

Discriminating between Grave Sites and Non-Grave Sites Using Conventional Remote Sensing Methods

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April 2011

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When conventional forensic methods fail to detect a clandestine grave, particularly if the search area is extensive, remote sensing should be studied as an alternative. I demonstrate that chlorophyll content and vegetation index computed anthocyanin levels are good indicators for distinguishing between graves and false graves. A test using pattern recognition classifiers shows they are not useful for mature grave detection and should be tested in a controlled environment for establishing true performance. A good chlorophyll content prediction curve can be computed using vegetation indices obtained from ground spectra and applied to airborne imagery so to classify potential graves. This research is a preliminary study in the detection of mature grave sites using a remote sensing approach.

Parc Safari Animal Cemetery, Quebec

