



BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Geophysics surveys and material culture analysis north of Streatley

(NGR: SU 595 827)



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Summary

In 2023 metal detectorists discovered of a wide distribution of Roman coins and other artefacts across a field centred on SU 595 827 adjacent to the River Thames north of Streatley in West Berkshire. The Berkshire Archaeological Society undertook a geophysics survey of the field between 30th January 2023 to 16th February 2023 together with desktop analysis of HER/PAS material culture findspot distribution, distribution of HER monuments, LiDAR and historical maps.

The material culture analysis confirms the high archaeological potential of the survey area and the field immediately to the south as the likely location of a modest Romano-British agricultural settlement and roadside shrine. The geophysics survey identifies multi-phase occupation within the survey area with features including a trackway and two buildings, one of which may have been a water mill. Evaluation excavations are required to clarify the morphology and dating of both these features. Better understanding of the archaeology of this site also requires geophysics and metal detecting surveys across the field south of the survey area.

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0.2 *Change control*

This document is controlled by the author

0.3 Change history

- Draft Issue 0.1 – Initial draft issued on 11th September 2024 for review.
- Draft Issue 0.2 – Updated with feedback and comments received from James Peddle and Andrew Hutt and reissued on 7th October 2024.
- Draft issue 0.3 – Updated with further feedback and comments received from Andrew Hutt and reissued on 22nd October 2024.

0.4 Changes forecast

None

0.5 Glossary

BAS	Berkshire Archaeological Society
CBM	Ceramic building material
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DTM	LiDAR Digital Terrain Modelling data
FLO	Finds Liaison Officer
GIS	Geographical Information System
HER	Historic Environment Record
LIA	Late Iron Age
LiDAR	Laser imaging, detection and ranging
NGR	National Grid Reference
NMP	National Mapping Programme
NMR	National Monuments Record
OS	Ordnance Survey
PAS	Portable Antiquities Scheme
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record

0.6 Acknowledgements

I am very much indebted to Mr Francis Paxton for inviting BAS to carry out this survey on his land, and to the FLO Dr Philip Smither for identifying the archaeological potential of this site.

As ever, projects such as this could not have succeeded without the support and participation of BAS members (Andrew Hutt, Margaret Boltwood, Tim Lloyd, Nigel Spencer, Paul Seddon, Phillip Rawstron, Tony Bakker, Richard Miller, Geoff Anderson, James Peddle, Juan Chacon, Jill Oseman, Martin Labram, Vaughn Chadwick and Nicola Jeffries) who volunteered their time to carry out the survey work.

Thanks are also due to the BAS Study Group who reviewed initial results and offered valuable advice, and to the BAS Council for sponsoring this project.

1 Introduction

In 2023 metal detectorists discovered a wide distribution of Roman coins and other artefacts across a field centred on SU 595 827 (i.e. the 'survey area') adjacent to the River Thames north of Streatley in West Berkshire. These artefacts were reported responsibly to the PAS FLO who suggested that the Berkshire Archaeological Society investigate this site with a geophysics survey and analysis of its material culture assemblage.

The aim of this project is to offer tentative interpretations of past human activity across the survey area and its environs, and to suggest further work required to better understand the archaeology of the features identified. The geophysics survey took place from 30th January 2023 to 16th February 2023, and was followed by desktop analysis of material culture recorded on PAS, HER and Museum database, distribution of HER monuments, LiDAR, maps and other historical records to assess the archaeological potential of this site.

The location of the survey area is shown in Figure 1.1 and has an area of 10.7ha. The A329 runs north-south on the west side of the field, and the Thames Path runs along the east side of the field adjacent to the River Thames.

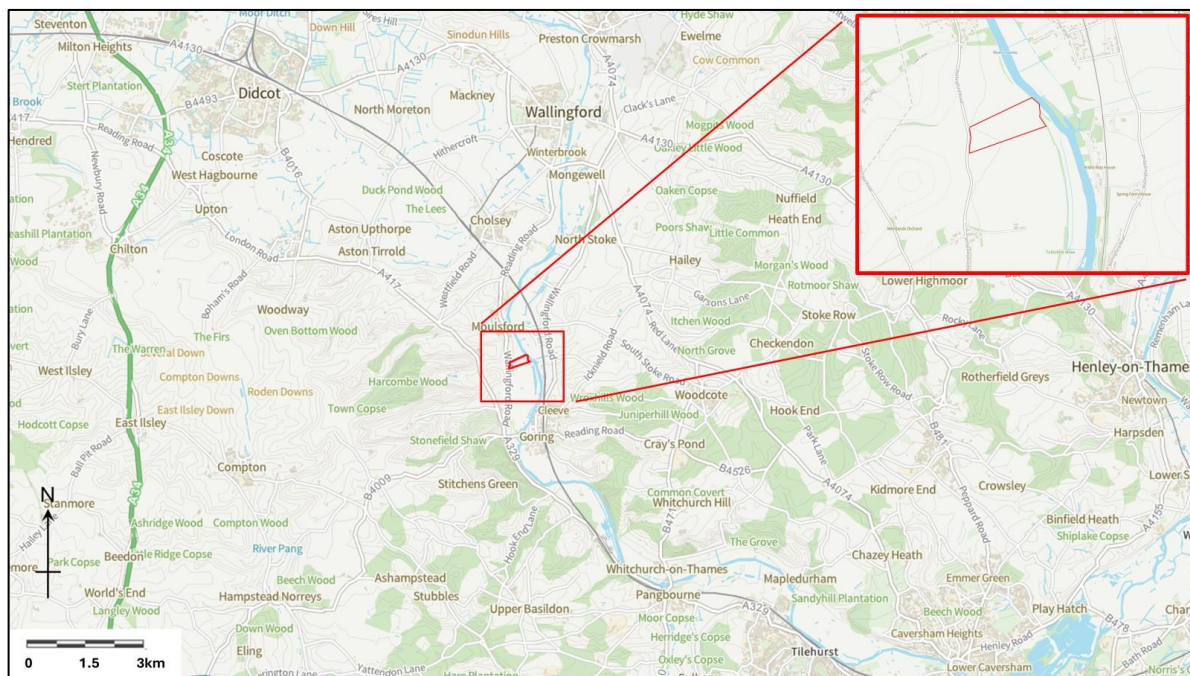


Figure 1.1 Location of the survey area (OpenMap, 2024).

2 Geological and topographical background

The survey area is situated on the west bank of the River Thames between Streatley and Moulsoford centred on SU 5952 8277 and immediately to the south of the West Berkshire/South Oxfordshire county boundary. The underlying solid geology of the survey area is the Cretaceous, Middle Chalk Formation, and being located on a level terrace adjacent to the River Thames is overlaid with alluvium of clay, silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey, 2024).

The River Thames flows southwards along the eastern boundary of the survey area towards Streatley. The modern-day course of the River Thames has been altered from its prehistoric morphology by dredging, canalisation and weirs to better manage flow, reduce flooding and improve navigation. Whereas it is likely that the prehistoric river followed a wider and multichannel/braided course (Sheail, 1988). This paper uses DEFRA's 100-year flood event GIS shapefile (DEFRA, 2024) as a proxy for the likely extent of the prehistoric river course and to identify flood prone areas less likely to have been occupied. Although the field is flat, sloping gently from the A329 at its easterly extent down towards the river in the west, the easterly tip of the survey area is prone to flooding and (at the time of the survey was) maintained as rough ground. The present course of the River Thames and its estimated prehistoric course relative to the survey area are shown in Figure 2.1.

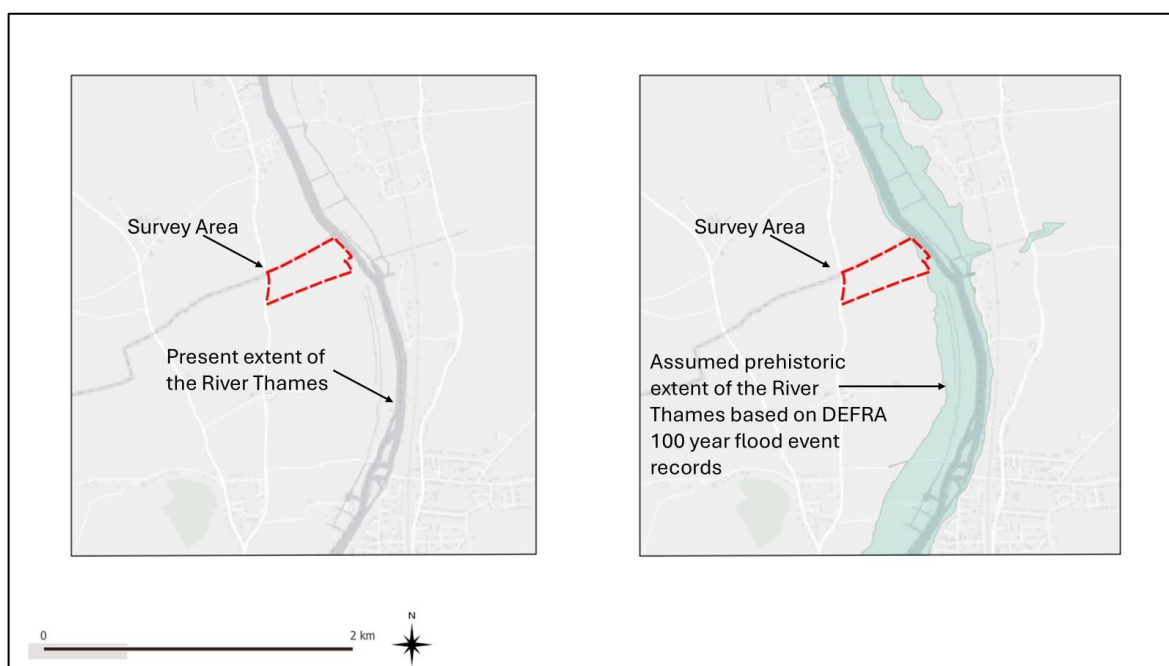


Figure 2.1 Comparison of the modern course of the River Thames and its likely prehistoric extent using the DEFRA 100 year flood event shape file (OpenMap, 2024; DEFRA, 2024)

3 Historical and archaeological background

The HER records human occupation around Streatley and Moultsford from the Neolithic Period through to modern times as shown in Table 3.1. This near continuous occupation is likely to be due in part to proximity to the River Thames whose banks would have served as a natural thoroughfare and provided rich agricultural land.

Margary (1973) projects the course of the Roman Road from Silchester to Dorchester (RR160c) to have passed 100m to the west of the survey area (HER: MWB4804/MWB20334) as shown in Figure 4.3. LiDAR data highlights rectilinear anomalies across the survey area parallel to the Roman road in Figure 7.1 that may represent the remains of past trackways and/or field boundaries.

The HER lists antiquarian references to building foundations, pottery sherds, pits, earthworks and coins being observed within the field immediately south of the survey area which are interpreted as the likely site of a modest Iron Age, Roman and/or Early Medieval settlement (HER: MWB2479/MWB2490). A concentration of Roman period artefacts have been discovered by metal detectorists close to this likely settlement in addition to those found recently across the survey area to the north.

3.1 The West Berkshire/South Oxfordshire HERs

The HERs recorded within 2km of the survey area are listed in Table 3.1, and the distribution of the HER monuments and HER/PAS findspots across the surrounding area shown in Chapter 4.

Table 3.1 HERs within 2km of the survey area.

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
3148	SU593830	Rectangular Enclosure: A possible villa site consisting of a large ring and rectangle sited near the old chalk pit at Moultsford. An aerial photograph held in Reading Museum is sole authority for this site. Shows some very nebulous marks west of the ring mark at SU 5943 8300. These were interpreted as a possible villa site, but the

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		marks were thought too vague even for a tentative identification. No crop marks now visible and no pottery or building material found. Currently there is insufficient information for this site to be definitively classified as villa.
MWB2479	SU594825	Features northeast of Streatley Farm: Crop marks of possible linear features, enclosure and ring ditches, probably representing an Iron Age or Roman settlement. The Berkshire County Council SMR recorded possible archaeological features which could be identified in aerial photographs, including linear features, enclosure, and a number of possible ring ditches. The general area was confused by geological patterns in the crop. However, the Thames Valley NMP recorded a number of features, probably making up a small settlement of Iron Age or Roman date. The elements transcribed by the NMP included an 'incomplete, sub-rectangular enclosure 68m x 50m, defined by a ditch'; 'a number of ditches defining one other possible incomplete enclosure, or simply acting as field boundaries'; 'a short stretch of track way 110m long, with a further stretch of irregular ditch heading south towards the main enclosure group'; and 'an amorphous pit 20m by 10m'. There are antiquarian references to foundations of old buildings, pottery and Roman coins being found in the area (see MWB2490), as well as skeletons being found near a gravel pit. The amorphous pit might perhaps be the gravel pit referred to. The NMR conflates the crop marks and antiquarian sites into one record. The two areas of aerial photographic transcription are not completely aligned, but the GIS polygon for this complex includes all crop marks recorded.

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
MWB2490	SU594825	Fifield Streatley Farm: Roman settlement: Antiquarian reference to 'Many foundations of old buildings continually ploughed up'. At Streatley Farm, according to Sir Richard Colt Hoare, building foundations were found as well as skeletons, earthen ware vessels and a number of coins; Akerman thought the remains were Saxon, although Victorian County History mentions 'Southbury Farm' in connection with Akerman's cemetery. Hewett claimed that hundreds of late 3 rd and 4 th century AD coins been ploughed up in the fields. The Archaeology map marks the site at the farm buildings, but it is much more likely to be near where the OS marks 'Roman coins found'. This is also close to crop marks and a supposed Iron Age habitation site (see MWB2491) - possibly they are the same archaeological site. The reference to 'Fifield' is the name of the enclosure; this is marked on an Enclosure map of 1814. The NMR has conflated this monument with those of the Iron Age settlement and supposed Saxon cemetery, and also included the crop mark evidence from the Thames Valley NMP.
MWB2481	SU594825	Ring ditch, linear features and pits northeast of Streatley Farm: Crop marks of incomplete ring ditch, indistinct linear features and large number of possible pits. The Berkshire County Council SMR transcribed a faintly defined ring ditch (incomplete on its northwest side) with a possible internal feature, seen in aerial photographs. It was considered to be dubious. It was recorded at SU 5945 8260, but considered to be dubious. Close to it was a crop mark of a regular and a discontinuous angled linear feature, also of uncertain origin. The regular linear cut the circular feature. To the south was an area of possible pits, though this was confused by many

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		irregular geological marks. This ring was not specifically mapped by the Thames Valley NMP although a similar group of features (a large dark area and some intersecting linear features) were transcribed in almost the same position. 'In the angle between two of the ditches at SU 5946 8257 is an amorphous pit 20m x 10m' this may be a gravel pit. Probably they represent crop marks of the same buried archaeology seen at different times. Further features were also transcribed under the Thames Valley NMP (see MWB2479). An irregular ring and two straight intersecting linear features area visible on a 2010 aerial photograph, centred at SU 5947 8260.
MWB4804	SU592820	Silchester to Dorchester Roman Road: Margary's 160c – Roman Road from evidence to the north, appears to have run to Streatley approximately along the line of the road from Cholsey. The name Streatley suggests it was on the Roman Road and is believed to have run from here to the Goring Gap: 'The road enters the area through the Goring Gap at Streatley. A Roman settlement here is indicated by finds of foundations and coins and by the place-name. The actual way through the gap south of Streatley must have been approximately along the terrace on which the modern roads run. From a point on the A329 some 600m north of Streatley crossroads, the modern road runs due north and straight for 600m till it meet Streatley Farm. This can be taken as the line of the roman road: if extended southwards, it crosses Streatley High Str as a terrace in front of the Manor House and meets the A329 again south of the village. If extended northwards, it is accompanied by the modern road swinging a few metres to either side of it till the present county boundary is crossed after another 800m. At Streatley Farm itself the

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		modern road swings west to avoid the farm buildings; but the suggested Roman line goes straight through them. Indeed, the entrance to the old barn on the north side is firm, well drained and on the line, as is the former rick yard opposite.'
MWB2491	SU592823	Fifield, Streatley Farm: Bronze Age/Iron Age Settlement: Claimed to be 100m southwest of a Roman Settlement. The original authority for this is unknown. Annotated on map at slightly different location (about SU 5951 8241). 'Iron Age habitation site symbol shown on Ashmolean Museum 6" Sheet.
15357	SU594831	Identified as a short cursus or long enclosure with its complete extent visible as cropmark
7643	SU593829	Sole authority for the site is an aerial photograph held in Reading Museum showing a ring mark at SU 5943 8300. No cropmarks now visible, and no pottery or building material found. In 1971 vertical aerial photographs show blurred marks at SU 5945 9296 including a vague ring, which probably represent this site. Presumed to be ring ditch identified on Thames Gravel NMP at SU 5940 8300.
28250	SU592836	During a magnetometry survey undertaken on site, the main feature of archaeological potential was a possible rectangular feature, believed to be this feature, detected previously by LiDAR. Alternatively, it was also suggested that this might be subsurface or subsoil landscaping.
28265	SU598835	Excavation of pipe and sewer trenches at the edge of St Andrew's churchyard located several human burials. All four were aligned west to east and, from their differing depths, the presence of grave cuts and the disturbed

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		nature of one of the skeletons, appeared to represent at least two different phases of burial. As there were no grave markers or headstones, the date of death and burial for each is unknown, although their orientation suggests they are Christian. Two sherds of Medieval pottery were found within one of the grave fills, but it is thought they are residual. The ages at death ranged from sub-adult to adult; none of the bones had any obvious signs of trauma. The inhumations are likely to be either unmarked graves or those whose marker has been removed during the development of the churchyard.
10611	SU599836	Site of Eynsham Abbey's manor house next to churchyard. In 1366 contained a hall, kitchen and chambers and stood in over 2 acres of ground, had a grange, houses for workers and fishponds across the street.
28191	SU586837	Iron Age to Roman Settlement Field System (Site 18, Cleeve-Didcot Pipeline): Excavation in area 30m x 17m revealed intercutting ditches in the southeast of the area, two ditches on a NE-SW alignment and a third on a NW-SE alignment. One ditch contained LIA pottery. The three intercutting ditches (with pottery in one) suggested a LIA-Roman field system located near sites of Halfpenny Lane and Moulford Road North.
15642	SU587836	Iron Age to Roman Settlement (Moulford North Road Site: Cleeve-Didcot Pipeline): Excavation in advance of pipeline construction revealed ring ditch (re-cut at least once), pits, postholes and linear ditch. Probably an enclosure related to Late-Iron Age to Roman settlement with ten pits visible, with four revealing LIA pottery on excavation. Ditch possibly related to linear earthwork;

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		only partially excavated. Molluscan analysis confirmed open environment, consistent with sites across the Berkshire Downs. Wetter episode after the ditch was recut could indicate woodland regeneration similar to that observed at Waylands Smith and Rams Hill. It seems as likely that the snail fauna in lower levels of re-cut ditch indicated purely local conditions when the vegetation was not cut or grazed, and the ditch filled with litter.
2896	SU581827	Bronze Age/Iron Age Linear Bank and Ditch: Trivallate earthwork - said to continue on an ENE alignment as far as Wantage Road
2330	SU583839	Roman Burials, Pottery and Coin: Four coffined burials and skeletons of human baby and a cat, all dated to the Romano-British period by pottery sherds present.
MWB2492	SU592816	Antiquarian reports of several extended skeletons found in ground adjoining Fifield: Rather confused antiquarian reports exist for this possible inhumation cemetery, perhaps associated with the Iron Age or Roman building foundations and artefact finds in 'Fifield' (see MWB2490 and MWB2491). Colt-Hoare apparently reported that several extended skeletons were found in ground adjoining Fifield, known as Little Field. The Victoria County History reported that Akerman thought that Colt-Hoare had mistaken a Saxon cemetery for a Roman one. Later accounts mention the cemetery being on 'Southbury Farm'. The NMR has conflated this monument with those of the Iron Age or Roman settlement as well as transcribed crop marks; their record also suggests that Southbury Farm is Sowberry Court, which is at SU 5925 8340 on

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		the south side of the village of Moulsoford within Oxfordshire (although Sowberry Court is not depicted until the 3rd Epoch Ordnance Survey mapping). The Ordnance Survey Field Investigator in the 1960s asked a local farmer about the site, but the names Little Field and Fifield were not known. The Streatley Tithe map does not cover this area. There were no reports at this time of Iron Age or Roman finds from the area deduced to be 'Fifield' or from the ploughed fields to the west of the Streatley-Cholsey road or near Sowberry Court. Peake's gazetteer does not list the possible cemetery under Streatley Parish although he mentions the skeletons being found by Colt-Hoare, and also gives a history of Wallingford as a further source. It is unclear why the SMR grid reference for this site has been created at SU 5926 8170. The Streatley Enclosure Map of 1814 shows 'Fyfield' to the north of Streatley Farm, by the Parish boundary, although Little Field is not marked. The centre point of Fyfield is at SU 5952 8267. Little Field may be centred at SU 593 831.
MWB2488	SU594816	Circular features south of Streatley Farm: At least three rings visible on aerial photographs, one of which appears to be a probable Bronze Age Barrow although the others may be geological in origin. The Berkshire County Council SMR recorded at least three possible circular features visible on aerial photographs. They were incomplete and considered to be dubious, probably fortuitously formed from geological features. These were transcribed at SU 5945 8175, SU 5945 8170 and SU 5952 8160. The Thames Valley NMP also recorded two possible Bronze Age barrows seen as crop marks in unspecified

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		aerial photographs. 'The sites each appeared as sub-circular enclosures 28m across sited at SU 5946 8168 and SU 5980 8177.' A Google Earth image from 2009 shows the two dark rings within a remarkable sinuous light geological pattern; the Thames Valley NMP also mentioned the swirling patterns of alluvium in this field making identification of these barrows difficult. However the grid reference of SU 5944 8171 is probably reasonably accurate as a centre point for a ring seen in the 2009 aerial photograph.
MWB2487	SU597817	Ring ditch southeast of Streatley Farm: Unbroken ring ditch visible on aerial photographs, possibly the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow. The Berkshire County Council SMR recorded an unbroken ring ditch visible on aerial photographs. The ring was transcribed at SU 5971 8176. The Thames Valley NMP also recorded two possible Bronze Age barrows seen as crop marks in unspecified aerial photographs. 'The sites each appeared as sub-circular enclosures 28m across sited at SU 5946 8168 and SU 5980 8177.' A Google Earth image from 2009 shows the two dark rings within a remarkable sinuous light geological pattern; the Thames Valley NMP also mentioned the swirling patterns of alluvium in this field making identification of these barrows difficult. However the grid reference of SU 5970 8177 is probably reasonably accurate as a centre point for this feature.
MWB10388	SU593811	Streatley bowling Green: Saxon burial with spearhead, knife and bronze buckle found in 1932. "Saxon burial with spearhead, knife & tinned bronze buckle found AD

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		1932. The discovery was made by a local resident Alfred (Jack) Woodage who was working on the site of the old Bowling Green, and the human remains were re-buried in Streatley churchyard, marked by a memorial stone. According to a church guide, the spearhead, knife and buckle remain in a secure part of the church, although other sources suggest that the finds are in the Ashmolean museum.
MWB16541	SU587813	Lynchets and ditches on Lough Down: Features seen on aerial photographs and interpreted as part of an Iron Age or Roman field system. An archaeological survey by the National Trust recorded a group of lynchets at Lough Down centred on SU 5875 8130. The features continue a field system which extended across the adjoining golf course, and were tentatively dated to the Iron Age or Roman period. The most prominent feature was a large east-west lynchet with a sharp profile which seemed to have escape ploughing damage. The Thames Valley NMP transcribed a broad ditch of unknown date seen as a crop mark in unspecified poor quality air photographs. It was 200m long, cutting across the contours at the end of Lough Down, centred at SU 5875 8136. A dark crop mark or possible levelled earthwork is visible along the line of the transcription in a 2003 aerial photograph. LiDAR data modelling shows this earthwork but also several other former divisions of the land of Lough Down.
MWB17659	SU586816	Area 4.1 - Newbury Reinforcement Pipeline: Possible ring-ditch detected during geophysical survey. Curving feature, possibly a ring ditch detected during geophysical survey. Post-medieval pot, CBM and

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		worked and burnt flint recovered from the area during a field walking survey.
27979	SU606817	Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pit: Only feature found in this area of Water Main route. May be a product of structured deposition. Consisted of broad, shallow cut 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep. Contained small flint assemblage, including probable Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age tools, a scrap of fired clay and six small sherds of pottery broadly dated to Early/Middle Bronze Age. This may reflect structured deposition.
29372	SU608833	Linear features visible as earthworks: Possibly part of complex PRN12674. Two Parallel earthworks aligned NW-SE, with a perpendicular earthwork from the easternmost. Potential Prehistoric or Roman field system, seen as earthworks. Morphological description: discontinuous, perpendicular linear features, each defined by a bank with a maximum length of 130m. Centred at SU 6088 8335. Additional NGR's located at SU 6071 8328.
7647	SU583839	Flat bottomed ditch with Iron Age sherds.
15356	SU584839	Later Prehistoric field system (BC4000 to AD42) identified from gravel overlay.
MWB16541	SU587812	Rhodes' survey of 'Celtic' field systems on the Berkshire Downs identified an area extending for over 1km from Stonefield Shaw in the west to Lough Down in the east; this was his group XXV, of 200 acres, named just as Lough Down. A central grid reference of SU 5848 8096 is given for this in the NMR description. The Ordnance Survey Field Investigator in the 1960s noted that there were no definite traces of this field system on the ground,

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		most of which is now a golf course, and only very fragmentary traces can be identified on the air photographs. He gave a central grid reference of SU 5836 8108 for the system shown on Rhodes' plan. An archaeological survey by the National Trust recorded a group of lynchets at Lough Down centred on SU 5875 8130. The features continue a field system which extended across the adjoining golf course, and were tentatively dated to the Iron Age or Roman period. The most prominent feature was a large east-west lynchet with a sharp profile which seemed to have escape ploughing damage. The Thames Valley NMP transcribed a broad ditch of unknown date seen as a cropmark in unspecified poor quality air photographs. It was 200m long, cutting across the contours at the end of Lough Down, centred at SU 5875 8136. A dark cropmark or possible levelled earthwork is visible along the line of the transcription in a 2003 aerial photograph. LiDAR data modelling shows this earthwork but also several other former divisions of the land of Lough Down.
MWB2473	SU581816	A cropmark of large unbroken ring ditch, origin uncertain. The Berkshire County Council SMR transcribed five rings from cropmarks in oblique aerial photographs with one ring bisected by a modern field boundary; however the Thames Valley NMP mapped five complete rings. Each feature appears as a single ring ditch and ranging from 20m to 35m in diameter. They are centred at SU

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		58148166, SU 5815 8163, SU 5813 8160, SU 5809 8162 and SU 5803 8162.
MWB2474	SU581816	Cropmark fairly large, unbroken ring ditch.
28191	SU586837	Excavation in area 30m by 17m revealed intercutting ditches in the southeast part of area; two ditches were on NE-SW alignment with a third on a NW-SE alignment. One ditch contained LIA pottery, suggested a LIA-Roman field system. Located near sites of Halfpenny Lane and Moulford Road North.
29372	SU608833	Two Parallel earthworks aligned NW-SE, with a perpendicular earthwork from the easternmost. Potential Prehistoric or Roman field system, seen as earthworks. Morphological description: discontinuous, perpendicular linear features, each defined by a bank with a maximum length of 130m.
7645	SU605835	A mill fallen into disrepair in 1366 but when repaired would be worth 30 shillings a year, and all Eynsham Abbey's villein tenants of Stoke and Woodcote were bound to grind their corn at it. Site may be indicated by field name 'Windmill Ash Field' straddling the southern spur of White Hill.
29507	SU604817	Single shallow ditch identified during archaeological evaluation. Contains a single sherd of pottery likely dated to the 13 th century. Ditch recorded during evaluation was 2.3m wide and 0.25m deep and contained a single sherd of 13th century medieval pottery. It is unclear if the feature is a ditch or a furrow.
MWB18452	SU593819	Streatley Farmhouse, Streatley - Streatley Farmhouse is a Grade II listed, three storey, timber framed, detached building of flint with brick dressings, a tiled roof, some

HER	Map Ref	Name/Description
		tile hanging and sash windows. It has a datestone of 1675 and is marked on the First Edition OS map of 1877 onwards as a rectangular building with a small extension to the north. A glass house had been added to the south by the Second edition map of 1899, but it was removed at some time between the Third and Fifth Edition maps of 1912 and 1964, respectively. Planning applications were approved in 2006 to add a new garden room to the south side of the house and in 2016 to demolish and replace it as well as for the internal refurbishment and renovation of the farmhouse. Building recording was carried out during the demolition and refurbishment at the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017. Four phases of the development of the building were identified, and dated to the 17th century, 18th century (the Georgian period), 19th century (the mid-Victorian period) and late 20th century. The 17th century staircase in the Listing description was a notable feature and the northern extension was identified as a woodstore and larder, unusually accessible from a hatch in the living room. It was suggested that a naval officer, Captain Thomas Harwood, who was the sheriff of Berkshire in 1695, was the house's original owner.

3.4. Historic maps and historical background

The James Rocque map of Berkshire surveyed in 1761 in Figure 3.1 shows no settlements or buildings within the survey area, but does highlight a north-south field

boundary aligning with LiDAR anomaly L1 observed in Figure 7.1 extending from Streatley to Moulsoford east of the modern A329.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1877 shown in Figure 3.2 also shows no buildings within the survey area, but records that the north-south field boundary aligning with LiDAR anomaly L1 has disappeared.

Streatley is recorded as a settlement in Domesday in 1086 as being within the hundred of Slotisford and the county of Berkshire. Domesday records a population of 18 villagers, 11 cottagers and 7 slaves, and land resources are listed as being 15 ploughlands, 4 lord's plough teams, 12 men's plough teams, meadows of 26 acres and 1 mill. Streatley was valued at 22 pounds 10 shillings when acquired by Geoffrey de Mandeville in 1086 (Powell-Smith, 2024). The mill at Streatley referred to in Domesday is thought to be Streatley Mill that stood at SU 595 807 until 1926 near the centre of the modern day village. The other nearby mill referred to in Domesday is at situated at Goring on the east bank on the River Thames (SU 597 807).



Figure 3.1 The James Rocque map of 1761 of the survey area (National Library of Scotland, 2024).

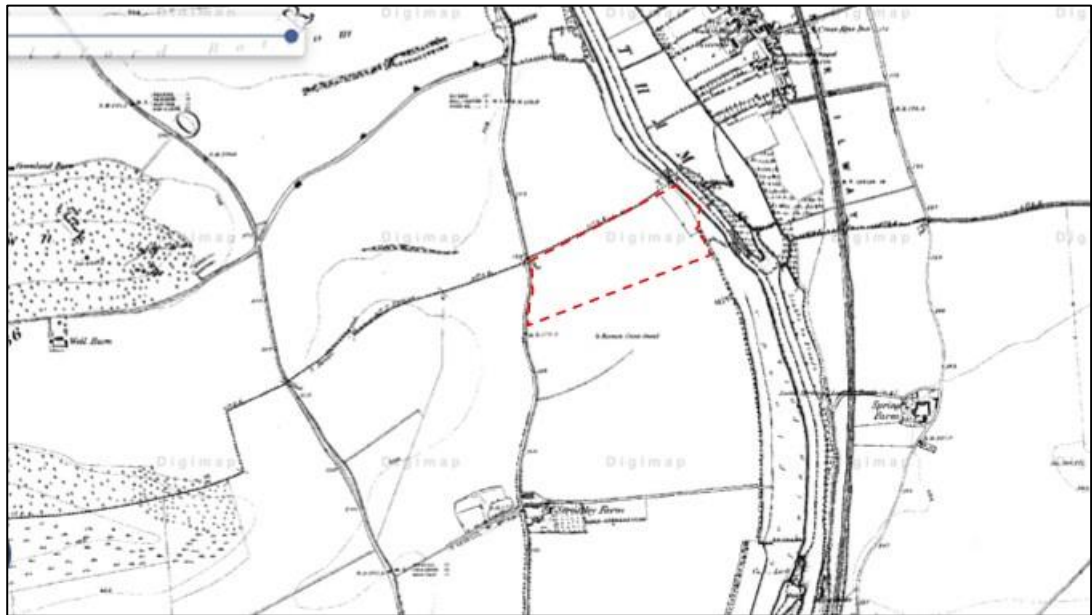


Figure 3.2 Ordnance Survey map of the survey area in 1877 (National library of Scotland, 2024).

4 Material culture and HER distribution

Heat maps of material culture find distribution relative to HER locations for the same period are used to highlight likely areas with high potential for past occupation. The material culture artefacts discovered within the 1km² grid square SU 59 82 are broken down by type in compliance with the publicly accessible resolution of findspots available on the PAS website.

The DEFRA 100 year flood event shapefile is used to denote the likely prehistoric extent of the River Thames and the relation of findspots/occupation in relation to areas known to be prone to flooding together with the projected route of the nearby Roman road.

4.1 Bronze Age material culture and HER Monument distribution

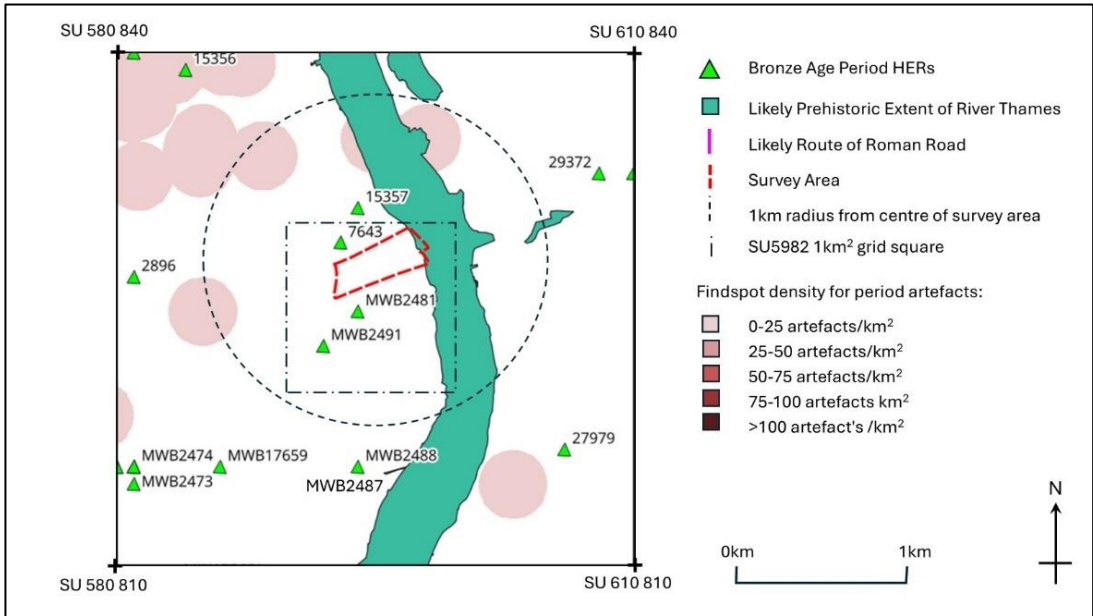


Figure 4.1 Distribution of Bronze Age material culture and HER Monuments surrounding the survey area.

Table 4.1 Types of Bronze Age material culture found within 1km² grid square SU 59 82 recorded on the PAS database (PAS, 2024).

Types of material culture dated to Bronze Age period	Quantity
None	-

There are HERs and material culture findspots suggesting Bronze Age occupation across the surrounding the survey area on the west bank of the River Thames including ring ditches and a possible settlement near Streatley Farm. However, there are no HERs or findspots recorded within the survey area itself.

Bronze Age material culture finds are concentrated to the northwest of the survey area around Moulsoford.

4.2 Iron Age material culture and HER Monument distribution

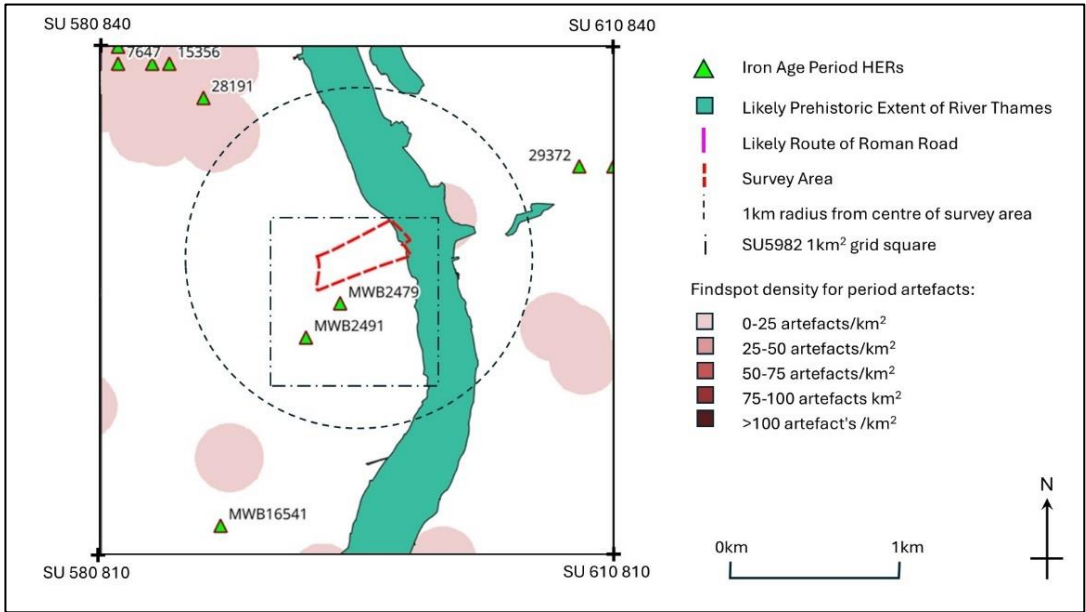


Figure 4.2 Distribution of Iron Age material culture and HER Monuments surrounding the survey area.

Table 4.2 Types of Iron Age material culture found within 1km² grid square SU 59 82 recorded on the PAS database.

Types of material Culture dated to Iron Age period	Quantity
None	-

HERs and material culture dating to the Iron Age are mostly concentrated in the area immediately to the west of modern day Moulsoford northwest of the survey area. Two HERs to the south of the survey area (HERs: MWB2479/MWB2491) record small settlements that may have been occupied toward the end of the Late Iron Age period, but no material culture of this date has been found at these locations.

4.3 Roman material culture and HER Monument distribution

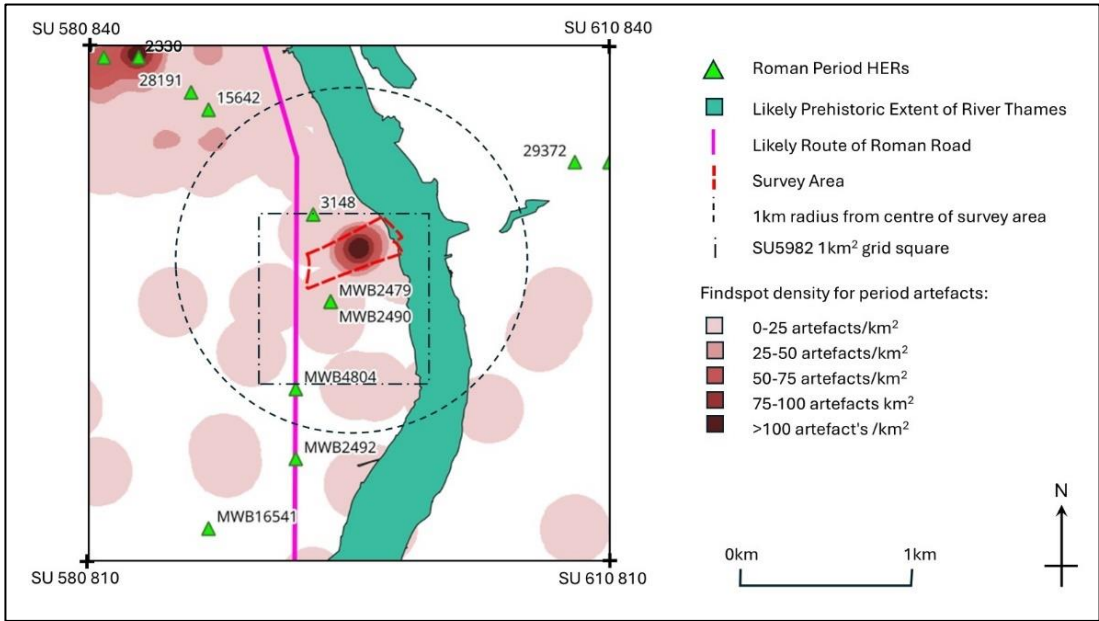


Figure 4.3 Distribution of Roman material culture and HER Monuments surrounding the survey area.

Table 4.3 Types of Roman material culture found within 1km² grid square SU 59 82 recorded on the HER and PAS databases.

Types of material culture	Type dated to Roman period	Quantity
Coin		176
Brooch		3
Spoon		1
Strap fitting		1
Toilet article		1

The vast majority of material culture from SU 59 82 dates to the Roman Period and are mostly coins. PAS findspots within the survey area mostly share a small number of NGRs close to centre of the field. Personal conversation with metal detectorists responsible for the discovery of many of these finds described Roman artefact findspots concentrated along the southern boundary of the field and in the east of the field close to the river (but notably not within the flood prone area of rough ground closest to the riverbank). This suggests that many of the findspot locations reported to the FLO relate to ‘the field in which they were found’ rather than their actual findspot.

The wide date range of coin finds and the findspot distribution described by the metal detectorists suggest it is likely that the Roman period finds discovered to south of the survey area are associated with a wider distribution of artefacts surrounding the probable Romano-British settlement (HER: MWB2479/MWB2490) located in the adjacent field to the south. The Roman period finds to the east of the survey area are consistent with the likely prehistoric riverbank at this time.

4.4 Early Medieval material culture and HER Monument distribution

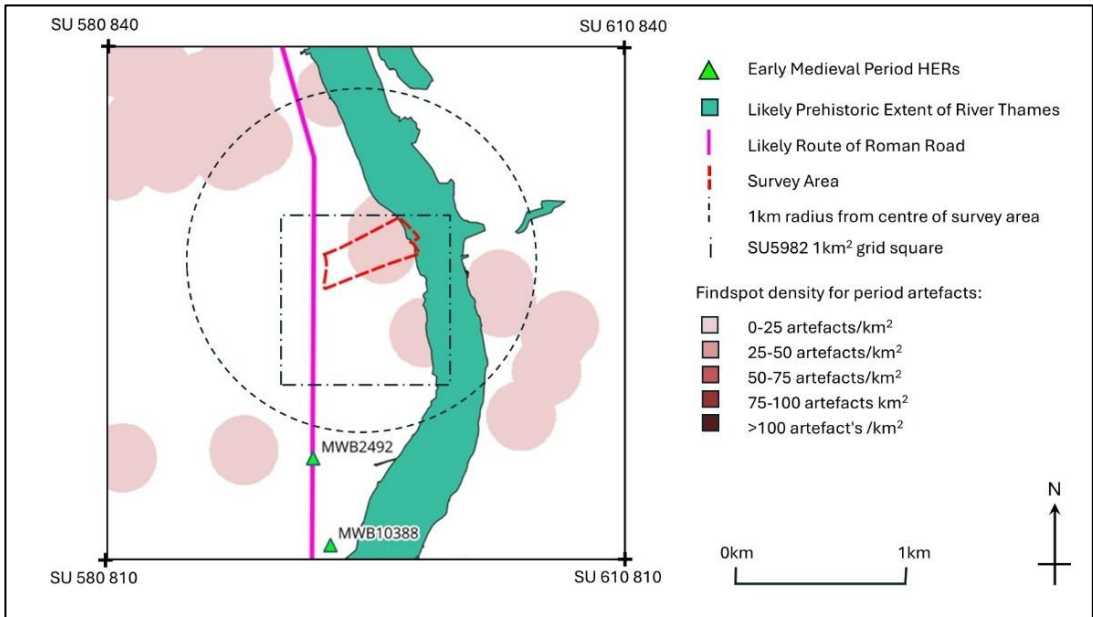


Figure 4.4 Distribution of Early Medieval material culture and HER Monuments surrounding the survey area.

Table 4.4 Types of Early Medieval material culture found within 1km² grid square SU 59 82 recorded on the PAS database.

Types of material culture dated to Early Medieval period	Quantity
Bridle Bit	1
Brooch	1
Strap end	1
Mount	1

The HER records at least one Saxon burial at Streatley (MWB10388) suggesting nearby Early Medieval occupation across the surrounding area. Coin finds dating to

Reece Period 21 at the very end of the Roman period and the distribution of Early Medieval artefacts shown in Figure 4.4, suggest that occupation at the settlement immediately south of the survey area continued from the Late Roman period into the Early Medieval Period.

4.5 Medieval material culture and HER Monument distribution

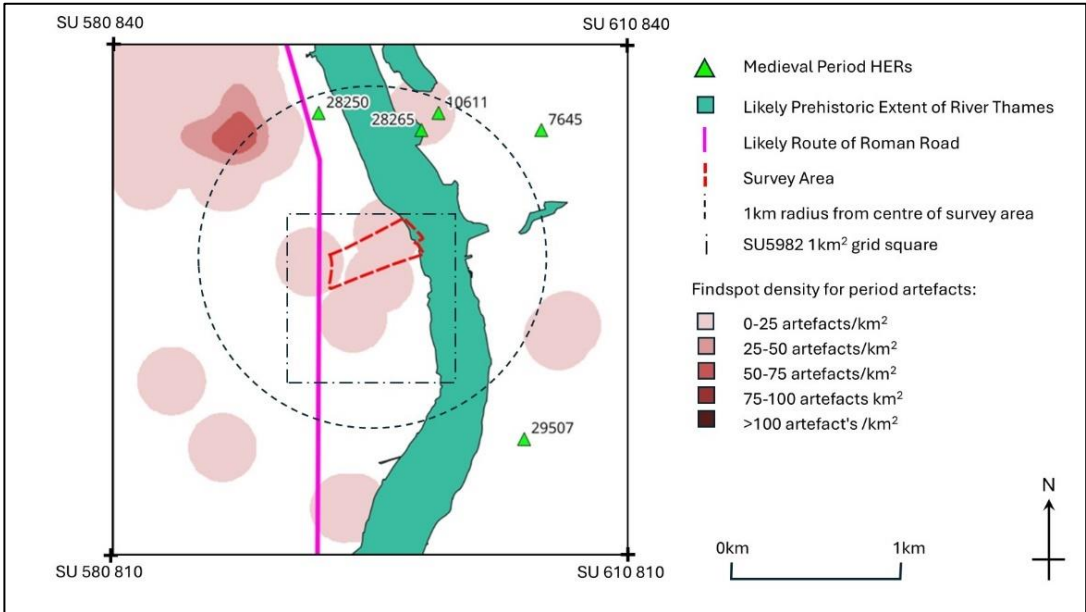


Figure 4.5 Distribution of Medieval material culture and HER Monuments surrounding the survey area.

Table 4.5 Types of Medieval material culture found within 1km² grid square SU 59 82 recorded on the PAS database.

Types of material culture dated to Medieval period	Quantity
Buckle	1
Vessel	1
Weight	1
Jetton	1
Seal matrix	2
Button	1
Spear	1



Figure 4.6 The two Medieval seal matrices found in SU 59 82 (PAS, 2024).

The focus of Medieval material culture deposition is also centred on Moulsoford to the northwest of the survey area, although the Medieval artefacts found within SU 59 82 are of types often associated with commercial activity.

5 Project objectives

The objectives of this project are to:

1. To carry out geophysics surveys of the survey area using the gradiometer and earth resistance meter to identify anomalies of interest and assess the archaeological potential of this site.
2. Assess the wider archaeological context of the survey area using the material culture assemblage recorded on PAS, in the HER and within the West Berkshire Museum catalogue, LiDAR, digitised aerial photography anomalies and historic maps.
3. Assess the archaeological potential of this site and identify further work needed to better understand the archaeology of features identified by this study.

6 The geophysics survey

6.1 The survey area and survey grid

The survey area measures approximately 360m south to north and 700m west to east as shown in Figure 6.1. The datums used to lay out the survey grid are:

- The iron gate/fence post in the southwest corner of the field at the intersection of the southern and western fence lines at SU 5927 8256
- The southerly fence line of the field from which (due to the metal mesh used in its construction) the grid runs parallel at a distance of 5m to the north.

6.2 Geophysics survey method

The survey was carried out in compliance to ClfA guidelines (ClfA, 2014). Control points were positioned to establish an array of 20m x 20m data collection grid squares. All of the grid squares were surveyed with a Bartington 601 gradiometer dual sensor gradiometer. The results were processed using Snuffler (Snuffler, 2006) and the resulting geophysics plots reviewed for anomalies.

Identified anomalies exhibiting evidence of human activity were further surveyed using a Frobisher TAR-3 earth resistance meter. These results were also processed using Snuffler, geophysics plots produced and further anomalies identified. Details of the location of the survey grids, the files of geophysics data collected from the survey grid, the resulting geophysics plots and the identified anomalies are listed in Appendix 1.

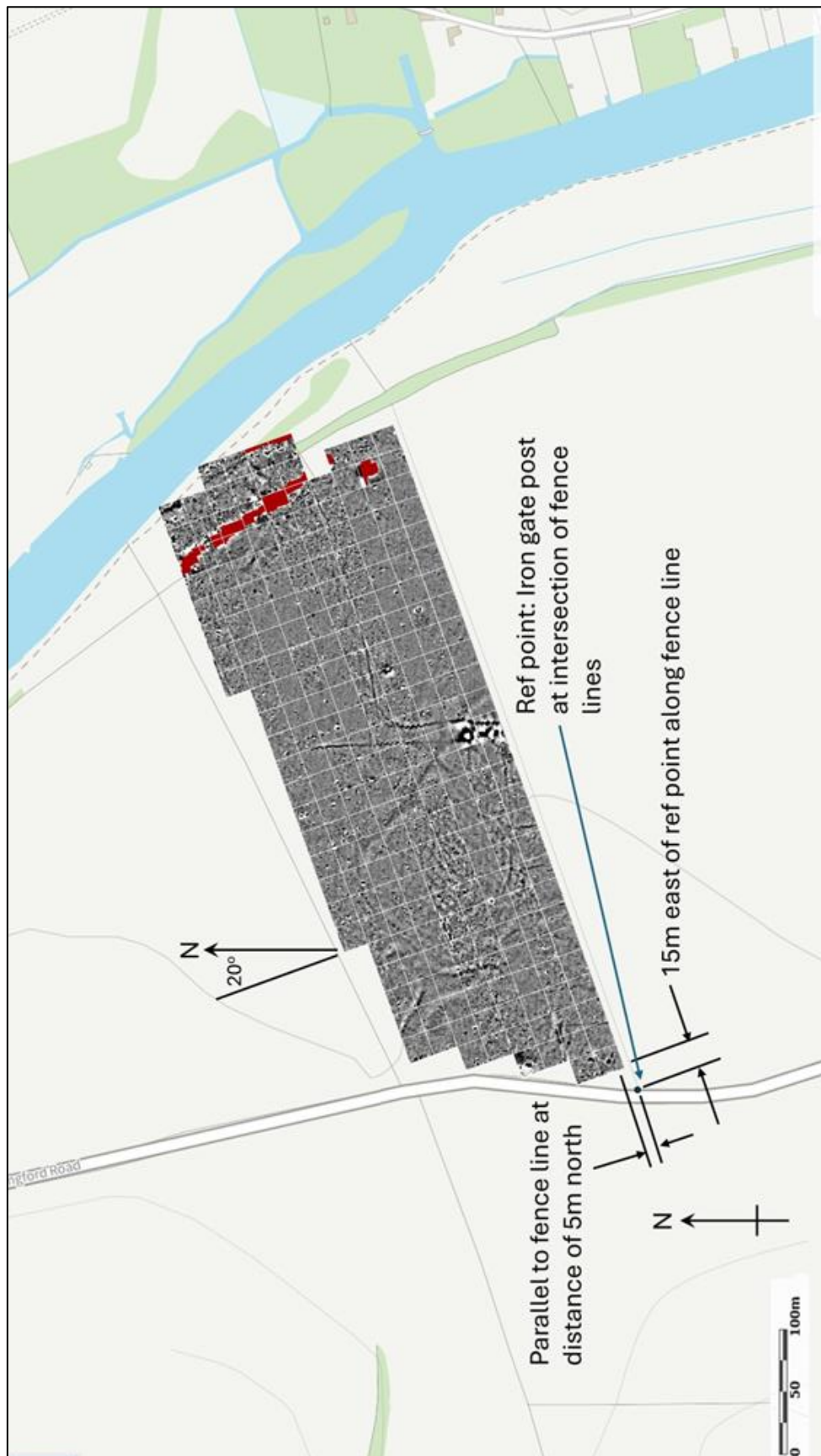


Figure 6.1 The survey area

6.3 The gradiometer survey

A survey grid of 20m x 20m squares was established across the area to be surveyed. The length of the sides was confirmed using measuring tapes, and the survey area was extended using measuring tapes and geometry. Figure 6.2 highlights the anomalies identified.

Anomalies G1 to G7 were surveyed within Snuffler file *StreatleyView* as shown in Figure 6.3:

- **Anomaly G1:** The group of rectilinear anomalies labelled G1 in the southwest of the field surveyed are interpreted as being past occupation enclosures and/or field boundaries probably associated with the settlement centred within the adjacent field to the south (HER: MWB2479/MWB2490).
- **Anomalies G2 and G3:** The parallel linear anomalies labelled G2 (80m long and 15m apart) is interpreted as the parallel ditches of a track/roadway running north from Streatley Farm. This probably road/trackway turns to the east in the centre of the survey area where it is labelled as anomaly G3 which is interpreted as parallel ditches 9m apart associated with this trackway heading east towards the River Thames for approximately 180m.
- **Anomaly G4:** This anomaly measuring 40m x 30m is a 'L-shaped' rectilinear anomaly situated 20m from and aligned with the west bank of the River Thames. This anomaly is interpreted as the outline of the foundation trenches of a probable building, although no other associated features (e.g. enclosure boundaries, internal divisions) are visible. The location of this anomaly is within the part of the survey area identified as being prone to flooding by the DEFRA 100 year flood event shapefile.
- **Anomaly G5:** This anomaly is thought to represent a tree throw or a buried metal object.
- **Anomaly G6:** Exhibiting a 10m x 5m area of positive magnetic response anomaly G6 is interpreted as the result ground disturbance associated with the modern-day Thames Path which lies across this feature.



Figure 6.2 The gradiometer plot (OpenMap, 2024).

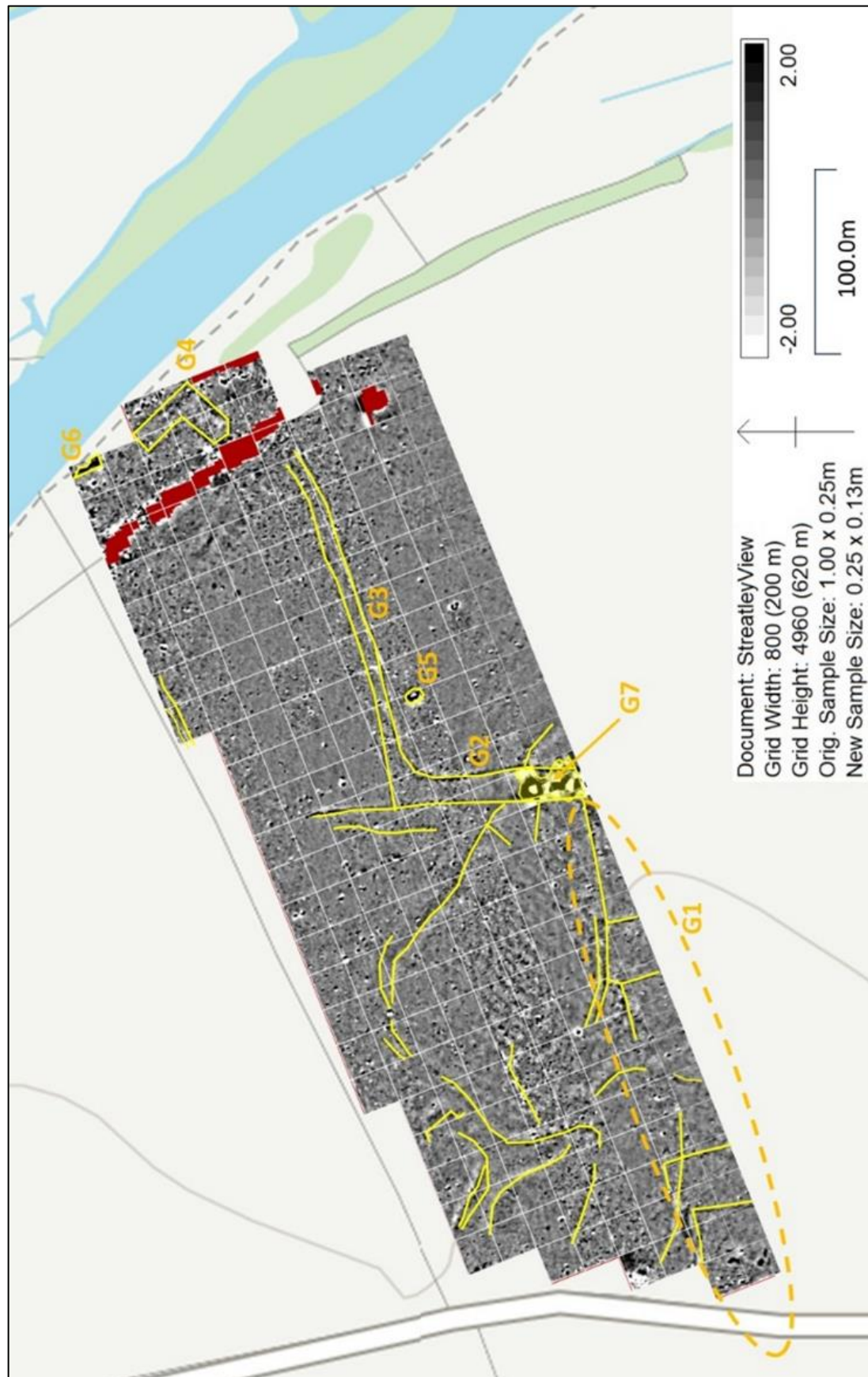


Figure 6.3 The gradiometer anomalies (OpenMap, 2024).

- **Anomaly G7:** Measuring 30m x 10m and exhibiting a dipolar electromagnetic response, anomaly G7 is interpreted as being an area exposed to intense heat such as a fire.
- **Other unlabelled anomalies:** Other gradiometer anomalies which are not labelled in Figure 6.3 are interpreted as being naturally occurring geology or of inconclusive interpretation.

The key features identified by the gradiometer survey are the trackway G2/G3, the possible 'L-shaped' building G4 adjacent to the River Thames and the area of intense heat G7 located at the south of trackway anomaly G2.

6.4 The earth resistance surveys

Earth resistance surveys were used to undertake closer examination of the areas surrounding gradiometer anomalies G7 (Area A) in the south of the survey area, and G4 (Area B) in the northeast of the survey area using the same 20m x 20m survey grid used for the gradiometer survey as shown in Figure 6.4.



Figure 6.4 Locations of Area A and Area B earth resistance surveys relative to the gradiometer survey area (OpenMap, 2024).

6.4.1. Area A earth resistance survey

The survey grid of 20m x 20m squares used for the gradiometer survey across the were utilised to further investigate anomaly G7 as shown in Appendix 1 and Figure 6.5. Anomalies AR1 to AR5 were identified across the area surveyed within Snuffler view *AreaAResView*:

- **Anomaly AR1:** High earth resistance linear anomaly AR1 measuring approximately 30m in length is interpreted as the remains of a possible boundary wall running east-west, with a wider spread of rubble at its easterly extent that may be related structure such as an outhouse.
- **Anomaly AR2:** Anomaly AR2 consists of linear high earth resistance striations associated with anomaly AR1. As the AR2 anomalies are perpendicular to the southerly field boundary fence rather than being perpendicular to AR1, these striations are interpreted as having been caused by ploughing spreading rubble associated with anomaly AR1.
- **Anomaly AR3:** The high earth resistance anomaly AR3 is interpreted as a spread of rubble of unknown origin, possibly also associated with anomaly AR1.
- **Anomalies AR4 and AR5:** Anomaly AR5 is a rectilinear low resistance anomaly measuring 20m x 20m surrounding rectilinear high resistance anomaly AR4 measuring 15m x 20m. Together these two anomalies are interpreted as being the southern extent of rectilinear building measuring some 25m x 20m, where AR5 may represent ditches dug for beam slots and AR4 may represented the spread of rubble from a collapsed tiled roof.

The key features identified by the earth resistance survey of Area A are anomalies AR1, AR4 and AR5 are co-located with gradiometer anomaly G7 which was interpreted as being an area exposed to intense heat. Together Anomalies AR1, AR4 and AR5 are interpreted as being the southeastern portion of a building that subsequently caught fire.

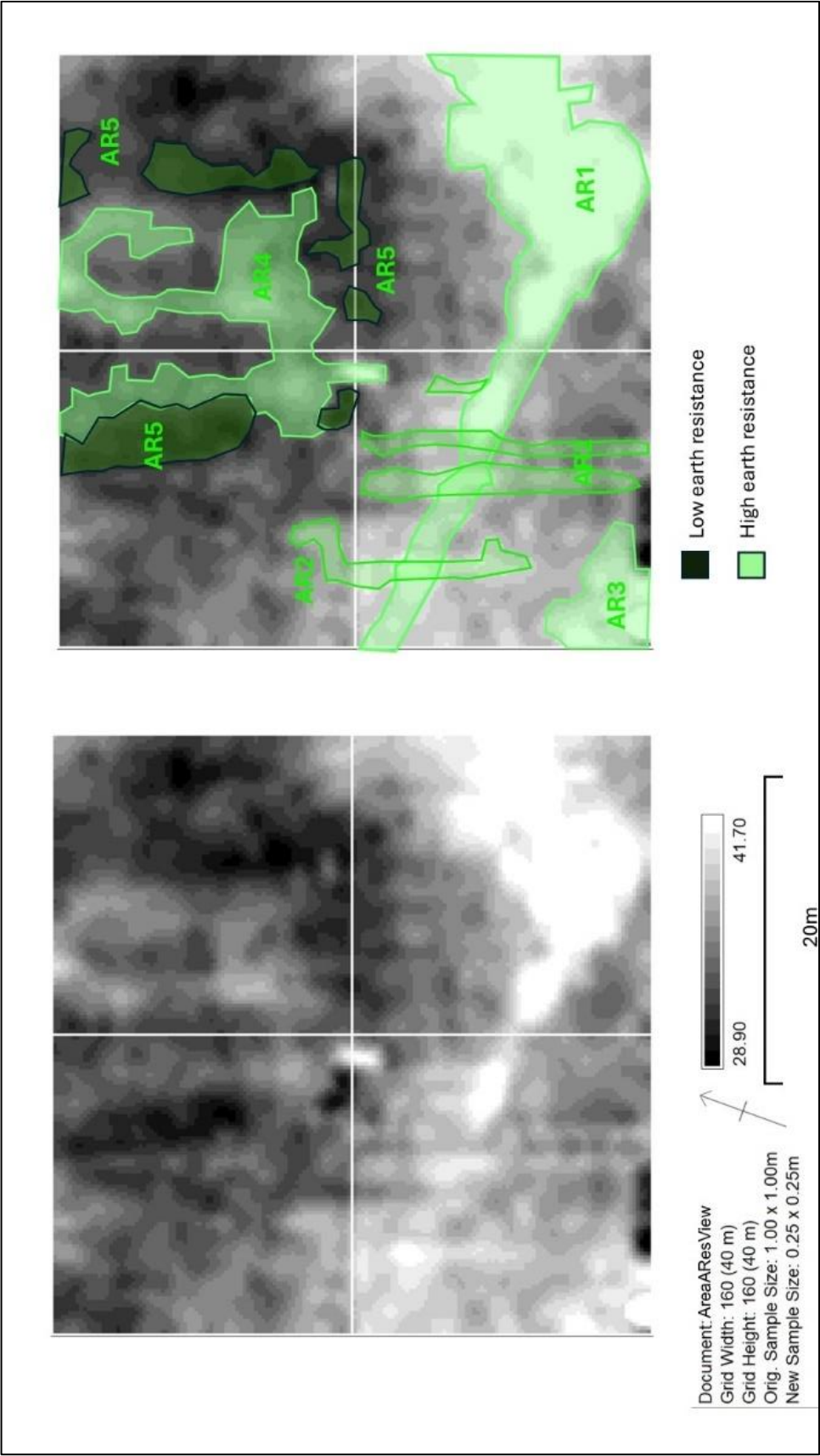


Figure 6.5 Area A earth resistance plot and the anomalies identified.

6.4.2. Area B earth resistance survey

The survey grid of 20m x 20m squares used for the gradiometer survey across the were utilised to further investigate anomaly G4 as shown in detail in Appendix 1 and Figure 6.6. Anomalies BR1 to BR4 were identified across the area surveyed within Snuffler view *AreaBResView*:

- **Anomaly BR1:** Rubble was felt beneath the ground across anomaly BR1 when the earth resistance meter probes were inserted into the ground. The high earth resistance rectilinear anomaly BR1 is interpreted as a spread rubble from a probable building and/or an associated surface, and is aligned with anomalies BR2 and BR4.
- **Anomaly BR2:** The low earth resistance anomaly BR2 most likely represents a silted up water channel running parallel to the modern day course of the river. When area BR2 was explored on foot within this feature ground was found to be waterlogged along its entire length.
- **Anomaly BR3:** No definitive interpretation was made of high earth resistance anomaly BR3.
- **Anomaly BR4:** The linear high resistance anomaly BR4 is coincident with a line of partially buried modern metal fencing, and is aligned with anomaly BR1. This fencing resulted in the area of magnetic interference edited from the gradiometer survey along this alignment seen in Figure 6.1. Anomaly BR4 is interpreted as being the buried remains of this fence line.

BR2 is interpreted as being the remains of a manmade water channel associated with the remains of a building/surface of high earth resistance BR1 associated with trackway G2/G3. Taken together these anomalies are interpreted as being a probable water mill.

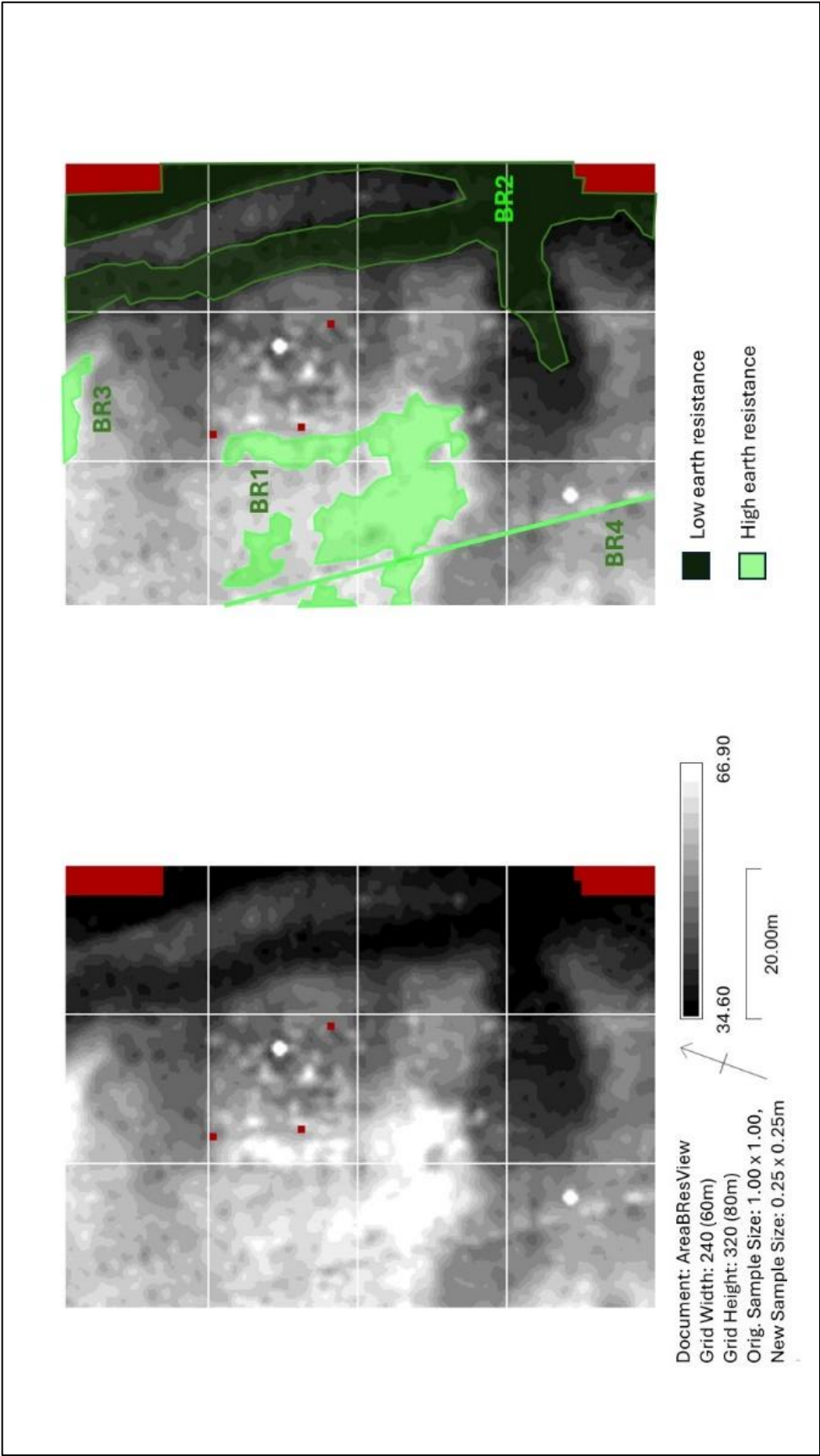


Figure 6.6 Area B earth resistance plot and the anomalies identified.

7 LiDAR and aerial photography analysis

7.1 LiDAR

LiDAR data for the area surveyed highlights linear and rectilinear anomalies across the survey area and the surrounding fields to the north and south are shown in Figure 7.1 and anomalies observed are listed below:

- **Anomaly L1:** Linear anomaly L1 running north-south through Streatley Farm is interpreted as the remains of a trackway featuring an agger with parallel ditches parallel some 300m to the east of Roman Road RR160c. The section of trackway L1 north of the survey area is less well defined than that to the south. Trackway L1 appears to connect the settlement at Streatley with nearby Moultsford.
- **Anomaly L2:** Rectilinear anomaly L2 measuring approximately 50m x 25m is located in the field to the north of the survey area, and is most likely the feature interpreted by the HER (HER: 3148) as being a building of possibly Roman date, although no concurring evidence is listed in support.
- **Anomaly L3:** Anomaly L3 is the raised bank supporting the present A329 road linking Streatley and Moultsford.
- **Anomaly L4:** Located in the field to the north of the survey area, anomaly L4 consists of a 25m x 10m elliptical depression associated with a linear bank running 150m east-west to the River Thames. Anomaly L4 is interpreted as a possible remains of a past quarry although further investigation is needed to confirm this tentative interpretation.
- **Anomaly L5:** Located 500m south of the survey area, anomaly L5 is a 75m x 50m rectangular enclosure situated to the southeast of Streatley Farm, possibly linked by a linear bank running east-west for 100m to join to anomaly L1. Alternatively the east-west bank may have been a past field boundary on top of which the enclosure was later constructed.
- **Anomaly L6:** Anomaly L6 is a bank running east-west for 300m between anomaly L1 and the River Thames which is interpreted as a possible past field boundary and/or trackway.

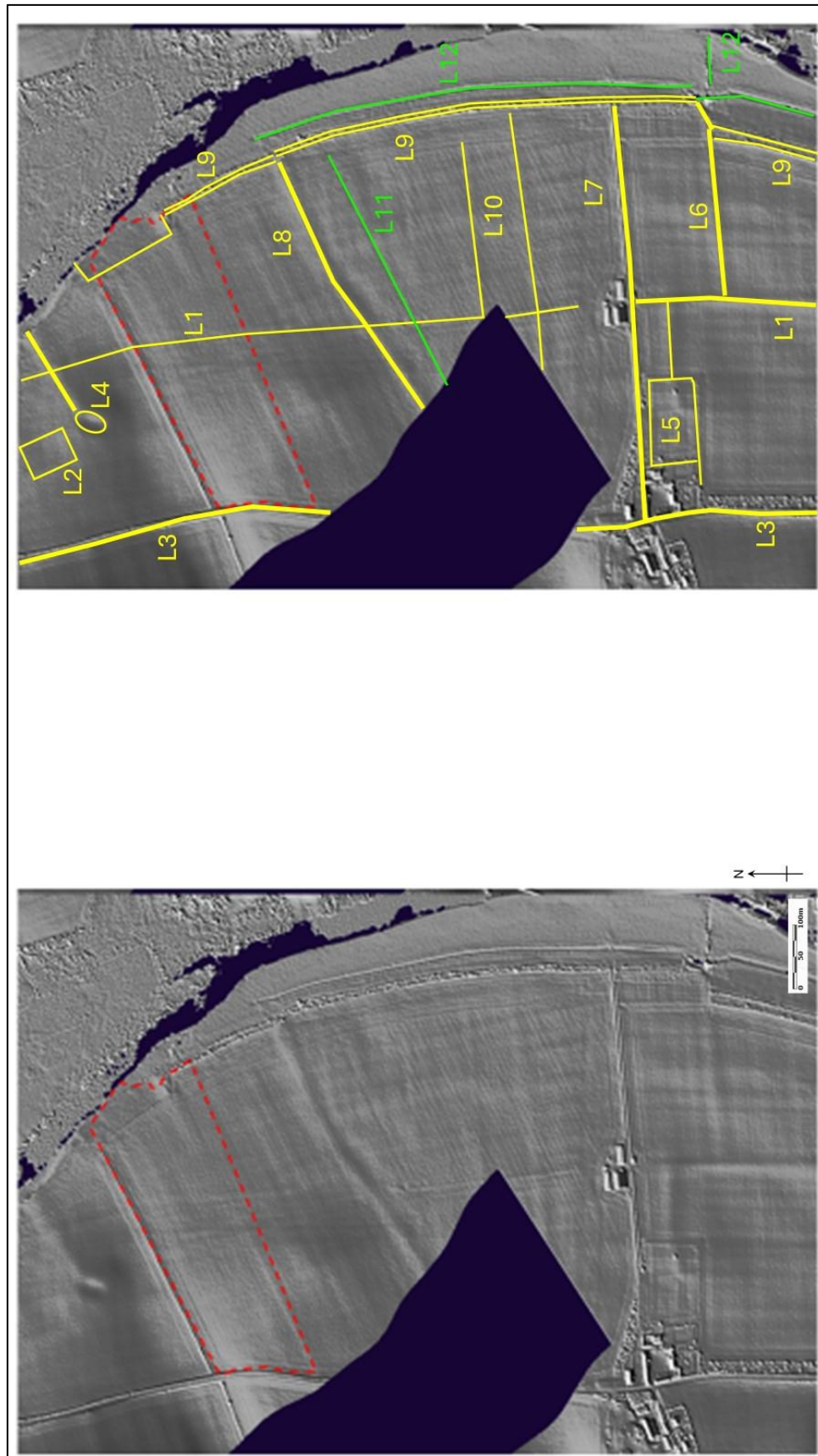


Figure 7.1 LiDAR anomalies across the survey area (1.0m DTS) (DEFRA, 2024).

- **Anomaly L7:** Anomaly L7 represents the present east-west aligned track connecting Streatley Farm's and its ancillary buildings with the A329 main road.
- **Anomaly L8:** Anomaly L8 is a linear bank running southwest to northeast to the south of the survey area interpreted as a possible past trackway and/or field boundary.
- **Anomaly L9:** Anomaly L9 represents the present double banked eastern boundary of the field to the south of the survey area. This boundary was probably constructed in association of anomaly L12 to minimise flooding from the adjacent River Thames.
- **Anomaly L10:** Anomaly L10 is a bank running east-west for 300m between anomaly L1 and the River Thames which is interpreted as a possible past field boundary.
- **Anomaly L11:** Anomaly L11 is a linear anomaly running southwest to northeast to the south of the survey area interpreted as a possible trackway.
- **Anomaly L12:** The anomalies labelled L12 represents modern day ditches draining into the nearby River Thames.

Taken together, the LiDAR anomalies suggest that anomaly L1 appears to be the dominant feature of this landscape running parallel to the projected route of the nearby Roman Road (see anomaly A1 in Section 7.2) and serving as 'spine' from which a series of east-west running anomalies emanate. This suggests that anomaly L1 may represent a past thoroughfare/trackway and/or an important field boundary.

7.2 Digitised Aerial photography

Digitised features observed in historic aerial photographs of crop marks across the survey area are shown in Figure 7.2

- **Anomaly A1:** Anomaly A1 is a linear anomaly coincident with the projected route of the Roman Road between Silchester and Dorchester (RR 160c). It is likely that Anomaly A1 is the extant remains of the Roman road's agger.



Figure 7.2 Digitised consolidation of features observed from historic aerial photographs of the survey area (Historic England Aerial Mapping, 2024).

- **Anomaly A2:** Anomaly A2 is a parallel ditched feature running east-west aligning with gradiometer anomaly G3. These two anomalies are interpreted as being one and the same.
- **Anomaly A3:** Anomaly A3 is a rectilinear anomaly to the north of the survey area coincident with LiDAR anomaly L2 associated with HER: 3148. Whilst the HER interprets this feature as a building of possibly Roman date, there is no concurring evidence to support this interpretation.

- **Anomaly A4:** Anomaly A4 is a north-south aligned bank/agger coincident with gradiometer anomaly G2 and LiDAR anomaly L1. These three anomalies are interpreted as being one and the same.
- **Anomaly A5:** Anomaly A5 is a linear northeast-southwest aligned feature of some 70m in length interpreted as being a past trackway connecting the likely settlement (anomaly A6) with the north-south trackway (anomalies L1/A4/G3).
- **Anomaly A6:** Anomaly A6 is situated within the field immediately to the south of the survey area consisting of sub-rectangular enclosures, ditches and pits coincident with the recorded location of a Late Iron Age/Roman/Early Medieval settlement (HERs: MWB2490/MWB2479) situated on east side the Roman road.

Taken together these features are interpreted as the remains of a Late Iron Age/Roman/Early Medieval settlement (HERs: MWB2490/MWB2479) situated on east side of the Roman road from Silchester to Dorchester (RR 160c). This settlement was also connected via trackway A5 to the north-south aligned minor road/trackway L1/A4/G3 linking Moulsoford/Streatley that ran parallel to the Roman road.

8 Material culture analysis

8.1 Roman period material culture analysis

Of the 176 Roman coins found across SU 59 82 there are 114 that are sufficiently well preserved to identify their Reece Period date. The normalised frequency distribution of coin finds by Reece Period (Reece, 1991) relative to Reece's British mean is shown in Figure 8.1. With only one coin find dating AD43 to AD238 (i.e. well below Reece's British mean), it is unlikely that the survey area was intensively occupied during the Early Roman period. The remainder of the Roman coin assemblage dates from AD238 to the end of the Roman period, with coin finds significantly exceeding Reece's British mean for Reece Periods 14 (AD275-AD296), 16 (AD317-AD330) and 19 (AD364-AD378) suggesting above average intensity of human activity/occupation during the Late Roman period at these times.

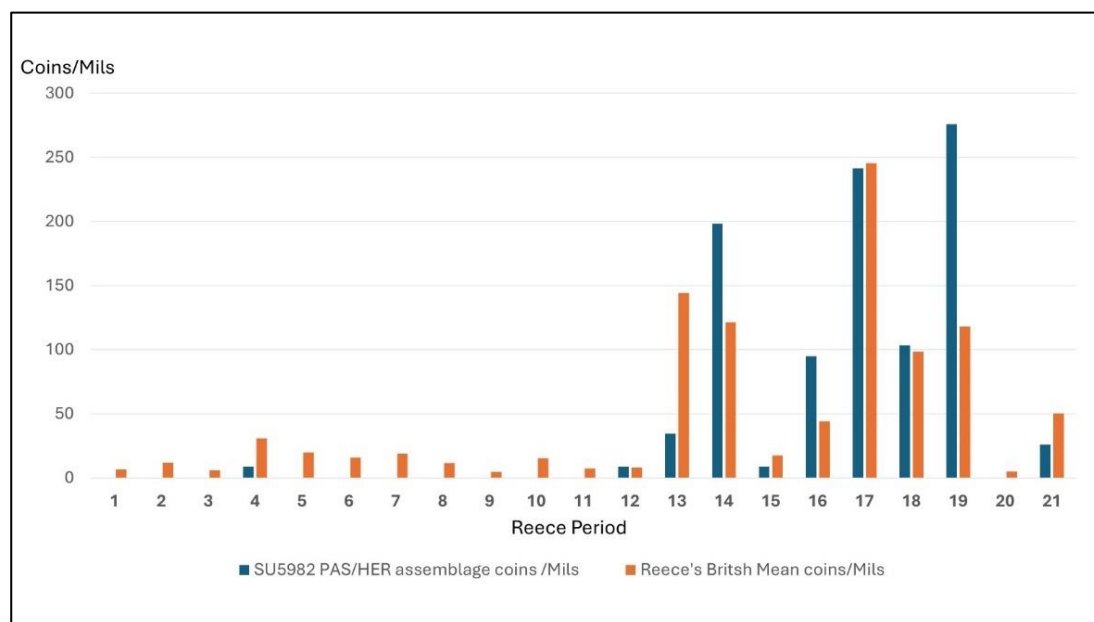


Figure 8.1 Normalised frequency distribution of coin finds from the SU 59 82 PAS/HER assemblage and Reece's British mean.

Reece's (1991) method for diagnosing likely settlement function based on chronological ratios of coin distribution across the Roman period suggests that the Romano-British settlement within SU 59 82 is unlikely to have been military, but probably exhibited rural and religious settlement functions during the Late Roman period. The Reece Period 19 coins within the SU 59 82 assemblage is more than 2.3 times greater than Reece's British mean, a trend associated with an increased propensity for Late Roman religious activity across sites in Wiltshire (Moorhead, 2001).

Reece also uses cumulative frequency coin find distribution by Reece Period relative to the British mean relative to compare coin assemblages to the assemblages of 140 well researched Roman sites across Britain (Reece, 1991) to infer likely settlement function (Reece, 1995). The SU 59 82 coin assemblage exhibits a cumulative frequency distribution curve that most closely matching "Reece Group #17" exemplar sites shown in Figure 8.2. The exemplar sites sharing this pattern of coin loss are Lydney (having a Temple function), Gatcombe (having a Temple function), Ware (having Rural/Roadside Settlement function) and Coln St Aldwyns (having a Rural/Roadside Settlement function). Reece's method suggests that the settlement associated with the SU 59 82 assemblage is likely to have also exhibited these same settlement functions.

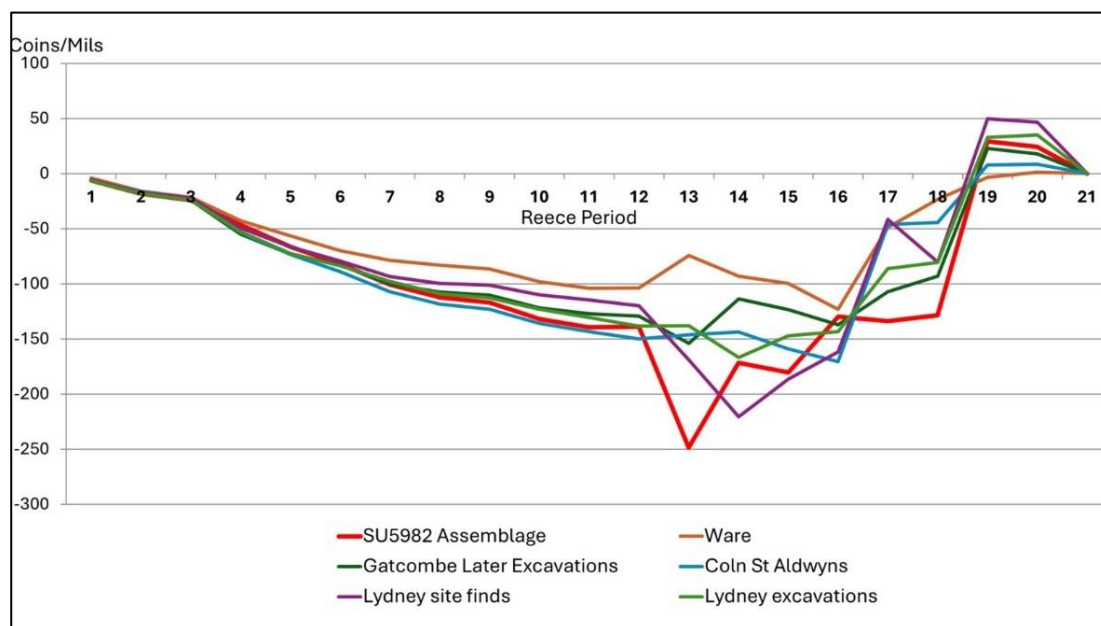


Figure 8.2 Cumulative frequency distribution of the SU 59 82 Assemblage relative to the British mean alongside the other “Reece Group #17” exemplar sites.

Analysis the data collated by the Roman Rural Settlement (RRS) project for excavated Romano-British sites across the Central Belt region (Allen at al, 2018) that also exhibit a “Reece Group #17” cumulative frequency coin distribution profile also shows a high propensity for rural and religious settlement functions (Abbott, 2024). Further comparison of the SU 59 82 assemblage to diagnostic material culture associated with specific settlement functions also exhibits a high propensity for sites exhibiting a religious settlement function (Abbott, 2024). Whilst these diagnostic methods are not infallible, this analysis suggests that the composition of the SU 59 82 assemblage is likely to share similarities with other Late Roman settlements situated close to a major Roman Road engaged in agricultural and religious activities.

Figure 4.3 highlights a large concentration of Roman period material culture to the northwest of the survey area immediately to the west of modern day Moultsford along the projected line of Roman Road 160c. The PAS assemblage for Moultsford parish contains 616 dateable Roman coins (i.e. more than 5 times larger than the SU 59 82 assemblage). The normalised frequency distribution by Reece Period for SU 59 82, Moultsford and Reece’s British mean assemblages are compared in Figure 8.3. This comparison shows normalised coin loss for Reece Period 12 across Moultsford Parish (AD238-AD260) to be more than 4.5 times greater than that for SU 59 82 assemblage,

suggesting that the intensive use of coin at Moulsoford some 20 years earlier than at seen at the survey area to the south.

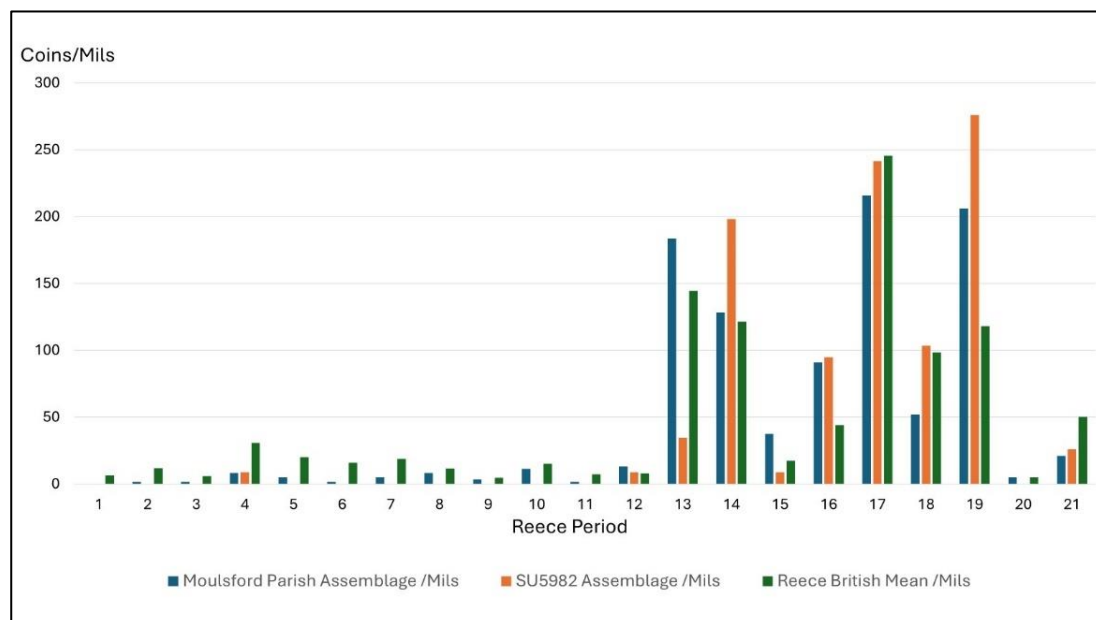


Figure 8.3 Normalised frequency distribution of coin finds from the SU 59 82 assemblage, Moulsoford Parish assemblage and Reece's British mean.

Figure 8.4 compares the cumulative frequency distribution relative to Reece's British mean of the SU 59 82 assemblage and the Moulsoford Parish assemblage, which again shows that intensity of coin usage at the survey area lags behind that of nearby Moulsoford Parish. However, coin usage at SU 59 82 catches up with Moulsoford Parish during Reece Period 19 (AD364-AD378) and for the remainder of the late 4th century normalised coin usage relative to the British mean in both locations is similar. When the cumulative frequency distribution curve of the Moulsoford Parish assemblage relative to Reece's British mean is compared to Reece's 140 exemplar sites (Reece, 1995), the closest match is "Reece Group #9" who's exemplar sites include Lincoln, Winterton (in Lincolnshire), Cirencester, Caernarvon and Gloucester exhibiting urban and military settlement functions. From its material culture assemblage Roman Moulsoford is interpreted as likely to have been a roadside settlement.

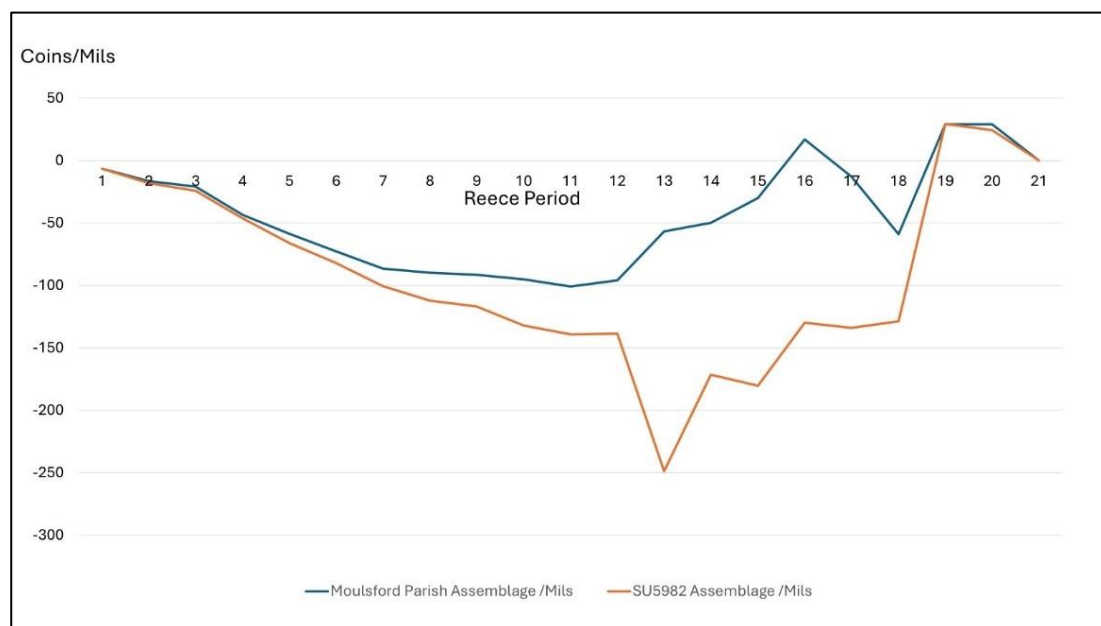


Figure 8.4 Cumulative frequency distribution relative to Reece's British mean of the SU 59 82 coin assemblage alongside that of the Moulsoford Parish assemblage.

In comparison to Moulsoford, the SU 59 82 assemblage listed in Table 4.3 is less numerous and consists mostly of coins. Whilst the SU 59 82 non-coin sub-assemblage consisting of 3 brooches, a spoon, a strap end and a nail cleaner may have been deposited by the inhabitants of the modest nearby settlement (i.e. HERs: MWB2490/MWB2479), it is also possible that this sub-assemblage have been deposited by travellers using the nearby Roman road. Indeed comparison of the SU 59 82 assemblage to excavated Romano-British sites with similar material culture assemblages suggests the presence of a roadside shrine likely to be associated with the SU 59 82 settlement. Further work within the field to the south of the survey area is needed to better understand the morphology of this site.

8.2 Early Medieval period material culture analysis

Coin finds dating to Reece Period 21 and the distribution of Early Medieval artefacts shown in Figure 4.4 suggest that occupation close to the survey area continued to the end of the Roman Period and probably into the Early Medieval Period. However the foci of Early Medieval occupation continued to be the settlements at Moulsoford to the north and at Streatley to the south.

8.3 Medieval period material culture analysis

The jetton (dated to the 15th century AD), the weight and the two seal matrices are indicative of possible commercial activity taking place in the vicinity of the survey area. The Medieval seal matrices shown in Figure 4.6 reveal the names of the individuals who may have lost/deposited these objects, but neither appears within local historical records. Seal matrices were commonly used by mid-high status individuals during the Medieval period to transact business and legal agreements. Together these finds are indicative of commercial activity taking place nearby to SU 59 82. However the focus of nearby Medieval occupation is centred on Moulsoford to the north of the survey area.

9 Discussion

The HER summary and the material culture assemblage suggest continuous human occupation across the area surrounding the survey area from the Bronze Age through to the Medieval period. Moulsoford to the north of the survey area exhibits a high concentration of Roman and Medieval period material culture consistent with the archaeological record listed in Table 3.1.

The combined evidence from the geophysics surveys, material culture distribution, HERs, LiDAR and historical maps suggest the following chronological phases of activity across the survey area, with phase 1 representing the earliest phase.

8.1. Phase 1 – Late Iron Age to Early Roman period

Anomaly L1 observed from LiDAR data shown in Figure 3.1 is interpreted as having been a north-south aligned trackway along an un-ditched agger located parallel to (and to the east of) Roman road RR160c. This trackway may have predated the construction of the Roman road (which was unlikely to have been diverted from its designated projection by a pre-existing trackway), but it is more likely to have been constructed after the Roman road to serve as a 'service road' connecting settlements between Streatley and Moulsoford. This service road suggests that local/indigenous

traffic such as goods and animals may not have been permitted to congest the official Roman throughfare.

The settlement to the south of the survey area seen as digitised crop mark anomaly A6 in Figure 7.2 is interpreted by the HER (MWB2490/MWB2479) as being a modest Late Iron Age/Roman period settlement consisting of two sub-rectangular enclosures, flint building foundations, pits and a trackway. Further cropmark anomalies shown in Figure 7.2 suggest this settlement was connected to the north-south trackway L1 via an east-west aligned track (anomaly A5). However the material culture assemblage recorded on PAS/HER/Museums shows a low level of Iron Age deposition across SU 59 82 and only one Early Roman coin – well below Reece’s British mean. This aligned with the HER interpretation that the SU 59 82 settlement to the south of the survey area is likely to have functioned as a modest roadside agricultural settlement during the Early Roman period.

9.2 Phase 2 – Late Roman to Early Medieval periods

The Roman material culture assemblage for SU 59 82 is predominantly Late Roman with deposits of coins exceeding Reece’s British mean by the late-3rd century AD. Anomaly G1 is an area of rectilinear features across the southwest of the survey area shown in Figure 6.3 to correspond to where a high concentration of Roman coins were found by metal detectorists. These objects may have been deposited along with detritus from settlement A6 (MWB2490/MWB2479) and spread across the surrounding field systems by the process of manuring (Moorhouse, 2001) suggesting these fields were in use during the Roman period. But in the absence of specific dating evidence from the enclosure G1 boundary ditches means they could have been dug at any time from the Bronze Age through to 1761 when the Rocque map shows them to have disappeared.

Comparison of the SU 59 82 assemblage to other Romano-British sites with similar material culture assemblages suggests the presence of roadside shrine possibly associated with SU 59 82 settlement (MWB2490/MWB2479). Further work within the field to the south of the survey area is needed to better understand the morphology of this site.

Occupation is likely to have continued at this settlement into the Early Medieval period, but the small Early Medieval material culture assemblage suggests occupation close to the survey area was relatively sparse compared to nearby Moulsoford and Streatley.

9.3 Phase 3 – Medieval to 17th century AD

At some point after the construction of the north-south trackway L1 the northern section of trackway running from the centre of the survey area to Moulsoford falls out of use. Parallel ditches are then added to the southern portion of trackway (anomaly G2/A4) and to the east-west section of trackway G3/A2 transecting the pre-existing L1 thoroughfare. LiDAR data in Figure 7.1 show the parallel ditches G2 flanking the north-south trackway continue as far as Streatley Farm to the south, suggesting that this trackway was associated with Streatley, and/or that traffic between Moulsoford and Streatley now used the route of the Roman road/A329 to the west of the survey area.

The east-west section of the now ditched trackway (anomaly A2/G3) heads from the centre of the survey area east to the River Thames, however with no visible evidence of its continuation on the east bank of the river its likely destination was either the riverbank itself or the building(s) associated with anomaly G4. Anomaly G4 is a 40m x 30m 'L-shaped' rectilinear feature adjacent to the River Thames located within an area prone to flooding. Anomaly G4 is also associated with the nearby high earth resistance anomaly BR1 thought to represent a spread of rubble and anomaly BR2 interpreted as a past water channel running parallel to the river.

The gradiometer/earth resistance anomalies G4/BR1/BR2 are conflated in Figure 8.1 which suggests that the 'L-shaped' building (anomaly G4) is a watermill with a vertical undershot water wheel fed by a leat channel (anomaly BR2) taking water from the river to the north. The low resistance anomaly BR2 and on the same alignment to the north/south is noticeably waterlogged compared to the ground on either side. The absence of high resistance along BR2 suggests that it was lined with wooden bulwarking rather than a stone lining. Building #1 (anomaly BR1) is defined by a rectilinear spread of rubble suggesting that this may have functioned as corn-drier or malting house which would have needed to be fire resistant. These two buildings were accessed by the ditched trackway (anomaly G3), and appear to be enclosed by the

linear boundary BR4 still utilised by the modern day OS map and by the 19th/20th century buried metal fencing associated with anomaly BR4.

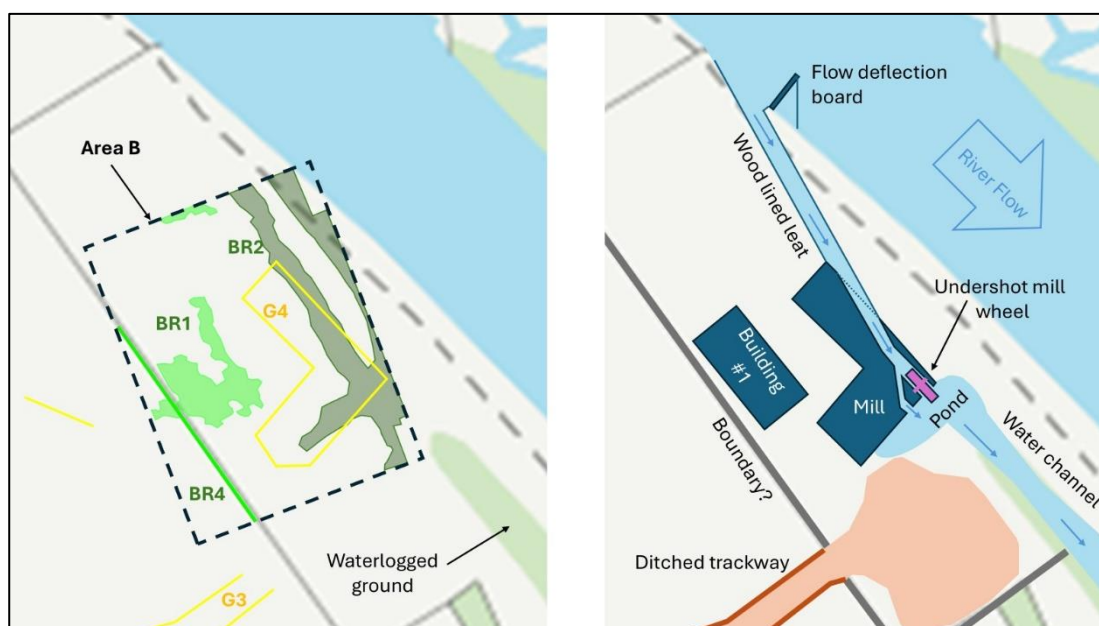


Figure 8.1 Conflation of geophysics anomalies in Area B and their schematic interpretation.

The Domesday compiled in 1086 mentions two watermills in the area, which are thought to have been the mills at Streatley and at Goring to the south of the survey area. The Rocque map of 1761 and subsequent Ordnance Survey maps show no buildings within the survey area. This suggests that this probable watermill must have been built after 1086 and have completely disappeared by 1761, or have been built during the Roman/Early Medieval period and completely disappeared by 1086. The Medieval assemblage for SU 59 82 includes a number of artefacts associated with commercial activity consistent with local landowners/farmers engaged commercial activities at a centralised crop processing facility such as a mill/corn-drier. By contrast, personal conversation with metal detectorists searching the survey area highlighted the absence of Roman period artefacts across this same area. Together this dating evidence suggests that a Medieval date for this probable watermill to be more likely.

9.4 Phase 4 – 17th century AD to modern day

The mill and its associated buildings had gone out of use at some point before late 17th century AD as no buildings or the trackway are shown in the Rocque map of 1761 representing a *terminus ante quem* date for earlier phases of occupation. At some point after trackway L1/G2 went out of use a rectilinear building (building #3) measuring some 20m x 25m was constructed on top of the trackway. This building probably featured buried beam slots (AR5) and a tiled roof (AR4) as illustrated in Figure 8.2. This location on top of the L1 agger offered a flood free and solid foundation. Building #3 is constructed on a different alignment to the north-south aligned agger suggesting they were not contemporaneous with one another. Anomaly AR1 is interpreted as a masonry wall possibly associated with building #3 as both transect the agger of trackway L1/G2. At its easterly extent anomaly AR1 exhibits a spread of rubble suggesting a possible small outbuilding also with a tile roof.

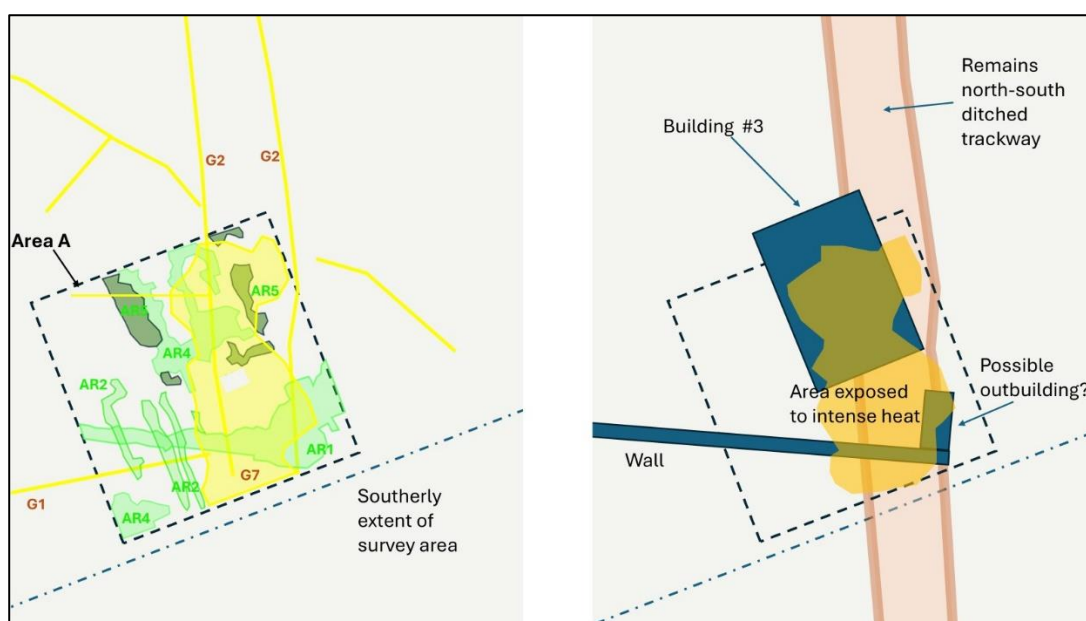


Figure 8.2 Conflation of geophysics anomalies in Area A and their schematic interpretation.

Anomaly G7 suggests exposure to intense heat consistent with a fire, suggesting that at some point prior to 1761 building #3 caught fire and was later demolished. Streatley Farm (MWB18452) located 1km to the south of the survey area was built in 1675, but its relationship with building #3 is unknown. Evaluation excavation will be required to determine the construction morphology and dating of building #3.

After the building #3 was demolished the extant agger of the phase 1 north-south trackway was then used as a north-south aligned field boundary as shown in the Rocque map of 1761 until this was removed prior to 1877 when the first OS map of the survey area was published exhibiting the field boundaries in their present locations.

9.5 Relationship with Moulsoford

The Roman Road from Silchester to Dorchester (RR160c) is projected to run north-south 100m to the west of the survey area (Margary, 1973). This projection aligns with the linear anomaly A1 observed within the digitised aerial photograph data shown in Figure 7.2.

The Romano-British settlement at Moulsoford recorded within the HER (HERs: 28181/2330) is located 1.5km north of the survey area and is associated with a significant concentration of Roman material culture as seen in Figure 4.3 extending to the north and west across Moulsoford parish. The Moulsoford parish assemblage is some 5 times larger than that found within SU 59 82 with 616 objects recorded on the PAS database. Figure 8.3 and Figure 8.4 highlight significant coin deposition across Moulsoford parish some 20 years ahead of the SU 59 82 settlement, and Moulsoford retains this predominance until Reece Period 19 (AD364-AD378) when the two assemblages adopt a similar deposition profile through to the end of the Roman period.

This suggests that until the late 4th century AD the SU 59 82 settlement was a satellite to the larger roadside settlement at Moulsoford to the north. However coin deposits around the SU 59 82 settlement increase significantly from AD275 suggesting from comparison with excavated RRS sites across the RRS Central Belt Region (Abbott, 2024) the likely presence a roadside shrine during the Late Roman period.

10 Further work required

Further work identified for future investigation of this site includes:

- Conduct a metal detecting survey across the field to the south of the survey area to confirm the extent, composition and concentration of material culture deposits surrounding the likely Romano-British SU 59 82 settlement.
- Undertake a geophysics gradiometer survey across the field to the south of the survey area to confirm the relationship between the likely settlement and the ditched trackway G2/G3 and possible settlement function(s). Earth resistance surveys to be undertaken to provide closer inspection of observed gradiometer anomalies.
- Excavate evaluation of:
 - The ditches associated with the G2/G3 parallel linear trackway anomalies to examine the construction of the trackway and reveal possible dating evidence of its construction and period of usage.
 - Across the likely water mill associated with anomalies G4/BR1/BR2 to determine the morphology of building remains and reveal possible dating evidence of its construction and use.
 - Across building #3 associated with anomalies G7/AR4/AR5 to determine the morphology of the building(s) and reveal dating evidence of construction/usage.
 - Across features identified within the SU 59 82 settlement by the geophysics surveys to be carried out to better understand the changes in coin usage/deposition seen in the late 4th century AD.
- Undertake a geophysics survey in the field to the west of the survey area to identify extant remains of Roman Road 160c.
- Although located within South Oxfordshire, a geophysics survey of fields west of Moulsoford to define the extent and layout of this likely Romano-British roadside settlement, and better understand the functions of this settlement during the Roman period.

11 Conclusions

This geophysics survey identifies a trackway, and two other buildings of indeterminate morphology/date, one of which may have been a water mill. Evaluation excavations are required to clarify the morphology and dating of both these features.

The material culture analysis confirms the high archaeological potential of the survey area and the field immediately to the south as the probable location of a Romano-British roadside settlement that also served as a Late Roman roadside shrine. Better understanding of the archaeology of this site requires geophysics and metal detecting surveys across the field south of the survey area to reveal more details of its morphology and usage.

12 Bibliography

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Appendix 1: Geophysics Results

This appendix contains the details of the geophysics surveys undertaken.

Gradiometer survey:

Area:	Full survey area				
Date of Survey:	30 th January to 14 th February 2023	Survey Team Leader:	Keith Abbott	Survey Team Members:	Andrew Hutt, Margaret Boltwood, Tim Lloyd, Nigel Spencer, Paul Seddon, Phillip Rawstron, Tony Bakker, John Scarborough, Richard Miller, Geoff Anderson, James Peddle, Juan Chacon, Jill Oseman, Martin Labram, Vaughn Chadwick and Nicola Jeffries
Snuffler Grid Datum Point:	Day2ST1 (bottom left corner for diagram and bottom righthand corner for table)	Information Defining the location of the Fixed Reference Point datum on Ground/Map:		Fixed Reference Point NGR:	Fixed Reference Point Description:
				SU 5927 8256	Iron gate/fence post in the southwest corner of the field at the intersection of the two fence lines
Snuffler Map Name:	StreatleyView	Location of Snuffler Map Grid Datum Point relative to Fixed Reference Point:		Relative Position #1:	The bottom left corner of Day2ST1 is located 15m east along the southerly fence line of the survey area from the datum point at a distance of 5m perpendicular to the fence line.
Type of Survey:	Bartlington 601 Gradiometer			Relative Position #2:	100m east-southeast along the southerly fence line of the survey area from the bottom left hand corner of Day2ST1 at a distance of 5m perpendicular to the fence line.
				N-S (ie vertical) Grid Orientation Relative to Magnetic North	North-south on Snuffler aligns with grid north as orientation relative to the southerly fence line of the survey area.

Neighbouring Snuffler Maps:		n/a							
Notes:		Flat grass pasture. Soil clay with chalk/flint. Weather overcast and damp.							
Snuffler Data Files (show Ref Grid <u>underlined/bold</u>) [Ref Ohms for earth resistance]:									
Empty	Empty	Day7ST16	Day7ST19	Day5ST13	Day5ST14	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
Empty	Day7ST13	Day7ST15	Day7ST18	Day5ST12	Day5ST15	Empty	Day3ST26	Day2ST54	Day2ST27
Day7ST26	Day7ST12	Day7ST14	Day7ST17	Day5ST16	Day4ST49	Day4ST25	Day3ST25	Day2ST53	Day2ST26
Day7ST25	Day7ST11	Day6ST22	Day6ST11	Day5ST11	Day4ST48	Day4ST24	Day3ST24	Day2ST52	Day2ST25
Day7ST24	Day7ST10	Day6ST21	Day6ST10	Day5ST10	Day4ST47	Day4ST23	Day3ST23	Day2ST51	Day2ST24
Day7ST23	Day7ST9	Day6ST20	Day6ST9	Day5ST9	Day4ST46	Day4ST22	Day3ST22	Day2ST50	Day2ST23
Day7ST22	Day7ST8	Day6ST19	Day6ST8	Day5ST8	Day4ST45	Day4ST21	Day3ST21	Day2ST49	Day2ST22
Day7ST21	Day7ST7	Day6ST18	Day6ST7	Day5ST7	Day4ST44	Day4ST20	Day3ST20	Day2ST48	Day2ST21
Day7ST20	Day7ST6	Day6ST17	Day5ST22	Day5ST6	Day4ST43	Day4ST19	Day3ST19	Day2ST47	Day2ST20
Empty	Day7ST5	Day6ST16	Day5ST21	Day6ST4	Day4ST42	Day4ST18	Day3ST18	Day2ST46	Day2ST19
Empty	Day7ST4	Day6ST15	Day6ST6	Day6ST3	Day4ST41	Day4ST17	Day3ST17	Day2ST45	Day2ST18
Empty	Day7ST3	Day6ST14	Day6ST5	Day6ST2	Day4ST40	Day4ST16	Day3ST16	Day2ST44	Day2ST17
Empty	Day7ST2	Day6ST13	Day5ST18	Day6ST1	Day4ST39	Day4ST15	Day3ST15	Day2ST43	Day2ST16
Empty	Day7ST1	Day6ST12	Day5ST17	Day5ST1	Day4ST38	Day4ST14	Day3ST14	Day2ST42	Day2ST15
Empty	Day8ST40	Day8ST34	Day8ST23	Day8ST12	Day4ST37	Day4ST13	Day3ST13	Day2ST41	Day2ST14
Empty	Day8ST39	Day8ST33	Day8ST22	Day8ST11	Day4ST36	Day4ST12	Day3ST12	Day2ST40	Day2ST13
Empty	Day8ST38	Day8ST32	Day8ST21	Day8ST10	Day4ST35	Day4ST11	Day3ST11	Day2ST39	Day2ST12
Empty	Day8ST37	Day8ST31	Day8ST20	Day8ST9	Day4ST34	Day4ST10	Day3ST10	Day2ST38	Day2ST11
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Empty	Day8ST35	Day8ST29	Day8ST18	Day8ST7	Day4ST32	Day4ST8	Day3ST8	Day2ST36	Day2ST9
Empty	Empty	Day8ST28	Day8ST17	Day8ST6	Day4ST31	Day4ST7	Day3ST7	Day2ST35	Day2ST8
Empty	Empty	Day8ST27	Day8ST16	Day8ST5	Day4ST30	Day4ST6	Day3ST6	Day2ST34	Day2ST7
Empty	Empty	Day8ST26	Day8ST15	Day8ST4	Day4ST29	Day4ST5	Day3ST5	Day2ST33	Day2ST6
Empty	Empty	Day8ST25	Day8ST14	Day8ST3	Day4ST28	Day4ST4	Day3ST4	Day2ST32	Day2ST5
Empty	Empty	Day8ST24	Day8ST13	Day8ST2	Day4ST27	Day4ST3	Day3ST3	Day2ST31	Day2ST4
Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Day8ST1	Day4ST26	Day4ST2	Day3ST2	Day2ST30	Day2ST3
Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Day4ST1	Day3ST1	Day2ST29	Day2ST2
Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Day2ST28	<u>Day2ST1</u>

Diagram of survey area:

Table A1.1 – Gradiometer survey (OpenMap, 2024)

Area A earth resistance survey:

Area:	Area A earth resistance survey				
Date of Survey:	16 th February 2023	Survey Team Leader:	Keith Abbott	Survey Team Members:	Tim Lloyd, Nigel Spencer, Jill Oseman and Martin Labram
Snuffler Grid Datum Point:	<u>Day2ST1</u> (bottom left corner for diagram and bottom righthand corner for table)	Information Defining the location of the Fixed Reference Point datum on Ground/Map:	Fixed Reference Point NGR:	Fixed Reference Point Description:	
			SU 5927 8256	Iron gate/fence post in the southwest corner of the field at the intersection of the two fence lines	
Snuffler Map Name:	AreaAResView	Location of Snuffler Map Grid Datum Point relative to Fixed Reference Point:	Relative Position#1:	The bottom left corner of <u>Day2ST1</u> is located 15m east along the southerly fence line of the survey area from the datum point at a distance of 5m perpendicular to the fence line.	
Type of Survey:	TAR3 Earth Resistance Meter		Relative Position #2:	100m east-southeast along the southerly fence line of the survey area from the bottom left hand corner of <u>Day2ST1</u> at a distance of 5m perpendicular to the fence line.	
			N-S (ie vertical) Grid Orientation Relative to Magnetic North	North-south on Snuffler aligns with grid north as orientation relative to the southerly fence line of the survey area.	
Neighbouring Snuffler Maps:		Uses same grid layout as for the gradiometer survey			
Notes:	Flat grass pasture. Soil clay with chalk/flint. Weather overcast and damp. Equivalent gradiometer grid references are shown in the table below to assist positioning across the gradiometer feature being investigated.				

Diagram of survey area:

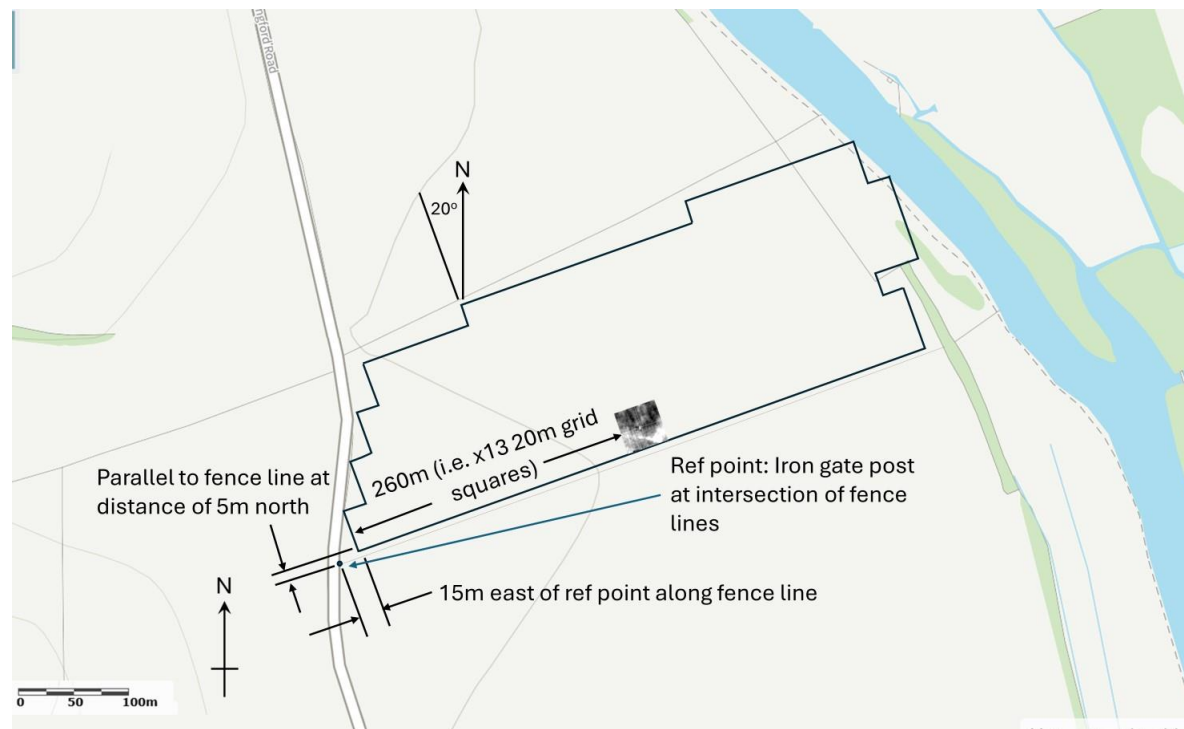


Table A1.2 – Area A earth resistance survey (OpenMap, 2024)

Area B earth resistance survey:

Area:	Area B earth resistance survey				
Date of Survey:	15 th February 2023	Survey Team Leader:	Keith Abbott	Survey Team Members:	Tim Lloyd, Nigel Spencer, Tony Bakker, Andrew Hutt, Geoff Anderson and Martin Labram
Snuffler Grid Datum Point:	<u>Day2ST1</u> (bottom left corner for diagram and bottom righthand corner for table)	Information Defining the location of the Fixed Reference Point datum on Ground/Map:	Fixed Reference Point NGR:	Fixed Reference Point Description:	
			SU 5927 8256	Iron gate/fence post in the southwest corner of the field at the intersection of the two fence lines	
Snuffler Map Name:	AreaBResView		Location of Snuffler Map Grid Datum Point relative to Fixed Reference Point:	Relative Position#1:	The bottom left corner of <u>Day2ST1</u> is located 15m east along the southerly fence line of the survey area from the datum point at a distance of 5m perpendicular to the fence line.
Type of Survey:	TAR3 Earth Resistance Meter			Relative Position #2:	100m east-southeast along the southerly fence line of the survey area from the bottom left hand corner of <u>Day2ST1</u> at a distance of 5m perpendicular to the fence line.
				N-S (ie vertical) Grid Orientation Relative to Magnetic North	North-south on Snuffler aligns with grid north as orientation relative to the southerly fence line of the survey area.
Neighbouring Snuffler Maps:		Uses same grid layout as for the gradiometer survey			
Notes:	Rough pasture crossed by waterlogged past water channels. Soil peaty and wet in places. Weather overcast and damp. Equivalent gradiometer grid references are shown in the table below to assist positioning across the gradiometer feature being investigated.				

Diagram of survey area:



Table A1.3 – Area B earth resistance survey (OpenMap, 2024)