

**Mr Stokoes Paddock,
Venus St, Congresbury.
Gradiometry Survey 2009**

YCCCART 2010/4

North Somerset HER 47509

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

General editor: Vince Russett



Pete Wright operating the Grad 601

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1. Abstract

YCCCART has agreed with the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake a project over two years commencing May 2009 to establish the extent of the Congresbury Roman pottery kiln sites.

Potential kilns have been identified within the field by surveys with the Bartington Gradiometer 601. It is intended to carry out a resistivity survey on the site and produce a pseudosection of targeted potential kilns. Excavation of one kiln will then be considered.

2. Acknowledgements

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

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

The authors are grateful for the hard work by the members of YCCCART in performing the survey and to Geoff Pearson for proof reading.

3. 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 of the heritage of North Somerset.

4. Site location



Fig 1 Site location

The site lies in the south east of the village of Congresbury, in the District of North Somerset. The centre of the site lies at ST 4453962950 some 12 miles south of Bristol

The paddock is privately owned but can be seen from a public footpath which crosses an adjacent field.

5. Land use and geology

The site lies immediately to the south of the flood plain of the natural course of the Land Yeo. Geology – Carboniferous limestone, Keuper Marl and estuarine alluvium

Currently the field is not grazed but grass from the paddock is used for silage.

6. Historical & archaeological context

The paddock is centred on reference 1803 on the 1839 Congresbury map. This is described in the Tithe apportionment as an orchard owned by John Braikerridge and occupied by Charles Lukins.

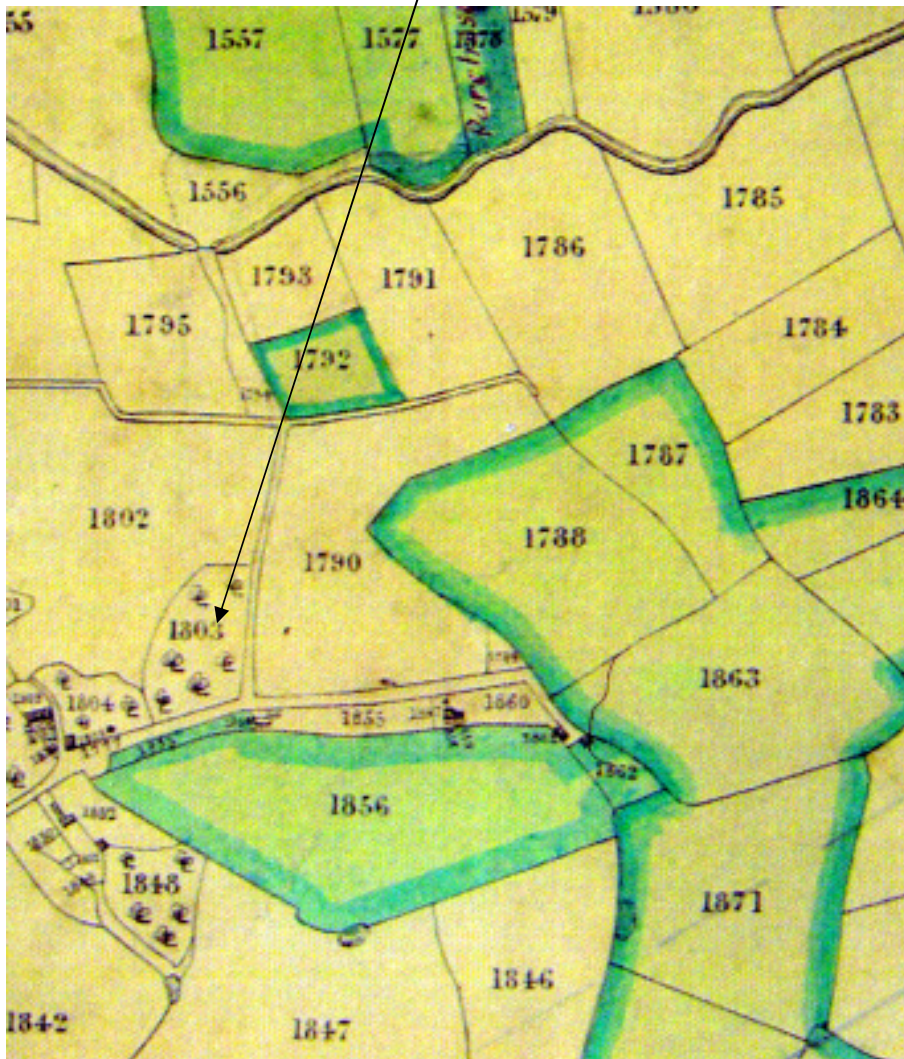


Fig 2. 1839 Map. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9

7. Survey objectives

The survey had the following objectives.

- 1) To identify any potential additional kilns
- 2) To use the survey to train YCCCART members and members of Community, Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) in the use of the Bartington Gradiometer 601,

8. Methodology

The survey was undertaken by YCCCART on 29th October 2009.

The completed survey was downloaded to an ArcheoSurveyor programme and the resultant composite adjusted using the following filters

- 1) Colour - Red Blue Green 2
- 2) Band weight equaliser
- 3) Grad shade
- 4) Destriped
- 5) Despiked

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2003.

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

9. Results

See summary of daily site records for orientation

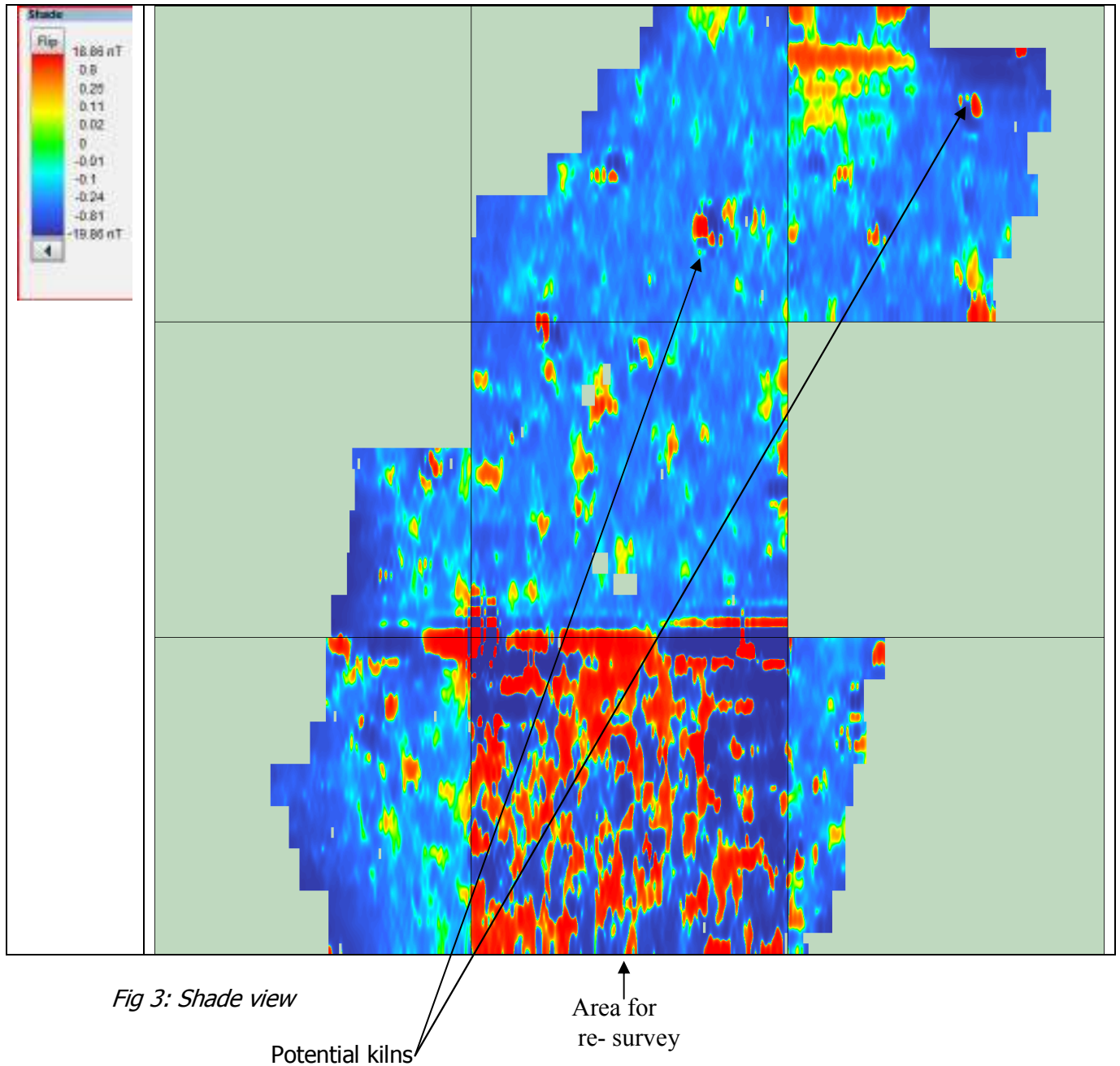


Fig 3: Shade view

Roman pottery kiln sites are generally indicated in gradiometry surveys by strong negative and positive peaks immediately adjacent to each other. In this case, a number show as high positive peaks (in this case, coloured red), and adjacent or surrounding negative peaks (coloured blue). These are shown in the figure above. Other, linear

features in light blue, represent the magnetic signature of the drainage gripes in the field. An area of four grids in the centre of the low end of the survey figure show completely anomalous results. They may be due to instrumental problems, and require resurveying.

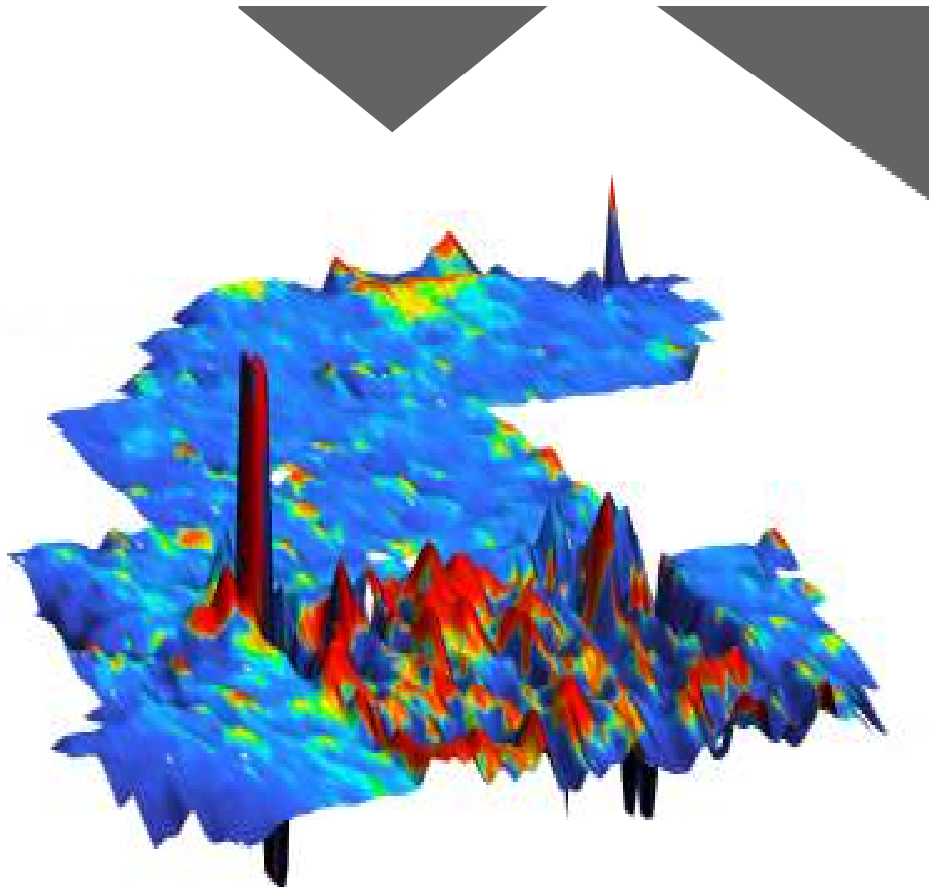


Fig 4: Axonometric view

NB. For orientation of the above results see the site records at Appendix 1.

10. Recommendations for further work

The extremely useful results obtained in this survey indicate the potential sites of previously unknown Roman pottery kilns. However, an area of four grids was unfortunately subject to some instrumental error, and will need to be re-examined. Further geophysical techniques can be used to try and characterise the potential kilns, and so it is recommended that

- 1) The 4 grids in the centre of the site with anomalous readings will need to be resurveyed with the gradiometer.
- 2) A pseudosection is required of the anomalies identified in order that consideration can be given to full excavation of one kiln.

References

Extract from Congresbury Tithe Map	<i>BRO 37959/9</i>
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Authors: Ian Morton and Chris Short

Date: 1 February 2010

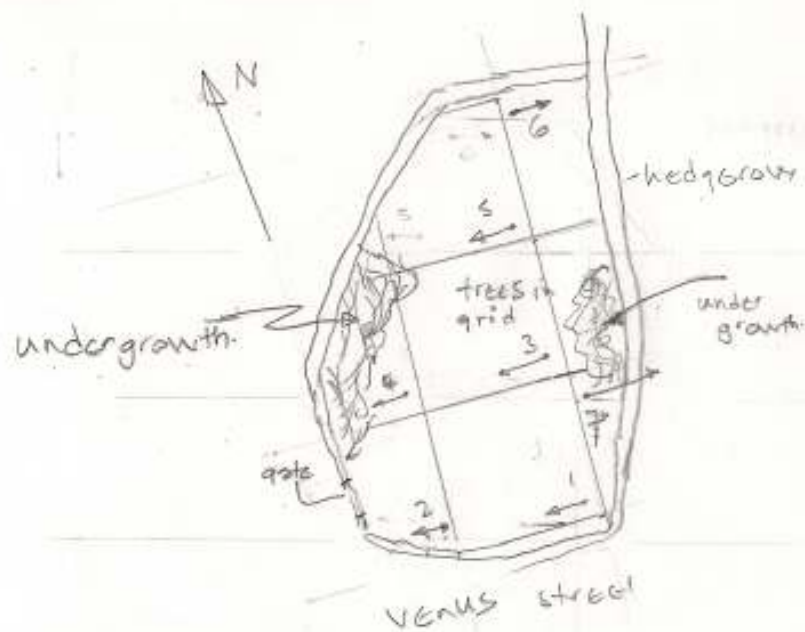
Appendix 1 - Site record

YCCCART Site Survey Project – Congresbury Kilns						
Survey date		29th October 2009				
Report date		29th October 2009				
Type /Instrument		Grad 601				
		Pace :1.5m/s Lines/m : 1 Range:100nT Volume: High Sensors:2		Grid size: 30m x30m Pattern : Zig Zag Samples/m:4 Audio: On Threshold:1nT Reject:50 Hz		
Location		Venus Street, Congresbury				
Ref		none				
Site name		Stokoe's Paddock				
Landowner		Tom Stokoe				
Tenant		none				
HER ref		NSCHER 47509				
Site type		Open field				
Description		grass				
Period		unknown				
Geology		limestone				
Land use		none				
Survey team		Peter Wright, Peter English, Mike Fox & Ian Morton				
Survey area		notes		readings		
		size	walk direction	max	min	mean
Grid ref #	1	30 x 30 m	E to W	+16.0	-22.3	+1.3
	2	30m base Mirror & return	E to W	+5.6	-34.9	-1.6
	3	30 x 30 m Null points	E to W	+45.0	-30.0	+1.5
	4	30m base Mirror & return	E to W	+15.2	-12.1	+0.6
	5	30m base Mirror & return	E to W	+67.0	-35.5	+1.5
	6	30m base Mirror & return	W to E	+74.9	-63.0	+0.4
	7	30m base Mirror & return	W to E	+3.8	-24.8	+0.4
	This survey complete					
Summary		Weather: overcast, warm				
Ian Morton 29/10/2009		Version 2 Grid numbering and alignment corrected				

Setting out details



key.
 Stokoe field.



Notes

grid 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 = 29/10/09

→ start point, grid # and direction of travel

version 2.