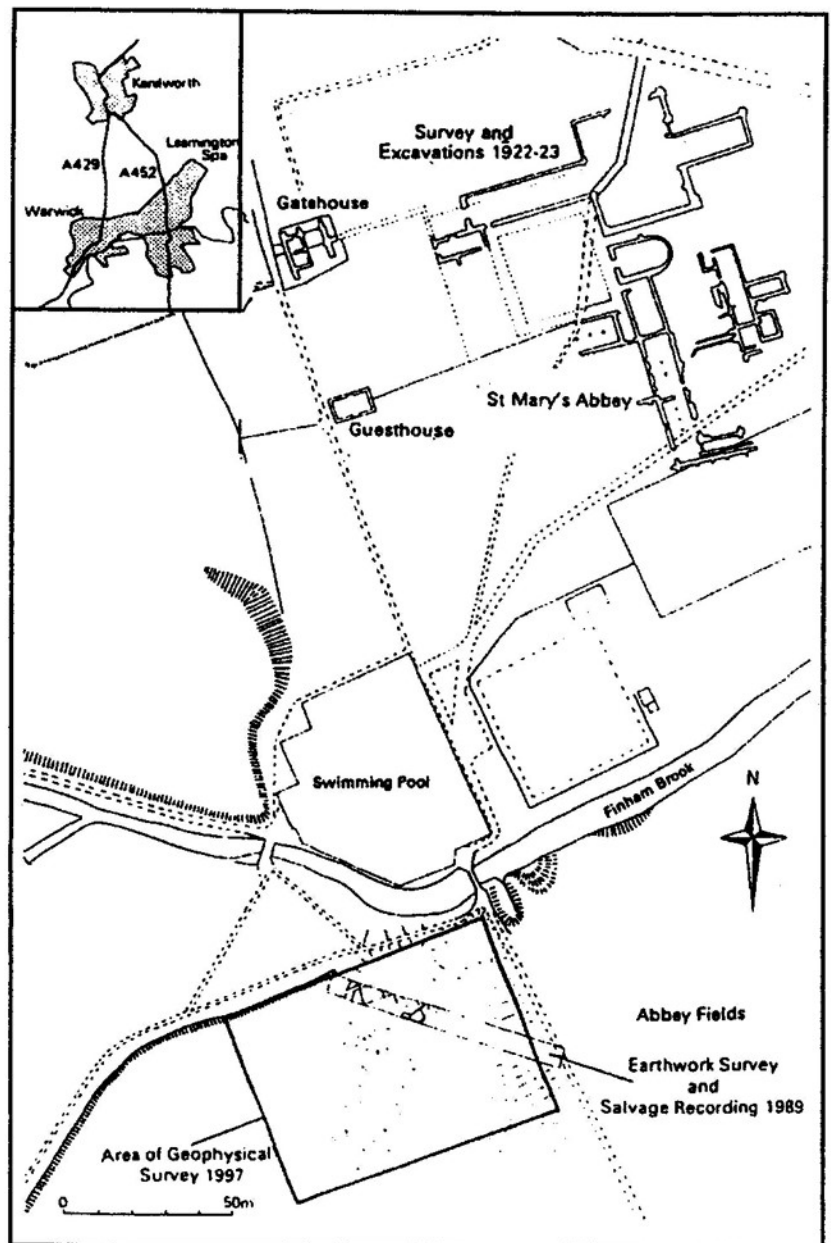


GEOPHYSICAL WORK IN ABBEY FIELDS

Emma Jones

During March 1997 as part of National Science, Engineering and Technology Week, Warwickshire Museum Field Service Section performed a geophysical resistivity survey in Kenilworth Abbey Fields. A resistivity survey uses electrical conductivity to measure the level of resistance of buried features to a current passed between two probes. Readings are taken by inserting two probes located at the bottom of the instrument into the ground. An area covering 60 x 80m was surveyed in a series of grids. Each grid was 20 x 20m. Each square was surveyed and the information downloaded onto a computer. Once stored, the raw data is processed to highlight archaeological features which are interpreted to produce a plan of what is buried beneath the ground surface.

Our results have not yet been finally processed but several features have already been identified. Two modern features were the line of a water pipe and the trench outline of an archaeological dig for a pipe laid in 1989. During this activity in 1989 a salvage excavation recorded a number of buildings and other foundations that probably relate to the Abbey precinct. It is likely that many of the anomalies identified through the survey



will tie in with these excavated features.

The event proved to be an enormous success with members of the public. Over the two days we saw approximately 60 children from surrounding schools and over 100 adults. We have been asked to repeat the event soon so we should be able to survey even more of Abbey Field.

This project was undertaken with help and co-operation from Warwick District Council. Many members of the Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society turned out to participate, but Keith Croucher spent the whole two days assisting us. Without his help the event would undoubtedly have fallen into chaos. Thank you, Keith!

[Emma Jones is the SMR Officer, Warwickshire Museum, - Ed.]

