YCCCART 2011/Y4

North Somerset HER 2011/58

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

Venus Street. Mrs Meaker's field 2

General Editor: Vince Russett

YCCCART members watching Nick Joy taking the Grad 601 for a walk

1. 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. This survey has revealed the potential sites of previously unknown Roman pottery kilns. In addition, there are signs of a possible building/s and two parallel ditches of unknown date.

2. 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, Mrs M Meaker.

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

3. 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

4. Site location

Fig 1: Site location

The site lies in the south east of the village of Congresbury, in the District of North Somerset. The base point for the initial survey grid lies at ST 44688 62949, some 12 miles south of Bristol

The field is privately owned.

5. 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 mixed, with Carboniferous limestone, Keuper Marl and estuarine alluvium

Currently the field is laid to grass and has been used for grazing.

6. Historical & archaeological context

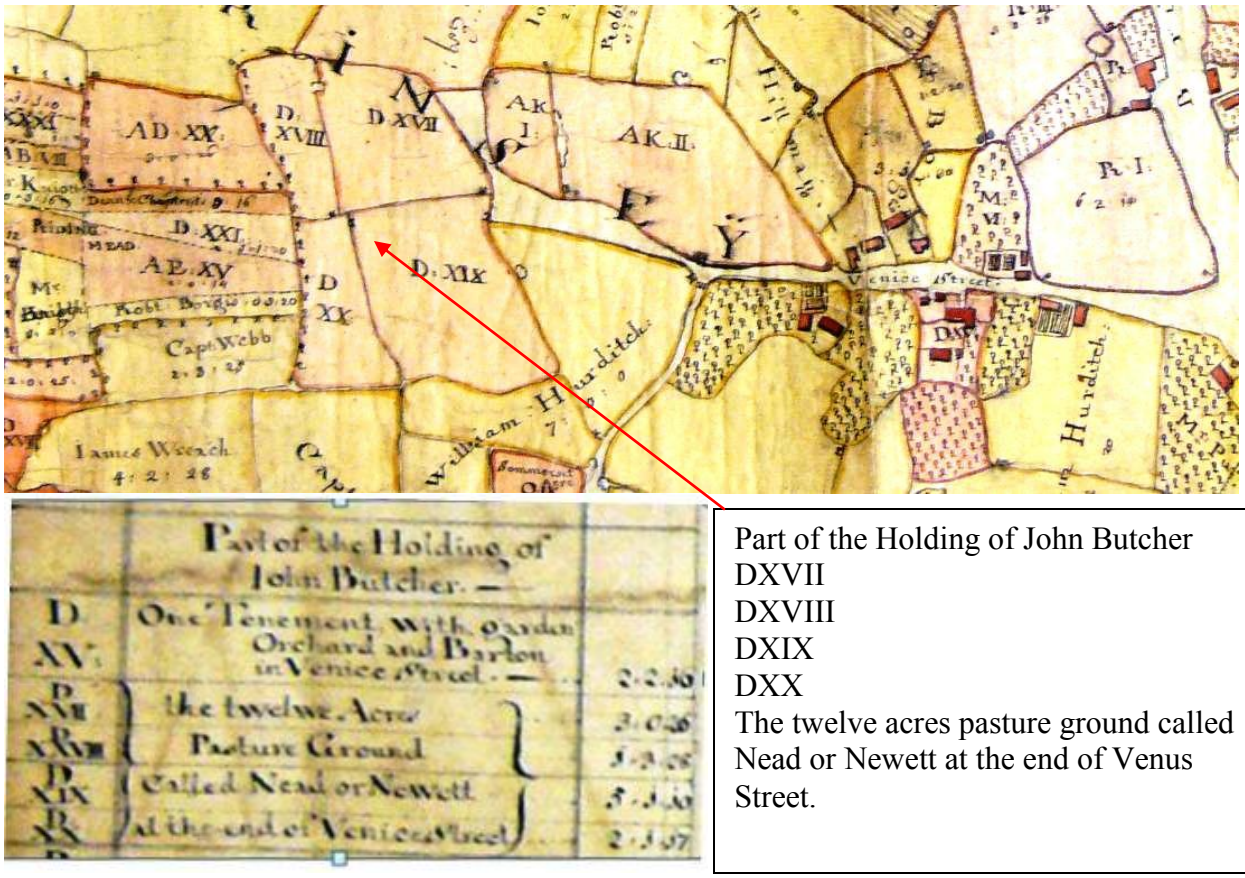
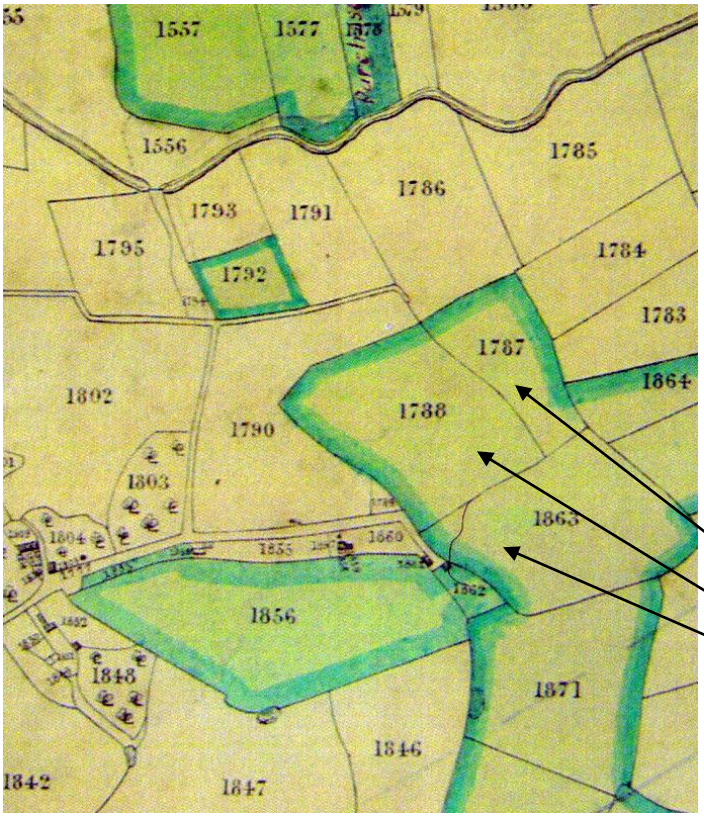


Fig 2: 1739 Map by J.J. de Wilstar. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office.
BRO/ 33041/BMC/4/PL1/2. Plans made for a survey of lands in the Manor of Congresbury, given for maintenance of Queen Elisabeth's Hospital, Bristol: A Survey Being Part of the Hospital Land in the Manor of Congresbury Bordering on the South-West side of the River 1739

In 1739, as can be seen from fig 2 above, the survey field was divided into four fields all called Nead or Newett and part of the holdings of John Butcher.

On the 1839 Congresbury Tithe map the current field is numbered 1787, 1788 and 1863.



In 1839 John Butcher's four fields have become three.

In the 1840 Tithe apportionment all three fields are described as pasture called Newett or Noad, owned by the Trustees of Queen Elizabeth Hospital and occupied by Anne Osmond.

Fig 3: 1839 Tithe Map extract. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9

Tithe Apportionment

Tithe Ref	Landowner	Occupier	Description
1787	Trustees of Queen Elizabeth Hospital	Anne Osmond	Pasture called Newett or Noad
1788	Trustees of Queen Elizabeth Hospital	Anne Osmond	Pasture called Newett or Noad
1863	Trustees of Queen Elizabeth Hospital	Anne Osmond	Pasture called Newett or Noad

7. Survey objectives

The survey had the following objectives.

1) To identify any additional kilns.
2) To use the survey to train YCCCART members and members of Community Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) in the use of the Bartington Gradiometer 601.

8. Methodology

The survey was undertaken by teams from YCCCART during the period 3 February to 14 March 2011.

The completed survey was downloaded to an 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) Contours
5) Destriped
6) Despiked

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2003.

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

9. Results

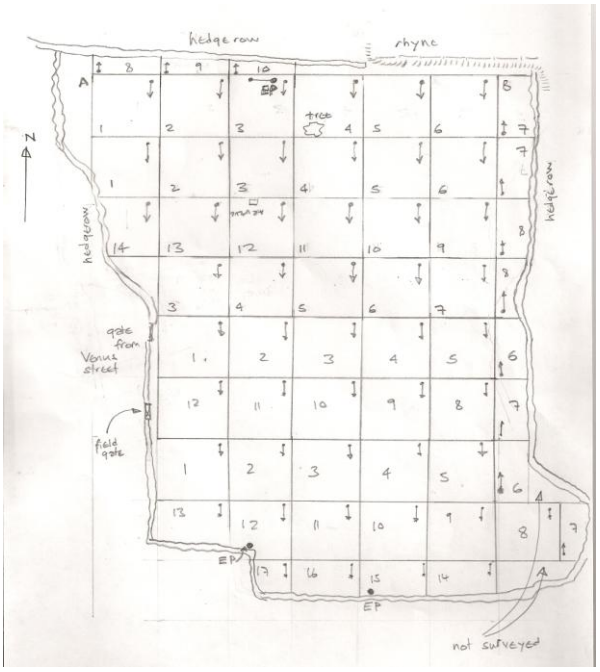


Fig 1: Survey grid record

The results shown in figure 2, below left, show the line of a former field boundary running east to west across the field. To the north of this boundary an area of intense magnetic signature probably indicates a dwelling or possibly industrial activity. It is just possible that this represents a number of kilns with waste heaps around, but a resistivity survey should help to decide between these three options.

The huge disturbance running N-S across the site is the line of a large sewer pipe.

See next page for further discussion.

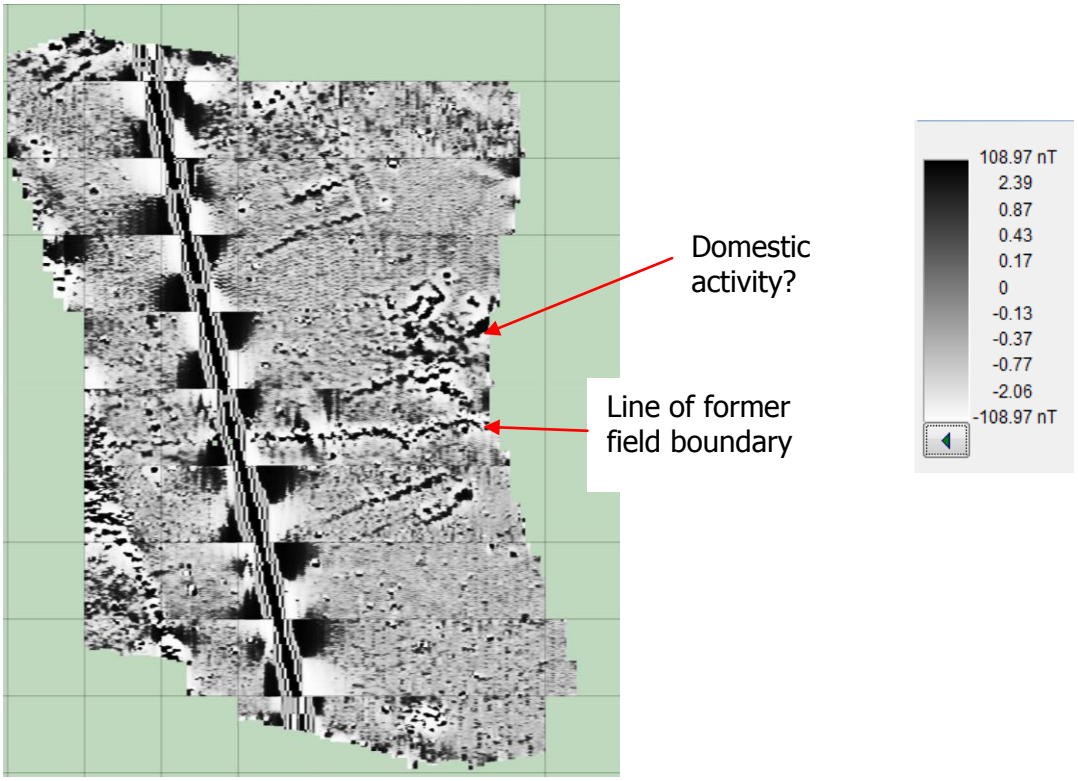


Fig 2: Shade view. ArcheoSurveyor black & white view.

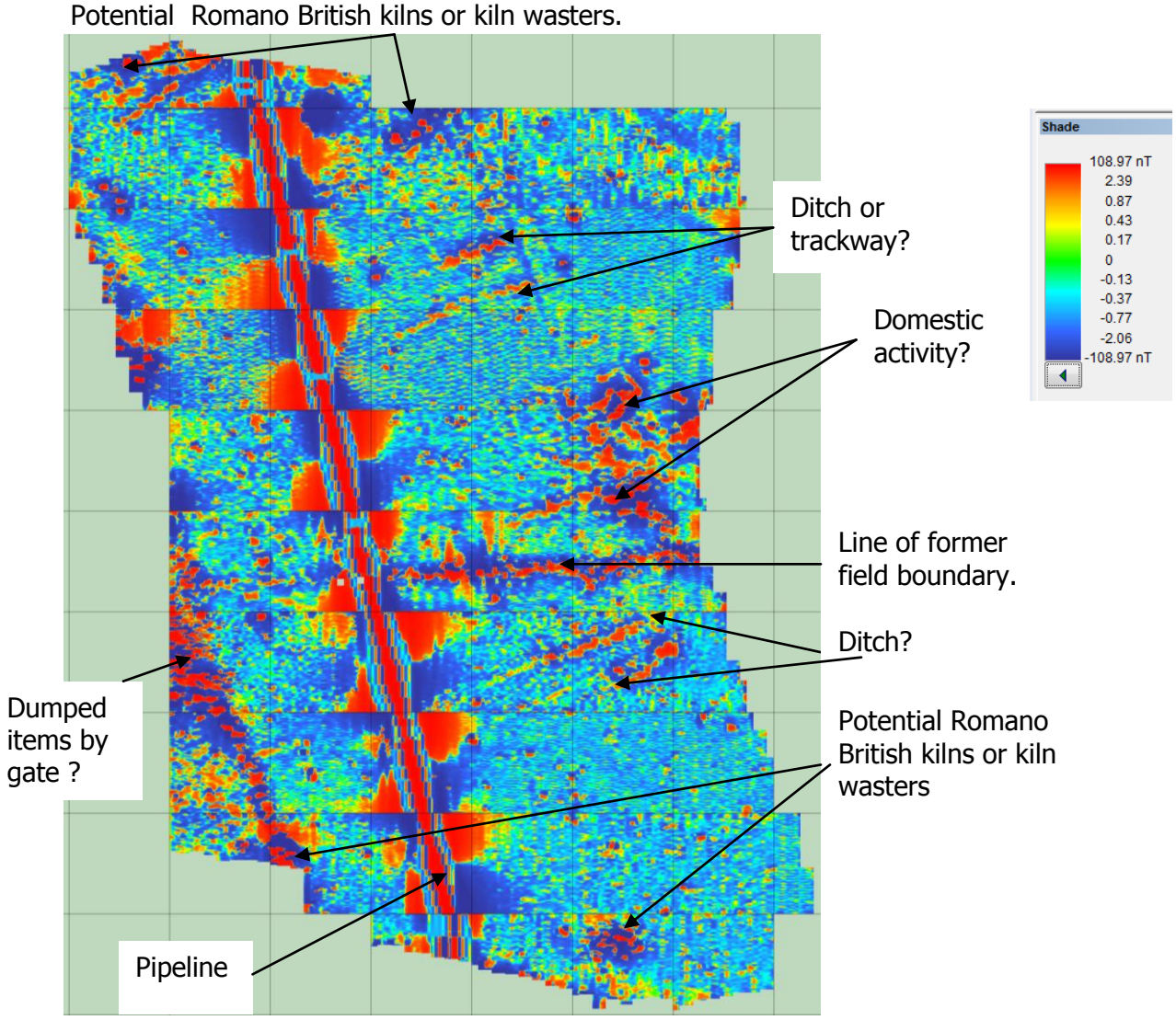


Fig 3: Shade view. ArcheoSurveyor colour view.

Figure 3 above shows the strong influence of a modern pipeline. Two strong parallel linear anomalies, about 10-15 metres in length, are also shown running east-west and may result from slag or pottery wasters in a ditch. Modern gripes run at a different angle, although there are faint traces of what may be an earlier group running at this angle on the 1946 air photographs in the North Somerset HER. An area of potential domestic activity (or other: see above) also shows a high (red) magnetic response.
To the north and south possible Roman pottery kiln sites are indicated by strong negative and positive peaks immediately adjacent to each other. These are indicated by high positive peaks (coloured red), and adjacent or surrounding negative peaks (coloured blue) in figure 3 above. The possible kilns at the top of figure 3 should be related to those found in the adjacent field (See YCCCART Report 2010/3).
The high readings on the extreme left may result from dumped items by the gate.

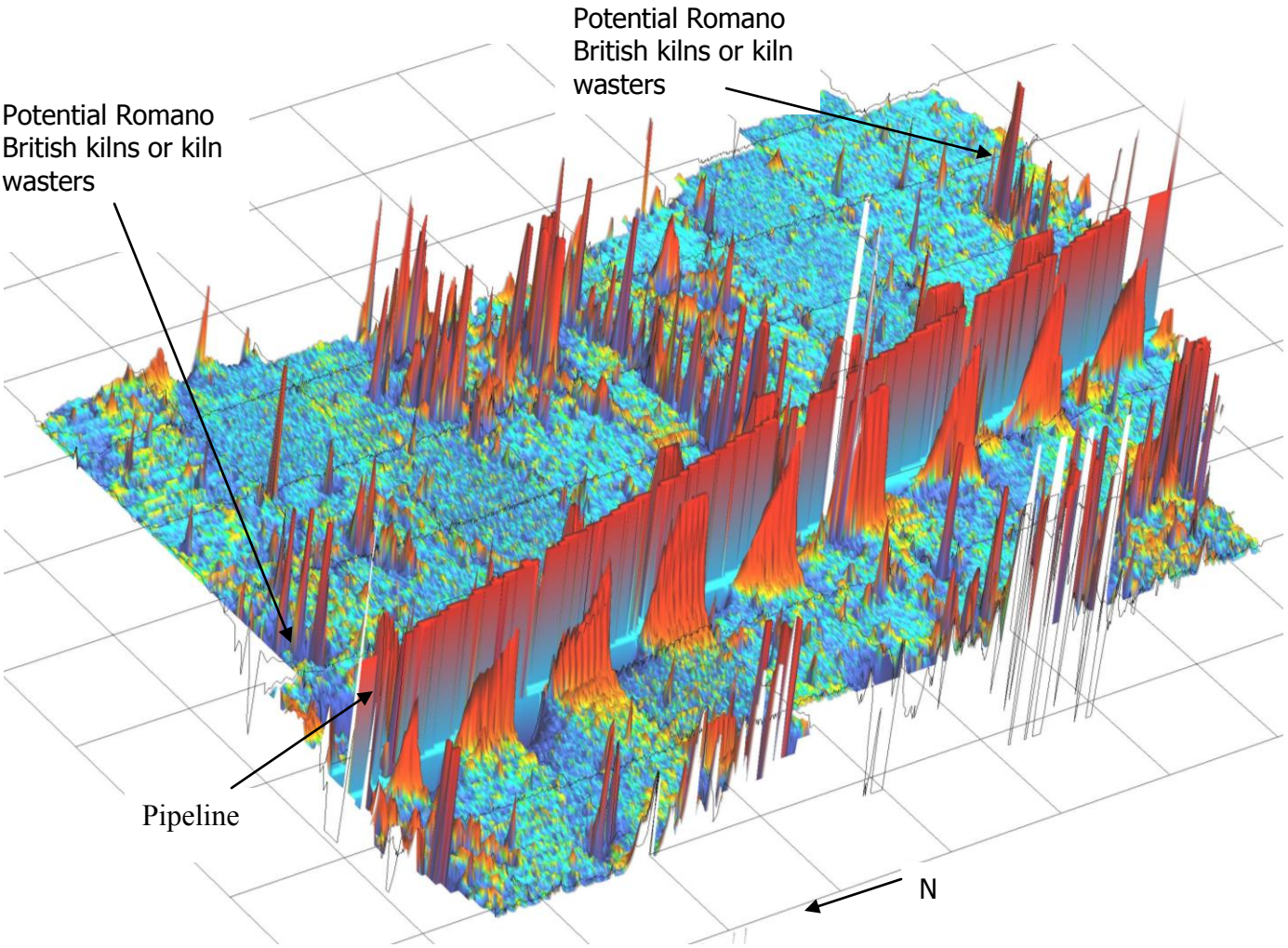


Fig 4: Axonometric view. ArcheoSurveyor colour view.

This view shows the very high (red) magnetic response from the pipe work across the field as well as the potential kilns with high red positive peaks and surrounding negative blue peaks.

10. Recommendations for further work

This survey indicates the potential sites of previously unknown Roman pottery kilns. In addition, there are signs of a possible building/s and a series of what seem to be parallel ditches.

It is recommended that a resistivity survey is undertaken of the area where potential domestic activity is indicated in order to identify any building walls, and to try to discriminate between the suggested causes of the readings.

11. References

1793 Congresbury map	*Plans made for a survey of lands in the Manor of Congresbury, given for maintenance of Queen Elisabeth's Hospital, Bristol: A Survey Being Part of the Hospital Land in the Manor of Congresbury Bordering on the South-West side of the River 1739* Bristol Record Office BRO/ 33041/BMC/4/PL1/2
Extract from Congresbury Tithe Map	Bristol record Office BRO 37959/9

Authors: Ian Morton & Chris Short.

Date: March 2011.

Appendix 1

Summary of daily site records

YCCCART Site Survey Project – Congresbury Kilns							
Survey date		14th March 2011					
Report date		14th March 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:1nT Reject:50 Hz		
Location		End of Venus Street					
Base line		A	easting northing	ST44688 ST62949	B	easting northing	ST344870 ST62950
Ref		none					
Site name		Meaker/Thomas					
Landowner		Mrs. M Meaker, Yew Tree House, 41 Venus Street					
Tenant		Mr. T Thomas, Thomas Farm, Smallway, Congresbury					
HER ref							
Site type		Open field					
Description		Grass					
Period		Unknown					
Geology		Limestone					
Land use		grazing					
Survey team and conditions							
27th January 2011	Team	Peter Wright, Ferdi, Mike Fox & Ian Morton					
	weather	cold & overcast					
3rd February 2011	Team	Peter Wright, Ferdi, Judy Sacks & Ian Morton					
	weather	Sunny and cool					
14th February 2011	Team	Peter Wright, Richard Baker, Mike Fox & Ian Morton					
	weather	Sunny and cool. Ground very wet after rain all day previous day					
28th February 2011	Team	Ferdi, Mike Fox Anne Dimmock, John Wilcox& Ian Morton					
	weather	cold & overcast					
7th March 2011	Team	Peter Wright, Ferdi, Ann Dimmock, John Wilcox, Mike Fox & Ian Morton					
	weather	Sunny and cool					
14th March 2011	Team	Peter Wright, Peter English, Ferdi, Ann Dimmock, John Wilcox, Mike Fox & Ian Morton					
	weather	Sunny and cool					

Survey area			notes		readings		
			size	walk direction	max	min	mean
27th January 2011		Setting out grids 1 thro' 7 for 03/02/2011.					
Grid ref #	03/02/2011	1	30 x 30 m	S	+97.2	-26.2	+5.2
		2	30 x 30 m	S	+100.0	-!00.0	-16.2
		3	30 x 30 m	S	+100.0	-100.0	-17.0
		4	30 x 30 m	S	+97.5	-35.7	+1.7
		5	30 x 30 m	S	+99.6	-100.0	+2.9
		6	30 x 30 m	S	+88.9	-100.0	+2.9
		7	30 x 30 m Mirror and return Grid terminated	N	+25.2	-3.9	+3.9
		8	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	N	+100.0	-40.6	+3.4
		9	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	N	+100.0	-100.0	_20.3
		10	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	N	+11.0	-100.0	-14.3
Grid ref #	14/02/2011	1	30 x 30 m Incomplete Grid	S	+70.3	-76.9	-1.2
		2	30 x 30 m	S	+5.8	-100.0	-8.3
		3	30 x 30 m Air chamber valve at 67 S	S	+110.0	-100.0	-2.8
		4	30 x 30 m Overhead cables thro' grid	S	+50.0	-9.8	-1.3
		5	30 x 30 m	S	+99.7	100.0	-1.0
		6	30 x 30 m	S	5.1	-7.2	-1.4
		7	30 x 30 m Mirror and return Incomplete Grid	N	+24.4	-99.5	-2.5
		8	30 x 30 m Incomplete grid	N	+67.7	-22.2	-1.1
		9	30 x 30 m	S	+97.3	-26.3	-1.1
		10	30 x 30 m	S	+36.9	-81.4	-2.2
		11	30 x 30 m Overhead cables thro' grid	S	+23.1	-81.9	-1.9
		12	30 x 30 m Air chamber valve at 67 N	S	+100.0	-100.0	-30.1
		13	30 x 30 m	S	+5.0	-19.3	-3.0
		14	30 x 30 m Mirror and return Incomplete Grid Overhead cables thro' grid	N	+100.0	-100.0	-10.6

Survey area			notes		readings		
			size	walk direction	max	min	mean
Grid ref #	28/02/2011 (note grids 1 & 2 from different survey)	3	30 x 30 m	S	+19.7	-100.0	-1.5
		4	30 x 30 m	S	+100.0	-100.0	-27.9
		5	30 x 30 m	S	+22.5	-49.2	-0.9
		6	30 x 30 m	S	+26.7	-28.2	-0.1
		7	30 x 30 m	S	+99.1	-57.2	-0.5
		8	30 x 30 m Grid terminated	N	+62.0	18.6	+2.2-
Grid ref #	07/03/2011	1	30 x 30 m Bonfire in grid	S	+99.6	-100.0	-1.0
		2	30 x 30 m Dummy data entered for electricity pole and stay cables	S	+100.0	_100.0	-18.2
		3	30 x 30 m electricity pole	S	+100.0	-100.0	-9.6
		4	30 x 30 m	S	+99.5	-100.0	-0.8
		5	30 x 30 m	S	+81.3	-100.0	-1.6
		6	30 x 30 m Mirror and return Incomplete Grid	N	+90.2	-100.0	-3.4
	Change of operator	7	30 x 30 m Mirror and return Incomplete Grid	N	+2.9	-13.3	-4.7
		8	30 x 30 m	S	+23.1	-13.9	-4.2
		9	30 x 30 m	S	+66.5	-86.4	-5.2
		10	30 x 30 m	S	+100.0	-100.0	+2.8
		11	30 x 30 m	S	+100.0	-100.0	-17.1
		12	30 x 30 m	S	+100.0	-100.0	-6.1
Grid ref #	14/03/2011	1	30 x 30 m	S	+100.0	-100.0	+1.0
		2	30 x 30 m	S	+26.9	-63.3	+0.4
		3	30 x 30 m	S	100.0	-100.0	-29.1
		4	30 x 30 m	S	27.5	-23.2	1.7
		5	30 x 30 m	S	11.6	-8.4	1.7
		6	30 x 30 m Mirror and return Incomplete Grid	N	+64.0	-9.8	+2.0
		7	30 x 30 m Mirror and return Incomplete Grid	N	+7.0	-21.8	+1.8
	Change of operator	8	30 x 30 m	S	+63.5	-29.8	+1.2
		9	30 x 30 m	S	+23.0	-4.5	+1..6
		10	30 x 30 m	S	+6.2	-21.2	+1.6
		11	30 x 30 m	S	+100.0	-100.0	_28.2
		12	30 x 30 m Mirror and return Incomplete Grid	S electricity pole	+100.0	-100.0	+0.6
		13		S	+100.0	-100.0	+1.6
		14		S	+9.4	-6.2	+1.5
		15		S electricity pole	+100.0	-100.0	-0.4
		16		S	+52.4	-59.9	-3.2
		17		S	+100.0	-100.0	-31.3
			Survey completed				

Annex 1 –Setting out details