

YCCCART 2012 / Y4

North Somerset HER 2012/282

**Gradiometry Survey of Mrs Meaker's Paddock,
Venus Street, Congresbury.**

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



Setting up the gradiometer

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Abstract

The extent of the Romano British kiln sites around Congresbury is being investigated by YCCCART. This survey is a continuation of this work.

The gradiometry survey on this site suggests that there are no significant features within the surveyed area.

Acknowledgements

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

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

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

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 and management of, the heritage of North Somerset.

Site Location



Fig 1: Site location as indicated by red arrow

The site is located in Congresbury some 12 miles south of Bristol. The survey start point (ST44366307) is shown in the site record in the Appendix.

Land use and geology

The field is privately owned but can be viewed from an adjacent footpath. Geology is Carboniferous Limestone, Keuper Marl and estuarine alluvium.

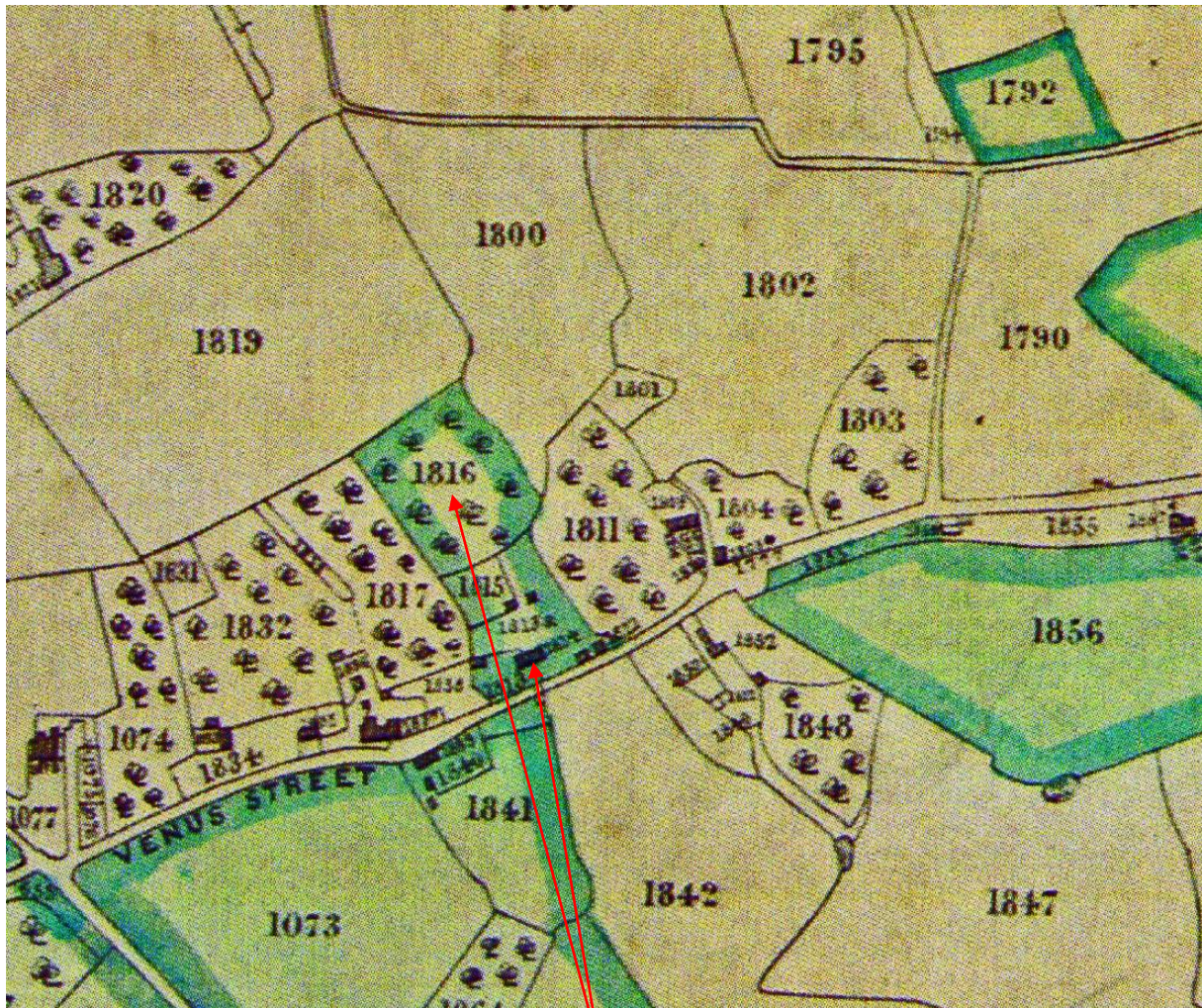
Historical & archaeological context



Fig 2: 1739 Map and extract from ownership schedule 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 land and associated tenement owned by Queen Elizabeth Hospital was occupied under a lease by Mr John Butcher.



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

In 1839 the Tithe Apportionment describes the site as number 1816, an orchard owned by the Trustees of Queen Elizabeth Hospital and occupied by Edward Morris who also occupied the associated house.

Survey objectives

The survey had the following objectives.

- 1) To identify archaeological features.
- 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 601 gradiometer.

Methodology

The survey was undertaken on 15 September 2011 by teams from YCCCART using a Bartington 601 gradiometer with settings as per the site record in Appendix A.

The completed survey was downloaded to an ArcheoSurveyor programme.

ArcheoSurveyor composites were adjusted using the following filters:

Band Weight Equaliser

Grad shade

Despiked

Destriped

Clip SD2

Colour filter, Red Green Blue 2

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2007 and edited in Open Office 3.1.

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

Results

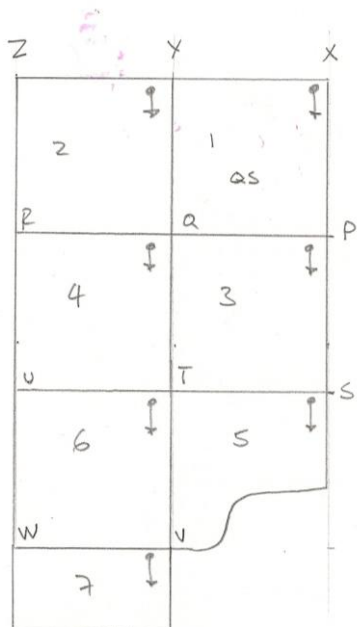


Fig 4: Grid layout

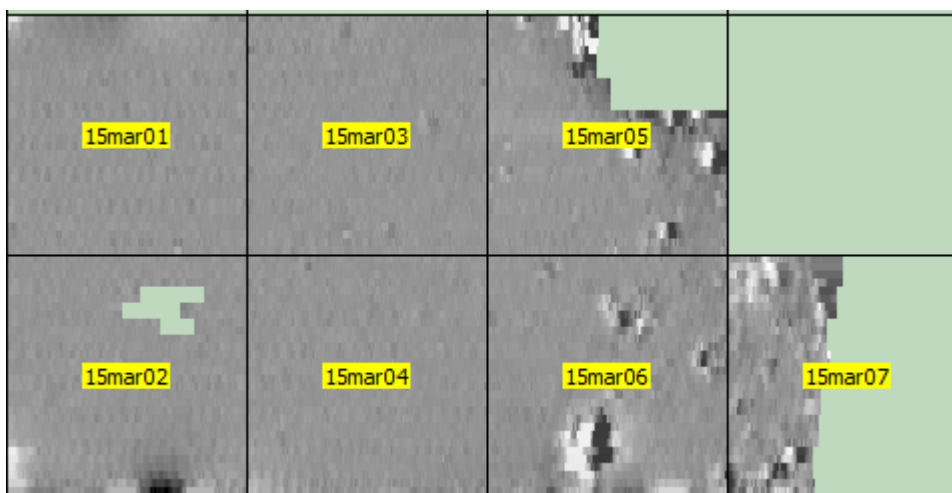


Fig 5: ArcheoSurveyor grid layout

The result below has been rotated to align with the site plan

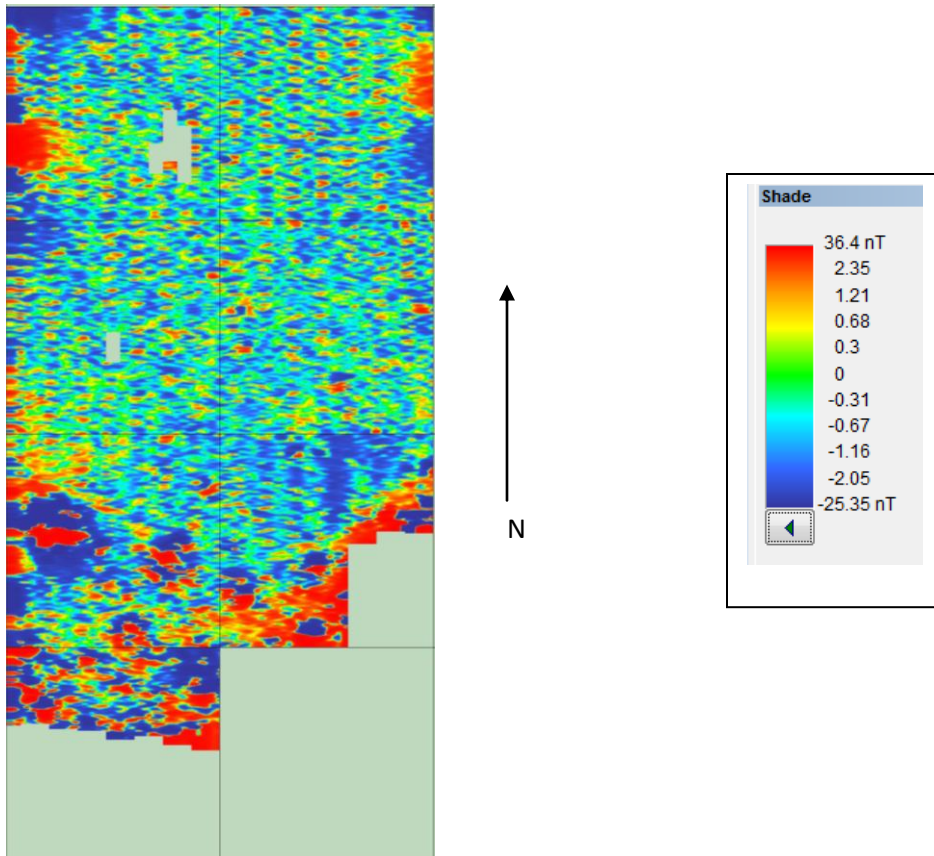


Fig 6: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor image). High readings are red.

The high readings along the bottom and edges in Fig 6 above, probably result from the influence of wire fences and farm debris.

Small red dots across the field no doubt result from odd pieces of metal.

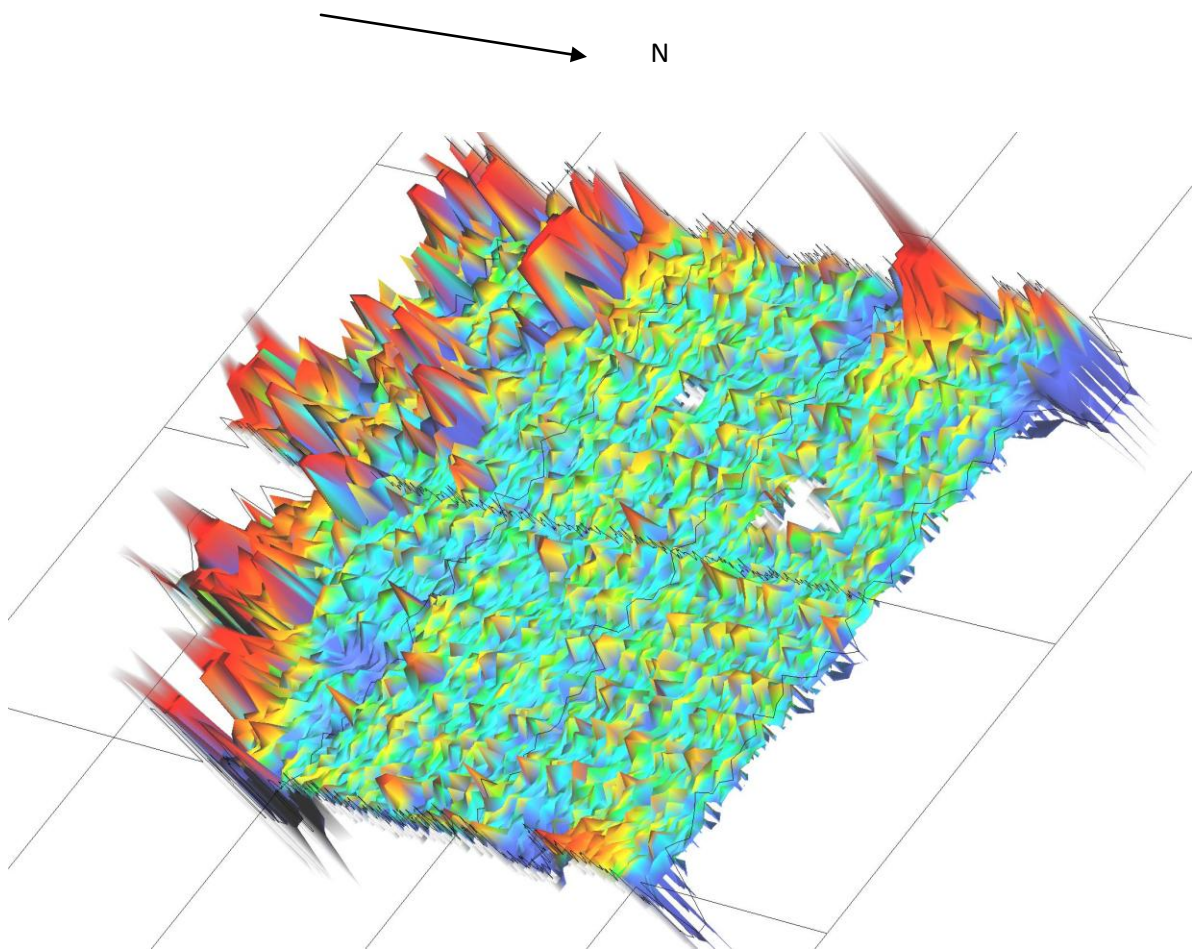


Fig 7: Axonometric view (ArcheoSurveyor image). High readings are red

The Axonometric view reveals no additional features.

Recommendations

The gradiometer survey revealed no apparent archaeological features.

Therefore no further action is required.

References

1739 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](#)

Author: Chris Short

Date: March 2012

Appendix A - Site Record

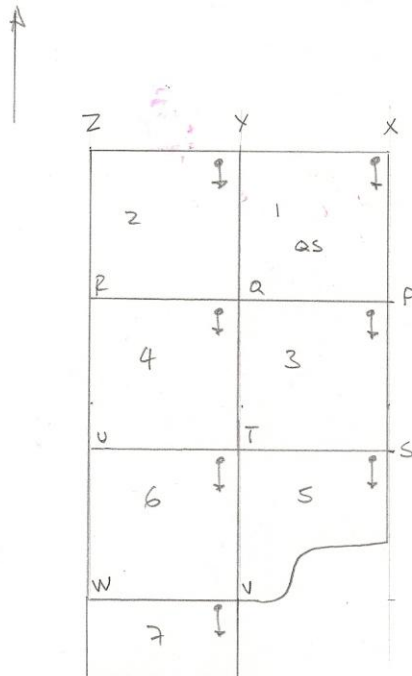
YCCCART Site Survey		
Project – Congresbury Kilns		
Survey date	15 th March 2012	
Report date	15 th March 2012	
Type /Instrument	Grad 601	
	Pace :1.5m/s *	Grid size: 30m x30m
	Lines/m : 1	Pattern : Zig Zag
	Range:100nT	Samples/m:4
	Volume: High	Audio: On
	Sensors:2	Threshold:1nT
		Reject:50 Hz
Location	Venus Street, Congresbury	
	See annex A	
Ref	none	
Site name	Mrs Meaker's paddock	
Landowner	Mrs Meaker	
Tenant		
HER ref		
Site type	Open field	
Description	Grass	
Period	Unknown	
Geology	Limestone	
Land use	grazing	

Survey team and conditions		
15 th March 2012	weather	Peter Wright, Mike Fox, Susan Dugas, Janet Dickson & Ian Morton
	weather	Misty

Survey area			notes		readings		
			size	walk direction	max	min	mean
Grid ref #	15/03/2012	1	30 x 30 m	S	+14.4	-76.8	+0.4
		2	30 x 30 m	S	+17.1	-96.3	-0.3
		3	30 x 30 m	S	+23.8	-23.5	+0.7
		4	30 x 30 m	S	+9.9	-12.3	+0.4
		5	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	S	+99.8	-10.0	+2.6
		6	30 x 30 m	S	+100.0	-100.0	+0.6
		7	30 x 30 m Mirror and return	S	+99.9	-99.8	+6.3



Meeker's
Orchard



Venus street

Grid location details

