

YCCCART 2017/ Y9

Gradiometry Survey off Silver Street, Congresbury

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



We are out in all weathers

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Abstract

YCCCART has a project to establish the extent of the Congresbury Roman pottery kilns. A gradiometry survey in a paddock to the south of Congresbury has revealed a possible Romano British kiln.

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.

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 the landowner, Mr C Edwards.

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 star.

The surveyed paddock lies at ST43696292, on the southern side of Silver Street, to the south of Congresbury. GPS is provided in the Appendix.

The field is privately owned, but can be viewed from the adjacent lane.

Land use and geology

The paddock is currently used for grazing.

The geology of the site is the Mercia Mudstone Group, overlain with a thin layer of first terrace alluvium.

Historical & archaeological context



Fig 2: Congresbury Tithe Map 1840 (Courtesy of the South West Heritage Trust. The map is held at the Somerset Heritage Centre. ref D\D/Rt/M/317). The surveyed field is 671 on the map.

The Tithe apportionment record, relating to the 1839 map above, shows the field number 671 as being owned by the Sir Abraham Elton Bart and occupied by Thomas Wall. It is described as an orchard. It was also an orchard where depicted on the deWiltstar map of Congresbury in 1736-9.

It is part of the complex attached to the historical Silver Street Farm, itself known to be of medieval origins at least, since pottery of C12 to C14 has been recovered from its garden (Broomhead, notes in North Somerset HER).

The small roadside building shown in the plot on Fig 2 had disappeared by 1885 (OS plan).

Survey objectives

The survey was undertaken as part of a larger project to investigate the extent of the Congresbury Romano - British pottery kilns.

Methodology

The survey of field was undertaken in May and June 2017 by 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 / Libre Office 5.3.

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

Results

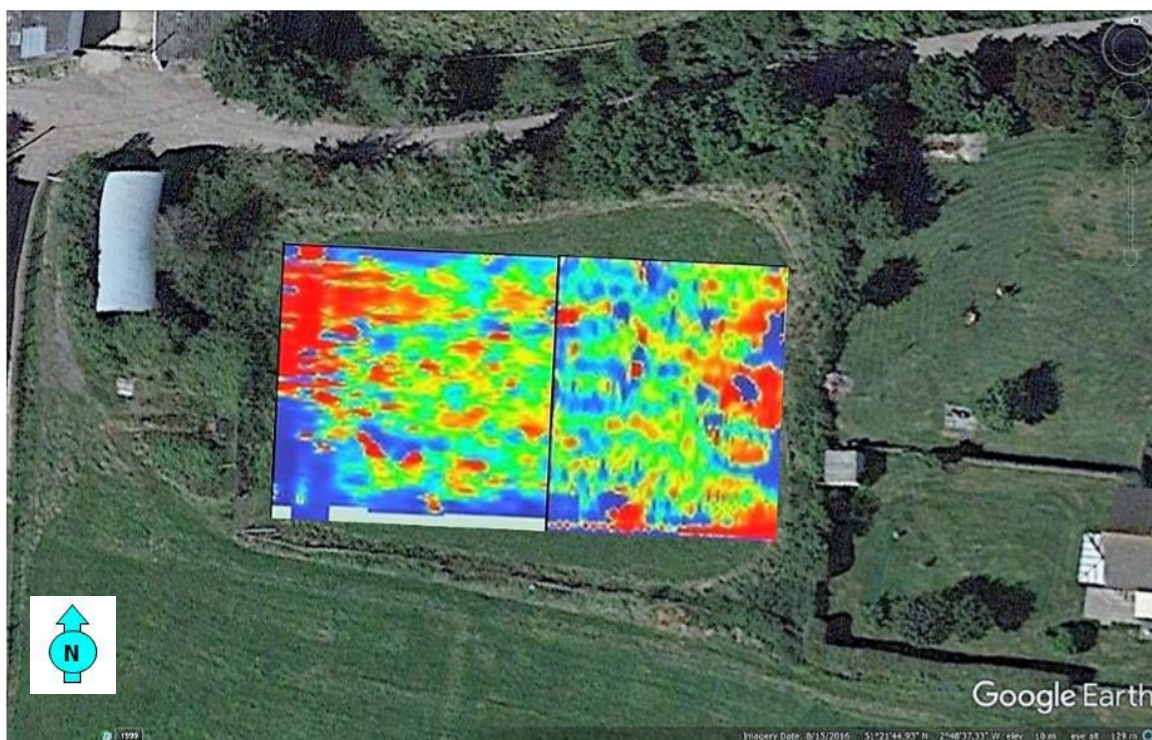
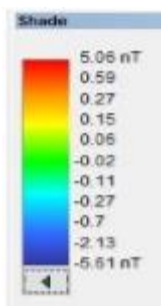
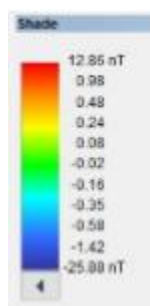


Fig 3: Results TerraSurveyor shade colour image on Google Earth Map. High readings are red.



Left hand grid



Right hand grid

High readings on the extreme east and west of the results are caused by metal fences.

Several dipole responses in the results (see also Fig 4 & 5 below) could be the result of farming debris or bonfires. The largest dipole, illustrated clearly in fig 4 as a large isolated peak, could possibly result from intense burning, and be a potential kiln.

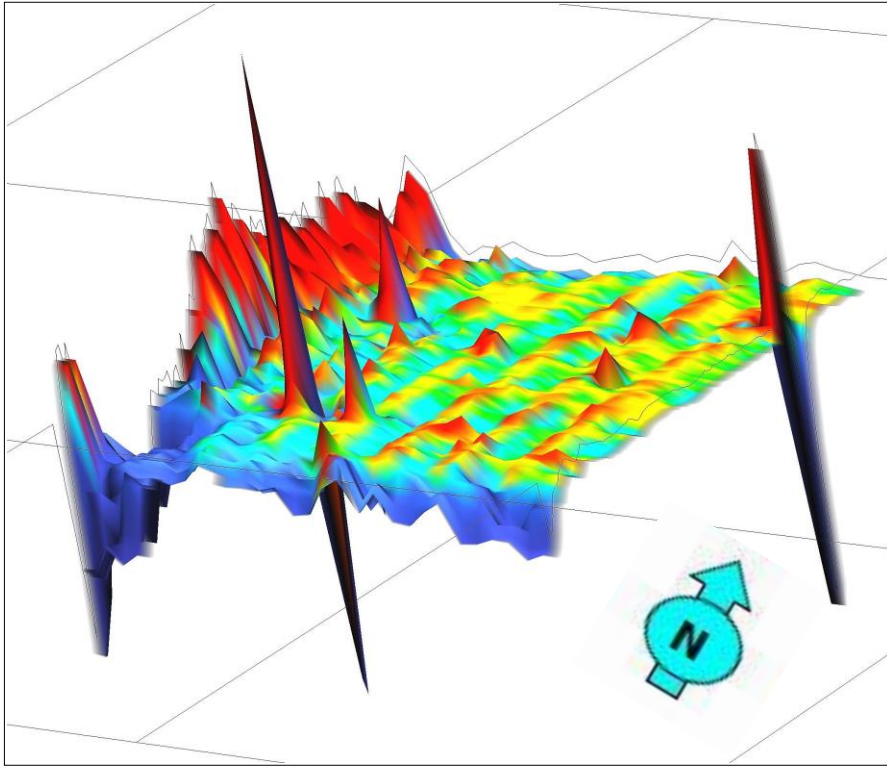


Fig 4: TerraSurveyor axonometric colour image of left grid. High readings are red.

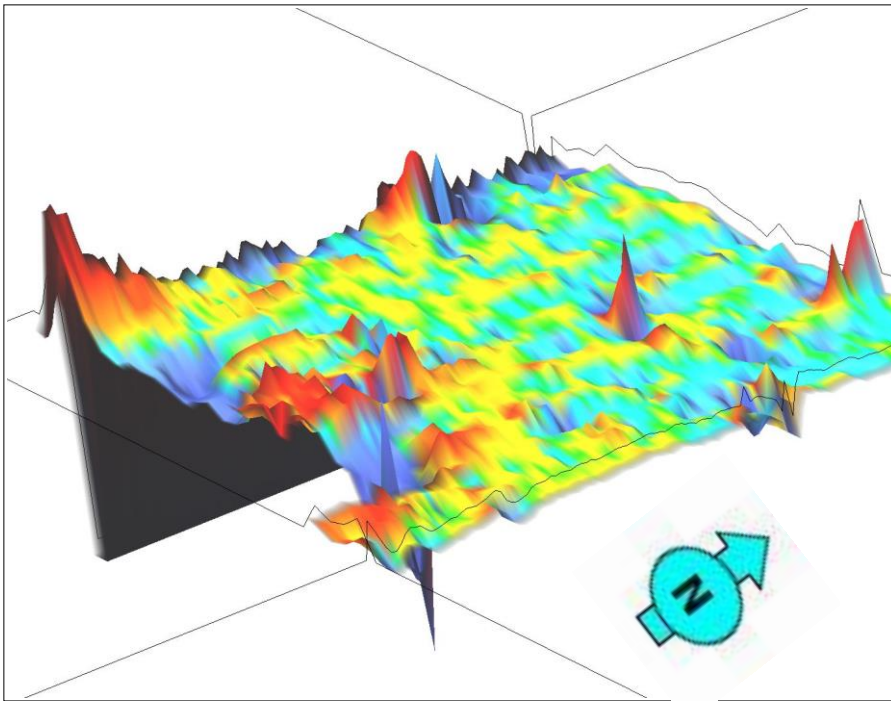


Fig 5: TerraSurveyor axonometric colour image of right grid. High readings are red.

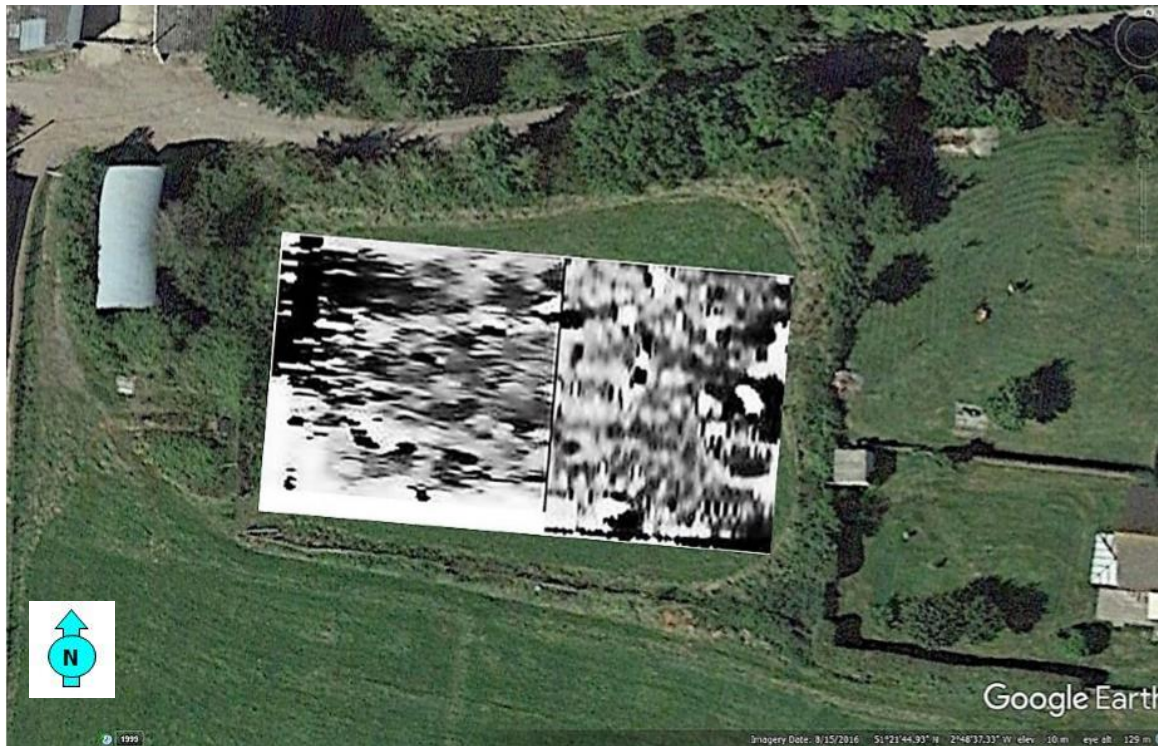


Fig 6: TerraSurveyor shade view black & white image. High readings are black

The black and white image, in Fig 6, shows no additional anomalies.

Recommendations

The largest dipole effect may be worthy of further investigation, as recent investigation of a Congresbury pottery kiln elsewhere has shown that a majority of the structure can survive normal agricultural activity.

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Date: September 2017

Appendix

Site Record

YCCCART Site Survey Project – Colin Edwards paddock		
Survey date	01 June 2017	
Report date	01 June 2017	
Type /Instrument	Grad 601	
	Pace :1.2m/s Lines/m : 1 Range:100nT Volume: High Sensors:2	Grid size: 30m x30m Pattern : Zig Zag Samples/m:2 Samples/m:4 (other grids) Audio: On Threshold:30nT Reject:50 Hz
Location	Silver Street, Congresbury	
Ref	none	
Site name	Colin Edwards paddock	
Colin Edwards	Colin Edwards	
Tenant		
HER ref		
Site type	Grass	
Description	Small paddock surrounded by hedges	
Period		
Geology		
Land use	Grazing	
Survey team and conditions		
18/05/2017	Team	Ferdie, Arthur Langley, Janet & Phillipa
	Weather	Bright, sunny and quite warm
01/06/2017	Team	Ferdie, Arthur Langley, Janet & Phillipa
	Weather	Drv. sunny and quite warm. but wet underfoot

Survey area		notes		readings		
Date	Grid number	size	walk direction	max	min	mean
18/05/2017		Setting out base line and grids for base line and first two rows				
	1	30 x 30	E	+36.9	-60.8	-2.6
	2	Partial M & R	E	+19.3	-15.2	-1.7
	1	30 x 30	E	+28.6	-60.1	-1.6
	2	Ignore all data – surveying error				
1/6/2017	3	Partial M & R Repeat of grid 1 stopping before wire fence	S	+43.8	-36.6	-0.5

01/06/2017 Grid 1 resurveyed East and then surveyed South

Position B on base line – 3.2 from corner post and 3.1m from fence

Position of quiet spot – 13.020m from post with white spot and 19.40m from gate latch E343659.89 N162904.95

[illegible]