ARC SND95 SANDWAY

Survey Results

30 Site Information

30.1 The area under investigation lies immediately to the north of Sandway village and crosses several fields either side of Headcorn Road. All fields were under pasture at the time of survey and generally level with the exception of the most westerly field, which slopes up towards the east. There is a change in the soil group along the eastern half of the Western Section of the survey, the change being from pelo-stagnogleys to the more typical argillic brown earths. Whilst this change would be gradual, the soil map of the area places it about the line of Headcorn Road whereas the borehole data suggests it may be slightly further to the NW. Changes in the magnetic susceptibility data set do not coincide with either of these and reflect, presumably, non-pedological factors.

31 Display of Data

31.1 A plan showing the anomalies noted during scanning are provided in Figure 54. A greyscale image and interpretation plan of the magnetic susceptibility data are shown in Figures 55 and 56 respectively. All diagrams are produced at a scale of 1:1000.

32 Results of Magnetic Scanning

32.1 Scanning of the two most westerly fields located several possible pit type anomalies (1) and (2). The ferrous responses also apparent at (2) cast some doubt on an archaeological interpretation for the pit type responses.

32.2 In the field immediately west of Headcorn Road only two small areas of magnetic disturbance were noted. These are most likely to be due to modern debris or disturbance.

32.3 Scanning of the fields between Headcorn Road and Boughton Road revealed them to be magnetically quiet. However, isolated ferrous responses (3), most likely modern, were noted. An isolated pit type anomaly (4) has also been noted. Its isolated nature suggests a non-archaeological origin.

33 Results of Magnetic Susceptibility Survey

33.1 The general levels of topsoil susceptibility are elevated in comparison to the other survey areas and there are several interesting clusters. One of these clusters lies just to the east of gradiometry anomaly (2) and may, therefore, be significant.

33.2 There is a marked change in the c readings to the southeast of Headcorn road. Such a sharp change in the data set strongly suggests different land uses separated by a field boundary, in this case the change coincides with a stream. The borehole data recorded brick fragments incorporated into the topsoil, which would concur with the suggestion that the elevated readings west of the stream reflect differences in past agricultural practice and land use.

33.3 Whilst one would expect a lesser magnitude of enhancement over the coarse argillic brown earths when compared to the fine loamy pelo-stagnogleys, this would only explain a fraction of any variation in c enhancement across the survey area. Land use factors, and possible archaeological causes, must account for a large part of this variation.

34 Conclusions

34.1 Although scanning has located a few anomalies of possible archaeological interest, their association with obviously ferrous responses casts some doubt on such an interpretation.

34.2 The results of the magnetic susceptibility survey show a great deal of variation. While some of this may be attributable to archaeological factors, recent land use seems to be a more probable cause.