

Eltisley Moated Site Report

In August 2018 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, Richard Freeman, Liz Livingstone, Ian Sanderson, Gill Shapland, Maureen Storey and Tony Storey.

Site liaison: Mary Flinders.

Site conditions: Old stubble.

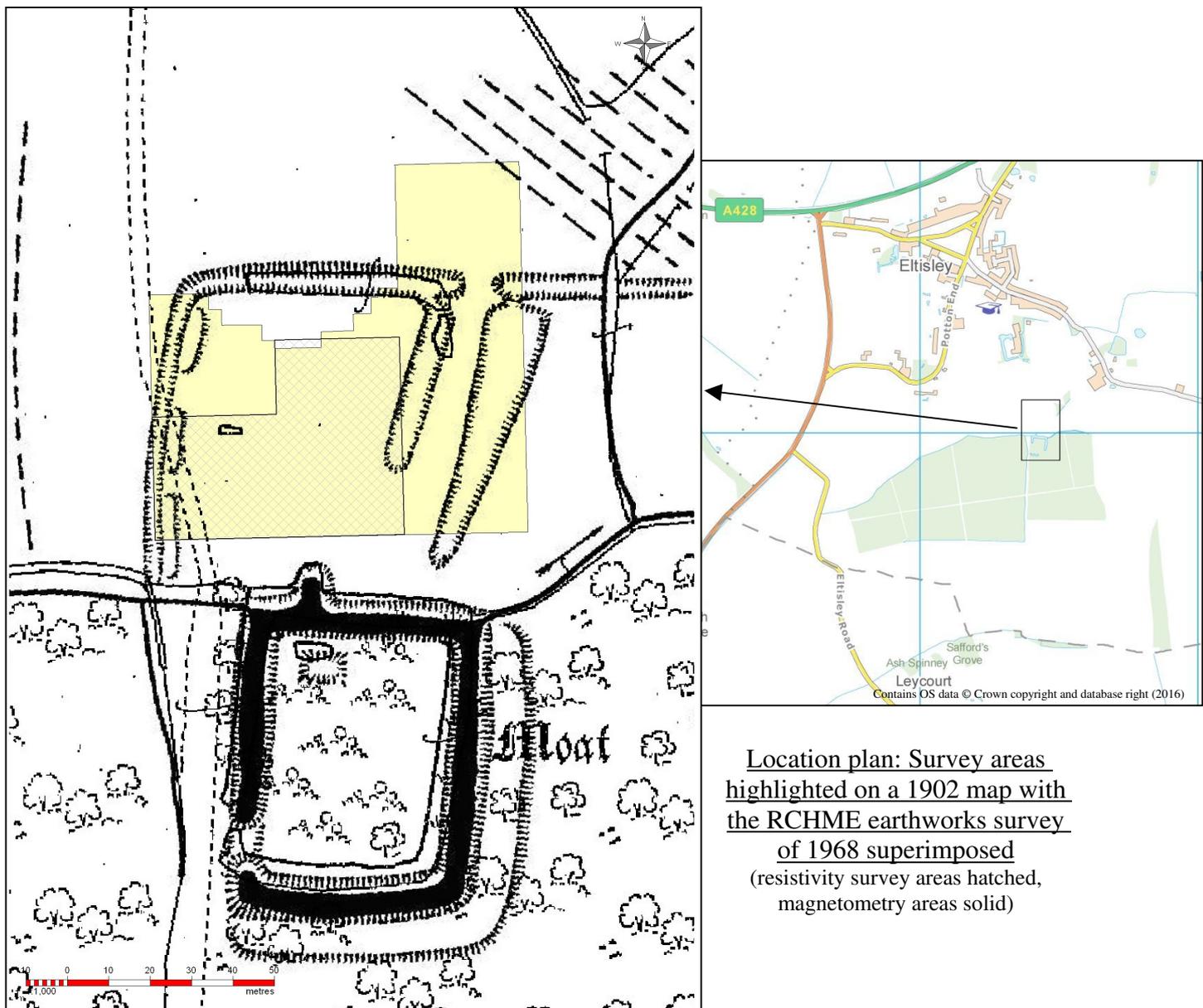
Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer; TRCIA 50 cm quad probe.

Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.

Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Raw data available as separate appendices.

Location: TL274591, Eltisley, Cambs.



Location plan: Survey areas highlighted on a 1902 map with the RCHME earthworks survey of 1968 superimposed
(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 relating to recorded earthworks adjacent to a moated site.



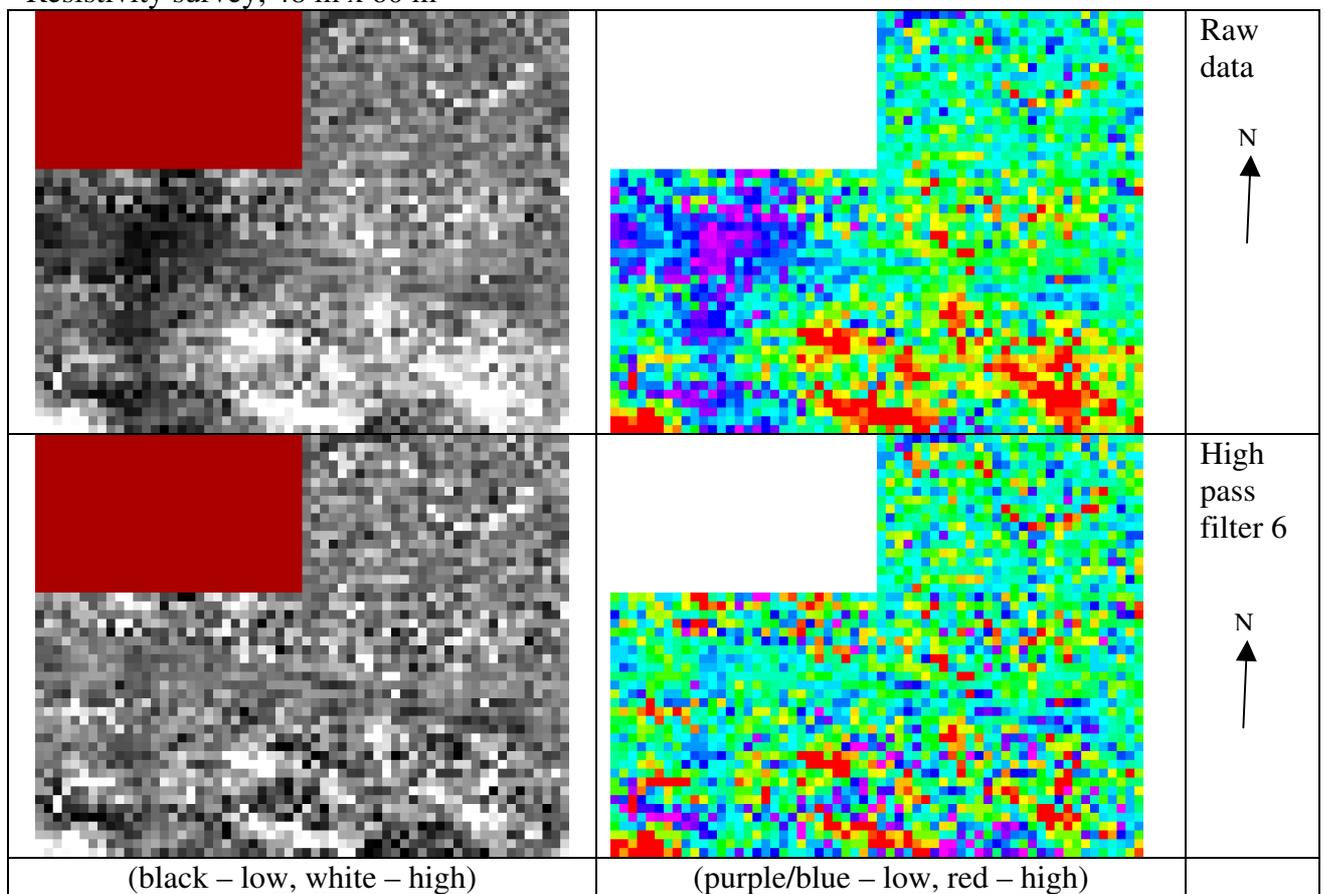
Site topography:

Largely a level site but the west side of the survey area had the appearance of an area which collected water and was scattered with gravel, larger stone pieces and rubble. The south side had a field edge track before a ditch around established woodland containing a deep moated site. The north side of the resistivity survey area had an elongated hollow surrounded by scrub.

Results:

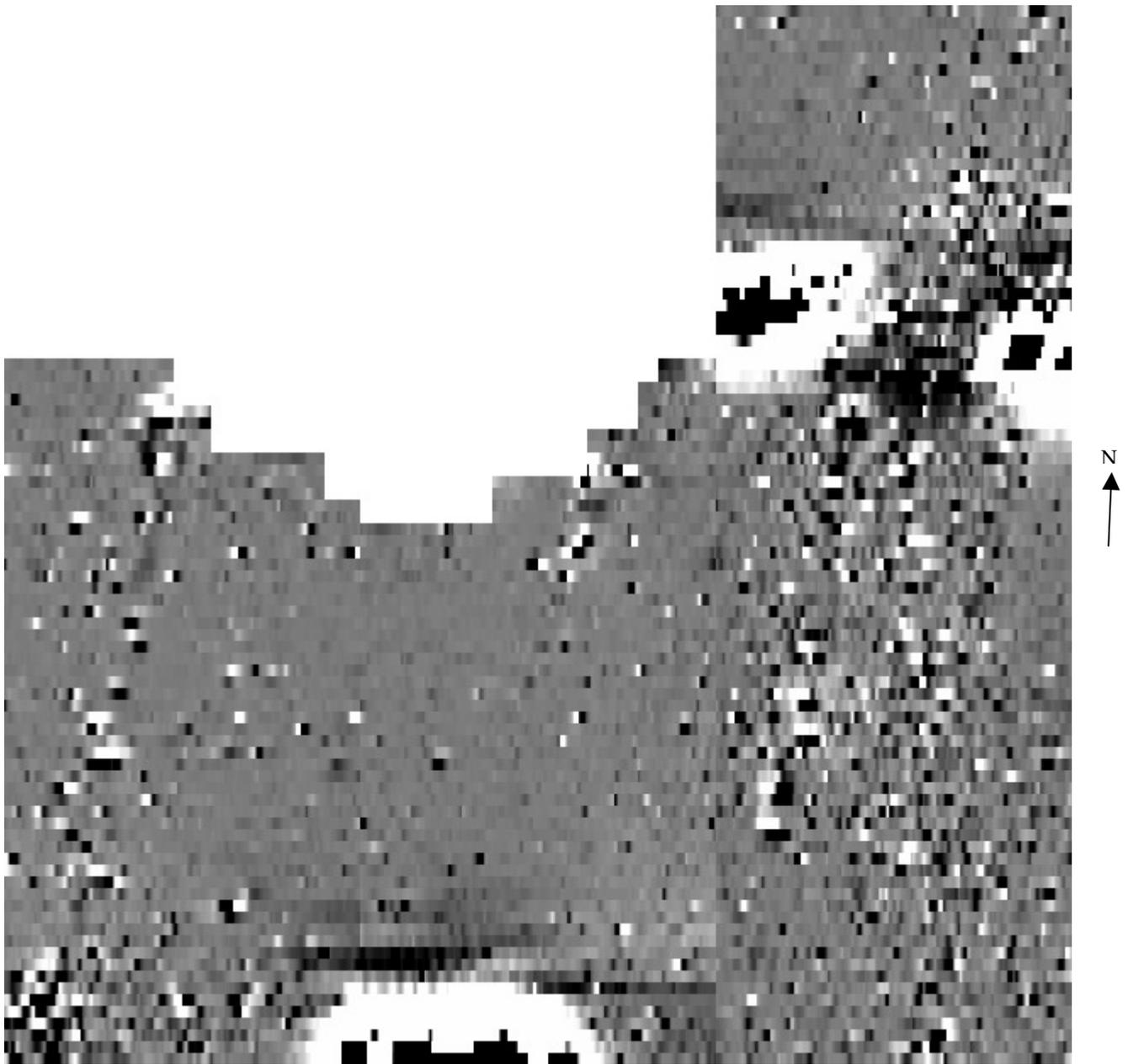
The images in this section are orientated for presentation. The images are not to a common scale.

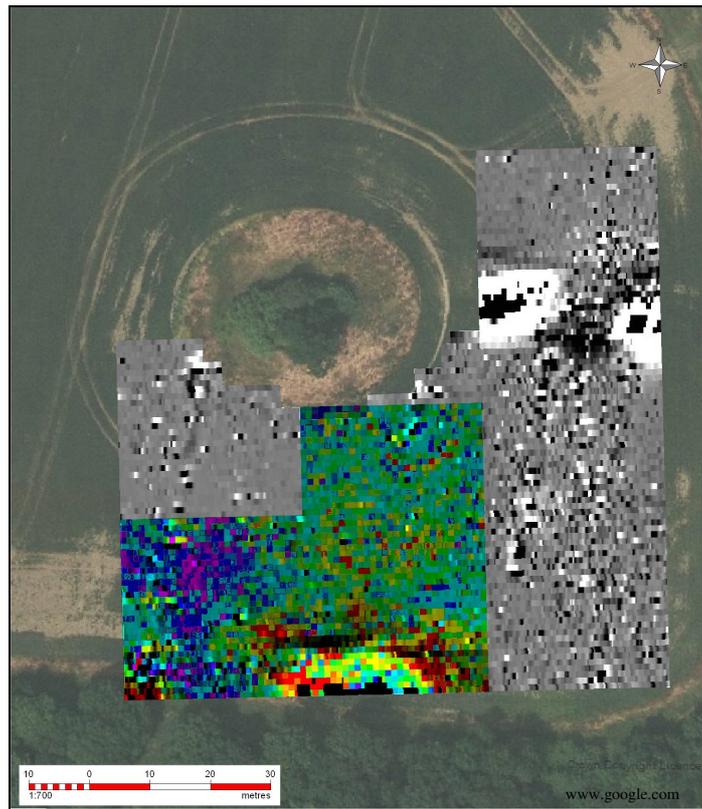
Resistivity survey, 48 m x 60 m



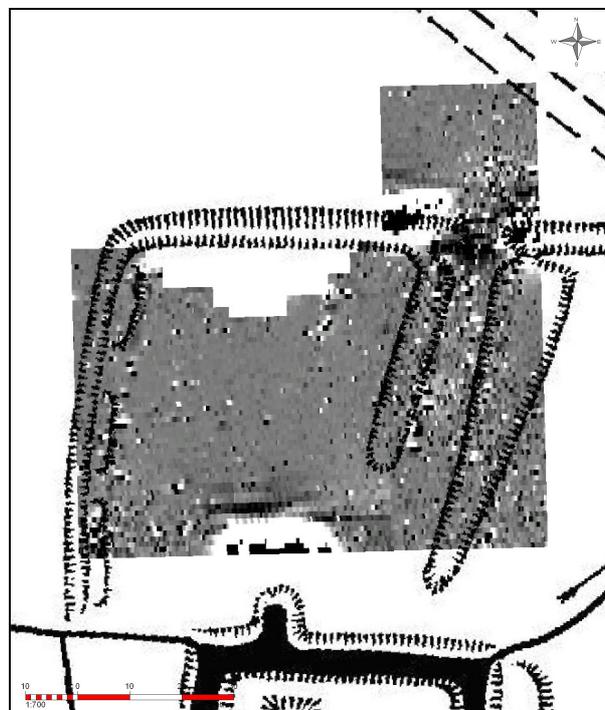


Magnetometry survey 90 m x 90 m range +8 to -8 nT





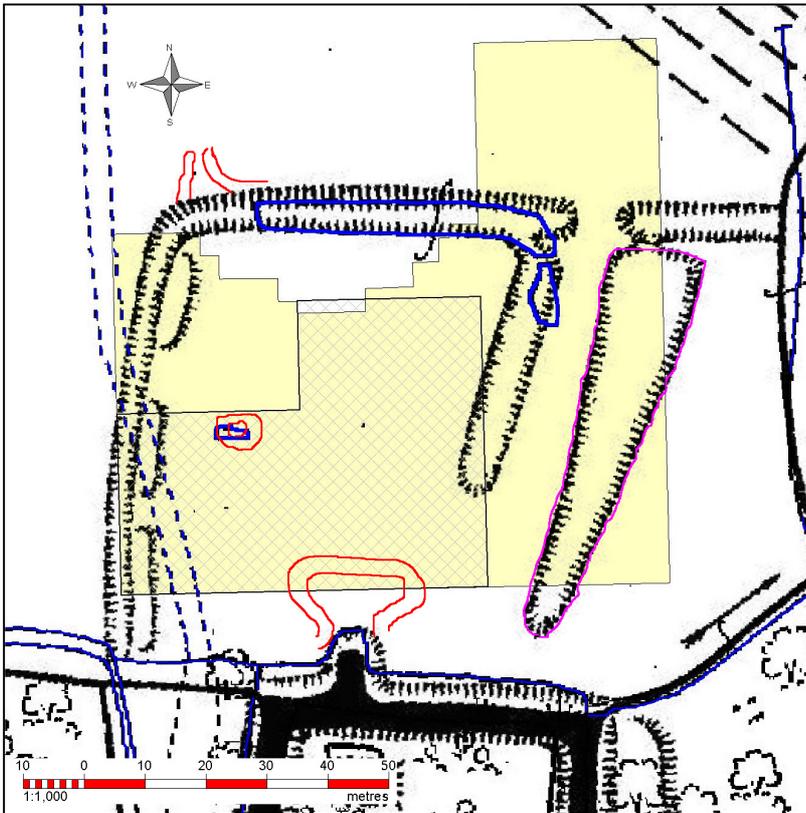
Superimposition of the resistivity and magnetometry results on an aerial photograph



Superimposition of the magnetometry results on the RCHME survey of 1968

Discussion:

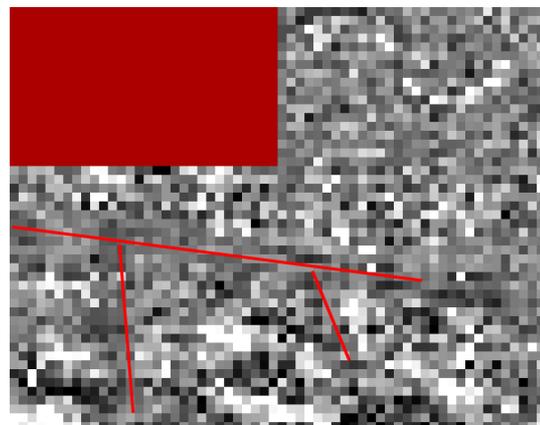
This site has some interesting features in its mapping history. These features are summarised on the plan below, where the 1902 features are highlighted in blue, the base RCHME 1968 map in black and appreciable additions from a 1973 map are shown in red and an omission in purple. The survey areas are also shown.



The 1902 County Series map shows an E—W feature with a small S turn at its E end, a protrusion at the NW corner of the moated site within the wood and a very small feature near a track on the W side of the survey. The RCHME survey of 1968 marks the same E—W ditch with a much longer turn S at the E end, and a ditch with three indented ditches running S from the W end. It also shows an extension, after a gap, to the E with a triangular area to the S of that extension. A map of 1973, and current OS mapping, shows most of the 1968 features except for the triangular area, and adds a much larger protrusion from the NW corner of the moat.

With regard to the magnetometry survey the break in the E—W ditch line is clearly visible, as is part of the extension from the moat (shown in red above). The intensity of the signals in these areas suggests infilling with rubble probably containing ferrous material. None of the three extensions S from this E—W ditch produced a clear response. The W arm has a slight increase in noise but very little suggesting an underlying ditch. The centre arm is similar to the W arm. The E arm has produced a generalised area of increased noise.

The resistivity results showed no patterns which could be clearly related to any of the features mapped, or identifiable as archaeological. However, subtle unexplained bands of medium resistance values were noted, shown here in red.



Bands of medium resistance values

Reference:

An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Cambridgeshire, Volume 1, West Cambridgeshire (/rchme/cambs/vol1). Originally published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1968.