



Oakington Recreation Ground Report

In April 2008 and March 2009 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site at the request of the local history group.

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

Site Liaison: Nick Harrison on behalf of the Oakington History Society.

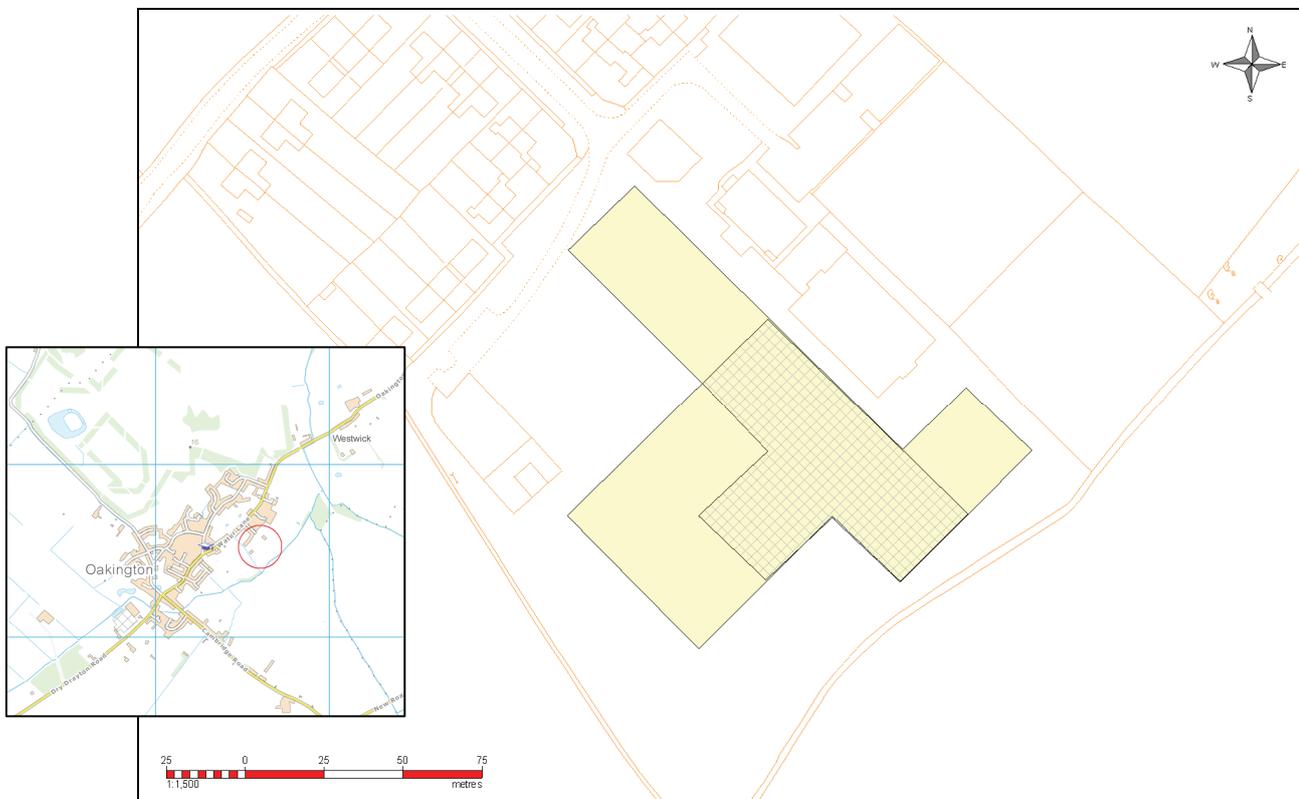
Site conditions: Mown grass.

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

Area covered:

Magnetometry day 1	five 30 m × 30 m grids
Resistivity day 1	three 30 m × 30 m grids
Magnetometry day 2	five 30 m × 30 m grids
Resistivity day 2	one 30 m × 30 m grids

Location: TL 416 645 Recreation Ground, Oakington, Cambridgeshire.



Location plan: Survey areas in Oakington

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

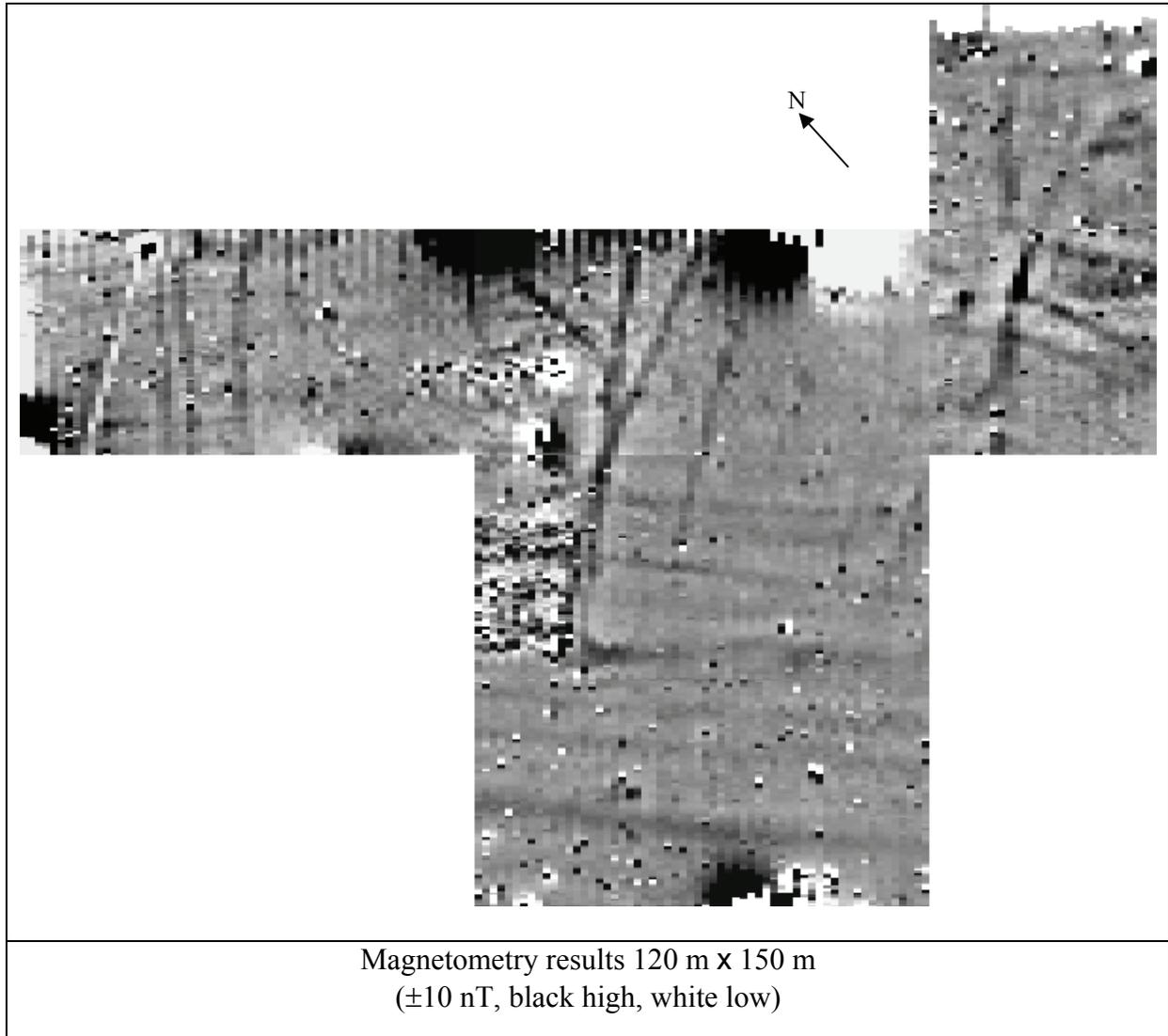
On the ground location points with distances in metres –

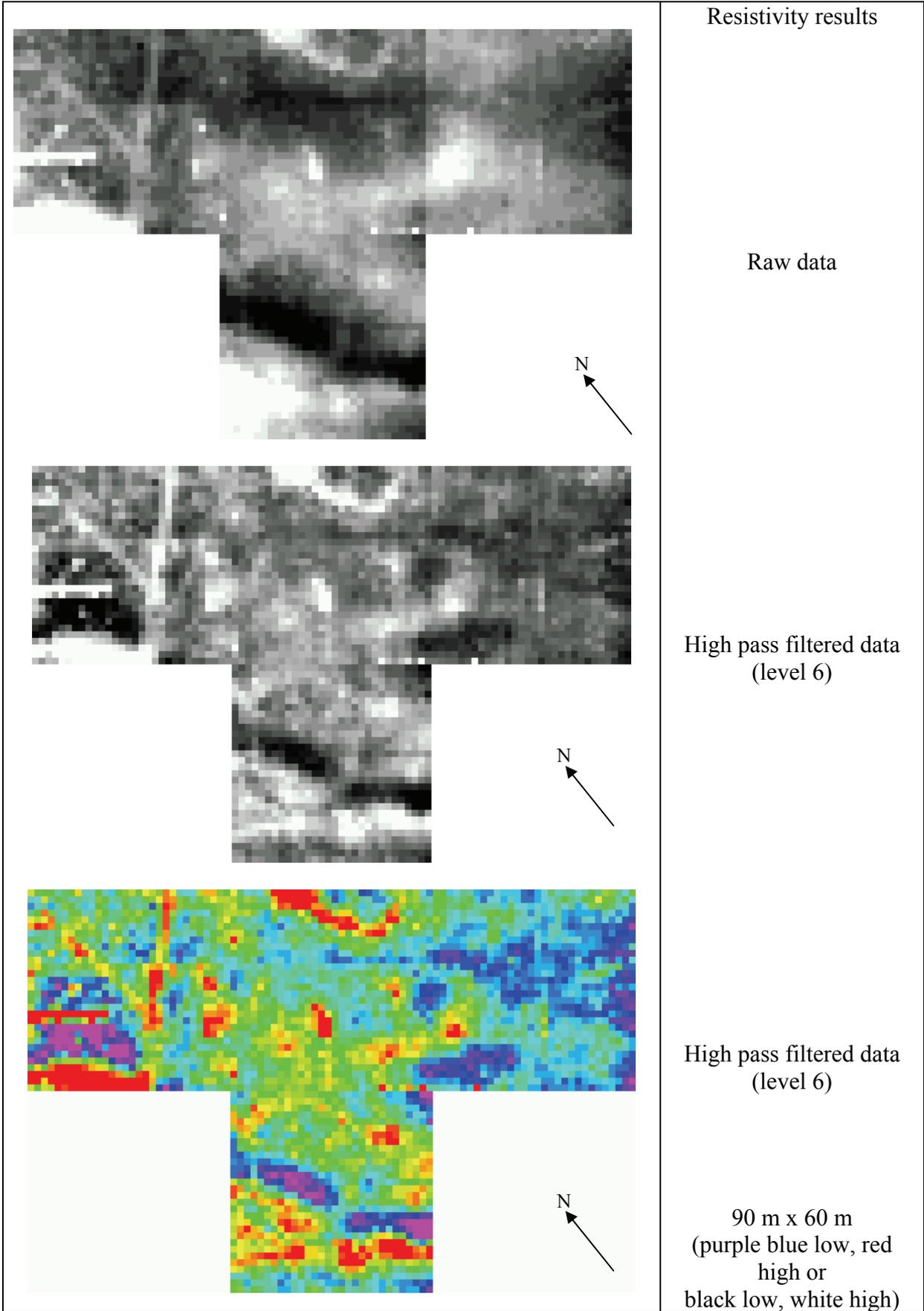
Playground Road junction corner to nearest mag grid corners 9.85, 33.75. Playground same side angled corner to same 7.1, 26.2. SE side corners of tarmac pitch to W corner of mag SE extra grid 18.00, 36.56

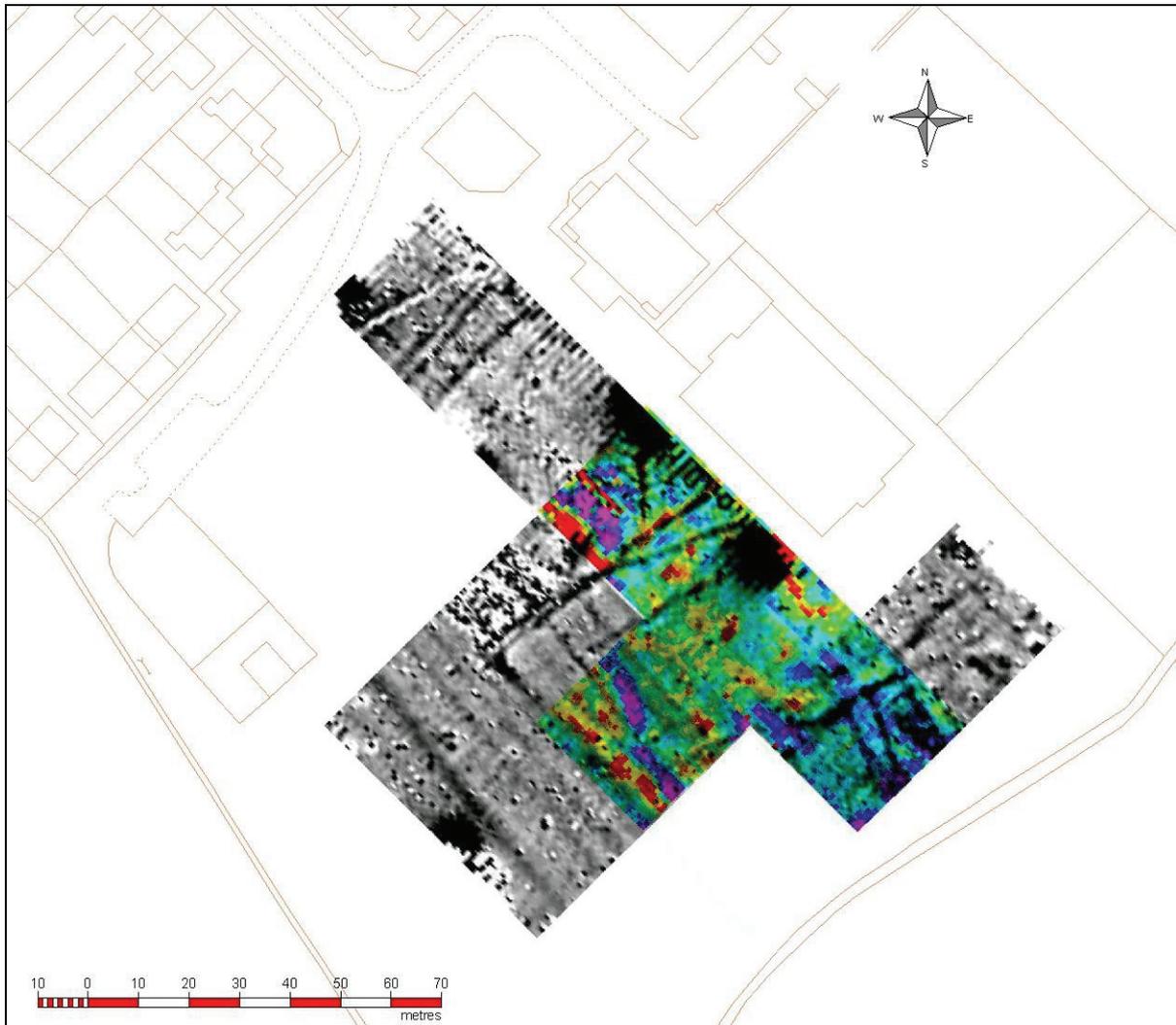


Purpose of survey: To determine if any subsurface structures were detectable which might extend the understanding of previous excavations on the adjacent hall and play area. The principal area of interest being given by the site liaison.

Results:
Individual survey area results, rotated for presentation.







Superimposition of resistivity and magnetometry results.

Discussion

The magnetometry results are dominated by interference from the adjacent buildings to the NE. There appear to be some linear features near the central portion of the magnetometry running SW to a discrete area of confused responses which probably represent drainage or services from the present buildings to the site of an earlier building. A series of broadly parallel slightly diffuse lines run NW - SE across the main part of the field. These are similar to but lack the consistency of spacing expected from ridge and furrow ploughing patterns. The SE portion appears to show a trackway extending from a shallowly curving boundary ditch towards the SE. This trackway extends a short distance with a different alignment from the curving ditch with a distinct anomaly at its apparent terminus. The track may in fact continue more or less parallel to the existing buildings as shown in the resistance results, but the magnetic interference is too great for this to show in the magnetometry. There is a rectilinear pattern with weaker magnetic responses in this area which may be associated with an area of disturbance immediately to the side of the parallel tracks. The difference in



alignments suggests that, given the proximity of the stream, this may have been a defended crossing point during two different periods.

The northernmost grid of the survey shows four linear features. The white line corresponds to an access path visible on modern aerial photographs. The two parallel lines are probably the side ditches of a trackway and the most southerly line of the four, with a slight curvature probably represents a boundary ditch.

The resistivity results show the same drainage pattern as in the magnetometry results as high resistance lines. They also show one linear extension from the double track shown in the SE corner of the magnetometry. This has low values to the SE which become higher to the NW suggesting that a ditch line is being drained by the first mentioned drainage network.

It should be noted that the black semicircular area at the bottom of the magnetometry image, and a similar area directly above it at the top edge of the same survey, and a small high resistance area in the corresponding position in the resistivity results were all almost certainly due to the location of the goal mouths of a football pitch.

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 Ian Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch.