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Short Report form no. 2023-02



Name of site: Weedon, Bucks.

County: Buckinghamshire District: Buckinghamshire (unitary) Parish: Weedon

NGR grid reference Centred on SP80821876  
Nearest postcode. HP22 4DS

Start date: 3 March 2023 End date: 3 March 2023 Report date: 7 March 2023

This is in our short report format. It is designed to get to the point so others can use the information. For details of survey techniques please see our book "Archaeology - In the Service of Property Development?" available on our website at <https://archgeophys.weebly.com>

## **Survey Details**

### **Geology at site**

The geology is understood to be Kimmeridge clay with quaternary terrace deposits and alluvium at the northern part of the field.

The Landis viewer says the soil is clayey loam, seasonally wet.

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

Our survey was initiated by Tom Clark who had detected metal objects in this area and had found peg hole roof tiles and stone walls at approx 50 cms deep. He has also found musket balls and forge equipment in this field

The Heritage Gateway website has an Historic England record of Mike Farley's note in Records of Buckinghamshire 1975 p143. This is to the east of our site and is at SP81030 18740. It was considered to be a possible medieval or later site.

It may be the same as Buckinghamshire HER site no 0237500000 at SP 8099 1875 where it is considered to be a Civil War battery.

Their HER record 0237500000 at SP 8071 1885 is of a possible site of post-medieval building suggested from earthworks seen on aerial photographs. The grid reference is to the south of the road to Weedon and in Weedon parish, but it is given a Hardwick parish location on the HER, so there could be some confusion.

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

Probable rectangular building, possible dovecote, ditches.

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

### **Client**

Edward and Louise Davis

### **Purpose of survey:**

Research by landowner

### **Archive location**

Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics. Also with client. Report to go on Archaeology Data Service Grey literature system.

### **Technical Details**

Type of survey

A Magnetometer

Area surveyed: 0.45ha. Traverse separation, if regular: 1metre

Reading / sample interval: 8 per metre

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

B Earth Resistance

Area surveyed: 0.09ha Traverse separation, if regular: 0.5 metre

Reading / sample interval: 0.5 per metre

Type, make and model of instrumentation:

TR Systems/CIA resistance meter. v2 Twin probe array, 0.5 metre mobile probe separation.

Land use at the time of survey: Pasture

### **Additional remarks**

30 metre grids. First line magnetometry start NE going S.(to minimise interference caused by 0.5m high sheep wire fence on W side of survey area). zig zag. First line earth resistance NW corner going E. zig zag but frame not rotated.

Grids aligned on single wire strand fence 0.85m east of main wire fence. NW corner of earth resistance grid 23.9m from corner of western and northern fences. Also measured to S side of electricity pole (see location plan).

An error in logging magnetometry grid 4 meant that it had to be re-processed and has been re-numbered as 42.

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

#### Magnetometry

- 1 Areas badly affected by magnetic disturbance from wire fences.
- 2 Low magnetic features. These are probably the building side walls. The direction of the survey, dictated by the wire fence, was parallel to the main walls, so they were not as well detected as they could have been.
- 3 Patches of higher magnetic anomalies. Often these are roof tiles and similar debris and are the only magnetic evidence of settlement.
- 4 Magnetically quiet area. There is a ripple-like undulation in these readings. They are not archaeological and indicate that the sensor was being carried too low and readings influenced by the bounce in the stride of the surveyor.
- 5 Patch of low readings. Probably a large piece of ferrous metal, possibly quite deep. I would expect negative anomalies to be accompanied by positive ones, but this may be influenced by the shape and position of the object causing the anomaly.
- 6 Slight linear anomalies. These are on the same alignment as the ditch on the lidar pictures and which is partially visible in the earth resistance survey. They are in a magnetically quiet strip which appears to interrupt 3 above, and may therefore be of a later date.
- 7 Small possible linear anomaly. Purpose unknown, but the fills of trenches for plastic pipes can cause this type of response.

#### Earth resistance

- 8 Low resistance. Probably a ditch or similar. More visible in the colour plot.
- 9 Low resistance on western edge of survey area. This may not be a ditch and have more to do with the type of wire fence. Metal fences can conduct electricity from the remote probes to the mobile ones more easily than it travelling through soil all the way. This lowers the resistance readings in areas near the conductive material.
- 10 Main walls of rectangular building as high resistance features.
- 11 High resistance circular feature. Purpose unknown but a dovecote could be a possibility.
- 12 Low resistance. Probably the ditch visible in the lidar pictures.

## Conclusions

Magnetometry didn't locate ditches, which it often does on other sites, but it did locate the building walls. although the results were affected by the wire fencing nearby.

The earth resistance results were good, and located the building. It also located ditches or similar. The diagonal ditch visible on lidar, appears to cut the upcast from the ditch to the south and east of the survey area. If it relates to a similar ditch in the field to the east, one option could be that it is from the 17th Century Civil War. The main building could have been demolished at that time, as its northern wall appears to be either destroyed or buried by the upcast from that ditch.

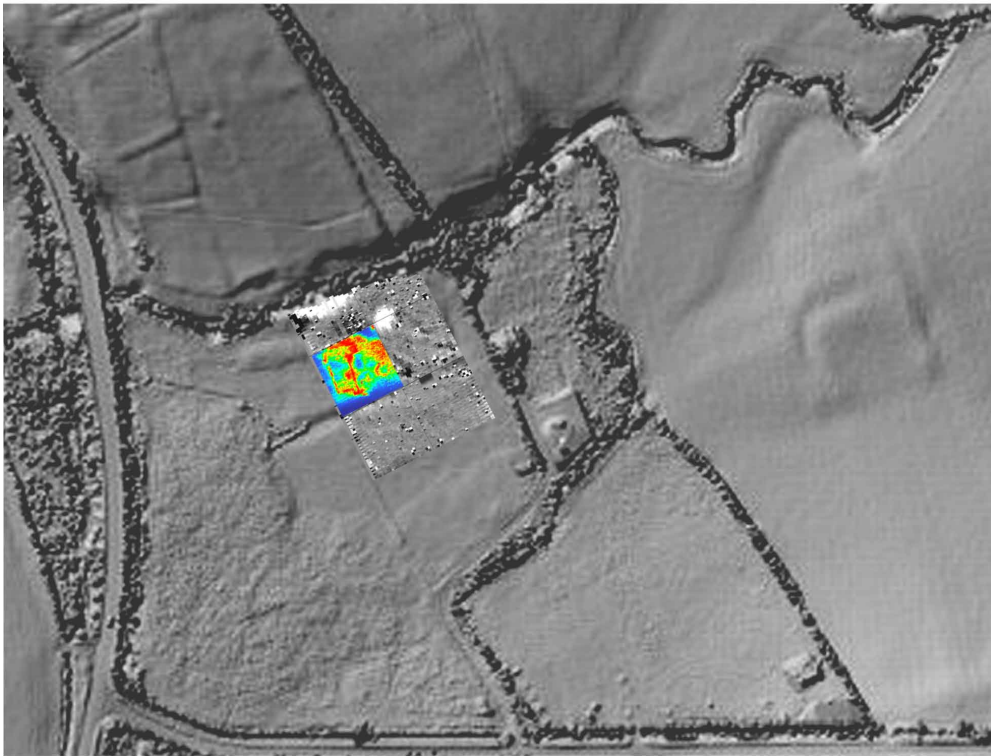
The lidar also has a slight rectangular mound in the northern part of the field to the west of the survey area. It is possible that this may be related to the building on our site, although trees have now been planted there.

## REMINDER

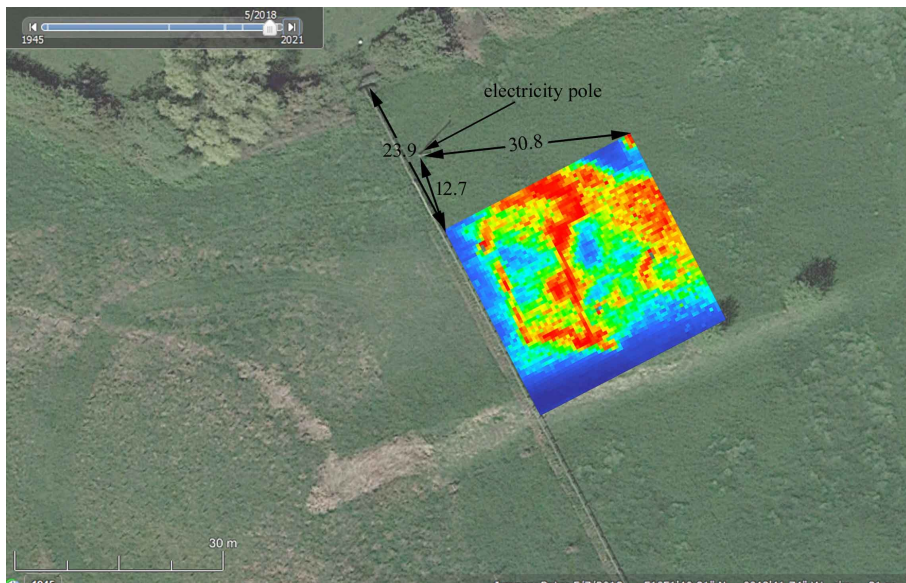
Many features cannot be located by using magnetometry or resistivity. Features including flint scatters and burials may well exist which are not detectable by these survey methods. The failure to locate remains does not mean that they are not there.



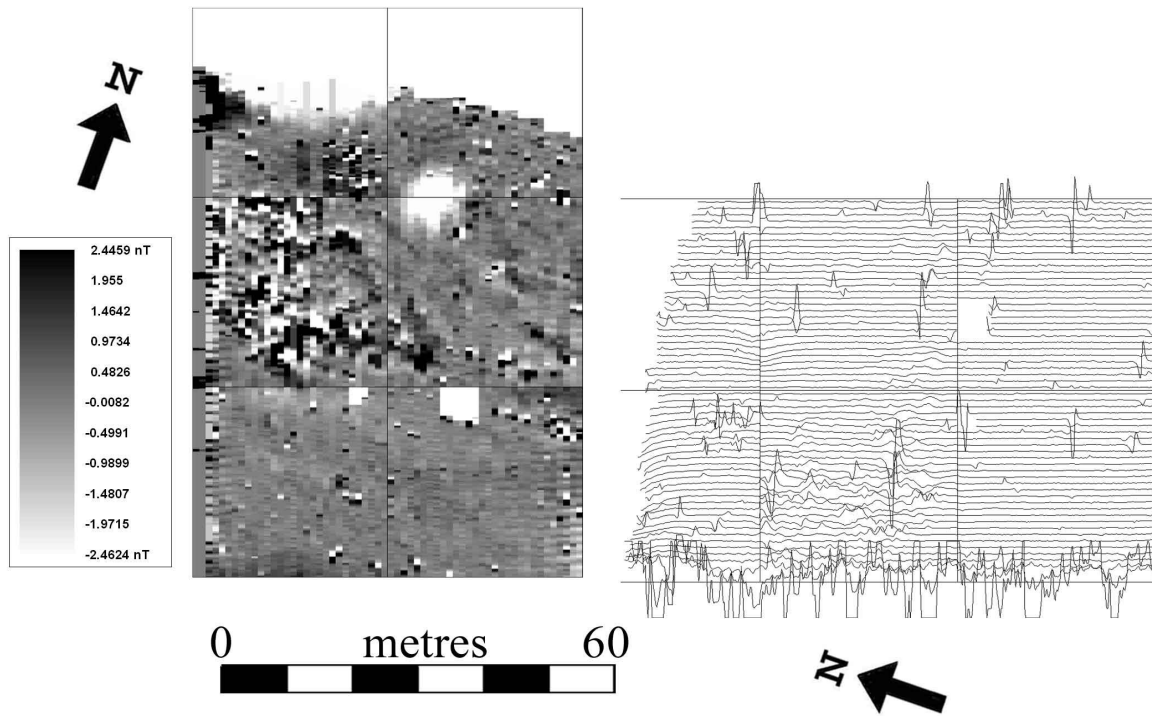
LOCATION on Google Earth base.



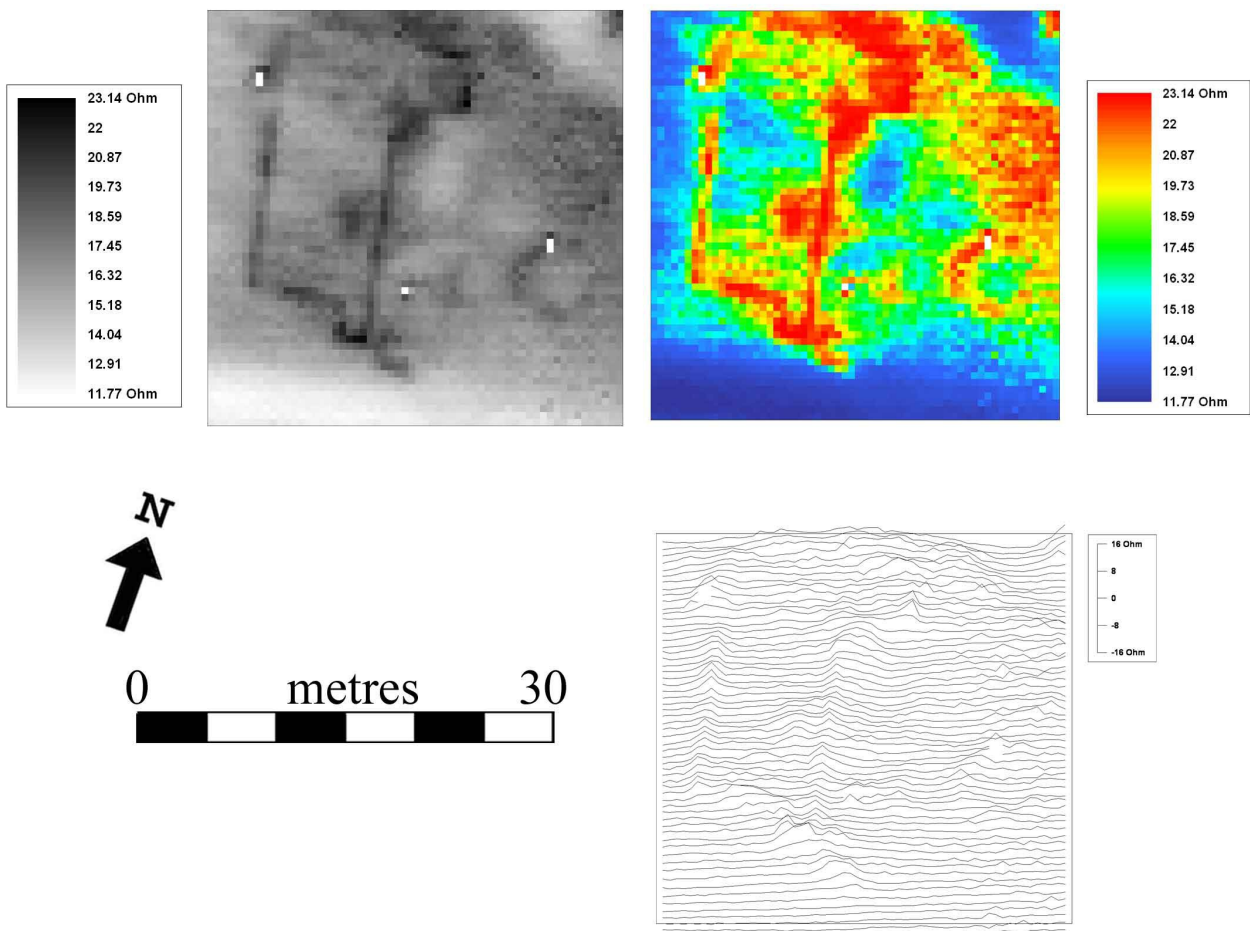
LOCATION on LIDAR base.



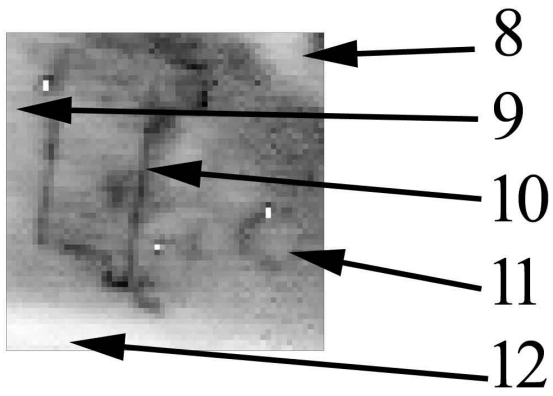
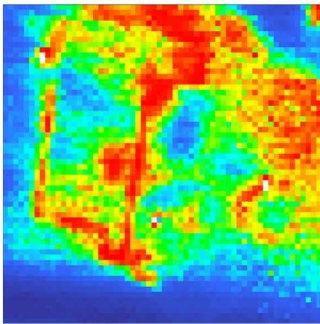
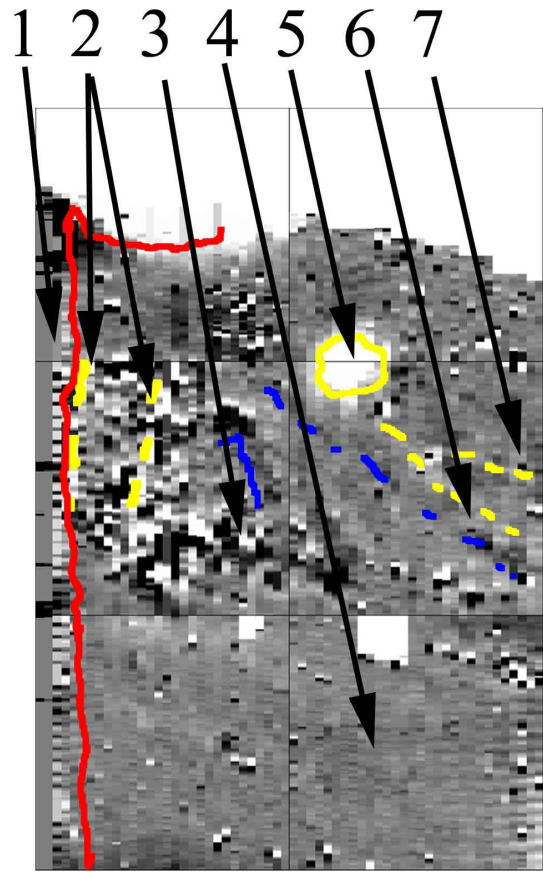
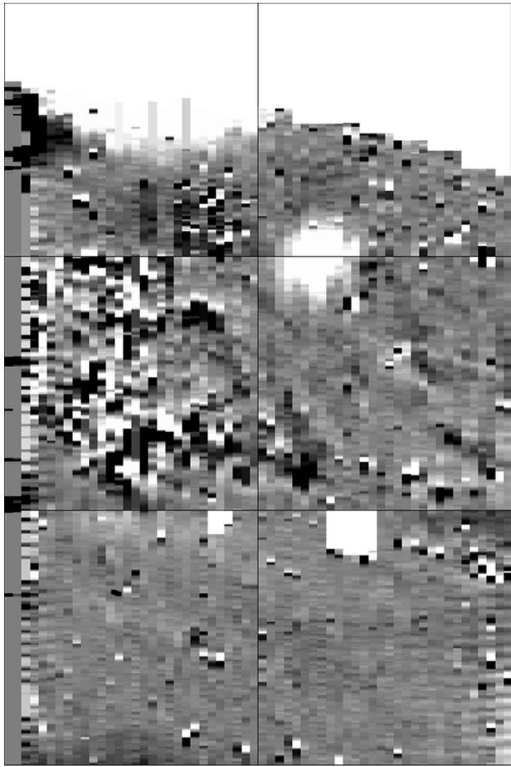
LOCATION measured position of earth resistance grid



Magnetometry greyscale and trace of original data



Earth Resistance survey



Interpretation



Lidar based on DSM\_D0196408 and DSM\_D0196397