

**YCCCART 2014 /Y11  
North Somerset HER 2014**

**Resistivity Survey at Iwood (Mr Collins Field 3)**

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

*General Editor: Vince Russett*



*William the bull occupied the field during the survey period!*

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## **Abstract**

*In 2010 gradiometry and resistivity surveys at Iwood, near Congresbury revealed an occupation site with buildings, enclosures and trackways, which may date from the Roman or early medieval period. A recommendation from the relevant report (YCCCCART 2010 / Y 16) was that consideration should be given to extending the resistivity survey. Further resistivity surveys in an adjacent field (see report Y 1/2013) and the survey detailed in this report have revealed a wealth of additional features.*

## **Acknowledgements**

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCCART, of a Geoscan RM 15 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 landowner, Mr A Collins.

The authors are grateful for the hard work by the members of YCCCCART in performing the surveys and Vince Russett for editing.

## **Introduction**

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

The objective of the YCCCCART 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. The field is indicated by the arrow.*

The site is in Iwood a hamlet on the edge of the parish of Congresbury, bordered by the parish of Churchill.

The field is privately owned but crossed at it's southern end by a public footpath along the river bank.

## Land use and geology

The north end of the fields lie on the 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 fields.

The fields are used for grazing cattle and sheep

## Historical & archaeological context

In 1996 local historian Gill Bedingfield compiled a history of Iwood (Bedingfield GM, *Iwood, How long has it existed as a discrete settlement unit and how did this affect its economy*, MA Dissertation. Bristol University 1996), which YCCCART has included on their web site.

Part of Gill's thesis was drawn from Richard Broomhead's Congresbury Parish Survey ([http://www.ycccart.co.uk/index\\_hm\\_files/Congresbury%20Parish%20Survey.pdf](http://www.ycccart.co.uk/index_hm_files/Congresbury%20Parish%20Survey.pdf)) in which he states:

"The creation of the manor of Iwood stems from a grant of 1228 when Jocelin, Bishop of Bath granted to Stephen (Aluet) his Chamberlain...

*'...a mill in Congresbury, called the mill of Ywod with the site and suit thereof, and four... (omitted) with all that goes with them and their lands, that is Selak with six acres without the moor and three acres within the moor and three acres of meadow. Thurbert with a croft containing two acres of land. Maud de Ywod with six acres of land without the moor and one acre within the moor and two acres of meadow, and Emeline, relect of Nicholas Flambard with four and a half acres of land and an acre of meadow; grant also to the said Stephen of a wood in Ywod, closed with a dyke and paling, to assart in whole or in part as he may, paying therefore four marks yearly.'*

It is notable that only one mill is mentioned in the original grant, for by 1275 the Hundred Rolls record that the Bishop had demised to Stephen...

*'...two virgates of land out of his lordship... in Ywod with two watermills, rendering eight marks annually.'*

The broad outlines of this estate were still visible in the nineteenth century. The second mill was undoubtedly the mill of Congresbury itself which remained appurtenant to the manor of Iwood until the nineteenth century and for which the lord of that manor maintained a responsibility for repairs and upkeep. ....

Surviving earthworks and pottery scatters give at least a partial impression of settlement in the area of both Iwood and Urchinwood from the twelfth century".

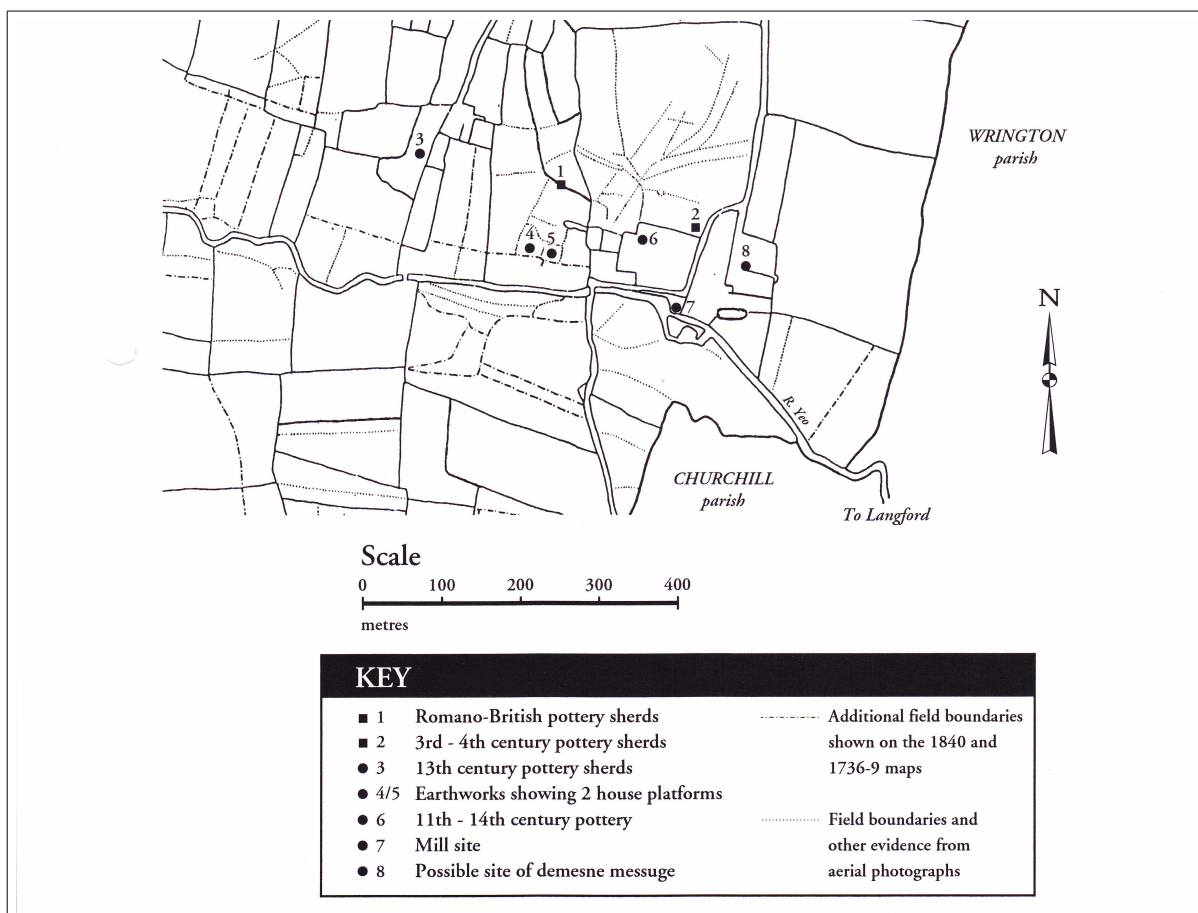
In respect of the two fields surveyed by YCCCART he states:

*"Medieval occupation has .. been noted at Iwood Farm and adjacent to Iwood Lane. Earthworks and pottery from the latter site suggest the existence of at least two structures and several phases of occupation from the eleventh century until around 1700." (See fig 2 below).*

"The site in 1755 belonged to Captain Webb of Urchinwood and is noted amongst his deeds as *'...the scite of one other messuage or tenement commonly called or known by the name of Gentlecost with the garden, orchards, backsides, outletts and several closes of land, meadow and pasture ground thereunto adjoining containing in the whole 19 acres.'* Clearly deserted

by this date, its earlier occupants remain uncertain. It's designation as an 'Old Auster' in 1814 indicates that it formed a component of an earlier virgate, possibly part of the 1567 holding of John Sprudd on whose lands the Urchinwood estate was later partially based.

Pottery recovered during construction work at Iwood Manor Cottage would indicate occupation of this site from the thirteenth century and probably before. To its west, surviving but undated earthworks in pasture may well represent the site of a further medieval dwelling. The earthworks are confused and relatively insubstantial, with no clear indication of a house site. Lacking any early documentary information relating to this field, only excavation could establish the location of a building within this complex of low mounds and ditches."



*Fig 2: Iwood area showing possible Romano-British and medieval occupation sites from Gill Bedingfield's Iwood dissertation.*



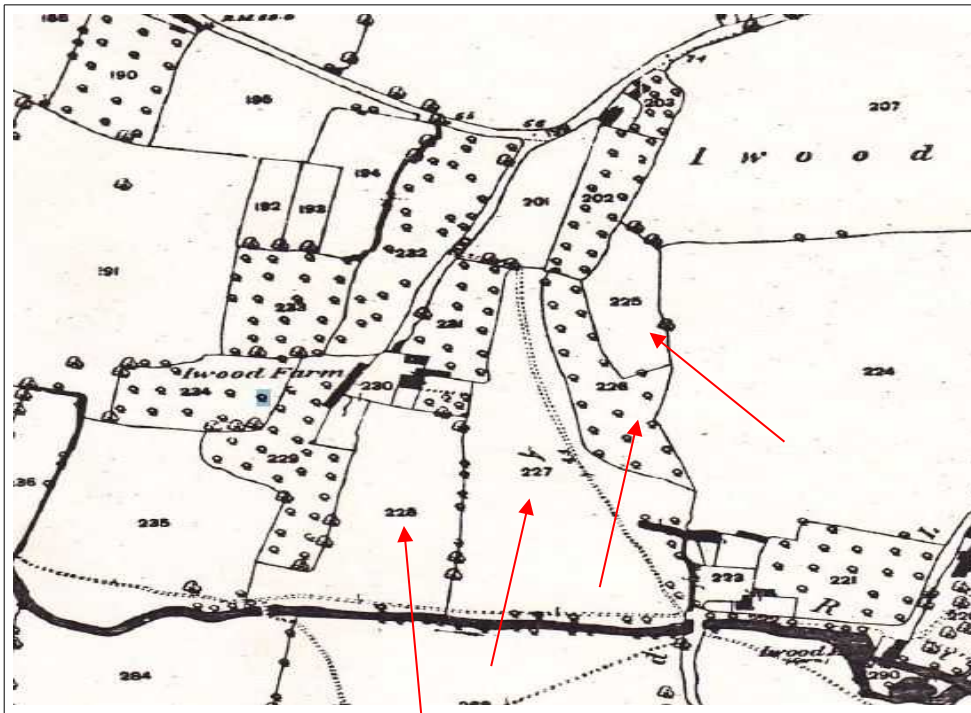


Fig 3: 1885 Ordnance survey map showing the surveyed fields numbered 225, 226 and 227  
Crown copyright Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved.

The fields 225, 226, 227 on the 1885 map (figure 3 above) are described in the 1840 Tithe apportionment as numbers 1599, 1600 and 1601

The surveyed field is numbered 228 on the 1885 map is divided in the 1840 Tithe apportionment into 1585, 1586 and 1587

1840 owners and tenants in 1840 are as follows:

1840 Field Number	Name	Description	Owner	Occupier
1585	Lawn	Pasture	Benjamin Thayer	Benjamin Thayer
1586	River Ground	Pasture	Benjamin Thayer	Benjamin Thayer
1587	Old Orchard	Pasture	Benjamin Thayer	Benjamin Thayer
1599	Orchard	Orchard	Trustees of William Henry and Mary Merle	Charles Parsons
1600	Ruggs Orchard or Old Orchard	Orchard	Trustees of William Henry and Mary Merle	Charles Parsons
1601	Brinzey Ground or Iwood	Pasture	Trustees of William Henry and Mary Merle	Charles Parsons

In 1805 field 1601 was called Breams.

Metal detectorists have found a variety of objects on or near the surveyed areas, dating from Roman to current times as illustrated below.



*Fig 4: Some of the Iwood finds. Left - Roman brooch (top) and Constantine coin (bottom). Right Top – Edward 11 London minted silver penny. Lower right German pfennig dated 1913.*

#### **Previous Geophysics survey.**

Please see the YCCART report 2010/Y16 for details of previous resistivity and gradiometry surveys in this field



## **Survey objectives**

A recommendation from a previous report (YCCCCART 2010 / Y 16) was that consideration should be given to extending the resistivity survey in this field.

## **Methodology**

The survey of the field was undertaken March to July 2014 to by teams from YCCCCART using a Geoscan RM 15 resistance meter, with settings as per the site record in Appendix 1.

The completed survey was downloaded to a TerraSurveyor programme and the resultant composite adjusted using the following filters:

- Band weight equaliser
- Grad shade
- Destriped
- Clip SD2
- High Pass filter.
- Edge match
- Colour – Black, green, white.

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2003.

Photographs were taken by members of YCCCCART and remain the copyright of YCCCCART.

## Results

Grids to 10 July 2014

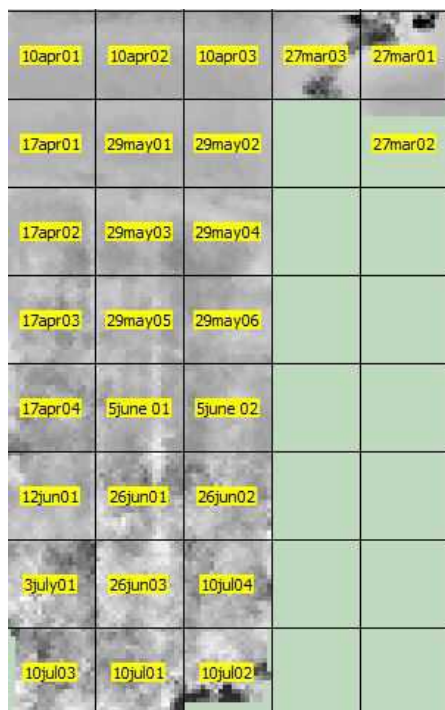
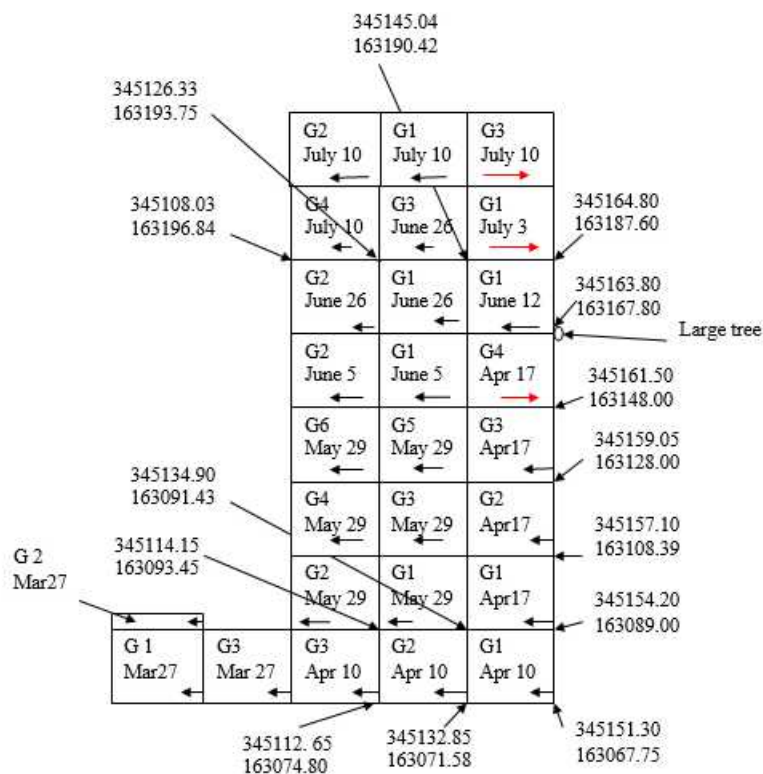
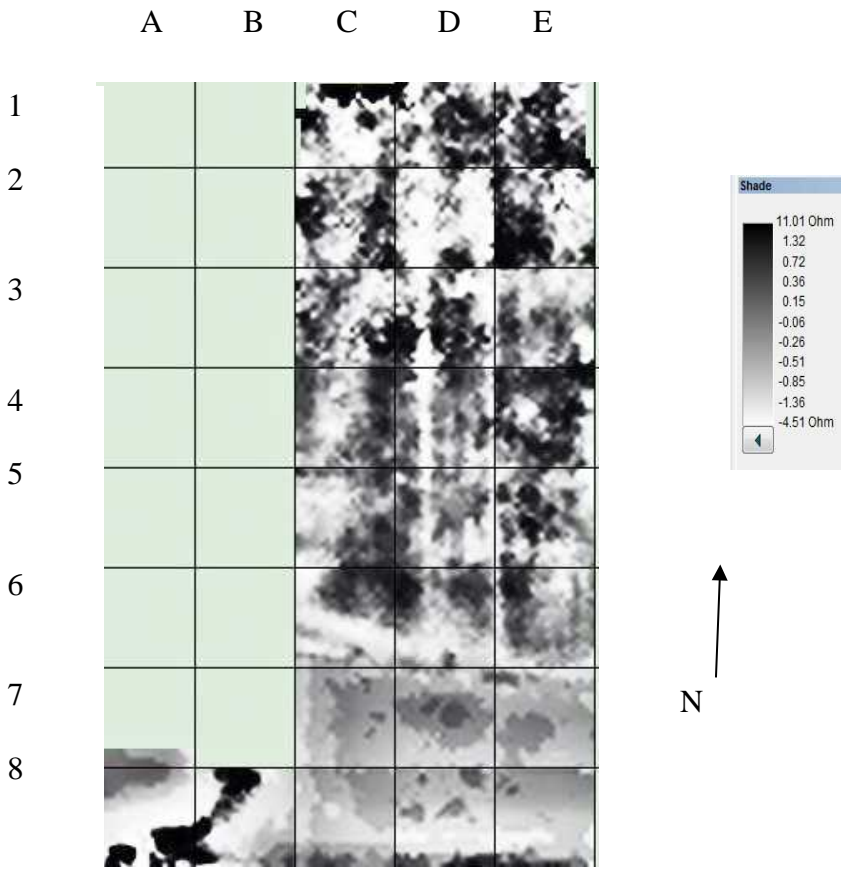
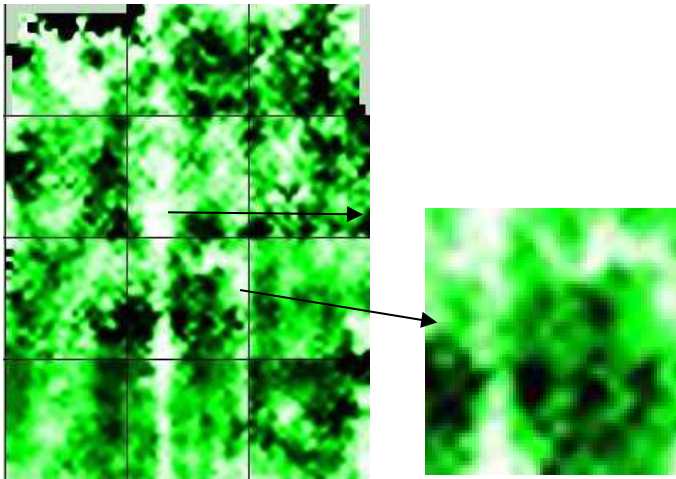


Fig 5: Above grid layout and below TerraSurveyor grids.

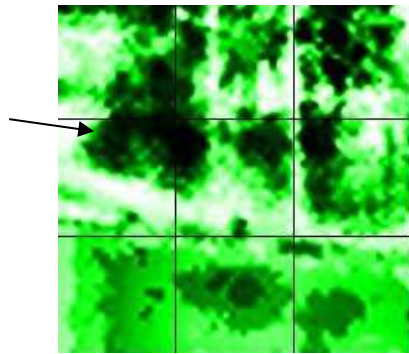


*Fig 6: TerraSurveyor Shade image including high level filter and range match filter applied to 3 bottom right grids. High readings are black.*

1. Grids 6C, 6D (bottom) and 7E (top) clearly show the ditch (leat?) revealed by previous surveys \* as a white low resistance band.
  2. The area above the ditch shows a wealth of features including:
    - a) Circular features in grids 1D, 1E, and 3D.
    - b) A possible building in grids 6C and 6D (left hand side).
    - c) A high level anomaly in grid 4E the lower section of which seems to correlate with the ladder enclosure revealed by the gradiometry survey in this and the adjacent field\*.
  3. Grids 8A and 8B contains possible building debris reported in the previous survey.
- See YCCCART report 2010/Y16.



Top



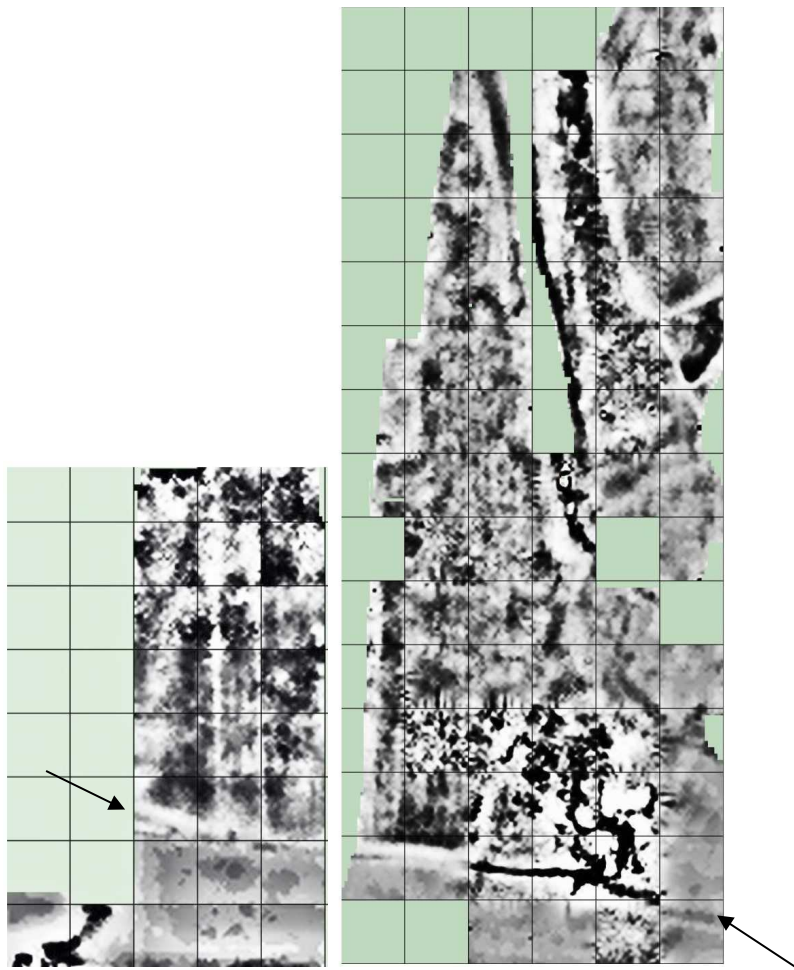
Middle



Lower left hand side only

*Fig 7: Terrasurveyor colour shade images. High readings are black.*

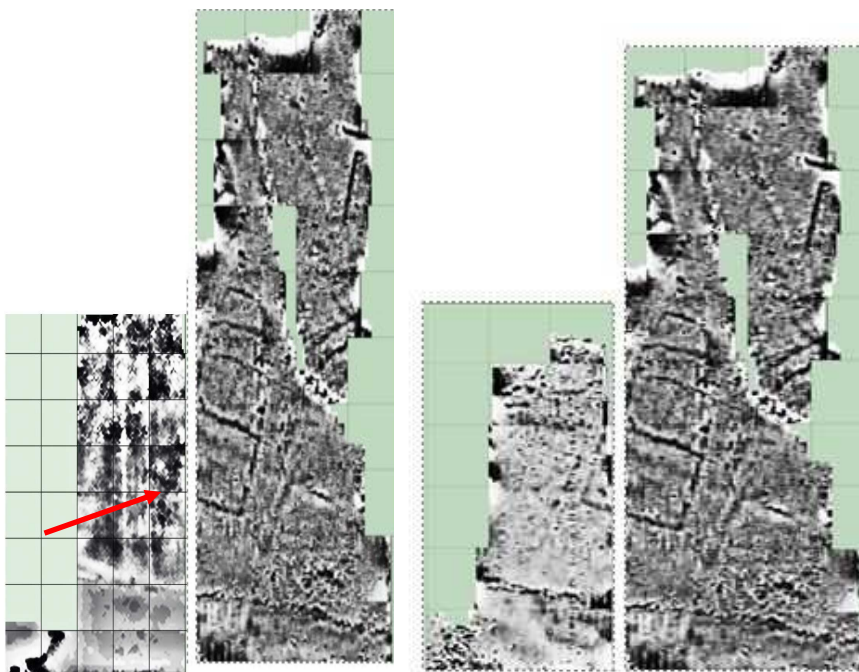
The green/black/white results in Fig 7 above show in more detail the circular feature (top), the possible building (middle & indicated by the arrow) and possible building debris (lower).



*Fig 8: Resistivity surveys Collins fields 2 (right) & 3 (left)*

The combined resistivity surveys from the above results show the continuation of the possible leat as indicated by the back arrows.





*Fig 9:*

*Left - Resistivity survey Collins fields 2 with gradiometry results from Collins 3.*

*Right – Gradiometry results Collins 2 and 3.*

The possible ladder type enclosure reported in 2010/Y16 appears to be present in the Collins 3 resistivity survey as indicated by the red arrow.

## Recommendations

An excavation should be considered in conjunction with the adjacent field (Collins 2) to establish the presence of structures

## References

Bedingfield, G. 1996	<i>Iwood, How long has it existed as a discrete settlement unit and how did this affect its economy</i> , MA Dissertation. Bristol University 1996).
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**Authors.** Chris Short

**Date.** October 2014.

## Appendix 1

### Site record

YCCCART Site Survey Project:		
Survey date	27 March -10July 2014	
Report date	10 July	
Type /Instrument	RM15	
	Standard settings	
Location	Iwood	
Ref		
Site name	Collins 3	
Landowner	Alan Collins	
Tenant	None	
HER ref	TBC	
Site type	Pasture	
Description		
Period		
Geology		
Land use	Grazing	
Survey team and conditions		
27 March 2014	Team	<i>David Long, David Walker, Vince Russett, Pete English, Mike Fox &amp; Chris Short Dry and overcast.</i>
10 April 2014		<i>David Long, Vince Russett, Janet Sweeting, John Wilcox Chris Short, Geoff Pearson Sunny, grass damp.</i>
17 April 2014		<i>David Long, Vince Russett, John Wilcox, Chris Short, Geoff Pearson, Brian Wills, David Walker Sunny /cloudy, grass damp.</i>
15 May 2014		<i>David Long, Vince Russett, Chris Short, Pete English, Brian Wills, Anne Dimmock. Sunny &amp; dry</i>
22 May 2014		<i>David Long, Arthur Langley &amp; Pete Wright</i>
29 May 2014		<i>Geoff Pearson, Brian Wills, David Walker, Pete Wright, Phillipa Cormack, Anne Dimmock, Chris Short &amp; Arthur Langley. Cloudy, drizzle, grass wet.</i>
5 June 2014		<i>Anne Dimmock, Chris Short, Arthur Langley, Robert Cleland, Brian Wills, Geoff Pearson. Sunny, grass wet.</i>

12 June 2014		<i>Chris Short, Arthur Langley, Geoff Pearson, Ferdi, David Long, Brian Wills and David Walker. Sunny. Hot. Grass damp.</i>
26 June 2014		<i>David Long, John Haynes, David Walker &amp; Chris Short. Sunny, warm &amp; dry.</i>
3 July 2014		<i>David Long, David Walker &amp; Chris Short. Sunny, warm &amp; dry.</i>
10 July 2014		<i>David Long, Vince Russett, John Cooper, Anne Dimmock, John Wilcox, Brian Wills, Robert Cleland, John Haynes, David Walker &amp; Chris Short. Sunny, warm &amp; dry.</i>

## Standard settings applied

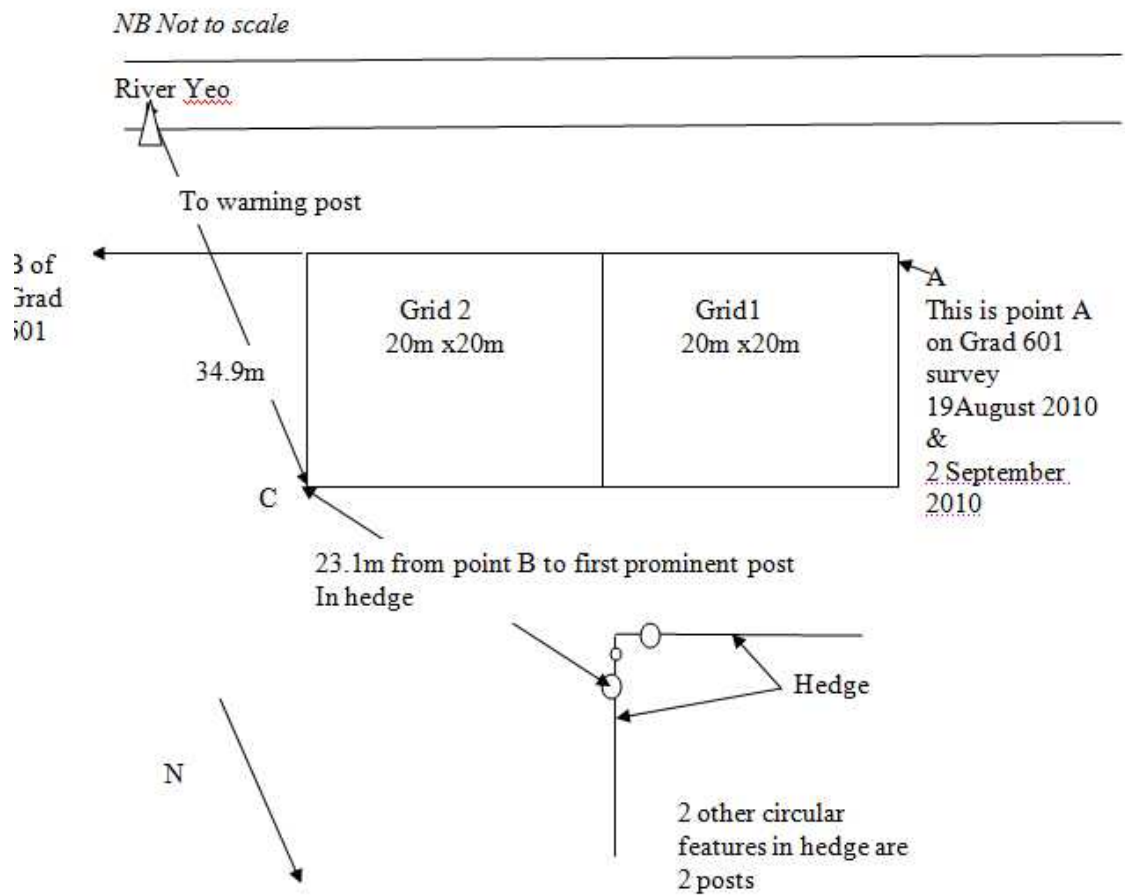
<b>1. Map</b>	Grid size Sample Interval Traverse Interval Traverse Mode	20m. 1m. 1m. Zig-Zag	<b>5 Comms.</b>	Baud Rate 9600 Data Separator No Space
<b>2. Range</b>	Gain Current Frequency	x 1 1mA. 137 Hz.	<b>6. Progr</b>	Program Number 1 Probe Configurations 1 Colours <b>Gr</b> highlighted
<b>3. Set-Up</b>	Output Voltage Auto log speed High Pass Filter Mains Frequency Reset RM 15 ?	40V. Medium 13Hz. 50 Hz. No	<b>7. Status</b>	Battery Voltage 10.4V.(eg) RM15 Adv 15000, Version 2.00
<b>4. Array</b>	Hardware PA1			

Survey area		Notes	
		Size	Walk direction
27 March 2014	Grids 1 to 3 Grid 2 terminated by hedge after a couple of lines,	20x20m	<b>W</b>
10April 2014	Grids 1 to 3	20x20m	<b>W</b>
17April 2014	Grids 1 to 3 Grid 4	20x20m 20x20m	<b>W</b> <b>E</b>
15 & 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2014	Re laid grids		
29 May	Grids 1 to 6	20x20m	<b>W</b>
5 June	Grids 1 to 2 Grid 3 abortive – machine malfunction	20x20m	<b>W</b>
12 June	Grid 1 Grid 2 – abortive. Machine malfunction.	20x20m	<b>W</b>
26 June	Grids 1 to 3	20x20m	<b>W</b>

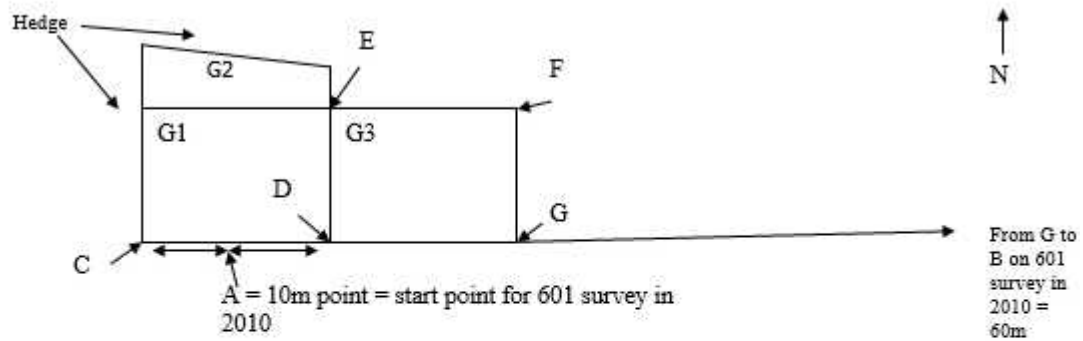


3 July	Grid 1	20x20m	<b>E</b>
10 July	Grids 1-2 & 4 Grid 3 Grid 1 =19 long. Started grid 2 one metre in Grid 2 & 3 are about 18m long & terminated by hedges. Grid 2 terminated at line 17 because rest of grid had too much stone.	20x20m 20x20m	<b>W</b> <b>E</b>

## 2010 layout



**2014 lay out – March 27**

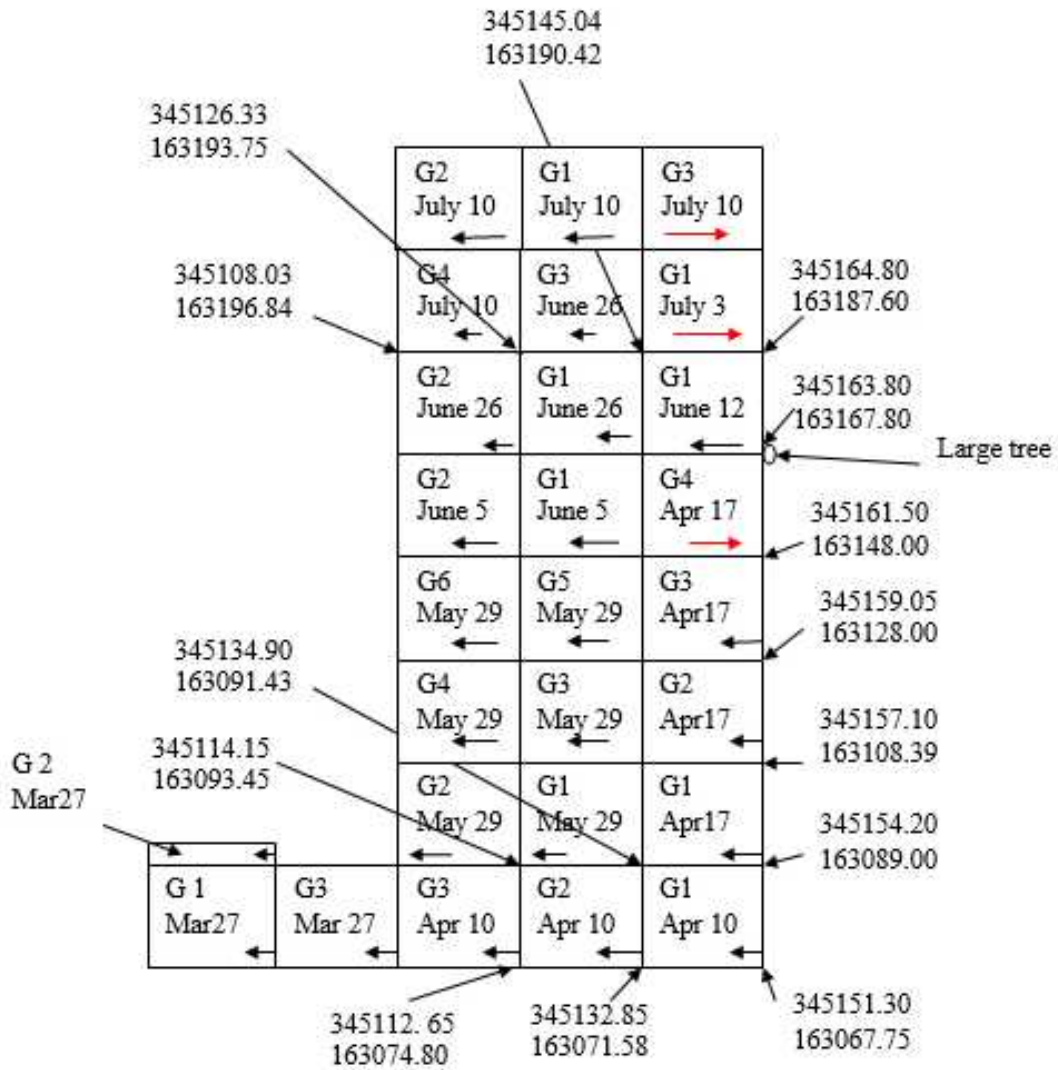


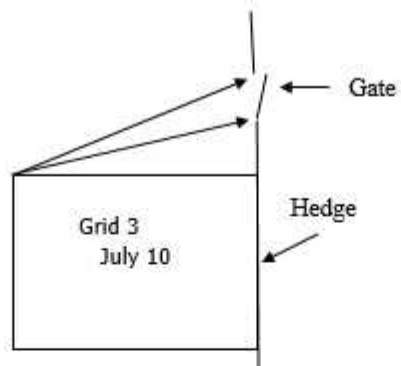
*G1 & G2 are 20m square.  
All grids walked west.*

GPS

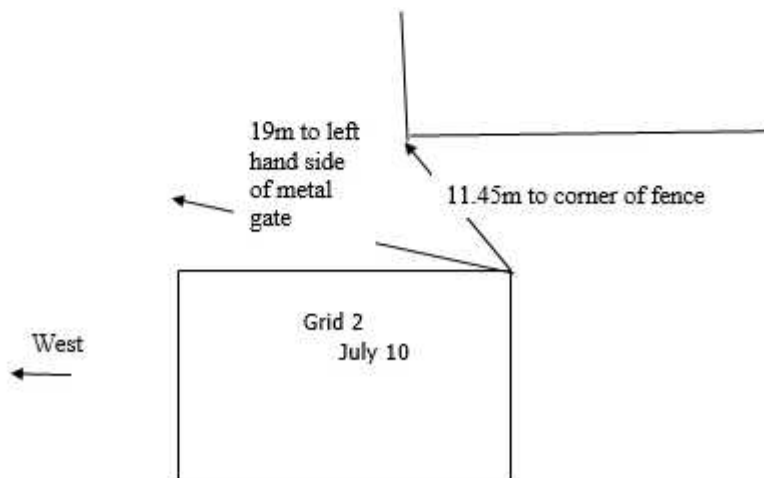
A	345063.48	163082.54
B	345151.49	163071.44
C	345052.55	163085.87
D	345073.42	163083.44
E	345076.46	163101.55
F	345096.04	163098.86
G	345091.86	163079.36

Grids to 10 July 2014





Facing east.  
 Left arrow is 20.8m to left hand side of metal gate and 20.35 to right hand end of metal gate.





### 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)

**Location:** Collins 3 Activity/Equipment: RM15

**Date of assessment:** 27 March 2014

**Assessor:** Chris Short

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	MAX. RISK FACTOR
Severity	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Likelihood	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Population	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

**Control methods and timescale**

The field has some uneven and boggy ground after periods of rainfall. The unevenness can be obscured by longish grass.

Members will wear substantial footwear and long trousers which will deal with the uneven ground, wet grass and protect skin from any stumbles. Both will also reduce the risk of bites by ticks

A bull (William) resides in the field with his cows /calves. Prior to surveys check to be made with farmer for animals to be removed a safe distance. Bull is normally off the public footpath and is said to be friendly.