

Oakington Water Lane Paddock Report

In May 2009 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site at the request of the Local History Group to determine whether evidence of any subsurface features were detectable.

Members participating: Pat Davies, Liz Livingstone, Ian Sanderson, Maureen Storey, Tony Storey.

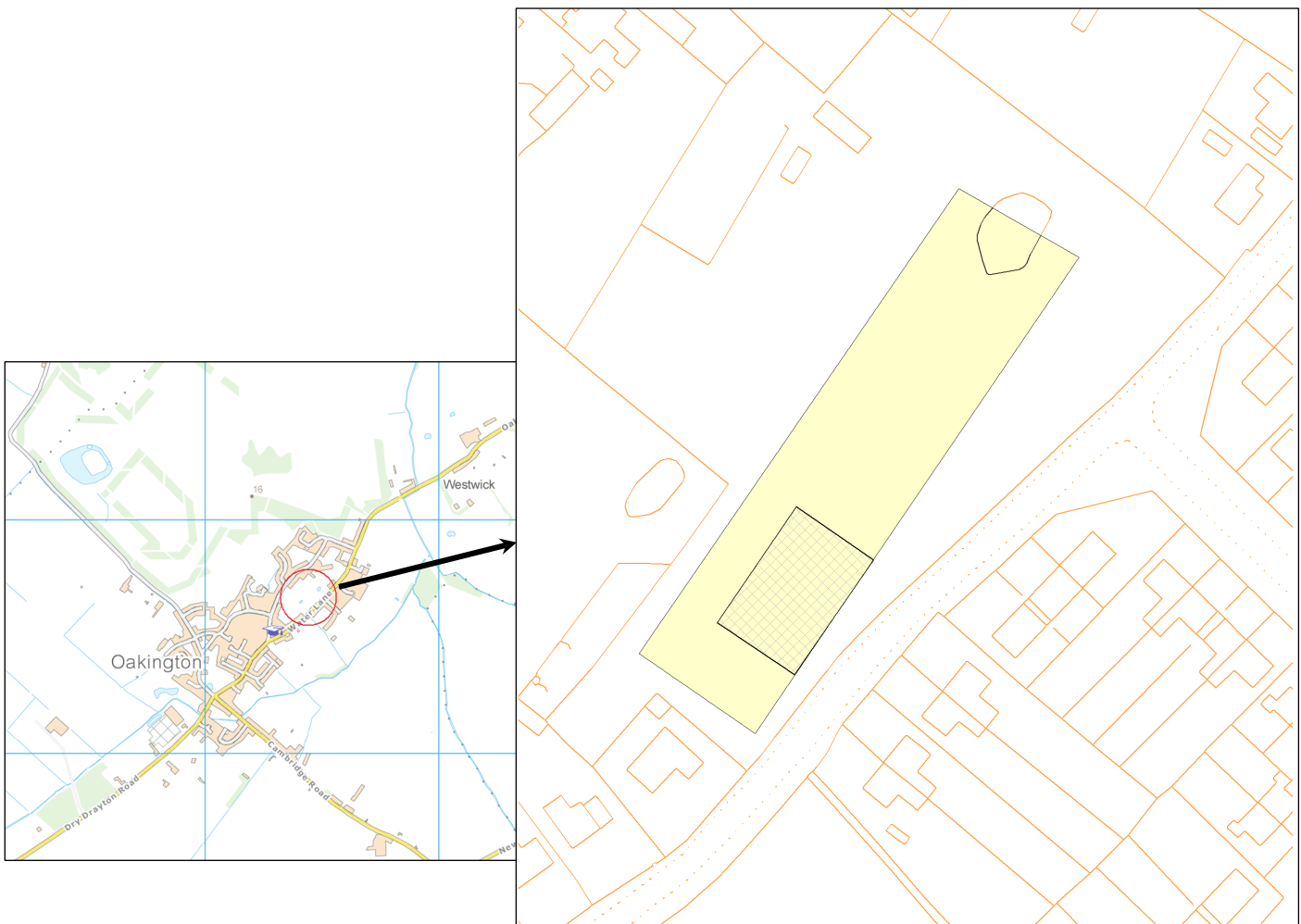
Site Liaison: Julie and Dennis Grove for Nick Harrison.

Site conditions: Grass paddock.

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

Area covered:	Magnetometry	four 30 m × 30 m grids
	Resistivity	one 30 m × 20 m grid

Location: TL 415647, North side of Water Lane Oakington.



Location plan: Survey areas in Oakington

(Resistivity survey area is crosshatched, magnetometry area is solid.)

On the ground location points with distances in metres –

N corner of garage near to W & S points of the mag. grids 9.14 & 22.57 respectively.

E corner of garage near to W & S points of the mag. grids 14.00 & 17.75 respectively.

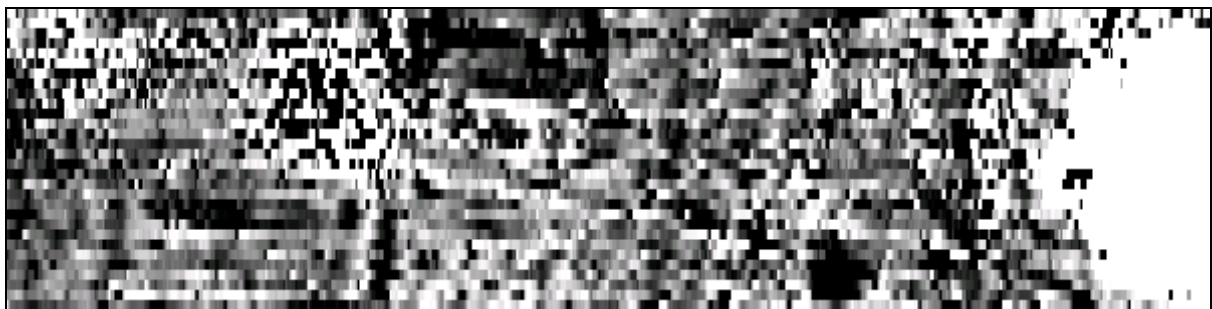
Images are orientated with north to the top of the page except where indicated otherwise.

Purpose of survey: To determine if any subsurface structures were detectable which might explain a concentration of field walking finds.

Results

Individual survey area results, rotated for presentation

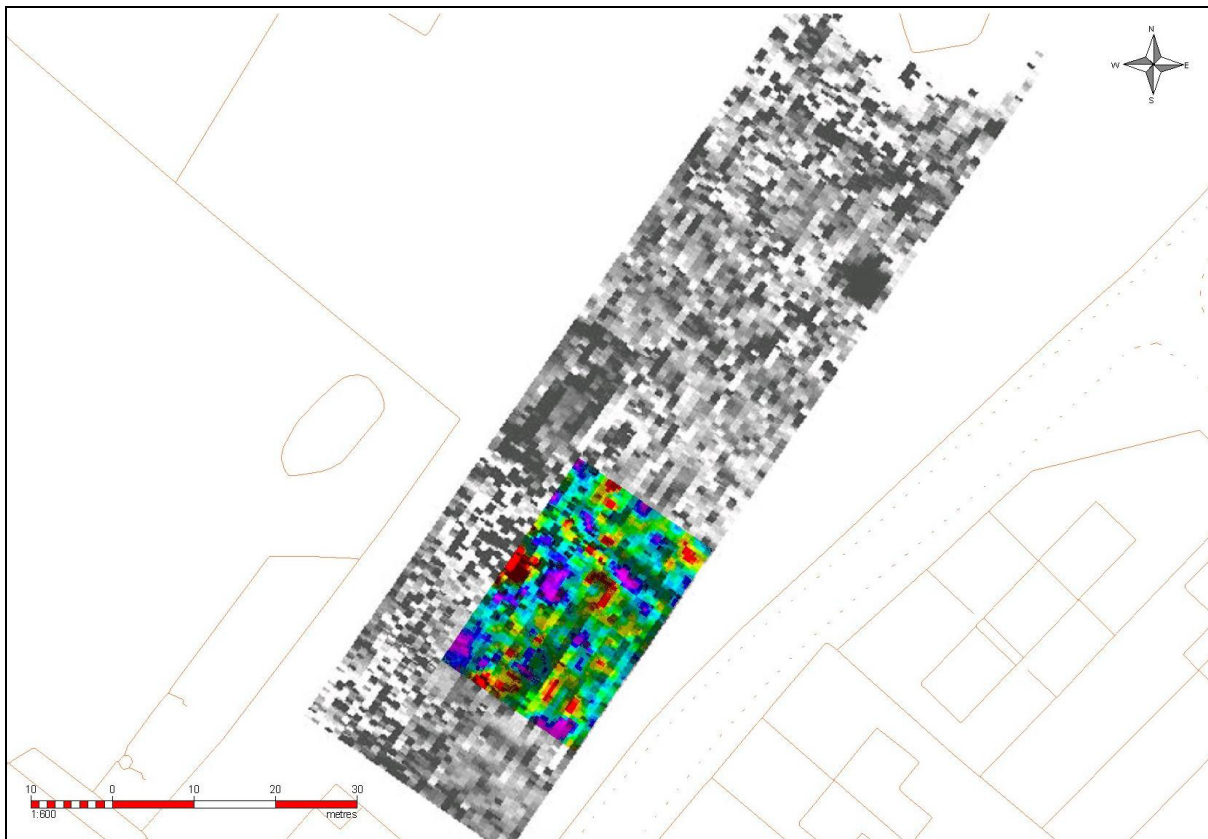
		black low, white high
		purple blue low, red high
Resistivity (raw data) 30 m x 20 m	Resistivity (high pass 5 filtered data) 30 m x 20 m	



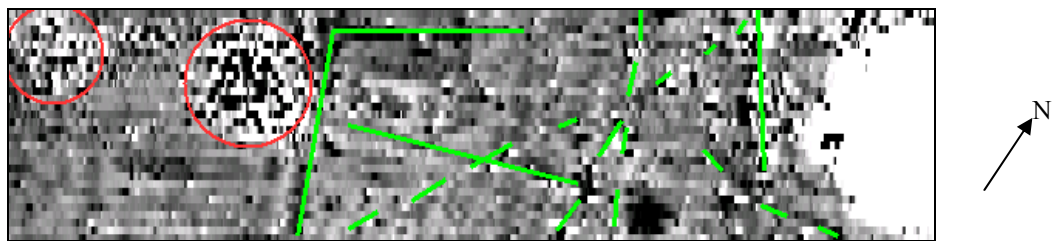
Magnetometry +5 to -7 nT



Magnetometry +12 to -12 nT
30 m x 120 m



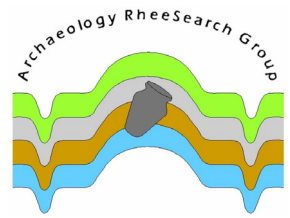
Superimposition of resistivity and magnetometry results.



Discussion

This site has a high level of background magnetic noise which masks most of the magnetic signal from any archaeological features. Having noted that, some features are just about discernible. On the image above the magnetic responses in the two areas circled in red are similar to those found in areas of building demolition or large fires. The solid green line with an approximate right angle towards the top centre of the image may represent a field boundary ditch. The solid green line angled across the centre may represent a pathway, probably to whatever structure existed within the larger red circled area. The dashed green lines across the centre probably represent similar pathways. The vertical green line towards the right of the image could represent either a metallised pathway or perhaps a demolished or burnt out barrier fencing off the pond area (shown by the white semicircle on the far right of the image).

The resistivity survey shows an area of high resistance on the edge of the larger red circled area on the magnetic survey which suggests building scatter or remaining foundations rather than burning alone. The solid green line field boundary shows as linear patches of low resistance values but with an adjacent incomplete rectilinear high resistance feature. Other



high resistance features to the south of the resistance survey do not form any coherent pattern without extending the survey in that direction.

Raw data are available as separate appendices.

Magnetometry readings: 4/m, 1 m separation.

Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Report by Dr I Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch