

**YCCART 2014 / Y1  
North Somerset HER 2014/40**

**Resistivity Survey on Paddock in front of the Refectory at St Andrew's  
Church, Congresbury**

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

*General Editor: Vince Russett*



*The RM 15 in action*

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## **Abstract**

*A resistivity survey was undertaken to investigate potential building/buildings in the area around the Refectory. This survey revealed the end wall of the large building/buildings, previously revealed in the orchard, and in addition several previously unknown buildings/structures.*

## **Acknowledgements**

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCART, of a Geoscan RM15 Resistivity Meter without which this survey could not have been undertaken.

This survey would also not have been carried out without the willing permission of St Andrew's Church, Congresbury.

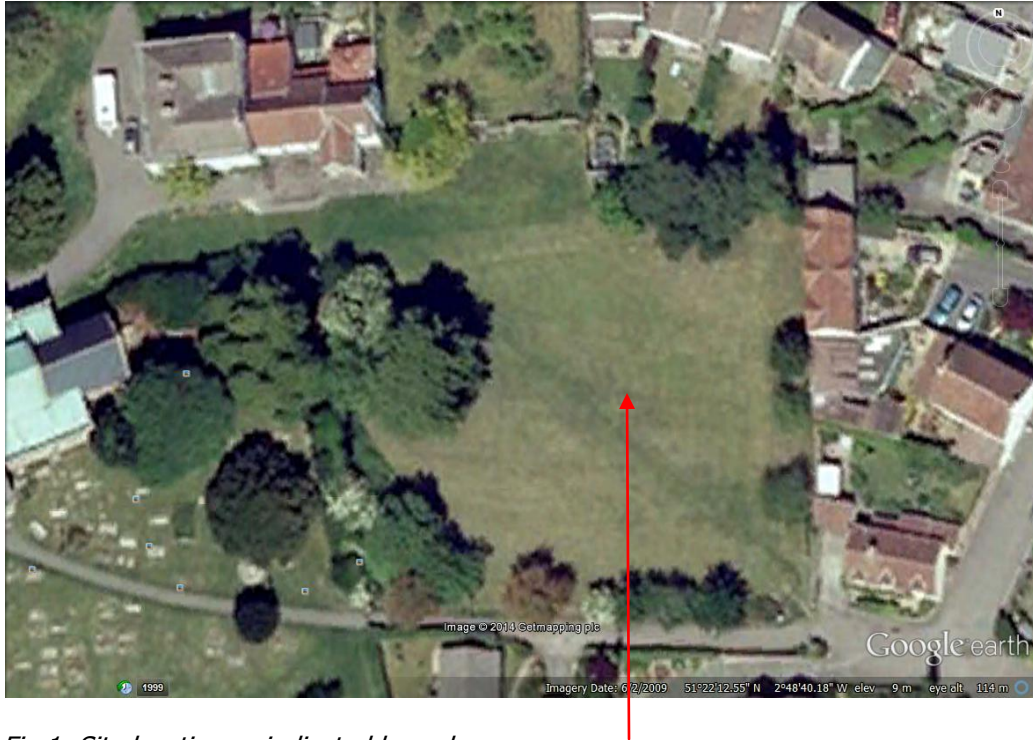
The authors are grateful for the hard work by the members of YCCCART in performing the survey and Vince Russett for editing this report.

## **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 close to the east of St Andrew's church, Congresbury.

## Land use and geology

Geology bedrock is of the Mercia Mudstone Group – Mudstone and Halite Stone, lying under the alluvium of the Northmarsh.

The paddock is used for church events and is open to the public.



## Historical & archaeological context

Please see YCCART reports 2010 / Y14, Y23 & Y31 and 2011 /Y11 for full historical and archaeological context

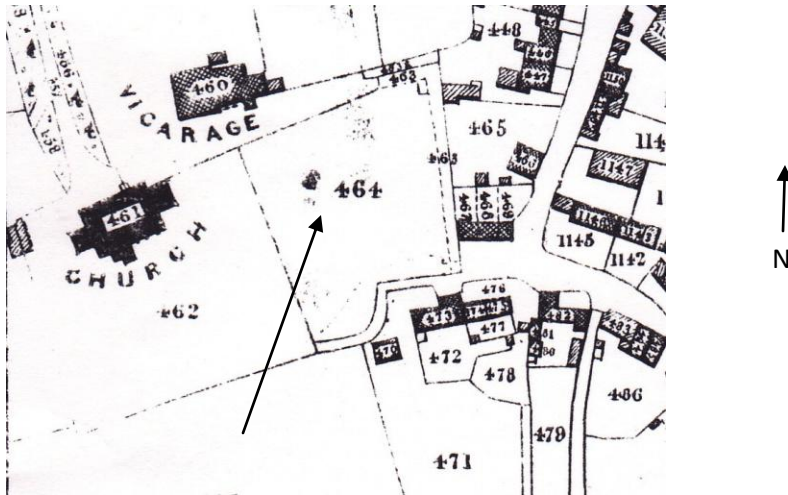
A number of buildings are known to have existed around the church.

- 1) The Bishop's Court first mentioned in 1215. (Broomhead, in prep).
- 2) St Michael's Chapel. This free standing chapel dedicated to St Michael stood somewhere in the churchyard. This was probably a mortuary chapel, first mentioned in 1503. (Somerset Record Society, Somerset Chantries Survey & Rental, Vol II, page 75)
- 3) The Rev John Skinner is said to refer to a gatehouse at the church dating to the time of Edward 111 (1312 to 1377). (pers comm V Russett, 2007).



Fig 2: De Wilstar map of 1736. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office [33041/BMC/4/PL1/3](#)

The earliest map from 1736, shown in Fig 2 above, shows no structures on the paddock area indicated by the arrow.



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

The Tithe map of 1839 shown in Fig 3 above shows no structure in the paddock in 1839.



*Fig 4: 1930 photograph of the Refectory shows a greenhouse (right hand side).*

The author has been told that the paddock was as one time used for allotments (per comms R Atwell 1985).

## **Survey objectives**

The survey was undertaken in order to try and identify the remains of further buildings close to the church.

## **Methodology**

The survey was undertaken between 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014 by teams from YCCCART using a Geoscan RM15 Resistivity Meter with settings as per the site record in Appendix 1.

The completed survey was downloaded to an TerraSurveyor programme.

TerraSureyor composites were adjusted using the following filters:

Band Weight Equaliser

Grad shade

Despike

Clip SD2

and where indicated

High/Low Pass Filter

Wallace Contrast Enhancement

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2007.

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

Results

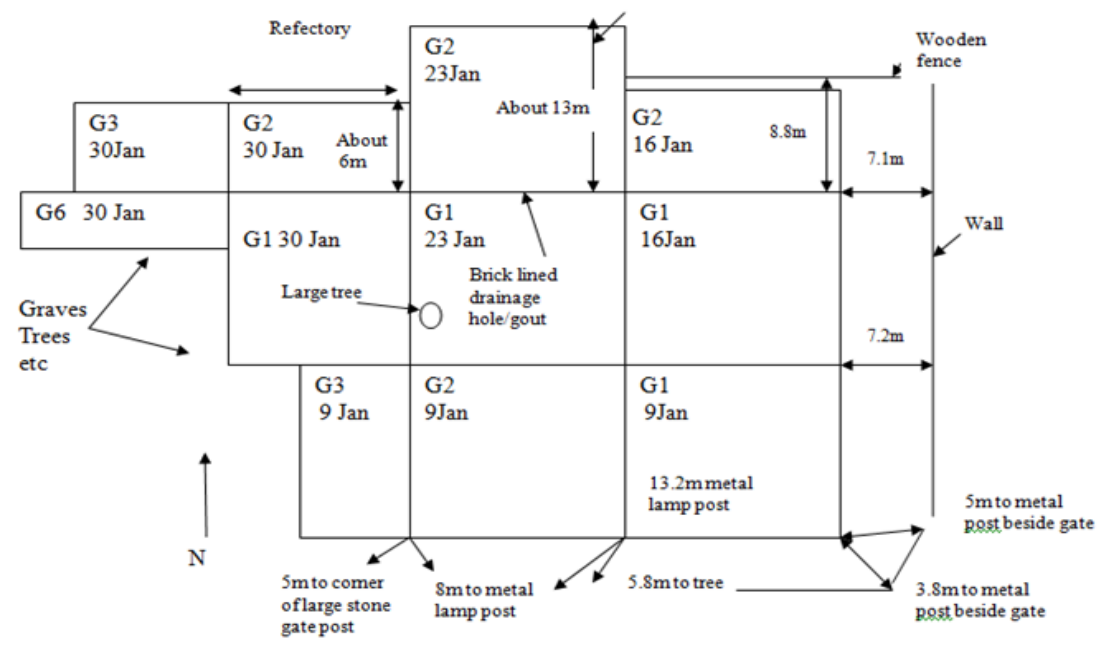


Fig 5: Grid layout.

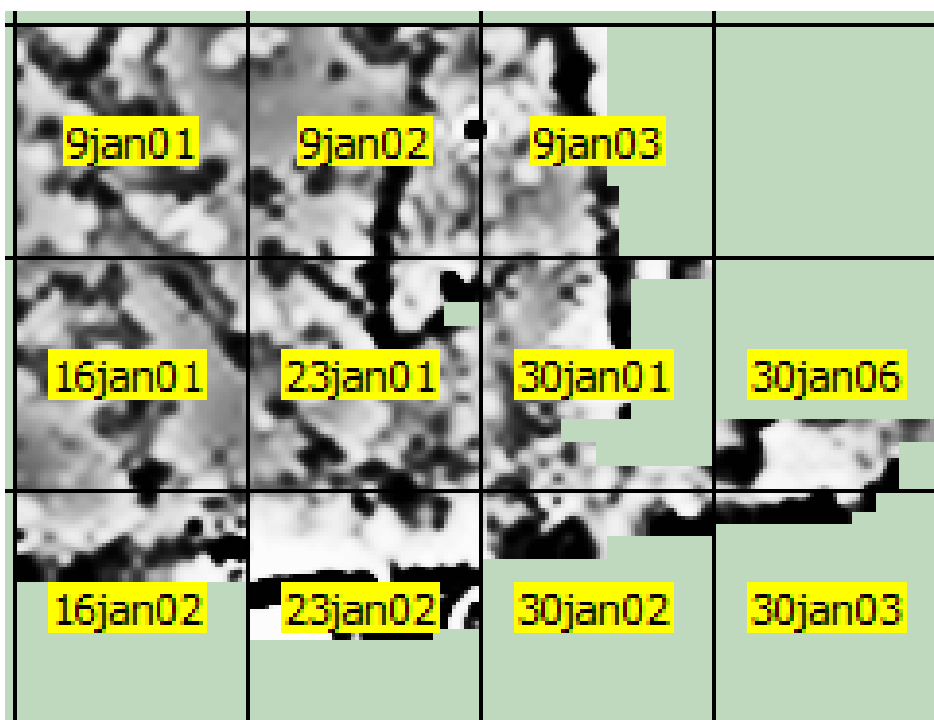
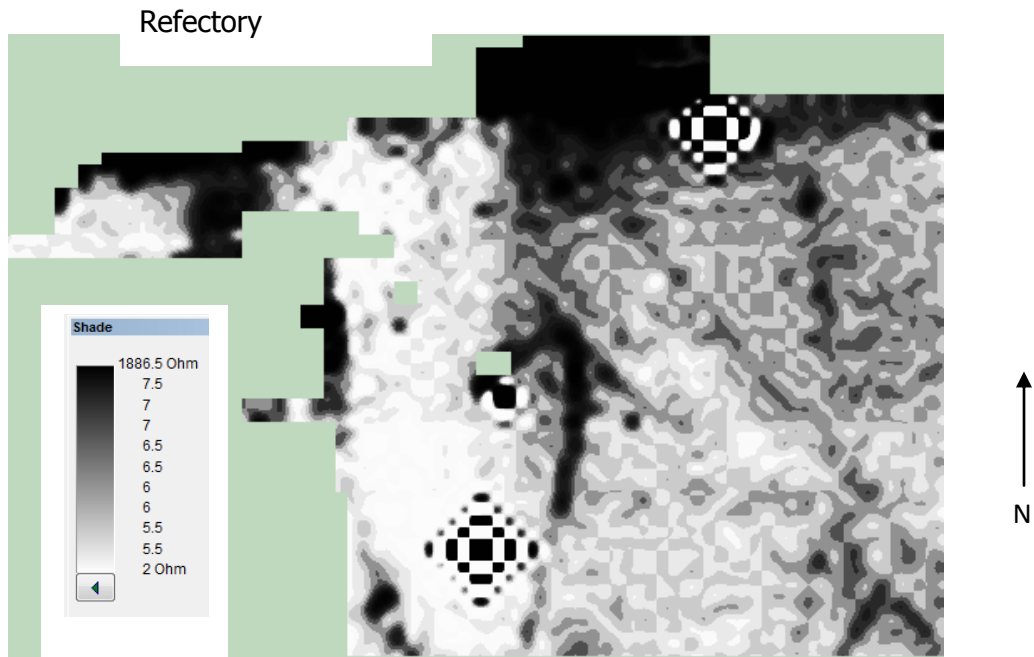
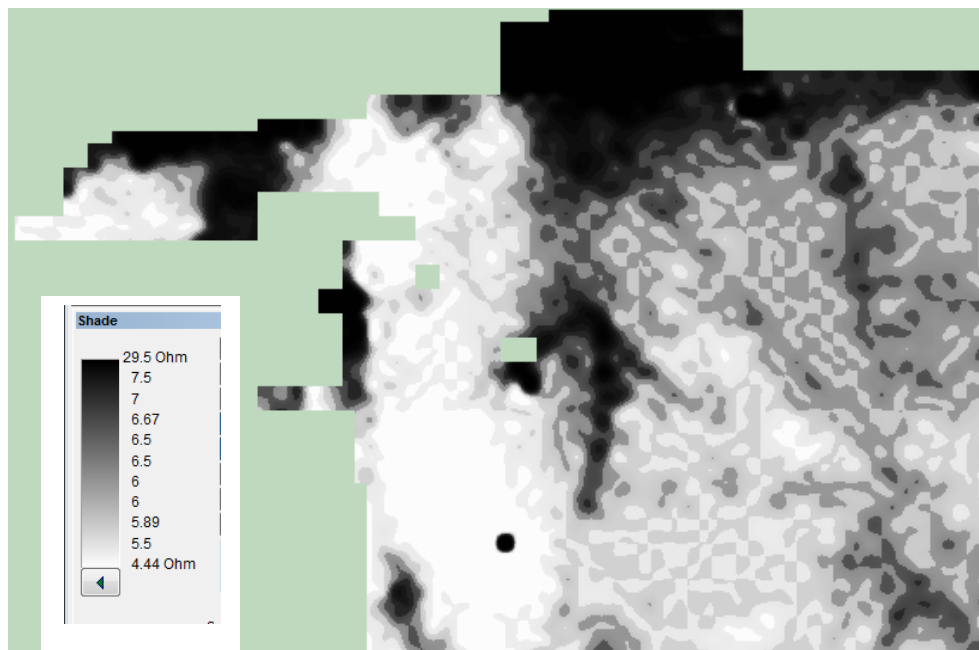


Fig 6 : TerraSurveyor grids





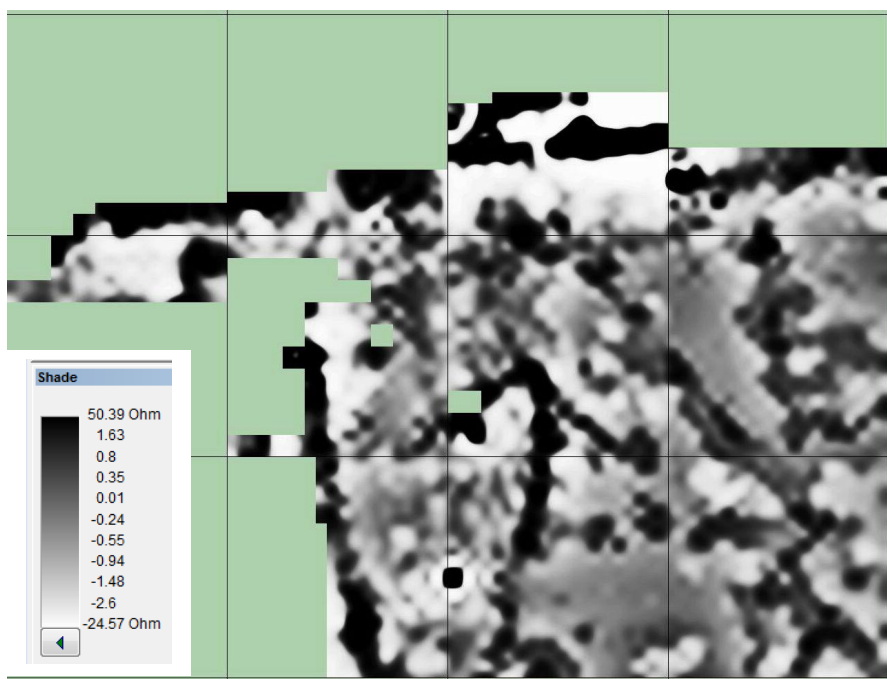
*Fig 7: TerraSurveyor Shade image with base filters only. High readings are black.*



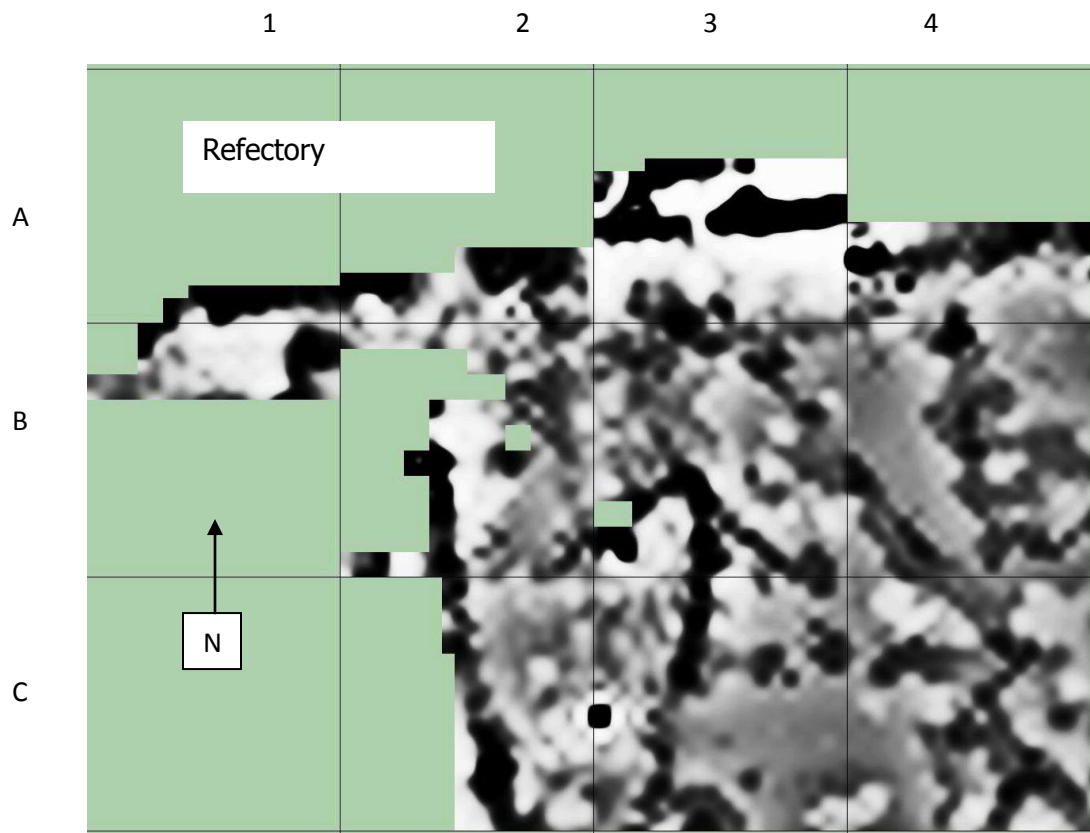
*Fig 8: TerraSurveyor Shade image with Band Weight Equaliser  
Grad shade, Despike & Clip SD2 filters. High readings are black.*



*Fig 9: TerraSurveyor Shade image with filters as per Fig 8 plus High/Low Pass Filter*



*Fig 10: TerraSurveyor Shade image with filters as per Fig 8 plus Wallace Contrast Enhancement.*



*Fig 11: The final image as per Fig 10.*

The final image in Fig 11 above shows:

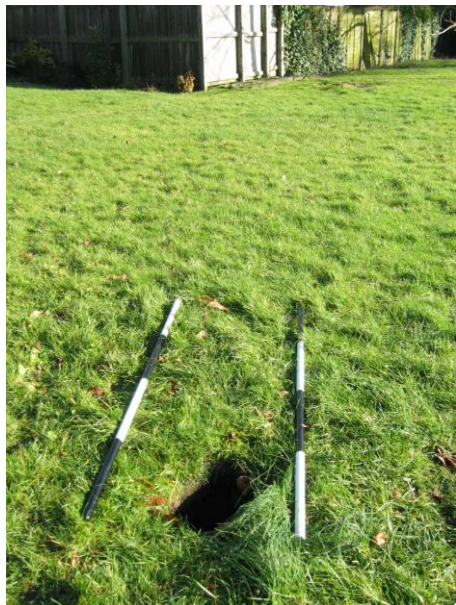
- 1) At the centre of grid A3 on the join with grid B3 there is a stone- lined drainage culvert, which seems to lead towards the east. Drains and other services may therefore be featured in the above results. In addition there may be the remains of possible structures relating to the allotments which were on the site, although there is no known record of any such structures.
- 2) The site of the old greenhouse may be featured in the top left of grid 3A in Fig 10 above.
- 3) A vertical line from the top of grid B3 which goes south east into grid C4 may be part of a pipe line (See the gradiometry survey result within the report YCCART 2010/Y14).
- 4) The top of grid A3 seems to show the end of the large building revealed in the orchard. (See YCCART report 2010/Y23)
- 5) The black band on the left hand side of grids B2 and C2 may relate to the remains of a stone or brick wall along the line of the bank currently separating the graveyard from the paddock.
- 6) The bottom right hand side of grid C4 appears to contain the walls of a building/s.

- 7) The centre of grid B4 appears to show a series of vertical structures.
- 8) An odd shaped line vertical line starting in the left hand side of grid C3 goes into the bottom of grid B3 then turns sharply to the left.
- 9) Grids B3 and B4 (lower left) and the top of C4 appear to show a large rectangular building more evident in Figs 7 to 9 above.

Are we seeing the possible remains of St Michael's chapel?

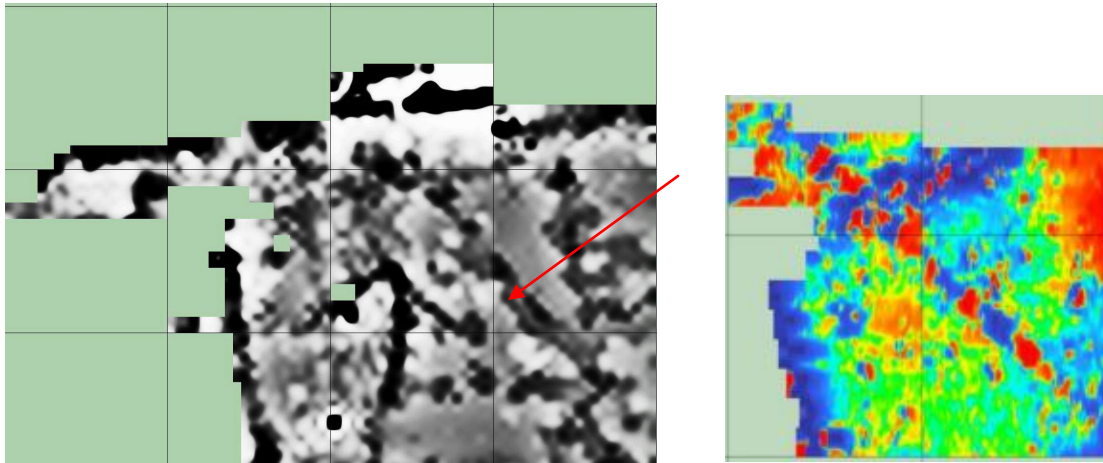


*The entrances to the drainage culvert are indicated by the two flower pots,*



*Fig 12: Photos of the culvert. Left the entrance and right the stone-lined drainage culvert.*





*Fig 13: Resistivity final results left and Gradiometry results right (See YCCCART report 2010/Y14).*

The possible pipe line mentioned in 3) on the previous page, and indicated by the arrow in Fig 13 above, is clearly shown on the gradiometer result to the right in Fig 13.



*Fig 14: Combined results of current resistivity survey plus previous resistivity surveys to north.*

The combined results, in Fig 14 above, show the current results in relation to past surveys and clearly shows how the building in the orchard (survey top right) is linked to the current survey by the joining wall shown just below it.



## Recommendations

An excavation is the only way to prove the existence of any building.

## References

Please see reports 2010 / Y14, Y23 & Y31 and 2011 /Y11

Broomhead, R.A. (in prep)	<i>Congresbury, the History of a Landscape</i> Unpublished manuscript in the YCCCART archive
Somerset Record Society 1925	<i>Somerset Chantries Survey &amp; Rental, Vol II, Taunton</i>

**Authors:** Chris Short

**Date** March 2014

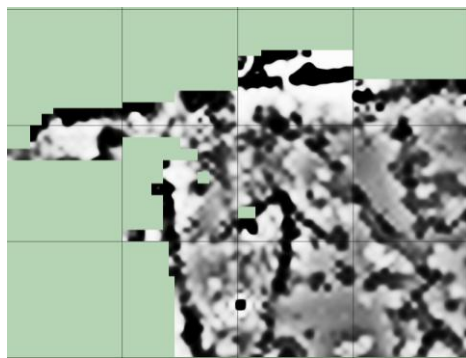
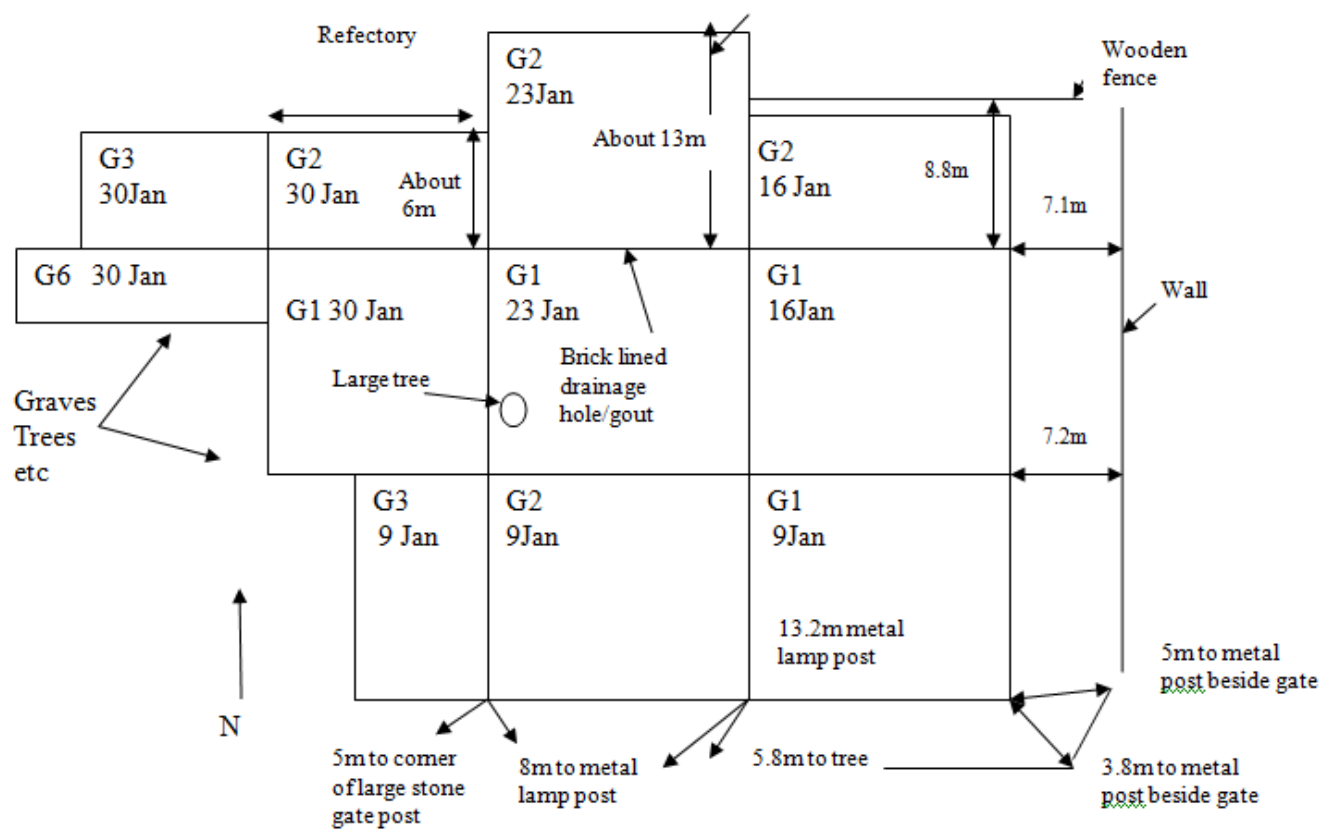
## Appendix –Site Record

YCCCART Site Survey		
Project: Congresbury Church Paddock		
Survey date	9 January 2014 to 30 January 2014	
Report date	30 January 2014	
Type /Instrument	RM15	
Location	Congresbury Church Paddock	
Ref		
Site name	Congresbury Church Paddock	
Landowner	St Andrew's PCC	
Tenant	None	
HER ref	TBC	
Site type	Grass	
Description	Grass paddock / lawn	
Period		
Geology		
Land use	Open public land	
Survey team and conditions		
9 Jan 2014	Team	Anne Dimmock, Alison Crump, David Long, John Wilcox, Vince Russett, Robert Cleland, David Walker & Chris

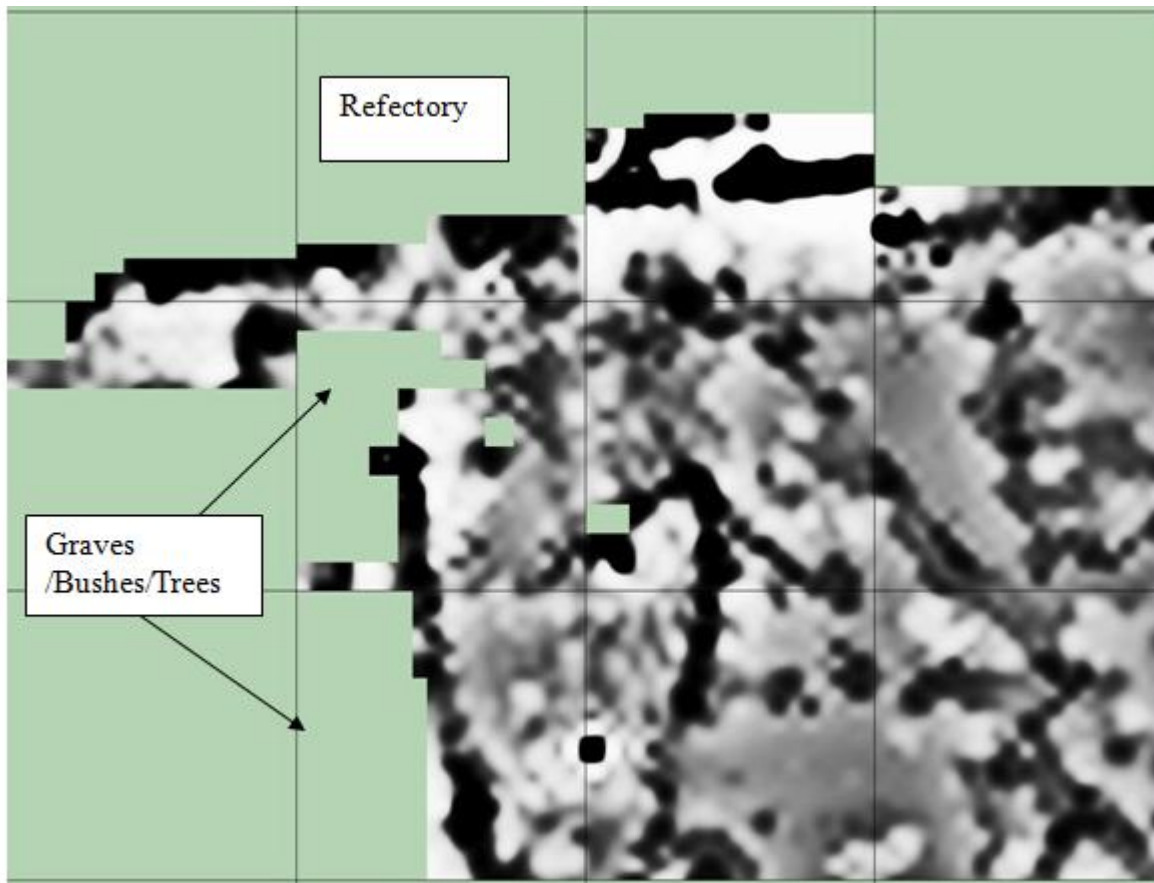
		<p>Short .</p> <p><i>Weather sunny &amp; cold. Grass very damp.</i></p>
16 Jan 2014		<p>Anne Dimmock, Alison Crump, David Long, John Wilcox, Vince Russett, Pete English, David Walker &amp; Chris Short.</p> <p><i>Sunny/heavy showers. Grass very wet.</i></p>
23 Jan 2014		<p>Anne Dimmock, Alison Crump, David Long, John Wilcox, Janet Sweeting, David Walker &amp; Chris Short.</p> <p><i>Sunny. Grass very wet.</i></p>
30 Jan 2014		<p>Anne Dimmock, Alison Crump, David Long, John Wilcox, Janet Sweeting, David Walker &amp; Chris Short.</p> <p><i>Overcast. Grass wet.</i></p>

Survey area		Notes	
		Size	Walk direction
9 Jan 2014	Grids 1 to 3 <i>Grid 3 is 20m by about 10m</i>	20x20m	<b>W</b>
16Jan 2014	Grids 1 & 2 <i>Grid 2 is about 20 by 9m</i>	20x20m	<b>W</b>
23Jan 2014	Grids 1 & 2 <i>Grid 2 is about 20 by 13m</i>	20x20m	<b>W</b>
23Jan 2014	Grids 1 to 6 Grids 4 & 5 abortive. All grids =part grids	20x20m	<b>W</b>

At 30 Jan 2014







## GPS

