



## **Stanmoor Ring Ditch, Whittlesford Report**

During September 2022 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site to determine whether any archaeological features were detectable.

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

**Site liaison:** Leslie Harrison.

**Site conditions:** Stubble or rolled ready for planting.

**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:** TL452480, Stanmoor Hall Farm, Whittlesford, Cambs.



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

**Purpose of survey:** Following identification of a potential ring ditch feature on an aerial photograph by the Cambridge Independent Archaeology group we were asked if we could determine if any subsurface features could be detected that might confirm their observations.



Aerial photograph of the site

**Site topography:**

The main survey site was situated on a slight high point with the ground falling principally to the south west. To the north east was a raised band with bird seed vegetation which divided the survey areas. Further to the north east the surface was essentially level. To the north west outside the survey areas there was a farm track.

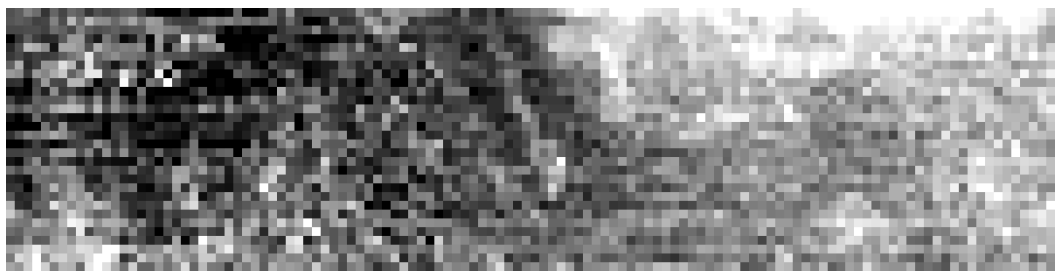
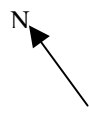
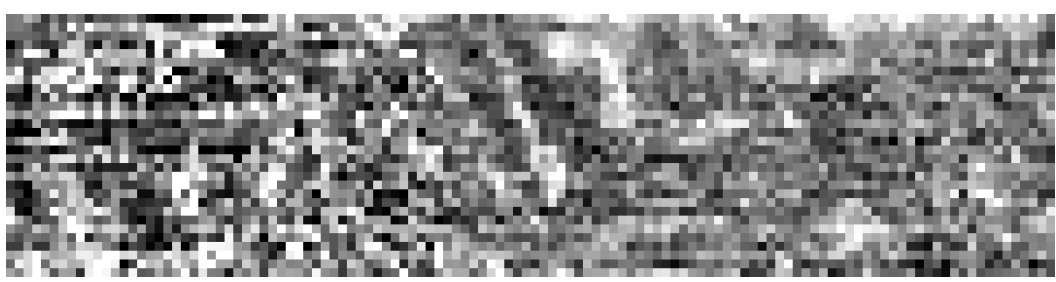
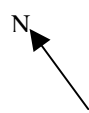
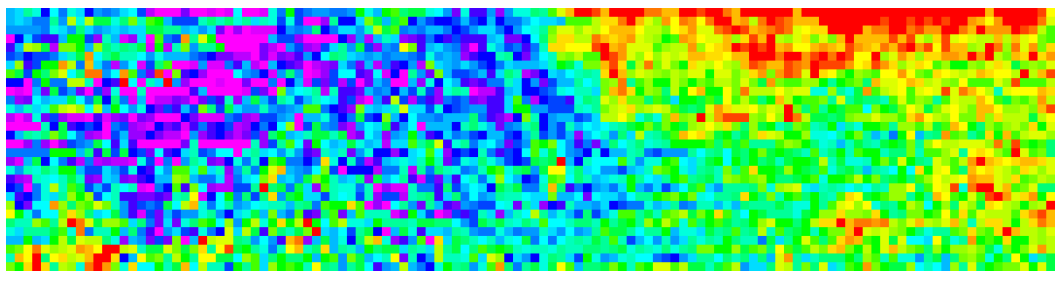

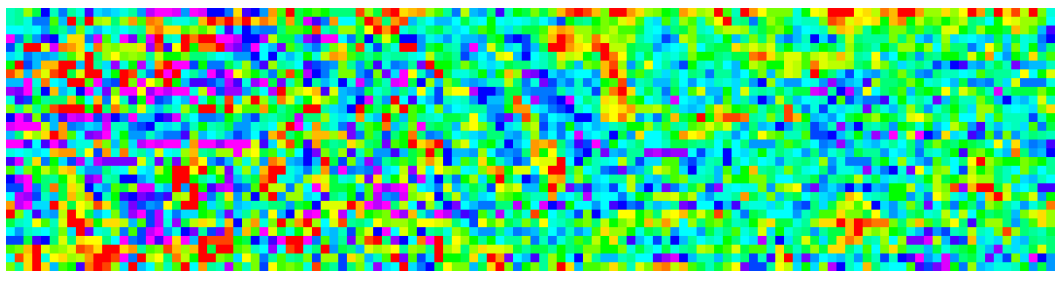

**Results:**

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

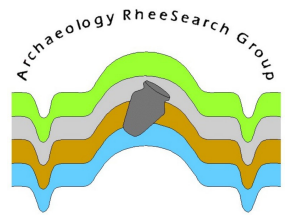
Northern resistivity survey, 30 m x 20 m

		<p>Resistivity Raw data</p> <p>N ↙</p>
		<p>High pass filter 8</p> <p>N ↙</p>
<p>(black – low, white – high)</p>	<p>(purple/blue – low, red – high)</p>	

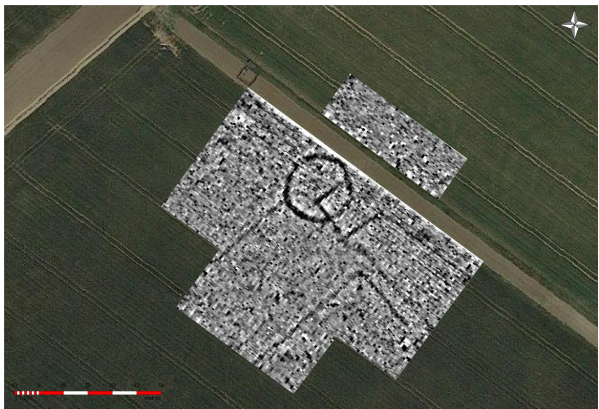
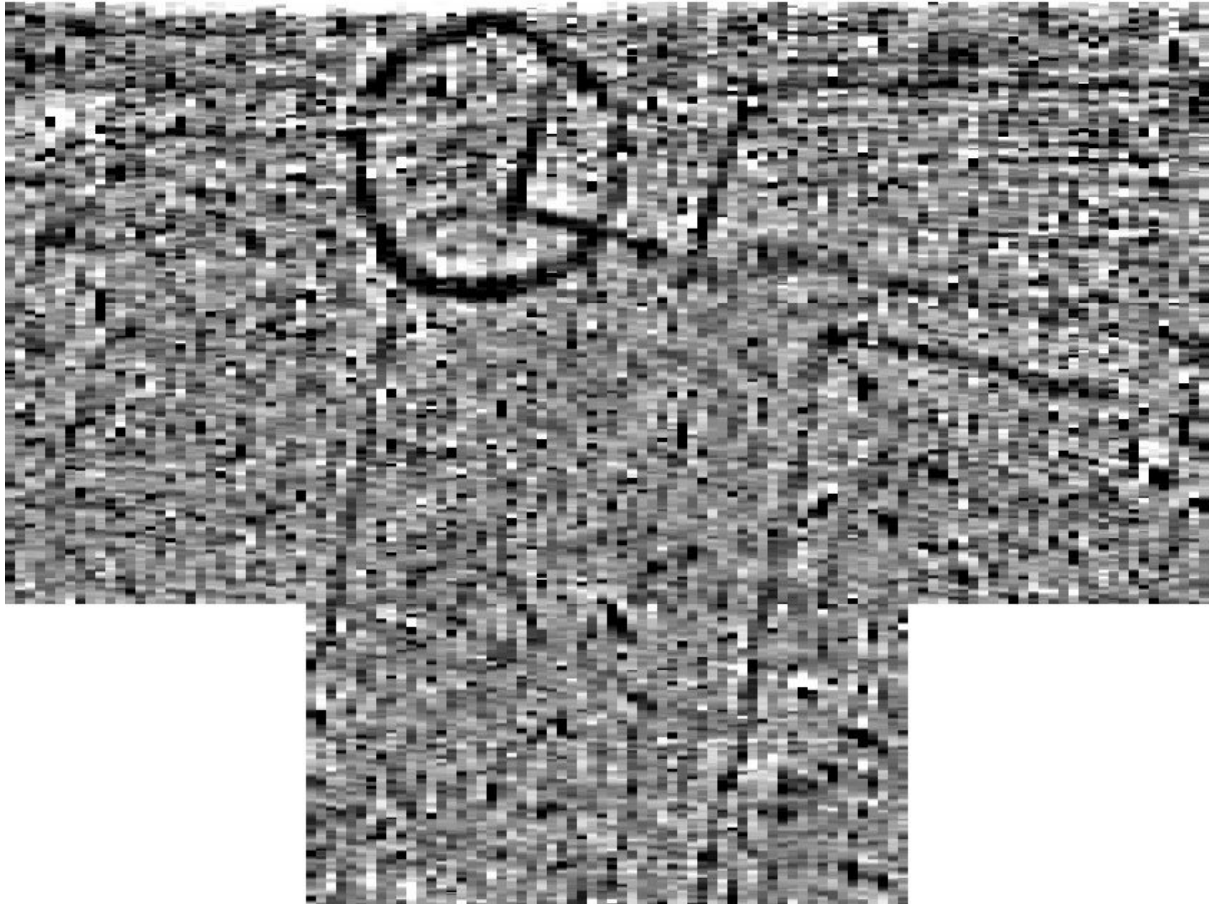
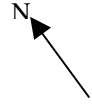
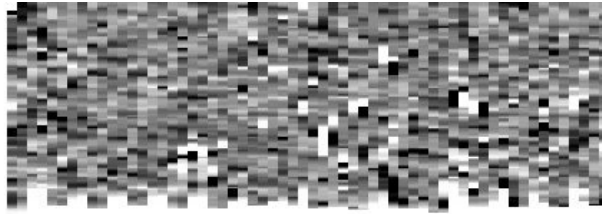
Southern resistivity survey, 120 m x 30 m

	Raw data
	N
	High pass filter 8
	N
(black – low, white – high)	
	Raw data
	N
	High pass filter 8
	N
(purple/blue – low, red – high)	





Magnetometry survey 120 m x 90 m plus 60 m x 20 m range +2 to -2 nT



Magnetometry (left) and resistivity (right) surveys on aerial photographs

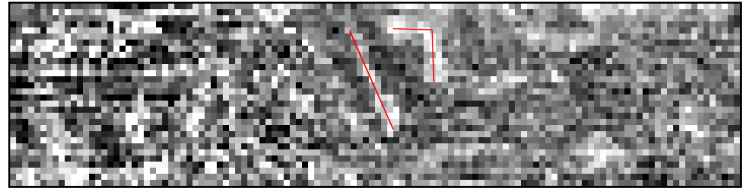
**Discussion:**

The northern area magnetometry and resistivity surveys have some very subtle features but the areas are too small to be confident that they represent underlying archaeology.

The southern magnetometry results show three features. A ring ditch with a diameter of about 25 m, three sides of an 18 m long rectangular feature overlapping the ring ditch and a set of field and track boundaries. The last is about 42 m wide with a track about 6 m wide running to the SE from the NE corner. It also overlaps the ring ditch and part of the boundary is coincident with the rectangular feature. The ring ditch and rectangular feature show stronger responses than the field and track feature.

The ring ditch is visible in the southern area resistivity results.

The diffuse pattern suggests that the residual archaeology is relatively deep with the diffusion due to the surface ploughing.



Within the ring ditch there is an area of high values in the same position as the corner of the rectangular feature showing in the magnetometry results. There are two other features marked in red on the adjacent image of the resistivity results which may be archaeological.

Overall this site suggests that three phases of activity may be involved. Firstly a ring ditched barrow, secondly a rectangular feature, which may not have been linked to the barrow but was merely taking advantage of a particular high spot, as can be seen from the contour map. Thirdly the NE edge of the ‘field and track’ combination appears to utilise the rectangular feature’s ditch as part of its boundary. The track runs parallel to the main ditch line on the NE edge of a known Roman site about 450 m to the SE.

