

WRAYSBURY : GEOPHYSICAL SCAN IN AREA OF CHURCH 5.9.77

This scan was undertaken to ascertain as much as possible in a single day about the extent of the multi-period occupation site known to exist close to the church and already the subject of excavations on the west side under the direction of Mr V. Marchant. The area north of the church is shortly to be developed.

METHOD. An attempt was made to use a fluxgate gradiometer, but modern buildings and iron clutter were too much for it, and most measurements were made with a 1.1 metre coring auger.

RESULTS.

EAST OF CHURCH. This area, part of the grounds of the Grange, is not threatened, but was examined to fill out the picture as much as possible. The occupation area is generally marked by black soil to a depth of 0.75-1 metre, and this was found to be particularly dark in this area. Down hill towards the stream the dark soil gave way to grey silt, which it to some extent overlay at the junction. To the NE it ended quite abruptly along a line where the auger encountered deep silt deposits that could not be bottomed. This extended into the development area to the NE of the churchyard, and is interpreted as a possible boundary ditch.

The auger occasionally encountered gravel layers or floors at about 0.9 m and also brought up fragments of slag, charcoal and possible mortar and pottery fragments. Bedrock ranged from clean yellow sand to clay.

NORTH OF CHURCH. Similar conditions were encountered here, although the soil was rather less black and activity seemed to have been less intensive. Bedrock here was sand only. Normal depth was about 0.75 m, and occasional deeper pockets could have represented features. Because of modern interference including a broad, shallow quarry-like depression to the north, the true limits could not be determined here, nor was the survey extended to the west side of the churchyard, except as described below.

WORK ASSOCIATED WITH PRESENT EXCAVATION. Resistivity surveys by the Surrey Archaeological Society Geophysics team have revealed a pattern of rectangular anomalies reminiscent of Saxon long houses. Although these are not clearly evident in the excavation, it is notable that the pattern is parallel to the line of the possible ditch on the NE side.

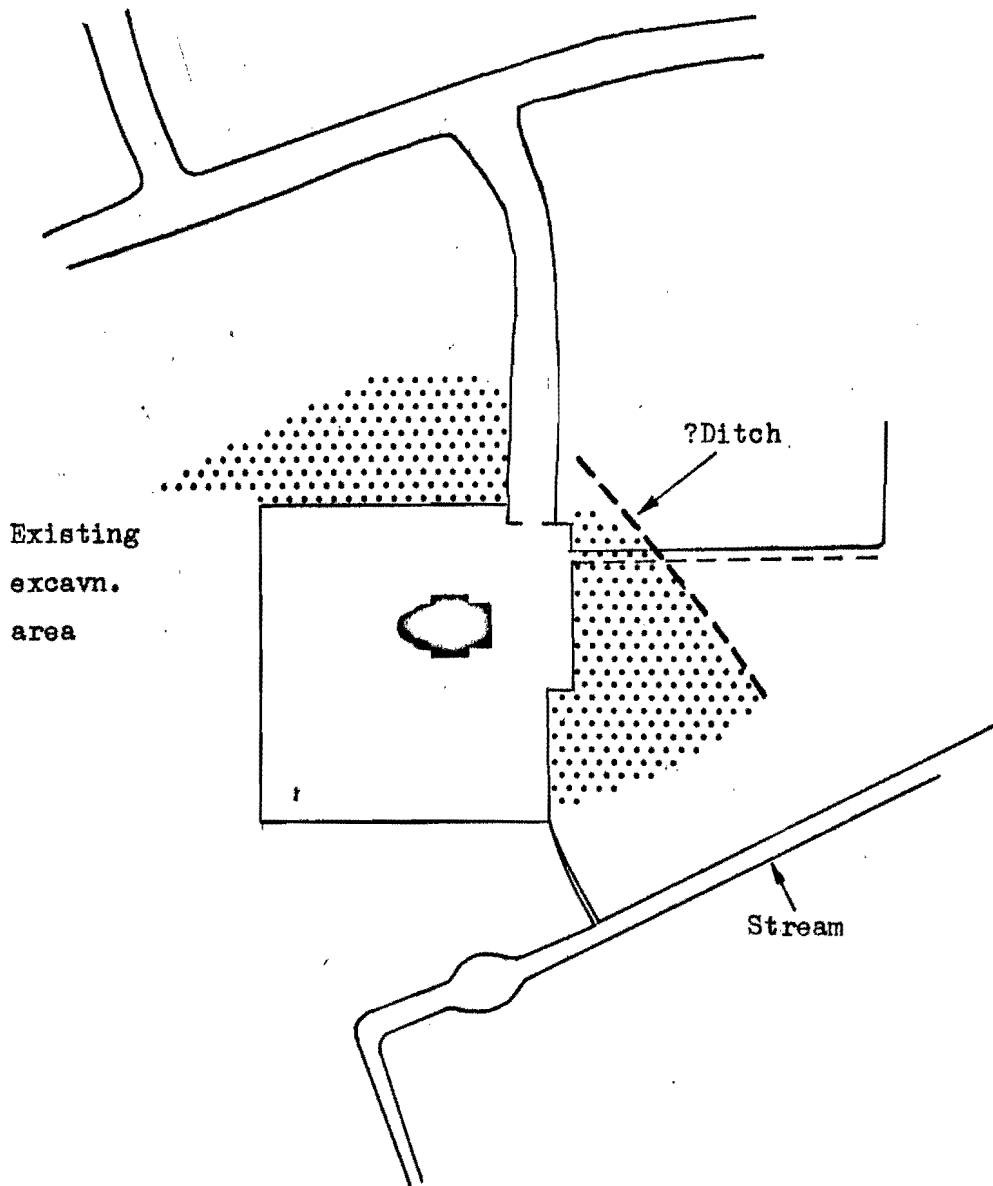
Some dark patches of strong grass growth have appeared to the south of the excavation area, again on the same alignment: typically they are about 6 x 4 m and the auger shows them to have a rather deeper and darker filling than the surrounding soil. These seem more like grubenhauser.

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Sketch plan



0 100 metres approx

Areas of dark occupation soil shown by stippling:
its limits on the west side of the churchyard
are not known

AM Lab Geophysics Section