



## Friends' School Saffron Walden Report

In December 2008 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site at the instigation a local landscape historian.

**Site liaison:** Paul Daw

**Site conditions:** Mown grass playing field.

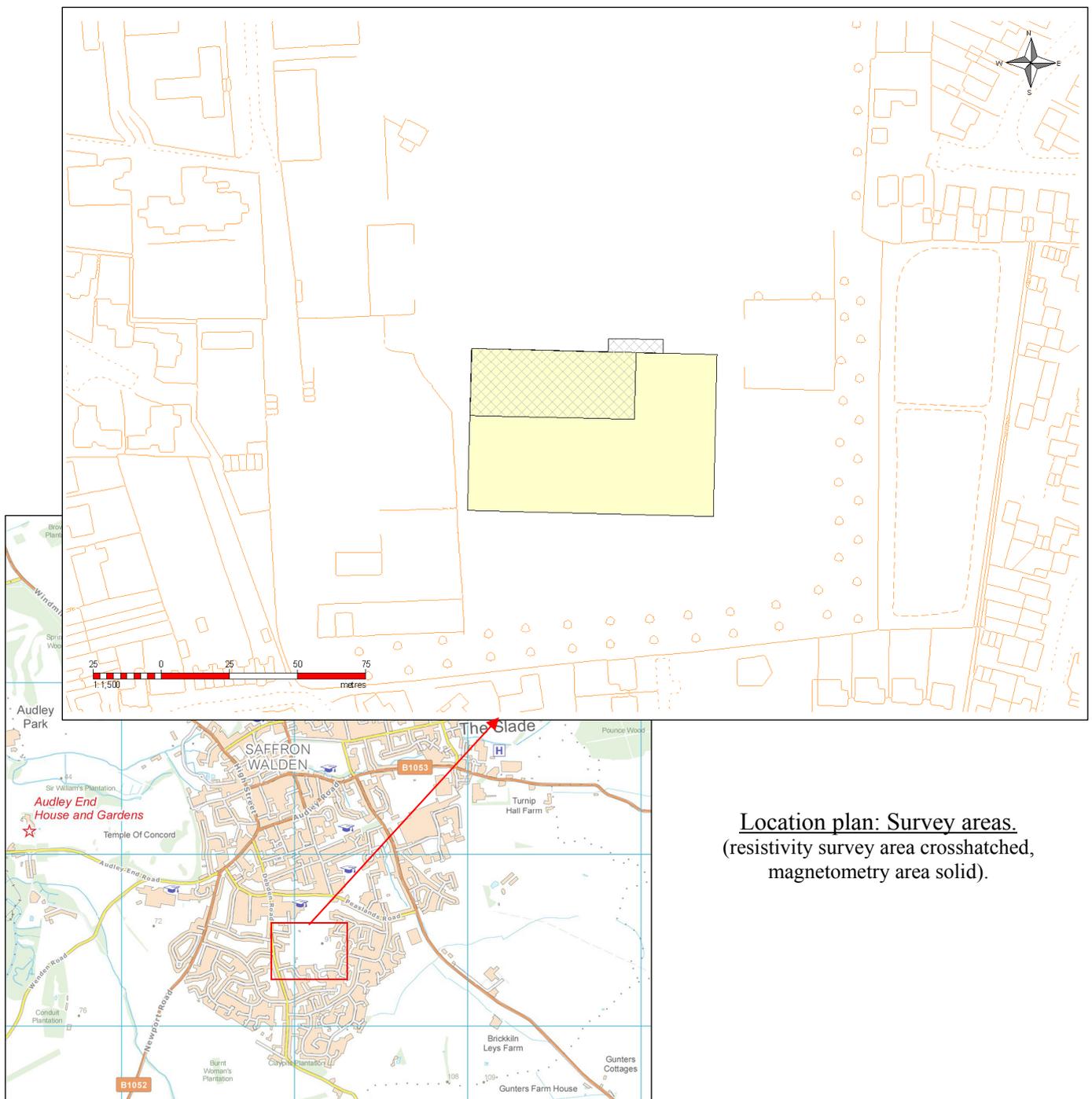
**Members participating:** Brian Bridgland, Pat Davies, Liz Livingstone, Bruce Milner, Ian Sanderson, Maureen Storey and Tony Storey.

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

**Area covered:**

Magnetometry	six 30 m × 30 m grids
Resistivity:	two 30 m × 30 m grids and one 20 m × 5 m grid

**Location:** TL 5409 3744, Friends School playing field, Saffron Walden, Essex.



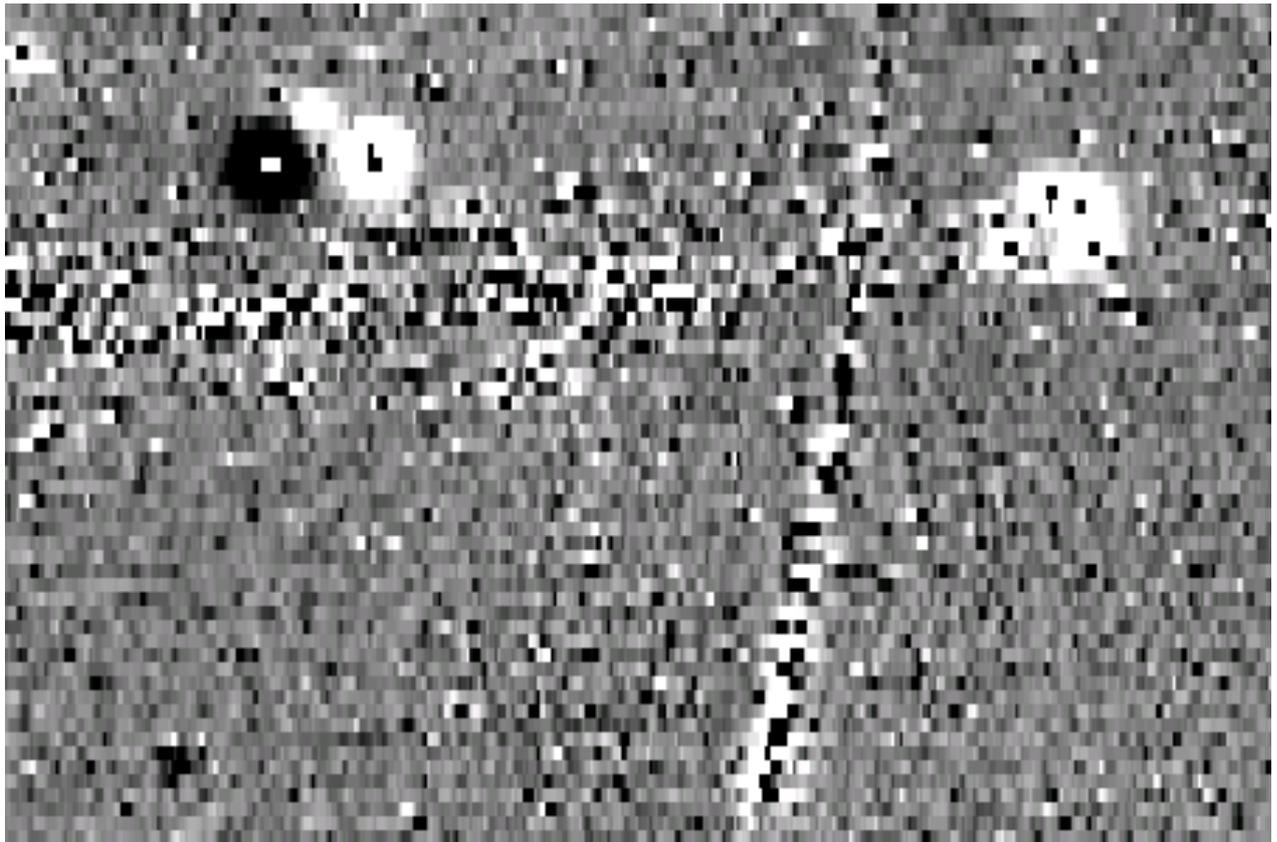
Location plan: Survey areas.  
(resistivity survey area crosshatched,  
magnetometry area solid).



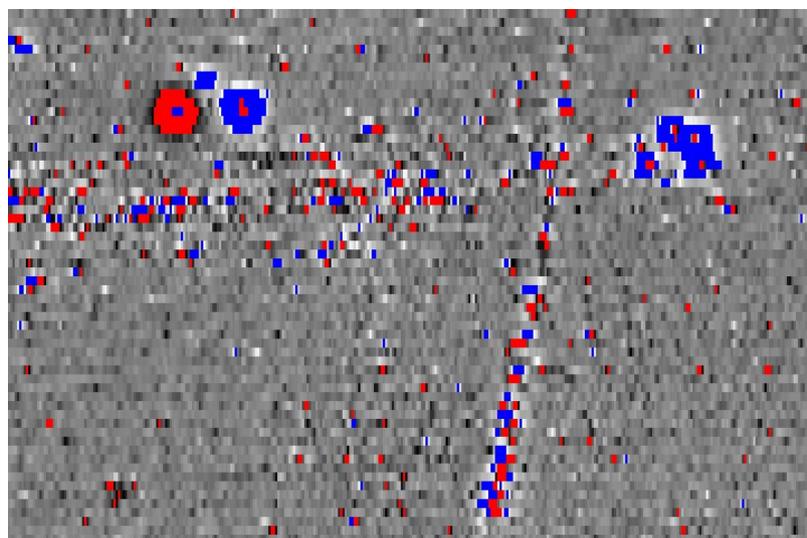
**Purpose of survey:** To determine if any subsurface features could be detected which would add evidence to Paul Daw's theories about the site. Grid locations were largely determined by Mr Daw.

**Results:**

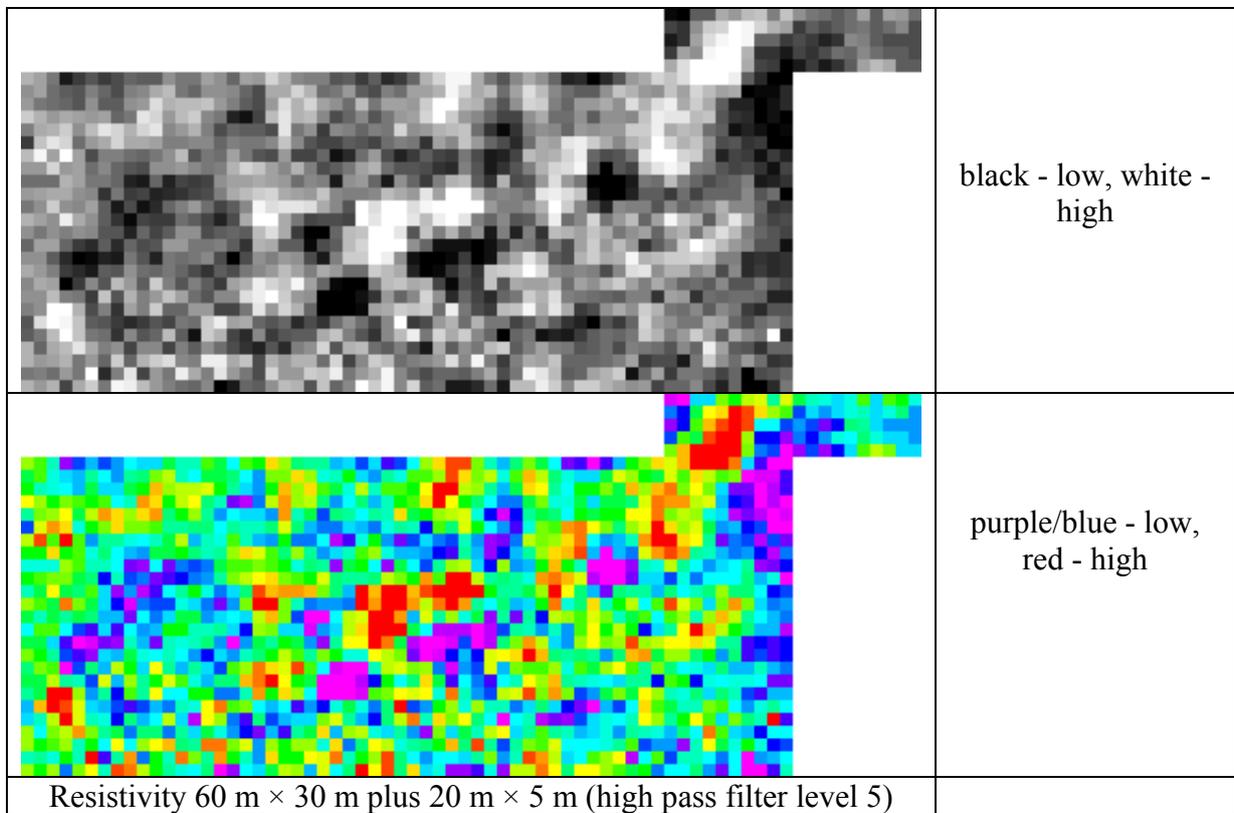
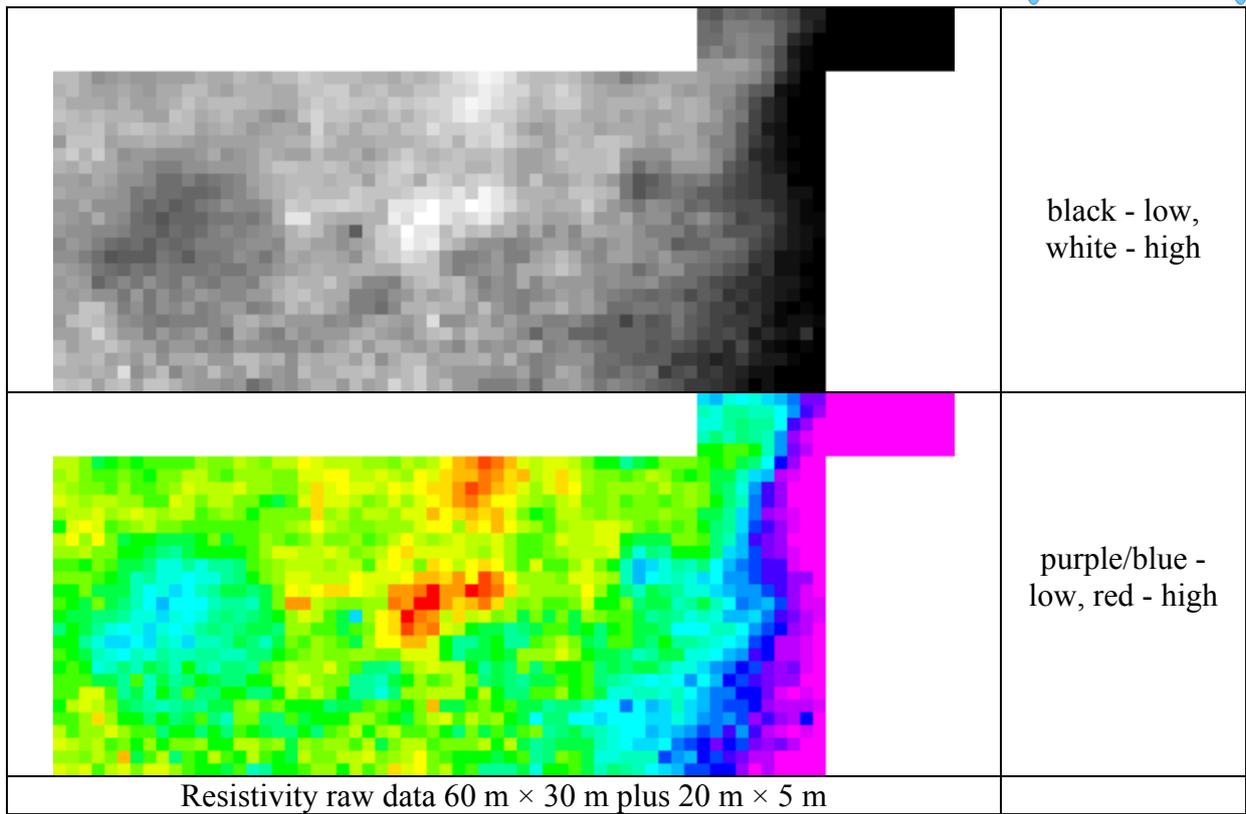
*The images in this section are orientated for presentation, which is almost the same as the grid orientation. They are not to a common scale.*

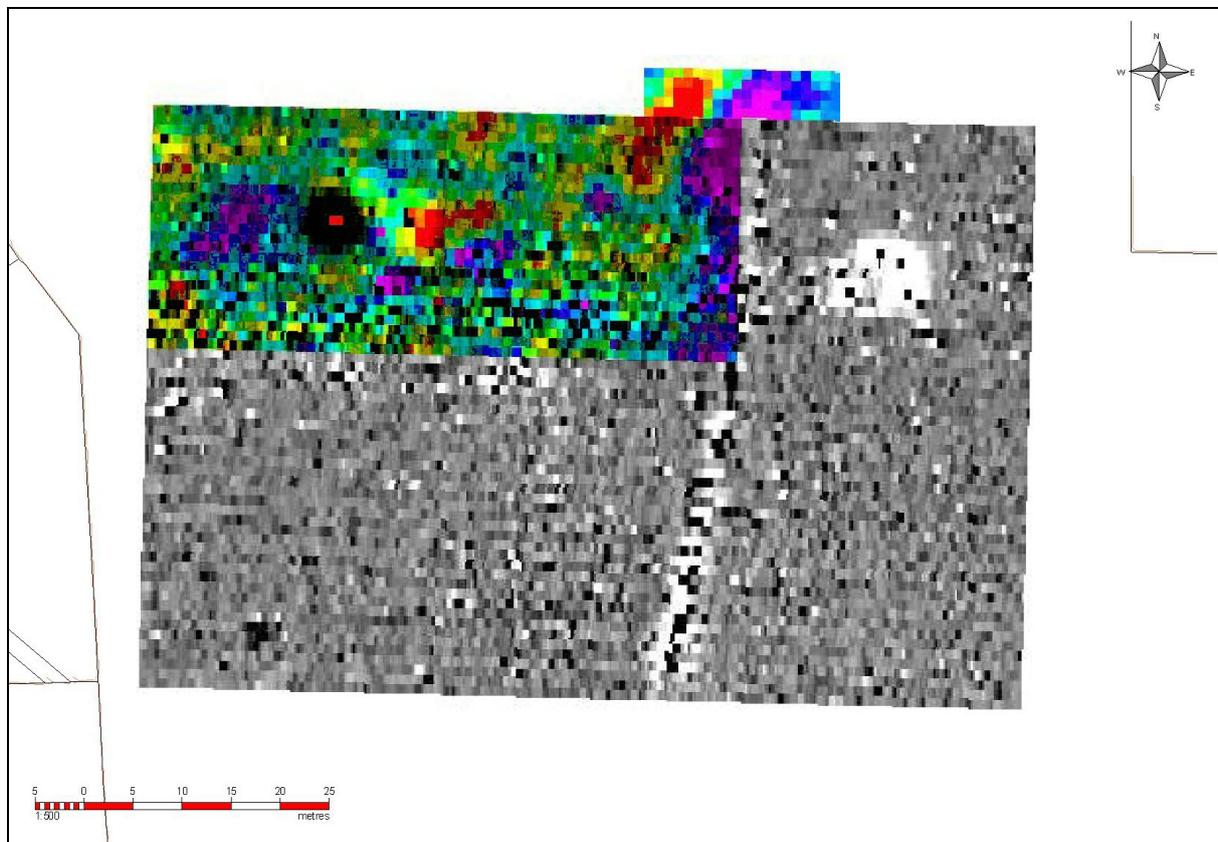
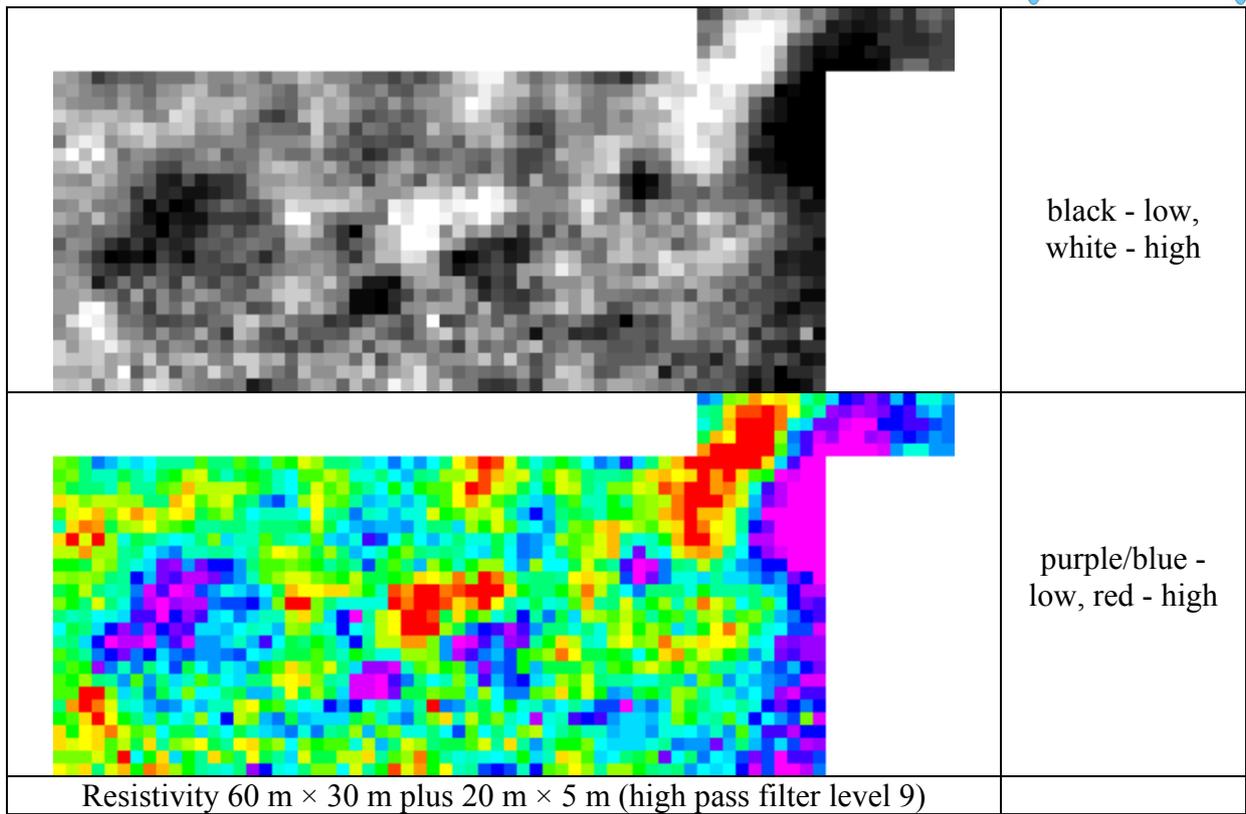


Magnetometry +6 to -12nT, 90 m × 60 m



Magnetometry >20 nT (red) or <20 nT (blue)







### Magnetometry

A well defined, narrow response runs almost N – S across the survey area. A diffuse band of responses runs E – W across the northern portion of the survey apparently terminating at a small area on the E with a particularly strong magnetic signal. Two circular areas with a similarly strong signal are positioned just to the N of the diffuse band. Overall there is an appreciable scatter of ferrous material across the site shown as red in the coloured peak values magnetometry image above.

### Resistivity

No readily discernible patterns are apparent in the resistivity results viewed in isolation. In conjunction with the magnetometry results it can be seen that a high resistance area is associated, but displaced to the E of the two circular areas and that the E edge of the survey which runs along the N – S magnetic signal, gives a low and disperse response.

### **Discussion:**

The N – S band in the magnetic response indicates a buried pipe. The low resistance values on this line without a clearly defined edge suggests that this could be a water pipe with some leakage. The two circular areas in the magnetic survey are almost certainly goal post sockets and it is likely that the strong magnetic signals further to the E are the same but sufficiently close together to cause the magnetic response from one side to merge with that from the other. The high resistance area around the two circular areas therefore probably reflects hardening of the soil due to goal mouth activity with a strong bias to the E. The diffuse E – W magnetic band does not seem to relate directly to the position of the goal posts, but given the localisation of the signals which show a concentration of high intensity (ferrous) responses this might suggest a routine access or egress route from the sporting facilities.

Raw data are available as separate appendices.  
Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.  
Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.