



## **Wandlebury, Stapleford Report**

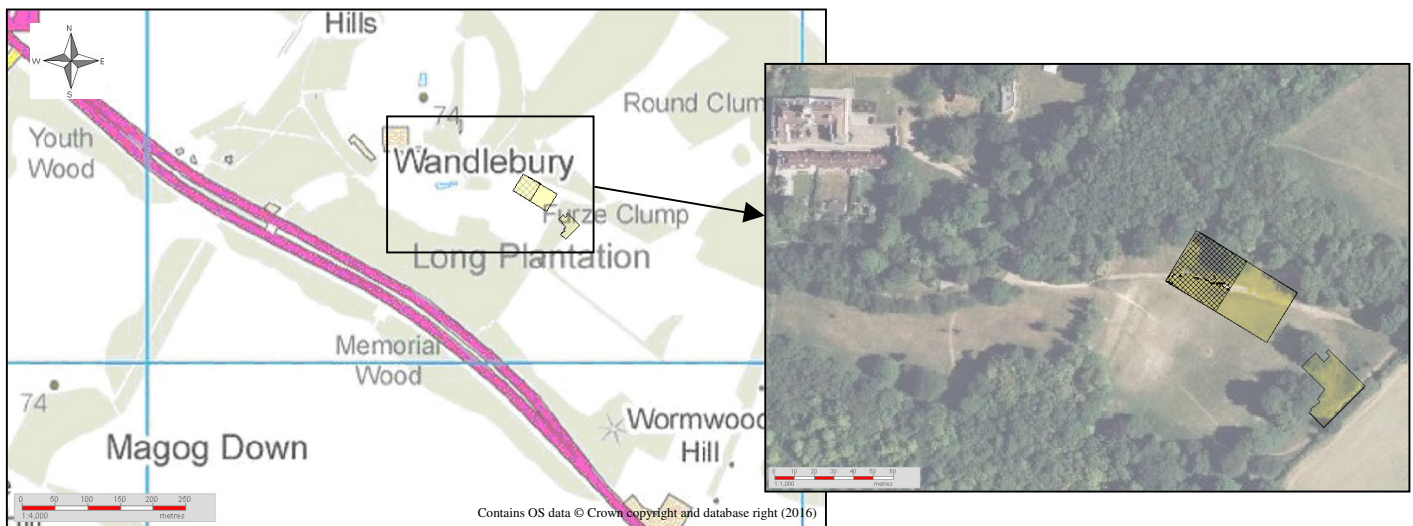
On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Archaeology RheeSearch Group carried out magnetometry and resistivity surveys on this site to determine whether any archaeological features were detectable.

**Members participating:** Pat Davies, Richard Freeman, Liz Livingstone, Ian Sanderson, Gill Shapland, Maureen Storey and Tony Storey.

**Site liaison:** Oscar Aldred.

**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:** TL496532, Wandlebury, 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 which might be affected by future works in the area.

### **Site topography:**

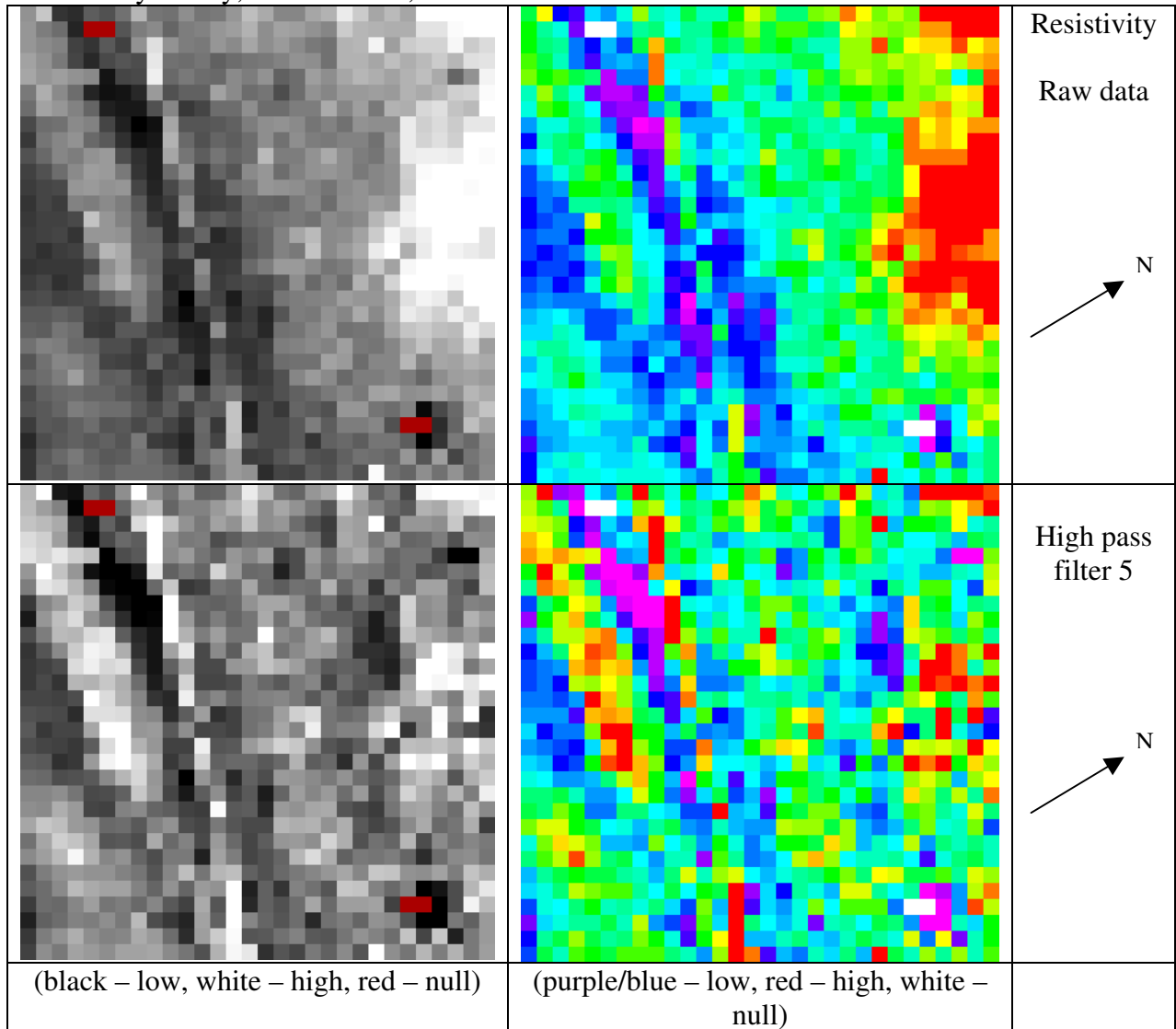
The ground of the northern survey area had a slight slope down to the south east. The principal feature laying diagonally across the area was a steep slope. To the south of the slope the surface was a level area an estimated 2m lower than the top of the slope at the western end of the survey location, the two levels joining at the eastern end following the slight downward gradient. The surface was rough grass with a few mature trees to the north of the diagonal bounded by a gravel path with mown grass to the south.

The southern survey area was between mature trees to the north west and mature hedging to the south east with rough grass between. The woodland edge had high cut bramble and tree/scrub growth. A pronounced mound was just beyond the north east edge of the survey area.

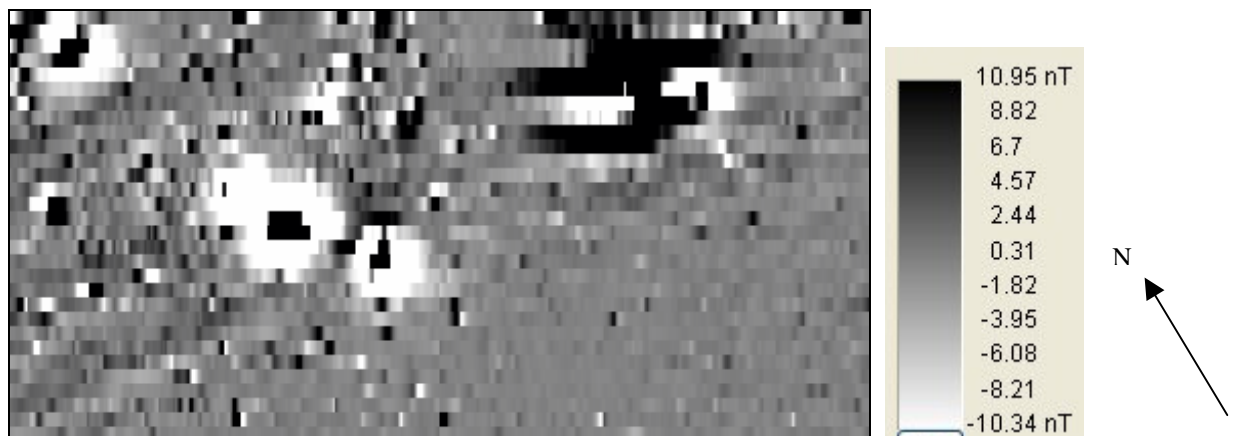
**Results:**

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

Resistivity survey, northern area, 36 m x 30 m

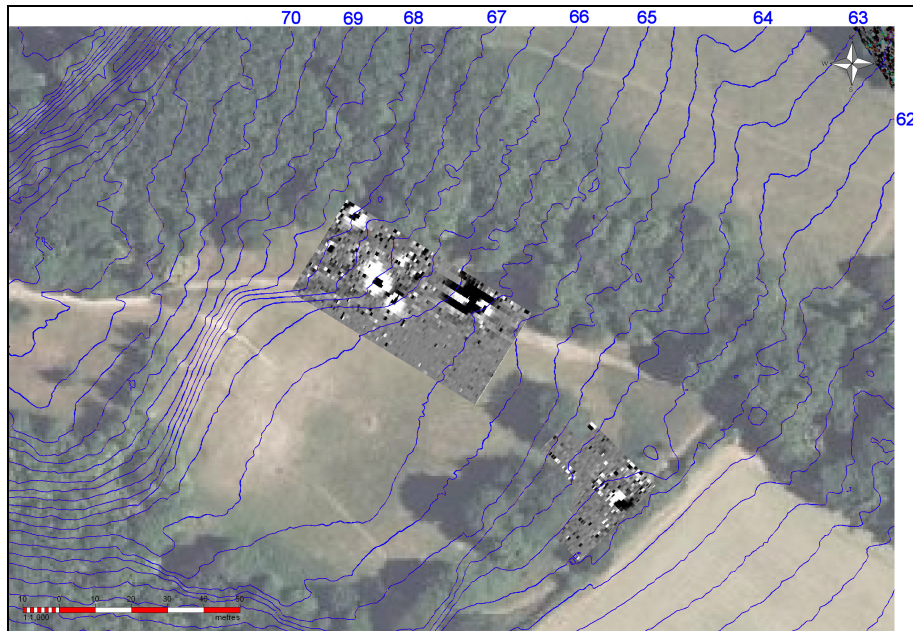
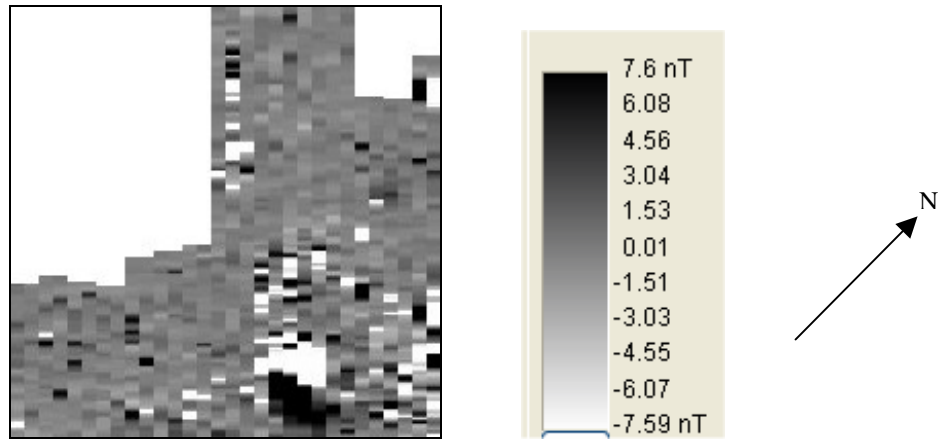


Magnetometry, northern area, +11 to -10 nT, 60 m x 30 m

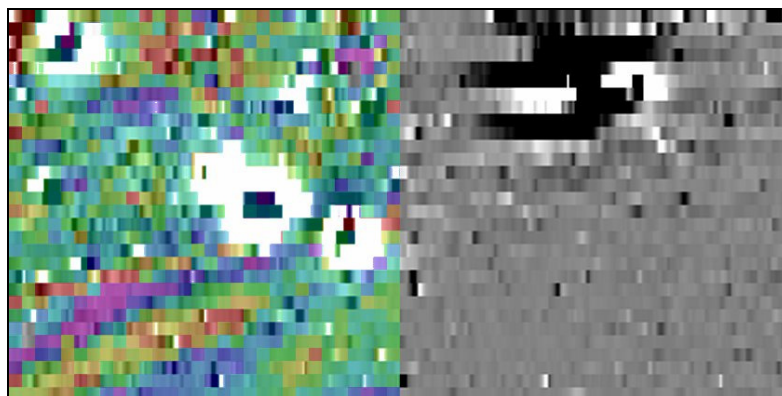




Magnetometry, southern area, +8 to -8 nT, 30 m x 30 m



Magnetometry results on an aerial photograph with lidar derived 0.5 m contours.



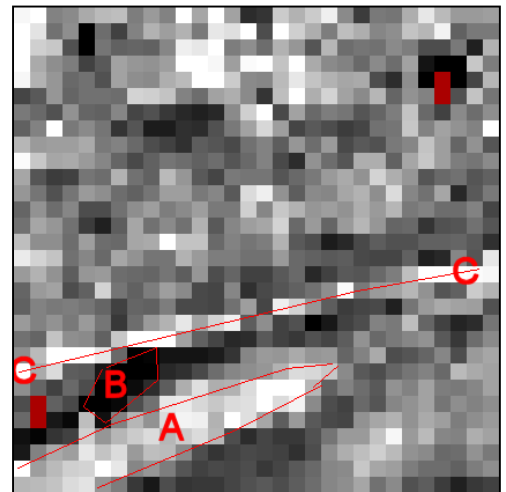
Resistivity results superimposed on magnetometry results (northern area).

**Discussion:**

The magnetometry results in the main survey area were appreciably affected by a metal pole and a fixed seat within the survey. This is shown by the large black area in the images above. Three point anomalies show the position of strong ferrous signals, the central one probably a drain cover seen whilst surveying, but not measured in. No recognisable archaeological features were detected, but the relatively high noise in the site might be sufficient to obscure any subtle features.

The smaller magnetometry survey showed one area with a strong magnetic response, and slightly more noise towards the mound just outside the survey.

The resistivity results had a band of high values (A) extending from the western corner of the survey reflecting the lack of moisture on the slope between the higher and lower areas covered. An interrupted line of high values (C) ran along the top of the slope, possibly either a trench line or a wear path. The large area of very low resistivity values (B) near the western corner at the higher level seems anomalous and could be due to a barrier preventing water movement, a pit refilled with retentive soil or a local water source.



**Acknowledgement:**

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