

**YCCART 2010 / 15
North Somerset HER 2010-119**

St Andrews School, Congresbury

Geophysical survey

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



St Andrew's school children watching the Grad 601 survey on the school field

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Abstract

YCCCART has agreed with the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake a project over two years commencing May 2009 to investigate the archaeology of Cadbury Hill Fort and its environs. As part of this project the area around Congresbury church has been surveyed. The opportunity was taken, during a week of YCCCART walks with St Andrew's school children, to survey the school playing fields which once formed a part of the original church / monastery site. A circular feature has been identified which merits investigation by a resistivity survey and / or production of a pseudosection of the targeted feature.

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 St Andrews School.

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 on CANS, see <http://cansnetwork.co.uk>

Site Location



Fig1: Site location

The site lies in the south east of the village of Congresbury, in North Somerset, some 15km south-west of Bristol. The start point for this survey is provided on the day report at the end of this document

The field is part of St Andrew's school.

Land use and geology

The geology of the site is Keuper Marl.

The field is a school playing field.

Historical & archaeological context

The field is centred on reference 424 on the 1839 Congresbury map.

It is described in the 1840 Tithe apportionment as pasture called Church Ground owned by Henry Walter and occupied by the Rev Joseph Haythorne, the vicar from 1824 to 1867.

In 1974, when the foundations for the new school were being taken out, four Roman sherds were uncovered. (Cran 1983:8)

The school area is within the original enclosure surrounding the minster church - a square, possibly of early medieval origin, with rhines as boundaries.



Fig 2: 1839 Map. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office (BRO37959/9)

Survey objectives

The survey had the following objectives.

- 1) To identify any archaeological features.
- 2) To use the survey to further train YCCCART members and members of Community Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) in the use of the Bartington Gradiometer 601.

Methodology

The survey was undertaken on 27 May 2010 by a YCCCART team using a Bartington Gradiometer 601, with settings as per the site record in Appendix 1.

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

```
Processes:      4
 1  Base Layer
 2  Clip at 2.00 SD
 3  Despike Threshold: 1 Window size: 3x3
 4  DeStripe Median Traverse: Grids: All
```

The base layer adjustments were Band Weight Equaliser and Grad Shade

The report was written in Microsoft Word 2003.

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

Results

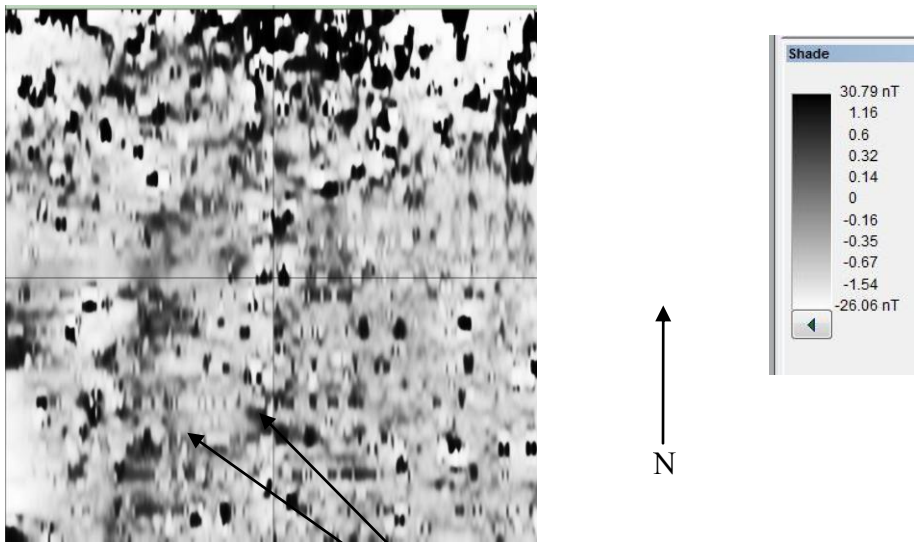


Fig 3: Shade view

Grids 2 & 4 contain a circular feature

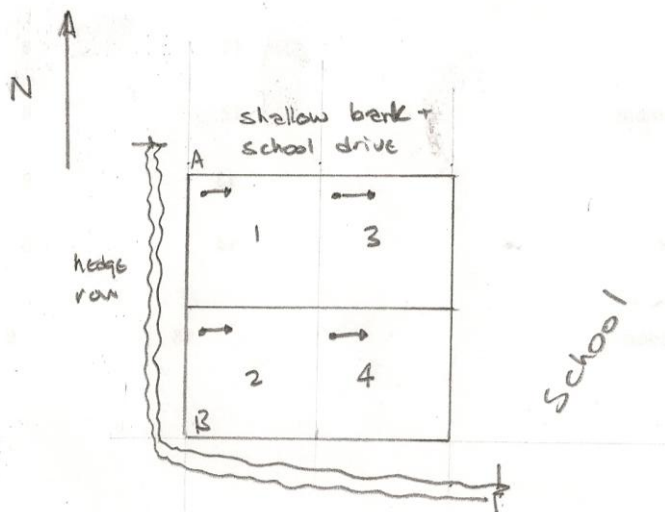
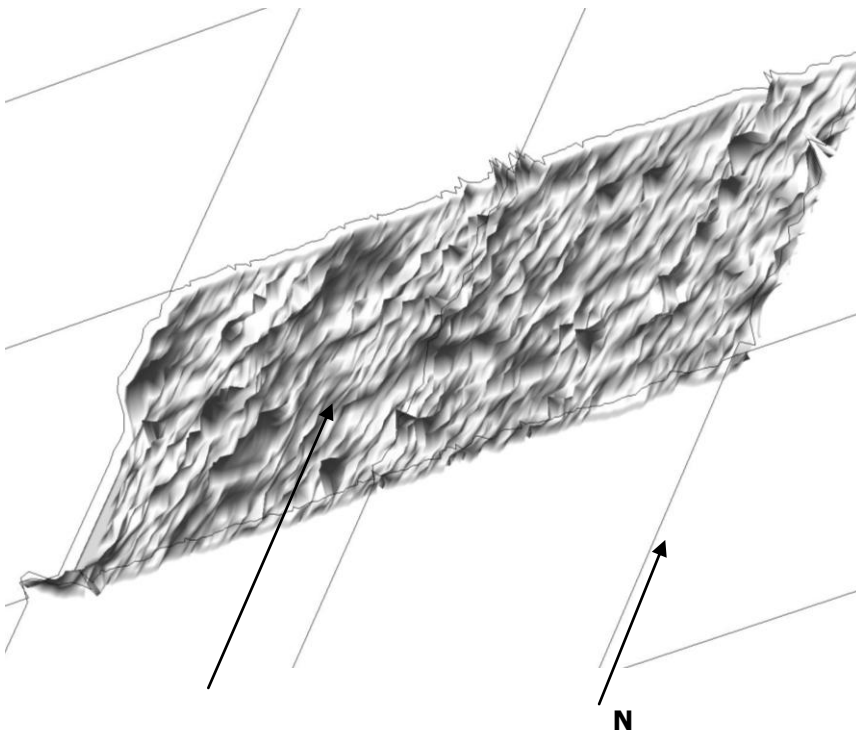


Fig 4: Survey plan



Fig 4: Shade view of Grids 2 & 4



Circular feature

Fig 5: Axonometric view grids 2 & 4

The shade and axonometric views in figures 6 and 7 highlight the circular feature.

Recommendations for further work

The interesting and unexpected circular feature is worthy of investigation by further geophysical techniques.

It is recommended that a resistivity survey is undertaken *and / or* a pseudo section produced of the targeted feature.

References

Extract from Congresbury Tithe Map

BRO37959/9

Alex S Cran

The *Story of Congresbury* 1983.
Redcliffe Press Ltd
ISBN 0 905459 75 X

Authors. Ian Morton & Chris Short.

Date. June 2010

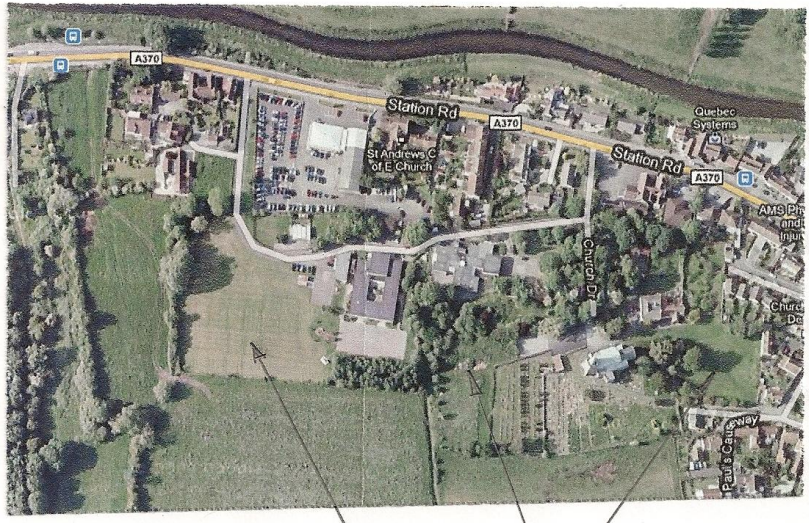
Appendix

Site record

YCCART Site Survey Project – Church and School Environs			
Survey date	27 th May 2010		
Report date	27 th May 2010		
Type /Instrument	Grad 601		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Pace :1.5m/s Lines/m : 1 Range:100nT Volume: High Sensors:2</td> <td>Grid size: 30m x30m Pattern : Zig Zag Samples/m:4 Audio: On Threshold:1nT Reject:50 Hz</td> </tr> </table>	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
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	Station Road/Church Drive, Congresbury		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>A = 51°21'14" ST343299E 163824N see also setting out diagrams page 2</td> <td>B = 51°21'12" ST343295E163763N" see also setting out diagrams page 2</td> </tr> </table>	A = 51°21'14" ST343299E 163824N see also setting out diagrams page 2	B = 51°21'12" ST343295E163763N" see also setting out diagrams page 2
A = 51°21'14" ST343299E 163824N see also setting out diagrams page 2	B = 51°21'12" ST343295E163763N" see also setting out diagrams page 2		
Ref	none		
Site name	Playing field adjacent to school		
Landowner	St Andrews' School		
Tenant			
HER ref			
Site type	Open field		
Description	Grass		
Period	Unknown		
Geology	Limestone		
Land use	Playing field		
Survey team	Peter Wright, Dave long & Ian Morton and assistance from pupils of St Andrew's School		

Survey area		notes		readings		
		size	walk direction	max	min	mean
Grid ref #	1	30 x 30m	E	+100.0	-100.0	+3.4
	2	30 x 30m	E	+67.0	-25.4	+3.2
	3	30 x 30m	E	+100.0	-100.0	+0.1
	4	30 x 30m	E	+86.3	-12.5	+2.8
Summary		4 # grids completed Weather: warm and dry Survey completed				
Ian Morton 10/08/2010		Version 1.1				

Setting out details



survey area

related surveys
06/05/10
13/05/10

