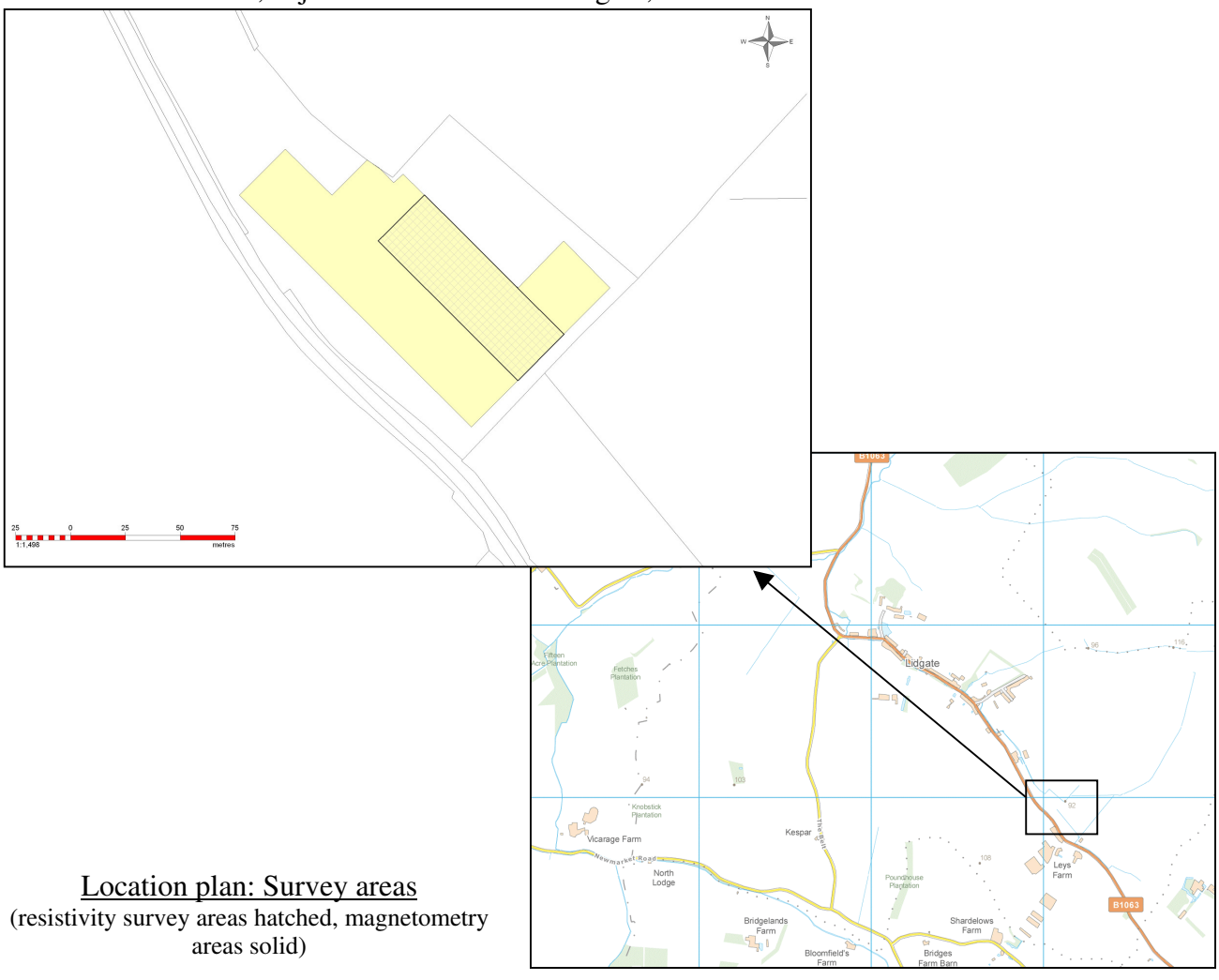
Lidgate East Report

In April 2012 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site.
Members participating: Pat Davies, Brian Bridgland, Liz Livingstone, Bruce Milner, Ian Sanderson, Gill Shapland, Maureen Storey and Tony Storey.
Site Liaison: Chris Michaelides.
Site conditions: Tussock 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 are available as separate appendices.

Location: TL 730569, adjacent B1063 east of Lidgate, Suffolk.



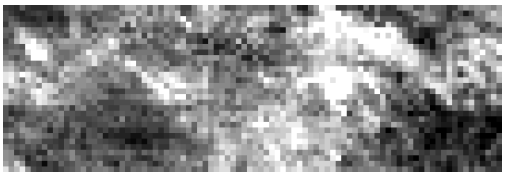
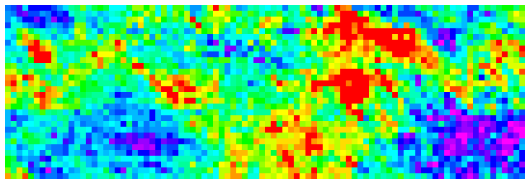
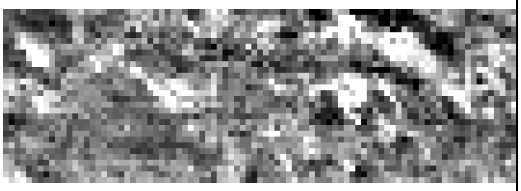
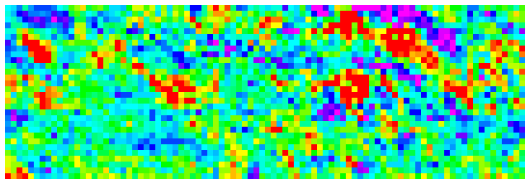
Location plan: Survey areas
(resistivity survey areas hatched, magnetometry areas solid)

Purpose of survey: The purpose of this survey was to determine if any subsurface features could be detected adjacent to the scheduled Roman site (Historic England Number 1002971).

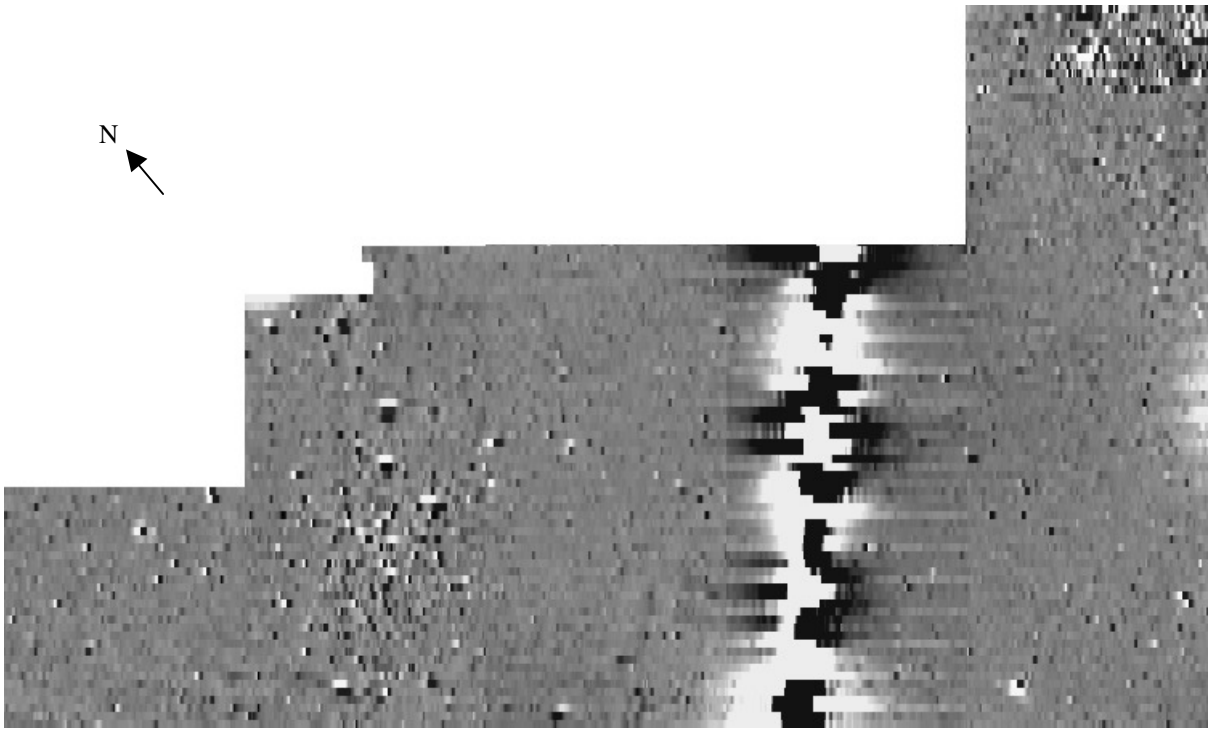
Results:

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

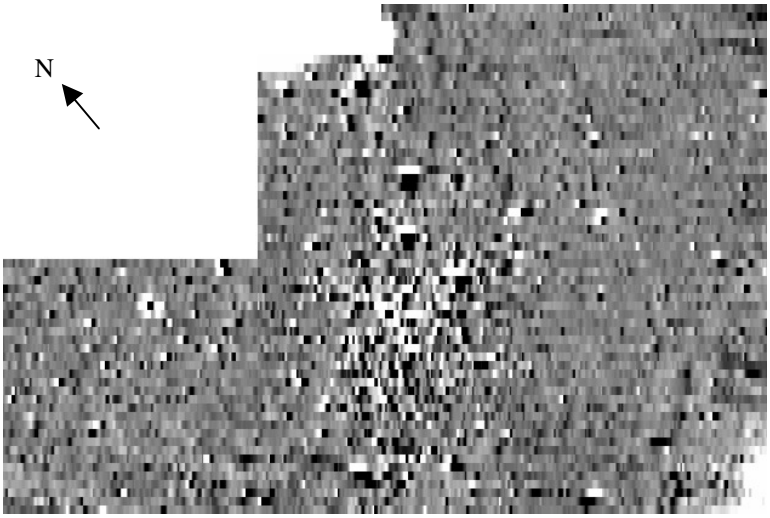
Resistivity

		Resistivity 30 m x 90 m Raw data
		Resistivity 30 m x 90 m High pass filter 8
(black - low, white - high)	(purple/blue - low, red - high)	N

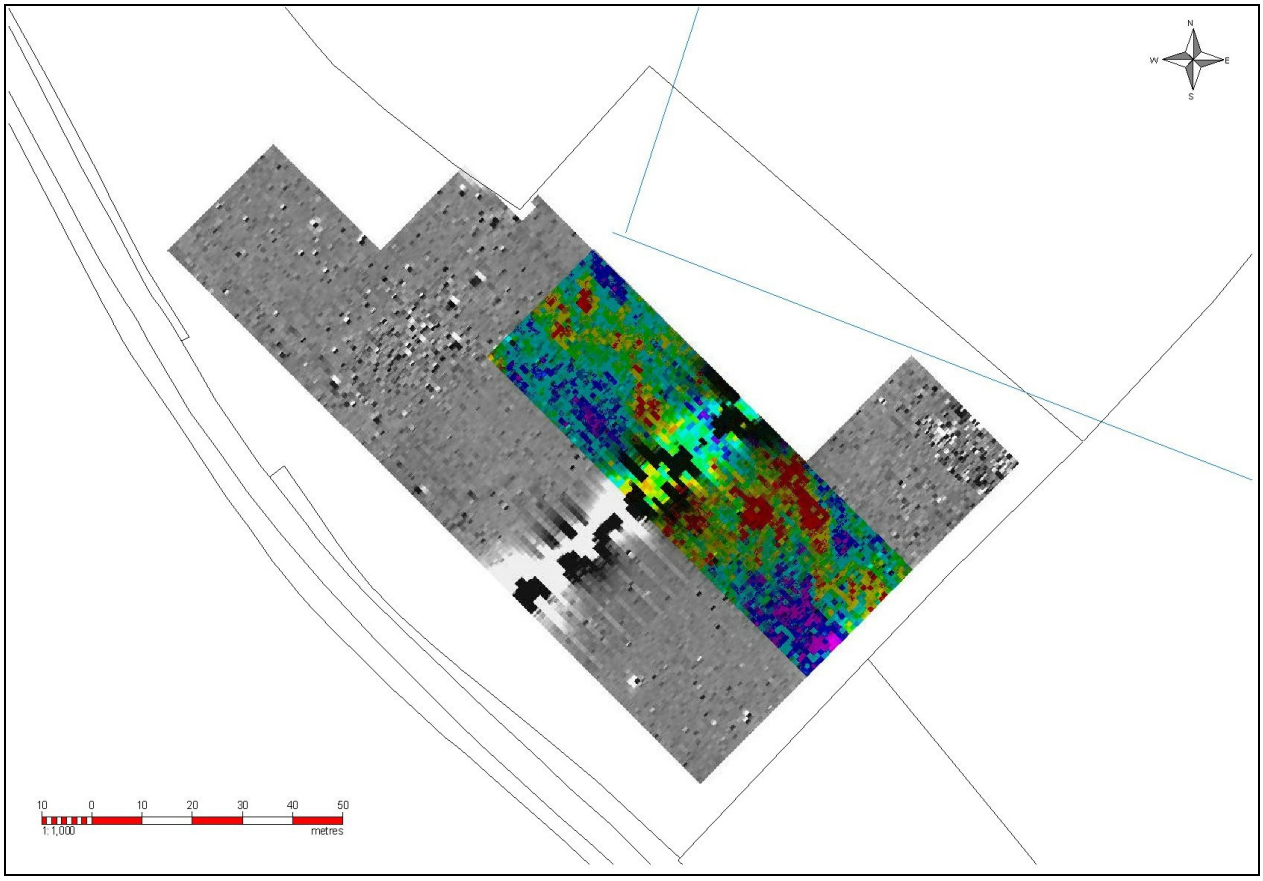
Magnetometry



Magnetometry 150 m x 90 m range +14 to -14 nT



Magnetometry 60 m x 90 m range +5 to -5 nT
Results from the NW of the area after selective analysis to remove excess noise.



Superimposition of resistivity and magnetometry results
with the S end of the scheduled area outlined in blue.

Discussion:
The magnetometry results are dominated by a line of iron piping which could be seen crossing the ditch immediately NE of the survey area. This effectively blanketed any subtle archaeological signals with its background noise. Two areas did remain largely unaffected by the background noise, one at the E corner and a more disperse area running parallel to the pipe line towards the NW of the survey area. The E corner area is relatively discrete and suggests the demolition remains of a small building. A selective analysis of the data to exclude the effects of the pipe made potentially significant archaeological results more visible. This reduced area analysis shows a more localised area of magnetic noise without the discrete nature of the E area. This suggests either some sort of working area or a wide scatter of building demolition.

Towards the middle of the resistivity survey area is a band of high values across the width of the survey which is unexplained and might warrant further investigation. The high values at the SE end of the resistivity survey tend towards being rectilinear which suggests they may be due to building foundations. At the NE end of the survey area there is a line of high resistance values running approximately E—W. Mid way along this line is another line running approximately N—S, S from the E—W line terminating in a larger area of high resistance values to the S. This suggests wall foundation lines which if found to be aligned with the scheduled Roman villa to the N may be associated with the villa site. Verification of any such alignment is beyond the scope of this report.

Report by Dr I Sanderson for Archaeology RheeSearch