Archaeology South-East

ASE

Detailed Magnetometer Survey Land at Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, East Sussex

> NGR: 563077 112210 (TQ 630 122)

ASE Project No: 7262 ASE Report No. 2014417

By Catherine Douglas

Illustrations by Justin Russell



January 2015

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Abstract

Archaeology South East was commissioned by Rydon Homes Ltd to undertake a detailed fluxgate gradiometer survey on land at Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, East Sussex. The survey took place on the 18th and 19th of December 2014. The survey area covered approximately 1.9 hectares and comprised pasture land bounded by post-and-rail fences, wire fences, ditches, woodland and an electric fence.

Evidence of potential archaeological features was successfully detected throughout the magnetic survey. The most obvious possible archaeological features were represented by a series of positive anomalies representative of discrete features such as pits and ditches, including a series of possible east-west aligned linear features which do not appear on available historic mapping of the site and may represent earlier boundary ditches. However, some of these anomalies may also relate to in filled natural features.

Statement of Indemnity

Geophysical survey is the collection of data that relate to subtle variations in the form and nature of soil and which relies on there being a measurable difference between buried archaeological features and the natural geology. Geophysical techniques do not specifically target archaeological features and anomalies noted in the interpretation do not necessarily relate to buried archaeological features. As a result, magnetic and earth resistance detail survey may not always detect sub-surface archaeological features. This is particularly true when considering earlier periods of human activity, for example those periods that are not characterised by sedentary social activity.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Rydon Homes Ltd to conduct a magnetometer survey on a site totalling approximately 1.9 hectares of land at Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, hitherto referred to as 'the site' (NGR. 563077 112210; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 According to the latest data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014a) the natural geology of the site comprises Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation of Siltstone, Mudstone and Sandstone. No superficial drift deposits are recorded at the site.
- 1.2.2 There are no boreholes recorded on the BGS Borehole Viewer (BGS 2014b) on the site or the immediate vicinity.
- 1.2.3 The site consists of an open fieldscape of rough-pasture. An area of Ancient Woodland forms the eastern boundary of the site and the site itself was wooded into the beginning of the 20th century. There are no buildings present on the site. The site lies to the south and west of two Archaeological Notification Areas, lies outside of the High Weald Area of Natural Beauty and does not lie within a Conservation Area.

1.3 Aims of geophysical investigation

1.3.1 The purpose of the geophysical survey was to detect any buried archaeological anomalies that might provide a measurable magnetic response.

1.4 Scope of report

1.4.1 The scope of this report is to report on the findings of the survey. The project was conducted by Catherine Douglas and Lauren Gibson. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post fieldwork).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is taken from the prior desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2014).

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 A number of isolated find spots are known to date from the Palaeolithic period within Sussex, but most of the relatively small number of artefacts found, have been recovered from geologically disturbed contexts. The majority of the finds in the region have been associated with the lines of raised beaches in the Upper Coastal Plain as at Boxgrove and Slindon (Woodcock 1978). Other finds have been retrieved from the chalk downland and the river gravel terraces, although these deposits are 'fragmentary and thin' (Woodcock 1999). Many Mesolithic sites in Sussex are represented by concentrations of flintwork rather than by settlement sites. These flint scatters are found in all parts of the county, forming clusters which may represent activity zones. The clusters predominate in the river valleys, with other sizeable concentrations on the High Weald and along the Coastal Plain.
- 2.2.2 The Neolithic was a period of increasing temperatures and more settled human occupation, allowing the development of more permanent farming systems alongside the traditional exploitation of natural resources. Although residual finds and isolated concentrations of worked flint are common in Sussex, evidence for settlement sites of this period is limited, particularly in coastal and floodplain areas where sites are likely to have been truncated by fluctuating sea-levels or become deeply buried beneath later deposits. Flintwork concentrations, causewayed enclosures and barrows indicate that during the Neolithic period settlement and farming was concentrated along the raised beaches and on the Chalk Downland to the south of the site. The areas north of the Downs are represented by isolated finds of stone axes and some flint tools. The current evidence would tend to suggest that only limited attempts were made to exploit this area for agricultural purposes during the Neolithic, as the poor drainage and extensive woodland cover would have proved a great obstacle.
- 2.2.3 An increase in funerary monuments is seen in the Bronze Age period. In Sussex, the vast majority of these are located on the South Downs, overlooking the Weald, river valleys and coastal environments. Early Bronze Age settlement sites are still thought to be poorly represented in Sussex as a whole. By the Middle Bronze Age, however, increased population and perhaps drier soils had encouraged settlement to spread from the Downs onto the Coastal Plain and it continued to increase in the Late Bronze Age. The area north of the Downs is very much a blank area throughout the Bronze Age based on current evidence, with a few isolated find spots of bronze axes perhaps indicating some utilisation of woodland resources, probably associated with woodland camps (Drewett, Rudling & Gardiner 1988, 112).

- 2.2.4 Rapid socio-economic growth occurred during the Iron Age, alongside a rise in population and the increasing exploitation of what had previously been more marginal environments. Consequently, this period is characterised by marked changes throughout the archaeological record of Sussex, from ceramic styles to settlement and funerary practices. A greater emphasis on trade and exchange can also be seen during the Late Iron Age, demonstrated by the appearance of local coin production and the growing presence of imported Roman goods, culminating in the rapid Romanisation of southern England at this time (Hamilton and Manley 1999). Few sites of this period are recorded from north of the Downs, apart from a scatter of hillforts in the High Weald, perhaps associated with increased exploitation of the Wealden iron ores in the Later Iron Age. Most of the settlement evidence from this period has come from the Downs and, increasingly, the Coastal Plain.
- 2.2.5 No prehistoric sites are recorded within the Study Area

2.3 Romano-British

- 2.3.1 As one of the nearest parts of Britain to the Continent, Sussex experienced contact with Rome from an early date, first as trade and then as conquest. Following the Roman invasion of AD43, the region became heavily settled, particularly along the Downs and the fertile Coastal Plain, where settlements were mostly associated with farming and are characterised by evidence of continuity with the previous Iron Age (Rudling 1999, 24). Settlements also occur along principal routes such as Stane Street, which linked the major urban centre of Chichester with London.
- 2.3.2 The iron industry took advantage of the favourable Wealden landscape during the Romano-British period and for this reason, the site could have potential for evidence of extraction or processing activity.
- 2.3.3 No Romano-British sites are recorded within the Study Area.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon

- 2.4.1 Prior to the 'official' end of the Roman rule of Britain in c.410AD there seems to have been a gradual decline in both the economy and administration of the colony. The subsequent Early Anglo-Saxon period is poorly represented in the archaeological record, with few identified settlement sites and much of the archaeological evidence for this period is therefore derived from cemeteries, and the grave goods they contain (White 1999). Even in the 7th century, there were still no recognisable towns, and it was not until the mid-11th century that a hierarchy of settlements had emerged, reflecting the economic and administrative complexity of the ascendant English society (Gardiner 1999). Herstmonceux is included in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Herste' (Williams and Martin 1992), suggesting the existence of a settlement by the end of the Anglo-Saxon period. The settlement is noted as having a church.
- 2.4.2 No Anglo-Saxon sites are recorded within the Study Area.

2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 The appraisal site lies to the south-east of Herstmonceux Village. The site is located to the south-west of the medieval hamlet of Gardner Street. identified in the Historic Landscape Characterisation survey for Sussex (Bannister 2008). Gardner Street appeared as Gardinerstreate in court rolls of 1622, and is probably associated with the family of Ralph Gardyner of Hailsham in c.1450 (Mawer & Stenton 1929, 482). By the end of the twelfth century, the family at the manor house at Herst had considerable status. Written accounts mention a lady called Idonea de Herst, who married a Norman nobleman named Ingelram de Monceux. Around this time, the manor began to be called the "Herst of the Monceux", a name that eventually became Herstmonceux. A descendant of the Monceux family, Sir Roger Fiennes, was appointed the Treasurer of the Household of Henry VI and in order to get a house fitting a man of his position, he began the construction of the brick-built Scheduled Monument of Herstmonceux Castle, which is located 2.2km to the south-west of the site. Although referred to as a castle, this building was built in the character of a palatial residence, rather than as a defensive structure. The only records within the Study Area of medieval date relate to the medieval Hamlet of Gardener Street and the Grade II* listed medieval and post-medieval RPG at Herstmonceux Castle and Palace.
- 2.5.2 The site is located in a geological area that would have been favourable for iron-ore and it may therefore have been exploited for the extraction of this resource for iron production, which was a prolific industry within the Weald during the Roman occupation and the Tudor and early Stuart periods. Hodgkinson (2008) notes two factors, which make the Weald an appealing location for iron-working processes; its geology of clay and sandstone, which provide many of the structural needs for the industry (e.g. iron stone/ore), and; its woodland, which was necessary for the production of charcoal, the fuel that kept the furnaces and forges alight. No known Roman or medieval iron-working sites are recorded within Herstmonceux.

2.6 Post-Medieval

- 2.6.1 The site lies within the post-medieval village of Gardner Street, which was the historical name for Herstmonceux and appears on Cartographic sources.
- 2.6.2 Historic Tenement Analysis for Herstmonceux Parish (Sussex Archaeological Society 1996) provides a detailed historic background for the site from which the following information has been obtained. The site formed part of a larger plot [ESRO ref. LIB/502264 (Vol. 2) P23/65], which were freehold tenements of Herstmonceux manor called Lyme. In 1555, the plot was described as the site of the manor of lime with its lands, meadows and pastures. Between 1592 and 1593, the plot was described in a conveyance document as the site or manor plus 100 acres (but in fact much less) in Herstmonceux and in 1605 as a messuage plus 80 acres called Lime in Herstmonceux. The 1683 Herstmonceux Survey described the plot as a messuage consisting of house, barn stable, orchard and 89 acres. At some time between 1772 and 1786, part of a tenement called Arnocks was

acquired and merged into this property. The plot was described in estate papers of 1820 as a farmhouse, with gardens, orchards, fishponds, stews, barn, 2 stables, wagon-lodge with granary over, hop-oast, 2 hovels, pigpound and 125 acres. The 1839 Tithe award shows this area as Lime Farm, which was owned by William Down Gillon Esq., but the site itself is a separate plot (Lime Wood) under alternative tenancy.

- 2.6.3 The nearest iron-working furnace sites to the study site are of post-medieval date and are located at Batsford and Cowbeech/Cralle (Cleere and Crossley 1995 and Hodgkinson 2008). The Batsford site was built in 1571 by Thomas Glydd and Simon Colman on land leased from lord Dacre (Cleere and Crossley 1995, 312) and the Cowbeech/Cralle furnace site (TQ 631153) belonged to the Cheney family and operated from 1653, but was ruined by 1664.
- 2.6.4 Forty-one post-medieval sites are recorded within the Study Area, of which thirty four are listed buildings.

3.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

3.1 Geophysical survey

- 3.1.1 A fluxgate gradiometer (magnetometry) survey was undertaken in a single field, as depicted on Figure 2 (NGR 563077 112210).
- 3.1.2 The work was undertaken between Thursday 18th and Friday 19th December 2014 during cold, dry weather and strong winds.

3.2 Applied geophysical instrumentation

- 3.2.1 The Fluxgate Gradiometer employed was the Bartington Instrumentation Grad 601-2. The Grad 601-2 has an internal memory and a data logger that store the survey data. This data is downloaded into a PC and is then processed in a suitable software package.
- 3.2.2 30m x 30m grids were set out using a GPS (see below). Each grid was surveyed with 1m traverses; samples were taken every 0.25m.
- 3.2.3 Data was collected along north-east-south-west traverses in a zigzag pattern beginning in the west corner of each grid, following the contours of the site.

3.3 Instrumentation used for setting out the survey grid

3.3.1 The survey grid for the site was geo-referenced using a Leica Viva Smartrover. The GPS receiver collects satellite data to determine its position and uses the mobile phone networks to receive corrections, transmitting them to the RTK Rover via Bluetooth to provide a sub centimetre Ordnance Survey position and height. Each surveyed grid point has an Ordnance Survey position; therefore the geophysical survey can be directly referenced to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

3.4 Data processing

3.4.1 All of the geophysical data processing was carried out using TerraSurveyor published by DW Consulting. Minimally processed data was produced using the following schedule of processing. Due to the very high positive readings of some of the magnetic disturbance the values were replaced with a dummy value so as to avoid detrimentally affecting the dataset when further processed. The first process carried out upon the data was to apply a DESPIKE to the data set which removes the random 'iron spikes' that occur within fluxgate gradiometer survey data. A ZERO MEAN TRAVERSE was then applied to survey data. This removes stripe effects within grids and ensures that the survey grid edges match. Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6 display the raw and processed survey data.

3.5 Data presentation

3.5.1 Data is presented using images exported from TerraSurveyor into Autocad software and inserted into the geo-referenced site grid. Data is presented (Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6) as raw data, processed data, an interpolated data greyscale plot, and a red greyscale blue plot.

4.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS

(Figures 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

4.1 Description of site

- 4.1.1 The survey area consisted of approximately *c*1.92 hectares of pasture land. The site consists of an open field positioned immediately east of Hailsham Road and to the south of the centre of the village of Herstmonceux, known historically as Gardener Street.
- 4.1.2 A ditch, measuring approximately 2m wide, ran along the northwest and west perimeter of the site. A post and wire fence ran along the outer edge of the ditch. Another post and wire fence separated the northern part of the site from the field immediately to the north-east. The south-eastern part of the site was bounded by woodland and another ditch.
- 4.1.3 The site is positioned on a steep slope, which slopes roughly from northwest to south-east with its peak in the north-west corner.

4.2 Survey limitations

4.2.1 Physical obstructions encountered on site included trees and heavily waterlogged ground. Obstructions for each area are noted in the results. In addition, the effectiveness of magnetometer surveys depends on a contrast between the absolute magnetic susceptibility of the topsoil to the underlying subsoil (Clark 1996). Features may also be difficult to detect where there has been significant primary silting and development of significant overburden. Areas where physical obstructions form a barrier to survey, or a health and safety issue, have been omitted.

4.3 Introduction to results

- 4.3.1 The results should be read in conjunction with the figures at the end of this report (Figures 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7). The types of features likely to be identified are discussed below.
- 4.3.2 <u>Positive Magnetic Anomalies</u> Positive anomalies generally represent cut features that have been in-filled with magnetically enhanced material.
- 4.3.3 <u>Negative Magnetic anomalies</u> Negative anomalies generally represent buried features such as banks or compacted ground that have a lower magnetic signature in comparison to the background geology.
- 4.3.4 <u>Magnetic Disturbance</u> Magnetic disturbance is generally associated with interference caused by modern ferrous features such as fences and service pipes or cables.
- 4.3.5 <u>Magnetic Debris</u> Low amplitude magnetic debris consists of a number of dipolar responses

spread over an area and is indicative of ground disturbance.

4.3.6 <u>Dipolar Anomalies</u>

Dipolar anomalies are positive anomalies with an associated negative response. These anomalies are usually associated with discreet ferrous objects or may represent buried kilns or ovens.

4.3.7 <u>Bipolar Anomalies</u>

Bipolar anomalies consist of alternating responses of positive and negative magnetic signatures. Interpretation will depend on the strength of these responses; modern pipelines and cables typically produce strong bipolar responses.

4.3.8 <u>Thermoremanence</u> Thermoremanence is most commonly encountered through the magnetizing of clay through the firing process although stones and soils can also acquire thermoremanence.

4.4 Interpretation of fluxgate gradiometer results

(Figure 7)

- 4.4.1 Possible archaeological features were identified across the area in the form of discrete moderate positive anomalies and moderate positive linear anomalies which may represent cut features such as pits and ditches. However, these anomalies may also relate to in filled natural features or more modern agricultural activity. Eight discrete moderate positive anomalies were identified,, including three pairs of parallel moderate positive linear anomalies that were located on an east-west orientation.
- 4.4.2 A linear moderate positive anomaly was identified on an east west orientation in the central part of the site. The surrounding area, particularly to the northwest, has a concentration of higher magnetic readings. The overall site slopes steeply from north-west to south-east, but in this area the slope is much more gradual, therefore the readings may reflect a thicker level of overburden, perhaps colluvial deposits from the higher ground to the northwest.
- 4.4.3 A roughly circular moderate positive anomaly in the southeast of the site may represent a cut feature such as a gully or ditch. However it may relate to an infilled natural feature.
- 4.4.4 An amorphous moderate positive anomaly towards the southern part of the site may indicate a change in geology, or perhaps a geological feature such as a palaeochannel.
- 4.4.5 A number of bipolar anomalies across the area are likely to indicate discrete ferrous objects, such as modern material in the near surface.
- 4.4.6 An area of magnetic debris within the southeast entranceway of the field may be a result of made ground. A stream runs along the southeastern edge of the field, so it is possible the ground was made up to allow access

into the field. Areas of magnetic debris were also located around the edges of the field closest to the woodland, possibly resulting from modern ferrous materials from the nearby public footpath.

- 4.4.7 A large area of magnetic disturbance was identified in the northeast part of the area. This indicates a large amount of ferrous metal below the ground surface, possibly from dumps of material. This is the flattest part of the site, but there is no evidence of a building on any of the historic maps.
- 4.4.8 Magnetic disturbance along the west perimeter of the site probably results from the barbed wire fence, or from ferrous materials within the ditch. The magnetic disturbance in the northeast corner also results from a barbed wire fence.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Discussion

- 5.1.1 Possible archaeological features were represented by discrete and linear positive anomalies, and a possible circular anomaly, representative of cut features. The linear anomalies may reflect three pairs of parallel ditches. Historic mapping shows the field boundaries have remained much the same from the late 1700's; none are shown within the site boundary on available historic mapping (se ASE 2014, figs 4–10). It is possible therefore that these reflect earlier field boundaries or trackways, However, it is possible that these anomalies may also relate to in filled natural features or more modern agricultural activity.
- 5.1.2 An amorphous moderate positive anomaly towards the southern part of the site may indicate a change in geology, or perhaps a geological feature such as a palaeochannel.
- 5.1.3 A large area of magnetic disturbance possibly reflects a dump of ferrous material, or other ferrous materials below the ground surface. This covers a wide area, so it is possible it could mask other underlying archaeological features.
- 5.1.4 Some of the features identified may be the result of more recent agricultural activity, infilling of natural features or combination of these. For this reason the archaeological geophysics would need to be tested by invasive techniques (e.g. targeted trial trenching) to assess the nature of the anomalies.

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Acknowledgements

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Rydon Homes Ltd for commissioning the survey.

HER Summary

Identification Name and Address	Detailed ma	agnetomete	r survey at Ha	ailsham Road	l, Herstmor	nceux
County, District &/or Borough	East Susse	ex				
OS Grid Refs.	563077 112	2210				
Geology	Tunbridge	Wells Sand	Formation – S	Siltstone, Mu	dstone and	Sandstone
Arch. South-East Project Number	7262					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB.	18 th – 19 th [December 2	2014
Sponsor/Client	Rydon Hon	nes Ltd				
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Catherine [Douglas				
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
-	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		

Summary

Archaeology South East was commissioned by Rydon Homes Ltd to undertake a detailed fluxgate gradiometer survey on land at Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, East Sussex. The survey took place between the 18th and the 19th of December 2014. The survey area covered approximately 1.9 hectares and comprised pasture land bounded by post-and-rail fences, wire fences, ditches, woodland and an electric fence.

Evidence of potential archaeological features was successfully detected throughout the magnetic survey. The most obvious possible archaeological features were represented by a series of positive anomalies representative of discrete features such as pits and ditches, including a series of possible east-west aligned linear features which do not appear on available historic mapping of the site and may therefore represent earlier boundary ditches. However, some of these anomalies may also relate to in filled natural features.

Oasis Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-199056

Project details	
Project name	Detailed Magnetometer Survey at Land at Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux
Short description of the project	Archaeology South East was commissioned by Rydon Homes Ltd to undertake a detailed fluxgate gradiometer survey on land at Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, East Sussex. The survey took place between the 18th and the 19th of February 2014. The survey area covered approximately 1.9 hectares and comprised pasture land bounded by post-and-rail fences, wire fences, ditches, woodland and an electric fence. Evidence of potential archaeological features was successfully detected throughout the magnetic survey. The most obvious possible archaeological features were represented by a series of positive anomalies representative of discrete features such as pits and ditches. However, some of these anomalies may also relate to in filled natural features.
Project dates	Start: 18-12-2014 End: 19-12-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Solid geology	WEALD CLAY
Solid geology (other)	Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation – Siltstone, Mudstone and Sandstone
Drift geology	Unknown
Techniques	Magnetometry
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN HERSTMONCEUX Land southeast of Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux
Postcode	BN27 4JX
Study area	1.90 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 563077 112210 50.87873071 0.222111791357 50 52 43 N 000 13 19 E Point

Project creators

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Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Rydon Homes Ltd
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	Rydon Homes Ltd
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Geophysics","Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Map","Plan","Report","Survey "
Project	
bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, East Sussex: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Grant, K.
Other bibliographic details	ASE report number: 2014392 HER ref no:355/14
Date	2014
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© Archaeology South-East		Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7262	Jan 2015	Site location	i ig. i
Report Ref: 2014417	Drawn by: JLR	Site location	



an 2015	Location of geophysics survey
rawn by: JLR	Location of geophysics survey



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Report Ref: 2014417	Drawn by: JLR	Metallic data	



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Report Ref: 2014417	Drawn by: JLR	Interpretation	

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