

Parterre, Wimpole Hall Report

On 17th September 2023 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried three resistance tomography surveys on this site to determine whether any archaeological features supporting the presence of a moat were detectable.

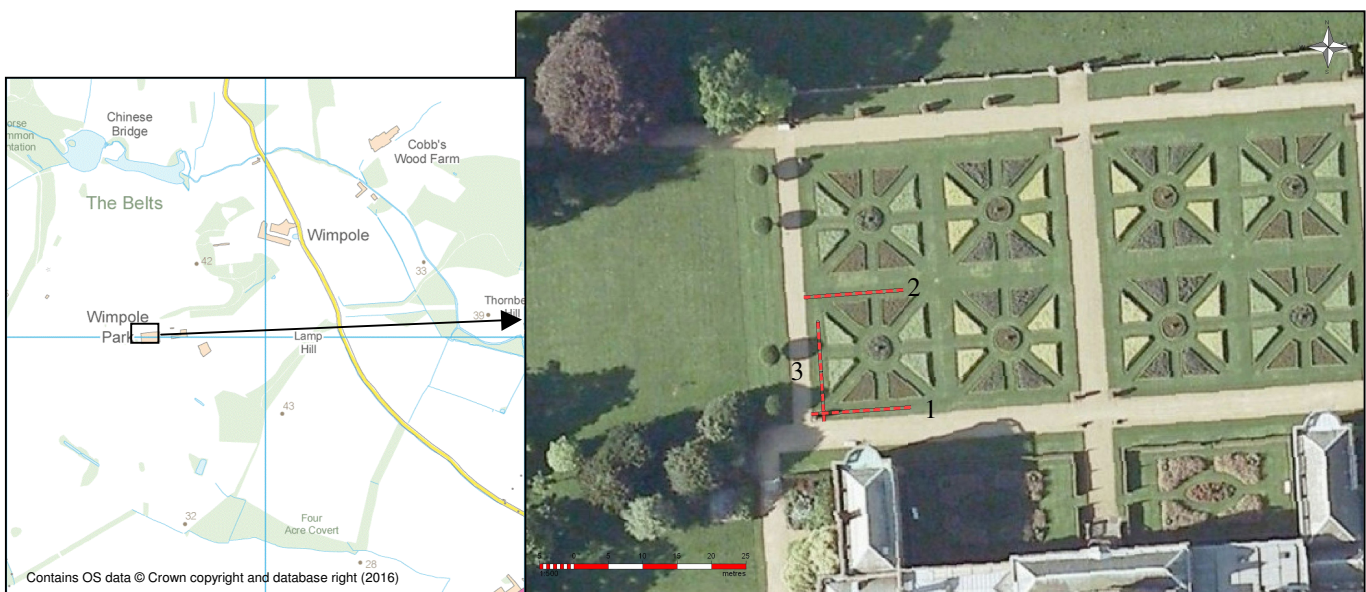
Members participating: Pat Davies, Richard Freeman, Liz Livingstone, Ian Sanderson and Gill Shapland with assistance from Bill Franklin.

Site liaison: Mike Coles.

Site conditions: Mown grass.

Equipment: TRCIA resistance tomography at 0.5 m intervals using 30 probes.
Data processing using Res2Dinv v356.

Location: TL335510, Wimpole Hall, Cambs.



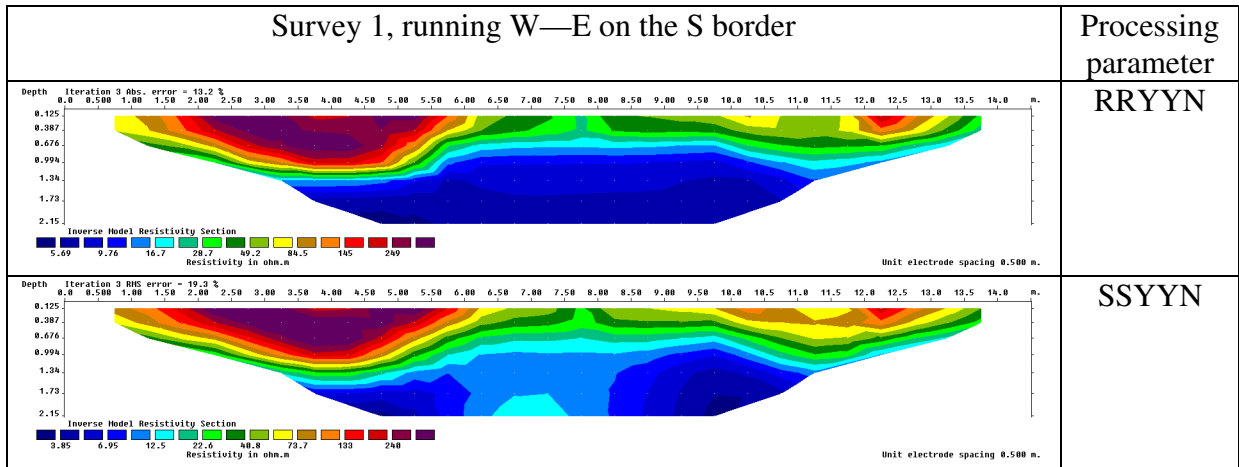
Location plan: Survey areas
(tomography lines red dashed)

Site topography:

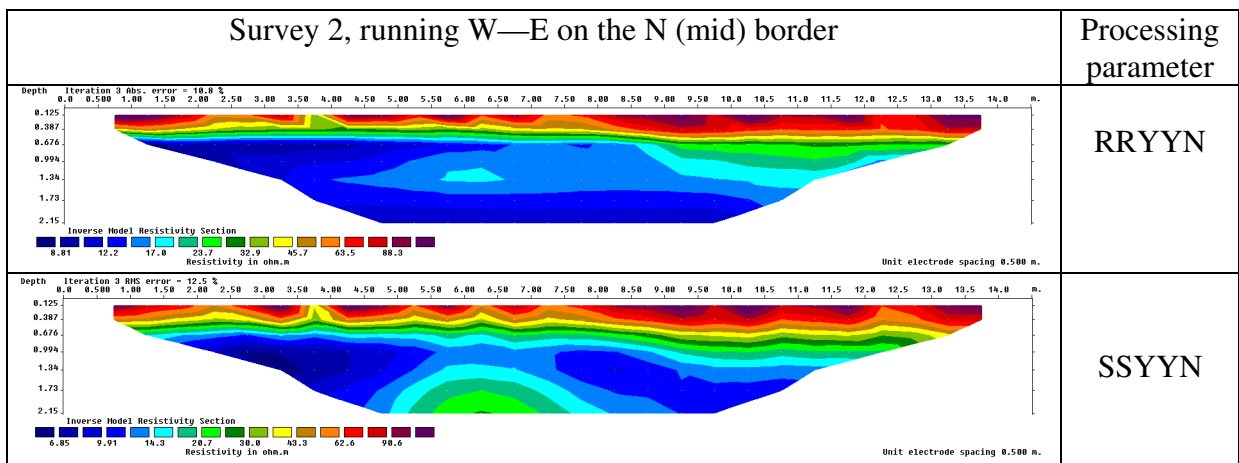
Level site with close mown grass borders about 2 m wide around low box hedged, triangular enclosures. The paths were hard compacted gravel with metal edging. One of the enclosures adjacent to survey 1 had been excavated. All of the surveys had their zero points at the edge of a path.

Results:

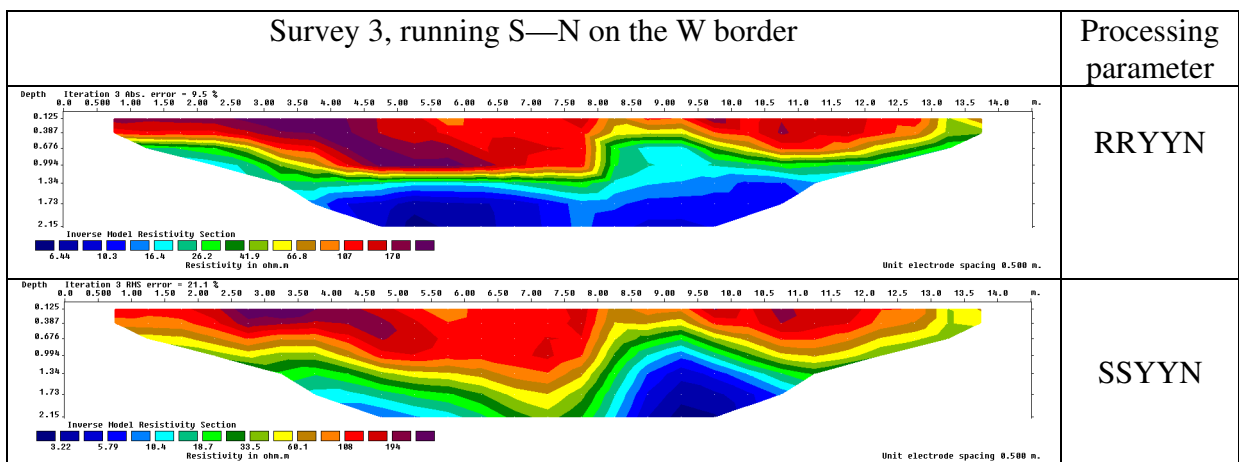
Resistance tomography 14.5 m

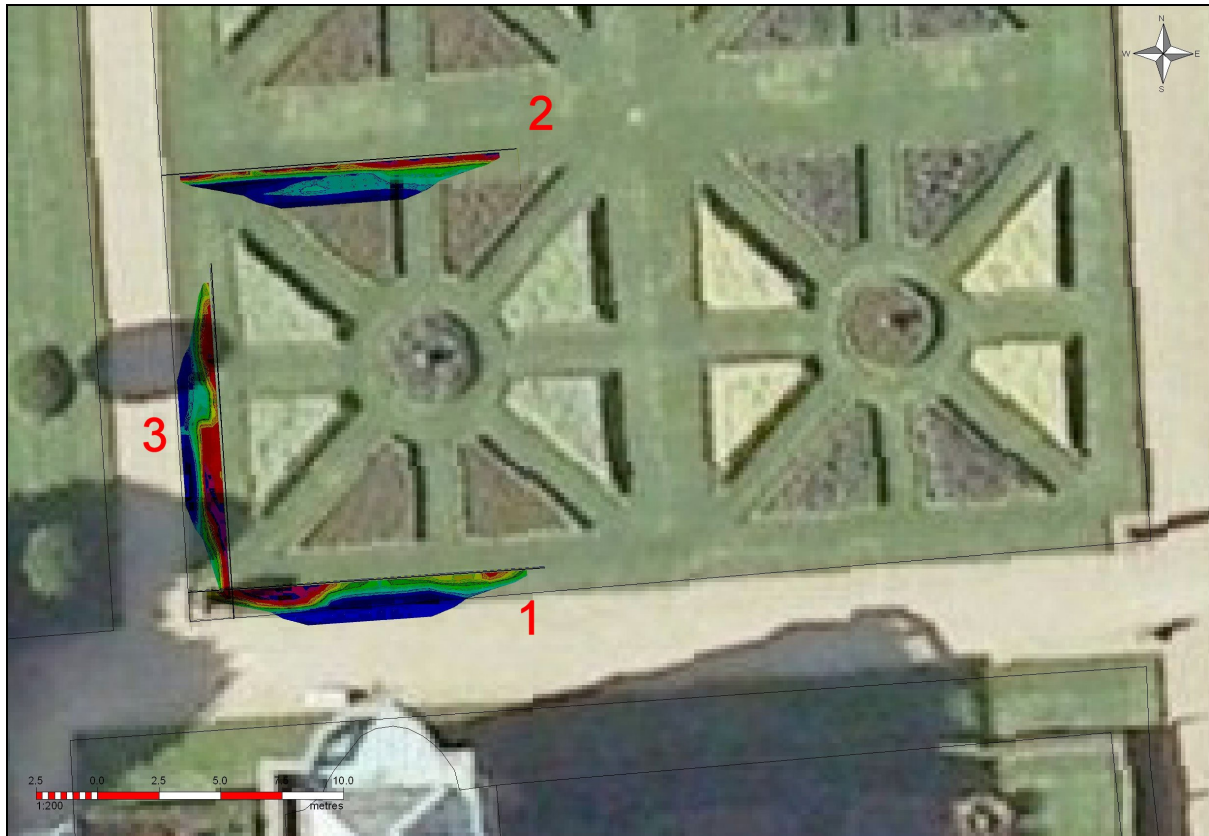


Resistance tomography 14.5 m



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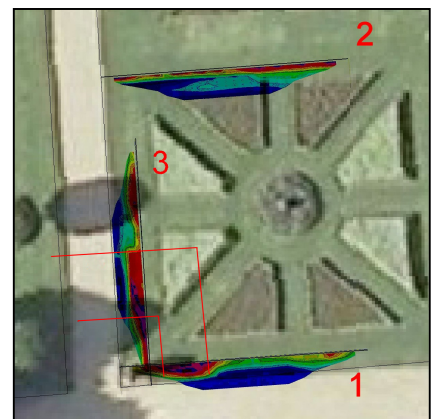


Overlay of tomography results on an aerial photograph

Discussion:

The W end of survey 1 has an area about 1.3 m deep of high values, the E end has a much smaller, shallower area of high values. Survey 2 shows a shallow band of high values with a slight progressive increase in depth to the E. Survey 3 shows an area of high values at the S end which slopes deeper for about 4 m then remains level at about 1.3 m for 4 m before sharply rising. From about 9.5 m there was another shallower area of high values with a depth of about 0.8 m.

The W area of high values in survey 1 does not occur in survey 2, indicating that the feature does not extend as far N as the location of survey 2. The sharp change in depth in survey 3 suggests a man made cut in the ground to a similar depth as at the W end of survey 1. The results would therefore support the idea of a moat as shown in the adjacent image. The course of a moat could alternatively extend to the unexplained area of high values at the N end of survey 3, in which case the area at the S end might reflect building foundations.



Excavation at the postulated corner might clarify the situation as might further resistivity or ground penetrating radar surveys, particularly to the W.