



COW ROAST, TRING, HERTFORDSHIRE

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY 1974

This site at OS SP956 103 was surveyed using the fluxgate gradiometer and automatic plotting system. The attached plan showing the location of magnetic anomalies is an interpretation based on the traces drawn by this system. A dot density plot of squares 8-10A produced from the same results by computer is included for comparison.

The results are characteristic of an intensively occupied site containing a dense concentration of archaeological features. The strong anomalies marked by shading on the plan probably represent substantial pits with a fill rich in occupational debris. The weaker features are likely to be more superficial pits and ditches.

The concentration of anomalies falls off in row C towards the W of the survey area where the ground rises, and also to the S in squares 8 and 9D, but within this area their distribution does not indicate any clear pattern or order in the settlement.

A comparatively clear strip cuts through the squares in row B, and seems to correspond to the line of a road visible in aerial photographs. Lengths of ditch to either side support this view, and their separation, 27m (88 ft) indicates that this is the main Roman road Akeman Street, which aligns with it to the N. The line is broken by anomalies in squares 8-10B and these could represent the superimposed activities of different periods, a possibility which adds considerably to potential archaeological interest of the site.

The anomalies detected include one suggesting a curved ditch in square 9A. The dot density plot emphasises another similar ditch alongside and the two might accompany a secondary track of some kind.

Although the survey results indicate extensive archaeological activity, the gradiometer does not in general respond well to buried masonry and there is little evidence of whether structural remains are to be expected. Under favourable conditions the instrument will, however, give weak negative readings over such features. One possible instance of this occurs in square 2B where the suggested outline of a building is marked on the plan. Attempts to detect similar patterns in squares 6-10B by computer treatment failed to produce anything of significance.

The results from squares 11B and 11C in the field to the E show a general disturbance possibly due to modern infilling, but strong magnetic anomalies stand out clearly. They are comparable in magnitude to those found elsewhere in the survey and could reasonably correspond to features similar to the pits and wells excavated in the adjoining orchard.

#### CONCLUSIONS

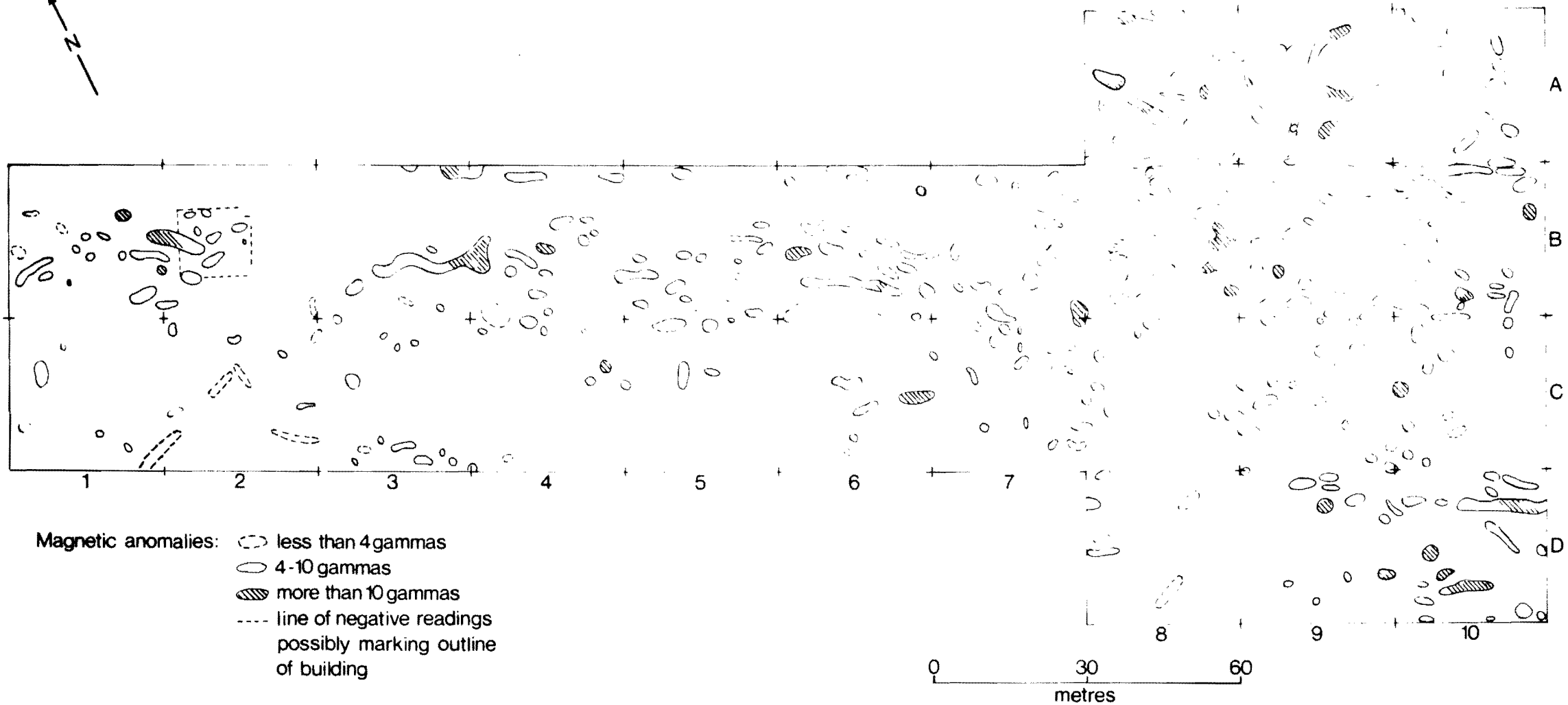
The site contains the remains of a substantial settlement showing evidence of development through successive phases including the possible disuse of Akeman Street. It is largely contained within the survey area but extends at least 100m to the N, tending to follow the low ground of the river valley, and probably also to the SE.

A D H BARTLETT

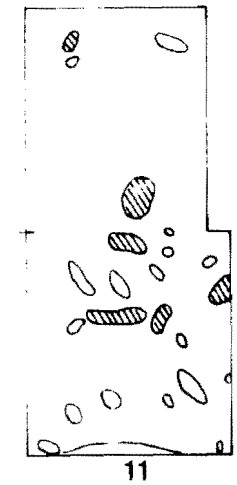
A J CLARK

Ancient Monuments Laboratory

Cow Roast, Tring, Herts Magnetometer Survey 1974

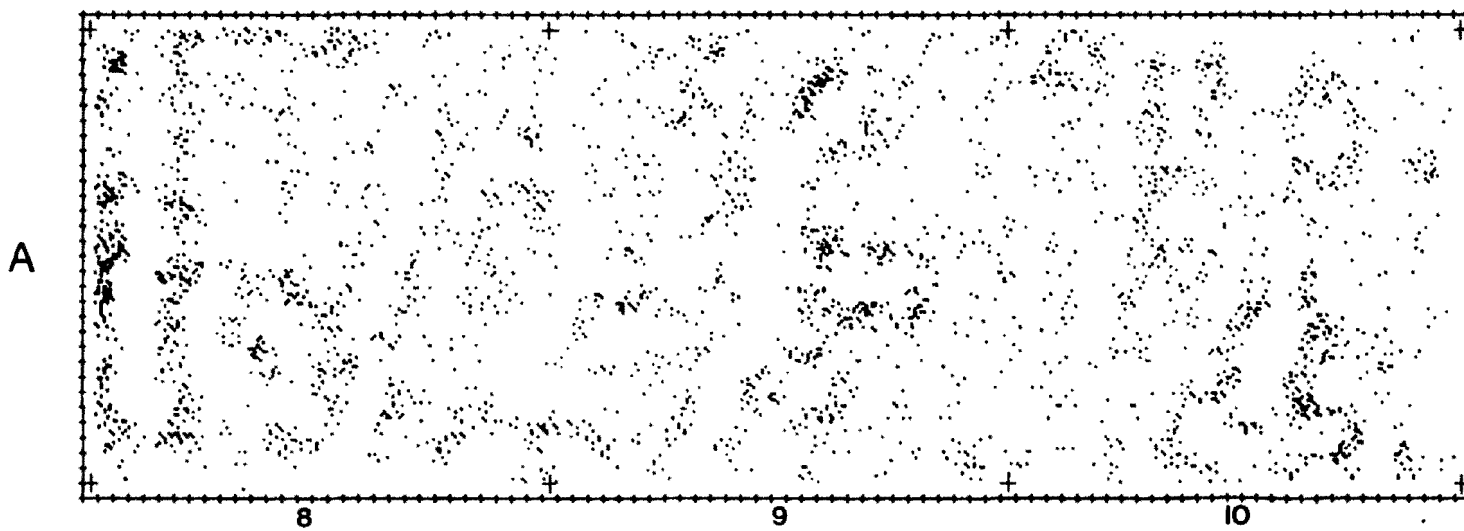
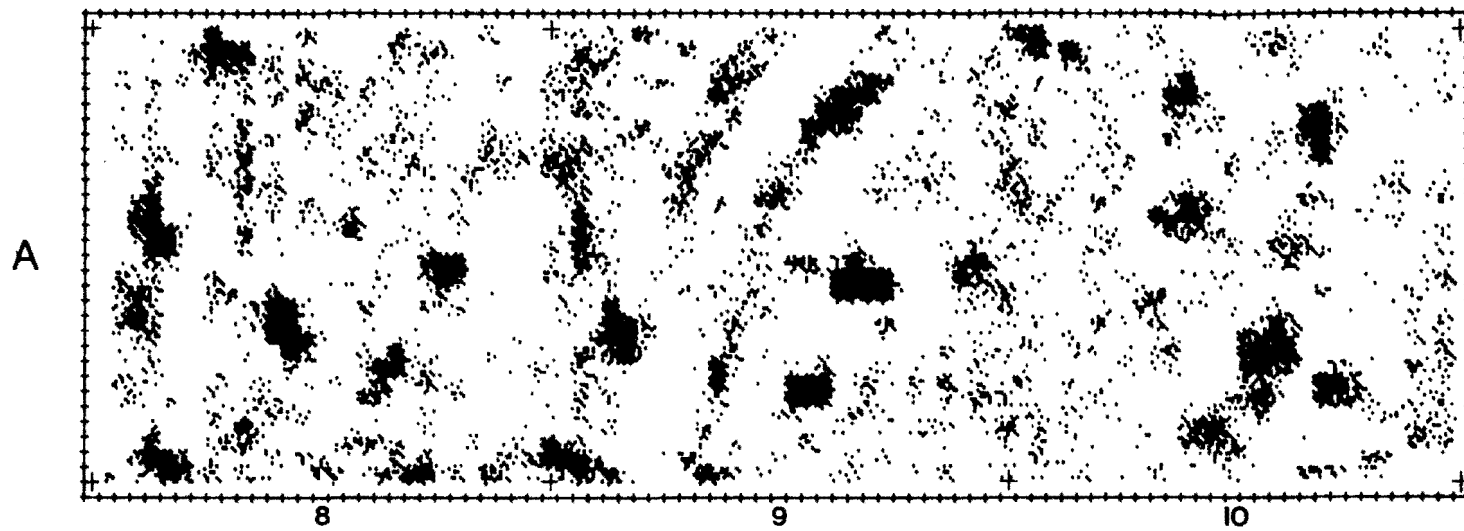


Magnetic anomalies: less than 4 gammas  
 4-10 gammas  
 more than 10 gammas  
 line of negative readings  
 possibly marking outline  
 of building



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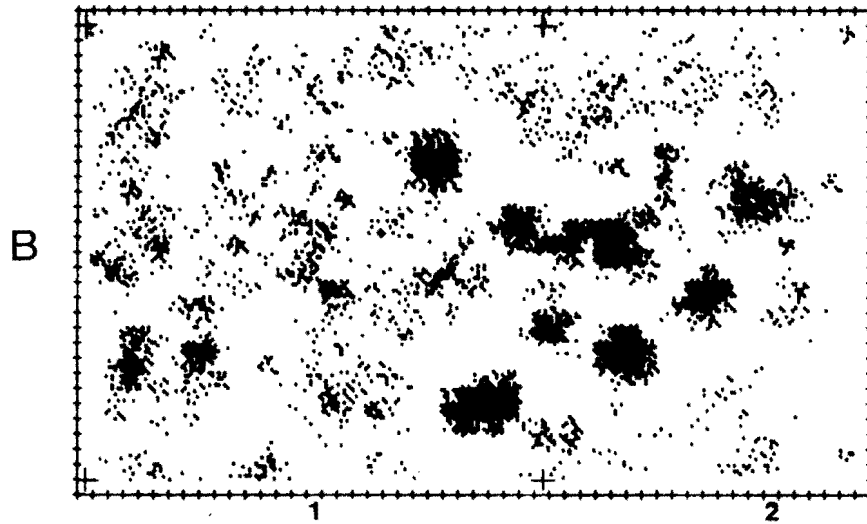
# Cow Roast Magnetometer Survey



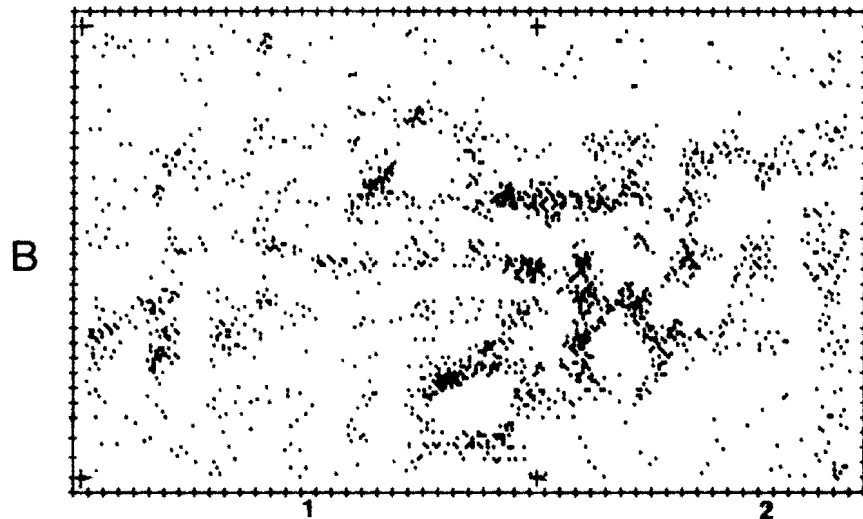
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# Cow Roast Magnetometer Survey



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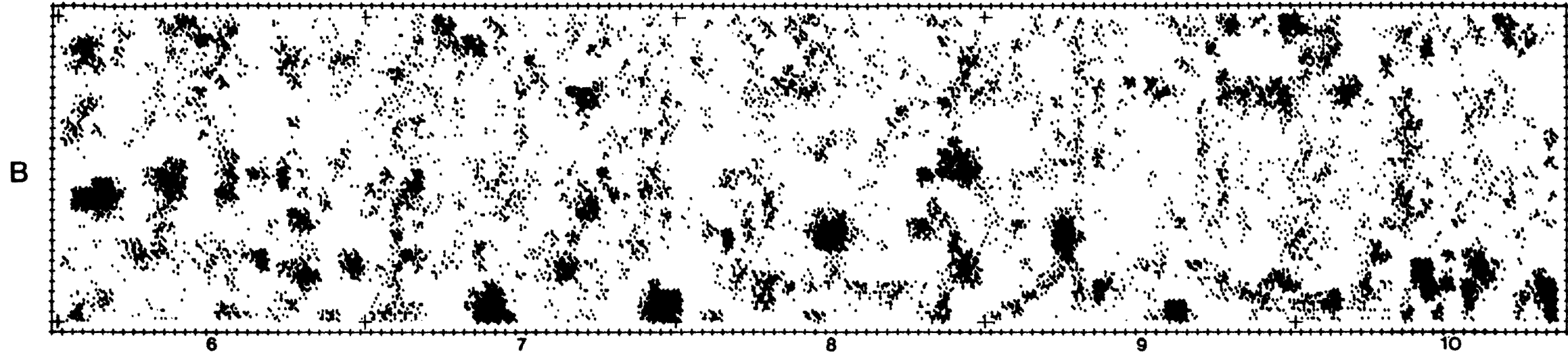
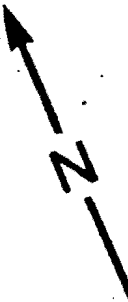


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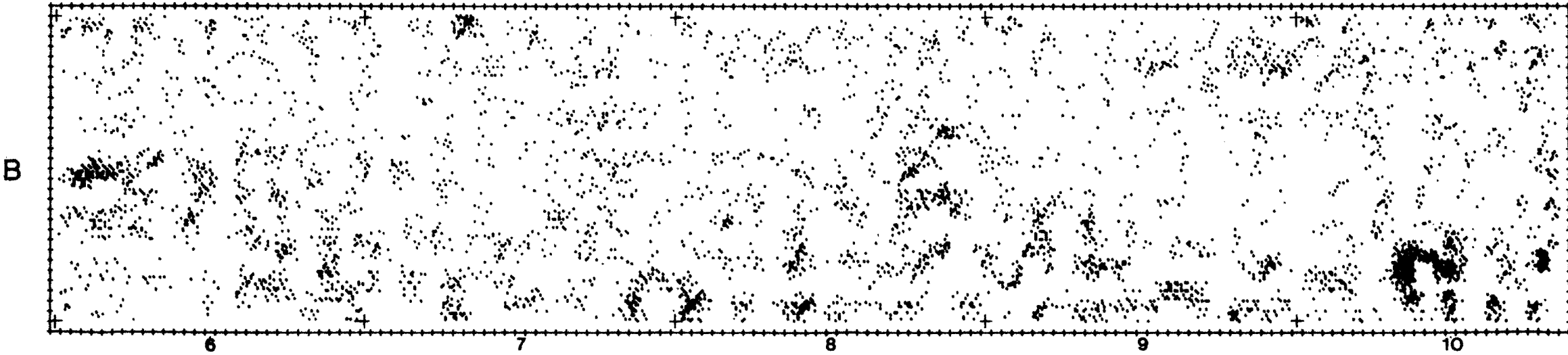
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# Cow Roast Magnetometer Survey



Filter 4  
positive



Filter 3  
negative

1:500

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ORIGINAL PROPOSED ROUTE A41 (M)

