

**YCCCART 2016/Y9
North Somerset HER 204**

**Scheduled Monument 22825 'Motte and bailey castle and associated
earthworks south of Locking Head Farm'**

Geophysical and terrain surveys at Locking Head Castle, North Somerset

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



'Don't worry, it'll look fine once we get the curtains up!'

Building a motte from the Bayeux tapestry

General editor: Vince Russett

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Abstract

Resistivity and gradiometry surveys of the Scheduled motte and bailey at Locking Head Farm were enhanced by the addition of Nivcomp terrain surveys. Previous surveys were confirmed and enhanced, and the structures on the motte revealed for the first time. The bailey did not produce significant results using either geophysical technique, which may imply only short-term use of the Conquest and Subjugation period Norman structures, or at least, indicate it never became a developed high-status site.

Acknowledgements

YCCCART would like to thank Mr and Mrs Ledbury, tenants at Locking Head Farm (their patience was tested sorely at least once) (<http://lockingheadfarm.co.uk/>), North Somerset Properties Dept and Dan Smith of the North Somerset Development Management Team for help in arranging the surveys. This work would be far less complete without the pioneering work of Stuart Prior, Bristol University.

Introduction

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

The objective of the teams is to carry out archaeological fieldwork, for the purpose of recording, and better understanding and management, of the heritage of northern Somerset.

The fieldwork for this report was largely carried out in September and October 2016.

Site location

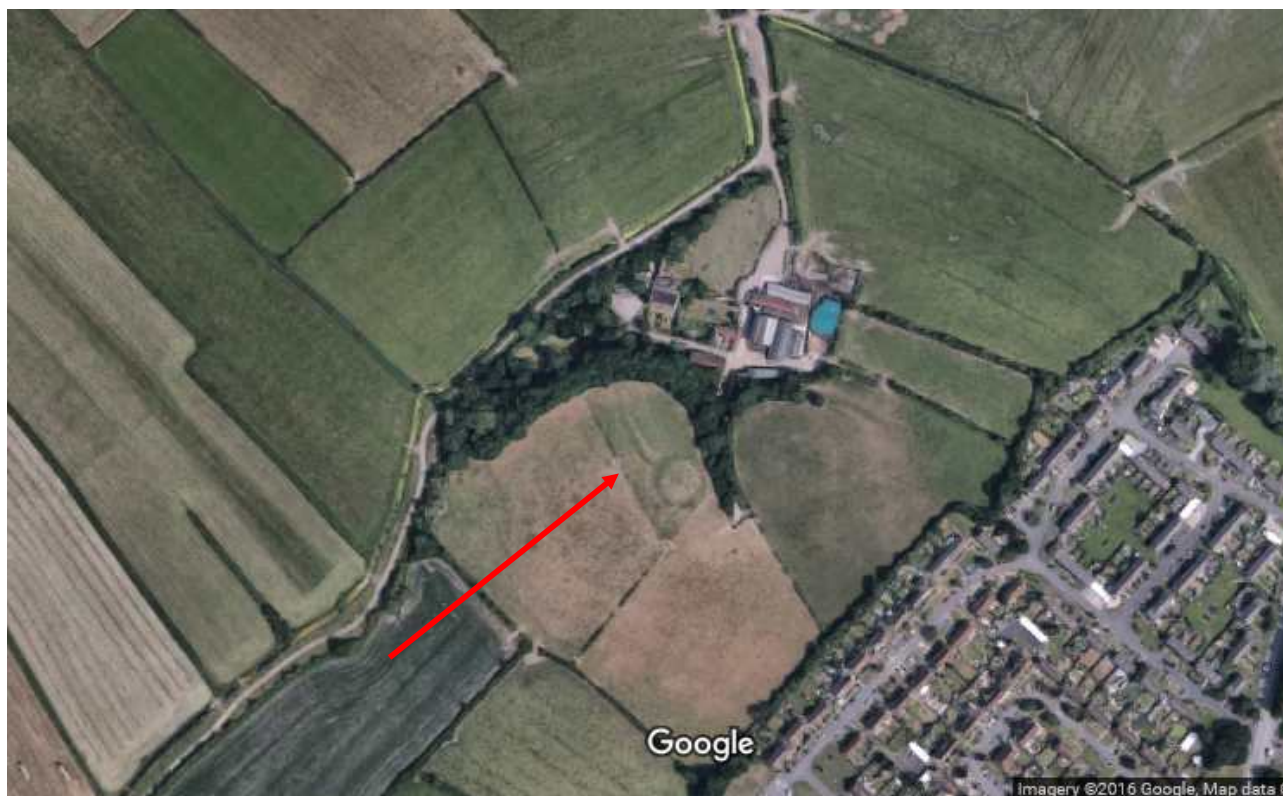


Fig 1: Location of Locking Head Castle

The site of the motte and bailey at Locking Head Farm, North Somerset is at ST36396087. It lies on top of a low wooded hill, some 1300m from the M5, and 1060m S of the District Centre at Worle. Although close to a heavily urbanised area, the monument is shielded by dense mature woodland growing to its north and east. It is intervisible with the settlement formerly RAF Locking to the south, which approaches to within 120m of its south fence. Despite this, the monument currently retains a very rural ambience.

Land use and Geology

The castle earthworks lie on a peninsular area of the Tea Green Marls, of the Liassic Limestones. Apart from the neck of land connecting it to the main body of the Marls to the south, it is surrounded by, although 10m above, the alluvium of Locking and Banwell Moors, in the Northmarsh of North Somerset (information from OS geological data).

The monument and its immediate surroundings are currently grazing pasture. There is no public access to the monument.

Designations

Locking Head Castle was designated a Scheduled Monument as UID: 22825 'Motte and bailey castle and associated earthworks south of Locking Head Farm' on 13 December 1977, the record last amended 20 May 1994 (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1008301>) and see Appendix 1.

Nearby Locking Head Farmhouse was Listed Grade II on 17 January 1984. (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1129800>). From documents in the collections of the Merchant Venturers, the house was built in 1785, but the builder re-used many components of the old house (Merchants Hall, Index to Proceedings, 1732-96).

Historical and archaeological context

Motte and bailey castles

Motte and bailey castles are medieval fortifications introduced into Britain and subsequently, other parts of Europe, by the Normans.

They comprised a large conical mound of earth or rubble, the motte, surmounted by a palisade and a stone or timber tower. In a majority of examples an embanked enclosure containing additional buildings, the bailey, adjoined the motte. Motte castles and motte-and-bailey castles acted as garrison forts during offensive military operations, as strongholds, and, in many cases, as aristocratic residences and as centres of local or royal administration. Built in towns, villages and open countryside, motte and bailey castles generally occupied strategic positions dominating their immediate locality and, as a result, are the most visually impressive monuments of the early post-Conquest period surviving in the modern landscape. Over 600 motte castles or motte-and-bailey castles are recorded nationally, with examples known from most regions. As one of a restricted range of recognised early post-Conquest monuments, they are particularly important for the study of Norman Britain and the development of the feudal system. Although many were occupied for only a short period of time, motte castles continued to be built and occupied from the 11th to the 13th centuries, after which they were superseded by other types of castle.

The motte and bailey castle south of Locking Head Farm survives particularly well as an outstanding example of its class. Partial excavation of the site in 1902-3 has demonstrated that archaeological and environmental information will survive relating to the monument and the landscape in which it was constructed (Historic England 2016).

With little known of prehistoric or Roman origins in the area, the first clear historic mention of Locking is surprisingly late (1211, *Book of Fees*) as '*Lockin*', supposed by an earlier generation of toponymists to mean '(the settlement of) Locc's people'. It is difficult to be certain without OE forms, but a derivation based on OE '*locc*' = 'an enclosed place, fold' and the localising ME '*ing*' (place of, such as occurs in the names '*Rising*' = 'spring, water source' and '*Riding*' (of a wood) = 'place where one may ride'), and so possibly meaning 'place of the enclosure'. It is most likely that this refers to a feature in modern Locking village (Bosworth and Toller: <http://www.bosworthtoller.com/>).

Stephen Morland (Morland 1990) has pointed out that Locking and Worspring were probably a double manor at Domesday (seeming likely enough given their close later medieval ties) and he names two thanes holding the manor before Domesday.

It seems rather more than a coincidence that there were two manors in Locking during the rest of the medieval period, centred on Lockinghead (now Locking Head Farm) and Locking village (centred on the Manor House in Locking village, now 34, Elm Tree Road).

In surveys and official documents, Locking Head always took precedence, and it may have been regarded as the senior of the two manorial centres. Modern Locking was granted (in several tranches, including Locking Head) to Worspring (current Woodspring) Priory on its inception at its current site in 1214. It remained the property of the priory until the

Dissolution, and after passing through the hands of the Plumley family (from whom it was taken in punishment for service to Monmouth in the rebellion of 1685), it passed to the Merchant Venturers of Bristol, who were still owners at the Enclosure in 1800. Locking Head, therefore, almost certainly had manorial status since before the Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest and Somerset's role

It has in the past been hinted that the castles at Sand Point, Worle and Locking Head in northern Somerset were created during the Anarchy, a period of civil war between Stephen (the king) and the Empress Matilda, in the 1130s – 1150s. The origins of this conflict are complex, but basically involved disputed succession to the throne of England. (a succinct article re this background may be found here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Anarchy).

However, Prior (2006: 68-109) has persuasively argued that these castles are far more likely to be of the Conquest and Subjugation periods, in the late 1060s.

Worle in 1066 was held by Esger the staller (note Domesday spells it Esgar). Stallers seem to have been close to the king (in this case, Harold Godwinson) and the most powerful people in the country below the rank of earl.

Esger had an estate of 300 hides in 1066, scattered over 9 shires: making him one of the richest thegns in England. By the 1060s he was one of the leading men in the king's circle, attesting diplomas as seneschal, staller and procurator of the king's hall. He may have been a personal friend of the king, to whom he gave a manor in Essex.

He also seems to have led the Londoners' initial resistance to William.

Esger '*contractus*' (disabled in some way) is named in some sources as the holder of Worle, but this name is also applied to Esger the Staller and they are likely the same person.

King William apparently gave Esger's 'inheritance' to Geoffrey de Mandeville, but notably, it was Walter of Douai who obtained Worle (Williams 2008: 26-29; Domesday Book on-line; <http://opendomesday.org/county/somerset/>).

Somerset produced stern resistance to the Norman invasion, and Walter of Douai (one of William's trusted war leaders) seems to have been assigned to enter Somerset from the north-east. He built castles along his invasion route (Prior 2006: 75).

There are no records of what happened at the time of the Normans arrival. If there was stiff resistance, it is possible that the erection of castles adjacent to at least two of the manors in the Worle estate was in response to this and any subsequent events.

Use during the anarchy?

It is not clear how many castles in Somerset were used or re-used during the Anarchy, since the area stood fairly solidly behind the Empress Matilda, and Stephen does not seem to have operated in the area. Imprisonment in Bristol, and his attack on Richmond Castle in East Harptree in 1138, were probably the closest his forces came to the area.

Nevertheless, the presence of castle earthworks close to 3 of the manorial centres in the area (Worspring, Worle, Locking Head) has led many to assume that this was the date of construction of the castles. The partly developed nature of Locking Head Castle may mean it saw some refurbishment at that period.

Subsequent events



Fig 2: Locking Head Farm and castle, 1745

For most of the subsequent period, the field (known as 'The Hills') seems to have been used as pasture. In 1745 (Fig 2), the whole motte-and-bailey seems to have been in its own enclosure. This may have been connected with the use of the motte for a windmill (see below), although no trace of the mill remained to be depicted in the 1745 map. It is not known what the nature of this enclosure structure was, but the current fences only date to the early 1980s.

The fields are traceable as part of the core lands of the tenement based on Locking Head Farm. This farm was Tenement A of the Merchant Venturers holdings in the parish, again emphasising its pre-eminence. A stone barn in the farm was supposed to have medieval origins when examined in 1953, but all traces of these were lost in building operations in the late 1970s (NSHER 2482).

Planting on the motte



Fig 3: Tree clump on the motte from the Locking Tithe map



Fig 4: Motte with large trees 1982

Three very large trees seen on the motte in this air photograph from 1982 may have been the remains of ornamental planting in the early 19th century. The use of such 'eyecatchers' was not unusual at the time, and the clump would have been visible for miles around.

The 1903 OS plan was the first to show significant earthworks at the site. As can be seen from Fig 5, these included the bailey wall and the motte (with a section of bailey bank to the north-east of the motte, where we appear to have refound it).

As well as indicating the hollow track up the hill side beside the castle, it continues these earthworks (indicating a road noted on the 1745 map of Locking) across the field to its southern boundary.

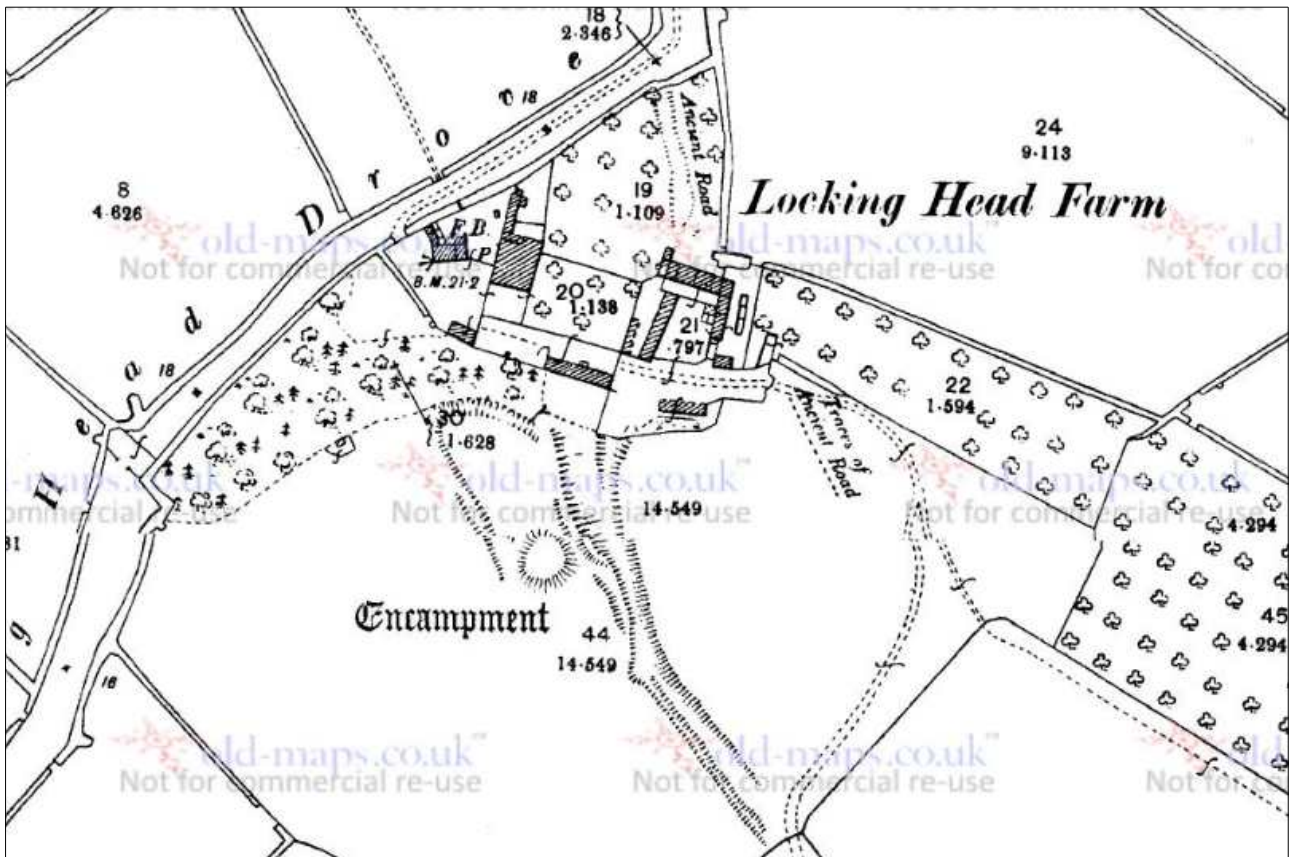


Fig 5: Locking Head Farm and earthworks on 1903 OS plan

1903 excavation at Locking Head castle

An antiquarian excavation in 1903 at the site targeted the motte. Traces of a stone-lined 'room' were found, with an assortment of objects (Anon: 1904). The 1905 volume of Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society points out the work was carried out by the tenant, one Mr Griddle. The report is worth quoting in full, if only as a warning:

Opening of a barrow at Lockinghead Farm, near Worlebury

Considerable interest has lately been aroused by the opening of a barrow at Lockinghead Farm, two miles from the ancient British camp of Worle, near Weston-super-Mare. The barrow lies on the top of a small but steep hill, which bears evident traces of having been fortified, and in shape presents a broad but slight elevation of a circular form, about fifty paces in diameter. By the country folk, who regard it with superstition, it is known as 'the Hills', and from the summit a fine prospect of the Mendips and the surrounding country may be obtained. Close to the eastern verge of the hill, there passes a track way in its course from Worle Camp to the Mendips, which is commonly called 'Roman Path', being a direct route to the lead mines said to have been worked by the Romans.

Operations were commenced by sinking a hole in the centre. And at a depth of two feet the workmen came to a square excavation, surrounded by walls of oolite, having a single face of dry masonry filled with rubble stone. The dimensions are seven feet deep and nine

feet square, one corner, in which there is a flight of steps, being rounded. The floor is very smoothly cut in the marl soil. Within this chamber, intermingled with the earth which filled it, were found the fragments of the blade of an iron sword, a burnt bone – evident marks of cremation – and pieces of coarse pottery; also a curious bone, which the writer submitted to Professor Boyd Dawkins, who pronounced it to be a bone of the Bos longifrons (the long-faced ox) a huge animal, now extinct. It has evidently had considerable wear, being very smooth and polished, with a hole bored through at one end. Possibly it was used as a shuttle spool in weaving. Professor Dawkins attributes this mode of burial to a period following the Roman occupation. – The Daily Graphic, Sept 22nd, 1903.

The buried structure could be the remains of a (wind) mill recorded at Locking Head in the 18th century:

*June 22 (1730) Report of Mr Smith and the clerk
Locking Head Farm surveyed – Stair case out of repair - ordered to be repaired ...
Alexander Longman wishes to buy the mill – committee to consider it.*

(From: Merchants Hall, index to proceedings 1708-33 and 1749-1772 paper bound volume).

This is the solitary mention of a mill in the entire Merchant Venturers papers for Locking Manor, and it seems a reasonable hypothesis that the structure found in the 1903 dig was a basement for this mill.

Alternatively, it is quite possible that this structure was the basement of an otherwise unrecorded stone tower on the motte. These two potential solutions should be resolvable by geophysical survey.

A circular bank on the summit of the motte is about 12 – 13m across. The three closest surviving stone tower mills (Vale Mill, Worle; Worle observatory; Uphill old windmill) are 4.5 – 6.5m in diameter, so it is unlikely to be the footings of the mill.

The castle earthwork was surveyed at small scale during the 1980s, but little apart from the motte and bailey wall themselves was recorded (Fig 6). Some of this survey was replaced with a high-resolution hydrostatic level survey during the current recording of the castle.

Photographic recording of the castle over the past thirty years has revealed springtime growth of a dense strip of wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*) along the bailey earthwork. The flora on this slope also includes ladies bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) calcicoles which may imply mortared stone walls within it, none of the herbs growing anywhere else on the site.

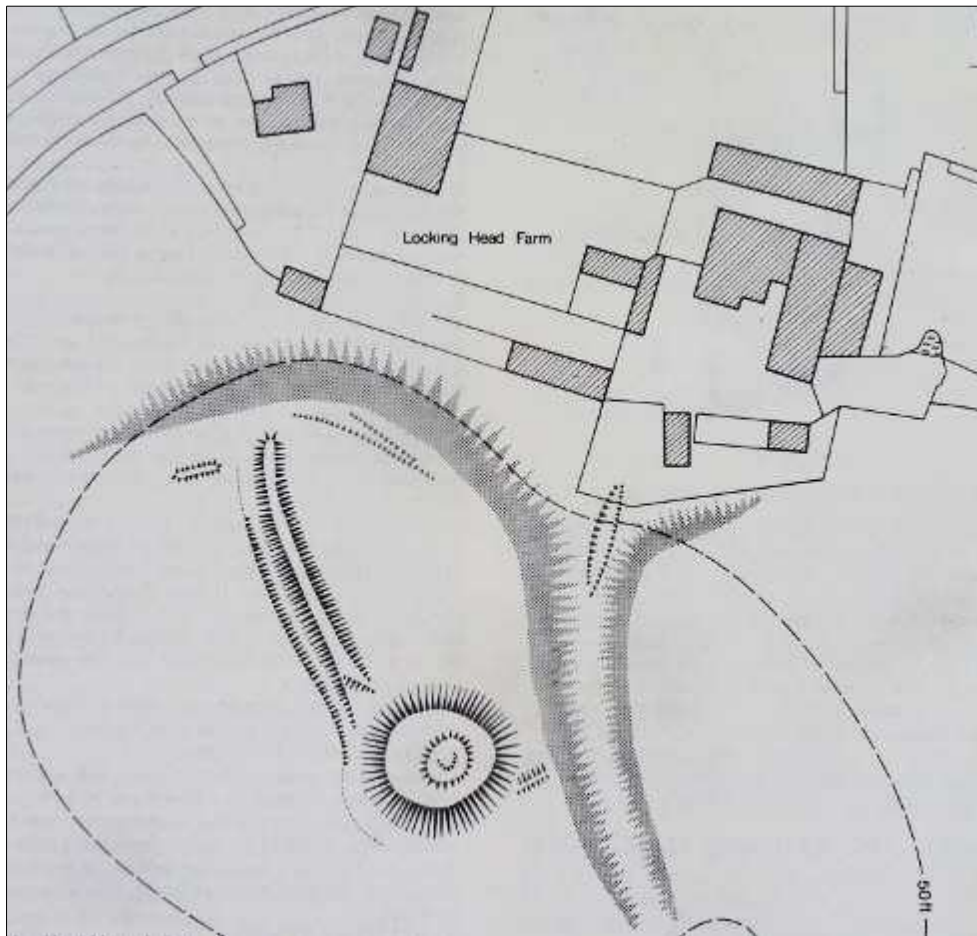


Fig 6: 1982 survey of the earthworks (Iles 1981)

Lidar

Images from the OpenGov lidar data (<https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar/map>) (Fig 7), while of limited (1.0m) resolution, nonetheless show the major features of the monument and its associated earthworks. These include a large quarry in the side of the hill, presumably for stone for building work at Locking Head Farm. It is not known whether this was the source for the stone for the motte and bailey, or whether it is later and may actually have removed some of the bailey structures.

It is also noteworthy that apart from the structures of the castle itself, the fairly elaborate track earthworks portrayed on the 1903 OS plan have vanished.

The image indicates the striking nature of the placing of the castle on a fairly isolated eminence with a 360° distant horizon, with Locking village and Castle Batch in Worle clearly visible (although the latter view is now blocked by trees).



Fig 7: Lidar image

Methodology

The geophysical surveys of the fields were undertaken during the period September and October 2016 by teams from YCCCART using Bartington 601-2 gradiometer and Geoscan RM-15 resistivity meter. The completed survey was downloaded to DW Publishing's TerraSurveyor programme and the resultant composite adjusted using the following filters:

Resistivity

Band weight equaliser

Grad shade

Despiked

Clip SD2

High Pass filter.

Gradiometry

Colour - Red Blue Green 2

Band weight equaliser

Grad shade

Destriped

Despiked

Clip SD2

Terrain modelling

Further surveys to develop digital terrain models were carried out by grid surveys using an electronic, hydrostatic level (Nivcomp). Tapes were laid relative to baselines established for the RM15 survey. For each feature, a zero point for the level was established, and the height in millimetres at each point in the grid, above or below the zero point, were recorded on paper. An appropriate interval of recording was selected, for each feature, which was considered to provide the best representation. The data were entered into an Excel file (Microsoft) and processed using the Surfer 10 programme (kindly donated by Golden Software, USA).

The report was written in LibreOffice Write 5.

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

Results

Gradiometer

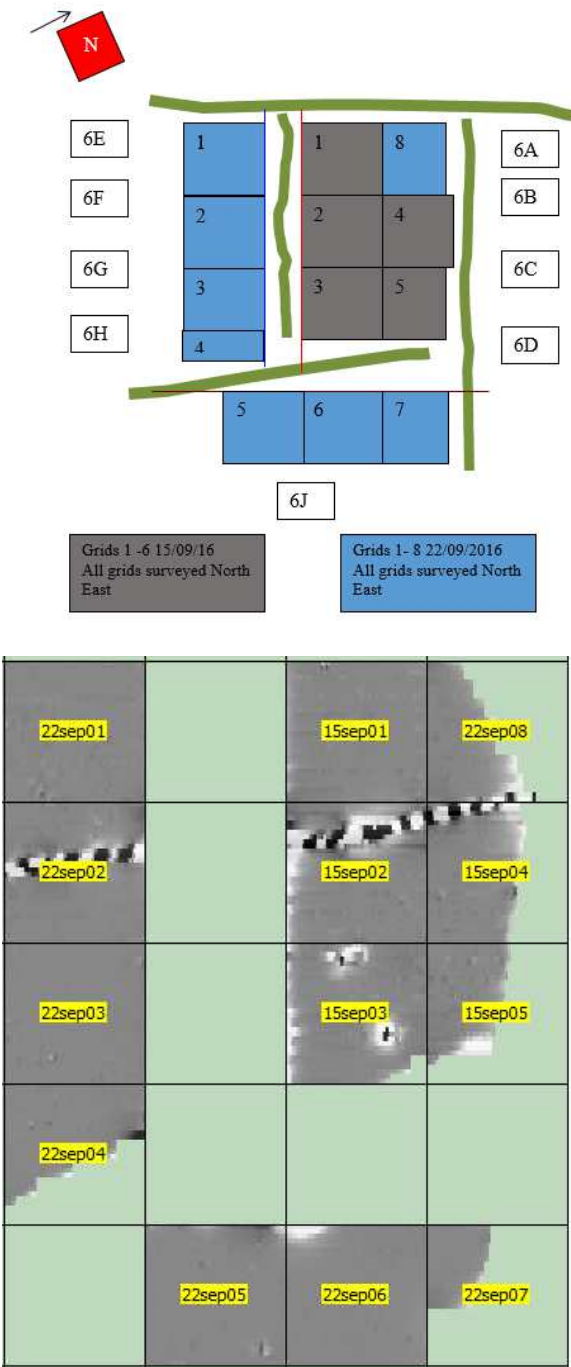


Fig 8: Above grid layout and below TerraSurveyor grids.

The gradiometry survey was extended into a 'buffer' zone 30m wide around the edges of the monument, but these zones did not reveal any noteworthy archaeological remains outside of the current fence.

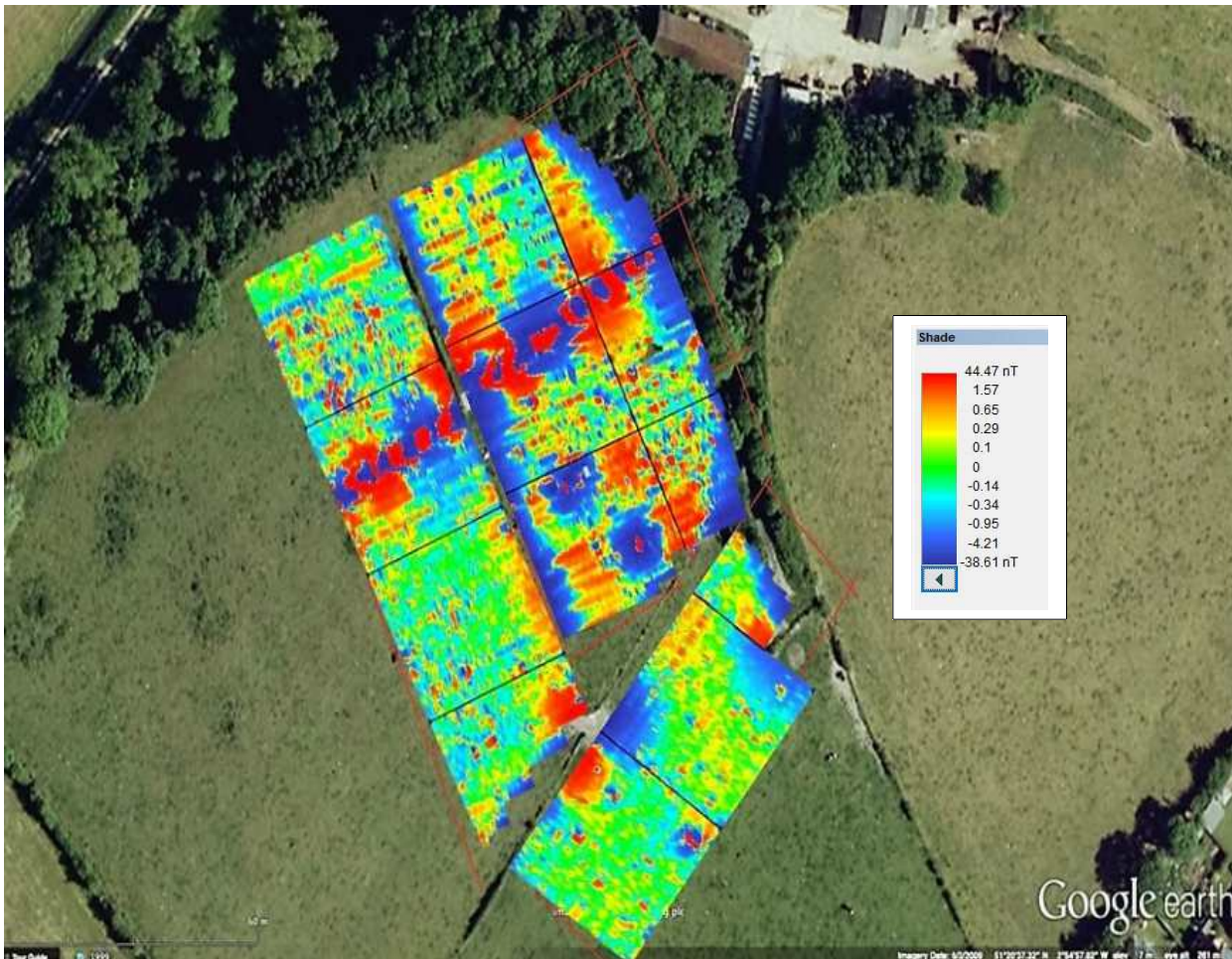


Fig 9: TerraSurveyor shade colour images superimposed approximately on map. High readings are red, low are blue

The gradiometric results were largely unrevealing. Both sides of the modern enclosure were compromised by barbed wire fences. The most obvious feature in Fig 9 above is the line traversing the site. This is almost certainly the steel water pipe supplying a cattle trough at the centre of the survey area. The pipe beyond it formerly supplied a trough some 30m further down the hill, which was moved to its present site at the implementation of the management agreement of 1981 by Avon County Council.

Two very large responses (one on the top of the motte, and one very close or on the junction of the motte with the bailey on its western side) are not immediately explicable. They appear to mark sites of intense burning, which could have many causes, not the least of which could be the former use of the motte for beacon or recreational fires.

There do not appear to be any of the gradiometry patterns typical of domestic / industrial activity either, especially in the bailey, which may imply the occupation of this castle was not of long duration. The closest to these are an area 15m north of the water pipe in the northern grid outside of the fence, and over the north-east part of the motte (which see in the resistivity results below).

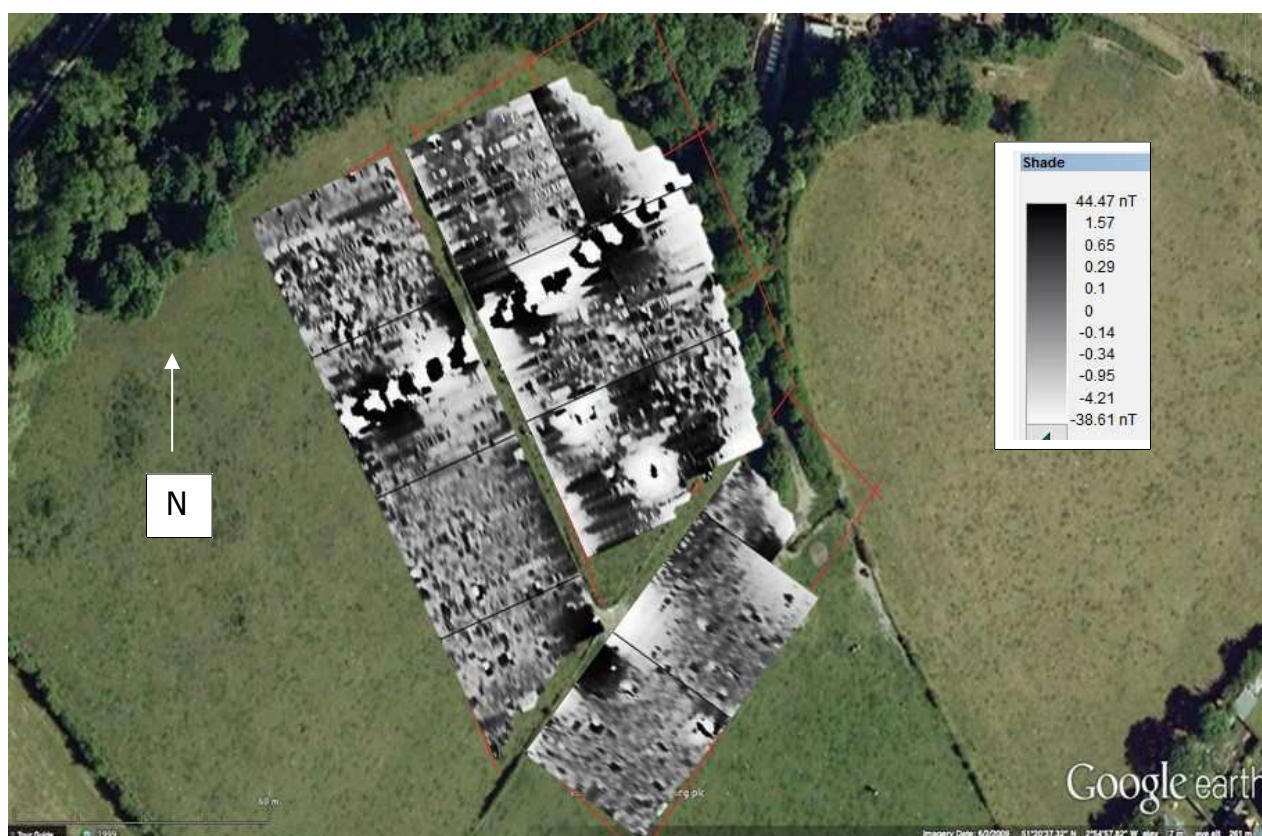


Fig 10: TerraSurveyor shade black and white images superimposed approximately on map

The black and white image, in Fig 10 above, reveals no additional features.

Resistivity



Fig 11: Overall resistivity results

These results were very telling, and in good agreement with both the Nivcomp results and the botanical notes regarding the bailey wall.

The interpretation (Fig 12 below: scale bar omitted for clarity) results are based on the final resistivity results and on subsequent reprocessing where extreme readings were compromising the results, such as on the summit of the motte.

Geological trends seem to be at 45° to the axis of the survey, which is obviously a stronger interference in the thinner soils of the bailey, but negligible on the motte.

Interpretation (see Fig 12)

The overall shape and nature of the motte and bailey is clear, and several basic questions (such as the size and continuity of the motte ditch) are answered.

1 is a cluster of small high resistance features to the outside upper end of the site, coinciding with a low rectangular mound at the surface. They may be connected with an access feature for the bailey.

2 is the bailey ditch. This is a low resistance feature around 60m long, and from ground measurements and resistance, seems to have been at least 3m wide. It does not seem to contain a break or causeway, so access to the site would presumably have been by a bridge, perhaps at 1.

3 is a large high resistance 'blob' around 6-7m across. There is a hint in the resistivity of a potential circular feature within this. This feature (along with 1) may be part of access arrangements for the bailey.

4 is a linear high resistance anomaly running parallel to the ditch. With its suite of calcicole plants, this probably indicates the remains of a robbed out wall or stockade foundation along the edge of the bailey.

5 is the interference from a buried steel water pipe serving the trough at the site. This pipe was probably in place before 1982, as an air photograph of that year shows the trough in place around 30m further down the slope. This pipe was also marked in the gradiometry results (Figs 9 and 10).

6 is an area containing two high-resistance features. While these are in the position where a flying wooden bridge to the motte might begin, there is little evidence for similar at the other end on the motte, so these may be geological features

7 is clearly the motte ditch, which approximately 30m in diameter, runs around the majority of the mound, although it appears interrupted in the northern edge. This may be an original access arrangement from the bailey (see below) or possibly alterations made when a windmill was sited on the mound in the post-medieval period.

8 is two sections of a circular low resistance feature with an entrance to the south. This appears to pre-date the motte. If so, and it is complete, then it would be approximately 20m across, and could just possibly be a prehistoric barrow or ring-ditch.

9 is a high-resistance feature running concentrically with the motte ditch, but at the foot of the motte proper. If this is a stone feature, it may be a revetment at the foot of the slope, probably for the practical purpose of containing the motte material. This is built of the local Lias, containing a large amount of clay, and would be fairly unstable until grassed over. Alternatively, it could be stabilising material for a wooden fence / stockade around the foot of the motte.

10 is a series of small high resistance anomalies half-way up the south and east sides of the motte. One of these (the most westerly) is almost certainly the result of a large modern as yet unhealed cattle scrape, and the others may be, although they seem too regular. They could be post-pads supporting large timbers on the motte, perhaps part of the same structure as 9. A further possibility is that these are features connected with the trees on the motte in the 19th century, although their absence elsewhere on the motte perhaps tells against this. Results from the Nivcomp survey tend to support the idea that these are archaeological features (see below).

11 is a circular very high resistance feature on the top of the motte. It is surrounded by a low earthwork bank, and coincides with the area of heavy burning seen on the gradiometry results. Further work on this feature is discussed below.

12 is a medium to high resistance feature appearing to continue the line of 9 around the foot of the motte, but then to turn and run up the mound to the high resistance feature on top. This and 13 appear to be features relating to an access to the top of the motte. This could well be an original feature, since its narrow entrance could be easily blocked in the circumstance of an enemy penetration of the bailey. Functionally, it also is protected on its northern side by a strong natural slope.

14 is a line of very high resistance, along the edge of the break of slope to the northeast. This is mainly due to the high level of dewatering caused by the intense undergrowth and trees immediately outside of the site. There are some indications of a bank / wall to the east of the motte (where it would be needed to close the site – and where a bank was noted on the 1903 OS plan – see Fig 5 above), but not that this runs along the break of slope, where presumably the steep terrain would be sufficient protection.

15 and 16 cover the medium high resistance features in the bailey. Some of these, which are slightly higher resistance than the others, and have right-angles in them, have been plotted, but the majority of the features are probably geological in origin. The existence of fairly ephemeral wooden structures cannot be ruled out, but in the absence of occupation / industrial noise in the gradiometry results, it seems there was little occupation in the bailey. It would require excavation to completely clarify this. Certainly, there do not seem to be any traces of a chapel (which might be expected to be a major east-west building, probably in stone). It is also noticeable that other areas on the site where stone is suspected have given much higher resistance readings.

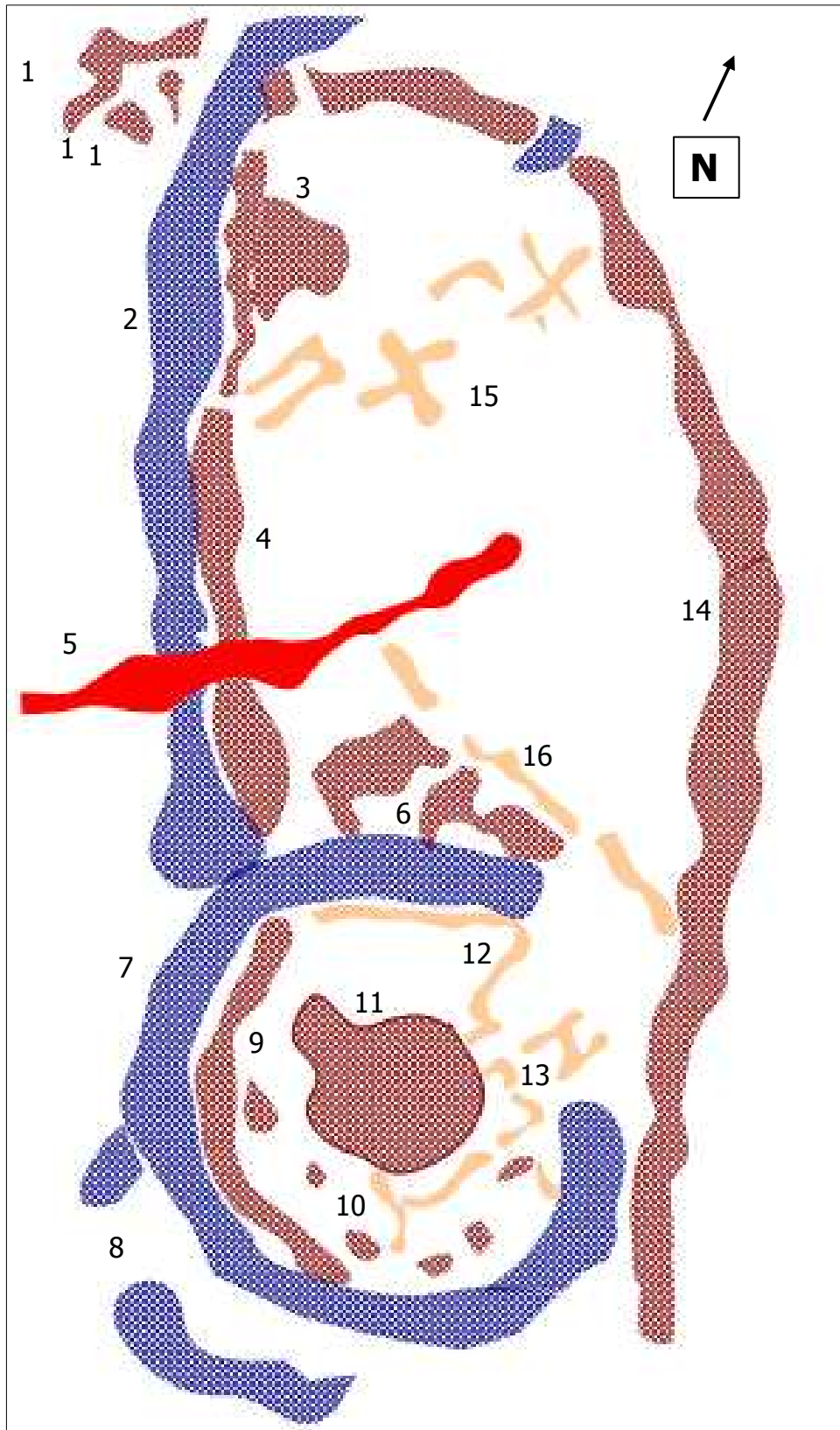
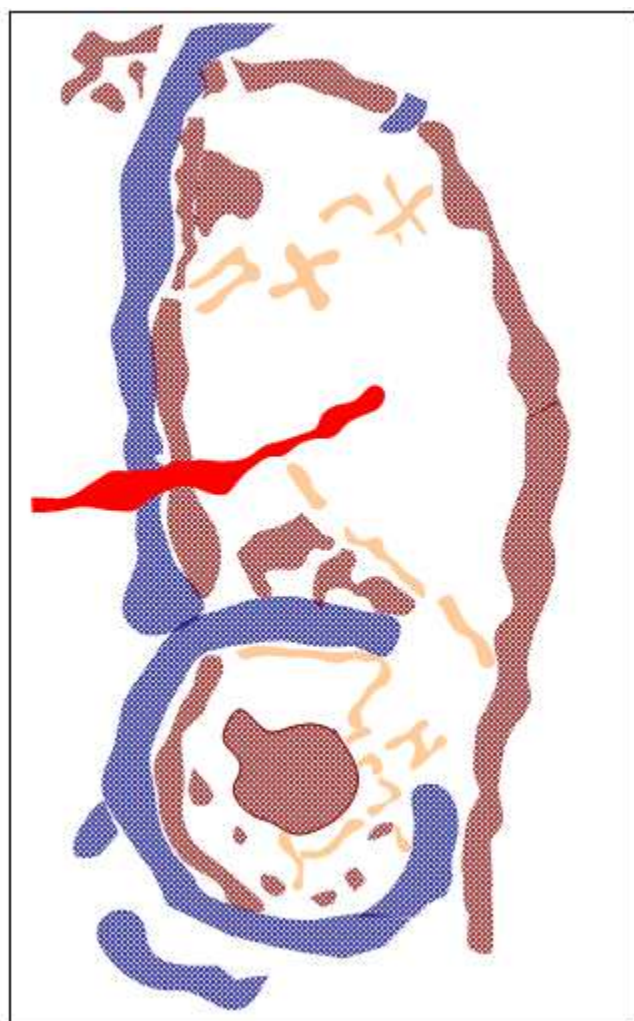






Fig 12: Resistivity interpretations



-  Low resistance
-  High resistance
-  Other poss. feature
-  Water pipe

High resistance = walls, banks
 Low resistance = ditches, pits
 Other = slight high resistance,
 prob banks, foundations

LOCKING HEAD CASTLE
 October 2016
 YCCCCART

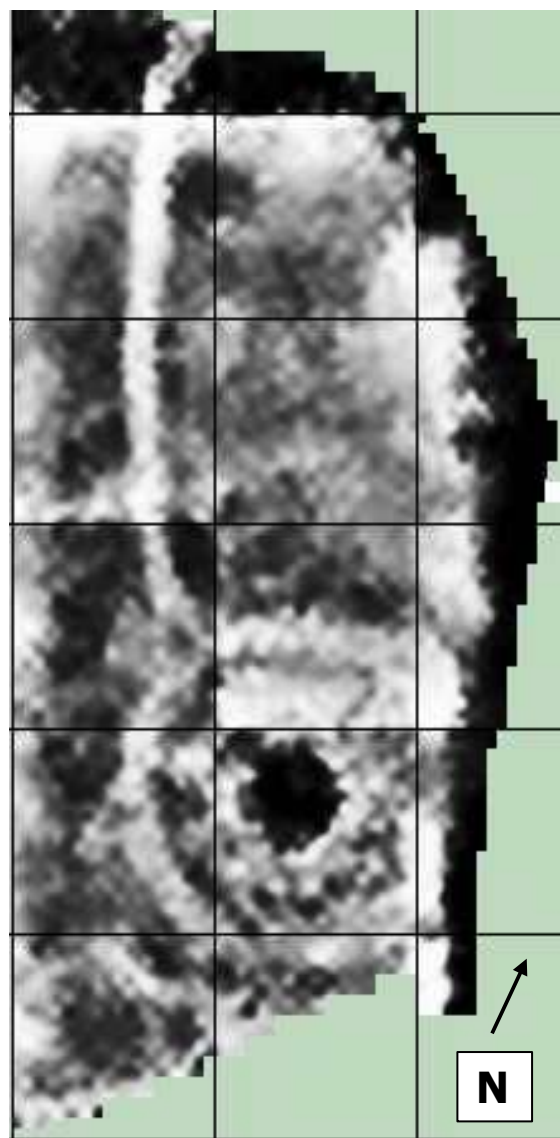


Fig 13 Final resistivity results (grid 20m)

Nivcomp digital terrain surveys

The digital surveys comprised a section of the bailey ditch and wall, and an area survey of the motte.

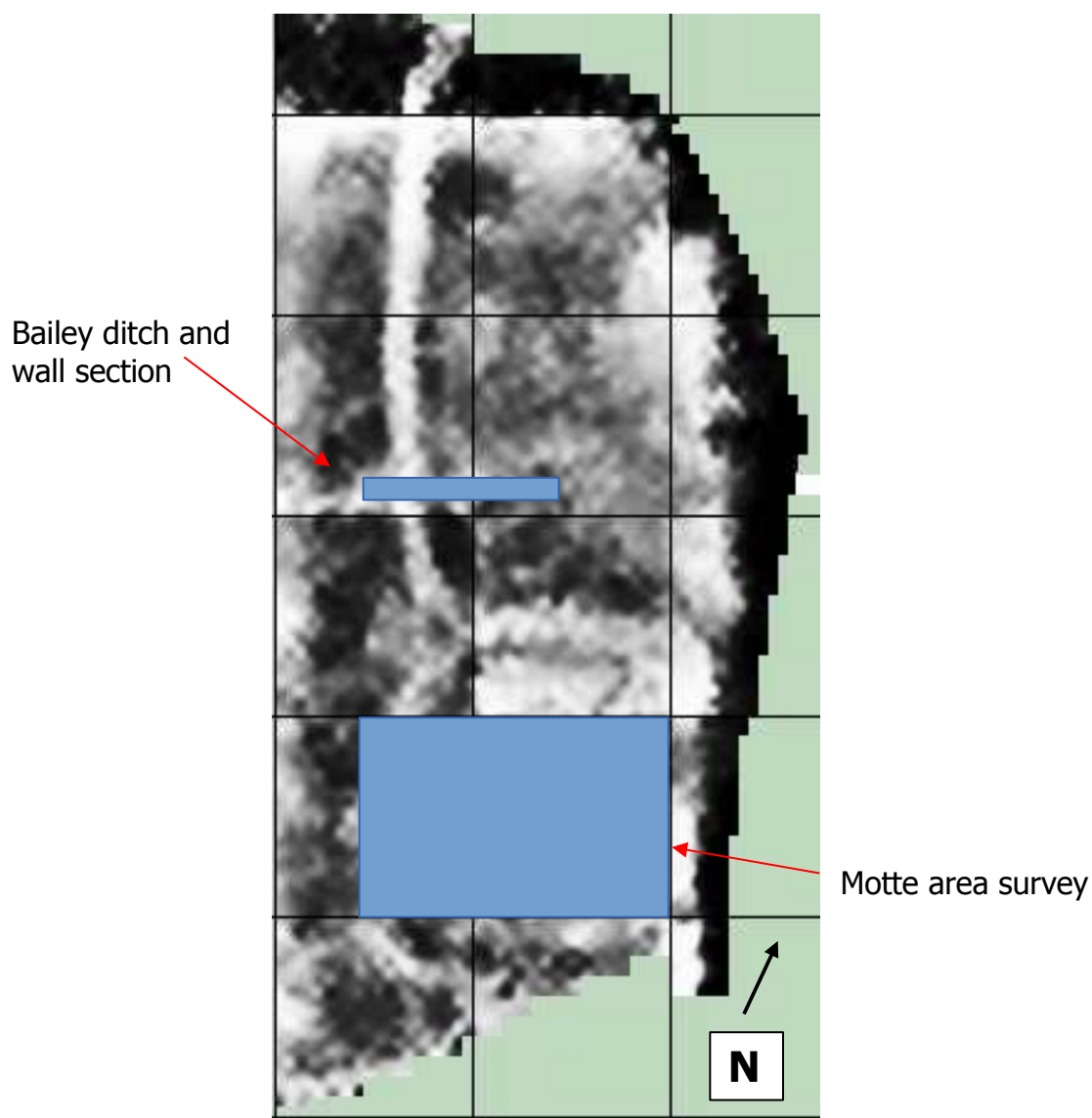


Fig 14: Nivcomp surveys

Results

These surveys provided a strong independent check on the RM-15 resistance results, as well as greatly contributing to the study of the remains of the motte.

Bailey section

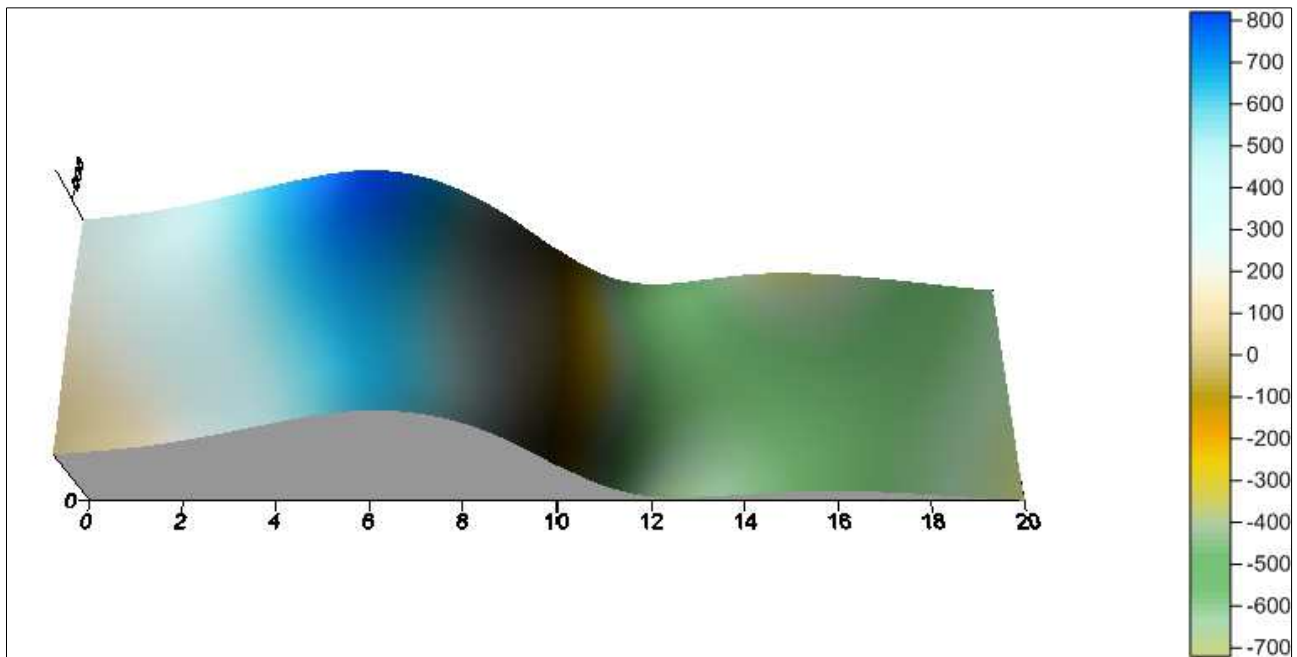


Fig 15: Nivcomp section of bailey ditch and wall (looking south-east) (horizontal scale in m)

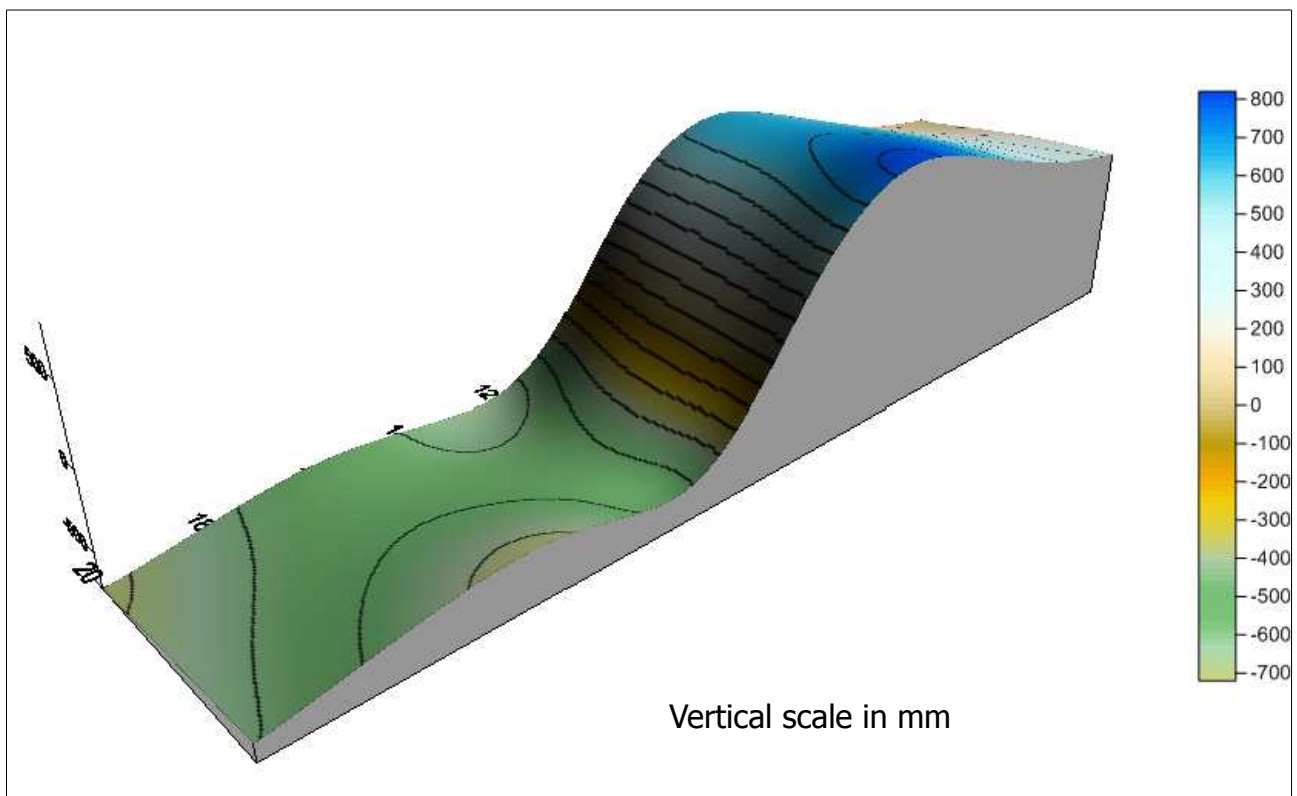


Fig 16: Nivcomp section of bailey wall (with contours) looking north

These sections clearly show the ditch, and the nature of the bank / wall, which at the inner end of the section has eroded into the interior of the bailey, and is still some 60cm higher than outside ground level. The counter-scarp outside of the ditch is also clear but eroded.

Motte section and area study

Following a survey of a narrow section of the motte (not shown), a larger area study (30 x 20m) was undertaken. The section and its fieldnotes are, however, preserved in the YCCCART archive.

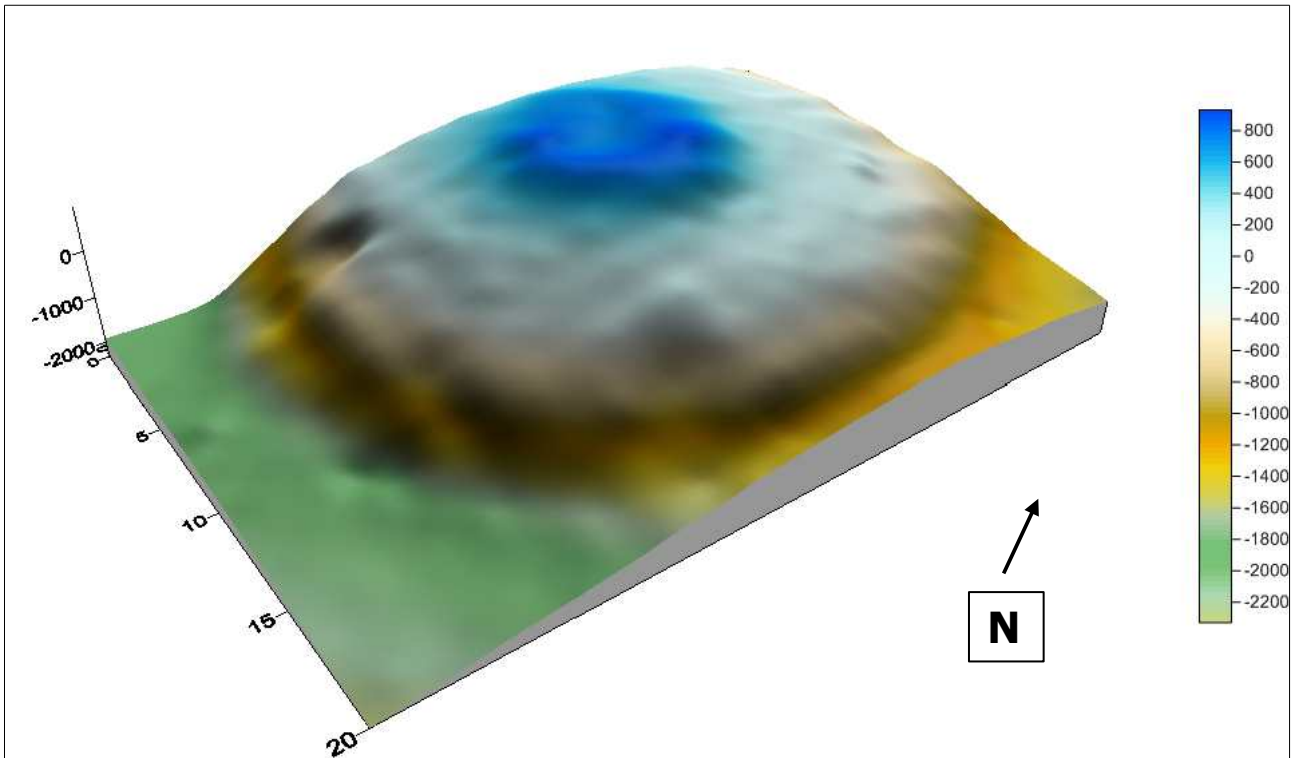


Fig 17: Nivcomp axonometric survey of motte mound (scale in mm)

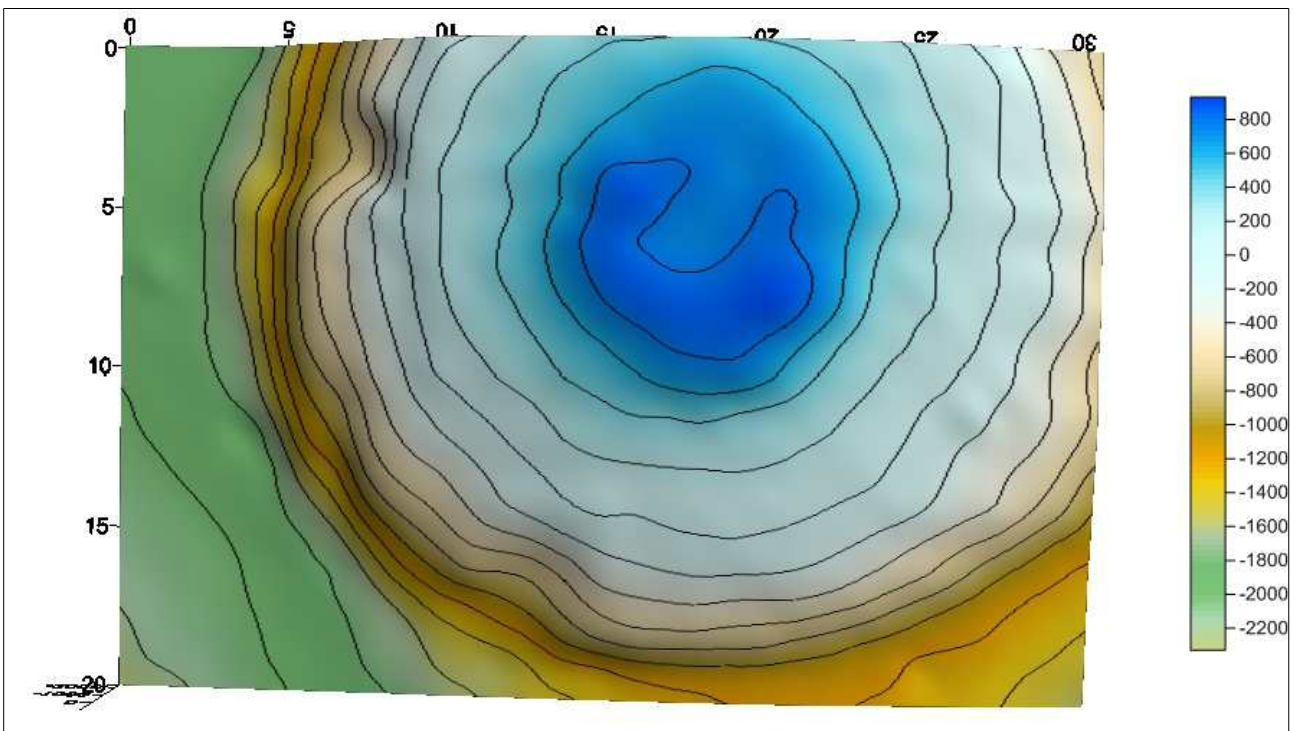


Fig 18: Nivcomp survey of motte mound (contoured) (scale in mm)

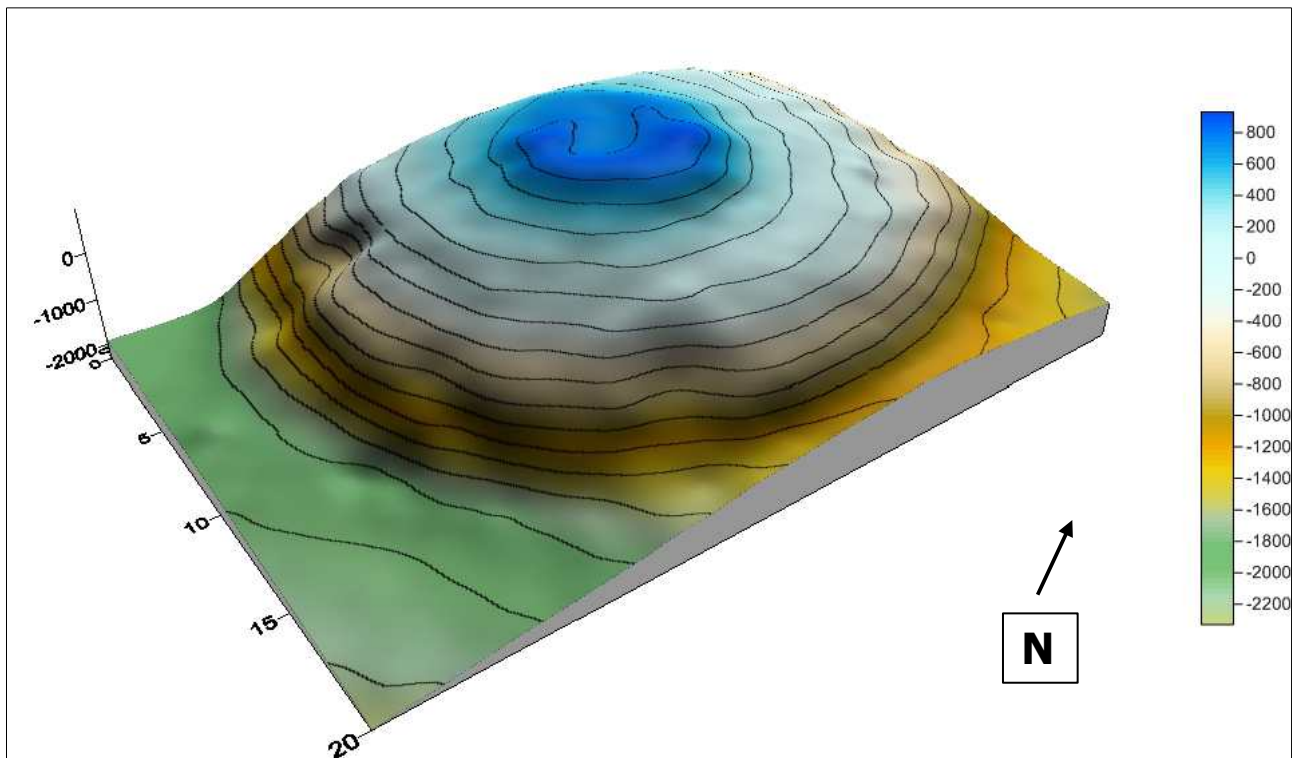


Fig 19: Nivcomp axonometric survey (contoured) (scale in mm)

These surveys show the surface structures of the motte in unparalleled detail. In particular, the structures on the top of the mound, coinciding with resistance and gradiometry results, define the area precisely. The very topmost structure, a broken ring c6m across, might well fall within the size range of a post-medieval tower mill. This would also probably coincide with the 1902-3 diggings, although in the absence of any precise record of those, this cannot be proved without excavation. The larger mound, c10m across could form the base of an earlier tower contemporary with the erection of the motte and bailey. The resistivity survey of the top of the mound shows almost identical features when re-processed (Fig 20).

While the hollow in the upper left of the structure is obviously the currently visible cattle scrape (with potentially a second in the centre of the south side of the motte), the absence of such from other areas implies that features seen in the resistance data are not cattle scrapes (or remains of former trees on the motte) and are thus more likely to be archaeological in origin.

A subtle left-to-right 'ripple' in the data (if not a recording artifact) may well indicate the former existence of a fence line of unknown date across the motte, perhaps even relating to its initial phase of use.

The features at the top of the motte

The features on the top of the motte cannot be distinguished in the general resistivity survey, as they are the extreme end of the range, but further processing reveals more detail:

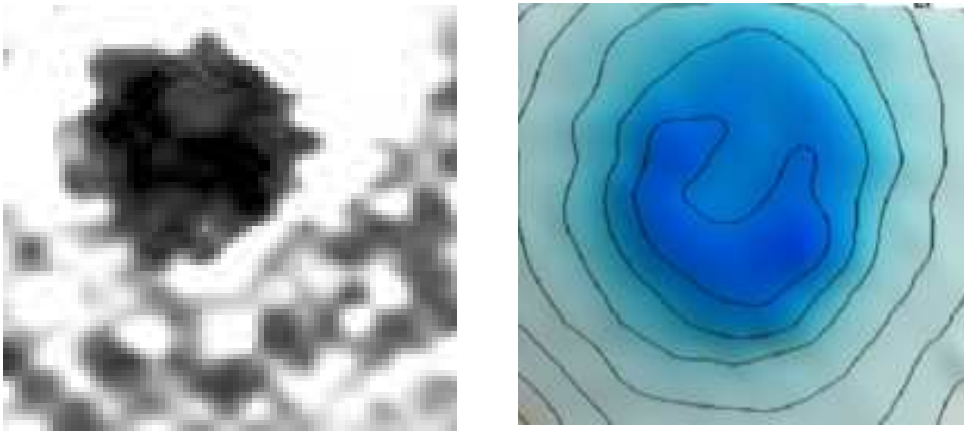


Fig 20: Comparison of RM-15 and Nivcomp (right) surveys

The similarity between the results of the two surveys is striking, and enhances the impression of a collapsed / burnt stone structure at the centre, with a possible ring of rubble around it.

Discussion

Drawing together the three surveys and the documentary and botanical evidence, it is clear that the castle is one of the Norman Conquest and Subjugation periods, in Somerset 1066-c1070, and is almost certainly that of William de Falaise.

The motte may have possessed a central tower at some point, and the resistivity results suggest that it was stockaded near the base. The bailey bank was potentially rebuilt in stone and heavily robbed later, or possibly contained dwarf walls supporting a stockade.

The bailey seems to show no detectable signs of occupation, but further terrain survey is needed.

The castle is so close to the pre-Conquest manorial settlement at the foot of the hill that it may never have represented more than an initial aggressive act, which was not developed later as a high-status dwelling, since that may have already existed at the foot of the hill.

References

Anon, 1904	Opening of a barrow at Lockinghead Farm, near Worlebury. <i>Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society</i> 49: 186-187
Iles, R. 1981	Locking, Locking Head, Motte and Bailey ST36386087 <i>Bristol and Avon Archaeology</i> 1: 53-54
Morland, S.C. 1990	The Somerset hundreds in the Geld Inquest and their Domesday manors. <i>Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society</i> 134: 95-140
Prior, S. 2006	<i>A few well-positioned castles: The Norman art of war</i> , Stroud
Rippon, S. 2006	<i>Landscape, Community and colonisation: the North Somerset Levels during the 1st to 2nd millennia AD</i> . York: Council for British Archaeology Research Report 152
Williams, A. 2008	<i>The world before Domesday: the English aristocracy 900-1066</i> , London

Archive

The electronic archive of this project will be stored with the YCCART archive, as will the (fairly negligible) paper archive. Disposal policy dictates that this archive be offered to the Somerset Heritage Centre when necessary.

Further work

It is hoped it will be possible to continue the promising terrain modelling work at some point, since subtle remains not revealed in the geophysical surveys or traditional earthwork surveys can sometimes be revealed by this procedure.

Authors

Vince Russett, with Geoff Pearson and Chris Short, October 2016.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Designation

Motte and bailey castle and associated earthworks south of Locking Head Farm

List Entry Summary

This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance. This entry is a copy, the original is held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Name: Motte and bailey castle and associated earthworks south of Locking Head Farm

List entry Number: 1008301

Location

The monument may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County:

District: North Somerset

District Type: Unitary Authority

Parish: Locking

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 13-Dec-1977

Date of most recent amendment: 20-May-1994

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: RSM

UID: 22825

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description

Summary of Monument

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Motte and bailey castles are medieval fortifications introduced into Britain by the Normans. They comprised a large conical mound of earth or rubble, the motte, surmounted by a palisade and a stone or timber tower. In a majority of examples an embanked enclosure containing additional buildings, the bailey, adjoined the motte. Motte castles and motte-and-bailey castles acted as garrison forts during offensive military operations, as strongholds, and, in many cases, as aristocratic residences and as centres of local or royal administration. Built in towns, villages and open countryside, motte and bailey castles generally occupied strategic positions dominating their immediate locality and, as a result, are the most visually impressive monuments of the early post-Conquest period surviving in the modern landscape. Over 600 motte castles or motte-and-bailey castles are recorded nationally, with examples known from most regions. As one of a restricted range of recognised early post-Conquest monuments, they are particularly important for the study of Norman Britain and the development of the feudal system. Although many were occupied for only a short period of time, motte castles continued to be built and occupied from the 11th to the 13th centuries, after which they were superseded by other types of castle.

The motte and bailey castle south of Locking Head Farm survives particularly well as an outstanding example of its class. Partial excavation of the site in 1902-3 has demonstrated that archaeological and environmental information will survive relating to the monument and the landscape in which it was constructed.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

The monument includes a motte and bailey castle and associated earthworks situated south of Locking Head Farm on the top of a small knoll known as Carberry Hill. The motte, which is at the south end of the site, has an artificial mound c.20m in diameter and c.3m high surrounded by a ditch c.3m wide from which material was quarried during its construction. The ditch is now infilled but is visible as a slight depression and as an area of enhanced crop growth, caused by increased moisture in the area of the buried ditch. Partial excavations on the mound in 1902-3 revealed the presence of 12th century pottery and a coin of Edward IV-V. The presence of a small dry stone walled structure was also identified on the top of the mound. Adjacent to the motte on its northern side is the bailey. This is defined on the western side of the monument by a bank c.60m long and c.1.5m high and an external ditch which runs parallel with the bank and joins with the ditch of the motte. The remainder of the bailey is defined by the natural steep slopes of the hilltop which provides a good defensive position over the surrounding levels. The interior of the bailey contains traces of earthworks which are considered to relate to the occupation of the site during the medieval period. Outside and to the west of the bailey are further earthworks including a possible pillow mound c.10m long, c.2m wide and c.0.4m high. Excluded from the scheduling are the fence posts of the field boundaries and the water tank, although the underlying ground is included.

MAP EXTRACT The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract.

Selected Sources

Books and journals

Burrow, E J, Ancient Earthworks and camps of Somerset, (1924), 120

Other

Motte and bailey classification, Leach PE, Motte and Bailey Castles, Monument Class Description, (1988)

National Grid Reference: ST 36373 60881

Map

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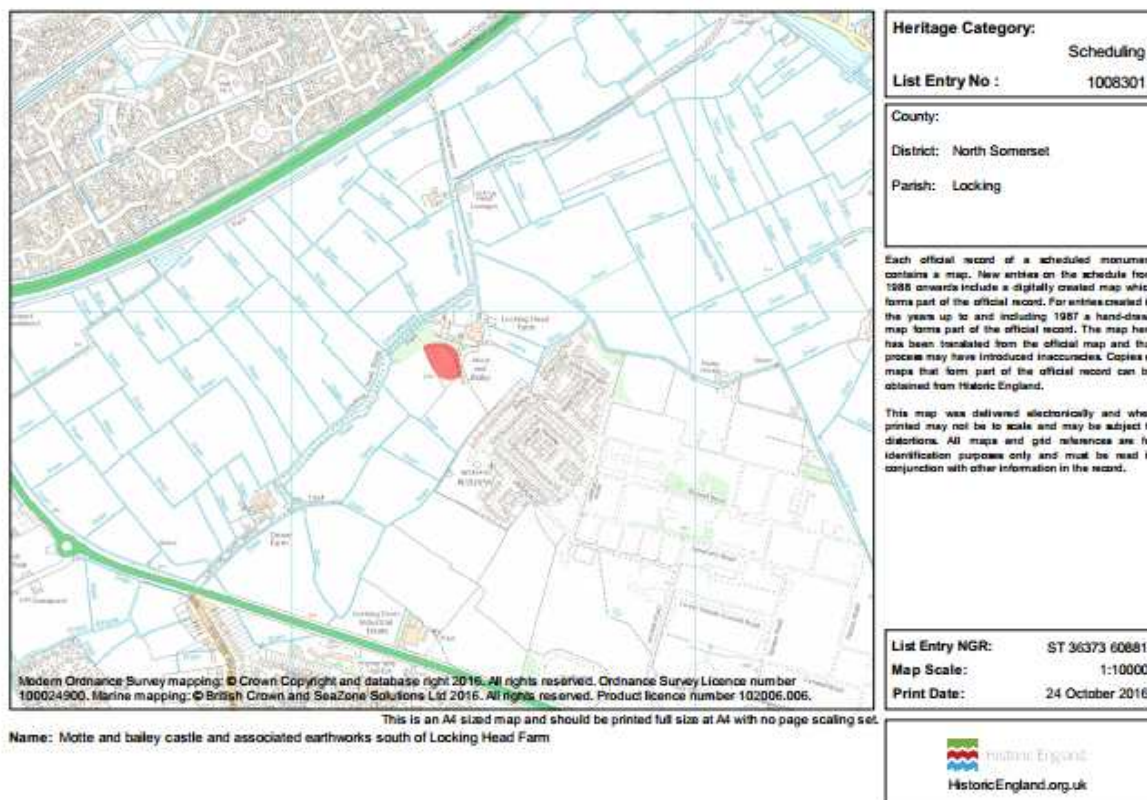
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Use of this data is subject to [Terms and Conditions](#).

The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - [1008301 .pdf](#)

The PDF will be generated from our live systems and may take a few minutes to download depending on how busy our servers are. We apologise for this delay.

This copy shows the entry on 15-Jul-2016 at 07:04:42.



Appendix 2 Site records

Gradiometry

YCCCART Site Survey Project – Locking Castle		
Survey date	22 September 2016	
Report date	22 September 2016	
Type /Instrument	Grad 601	
	Pace :1.4m/s Lines/m : 1 Range:100nT Volume: High Sensors:2	Grid size: 30m x30m Pattern : Zig Zag Samples/m:4 Audio: On Threshold:30nT Reject:50 Hz
Location	Locking Head	
Ref	none	
Site name	Locking Castle	
Landowner	North Somerset Council, The Town Hall, WsM	
Tenant	Mr and Mrs Ledbury, Locking Head Farm	
HER ref	NSHER204	
Site type	Grass	
Description	Scheduled monument in an open field surrounded by hedges and further open fields	
Period	Medieval	
Geology	Liassic Limestone and marls	
Land use	Grazing	
Survey team and conditions		
08/09/2016	Team	Pete Wright, Arthur Langley, Vince & Robert
	Weather	Warm and windy, dry grass
15/09/2016	Team	Ian, Pete Wright, Ferdie, Janet, Arthur Langley & Phillipa, Graham
	Weather	Very warm and humid, wet grass
22/09/2016	Team	Ferdie, Janet, Arthur Langley & David
	Weather	Warm, bright, sunny skies and wet grass to start with

Survey area		notes		readings		
Date	Grid number	size	walk direction	max	min	mean
08/09/2016		Setting out base line and grids for base line and first two rows				
15/09/2016	1	30 x 30	NE	+2.9	-77.9	-2.6
	2	30 x 30	NE	+100	-100	-8.1
	3	30 x 30 M & R last 3 traverses metal trough plus wire fence	NE	+100	-100	-5.0
	4	Partial M & R	NE	+100	-100	-6.5
	5	Partial M & R	NE	+11.6	-100	-7.5
	6	Partial M & R	NE	+34.4	-100	-8.2
22/09/2016	1	30 x 30	NE	+54.0	-7.1	-0.1
	2	30 x 30 broken disturbed ground by metal cattle trough	NE	+100	-100	-0.5
	3	30 x 30	NE	+41.0	-27.7	-0.1
	4	30 x 30 M & R first 6 tray full with rest M & R disturbed ground near gate	NE	+94.7	-5.7	-0.4
	5	30 x 30	NE	+20.9	-56.5	-0.9
	6	30 x 30 more disturbed ground cattle trough by first traverse	NE	+2.6	-100	-3.1
	7	Partial M & R	NE	+2.1	-59.4	-3.6
	8	Partial M & R *Repeat of grid 6 of 15/09/16	NE	+99.5	-100	-7.0

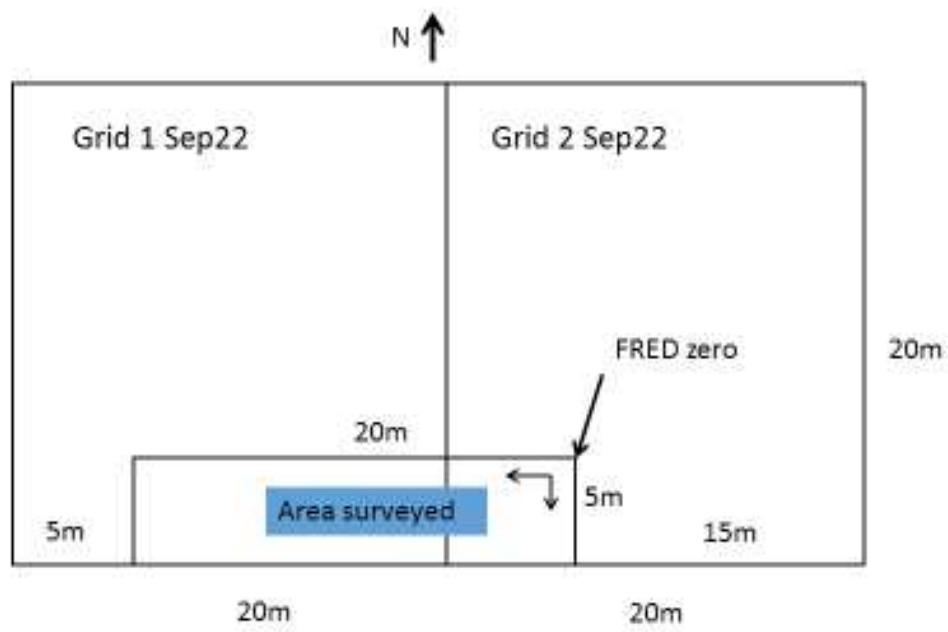
YCCCART Site Survey Project: - Locking Castle		
Survey date	15 Sept 2016 to 6 October 2016	
Report date	6 October 2016	
Type /Instrument	RM15	
Location	Locking Castle, Worle.	
Landowner	North Somerset Council, The Town Hall, Weston-super-mare.	
Tenant	Mr and Mrs Ledbury, Locking Head Farm, Locking	
HER ref	NSHER 204	
Site type	Grass	
Description	Locking head motte and bailey castle	
Period	Medieval	
Geology	Liassic Limestones and marls	
Land use	Grazing	
Survey team and conditions		
15 Sept 2016	Team	Chris Short, Liz Hale, Vince Russett, Pete English, David Long <i>Weather sunny. Grass wet initially then dry. Very warm</i>
22 Sept 2016		Chris Short, Liz Hale, Vince Russett, David Long, John Wilcox, Graham Bahannon. <i>Weather sunny/very hot. Grass wet initially then dry.</i>
29 Sept 2016		Chris Short, Vince Russett, David Long. Pete English. <i>Weather overcast/sunny, Grass wet/damp.</i>
6 Oct 2016		Chris Short, Vince Russett, David Long. Pete English, Graham Bahannon. <i>Weather overcast/sunny, Grass wet/damp.</i>

Survey area		Notes	
		Size	Walk direction
15 Sept 2016	Grids 1 & 2	20x20m	NE
22 Sept 2016	Grids 1 to 4 Grid 4 truncated	20x20m	NE
29 Sept 2016	Grids 1 to 4 Grid 4 truncated	20x20m	NE
6 October 2016	Grids 1 to 8 All truncated & grid 7 abortive. All grids NE except grid 6 which was reversed	20x20m	NE (except grid 6 – reverse direction)

G6 6 Oct	G8 6 Oct	
G1 15 Sep	G2 15 Sep	Grid 5 6 Oct
G1 22 Sep	G2 22 Sep	Grid 4 6 Oct
G1 29 Sep	G3 22 Sep	G4 22 Sep
G2 29 Sep	G3 29 Sep	G4 29 Sep
G1 6 Oct	G2 6 Oct	G3 6 Oct

Nivcomp terrain survey

YCCCART Site Survey Project – Manual survey - Locking Castle (Motte and Bailey)	
Survey date	29/9/16
Location	Bailey
Site name	Grids 2 and 3 Sep 22
Reference	
Type / Instrument	NIVCOMP electronic hydrostatic level
Survey area	20 x 5m grid X axis, westerly, 17 columns @ variable intervals Y axis, southerly, 2 columns @ 5 m interval Z axis: height above (+), or below (-) Zero point in mm Zero point: NE corner of grid
Data files	Raw data: Paper copy in Manual Folder Scanned copy in Locking Surfer: Bailey profile.xls Bailey profile.rtf Bailey profile.grd
Survey team and conditions	
Team	B Wills, G Pearson, B Knott
Weather	Cloudy, cold and windy
Additional information	
Landowner	
Tenant	
HER ref	TBC
Site type	Grass
Description	Large open field
Period	
Geology	
Land use	Grazing
Comments	
Report date	18/10/16
Author	G R Pearson

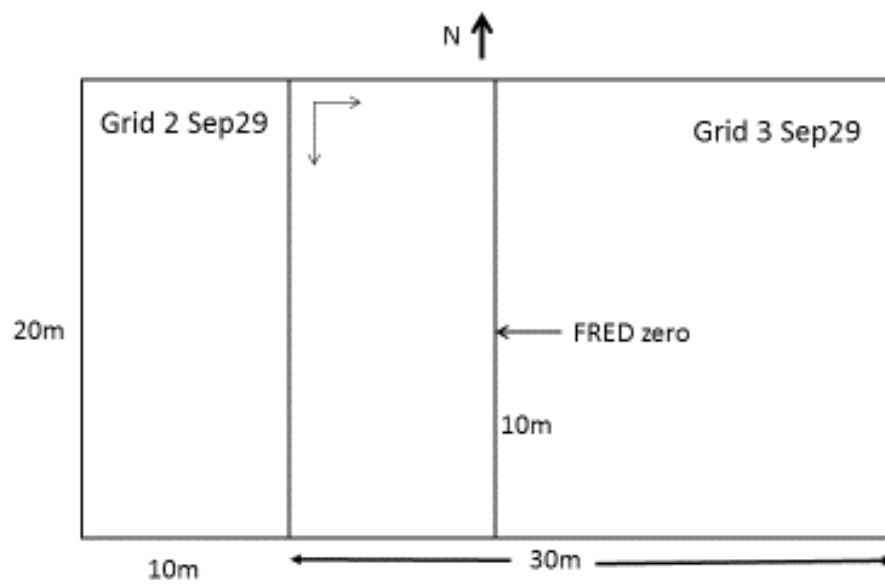


Electronic data

From Excel file

Xm	Ym	Zmm
0	0	0
0	5	275
2	0	125
2	5	400
3	0	250
3	5	511
4	0	365
4	5	628
6	0	640
6	5	850
7	0	665
7	5	840
8	0	561
8	5	669
9	0	320
9	5	369
10	0	-175
10	5	-111
11	0	-552
11	5	-472
12	0	-722
12	5	-597
14	0	-606
14	5	-384
15	0	-560
15	5	-350
16	0	-535
16	5	-381
17	0	-573
17	5	-430
18	0	-623
18	5	-487
20	0	-738
20	5	-622

YCCCART Site Survey Project – Manual survey - Locking Castle (Motte and Bailey)	
Survey date	6/10/16;13/10/16
Location	Motte
Site name	Grids 2 and 3 Sep 29
Reference	
Type / Instrument	NIVCOMP electronic hydrostatic level
Survey area	30 x 20 m grid X axis, southerly, 21 columns @ 1 m intervals Y axis, easterly, 31 columns @ 1 m intervals Z axis: height above (+), or below (-) Zero point in mm Zero point: 10 m along western edge of Grid 3 from SW corner of grid
Data files	Raw data: Paper copy in Manual Folder Scanned copy in Locking Surfer: Grids 2 and 3 Sep 29.xls Grids 2 and 3 Sep 29.rtf Grids 2 and 3 Sep 29.grd
Survey team and conditions	
Team	See individual grids
Weather	See individual grids
Additional information	
Landowner	
Tenant	
HER ref	TBC
Site type	Grass
Description	Large open field
Period	
Geology	
Land use	Grazing
Comments	
Report date	18 /10/16
Author	G R Pearson



Electronic data

From Excel file

(Results for Y 0-10 are from Grid 2 Sep 29; Y 11- 20 are from Grid 3 Sep 29; X is the same for both grids.)

Xm	Ym	Zmm
0	0	-1916
0	1	-1938
0	2	-1952
0	3	-1949
0	4	-1875
0	5	-1625
0	6	-1275
0	7	-977
0	8	-615
0	9	-373
0	10	-81
0	11	5
0	12	127
0	13	238
0	14	292
0	15	376

0	16	386
0	17	402
0	18	421
0	19	404
0	20	383
0	21	351
0	22	290
0	23	233
0	24	183
0	25	72
0	26	-16
0	27	-158
0	28	-367
0	29	-477
0	30	-705
1	0	-1926
1	1	-1936
1	2	-1938
1	3	-1915
1	4	-1784
1	5	-1506
1	6	-1189
1	7	-862
1	8	-507
1	9	-243
1	10	20
1	11	137
1	12	239
1	13	349
1	14	412
1	15	469
1	16	519
1	17	553
1	18	615
1	19	603
1	20	526
1	21	458
1	22	387
1	23	342
1	24	230
1	25	150
1	26	76
1	27	-53
1	28	-259
1	29	-435
1	30	-646

2	0	-1931
2	1	-1929
2	2	-1920
2	3	-1863
2	4	-1689
2	5	-1494
2	6	-1127
2	7	-805
2	8	-411
2	9	-139
2	10	104
2	11	203
2	12	312
2	13	390
2	14	461
2	15	538
2	16	618
2	17	683
2	18	714
2	19	704
2	20	662
2	21	545
2	22	444
2	23	354
2	24	255
2	25	181
2	26	117
2	27	-49
2	28	-201
2	29	-373
2	30	-584
3	0	-1933
3	1	-1931
3	2	-1903
3	3	-1809
3	4	-1658
3	5	-1468
3	6	-1022
3	7	-841
3	8	-620
3	9	-81
3	10	138
3	11	229
3	12	321
3	13	416
3	14	523

3	15	662
3	16	704
3	17	758
3	18	752
3	19	734
3	20	744
3	21	682
3	22	534
3	23	406
3	24	313
3	25	211
3	26	99
3	27	-36
3	28	-182
3	29	-321
3	30	-529
4	0	-1948
4	1	-1909
4	2	-1871
4	3	-1752
4	4	-1580
4	5	-1416
4	6	-988
4	7	-793
4	8	-587
4	9	-46
4	10	183
4	11	283
4	12	389
4	13	507
4	14	639
4	15	800
4	16	822
4	17	815
4	18	780
4	19	724
4	20	776
4	21	744
4	22	625
4	23	472
4	24	318
4	25	215
4	26	118
4	27	-39
4	28	-148
4	29	-302

4	30	-489
5	0	-1934
5	1	-1905
5	2	-1846
5	3	-1731
5	4	-1489
5	5	-1233
5	6	-786
5	7	-553
5	8	-233
5	9	-19
5	10	178
5	11	268
5	12	358
5	13	502
5	14	642
5	15	858
5	16	885
5	17	788
5	18	757
5	19	770
5	20	820
5	21	774
5	22	666
5	23	511
5	24	351
5	25	223
5	26	131
5	27	30
5	28	-97
5	29	-260
5	30	-432
6	0	-1938
6	1	-1887
6	2	-1844
6	3	-1757
6	4	-1502
6	5	-1158
6	6	-677
6	7	-457
6	8	-234
6	9	-19
6	10	178
6	11	282
6	12	403
6	13	534

6	14	752
6	15	862
6	16	796
6	17	745
6	18	745
6	19	800
6	20	818
6	21	755
6	22	623
6	23	431
6	24	276
6	25	184
6	26	97
6	27	-30
6	28	-164
6	29	-305
6	30	-510
7	0	-1933
7	1	-1812
7	2	-1837
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7	4	-1501
7	5	-1170
7	6	-692
7	7	-493
7	8	-243
7	9	-85
7	10	169
7	11	266
7	12	411
7	13	519
7	14	710
7	15	858
7	16	859
7	17	808
7	18	809
7	19	855
7	20	892
7	21	814
7	22	616
7	23	387
7	24	294
7	25	183
7	26	66
7	27	-19
7	28	-128

7	29	-305
7	30	-539
8	0	-1932
8	1	-1891
8	2	-1838
8	3	-1773
8	4	-1560
8	5	-1186
8	6	-727
8	7	-503
8	8	-283
8	9	-112
8	10	121
8	11	259
8	12	347
8	13	471
8	14	612
8	15	778
8	16	867
8	17	880
8	18	870
8	19	903
8	20	923
8	21	777
8	22	571
8	23	348
8	24	228
8	25	180
8	26	45
8	27	-47
8	28	-180
8	29	-328
8	30	-520
9	0	-1952
9	1	-1893
9	2	-1842
9	3	-1780
9	4	-1647
9	5	-1220
9	6	-790
9	7	-576
9	8	-357
9	9	-161
9	10	49
9	11	195
9	12	295

9	13	388
9	14	504
9	15	609
9	16	729
9	17	824
9	18	846
9	19	840
9	20	741
9	21	586
9	22	404
9	23	275
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10	18	709
10	19	716
10	20	604
10	21	433
10	22	318
10	23	221
10	24	114
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10	27	-141

10	28	-341
10	29	-477
10	30	-671
11	0	-2020
11	1	-1951
11	2	-1898
11	3	-1837
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11	5	-1466
11	6	-1071
11	7	-866
11	8	-542
11	9	-298
11	10	-156
11	11	-22
11	12	79
11	13	180
11	14	280
11	15	361
11	16	420
11	17	430
11	18	471
11	19	403
11	20	355
11	21	309
11	22	225
11	23	138
11	24	48
11	25	-41
11	26	-39
11	27	-272
11	28	-336
11	29	-464
11	30	-642
12	0	-2038
12	1	-1986
12	2	-1935
12	3	-1885
12	4	-1910
12	5	-1643
12	6	-1205
12	7	-979
12	8	-623
12	9	-404
12	10	-258
12	11	-153

12	12	-31
12	13	88
12	14	197
12	15	258
12	16	287
12	17	292
12	18	276
12	19	282
12	20	268
12	21	206
12	22	164
12	23	91
12	24	-6
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13	5	-1784
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13	8	-758
13	9	-543
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13	11	-286
13	12	-152
13	13	-40
13	14	62
13	15	120
13	16	135
13	17	158
13	18	171
13	19	177
13	20	150
13	21	119
13	22	74
13	23	27
13	24	-81
13	25	-169
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13	27	-385
13	28	-483
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13	30	-877
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14	13	-146
14	14	-38
14	15	26
14	16	14
14	17	55
14	18	86
14	19	78
14	20	74
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Appendix 3

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: ycccart2-266473

Project details

Project name	Surveys at Locking Head Castle
Short description of the project	Resistance and gradiometry surveys and partial terrain modelling of the entire motte and bailey castle
Project dates	Start: 15-09-2016 End: 25-10-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	2016/Y9 - Sitecode
Type of project	Research project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	MOTTE AND BAILEY Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Geophysical Survey", "Part Survey"
Prompt	Research
Solid geology	LOWER LIAS
Drift geology	Unknown
Techniques	Resistivity - area

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTH SOMERSET NORTH SOMERSET LOCKING Locking Head Castle
Postcode	BS24 7DG
Study area	0.87 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 3639 6087 51.342848959031 -2.913361128706 51 20 34 N 002 54 48 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 16m Max: 18m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	YCC CART
Project brief originator	Self (i.e. landowner, developer, etc.)
Project design originator	Vince Russett

Project director/manager	Vince Russett
Project supervisor	Vince Russett
Type of sponsor/funding body	Local Arch. Society/Amateur Archaeologist
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Somerset County Museum
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Geophysics", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Digital Archive notes	Copies in YCCCART archive and Somerset Museum
Paper Archive recipient	Somerset County Museum
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Report"
Paper Archive notes	Copies in YCCCART archive and Somerset Museum
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	A forthcoming report
Title	Geophysical and terrain surveys at Locking Head Castle, North Somerset
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Russett, V.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pearson, G.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Short, C.
Other bibliographic details	YCCCART 2016/Y9
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	YCCCART
Place of issue or publication	YCCCART web site
Description	Fully illustrated formal web publication designed to print out at A4
URL	http://ycccart.co.uk
Entered by	Vince Russett (vrussett@gmail.com)
Entered on	24 October 2016

