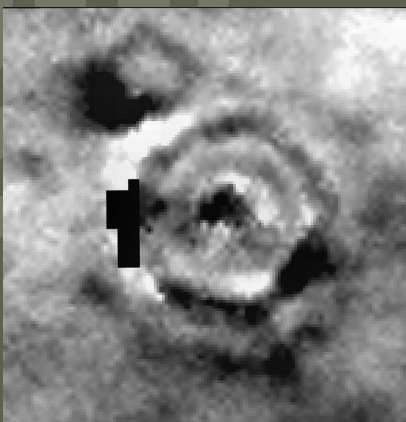


NEW GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROSPECTION

13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROSPECTION
28 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER 2019
SLIGO - IRELAND



Edited by James Bonsall

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- Top Left: Earth resistance data from a circular ditched monument SL014-209041-, Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, Co. Sligo.
- Top right: Electromagnetic induction survey of a fulacht fia, monument SL008-205----, Coney Island, Co. Sligo. Photograph: Ciarán Davis
- Bottom left: Megalithic Passage Tomb, monument SL014-209006-, Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, Co. Sligo
- Bottom right: Court Tomb, monument SL015-050----, Deerpark, Co. Sligo



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Contents

The 13th ICAP and the Importance of Archaeological Prospection in Ireland.....	8
James Bonsall	
13th International Conference on Archaeological Prospection: Organisation Committee.....	14
13th International Conference on Archaeological Prospection: Scientific Committee.....	15
Part One – Archaeological Prospection in Europe.....	16
Harbours from Antiquity to the Middle Ages: a Geophysical Panorama	17
Wolfgang Rabbel, Dennis Wilken, Tina Wunderlich, Annika Fediuk, Michaela Schwardt, Daniel Köhn, Clemens Mohr, SPP 1630 Working Groups	
High-resolution underwater archaeological prospection of Upper Austrian pile dwellings and lakes using multi-beam and sediment sonar	21
Immo Trinks, Wolfgang Neubauer, Timothy Taylor, Mario Wallner, Klaus Löcker, Jutta Leskovar	
Ground-penetrating radar study of the Asaviec 2 archaeological site, Belarus	24
Alina Tšugai-Tsyruļnikova, Jüri Plado, Maxim Charniauski, Irina Khrustaleva, Aivar Kriiska	
The Challenge of Urban Archaeological Geophysics: the Example of Grand’Place in Brussels, Belgium.....	27
Michel Dabas, François Blary, Gianluca Catanzariti, Paulo Charruadas, Sébastien Flageul, Benjamin Van Nieuwenhoeve, Philippe Sosnowska, Alain Tabbagh	
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (Data): 100-year Discussion over Roman Fort in Herzegovina solved with shards of information	32
Michal Pisz, Tomasz Dziurdzik	
Geophysical surveys of Eneolithic ditch enclosures in central Bohemia.....	36
Roman Křivánek	
The application of the geophysical method in forested highland terrains of Bohemia.....	40
Roman Křivánek	
Non-destructive survey of early medieval ramparts in the Czech Republic and Slovakia	45
Peter Milo, Igor Murín, Michaela Prišťáková, Tomáš Tencer, Michal Vágner	
Looking for military remains of the Battle of Gergovia: Benefits of a towed multi-frequency EMI survey	47
François-Xavier Simon, Guillaume Hulin, Yann Deberge, Marion Dacko	
First 3D reconstruction of the palaeoenvironment at the Mesolithic site of Duvensee, Germany, using geophysics and geoarchaeology.....	51
Erica Corradini, Dennis Wilken, Marco Zanon, Daniel Groß, Harald Lübke, Diana Panning, Katharina Rusch, Rebekka Mecking, Ercan Erkul, Natalie Pickartz, Ingo Feeser, Wolfgang Rabbel	
Interaction of geophysical prospection, archaeological excavation and historical sources to reconstruct a medieval monastery in Southern Bavaria.....	54
Roland Linck, Florian Becker, Mario Hölzl	

The sunken trade centre of Rungholt – Geophysical investigations in the German North Frisian Wadden Sea	58
Michaela Schwardt, Dennis Wilken, Hanna Hadler, Annika Fediuk, Tina Wunderlich, Andreas Vött, Wolfgang Rabbel	
3-D Resistivity Imaging of Rock-Cut Chamber Tombs: the case of the Mycenaean Cemetery in Prosilio, Greece	62
Nikos Papadopoulos, Dimitris Oikonomou, Gianluca Cantoro, Nikos Andronikidis, Apostolos Sarris	
Manifestation of the urban design of ancient cities in northern Greece by archaeological prospection	66
Gregory N. Tsokas, Panagiotis Tsourlos, George Vargemezis	
Ground-Penetrating radar (GPR) for non-destructive testing of monument walls	69
Gregory Tsokas, Nectaria Diamanti, Dimitrios Angelis, Panagiotis Tsourlos, George Vargemezis	
From Roman Villas to 19th century gardens: case studies of geophysical surveys for built heritage in Hungary	73
László Nagy	
Hidden Depths and Empty Spaces: the contribution of archaeological prospection to the study of early medieval Ireland	75
Susan Curran	
Visualizing the Village: A Comparative Assessment of Remote Sensing Methods on Inishark, Co. Galway, Ireland	78
Sean Field, Ian Kuijt	
Unusual monuments, Unusual molecules: geochemical processes at work in County Limerick, Ireland	81
Newgrange, New Monuments and New Perspectives.....	85
Joanna Leigh, Geraldine Stout, Matthew Stout	
Microgravimetry for cavity detection—an example from pilot measurements on Newgrange passage tomb (Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, Ireland)	87
Roman Pasteka, Pavol Zahorec, Juraj Papco, Conor Brady, Kevin Barton	
When the Norsemen return: Complementary GPR surveys at the Viking Age site of Woodstown, County Waterford, Ireland	91
Petra Schneidhofer	
Revisiting the Segesta and the Monreale Survey Sites - The Benefits and Possibilities of Digitising Analog Archaeological Spatial Data.....	96
Doris Jetzinger, Christopher Sevara	
Integrating geophysical and geoarchaeological surveys for the reconstruction of a Roman Port infrastructure: the Claudian Harbour at Portus	99
Stephen Kay, Elena Pomar, Simon Keay, Kristian Strutt, Stoil Chapkanski, Jean-Philippe Goiran	
Extensive Geophysical Investigations to study the Archaeological Site of Norba (Norma, Central Italy)	104
Salvatore Piro, Stefania Quilici Gigli, Enrico Papale, Daniela Zamuner	
Innovating Archaeological Investigations in Mediterranean Landscapes: Contributions from the Prospecting Boundaries Project	107

Christopher Sevara, Michael Doneus, Erich Draganits, Roderick B. Salisbury, Cipriano Frazzetta, Doris Jetzinger, Sheba-Celina Schilk, Sebastiano Tusa

Looking for Etruscan harbours: geophysical survey of the ancient site of Pyrgi	111
Quentin Vitale, Christophe Benech, Jean-Philippe Goiran	
Investigating a tumulus in the Etruscan necropolis of Banditaccia – Applying multiple non-invasive prospection methods on a World Heritage Site.....	115
Mario Wallner, Immo Trinks, Ingrid Schlögel, Alois Hinterleitner, Hannes Schiel, Tanja Trausmuth, Fabio Colivicchi, Maurizio Forte, Wolfgang Neubauer	
Prospecting Mesolithic buried landscapes and sites. Two case studies from two different types of landscapes in the southern Netherlands	119
Eelco Rensink	
"Where animals were equal to humans". Surprising results of complementary geophysical survey on gallows in Lower Silesia (Poland).....	121
Michał Pisz, Magdalena Majorek, Bartosz Świątkowski, Daniel Wojtucki, Karolina Wojtucka, Krzysztof Narloch	
Back to the roots. Remote sensing techniques for rediscovering the Chalcolithic eponymous settlement of Cucuteni culture, Romania	125
Andrei Asandulesei, Felix-Adrian Tencariu, Radu-Ştefan Balaur, Mihaela Asandulesei	
Understanding the Anomaly: Multi-Method Geoscientific Research Applied on a Roman Fort in Pojejena	129
Michał Pisz, Radosław Mieszkowski, Emil Jęczmienowski	
Geophysical and archaeological research of the baroque church of Saint Nicolas in Kovarce, Slovakia.....	133
Mário Bielich, Ján Tirpák	
Outlining the karst: ERT and GPR surveys to detect karstic morphologies in the Sierra de Atapuerca sites (Burgos, Spain).....	136
Lucía Bermejo Albarrán, Ana Isabel Ortega, Roger Guérin, Lawrence Conyers, Josep M. Parés, Isidoro Campaña, José María Bermúdez de Castro, Eudald Carbonell	
Archaeological feedback of a GPR survey at Labeagako Santa Maria (Navarre): confirmation of survey interpretation and few more surprises.....	139
Ekhine Garcia-Garcia, Roger Sala, Alexandre Duró, Helena Ortiz-Quintana, Rosario Mateo, Javier Nuin	
Multi method investigation of submerged features at Semblister, Shetland	143
Claire Christie, Michael Stratiagos, Benjamin Jennings	
The Archaeology of 20th Century Sports and Leisure: topophilia, interiography and texture	148
Chris Gaffney, Tom Sparrow, Alex Corkum, Helen McCreary, Chrys Harris, Jason Wood	
A New Look at Old County Number Records: Geophysical Reassessment of Scheduled Roman Villas	150
Neil Linford, Paul Linford, Andrew Payne	
The influence of buried archaeology on equine locomotion: results from the Burghley Horse trials cross country course	154
Neil Linford, Russell Mackechnie-Guire	
When finding nothing is interesting	157
Kris Lockyear	

Co-creation and archaeological prospection: LoCATE – The Local Community Archaeological Training and Equipment Project.....	161
Kate Welham, James Brown, Paul Cheetham, Mike Gill, Lawrence Shaw	
Part Two – Archaeological Prospection in Africa	164
Old Plans versus Geophysical Surveys: the case study of Gurob (Fayum, Egypt)	165
Lionel Darras, Tomasz Herbich, Marine Yoyotte	
Geophysical surveying in Egypt and Sudan: periodical report for 2017–2018	169
Tomasz Herbich, Robert Ryndziewicz	
3-D Electrical Resistivity Tomography in an Urban Environment: the case of Shallalat Gardens, Alexandria, Egypt	173
Nikos Papadopoulos, Dimitris Oikonomou, Nasos Argyriou, George Kritikakis, Calliope Limneos Papakosta	
Going back to Medamud: Excavation feedback on processing, interpretation and planning.	177
Julien Thiesson, Félix Relats Montserrat	
Magnetic prospection close to the magnetic equator: Case studies in the Tigray plateau of Aksum and Yeha, Ethiopia	180
Sandra Ostner, Jörg W.E. Fassbinder, Mandana Parsi, Iris Gerlach, Sarah Japp	
Surveying Kushite sites in Sudan: town and cemetery in Kawa	184
Tomasz Herbich, Robert Ryndziewicz	
Archaeo–geophysical prospection of forts in the North Omdurman (Sudan).....	188
Robert Ryndziewicz, Mariusz Drzewiecki	
Part Three – Archaeological Prospection in Asia.....	192
Magnetic signal prospecting in a former Achaemenid ‘palace’: the example of Gumbati (Georgia)	193
Julien Thiesson, Sébastien Gondet, Jörg W.E. Fassbinder, Florian Becker, Marion Scheiblecker, Sandra Ostner, Mandana Parsi, Solène Bourgeois Espéron, Kai Kaniuth	
Venice in the desert: Archaeological geophysics on the world’s oldest metropolis Uruk-Warka, the city of King Gilgamesh (Iraq)	197
Jörg Fassbinder, Sandra Ostner, Marion Scheiblecker, Mandana Parsi, Margarete van Ess	
Ancient Charax Spasinou (Iraq) – Interpreting a multi-phase city based on magnetometer survey data	201
Lena Lambers, Jörg Faßbinder, Stuart Campbell, Stefan Hauser	
Revealing the Hidden Structure of the Ancient City Ur (Iraq) with Electrical Resistivity Tomography	206
Mandana Parsi, Jörg Fassbinder, Nikos Papadopoulos, Marion Scheiblecker, Sandra Ostner	
Geophysical survey of single phase archaeological sites: Magnetometry in Wadi Shamlu, Kurdistan, Northern Iraq.....	209
Marion Scheiblecker, Simone Mühl, Jörg Faßbinder	
Conclusions from Twenty Years of Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) Surveys in Israel for Archaeological Prospection.....	214
Paul Bauman, Alastair McClymont, Eric Johnson, Richard Freund, Randy Shinduke	

Restoring burial mounds damaged by disasters — Contribution of archaeological prospection to collect information at the <i>Idera</i> burial mound, Japan	216
Akihiro Kaneda, Hiroshi Yamaguchi	
UAV-based Airborne Laser Scanning in densely vegetated areas: Detecting Sue pottery kilns in Nakadake Sanroku, Japan	220
Michael Doneus, Maria Shinoto, Irmela Herzog, Naoko Nakamura, Hideyuki Haijima, Tomokazu Ōnishi, Shōhei Kita'ichi, Baoquan Song	
Interpreting GPR data from Jaffna Fort, Northern Sri Lanka, using historic maps and new excavations	224
Armin Schmidt, Prishanta Gunawardhana, Christopher Davis, Duncan Hale, Robin Coningham, P. Pushparatnam, Richie Villis, Mark Woolston-Houshold, Mark Manuel	
Common interpretation of induced polarization tomography (IPT) results with other geophysical methods in an archaeological site	228
Meriç Aziz Berge, Mahmut Göktuğ Drahor, Caner Öztürk, Atilla Ongar	
Comparison of excavation results with GPR and magnetic gradiometer surveys at a workshop area in Şapinuwa, Central Anatolia/Turkey	232
Mahmut Göktuğ Drahor, Caner Öztürk, Meriç Aziz Berge, Aygül Süel, Atilla Ongar, Sedef Ayyıldız, Semih Gerçek, Murat Aydın	
Archaeological interpretation of the prospection data from Ephesos	236
Jasmin Scheifinger	
Part Four – Archaeological Prospection in Australasia.....	241
Multiple processing and interpretation methods of a complex 3-D GPR dataset: An example from northern Australia.....	242
Lawrence Conyers	
Urupa - burial grounds - and remote sensing in Aotearoa (New Zealand)	247
Hans-Dieter Bader	
Part Five – Archaeological Prospection in North America	249
Village Life in the Middle Ohio Valley, USA: Geophysical Survey and Anomaly Testing.....	250
Jarrod Burks	
Geophysical Evidence for the Timing, Pace, and Complexity of Construction at the Poverty Point World Heritage Site, Louisiana, USA.....	254
Michael Hargrave, R. Berle Clay, Diana Greenlee, Rinita Dalan	
The Origins of the West Plaza Rise at the Poverty Point World Heritage Site, Louisiana, USA	259
Rinita Dalan, Diana Greenlee, Michael L. Hargrave, R. Berle Clay, Thurman Allen, George Holley	
GPR Investigations in Earthlodges of the Northern Plains, USA.....	264
Kenneth L. Kvamme	

Part Six – Technical Aspects of Data Acquisition, Analysis, Processing and Visualisation	267
Drone radar: A new survey approach for Archaeological Prospection?	268
Roland Linck, Alen Kaltak	
The limits of a blob: geophysically informed automatic extraction of magnetometer anomalies	272
Armin Schmidt	
Quantification of Daub Masses based on Magnetic Prospection Data	274
Natalie Pickartz, Robert Hofmann, Stefan Dreibrodt, Knut Rassmann, Liudmyla Shatilo, René Ohlrau, Dennis Wilken, Wolfgang Rabbel	
Applying Magnetic Depth Estimation Techniques to Archaeo-geophysics	279
Jeremy G. Menzer	
Modelling the layer between topsoil and subsoil using magnetic prospection data	282
Alois Hinterleitner, Ralf Totschnig, Klaus Löcker, Hannes Schiel, Bendeguz Tobias	
Pathways to prediction: quantifying the impact of soil moisture variations on electric and electromagnetic contrast	286
Philippe De Smedt, Daan Hanssens	
A 3D imaging procedure for subsurface magnetic susceptibility: application to the basaltic foundations of a Gallo-Roman villa in Auvergne, France.....	289
Julien Guillemoteau, Francois-Xavier Simon, Bertrand Dousteysier, Marion Dacko, Guillaume Hulin, Jens Tronicke	
WuMapPy an open-source software for geophysical prospection data processing: 2019 milestone	293
Quentin Vitale, Lionel Darras, Christophe Benech, Julien Thiesson	
Automated segmentation of archaeo-geophysical images by convolutional neural networks	296
Melda Küçükdemirci, Apostolos Sarris	
Rise of the Machines: Improving the identification of possible graves in GPR data with interactive survey guidance and machine learning	300
Ashely Green, Paul Cheetham	
Automated detection and analysis of diffraction hyperbolas in ground-penetrating radar data	305
Lieven Verdonck	
Novel volume visualisation of GPR data inspired by medical applications.....	309
Wolfgang Neubauer, Alexander Bornik, Mario Wallner, Geert Verhoeven	
Strategies for the optimization of 3-D electrical resistivity tomography data using the Jacobian matrix	313
Kleanthis Simyrdanis, Nikos Papadopoulos	
Processing Strategies for 3-D Marine Dynamic Electrical Resistivity Tomography Data	317
Dimitrios Oikonomou, Nikos Papadopoulos, Kleanthis Simyrdanis, Gianluca Cantoro, Julien Beck, Meng Heng Loke	

Improving the lithological significance of shear wave tomograms through coring and pressure correction.....	322
Dennis Wilken, Wolfgang Rabbel, Tina Wunderlich, Martina Karle	
Aerial thermal imaging from UAV in archaeology, a case study: the abandoned medieval town of Montecorvino (Foggia, Italy).....	326
Luca d'Altilia	
Multi-spectral, multi-temporal survey in the American Midwest.....	328
Helen McCreary, Jarrod Burks, Alex Corkum, Chris Gaffney, Andy Wilson	
Evaluating the capability of a SUAS mounted multispectral sensor for the mapping of archaeological resources in an alluvial landscape	331
Nicholas Crabb, Matthew Brolly, Niall Burnside, Andy Howard, Robin Jackson, Chris Carey	
Beneath the Stains of Time: The physiochemical prospection of multiperiod sites in southern Britain - a geophysics approach to geochemistry?	335
Paul Cheetham	
Three-dimensional modelling of petroglyphs of South Siberia	337
Vladislav Kazakov, Vasily Kovalev, Kair Zhumadilov, Lyudmila Lbova, Aleksandr Simukhin	
 Part Seven – Improving our Legacy: Reviewing the Key Outcomes of Archaeological Prospection Data	 339
Introducing the ‘Soil science & Archaeo-Geophysics Alliance’ (SAGA): a new interdisciplinary network in archaeo-geophysics.....	340
Carmen Cuenca-Garcia, Kayt Armstrong, Apostolos Sarris, Philippe De Smedt, Clare Wilson, Elina Aidona, Anne Roseveare, Martin Roseveare, Petra Schneidhofer, Jörg Faßbinder, Ian Moffat, Marion Scheiblecker, Abir Jrad, Martijn van Leusen, Kelsey Lowe, and SAGA's Management Committee	
Laying the geophysical groundwork: <i>in situ</i> measurements as a framework for strategizing archaeological prospection	344
Philippe De Smedt, Ynse Declercq, Daan Hanssens, Wouter B. Verschoof-van der Vaart, Tom Hamburg, Walter Laan, Pieter Lalloo, Frédéric Cruz, Karsten Lambers	
Review strategies for archaeological prospection, incorporating excavation and research ...	345
Cian Hogan	
Methodological framework to automatically compare large-scale magnetometry measurements with excavation datasets	349
Gábor Mesterházy	
Archaeological guidelines for geophysical survey in the urban environment.....	353
Guglielmo Strapazon, Dimitrios Oikonomou, Evan Alevizos, Kleantes Simyrdanis, Melda Küçükdemirci, Apostolos Sarris	
Addressing archaeological research questions using geophysical surveys – a landscape case study.....	355
Jakob Kainz	
Up-skilling and Up-scaling: the realities of adapting to the challenges of the current environment in British commercial geophysics	359
Chrys Harris	

Co-creation and archaeological prospection: LoCATE – The Local Community Archaeological Training and Equipment Project

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This paper is based on the co-creation of research through an innovative partnership focused around archaeological prospection techniques. LoCATE (Local Community Archaeological Training and Equipment) is a project that brings together archaeologists at Bournemouth University and the New Forest National Park Authority with archaeological societies and community groups from across Dorset and Hampshire. LoCATE provides access, training, and support for the use of advanced survey equipment that can otherwise be hard to get hold of. It supports the work that all partners already do by extending the range of techniques and skills they can use and expanding their capacity to undertake research.

The idea for LoCATE was first instigated in 2015 when members of the Avon Valley Archaeological Society approached the University and asked them to consider providing access to older, but serviceable geophysical equipment that was not being used regularly for teaching and other activities. Working with the New Forest National Park Authority, LoCATE was developed, and the first instrument made available was a Geoscan Research FM36 followed a year later by a Geoscan Research RM15. Most recently a total station has been added to the equipment pool, funded through Heritage Lottery Funding (Our Past and Our Future, Landscape Partnership Scheme) and the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society. Access to the equipment is managed through the New Forest's volunteer equipment loan system. LoCATE members are given access to free training on these techniques using a variety of expertise situated across the partnership (Fig. 1), and LoCATE members sign up to a code of responsible survey and data sharing (Fig. 2). Open data is a core value, and LoCATE also encourages members to use open access materials and software, for example Snuffler freeware geophysics software (Staveley 2018). Inter-partner support is fostered through a variety of means including shared prospection activities, and project social media channels.



Fig. 1. LoCATE training day (Photo: L. Shaw).

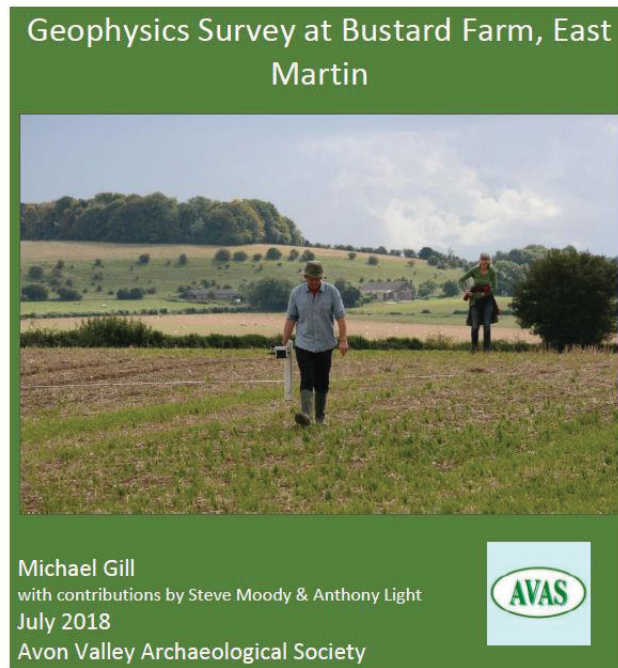


Fig. 2. LoCATE member report on the FM36 gradiometry results from Bustard Farm, East Martin (Hampshire).

Now in its fourth year, LoCATE has become well established, enabling relationships that support the research agendas of all partners. It has developed both capacity and expertise in the use of archaeological prospection activities in the local region. Example of the success of the project can be seen through the diversity of the outcomes from the work of LoCATE members from prehistoric monuments, including previously understudied Neolithic long and oval barrows (Fig. 3) and Bronze Age double ring ditches, to extensive Romano-British sites along the Avon Valley and on Cranborne Chase (Hampshire) (Gill 2019a; 2019b). Through these surveys LoCATE members have achieved their own research aims, but also contributed to the collective goal of the project in enabling an improved understanding of the rich archaeological heritage of our region.

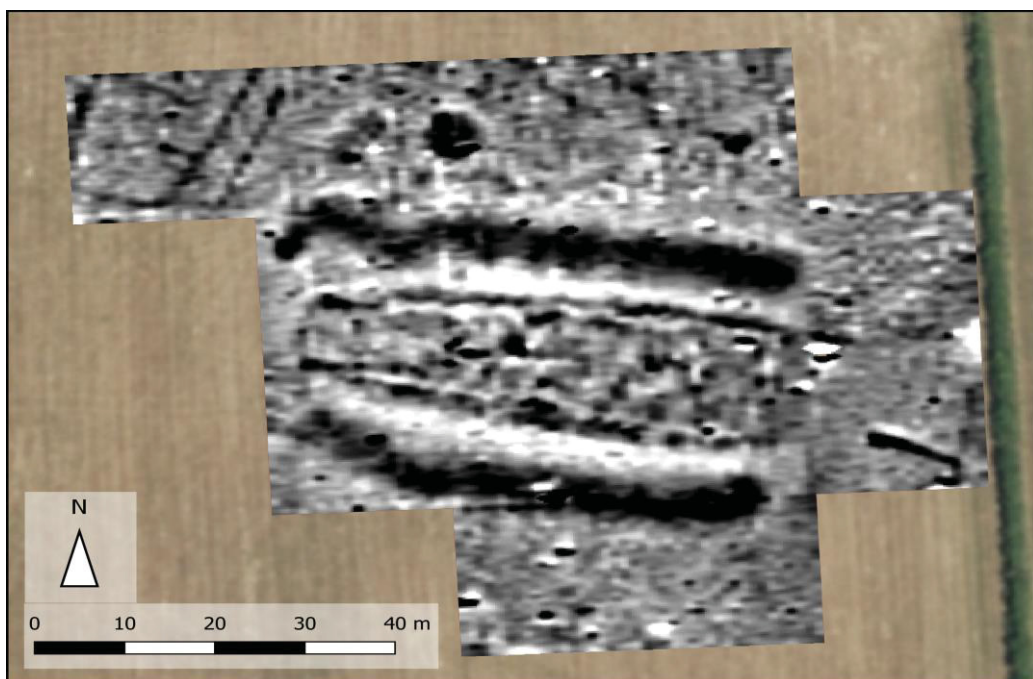


Fig. 3. The results of an initial LoCATE member survey using the FM36 gradiometer to identify a ploughed out long barrow near Fordingbridge (Hampshire).

In conclusion, LoCATE provides a new model for community engagement in archaeological prospection projects. In an era where the integration of techniques and data are central themes, it is perhaps timely to also consider the integration of people, and how we best work with a variety of different communities to create a shared understanding of our collective past.

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