



Milton Fen Road Geophysical Survey Report

In 2006 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on a field off Fen Road in Milton. The field is in two distinct parts, the main area along the road, and an extension branching off to the north. A further magnetometer survey was carried out in 2007 in the extension field.

Members participating: Brian Bridgland, Bruce Milner, Liz Livingstone, Ian Sanderson, Maureen Storey, Tony Storey.

Site Coordinator: Derek Booth.

Site conditions: 2006: Stubble in the main field. Coarse ploughed in the extension field sufficient to preclude surveying around the access point in the southern part of this field.

2007: Ploughed and rolled. The soil is a mixture of clay and alluvium with gravel.

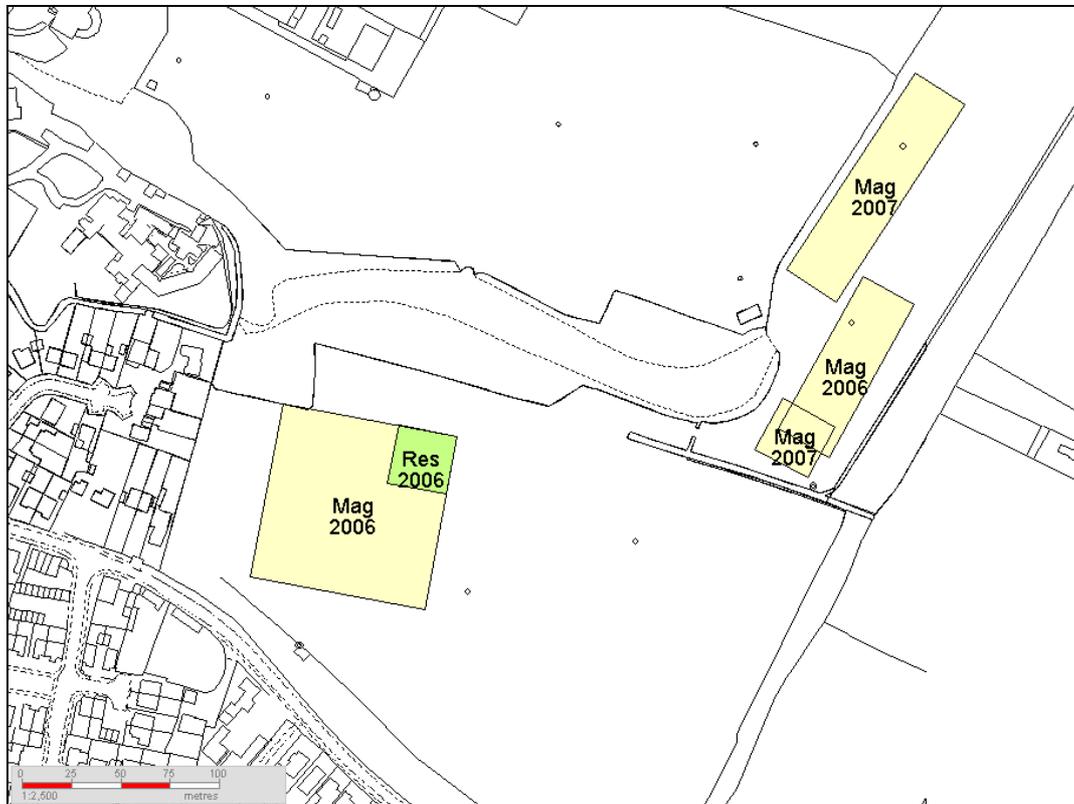
Weather: Hot and dry on all visits with no rain during preceding week.

Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer, readings at 4/m with 1 m separation;
TRCIA 50cm twin probe readings at 1 m intervals with 1 m separation.
Raw data are available as separate appendices.

Area covered:

Date	Magnetometry grids	Resistivity grids
25/6/2006 main field	four 30 m × 30 m	one 30 m × 30 m
30/7/2006 main field	five 30 m × 30 m	
10/9/2006 extension field	three 30 m × 30 m	
12/8/2007 extension field	five 30 m × 30 m	
12/8/2007 extension field	one 30 m × 30 m	

Location: TL 483627.



Location plan: Fen Road, Milton runs across the SW corner of the plan.

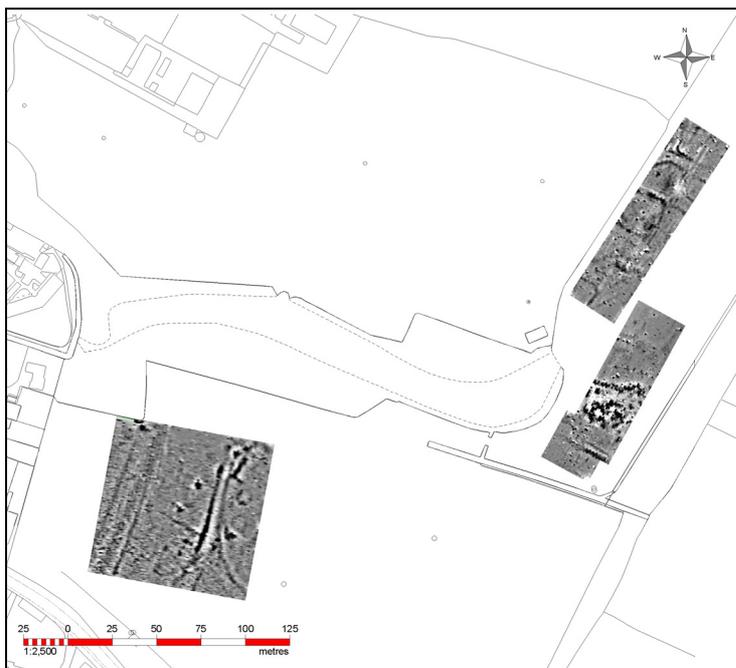


Purpose of survey: To elucidate cropmarks and provide data for correlation with field walking.

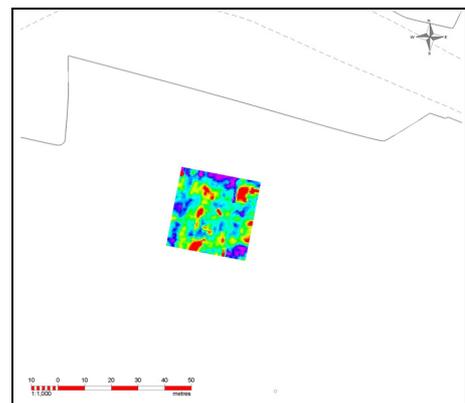


Aerial Photograph (Local.Live.Com)

Results:

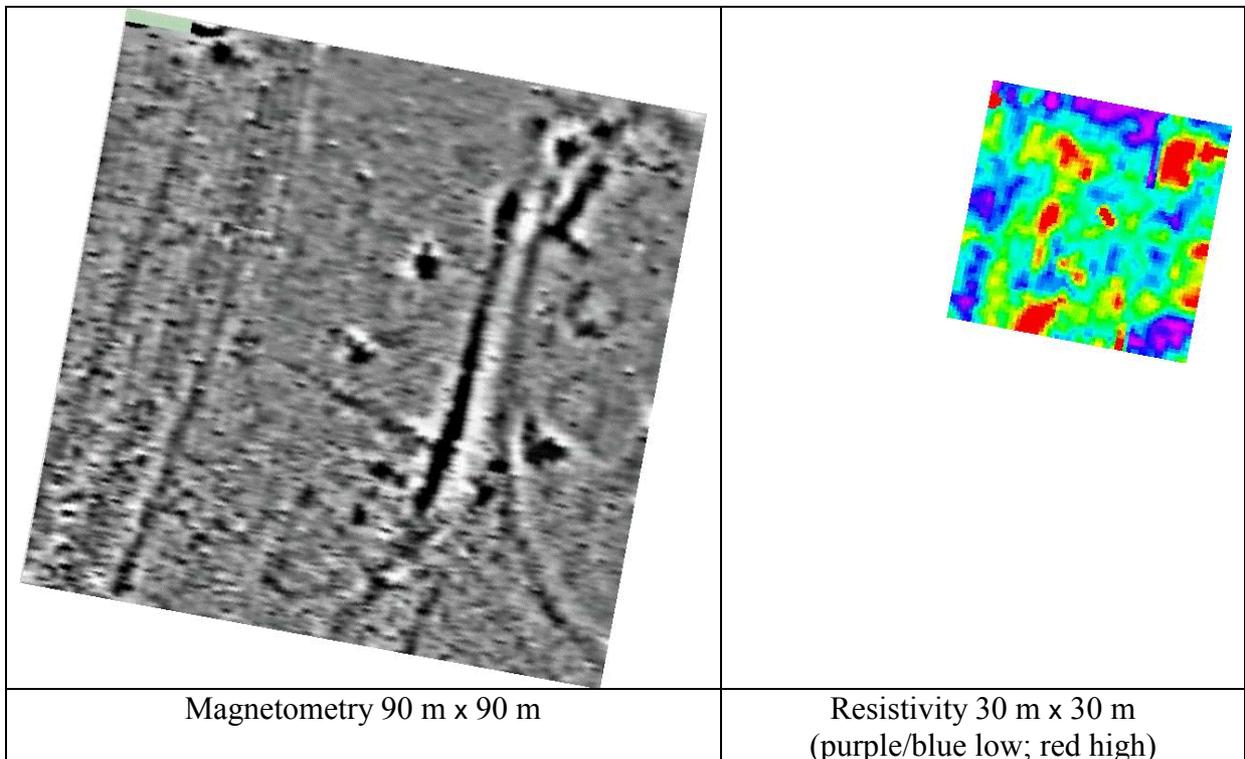
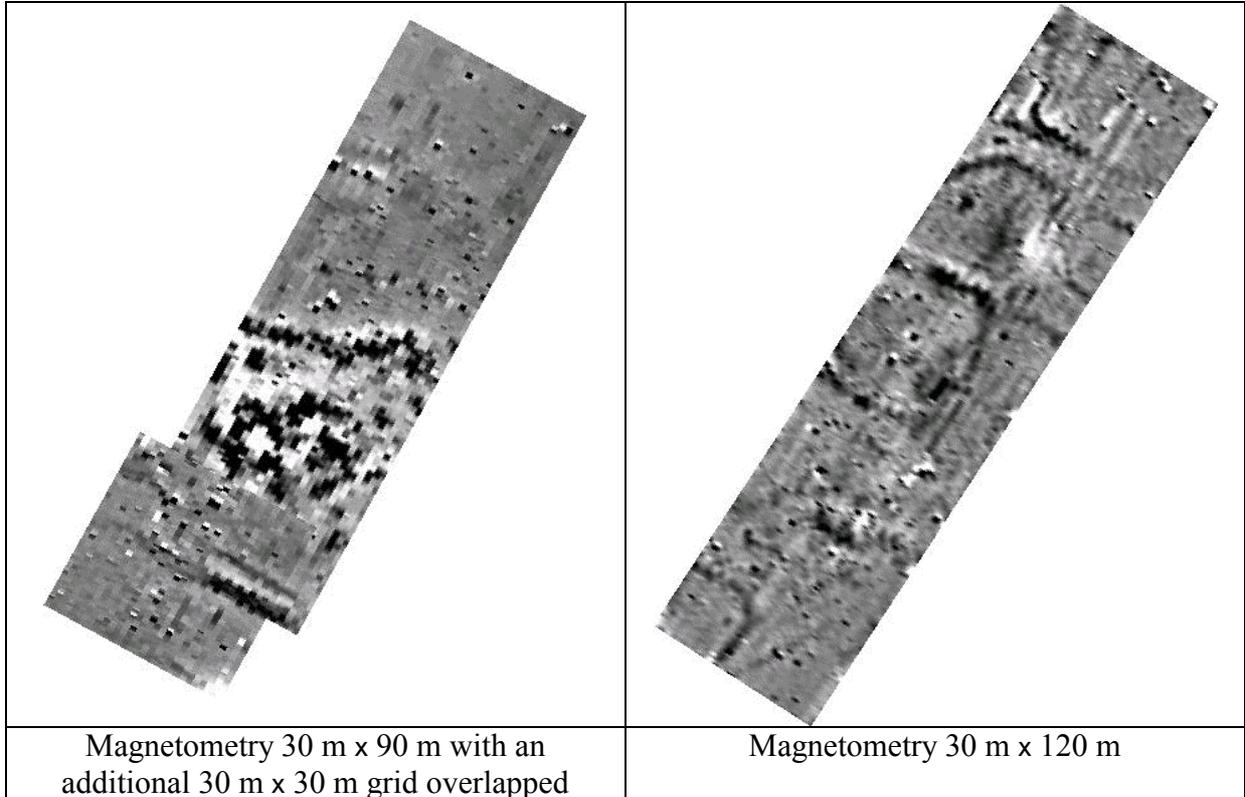


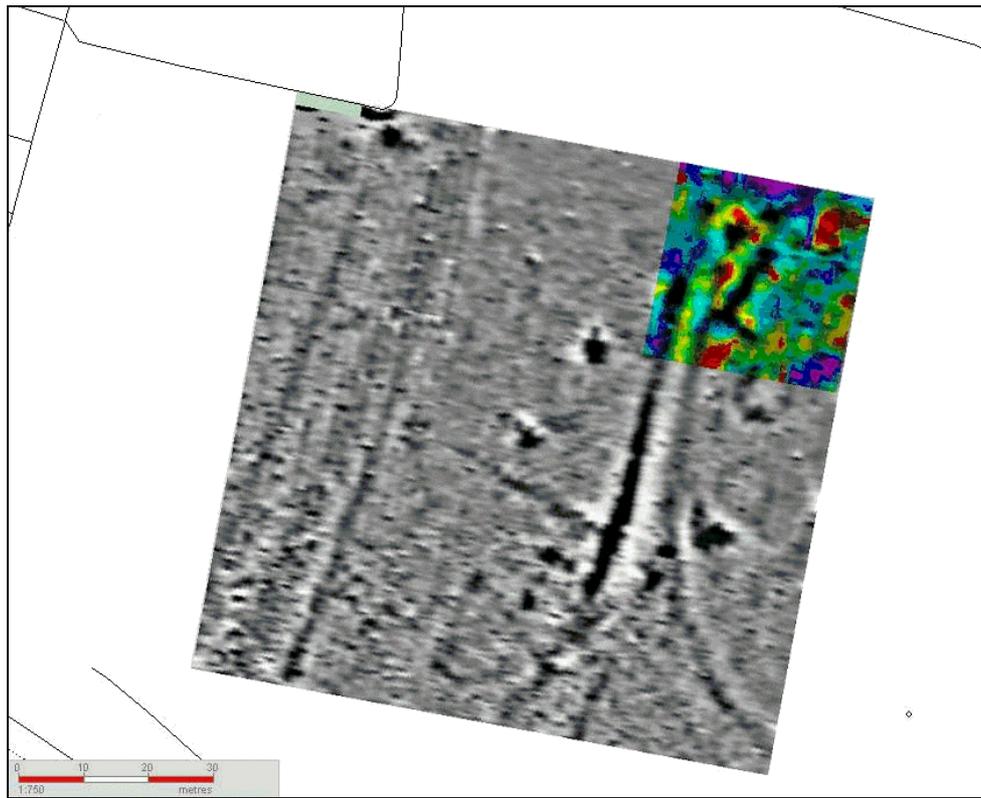
Magnetometry



Resistivity
(purple blue low, red high)

Individual Area Results
 (Grid north to the top of the page. Individually scaled according to the dimensions given.)





Superimposition of resistivity and magnetometry results.

Discussion

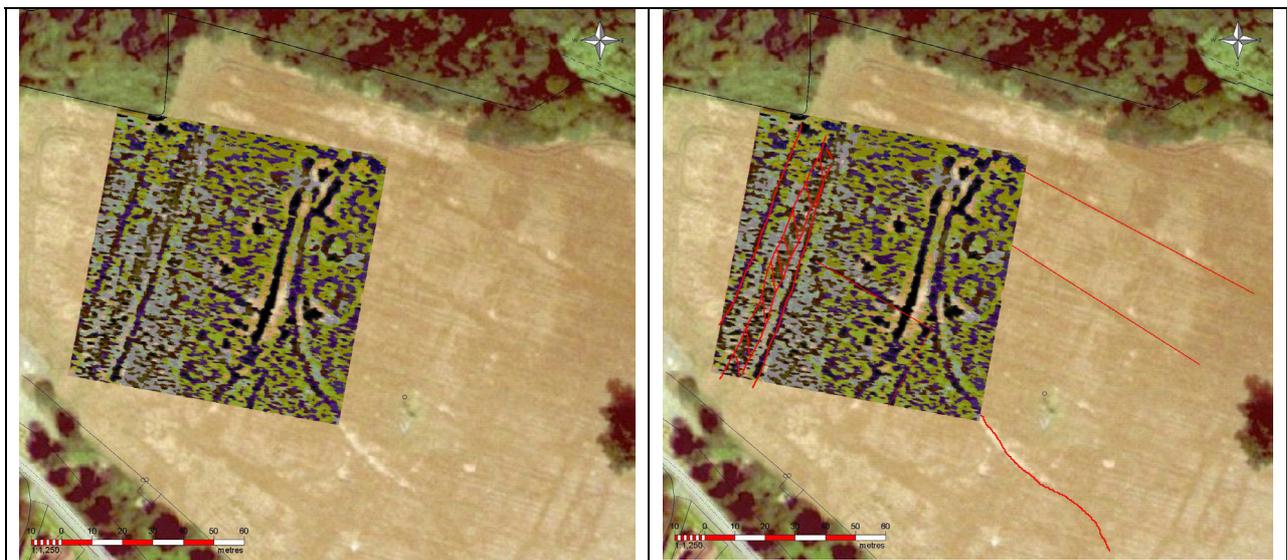
This is a complex multi period site with extensive re use. Field walking finds suggest that the NE field is mainly Roman. The western side of the main field is thought to be a medieval moated site, although the two 8 m diameter ring features may be remnants of a much earlier period.

With so many traces of activity remaining as soil marks and confirmed by the geophysics it is almost impossible to determine which features are related to each other. However, the two lines running up the W side of the magnetometry survey, about 15m apart to the S and 10 m apart to the N with a slight curvature might represent the ditches of a roadway. That they could be extended to a distinct curve in Fen Road to the S might support this, and therefore reflect the route of transport of building materials or supplies to the hall to the NW. Traces of a bridge over the lake might confirm this, although the absence of these traces might simply mean that this roadway fell out of use when the lake was dug. This particular line is identified on a 1903 map as somewhat narrower than the magnetometry traces and labelled as 'Moat', with a right angle turn to the east immediately N of the survey area and another right angle turn to the N just within the N edge of the resistivity survey area. On the same map this matches a distinct gap in the woodland surrounding the N side of the lake. This would suggest that the feature is in fact a track rather than a moat. However, between the two NS lines and blending into the E line at the northern end is a diffuse line about 7 m wide may be the earlier line of an earlier moat.

The line running from the SE corner of the magnetometry survey area, curving towards the centre and perhaps leaving in the NE corner of the survey, combined with the two 8 m

diameter circular features is suggestive of an Iron Age enclosure with internal huts. Unfortunately the soil mark of this line, outside the survey area continues to the SE rather than turning back to form an enclosure. The particularly strong straight line running close to the latter line with a separation of about 5 m at the N end could represent the line of a medieval moat. The N end shows the start of a change in direction but the S end fades into a weaker line running NE SW, which in turn forms a right angle with another line running NW-SE, the apex of the corner just touching the first curved line. The N end of the strongest line suggests an entrance point, with a discontinuity of the signal and a rectilinear feature on one side, perhaps the robbed foundations of a gatehouse. A high resistivity track passes to one edge of the rectilinear feature and through one of the discontinuities which might be traces of a metallised surface.

Equally, the rectilinear feature in the NE of the magnetometry survey matches the soil marks extending across a large portion of the whole field to form a ladder of small enclosures.



Two different areas within the NE field were surveyed. The S end of the S area was originally constrained by the soil conditions but was subsequently extended without reference to the first survey. This section shows one relatively large area of strong responses with a distinct non linear boundary to the N and a distinct but incomplete boundary to the S. The larger area is suggestive of building foundations with a high proportion of fired material. Despite some Roman finds being made in this area it should be noted that it is located very close to the end of the lake to the W. A small brickworks or failed outflow construction subsequently levelled using nearby soil rich in Roman debris might produce similar results. The N survey area of the NE field shows a pattern of small enclosure ditches, possibly with a track towards the N end. No foundation structures are apparent but a concentration of Roman material on the surface would suggest that these reflect a Roman field pattern near to a building.



Google image of surveying in progress on the N field on 10th Sep 2006.