ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS

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Short Report form

Number 2012-07

Name of site: Warren Wood near Marlow, Buckinghamshire

NGR grid reference SU 8761 8943Start date:24 April 2012End date: ditto

Geology at site (from BGS website) Solid – Chalk. Drift – Beaconsfield gravel - sand and gravel.

Known archaeological sites / monuments covered by the survey None but this was to assist archaeology in Marlow in their investigations of a rectangular ditched and banked enclosure.

Archaeological sites / monument types detected by the survey Nothing definite.

Surveyor Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics. Roger Ainslie, Sally Ainslie

Name of client. Archaeology in Marlow, to whom we are grateful to Gerry Palmer for arranging access and assisting us on site.

Purpose of survey: To see if resistivity could detect any anomalies to target in an excavation.

Location of Primary archive, i.e. raw data, electronic archive etc Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics. 4 Sutton Close OXON OX14 1ER

Technical Details

Survey Details

Type of survey :Earth resistance.Twin probe configuration with 0.5m spacing between mobile probes.Type, make and model of instrumentation:TR Systems resistance meter.Trimble pro XR Gps with beacon differential. The gps measurements wereimpeded by trees blocking satellite reception and may only be accurate tosome 1.5 metres.

Area surveyed approx 600 square metres with traverse and reading separation of 0.5 metres.

Land use at the time of survey: Deciduous woodland

Additional remarks

30 metre grid but only part collected. Zig zag pattern of data collection. Some heavy rain the previous day.

Results

The resistance of the ground here was high with readings of some 270 ohms when the remote probes had a 0.5 metre spacing. Increasing this spacing only reduced the reading to some 130 ohms.

On the interpretation plan the main anomalies were:-

1 Area of high readings which appears to coincide with the enclosure bank.

2 Area of high readings which appear to obscure the internal ditch behind the bank.

3 Areas of low readings.

5 Slight linear of high readings. These may possibly be related to the hard surface which was observed when conducting the survey.

6 Small area of high readings.

Conclusions

The high resistance area (2) could warrant further investigation although the varying geology here with it being near the boundary of the Beaconsfield gravels could influence matters. The whole area of high resistance appears to be too large for the type of building one would expect in a remote location and the south western end of this band (6) may be the size of area which one would expect rubble from a small house to cover.

Recommendations

None

REMINDER

Some types of feature cannot be located by using geophysical techniques. Features may well exist which are not visible on this survey.

R Ainslie 24 April 2012

Greyscale plot with locational detail



Colour plot



Colour plot smoothed with contours



Interpretation plot

