ARC HRT95 HARRIETSHAM

Survey Results

20 Site Information

20.1 The site lies just to south of the village of Harrietsham and runs alongside the northeastern edge of the M20 motorway. The area is generally level and was predominantly under pasture at the time of survey. One small field supported a young crop. The soils are well drained calcareous fine silty brown earth soils over chalky drift throughout the survey area. Several artefacts have been retrieved from this general area by metal detector users (Landowner: Mr Monk *pers. comm.*).

21 Display of Data

21.1 A plan showing the anomalies noted during scanning are provided in Figure 48. A greyscale image and interpretation plan of the magnetic susceptibility data are shown in Figures 49 and 50 respectively. All diagrams are produced at a scale of 1:1000.

22 Results of Magnetic Scanning

22.1 Scanning of the western field adjacent to Fairbourne Lane indicated a relatively high level of background noise, particularly in the west where modern brick and similar material was visible on the surface. The boundary fence marking the southern limit of the transect also generated an area of magnetic disturbance.

22.2 Scanning of the field immediately to the east showed the whole area to be extremely disturbed magnetically, with the instrument going into saturation over the majority of the field. Past use of the field by Costains as a depot during construction of the M20 has clearly 'contaminated' the area. Even if archaeological deposits exist, their responses would not be detectable through the modern magnetic noise.

22.3 A small concentration of mostly ferrous responses (1) has been located towards the centre of the transect. Although some of the anomalies appear archaeological in nature, given the context, a modern origin seems most likely. An area of increased noise (2) was also encountered 30m to the southeast as indicated on the plan.

22.4 An area of increased noise and ferrous responses was located at (3) in the vicinity of a manhole cover. It is most likely that these responses relate to pipes/drains which appear to run parallel to the field boundary and respect low linear earthworks.

22.5 In the most easterly field magnetic disturbance in the vicinity of a small reinforced bridge over a drain was noted, together with isolated ferrous responses.

22.6 A concentration of minor anomalies (4), which appear to be associated with slight earthworks, have been located towards the eastern limit of the transect. It is possible that the earthworks and anomalies are due to more recent ground disturbance associated with the M20 bridge over the track.

23 Results of Magnetic Susceptibility Survey

23.1 The general level of susceptibility readings is low, though there are broad clusters of elevated readings. Two of these coincide with areas of disturbed ground and a bonfire/manure heap. The broad variations in c respect present field boundaries: this is most striking within the eastern section of the survey which suggests that land use and topsoil contamination in certain fields are the major causes of enhancement. However, archaeological causes contributing to these areas of enhancement cannot be excluded.

23.2 One region of magnetic susceptibility enhancement coincides with an area of possible archaeology as detected by gradiometry and may warrant further investigation.

24 Conclusions

24.1 Although the magnetic susceptibility does vary across this transect, it appears to be attributable primarily to recent land use and topsoil contamination.

24.2 One cluster of enhanced readings correspond to an anomaly located during scanning that may be archaeologically significant. However, the lack of associated responses makes an archaeological interpretation tentative.