



Gamlingay Manor Report

In July 2016 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site.

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

Site liaison: Michael Collins.

Site conditions: Mown grass.

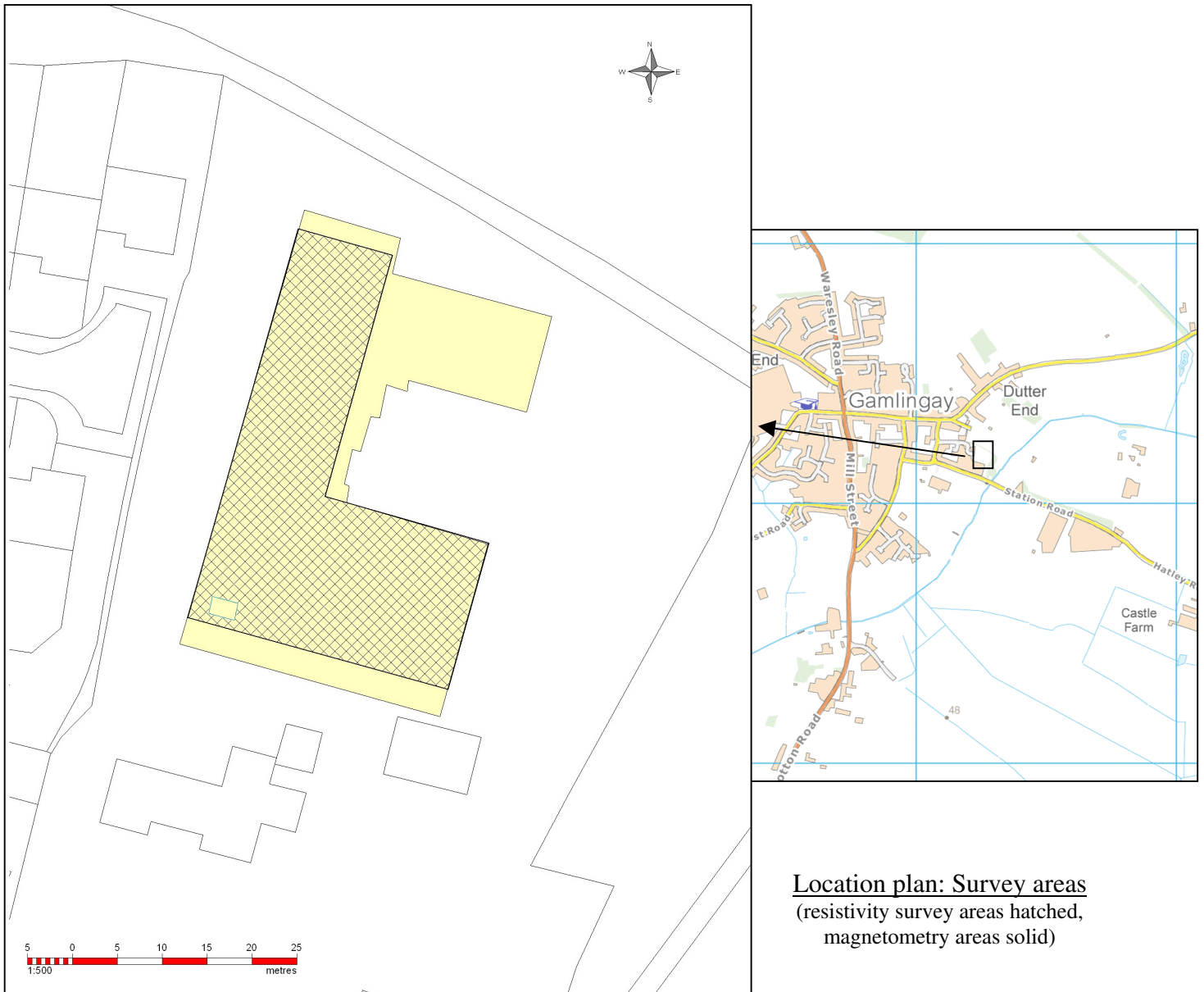
Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer; TRCIA 50 cm twin probe.

Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.

Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Raw data are available as separate appendices.

Location: TL242522, Gamlingay, Cambs.



Purpose of survey: The purpose of this survey was to determine if any subsurface features could be detected to identify archaeological features within a manorial enclosure.

Site topography:

Garden site, level in the southern part of the survey, but sloping down from the mid point by 1 m in the north west and 2 m in the north east. The lower area is thought to be a moat. Shrubs, scrub and trees to the north. Pool and paving to the east of the southern part of the survey area.

Results:

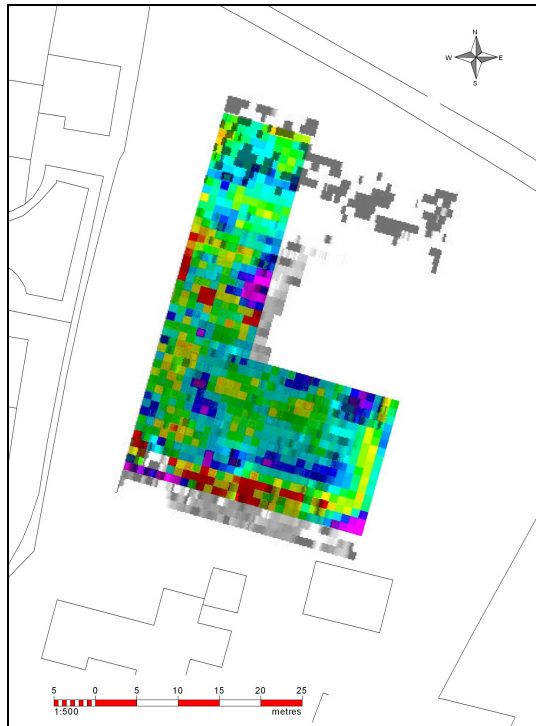
The images in this section are orientated for presentation. The images are not to a common scale.

Resistivity 45 m x 30 m

		<p>Resistivity</p> <p>Raw data</p> <p>N</p>
		<p>High pass filter 6</p> <p>N</p>
<p>(black – low, white – high, red – null)</p>	<p>(purple/blue – low, red – high, white – null)</p>	



Magnetometry 30 m x 50 m range +10 to -34 nT



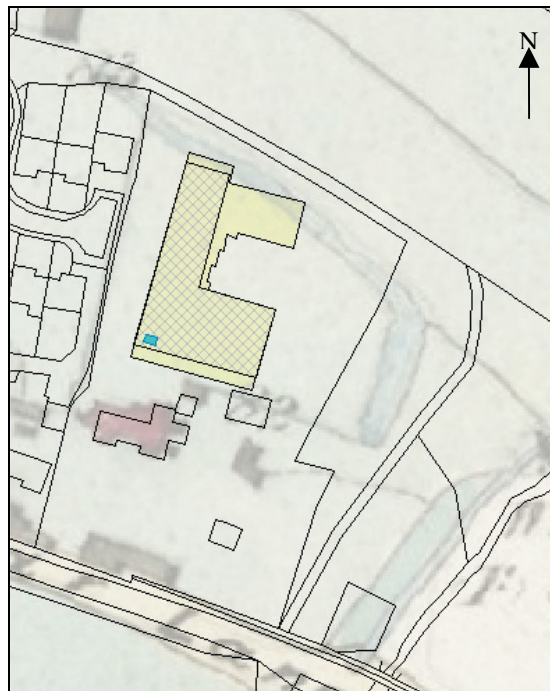
Superimposition of resistivity and magnetometry results.



Discussion:

The main feature in the magnetic survey of this site is the band of noisy responses across the whole of the N part of the survey area. Physically this area was 1-2 m lower than the S part of the survey and corresponds to an area of water marked on the 1844 Inclosure map (below) which suggests a moat. The intensity of the noise band would suggest that it has been filled with demolition or construction debris before gaining a covering of topsoil. There is a marked difference between the raw and filtered resistance survey results over the same area. The raw data probably reflect surface soil moisture draining to the N whilst the filtered data show no linear sharp division between high and low values. This suggests that either the resistance survey did not extend over the moat edge, or, and more likely, that the original moat edge was too deep to detect.

The only possible indication of structures within the available survey area can be seen towards the S where a band of low resistance values runs parallel and about 6 m from the edge. This band is constrained to the E by a line of weak high resistance values and on the S by a stronger band of high resistance values, there are two similar blocks to the N. This would give a rectilinear feature 10 m by about 20 m although no indication of a constraint along the W side was detected. The thinness of the high resistance band on the E side suggests that it is not foundation remains, in which case it could be a metalised path or a utility trench. Unfortunately the magnetic background due to the pool prevented detection of utility lines in this area. A test pit over the high resistance band on the S edge of the survey would be needed to resolve the cause of those values.



Overlay of the survey areas on the Inclosure map.