

Geomagnetic and geoelectric prospection on a roman iron production facility in Hüttenberg, Austria (Ferrum Noricum)

Georg K. Walach, Robert Scholger

Department of Applied Geological Sciences and Geophysics, University of Leoben, Austria georg.walach@unileoben.ac.at



Introduction:

The area of Hüttenberg, Carinthia has long been suspected to be a center of the roman iron production between the 1st and the 4th century AD. Parts of this ancient iron industry are located at the site Semlach-Eisner.

Excavations following geophysical prospection have shown several melting furnaces, slag heaps and walls as well as relicts of administration buildings and settlements. Due to the amount of slag finds around the excavation area a larger expansion of the whole complex can be assumed.





Walkmag field measurement

Survey raw data Trend analysis Final result - data residuals E-W data band N-5 data Trend Cumulative data band Terend analysis Terend analysis

The magnetic Survey

Field measurement:

Area: approx. 400 x 1000m
Data: 63,700 stations
Instrument: GEM19OH proton magnetometer, Walkmag

Positioning: Garmin etrex HC GPS
Base station: Geometrics G856, local

Data analysis and correction:

- diurnal correction to local base
- reduction of low quality dataelimination of technical disturbances
- elimination of data with equal coordinates due to limited GPS resolution

Data transformation:

- Trend analysis by means of calculation of regression surfaces
- Database N-S and E-W transects in the southern part of the investigation area
- Calculation of fits with Golden Software GRAPHER data fit
- Reduction of strong quadratic N-S trend and a slight linear E-W trend as shown above.
- Residuals used for the final presentation of the data
- Calculation of the resulting grid with Kriging using Variograms

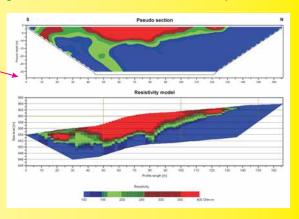
Results:

The major variations in the center part of the survey represent the existing excavation district. Indications for additional zones were subsurface monuments can be assumed are in the north (1) and in the south (2). The southern anomalie has been confirmed by former geomagnetic measurements. The huge slag heap (3) can be tracked along the western border of the investigation area. Another interresting result is the semi-circular structure east of the excavation area. Further anomalies (4) are caused by geological reasons (e.g. mineralization).

The geoelectric multielectrode profile

The depth of the major slag body in the western part of the survey area was determined with two multi electrode geoelectric profiles. The North-South profiles had a length of 166m and an electrode distance of 2m. With a maximum penetration depth of about 30m 1134 Wenner-Alpha resistivity stations has been recorded for each profile. The distribution of the resistivity is shown in the pseudo section below.

The aim of the investigation was the estimate of the slag volume, which gives an evidence for the duration of the industrial iron production.



The resistivity model shown above indicates a high resistivity body, which is clearly deliminated from the low resistivity bedrock. The maximum depth of about 6m fits well with the assumptive historical paleosurface. The thinning of this body to both ends of the profile is consistent with the magnetic data.

In the southern part of the profile a smaller body is seperated, which is likely to a later encroachment into the sub-surface.



Geoelectric profile over the slag heap

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Author's adresses:

Department of Applied Geological Sciences and Geophysics, Chair of Geophysics, University of Leoben Peter-Tunnerstrasse 25, A-8700 Leoben, Austria

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