

ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS

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Flint Farm, Goodworth Clatford, Hampshire.

Short Report no. 2017-04R V3

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This short report format omits certain aspects which the English Heritage 2008 guidance says should be in reports. This is because these relate to the general description of geophysics techniques and other matters which are repeated in reports and which can be found in better detail on our website.

Survey Details

Name of site: Flint Farm near Andover, Hampshire UK.

Purpose of survey:

A magnetometry survey was carried out to investigate whether we could obtain better results than a previous survey by carrying the magnetometers closer to the ground.

Client: None

County: Hampshire **District:** Test Valley **Parish:** Goodworth Clatford

NGR grid reference: Area approximately centred on SU 349403

Nearest postcode: SP11 7SE

Start date: 08-03-2017 **End date:** 08-03-2017 **Report date:** 17-03-2017.

Geology at site The geology is understood from the Geology of Britain viewer to be Seaford chalk formation. No superficial deposits are recorded but this chalk has a reddish brown topsoil which is usually good for magnetometry results.

Topography: The site is on a fairly level part of a field which is on a ridge.

Land use at the time of survey: Short oilseed rape.

Known archaeological sites / monuments covered by the survey

This area has been surveyed by English Heritage in February 2004 and is in the in their Centre for Archaeology report 70/2004 ISSN 1473-9224.

Part of the area appears then to have been excavated that summer by Cunliffe and Poole as part of the Danebury Environs Roman Programme.

English Heritage then surveyed part of the site again in the summer of 2005 using fluxgate equipment for their article in Archaeological Prospection 14, 151-166 (2007). That survey only appears in that Journal although illustrations of the results comparing equipment have

been used in their Guidance booklet "Geophysical Survey in Field Evaluation" (2008) and in the 2015 European Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology, p65.

Whilst the magnetometry revealed various ditches, and circular features it could not give a date to the remains. I suspect that the Danebury Environs excavation will have an Iron Age date for them - despite it being part of a Roman project.

Archaeological sites / monument types detected by the survey

Our March 2017 survey discovered no more than had previously been located.

Surveyor : Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics, Roger Ainslie, Sally Ainslie.

Location of:

a) Primary archive, i.e. raw data, electronic archive etc
Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics.

b) Full report: ditto

Technical Details

Type of survey

Magnetometer

Area surveyed: 0.36 hectares.

Traverse separation, if regular: 0.5 metres

Reading / sample interval: 8 per metre

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

Processing

- 1 Base Layer
- 2 Clip at 1.00 SD
- 3 DeStripe Median Traverse: Grids: All
- 4 De Stagger: Grids: All Mode: Both By: 1 intervals, -80.00cm
- 5 Clip from -3.50 to 3.50 nT

Additional remarks

30 metre grids. First line start SW corner going north zig zag. Grids aligned on National grid using Trimble pro XR GPS with beacon differential correction - probably accurate to 0.5 metres. SW corner of grid 1 at 434910.0E 140230.0N. Walking speed 1.4m/s. Bottom sensor 0.25m above ground surface.

Results (refer to plans below)

Magnetometry found the same ditches, pits and circular post hole arrangements as has previously been found

Conclusions

Our March 2017 survey is most comparable to the 2005 fluxgate survey, which is surprising as our sensors were carried with the bottom sensor at 25cms above the ground whilst on p 152 of the Archaeological Prospection article the authors say theirs was at 0.5m. One would have expected far stronger readings with the lower sensor height.

We have subsequently been advised that the original fluxgate survey was in fact at 0.25 metres above the surface rather than the 0.5 in the article. We appear to have done a survey to test a typo.

The 2007 Archaeological Prospection article commends the caesium magnetometry results as they were able to identify post ring 2 whilst it was less clear in the fluxgate results. This appears to have overlooked the possibility that the features had been altered by careful excavation after the caesium survey was carried out but before the fluxgate survey took place.

Inspection of the iron spikes in the surveys showed that the 2 Bartington fluxgate surveys had a spike on the southern side of ring 2 which was not evident in the caesium survey. As the 2 fluxgate surveys were some 11 years apart, it implied that that piece of iron was beneath plough depth. This led to further enquiries concerning the date of the excavation there which showed that it had indeed taken place after the caesium survey but before the Bartington fluxgate surveys. Someone may have left a nail or trowel in a posthole.

The detectability of those postholes would have changed as they no longer had decayed posts and silty topsoil in them but their fills will have varied according to whether a chalky or a topsoil part of the spoil heap was used to backfill that area.

Acknowledgements

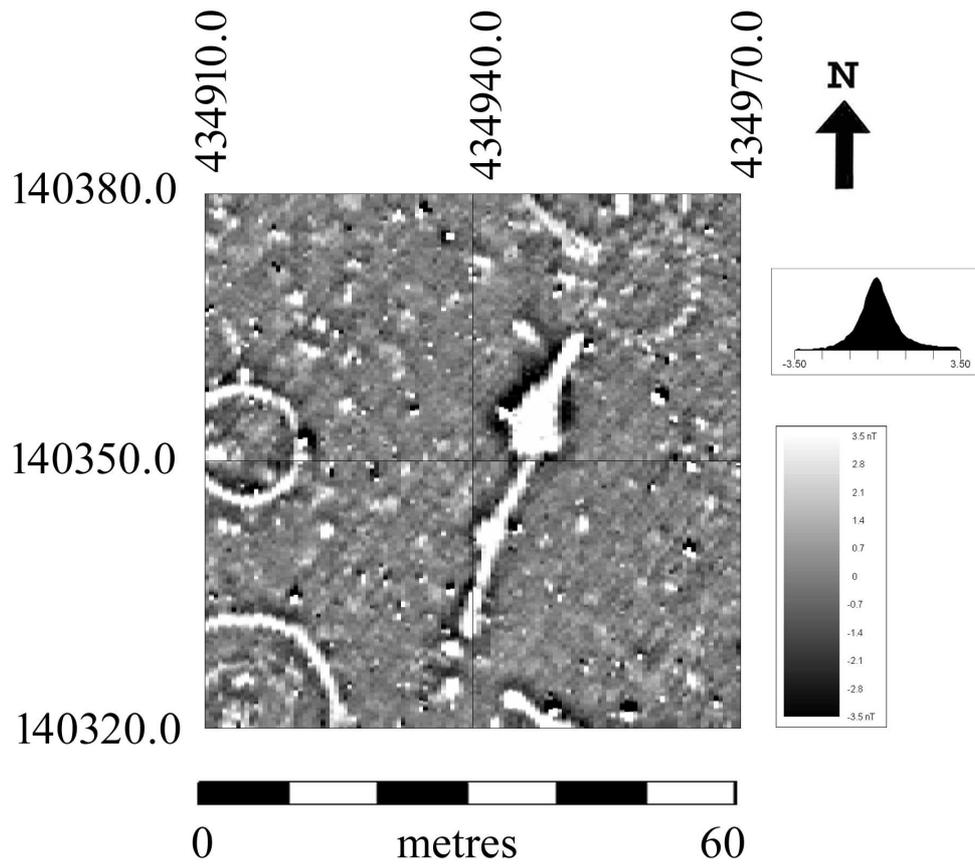
We would like to thank Simon Turner, the farm manager, for allowing us to carry out the survey. We would also like to thank Paul Linford of Historic England for giving us the date of their fluxgate survey, mentioning the typo and correcting other aspects of this report.

Disclaimer

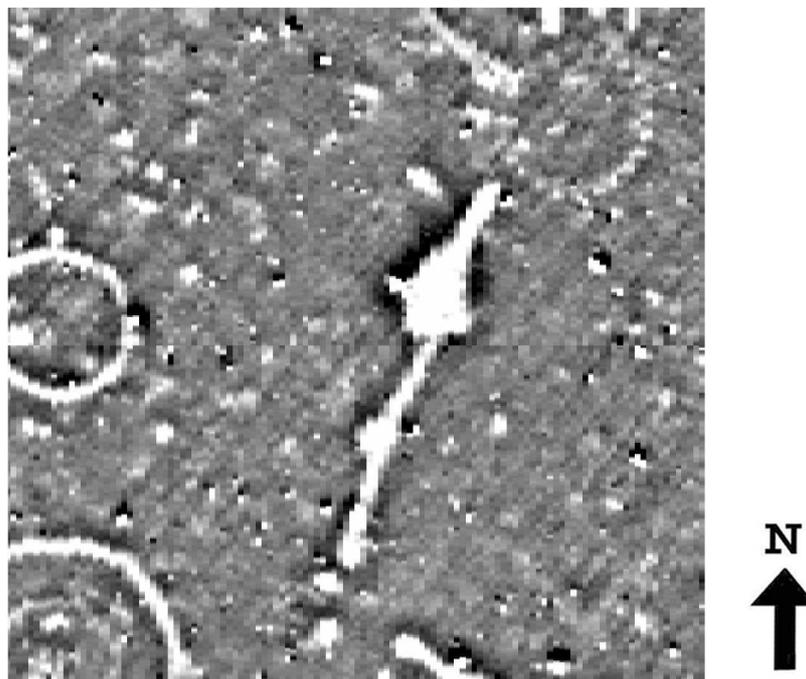
Geophysics is not always successful in locating sites. Whilst we do our reasonable best to locate features we cannot influence ground conditions and the state of preservation of remains. Graves and spreads of material are seldom located. The failure to locate remains does not mean that they are not there. Geophysics on its own cannot give a date to remains.



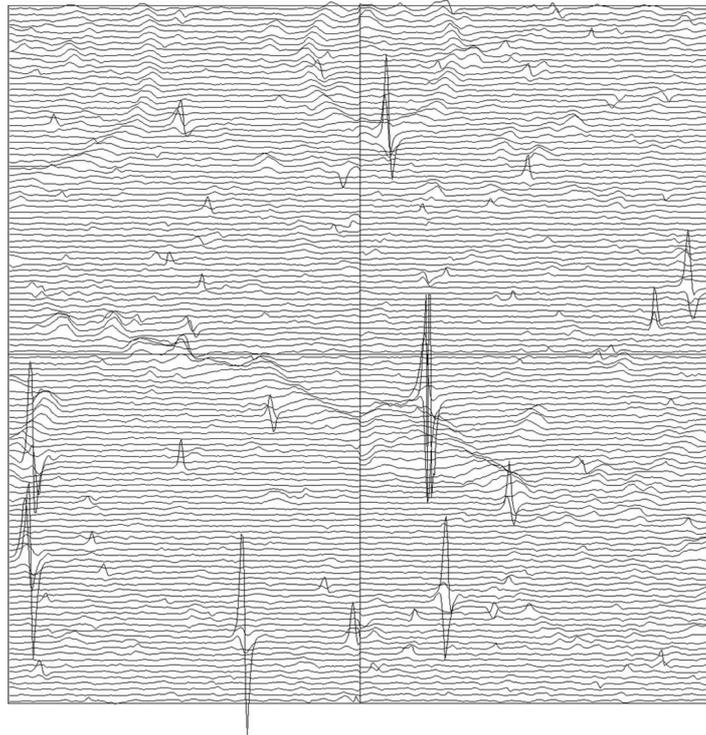
LOCATION on Google Earth base



Location detail and scales



Greyscale plot



Trace plot



Post ring 2

Post ring 1

Post rings