

ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS

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Short Report form no. 2014-07

Geophysical Survey Details

Name of site: Wigginton, Oxfordshire

County: Oxfordshire **District:** Cherwell **Parish:** Wigginton

NGR grid reference Centred on SP392334
Nearest postcode. OX15 4JU

Start date: 1 August 2004 **End date:** Magnetometry 15 August 2004 but post excavation work continuing. **Report date:** 28 July 2014

Geology at site

Chipping Norton Limestone Formation.

Known archaeological sites / monuments covered by the survey

Roman villa. Now Scheduled monument no 1021460 (formerly 28898) First scheduled on 21 Feb 2011. The note on the scheduling gives the background of research here and of the geophysics carried out for Phoenix Archaeology and Historic research Group it says "results from which were limited".

The Phoenix group also advise us that the 2004 excavations revealed what was thought to be a bath house or immersion font room with painted wall plaster. There was a mosaic with a fish design and this had been covered with a mosaic of far inferior quality. A lead font was found in one of the ditches shown on the magnetometry plot. The font is now with Oxfordshire County museums. Their feeling was that this could have been people having to conceal their religion.

Archaeological sites / monument types detected by the survey

Ditches, enclosures, probable villa and probable road.

Surveyor Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics, Roger Ainslie, Sally Ainslie

Name of client, if any:

Phoenix Archaeology and Historic Research Group.

Purpose of survey:

To ascertain whether magnetometry was likely to reveal any archaeological remains in the area. The original report was on 15 August 2004 and this version is to bring it into line with the format which is now useful for the Archaeology Data Service.

Location of:**a) Primary archive, i.e. raw data, electronic archive etc**

Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics.

Also with client

b) Full report:

ditto

Technical Details**Type of survey****A Magnetometer**

Area surveyed, if applicable, 1.33 hectares

Traverse separation, if regular: 1 metre

Reading / sample interval: 4 per metre

Type, make and model of instrumentation: Bartington Grad 601/2 fluxgate gradiometer.

Small earth resistance surveys were also carried out but these revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

Land use at the time of survey

Grass.

Additional remarks

30 metre grids. First line start NW corner going east zig zag.

Grids aligned on eastern boundary of field.

Results (refer to plans below)

- 1 Small ditch-like anomaly. This is parallel to (2) and they may be related.
- 2 Pair of parallel ditches. This could possibly be a road.
- 3 Large ditches – possibly the enclosure around the settlement. These are more detectable to the south as the magnetically enhanced soil there assists detection.
- 4 Probably a pit.
- 5 Probably agricultural as the gaps between the anomalies are similar to ridge and furrow and the approx north-south line appears to respect the

modern field boundary. The anomalies may continue beyond the north south anomaly but have not been detected as they may be running parallel to the direction of the survey.

- 6 An area of dense small ditches – indicative of settlement.
- 7 Areas of high readings – again indicative that the settlement is in this area
- 8 An almost circular ditch- like anomaly. This could indicate an Iron Age phase to the site.
- 9 Area where the excavation was taking place. The anomalies on the southern side could be from fencing around the site but they could also be small hearths.
- 10 A series of small anomalies running parallel to the edge of the field. Cause unknown but may be agricultural as they respect the field alignment rather than that of the Roman remains.
- 11 Some small negative anomalies. These could be limestone walls.

Location Note

The grid references obtained when the original work was done seem not to accord with overlaying the survey on the map. The grid references originally recorded may be up to 10 metres out and it may thus be best to re-survey part to obtain locational accuracy before work based on this survey is carried out.

Conclusions

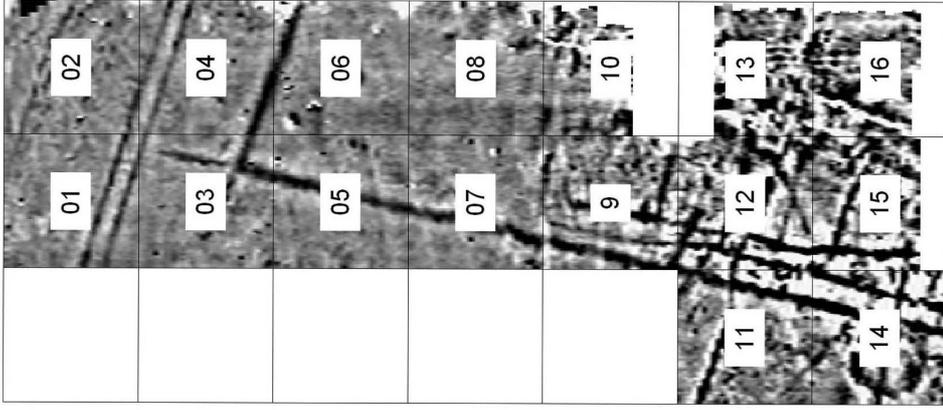
Further work, possibly involving air photos and lidar digital surface model information, will be needed to ascertain the details of the anomalies detected and to get a broader picture. In particular, although the survey has indicated that the main area of occupation is at the southern part of the survey area, magnetometry did not clearly detect walls which were found by excavation.

REMINDER

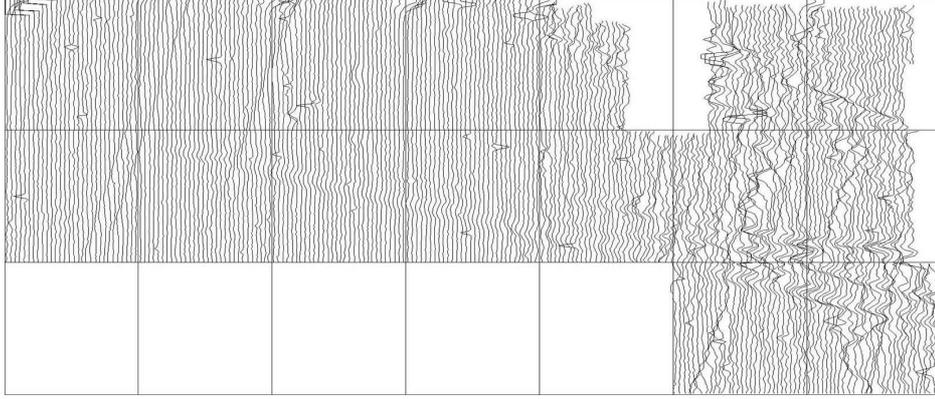
Many features cannot be located by using magnetometry or resistivity. Features including flint scatters and burials may well exist which are not detectable by these survey methods. Geophysics alone cannot give a date to anomalies; this will have to be ascertained by other methods.



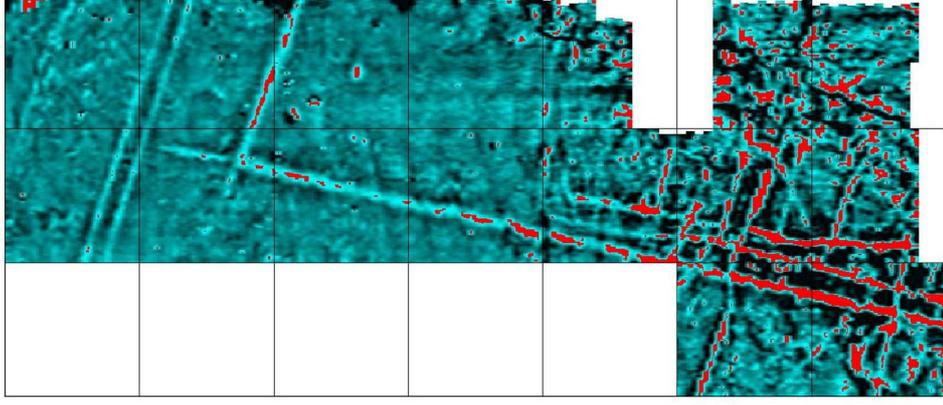
LOCATION on Google Earth base.



Grid order



Trace plot



Colour plot

