

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY GEOPHYSICS SECTION

REPORT ON MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

SURVEY: STONEA CAMP, CAMBS.

DATE: 7 - 10/3/83

Report no. 3/83

1. SITE

OS grid reference: TL 447 930

Field no. 0006

Location: the southern end of a small outcrop of clay and gravel in Latches Fen,
about three mile SE of March.

Geology: clay, gravel and sand

Archaeological evidence: Remnants of earthworks enclosing some 3.2 hectares.
Scarce pottery on surface. Excavation, 1980, (see 'Antiquity', LVI,
1982.)

2. SURVEY

Object: to locate evidence of surviving archaeological features within the
area of the earthworks.

(a) Magnetic survey

Type : field recording, and scanning

Magnetometer : fluxgate

Recorder setting : X = 1 : 200, Y = 15 nT/cm.

(b) Other tests

(i) Magnetic susceptibility:

topsoil:

subsoil:

fill:

(ii)

11.0

6.9 x 10⁻⁸ SI Units/Kg.

Survey grid measured to: boundaries

Plans/charts enclosed: 1 : location plan, 1 : 2500
2 : magnetometer traces, 1 : 500

cont/

3. The purpose of the survey here was to examine the area enclosed by the earthworks at Stonea Camp for archaeological features that may have survived ploughing and cultivation. The greater part of the central area was magnetically surveyed at 1.0 m intervals over a 30.0 m grid and three sample 30.0 m squares were placed in the peripheral area to the north between the two enclosure ditches (see plan 1). The recorded magnetometer traces are shown on plan 2 where possibly significant anomalies have been indicated in red. Those areas not covered by the grid were scanned in detail with the magnetometer.

RESULTS

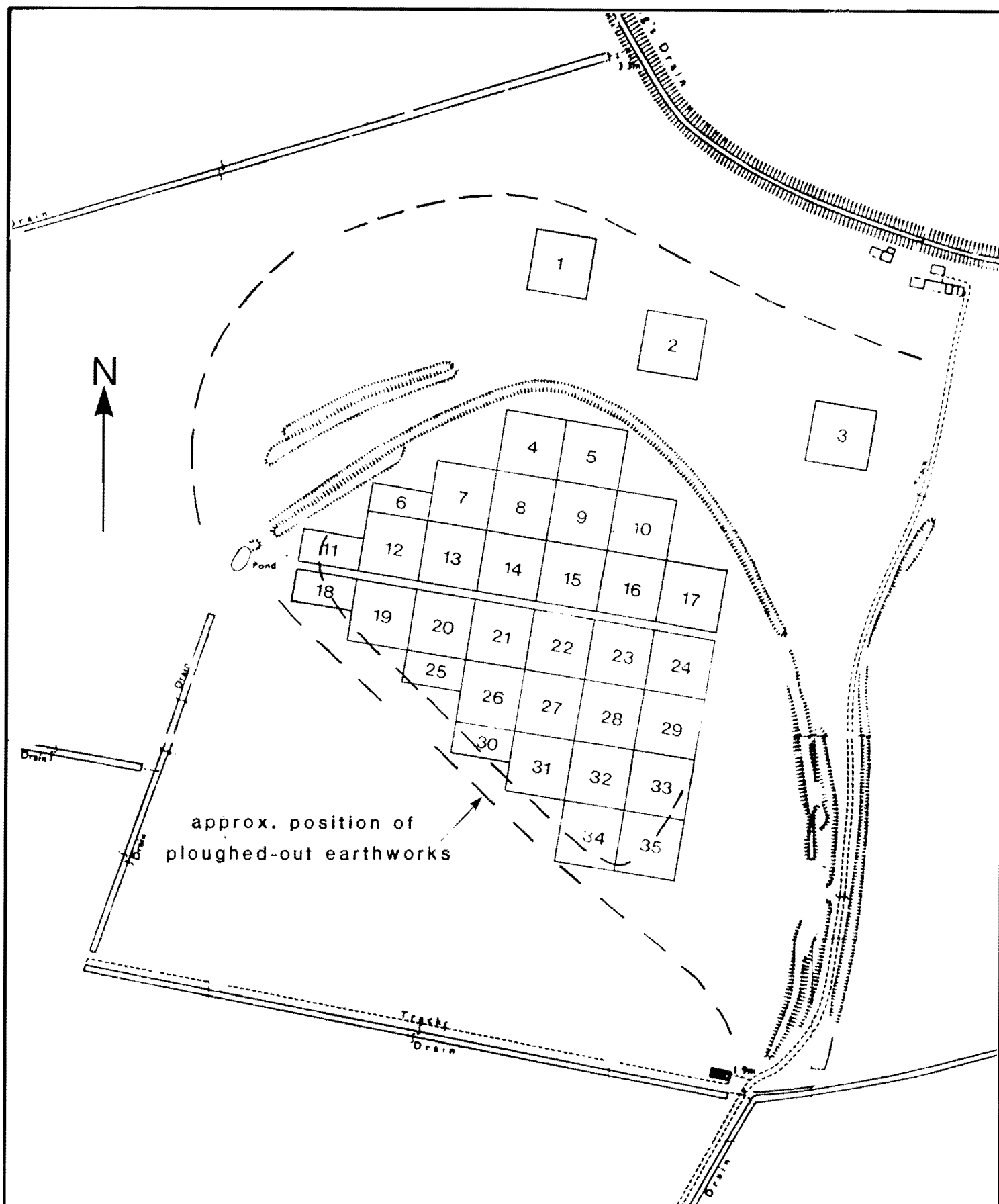
The predominant magnetic response throughout the site is subdued and unexceptional, and anomalies that may be related to archaeological remains are all but absent. This may be explained by the poor magnetic susceptibility of topsoil and subsoil, and the lack of contrast between the two (topsoil = 11.0, subsoil = 6.9×10^{-8} SI Units/Kg.), in which case soil-filled features, and especially slighter ones such as minor gulleys and post-holes, may be more prolific but scarcely detectable; or, ploughing may indeed have been too severe and only a patchy remnant remains to be detected. The lack of susceptibility contrast is sufficient to explain the absence of many features, but the lack of apparent hearths, which should produce more conspicuous anomalies, supports the probability of considerable plough damage. All the anomalies indicated on plan 2 are rather tentative with the exception of a feature which may be a pit in square 20. Other pit-like features or linear anomalies are at the margin of detectability and within the limits imposed by the weak magnetic background on the site cannot be credited with great significance.

Scanning across the earthworks and throughout the remainder of the enclosed area extended and confirmed these generally negative results.

Surveyed and reported by: A. David.
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for: D. Sherlock.

16th. Feb. 1984.

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STONEA, CAMBS.

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY Location

Survey no. 8/83
Plan no. 1 of 2

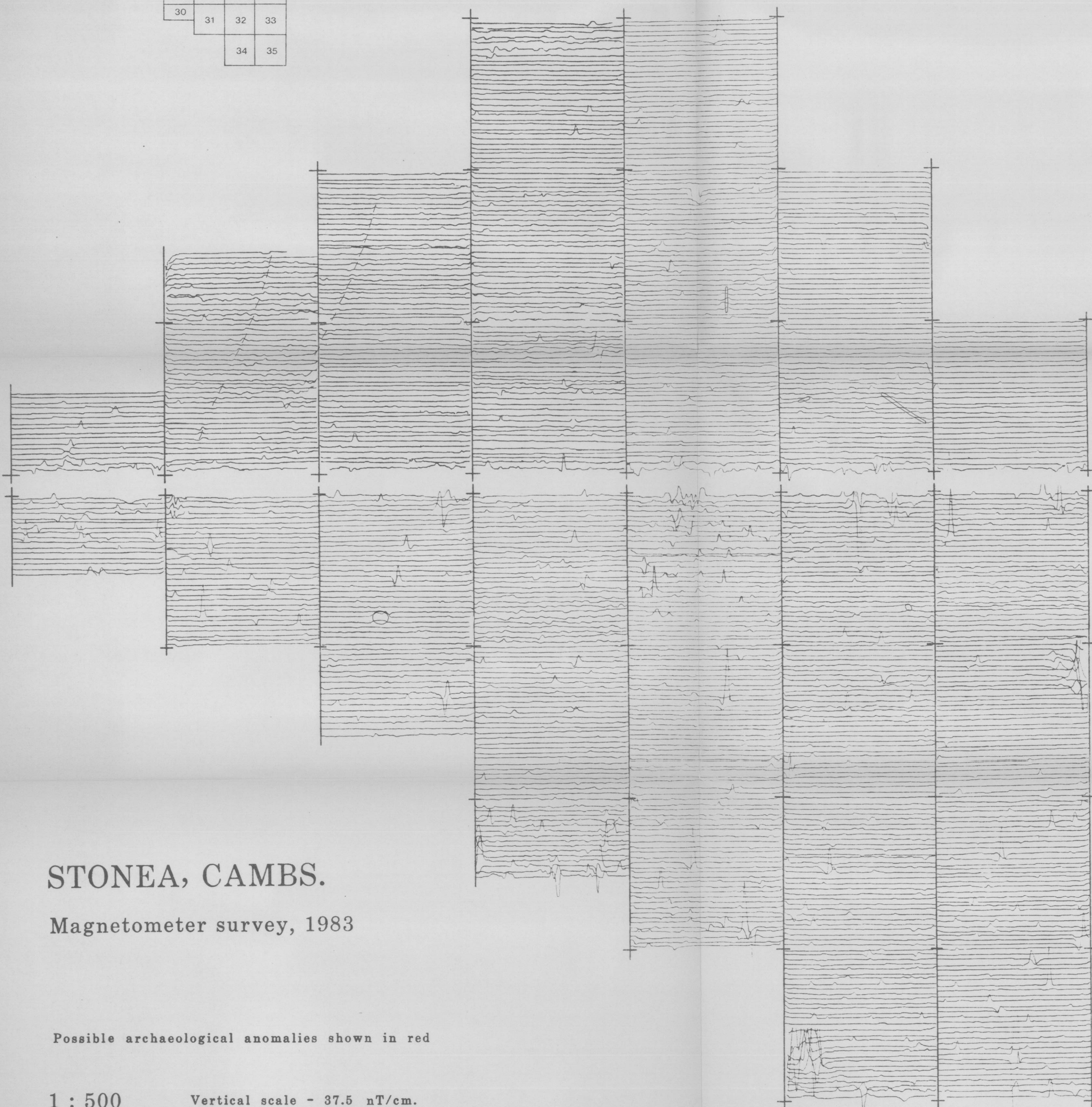
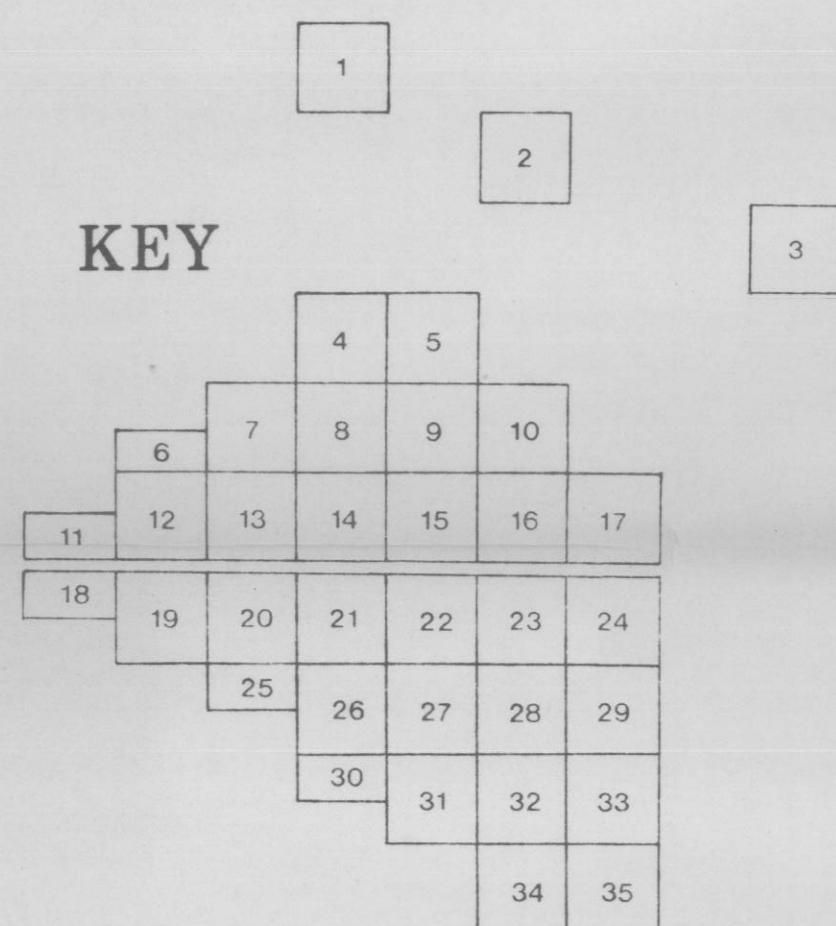
NG ref. TL 447 930
Based on 1:2500 OS sheets

1:2500 0 60 120m

DoE A.M. Laboratory
Geophysics Section



KEY



STONEA, CAMBS.

Magnetometer survey, 1983

Possible archaeological anomalies shown in red

1 : 500

Vertical scale - 37.5 nT/cm.

A. M. LAB.