ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY GEOPHYSICS SECTION

REPORT ON MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

SURVEY: ABBOTSTONE DOWN, Hants **DATE:** 10.5.78

Report no. 23/78

---

1. SITE

OS grid reference: SU 57953558 **Field no.** 0056

Location: to the south of Sheep Wood

Geology: Chalk

Archaeological evidence: archaeological material recovered by field-walking after ploughing.

---

2. SURVEY

Object: to determine the nature and extent of archaeological features.

(a) Magnetic survey

Type of survey: automatic recording

Magnetometer: fluxgate **Range:** 0 - 50 γ

Initial chart recorder settings – Y: 10 γ/cm
X: 1:200 **scale**

Logged for computing: ~~yes~~/no

(b) Other tests results awaited

(i) Magnetic susceptibility:
topsoil: **subsoil:** **fill:** **$x10^{-6}$ emu/gm (ac bridge readings)**

(ii)

Survey grid measured to: Sheep Wood field boundary. Pegs left in hedgerow.

Plans/charts enclosed: 1 – site plan
2 – magnetometer traces with interpretation

---

cont/

3. RESULTS.

The 30 m. grid of the magnetometer survey was orientated along the Sheep Wood boundary hedge. It was restricted at the east end by the shape of the field, and on the south by the track. The track was found to be unusually free of background noise, (arising from stray iron objects) and was surveyed over in part. Two pegs were left in the Sheep Wood hedge as reference points, (as marked on plan 2).

The evidence from the plot shows that the archaeological features extend beyond the area of the survey in all directions. The concentration of anomalies declines to the southwest, (ie. down the slope). The survey therefore only samples a portion of a larger more extensive site.

The overall site plan appears to be that of a linear group of ditched enclosures. The main trend running southeast-northwest, the boundaries being the ditch running through sqs. 2 and 3, and the group of ditches cutting obliquely through sqs. 7, 8, 9, and 10. This group of ditches run approximately parallel to the contours, and are therefore unlikely to be drainage ditches. The western ditch of the group may well pre- or post-date the inner group of three which can be assumed to be contemporary. Both ditch and pit anomalies occur outside these ditches. The ditch in sq. 1 may form a boundary ditch of a sub-rectangular enclosure bounded on the west by the ditch in sqs. 2 and 3.

Within the area bounded by the main ditches there are two areas of interest. The first is the sub-rectangular enclosure in the southeast corner of the site. A possible entrance lies in its northeast corner. Internally it shows little magnetic disturbance, (the fusion of the two traverses in sq. 3 is a recording fault). This suggests it was not used as an occupation enclosure, but as a stock pound.

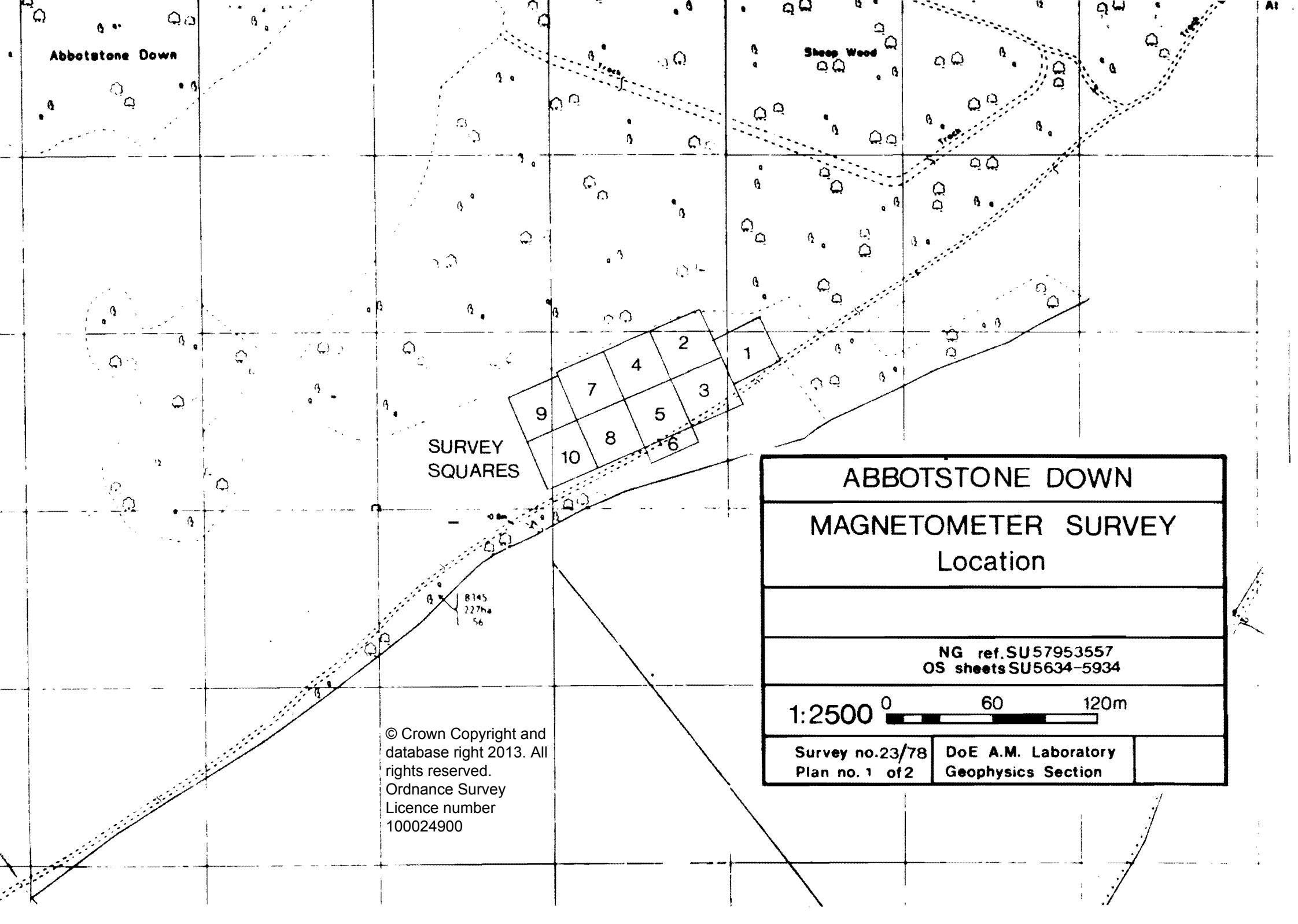
The second area of interest is in the northern half of sq. 7. This area has a high magnetic disturbance characteristic of occupation debris. A number of ditches and pits are apparent within this area, but no house plans etc. are discernible.

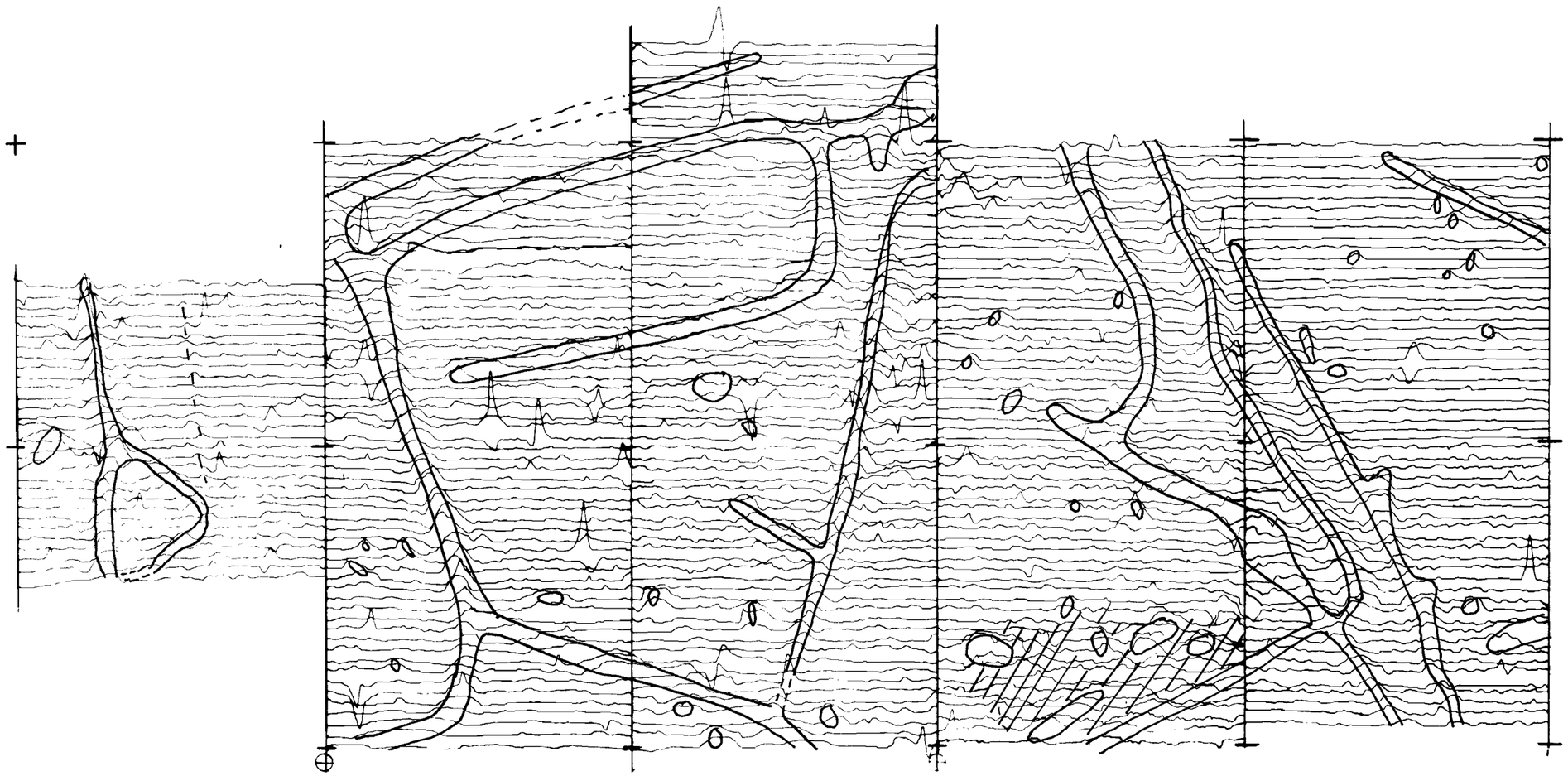
The ditches detected all give a very similar response, hence no discrimination of function can be determined for a given ditch. The only major exception is the possible ditch marked by a dotted line in sq. 1.

Surveyed and reported by: G. McDonnell **with:** D. Haddon-Reece

For: D. Whinney **Date of report:** 3.8.78

Ancient Monuments Laboratory Geophysics Section
Department of the Environment
Fortress House
23 Savile Row
London W1X 2HE **01-734 6010 ext** 531





magnetic traverses plotted at gamma/cm

grid pegs
" " left in place

ABBOTSTONE DOWN
MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

Plan no. 2 of 2
NG ref. SU 57953557

magnetic anomalies

Survey no. 23/78

0 1:500 30m

DoE Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Geophysics Section