

Tyrells Shepreth Report

In June 2018 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site.

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

Site owner: Mr & Mrs Kendrick.

Site conditions: Fine grass.

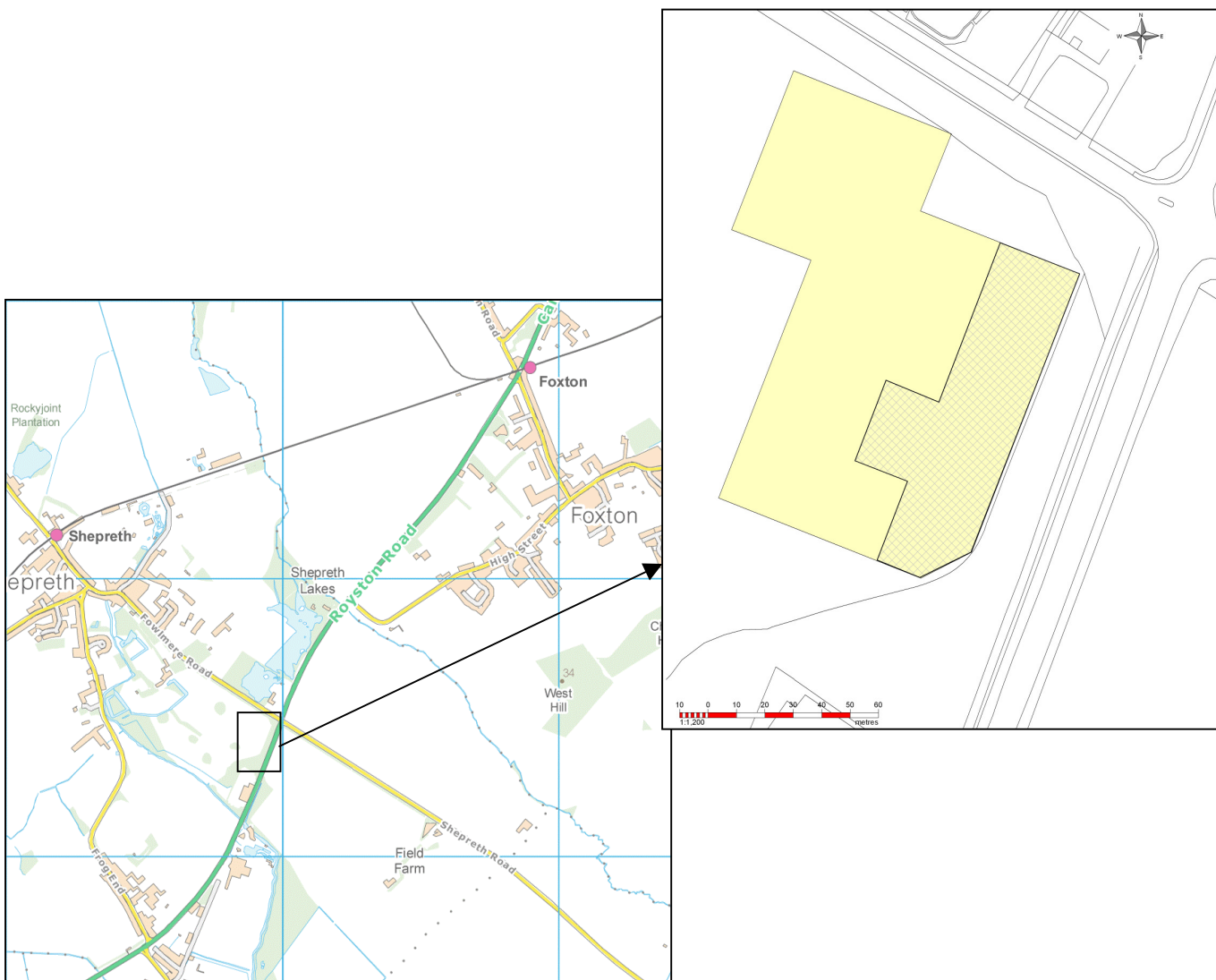
Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer; TRCIA 50 cm quad probe.

Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.

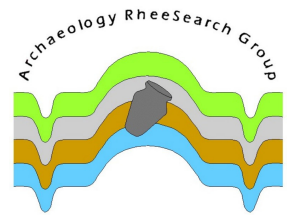
Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Raw data are available as separate appendices.

Location: TL399474, Shepreth, 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 that could explain a circular feature noted on aerial photographs.



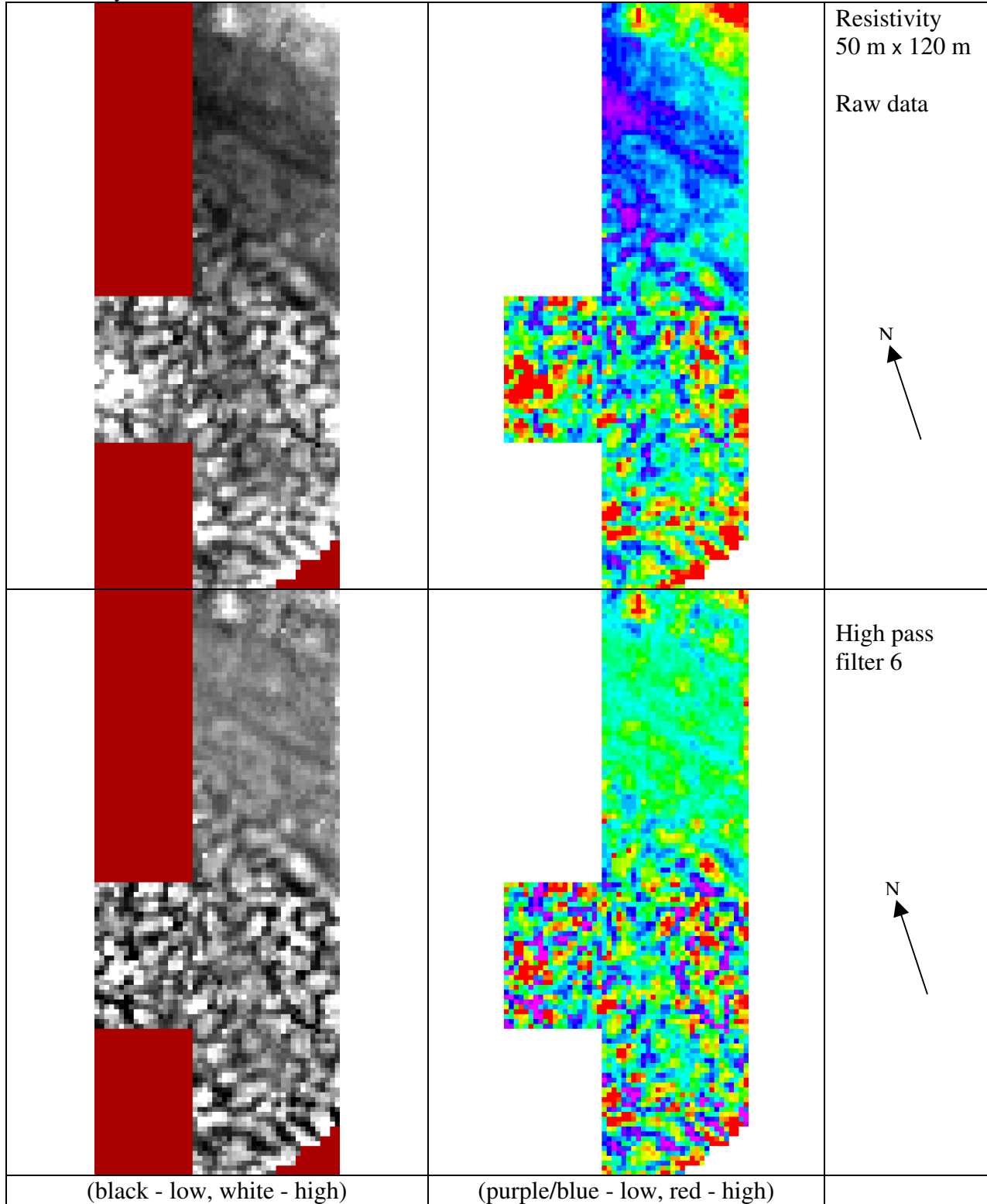
Site topography:

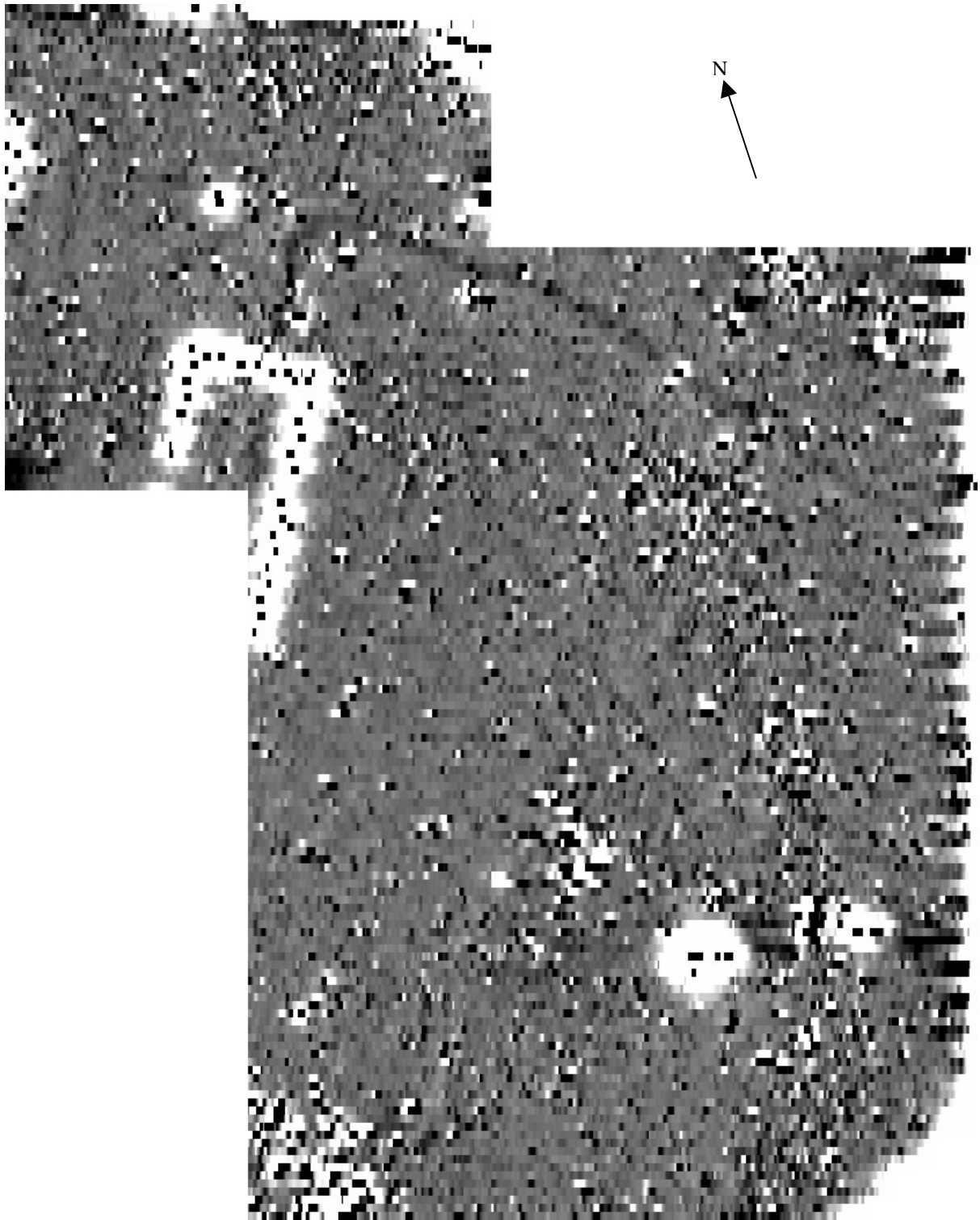
Level field with fine grass. Metal fencing and trees along the east and north sides of the survey area. Some unevenness to the surface in the south east portion of the area covered.

Results:

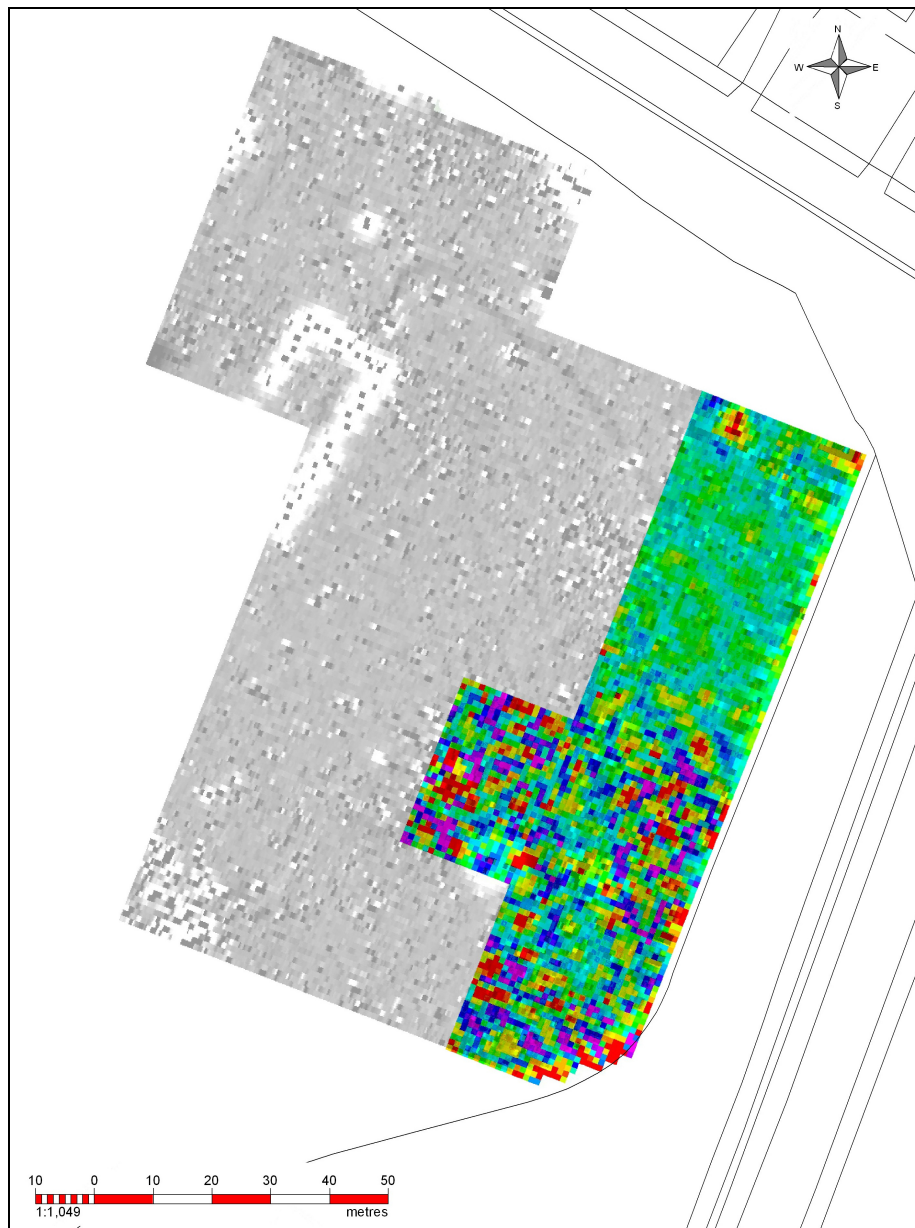
The images in this section are orientated for presentation. The images are not to a common scale.

Resistivity





Magnetometry 150 m x 120 m range +3 to -4 nT



Superimposition of resistivity and magnetometry results.

Discussion:

The main features in the magnetic survey of this site are a rectilinear set of unusually strong responses towards the W side of the survey with a line of weaker responses running NE from the group of very strong responses, before turning SE. The main rectilinear feature may not have a turn at the S end of the E arm where it runs out of the survey coverage but appears to have a gap at the S end of the W arm. The feature is approximately 16 by 35 m. A large magnetic anomaly is in the S central part of the survey which, although only partly within the resistivity survey, caused only a small group of low resistance values.

The resistivity survey has a line of low values matching the weaker line recorded in the magnetometry survey. Apart from that it had no interpretable patterns but divided very



clearly in the variation recorded in the S compared to the N. It was observed that the surface in the S was bumpier than in the N.

The original circular target feature we were later informed was probably the remains of a informal car racing track. The intensity of the rectangular feature on the edge of the magnetometry survey suggests a reinforced concrete foundation, with the weaker signal a utility trench connecting to the road to the E. None of the maps examined show a building in this position, although a smaller structure is shown 75 m to the E on a map of 1975. This field has been used in the past for both cricket and football but the most likely reason for this feature is a temporary encampment of the Royal West Kent Brigade who were posted there prior to the D Day landings of June 1944. The encampment may have required a utility building which was removed shortly after the Brigade left.

The difference in character between the N and S parts of the resistivity survey area probably relates to different utilisation areas within the 1944 encampment or possibly to the activities inside the car track.

Report by Dr I Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch