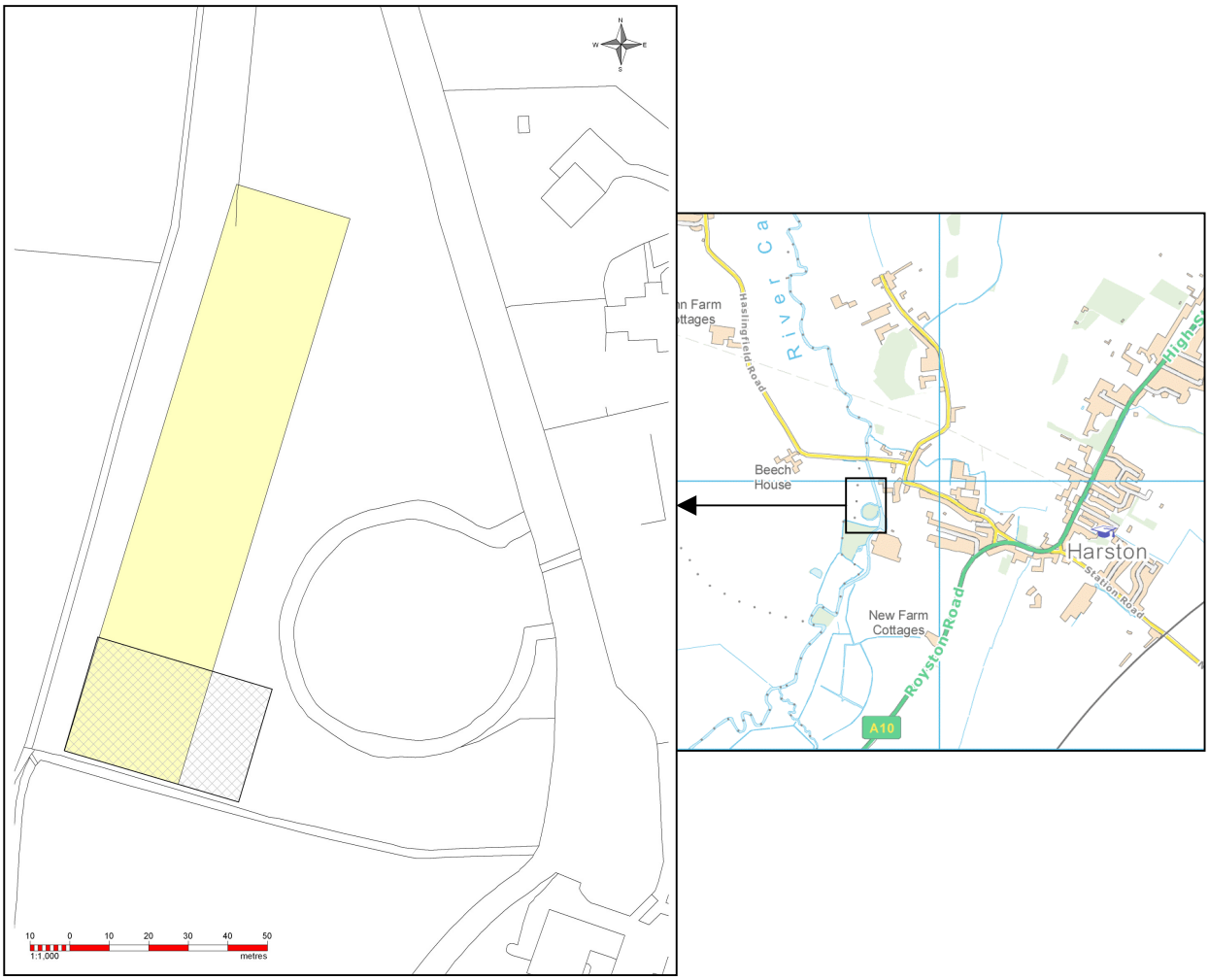
Harston Manor Field Report

In April 2017 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site to determine whether any archaeological features were detectable.
Members participating: Brian Bridgland, Liz Livingstone, Ian Sanderson, Gill Shapland, Maureen Storey and Tony Storey.
Site liaison: Rupert Pearce Gould.
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: TL417509, Harston Manor, Harston, Cambs.



Location plan: Survey areas
(resistivity survey areas hatched, magnetometry areas solid)

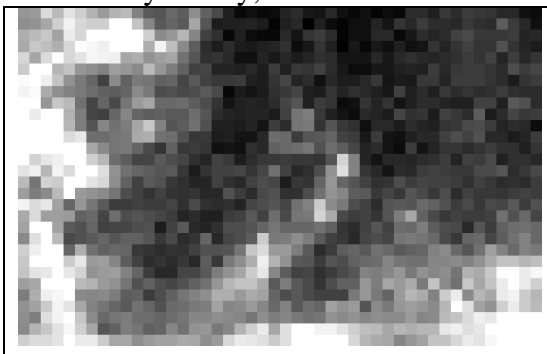
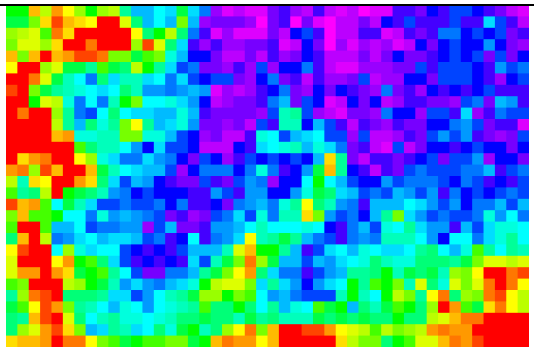
Purpose of survey: The purpose of this survey was to determine if any subsurface features could be detected relating to a road to Harston mill shown the Inclosure map. The georeferencing of the map to modern features was problematic.

Site topography:
Flat rough grass paddock with mature trees and timber debris along the west side. Scrub bordering a ditch on the south side The river Cam and a circular ditch on the east. Two fences divided the paddock.

Results:

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

Resistivity survey, 46 m x 30 m

<table>
<tr><td>  </td><td>  </td><td>Resistivity

Raw data

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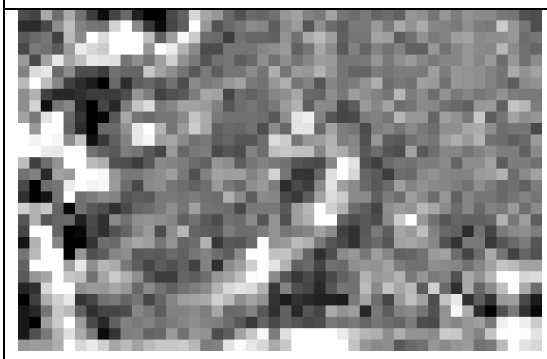
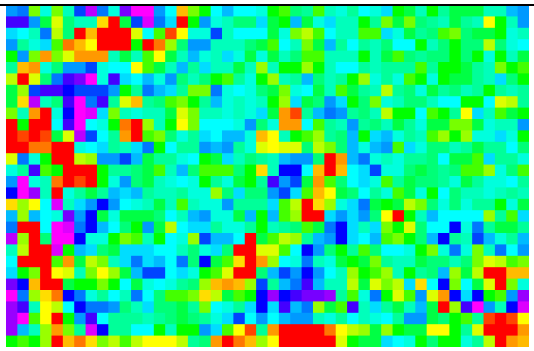
<tr><td>  </td><td>  </td><td>High pass filter 4

N</td></tr>
<tr><td>(black – low, white – high, red – null)</td><td>(purple/blue – low, red – high, white – null)</td><td></td></tr>
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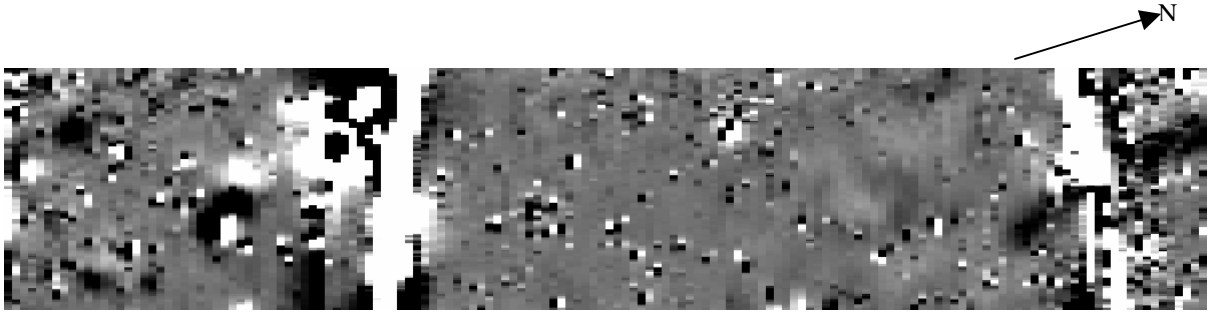
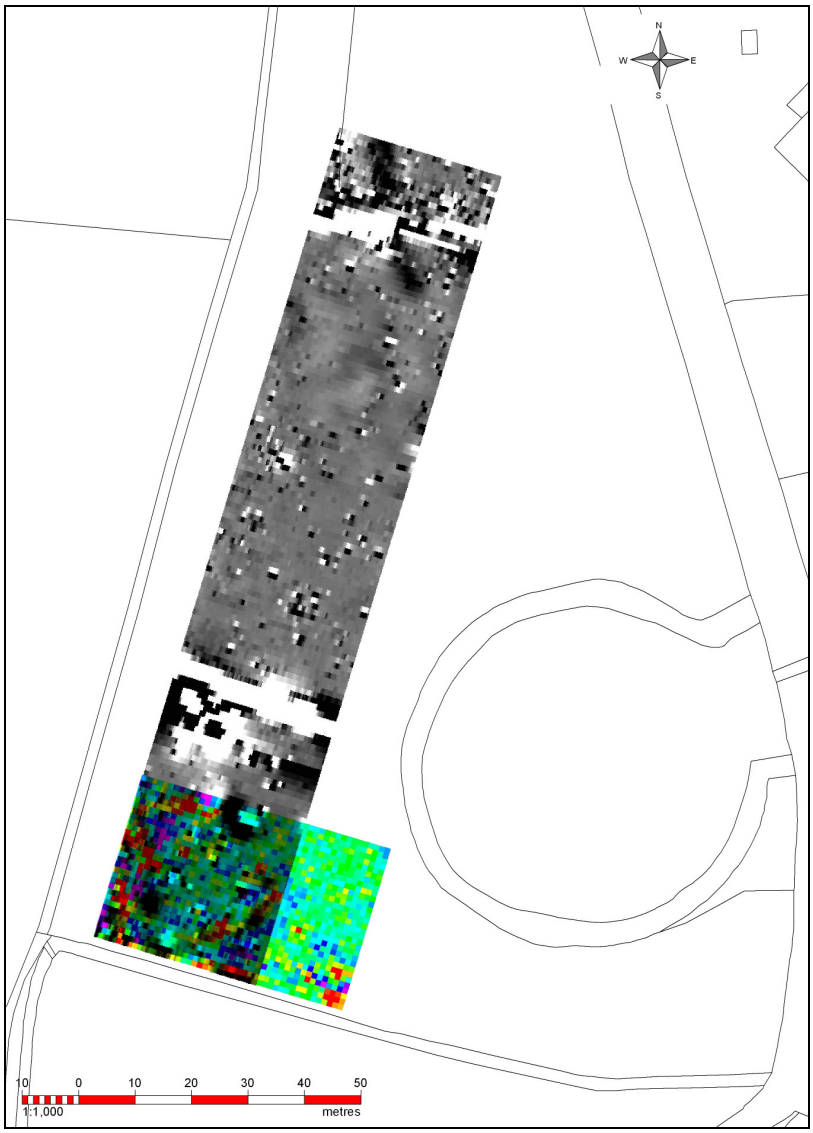
Magnetometry survey 150 m x 30 m range +5 to -6 nT





Superimposed magnetometry and resistivity results

Discussion:
The survey area is included on both the Haslingfield and the Harston and Hauxton Inclosure award maps. Matching the present features to those on the award maps is problematic, the best fit placing the Inclosure road to Harston mill on the N side of the ditch marking the S boundary of the survey area in one case and on the S side in the other.

The resistivity survey has a line of higher responses along its S edge with lower responses parallel to the N. This could indicate the edge of a road but is equally likely to be due to the scrub and ditch immediately to the S. The S edge of the magnetometry survey also has a set of stronger signals which are similarly inconclusive.
The resistivity survey has a group of higher values along the W side of the survey which are unexplained. There is also a line of higher responses running NE – SW.

Harston and Hauxton Inclosure award map overlaying present features and survey areas

The magnetometry survey shows the two fence lines crossing the survey area, both of which are accompanied by indeterminate magnetic noise. The NE – SW line shown in the resistivity results is to a minor extent reflected in the magnetometry survey perhaps suggesting a track. An Inclosure boundary which should have crossed the magnetometry survey was not apparent, because either it was never a ditched boundary or, more likely, any magnetic traces have been dispersed by flooding.

Report by Dr I Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch