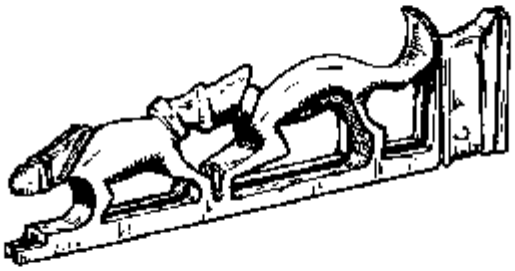
Ampthill & District Archaeological



& Local History Society

Resistivity Survey at TL 0508 3642 in an area partially excavated by the ADALHS in 1967 to the West of Woburn Lodge Farm.

2021

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www.adalhs.org.uk

Resistivity Survey at TL 0508 3642 in an area partially excavated by the ADALHS in 1967 to the West of Woburn Lodge Farm.

The excavation designated 2R was brought to a halt when the farm tenancy was changed in 1968 (See report Roman Ruxox: Excavations in the Garden of Woburn Lodge Farm House and the Adjoining Field 1966-1974).

The trial trench produced 3rd & 4th century pottery and coins together with a bronze cloak pin and the zoomorphic shut knife handle illustrated in **Ph.1.** The boxes, none of which were completed revealed two child burial cysts and sandstone blocks which could be a collapsed wall. Unfortunately the promising leads could not be pursued but the excavation continued in the Woburn Lodge Farm garden designated 3R. In 2021 the Society carried out a resistivity survey covering the area of the aborted excavation and to the South where the farmer has hit sandstone blocks with his plough. (A substantial pile of stones were in the ditch on the edge of the field together with some Roman roof tiles). An aerial photograph **Ph.2.** was taken by the society while the excavation was in progress.



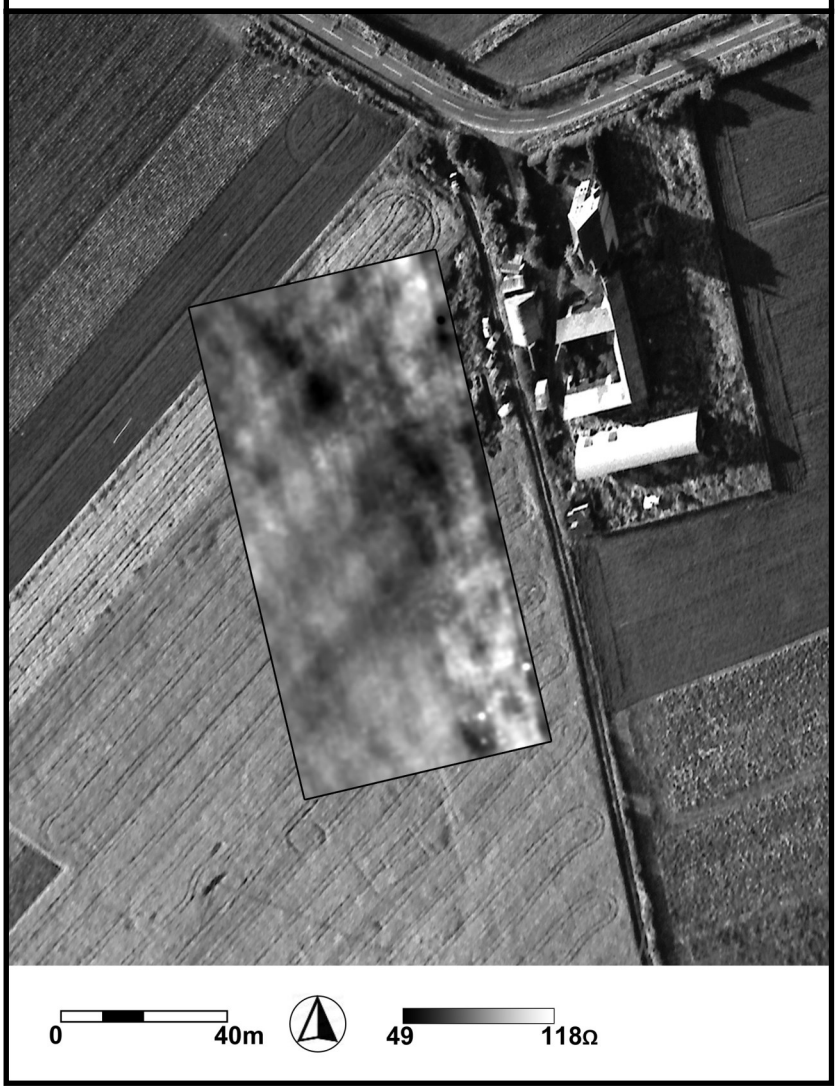
Ph. 1. Cloak pin and Zoomorphic shut knife handle



Ph.2. Aerial photograph taken while 2 R was in progress



Ph.3. A detail from the oblique photograph taken during the excavation was justified and shows the trial trench still open and the first boxes. The rough patch where the excavation took place had originally been used for a manure heap, the cars belonged to Society members. The red outline was the area covered by the resistivity survey. 20 by 60 metres.



Ph.4. The detail **Ph.3.** with the results of the survey. No obvious walls have shown up but the light high resistance areas coincide with the sandstone found in the excavation and by the farmer with his plough.



Ph. 5. A photograph brought to the Society's attention after the survey was completed showed further crop marks. The photograph taken vertically in 1996.



Ph.6. The survey picked up the crop marks, particularly the sandstone area to the south.

Conclusions.

The survey ties in with the 2 R excavation results in 1967 - 68. The sandstone blocks, some of which appear to have been dressed and the roof tiles found in excavation, and on the field surface, suggest a substantial building was in the area coinciding with the light areas (High resistance). The dark areas (Low resistance) suggest ditches or pits similar to R 3 excavated in the farm garden some 30 metres to the East.

If the opportunity arises the survey will be extended to complete the picture.

The Society are grateful to the current farmer Mr. Alan McNicoll.

To Stephen Colman from Central Bedfordshire Council for the colour aerial photograph taken in 1996.

Also to Bob Randall who justified **Ph. 3 & 4** and prepared the illustrations.

The survey was carried out using a TR/Cia Resistivity Meter owned by the Society.