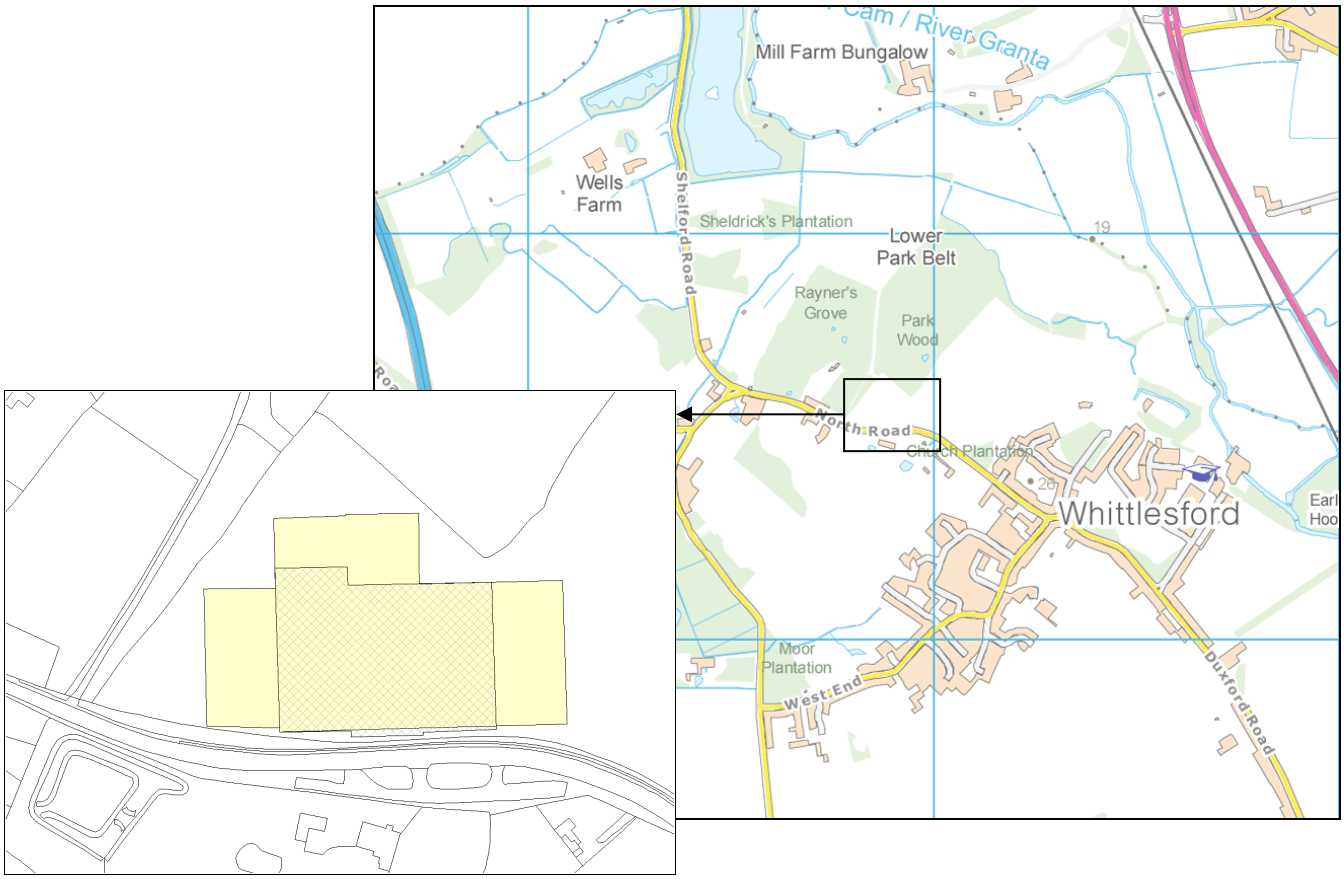
Manor Park O,S. Plot 108 Whittlesford Report

In August and September 2010 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site to determine if there was evidence of subsurface structures.
Site liaison: Ashley Arbon
Site conditions: Stubble.
Members participating: Brian Bridgland, Pat Davies, Liz Livingstone, Ian Sanderson, Gill Shapland, Maureen Storey and Tony Storey.
Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer; TRCIA 50cm twin probe.

Area covered:	Magnetometry	twelve 30 m × 30 m grids
	Resistivity:	six 30 m × 30 m grids with additions

Location: TL 4690 4856, North Road, Whittlesford, Cambridgeshire.

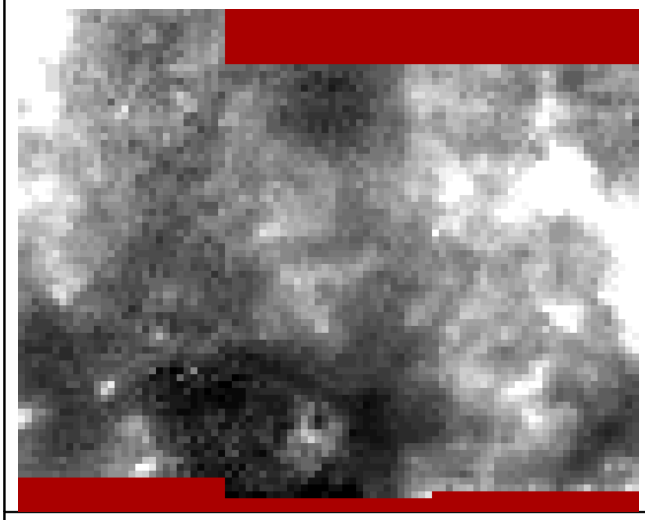
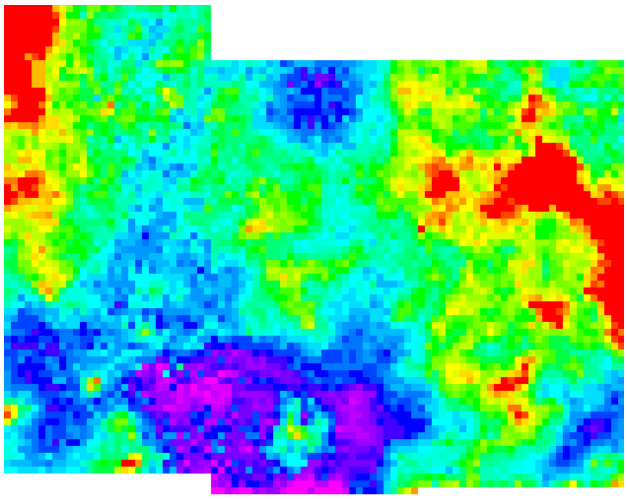
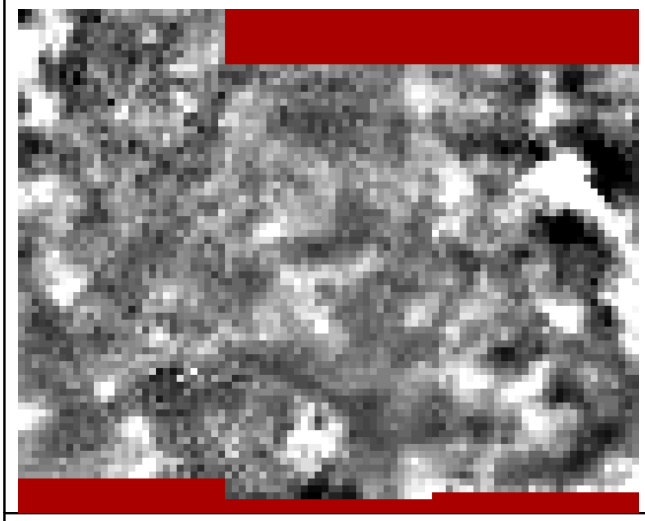
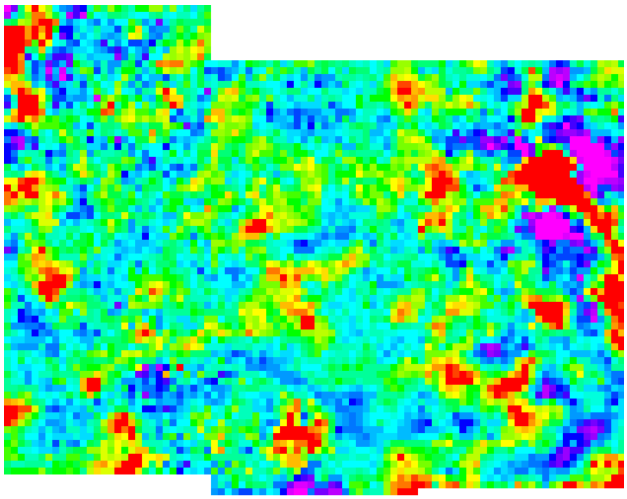


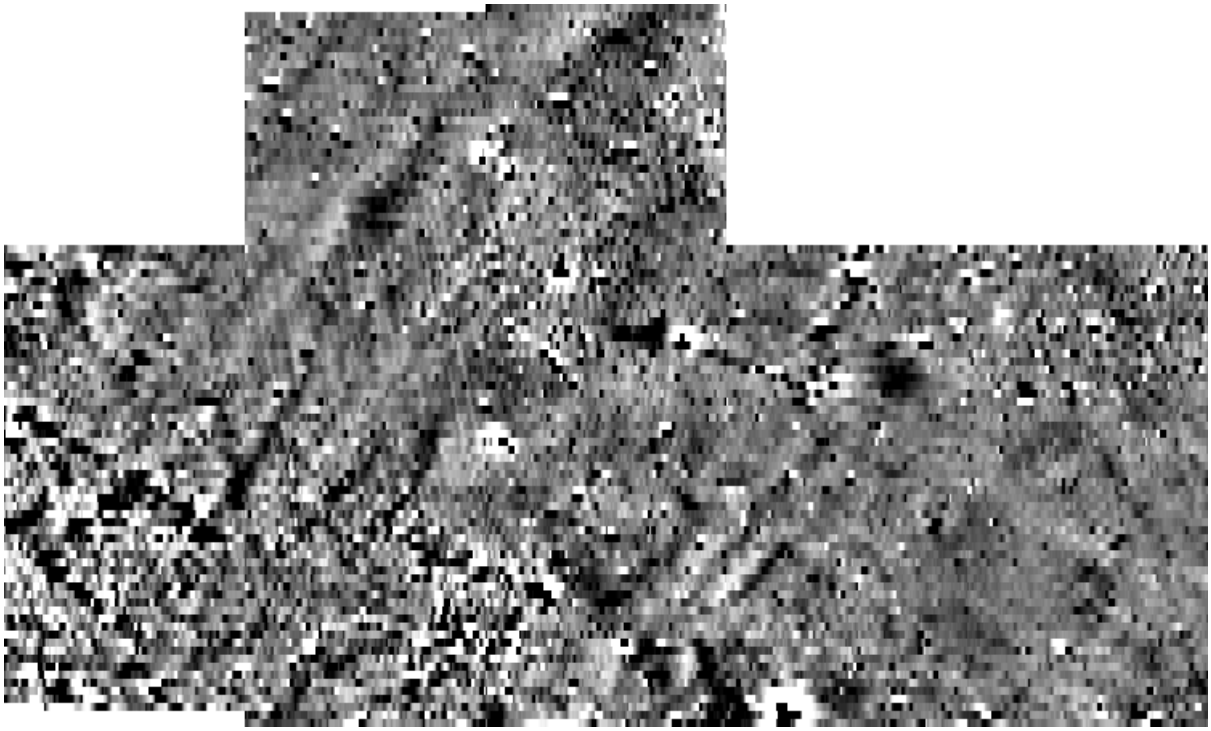
Location plan: Survey areas

(resistivity survey area crosshatched, magnetometry area solid).

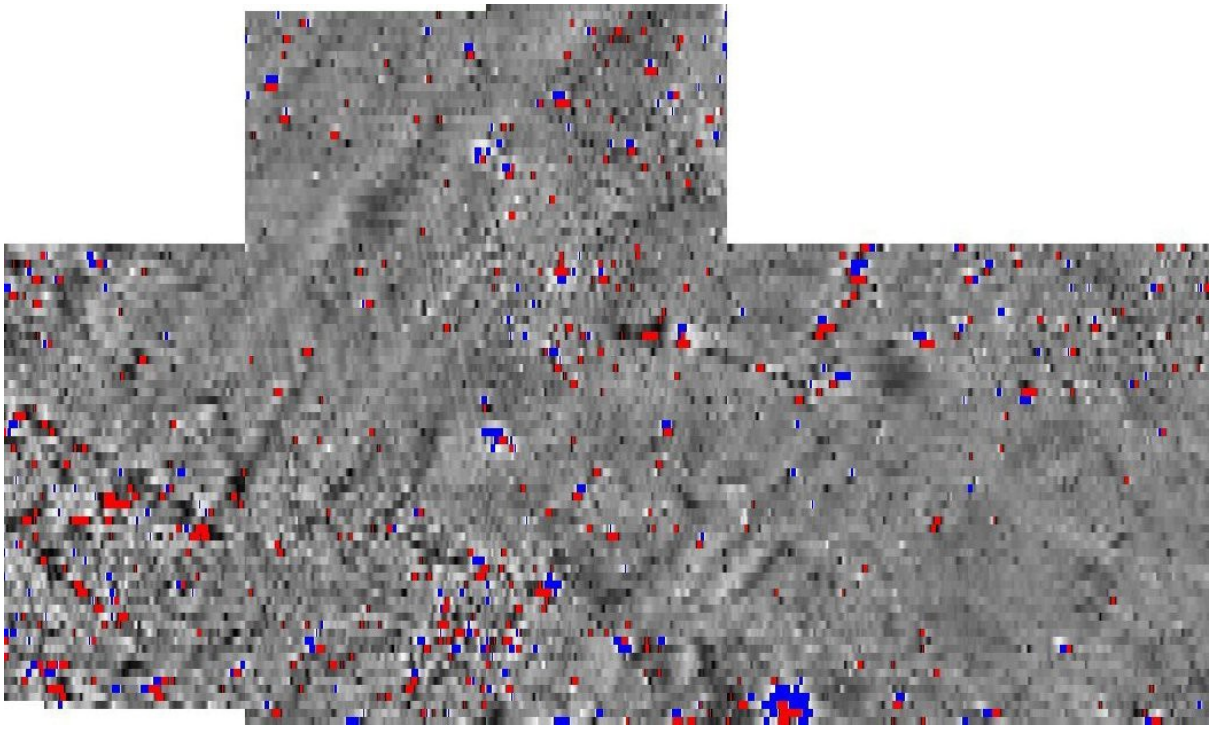
Purpose of survey: To determine if any subsurface features of archaeological interest could be detected.

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

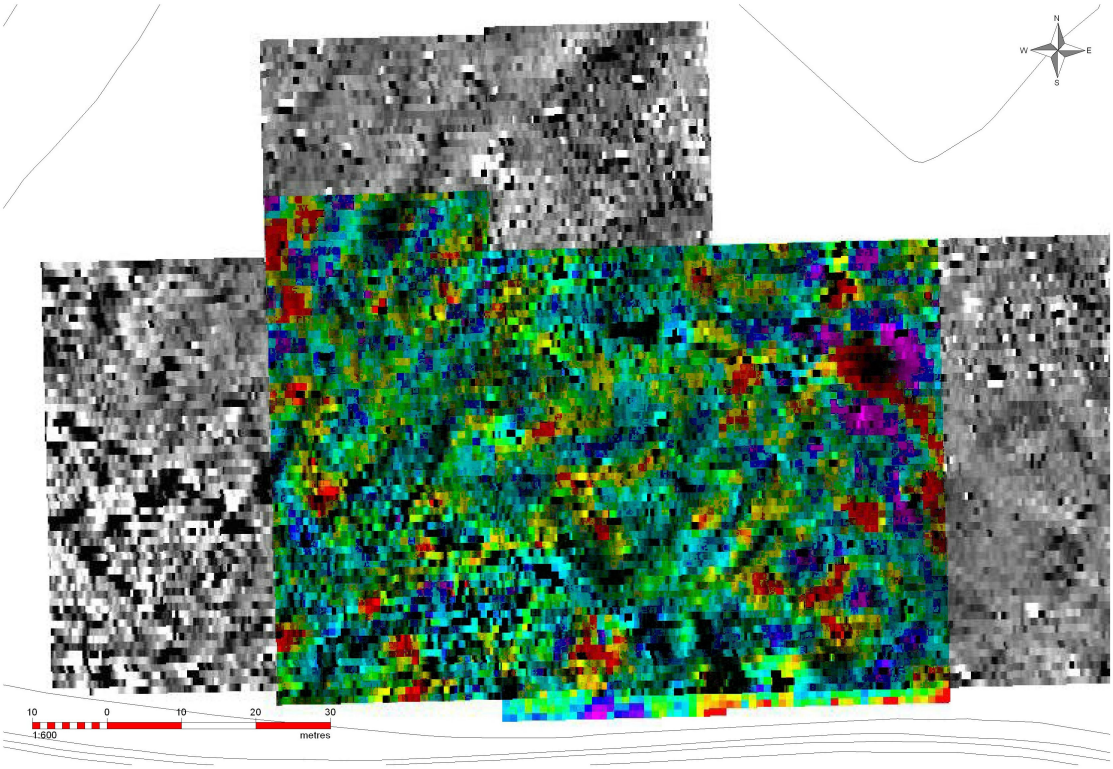
	
Resistivity raw data 71 m × 90 m black – low, white – high, red – null	Resistivity raw data 71 m × 90 m purple/blue – low, red – high, white – null
	
Resistivity data 71 m × 90 m high pass filter level 8 black – low, white – high, red - null	Resistivity data 71 m × 90 m high pass filter level 8 purple/blue – low, red – high, white – null



Magnetometry ±4 nT, 150 m × 90 m



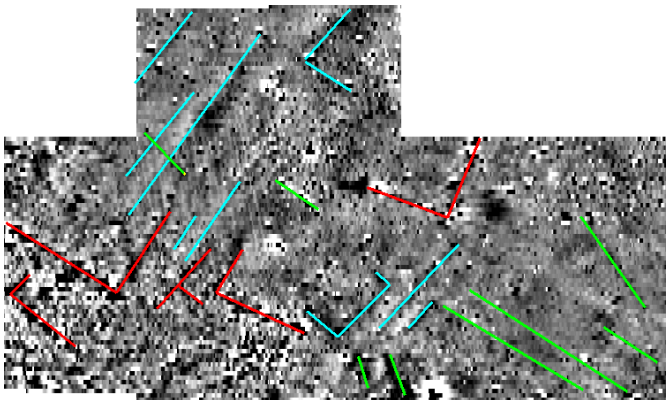
Signals greater than 14 nT (red) or less than 14 nT (blue)



Superimposition of resistivity and magnetometry results

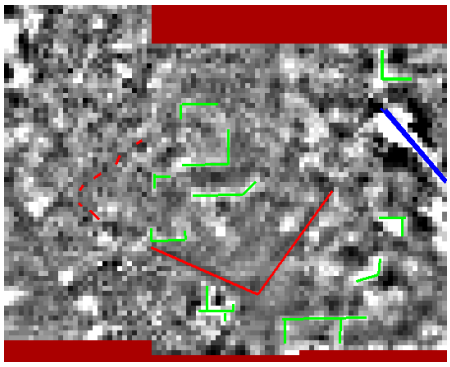
Magnetometry

This site was moderately noisy with strong ferrous or fired material responses that in some places were clustered linearly, while in others they were scattered randomly or were absent. There are a number of linear features running NW – SE with segments at right angles, and there are some more diffuse linear features running NE – SW again with some segments at right angles on a slightly different alignment. These are shown as red and blue respectively on the adjacent diagram which also highlights other linear responses in green.

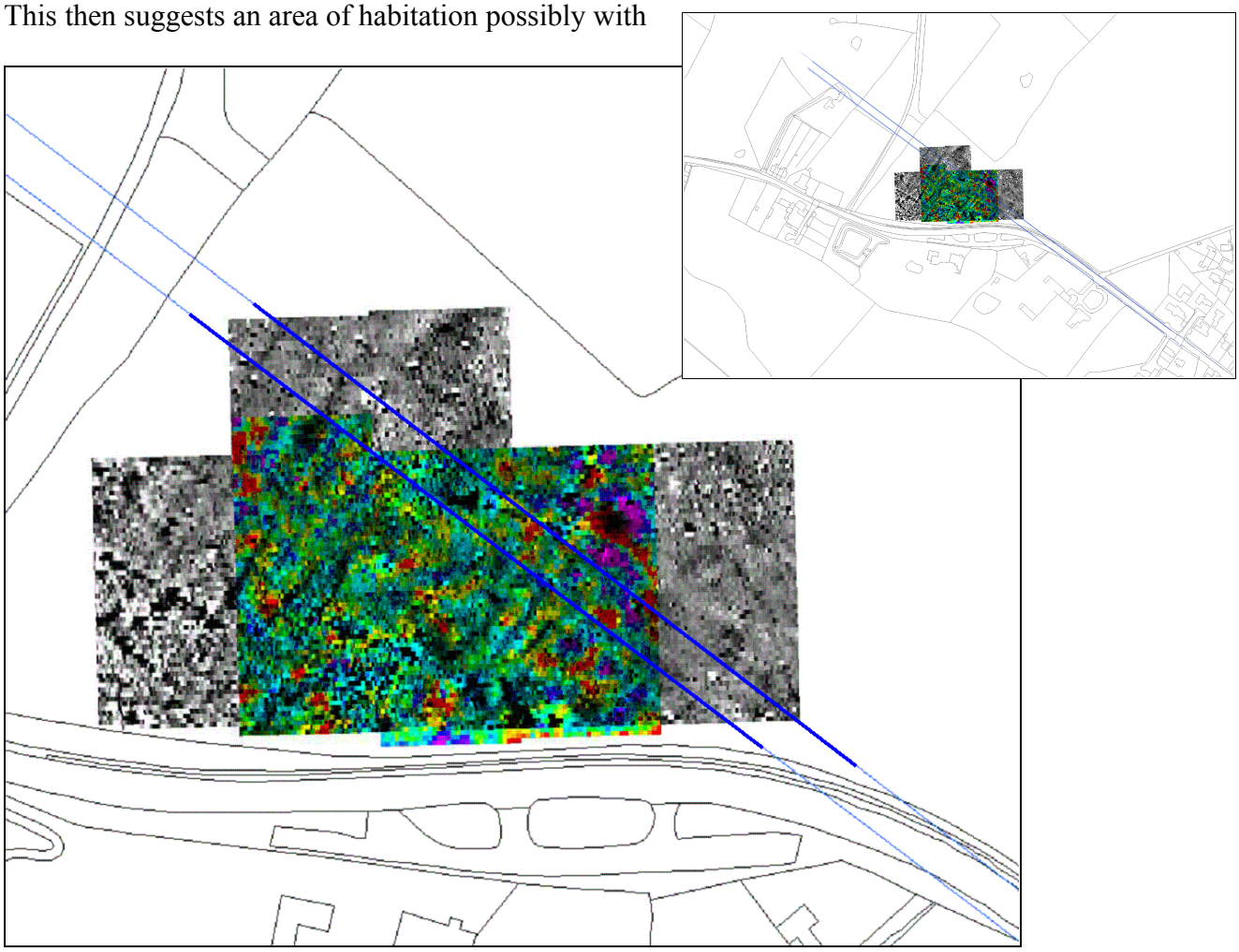


Resistivity

The resistivity results show two clear features: a low response rectilinear feature and a high response linear feature. These are shown as red and blue respectively on the adjacent diagram which also highlights other rectilinear responses in green. There are suggestions that the low response form continues to the NW before turning NE. The overall distribution of higher responses, whilst not showing distinct patterns, is indicative of fragments of structural remains rather than natural geological variation.



Discussion:
Although the geophysics results initially appear confusing, the results become clearer if an extension to North Road is postulated as shown below. In this case many of the rectilinear features are aligned with the projected road line.
This then suggests an area of habitation possibly with



a moated site (red line on the annotated resistivity image) at the centre. The resistivity results also suggest fragmentary building foundations orientated towards the current road. It should be noted that although there are some linear features and a line with less background noise within the magnetometry results that would support the concept of an extension of the road, some other linear features cross the projected route. The patchy noise to the E in the magnetometry may be explained by the reported use of this area for mortar practice during the last war. This was confirmed by our discovery of an unexploded mortar during the survey which was dealt with by bomb disposal.

Conclusion:
A small complex of buildings surrounding a possible moated site.

Raw data are available as separate appendices.
Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.
Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Report by Dr I Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch