Chapter 4. The Geophysical Survey

4.1 Abstract

An archaeological geophysical survey was undertaken at Easton Royal in the Vale of Pewsey, Wiltshire in March 2014 to try to identify earthworks resulting from the defunct Holy Trinity Priory. Both magnetometry and resistance techniques were tried, but the soil did not respond to magnetometry. The resistance survey picked up features in a satisfactory way but because of the slow rate of progress of the technique, only a relatively small area could be surveyed in the time available. Within the area surveyed, no structures could be attributed to the priory, although a number of observations could be made about other features.

4.2 Acknowledgements

The equipment used was the property of the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society (bacas) and was operated under the technical supervision of Dr John Oswin. Other members of bacas who helped were Graham and Eileen Noble, Mat Charlton Owen Dicker, Margaret Nuth and Lawrie Scott. Members of the Archaeological + Historical Landscape Research Group (AHLRG) included Graham Bathe, Lynn Amadio, Brian Clarke, Stella Maddock, Steve Guy-Gibbons, Jo Ramsey, Judith Roseman, Matthew Farrell

The team is very grateful to the members of the Easton Royal Heritage Society for their support, providing access to the church as a base and providing much appreciated refreshments. Particular thanks are due to Mr Graham Cooper and family for giving permission to work on their land.

Funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund made this survey possible.

Maps, aerial photographs and other documents may be drawn from a number of sources. Lidar and some aerial photographs are Crown Copyright. The use of Google Earth is acknowledged.

4.3 Introduction

4.3.1 Location

The village of Easton Royal is in Wiltshire, some 10 km south of Marlborough, 2 km west of Burbage, at the eastern end of the Vale of Pewsey. The site investigated was in the fields opposite the parish church, SU 207 604. Figure 62 gives the village location, and figure 63 shows the location of the survey area in relation to the village.

The site is on flat ground, geologically on greensand. There is a stream some 500 m to the south but no river close by.

Figure 62. Easton Royal, Wiltshire, location

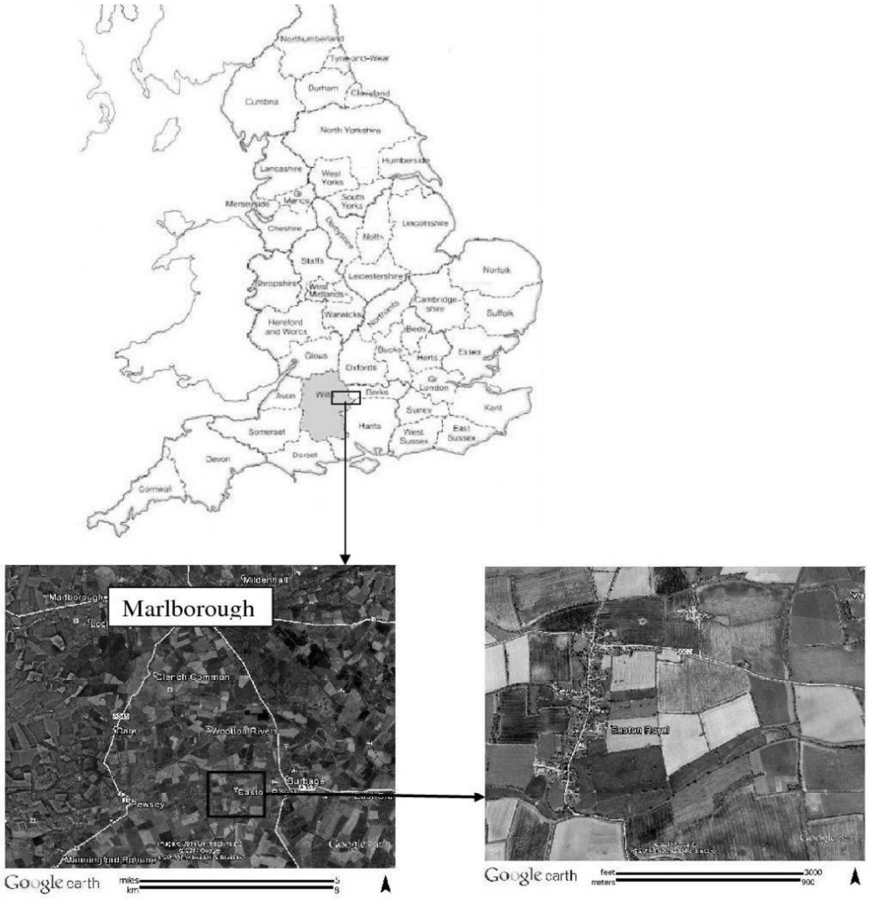
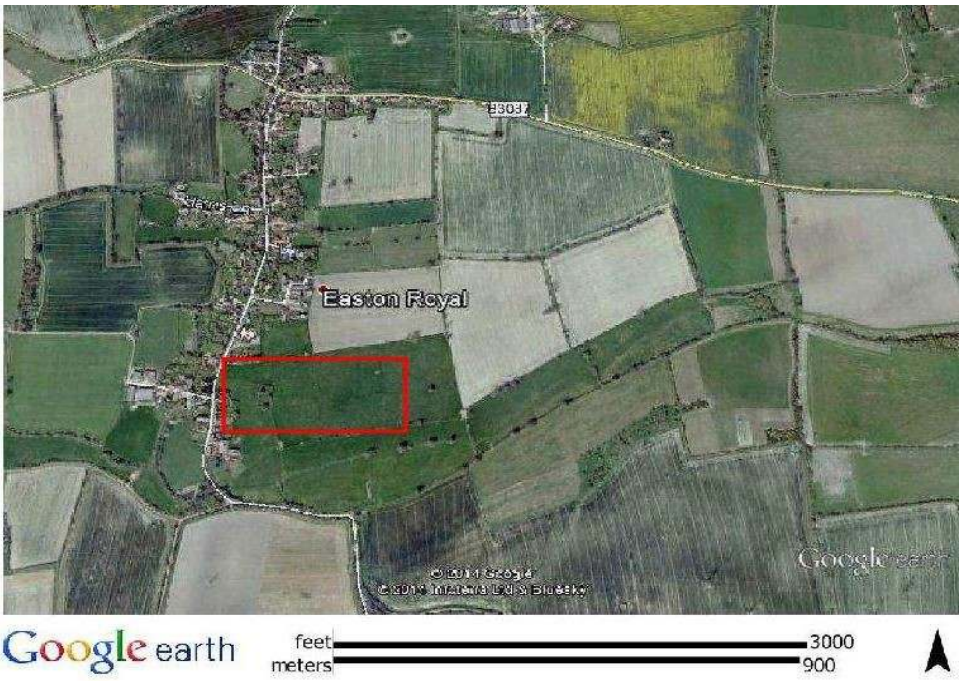


Figure 63. Survey site within Easton Royal.



4.3.2 Date of Survey

The survey was conducted between March 5th and March 19th 2014.

4.3.3 Resources

The survey was project led by Robin Holley of the Archaeological + Historical Landscape Research Group and its members. Technical supervision was provided by Dr John Oswin MA PhD CSci of the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society (bacas), and that society also provided the technical equipment.

4.3.4 Background

Easton Royal was the site of a Trinitarian Priory (Holley; 2014, Bathe and Holley ND). The site of the priory was known to be separate from the parish church, but the whereabouts of its buildings was not known. The survey was a quest to locate the buildings amongst the earthworks in the field opposite the church.

Extensive historical searches had been made and deskwork surveys included map regression, Lidar and aerial photograph studies. The Lidar is shown in figure 6.4 and an overhead aerial photograph is shown in figure 6.5 (Bache and Holley, ND). Both of these show extensive earthworks to the east of the church (these are also clearly visible on the ground), although over much of the area, these earthworks appeared to be of agricultural rather than structural origin.

Figure 64. Easton Royal earthworks. Lidar.

Figure 65. Easton Royal Earthworks. Aerial photograph, 1983.

4.3.5 Scope

This report describes only the geophysics survey conducted in March 2014, and the results from it, although comparison will be made with mapping, lidar and aerial photography where appropriate during discussion.

4.4 Method

4.4.1 Gridding

In order to conduct the survey, the field was gridded out into 20 m squares. This had been done in advance of the survey. The grid was intended to fit the field boundaries, but fortuitously was almost exactly on compass bearing 90 °, providing an east-west alignment for 300 m from the road. The gridding also extended south, although near the road, this involved measuring through two barbed wire fences which protected the path to the detached graveyard. Towards the eastern end, the gridding also extended slightly to the north as the field widened.

Grid numbers as surveyed are shown in the layout plans in appendix A. On some days, two resistance meters were used so each was downloaded completely in turn, and each operated in separate areas. Note that three grids had relevant areas on either side of the pathway. These had to be measured using the same instrument as separate grids and then joined together later.

Readings were taken along north-south traverses, starting at the south-west of each grid and progressing eastwards. In accordance with bacas practice, the first survey line was 1 m east of the

grid corner so the last line finished on the eastern edge of the grid. Readings were started for each line 1 reading north of the south base line and finished on the northern base line. This ensured that there was no hiatus or overlap between grids, and is shown in figure 5.8 (c), p 115 of Oswin 2009.

4.4.2 Magnetometer

The magnetometer used was a Bartington 601-2 dual fluxgate gradiometer, illustrated in figure 2.1. Readings were taken at four per metre along north-south traverses, along lines 1 m apart, giving 1600 readings per 20 m square. The machine effectively measures two lines simultaneously, allowing a rapid rate of progress, up to 2 ha/day.

Figure 66. Magnetometer: Bartington fluxgate gradiometer.

4.4.3 Twin probe resistance

The principal instrument used was a Geoscan RM15D with frame probes set at 0.5 m separation. This gave it nominally 0.5 m depth penetration, although in practice, stone at greater depth can be detected. The instrument is shown in figure 67. Readings were taken at two per metre along north-south traverses, lines 1 m apart, giving 800 readings per 20 m grid square.

Figure 67. Twin probe resistance: Geoscan RM15D

Note that the rate of progress with this type of machine is much slower, giving an area cover of approximately 0.25 ha/day.

A second resistance meter, a TR/CIA was also available and used simultaneously when there sufficient team members, although the two machines were kept well separated to avoid cross-talk. The TR/CIA was superficially similar in appearance and in operation, but there were a number of small differences in operation. The TR/CIA meter is shown in figure 68.

Figure 68. Twin probe resistance: TR/CIA

4.4.4 Software

INSITE v3 (1994) was used as the principal analysis software. This is now regarded as obsolete but is still preferred by bacas because of its very versatile grid mapping capabilities and its visual approach.

bacas has developed its own proprietary software to allow the twin probe resistance meters to be downloaded to computer and then the data imported into INSITE.

The magnetometer was downloaded to computer using Bartington proprietary software, then passed through bacas proprietary de-stripe (zero median) software before being imported into INSITE.

Where it was necessary, partial grids measured using the TR/CIA device on either side of the path to the detached graveyard were joined together using a routine based on an XL spreadsheet.

4.4.5 Limitations

An intermittent electrical wiring problem dogged the TR/CIA meter during the survey, and although it was generally possible to detect and delete false readings caused by this fault, a number of spikes slipped into the processing software. It was possible to negate the effects of

many of these spikes by processing them out, but this left gaps in the true data leading to a loss of detail.

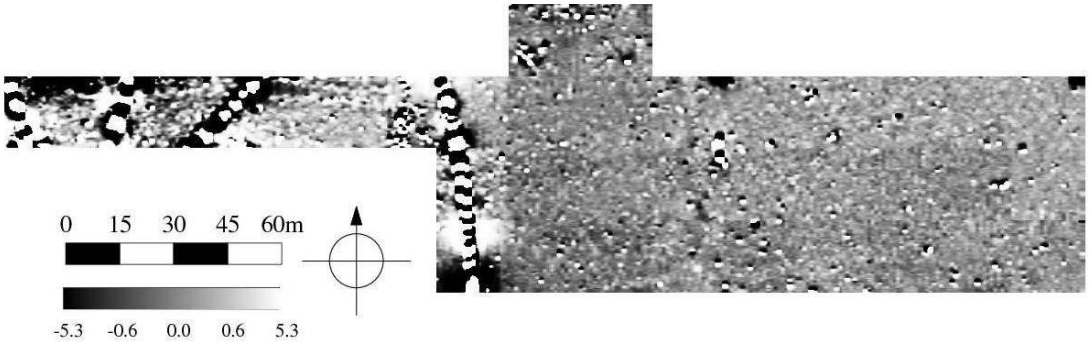
Note that the best way to see anomalies is always on the computer screen during processing. Obviously, this report can only include print-out and there may be some loss of definition, especially in any screen versions of the report.

4.5 Results

4.5.1 Magnetometer

Unfortunately, the soils (greensand) were not susceptible to magnetic variation, so the magnetometer proved ineffective. A plot of the magnetometry (operated on the first day of survey only) is shown in figure 69. Most signals observed were negative- going (other than any due to metal spikes) so the plot scale has been reversed to show dark for negative signals. Even so, very little is evident from this survey, and the rest of this report will concentrate on resistance results. Note that the western area of the plot was plagued by interference from a number of iron water pipes crossing the survey area.

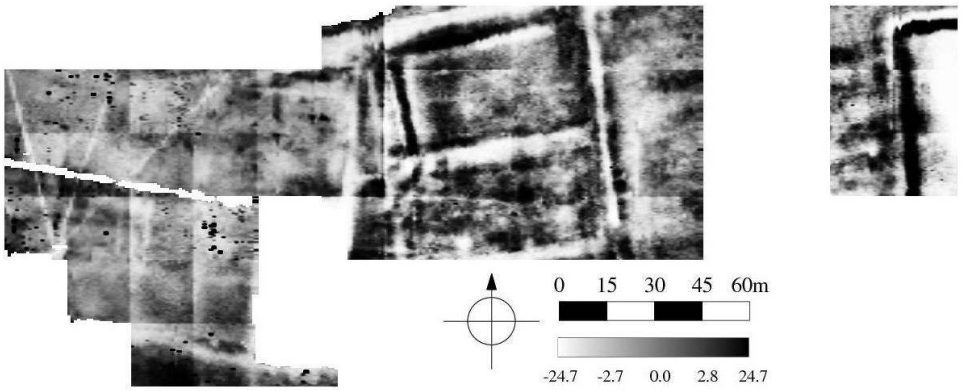
Figure 69. Magnetometer plot.



4.5.2 Twin Probe Resistance

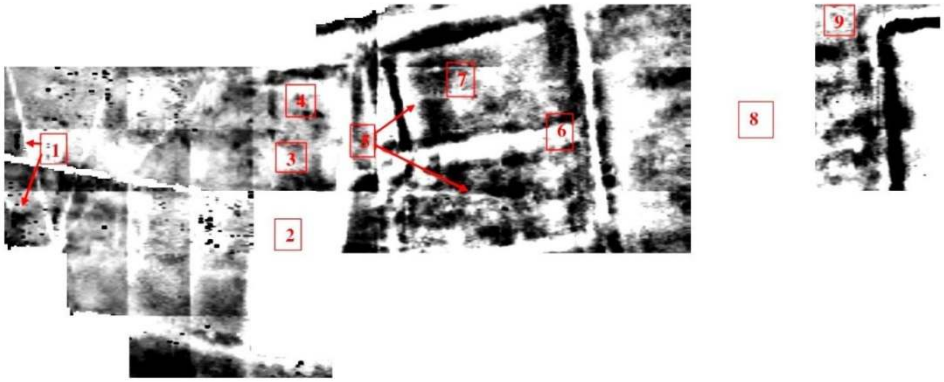
The results of the resistance survey are shown in figure 70. This method proved effective, although the area covered was limited by the much slower rate of progress, even using two machines. This made it more important to chase earthworks than to provide uniform coverage. Spikes caused by an intermittent wiring problem in the TR/CIA machine have generally been processed out, although a number remain as black dots.

Figure 70. Twin probe resistance plot.



The area to the west was more bland than the eastern area and the water pipelines can be seen as whiter lines across the grey. This was generally the area surveyed by the TR/CIA device, but this in itself is not due to any shortcoming in the instrument.
Typical values of resistance here were around 20 Ω whereas further east where the earthworks were more evident, values were typically in the range 30 to 50 Ω.

Figure 71 Twin probe resistance plot annotated.



In the western area, there are a couple of possible building sites, indicated by [1] in figure 71. To the north and east of the detached graveyard [2], stronger readings reflect the visibility of the earthworks.

High readings in a rectangular form [3] appear to emerge from the graveyard on its north side, and this may represent a building, although there is no recorded tradition of grave diggers encountering masonry. To the north of this, lines of high and then low readings [4] appear to indicate a linear feature continuing to the east.

To the east, there appear to be two rectangular plots [5], aligned some 10 ° west of north, each approximately 60 m by 30 m, surrounded by a wall, with ditches to north and south and between. A walled ditch runs to the east, and its wall terminates the ditch between, suggesting a later date [6]. The northern plot appears to have a building platform [7] at its western end, extending most of the width of the plot. The southern plot has a more confused interior, although there are signs of possible internal structures.

The eastern terminating ditch is also a strong feature on the ground, and beyond this, the ground is

less disturbed, and the resistance plot less pronounced [8]. An area was left unsurveyed as time was pressing to survey more marked areas. However, there may be features to find in this area.

To the east of this, the survey included the north-west corner of a long (north-south) rectangular enclosure. This appeared to have a wall-ditch-wall boundary [9].

Significantly, this appears to have rounded corners, giving the feature the playing- card shape often associated with Roman military sites, and making it distinct from the features [5] described earlier. This would need a much larger area surveyed to provide any more indication of its purpose.

4.6 Discussion

4.6.1 Comment

The inscrutability of these greensand soils to magnetometry made for a great reduction in the area which could be surveyed, as it meant that only much slower resistance measurement techniques could be used, although this did prove to be a useful way of interrogating the ground.

In general, however, the features found by resistance matched the earthworks visible on the ground, although the survey could provide extra detail. Figure 72 shows the resistance survey in comparison with the lidar, which shows the earthworks better than the aerial photographs. Figure 73 shows the lidar over a more extended area.

Many of the earthwork features appear to be of agricultural origin; some are akin to water meadows; but there are structural features of more interest. In particular, the long rectangular enclosure needs to be surveyed in full, and the in area to the west of the detached graveyard, earthworks continue south of the extent of the resistance survey to date.

Figure 72. Comparison of twin probe resistance survey with Lidar.

Figure 73. Lidar survey showing earthworks at Easton Royal.

Beyond these, to the east of the rectangular enclosure there are features which need geophysical survey. Indeed, this is the area marked as site of the priory on the Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (Holley, 2014). However, the rectangular bank followed more of a Roman format. The small field to the north, that immediately east of the school playground is also rich in earthworks and should be included in any geophysical survey.

The lidar (figure 73) also shows areas of earthworks in other parts of the village, notably south-west from the church, but these areas are considered to be beyond the scope of this study.

Within the area surveyed by resistance, a number of features were observed, but none of these could be considered to be the site of the Trinitarian priory, the original target of this study. However, the area surveyed was small, and needs to be greatly extended before the presence of priory buildings can be confirmed or denied.

4.6.2 Recommendations

The survey area needs to be much extended. The survey need only use twin-probe resistance as magnetometry proved ineffective on these soils. However, sufficient number of operators should be mustered to ensure that two meters can be used on the site at all times on different parts of the site.

If possible, the existing grid should be established within 0.2 m. If that is not possible, new grids should be laid out at the peripheries of the existing grid and sufficient overlap arranged to ensure that there is no hiatus.

The half metre spacing of frame probes is very convenient for use and seems to provide sufficient ground penetration depth. There is no need for wider spacing.

These areas need to be surveyed, considered in order from highest priority:-

1 The long north-south rectangular feature needs to be fully surveyed inside and around its edges.

2 The survey area west of the detached graveyard needs to be extended southwards.

3 The small field behind the school playground, to the north of the current survey area, needs to be surveyed in full.

4 An area to the east of the rectangular enclosure needs to be subject to survey.

5 Intermediate areas, for instance to the south-east of the detached graveyard, and between the two blocks of the existing survey, should be filled in.

Until these areas are surveyed, it would not be possible to say with any certainty whether any remains of the Trinitarian priory have been found.

4.7 Bibliography

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Holley R, 2014, Project design for the research and survey into The Priory of Holy Trinity, Easton Royal, Wiltshire. Archaeological + Historical Landscape Research Group.

Oswin J, 2009. A Guide to Geophysics in Archaeology. Springer. Berlin and London.

4.8 Appendix A Details of Gridding

The grid arrangement was set up and was in place at the start of the survey. The grid was based on 20 m squares. The grid axis was aligned very close to east – west.
Each instrument started at the south-west heading north on its first traverse. Grid squares were set up for survey in accordance with figure5.8 (c), p115 in Oswin, 2009. Lines were started one mark north of the southern baseline and finished on the northern baseline. The first traverse of each grid started 1 m east of the western edge and finished on the eastern edge. This ensured grids meshed together with no hiatus or overlap.
Figure 74 shows the sequence of grid squares for the magnetometer. The arrows mark the starting point and initial direction of traverse. The blue arrows denote that the data has already been sorted to parallel in the download process. Note that the de-stripe software creates two sets of data. The first, prefixed ‘m’, are the raw data. The second, prefixed ‘d’, are the de-striped data and it is this latter set which has been used in the processing software. Each data file comprises 1600 readings, 20 lines of 80 points.

Figure 74. Numerical sequence of magnetometer grids.

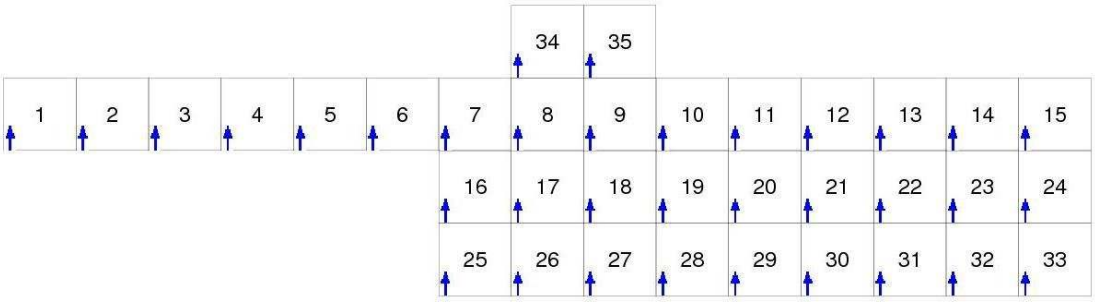
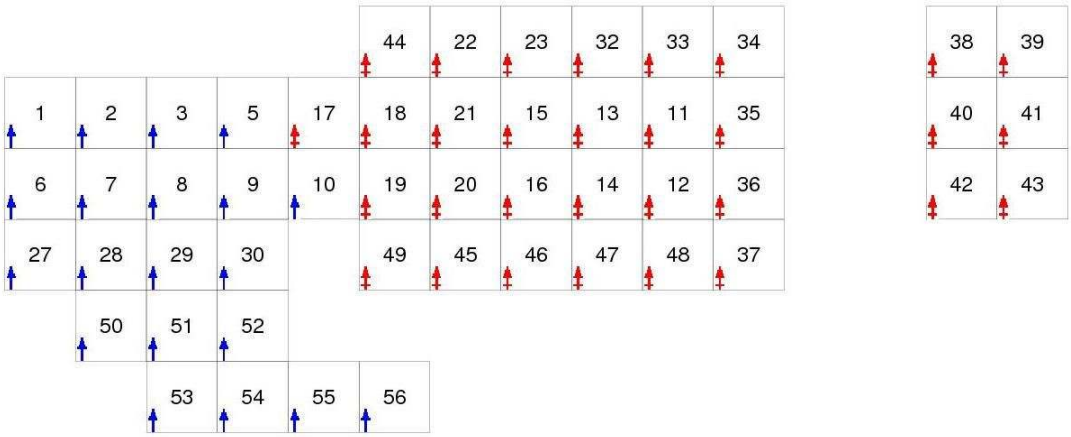


Figure 75 shows the sequence of downloading grid squares from the resistance meters. The files are prefixed 'r' when downloaded. Each data file comprises 800 points, 20 lines of 40 points. The blue arrows indicate parallel data generated by the TR/CIA meter. The crossed red arrows indicate zig-zag data downloaded from the Geoscan RM15D.

Note that grid numbers 6, 7 and 8 were after download combined with grid numbers 27, 28 and 29 so that two parts of the each grid, measured on either side of barbed wire fences, could be joined together. The joined grids also used the grid numbers 6, 7 and 8 but were suffixed 'a' in the raw data sets to distinguish them from the original downloads. INSITE does not pick up prefixes or suffixes, so these details do not show on the grid map.

Figure 75. Numerical sequence of resistance grids as in final plot.



Chapter 5. Earthwork Survey of the Priory field

A base line was laid out west to east from the north-west corner of the geophysical survey grid at NGR 420737.6 -160435.7 along the northern most complete transect for 340 metres . This particular line was chosen because it covers an area across extant earthworks, which were very apparent from LiDAR (Figure 76), aerial photographs (Figure 77), map analysis and from observation on the ground whilst field walking the site.

Ranging poles were placed at both ends of the tape and canes positioned at 20 metre intervals. A dumpy level was used to measure the height in metres above Ordnance Datum (ODN) at regular 1 metre intervals along the complete line from 0 to 340 metres giving 341 readings. These were plotted on graph paper to produce a profile drawing of the earthworks (see Figure78).

It soon became apparent that there were several individual features in the survey area. These included the Roman road running north to south and the moated rectangular (playing card shaped) area adjacent to this road. Across the northern edge of the priory site and oriented east – west was a long raised area with a bank facing south, which was interpreted as an unploughed headland connected with ridge and furrow. This is dateable broadly to the medieval period, but further chronological precision is problematical as strip farming originated in Britain sometime around 900 AD (Muir 2000, 205), and continued in many places until the Enclosure Acts of the 18th and 19th centuries divided up the large open fields into smaller units which were unsuitable for strip farming (Hall 1982).

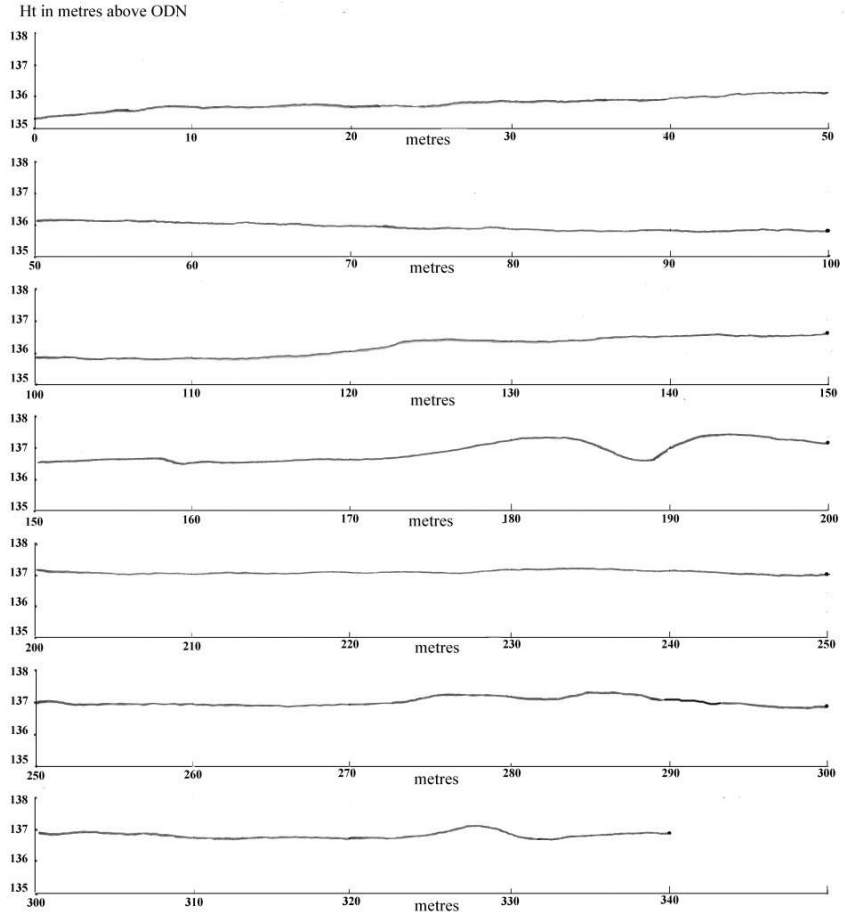
At the western end of the site, between the rectangular cemetery and the street running through the village, the earthworks gradually become less pronounced until the ground surface becomes comparatively flat, perhaps suggesting this area was levelled after the site was abandoned.

Another bank and ditch extends southwards from the north –east corner of the modern cemetery to connect with or empty into the stream to the south of the site, probably at one time used for drainage of waste material from the Priory site. The other linear features have been identified from 19th century maps as field boundaries, fishponds and water courses (See Chapter 7, Fishponds and Water Courses).

Figure 76. LiDAR Image of Easton Royal showing Earthworks in the Priory Field

Figure 77. Aerial Photograph showing Earthworks in the Priory Field

Figure 78. Profile showing the undulation of the earthwork in the Priory Field.



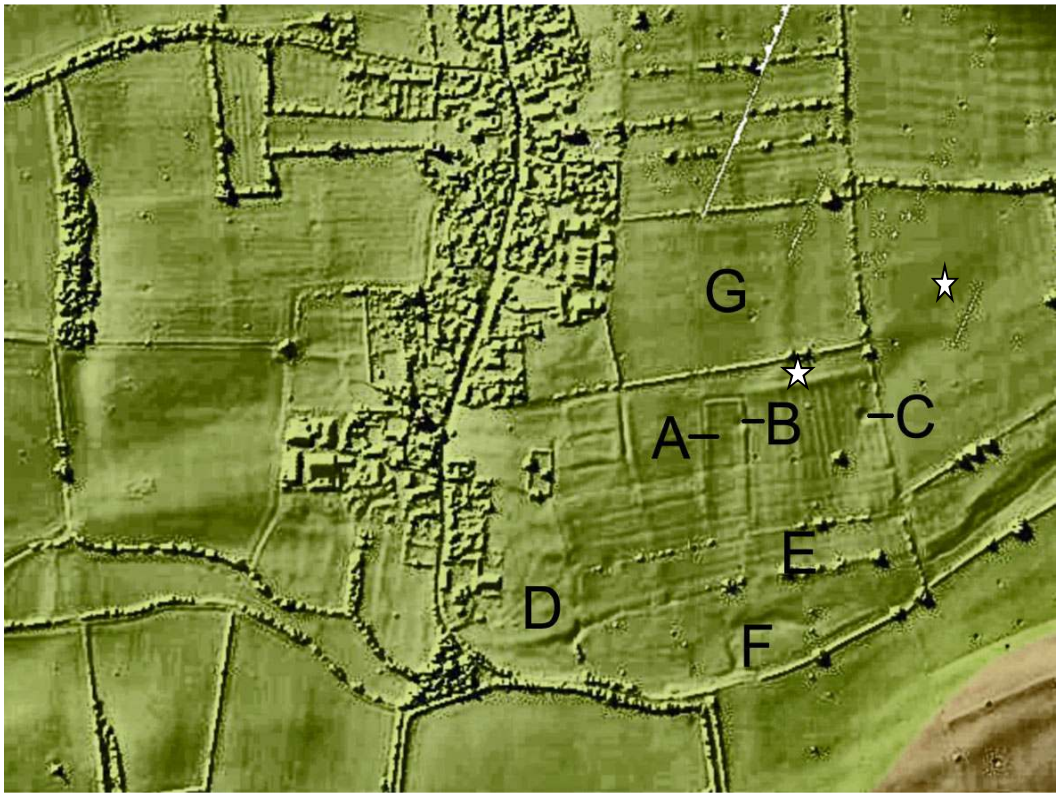
Bibliography

Muir, R., 2000, *The new reading the Landscape*, University of Exeter Press
Hall, D., 1982, *Field Systems of the British Isles*, Shire Publications

Chapter 6. Fish Ponds and Water Courses

When the earthwork survey was being performed it was noted that there was a number of features which were thought to be ponds of differing shapes, purpose and construction date.

Figure 79. LiDAR image with features marked.



6.1. Site A

This is a rectangular banked enclosure lying to the east of the site, oriented north to south (figure79, A) and is thought to be the remains of a medieval fishpond. This feature is clearly identifiable on aerial photography and LiDAR images.

The internal measurements of this pond are 74 by 37 metres and the overall size including the external bank and ditch is 90 by 53 metres. The geophysics results show the external bank is made up of stone and other materials (figure 80). Auguring revealed the pond had been excavated down to natural greensand and possibly was once lined with clay. The original depth of the pond is not known as considerable erosion has occurred to the surrounding retaining walls and banks, and most of the pond is silted up to a depth of 0.91 metres.

There is a suggestion that this rectangular feature could possibly have been used after the dissolution of the priory as a site for a house or perhaps the formal gardens for a nearby property. Similar medieval fishponds of roughly the same shape are known at Knaptoft in Leicestershire and Edington priory in Wiltshire and other monastic sites. (see figures 81 & 82).

Figure 80. Geophysics results showing parts of the north and western bank of the Fishpond, the dark response is suggestive of stone used as a wall or banking material.

Figure 81. Medieval fishpond at Knaptoft, Shearsby, Leicestershire

Figure 82. Aerial photograph of the Medieval fishpond at Edington Priory, Wiltshire.

6.2. Site B

This small round pond (figure 83) is located inside, but on the eastern extremity of the large rectangular fishpond 'A', but its association with fishpond suggests it must be of later construction. There is a mention of a pond in a letter (WSA. 1300/2009, c1763-1767) of 'a pond which does not hold water in summer' which may be referring to this pond.

Figure 83. Photograph of small pond 'B'

6.3. Site C

This pond is identified as 'C' in figure 79 and is located at 421200-160404 to the east of the Priory site and the two ponds 'A' & 'B'. This pond is round and only contained a small amount of water at the time of inspection, it could be a dew pond or for watering cattle, it features on the 1890 OS map but its exact date of construction is unknown.

Figure 84. Photograph of the small, dried out pond (site C)

6.4. Site D

The pond identified as 'D' is located at the bottom south-west corner of the site. This pond, possibly a mill pond is now silted up and covered with trees and bushes. It is all that remains of the pond depicted on the Andrews' and Dury's map of 1773 (see figure 85) it's shows a bridge carrying the road through the village crossing the pond, there is a possibility that a medieval mill was located either on the eastern or western sides of this pond?

Figure 85. Andrews' and Dury's map of 1773

6.5. Site E

This feature (figure 79 E) running east to west at the bottom end of the site is the remains of a leat or diversional channel, which possibly carried water to the mill pond or ponds ‘D’

Figure 86. Shows both diversional channel ‘E’ and the old stream coarse

6.6. Site F

Also at the bottom of the site and below ‘E’ is the old stream course ‘F’, which shows signs of being altered perhaps to form water meadow. However, there is also a raised area of earthworks here which might suggest an early medieval mill site.

Figure 87. Possible site of early medieval mill

The small stream which flows at the bottom of the site and identified above as ‘E’ & ‘F’ appears to originate from Seymour or Southmere pond in the southern area of Burbage at 423101 – 160751 and flows eastwards towards Easton Royal (see figure 88).

Figure 88. Picture of Seymour’s Pond at Burbage.

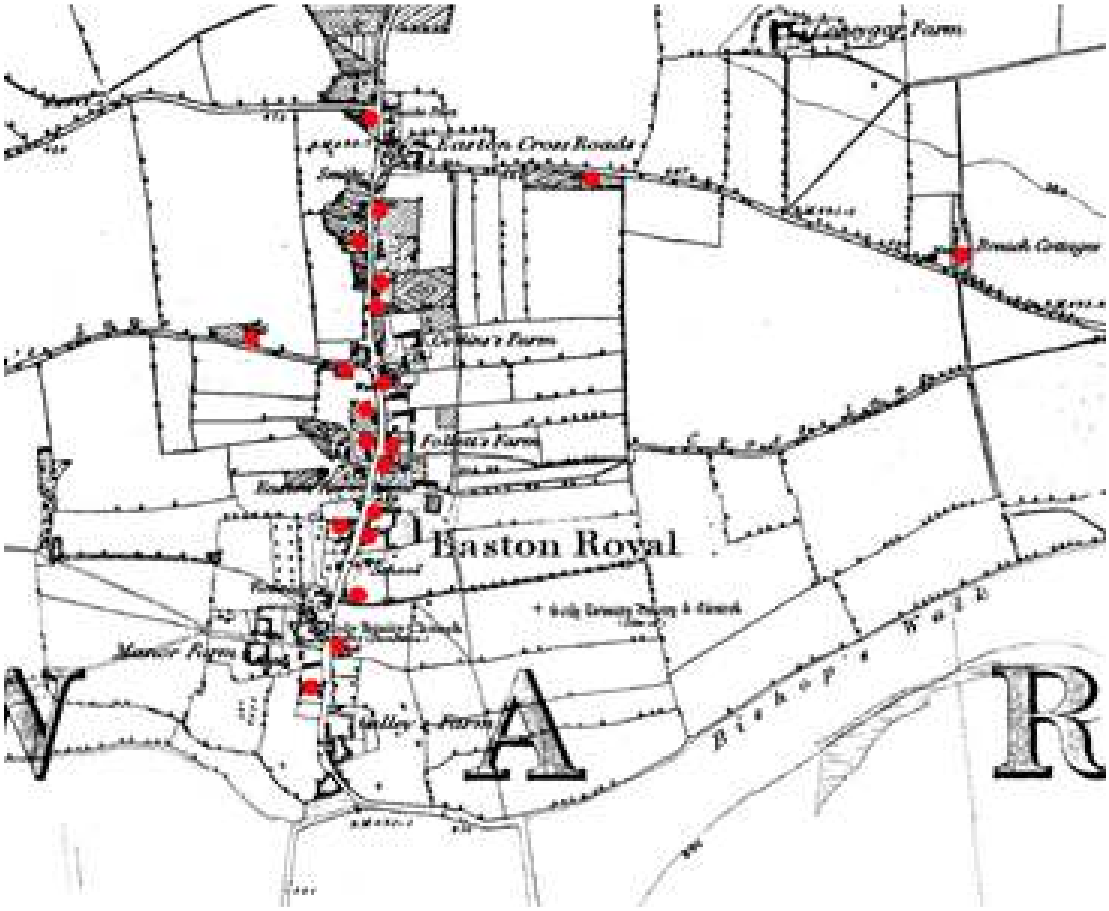
6.7. Site G

Area ‘G’ in figure 79 has two features marked by stars. The star on the east is positioned on another large rectangular fishpond similar to site ‘A’ and is estimated at 140 metres long by 60 metres wide.

The second star marks the possible line of a conduit or water supply to the site which commences somewhere in the northern part of Easton Royal and runs in a southerly direction towards the site. Wells are known to have existed in the fields to the north of Priory field and they may be connected somehow to this water supply to the Priory.

Other ponds are also shown on different maps, the large village pond shown on Andrew’s and Dury’s map was situated to the east of the village between Harris Lane and the cross roads. Other ponds were noted to the east of the church. Numerous wells (20) are shown on the OS 6 inch map of c1900 but none are located at the Priory site or in the fields to the north (see figure 89).

Figure 89. OS map showing known wells in 1900



Chapter 7. Finds from Easton Royal

7.1 Artefacts Retrieved from Molehills in Priory Field

Summary
Artefacts were collected from molehills in Priory Field. Interestingly these included 2 sherds of Bronze Age pottery, a flint core, 3 flakes, 1 sherd of Iron Age pottery and a sherd of Romano-British pottery, the HER notes only 3 finds and features from this period in the area of the present village. The assemblage also included 11 sherds of Medieval pottery and 8 pieces of Post-Medieval pottery and tobacco pipe. Burnt material was also recovered which may relate to the priory burning down.

Background
A geophysical survey was undertaken in Priory Field, Easton Royal, Wiltshire, to locate and understand the Trinitarian Priory. As the survey was carried out it was noted that artefacts were appearing in mole hills, these were collected and recorded; these artefacts may add to and aid knowledge of the priory.

Methodology
Mole hills were examined, soil removed using a trowel, artefacts collected and their position recorded using a handheld GPS.

Collection Policy
The collection policy indicated items to be recorded or ignored.
Artefacts to be collected

- Pottery
- Struck/worked flint
- Glass
- Metal
- Burnt material of any kind
- Burnt or fired clay
- Large pieces of Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

Artefacts not to be included in the assemblage

- Animal bones as these may be the result of predation, animal scavenging and natural events
- Small fragments of CBM which are of no diagnostic value

Results

Figure 90. Flints

Artefact	Easting	Northing
Core	SU20897	60428
Flake	SU20845	60434
Flake	SU20914	60417
Flake	SU20885	60376

All the flint was chalk derived and was unpatinated.

Figure 91. Bronze Age Pottery

Artefact	Easting	Northing
Sherd	SU20891	60446
Sherd	SU20984	60432

Both sherds were Deverill-Rimbury Mid-Late Bronze Age pottery.

Figure 92. Iron Age Pottery

Artefact	Easting	Northing
Sherd	SU21023	60439

Figure 93. Prehistoric Finds Spots

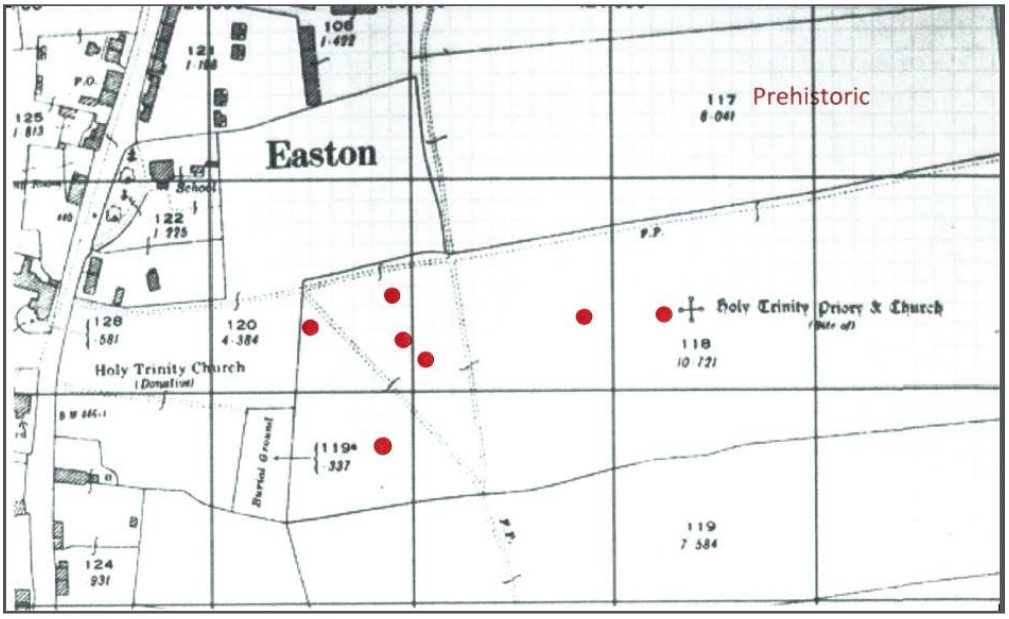


Figure 94. Romano-British

Artefact	Easting	Northing
Sherd	SU20990	60375

A 'Dog Bowl' sherd with both base and rim, the body being short, local ware.

Figure 95. Romano-British Finds Spots

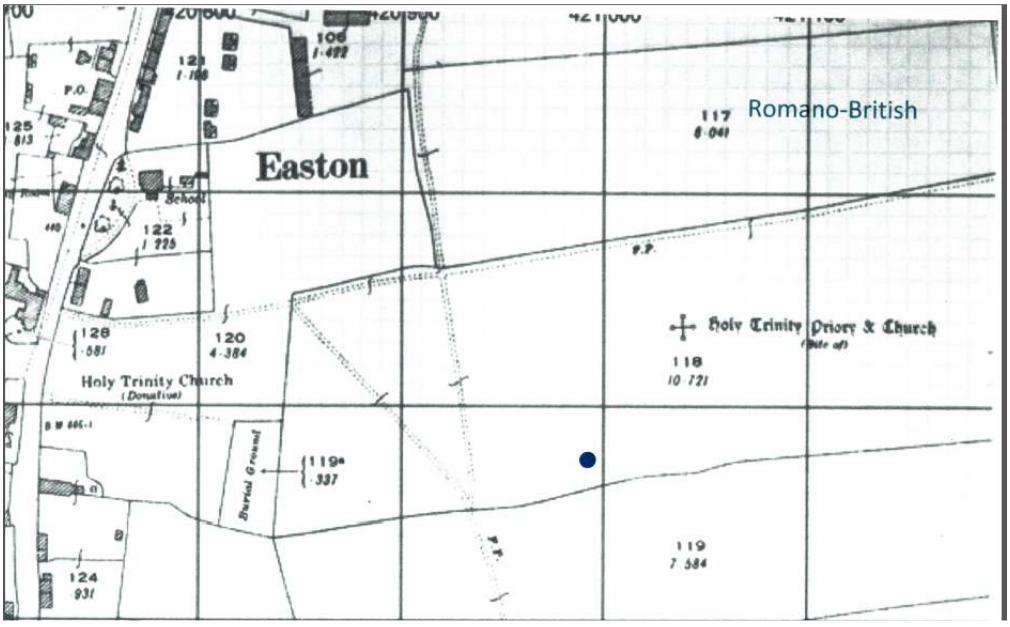


Figure 96. Medieval Pottery

Artefact	Easting	Northing
Sherd	SU21003	60459
Sherd	SU20785	60414
Sherd	SU20900	60471
Sherd	SU20729	60419
Sherd	SU20923	60406
Sherd	SU20941	60477
Sherd	SU20923	60406
Sherd	SU20900	60471
Sherd	SU20849	60391
Sherd	SU20969	60416
Sherd	SU20929	60429

All local wares, no high status pieces.

Figure 97 Medieval Pottery Find Spots.

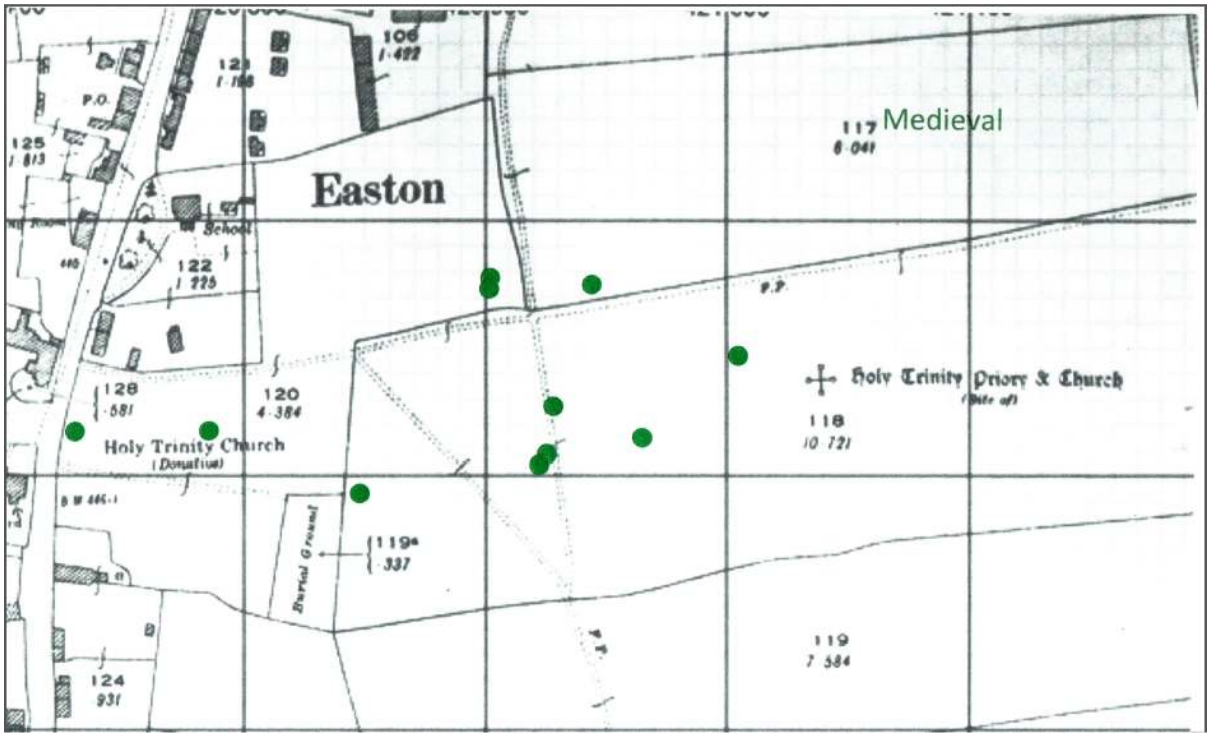


Figure 98. Post-Medieval Pottery

Artefact	Easting	Northing
Sherd	SU20729	60419
Sherd	SU20984	60432
Sherd	SU20921	60397
Sherd	SU20880	60422
Sherd	SU21060	60380
Sherd	SU20917	60440
Sherd	SU21003	60421
Tobacco pipe stem	SU20923	60406

No high status wares.

Figure 99. Burnt Material

Artefact	Easting	Northing
Burnt material	SU20797	60428
Burnt material	SU20793	60426
Burnt material	SU20927	60438
Burnt material	SU20951	60425
Burnt material	SU20992	60436
Burnt material	SU21003	60421
Burnt material	SU21009	60442
Burnt material	SU21017	60447
Burnt material	SU21028	60397
Burnt material	SU21033	60395
Burnt material	SU21027	60409
Burnt material	SU21021	60418
Burnt material	SU21015	60388
Burnt material	SU21022	60399
Burnt material	SU21028	60402
Burnt material	SU21018	60413
Burnt material	SU21028	60422
Burnt material	SU21031	60399

Whilst burnt material is found across most of the site there is a pronounced spread to the east.

Figure 100. Burnt Material Find Spots

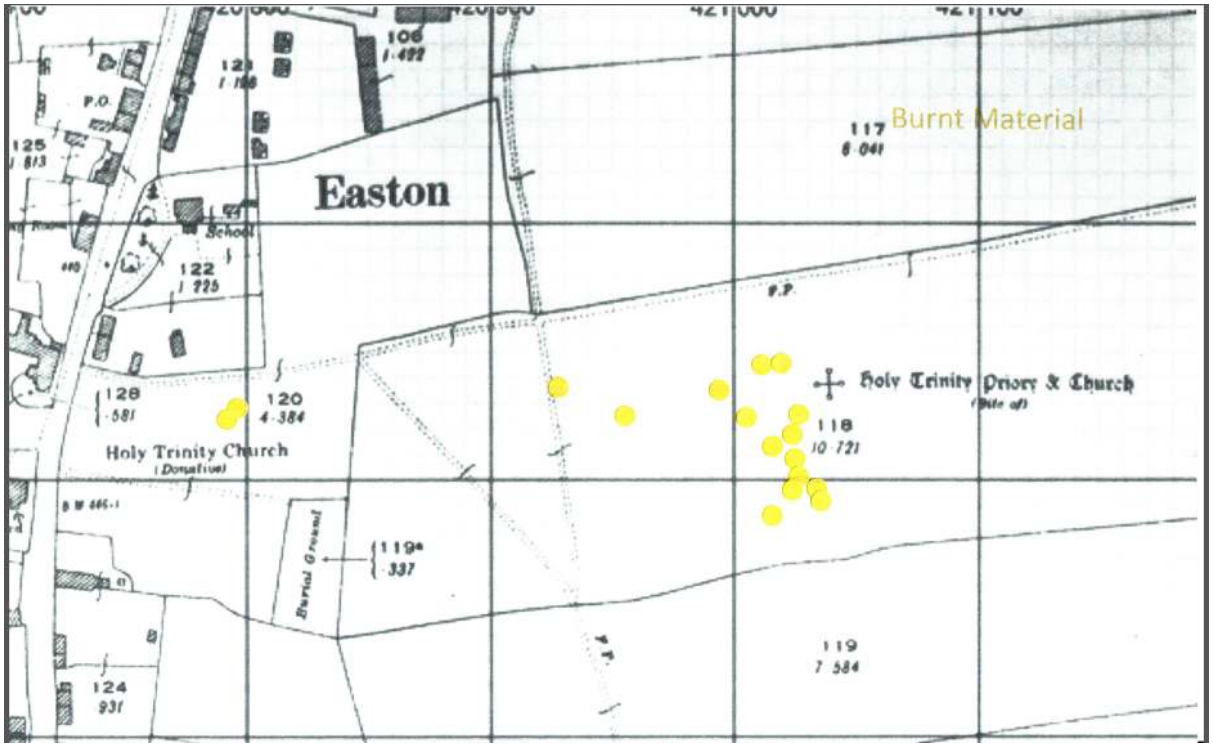


Figure 101. Glass Fragments

Artefact	Easting	Northing
Sherd	SU20948	60424
Sherd	SU21022	60423

Both pieces were modern glass

Figure 102. Metal Object

Artefact	Easting	Northing
fe nail	SU21017	60447

CBM
Small fragments of CBM were widespread across the field; none were large enough to be of use diagnostically. Some is likely to be the result of building up tracks.

Discussion
The mole hill finds are not from secure contexts, the fact that they are now on the surface demonstrates that they have been moved. These artefacts could be the result of manuring as in the past all rubbish was placed in the compost, but they do indicate human activity in the vicinity.

The mole hills appeared in clusters on higher ground, therefore unlike field walking there was not total coverage of the field.

Medieval pottery sherds were unsurprising given the location and previous known use of the field, the site of the Trinitarian Priory. The burnt material is concentrated to the eastern side (see fig 100). Distribution of the other finds is fairly even over the area investigated.

The HER previously recorded 3 find spots and features, one for each of the following – Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British. This investigation has enhanced the HER record by increasing that number considerably.

7.2 Random Finds Report, Easton Royal

Compiled by Lynn Amadio, with contributions from Clive Green

Summary
The project to locate the Trinitarian Priory and Test Pits at Easton Royal provoked a general interest in archaeological artefacts; these were brought to the team for identification. Whilst some of the intrinsic value is lost with the lack of a specific find spot, they do provide general information on the human activity in the area. As with the Test Pit project and the Mole Hill finds these random finds increase our awareness of the amount of activity in the Prehistoric (Bronze Age and Iron Age), Romano-British and Early Medieval (Anglo-Saxon) in Easton Royal.

Background
During 'Finds Days', days organised at the Village Hall to identify and record artefacts found in the test pits, individuals brought in other finds. These random finds were recovered whilst out walking and from garden cultivation. Unfortunately some of these only have a fairly general location.

Results

Figure 103. Prehistoric before 43AD

Artefact	Location
1 flint scrapper and 4 flakes	Home Farm

Figure 104. Bronze Age 2500-800BC

Artefact	Location
Sherd of Deverill-Rimbury pottery	Boundary of Cooper's Farm and Southgrove

Figure 105. Iron Age 800BC-43AD

Artefact	**Location**
Pottery sherd	Home Farm

Figure 106. Romano-British 43-410AD

Artefact	**Location**
3 pottery sherds (2 Oxford ware and 1 Savernake)	Home Farm

Figure 107. Early Medieval (Anglo-Saxon) 410-1066AD

Artefact	**Location**
Sherd of organic tempered pottery	Home Farm

Figure 108. Later Medieval and Tudor (1066-c1600AD)

Artefact	**Location**
7 sherds of pottery	Home Farm

Figure 109. Post Medieval (including Industrial, Victorian and modern) c1600-present

Artefact	**Location**
16 sherds of pottery	Home Farm
Tobacco pipe, 2 decorated bowls (a 'dragoon' style face and ribbed pattern) and a decorated stem from third pipe, these date from 1800-1900	1 Orchard Rise

Discussion

By their very nature 'random finds' lack specific find spot data, and so some of their value in helping to develop a full understanding of what was happening and where is not possible. However, they do provide information about human activity in the general area.

Previously the HER (Historic Environment Record) recorded only 3 known artefacts/features dated before the Medieval period. Evidence for prehistoric activity on Home Farm land has be seen in the form of worked flints and Iron Age pottery and also for Romano-British activity as pottery sherds have been found. The Early Medieval (Anglo-Saxon) period had a single entry on the HER and now Home Farm has produced a second find, the organic tempered pot sherd.

7.3 Easton Royal Test Pit Report

Summary

This was a community project in which residents of Easton Royal excavated test pits in their gardens. Eight percent of villagers contributed to the project, and although a fairly small number these were widespread through the village. These have increased our awareness and knowledge of activity before and after the Medieval period in the area of the present village.

Methodology
A manual, film/DVD (available over the internet) and excavation kit were given to all those interested and support was available through e-mail, telephone and visits by the team. Test pits were 1m x 1m, and be excavated to the natural geology or a maximum depth of 1m. Each context (different soil type and composition) was recorded on forms and finds from that context were kept separately. 'Finds Days' were held at the village hall where the finds were identified and recorded. Completed forms were handed to the team.

Results
Some of the finds were undateable, fragments of CBM, animal bone and badly corroded iron objects.

Figure 110. Prehistoric before 43AD

Artefact	Location
7 flint flakes	Greenacre

These flakes were chalk derived flint and are possibly Late Bronze Age.

Figure 111. Prehistoric Finds Spots

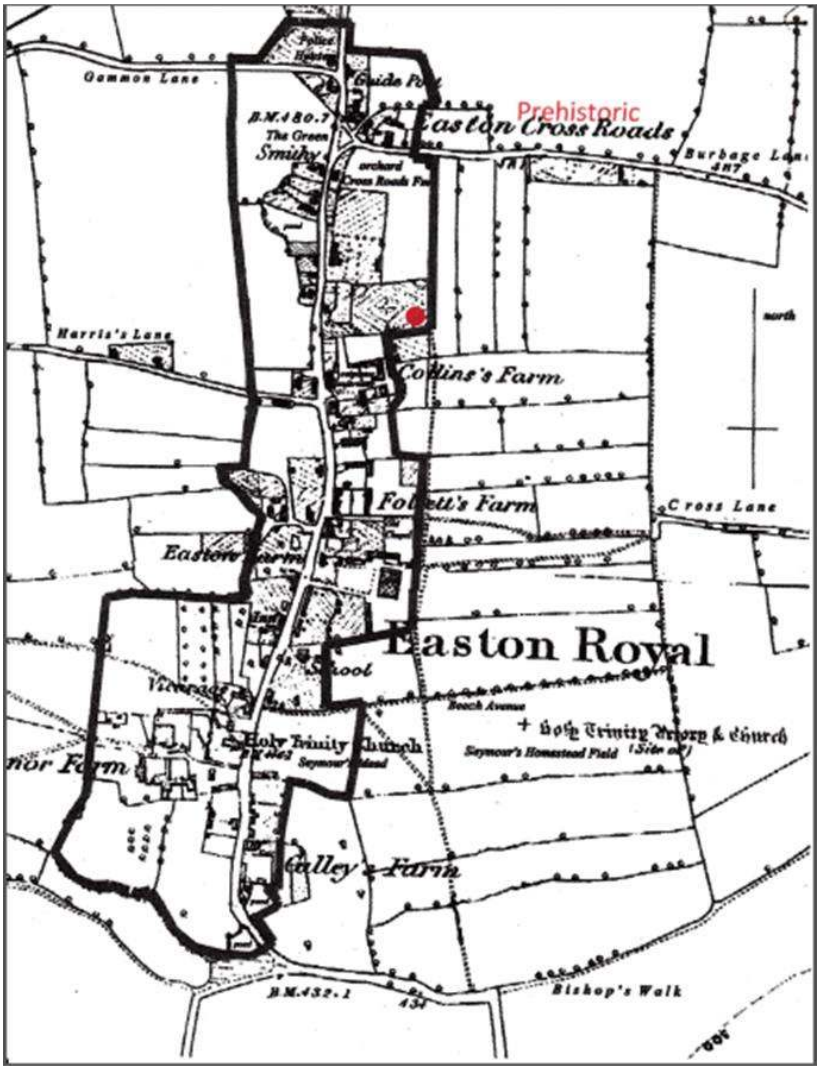


Figure 112. Romano-British AD43-410

Artefact	Location
2 pot sherds	Greenacre

Figure 113. Romano-British Finds Spot

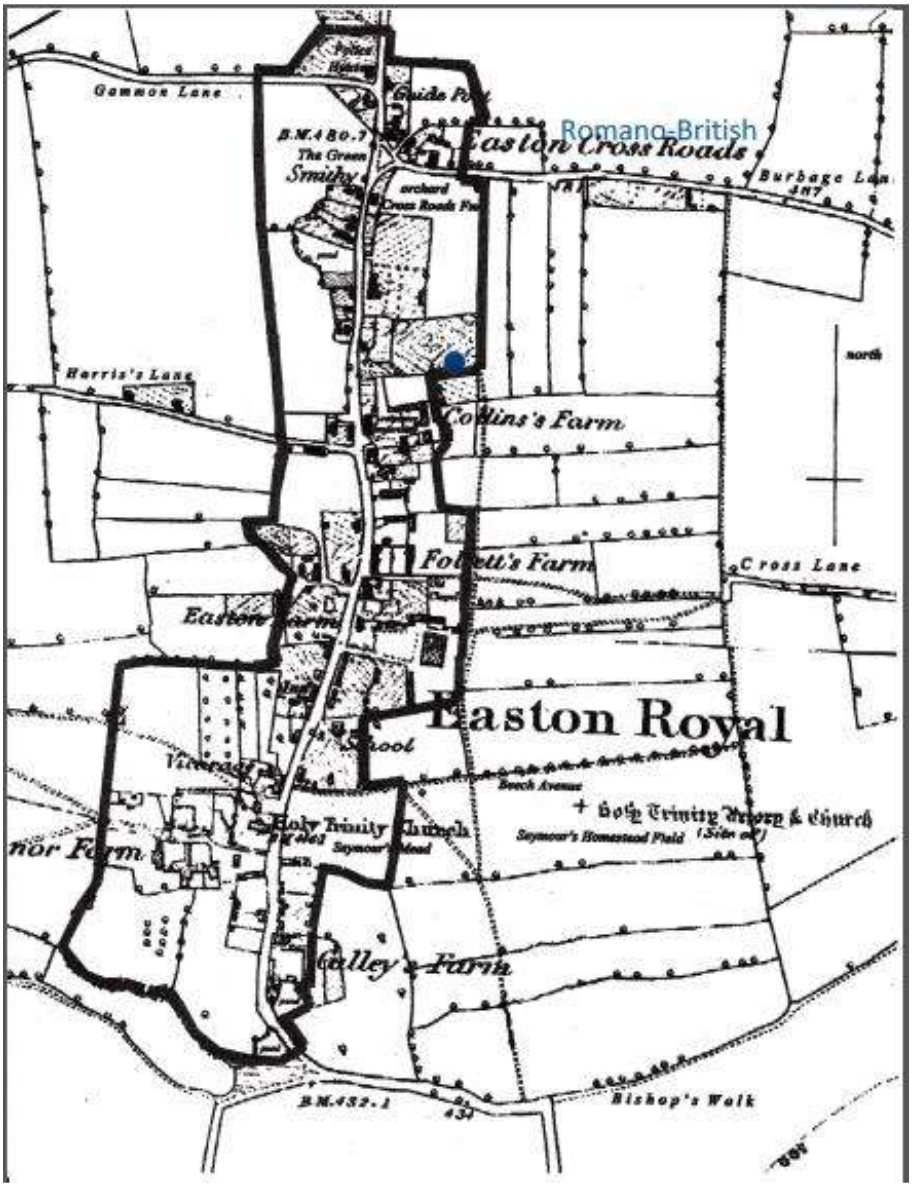


Figure 114. Later Medieval and Tudor 1066-c1600

Artefact	**Location**
Pot sherd	30 Easton Royal
9 pot sherds Harness buckle	Greenacre
Crotal bell	1 Orchard Rise

Figure 115. Medieval Finds Spots

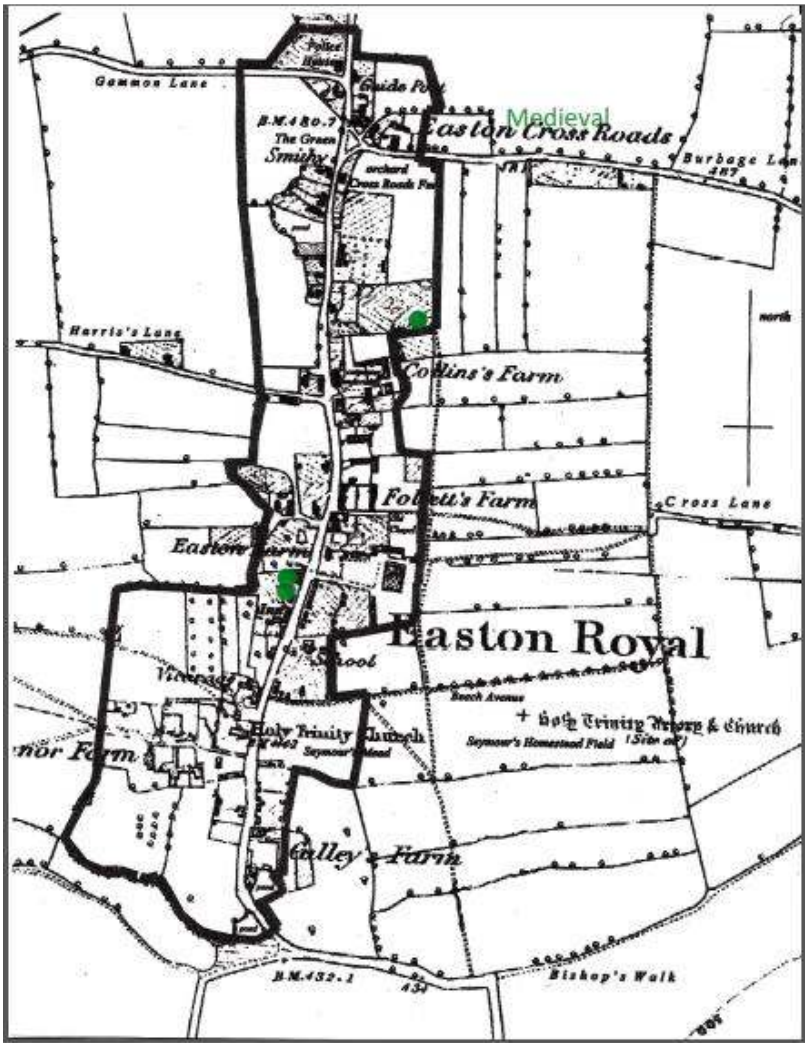


Figure 116. The Crotal bell

Figure 117. Post-Medieval c1600-present (includes Industrial, Victorian and modern)

30 pot sherds 2 tobacco pipe stems	30 Easton Royal
2 pot sherds	The White House
1 pot sherds Dried paint	3 Orchard End
13 pot sherds	Chapel Cottage
2 pot sherds	Fairview
1 pot sherds Ink bottle	Cope's Cottage
26 pot sherds Tobacco pipe stem	Greenacre
10+ pot sherds	The Barn
13 pot sherds Tobacco pipe stem	Chantry Cottage
Pot sherd	1 Orchard Rise

Discussion
Eight percent of villagers excavated test pits, although a fairly small number these were widely spread over the village. As was to be expected every test pit produced Post-Medieval (including Industrial, Victorian and modern) artefacts.

Greenacre the site of an earlier find of an Iron Age coin (HER find spot) produced 7 flint flakes (these were not dateable) and 2 Romano-British pottery sherds, which were the earliest finds. These have increased our knowledge of activity before the Medieval period in the area of the present village. The HER (Historic Environmental Record) listed 3 records for features and find spots before the Later Medieval from the chalk and in the valley now occupied by the village.