

# **XLINKS MOROCCO-UK POWER PROJECT**

# **Preliminary Environmental Information Report**

Volume 2, Appendix 2.2: Preliminary Geophysical Survey Report





# **Preliminary Geophysical Survey Report**

# Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

# **UK Onshore Cable Corridor**

Client

# **RPS Consulting Ltd**

Survey Report

# 08807

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## Survey Report 08807: Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

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Appendix C OASIS Data Collection Sheet

## 3 SURVEY TECHNIQUE

3.1 Detailed magnetic survey (magnetometry) was chosen as the most efficient and effective method of locating the type of archaeological anomalies which might be expected at this site. All survey techniques followed the guidance set out by CIFA (2014, updated 2020), Historic England (2008), and the European Archaeology Council (EAC) (2016).

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

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

Zero Mean
Traverse
Step Correction
(De-stagger)
This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero. The operation removes instrument striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set.
When gradiometer data are collected in 'zig-zag' fashion, stepping errors can sometimes arise. These occur because of a slight difference in the speed of walking on the forward and reverse traverses. The result is a staggered effect in the data, which is particularly noticeable on linear anomalies. This process corrects these errors.

## 4 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

4.1 A magnetometer survey of land for a proposed Development situated in Devon has recorded several magnetic responses that have be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. Numerous ditches, pits, a round barrow, enclosures, a ring-ditch, trackways and settlements have been recorded. Some of the anomalies correspond with heritage assets that are detailed in the Historic Environment Record (HER) while some of the responses appear to be unknown prior to the geophysical survey. Numerous responses of uncertain origin have also been plotted which could be due to combinations of agricultural and natural processes. Corroborated and conjectural former field boundaries are visible along with ploughing, land drains plus ridge and furrow ploughing. The routes of several service pipes have also been recorded throughout the survey.

## 5 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 **SUMO Geophysics Ltd** were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for a proposed onshore cable corridor. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **RPS Consulting Ltd**.
- 5.2 Site Details

NGR / Postcode	Western extent: SS 41474 27801 / EX39 5AY
	Eastern extend: SS 50116 24587 / EX39 4QE
Location	The route of the survey western extend is located 2 km south-west
	of Westward Ho and $4\text{km}$ west of Bideford. The route passes
	through Abbotsham, below Bideford and extends eastwards into
	Gammaton Moor.

HER	Devon HER	
OASIS Ref. No.	sumogeop1-	508449
District	Torridge Dis	trict
Parish	Abbotsham	CP / Alwington CP / Littleham CP / Bideford CP /
	Alverdiscott	CP / Huntshaw CP / Weare Giffard CP
Topography	Undulating	
Land Use	Arable agric	ultural / pasture
Geology	Bedrock:	Bude Formation - Sandstone
(BGS 2023)		Bude Formation - Mudstone and siltstone
		Crackington Formation - Mudstone and siltstone
		Bideford Formation - Sandstone
	Superficial:	None recorded
Soils (CU 2023)	Soilscape 6:	Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils
	Soilscape 13	3: Freely draining acid loamy soils over rock
	Soilscape 1	7: Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and
	clayey soils	
Survey Methods	Magnetomet	ter survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Study Area	135 ha	

## 5.3 Archaeological Background

5.3.1 A search of the Devon HER has revealed that a number of recorded are located along the proposed onshore cable corridor. A list of the archaeological assets with the survey areas can be seen in the below table.

Field No.	MonUID	Summary
13	MDV102126	The line of several linear field boundaries, some of which are depicted on the 1839 tithe map for the parish of Abbotsham, are visible as earthworks and cropmarks on aerial photographs from the 1940s to the 1990s, to the west of Abbotsham village. The field boundaries fit within the surrounding extant field system, and are a mix of curvilinear boundaries and rectilinear enclosures, probable later medieval or post-medieval in date.
14	MDV102126	The line of several linear field boundaries, some of which are depicted on the 1839 tithe map for the parish of Abbotsham, are visible as earthworks and cropmarks on aerial photographs from the 1940s to the 1990s, to the west of Abbotsham village. The field boundaries fit within the surrounding extant field system, and are a mix of curvilinear boundaries and rectilinear enclosures, probable later medieval or post-medieval in date.
15, 16, 17 & 26	MDV80668	Elongated enclosure, Abbotsham. Visible on Ordnance Survey 1880s-90s First Edition 25 inch map.
16	MDV35563	Artefact scatter in the Parish of Abbotsham, three people walking for 1 1/2 hours found; one scraper, one core, two flakes (meade).
31	MDV106687	Nineteenth century field name. May refer to a windmill.
31	MDV35562	A few pieces of flint and chert including a scraper have been found.
31	MDV106688	Nineteenth century field name. May refer to barn, but no barn marked on Tithe Map.

42	MDV102359	The location of a possible removed field boundary of probable medieval date is visible on aerial photographs as a faint cropmark, to the north of Winscott, Alwington.
46	MDV104621	A large curvilinear ditch, possibly part of a prehistoric enclosure and potentially therefore of national significance. The ditch, which was originally recorded during geophysical survey, is also visible as an earthwork on LiDAR and appears to continue
70	MDV108474	Remnants of a former field system recorded by geophysical survey.
74	MDV105966	Linear boundaries identified in trench evaluation on the west side of the Torridge and interpreted as possibly forming part of a Romano-British rectilinear field system on either side of the river.
74	MDV29732	S of Bideford. Subcircular single ditched enclosure, followed by line of hedge on north side. Recorded as cropmark by f. Griffith in June 1984.
74	MDV108418	A series of banks and ditches recorded by geophysical survey immediately north of a possible Romano-British field system.
74 & 76	MDV80719	Curvilinear enclosure, Hallsannery. Visible on Ordnance Survey 1880s-90s First Edition 25 inch map.
76	MDV131155	Crop marks possibly denoting a rectilinear enclosure associated with Roman settlement or a later farmstead. There is also the possibility that the crops marks are agricultural in origin.
83	MDV63447	Double ditched enclosure and adjacent features; recorded as a cropmark.
83, 86 & 87	MDV105967	Linear boundaries identified in trench evaluation on the east side of the Torridge and interpreted as possibly forming part of a Romano-British rectilinear field system on either side of the river.
89	MDV108424	Area of probable banks and ditches recorded by geophysical survey north-west of Bryberry.
89	MDV108422	Deserted settlement shown on mid 19th century map.
136	MDV131120	Geophysical survey recorded a number of anomalies thought to be associated with field systems dating to the prehistoric or later period.
136	MDV131121	Geophysical survey recorded an anomaly group thought to represent an enclosure, currently of unknown date.
125 & 126	MDV80952	Curvilinear enclosure, Brownscombe. Visible on Ordnance Survey 1880s-90s First Edition 25 inch map.
166	MDV102158	Three narrow parallel linear features are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs of 1950 to 1992, to the north-west of East Langdon Farm, Abbotsham. The date and function of the features is unknown, and they may be non- archaeological in origin.

## 5.4 Aims and Objectives

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

## 6 RESULTS

- 6.1 The linear survey spans multiple land parcels, and each area has been given a field number; these start at 1 in the western extremity. However, not all fields were investigated, so the first parcel reported upon here is Area 31. Magnetic responses of specific interest have been given numbers [31.1] [31.2] which appear in the text below, as well as on the Interpretation Figure(s).
- 6.2 Steep terrain in Areas 64, 66 and 81 plus waterlogging in Area 152 rendered these parts of the route unsurveyable.
- 6.3 *Probable Archaeology, Possible Archaeology* and *Uncertain* responses are discussed below for each area, while field boundaries, agricultural responses, natural anomalies, services and ferrous / magnetic disturbance are considered at the end of the results section.

## 6.4 Area 13

## Uncertain

A number of ditch-like responses, pit-like anomalies and trends have been detected in Area 13 which have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain*. The HER records several linear field boundaries that probably date to later medieval or post-medieval periods due east of the survey area. Some of these uncertain responses may be former field boundaries. However, archaeological origins cannot be entirely discounted for the anomalies.

## 6.5 Area 14

## Possible Archaeology

In Area 15 discrete curving responses and curvilinear trends [14.1] are visible which have been categorised as being of *Possible Archaeology*. They appear to form two sub-rectangular enclosures which measure 12 m x 9 m and 12 m x 16 m.

## Uncertain

A number of ditch-like anomalies and linear trends are likely to be due to a combination of agricultural and natural processes. However, archaeological origins may not be entirely discounted due to responses of archaeological interest in the vicinity (see above).

#### 6.6 Area 15

## Possible Archaeology

A circular response which is made up of discrete responses and trends [15.1] has been detected in Area 15; several pit-like anomalies have also been recorded within it. The anomalies probably mark the location of a sub-circular enclosure which measures some 15 m in diameter at its widest point.

#### Uncertain

Several discrete anomalies, linear trends and zones of increased responses have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain* which are likely to be due to a combination of agricultural and natural processes.

## 6.7 Area 16

## Uncertain

Zones of increased response and linear trends have been detected in the dataset which could be due to agricultural processes or variations un the underlying geology; consequently, they have been categorised as *Uncertain*.

## 6.8 Area 17

## Possible Archaeology

A series of rectilinear ditch-like responses and a pit-like anomalies [17.1] are visible in the plot which could mark the locations of enclosures and/or field systems. However, they may also indicate the location of uncorroborated former field boundaries.

## Uncertain

Zones of increased response and trends of uncertain origin are likely to have agricultural and natural origins.

## 6.9 Area 26

#### Uncertain

Weak curvilinear trends and a zone of increased response have been recorded in the magnetic data which are likely to be due to agricultural processes or have been caused by variations in the underlying geology.

## 6.10 Area 31

## Possible Archaeology

A series of linear anomalies [31.1] appear to form a small rectilinear feature, some 17 m x 22 m in size, with further associated ditches on the outside [31.2 & 31.3]. Field name evidence suggests that a windmill (MDV106687) could be located in the field; consequently, it is possible that the anomalies could be associated with ditches around such a structure.

#### Uncertain

A series of ditch-like responses, linear trends and pit-like anomalies have been detected which are difficult to interpret. While some in the vicinity of the enclosure [31.1] could have archaeological origins, they could also mark the routes of uncorroborated former field boundaries (see also 6.48). They may also be a result of agricultural processes or underlying natural variations.

#### 6.11 Area 41

## Possible Archaeology

In the south of Area 41, a circular response [41.1] has been detected. It measures some 18m in diameter and is composed of curving trends plus discrete ditch-like responses which, at

centre of which is a discrete pit-like anomaly. These anomalies could mark the location of a round barrow.

#### Uncertain

A number of ditch-like anomalies, linear trends and pit-like responses could be natural or agricultural; however, archaeological origins cannot be discounted due to the possible barrow and the enclosure in the adjacent Area 42 (see 6.6).

## 6.12 Area 42

#### Probable / Possible Archaeology

A sub-rectangular enclosure [42.1] which measures some 40 m by 48 m, is visible in the plot, and a gap in the eastern ditch probably indicates an entrance. Weak linear trends [42.2] appear to extend beyond the enclosure; they could also mark the routes of ditches or gullies. A cluster of responses [42.3] within the enclosure may indicate a small roundhouse or pits.

#### Uncertain

Several trends and discrete responses are also visible which have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain*; they are mostly likely to be natural or agricultural in origin.

#### 6.13 Area 44

#### Uncertain

A discrete ditch-like response and linear trend have been detected; the former could be an uncorroborated former field boundary while the trend is likely to be agricultural in origin.

#### 6.14 Area 46

#### Uncertain

Several *Uncertain* discrete ditch-like anomalies and trends are visible some of which are likely to be anthropogenic in origin, but it is difficult to determine if they are of any antiquity. They could be a result of relatively modern agricultural processes while some might be a natural effect.

#### Area 58

#### Uncertain

In this area ditch-like responses have been recorded; they could tentatively mark the location of a segmented enclosure, however, they could simply be an agricultural affect.

#### 6.15 Area 59

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

## 6.16 Area 60

#### Uncertain

A series of amorphous ditch-like responses, pit-like anomalies and trends are present in the data. A former woodland once existed in the area and is visible on historic mapping, it is possible

that the removal of the trees and the subsequent landscaping may have causes some of the anomalies.

## 6.17 Area 61

## Possible Archaeology

In the west of Area 61 a series of parallel trends [61.1] could mark the location of a double ditches enclosure; however, they could also be due to a chance line-up of underlying geological responses.

## Uncertain

Discrete responses, linear trends and a zone of increased responses have been assigned to the category of uncertain.

#### 6.18 Area 62

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

## 6.19 Area 63

## Uncertain?

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded..

#### 6.20 Area 64

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

#### 6.21 Area 66

#### Uncertain

A couple of ditch-like anomalies have been detected which appear to form a rectilinear pattern; they appear anthropogenic in origin, but they could be nothing more than uncorroborated former field divisions.

#### 6.22 Area 67

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

#### 6.23 Area 68

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

#### 6.24 Area 69

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

#### 6.25 *Area 70*

#### Possible Archaeology

Two ditch like responses [70.1] which form a rectilinear pattern have been detected in the survey and have been assigned to the category of *Possible Archaeology*, they could form a partial enclosure which extends beyond the limits of the survey. They may be associated with

a former field system that was recorded due east of Area 70 in a previous geological survey (MDV108474). A pit-like response [70.2] has also been recorded which is magnetically strong.

## 6.26 Area 73

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

## 6.27 *Area* 74

## Probable / Possible Archaeology

A large curvilinear ditch-like response [74.1] aligns with the modern field boundaries to form a large enclosure which extends beyond the limits of the survey; a break in the response indicates a southward facing entrance. The results correspond with an enclosure that is recorded in the HER (MDV29732). A number of internal responses [74.2] could indicate a second enclosure and a circular trend [74.3] could mark the location of a ring-ditch.

A series of ditch-like responses [74.4] and linear trends, one of which appears to run north and possibly turn before continuing through the enclosure [74.1] appear to form rectilinear patterns. A possible Romano-British Field System (MDV105966) is recorded in this vicinity, the anomalies could be an extension of this field system. Other linear trends and discrete strong responses [74.5] are also likely to be of interest.

## 6.28 *Area* 76

#### Uncertain

A number of linear trends have been recorded throughout the area which have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain*. They are likely to be due to a combination of agricultural processes, with many of the anomalies marking the locations of land drains. However, some of the responses may have archaeological origins given the proximity of anomalies of interest recorded in Area 74 (see 6.20). The HER records cropmarks possibly denoting a rectilinear enclosure associated with Roman settlement or a later farmstead (MDV131155); however, there is also the possibility that the crops marks are agricultural in origin which is supported by the geophysical survey.

## 6.29 Area 82

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

## 6.30 Area 83

## Possible Archaeology

In the east of Area 3 four segmented ditch-like responses [83.1] are visible in the magnetic data which have been assigned to the category of *Possible Archaeology*. The HER refers to a double ditched enclosure and adjacent features (MDV63447) plus linear that possibly form part of a Romano-British rectilinear field system (MDV105967). It is possible that the ditch-like responses could be associated with these features; however, they could also be due to a combination of natural and agricultural processes such as ploughing.

## 6.31 Area 85

#### Uncertain

An unusual, strong anomaly has been recorded whose origin is unclear. It is appears to have a ferrous component, perhaps a result of an infilled modern feature, or it could reflect underlying geological variations.

#### 6.32 Area 86

#### Uncertain

A discrete ditch-like response and very weak curving trends are visible in the data; the linear anomaly is on the same alignment as the ploughing so it could be agricultural, while the trends could be agricultural or geological.

## 6.33 *Area* 87

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

## 6.34 Areas 88 & 89

## Possible Archaeology

A small circular trend [88.1] has been recorded and assigned to the category of *Possible Archaeology*. The response measures some 7 m in diameter and could mark the location of a ring-ditch. However, it is also possible that it has been caused by natural variations in the local geology.

#### Uncertain

A few responses of uncertain origin are visible and include discrete ditch-like responses and trends. Due south of the areas are the remains of Bryberry, a deserted settlement (MDV108422) dating to the 17th century or earlier. A number of banks and ditches were recorded in a previous geophysical survey. Some of the uncertain responses could also be associated with peripheral activity. However, in places it has been difficult to interpret the responses with any great confidence due to the underlying geological 'noise'.

#### 6.35 Area 91

## Possible Archaeology

Discrete ditch-like anomalies and linear trends [91.1] are visible which could form a series of fields or paddocks and a possible trackway [91.2], which could indicate an earlier alignment of the current lane that lies immediately to the north. These responses are located due east of Bryberry, a deserted settlement (MDV108422) and the responses could be an extension of the settlement, although it is not recorded in the HER extending this far west.

## 6.36 Area 92

#### Possible Archaeology

In the north of this area numerous linear and curvilinear ditch-like anomalies [92.1] and trends have been assigned to the category of *Possible Archaeology*. The southern limits of the area of enhanced readings may be marked by the linear responses [92.2] though this might mark the location of an unrecorded old field boundary. The results are tentatively interpretated as

being part of a settlement which appears to extend beyond the limits of the survey. Unfortunately, the narrow survey corridor precludes a more detailed interpretation.

## 6.37 Area 93

#### Uncertain

A couple of ditch-like responses have been recorded crossing the survey area; these could be of archaeological interest, or they may simply be former field boundaries. Once again the small survey area has made it difficult to interpret the anomalies with great confidence, hence the *Uncertain* interpretation.

## 6.38 Area 94

## Possible Archaeology

A semi-circular trend [94.1] has been recorded which has been interpreted as being of *Possible* interest. The anomaly could mark the location of a partial enclosure which has been truncated by the extensive ploughing in the area. However, the anomaly could also be due to underlying geological processes.

## 6.39 *Area* 99

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

## 6.40 Area 101

## Uncertain

Numerous ditch-like responses and linear trends have been recorded throughout Area 101. Some of the responses could mark the locations of uncorroborated former field boundaries or be due to land drains. However, archaeological origins for some of the responses cannot be entirely discounted. Increased levels background 'noise' from the underlying natural geologically has made it difficult to interpret some of the responses with confidence.

## 6.41 Area 102

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

## 6.42 Area 108

## Possible Archaeology

In the south-east of this area a number of ditch-like responses, pits-like anomalies and trends have been recorded [108.1] which appear to form a partial enclosure with internal responses. However, the anomalies are amorphous and sinuous which casts some doubt of them being archaeological, hence the *Possible* interpretation.

## Uncertain

Numerous linear and curvilinear trends have been recorded throughout the area which likely to be due to a result of agricultural or natural processes.

#### 6.43 Area 109

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

## 6.44 Area 110

#### Uncertain

A couple of linear trends are visible within the noisy dataset associated with the natural magnetic responses.

## 6.45 Area 111

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

## 6.46 Areas 114, 115 & 116

## Uncertain

Numerous linear and curvilinear trends have been detected throughout the areas which have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain*. Generally, they are likely to be due to a combination of agricultural and natural processes.

## 6.47 Area 125

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

#### 6.48 Area 126

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

## 6.49 Area 136

#### Uncertain

The ditch-like responses in the north-east of the area are oriented on a different alignment to the field boundaries that are visible in the results. A previous geophysical survey recorded a number of anomalies thought to be associated with field systems (MDV131120), and it is possible that the magnetic anomalies recorded could be an extension of this field system. However, since there is no direct associated the responses are interpreted as being uncertain in origin.

#### 6.50 Area 144

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

#### 6.51 Area 145

#### Uncertain

6.52 A discrete linear response and magnetically weak trends are visible in the plot which a likely to have modern or natural origins. The discrete response could mark the location of a former field boundary and the curving trends are likely to be due to underlying geological variations.

## 6.53 Area 152

#### Uncertain

A cluster of large, very strong anomalies have a ferrous component and could be associated with local groundworks or dumped modern material. and linear trends are visible in Area 152 which have been assigned to the category of Uncertain. They are likely to be due to underlying

geological variations, agricultural processes or areas of dumping associated with groundwork / agriculture.

## 6.54 Area 160

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

## 6.55 Area 161

No responses of archaeological interest or of uncertain origin have been recorded.

#### 6.56 Area 164

## Uncertain

Numerous linear trends and discrete responses have been recorded across the area. While archaeological origins cannot be entirely be discounted, many former field boundaries are present and the responses could be uncorroborated former boundaries. Alternatively, they could be due to other agricultural processes.

## 6.57 Area 165

## Uncertain

A couple of discrete ditch-like responses have been detected which have been assigned to *Uncertain*. They appear to be on the same alignment as the ploughing which has been recorded and may have the same origin or they could mark the location of uncorroborated former field boundaries.

#### 6.58 Area 166

#### Uncertain

Amorphous discrete anomalies have been detected within an area of increased response, they have been categorised as Uncertain. while they bare likely to be of natural origin they could have been caused by other modern processes.

#### 6.59 Area 180

#### Uncertain

Several trends have been assigned to the category of uncertain but they are likely to have been caused by a combination of underlying natural variations and relatively modern ploughing.

#### 6.60 Former Field Boundary – Corroborated / Conjectural

A search of 1880 Ordnance survey Mapping and 1904 Ordnance survey Mapping (KYP 2023) has revealed that a number of former field boundaries are recorded along the route of the survey. Linear responses in Area 14, 17, 31, 41, 44, 46, 58, 60, 61, 62, 64, 67, 68, 69, 73, 83, 88, 89, 94, 101, 102, 108, 110, 111, 114, 115, 116, 125, 126, 136 152, 164, 165 and 180 correspond with the route of these corroborated divisions.

Numerous other linear responses have been detected in Areas 31, 58, 61, 73, 76, 82, 88, 89, 93, 94, 101, 108, 114, 125, 126, 136, 144, 152, 164 and 166. They are magnetically similar to the corroborated field boundaries (see above); consequently, they have been interpreted as conjectural former field boundaries.

## 6.61 Agricultural – Ridge and Furrow / Ploughing / Land Drains

Broad parrel and widely spaced linear anomalies are visible in Areas 76 and 101 which are due to historic ridge and furrow agricultural regimes.

Closely spaced and ill-defined parallel linear anomalies have been detected in Areas 58, 59, 63, 64, 69, 83, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 94, 108, 110, 114, 115, 144, 145, 160 and 165, in some cases the responses are on multiple alignments in the same land parcel. They are due to relatively modern ploughing.

A number of negative linear responses are visible in Areas 41, 76, 94, 108, 114, 155 and 116 which mark the routes of land drains.

## 6.62 Natural / Geological / Pedological / Topographic

Strong amorphous bands of increased magnetic background noise are visible in most of the survey areas. The alignment of the magnetic responses is generally east-west and this corresponds closely with the strike of the bedrock visible on the geological mapping (BGS 2023). In places, this elevated background noise has made interpretation of other responses of potential interest very difficult; it could also have masked weaker anomalies of interest, if present.

## 6.63 Services

Strong linear dipolar ferrous responses have been recorded in Areas 31, 61, 82, 83, 85, 91, 92, 93, 101, 114, 115, 116, 136, 144, 145 and 180which mark the routes of service pipes.

## 6.64 *Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance*

Ferrous responses close to boundaries are due to adjacent fences, gates, roads and buildings. While a strong ferrous response on the eastern periphery of Area 136 corresponds with the location of a former building that is recorded on historic mapping. It is likely that the demolition and subsequent spreads of debris have caused the ferrous response. Smaller scale ferrous anomalies ("iron spikes") are present throughout the data and are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris (or brick / tile) in the topsoil; they are commonly assigned a modern origin. Only the most prominent of these are highlighted on the interpretation diagram.

## 7 TABLE OF RESULTS

7.1 The magnetometer survey has recorded numerous magnetic responses that have be interpreted as being of archaeological interest and they are summarised in the Table below:

Area	Description
14 & 15	Curving responses which comprise discrete anomalies and trends forming
	irregularly shaped enclosures.
17	A series of trends indicating a possible archaeological enclosure or perhaps
	uncorroborated field boundaries.
31	A number of ditches possibly associated with a former windmill.
41	A circular response suggesting the existence of a barrow.
42	A sub-rectangular enclosure with an entrance on the east.
70	A partial enclosure and strong pit-like response may be a continuation of a
	former field system recorded in a previous geological survey (MDV108474).
74	A large curvilinear enclosure (extending beyond the limits of the survey) with
	an entrance on the south (MDV29732). A circular trend [74.3] could mark the
	location of a ring-ditch (MDV29732)
83	Ditch-like responses perhaps associated with a double ditched enclosure
	(MDV63447)
88	A possible small ring ditch.

91	Linear responses suggest a trackway and field systems.
92	A small complex of responses perhaps associated with a settlement.
94	A semi-circular response of possible archaeological interest.
108	Ditch-like responses, pits-like anomalies and trends may form a partial enclosure.

## 8 DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

8.1 Historic England guidelines (EH 2008) Table 4 states that the typical magnetic response on the local soils / geology is variable. The results from this survey indicate the presence of response of archaeological interest; there is no *a priori* reason why archaeological features would not have been detected. However, in places, the increased levels of background 'noise' due to the underlying geologies may have masked weak responses of archaeological interest.

## 9 CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The magnetometer survey has recorded numerous magnetic responses that have be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. In Area 14 and 15 a series of curving responses which comprise discrete anomalies and trends appear to mark the locations of irregularly shaped enclosures. A series of trends in Area 17 have been assigned to the category of possible archaeology; they could form rectilinear enclosure or mark the locations of uncorroborated field boundaries. In Area 31 a number of ditches could form a rectilinear enclosure possibly associated with a former windmill thought to have been in the field. In Area 41 a circular response could mark the location of a round barrow, while in Area 42 a subrectangular enclosure, with an eastern entrance, has also be recorded. A possible partial enclosure and strong pit-like response in Area 70 could mark be associated with a continuation of a former field system that was recorded in a previous geological survey (MDV108474). In Area 74 numerous linear responses form a large enclosure, which appears to enclose a rectilinear feature, and several ditch-like responses could be part of a field system; the responses correspond with features recorded in the HER. Ditch-like responses in Area 83 could be associated with a double ditched enclosure (MDV63447) noted in the HER. A possible small ring-ditch has been plotted in Area 88. In Areas 91 numerous ditch-like anomalies and linear trends appear to form a trackway and possible fields, while in Area 92 part of a possible settlement may have been identified. A semi-circular trend in Area 94 is of possible archaeological interest. In the south-east of Area 108 a number of ditch-like responses, pitslike anomalies and trends have been recorded which appear to form a partial enclosure with internal responses.
- 9.2 Numerous responses have been detected throughout the survey which have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain*. They generally lack the defined morphology of anomalies that would ordinarily be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. The majority are likely to be due to combinations of agricultural and natural processes. However, in places, archaeological origins cannot be entirely discounted.
- 9.3 Corroborated and conjectural former field boundaries are visible throughout the plots, along with ploughing, land drains plus ridge and furrow ploughing. The routes of several service pipes have also been recorded throughout the survey. Elevated magnetic responses throughout the survey are associated with the naturally magnetic bedrock and superficial geology; this has made interpretation of many of the results difficult.

## 10 REFERENCES

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EH 2008	Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation. English Heritage, Swindon (now withdrawn, but used for evaluating suitability of soil types)			
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## 11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The minimally processed data, data images, XY traces and a copy of this report are stored in **SUMO Geophysics Ltd.'s** digital archive, on an internal RAID configured NAS drive in the Midlands Office. These data are also backed up to the Cloud for off-site storage.
- 11.2 The Grey Literature will be archived with OASIS and the relevant HER within a period of 12 months.



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	Ferrous						
	SUITVOU SUIVOU GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING						
Title:	Magnetometer Survey - Interpreta (Areas 109, 110, 111 and 152)	tion					
Client:	RPS Consulting						
Project: 0	8807 - Xlinks Morocco-UK Power F	Project					
Scale: 0	metres 100	Fig No: 46					
	1.2000 @ 7.0						







		N	
		KEY	
		Probable archaeology (discrete anor increased response)	maly / trend /
		Possible archaeology (discrete anon / increased response)	naly / trend
		Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / increased response)	trend /
		Former field boundary (corroborated	)
		Former field boundary (conjectural)	
		Agriculture (ridge and furrow)	
		Agriculture (plough)	
$\checkmark$		Land drain	
		Natural (e.g. geological / pedologica	I)
J.C.		Magnetic disturbance	
		Service	
		Ferrous	
		SUIVEY SUIVEY GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING	
	Title:	Magnetometer Survey - Interpreta (Areas 114, 115 and 116)	tion
	Client:	RPS Consulting	
	Project: 08	8807 - Xlinks Morocco-UK Power F	Project
	Scale: 0	metres 110	Fig No: 49
		1:2200 @ A3	




		N	
	KEY		
		Probable archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)	
		Possible archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)	
		Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)	
/		Former field boundary (corroborated)	
		Former field boundary (conjectural)	
26		Agriculture (ridge and furrow)	
	× , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Agriculture (plough)	
		Land drain	
		Natural (e.g. geological / pedological)	
		Magnetic disturbance	
		Service	
		Ferrous	
	SUITVEY SUITVEY GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING		
	Title: Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plots and Interpretation (Areas 125 and 126)		
	Client: RPS Consulting		
	08807 - Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project		
	Scale: 0	metres 75 Fig No: 1:1500 @ A3	













		N	
	KEY		
	Nä	Probable archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)	
		Possible archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)	
		Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)	
		Former field boundary (corroborated)	
		Former field boundary (conjectural)	
		Agriculture (ridge and furrow)	
		Agriculture (plough)	
		Land drain	
		Natural (e.g. geological / pedological)	
		Magnetic disturbance	
,		Service	
		Ferrous	
		SUIVEY GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING	
	Title:	Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation (Areas 136)	
$\mathbf{N}$	Client: RPS Consulting Project: 08807 - Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project		
	Scale: 0	metres 75 Fig No:   1:1500 @ A3 54	
















































































# Appendix A - Technical Information: Magnetometer Survey Method

### **Grid Positioning**

For hand held gradiometers the location of the survey grids has been plotted together with the referencing information. Grids were set out using a Trimble R8 Real Time Kinematic (RTK) VRS Now GNSS GPS system.

An RTK GPS (Real-time Kinematic Global Positioning System) can locate a point on the ground to a far greater accuracy than a standard GPS unit. A standard GPS suffers from errors created by satellite orbit errors, clock errors and atmospheric interference, resulting in an accuracy of 5m-10m. An RTK system uses a single base station receiver and a number of mobile units. The base station rebroadcasts the phase of the carrier it measured, and the mobile units compare their own phase measurements with those they received from the base station. This results in an accuracy of around 0.01m.

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

#### Instrumentation:

Bartington instruments operate in a gradiometer configuration which comprises fluxgate sensors mounted horizontally, set 1.0m apart. The fluxgate gradiometer suppresses any diurnal or regional effects. The instruments are carried, or cart mounted, with the bottom sensor approximately 0.1-0.3m from the ground surface. At each survey station, the difference in the magnetic field between the two fluxgates is measured in nanoTesla (nT). The sensitivity of the instrument can be adjusted; for most archaeological surveys the most sensitive range (0.1nT) is used. Generally, features up to 1m deep may be detected by this method, though strongly magnetic objects may be visible at greater depths.

#### **Bartington Grad 601-2**

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

## **Bartington Cart System**

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

## **Data Processing**

Zero Mean	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero.
Traverse	The operation removes striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set.
Step Correction (De-stagger)	When gradiometer data are collected in 'zig-zag' fashion, stepping errors can sometimes arise. These occur because of a slight difference in the speed of walking on the forward and reverse traverses. The result is a staggered effect in the data, which is particularly noticeable on linear anomalies. This process corrects these errors.

# Display

Greyscale/ Colourscale Plot This format divides a given range of readings into a set number of classes. Each class is represented by a specific shade of grey, the intensity increasing with value. All values above the given range are allocated the same shade (maximum intensity); similarly, all values below the given range are represented by the minimum intensity shade. Similar plots can be produced in colour, either using a wide range of colours or by selecting two or three colours to represent positive and negative values. The assigned range (plotting levels) can be adjusted to emphasise different anomalies in the data-set.

## **Interpretation Categories**

In certain circumstances (usually when there is corroborative evidence from desk-based or excavation data) very specific interpretations can be assigned to magnetic anomalies (for example, *Roman Road, Wall,* etc.) and where appropriate, such interpretations will be applied. The list below outlines the generic categories commonly used in the interpretation of the results.

Archaeology / Probable Archaeology	This term is used when the form, nature and pattern of the responses are clearly or very probably archaeological and /or if corroborative evidence is available. These anomalies, whilst considered anthropogenic, could be of any age.
Possible Archaeology	These anomalies exhibit either weak signal strength and / or poor definition, or form incomplete archaeological patterns, thereby reducing the level of confidence in the interpretation. Although the archaeological interpretation is favoured, they may be the result of variable soil depth, plough damage or even aliasing as a result of data collection orientation.
Industrial / Burnt-Fired	Strong magnetic anomalies that, due to their shape and form or the context in which they are found, suggest the presence of kilns, ovens, corn dryers, metal-working areas or hearths. It should be noted that in many instances modern ferrous material can produce similar magnetic anomalies.
Former Field Boundary (probable & possible)	Anomalies that correspond to former boundaries indicated on historic mapping, or which are clearly a continuation of existing land divisions. Possible denotes less confidence where the anomaly may not be shown on historic mapping but nevertheless the anomaly displays all the characteristics of a field boundary.
Ridge & Furrow	Parallel linear anomalies whose broad spacing suggests ridge and furrow cultivation. In some cases, the response may be the result of more recent agricultural activity.
Agriculture (ploughing)	Parallel linear anomalies or trends with a narrower spacing, sometimes aligned with existing boundaries, indicating more recent cultivation regimes.
Land Drain	Weakly magnetic linear anomalies, quite often appearing in series forming parallel and herringbone patterns. Smaller drains may lead and empty into larger diameter pipes, which in turn usually lead to local streams and ponds. These are indicative of clay fired land drains.
Natural	These responses form clear patterns in geographical zones where natural variations are known to produce significant magnetic distortions.
Magnetic Disturbance	Broad zones of strong dipolar anomalies, commonly found in places where modern ferrous or fired materials (e.g. brick rubble) are present.
Service	Magnetically strong anomalies, usually forming linear features are indicative of ferrous pipes/cables. Sometimes other materials (e.g. pvc) or the fill of the trench can cause weaker magnetic responses which can be identified from their uniform linearity.
Ferrous	This type of response is associated with ferrous material and may result from small items in the topsoil, larger buried objects such as pipes, or above ground features such as fence lines or pylons. Ferrous responses are usually regarded as modern. Individual burnt stones, fired bricks or igneous rocks can produce responses similar to ferrous material.
Uncertain Origin	Anomalies which stand out from the background magnetic variation, yet whose form and lack of patterning gives little clue as to their origin. Often the characteristics and distribution of the responses straddle the categories of <i>Possible Archaeology / Natural</i> or (in the case of linear responses) <i>Possible Archaeology / Agriculture</i> ; occasionally they are simply of an unusual form.

Where appropriate some anomalies will be further classified according to their form (positive or negative) and relative strength and coherence (trend: weak and poorly defined).

## Appendix B - Technical Information: Magnetic Theory

Detailed magnetic survey can be used to effectively define areas of past human activity by mapping spatial variation and contrast in the magnetic properties of soil, subsoil and bedrock. Although the changes in the magnetic field resulting from differing features in the soil are usually weak, changes as small as 0.1 nanoTeslas (nT) in an overall field strength of 48,000 (nT), can be accurately detected.

Weakly magnetic iron minerals are always present within the soil and areas of enhancement relate to increases in *magnetic susceptibility* and permanently magnetised *thermoremanent* material.

Magnetic susceptibility relates to the induced magnetism of a material when in the presence of a magnetic field. This magnetism can be considered as effectively permanent as it exists within the Earth's magnetic field. Magnetic susceptibility can become enhanced due to burning and complex biological or fermentation processes.

Thermoremanence is a permanent magnetism acquired by iron minerals that, after heating to a specific temperature known as the Curie Point, are effectively demagnetised followed by re-magnetisation by the Earth's magnetic field on cooling. Thermoremanent archaeological features can include hearths and kilns; material such as brick and tile may be magnetised through the same process.

Silting and deliberate infilling of ditches and pits with magnetically enhanced soil creates a relative contrast against the much lower levels of magnetism within the subsoil into which the feature is cut. Systematic mapping of magnetic anomalies will produce linear and discrete areas of enhancement allowing assessment and characterisation of subsurface features. Material such as subsoil and non-magnetic bedrock used to create former earthworks and walls may be mapped as areas of lower enhancement compared to surrounding soils.

Magnetic survey is carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer which is a passive instrument consisting of two sensors mounted vertically 1m apart. The instrument is carried about 30cm above the ground surface and the top sensor measures the Earth's magnetic field whilst the lower sensor measures the same field but is also more affected by any localised buried feature. The difference between the two sensors will relate to the strength of a magnetic field created by this feature, if no field is present the difference will be close to zero as the magnetic field measured by both sensors will be the same.

Factors affecting the magnetic survey may include soil type, local geology, previous human activity and disturbance from modern services.

# OASIS Summary for sumogeop1-508449

OASIS ID (UID)	sumogeop1-508449
Project Name	Geophysical Survey Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project
Sitename	Xlinks Alverdiscott Cable Route, Devon
Sitecode	08807
Project Identifier(s)	SUMO-08807 Xlinks Cable Route
Activity type	Geophysical Survey, Magnetometry Survey, MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	SUMO Geophysics Ltd.
Project Dates	07-Sep-2022 - 09-Mar-2023

Location	Xlinks Alverdiscott Cable Route, Devon
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	12 Fig : 247099,125281
	NGR : SS 44176 24185
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Administrative Areas	Country : England
	County/Local Authority : Devon
	Local Authority District : Torridge
	Parish : Bideford
	Parish : Littleham
	Parish : Weare Giffard
	Parish : Abbotsham
	Parish : Alverdiscott
	Parish : Huntshaw
	Parish : Alwington

Project Methodology	A temporary grid system was established over the site and marked out using canes. The location of the grid will was set out using an RTK GPS system theoretically accurate to some 0.01m and referenced to OS co- ordinates. Hand Held: Data was collected using a Bartington Grad 601- 2. The instrument consists of two paired sensors (see below) and readings are logged at 0.25m centres along traverses 1.0m apart across 30m grids. Two sensors mounted 1m horizontally apart and very accurately aligned to nullify the effects of the earth's magnetic field. Cart: Data was also collected using a cart carrying four paired Bartington magnetic sensors. Four sensors mounted 1m horizontally apart and very accurately aligned to nullify the effects of the earth's magnetic field. Each data point is geographically referenced using an on-board Trimble RTK survey grade GPS system. Readings will be taken at 0.125m centres along traverses 1.0m apart. The collection of data provides an appropriate methodology balancing cost and time with resolution as per Historic England guidelines. Readings relate to the difference in localised magnetic anomalies compared with the general magnetic background.
Project Results	The magnetometer survey has recorded numerous magnetic responses that have be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. In Area 14 and 15 a series of curving responses which comprise discrete anomalies and trends appear to mark the locations of irregularly shaped enclosures. A series of trends in Area 17 have been assigned to the category of possible archaeology; they could form rectilinear enclosure or mark the locations of uncorroborated field boundaries. In Area 31 a number of ditches could form a rectilinear enclosure possibly associated with a former windmill thought to have been in the field. In Area 41 a circular response could mark the location of a round barrow, while in Area 42 a sub-rectangular enclosure, with an eastern entrance, has also be recorded. A possible partial enclosure and strong pit-like response in Area 70 could mark be associated with a continuation of a former field system that was recorded in a previous geological survey (MDV108474). In Area 74 numerous linear responses form a large enclosure, which appears to enclose a rectilinear feature, and several ditch-like responses could be part of a field system; the responses in Area 83 could be associated with a double ditched enclosure (MDV63447) noted in the HER. A possible small ring-ditch has been plotted in Area 88. In Areas 91 numerous ditch-like anomalies and linear trends appear to form a trackway and possible fields, while in Area 94 is of possible archaeological interest. In the south-east of Area 108 a number of ditch-like responses, pits-like anomalies and trends have been recorded which appear to form a partial enclosure with internal responses. Numerous responses have been detected throughout the survey which have been assigned to the category of Uncertain. They generally lack the defined morphology of anomalies that would ordinarily be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. The majority are likely to be due to combinations of agricultural and natural processes. However, in places, archaeological origins cann

Keywords	Enclosure - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
	Rectilinear Enclosure - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument
	Types
	Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
	Barrow - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
	Rectangular Enclosure - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument
	Types
	Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
	Coaxial Field System - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument
	Types
	Ring Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
	Trackway - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
	Ridge And Furrow - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
	Plough Marks - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument
	Types
	Drain - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
	Field Boundary - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument
	Types
	Pipeline - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation 08807
HER	Devon Historic Environment Record - rev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Simon Haddrell
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Report generated on: 07 Feb 2024, 15:43



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  Geophysical
  Measured Building
  Topographic
  - TopographicUtility Mapping

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