 148, 151, 157, 160, 163, 169, 172, 175, 184, 187, 193, 196, 199, 202, 223, 226, 238, & 241).
- 7.3.2.6. Ridge and Furrow Historical agricultural activity in the form of ridge and furrow has been identified throughout much of the survey corridor (Figure 121 & 124). These anomalies are characterised by broadly parallel linear anomalies, typically 5m to 7m apart, with a weakly positive and/or negative signal.
- 7.3.2.7. **Industrial/Modern** Across the survey area discreate areas of highly magnetic material have been interpreted as being due to industrial activity.

Based on evidence from historical mapping, within Areas 15, 16, 45, 50, 68, 69 & 108 discrete zones of strong positive and dipolar enhancement have been identified and interpreted as being due to extraction activity or other similar utilisation of the landscape. These anomalies collocate with, or are in the vicinity of, areas of extraction or infilled ponds identified in 2nd edition OS Maps (Figures 5, 17, 21, 33, 35, 37, 53, & 55). Within Areas 68, 69, 135, 138, 139, 91 & 140, the magnetic data is dominated by strong dipolar anomalies likely caused by material from a brick works, pits and mineshafts recorded on historical OS Maps (Figures 21 & 23) and described in the archaeological background (see Section 5).

- 7.3.2.8. **Drainage Features** Across the survey area, multiple linear anomalies have been identified. These anomalies have a variable magnetic signal and pattern but have all been interpreted as field drains, reflecting the impeded drainage of much of the survey area. Weak positive anomalies have been interpreted as cut drains while dipolar anomalies have been interpreted as ceramic drains (Figures 61, 67, 70, 85, 88, 91, 94, 97, 112, 127, 130, 136, 154, 160, 190, 193, 214, 217, 220, 223, 226, 238, & 241).
- 7.3.2.9. Services & Overhead Cables Distributed throughout the survey corridor, linear anomalies have been identified that exhibit a very strong magnetic signal composed of multiple dipolar anomalies. These are most explicit in the greyscale and XY trace plots. The linearity and alternating polarity of the anomalies suggests they relate to modern underground services. It should be noted that the strength of signal these anomalies exhibit could possibly obscure weaker and more ephemeral anomalies in proximity to them. In addition, there are several locations where the survey area passes pylons and masts for overhead services, which cause similar strong magnetic disturbances (Figures 76, 82, 94, 100, 103, 106, 109, 124, 139, 175, 178, 181, 190, 196, 199, 205, 220, 223, 226, 229, 232, & 235).
- 7.3.3. **Undetermined (Weak & Strong)** Across much of the survey area, linear and curvilinear anomalies exhibiting a weak magnetic signal have been detected (Figures 64, 67, 76, 79, 82, 85, 88, 94, 97, 100, 103, 109, 112, 118, 121, 124, 127, 130, 139, 142, 145, 148, 151, 154, 157, 160, 163, 169, 172, 175, 181, 184, 187, 193, 196, 199, 202, 205, 208, 211, 226, 229, & 241). Some of these cross the width of the survey area and in most cases do not align with the agricultural regime. They could have a variety of origins, including natural or agricultural, although due to the lack of contextual evidence it is not possible to ascribe a definitive interpretation. As such an archaeological origin of these anomalies cannot be completely discounted.

#### 8. Conclusions

8.1. A fluxgate gradiometer survey has successfully been undertaken across a c. 147.7ha area following the projected route of the HyNet CO2 Pipeline project, with the remaining area being not surveyed due to access constraints or poor ground conditions. The geophysical survey has

detected a range of different anomalies of possible archaeological, industrial, agricultural and undetermined origin. Modern interference mostly emanates from the field boundaries but also can be seen in areas with services, overhead cables and pylons.

- 8.2. Possible archaeological anomalies have been detected in the form of a series of pit like features within Area 41. These anomalies lack context or other supporting evidence which could allow for a more definite interpretation, yet their morphology is such that it has been interpreted as a possible pit alignment.
- 8.3. Agricultural activity has been detected throughout the survey areas as mapped and unmapped field boundaries. In addition, most areas contain evidence of modern ploughing or drainage schemes.
- 8.4. Past industrial activity has been detected across the survey area, mostly as infilled, mapped and unmapped, extraction pits and ponds. In addition, some areas of very strong magnetic disturbance have been interpreted as being due to mapped brickworks, extraction activity, and railway lines.
- 8.5. Undetermined anomalies have been detected throughout the survey areas which may represent natural variations in the magnetic data, agricultural anomalies, or archaeology. A more conclusive classification cannot be given due to the limited context provided in narrow survey extents. As such an archaeological origin of these anomalies cannot be discounted.
- 8.6. Modern services have been detected across the survey area, the strength of these signals may have obscured any weaker anomalies.

#### 9. Archiving

- 9.1. MS maintains an in-house digital archive, which is based on Schmidt and Ernenwein (2013). This stores the collected measurements, minimally processed data, georeferenced and ungeoreferenced images, XY traces and a copy of the final report.
- 9.2. MS contributes reports to the Archaeological Data Service Grey Literature Library upon permission from the client, subject to any dictated time embargoes.

#### 10. Copyright

10.1. Copyright and intellectual property pertaining to all reports, figures and datasets produced by Magnitude Services Ltd is retained by MS. The client is given full licence to use such material for their own purposes. Permission must be sought by any third party wishing to use or reproduce any IP owned by MS.

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## 12. Project Metadata

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MSSJ1172				
HyNet CO2Pipeline				
WSP				
SJ 2532 7114				
Magnetometry				
173.5ha (Magnetometry)				
2022-02-21 to 2022-04-08				
Christian Adams BA MSc ACIfA				
Christian Adams BA MSc ACIfA				
N/A				
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N/A				
1.0				

## 13. Document History

Version	Comments	Author	Checked By	Date
VC131011	Comments	Author	Criccica by	Date
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0.2	Comments from Project Lead	MC	CA	18 May 2022
0.3	Draft for Director Approval	CA	FPC	19 May 2022
0.4	Corrections for Client	KB MC	CA	08 June
				2022
1.0	Report Issued as Final	CA	CA	14 June
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