ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY GEOPHYSICS SECTION

REPORT ON MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

SURVEY: COFFLETE

DATE: 30/4/80

Report no. 10/80

---

1. SITE

OS grid reference: SX 547 514 **Field no.** 7231

Location: near the crest of the spur of land N of Steer Point and between Cofflete Creek and the Yealm estuary.

Geology: Middle Devonian ?sandstone/shales'

Archaeological evidence: topographically well-placed for early settlement. Some flints.

---

2. SURVEY

Object: to locate any evidence of burial or occupancy on the [illegible] area north of Steer Point, or on its edge/slope.

(a) Magnetic survey

Type of survey: automatic

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

(i) Magnetic susceptibility:
topsoil: **subsoil:** **fill:** **x10⁻⁶ emu/gm (ac bridge readings)**
86 (sqs. 1-5), 413 (sqs. 6-10)

(ii)

Survey grid measured to: fence

Plans/charts enclosed:
1 – location plan
2 – sqs. 1-5, magnetometer traces
3 – sqs. 1-5, magnetometer traces, plus interpretation.
4 – sqs. 6-10, magnetometer traces
5 – sqs. 6-10, magnetometer traces, plus interpretation.

---

cont/

3. RESULTS

Squares 1 - 5 were placed over part of a buried ditch system located initially by scanning. The resultant plots (plans 2 and 3) reveal part of a rectilinear arrangement presumably representing enclosures of some kind, and possibly trackways where the ditches are close and parallel. The relatively pronounced negative anomalies to the N of the two main E - W ditches may indicate the remnants of banks no longer actually visible as earthworks. One is reminded that an old bank is still visible on the plot of uncultivated and wooded land only some 15 m. or so S of the survey area.

Slight occupation activity might be hinted at by the smaller and possibly pit-like anomalies, but where susceptibility is so high - 86 x 10^{-6} emu/gm. - one would expect settlement activities to leave more pronounced and frequent magnetic disturbance.

Scanning also showed archaeological activity on the higher ground to the N, and sqs. 6 - 10 were surveyed to sample this. Magnetic susceptibility here is exceptional - 413 x 10^{-6} emu/gm. - and the traces are correspondingly more noisy, unfortunately masking the possible presence of discrete archaeological anomalies. Several ditches are clearly visible, though, especially in sqs. 9 and 10 which coincide [illegible] closely with [illegible] of the local topography and might, [illegible] [illegible] other sites, [illegible] [illegible] for an archaeological site. In [illegible] of the sqs., [illegible] background noise is high, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that occupation, and possibly [illegible] building [illegible] at [illegible]. [illegible] possibly conflicts with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], suggesting that only [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], the remainder showing only [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], owing to [illegible]. A local change in sub-surface [illegible] [illegible] also be a contributing factor.

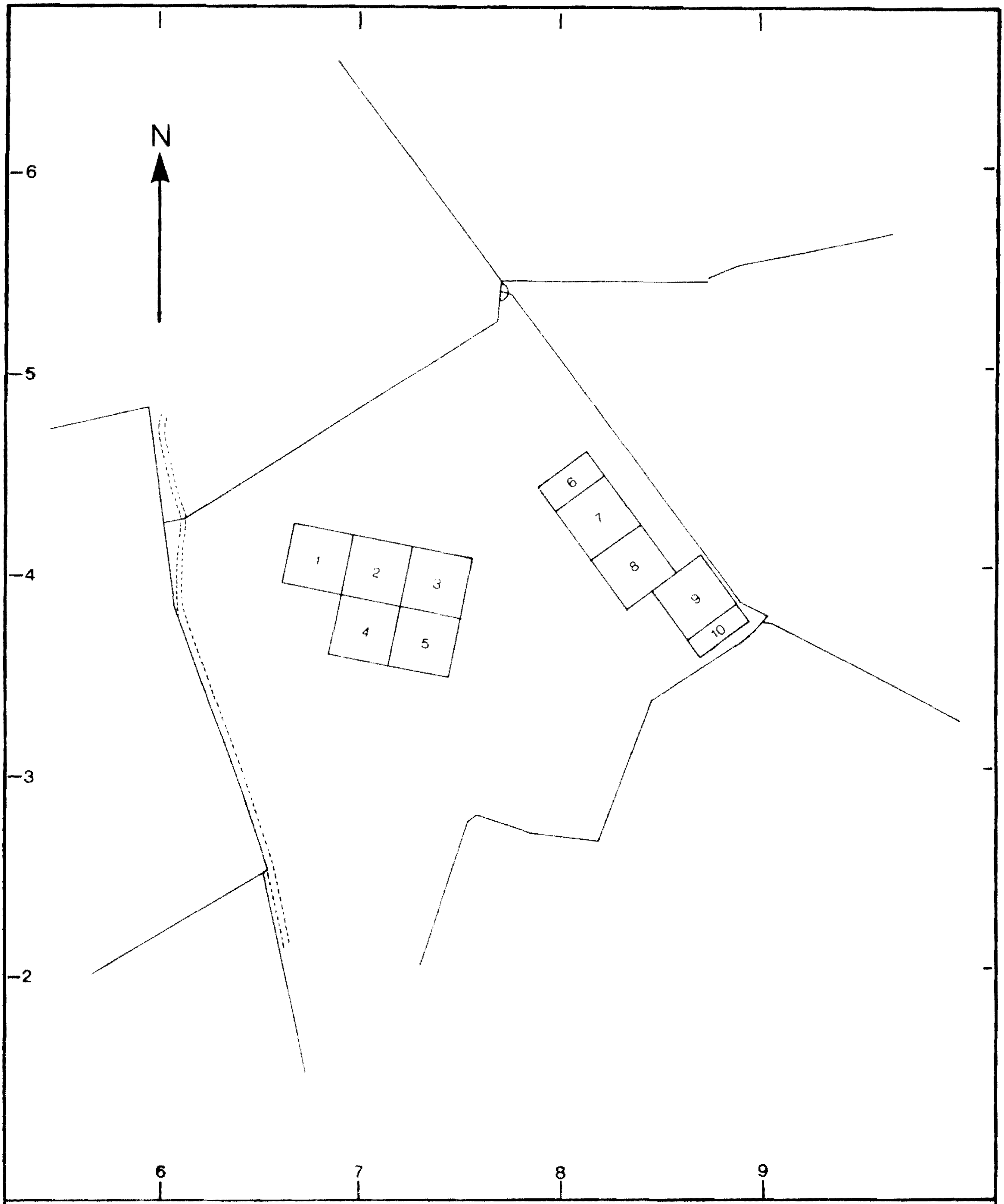
Further downslope, features may be rather pronounced, and a group of several well-defined anomalies have been detected in sqs. 6 and 7. The linear feature running diagonally through sq. 8 (giving strong responses which are not reproduced on the plans) is typically that expected from a modern pipe. Modern activity in the field is also suggested by the presence of at least three mortar bomb fragments, and a possibly recent origin for some of the anomalies must be kept in mind. The field also contains a widespread scatter of bootle-glass fragments, suggesting a manufactring site nearby. Much of the evidence from the two areas surveyed, however, suggests that an extensive ditch system and possibly localized settlement may exist over this large field and perhaps beyond. There appears to be no relationship to present field boundaries.

Surveyed and reported by: A. David. **with:** [illegible]. Mold.

For: Dr. Wainwright.
[illegible]. Mold
S. Fordham

Date of report: [illegible]/[illegible]/80

Ancient Monuments Laboratory Geophysics Section
Department of the Environment
Fortress House
23 Savile Row
London W1X2HE **01-734 6010 ext** [illegible]01



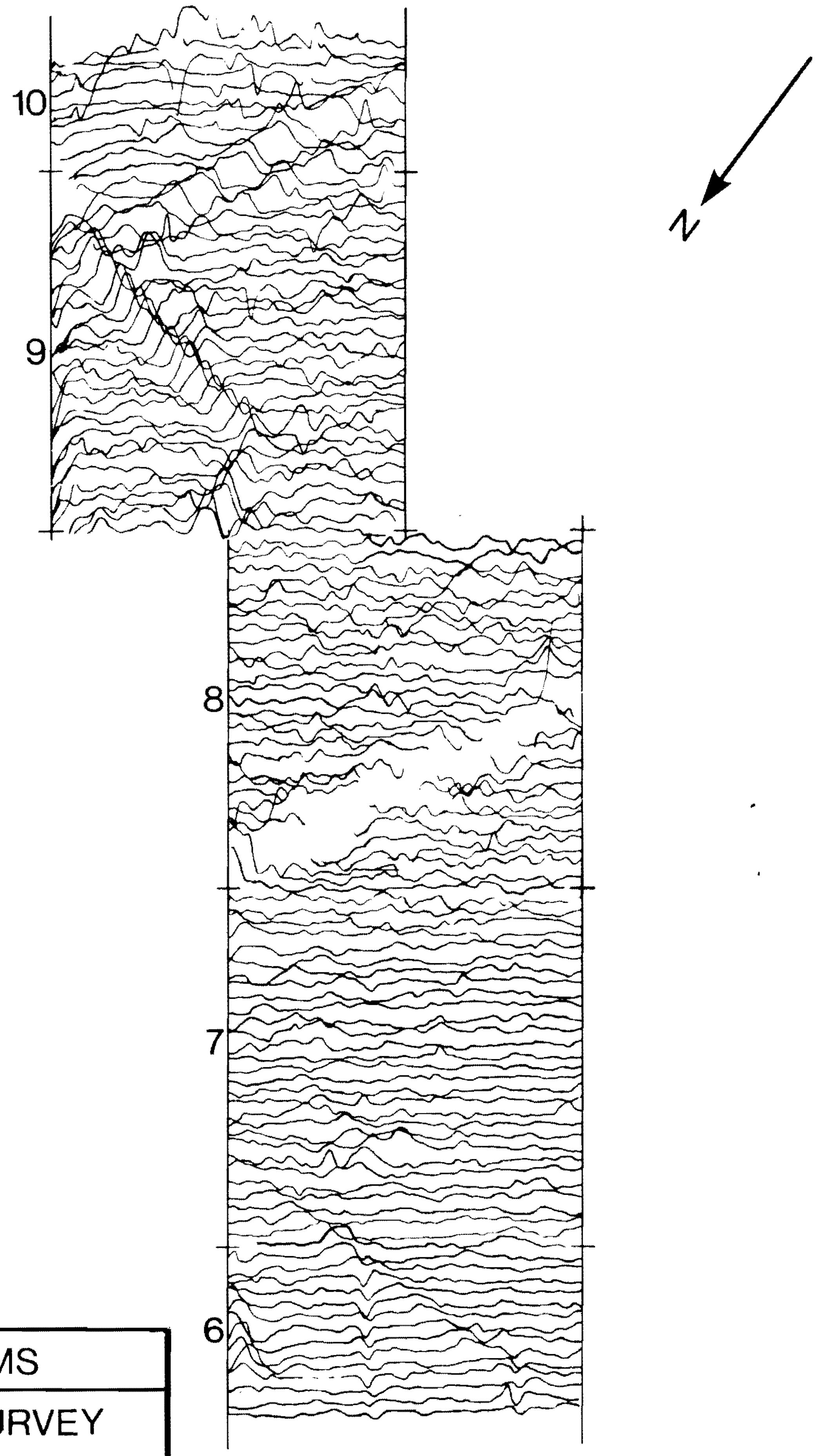
COFFLETE

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY
Location

Survey no. 10/80 Plan no. 1 of 5	NG Ref. SX 547514	Survey no. 10/80 Based on 1:2500 **OS sheet** SX 5451

0 1: 2500 200m

DoE A.M. Laboratory

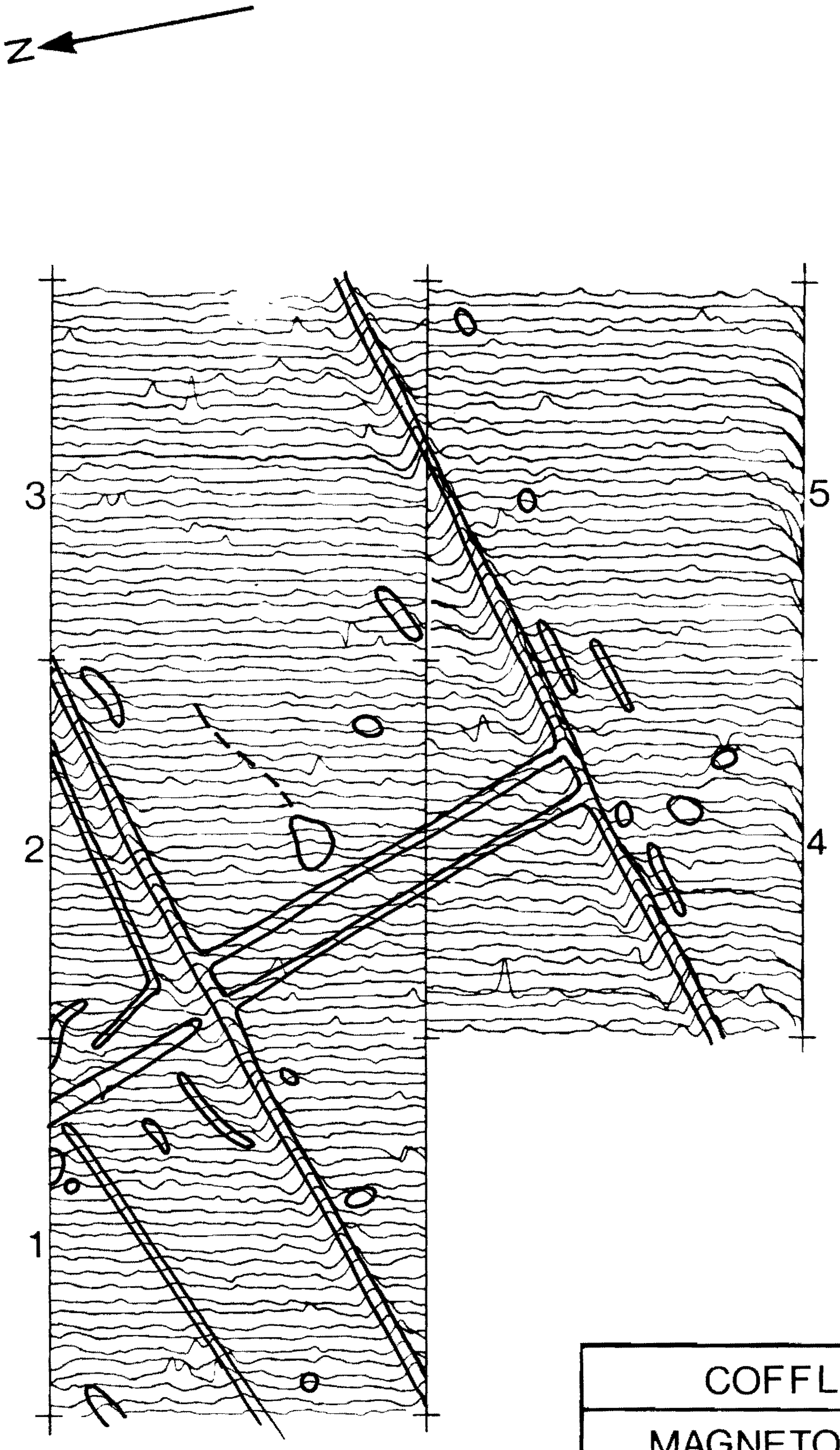


COFFLETE, S. HAMS

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

vertical scale 25 gamma / cm

Survey no. 10 80 Plan no. 4 of 5	DoE A.M. Laboratory Geophysics Section



COFFLETE, S. HAMS

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY
Interpretation

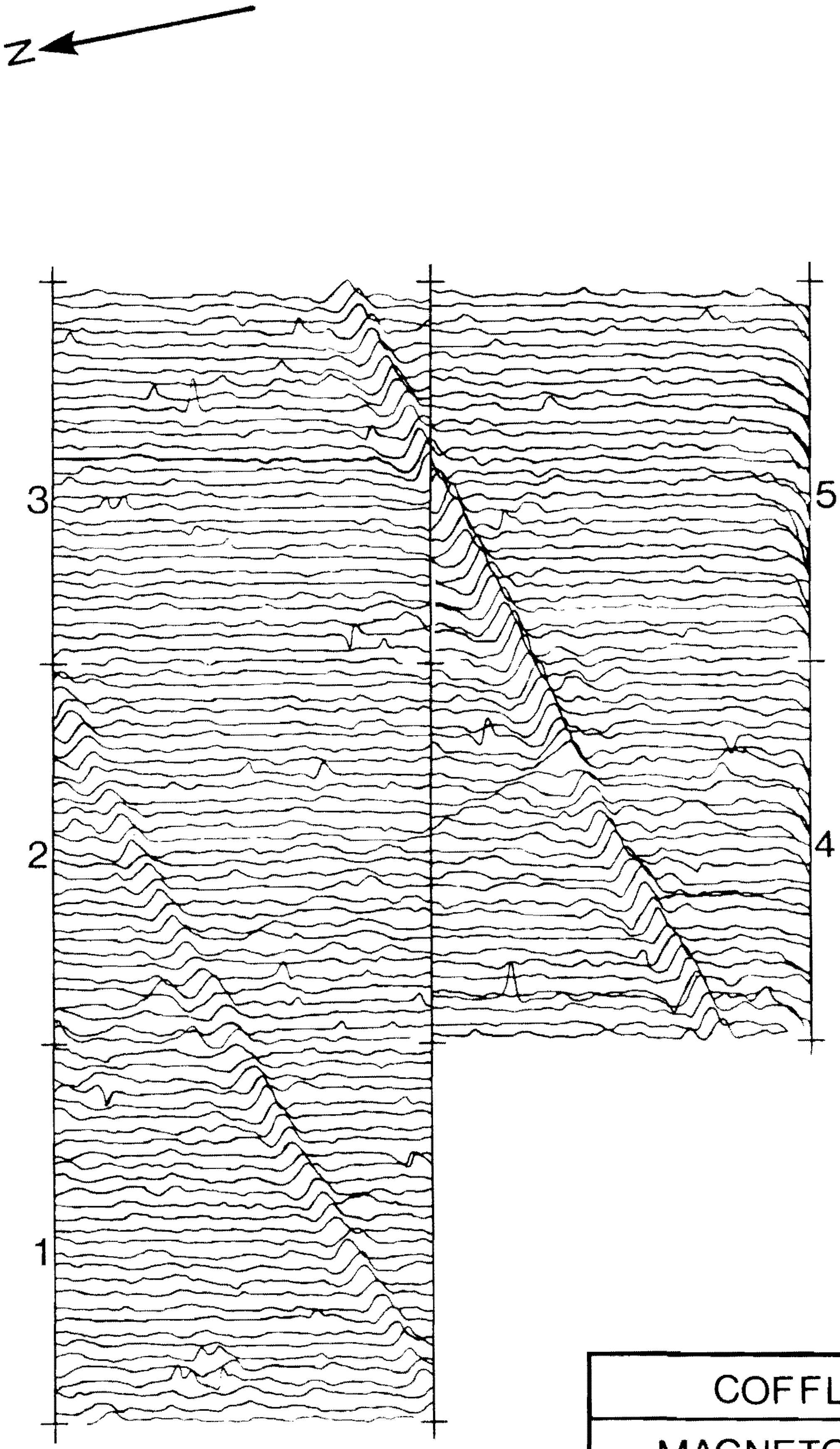
vertical scale 25 gamma / cm

magnetic anomalies

0 1:500 30m

Survey no. 10/80
Plan no. 3 of 5

DoE A.M. Laboratory
Geophysics Section



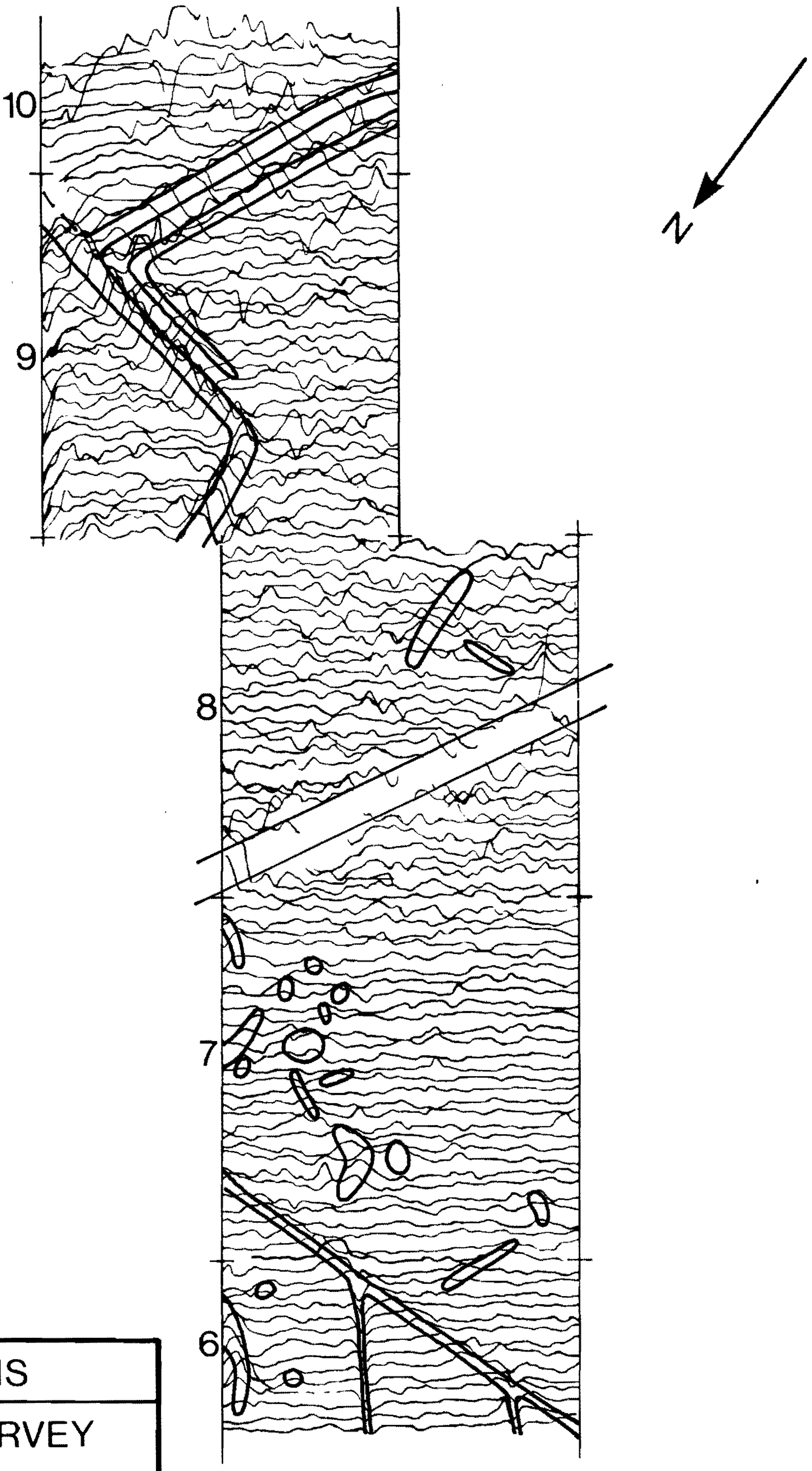
COFFLETE, S. HAMS

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

vertical scale 25 gamma /cm

0 1:500 30m

Survey no. 10/80 **Plan no. 2 of 5**	**DoE A.M. Laboratory** **Geophysics Section**



COFFLETE, S. HAMS

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

Interpretation

vertical scale 25 gamma /cm

magnetic anomalies

0 1:500 30m

Survey no. 10 80
Plan no. 5 of 5

DoE A.M. Laboratory
Geophysics Section