

**YCCCART 2014 / Y6  
North Somerset HER 2014/41**

**Gradiometry Survey off Venus St.  
Mrs Meaker Field Number 3**

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

*General Editor: Vince Russett*



*A paw print on a piece of Congresbury ware, Romano-British pottery.*

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## **Abstract**

*YCCCART has a project to establish the extent of the Congresbury Roman kiln sites.  
A gradiometry survey has revealed possible previously unknown kilns.*

## **Acknowledgements**

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCART, of a Bartington 601 gradiometer meter without which this survey could not have been undertaken.

This survey would also not have been carried out without the willing permission of the 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 the report.

## **Introduction**

YCCCART is one of a number of Community Archaeology teams across North Somerset, supported by the North Somerset Development Management Team.

The objective of the Community Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) project is to undertake archaeological fieldwork to enable a better understanding and management of the heritage of the area while recording the activities and locations of the research carried out.

## Site Location



*Fig 1: Site location indicated by red arrow.*

The site is in Congresbury and abuts Brinsea Road and is close to Venus St

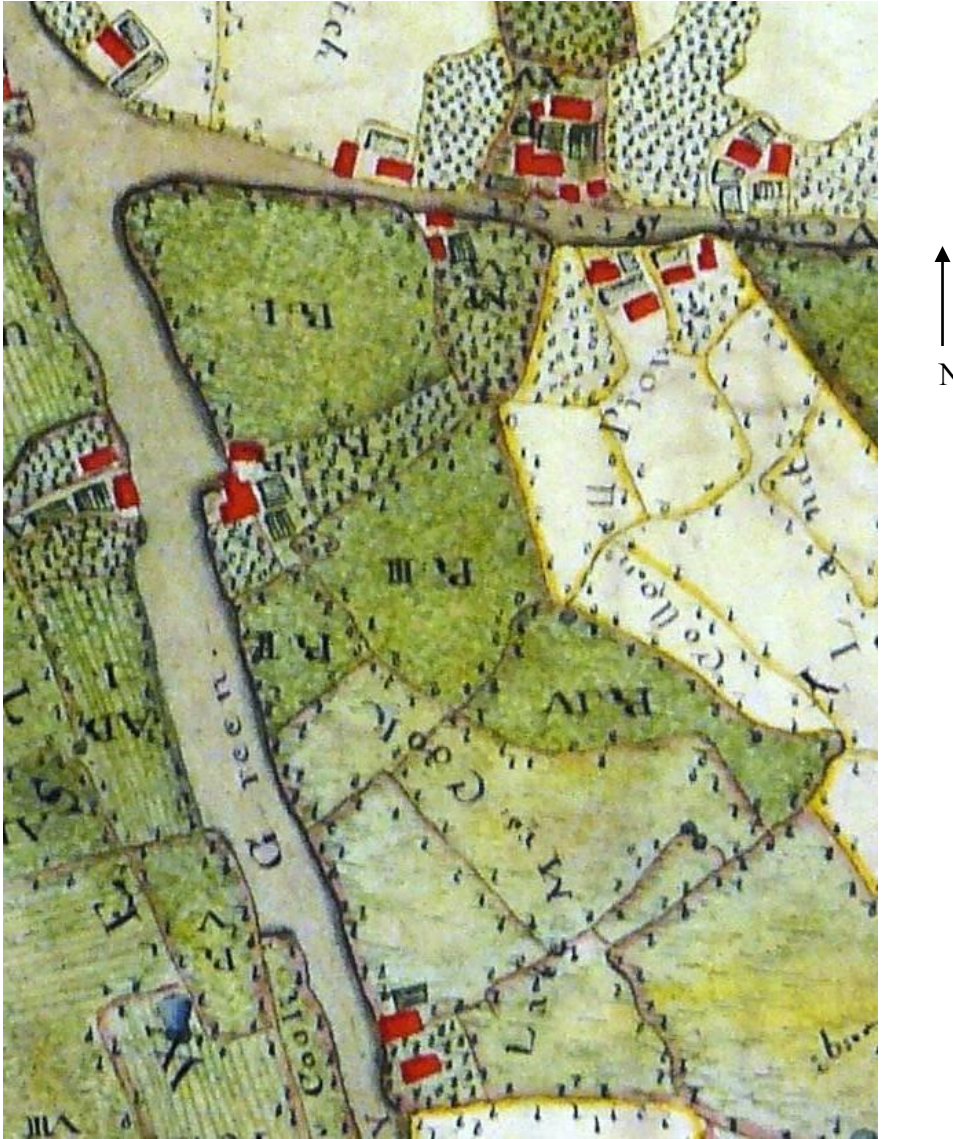
## Land use and geology

The site lies 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 is private with no public access and is used for grazing.



## Historical & archaeological context



*Fig 2: De Wilstar map of 1739. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office. Reference 33041/BMC/4/PL1/2. Note the map is upside down hence the lettering is the wrong way up.*

The index to the De Wilstar Map of 1739 (Fig above) shows:  
Field RI as Barne Close.  
Fields RII and RIII are called Brownes Ground.

## Tithe Map



*Fig 3 : 1839 Map. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9. The surveyed field is number 1073 on the map.*

The Tithe apportionment record, relating to the 1839 map above, shows field number 1073 as arable called Barn Close and Allotment owned by The Trustees of Queen Elizabeth's Hospital and occupied by Anne Osmond.

## 2007 Surveys

In 2007 limited geophysical surveys were carried out in the field by Matthew Harris as part of his archaeological degree at Bristol University (Harris, 2007).

The results of his magnetometer and resistivity surveys did not reveal any noticeable archaeology. However he pointed out that a large north – south anomaly, bordering Brinsea Road, was the result of "a relatively recent landfill procedure to stop the Meaker field slipping into the road".

## **Survey objectives**

The survey was undertaken in order to establish if further unknown Romano –British kilns could be located.

## **Methodology**

The survey of field was undertaken during March 2014 by a team from YCCCART, using a Bartington 601 gradiometer.

The completed survey was downloaded to a TerraSurveyor program.

TerraSurveyor composites were adjusted using the following filters:

- Band weight equaliser
- Grad shade
- Despike
- Destripe
- Clip SD2
- Red Green Blue 2 (Colour image)

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2007.

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

## Results

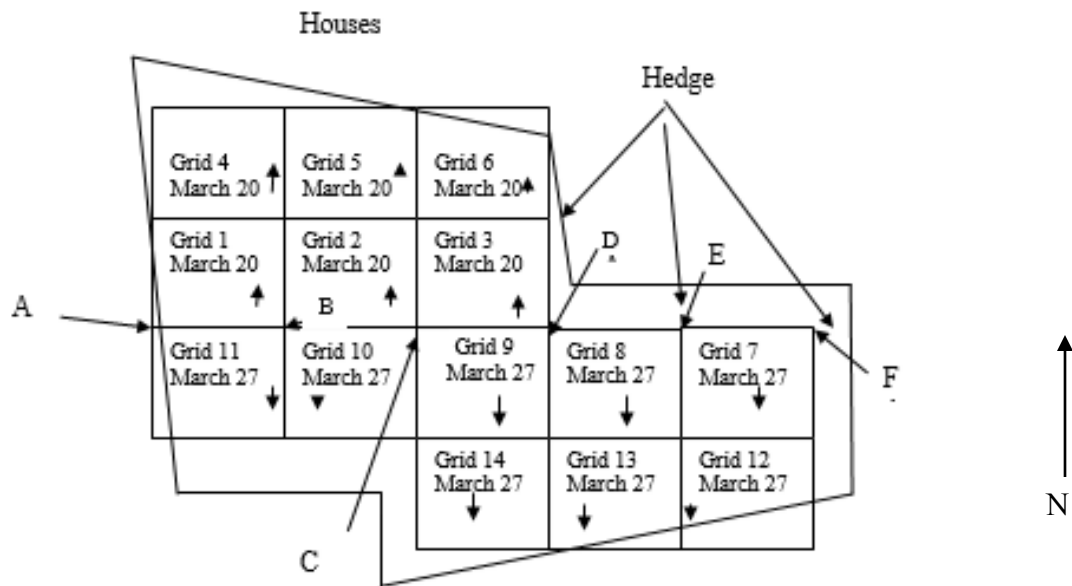


Fig 4: Grid lay out

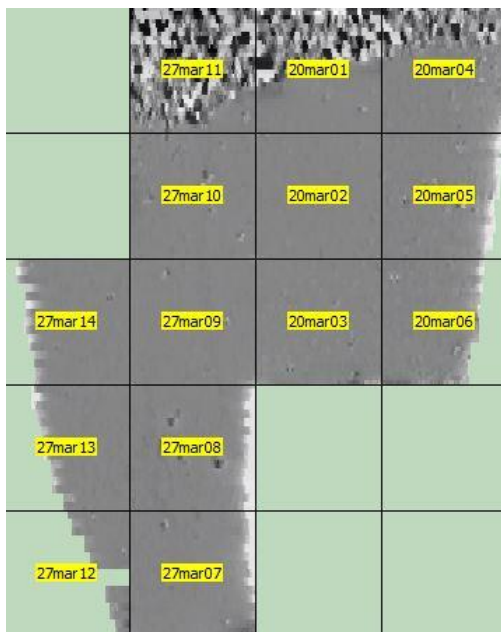
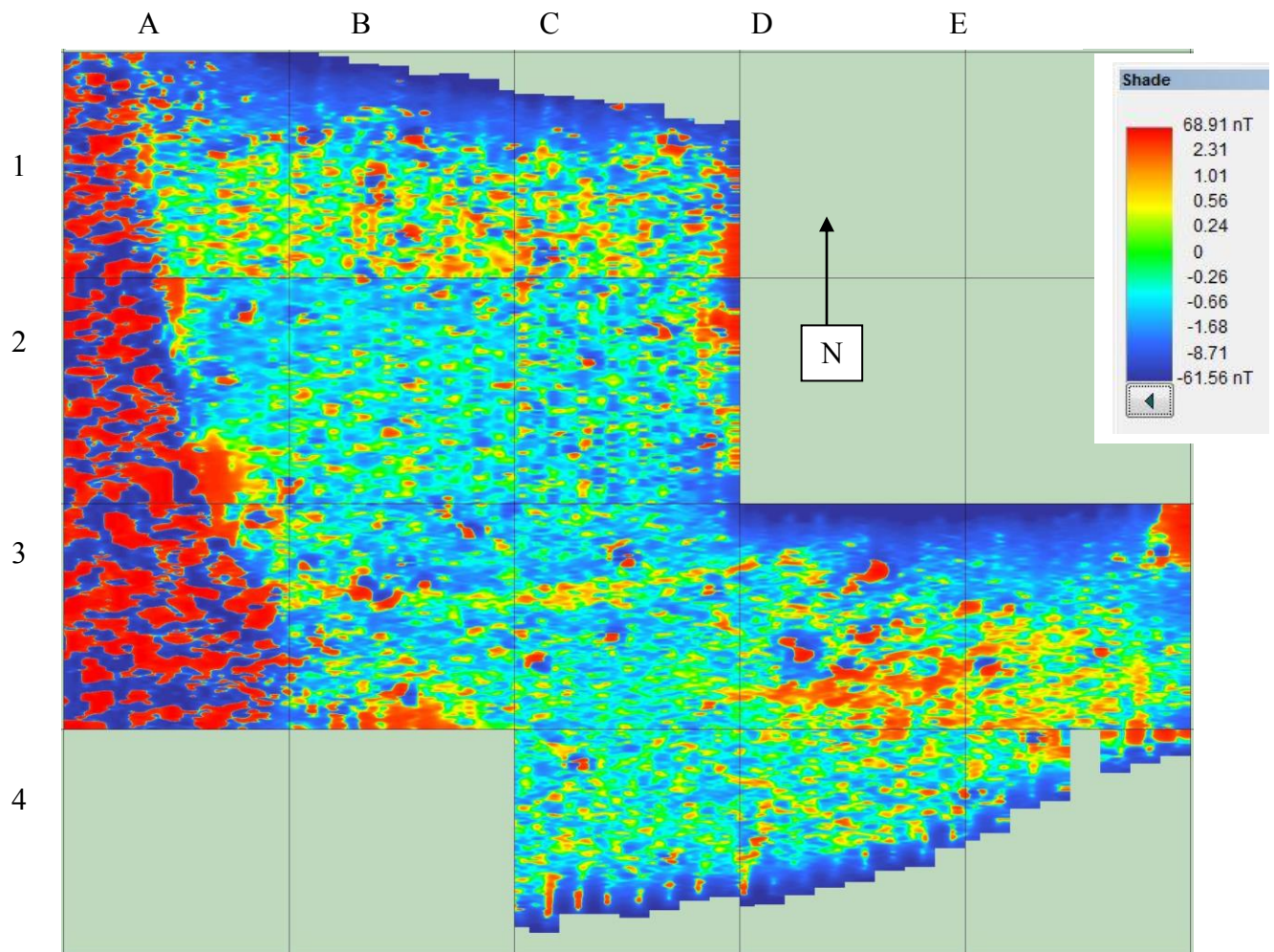


Fig 5: TerraSurveyor grid.

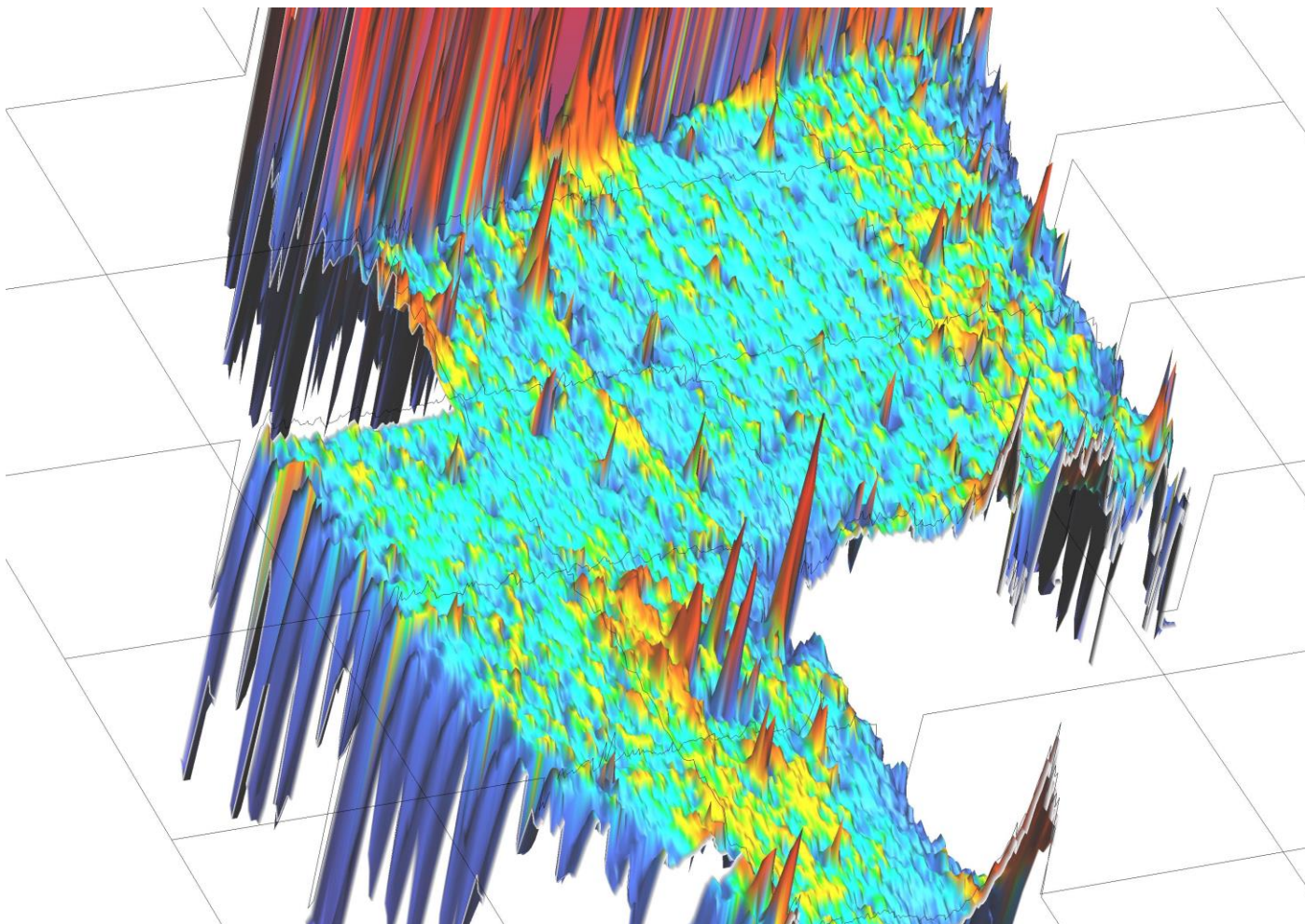




*Fig 6: TerraSurveyor colour shade image. High readings are red.*

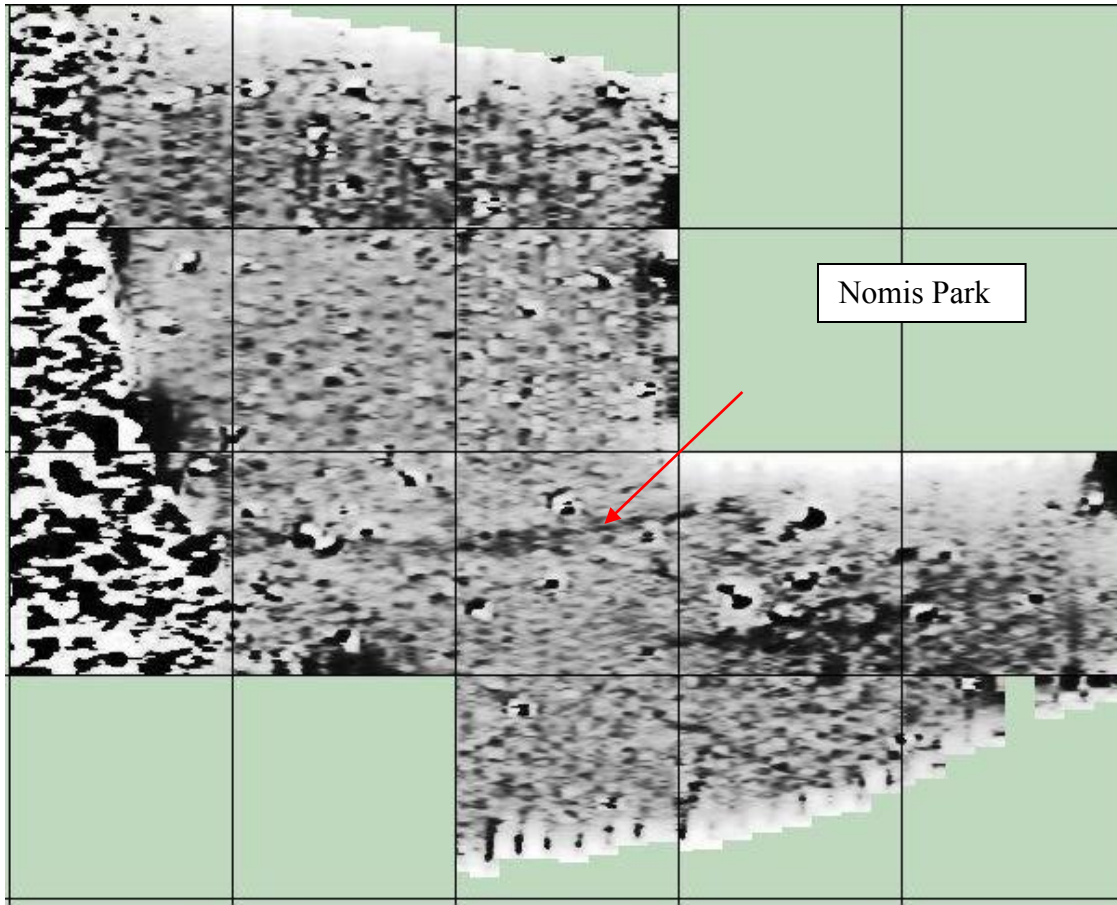
The landfill, bordering Brinsea Road, noted by Matthew Harris in 2007 is prominent in grids 1A, 2A and 3A.

Roman pottery kiln sites are generally indicated in gradiometry surveys by strong negative and positive peaks immediately adjacent to each other. In Fig 6 above, in every grid bar A1, a number of what appear to be unknown kilns (or waster heaps, which show a lesser area) show as high positive peaks (in this case, coloured red), and adjacent or surrounding negative peaks (coloured blue).



*Fig 7: TerraSurveyor 3d colour image. High readings are red.*

The 3d image, in Fig 6 above, clearly shows a number of red high peaks surrounded by negative blue peaks.



*Fig 8: TerraSurveyor black & white shade image. High readings are black.*

The black and white image at Fig 8 above shows a number of linear anomalies such as that indicated by the red arrow. Is this indicated feature a track way?

A resident of Nomis Park has mentioned that from her bedroom window, in dry weather conditions in summer time, she thought that there was an outline of a structure or walls in the area of the four right hand grids.

## **Recommendations**

A resistivity survey of the bottom half of the field would perhaps reveal the nature of the linear and other anomalies.

## **References**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Congresbury Tithe Map 1839 | <i>BRO 37959/9.</i> (Bristol Record Office)  |
| De Wilstar map of 1739     | <i>BRO 33041/BMC/4/PL1/2.</i> (Bristol Record Office)  |
| Harris Matt, 2007          | <i>An Archaeological study of possible Roman and Sub-Roman activity to the south of Congresbury, North Somerset.</i><br>Unpublished report |

**Authors:** Chris Short

**Date:** March 2014



## Appendix

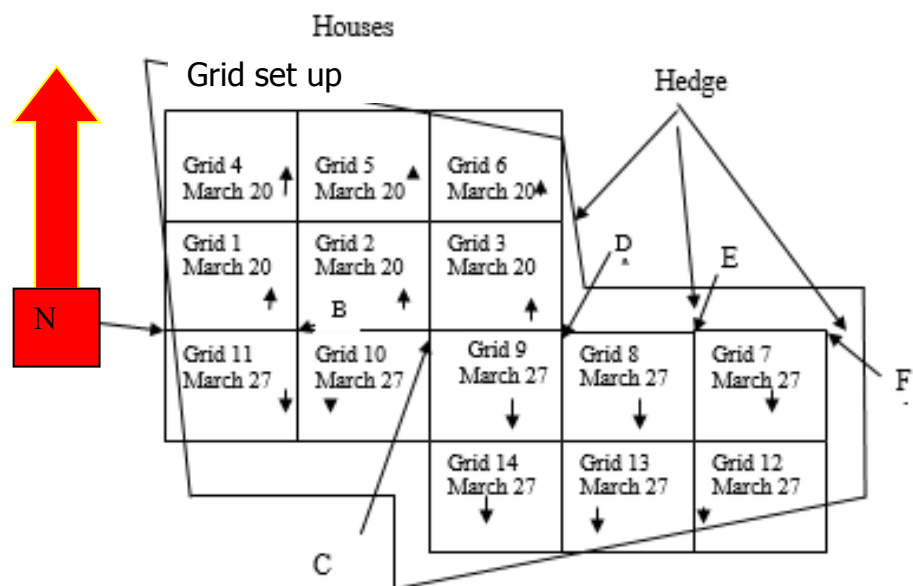
### Site Record

YCCCART Site Survey Project – Congresbury kilns		
Survey date		20-27 March 2014
Report date		27 March 2014
Type /Instrument		Grad 601
		Pace :1.5m/s Lines/m : 1 Range:100nT Volume: High Sensors:2
Location		Near west end of Venus Street
		See annex 1
Ref		none
Site name		Mrs Meaker 3
Landowner		Mrs M Meaker
Tenant		Peter Pike
HER ref		TBC
Site type		Open land
Description		Pasture
Period		Unknown
Geology		
Land use		Grazing pasture
Survey team and conditions		
130314	Team	Peter Wright, Janet Dickson, Arthur Langley, Pete English
	Weather	Cold, sunny intervals.
200314	Team	Peter Wright, Janet Dickson, Arthur Langley, Ferdi.
	Weather	Overcast/dry
270314	Team	Pete Wright, Ferdi, Arthur Langley, Robert Cleland.
	Weather	Cloudy, dry, cold wind

Survey area		notes		readings		
		size	walk direction	max	min	mean
Date	Grid number					
130314		Setting out base line & grids				
200314	1	1-4 =full grids	North	+100	-100	-5.5



	2		North	+24.2	-21.5	-2.2
	3		North	+77.8	-19.4	-3.7
	4		North	+100	-100	-5.7
	5	5-6= mirror & return	North	+49.0	-100	-9.8
	6		North	+16.0	-100	-7.6
270314	7	7-11 =full grids	South	+55.4	-100	-3.8
	8		South	+52.5	-100	-7.6
	9		South	+46.3	-57.3	-0.4
	10		South	+99.6	-100	-0.6
	11		South	+100	-100	-10.1
	12	12-14 mirror & return	South	+23.3	-47.6	-4.7
	13		South	+ 15.1	-100	-4.6
	14		South	+59.9	-58.1	-3.3



GPS

A	344098.23	162841.39
B	344127.65	162845.63
C	344157.76	162847.82
D	344187.82	162850.46
E	344215.92	162855.78
F	344246.49	162858.77