

Grad601

Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement - Hinton Waldrist

This survey was undertaken to investigate a possible Romano-British settlement identified by aerial photographic survey. The geology is sand and limestone of the Corallian ridge.

The geophysical survey revealed an enclosed settlement aligned on a North-West to South-East track defined by a double ditch. The settlement consists of an ordered collection of rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures. Although the northern limit of the settlement is well defined, the survey has not captured its full extent in the South-East where the magnetic contrast decreases. This may be due to an increasing depth of alluvial material.

At the centre of the settlement is a substantial ditch defining a rectangular enclosure with a possible entrance to the south. Within this enclosure are three circular features which may represent roundhouse gullies. A fourth such feature may lie just to the west of this enclosure. It is not clear whether there is a relationship between these gullies and the enclosure ditch.

It is unlikely that all the features detected by the geophysical survey are of the same date and a possible phasing may be suggested. In the first phase, possibly towards the end of the Iron Age, there was a small settlement consisting of one or a few roundhouses. These roundhouses may have been enclosed by a substantial ditch defining a rectangular enclosure. Later, this area was substantially remodelled, when a settlement of rectangular enclosures was established on a trackway which passed through the centre of the original enclosure. The dating of this settlement to the Roman period is suggested by pottery collected during the geophysical survey.

Traces of medieval and later ridge-and-furrow agriculture appear as a set of parallel lines running approximately East-West across the survey image.

The geophysical survey provided important new information on a site only known as a

crop mark. The evidence points to an ordered, enclosed Romano-British settlement located on a trackway. This settlement appears to have been preceded by a small Iron Age enclosure.

The survey grids were laid out with respect to the field boundaries to ensure the survey maximised the number of complete grids and minimised the number of partial grids. The locations of the grids were recorded using GPS. All the grids were walked in a zig-zag style. A 1-metre traverse separation was used with a traverse resolution of 4 readings per metre. The instrument was set to a sensitivity of 0.1 nT.

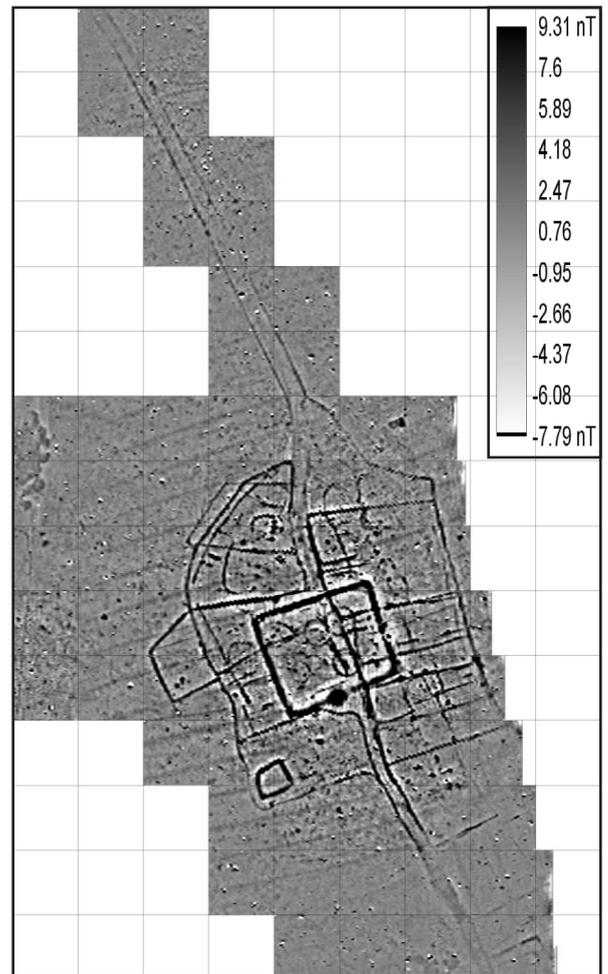


Figure 1. Geophysical Survey of a Roman settlement, Hinton Waldrist (Grids are 30 metre squares. North is at the top.)