ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY - GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

SURVEY: HUNTINGTOWER, PERTH. **DATE:** 8,9th. February 1977.

Report no. G 4/77.

1. SITE

OS ref: NO 091254

Location: On alluvial plain beneath terrace escarpment. Solid geology is O.R.S., which proabably includes igneous units.

Archaeological evidence: Two circles identified on A.P.

2. SURVEY

Object: To locate circles and identify any associated features.

(a) Resistivity survey

Meter:
Configuration:
Spacing - probes:
traverses:

1. Traverses

2. Area survey

(b) Magnetic survey

Type of survey: automatic plotting

Magnetometer: fluxgate

Chart recorder setting: 16 gamma/cm

Logged for computing: no

(c) Soil tests

Magnetic susceptibility -
1. Topsoil: 22
2. Subsoil, sandy: 12
3. " , gravel: 11×10^{-6} emu/gm
(ac bridge readings)

Tested for phosphate: yes

Survey grid located by G. Barclay.

Plans/charts enclosed:

Interpreted plot of magnetometer survey.

cont/

3. RESULTS

Various anomalies are visible on the plot. These include a dense scatter of minor disturbances, which may be attributed to both iron fragments and igneous boulders.

The outstanding anomalies are interpreted as follows: A ditch, approximately one metre wide, extends for 75 metres along the eastern edge of the site, although there is a break and slight displacement of its course at the boundary of grid-squares 4 and 6.

Many shorter, linear features have been marked on the interpreted plot. These may be ditches, although only some, in the northern half of the site, are well-defined.

The concentration of strong anomalies at the boundary of squares 2 and 4 suggests the presence of numerous iron fragments.

There are broad, or sub-linear weak features, the most striking of which have been marked on the plot (in sqares 2 & 7). These are probably of geomorphological origin, and may be due to varied sedimentation within former river channels.

Scanning with the magnetometer beyond the site revealed no further features.

Spot tests of topsoil and subsoils all indicate very low contents of phosphate.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Although soil tests show that the site would be suitable for a magnetometer survey, no features that correspond with those on the aerial photograph have been found.

At the time of writing, the dig at Huntingtower has been completed. Information from G. Barclay indicates that the 75 metre ditch is an infilled, modern field drain, while the concentration of anomalies in squares 2 and 4 is a response to a large deposit of modern scrap-iron. It is interesting to note that this deposit rests above a stone built field drain which has not been revealed by the magnetometer survey.

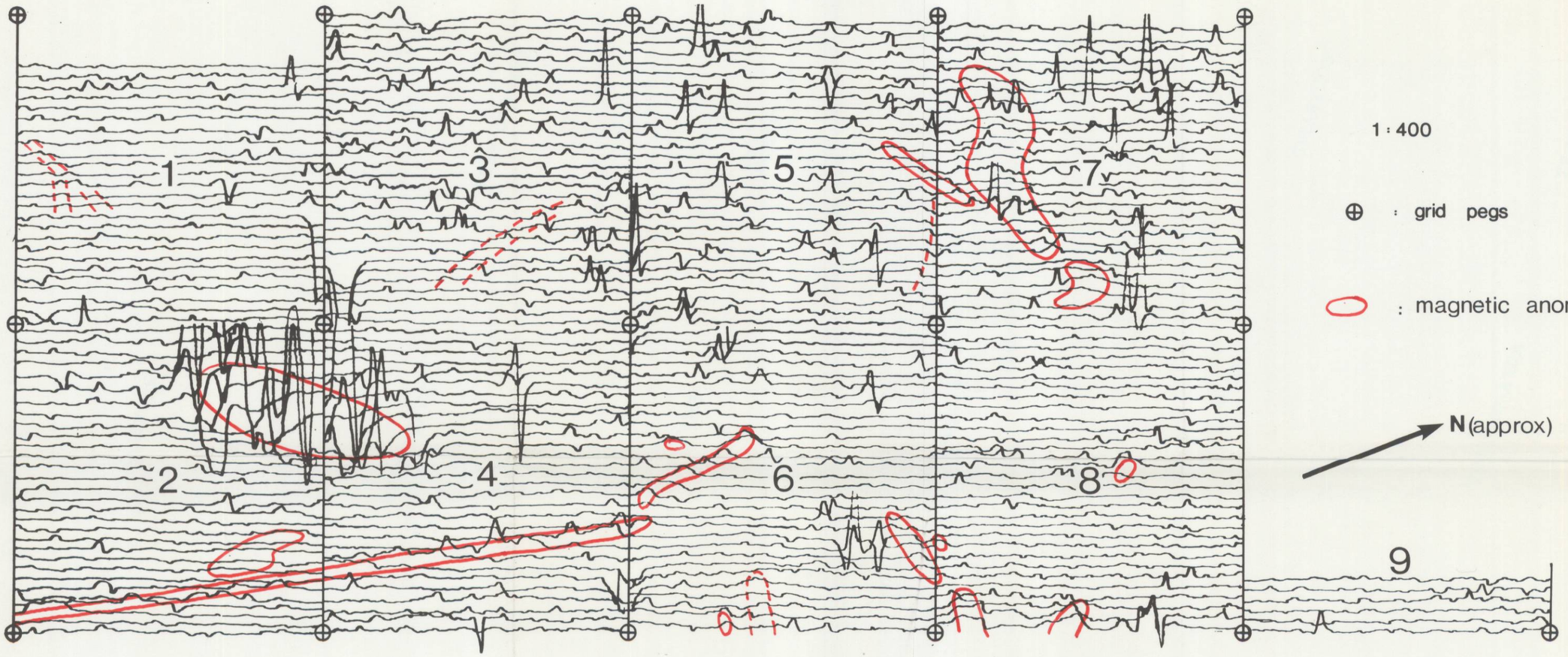
Surveyed by: A.David & P.Griffiths. For: G.Barclay.

Reported by: P.Griffiths. Date: 26th. April 1977.

Ancient Monuments Laboratory Geophysics Section
Department of the Environment
Fortress House
23 Savile Row
London W1X 2HE 01-734 6010 ext 338

HUNTINGTOWER, PERTH

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY, 1977



1 : 400

⊕ : grid pegs

: magnetic anomalies

N (approx)

A.M.LAB.