

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY 2017

EDITED BY CHRIS WEBSTER, SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The Somerset Historic Environment Service (HES) continues to deliver a wide range of activities as part of its role within the South West Heritage Trust. Each year continues to throw up fresh challenges to deliver an ever-expanding portfolio and 2017 was as busy as ever.

Chris Webster continues to manage The Somerset Historic Environment Record and new information about archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic landscapes is added each year. During the year the HER was linked to the Know Your Place website and this has enabled researchers to use the HER and the associated digitised historic maps of Somerset. In 2017 a total of 1700 new entries were added to the HER, nearly 1100 of them added by a Historic England-funded aerial survey interpretation team based in Exeter and completing the survey of the Blackdown Hills AONB.

Somerset has a large number of heritage assets that are on the Heritage at Risk Register and the HES works closely with Historic England to help to reduce this total. At Dowsborough hillfort a programme of small scale archaeological investigation and recording was commissioned by Historic England and the Fairfield Estate to tackle an area of localised flooding and erosion. Other monument management work took place at Charterhouse on Mendip and at Deer Leap near Westbury sub Mendip.

The HES is a key partner in helping the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Somerset and provides the archaeological advice and input where emergency or rescue archaeology is needed due to unexpected finds from detectorists. Two interesting projects were set up at short notice during the year one near Whitelackington resulted in the discovery of Roman lead coffin and a further project took place near Trudoxhill where a large lead tank of Roman date was found by a local detectorist. A short note on this find appears elsewhere in this volume. This is an unusual discovery and the first of its kind in Somerset.

One of the key functions of the HES is to offer archaeological planning advice to all five district councils in Somerset and to the County Council in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012). In 2017 Steve Membery and Tanya James commented on over 1300 planning applications ranging from individual building plots in the middle of historic settlements through to extensive applications for housing schemes and major projects.

In addition to offering detailed planning advice to local authorities in Somerset the HES delivers archaeological advice to a range of statutory undertakers such as Wessex Water and Bristol Water who are updating the water supply around the county. Work is underway to establish a service level agreement with Wessex Water to ensure that archaeological advice is incorporated into all engineering schemes. Recent extensive development sites on the edge of Bridgwater and North Petherton near to Junction 24 of the M5 have revealed a wide range of sites including Neolithic pits, a Bronze Age cremation cemetery and a large Iron Age and Roman site. Further details of these sites will appear in due course.

Another important part of our work is to provide advice to Natural England and DEFRA on Countryside Stewardship matters. In 2017 Jan Grove gave detailed comments on over 400 different landholders about the likely impact of their proposed schemes on the historic environment, a record number of consultations. This advice ensures that where possible archaeological sites are protected from any agricultural activities that would harm them.

The Faculty Jurisdiction System sits outside the planning system and the HES continues to offer advice on archaeological and conservation matters to the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Nic Wall, Heike Bernhardt and Bob Croft have been involved in a wide range of planning, conservation, and archaeological matters such as the removal of pews, the insertion of under floor heating and toilet facilities in major historic churches around the diocese. Extensive discussions over the development

proposals at Bath Abbey have taken many months of preparation work and archaeological assessment. A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording is due to happen in 2018 as part of a £20m re-ordering project. A major re-ordering of St Andrew's church Wiveliscombe resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of box pews and the transposition of several church memorials. At St Mary's Bridgwater a extensive programme of reordering required the insertion of underfloor heating and this resulted in a substantial recording programme, undertaken by Keith Faxon. Pressures and changes such as the works noted above will continue as churches evolve to accommodate the modern needs of the community.

The Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership (AMLPL) project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund came to an end in 2017 and concluded on a high note by winning the national Environmental Project Award from the HLF. Richard Brunning has coordinated this project for the HES and was invited to attend the national reception event held in London.

Members of the HES also give regular lectures around the county during the year and presented papers at several national and international conferences.

The care and management of heritage assets in the public realm is coordinated by Nic Wall for HES and several sites and structures were repaired and conserved during the year. One of the major conservation projects of the year was the work at the Somerset Rural Life Museum at Abbey Farm Glastonbury. A major programme of conservation repairs and enhancement work was completed by Nic Wall, Andy Stevens and Ian Lewis. During the year Ian Lewis left SWHT after more than 20 years working on a wide range of conservation projects around the county.

There are many challenges associated with the production of archaeological archives generated through the planning system. This is a continual problem and there is a strategic need to address this problem both in Somerset and beyond. Staff from the HES and the Museums team are looking at the range of options currently under discussion for the SW region.

One of the biggest changes affecting archaeological service provision of the SWHT was the retirement of Steve Minnitt as the Head of the Museum Service after 43 years working for SCC and since 2014 SWHT. Steve's role as Keeper of Archaeology and then Head of Museums meant that

he was involved in a wide range of archaeological research alongside other elements of investigation and discovery in the county often generated through the Portable Antiquities Service. His experience and expertise was immense and he made a major contribution to archaeological research in Somerset.

Archaeological excavations and research continues to provide an insight into many aspects of the county's rich heritage as new sites are investigated, recorded and where possible protected for future generations. As the SWHT continues to evolve and take on new projects there are opportunities for the HES to offer advice and comment on a wide range of projects and schemes around the county and to be commissioned for research work as and when resources allow. New discoveries such as Bronze Age cremation cemeteries and Roman lead tanks provide new information about Somerset's rich archaeological heritage.

(Bob Croft)

SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

Congresbury, Cobthorn Way, ST 4432 6386,
North Somerset HER ENS2031

A detailed magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd within three fields. The results indicated a number of positive linear, rectilinear and discrete responses in the north-western part of the site that might relate to cut features, such as ditches and pits. An arc of discrete positive responses, including some very strong responses, are located in the vicinity. In the southern part of the site is a strongly magnetic anomaly which may relate to a discrete zone of intense burning. The strength of the responses may indicate an association with industrial activity, such as iron working. The northern part of the site contains a number of parallel linear anomalies that are associated with strip field cultivation boundaries.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

Penselwood, Home Pits, ST 757 306,
Somerset HER 37556

Further gradiometer survey was carried out adjacent to Pen Pits in collaboration, and at the request of, the Pen Selwood History Society. Survey, to the north and west of the area examined in 2016, revealed a pair of large linear features running around the

contour of the hill. This included a simple but slightly in-turned entrance on the south-west side, and this appears to represent a large enclosure demarcating the hill top, with the pits to the east. Further investigation in the area is planned. Thanks are due to Geoff Parcell of the Pen Selwood History Society and Charles Buckler for facilitating access to the field.

(Clare Randall)

Priston, Pensdown Hill, ST 694 609

Geophysical surveys comprising magnetometry, twin-probe resistance and resistivity profiles were undertaken, concentrating on the relatively flat area, and the south-facing hill-slope immediately to its north. To the south of the flat area was Great Croft, a field surveyed in 2007. The western edge of the field is known to have had two cottages with gardens and these are visible in the geophysical plots. A pond was shown in the field in maps from the end of the nineteenth century. Figure 1 shows the magnetometry plot. One cottage site is in the southernmost point of the plot. To the east, a trackway heads to the second cottage. The area of intense magnetic disturbance is the pond. Further east along the southern side, a sub-circular feature with internal structure is truncated by the hedgeline. This is assumed to be prehistoric, possibly a henge. As the ground in Great Croft to the south is

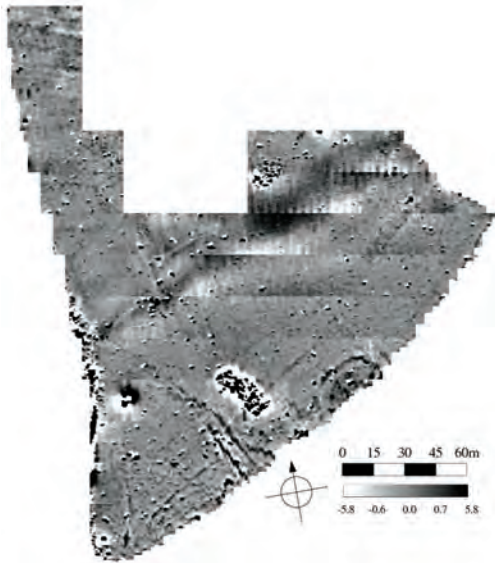


Fig. 1 Magnetometer plot of Pensdown Hill, Churchill

0.5 m lower, nothing showed in the earlier survey. In the resistance survey, the pond was marked by a high resistance bottom with low resistance sides, possibly with a building against it on the south-west. This possible building sits in the corner of a rectangular arrangement of high resistance double lines, truncated on the south by the hedgeline. The best explanation is that they are some form of land enclosure, possibly Roman.

(John Oswin)

MULTIPERIOD SITES

Aller, Aller Court Farm, ST 3892 2934, Somerset HER 36804

In 2016 Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological investigation on the site of a proposed solar farm development. A late Roman trackway, defined by two parallel ditches, crossed the site and was dated by New Forest indented beaker pottery from the lower silt of one of the ditches. The site was significant for the discovery of an Early–Middle Bronze Age trapezoidal enclosure, and an Early Bronze Age mortuary enclosure containing three cremations that were radiocarbon dated to 1960–1760 cal BC. Notably, the late Roman trackway cut straight through the centre of the trapezoidal enclosure.

(Martyn Allen)

East Brent, Rossholme School, ST 3451 5182, Somerset HER 37331

Groundworks were monitored in advance of the construction of two houses. The profile of the natural ground surface was found to fall away to the east where a considerable build-up of material was noted, sealing two linear features one of which contained quantities of burnt clay and stone in association with medieval pottery. As the natural surface rose to the west so the overlying deposits representing buried soil horizons diminished and here they sealed two further channels or ditches, one of which produced solely Romano-British material. The build-up deposits to the west were subsequently cut by a medieval gully and two pits of the 12th or 13th centuries, one of which was particularly large and seemingly lined with clay. The latest feature recognised consisted of a large and well-built vaulted culvert of 18th- or 19th-century origin which ran east towards the low ground.

(James Brigers)

Marksbury, A39/B3116 junction, ST 6687 6397

Oxford Archaeology carried out a five-trench evaluation targeted upon several geophysical anomalies. The ditches of two enclosures were exposed in the northern half of the site. One of these remains undated, while the other is tentatively dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Two sections of a ring ditch were exposed in the southern half of the site and appear to relate to a ploughed-out round barrow. In the centre of the site, the course of the scheduled West Wansdyke earthwork was exposed but not further excavated. Rubble representing the core of the bank was consistent with evidence found during other local excavations, and possibly suggests that the earthwork here had a stone revetment.

(Martyn Allen)

Shepton Mallet, Cannards Grave Road,

ST 6206 4250, Somerset HER 37336

Wessex Archaeology evaluated land proposed for a housing development. Forty-three trenches were targeted on anomalies identified by existing geophysical survey as well as on apparently blank areas. Two areas of archaeological activity were identified at opposite ends of the site. In the south-eastern corner, the presence of a possibly Late Iron Age/Romano-British trackway identified by the geophysical survey was confirmed. A circular geophysical anomaly was shown to be a natural sinkhole. In the north-eastern corner a series of tree throws yielded a small but significant assemblage of worked flints possibly dating to the Early Neolithic period.

(Lee Newton)

PREHISTORIC

Bishops Lydeard, Taunton Road, ST 1719 2868,

Somerset HER 37709

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a Bronze Age enclosure with several internal postholes and three urned cremation burials. A post-medieval wall and two ditches representing former field boundaries were also present.

(Derek Evans)

Churchill, Laurel Farm, ST 448 594

A geophysical survey was undertaken by ALERT following the chance discovery of a Neolithic flint scraper and large flake found in a bag of manure. Two fields were examined: Bank Field

(Wood Ground on the tithe map) at ST 447 594 and Upper Withy at ST 449 595. Wood Ground lies on sloping ground to the north-west of the woods below Dolebury Warren. Aerial photographs and lidar images suggest a feature measuring approximately 35m by 60m that is probably the corner of an enclosure in the north-west of the field. The resistivity survey using a TR/CIA resistance meter confirmed the existence of this enclosure indicating that the ditch was about 5m wide with a rounded corner. A resistivity 'section' across this ditch suggested that it had vertical sides about 1.5m deep with a flat bottom. A gradiometer survey, using a Bartington C601 single pole magnetometer, showed further rectilinear features within this enclosure and also an indication that one of these overlies the broad ditch although on a slightly different alignment. The gradiometer also indicates that a ditch had been cut along the length of lower edge of a ridge possibly to enhance its effectiveness as a defensive measure as a number of probable house circles can be identified on the higher ground above. The largest and most prominent of these circles has a diameter of approximately 18m. An enclosure ditch has been identified to the south and east of this area and a small rectilinear feature against the north side of the bank below the ridge may suggest a strong entranceway at this point. The resistivity survey of Upper Withy showed a number of parallel drainage ditches that are visible on aerial photographs, consistent with the wet ground implied by name of the field. These overlie what is clearly a ridge and furrow field system running approximately north-west to south-east. In the west of the field, on a slight rise in ground level, an area of high resistance suggested the location of a small structure and enclosure, but there was no evidence of building material on the ground in the area.

(Jack Foord and John Matthews)

Churchill, Windmill Hill, ST 442 602

Frances Neale identified a curvilinear enclosure from aerial photographs in 1977 (North Somerset HER 00401) and suggested an Iron Age date. A limited resistivity survey was undertaken of the NW quadrant of the enclosure in 2003, but no further work was undertaken until ALERT obtained permission for a geophysical survey of the area in 2017. This survey, using a Bartington C601 gradiometer and a TR/CIA resistance meter, covered an area approximately 300m by 120m (Figure 2).

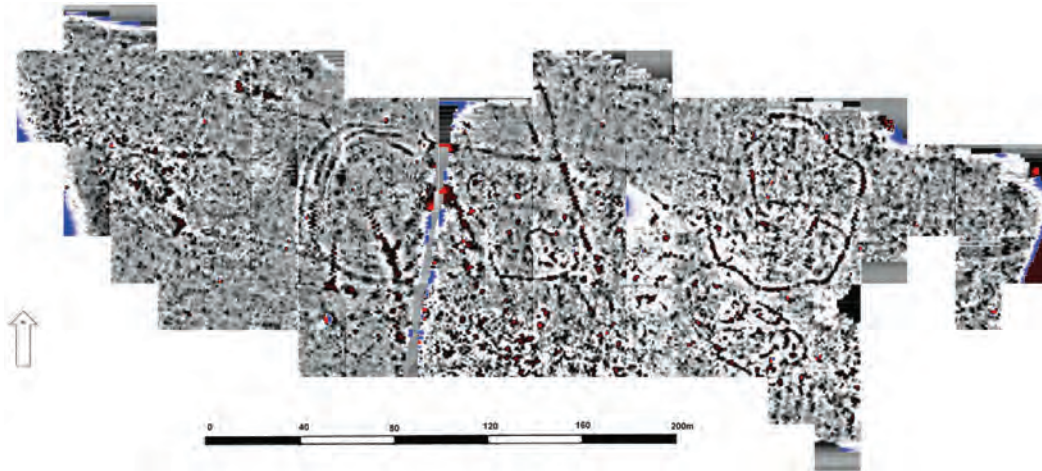


Fig. 2. Magnetometer plot of Windmill Hill, Churchill

The previously recorded enclosure measures approximately 70m by 60m and is almost in the centre of the area surveyed and shown to have three concentric ditches in the northwest quadrant. These do not appear to have been continuous round the whole feature and may represent differing periods in construction or even unfinished work. The west side of this enclosure appears to overlie the eastern side of a square enclosure. This square enclosure measures about 40m on each side and the survey appears to show a circular feature about 20m in diameter close to its centre, the whole feature bearing some similarity to an Iron Age shrine. Traces of other circular features were recorded on the edge of the site to the north and west, some measuring between 40m and 50m in diameter as well as smaller circles some of which may resemble ploughed-out round barrows. To the east a rectilinear enclosure measuring 40m by 60m was recorded and also another curvilinear enclosure measuring 75m by 65m enclosing in turn traces of other concentric features. Deviations in the line of the enclosure ditch suggest that several earlier features were respected, most noticeably a circular ditch measuring 25m in diameter, itself within another enclosure. Indications of a number of circular features that may be house circles were also identified. A flint blade, possibly Neolithic in date, was retrieved from the surface at the western end of the site.

(Jack Foord and John Matthews)

Douling quarry, ST 365 434, Somerset HER 37658
An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Hollinrake Archaeology to monitor the machine stripping of ploughsoil in advance of quarry expansion over an area of c.75m x 130m. Artefacts from the underlying subsoil were mapped using hand-held GPS; these included flint flakes and tools along with prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval pottery sherds. No archaeological features were encountered.

(Arthur Hollinrake)

Exmoor, Withypool Hill stone circle, SS 8392 3439, Exmoor HER EEM14726

Magnetometer and earth resistance surveys were undertaken by Substrata covering an area of 3.3 hectares. Both survey methods produced evidence for structural components within the bowl barrow situated in the north east of the survey area (Exmoor HER MSO8683). The resistance survey strongly suggested the presence of an external encompassing ditch and a barrow with a relatively stony composition. Both data sets contained evidence of disturbance at the barrow summit and the likely presence of excavation trenches. Elsewhere, a number of cairns were located as magnetic anomalies, only one of which was previously recorded (Exmoor HER MSO8756). The relatively high, positive responses from these could imply the presence of burnt material. Two magnetic anomalies with characteristics often associated with intense, in-situ heating, were recorded adjacent to

the bowl barrow and one or possibly two similar groups were recorded within the Withypool stone circle (Exmoor HER MSO8682). Other features in the magnetic data within and around the stone circle could be interpreted as pits or large postholes. One group appeared to form a linear pattern. The resistance data showed two small mounds, the age and function of which are uncertain but they may be associated with military training activities of Second World War date (Exmoor HER MMO3191).

(Ross Dean)

Glastonbury, Chilkwell Street, ST 50622 38520, Somerset HER 37333

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation and subsequent monitoring, which produced a significant quantity of pottery exclusively of Late Iron Age type from a gully or ditch. Large unabraded Late Iron Age pottery sherds have also been recently identified amongst the pottery assemblages held at Glastonbury Abbey (Elaine Morris, 'Prehistoric pottery', in Gilchrist, R and Green, C (2015). *Glastonbury Abbey: Archaeological Investigations 1904–1979*), although these were all unstratified. See also under Medieval.

(Clare Randall)

Holford, Frog Hill, ST1528 3829, Somerset HER 37530

The South West Heritage Trust excavated a stone cist that was being eroded by a footpath in the Quantock Hills. Three sides survived forming a box 1.3 by 0.7m and up to 0.15m deep. No finds were recovered from the interior but there was charcoal from mature timber and hazelnut shells. Cists would normally be associated with round barrows or cairns but a radiocarbon date of 2640-2480 cal BC (at 89% probability) indicates activity in the late Neolithic rather than the Bronze Age. No other sites of this date are known from the Quantocks so it is hard to place this find in context.

(Jan Grove)

Low Ham, Park, ST 4502 3045, Somerset HER 37724

Building on a geophysical survey carried out in 2014, SSARG carried out a trial investigation of anomalies in Baker's Field, Park. The intention was to explore a rectilinear feature seen on aerial photographs which had been previously recorded as a possible Neolithic cursus or mortuary enclosure

(Somerset HER 54823). Three small exploratory trenches were excavated. Trench 1, positioned to the interior of the enclosure did not identify any archaeological features or deposits but elucidated the complex depositional sequence of the underlying gravels. Trench 2 located the south-west side ditch of the enclosure. This was almost 4m wide and 1.3m deep with a steep and slightly concave side on the west side, and a steep and stepped side on the east. A thin basal silt contained one very large cattle bone. A secondary fill contained a single sherd of probable Beaker domestic ware, with later fills containing a single sherd of Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery. Trench 3, which was excavated to examine undisturbed gravels actually proved to be located over a ditch which had not been identified from the geophysical survey. This contained animal bone and a substantial quantity of Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery. The findings from Trench 2, appear to validate a Neolithic-Bronze Age date for the feature seen on the aerial photographs and support an identification of an elongated enclosure. Further research is planned. SSARG would like to thank the landowner Ron Skeet, and the tenant farmer Andrew Lloyd.

(Clare Randall)

Milborne Port, Old Bowden Way, ST 6815 1968, Somerset HER 37332

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a pit and a ditch containing abraded later Iron Age pottery.

(Jonathan Orellana)

Puriton, Riverton Road, ST 3174 4167, Somerset HER 37708

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Late Iron Age rural settlement comprising an enclosure with two internal roundhouses and several associated features. An outer enclosure ditch, a small adjacent domestic enclosure and an outlying field system were associated with the enclosure whilst to the east of the settlement, a trackway, a cremation burial and several ditches and pits of Late Iron Age–Early Roman date were present. An isolated undated burial, several post-medieval boundary ditches and furrows were also recorded.

(Jonathan Orellana)

South Cadbury, Folly Lane, ST 6308 2560,
Somerset HER 37423

Groundworks were monitored in July 2017 prior to the erection of an extension. A buried soil horizon containing quantities of burnt stone and charcoal was exposed beneath a substantial accumulation of largely sterile hill wash. A shallow depression in the surface of this, possibly an erosion gully or even an informal path, was found to contain densely packed burnt stone fragments and a sherd of middle Iron Age pottery. At the northern edge of the site the buried soil was cut by a substantial east-west ditch one of the fills of which yielded sherds of Samian pottery dating from the 1st or 2nd century AD.

(James Brigers)

South Petherton, Frogmary Green Farm,
ST 41983 15921, Somerset HER 37338

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an evaluation with a subsequent area excavation. A number of features were identified, which included a ditch possibly dating to the later Neolithic or, more likely, the earlier Bronze Age as well as an undated ditch and various pits. Activity in the earlier Neolithic and the Middle Bronze Age is also attested by the flint from the site. See also under Roman.

(Clare Randall)

Stoke St Michael, Moons Hill Quarry,
ST 655364 5891, Somerset HER 38942

South West Archaeology monitored the removal of topsoil from an elevated area south-west of the West Quarry. A group of nine small pits or postholes were recorded which produced 21 sherds of Beaker and Deverel-Rimbury ware. Two Beakers are represented, both S-profile vessels with All-Over-Comb (AOC) decoration, in an unusual limestone-tempered fabric. The Deverel-Rimbury pottery includes the rim of a globular urn with simple upright rim and finger-pinch decoration around the girth, and is in very good condition. The fabric of the Bronze Age sherds contains a (probably local) igneous-derived temper.

(Bryn Morris, Joe Bampton and
Peter Bonvoisin)

Wadeford, Scampton Lane, ST 30486 10137,
Somerset HER 37703

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out a limited programme of archaeological investigation following the chance metal detecting

find of Roman coins, c.500m to the south-east of a water pipeline. Two features were observed and subsequently excavated. The principal one comprised a substantial ditch forming a north-south linear c.20m long, with a curvilinear turn to the west at the north end and a right-angled turn in the same direction at the southern end; this probably represents one side of an enclosure. A small pit or large post-hole was situated nearby. Pottery from both features indicate that the enclosure and pit/post-hole date to the Middle to Late Iron Age.

(Clare Randall)

Wanstrow, Torr Works, ST 698 438,
Somerset HER 36107

Hollinrake Archaeology monitored the machine stripping of ploughsoil in advance of quarry expansion over an area of c.300m x 500m during the summers of 2015 and 2017. The artefacts from the underlying subsoil were mapped using hand-held GPS; these included flint flakes, flint tools, prehistoric and occasional Romano-British pottery sherds. Several small, isolated, prehistoric cooking pits were recorded, along with a possible iron ore quarry. A complex of domestic rubbish pits and large postholes were recorded which appear to represent a middle to late Iron Age structure which included a shale bracelet together with domestic refuse.

(Arthur Hollinrake)

ROMAN

Brympton, Lufton Roman villa, ST 516179,
Somerset HER 38860

In 2017 the Lufton project of Newcastle University excavated a second trench to reinvestigate the scheduled late Roman villa partially explored by Leonard Hayward between 1946-1952 and 1960-1963. This year's trench (B) was intended to re-examine the unusual octagonal bath house but was found to be positioned too far north because Trench A was actually located over the middle of the villa. This means that the hypocaust discovered last year equates to Hayward's Rooms 10 and 11, and the room with tessellated pavement, his Room 6a. Trench B (Figure 3) examined a small part of the famous fish mosaic and one buttress. A sequence of rubbish and demolition deposits were also investigated. Pottery, coins (none later than the House of Valentinian), faunal remains and evidence



Fig. 3. Excavation of trench B at Lufton Roman villa showing part of bathhouse and fish mosaic.

for building materials, including what is probably Exmoor slate, were recovered.

(James Gerrard and Andrew Agate)

Cannington flood alleviation scheme,
ST 2539 3892, Somerset HER 34776

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Roman activity in three locations. A rectilinear enclosure forming part of a previously identified ladder settlement represented the westernmost remains and a probable Late Roman boundary ditch was 50m to the south-east. A Late Roman enclosure with internal pits and postholes was truncated by further Roman ditches and pits. Some 45m to the north-east was an area of flooding with two distinct phases of Middle to Late Roman activity separated by an alluvial layer. The earliest features comprised an enclosure, burial, postholes and several ditches which yielded pottery and dumped domestic waste and provided evidence that iron smelting and crop processing occurred in the vicinity. Three further burials, a small pit cluster, postholes and ditches represent the later Roman features. A medieval ditch in the centre of the site, a post-medieval stone

drain, two ditches and several undated features were also recorded.

(Jonathan Orellana)

East Coker, Broadacres, ST 5317 1351,
Somerset HER 38902

An evaluation comprising six machine-excavated trenches recorded deep soils across the site. These were initially thought to have been imported to the site, but on further investigation they appear to be colluvial in nature. In the northern part of the site this subsoil horizon overlay settlement deposits of early Romano-British origin. The remains included industrial and agricultural features, including remnants of two probable furnaces and at least two boundary ditches. Pottery recovered from features on the site suggests a restricted date for activity in the third quarter of the 1st century AD.

(Stephen Robinson)

Keinton Mandevile, Lakeview quarry, ST 546 303,
Somerset HER 34768

Hollinrake Archaeology was commissioned to excavate the exposed remains of a Romano-

British building that had previously been seen in evaluations. An open area excavation was undertaken that removed the rubble matrix from within the main body of the building, which measured c.8m x 17m. The building was constructed using faced Lias stone blocks with a rubble core, of which one or two courses of masonry had survived. Rare portions of the original Lias flagstone floor also survived in situ, and these lay upon an off-set course of Lias masonry. Two courses of herring-bone, pitched stone foundations were present throughout, and traces of white lime wash were also evident. The western wall had apparently slumped into an adjacent silted-up Iron Age ditch. Evidence of later re-use was suggested by pits excavated into the subsoil within the building. An eastern extension of the building was exposed measuring c.8m x 8m. There was no evidence for faced stones, off-set masonry, or a floor within the eastern extension, which was of inferior quality, and slightly wider at 0.90m, above herring-bone foundations. These factors, combined with the lower frequency of artefacts present within the eastern extension, suggest that it functioned as courtyard. No evidence for internal partition walls was seen within the main building, which contained the remains of a large doorway in the centre of the south wall, suggesting that the building was more likely to have been a barn than a villa.

(Arthur Hollinrake)

Keynsham, Spinney Close, ST 646 794

A twin-probe resistance survey was carried out under difficult ground conditions to determine the location of those parts of the Durleigh Roman Villa which continued from Durleigh Cemetery under the causeway carrying the A4175. An area of relatively high resistance in the north-east portion represented the north-west corner of the villa, just appearing from under the road embankment, some 15 m south of the point mapped during the 1920s excavations. To the south of this, a stone conduit appeared to run from a spring to a masonry feature of unknown function. Along the north-west edge of the survey, there appeared to be a series of narrow structures, probably buildings, alongside the lane. It is not clear whether these are the remains of cottages (although none show on maps) fronting the lane, or whether they are Roman structures, whose presence defined the course of the later lane.

(John Oswin)

Martock, Stapleton Mead, ST 442 225, Somerset HER 38930

Further excavation was carried out, re-visiting part of the site looked at in 2014. The flue seen in the test trench proved to belong to a freestanding, large and complex stone-built corn-dryer. This was an elaboration of a T-shaped plan with side flues creating a key shape. It showed signs of having been adapted and re-built on at least one, and probably two occasions, but material suitable for providing dates was limited. Post-excavation work is on-going. SSARG and the Martock Local History Club once again extend thanks to the Yandle family for facilitating access including fencing the excavation area, and showing so much interest in the project.

(Clare Randall)

South Petherton, Frogmary Green Farm, ST 41983 15921, Somerset HER 37338

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an evaluation with a subsequent area excavation. A number of features were identified, which included a ditch and kiln/furnace dating to the Romano-British period as well as an undated ditch and various pits. The area was probably part of an agricultural landscape, the features identified relating to arable production and other small-scale industrial uses, situated on the periphery of a settlement area. This is likely to relate to a previously known large deposit of Romano-British settlement debris immediately south (Somerset HER 55337).

(Clare Randall)

Taunton, Nerrols Farm, ST 244 266, Somerset HER 32911

A prehistoric or Romano-British roundhouse and boundary ditches were discovered during the excavation of a medieval site by AC Archaeology. The finds included small quantities of prehistoric pottery and worked flint as well as a small collection of Romano-British finds including a brooch and pottery. See also under Medieval.

(Paul Rainbird)

Weston-super-Mare, Filers Way, ST 3695 6238, North Somerset HER ENS1978

Four trenches excavated by Wessex Archaeology showed that land in this area had been partially reclaimed, probably for agricultural purposes, during the Romano-British period as shown by a single small drainage gully recorded at a depth of over 1m. The reclamation of marshland for

agriculture is borne out by the environmental evidence which included the presence of land snails in the primary fill of the gully suggestive of open grassland in the vicinity and a single cereal grain indicating crop production. Deposits overlying the Romano-British levels suggest that the land was primarily pastoral in the medieval and post-medieval periods, with the area being subjected to periods of inundation and drying that were more pronounced than in the Romano-British period.

(Tracey Smith)

Woolavington, Puriton Hill to Royal Ordnance Factory, ST 3378 4160, Somerset HER 37662

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring during groundworks for a replacement water main. This recorded a substantial and dense deposit of crushed blue lias and Mendip stone, some 5.5m wide running parallel to a modern lane which is believed to follow the line of the Roman road from Ilchester to Combwich.

(Clare Randall)

MEDIEVAL

Chewton Mendip, ST5967 5321, Somerset HER 31671

This is the seventh year of archaeological excavations undertaken by members of Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP) investigating a large, medieval building, believed to have belonged to the Abbey of Jumièges, Normandy from soon after the Norman Conquest. This building was systematically demolished, possibly in the 15th century. Beneath this building lies the remains of Saxon occupation on the site, strongly suggesting a connection with the minster church at Chewton Mendip. In the spring of 2017 excavations concentrated on the northeast area of the site, where a confusing picture remained as to the precise layout of the rectilinear foundations. A continuation of a north/south wall foundation first noted in trench 6 in 2012 was recorded. Unfortunately, as with most wall junctions on this site, the corner had been completely robbed out, presumably of larger, reusable quoin stones. There was no evidence of a right-angled junction at this point, but a suggestion of an obtuse-angled feature formed by the surviving remains of an internal floor level, which may have abutted a north wall. On the line of this feature was a ditch cut which could, through extrapolation, be interpreted

as an extension of the north wall east from trench 17, reported in in 2016. However, the change in orientation of such a wall defies explanation at present. Medieval pottery sherds were found in all levels of the excavation. Ham Green B ware of 12th century and a sherd of glazed Bristol ware of 14th century, together with a Henry II Tealby silver penny, dating to post AD 1158, and mortar residue of 15th century (Jerry Sampson pers. comm., 2017) put this area firmly in the post Norman Conquest period. A further trench was placed in the north-west area of the building to assess the course of a drain running south-west to north-east, beneath a slab floor. Uncovered in 2011/12 and extending the width of the building it was not known how it exited the foundations. The excavation was partly successful in that it established that later modifications to the interior of the building had truncated the drain course 0.5m short of the north wall. A further drain course, 1m to the east, was channelled through the foundations onto a rubble soak-away to exterior. It could not be established as to whether the two drains were related. In the summer of 2017 a grant from the Maltwood Fund enabled a series of test pits to be dug around the exterior of the building foundations, sufficiently far from possible wall trench cuts to provide undisturbed, stratigraphical sequences in areas which included possible Saxon occupation. Five pits were dug, three of which were successful in providing good sequences. All soils were sieved, with samples taken for flotation study and pottery sherds recorded in 3D in all levels. Samples of animal bone, where found with pottery, were retrieved for radiocarbon dating possibilities. After post-excavation scrutiny, six bone samples were selected and sent for dating. The results confirmed the post-Norman levels of the spring 2017 excavation area and further supported the theory of continuity of settlement from Saxon minster foundation to Norman occupation by returning dates in a range from 8th through to 12th centuries. The pottery sherds, recovered at all levels, form part of the Chewton Mendip Type Series to be published in due course. A full report of the Test pit Project will be published in this journal once all analysis is complete.

(Pip Osborne)

Chilton Polden, church of St Edward, ST 3734 3996, Somerset HER 37667

During late summer and early autumn 2017 the excavation of two lengths of trenching to accommodate new drainage in the churchyard was

monitored. To the north, probable evidence for the existence of an early field system pre-dating the construction of the church was identified in the form of a boundary bank, associated ditch and a possible post hole containing medieval pottery. This may represent the presence of a timber structure, possibly a fence line. Overlying these features an extensive area of demolition material was encountered containing masonry, mortar and tile presumably deposited during significant restoration and re-modelling of the church in the 19th century.

(James Brigers)

Congresbury, Venus Street, ST 4434 6302

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC Archaeology from November 2016 to January 2017. Soil stripping revealed a series of three small ditches, two of which produced medieval pottery which would suggest broad contemporaneity with the construction of Milsome Castle, a motte-and-bailey type castle potentially dating to the mid-12th century, some 300m away.

(Paul Cooke)

Dunster, Church of St George, SS 9903 4365

Monitoring during the installation of new services recorded a large undated ditch towards the southern boundary of the churchyard, which may represent part of the boundary of the medieval monastic complex. Examination of a section of the southern foundation of the nave suggested that the existing structure may have been constructed on a broader footing possibly retained from an earlier building. In the Luttrell cemetery to the south of the chancel trenching revealed the remains of walls, floors and demolition material associated with of at least two post-medieval structures, probably dwellings, that may have stood in some form into the 19th century.

(James Brigers)

East Pennard, Church of All Saints, ST59693744, Somerset HER 37422

The excavation of a foul drainage system within the graveyard was monitored. No significant archaeology was recorded however the presence of several unmarked but in situ burials was noted.

(Dick Broomhead)

Glastonbury Abbey, ST 5005 8387, Somerset HER 38931

Oakford Archaeology hand-excavated a single trench to improve drainage around the south and

west side of the Lady Chapel, a length of about 25m. The trench was 0.45m wide, 0.8m deep and was dug entirely through the backfill of earlier excavations and landscaping, to an average depth of 0.1m below current ground level. Below this was a mixed deposit consisting of mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent slate, lias and Doulling fragment inclusions. Immediately south of the well house, exposed in 2013, excavations exposed an archaeological finds deposit containing medieval architectural fragments, window glass and floor-tiles associated with the extensive excavations undertaken between 1904–79.

(Mark Steinmetzer)

Glastonbury, Chilkwell Street, ST 50622 38520, Somerset HER 37333

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation and subsequent monitoring, which recorded a deposit of late medieval pottery and bone that was positioned on the projected line of a shallow ditch/gully containing medieval pottery, perhaps a remnant of the basal fill following truncation. The selection of material appears to be indicative of domestic waste, with consumption of cattle and sheep/goat indicating table waste. See also under Prehistoric.

(Clare Randall)

Keynsham, 39 High Street, ST 6545 6867

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Avon Archaeology Limited comprising a single T-shaped trench in the small plot. This recorded a stone-built structure comprising the lowest two courses of a wall which extended beyond the confines of the trench and had been recorded in 1994 on an adjacent site where it was interpreted as the boundary of the Augustinian Abbey founded just after the mid-12th century. Deposits within the evaluation trench below and adjacent to the structure contained amount of pottery and roof tile, dating from AD 1050 onwards. The wall appeared to remain standing until demolished in the 17th or 18th century.

(Rachel Heaton)

Leigh on Mendip, ST 6923 4729, Somerset HER 37528

Between September and December 2017 several areas of excavation for new drainage were monitored in the churchyard. Trenching close to the east, west and south walls of the church revealed

the substantial medieval foundations of the tower and nave but the east end of the Lady Chapel was found to have only a very shallow rubble footing. The removal of a 19th-century French drain to the east and south of the Lady Chapel revealed only post-medieval dumps and probable grave earth in these areas. Trial pitting to the south of the nave exposed an early dump of clay which was cut by a single post hole, possibly associated with the construction phase of the south aisle, or possibly the later tower. Although disarticulated human remains were encountered at most locations, particularly frequently to the south-east of the chapel, intact skeletons were only exposed in the area to the east of the chancel where a single apparently isolated example was present and to the north of the tower where two particularly shallow burials were excavated, all most likely of medieval date. The works also encompassed the removal and replacement of the lead on the nave and chancel roofs and prior to this a full record was compiled of extensive inscribed graffiti. A total of 85 examples were recognised comprising foot and hand outlines, open inscriptions and other types including an unusual portrait identifiable possibly as a member the early 19th-century navy. The majority of examples dated from 1740 to the later 19th century although increasingly crude additions were still being made into the late 20th century.

(James Brigers)

Limington, The Old Forge, ST 54000 22463,
Somerset HER 37581

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out a field evaluation through trial trenching on a site that map regression indicated an agricultural building forming part of 'Genges Farm'. A single v-shaped ditch, 2m wide and 0.95m deep was recorded that is likely to represent a former plot/field boundary dated to the medieval period.

(Richard McConnell)

Pitcombe, Church of St Leonard, ST 6727 3271,
Somerset HER 34769

Service trenches were monitored in the churchyard revealing evidence of a former boundary wall together with a single in situ burial post-dating a 19th-century expansion of the churchyard. Unstratified medieval floor and glazed roof tile derived from the groundworks suggested an earlier church building of some elaboration was replaced during reconstruction in the mid-19th century.

(Dick Broomhead)

Priddy, Great Ground, ST 5295 5105

Further excavation and survey were carried out in July 2017 over earthworks just off Priddy village green. Trench 8 was located in the area of earthworks just to the east of a building excavated in 2016. As expected, the earthworks were revealed as walls which had been robbed to their lower courses and/or foundations. Five earth-bonded walls, labelled A–E, were uncovered. Walls A, B and D were similar to those excavated in 2016, though there are possible indications that Wall A was more roughly built and possibly a field or enclosure wall rather than part of a building. Wall C had been robbed to its foundations, leaving only a few corner stones in place. However, Wall E was very different to the others, being wider and better-made. Its internal face had a surviving thick coat of lime plaster adhering to it, surviving to c. 0.1m high. It appears that Wall E and robbed-out Wall C represent either the end or side walls of a building with internally plastered walls. A further wall joining these two walls had been totally removed but a line of plaster marked its position. Both Medieval and early Post-Medieval pottery was found in the demolition layers associated with all of the walls, along with some fragments of window and vessel glass and animal bones. Extending underneath the building was a rubbish pit, containing pottery, animal bone and charcoal. Some of the pottery may be Saxo-Norman, dating to the 10th to early 12th centuries AD. Trench 9 was located over the enclosure ditch, in an area where the geophysics indicated possible features just outside of it. Both the ditch and these features were found and excavated. The ditch was cut through the bedrock and broadly V-shaped. It had been significantly disturbed by stone quarrying – it was these quarry pits that showed as anomalies on the geophysical survey. Whilst Neolithic-style worked flints were found in the ditch, the disturbance caused by the stone quarrying, together with their potential for residuality, mean that we do not as yet have any secure dating for the enclosure ditch from this trench. The stone quarrying took the form of broadly circular pits, excavated into the bedrock. Finds in the fill of these pits included worked flint, obviously disturbed from the ditch, Medieval pottery and some Post Medieval pottery in the upper fills. Trench 10 was located over a series of geophysical anomalies which appeared to be pits but were revealed to be dips in the natural bedrock. Trench 11 was located over the enclosure

ditch in an area away from any geophysical survey anomalies. The ditch was cut through the natural limestone bedrock and was relatively shallow and flat-bottomed, different to the profile elsewhere. Finds were restricted to Neolithic-style worked flint with a small piece of (undiagnostic) cremated bone. Post-excavation work is underway and we hope to return to the site in 2018. We are grateful for the continued efforts and support of ALERT, the landowners and Natural England.

(Jodie Lewis and David Mullen)

Rode, church of St Lawrence, ST 808 533,
Somerset HER 40208

The far eastern part of the churchyard is still used occasionally for inhumation burials but two recent grave sites had to be abandoned as masonry was found below the surface. A twin-probe resistance survey at high data density indicated that the gravedigger had been unfortunate, and chosen the two spots where there was stone obstruction below the surface and other available places were not obstructed. Three resistivity profiles were also conducted in the same area, which supported the inferences of the twin-probe resistance results and also indicated that there might be a large structure, some 6m wide, at a depth of 1.5m below ground level, extending from the east end of the church.

(John Oswin)

Ruishton, Church of St George, ST 2636 2512,
Somerset HER 37711

The excavation of a single exploratory trench to the east of the chancel was monitored. A deep deposit of grave earth was observed sealing natural clay within the surface of which the outlines of two probable graves were visible, cut immediately adjacent to the church foundation.

(James Brigers)

Staplegrave, Church of St John, ST 2122 2643,
Somerset HER 32958

The removal and replacement of the existing floors within the north aisle, nave, south transept and part of the chancel were monitored. A number of ledger stones within the nave dating to the 17th century were recorded and two significant vaults were found located beneath the existing floor. One of unknown occupancy lay beneath the south transept and the other, containing the remains of Captain Robert Poole and his family, was located at the western end of the nave. The form of a 19th-century hot air heating system was also uncovered together

with a short section of medieval foundation along the north side of the chancel.

(Dick Broomhead)

Taunton, Nerrols Farm, ST 244 266,
Somerset HER 32911

An archaeological excavation, by AC Archaeology in advance of residential and mixed-use development between March and June 2016, recorded a medieval farmstead located by previous evaluation. This comprised a post-built house and probable barn with extensive evidence for land allotment. An undated pit contained evidence of ironworking on the site. An assemblage of over 3000 medieval pottery sherds weighing more than 24kg in total, dating from the 11th to 13th centuries was recovered. See also under Roman.

(Paul Rainbird)

Taunton, Quantock House, ST 2284 2432,
Somerset HER 37532

Archaeological investigations were undertaken by AC Archaeology ahead of construction, comprising the machine-excavation of four trenches. Pre-modern archaeological features were present in one of the trenches, consisting of linear ditches/gullies and a series of pits, dating from the medieval period through to modern times, although the majority were post-medieval in date. The ditches are considered to have related to former arrangement of plot divisions, while the pits were probably associated with waste disposal.

(László Lichtenstein and Paul Rainbird)

Wellington, The Old Court, ST 1372 2046,
Somerset HER 43715

Context One Heritage and Archaeology examined a garage/workshop at the Grade II* Listed premises. The rear (north-west side) of The Old Court originated as a medieval hall with service range to the east and two Georgian extensions. The garage/store was added during the Victorian period, although two walls cannibalized existing rubble boundary walls, while the remaining elevations are well-constructed of brick. Both the chimney and the internal wooden stairs were a later addition, probably in the late 19th or early 20th century.

(Cheryl Green)

West Quantoxhead, Church of St Etheldreda,
ST 1131 4200, Somerset HER 40883

Trenching for a new drainage system was monitored. To the north of the existing 19th-

century church a masonry wall foundation was exposed, possibly part of the northern wall of the medieval church that was demolished in the mid 19th century. Deep excavation in the north-west corner of the churchyard produced a profile through over 2m depth of rubble dumps of no earlier than 19th-century date and possibly deposited in deep hollow at the time of construction of the existing church.

(James Brigers)

Westbury, Court House Farm, ST 499 487,
Somerset HER 34783

Members of the Westbury Society Archaeology Group and other volunteers have been excavating in the field north of St Lawrence church (Figure 4). A series of shallow trenches to uncover the walls, and several deeper trenches have revealed some of the foundations of a rectilinear building oriented almost north/south. The foundations, from possibly as early as the 11th century, measure approximately 10m across the shorter southern end, while the northern end remains obscured, on one

side by an orchard and by newer buildings on the other. The three outer walls average 1m thick where they haven't been robbed out. Running parallel to the southern wall are another two interior walls. The northernmost of the two is probably a later addition. The southern interior wall appears to have been rebuilt at some stage, as there is a noticeable ledge and some misalignments between the upper and lower courses. Most of the stone used in the construction is a local dolomitic conglomerate, with occasional finer dressed pieces of Doulting origin, particularly in the clasping buttress in the south-west corner, but also at one of the proposed. The finer masonry appears to be on the western wall, and this may be considered as the front wall. A piece of Bristol Redcliffe ware and a piece of Ham Green B ware (c.1175–1275) were discovered above a possible floor surface. Copious amounts of as yet undated, possibly late Saxon, coarseware argue for an earlier phase of occupation. Beside the medieval ceramics, a not insignificant quantity of residual Roman pottery has also been found. The Domesday Book records the Bishop of Wells



Fig. 4 Excavations at Court House Farm by the Westbury Society

(later Bath and Wells) as owning Westbury, and he is recorded making infrequent visits to Westbury as late as the 14th century. This building would appear to be the Manor, or Court House, one of the Bishop's occasional residences. It may have been cannibalised to construct the current buildings at Court House Farm, which date to the mid 15th century onwards, and are on a noticeably different alignment.

(Pete Massingham)

Westonzoyland, 10 Load Lane, ST 34870 34665,
Somerset HER 13885

Context One Heritage and Archaeology recorded this Grade II Listed, early post-medieval, farmhouse prior to and during demolition. A report will appear in the next issue of SANH.

(Cheryl Green)

POST-MEDIEVAL

Ashill, Ashill Orchard, ST 3208 1737,
Somerset HER 37701

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological field evaluation of a site where early 19th-century mapping indicated small plots, two of which contained buildings described as agricultural dwellings and ancillary structures. None of the buildings were depicted on later 19th century maps. Two ditches and a gully probably relating to the old orchard were encountered along with a demolition/occupation layer that may have been associated with one of the buildings.

(Cheryl Green)

Bath, Prior Park, ST 7609 6340

During late December 2017 four assessment trenches were opened on the surface of the Middle Dam within the landscape garden of Prior Park to the south of Bath. Deep silt sediments exhibiting high levels of organic preservation were encountered upon which the initial core of the dam was deposited around a timber stake which may have been positioned as one of series placed as guides. The core was found to be made up of a low bank of clean, possibly puddled clay supplemented by substantial dumps locally-sourced sandy-clay surmounted by a compacted gravelly surface which may represent the remains of a path or causeway. The existing headwall was found to stand upon an earlier deep foundation but neither appears to be contemporary with the construction of the dam

and the original retaining wall may have been completely removed. A discreet area of stone rubble revealed on the surface of the dam may represent the remains of a structure but the function and form of this remains unclear.

(James Brigers)

Goathurst, Halswell House, ST 2539 3378,
Somerset HER 37584

A phased programme of research has been undertaken by Oakford Archaeology since December 2016, part of an extensive programme of works being undertaken with the ultimate aim of restoring the house and historic structures within the wider grounds and opening it up to the public. In the house, opening-up to locate areas of rot has permitted closer inspection of the historic fabric and allowed the identification of areas that contain original features and areas where these have been replaced. Tantalising new evidence is emerging that suggests that the remains of an earlier house, perhaps late Elizabethan or early Jacobean, may be preserved within the fabric of the later Baroque wing. New evidence has also been recovered from the east elevation of the medieval south range, suggesting the presence of a now-lost medieval range. Whether this formed a simple continuation of the south range or perhaps a more complex arrangement remains unclear at this stage. Work in the south garden and outbuildings has suggested the presence of a late medieval agricultural building; extensively rebuilt in brick by the mid-late 17th century the building may have been used as a brew house. Converted to a dairy in the mid-18th century the building reverted to servant's accommodation by the 19th century. Excavations in the south garden have shown that the first identifiable garden was laid out in the late 17th century. Situated on a gentle east facing slope the area was reduced to the height of the subsoil, before the lower levels were brought up with imported subsoil. A uniform layer of Morte slate was introduced across the whole area, suggesting it may have been imported to aid with drainage, and the site covered in topsoil. No planting beds or pits were identified, and it is likely that this was the site of the early kitchen garden. New walls were built at this time to the east and south that survive today. The south garden was converted to a formal garden in the 19th century when the walled kitchen garden to the northeast of the main house was built.

(Mark Steinmetzer)

Luccombe, Horner Farm, SS 8989 4545,
Exmoor HER EEM14709

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of a water pipe trench in March 2017. The farm consists of a complex of buildings of which some surviving elements have been dated to the 16/17th century. The earlier elements included the site of the Old House, which lay adjacent to the area monitored. Although largely demolished during the 19th century to allow access into the yard to the west and re-built to the east as a store, some of its earlier fabric was found to have been retained in the later structure.

(Vince Symmonds)

Pensford, Sutton Court, Stowey, ST 5967 6045

Wessex Archaeology undertook historic building recording and a watching brief ahead of installation of a new heating system. Sutton Court is a Grade II* listed, formerly fortified, manor house of early 14th-century origin. In the centuries following its construction the building was altered and extended including extensive restructuring and restoration by TH Wyatt between 1858 and 1860. The property was converted to individual residences in the late 20th century. The watching brief focussed on the embattled wall but the 19th-century remodelling appeared to have removed any early features.

(Bob Davis and Stewart Wareing)

South Stoke, Packhorse Inn, ST 7471 6123

Wessex Archaeology undertook a watching brief during groundworks associated with the renovation of this 17th-century Grade II Listed building. All recorded features were of 19th-/20th-century date but the complete absence of Roman finds was notable for this location.

(Cai Mason and Marek Lewcun)

Wellington, Fore Street, Three Cups Hotel,
ST 1379 2042, Somerset HER 37529

An evaluation recorded remains indicating intensive activity during the later 18th and 19th centuries in the centre and to the north west of the site. These included the remains of a stone building, probably an earlier stable block, the surface of the 19th-century alley way to the rear of the hotel and numerous pits and post holes; all of which formed at the surface of a buried cultivation soil containing abraded fragments of medieval pottery. To the north west, a line of large postholes probably represents the remains of an early property division

running to the street frontage dating from the later 15th or 16th century. A single cess pit of the 17th century represented the earliest evidence of direct occupation on or close to the site.

(James Brigers)

Wiveliscombe, Spring Gardens, ST 0815 2803,
Somerset HER 44106

Recording and excavation by Cotswold Archaeology in advance of the partial demolition of a boundary wall of the former Hancock's Brewery orchard showed that the early 18th-century wall didn't follow the alignment of a possibly medieval boundary as previously suggested but was a rebuild of an earlier wall located 2m to the west.

(Zoe Arkley)

INDUSTRIAL

Merriott, Tail Mill, ST 4495 1235,
Somerset HER 54248

Absolute Archaeology monitored the redevelopment of the old textile mill buildings. The 2015–2017 programme of works consisted of small excavations to reveal 19th-/early to middle 20th-century industrial activity in the form of bricked walk-through culverts surrounded by mid 20th-century aisled walk-throughs, all possibly relating to the making of aviation parts during the period 1938–1945. So far there is no evidence of the earlier medieval grist mill known to have occupied the area.

(Paul Martin)

Muchelney, Thorney Halt, ST 4281 2311, Somerset
HER 37370

Context One Heritage and Archaeology recorded the mid-19th century railway bridge at Thorney, which is the only example of a plate girder bridge along the former Durston to Yeovil line that opened in 1853 as one of the first branch lines of the Bristol and Exeter Railway. The void beneath the bridge was then infilled for structural stability.

(Cheryl Green)

Nailsea, 41 High Street, ST 4765 7084

Avon Archaeology Limited were commissioned to undertake a strip and record exercise and accompanying watching brief on the site of the former Royal Oak Garage followed a building survey undertaken at the same location. The site lies within the Scheduled area of Nailsea

Glassworks, which were established in 1788 and continued to operate until 1873. The former Royal Oak Garage building apparently dates to the later part of the 1860s and appears on an 1870 plan of the glassworks as housing two 'French Kilns'. The earliest features recorded probably predated the present building and may relate to the alkali works which was incorporated into the glassworks complex around the mid-1830s. Later features were probably associated with the northern of the two French kilns. Monitoring of test-pits and pile sockets recorded a very substantial stone-lined flue, possibly relating to the alkali works, and an area of brick flooring most likely to have been associated with the French kilns housed within the building from the later 1860s. Many of the structures had been massively truncated but it is clear that the structures recorded formed part of a large and complex industrial site, whose detailed layout and chronology are still not fully understood.

(S Newns, N Corcos and G Dickinson)

Oake, Blagrove's Bridge, ST 1460 2590,
Somerset HER 36844

AC Archaeology recorded this bridge in January 2017, prior to the infilling of the void under it. The bridge carries a local road over the former route of the Devon & Somerset (later Great Western Railway) line between Norton Fitzwarren and Barnstaple. The bridge is a late 1930s replacement for the original, probably late 1860s, bridge and is associated with the upgrading of the line from one to two tracks. It has stone abutments supporting an iron and steel superstructure. The architecture and materials used is typical of railway bridges of the period.

(Stephen Robinson)

Pitcombe, Hadspen House, ST 6602 3104,
Somerset HER 37335

A group of stone-built secondary extensions to the rear of the main house were recorded by Oxford Archaeology in advance of their being taken down to allow their reconstruction on a similar footprint and also to allow the creation of a large subterranean area. Three main phases were identified: the earliest appearing on plans in 1843, the second in 1886 and the third phase comprising further modern internal changes. The demolition was then monitored.

(Deirdre Forde)

Radstock, former GWR site, ST 6906 5475

Oxford Archaeology has undertaken the recording of various railway-related surface features as part of redevelopment for housing. The most recent phase of recording has included a former engine shed (known as the 'Brunel shed'), some structures of the Marcroft Wagon Works, a partially buried turntable, several bridges and various surviving tracks across the site. The Brunel shed, which is probably the most significant surviving structure, had been constructed by 1867 and is a rectangular-plan stone structure with a shallow-pitch corrugated-iron roof. The main building associated with the wagon works, the forge, is a late 19th-century building with a later extension orientated roughly north to south. The main body of the original building is a stone structure and the extension is constructed with red brick. It is the only surviving structure in a complex of buildings associated with Marcroft Wagon Works but is largely devoid of original fixtures. The nearby turntable, which is situated by the stream to the north is structurally sound as are the three 20th-century iron and concrete foot-bridges crossing the Kilmersdon brook to the west of the wagon works.

(Jonathan Gill)

Shepton Mallet prison, ST 6211 4360,
Somerset HER 32993

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in 2015 recorded 19th-century levelling deposits, a quarry pit, a culverted stream and a wall. The prison garden soil was also observed, along with the locations of several prison graves marked on a 1922 plan that were not disturbed.

(Peter Busby)

OTHER REPORTS

Aller, sewage pumping station, ST 3989 2925,
Somerset HER 37337

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks related to the construction of a replacement sewer main. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Clare Randall)

Backwell, Starcombe Quarry, ST 5044 6756,
North Somerset HER ENS1995

Archaeological monitoring and recording were undertaken by AC Archaeology between May and

July 2017 over an area totalling approximately 12ha. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Andrew West)

Bath, Lansdown Road, ST 7323 6799

Avon Archaeology Limited was commissioned to monitor groundworks associated with the construction of a new leisure and amenity building at Lansdown Court but no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Kevin Potter and Nick Corcos)

Bath, Walcot Yard, ST 7511 6535

Avon Archaeology Limited monitored groundworks associated with the construction of a development of new residential properties. It became apparent quite early on in the course of the work that virtually the entire site consisted of made ground, up to 3m deep in the western part of the site and sometimes very unstable. Safety considerations precluded detailed recording but apart from the discovery of a highly truncated cobbled yard surface, and a few late (18th-19th-century) masonry walls, no significant features, structures or deposits were seen. The indications of Romano-British activity that had been located in parts of the site during earlier exploratory excavations were nowhere encountered.

(Nick Corcos)

Bleadon, The Rectory, ST 340595 6933

South West Archaeology undertook a limited trench evaluation in the garden of the Rectory prior to the construction of a proposed building. Only modern features and finds were recorded.

(Sam Walls)

Bradford on Tone, The Nursery, ST 1740 2262, Somerset HER 34680

Context One Heritage and Archaeology monitored an area where prehistoric flint and medieval pottery have been observed. Despite this, no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Clare Randall)

Brympton and West Coker, pipeline, ST 531 153, Somerset HER 37651

Detailed magnetometry was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd, along the line of a new water pipeline. The results indicated the presence of a number of very weakly positive linear anomalies within the southern and central parts of the site,

but due to the weak and poorly defined response, it was not possible to determine their origin. Subsequently the groundworks were monitored by AC Archaeology but no archaeological features or finds were recorded.

(Kerry Donaldson, David Sabin and Andrew West)

Cannington sewage works, ST 269 392, Somerset HER 37524

Context One Heritage and Archaeology monitored the groundworks for a new sewage pumping station. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Clare Randall)

Chedzoy, Front Street, ST 3375 3734, Somerset HER 36802

Monitoring of the construction of a new garage in August 2017 revealed a pit and a short linear feature, both of which remain undated and the latter may be of natural origin. To the west a substantial stone wall foundation was exposed containing material indicating an 18th- or 19th-century date and possibly representing the foundations of former agricultural buildings shown on 19th-century mapping of the area.

(James Brigers)

Chew Magna, Pump House, ST 571 630

An archaeological watching brief on sloping ground to the south of High Street, produced no evidence for use of the site prior to the 19th century.

(Arthur Hollinrake)

Combwich to Cannington pipeline, ST 2618 4216 to ST 2686 3921, Somerset HER 37663

Context One Heritage and Archaeology monitored groundworks relating to the installation of a pipeline c.3.5km long, although most of the route was drilled. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded in the section that was trench dug.

(Clare Randall)

Congresbury, Small Way, ST 4361 6462 North Somerset HER ENS1966

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

(George Gandam)

Congresbury, Wrington Lane, ST 7660 6488

AC Archaeology monitored ten geotechnical pits and window samples following a geophysical survey which had identified anomalies of possible archaeological origin. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

(Vince Symmonds)

Dunster Castle, SS 9929 4350

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC Archaeology, during the creation of a new compost area. A short section of 19th-century, mortar-bonded, stone wall was exposed and only modern finds were recovered.

(Simon Hughes)

Durleigh, Danesborough reservoir, ST 2628 3703 to ST 2648 3599

The construction of a replacement water main between the existing Danesborough Reservoir and Enmore Road near Bridgwater was monitored by AC Archaeology. With the exception of a natural feature representing part of a palaeochannel, no archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.

(Vince Symmonds)

East Harptree, Pinkers Farm, ST 5636 5548

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an evaluation at the south-western end of the medieval settlement but no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Clare Randall)

Godney, Church of the Holy Trinity, ST 4854 4245

Groundworks associated with the construction of a new car park and access road were monitored but no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Arthur Hollinrake)

Highbridge, Isleport Business park, ST 3296 4795, Somerset HER 37417

Wessex Archaeology undertook trial trench evaluation on the site of a proposed new warehouse/light industrial unit. The deposit sequence comprised tidal flat deposits in excess of 1.3m in depth, overlain by topsoil. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recorded.

(Simon Flaherty)

Ilchester, Hainbury Farm, ST 5253 2343

Somerset HER 37525

Context One Heritage and Archaeology monitored groundworks immediately adjacent to the Fosse Way Roman road but no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Richard McConnell)

Keynsham, 15 Station Road, ST 6542 6888

Avon Archaeology Limited monitored development within the western perimeter of the abbey but the majority of the site had been truncated by a cellar. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Rachel Heaton)

Keynsham, 3 The Park, ST 655 688

Monitoring, in 2016, of the foundations for an extension recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

(Rachel Heaton)

Keynsham, Chantry Farm, ST 6292 6847

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological field evaluation but no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Richard McConnell)

Kilmersdon to Haydon, ST 6899 5382 to

ST 6967 5254, Somerset HER 37533

AC Archaeology monitored the construction of a new sewer. Disturbance associated with a former coal mine was observed in one area, otherwise no archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.

(Vince Symmonds)

Long Ashton, Woodspring Golf and Country Club, ST 5527 6870

Wessex Archaeology monitored trial pits excavated to investigate an existing unused water pipe. No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded but an abraded fragment of Romano-British ceramic building material was recovered from the subsoil.

(Tracey Smith)

Lower Swainswick, Bailbrook House Hotel,

ST 7674 6693

Avon Archaeology Limited monitored improvement works to the car park but no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Nick Corcos)

Meare, St Mary's Road, ST 4551 4158,
Somerset HER 37661

Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation by three trial trenches but these recorded no significant archaeological features or finds.

(Tracey Smith)

Middlezoy, Merricks Farm, ST 3767 3292,
Somerset HER 37707

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an evaluation in the centre of the village but no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Clare Randall)

Nailsea, Stockway South, ST 4734 7057,
North Somerset HER ENS2013

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works in advance residential development on the site of a former police station. The site had been subject to extensive truncation and no archaeologically significant features or artefacts were recorded.

(Michael Fleming and Tracey Smith)

Peasedown St John, Greenlands Road,
ST 7025 5764

Avon Archaeology Limited excavated 13 evaluation trenches in March 2016. No features of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Rachel Heaton)

Porlock, West Luccombe Farm, SS 8921 4613,
Exmoor HER EEM14736

Context One Archaeology and Heritage monitored groundworks related to the replacement of a pipeline. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Clare Randall)

Ridge chapel, ST 8286 5198, Somerset HER 37666
Drainage and other services were monitored in August 2017. The outlines of several graves were recorded but only one was found in the areas of deeper excavation and the remains within this were not disturbed.

(James Brigers)

Southdown, Englishcombe Lane, ST 7322 6326

Avon Archaeology Limited excavated 10 evaluation trenches in May 2016. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded that pre-

dated the late 19th century.

(Donna Young)

Taunton, Castle Way, ST 2256 2452,
Somerset HER 37415

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded no features or deposits of archaeological significance.

(Christina Tapply)

Taunton, M5 junction 25, ST 254672446,
Somerset HER 37526

Context One Heritage and Archaeology monitored geotechnical test pits in an area where geophysical survey had suggested the possibility of archaeological remains. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded from the pits.

(Clare Randall)

Walton, Yew Tree Farm, ST 4576 3637,
Somerset HER 37705

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an evaluation in the former farmyard. The area was found to have been subject to extensive modern earthmoving and no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Clare Randall)

Wellington, Twyford Place, ST 1369 2027,
Somerset HER 36731

Reduction of the site and the excavation of trial pits in advance of development were monitored but only 19th-century and later deposits were recorded.

(James Brigers)

Wellow, Stoney Littleton long barrow,
ST 7349 5720

Avon Archaeology Limited monitored the excavation of two postholes for a display board close to the barrow but no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Nick Corcos)

Wells, Pen Hill transmitting station, ST 5634 4865,
Somerset HER 37582

Avon Archaeology Limited were commissioned to monitor groundworks associated with the replacement of security fencing close to the Pen Hill long barrow. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Rachel Heaton)

Weston-super-Mare, North-South Spine Road, ST 3680 6100, North Somerset HER ENS2047

Wessex Archaeology undertook archaeological evaluation along the route of a 1.6km stretch of a proposed new road. Two of the five trenches in the southern part of the road route revealed boundary ditches of uncertain date. A range of pottery from Romano-British to post-medieval was recovered from soils. Large areas of disturbance had been caused by the construction and subsequent demolition of buildings associated with RAF Locking, which occupied the site between 1937 and 1999.

(Tracey Smith)

Whitchurch, Staunton Manor Farm, ST 6175 6737

Wessex Archaeology excavated ten trial trenches following a geophysical survey. A ditch contained a sherd of 13th–15th-century Bristol Redcliff ware, although this was highly abraded and is likely to be residual. A second larger ditch contained three sherds of post-medieval/modern redware and corresponded with a field boundary depicted on an early estate map. This work was followed by the excavation of a 0.28 ha area but, despite the proximity of a known Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Liam JS Powell, Simon Flaherty and Tracey Smith)

Williton, 5 Church Cottages, ST 0753 4073, Somerset HER 37664

Context One Heritage and Archaeology monitored remedial works following an oil leak at this Grade II Listed cottage with 16th or 17th century origins. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Clare Randall)

Winscombe, Broadleaze Farm, ST 418185 8884, North Somerset HER ENS2059, ENS2060

South West Archaeology undertook a geophysical survey in advance of a proposed housing development. The southern part of the site (in Winscombe parish) formed part of the former medieval deerpark attached to the Bishop's palace at Banwell; the northern part of the site (in Sandford) clearly formed part of the common open field attached to that settlement. The geophysical survey undertaken did not identify any features of archaeological significance.

(Peter Bonvoisin)

Wiveliscombe, Maundown water treatment works, ST 0621 2912, Somerset HER 37752

Context One Heritage and Archaeology monitored the groundworks for a new land drain. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Clare Randall)

Wrington, ST 4765 6264

North Somerset HER ENS1942

A magnetometer survey of 2.12 hectares of land east of Wrington was undertaken by Substrata but no archaeologically significant magnetic anomalies were recorded.

(Ross Dean)

Yatton, Stowell Concrete, ST 417 660,

North Somerset HER ENS1973

A detailed magnetometer survey, carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd, revealed evidence for extant drainage gullies and also a zone of magnetically variable responses that are likely to relate to natural features. However, there were also strongly negative sinuous linear features and a curvilinear response that appeared to have truncated other anomalies, which may have an anthropogenic origin or association. Survey over an area of a proposed new office revealed only a response to magnetic debris, likely to relate to material associated with Holly Lodge Farm which was demolished in the early 20th century.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

Yeovil, Westfield Academy, ST 5417 1695,

Somerset HER 34791

An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology in March 2016 but recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

(Fiona Pink)