

**YCCART 2019 / Y6**

**Buggo's enclosure: an enclosure north of Cheddar Gorge**

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Winter at Buggo's enclosure 1984

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## **Abstract**

*An undated enclosure south of the former Piney Sleight Farm, in Cheddar, discovered by Mr Brian Pitt in 1980, was surveyed in 1984. Its date and use remain unknown.*

## **Acknowledgements**

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

The authors are grateful for the hard work by the members of CHERT in performing the surveys 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 northern Somerset, formerly supported by the North Somerset Council Development Management Team.

Our objective is to undertake archaeological fieldwork to enable a better understanding and management of the heritage of the area while recording and publishing the activities and locations of the research carried out.

## Site location



*Fig 1: Location of Buggo's enclosure*

The enclosure lies at ST47535480 on the north side of Cheddar Gorge, and 600m south of the former Piney Sleight Farm. It lies on land sloping gently down to the top of the cliffs of the Gorge.

## Land use and geology

The site lies on the Clifton Down Limestone sequence of the Carboniferous Limestone. It is under permanent pasture, but is becoming overgrown with scrub. It lies in private farmland.

## Historical & archaeological context

Little to nothing is known of the history of this site. It does not appear on any historic map so far studied, including the Cheddar Tithe and Enclosure maps.

The first known record of this site is the RAF air photographs of c1946 (below).



*Fig 2: The enclosure recorded on the 1946 air photographs*

When first recorded on the ground in the 1980s, the site was relatively free of scrub, but this has increased in the years since.

## **Survey objectives**

The objective of the survey was to record the site in order to be able to compare it with other similar enclosures on Mendip and elsewhere.

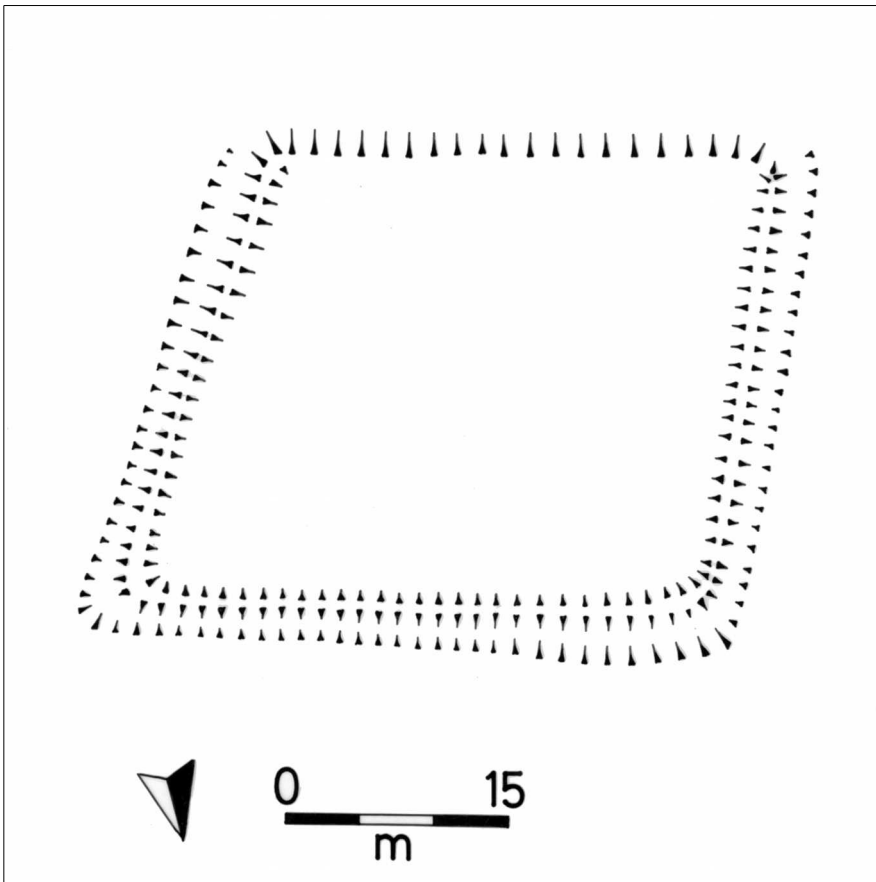
## **Methodology**

The earthwork was surveyed in the winter of 1984, using tape and offset.

The report was written in Libre Office 5 Writer.

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

## Results



*Fig 3: Survey of the earthwork 1984*

The earthwork measures about 30m by 35m. On three sides, it consists of an outer ditch, with remnants of a wall inside: on the southern end of the enclosure the ditch has apparently been infilled, and a simple lynchet established. This may be because of (temporary) cultivation within the enclosure, as the southern side is downhill of the northern. The ditch is approximately 2m wide. Unfortunately, the enclosure has no stratigraphic relationship with any other features.

Other small enclosures in the unenclosed parts of the hill before 1801, can be seen, surviving as formerly hedged enclosures, such as those at ST46825380 and ST47085383 close to Mascalls Wood on the southern side of Cheddar Gorge. These are, however, much closer to the local village, while the enclosure subject of this survey is both smaller and more remote.

Its use was presumably agricultural (although an origin in the 'strawberry rush' of the 1860s cannot be ruled out). If so, it may be a well-built animal enclosure, although there is no evidence of the expected entrance, and none of internal structures or fittings.

The preferential scrub invasion of the interior of the enclosure to the rest of the field may, among other things, imply soil disturbance in the enclosure.

## **Recommendations for further work**

Geophysical survey of the site could reveal any internal features.

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