

A Geophysical Survey of Lands at Patching Near Worthing Conducted by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit.

In the spring of 1998 Dr Sally White, curator of Worthing Museum. asked the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit to conduct a resistivity survey on a field at Patching. The field has been producing significant quantities of metal work dating from the Roman period. The material was being found by metal detectors and recorded at Worthing Museum. The Secretary for Archaeology of the Field Unit met with Mr Thomas the landowner and was shown the field to be the subject of the investigation. The field is currently down to grass. The field has a hollow section on the south east side and rises gently to a line of trees at the north. The equipment used was the RM 15 resistivity meter and recordings taken at 1 metre intervals, the readings were measured in Ohms. The south east section of the field was the first grid surveyed, and subsequent grids of 20M square were measured out and the survey progressed in a northerly direction. A total of 18 grids were completed covering 7200M square. The field is of considerable proportion and although the survey commenced in August poor weather hindered the completion of the survey. The survey will continue in the spring of 1999.

Conclusions

The data from the survey has been transferred to a computer and a graphical image produced from Geoscan soft ware. The data indicates a large area of high readings on the south west side of the field. The area is of considerable size and with no regular configuration and is considered to be geological rather than archaeological. There is an area of lower readings to the south east and north of the area of high readings but no immediate features are observed. A land drain is cut into the field and this feature is not reflected in the observations. There is a possible line of low readings running from north west to south east, but the features are very ephemeral. The geophysical survey has produced no real evidence for archaeological activity. The metal detecting finds, however, have been concentrated more to the north of the field in a linear arrangement, suggesting a possible track or road. The geophysical surveying during 1999 will continue northwards towards this section of the field.

A field to the north of the area being investigated is called Stoneyland Copse, it is of note that Beddingham Roman villa was located on a field called 'Stoney Burr'. However, a similar location at Stanmer, named Flint Heap, produced no archaeological material.

I would like to thank Mr Thomas for allowing access to his land, Dr Sally White for her support and Mr G.Bishop, Mr W.Santer, Mr D.Ludwig and Mss F.Grant who conducted the survey. I would also like to thank Mr D.Combes for allowing use of his Geoscan software in producing the graphic interpretation.

John Funnell

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Site : PATCHING		Resistivity Survey		Scale	1:1476
Mesh : PATROT1					
Shade Plot (Clip)		Size x 0.5		Block	Off
Minimum	50	Grey Levels	17		
Maximum	750	Palette	Positive		
Contrast	1			Black	High
Units	Absolute			White	Low

