YCCCART 2018/Y4

Gradiometry surveys at Goblin Coombe Farm, Cleeve

YATTON, CONGRESBURY, CLAVERHAM AND CLEEVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH TEAM (YCCCART)

General Editor: Vince Russett



The day YCCCART regretted using white spray for ground markers

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Abstract

After initial studies in the area in 2006, which appeared to show a rectangular anomaly on the hill at Stallards Batch, adjacent to the Farm, in an area where Roman finds had been made, the decision was taken to re-examine the area in 2016. Both the Batch and the adjacent field behind Goblin Coombe Farm were surveyed using both gradiometry and resistivity, but finds were surprisingly largely negative, due to geological features, or to 20th century levelling of old mined areas.

Acknowledgements

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCART, of a Geoscan RM 15 resistivity meter and a Bartington Gradiometer 601 without which this survey could not have been undertaken.

This survey would also not have been carried out without the willing permission of the landowners, David and Anne Ridley.

YCCCART would like to thank CBA SW for the loan of the TR/CIA resistivity meter in 2006.

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

Unfortunately, no Opengov lidar data is yet available for this area.

Introduction

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

Our objective is to undertake archaeological fieldwork to enable a better understanding and management of the heritage of the area while recording and publishing the activities and locations of the research carried out.

Site location



Fig 1: Location of surveys

The two fields surveyed were those to the right of Goblin Coombe Farm and its southern neighbour.

Goblin Coombe Farm lies at ST ST45506528, on a private drive off the A370 at Cleeve in North Somerset.

Land use and geology

Geologically, the two fields are very different in character. That to the north is a rocky spur of the metalliferous Carboniferous Limestones of Broadfield Down: many fragments of limestone with thin bands of iron ore were found during trial pitting (YCCCART, forthcoming). Extensive small-scale quarrying has occurred in the steep slope of the northern field. The field to the south is an inlier of the Mercia Mudstones which lie at the base of the north-west facing slopes of the Down.

Current use of both fields is for grazing.

The field can be seen, as public footpaths run along the base of the steep slope at the northern end of the northern field; public footpath leading to King's Wood can be followed from the drive leading to Goblin Coombe Farm, and from Chapel Lane. Please remember this is not Open Access land and keep to the footpaths.

Historical & archaeological context



Fig 2: Goblin Coombe Farm and the two surveyed fields (520 and 521) from the 1840 Yatton Tithe Map. On the 1840 Tithe Apportionment, field 520 is named 'Three Acres', and 521 'Stallards Batch'.

Goblin Coombe Farm is a medieval longhouse, possibly as early as late C15 (Campbell 2004; Williams 1984), and also possessed a common right, meaning that the site's origins may be earlier still.

The adjacent cottage (now Goblin Coombe Cottage) was almost certainly that built in 1787 as 'the house which the Overseers paid \pounds 9.0.1 in 1787 to build on Stallards Batch. A house for the poor for the use of the Parish' (Campbell 2004).

House 540 in figure 2 was also an early site, with a common right, but had disappeared by the 1st edition OS plan in 1884. The site is now heavily overgrown.

The lower field (Three Acres) has all the characteristics of a medieval 'assart' (land cleared from woodland for agricultural use), and its hooked shape follows the natural small combe (Stancombe) that eventually reaches to the higher ground of Kings Wood by the

Congresbury Boundary Stone 14.

The use of Stallard's Batch during the medieval period and later was probably for rough grazing: some of the slopes are far too steep and rocky for cultivation, although the top of the Batch was ploughed during the 1950s (*pers comm*. D. Ridley)

Apart from the evidence for small-scale quarrying on Stallard's Batch, there are no other indications of activity on the Batch in the medieval and later periods.

However, finds of Roman pottery and metal have been quite extensive, both around the Farm and on Stallard's Batch, and YCCCART carried out a resistivity survey of most of the Batch in 2005-6.



Fig 3: Partial plan of 2006 resistivity survey

This appeared to show a rectangular feature on top of the Batch (arrowed), some 20m x 10m, which was confidently interpreted as a Roman building, especially since it was reported that an occasional rectangular crop-mark could be seen at the site (Campbell 2002).

Unfortunately, this crop mark did not manifest in the hot summers of 2013 or 2018: smallscale investigation in 2006 showed no sign of a building, and thus the anomaly was probably a geological feature.

Survey objectives

The return to carry out a fuller geophysical survey in 2016 (with far improved hardware and software compared to 2006) was intended to search both fields for evidence of any structures linked to the pottery and finds of Roman and later date made in the fields around Goblin Coombe Farm.

Methodology

The survey of the fields was undertaken during the period October 2016 to May 2017 by teams from YCCCART using a Geoscan RM-15 resistivity meter and a Bartington 601-2 gradiometer.

The completed survey was downloaded to a TerraSurveyor programme and the resultant composite adjusted using the following filters:

Resistivity

Band weight equaliser Grad shade Despiked Clip SD2 High Pass filter. Periphery filter

Gradiometry

Colour - Red Blue Green 2 Band weight equaliser Grad shade Destriped Despiked Clip SD2

The report was written in Libre Office 5 Writer.

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

Results

Stallard's Batch

Gradiometry



Fig 4: Final results from Stallards Batch. Unsurveyed land between the western edge of the survey and the adjacent hedge were too steep for gradiometer survey

The results of this survey are frustratingly unhelpful. There is no obvious evidence of either domestic or industrial activity, as seen at other known sites, nor of potential buildings.

The area of apparent heavy activity at the upper right corner of the survey (Grid A3-A4) is the result of known tipping in the 20th century in an area occupied by mineshafts (*pers comm* D. Ridley). Two linear responses in the southern part of the survey (B1-D4) and (B1-D2/3) are lines of current and former footpaths.

A perfectly round response at the top edge of grid B3 may represent archaeology, although it is not clear what this could be. It is 3m across, and with the type of anomaly represented, may be no more than a bonfire site. Stallard's Batch is very prominent from much of the Northmarsh to its north, with views across to South Wales.

Resistivity



Fig 5: Resistivity results from Stallard's Batch. Again, unsurveyed areas outside the area were unsuitable for surveying, usually because of the steepness of the slopes

The survey is dominated, as was the 2006, by geological features. There is no sign of the rectangular area revealed in the 2006 survey.

At the top of the survey (Grid A2) a triangular area of high resistance denotes where the topsoil is remarkably thin over old quarry workings.

A number of other potentially archaeological features can be seen in other parts of the survey. A rectangular high resistance feature, running NE-SW in grids A4 and B4, is on a very steep slope, and not likely to be anything other than a geological feature.

The double rectangular features in grids C1 and C2 (visibly cut by the footpath through the site) are in part on a slope and not likely to be a building or structure.

The higher section was sampled later during trial pitting (YCCCART, forthcoming) and was found to be natural. These results at least reveal there appears to be no major Roman (or any other) stone structure on the Batch).

Three Acres

Gradiometry



Fig 6: Gradiometry results, Three Acres. The area between the survey and the hedge was too steep to safely carry out survey, and there is strong interference from adjacent wire fences around three edges of the survey.

Again, the gradiometry reveals little or nothing of archaeological interest in the field. The variation in signal is quite low, and it must be assumed that the intensive ploughing in the medieval period and later (which has produced lynchets more than 2m high at the top end of the field) has removed any potential domestic or industrial activity that may happened in the field.

Resistivity



Fig 6: Resistivity results, Three Acres. The area between the survey and the hedge was too steep to safely carry out survey

Again, the results from the survey show very little that might indicate archaeology or human activity (other than ploughing). The dark edges on the upper side of the survey are where bedrock is very close to the surface: most of the other high resistance around the edges of the survey is also due to this. The ground rises and becomes rocky cliffs immediately inside the woodland. The vague banding and noise down the centre of the field is indicative of long ploughing on a soft matrix (the Mercia Mudstones).

Conclusions

No buildings or structures (other than mines and quarries) were revealed in the surveys of either field.

Nevertheless, the surveys were worthwhile, since this at least puts limits on what is possible to be present, to represent the Roman period at the site. Sherds of Roman pottery and other finds seem to occur all over Stallard's Batch: unfortunately the sites of the individual finds, which might have been helpful in homing in on any occupation, have not been available during the survey.

Less material has come from the lower field, although a Roman rotary quern in Mr Ridley's possession came from the steep bank between the two fields, as have quantities of pottery (mostly Roman) (*pers comm.* David Ridley).

Clearly whatever potential Roman structures might be at the site, we can rule out any large stone buildings, of which some traces should have remained. Presumably if there was Roman occupation on the hill, as the finds imply, then either

a) The buildings were slight and wooden, which neither technique is very good at detecting (although any fires or industrial working within such should be detected by gradiometry but was not). In the light of the iron-smelting discovered at Congresbury and Yatton in 2016, the possibility of an industrial shanty of the Roman period should be entertained here, or

b) The Roman-period occupants and users of the site were living elsewhere, and depositing waste material on the Batch, either household waste or in manuring activities.

One other intriguing possibility that has emerged is an open market or fair taking place at this very visible spot, something akin to the (later) 'productive sites' of eastern England. Very little seems to be known about any fairs or markets away from settlement in the Roman period.

Recommendations for further work

In the absence of geophysical information to reveal sites of occupation, it is recommended that a systematic series of 1m test pits be excavated on the Batch, to attempt to locate any significant occupation sites by way of secondary clues, such as pottery density, and to test, if possible one of the possibilities discussed above.

References

| Campbell, M. 2004 | <i>Cleeve Parish Survey</i> (unpub. Digital copy in YCCCART archive) | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Williams, D. 1984 | <i>Field survey of Goblin Coombe Farm</i> (unpub. Digital copy in YCCCART archive) | |

Authors Vince Russett

Date: October 2018

Appendix

| YCCCART Site | Surv | ey ombe farm | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|---|--|--------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|--|
| Super date | | onibe fann | 06 October 2016 | | | | | |
| Survey date | | | 06 October 2016 | | | | | |
| Type /Instrum | Lant | | Grad 601 | | | | | |
| Type / Instrum | ient | | GIAG OUT | | | | | |
| | | | Pace :1.4m/s | (| Grid size: 30m | x30m | | |
| | | | Lines/m : 1 | | Pattern : Zig Z | ag | | |
| | | | Range:100nT | | 5amples/m:2 (| grid 1 on | ly on 26/3/15 as | |
| | | | Volume: High | | reference) | - | , | |
| | | | Sensors:2 | | Samples/m:4 (other grids) | | ds) | |
| | | | | | Audio: On | - | | |
| | | | | · | Threshold:30n | Т | | |
| | | | Reject:50 Hz | | | | | |
| Location | | | Goblin Coombe farm | 11 | | | | |
| Ref | | | none | | | | | |
| Site name | | | Goblin Coombe farn | n | | | | |
| Landowner | | | Dave Ridley | | | | | |
| Tenant | | | | | | | | |
| HER ref | | | | | | | | |
| Site type | | | Open land | | | | | |
| Description | | | Grass land | | | | | |
| Period | | | | | | | | |
| Geology | | | | | | | | |
| Land use | | | Grazing | | | | | |
| Survey team : | and co | onditions | Grazing | | | | | |
| 29/09/2016 Team | | Team | Pete Wright, Janet Dickson, Phillipa, Arthur Landlev & David W | | | | | |
| Weather | | Dry, wet underfoot | | | | | | |
| Team | | Ian, Dete Wright, Dhillina, Ferdie & Arthur Langley | | | | | | |
| Westher | | Weather | Dry, cool and mostly overcast | | | | | |
| Sur | ע עפע | rea | potes seadings | | | | readings | |
| 201 | veya | ica - | cizo | wak | | min | mean | |
| | | | 5120 | directio | | | Illeall | |
| Data | Grid | number | | direction | | | | |
| Date | Gild | number | | | | | | |
| 29/09/2016 | <u> </u> | | Sat | tting out ha | se line and ori | ds for wh | uole field | |
| 23/03/2010 | ⊢ | 1 | 20 - 20 | ung ouc ba | se line and gri | | | |
| | <u> </u> | 2 | 20 4 20 | W | +77.4 | -3.3 | +1.0 | |
| | | 2 | 20 1 20 | WF IAI | +75 | -75.2 | | |
| | ⊢ | 2 | 30 x 30 | W | +7.5 | -2.2 | +1.5 | |
| | ⊢ | 4 | 30 X 30 | W | +30.9 | -28.1 | +1.2 | |
| | 1 | 2 | 30 X 30 | W | +19.4 | -4.8 | +1.3 | |
| 00/10/2010 | | | possible landrill | 147 | | 100 | 10 | |
| 06/10/2016 | ⊢ | 1 | 30 X 30 | W | +100 | -100 | -1.6 | |
| - | | 2 | M & R | W | +13.6 | -8.1 | -1.5 | |
| | | 3 | M & R | W | +34.0 | -12.9 | -0.7 | |
| | | 4 | M & R | W | +17.5 | -34.5 | -1.1 | |
| | | 5 | M & R | W | +17.8 | -24.4 | -0.1 | |
| | | 6 | M & R | F | +7.4 | -76.6 | -0.8 | |
| | \vdash | 7 | M & D | 5 | +9.9 | -20.2 | -1.7 | |
| | <u> </u> | / | Men | | 75.0 | -10.4 | -1.2 | |
| | ⊢ | 8 | Mark | E | +98.9 | -18.4 | -0.6 | |
| | | | M&P | I E | 1 + 98 9 | -184 | 1-0.6 | |







Position A on base line – To post with 1 paint spot – 9.2m To post with 2 paint spots – 9.25m

Position of quiet spot – E 345654.59 N 165260.24



Cleeve, Goblin Coombe Farm, Geophysical surveys, 2018, Y4, v. 1

| YCCCART Site Survey | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---|--|
| Project: - Goblin Com | ibe Farm | | |
| Survey date | | 22 December 2016 | |
| Report date | | 13 October to 22 December 2016 | |
| Type /Instrument | | RM15 | |
| Location | | Goblin Combe Farm, Cleeve | |
| Landowner | | Mr David Ridley | |
| Tenant | | None | |
| HER ref | | TBC | |
| Site type | | Grass | |
| Period | | Roman? | |
| Survey team and con | ditions | | |
| 13 Oct 2016 | | Vince Russett, David Long. Graham Bahannon. David Walker | |
| | | Weather was sunny and warm for October, no wind, short | |
| | | slightly damp grass. | |
| 3 November 2016 | | Vince Russett. David Long, Liz Hale, Robert Cleland, Peter | |
| | | English and Chris Short | |
| | | Weather: Sunny/cloudy. Grass damp. | |
| 10 November | | David Long, Colin Campbell. Pete English, Chris Short, John | |
| 2016 | | Wilcox and Graham Bahannon. | |
| | | Weather:Sunny, cold, grass damp | |
| 24 November | | David Long, Chris Short, John Wilcox and Graham Bahannon, | |
| 2026 | | Vince Russett, Robert Cleland & Ian Morton | |
| | | Weather: Overcast, grass damp | |
| 15 December | | David Long, Chris Short, John Wilcox, Liz Hales, Vince Russett, | |
| 2016 | | Pete English & Chris Short | |
| | | Weather: Overcast, grass damp | |
| 22 December | | David Long, Vince Russett, Pete Engloish, Arthur Langley & | |
| 2016 | | Chris Short | |
| | | Weather: Sunny, grass damp | |

| Survey area | | Notes | | |
|---------------------|---|----------|------------------------------|--|
| | | Size | Walk direction | |
| 13 October 2016 | Grids 1 to 2 | 20 x 20m | S | |
| 3 November 2016 | Grids 1 to 3 | 20 x 20m | S | |
| 10 November 2016 | Grids 1 to 3 | 20 x 20m | S | |
| 24 November 2016 | Grids 1 to 4 Grid 4 restricted by fallen tree | 20 x 20m | S Except Grid 4 North | |
| 15 December 2016 | Grids 1 & 2 Grid 2 slightly truncated | 20 x 20m | S | |
| 22 December 2016 | Grids 1 & 2 Grid 2 slightly truncated | 20 x 20m | Grid 1 South Grid 2 North | |

| | 601 base line | | | |
|---------|---------------|--------|---------|--|
| | | ł | | |
| | G1 | G1 | G1 | |
| | 13/10 🔻 | 3/11 🕇 | 24/11 🕈 | |
| G1 | G2 | G2 | G2 | |
| 15/12 🕈 | 13/10 💙 | 3/11 | 24/11 🕈 | |
| G2 🚽 | G1 | G3 | G3 | |
| 15/12 | 10/11 🔻 | 3/11 🔻 | 24/11 💙 | |
| | G2 | G3 🔒 | G4 | |
| | 10/11 💙 | 10/11 | 24/11 🕇 | |
| | | G1 _ | G2 | |
| | | 22/12 | 22/12 | |

| YCCCART Site Survey | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---|---|--|
| Project – Goblin Coom | ibe farm | | | |
| Survey date | | 16 March 2017 | | |
| Report date | | 16 March 2017 | | |
| Type /Instrument | | Grad 601 | | |
| | | Pace :1.4m/s Lines/m : 1 Range:100nT Volume: High Sensors:2 | Grid size: 30m x30m Pattern : Zig Zag Samples/m:2 (grid 1 only on 26/3/15 as reference) Samples/m:4 (other grids) Audio: On Threshold:30nT Reject:50 Hz | |
| Location | | Goblin Coombe farm | | |
| Ref | | none | | |
| Site name | | Goblin Coombe farm- lower field behind house | | |
| Landowner | | Dave Ridley | | |
| Tenant | | | | |
| HER ref | | | | |
| Site type | | Open land | | |
| Description | | Grass land | | |
| Period | | | | |
| Geology | | | | |
| Land use | | Grazing | | |
| Survey team and cond | litions | | | |
| 16/03/2017 | Team | Pete Wright, Phillipa, Arthur Langley & David W, Ferdie | | |
| | Weather | Weather Mild, slightly overcast | | |



Position of quiet spot – E 345541 N 165249



| Project: - Goblin Combe | Farm |
|-------------------------|---|
| Survey date | 6 April to 4 May 2017 |
| Report date | 43 May 2017 |
| Type /Instrument | RM15 |
| Location | Goblin Combe Farm, Cleeve |
| Landowner | Mr David Ridley |
| Tenant | None |
| HFR ref | TBC |
| Site type | Grass |
| Description | |
| Period | Roman? |
| Geology | Kondin |
| Land use | |
| Survey team and conditi | ions |
| 6 April 2017 | Vince Russett, David Long, Graham Bahannon, John Wilcox. Pete Englsih, Chris Short, Liz Hales. Weather sunny and warm, no wind, slightly damp grass. |
| 13 April 2017 | Vince Russett, David Long, John Wilcox. Pete English, Liz Hales & David Walker Overcast, slightly damp grass. |
| 20 April 2017 | Vince Russett, David Long, John Wilcox, David Walker, Chris Short, Graham Bahannon, Robert Cleland. <i>Overcast, slightly damp grass.</i> |
| 27April 2017 | Vince Russett, David Long, Chris Short, Graham Bahannon, David Walker. <i>Sunny. Grass wet.</i> |
| 4 May 2017 | Vince Russett, David Long, Chris Short, Graham Bahannon, Liz Hales, Chris Short, John Walker, Arthur Langley. Overcast. Grass dry. |

| Survey area | | Notes | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|----------------|--|
| | | Size | Walk direction | |
| 6 April 2017 | Grids 1 to 3 Grid 2 part only | 20 x 20m | N | |
| 13 April 2017 | Grids 1 to 4 Grid 1 -17m wide | 20 x 20m | N | |
| 20 April 2017 | Grids 1 to 3 | 20 x 20m | N | |
| 27 April 2017 | Grids 1 & 2 | 20 x 20m | N | |
| 4 May 2017 | Grids 1 & 2 (part grids) Grid 3 (part grid) | 20 x 20m 20 x 20m | s | |



Grids 20 x 20m except as shown

G = 2.5m to centre of large wooden gate post & 0.3m to wire fence

F= 0.8m to fence and 8.2 m to end of trellise on fence