

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 2001 / 98 Throckmorton Airfield III, Worcestershire

#### 1. Survey Area

- 1.1 A total of 1.75ha of detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken within the airfield. The survey was a continuation of previous investigations, Area 4, by **GSB Prospection** (GSB, 2001a, 2001b). In this report the previous and current datasets have been combined and the results are presented and discussed as a whole, an area of approximately 2.8ha. The location of the survey is shown in Figure 1 at a scale of 1:5000.
- 1.2 The survey grid was set out by **GSB Prospection** and tied-in by **Worcester Archaeological Service**.

#### 2. Display

- 2.1 Figures 2 and 3 are a summary greyscale image and a summary interpretation diagram produced at a scale of 1:1250.
- 2.2 Figures 4 to 11 are XY traces, dot density plots and interpretation diagrams produced at a scale of 1:500. For ease of display, the survey has been sub-divided into Areas A to D, although they are discussed as a whole in the text of the report.
- 2.3 The display formats are discussed in the *Technical Information* section at the end of the text.
- 2.4 Numbers in parentheses in the text refer to specific anomalies noted on the interpretation diagrams.

#### 3. General Considerations - Complicating factors

- 3.1 Conditions were suitable for survey as the grass had been cut prior to survey.
- 3.2 Numerous isolated ferrous responses have been identified in all of the survey areas. These are considered to reflect modern ferrous debris in the topsoil and are not referred to in the text unless considered relevant.
- 3.3 Interference from local transmitters has produced some spurious anomalies.

#### **4. Results of Detailed Survey**

- 4.1 Curvilinear, linear and pit-type anomalies of archaeological interest have been recorded. Several ring ditches (1) are clearly visible within the data. The majority are between 10m and 15m in diameter and suggest either Iron Age round houses or Bronze Age barrows. One of these was excavated and confirmed as Iron Age in date. There is some suggestion for internal anomalies within many of the ring ditches although they are not clearly defined. A much larger circular anomaly (2), approximately 25m in diameter, was identified in the north of the survey area. Due to its size, and the apparent entrance, it was tentatively suggested that this anomaly could indicate the site of a Neolithic henge monument. Other responses (3) also appear to form diffuse circular anomalies
- 4.2 Two of the groups of circular anomalies lie within sub rectangular enclosures (4). Within the southern grouping there are also suggestions of internal enclosures (5) which give the impression of settlement. There is a marked reduction in the strength of the response from the southern portion of the D-shaped enclosure ditch (4). Although this could reflect a lower magnetic enhancement of the ditch fill, it seems more likely that this is due to a greater depth of clay overlying the buried archaeological deposits. In the northeast of the survey area there is a ditch type response (6), which may form part of another enclosure.
- 4.3 In the west of the survey block a broad ditch type response (7) has been recorded which may indicate a boundary ditch. In the southern portion of the survey area its response is obscured by a strong ferrous response. Although there is no evidence in the data for this anomaly extending beyond the area of ferrous disturbance, it is possible that this is due to increased overburden.
- 4.4 A relatively strong linear response (8), aligned east-west in the south of the survey area is unusual. Although it could be archaeological in nature, the response is more consistent with a modern feature such as a cable or drain. Excavation revealed an aggregate filled ditch.
- 4.5 Numerous other short ditch-type responses, pit-like anomalies and linear trends have also been identified. Many of these are likely to be archaeologically significant given the wider archaeological context. In the north of the survey area there is a series of parallel linear trends aligned approximately north-south. It is probable that these relate to ridge and furrow cultivation.
- 4.6 There are two zones of magnetic disturbance, one in the north of the survey area coincides with a tarmac covered runway while the other one along the south-eastern limit of the survey is due to modern dumped material associated with another runway.

#### **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 Numerous ring and ditch-type anomalies have been identified, the shape and form of which suggest a possible mixture of Bronze Age round barrows and Iron Age settlement.
- 5.2 The western and southern limits of the site have been defined by the gradiometer survey.

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**Date of Report:** 30<sup>th</sup> October 2001

**References:**

- GSB 2001a. *Geophysical Survey at Throckmorton Airfield, Worcestershire*. Report Number 2001/38. GSB Prospection. Unpublished Report.
- GSB 2001b. *Geophysical Survey at Throckmorton Airfield II, Worcestershire*. Report Number 2001/60. GSB Prospection. Unpublished Report.
- SSEW 1983. *Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 3, Midland and Western England*. Soil Survey of England and Wales.

## SITE SUMMARY SHEET

2001 / 98 Throckmorton Airfield III, Worcestershire

**NGR:** SO 966 492 (Approximate centre)

### Location, topography and geology

The area of interest is located some 3km northeast of Pershore, Worcestershire, in a field within the grounds of a former airfield at Throckmorton. The topography is flat and the area was under short grass at the time of survey. The soils have undergone varying degrees of modification but can be broadly grouped as calcareous pelosols formed from Jurassic and Cretaceous clays (SSEW, 1983). However, a superficial layer of boulder clay had been recently imported to some parts of the site to level the area for use as an airfield (M. Atkin, *pers. comm.*).

### Archaeology

Aerial photographic (AP) evidence suggests the presence of archaeological remains on the airfield (M. Atkin, *pers. comm.*), and during groundworks at the site a number of ditch features were exposed. Previous geophysical surveys (GSB, 2001a, 2001b) identified several circular ditches and enclosures.

### Aims of Survey

Survey was undertaken with the aim of further clarifying the nature and extent of the recorded archaeological responses. This work forms part of a wider archaeological investigation being undertaken as part of the **Time Team** series for **Channel Four** television.

### Summary of Results \*

Survey has successfully identified numerous responses of archaeological interest. The results show a series of sub-rectangular enclosures with ring ditches inside and some evidence for other internal enclosures. The shape and form of the anomalies are suggestive of a settlement site, possibly Iron Age / Romano-British in date, though some of the rings could easily be Bronze Age b  
arrows. The western and southern limits of the site have been defined by the gradiometer survey. The northern and eastern limits could not be confirmed by geophysics due to a runway to the north and a DEFRA site to the east.

\* It is essential that this summary is read in conjunction with the detailed results of the survey.

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