

4. Aims and Methods of the Evaluation

4.1 The evaluation was designed to assess the date, nature and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits which might be present under the garden area of the Old Vicarage and the adjacent field. It also aimed to assess the relative importance of these deposits in relation to other local, regional and national sites of similar type and period.

4.2 The evaluation work comprised a geophysical survey by means of the resistivity method; this maps the differences in soil electrical resistance which mainly reflect variations in the water content. The measurements of soil electrical resistance were made over regular grids set out in the garden area of the Old Vicarage and the adjacent field.

4.1 Following the results of the geophysical survey six trenches were strategically placed in order to evaluate the archaeological potential of features revealed during the survey. Four trenches were excavated within the grounds of the Old Vicarage and two in the adjacent field. The four trenches within the grounds of the Old Vicarage were excavated entirely by hand; the two others by mechanical means to remove the topsoil and from there by hand. Survey revealed the ditch enclosed an area of approximately 5.5 acres.