

Metal Detecting

Why use it?

The method of metal detecting can help to identify key areas of interest by defining the spatial extent of objects unearthed:

- A cluster of ferrous nails may indicate the existence of a timber-framed building on the site
- Concentrations of coins may indicate a settlement or trackway
- Slag may suggest an area of metal-working.

Therefore using a metal detector to scan a site can provide an indication of earlier land uses such as industrial activities or settlement extent.

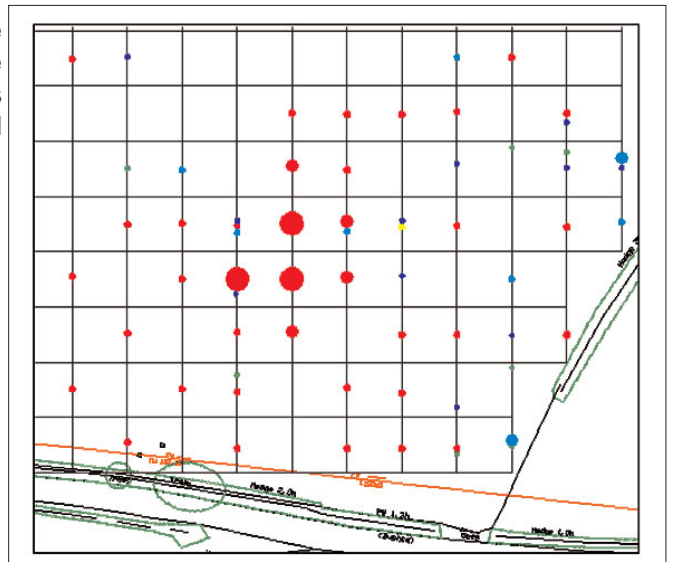


Advantages

- Rapid assessment of large areas
- Allows efficient use of more detailed magnetometry or resistivity by targeting areas of high archaeological potential
- Gives information on the nature of possible archaeological features on a site eg. settlement, industrial, agricultural etc.

Examples of data

To the right is an example of the distribution of finds across a site surveyed with a metal detector. This can be used to target more detailed geophysical techniques.



Peter Barker C Eng MICE MIWEM MIFA
Stratascan Ltd
Vineyard House
Upper Hook Road
Upton-upon-Severn
Worcs. UK
WR8 0SA
Tel: +44 (0)1684 592266
Fax: +44 (0)1684 594142
Email info@stratascan.co.uk
www.stratascan.co.uk

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