

# SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY 1976

EDITED BY M. ASTON

It is pleasing to report that a great deal has been achieved in Somerset archaeology in 1976. Despite a general lack of funds, enthusiasm was not dampened and useful work has been undertaken on a range of sites over a wide time span—in fact from half a million years ago almost to the present day. Most important perhaps is the work being carried out at Westbury-sub-Mendip where the British Museum (Natural History) has begun to examine the cave deposits in the quarry. Of no less importance has been the excavation of a Mesolithic structure at Priddy and the continuing work on prehistoric trackways in the Somerset Levels. At the other end of the time scale the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society has continued to investigate sites generally of later date, capping this by the instructive excavation of the Chandos Glass Cone at Bridgwater. In between, useful work is at last emerging from a study of deserted settlements in the county.

As far as organization is concerned, there have also been achievements. CRAAGS, as the main full-time archaeological organization covering the county, has had to redefine its role and has opted not to undertake 'rescue' work in the sense of 'fire brigade' archaeology but to concentrate on problem-orientated excavations and field-work within the rescue situation. It is thus hoped to make maximum use of limited staff and resources to achieve meaningful archaeological results. Elsewhere the archaeologists in the planning departments of Avon and Somerset County Councils have been kept busy compiling Sites and Monuments Records and providing archaeological inputs to the Structure Plan and various Local Plans under preparation. It is essential that archaeology has a voice in these formative plan-making processes so that adequate safeguarding policies can be developed along with other conservation aspects of the plans and it is pleasing to report that archaeology is at last finding a meaningful role in these.

Local or part time involvement has tended to concentrate particularly on field work with extremely useful results beginning to emerge from the Parish Surveys now been undertaken over much of Somerset and South Avon. It is perhaps invidious to single out individual members, but Mr. Williams' extensive documentary research at Luxborough and the fieldwork of Roger Carter and others at Wambrook and Chris Hawkes and friends at Westbury-sub-Mendip should stand as an inspiration to others.

With the establishment of links with District Planning Departments, the opportunities to develop archaeological liaison with developers and the widespread interest in the local archaeology of a village or parish, it has been felt for some time now that there is room for a scheme of watching briefs to be established in the county. This could enable local groups to watch developments in their areas and, using planning information, thereby learn a very great deal about sites and finds made in the areas over a number of years. By the time these words are read it is hoped that such a scheme will be in a trial period. It can only be hoped that in future years the pages of this section of the *Proceedings* will be full of notes of new finds and discoveries made as a result of watching briefs carried out on one development scheme or another over the whole county by interested individuals and groups.

## PREHISTORIC

*Churchfields, Ansford ST 63853292 (Fig. 1)*

A Neolithic polished flint axe dating to the period 2000–3000+ B.C., and measuring 12 cm. by 5 cm. at its widest points was recovered by a J.C.B. driver excavating foundation trenches on a site at Churchfields, Ansford in March 1977. The find has been deposited in the Museum at Castle Cary. This is the same site where evidence of occupation between 1st–4th centuries A.D. has been found. Thanks are due to Mr. Stephen Minnitt for his assistance with the identification of the axe and Miss Pamela Pope for drawing it. (R. Keynes)

*Mount Pleasant, Beckington ST 815532 and 813531*

Scrapers and flint flakes found in ploughed field in January 1977 by John Prescott (finds in Taunton Museum).

*Rudge Hill, Beckington ST 822522*

Large numbers of waste flakes and some scrapers found in January 1977 in ploughed field by John Prescott (finds in Taunton Museum).

*White Row Farm, Beckington ST 809513*

Small quantity of waste flakes and a few scrapers found in ploughed field in January 1977 by John Prescott.

*West of village, Beckington ST 795513*

Two flint arrowheads found in mole hills in pasture field in January 1977 by John Prescott.

*East of village, Beckington ST 807579*

A scatter of flints from a ploughed field have been deposited at Taunton Museum. (John Prescott)

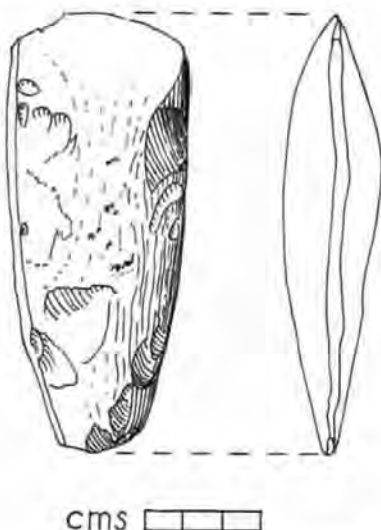
*Bratton Hill, Bratton Seymour ST 67162967 (Fig. 2)*

Fig. 1. Neolithic flint axe from Churchfields, Ansford.

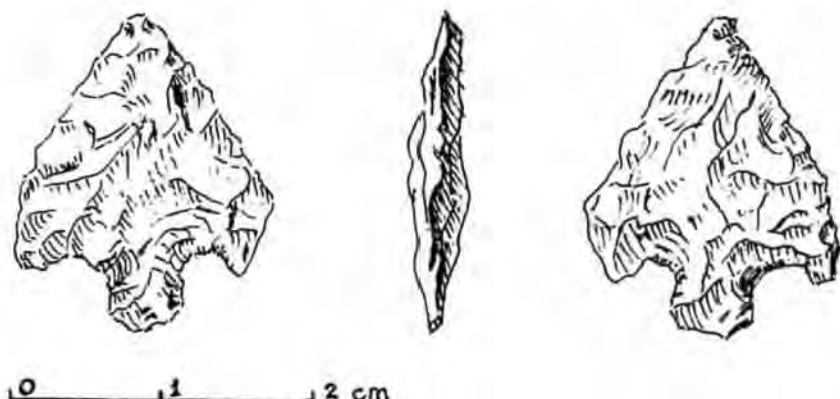


Fig. 2. Arrowhead from Bratton Seymour.

Mary Whitfeld reports the finding of a barbed and tanged arrowhead on a footpath.

*Bone Hole, Cheddar Gorge, Cheddar ST 480547*

Excavations have been carried out here by members of the Mendip Caving Group attempting to locate a cave entrance. Bones and flints have been found and a fine Bronze Age beaker which is at present in Wells Museum (see *Mendip Caving Group Journal* 1976). (N. Cook)

*Chewton Mendip ST 576516*

Chris Hawkes found a complete chipped flint axe with polished cutting edge in cleared ground at Long Wrangle Plantation in April 1977.

*North of village, Laverton ST 778535*

Scrapers and flint flakes found in ploughed field in October 1976 by John Prescott (finds in Taunton Museum).

*Luccombe Farm, Luccombe SS 813454*

Some years ago (?1972) Miss Partridge found a well-preserved Bronze Age palstave in a ploughed field. It is now on loan to Taunton Museum.

*Cumhill Farm, Pilton ST 589406*

Mr. Peeters found a fine early palstave (c. 1500 B.C.) on his farm on the edge of the Levels. (Wells Museum. Acc. No. 2581.) (N. Cook)

*Priddy ST 559496*

Chris Hawkes found part of a neolithic polished flint axe south of the henge monument, east of Hunters Lodge Inn in 1972.

*Charterhouse Warren Farm Swallet, Priddy*

Excavations by cavers since 1972 in the fill of this swallet have revealed a stratified sequence from the early Bronze Age to the Roman period. Bones of a variety of animals including man have been found together with a plano-convex flint knife or dagger, sherds of a decorated Bronze Age beaker, a halberd-shaped flint and a number of slate 'sponge fingers' similar to those published from Overton Hill Barrow, Wiltshire (*P.P.S.*, 1966, p. 130). (*Wessex Cave Club Journal* Vol. 14, 1976, p. 165.) (N. Cook)

*Lower Pitts Farm, Priddy ST 538502*

Excavation of a burnt mesolithic structure continued for two sessions in 1976. The structure itself seems to have been composed of a burnt, probably turf, roof which must have been supported by a light frame construction. This was situated over a natural depression, probably altered in shape by man. The feature extended along a natural limestone outcrop for about 7.5 metres. Its width was 3.5 metres. A few possible stone-packed stake holes are present, but at present their function in the support of the roof is not fully understood. The collapsed burning overlay a narrow spur of cobbling that protruded at right angles to the natural limestone ridge. This divided the underlying depression into two. All of this area remains only partially excavated under the burning. Both sides of the cobbling, however, yielded material remains such as flints and lithic specimens foreign to the immediate limestone area, suggesting the occupation continues downwards. A soil column was taken by the Soil Survey of England and Wales, Long Ashton Research Station. It unfortunately missed the thick burning of the roof, but does contain some of the redeposited 'Upper Nordrack' type of soil, which may have been thrown over the burning in an effort to stifle the fire.

The sparse nature of flint implements within the structure may be the result of the working floors being sited some distance from the houses.

A feature lying in the natural line of the stone outcrop adjacent to the northern part of the burnt structure was found under some small patches of burning. This shaft was excavated for only a metre, but every indication suggests that it continues downwards. Dr. D. Findlay of the Soil Survey believes the feature is entirely unnatural, but it awaits further excavation before an explanation can be offered.

The farmer deferred ploughing for a year because of the drought, and it is hoped that another season of excavation may resolve whether the spur of cobbling

divides the structure into two houses, and if so, whether a third house is present in the north extension, and lastly, what the feature in the stones may be. (Dr. Joan Taylor)

*Horrington Hill, St. Cuthbert Out* ST 579479

Fragments of a Bronze spearhead were found by a schoolboy, David Carter, near to where two complete Bronze Age spearheads were found some years ago. (Wells Museum. Acc. No. 2582.) (N. Cook)

*Rhinoceros Hole, Wookey, St. Cuthbert Out*

Work has finished on excavating this site with parts left unexcavated for the future. One implement was found of the Mousterian period. (Professor E. K. Tratman)

*Wookey Hole, St. Cuthbert Out*  
Chris Hawkes, Dr. Juliet Rogers and Professor Tratman have continued work on the cemetery in Wookey Hole 4. Publication is expected in 1978. (Professor E. K. Tratman)

*Dean's Lane, Selworthy* SS 92454675

Mr. D. Morcom reports a parch mark of a possible barrow showing up in summer 1976.

*Stratton on the Fosse* ST 655498

Trial excavations were carried out by Downside Abbey School Archaeological Society on a possible henge monument but no finds were made. (Dom. P. Jebb)

*Westbury-sub-Mendip* ST 505508

In the fields centred at this grid reference, Nicholas Hawkes has found numerous flints over the last few years including 6 scrapers, 8 blades, a saw, many flakes and a barbed and tanged arrowhead.

*Westbury-sub-Mendip* ST 497509

Chris Hawkes reports low earthen banks of a probable 'celtic' field system on the edge of the slope beyond the areas of 19th-century enclosure.

*Westbury-sub-Mendip* ST 505505

In 1976 a team from the British Museum (Natural History) carried out work on these cave deposits which may contain the earliest record of man's presence in England. The deposits are exposed on the precipitous north wall of Westbury limestone quarry, and the principal aims of the 1976 field work were to see if the site could be excavated safely and to check the stratigraphy. The central part of the stratigraphical sequence consists of bedded calcified cave breccias overlying water-laid sands and gravels, and a major effort was put into defining these beds and collecting the fauna in a stratigraphical context. Unfortunately the sequence obtained did not correspond exactly to that described by Bishop, presumably because of a lithological change due to proximity to the side wall of the cave. Stratigraphical work was concentrated on the west end of the exposures, at the so-called 'rodent earth', and later on the east end of the exposures. The stratigraphy is more complex than indicated by Bishop's (1974) preliminary results, and much of the confusion seems to result from the fact that the cave is exposed in a longitudinally oblique section on the quarry wall. The long axis of the cave seems to be nearly east-west, and the quarry face crosses it at an angle of approximately 20° (towards north-west to south-east).

Four excavations were begun. The main section was worked on throughout the period and it covered about 5 metres of the stratified sequence, from the top of the underlying sands and gravels to the place where the beds pinched out against the upper part of the north wall of the cave. Three one-metre sectors were dug, but nowhere did the excavation extend more than half a metre back into the face. Positions were recorded by reference to an east-west datum line, measurements being from the east end of the excavation. Heights were measured vertically down from the datum line. The beds were moderately easy to work, and, with safety precautions, presented no great hazard. The bones were in poor condition, often badly shattered, and there is little likelihood of obtaining complete specimens from this area. Two flints were found but there were no further traces of rotten flint as had been hoped. A rich fauna was obtained.

The second excavation was made in the 'rodent earth' to the west of the main section. Two discrete rodent layers were located and were extensively sampled. Preliminary analyses indicate that the fossiliferous layers form parts of two separate talus cones and have strikingly different bone element proportions. A step trench was dug down the western side of the rodent earth to locate the bottom end of the main rodent layer, and a section was cleaned out along a small gully on the eastern side of the rodent earth to determine the stratigraphy and in particular to locate the contact between the breccias of the rodent earth and the underlying sands and gravels. In the course of the section clearing a rich bone bed was found at the very bottom of the breccia sequence, and this was excavated in the second week.

This bone bed almost certainly represented a cave bear occupation level. Bear remains make up a very high proportion of identified specimens, and they include both postcranial and cranial elements. Some relatively complete specimens were found at this level, and it clearly has very great potential for future excavations. The fossiliferous deposits are immediately above the top of the sands and gravels unit, and although lithologically different the bones in them are very like those described by Bishop (1974) from beds in the equivalent stratigraphical position in the central part of the exposures. It seems very possible that, despite the change in lithology, the same beds (Bishop's beds 3-4) extend from the central section all the way to the west end of the quarry, and since these are the most richly fossiliferous beds that Bishop described it is very important that they should be well collected.

Finally a very small excavation was made in a pocket of coarse gravel in the underlying sands and gravel unit. The bones were heavily rolled and relatively uncommon.

*Conclusions:* as a result of this year's fieldwork it is now quite clear that it is possible to excavate the cave deposits at Westbury-sub-Mendip safely. It is hoped that excavations will continue over the next few years.

The following is a bibliography of works covering the deposits so far:

Heal: *Proc. Univ. of Bristol Speleol. Soc.*, 12 (1970), 135-136.

Sutcliffe: *Some Observations on the Westbury Bone Fissure* 1973, British Museum (Natural History)

Stanton: *Wessex Cave Club Journal*, 12 (1973), 289-293

Bishop: *Proc. Univ. of Bristol Speleol. Soc.*, 13 (1974), 301-318.

Bishop: *Nature*, 253 (1975), 95-97.

(Dr. Peter Andrews)

## THE SOMERSET LEVELS PROJECT

Archaeological work in the Somerset Levels in 1976 represented a departure from previous years' work. Greatly augmented fieldwork and post-excavation studies, mainly of an ecological nature, replaced excavation as major elements in the year.

The Project employed one Field Archaeologist from January to July 1976 and two from July to December. Policy in late 1976 involved the Project in conducting intensive fieldwork on the upland areas of the Poldens and the Wedmore Ridge, as well as on the islands within the peat, and this fieldwork is now intermeshed with the essential surveillance of the peat-cutting operations. As usual, generous co-operation was obtained from the peat-cutting companies in the area, in providing information about possible new discoveries and in allowing constant fieldwork and excavations.

Discoveries made during the course of this routine field programme included important observations at Tinney's Ground, Withy Bed Copse, Difford's, Blakeway, Stileway, Walton Heath, Ashcott Heath and Skinner's Wood. Most of these sites were investigated by a summer team of excavators and about ten small excavations were completed in the hot summer conditions, conditions which necessitated careful provision for the maintenance of wet wood undergoing exposure. All wooden artifacts retrieved for eventual conservation were stored in the Project's wet wood laboratory and were drawn by the team and others.



Major excavations in 1976 were restricted to two sites, Rowlands track on Ashcott Heath and a structure at Difford's on Meare Heath. The excavation of Rowland's track represented a successful excavation procedure devised to cope with the excessive heat of summer 1976. The details of this appear in the excavation report in *Somerset Levels Paper 3* (1977). The work at Difford's was completed in two sessions, one by the summer excavation team, the other in December 1976 when weather conditions were more amenable for the wood.

The Project was able to employ a Research Assistant to prepare plans for publication and to carry out data-processing on current and former excavated materials and records. A second Research Assistant was employed by the Project from October 1976 in order to begin detailed study of microscopic remains in the peat associated with prehistoric structures. Work on tree-ring studies and on beetle remains continued to supplement the archaeological and environmental data, and the Project also received a report on woodland management in the Levels. Reports on various aspects of all this work appear in *Paper 3*. Pollen analysis continued to be undertaken and radiocarbon dates of new discoveries were obtained: the latest list appears in *Paper 3*. Aerial photographs of relevant parts of the Levels were obtained and these are now being processed for the Project's purposes.

Conservation of the abundant wooden artifacts recovered from excavation in 1975 was undertaken in two batches by the Project. The larger was conserved by carbo-wax in a small make-shift laboratory in the Levels, by Project members. A report on this undertaking, and its measure of success, appears in *Paper 3*. The smaller batch of material was transported to the Research Laboratory, National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland; the first results of this acetone-rosin method were received by the Project in late 1976, and will be reported subsequently. Material from 1976 excavations was removed to Edinburgh in autumn 1976 for similar treatment.

A more major undertaking, the recovery and conservation of a complete Neolithic wooden hurdle, as well as smaller parts of other hurdles, is still in process. A further part-panel, this of the Bronze Age, was lifted for conservation in late summer 1976.

All conserved wooden artifacts are now held by the Project Team in its premises in the Levels, in Cambridge and in Exeter, and it is planned to make substantial contributions to new displays of prehistoric material in the County Museum, Taunton, as well as in other local and national museums.

A report on the excavation at the Meare Heath track (1974-75) was published in *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 1976; this included specialist contributions on pollen, tree-rings, and beetles, as well as archaeological description and comment. The track is the most substantial Bronze Age structure known in the Levels to date, and its examination by the Project allowed substantial alterations to previous assessments made by earlier workers who did not have the benefit of large area excavations. The major problem recognized through the Project's work here was the lowered water-table in this area which contributed and will continue to contribute, to the decay and eventual destruction of prehistoric wooden structures in the Levels.

*Somerset Levels Paper 3*, 1977, is now available, price £2.90 (inclusive of postage) from Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge or Department of History, University of Exeter.

The Project received its major financial assistance in 1976 from the Department of the Environment. Other generous financial encouragement was received from the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (Cambridge), from the University of Exeter, and from the Maltwood Fund.  
(J. Coles, B. Orme)

## ROMAN

*Churchfields, Ansford ST 640328*

A watching brief has been kept on this site being developed for housing. Air photographs taken in summer 1976 suggest that the site extends into the adjoining paddock belonging to the Old Parsonage. (J. and R. Keynes)

*Axe Valley; Cheddar, Rodney Stoke, Westbury and Wedmore parishes*

Richard McDonnell has located a number of earthworks of Roman date during fieldwork and examinations of the Axe valley from the A38 road south-eastwards to Wookey. At least half a dozen settlements have been located, mostly similar to sites already known for the Fens of East Anglia.

*South east of village, Beckington ST 805514*

Sherds of Samian ware and coarse Romano-British pottery found in August 1976 after stubble burning. To the west in a pasture field there is a platform  $40 \times 30$  m. To the south is a spring. (John Prescott)

*Newlands Farm, Beckington ST 808508*

Numerous sherds of Romano-British coarse pottery found by John Prescott in ploughed fields in October 1976.

*Newlands Farm, Beckington ST 806507*

In October 1976 during the digging of foundations for a farm building a quantity of Romano-British pottery and quantities of animal bone were found in buried ditches. The embankment was cut back and drawings and plans made of the sections exposed. (John Prescott)

*Standerwick, Beckington ST 816511*

Sherds of Samian ware and coarse Romano-British pottery were found in September 1976 by John Prescott.

*South of Charlton Farm, Hemington ST 763533*

A probable Roman Villa facing south has recently been scheduled (AM 478). John Prescott has found Roman tiles, and Romano-British pottery including Samian ware and a range of Romano-British coarse wares. The finds are in Taunton Museum. The site seems to be in a field system of which extensive traces remain.

*Dinnington, Hinton St. George ST 405135*

A Romano-British site here has been watched for a number of years because of surface finds of tesserae, roofing slates and pottery. Cropmarks were noted in 1976 and three small holes dug in the site. A number of coins have been found and also a small bronze dog. (R. Gilson)

*Bos House, Ilchester ST 523225*

In January 1976 a small excavation was carried out by members of the Ilchester District Archaeological Society prior to building work at Bos House. Pottery of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval date was recovered together with other finds of Roman date and 4 coins. The natural subsoil had not been reached at 3.28 metres. (W. Chapman)

*West of Peart Wood, Lullington ST 780547*

A parched rectangular area  $40 \times 20$  m. was observed in the drought of 1976. (John Prescott)

*Shawford, Rode ST 799532 and ST 803533*

Romano-British pottery including Samian ware and New Forest ware together with a Roman coin, a bronze 'strap', pieces of quern(?) stone and hammer stones were found at two centres in ploughed fields by John Prescott. Many sherds were abraded but the scatter probably represents a Romano-British settlement.

*Shapwick ST 403380*

Field names called Abchester on 18th-century maps were investigated by M. Aston and R. Leech for signs of Romano-British pottery. Most fields were pasture in this area and only very few sherds were found.

*Peart Farm, Tellisford ST 784348*

On the site of a Roman building John Prescott found numerous red and white tesserae and a spread of rubble with Romano-British coarse pottery and Oxford wares. Also a few pieces of Samian ware. All finds are now in Taunton Museum.

*Peart Farm, Tellisford ST 782547*

A low mound approximately  $30 \times 15$  m—no dating evidence. (John Prescott)

*Peart Farm, Tellisford ST 782547*

A large platform  $100 \times 80$  m with banks on two sides and rubble on the surface

in pasture field. No dating evidence was found. (John Prescott)

*Woolverton, Tellisford ST 786541*

During mechanical clearance of a ditch a large slab of stone was found with a decorated edge. No dating evidence was found. The stone is now in Taunton Museum. (John Prescott)

*Westbury-sub-Mendip ST 502488*

2 Roman coins were found in the summer of 1976 by Mr. Hill of The Square, Old Ditch, Westbury. Both were house of Constantine. Another was found some while ago in this area. (N. Cook)

## MIGRATION AND EARLY MEDIEVAL

*The Manor House, Barton St. David*

In 1975, as a pond was being dug in the grounds of the Manor House, Barton St. David, on a site formerly occupied by a cottage dating from before 1737, a small rectangular piece of fine-grained sandstone was found in the spoil heap. It was decorated with incised motifs on all faces. The decorations appear to be late Saxon and it has been suggested that this is a 'Trial Piece'. Alternatively it could be a modern copy. An account with illustrations has been published by the Wells Archaeological and Natural History Society. (N. Cook)

*Cannington, Cynwit Castle ST 247403*

Ian Burrow carried out a field survey of the earthworks south of Cynwit Castle hillfort. These seemed to indicate a field system of a small square fields which may well be of post-Roman date associated with the nearby cemetery.

*Langport ST 421267*

In November 1976 Roger Leech undertook trial excavations for CRAAGS in an open area on the hilltop within the suggested area of the Saxon burh in advance of housing development. The results were entirely negative.

*Penselwood*

Sherds of a 10th to 11th-century 'scratch-marked' ware cooking pot of Laverstock type were found in 1972 by Mr. T. Sheppard beneath the foundations of a 15th-century farmhouse. They have been deposited in Taunton Museum. (Terry Pearson)

## MEDIEVAL

*23 West Street, Axbridge*

Excavations by members of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society revealed evidence of probable land boundaries, dating to the 13th century at least, and early occupation beneath 2 metres of garden soil.

*Play Street, Bickenhall ST 283187*

During work on the Forest of Neroche by M. Aston and R. W. Dunning attention was drawn to a farm on the Tithe Map of 1840 which was no longer in existence. On the ground a large field has been ploughed revealing extensive traces of buildings, stone, slates and pottery of medieval and post-medieval date.

*Shircombe, Brompton Regis ST 935318*

Mr. White, the farmer, reports the removal of the base of a turf-built structure, possibly a cottage. A quantity of late and post-medieval pottery was found.

*Priory wall, Cannington ST 256395*

Prior to development for a health centre in Mill Lane a piece of walling was examined which contains a late medieval gateway. It seems likely that the wall represents the boundary of part of the medieval precinct of the Priory. (M. Aston)

*Charlton Horethorne*

The Rev. Robinson has drawn attention to a number of features of archaeological interest including earthworks in and around the village. Beneath the vicarage is a wide rock-cut well which bears little relationship to the present building (ST 665230). Earthworks at ST 666248 may represent the remains of a settlement locally thought to be of Roman date.



*Strip lynchets, Compton Dundon*

There are strip lynchets still in use at ST 496323. (J. Hardwick)

*Old Manor House, Croscombe ST 592444*

Ann and Bob Everton have now concluded the excavations carried out during alterations to the Manor House.

*Cudworth ST 378113*

Pottery scatter found by Mr. R. Willis associated with masonry and stream may indicate the site of a 13th/14th-century mill noted in V.C.H. Somerset Vol. IV (forthcoming). (Terry Pearson and Ann Ellison)

*Curry Mallet ST 333209*

Dr. Pitts reports earthworks near the church locally reputed to be the site of the old village. Foundations for a new rectory revealed buried stone walls and a few pieces of post-medieval pottery.

*No. 51 High Street, Glastonbury*

Foundation trenches for building development revealed pits containing c. 14th to 18th/19th-century pottery including some sherds of South-West French origin. (Terry Pearson)

*Chickwell Farm, Hemington ST 750543*

In March 1976 after ploughing, John Prescott observed medieval pottery and building rubble. The site has been levelled.

*Bineham City Deserted Village, Long Sutton ST 500250*

Jo Dowson has completed a survey of the earthworks, with contours, of the medieval village site. There are further house platforms of the site to the west (ST 494248).

*Peart Wood, Lullington ST 781546*

In an area  $30 \times 30$  m in a ploughed field John Prescott has found a large mound of rubble with early medieval pottery.

*Peart Wood, Lullington ST 780545*

In a ploughed area  $30 \times 20$  m quantities of rubble, large stones and early medieval pottery have been found. (John Prescott)

*Peart Wood, Lullington ST 783544*

An area of black soil with a spread of rubble and medieval pottery was observed by John Prescott.

*Shrunken Village, Maperton ST 675263*

Jo Dowson has begun a detailed survey of the earthworks with contours.

*Nether Adber, Mudford ST 579227*

Jo Dowson has completed a survey with contours of the earthworks including the area bulldozed in the last 10 years. The site is the best preserved village site in Somerset with house sites clearly visible (see p. 47).

*Barrow(?) deserted village Odcombe ST 508173 (Fig. 3)*

Following clearances of hedges and flattening of areas of ridge and furrow, Hugh Prudden drew attention to a field of earthworks locally reputed to be old quarry pits. A field visit and field survey with contours, by Jo Dowson, indicated however a well-preserved medieval village site with clear remains of holloways, low platforms, crofts and boundary bank all surrounded by further ridge and furrow and situated on a knoll above Wellhams Brook. Nothing is known of this settlement and even its name is doubtful. It does not appear to be connected with Lufton at all. On the Tithe Map for Odcombe the field is called Barrow's Orchard (Somerset County Record Office, D/D/Rt. 139) and in the 1327 Lay Subsidy a Richardo de Barrow is recorded in Odcombe (ed. F. H. Dickinson, 'Kirby's Quest for Somerset', *Somerset Record Society*, III (1889) p. 164). It is thus possible that the site was called Barry or Barrow but only further historical research will clarify this point. In October 1976 the site was bulldozed and flattened. Bill Chapman and others watched the site and pottery collected by them, Sian Rees, and Mick Aston, was identified by Terry Pearson as ranging from the 10th to the 14th centuries. (M. Aston)

*Strip lynchets, Stocklinch ST 388174*

Fieldwork undertaken for postgraduate research indicated that among

several flights of lynchets now disused are several that are still farmed. (J. Hardwick)  
*Stogursey New Cemetery* ST 20454280

Dumps of soil from dredging contained material of 11th to 14th-century date. This material is being prepared for publication with earlier material deposited in Somerset County Museum, Accn No. A.3351 (New churchyard and drain), as well as other groups containing post-medieval and medieval pottery, Accn Nos. 49-A-9, 50-A-59, 49-A-8 and A. 3557. (Terry Pearson)

*Beauchamp Castle, Stoke sub Hamdon* ST 476177

Peter Leach undertook trial excavations in August and September 1976 for CRAAGS on the site of the Beauchamp castle in advance of a housing development. Little evidence of medieval occupation was found and it was concluded that the castle lay under the farm to the west.

*Strip lynchets, South Cadbury*

In fieldwork undertaken for an undergraduate dissertation six separate flights of lynchets were found (one flight ploughed out, one other partially destroyed by tree planting). A strip map of South Cadbury c. 1830 (S.R.O., DD/SAS, C/212 Box 1) indicates that lynchets were part of the open field strips of the parish.

Grid references: lynchet flight south of Cadbury Castle	ST 627248
ditto on Littleton Hill centred on or about	ST 638249
ditto east of Cadbury Castle ditto	ST 631253
ditto north of Cadbury Castle ditto	ST 630255
ditto ploughed out ditto	ST 637253
ditto wooded ditto	ST 638254

Ref. Hardwick, J., *Strip Lynchets: The Case Study of South Cadbury, Somerset*, (1976, unpublished). (J. Hardwick)

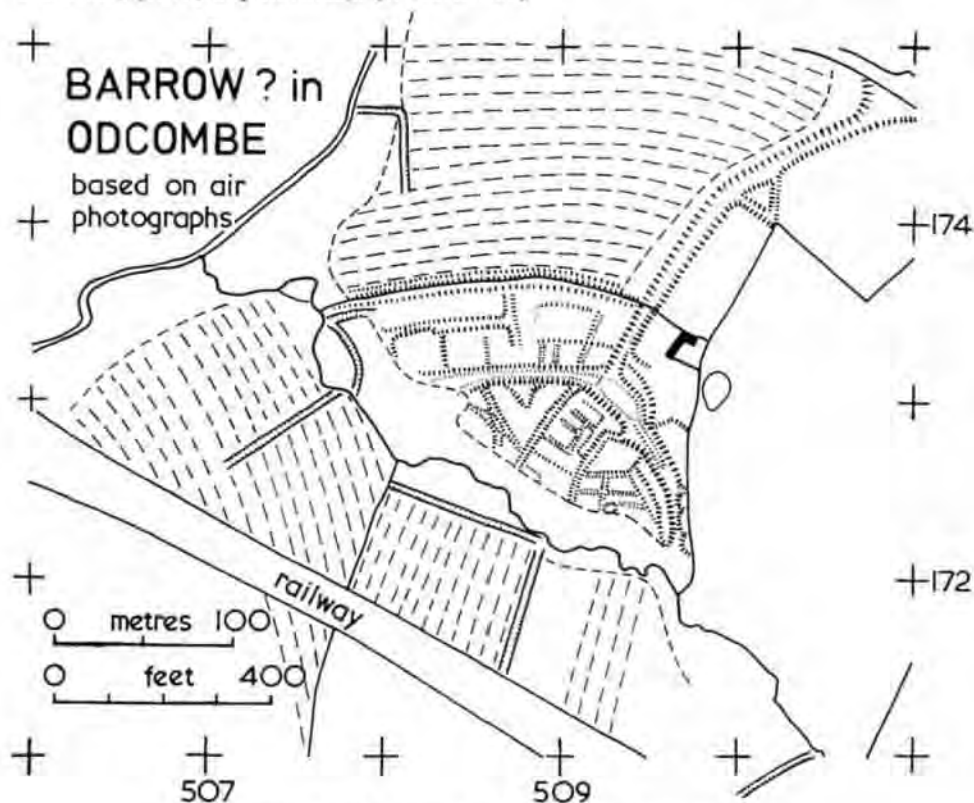


Fig. 3. Barrow(?) in Odcombe, plan of deserted village earthworks

*Ramspits, Westbury-sub-Mendip ST 575493*

Ann Everton and the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society have been surveying the well preserved deserted medieval farm sites at Ramspits.

## DESERTED SETTLEMENTS

Further work has been carried out on the deserted settlements of the county for the Medieval Villages Research Group and it is now possible to present an interim map (Fig. 4) of the sites located so far. It will be noted that the majority of the sites lie in the south east of the county and that most are (or were) nucleated villages and hamlets. In contrast a number of deserted farmsteads have been noted in the west of the county, an area where dispersed farmsteads and hamlets still form the normal settlement pattern.

*Perry, Foddington, Babcary ST 575302*

Impressive earthworks remain within an embanked enclosure in a field called Perry Court. The site appears to be a manor house but no documentary evidence has yet been found.

*Spargrove, Batcombe ST 678382*

As well as the known deserted village site at ST 672380 further earthwork platforms aligned on a holloway have been observed to the east. The site is ploughed regularly.

*Cudworth ST 375107*

To the east of the church a field contains earthworks of holloways, enclosure banks and a deserted, probably post-medieval, farm.

*Goose Bradon, Curry Rivel ST 388207*

There appear to be no traces either as earthworks, cropmarks or parchmarks of the deserted village recorded on this site.

*Lattiford, Holton ST 693267*

There are extensive earthworks at a site near to Lattiford Farm at Holton. An east-west street can be recognized fronted by house sites on the south side and enclosure banks and platforms down to a stream to the south.

*Littleney, Huish Episcopi ST 419257*

Irregular earthworks revealed in low sunlight indicate that there are remains of this settlement which predated Huish.

*Lamyatt ST 662363*

As well as the earthworks at the west end of the village there are earthworks indicating settlement shrinkage around the church at the east end of the village.

*Bagley, Stoke Pero, Luccombe SS 882426*

Earthworks of a field system and the tumbled stone walls remain of this farmstead, recorded in Domesday Book.

*Luxborough*

As part of his work on a parish survey, Mr. Williams has drawn attention to deserted farm sites at Woodlands (SS 958378), Throat (SS 963379), North Colly Hill (SS 965368), and South Colly Hill (SS 963366).

*Milton Clevedon ST 665370*

Milton Farm is surrounded by earthwork enclosures and platforms of an extensive settlement. Disturbance by bulldozing and ploughing has revealed early medieval and post-medieval pottery and stone scatters of house sites.

*Wood Court, Mudford ST 565200*

Mr. W. Chapman has drawn attention to a field of earthworks with a large enclosure and several smaller platforms. This appears to be the deserted manor of Mudford Terry.

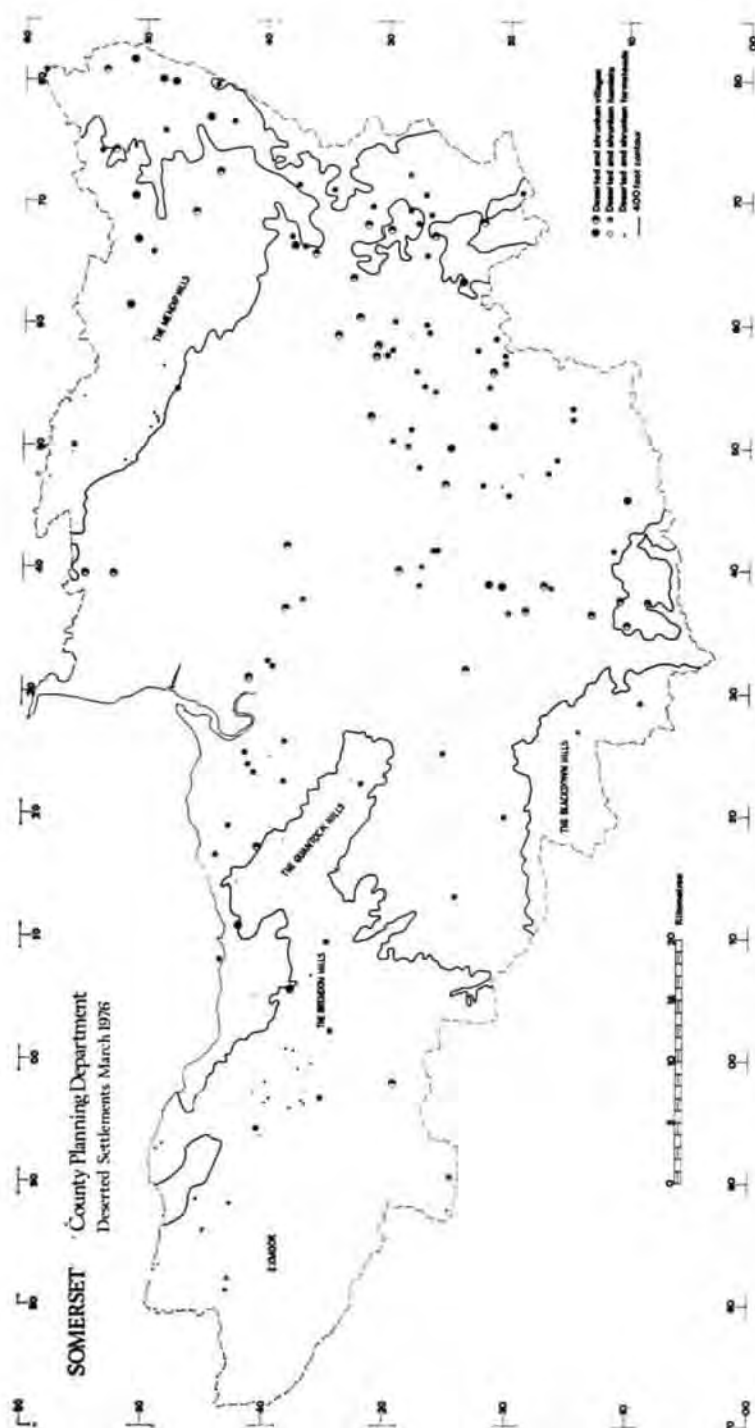


Fig. 4. Deserted Settlements in Somerset recorded by March 1976.



*South Bradon, Puckington ST 366187*

Drought conditions revealed a number of house sites as parch marks in this shrunken village. Earthworks and stone foundations indicate enclosures and buried buildings.

*Goodleys, Combe Sydenham, Stogumber ST 068358*

Barns and overgrown enclosure banks remain of this deserted farmstead.

*Bougham, Timberscombe ST 939413*

Earthworks and abandoned stone-walled enclosures remain of this deserted farmstead.

*Hazery, Treborough SS 995360*

Earthworks include a probable long house and extensive abandoned field banks.

*West Quantoxhead ST 113420*

No earthworks remain but a series of maps (Fig. 5) indicate the gradual destruction of the settlement around the church as the park of St. Audries expanded. These maps provide one of the best examples of depopulation by emparking so far located in the county.

*Bradley, Withypool SS 857349*

Earthworks of an abandoned farm site remain here adjacent to Bradley Pond. A 19th-century enclosure wall cuts the site and there appears to be disturbance by quarrying. The site was located by a local history group working from Exford. (M. Aston)

## POST-MEDIEVAL

*Butleigh ST 520340*

Fieldwork by Ann Heeley for a parish survey of Butleigh disclosed a probable early manor house site near the church with walls showing as parchmarks and differential vegetation in the turf. Nearby was a slight earthwork probably indicating an enclosure for a rabbit warren.

*Rowford, Cheddon Fitzpaine ST 238277*

Dr. Thompson reports the finding of stone wall foundations during garden alterations adjacent to the stream. No finds were made and from documentary evidence a mill site seems unlikely.

*Fair Place, Chiselborough ST 472147*

During alterations for car parking spaces, buried stone-built drains were observed in Summer 1976. (R. Scutchings et al.)

*Wychanger Barton, Luccombe SS 911443*

Dr. Dorothy McLaren reports the locating of a drain covered by megalithic slabs crossing a field. Nearby is the remains of a horse whim and an adjacent field has remains of ridge and furrow.

*Montacute ST 489167*

Hugh Prudden reports earthworks in the old park between Ham Hill hillfort and Montacute Castle mound. These long mounds look like pillow mounds and there was a documented warren nearby. (VCH Somerset Vol. 3)

*Pawlett Hams, Pawlett ST 275428*

Madge Langdon reports a field with prominent earthworks which may represent a post-medieval (or medieval) farm site.

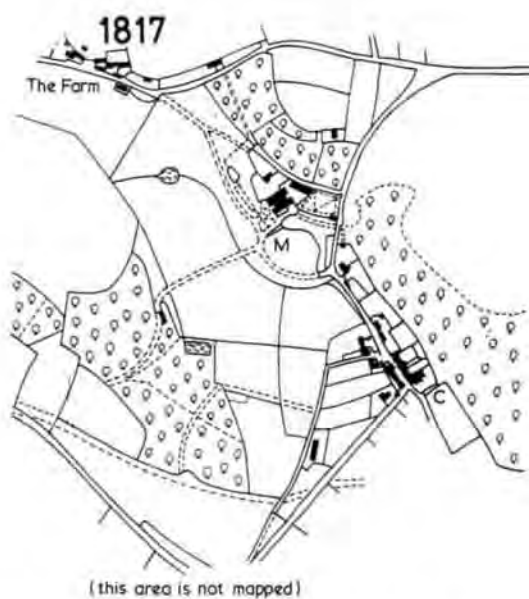
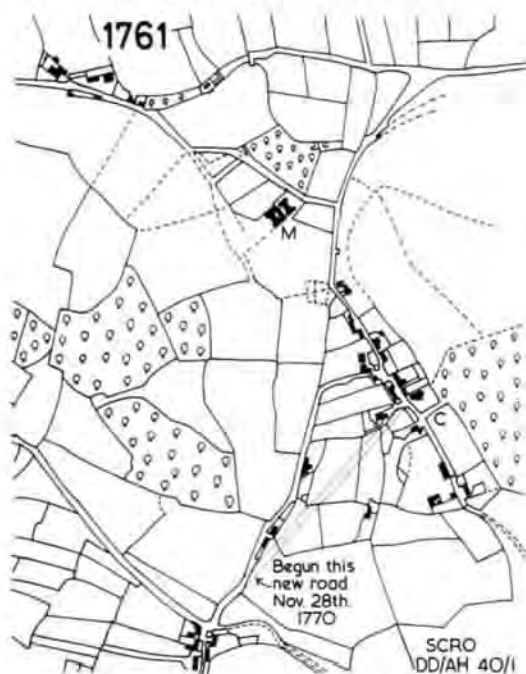
*Kittisford Barton, Stawley ST 079232*

During field work for a parish survey Mrs. B. Ridgley located a large quantity of post-medieval pottery associated with wall foundations and large lumps of iron slag.

*East Reach, Taunton*

Recently observed on stacks of Numbers 2 and 3 East Reach, Taunton, are six ornate chimney pots in white terra-cotta. The pots, in two sets of three, appear identical. Each has an octagonal base and a castellated top, the central cylindrical portion being decorated with a design incorporating hexagons and rhombuses.

## WEST QUANTOXHEAD



SCRO  
DD/AH 14/2



M MANSION C CHURCH

SCALE 0 500 metres  
(approximate)

Fig. 5

From ground level no maker's stamp is visible and an exact parallel for this type of chimney pot cannot be found in a surviving catalogue from Poole Brickworks (Wellington, 1891). It is suggested that the pots were made locally at one of the brickyards in Silver Street, Taunton, less than a kilometre from their present location, which were noted 'for the fine quality of the goods manufactured there' (Jeboult, 1873, 63). As a group the pots are probably unique in Somerset and date from the latter half of the 19th century.

(Jeboult, 1873; E. Jeboult, *A History of West Somerset*, 1873).

Wellington, 1891: 'William Thomas & Company Ltd., Patent Steam-power Brick, Tile, Pottery and Terra Cotta Works, Wellington, Somersetshire', Catalogue, 1891). (B. J. Murless)

#### *Taunton Castle, Taunton ST 225246*

Excavations for paths and drainage channels in the future Jubilee Gardens, Taunton Castle, uncovered a small quantity of 18th-century Donyatt pottery. The evidence provided by the pottery is consistent with that period in the Castle's history when the moat was filled and the earthworks levelled (Fox, 1875, 22). Also noted, was a shallow layer of 19th-century tiles, manufactured in Bridgwater, which probably formed the base of an outbuilding. (Fox, 1875; C. H. Fox, *Memorials, Descriptive and Historical of Taunton Castle*, 1875.) (B. J. Murless)

#### *Wambrook ST 295086*

Mary Parmiter reports the finding of slag samples and lumps of kiln liner (identified by Taunton Museum) near to stoney elevations in a field called Burrow Close.

#### *Wiveliscombe Without ST 103270*

A group of late 16th to early 17th-century kiln-wasted pottery, found by Mr. C. Lane in 1965 and deposited in Somerset County Museum, Accn No. 65-A-10, is being prepared for publication. (Terry Pearson)

## CROPMARKS

1976 was an exceptional year for evidence of buried archaeological sites showing as cropmarks in standing crops and parch marks in grassland. Once again adequate resources and organization were not available and consequently only patchy results, rather than a comprehensive coverage, were achieved.

In flights over south-east Somerset David Davis and John Keynes observed some new sites not previously recorded and also the Romano-British sites at Ansford and Ditchat and medieval settlements at Clapton, Foddington and Mudford. (R. Keynes)

John White of West Air Photography has photographed a large number of enclosures at Somerton and possible Roman roads near a Roman villa at Butleigh Wootton.

#### *Knowle Hall, Bawdrip ST 330400*

No parch marks were revealed on air photographs taken on 30 June 1976 over the area of Crandon Bridge Romano-British Settlement.

#### *Sutton Farm, Ditchat ST 620335*

Air photographs taken in severe drought conditions in July 1976 showed that the Romano-British site here was far more extensive with enclosures in ungrazed pasture extending over an area of 200 x 50 metres. (S. M. Look)

#### *Broomfield*

ST 221314 Kite-shaped enclosure with internal features and adjacent enclosures.

ST 222313 Part of a circular enclosure with rectangular features nearby.

ST 225313 Large circular enclosure, possibly recent, with irregular circular enclosure nearby.

ST 202317 Irregular polygonal enclosure surrounded by elliptical irregular enclosures.

ST 210314 Three sides of a rectangular enclosure surrounded on 3 sides by linear and rectangular features.

ST 208315 Rectangular features and oval enclosure; large number of other lines and patches, some of which may be natural.

*Cheddon Fitzpaine* ST 232283

Part of a kite-shaped *enclosure* with internal features which look like smaller circular enclosures.

*Creech St. Michael*

ST 287268 Large field with lines, irregular patches and vague traces of *enclosures*, much of which could be natural.

ST 283266 Circular and polygonal *enclosures* some of which may be natural.

*Kingston St. Mary*

ST 222280. Pentagonal *enclosure* with gap at south corner; other marks surrounding it. Extensive areas of vague cropmarks between this site and ST 226278 and north of them.

ST 225282. Two linear ditches, almost parallel, associated with circular *cropmark* and irregular enclosures and ditch systems.

ST 227287. Regular rectangular *enclosure* with adjacent 'D' shaped *enclosure* containing marks. Associated rectilinear ditches and enclosures.

ST 215283. Rectangular enclosures, one double-ditched, and linear features, some double-ditched, probably associated with the medieval settlement and field systems at Nailsbourne.

ST 226278. Pentagonal *enclosure*, possibly double-ditched, associated with circular *enclosure* in one corner and overlain by sub-rectangular *enclosure* on one side.

ST 220285. Enclosures and linear features, some of which may be natural, but one area appears to be a roughly oval *enclosure*.

*North Petherton*

ST 254304. Wide linear ditches, possibly representing an *enclosure*, cut by woodland. Other linear marks associated.

ST 265302. Pentagonal *enclosure* within linear features and with ditches attached.

ST 263302. Rectangular (?) *enclosure* cut by road. Other linear features nearby.

ST 255304. Rectangular *enclosure* crossed by straight ditch.

ST 253307. Sub-rectangular *enclosure* with gap at south-east corner; other vague smaller enclosures nearby, some of which may be natural.

ST 270332. Irregular oval *enclosure* with internal sub-circular features; double-ditched features approaching from at least two directions. Other vague linear features in rest of the field.

ST 267325. Linear and rectangular cropmarks of at least three phases, the latter probably representing field drains.

*Norton Fitzwarren* ST 195263.

No cropmarks were observed in and around Norton Camp.

*Nynehead* ST 142236.

Irregular enclosures including probable pentagonal and circular enclosures; much of the rest is probably natural.

*Somerton*

ST 467285. Linear cropmarks observed including a probable *enclosure* and at least one (?) hut-circle.

ST 471276. *Enclosure*.

ST 479282. Linear ditches of old field boundaries adjacent to Manor site.

(M. Aston)

## VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

A very considerable number of buildings have been surveyed by Commander Williams, R. Gilson and M. McDermott. Copies of surveys produced have been deposited, along with those from previous years, in the County Record Office. Files on over 500 buildings are now deposited there, of which 300 are cruck-built. Of these some 40% are of medieval origin, over 30% having had open hearths in single-storeyed halls.



Some buildings of special interest recorded in 1976 are:—

*The Abbey Barn, Glastonbury*, where extensive scaffolding erected for repairs to the roof has enabled a close-up examination to be made of its base-cruck construction; a private house in Wells called *The Priory of St. John* which has an almost identical roof, probably the best preserved medieval roof in Somerset. It is hoped to publish articles on these and the other base-cruck roofs in the county at The Tudor Tavern, Taunton; Bratton Court, Minehead; Long Sutton Court House, Long Sutton; Douling Barn, Englishcombe Barn (now in Avon) and Court Barn, West Bradley—when a detailed survey of all these has been completed.

*West Newton Manor Farmhouse*, to which attention was drawn by Mr. R. Bush, retains evidence of a probable aisled hall construction within its now 17th-century and later exterior; if this can be proved it is the only aisled hall known in Somerset. At *Whitestaunton Manor House* R. Gilson has studied the only known hammer-beam roof in Somerset which is also one of the most highly decorated roofs in the county. *Cowman's Cottage*, Willet, Elworthy; *Rexton Farm Cottage*, Stogumber; *Westmead Cottage*, Norton St. Philip; *Laurel House*, Alhampton, Ditcheat, are examples of medieval houses in which there were no structural divisions but only low partitions (head height) dividing an otherwise completely open single-storeyed house similar to those discovered in Devon by Dr. Alcock and others. (E. H. D. Williams and R. Gilson)

*Frome*. CRAAGS and the Frome Rescue Archaeology Group in conjunction with the RCHM (England) are undertaking a full survey of the Trinity area. So far detailed records have been made of over 30 buildings dating c. 1660-1700. The 'Old Presbytery', which has been identified as the 'manor house' of St. Katherine's, and 13 Catherine Hill, a medieval house, have also been surveyed. (R. Leech for CRAAGS)

*Glastonbury*. A record was made of 51 High Street prior to its demolition, which has still not been undertaken (June 1977). (R. Leech for CRAAGS)

*Wells*—the 'new works' of Bishop Beckington. Re-examination of the grant of 1451 and of Dr. R. D. Reid's account in the Report of the Wells Archaeological and Natural History Society 1930 has indicated that the pre-1451 churchyard well and entrance into the precinct may be encapsulated in Browne's Gate. Further survey is planned. (R. Leech for CRAAGS)

R. Gilson reports buildings surveyed in Wambrook, Martock, Bower Hinton (two with remains of true crucks). Jointed-cruck buildings include examples in Wambrook, East Coker, Chard, Whitestaunton, Merriott, West Hatch, South Petherton, Alhampton and Hinton St. George. 17th-century buildings were studied in Wells, Alhampton, Stocklinch, Evercreech and Cossington.

Miss Sylvia Collier of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) has submitted the following list of records of historic buildings in Somerset gathered between April 1974 and December 1976. These comprise records made by the Royal Commission in the course of recording threatened buildings and a number deposited by outside contributors:—

<i>Ash, Milton Farmhouse</i> , Milton, ST 470219	Stone house; mid-17th century, incorporating remains of earlier house.	Report. Plan.
<i>Ashbrittle, Hagley Bridge</i> Farm, ST 054238	Cob house, late medieval; later alterations.	Report. Plan, details.
<i>Berkley, Redbridge Cottage</i> , Standerwick, ST 823508	Timber framed house; late medieval; partly rebuilt in stone in 16th century.	Report. Plan, sections, details.
<i>Brompton Ralph, Brendon</i> Cottage, ST 085321	Stone house; 16th century; later alterations.	Report. Plan, details.
<i>Butleigh, Rocke's Lower</i> Farmhouse, ST 518337	Stone house; mid-17th century; 19th century additions.	Report. Plan.
<i>Carhampton, The Bridge</i> , Nos. 1, 2, ST 006428	Stone house; 18th century incorporating late medieval house.	Report.
<i>Chaffcombe, The Old</i> Rectory, ST 350102	Cob and stone house; late medieval; 17th-century alterations and additions.	Report. Plan, sections.
<i>Chard, Scasa Cottage</i> , Dyke Hill, South Chard, ST 332051	Rendered; early 17th century; later alterations.	Report.
<i>Charlton Musgrove, Lower</i>	Brick House; early 18th century.	Report. Plan.

Church Farm, ST 720302		
<i>Chilcompton</i> , Manor	Stone. 17th century.	Report.
Farmhouse, ST 646524		
<i>Chilton Cantelo</i> , Ashington	Stone house; 15th century; 16th and 17th-century alterations and additions.	Report. Plans, sections, elevation, details.
Manor, ST 562215	Stone house; late 16th century; later additions.	Report. Plan.
<i>Creech St. Michael</i> , Godfrey's,	Stone house; 15th century; later alterations and conversion to Baptist Chapel.	Report. Photographs, section.
Adsborough, ST 276293	Stone; c. 1700.	Report. Plan.
<i>Croscombe</i> , Croscombe		
Chapel, ST 591444		
<i>Cucklington</i> , Hale House,		
ST 751275		
<i>Curry Rivel</i> , Strangmans,	Stone house; possibly partly facing cob; 15th and 16th centuries; later rebuilding.	Report. Plan, section detail.
Heale, ST 382257	Stone house; late 15th century; 17th-century additions; 19th-century alterations.	Report. Plan, detail.
<i>Ditcheat</i> , Laurel House,	Stone house; 15th century; partly rebuilt in brick 18th century.	Report. Plan, section.
Alhampton, ST 626349	Cob and stone house; 15th century; later alterations.	Report. Plan, section.
<i>Drayton</i> , Brick House,	Stone house; late 17th century; 19th-century addition.	Report. Plan.
ST 407247	House; stone; mid 15th century. Cottage: stone; 17th century incorporating earlier remains.	Report. Photographs. Plans, sections, details.
<i>East Coker</i> , Burton Cottage,	Stone house; late medieval; 16th-century alterations; 18th-century rebuilding and sub-division.	Report. Plan, details.
Burton, ST 536133	Stone house; late 17th century.	Report. Plan.
Estate House,		
ST 543122		
<i>Hymerford</i> House and		
cottage, ST 538130		
Little Slades and Slades		
Cottage, ST 543122		
<i>Evercreech</i> , Church Farm,		
ST 650385		
<i>Glastonbury</i> , Chilkwell	Stone cottages; 1838.	Report. Photographs. Plan.
Street, Nos. 24, 26	Stone house; late 17th century; later alterations.	Report. Photographs. Plan, detail.
High Street,	Brick house; early 19th century.	Report. Photographs. Plan.
No. 51		
Wells Road, No. 89		
<i>Huish Episcopi</i> , Pound	Stone house; late medieval; later alterations.	Report. Plan, sections, details.
Cottage, ST 411264	Stone house; late 15th century; later alterations.	Report. Plan, section.
<i>Iminster</i> , The Chantry,	Brick; 1703.	Report. Photograph.
ST 360146		
<i>Ilton</i> , Ashford Farmhouse,		
ST 356189		
<i>Ilford</i> , House at	Stone and cob house; 15th century; alterations c. 1600.	Report. Photographs. Plan, section, elevation
ST 367176	Stone house; late medieval.	Report. Plan, section, detail.
Wayside, ST 354174		Report. Plan.
<i>Isle Abbots</i> , Two Steps,	Stone house; c. 1600.	
ST 349205		
<i>Kingsbury Episcopi</i> , Lower	Stone house; late 17th century.	Report. Plan.
Farm, West Lambrook,		
ST 414186		
<i>Martock</i> , Bower Hinton	Stone house; 17th century, incorporating earlier remains.	Report. Plan, details.
Farm, ST 455178	Stone house; early 17th century; late 17th and 19th-century alterations.	Report. Plan
Hunters Lodge, Bower	Stone; late 17th century; later alterations.	Report. Plan.
Hinton, ST 456178		
Hurst Farmhouse, Bower		
Hinton, ST 456180		
Merifield House, Bower	Stone; 17th century; 19th-century remodelling.	Report. Plan.
Hinton, ST 457180	Stone house; c. 1700	Report. Plan.
<i>Merriott</i> , Laurel Cottage,		
ST 446129		
<i>Minehead Without</i>	Stone house and gatehouse; 14th and 16th centuries respectively; later alterations.	Report. Photograph. Plan.
Bratton Court,		
SS 946464		
<i>Muchelney</i> , Tudor Cottage,	Stone house; late medieval; 17th-century alterations; 18th-century addition.	Report. Plan.
ST 430245	Stone house; late medieval; 1599; 17th and 18th-century alterations.	Report. Photographs. Plan, details.
<i>Nettlecombe</i> , Nettlecombe	Stone house; 15th century; 17th-century alterations; later additions.	Report. Photographs. Plan, sections.
Court, ST 057378	Stone house; 15th century;	Report. Photograph.
<i>Norton St. Philip</i> , Fleur de		
Lys Inn, ST 775559		
High St., Nos. 1 & 2,		

ST 775558 The Malt House, ST 774558 Vanity Park Cottage, North St., ST 775559. Westmead Cottage, ST 775557 White House, ST 774558 Wick Farmhouse, ST 788572	18th-century alterations. Stone and (possibly) timber-framed; late medieval; 17th-century alterations. Stone House; late medieval; 17th- century alterations. Stone; late medieval; 17th-century alterations. Stone; late 15th century; remodelled 1658. Stone; 14th century.	Section. Report. Plan, section.  Report. Photograph. Plans, elevation. Report. Plan. sections.  Report. Photograph.  Report. Photographs. Plan, sections. Report. Plan, details.
Norton-sub-Hamdon, Manor Farmhouse, ST 469159 Pilton, Manor House, West Compton. St. Cuthbert Out, Park Farm, West Horrington, Haydon, ST 585482 Sampford Brett, Aller Farmhouse, Copton, ST 079397 Selwood, Vallis Manor House South Petherton, Court House, ST 432171 Stoke St. Gregory, Dyke's Farmhouse, ST 352278 Ston Easton, Whitchurch Farmhouse, ST 634535 Trull, Gatchell Cottages, ST 213223 Wambrook, Cotley, Chardstock, ST 300069 Wellington, Bulford House, No. 39, South Street. Wells, Priory of St. John, St. John's Street. West Hatch, Three Elms Farm, ST 275206 Wincanton, Church St., No. 7, ST 712285 Wookey, Marchey Farmhouse, ST 479463	Stone house; 16th century; partial rebuilding 17th century; later additions. Stone; 15th century; late 16th and late 17th-century alterations and additions. Stone house; 16th century; 17th-century addition.  Stone house; 17th century; 18th-century and later alterations. Also stone house and outbuildings; 16th century. Stone; c. 1500; late 17th-century alterations and additions. Stone; 16th century; 17th and 18th- century alterations. Stone; late 15th century; mid-17th century addition. Stone; 17th century; 18th-century alterations. Cob and timber-framed house; late 15th century. Stone house and barn; late 15th century; alterations c. 1700. Stone; early 19th century.  Stone house; early 15th century; later alterations. Stone house, incorporating late medieval remains. Stone house; late 15th century; later alterations. Stone; c. 1500; 17th-century addition.	Report. Photographs. Plan. Report.  Report.  Report. Photographs. Plan, section, details. Report. Plan.  Report. Photographs. Plan, section. Report.  Report. Photographs.  Report. Photographs. Plan, section, details. Report. Plan.  Report. Plan, details.  Reports. Photographs. Plans, sections, elevations, details. Report. Plan, details.
Yew Tree Farmhouse, ST 516458	Stone house; mid-15th century; later alterations.	Report. Plan, details.

## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society has continued work on a number of projects, including survey and documentary work, and Issue No. 2 of their *Journal* appeared in June, 1977.

Brian J. Murlless reports on the following activities of S.I.A.S. members:—

*Bridgwater Docks, Bridgwater* ST 297375

Mr. A. P. Ward of S.I.A.S. has carried out a survey of sluice mechanisms and other dockside furniture in the immediate vicinity of Bridgwater Dock. The positions of these structures have been plotted on to an Ordnance Survey map and details have been made available to Somerset County Council who own the Dock.

*Chain Gate Mill, Glastonbury*

Following an examination of the building in 1976, a sketch survey drawing has been forwarded to Mendip District Council.

*Fairfield House, Stogursey* ST 185431

Mr. D. W. Warren has secured for preservation a small stationary steam-engine, made by Tangye of Birmingham, which once powered the Estate Sawmill at Fairfield House, Stogursey. The engine, donated to the Somerset County Council by its owner,

Lady Gass, has been restored to working order by engineering students at the Somerset College of Arts and Technology. (Brian J. Murless).

*Cutsey House, Trull* ST 188205

A survey has been carried out of details of the agricultural buildings adjacent to Cutsey House, Trull. The farm at Cutsey functioned along 'model' lines during the 19th century.

*Chidgey's Foundry, Watchet* ST 070433

With the combined co-operation of the owner, Mr. W. Norman, the Somerset Museum of Rural Life and the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society, the machinery and tools, from a foundry and millwright's shop at Mount Pleasant, have been catalogued and conserved. A reconstruction of John Chidgey's workshop will be undertaken at the Abbey Barn, Glastonbury, when suitable premises become available.

*Chandos Glass Cone, Bridgwater* ST 298375

In December 1975 work was commenced by the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society under the direction of Frank Hawtin with the help of the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society, on the excavation of the remains of a glass cone at Northgate. A glass works was constructed in 1725 under the patronage of James Brydges, First Duke of Chandos. Investigations have revealed the circular base of the cone with walls 4 feet thick. Centrally placed within the circle is a substantial brick platform which is possibly the original glass furnace. It is hoped that the remains can be conserved and made available for the public to visit.

*Shipham* ST 446579

Destruction is now complete of one of the best areas of gruffy ground in the large field centred at this grid reference. The gruffies were of the type which is associated with the later calamine mining era: rows of small pits. (F. Neale).

## SURVEYS

M. Aston and R. Leech have completed the survey of Historic Towns in Somerset—a project initiated with the help of S.A.N.H.S. and to be published by CRAAGS.

Dr. Ann Ellison has completed her survey for CRAAGS of infilling and other developments affecting historic villages in Yeovil District. A number of shrunken sites were located, areas of earthworks examined and ideas on village morphology in the area developed.

Dr. Ann Ellison also investigated the effect of ploughing and forestry on field monuments on Exmoor and undertook a survey of the areas of archaeological potential which would be affected by existing and proposed hardstone quarrying operations in Somerset.

*Ilchester By-Pass*

Terry Pearson has completed his work for CRAAGS of survey and excavation during the construction of the by-pass around Ilchester (the A.303). Local societies afforded great assistance, especially the Ilchester District Archaeological Society. A number of new sites, including several Romano-British complexes, were investigated. Preparation of the results for publication is now proceeding.

*Wincanton By-Pass*

Terry Pearson has also completed survey and excavation work for CRAAGS on the line of the A303 Wincanton By-Pass. Again great assistance was given by local societies, particularly the South East Somerset Archaeology Society. New sites indicated included earthworks near Wincanton and a medieval site at Holbrook. Preparation of results is now proceeding.



AVON ARCHAEOLOGY 1976  
(SOUTH AVON IN HISTORIC SOMERSET)

Edited by Rob Isles of the Conservation Section, County Planning Department,  
Avon County Council.

## PREHISTORIC

*Burrington* ST 482604. Cropmark of double rectangular enclosure. The field (in 1977) under pasture and nothing visible.

*Churchill* ST 442592. Earthworks probably of old field system, possibly Celtic lynchets.

*Weston-super-Mare* ST 325616. Barbed and tanged arrowhead found in garden of 6 Gerard Road.

## ROMAN

*Keynsham* ST 63656925. Late Roman military buckle found by Mrs. B. Belsey of Queen Charlton from topsoil removed for water pipe trench. It is now in Bristol City Museum.

## MEDIEVAL

*Keynsham* ST 655688, Keynsham Abbey. Folk House Archaeological Club has been excavating on the site of the Abbey since 1961. All work is voluntary and began as a rescue operation on the line of the Keynsham By-pass through Keynsham Memorial Park. It continues as a rescue excavation under the guidance of the Department of the Environment. Various foundations of walls have been discovered and recorded. These include parts of the cloister, S. aisle and S. transept of the Abbey Church, and the Chapter House. All have been extensively robbed in antiquity. All finds belong to the local Council. Carved masonry is kindly stored by Messrs. Frys. Incised grave slabs have been relaid in Keynsham Parish Church. (E. J. Mason, Director)

A privately financed booklet about Keynsham Abbey floor tiles is being produced by the Club. It will be a very limited edition.

*Newton St. Loe* ST 69356397. The site of the fortified manor house (known usually as St. Loe's Castle) has been excavated in 1975 and 1976. In 1975 a hall was uncovered which adjoined the keep, which is still standing. This hall was probably built in the first quarter of the 14th century, and overlying it were 17th-century buildings. During 1976 and 1977 the extent of the walled area of the fortified manor house is being investigated; it seems to have been enclosed by a substantial wall linking corner towers. The excavations have produced a complete pottery sequence from the 13th century until the present. The excavations are being directed by C. J. Arnold, of Southampton University, for the History Department of Newton Park College.

*Whitchurch* ST 62916837. Part of a 13th-century farmstead was revealed during topsoil removal for a water pipe line. The area was marked by a layer of dark soil with a large quantity of 13th-century pot and finds including a whetstone. The only obvious features were a cobbled surface and 2 walls meeting at a right angle. Finds in Bristol City Museum.

## POST-MEDIEVAL

*Compton Dando* ST 663643. In the combe within one large field, north of Wansdyke, several stony areas were revealed by ploughing, some of them with a fair amount of late medieval and post-medieval pottery and other finds. Finds to go to Bristol City Museum.

*Saltford* ST 687670, Saltford Brass Mill. A survey of the Mill has been carried out by the Bristol Industrial Archaeology Society. Article in B.I.A.S. Journal 9 and detailed report to be published in the Bulletin of the Historical Metallurgy Society.

*Wrington* ST 50136422. South of the field with the Water Stone burial chamber is a scrubby area with several small (?) house foundations and a holloway. If this was a small settlement, it was possibly connected with the Calamine mines, visible over much of the area at the top end of Goblin Coombe.

*Redhill, Wrington* ST 489622. The infilling of the last parts of the old sunken Bristol-Exeter coachroad down Redhill, outside Boxbush Farm, as described by F. Neale in *Wrington Village Records* (1969) pp. 83-86, has just been completed. Infilling with farm rubbish and soil should leave a spectacular section for future archaeologists, if ever the road should be cut across in the future! The only surviving traces now are the comparatively minor depressions around Lye Cross farmyard and Lye Cross Cottage. (F. Neale)

B.A.R.G. Parish Checklists.

*Burnett* B.A.R.G. Bulletin Vol. 5 no. 7 Spring 1976

*Nailsea* B.A.R.G. Bulletin Vol. 5 no. 8 Autumn 1976