

SITE SUMMARY SHEET
98/59 Beauport Park

GSB SURVEY No.	98/59	NGR	TQ 785 145
SMR / NAR No.	1704 Cadw: Mg007(POW)	COUNTY	Powys

SITE TYPE Iron Working Site

DESCRIPTION Metal working slag heaps are apparent throughout the local woodlands. In 1970 a Roman bath-house was discovered with remarkably well preserved lower walls.

PERIOD 2nd and 3rd century AD

GEOLOGY & SOILS 711i Wickham 5 Association - drift over cretaceous clay and sandstone; fine loamy over clayey soils. 572i Curtisden Association - silty soils over silstones / loamy soils over sandstones. *Soils of England and Wales, Sheet 6, South East England.*

LAND-USE Woodland / golf course

SURVEY TYPE	Fluxgate Gradiometer	Resistance	Magnetic Susceptibility
INSTRUMENT	Geoscan FM36	Geoscan RM15	Bartington MS2 coil
SAMPLE INT	0.5m	1.0m	1.0m
TRAVERSE INT	1.0m	1.0m	1.0m
METHOD	Zig-zag	Zig-zag	Zig-zag
SURVEY AREA	c. 0.8ha	200m ²	200m ²

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Two areas were surveyed in detail during the course of *Time Team* investigations at Beauport Park. The first concentrated on an area within the woods thought to contain a Roman building and trackway; the second on the 13th Fairway where scanning indicated numerous strong magnetic anomalies. Survey using resistance, magnetic and magnetic susceptibility measurements in the wooded area failed to find any geophysical evidence for the postulated structure. Excavation confirmed this result. Detailed magnetometer survey on the golf course identified a complex of 'industrial' type responses, only some of which were believed to be associated with construction and landscaping of the fairway. Excavation also supported this interpretation by finding industrial slags and a possible charcoal burning pit.

SURVEY START	18th June 1998	REPORT DATE	16th September 1998
SURVEY END	20th June 1998	AUTHOR	J Gater

SURVEY RESULTS - 98 / 59
Beauport Park

1. Survey Areas (Figure 1)

- 1.1 Two detailed survey areas, A and B, were investigated, the first with gradiometry, resistivity and magnetic susceptibility and the second with just gradiometry.
- 1.2 The survey was tied in by RCHME who retained the location information.

2. Display

- 2.1 Figure 2: XY traces of the data from Area A at a scale of 1:200.
- 2.2 Figures 3, 4 and 5: Area B: XY traces, grey-scale image and interpretation diagram respectively at a scale of 1:625.

3. Results

3.1 Area A

- 3.1.1 A small platform within the woods was thought to have a metalled (slag) road crossing it and to be the site of a Roman building. However, the only evidence for the suspected remains appears to be based on the results of dowsing.
- 3.1.2 The dense vegetation was cut back, in order for the survey to be conducted, and although conditions were still far from ideal it was felt that substantial slag deposits would readily be detected.
- 3.1.3 All three geophysical techniques failed to locate any evidence for archaeological features in the clearing. There were slight changes in all data readings at the edge of the platform, but these coincided with a build up of soil and a clear topographic change.
- 3.1.4 Subsequent excavation failed to find any archaeological features of significance.

3.2 Area B

- 3.2.1 Scanning along Fairways 13 and 15 showed a marked contrast in the magnetic responses, the former being much noisier. It was decided to survey a detailed sample which ultimately measured 60m by 140m.
- 3.2.2 The results confirm the impressions gained during scanning, namely a complex of strong magnetic anomalies of a type that suggest 'industrial' type activity. However, some of the responses coincided with golf course features, including one in particular which was associated with the ladies' tee. Elsewhere an isolated ferrous anomaly occurred over a modern depression visible on the ground. As a consequence, the interpretation of the remaining anomalies as being archaeological was cautious.
- 3.2.3 A trial excavation trench over an anomaly on the periphery of the main noise initially found very little but upon closer investigation flecks of charcoal and burnt clay were noted. The magnetometer also continued to register a strong magnetic anomaly; excavation continued and identified a large pit that contained quantities of slag, Roman pottery and a substantial fragment of furnace lining.

- 3.2.4 A second trench, sited over a particularly strong anomaly, revealed large quantities of charcoal contained within a pit. Time did not permit its thorough excavation but the amount of charcoal and burning was sufficient to explain the magnetic anomaly.
- 3.2.5 The north-western limit of the magnetic noise coincides with a large well-preserved earthwork bank visible in the woods to the side of the survey area. When the line of this bank is projected across the fairway it coincides with the limit of the noise. It is tempting, therefore, to see the bank as originally forming a 'boundary' to the industrial activity. Unfortunately time did not allow for a complete investigation of the upstanding bank so no dating evidence was obtained.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 The geophysical results from Area A, within the woods, failed to identify any anomalies of archaeological interest despite the presence of 'clear' dowsing signals. Excavation also failed to reveal any features.
- 4.2 By contrast, Area B, which covered a large sample of the 13th Fairway, produced a wealth of strong magnetic anomalies. While some are clearly associated with the golf course, excavation confirmed the presence of archaeological features and recovered slag and furnace artefacts. Additionally, a second trench over a strong magnetic anomaly revealed an apparent charcoal pit that is likely to have been used in the processing of the iron which was taking place at the site.
- 4.3 Unfortunately the presence of the woodlands and golf course severely restricted the use of geophysical work. Although industrial features were located it was not possible to produce an overall plan of the iron workings at the site.

Project Assistants

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