

## Wimpole Octagon Report

In January 2012 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site to determine whether any archaeological features were detectable.

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

**Site liaison:** Simon Damant.

**Site conditions:** Rough grass.

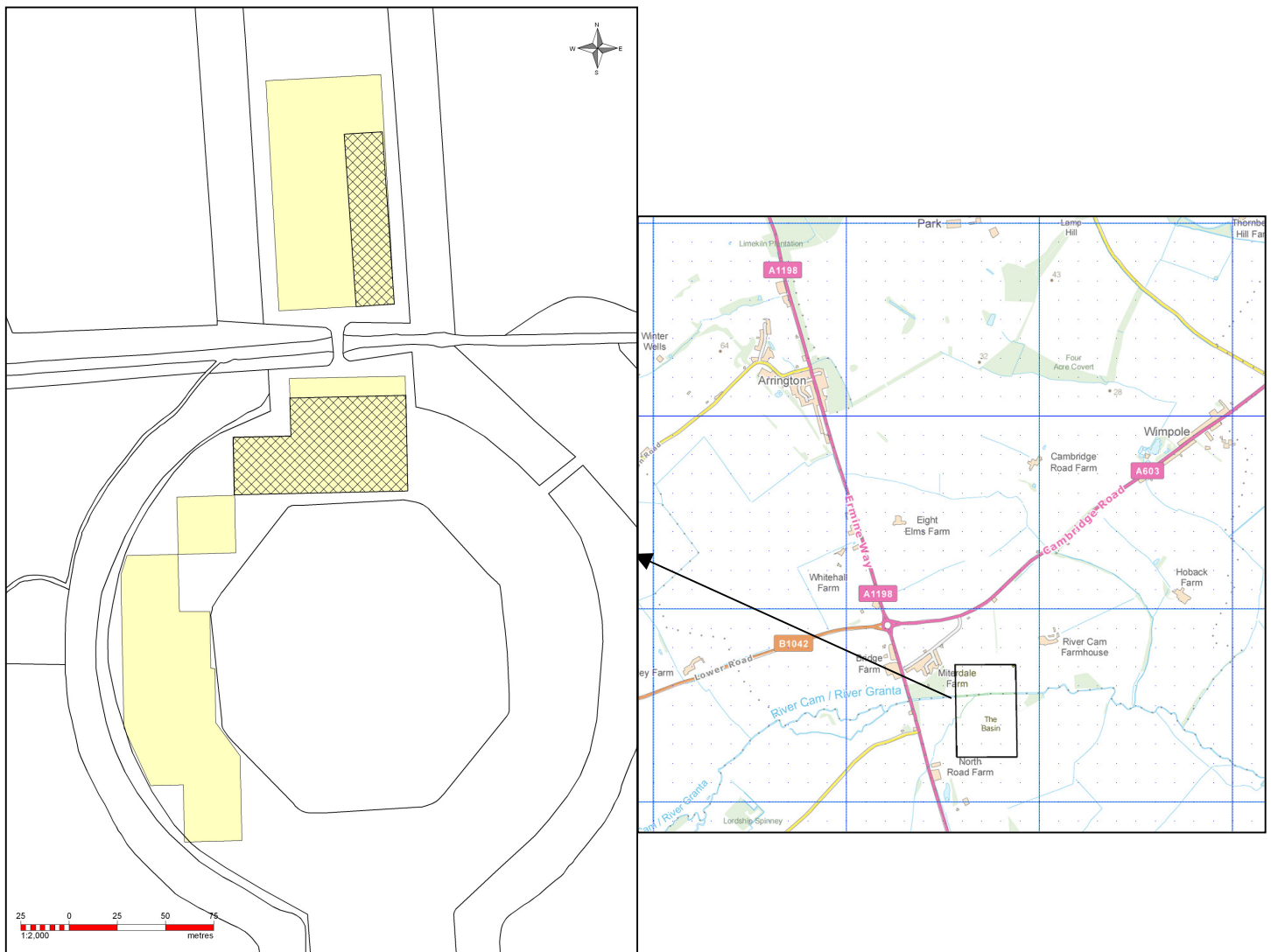
**Equipment:** Bartington 601 gradiometer; TRCIA 50 cm twin probe.

Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.

Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Raw data available as separate appendices.

**Location:** TL337485, Avenue and Octagon, Wimpole and Whaddon, 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 extending from the presumed Romano-British Scheduled site immediately to the west.



**Site topography:**  
Level rough grass with post and wire boundaries.



Aerial photograph of the site (Bing.com)



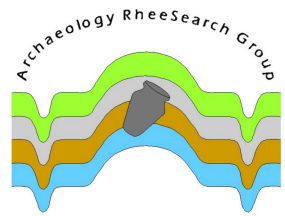
**Results:**

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

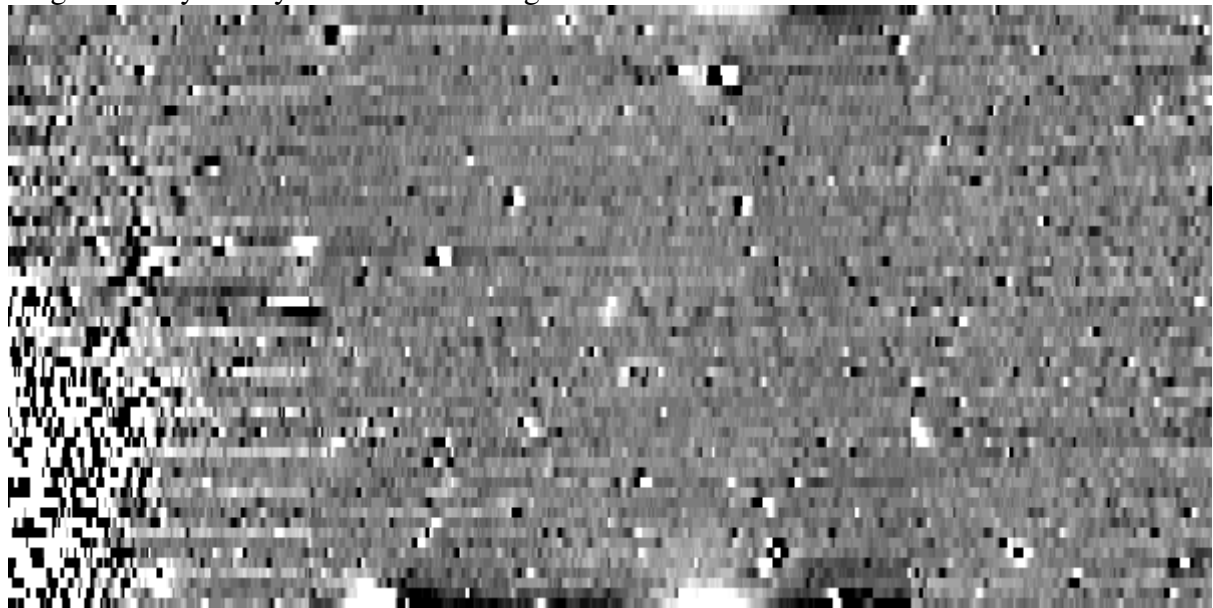
Avenue site.

Resistivity survey, 20 m x 90 m

	Raw data
	High pass filter 7
<p>(black – low, white – high) <span style="float: right;">→ N</span></p>	
	Raw data
	High pass filter 7
<p>(purple/blue – low, red – high) <span style="float: right;">→ N</span></p>	



Magnetometry survey 60 m x 120 m range +2 to -1 nT



Octagon site

Resistivity survey, 50 m x 90 m

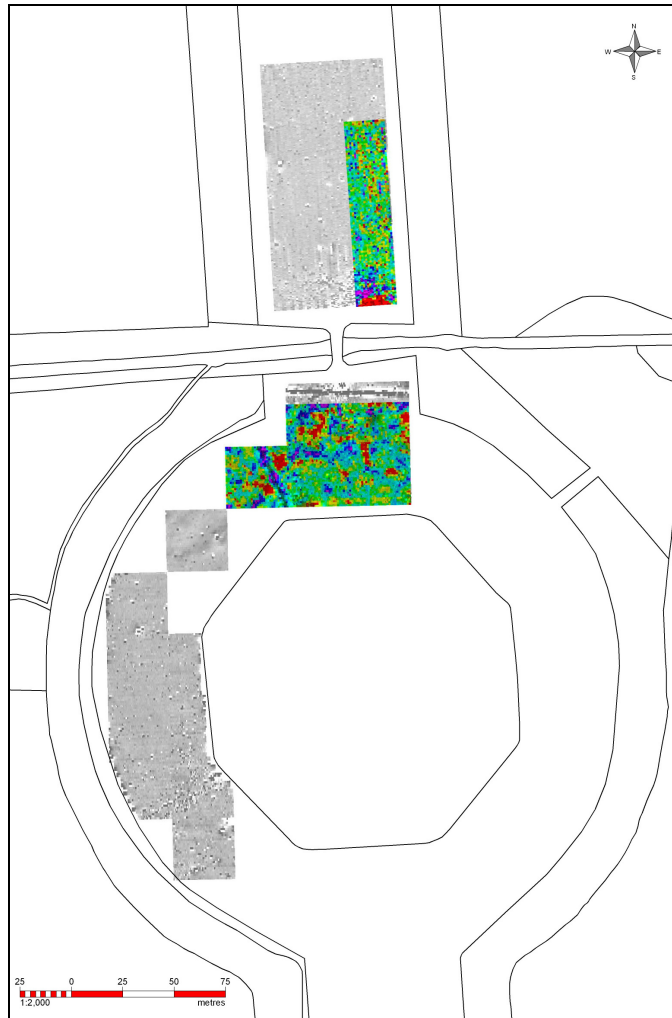
		<p>Raw data</p> <p>N</p>
		<p>High pass filter 7</p> <p>N</p>
<p>(black – low, white – high)</p>		<p>(purple/blue – low, red – high)</p>



Magnetometry survey  
60 m x 90 m, 30 m x 30 m and 60 m x 150 m range +2 to -2 nT







**Discussion:**

**Octagon site**

The magnetometry survey shows two clear linear features in the N area. One running NW—SE towards the centre of the Octagon pond, the other running parallel to the river dividing the Avenue and the Octagon. The former would suggest a water supply pipe, the latter perhaps a bypass pipe to help in protecting or repairing the bridge. The supply pipe line shows as a line of low resistance values in the resistivity survey. The magnetometry survey also shows a diffuse feature running from the SW corner of the middle survey area towards the NE of the N survey area, with a branch turning N between the two pipe lines. This may be an earlier course of the river, the extra drainage of which would account for the gap in low resistance values where it crosses the supply pipe line.

The resistivity survey has a rectilinear area of high resistance values to the N of the centre. It is possible that this could indicate building foundations.

**Avenue site**

Neither the magnetometry nor the resistivity survey shows anything of clear archaeological interest. Both show metalling around the bridge approach. The magnetometry survey indicates that this was predominantly on the E side.