

Contin's Hidden History

Geophysical
Survey 2023

What lies beneath the fields north & south of Contin Parish Church?

Contin Parish Church is attributed in the 8th century AD to St Maelrubha, a saint based at the monastic settlement in Applecross, who had numerous associations across Scotland. He is believed to have created a new settlement in Contin, although no traces of this are visible.

Several late medieval gravestones have been found in the graveyard. Was there a medieval settlement nearby? We did some geophysical survey to find out.

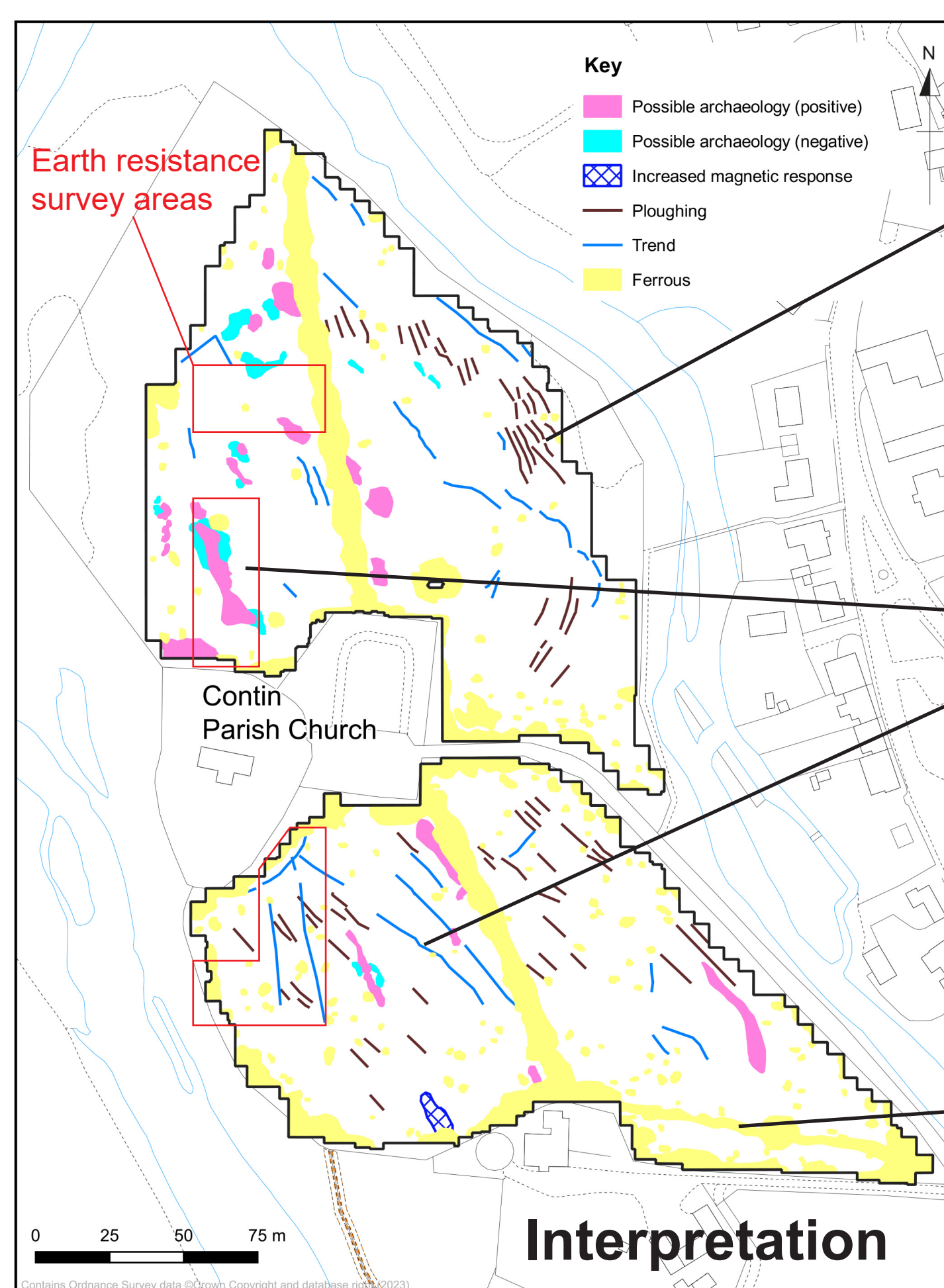
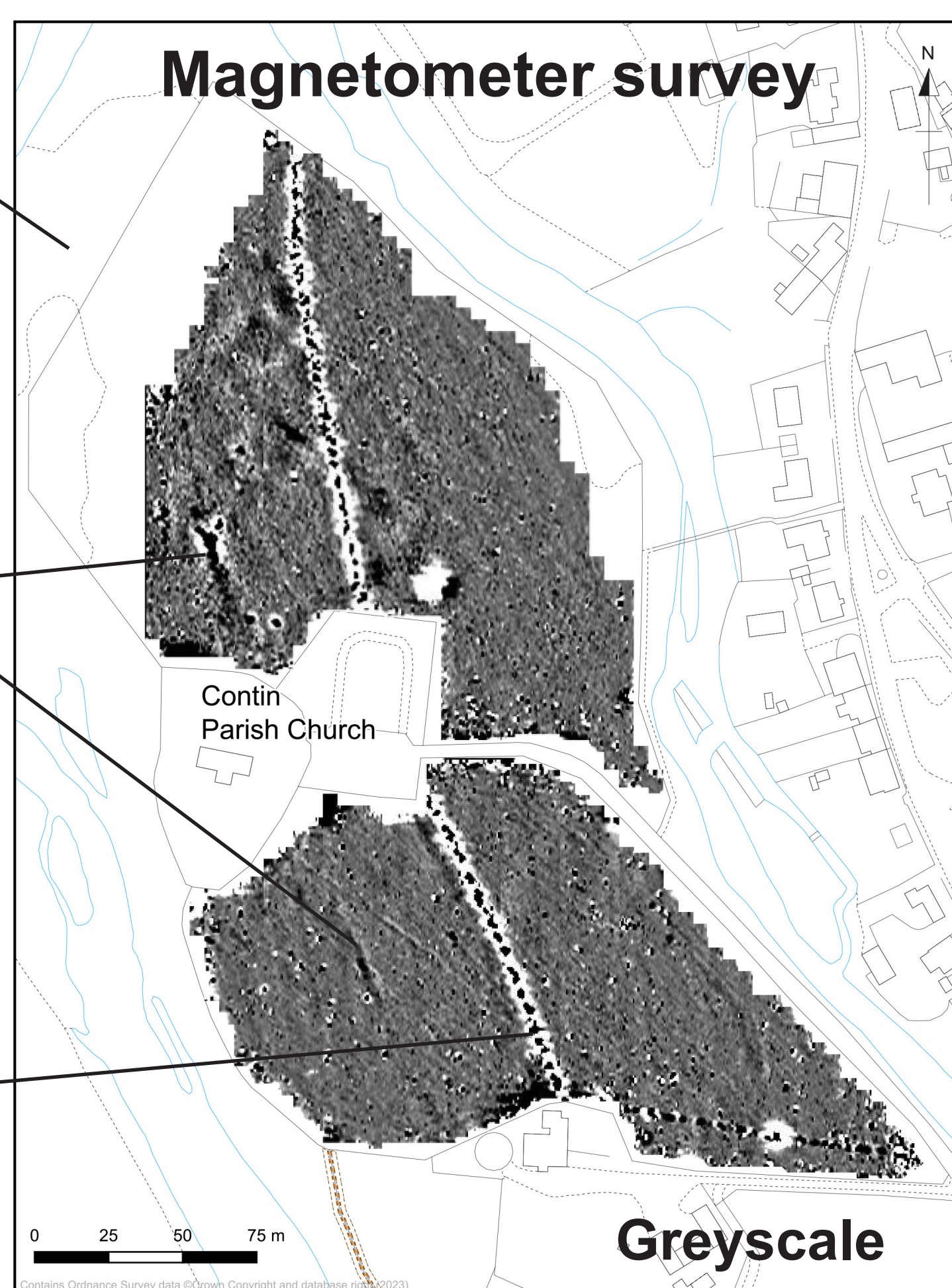


Magnetometer and targeted Earth Resistance surveys were undertaken

The Church is located on an island in the River Black Water

Linear features are evident N & S of the church. Are they tracks?

An electric cable traverses the fields



Modern plough marks can be seen in the data

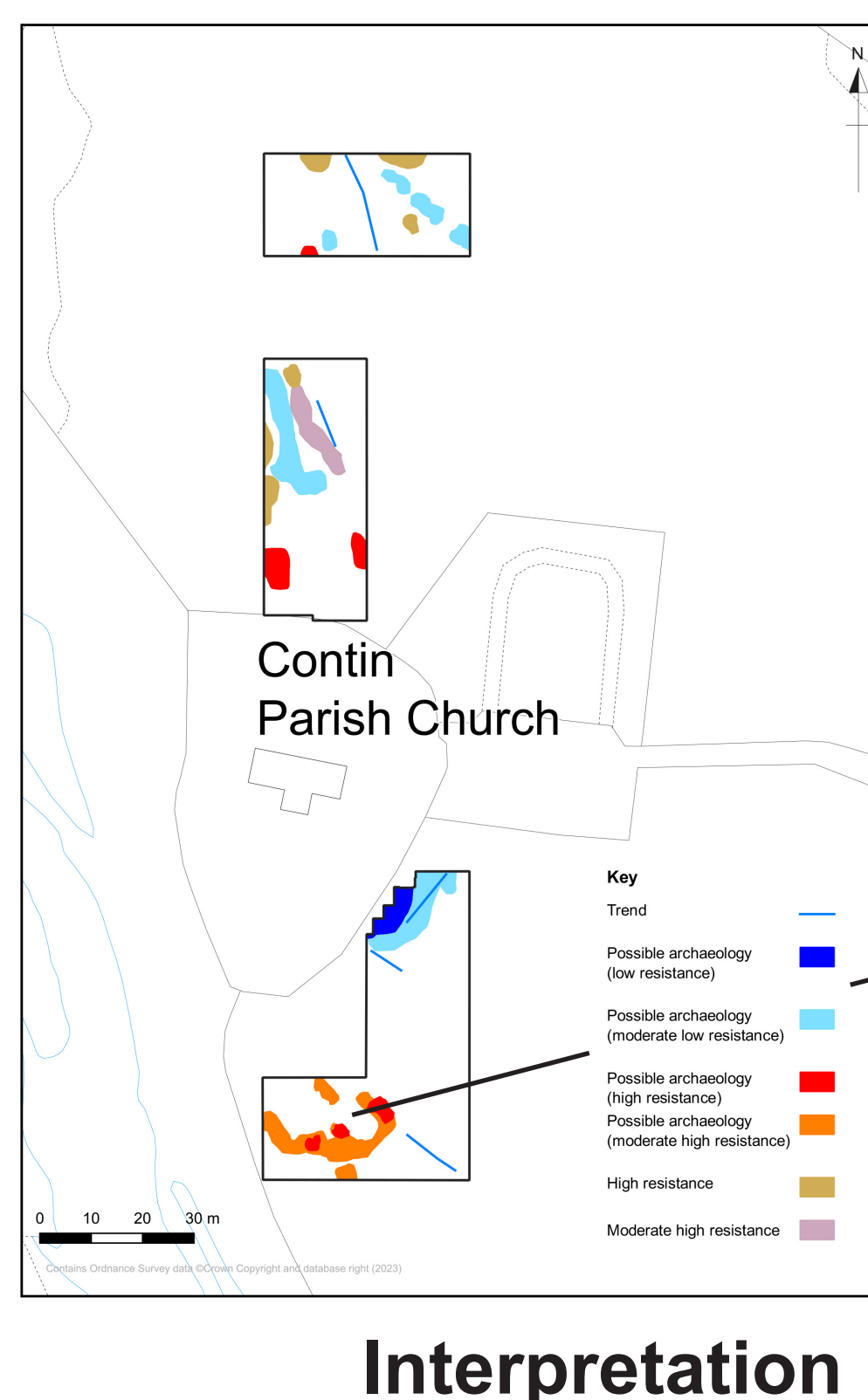
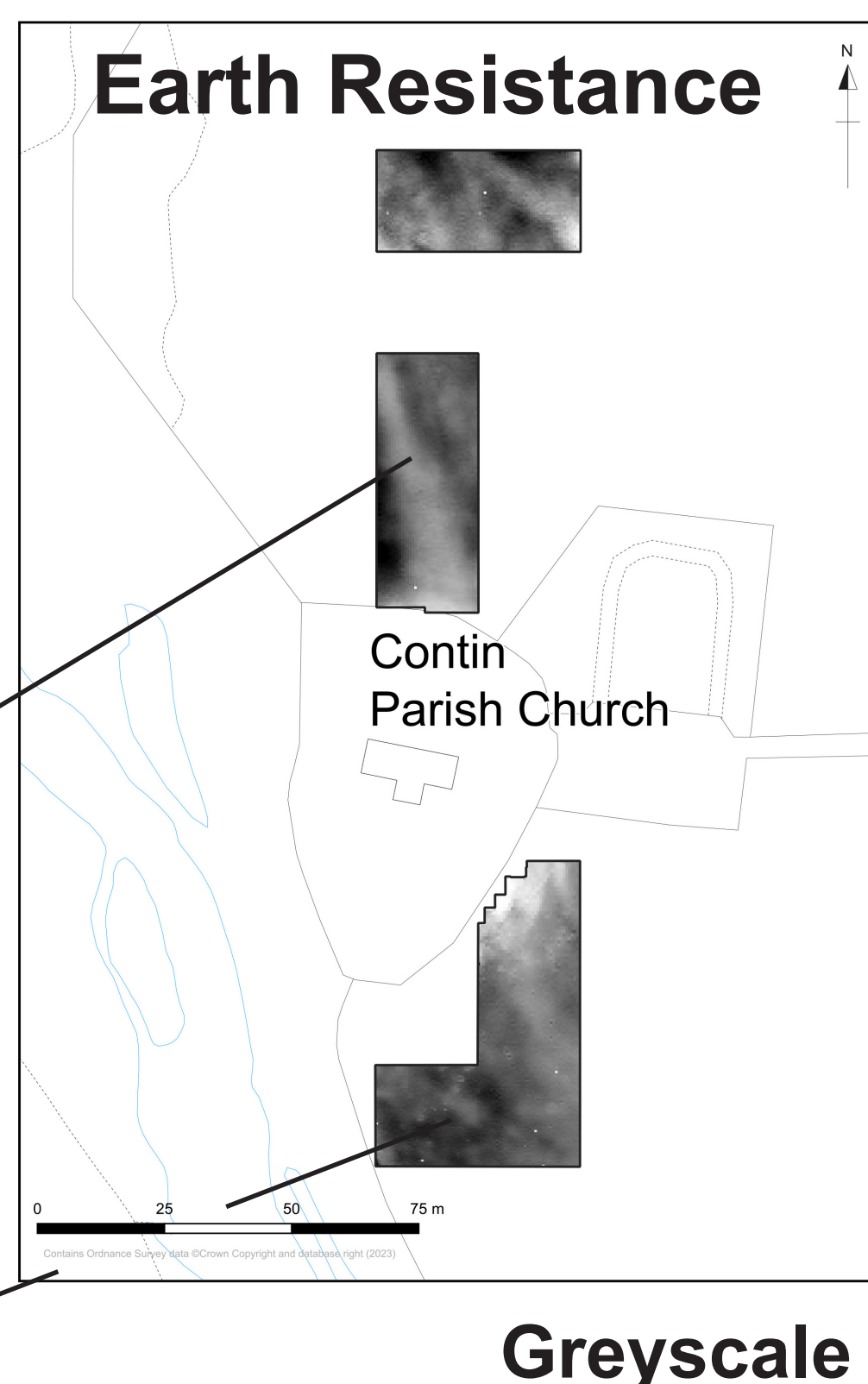
Linear trends could be buried archaeology

Ferrous anomalies are modern debris and cables

Magnetometer survey is well suited to locating cut features, areas of intense burning (i.e. kilns, hearths and ovens), evidence of possible buildings, ferrous debris, drains and utilities.

Broad linear features match some visible in Mag. data

Sub circular feature visible south of church, but not in Mag.



Earth resistance survey is well suited to locate walls and rubble spreads, made surfaces such as roads or yards, and stone coffins or cists. Also ditches and pits in areas where magnetic survey is not suitable.

Sub-circular feature could be a buried structure

What next?
Historical research
More geophysics
Field walking
Test pitting

The results show tantalising evidence for buried archaeology, but no apparent large-scale medieval settlement!