



ENVIRONMENTAL & EXPLORATION GEOPHYSICS

22323 East Wild Fern Lane, Brightwood, Oregon 97011 • PH (503) 622-0154 • FAX (503) 622-0526
WEB <http://www.geopotential.biz/> E-MAIL GeoPotential@geopotential.biz

MAGNETOMETER SURVEYS

The earth's magnetic field, measured in "nano Teslas" (nT), behaves like a bar magnet (a dipolar field), with the strongest magnetic field located at the poles, and the weakest field located near the equator. In the continental United States, the average field intensity varies widely, however, the average value is about 50,000 nT. Also, like the magnetic field around the bar magnet, the earth's magnetic field is inclined. This inclination in the continental United States varies between 60 and 75 degrees, generally depending upon the latitude of the measuring location. The earth's magnetic field varies constantly and, during sunspot activity, quite dramatically. A magnetometer is an electronic device that measures the intensity of the earth's magnetic field.

Naturally occurring geologic features and buried ferrous metal objects such as underground storage tanks, drums, ordnance, pipes and debris filled trenches produce both horizontal and vertical disturbances to the earth's local magnetic field. The objects causing these "anomalies" can be detected quickly and reliably using portable magnetometers.

The intensity of an anomaly is a function of the size, depth of burial and magnetic susceptibility of the object. As a rule of thumb, single drums buried several feet below the surface produce anomalies of about 200 nT relative to the normal undisturbed background and can be detected at a horizontal distance of about 15 feet, while large caches of drums can produce anomalies of many thousands of nT and may be detectable 50 feet away.

Magnetometers generally measure total intensity of the local magnetic field. A magnetic gradiometer is a variant of the magnetometer that measures both the horizontal and the vertical magnetic field at each survey point. It consists of two identical sensors located vertically on a staff and having a fixed separation. The intensity of the magnetic field caused by a buried metal object varies inversely with the distance between the object and the sensor. The relative intensities measured simultaneously at each sensor are used to determine the relative depth of burial of an object.

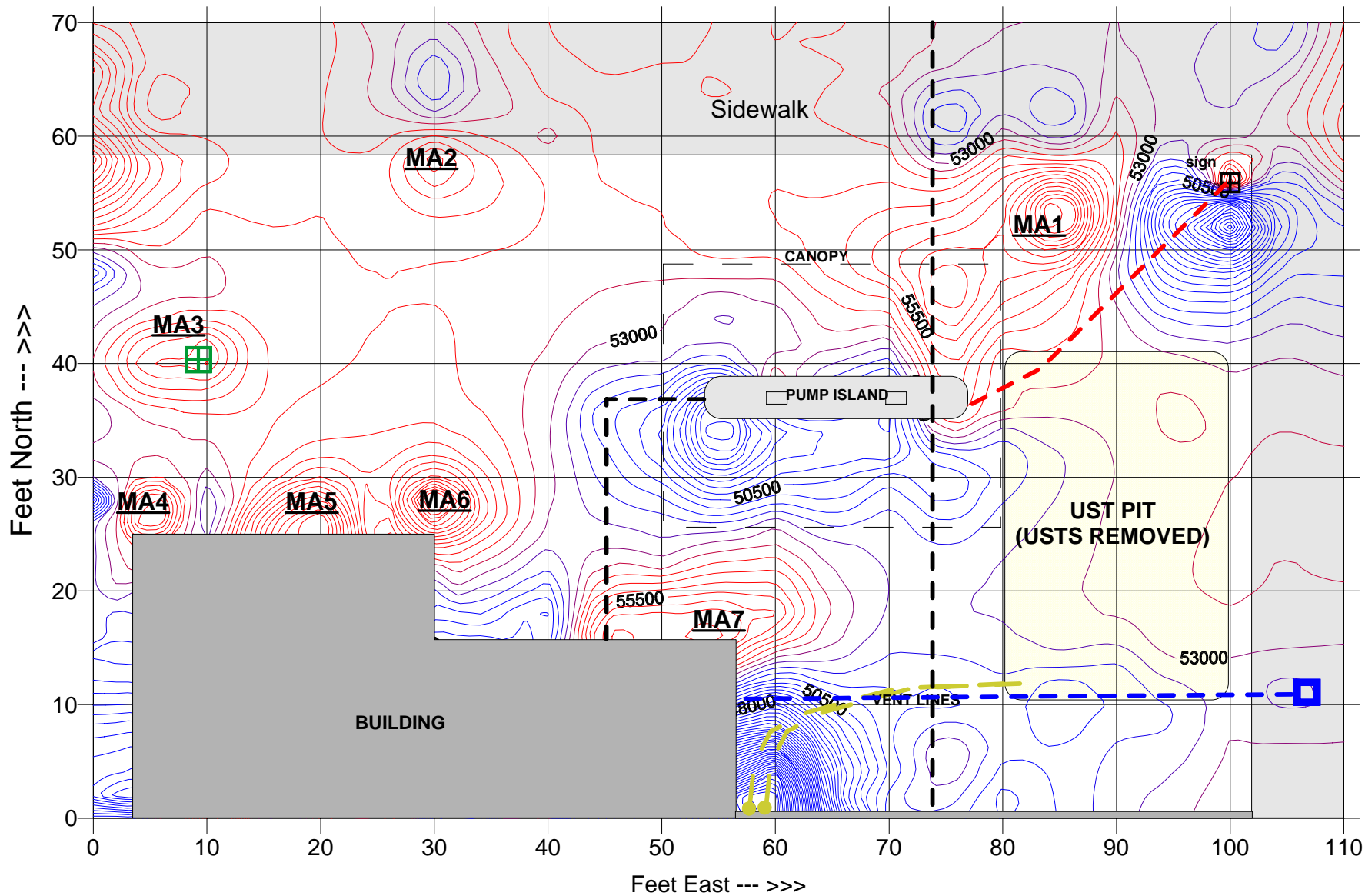
Relative depth estimates of buried metal objects can be made using a single sensor. In general, for a given object, the deeper the object is buried, the lower the amplitude and the wider the anomaly. Shallowly buried objects produce higher amplitude anomalies with closely spaced contour lines.

Magnetic surveys can only detect **ferrous metal** objects and cannot be used to identify the buried object. Estimates of the total mass of a buried object are difficult due to the physical properties of the object and other factors. Interference caused by observed surface metal objects limits the accuracy of the survey. The anomalies produced by fences, power lines, cars and buildings can easily mask the anomaly caused by an underground target.

Magnetic surveys are cost effective. Using the standard "step and wait" magnetometer, data from approximately 1000 points can be obtained in one field day corresponding to between 1 acre and about 5 acres depending on site conditions and survey goals. More modern cesium magnetometers collect up to 10 readings per second continuously, thus the operator can proceed without stopping. Many modern magnetometers use an audible signal to call attention to anomalous data as it is obtained. At some sites metallic objects can be detected and marked in the field at the time of the survey.

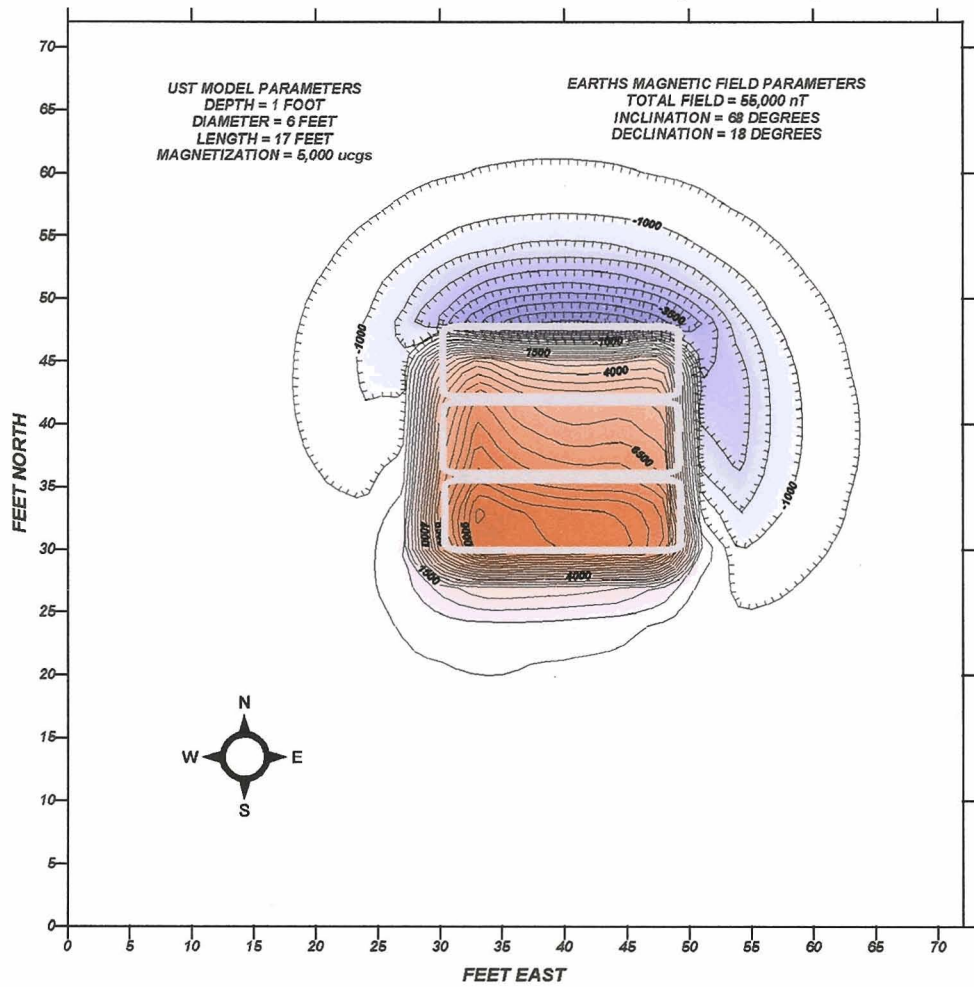
The use of a second, automatically recording "base station" magnetometer is highly recommended due to temporal variations in the earth's magnetic field. These changes must be removed from the field data before an accurate interpretation can be made, particularly when searching for small-buried objects.

Magnetic data are most commonly presented in two contour maps. The TOTAL MAGNETIC FIELD CONTOUR MAP shows the horizontal variation of the total intensity of the magnetic field and, therefore, the areal extent of anomalies. The GRADIOMETER CONTOUR MAPS show the horizontal variation of the vertical gradient of the magnetic field and indicate the relative depth of burial of the objects causing those anomalies. Color versions of these maps may be produced showing only the magnetic highs and lows.



 <p>GeoPotential ENVIRONMENTAL & EXPLORATION GEOPHYSICS 22323 East Wild Fern Lane, Brightwood, Oregon 97011 • PH (503) 622-0156 • FAX (503) 622-0526 E-MAIL GeoPotential@aol.com</p>	<p>LOCATION:</p> <p>FORMER GAS STATION</p>	<p>Magnetic Map (C.I. = 500 nT)</p>
	<p>DATE: July 9, 2007</p> <p>SUBSURFACE MAPPING SURVEY</p> <p>PROJECT No. 78765</p>	

3 - 4,000 GALLON USTS MAGNETIC MODEL (C.I. = 500 nT)



3 - 4,000 GALLON USTS MAGNETIC MODEL (C.I. = 500 nT)

