

**YCCCART 2012/Y14  
North Somerset HER 2012/283**

**Iwood –Evaluation excavation in Mr Collins 2 Field.  
June 2012.**

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

*General Editor: Vince Russett*



*Watching the man with the trowel.*

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## **Abstract**

*In 2010 YCCCART carried out a gradiometry survey of a field in Iwood, Congresbury. This was part of a continuing project to investigate the archaeology of Cadbury Hill Fort and its environs. The survey revealed linear anomalies which were considered worthy of future investigation.*

*This report describes the results of a limited evaluation across one of these anomalies which revealed a feature thought to be a post hole on the line of an enclosure boundary. No dating evidence was found in context but a shard of Iron Age pottery was discovered in the spoil heap.*

## **Acknowledgements**

This excavation was undertaken with the help of a Heritage Lottery Grant which enabled YCCCART to purchase a Bartington 601 Gradiometer and Geoscan RM 15 Resistivity meter.

The excavation would not have taken place without the authorisation and assistance of the landowner Mr A Collins and Mr E Chaplin, excavator operator.

The authors are also grateful for the hard work by the members of YCCCART in performing and recording the excavation and to Vince Russett for providing professional advice and 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, better understanding and management, of the heritage of North Somerset.

## Site location

The site lies south-east of Iwood farm, on the edge of the parish of Congresbury, at ST45196322. See below for GPS location of excavation.

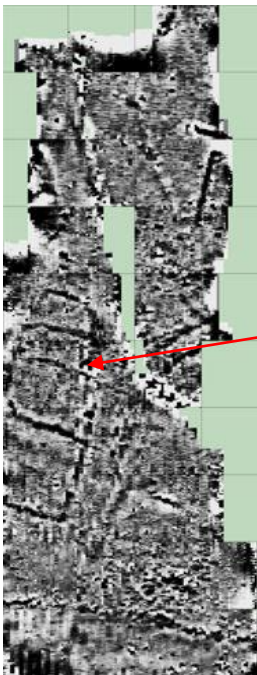


Fig: 1 Field location and trench location in relation to 2012 gradiometry result



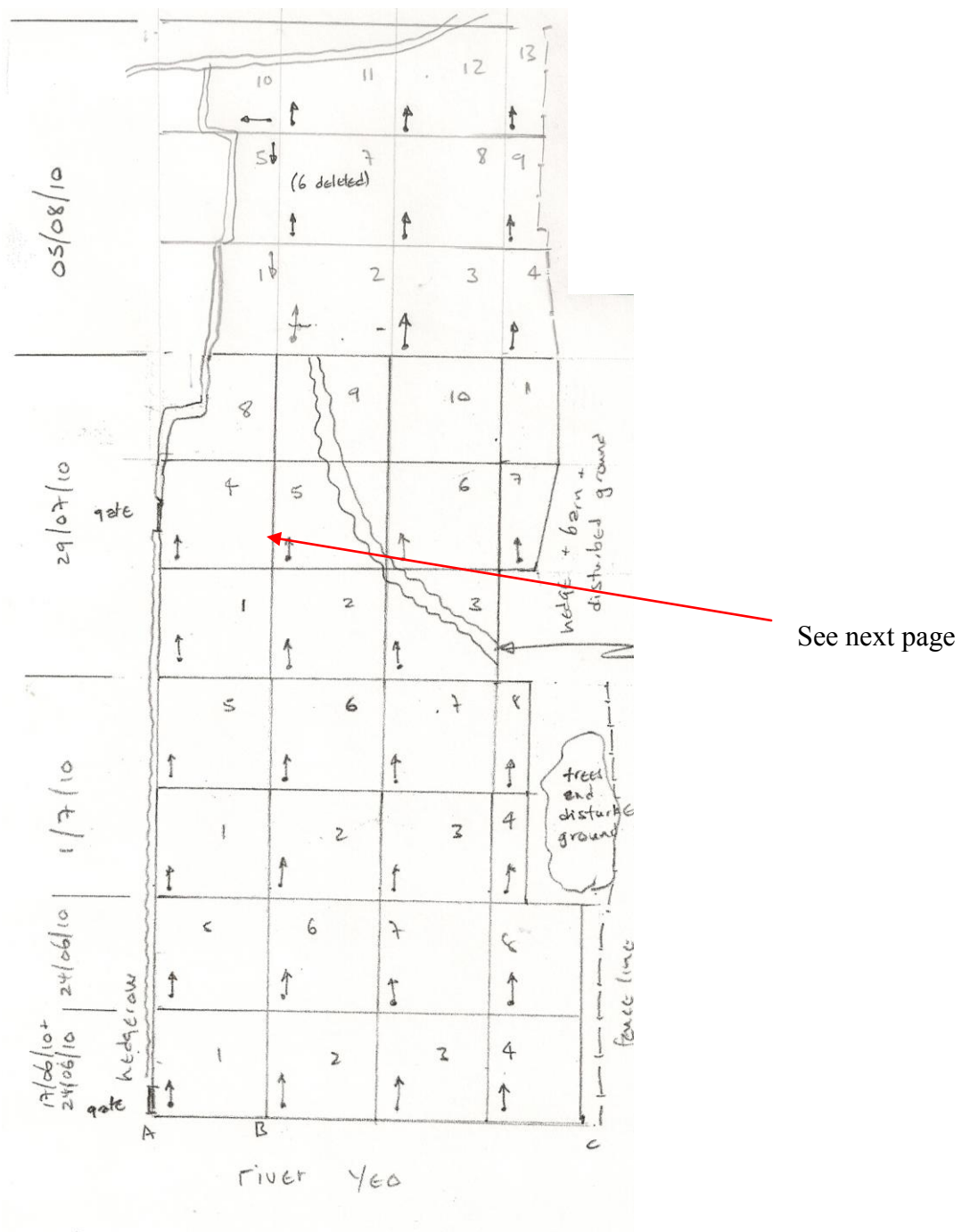
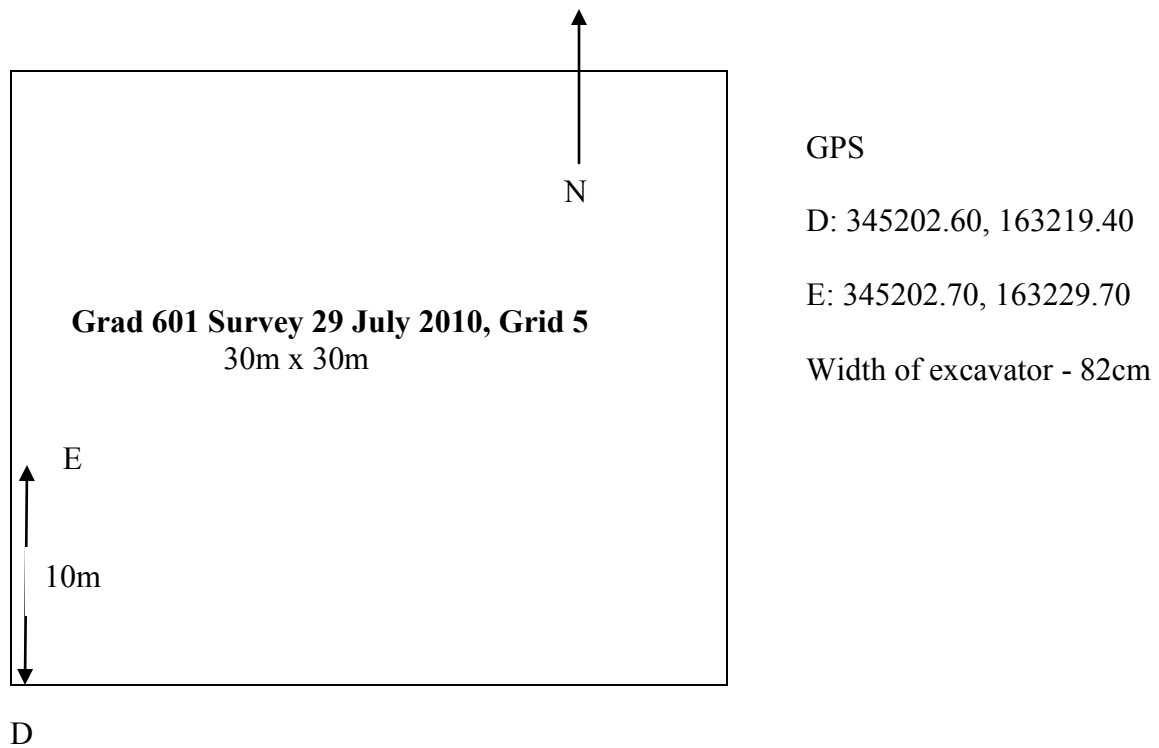


Fig 2: 2012 gradiometer grid layout. The location of the trench is indicated by the red arrow



*Fig 3: Location of trench in relation to relevant 2012 gradiometer grid.*

The trench was dug about 41cm either side along the line E to D as per Fig 3 above

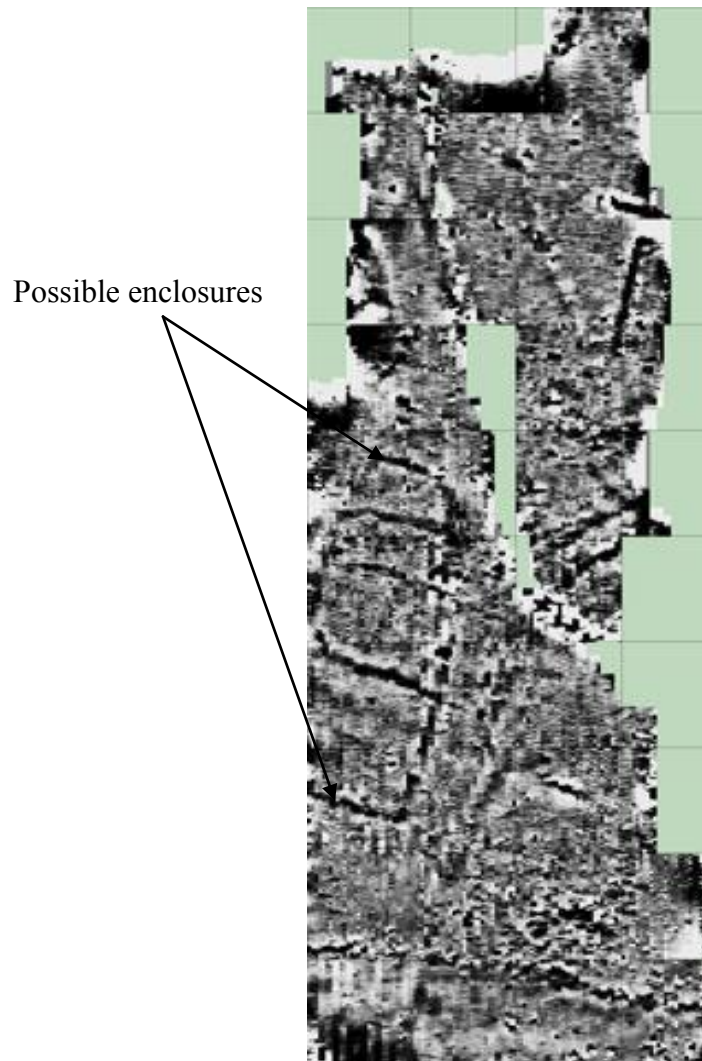
### **Land use and geology**

The fields are used for grazing cattle and sheep.

The north end of the field lies on Keuper Marl, which is overlain in the southern part by the alluvial clays of the Northmarsh. The current course of the Yeo runs along the southern boundary of the field.

## Historical & archaeological context

Please see the report YCCCART 2010 /Y16 on the YCCCART web site, under Congresbury/Iwood. This report provides the historical and archaeological context and shows that the results of a 2010 gradiometer survey which revealed what appears to be large enclosures as shown in Fig 4 below.



*Fig 4: 2012 gradiometer result showing enclosures*

## **Excavation Objectives**

- 1) The excavation was undertaken on 26 June 2012 to attempt to clarify the nature of the anomalies (enclosures?) revealed by the gradiometer survey of July 2010.
- 2) To obtain dating evidence for these apparent enclosures.
- 3) To confirm that the interpretation of gradiometer results is correct.
- 4) To establish if it was possible to accurately locate features in gradiometer results.

## **Methodology**

The trench was positioned 10m long the side of the grid line 29 July 2010 Grid 5, as per Fig 3 above

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2007.

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



## Results

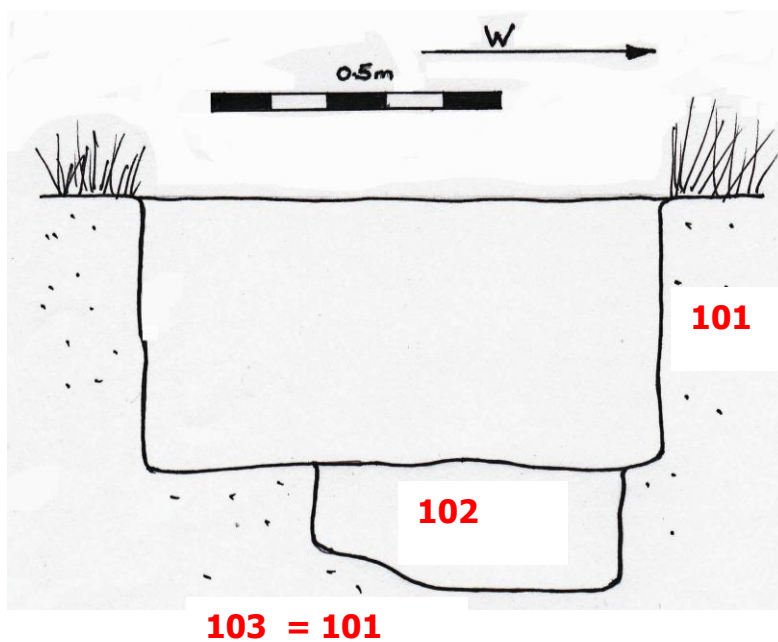


Fig 5: Section of Excavation looking south. Context indicated by red numbers.

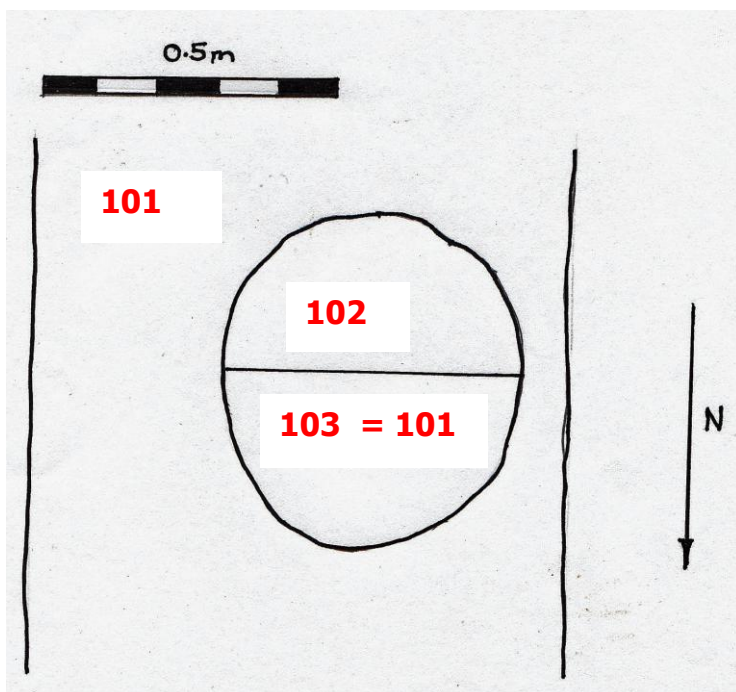


Fig 6: Plan of excavation. Context numbers indicated by red numbers.

The excavation revealed a post hole on the line of an apparent enclosure identified by the gradiometry survey. This post hole formed a clay plug (Context 102) of approximately 500mm diameter in an area of deep loam (Context 101). The section taken through the feature revealed the plug to be sitting on further loam (Context 103). At the bottom of the clay layer (Depth approximately 0.65m) was a layer of organic black material. All indications suggest a large post hole.

Only one find was discovered, a shard of Iron Age pottery from the spoil heap.



*Fig 7: Shard of Iron Age pottery found on spoil heap*



Above top left is a photo showing an aerial view of the clay plug and below it the section containing organic material. The photo to the right shows the size of the trench and depth of the feature which most probably is the lower part of a post hole. Because of the depth of plough soil, it was not possible to determine the horizon from which the post hole had been originally cut.

This post-hole (if originally sufficiently deep) could have held a sizeable post, perhaps some metres in height. With only one post-hole, it is impossible to determine its use. If prehistoric, it could be part of a palisaded enclosure. Since it does not fall on any recorded or expected field boundary, it seems unlikely to be modern in date. The response to gradiometry, producing a linear feature, implies some other structure along with the post-hole, and this needs to be tested by further evaluation.

## **Conclusions**

The excavation revealed a feature thought to be a post hole on the line of the apparent enclosure shown in the gradiometer results.

Although a shard of Iron Age pottery was found it was not in context, so dating the likely post hole was not possible.

The presence and size of the post hole and no evidence of stone walls supports the conclusion that the features shown in Fig 4 above are indeed large enclosures.

This excavation has proved that the team are able to accurately record the position of features using the Bartington 601 gradiometer.

## **Recommendations for further work**

Further excavation along another enclosure linear indication may provide dating and other evidence.

Resistivity surveys should be completed within the field and related to the gradiometer results.

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**Date:** July 2012