YCCCART 2012 / Y7 North Somerset HER 2012/281

Resistivity Survey on Mr Burdge's Field 1, Yatton Moor YATTON, CONGRESBURY, CLAVERHAM AND CLEEVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH TEAM (YCCCART)

General Editor: Vince Russett



The rhyne at the top of the field and beyond is Biddle Street

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Abstract

A resistivity survey was undertaken to investigate a potential building/buildings in the north of the field, indicated by a gradiometry survey in 2011. No significant features were revealed by this additional survey.

Acknowledgements

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCART, of a Geoscan RM15 Resistivity Meter 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 41707 65072.

Land use and geology

Geology bedrock is of the Mercia Mudstone Group –Mudstone and Halite Stone, lying under the alluvium of the Northmarsh. The ancient embanked course of the Congresbury Yeo lies 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 107 on map based on 1799 and 1821 maps. Courtesy of Yatton History Society.

The site is shown as field 107 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. Unfortunately the field has no name. In 1799 the house in this field was described as dilapidated. In 1812 it was described as "a close of pasture on part of which a house had stood". (Parish Survey of Yatton, Cleeve, East & West Hewish, 2002, p7 & 88).

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 – <u>http://maps.n-somerset .gov.uk/connect/?mapcfg=HER</u>), 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. A gradiometry survey was undertaken on the field in 2011 (See YCCCART report Y12 /2011). This survey suggested that a building/s lies on the north half of the field.

Survey objectives

The survey had the following objectives.

- 1) To investigate the apparent domestic activity revealed by the gradiometer survey (See YCCCART report 2011 /Y12).
- 2) To use the survey to further train YCCCART members and members of Community Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) in the use of the RM15.

Methodology

The survey was undertaken on 12 April and 28th May 2012 by teams from YCCCART using a Geoscan RM15 Resistivity Meter with settings as per the site record in Appendix 1.

The completed survey was downloaded to an ArcheoSurveyor programme.

ArchaeoSurveyor composites were adjusted using the following filters: Band Weight Equaliser Grad shade Despike Clip SD2 Colour filter: Black Green White

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2007 and edited in Open Office 3.1.

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

Results



Fig 3: Above –ArcheoSurveyor image. Shade view. High readings are black.

The resistivity results in Fig 3 above show no significant features. It is possible that any building has been covered in silt over the years and any trace buried too deep for the resistivity meter to record. Alternatively the building could have been wooden /of wattle and daub which a resistivity survey would not detect.



Fig 4 Above –ArcheoSurveyor image. Shade view, with resistivity results superimposed on the gradiometry results. High readings are black on the resistivity image and red on the gradiometry image.

The resistivity result (green, black and white) in Fig 4 above has been superimposed on the gradiometry result from the 2011 survey (reported in Y12 /2011) to show its relationship to the earlier survey.

Recommendations

An excavation is the only way to prove the existence of any building.

References

Yatton Local History Society. Reprinted 2002

A Survey Of the Ancient Parish of Yatton including Claverham and East & West Hewish. Pages 7 & 88.

Yatton Local History Society. 1991.

A History of Yatton. Pages 8 & 12.

Authors: YCCCART Date July 2012

Appendix –Site Record

YCCCART Site Survey								
Project – Burdge 1								
Survey da	Survey date		12 April 2012 & 28 May 2012					
Report da	te	28 May 2012						
Type /Inst	trument	RM15						
		Gain x1,		Grid size: 2	20m x20r	n		
		Current 1mA	Pattern : Zig Zag					
		Frequency 137	Iz Sample interval 1m					
		Probes 'Config :	(2 probes) Traverse Interval 1m.		m.			
				Mode Zig-Z	Zag			
Weather		12 April: Sunny. grass damp						
		28 May: Hot, sunny & dry						
OS Ref or	Lat-Longitude	See below						
Site name		Burdge 1						
Landowne	er							
Tenant								
HER ref								
Site type		?						
Description								
Period								
Geology		See report						
Land use		Grass for grazing						
Survey team		12 April: David Long, Pete English & Chris Short & John						
		Wilcox						
		28 May: Anne Dimmock, Susan Dugas, Brian Bradbury,						
		John Haynes, Pete Wright, Chris Short, Colin Campbell						
		& John Wilcox						
Survey area		Notes			Readings			
		Size	Walk direction	on				
12 April	3 grids laid out							
28 May	Grids 1 to 3	20x20m	N					
		Downloaded						
Summany		Duwiniudueu ds: ArchaoSumoveri Burdao 1/Crida 1 to 2						
Summery								
		1						



RM 15 grids – 20x20m square



GPS 601 Survey

base line co-ordinatesall OS STEastings NorthingsUpdate 12 AprilA41706.5265071.75A) 341705.8 165074.19B41698.1865045.39B) 341697.0 165046.6C41688.4265016.51C) 341688.05 165017.69D41677.3564985.76

GPS RM15

12 April

28 May

Α	341705.8	165074.2	341706.1	165076.5
E	341699.63	165055.21	341700.4	165056.42
F	341723.74	165069.17		
G	341718.46	165049.26	3411718.36	165050.36
Н	341743.38	165062.24		
I	341737.77	165043.72	341737.05	165045.14
J	341763.14	165057.80		
К	341757.09	165037.85		
L			341733.18	165025.66
М			341713.66	165030.39