

**YCCCART 2011 / Y12
North Somerset HER 2011/147**

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



YCCCART members surveying in difficult conditions

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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 north half of the field.

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

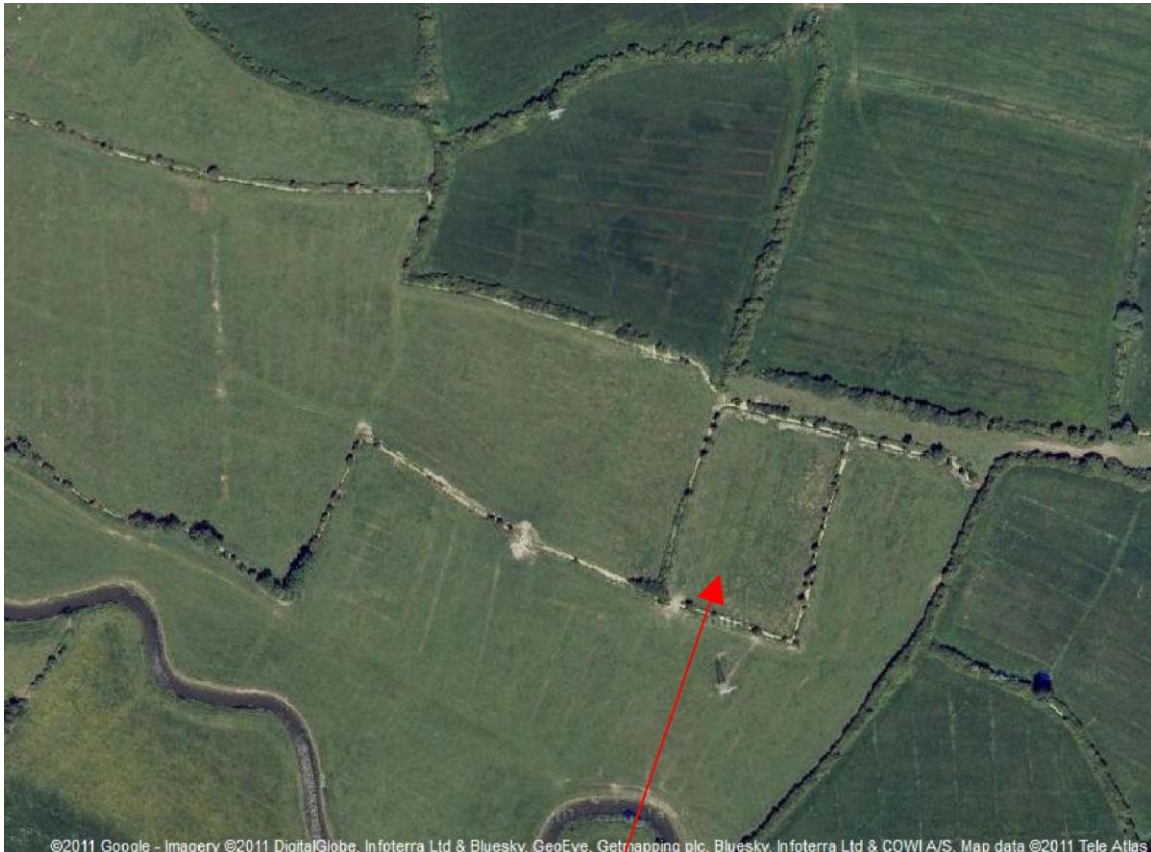


Fig 1: Site location as indicated by red arrow

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 41707 65072

Land use and geology

Geology bedrock is of the Murcia 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

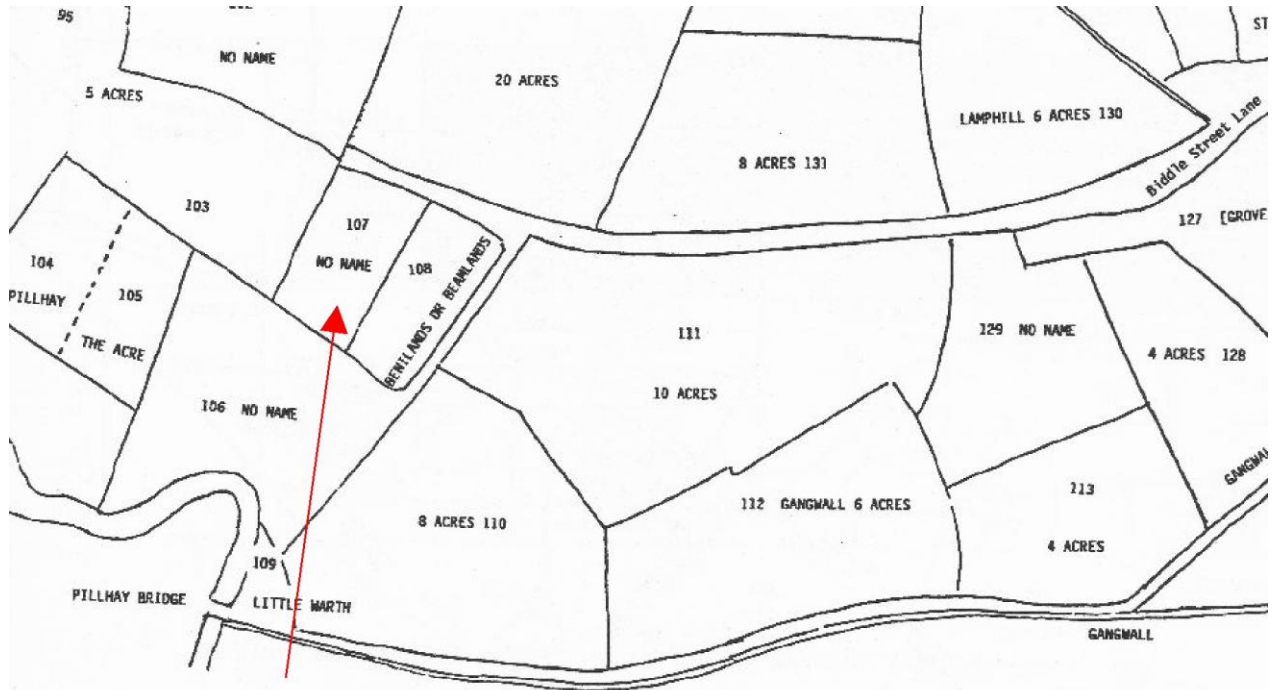


Fig 2: Field 107 on map based on 1799 and 1821 maps. Courtesy of Yatton History Society.

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 – <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.

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 and edited in Open Office 3.1.

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

Results

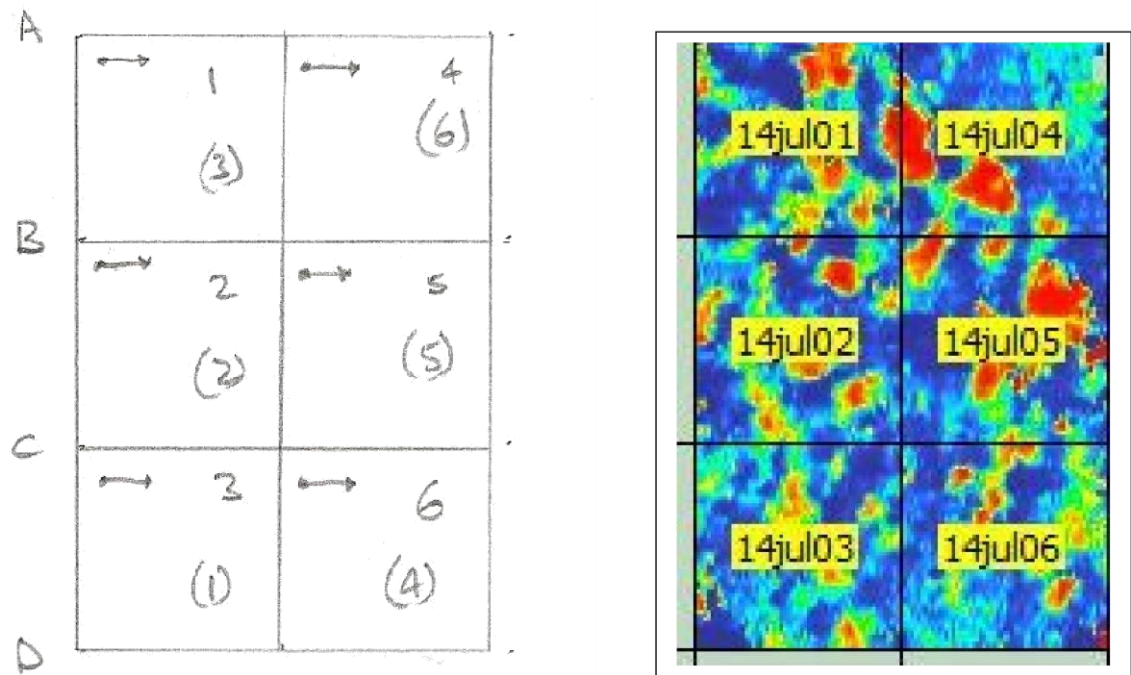


Fig 3: Left -Grid layout (Numbers in brackets relate to previous abortive survey) and Right - ArcheoSurveyor grid numbers on shade view result.

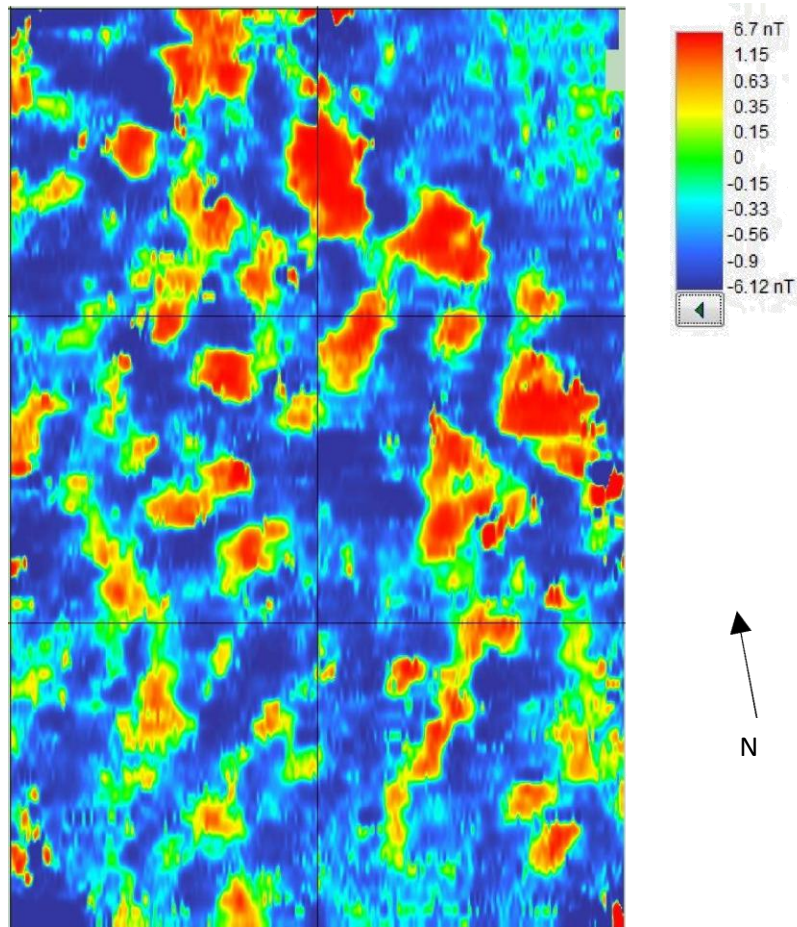


Fig 4: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor image). High readings are red

The high positive readings at the top of fig 4 and the north of the field are characteristic of domestic activity and probably relate to the dilapidated house referred to in documentary sources in 1799. Unusually, the gripes within the field, which usually show as linear deep blue (negative) are not evident in the survey (although they are clear as earthworks), and there is some indication of what may be earlier linear features running from low right to upper left on the figure above.

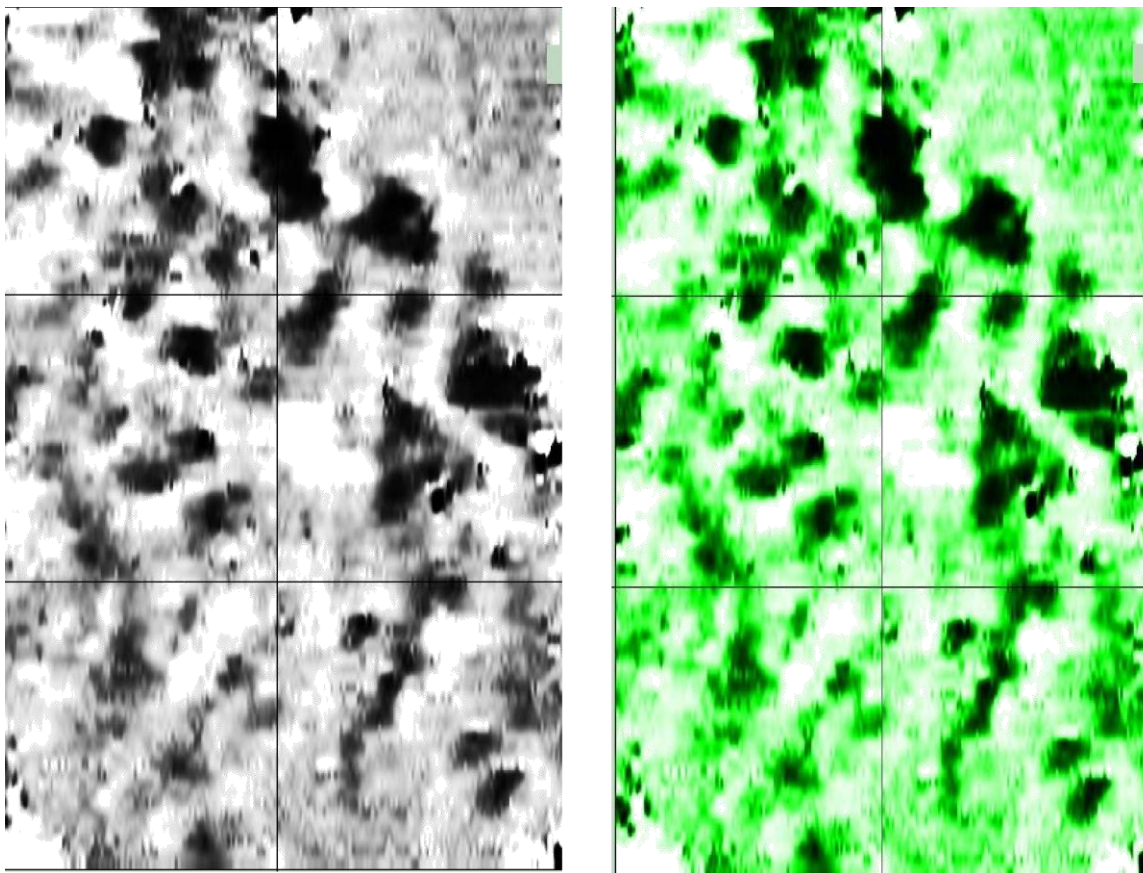


Fig 5: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor image). High readings are black

The black and white and green images in Fig 5 above confirm the high anomalies in the north of the field, and presence of the group of linear anomalies referred to above.

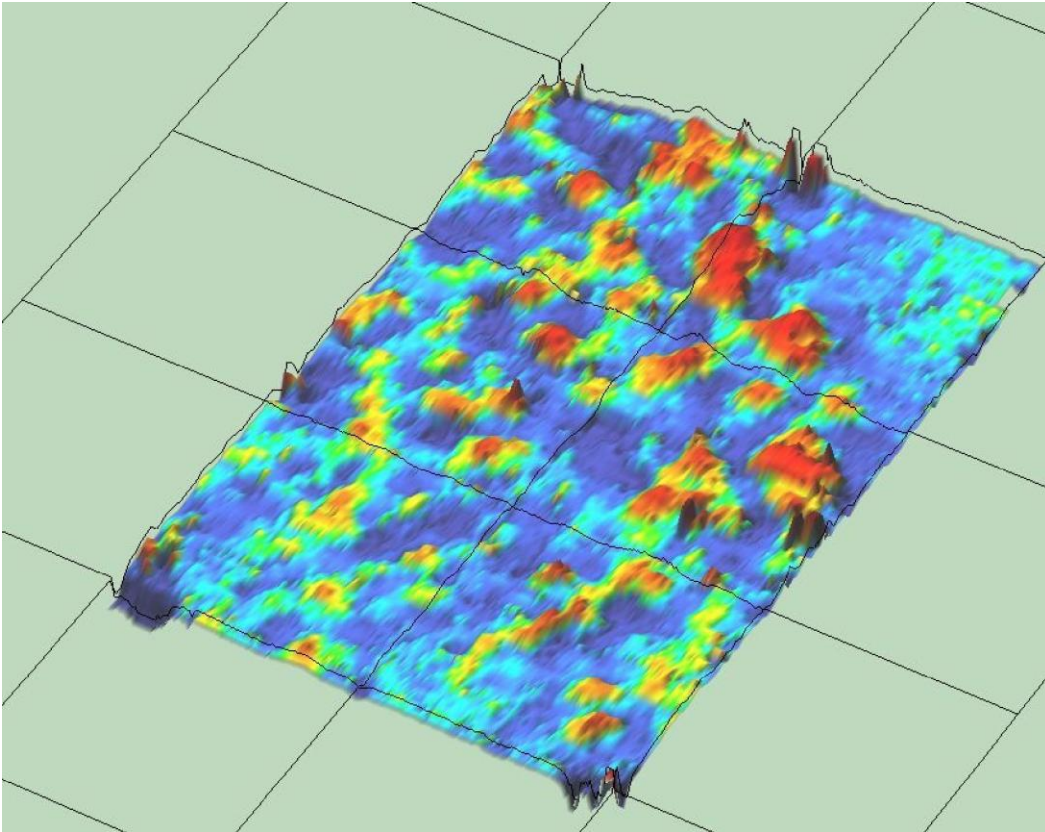


Fig 6: Axonometric view. ArcheoSurveyor colour image. High readings are red.

The view in figure 6 above again suggests domestic activity in the north of the field, and confirms the parallel linear anomalies.



Fig 7: Shade view added to Google Earth image. Domestic activity

The results, in fig 7 above, show the location of the potential building to the north of the field and its relationship to adjoining fields.

Recommendations

In view of the potential building/s revealed by the gradiometer survey it is recommended that a resistivity survey is undertaken, covering the high anomaly areas towards the north of the field.

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.

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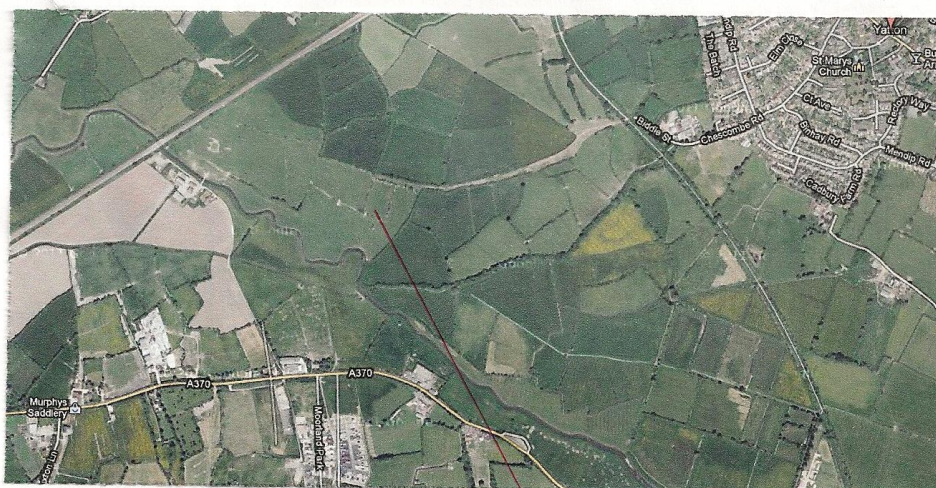
Date July 2011

Appendix –Site Record

YCCCART Site Survey Project – Yatton Tenements I		
Survey date	14 th July2011	
Report date	14 th 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 I	
Landowner	TBC	
Tenant	TBC	
HER ref	TBC	
Site type	Open land	
Description	mowed pasture	
Period	Unknown	
Geology		
Land use		
Survey team and conditions		
2 nd June2011	Team	Peter English, Ferdi, Mike Fox and Ian Morton
	Weather	Bright and warm
14 th July	Team	Peter Wright, Susan Dugas, Mike Fox, Brian Bradbury and Ian Morton
	Weather	Hot with clear sky

Survey area			notes		readings		
			size	walk direction	max	min	mean
Grid ref #	02/06/2011 Operational practice invalidated results	1	30 x 30 m	E	+9.0	-8.7	+0.3
		2	30 x 30 m	E	+3.5	-20.3	-9.3
		3	30 x 30 m	E	+40.4	-5.1	+0.6
		4	30 x 30 m	E	+64.6	-100.0	-9.7
		5	30 x 30 m	E	+40.1	-43.9	+1.2
		6	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	E	+8.0	-25.7	-11.6
Grid ref #	14/07/2011 Repeat survey but grids renumbered	1	30 x 30 m	E	+74.6	-17.4	+0.2
		2	30 x 30 m	E	+31.4	-4.4	0.0
		3	30 x 30 m	E	+6.0	-10.7	+0.1
		4	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	E	+100.0	-6.2	-0.2
		5	30 x 30 m	E	+73.1	-86.3	-0.1
		6	30 x 30 m	E	+8.7	-39.6	-0.0

Appendix 1 - Setting out details



Mr Burdge 1

A	→ 1 (3)	→ 4 (6)
B	→ 2 (2)	→ 5 (5)
C	→ 3 (1)	→ 6 (4)
D		

grid numbering plus
survey dates

1 = 14/07/2011

(3) = 02/06/2011