STANFORD IN THE VALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

Upper and Church Green's Post-Survey Report

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This report details the results and interpretation from the archaeological field work (resistivity survey) which was carried out at on the Upper Green and Church Green, Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire.

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Site: Church Green; Upper Green, Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire
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1. Introduction

1.1 This document discusses the results from the geophysical work carried out on both the Upper Green and Church Green, Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire, during 2012. This work is part of an on-going research project examining in detail the archaeology, and in turn the heritage, of the village of Stanford in the Vale, under the project name: The Stanford in the Vale Archaeological Research Project.

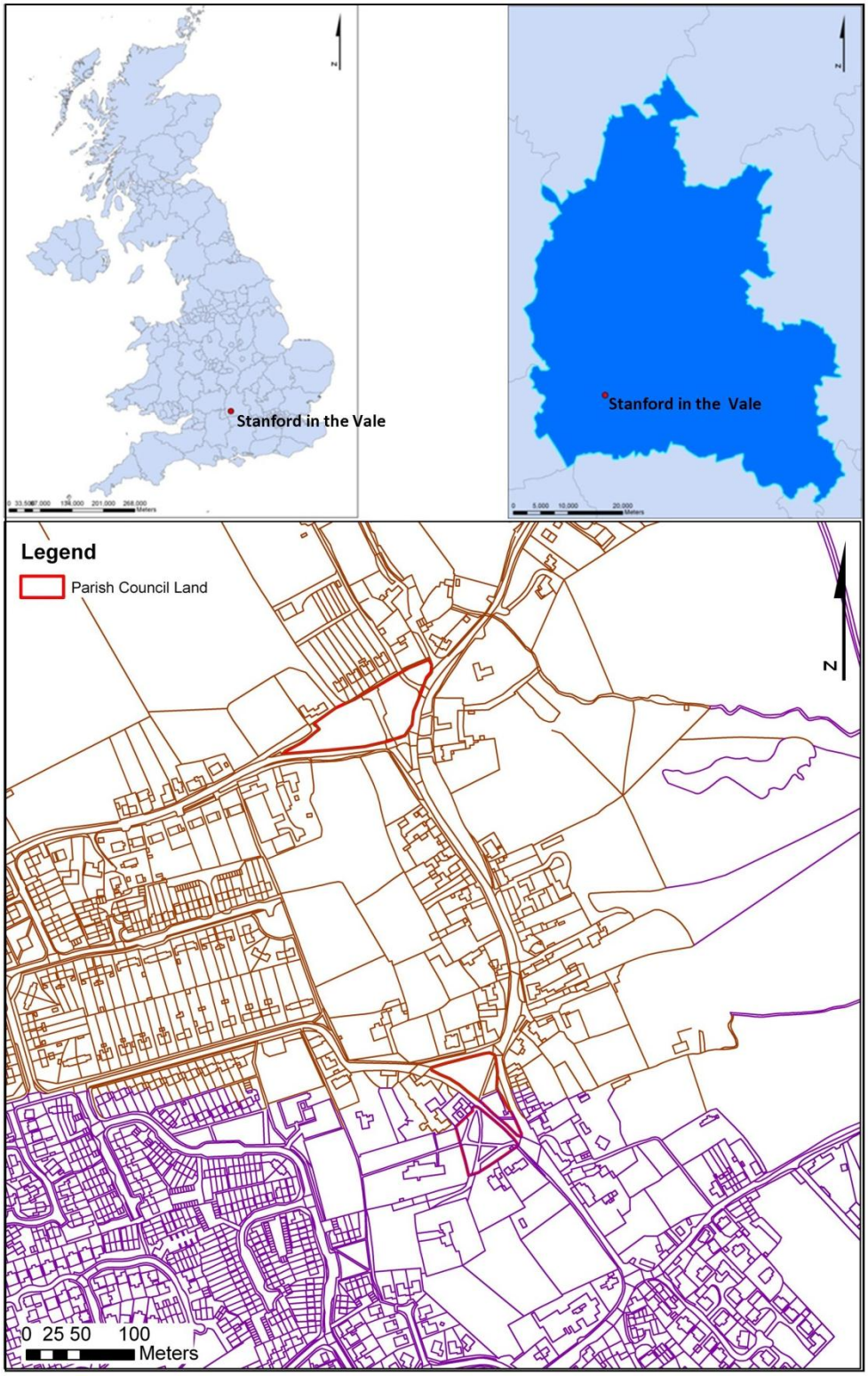
1.2 Within this document the following areas will be discussed: the aims and objectives of the project; the archaeological and historical background of the site, and of the area within the direct vicinity of the site; the methodology of the work carried out; the results; an interpretation of the results; lastly any further work which could be proposed to be carried out.

2. Site Location and Description

2.1 The survey areas are located in the village of Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire. These areas are located on the main roads running though the village, the: Church Green; Chapel Road; Cottage Road; and Bow Road. The locations of the sites are at NGR: Church Green SU 34245, 93530; Upper Green SU 34152, 93899.

2.2 The survey areas are of the size of: Church Green 91 m long N-S by 52 m wide E-W (widest point), so giving and area of 4,525 m²; Upper Green 51 m long NW-SE by 160 m wide SW-NE (widest point), so giving and area of 5,030 m². The location and area of these sites can be seen in Figure 1.

Figure 1. This map shows the location of the site at a national, county and local level.



3. Project aims and objectives

3.1 The aims and objectives of the project are split into three main areas:

- To gain a further and greater understanding of the archaeology of Stanford in the Vale.

- To either prove or disprove the following hypothesis: Stanford in the Vale was planned as a 10 acre medieval market town which had failed by the end of the medieval period. At this point Stanford in the Vale formed into a village (further details discussed below).

- To get the local community involved in their local heritage and archaeology.

4. Historical and Archaeological background

4.1 The sites are located in the center of the historical village, with 2 of the site located close to the village Manor House and the church. The geology underlying the sites is Stanford Formation Limestone and is approximately 70-74 m above sea level.

4.2 On the sites themselves no known archaeological and very little historical information is known. However, a large amount of archaeological remains have been found within close vicinity to the sites so giving an idea of the possible buried remains beneath the survey areas. The earliest known activity surrounding the sites dates to the Mesolithic period, shown by large quantities of flint scatters found in the surrounding area (Stebbing, 1977, p. 8). Also, further prehistoric evidence has been found, that of both Neolithic and Bronze Age flint scatters (Stebbing, 1977, p. 8) (Ashby, 2010, p. 9) (HER 26340 - MOX23767). This evidence shows prehistoric activity in the direct area surrounding the site.

4.3 From the Roman period, a larger quantity of finds material has been found. This includes artifacts, including 3 pottery sherds found in the gardens of the Manor House (English Heritage , 2007a) (HER 7560 - MOX957) and also a spindle whorl found 360 m to the SE of the Church Green (English Heritage, 2007b) (HER 7986 - MOX960). Also excavation within the village have revealed roman remains including: ditches, pits and gullies at 27 High Street (HER 15888 - MOX993) and Firtree Nurseries (NMR, English Heritage, 2007c) (HER 15952 - MOX995), about 250 m to the S of the Church Green; and two cremations burials, about 410 m to the S of the Church Green, found during work on the rising main (Cotswold Archaeology, 2009) (HER 26470 - MOX23909). From this evidence it may be seen that there is a Roman settlement in the area, as well as a possible Roman cemetery. Though, it can also be seen that there is no known Roman activity in the N part of the current village settlement surrounding Upper Green.

4.4 At present, from the Anglo Saxon periods there is only an extremely small amount of evidence, that of only 4 features dating from this period from across the whole village.

4.5 From the Medieval and early Post Medieval periods there is a vast increase in activity in the area surrounding the sites. From the medieval period there is a large amount of evidence from finds spots, excavations and standing buildings, suggesting there is an abundance of activity occurring at this time surrounding the site. This includes artifacts found at the Manor

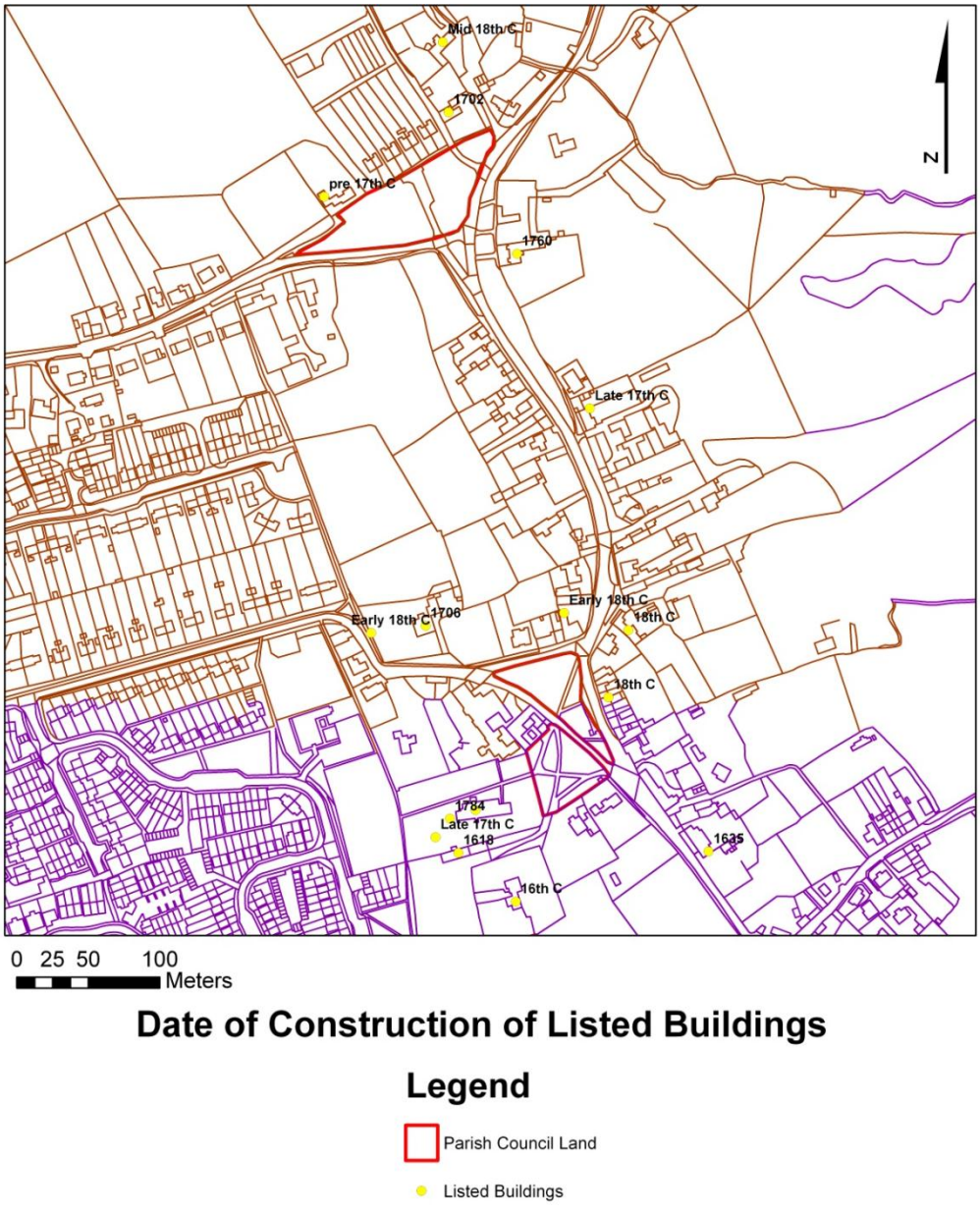
House, that of: a unique Bronze Skillet dating to the 13th – 14th C AD (Dunning, 1962); a bone spindle whorl; pottery; and bronze sheet (NMR, English Heritage, 2007c) (HER 7560 - MOX957). Furthermore during excavations medieval features have been found such as pits at The Grange Nursing Home (HER 16801 - MOX12566) and 27 High Street (NMR, English Heritage, 2007c) (HER 15888 - MOX993), and a large quantity of medieval buildings and structures, including a possible water mill, during other excavation in the village (Ashby, 2010). Lastly, there is one standing building also dating from this period adjacent to the site, that of the parish church of St. Denys (Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes, 1979, p. 134). From the historical documents it can be seen that there was a church constructed on the present site, from the 12th C AD, of which only the two nave doorways remain (Page & Ditchfield, 1924). Though, from this period onwards changes and addition were made to the church in the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th C AD (Page & Ditchfield, 1924). This could be significant as the Church Green is within close proximity to the Manor House and church.

4.6 From the information detailed above it is presently thought that by the end of the 12th – 14th C AD Stanford in the Vale was a large medieval settlement, with the current theory of it being a medieval market town, which by the end of the 14th C had collapsed in to a much smaller village. This is further supported by document evidence that Stanford was granted a market in 1230, which possible took place on the Church Green (Maine, 1866, p. 19).

4.7 Lastly during the Post-Medieval period further information can be gained for the area surrounding the sites. This includes the construction of the current Manor House which is adjacent to the Church Green. This was constructed in 1618, but was built on top of an earlier foundation (Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes, 1979, p. 135), possibly Norman in date. This is as a manor is known to be constructed within the vicinity of the current Manor House by Henry de Ferrers at the time of the Doomsday Book (1085) (Page & Ditchfield, 1924).

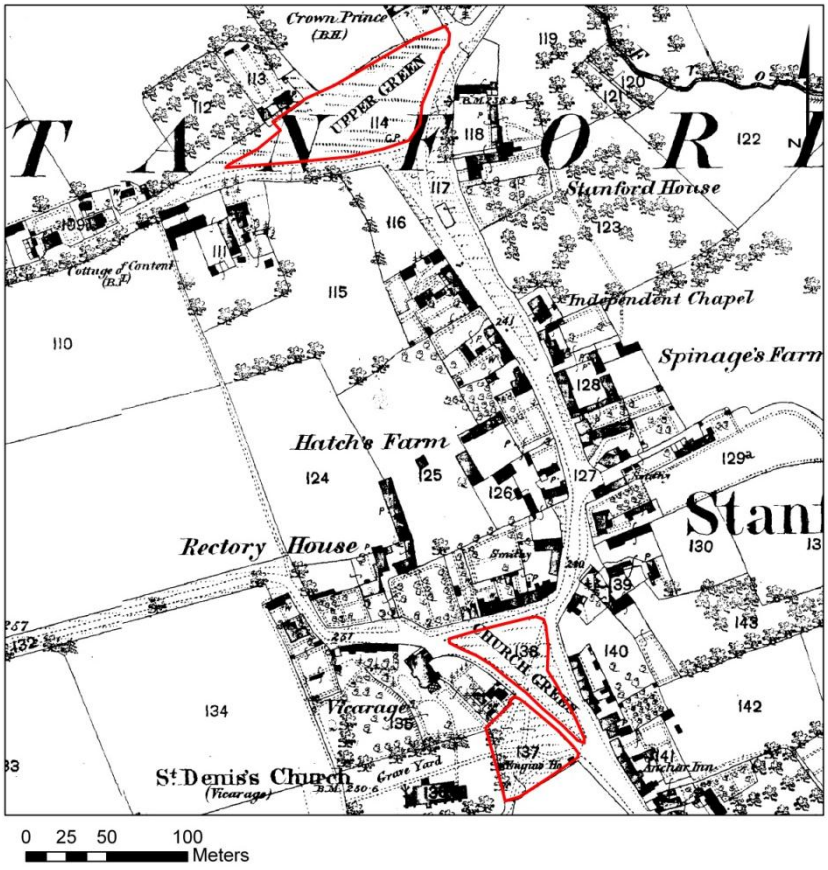
4.8 Also from the Post-Medieval period further information can be gained about the areas surrounding all three of the sites, from information stated on the Listed Buildings Register. This is as both the Upper Green and Church Green are both surrounded by many listed buildings dating from between the following: Upper Green, four building dating between pre-1600 to mid-1700; Church Green (not including the church which is mediaeval in date) ten building dating between 1500's to 1700's (British Listed Buildings, 2012). The location of these buildings as well as the date of their construction can be seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2. This map shows the location of the listed buildings surrounding the Upper Green and Church Green, as well as the date in which the buildings were constructed.



4.9 During the Post-Medieval period, historic maps of the sites start to be produced. From all the historic maps, dating from 1760 onwards, both the Upper and Church Greens can be seen as being used for the purpose of greens, as seen on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3). These maps also show that no structures or buildings (which are not still standing today) where standing within the survey areas from 1760 to the present day. Also shown from the Tithe Award of 1846, Upper Green can be seen as stated as "Waste Land in the Village" (Howse, 1994, p. 22). From this map data, it may indicate that the archaeology within all the survey areas of the village will be well preserved, and may date to many periods, as indicated by the other souses discussed above.

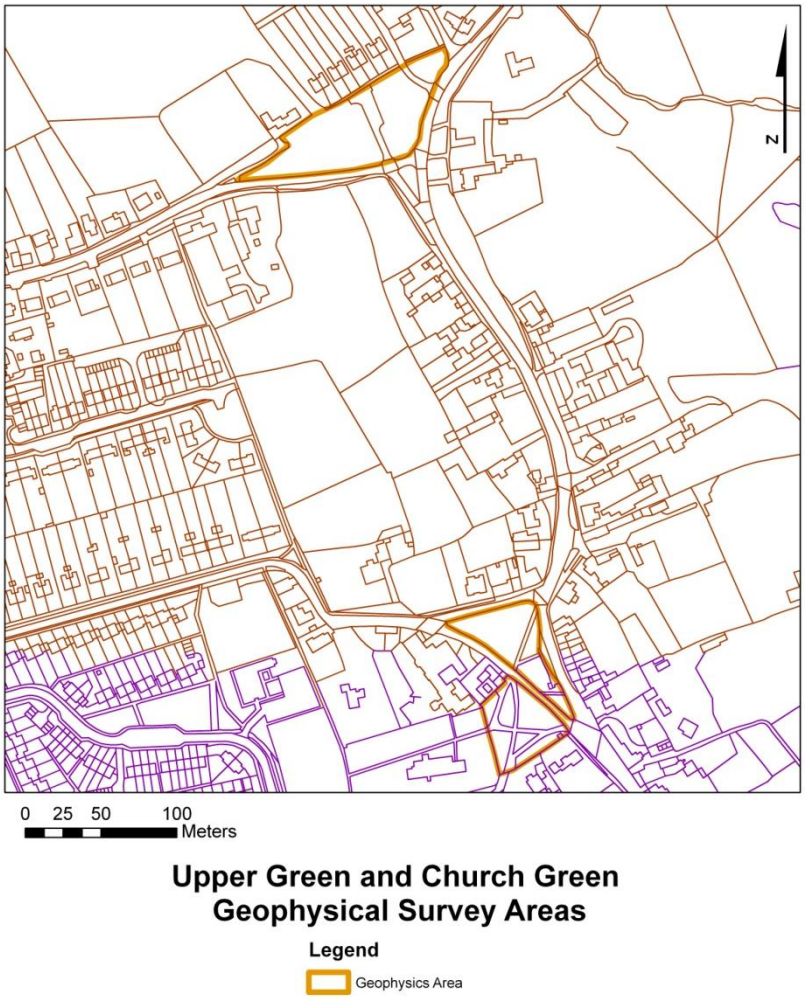
Figure 3. This map, from1874, shows that the area both Upper and Church Greens (EDINA, 2011).



5. Geophysical Survey (Resistivity)

5.1 Given the likelihood and the nature of the buried remains, a resistivity survey was proposed to be carried out to locate any buried archaeological features on the sites. Due to the size of the sites, and in turn, the close proximity of the edge of the grids to metal features such as fences, roads and vehicles, resistivity equipment was used to survey the sites, as magnetometry results are likely to become distorted by these modern structures. The location of the areas within the sites in which the resistivity survey was carried out on can be seen in Figure 4.

Figure 4. This figure shows the location and area of the resistivity survey was carried out on Parish Council land.



5.2 The resistivity grids were laid out using tapes, in the usual method, in the size of 20 m by 20 m. Once this had been done the NGRs for the four corners of the grid were recorded using a Builder R100M total station. These grids were surveyed, using the resistivity meter as fully as possible; with dummy readings being inserted where was not possible to survey a full grid square due to geographical, topographical or other unknown circumstances.

5.3 The resistivity survey was carried out using a Geoscan RM 15 with a twin electrode configuration (Geoscan Research, 2005, p. 2). Each grid was surveyed using a series of zigzag traverses spaced at 1m intervals. Mobile probes spaced at 0.5 m will give an effective sub-surface penetration of between 0.5 m and 1.0 m, with larger features showing at a greater depth. The readings were automatically logged at 1m intervals giving a resolution of 400 readings per 20 m x 20 m square.

5.4 Upon the completion of the survey, the geophysical data will be transferred from the portable computer to a desktop PC for processing and interpretation using a combination of Geoplot 3.0 (Geoscan Research, 2010) and Arc GIS 9.3.1 (ESRI, 2009). Within Geoplot the data was passed through despike, low pass filter and a high pass filter. The survey will then

be geo-referenced onto an Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 base map, providing an orientation and scale.

6. Results

6.1 The results from the resistivity survey carried out during this season's work split in to two areas: 1 Church Green; 2. Upper Green. Interpretations of the features which are shown on the plots are described below in Section 7 of this document.

6.2 Church Green

6.2.1 The first area to be discussed is that of Church Green, containing five grid squires and a total of 15 anomalies. The results from this geophysical survey area can be seen in Figure 5. Also seen in Figure 6, are the separate features, out lined in red.

Figure 5. This map shows the results from the resistivity survey carried out on Church Green, Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire.

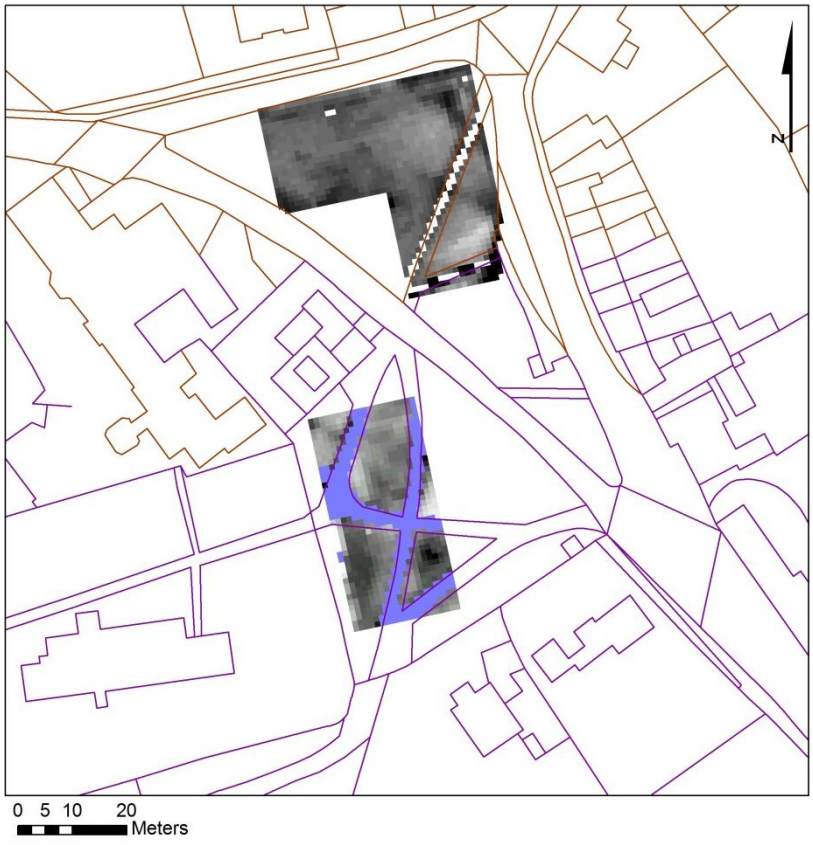


Figure 6. This map shows the location of features shown on the resistivity data (in red).

6.2.2 The results shown in Figure 6 show ten main features, of both high and low resistance, and which both extend off the edge of the survey area. The first anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off the W edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 1 on the plot. This is a low resistance (-4 to -1 ohm's) feature measuring 14.1 m long by 12.7 m wide. The second anomaly is that of a liner feature, which extends off the SW edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 2 on the plot. This is a high resistance (5 to 12 ohm's) feature measuring 6.2 m long by 3 m wide. The third anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off the S edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 3 on the plot. This is a high resistance (5 to 11 ohm's) feature measuring 8.2 m long by 4 m wide. The fourth anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature which can be seen at point 4 on the plot. This is a low

resistance (-10 to -5 ohm's) feature measuring 19.7 m long by 14.7 m wide. The fifth anomaly is that of an L-shaped feature which can be seen at point 5 on the plot. This is a low resistance (-10 to -0 ohm's) feature measuring 9.8 m long by 9.3 m wide. The sixth anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature which can be seen at point 6 on the plot. This is a low resistance (-6 to -3 ohm's) feature measuring 8.3 m long by 5.9 m wide. The seventh anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off the S edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 7 on the plot. This is a low resistance (-15 to -3 ohm's) feature measuring 16.2 m long by 13.5 m wide. The eighth anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off the SE edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 8 on the plot. This is a high resistance (20 to 36 ohm's) feature measuring 5.6 m long by 3.7 m wide. The ninth anomaly is that of a square feature, which extends off the NW edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 9 on the plot. This is a high resistance (18 to 20 ohm's) feature measuring 2 m long by 2 m wide. The tenth anomaly is that of an L-shaped feature, which extends off both the N and W edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 10 on the plot. This is a low resistance (-17 to -4 ohm's) feature measuring 9 m long by 7.5 m wide.

6.2.3 The eleventh anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature which can be seen at point 11 on the plot. This is a low resistance (-18 to -10 ohm's) feature measuring 9.2 m long by 3 m wide. The twelfth anomaly is that of a liner feature, which extends off the S edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 12 on the plot. This is a high resistance (6 to 23 ohm's) feature measuring 21.2 m long by 3.5 m wide. The thirteenth anomaly is that of a liner feature, which extends off the W edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 13 on the plot. This is a low resistance (-37 to -1 ohm's) feature measuring 19.3 m long by 1.5 m wide. The fourteenth anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off the E edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 14 on the plot. This is a high resistance (11 to 36 ohm's) feature measuring 9.1 m long by 6.3 m wide. The fifteenth anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off the E edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 15 on the plot. This is a low resistance (-30 to -14 ohm's) feature measuring 6.4 m long by 2.8 m wide.

6.3 Upper Green

6.3.1 The second area to be discussed is that of Upper Green, containing seven grid squires and a total of thirteen anomalies. The results from this geophysical survey area can be seen in Figure 7. Also seen in Figure 8, are the separate features, out lined in red.

Figure 7. This map shows the results from the resistivity survey carried out on Upper Green, Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire.

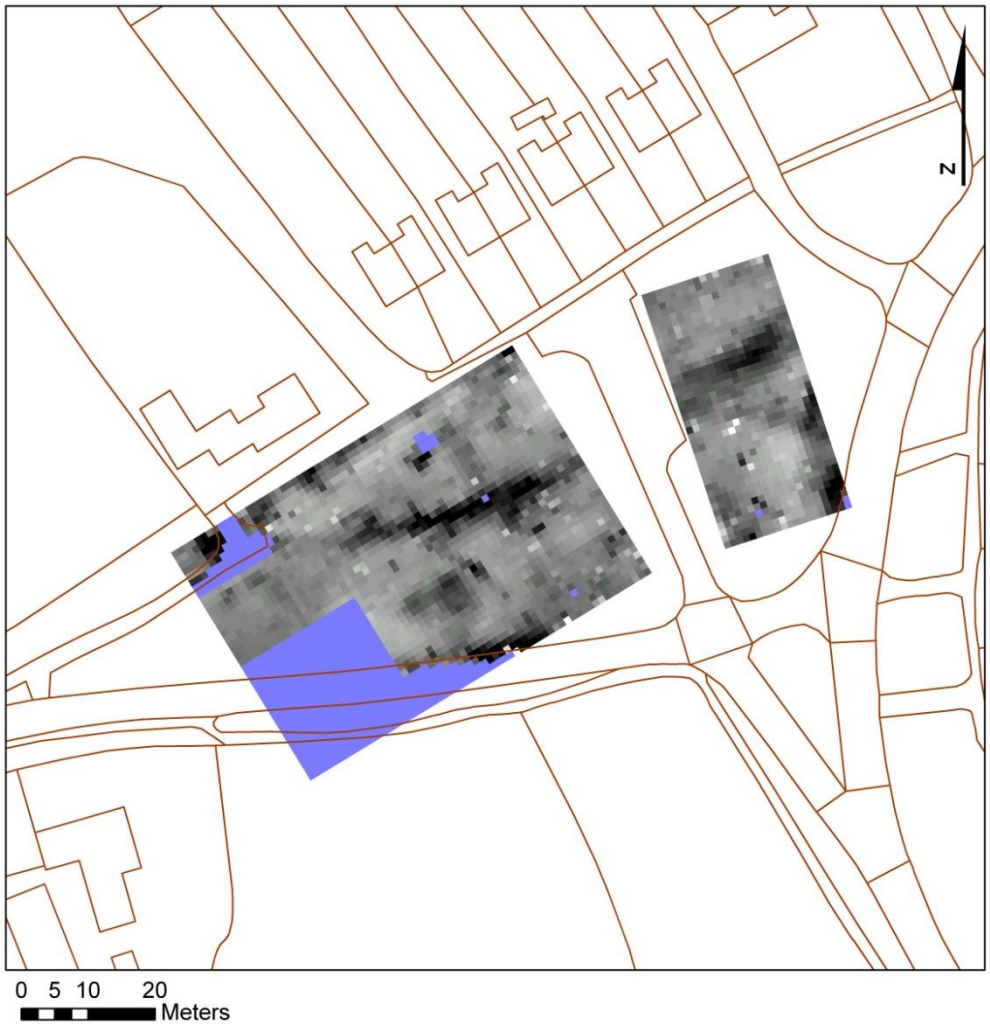
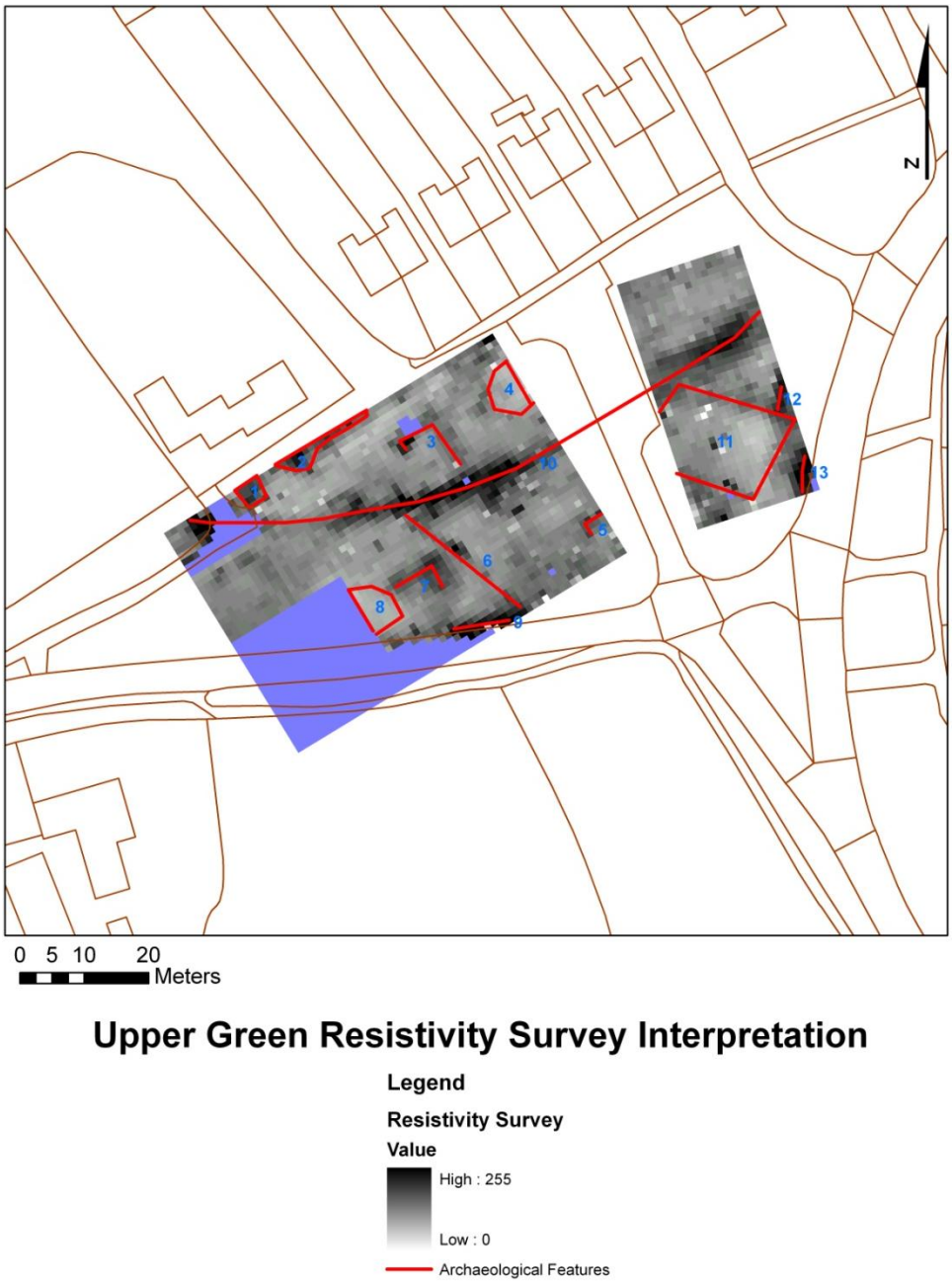


Figure 8.This map shows the location of features shown on the resistivity data (in red).



6.3.2 The first anomaly to be discussed is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off the northern edge of the grid and can be seen at point 1on the plot. This is a high resistance (3 to 6 ohm's) feature measuring 3.5 m long by 3.5 m wide. The second anomaly is liner feature, which extends off the edge of the survey area, and can be seen at point 2 on the survey plot. This is a high resistance (4 to 8 ohm's) feature 15 m long by 3 m wide (at its widest point. The third anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature and can be seen at point 3 on the plot. This is a high resistance (1 to 10 ohm's) feature measuring 7 m long (at its longest point) by 5 m wide (at its widest point). The fourth anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off the edge of the survey area, and can be seen at point 4 on the plot. This is a low resistance (-5 to -3 ohm's) feature measuring 8 m long by 5m wide (at its widest point). The fifth anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off

the edge of the survey area, and can be seen at point 5 on the plot. This is a high resistance (3 to 6 ohm's) feature 3 m long by 2 m wide. The sixth anomaly is that of liner feature, which extends off the edge of the survey area, and can be seen at point 6 on the plot. This is a high resistance (1 to 10 ohm's) feature which measures 24 m long by 2 m wide. The seventh anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature and can be seen at point 7 on the plot. This is a high resistance (1 to 6 ohm's) feature measuring 7 m long by 4 m wide. The eighth anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off the edge of the survey area, and can be seen at point 8 on the plot. This is a low resistance (-5 to -4 ohm's) feature measuring 8 m long by 5.5 m wide (at its widest point). The ninth anomaly is that of a liner feature, which extends off the edge of the survey area, and can be seen at point 9 on the plot. This is a high resistance (7 to 29 ohm's) feature measuring 8.5 m long by 3 m wide. The tenth anomaly is liner feature, which extends off the edge of the survey area, and can be seen at point 10 on the survey plot. This is a high resistance (2 to 16 ohm's) feature 97 m long by 4 m wide (at its widest point).

6.3.3 The eleventh anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature and can be seen at point 11 on the plot. This is a high resistance (-8 to -2 ohm's) feature measuring 19 m long by 13 m wide. The twelfth anomaly is that of a liner feature, which extends off the edge of the survey area, and can be seen at point 12 on the plot. This is a high resistance (8 to 11 ohm's) feature measuring 5 m long by 2 m wide (at its widest point). The thirteenth anomaly is that of a liner feature, which extends off the edge of the survey area, and can be seen at point 13 on the plot. This is a high resistance (8 to 44 ohm's) feature measuring 7 m long by 3 m wide.

7. Interpretation

7.1 The interpretation of the features identified above has been split into two areas, that of: Church Green; and Upper Green. The reason why these areas are not to be interpreted together is as they are located nearly 300 m away from each other, so the feature within one green are unlikely to be related to the features seen in the other.

7.2 Church Green

7.2.1 From the results, explained above, and the thirteen features which have been identified an interpretation can be made about each of the features in turn. Due to the type of features identified on the plot, all bar four of the features are thought to pre date 1760, as they are shown on any of the mapping data. Also due to the complex nature of the results it may be seen that there is a multi-phase use of the site. Because of this, as well as the complex nature of the results and the large quantity of features shown on the plot, the interpretation of these features can be split into three main areas: 1. Modern; 2. Structures; 3. Unknown. The current interpretation of all these features and the way in which they relate to each other can be seen in Figure 9.

Figure 9. This map shows the location and interpretation of the features shown on the geophysical data of Church Green.

7.2.2 Modern

7.2.2.1 The first type of feature which can be seen on the resistivity plot is that of a series of possible modern features which are located at anomalies 2, 8, 9, 12 and 13. These features have been interpreted as being related to the following areas: a footing of a telegraph pole; a modern path; footing for the adjacent church cemetery boundary wall; and two areas which are thought to relate to the adjacent modern road, most likely forming a backing to the curb stone.

7.2.3 Structures

7.2.3.1 The second type of feature identified on the plot is formed of a series of possible structures formed of anomalies 1, 3, 4 and 14. These structures are mainly thought to be

constructed of stone, apart from that of anomaly 5 which is thought to be a possible timber slot. Both these sets of features are thought to be buildings or structures, possibly medieval in date and may relate to the medieval market, thought to have been located on the site. However, these anomalies may also relate to a Blind House and Pound that were known to be located on the site during the post medieval period (Berkshire Federation of Wimen's Institutes, n.d., p. 137). It would be difficult to determine which of these features relate to the medieval market and which to the post medieval period, without further fieldwork being undertaken in the site.

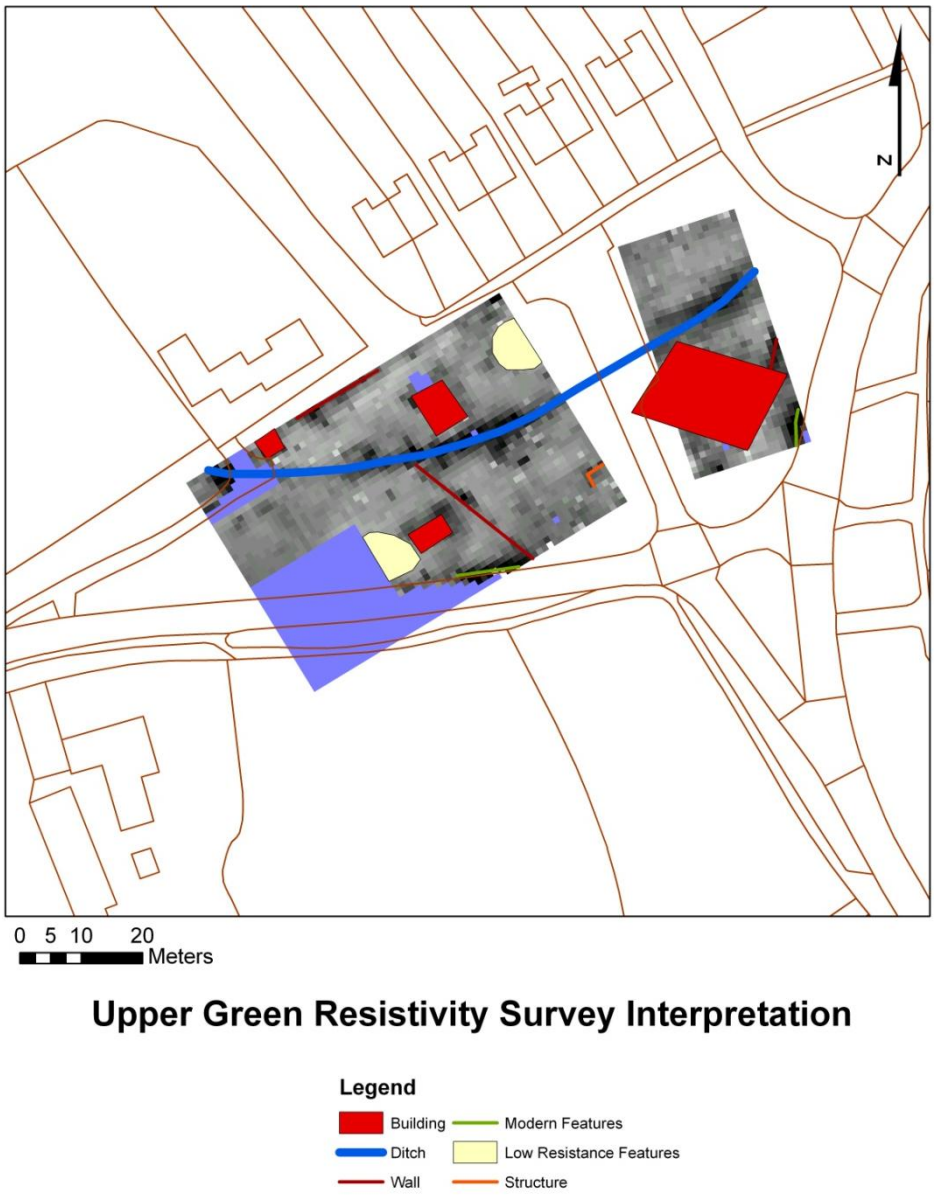
7.2.4 Unknown Features

7.2.4.1 The last type of feature which has been identified on the plot is a set of anomalies formed of 6, 7, 10, 11 and 15. The features currently have an uncertain interpretation due to their low resistance; however they may be related to modern disturbance.

7.3 Upper Green

7.3.1 From the results, explained above, and the thirteen features which have been identified an interpretation can be made about each of the features in turn. Due to the type of features identified on the plot, all bar two of the features are thought to pre date 1760, as they are shown on any of the mapping data. Also due to the complex nature of the results it may be seen that there is a multi-phase use of the site. Because of this, as well as the complex nature of the results and the large quantity of features shown on the plot, the interpretation of these features can be split into four main areas: 1. Modern; 2. Structures; 3. Ditch; 4. Unknown Features. The current interpretation of all these features and the way in which they relate to each other can be seen in Figure 10.

Figure 10. This map shows the location and interpretation of the features shown on the geophysical data Upper Green.



7.3.2 Modern

7.3.2.1 The first type of feature which can be seen on the resistivity plot is that of a series of possible modern features which are located at anomalies 9 and 13. These features have been interpreted as being related to the adjacent modern road, most likely forming a backing to the stone curbing.

7.3.3 Structures

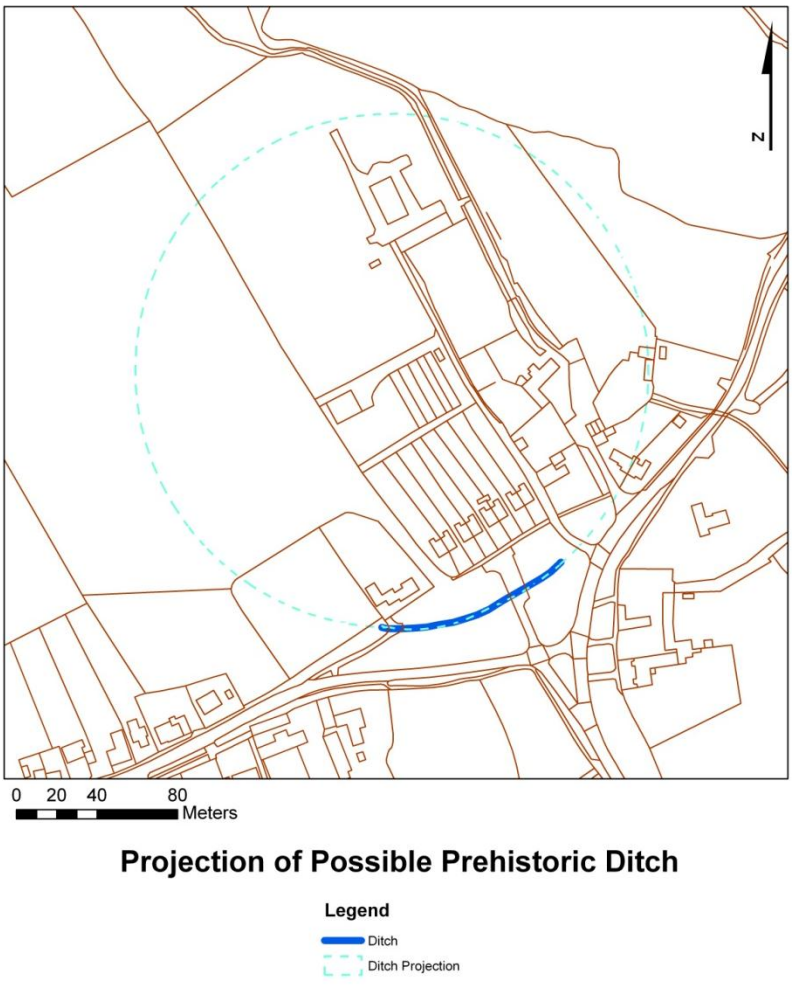
7.3.3.1 The second type of feature which has been identified on the plot is a series of possible structures, formed of anomalies 1, 3, 7 and 11. These anomalies can be seen to correspond to earthworks, observed on the ground. Furthermore, anomalies 2, 5, 6, and 12 are thought to be

possible wall features relating to these structures. All these features are currently thought to be contemporary, possibly dating to the early post medieval or late medieval period, and are thought to be of stone construction. Further exploratory work would be needed to confirm this.

7.3.4 Ditch

7.3.4.1 The third type of feature identified on the plot is formed from anomaly 10. This curvilinear feature, which run through the centre of the plot is currently interpreted as a large ditch feature, possibly filled with re-deposited limestone, which would explain the high readings. The feature may be Iron Age in date, possible a single vallate enclosure ditch. Taking in to account to angle of the ditch shown on the plot, a projection of the area surrounded by the ditch can be seen in Figure 11. This would explain the absence of an Iron Age settlement archaeology underlying the modern village, even though evidence has been found from across the village for both Bronze Age activity and a substantial Roman settlement. This would then demonstrate a continuous use of the site from the Neolithic period (8,000 BC) to the present day.

Figure 11. This map shows the projected line of the possible Prehistoric ditch feature, projected from the anomaly shown on the resistivity survey.



7.3.5 Unknown Features

7.3.5.1 The last type of feature identified on the plot are a sires of low resistance features, of which currently have an unknown interpretation, formed of anomalies 4 and 8. Further work is needed to fully understand these features and in turn interpret them interpret them.

8. Conclusion

8.1 In conclusion, from the data presented above on the survey plots, it can be seen that there is a high archaeological parental within the area of both greens. The Church Green plot indicates the potential of structures relating to either the medieval market underlying the green, or post medieval structures known to have been located on the green, such as the Blind House and Pound (Berkshire Federation of Wimen's Institutes, n.d., p. 137). The Upper Green plot also indicates the potential for underlying structures, thought to date to either the early post medieval or late medieval period. Upper Green also indicates the potential for earlier archaeological features, possible dating to the Iron Age period. This is important as an absence of Iron Age archaeology in the village has been noted, with both Bonze Age and Roman material been found previously. The indications of a large ditch, surrounding a possible settlement area may fill this gape in our knowledge of the history of the settlement, however further archaeological work is needed to be undertaken to confirm this.

9. Further Proposed Work

9.1 From the survey work undertaken on the site, further archaeological techniques can be utilized to help ascertain and confirm the interpretation and dating for the archaeological features identified on the site, that of test pitting and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR).

9.2 The first area of proposed further work which could be undertaken on the site is that of test pitting. This would be used to ascertain the nature and date of the buried archaeology on both sites, through this keyhole technique. This technique may be used to examine evidence for the medieval market underlying Church Green and the large ditch feature and structures identified on Upper Green.

9.3 The second area of proposed further work which can be undertaken on the site would be that of a Ground Penetrating Radar survey (GPR). GPR is a non-invasive technique which uses beams of Radar to map the underlying archaeology to a maximum depth of 3 m, in 10cm slices. The use of this technique would help to gain a better understanding of the underlying archaeology within the historic center of the settlement at Church Green and the area of structures and possible ditch feature at Upper Green.

9.4 If any further work was to be undertaken, a pre-site report would be produced prior to landowner’s consent being granted.

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