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Integrated Archaeological Prospection: Some Case Studies

The "Rheinisches Amt für Bodendenkmalpflege/Landschaftsverband Rheinland" (Bonn) often carries out archaeological prospections e.g. in the preliminary stages of development plans or ahead of road construction. The first step is the analysis of the archive data like historical maps or the information about chance finds. The next step is systematic fieldwalking including single-find plotting. This method enables us to date the site and to define its extent approximately. Fieldwalking is not applicable to meadows and does not yield reliable information about the preservation of the features. By means of a subsequent geophysical survey using magnetic and/or electric prospection on selected areas it is possible to locate different archaeological objects very precisely. Based on the results of the geophysical survey well-aimed bore probes are carried out in order to prove the preservation. In difficult situations instead of bore probes you most likely use trial trenches.

Fig.1. A Roman Burgus near Pulheim/Rheinland Combined results of fieldwalking on a harrowed field (K. Frank et al.), a geoelectric survey on a meadow (1.0 m-Twin-configuration; samplingrate 0.5 m x 1.0 m; gridsize 40 m x 20 m filtert; J. Wippern, G. Mosebach & J. Zechner) and trial trenches (K. Frank, Ch. Wohlfarth et al.)