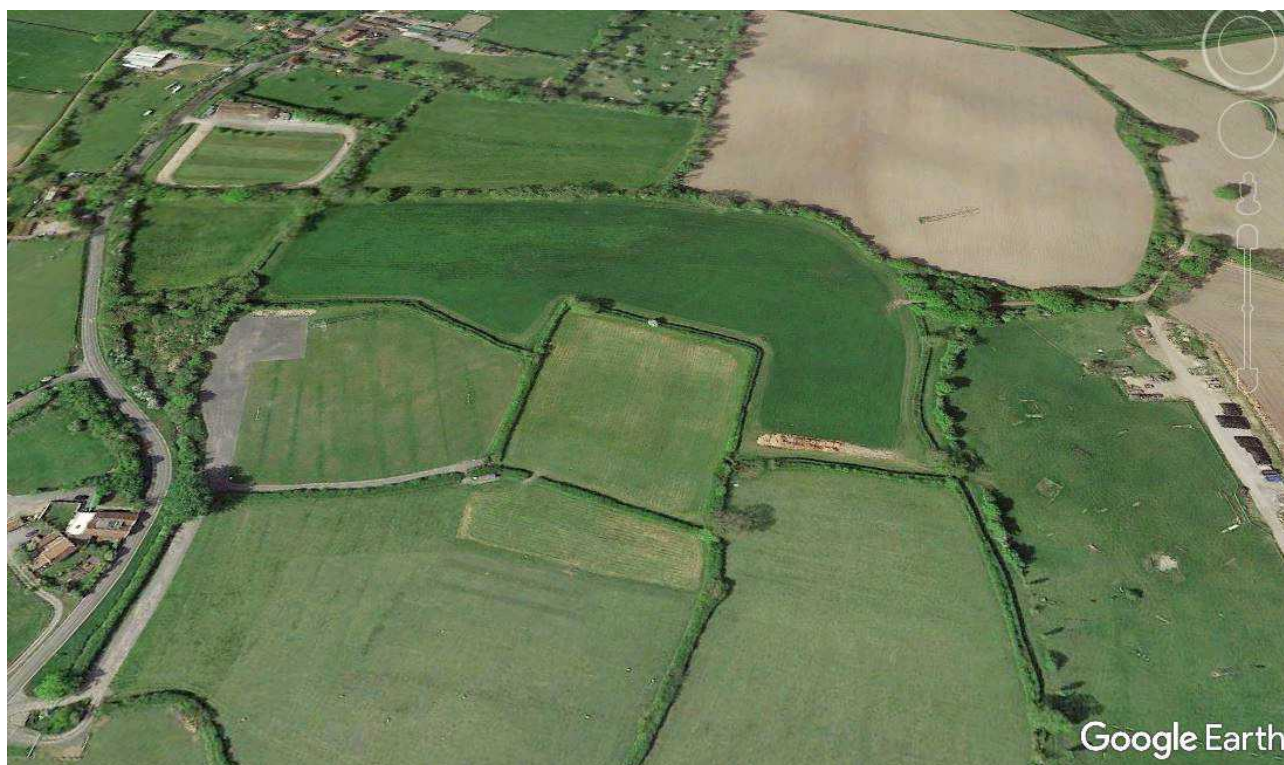


YCCART 2021/Y8

Geophysical survey north-west of Ham Farm, Yatton

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



The site looking north-west towards Walnut Tree Farm and the Northmarsh

Page	Contents
3	Abstract Acknowledgements Introduction
4	Site location Land use and geology
5	Historical & archaeological context
9	Survey objectives Methodology
10	Results
12	Recommendations References
13	Appendix: Day sheets

Abstract

Geophysical surveys were carried out at a suspiciously regular rectangular field north-west of Ham Farm. Little of archaeological interest was found in the survey, although documentation was able to show the field acquired its modern shape between 1799 and 1821.

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 G. Burdge, and his agent, Mr F Malton.

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 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

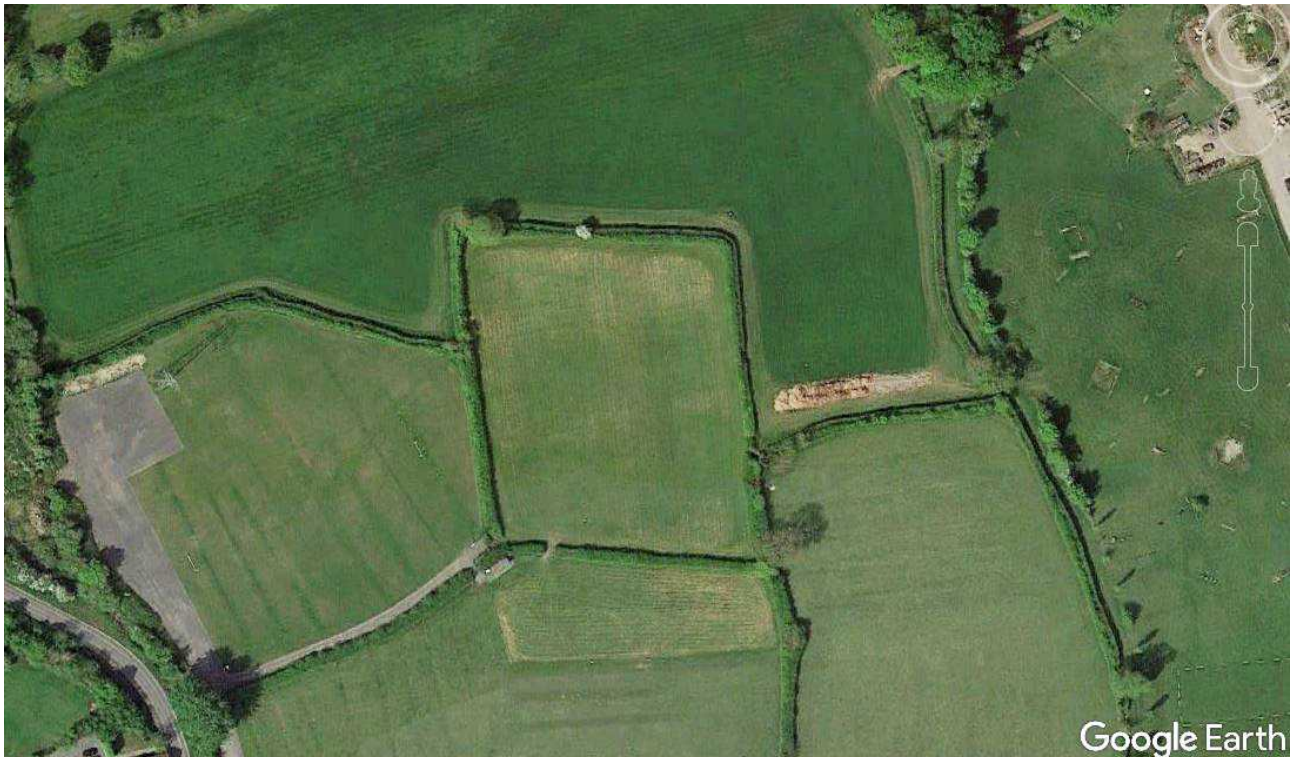


Fig 1 The survey area

The survey site is the rectangular field in the centre of Fig 1. It is centred on ST41676762, in Yatton (due to 20th century changes, the Kenn / Yatton current boundary runs around the northern end of the field: it originally ran some 300m to the north) in North Somerset. It is accessed from the B3133 Yatton-Kenn road to its south-east.

The GPS for the site is shown in the Appendix.

Land use and geology

The site lies on the Mercia Mudstones, with a thin layer of estuarial alluvium at its western edge. The current land-use is pasture. There is no public access to this land.

Historical & archaeological context

This field drew attention by its remarkably regular rectangular shape. It is also noticeable that the surrounding hedges use the boundary of the field as their termination, implying that it may be older than they are. At least two sides of the field are recorded on the 1768 Pigott map of the adjacent fields (see Fig 3 below).

There is, as yet, no known name for this field: it is not named on either the 1821 map of Yatton (Fig 4 below), nor on the 1840 map (Fig 5 below).

There is little topographical variation in the field.

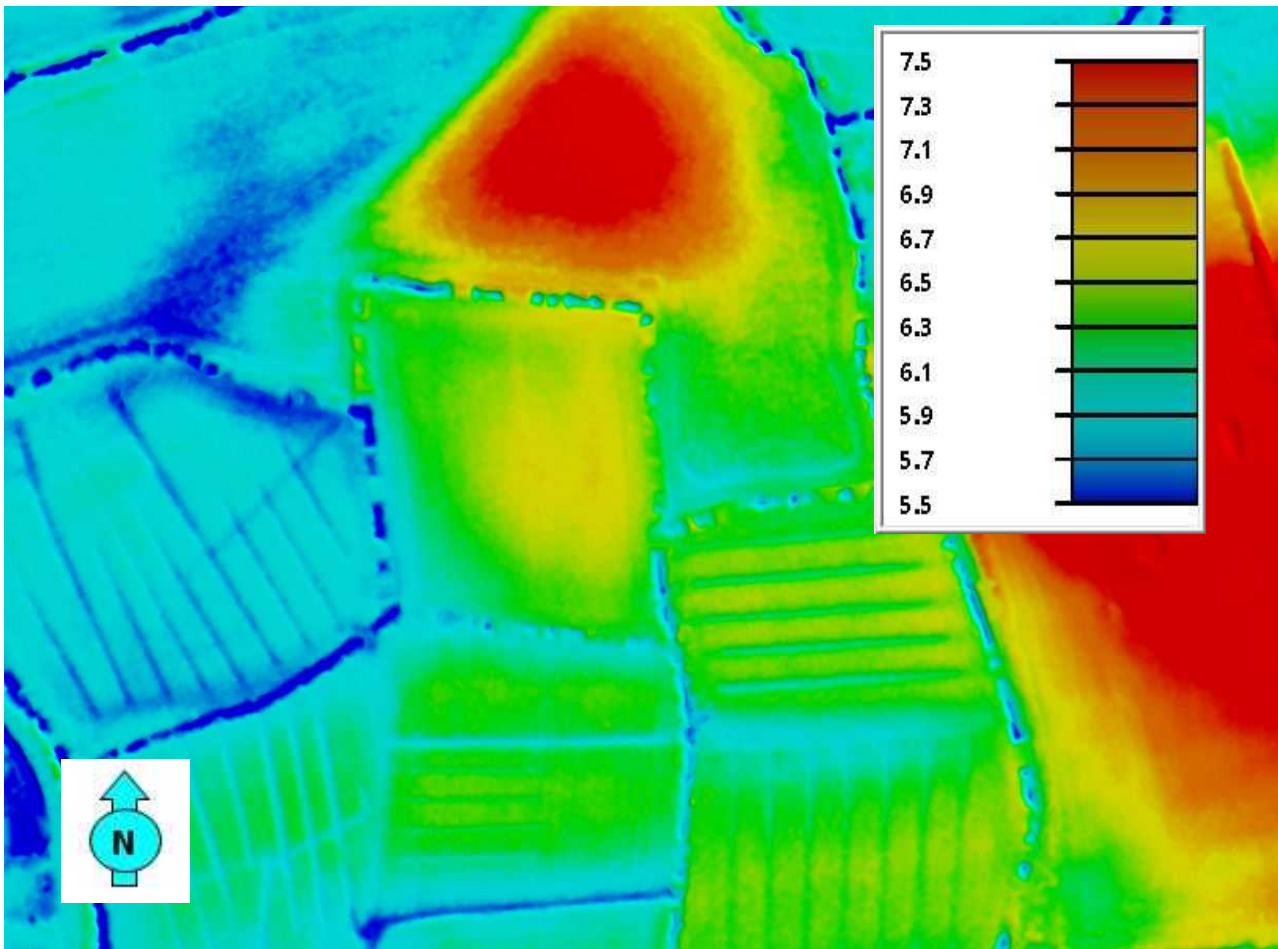


Fig 2: Lidar image of the field (scale in metres AOD)

Although the lidar illustrates a raised area in the east, the scale shows the difference is only about 30cm at maximum, and the field has been ploughed so flat that not even extensive lidar processing can find any features in it.

Since no name for the field has been established, it is also currently impossible to carry out any documentary research into it, since this requires a 'modern' name as a key.

The earliest known evidence on the ground is the 1768 map of lands belonging to the Pigotts:

Fig 3: 1768 map



Fig 4: Field names 1821

The land surveyed belonged at that time to the Poulett family (despite the name, Ann Poulett was a man), but two of its edges can be seen on the plan.

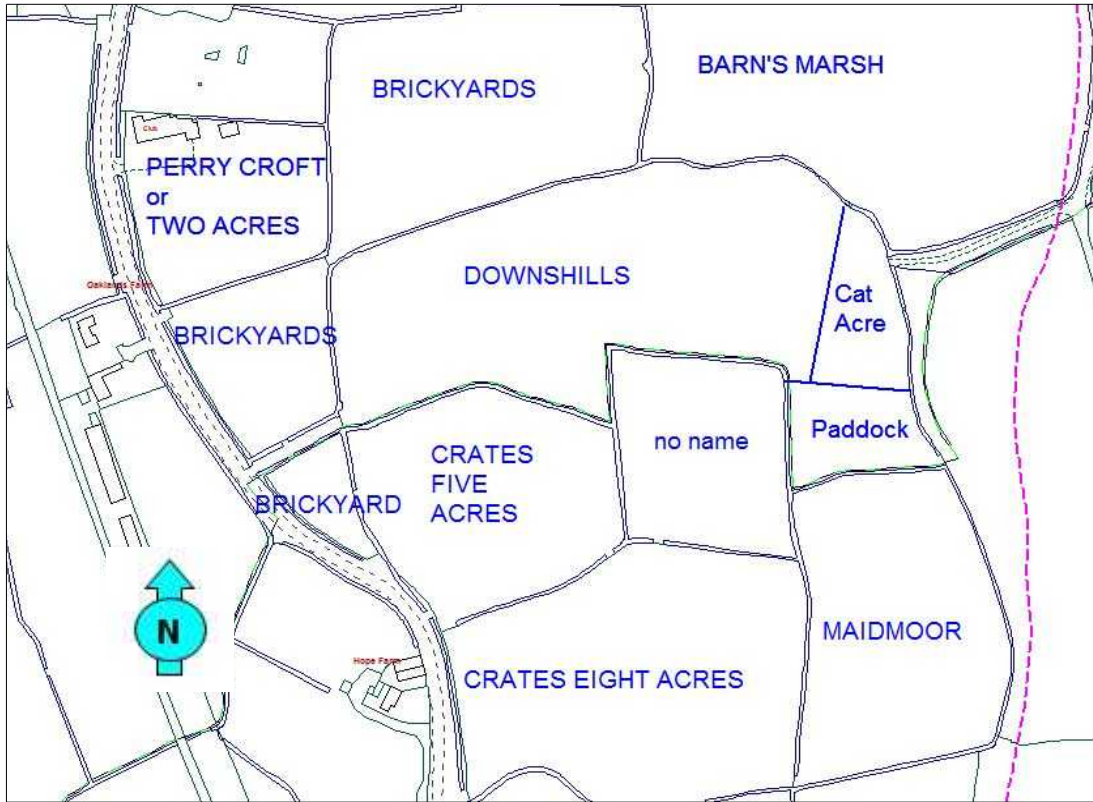


Fig 5: Field names 1840



Fig 6: Site in 1799

However, the deceptively simple picture is brought into question by the 1799 Yatton map (Fig 6).

This shows the field not as a regular rectangle, but with a jutting attachment to its upper west side, which clearly shows as ditch earthworks on the 1946 air photos, and so the rectangular shape originated between 1799 and 1821. The adjacent field to the north was the subject of a published survey.

See http://www.ycccart.co.uk/index_htm_files/Kenn%20Gradiometer%20survey%20Downshills%202020-Y1%20v1.pdf .

Survey objectives

The survey was undertaken to ensure a greater overview as the site is linked to a field to the north previously surveyed.

Methodology

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

The completed surveys were downloaded to TerraSurveyor 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

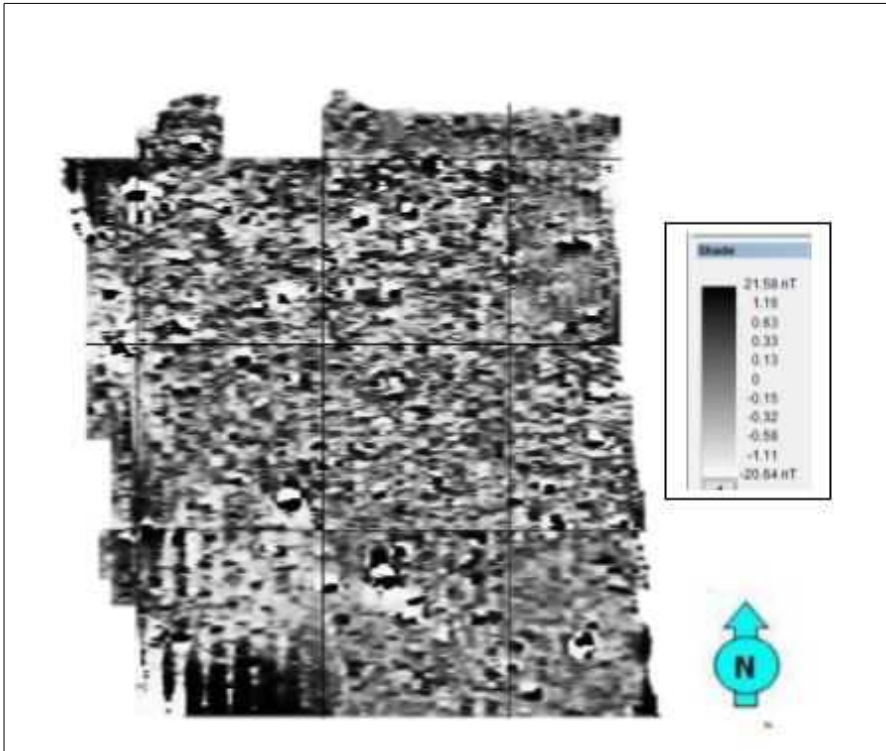


Fig 7: TerraSurveyor black & white shade view. High readings are black.

The response over most of the field is comparable to that from the field adjacent to the north, and seems typical of largely undisturbed Mercia Mudstones.

Some possible rectangular anomalies appear in the upper left hand grids.

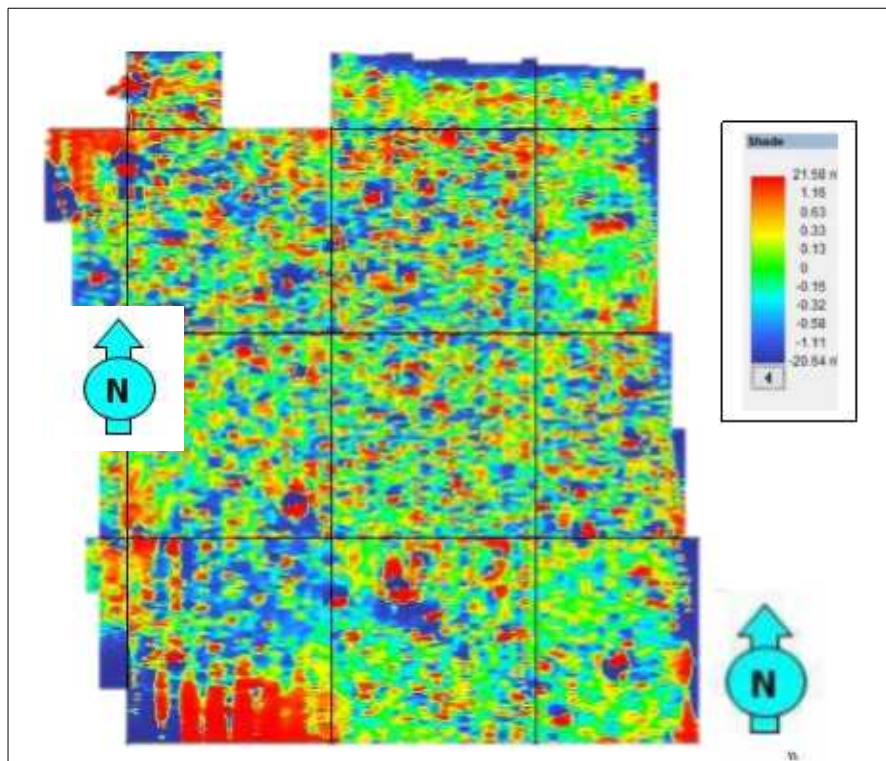


Fig 8: TerraSurveyor colour shade view. High readings are red.

This adds little to the monochrome shade results.

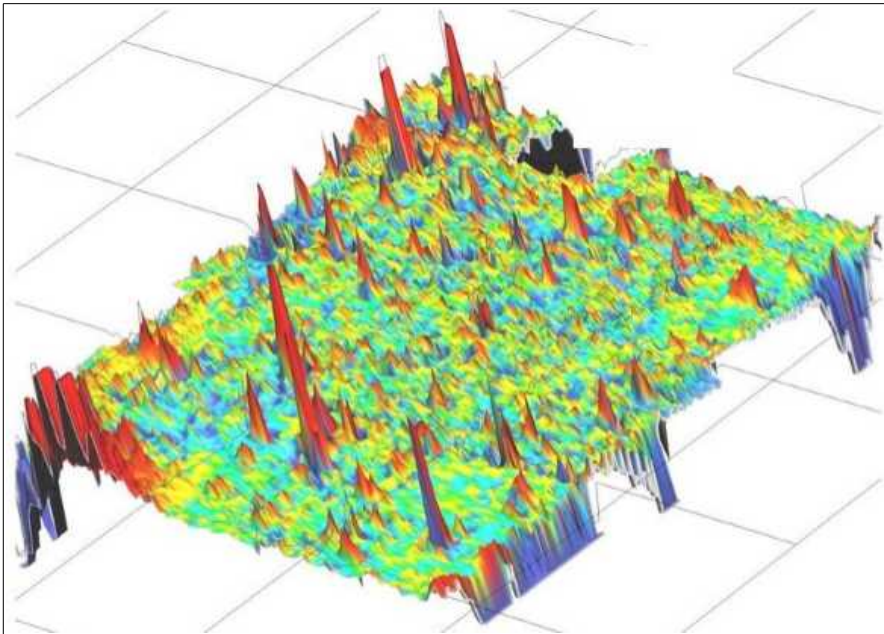


Fig 9: Axonometric view

There are many pronounced dipoles in this field. However, none of these possess the clear signs of occupation, and in this heavily ploughed field, this is probably due ferrous waste.



Fig 10: Surveyed field with adjacent gradiometry surveys

Recommendations

No further actions required

References

Yatton 1799 map	SHC DD.SAS/C212/MAP/167
Yatton 1821 map	SHC D/P/yat/13/1/3
Yatton Tithe Map 1840	SHC D/P/yat/13/1/4
1768 map	In private hands

Author

Chris Short, Vince Russett

Date

2021-10-27

Appendix. Day Sheet extracts

Survey area		notes		readings		
Date	Grid number	size	walk direction	max	min	mean
27/05/2021		Setting out base line and grids for base line and first two rows				
	1	30 x 30	N	+62.1	-39.3	-1.1
	2	30 x 30	N	+24.3	-9.1	-2.4
	3	Partial	N	+54.7	-100	-5.3
03/06/2021	4	30 x 30 Pylon lines at edge of grid	N	+99.7	-100	-2.9
	1	30 x 30	N	+10.5	-21.1	+2.2
	2	Partial M & R from <u>tray 11</u>	N	+97.0	-11.4	+2.2
	3	30 x 30	N	+99.5	-99.9	+2.2
	4	30 x 30	N	+22.0	-16.1	+2.0
	5	Partial M & R from <u>tray 11</u>	N	+17.1	-8.4	+0.8
	6	Partial M & R	N	+26.7	-32.2	-1.2
	7	Partial M & R	N	+5.7	-15.7	-1.0
	8	Partial M & R	N	+0.9	-8.4	-1.3
	9	Partial M & R	S	+2.6	-52.8	-3.5
	10	Partial M & R First 4 <u>tray</u>	S	+99.2	-100	-4.1
	11	Partial M & R First 2 <u>tray</u>	S	+40.0	-35.4	-1.3
12	Partial M & R First 2 <u>tray</u>	S	+1.6	-37.3	-4.7	
*Note partials have wire in fence						

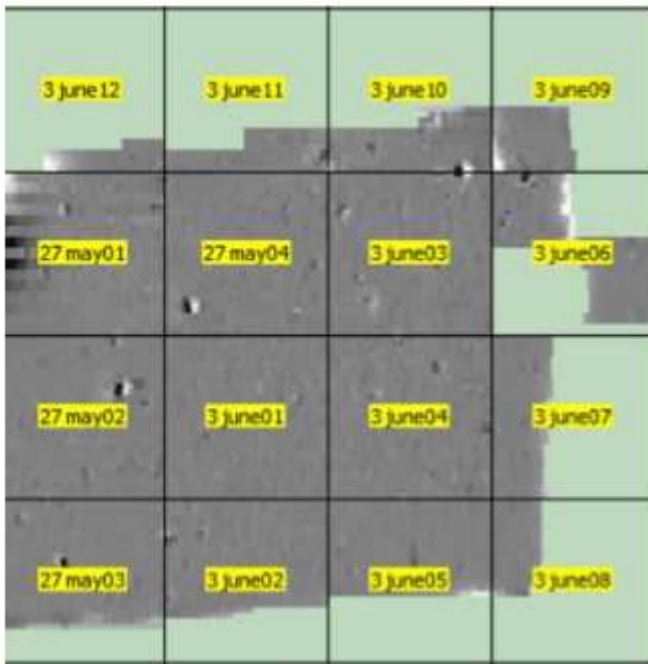
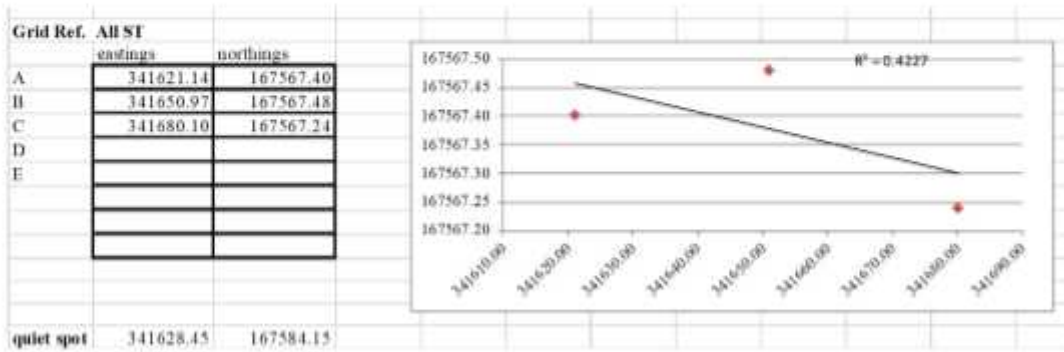


Grid layout

Location A - QS to Point A 18.5m and 16.6m to post in gateway East side

Location C - not able to triangulate as no permanent features

Quiet spot - GPS 341628.45, 167584.15. 24m to post of entrance and 22.4 m to spot on hedge west of entrance



TerraSurveyor grids