

**YCCCART 2015 / Y 7
North Somerset HER 2015/ 55
Gradiometry Survey at Congresbury
(Mr P Edwards Field 1)**

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RESEARCH TEAM (YCCCART)**

General Editor: Vince Russett



The view from the field.

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Abstract

YCCCART has a project to establish the extent of the Congresbury Roman kiln sites. A gradiometry survey has revealed such a possible kiln.

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 P 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.

Introduction

YCCCART is one of a number of Community Archaeology teams across North Somerset, supported by the North Somerset Development Management Team.

The objective of the Community Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) project is to undertake archaeological fieldwork to enable a better understanding and management of the heritage of the area while recording the activities and locations of the research carried out.

Site Location



Fig 1: Site location indicated by the red arrow.

The field is privately owned.

Land use and geology

The field is used for grazing.

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 of the current field is indicated on the 1739 map in Fig 2 above by the red arrow.

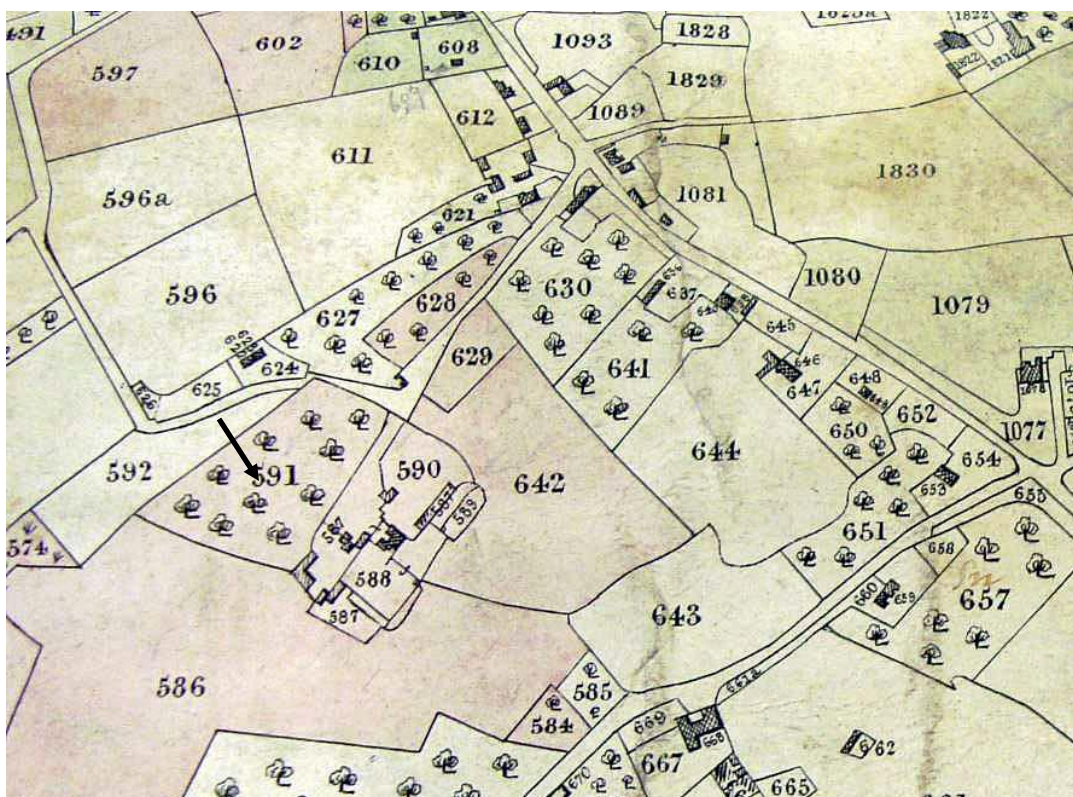


Fig 3: 1839 Map. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9. The surveyed field is 591 on the map.

The Tithe apportionment record, relating to the 1839 map above, shows the field numbers as follows:

Number	Owner	Occupier	Name	Type
587	Robert Beakes Simmons Esq	John Ford	Farm house, outbuildings and barton	
588	Robert Beakes Simmons Esq	John Ford	Garden	
589	Robert Beakes Simmons Esq	John Ford	Plantation	
590	Robert Beakes Simmons Esq	John Ford	The Barbary	Pasture
591	Robert Beakes Simmons Esq	John Ford	Orchard	Orchard
642	Robert Beakes Simmons Esq	John Ford	The Five Acres Home Ground	Pasture
586	Robert Beakes Simmons Esq	John Ford	Home Ground	Pasture

Survey objectives

The survey was undertaken in order to continue to investigate the extent of the Congresbury Romano British pottery kiln field.

Methodology

The survey of field was undertaken during May 2015 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 2013.

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

Results

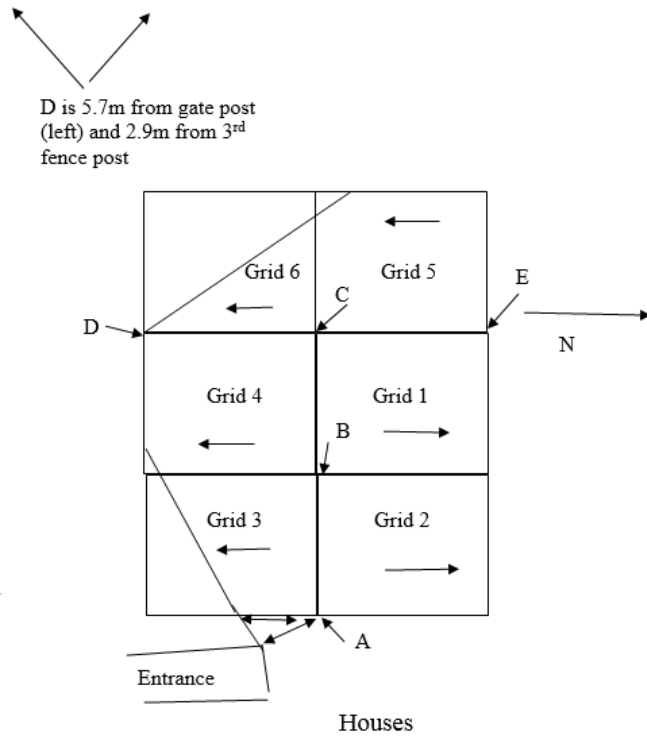


Fig 4: Grid lay out

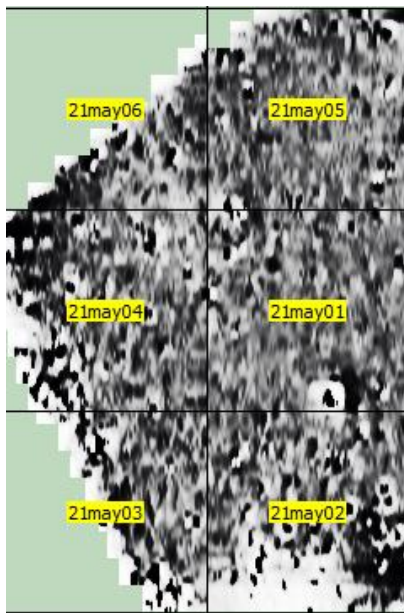


Fig 5: TerraSurveyor grids.

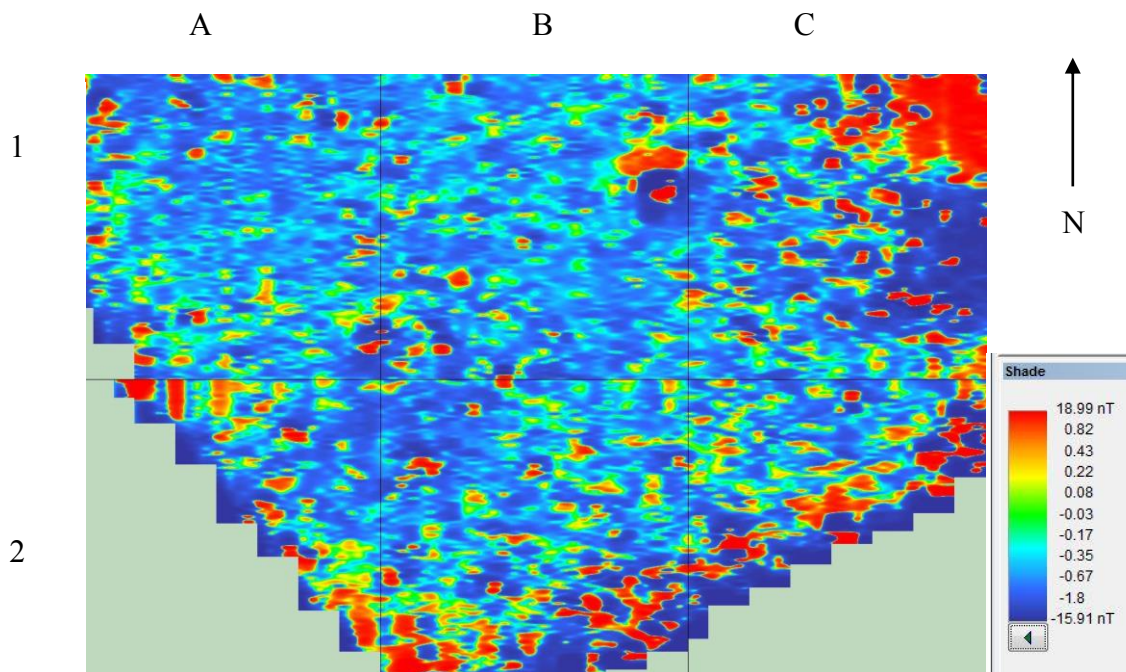


Fig 6: TerraSurveyor shade view colour image. High readings are red.

In Fig 6 above the right hand side of grid 1B contains a red (high) anomaly surrounded by a blue (low) anomaly. Roman pottery kiln sites are generally indicated in gradiometry surveys by strong negative (blue) and positive (red) peaks immediately adjacent to each other.

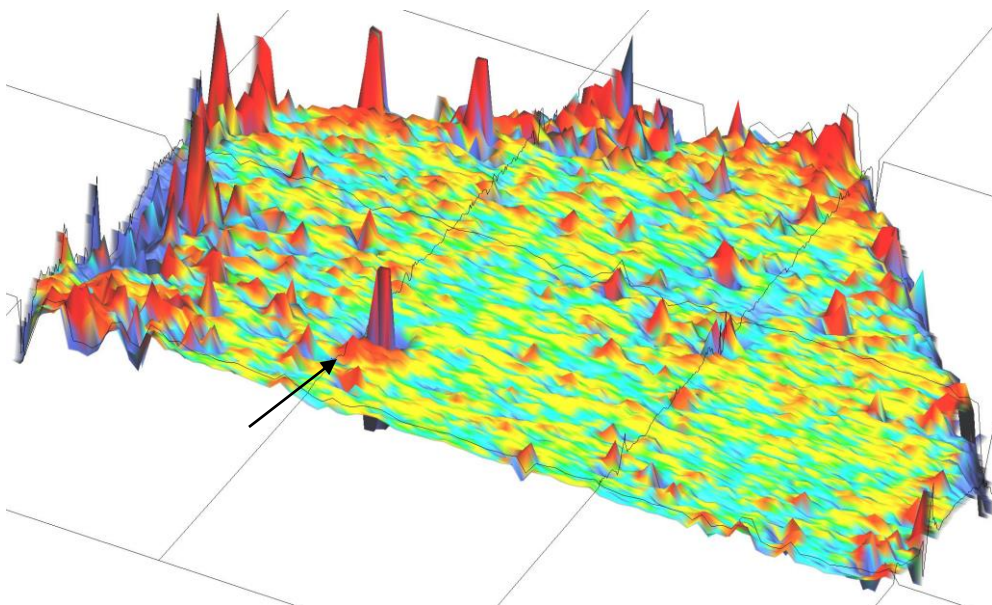


Fig 7: TerraSurveyor axonometric colour image. High readings are red.

The peak, is clearly shown on the 3d image at Fig 7 above (indicated by arrow).

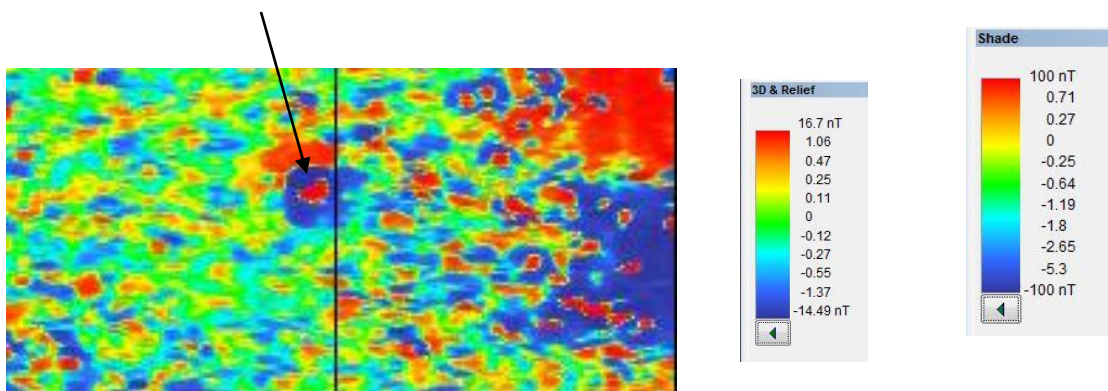


Fig 8: TerraSurveyor shade view of grids 1B and 1C above. Colour image. High readings are red. The charts to the right show first right the filtered readings and far right the unfiltered readings

The anomaly is indicated by the arrow in grid 8 above and grid 9 below. Could this be a Romano British kiln or simply result from agricultural activity?

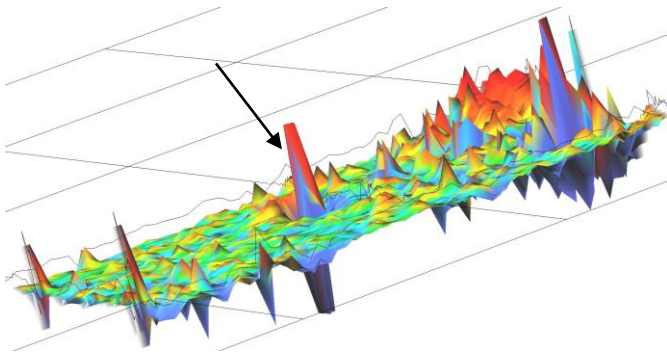


Fig 9: TerraSurveyor axonometric colour image. High readings are red.

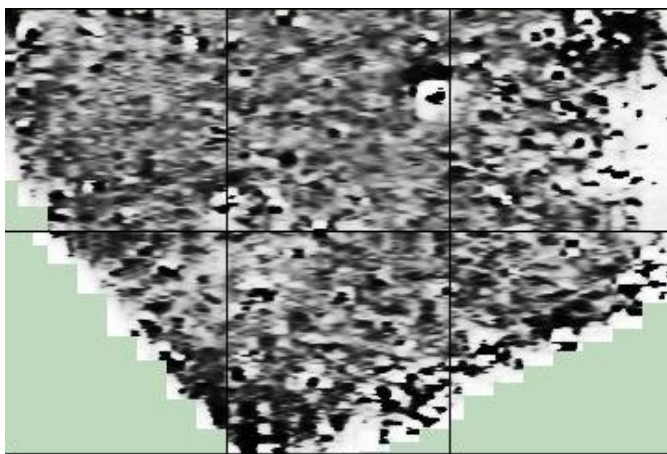


Fig 10: TerraSurveyor shade view black and white image. High readings are black.

The black and white image at Fig 8 above shows no obvious additional features

Recommendations

None as yet, but review at the end of the pottery kiln project.

References

Congresbury Tithe Map

Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9

1739 De Wilstar Map

Bristol Record Office BRO 33041/BMC/4/PL1/2

Author: Chris Short

Date June 2015

Appendix

YCCART Site Survey Project – P Edwards 1 – Congresbury Kilns projects		
Survey date	21 May 2015	
Report date	21 May 2015	
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:4 (other grids) Audio: On Threshold:10nT Reject:50 Hz
Location	Rookery Farm, Stonewell Road Congresbury	
Ref		
Site name	P Edwards 1	
Landowner	Mr Peter Edwards	
Tenant		
HER ref		
Site type	Open land	
Description	Grass land	
Period		
Geology		
Land use	Grazing	
Survey team and conditions		
21/5/2015	Team	Peter Wright, Philippa McCormack, Ferdi, John Wilcox, Brian Wills, David Long
	Weather	Dry.

GPS

A	343689.50	163203.77
B	34365836	163202.20
C	343628.54	163200.03
D	343630.56	163169.96
E	343626.08	163229.55
Quiet spot	343667.58	163197.81

HAZARD AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

Severity of hazard: 1= Minor injury 2= Serious injury 3= Major injury or fatality	Likelihood: 1= Unlikely 2= Likely 3= Very likely or inevitable	Population (no. of persons who could be affected): 1= 1-5 persons 2= 6-20 persons 3= 21+ persons	Risk Factor : Severity x Likelihood x Population (min 1, max 27)
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Location: P Edwards 1 Activity/Equipment: 601 Date of assessment: 21 May 2015
Assessor: Pete Wright

Nature of hazard	Slips, trips, falls	Dust	Noise	Fire/Explosion	Exposure to harmful substances	Entrapment	Impact	Contact	Entanglement	Ejection	Electric shock	RSI/Eyestrain	Manual handling	Other Dog faeces	MAX. RISK FACTOR
Severity	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Likelihood	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Population	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

Control methods and timescale

Ground is fairly flat and dry. Care will be taken when walking 601. Patch of stinging nettles and thistles in field in Grid 3
Members will wear substantial footwear and long trousers which will protect skin from any stumbles. Stout shoes/ boots to be worn.
Need to wear gloves and/or wash hands after surveying.