



Stapleford School Field Report

In February 2016 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site to determine whether any archaeological features were detectable.

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

Site liaison: John Street.

Site conditions: Mown grass.

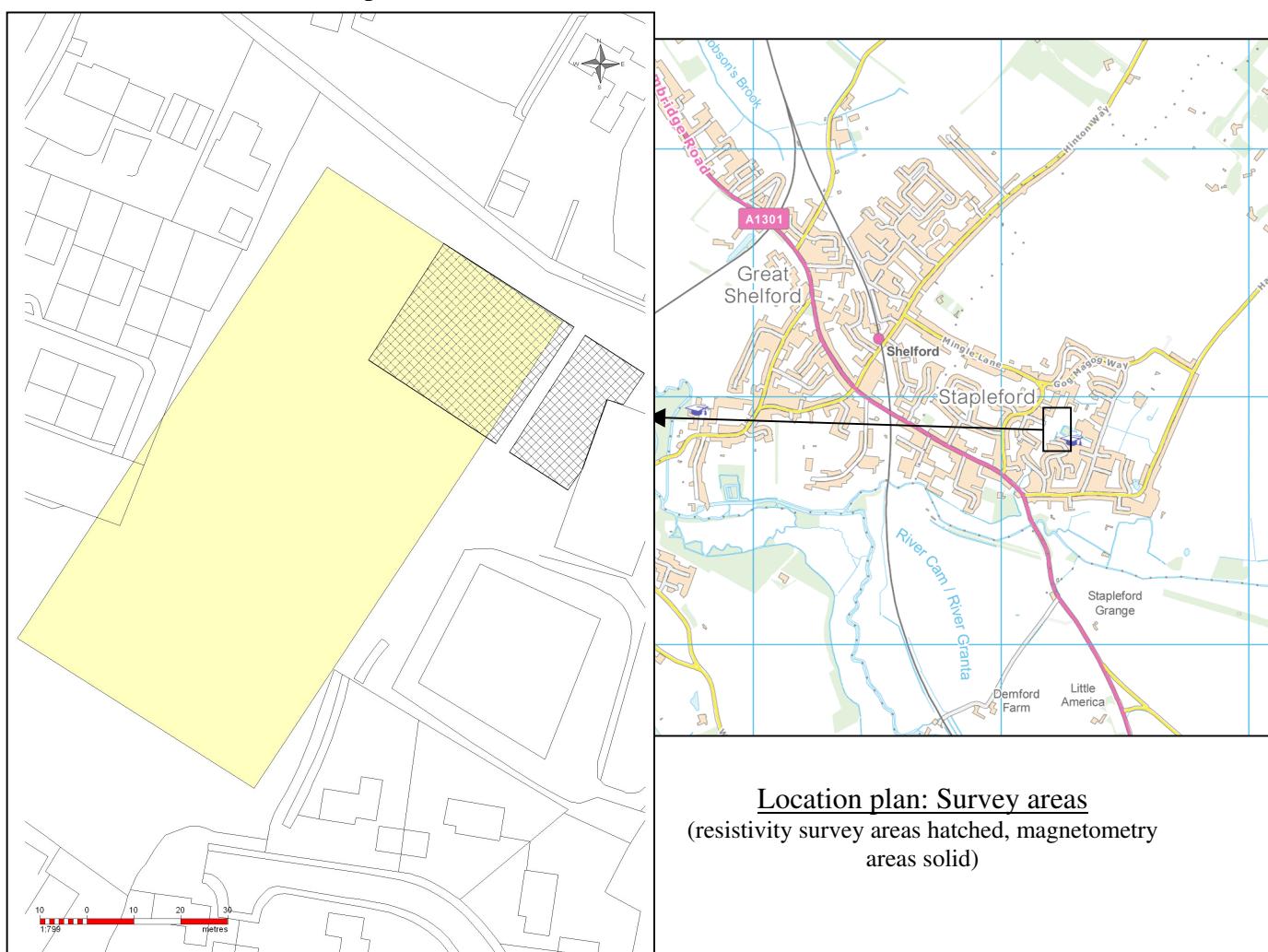
Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer; TRCIA 50 cm twin probe.

Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.

Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Raw data available as separate appendices.

Location: TL472519, Stapleford, Cambs.



Purpose of survey: The purpose of this survey was to determine if any subsurface features could be detected relating to a building extending into school grounds in the north-eastern part of the field.

Site topography:

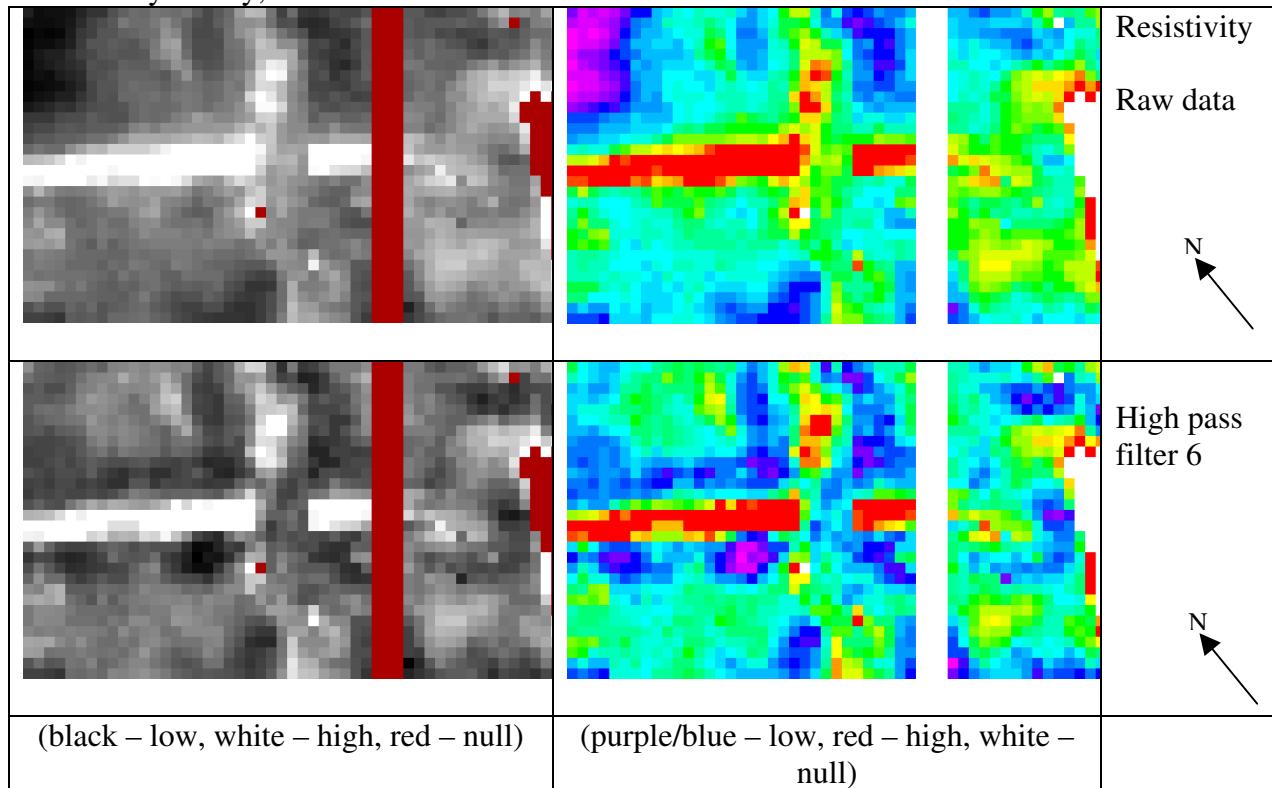
Moderately uneven grass playing field with a level school play area to the east at the northern end of the survey. The two parts separated by a metal fence. Houses to the west.



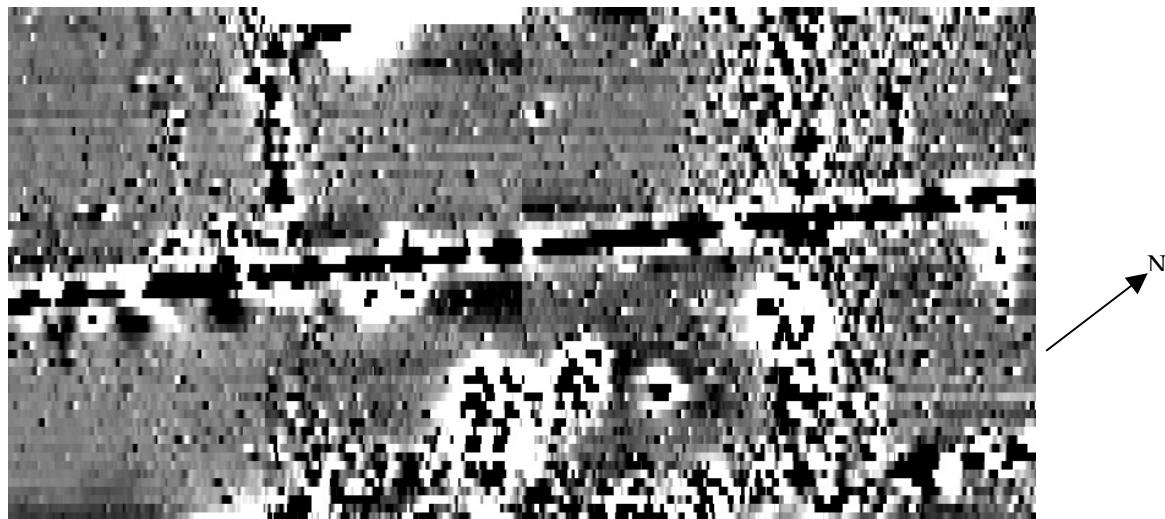
Results:

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

Resistivity survey, 30 m x 50 m

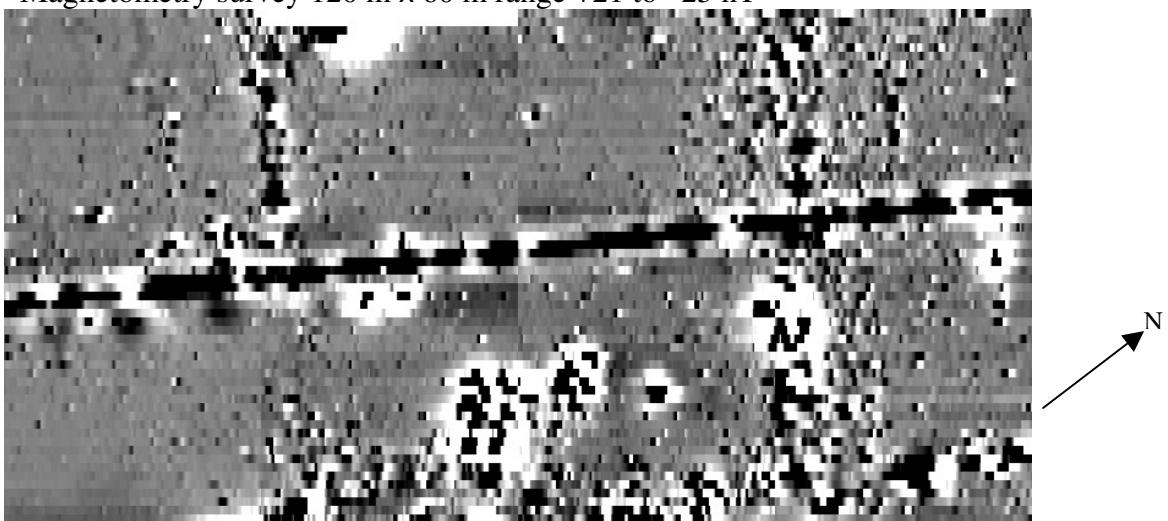


Magnetometry survey 120 m x 60 m range +9 to -13 nT

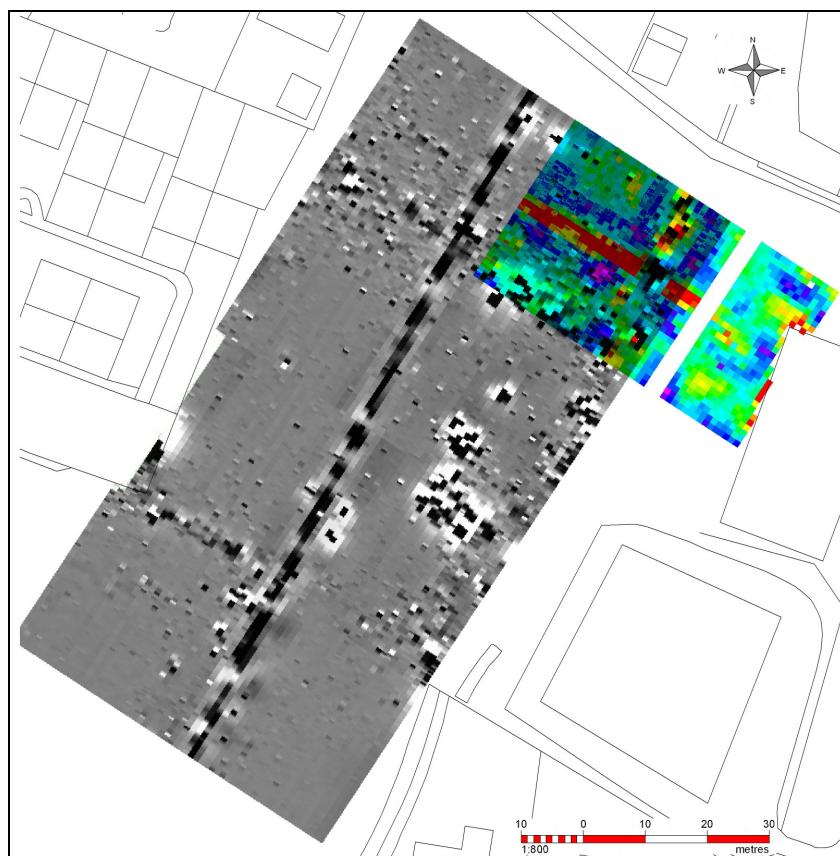




Magnetometry survey 120 m x 60 m range +21 to -25 nT



Superimposed magnetometer and resistivity results

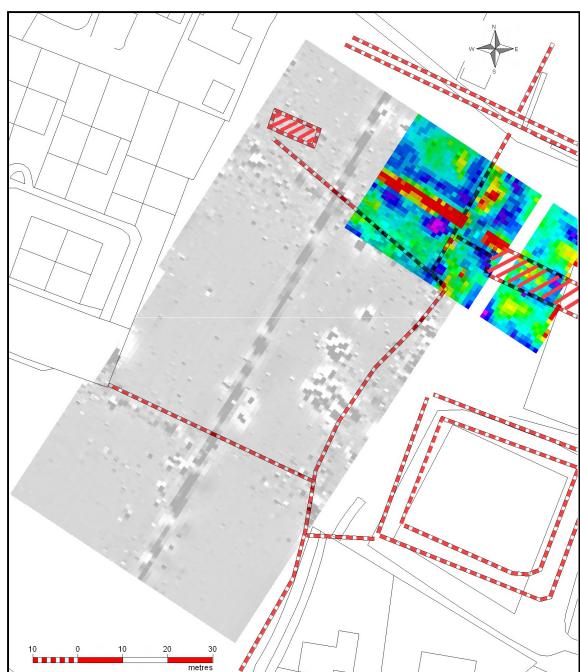


Discussion:

Magnetometry surveys in close proximity to buildings are frequently affected by those buildings and their services and this site was not an exception. The given ranges in the magnetometry images above indicate that most archaeological signals would be lost in the



high background. The main feature in the magnetic survey is a utility pipe or cable running up the middle with a possible spur running W towards the S end. The spur runs along a boundary shown on the Inclosure map, but there is no strong signal on the E side of the main utility track. We were, however, informed that levelling and infilling were carried out on the site. The spur could therefore be a remnant of an Inclosure boundary ditch, a utility, or both. At the N end of the main utility track it is crossed by a band of noisy responses, diffuse to the W and concentrated to the E. These correspond to another Inclosure boundary line. The more concentrated signals to the E perhaps suggest infilling although this did not produce any distinct feature within the resistivity results. A small patch of magnetic noise immediately N of the W band may be coincident with a building shown on the Inclosure map. It should be noted, however, that the superimposition of old maps on a modern plans rarely results in an exact match. There is a small patch of magnetic noise in the NE corner of the survey which has a corresponding high resistance response. This is bracketed by low resistance responses suggesting a metalled track to the road to the N. The discrete areas of magnetic noise to the E in the centre of the survey area are unexplained. They may be associated with the still-extant moat which is shown on the Inclosure map as a double square.



Features on the Inclosure map (dashed red) overlaid on the survey results

has very little magnetic response. The interruption in the band suggests that it predates the track to the road which might be Inclosure related.