

CASTLESHAW SADDLEWORTH

A GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY-2013



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www.tas-archaeology.org.uk

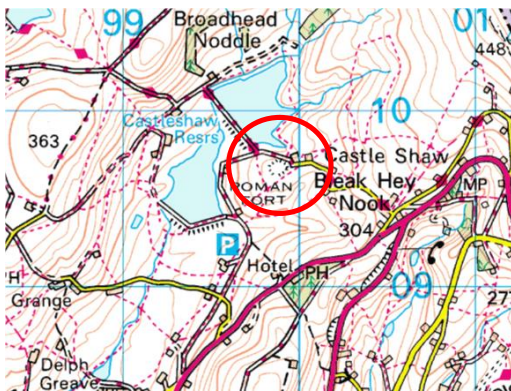
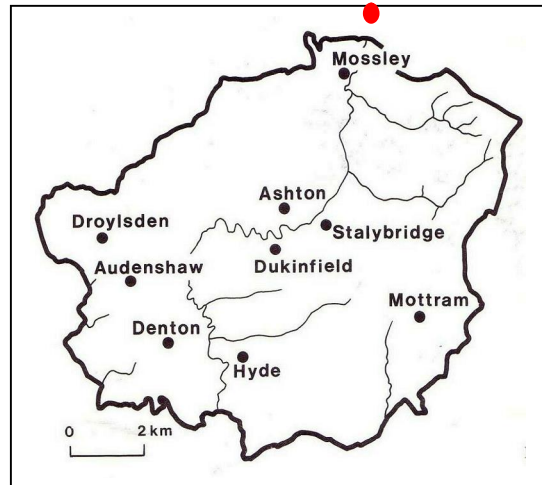
INTRODUCTION

Mr Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director (Archaeology), Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, approached Tameside Archaeological Society Limited (TAS) with a request to check by geophysical survey whether there was any evidence of buildings, walls or the main Roman highway in Plot D of the Roman Fort site adjacent to the Castleshaw hamlet. Plot D lies to the south of Dirty Lane at Lower Castleshaw hamlet, Ordnance Survey reference SE 00010966. The land is owned by United Utilities and the area farmed by Mr D Hurst.

It is hoped that the survey will progress the understanding of the Roman Fort and its environs in accordance with the recommendations of the Castleshaw Conservation Plan (2012).

TAMESIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY LIMITED

CASTLESHAW ROMAN FORTS



ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING

Castleshaw Roman Forts is situated within Saddleworth, Greater Manchester, in the area known as Lower Castleshaw hamlet. It is located to the south side of Dirty Lane before it changes to Bleak Hey Nook Lane, Ordnance Survey reference SE00010966.

The area to be surveyed was identified as a 40m x 20m section of the field, with the 40m stretching from south west to north east, and the 20m alignment from north west to south east at the west corner of the field.

METHODOLOGY

The area to be surveyed was gridded out in 10m x 10m squares and then sub-divided into 1m strips that were surveyed using GEOSCAN RM15-D resistivity and GEOSCAN FM256 magnetometry equipment. The resistance sample readings were taken at 1m intervals within the 1m strips. The magnetometry readings were taken at 0.25m with four samples per metre within the 1m strips. Both methods involved using a zigzag traverse pattern, which is the sampling parameter recommended by English Heritage.

The results were then processed and interpreted using GEOPLOT version 3.00, with the areas of higher reading being allocated a darker colour, thus producing a density map of the total area.

CONCLUSIONS

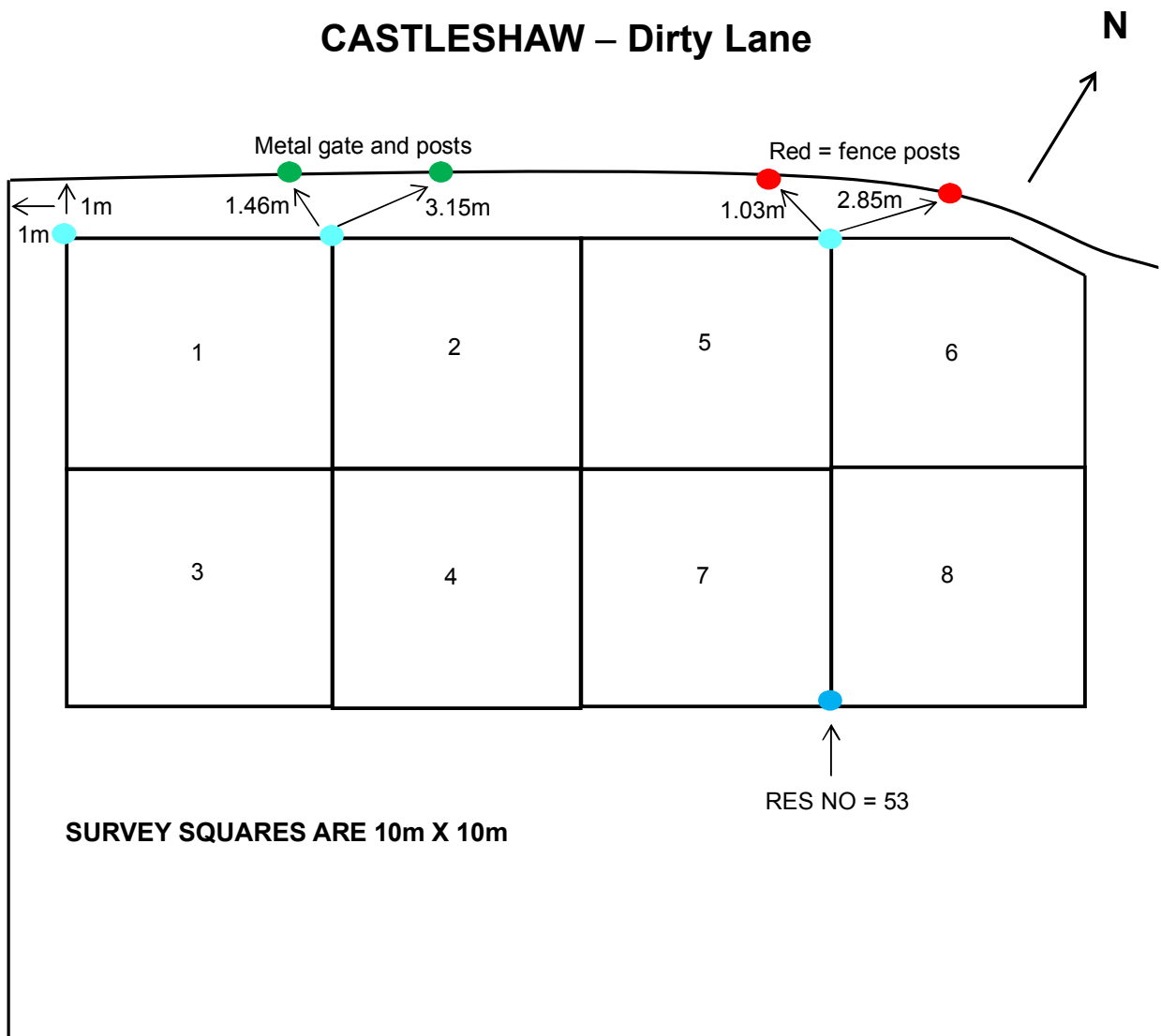
The results of both the magnetometry and resistivity surveys were inconclusive.

There is a high magnetometry reading to the north of grid 1 and to the west of grid 2. This is possibly caused by the iron gate which is at the entrance to the field. There is also a small reading of high magnetometry to the north of grid 6.

The resistivity survey only showed an area of high reading to the north of grid 5 and to the west of grid 6.

It is advised that test pitting be undertaken on the above areas of interest.

CASTLESHAW – Dirty Lane



TAS SURVEY DATE: 03.05.2013, using Resistivity and Magnetometry

PLATES



Magnetometry on W corner of site



Resistivity on N part of site



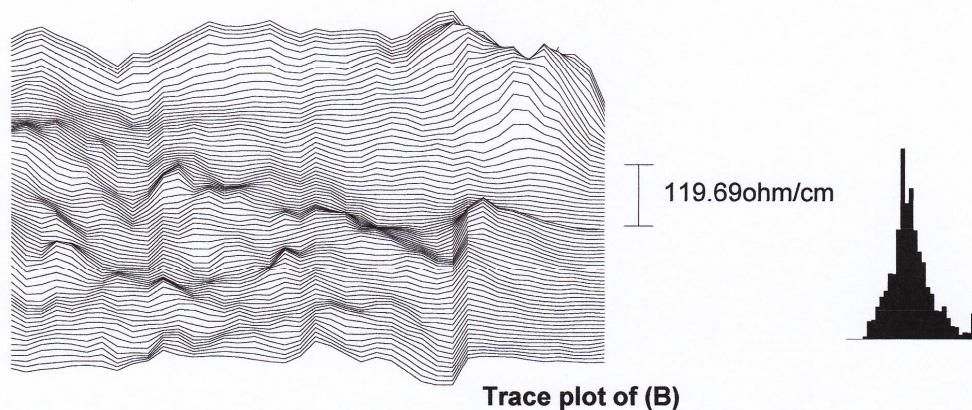
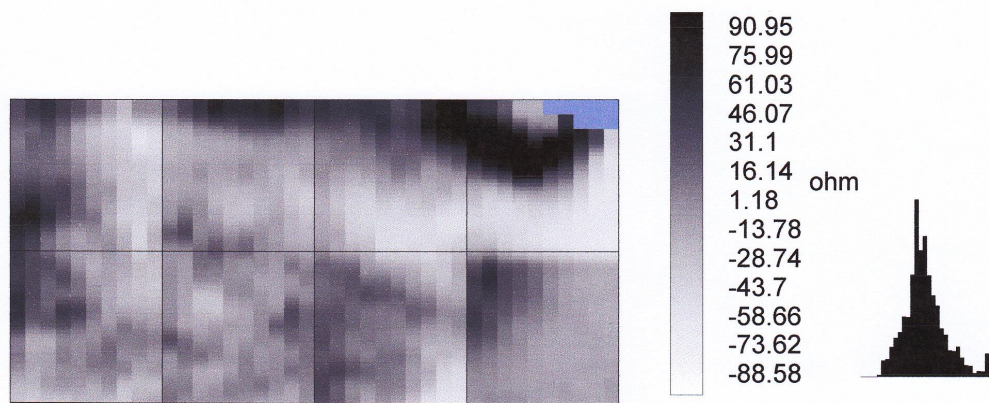
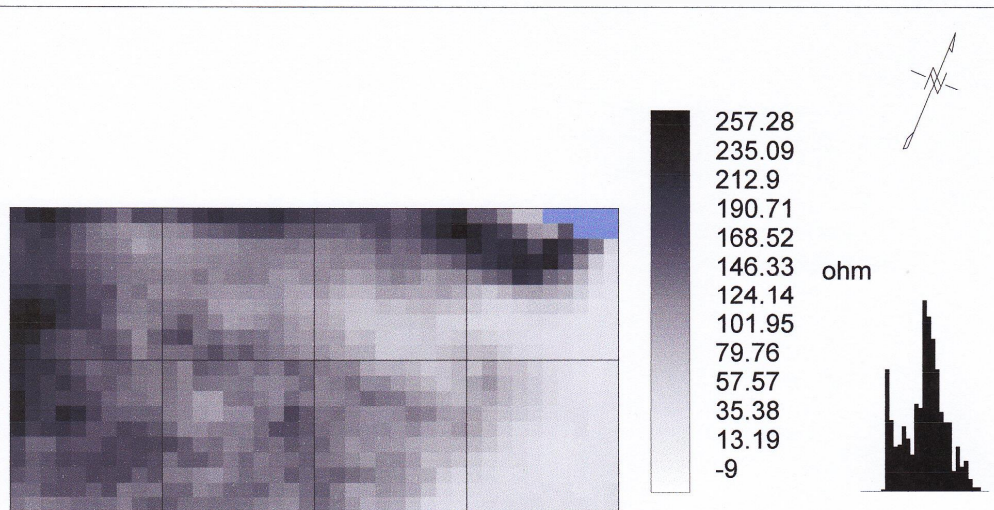
View to SE of site



View to E of site

GEOPHYSICAL CHARTS

CASTLESHAW - Dirty Lane

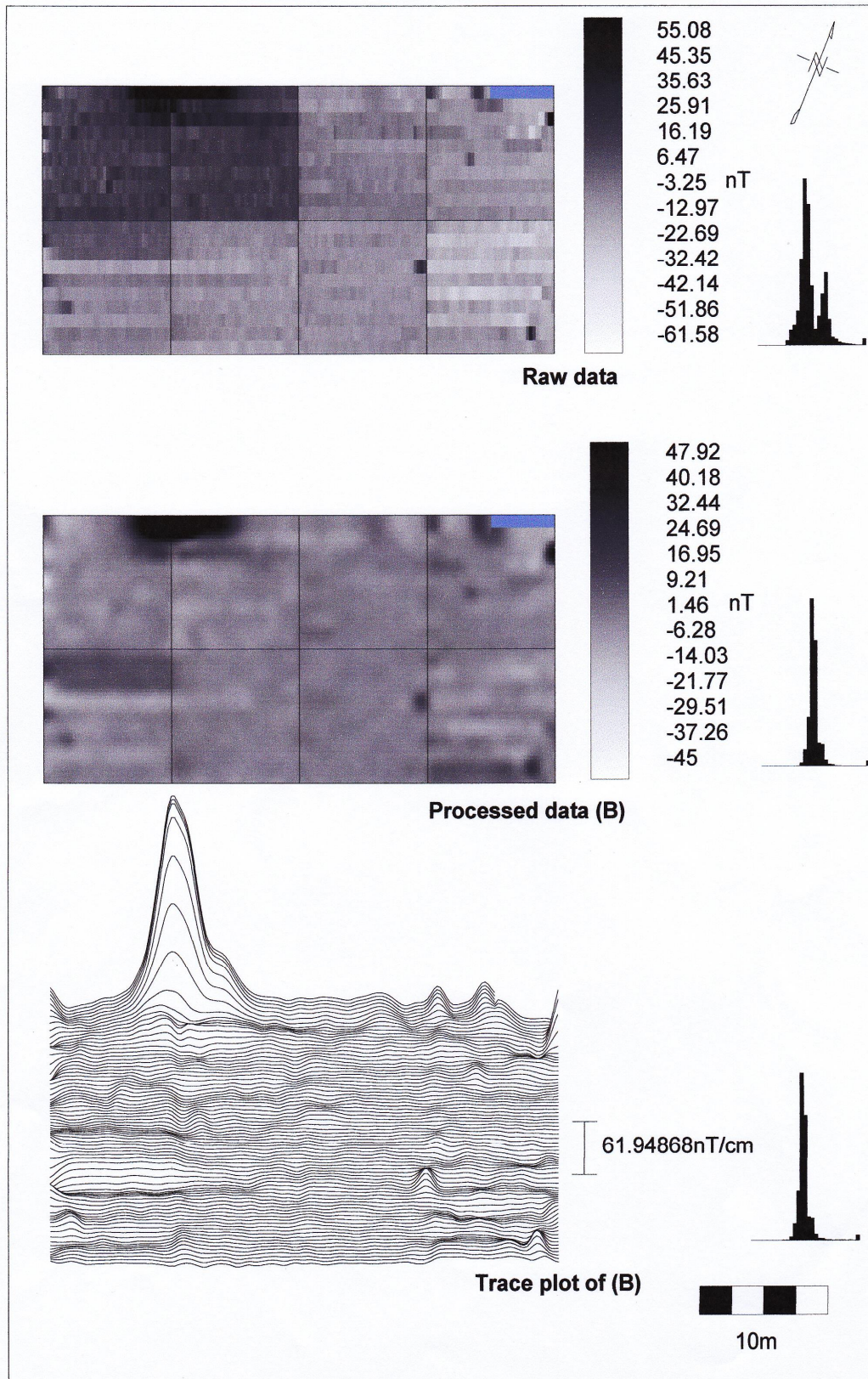


10m

TAS - SURVEY DATE - 3.6.2013

RESISTIVITY

CASTLESHAW - Dirty Lane



TAS - SURVEY DATE - 3.6.2013

MAGNETOMETRY