

Clevedon Court Car Park  
Clevedon  
Gradiometer survey  
2009

**YCCART 2010 / 7**

**North Somerset HER 47514**

**YATTON, CONGRESBURY CLAVERHAM AND CLEEVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH TEAM**

*General editor: Vince Russett*



*Clevedon Court from a 1922 Ward Lock guidebook to Clevedon.  
Image from Wikimedia Commons*

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## **1. Abstract**

*YCCCART has agreed with the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake a project over two years commencing May 2009 to*

*a) Establish the extent of the Congresbury Romano British pottery.*

*b) Undertake electronic surveys to establish additional features on Cadbury hill fort, Congresbury and its environs.*

*c) Enable the equipment to be used by Community Archaeology in North Somerset teams to identify new archaeological sites / additional features in North Somerset.*

*This survey provided an excellent learning opportunity for the survey team and also resulted in identification of a potential target site (building?) of interest to Mr David Fogden*

## **2. Acknowledgements**

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

This survey was carried out at the request of Mr David Fogden, Administrator of the house, and provided YCCCART with a good training opportunity. We are also most grateful to David for providing us with his results and allowing us to publish his drawings.

The authors are grateful for the hard work by the members of YCCCART in performing the survey.

## **3. 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 of the heritage of North Somerset.

## 4. Site location



*Fig 1. Site location*

*Location of the site*

The site lies 2.5km east of Clevedon within the grounds of Clevedon Court, in North Somerset. The site is centred on ST423716

## 5. Land use and geology

The area surveyed is used as a car park with a grass surface. It lies on the head deposits at the foot of the Carboniferous Limestone ridge of Clevedon Warren.

## **6. Historical & archaeological context**

Clevedon Court is an outstanding 14th-century manor house and 18th-century terraced garden. Archaeological watching briefs and geophysical surveys have identified and located previous elements of the landscape and gardens of the Court, as well as Roman material and burials from the garden. The Elton family opens and manages the property for the National Trust.

## **7. Survey objectives**

The survey was undertaken at the request of Mr David Fogden Administrator of the house, with the objective of identifying building features.

## **8. Methodology**

The survey was undertaken by a team from YCCART on 22 October 2009 using the Gradiometer 601 with the settings detailed in Appendix 1

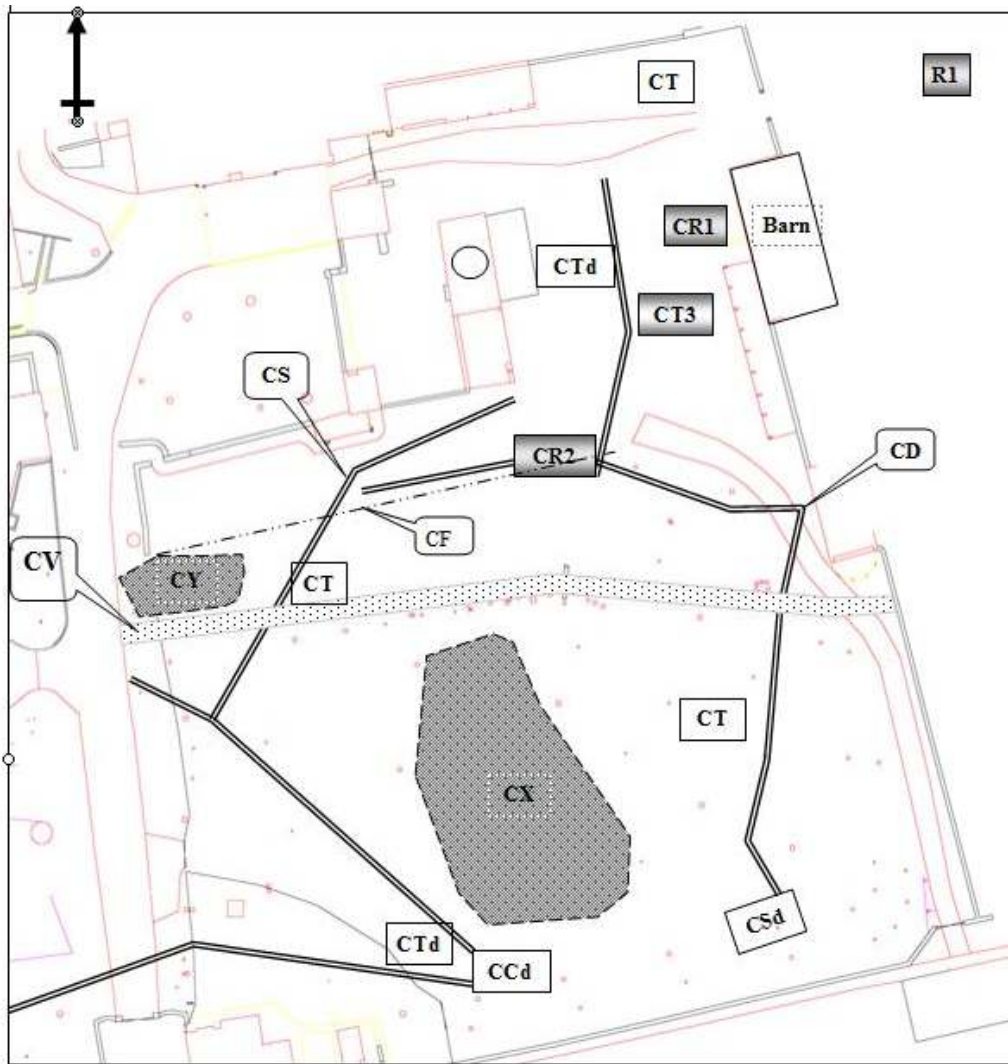
The completed survey was downloaded to an ArcheoSurveyor programme using the following filters

- 1) Colour - Red Green Blue 2
- 2) Band weight equaliser
- 3) Grad shade
- 4) Countours
- 5) Destriped Median Traverse – grids all
- 6) Despiked Threshold 1 Window size 3x3
- 7) Clip at 2.00SD

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2003

## 9. Results

The Car Park: a summary of findings, features and relevant works



Key:

### Works, Features and finds of C19th or later

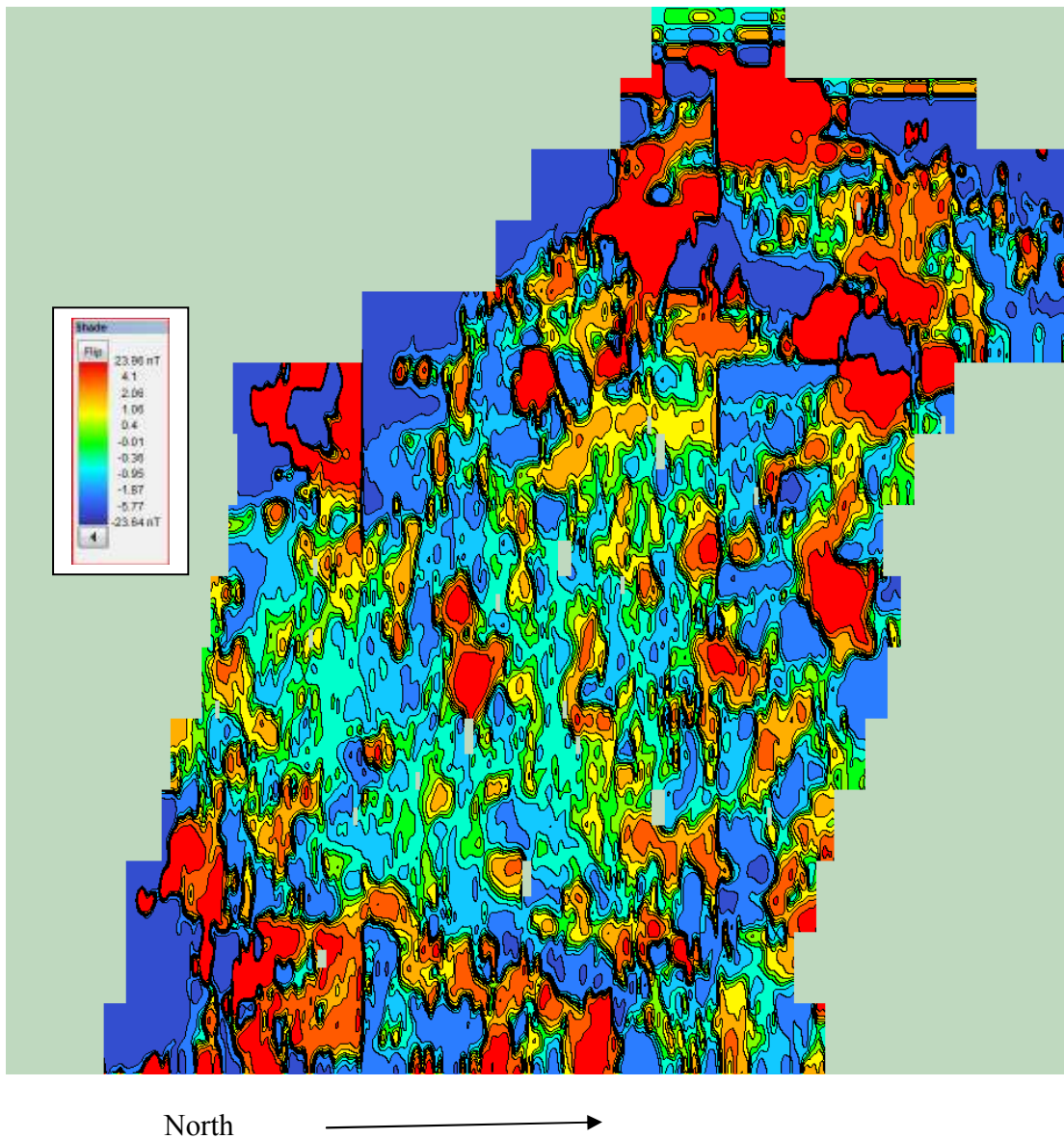
- CCd Sewage tank set into hole over 2m deep without any find (Talit 2008)
- CD Drainage trenches dug 500mm - 1000mm deep without any significant find (Talit 2009)
- CS Sewage trenches 500mm - 1000mm deep without significant finds (Talit 2008)
- CSd Soakaway dug over 1m deep without any find (Talit 2009)
- CT Test pit approx 1m deep without any find (Papworth 2006)
- CTd Test pit over 1m deep without any find (Papworth 2006)
- CV Victorian track to garden.

### Works, Features and finds of pre-C19th or undated

- CF Evidence (resistivity) of field boundary shown in Tithe Map
- CR1 Romano-British pottery in test pit at less than 500mm (Papworth, 2006)
- CR2 Romano-British pottery above Victorian soakaway (Talit 2009)
- CT3 Test pit approx 1m deep with uncertain finds, perhaps early but undatable (Papworth 2006)
- CX Area containing complex high resistivity features deeper than 1000mm
- CY Area containing some high resistivity features deeper than 1000mm

*Fig 2. Feature and finds map supplied by Mr D Fogden*

Mr David Fogden has identified a feature, CX in fig 2 above, which is probably a building demolished well before 1730. Parts of it are buried at such a depth that it might be a much earlier structure.



*Fig 3. Shade view.*

The YCCART results at Fig 3 above have been interpreted by Mr David Fogden as follows and in Fig 4 below.

"At first sight, the survey showed little of interest. However, closer examination revealed that the central strong return might be related to feature CX."

Annotated gradiometer survey of lower car park,



Fig 4. Mr D Fogden's interpretation of the YCCART survey.



## **10. Recommendations for future work.**

To be determined by David Fogden.

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**Date:** 28 February 2010

## 11. Appendices

### Appendix 1 –Site survey record

YCCART Site Survey Project – Clevedon Court Lower Car Park						
Survey date		22nd October 2009				
Report date		22nd October 2009				
Type /Instrument		Grad 601				
		Pace :1.5m/s Lines/m : 1 Range:100nT Volume: High Sensors:2		Grid size: 20m x20m Pattern : Zig Zag Samples/m:4 Audio: On Threshold:1nT Reject:50 Hz		
Location		Clevedon Court,				
Ref		none				
Site name		Lower Car park				
Landowner		National Trust				
Tenant		none				
HER ref		North Somerset HER 47514				
Site type		Open field				
Description		Car park				
Period		unknown				
Geology		limestone				
Land use		Car park				
Survey team		David Fogden (NT), Peter Wright, Peter English, Mike Fox & Ian Morton				
Survey area		notes		readings		
		<b>size</b>	walk direction	max	min	mean
Grid ref #	1	20 x20m square	N to S	+12.2	-13.6	+0.9
	2	Mirror and return	N to S	+51.1	-99.6	-6.0
	3	20 x20m square	N to S	+72.7	-50.0	-0.1
	4	Mirror and return	N to S	+100.0	-100.0	-12.2
	5	Mirror and return	N to S	+100.0	-100.0	-22.9
	6	Mirror and return	S to N	+17.2	-9.2	+1.0
	7	Mirror and return	S to N	+26.6	-68.9	+0.6
	8	Mirror and	S to N	+100.0	-100.0	-23.2

		return		0		
	Grids 1 & 3 repeated as 9 & 10 using interrupt process to navigate trees.					
	9	20 x20m square	S to N	+17.3	-14.3	+0.4
	10	20 x20m square	S to N	+51.8	-36.9	+1.0
	This survey complete					
Summary		Weather: sunshine and heavy showers				
Ian Morton 22/10/2009		Version 1 Version 2 24 Oct 2009 Direction of walk for grids 9 & 10 Corrected				

Setting out details

