

## Thriplow OS Plot 37 Report

In August 2010 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site.

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

**Site liaison:** Oliver Walston

**Site conditions:** Stubble.

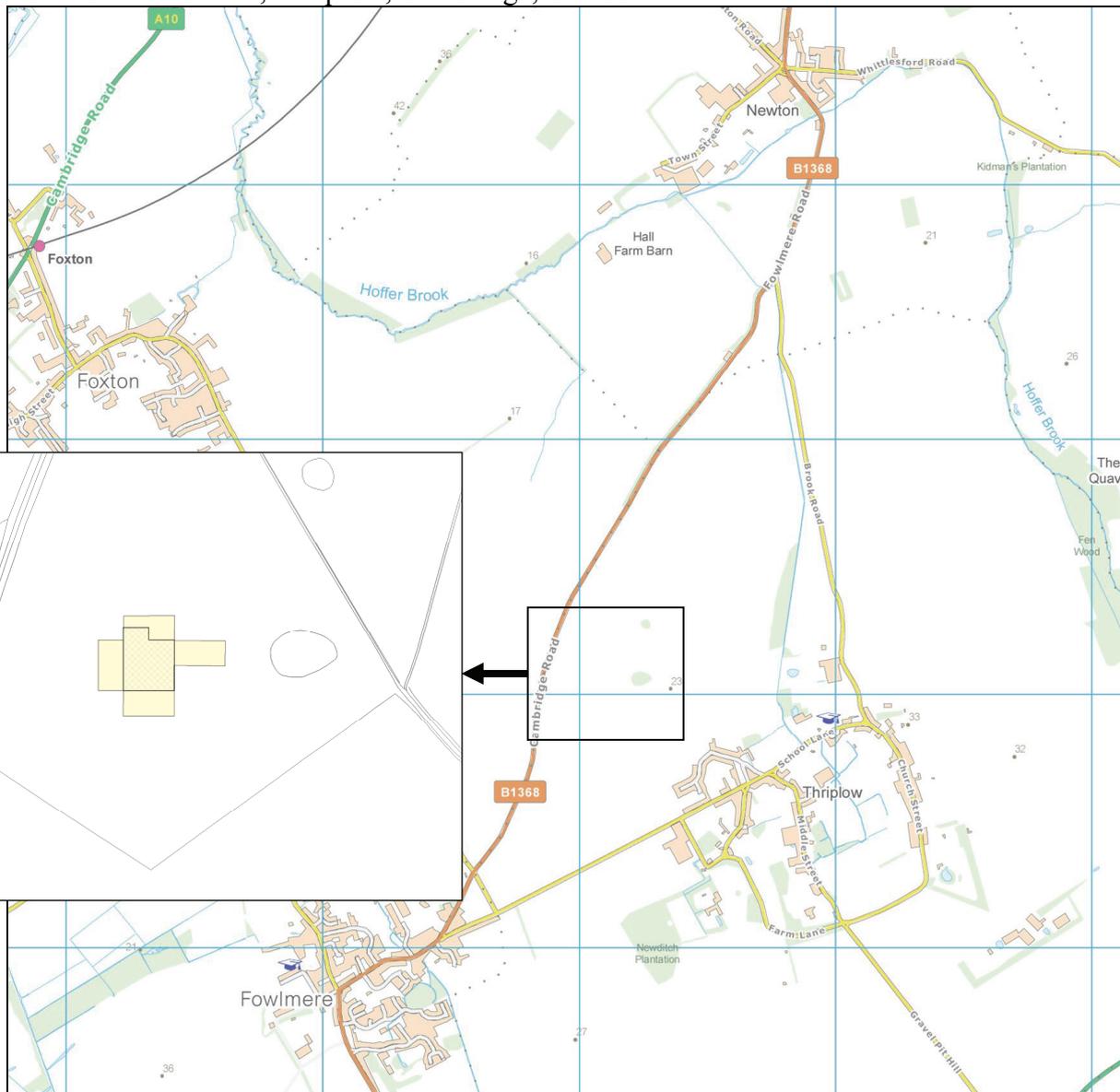
**Equipment:** Bartington 601 gradiometer; TRCIA 50 cm twin probe

Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.

Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Raw data are available as separate appendices.

**Location:** TL430470, Thriplow, Cambridge, Cambs.



### Location plan: Survey areas

(resistivity survey areas hatched, magnetometry areas solid)



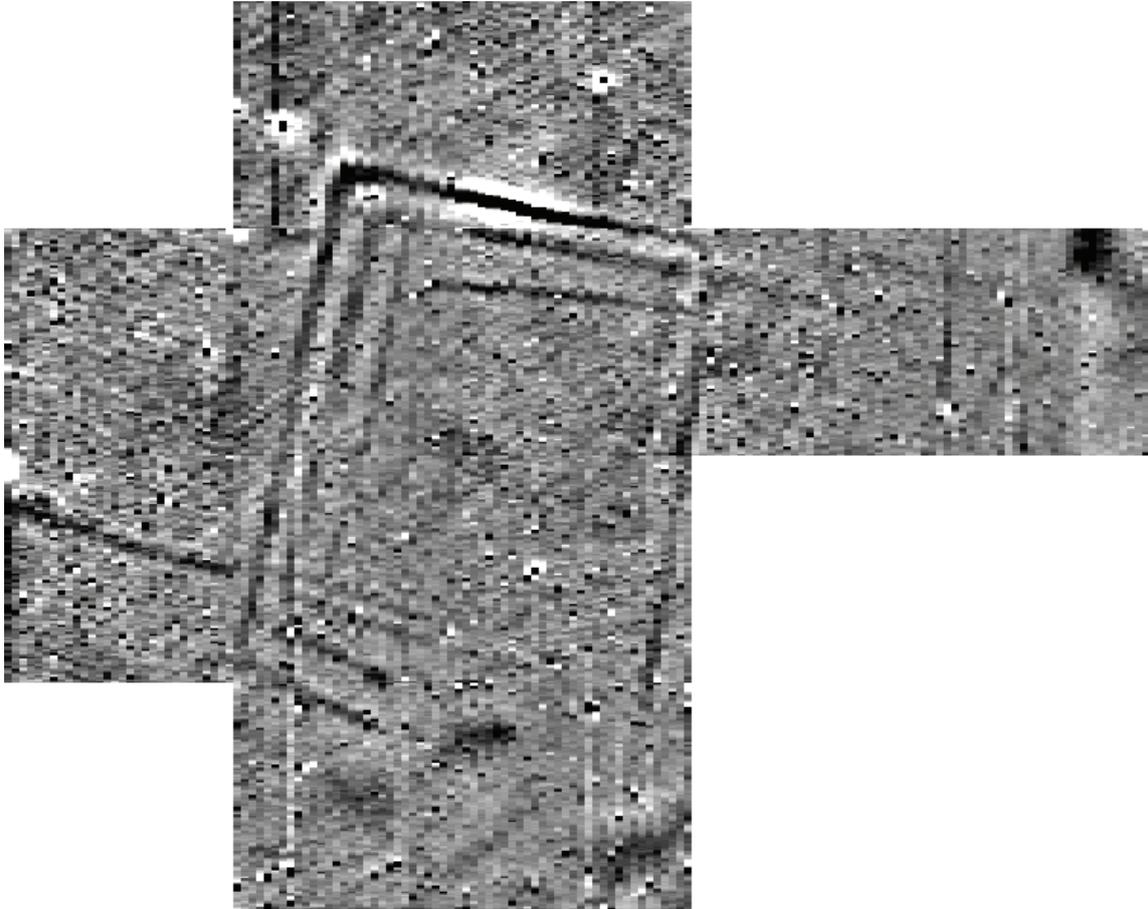
**Purpose of survey:** The purpose of this survey was to determine if any subsurface features could be detected supporting the observation of a cropmark on the aerial photograph below.



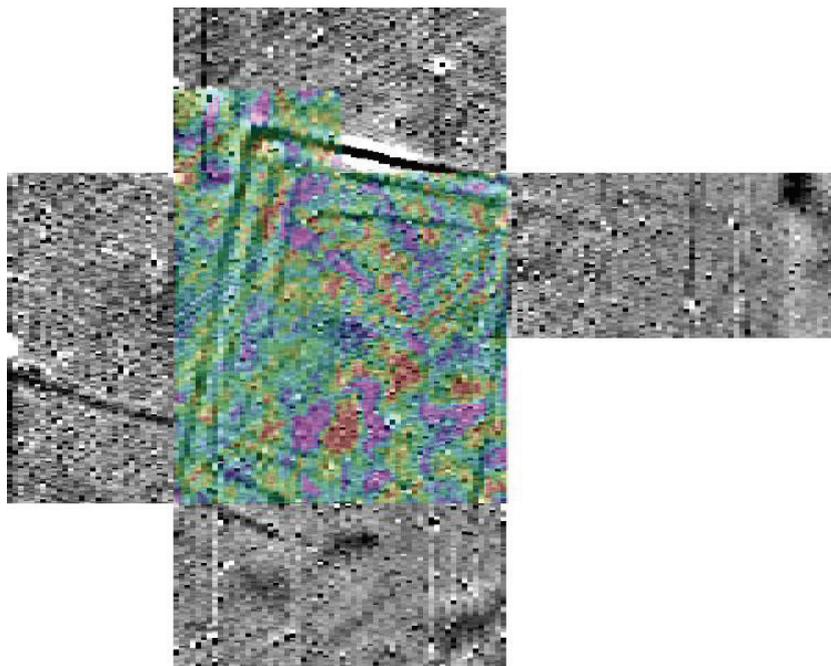
**Results:**

*The images in this section are orientated for presentation. However grid north is almost the same as the top of the page. The images are not to a common scale.*

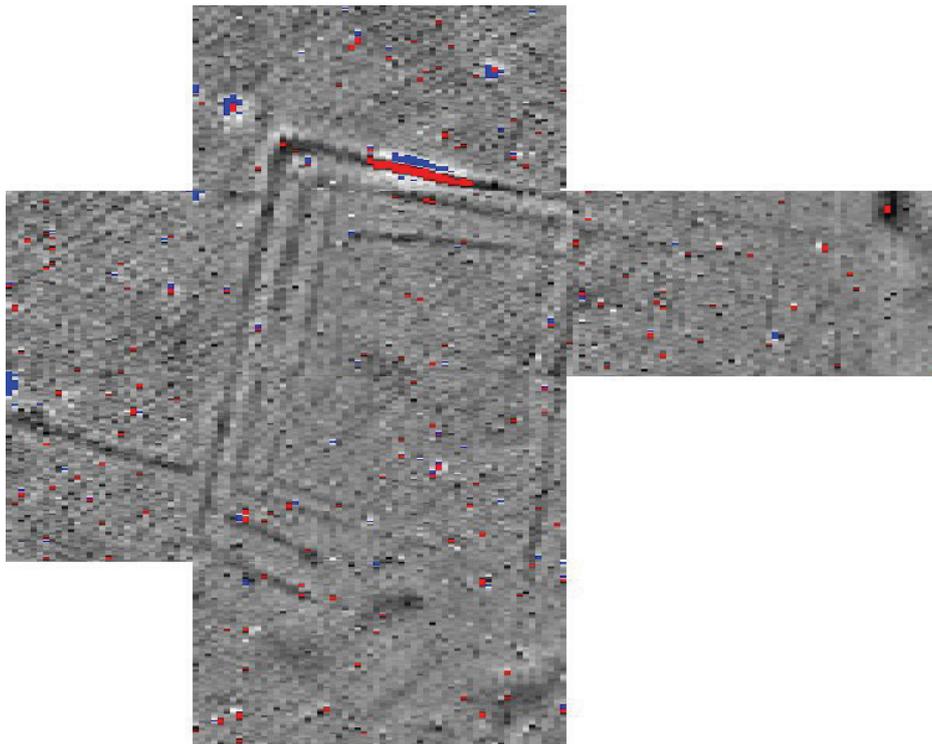
		<p>Resistivity 60 m x 75 m</p> <p>Raw data</p>
		<p>High pass filter 6</p>
<p>(black - low, white - high, red null)</p>	<p>(purple/blue - low, red - high, white null)</p>	



Magnetometry 120 m x 150 m range  $\pm 2$  nT  
(black - high, white - low)



Superimposition of resistivity and magnetometry results.



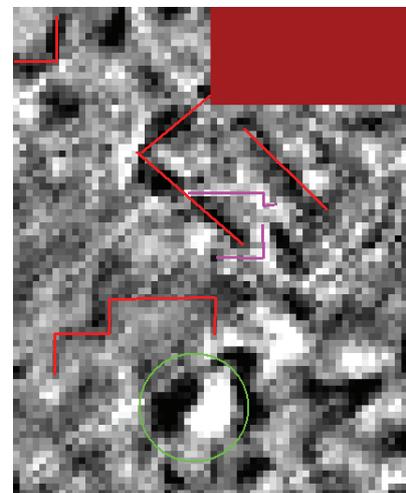
Magnetometry peak values >19 nT

### Resistivity

The resistivity results are confusing on this site. They appear to show a substantial portion of an approximately rectangular feature as low values near the top centre of the images about 23 m long and 12 m wide orientated with the long axis NW–SE. The N corner and SE side are confused by faint indications of ridge and furrow running SW–NE. Just S of this feature are parts of a well defined rectilinear form orientated E–W. Towards the bottom centre of the images there is a mirror image pair of high and low areas. These may be geological.

### Magnetometry

The magnetometry results show an almost rectangular feature orientated with the long axis pointing just E of N about 66 m long and 48 m wide with a double ditch about 5 m apart on the N, W and S sides and much less clearly on the E side. The inner ditch on the N side may continue further to the E. Two further ditches are apparent inside the double ditched enclosure, one running parallel to the W side and another, on a slightly different alignment along the N side. To the W there is a linear feature running WNW, which continues with a slight change of direction and much reduced intensity after the first N–S ditch line. From the second N–S line the linear feature runs parallel to and about 3 m away from another linear feature giving the appearance of a trackway. It is surprising that peak values, suggesting fired material, occur on only one side of the enclosure.





**Discussion:**

This site has some perplexing features. In the magnetometry, the single linear feature from the W changes to double at the outer enclosure boundary which has no entrance break and the double track passes the southern edge of the strong high and low feature shown in the resistivity, where it also becomes much less distinct. The larger rectangular feature in the resistivity is not aligned with the enclosure shown in the magnetometry. The site is on level ground at about 25 m O.D. approximately 1 km away from higher ground in Thriplow and 2 km from higher ground in Foxton. The nearest present day stream is about 700 m away.

Despite wide consultation the only suggestions made regarding this site, in the absence of any excavation, have been that it could possibly be a Roman fortlet or signal station or with an Iron Age outer ditch a type of Viereckschanzen.

Report by Dr I Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch