

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY AT FROST HILL, BULLOCK DOWN, EASTBOURNE, 1982

Survey no: G27/82

Date of fieldwork: 19 October 1982

NG TV 572 960

Plans enclosed:

1. Survey location.
2. Magnetometer plot.

This survey was intended to test for evidence of whether the ditch found in Trench F to the south-west of the excavated Romano-British farm at Frost Hill might form part of a larger enclosure. (See Plan 1 enclosed and plans in Rudling, 1982).

Four 30 m squares were surveyed with traverses recorded at 1 m intervals using a fluxgate magnetometer ( $\frac{1}{2}$ m Philpot) and chart recorder. The plot is shown at reduced scale in Plan 2 with magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological significance outlined. The trench (also outlined) had been back filled before the date of the survey.

Soils on chalk usually, but not always, provide favourable conditions for magnetic detection. Previous magnetometer work at Bullock Down has included a survey of another Romano-British site at TV 578 963 some 600 m to the north-east of the present site. Both proton and fluxgate magnetometers were used and they detected magnetic anomalies including linear features of possible archaeological significance, although substantial areas appeared to be undisturbed (Hackmann 1976).

The results from the present survey are not dissimilar: the plot shows several features including a ditch which continues the line of the excavated ditch in Square 2. Most of the other features are less clearly defined. The anomaly at A could indicate another length of ditch at right-angles to the first, and there is a similar possible fragment of ditch at B in Square 1. A few weak pit-like anomalies were also detected, but they are not clearly distinguishable from the background noise level except for the one at C, which lies within the back filled trench and could be a disturbance caused by the excavation. There is considerable magnetic disturbance, probably modern, near the line of the former fence through Square 2.

## Conclusions

The survey has shown that the excavated ditch continues to the north-west from the trench, but it is not clear whether or not it terminates within the area of the survey. Only fragmentary indications of other ditch-like features were obtained (at A and B) and it is not therefore possible to establish from these results whether or not the excavated ditch forms part of an enclosure, or of a more extensive field system. Ditches often give an incomplete response of this kind where the magnetic enhancement of the soil diminishes at a distance from a settlement.

The lack of any other clear magnetic activity from the site further suggests it is unlikely that any substantial features associated with past occupation of the site are present, although there could be some small or isolated pits.

Surveyed by: D Haddon-Reece, D Bolton.

Reported by: A Bartlett, D Bolton.

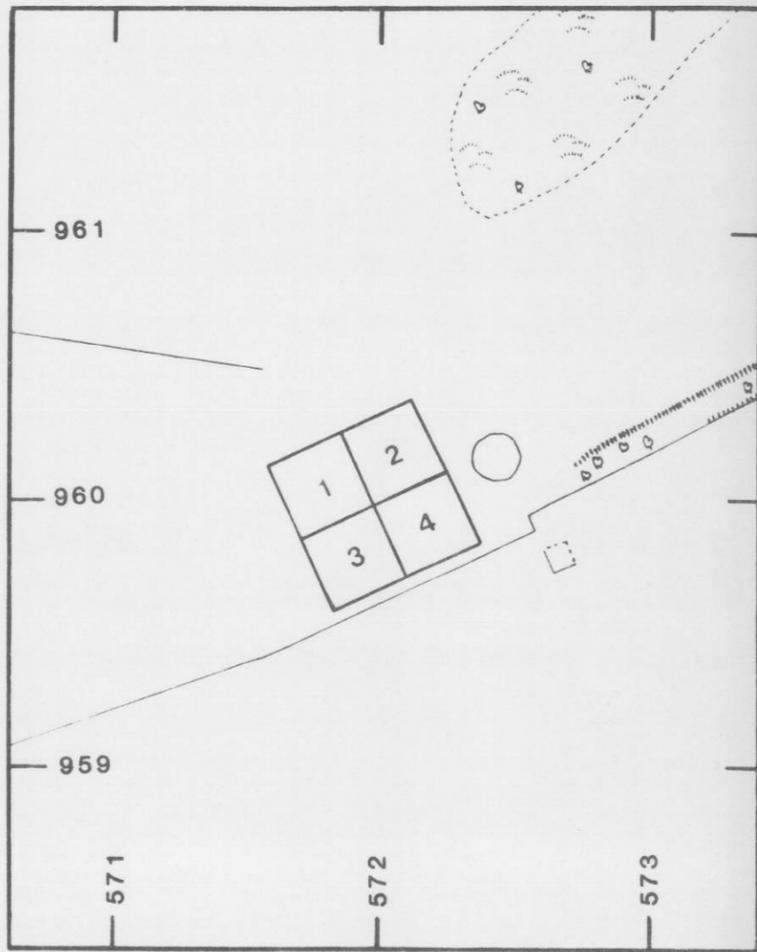
Date of report: 7 February 1984

Ancient Monuments Laboratory  
Department of the Environment  
23 Savile Row  
LONDON W1X 2HE  
01-734 6010 Ext 527

## References

- Rudling D R (1982) The Archaeology of Bullock Down, Eastbourne, East Sussex: The Development of a landscape. Sussex Arch. Soc. Monograph 1.
- Hackmann J T (1976) Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 2305 (G6/76) Bullock Down, Sussex (unpublished).

# FROST HILL, BULLOCK DOWN



Magnetic Survey Location

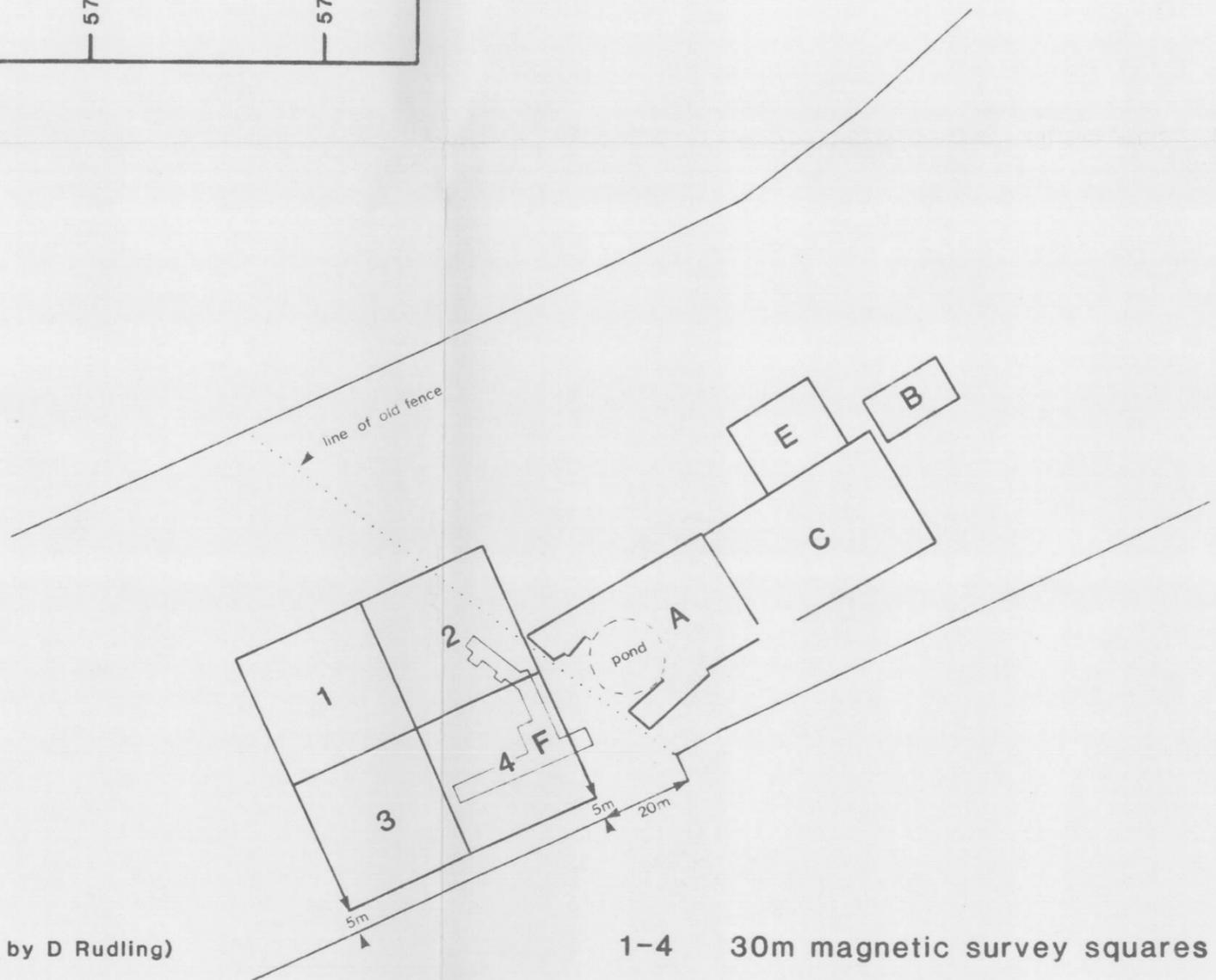
1:2500



Site Plan

1:1250

(based on plan supplied by D Rudling)

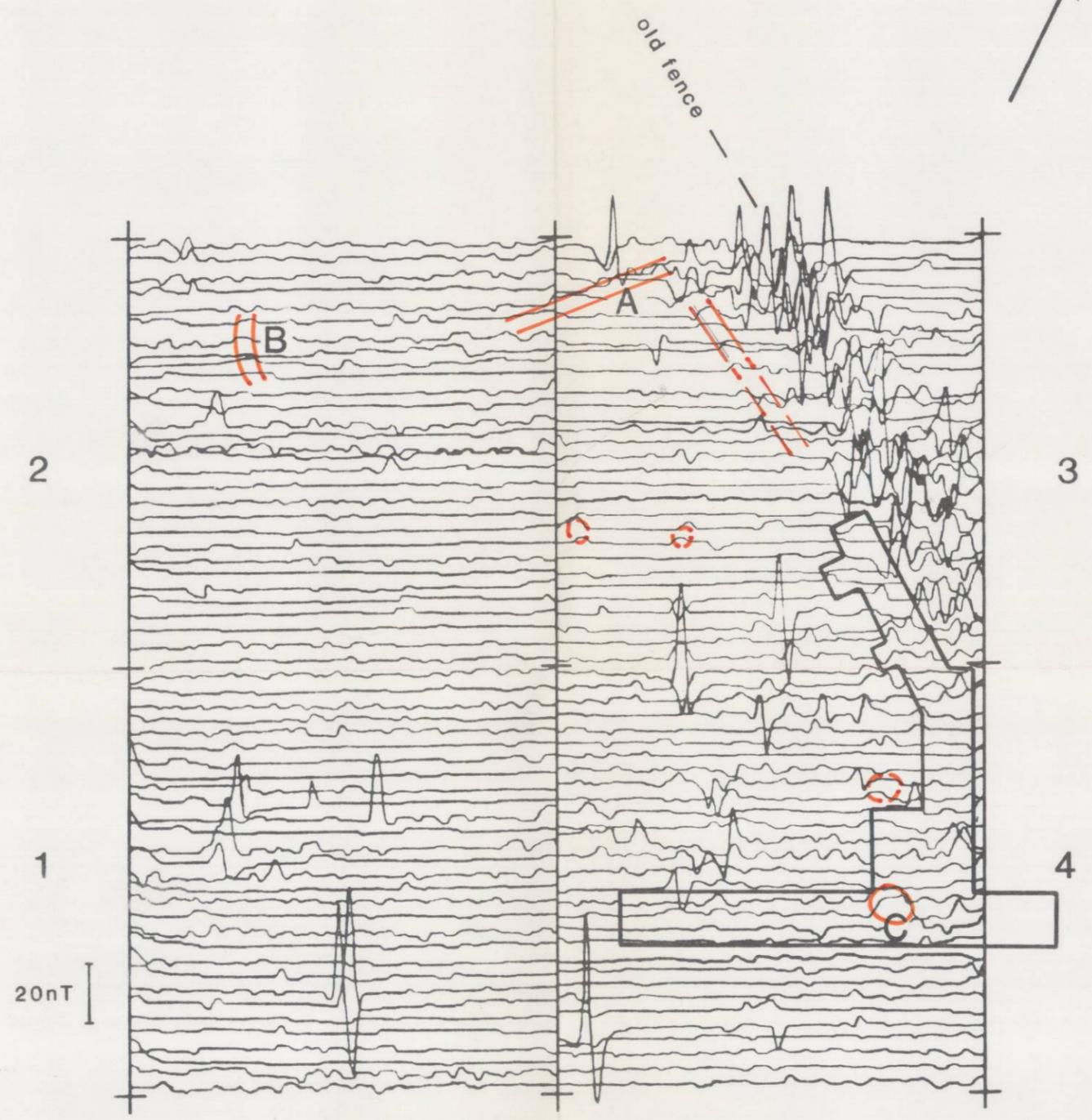


1-4 30m magnetic survey squares  
A-F excavation trenches

A M Laboratory

# FROST HILL, BULLOCK DOWN

## Magnetometer Survey, 1982



Magnetic anomalies in red  
Position of trench outlined

1:400