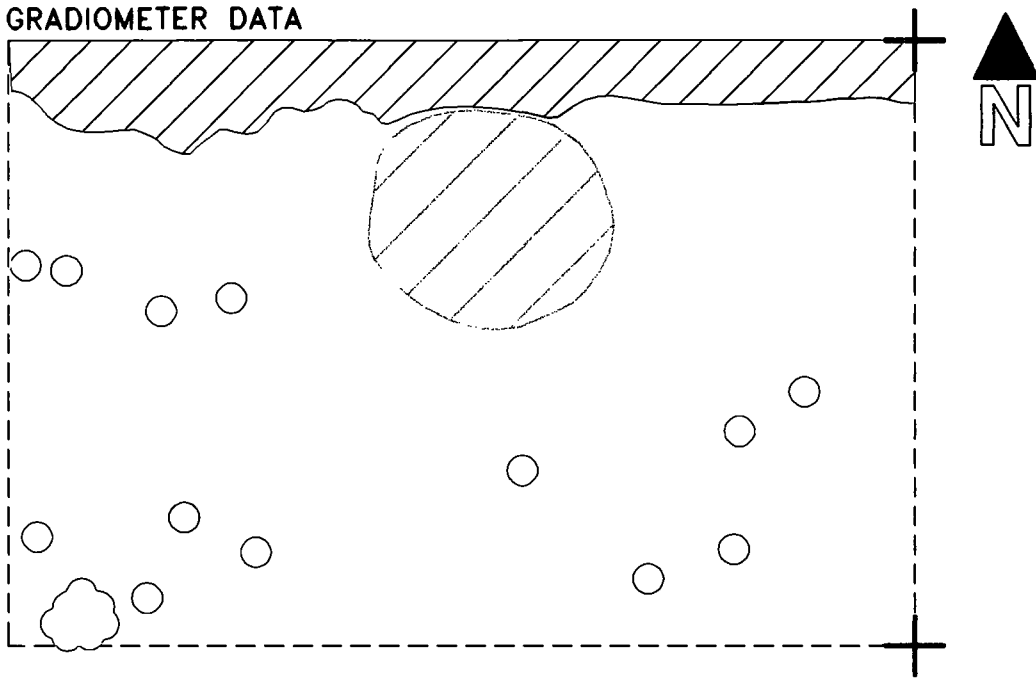


GRADIOMETER DATA



- Isolated dipolar anomaly—ferrous material in topsoil
- ▨ Isolated negative response—iron pipe
- ▨ Area of magnetic disturbance—mesh fence

RESISTANCE DATA



- ▨ Area of very high resistance
- ▨ Area of high resistance
- ▨ Area of medium resistance
- ▨ Area of very low resistance
- High resistance linear anomaly—possible structure
- + Location of survey pegs

0 10 m

Fig.11 Interpretation of geophysical data

Figure 11. Indeed, during the survey stone was felt through the mobile probes across the line of this ridge suggesting it could be caused by a structural feature, possibly a former boundary wall or the foundation footing for a building. The second ridge was about 4m wide extending across the centre of the site. This, too, showed as an area of high resistance although there is a sub-circular area of very low resistance along its length. This feature is probably too large to have been formed by ridge and furrow ploughing (it was not detected during the gradiometer survey which commonly shows this type of feature as strongly magnetic) but it does correlate with the position and alignment of a cropmark shown in Figure 3. It is possibly remnant of an earth bank used to demarcate land.

8.3.3 Areas of low resistance were also seen. One of these corresponds to the position of the negative magnetic anomaly. This suggests that the cause of the response is buried in the ground rather than being on the surface. The ground in the vicinity of this anomaly has obviously been disturbed and backfilled and as a consequence is less compact than the surrounding, undisturbed, ground. It therefore offers less resistance to the current and shows as an area of low resistance.

8.3.4 The two small areas of very high resistance on the extreme western edge of the site are due to tumble from the drystone wall on Brecks Lane.

8.3.5 Other areas of high or low resistance which have not been referred to above probably reflect changes in the underlying soils and geology.

9. Conclusions

9.1 It is possible that building foundations could be situated in the north-west corner of the development site. Tuke's map of the 18th century shows that many of the buildings in Pockley village were positioned to one side of their respective plots and adjacent to the roadways. Vertical air photographs appear to show an anomaly in this north-west area, but the feature is difficult to define due to shadows. It could be that the linear high resistance anomaly reflects this, although it does appear to be too far from the edge of Brecks Lane.

9.2 Alternatively, it could be associated with the smithy that the Ordnance Survey map of 1914 records on or near the site. If a smithy were located on the site it might reasonably be expected that there would be metal working debris in the area. This is supported by the large number of ferrous responses (isolated dipolar anomalies; Fig. 11) detected by the gradiometer. However, this is not conclusive evidence as typically one would expect a certain number of these responses irrespective of previous land usage.

9.3 The layout of the present field boundaries and survival of 17th-century buildings suggest that contemporary Pockley, including Brecks Lane, is similar in plan to its medieval predecessor.

9.5 The geophysical surveys do not substantially increase our knowledge of the site. The ferrous responses noted from the gradiometer survey could support the cartographic evidence for a smithy on or near the site. Both the linear earthworks on the site were detected by the resistance survey. These anomalies are on the right alignment to relate to the former land divisions identified during the cartographic appraisal.

9.6 Whilst the results of the geophysical surveys revealed little of potential archaeological significance, with the possible exception of the high resistance linear anomaly, it is felt that trial trenching would be a valid exercise both to confirm the aforementioned resistance anomaly and to establish the nature of the earthworks that are present on site. The small size of the plot and the position of the earthworks within it mean that there would be little or no possibility of the preservation in situ of these earthworks which would presumably have to be levelled before any building could take place.

The results and subsequent interpretation of geophysical surveys should not be treated as an absolute representation of the underlying archaeology. It is normally only possible to prove the archaeological nature of anomalies through intrusive means such as by trial excavation.

Acknowledgements

Project Management: A. Boucher BSc

Cartographic Appraisal: K. Keith BA

Geophysical Survey: R. McNaught BSc, A. Webb BA

Report: K. Keith BA, A. Webb BA

Graphics: H. Boyd

December 1996

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