

**YCCCART 2011 /Y5
North Somerset HER 2011-075**

Geophysical survey in Yatton churchyard

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



The RM15 team carefully surveying in the church yard

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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 kiln sites and investigate the archaeology of the environs around Cadbury Hill, Congresbury. Resistivity surveys in the churchyard of Yatton church to test the suggested possible sites of the former chapel of St James may have revealed possible walls of buildings, but the small size of the areas surveyed makes interpretation very difficult.

Acknowledgements

A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the purchase, by YCCCART, of a Geoscan RM 15 Resistance 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 Rector.

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

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.

For further information, see <http://cansnetwork.co.uk>

Site Location



Fig 1: Site location

The sites are in the churchyard of St Mary's church, Yatton. The church is at ST 43125 65412 some 11 miles south of Bristol

Land use and geology

The solid geology of the site is the Mercia Mudstone Group – Mudstone and Halite-stone.

The areas surveyed are in a graveyard in active use.

Historical & archaeological context

In 1066 John the Dane held Yatton and there was a church most probably built of wood. There was a chapel in the churchyard said to have been ruined in 1548. (Yatton Local History Society, *A History of Yatton* : 8 & 12)

The detached chapel in the churchyard is believed to be the chapel of St James, which is first referred to in 1448 when two men were paid to clean it out. In 1470 it was being used for the storage of wood. Annie Brown gave a gown to be sold for repair of the chapel in 1485. In 1499 the tiles and timber from the chapel were being sold off. Yet in 1500 two men were appointed wardens for the chapel and a separate account book for it was created called the 'Low Book'. The glazier repaired two windows, the carpenter two doors and some men cleaned the building in 1503. During the period 1506 to 1508 money was given to St James for the making of the choir, painting of the ceiling and making a bell made from 37lbs (16.5kg) of donated material. St James Ale Fair raised nearly £3 in 1510 and in the same year the mason made a tower for the chapel, presumably to accommodate the new bell. In 1521 the roof was re-leaded and in 1530 the statue of St James re-gilded. (Yatton Local History Society, *More Yatton Yesterdays*, Number 9:7, 8 & 9)



These carved stones are to the north of the Chapter House. Where did they come from?

Survey objectives

The survey had the following objectives.

- 1) To identify any archaeological features, specifically to test the suggestion that one of these areas might be the site of the former chapel of St James.
- 2) To use the survey to further train YCCCART members and members of Community Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) in the use of the RM 15 Resistance Meter.

Methodology

The survey was undertaken during the period January and February 2011 by teams from YCCCART using a Geoscan RM 15 Resistance Meter, with settings as per the site record in Appendix 1.

The completed survey was downloaded to an ArcheoSurveyor and Snuffler programmes

ArcheoSurveyor composites were adjusted using the following filters

Grad shade

Despiked

Clip SD2

In addition figure 3 result was produced using Band Weight Equaliser filter and figure 5 Black, Green, White, Band Weight Equaliser, Wallis Contrast Enhancement & High Level Pass filters.

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2003.

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

Results

Site 1

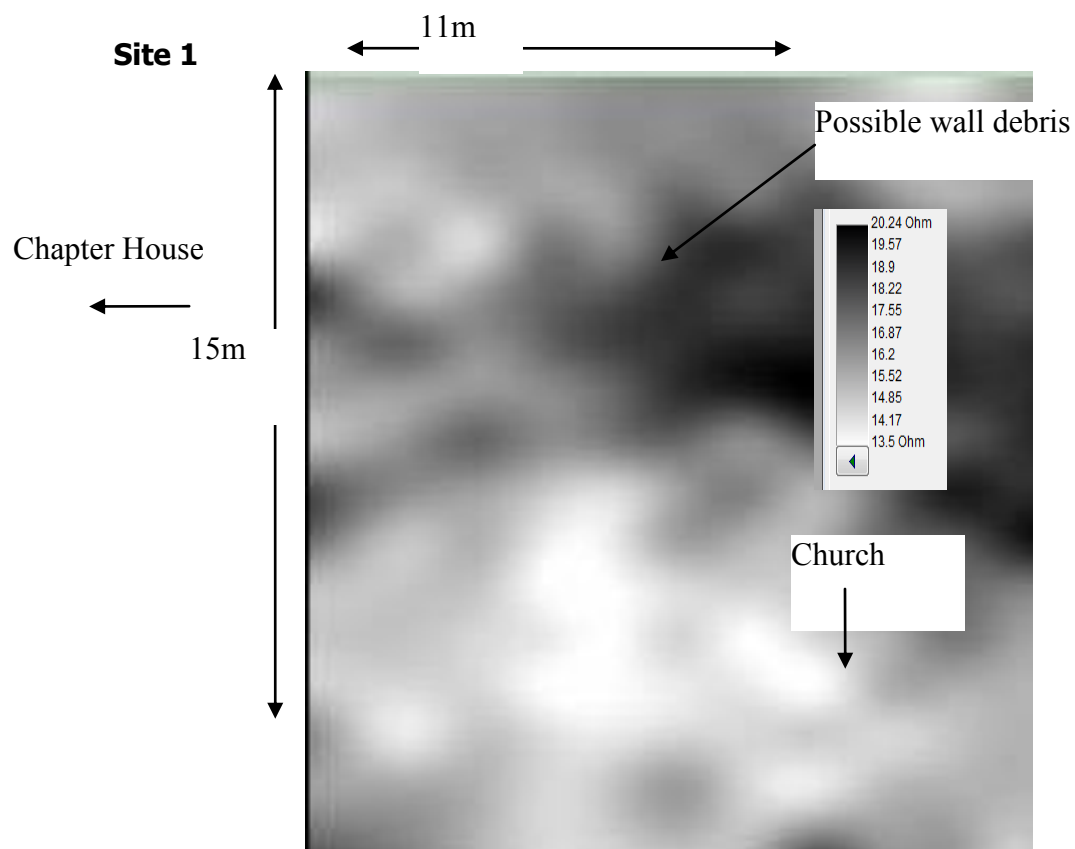


Fig 2: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor image). High readings are black

The results are difficult to interpret given the small area surveyed and indistinct result as seen in figure 2 above. The black lines may suggest building debris.

Site 2

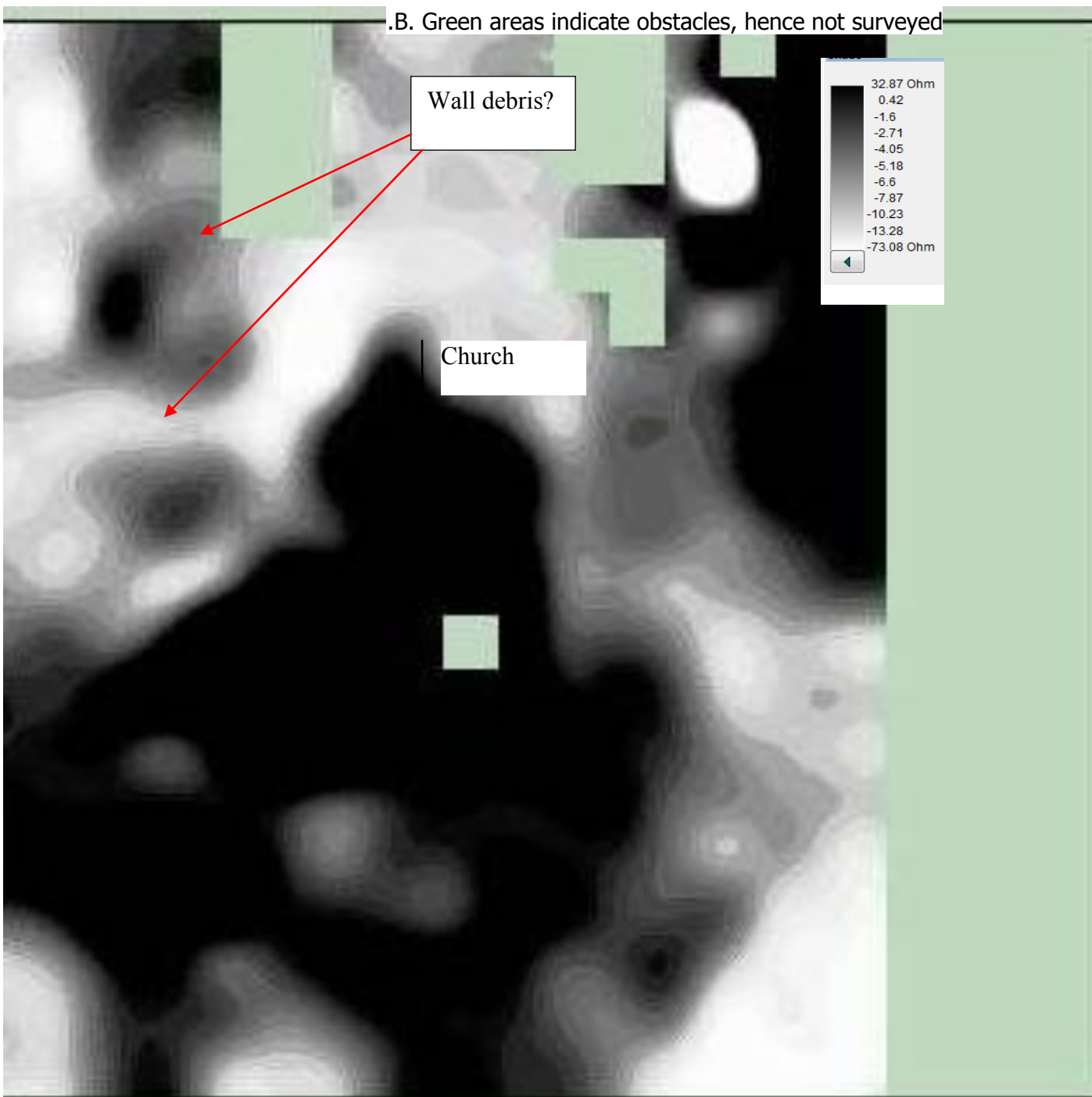


Fig 3: Shade view (ArcheoSurveyor image). Band weight equaliser filter applied. High readings are black

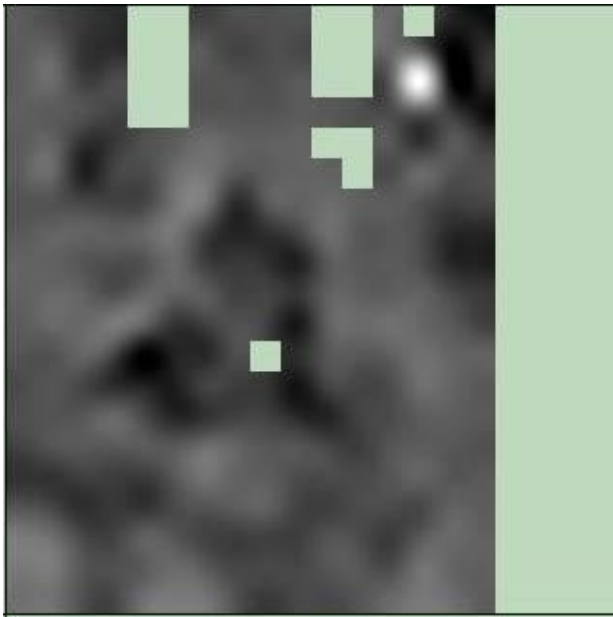
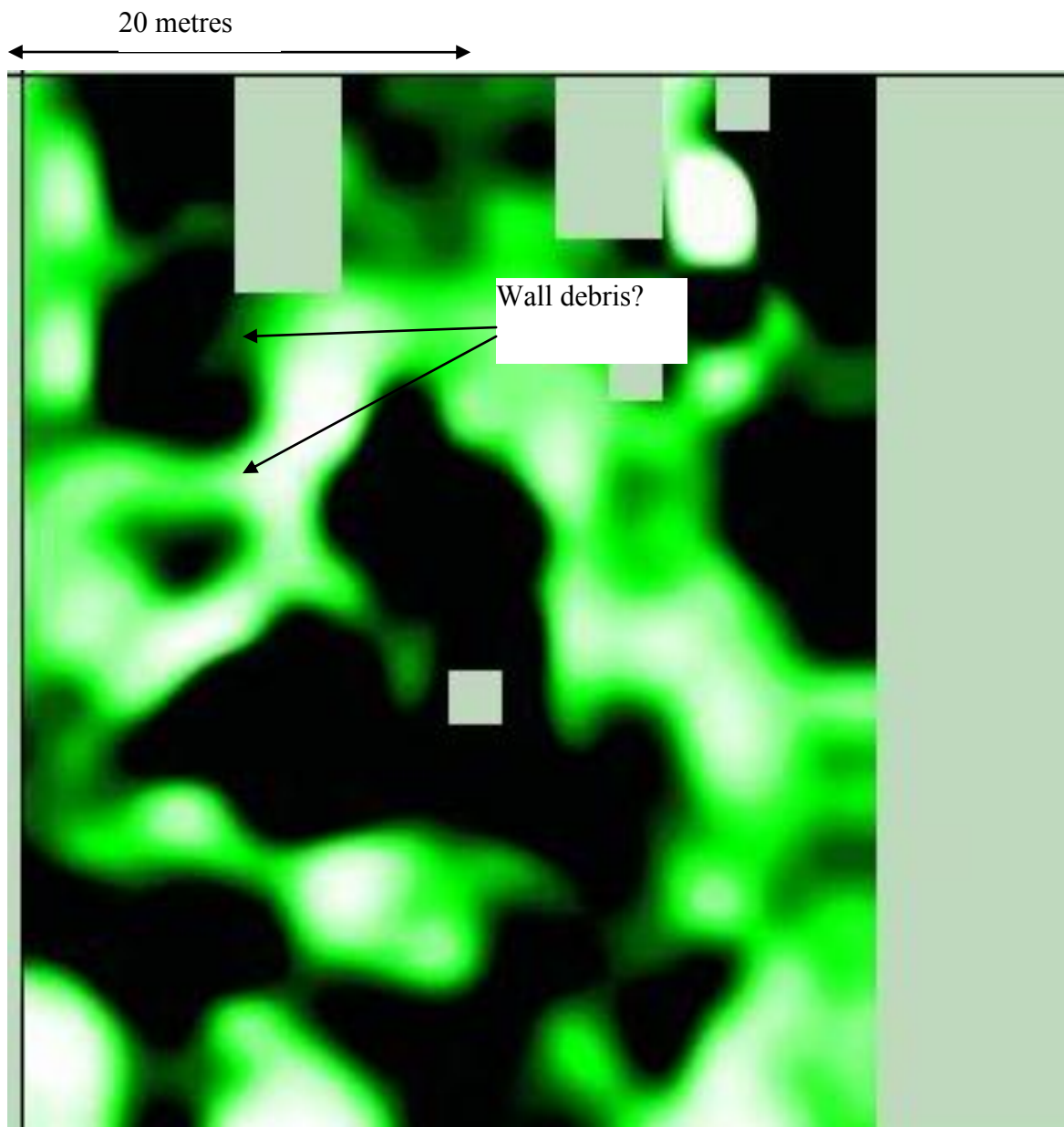


Fig 4: Shade view. ArcheoSurveyor image, without band weight equaliser filter.

The results shown in figures 3 and 4 above suggest potential wall debris as indicated.



*Fig 5: Shade view.
ArcheoSurveyor image. With Wallis Contrast Enhancement & High Level Pass filters*

The highly filtered result shown in figure 5 above shows the same high resolution anomaly which could possibly indicate wall debris. The site is however in a graveyard and the high readings may be caused by many factors such as tombstones and building material from the church construction.

Recommendations

The results from the two sites may possibly indicate the site of buildings. In order to further investigate the anomalies it is recommended that a pseudosectioning survey is undertaken on both sites.

References

- | | |
|---|---|
| Hobhouse, E. Ed, Somerset Record Society. 1890. | <i>Church-wardens' accounts of Croscombe, Pilton, Yatton, Tintinhull, Morebath, and St. Michael's, Bath, ranging from A.D. 1349 to 1560</i> , Somerset Record Society Publications, 4 |
| Yatton Local History Society. 1991. | <i>A History of Yatton</i> . Pages 8 & 12. |
| Yatton Local History Society. 2009. | <i>More Yatton Yesterdays. Number 9</i> . ISSN 1365-9766 |

Authors. Colin Campbell & Chris Short

Date March 2011

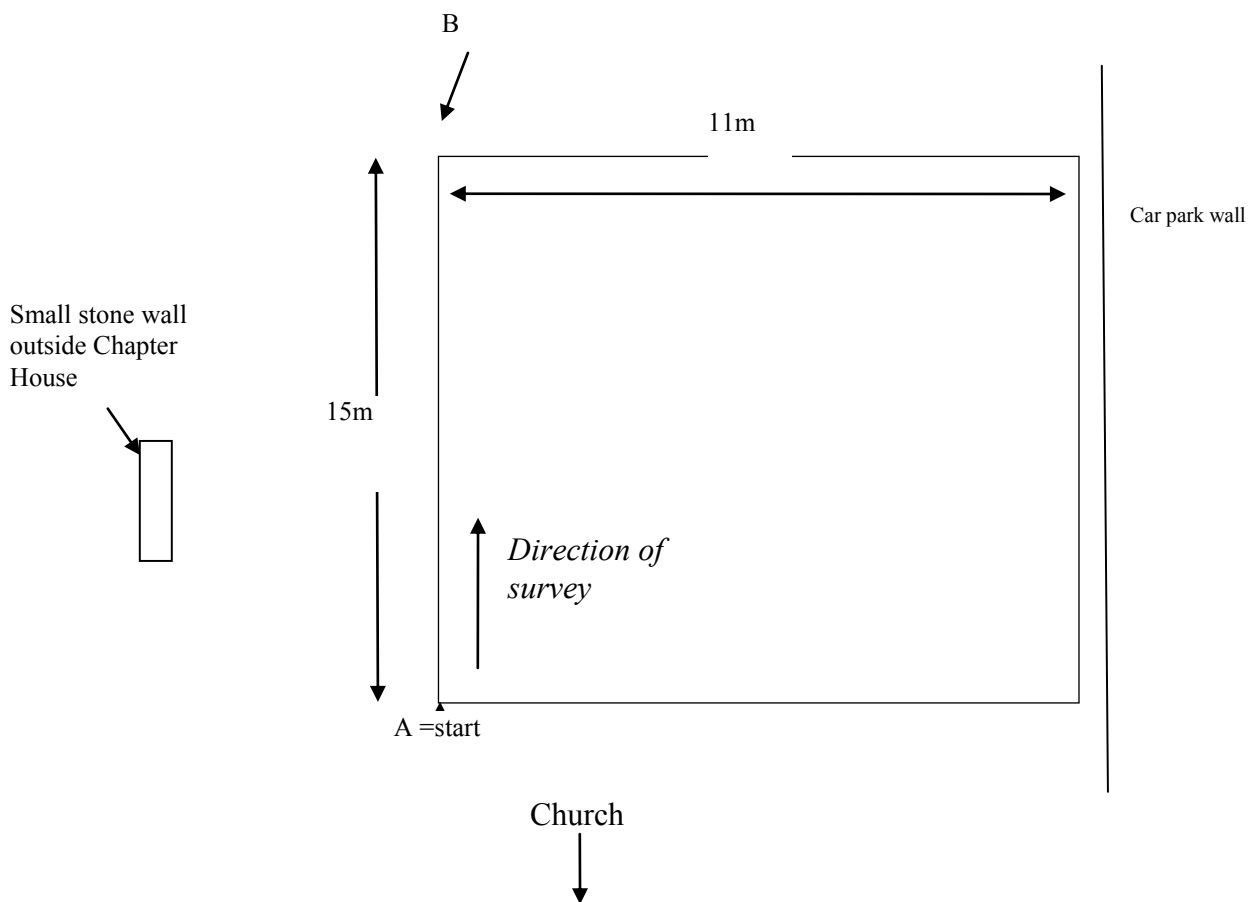
Appendix

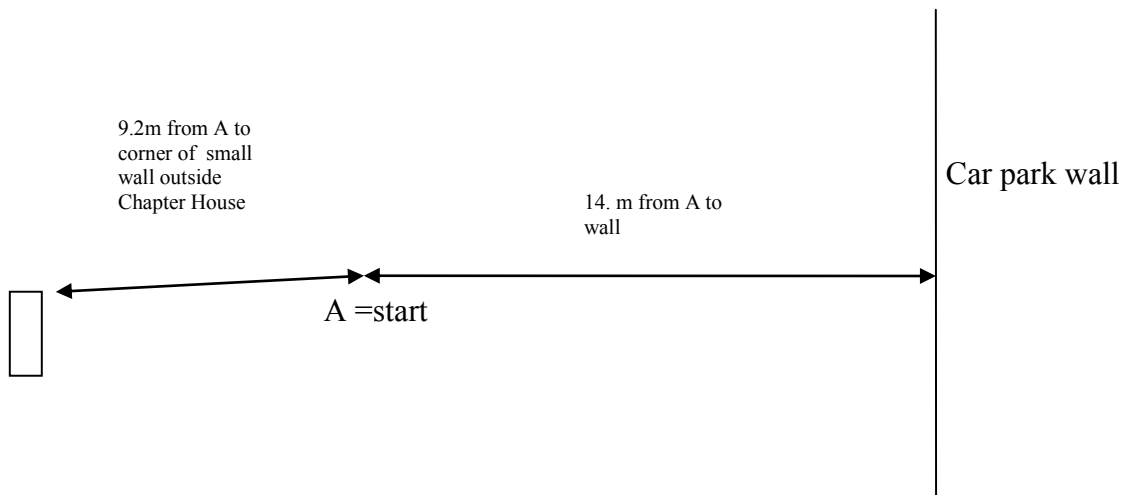
YCCCART Site Survey						
Project – Yatton Church						
Survey date		28 Feb 2011				
Report date		Feb 2011				
Type /Instrument		RM15				
		Gain x1, Current 1mA Frequency 137Hz Probes 'Config 1' (2 probes)		Grid size: 20m x20m Pattern : Zig Zag Sample interval 1m Traverse Interval 1m. Mode Zig-Zag		
Weather		28 Feb: Dry but overcast and grass damp				
OS Ref or Lat-Longitude		ST				
Site name		Yatton church				
Landowner						
Tenant		N/A				
HER ref						
Site type						
Description		Old burial ground				
Period		unknown				
Geology		unknown				
Land use		Public amenity / graveyard				
Survey team		<i>28 Feb: Colin Campbell, Chris Short, Richard Baker & Brian Bradbury.</i>				
Survey area		notes		readings		
		size	walk direction			
28 Feb	Grid 1- Part grid only	1 x 20m	N			
Summary		Downloaded to ArcheoSurveyor as: Yatton church / 28 Feb 1.				



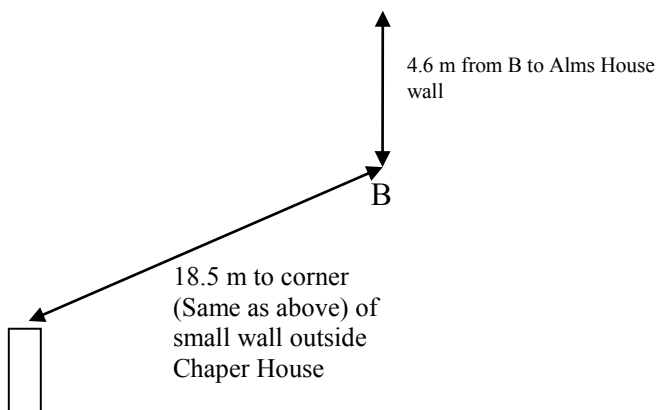
Survey area

Site plan – Not to scale

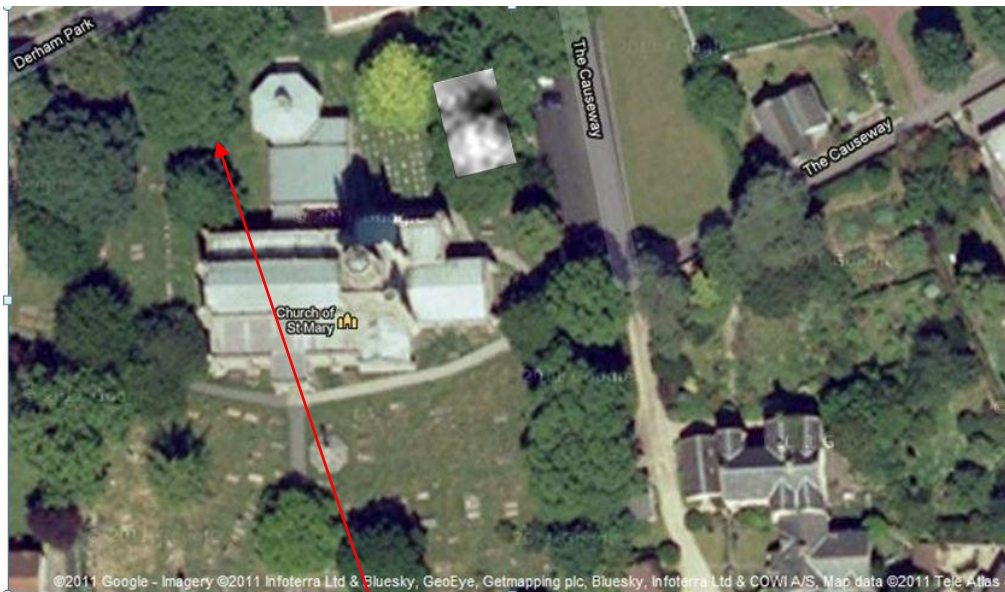




Alms Houses



YCCCART Site Survey						
Project – Yatton Church –Site 2						
Survey date		14 March 2011				
Report date		March 2011				
Type /Instrument		RM15				
		Gain x1, Current 1mA Frequency 137Hz Probes 'Config 1' (2 probes)		Grid size: 20m x20m Pattern : Zig Zag Sample interval 1m Traverse Interval 1m. Mode Zig-Zag		
Weather		Dry & Sunny				
OS Ref or Lat-Longitude		ST				
Site name		Yatton church				
Landowner						
Tenant		N/A				
HER ref						
Site type						
Description		Old burial ground				
Period		unknown				
Geology		unknown				
Land use		Public amenity / graveyard				
Survey team		<i>Colin Campbell, Chris Short, Richard Baker & Brian Bradbury.</i>				
Survey area		notes		readings		
		size	walk direction			
28 Feb	Grid 1- Part grid only	1 x 20m	W			
Summary		Downloaded to ArcheoSurveyor as: Yatton church / 14 Mar 1 Snuffler as : Yatrear				



Survey area

