Wimpole Estate Brickend Update Report

In 2006 Archaeology RheeSearch carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys at Brick End on the Wimpole Estate in Cambridgeshire which have previously been reported. In March 2007 the survey areas were extended. This report describes the additional work carried out.

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

Estate coordinator: Simon Damant.

Site conditions: Predominantly low grass with some minor track rutting. A south facing, sloping field with a brook at the bottom. Northern edge post and wire fence running parallel to the brook. Access road to the east, access point at south east corner.

Weather: Cool, but fine. Rain during preceding week.

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

Area covered:		
	Magnetometry day 1	five 30×30 m grids
	Resistivity day 1	two 20×30 m grids
	Magnetometry day 2	one 30×30 m grids

Location: TL 339517 820 m NNE of Wimpole Hall

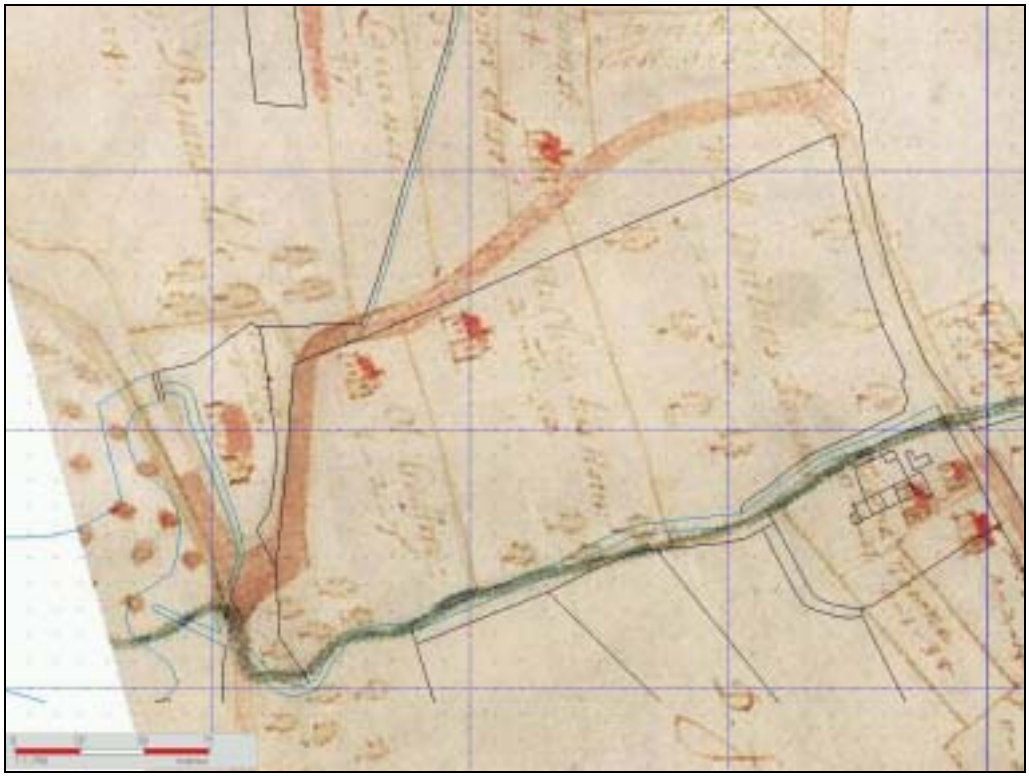
(All images following are orientated with north to the top of the page)

Location of day 1 magnetometer survey outlined in red. Corners of resistivity survey shown as red circles. Day 2 magnetometer survey covered the missing NW corner.

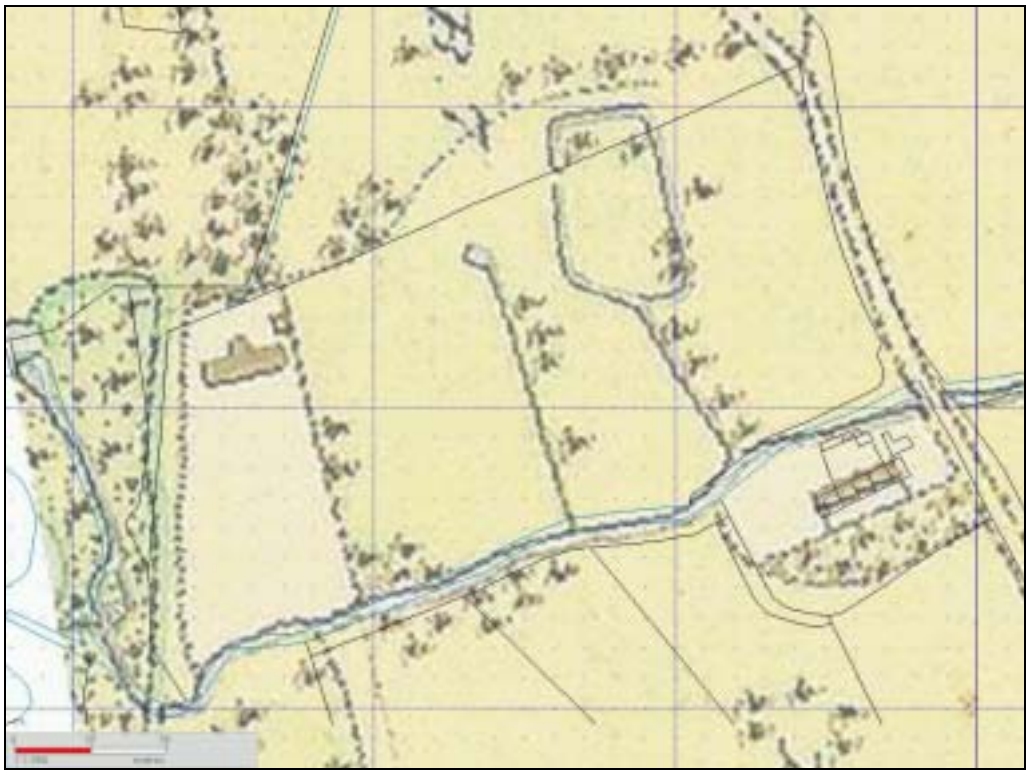
On the ground location points – see previous report.

Purpose of survey: To extend previous survey areas and locate structures shown on early maps.

Hare's map of 1638 with modern features.

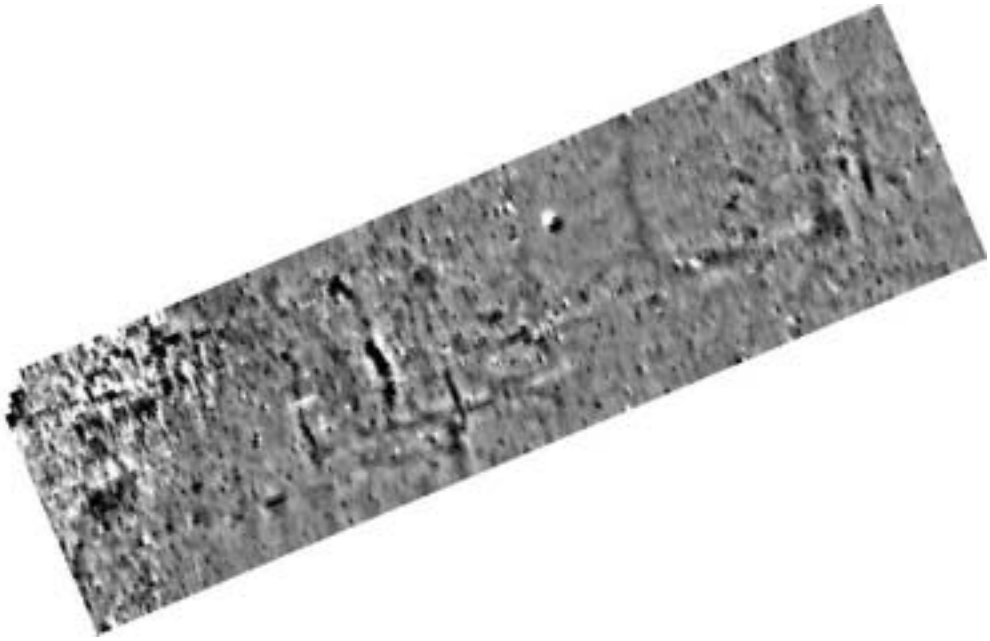


Withers' map of 1825 with modern features.



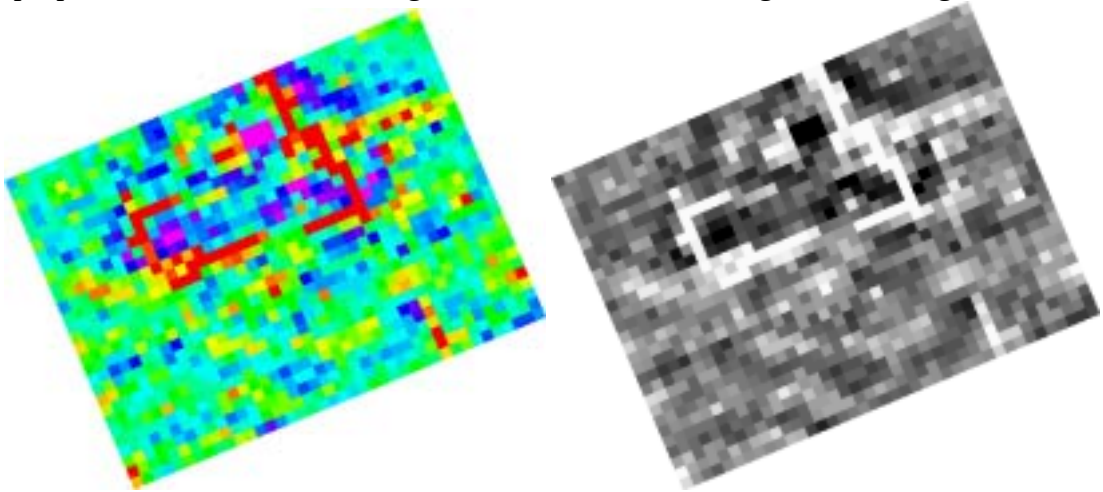
Results:
Previous results located the southern part of the moat structure shown on Withers' map, but not shown on Hare's map.

The magnetometry results below show the extension and the previous survey work.



The area shown is 210 m by 60 m.

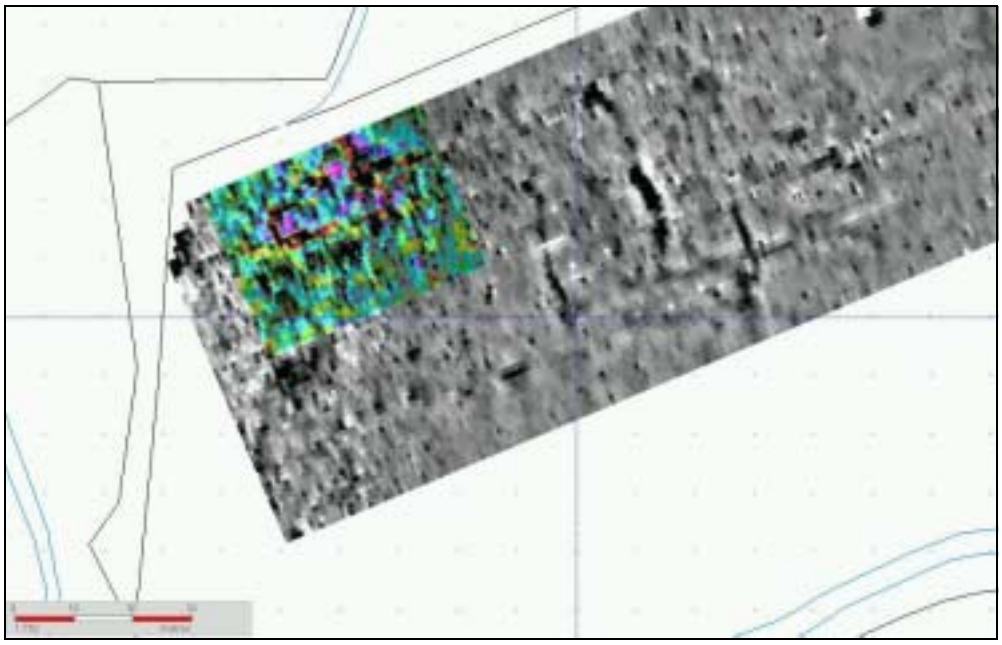
The resistivity results below show only the extension work; red is high resistance and blue/purple is low in the colour image. In the monochrome image, white is high resistance.



The area shown is 40 m by 30 m.

Raw data are available as separate appendices.
Magnetometry readings: 4/m, 1 m separation.
Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Magnetometry results in context.



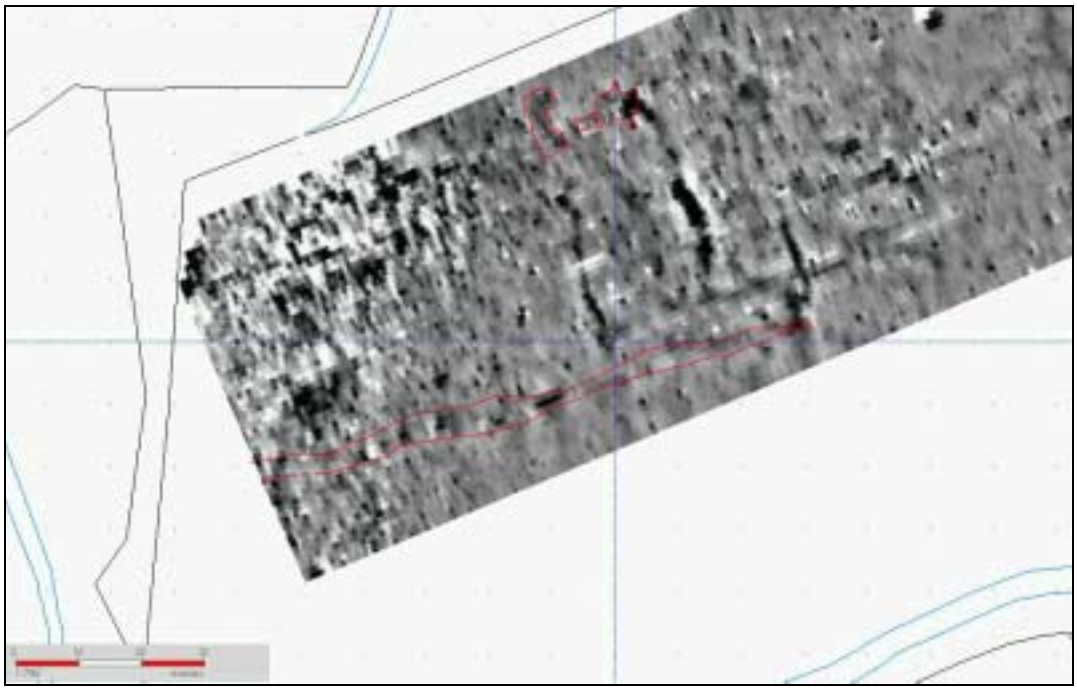
Magnetometry and resistivity results superimposed.

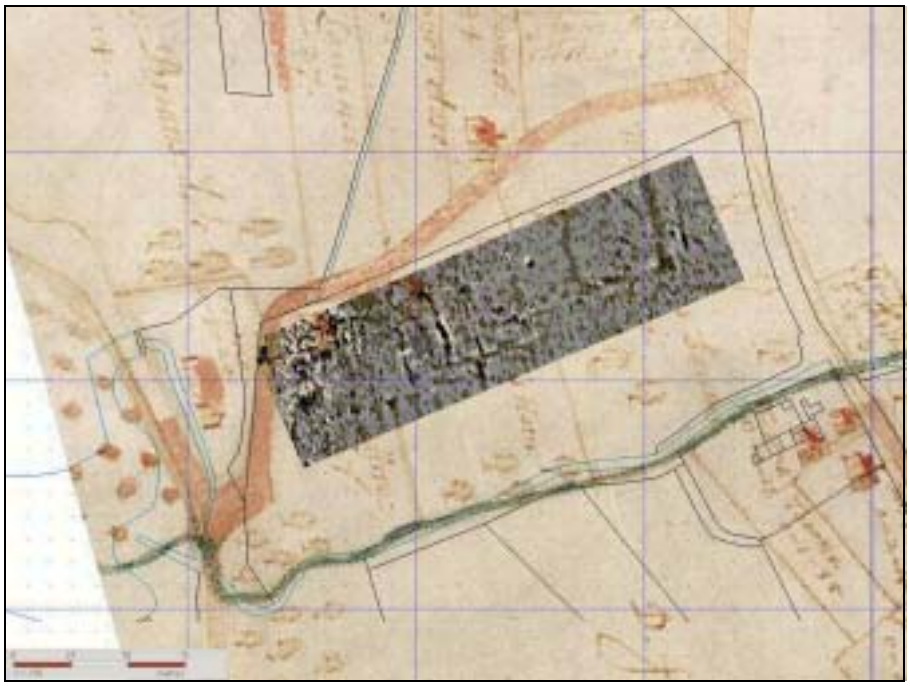
Discussion:

Magnetometry results show, in the north west corner, a rectilinear structure on the northern edge of an area of strong but scattered signals. To the south east of the extension survey area there is a series of larger scale rectilinear responses, which principally comprise two strong NS lines with a 10 m x 50 m rectangle running east from their southern end. To the north of the extension survey there are more subtle responses of similar dimensions to those in the north west corner, and, varying between subtle and intense, a linear feature running almost parallel to the southern edge of the survey area.

Resistivity results clearly define, and are coincident with the magnetometry results with regard to the outline of a rectilinear structure within the extension survey area. No other pattern is apparent.

The structure in the north west of the extended survey area is approximately 18 m by 6 m and is coincident with a building shown on Withers' map and indicated on the Hare map. The coincidence of resistivity and magnetometry results together with Withers' map suggests that the feature detected may be brick or otherwise fired foundations of a house. The small discrepancies between the signals suggest that some foundations may have been removed. The area of essentially scattered responses to the south of the building structure suggests a dispersion of building materials, probably associated with demolition. There are indications of a structure of similar shape to that in the north west, to the north of the extended survey area which match the position of a house shown on the Hare map, but not on Withers' map (outlined in red below). The lack of signal intensity suggests that these may be foundations which have either been robbed or were originally not substantial. The two strong NS responses suggest the boundary ditches of a close around this house, although neither corresponds to field boundaries on the historic maps. The linear feature running approximately parallel to the southern edge of the survey area (outlined in red below) is enigmatic. It runs along a line from the south east corner of the field towards a structure on the Hare map passing just north of a deviation in the present field boundary where the Hare map shows a route crossing that boundary. This could therefore indicate an early trackway.





Magnetometry survey superimposed on Hare's map with current features.

Magnetometry survey superimposed on Withers' map with current features.