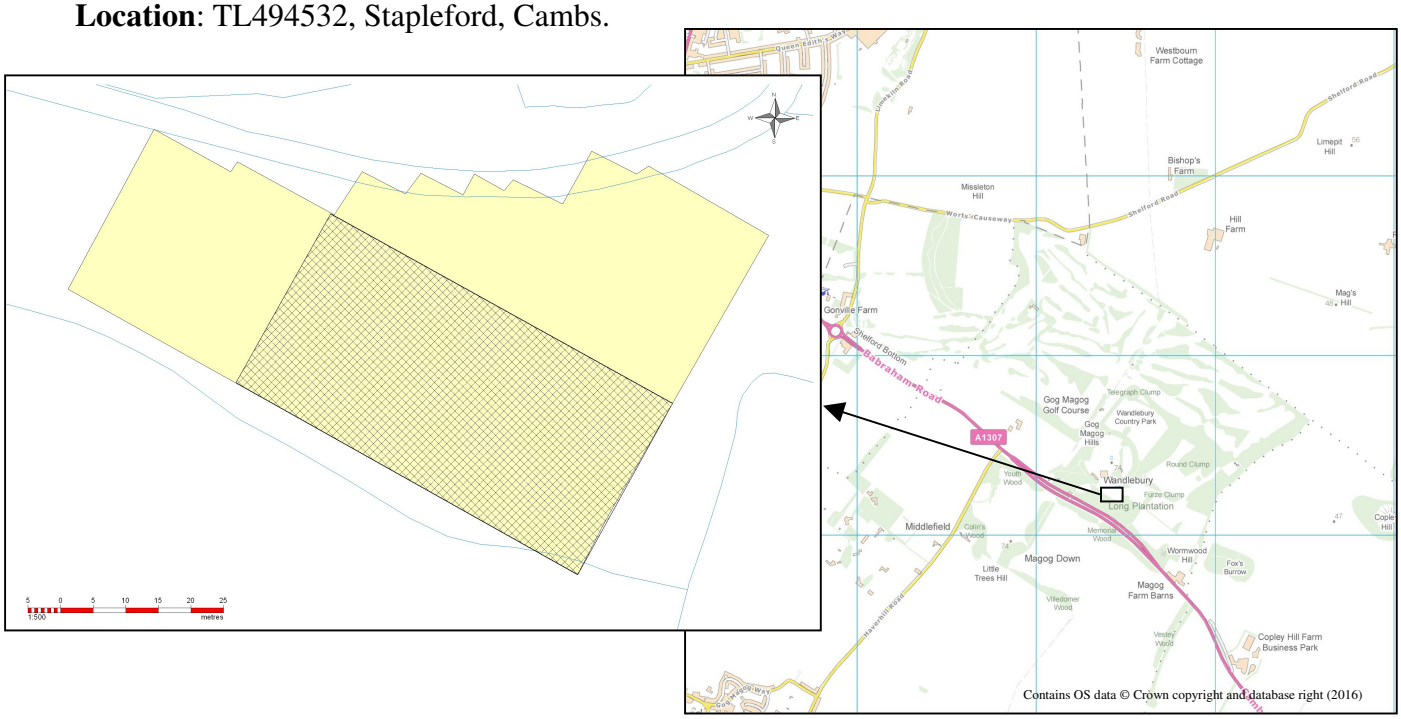
Wandlebury, Stapleford Report

On 20th April 2023 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site to determine whether any archaeological features were detectable.
Members participating: Pat Davies, Richard Freeman, Liz Livingstone, Ian Sanderson, Gill Shapland, Maureen Storey and Tony Storey.
Site liaison: Flinton Chalk.
Site conditions: Rough grass.
Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer.
Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.
TRCIA 50 cm twin & quad probe.
Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.
Raw data available as separate appendices.

Location: TL494532, Stapleford, Cambs.



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

Purpose of survey: The purpose of this survey was to determine if any subsurface archaeological features could be detected.
Site topography:

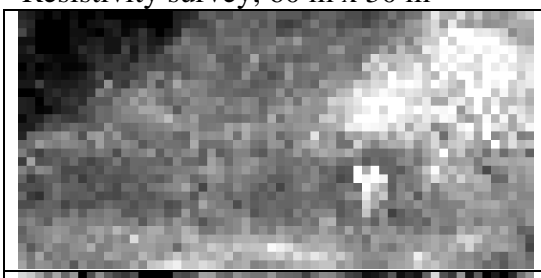
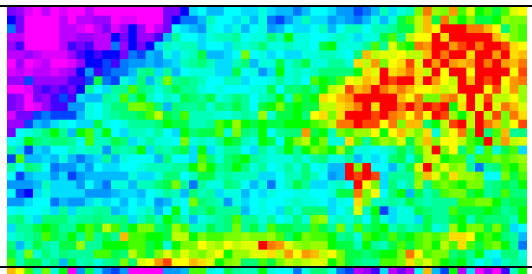
Aerial photo (left) showing position and direction of ground photo (right)

The site had a variable slope down to the south and south east with a gradient up to about 16%. There were two mature trees and several smaller ones. The surface was fairly even short rough grass apart from an area towards the south corner which may have been longstanding turf cuts stacked next to their cut sites. These are visible in the ground photograph above. A larger indentation in the same area may have been a tree throw. The site was bounded by a path to the north, woodland with post and wire fencing to the south and extensions of grassland to the east and west.

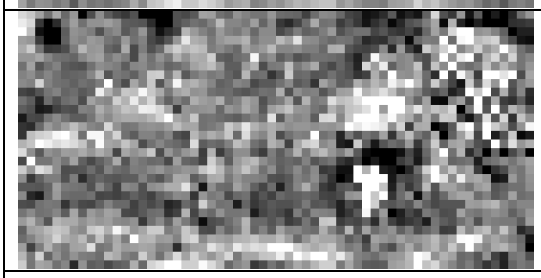
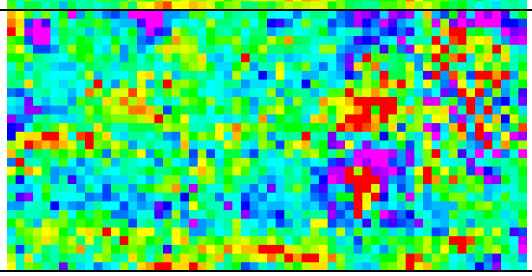
Results:

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

Resistivity survey, 60 m x 30 m

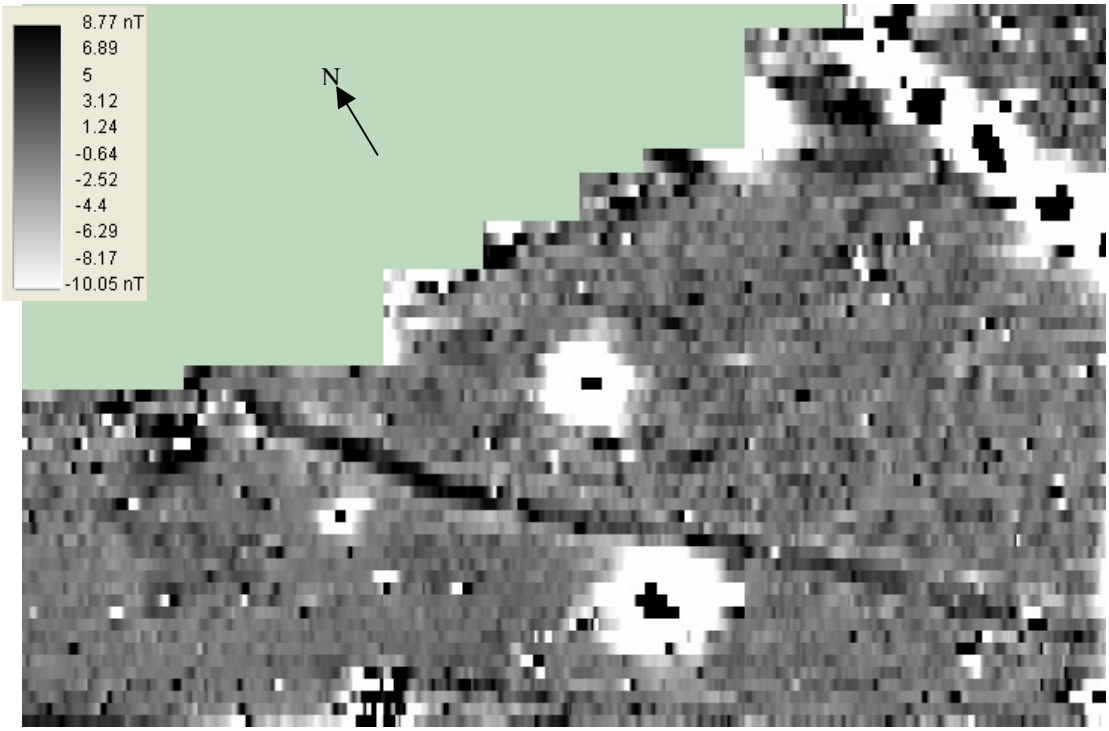
<table>
<tr><td>  </td><td>  </td><td>Resistivity

Raw data

N</td></tr>
<tr><td>  </td><td>  </td><td>High pass filter 6

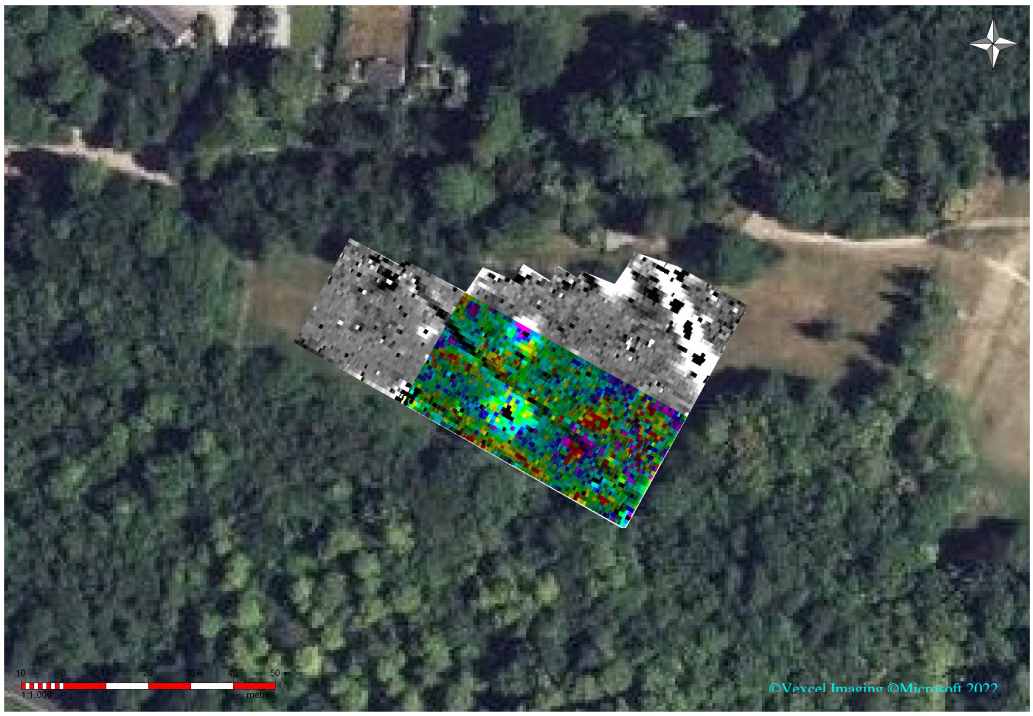
N</td></tr>
<tr><td>(black – low, white – high)</td><td>(purple/blue – low, red – high)</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

Magnetometry +9 to –10 nT, 60 m x 90 m



Discussion:
The magnetometry results show a utility service line running across the E corner of the survey area and a linear feature running NW—SE across the middle of the survey. The linear feature passes between two anomalies with particularly strong responses.

The main feature in the resistivity results is an area of high and low responses about 17 m from the SE side and about 11 m from the SW side of the survey area. This corresponds with the position of the largest tree within the site. To the N of that feature there is an area of high values and to the E an area with adjacent high and low value forming a speckled effect. All of these features correspond with an area of disturbed ground indicated in the adjacent image.



Results superimposed on an aerial photograph

Acknowledgement:
Thanks to Jane Matthews of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit for providing the GPS data to enable accurate location of our grids.

Report by Dr I Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch