ARC CHS95 SOUTH OF CORBIER HALL

Survey Results

5 Site Information

5.1 The site lies adjacent to the northern limit of the M20 motorway, south of Court Farm. The areas under investigation cover the presumed location of Corbier Hall, a medieval moated site, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. A Section 42 licence was issued prior to survey. In addition, a Roman Villa is known to exist some 200m to the west.

5.2 The site was generally level and supported a young crop at the time of survey. The soils within the survey area are well drained coarse loamy typical argillic brown earths, formed over a sandy parent.

5.3 The three survey transects have been labelled A, B and C as indicated on the location diagram, Figure 4. The relative position of the resistance survey is also shown.

6 Display of Data

6.1 The gradiometer data are displayed as XY traces, dot density plots and grey scale images. The resistance data are displayed as a series of greyscale images. A plot showing interpolated data is included. The data have been smoothed by inserting calculated readings between the recorded data. This results in the data set being expanded from 400 readings per 20m grid to 1600 readings. An interpretation diagram for each area and technique are also provided. All diagrams are produced at a scale of 1:625.

7 Detailed Gradiometer Survey

7.1 Area A (Figures 30-32)

7.1.1 The results from Area A are dominated by a band of increased noise (1) in the centre of the survey aligned approximately northeast-southwest. The response is consistent with rubble infill of a ditch, approximately 10m wide. It is possible that this anomaly could indicate an in-filled moat, although earlier maps (1961 6" Ordnance Survey map) show a drainage ditch consistent with the location and orientation of the band of magnetic noise. This anomaly also appears to correspond with the cropmark visible on aerial photographs. However, the width of the anomaly is more suggestive of a moat than a drainage ditch. It is possible that the later drianage ditch followed the course of the moat in this area.

7.1.2 Isolated ferrous type responses have been noted throughout the survey area and are most likely to be the product of modern debris in the topsoil. No areas of increased noise consistent with building remains were recorded within this survey transect.

7.2 Area B (Figures 33-35)

7.2.1 Two bands of magnetic noise (2) and (3) are apparent towards the centre of Area B. These are of a similar nature to that seen in Area A and the most easterly area of noise (3) appears to be a continuation of the band of increased magnetic noise noted in Area A.

7.2.2 The western area of noise (2) is difficult to interpret, particularly as it does not extend into the other survey areas. It may be the result of modern disturbance associated with a former field boundary marking the edge of the wood shown on earlier OS maps. The restricted survey areas hinder interpretation to some extent.

7.2.3 A narrow anomaly (4) aligned northwest-southeast has been located in the southeast of the survey area. This is most likely to represent a land drain leading to the larger drain detected in survey Areas A and B. Although the possibility of this response representing the moat cannot be ruled out, the feature appears to be too narrow for such an origin. It may, however, be a drain contemporary with the building and moat.

7.2.4 Isolated ferrous type responses, which are probably modern in origin, have been noted throughout the survey area.

7.3 Area C (Figures 36-38)

7.3.1 The data show broad zones of magnetic disturbance in the majority of the area. The level of noise is stronger in the south of the survey, adjacent to the M20 motorway and, therefore, suggests modern disturbance/ waste material associated with construction of the motorway.

7.3.2 Within the results there is evidence of a continuation (5) of the band of magnetic noise seen in the previous two survey areas although it is not as clearly defined.

8 Detailed Resistance Survey (Figures 39-41)

8.1 The south-eastern section of survey Areas A and B were investigated using the resistance technique, as indicated in Figure 4. As no magnetic anomalies suggestive of building remains were detected by the gradiometer, resistance survey was confined approximately to the scheduled area.

8.2 A concentration of linear high resistance anomalies (6) has been located within Area A and clearly represent building foundations. The limits of the building have been established in three directions. The southern limit is not clearly defined as surveying had to be restricted to the pre-defined survey areas. However, no evidence of building remains have been recorded within Area B to the south.

8.3 A broad low resistance anomaly (7) has been detected along the western limit of the survey area. The location and orientation of the anomaly is consistent with the band of magnetic noise detected by the gradiometer survey of Areas A and B, which is believed to represent the drain visible on earlier OS maps. However the low resistance anomaly is some 15m wide and is perhaps more indicative of an in-filled moat than an open drain. As stated earlier it is possible that the western section of the moat was 're-used' by the drain.

8.4 A narrow low resistance response (8) aligned northwest-southeast has been detected and coincides with magnetic anomaly referred to in Section 3.2.3.

9 Conclusions

9.1 The resistance survey has successfully located anomalies indicating the remains of Corbier Hall. Although a low resistance anomaly suggestive of a moat have been recorded, interpretation is confused by the known presence of an open drain visible on OS maps.

9.2 The gradiometry data are affected by modern ferrous disturbance. Although a clear anomaly has been detected through all three survey areas, it coincides with a drain shown on earlier OS maps. It is possible that this feature have may coincided with the moat.