

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY 1974-75

EDITED BY M. ASTON

Many changes have taken place in the archaeology of Somerset in recent times. Changes in organization, technique and emphasis, together with increased knowledge of various periods and types of site and finds, are all developing apace. CRAAGS, the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset was established in 1973 and developed rapidly in 1974-75 as a committee of CBA Group 13 receiving the Central Government grants for rescue excavation and survey for the area. In 1974 Somerset County Council appointed a field archaeologist to its County Planning Department, and with a change in director at the Somerset County Museum in 1974 a number of new staff were appointed including assistant keepers of Archaeology, Rural Life and Conservation. Elsewhere local archaeological societies and part-time archaeologists and local historians continue to work on parish surveys and various field-work projects.

With such diverse activities it has been felt for some time that an annual report of activities is needed—an assessment of what work is going on and what is being found. For some while such an annual report has existed in the *Archaeological Review*, edited by Peter Fowler of the Bristol University Extra-Mural Department. Although there have been occasional general items, *Archaeological Review* has been concerned principally with reporting annually on excavations, fieldwork, chance finds and museum acquisitions. At the time of writing (July 1976) the future of *Archaeological Review* seems unclear and the difficulty of recruiting an editor and problems of format and marketing have not yet been solved. Since 1967 7 issues have been produced covering the large area within CBA Groups 12 and 13 (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire).

Some sort of annual appraisal is however still needed. The County Planning Department now has an embryonic Sites and Structures Record which is capable of acting as a site index for the whole county and there are facilities for deposition of archaeological archive material in the Society's rooms and in the Local History Library. The Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division has recently decided to continue its national non-intensive survey of antiquities and a reciprocal arrangement for the passing of archaeological information has been established between most counties and staff of the Ordnance Survey. Similarly with an increase in Parish Survey work in the county there is a need for a reporting vehicle for new sites and finds which have been located and for information on sites which are already known to exist in the areas under study. In each case an annual report of archaeological activity should provide a basis.

This first annual report of archaeological activity covers the years 1974 and 1975 and is intended very much as an outline of what is intended in future years. Some of the information collected here is already nearly 3 years old and it is perhaps inevitable that memories (and notes!) will have faded. Also, as can be seen in these Proceedings and in publications elsewhere, much of the activity of 1974 and 1975 is already being fully reported. In future years it is hoped that plans and illustrations can be included to provide a more comprehensive survey.

In 1974 as a result of the Local Government Act, Somerset was partitioned and the northern area was included in the new county of Avon. In order to cover the old county of Somerset, Mick Aston has compiled information for new Somerset and Bob Isles in future will cover the area of old north Somerset now in Avon. Many projects are not confined to any particular calendar or financial year and hence in this account it has not been possible in some cases to sub-divide activities in 1974 from 1975. Any

suggestions for improvement or additions to this type of annual survey would be very welcome. Such comments should be addressed to Mick Aston at the County Planning Department, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset.

PREHISTORIC

1974

Westbury sub Mendip ST 505505

Middle Pleistocene deposits in a quarry above Westbury yielded flints which posed problems in the local geological context. Some of the flints showed signs of having been worked by man and as such they may be artifacts (identification by Dr. Kenneth Oakley). The flint bearing layers contain a rich mammalian fauna of Cromerian age (400,000—500,000 years before present), which suggests that the artifacts may mark the earliest record to date of man's presence in Britain. Contemporary deposits lie disturbed in the base of the quarry but it is hoped to carry out further investigations. (Report by Mike Bishop, 'Earliest record of man's presence in Britain', *Nature* Vol. 253, No. 5487 (January 10th 1975), pp 95-97.)

Milverton ST 11942673

Three bronze axes were found during construction of the Milverton by-pass road. (S. Minnitt, 'Early Bronze Age Hoard from Milverton, Somerset', *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 118 (1975), p. 51)

Taunton High Street

During excavations on the site of No. 1 High Street finds of flint and chert implements, iron slag and a sherd of a biconical vessel of Iron Age type suggest prehistoric occupation on the site of the later town. (Julian Bennett)

1975

Stratton on the Fosse ST 655498

Members of the Archaeological Society of Downside Abbey School under the direction of Father Philip Jebb have carried out a survey of a possible henge monument revealed on air pictures as a cropmark. (Dom. P. Jebb)

Exmoor Five Barrows

Miss Erdley Wilmott and members of the Exmoor Society relocated a stone row, known historically as The White Ladder, near to the Five Barrows barrow group. (Miss E. Wilmott)

Wambrook

Roger Carter, Mary Parmiter and members of the Chard History Group have completed work on the parish survey of Wambrook. The following new prehistoric(?) sites have been discovered:-

Higher Wambrook ST 293088

A low mound, probably a barrow — based on Anglo-Saxon charter evidence — found in a ploughed field (this has since been scheduled as Somerset AM 425).

Wortheal ST 273084

A circular earthwork enclosure with a ditch outside a low rampart was discovered. The south and east quadrants are complete but much of the rest is ploughed out. It bears a close resemblance to the hill slope enclosures of the South West.

There is some evidence around this 'fort' and the present farm of Wortheal for a 'celtic' field system of small rectangular and embanked fields, largely overlain by a later system with massive earth and stone field banks. (R. Carter)

Ashbrittle ST 052214

To the south of the church, now largely of 19th-century date on the site of an earlier church, is a barrow-like mound surmounted by a yew tree. (M. Aston)

THE SOMERSET LEVELS PROJECT

The Excavations in the Levels during the main season of work in 1974 began with the aim of combining rescue operations on a number of sites with research investigations on several important areas. The work was financed by the Department of the Environment (rescue operations), the Maltwood Fund and the Crowther-Beynon Fund (research investigations). In the event, the unprecedented amount of peat extraction in the area led to far greater emphasis on rescue than was anticipated; nevertheless, some of the research work was continued, and promising results emerged. Major sites excavated included Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age structures in the peat: ten such sites were fully explored. In addition, fieldwork and preliminary excavation were carried out on Mesolithic and Neolithic sites. Fully 150 excavations were completed on one additional site of vast character and extent, in an area undergoing rapid destruction. The work began in late June and continued until 31st March with full-time observers and excavators, under the supervision of Project members John Coles, Bryony Orme and Alan Hibbert.

Studies of pollen and peat continue to be made in Liverpool, and new studies were initiated on tree-ring counts in Sheffield, beetle remains in Birmingham, and wood identifications in Liverpool and Exeter.

The excavations completed include the Sweet track in two areas, a long stretch of the Abbot's Way, and other Neolithic tracks; in addition, entirely new aspects of ancient wood-working have been revealed by excavations on Bronze Age structures in five areas. Further work was carried out on the Baker terminal, and limited work on other sites of the third millennium BC. Publication of four of these sites appeared in the *Somerset Levels Papers*, 1 (1975).

Excavations in the Levels in 1975 were financed by the department of the Environment, the Maltwood Fund, and the Crowther-Beynon Fund of the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology; other assistance was provided by the University of Exeter. The seasons of work were March, June-July, September, October and December, and almost 100 volunteers took part in the programme. Five main sites were examined, but there were numerous other small excavations carried out over the year. The main sites were Meare Lake (1000 bc), Tinney's (1100 bc), Walton (2200 bc), Garvin's (2400 bc), and Sweet Railway (3200 bc). Very large quantities of unique prehistoric timber were recovered from these sites, and the range both in date and in character is exceptional. Fieldwork associated with the excavations went on throughout the year, with a permanent Project representative in the Levels, and this resulted in new discoveries and contacts. Post-excavation work was financed by the Department of the Environment and the Natural Environment Research Council; the major programmes were dendrochronological studies, research on fossil coleoptera, and pollen analyses. Conservation laboratories were set up in the Levels, and further conservation was undertaken in Cambridge and Taunton museums. The bulk of prehistoric wood was delivered to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland for preservation and return. The Project employed seven specialists for post-excavation and conservation work in 1975.

Material conserved over the past several years was put on display in the Tribunal museum, Glastonbury, the exhibition being prepared by Project members. *Somerset Levels Papers 1* has been reprinted and *Somerset Levels Papers 2*, with reports on other recent excavations, including 1975 work, appeared in March 1976,

and both are available from the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, or the Department of History, University of Exeter, price £1.80.

The Project is grateful to its supporting bodies, to its staff and volunteer workers, and to the peat companies concerned with the excavations, for continued assistance. It has been designated by the Department of the Environment as a Project of National Importance. (J. Coles, B. Orme)

ROMAN

1974

Ilchester Kingshams Field ST 523227

Large scale excavations were carried out under the direction of Peter Leach for CRAAGS on part of the Roman town at Ilchester which was due to be built over. Evidence for the Roman town wall, street pattern and some internal buildings was recovered. (P. Leach, 'Ilchester 1974', *CRAAGS Interim Report 3*.)

Ansford Churchfields ST 640328

Development of a housing estate at Churchfields (Fd. No. 189) is being watched over by members of S.E.S.A.S. Features and a quantity of pottery including samian, black burnished and New Forest ware suggest a small R/B settlement lying on a gentle S.W. slope, possibly occupied continuously from 1st to 4th centuries AD. It is intended that a detailed report be published in due course. (R. M. Keynes)

1975

Huish Episcopi Wearne ST 428278

Romano-British features were observed in the trench cut for a sewer-pipe. (R. Leech — see report in these Proceedings.)

Ilchester Ilchester By-Pass ST 518225

Large scale excavations were carried out under the direction of Peter Leach for CRAAGS on part of the suburbs of Roman Ilchester in advance of the construction of the link road to the by-pass. Extensive suburban buildings were found along the line of the Roman road with a later extensive cemetery (see P. Leach, *Rescuing Ilchester's Past*, CRAAGS 1975).

Stoke-sub-Hamdon Stanchester ST 482183

The extent of the Romano-British villa was noted after ploughing had brought much debris to the surface. A detailed survey is required.

Examination of the pottery from past excavations suggests that the villa dates from the 2nd century AD onwards. (R. Leech.)

Badgworth Quarrylands Lane ST 392517

Romano-British pottery probably associated with salt and/or pottery production was collected from trenches cut for field drains. (R. Leech.)

MIGRATION AND EARLY MEDIEVAL

1975

Lyng ST 335289

In advance of house building Peter Leach carried out excavations within the Saxon burh site at Lyng for CRAAGS (see D. Hill, *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 111, 1967). No finds or evidence for late Saxon occupation were found, suggesting either that the site had never been permanently occupied or that the area had been levelled with the destruction of earlier features. (P. Leach, 'East Lyng 1975', *CRAAGS Interim Report 1975*; and report in these Proceedings.)

MEDIEVAL

1974

Taunton High Street

Excavations by Julian Bennett on the site of No. 1 High Street located a pre-c.1220 stone building, rubbish pits of c.1220-1270 and a large timber structure of about 1300 which may have been a market hall.

Taunton 18 St. James Street

Excavations by Julian Bennett located medieval pits and gulleys sealed by late medieval floor levels and demolition debris. (J. Bennett, 'Taunton 1974', *CRAAGS Interim Report 2*)

Otterhampton Old Mill Mound ST 249439

Bulldozing of a mound 18 metres across and 2 metres high was observed. The site was regarded locally as a windmill mound. The core of the mound consisted of a heap of lias stones 2 metres high packed together with dark earth. 14th-century pottery was found closely associated with the stones and above them. A lias stone, grooved with circular depression, was removed. No timber was found but it appears likely that this was a post-mill of 14th-century date. (Madge Langdon)

Bridgwater Mount Street ST 29453700

The town ditch was revealed when topsoil was removed and a drain dug across the Classic Cinema car park in Mount Street. A 14 metres wide stretch of dark earth was found to be at least 4-5 metres deep cut into Keuper Marl. (Madge Langdon)

Stogursey Castle ST203426

A casual field survey indicated that the present water system to and from the castle moat was probably of medieval origin. (Mick Aston)

Old Cleeve Cleeve Abbey ST 047407

The precinct was examined in view of a threat from a proposed by-pass around Washford. The precinct wall and bank survives almost entirely with clear fishponds and other earthworks around the abbey buildings. (Mick Aston)

Maperton Shrunken Village ST 675263

Earthworks, including house platforms, holloways and boundary ditches were examined, east of the present village. (Mick Aston)

Yarlington Woolston ST 655275

Earthwork platforms and boundary banks seems to indicate a deserted medieval settlement in this area, probably of Lower Woolston. (Mick Aston)

Yarlington ST 655293

Earthworks around the church indicate a probable moated or castle site with the church included. Part of the moat has been infilled. (Mary Whitfeld)

Lamyatt shrunken village ST 652358

Earthworks to the south-west of the village, of house platforms, crofts, holloways and boundary banks suggest that the village was once larger and on a different alignment from the present one. (Mick Aston)

Minehead Without Burgundy Chapel SS 948482

After clearance by a fire, the present 15th-century chapel remains were noted to lie in a roughly rectangular enclosure on the west side of the stream. (Mick Aston)

Glastonbury Abbey Precinct Wall ST 502389

Proposals to widen Silver Street necessitated a re-examination of the wall east of the car park. At least $\frac{2}{3}$ of this wall has medieval lower courses intact, including a rough stone plinth; the buttress and doorway are, however, probably of 19th-century date. (Mick Aston)

1975

Butleigh ST 507335

Earthworks and ruins of buildings including a rectangular house and a circular dovecote of an unrecorded deserted medieval settlement were surveyed as part of a Bristol University Extra-Mural Department course in November 1975 under the direction of Roger Leech.

Meare ST 458417

Earthworks, some possibly of former fishponds in the same field as the Abbot's Fish House were surveyed as part of a Bristol University Extra-Mural Department course under the direction of Roger Leech in November 1975.

Butleigh Carvyle House ST 578332

A possible fishpond with dam was noted by Roger Leech in May 1975.

Glastonbury Abbey(?) Drain ST 498387

In February 1975 during alterations to a shop (No. 8 on the west side of Magdalene Street) a large stone-built drain was uncovered. It was aligned east-west leaving the Abbey precinct near the present town hall towards St. Benedicts. Nearby, the road is said to have subsided in the past. (Mick Aston)

Middlezoy ST 375332

During trench digging for a sewerage scheme in the village in July 1975 workmen located three human burials. Little could be gained concerning the orientation and date of the remains but it seemed that the churchyard had once extended further north over where there is now a holloway. (Mick Aston)

Westbury sub Mendip

Fieldwork by Chris Hawkes in connection with a parish survey of Westbury has revealed the following sites:—

Westbury Park ST 485483

The large stone-filled bank and internal ditch of an extensive medieval deer park was located and traced for about a mile.

Lodge Hill ST 492483

Several earthwork platforms have been found, possibly connected with a lodge in the medieval park.

Eastfield ST 510494

Extensive areas of lynched strip fields have been noted but not yet surveyed north-east of the village.

Marston Magna Church ST 593223

Herringbone masonry in the north wall of the chancel, mentioned by Pevsner, was seen to be cut by, and therefore earlier than, Norman windows. (Mick Aston)

Hatch Beauchamp Castle(?) ST 306213

Attempts to locate the crenellated manor house site by field inspection failed to locate any earthworks or structures which may have been associated with the site. (Mick Aston)

Somerton Hurcott ST 503300

The exposed foundations of medieval buildings were noted—a survey is urgently needed. (R. Leech)

Stogursey Fairfield ST 190430

There were no earthworks or scatters of pottery on this deserted hamlet and church site mentioned by Collinson. (Mick Aston)

Holford Doddington ST 175405

Extensive village-like earthworks with platforms and holloways were noted to the east of the farm and manor house. (Mick Aston)

North Petherton ST 289330

In March 1975 an area adjacent to the church was excavated under the direction of Peter Leach for CRAAGS. Much of the area was used by a cemetery in the early medieval period. Before that a lime burning pit had been used, possibly in connection with the building of a stone church. Above the burials a series of tenements were successively developed from the medieval period to their recent demolition. (P. Leach, 'North Petherton 1975', *CRAAGS Interim Report*, 1975.)

A number of new sites and areas of archaeological interest have been located during the compilation of the report on *Historic Towns in Somerset* (by M. Aston and R. Leech):—

North Curry Newport ST 317235

A number of earthwork platforms and enclosure banks as well as ploughed-out features were noted on the site of this abortive town.

Bruton ST 686345

A number of previously unrecorded earthworks within the abbey precinct were noted, including enclosure banks and ditches and a flight of three fishponds.

POST-MEDIEVAL

1974

Ruishton Henlade ST 273234

To the north of Henlade House a series of stone-built drains was located during the planting of raspberry canes. There is a local tradition of an Elizabethan mansion in this area. (Mick Aston)

Selworthy Hurlstone Point SS 899492

A small earthwork was located overlooking the beach which was probably the beginnings of a fort intended to have been built here in the 1550s. (D. J. Stevens)

Taunton Kennedy's Yard

Excavations were carried out by Terry Pearson for the Taunton Research and Excavation Committee. Much post-medieval evidence was recovered including useful pottery groups. (J. Bennett, 'Taunton 1974', *CRAAGS Interim Report 2*, 1974.)

1975

Brean Brean Down Fort ST 280593

This fort was examined and a report written in connection with future plans for the site. The fort was built in 1866 and is, in new Somerset, the only substantial coastal defence work. Several of the 19th-century gun positions remain as well as World War II gun emplacements, and the original buildings are largely intact. (Mick Aston)

Westbury sub Mendip ST 479486

During field work for a parish survey unusual earthworks were located in a field adjacent to the edge of the Levels. The site probably represents a duck decoy of 16th or 17th-century date, built when the Levels were still flooded for considerable periods. (Chris Hawkes)

Trull Comeytrowe ST 206235

Local knowledge and a partial survey disclosed that in an area of earthworks, about to be built over, were the remains of a World War II searchlight and anti-aircraft battery. (Mick Aston and Norman Quinnell)

Bridgwater West Quay ST 300373

Sewerage works involved digging a trench 2 m wide, 3-4 m deep and 120 m long along West Quay, 2 m behind the present Quay wall. Walls and stone features were observed and 17th — 18th-century pottery was found. Differing styles of construction and mortar indicate different dates for the walls and, although the castle bordered the river at this point, most of the walls probably belong to a later quay. (M. Langdon)

CROPMARKS

1975 was an exceptional year for cropmarks with a long period of drought in the summer before harvesting. A number of new sites were discovered and more learned about existing sites. (R. Leech) (It is hoped to publish a full list of sites in the next volume of Proceedings.)

No doubt other sites could have been recorded if adequate funds and facilities had been arranged beforehand to recover such ephemeral evidence.

M5 MOTORWAY

The main activity of the M5 Research Committee in 1974 and 1975 concerned the section from West Buckland westwards to the county boundary with Devon near Sampford Moor.

Sampford Arundel Devon County Boundary ST 10521752. Bank and ditch.

A bank 2 m high and 3.5 m wide at base, with ditch on Somerset side, was sectioned to show an internal laid-chert layer and revetting. The hedge species count was lower than that of farm boundaries in the parish.

Sampford Arundel Chalcotts ST 10701760. Deserted post-medieval settlement.

Map evidence shows a series of buildings since 1809; these were located with associated post-medieval pottery, a stone-floored ditch and garden cultivation ridge. The remains of an open-sided cattle shed, a possible former cottage, and parts of two floors, one cobbled, one mortared, were recorded.

Sampford Arundel Wellington Without. Parish boundary ST 11951805. Bank and ditch.

A bank over 1 m high and 4.5 m broad at base was sectioned. An early bank, with medieval pot, had been added to by a layer of clay and chert revetment. A ditch was found on the east side and an old track lay along the west side. An Anglo-Saxon Charter and a hedge species count point to an early origin.

Wellington Without Hangeridge Farm ST 12041813. R/B occupation.

On a south-east facing slope, at 150 m O.D., an occupation layer, extending 50 m along motorway and into the field to the north, yielded a quantity of abraded coarse R/B sherds.

Wellington Without Maylands Road ST 143188. R/B site.

R/B homestead site defined by a sub-circular perimeter ditch of about 100 m diameter enclosing a complex of paddocks and a possible corn drier. Domestic debris indicated a fairly substantial building. (C. F. Clements)

Wellington Without Phillips Mead ST 122182. Medieval occupation.

A layer of laid chert, incorporating early medieval pottery, was found under a mound at the edge of a clay pit north of M5. Twenty-five meters due south, on M5 cutting, a linear feature was recorded with early medieval sherds in the occupation debris, and a charcoal-filled possible timber slot, half a metre below ground level, was excavated.

Wellington Without Wrangway ST 12301822. Post-medieval settlement and pottery complex.

Within the present village the remains of four deserted buildings were recorded. One, a rectangular masonry structure with drain and internal post holes, was excavated. Two pits filled with pottery wasters lay adjacent, and another was excavated in the adjoining field in 1973. A general scatter of pot and wasters, together with slag and glazed pebbles, was found on fields and in hedgebanks over a fairly wide area. The fine and coarse ware, of the late 17th century, shows decoration similar to that at Donyatt and Nether Stowey. The kiln was not located but may be close by. Three very deep clay pits lie in and near the village.

Wellington Without Woodford Farm ST 12631828. Early medieval and R/B settlement.

Excavation of existing earthworks, a bank and ditch leading to a stream in Sheepwash Orchard, revealed a stone-faced bank containing sherds of early medieval pottery, overlying a large deposit of iron slag. A buried ditch containing abundant R/B pottery and large slabs of chert drained for over 23 m into the stream, and suggested nearby settlement on the hill at about 120 m O.D. (M5 Research Group)

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

The modern interest in vernacular architecture dates from the late 19th century but early research was confined to areas other than Somerset. The Vernacular Architecture Group was formed in 1954 with the object of bringing investigators together and providing the means of comparing constructional methods in each other's regions. This informal study group enables the scattered and diverse interests of architects, archaeologists, historians and museum curators to be co-ordinated. The membership includes many part-time people actively engaged in research into vernacular buildings who can supplement the work of full-time workers. This is most necessary if the vast number of old buildings, which far exceed what full-time workers alone can tackle, are to be studied and recorded before they are altered or lost owing to modern development and the ravages of time.

This is especially so in Somerset where until comparatively recently little extensive research had been undertaken, and where it has been shown that the full architectural interest of many houses is often not apparent externally. The detailed internal examination necessary before the architectural history of a building can be fully understood is very time-consuming and can only be done with help from those who know their own district and, what is more, can introduce researchers to the owners of potentially interesting houses. The field work which Sir Robert Hall pioneered many years ago is being continued by other members of the V.A.G. of whom there are now five in Somerset. They can be contacted through the Somerset Archaeological Society, and should be consulted by anyone making new discoveries to ensure full co-ordination of all records and to enable a full and correct assessment to be made of a building's layout and construction in the light of existing knowledge.

The following broadly indicate some of the results so far achieved:—

(a) Since Sir Cyril Fox published the first record of a jointed cruck in Somerset at Wootton Courtenay in 1950 the number had risen to 179 buildings by April 1973 and by March 1976 had reached approximately 227; in addition 37 true crucks and 8 base cruck buildings are now recorded. (For definitions of these types see *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 114 (1970), 50 et seq.)

(b) Since Sir Robert Hall published a list of 18 bacon curing chambers in 1971, the number recorded has risen to over 100, and a sequence of development can now be traced from a simple open hanging area on one side of the wide early fireplaces through intermediate stages to the final fully enclosed chamber.

(c) Within the last 2 or 3 years examination of a number of early brick houses has established that bricks were being used in Somerset from the mid-17th century onwards, a conclusion supported by several documentary sources. The earliest dated buildings are the Gray's Almshouses (1635) and the stable block at Barrington Court (1674), and the earliest documentary reference is of 1652 at Hinton House. (There is also a reference to a 'stock of bricks' in Taunton in 1646: *Proceedings*, 119, p. 18. Some half dozen lesser houses in adjacent areas can be attributed to the mid/late 17th century; the earliest dated small house is 1703 in Ilton.

(d) The number of buildings of which detailed records are now (April 1976) deposited in the Somerset Record Office is 440. Where such numbers are involved, to which further additions are constantly being made, it is impossible to mention specific cases in this brief summary. Those interested should consult the Record Office files which are grouped by parishes within the old Rural Districts. This system has been retained since it provides a direct reference to be made in the cases of Listed Buildings to the existing Ministry of Housing and Local Government List of Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest.

It has become apparent that many houses which examination has shown to be worthy of record are not listed, and that many others are considerably older than the date attributed in the MHLG lists, which are almost entirely based on external appearance only. Three recent examples are an apparent Victorian house in Alhampton which contains considerable remains of its open jointed-cruck medieval hall, two cottages in a row at Wincanton which originally were a single house of cruck construction, and a farmhouse near Shepton Mallet with an exceptionally fine medieval true-cruck hall in which a fireplace had been inserted at an unusually early date.

It is now clear that the 'Great Rebuilding' of the 16th/17th centuries in Somerset usually involved modernizing an existing medieval house rather than building a completely new one, although further research is necessary to establish the full extent of this in the extreme east and west parts of the county and to the north of the Poldens. Opportunities to examine more houses in these areas, and especially in Avon where scarcely any research has so far been done, will be welcomed. (Commander E. H. D. Williams)

Ron Gilson has recorded a number of buildings as part of the above activities including houses in Hinton St. George*, Dinnington*, Hardington Mandeville*, East Coker*, West Hatch*, South Petherton, Over Stratton*, Beercrocombe*, East and West Lambrook*, Dowlish Wake*, West Crewkerne*, Woolavington*, Wambrook*, Winsham, Monacute*, Ash, Ubley, Wrantage and Chillington (* denotes two buildings or more).

Mark McDermott has been recording buildings in the parishes of Brompton Ralph, Charlinch, Langford Budville, Lydeard St. Lawrence, Norton Fitzwarren, Old Cleeve, Pitminster and Spaxton.

1974

Milverton Rocklyn

Wall paintings of probable 16th or 17th-century date have been recorded in the fireplace of a room in this house.

1975

Trull parish

Jean Storey carried out a study of buildings in Trull, recording with Commander Williams a number of previously unrecognized early buildings.

Croscombe Old Manor House ST 592444

Extensive restoration of this 14th-century manor house which was later a baptist chapel was undertaken for the Landmark Trust. Excavations were carried out alongside by Ann and Bob Everton in order to record now-demolished sections of the original building.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

A great deal of work has been carried out over the last few years in the new study of Industrial Archaeology and the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society's members have been very active in recording and documentary research. Their first *Journal of the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society* appeared in 1975 and contains much of interest to readers of this section.

1974

Shipham Singing River Mine ST 444573

At least 3000 feet of this mine have now been examined. It was a calamine mine in the late 18th and 19th centuries and was later used as a reservoir. Plans and sections have been made by members working for the Council of Southern Caving Clubs. (Mick Aston)

1975

Taunton Tancred Street

Preliminary investigations have been carried out in advance of possible redevelopment of the tannery. It is hoped to make a complete survey.

Glastonbury Chain Gate Mill ST 499387

Preliminary investigations have been carried out in advance of redevelopment of the mill site for housing. It is hoped that a complete survey can be made.

Hillfarrance Malthouse ST 165247

A preliminary examination was carried out but no features of interest in the malthouse were found. (I. Miles)

Bridgwater Northgate Glass Cone ST 298375

A preliminary examination of the base of the 18th-century glass cone built by Lord Chandos has been carried out in the face of redevelopment of the site. It is hoped to excavate the remains in 1976 and display them within the development for the public to see.

Mells Fussells Ironworks ST 738489

Excavations of this 18th-19th century iron works have continued under the direction of John Cornwell for the Bristol Industrial Archaeology Society. It is hoped to conserve and display the ruins.

Bridgwater Barham Bros. Brickworks ST 300377

Madge Langdon has made a photographic record of these works prior to their uncertain future. One of the last three remaining conical brick kilns has been measured and drawn in detail by Martyn Brown and Mr. B. Gregson. (M. Brown)

Muchelney Tollhouse ST 429251

A full survey and record has been made by members of the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society of this tollhouse which is in poor condition.

Mark Mark Causeway, Foundry Garage and Agricultural Machinery Shop ST 355475 and ST 382478.

These were the original sites of Messrs. Day & Wensley's foundries, established about 1850. Albert Day produced a wide range of agricultural tools and machinery including cheese presses and apple mills for crushing cider apples. Many of the firm's products can be identified from their crest which was the result of an exhibition in London around 1870 when their patent all-metal manure cart received Royal patronage. The above sites have been photographed and recorded, early catalogues collected and Mr. Wensley (the manager 1922-50) interviewed. (M. Brown)

Sharpham Duck Decoy Pool ST 463383

The pool has been photographed and measured and local residents interviewed to discover the techniques of duck decoying. (M. Brown)

West Coker Twine works ST 521134

G. H. Smith & Company Cordage Limited twine twisting and finishing works, engine house and other buildings dating from the 1830s have been recorded and photographed and interviews conducted with retired employees. (M. Brown)