

'BOG' STANDARD GEOPHYSICAL TECHNIQUES ON THE SEVERN

P.P. Barker and E.J.F. Mercer

Stratascan Ltd., Vineyard House, Upper Hook Road, Upton-Upon-Severn, Worcs. WR8 0SA

p.p.barker@stratascan.co.uk

e.j.f.mercer@stratascan.co.uk/Fax: (+44) 1684 594142

Alluvial soils have been generally accepted as being unresponsive to geophysical survey in the detection of archaeological sites and so have been avoided or ignored. However, the fast-growing industrial development on the Severn levels has proved that this area has a high potential for archaeology of which the majority has been discovered either purely by chance or by expensive trenching. This has led to an unacceptable loss of information regarding these sites. Therefore, in an attempt to locate potential archaeological sites trial surveys have been carried out using different geophysical methods including various ways of employing a fluxgate magnetometer, a caesium vapour magnetometer combined with the use of electromagnetics. This paper will report on the evaluation of these techniques applied to two sites on the Severn Levels and the possibilities such work offers to similar soils.