ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY - GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

SURVEY: KING'S SOMBORNE

DATE: 14-17th Dec, 1976

Report no.

31/76

1. SITE

OS ref: SU 370310

Field no.

Location:

Fields lie on a flat hilltop bounded by 250' contour

overlooking village half a mile to the W.

Geology:

Chalk beneath superficial clay-with-flints.

Archaeological evidence: AP's show ditches in fields to either side of old chalk pit. Roman surface finds from adjoining field on NW.

2. SURVEY

Object:

To confirm the presence of the ditches and check how far they extend along the gas pipe easement.

(a) Resistivity survey 1. 7	Traverses 2. Area survey
Meter: Configuration: Spacing - probes: traverses:	
(b) Magnetic survey	(c) Soil tests
Type of survey: automatic plotting	ng Auger:
Magnetometer: Fluxgate Chart recorder setting: 16 gamma Logged for computing: xes/no	Magnetic susceptibility - 1. Topsoil 25 2. Subsoil 3. Fill x10 ⁻⁶ emu/gm (ac bridge readings)
man ()):	Tested for phosphate: xex/no

Survey grid measured to:

Baseline following line of proposed gas pipe

Located by: D. Neal

Plans/charts enclosed:

- 1. 6" map extract showing outline of survey
- 2. Plot of magnetometer traces with interpretation added in red

3. RESULTS

According to the mattern of magnetic anomalies marked on the chart activity centres around the hedge dividing the fields. Aerial photographs indicate a ditch system here and this is confirmed by the plot which shows several rectangular enclosures together with various disconnected lengths of ditch. The ditches and enclosures do not continue to either end of the area surveyed unless a very indistinct line of anomalies in the square at the SW corner of the survey is read as a ditch.

A number of individual local anomalies are also marked but their distribution does not relate to the ditches and some are likely to represent only natural variations in the depth of chalk or pockets of clay-with-flints. There is a group of these anomalies in the centre of the northern field which may be archaeological in character but even here the strength and extent of the disturbance are less than would be expected for any substantial remains.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Ditches were located and were not found to extend beyond the expected area.

Other anomalies were generally weakly defined and if any represent evidence of occupational or other archaeological remains the buried features are likely to be either shallow and eroded or to lack a strongly differentiated fill.

Surveyed by: A. David

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For:

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Reported by:

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Date:

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