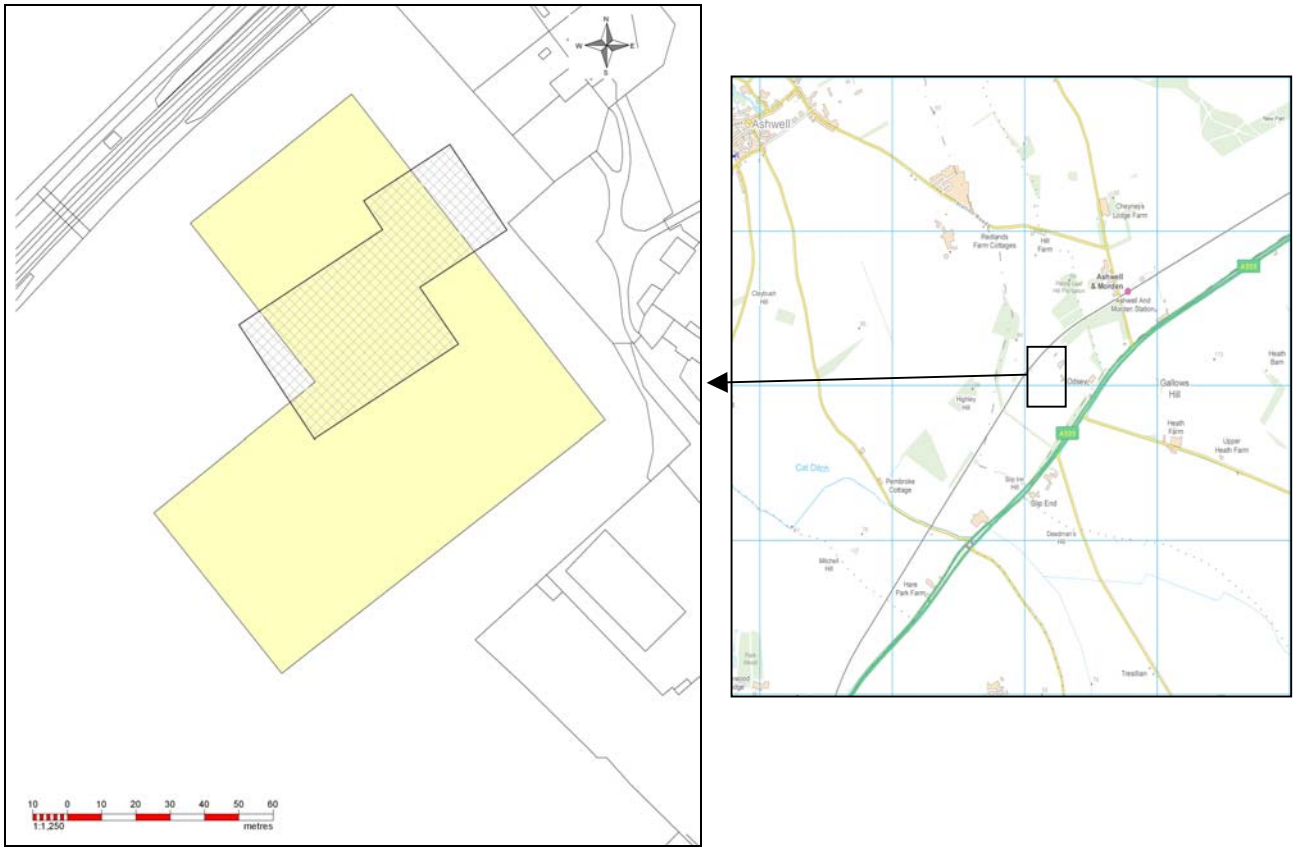
Odsey Report

In February 2012 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site.
Members participating: Pat Davies, Brian Bridgland, Bruce Milner, Ian Sanderson, Gill Shapland, Maureen Storey and Tony Storey.
Site Liaison: Jeremy Fordham and Gil Burleigh
Site conditions: Close cropped 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: TL 292 381, Odsey Grange, Guilden Morden, Cambs.



Location plan: Survey areas
(resistivity survey areas hatched, magnetometry areas solid)

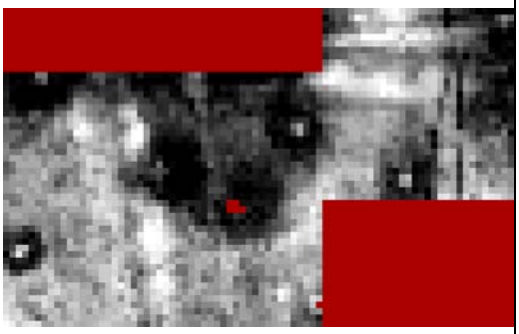
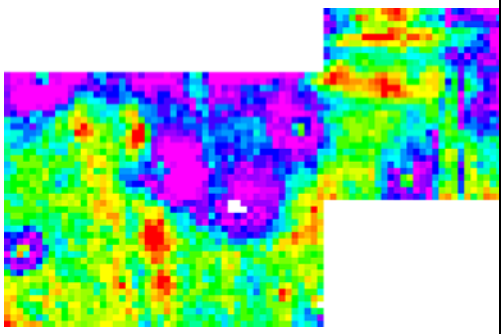
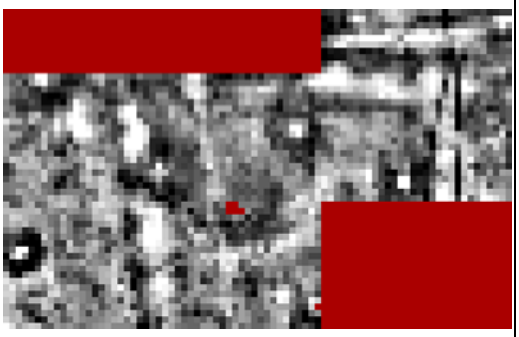
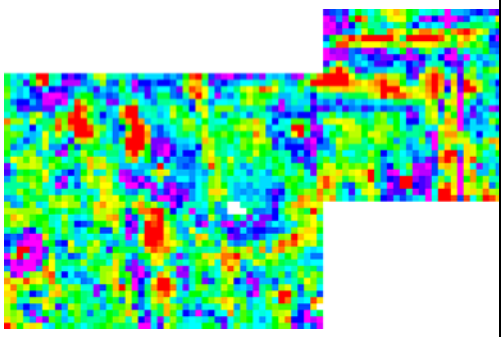
Purpose of survey: The purpose of this survey was to determine if any subsurface features could be detected.

Site topography:
The site comprised a slightly sloping, close cropped field abutting a railway line to the NW. The NE boundary was post and wire. A short avenue of trees and some individual trees were within the survey area.

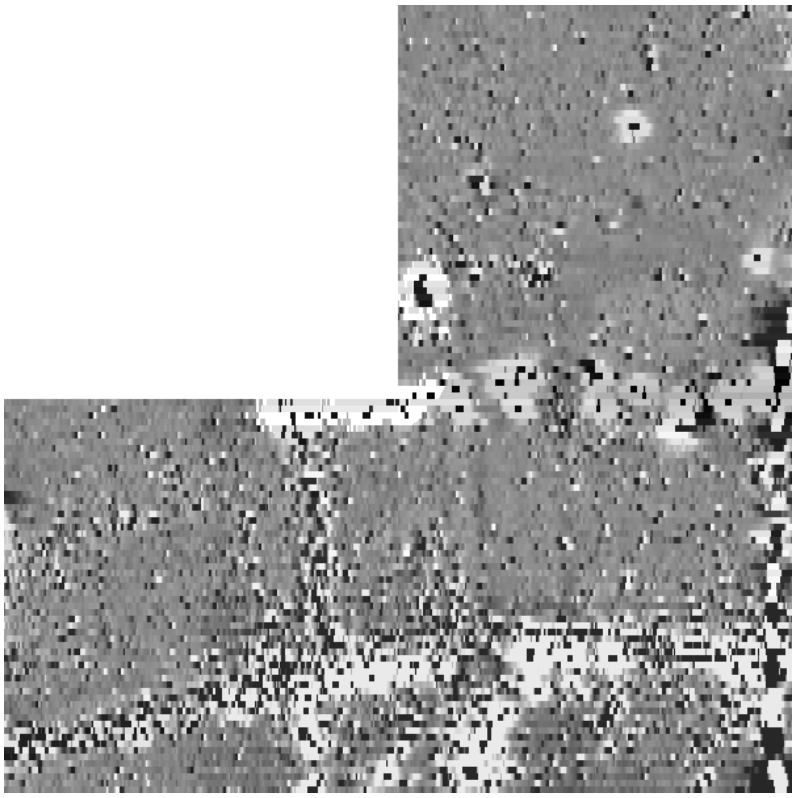
Results:

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

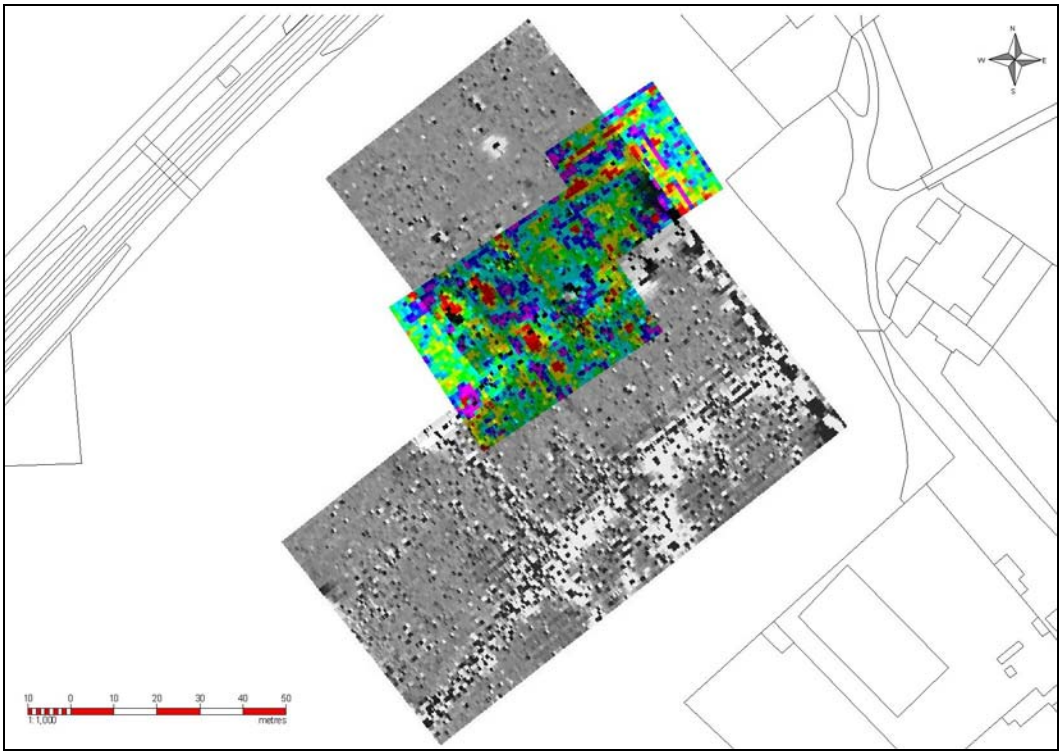
Resistivity

		Resistivity 80 m x 50 m Raw data N
		Resistivity 80 m x 50 m High pass filter 5 N
(black – low, white – high, red – null)	(purple/blue – low, red – high, white – null)	

Magnetometry



Magnetometry 120 m x 120 m range +26 to -19 nT



Superimposition of resistivity and magnetometry results

Discussion:

Magnetometry survey

This site had a very high magnetic background which masks any subtle archaeological signals. Some features were visible as discrete bands of particularly noisy responses. One of these bands runs NW—SE and corresponds to the line of a footpath.

The most prominent band runs NE—SW to the S corner of the survey. The latter has an offshoot towards farm buildings to the SE. Discussion with a local resident suggested that rail bedding stone may have been used to metal these routes which might account for the responses.

A line, or two lines, of point anomalies runs NE to SW across the survey. These converge and terminate in the band of the footpath metalling. On the ground at this point there was an upstanding metal pipe. This suggests a vent piping system where the joints of the pipe have a much stronger magnetic signal than the pipe itself, possibly to a chamber near the middle of this line where the point anomalies are slightly further apart. The magnetometry survey also detected a service conduit line along the E edge.

Resistivity survey

The E side of the resistivity survey has a series of alternating high and low linear features running NE—SW. The most southerly narrow low response line corresponds to an enclosure boundary line. The other lines may be related to an avenue of mature trees on the same alignment just outside the resistivity survey area. If the avenue had previously extended to the NE it might explain the pattern recorded.

The W part of the resistivity survey has a comparatively wide interrupted line of high value running NW—SE which aligns with the magnetic disturbance offshoot to the farm buildings to the SE. There is a faint line in the magnetometry survey which runs along the W side of the high resistance values which suggests it might have been the route from the farm to the NW before the railway formalised a crossing point.

Report by Dr I Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch