worcestershire countycouncil

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service
Historic Environment Record
Source No: SWR23056

SURVEY RESULTS

2002 / 101 Inkberrow, Worcestershire

1. Survey Area

1.1 The survey grid was set out by ***GSB Prospection*** and tied in to existing field boundaries using an EDM. Two areas were surveyed, one either side of the drive to Thorn Farm. A total of 1.1ha of magnetic data was collected in the two areas. The location of these survey areas is shown in Figure 1 at the scale of 1:1250.

1.2 Detailed tie-in information has been lodged with the client.

2. Display

2.1 Figure 2 presents the data in summary format as a greyscale image at the scale of 1:1250, this is accompanied by an interpretation at the same scale (Figure 3).

2.2 Figures 4 to 8 display the results as X-Y traces and dot density plots at the scale of 1:500 and are accompanied by interpretations at the same scale. .

2.3 These display formats and the interpretation categories used are discussed in the *Technical Information* section at the end of the text.

23 Letters in parentheses relate to anomalies that are highlighted on the relevant interpretation diagrams.

3. General Considerations - Complicating factors

3.1 Conditions for survey were good with little or no ground cover. However, part of the proposed survey area in the field south of the drive was unsuitable due to the presence of a young crop which was protected by canes and string. As a result, the shape of the survey was changed and an additional area was surveyed to the north of the drive, where field walking evidence also suggests the presence of buried archaeology.

3.2 In both data sets numerous small-scale ferrous-type anomalies can be seen. They are presumed to be modern and are not discussed in the text unless they are considered relevant.

4. Area A

This survey covered the main concentration of finds collected by fieldwalking. The magnetic data were collected in this area using a Bartington Grad 601-2 dual system.

4.1. The most significant response (A) can be identified as part of an enclosure, possibly double ditched, situated directly to the south of the cottage at the western end of the drive to the farm. The extent of the enclosure within the survey area cannot be traced fully as there is considerable ferrous noise (B) adjacent to the fence surrounding the cottage. It is likely that the cottage partially overlies the enclosure.

4.2. Within the enclosure there are a few anomalies of possible archaeological interest. However, these anomalies are generally weak and do not form any coherent plan. It is possible that ploughing has eroded many of the features associated with this site.

4.3 At the north-western edge of the survey there is an area of increased response (C). While it is likely that this is the result of buried archaeology, the proximity of the drive and road suggests that some of this noise may be recent in date.

4.4 Several anomalies of archaeological potential lie at the eastern edge of the enclosure. Firstly there is a broad positive anomaly (D) that is aligned approximately north-south. By comparison with the presumed enclosure ditches the response here is extremely wide, perhaps 5m across. The function of this anomaly is not clear. While it may be a large ditch, it is also possible that it may be a grubbed out hedge or an in-filled hollow way. Historical maps may help in the interpretation of this anomaly. Secondly there are a number of strong anomalies (E) directly to the east of linear (D). These responses (E) are very strong and are likely to represent pits filled with strongly enhanced material such as fired or burnt deposits.

4.5 A band of noise can be seen at (F) and it is likely that this represents modern ferrous or brick material in the topsoil.

5. Area B

Area B is on short grass and covers suitable survey land directly to the north of the drive to Thorn Farm. The data in this field was collected using both the Geoscan Research FM256 and FM36 instruments.

5.1 The data from Area B are dominated by the large, modern, ferrous response in the south-western corner. Elsewhere there are many other smaller ferrous responses, especially along the southern edge.

5.2 The evidence for archaeological type anomalies is more ambiguous than for the previous survey area. There is a broad anomaly (G) that probably represents the continuation of the enigmatic anomaly (D), noted above. With the magnetic maps from both area in their relative location (Figure 2), it can be seen that (D) and (G) form more of a sinuous, rather than straight, alignment. While this response is familiar from pedological features, such as palaeochannels, it is not certain if the topography allows such a formation at this position and, therefore, an archaeological origin is, on balance, more plausible.

5.3 To the west of (G) there are a few other anomalies of archaeological potential which are very poorly defined. This gives the impression that if archaeological features do exist within this survey area, they are likely to have been damaged by ploughing.

6. Conclusions

6.1 Magnetic survey in Area A has detected numerous ditch and pit-type anomalies (A), (D) and (E) which suggest former settlement activity. The most notable (A) appear to form part of an

enclosure, the rest of which probably lies under Thorn Lodge, or was destroyed in by its construction. A zone of increased response in the north-west of Area A may indicate that archaeological remains lie immediately beyond the north-western boundary of the survey area. .

6.2 The archaeological interpretation of the results from Area B are more debatable. A sub-linear anomaly (G) is thought to be the continuation of (D) in Area A, however, it is not certain if the feature is archaeological, modern or natural in origin.

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Project Assistants: M Saunders, C Stephens, B Urmston & Dr D Weston

Date of Survey: 26th November 2002
Date of Report: 16th December 2002

References:

SSEW 1983. *Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 3, Midland and Western England.* Soil Survey of England and Wales.

GSB PROSPECTION

PROJECT: 2002/101 Inkberrow

TITLE: Summary Greyscale

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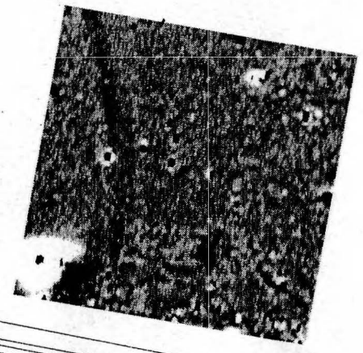
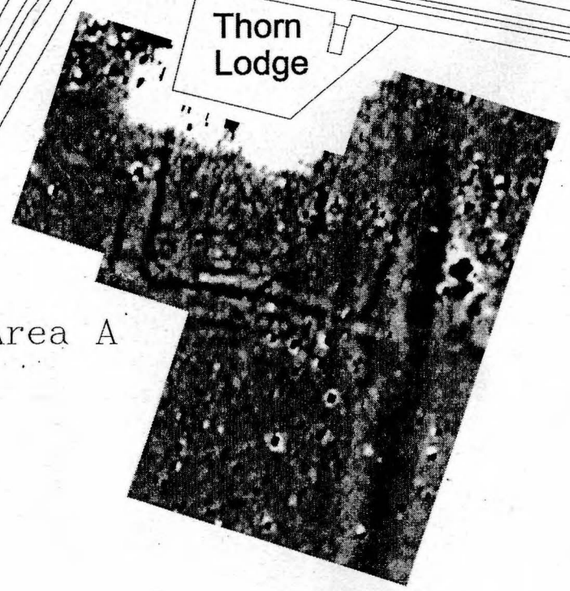
Path (um)

Area B



Thorn Lodge



Area A

Thorn Farm

Thorn House

Thorn

Thorn Farmhouse

Little Thorn Cottage

1.5

nT

-1.5

0 metres 50

Figure 2

GSB PROSPECTION

PROJECT: 2002/101 Inkberrow

TITLE: Summary Interpretation

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Path (um)

Area B

G

Thorn Lodge

C

B

A

F

E

Area A

D

Thorn Farm

Thorn House

Thorn

Thorn Farmhouse

Little Thorn Cottage

Archaeology

?Archaeology

Area of Increased Magnetic Response

Trend

Area of Magnetic Disturbance

Ferrous Response

0 metres 50

Figure 3

INKBERROW
Area A

Archaeology

?Archaeology

Area of Increased Magnetic Response

Area of Magnetic Disturbance

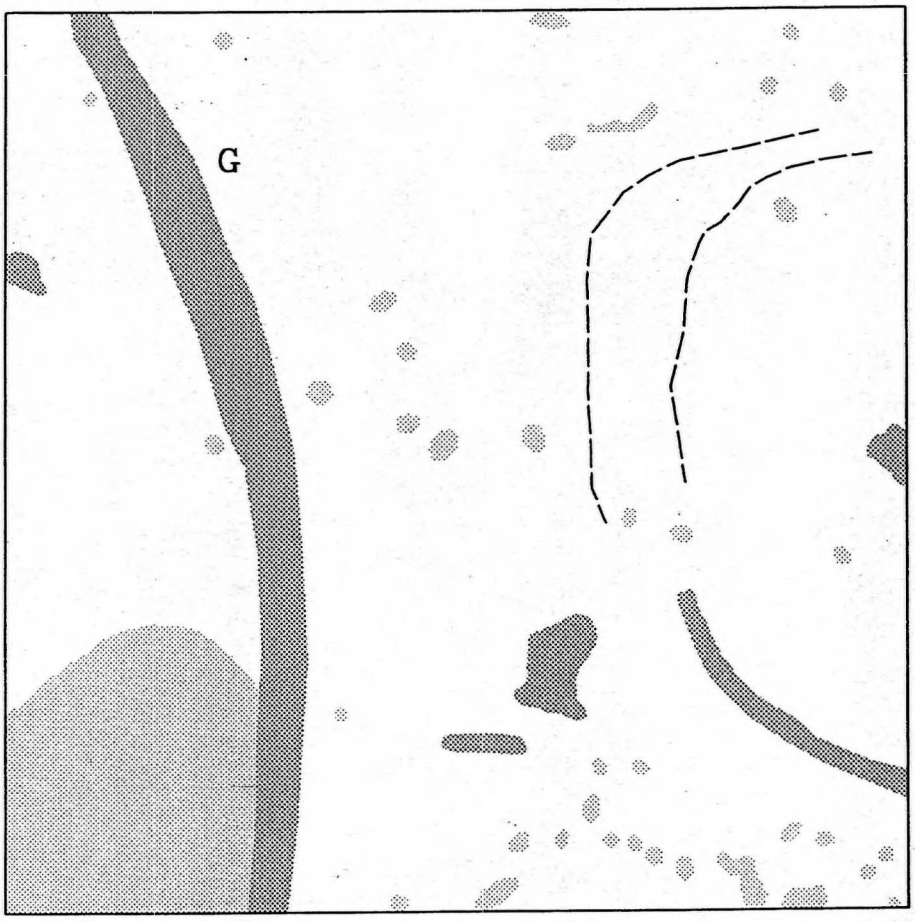
Ferrous

0 m 20

GSB Prospection 2002/101

Figure 6

INKBERROW
Area B



? Archaeology

Trend

Ferrous

0 m 20

GSB Prospection 2002/101

Figure 8