SURVEY RESULTS 2000 / 63 Waltham Villa

1. Survey Areas (Figure 1 - 1:2500)

- 1.1 Two fields (1 and 2) were investigated either side of a field boundary.
- 1.2 The survey grid was tied in by Bernard Thomason of Time Team using a Trimble GPS system.

2. Display

- 2.1 Figures 2 to 5: Greyscales and summary interpretation superimposed on base maps.
- 2.2 Archive Figures M1.1 to R2.1: a variety of XY traces, dot density plots and interpretation diagrams at 1:625 for the magnetic data and 1:1000 for the resistance.

3. Magnetic Results

- 3.1 Approximately 3 ha was investigated by gradiometry in two survey blocks. The first block (Field 1) included the location of a small archaeological trench, dug in 1978, that revealed Roman building remains and artefacts. The second block (Field 2) extended the survey area to the west, in order to trace anomalies that appeared to continue into this field.
- The north-western corner of the first survey area contains a zone of enhanced readings that envelop the previously recorded archaeological features. The magnetic results are characteristic of those observed elsewhere on gradiometer surveys over wall foundations. That is they reflect the brick, tile and general debris associated with a former building. In places, negative magnetic anomalies are seen to coincide with wall foundations; this is due to the fact that the stone courses are magnetically weaker than the soils into which they are dug.
- 3.3 To the south and east of these foundations is a complex of ditches, forming small enclosures and possible trackways. Many are on the same rectilinear alignment as the main villa building (see Field 2), but a few are at varying angles and therefore are presumed to be of a different phase or period.
- 3.4 A ferrous-type anomaly in the south east corner of Field 1 is thought to be modern in origin.
- 3.5 The results from Field 2 fall into several different categories or groups as follows.
- 3.6 A clear sinuous linear anomaly dominates the southern half of the survey area. It turns through ninety degrees and appears to form the north-eastern corner of a substantial enclosure. The anomalies suggest a feature approximately 5m in width, and the alignment and nature are clearly different to the Roman ditches. A trial excavation trench confirmed the dimensions and showed the ditch to be Iron Age in date. While there are suggestions of breaks in the ditch at the two extremeties time did not permit further investigation of these possible entrances.

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