

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF EARLY MIDDLE – AGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN NORTHERN ITALY

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Non invasive geophysical techniques (magnetic, geoelectric and SP) have been applied to the exploration of two archaeological sites respectively located in Tuscany (Poggibonsi, Siena) and Emilia Romagna (Imola). In both cases prospecting concerned sites inhabited until early Middle-Age and subsequently abandoned. The first area is now agricultural while the second one has been recently re-urbanised. In both sites the aim of geophysical exploration was the detection of shallow buildings foundations. Significant results have been obtained from SP and magnetometric techniques both used for exploratory purposes. Direct current methods (pseudo sections and resistivity profiles) have been used to refine results from SP and magnetometry. In one case (Poggibonsi), excavations have been actually performed and confirmed the results of geophysical prospecting.