ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY GEOPHYSICS SECTION

REPORT ON MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

SURVEY: NETTON **DATE:** 28-29/4/80

Report no. 9/80

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1. SITE

OS grid reference: SX 549 462 **Field no.** 8835/ 928/5700

Location: near the head of a broad coomb to the SW of Netton Farm.

Geology: Lower Devonian - sandstone/shale

Archaeological evidence: widespread surface scatter of flints. A Bronze Age ...

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2. SURVEY

Object: to locate any buried features that may exist, which may be defining the nature of the site.

(a) Magnetic survey

Type of survey: automatic

Magnetometer: flux gate **Range:** [illegible] γ

Initial chart recorder settings - Y: [illegible] γ/cm
X: 1:[illegible] scale

Logged for computing: ~~yes~~/no

(b) Other tests

(i) Magnetic susceptibility:
topsoil: 48 **subsoil:** **fill:** **x10^{-6} emu/gm**
(ac bridge readings)

(ii)

Survey grid measured to: field wall

Plans/charts enclosed:
1 - location plan
2 - magnetometer traces
3 - magnetometer traces, plus interpretation

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cont/

3. RESULTS

With an original field-recording sensitivity of 10 gammas/cm. (vertical deflection) it has been possible to recognize a large number of anomalies probably of archaeological origin. With a few exceptions these are all linear and only barely detectable against the natural magnetic background. That the majority of features are so weakly defined in an area where magnetic susceptibility is more than adequate for clear detection, suggests that the processes responsible for soil enhancement, typically associated with occupation, have been slight. Alternatively, most of the buried remains may have been destroyed or truncated by ploughing.

Plan 2 illustrates the magnetometer traces at a scale of 1:500, and plan 3 shows the same traces with a suggested interpretation of the anomalies outlined in red. Modern disturbance accounts for the distortions to the N of sq. 7 (a well), and in the S corner of sq. 6 (a fence). Spurious anomalies from surface iron have been ignored.

The linear anomalies, best defined as ditches, provide a rather confusing arrangement of varying lengths, directions and magnetic strengths. Some may be of relatively recent, and perhaps agricultural origin, such as the weak but roughly parallel anomalies in sqs. 7 and 8. An unusual anomaly is the narrow line of negative deflections running E - W through sqs. 6 and 9 and perhaps just visible in sq. 5. A wall foundation here seems rather unlikely, and so some sort of field drain is perhaps the most probable explanation.

Much of the remaining pattern possibly represents systems of ancient field plots, trackways or enclosure boundaries, probably of several periods. The best defined ditches, in sqs. 1, 4, 5, and 10 are on a rectilinear pattern and could well belong to the same phase or system. The features in sqs. 2 and 3 are poorly magnetic, but appear to form part of a subsidiary pattern of irregular ajoining and overlapping enclosures. Occupation, as suggested, may be slight or poorly preserved. At least a minimum of such activity is represented by the two pits visible on the S edge of sq. 4. Broad areas of very slightly raised magnetism (not outlined on plan 3), faintly detected here for instance in the corner of sqs. 8 and 9 could conceivably relate to actual settlement areas, but the response is too weak for this to be anything more than a most tentative speculation.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The site plainly extends well beyond the limits of the survey area, and without more extensive coverage the site must remain something of a puzzle. The ditches show no direct allegiance to existing or destroyed field boundaries, and it is improbable that the detected features are related to the relative abundance of worked flint on the surface. The presence of the latter around the original springhead of the coomb (now the site of the well, the issue of which is piped down to the farm) is no doubt significant.

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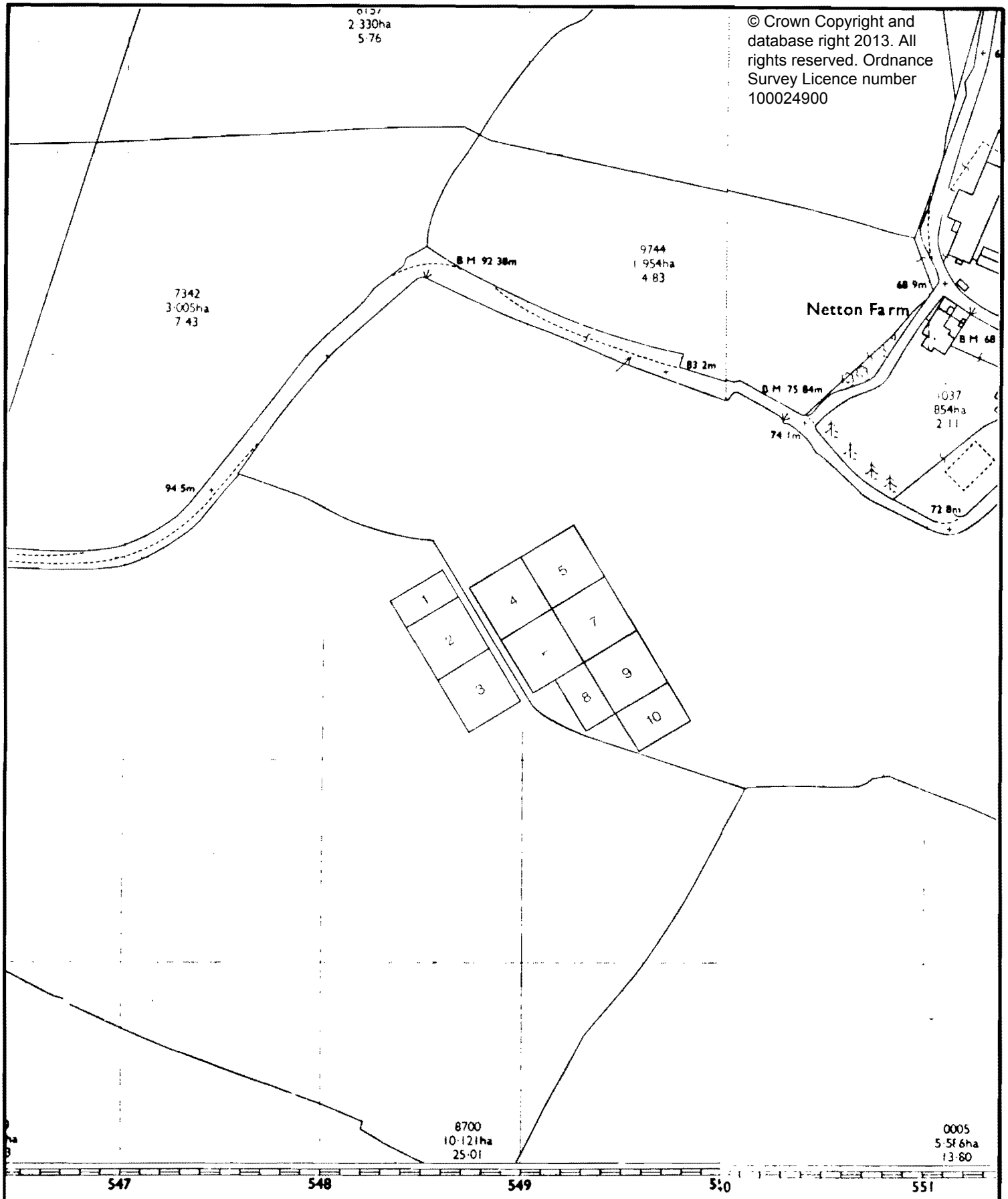
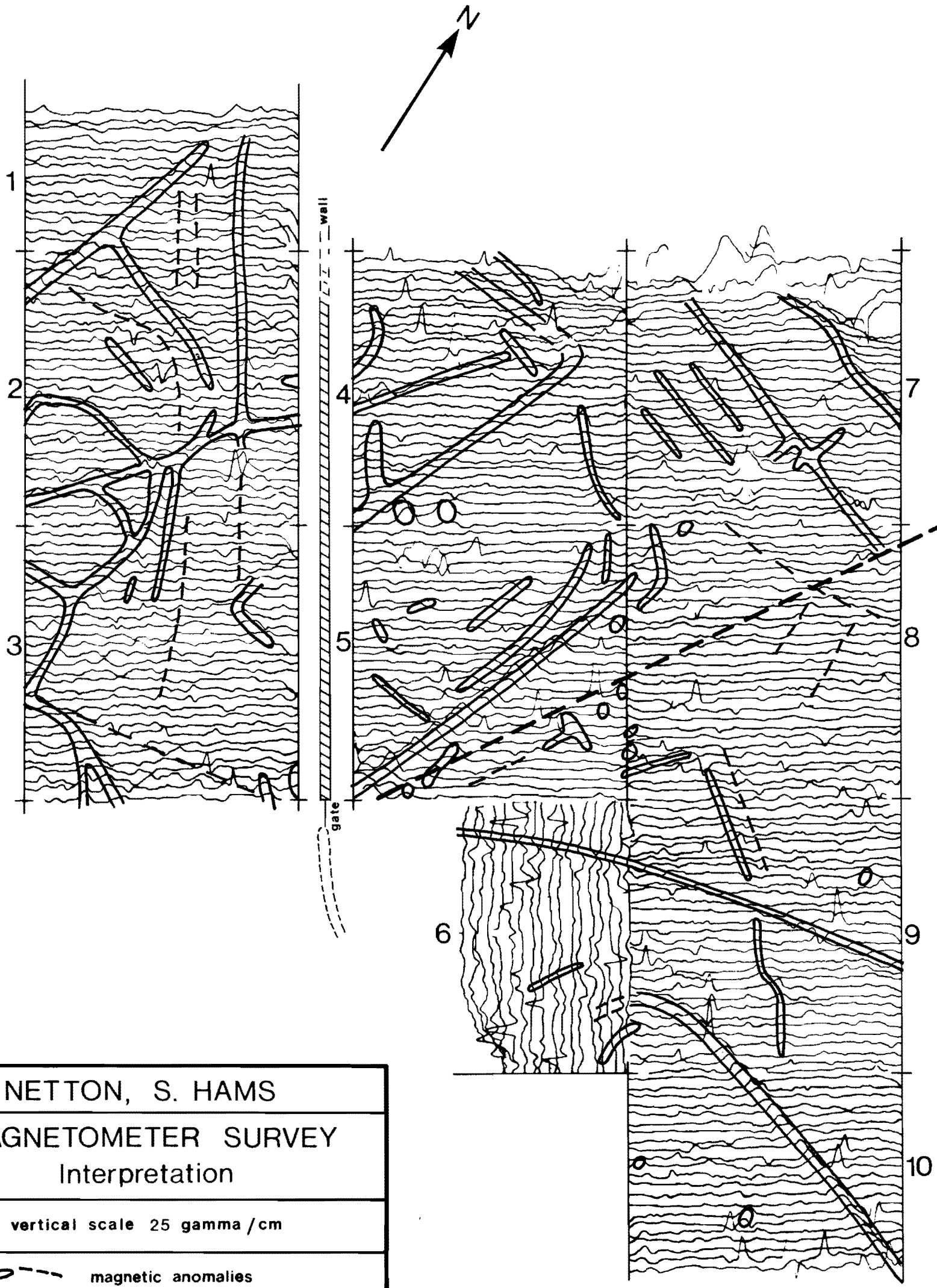


NETTON

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY
Location

Survey no. 9/80 Plan no. 1 of 3	NG Ref. SX 549462	Survey no. 9/80 Based on 1:2500 OS sheets
0 1:2500 200m	DoE A.M. Laboratory	SX 5546 SX 5446



NETTON, S. HAMS

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY
Interpretation

vertical scale 25 gamma / cm

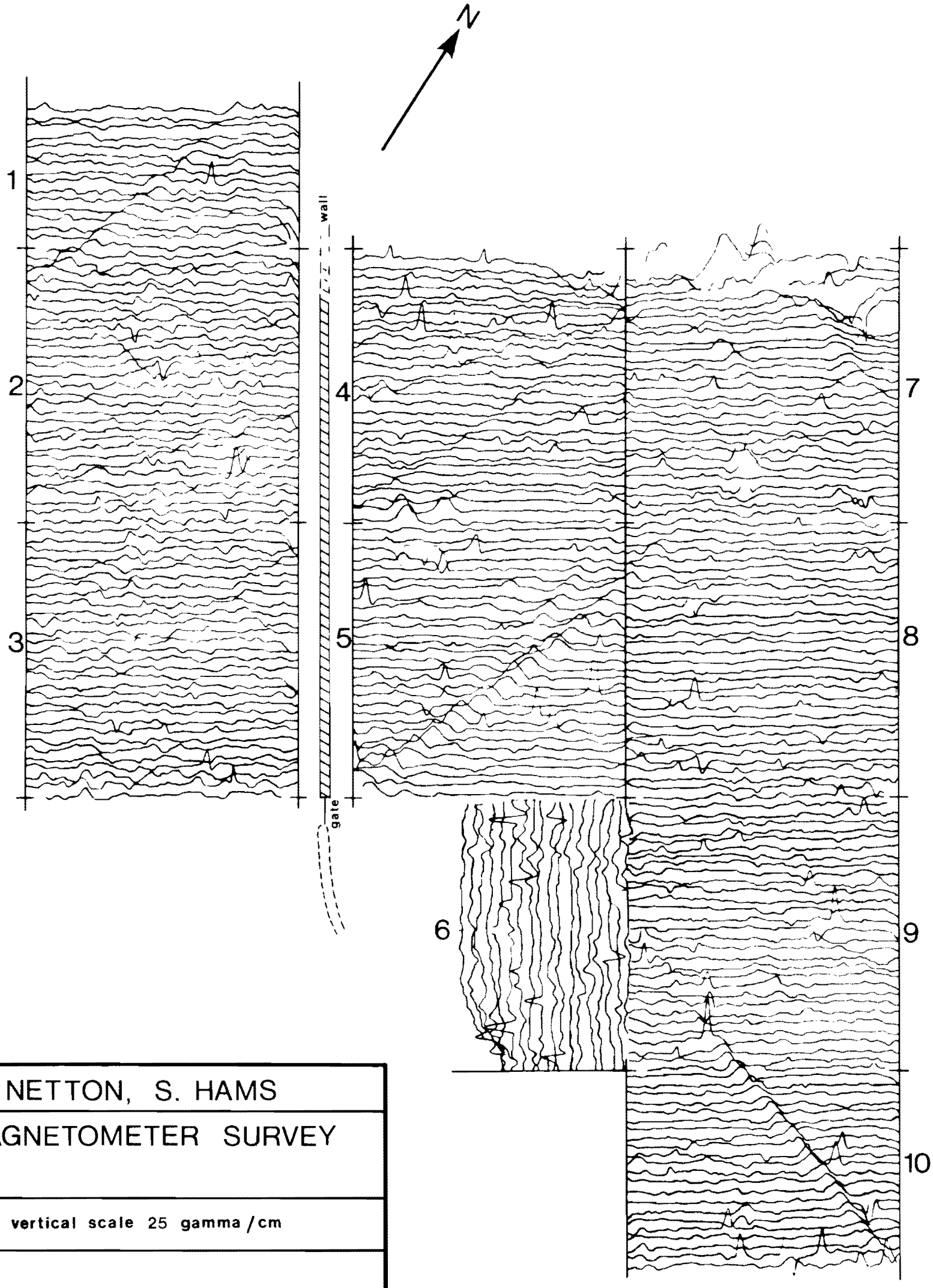
magnetic anomalies

0 1:500 30m

Survey no. 9/80
Plan no. 3 of 3

DoE A.M. Laboratory
Geophysics Section

— — — — line of earlier field boundary, approx.



NETTON, S. HAMS

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

vertical scale 25 gamma / cm

0 1:500 30m

Survey no. 9/80
Plan no. 2 of 3

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