



Wimpole Cobbs Field Report

Between 2009 and 2011 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: Simon Damant.

Site conditions: Clover, cropped or growing.

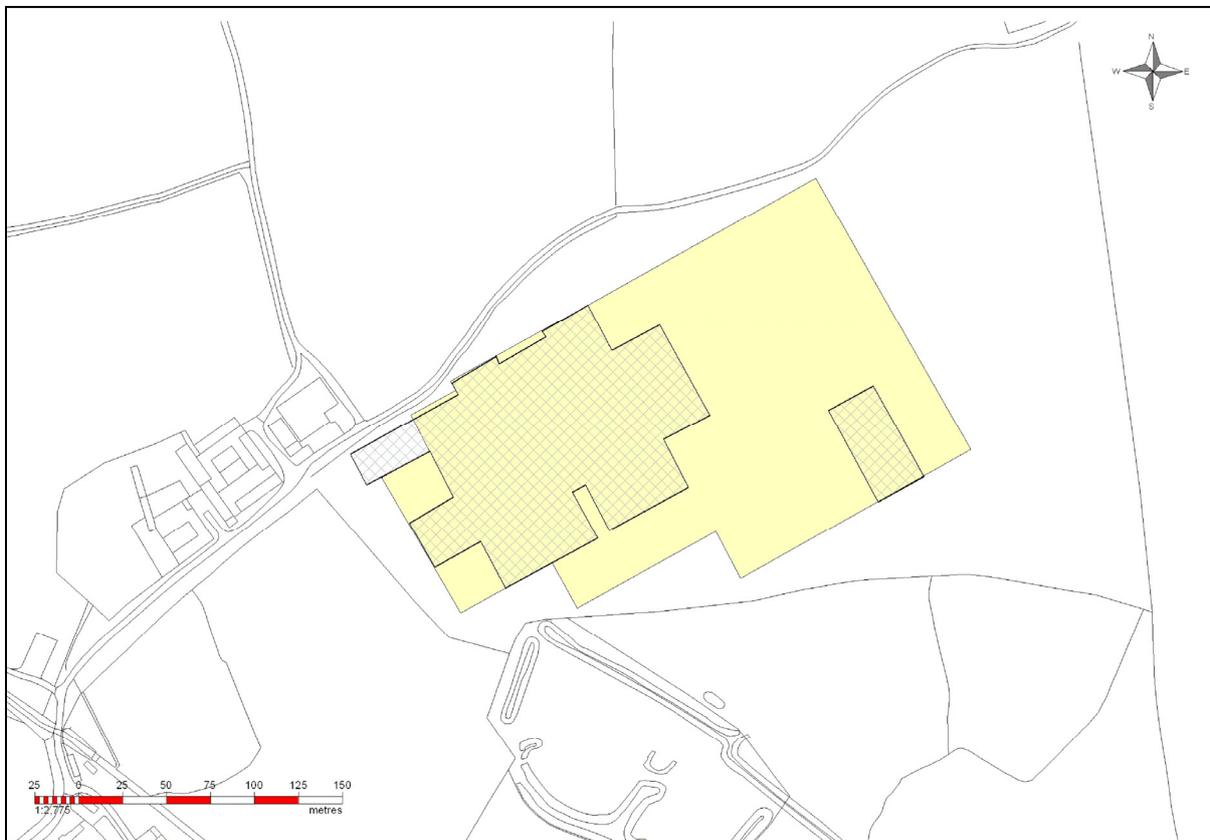
Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer; TRCIA 50 cm twin probe.

Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.

Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Wenner readings: 1 m separation and 0.5 m separation.

Location: TL347518, Cobbs Farm, Wimpole, 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.

Site topography:

The field rises slightly from the SW corner, then plateaus before rising steeply in the NE. To the SE the land falls away from the plateau area.

Results:

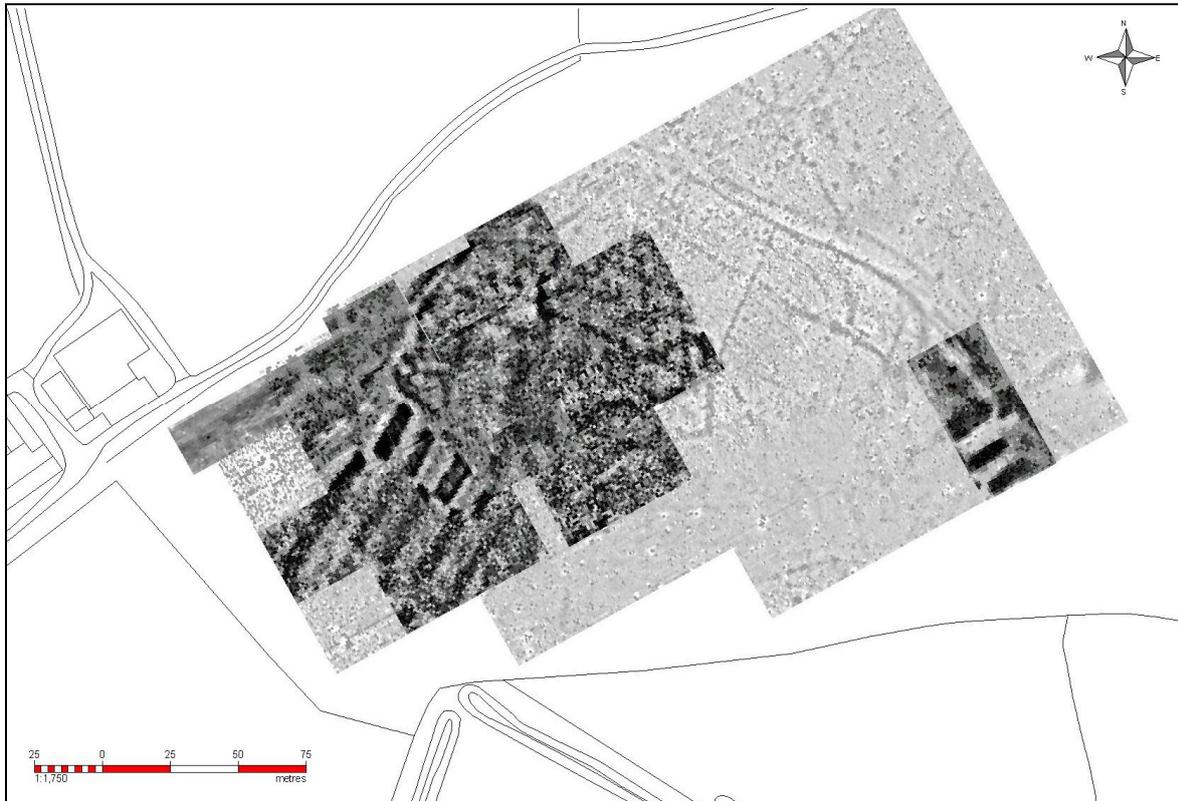
Some of the images in this section are orientated for presentation. The images are not to a common scale.



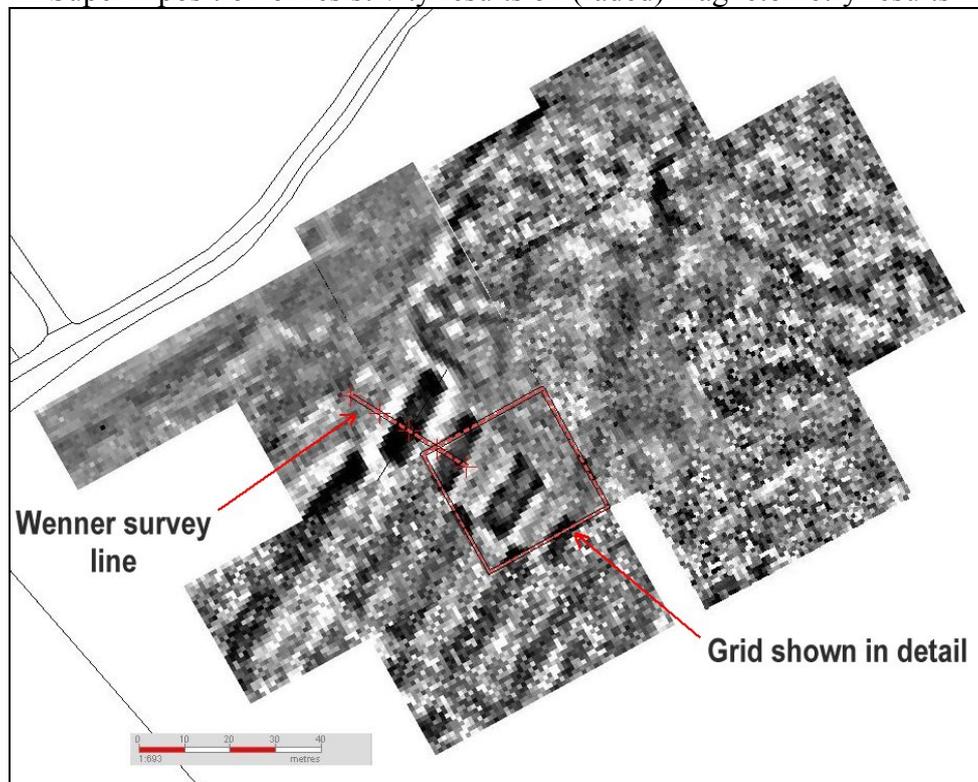
Resistivity results in context



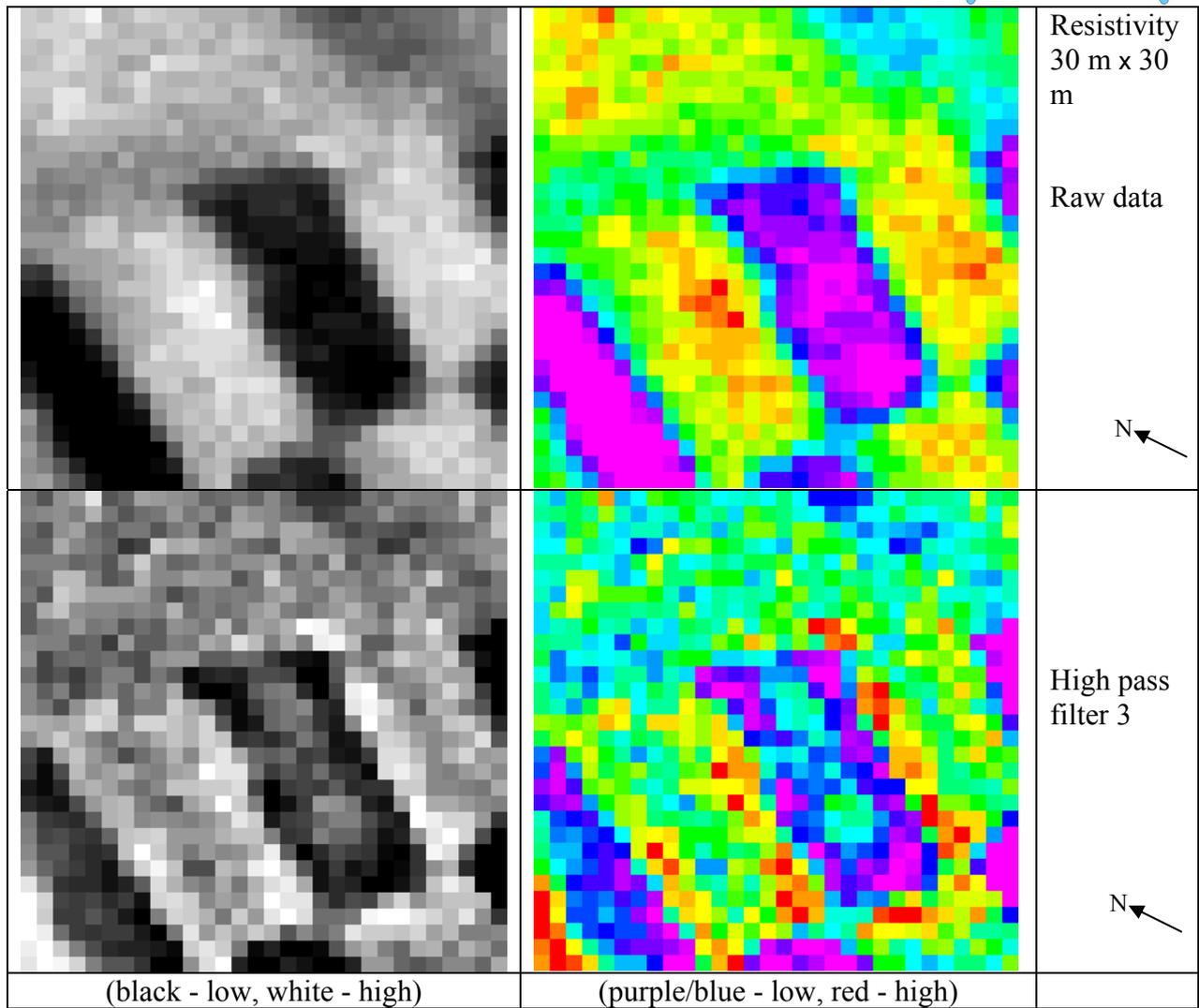
Magnetometry results in context



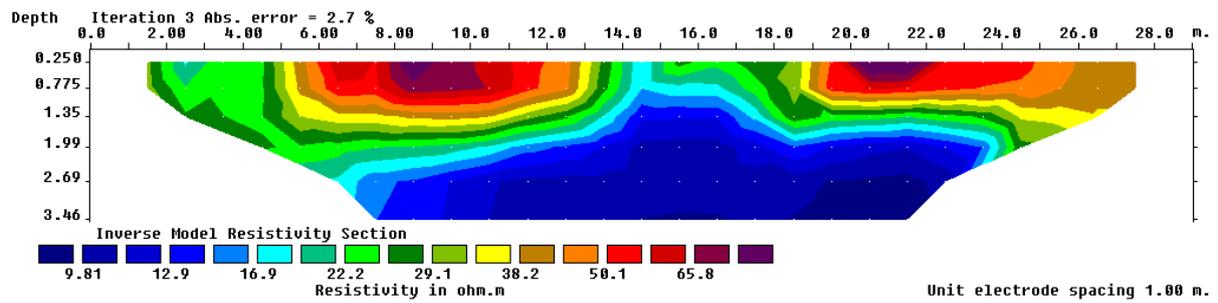
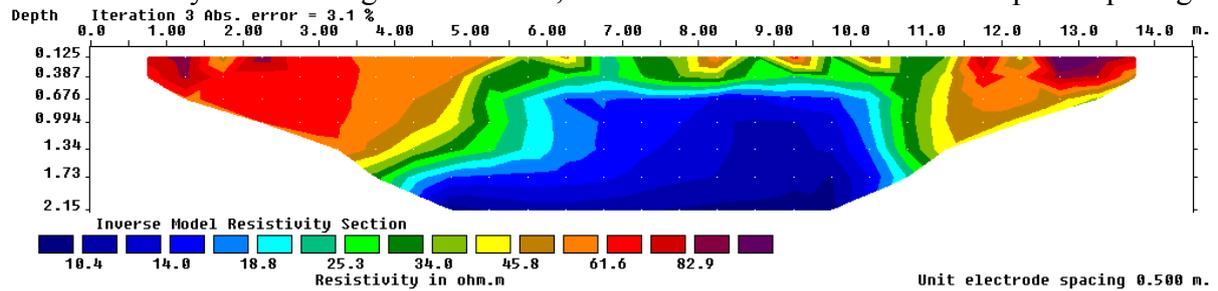
Superimposition of resistivity results on (faded) magnetometry results

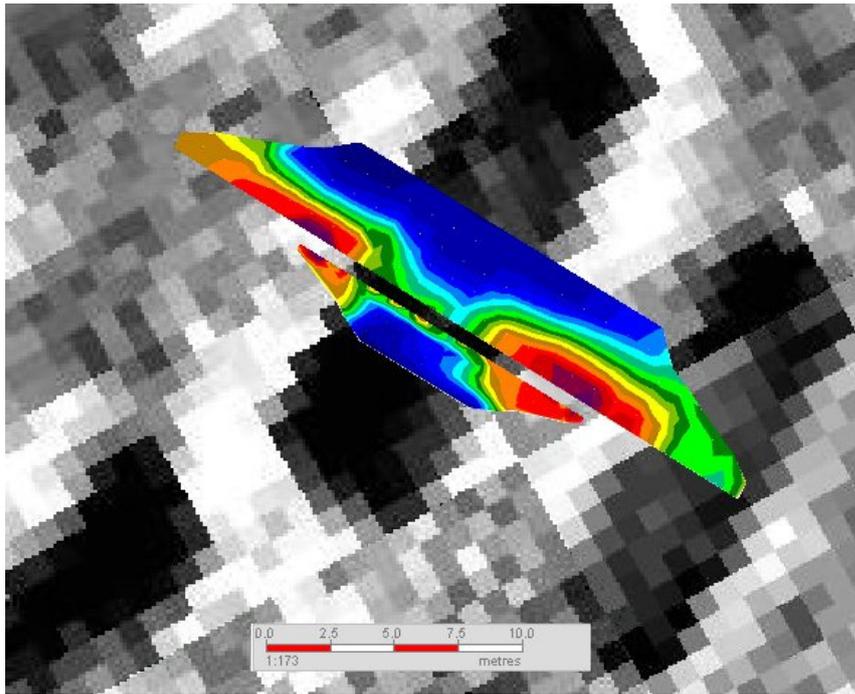


Only one resistivity grid of particular interest is presented in detail below. The location of this grid and the adjacent Wenner surveys are shown above.



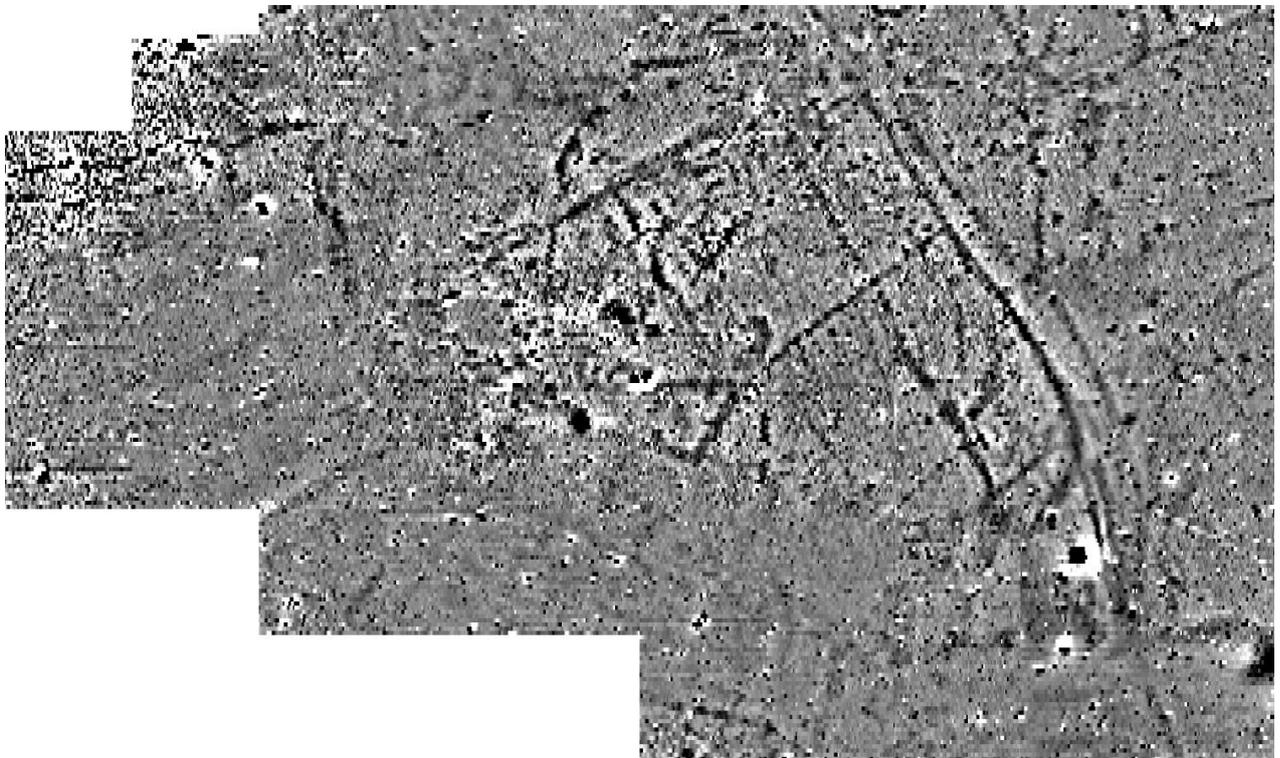
Wenner survey results along the same line, with the same centre but different probe spacing



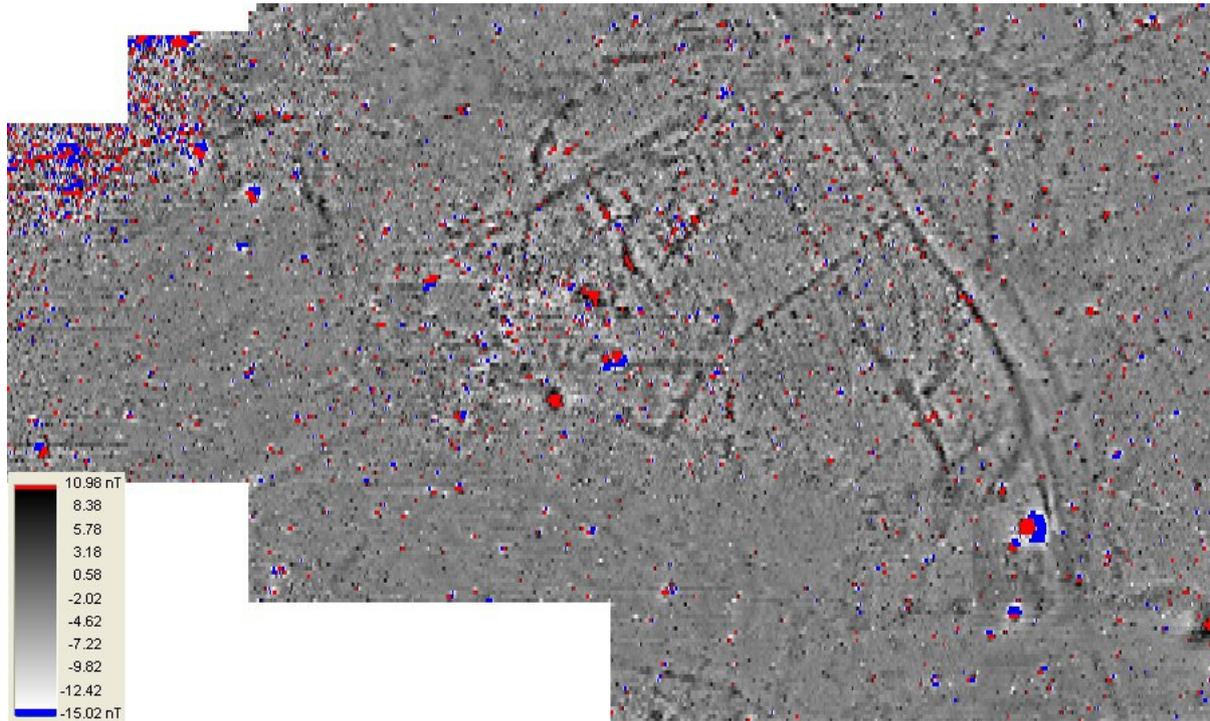


Superimposition of Wenner results on resistivity results.

Magnetometry results



Magnetometry 300 m x 180 m range +3 to -3 nT



Magnetometry 300 m x 180 m range +11 to -12 nT showing the extreme values in red (high) and blue (low).

Discussion:

The resistivity results divide into three main areas shown below. A triangular area to the W, a central block and an area to the SW which may extend to include the southern half of the separate resistivity survey area to the east. The eastern boundary of the W triangular area broadly matches what is presumed to be a stream course shown on the Withers' map shown below. The survey results for this area exhibit the blurred responses characteristic of flooding or silting over the ground. The central block has a series of linear features which do not form a coherent pattern. The SW area is dominated by wide (5 m) stripes of lower value responses orientated NE – SW. A similar pattern occurs in the S half of the separate resistivity survey to the E. The magnetometry results covering this area are essentially blank. Two Wenner surveys were conducted over one of the stripes at different probe spacings (which affect depth and resolution). These surveys suggested a vertical sided pit extending down about 1.6 m capped by about 0.5 m of higher resistance capping material. The most likely explanation for the stripes is coprolite diggings, the extent probably being delineated by the stream line on the Withers' map (Cambridgeshire Collection C.43 : C.32.3) or a similar boundary line on the Hare map (Cambridge Records Office R77/1).

The magnetometry results show a similar division to that seen in the resistivity results. In the W area there are stronger signals corresponding to the stream course and a boundary shown on the Withers' map. These delineate a particularly noisy area of responses which might be expected to comprise metalling around the entrance to the field but may also contain demolition debris from the two houses shown in this area on the Hare map.

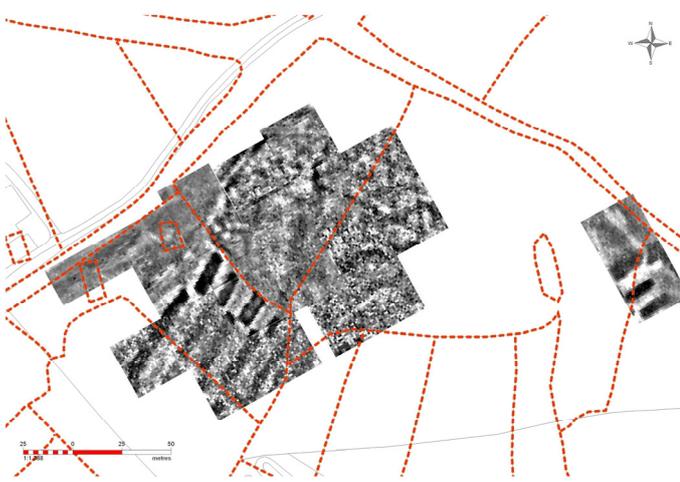


The principal feature of the central area of the magnetometry survey is a pair of parallel strong responses running NW– SE. These are almost certainly the ditches at the sides of the road shown on the Hare map (the eastern one of which matches a field boundary on the Withers’ map). To the SW of the roadway the ditches of a small field system are apparent with a complex set of responses on the SW side. This complex contains three very strong point anomalies, two of which occur at the end of linear features. This may suggest some sort of industrial activity. A very strong and comparatively large point anomaly in the SE of the survey area may be a kiln.

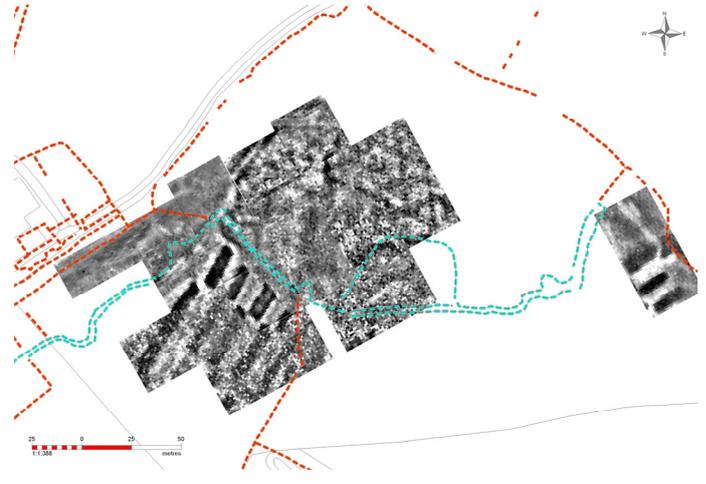


Division of resistivity areas

Overlay of features shown on Hare's map of 1638 and Withers' map of 1828



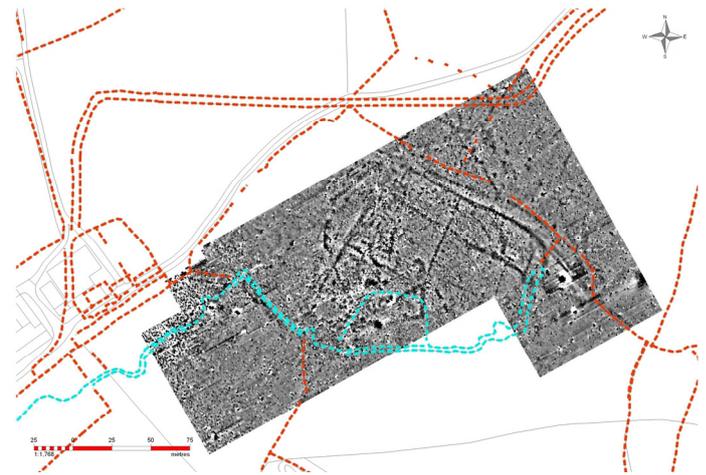
Resistivity Hare's map



Resistivity Withers' map



Magnetometry Hare's map



Magnetometry Withers' map