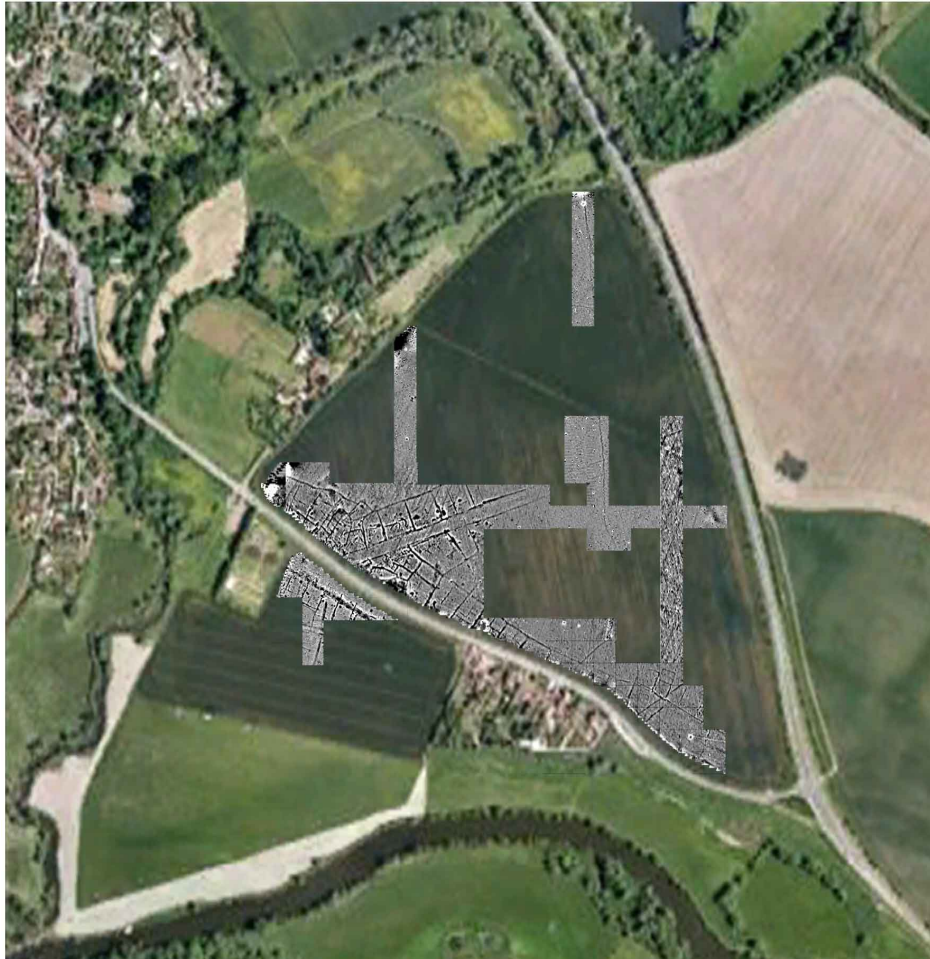


**ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS**  
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Short Report form no. 2021-02R



location on Google Earth photo.

Name of site: Overy, Nr Dorchester on Thames

County: Oxfordshire. District; South Oxfordshire. Parish; Dorchester on Thames

National grid reference Centred on SU582938

Nearest postcode. OX10 7JU

Start date: 25 Jan 2010 End date: 08 Oct 2010 Report date: 20 December 2021

This is a combination of the areas east of Dorchester on Thames covered in our report 13-2010 and 14-2010 for Parishes Against Gravel Extraction, together with our own later surveys in this area. General information concerning geophysics techniques can be found in our book "Archaeology- In the Service of Property Development?"

## Survey Details

### Geology at site

Solid: Gault Formation - Mudstone. Drift: Northmoor Sand And Gravel Member, Upper Facet - Sand And Gravel. The Soilscape viewer doesn't mention it but the brown soil on the field appears to be a brickearth, possibly a loess from the end of the last Ice Age.

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

Nothing was known to be in the area before our work. The surveys have been reported in the Council for British Archaeology South Midlands Archaeology 2011 p36.

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

Ditched enclosures, roads, pits. Date unknown assumed to be Romano British to medieval.

Surveyor Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics, Roger Ainslie, Sally Ainslie, Chris Oatley.

Name of client; Graham Keevill for Parishes Against Gravel Extraction

Purpose of survey: To ascertain if magnetometry was likely to reveal any archaeological remains in the area.

### Location of:

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

Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics. Also with Oxfordshire History Centre, St Luke's Church, Cowley, Oxford.

b) Full report: ditto

## Technical Details

### Type of survey

Magnetometer. Area surveyed; 12.3ha. Traverse separation, if regular: 1metre. Reading / sample interval: 8 per metre. Type, make and model of instrumentation: Bartington Grad 601/2 fluxgate gradiometer. Sensitivity 0.1nT.

Land use at the time of survey; wheat stubble and short crop.

### Additional remarks

30 metre grids. First line start NW corner going east. Zig-zag walking direction. Grids aligned on UK national grid. A positioning error meant that grids 66-74 were surveyed west of their intended positions. This has been remedied in the survey plots.

## Results (refer to plans below)

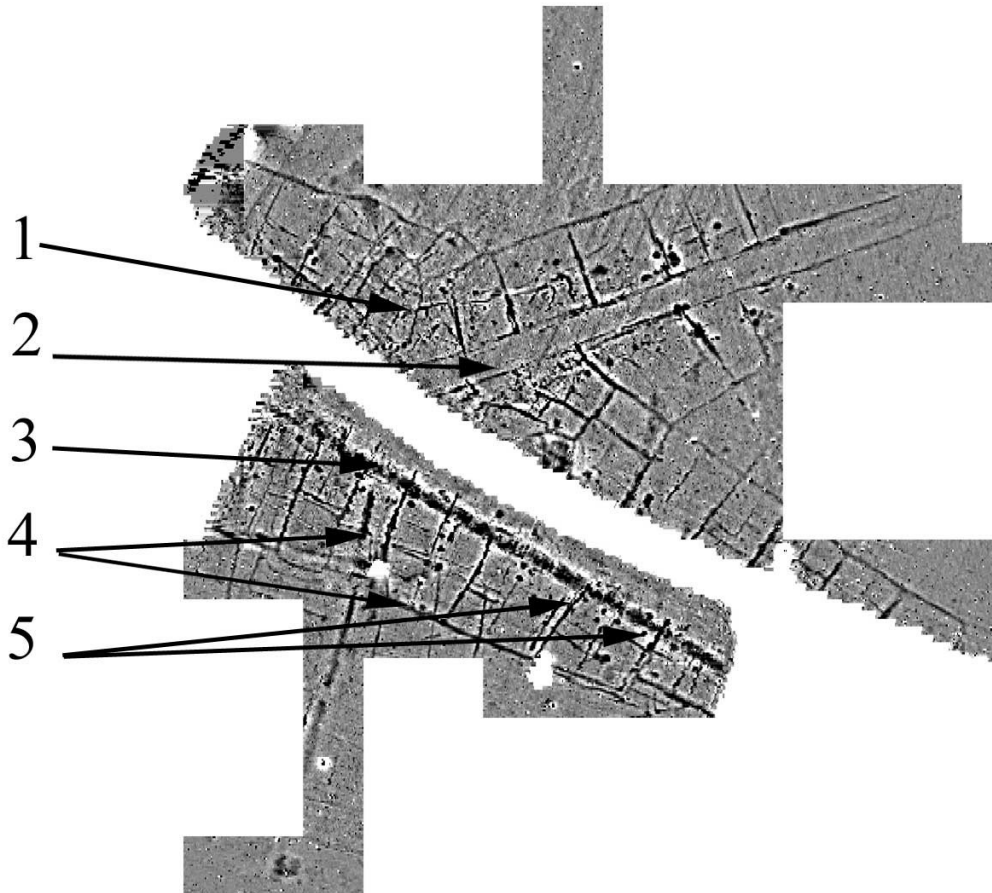
1 An area where there is an intersection between enclosure ditches facing the present road and an alignment along a route of unknown date. This could give a stratigraphic relationship between the two systems. The main anomalies in the enclosures are probably either pits or hearths. Any buildings could have been in stone and less magnetically detectable or made from wattle and daub or cob.

2 A pair of parallel ditches, almost certainly a road or track. Note how the anomaly strength diminishes eastwards as it gets further from the main settlement area. It is almost certainly still there - just not detectable magnetically. There are smaller ditches parallel to the main ones which could be later re-cuts.

3 Probably a roadside ditch as it is aligned on the position of the medieval bridge over the

Thame. Some of the smaller possible house plot dividing ditches appear to cross it, (although sequencing using magnetic anomalies is unwise), but it could indicate a Roman ditch which had fallen into disuse by the medieval period.

- 4 Ditches of various sizes. Some may be field ditches and others house enclosure ditches.
- 5 Some of many pits or hearths in the survey area.



## Conclusions

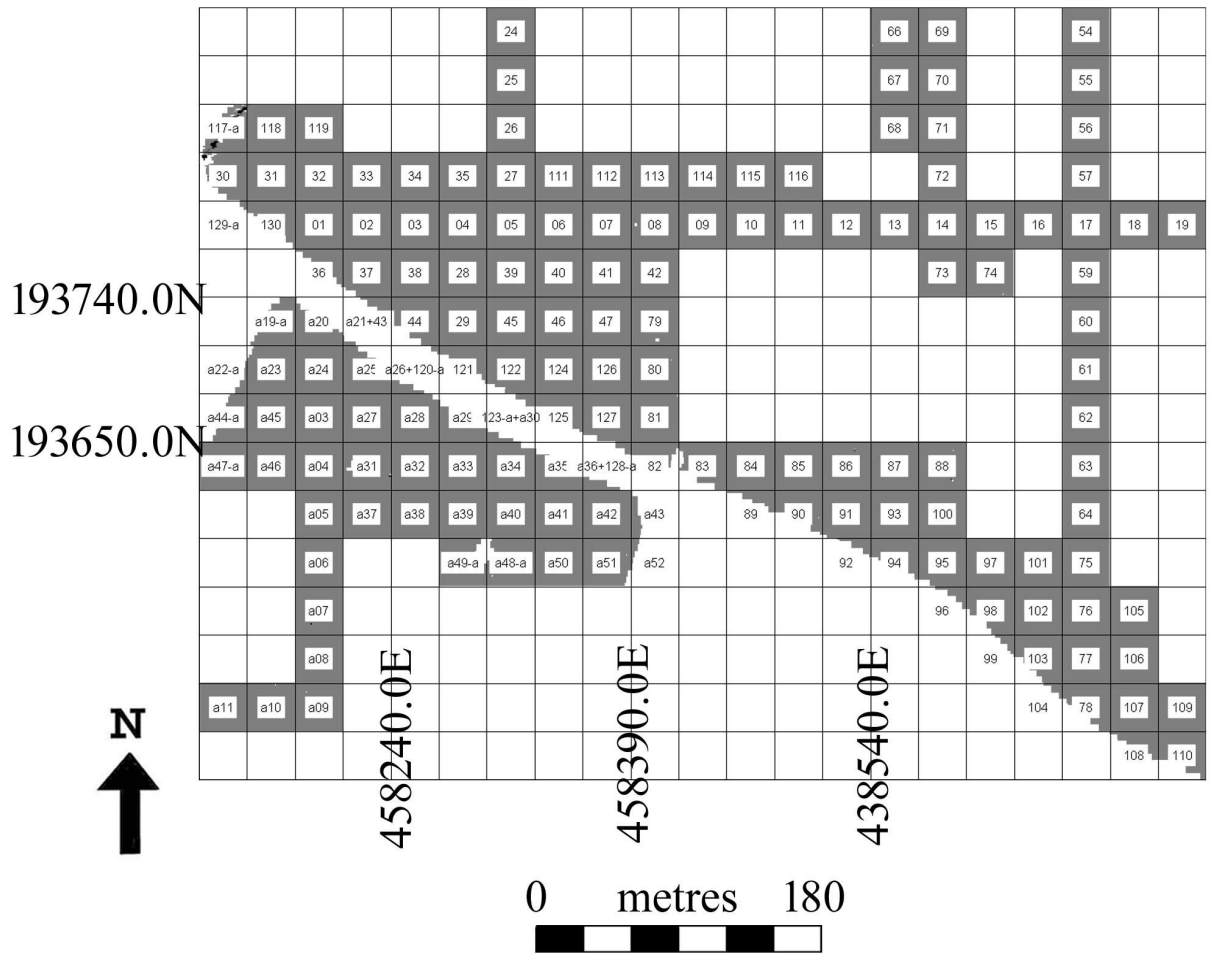
Magnetometry appears to have been able to locate ditches and pits but did not locate any stone buildings. This may indicate that any buildings were of timber or cob construction or that the remains were not magnetically enhanced enough to be visible using magnetometry. This is often the case with limestone buildings.

The W-E road ditches are more visible near the settlement and fade away eastwards. This is probably because there is less magnetically enhanced soil in the ditches as they get further from the main areas of human occupation. The road ditches will probably be there, just not magnetically detectable.

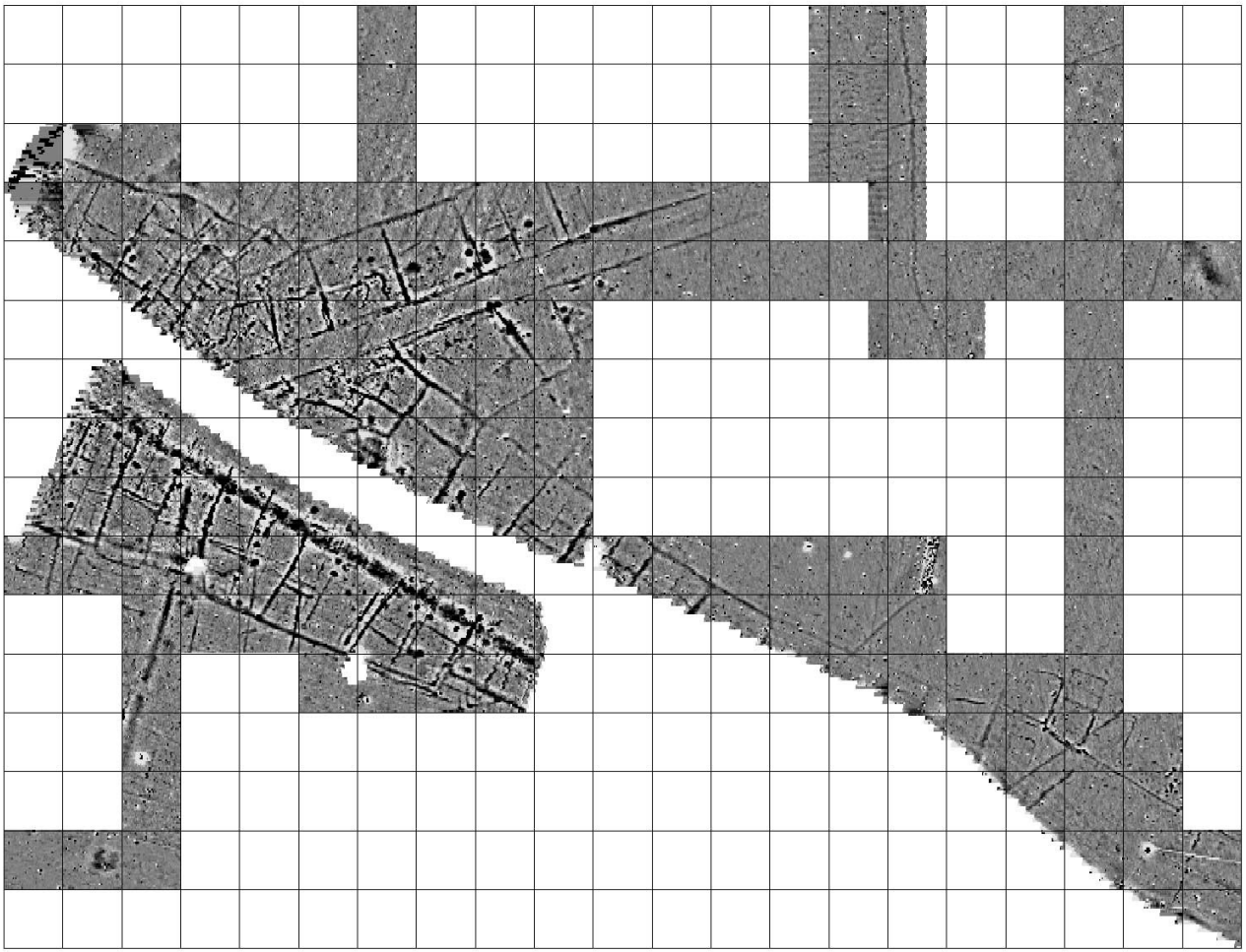
That this settlement was unknown before our survey says something about the survival of other unexpected remains. Geophysics cannot give a date to remains detected but here a Roman to Medieval date is expected. Roman pottery was found on the surface by the clients, although it is possible that the area could have been a rubbish dump during that period, which would leave Iron Age and Anglo Saxon periods as possibilities.

**REMINDER**

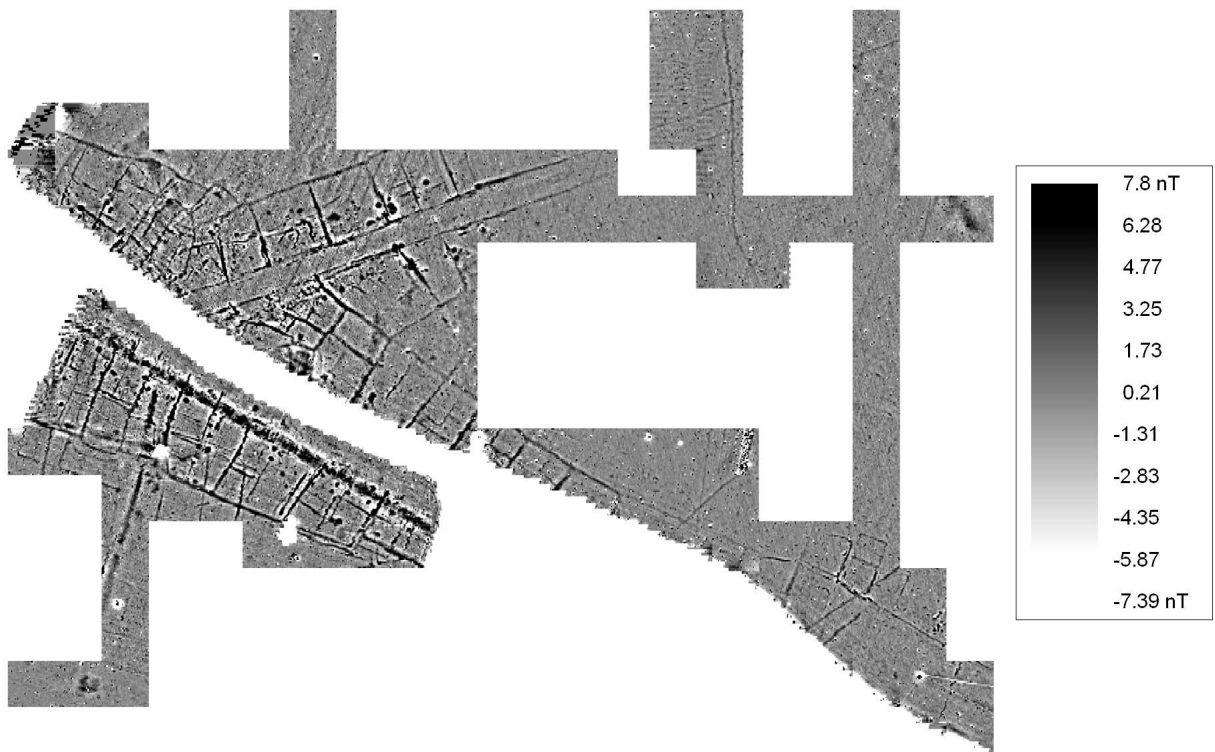
Many features cannot be located by using magnetometry or resistivity. Features including flint scatters and burials may well exist which are not detectable by these survey methods. The failure to locate remains does not mean that they are not there.



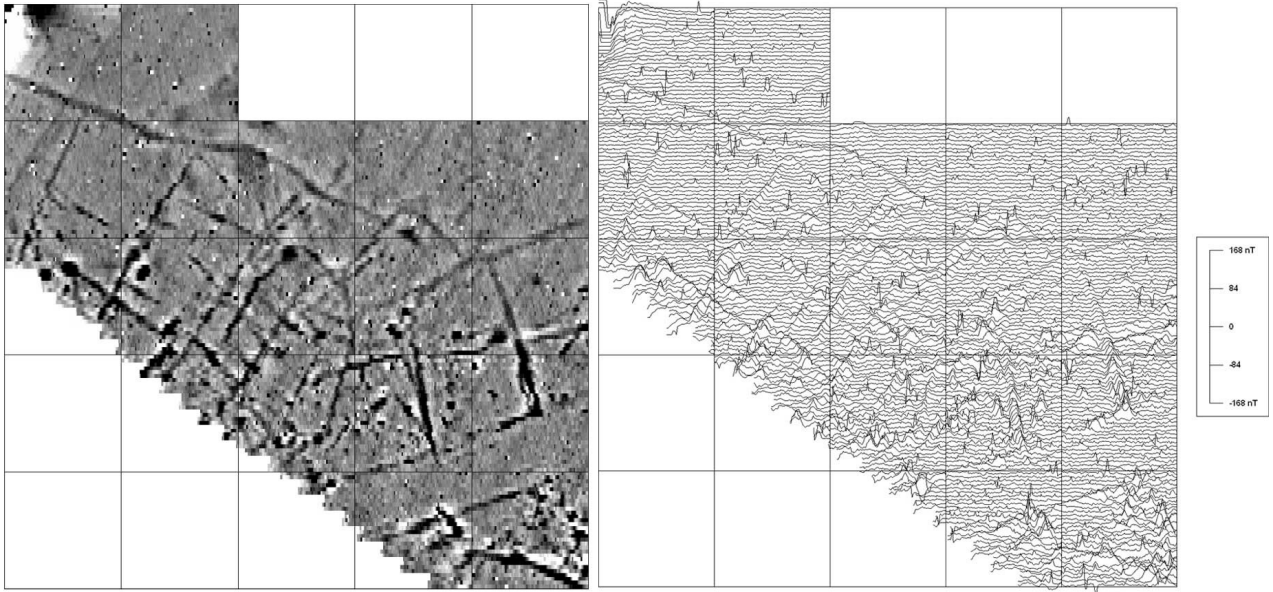
LOCATION grid order and co-ordinates



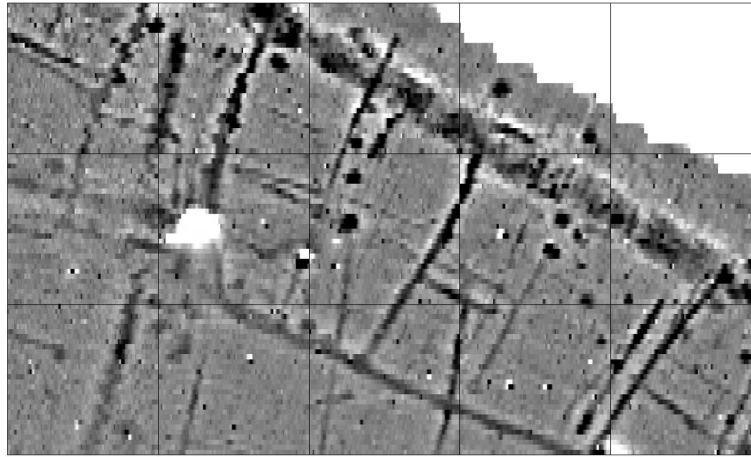
Magnetometry Greyscale with 30m grid



Magnetometry and scale without grid lines.



Detail of northern area. Greyscale and trace plots.



Detail of part of Western area. Greyscale