

**YCCCART 2011 / Y13  
North Somerset HER 2011/151**

**Gradiometry Survey on Mr Burdge's Field 2, Yatton Moor  
YATTON, CONGRESBURY, CLAVERHAM AND CLEEVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH TEAM (YCCCART)**

*General Editor: Vince Russett*



*YCCCART members surveying on the moors*

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## **Abstract**

*YCCCART agreed with the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake a project over two years commencing May 2009 to establish the extent of the Congresbury Roman kiln sites and investigate the archaeology of the environs around Cadbury Hill, Congresbury. This survey is a continuation of that project work.*

*The gradiometry survey on this site suggests that a building/s lies on the south of the surveyed field and lines up with a possible building/s on an adjacent field (See YCCCART report Y12/2011).*

## **Acknowledgements**

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCART, of a Bartington 601 gradiometer without which this survey could not have been undertaken.

This survey would also not have been carried out without the willing permission of Mr Burdge, the landowner.

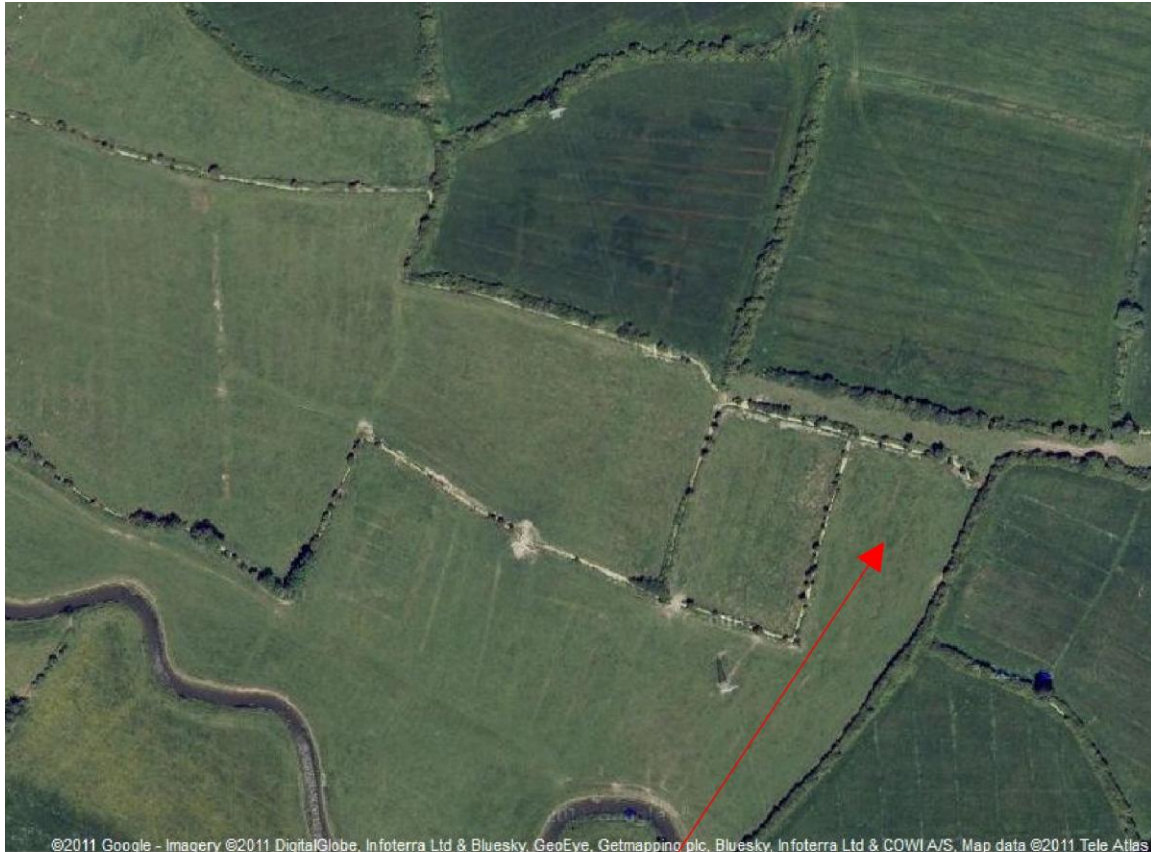
The authors are grateful for the hard work by the members of YCCCART in performing the survey and Vince Russett for editing this report.

## **Introduction**

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCCART) is one of a number of Community Archaeology teams across North Somerset, supported by the North Somerset Council Development Management Team.

The objective of the Community Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) teams is to carry out archaeological fieldwork, for the purpose of recording, and better understanding and management of, the heritage of North Somerset.

## Site Location



*Fig 1: Site location as indicated by red arrow*

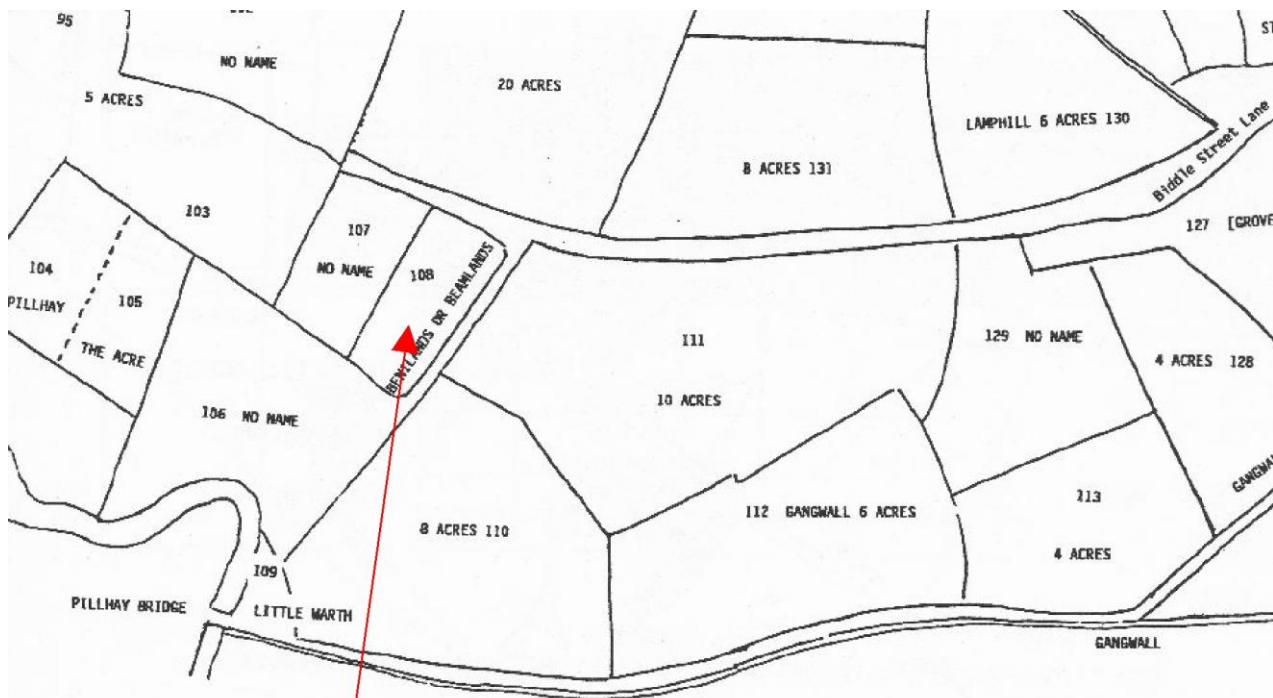
The site is north of the A370 and river Yeo some 15 miles south of Bristol.  
The start point for the survey is at ST 41773 65057.

## Land use and geology

Geology bedrock is of the Murcia Mudstone Group –Mudstone and Halite Stone, overlain by the alluvial clay of the Northmarsh. The ancient embanked course of the Congresbury Yeo lies around 100m to the south.

The field is used for pasture. It is on private land with no public access.

## Historical & archaeological context



*Fig 2: Field 108 on map based on 1799 and 1821 maps*

The site is shown as field 108 on a map, at fig 2 above, which Mary Campbell compiled from her tracings of the Poulett Estate map c 1799 and M Barraclough's tracing of J P Sturge's 1821 map of Yatton. (Parish Survey of Yatton, Cleeve, East & West Hewish, 2002). The field is called Benilands or Beamlands

The adjacent field number 107 is the subject of YCCART report Y 12 / 2011

The History of Yatton (1991, p20) refers to an ancient holding, "with a right of common, ...on Yatton Marsh. Benilands or Beamlands, was at the end of Biddle Street drove and had a track going from it to Pillhay Bridge. It was a 15 acre tenement; already in the 1730s it was 'roofless' and it does not appear on the 1799 Survey".

The general area in which the survey was carried out is clearly an 'area of late medieval enclosure in severalty of anciently reclaimed moor' (Historic Landscape Characterisation data in North Somerset HER – <http://maps.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect/?mapcfg=HER>), in which natural features such as palaeochannels have survived as ditches, and in which the line of Biddle Street has clearly not been constrained by previous enclosure, and presumably exists to serve both the enclosures and the former buildings along its line, of which this is one.

Occupation in this area at the current end of Biddle Street should not be surprising: Environment Agency lidar data shows that a band of land around 200m wide from the north bank of the Yeo is consistently c25cm higher (and thus drier) than the land further from the river.

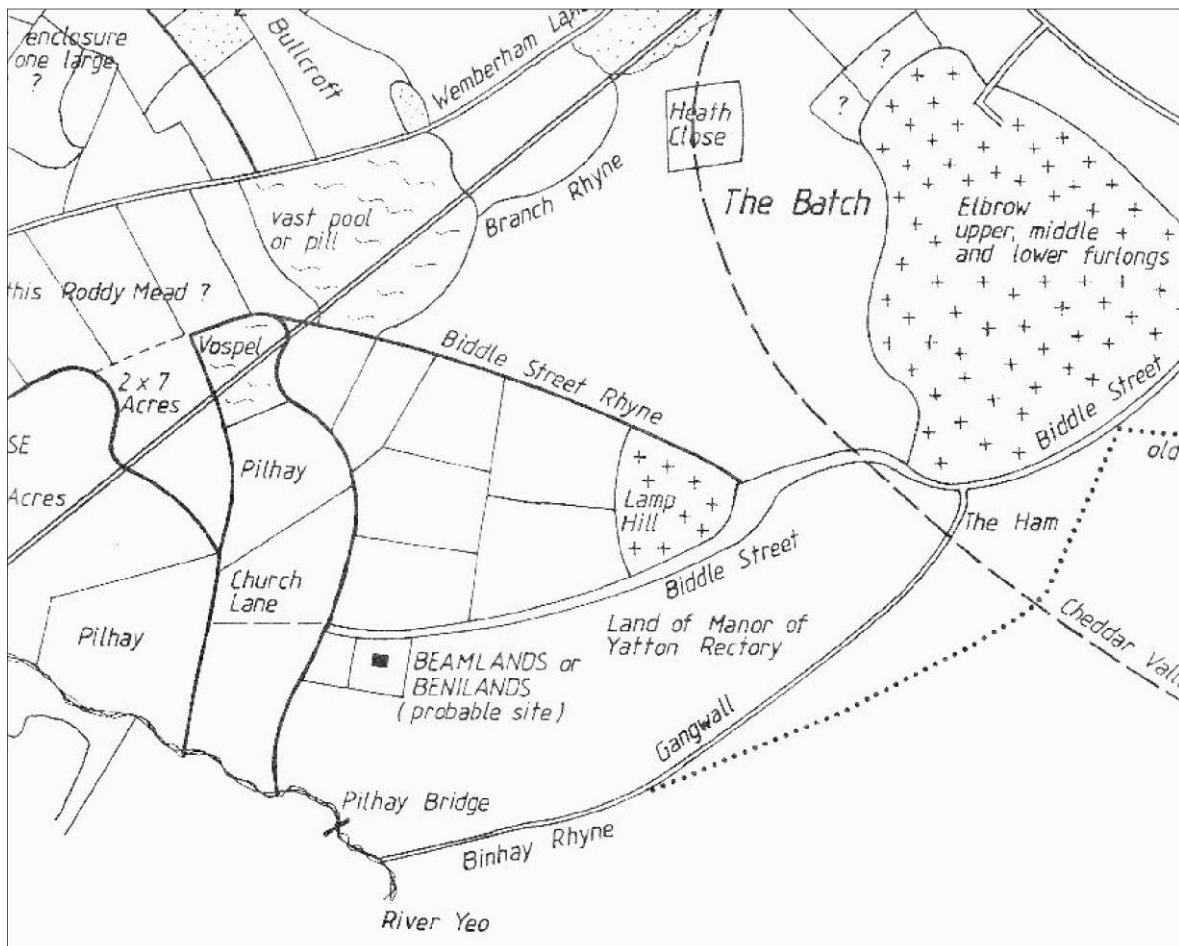


Fig 3: Map from *The History of Yatton*, courtesy of Yatton History Society

Benilands or Beamlands can be seen in fig 3 above.

Incidentally, the place name 'Lamp Hill' nearby is worthy of note. This denotes an area very slightly higher than its surroundings, using the 'hill' element of the name

in either a way very sensitive to topography (this section appears from Environment Agency lidar data to be less than 25cm higher than anywhere around it), or more likely here, ironically. The 'street' element in Biddle Street (OS '*straet*') is usually taken to mean 'road (with a made-up, or paved surface). Perhaps Biddle Street has always been made-up, or was in the past (Bosworth and Toller 1898: 925).

## **Survey objectives**

The survey had the following objectives.

- 1) To identify archaeological features.
- 2) To use the survey to further train YCCCART members and members of Community Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) in the use of the Bartington 601 gradiometer.

## **Methodology**

The survey was undertaken on 2 June and 14 July 2011 by teams from YCCCART using a Bartington 601 gradiometer with settings as per the site record in Appendix 1.

The completed survey was downloaded to an ArcheoSurveyor programme.

ArcheoSurveyor composites were adjusted using the following filters Band Weight Equaliser

Grad shade

Despiked

Destriped

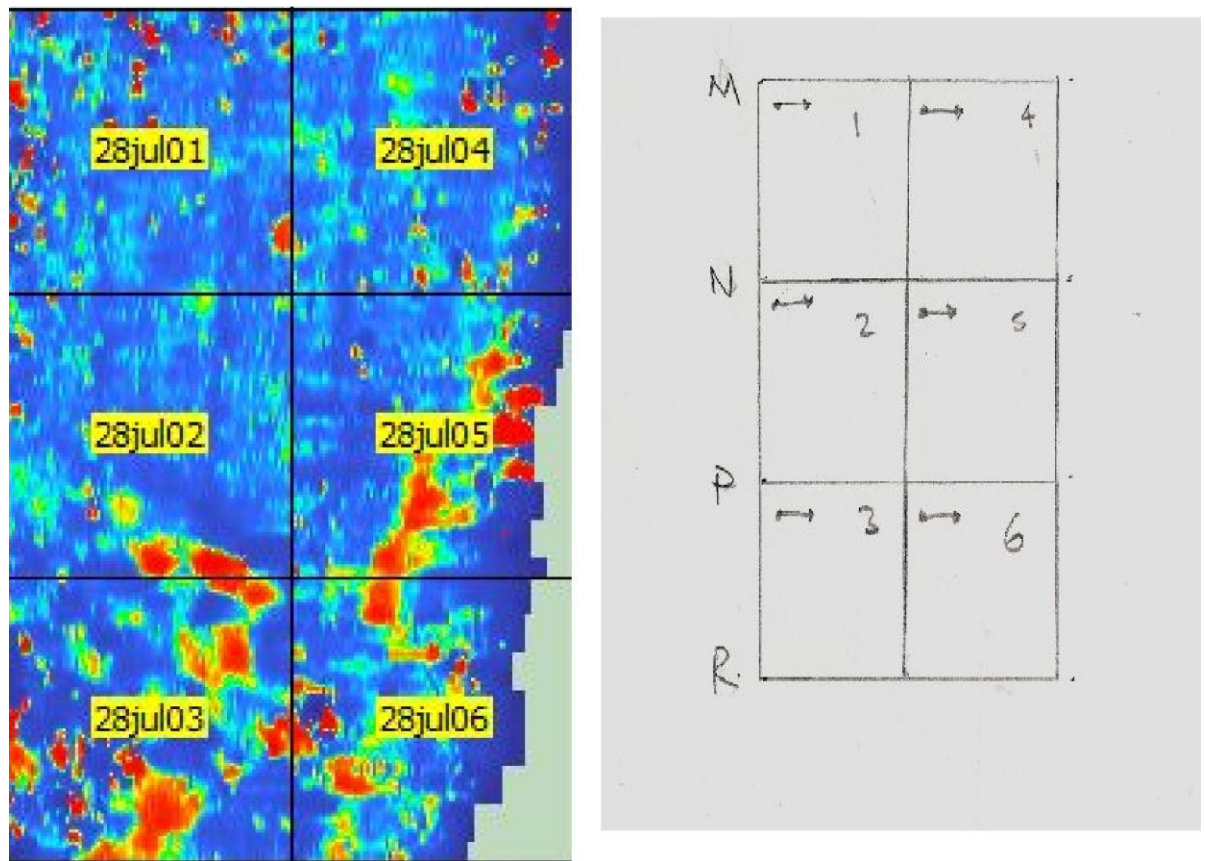
Clip SD2

Colour filters: Red Green Blue 2 & Black Green White

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2007.

Site photographs were taken by members of YCCCART, and remain the copyright of YCCCART.

## Results



*Fig 3: ArcheoSurveyor grid numbers (Left) and grid layout per site plan (Right).*

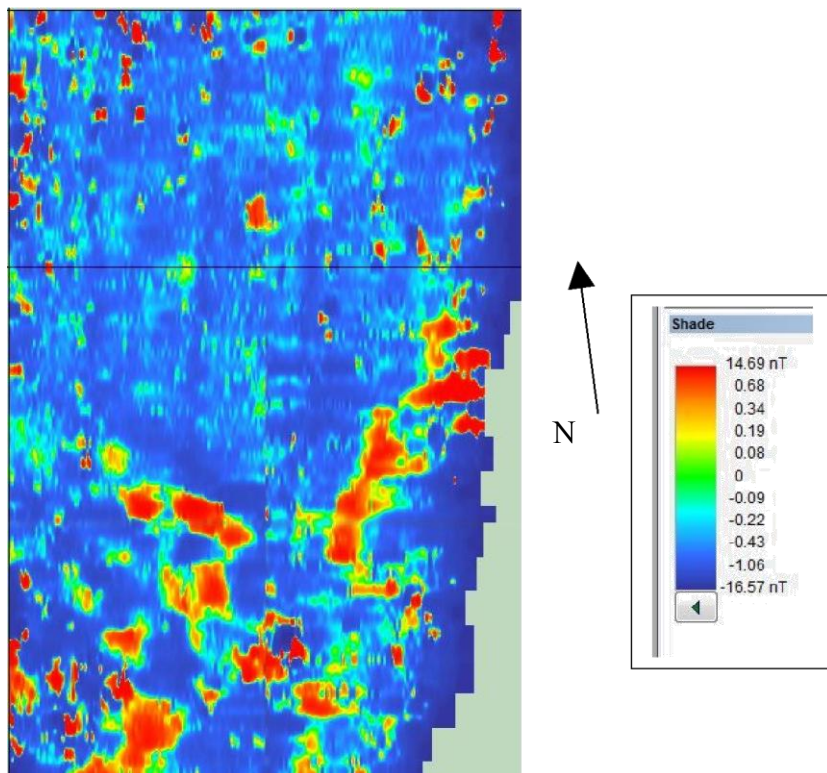


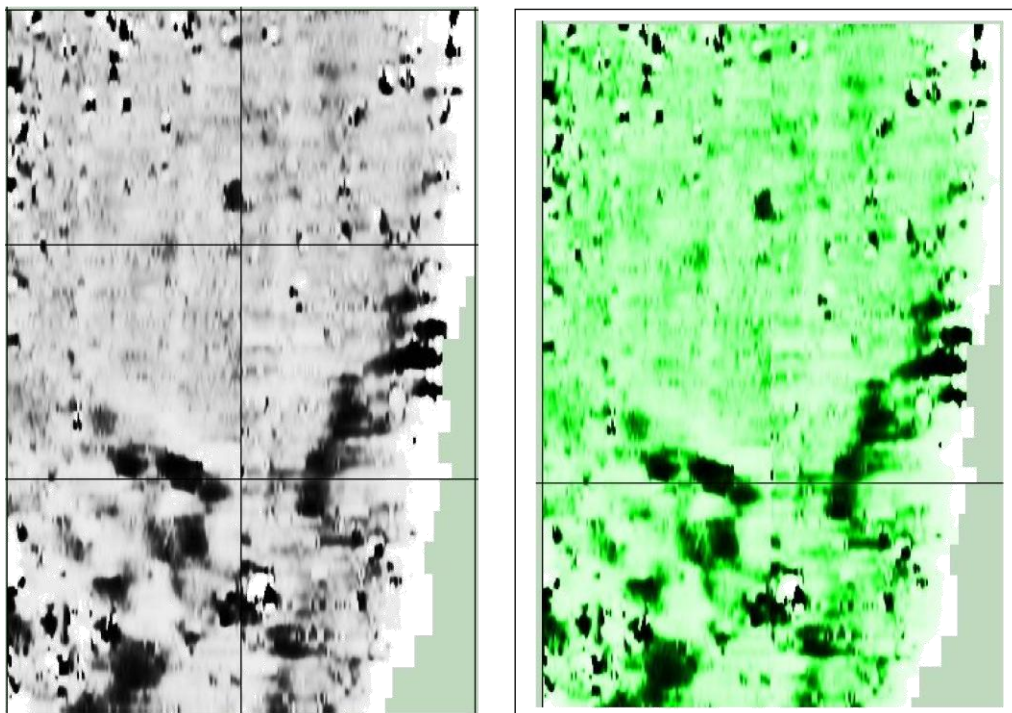
Fig 4: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor image). High readings are red

The high readings at the lower, southern end, of the field, as per fig 4 above, are possibly due to domestic activity. This area is close to Biddle Street Lane and adjacent to a field of similar size which also seems to contain such activity.

It would also be consistent with the existence of the 'ancient holding, with a right of common, ...on Yatton Marsh [called] Benilands or Beamlands ... at the end of Biddle Street drove' (p5 above).

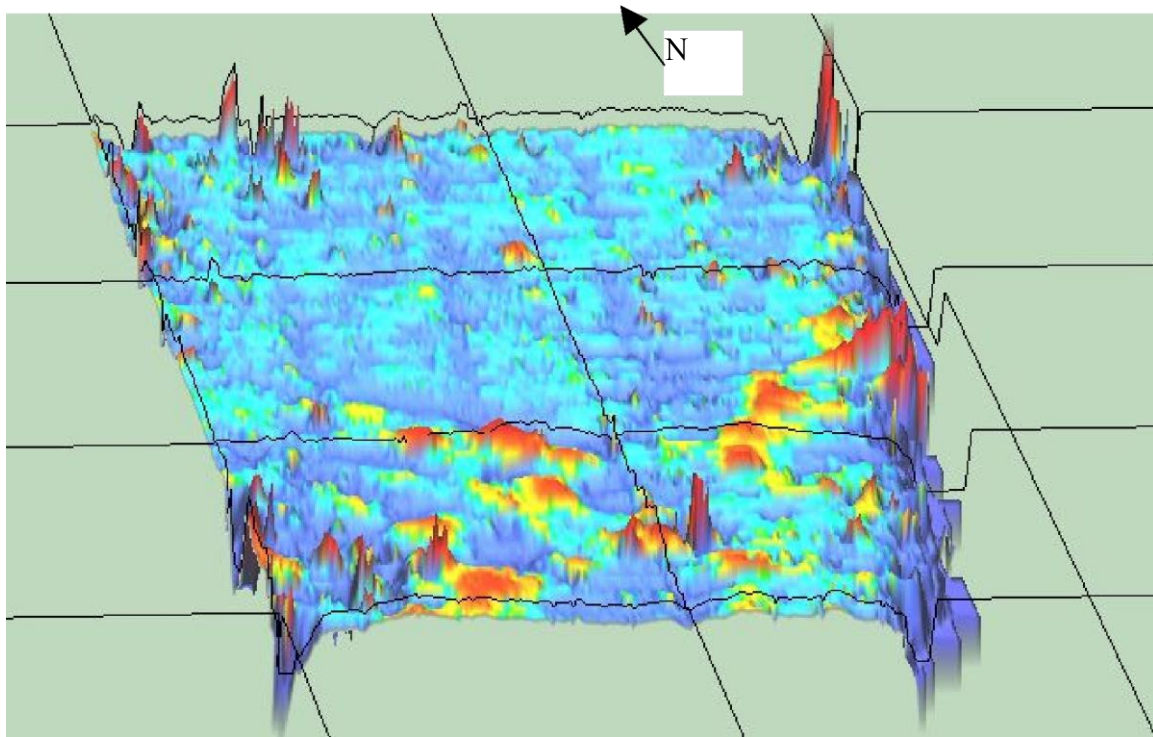
It is also worth noting that in this field (unlike that adjacent and to the west – report 2011/Y12 on this web site), the gripe system parallel to the long sides of the field can clearly be seen as deep blue (negative) lines.

With the sole proviso that it is *just* possible that some of the high positive readings in this field and the adjacent field may line up to indicate a linear feature passing through both fields (although in view of the other magnetic responses in both, this seems unlikely), it seems both fields contain evidence of domestic activity, as indicated by the documentary evidence.



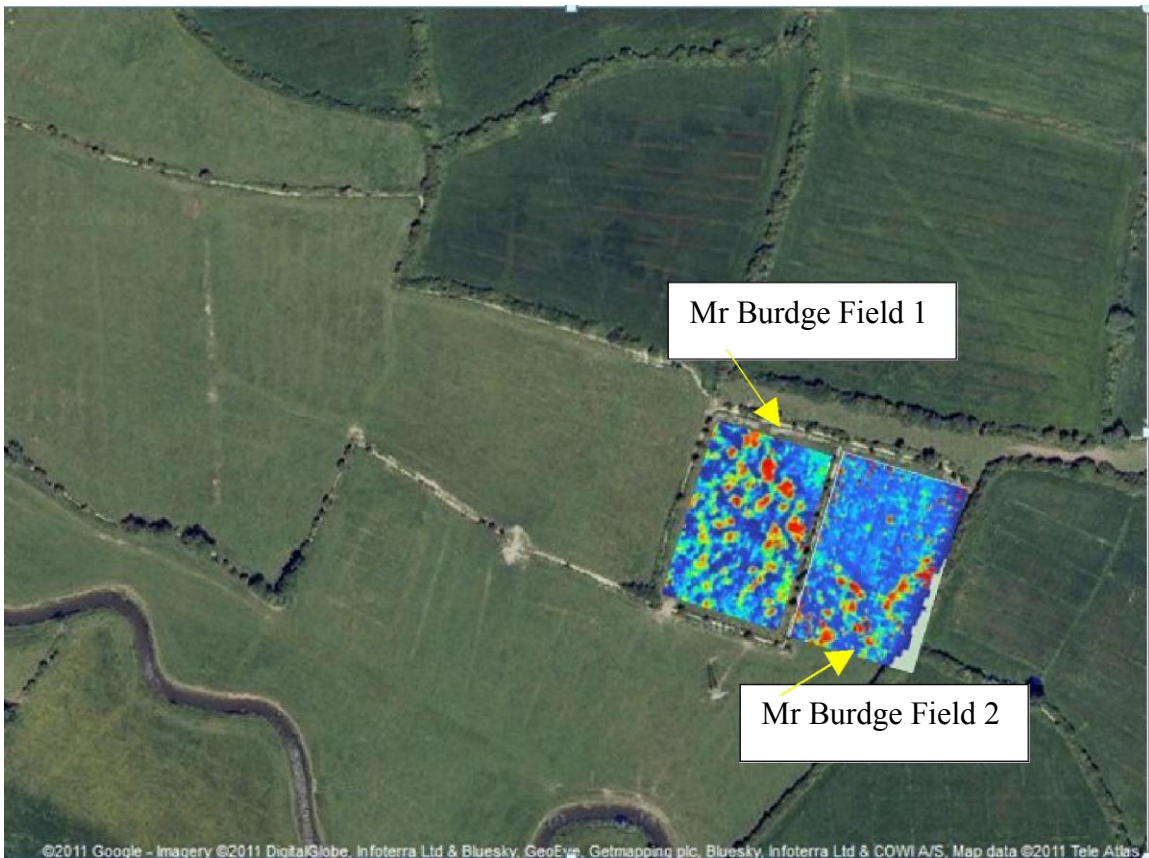
*Fig 5: Shade view ArcheoSurveyor image). High readings are black*

The black and white and green images in Fig 5 above confirm the high anomalies in the south of the field.



*Fig 6: Axonometric view. ArcheoSurveyor colour image. High readings are red.*

The view in figure 6 above again suggests domestic activity in the south of the field.



*Fig 7: Shade view from both Mr Burdge 1 & 2 surveys added to Google earth image*

Fig 7 above shows the gradiometer results from both Mr Burdge 1 (See YCCART report Y12/2011) & Mr Burdge 2 fields placed on an aerial image of the fields. Most obvious is the continuation of the high (red) anomalies from top left to bottom right, which may well indicate the site of the two buildings in adjacent fields mentioned in historical records.

There is a striking absence of high magnetic readings from an area in the north of the field the subject of this report (except for a few dipoles probably due to metallic scrap in the soil).

## **Recommendations**

In view of the potential building / buildings revealed by the gradiometer survey it is recommended that a resistivity survey is undertaken on the southern section of the field

## **References**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Bosworth, J. & Toller, T. 1898               | <i>An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary</i> Oxford University   |
| Yatton Local History Society. Reprinted 2002 | <i>A Survey Of Ancient Parish of Yatton including Claverham and East &amp; West Hewish.</i> Page 88. |
| Yatton Local History Society. 1991.          | <i>A History of Yatton.</i> Pages 8 & 12.  |

**Authors:** Brian Bradbury, Ian Morton, & Chris Short

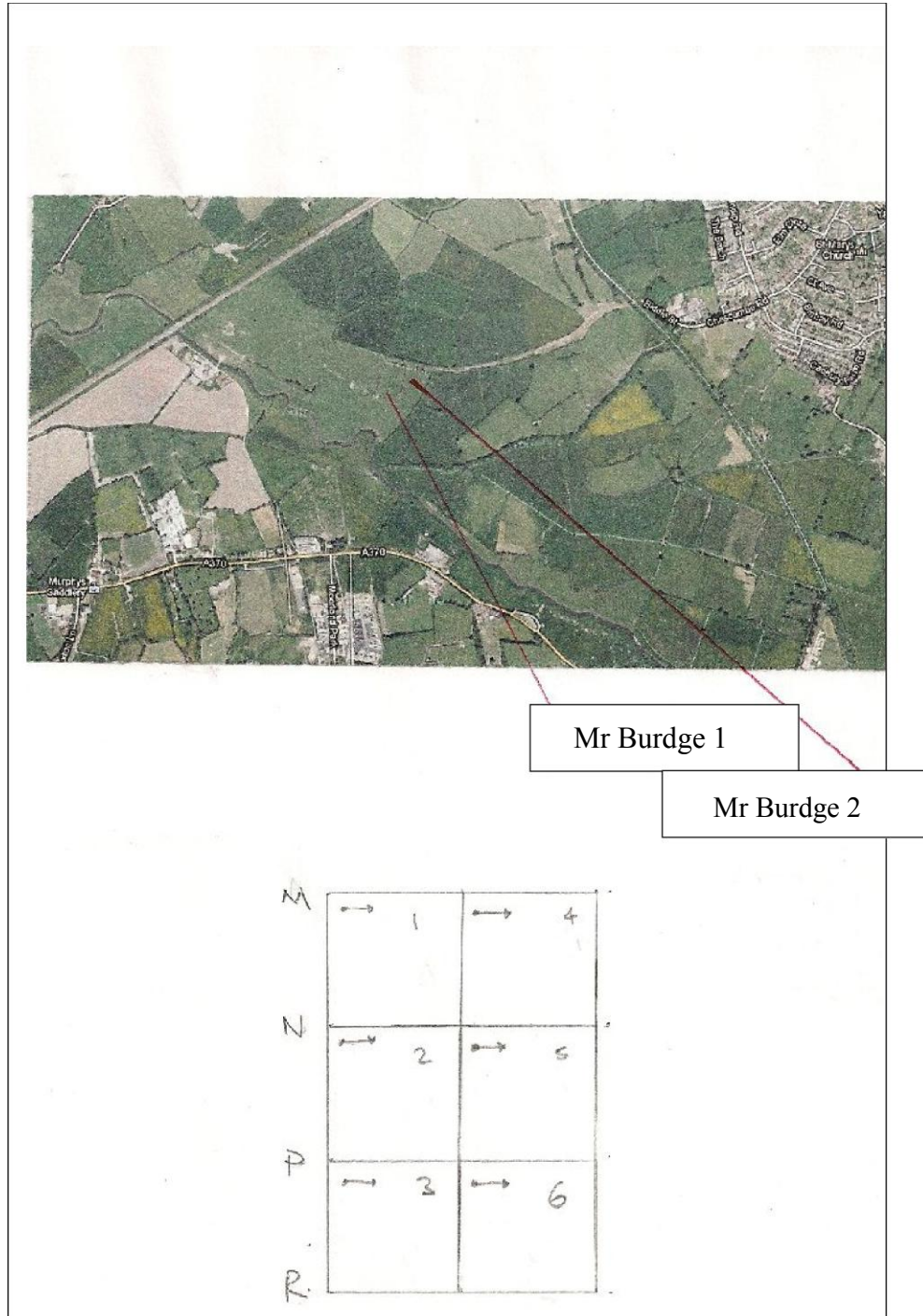
**Date:** July 2011

## Appendix –Site Record

YCCART Site Survey Project – Yatton Tenements II		
Survey date		28 <sup>th</sup> July2011
Report date		28 <sup>th</sup> July2011
Type /Instrument	Grad 601	
	Pace :1.5m/s Lines/m : 1 Range:100nT Volume: High Sensors:2	Grid size: 30m x30m Pattern : Zig Zag Samples/m:4 Audio: On Threshold:10nT Reject:50 Hz
Location		Land off A 370
		See annex 1
Ref		none
Site name		Yatton Tenements II
Landowner		TBC
Tenant		TBC
HER ref		TBC
Site type		Open land
Description		mowed pasture
Period		Unknown
Geology		
Land use		
Survey team and conditions		
28 <sup>th</sup> July	Team	Peter Wright, Susan Dugas, Peter English, Ferdi, Brian Bradbury and Ian Morton
	Weather	Hot with clear sky

Survey area			notes		readings		
			size	walk direction	max	min	mean
Grid ref #	28/07/2011	1	30 x 30 m	E	+30.6	-9.6	+0.4
		2	30 x 30 m	E	+8.6	-1.9	+0.1
		3	30 x 30 m	E	+20.0	-17.2	+0.2
		4	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	E	+100.0	-100.0	-2.1
		5	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	E	+9.5	-100.0	-2.4
		6	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	E	+99.5	-100.0	-2.9

Annex 1  
Setting out details



## Grid location details

