

REPORT ON MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

SURVEY: DANESHILL, BASINGSTOKE

DATE: 19/5/81

Report no. 11/81

1. SITE

OS grid reference: SU 657 542 (approx.)

Field no. -

Location: a mile to the NE of Basingstoke.

Geology: clay with gravel. Reading Beds.

Archaeological evidence: Bronze Age cremation cemetery with later ditches exposed in trial trenches.

2. SURVEY

Object: to investigate area under threat alongside route of new road.

(a) Magnetic survey

Type of survey: Traverses recorded at 1m intervals on 30m grid.

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: 10.8

subsoil: 7.1
(0.5m depth)

fill: 5.8
(ditch fill,
0.6m depth)

$\times 10^{-8}$ SI units/kg
(ac bridge readings)

(ii) -

Survey grid measured to: road construction pegs.

Plans/charts enclosed: location plan, with the position of significant magnetic anomalies.

3. RESULTS

Conditions at this site are not favourable for magnetic detection and only a limited range of archaeological features is likely to respond. The soil magnetic susceptibility readings show, as is often the case on gravel, no clear contrast between samples of topsoil and subsoil. The readings are low, and the value obtained from the fill of one of the small excavated ditches is lower than from the surrounding subsoil. Earth-filled features are therefore unlikely to be detected in the absence of a local source of magnetic disturbance of the kind often associated with occupation or with industrial activity.

The magnetic anomalies found are outlined on the site plan. There are none south of the new road (squares 7 and 8) in the area where the cremation urns were found, but the response from a cemetery is usually very incomplete even in favourable conditions.

On the north side of the road various small ditches, typically $\frac{1}{2}$ m wide when exposed at a depth of 30-40 cm, have been uncovered in 2m square test pits within the area surveyed. Such ditches would be detectable given good magnetic contrast between natural subsoil and fill, but not in the conditions prevailing here. It might therefore be significant that the survey findings were not completely negative, and that a ditch, with another shorter one parallel to it, and at least one pit were found towards the north of the survey in square 2. The survey provides no direct evidence for occupation or other activity apart from this pit and a possible feature in square 5, but the fact that the ditch and these features respond at all might indicate that square 2 is a focus of activity which is lacking or less intensive elsewhere on the site.

The two southernmost anomalies in square 5 are large unidentifiable metallic objects. The third anomaly nearby is partly obscured by the disturbance they create, but it may be of archaeological origin.

Surveyed and reported by: A. Bartlett

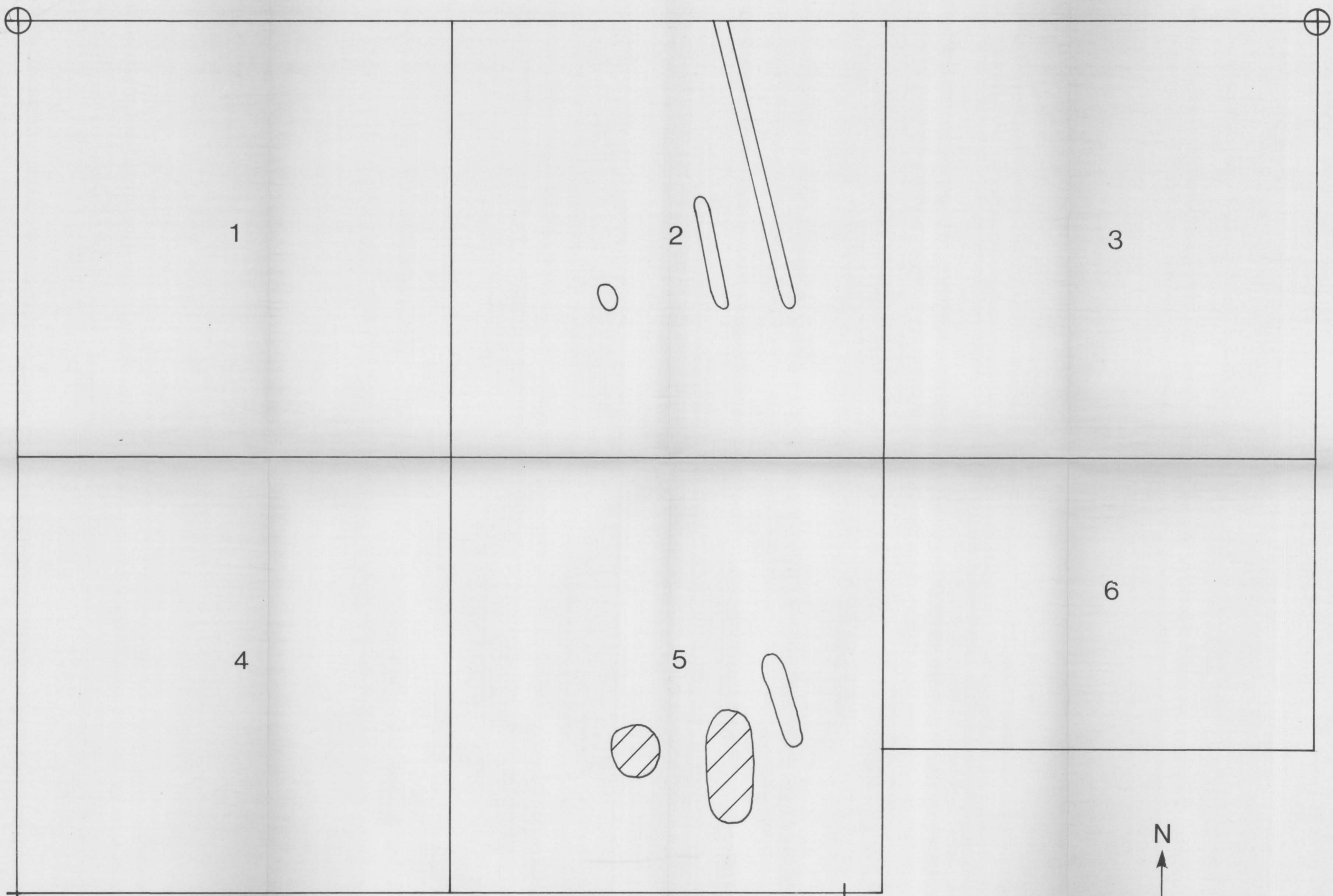
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Date of report: 2nd June 1981

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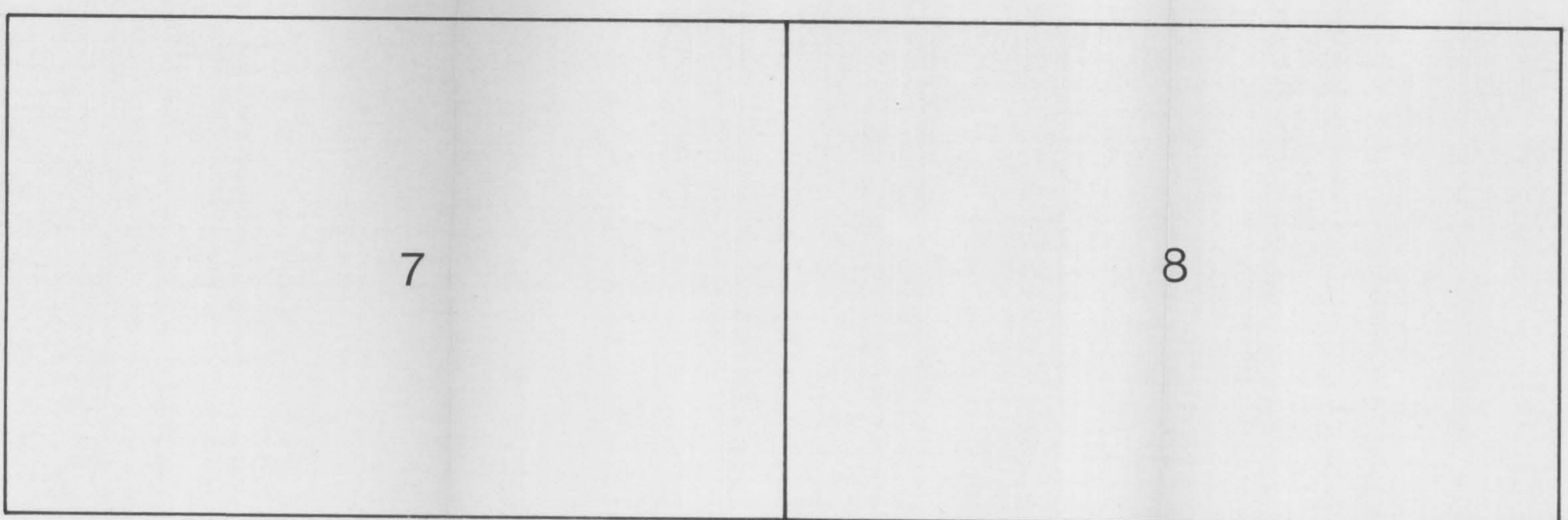


2240

+2240R

+1260 L

+2180L



DANESHILL, BASINGSTOKE

Magnetometer survey, 1981

Anomalies are outlined 1:200

+ road construction pegs

⊕ markers left in

/// metal