

RESISTIVITY SURVEY AT SHERBORNE OLD CASTLE

OBJECTIVE. This survey was undertaken to detect the possible presence of a ditch and any other archaeological features in areas of the bailey to the east and to the west of the standing stone-work of the Castle Keep. These areas under investigation are shown on the accompanying site plan divided up on a 5 metre grid.

METHOD. Resistivity traverses using the twin electrode method of detection were taken at the 5 metre intervals shown. 1, 2 and 3 metre probe spacings were used variously along each line of traverse; the probe spacing corresponds to the depth at which features are detectable in the substrate.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION. No distinctive anomalies can be identified in the graphs drawn from the numberical results of the resistivity traverses. This indicates a probable absence of any archaeological remains in the areas surveyed. Therefore, the geophysical evidence suggests that the suspected ditch is unlikely to be present, although the presence of buildings in the area cannot be ruled out.

Notably, the possibility must exist that the physical conditions or method employed were in some way unfavourable at the time of survey, preventing a more satisfactory result being obtained; consequently the apparently negative result of this survey must not be considered absolute.

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