

**YCCCART 2015 / Y11
North Somerset HER 2015/081**

Survey on King George V Playing Field, Congresbury

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RESEARCH TEAM (YCCCART)**

General Editor: Vince Russett



The survey site beside the tennis hut (right).

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Abstract

YCCCART undertook a resistivity survey on St George V playing field, Congresbury, in advance of the possible building of a community hall and in view of Romano British pottery discoveries close by. The survey revealed a rectangular high resistance anomaly worthy of future investigation.

Acknowledgements

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCART, of a Geoscan RM15 Resistivity Meter without which this survey could not have been undertaken.

This survey would also not have been carried out without the willing permission of the Trustees of the George V Playing Field.

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 red arrow.

This area surveyed site is on a playing field in the centre of Congresbury village.

Land use and geology

The area is open to public access, being currently part of a playing field.

Geology is Mercia 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.

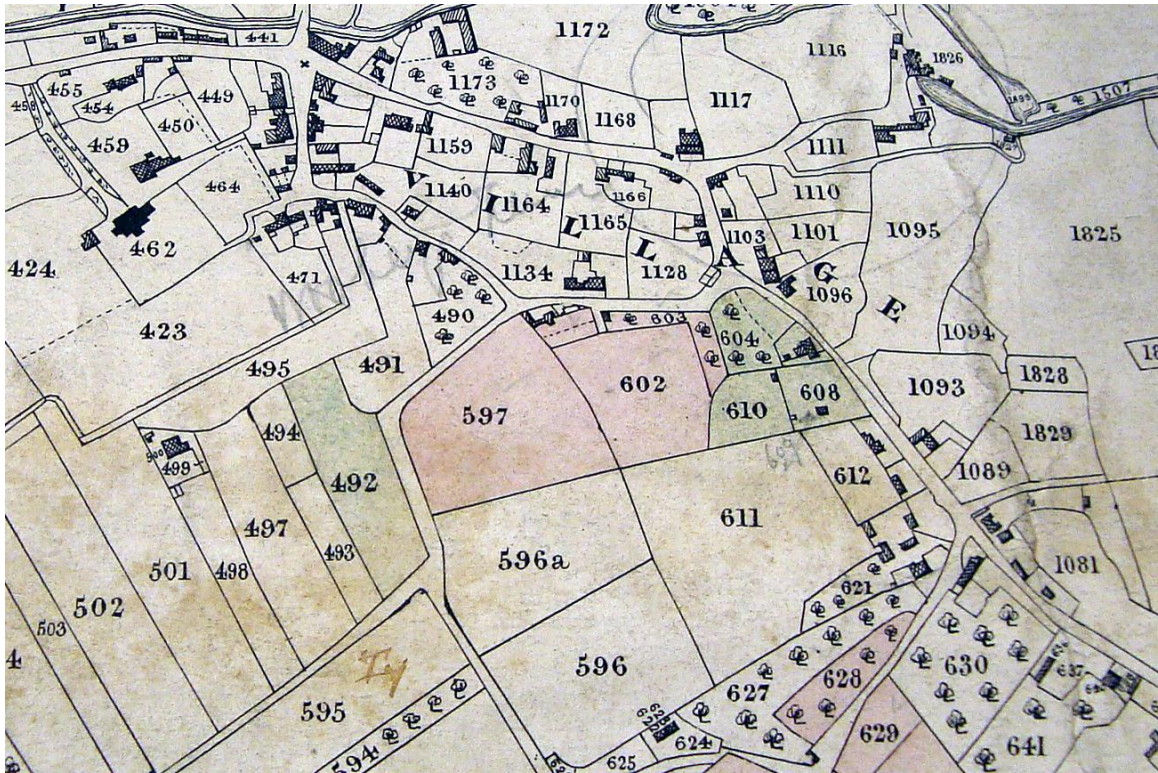


Fig 2: 1839 Map. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9. The surveyed field is number 602 on the map.

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

| Number | Owner | Occupier | Description |
|------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 597 | Robert Beakes Simmons Esq | Ann Burdge | Pasture called Harts |
| 602 | Robert Beakes Simmons Esq | George Burdge | Pasture called Paul's Causeway Ground Harts |
| 603 | Robert Beakes Simmons Esq | Ann Burdge | Orchard |

Recent years

Congresbury Romano British pottery has been found throughout the village. Congresbury History Group has a record of such pottery being revealed when the playing equipment to the east of the surveyed area was first erected in the 1980s.

In 2006 Wessex Water carried out extensive excavation of a large part of the area adjacent to the proposed new building site.

No significant finds are recorded on the North Somerset HER.

Survey objectives

The survey was undertaken in order to establish if any structures or other archaeological remains were evident in advance of a possible community hall being constructed on the site.

Methodology

The survey of field was undertaken during August and September 2015 by teams from YCCART, using a Geoscan RM15 Resistivity Meter.

The completed survey was downloaded to a TerraSurveyor program.

TerraSurveyor composites were adjusted using the following filters:

- Band weight equaliser
- Grad shade
- Clip SD2
- Despike
- High pass Gaussian filter

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2013.

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

Results

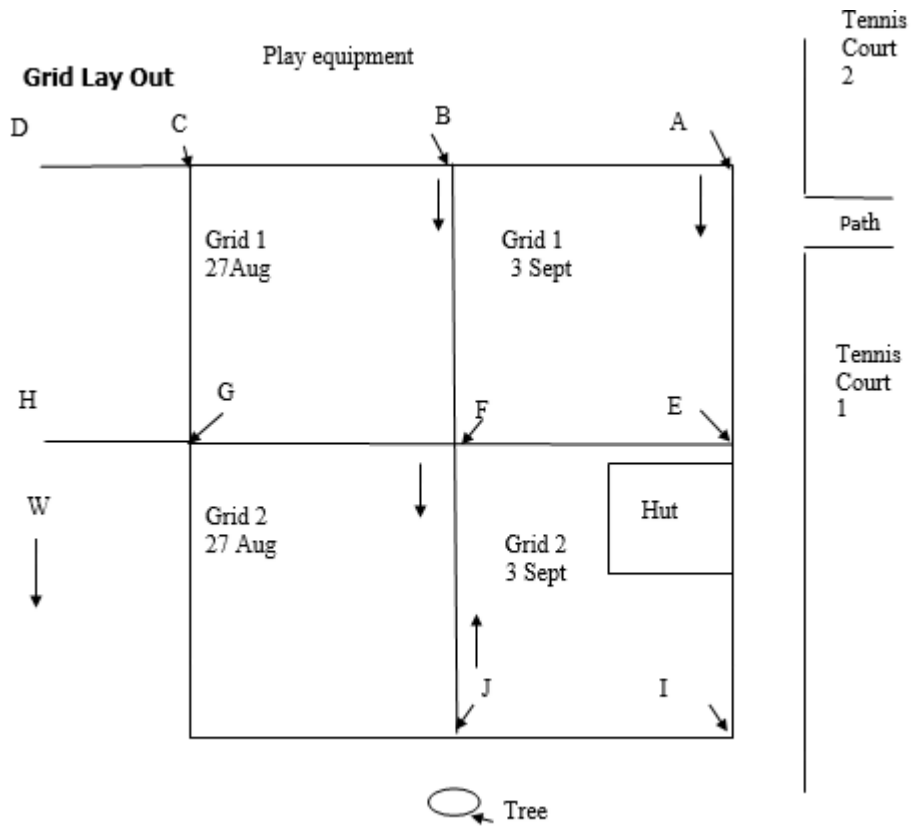


Fig 3: Grid lay out

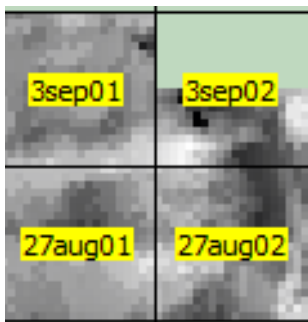


Fig 4: TerraSurveyor grids.

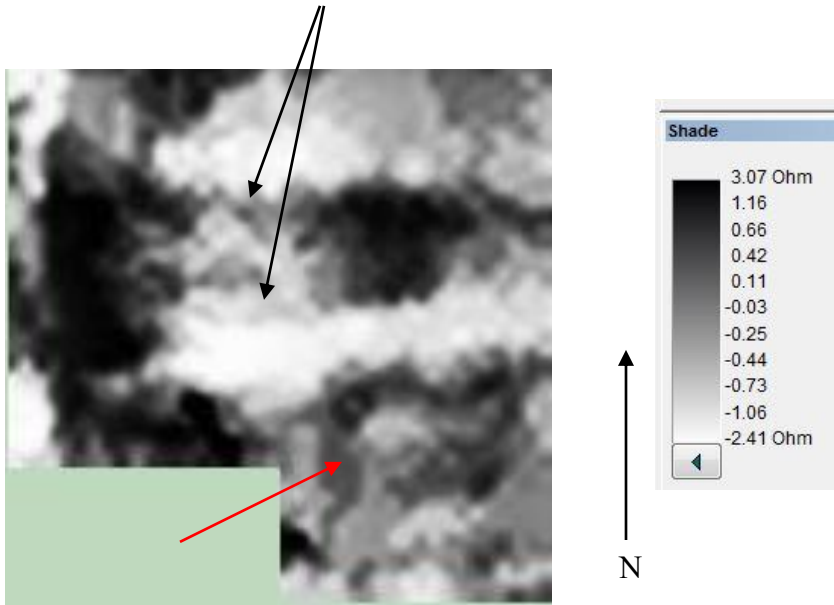


Fig 5: TerraSurveyor shade view black & white image. High readings are black.

The results shown in Fig 5 above reveal

- 1) Two parallel lines indicated by the top black arrows. This is probably associated with the Wessex Water pipe lines laid in 2006.
- 2) A possible rectangular structure indicated by the red arrow in Fig 5 above.

These features are even clearer on the 3D image at Fig 6 below.

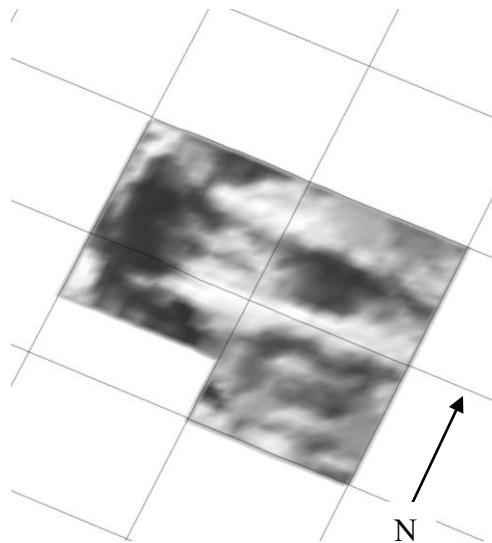


Fig 6: TerraSurveyor axonometric view. High readings are black.

Recommendations

The surveyed area probably includes unknown service pipes. If the area to the east of the tennis hut is developed a watching brief is required in order to attempt to establish the nature of the possible rectangular anomaly.

References

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1739 De Wilstar Map | <i>BRO 33041/BMC/4/PL1/2</i> (Bristol Record Office) |
| Congresbury Tithe Map | <i>BRO 37959/9</i> (Bristol Record Office) |

Author: Chris Short

Date: September 2015

Appendix

Site Record

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| YCCART Site Survey Project: Romano British Pottery | | |
| Survey date | 20 August to 3 September 2015 | |
| Report date | 3 September 2015 | |
| Type /Instrument | RM15 | |
| Location | Site of proposed community hall | |
| Ref | | |
| Site name | Congresbury Playing Field | |
| Landowner | Trustees George V Playing Field | |
| Tenant | None | |
| HER ref | TBC | |
| Site type | Grass | |
| Description | Open playing field | |
| Period | | |
| Geology | | |
| Land use | Open public land | |
| Survey team and conditions | | |
| 20 August 2015 | Team | David Long & Chris Short. <i>Weather overcast /drizzle. Grass damp.</i> |
| 27 August 2015 | | David Long, Chris Short, Philippa Cormack, Pete English, John Haynes and John Wilcox <i>Weather sunny. Grass wet.</i> |
| 3 September 2015 | | David Long, Pete English, Arthur Langley, Chris Short, Mike Fox <i>Weather overcast and grass wet</i> |

| Survey area | | Notes | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| | | Size | Walk direction |
| 20 August | Setting out only | | |
| 27 August | Grids 1&2 | 20x20m | W |
| 3 September | Grid 1 Grid 2 (half grid only) | 20x20 20x20 | W E |

