

**Somerset Archaeology 2015**

*A M Dick*

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# SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY 2015

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## COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The work of the Somerset Historic Environment Service (HES) continues to evolve and the service now plays an important part in the services offered by the South West Heritage Trust (SWHT) to Somerset County Council, Devon County Council and a range of other bodies. 2015 was a particularly busy year for the SWHT with the setting up of the new organisation and the adjustment from a local authority service into an organisation governed as a charitable trust. The transition was largely unnoticed by most of the users of the Somerset HES and the service continues to provide a wide range of advice across the county. One of the core functions of the HES is the Somerset Historic Environment Record and in 2015 Chris Webster added 281 new entries to the HER and revised 1221. The majority of the enquiries to the HER are now made online. Development work is now underway to transfer the Somerset HER into a new system called HEROS and this is due to be operational in 2016.

The HES continues 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 2015 Steve Membrey and Tanya James commented on over 2000 planning applications ranging from individual building plots in the middle of historic settlements through to extensive applications for several hundred houses around Yeovil and Crewkerne. Two major infrastructure projects are underway in Somerset: one at Hinkley Point C and the other at the proposed new National Grid connection line which is due to run from Hinkley Point northwards through Somerset and on towards Avonmouth.

The development proposals for Hinkley Point C power station continue to emerge and make headlines in the local newspapers. As part of the agreed planning permissions and Development Consent Orders an extensive programme of archaeological investigation and recording continued in 2015. In spite of all the preliminary

investigations, through geophysical surveys and trial trenching, one of the most unexpected finds of the year was the discovery of a well-preserved Dark Age cemetery on the western edge of the site. Excavations by Cotswold Archaeology revealed over 330 burials and initial radiocarbon dating from six samples gives a date range from c 600AD through to c 800AD. A great deal of work is now needed to look at this site and the post-excavation work will be coordinated by Cotswold Archaeology in association with the SWHT and advice from Historic England. There is little doubt that this site is of national importance and the results from this excavation will make a significant contribution towards Dark Age cemetery studies in Britain. An additional phase of excavation started on the southern side of the Hinkley site in 2015 and this is due to continue into 2016 and conclude the excavations on the site. Justin Owen made a range of popular-style films promoting and recording the story of the archaeology found at Hinkley Point and the Cannington Bypass during 2015. These are now available to view on the SWHT YouTube channel and were shown at three archaeology film festivals in Europe. An exhibition – “Landscapes of Power” – was held at the Museum of Somerset in the early part of 2015 and was attended by many thousands of visitors. A series of specially commissioned pieces of artwork by Victor Ambrus formed the main storyline from the prehistoric period through to the 20th century. A programme of community outreach linked to the archaeology story from Hinkley Point continued throughout the year and Rachel Bellamy, Jane Hill and Marc Cox delivered this across the county.

In addition to offering detailed planning advice to the councils the HES delivers advice and comments to a range of statutory undertakers such as Wessex Water and Bristol Water who are updating the water supply around the county. Another important part of the advice service is the advice given to Natural England and DEFRA on Countryside Stewardship matters. In 2105 Jan Grove gave advice to over 90 different landholders about the likely impact of their proposed schemes on the historic environment.

Community archaeology projects continue to form an important part of the annual outreach programme of the SWHT and several new projects were set up during the year. At Curry Mallet a programme of archaeological survey, geophysical survey (carried out by GeoFlo) and small excavations were coordinated in association with Curry Mallet Parish Council. Excavations in the Rectory Fields next to the parish church revealed evidence of an extensive moat-like feature dating from the 13th century. This work was part of the local celebrations of the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, linking Curry Mallet to the national events through the Mallet family.

The SWHT has taken responsibility for a number of scheduled monuments around the county and at Cothelstone Hill on the Quantocks. A programme of archaeological investigation was carried out around the area known as the Seven Sisters tree ring. This area was identified by Historic England as a monument at risk due to inappropriate tree planting on the scheduled medieval pillow mounds. Historic England, the Friends of Quantock, Natural England and the Quantock AONB service agreed a programme of replacement and replanting and the HES carried out a community training excavation on the site, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. No archaeological features were found, but over 90 pieces of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint were recovered. A small tree-planting ceremony was held on the hill in December 2015 to mark the centenary of the First World War.

The HES, in partnership with the Fairfield Area Study Team, carried out a programme of fieldwork at Fairfield in 2015 and a number of test pits to the east of Fairfield house revealed medieval deposits (12th–13th century). The project was used as a training excavation for A-level archaeology students from Richard Huish College in Taunton and as a training dig for pupils of Stogursey School.

The HES continues to offer advice on archaeological and planning matters to the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Both Nic Wall and Bob Croft have been involved in a wide range of planning, conservation and archaeological matters such as the removal of pews in major historic churches at St Mary's Bridgwater and St Andrew's Wiveliscombe through to major development proposals at Bath Abbey.

One of the year's key achievements was the accreditation of the HES as a Registered Archaeological Organisation by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. This significant

achievement places the service on a nationally approved register of archaeological organisations.

The digitisation of the Somerset Tithe Maps has been a major project for the HES, and during the year Chris Webster has supervised several volunteers who have worked on the geo-rectification of over 400 Tithe Maps. This work is due for completion in 2016. A programme of integration of some of this information into the HLF funded Know Your Place project has continued during the year.

The care and management of heritage assets in the public realm is coordinated by Nic Wall, and several sites and structures were repaired and conserved during the year by Andy Stevens, Ian Lewis and Simon Almay.

There are many challenges facing the archaeological service over the next few years and one of these is how we are to tackle the issue of archaeological archives. The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and other partners in the region are supporting a development bid to examine how best to tackle the challenge of increasing storage costs and pressure on local authority museum services.

The success of archaeological research continues at a steady pace and the publication of *The Historic Landscape of the Mendip Hills* by Historic England is one of the key research publications of the year. Somerset archaeology continues to provide an insight into many aspects of the county's past and each year another sample of the rich heritage of the county is noted, recorded and protected.

(Bob Croft)

## SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

### *Bath, Henrietta Park, ST 755 653*

Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society conducted a geophysical survey over Henrietta Park in October 2015, using magnetometry, twin-probe resistance and resistivity profiling. The survey recorded a number of possible routeways. There was also good evidence of the kitchen gardens known to occupy the area before the 19th-century developments, as well as features established when it became a park. There were also indications of substantial structural features in the centre, with high resistivity results a good metre below the present ground surface.

(John Oswin)

*Frome, Marston Mill*, NGR withheld

Geophysical survey conducted by Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society at the request of the owner on earthworks in a paddock immediately next to the mill suggested, but not conclusively, that an earlier structure underlay the undated earthworks.

(John Oswin)

*Ilminster, Ilton, Court Farm*, ST 3484 1747, Somerset HER 32696

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd, in conjunction with GeoFlo Southwest Geophysical and Flotation Services, carried out a geophysical survey on land at Court Farm. A single anomaly of probable archaeological interest has been identified, consisting of a curvilinear cut feature indicative of a ditch. Other anomalies relating to former field boundaries are also present, some of which are visible on historic mapping.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Locking, land at Elm Grove Nursery*, ST 3572 5981  
Archaeological Surveys Ltd undertook a detailed magnetometer survey ahead of a proposed residential development. The survey located a number of linear, curvilinear and rectilinear anomalies that appear to relate to linear and rectilinear ditches and possible enclosures.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

*Low Ham, Park*, ST 4502 3045

Two small trenches were excavated by South Somerset Archaeological Research Group in Furlong Field to test the nature and chronology of geophysical anomalies seen on a survey carried out in 2014. One of these proved to relate to an extensive spread of post-medieval domestic refuse, but the other discovered a substantial ditch which contained later Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery. SSARG would like to thank Steve and Sharon Groves, Ron Skeet, John Vigar, Stephen Fuller and Mike Trubridge.

(Clare Randall)

*Merriott, Shiremoor Hill*, ST 4450 1261

Surveys identified the presence of historic and relict field boundaries likely dating to the 19th-century field system. Several linear geophysical anomalies are not accounted for in the cartographic evidence, though their alignment is contiguous with that of the surrounding field system and suggests that they may be attributable to an earlier field system

based on medieval strip fields associated with the development of the settlement at Merriott.

(South West Archaeology)

*Montacute, Montacute House*, ST 5000 1730

A small gradiometer survey was conducted by South Somerset Archaeological Research Group, in co-operation with the National Trust, in the field to the north-east of the house beyond the formal garden. The aim was to attempt to locate a banqueting house mentioned in a 1667 survey. The gradiometry located a number of linear negative magnetic anomalies, but these do not appear to relate to the banqueting house. In one case the anomaly can be seen to correspond with a bank running E-W across the area. Further survey is planned for 2016.

(Clare Randall)

*North Cadbury, Great Ground*, ST 6241 2677

Fluxgate gradiometer survey by South Somerset Archaeological Research Group was extended on the north side of the A303, extending north from the South Cadbury parish boundary into North Cadbury. Features noted in 2013 and 2014 in Main Road Field and demonstrated by trial excavation to be later prehistoric in origin, were seen to continue north across the field known as Great Ground. Parallel north-south oriented linears c.40m apart run across the width of the field, and appear to continue into the field to the north as well. A number of enclosures have been noted appended along its length on the eastern side, similar in character to those noted previously in Main Road Field, and shown to be Romano-British in origin. SSARG would again like to thank Archie Montgomery for continued access to his land.

(Clare Randall)

*Othery, Beer Wall – Phase 2*, ST 3929 3151

Wessex Archaeology undertook a ground penetrating radar survey over 0.7ha of land at Beer Wall ahead of redevelopment of the land to reduce flooding. Drainage and agricultural features were detected that are likely to date to the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods.

(Elizabeth Richley)

*Shipham, Broadway, Marlease*, ST 439 579

A geophysical survey was conducted by ALERT in January and February 2015. The results suggested two curvilinear enclosures, each about 25m in width, in the north of the field. A ground resistance

'section' from north to south across the edge of one of these enclosures failed to produce a ditch profile but a showed buried high resistance feature about 1.5m below the surface and 6m wide. A thickness of about 0.50cm was suggested. Further resistance surveying of the area showed a broad linear feature of low resistance approximately 10m wide and 60m long crossing the line of the 'section'. This was tentatively identified as the line of a road, possibly Roman, detectable because water was unable to permeate the buried surface. A small 5m square feature was identified a few metres to the north, with the suggestion of a second of similar size almost adjacent to it. Pennant tile and some Romano British pottery including a fragment of Oxford Ware were retrieved by field walking. Flint fragments were also identified including scrapers and microliths. Three worked-out cores of black flint were found and also one prepared but unused half of a flint nodule.

(Jack Foord and John Matthews)

*Sparkford, Long Hazel Farm, ST 6012 2609,*  
Somerset HER 32789

Wessex Archaeology undertook a gradiometer survey over 1.1ha of land, which demonstrated the presence of a number of linear anomalies, likely to have been former field boundaries, and sub-circular anomalies.

(Alistair Black)

*Withypool, Bradley Hams, SS 8553 3406 to*  
8600 3531

A geophysical survey undertaken within and in the surroundings of an earthwork thought to be a ring cairn revealed the presence of a number of magnetic anomalies including possible discrete features within the earthwork and linear features to the north. A subsequent watching brief identified these latter features to be of probable natural origin, although a single flint flake was recovered from top soil in the locality. On the summit of the ridge, to the east of the earthwork some pits were identified, limited excavation of which produced no diagnostic material; it seems these functioned as small quarries of uncertain date. To the south further linear features were observed with alignments running at variance to the existing pattern of boundaries. The date and function of these remains in doubt, but the nature of the upper fills suggests a late date and they probably represent drainage ditches

possibly forming components of an earlier phase of boundaries of uncertain date.

(James Brigers)

*Yeovil, Brympton, Lufton, ST 5169 17071,*  
Somerset HER 32998

A detailed magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd along the route of a new water pipeline. Four areas were surveyed, each one contained a number of positive linear, rectilinear, curvilinear and discrete responses. Several of these anomalies appear to relate to cut features with an archaeological origin.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

## MULTIPERIOD

*Banwell, Knightcott Road, ST 3866 5916*

An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology during April 2015, covering approximately 11.75 hectares of agricultural land over five separate fields. The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of seven trenches totalling 350m in length, targeting anomalies identified in a previous geophysical survey. The results confirmed the presence of a small number of post-medieval field boundaries, which probably followed the line of medieval strip fields. At the southern edge of the site a probable Late Iron Age to early Romano-British ditched enclosure was identified.

(Paul Rainbird)

*Dunster, SS 9917 4373 to SS 9896 4347*

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology between January and March 2015 in Dunster, during various street works in the historic core of the village. Deeper excavations in High Street, Church Street and West Street exposed the well-preserved remains of at least two phases of metalled surface, one of probable early post-medieval date. More modern features such as stone drains were also encountered during the roadworks and replacement of the cobbled pavement down the south-east side of West Street. The remains of two walls likely to have been removed to allow for widening of the modern road were encountered in West Street and Knowle Lane.

(Paul Cooke)

*Farmborough, Brookside Drive, ST 6576 6045*

A watching brief was undertaken by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services during groundworks for new housing and associated landscaping on the south-western edge of the modern and earlier historic village. A number of ploughsoil, subsoil and geological layers were identified and a few discrete, archaeological features associated with redeposited, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval finds, but nothing substantial enough to indicate an occupation site.

(Ian Powlesland)

*Pylle, Lower Easton Farm, ST 6270 3865, Somerset HER 32611*

Wessex Archaeology undertook excavation, following two geophysical surveys of the site. Excavation identified a number of archaeological features. Late prehistoric pottery associated with a segmented curvilinear ditch was recorded in one area, whilst a number of Romano-British ditches and pits were identified elsewhere. Sustained activity from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD was confirmed. Although a number of domestic finds such as pottery, coins and brooches were recovered, no structural evidence was recorded. Collectively, the evidence recorded suggests a Romano-British rural settlement of moderately low status. Post-medieval modern ditches and land drains were also present. Following further post-excavation work, full publication in this journal is anticipated.

(Lee Newton)

*Trudoxhill, Congregational Church, ST 7491 4378*

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of two soakaways within the graveyard to the rear of the Congregational Church. No human burials were disturbed; however the excavations exposed a substantial medieval or early post-medieval culvert which appeared to be still functioning and a further blocked post-medieval drain.

(Dick Broomhead)

*Wanstrow, Torr Works Quarry, ST 697 437, Somerset HER 36107*

A watching brief was carried-out in advance of an extension to the Leighton Quarry where an area of the sandy clay subsoil was exposed approximately 280m x 360m. A collection of 417 flints, weighing approximately 1kg was collected including tanged-and-barbed arrowheads, leaf-shaped arrowheads, blades and scrapers. The abundance of debitage and

waste flakes was suggestive of in-situ knapping, and the shattered remains of a possibly prehistoric vessel were recovered from a small cooking pit.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

*Wells, Bishop's Palace, ST 5518 4575, Somerset HER 36106*

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording between 2010 and 2012, with targeted excavation associated with the development of new and improved visitor facilities. Archaeological features were identified in various parts of the Palace complex, relating to three periods of activity: Romano-British, later medieval, and post-medieval remodelling. Romano-British deposits were encountered beneath the Undercroft floor, although the nature of the activity could not be determined. Medieval structures were encountered abutting the Great Hall wall in the Stable Yard, and to the north of the croquet lawn. The latter may relate to a possible additional inner gatehouse structure which would have divided off part of the courtyard, as appears to be depicted on a number of 18th-century illustrations or plans. Further possible medieval walls were encountered in the South Gardens, and to the north of the moat towards the Bishop's Eye gatehouse where a building which may relate to the Bishop's Prison was identified. The medieval pottery, most of which came from the areas associated with the Stable Yard, was dominated by glazed tablewares of the 13th to 15th centuries. The animal bone found in medieval and later deposits in this area reflected a high status diet which included fish and wildfowl. A considerable number of medieval floor tiles were contemporary with the construction of the Great Hall, c.1280, and are considered to have come from its floor. Post-medieval activity was encountered in almost all areas examined, and this was primarily related to the provision of a range of drains, culverts, ground levelling and surfaces. A number of walls in various locations date to this period and probably relate to a variety of ancillary buildings. The most significant deposits encountered were in the Stable Yard/Great Hall entrance area, possibly relating to the demolition of the Great Hall. A similar make-up layer was encountered within the Undercroft, and it may be that these episodes of alteration were associated with flooding events in this low lying location.

(Clare Randall)



*Wookey, Court Farm, The Old Dairy,*  
ST 5178 4568, Somerset HER 32810

During January and February 2015 monitoring was conducted during re-development of a former agricultural building within a site once occupied by the palace of the Bishops of Bath and Wells. Few readily dateable remains were encountered but short lengths of walls exposed to the west of the site may represent the remains of ancillary buildings and a boundary wall associated with the palace, the latter seemingly constructed on the line of a substantial earlier ditch. A short length of the probable wall of the medieval east wing of the palace was exposed in a service trench along with a possible floor surface. Lengths of two culverts exposed during the works may form part of the water supply or drainage system contemporary with the use of the site as a palace and extend the knowledge of these systems provided by previous work. Later activity was represented by the remains of a wall and floor surface of probable post-medieval date beneath the floor of the dairy and extensive dumps of demolition material which yielded material of 16th-, 17th- and 18th-century date.

(James Brigers)

*Yatton, land off Arnolds Way,* ST 4205 6669

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services excavated four trial trenches to assess the results of an earlier geophysical survey. Archaeological features were identified which corresponded to the linear features identified during this survey, as well as several additional features, of broad Iron Age to Romano-British date.

(Ian Powlesland)

*Yeovil, Keyford,* ST 5502 1409,  
Somerset HER 32839

An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC Archaeology comprising the machine-excavation of 20 trenches totalling 1000m in length. These were positioned to target a selection of features recorded during earlier geophysical survey, particularly an area in the south-west of the site that appeared to represent a series of enclosures. The evaluation confirmed the reliability of the geophysical survey and recorded features ranging in date from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. Possible evidence for Bronze Age activity in the form of boundary ditches was recorded. A group of enclosures located in the south-west corner of the site date to the later Iron Age and earlier Romano-British periods, and

perhaps represent a group of farms. A probable contemporary field system extends outwards from these enclosures. Finds included a significant assemblage of later Iron Age and early Romano-British pottery and smaller assemblages of Bronze Age and earlier Iron Age pottery and worked flints of probable Mesolithic to Bronze Age date.

(Will Smith)

*Yeovil, Primrose Lane,* ST 5722 1817,  
Somerset HER 35026

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation, following a 2014 geophysical survey by Stratascan. The site is immediately north-west of Wyndham Park, where extensive excavations by Wessex Archaeology between 2009 and 2010 found evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British activity. The evaluation comprised 28 trenches and all contained archaeological features. These comprised ditches, gullies and other linear features as well as pits/post-holes. The small assemblage of pottery, flint and fired clay artefacts dated from the Neolithic and Middle/Later Bronze Age to the Romano-British and medieval periods. A group of features at the western end of the site may relate to an enclosed Bronze Age settlement. A series of rectilinear ditched enclosures in the eastern part of the site defined areas of Late Iron Age and/or Romano-British settlement or associated field systems.

(Cheryl Green and Clare Randall)

*Yeovil, Primrose Lane, Mudford Road Primary School,* ST 5732 1799, Somerset HER 32412

Wessex Archaeology undertook an excavation of 12 trial trenches in advance of the proposed development of a new primary school. Several undated drainage and small field ditches were identified, which may form part of the late prehistoric to Romano-British landscape identified on the adjacent Wyndham Park development. An extensive medieval to post-medieval agricultural landscape was revealed, represented by numerous furrows also identified during the previous geophysical survey.

(Susan Clelland)

*Yeovil, West Coker Road,* ST 5342 1450,  
Somerset HER 32390

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological excavation on land adjacent to Bunford Hollow Roundabout, following geophysical survey and field evaluation in 2013, which

identified the presence of significant archaeological remains including a large multi-ditched enclosure of possible Roman date and a series of external multi-period features spanning the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. Extensive archaeological remains were recorded spanning the Neolithic to late Romano-British periods, with a concentration within the late Iron Age and early Romano-British periods. A large multi-ditched enclosure occupied one quadrant of the site, containing several Iron Age round houses, evidence for early Romano-British occupation, hearth structures, pits, ditches, and later Romano-British cremations. Outside the enclosure, the remainder of the field contained several areas of interest including a large possible Bronze-Age ditched enclosure, a couple of smaller ring ditches enclosing Bronze Age cremations (urned and un-urned) and late Romano-British burials. The entire site is criss-crossed with various boundary ditches from different periods.

(Cheryl Green)

*Yeovilton, Podimore*, ST 5561 2438,  
Somerset HER 32904

Wessex Archaeology undertook a gradiometer survey and subsequent archaeological watching brief on 0.88ha of land near Stockwich Farm. A series of rectilinear features in the centre of the survey area may be associated with a late Iron Age/Romano-British agricultural settlement excavated approximately 600m to the west of the site, within RNAS Yeovilton.

(Benjamin Cullen and Rebecca Hall)

## PREHISTORIC

*Frome, Fromefield*, NGR withheld,  
Somerset HER 35867

Geophysical survey conducted by Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society in a private garden revealed a strong possibility of two buried stones very close to the standing stones in that garden. These may be linked to the Fromefield Long Barrow, some 200m away, which was destroyed by housing development in the 1960s. Survey of the garden immediately to the south, in which there is also a standing stone, revealed no further features. Survey of the garden to the north indicated a buried stone in a location matching a 1930s description.

(John Oswin)

*Misterton, Broome Field*, ST 4506 0860

A small test trench was excavated by South Somerset Archaeological Research Group at the west end of Broome Field, just to the north of the railway line. This was located over an apparent ditch of a three sided enclosure identified by gradiometer survey carried out in 2014. The shallow concave sided ditch had a single fill which produced a couple of sherds of probable Bronze Age date and Later Bronze Age flint. It also produced a single sherd of Early Neolithic pottery. SSARG would like to thank Barry Hennessy for his assistance with the excavation, Mr Charles, and Fred Broome for allowing access.

(Clare Randall)

*Priddy, North Hill*, ST 538 515,  
Somerset HER 35180, 35048

Geophysical survey was undertaken at North Hill to further investigate an anomaly detected and interpreted as a possible "lost" barrow in a survey of 2008. The 'lost barrow' anomaly was not detected during this new survey. Further geophysical survey, measuring 260m in length by up to 100m in width was undertaken, encompassing the Priddy Nine Barrows and extending surveys undertaken during 2013–14. The new survey detected further anomalies, most likely representing a continuation of the postulated co-axial field system and closely spaced linear features oriented east-west, which may represent ploughing. Five trenches were excavated, targeting anomalies and a gap recorded by the 2013–14 geophysical surveys. Several linear features were identified. Whilst it is plausible that the different features may represent a field system, it is apparent that it is of differential construction and possibly represents different phases of activity. A number of pieces of flint were recovered, mostly from a trench which targeted a curvilinear bank and ditch, including, a plano-convex knife, a combination tool comprising a scraper and burin, and a small knife, of Neolithic–Bronze Age type. The morphology of the feature and the lack of finds from later periods may suggest that the bank has its origins in later prehistory but confirmation or otherwise is dependent upon radiocarbon dating of charcoal from the samples taken.

(Jodie Lewis and Neal Johnson)

*Shepton Mallet, Gore End Farm*, ST 6254 4232,  
Somerset HER 31902

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological excavation, following



evaluation by Peter Leach in 2008. The excavation recorded the remains of a prehistoric bowl barrow and associated cremation cemetery. The barrow was found to have been truncated by several later (possibly Iron Age) quarry pits, which had been dug through large parts of the surrounding barrow ditch. A central cremation burial was removed from the barrow; this contained the remains of two fragmentary pottery urns. A large worked flint blade was also found in association with the central cremation burial. A separate prehistoric enclosure was excavated immediately to the south of the barrow and a further five cremation burials were excavated within this. Beyond the barrow and associated burials, evidence of a field system was also recorded.

(Cheryl Green)

*Shepton Mallet, Haygrove Park, ST 2851 3613 and other, Somerset HER 32959*

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological excavation designed to target anomalies identified by a 2010 geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics) and determine the full extent and character of prehistoric pits and ditches identified during Cotswold Archaeology's 2010 evaluation. The excavation recorded two east-west orientated ditches, both visible on the geophysical survey, both with Iron Age pottery in the base. Other features comprised the outer ditch of a round house, a ring ditch, other linears, and some very shallow post-holes and other discrete features. The small assemblage of finds included Bronze Age worked flint, pottery (prehistoric and medieval), a loom weight, fired clay and animal bone.

(Cheryl Green)

## ROMAN

*Bathwick, Henrietta Road and Bathwick Street, ST 7546 6544*

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out extensive excavations following evaluation by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, which had confirmed the survival of Roman deposits and walls. The excavations found these remains to be extensive and well-preserved, and the site may prove to be one of the most important excavations to be carried out in Bath in recent years, recovering a wide variety of finds which display a strong bias towards the late 1st-century. The large glass assemblage is an important collection with a range

of colours and types, mostly comprising table or decorative wares (including some almost complete cups), and storage vessels with a more utilitarian purpose. In addition, there were a number of gaming pieces or accounting discs, a small colourless ring with opaque white, blue and yellow decoration, and nine beads of turquoise faience and blue glass. The large ceramic assemblage includes some complete pottery vessels and large mortaria fragments with potters stamps, and was dominated by table or serving wares. Some of the small finds had a military (cavalry) association, such as a very ornate trifoliate horse harness, but there were also items of personal adornment including some unusually decorated bone pins, household items and tools. The coins include some notable examples, including an extremely rare coin bearing the three busts of Carausius (287–293), and the emperors Diocletian (284–305) and Maximian (285–310). The remaining finds included ceramic building material and wall plaster (some of which was painted), and worked stone including fragments of querns, millstones, whetstones and a mortar. The well-preserved animal bone assemblage is dominated by several species of chicken along with cattle, all of which display a standardised (even 'industrial') type of butchery that is often seen on Roman urban sites.

The main phase of occupation was in the late 1st century, with only limited evidence for pre-Roman activity. There was an initial Roman presence in the mid-1st century, possibly a temporary military encampment, however evidence of flooding suggests the site was not subject to consolidated settlement until around 70–80 AD. At this time the ground level was built-up with successive deposits, and a metalled road was constructed flanked by small structures with stone foundations and timber superstructures. Most of the small structures had enclosed areas to the rear containing hearths or ovens that were most likely related to food production. This strongly suggests that the site was a service area within Bathwick, with small shops producing and serving food and drink perhaps to passers-by on the road. By the early 2nd century and certainly by the mid-2nd century activity was declining, with the road-side drains no longer being maintained and the road starting to fall into disrepair. However, occupation continued throughout the following centuries, and in the late 3rd to 4th century there was a distinct change in character with the construction of a more substantial building across one side of the site. This probably relates to one of the urban Roman villas which are

known to have spread across this area during the later Roman period. Finally, medieval structural remains (11th and 12th century) were recorded at either end of the site, with the central area truncated by the cellars of early 20th century houses.

(Cheryl Green)

*Brympton, Lufton Villa*, ST 51585 17716,  
Somerset HER 35229

Newcastle University, with the assistance of South Somerset Archaeological Research Group, excavated a north-south trench 100m long and 4m wide to evaluate anomalies identified in the geophysical survey of the large arable field known as Hungerford. A number of east-west ditches were identified that could be correlated with anomalies visible on the geophysics. Finds were very sparse but the majority of these features contained early Roman pottery, including one South Gaulish Samian sherd of mid to late 1st century date. At least one ditch can be dated to the 4th century and another, on cartographic evidence, is a post-medieval field boundary. Finds include a large fragment of a millstone (which may suggest that a Roman period watermill utilised Ball's Water), a copper-alloy finger-ring, a fragment of a loomweight and a small residual flint assemblage including a piece of late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date. Pollen from one ditch fill suggests that the ditch contained slow moving water and that the landscape was open and characterised by species associated with pasture. It is possible that the fields south of Lufton Villa were not exploited for arable agriculture but further work is needed to confirm this suggestion.

(James Gerrard and Andrew Agate)

*Cheddar, Centenary Way*, ST 4493 5258,  
Somerset HER 32494

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological works in advance of a flood alleviation scheme immediately east of an area covered by major archaeological surveys conducted in 2012 and 2013 by Wessex Archaeology. These surveys had identified Roman activity adjacent to the southern end of the scheme and a Roman road. The works comprised a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014) within the fields that the scheme crossed, followed by excavation within a 20m wide easement. The excavations identified a well-preserved section of the Roman road and limited evidence for contemporary roadside occupation, comprising a few pits, a small curvilinear enclosure/structure

and a possible yard/robbed wall. Midden layers adjacent to the road are likely to have related to 2nd- to 3rd century occupation and a single post-hole represents activity after the road was no longer in use. Remnants of an Early Roman field system and an enclosure ditch was found to the north of the road. The finds assemblage was dominated by material dated to the Romano-British period.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Martock, Stapleton Mead*, ST 4424 2267

Further excavation was carried out by South Somerset Archaeological Research Group in collaboration with Martock Local History Club in Tithe Mead, on low lying land adjacent to the channel of the River Parrett. Work in 2015 focussed on a re-examination of the east-west oriented rectangular lias-built building which was located in 2012. The structure of the building was more complex than expected, with regular bays in the two long sides of the structure for large timber uprights, which had been underpinned by deeper foundations than the lias-built walls between. It was possible to see the effects of subsidence in these foundations, which was unsurprising in this low lying and wet location. Linear features were also excavated and demonstrated to be substantial ditches of probable Roman date. A midden containing Romano-British pottery was also located. Initial assessment of the finds indicates that activity on the site covers the later Roman period. SSARG and the Martock Local History Club would once again like to extend thanks to the Yandle family for allowing access to the land and being so encouraging of the project. Work was greatly assisted by a grant from the Council for British Archaeology to pay for equipment. Dr James Gerrard has again provided assistance with the pottery.

(Clare Randall)

*Norton Fitzwarren, Monty's Farm*, ST 1834 2647,  
Somerset HER 32988

An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC Archaeology in an area where Romano-British pottery including wasters had previously been recorded, suggesting the presence of nearby pottery production. The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of 17 trenches of various sizes that totalled approximately 2000m<sup>2</sup>. These were positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies identified by an earlier survey of the site, as well as to provide a sample coverage of the proposed development area. Romano-British

activity was exposed across large parts of the site, with this including more concentrated areas of activity. Archaeological deposits included evidence for the production of pottery, a separate area of probable industrial activity and potential settlement, including structural remains such as postholes and sill-beams within ditched enclosures. A large assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered, much of it associated with two oven features that included a probable pottery dryer. The assemblage was almost exclusively in the Norton Fitzwarren fabric type suggesting that this site was probably one of the locations where this type of pottery was produced.

(Simon Hughes and Will Smith)

*Saltford, Keynsham Manor Golf Course,*  
ST 673 664

Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society carried out a trial excavation at the northern end of a field which was the recorded find spot of a Roman coffin in 1948. An abundance of Roman pottery was encountered. Geophysical survey of part of this field revealed possible structures close to the coffin find spot. There were no signs of structures close to the location of the trial excavation, but there were indications of ring gullies, suggesting diffuse pre-Roman settlement in the area.

(John Oswin)

*Steep Holm, ST 2304 6071*

An excavation was carried out in an area around a gully on the west side of the Priory site. The gully had previously been interpreted as a drain even though it contained some of the best quality stonework on the site. Excavation concentrated on the southern, unexcavated, extremity of the feature, but a length of ten metres was re-excavated to facilitate access, which recovered a number of unstratified finds including prehistoric flints and 13th- to 14th-century green-glazed pottery dating from the time of the warreners. The upper horizons of the previously unexcavated gully were perforated with rabbit holes, suggesting a re-use of the feature as a pillow mound. At the base of the feature was a Roman horizon containing 153 sherds of Congresbury ware and fragments of a glass vessel. The whole layer was stained yellow with ochre and at the southern end of the gully a Roman bloomery furnace was uncovered. The circular furnace was c.1m in diameter, stone-built with a clay lining. A charge of smelted iron was found at the bottom of the structure. The positioning of the furnace in the

gully suggests that it served as a flue in the Roman period.

(Carol Hughes and Glyn Wellington)

*Wincanton, West Hill, New Barn Farm,*  
ST 7032 2821, Somerset HER 32804

Ground reduction work was monitored by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services. A small quantity of Romano-British pottery and ceramic building material (broken fragments of box flue tile and pilae brick/tile) was recovered during the topsoil strip. Subsequently, a large assemblage of additional Romano-British box flue tiles, hypocaust tiles, imbrices and tegulae were found from stratified deposits sealing three possible rubbish pits, probably associated with the nearby site of a Roman villa (HER 54698). Several sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered from deposits filling two of these cut features.

(Tim Longman)

*Yatton, land south west of Horsecastle Farm,*  
ST 4164 6637

Five trenches were excavated in advance of development, four of which lay on an outcrop of Mercia Mudstone forming an island containing the existing settlement with a fifth on the clay of the floodplain to the south west. The investigation on the island revealed several linear features representing the remains of medieval or post medieval boundary features. A large feature here was most likely a quarry and a series of post holes marked a former fence line. The trench on the floodplain to the south west revealed the surface of the alluvial clay into which a number of ditches had been cut. Pottery from these features dated to the later Romano-British period. The main features were a group of parallel, north-south ditches at the west end of the trench. These probably represent the long-term maintenance of a single boundary, with re-cutting and replacement over time. One of the features was a steep-sided slot, which may have held substantial posts, suggesting a palisade on this line. Smaller ditches to the east indicated other enclosures. All the features in the west end of the trench were filled and covered with a layer of alluvial clay, itself containing Romano-British pottery, representing late or post-Roman flooding. Pottery and animal bone from the trench could indicate the proximity of a settlement, and the name of the adjacent field to the north, Black Acre, could suggest its location.

(James Brigers)

## MEDIEVAL

*Brigwater, 50-52 High Street, ST 2965 3699,*  
Somerset HER 32721

Monitoring of groundworks was undertaken during late October 2015. Throughout much of the site the excavations were shallow and revealed only late dump deposits and recent floor make-up. To the north, walls and possible floor levels were exposed representing a sequence of development in part of a probable burghage tenement commencing during the 13th-century and including a rudimentary central hearth in its earliest form. Later a fireplace with a slate hearth was constructed abutting the north wall, and this was superseded by two further phases of fireplace culminating in a 19th-century example at the same location when much of the wall appears to have been rebuilt to accommodate flues. At the boundary of the site with Clare Street a mass of masonry was observed, defined to the east by the foundation of a substantial north-south wall coincident with the existing boundary and possibly representing the remains of the largest extent of the medieval structures on the site.

(James Brigers)

*Buckland Dinham, St Michael's and All Angels' Church, ST 7550 5126, Somerset HER 32727*

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of service trenches during the construction of new hospitality unit on the south side of the aisle. A record was also made of internal excavations undertaken prior to the re-location of the font. No significant archaeological features were observed during the excavations and no artefactual material was recovered. A small quantity of disarticulated human bone was collected and reburied within the excavated trenches.

(Dick Broomhead)

*Chewton Mendip, ST 5967 5321,*  
Somerset HER 31671

Excavations by members of Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau in a field to the immediate north of the parish church continued for a fifth year. The focus was on the central area of the north side where it was projected that two internal north/south partition or cross walls would have junctions with the main north wall. One cross wall was shown to abut the partially constructed remains of the north wall, and to overlie an occupation deposit of black soil containing bone and pottery thought to be of late Saxon/early Norman date.

Beneath the occupation layer were the ephemeral remains of an early slab floor which was interpreted as the earliest internal floor layer. The relationship of the second (eastern) cross wall with the north wall was not proven, but observations elsewhere in previous years suggest that the cross wall represents the substantially built west gable end of the first phase of the building. Much occupation soil had accumulated against both faces of this cross or west gable wall, representing sealed contexts containing pottery believed to date to the 10th century. Bone, in association with this pottery is to be sent for dating. A crucible and two cupels were found outside the building at this junction. The crucible was subjected to X-ray spectrometry analysis and returned a result of gold, silver and other trace elements. Further distinct contexts containing both copper and iron working showed industrial activity in this area of the complex over an extended period, with soil testing indicating significantly raised levels of lead, zinc and copper in comparison with the background levels of the natural substrate. Consistent with all other areas of the building, the site was sealed under a demolition layer of rubble, also containing a substantial amount of medieval pottery. Further trenches were dug to the south of the building to establish the extent of the cobbled surrounds to the exterior. Although the termination of the cobble was found, there was no evidence of a kerb or revetment wall to mark the immediate boundary of the complex. A type series of medieval pottery retrieved from the Chewton excavations is being assembled under the expert guidance of David Dawson, and is proving invaluable in dating the sequences of this site. Pottery from the site is believed to date predominantly from the 10th to 14th centuries. Resistivity surveying was also repeated in some areas of the field.

(Pip Osborne)

*Cossington, St Mary's Church, ST 3561 4027,*  
Somerset HER 32803

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a service trench necessitated by the construction of a new hospitality unit on the south side of the church tower. Although the service trench truncated a number of potentially in situ burials, full excavation was not required and all disturbed human remains were gathered for reburial. Evidence of a wall extending southwards from the porch was noted and recorded photographically. However no stratified datable

material was recovered during the course of the excavation.

(Dick Broomhead)

*Dunster, Dunster Castle, SS 9918 4353 to  
SS 9919 4352*

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology during replacement of a collapsed drain. The base of the trench revealed preserved soils below the base of the original drain at a depth of over 1.7m below the current footpath surface, while a deposit containing probable kitchen waste was also partially disturbed.

(Paul Cooke)

*Taunton, Castle Green, Taunton Castle,  
ST 2261 2462, Somerset HER 34762*

Monitoring was conducted in mid February 2016 during the excavation of a small trench to locate and isolate a redundant mains electricity supply. Much was found to have been disturbed by 20th century services but a small area of undisturbed archaeology was encountered which contained a short length of mortared red sandstone masonry, possibly representing the remains of the face of a substantial wall of medieval date. Smaller random rubble to the west of this may form part of the core of the wall or, less probably, associated courtyard surfaces similar to those found during earlier work in the courtyard area.

(James Brigers)

*Wick St Lawrence, River Banwell, ST 3677 6425*

An archaeological trench evaluation and excavation was carried out on land comprising part the wider Western Urban Villages Flood Solution scheme by AC Archaeology during June and July 2015. The site comprised a low-lying pasture plot located adjacent to the River Banwell. Investigations comprised the machine-excavation of three trenches totalling 70m in length, positioned to investigate a series of geophysical anomalies interpreted from previous survey. Based on the presence of a concentration of archaeological features exposed in one of the trenches, an area measuring 19m by 20m was stripped, lying within an area covered by a proposed flood alleviation pond. This exposed evidence for previously-unknown medieval occupation on the site. No structural remains were present within the areas investigated, but a large and varied finds assemblage, dating from the 11th to 14th centuries was recovered from a series of rubbish pits, drainage and boundary ditches and a

spread of dumped material. This appeared to show that the activity exposed was related to domestic occupation. Despite the lack of structural features, the presence of daub, imported stone rubble, an iron staple and nails indicates that a building of some form is likely to have been located close to the area investigated.

(Simon Hughes)

## POST-MEDIEVAL

*Athelney, Balt Moor Wall, Banklands Reservoir  
and Athelney Spillway, ST 3358 2902 to  
ST 3428 2934*

Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during flood prevention improvement works within Balt Moor Wall and Athelney Hill Scheduled Monuments. A pitched-stone road surface was recorded 1m below the present surface of Cuts Road and a bank deposit was uncovered at the same depth immediately to the south of the road. Finds from the bank material date to the mid-17th-century; the road surface is likely to be of a similar date. This corresponds with documentary evidence for improvement works having taken place in the 1670s.

(Lynn Hume and Michael Fleming)

*Bath, Abbey Hotel, 1-3 North Parade,  
ST 7519 6469*

Wessex Archaeology undertook a watching brief during groundworks associated with internal and external alterations to under-pavement vaults at the Abbey Hotel. Made ground layers were revealed associated with the construction of North Parade in 1740. A post-1740 stone-lined well was found, along with a possible base for a washing 'copper', three 19th-century drainage culverts, and stone foundations for internal fixtures or partitions within the cellars. Alterations carried out in the Second World War were recorded along with a blocked up passageway that was probably infilled in the late 20th century.

(Cai Mason)

*Bath, Prior Park, Middle Dam, ST 7609 6340*

The 18th century dam was subjected to limited excavation at two locations in February 2015. At the centre of the structure the original clay core was exposed and this was found to have been possibly extended to the south or raised where it was retained by the existing retaining wall. Mortar



bonding within the wall suggested a 19th-century date for construction, of the upper courses at least. The lower courses of the wall displayed a blocking of a probable earlier inlet for the spillway. These deposits were cut by late 20th century repairs which included the complete reconstruction of the spillway culvert as far north as the rusticated stone cascade. At the eastern end of the structure the existing retaining wall of re-used architectural mouldings was found to have been set to the south of an earlier rubble structure. A further wall was found to run north-south from the western termination of this, possibly originally continuing across the eastern lobe of the pond as indicated on early mapping, although no trace of a foundation could be found in the pond bed.

(James Brigers)

*Bridgwater, former Sion Chapel*, ST 2967 3679,  
Somerset HER 32688

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological excavation on land at the former Sion Chapel, which was built in 1822. The excavations involved the removal of the skeletons of approximately 20 adults and juveniles, all of whom will be re-interred at the Bristol Road Cemetery, Bridgwater. Most of the burials were contained within brick-built vaults with several others beneath large triangular tomb stones. The investigations also included the excavation of the town ditch, recording of the chapel foundations and the excavation of several features below the chapel foundations (including post-holes, linear features and a pit). The remains of post-medieval houses were also uncovered near the town ditch.

(Cheryl Green)

*Clutton, Maynard Terrace*, ST 6795 5899

Eight trenches were excavated by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services on the eastern edge of Clutton village. Only three trenches contained definite archaeological features, all of which are probably post-medieval in date. The bell pit and the field boundary both related to previously known or suspected post-medieval features, but no dating evidence was recovered from the pits found in the third trench.

(Simon Roper)

*Donyatt, Main Road, former Garage Site*,  
ST 3388 1392, Somerset HER 32825

Archaeological monitoring was conducted during the construction of dwellings during April and May

2015. Much of the street frontage to the east of the site was found to have been disturbed by activities associated with the former garage. To the west of this the remains of a cultivation soil was exposed which was bounded to the east by a possible shallow ditch containing quantities of stone rubble and pottery sherds of early 18th-century date, the majority of which identifiable as products of the well-documented local pottery industry. To the west the outline of a large, circular pit was revealed the fills of which yielded domestic waste including pottery of the 16th and 17th century and a few residual medieval sherds. Other features in this area included stone-filled field drains of post-medieval date.

(James Brigers)

*Dunster, The Luttrell Arms*, SS 991 438,  
ENP HER EEM14542

South West Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation to the rear of the Luttrell Arms. The trenching identified the remains of structural features potentially relating to former phases of development of the Luttrell Arms property and its boundaries, subsequently demolished and robbed, most likely during the 19th-century landscaping.

(South West Archaeology)

*Emborough, Manor Farm*, ST 6139 5132

Further to an earthwork survey carried out in 1993/4, a limited resistivity survey was undertaken by members of Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP) in the field, historically known as the Great Conigar, lying directly to the south and west of the farmhouse. As part of the CBA's Festival of Archaeology 2015, the results of this survey were further investigated by two trial trenches. Under the guidance of CAMP, members of the public helped with excavations. Trench 1 investigated a linear feature to the south of the house, which proved to be a wall foundation, most likely that shown on a map of 1764. Only post-medieval artefacts were recovered. The second trench, to the south-west, was placed over a wide bank-like feature that might once have been a pillow-mound and part of the rabbit warren. No evidence for this theory was found, the feature most likely being a large spread bank and ditch of an internal field boundary. A green-glazed roof ridge tile stamped with the maker's initials SI, was recovered in the ditch of the bank and may have come from Manor Farm at some time when it was refurbished.

(Pip Osborne)



*Frome, Argyle House, 12 Gentle Street,  
ST 7766 4789, Somerset HER 32826*

Trial trenching and a subsequent watching brief were conducted prior to and during renovation works to the basement in May and October 2015. No evidence for activity prior to the construction of the existing building was encountered and all of the material revealed was found to relate to the creation and use of the 18th-century basement level. The original basement floor appeared to have been formed on two levels or sloped from south to north and was drained by a stone-lined culvert that took ground water and a small subterranean stream around the entire perimeter of the structure. Probable early floor levels of sand were encountered only in the north and these were sealed by hardcore and concrete of the existing surfaces.

(James Brigers)

*Glastonbury, Chilkwell Street, Somerset Rural Life Museum, ST 5038 3852, Somerset HER 32442*

Continuing monitoring of the refurbishment works at the Somerset Rural Life Museum included examination of exposed deposits in the main courtyard, the south courtyard, and the orchard and garden surrounding the Abbey Barn. In the south courtyard stone wall foundations were exposed in an area that had been severely truncated by later activity. These are probably of post-medieval date and may relate to buildings associated with the 18th-century layout of the farm. To the north and north-east of the main courtyard walls representing the remains of a predecessor of the existing wagon shed were exposed, also of post-medieval origin. Evidence was revealed demonstrating the formation of the level terrace upon which the main courtyard, cow shed and wagon shed was laid and suggesting that this was achieved by cutting into the natural slope to the north to form a step now retained by the existing north wall of the wagon shed. To the south the slope was levelled by the deposition of substantial dumps of material that were previously seen to continue below the south range of the existing cow shed. These sealed a buried ground surface and a large north-south ditch that may relate to the medieval pattern. To the east of the barn further dumps of 19th-century material were found to seal pad stones outlining the remains of lean-to structure and an extensive area of in-fill which may lie within a former pond.

(James Brigers)

*Goathurst, Halswell House, ST 2543 3390,  
Somerset HER 32685*

In advance of major restoration work the upper part of the rock wall grotto in the park was investigated in February 2015. The 18th-century structure in its original form was found to consist of two substantial masonry walls in-filled with re-deposited gravel and clay to form a dam with a brick vaulted spillway and culvert at its centre. Later the causeway on its upper surface was widened with the addition of a further retaining wall to the south, a process which seemed to involve the extension and partial rebuilding of the existing culvert. The new retaining wall consisted of slate rubble and was faced with large blocks of rusticated limestone to form a low decorative facade. Quantities of re-used dressed and moulded Ham Stone included within the wall may have been sourced during late 18th-century renovation of the main house.

(James Brigers)

*Goathurst, Halswell, Mill Wood, ST 2539 3379,  
Somerset HER 32801*

Prior to work commencing on the restoration of the extensive designed landscape at Mill Wood a series of eleven trenches were opened to evaluate the archaeological potential at six locations, each the known or presumed site of an asset associated with the 18th century scheme. In most locations the results demonstrated the existence of well-preserved structural information. At the two targeted dam structures to the north and to the east of the ponds the virtually intact remains of an extensive and a hitherto unsuspected 'riffle' leat system and associated path surfaces were revealed. To the south east and north west the remains of two timber structures, 'Lady Tynte's Summer House' and the 'Druid's Hut', were identified, and were sufficiently well-preserved to suggest that the full ground plans of the buildings could be salvaged along with valuable structural information. At the site of the 'Druid's Hut' the remains of the structure were found to overlie a pit which contained struck flint and burnt material indicative of the existence of prehistoric habitation within the valley.

(James Brigers)

*Langport, Long Sutton, Tengore Lane,  
ST 4443 2720, Somerset HER 32723*

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out archaeological works comprising a metal detecting survey followed by monitoring and recording on Land at Tengore Lane. The site

lies within a Registered Battlefield which was the setting of a 1645 Civil War battle between the Royalists and Parliamentarians. Despite the potential for the discovery of battlefield remains within the development area, the metal detector survey revealed no significant evidence relating to the battle of Langport. Two 17th to 19th century lead musket balls, one intact and one partial, were identified along with a folded 18th/19th-century coin or token. The subsequent programme of archaeological monitoring and recording did not reveal any archaeological features or finds.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*North Curry, White Street, land to the south of Long's House*, ST 3227 2528, Somerset HER 32837  
Archaeological monitoring was conducted in June 2015 during the re-development of the site of an 18th-century barn. Much of the area was found to contain only structural remains, dumps and levelling associated with the former barn and its demolition. The foundation of a potentially earlier east-west wall was exposed to the south of the barn remains, possibly representing the remains of a post-medieval boundary. Parallel to this and further towards the southern boundary was a potentially contemporary stone-lined culvert which may have been installed to facilitate drainage following wholesale lowering of the site during the 18th century.

(James Brigers)

*Othery, New Road*, ST 3860 3173,  
Somerset HER 32941

Wessex Archaeology undertook a trench evaluation ahead of residential development on land at New Road. A post-medieval ditch and two parallel curvilinear gullies of uncertain date were recorded. Finds include pottery, clay tobacco pipe, animal bone and a George VI penny.

(Michael Dinwiddy)

*Shapwick, Millstream House, Mill Lane*,  
ST 4171 3800, Somerset HER 34678

Archaeological monitoring was conducted during preparatory works for the construction of an extension to the existing building. The only archaeological feature encountered consisted of a wall of probable post-medieval date and likely to be associated with the former farm to the north of the site. Elsewhere only a sequence of possible cultivation deposits were identified, suggesting the area to the south had been open agricultural land

until the construction of the existing dwelling in the 1980s.

(James Brigers)

*Taunton, Friends' Meeting House*, ST 2257 2440,  
Somerset HER 32382

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of trial hole excavations. No archaeological features were identified, and no evidence of human remains was encountered in the area of the former burial ground. However, deposits containing post-medieval domestic refuse were observed in a number of the trial holes.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Taunton, Somerset County Cricket Ground*,  
ST 2294 2491, Somerset HER 32436

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation prior to the development of a new pavilion. Following the identification of a possible Civil War defensive ditch during a previous evaluation, targeted open area excavation took place. This work established that the possible defensive ditch was in fact a post-medieval pit. In addition, the investigations identified a number of features of archaeological interest. These included the remains of a post-medieval cellar, two walls of similar date, two further pits and a linear feature interpreted as a boundary. Collected finds comprised post-medieval pottery sherds, ceramic building material and animal bone. The dateable finds did not provide any evidence of medieval activity.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Taunton, Wheatleigh Close*, ST 2210 2377,  
Somerset HER 32987

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording when routine water main work unexpectedly uncovered human remains. The incomplete remains were of an adult individual of indeterminate sex, in their late 40s at the time of death. They had suffered with back problems, including a vertebral fracture which had healed long before they died, and had poor oral health. Metalwork recovered from the burial included a number of 18th-century buttons which were probably part of clothing in which the individual was buried. Two fragments of pottery and a clay pipe stem fragment are also post-medieval in date. An additional bone element from a second individual

was also recovered, suggesting that there may be additional human remains in the area, although archaeological monitoring of the remainder of the pipe trench did not expose any further evidence. The burial was located well beyond any known burial grounds of the period, but was buried beside a crossroads on one of the main routes into the town centre.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*West Luccombe, Burrowhayes Farm,*  
SS 8980 4607

The removal of a modern fireplace within the 16th-century grade II listed farmhouse was monitored in September 2015. The moulded stone piers of the earliest post-medieval structure were found to remain in situ but the opening was found to have been modified during the later 18th century by the insertion of a brick arch. During the 19th century a brick structure with integral flues was added to the rear of the structure, possibly the remains of a range or oven, and later the opening was sealed by the construction of a smaller fireplace probably in the second half of the 20th century before this was modernised in the 1970s by the addition of the existing façade.

(James Brigers)

## INDUSTRIAL

*Brompton Regis, Shircombe Farmhouse,*  
SS 9350 3167, ENP HER EEM14540

The farmhouse largely dates to a mid 19th-century re-build and enlargement of a 17th-century three-cell cross-passage house with a lateral stack. The axial stack at the western end of the building is an 18th-century addition. Between the addition of this stack and the mid 19th-century enlargement, the building appears to have fallen into a semi-ruinous state. The farmhouse retains a fairly complete survival of the 19th-century decorative scheme of the building, of a relatively simple style. The overall impression is of compromises being made within the layout and architectural details of the building, with the focus being upon the scale of the building as a statement of wealth and status.

(South West Archaeology)

*Clevedon, Parnell Road, Former Staddon's Timber Yard,* ST 4095 7113

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services carried out a watching brief during groundworks. This

recorded the remains of walls and a floor possibly relating to the 'Smithy' and other former buildings. No other structures or earlier features were exposed during the groundworks.

(Alistair Byford-Bates)

*Exton, Wheddon Cross, Ison Cottage,*  
SS 9159 3700, ENP HER EEM14539

Ison Cottage is situated within a wider landscape of mid-late 19th-century mining activity, which has seen little other development. The cottage itself is 1960s in date, but is located on the site of the former mine's office, linked to the abandoned mines north-east of the cottage by a raised causeway located opposite the drive. The mine office had been constructed in a quarry probably created in c.1854 when the mine was established, although it may have enlarged an already existing early 19th-century roadside quarry. This quarry appears to have truncated part of a post-medieval catch meadow, as a series of contour leats have been identified on aerial photographs crossing the field to the north of the site.

(South West Archaeology)

*Marksbury, Court Farm,* ST 6632 6273

Redundant farm buildings were the subject of building recording by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services. The recording helped to tighten up some of the dates relating to building construction and phasing, as well as adding a reinterpretation of the office, which is thought to have been originally built as a stable. Four main phases of development were identified, ranging from the earliest building, the main barn, built before 1820, to the final alterations dating to the mid-20th century.

(Tracey Smith)

*Nailsea, Silver Street, Former Four Oaks Primary School,* ST 4699 7081

The school was built in 1884 and survey by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services revealed that the original structural elements and c1891 additions survive. The schoolhouse retained several fireplaces, contemporary windows and doors, although few original internal features were present in the school building itself.

(Tim Longman)

*Wellington, Tone Works, ST 1270 2185,*  
Somerset HER 32691

Historic building survey and watching brief were carried out by AC Archaeology between September 2014 and May 2015 at the Grease Recovery Plant. The recording work was undertaken in advance of demolition and redevelopment. Two buildings of historical significance survived from the first stage of the grease refinery in the later 19th century. Other buildings and structures were mainly in very poor condition. Two pump houses of the mid-20th century and a number of settling pits and tanks were also identified.

(Peter Stainer)

*West Somerset coast from County Boundary*  
*(Oare parish) to Doniford (Williton parish),*  
SS 8005 4953 to ST 0960 4334

A survey of 54 limekilns and limekiln sites situated on the West Somerset coast between the above points has been carried out. The kilns were investigated and recorded, and subsequently reported in Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society Bulletins 129 and 130 (August 2015 and December 2015). Of the 54 kilns, 17 were not previously recorded in the Somerset HER. The purpose of the investigation was to examine the transition from imported Welsh limestone to locally sourced; kilns west of Blue Anchor being reliant on limestone from Wales. The study also looked to see how similar in style and construction these kilns are to the many kilns around the coasts and estuaries of north Devon which also used Welsh limestone. Another issue investigated was the commonly reported use of beach pebbles as a limestone source; it was determined, by analysis of pebbles at various points on the coast, over what range this was practical. Only 18 of the kilns survive in a condition that enabled any recording but sketch plans and elevations were prepared for these. The fieldwork was supported by use of a wide range of documentary sources to determine as far as possible the history of each kiln.

(Peter Daniel)

## OTHER REPORTS

*Bath, 8 Chatham Row, ST 7515 6546*

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording relating to the diversion of a sewer to the rear of 8 Chatham Row. No significant

archaeological features or finds were identified during development groundworks.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Bath, Green Park Road, ST 746 646*

Between April and August 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the demolition of the existing buildings and construction of new student accommodation and café. No archaeological features or finds pre-dating the late post-medieval period were revealed. The general absence of intact subsoils or alluvial deposits indicated that the natural substrates were likely to have previously been reduced or disturbed, most significantly during the construction of Green Park House.

(Rebecca L. Trow)

*Bath, Lansdown, 5 Sion Hill, ST 7429 6599*

In July 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of an existing house with a subterranean garage. No archaeological finds or features were identified during the course of the watching brief.

(Rebecca L. Trow)

*Bath, Lower Weston, Royal Victoria Park,*  
ST 7380 6528

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services carried out a watching brief during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the skateboard park. There was extensive 20th-century disturbance to the site and no finds or features pre-dating the 20th century were found.

(Tracey Smith)

*Bath, Royal High School Playing Field,*  
ST 7406 6774

A detailed magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd on the site of the former Royal High School Playing Field on the northern edge of Bath. No significant anomalies were found.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

*Bridgwater, Danesborough Reservoir to Dancing Hill Pipeline, ST 2634 3697, Somerset HER 32823*  
Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during test pitting in advance of a proposed pipeline scheme. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Bridgwater, Hinkley Point, ST 1622 4266,*  
Somerset HER 32836

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land surrounding Moorhouse Distribution Site. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Bridgwater, land north west of 122 West Street,*  
ST 2919 3671, Somerset HER 34753

The excavation of groundworks in advance of the construction of a new dwelling was monitored during December 2015. The natural gravel was found to be sealed by a deep sequence of apparent cultivation and garden soils, the latest producing material of post-medieval date, suggesting that the area had been cultivated agricultural land prior to the creation of the garden probably during the 19th century. A single possible feature was identified cutting the surface of the gravel which produced no archaeological material and may therefore be natural in origin.

(James Brigers)

*Castle Cary, Alford, Dimmer Landfill Site,*  
ST 608 311, Somerset HER 36005

Archaeological monitoring of an extension to a clay borrow-pit was carried out. The stratigraphic sequence of alluvial clays was recorded around the perimeter of the excavations but no archaeological finds or features were observed. A deposit of sandy clay and gravels was recorded. This is believed to be a cold-stage, Pleistocene deposit, formed as channel bars within a wide, braided, river system that was a predecessor to the modern River Cary. A sample of the gravel matrix was taken for Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

*Chard, Chaffcombe, land and barn at Devonia,*  
ST 3601 0850, Somerset HER 32841

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Cheddar, Station Road, Kings of Wessex Academy,*  
ST 4578 5309, Somerset HER 32609

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and

recording which recorded only modern flowerbeds. Small quantities of residual Roman and post-medieval material were recorded.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Chew Magna, Madam's Paddock, ST 575 631*

Archaeological evaluation and watching brief took place on the site of the former surgery. The presence of orchards on the site during the post-medieval period had disturbed the loose, sandy clay matrix overlying the geological head material. However, possible medieval boundary ditches and pits were identified, along with a moderate collection of medieval and post medieval pottery. A trench to the south of the former Bear and Swan Inn yard revealed ample evidence of domestic occupation, which appears to have begun in the 12th or 13th century. The later watching brief confirmed a significant difference in land-usage on either side of the boundary wall separating the inn from the paddock. The watching brief on the surgery site recovered a quantity of slag, not recovered behind the pub, suggesting a workshop function for the small building which the 1840 Tithe Map depicts on the street frontage of Madam's Paddock.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

*Chilcompton, Knitts Farm, 132 Stockhill Road,*  
ST 6383 5046, Somerset HER 32908

Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological strip, map and record excavation and watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a wind turbine at Knitts Farm. No significant archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Sam Fairhead)

*Crewkerne, Sewage Treatment Works,*  
ST 4507 0960, Somerset HER 32820

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during works, but no visible archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered. Post-medieval ceramic building material, clay pipe, glass and pottery was observed within the topsoil.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Dunster, 18 Church Street, SS 9905 4363*

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken when 20th-century structures and floor levels were removed, revealing layers of made ground and the remains of a footing trench probably



related to the structural footprint depicted on the 1840s tithe map and probably removed during the 1877 renovation of the property.

(South West Archaeology)

*Dunster, West Street*, SS 9903 4358 to  
SS 9889 4339

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology from January to February 2015 during improvement of the existing water mains. In some areas traces of the earlier road surface were distinguishable and a previously disturbed drain (c. 19th century) was partially exposed.

(Paul Cooke)

*East Coker, Burton, Huntsfield Nursery*,  
ST 53061361, Somerset HER 32939

A rectangular area some 16m by 17m was excavated by machine for a concrete raft for a new building. No archaeological features were revealed.

(Alan Graham)

*East Huntspill, Withy End, Withy Farm*,  
ST 3238 4335, Somerset HER 34793

An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology comprising 11 trenches that were positioned to target anomalies identified by a previous geophysical survey, as well as cropmarks. No archaeological features were exposed in any of the trenches, and the only finds were the articulated remains of a juvenile cow of modern date. Under the historic agricultural topsoil and subsoil a deep series of Holocene and probably historic alluvial deposits were exposed, separated by a layer of peat dating to the Middle Bronze Age.

(Dan Brace and Andrew Passmore)

*Greinton, Little Orchard*, ST 4116 3624 to  
ST 4143 3626, Somerset HER 32835

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. No archaeological features were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Henstridge, Bowden Lane*, ST 7001 2031,  
Somerset HER 32922

A detailed magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd, ahead of a planning application for a solar park. The results indicate the presence of widespread anomalies associated with the underlying geology, possible land drains or land

divisions, agricultural anomalies and at least two areas of quarrying.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

*Henstridge, Church Close*, ST 7230 1980,  
Somerset HER 32960

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Ilminster, Canal Way*, ST 355 143,  
Somerset HER 34677

An archaeological watching brief was conducted to monitor the excavation of footings for a new football club building and car park. No finds or features pre-dating the post-medieval period were exposed during these excavations. A series of small, natural, palaeo-channels was recorded below the colluvial wash, suggestive of a marshy, prehistoric or early historic environment.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

*Ilminster, Dowlish Ford Pipeline Scheme*,  
ST 3526 1255 to ST 3592 1324,  
Somerset HER 32604

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Ilminster, Moolham Lane*, ST 3668 1395,  
Somerset HER 32729

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Langport, Low Ham, Netherham Farm*,  
ST 4332 2910, Somerset HER 32994

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological field evaluation. No significant archaeological features or finds were encountered, although a boundary ditch of possible medieval or post-medieval origin was identified.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)



*Monkton Heathfield, Area 10, ST 259 262*

A watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology in October 2015 during stripping for spoil heaps and a haul road. No archaeological features or finds were uncovered.

(Abigail Brown)

*Muchelney, Silver Street, Ewelets, ST 4284 2441, Somerset HER 32912*

Monitoring of groundworks for two building extensions recorded the line of a boundary ditch parallel with Silver Street, which had become infilled and obscured not earlier than the 18th or early 19th century. Its origins are likely to be earlier, however, with some evidence of the repeated re-cutting or clearing out of the feature. Two small sherds of medieval pottery, one early, one later, were found.

(Alan Graham)

*North Curry, land to the East of White Street, ST 3228 2536, Somerset HER 32608*

Groundworks preliminary the construction of dwellings were monitored during March 2015. No significant pre-19th-century features or finds were recorded.

(James Brigers)

*Nunney, Fulwell Farm, ST 7383 4596, Somerset HER 34684*

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Portishead, Saint Peter's Court, ST 4678 7590*

An archaeological watching brief is underway on the construction of new houses within a paddock adjacent to the Portishead Funeral Parlour and on an extension to an existing building. No archaeological features have been recorded within the watching brief plot so far.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

*Radstock, Knobsbury Lane, ST 7017 5444*

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during excavations to install a new sewer pipe. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*South Chard, St Margaret's Lane, The Old Chapel, ST 3280 0526, Somerset HER 32916*

Wessex Archaeology undertook a watching brief during excavation of a service trench. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Cai Mason)

*Stoke-sub-Hamdon, East Stoke, Montacute Road, ST 4880 1747, Somerset HER 32838*

Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation ahead of residential development. Six trenches were excavated, but no archaeological features were revealed.

(Steve Thompson)

*Taunton, Dowslands, Killams Lane, ST 2340 2280, Somerset HER 34685*

An evaluation was undertaken by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services on two arable fields earmarked for a residential housing development on the southern outskirts of Taunton. No significant archaeological deposits or features were present in any of the thirty-one evaluation trenches excavated, and the only pre-19th-century finds recovered were one medieval potsherd and two probably late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flints.

(Tim Longman)

*Uphill, Old Church of St Nicholas, ST 315 580*

Wessex Archaeology provided expertise and equipment and organised the various surveys undertaken as part of a Churches Conservation Trust community project. An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle ("drone") survey recorded the church and features within 10km of it. Ground penetrating radar survey detected anomalies of possible archaeological interest correlating with known burials. Metric survey produced a detailed plan of the church. Laser Scan Survey produced plans, external and internal elevations, and cross sections. Five subjects were selected to demonstrate the Reflective Transformation Imaging photographic technique: a blocked door and two windows in the south elevation of the church, an almost illegible gravestone and a fragment of gravestone with a short inscription visible. A test pit dug in the nave revealed stratigraphy interpreted as providing information about the sequence of development of the church.

(Bob Davis, Elizabeth Richley,  
Damien Campbell-Bell, Chris Breeden  
and Phil Harding)

*Watchen, Doniford, ST 0899 4293,*  
Somerset HER 32990

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks relating to development beside the Swill river at Doniford. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Watchet, Washford, Cleeve Abbey, ST 0469 4083,*  
Somerset HER 32687

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks relating to the construction of a new drain. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)