

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY GEOPHYSICS SECTION

REPORT ON MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

SURVEY: Lowermoor, Advent, Cornwall

DATE: 14th March, 1978

Report no. 15/78

1. SITE

OS grid reference: SX 1274 8386

Field no. -

Location: At end of lane NE of Greylake Barton farm, near edge of Bodmin Moor.

Geology: Metamorphosed slate near granite.

Archaeological evidence: Very slight circular earthwork is visible.

2. SURVEY

Object: To discover whether the earthwork is likely to be a settlement enclosure or perhaps a filled-in quarry.

(a) Magnetic survey

Type of survey: magnetometer traverses plotted with chart recorder.

Magnetometer: Plessey fluxgate Range: 0-100 γ

Initial chart recorder settings - Y: 16 γ/cm
X: 1:200 scale

Logged for computing: ~~yes~~/no

(b) Other tests

(i) Magnetic susceptibility:

topsoil: 181.5 subsoil: - fill: - $\times 10^{-6}$ emu/gm
(ac bridge readings)

(ii) -

Survey grid measured to: Baseline bisecting earthwork was sighted from NE corner of field to gatepost at S end.

Plans/charts enclosed:

1. Location of survey, 1:2500
2. Survey chart with interpretation, 1:200

3. RESULTS

The two squares surveyed covered the N half of the visible earthwork. The geology and magnetic susceptibility of the soil here compare with those of the site surveyed at Inaze-an-Boeulo where there was found to be no clearly visible distinction between possible archaeology and natural background activity. At Lowermoor conditions are more disturbed but there is a similar difficulty.

The strength of magnetic disturbance both around and within the earthwork prevents any certain interpretation. Much of the disturbance is probably natural or geological and the significance of other factors is hard to estimate. There is no discontinuity such as might be expected at the edge of a quarry filled with extraneous material, but if the fill is magnetically similar to the local soil quarrying on a small scale might not be detectable. There are several small pieces of iron visible as sharp spikes but otherwise the results could as well be accounted for archaeologically.

There is no clear or continuous response to a ditch around the earthwork. Instead there are scattered anomalies which could be seen as fragments of a semicircle although other conflicting interpretations are possible. Some of the anomalies marked might well be caused by small scale geomorphological variations. Given the general magnetically disturbed conditions it is impossible to distinguish any possible indications of occupation of the site.

Surveyed and reported by: A. Bartlett

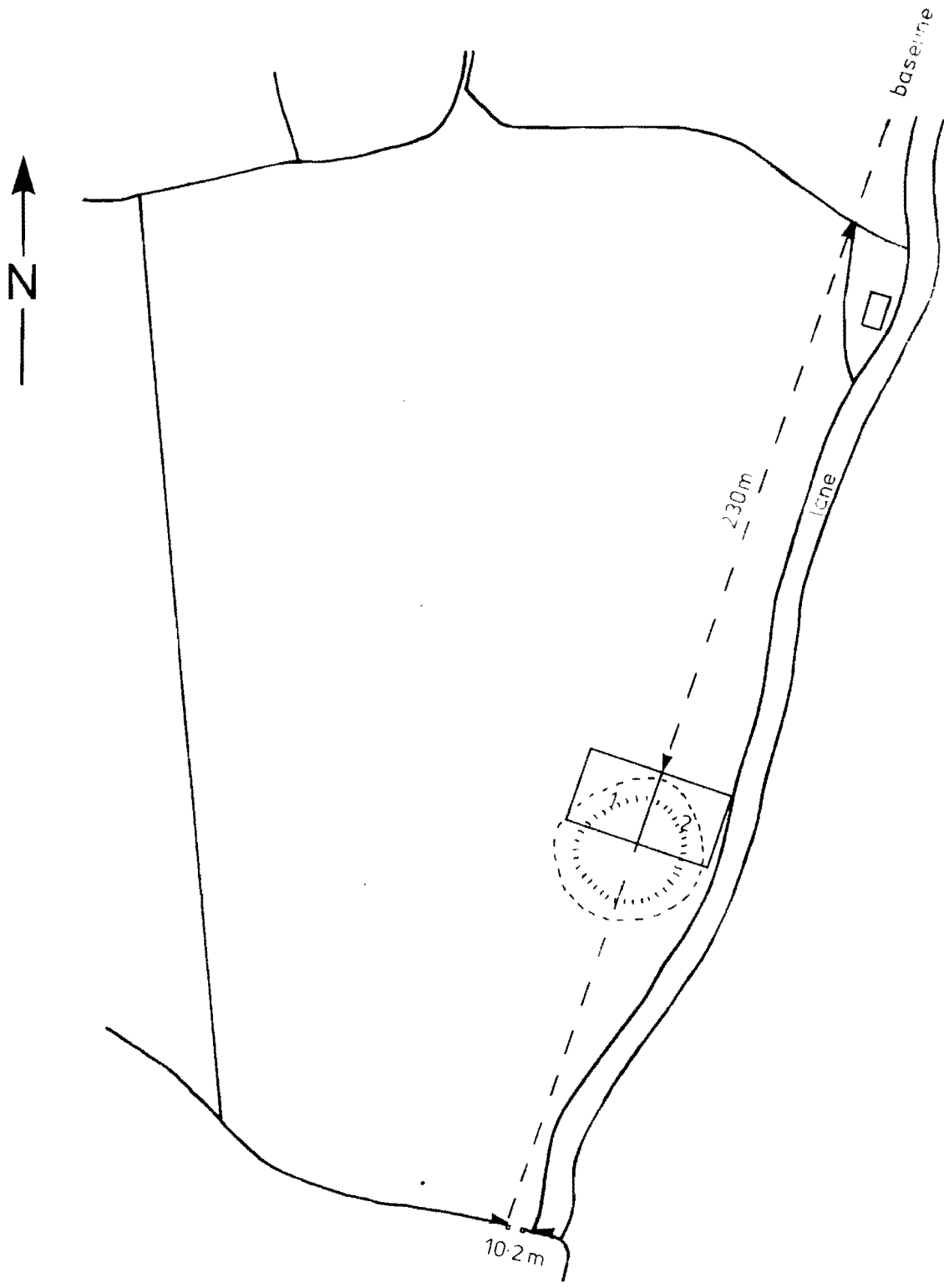
with: G. McDonnell

For: N. Johnson

Date of report: 7th July, 1978

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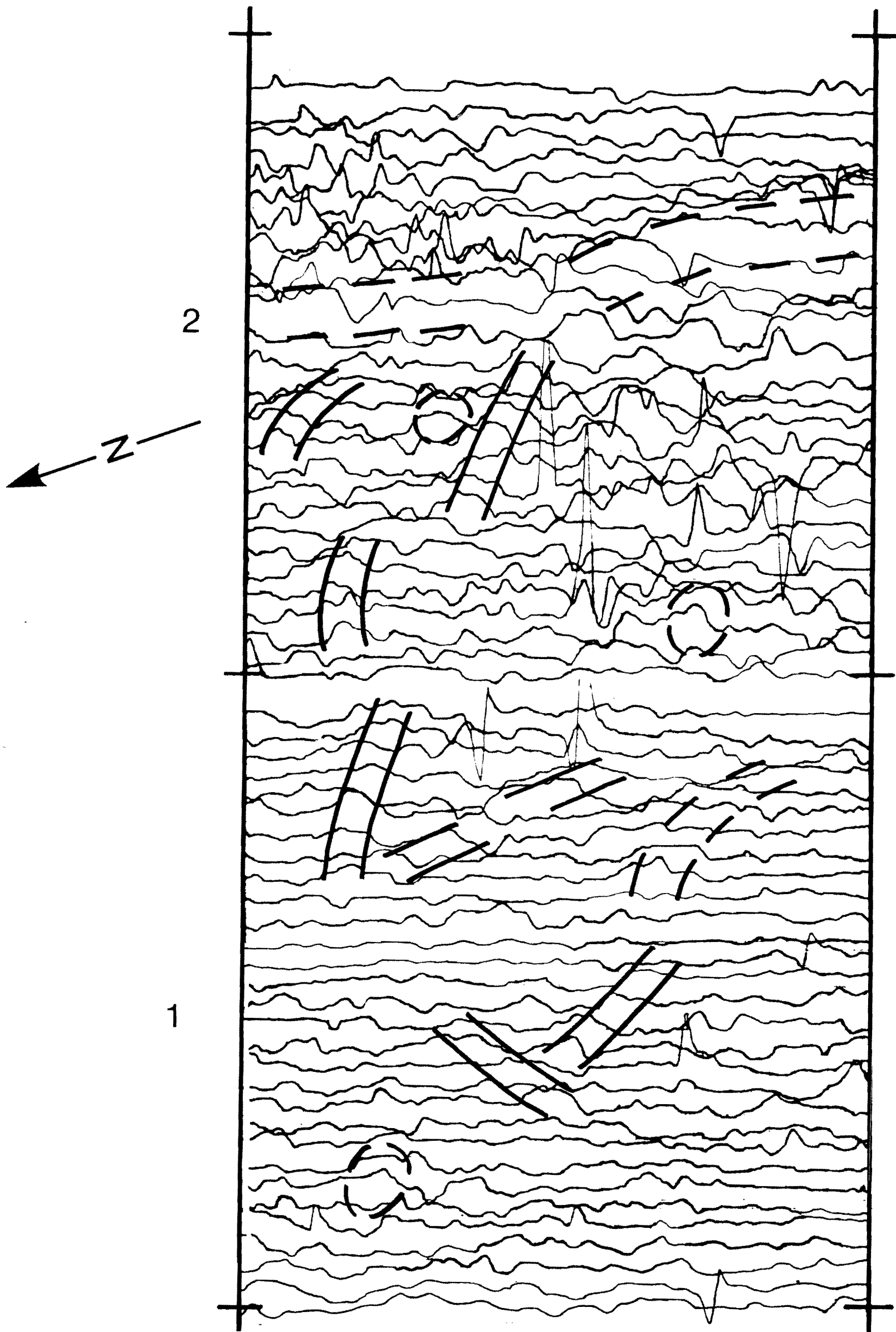
LOWERMoor

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY
Location

Survey no. 15/78	1 magnetometer squares	NG ref. SX1274 8386
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Survey no. 15/78	LOWERMoor	NG ref. SX 1274 8386
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magnetic traverses plotted at 16 gamma/cm	MAGNETOMETER SURVEY	magnetic anomalies
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