ARC SRCL95 STATION ROAD TO CHURCH LANE

Survey Results

59 Site Information

59.1 The area under investigation by detailed gradiometry lies to the south of the M20 motorway, immediately to the west of an electricity substation, and 2km west of Sellindge Village. The survey areas investigated occupy three fields, all of which supported young crops at the time of survey. The data can be divided into two sections; eastern and western. The eastern section comprises five survey strips within one field that showed a marked variation in topography. The western field contained two survey areas, one of which straddles a drainage ditch marking a field boundary; both fields are gently undulating. Fieldwalking in this area has recovered numerous flint artefacts.

60 Display of Data

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

60.2 The survey comprises nine survey areas as indicated on the two location diagrams, Figures 15 and 16. The eastern field contains five transects, Areas A to E, while the western field contains two transects which have been subdivided into four areas, F to I, for display purposes.

61 Results of Detailed Gradiometry

Eastern Field

61.1 Area A (Figures 75-77)

61.1.1 The background response in this area is generally low, though there is magnetic noise along the northern edge of the area, adjacent to the track and fence.

61.1.2 A linear response (1), aligned northeast-southwest, has been detected in the east of the survey. Although this could be archaeological, the data collected in Areas B to E suggest that the anomaly is due to a land drain.

61.2 Area B (Figures 78-80)

61.2.1 The background response is very quiet although isolated ferrous responses have been noted throughout the survey area.

61.2.2 Three parallel linear anomalies (2), aligned approximately NNE-SSW, have been detected in the east of the survey area and most likely indicate land drains.

61.2.3 Three small pit-type responses (3) have been noted in the western half of the transect. As these anomalies are very weak and are not associated with any ditch-type features it is most likely that they represent more deeply buried ferrous material or possibly localised pedological variations.

61.3 Area C (Figures 81-83)

61.3.1 Area C exhibits a similar level of background response to Area B and also contains isolated ferrous responses.

61.3.2 Three parallel linear anomalies (4) have been detected and are a continuation of the presumed land drains located in Area B.

61.3.3 Pit type responses (5) similar to those seen in Area B have also been noted. Again a natural/ modern origin seems plausible.

61.4 Area D (Figures 84-86)

61.4.1 Area D shows a similar background response to the previous two survey areas. Isolated ferrous responses and pit type anomalies (6) have also been recorded and are likely to have the same origin as those seen in Areas B and C.

61.4.2 Three parallel linear anomalies (7) have been recorded in the east of the survey area, aligned approximately NE-SW. The change in alignment suggests a 'herringbone' drainage pattern. It seems possible that a 'centrespine' exists between Areas C and D.

61.5 Area E (Figures 87-89)

61.5.1 Two parallel linear anomalies (8) have been detected in the east of the survey area. These are on the same alignment as those recorded in Area D and would appear to indicate their continuation.

61.5.2 A concentration of pit type anomalies (9) has been noted in the east of the survey area. However, these are close to a borehole which lies just outside the survey area, and may be due to ground disturbance associated with it and modern ferrous material.

61.5.3 Isolated ferrous and pit type responses (10) have been noted within the survey area and, as with the previous survey areas, are likely to be modern and/or due to localised pedological variations.

Western Field

61.6 Area F (Figures 90-92)

61.6.1 The data are dominated by four parallel linear anomalies (11) in the east of the survey, which are aligned approximately NW-SE, and suggest the presence of land drains. The interrupted nature of the two most northerly linear anomalies is an aliasing effect caused by the data collection; the anomalies do not indicate a pit alignment.

61.6.2 Two weak linear anomalies (12) have been detected towards the western limit of the survey area. These appear to be archaeological in nature. However, a modern origin such as ploughing, or a track, cannot be ruled out.

61.6.3 Isolated ferrous responses have been detected within the survey area and the most prominent of these are noted on the interpretation plan.

61.7 Area G (Figures 93-95)

61.7.1 This area has a slightly higher level of background response which may be due to its close proximity to a surface drain marking the field boundary.

61.7.2 A relatively strong linear anomaly (13), with apparently associated pit type responses (14), has been recorded in the western half of the survey area. These anomalies suggest an archaeological origin, though a natural or modern origin cannot be ruled out, given the relatively close proximity to the ponds and river.

61.8 Area H (Figures 96-98)

61.8.1 The level of background response in this area is very weak compared to Area G, suggesting that the noise seen in Area G is associated with a field boundary/drain.

61.8.2 A short linear anomaly (15) has been recorded on the southern limit of the survey area. The restricted survey width makes it extremely difficult to interpret this anomaly. It could be archaeological although a modern origin such as a drain is equally possible.

61.8.3 A few very weak linear responses (16) have been recorded in the west of the survey. It is most likely that these are due to modern ploughing effects.

61.9 Area I (Figures 99-101)

61.9.1 The level of background response is relatively low, though several isolated ferrous responses have been noted.

61.9.2 A broad weak anomaly (17) and a weak linear response (18) have been recorded in the southeast of the survey. The broad, diffuse nature of the pit type anomaly suggests a natural origin such as a pocket of magnetic gravel. However, the linear anomaly suggests a narrow feature which is unlikely to be natural, although it could be modern.

62 Conclusions

62.1 The data from the western field show a more varied background with strong linear anomalies being recorded in the west. These are most likely to represent land drains. Two weak linear responses have been recorded towards the western limit of the transects. While these may be archaeological, an agricultural origin cannot be ruled out.

62.2 In the eastern half of this field linear and pit type responses have been noted together with a large diffuse pit type response towards the southern limit. Whilst these responses could be archaeologically significant, their close proximity to the river could suggest a natural origin such as pockets of magnetic gravels.

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CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK

Contract 194/580

Draft Report

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