

SURVEY RESULTS

2000 / 48 Beach's Barn, Salisbury Plain Training Area East

1. Survey Areas

- 1.1 Detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken in four areas covering parts of three fields situated to the west, north-west and south-west of Beach's Barn, SPTA East. The location of these is indicated on Figure 1 at a scale of 1:2500.
- 1.2 The survey grid was set out and tied in by Bernard Thomason of *English Heritage* on behalf of *Time Team*.

2. Display

- 2.1 The results are displayed as a variety of XY traces, dot density plots and greyscale images at a scale of 1:625. Interpretation diagrams for each area are included at the same scale.

3. General Considerations - Complicating factors

- 3.1 Overall, ground conditions were generally suitable for survey, the site being mostly level and free from surface obstructions at the time of fieldwork. The uneven ploughed surface of the field directly to the west of the tree plantation, which lies adjacent to Beach's Barn, has contributed some additional noise to the detailed survey results in Area B.
- 3.2 Additional resistance survey extending into Area D from Area C was precluded by severe weather conditions experienced during the three days allowed for this project.

4. Results of Detailed Survey

Area A

Detailed gradiometry was undertaken in this area to facilitate re-location of the original AML survey grid.

- 4.1 Magnetically strong linear responses recorded in the southern half of this survey area indicate the north-easterly continuation of a linear ditch type response recorded in the earlier geophysical survey (Cole & Linford 1994). Numerous pit type responses are apparent throughout this survey block, notably a discrete anomaly c.10m in diameter at the south-western survey corner. Although visible in the original AML data the response was not interpreted as being of archaeological significance. The results suggest an area of extensive settlement activity, which presumably continues beyond the existing trackway and into the tree plantation. Excavation was targeted across the linears and the large anomaly.

Area B

Gradiometer survey was carried out in this area to investigate areas of potential archaeological response further to the west and to determine the western limits of settlement.

- 4.2 A multitude of definitive archaeological responses has been recorded in this area. These include several magnetically strong and parallel curvi-linear ditch type anomalies to the south, which indicate the location of a large boundary type feature, part of which was recorded in the earlier geophysical survey. To the north of this, a sub-circular enclosure with connecting linear and curvi-linear ditched antennae; and numerous concentrations of pit and weaker linear ditch type anomalies have been recorded.
- 4.3 Overall, these responses indicate an area of extensive settlement activity, which appears to extend beyond the current survey area to the north and east. The pattern of responses are consistent with the Iron Age, notably the sub-circular or 'Banjo' enclosure recorded in the northern half of the survey area.
- 4.4 The magnetic response of the enclosure varies in strength, notably to the south and north-west. This may be attributed to varying depth and preservation of archaeological deposits, as well as significantly high concentrations of burnt material contained within the ditch. A large deposit of burnt material was revealed during subsequent excavation of the southern part of the ditch suggesting localised burning/firing activity within the enclosure. A broad concentration of isolated responses of similar strength appear to continue to the north-east. The comparatively low level of response at the southern and western edges of this area indicates the probable boundary of core settlement activity.
- 4.5 A discrete magnetic response c.70m from the western survey edge shows the location of a probable burnt or fired feature, possibly a kiln. A number of small-scale ferrous type responses recorded in this area may be of interest, although the possibility that a portion of these may reflect concentrations of modern ferrous debris should not be dismissed.

Area C

The survey grid was extended into this area to identify areas of potential archaeological interest at the northern edge of the original AML survey grid.

- 4.6 The gradiometer results show a broad area of increased magnetic response, which extends across much of this survey block. The strength and pattern of this is consistent with an early building complex which appears to continue to the south-east. Numerous isolated magnetic responses are apparent throughout and are likely to reflect a concentration of associated brick, tile and ferrous material. The possibility that some of this disturbance may equate with modern ferrous debris should not be dismissed.
- 4.7 A number of ditch and pit type responses have been detected by gradiometry and these are deemed to be of archaeological significance. However, the high level of noise throughout has complicated interpretation of these anomalies.
- 4.8 Resistance survey over part of this area recorded several linear and rectilinear zones of high resistance, which show strong correlation with the pattern of magnetic responses noted in the gradiometer results. These comprise a series of parallel, south-east facing linear and sub-angular high resistance anomalies at the northern survey edge, and a concentration of similar responses on the same alignment approximately 35m to the south. Several faint anomalies of probable interest have also been detected. These results confirm the location of a complex of building remains, which appears to continue in all directions and these are consistent with those of a Roman villa.

- 4.9 A low resistance linear anomaly is visible *c.*20m from the northern survey edge and probably represents a modern military track. Unfortunately adverse weather conditions and problems associated with survey in long vegetation made further resistance survey unviable.

Area D

Detailed gradiometry was undertaken into this area to investigate the extent of archaeological remains to the north of the tree plantation.

- 4.10 A concentration of settlement activity is apparent in the gradiometer results for this area. These anomalies appear to continue in all directions beyond the current edges of survey. The pattern of response comprises part of a linear ditched enclosure to the north, containing numerous pit and linear features at its interior, and a broad region of increased magnetic response in the south-western corner. The latter indicates the continuation of a probable complex of building remains from Area C and are consistent with those of a Roman villa.
- 4.11 A number of weaker responses of probable interest have also been located at the southern edge of the ditched enclosure.
- 4.12 Numerous small-scale ferrous responses have been recorded throughout this area. The possibility that these may be of some interest should not be dismissed in view of the extent and pattern of surrounding archaeological features.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The results of Area A show excellent correlation with the AML survey data, and indicate the likelihood of significant areas of archaeological potential to the north-east of the trackway. Excavation of the southern boundary ditch and a group of pits at its northern edge confirmed the results of the gradiometry in this area. Several sherds of Romano-British pottery were retrieved from these features.
- 5.2 Gradiometer survey in Area B has mostly defined the southern limits of settlement. The southern linear ditch type response appears to weaken at the south-western corner of this area. This may indicate plough damage to this feature or increasing distance from the core of settlement. A concentration of complex linear ditch and pit type responses has been recorded to the north. The pattern and intensity of these indicate a core of domestic and industrial activity, the majority of which appears to respect a sub-circular ditched enclosure with south-east facing ditched antennae. The form of these anomalies is indicative of an Iron Age Banjo enclosure. Subsequent excavation of part of the enclosure confirmed the results of this geophysical survey, identifying a significant burnt deposit within the ditch section, and a number of pits and internal features from which Iron Age material was recovered.
- 5.3 A multitude of archaeological responses has been recorded in Areas C and D. These include a symmetrical arrangement of strong magnetic and high resistance, linear and sub-angular anomalies which are indicative of a complex of building remains. The pattern of these responses is consistent with that of a Roman villa and appears to continue to the north-west and south-east. Subsequent excavation in Area C confirmed this concentration of response to reflect a series of stone walls adjacent to which a Roman coin, fragments of floor tile, hypocaust and Romano-British pottery were found. Part of a ditched enclosure and numerous smaller pit and linear ditch type features recorded in the northern half of Area D indicate the continuation of settlement activity to the north and west of Beach's Barn.

References

Cole, M & Linford, N, 1994 *Beach's Barn, Wiltshire*, Ancient Monuments Laboratory, English Heritage.

SSEW, 1983 *Soils of England and Wales, Sheet 5, Wales*. Soil Survey of England and Wales.

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Date of Report: 7th August 2000

SITE SUMMARY SHEET

2000 / 48 Beach's Barn, Salisbury Plain Training Area East

NGR Centred on SU 185 512

Location, geology and topography

The site lies within the eastern half of Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA), Wiltshire, approximately 0.5km north-west of the Netheravon to Everleigh road and comprises three level fields immediately to the west and south-west of a military training complex known as Beach's Barn. Geophysical survey was carried out in four main areas (Areas A to D) to the north and west of a tree plantation, which lies to the south-west of Beach's Barn. Soils of the locality comprise shallow, well drained, calcareous silts and variably flinty & well drained fine silty soils, overlying chalk (SSEW, 1983).

Archaeology

The archaeological background of Salisbury Plain is well documented and covers an extensive period of prehistoric settlement ranging from Neolithic to the Late Medieval periods. Excavation in the 1970s of a Romano-British corn dryer to the south of Beach's Barn and the discovery of first to fourth Centuries AD pottery scatters to the west, suggest a wide area of settlement activity within the project area (Entwistle, *pers. comm.*). An earlier geophysical survey undertaken by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory (AML) in the tree plantation to the south of Beach's Barn and in the field to the west identified a network of ditched enclosures which appeared to continue to the north, east and west (Cole & Linford, 1994).

Aims of Survey

The aims of the geophysical investigations were to define the full extent of settlement activity and to clarify the relationship between the earlier excavation and field walking evidence. The survey work was undertaken with a view to the site obtaining Scheduled Ancient Monument status.

The geophysical work formed part of a *Time Team* programme for Channel 4 Television.

Summary of Results

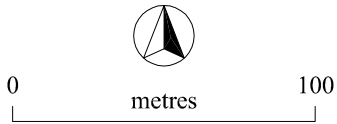
This geophysical survey has enabled a more comprehensive understanding of the extent and nature of the archaeological remains at Beach's Barn. This has been achieved by extending and re-analysing the previous geophysical evaluation.

The results indicate extensive multiphase settlement which appears to extend further to the north and west of Beach's Barn. A variety of archaeological remains have been recorded, including a multitude of presumed Iron Age and Romano-British features; most notably a Romano-British villa building and an Iron Age 'Banjo' enclosure, for which there was no conclusive evidence in earlier research. The results of this survey have been confirmed by subsequent excavation.

A southern and western limit to the site is suggested in the gradiometer results. However, the extent of overall activity may only be defined by further detailed survey.

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GSB PROSPECTION

PROJECT: 2000/48 BEACH'S BARN

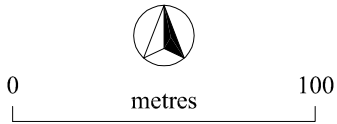
TITLE: Location Diagram

Based on a plan supplied by
Time Team



- Gradiometer Survey
- Resistance Survey
- AML Survey (Approx.)
- Trenches

Figure 1



GSB PROSPECTION
PROJECT: 2000/48 BEACH'S BARN
TITLE: Gradiometer Summary Greyscale
Based on a plan supplied by
Time Team

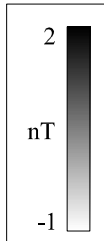
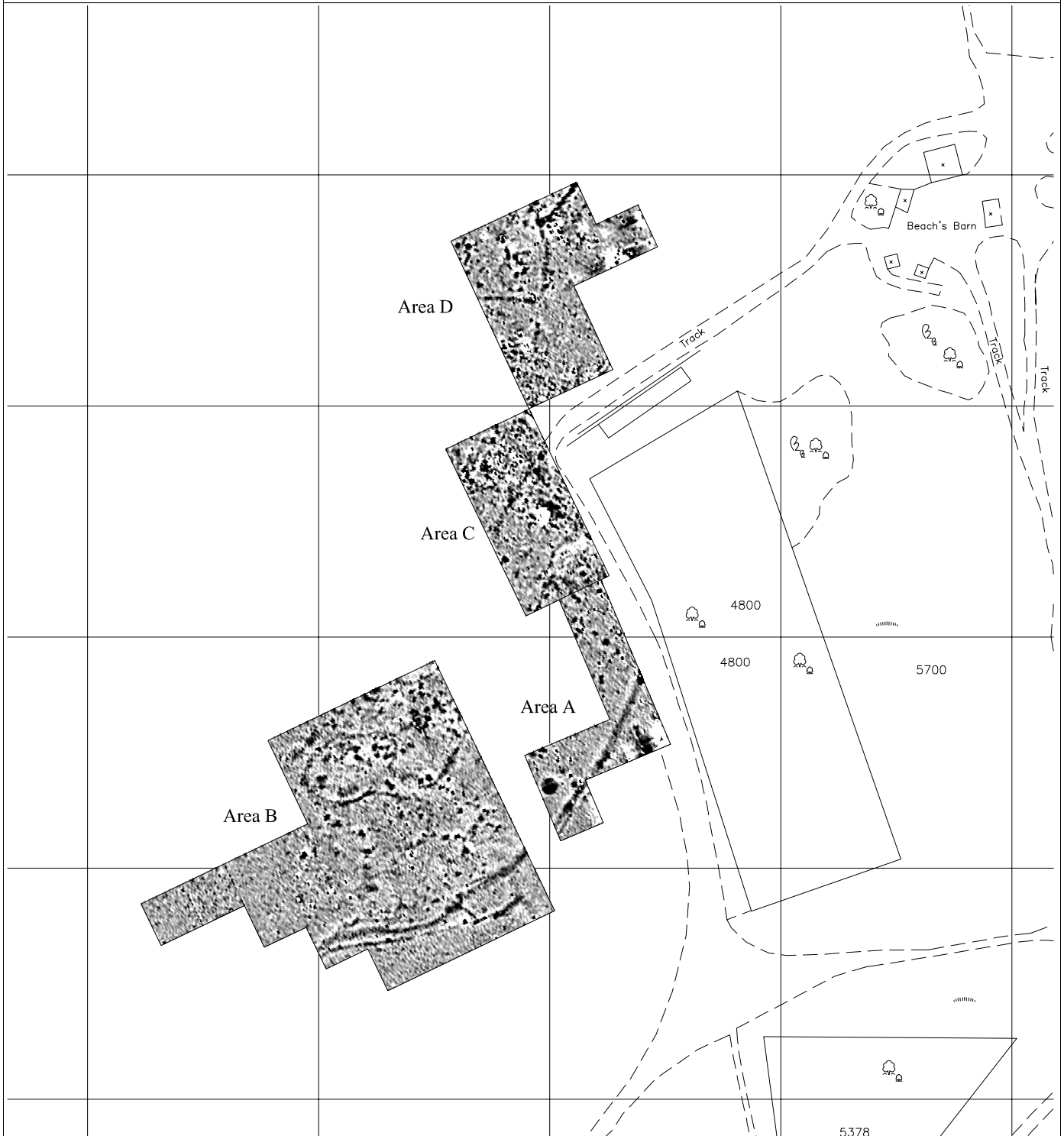


Figure 2

GSB PROSPECTION

PROJECT: 2000/48 BEACH'S BARN

TITLE: Resistance Data Summary Greyscale

Based on a plan supplied by
Time Team

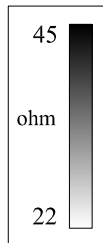
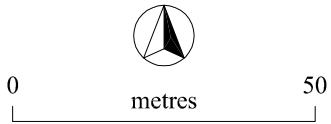


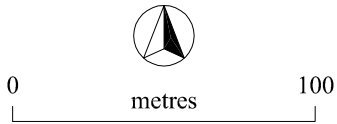
Figure 3

GSB PROSPECTION

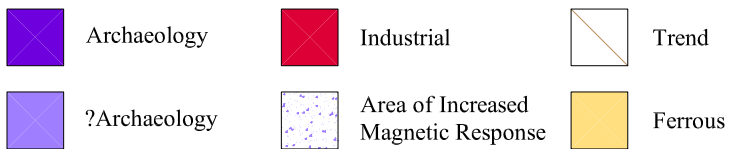
PROJECT: 2000/48 BEACH'S BARN

TITLE: Summary Interpretation

Based on a plan supplied by
Time Team



Gradiometer



Resistance

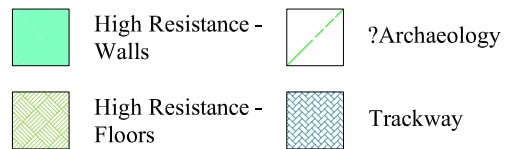


Figure 4