

**YCCCART 2016 / Y1  
North Somerset HER 2016/021**

**Gradiometry Survey at Congresbury  
(Congresbury cricket pitch)**

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RESEARCH TEAM (YCCCART)**

*General Editor: Vince Russett*



*A poor day for batting on the cricket pitch*

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## Abstract

*YCCCART was asked by Congresbury Cricket Club to identify service pipes running across the cricket pitch. Several service pipes were identified together with two high level responses which could indicate potential archaeology.*

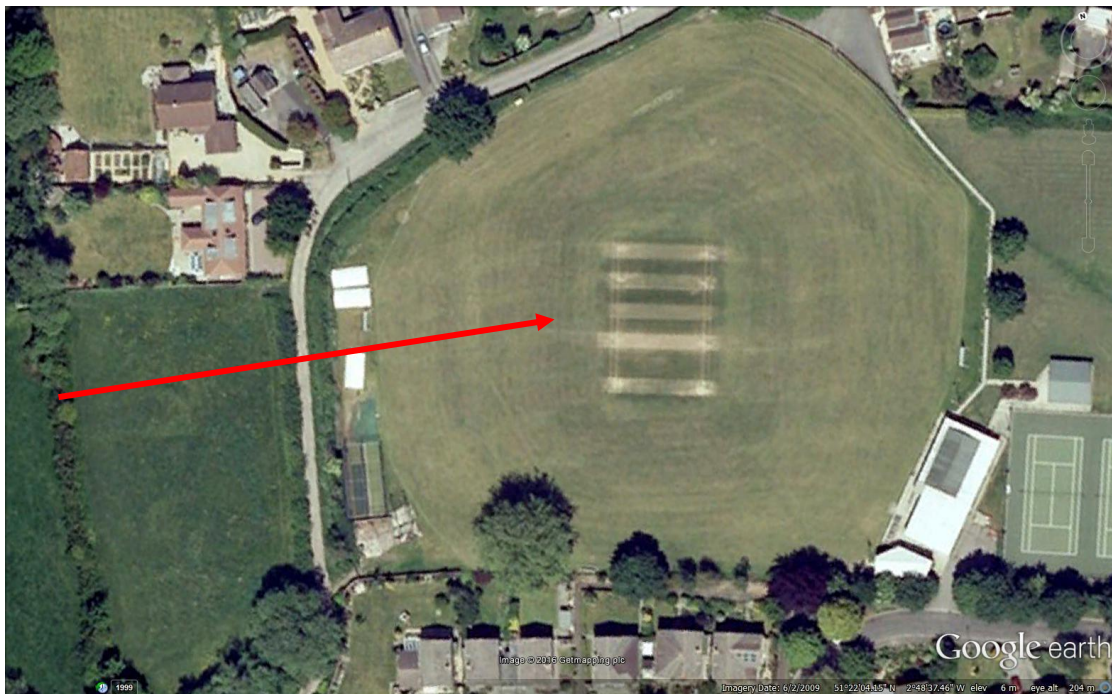
## Acknowledgements

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 Congresbury Cricket Club.

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

## Site Location



*Fig 1: Site location indicated by the red arrow.*

The cricket pitch is in the south of the village of Congresbury.

## Land use and geology

The field is used to play cricket and can be viewed from the public footpath running beside the cricket pavilion.

Geology is the Murcia Mudstone group – Mudstone and Halite stone

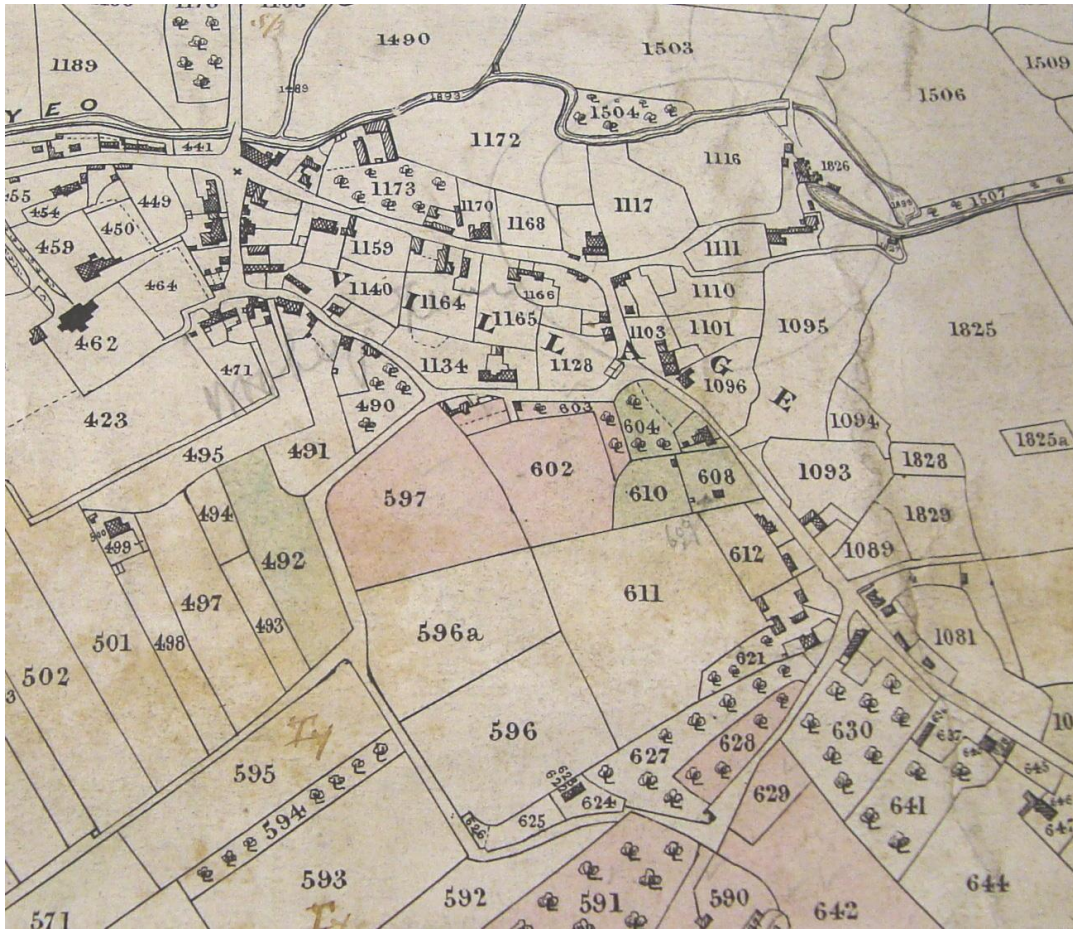
## Historical & archaeological context



Fig 2: De Wilstar map of 1739. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office. Reference 33041/BMC/4/PL1/2

The area surveyed, indicated by the red arrow, belonged at this time to James Jones. Please note the map is upside down with south at the top.





*Fig 2: 1839 Map. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9. The surveyed field is number 597 on the map.*

The Tithe apportionment record, relating to the 1839 map above, shows the following:

Number		Owner	Occupier	Description
<b>597</b>		<b>Robert Beakes Simmons Esq</b>	<b>Ann Burdge</b>	<b>Pasture called Harts</b>
602		Robert Beakes Simmons Esq	George Burdge	Pasture called Paul's Causeway Ground Harts
603		Robert Beakes Simmons Esq	Ann Burdge	Orchard

## **Survey objectives**

The survey was undertaken in order to identify service pipes and any archaeological features.

## **Methodology**

The survey of field was undertaken in January 2016 by a teams from YCCCART, using a Bartington 601 gradiometer, with settings as per the site record in the Appendix.

The completed survey was downloaded to a TerraSurveyor program.

TerraSurveyor composites were adjusted using the following filters:

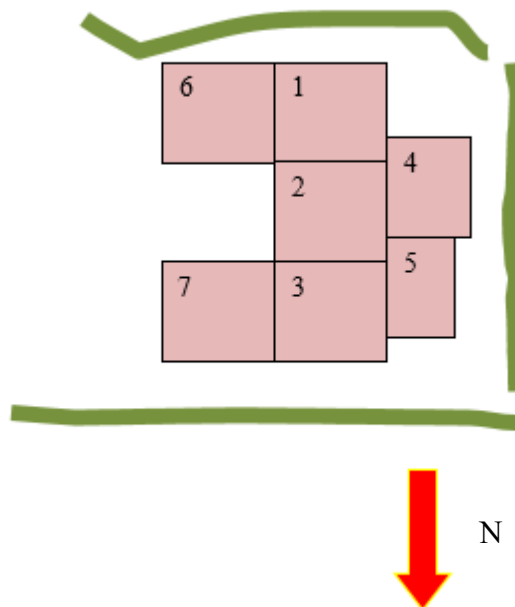
Standard settings

- 1) Colour - Red Blue Green 2
- 2) Band weight equaliser
- 3) Grad shade
- 4) Despiked
- 5) Destriped
- 6) Clip SD2

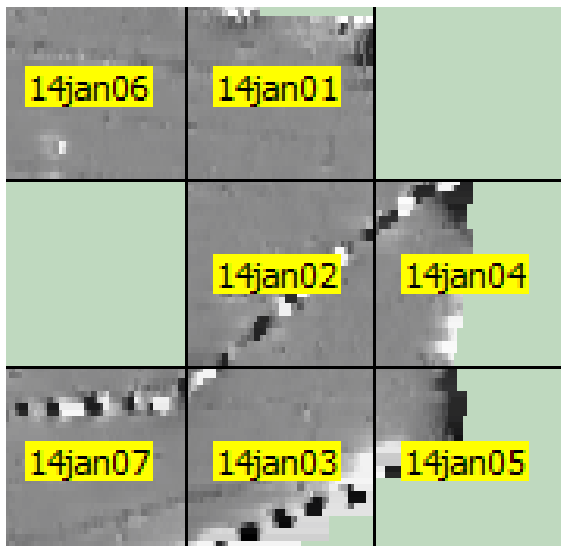
The report was written in Microsoft Word 2016.

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

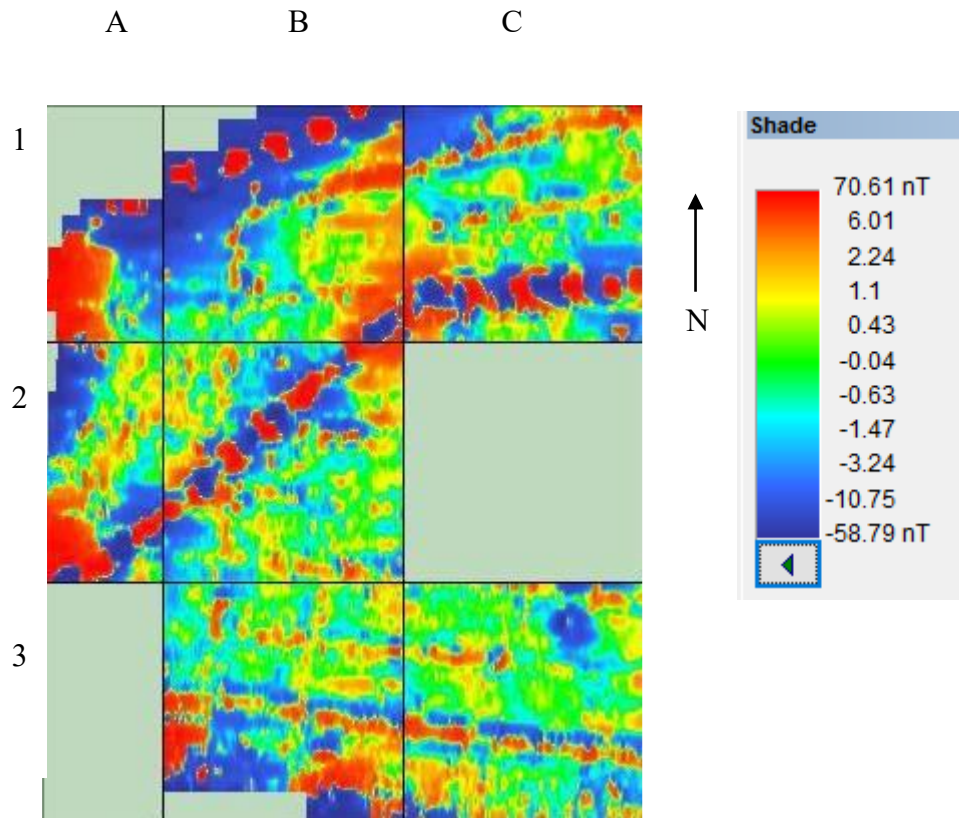
## Results



*Fig 3: Grid lay out*



*Fig 4: TerraSurveyor grids.*



*Fig 5: TerraSurveyor shade view colour image. High readings are red.*

The results shown in Fig 5 above show:

#### Probable non-archaeology

- The trail of red dots blobs along the northern edge (top of grids 1A & 1B) - clearly a large service trench.
- A second big pipeline runs in from top right, bends at the corner of the cricket square, and exits left (grids 1C, 2B & 2A)
- Several red/yellow responses (e.g. in bottom right grid 2B), fanning out from west to east, are continued in several cases by fine features visible on the Google Earth photo (Fig 1) These are clearly the 'drainage' features for the playing field, in this case using pre-existing grypes.
- A service (drain) line across the centre of grids 3B & 3C.

and

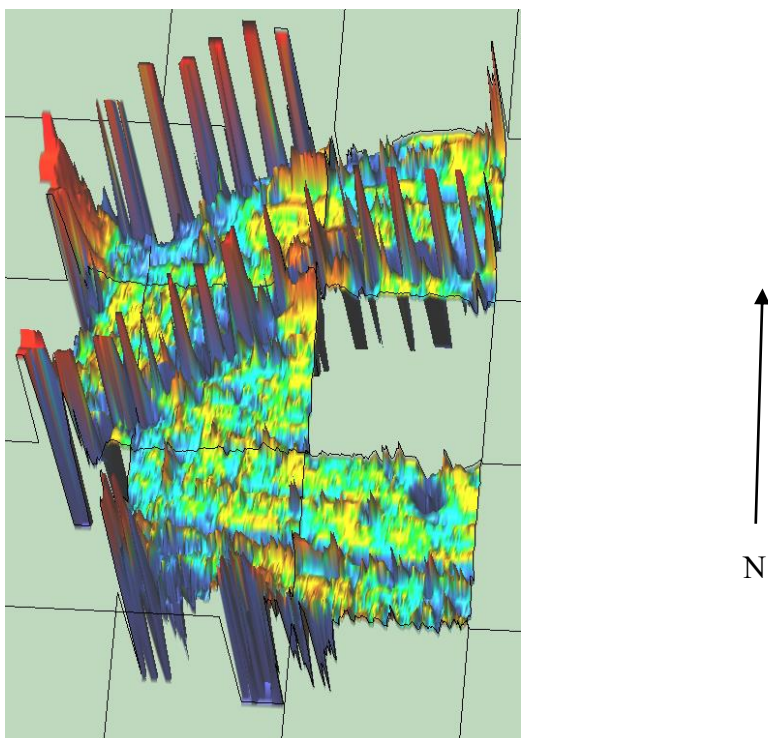
#### Potential archaeological features

- The first is a fairly high strong response (red and yellow) that enters at top right (1C), runs parallel to Dolemoor Lane, then turns through a smooth curve almost



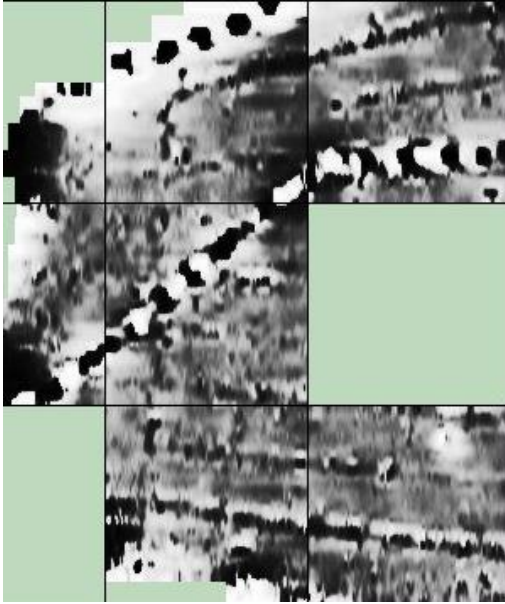
opposite 34, Dolemoor Lane (Grid 1B), and heads for the tree on the southern boundary at ST43666346 (3B)

- There is another higher response in the lower left grid (3B), joining three of the grypes, and perhaps having a common origin.



*Fig 6: TerraSurveyor axonometric colour image. High readings are red.*

The service lines are clearly shown by the large blue and red spikes in the 3d image at Fig 6 above.



*Fig 7: TerraSurveyor shade view black & white image (right). High readings are black.*

The black and white image at Fig 7 above again clearly shows the anomalies recorded earlier.

**Recommendations**

No further action.

**References**

1739 De Wilstar Map

*BRO 33041/BMC/4/PL1/2* (Bristol Record Office)

Congresbury Tithe Map

*BRO 37959/9* (Bristol Record Office)

**Author:** Chris Short

**Date:** February 2016

## Appendix

### Site Record

YCCCAT Site Survey		
Project – Congresbury Cricket ground		
Survey date	14 Jan 2016	
Report date	14 Jan 2016	
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:2 (grid 1 only on 26/3/15 as reference) Samples/m:4 (other grids) Audio: On Threshold:30nT Reject:50 Hz
Location	Congresbury Cricket ground	
Ref	none	
Site name	Congresbury Cricket ground	
Landowner		
Tenant		
HER ref		
Site type	Open land	
Description	Grass cricket outfield	
Period		
Geology		
Land use	Cricket	
Survey team and conditions		
14/1/2016	Team	Pete Wright, Ian, Ferdie, Arthur Langley, Anne D
	Weather	Cool bright.



Survey area		notes		readings		
Date	Grid number	size	walk direction	max	min	mean
14/1/2016		Setting out base line and grids for whole field				
	1	30 x 30 M & R Tree at 7 m	West	+97.4	-100	+1.3
	2	30 x 30	West	+100	-100	+2.5
	3	30 x 30 M & R	West	+100	-100	-9.9
	4	30 x 30 M & R	West	+100	-100	+1.5
	5	30 x 30 M & R	West	+100	-100	+3.2
	6	30 x 30	West	+100	-65.6	+3.5
	7	30 x 30	West	+99.5	-100	+1.8

Grids 1 -7  
14/1/16  
All grids surveyed West

