

**YCCCART 2017/Y11**

**Demonstration Resistivity Survey at Yatton Masonic Hall**

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

*General Editor: Vince Russett*



Surveying in the autumn sun at Yatton Masonic Hall

## **Abstract**

*The survey was undertaken as part of a presentation to the public attending a community event. No evidence was found of any pre-19th century structures.*

## **Acknowledgements**

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCART, a Geoscan RM 15 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 the landowner, Yatton Masonic Lodge. The authors are grateful for the hard work by the members of YCCCART in performing the survey and Vince Russett for editing.

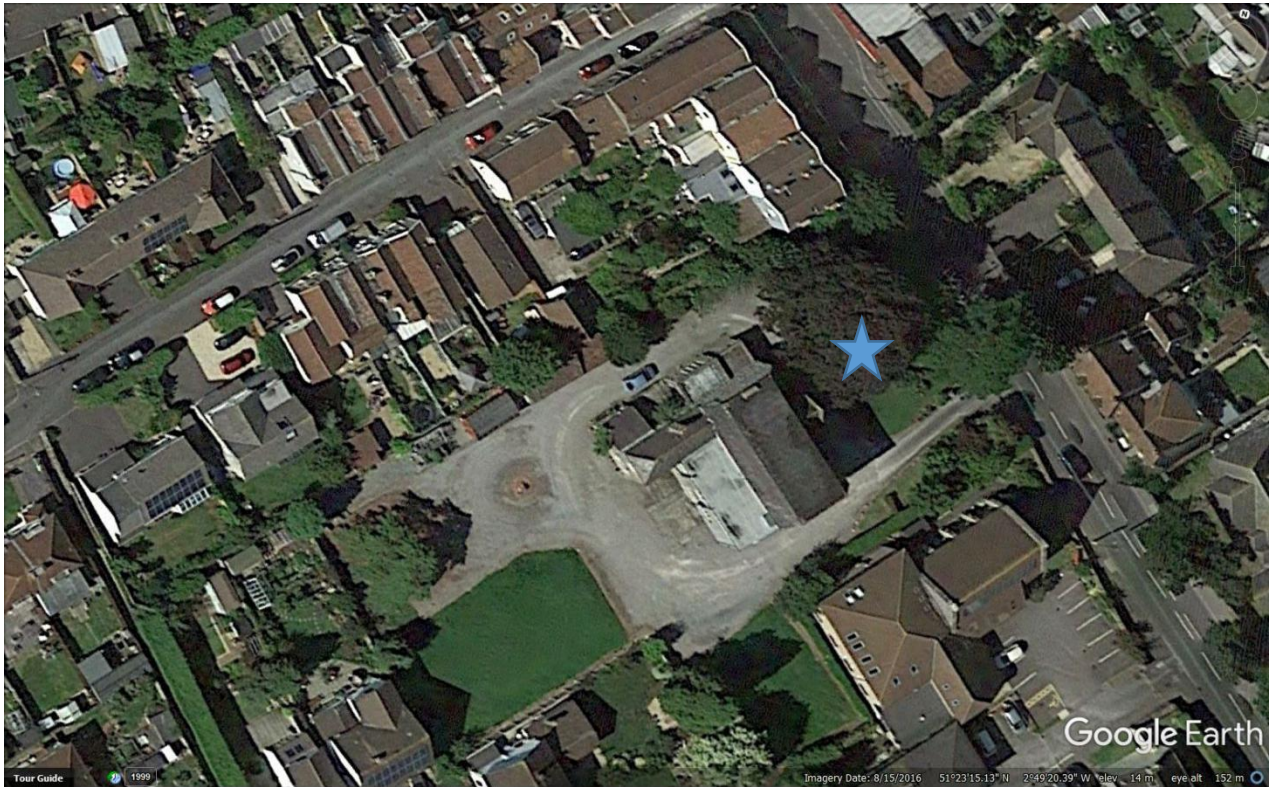
## **Introduction**

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCCART) is one of a number of Community Archaeology teams across northern Somerset, formerly supported by the North Somerset Council Development Management Team.

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: Site location indicated by the blue star.*

The site is at ST42906572, on the south-west side of High Street, Yatton, in North Somerset. GPS readings for the survey area are in Appendix A.

## Land use and geology

The surveyed area is a lawn in the grounds of a Masonic Lodge building. It lies on a ridge of Mercia Mudstones, topped with post-glacial Head deposits, as does most of Yatton village. This is surrounded by the later alluvial clays and peats of the Northmarsh.

## Historical & archaeological context

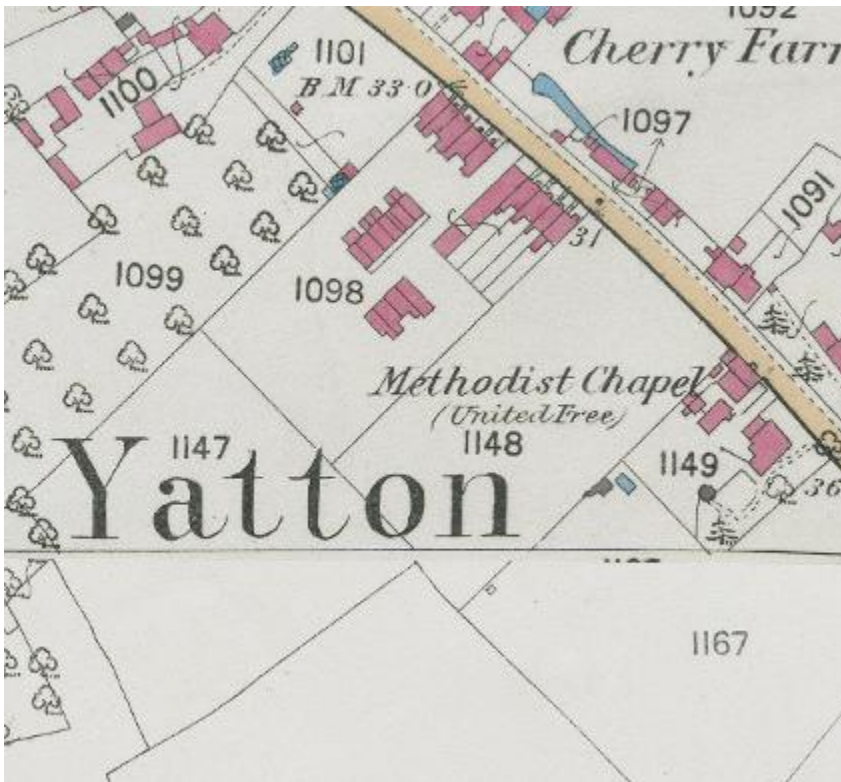


Fig 2: Extract from 1844-1888 OS 25" 1st Edition. Know Your Place (<http://www.kypwest.org.uk/>)

Yatton village was initially centred on the church, being a very large village at Domesday (1086), and was one of the residences of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. It always had a string of isolated farmsteads along High Street to the north as far as the hamlet of Northend. This plan survived until the third quarter of the 20th century, when new housing to the east and west of High Street swamped it in residential housing.

Larchmount Hall was built on the survey site between 1885 and 1903, in a field formerly known as Osborne's Two Acres, which was clearly once part of, or immediately adjacent to, Elborough Field (Yatton TA). The name of this formerly open field contains the OE suffix '-burh' = 'earthwork, place surrounded by a bank', implying some early occupation in the vicinity.

The lawn subject of this survey seems to have been laid out at the building of the Hall (OS plan, 1903). For 35 years, the Hall was a 'school for young ladies'. In 1925 it became a laboratory, and the Hall was gutted by fire in March 1935 and rebuilt, and after 1935 it became the Masonic Lodge. (Yatton Local History Society 2011: 22 - [ycccart.co.uk](http://ycccart.co.uk) Y18/2011).

## **Survey objectives**

The surveys were undertaken to identify and obtain details of any archaeology lying below the lawn, immediately adjacent to Yatton High Street.

## **Methodology**

The survey was undertaken on 2 September 2017 by a team from YCCCART using a eoscan RM 15 resistivity meter.

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

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### Resistivity

Band weight equaliser

Grad shade

Despiked

Clip SD2

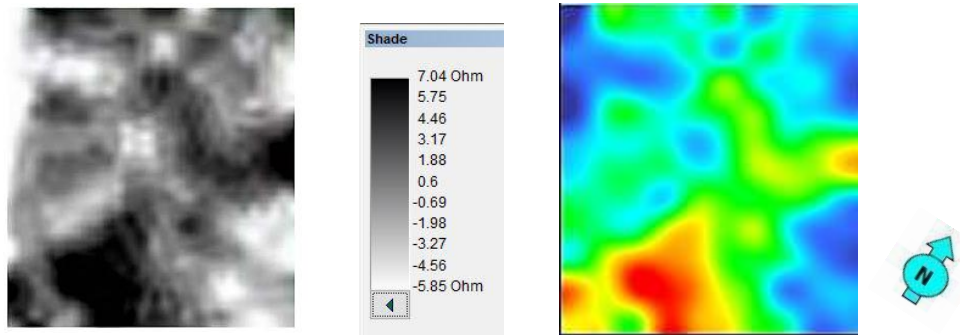
High Pass filter.

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2016.

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



## Results



*Fig 6: TerraSurveyor shade black and white and colour images. High readings are black and red.*



*Fig 7: TerraSurveyor image superimposed approximately on Google Earth map.*

This relatively small area surveyed, and the presence of the trees, make the results difficult to interpret. The tree root system, with its dewatering, is certainly responsible for the high resistance in the west corner of the survey area, and probably for most of the rest of the responses. There is no real evidence from this survey of pre-19th century structures in the area.

## **Recommendations**

There is no current need for further archaeological work. The site of the lawn on the edge of the High Street implies increased potential for archaeology to remain here, but the presence of the trees has prevented this survey from demonstrating the presence of any such structures.

## **References**

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|--|--|
| 1844-1888 OS 25" 1st Edition.            | Know Your Place ( <a href="http://www.kypwest.org.uk/">http://www.kypwest.org.uk/</a> )        |
| A Survey of the Ancient Parish of Yatton | Yatton Local History Society 2011<br><a href="http://ycccart.co.uk">ycccart.co.uk</a> Y18/2011 |

## **Authors**

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## Appendix

YCCCART Site Survey		
Project: - Demonstration survey at Yatton Masonic Hall		
Survey date	2 September 2017	
Report date	2 Sept 2017	
Type /Instrument	RM15	
Location	Off High St Yatton	
Landowner	Yatton Masonic Lodge	
Tenant	None	
HER ref	TBC	
Site type	Grass	
Description		
Period		
Geology		
Land use	Grass in front of Masonic Lodge	
Survey team and conditions		
2 Sept 2017		David Long, John Wilcox. Pete Englsih, Chris Short, Pete Wright, Arthur Langley. <i>Weather sunny and warm, no wind, grass dry .</i>

Survey area		Notes	
		Size	Walk direction
2 Sept 2017	Grids 1	10 x 10m	NE



Road



Lodge

Grid - 10m square

GPS

A	342890.26	165722.55
B	342898.65	165714.13