



Whittlesford Church Field Report

In September 2013 and subsequently Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site.

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

Site Liaison: Ashley Arbon

Site conditions: Rough grazed grass.

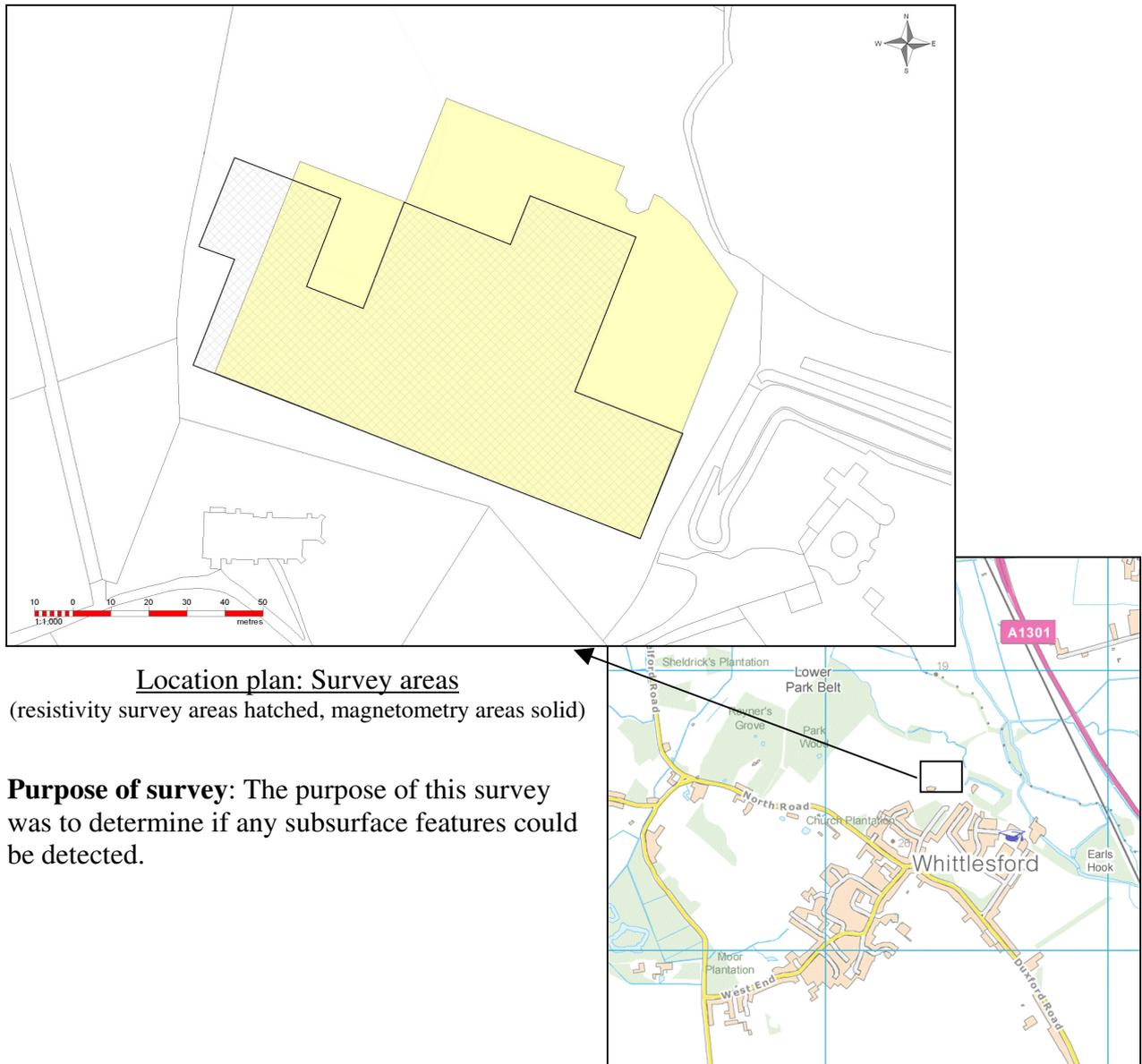
Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer; TRCIA 50 cm twin probe.

Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.

Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Raw data are available as separate appendices.

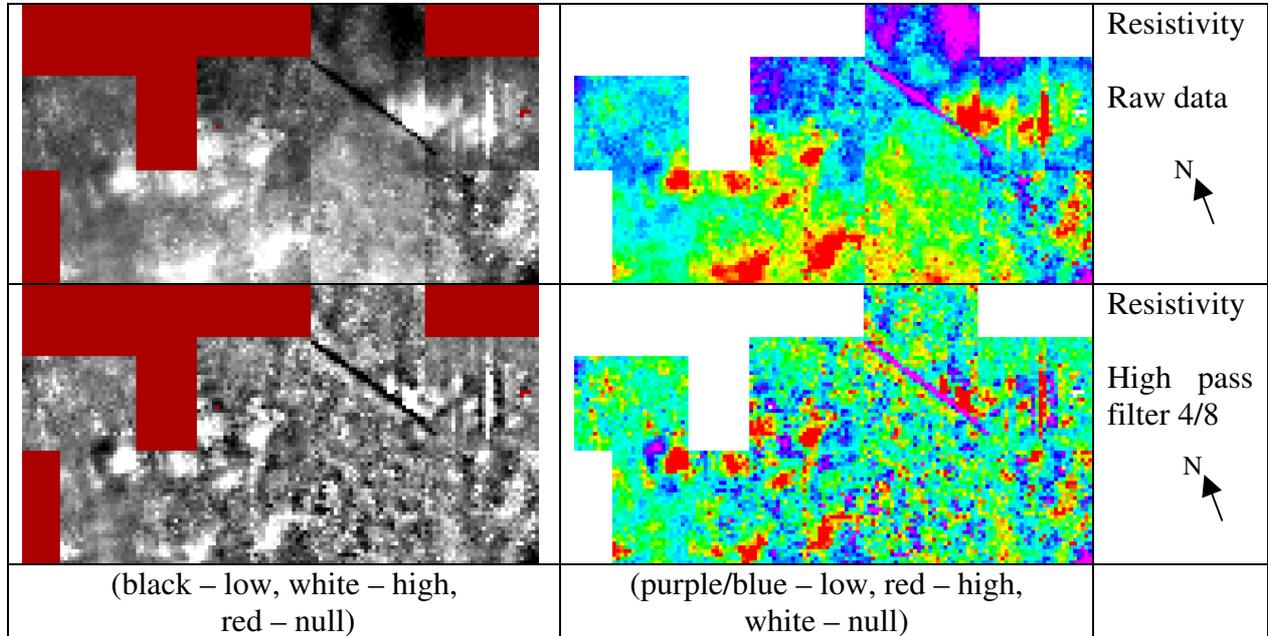
Location: TL 474486, adjacent to the church of St Mary & St Andrew, Whittlesford, Cambridgeshire.



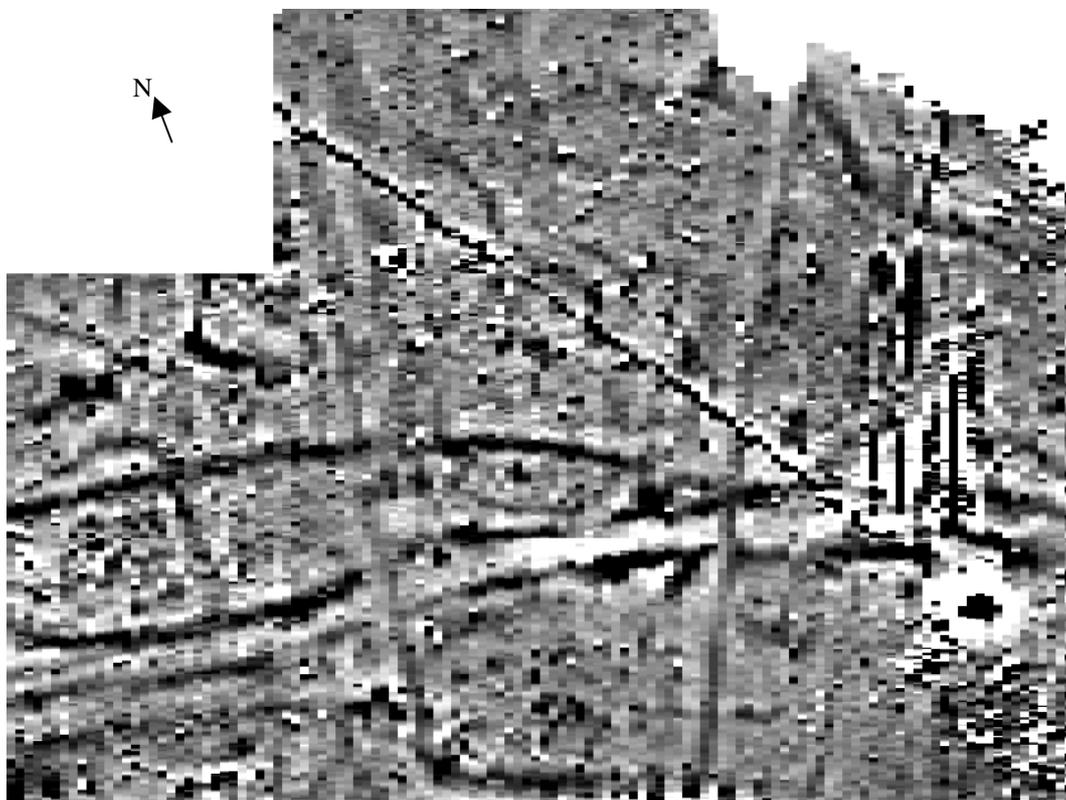
Results:

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

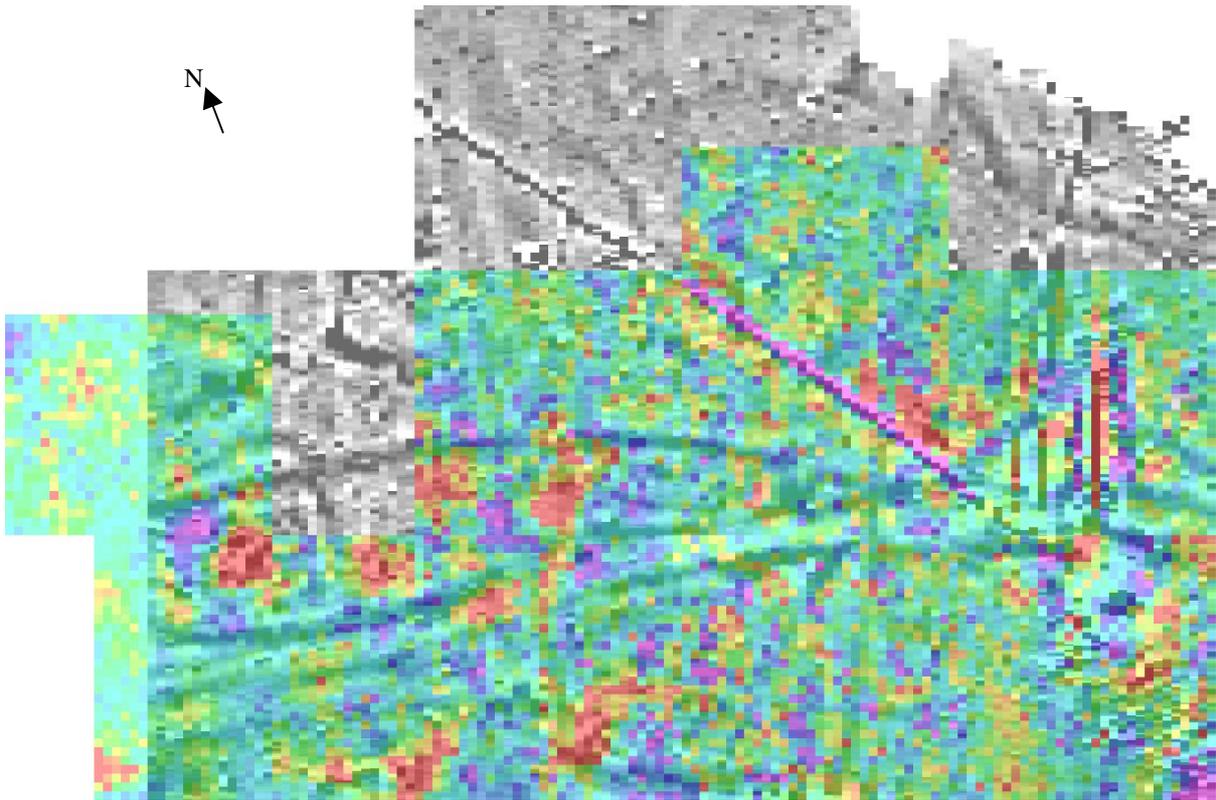
Resistivity
136 m x 74 m



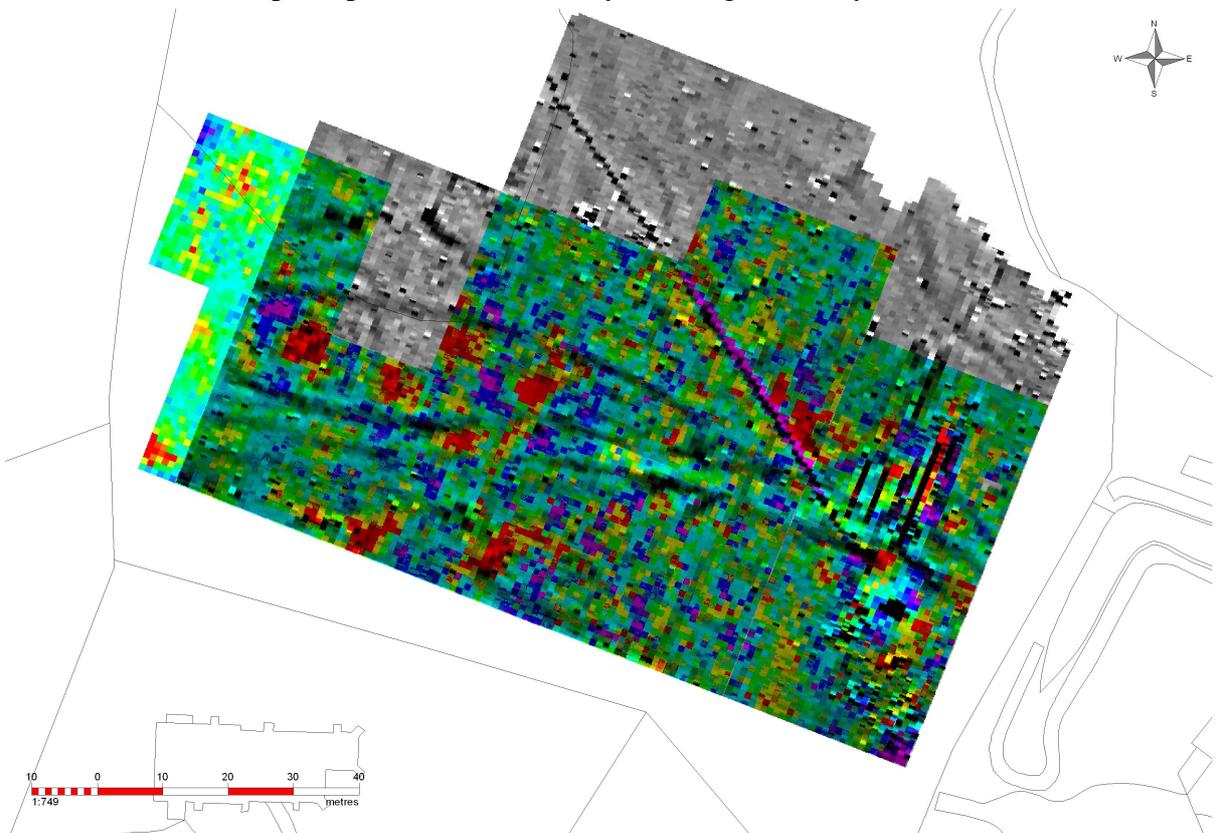
Magnetometry



Magnetometry 150 m x 90 m range +8 to -8 nT



Superimposition of resistivity and magnetometry results.



Superimposition of resistivity and magnetometry results in context.



Discussion:

The most distinct feature in both the resistivity and magnetometry results is a service pipe line running from the SE corner of surveys roughly NW. Associated works probably also run from the SE corner to the NE. The principal archaeological features in the magnetometry survey are an arc running broadly E—W, a sinuous pair of parallel lines running in the same direction to the S of the arc feature and two fainter convergent lines running N—S. The N—S line to the W interrupts the sinuous lines and, but slightly to the E, the arc line. The other N—S line may interrupt the S sinuous line but no distinct break is visible where the arc line joins the N sinuous line. One of the two N—S lines is aligned with the E church yard boundary and both N—S lines converge close to the entrance to the church yard.

The arc line possibly represents a substantial boundary ditch, and, given that late Saxon pottery finds have been made during excavations on the site, might be the outer enclosure ditch of a community around the church immediately to the S of the survey area. The sinuous parallel lines are probably a trackway towards a moated site to the E.

It is difficult to identify any archaeological features within the resistivity results, but little would be expected within a Saxon site. There is an area of high resistance values at the middle of the survey close to the S edge which has a rectilinear form which could indicate some foundation remains.

Report by Dr I Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch