

**YCCCART 2011/Y2
North Somerset HER 2011-26**

**Gradiometry survey at Iwood
(Mr Collin's field 4)**

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



Pip having a drink in the Yeo. Field 4 is across the river

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Abstract

YCCCART has agreed with the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake a project over two years commencing May 2009 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, have revealed a potential domestic area, palaeochannels and a track way which is continuous with a track way identified previously north of the current river.

Acknowledgements

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCART, of a Bartington Gradiometer 601 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.

For further information, see <http://cansnetwork.co.uk>

Site Location



Fig 1: Site location

The site is close to the hamlet of Iwood, in the parish of Congresbury in North Somerset. The start point of the survey lies at ST345191 163045 some 12 miles south of Bristol

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

Land use and geology

The field lies 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.

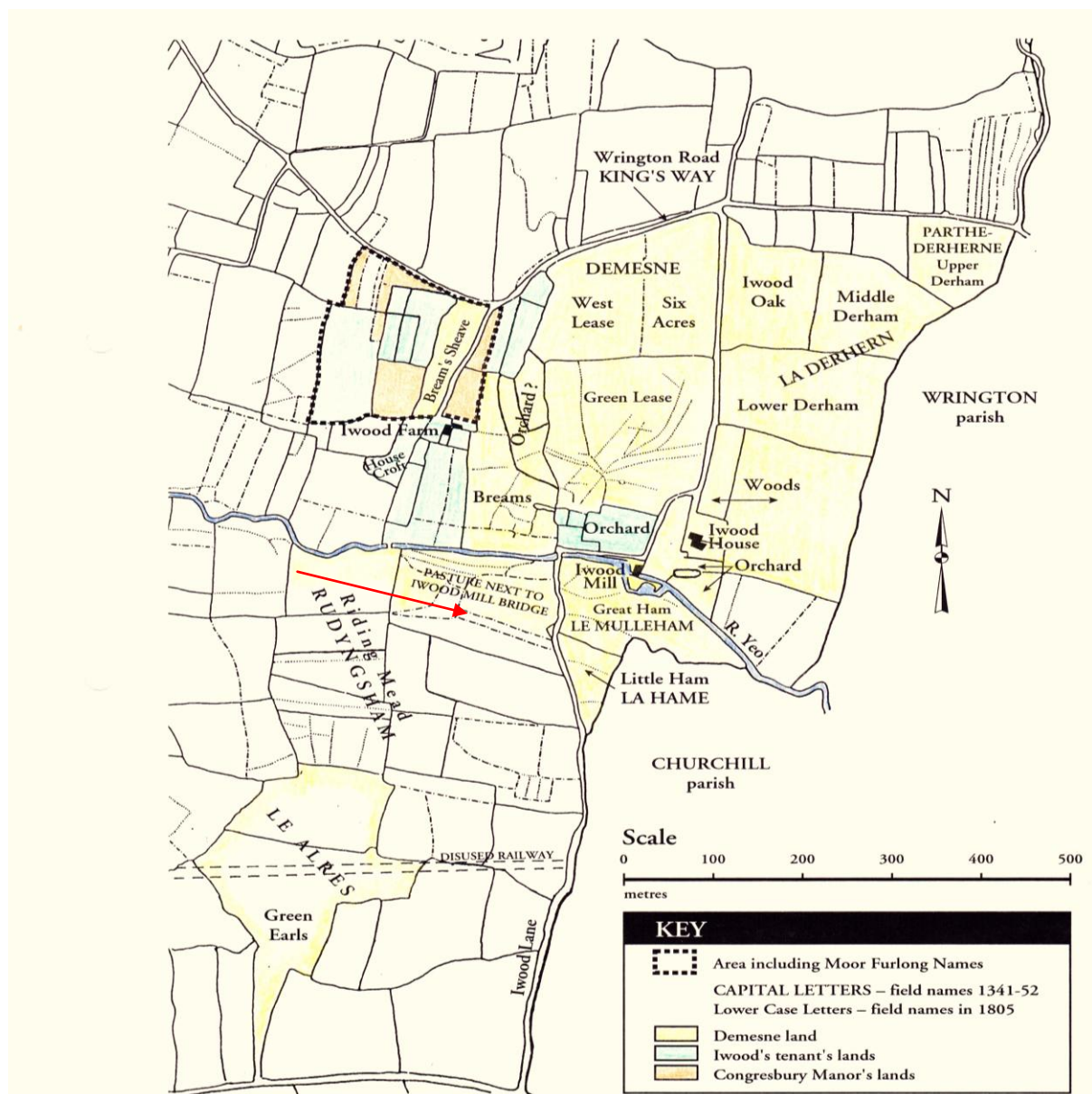


Fig 2: Map compiled by Gill Bedingfield showing the medieval lands at Iwood

The map at Figure 2 above shows that the shape of the surveyed field has changed little in 800 years and that in the fourteenth century the field was called Pasture next to Iwood Mill Bridge.



Fig 3: 1839 Map. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9. The surveyed field is number 1781 on the map.

The Tithe apportionment record, relating to the 1839 map above, shows the field as pasture, called The Bridge Nine Acres or Pigs ?-ot, being owned by the Trustees of William & Mary Merle and occupied by Charles Parsons.

Survey objectives

The survey had the following objectives.

- 1) To identify any additional Romano-British kilns or other 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 Gradiometer 601.

Methodology - Gradiometry survey

The survey of field 1 was undertaken during the period October to December 2010 by teams from YCCCART using a Bartington Gradiometer 601, with settings as per the site record in Appendix 1.

The completed survey was downloaded to the ArcheoSurveyor programme and the resultant composite adjusted using the following filters

- 1) Colour - Red Blue Green 2
- 2) Band weight equaliser
- 3) Grad shade
- 4) Destriped
- 5) Despiked
- 6) Clip SD2

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2003.

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

Results

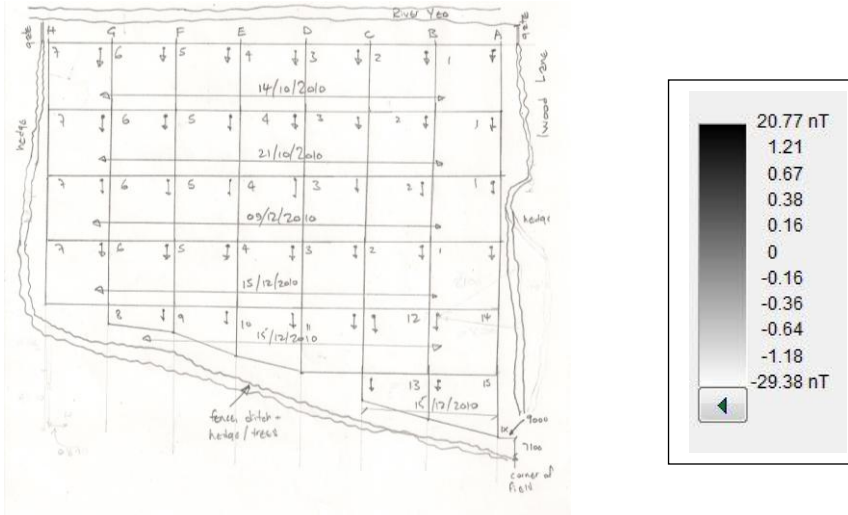
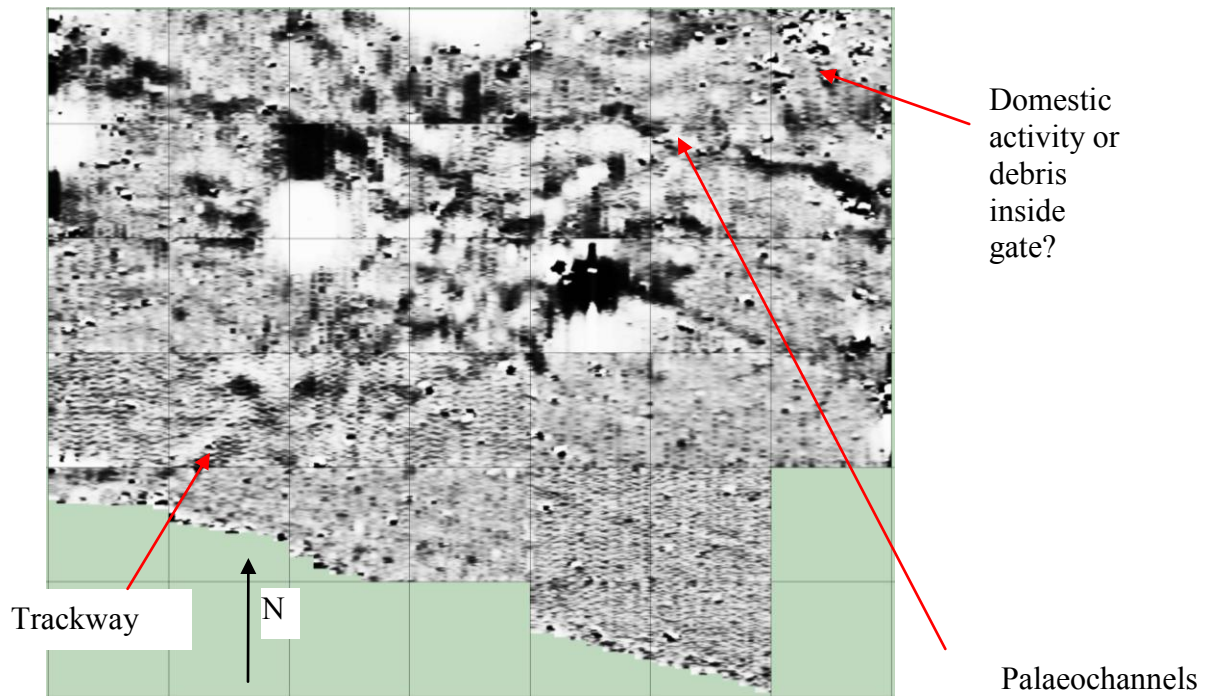


Fig 4: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor image) with survey plan. High readings are black.

The results show the course of the old river system (palaeochannels) as well as a potential domestic area and trackway.

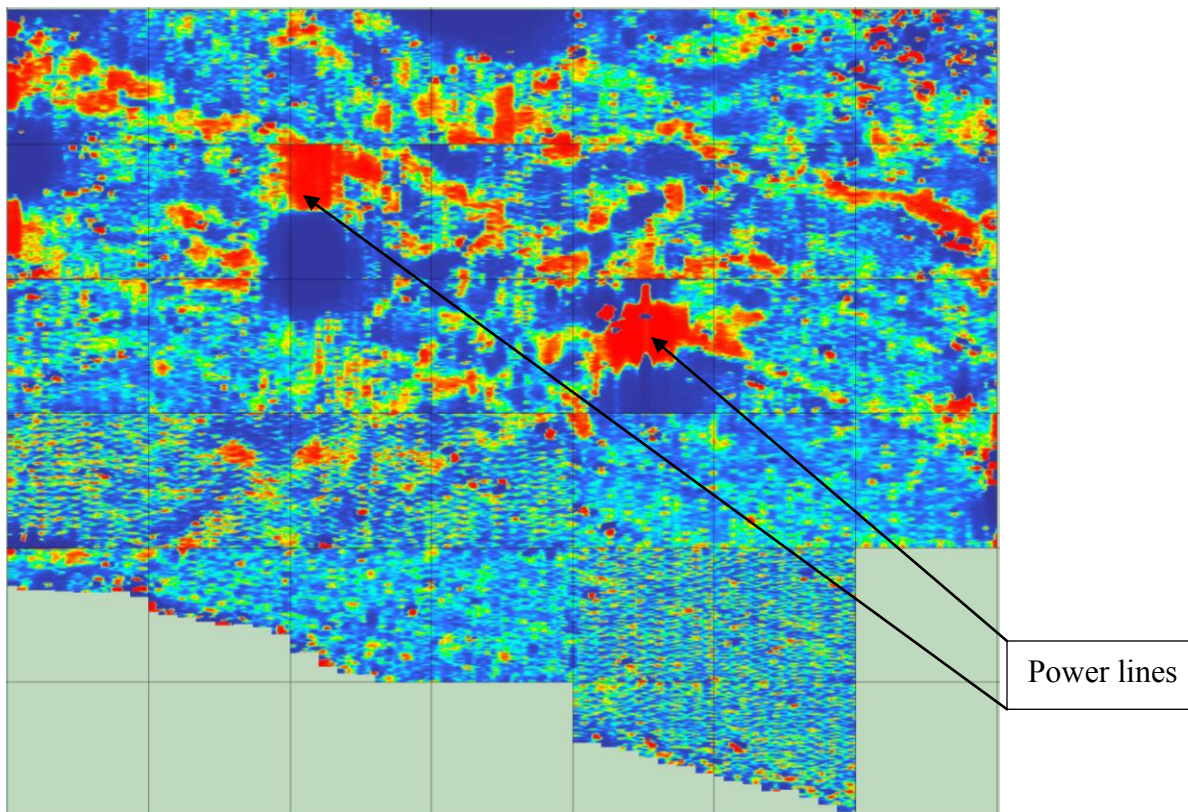


Fig 5: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor image). Colour view. High readings are red.

The colour view highlights the potential domestic area (although this should be viewed with some caution: the results may simply represent agricultural debris tipped on the approach to the gate), palaeochannels and track way. This trackway appears to be turning in the direction of Venus Street; on 1946 air photographs there appears to be a section of slight hollow way on this line some 80m east of the current end of Venus Street.

Large areas of red indicated are the result of supports for over head power lines.

Existing and backfilled girders can be seen as a series of linear darker blue stripes running across the plot.

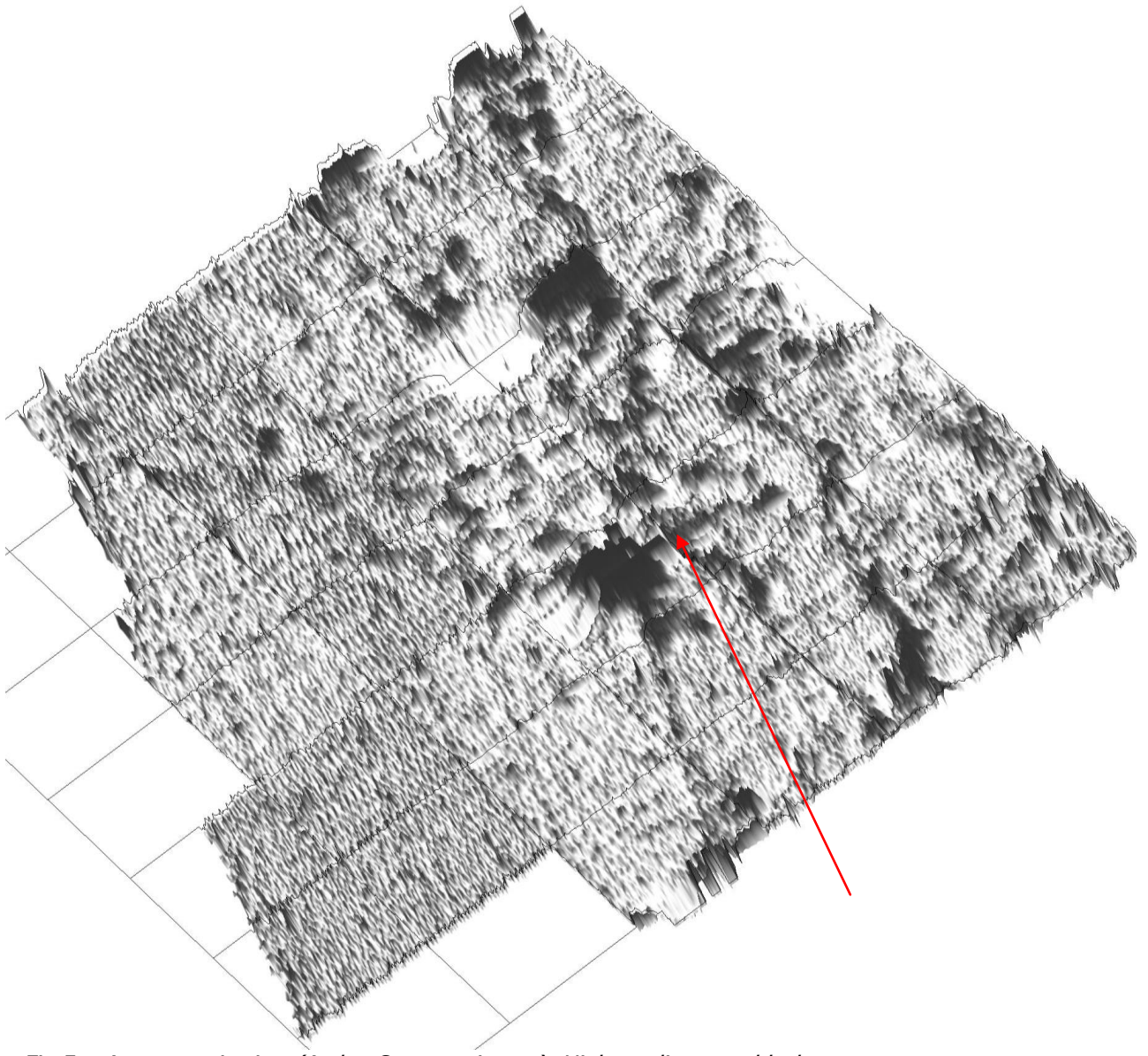


Fig 5 : Axonometric view (ArcheoSurveyor image) High readings are black

This view largely confirms the results seen in the other displays. The twin ditches on either side of the trackway are visible, as are the huge spikes resulting from the power line supports, the gripes and the palaeochannels.

There is a further linear feature, indicated by the arrow in figure 5 above, seemingly parallel to the trackway. It does not appear on air photographs, but may be a section of ditch backfilled in antiquity.

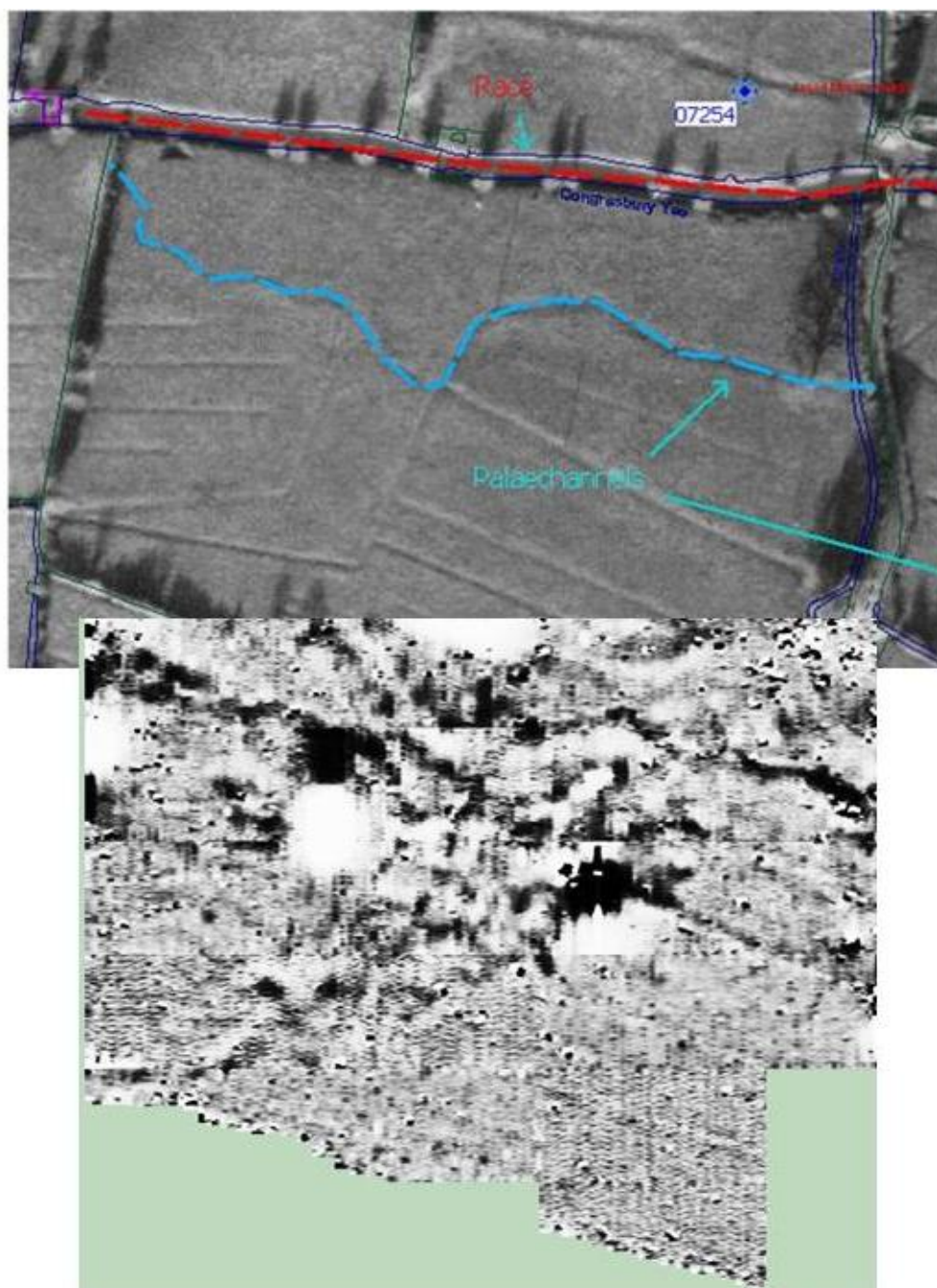
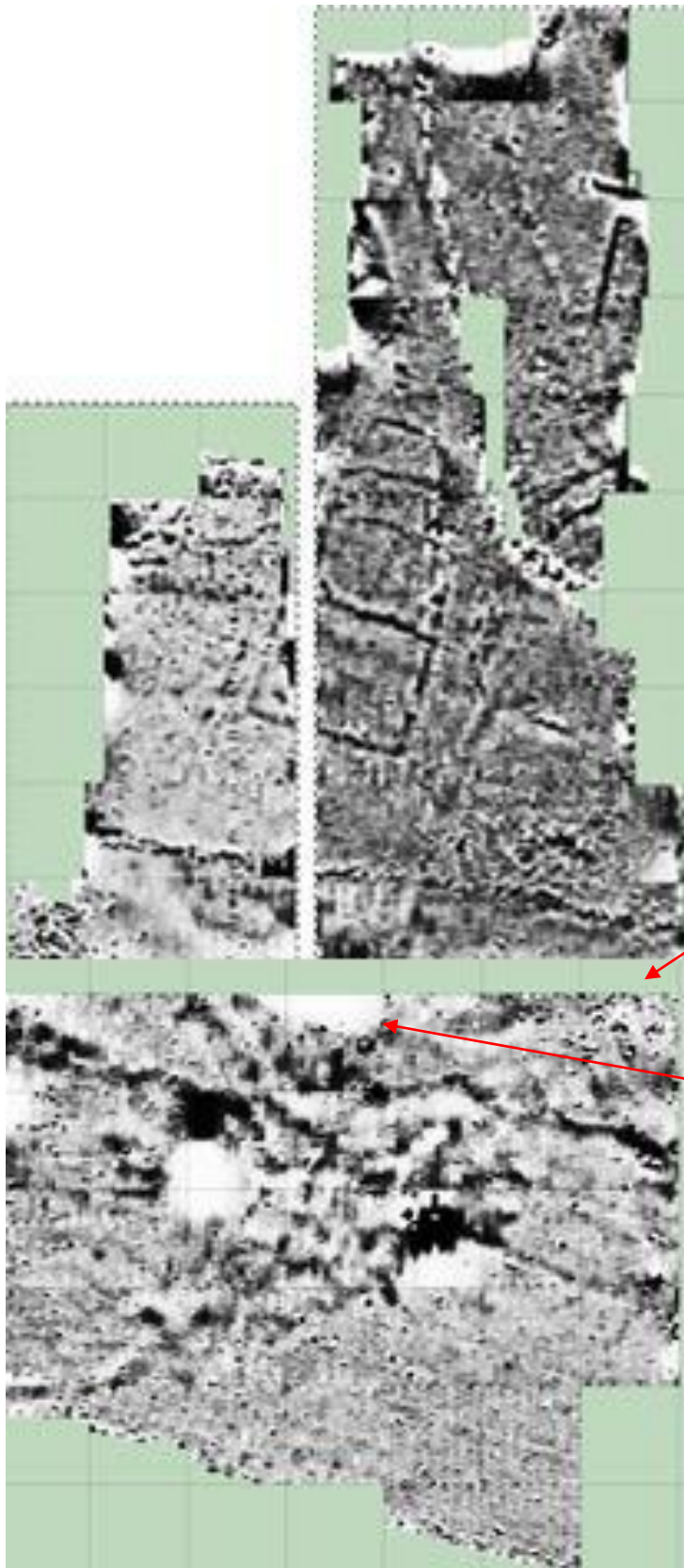


Fig 6: Shade image and 1946 aerial photograph (Crown copyright reserved)

The clearly engineered section of river from the parish boundary to Iwood mill is very distinguishable on the 1946 air photo (highlighted in red). The pre-Iwood mill course of the river is likely to be the line highlighted in blue, which coincides exactly with the line on the gradiometry results, and partly with the Wrington / Churchill parish boundary.



The results at top left are taken from YCCCART report Y16 /2010 and relate to gradiometry surveys completed in the two fields immediately above the field, which is the subject of this report, and the river Yeo.

An early track way can be seen in alignment across the position of the current Yeo.

Current line of the Yeo

Note how the track way appears to continue north and south of the new and old river course.

Fig 7: Shade image of Mr Collins fields 2, 3 & 4 at Iwood

Recommendations

It is suggested that the potential domestic area shown in figure 4 is investigated by a resistivity survey, and that pseudosection survey is undertaken on the line of the Yeo palaeochannel.

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)

Authors. Chris Short & Ian Morton

Date January 2011

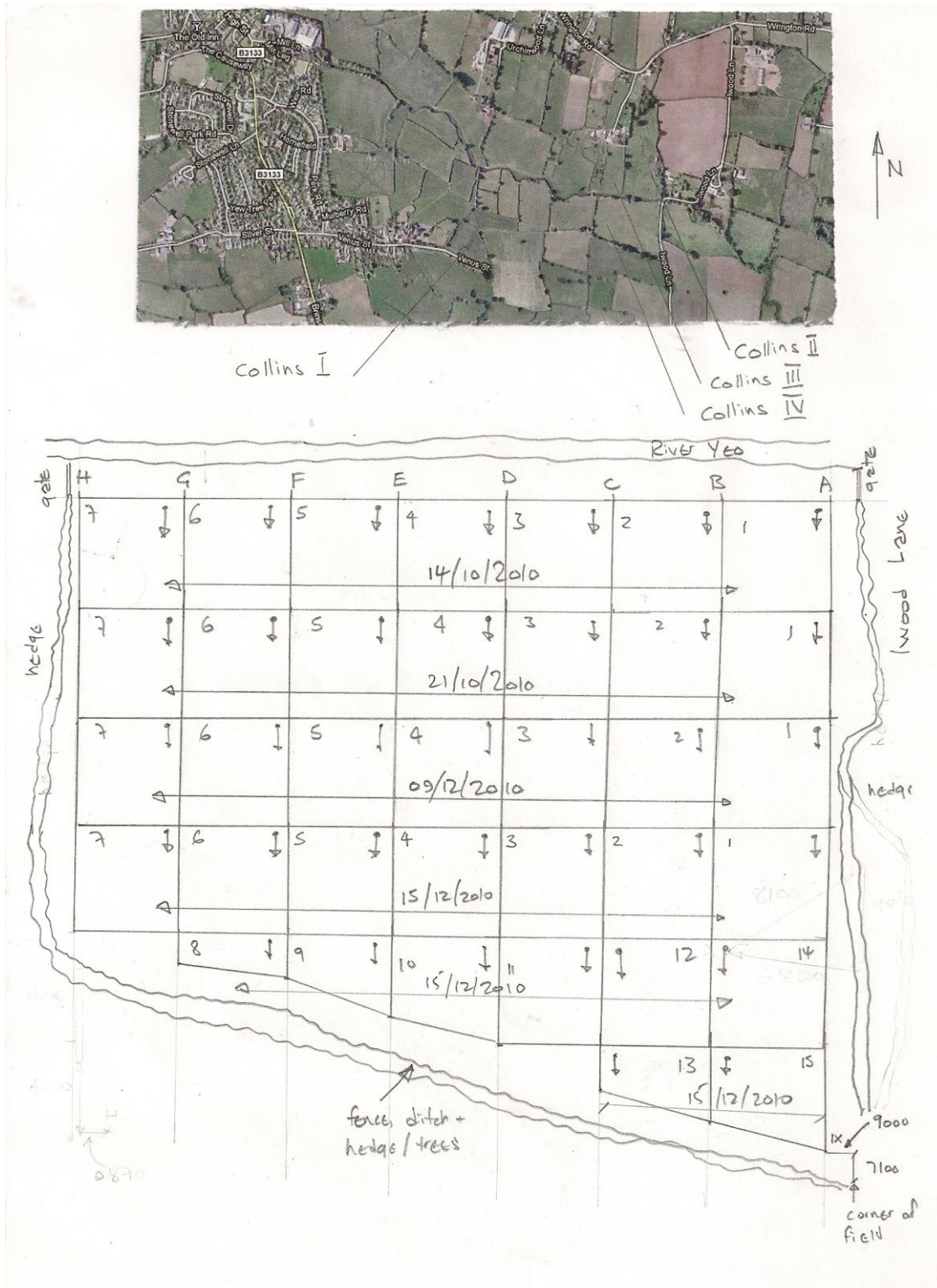
Appendix

YCCART Site Survey Project – Congresbury Kilns		
Survey date	15 th December 2010	
Report date	15 th December 2010	
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:1nT Reject:50 Hz
Location	Iwood Lane, Congresbury	
Ref		
Site name	Collins IV	
Landowner	Alan Collins	
Tenant	Mr. Alan Collins, Little Iwood, Wrington Road, Congresbury, BS49 5AR	
HER ref		
Site type	Open field	
Description	Grass	
Period	Unknown	
Geology	Limestone	
Land use	grazing	
Survey teams		
14 th October 2010	Peter Wright, Peter English, Mike Fox & Ian Morton	
21 st October 2010	Peter Wright, Peter English, Mike Fox & Susan Dugas	
9 th December 2010	Peter English, Dave Long, Ferdi & Ian Morton	
15 th December 2010	Peter English, Peter Wright, Ferdi & Ian Morton	
Weather		
14 th October 2010	Cool and overcast	
21 st October 2010	Cool and bright	
9 th December 2010	Sunny, below freezing	
15 th December 2010	Cool, sunny intervals.	

Survey area			notes		readings		
			size	walk direction	max	min	mean
Grid ref #	14/10/2010	1	30 x 30 m	S	+99.5	-72.4	-0.7
		2	30 x 30 m	S	+90.9	-100.0	-1.4
		3	30 x 30 m	S	+5.4	-16.3	-2.0
		4	30 x 30 m	S	+47.6	-62.7	-5.9
		5	30 x 30 m	S	+17.0	-14.2	-2.7
		6	30 x 30 m	S	+27.3	-15.7	-1.9
		7	30 x 30 m	S	-78.0	-67.6	-2.9
Grid ref #		1	30 x 30 m	S	+99.6	-100.0	-1.2
		2	30 x 30 m	S	+18.8	-17.2	-1.6
		3	30 x 30 m	S	+7.2	-15.1	-1.7

Survey area			notes		readings		
			size	walk direction	max	min	mean
	21/10/2010	4	30 x 30 m	S	+77.4	-54.5	-1.3
		5	30 x 30 m Electricity pole in grid	S	+3.3	-100.0	-10.0
		6	30 x 30 m	S	+30.8	-33.1	-2.6
		7	30 x 30 m	S	+100.0	-100.0	-7.4
Grid ref #	9/12/2010	1	30 x 30 m Electricity pole in grid	S	+99.3	-98.6	0.0
		2	30 x 30 m	S	+7.1	-5.9	+0.5
		3	30 x 30 m Electricity pole in grid	S	+100.0	-100.0	+7.6
		4	30 x 30 m	S	+6.4	-5.3	0.0
		5	30 x 30 m Electricity pole in grid	S	+3.1	-100.0	-4.3
		6	30 x 30 m	S	+6.7	-56.5	-0.8
		7	30 x 30 m	S	+17.5	-13.5	0.0
Grid ref #	15/12/2010	1	30 x 30 m	S	+62.1	-100.0	-0.6
		2	30 x 30 m	S	+4.1	-2.5	+0.9
		3	30 x 30 m	S	+9.7	-38.8	+1.0
		4	30 x 30 m	S	+43.9	-21.2	-1.6
		5	30 x 30 m	S	+64.4	-36.6	-0.8
		6	30 x 30 m	S	+26.3	-30.2	-1.3
		7	30 x 30 m	S	+4.9	-100.0	-1.5
		8	30 x 30 m Mirror & return	S	+21.5	-37.3	+0.5
		9	30 x 30 m Mirror & return	S	+14.6	-15.3	+0.7
		10	30 x 30 m	S	+36.8	-25.8	+0.8
		11	30 x 30 m	S	+9.4	-1.6	+1.3
		12	30 x 30 m	S	+10.3	-13.2	+1.6
	note	13	30 x 30 m Mirror & return	S	+8.5	-3.3	+1.3
	x Operator A	14	30 x 30 m	S	+19.8	-3.1	+1.6
	y Operator B	15	30 x 30 m Mirror & return	S	+11.4	-12.4	+1.5
Summary			SURVEY COMPLETE				

Setting out details



Annex 1

