ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY AT BUTSER HILL, PETERSFIELD, HANTS, 1982

Survey no. G 26/82

Date of fieldwork: 30 Sept 1982

NG SU 711200

,

Plans enclosed:

- 1. Location of survey, 1:2500
- 2. Magnetometer plot, 1:400

The area surveyed lies between earthworks on Butser Hill as shown on plan 1. Plan 2 is a plot of the magnetometer signal which was recorded along traverses at 1m intervals on a grid of four 30m squares using a fluxgate magnetometer and field chart recorder. Magnetic anomalies probably representing pits were found nearby some time ago in a magnetometer scan by Dr Clark of the A M Laboratory, and the object of the present survey was test for any such evidence of past occupation or other archaeological features within an area which is to be surfaced as a car park.

The magnetic susceptibility of the topsoil was 19.2×10^{-8} SI units/kg. This compares with other chalk sites which have responded well in magnetic surveys, but this time very little of potential archaeological significance was found. Much of the site was obscured by the magnetic response from what appear to be two metal pipes, and also by trees. There is magnetic disturbance near the SE corner of the plot corresponding to the line of the now grassed-over track, but no effect is visible from the new road through squares 2 and 3. Much of the remainder of the site appears to be undisturbed except for isolated high readings caused by small pieces of iron.

There remains a marginal possibility that the disturbed area marked by shading in square 2 could represent a slight accumulation of material of archaeological origin. There are no clearly defined anomalies likely to indicate individual larger features, but the disturbances could be caused by the presence of debris from occupation or other causes. The effect is however slight, and could equally be the result of any recent or superficial disturbance of the topsoil.

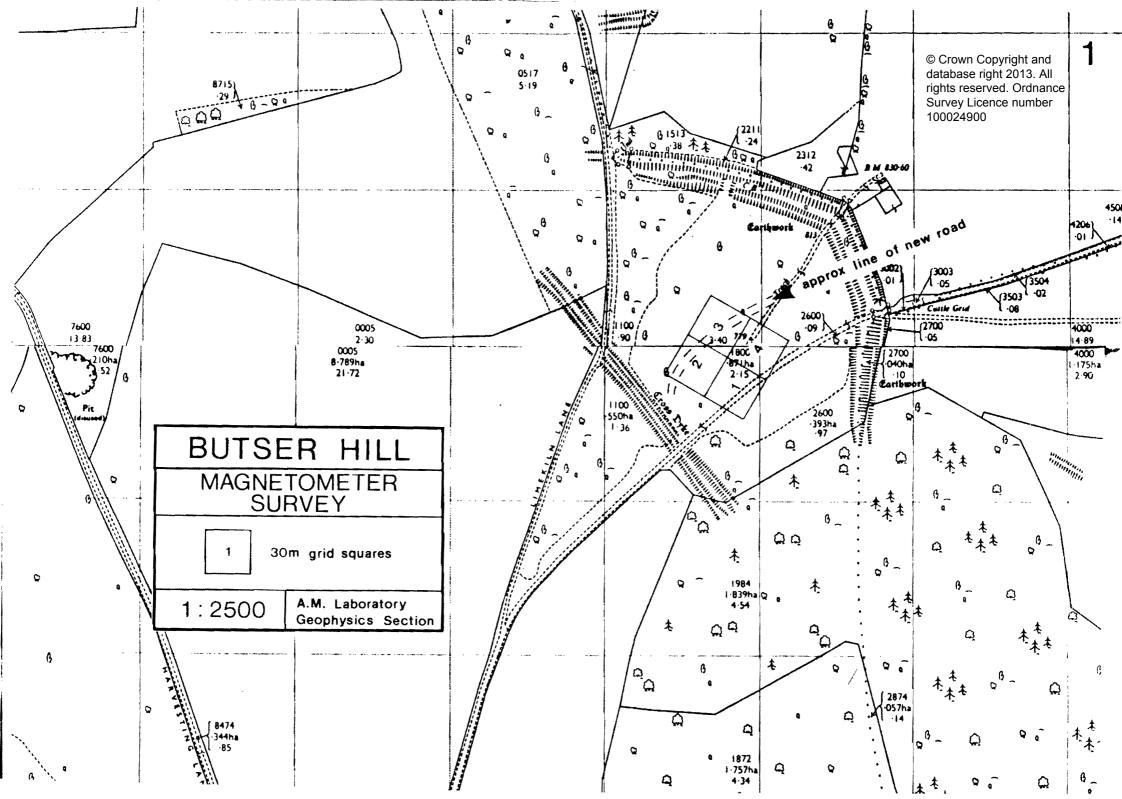
Surveyed and reported by: A Bartlett

with: A David

Date of report: 28 February 1983

Ancient Monuments Laboratory Geophysics Section Department of the Environment Fortress House 23 Savile Row London W1X 2HE

01-734 6010 ext 531



Magnetometer Survey 1982

