

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 42/86

RESISTIVITY SURVEY AT GAYWOOD HALL
KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK

Daniel Shiel

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Summary

After medieval wall footings had been uncovered on the site of the 13th century Bishop's Terrace, a resistivity survey was carried out to obtain information on the plan of the building in advance of the construction work. The survey revealed some wall footings but no clear building plan.

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In June 1985, after medieval wall footings had been uncovered on the site of the 13th century Bishop's Palace, a resistivity survey was carried out at the rear of Gaywood Hall (NGR: TF 638200) while construction work was in progress. Readings were recorded over as much of the building site as was accessible, see location map, Fig (ii).

There are gaps in the survey due to the presence of foundation trenches, some of which had already been filled with concrete. Voids and concrete would appear as high resistance anomalies and could confuse the interpretation of results. The foundation trenches however, revealed substantial Carstone and brick walls which complement the resistivity results.

Readings were taken on a 0.5m grid using the twin electrode configuration with 0.5m probe spacing. The plot, Fig (i), shows the results after smoothing and filtering have reduced the data to a uniform background level. This choice of grid spacing and filtering emphasises any narrow features that might be archaeologically significant.

Several features are indicated. In area 1 to the extreme left, a band of high readings is shown running north-south (A). Another band runs east-west (B) and from this other high resistance anomalies extend southwards. Area 2 was more disturbed by building work but, again, bands of high resistance readings emerge. The anomalies at C and D relate to wall footings visible in the foundation trenches excavated by the builders. The very high resistance anomaly on the right (E) is enhanced by an apparently low resistance band immediately to the left (F). Although this is partly due to a 3m gap in recording for a foundation trench, the high readings are far enough away to suggest a separate and substantial masonry feature.

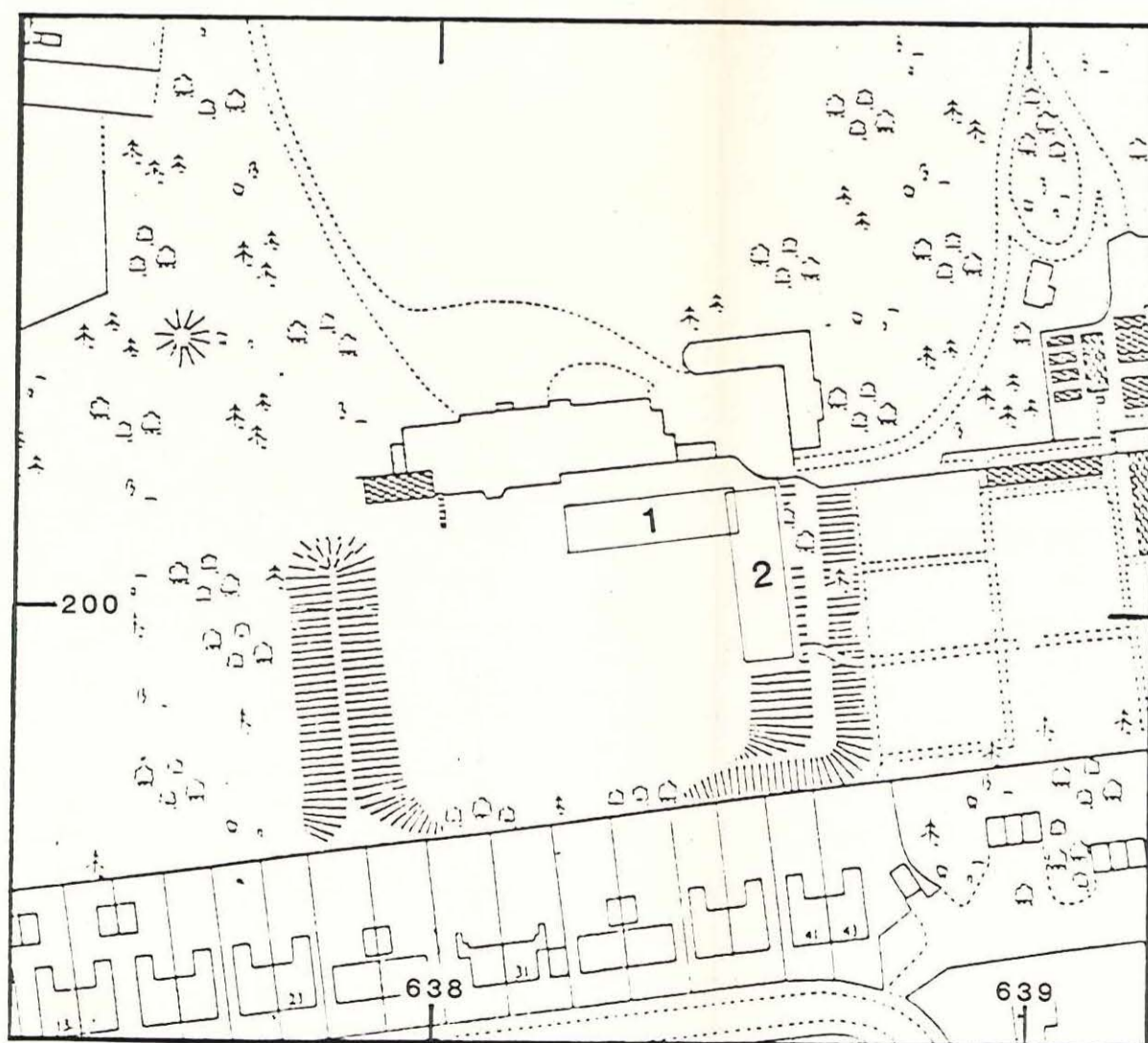
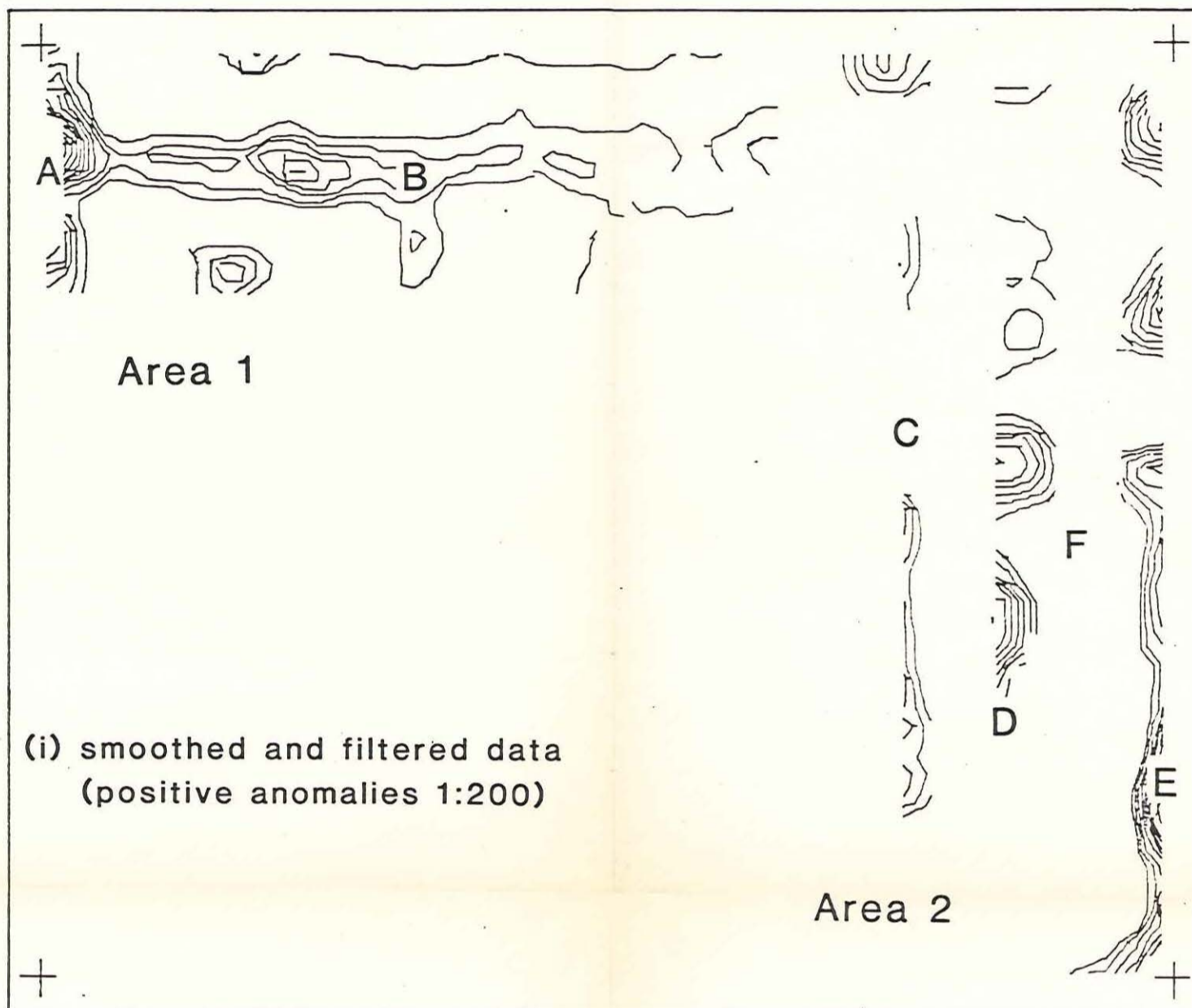
CONCLUSIONS

Due to the inaccessibility of parts of the site and the building disturbance, no clear building plan is identifiable, although stretches of substantial wall footings emerge. More work on the area to the west of the site, as yet undisturbed, might yield more conclusive information.

Surveyed by: D. Shiel and A. Payne

GAYWOOD HALL, Kings Lynn, Norfolk

Resistivity Survey 1985



(ii) location of survey
(1:1250)

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