



Proposal for a geophysics survey of sites in Inkpen 2022

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Summary

This is a proposal to survey 11 sites in Inkpen. Surveying three of these sites may give us more details about Westcourt Manor which dates from Early Medieval times. Surveying two of the sites may give us insights into Saxon Inkpen, one of the sites may reveal evidence of a mill lsyed in Domesday, while the others may identify cottages and other buildings which have been demolished since the 19th century.

The partners in this project are the Berkshire Archaeological Society and the Inkpen History Group.

Distribution

Inkpen Parish Council and Inkpen History Group

Dr David Thomas, Woodwind, Folly Road, Inkpen, Hungerford. RG17 9QB.

Site owners

- F1S1 - Land Adjoining Westcourt/Opposite St Michael's Church – Mrs Clare McKeon
- F1S2 - Westcourt – James & Caroline Fisher
- F1S3 - Manor Farm – Richard & Jackie Atherton
- F2S1 - Wansdyke– Alan & Josephine Stark
- F3S1 – Puddle Wharf – Pamela & Richard Weeks
- F4S1 - Fox Hill - Penrhyn Pockney
- F5S1 - The Folly, Folly Road – Jack Martiott
- F6S1 - Trappshill House – Mrs J Edwards

Berkshire Archaeological Society Council:

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0.2 Change control

This document is controlled by the authors

0.3 Change history

The issue 05 dated 28th August 2022 is the first issue.

0.4 Changes forecast

The maps in this issue will be preplaced by maps produced using the BAS gazetteer.

1 This project

Early in 2022, David Thomas who is chair of Inkpen Parish Council and the Inkpen History Group emailed Andrew Hutt asking if the Society would like to carry out geophysics surveys on several different sites across Inkpen. He explained that he was hoping that the work would renew parishioner's interest in the archaeology and history of Inkpen and hence revive the Inkpen History Group.

At the time the Society was very busy with other fieldwork so work on Inkpen was delayed until autumn 2022.

2 Site locations

This project is investigating 6 historic features across the parish of Inkpen. In priority order they are:

- Westcourt Manor: which dates from 1167
- Wansdyke: an earthwork which stretches from Bristol to Inkpen
- Two 19th century cottages: which are shown on the 1815 enclosure map but have since be demolished
- Inkpen mill site: land close to the site of the mill listed in Doomsday
- Two fields near the Folly: which may hold Saxon remains
- Fields near Trappshill House

Details of these properties and their historic significance are provided in section 4.

Some of the other historic features are also spread across different fields with different owners, so in order to address this complexity, each of the fields have been given an identified of the form FmSn where Fm represents the feature and Sn represented a site relating to the feature. Table 1.1. lists the features and sites, Figure 1.1 positions them on a map.

3 Geological and topographical background

Using details from the British Geological Survey viewer, these sites are on a mix of solid and surface geology.

F1S1 and F1S2 are on bedrock Lambeth Group - Clay, silt and sand

F1S3 is on bedrock London Clay Formation - Clay, silt and sand, the northern edge may be on London Clay Formation - Sand. but I suspect the fence line matches the separation between the two geologies.

F2S1 is on bedrock a spur of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation - Chalk. Running north east from the chalk escapement.

F3S1 is on London clay formation, overlaid with Head - clay, silt, sand and gravel

F4S1 is on bedrock London Clay Formation - Clay, silt and sand

F5S1 is on bedrock tLondon Clay Formation - Clay, silt and sand overlaid with River Terrace Deposits - Sand and gravel.

F6S1 and F6S2 are on bedrock London Clay Formation - Sand. overlaid with River Terrace Deposits - Sand and gravel.

Identifier	Feature details	Site details	BNGR
F1S1	Westcourt Manor	Field north east of St Michael's Church. Field known as 'Bancroft'	Centroid SU 3587 6385
F1S2	Westcourt Manor	Field to the north and west of F1S2	Centroid SU 3584 6400
F1S3	Westcourt Manor	Land to the west of Manor Farm Cottages	Centroid SU36286388
F2S1	Wansdyke	Field south west the Old Rickyard and south of Spray Road	Centroid SU 3564 6376
F3S1	Inkpen mill site	A collection of small garden areas to the south and west of Puddle Wharf	Centroid SU 3621 6451
F4S1	Two 19th century buildings	A paddock south of the junction of Post Office Road and Folly Lane	Centroid SU 3758 6465
F4S2	Two 19th century buildings	A paddock south east of F4S1 with remains of 2 buildings	Centroid SU3767 6461
F4S3	Two 19 th century buildings	A field north of F4S1 and F4S2 where there may be more buildings	Centroid SU 3785 6476
F5S1	Saxon settlement near the Folly	2 paddocks to the south of the Folly. Saxon names suggest they may be of interest	Centroid SU3 668 6487
F6S1 and F6S2	Fields near Trappshill House	Fields on the opposite side of the road to the north and north east of Trappshill House	Centroids SU 3758 6362 SU 3785 6475

Table 1.1. Features and sites of interest in Inkpen

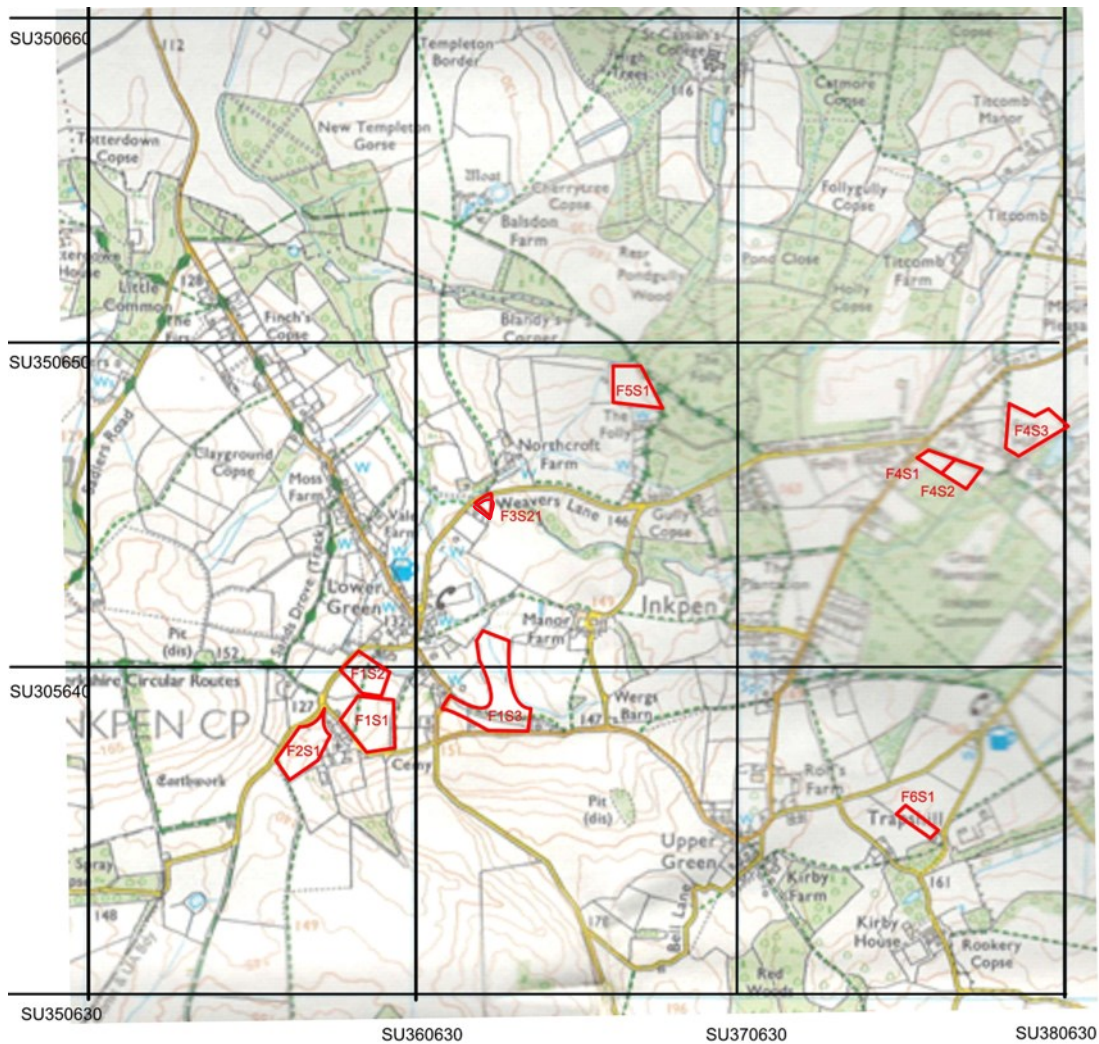


Figure 1.1 Inkpen sites on an OS background

4 The historical background

This section briefly reviews the historic details of the 5 features identified above.

4.1 Westcourt Manor F1S1, F1S2 and F1S3

The Victoria County History (Page and Ditchfield 1924) reports that the manor of Inkpen was held of King Edward the Confessor by two thegns and by 1086 it had passed to William Fitz Ansculf. Afterwards, the manor was divided into two parts, both of which were annexed to Fitz Ansculf's honour of Dudley, the overlordship passing like that of Stanford Dingley (q.v.) to the Paynels, Somerys and Suttons, successive lords of Dudley.

Possibly Humphrey de Inkpen who paid a mark for unjust disseising in Berkshire in 1176, was owner of the manor at Inkpen afterwards known as *WESTCOURT*. Gervase the son of Nicholas de Inkpen was holding land here in 1234, and he was succeeded by his son Nicholas a few years later. Nicholas was living in 1250, when he witnessed the grants to the abbey of Titchfield by Peter Sukemund and Geoffrey Mansell, but he appears to have died soon afterwards, and was succeeded by Richard de Inkpen. Richard was succeeded by his son Sir Roger, who was holding this manor in 1263 and 1273.

The Victoria County History explains the successive owners of the manor and the subdivisions of and the land from 1273 to 1900.

The West Berkshire HER identifies an area of ridge and furrow (MWB16000) in the field next to the ones we are planning to survey. Manor Farm house is a grade II listed, timber framed building (MWB16225) dating to the 18th building with probable 16th century or earlier timber frame.

Field F1S1 is known in recent history as 'Bancroft'. The land to the immediate north is known as 'Fishpond'. Inkpen footpath 21 divides the two fields.

4.2 Wansdyke F2S1

There are the remains of a dyke by the side of Old Dyke Lane (BNGR SU 351 637). These remains were called Wan's dyke in the common award of 1733 (West Berkshire HER MWB1597). Site F2S1 (BNGR SU 356 637) is 500m to the east.

The Wansdyke stretches from Maes Knoll Tump, near Bristol, along a line to the south of the A4 until it reaches point SU 195 665 which seems to be the last point which is identified on an OS map. Wikipedia suggests it terminates at SU 221 649 in Savenake Forest but here is no confirmation of this in the Wiltshire HER.

In West Berkshire, there are several sites related to Wansdyke (Table 4.1). Plotting these points on a map (Figure 4.1) shows the line of Wansdyke may go through sites 1, 2, 3 and the site F2S1 we are planning to survey.

Id	West Berkshire HER number	BNGR	Comment
1	MWB17868	SU 337 644	Bank south of Anville's Copse, possibly part of Wansdyke
2	MWB17867	SU 343 643	A site with a defuse field system with to the north west 250m of Wansdyke
3	MWB16232	SU 351 624	Stone Castle' (Stan Ceastlum) Crawford identified this as being close to Wansdyke
4	MWB1597	SU 351 637	A dyke by the side of Old Dyke Lane; these were called Wansdyke in the common award of 1733
5	MWB1598	SU 352 631	A crop mark which may represent part of Wansdyke. It was not included in the National Mapping Programme
6	MWB16233	SU 357 622	A holloway running down Inkpen Hill which may link up with the end of Wansdyke

Table 4.1 References to Wansdyke in the West Berkshire HER

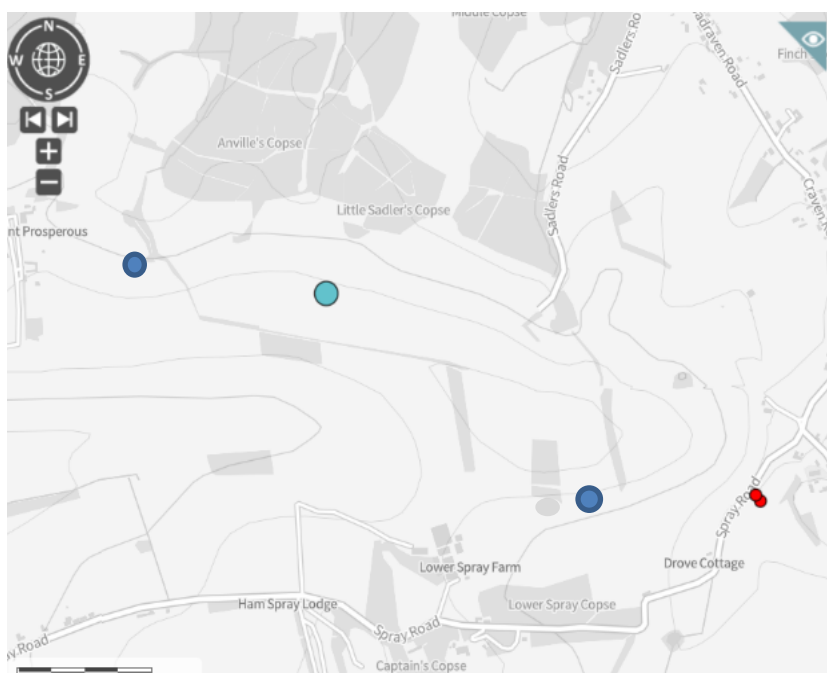


Figure 4.1. Sites related to Wansdyke (Magic map)

4.3 Inkpen Mill site (F3S1)

In Domesday, Inkpen had one mill worth 12 shillings. It was given to the nuns at Kintbury in about the middle of the 11th century, but transferred shortly after to the priory of Nuneaton. The Victoria County History of 1924 notes, 'there is no mill here now, though there was one about fifty years ago (Page and Ditchfield 1924).

A history of Inkpen suggested that the silted up mill ponds at Northcroft are the site of the Domesday mill. The First Edition Ordnance Survey shows two small streams joining to the southwest of Northcroft Farm. One flows down Daggs Gully past 'Puddlewharf Cottage'; downstream of the confluence is a marshy area named 'The Fens'. No mill building is marked along the streams. The main force of water from Daggs Gully would have dissipated within the grounds of Puddle Wharf.

Puddle Wharf is a Grade II Cottage dating to Late C16 with C18 alterations and C20 additions (MWB21199); timber frame with painted brick infill and painted brick, tile hung gable and tiled roof.

A painting of 1889 shows a building situated to the west of and within the grounds of Puddle Wharf (<http://www.inkpenhistory.uk/places.html#Buildings>). This was confirmed as a true account by a resident now deceased. The water from Daggs Gully stream is shown to cross the lane in a gentle fashion.

4.4 Two 19th century cottages F4S1, F4S2 and F4S3

F1S1 and F1S2 are now 2 paddocks. A map from 1873 (Figure 4.2) shows two buildings in the eastern paddock (F4S2).

The aim here is to try and determine whether the land was just farmed or lived upon.



Figure 4.2. Inkpen map from 1873 showing the paddocks with 2 buildings ~
(<http://www.inkpenhistory.uk/maps/1873%20map/12%201873%20Titcoombe.pdf>)

4.5 Saxon settlement near the Folly (F5S1)

Haycroft Lane is the site of the old rope walk and was mooted as being part of a Saxon settlement. The fabric and extent of any such settlement is not known.

Saxon settlements typically contain structures made of wood. Other features found on a settlement site include pits postholes and evidence of fires. Evidence of fires and ground disturbance will show up in gradiometer survey. The pits and postholes are too small to identify in either a gradiometer or earth resistance survey.

4.6 Trappshill House (F6S1)

This is a small parcel of undeveloped land between the Crown & Garter and Kirby House. There is no known archaeological significance to this site. The reason for including this site in this survey is to try and confirm its lack of archaeology.

5 General and specific aims of this project

The aims of the project are to identify evidence of the past use of the sites identified in section 2 above and hence enhance our knowledge of the associated features.

6 The Social benefits

Inkpen is a parish of 850 people living at 350 addresses.

One of the objectives of this survey is to provide the Inkpen History Group with more details about the past use of the Inkpen landscape.

The stance of the Inkpen History Group is to make available information about the past use of the landscape. The group does not currently run meeting or events.

The Inkpen Parish Council part funds an A5 parish magazine which is published 10 times a year.

In a personal capacity David Thomas gives presentations to groups and schools in Inkpen, Kintbury and surrounding villages and this project will give him a basis for more presentations.

This work offers the following opportunities:

- The work will provide more information about the past use of the Inkpen landscape which can be presented on the Inkpen History Group website
- We will provide input to the parish magazine advertising and reporting on our fieldwork
- We are expecting to run at least one event where parishioners are invited to get to carry out an earth resistance survey
- The Society will have a presentation about the work at Inkpen which David can add to his portfolio of talks

7 The work

This fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with English Heritage and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidelines for geophysical surveys (David *et al.* 2008; Gaffney *et al.* 2002).

In each field we will start by marking out baseline for a survey grid of 20m x20m squares. The grid points will be marked by plastic poles and soluble white paint. The squares will be surveyed using a Bartington 601 gradiometer,. Every evening the results will be processed. The results will show anomalies where the soil has been disturbed as a result of people in the past building structures or trackways, burning or digging trenches or pits. Significant anomalies will be surveyed again using an earth resistance meter. This second survey will give more detail of structures such as walls and trackways,

The work will start on site F2S1 because the owners are selling the property and are expecting to complete the sale in mid-October.

7.1 Transport to site

Many Society members live near Reading so lift sharing will be organised to minimise transport costs.

7.2 Public participation event

There will be an event which is advertised via the Inkpen parish magazine and the Inkpen website where adults are invited to join us to carry out an earth resistance survey. This will probably take place in summer 2023 (see section 15 for more details)

7.3 The geophysics survey equipment

The Society's equipment to be used on site will be:

- Bartington 601 dual sensor gradiometer
- TAR-3 earth resistance meter
- 60 survey poles and sticks to guide the survey work
- 100m and 50m tapes and 20m ropes
- Mallets and paint
- First aid kit

7.4 Processing the results

The survey results will be processed using Snuffler, a software package developed by Sussex University (Sussex 2006). The survey grid and the gradiometer results will be integrated using Affinity Designer and the anomalies plotted and interpreted.

Note: these software packages have been chosen because they are either free or fairly cheap and hence accessible to volunteers.

7.5 Archiving the data

The data collected from the surveys (including the raw geophysical survey data) will be retained in the Berkshire Archaeological Society's archive and will be made available on request.

8 Relevant legislation relating to the site

8.1 Legal position

None of the sites are scheduled monuments

8.2 Access to the land and facilities

These sites are owned by different owners, they are shown in table 8.1.

Identifier	Feature details	Owner name and address
F1S1	Westcourt Manor	Mrs Clare McKeon, The Old Rectory
F1S2	Westcourt Manor	James & Caroline Fisher Westcourt
F1S3	Westcourt Manor	Richard & Jackie Atherton Manor Farm Lower Green Inkpen Hungerford RG17 9QG
F2S1	Wansdyke	Alan & Josephine Stark The Old Rickyard Lower green Inkpen, Hungerford RG17 9DS
F3S1	Inkpen mill site	Pamela & Richard Weeks, Puddle Wharf, Weavers Lane, Inkpen, Hungerford.
F4S1, F4S2, F4S3	Two 19th century buildings	Mr Penrhyn Pockney Foxhill Inkpen Hungerford RG17 9DE
F5S1	The Folly	Jack Martiott The Folly Weavers Lane Inkpen Hungerford RG17 9DJ
F6S1	Trappshill House	Mrs J Edwards Trappshill House Inkpen Common Inkpen Hungerford RG17 9QW

Table 8.1. the owners of the sites it is planned to survey

9 Collection, conservation and disposal strategy for artefacts and ecofacts

No artefacts or ecofacts will be picked up, collected, or removed from the site during this work. If anything of interest is found, its position will be recorded; it will be photographed and left in situ.

There will be no provision for the conservation of artefacts.

10 Report preparation

A field work report will be produced in accordance with CI/A standards and guidelines (CI/A 2008). The geophysics results will be processed using Snuffler and Affinity Designer.

11 Publication and dissemination proposals

In the event of the project producing significant results, these will be published in the Berkshire Archaeological Journal.

12 Copyright

The copyright of this plan and any reports and papers will remain with the authors who will give SCAU and NT a licence to use as they require for purposes of research and education.

13 Archive deposition

Initially, archive copies of the report and the survey data (both raw and processed geophysics data) produced from this work will be held by the authors and the Berkshire Archaeological Society. Later it may be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in York.

14 Timetable

Work on field F2S1 is likely to start on 28th September 2022 and last 2 weeks.

The work on the other fields will be agreed over time. It is very unlikely that we will be working in the period November 2022 to March 2023.

Each landowner will be contacted at least 4 weeks before we plan to come to work on their fields.

Each site is likely to take 2 to 3 weeks depending on the size of the field, the weather and what we find.

14.1 Bad weather

In the event of it raining and hence it is not practical to carry out the work, there will a review at 8am in the morning. If work on site is not possible those registered to be on site that day will be notified of any cancellations or changes to the above schedule.

15 Staffing

The geophysics survey will be led by Andrew Hutt MCI/A. Members of Society will be invited to participate. To work efficiently we need teams of 5 people; we can survey with a team of 3.

All on-site events will comply with the Government's Covid 19 conditions in force at the time.

15.1 Normal staffing

The project will be staffed by members of the Berkshire Archaeological Society.

15.2 Public participation event

Members of the public will be invited to join an earth resistance survey. This will probably take place in summer 2023. Given this size of the equipment and the Society's insurance policy this will be for individuals over 18 years old. Members of the public working with us on site will be asked to sign a site attendance form. This effectively enrolls them as members of the Berkshire Archaeological Society for a day and hence insures them while they working on site.

16 Insurance

The Society has Employer liability insurance which insures everybody working on site.

17 Health and Safety considerations

A risk assessment has been produced (see appendix 1 below).

Toilet and other facilities are available at St Michael's Church, Inkpen.

There will be a simple first aid kit on site. The project leader, Andrew Hutt, has a St John's Ambulance first aid certificate. Hannah Potter holds a Level 3 first aid qualification.

18 Monitoring procedures

None

19 Contingency arrangements

None

20 Budget

None

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Appendix A Berkshire Archaeological Society Risk Assessment

Risk assessment for Covid 19

Hazard: what may cause harm	Type of harm [e.g. burn]	Person at risk	Level of Risk [tick box]	Existing measures to control risk	Remaining risk [tick box]	Action needed [what further needs to be done to control risk]
Anybody on site will not comply with the Government's social distancing regulations	Transmission of Covid 19	Everybody on site	Low	The survey team will enforce the Government's regulations in force at the time.	Low	Low

Risk assessments for working on site

Hazard: what may cause harm	Type of harm [e.g. burn]	Person at risk	Level of Risk [tick box]	Existing measures to control risk	Remaining risk [tick box]	Action needed [what further needs to be done to control risk]
Site is unworkable due to poor weather	Hypothermia	Everybody on site	Low	Project leader/organiser maintains a list of people planning to come on site each day with their contact numbers and in the event of poor weather rings them at around 8am to cancel or reorganise that day's work	None	None
Any serious accident to the team or the public	Fall or tripping over and causing sustaining serious hurt	Everybody on site and visiting members of the public	Low	The team leader has a St John's Ambulance first aiders certificate, there is a simple first aid kit on site and the contact numbers for further assistance	None	None
Uneven ground, guide tapes	Individual falls over on uneven ground or trips over a guide tape, and damages an arm or a leg	Everybody on site	Low	Project leader carries a first aid kit with triangular bandages and knows how to use them and a phone to call for an ambulance	None	None
Thorny vegetation	Individual cuts themselves	Everybody on site	Low	Project leader carries a basic first aid kit with Elastoplast's	None	None
Problems in the fields while on site	Activity on site which may endanger the survey team (e.g. falling wood from trees)	Everybody on site	Low	Leave the site and contact the site owner	None	None

Risk assessment for geophysics

Hazard: what may cause harm	Type of harm [e.g. burn]	Person at risk	Level of Risk [tick box]	Existing measures to control risk	Remaining risk [tick box]	Action needed [what further needs to be done to control risk]
Resistivity meter	Misuse of a resistivity meter and puts a resistivity spike through their foot	Person working the resistivity meter	Low	Everybody on site must wear footwear suitable to fieldwork (boots). Call an ambulance for a damaged foot	None	None