

Report for Sites and Monuments Records

A resistivity survey was carried out by the Thriplow Landscape Research Group in September 2004 on 3 separate days to establish the presence of a ring ditch visible in crop marks of 1997 and earlier, using equipment purchased with a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative Fund. The initial target was centred on the crop mark visible on an aerial photograph which appeared to be a few metres south of the SMR record. Results failed to locate the ring ditch but located a possible mill site.

Location

OS (TL) 540709 247534 South of Foxton

Conditions:

Day 1 surface slightly dry with crop stubble.

Day 2 as day 1 with light rain for 2 days before; surface stubble and dry.

Day 3 Field had been ploughed and rolled plus 5 days light rain since day 2: surface dry for top 5mm then moist.

Day 1 grids a-d

Day 2 grids e-g (e and f were repeats of a-b *)

Day 3 grids h-k

*No significant differences were noted in the repeated grids a-b and e-f. This was an experiment to determine the effects of light rain on survey results.

i	j	k
g	a/e	d
h	b/f	c

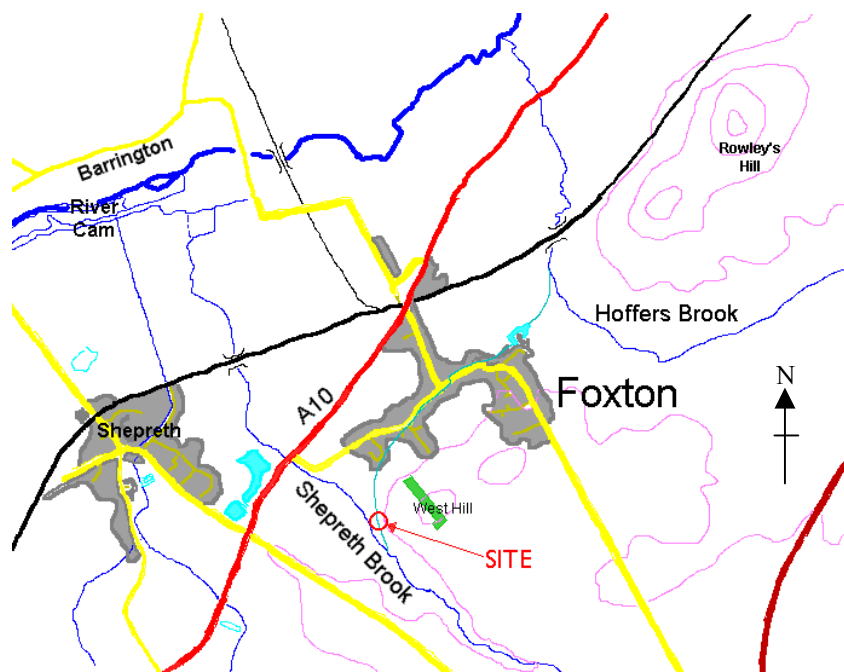
Equipment.

TR/CIA 50cm twin probe array LCR rural (0.5s) automatic data logging.

Method.

Each 20m square grid was started in the bottom left hand corner moving north taking readings every 1m for 20m then moving east 1m and progressing south etc. Resulting in one reading per m² of each grid. For each movement of the reference probes, resistance values were matched to known values in previous grids to within 1Ω.

Site:



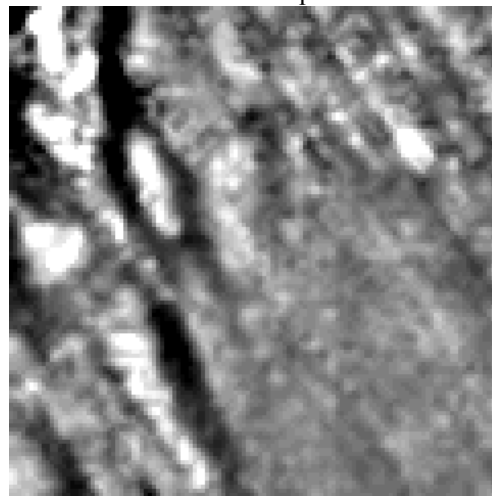
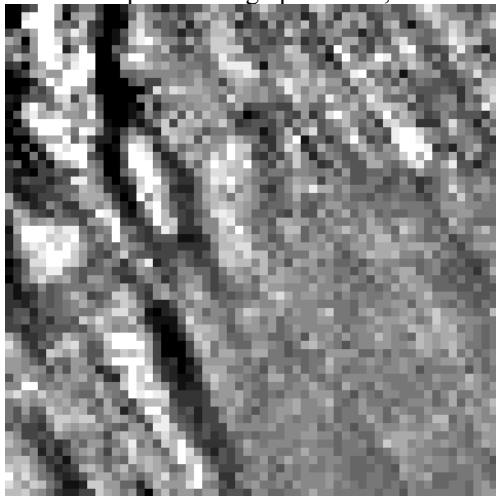


Results.

i) Images

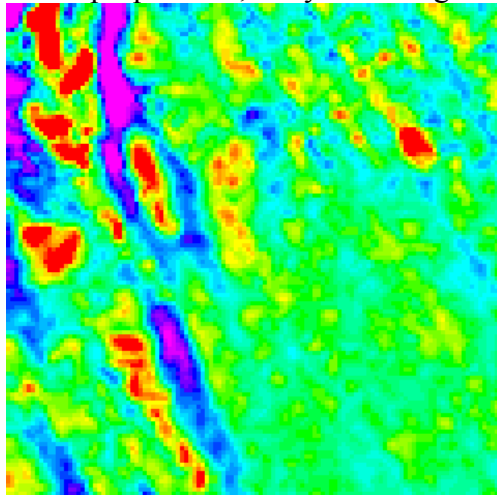
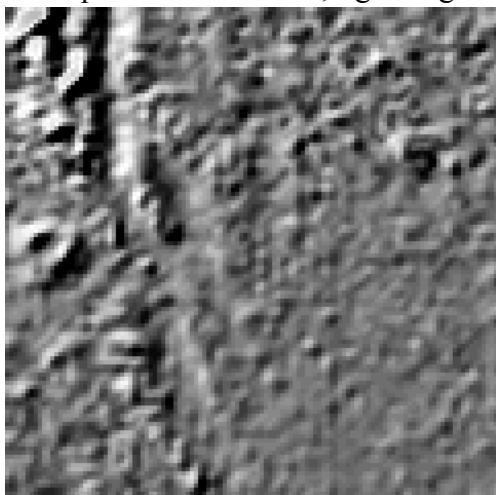
Data with spike and high pass filter,

as before with interpolation



relief plot dark=low; light=high

blue/purple=low; red yellow=high



Results.

ii) Description.

Resistivity survey images are usually processed to bring out the expected results, in this case a ring ditch feature. Unfortunately nothing of the target feature has been revealed, but the results clearly show that there is a low resistance area running NS and slightly to the W with respect to the images with an island of high resistance just above centre. Following the NS low resistance line on the W, to the N, but not to the S, is a line of high resistance values. Superimposed on these features is a general SE-NW linearity. To the W there is possibly another low resistance line, and to the E a single area of high resistance.

Interpretation

Without careful excavation, any interpretation of a resistivity survey is purely speculative. Bearing that in mind, the images presented here show that a short division of the course of a stream has been identified with an adjacent high resistance square and a high resistance line from the N.

This could be interpreted as the foundations of a mill with the split in the stream suggesting the drive and overflow courses and a pathway from the village to the N. There is a marked neutral area of resistance just to the S of the split which could suggest a bridging point & / or weir which was filled in at an early stage such as to be indistinguishable in a resistivity survey.

Low resistance values to the W correspond to an area appreciably lower than the bulk of the area tested and could be associated with the flood area of Shepreth Brook. The high area of resistance to the E could be another structure or exposure of the underlying chalk by soil slippage down the slope. The overlying linearity NW-SE fits comfortably with the prevailing ploughing line.

This location is about 85m south of the ending of a 'Private Road' on the Inclosure map running alongside the 'Town Drain'. It is at the junction of two holdings of 'Clare Hall' which abut to the south and on the opposite side of the ditch, to holdings of 'Foxton Bury'. The ditch is shown very slightly wider at this point on the map but not outside the bounds that could be attributed to the freehand drawing of a curve. It is possible that the 'Private Road' shown on the Inclosure map, extended further to a building prior to the 1830 survey.

No specific reference a mill in Foxton was found in Rowland Parker's personal notes of transcriptions of the Court Roles although there were references to Alan the miller in Barrington in 1292 and Johannes (John) Rikener the miller at 'Mephous' listed under Shepreth in 1324.

Domesday cites 2½ mills at Barrington and 1 at Foxton, the latter split between the Abbess of Chatteris and Sigur the Kings Steward