

**Short Report form no. 2015-03**



**Survey Details**

**Name of site:** Appuldurcombe House, Godshell, Isle of Wight.

**County:** Isle of Wight

**NGR grid reference** Main area centred on SZ 543799  
**Nearest postcode.** PO38 3EW

**Client:** John Owen, Appuldurcombe Heritage, Appuldurcombe Farm, Wroxall, Ventnor, Isle of Wight. PO38 3EW

**Purpose of survey:**

To ascertain whether there were areas in the grounds which could be suitable for marquees. The marquees are usually 12mx18m with the pegs at the edge of that area or 9mx24m with the pegs approx 1 m outside the marquee. The pegs penetrate the ground by approx 0.7m.

**Start date:** 12 May 2015 **End date:** 14 May 2015 **Report date:** 19 May 2015

### **Geology at site**

The geology is understood, from the Geology of Britain viewer to be Gault clay. The area is fairly level and slopes down from west to east.

### **Known archaeological sites / monuments covered by the survey**

In the grounds of a 18<sup>th</sup> century house which had a 16<sup>th</sup> century predecessor. Part of the area had been used for tennis courts in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Scheduled monument no 22041. Section 42 licence no SL00104019.

### **Archaeological sites / monument types detected by the survey**

Areas of presumed rubble, a possible drive, a possible track and a north-south ditch. The dates could not be inferred from the geophysics results.

**Surveyor** Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics, Roger Ainslie, Sally Ainslie

### **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: 0.382 hectares

Traverse separation, if regular: 1 metre

Reading / sample interval: 8 per metre

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

##### **B Earth Resistance**

Area surveyed: Area 0.244 hectares.

Traverse separation, if regular: 0.5 metres. Test areas also surveyed at 0.25 and 0.75 mobile probe separation.

Reading / sample interval: 2 per metre.

Type, make and model of instrumentation: TR Systems/CIA resistance meter. Twin probe array.

## **Processing**

ArcheoSurveyor was used to process the data. The processes were destagger and linear smoothing for magnetometry and despiking to remove the occasional bad reading from the earth resistance.

## **Land use at the time of survey**

House grounds – short grass and trees.

## **Additional remarks**

30 metre grids. First line start NE corner going south zig zag. Test earth resistance grids first line start SE going west.

## **Results (refer to plans below)**

### Magnetometry

- 1 Linear anomalies of high readings. Could be a ditch or similar.
- 2 Small area of high readings. Could be a large pit or tree hole.
- 3 High anomalies – probably large pieces of steel.
- 4 Iron pipe.
- 5 Small high anomalies – probably brick or similar paving materials.
- 6 Small brick- like anomalies in approx N - S orientation. It may be where rubble has got into ditches – possibly from a former garden layout.
- 7 Small linear high anomaly which may continue eastwards as a negative anomaly. This could possibly be the overflow for the fountain.

### Earth resistance

- 8 An area of high and low anomalies. The shape of these does not align with the present building so it could be an earlier drive or other, possibly building, remains.
- 9 Probable ditch.
- 10 Areas of high and low resistance. These are assumed to be rubble which, although mainly high resistance, has sheltered the ground from drying out and is also producing low readings.
- 11 Tree which has removed moisture from the soil in its vicinity.
- 12 Space in survey caused by culvert which was open and made from limestone with some brick.
- 13 A broad linear area of higher resistance. This is clearer on the greyscale plan. It may be a track and appears to be cut by ditch 9 above.
- 14 Area of high readings. As there were no trees in its vicinity, these could be building rubble.

## Conclusions

The magnetometry appears to have found little other than iron pipes and scatters of small brick like anomalies generally running in a N-S direction which could be where brick has got into ditch-like features in garden layouts. Some larger ferrous anomalies were located and we were advised that these could be where the overflow from the fountain had been repaired and covered with sheet steel. This lack of response is typical for the gault clay geology here.

The earth resistance located areas of presumed rubble. The ones to the north-west of the survey area may relate to an earlier drive to the house, but could possibly be building footings.

The other areas of rubble could not be defined as footings but there could be footings amongst the collapsed rubble. They could be demolition material from the present house, but if so, may contain architectural fragments of interest. It is understood that the basin of the fountain has been reconstructed from fragments which were found buried nearby.

A ditch was located running north south and this appears to cut a broad but fainter band of higher resistance to the south of the survey area which could have been a track or similar.

Neither method located the drain which is known to run under the area to take the surplus water from the spring to the west of the main house.

The test earth resistance survey area indicated that a 0.25 metre mobile probe spacing detected less than the 0.5 metre spacing. The 0.75 metre spacing located almost as much as the 0.5 metre spacing and had high readings for the whole area of the presumed rubble. It did not locate anything which was not in the 0.5 metre survey. This indicates that the low readings which were amongst the high readings in the 0.5 metre survey could be caused by the rubble impeding the soil underneath it from drying out.

As the main effect of marquees on buried remains is that their tent pegs can damage any remains, it may be best to position marquees over the remains if this then means that the pegs would be outside the areas of potential interest. Alternatively it may be possible to have fixed pegs or rings so that the repeated damage of remains is avoided. This will present other problems, such as their boxing to avoid being a trip hazard and damaging grass cutting equipment.

It should be borne in mind that geophysics cannot give the full picture and that documentary and map research and even excavation would be necessary to be fully certain of what remains there are here.

## **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. Failure to locate features does not mean that they are not there.

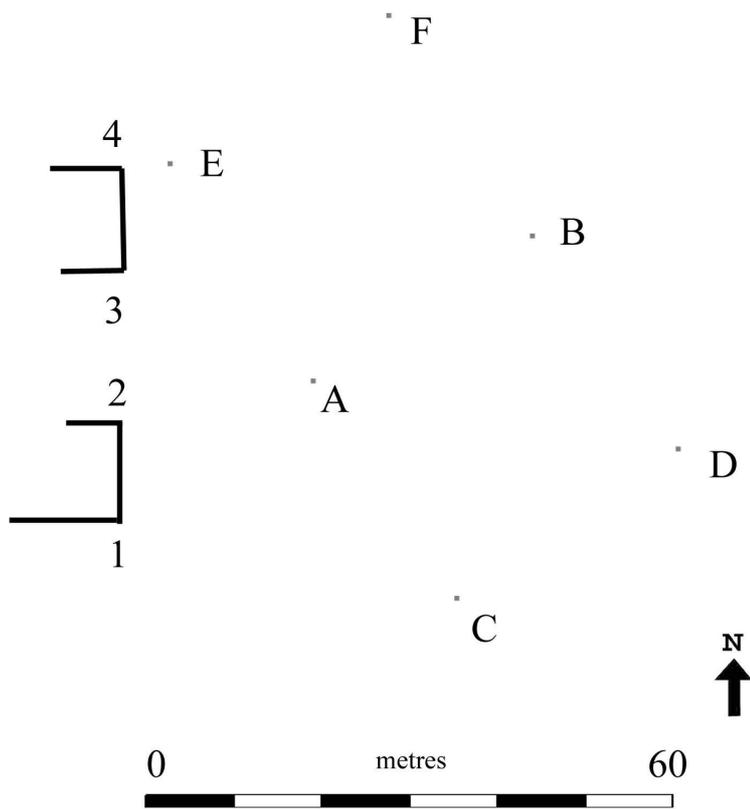
## **Location notes**

Gps not very accurate as there were only 5 satellites in useful positions.

A	454351.2E	79971.2N
B	454376.5E	79986.2N
C	454366.6E	79945.7N
D	454392.4E	79960.9N
E	454335.1E	79996.7N
F	454360.9E	80012.4N

Taped positioning from plinth at base of main building

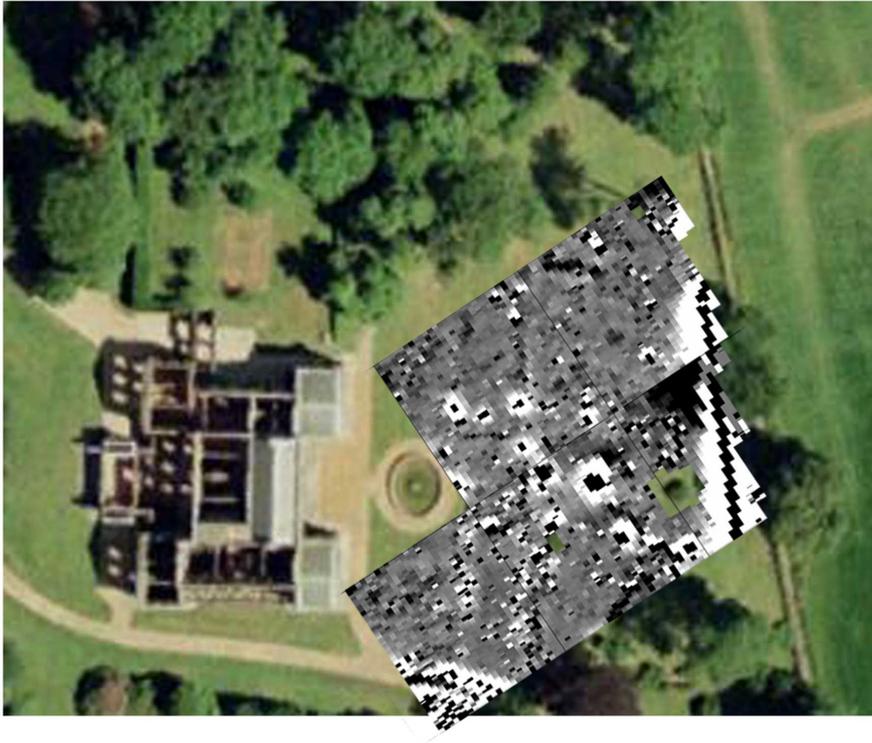
1-2 = 11.63m; 2-3 = 17.24m; C-D = 11.63m: 1-C = 39.17m: 1-D = 64.12m:  
1-A 27.57m: 1-B = 57.50m.  
2-C = 43.11m: 2-D = 63.60m: 2-A = 22.50m.  
3-B = 47.15m: 3-E = 14.09m: 3-F = 42.36m:  
4-E = 5.62m: 4-F = 35.30m: 4-B = 47.47m.



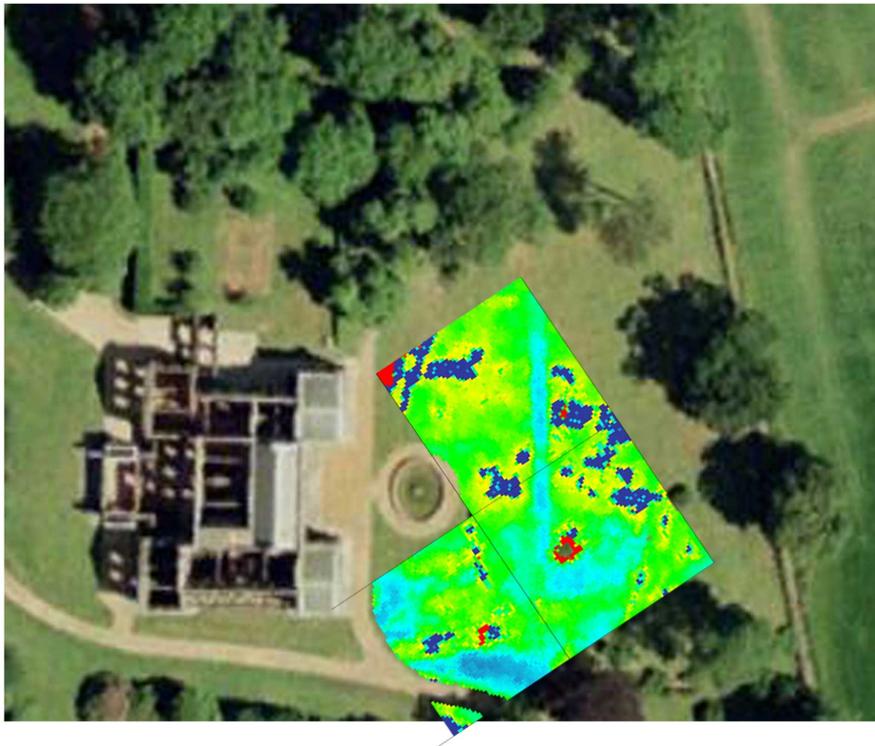
Grid location



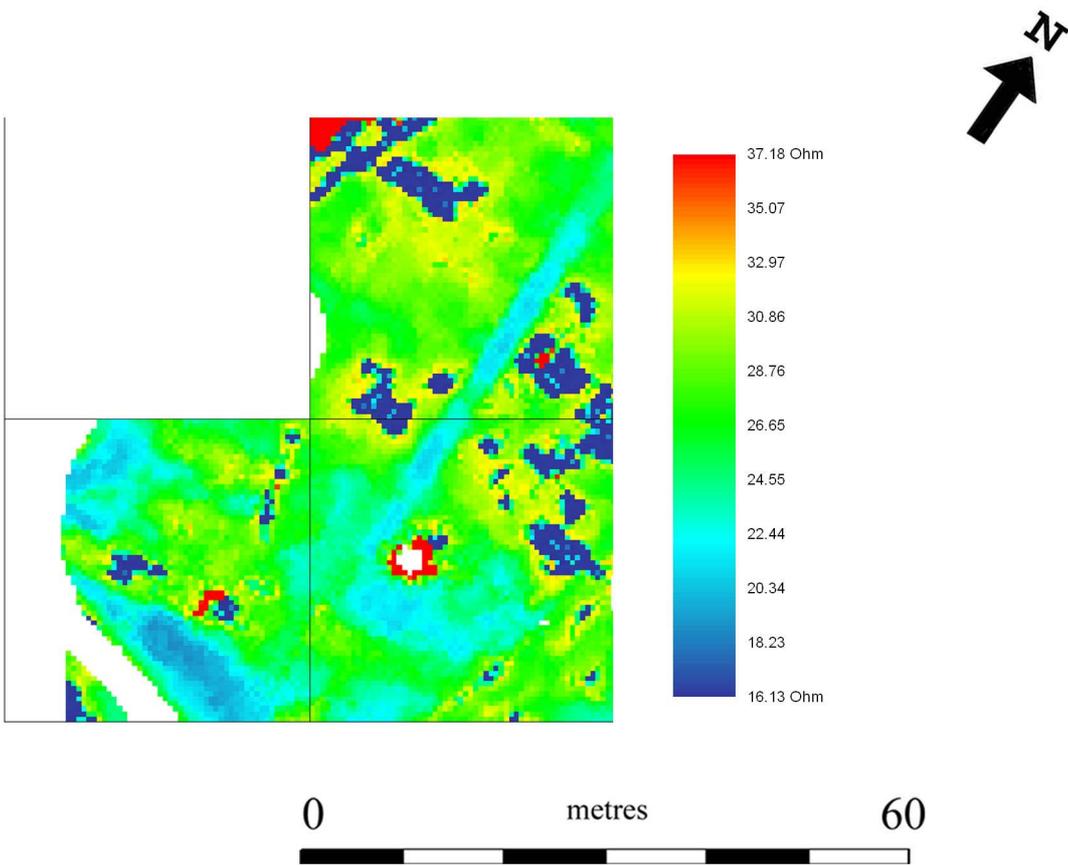
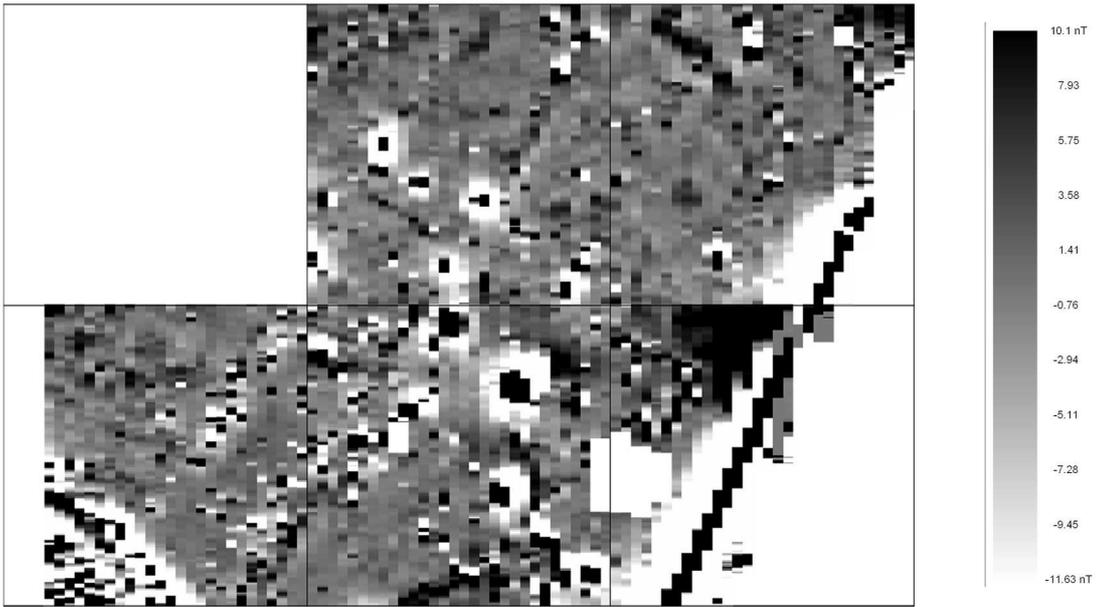
Tape base positions



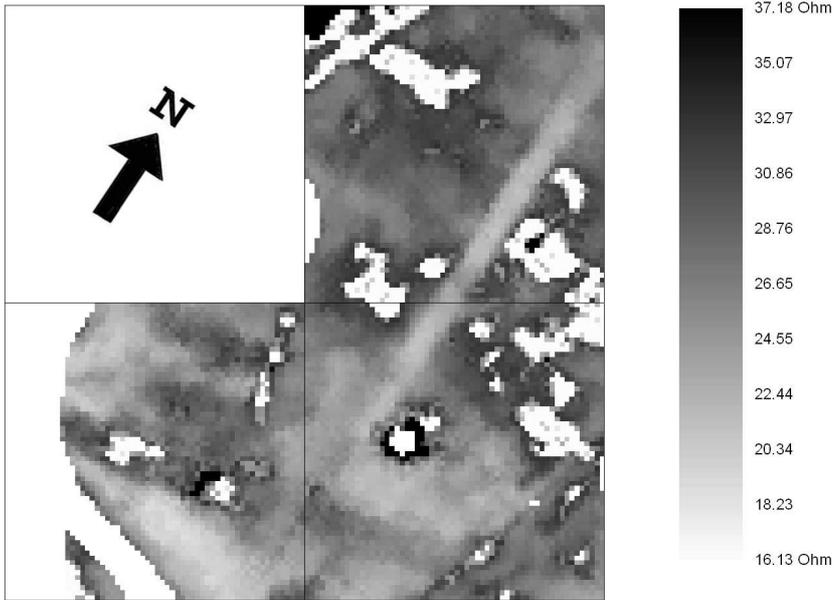
Magnetometry on GoogleEarth base



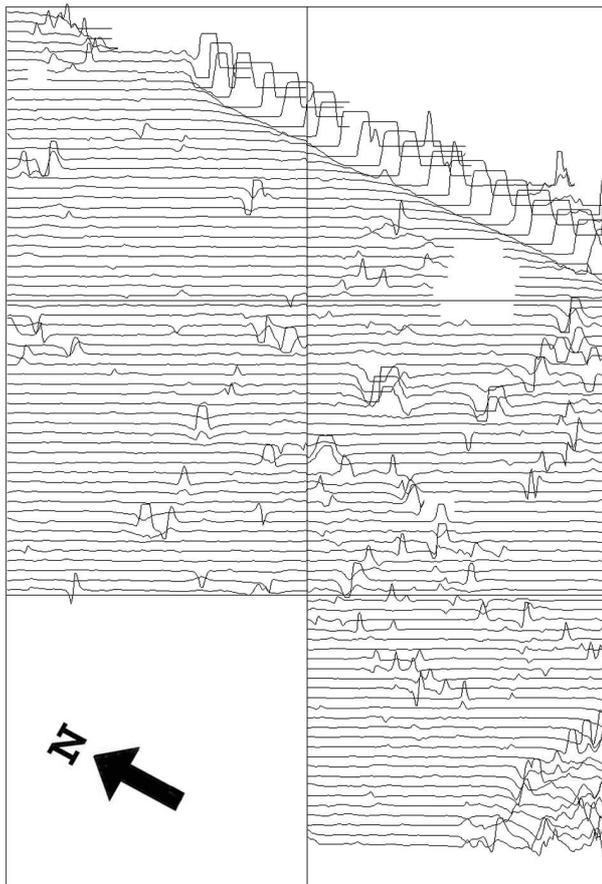
Earth resistance on GoogleEarth base



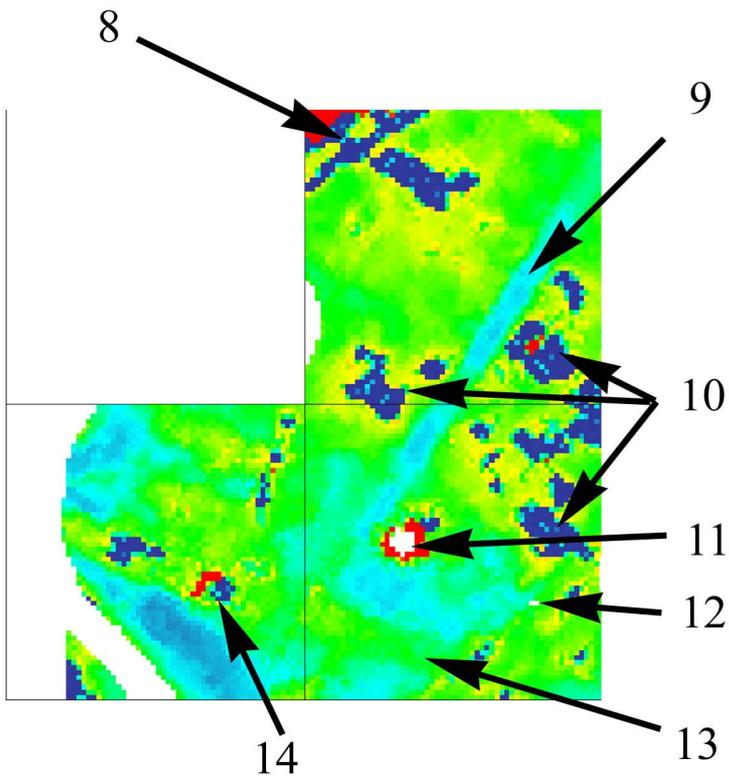
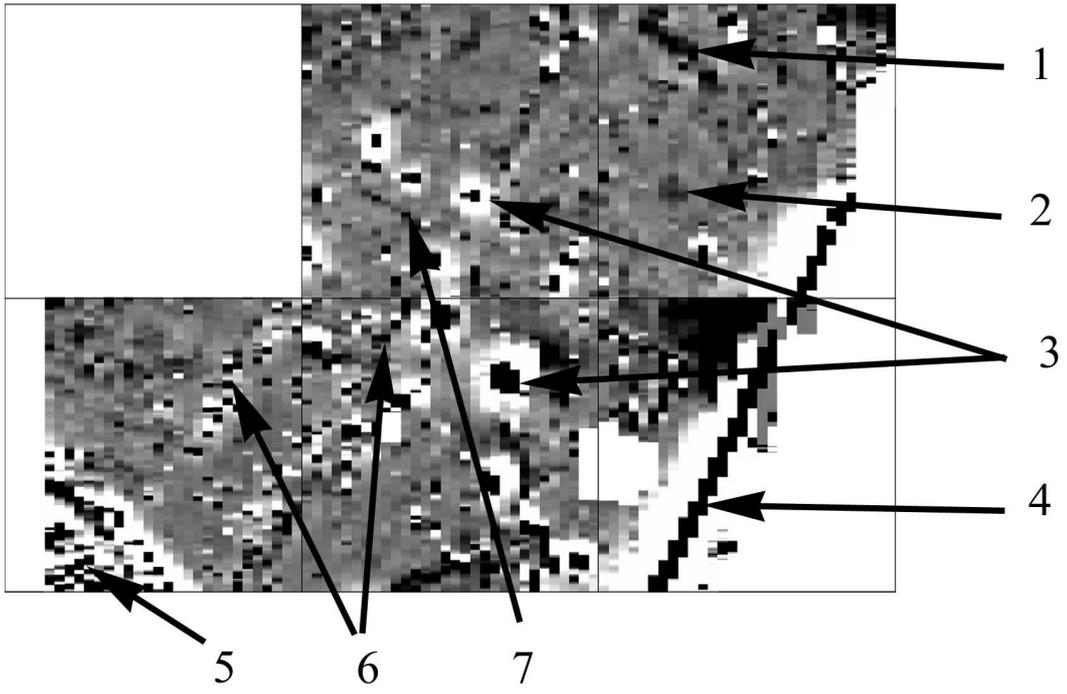
Magnetometry and earth resistance with scales



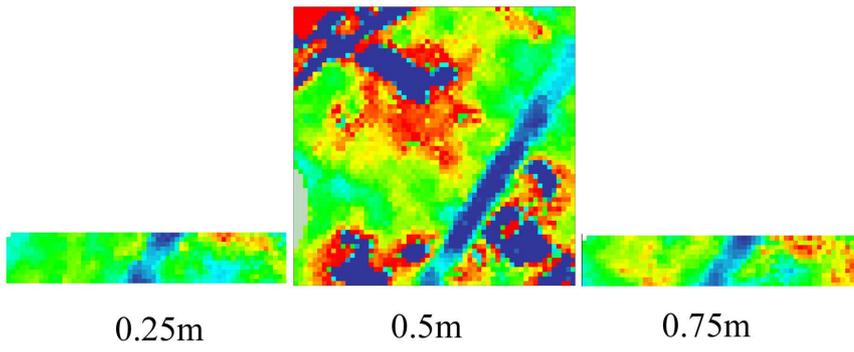
Earth resistance greyscale



Magnetometry Trace plot clipped to +/-100nT



Interpretation



Comparison of results with different remote probe spacings