STANFORD IN THE VALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

Manor House Post-Survey Report

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January 2014

This report details the results and interpretation from the archaeological field work (resistivity survey) which was carried out on the Manor House grounds , Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire.

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Site: Manor Farm, Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire
Date: 2012
Project type: research project and geophysical survey
Museum accession No.: SF12.
NGR: SU 34165, 93406
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1. Introduction

1.1 This document discusses the results from the geophysical work carried out during 2012 within the grounds of the Manor House, Stanford in the Vale Oxfordshire. This work is part of an on-going research project: The Stanford in the Vale Archaeological Research Project; examining in detail the archaeology, and in turn the heritage, of the village of Stanford in the Vale.

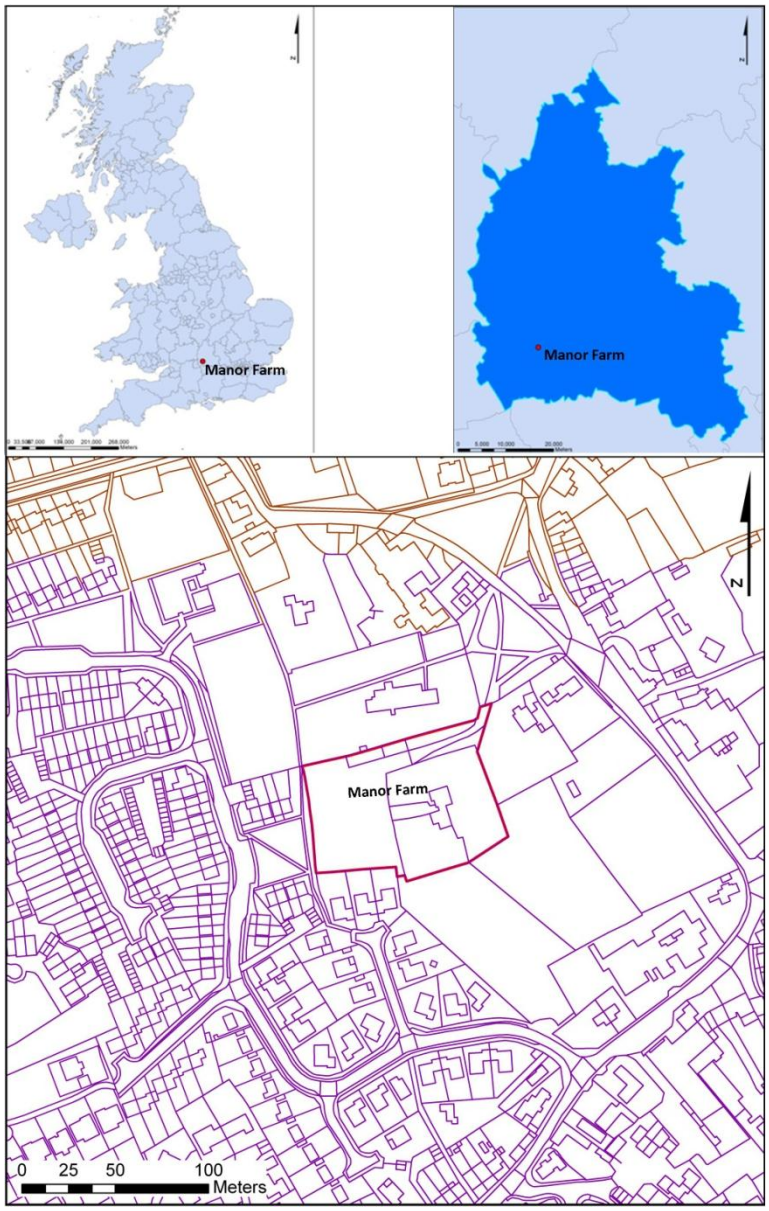
1.2 Within this document the following areas will be discussed: the aims and objectives of the project; the archaeological and historical background of the site, and of the area within the direct vicinity of the site; the methodology of the work carried out; the results; an interpretation of the results;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

2. Site Location and Description

2.1 The site is located in the village of Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire adjacent to Church Green and the village church of St Denys. The location of the site is at NGR SU 34165, 93406 (Centre).

2.2 The area of the site is about 74 m long N-S by 95 m wide E-W (widest point), so giving an area of 6,640.7m². The location and area of the site 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, within which this work is undertaken, 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.
- To get the local community involved in their local heritage and archaeology.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

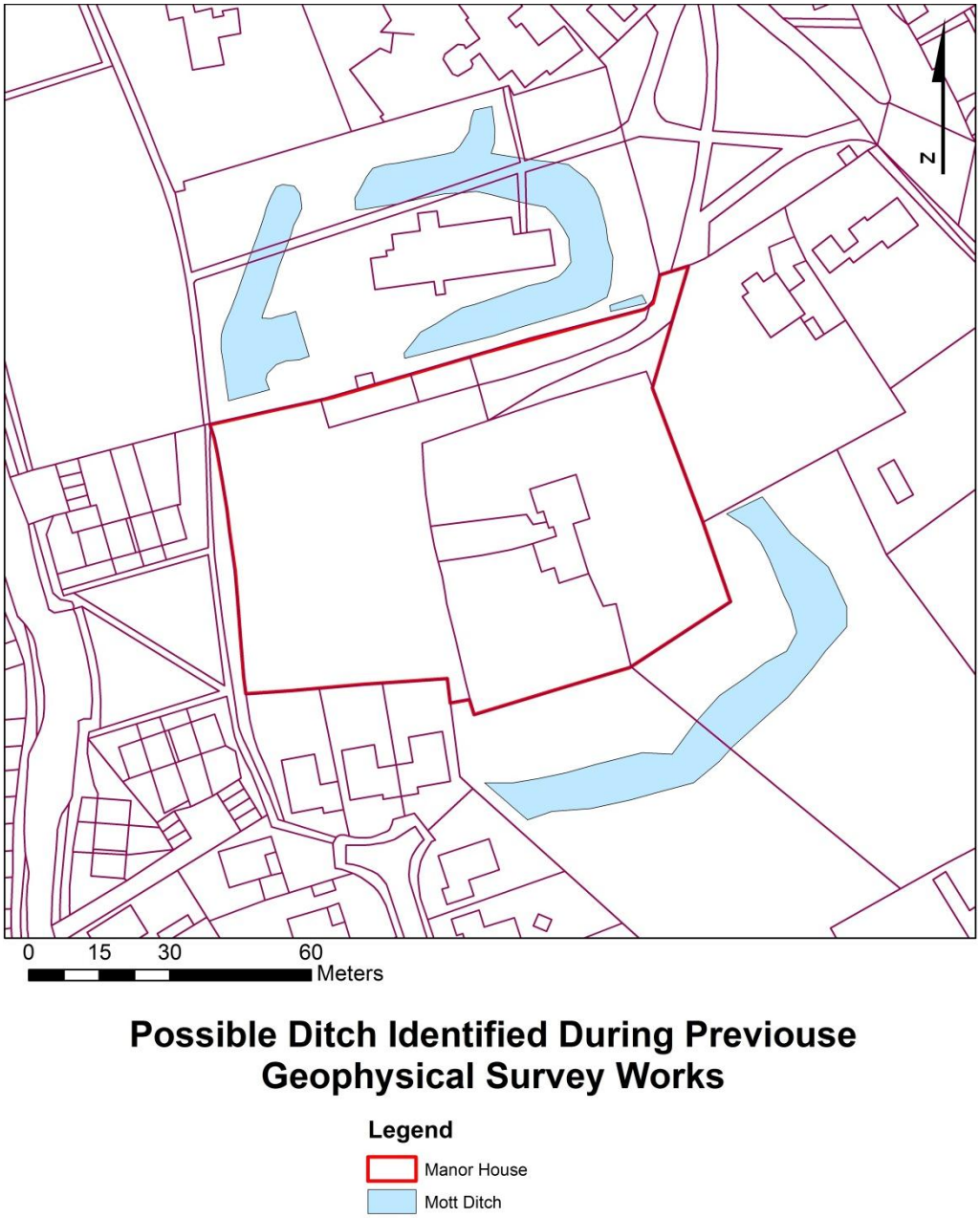
4.1 The site is located in the centre of the historical village, on Church Green and adjacent to the village church. The geology underlying the site is Stanford Formation Limestone and it is approximately 73 m above sea level.

4.2 On the site itself very little archaeological and historical information is known. However, a large amount of archaeological remains have been found within close proximity to the site so giving an idea of the possible buried remains beneath the survey area. The earliest known activity surrounding the site 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, both on the site itself and in the surrounding area. This includes: Roman pottery and a coin found 255 m to the SE of the site; and a spindle whorl found 240 m to the W of the site (English Heritage, 2007b) (HER 7986 - MOX960). In addition, excavations within the village have revealed Roman remains including: ditches, pits and gullies at Firtree Nurseries (NMR, English Heritage, 2007c), about 265 m to the SE (HER 15952 - MOX995); and ditches at both 27 High Street and on land to the rear of Wentworth Supermarket (now the Co-op), about 210 m to the S (Oxfordshire HER, 2012, p. 12) (HER 15888 - MOX993). Also, during work on the construction of a new rising main in 2009, two Roman cremation burials were found about 345 m to the S of the site (Cotswold Archaeology, 2009, p. 5) (HER 26470 - MOX23909). Lastly a small amount of Roman material has been found within the grounds of the Manor House, namely 3 sherds of pottery (English Heritage, 2007a) (HER 7560 - MOX957). From this evidence it may be suggested that the Roman settlement of Stanford in the Vale was located in this area, as well as a possible Roman cemetery.

4.4 Prior to 2012, there was only an extremely small amount of evidence (four features) in the village for Anglo-Saxon occupation. However, recent geophysical and excavation work in the village has identified a large ditch which can be seen to surround the site on its southern, eastern and northern sides (see Figure 2) (Ashby, forthcoming b). This feature has also been identified surrounding the adjacent church (Ashby, forthcoming b). From pottery recovered from this ditch during excavation work currently being undertaken within Ashdown House field, a provisional date in the 10th C has been proposed for the construction of this feature (Ashby, forthcoming a). At present this feature has been interpreted as a possible mott enclosure ditch surrounding the site, but further work is needed to confirm this (Ashby, forthcoming a).

Figure 2. This map shows the location of a large, possible defensive ditch, surrounding the manor house and identified on the geophysical survey data that was previously carried out in the area (Ashby, Forthcoming b).



4.5 From the Medieval and early Post Medieval periods there is a vast increase in activity in the area surrounding the site. 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, during excavations, medieval features being found, such as: pits at The Grange Nursing Home (95 m to the N) (HER 16801 - MOX12566) and 27 High Street (200 m to the S) (NMR, English Heritage, 2007c); a ditch and pit on land to the rear of Wentworth Supermarket (now the Co-op) (200 m to the S) (Oxfordshire HER, 2012) (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, during recent geophysical work carried out in the adjacent fields of Ashdown House and the Millennium Green, directly to the S and E of the survey

area, and archaeological excavations carried out in Ashdown House field, a large quantity of features, some of which have been confirmed as being medieval in date, have been identified. These include: substantial structures; large wall features and buildings; pits; a stone gully; and part of the village pond (Ashby, 2012, p.15) (Ashby, forthcoming a). Artefactual evidence has also been found within the grounds of the Manor House, dating from the medieval period, namely 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).

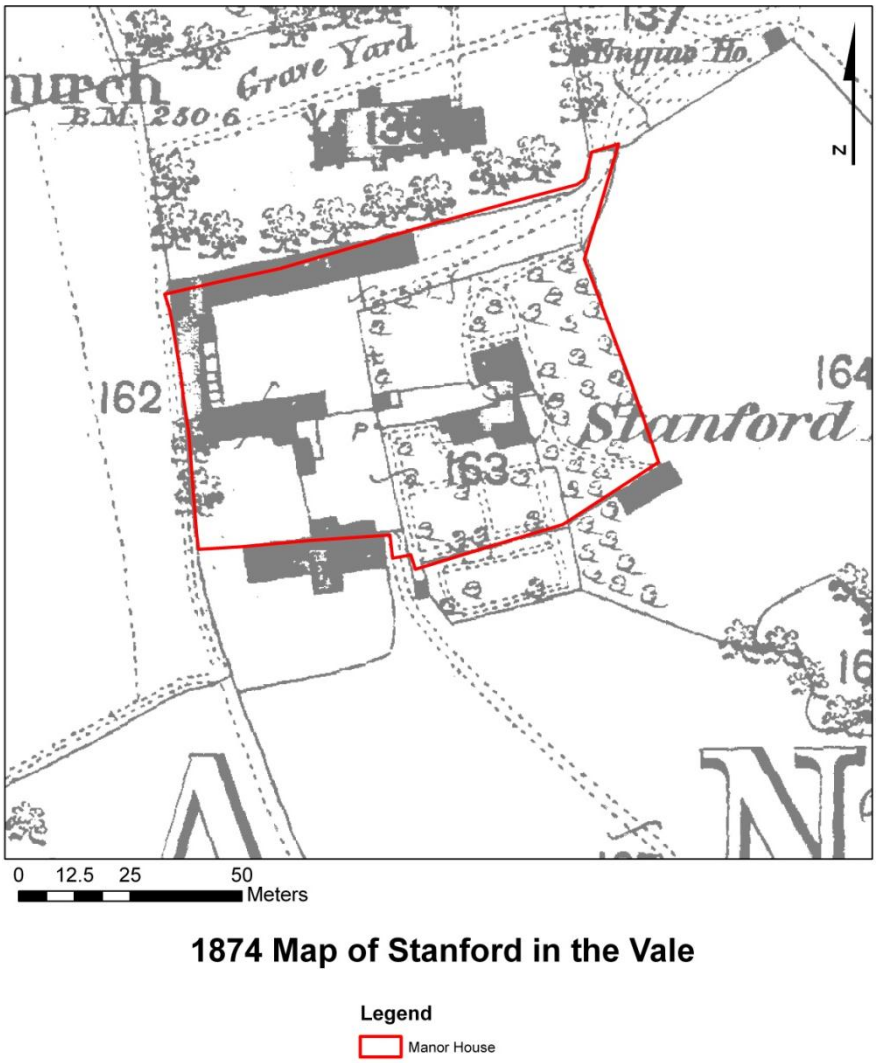
4.6 One of the only standing buildings dating to the medieval period is located adjacent to the site, and is the parish church of St. Denys (Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes, 1979, p. 134). From the historical documents, it can be seen that there was a church constructed on the present site in the 12th C AD, of which only the two nave doorways remain (Page & Ditchfield, 1924). However, from this period onwards, changes and additions were made to the church, namely in the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th C AD (Page & Ditchfield, 1924).

4.7 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 into a much smaller village. This is further supported by documentary evidence that Stanford was granted a market in 1230, which was possibly held on Church Green (Maine, 1866, p. 19).

4.8 During the Post-Medieval period further information can be gained about the site itself. This includes the current Manor House, which 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. A manor is known to have been constructed within the vicinity of the current Manor House by Henry de Ferrers at the time of the Domesday Book (1085) (Page & Ditchfield, 1924). Lastly, major construction work is documented as having been carried out on the manor house in 1230 to 1237 AD by William de Ferrers Earl of Derby (Page & Ditchfield, 1924), as seen in Appendix 1.

4.9 During the Post-Medieval period, historic maps of the site start to be produced. Including the one seen in Figure 3, an 1874 map, all other historic maps both pre- and post-dating this one and dating back to 1760, show the area of the present site as being part of Manor Farm. The 1874 map shows that the survey area includes: 1. the formal gardens of the Manor House; 2. Farm buildings, such as barns. Furthermore, from the map evidence, it can be seen that the land was owned by Stanford Farm, dating up until 1890. Also shown from the Tithe Award of 1846, the land was owned by John Morrison Esq and tenanted by William Tarrant and the land type was pasture (Howse, 1994, p. 16). This map data may indicate that the archaeology within this area of the village will be well preserved, and date to many periods. In addition, previous archaeological work carried out in the area directly surrounding the site, finds material previously recovered from the site and historical evidence suggests that there are likely to be archaeological remains from multiple periods underlying the survey area.

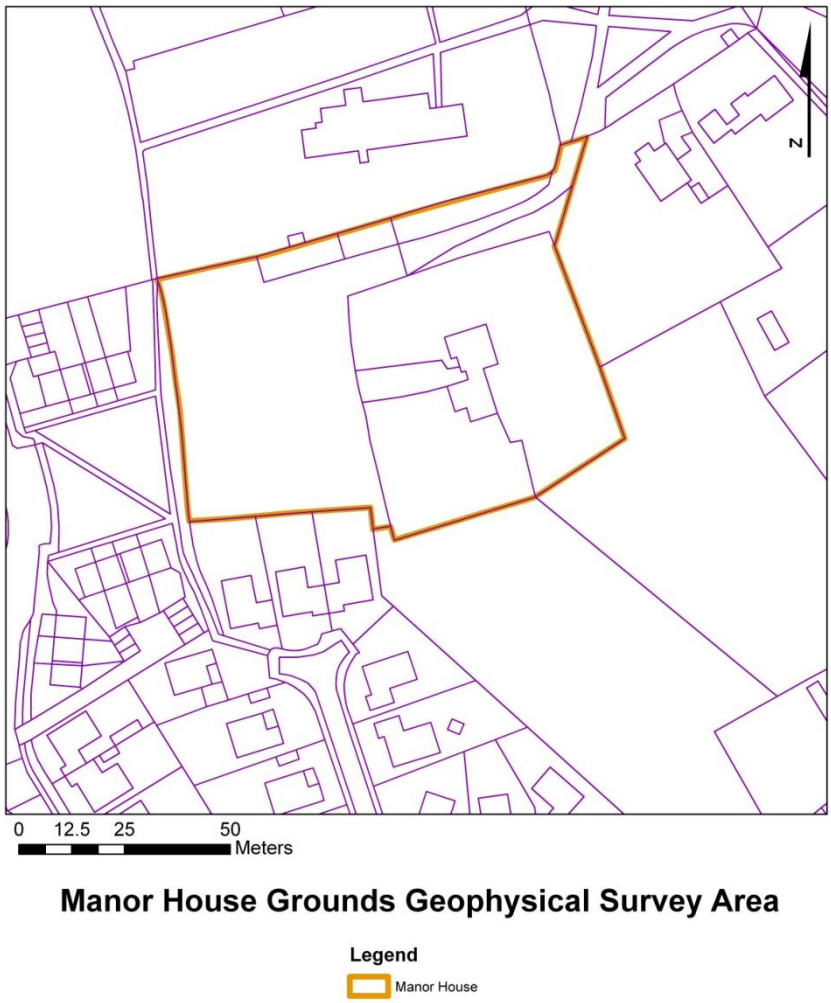
Figure 3. This map, from 1874, shows the area of the Manor House grounds and gardens (EDINA, 2011).



5. Geophysical Survey (Resistivity)

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

Figure 4. This figure shows the location and area of the resistivity survey carried out in the Manor House Grounds.



5.2 The resistivity grids were laid out using tapes, in the usual method, to the size of 20 m by 20 m. Once this was 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 it 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 gave 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 was 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). The survey was 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 are seen in Figure 5. Also seen in Figure 6, are the separate features, outlined in red. Interpretations of the features which are shown on the plot are described below in Section 7 of this document.

Figure 5. This map shows the results from the resistivity survey carried out within the grounds of the Manor House, Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire.

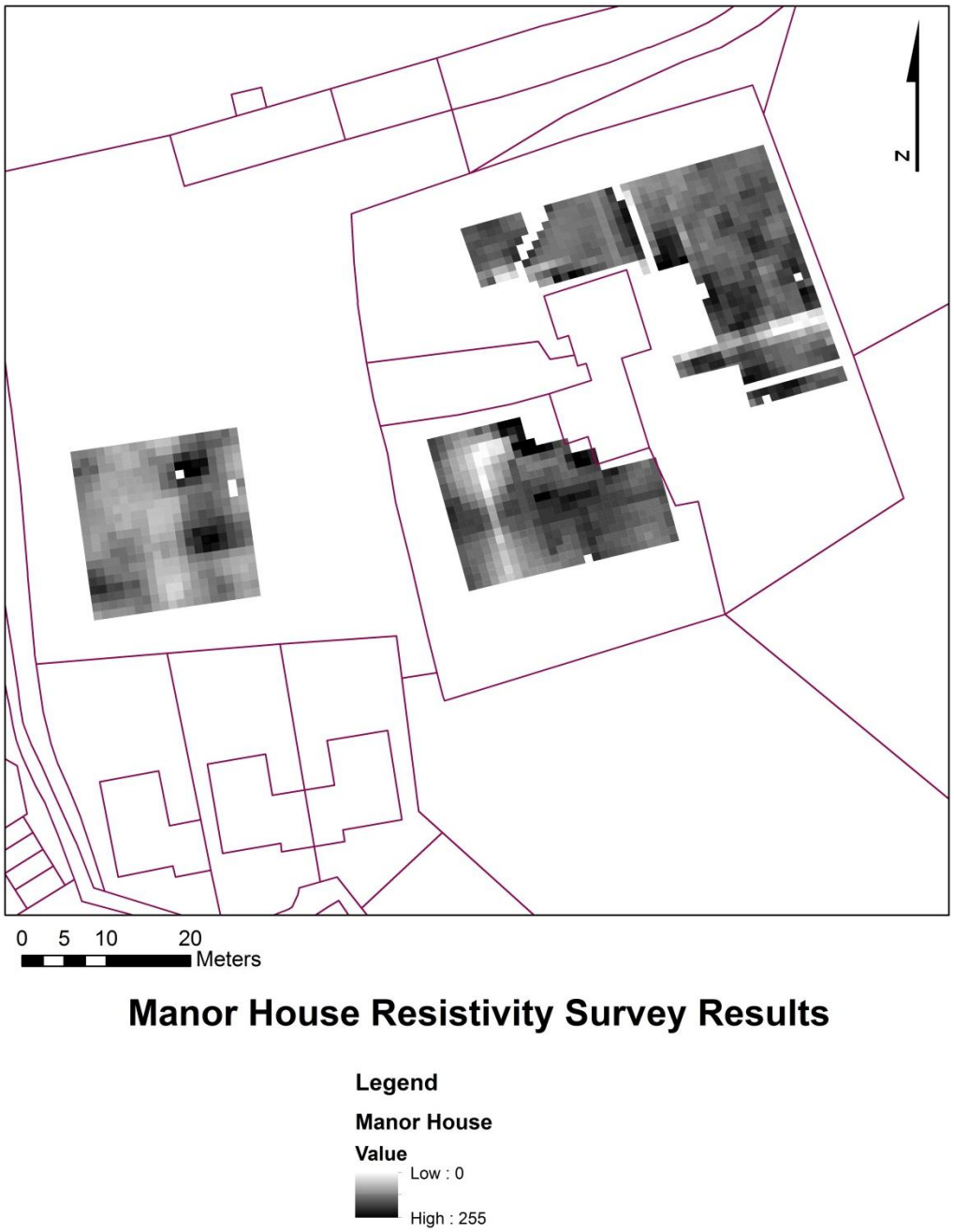
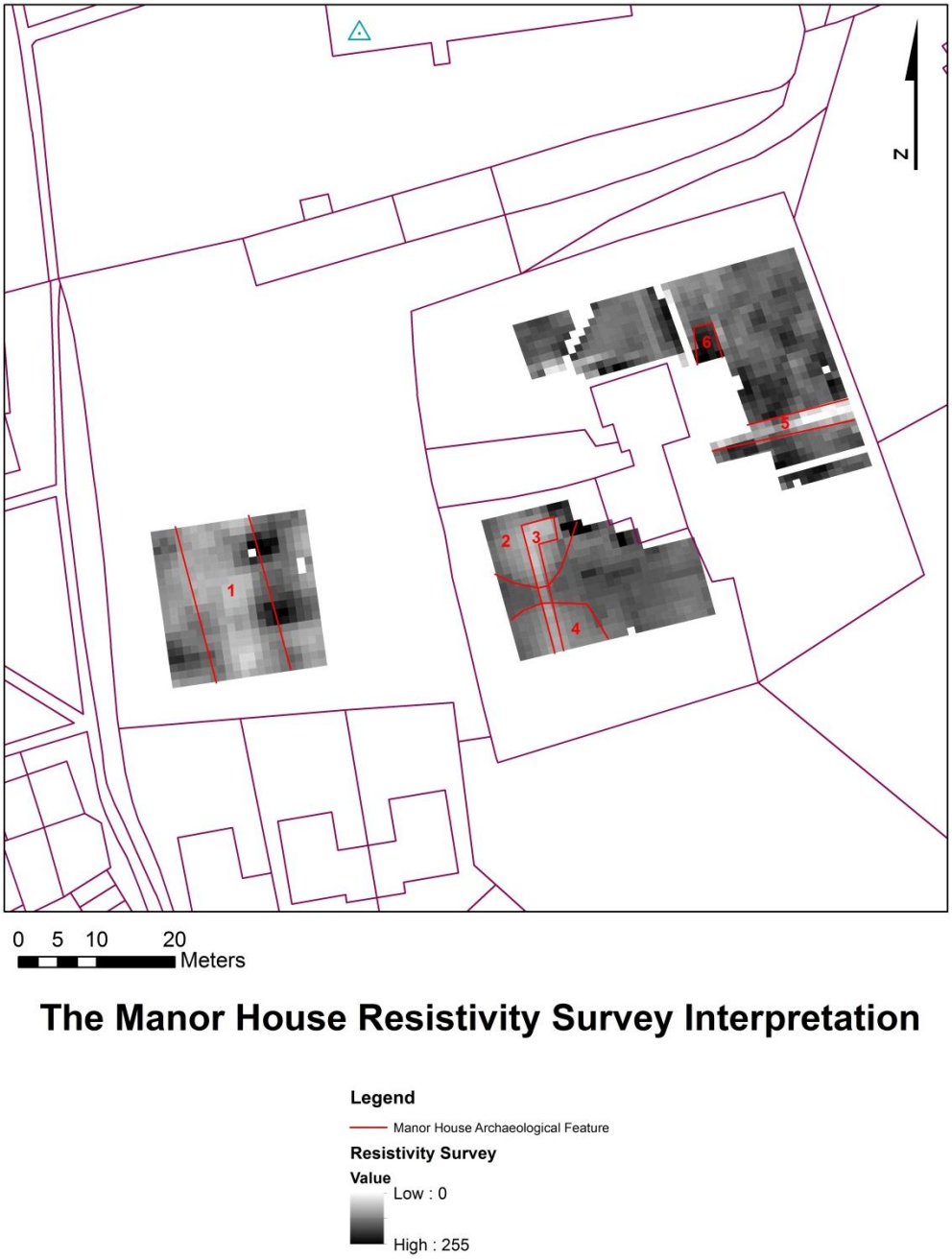


Figure 6. This map shows the location of features shown on the resistivity data (in red).



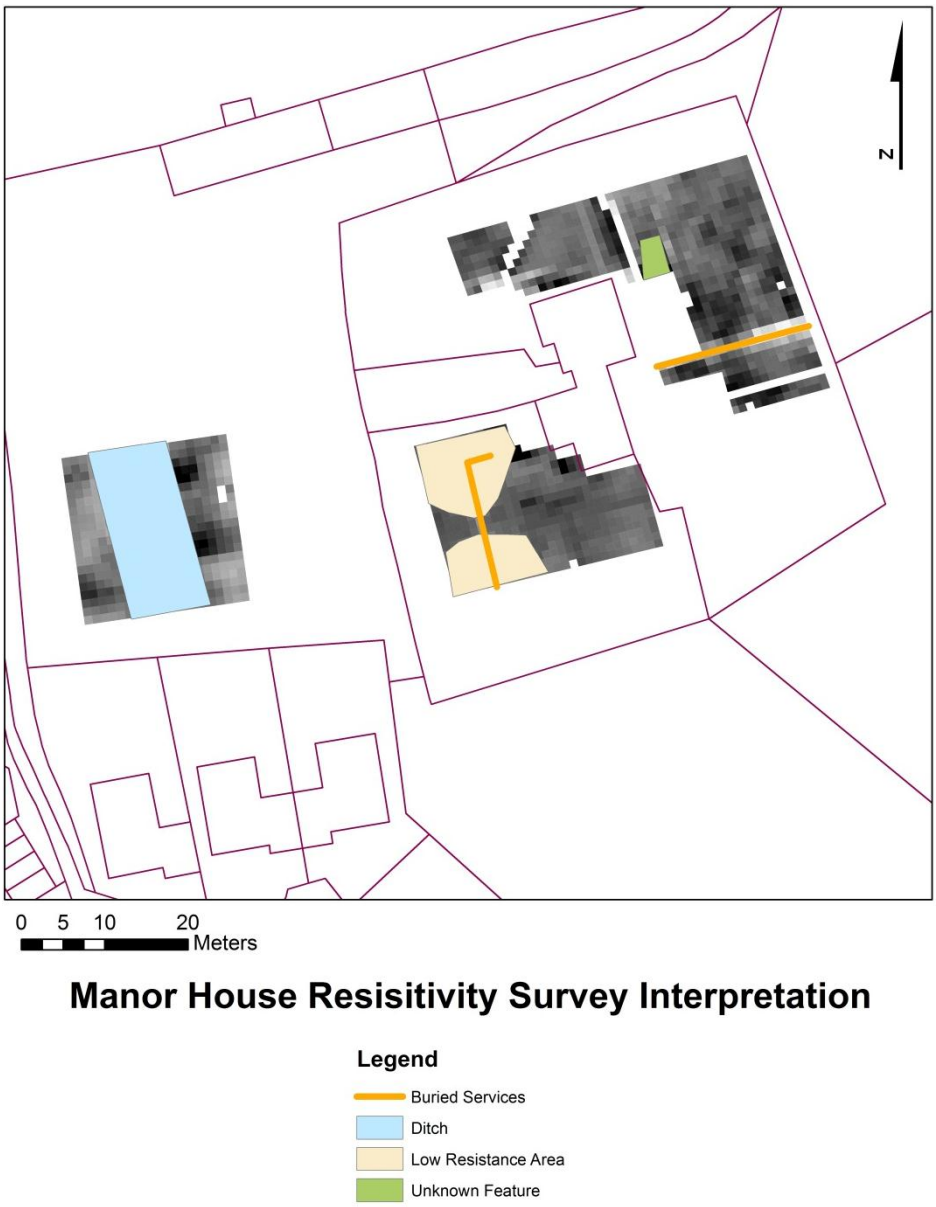
6.2 The results shown in Figure 6 show six main features, of both high and low resistance, and some of which extend off the edge of the survey area. The first anomaly is that of a linear feature, which extends off both the S and N edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 1. This is a low resistance (-15 to -2 ohms) feature measuring 20 m long by 9.5 m wide. The second anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off the N edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 2. This is a low resistance (-6 to -2 ohms) feature measuring 10 m long by 10 m wide. The third anomaly is that of a linear feature, which extends off the S edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 3. This is a low resistance (-11 to -6 ohms) feature measuring 17 m long by 1.2 m wide. The forth anomaly is that of a sub-rectangular feature, which extends off the S edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 4. This is a low resistance

(-3 to -2 ohms) feature measuring 11 m long by 6 m wide. The fifth anomaly is that of a linear feature, which extends off both the E and W edges of the plot, and can be seen at point 5. This is a low resistance (-16 to -5 ohms) feature measuring 19 m long by 2.4 m wide. The sixth anomaly is that of a rectangular feature, which extends off the S edge of the plot, and can be seen at point 6. This is a high resistance (8 to 18 ohms) feature measuring 4.4 m long by 3 m wide.

7. Interpretation

7.1 From the results, explained above, and the six features which have been identified on the results, an interpretation can be made about each of the features in turn. The interpretation of the features can be split into three main areas: Modern; Ditch; and Unknown Feature. The current interpretation of all these features can be seen in Figure 7.

Figure 7. This map shows the location and interpretation of the features shown on the geophysical data.



7.2 Modern

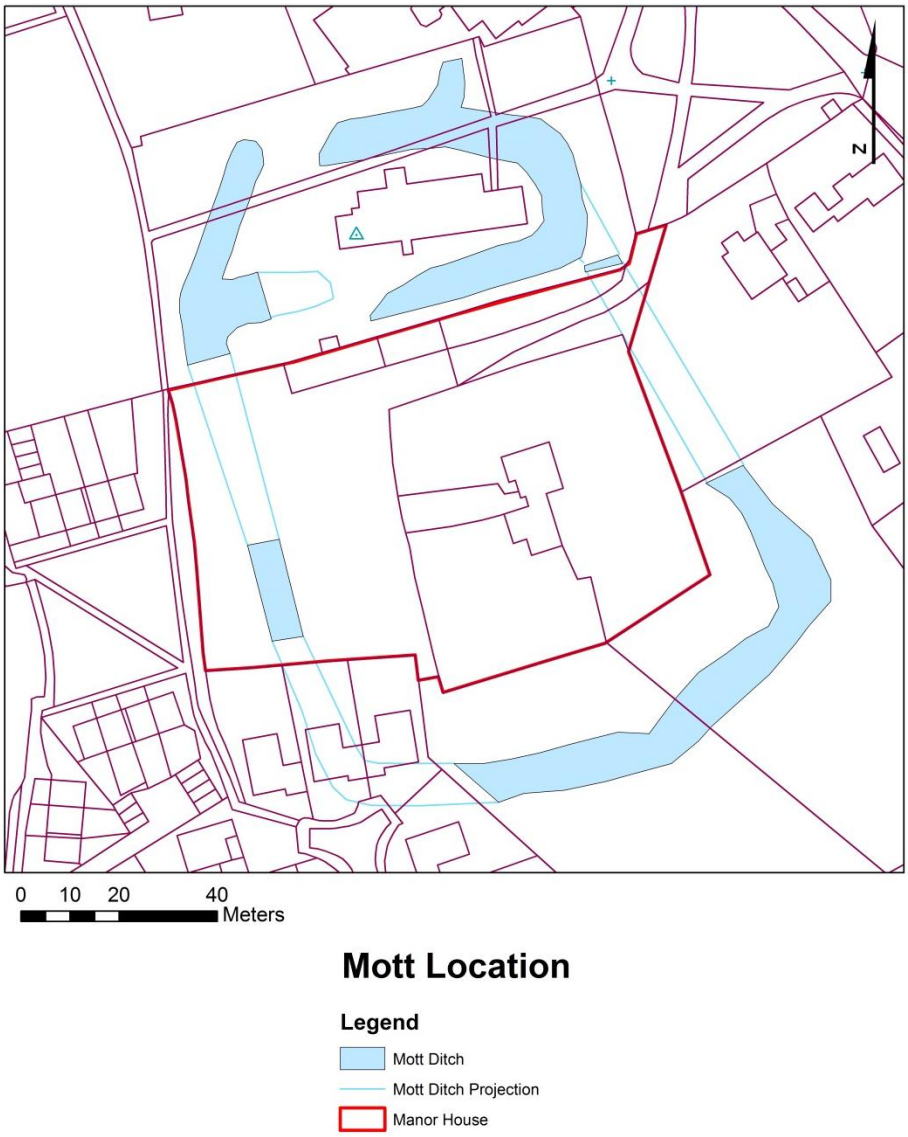
7.2.1 The first type of feature which can be seen on the resistivity plot is that of a series of possible modern features which are located at anomalies 1 to 3 and 5. These features have been interpreted as being related to modern buried services, a mains sewer pipe and a mains water pipe. Anomalies 1 and 2 are then thought to be course by water seeping out of the mains water pipe that runs through it, so coursing these low resistance features.

7.3 Ditch

7.3.1 The second type of feature which has been identified is that of anomaly 1. This low resistance feature has been interpreted as a continuation of the ditch identified on the Churchyard, Ashdown House and Millennium Green plots. This feature has been dated to the

Saxon period (10th C) through excavations and has been interpreted as a Mott ditch surrounding both the Manor House and adjacent Church, as seen in Figure 8.

Figure 8. This map shows the location of the possible Mott ditch as identified on other geophysical survey areas.



7.4 Unknown Feature

7.4.1 The third type of feature identified on the plot, anomaly 6 currently has an unclear interpretation. However, the feature may relate to an earlier phase of the Manor House or a previous garden feature within the grounds, though only archaeological excavation works would confirm this.

8. Conclusion

8.1 In conclusion, from the survey data recovered from the site, apart from that of modern features, only two possible archaeological anomalies were identified. The first of these was a section of the Mott ditch which has been found to surround both the Manor House and

Church on all four sides. This ditch is thought to date to the Saxon period (10th C), and in turn indicates the likelihood that the current Manor House overlies a much earlier one. The other archaeological feature identified currently has an uncertain identification, however may relate to an earlier garden feature within the grounds of the Manor House. Further archaeological work would be needed to give a greater understanding of the archaeology underlying the grounds of the Manor House.

9. Further Proposed Work

9.1 From the survey work undertaken on the site, further archaeological technique 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 the site, through this keyhole technique, as well as to look for evidence for an earlier manor house on the site.

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 of the historic part of the settlement, including the possibility of an earlier manor house on the site as well as the associated ditch and other possible related structures within the area.

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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Appendix 1 – Ownership of the Manor House

(Page & Ditchfield, 1924)

Name	Date	Comments
Siward Barn		King Edward the Confessor
Henry de Ferrers	1086	continued in the possession of Henry de Ferrers's descendants, the Earls of Derby, for many generations
William de Ferrers Earl of Derby	1230	In 1231 the Earl received a gift of six bream for the stocking of his fish-pond at Stanford
William de Ferrers Earl of Derby	1232	twenty joists from the forest of Savernake for his buildings at the manor, next year ten oaks to be used in the making of a new kitchen there
William de Ferrers Earl of Derby	1237	thirty more joists for an additional chamber in his manor-house at Stanford
succeeded by his son and namesake	1247	grant of free warren in the demesne lands of his manor of Stanford
Robert de Ferrers Earl of Derby	1253	
Robert de Ferrers Earl of Derby	1266	forfeited his earldom and estates
Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford	1276	
Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford	1290	surrendered all his possessions, including the manor of Stanford, as a preliminary to his marriage with Joan, the King's daughter
son Gilbert, aged four	1295	but his widow Joan held the manor until her death in 1307
Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford	1307	The manor then remained in the King's hands until the coming of age of his nephew Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertfordshire
dower to the earl's widow Maud	1314	
Hugh le Despencer the elder	1320	From time to time during his tenure the manor was raided by disaffected nobles and other persons, who were jealous of the favour he enjoyed from the King
Henry Earl of Lancaster	1326	King's kinsman
Anthony Cyteroun and Nicholas de Salvo	1332	
Roger de Leybourne	1337	
Hugh le Despencer	1344	

Sir Guy de Brian	1349	
Edward le Despencer	1359	
infant son Thomas	1375	prisoner to Bristol and beheaded there on 17 January 1400
Thomas's widow	1400	
Richard Earl of Warwick	1428	
Henry Earl of Warwick	1439	created Duke of Warwick in 1444
daughter and heir Anne	1445	
Anne Countess of Warwick	1449	the wife of the Kingmaker, Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury and Warwick
Isabel and Anne	1474	1484 she, then the consort of Richard III, granted it in free alms to 'Andrew Doket the president, and the fellows of the royal college of St. Margaret and St. Bernard within the University of Cambridge, which was of her foundation'
Countess of Warwick	1489	and in the same year she conveyed them wholly to Henry VII
Sir Thomas Brian to be steward	1510	
Humphrey Nedeham	1516	twenty-one years lease of the site of the manor at an annual rent of £26 13*s*. 4*d*. 1517 leased the lordship of Stanford 'parcel of Warwick's lands' to the same Humphrey at an annual rent of £68 10s. 3d. and 10s. of increase
Francis Brian, steward of the manor	1520	
Sir Thomas Fettiplace and Elizabeth his wife	1520	three years later the King granted them the annual rent paid by Nedeham
daughter Katherine	1524	married Francis Englefield the previous year
John Englefield	1559	Queen Elizabeth recalled him, and on his non-compliance denounced him as a traitor and seized upon all his estates
Nicholas St. John and George Fettiplace	1566	granted the manor in trust
Sir Francis Knollys	1579	Vice-Chamberlain of the royal household
Sir William Knollys	1592	
half to Elizabeth and half to Lettice		The former married Henry Willoughby of Risley (co. Derby), who was created a baronet in 1611

HALF MOGRATY		
Anne, daughter	1649	married, first, the Hon. Anchitel Grey of Risley, and, secondly, Sir Thomas Aston of Aston (co. Chest.), bart
Sir Willoughby Aston	1690	
Sir Thomas Aston, third baronet	1702	
Sir Thomas Aston, fourth baronet		
eldest sister Catherine	1744	wife of the Rev. the Hon. Henry Hervey, D.D., who took the additional name of Aston by Act of Parliament
Edward Loveden	1785	
HALF MOGRATY		
Sir William Paget, Lord Paget de Beaudesert		
William Paget, Lord Paget de Beaudesert	1629	
son and namesake	1678	ambassador first in Vienna and afterwards in Constantinople
Henry Paget	1713	Lord Burton of Burton (co. Staff.) in 1712. during his father's lifetime, and Earl of Uxbridge in 1714
Peter Walter and John Morse	1715	
Walter Tyrrell, high sheriff of the country	1723	
Avery Tyrrell. From the latter		
'Rev. Mr Hatch		
OWNS WHOLE MOGRATY		
Edward Loveden		who had purchased Henry Hervey Aston's moiety
Pryse Loveden	1822	
Joseph Cowderoy	1864	
Mr Joseph Cowderoy Richards of Appleton	1924	