ARC MSH95 MERSHAM

Survey Results

45 Site Information

45.1 The site lies adjacent to Mersham village which contains a number of medieval and post medieval buildings and just to the south of a manor house. Two survey areas within a pasture field were investigated using detailed gradiometry. The field was under pasture and generally level. However, the close proximity of buildings and general ferrous debris on the surface has resulted in a high level of background noise. The soils can be grouped as typical stagnogleys or alluvial gley soils.

46 Display of Data

46.1 The gradiometer data are displayed as XY traces, dot density plots and grey scale images. An interpretation diagram for each area and technique are also provided. All diagrams are produced at a scale of 1:625.

47 Results of Detailed Gradiometry

47.1 Area A (Figures 63-65)

- 47.1.1 From the display of the data it is apparent that there is a high level of background noise. A clearly defined area of increased noise (1) is apparent in the west of the survey area and is most likely to indicate a former track or similar made-up ground. A smaller area of magnetic noise (2), also modern, is visible in the east of the survey area.
- 47.1.2 Weak responses from archaeological features, if present, would be very difficult to detect through the modern disturbance.

47.2 Area B (Figures 66-68)

- 47.2.1 There is clear evidence of strong magnetic responses (3) along the southern and eastern edges of the survey area caused by fences, buildings and possibly a pipe.
- 47.2.2 A linear anomaly (4) has been located in the west of the survey, apparently associated with pit type responses (5) which extend for 50m eastwards from the linear. Although the linear and pit type responses appear archaeological in nature, the band of noise detected to the north, in Area A, perhaps suggests a modern origin.

48 Conclusions

48.1 Although a concentration of ditch and pit type responses have been noted, the high level of ferrous disturbance and the limited survey area casts some doubt on such an archaeological interpretation.

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