



## **Vesey's Manor Meldreth Report**

In May 2012 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out resistivity surveys on this site.

**Members participating:** Pat Davies, Brian Bridgland, Bruce Milner, Ian Sanderson, Gill Shapland.

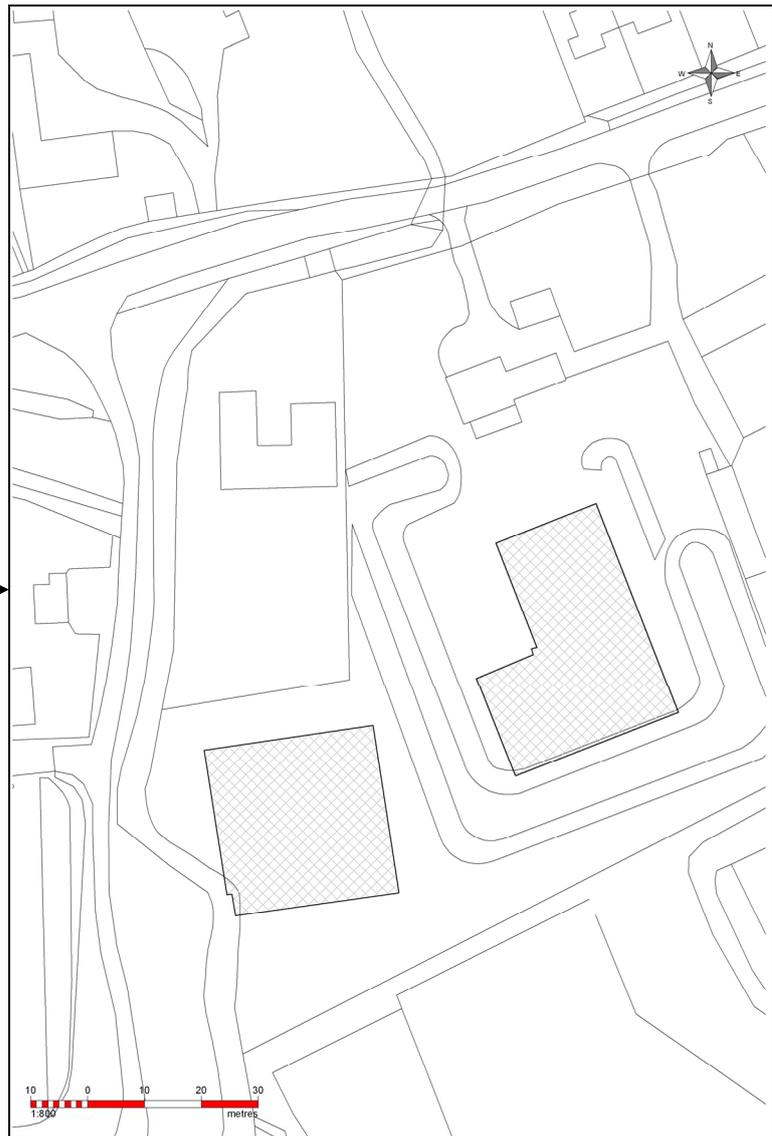
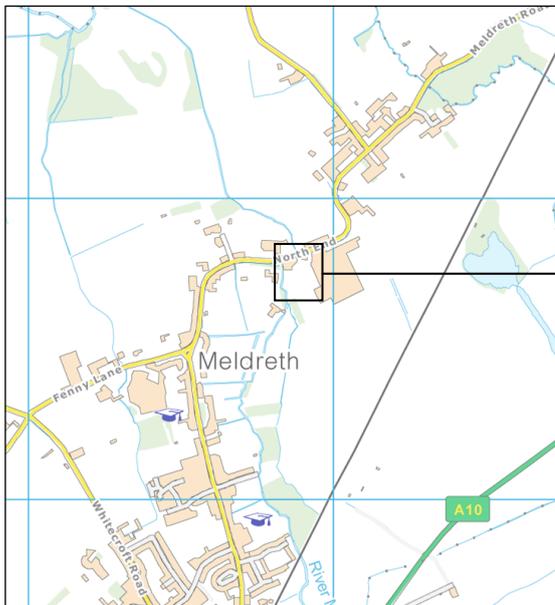
**Site liaison:** Margaret & Terry Lynch.

**Site conditions:** Garden.

**Equipment:** Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Raw data are available as separate appendices.

**Location:** TL379467, Meldreth, Cambs.



**Location plan: Survey areas**  
(resistivity survey areas hatched)

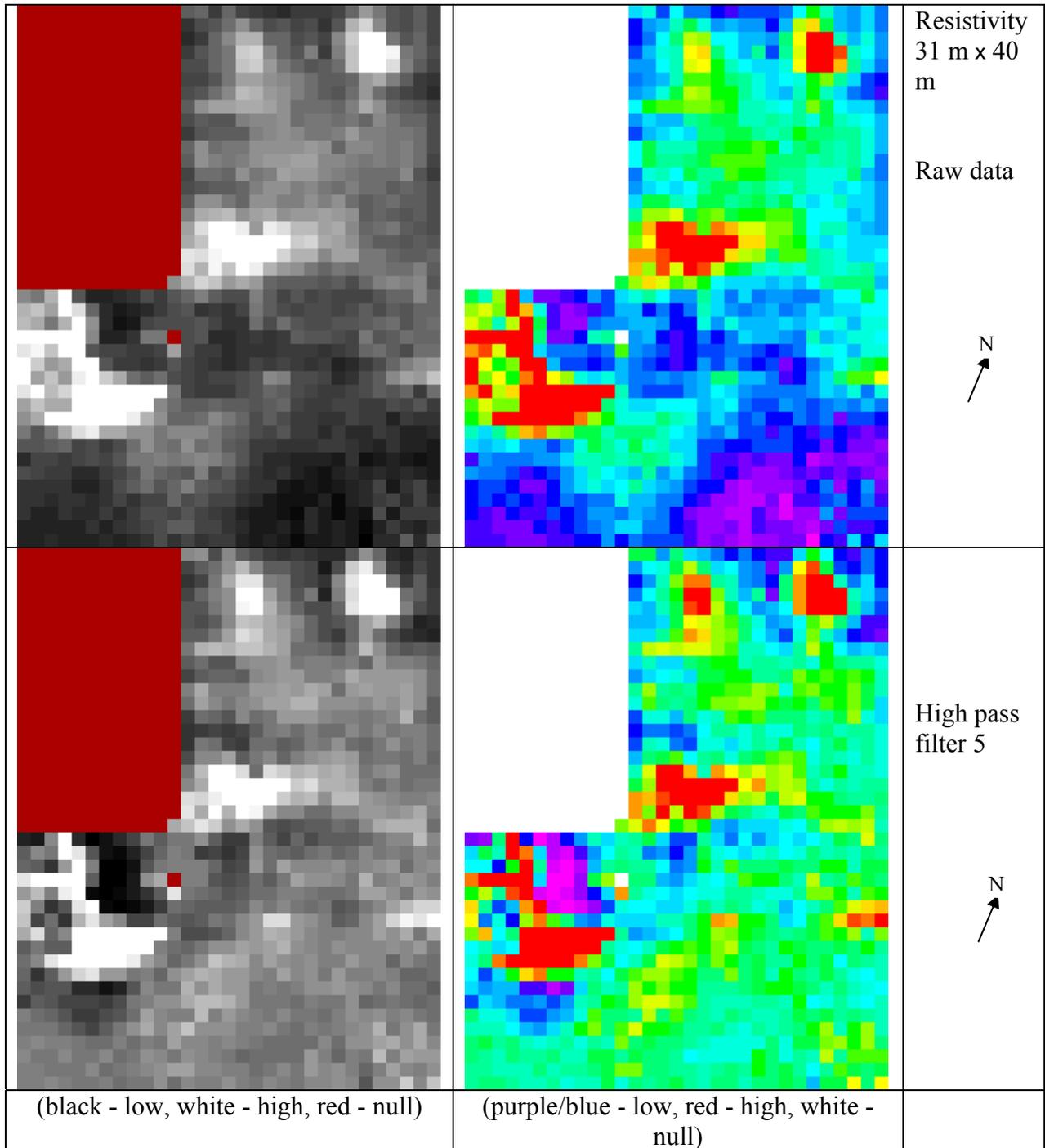
**Purpose of survey:** The purpose of this survey was to determine if any subsurface features could be detected pertaining to previous buildings on the site.

**Site topography:** The site was in two parts. The E portion comprised well kept garden with close mown grass, shrubs and flower beds bounded on 3 sides by a deep wide ditch. Some small trees limited the extent of the survey. The W portion was rougher grass and had a stream running along the W side.

**Results:**

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

Resistivity: Eastern area







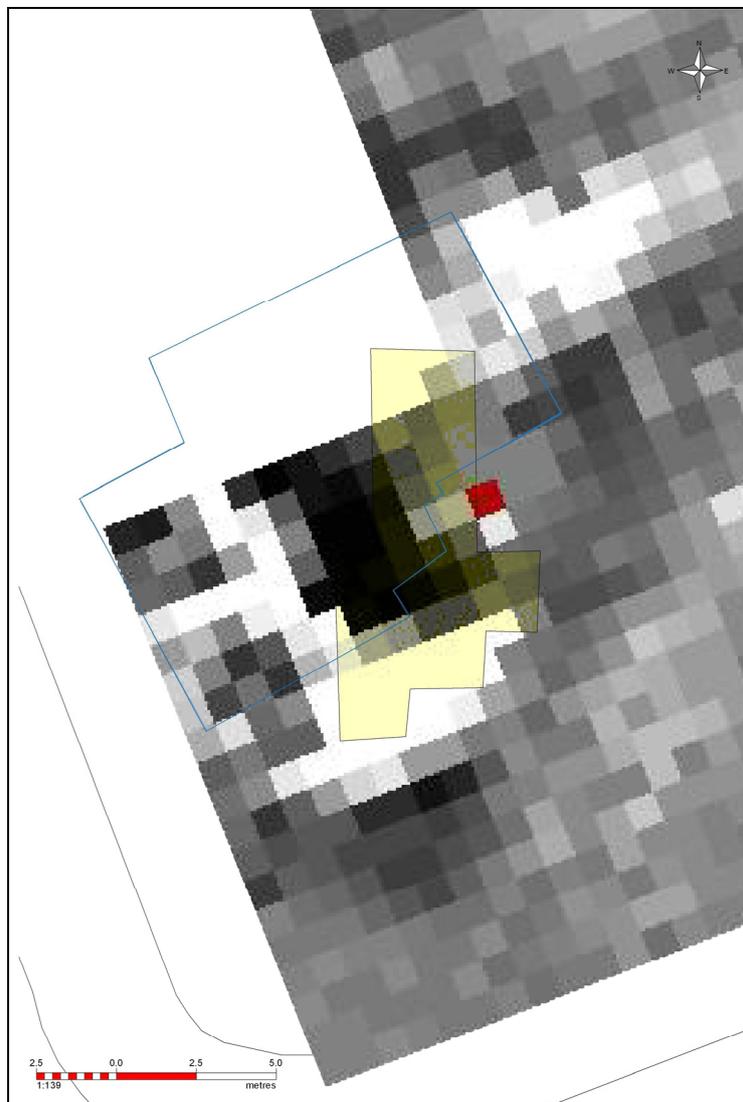
Meldreth Inclosure Award Plan 1820 (Cambridge Record Office QRDC34)



Resistivity results on aerial photograph

**Discussion:**

The E survey area has two areas of high values on its N edge which may extend with lower responses to the S. There is no obvious explanation for these areas. There are two other large areas of high responses within this survey area. The central one may extend with lower values to the E and perhaps to the S. The W high values area has a rectilinear form associated with building foundations. Unfortunately it was not possible to link these areas in the NW because of the existing garden features. The image below shows the estimated position of the building within a moat that appears on the 1903 OS map (yellow), as well as on the 1887 OS map, and the Meldreth Inclosure Award map (blue outline). Both projected positions should be viewed with caution because the georeferencing of older maps to the present system is never accurate. An estimate of the potential error in positioning the 1903 map at this location is of the order of 3 m; that of the Inclosure map is of the order of 10 m. In either case the positioning is sufficiently close to indicate that the high resistance responses largely reflect the foundations of the building shown at Inclosure but do not relate to the building shown on the OS maps.



Estimated positions of a building shown on the Inclosure Award map (blue outline) and a building shown on the 1903 OS map (yellow)



The W survey area had two areas of high resistance values on its N edge between which there was a broad but narrowing line of low resistance values extending to the S. Another line of low resistance values ran parallel to the first line along the W edge of the survey, the area between the two lines showing slightly higher values than the general background responses for this area. The higher values on the N edge were probably due to moisture uptake by the trees along this edge, interrupted by two ditch lines. This suggests a broad (~8 m) track running N-S across the survey area which has a bend to the W to form a riverside track. The track may have been an alternative route to the water mill site located about 70 m S of this survey.

Report by Dr I Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch