

YCCCART 2012 / Y 3

North Somerset HER 2012/ 281

Gradiometry Survey of Mr Parson's field at Wick St Lawrence.

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



Looking for signs of pottery.

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Abstract

A gradiometry survey was undertaken at the request of the North Somerset County Archaeologist in order to investigate a flat area close to a deep pond. No significant features were revealed within the surveyed area.

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 Mr F Parsons, the landowner.

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

Introduction

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCCART) is one of a number of Community Archaeology teams across North Somerset, supported by the North Somerset Council Development Management Team.

The objective of the Community Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) teams is to carry out archaeological fieldwork, for the purpose of recording, and better understanding and management of, the heritage of North Somerset.

Site Location

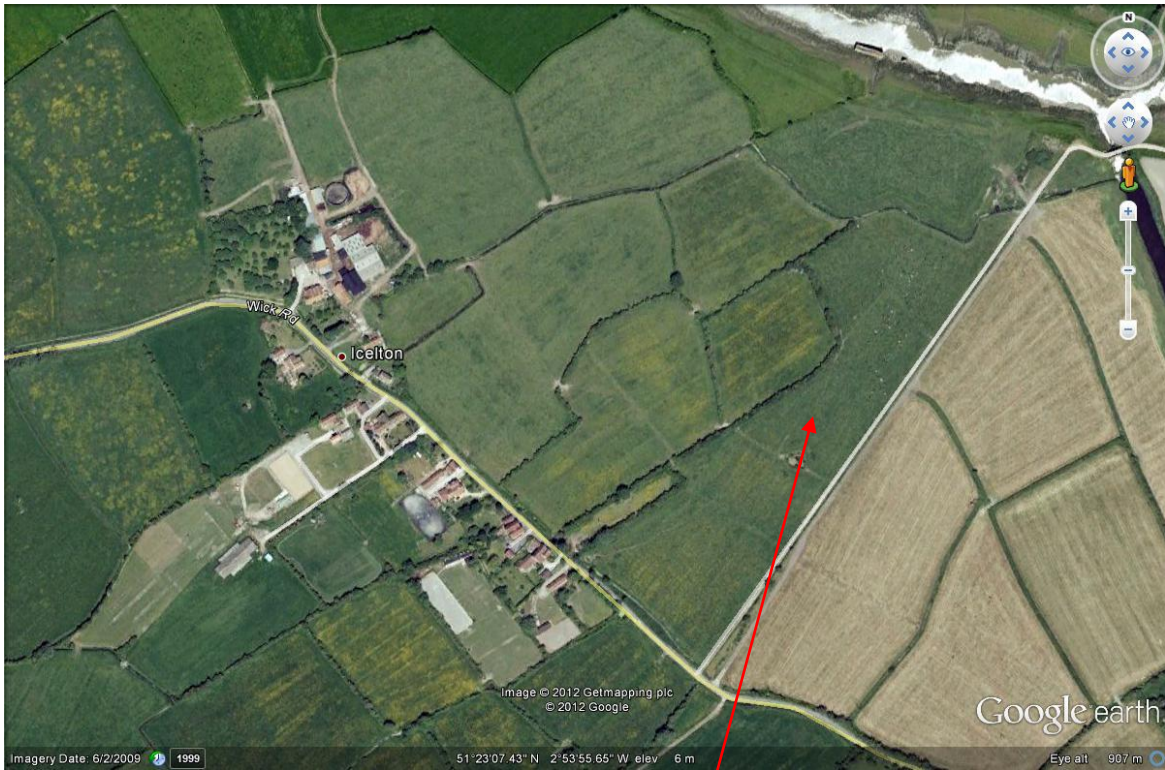


Fig 1: Site location as indicated by red arrow

The site is located in Wick St Lawrence a small village on the outskirts of Weston-super-Mare. The survey start point is shown in the site record at Appendix 1.

Land use and geology

The field is privately owned but can be viewed from the roadway. Geology is Blue Lias Formation - Mudstone and Limestone.

Historical & archaeological context

To the north of a deep pond in the field is a flat area which was thought to be a possible house site.

The field contains the old track bed of the Weston Clevedon & Portishead railway which opened from Weston-super-Mare to Clevedon on 1 Dec 1897 and was extended to Portishead on 7 August 1907. The last train ran on 18 May 1940.

Wick St Lawrence had its own station / own halt at the road end of the field

For further details please see the excellent web site
www.wcandpr.org.uk/

Survey objectives

The survey had the following objectives.

- 1) To identify archaeological features.
- 2) To use the survey to further train YCCCART members and members of Community Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) in the use of the Bartington 601 gradiometer.

Methodology

The survey was undertaken on 22 March 2012 by teams from YCCCART using a Bartington 601 gradiometer with settings as per the site record in Appendix 1.

The completed survey was downloaded to an ArcheoSurveyor programme.

ArcheoSurveyor composites were adjusted using the following filters:

Band Weight Equaliser

Grad shade

Despiked

Destriped

Clip SD2

Colour filter, Red Green Blue 2

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2007 and edited in Open Office 3.1.

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

Results

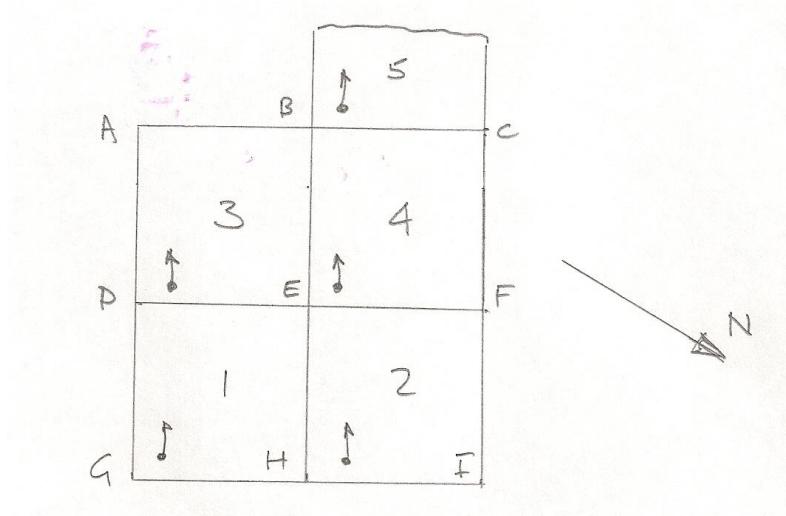


Fig 2: Grid layout

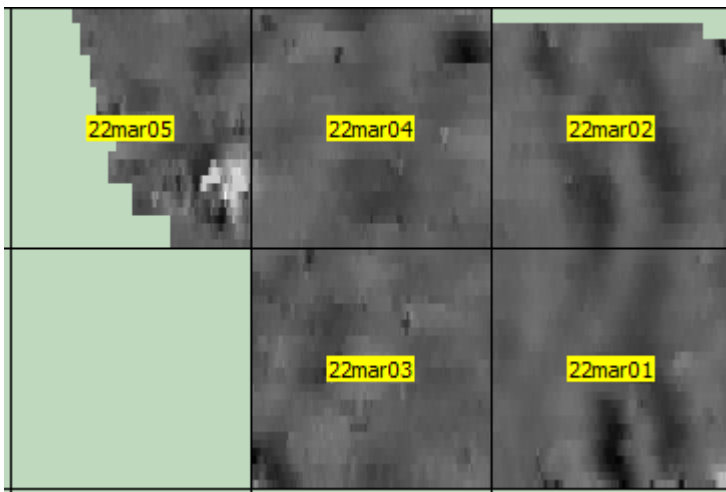


Fig 3 ArcheoSurveyor grid layout

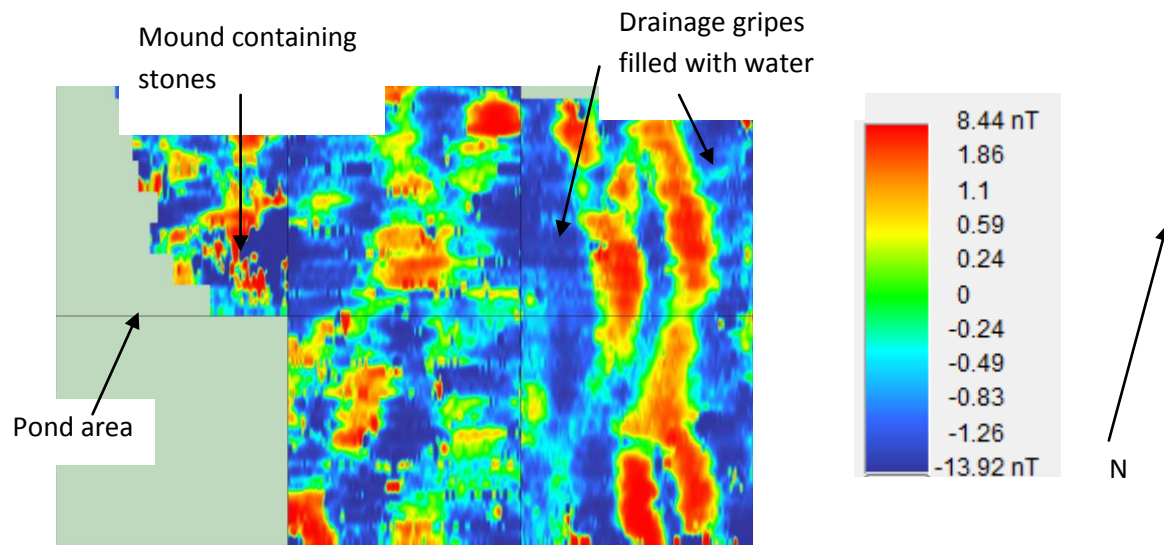


Fig 4: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor image). High readings are red.

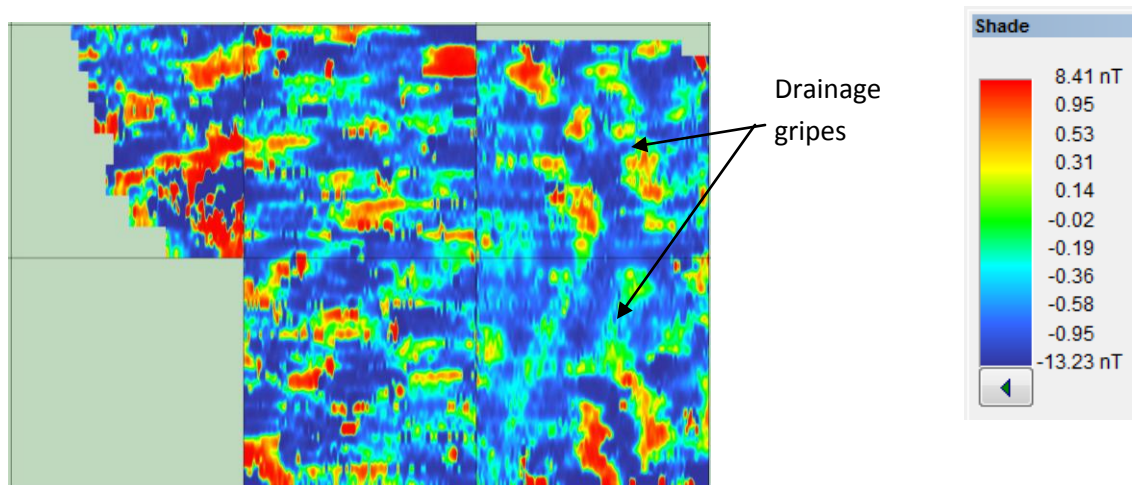


Fig 5: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor image with high level pass filter). High readings are red.

The high (red) anomalies, top right in Fig 4 and 5 above, are likely to relate to stone in an earth mound near the pond.

Gripes are also evident by low readings on the right hand side of Fig 4 and the light blue/green lines in Fig 5.

Other isolated high anomalies probably result from farm debris.

Recommendations

The gradiometer survey revealed no apparent archaeological features. No further action is required.

References

Weston, Clevedon & Portishead Railway

www.wcandpr.org.uk/

Author: Chris Short

Date: 2012

Appendix 1- Site Record

YCCART Site Survey		
Project – General Investigations		
Survey date	22nd March 2012	
Report date	22nd March 2012	
Type /Instrument	Grad 601	
	Pace :1.5m/s *	Grid size: 30m x30m
	Lines/m : 1	Pattern : Zig Zag
	Range:100nT	Samples/m:4
	Volume: High	Audio: On
	Sensors:2	Threshold:1nT
		Reject:50 Hz
Location	Fred Parsons Wick St Lawrence	
	See annex A	
Ref	none	
Site name		
Landowner		
Tenant		
HER ref		
Site type	Open field	
Description	Grass	
Period	Unknown	
Geology	Limestone	
Land use	grazing	

Survey team and conditions		
22nd March 2012	weather	Peter Wright, Peter English, Mike Fox, Janet Dickson, Chris Short, Ferdi, John Wilcox, Dave Long, Robert Cleland, Fred Parsons
	weather	Misty

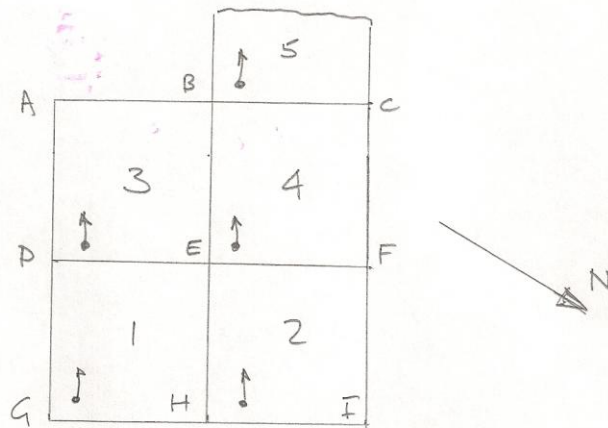
Survey area			notes		readings		
			size	walk direction	max	min	mean
Grid ref #	15/03/20 12	1	30 x 30 m	SE	+19.2	-17.1	0.0
		2	30 x 30 m	SE	+11.4	-11.8	-0.2
		3	30 x 30 m	SE	+44.0	-15.8	-0.4
		4	30 x 30 m	SE	+31.5	-67.2	-1.1
		5	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	SE	+100. 0	-100.0	0.0

Note 601 parameter walk direction set to SE but actual walk direction SW

Setting out details

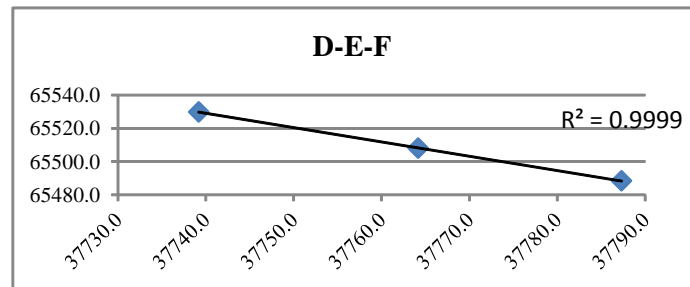
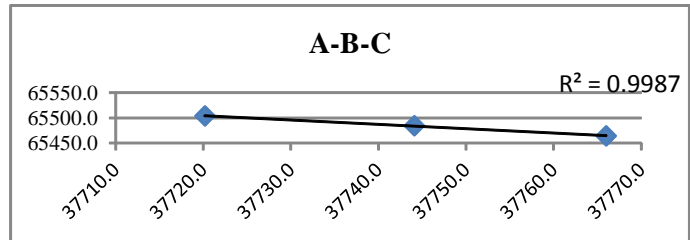


study area.



Grid location details

	Grid Ref. eastings	All ST northings
A	37766.0	65464.4
B	37744.1	65484.5
C	37720.2	65503.9
D	37787.3	65488.4
E	37764.2	65508.1
F	37739.2	65529.9
G	37806.3	65511.8
H	37782.5	65530.2
Quiet spot	37781.4	65500.3





Site showing old railway track on right.



Pond with 601 team in background



Robert Cleland

Fred Parsons

Ferdi

David Long