

**YCCART 2010 /Y27  
North Somerset HER46760**

***Poors Common, Claverham Court Farm: Geophysical evaluation***

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

*General Editor: Vince Russett*



*A great place for blackberrying! Site is between the two gates visible on the left*

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## **Abstract**

*YCCCART has been investigating the history and archaeology of Claverham Court Farm, Yatton and its lands. Among the sites investigated was the area of a building recorded on the 1821 map of Yatton, in a remote part of the parish at Claverham Moor. A brief resistivity survey to look for the presence of the building and test the accuracy of the map was carried out on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2004. This revealed evidence of a stone spread in exactly the position depicted.*

## **Acknowledgements**

The Council for British Archaeology South West, for permission to use their TR/CIA resistivity meter to carry out this work.

This survey would not have been carried out without the hospitable permission of Mr and Mrs John and Betty Atwell of Claverham Court Farm.

The author is grateful for the hard work by the members of YCCCART in performing the survey.

## **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 Northern 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 on CANS, see <http://cansnetwork.co.uk>

## Site Location



*Fig 1: Site location*

The site lies 500m north-west of Claverham Court Farm, in the village of Lower Claverham, in North Somerset. The structure lies at ST 43956756, some 14 km south-west of Bristol.

The field is privately owned and remote from any right of way.

### **Land use and geology**

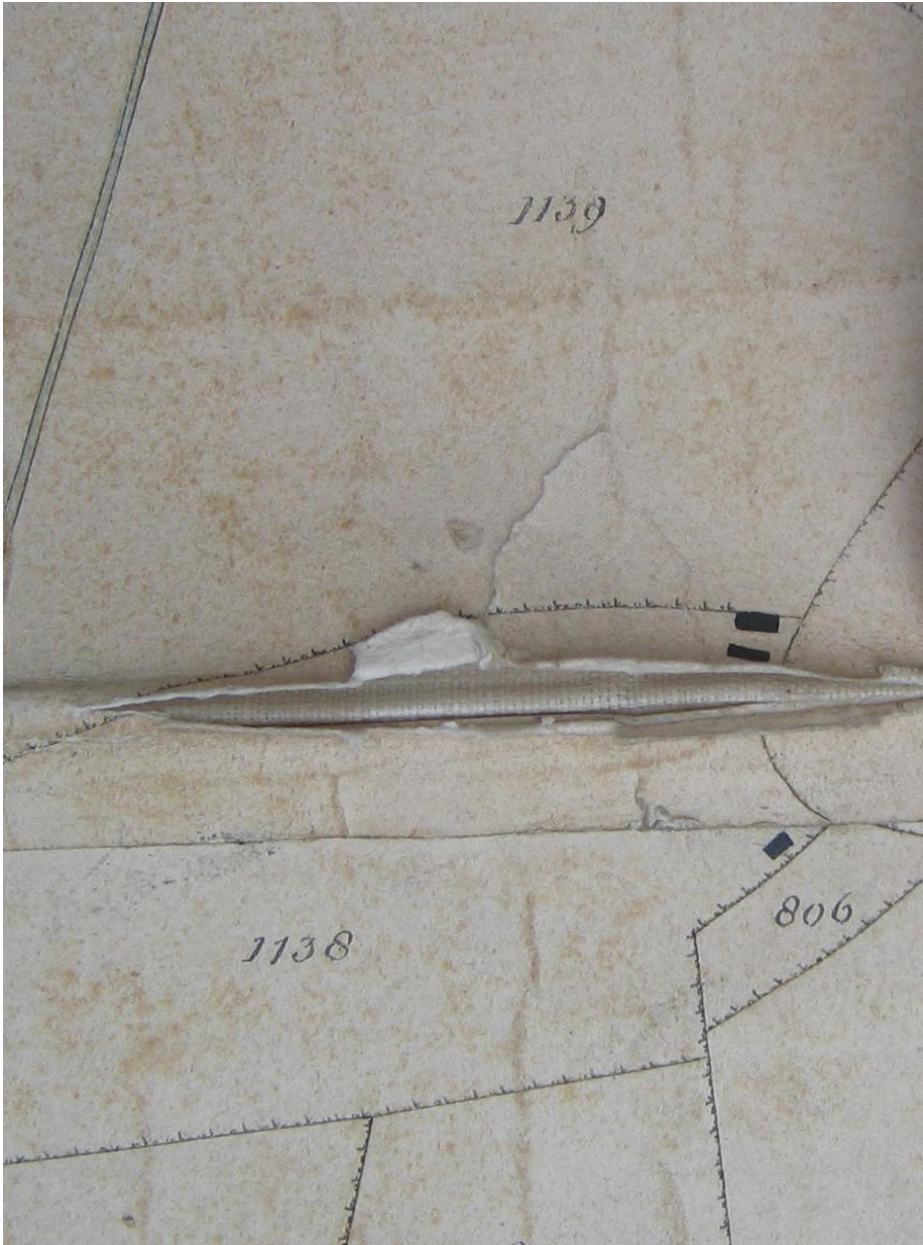
The site lies on the edge of a lobe of Keuper Marl, which is covered only a few metres from the site by the peats of Claverham and Kenn Moors.

The field was used in 2004 for grazing sheep.



## Historical & archaeological context

The earliest known map depicting this site is that of c1800 (in private ownership, but lent for photographing to YCCCART). This shows a single rectangular building, in the same field as the ox house previously recorded by YCCCART.



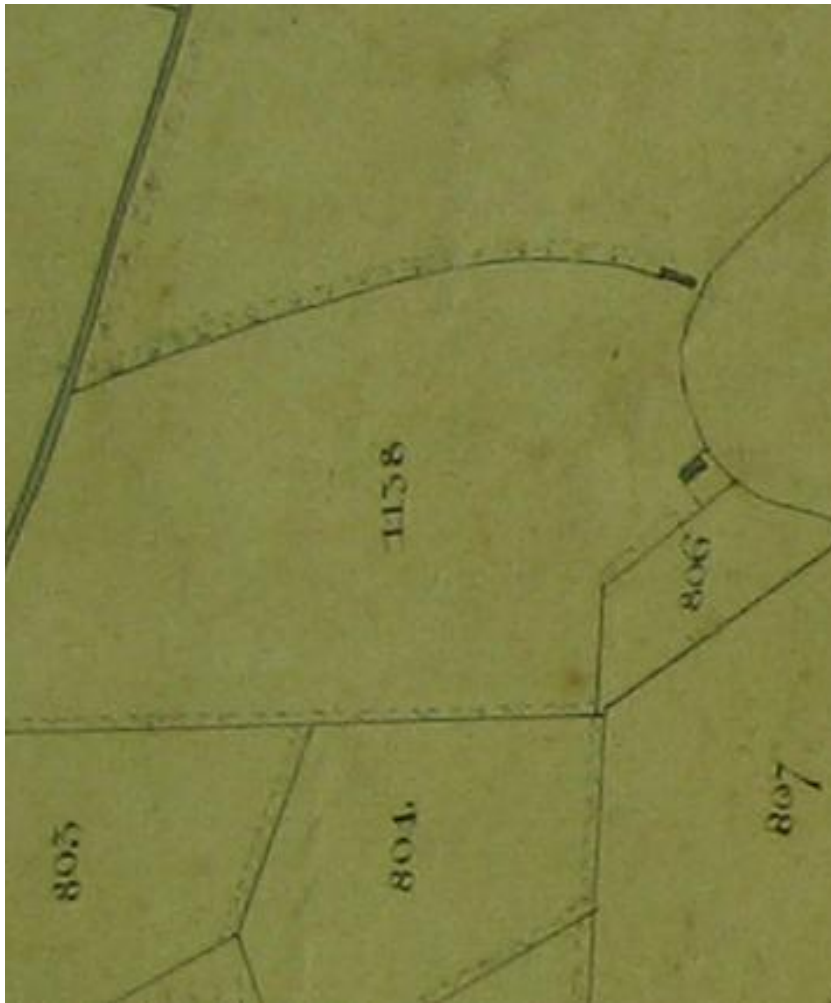
*Fig 2: The building shown on the map of c1800 (courtesy of Mr B. Crossman)*

The building (immediately above and to the left of the number '806' in the lower right of the figure) is depicted as a rectangular structure, around 60% of the length of the still-extant ox house to the north. No enclosure is depicted around it. Critically, it was not depicted on the inclosure map of Claverham Common from 1750 (copy supplied by the

late K Gardner, origins at present unknown), although the parish did own the field immediately to the south at this date.

Vestry minutes (SRO D\P\yat/9/1/1) record the building of cottages on common land in Yatton at various dates between 1787 and 1822, so if this is one of the parish houses, it must have been built between 1787 and 1800.

If we are to believe the map evidence, the building had acquired a small enclosure around it, probably for a garden, by 1821 (SRO DP\yat/13/1/3) (see Fig 3 below).



*Fig 3: The building shown on the map of c1800*

The building then fails to appear on the carefully surveyed Tithe Map of 1840, so presumably, it was no longer in use (see Fig 4). It never reappears on any subsequent map, although the enclosure around the building is visible on the ground today, as a slightly lower rectangle of ground about 35m x 20, surrounded by a low lynchet about 10cm high. No internal earthworks that might indicate the site of the building were visible.

The enclosure is visible on the 1946 air photographs (CPE/UK/1869 3116 4 DEC 1946) as a small lynchet lit from the south.



Fig 4: Tithe Map of 1840

## **Survey objectives**

The survey had the following objectives:

- 1) To identify any structure or remains of such at the site.
- 2) To test the accuracy of the information contained on the 1800 and 1821 maps.

## **Methodology**

The survey was undertaken during on 21 October 2004 by members of YCCCART. It was carried out using the TR Systems TR/CIA resistivity meter, using a zig-zag survey at separations of 1m in the X and Y directions. The data was transferred to laptop in the field and processed using the dedicated TR Systems software.

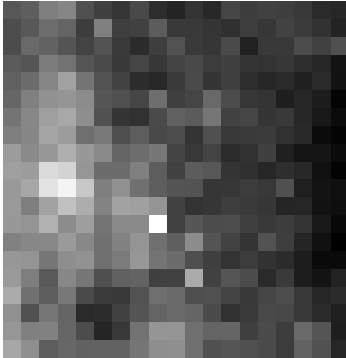
The report was written in Microsoft Word 2003.

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



## Results

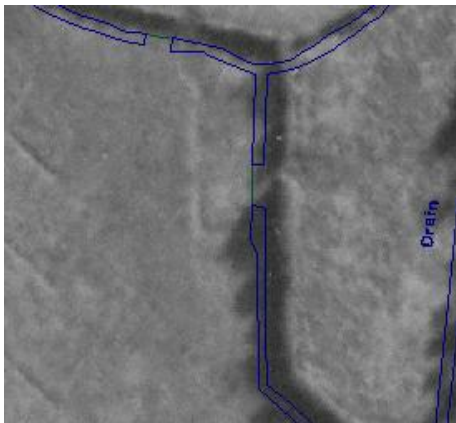
One grid of 20m x 20m was recorded, beginning at the northern end of the lynchet enclosure, and parallel to the adjacent hedge. It was immediately obvious during the survey that stone was present.



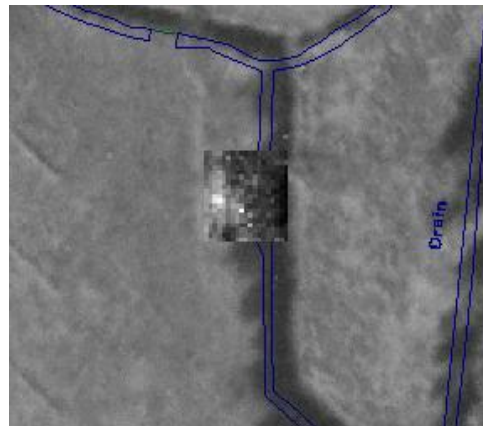
*Fig 5: Processed data from site*

The survey clearly shows a concentration of high resistance in the lower left side of the survey, exactly as shown on the maps. There is even some suggestion of 2 wall foundations running parallel to the hedge (and the edges of the survey), but no clear rectangular building. This was the only high resistance area in the survey, however, and confirms (along with the number of contacts with stones made during the course of the survey) that the building is depicted in the right location on the two maps, and that it had a stone component, possibly walls, or even a stone floor.

We can also conclude that if even this remote and unimportant building was accurately portrayed on the maps of 1800 and 1821, then they are probably generally reliable.



*Fig 6: Site on 1946 air photo*



*Fig 7: Site photo plus results*

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