

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY GEOPHYSICS SECTION

REPORT ON MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

SURVEY: Ham Green

DATE: 27 - 28.2.78

Report no. 5/78

1. SITE

OS grid reference: ST 53407580

Field no. 5600

Location: a river bluff on the south side of the river Avon, in a field adjoining the hospital at Ham Green.

Geology: Keuper Marl, with clay.

Archaeological evidence: kiln found in trial excavation in 1959. Surface scatter of potsherds.

2. SURVEY

Object: to locate further kiln activity.

(a) Magnetic survey

Type of survey: automatic plotting

Magnetometer: fluxgate

Range: 100 γ

Initial chart recorder settings — Y: 16 γ/cm
X: 1:200 scale

Logged for computing: yes/no

(b) Other tests results awaited

(i) Magnetic susceptibility:

topsoil:

subsoil:

fill:

$\times 10^{-6}$ emu/gm
(ac bridge readings)

(ii)

Survey grid measured to: edge of standing stone building at ST 53437581

Plans/charts enclosed:

1	-	Site plan
2	-	Magnetometer traces, plus interpretation.

3. RESULTS

The most probable location for buried kilns is in the south-west corner of the field on the higher ground, overlooking the river Avon. The area covered by the survey is shown on plan 1, where sqs. 1, 3, and 5 are situated on the approximately level and highest part of the field, whilst 2, 4, 6, and 7 include the slope down to the flood plain level.

The magnetometer traces are shown on plan 2. Throughout the area surveyed, the most frequent anomalies, indicated as sharp peaks and wide distortions of the traces, are caused by iron. There is a general scatter of magnetic litter over the site with a particular concentration along the southern edge of the field. Fences have interfered, as in sq. 7, and man-hole covers disturb parts of sqs. 2, 5, and 6. The spread of jumbled traces on the western edge of sq. 5 probably results from the construction of the tennis court.

Amongst the distracting anomalies from modern iron, there appears to be relatively little evidence of archaeological activity. Kilns seem to be absent except one, or possibly two, in sq. 2. The larger of these two anomalies is a good candidate, although spurious iron and the nearness of the man-hole cover may account for the pronounced negative deflection of the traces. Augering here produced quantities of charcoal and burnt clay and the evidence is further supported by the considerable scatter of local potsherds. The other anomaly, a few metres downslope on the edge of sq. 4, is also likely to be a kiln, although it may equally refer to a pit with/or pronounced accumulation of burnt/baked debris.

Despite extensive augering of several other possible anomalies, the only reliable evidence for kiln activity is from the anomalies mentioned above. Apart from these, a group of what appear to be pits occurs in the centre of sq. 3. Magnetic surveys rarely locate building features, but this area in sq. 3 might well be worth investigating with this in mind. It is also possible that kiln-type anomalies may be obscured in the wild interference on the southern edge of this square, although no evidence was found during augering.

4. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it is safe to say that kilns are scarce in the survey area, the only possibilities occurring close together in sq. 2 (edge of sq. 4). Sqs. 5, 6, 7, and almost all of sq. 4 are devoid of detectable archaeological activity, although it must be kept in mind that this negative evidence cannot be held to apply for remains of buried buildings, stone or timber. Elsewhere, pits and the location of doubtful features have also been indicated on plan 2. Free scanning with the magnetometer over other parts of the western half of the field was unproductive.

Surveyed and reported by: A. David.

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Date of report: 22.3.78

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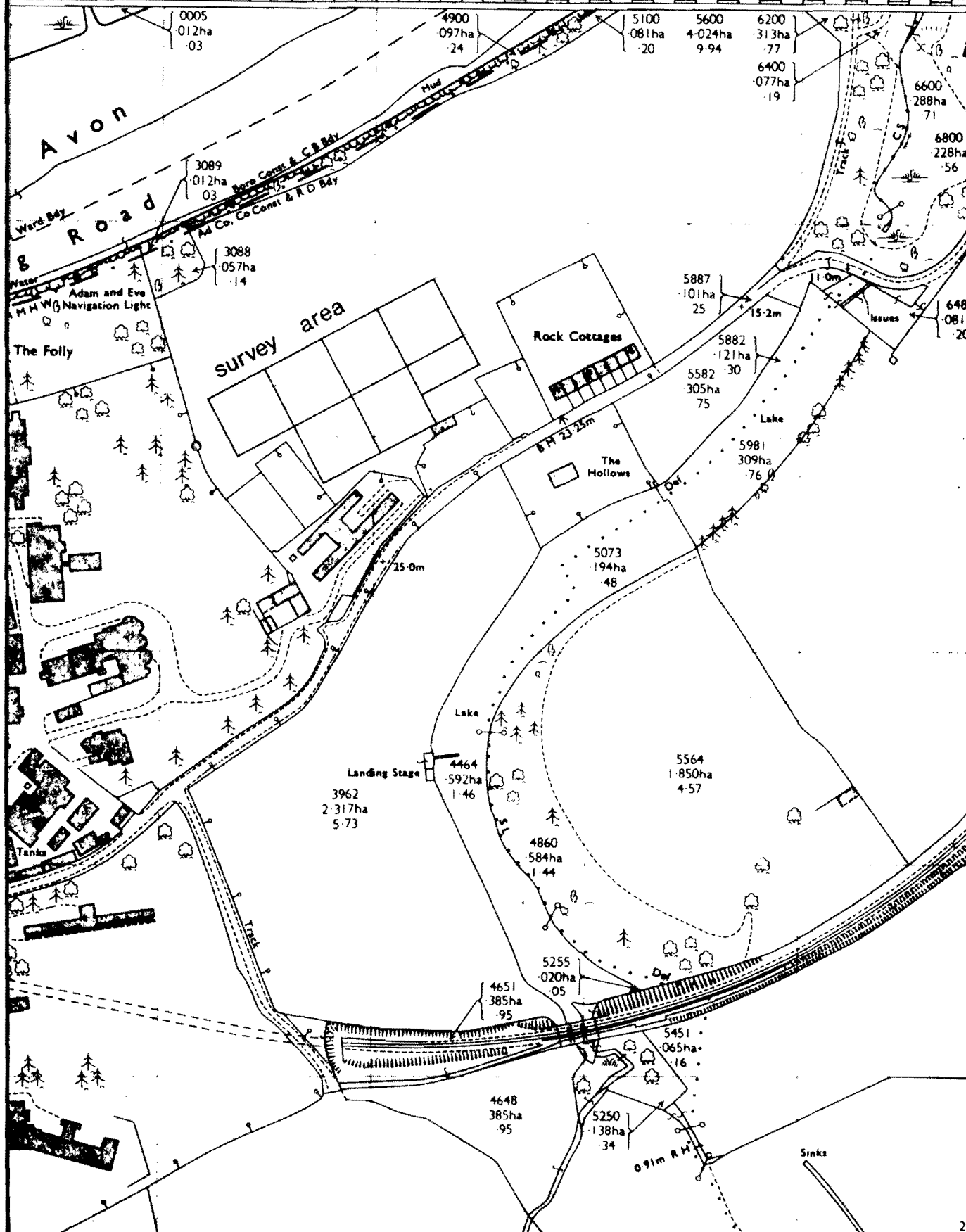
IREHAMPTON 533

534

SOUTHVILLE
WARD

535

536



HAM GREEN, BRISTOL

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MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

Site plan

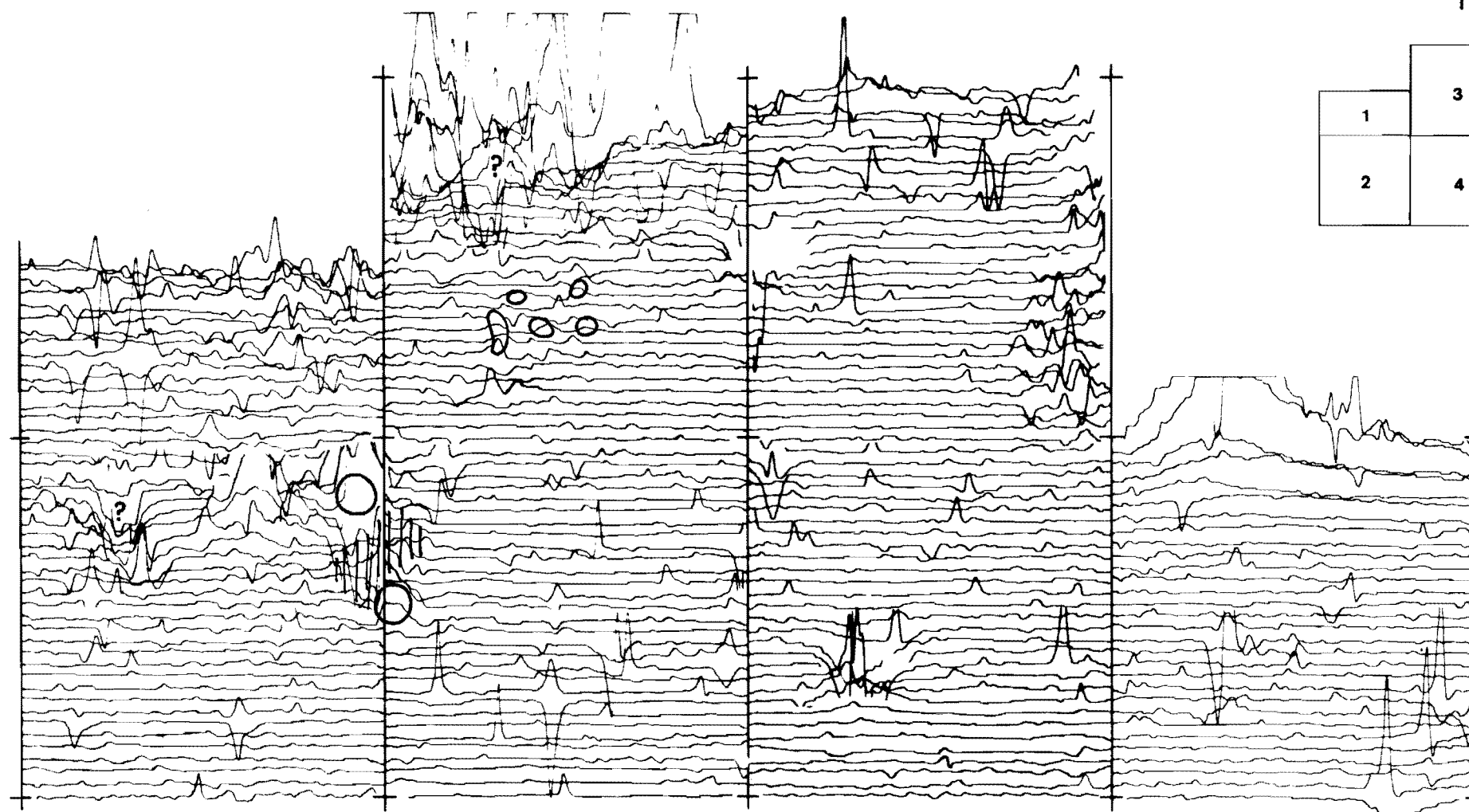
Survey no. 5170
Plan no. 1 of 2

1:2500

DoE A.M. Laboratory
Geophysics Section

KEY

1	3	5	
2	4	6	7



Survey no. 5/78

Plan no. 2 of 2
NG ref. ST 53407580

+ grid pegs

Location of:

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY;

with interpretation

magnetic anomalies 1:500  30mDoE Ancient Monuments Laboratory
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