



Wandlebury, Stapleford Report

On 5th March 2025 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, Ian Sanderson, Maureen Storey and Tony Storey.

Site liaison: Oscar Aldred.

Site conditions: Rough grass.

Equipment: Bartington 601 gradiometer.

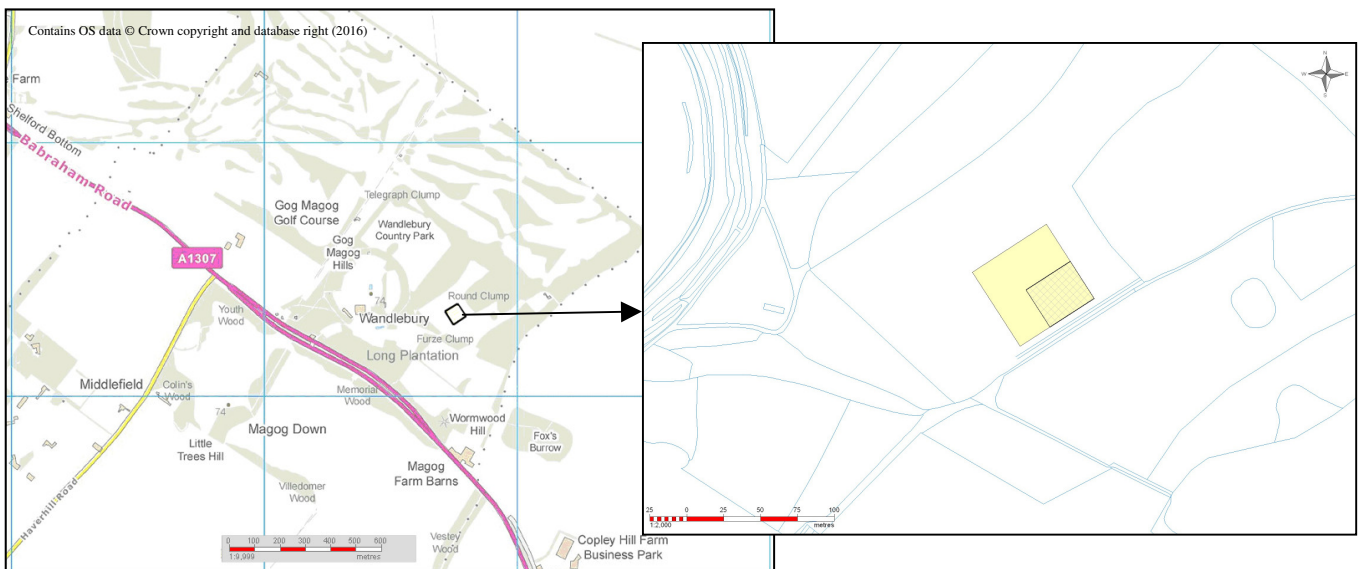
Magnetometry readings: 8/m, 1 m separation.

TRCIA quad probe.

Resistivity readings: 1 m interval, 1 m separation.

Raw data available as separate appendices.

Location: TL494532, Stapleford, Cambs.



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

Purpose of survey:

The purpose of this survey was to determine if any subsurface archaeological features could be detected to support the possibility that a defensive structure once existed to the south east of the present hill fort (Aldred & Brudenell 2024). The site was chosen and laid out in consultation and with the assistance of Oscar Aldred and Jane Matthews of the Cambridge Archaeology Unit, The aim was to explore the possibility that a magnetic signal shown in the report above (identified as ‘The Woodland Trust Magnetometer Survey 1998 (GSB Prospection)’) extended to the north in such a manner as to support the main conjecture of that report.

Site topography:

The ground had a slight slope down from the north west to a post and wire fence with hedging about 5 m from the south east boundary of the survey. The area itself was rough grass with a small copse of mature trees in the western corner. An informal track crossed the survey area.

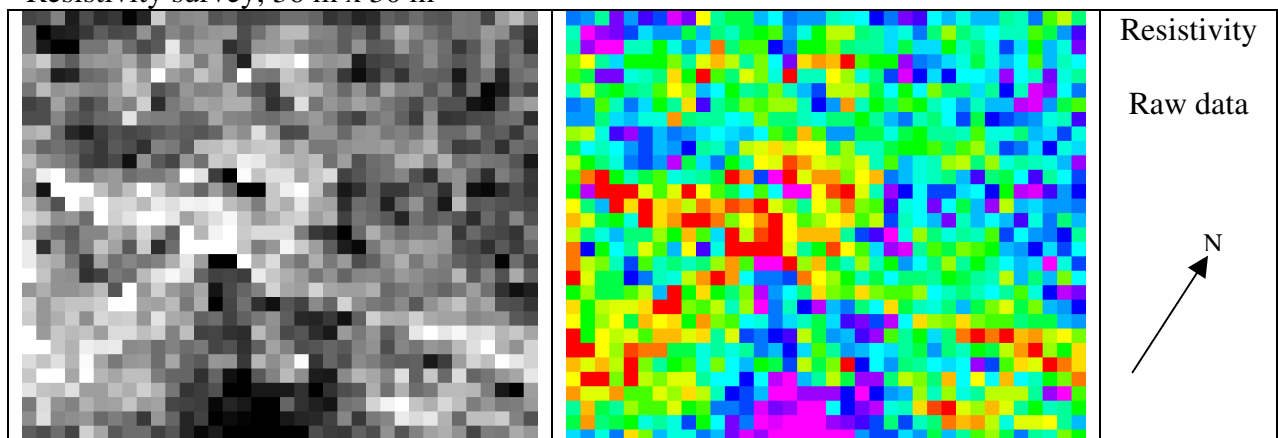


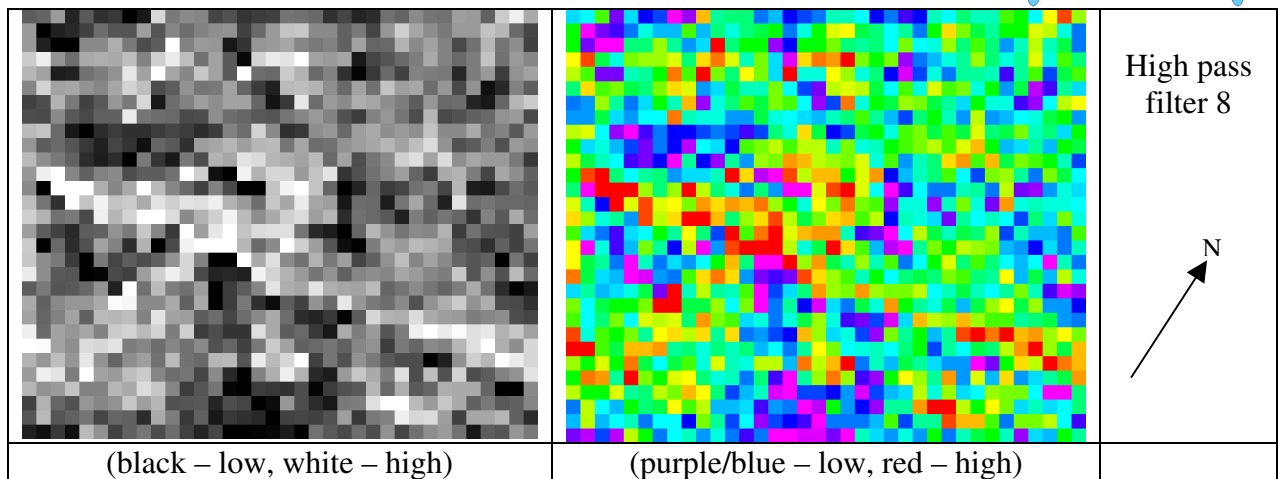
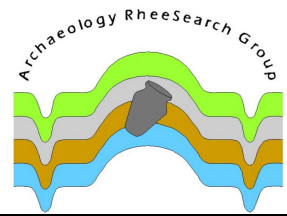
Aerial photo showing the position of this survey in yellow.

Results:

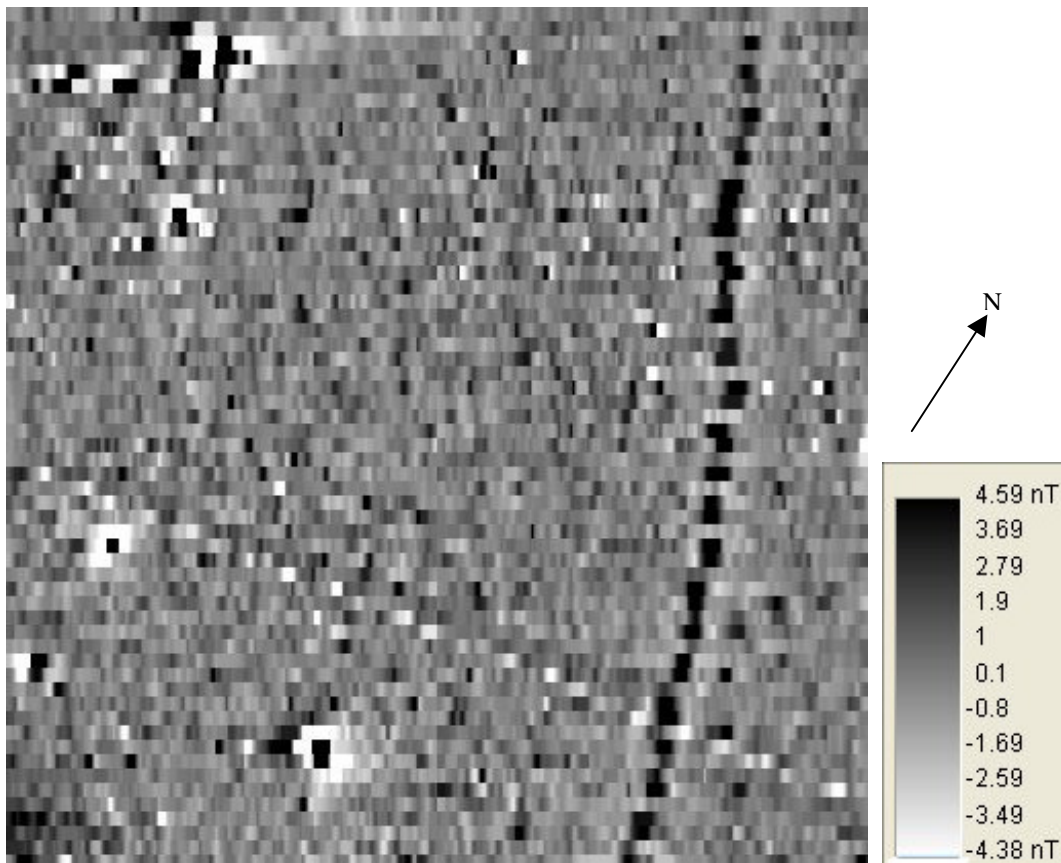
The images in this section are orientated for presentation. The images are not to a common scale.

Resistivity survey, 36 m x 30 m





Magnetometry +5 to -4 nT, 60 m x 60 m



Discussion:

The magnetometry results show a strong signal running close to the NE edge of the survey which conforms with the projected line given in Aldred & Brudenell 2024. It also shows a weaker line running roughly W—E across the survey probably representing an old path from the bridge over the circular ditch to Wool Street House (previously known as Fulbourn Lodge) to the east. This path also shows in the resistivity results as a set of interrupted high values perhaps due to patchy metalling, and in the 1998 magnetometry survey.



Results superimposed on an aerial photograph

Acknowledgement:

Thanks to Jane Matthews of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit for providing the GPS data to enable accurate location of our grids.

Reference:

Aldred and Brudenell 2024, Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, CXIII, p117