



Orwell Pit Report

On 25th October 2015 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site to determine whether any archaeological features were detectable.

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

Site liaison: Susan Miller.

Site conditions: Rough grass.

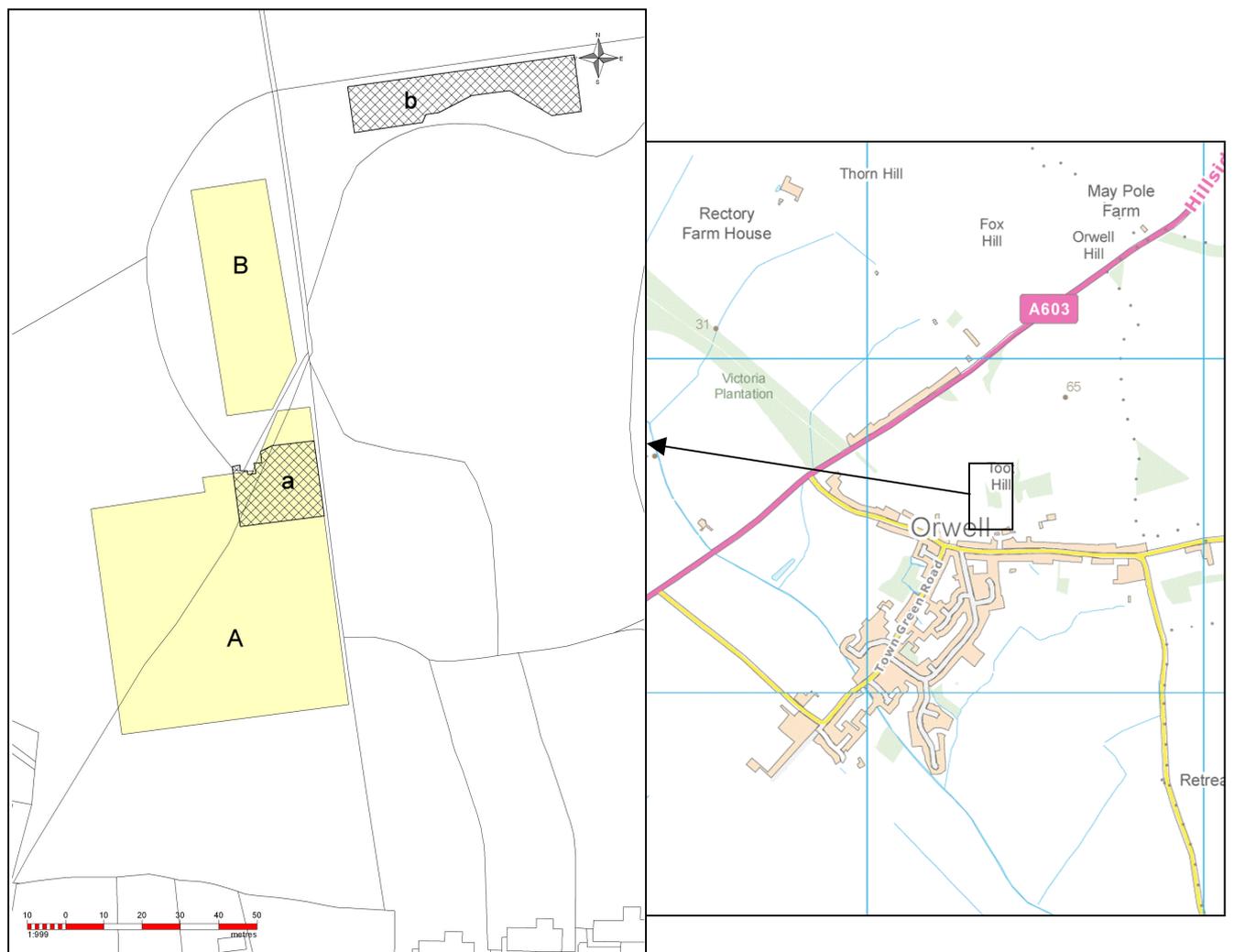
Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer; TRCIA 50 cm twin probe.

Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.

Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Raw data available as separate appendices.

Location: TL363506, Orwell, 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 to explain the shape of the field boundaries on the site.

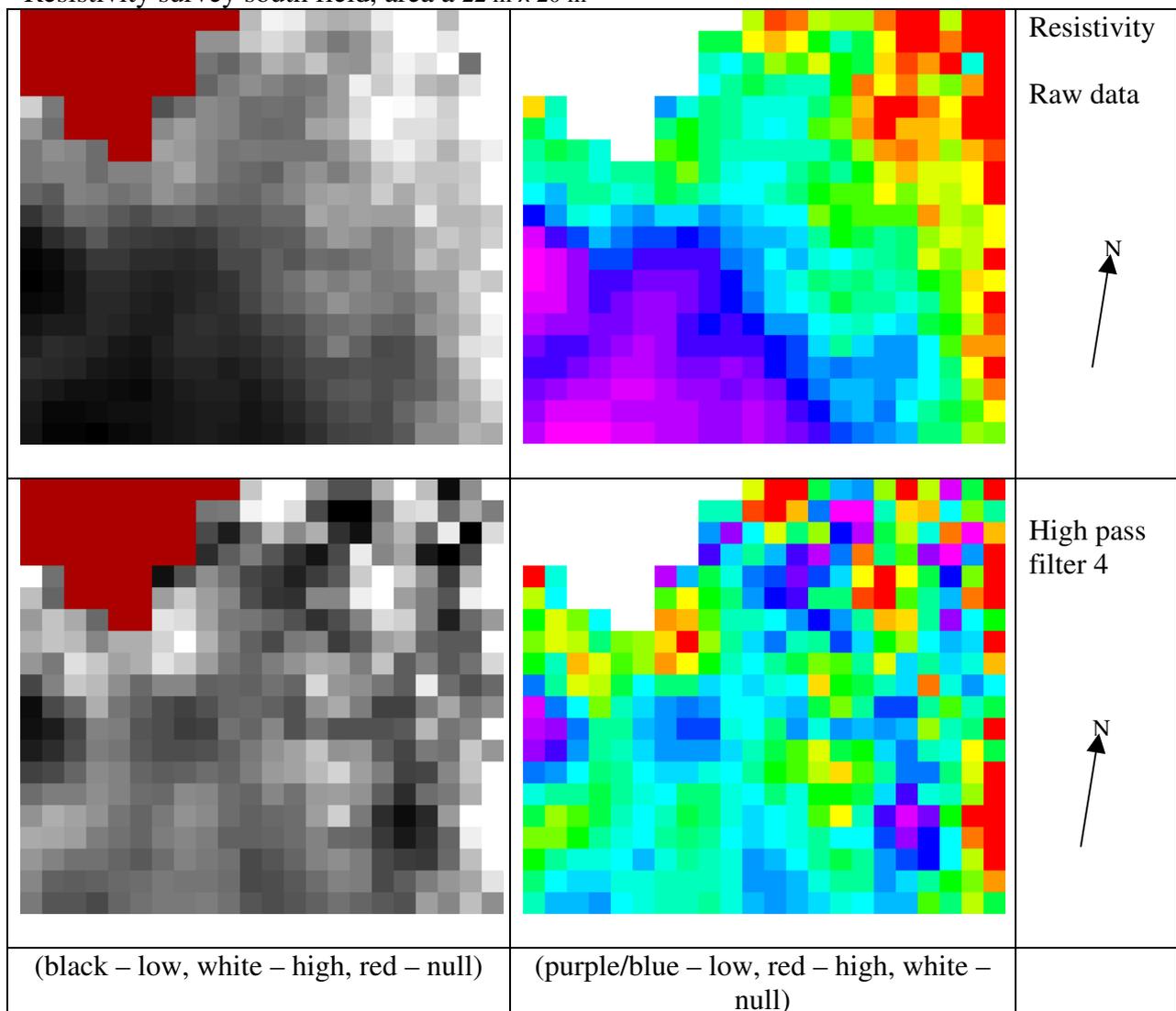
Site topography:

Sheep cropped grass paddocks with scrub hedging including metal fencing to the north and south fields. The eastern area was fine grass along the upper edge of a clunch pit. Area A sloped down to the south. Area B had a slight slope to the south and area b was almost level.

Results:

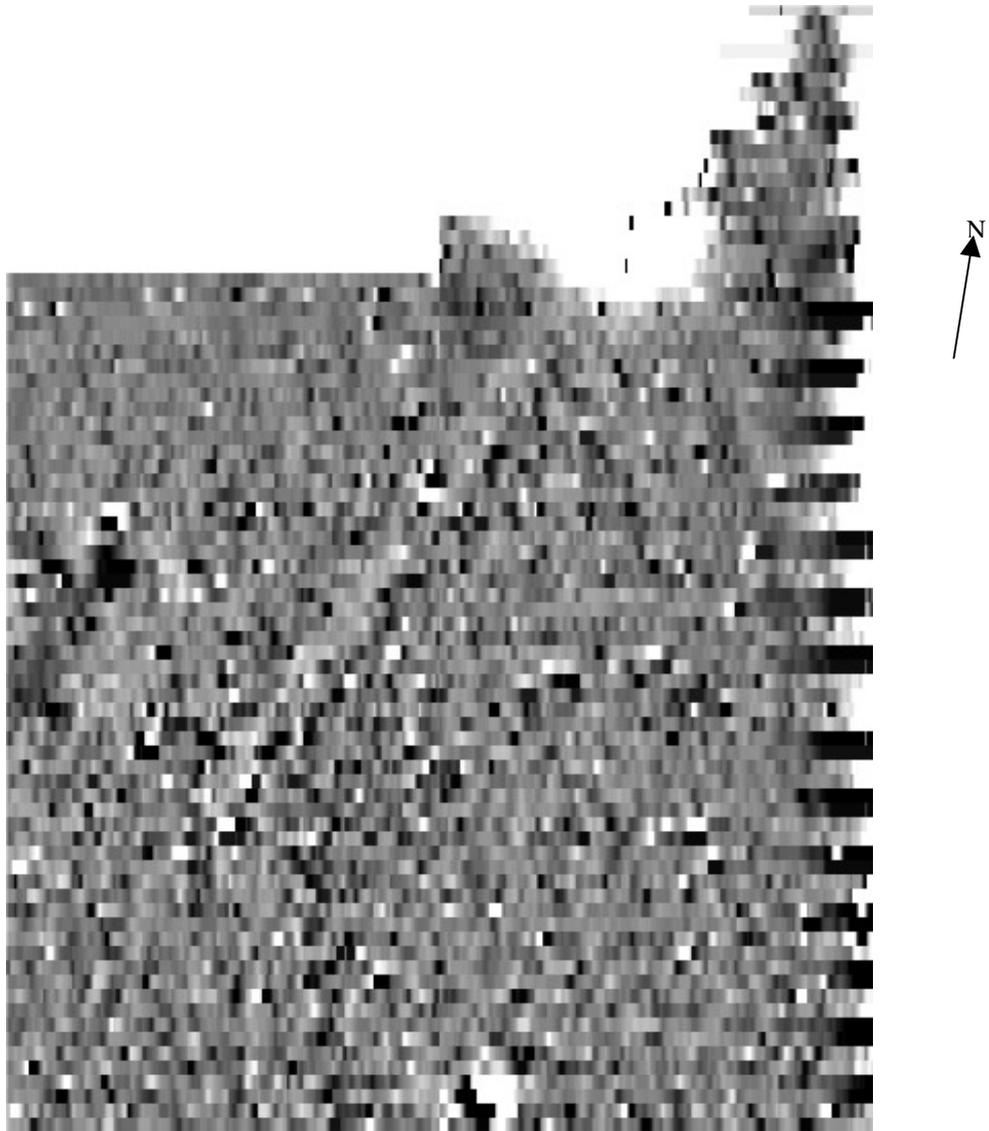
The images in this section are orientated for presentation. The images are not to a common scale.

Resistivity survey south field, area a 22 m x 20 m

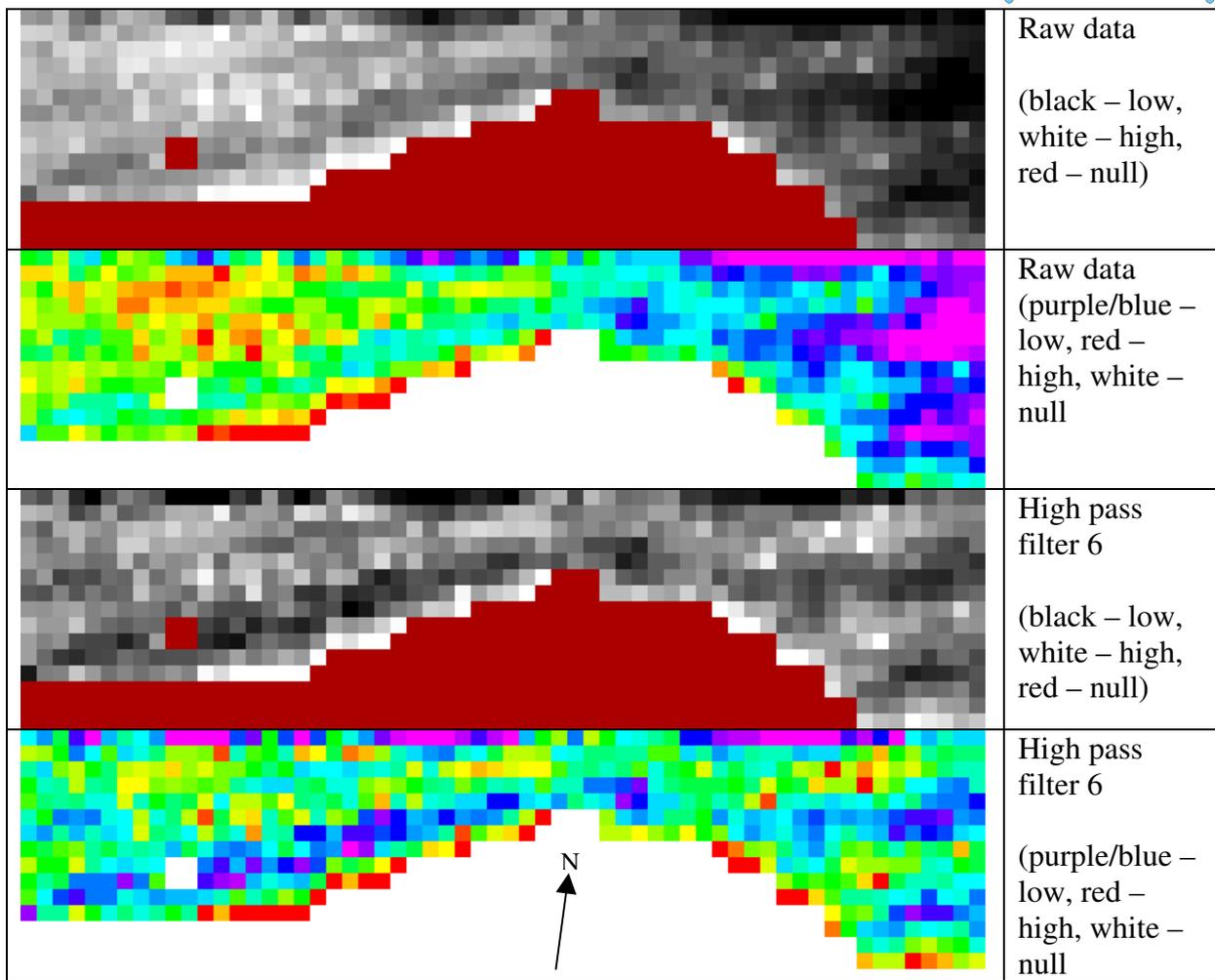




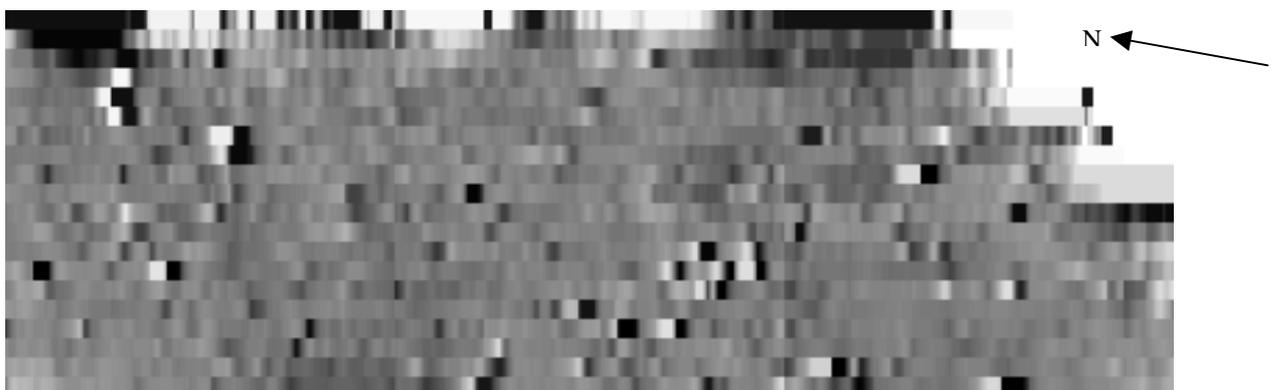
Magnetometry survey south field, area A 60 m x 79 m range +4 to -4 nT

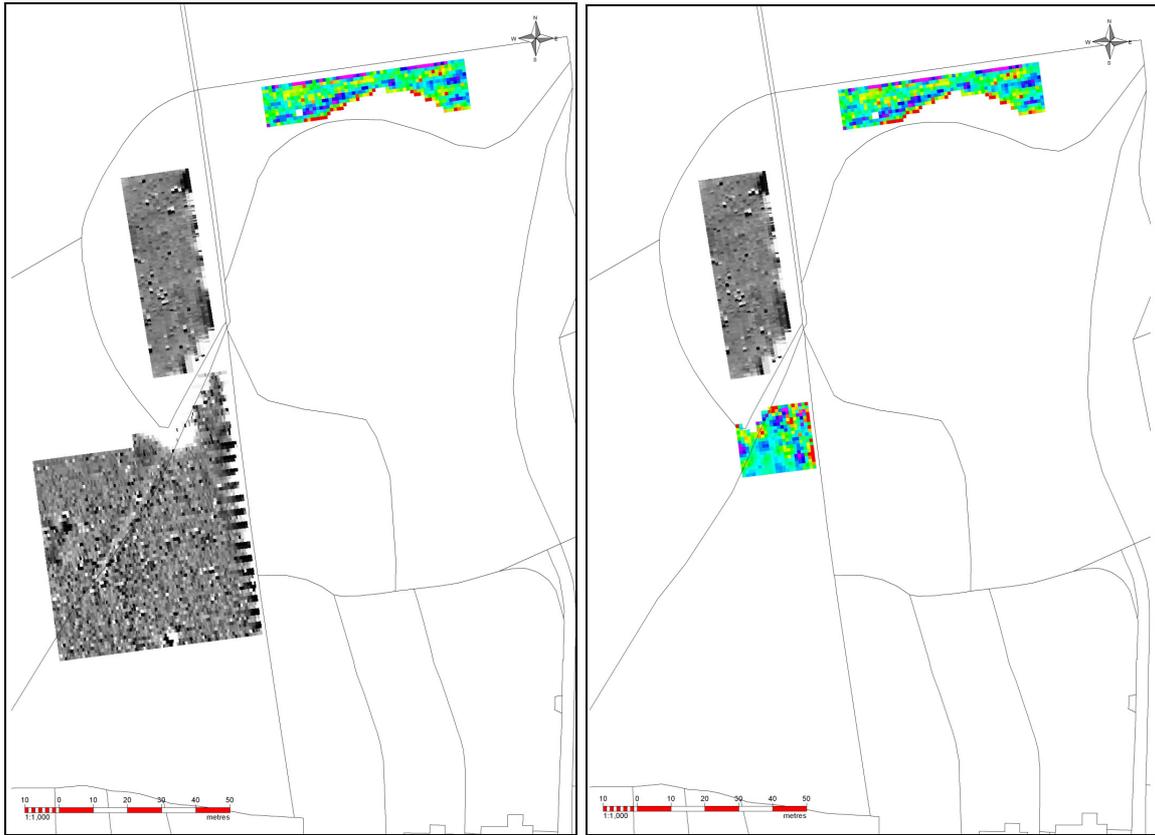


Resistivity survey east field, area b 60 m x 15 m

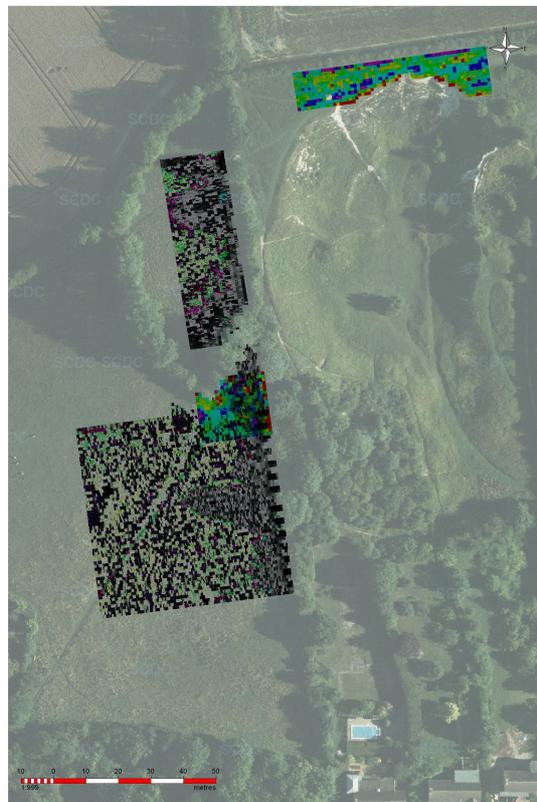


Magnetometry survey north field, area B 60 m x 20 m range +6 to -9 nT





Magnetometer and resistivity surveys



Results superimposed on an aerial photograph



Discussion:

South field.

The magnetometry survey was affected along the E side and around the spur at the NE corner by metal fencing. The main feature is a poorly defined line running SW – NE, which corresponds to the line of the footpath leading to the top of Orwell pit (area b).

The resistivity results (area a) show some high values along the E and N sides of the survey area which are probably attributable to the scrub hedging.

North field.

The magnetometry survey was affected by the fencing on the E side and SE corner. Apart from a light scatter of minor point anomalies similar to that in the S field, nothing of archaeological interest was detected.

East field

The resistivity survey of area b showed nothing that could be identified as of archaeological interest.

Report by Dr I Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch