



Westbury Moated Sites 2012

Volume 3

Brook, Hawkeridge



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Brook Site, Hawkeridge

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Abstract

The Brook moated site was subject to geophysical survey by magnetometer, twin – probe resistance and ground – penetrating radar in July 2012 as part of a study of local moated sites. Of these three techniques, resistance proved the most beneficial. A proportion of the central area of the platform within the moat appeared to be covered with a ‘hardcore’ base, and a small rectangular structure was evident. Magnetometry suggested the presence of small enclosures and post holes at the northern end of the platform. Parts of the site were still under dense scrub in spite of a major campaign of clearance. This limited the area available for survey, and may thus have limited the amount of useful information which could be gleaned from the site.

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Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks go to Trish Matthews in giving permission and access to the site in order to undertake the geophysical survey.

Thanks goes to Wiltshire Archivist Mr Steve Hobbs, Ivan Clark and English Heritage for their continued support as well as the granting of a Section 42 license.

Thanks also go to the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society volunteers led by Dr John Oswin and Owen Dicker, Margaret Nuth and Lawrie Scott as well as the Westbury Heritage Society and members of Westbury U3A.

This project was made possible by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This survey is one of a trilogy undertaken on moated sites in the vicinity of Westbury, Wiltshire in summer 2012. The survey was undertaken by members of Westbury Heritage Society, and volunteers from the Westbury U3A Archaeology Group in conjunction with the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society using the equipment resources of the latter. The project was organised and coordinated by Mat Charlton. John Oswin MA PhD CSci FGS provided the technical supervision.

The survey was undertaken with the permission of English Heritage, under section 42 licence number SL00027877.

1.2 Location and Conditions

The site described here is in the middle of the West Wilts Trading estate, to the north of Westbury Station, in the parish of Heywood and is centred on ST 857 528 see figure 1.1 at the edge of Moat Road. It lies just on the north side of a ridge of gravels and clay drift overlying the Gault Clay below the chalk and greensand of the northern edge of Salisbury Plain, on the southern side of Trowbridge Vale (BGS sheet 281). Such soils would be good for retaining water.

The moated site at Brook lies in the parish of Heywood, see figure 1.2 which is situated four miles to the south of Trowbridge. The parish sits on the clay region of west Wiltshire and is low lying, the soil is of Oxford clay. Biss Brook forms the western boundary. There is also a stream which enters the parish to the east near Fulling Bridge Farm and runs past Heywood House where it has been dammed to form a lake. Bitham Brook enters the parish from the south and Bere Burn stream runs northwards out of the parish.



Figure 1.1. Showing Heywood North West of Westbury. Copyright Ordnance Survey 2012.

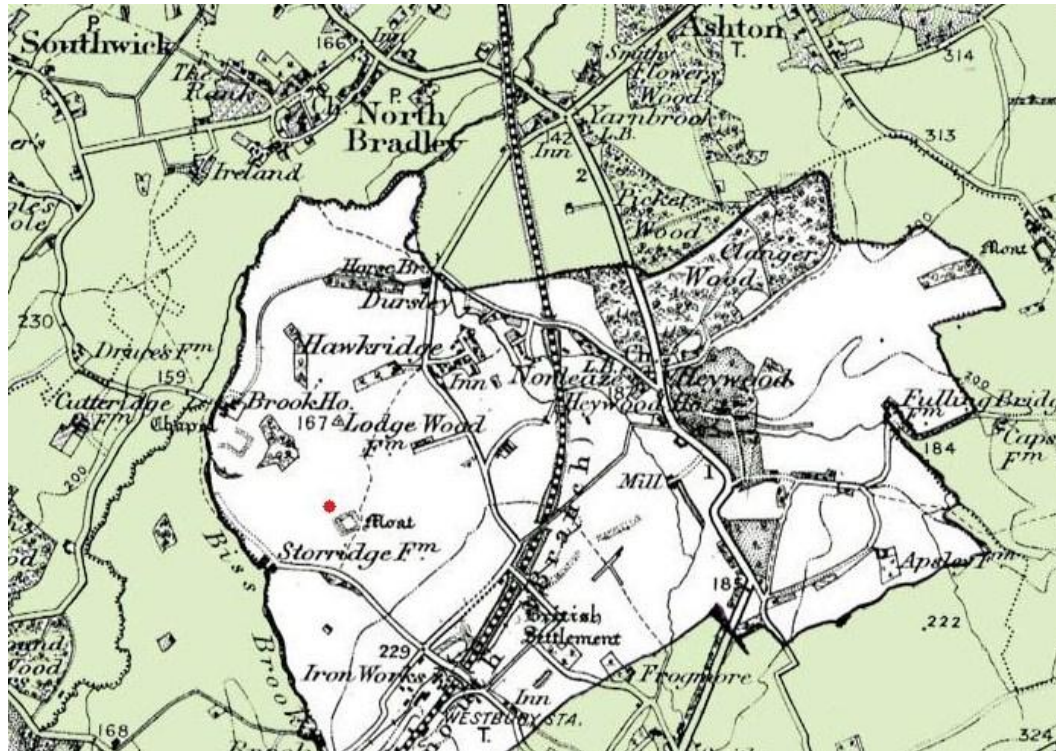


Figure 1.2 Map showing the moat on the 1898 Ordnance survey map

The site had been regularly maintained up until a few years ago, but had become very overgrown with scrub. A major exercise of mowing the long grass, clearing branches and cutting down young trees was conducted prior to, and during, the survey. The southern and eastern sides of the moat were dry, but the northern and western sides were still wet and covered by impenetrable scrub. Large iron objects such as dumped engines were cleared off the site, but some stray metal work and general rubbish remained during the survey. Apart from the immediate entrance to the site, the area beyond the moat was still overgrown and not accessible. Some small trees remained within the moat, and impeded the survey, but not to any serious extent.

1.3 History of the Site

The name Heywood means enclosed or preserved wood. Spellings of the name have included Heiwode 91225), Heywode (1289), Haywud (1241), Haiwudd (1242), Hewode (1268). Hawkeridge was called Haukerigge In 1249, Hauecrugge in 1279, and Hauekerygge in 1327. The existence of Hawkeridge as an individual estate can be traced back to the 14th century. The hamlet passed from Sir John Pavely to Ralph Cheyney (his wife was Pavely's daughter) with the Manor of Brook. Both descended with the family until 1599 when the estate followed the descent of the capital Manor of Westbury.

Heywood was retained in the parish of Westbury after the ancient parish was split up in 1894 between Bratton, Dilton Marsh and Westbury. In 1896 it became a parish in its own right with an area of 1,701 acres. In 1909 an area of 87 acres in the south west was returned to the Westbury parish. The hamlet of Hawkeridge lies one and a half miles north west of the village of Heywood. Copse Lane can be found one mile to the north east of the village and Norleaze (Northleaze) one mile to the north west.

The existence of Hawkeridge as an individual estate can be traced back to the 14th century. The hamlet passed from Sir John Pavely to Ralph Cheyney (his wife was Pavely's daughter) with the Manor of Brook. An estate called Layfields, described as a manor in the 16th century, was apparently part of the manor of Brook. Fifty acres were sold in 1599 to Jasper of Heytesbury. In 1756 the estate comprised of two pieces of land called Great and Lower Layfield, which lay in Brook.

The Revd John Skinner records a visit to the site at the beginning of August 1826 (BL MS ADD 33962, ff159 – 165, illus 34, 37, 39). He reported it as being in Moat Field, which was frequently flooded. He described it as exactly 65 yards by 65 yards but drew it as a rectangle, and referred to the moat sides being up to 8 ft deep. In his over – enthusiasm for all things classical, he considered it to be a Roman site, related to the 'Roman encampment' at Brook Farm, and close to a putative Roman road. He arranged for a man to dig there, but only for 15 minutes, 'but found no pottery'.

The text also mentions the nearby moated site at Penleigh (again assumed to be Roman) but gives no detailed description.

The Manor of Brook 13th - 17th century.

In 1216 Ralph de Beauchamp held the estate of Walter Pavely which was described as Westbury and Brook, and in 1256 Brook was named as one of the five estates, or townships, which consisted of Walter Pavely's manor of Westbury. Brook was possibly the principal residence of the Pavely family in the 14th century, the manor of Brook remained part of the capital manor of Westbury until 1361.

On the death of Sir John Pavely in 1361, the manor was allotted to his daughter Joan, wife of Ralph Cheyney. Sir Ralph Cheyney died in 1400 and the estate passed to his son, Sir William Cheyney and his wife Cecily. Cecily outlived her husband and on Cecily's death in 1430–1 her heirs were the three daughters of Edmund, Elizabeth, Cecily, and Anne. The manor was eventually assigned to Anne, who married Sir John Willoughby. In 1461 a general pardon was granted to Sir John, who was presumably a Lancastrian, for all offences and all forfeitures of lands. His son Robert also forfeited his lands for his adherence to the Lancastrian cause, and in 1485 Brook was granted to Edward Ratcliffe for his services against the rebels.

In 1483 Robert Willoughby supported the abortive insurrection of the Duke of Buckingham against Richard III. He escaped to Brittany where he joined Henry Tudor, Earl of Rochdale in exile. He became a close confidante of King Henry VII and fought at the battle of Bosworth in 1485. He amassed a great fortune and in 1488 was created Baron Willoughby de Broke and Knight of the Garter in 1489.

Robert Willoughby's estates were restored to him by Henry VII, under whom he held high office, including those of Lord Steward and Admiral of the Fleet. Brook was presumably the chief residence of Lord Willoughby de Broke and, according to Leland, he rebuilt the house there.

On his death in 1502 the manor passed to his son, Robert. Robert died in around 1521 leaving no son, and Brook was settled upon his daughters by his second wife, Dorothy Grey. A claim to the manor by Sir Anthony Willoughby of Goreley (Hants) was unsuccessful and in 1542 Anthony released his claim to Charles Blount and John Paulet. Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy, died in 1544.

His wife, Anne, then married Richard Broke, and after his death she married Sir John Bonham. On the death of Anne Bonham in 1582 the park at Brook had been disparked and made into several grounds and portions. Part of the manor was conveyed in 1599 by Lord Mountjoy to Sir Edward Hungerford, and at Sir Edward's death in 1607 this estate was called the manor of Brook. The exact extent of the estate is not known, but it seems to have excluded Brook House and included Brook Farm, 'Storadge and Dowesfield', three fulling mills, a grain mill, and Brook Marsh, as well as land and common of pasture in the surrounding hamlets and townships. It passed in the Hungerford family until 1684.

Brook House

When Leland visited Brook House (see figure 1.3) sometime around 1541, part of a much older manor house was still to be seen, but the main building was newly erected, which according to Leland was built by the 1st Lord Willoughby de Broke around 1502. The windows, Leland remarked, were full of rudders, which he suggested were Lord Willoughby de Broke's badge as Admiral of the Fleet. The park he described as fair, although not large, and with a great number of fine-grained oaks. Aubrey, writing just over a hundred years later, described the house as very large and stately. The hall, which was large and open at that time, contained, according to the antiquarian Aubrey, very old windows and showed the coat of arms of the Pavelys. Other shields of arms were then to be seen in windows in the 'canopie chamber', the dining room, the parlour, and the chapel. Aubrey also records a tradition that Edward III was at Brook, and that a bridge there, called Kingbridge, was built at the time. In 1872 it was said that only one wing survived of the 'newly erected' house which Leland saw.

In 1960 this wing, which may well have been built in the late 15th century by Lord Willoughby de Broke was used as a farm building and formed one side of a farmyard. It is a two-storied structure of 7 bays with stone-rubble walls with freestone dressings. The west gable-end and south side have stepped buttresses. On the south side there are 3 moulded stone doorways with arched heads and several two-light windows with uncusped arched lights. The range was always two-storied and the upper floor consisted of at least 3 rooms, each of which



Figure 1.3 Showing Brook and the late 15th century lodging range. (c) Slocombe 1992

had an external door in the north wall. The central room has a blocked stone fireplace. The open roof of the wing is of the arch-braced collarbeam type with 3 tiers of wind braces. At right angles to this wing, at its east end, a farmhouse was built in the 17th century, probably soon after Aubrey's visit (see above). It is built of stone-rubble with mullioned and transomed windows, and has a steeply pitched roof covered with stone slates. Early-19th century Gothic windows have been inserted in its east front. The medieval hall, part of which Leland saw, was probably demolished at the time of the building of the farmhouse (Crittall 1965).

The Moat

The scheduled moat (SM12048) lies within the Parish of Heywood (ST85SE451). The 1842 tithe map of Westbury shows the moated site lying south east of the later Brook house and North of East of the settlement of Storridge (see figure 1.4) . The settlement of Storridge lies to the west of the moated site and has provided evidence of activity ranging from a Romano British burial (ST85SW302), a Romano-British villa type-complex located close to Storridge farm (AC Archaeology 2002) as

well as late Saxon pottery (ST85SE402) from around the 10th -11th century, through to the 13th century, and suggest evidence of activity prior to the building of the moat.



1842 tithe map showing the moat south east of Brook house. Tithe map WSA T/A Westbury map 3, copyright Wiltshire and Swindon 2012.

The moat is recorded as a homestead moat with internal and external bank. A trapezoidal moated site surviving as a roughly rectangular enclosure aligned NW-SE and with a maximum internal dimension of c100m square. On the north-east side the island is surrounded by a ditch 10m wide and 0.9m deep, now virtually dry.. There is a slight bank around the perimeter of the island which has an overall dimension of 60m x 50m. The island also contains a well-defined building platform. The original entrance appears to be in the centre of the south east side. On the south west side the interior bank is 8m wide x 1m high and the moat 17m wide and 1.7m deep. Outside this is a counterscarp bank 9m wide and 0.7m high. The excavated ditch material was used to construct external and internal banks. The moat has a leat at either end carrying water from the Biss Brook. The original entrance has a high bank running into the centre of the island. The moat is the likely precursor of Brook House and may have been abandoned in the late 13th century when a deer park was created (see ST85SE474).

It is possible the moated site was the original manorial home and principle residence of the Pavely family during the thirteenth and fourteenth century (Crittall 1965). It is also possible that the site was later abandoned in favour of the 15th Century Brook House (Jones 2001).

During World War Two Lodge Wood farm was acquired by the War Department as part of an Ordnance Supply depot. The moat was subsequently divided off from the development of an industrial estate. In September 1974 the moat became a scheduled site and an aerial photograph taken in 1946 show only the southeast causeway in existence, which suggests that the later northwest entrance was a later edition (Jones 2001).

2 Method

2.1 *Gridding*

A line of grid posts was laid out close to the scrub, just giving access to the southern moat, and this line was continued past the site entrance towards the gate on to Moat Road. Right angles were constructed off this line to provide 20 m squares extending across the platform within the moat.

2.2 *Magnetometer*

The magnetometer survey was done with a Geoscan FM256 fluxgate gradiometer. The moat and platform made for an uneven site, which made it difficult to walk at constant pace, so the smaller magnetometer was used, and in manual mode, taking readings at 2 per metre along traverses 1 m apart. With only four squares to cover, time spent on magnetometer survey was minimal. The magnetometer is illustrated in figure 2.1. There were 800 data points per grid square.

2.3 *Twin-Probe Resistance*

The resistance survey was carried out with TR/CIA and Geoscan RM15D twin – probe devices. The TR is illustrated in figure 2.2. The Geoscan RM15D is illustrated in figure 2.3. With both instruments, readings were taken at 2 per metre along lines 1 m apart, giving 800 data points per grid square. The TR device recorded the data as parallel lines, but the RM15 recorded the data in the zig – zag pattern walked.

2.4 *Ground – Penetrating Radar.*

A MALA X3M radar was fitted with a 250 MHz and used to survey an area 30 m east-west by 40 m north-south on the platform within the moat. The western portion of the platform was not surveyed by this instrument.

The radar is shown in figure 2.4.

2.5 *Software*

Data from both instruments were downloaded to a bacas laptop running Windows XP professional by bacas proprietary software. The magnetometer data was then further refined by passing through a bacas proprietary zero – median destripe package. These data were then fed into INSITE v4 for mapping and processing.

The radar data were downloaded to REFLEXW software. The rainbow1 colour scheme has been adopted for showing the results.



Figure 2.1 The Magnetometer



Figure2.2 The Twin-Probe Resistance Meter.

2.6 Constraints

The principal constraint on the quality of the results was the scrubby nature of the site, even after the grass had been mowed and trees trimmed or cut down. This made some lines impossible to keep straight as they had to veer round vegetation, and restricted the area which could be surveyed. However, these did not cause major detriment to the data presented here.

Radar wavespeed has not been calculated, but a low value of 0.04 m/ns has been assumed as the ground was wet. The real figure may have even been lower.

The data is usually best seen on the computer screen during processing, and there may be some loss of definition once output is transposed into a document.



Figure 2.3 The Geoscan RM15D



Figure2.4The Ground-Penetrating Radar

3 Results

3.1 *Magnetometer*

The magnetometer output is shown in figure 3.1. As with other sites in this series, the magnetometry was largely unresponsive apart from metallic spikes, but there are faint signs of sub – circular ditches forming enclosures at the very (grid) north of the platform, and a possible short curved row of post holes just to the south of this. The dark areas near the edge of the moat in the south and east may be genuine features, but are more likely caused by proximity to metal.

3.2 *Twin – Probe Resistance*

The output of the resistance survey is shown in figure 3.2. A coloured version of this is also shown in figure 3.3, in order to help to distinguish between light shades (very low resistance) and blank spaces where vegetation has made readings impossible.

There appears to be a general area of slightly higher resistance (a possible rubble spread) over much of the centre of the platform within the moat. There are high readings towards (grid) north – east, where a small mound is clearly visible on the ground, and a small, sub – rectangular structure, only some 8 m by 6 m, in the centre of the platform. This is bisected by one of a number of pale lines which criss – cross the site. These are almost certainly more modern drainage features. One should note Skinner’s comment recorded in section 1.3 about the site often being flooded in the early nineteenth century.

There are indications of a revetment on the inside of moat in those limited areas where the moat could be surveyed. It is possible that there is an outer revetment, but the plot of the small portion of the outer bank is disturbed by a later field drain. A larger portion of the moat would need to be made accessible to survey before this could be confirmed.

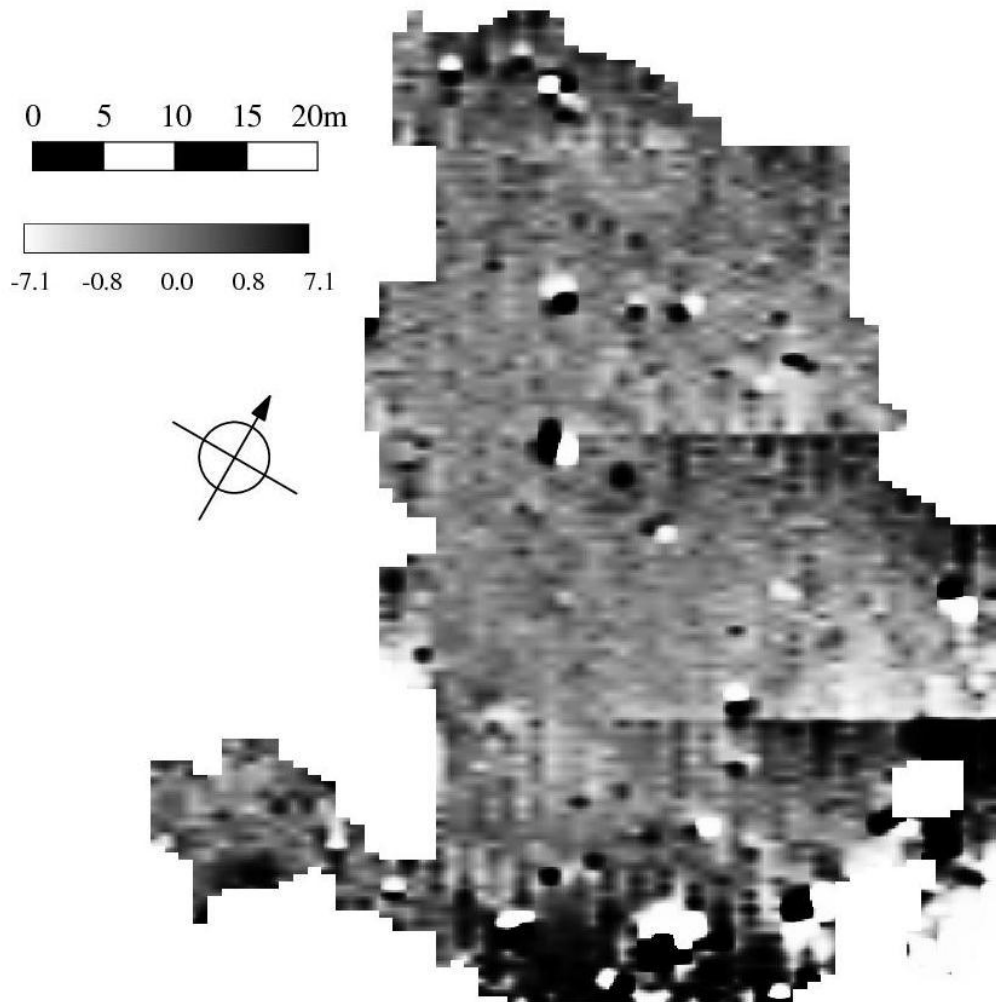


Figure 3.1 The magnetometer output

3.3 Ground – Penetrating Radar (GPR)

The radar survey covered 26 lines each 1 m apart over the length of two grid squares on the platform, giving a length of 40 m. The area covered is shown in figure 3.4.

The radar did not produce a clear picture of any structures, but demonstrated that all activity lay within the top 0.3 m of the surface.

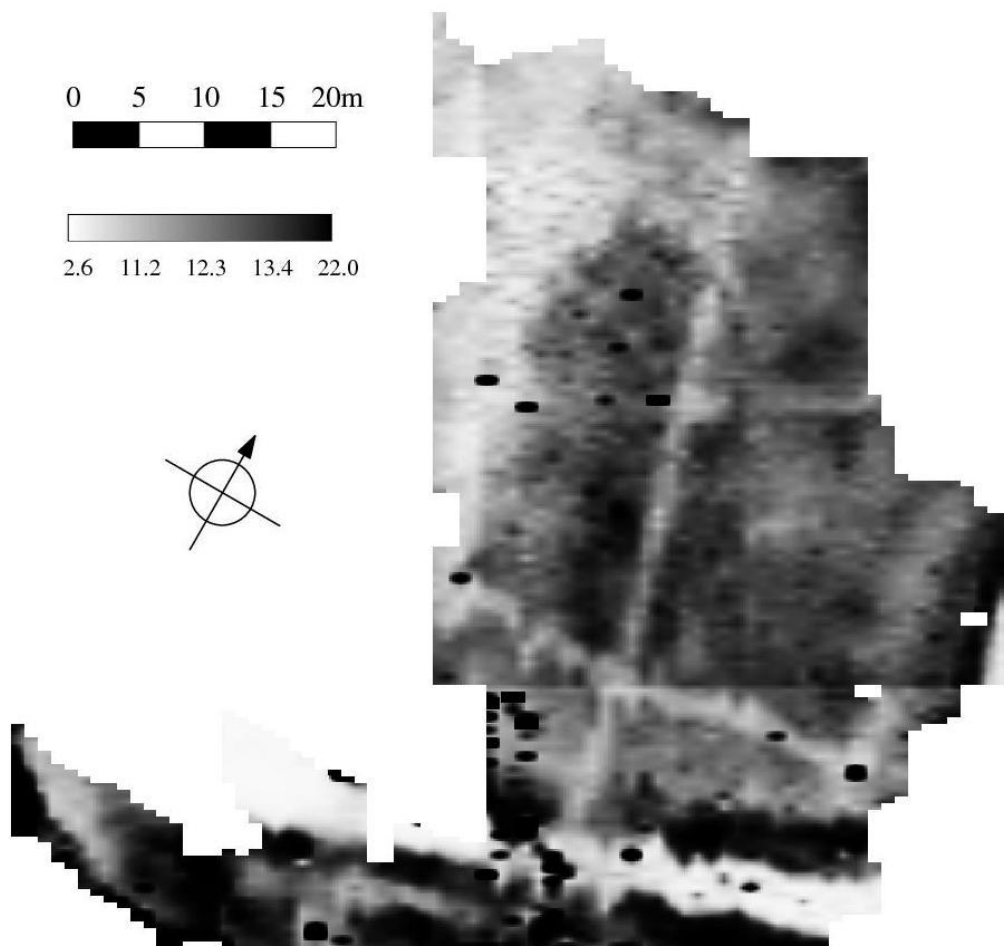


Figure 3.2 Resistance survey output

4 Discussion

Moated sites generally consist of one or more ditches, which in most cases were intended to be water-filled, and performed a number of purposes from assisted drainage, serving as a fishpond, although moats are often accompanied by separate fishponds, water for animals, and as a source of water if fire broke out in the timber buildings it surrounded. These buildings ranged from manor houses, monasteries, monastic granges, farmsteads, chapels, medieval hospitals and windmills (Wilson 1985).

The earliest phase for the construction of moated sites took place between the 12th and 14th centuries, with the heyday for moat building being the first half of the fourteenth century (Platt 2010) and then again during the 16th and 17th centuries with the renewed fashion for formal gardens (Creighton 2009). If the moat is post medieval then it may have formed part of this formal garden layout along with the associated fishpond, suggesting that it may have been constructed in order to keep

out herbivorous animals such as deer, from causing damage to domestic gardens (Wilson 1985)

The main reasons for constructing a moat around a house during the medieval period was either for prestige or possibly defensive reasons, and surrounded an area occupied by buildings or other structures. The earth created by digging the moat was often placed into the area enclosed to form a raised platform on which the buildings were then constructed. The size and shape of the area enclosed by the moat varies, from rectangular enclosures as well as circular or trapezoidal, and sometimes with more than one enclosure, and is often accompanied by fishponds. There are often channels to carry water into and away from the moat.

As archaeological sites, moats consist of three parts: the moat itself, the surface of the area enclosed by it, and an earlier surface under the platform derived from upcast from the moat. Under the platform, there may be remains of land use before the moat was constructed, such as cultivation or remains of earlier buildings. The structures enclosed by the moat could include a dwelling consisting of a great hall and cross wing, accompanied by ancillary buildings. The moat, even if it is now apparently dry, may still contain deposits in which conditions are suitable for the preservation of remains of the past environment such as seeds, and objects made of organic materials such as wood and leather.

Moated sites are unusual in the West Country, and are rare in Wiltshire with only 48 examples recorded (Aston and Lewis 1994), although Aberg recorded 53 (Aberg 1978). Few of these sites are on chalk such as West Chisenbury with a moat-like feature, and former water meadows Wiltshire (RCHM 1976 & 1991 1976). The majority of these moated sites tend to be placed on the fringes of the clay vale. It is therefore surprising to have three close together just close to Westbury, and it may not be a coincidence that they are all on similar geology.

The development of the moated site at Brook seems to be as sophisticated as that at Penleigh, but the internal structures seem to be of less significance, unless the most important structures are under the corner still deep in vegetation, or the site has been cleared, and only a firm platform remains. Ideally, the whole platform and a good area surrounding it would be surveyed, but that was not possible as dense vegetation remained even after a major clearance operation.

During the early part of the 14th century a deer park was created at Brook which may have led to the construction of moated lodge, similar to other sites in which the establishment of a deer park saw the construction of lodges or park keepers cottages with moats and associated fishponds (Aston 1985). It was not uncommon for some of these hunting lodges to be built of stone, such as at Cranborne Chase in Wiltshire and is a late fourteenth century building, as well as the keeper's lodge at Devizes park in Wiltshire, was built around 1543 and included four chambers, a parlour, buttery and kitchen alongside a stable and dairy house (Bond 1996). Although the

residences of park-keepers were rather low status (Creighton 2009) and often enclosed with a hedge or wooden palisade (Bond 1996) unlike the stone revetment on the inside and outside of the moat at Brook, which may rule out this possibility.

Conclusion

It is possible the moated site was the original manorial home and principle residence of the Pavely family during the thirteenth and fourteenth century (Crittall 1965) and that the site was later abandoned in favour of the 15th Century Brook House (Jones 2001). Although records suggest that there was a 13th century hall on the site that would have housed the Pavely family and later the Cheyney family (Wiltshire District Council 2003). Could this have been the property that Leland saw when he visited Brook House *around* 1541, and mentioned seeing part of a much older manor house that was still visible. He then goes on to write that the main part of the building was newly erected, according to him, by the 1st Lord Willoughby de Broke who died in 1502. It is possible therefore that an earlier house was built by Walter de Pavely on the site of the present day farmhouse, as Aubrey wrote during his visit in the 1680's that the manor was very great and that the hall in the house is 'great and open' with very old windows. It is generally thought that it was sometime around the late seventeenth century that the house was demolished or remodelled to create the present day farmhouse, perhaps by the Hungerford family (Wiltshire District Council 2003).

The spread of building debris over much of the centre of the platform on the moated site may suggest a building of some size and possible importance, similar to that at Penleigh but would need further investigation covered by twin – probe resistance. The survey area would also need to be increased but would require a further programme of scrub clearance. Earthwork survey and levelling may also be of benefit, to understand more of the inflow and outflow of water at these sites.

It is curious that the locality of Brook, Penleigh and Bratton should contain three examples of a rarity in this region of moated sites that contain evidence of structures. All three are on similar geology, that is conducive to holding water, but that does not give a good explanation of why this sort of site became a local speciality. At least these three surveys can add detail to the physical understanding of the sites.

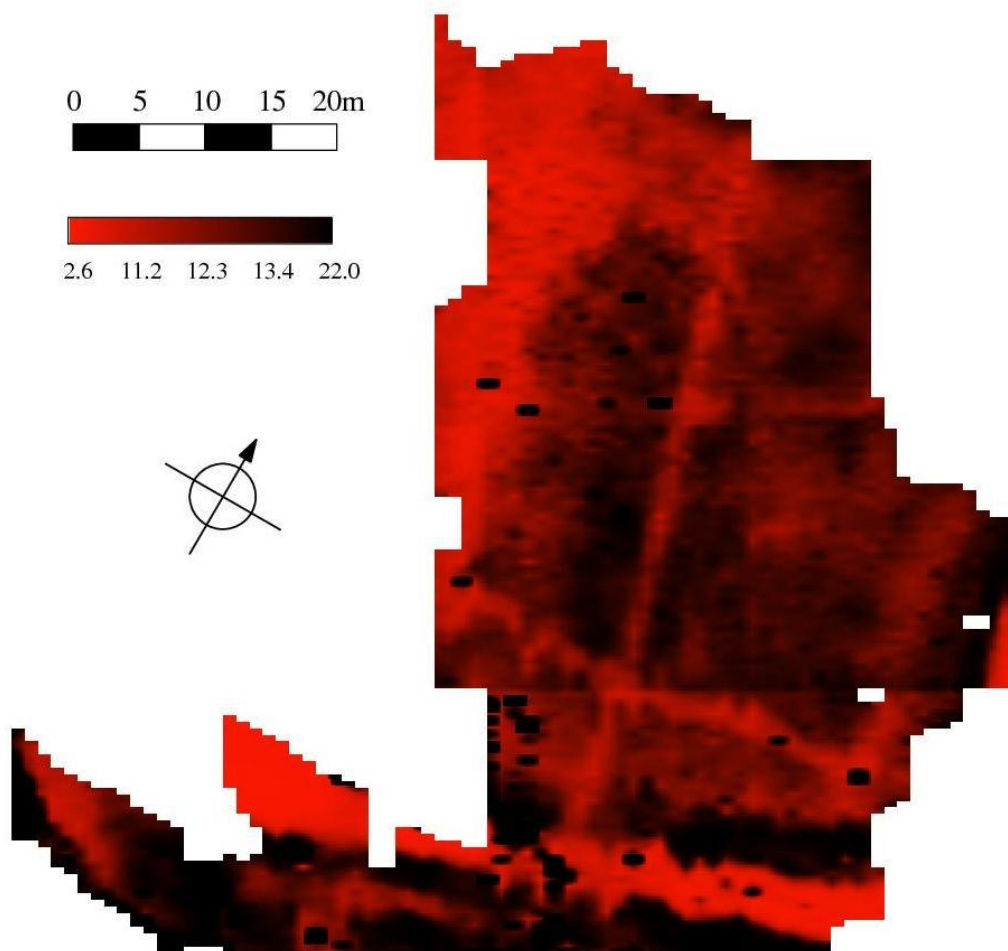


Figure 3.3 Coloured version of Resistance survey output

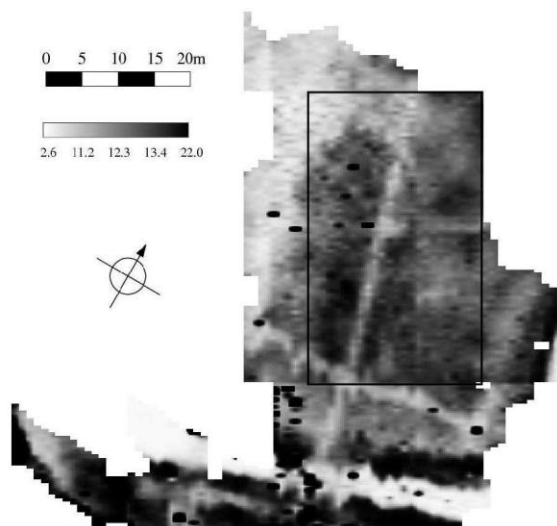


Figure 3.4 The Ground Penetrating Radar Survey

Appendix A Gridding Details

The raw data for the surveys with any of the instruments can be provided if required. It is still necessary to know how the grid squares need to be assembled to obtain the right picture.

A1 Magnetometry

In all grids, the start point was the south-western corner, (ST 85708 52832) heading north, as shown by the arrows in figure A1. Each is a 20 m square, containing readings at 4 per metre along lines 1 m apart. The data are already sorted to parallel. Files prefix 'm' are raw data, those prefixed have been de – striped and are those recommended for use. Figure A1 shows the order in which the grid squares need to be assembled. North is to the top.

A2 Twin – Probe Resistance

Figure A2 shows the plan of the resistance survey. The red arrows with crossbars are the squares surveyed by RM15D, and the raw data for these is in zig – zag form. The blue arrows are data taken with the TR/CIA and is already sorted to parallel, although a zig – zag pattern was walked. Note that in the case of the RM15 grids, these were started at the south – east corner, rather than the normal south – west

corner. In both cases, the initial traverse was to the north. The RM15 grids were started at the east working west because of the difficulty in interpreting the terrain on this part of the site. It was easier to start from the known portion of site and work into the corner. For both instruments, 2 readings per metre were taken along lines 1 m apart, giving 800 points per grid square.

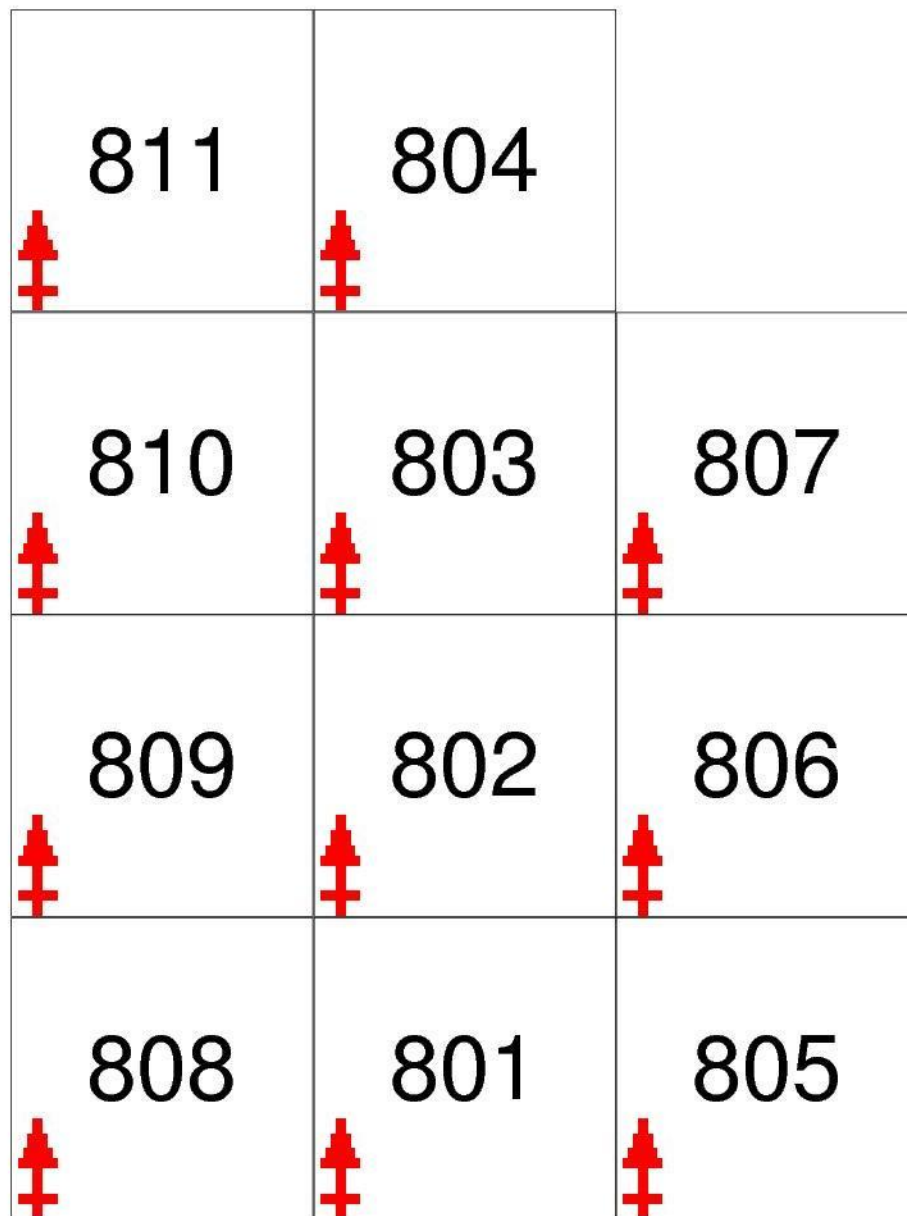


Figure A1Magnetometry Grid

A3 Radar

The radar survey comprised 26 lines 1m apart, all 40 m long. The survey was done in a zig – zag pattern, so it is important to ensure that the direction of every other line is reversed. The survey was done with a 250 MHz head, taking readings every 0.1 m. A wavespeed of 0.04 m/ns was assumed.

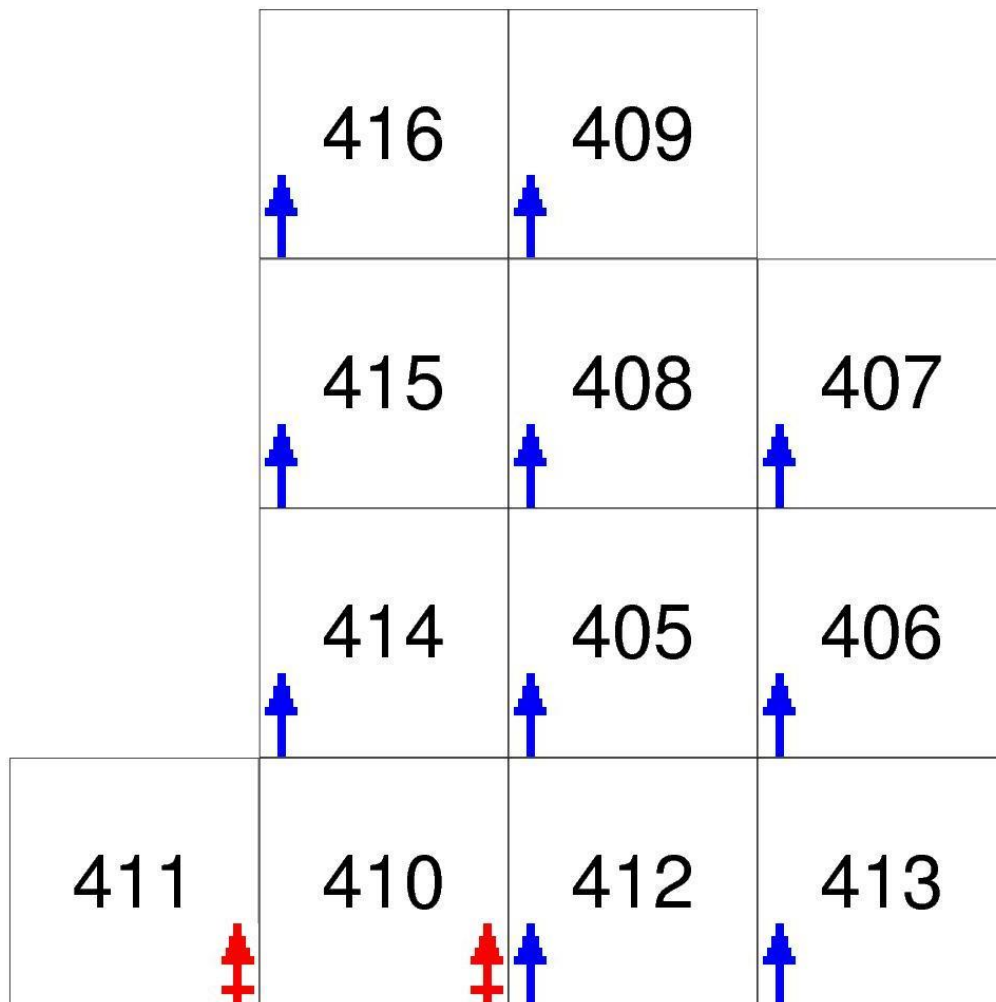


Figure A2 Plan of the Resistance Survey

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