

YCCCART 2022/ Y2

**Further geophysical survey south of Ham Lane Yatton
(Mr Crossman 12)**

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



Lidar image of land around Kenn Moor crossroads (survey area to bottom left)

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Abstract

Geophysical surveys carried out in a field south of Ham Lane, Yatton revealed no obvious archaeological features, other than recent agricultural features, such as a series of parallel grypes.

Acknowledgements

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase 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 D Crossman.

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

Introduction

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCCART) is a Community Archaeology team working across northern Somerset.

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 The survey field

The surveyed field is at ST42176719, immediately south of Ham Lane (and c225m SE of Ham Farm), in the parish of Yatton, in North Somerset.

The GPS for the site is shown in the Appendix.

Land use and geology

The site lies on the alluvial clays of the Northmarsh, the underlying solid geology here being the Mercia Mudstones, which outcrop at Ham Farm. The current land-use is pasture. There is no public access to this land, but it can be seen from Ham Lane.

Historical & archaeological context

This field (along with a large area to its north-east) was until c1815 part of a large Common called Kenn Moor. These Common areas were largely used for low-intensity (but intensively managed) agriculture and related activities, such as grazing of cattle and sheep, collecting of firewood, and undoubtedly illicit fishing and fowling, which technically, were the prerogative of the Lords of the Manors, in this case of Yatton and Kenn.

Such activities have received far less attention from historians than arable farming, and thus were often ignored in village histories or summaries of historical agricultural activities. Even Domesday Book, that rapacious 11th century record of England and Wales, by and large downplays pastoral farming. In an area of the country (SW England) that because of its relatively higher rainfall is more suited to pastoral farming, this has necessarily affected knowledge of, and attitudes to, the agricultural history of the West.

This was even more so in the eighteenth century, when 'improvers' like John Billingsley at Ashwick in Somerset, were out to encourage Inclosure, with the Common lands enclosed by agreement (or as here, Act of Parliament) and thereafter held in severalty down to today.

Such drastic agricultural changes must also be seen in the context of the Industrial and Agricultural 'revolutions' happening at the same time (and indeed, with the date of Kenn Moor Inclosure, in the light of the long war with the French Empire under Napoleon, which prevented much of the importation of foodstuffs on which the UK was already beginning to rely, and thus added a new urgency to the need for agricultural 'improvement' and increased domestic food production).

The surveyed field lay in the 'tail' of the unenclosed Moor, south of Ham Farm, and was bordered on the south by the Little River (itself almost certainly a medieval construction).

The Inclosure of Kenn Moor must have caused incredible social upheaval, with changed ways of life, with landless people leaving to find work in the cities, with the engineering and landscaping involved in the clearance of one landscape, and the imposition of another: to understand some of the social effects of this, read the poems of John Clare.

The Yatton maps of 1799 and 1821 show the 'before and after' of the Kenn Moor Inclosure: neither shows any evidence of structures or other archaeology within the bounds of the survey field.

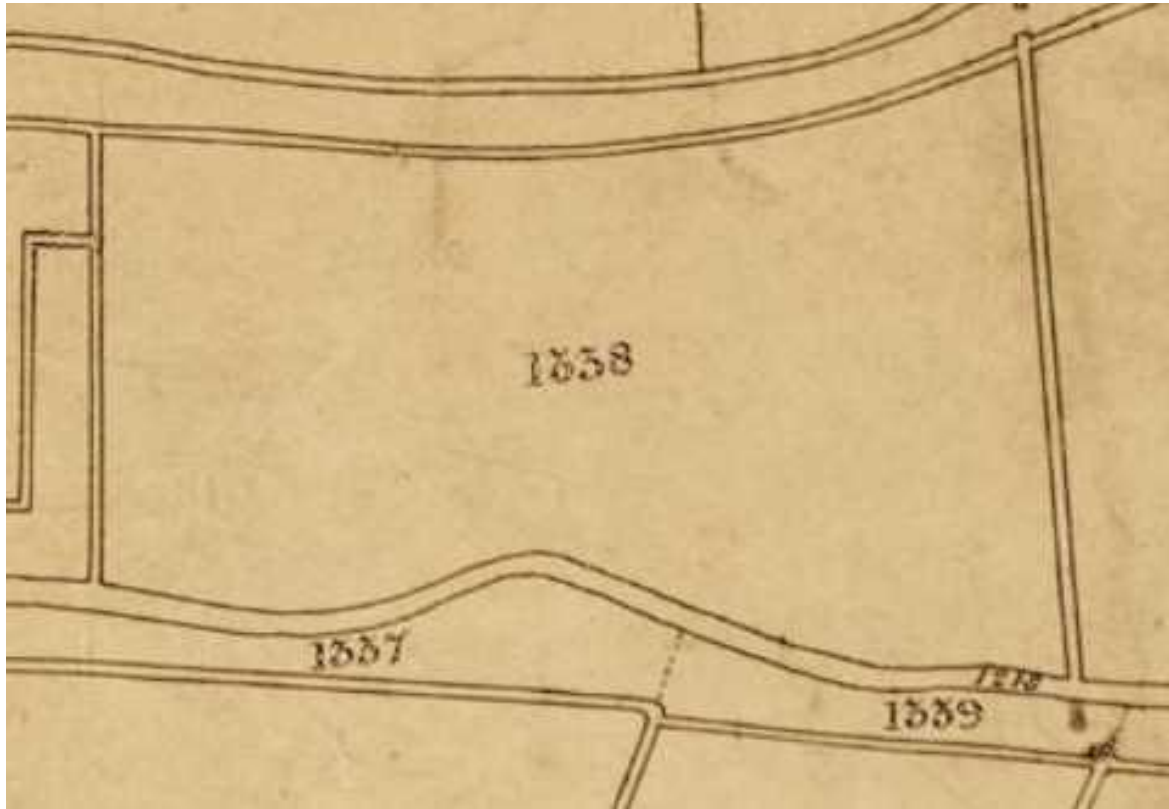


Fig 2: Yatton tithe map c1839

The Tithe map in Fig 2 above shows no features within the field either.

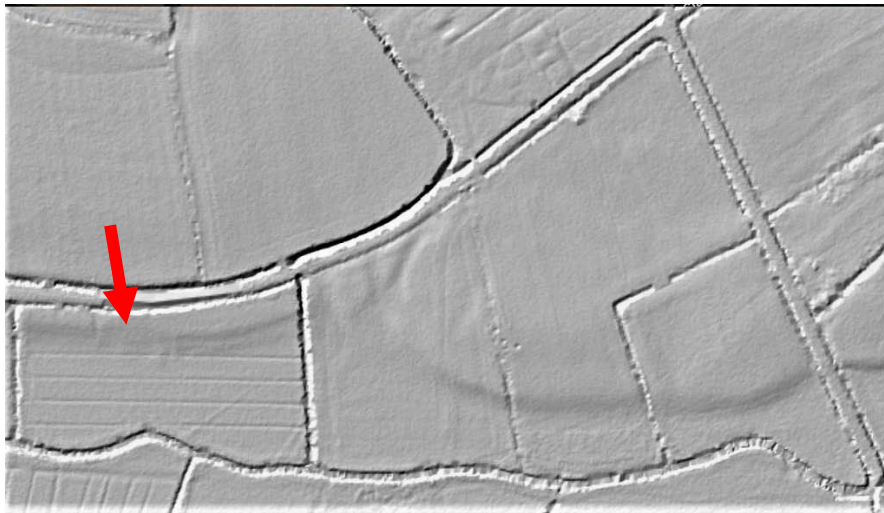


Fig 3 : LiDAR image of surveyed field (lower left), indicated by red arrow.

The LiDAR image in Fig 3 shows horizontal drainage ditches (locally known as 'grypes') and in the north of the field the bank / slope which continues into the adjacent right hand fields (the 'broad bean' image of a chain of low eminences seen in the cover illustration, south of Kenn Moor cross roads).

Previous surveys have been undertaken, by YCCCART, in adjacent fields and the results published in the following report (which can be consulted on this site):

YCCCART 2021 / Y12 Resistivity and Gradiometry Surveys off Ham Lane, Yatton.
(Mr Crossman 1 & 11 and Mr G Burdge 8)

Survey objectives

This survey was a continuation of large-scale surveys across Kenn and Yatton moors, and more specifically, others south of Ham Lane (see above).

Methodology

The survey of the fields was undertaken during the period August to September 2021 by teams from YCCCART using a Bartington Grad 601-2 (gradiometry).

The completed surveys were downloaded to a TerraSurveyor programme and the resultant composite adjusted using the following filters:

Colour - Red Blue Green 2
Band weight equaliser
Grad shade
Destriped
Despiked
Clip SD2

The report was written in Libre Office 5 Writer.

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

Results

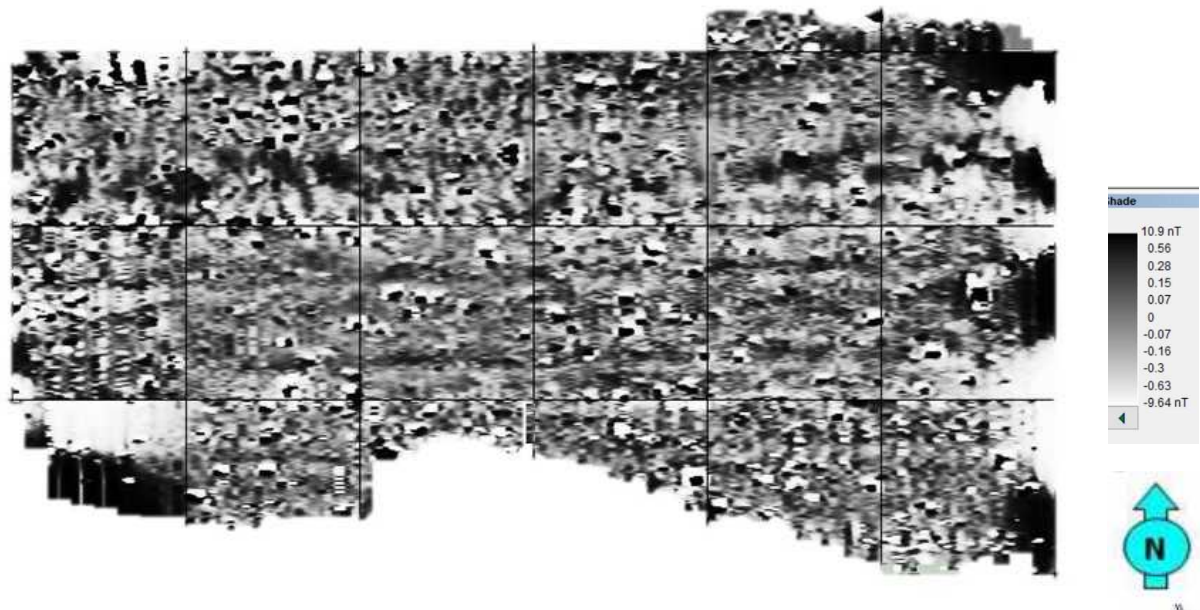


Fig 4: TerraSurveyor black & white shade view. High readings are black.

The central linear features are parallel grypes (drainage furrows) which are visible on LiDAR and the Google Earth image (See figs 1 and 3). The black band in the north of the Fig 4 image is probably the bank / slope also evident on LIDAR.

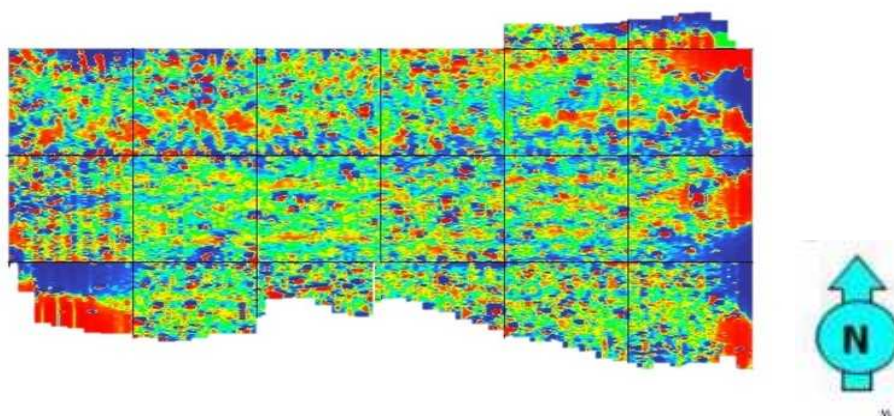


Fig 5: TerraSurveyor colour shade view. High readings are red.

No further features are evident on the colour images at Fig 5 and 6 (below).

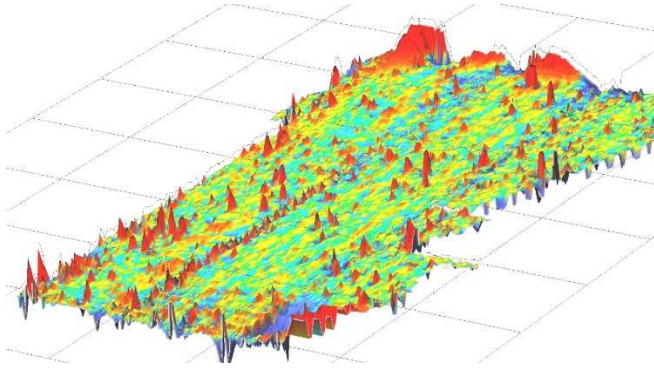


Fig 6: TerraSurveyor 3d axonometric mage.

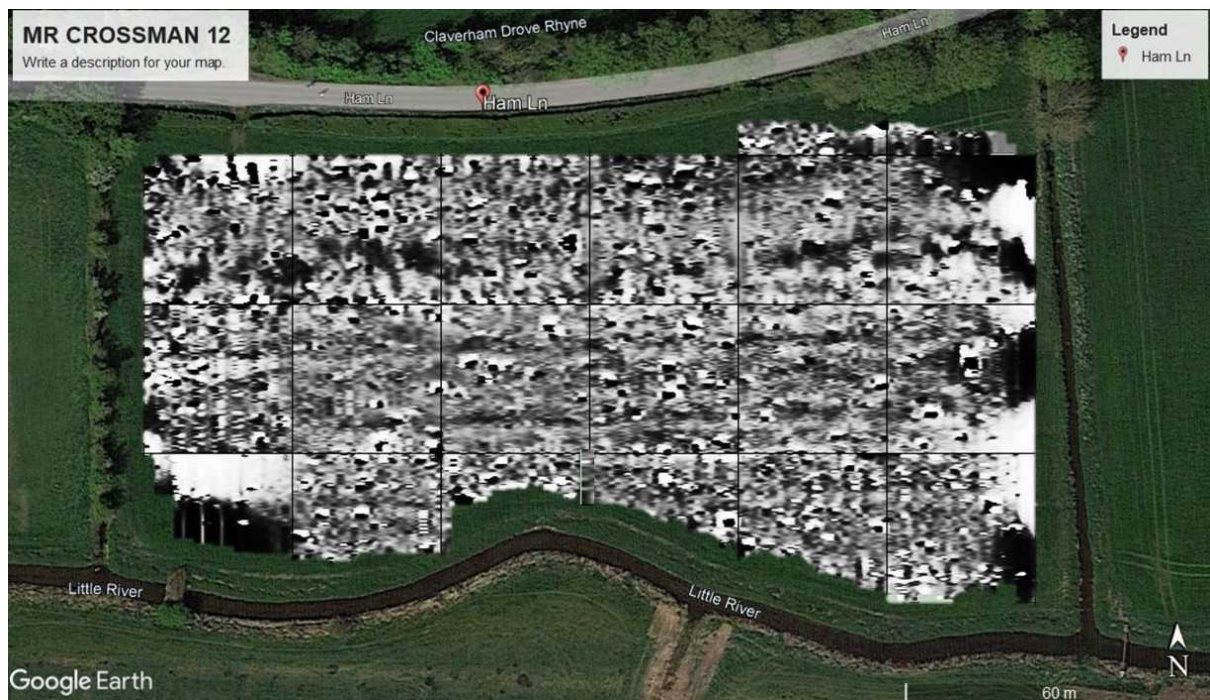


Fig 7: Black and white result on Google Earth image.



Fig 8: Colour results from this survey (left) and adjacent gradiometry surveys on Google Earth image.



Fig 9: Black and white results from this survey (left) and adjacent gradiometry surveys on Google Earth image.

Recommendations

No further action.

References

Tithe c 1839	Know Your Place, North Somerset https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom
LiDAR	https://www.lidarfinder.com/

Authors

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Date

2022-08-01

Appendix. Day Sheet extracts

Survey area		notes		readings		
Date	Grid number	size	walk direction	max	min	mean
27/08/2021		Setting out base line and grids for base line and first row				
	1	30 x 30	S	41.4	-22.2	-3.1
	2	30 x 30	S	+17.6	-17.3	-4.1
	3	30 x 30	S	+6.0	-12.0	-4.5
2/09/2021	1	Partial	S	Ignore data – operator error		
	2	Partial	S	+27.9	-30.9	-0.2
	3	30 x 30	S	+21.2	-10.1	-0.9
	4	30 x 30	S	+9.6	-10.3	-1.2
	5	30 x 30	S	+18.0	-2.0	-4.1
	6	30 x 30	S	+15.7	-12.0	-4.4
	7	30 x 30	S	+11.0	-25.9	-4.4
16/09/2021	1	30 x 30	S	+30.3	-8.6	+0.5
	2	30 x 30	S	+24.9	-17.7	-0.2
	3	30 x 30	S	+18.2	-16.6	-0.2
	4	30 x 30	S	+21.9	-10.6	-0.5
	5	30 x 30	S	+70.1	-38.7	-0.5
	6	30 x 30	S	+8.5	-10.3	-1.2
	7	Partial M&R	S	+4.2	-8.8	-1.8
	8	Partial M&R	S	+14.0	-20.1	-1.9
23/09/2021	1	30 x 30	S	+14.6	-13.3	-2.6
	2	Partial M&R	S	Ignore data – operator error		
	3	Partial M&R	S	+15.6	-26.2	-2.3
	4	Partial M&R	S	+18.9	-5.6	-2.5
	5	Partial M&R	S	+37.8	-21.8	-3.1
	6	Partial M&R	S	+18.3	-15.4	-3.1
	7	Partial M&R	S	+46.8	-8.5	+1.1
	8	Partial M&R	S	Ignore data – operator error		
	9	Partial M&R	N	+91.2	-60.1	-4.5
	10	Partial M&R	N	+10.7	-10.6	-2.2

Grid layout



Setting out detail

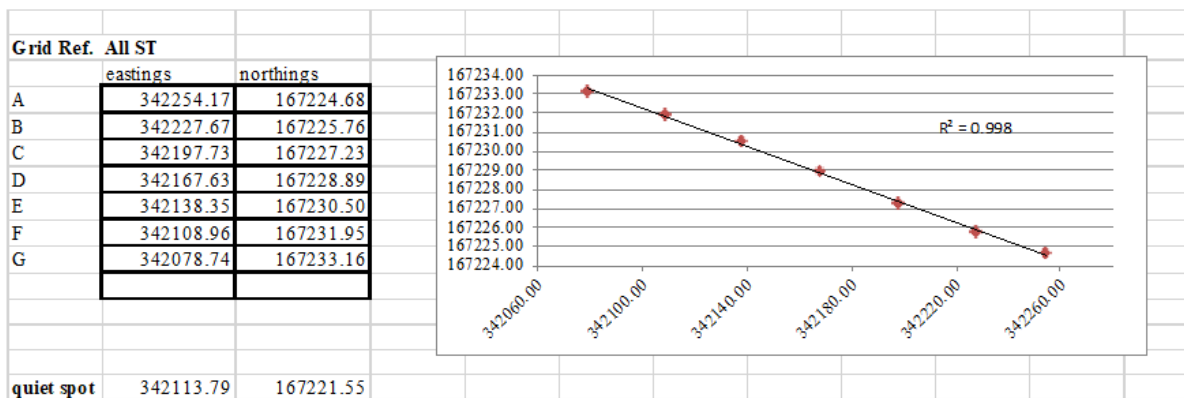
Position F on base line – 11.2m from gate post with one white paint spot (E) and 7.85m from gatepost with two white paint spots (W).

Note – distance from B to hedge is 27m – position A in hedge.

Position of quiet spot – 21.15m from gate post with one white paint spot (E) and 18.40m from gatepost with two white paint spots (W). GPS -

E. [342113.79](#)

N 167221.55



TerraSurveyor grids

