ARC ESTW95 WEST OF EYHORNE STREET

Survey Results

10 Site Information

10.1 The area under investigation lies approximately 0.5km east of Junction 8 of the M20 motorway. An area of 30m by 240m was investigated by gradiometer scanning and magnetic susceptibility sampling. The transect occupies a pasture field that slopes noticeably with the highest point being in the west. The eastern limit of the transect is adjacent to a former sand quarry. The soils within the survey area are well drained coarse loamy typical argillic brown earths, formed over a sandy parent.

11 Display of Data

11.1 A plan showing the anomalies noted during scanning are provided in Figure 42. A greyscale image and interpretation plan of the magnetic susceptibility data are shown in Figures 43 and 44 respectively. All diagrams are produced at a scale of 1:1000.

12 Results of Magnetic Scanning

12.1 The level of response from this transect was magnetically relatively quiet, although a single strand electric fence just to the north of the centreline did cause a band of minor magnetic disturbance. Similarly, the field boundary to the south of the centreline created an area of disturbance (1) running the length of the scanning corridor, as indicated on the plan. Although this disturbance is due in part to the wire fencing, the magnitude of disturbance suggests the possibility of a pipe running along the length of this field boundary.

12.2 At the south-western extreme of the transect several isolated anomalies (2) were detected by the gradiometer. These lie 10m east of a stopcock and may be associated with it, especially as the responses suggest a ferrous origin. Although no indication of a pipe was noted, the responses may be due to pipe couplings. However, the position of the anomalies on an area of higher ground may be significant.

12.3 An area of increased noise (3) has been located in the east of the transect. While some of the responses suggest a modern ferrous origin, others are potentially archaeological. These minor anomalies coincide with low earthworks suggesting a terrace/platform and, as such, may be archaeologically significant. However, these anomalies are a short distance from a former sand quarry and could therefore have a more modern origin, such as ground disturbance or landfill material.

13 Results of Magnetic Susceptibility Survey

13.1 Given the geological conditions at the site, one would expect such a soil to possess a low magnitude of c. A minor degree of pedological variation might be expected in the extreme NW of the survey area due to a higher clay content from underlying head deposits.

13.2 The apparent enhancement at the eastern end of the survey area lies close to a body of potentially contaminated land and must be regarded, therefore, as suspect. The western area of enhancement is unlikely to be wholly explicable in terms of pedological variation. This anomaly may be archaeologically significant, however, its position next to a trackway and manhole makes topsoil potential contamination more probable.

13.3 The variation seen at the western end of the transect is unlikely to be pedological in origin, and whilst an archaeological cause cannot be ruled out, land use and potential contamination are more likely.

14 Conclusions

14.1 Although some areas of enhanced response have been noted, these are most likely to be due to modern disturbance or localised contamination.