

Foxton Dovecot Update Report

On 19th July 2020 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site to try to locate any subsurface features.

Members participating: Pat Davies, Brian Bridgland, Liz Livingstone, Ian Sanderson, Gill Shapland, Maureen Storey and Tony Storey.

Site liaison: Carole Davies.

Site conditions: Close cut playing field with rough grass on the east.

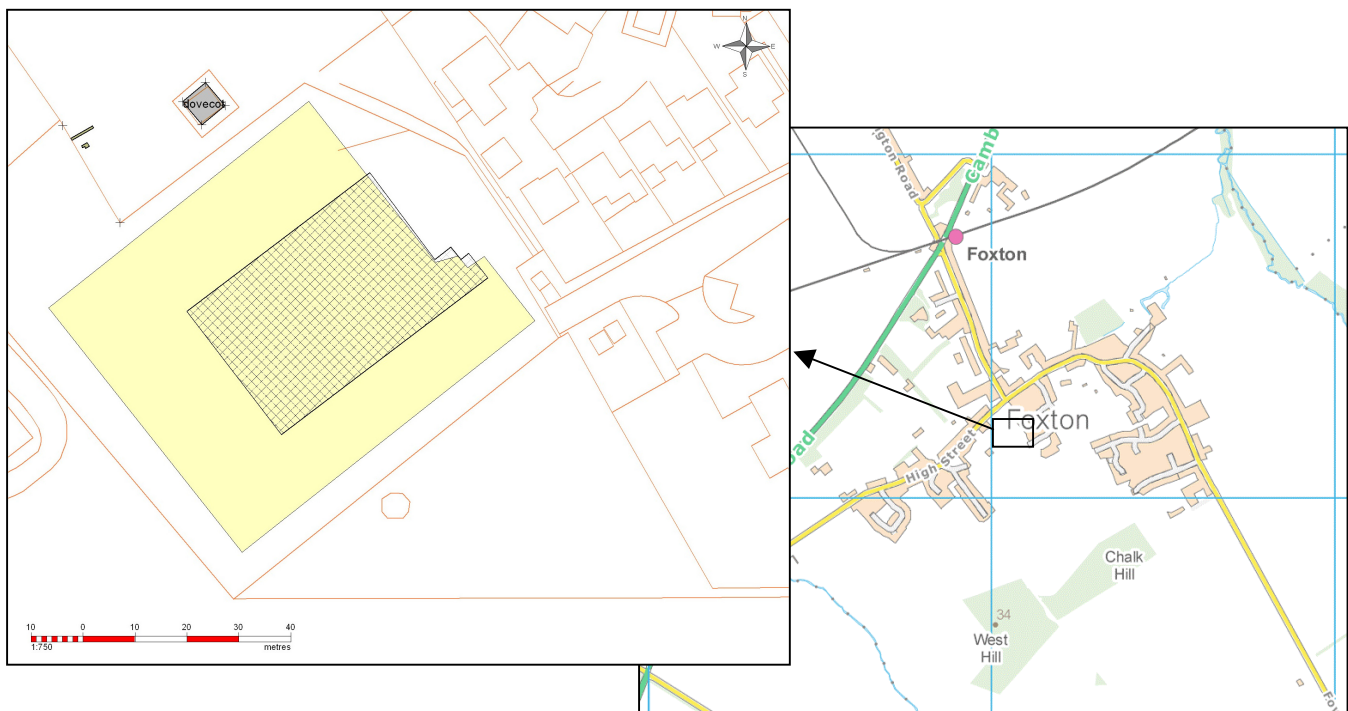
Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer; TRCIA 50 cm twin probe.

Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.

Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Raw data available as separate appendices.

Location: TL 410481, Foxton, Cambs.



Location plan: Survey areas

(resistivity survey areas hatched, magnetometry areas solid)

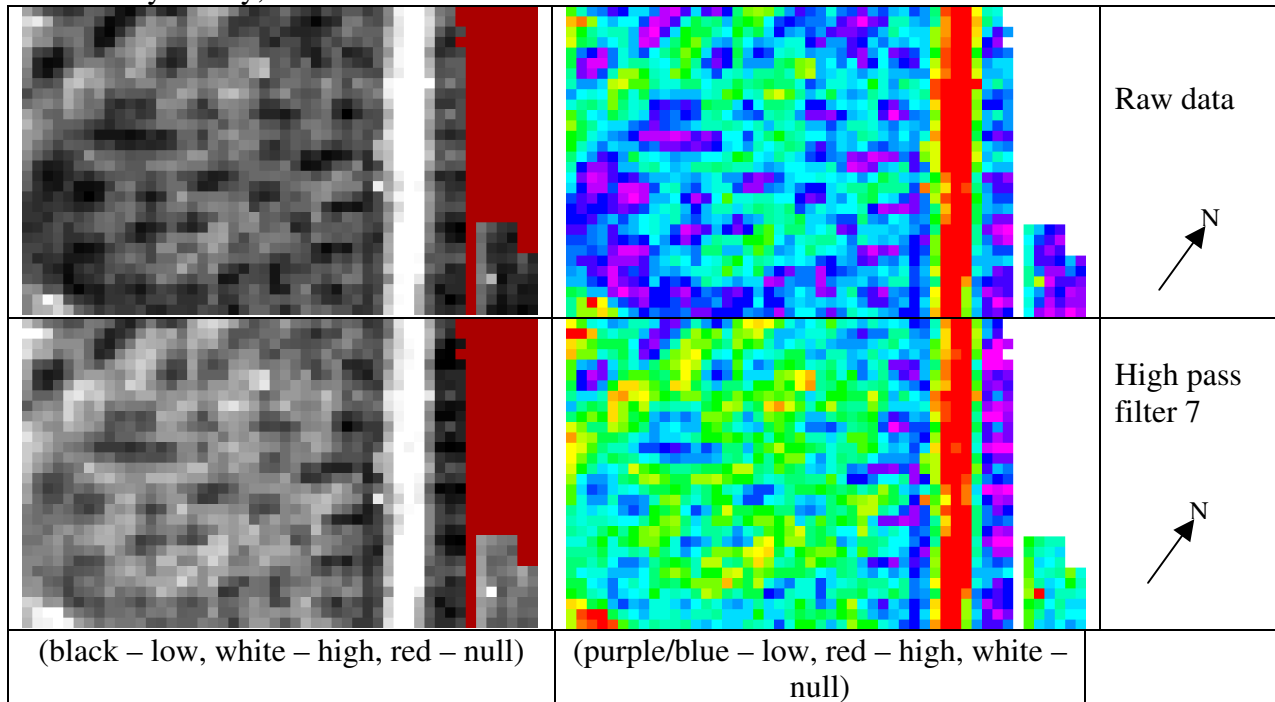
Purpose of survey: The purpose of this survey was to extend previous surveys deposited with Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record, on the dovecot area in Foxton.

Site topography: The site was a level close cut playing field bordered on the south and west by security fencing. The east corner had a small electricity station surrounded by the same fencing. The north side and the remainder of the east side had post and rail fencing with metal mesh. Most of the east side was not surveyed due to a band of tall vegetation.

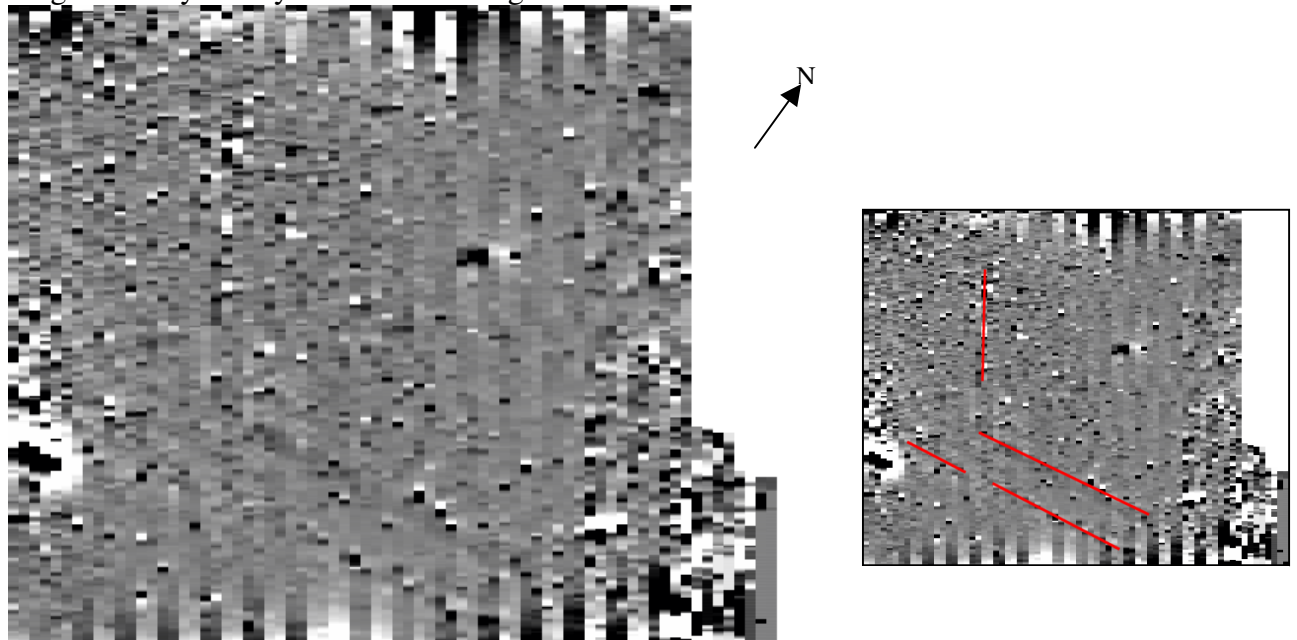
Results:

The images in this section are orientated for presentation. The images are not to a common scale.

Resistivity survey, 30 m x 50 m



Magnetometry survey 60 m x 72 m range +5 to -5 nT



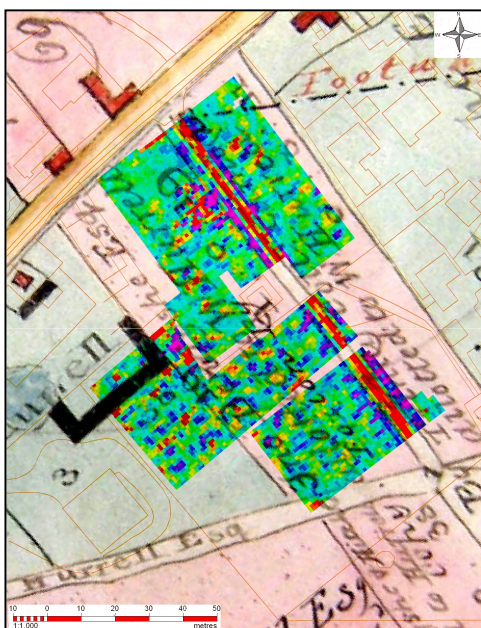
Discussion:

The principal feature of these surveys is the 3 m wide band of high values in the resistivity results. This is bordered by low values on both sides and, as can be seen in the image below, is a continuation of the feature previously reported in the dovecot field to the N. This is Jenkins's Lane which was closed as part of the Inclosure of Foxton in 1830. The lane

produced little magnetic response suggesting a stone metalled surface beneath the topsoil. The magnetometry results show two indistinct parallel lines running approximately E—W across the S part of the survey. These correspond to Back Lane which was also closed in 1830, leaving an extant portion of road called Maltings Lane. The S tip of the resistivity survey shows a small area of high values on the S line in the magnetometry survey but virtually nothing related to the N line. A band of low resistance values does however occur at this position in the raw data images above. Another indistinct feature in the magnetometry results runs NW—SE and is in the same position as an Inclosure boundary.



Combined previous and updated magnetometry (left) and resistivity (right) results



Overlay of resistivity results on the 1830 Inclosure map



The tracks discussed above can sometimes appear as crop marks, as in this aerial photograph from 2013.

Report by Dr. Ian Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch