

**YCCCART 2011/Y19  
North Somerset HER 2011 / 214**

**Gradiometry Survey at Iwood  
(Mr Collins Fields 5 & 6)**

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

*General Editor: Vince Russett*



*Sorting out a problem*

<b>Page</b>	<b>Contents</b>
3	Abstract Acknowledgements Introduction
4	Site location Land use and geology
5	Historical & archaeological context
7	Survey objectives Methodology
8	Results
13	Recommendations References
14	Appendix – Site Record

## **Abstract**

*YCCCART has a project to establish the extent of the Congresbury Roman kiln sites and investigate the archaeology of the environs around Cadbury Hill, Congresbury.*

Gradiometry surveys at Iwood, near Congresbury, on a field south of the river Yeo, revealed a possible palaeochannel linking across both fields surveyed, a group of roughly parallel linear low-result lines in field 6 which may be clay pits and gripes of some antiquity in field 5 which are continuous with those in Mr Collins field 4 (See YCCCART report Y2 /2011).

## **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 A Collins.

The authors are grateful for the hard work by the members of YCCCART in performing the survey 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 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 of, the heritage of North Somerset.

## Site Location



*Fig 1: Site location*

The site is close to the hamlet of Iwood, in the parish of Congresbury in North Somerset, some 12 miles south of Bristol. (See site report in appendix for GPS readings)

The fields are privately owned, and there are no rights of way south of the river, although the site can be easily seen from the public footpath running along the north bank of the Yeo.

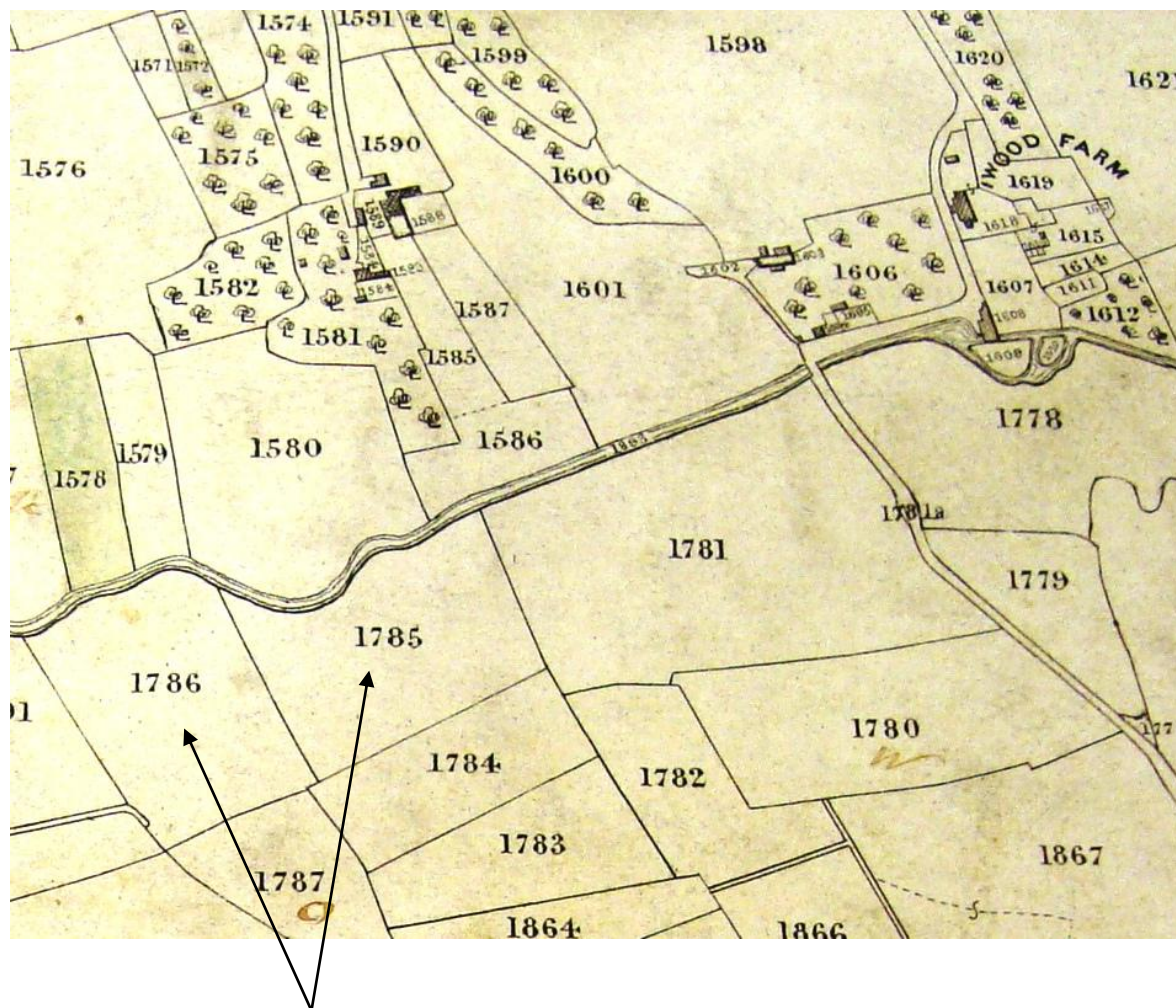
## Land use and geology

The field lie entirely on the alluvial clays of the Northmarsh, in the floodplain of the Congresbury Yeo. It is currently used for grazing cattle and sheep.



## Historical & archaeological context

Please see YCCCART report Y16 on this site for the history and archaeology of Iwood.



*Fig 2 : 1839 Map. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9. The surveyed fields are numbered 1785 and 1786 on the map.*

The Tithe apportionment record, relating to the 1839 map above, shows the field 1785 as pasture, called Upper Yeo Mead or Riding Mead, and 1786 as pasture called Lower Yeo Mead, owned and occupied by Benjamin Thayer.

A small bridge spans the river Yeo to the north east of field number 1785 in fig 2. This has been Grade II listed by English Heritage, being a substantially intact late-C18 or early-C19 bridge over the River Yeo. It is an unusual survival on account of its un-metalled surface and the presence of an associated track that has similarly escaped strengthening or upgrading. It is one of three small-scale bridges located in close proximity to each other which span the river to the east and south east of the village. Collins Bridge is shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map but is not shown on the 1839 map at fig 2.



*The bridge in October 2011*

## **Survey objectives**

The survey had the following objectives.

- 1) To continue to investigate the extent of the Congresbury Romano British pottery kilns and settlement at Iwood.
- 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 of field was undertaken during the period September to October 2011 by teams from YCCCART using a Geoscan RM15 resistivity meter, with settings as per the site record in Appendix 1.

The completed survey was downloaded to ArcheoSurveyor and Snuffler programmes

ArcheoSurveyor composites were adjusted using the following filters

- 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 2007.

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



## Results

### A) Mr Collins Field 5

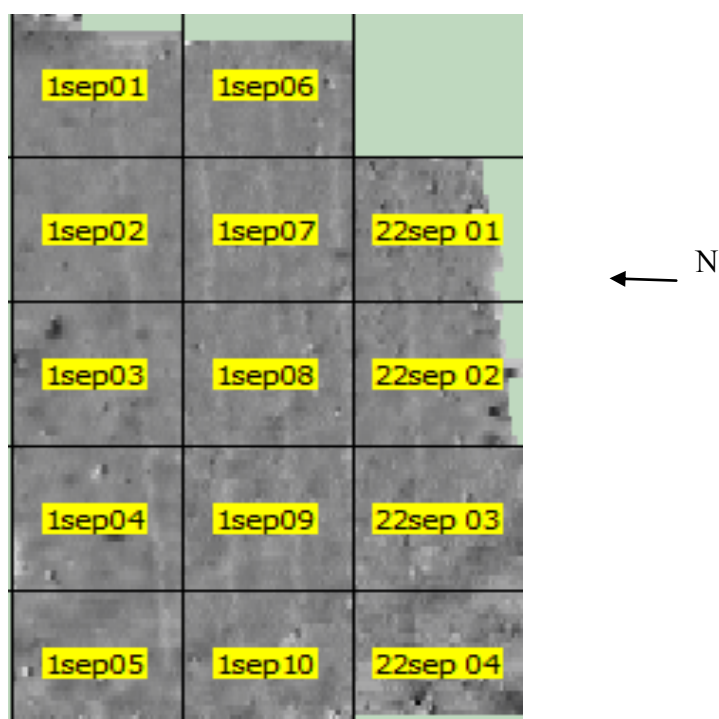
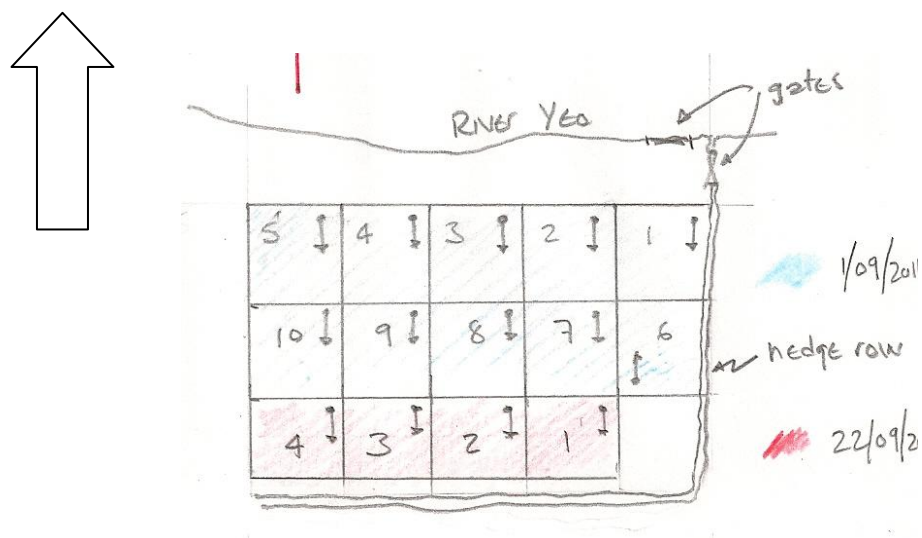


Fig 3: Grid layout and ArcheoSurveyor file names (below) . Grids 30m square.



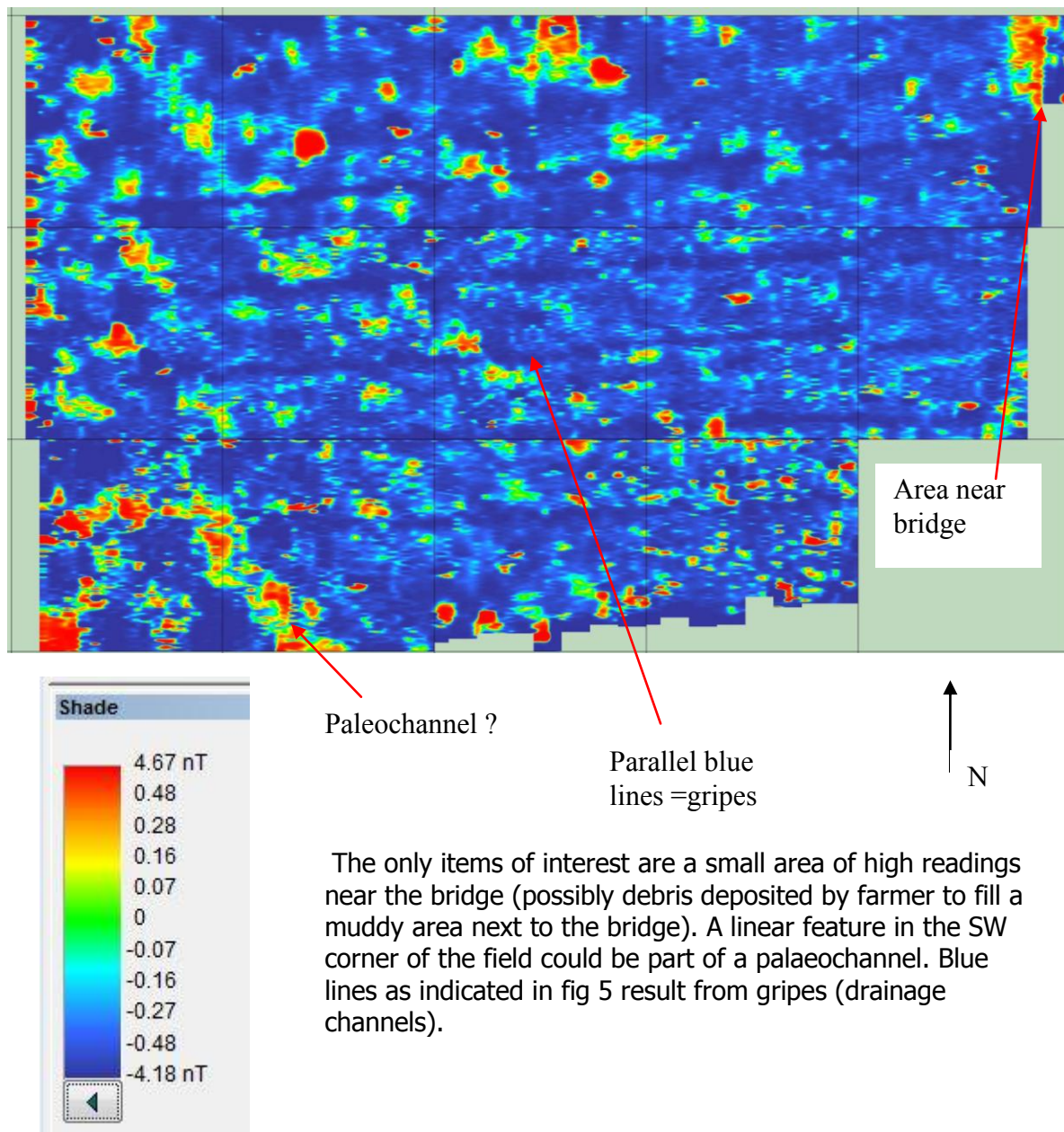


Fig 5: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor image). High readings are red.

# Mr Collins Field 6

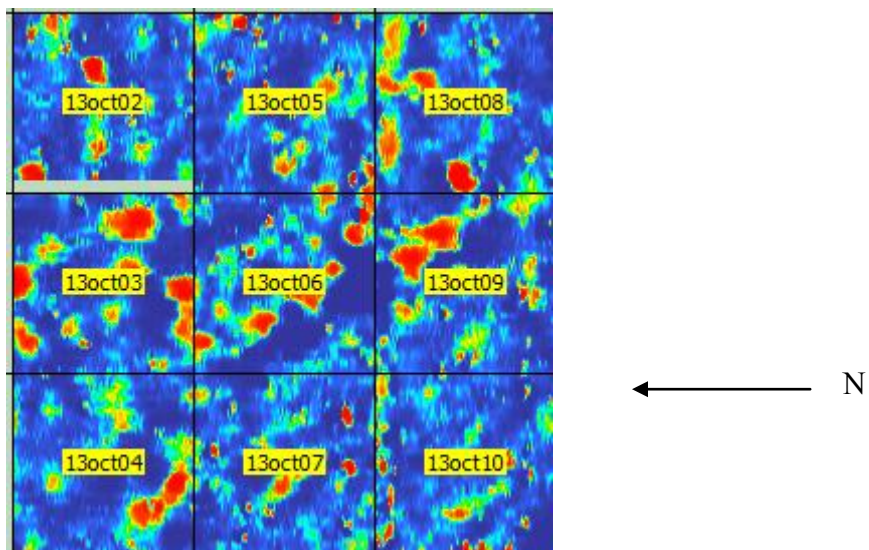
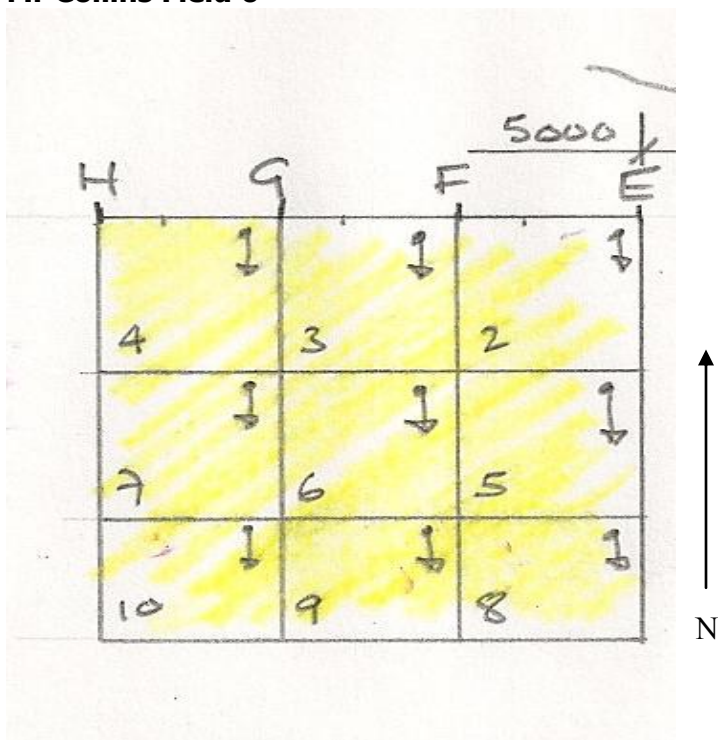
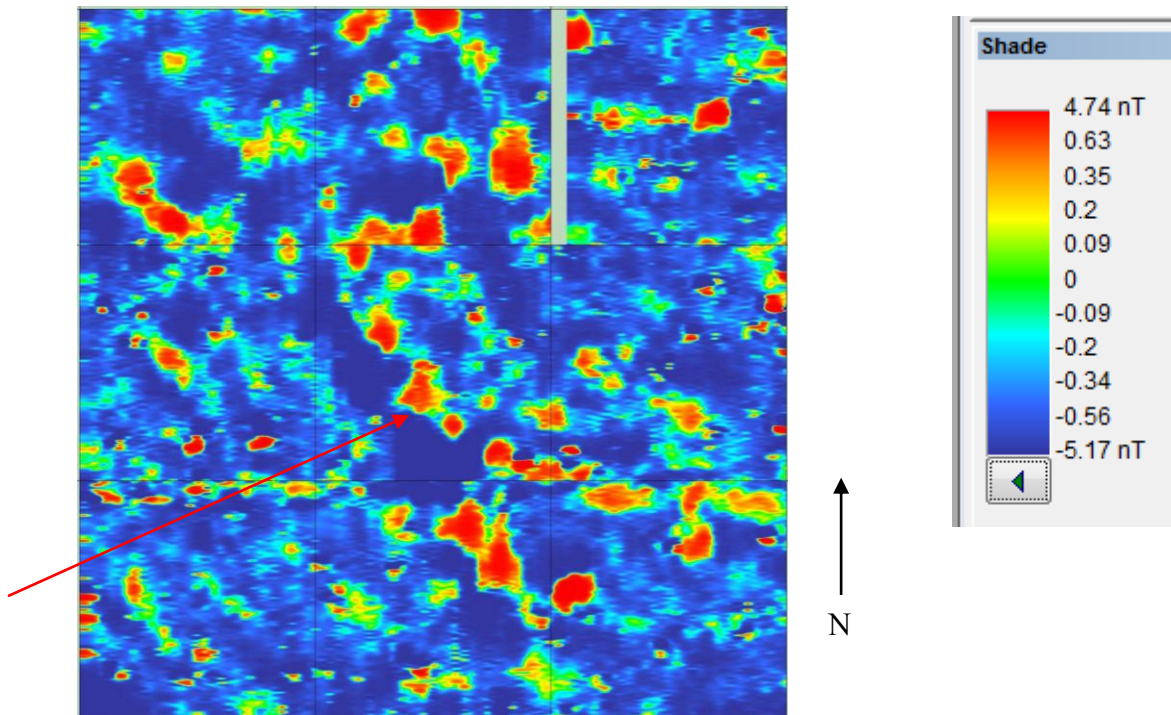


Fig 6: Grid layout and below ArcheoSurveyor file names. Grids 30m square.

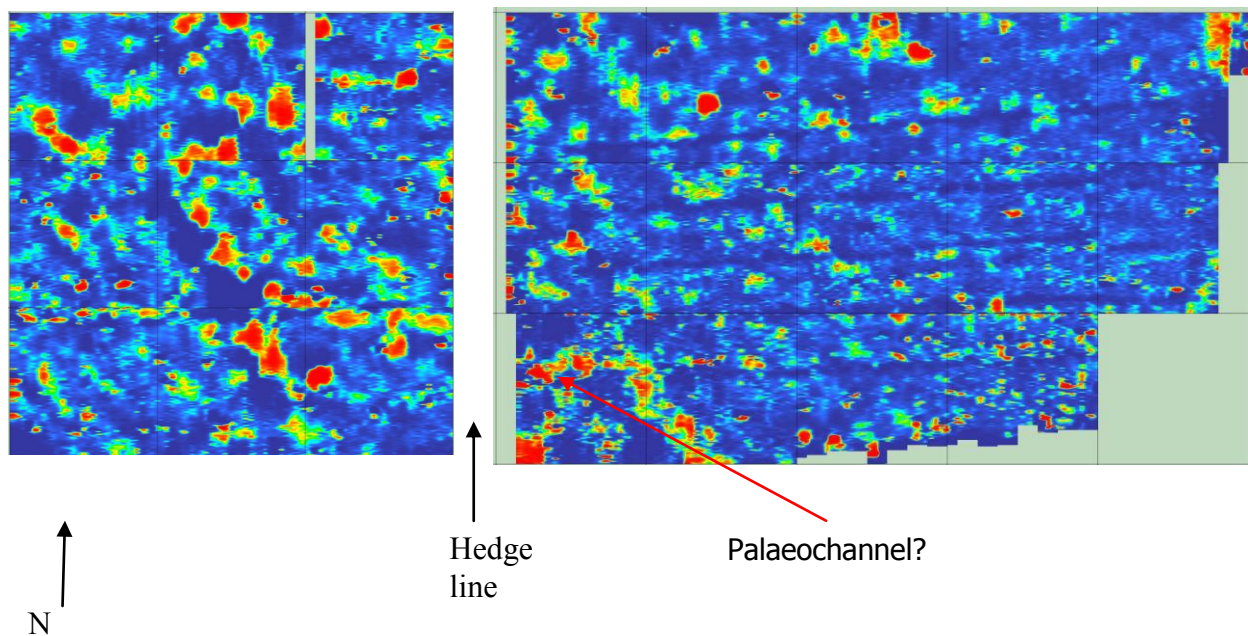


*Fig 7: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor colour image). High readings are red.*

The line of high readings, indicated by the red arrow in fig 7, could be a palaeochannel. Other high, red readings are probably the result of small pieces of metal debris.

There are also a series of wide linear negative reading features, running from NW to SE in this field. Such features are normally looser damper soil bands – the reaction to gripes is remarkably similar. These features are not visible in air photographs, however, while the gripes that are clearly visible in this field do not seem to register on the plot.





*Fig 8: Results from both fields. Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor colour image). High readings are red.*

Results from both fields (Mr Collins 5& 6) are shown in fig 8 above.

The line of the possible palaeochannel is continuous across both fields as indicated by the red arrow.

The line of the gripes is very clear: the ones in field 5 are continuous with those in field 4 to the east, confirmed with the 1971 air photos. Since gripes are usually thought to be a post-medieval phenomenon, the hedge between the two fields cannot be of great age, although there is a fence line at the time of the tithe map (so the gripes are of *some* antiquity).



## Recommendations

The survey has revealed a potential palaeochannel, linking across both fields, a group of roughly parallel linear low-result lines in field 6 which may be clay pits and gripes of some antiquity in field 5 which are continuous with those in Mr Collins field 4 ( See YCCART report Y2 /2011).

No further action is recommended in fields 5 & 6.

## 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). |
| Congresbury Tithe Map | <i>BRO 37959/9</i> (Bristol Record Office)   |
| Collins Bridge        | <i>English Heritage list entry number 1392285. First listed 26-Oct-2007</i>  |

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**Date:** October 2011

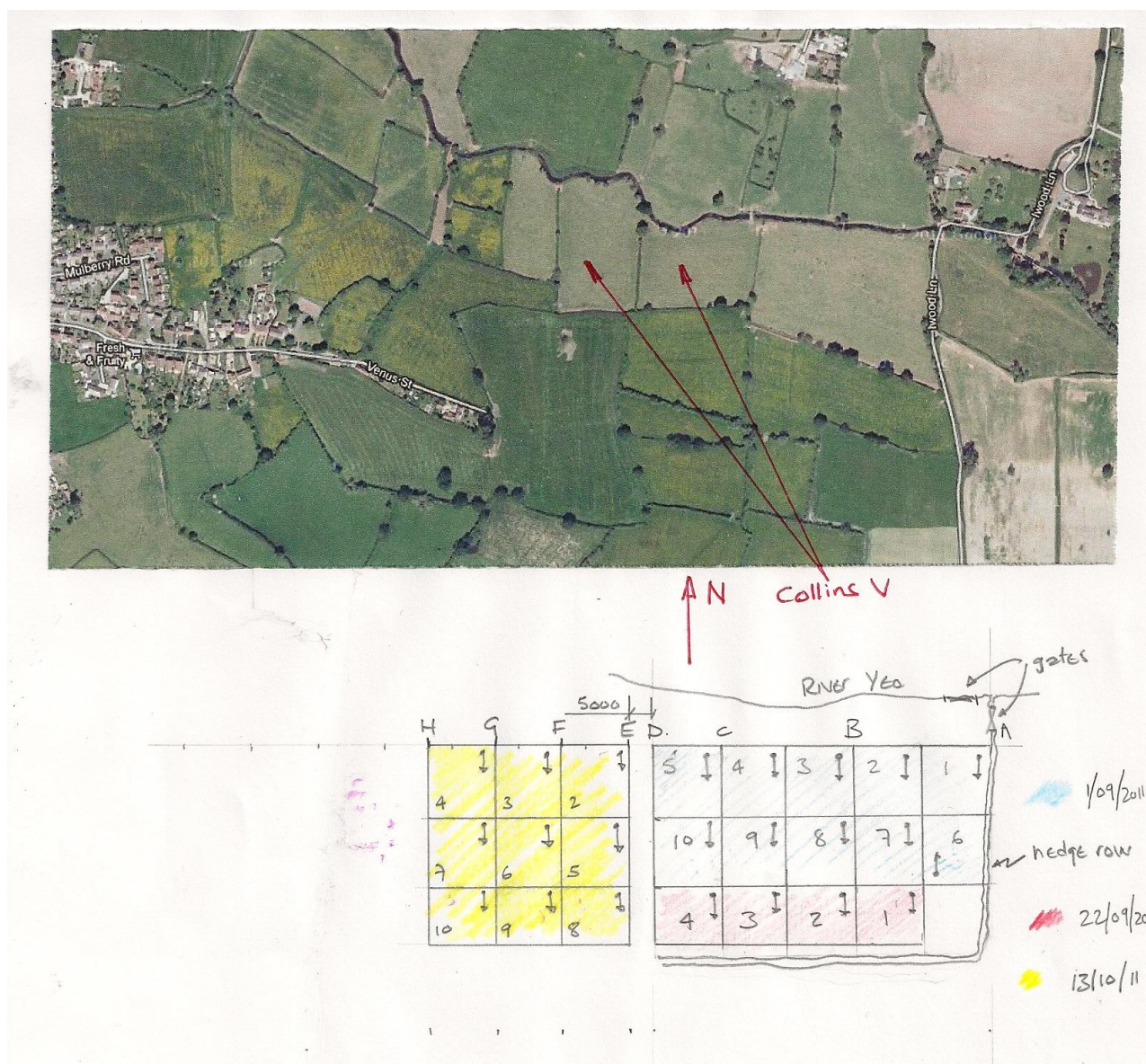
## Appendix

### Setting out details

YCCART Site Survey Project – Congresbury kilns		
Survey date	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	
Report date	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	
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 Audio: On Threshold:10nT Reject:50 Hz
Location	Land between Iwood Lane and Venus Street	
	See annex 1	
Ref	none	
Site name	Collins 6	
Landowner	Mr. Alan Collins, Little Iwood, Wrington Road, Congresbury, BS49 5AR	
Tenant	None	
HER ref	TBC	
Site type	Open land	
Description	mowed pasture	
Period	Unknown	
Geology		
Land use		
Survey team and conditions		
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2100	Team	Peter Wright, Susan Dugas, Peter English, Janet Dickson and Ian Morton
	Weather	Hot with clear sky
22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2011	Team	Susan Dugas, Peter English, Ferdi and Ian Morton
	Weather	Sunny intervals with spot of light drizzle.
13 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	Team	Susan Dugas, Peter English, Mike Fox, John Hayes and Ian Morton
	Weather	Sunny intervals with early light mist

Survey area			notes		readings		
			size	walk direction	max	min	mean
Grid ref #	01/09/2011	1	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	S	+32.6	-34.6	+0.4
		2	30 x 30 m	S	+3.5	-2.3	+0.9
		3	30 x 30 m	S	+24.6	-3.3	+1.2
		4	30 x 30 m	S	+4.5	-9.0	+1.1
		5	30 x 30 m	S	+47.6	-6.0	+1.5
		6	30 x 30 m Truncated grid	N	+5.6	-3.8	+1.9
		7	30 x 30 m	S	+4.6	+0.4	+1.9
		8	30 x 30 m	S	+10.5	-3.4	+2.2
		9	30 x 30 m	S	+9.9	+0.1	+2.1
		10	30 x 30 m Truncated grid	S	+11.0	-3.9	+2.2
	22/09/2011	1	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	S	+15.1	-52.0	+0.7
		2	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	S	+9.0	-11.9	+0.7
		3	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	S	+7.6	-6.0	-0.6
		4	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	S	+15.2	-17.4	-0.8
	13/10/2011	2	30 x 30 m	S	+6.6	-5.1	+0.5
		3	30 x 30 m	S	+3.1	-2.0	+0.3
		4	30 x 30 m	S	+2.9	-1.2	+0.3
		5	30 x 30 m	S	+23.1	-100.0	+0.2
		6	30 x 30 m	S	+20.2	-9.7	+1.0
		7	30 x 30 m	S	+8.3	-3.2	+1.0
		8	30 x 30 m	S	+10.5	-5.1	+1.2
		9	30 x 30 m	S	+22.0	-11.3	+1.8
		10	30 x 30 m	S	+7.5	-1.0	+2.8

# Setting out details





## Grid location details

	Grid Ref.	All ST
	eastings	northings
A	45064.55	63043.49
B	45004.97	63046.03
C	44944.28	63052.42
D	44917.49	63051.36
E	44911.41	63052.15
F	44881.92	63055.38
G	44851.86	63056.99
H	44821.42	63058.65
quiet spot	45042.21	63056.61

