

YCCCART 2019/Y1

Two evaluations at Iwood Farm, Congresbury

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



Stone rubble in ditch south of Iwood farm

Page	Contents
3	Abstract Acknowledgements Introduction
4	Site location Land use and geology
5	Historical & archaeological context
7	Results
8	Recommendations References

Evaluation 1

Abstract

A historic farmhouse, south of Iwood Farm, and depicted on the Congresbury Tithe Map of 1840 but removed by the time of the 1885 1st edition OS 1:2500 plan, coincided with a patch of large stones, some bearing mortar, in the side of a recently re-cut ditch near Iwood Farm. The patch was investigated, but was revealed as modern dumped rubble

Acknowledgements

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCART, of a Geoscan RM 15 resistivity meter, without which the initial geophysical survey that identified a possible target could not have been undertaken.

This evaluation could also not have been carried out without the willing permission of the landowner, Mr Alan Collins, and the support of Mr Stephen Lyle, of Iwood Farm.

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

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.

Site location

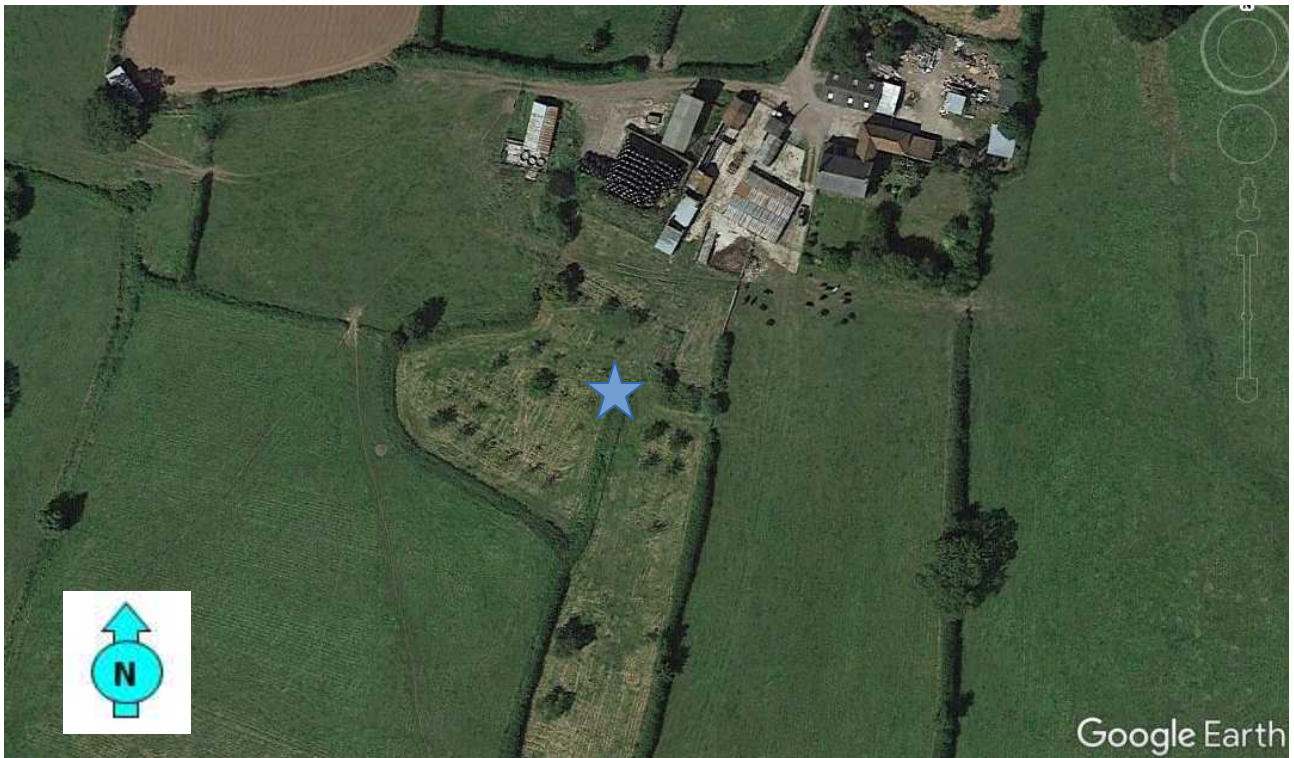


Fig 1: Location of the evaluation

The evaluation site lies at ST45096322, on the east side of the ditch, within 5m of the drain into the ditch from the north. The site is about 45m south-west of Iwood Farmhouse.

Land use and geology

The site lies on the Mercia Mudstones: the adjacent fields are orchards used for grazing of cattle and sheep. There is no public access to the site.

Historical & archaeological context

The history and archaeology of Iwood are dealt with extensively elsewhere on this web site.

The site lies at or adjacent to, the site of a historic farmhouse depicted on the Congresbury Tithe Map in 1840.



Fig 2: Old farmhouse (red southern building) derived from the Congresbury Tithe Map of 1840. The other grey structures are non-dwellings depicted on that map. The current Iwood farm was also shown as a dwelling.

This farmhouse was no longer depicted by the time of the OS 1885 plan of Iwood, and was presumably demolished between the two dates.

Since the site of the house appeared to coincide with the northern end of the ditch depicted on the OS data, YCCCART examined the freshly cut ditches, which included the one ending by the site of the house on 26 July 2018.

A scatter of stones, some covered in mortar, was observed at the current site, and permission given to evaluate whether this was a wall of the old farmhouse cut through by the ditch.



Fig 3: The heavy stone scatter in the re-cut ditch

Dick Broomhead recorded a 'medieval pottery scatter' at this site in 1987 (see copy on this web site under Reports / Congresbury / general), and indeed, one sherd of 13th century Ham Green ware was recovered when fieldwalking the ditch.

Results

The site was hand trowelled to establish whether a wall lay within the stone scatter. It soon became obvious that there was no wall: all stones were loose, and the lowest lay on a strand of recent barbed wire. No significant finds were made, so the pile of rubble is exactly that, and no structure was found.

Secondly, the ditch had been physically shortened by inserting a plastic drain for 200m of its length towards the farmhouse, not immediately obvious on the ground or on air photographs. With hindsight, we were digging near the site of the outhouse, not the farmhouse. As this was almost certainly an outside toilet, it is probably a mercy it was not found.

YCCCART decided to publish this evaluation since it was felt that negative results are results, too, and should not be quietly forgotten: the absence of the farmhouse at this site, and its explanation by the changing length of the adjacent ditch is a salutary lesson, too.

Recommendations for further work

None

References

Broomhead, R. (1987) 2017	<i>Congresbury. The survey and the parish</i> YCCCART 2017
---------------------------	---

Author

Vince Russett August 2018

Evaluation 2



Initial view of the ditch bottom feature

Page	Contents
11	Abstract Acknowledgements Introduction
12	Site location Land use and geology
13	Historical & archaeological context Results
14	Recommendations References
15	Appendices

Abstract

A length of recently re-cut ditch revealed an apparently previously unknown wall in the base of the ditch, pointed out by the landowner, Mr Alan Collins. On investigation, this turned out to be a natural feature, a band of green-grey siltstone in the natural Mercia Mudstone solid geology. The beach cliff at Blue Anchor, near Minehead, contain a classic example of this in Liassic Limestone.

Acknowledgements

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCART, of a Geoscan RM 15 resistivity meter without which the initial geophysical survey could not have been undertaken.

This evaluation could also not have been carried out without the willing permission of the landowner, Mr Alan Collins, and the support of Mr Stephen Lyle, of Iwood Farm.

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

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.

Location

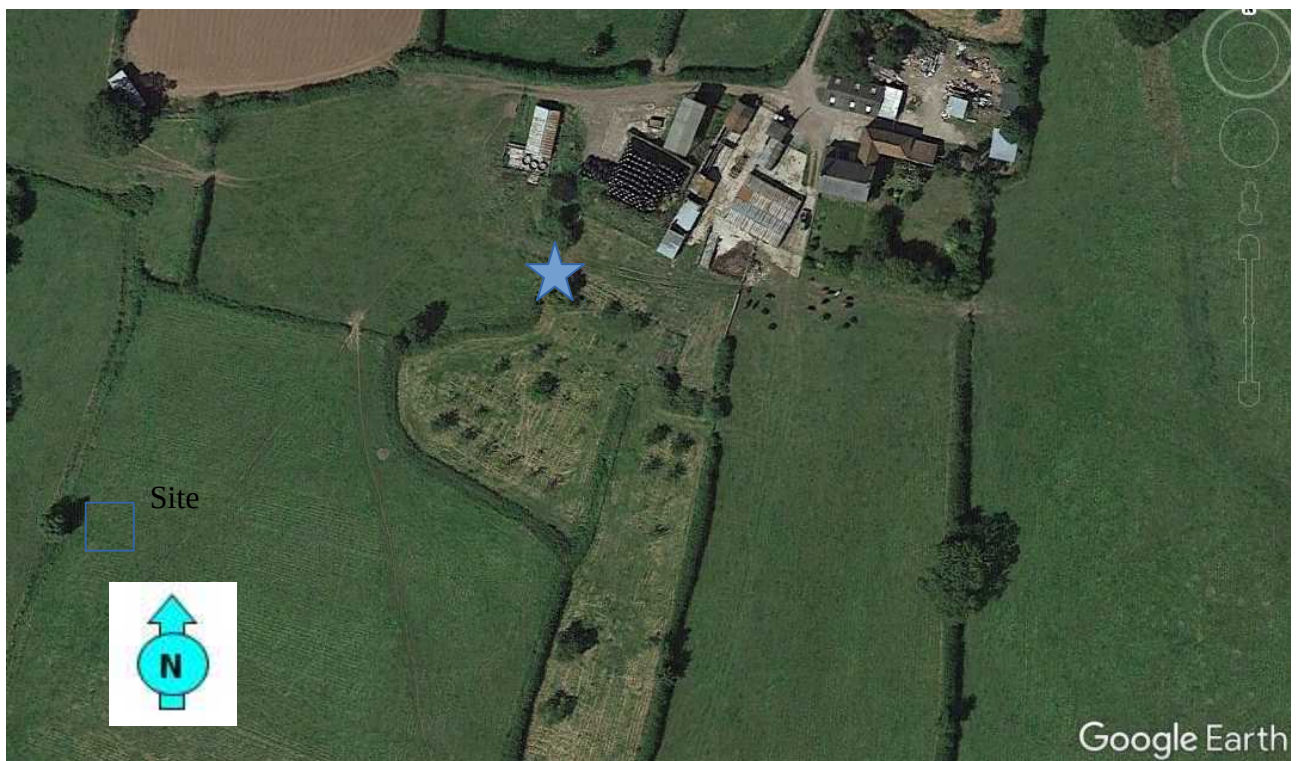


Fig 1: Location of the evaluation

The evaluation site lies at ST45066324, in the bottom of the ditch, within 5m of the drain into the ditch from the north. The site is about 50m west of Iwood Farmhouse.

Land use and geology

The site lies on the Mercia Mudstones: the adjacent fields are orchards used for grazing of cattle and sheep. There is no public access to the site.

Historical & archaeological context

The history and archaeology of Iwood are dealt with extensively elsewhere on this web site.

Results

The site lay in the bottom of a newly re-cut ditch, which in the exceptionally dry weather conditions at the time, was itself dry.



Fig 2: Initial cleaning of the possible wall

The feature appeared at first glance to be a deeply buried wall, uncovered by the comprehensive ditch cleaning at the site.

Meticulous hand cleaning of the site revealed large grey green stones set in a powdery matrix of the same colour (8/10GY), within the redder massive material of the Mercia mudstone.

No finds were made, and despite cleaning the edges of the ditch, no pit or trench for its insertion could be found.

The final cleaned feature (see Fig 3 below) was, on these grounds, interpreted as a natural stone band in the mudstones.



Fig 3: Feature cleaned (tape length 2.0m)

YCCCART decided to publish this evaluation since it was felt that negative results are results, too, and should not be quietly forgotten: the absence of finds or foundation trench, and the feature's identification by comparison with other geological features is a salutary lesson, too.

Recommendations for further work

None

References

Broomhead, R. (1987) 2017	<i>Congresbury. The survey and the parish</i> YCCCART 2017
---------------------------	---

Author

Vince Russett January 2019

Appendix

Iwood. Collins Orchard excavation and excavation to east of orchard.

Thursday 2nd August 2018

Team: Peter English, Vince Russett, Robert Cleland, John Wilcox, Geoff Pearson and Chris Short.

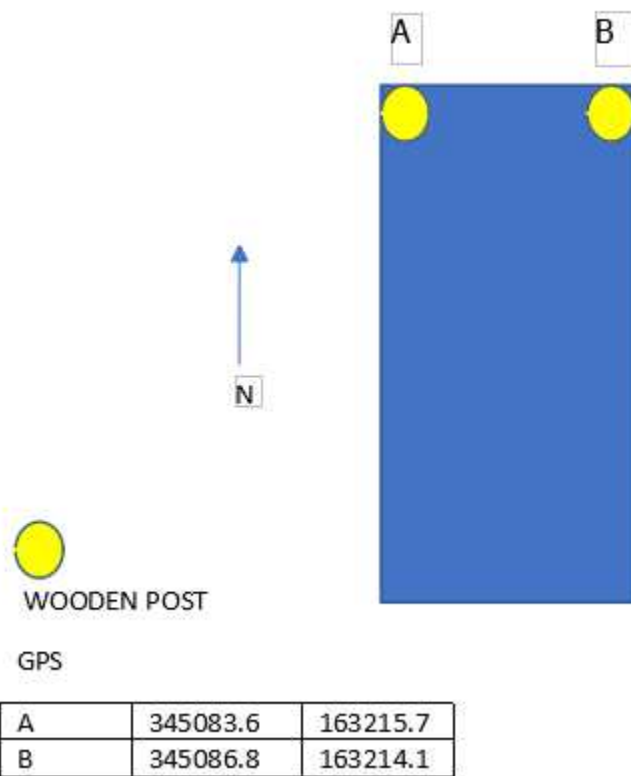
Weather: Very hot and dry.

Thursday 9th August 2018

Team: Vince Russett, Colin Campbell, Graham Bohannon, Chris Short

Weather: Warm and very dry.

EXCAVATION IN ORCHARD 2nd August 2018



Finds

All 20th century

Conclusion

Recent rubble dump

EXCAVATION IN FIELD EAST OF ORCHARD

2nd & 9th August 2018

2nd August

C & D – in the centre of the stone feature.
GPS

C	345060.1	163246.6
D	345061.9	163242.4

C



D



9th August



Depth to top of stones – 75cm

Tape in picture is 2m long

Finds – Nil

Conclusion – Stones are natural. No finds. No trace of stones being worked and stones were degraded into clay. (Gray clay all around stones) .