YCCCART 2010 / 9
North Somerset HER 47516

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

Mr Tutton's Field #2

General editor: Vince Russett

Members of the Grad 601 team in Mr Tutton's field on 8th March 2010

Page Contents

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 pottery kiln sites.

A number of potential kilns have been identified within the field by surveys with the Bartington Gradiometer 601. It is intended to carry out a resistivity survey on the site and produce a pseudosection of targeted potential kilns.

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 K Tutton.

The author is 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 Group.

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 lies in the south east of the village of Congresbury, in North Somerset. The centre of the upper field lies at ST46 444 629, some 20km south of Bristol

The field is privately owned but can be viewed from a public footpath.

Land use and geology

The site lies immediately to the south of the flood plain of the natural course of the Congresbury Yeo. The geology is Carboniferous limestone, Keuper Marl and estuarine alluvium

The field was used in 2009 for grazing sheep.

Historical & archaeological context

The field is centred on reference 1847 on the 1839 Congresbury map. There it is described in the Tithe apportionment as pasture land, called Home Ground, owned by John Hugh Smyth Pigott Esq and occupied by George Cavil.

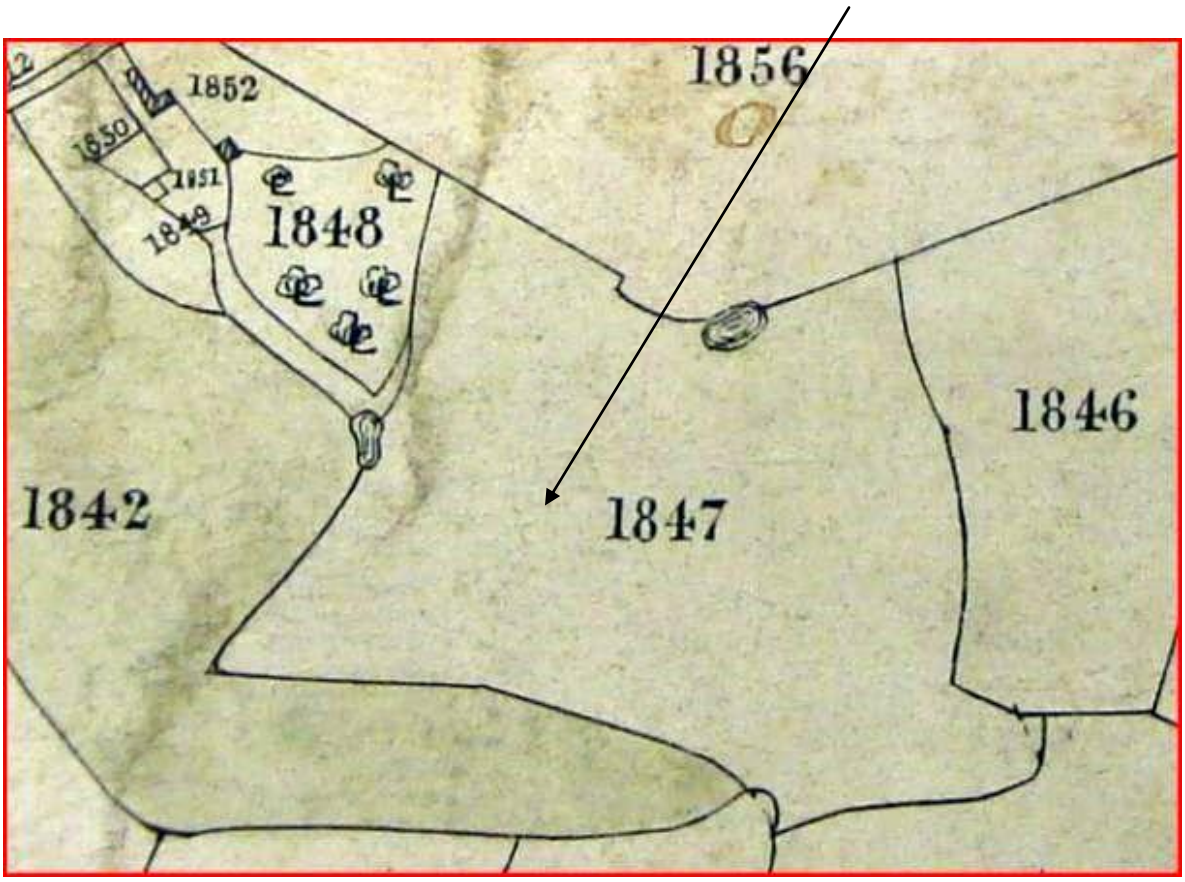


Fig 2: 1839 Map. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9

Note the two field ponds on the edges of the field. There are a number of these recorded in the general area on the Tithe Map, and it is not impossible that some of these owe their origins to clay-winning for the Roman pottery industry.

Survey objectives

The survey had the following objectives.

1) To identify any additional Romano-British kilns in this field.
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

The survey was undertaken during March 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 using ArcheoSurveyor 2.4.0.23 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

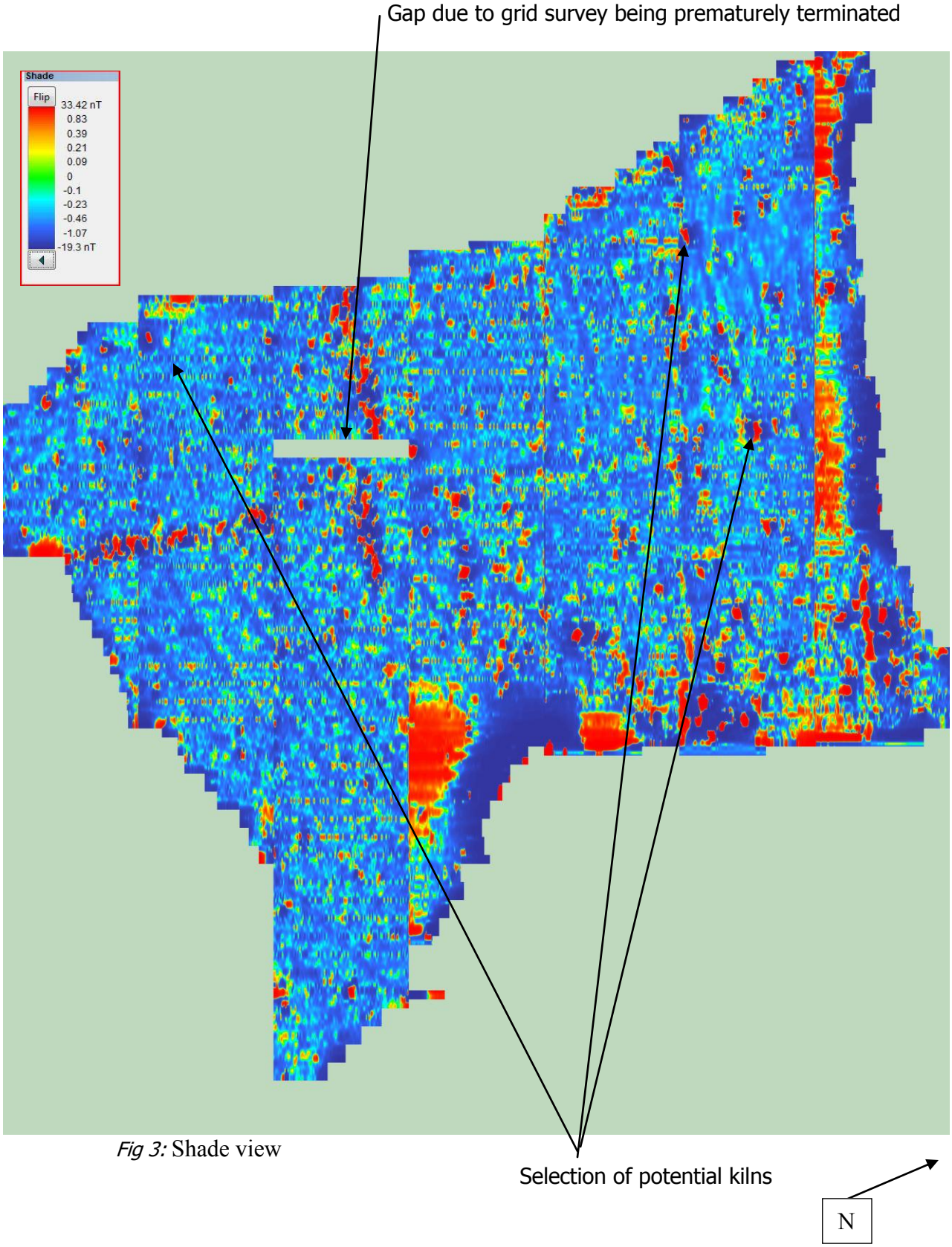


Fig 3: Shade view

Roman pottery kiln sites are generally indicated in gradiometry surveys by strong negative and positive peaks immediately adjacent to each other. While the range of readings is not high here, the responses may be from deeply buried features, and are worth further investigation. Other high positive responses around the edges of the field (Fig 3 and 4) are due to interference from items such as barbed wire and metal waste. Linear high response features are probably from infilling of gripes with earthenware drains or magnetic waste.

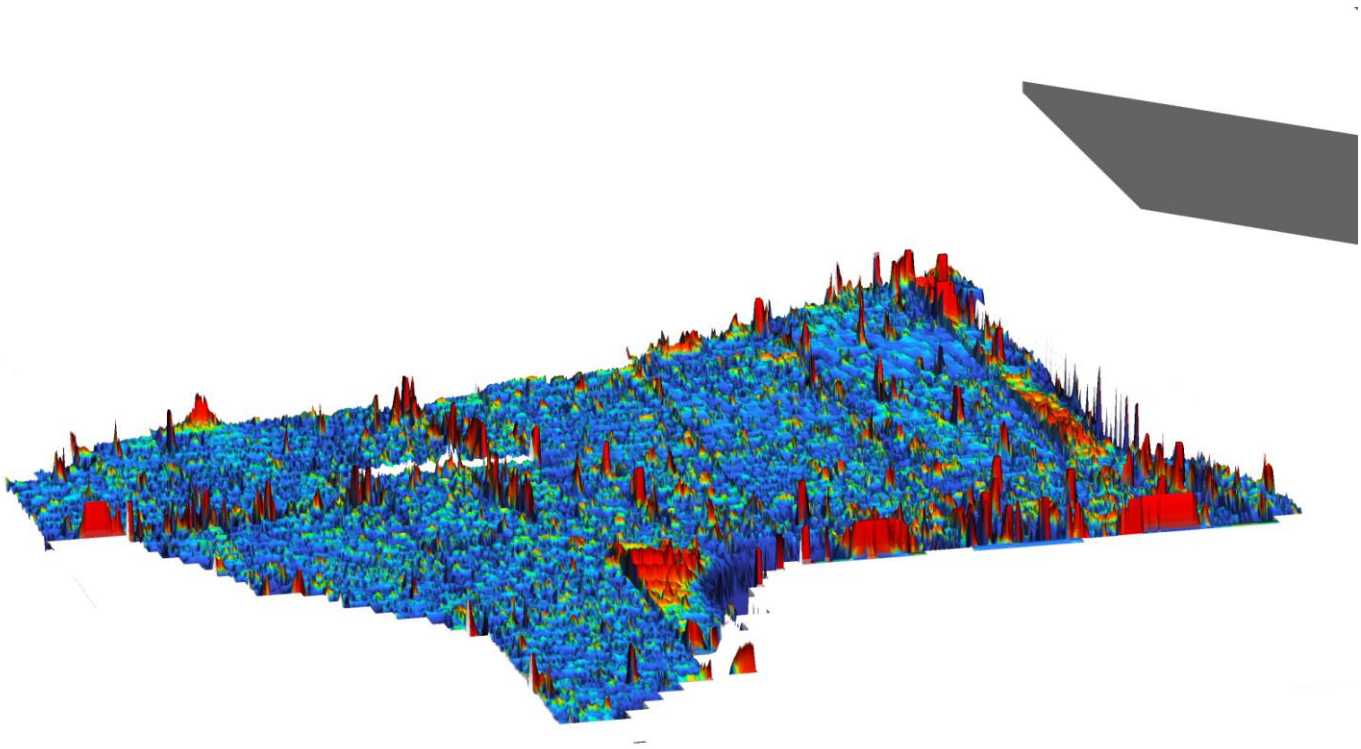


Fig 4: Axonometric view

These results illustrate the points made under the shade view. In this view, the potential kiln sites are indicated by red peaks surrounded by blue anti-peaks. Other high positive responses around the edges of the field are due to interference from items such as barbed wire and metal waste. The linear high positive features are clearer in this version of the results.

NB. For orientation of the above results see the summary of weekly site records at Appendix 1.

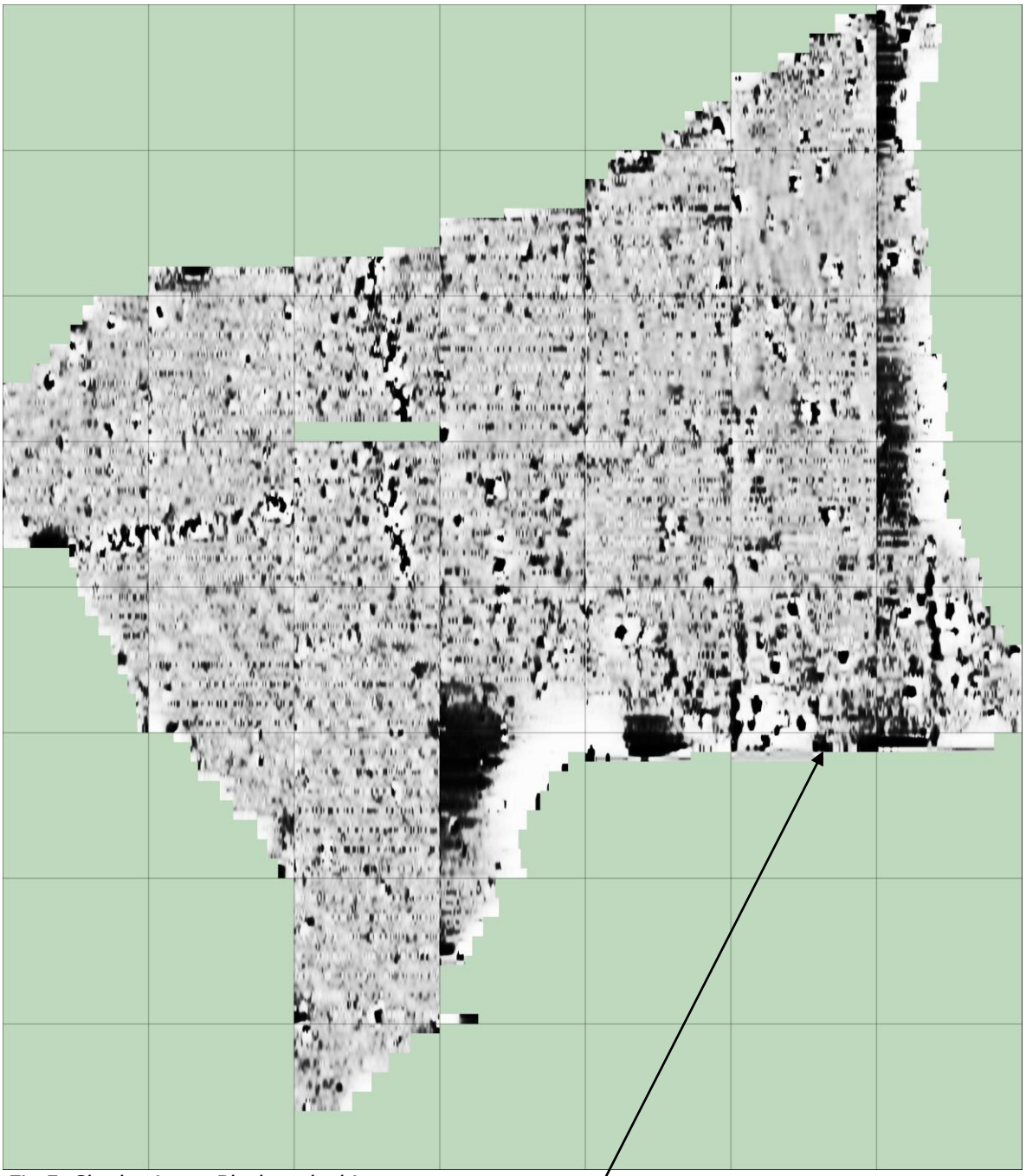


Fig 5: Shade view – Black and white

This black and white view illustrates an unusual rectangular feature with an inner circle (as indicated).

Recommendations for further work

The extremely useful results obtained in this survey indicate the potential sites of previously unknown Roman pottery kilns. Further geophysical techniques can be used to try and characterise the potential kilns. The rectangular feature illustrated at Fig 5 is also worthy of further investigation and so it is recommended that
1) A pseudosectioning survey is required of the anomalies identified (potential kiln sites?) in order that consideration can be given to full excavation of one kiln.
2) A resistivity survey is undertaken to investigate the rectangular feature illustrated in Fig 5

References

Extract from Congresbury Tithe Map - *BRO* 37959/9

Authors. Ian Morton & Chris Short.

Date. 21st March 2010

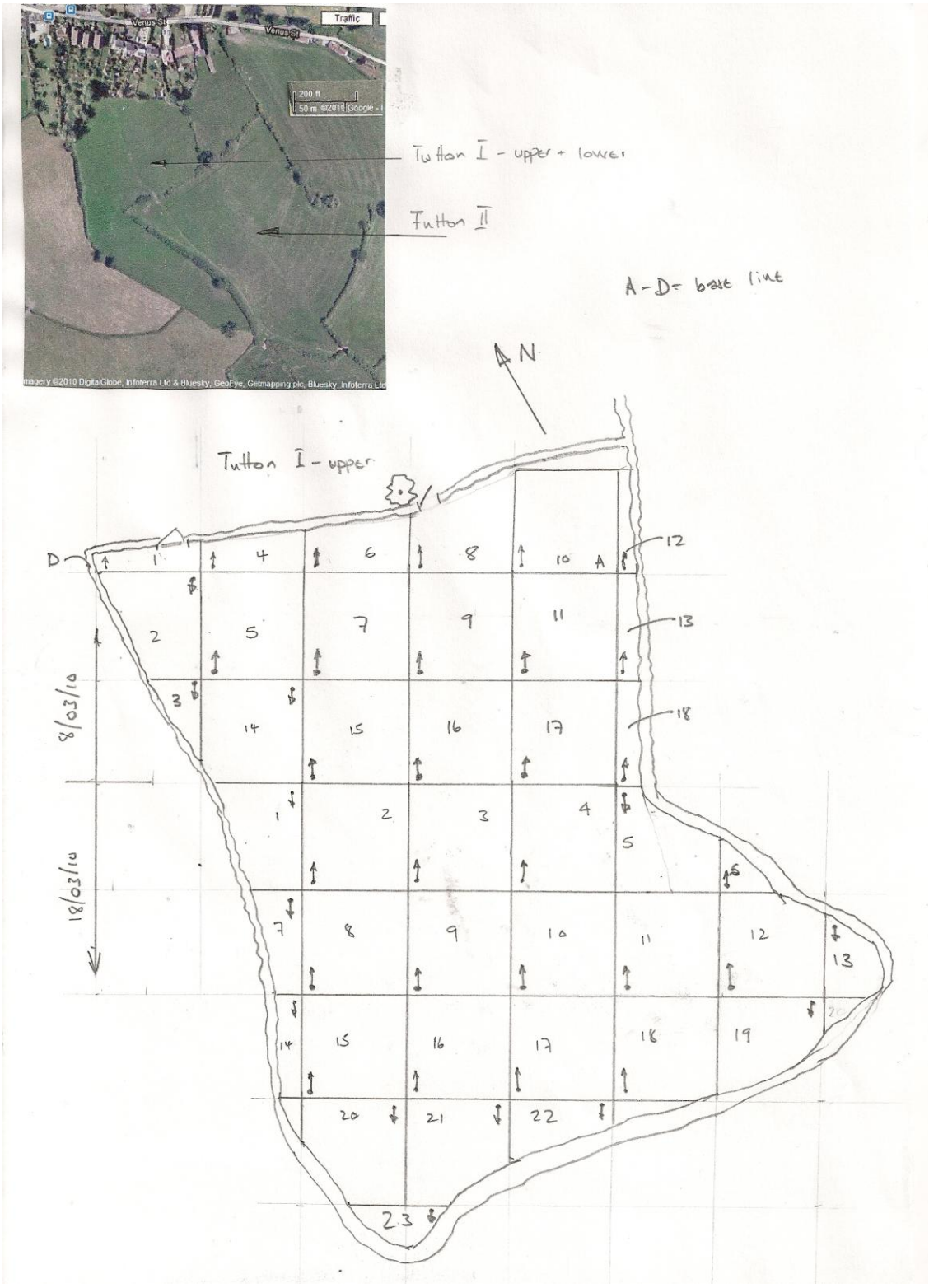
Appendix 1

Summary of weekly site records

YCCCART Site Survey Project – Congresbury Kilns						
Summary Report						
Type /Instrument	Grad 601					
	Pace :1.5m/s Start: ?? 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	Venus Street, Congresbury					
	A	ST 4449E 6276N N 51^{0}21'41" W 2^{o}47'54"	D	ST E 4436 N 6271 N51^{o}21'38" W 2^{o}48'01"		
Ref	none					
Site name	Tutton #2					
Landowner	Keith Tutton, Regina, Smallway					
Tenant	Peter Pike, Barbary Farm, Kenn Moor.					
HER ref	47516					
Site type	Open field					
Description	Grass					
Period	Unknown					
Geology	Limestone					
Land use	Pasture					
Survey team	Peter English, Peter Wright, Mike Fox, Dave Long & Ian Morton					
Survey area		notes		readings		
		size	walk direction	max	min	mean
Date 08/3/2010	1	Mirror and return	N	+45.5	-100.0	-6.9
	2	Mirror and return incomplete	S	+24.9	-100.0	-0.8
	3	Mirror and return incomplete	S	+83.7	-12.3	-0.8
	4	Mirror and return	N	+35.5	-15.9	+1.7
	5	30x30 m	N	+45.1	-43.5	+2.1
	6	Mirror and return	N	+98.4	-100.0	-4.7
	7	30x30 m	N	+100.0	-100.0	+1.6
	8	Mirror and return	N	+99.9	-99.2	-1.1

	9	30x30 m	N	+18.6	-15.2	+2.1
	10	Mirror and return	N	+80.3	-14.2	+1.1
	11	30x30 m	N	+57.9	-18.7	+2.5
	12	Mirror and return incomplete	N	+14.9	-100.0	-29.6
	13	Mirror and return incomplete	N	+31.9	-70.0	-14.9
	14	Mirror and return	S	+15.6	-4.8	+1.7
	15	30x30 m	N	+10.0	-4.8	+1.7
	16	30x30 m	N	+31.1	-2.7	+2.2
	17	30x30 m	N	+11.8	-11.9	+1.5
	18	Mirror and return incomplete	N	+100.0	-100.0	-13.6
Date 18/03/2010	1	Abandon grid	SE	+7.8	-6.0	+0.4
	2	30 x 30 m	NW	+21.6	-36.9	+1.1
	3	30 x 30 m	NW	+30.3	-3.4	+1.2
	4	30 x 30 m	NW	+15.3	-17.9	+0.1
	5	Abandon grid	NW	+100.0	-100.0	-9.3
	6	Abandon grid	NW	+4.3	-100.0	-5.2
	7	Abandon grid	SE	+50.5	-8.5	-0.0
	8	30 x 30 m	NW	Not recorded		
	9	30 x 30 m	NW	+99.3	-33.0	+0.4
	10	30 x 30 m	NW	+10.0	-3.9	+0.6
	11	30 x 30 m	NW	+35.4	-5.2	+0.5
	12	30 x 30 m	NW	+11.1	-6.1	+0.4
	13	Abandon grid	SE	+6.0	-47.1	-0.4
	14	Abandon grid	SE	+5.1	-2.8	+0.3
	15	30 x 30 m	NW	+58.4	-22.8	+0.7
	16	30 x 30 m	NW	+96.0	-34.9	-0.0
	17	30 x 30 m	NW	+3.7	-6.7	-0.0
	18	30 x 30 m	NW	Not recorded		
	19	Mirror and return	SE	+98.7	-63.0	-0.0
	20	Mirror and return	SE	+68.8	-23.0	-0.1
	21	Mirror and return	SE	+23.5	-22.6	-0.1
	22	Mirror and return	SE	+3.6	-25.5	-0.1
	23	Mirror and return	SE	+10.4	-51.1	-1.2
Summary		**Survey completed**				
Ian Morton 18/03/2010		Version 1				

Setting out details



Appendix 2. Site photo

Laying tapes across a grid. Pete Wright 8th March 2010