

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY 1988

EDITED BY E. DENNISON

GENERAL

Once again there has been the full range of archaeological activity carried out in Somerset. This work has been undertaken by members of the Somerset County Council Planning Department, professional excavation units, local societies and the usual band of active individuals. National bodies have also been interested in Somerset with the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in England (RCHM(E)) continuing work on sites in Luccombe parish in West Somerset as well as starting a survey of the stone settings on Exmoor at the request of the Exmoor National Park Authority. English Heritage (HBMC(E)) has also continued to fund a number of major projects in the county.

The number of planning proposals which affect archaeological sites continues to rise. In 1987 342 applications were considered, 100 of which required some kind of archaeological commitment; this year the corresponding numbers were 412 and 120. Larger scale developments such as road schemes and the impact of the proposed Severn Barrage have also been examined. Financial contributions towards the cost of archaeological investigation prior to and during such works has often been provided by the developers, but the increased work load has meant that outside bodies and organisations have been commissioned to carry out the work. As a result, the County Planning Department has initiated a list of consultants who are available to undertake small scale evaluations and watching briefs connected with this and other aspects of archaeological work. Anyone who wishes to be considered on such a list should contact the County Planning Officer.

The County Council has recently purchased a number of important earthwork sites to ensure their protection and appropriate management. These are the medieval moated site at Marston Magna, Nether Adber deserted medieval village in Mudford, and Ramspits deserted medieval farm complex near Westbury-sub-Mendip. The funds for these purchases were provided by the County Council, English Heritage and the Countryside Commission. Plans are well advanced to provide some interpretative material to help explain these sites.

Work on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) is continuing and the number of users of the record has increased. The next major project to be undertaken will be the inclusion of the listed building information into the computerised database. I am grateful to all those who continue to provide information to the SMR, and to those who have contributed to this paper.

(E. Dennison)

Cheddar

A survey of the Mendip dry stone walls in the parish of Cheddar and surrounding areas has revealed the existence of a number of types of wall furniture (stone stiles,

stone gateposts, sheep creeps and other lintelled openings, rabbit boltholes, integral stone steps, bounds stones) almost always coeval with the (largely early C19) walls. The Mendip examples tend to be very simple, unlike examples elsewhere in the country.

(V. Russett)

Evercreech

A detailed parish survey of Evercreech has been started by R. Broomhead. Initial work has concentrated on fieldwalking and the finds so far produced have revealed evidence of several prehistoric sites, at least three Roman settlements and one deserted medieval site. The project is due to last several years.

(E. Dennison)

Frome by-pass

The length of the Frome by-pass from ST78694631 to ST79894904 was examined in detail during October 1988 on behalf of Somerset County Council. Over the whole of the route the topsoil and in some places up to several metres depth of subsoil had been removed. Where the topsoil did remain, it was seen to be very thin, only a depth of 0.15m in many places. No archaeological features were discovered, and stray finds were observed in only six locations. The latter consisted largely of struck flints, and post-medieval pottery and tile, with two or three potsherds that may be of medieval or earlier date. The finds have been deposited in the County Museum and the full report is held with the County SMR.

(L. & R. Adkins)

Limekiln survey

The lime industry was an important contributor to the economic and social development of the county, particularly during the post-medieval period. Varied geological strata have resulted in the limestone being used for building and paving while the lime was used for agricultural purposes, mortar and cement. Limekilns were located in many Somerset parishes and were constructed either in isolation on farms, in groups at commercial lime works or on lime-bearing rocks, or at strategic locations for transport by land or water.

No systematic study has been carried out on the industry in Somerset and any documentary evidence is scarce and incomplete. Current work by members of the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society (SIAS) has concentrated on selected parishes. At Corfe, limeburning and quarrying had virtually ceased by 1914 and most of the 16 known limekilns in the parish have been destroyed and the associated quarries restored to agricultural use.¹ In Huish Episcopi and Long Sutton the scale and period of operation was much more widespread, providing a legacy of kilns and bringing marked changes to the landscape.² The initiation of a broader county-wide survey aims to update an earlier survey,³ provide information for the SMR and to identify limekilns worthy of statutory protection.

1 Daniel, P. 1988 'Limeburning in Corfe', *SIAS Bulletin*, No 47 (April 1988), 5-10.

2 Dennison, E. (ed) 1986 'Somerset Archaeology 1986', *SANHS* 130, 161.

3 Ward, A.P. in Aston, M.A. & Murless, B.J. (eds) 1978 'Somerset Archaeology 1977', *SANHS* 122, 148.

Severn Estuary

The impact of the proposed Severn Barrage in the area between Brean Down and Lavernock Point led to an examination of the archaeological sites in the inter-tidal

zone on the English side of the estuary. The area included the Somerset, Avon and Gloucestershire coastline and the work was undertaken by Richard McDonnell.

In Somerset a total of 12 sites were already known from the SMR and a further nine were added after fieldwork, documentary research, individual consultations and the examination of the available aerial photographs. The figures for all three counties are 42 known sites and 118 new sites. The main conclusion from the draft report was that more work was needed before any accurate assessment of the archaeological resource could be made. The final version of the full report incorporating both sides of the channel is awaited.

(E. Dennison)

The Shapwick Project

A multi-disciplinary project based on the parish of Shapwick was begun in late 1988. From the work of Nicholas Corcos,¹ it seems possible that the regularly-planned village shown on a series of four maps of 1764² and the medieval two-field system may have replaced a pattern of dispersed farmsteads with their own individual field systems; it is assumed that this change took place in the C10.

The initial aims of the project are:

- 1) to field walk every field looking at areas of earthworks and scatters of artifacts (M. Aston);
- 2) to analyse the abundant documentary sources, which include a number of detailed medieval surveys for Glastonbury Abbey (M. Costen);
- 3) to carry out retrogressive map analysis on the dozen or so pre-tithe maps as well as the Ordnance Survey editions.

By the end of 1988 the areas attached to Beerway and Church Farms had been examined to a preliminary level. Future work will include the study of the geology, the buildings, the fields and hedges and some environmental sampling.

- 1 Corcos, N.J. 1983 'Early Estates on the Poldens and the origin of settlement at Shapwick', *SANHS* 127, 47-54.
- 2 Aston, M. 1988 'Settlement Patterns and Forms', in Aston, M. (ed) 1988 *Aspects of the Medieval Landscape of Somerset*, 74, Somerset County Council, Taunton.

(M. Aston)

Somerset Levels and Moors

Richard McDonnell has continued his work on the Somerset Levels and Moors. In addition to writing up the evaluation trenches which were dug across some of the linear earthworks, he has undertaken a number of watching briefs on behalf of the County Council. One of these, at Brean, is detailed below. In addition, an evaluation of the archaeological resource contained within the area recently designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) has been initiated.

(E. Dennison)

Somerset Levels Project 1988

Fieldwork in the Levels this year was directed from the County Council offices, but the Project continued to help supervise and to carry out additional work in the peat fields. Several discoveries of prehistoric wood and flints were made. No excavations were carried out, apart from a brief examination of Neolithic wood disturbed on a Scheduled Ancient Monument at Shapwick.

The Project's own work consisted of preparation of the final issue of the *Somerset Levels Papers* (number 15) which will appear in 1989. This will contain lists of all sites and finds, and summary reports of the work done over the past 15 years.

Papers 14 appeared in mid-1988, with reports on Neolithic and Bronze Age sites, and studies on the Glastonbury Lake village. The Country Life award for 'the best project by a professional or mixed professional/voluntary team or unit' was won by the Project at the British Archaeological Awards ceremony in late 1988.

(J.M. & B.J. Coles)

Sparkford by-pass

The length of the Sparkford by-pass was examined in detail during October and November 1988 on behalf of Somerset County Council. The topsoil had been removed from most of the site, but in some areas the original surface had been buried beneath material dumped to raise the level for the new road. Where topsoil still remained it formed a very thin covering and generally varied between 0.15m and 0.30m in depth. Archaeological features were observed in six areas (one of which is described below) and stray finds were recovered from a further 34 locations. These stray finds consisted mainly of pottery of prehistoric (mostly Iron Age), Roman, medieval and post-medieval date together with some worked flints. The finds have been deposited in the County Museum and the full report is held with the County SMR. Thanks are due to Mander Raikes and Marshall (consulting engineers) and Davies Middleton and Davies (contractors).

(R. & L. Adkins)

MULTI-PERIOD

Wedmore, Fernhall Farm, Mudgley, ST44604555

A wide-ranging assortment of potsherds and other items has been dug up in the rear garden on the south side of this long-established and well-documented farmstead. The finds include two small pieces of worked flint and two sherds of grey Romano-British pottery which are the first Roman finds to be recorded from Mudgley.¹ Fernhall lies immediately south of the field where a possible 'Celtic' type field-pattern has been identified.²

Pottery from the medieval period comprises sherds of C13 Ham Green, C14-C15 Redcliffe, C16 West Midland Cistercian-type and early Nether Stowey (1560-1580) wares. These tie up well with the documentary evidence: the site can be identified as an old auster tenement in the manor of Mudgley, held by William Counsel (associated with the Counselles Wall earthwork below the farm)³ in 1327, and by John Pennard in 1558, when it is described as a dwelling house with barn, orchard and garden.⁴ Unbroken occupation continued until to the present day and is represented by sherds of Wanstrow, Donyatt, later Nether Stowey and Bristol or Staffordshire combed yellow wares of the C17-C18, as well as C18 and C19 pottery and glass, a clay pipe stem, and a tile fragment from the Wedmore brickyard.⁵ A very small, badly corroded iron finger-ring was also found which, given the range of background dating on this site, could be any date from Roman onwards.

Thanks are due to Mr L.D. Martin of Fernhall Farm for his enthusiastic co-operation; to Vince Russett for identifying the potsherds and to Steve Minnitt for commenting upon the ring. The finds are currently in the possession of H. Hudson, Wedmore.

1 Hervey reported no Roman finds from the 1878 excavations nearby and he or Prebendary H. M. Scarth would certainly have recognised Roman pottery if it had been found. (Hervey, S.H.A. 1887 *Wedmore Chronicles I*, 17-33).

2 Hudson, H. & Aston, M. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1987 'Somerset Archaeology 1986', *SANHS* 130, 156.

3 Hudson, H. in Burrow, I. *et al* (eds) 1983 'Somerset Archaeology 1982', *SANHS* 127, 25.

4 SRO DD/SAS/PR 462.

5 see 'Industrial Archaeology' below.

(H. Hudson)

Wedmore, Combe Batch, ST43884775, ST43924781 & ST43894765

Potsherds found in his cottage garden (at ST43884775) by the late Mr Frank Cook¹ in the early 1970s and since mislaid, have now been found again and re-examined. This wayside cottage was built between 1791 and 1805, on the west side of Combe Lane at its junction with the road to Wells. The garden extends along the northern verge of this ancient main road. The pottery includes two Romano-British sherds, among a mixture of post-medieval sherds, stone marbles, early C20 stoneware and glass.

In 1980, Frank Cook recollected that in the late 1960s, when Combe Batch Rise estate was being built next to his cottage, several very large stones were uncovered in the north-east corner of the site (at ST43924781). This now lies in the area of the present Nos. 12–16 Combe Batch Rise. The stones lay at the depth of the bungalow foundations, i.e. fairly close under the surface. Mr Cook, who was a retired stonemason, was certain that the stones were not natural nor part of a quarry. They were lying in a pebbly soil and not in the clay in which Wedmore stone naturally occurs. He remembered them as being sizeable blocks, each weighing several hundredweight; and his description of the stones as 'like a harbour wall' with 'steps' suggests some considerable structural feature, perhaps a partially destroyed wall or revetment. The developer did not report the find at the time, and the stones were removed and reburied below the foundations of bungalows built lower down the site (at ST43774785) where the ground had to be made up.

Much earlier, probably in the 1940s, Frank Cook cultivated the end of a large field on the east side of Mutton Lane (at ST43894765) as a vegetable plot. Here, over a period of time, he dug up a considerable number of coins which he deduced had originally been buried as a hoard, probably in some container that had decayed and vanished. There were sufficient coins to fill a mustard tin, which was kept in the cottage but cannot now be found. Mr Cook was convinced that the coins were Roman, but it is not known whether anyone knowledgeable had inspected them and told him so. His son remembers the coins as being 'like large pennies', which suggests large bronze coins that might be of any period from Roman to Georgian. The findspot has now reverted to pasture.

Combe Batch is a shoulder of ground on the south side of the mouth of the Lerburne Valley in which Wedmore (with its evidence of two other Roman settlement sites) is situated. Two potsherds and a lost undated coin hoard are not enough to suggest that the stones found might be a Roman building, but Roman occupation of this excellent 'lookout' site is a possibility. Combe Batch is also on the ancient E–W route along the hills from the Wells area towards Mark and Brent Knoll, and so objects of any or all periods might be dropped or hidden in the vicinity. The field in which Combe Batch Rise is situated is called Culvercroft in 1791/1820,² suggesting a dovecote in the vicinity. Ten dovecotes are recorded in Wedmore in 1559, though without any locations,³ and this site is just uphill from the Wedmore manorial pound.⁴ The stone blocks might perhaps be medieval, and associated with a dovecote.

1 Mr Frank Cook died in 1983. The pottery is currently in the possession of H. Hudson, Wedmore.

2 SRO D/P/Wed 13/10/17 & 3.

3 Green, E. 1881 'Had King Alfred a residence at Wedmore? . . .', *Bath Nat. Hist. & Antiq. Field Club* vol 4, 335 (citing Patent Rolls 1 Eliz, Roll 47 m.11).4 See Hudson, H. in Dennison, E (ed) 1987 'Somerset Archaeology 1986', *SANHS* 130, 155.

(H. Hudson)

PREHISTORIC

Cutcombe, Harwood Brakes, SS928410

A D-shaped enclosure on Harwood Brakes to the north of North Hawkwell Farm was surveyed by E. Dennison and V. Russett. The site is situated on the edge of a prominent scarp which drops away to north and has extensive views to the north, east and west. The site was first identified from aerial photographs.¹

The earthworks have a rounded appearance resulting from earlier ploughing, but nevertheless they are still in reasonable condition (Fig. 1). A ditch averaging 0.9m deep \times c.4-5m wide encloses an area 55m \times 35m. A later field boundary cuts through the eastern section of the site and to the east of this the earthwork is only partly visible as a very degraded bank. Only on the northern side, where the slope is greatest, does there appear to be any evidence of an external bank, while in the south-western corner there seem to be faint traces of an internal scarp. There are no traces of any earthworks inside the enclosure, but it is quite likely that the ploughing of the site would have disturbed any subtle features.

The prominent position of this feature, together with the dimensions and overall shape, suggest that it is a prehistoric hillslope enclosure. The site has been protected from any further agricultural improvements and thanks are due to Mr & Mrs Schofield of North Hawkwell Farm for their assistance and permission to survey.

¹ McDonnell, R. 1980 'Report on the survey of Aerial Photography in the CRAAGS Region', 14. (Copy held with County SMR).

(E. Dennison)

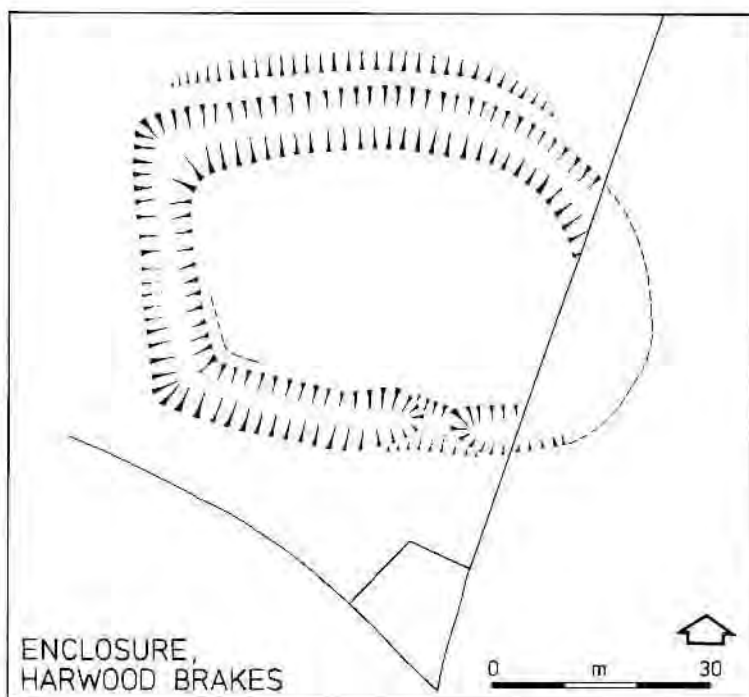


Fig. 1 Enclosure, Harwood Brakes.

Edington, Tom Mogg Inn, ST392429

In view of other Mesolithic finds from this site,¹ a watching brief was carried out on behalf of Somerset County Council during the construction of bungalows behind the Tom Mogg Inn. No structures were identified although three small pieces of waterlogged timber were found. These did not appear to be worked and were contaminated with diesel oil, and so were not retained. The site and spoilheaps yielded about 60 flints, mostly undiagnostic, but there were a few microburins, scrapers and blades of recognisably Mesolithic character. A full report will be placed with the County SMR.

1 Coles, J.M. *et al.* 1970 'Prehistoric Roads and Tracks in Somerset, England', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 36, 148.

(V. Russett)

Priddy, ST511528

A greenstone axe-head of Neolithic type was found on the surface of arable land in January 1988. This site had previously produced large collections of stone and flint artifacts which include a piece from another example of a rare axe 'polissoir'.¹

The overall dimensions of this axe are: 120mm long, 46mm broad, 33mm thick; weight 230g. The surface of the axe is uniformly eroded, but it is probably a product of the 'Group 1' factory site in Cornwall. It closely resembles another axe-head from Priddy which is now held in the Bristol City Museum (catalogue number F3616). Thanks are due to Mr H.J. Sheppard for permission to collect at the site. The axe will join the other artifacts found here in Axbridge Museum.

1 Hack, B. 1987 'A neolithic habitation site at Priddy Hill, Somerset', *Search - J. Banwell Archaeol. Soc.*, no 22, 58-62.

(B. Hack)

Priddy, ST51335340

Leslie Grinsell has expressed some reservations about this possible long barrow,¹ initially found during fieldwork by Brian Hack.² The case for its pre-dating recent mining activity may be strengthened by the observation that it coincides exactly with the site of the mound name 'Sgaldaberga' on the 1182 charter boundary of Charterhouse.

1 Grinsell, L.V. 1988 'Somerset Barrows: Revisions 1971-87', *SANHS* 131, 22.

2 B. Hack, pers. comm.

(V. Russett)

South Cadbury, King Arthur's Causeway, ST62092638

At a location c.60m east of the line of the track known as 'King Arthur's Causeway', two linear features were observed as soil marks in the side of a drainage ditch during the construction of the Sparkford by-pass. A third soil mark may also be a linear feature or an accumulation of plough soil caused by an anomaly in the subsoil at this point. One of the features, running NW-SE, was c.1m wide and was between 0.4m and 0.8m below the ground surface. The second feature was visible only in one side of the drainage ditch and was c.0.5m wide and 0.4m deep below the ground surface. All three features produced pottery of Iron Age date, as well as quantities of animal bone.

(R. & L. Adkins)

ROMAN

Bawdrip, Bush Marsh, ST32904025

After a field at Bush Marsh had changed ownership, the deep drainage ditches surrounding it were cleaned out and soil was brought in to level the surface prior to re-seeding. Members of Bridgwater & District Archaeological Society undertook a watching brief during these operations. At a depth of c.50cms in the sides of the cleared ditches, layers of small lias cobble and stones were observed over the whole field, indicating the extent of this Romano-British site. Finds were few but included small sherds of Romano-British pottery and some *tesserae*. Society members and the owner disturbed metal detector operators who said that coins had been found, none of which has been recovered or brought to museums.

(M. Langdon)

Cheddar, Meadyates, ST454530

The previous discovery of large quantities of Romano-British potsherds in the vicinity of Meadyates,¹ and of further finds in the actual field in 1987,² led to a watching brief being carried out on behalf of Somerset County Council during the development of the site. In the event, little was revealed. Several large sherds of Romano-British pottery were found in the topsoil but apart from post-medieval drainage grypes, no other features were discovered.

1 Note in County SMR from original material by V. Painter.

2 Russett, V. in Dennison, E. (ed) 'Somerset Archaeology 1987', *SANHS* 131, 211-2.

(V. Russett)

Combwich, ST261425

Further examination of the river bank during the summer and autumn of 1988 revealed evidence of an extension to the previously identified Romano-British site.¹ A supplementary report is being prepared.

1 Pike, R.J. & Langdon, M. 1981 'A Romano-British site at Combwich Passage', *Bridgwater & Dist. Arch. Soc. Annual Report* (1981), 4-18.

(M. Langdon)

Ilchester, Abbots Road, ST521228

A watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Somerset County Council in September 1988, in the garden of No. 42 Abbots Road, during the excavation of foundations for a building extension. Up to 0.40m of topsoil sealed horizons c.0.30m thick of gravel, burnt clay soil, a mortar surface and the pitched drystone foundations of a robbed stone wall to the south. Sherds of C2-C4 Roman pottery were associated with these deposits, which are probably to be interpreted as relating to a building within Ilchester's western Roman suburbs; lying to the west of a street located nearby in Great Yard in 1987.¹

1 Leach, P. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1988 'Somerset Archaeology 1987', *SANHS* 131, 212-3.

(P. Leach)

Ilchester, Almshouse Lane, ST522225

A training excavation involving undergraduates from the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology was organised by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in June and July 1988. An area was examined in advance of development

in the rear gardens of No. 1 Church Street (Fig. 2). A sequence of Roman urban structures was revealed, beginning late in the C1 AD with ephemeral traces of occupation and post-holes. During the C2 a building with more substantial mortared and drystone footings was laid out on a NE-SW axis. In the area examined a suite of six rooms was recorded, some being created as a result of later sub-division. This building probably fronted a cross street linking the two main through routes of the Roman town, the Foss Way and the Dorchester Road (Fig. 3).

Towards the middle of the C3 this building was swept away and its foundations sealed by courtyards and exterior surfaces associated with another substantial stone-founded building to the south west. Use and activity, including post-hole structures and indications of domestic or industrial hearths, continued here in association with the later building until at least the end of the C4. A sub or post-Roman phase was marked by up to 0.50m of dark earth and rubble, in part representing the collapse and desertion of the Roman structures. Although evidence of this character is widely recognised in other Romano-British towns, which apparently decayed or became deserted after the end of the Roman administration, this is the first clear record of its presence at Ilchester.

Preservation of a relatively complete Romano-British sequence on this site is explained by the presence of a former medieval street, the remains of which were excavated. C11 pottery within a wall-robbing trench, partly backfilled with road foundations, suggests an approximate date for its layout as the former course of Almshouse Lane (Fig. 3). This street is known to have been re-aligned in the C19 and it was hoped that medieval building foundations would have survived along its northern edge. In the event, however, it became apparent that the area to the north had in fact formed part of a property fronting Church Street and had been used for the excavation of rubbish pits from the C12 or C13. Inevitably, this use had caused more extensive damage to the underlying Roman stratigraphy, including the robbing of stone walls and foundations. Despite considerable assemblages of medieval rubbish being recovered, notably pottery and animal bone, no other evidence of medieval urban structures was found. A notable discovery from one of the rubbish pits was a Neolithic polished stone axe, probably of Cornish origin.

An interim report of the excavation is held with the County SMR.¹

1 Leach, P. & Jones, A. 1988 'Ilchester archaeological training excavations 1988'. BUFAU (Copy held with County SMR).

(P. Leach)

Ilchester, Dolphin Lane, ST522226

As part of the training excavations in Ilchester, work was continued at this site, following up an investigation begun in 1986.¹ The principal objective was an examination of a street seen in 1986 within the Roman town and its immediate context (Fig. 2).

In the event, the very resistant character of the successive street re-surfacing made a full excavation of the exposed segment impossible. It was, however, possible to establish that a sequence of at least 20 stone and gravel surfaces had been laid here from the end of the C1 AD, accumulating to a depth of at least 1.50m. Wheel ruts were recorded in several phases and drainage was provided at various times by ditches or lined drains along one or both sides of the street. Surviving kerb stones indicated an average width of 5m with a ESE-WNW alignment, a configuration which did not seem to vary greatly throughout the period of use. Episodes of silting were evident in the later phases, and the final act

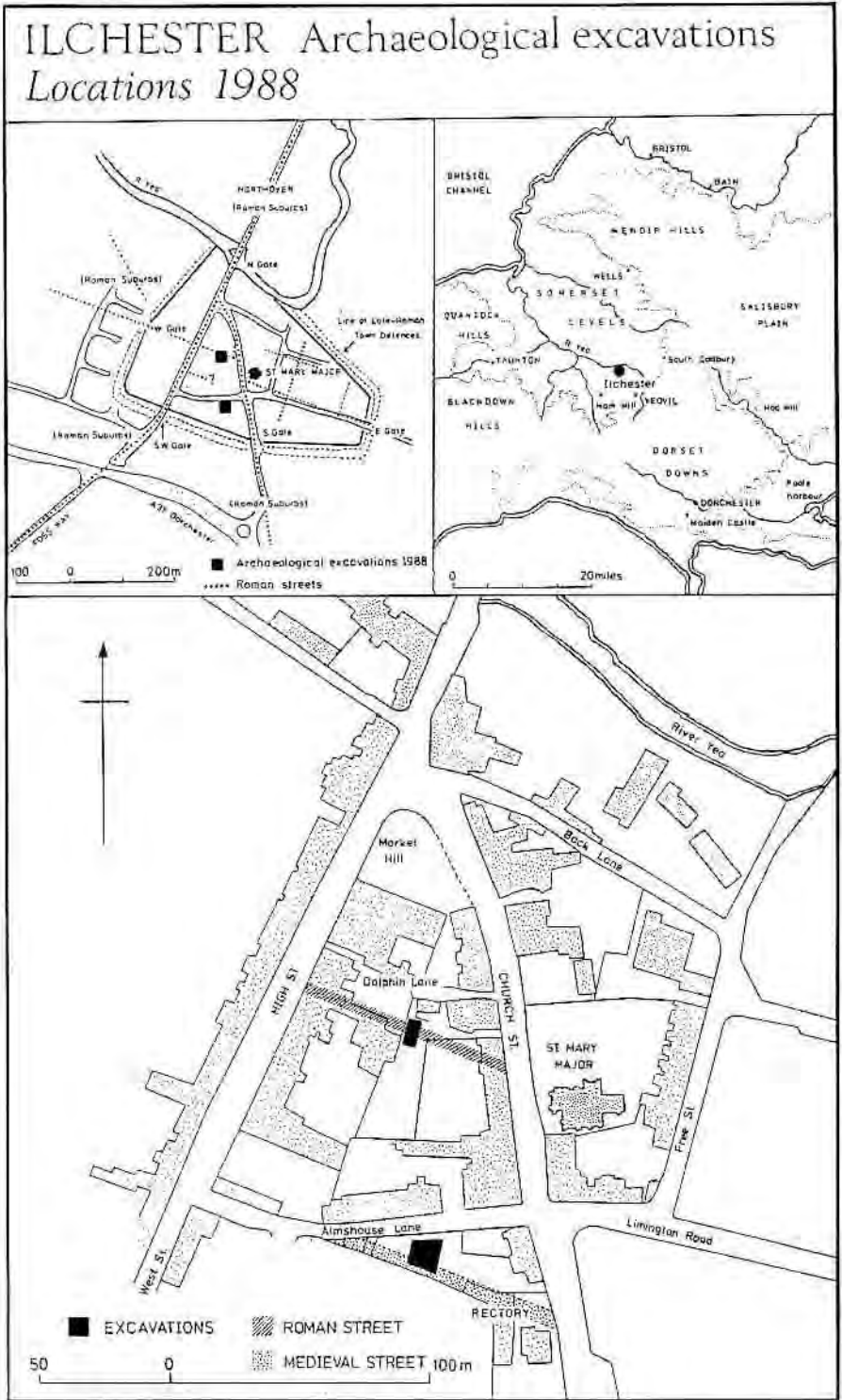


Fig. 2 Ilchester excavations 1988 – location of excavations.

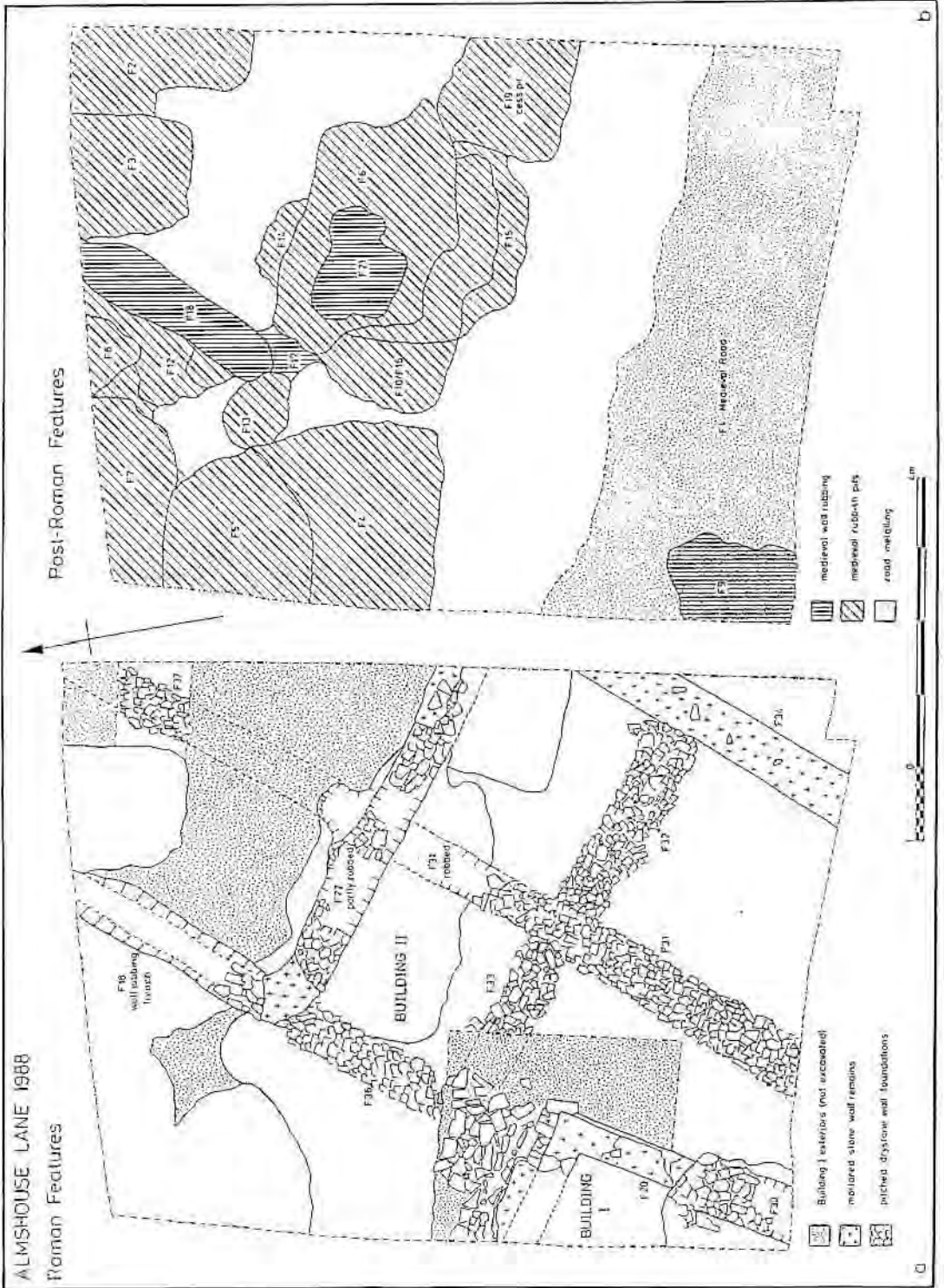


Fig. 3. Heolston excavations 1988 - Almshouse Lane.

was the cutting of a central drain along the road's axis, probably some time after the end of the C4.

Flanking the road on both sides were the frontages of stone-founded buildings which had been severely robbed of their stone. Little of their interiors, extent or history could be made out in the very limited exposures, although more than one building phase was suspected. The alignment of the road and the southern frontage conform with the building alignment established further to the south in 1986 and they may all belong to a common structure. The street was evidently a link between the main Foss Way and Dorchester Road routes and prolonged and intensive use was indicated. Postulating a projection further west, this may have been the main thoroughfare linking the Dorchester Road and Foss Way with the West Gate of the town (Fig. 2).

From the C11 or C12 this area of Dolphin Lane lay at the rear of medieval properties fronting High Street and Church Street. This resulted in an extensive use for rubbish pit excavations, primarily in the C12-C13 and in the post-medieval period, a common occurrence in Ilchester. The effect upon the underlying Roman stratigraphy was fairly severe, although the more resistant street sequence survived best.

An interim report of the excavation is held with the County SMR.²

- 1 Leach, P. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1987 'Somerset Archaeology 1986', *SANHS* 130, 150.
- 2 Leach, P. & Jones, A. 1988 'Ilchester archaeological training excavations 1988'. BUFAU (Copy held with County SMR).

(P. Leach)

Ilchester, Northover House, ST52232293

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of a small area proposed for development within the grounds of Northover House. Two trenches (each 3m × 1m) were dug by hand in November 1988. Features were encountered at a depth of 0.8m below the present ground surface. These were cut into the natural subsoil, a mottled yellow-brown clay, and were covered by a layer of soil. This soil had been buried by the successive dumping of modern soil and building débris which had raised the ground level by at least 0.6m at this point. In the end of one trench, modern disturbance was found to have destroyed some features. Six soil-mark features were observed, two of which, a pit and a gully, were found to be of Roman date. The remaining features were not excavated. Finds from the buried soil indicate that it was probably of Roman origin, with only a small percentage of medieval, post-medieval and modern artifacts. The Roman finds included pottery, glass, tile and the tip of a bone pin. Thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Paterson, of Northover House, for their assistance during this work.

(L. & R. Adkins)

West Coker, The Chessels, ST527138

An archaeological evaluation, sponsored and commissioned by English Heritage through Somerset County Council, was carried out in February 1988 by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit. A trial trench was dug adjacent to No. 1 The Villas, where a planned extension was to impinge on the scheduled area of this monument (Somerset AM 280).

Despite the small scale nature of the evaluation, two phases of human activity were detected. Local mid Iron Age-style pottery, daub and charcoal was associated with at least one post-hole, suggesting that a settlement lay in the vicinity. Nearby, a relatively shallow boundary ditch, aligned SE-NW, contained some C4 Roman

pottery and can probably be interpreted as part of an enclosure or field associated with the villa to south east. The Iron Age material hints at the possibility of a prehistoric forerunner of the West Coker villa and its estate.

A full report is held with the County SMR.¹

¹ Leach, P. 1988 *The Chessels, West Coker, Somerset, an Archaeological evaluation 1988*, BUFAU (Copy held in County SMR).

(P. Leach)

MIGRATION

Bridgwater, Wembdon Hill, ST279278

Following excavations in the garden of No. 100 Wembdon Hill in 1987,¹ a further excavation to determine the extent of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery was undertaken on the crest of the hill in the front garden.

An area 8m × 5m was excavated by hand and confirmed that most of this area had been disturbed by garden and building activity. The remains of one individual, badly disturbed but in a clearly-defined grave with kerb stones, were examined and recorded. No stratified finds were found, but evidence of earlier activity on the hill was noted in the form of a small worked flint of possible Bronze Age date and a small copper alloy stud which could be of late Iron Age or Roman date.

A detailed report and plan of the finds is being prepared by Somerset County Council and the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society. Thanks are due to the owners of the site, Mr and Mrs J. Cooper, for their support and assistance during the excavation.

¹ Croft, R.A. & Woods, H.M. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1988 'Somerset Archaeology 1987', *SANHS* 131. 215.

(R.A. Croft)

Cheddar, Kings of Wessex School, ST458531

Proposals to extend the school buildings within the boundaries of the Anglo-Saxon palace complex¹ resulted in an archaeological evaluation in 1987.² This was followed in 1988 by a detailed watching brief and recording exercise carried out by R. & L. Adkins, R. Broomhead and R.A. Croft with funding provided by Somerset County Council. The main emphasis of this year's work was to examine and record the foundations and service trenches associated with these new buildings.

The remains of a substantial stone wall running N-S across the site were noted. This has been interpreted as part of a C19 boundary associated with Manor Farm. No trace was found of any medieval or Saxon material, even in residual contexts. Most of the site on this western edge of the scheduled area had been disturbed in modern times during the construction of the school.

An area at the north-western edge of the site was examined in some detail after the removal of a tree stump. The remains of a silted-up ditch cut into the sub-soil were found in association with traces of Romano-British pottery. It was not possible to examine this area in detail and the sealed deposits were to be protected below the layer of modern disturbance.

Thanks are due to the Kings of Wessex School for their co-operation and interest and to the contractors, Messrs Pollards, for their assistance during the watching brief.

- 1 Rahtz, P.A. 1979 *The Saxon and Medieval Palaces of Cheddar: Excavations 1960-62*, Brit. Archaeol. Reports 65. Oxford.
- 2 Wait, G. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1988 'Somerset Archaeology 1987'. *SANHS* 131, 216.
(R. & L. Adkins, R. Broomhead and R.A. Croft)

East Lyng, Locketts Cottage, ST33362886

The identification of East Lyng as the *burh* founded by King Alfred in the late C9 has not yet been demonstrated by archaeological evidence.^{1,2} Modern development in the form of piecemeal infilling by new houses has provided an opportunity to investigate an area of the inner part of the *burh*. An archaeological evaluation was carried out in August 1988 on an area 40m × 25m adjacent to Locketts Cottage on the southern side of the main road, before development (Fig. 4).

Situated at the rear of the cottage was a marked earthwork bank c.1m high and c.1.5m wide. The area had been used as a garden and orchard since at least the last century. The cottages forming the street frontage were largely of early C19 date and were stone built with slate roofs. These were demolished by the developer to provide access to the garden and orchard area.

A machine-dug trial trench 19m × 2m was excavated on the eastern end of the site to provide a section through the earthwork bank (Fig. 5). At the northern end of the trench a ditch divided the orchard from the gardens. The ditch had been filled with modern rubbish and it is therefore assumed to have been excavated or re-excavated in recent years (layer 4). The section through the bank revealed it to have been composed of red/brown clay (layer 3) with virtually no finds within it.

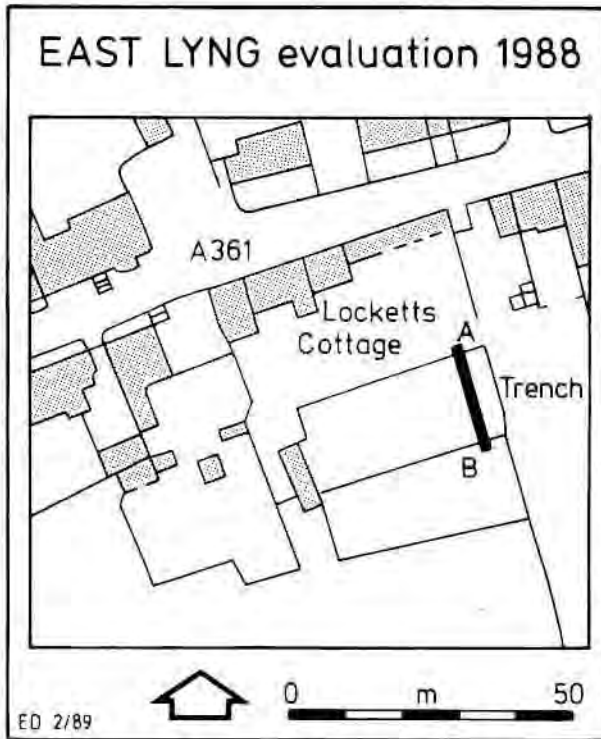


Fig. 4 East Lyng evaluation 1988 - location map.

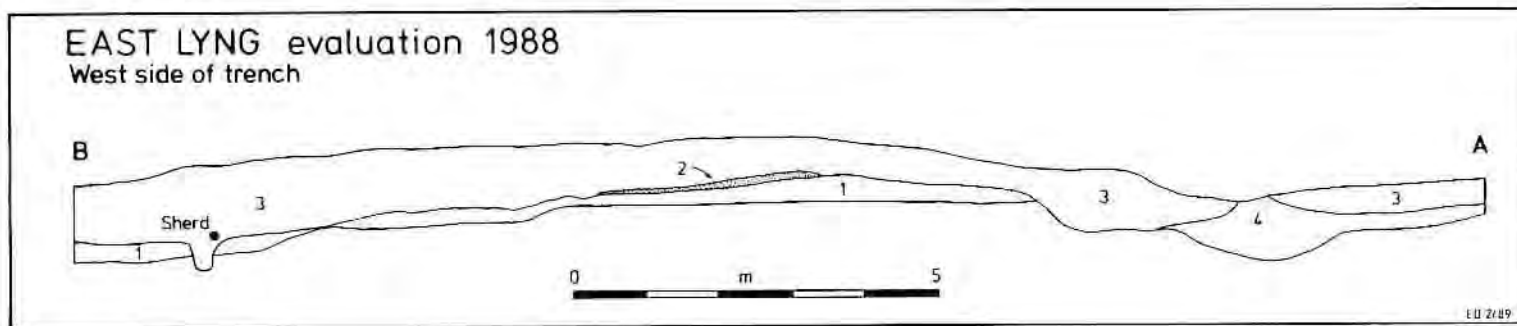


Fig. 5 East Lyng evaluation 1988 – section.
Layer 1 – natural Keuper marl (red clay). Layer 2 – layer of stones. Layer 3 – Red brown clay. Layer 4 –
Modern deposit (metal, bricks etc).

The upper horizons had been disturbed by root and animal activity. A layer of limestone rubble extended for 3m E-W in the centre of the trench (layer 2). The clay/loam bank (layer 3) sat on top of the natural Keuper Marl (layer 1) and the subsoil was removed to a depth of 0.30m. At the southern end of the trench, where the clay bank sloped away, a straight-sided slot 0.20m wide was cut into the natural marl. This slot ran approximately E-W across the trench and was sealed by a layer of red-brown clay which contained several fragments of early medieval pottery.

This small-scale excavation has provided some evidence of a boundary on the southern side of the village. It is suggested that the slot contained a horizontal timber with a section of at least 0.20m square. There were very few artifacts to help date this structure, but the pottery recovered from above the slot provides a *terminus ante quem* of C11 date. The clayey loam layers of the bank had no obvious indications of any dumping sequences and appeared to be of one period, later than the timber slot structure. The bank almost follows the 7m contour on the southern side of the village, and when traced on the map this line encloses a smaller area than that scheduled as the area of the Burghal Hidage fort.

The importance of this small-scale evaluation is that it provides evidence of stratified archaeological remains on the edge of the main area of settlement. Many of the paddocks and closes which surround the modern village are scheduled as an ancient monument (Somerset AM 379) but the gardens and small closes adjacent to the main street have no protective designation. As a result of the above evaluation, it is recommended that the scheduled area should be extended to include the remaining part of the bank and buried slot and the site be preserved.

Thanks are due to Mr Chamberlain, the builder, for his co-operation with this excavation and to Mrs Lowe-Willems, the former owner of the site, for her advice and hospitality during the evaluation.

1 Hill, D. 1967 'The Burghal Hidage - Lyng', *SANHS* 111, 64-66.

2 Leach, P.J. 1975 'Excavations at East Lyng, Somerset', *SANHS* 120, 29-38.

(R.A. Croft & R. Adkins)

Yeovil, Belmont Street, ST560158

A watching brief carried out during the construction of the relief road at Belmont Street revealed the original water course associated with Frogg Mill. The mill had been destroyed by fire in 1909. During culverting operations a remarkable carved stone was discovered.¹ It appears to be part of a baluster of the type used to divide the bell openings of Saxon church towers. It could, therefore, originally have been part of a pre-Conquest church. In view of its potential importance, this find will be the subject of further study.

1 *Chronicle - J. Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 4(2), 53.

(B. & M. Gittos)

MEDIEVAL

Axbridge, St John's Church, ST43145460

In a medieval niche in the east wall of the porch is sculptured figure which is very similar to those found in the 'lantern' heads of local stone crosses, Wedmore being a fine example. The market cross at Axbridge, which was demolished in the C18, does not appear from any surviving pictures to have had such a lantern head and perhaps this is a fragment from a previously unrecorded church cross at Axbridge.

(V. Russett)

Brean, St Bridget's churchyard, ST29705590

A planning proposal for the construction of a free-standing vestry to the south east of the chancel of St Bridget's church led to an archaeological evaluation being carried out by Richard McDonnell. A bank and ditch which divided the site were found to be C19 in date and represented an encroachment into the medieval churchyard. A coffined burial was located under the tail of the bank and two further extended burials of medieval or earlier date were found under the bank. A scatter of human bone was recorded further to the east, lying under the western edge of the ditch. The two extended burials were in graves cut into the waterlogged deposits of the marine clay which lies under the dune sand at this point. It is likely, therefore, that these burials pre-date the inundation of the area by sand and may be medieval or earlier in date.

A full report of this evaluation is being produced.

(E. Dennison)

Bridgwater, Castle Moat and King Square, ST29823713

The construction of a new road at the south-western corner of King Square resulted in the disturbance of a substantial part of the outer bailey of Bridgwater Castle.¹ The removal of more than 1.3m of soil in this area exposed the line of the castle moat and the rubble foundation of a wall of 1.8m width. This wall is interpreted as being the robbed remains of the castle's curtain wall and its line could be traced running for more than 20m across the site.

A small-scale trial excavation was carried out on the line of the western arm of Castle Moat in advance of building work. This trench, in conjunction with borehole information, confirmed that the moat was at least 4m wide and more than 3m deep in this area.

Thanks are due to Mr D. Gibson of Bridgwater and the contractors for their help and co-operation with this investigation and to R. Adkins and H. Woods for their assistance with the recording. A more detailed note is being prepared for publication.

¹ Langdon, M. & Richardson, F. 1981 'Castle Moat, King Square, Bridgwater', *Bridgwater & District Arch. Soc. Annual Report* (1981), 23-48.

(R.A. Croft)

Cheddar, Batcombe Farm, ST476515

Extensive earthmoving operations during the construction of an underground reservoir in the field immediately to the east of Batcombe Farm revealed no evidence of occupation apart from a scatter of C19 and C20 sherds. A small amount of topsoil was dumped among the post-medieval earthworks above the farm,¹ but the owner has been careful, after full consultation, to avoid damaging the site.

The house and yards around the farm have been cleared of undergrowth, and full recording is being undertaken. None of the buildings, apart from the house, appears to be any older than the C18.

¹ Russett, V. in Dennison E. (ed) 1985 'Somerset Archaeology 1984-85', *SANHS* 129, 12-13.

(V. Russett)

Cheddar, Cheddarford Mills, ST48615583 & ST48625584

A water mill is recorded at Hydon (one of the medieval names for Charterhouse on Mendip) in 1539,¹ while two are mentioned in leases of 1660 and 1699.² These were both seen by Skinner, who connected them with the Carthusians.

A survey of the mill ruins and leats was carried out in 1988. Of the Upper mill, which had been converted into a cottage, only a corner survives after destruction during the 1968 floods. A well-built stone leat brings water from the Upper to the Lower mill. The old shute to the wheel is blocked and the water now flows through a new channel which has been cut through the mill building itself. An energetic, and non-archaeological clearance, of the interior of the building a few years ago³ did a certain amount of damage and the walls are now in urgent need of conservation. Burgess has speculated that, in view of the very small head of water produced between the leat and the floor of the mill, a horizontal wheel mechanism may have functioned here.⁴

A possible later use of the site is represented by stone walls on either side of the stream below the Lower mill. This is known locally as the 'Abbot's Pool', and presumably represents a drinking pool for animals. A building remaining as a platform at c.100m above the Lower mill in the wood may be the building which is recorded as '... at the Millgreene gate. . . ' in 1698² and a large wall marks the edge of a field shown as a clearing in Long Wood on the manorial map of 1761.⁵

1 SRO T/PH/VCH.6.

2 SRO DD/GB 46 & DD/BR py17.

3 By the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation, the landowners, who intended to make a pond in the area.

4 R. Burgess, pers. comm.

5 SRO DD/STL 1-3.

(V. Russett)

Cheddar, Church Farm, ST46005303

The late medieval building situated next to the church and now known as Church Farm has a well-recorded windbraced roof dated to the late C15 or early C16.¹ Its proximity to the church suggests that this building is that referred to as '... a certaine house called the churchehouse conteyning in length fyfty fote wt. a kechyn and a curtylage . . . the said house was by the p(ar)ysshners newe made and buylded . . .' in a survey of Edward Lord Seymour's lands in Somerset.² The fact that the original building is indeed exactly 50' (15.3m) long adds further weight to the suggestion that this building is indeed the medieval church house of Cheddar.

1 SRO Vernacular Architecture Collection, unpublished notes by R. Gilson.

2 SRO T/PH/VCH. 28.

(V. Russett)

Cheddar, Longwood Grange, ST48625592

This site, formerly known as Lower Farm, has always been suspected as being a grange farm connected with the Carthusians who were based at Witham. The site was almost certainly called Cheddarford before the land was granted to the Carthusians,¹ and was provided in the medieval period with at least one water mill.² The present owners, Mr and Mrs Trim, have collected a large number of artifacts from the gardens and yards of the farm over a long period of time. These finds were presented to Axbridge Museum in 1988 and have now been provisionally studied and dated.

The pottery has a considerable date range. The earliest is a single late Iron Age sherd of limestone-tempered fabric, but there are also significant amounts of C1-C4 Romano-British pottery. Ham Green A green-glazed pottery of the C12, miscellaneous coarse wares of the C12-C15 and groups of almost complete post-medieval vessels. The latter includes one bowl of a Wanstrow potteries fabric

with a *sgraffito* date of 1684 inside the base. A variety of other post-medieval artifacts was also recorded.

The 1068 charter of Cheddar mentions a 'sundran wyrth' (a detached enclosed farm) as being somewhere in this area³ and in view of the other links with this charter, the artifactual evidence, and the fact that the name of the site is used in the original grant of the estate, it seems highly likely that this farmstead can be identified with Longwood Grange and its associated wood with Long Wood. This site obviously has immense archaeological potential and work is continuing on the analysis of the artifactual material.

1 For example, the name Ceddreford occurs in the Red Book of The Exchequer in 1156.

2 SRO T/PH/VCH.6.

3 See the discussion in Russett, V. (forthcoming) 'Deserted settlements in the parish of Cheddar, Somerset', *Bristol and Avon Archaeology*.

(V. Russett)

Cheddar, Milkway, ST470553

This area of land comprised four fields all called Milkway, or some variant of it, in 1761¹ although the unit of pasture can be traced back to at least 1600.² Earlier references are not specific as to the exact area; a reference in the 1068 charter of Cheddar clearly refers to the unit as 'the land in common holding above the Milkway', and links it with common grazing rights held by Compton Bishop parish.³

The bounds of the Milkway unit comprise a continuous wall on the north and west, referred to in 1620 as 'Milkways Wall',⁴ and a substantial bank and ditch underlying the wall and/or hedge on the east and south sides, surviving particularly well in places.

1 SRO DD/STL 1, 2.

2 SRO DD/GB 46.

3 Grundy, G.B. 1932 'The Saxon Charters of Somerset', *SANHS* 78, 165.

4 SRO DD/X/RBN 1.

(V. Russett)

Cheddar, Milkway Barn, ST47235554

Further documentary research on this site, reported in 1988,¹ has found a reference to one Galfridus de Melkwey in the Forest Eyre for Somerset of 1270, where he stands pledge for a Cheddar man.² This implies that the site may have medieval origins. A survey of the standing buildings revealed no structures earlier than the C19, although vaulted cellars or drains from an earlier structure could be seen beneath the present barns.

1 Russett, V. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1988 'Somerset Archaeology 1987', *SANHS* 131, 227.

2 PRO Forest Proceedings 32/152.

(V. Russett)

Cheddar, Nyland boundary stones, ST46545116-ST44915055

The boundary between Nyland and Cheddar dates back to at least the C10, when the Nyland estate was granted to Aelfswith by King Edgar in 959.¹ It was certainly fixed in its pre-enclosure form by c.1260.² The boundary was marked with 'merestones' by 1550³ and their sites can be located by comparing the 1620 Cheddar perambulation⁴ with the 1788 map of Cheddar⁵ and the 1773 map of Nyland.⁶

Although some, at least, appear to have survived into the 1950s,¹ only one stone now seems to remain, by a gateway at ST45625121, although this is not in its original position. A second stone is reputed to have been taken to nearby Batcombe Farm and incorporated into the paving which is outside the front door of the farmhouse.

The sites of the other stones, with their 1620 descriptions were:-

A stone	ST45995113
A square stone	ST45715118
Two stones lying together	ST45575118
A round mumble stone	ST45555119
A stone on Winterhurst Batch	ST45455115
The Red stone	ST45395103
A flat stone on the Batch	ST45275078
Another stone	ST45055062
Another stone	ST44915055

They may have been medieval in origin. At least one is described as 'the stone old Samuel erected' in 1279,² and perhaps the others had their origin around the time of the disafforestation of Cheddar in the 1330s.

1 Morland, S. 1987 'The Glastonbury Manors and their Saxon Charters', *SANHS* 130, 68.

2 As can be seen from the Glastonbury XII Hides boundary perambulation of that date.

3 Longleat Record Office, Seymour Papers.

4 SRO DD/X/RBN 1.

5 Longleat Record Office, 1788 map of Cheddar.

6 SRO DD/PO 68.

7 Balch MSS in Wells Museum.

8 Mendip Forest perambulation from Gough, J. 1930 'Mendip Mines and Forest Bounds', *Som. Rec. Soc.* 45, 177.

(V. Russett)

Cheddar, Roundhouse, ST45575557

This enclosure, of probable medieval date, was first identified by P. Ellis and surveyed in detail by V. Russett in 1988 (Fig. 6). It consists of a sub-rectangular flat area at the foot of a bank, marked out on two sides by a low bank c.3m across. On the southern, downhill, side it is marked by a lynchet and a possible 'entrance' at the south-east corner. A level platform 6m x 4m and a walled area of the bank are the only internal features. The alignment of the edges does not coincide with that of the enclosure walls of c.1800.

(V. Russett)

East Coker, Slades Paddock, ST542122

Trenches dug during the building of an extension to a house called Slades Paddock in autumn 1987, revealed the stone floor of a medieval building. There was a central hearth of pitched stones with an earlier clay hearth beneath. There was also a paved approach to the house and a separate surface of pitched stones. The finds included a silver halfpenny (1547-51), a decorated bronze buckle (late C15-early C16) and a rondel dagger of probable C15 date, the latter being found during further work in September 1988. Although the pottery has still to be studied, the quality of the other finds suggest that the building belonged to one of the wealthier families of the village.

Further details and plans are published elsewhere.^{1,2,3}

1 *Chronicle - J. Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 4(1), 16.

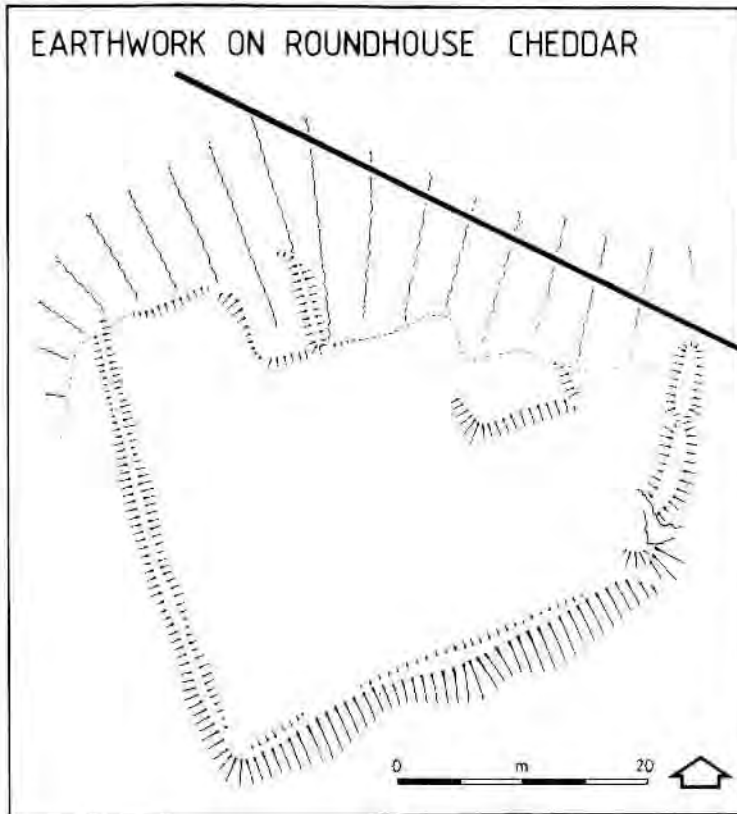


Fig. 6 Earthwork on Roundhouse. Cheddar.

- 2 *Chronicle - J. Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 4(2), 52.
- 3 *Chronicle - J. Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 4(3), 87.

(B. & M. Gittos)

Glastonbury, Heritage Court, ST49783878

A small excavation was carried out in advance of the redevelopment of the area known as Heritage Court. Previous work had established that the area appeared to be an industrial site of the early medieval period^{1,2} and a survey along the line of a possible canal or leat in 1987 showed it to continue into the proposed development site.³ A clay bank and post-holes associated with medieval pottery may mark the northern terminus of the canal. Two large pits, containing large quantities of animal bone and skulls, cut through an earlier wall and trench. These remains may be associated with tanning activities. The area continued as an industrial zone until the late C18 or early C19.

- 1 Hollinrake, C. & N. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1986 'Somerset Archaeology 1984-5', *SANHS* 129, 10.
- 2 Hollinrake, C. & N. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1987 'Somerset Archaeology 1986', *SANHS* 130, 151.
- 3 Croft, R.A. & Hollinrake, C. & N. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1988 'Somerset Archaeology 1987', *SANHS* 131, 217-8.

(C. & N. Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, Silver Street, ST500389

As part of a Section 52 agreement on a planning permission, an archaeological evaluation was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in September 1988 on behalf of Lindcross Ltd. This took place prior to development on Silver Street, at the rear of properties which front onto High Street.

The cleaning and recording of mechanically-excavated trenches revealed new evidence relating to the northern boundary of the Abbey precinct (Fig. 7). The southern side of a broad ditch, aligned approximately E-W, contained waterlogged clay silts with organic débris and animal bone, with occasional C12-C13 pottery sherds towards the top. Extensive dumps of mixed, re-deposited stone clay sealed this feature to provide a firm levelled-up base for a mortared stone wall foundation c.12.5m wide. This was aligned closely with and above the southern edge of the ditch but had been extensively robbed of all but its bottom course of stonework.

The back-filled robber trench was disturbed in places by C18 rubbish pits and boundary wall foundations extending southwards from Nos. 46 and 48 High Street. There were no other signs of medieval tenement boundaries, deposits or rubbish pits in the zone between the robbed wall and Silver Street. The only exception was a massive stone-jacketed culvert set into a wider ditch close to Silver Street, which contained medieval and some C16 pottery.

A projection of the robbed wall line westwards towards the site of the North Gate of Glastonbury Abbey indicates that the wall formed the eastern continuation of the north precinct boundary, possibly that provided by Abbot Frome in the early

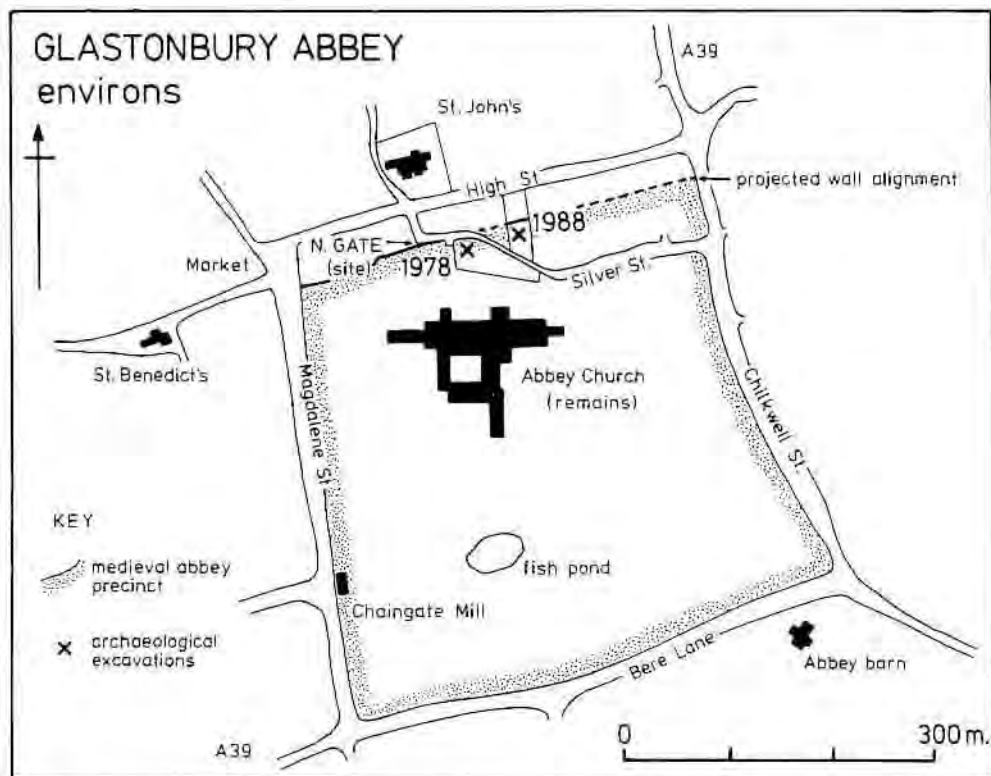


Fig. 7 Silver Street, Glastonbury – location of excavations.

C15. The fact that this replaced a much earlier boundary is suggested by the similarly aligned and infilled ditch beneath: an earlier medieval *vallum monasterii*. To the south the conduit cuts across the line of the earlier ditch and continues west beneath Silver Street. This represents a new post-Dissolution watercourse, carrying a stream from the hills east of the town.

This interpretation is somewhat different to that advanced for the precinct boundary wall south of Silver Street. This and other features, primarily medieval and earlier, were partly investigated in 1978.¹ Sections of the precinct wall examined then were certainly proven as post-medieval structures, but the status of the wall surviving alongside the south side of Silver Street further to the east may have to be re-assessed, as indeed may the origin of Silver Street in its present form.

Archaeological evidence apart, a course for the northern boundary which conforms more closely with the alignment of the High Street and the layout of the medieval town would also be consistent with a more regular, rectangular precinct for the Abbey.

A full report of the evaluation is held with the County SMR.²

1 Ellis, P. 1982 'Excavations at Silver Street, Glastonbury 1978', *SANHS* 126, 17-31.

2 Leach, P. 1988 '*Silver Street, Glastonbury: an archaeological evaluation*'. BUFAU (Copy held with County SMR).

(P. Leach)

Glastonbury, Wirrall Park, ST492385

An archaeological evaluation of Wirrall Park was commissioned by Somerset County Council on behalf of developers C.C.L. Ltd. (Bristol). This work was undertaken by the Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in November 1988. A very limited assessment of the archaeological potential of this extensive area of pasture lying between Beckery, Wearyall Hill and Glastonbury was made by a series of machine-excavated transects.

Most of the evidence related to a post-glacial landscape history. A sequence of boreal marine clay was succeeded by hillwash deposits and peat accumulations – part of the much more extensive processes associated with the formation of the Somerset Levels. Direct hints of human activity were few, but they did include charcoal which was sealed beneath the peat; and a ditch sealed by buried soil containing flint flakes and charcoal, which ran along the foot of Wearyall Hill.

There was no further evidence of activity in trenches cut close to the site of The Mound, which was excavated and destroyed in 1971.¹ Similarly, the medieval deer park boundaries were not excavated, nor was it possible to establish links with any of the features recorded previously in the Fairfield in 1987.²

A full report of the evaluation is held with the County SMR.³

1 Carr, J. 1987 'Excavations on The Mound, Glastonbury, Somerset 1971', *SANHS* 120, 37-62.

2 Croft, R.A. and Hollinrake, C. & N. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1988 'Somerset Archaeology 1987', *SANHS* 131, 217-218.

3 Leach, P. 1988 '*Wirrall Park, Glastonbury: an archaeological evaluation, November 1988*'. BUFAU (Copy held in County SMR).

(P. Leach)

Ilchester, Manor Cottage, Northover, ST523229

In October and November 1987 most of Manor Cottage on the west side of the former A37 at Northover was demolished and converted into a double garage. Several architectural fragments of Ham Stone were discovered, mostly of medieval

origin, some of which were incorporated into the new building. Photographs were taken and the stones recorded.¹

¹ *Chronicle - J. Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 4(2), 52.

(B. & M. Gittos)

Somerton, ST494284

A fragment of a C14 glazed tile was found by Mr Goodwill in the garden of his home in Somerton in the summer of 1988.¹ A similar pattern occurs on tiles at Sherborne, Forde Abbey and Burton Bradstock in Dorset. There may be a link with Muchelney Abbey which owned the tithe barn near which the tile was found.

¹ *Chronicle - J. Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 4(3), 71. (Also illustrated on the front cover).

(B. & M. Gittos)

Stawley, South Heywood Farm, Appley, ST071217

The site of a deserted medieval farmstead was surveyed by E. Dennison, R. Croft and Mr and Mrs R. Ridgley.

A series of well-defined earthworks on a south-east facing slope make up this site, which is composed of four building platforms (a to d), a trackway and several enclosures (Fig. 8). The largest of the platforms (a) is 25m x 10m and probably represents the location of the farmhouse. Three other less regular platforms are likely to be associated with out-buildings. The whole complex is approached by a trackway c.10m wide from the north east. A narrow bank, which is probably a field boundary, appears to cut across the trackway but the exact relationship between this and rest of the site is not clear. Three small depressions along this boundary represent the locations of grubbed-out trees.

The area to the north east of the site is disturbed by quarrying activity, but there is a small enclosure containing earthworks of ridge and furrow. There is no other evidence of ridge and furrow on the rest of the site, but some of the linear banks may represent part of the field system associated with the farm.

The site is likely to be that recorded in the 1327 Lay Subsidy as 'South Heywood'; the remaining buildings of South Heywood farm lie just to the north west of the earthworks but initial examination suggests that they are post-1600 in date. Further documentary research is continuing.

Thanks are due to the late Mr W. Perrott for permission to survey.

(E. Dennison)

Taunton, Winchester Street, ST23142491

An evaluation of an area within the assumed boundary of the medieval priory was undertaken by R.A. Croft and C. Hollinrake. A machine-cut trial trench 1m wide x 2m deep was excavated for a length of 15m on the western edge of the site. The upper 1.3m of the site was covered with redeposited rubble, clay-loam and a great deal of C19 rubbish in the form of an extensive bottle dump layer. This extended for 4m N-S. Beneath the C19 material, there was a dark brown-black silty deposit above the orange sandy pebble of the natural sub-soil. Traces of a slight ditch were visible running E-W across the site. No pottery earlier than the C19 was found and it is therefore assumed that in this area there were no burials or settlement activity associated with the priory.

The finds were passed to the Somerset County Museum, Taunton. Thanks are recorded to Mr W.G. King of Bishop's Lydeard who provided the machinery for the trial trench.

(R.A. Croft)

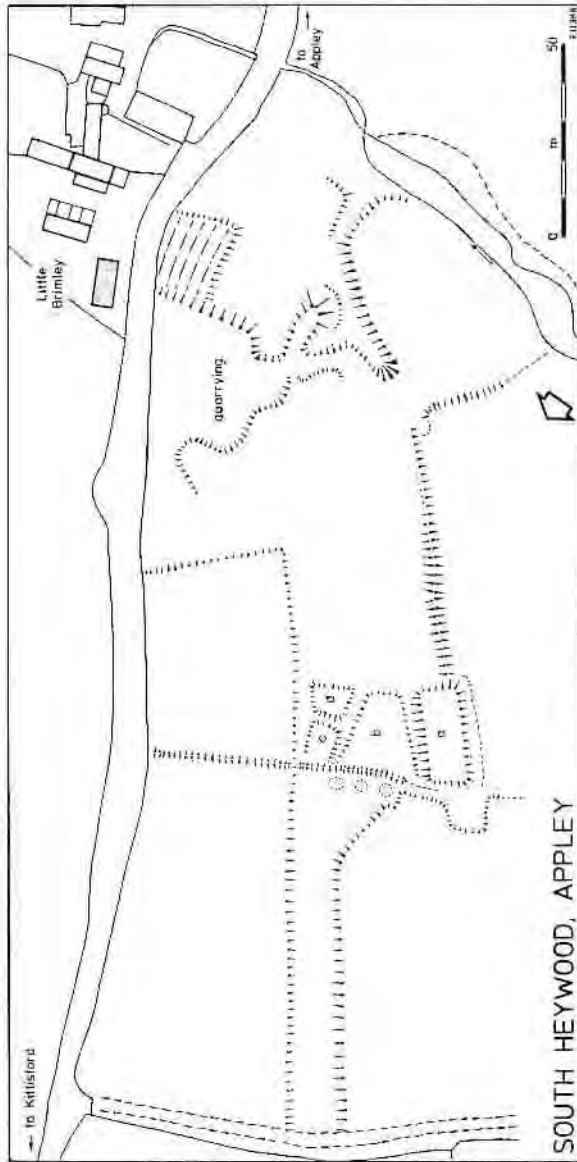


Fig. 8 South Heywood deserted farm, Appley.

Washford, Cleeve Abbey, ST047407

Excavations were carried out at Cleeve Abbey against the south wall of the so-called 'farmhouse range', which extends westwards from the frater range, and which currently houses an education room and is shortly to house an exhibition (Fig. 9). The excavations took place in advance of drainage work to alleviate problems of damp in this range.

Two trial trenches (each 1.5m × 2m) were initially dug by hand over a period of five days in October 1988. These trenches established that there was dumped material of post-medieval and modern date to a depth of 0.5m. Subsequently a larger trench (2.2m × 12.9m) which incorporated the two initial trenches, was dug by hand. This work was carried out over a period of seven days in December 1988. The recent layers of dumped soil and building debris were removed to reveal undisturbed features (Fig. 10) at an average depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface.

In the western half of the trench was a cobbled surface with a setting of flagstones which was largely bounded by a kerb of small limestone blocks. The cobbling and flagstones were deliberately sloping, presumably for drainage; they were cut by, and so pre-date, the foundations of the south wall of the 'farmhouse range' in this

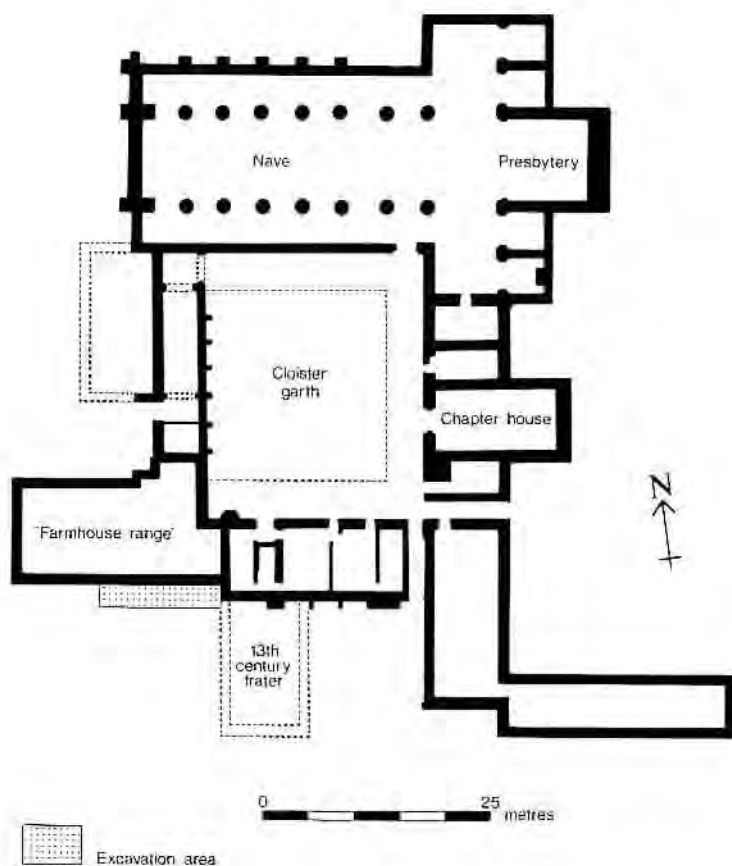


Fig. 9 Cleeve Abbey, Washford – location of excavations 1988.

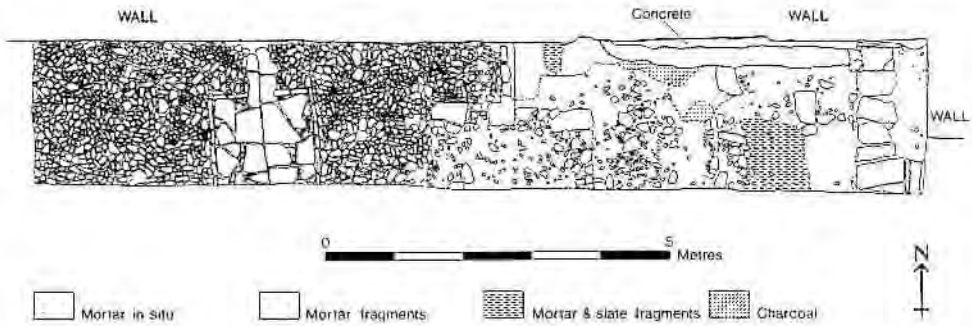


Fig. 10 Cleeve Abbey, Washford – excavation plan.

area. In the centre of the trench were the robbed remains of the butt end of a wall (or possibly a buttress for a wall that remains unexcavated further south), which appears to be contemporary with the cobbled surface. In the eastern end of the trench were several disturbed features of uncertain function, as well as the continuation of a stone-lined and stone-covered culvert, which runs below the eastern end of the 'farmhouse range'. Since no further excavation was necessary in order to solve the problems of damp, none of the exposed features was excavated.

The vast majority of finds from the layers above consisted of post-medieval and modern pottery and glass, with a few fragments of medieval pottery and tiles. The only available dating evidence is the fact that the cobbled surface pre-dates the south wall of the 'farmhouse range'. This range appears to be largely an early C18 structure incorporating earlier material, notably in its eastern part, which may well have been the site of the monastic kitchens in the C13. The south wall of the 'farmhouse range' (which cuts the flagstones and cobbling above) was extensively remodelled in the mid C19, possibly involving new facing at that period. The cobbling and flagstones are therefore likely to be earlier than mid-C19, but from evidence elsewhere in the Abbey are most likely to be post-Dissolution in date: the cobbling *appears* no different from other post-Dissolution cobbling in the Abbey, and suggests non-monastic use, as in the former corrodian's lodgings under the frater (F. Kelly, pers. comm.). The features in the eastern end of the trench may be earlier in date, although the stone-covered culvert has been shown elsewhere to be post-Dissolution in date (Guy, this volume).

The work was carried out for English Heritage. The main excavation archive is deposited with the National Monuments Record with a copy held by the County SMR. The finds have been deposited in the County Museum. Thanks are due particularly to Francis Kelly (English Heritage), and also to the staff at Cleeve Abbey, to Bob Croft and Ed Dennison (Somerset County Council) and to Christopher Guy for their assistance.

(L. & R. Adkins)

Wells, ST550456

Following a previous evaluation of the former Clares Carlton premises in 1987,^{1,2} further work was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of the new owners, Secure Retirement plc, in November and December 1988.

The removal of public conveniences and the small car park at the eastern extremity of the site and adjacent to the Palace moat allowed the completion of the

CLARES CARLTON WELLS 1987-8

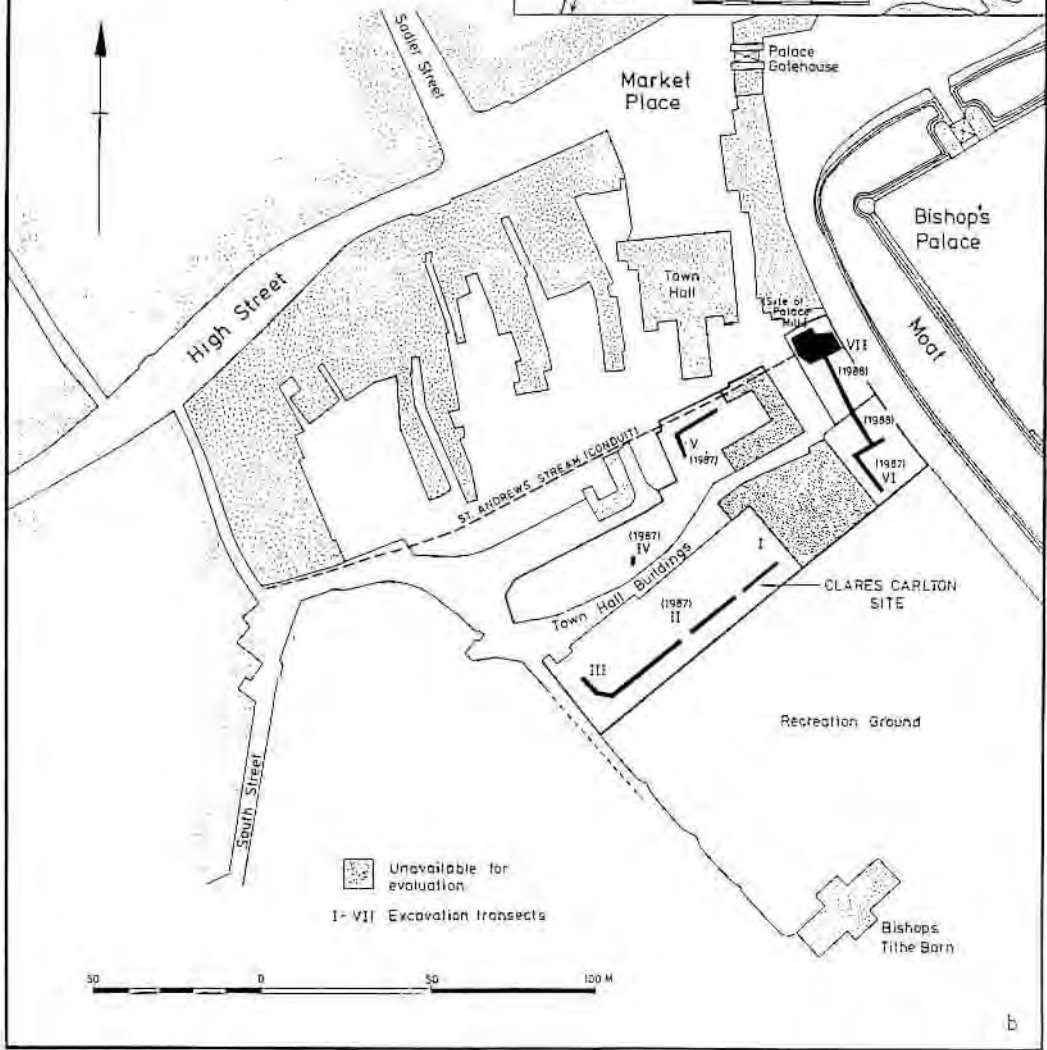
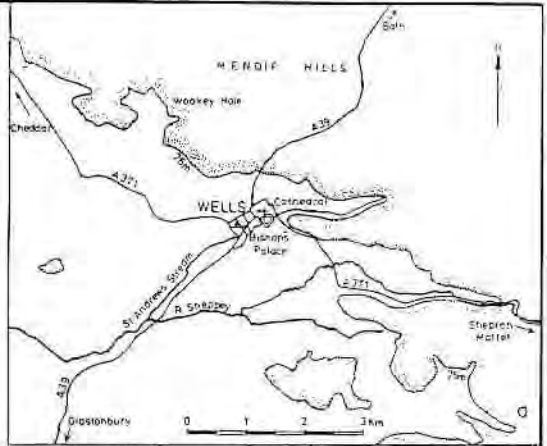


Fig. 11 Clares Carlton, Wells – evaluations 1987-88.

earlier work. Two mechanically-excavated trenches, aligned approximately N-S, linked one of the earlier evaluation trenches (VI) with a larger area which was opened at the north end of the site (VII) (Fig. 11). This was designed to investigate any surviving remains of the Palace mill, and excavation by hand continued here for a further three week period.

No direct evidence of the mill structure was found, but a clearer picture of later medieval and post-medieval arrangements in its immediate vicinity was obtained. The later silts and waterlogged deposits recorded in the infilled, naturally-formed shallow valley of the St Andrew's stream were banked against a substantial clay and gravel rampart to the east (probably the upcast from the Palace moat), which formed a dam for the moat across the valley here. Some clay silts containing earlier medieval finds continued beneath the bank but were barely investigated. Part of a massive, mortared stone wall foundation continuing south-westwards from the bank may originally have formed a revetment of its western face. It may have continued northwards, but was subsequently destroyed. If this interpretation is correct, a turn of the wall to the south west would have deflected the water which was flowing southwards from the mill wheel race outlet, westwards down the valley – its original course before the Palace and moat were laid out in the C13. Alternatively, this wall segment relates to some earlier medieval arrangement, possibly connected to an earlier phase of the mill.

The subsequent history of the area involved progressive infilling of the water-course flowing south from the mill and then westwards down the valley. These arrangements are clearly depicted on Simes' 1735 map of Wells. The infill deposits contained a considerable assemblage of late and post-medieval finds, including pottery, tile, waterlogged wood and leather, animal bone and metalwork. By the end of the C18 this process was accelerated by the erection of a small stone-founded building which partly overlay the earlier silts, and which contained evidence of some small-scale industrial process.

The destruction and redevelopment of the mill site immediately to the north in or soon after 1835, was echoed here by levelling off the C18 building. An extensive dumped deposit of clay and gravel (primarily of natural origin) was used to level up the area formerly occupied by watercourses. The latter were rationalised into two westward flowing conduits. One was for St Andrew's stream which took the main flow of water directly from the Palace moat via a sluice (still functioning), and was cut through the medieval bank of the moat dam. A second conduit to the south still carries a slight flow, following the course of an originally open channel westwards, but it does not seem to be connected directly to an outflow from the moat. From the information recorded here, the site and any remains of the Palace mill must lie immediately to the north of the new development, almost certainly beneath No. 2 Town Hall Buildings.

1 Leach, P. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1988 'Somerset Archaeology 1987'. SANHS 131, 206.

2 Leach, P. 1987 'Clures Carlton, Wells. An Archaeological Evaluation'. BUFAU (Copy held in County SMR).

(P. Leach)

Wells, Cathedral Green, ST549458

As part of the enhancement scheme at the West Front of Wells Cathedral, undertaken by Somerset County Council,¹ a series of eleven tree holes was excavated in November 1988 by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit. The replacement of new lime trees for those located around the south and west perimeters of the Green necessitated the excavation of holes c.1m square and 0.7m

deep. In almost every instance up to 0.50m of dumped soil and débris containing C18 coins, pottery, clay pipes, animal bone, etc. was encountered. This suggested that there had been a considerable levelling-up process over this area of the Green. Levels containing mortar and stone waste (including some dressed fragments) were seen beneath this, possibly relating to earlier building phases of the Cathedral, although some post-medieval material was still present. There was no indication of intact or disturbed graves or burials to the levels reached in excavation, or of identified human remains in any of the deposits removed.

A full report is held with the County SMR.²

1 Croft, R.A. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1988 'Somerset Archaeology 1987', *SANHS* 131, 224.

2 Leach, P. 1988 'Cathedral Green, Wells: November 1988'. BUFAU (Copy held in County SMR).
(P. Leach)

Wells, Cathedral Green, ST55084588

Following the evaluation work carried out in 1987,¹ a detailed excavation of an area 22m × 2m was undertaken in 1988 in advance of the new paving scheme.

The area, which was adjacent to the edge of the main buttress line, was hand dug to an average depth of 0.30m, which revealed the upper stratified layers which sealed the rubble buttress foundations. A large number of C19 scaffold pole holes associated with the repairs to the West Front were examined and partly emptied. The extensive remains of the stone rubble buttress foundations were located and recorded. The area in front of the south-west door was due to be re-paved and so this also was excavated to record any earlier features. Traces of a small N-S wall foundation were found; this has been dated to the late C18 or early C19 and was associated with some form of walling or outer gate arrangement in front of the main door. An engraving of c.1850 shows a small wall with railings in this position.

The excavations were carried out by R. Lunniss, R. Adkins, C. & N. Hollinrake, J. Sampson, W. Horner, E. Dennison and R. Gawler and his team. Thanks are due to the Dean and Chapter for their co-operation and advice. A detailed note on the excavation and finds is being prepared for publication.

1 Croft, R.A. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1988 'Somerset Archaeology 1987', *SANHS* 131, 224.

(R.A. Croft)

Yeovil, Church House, ST556160

In April 1988 the first task of the newly formed Yeovil Archaeological Unit was to sort and record stones from an unusual building which was demolished in the grounds of Church House. The building had a puzzling ground plan and appeared to have been single celled and two storeyed. About one third of the material was dressed Ham Stone and it contained many architectural fragments of C15, C14 and possibly pre-Conquest date. The items were sketched, measured and photographed.¹ Some were preserved in the new building on the site while others were deposited with the Museum of South Somerset.

1 *Chronicle - J, Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 4(3), 84.

(B. & M. Gittos)

POST MEDIEVAL

Cheddar, Hythe House, ST45055265

The remaining fragments of the wall of this house were exposed during ditching operations in May 1988. The building appears to have been constructed between 1800 and 1805,¹ and the field behind it was called 'Hythe House Ground' in 1840.² The house was in ruins in 1903, although walls stood into the 1950s.³

The foundations were recorded and a small (2m × 1m) sondage revealed that disturbance from previous road widening and associated drainage had destroyed some of the original floor levels. The finds were mostly of late C19 date, with one interesting earlier sherd, of a shallow slip-decorated bowl, being exactly paralleled by material found at the Chandos Glass cone in Bridgwater, and presumed to have been manufactured there.⁴

1 Longleat Record Office, Crew's 1805 map of Cheddar.

2 SR0 Cheddar tithe apportionment.

3 D. Russett, pers. comm.

4 Boore, E. & Pearson, T. (forthcoming) 'Red earthenware pottery from the Chandos Glass Cone, Bridgwater, Somerset', in Thomas, N. & Wilson, A. (eds) (forthcoming) *Ceramics in Bristol*. City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Monograph 4.

(V. Russett)

Cheddar, Middle Down, ST48345300 & ST48625286

The ruins of two farms and their outbuildings were recorded during 1988. They appear to be of c.1860, and have been abandoned since c.1910. Both have the remains of stockyards and cattle stalls, and are the result of a short-lived attempt to colonise the high land of Mendip when the first flush of enthusiasm for arable cultivation of the new enclosures passed.

(V. Russett)

Cheddar, The Cross, ST45945320

During the redevelopment of the old cinema site for sheltered housing, all of the remains of the old cinema were removed. A watching brief revealed little except for a well-shaft of Old Red Sandstone blocks, of unknown date. The whole of the area had been cellared, presumably during construction of the cinema. The Cheddar map of 1788 shows this village centre site as pasture.¹

1 Longleat Record Office, Verry 1788 map of Cheddar.

(V. Russett)

Odcombe, Baptist burial ground, ST503160

Members of the Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society maintained a watching brief during the clearing of undergrowth from the Baptist burial ground at Five Ashes, Odcombe during the second half of 1987.^{1,2} The site had been previously surveyed in 1981³ and the opportunity was taken to add further information to that recorded earlier.

1 *Chronicle - J. Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 4(1), 18.

2 *Chronicle - J. Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 4(2), 52.

3 *Chronicle - J. Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 2(1), 6.

(B. & M. Gittos)

Pitminster, Blagdon Hill, ST21051764-ST21151780

Trench sections cut for a water main along a hollow way which formed part of the

original Taunton to Honiton road (turnpiked in this section in 1752), revealed a buried ground surface 30cm below the present ground level. There was only fragmentary evidence of road metal, which suggests that during the re-routing of this section, sometime after 1799, the metal was lifted and re-used on the new section which survives as the present road ascending Blagdon Hill. The practice of reclaiming road metal for re-use was recommended by McAdam.

A full report of the watching brief is held with the County SMR.¹

1 Clements, C. 1988 'Archaeological watching brief, Fulwood to Blagdon Hill duplication main, Pitminster parish, Winter 1987-8'. (Copy held with County SMR).

(C. Clements)

Wanstrow, The Potteries, ST7141

Documentary work has continued on this pottery industry, one of the major production areas in East Somerset in the early post-medieval period. The potters (principally the Yeoman family, but including potters from at least six other families) are documented from before 1570, when the death of William Davis, potter, is recorded in the Wanstrow parish registers, to the early part of this century (c.1905), when the pottery in Wanstrow village closed down.

Simultaneously, work by M. Ponsford, L. Good, and V. Russett of Bristol City Museum on the fabric and firing of the clays from Wanstrow has shown the wide variety of vessel types that could be produced. Examples reached Bristol in very large quantities from c.1500 until c.1800, with a peak between c.1550 and c.1750.¹

1 Good, L. & Russett, V. 1988 'Some common types of earthenware found in Bristol', *Bristol & Avon Archaeology* 6, 35-43.

(V. Russett)

Wedmore, Burnt Mill, ST42625087

Of the Wedmore five windmills listed by Coulthard and Watts, the only one which they could not identify on the ground was a site associated with two fields called Burnt Mill and Burnt Mill Field, recorded in the Wedmore tithe award of 1838. These two fields, centred on ST42505082 and ST42505071, occupy a high and exposed area beside the Wedmore-Chapel Allerton parish boundary, and at a meeting point of several footpaths.¹

Some supplementary details of this windmill site have now been found. Burnt Mill and Burnt Mill Field were so named in 1791.² They lay in the open North Field of Crickham, adjoining furlongs called Crannell Field. This was part of the Manor of Churchland, in Wedmore, and the mill probably served as the manorial mill for the inhabitants of Crickham and Cocklake, which were both part of the Churchland Manor. Situated to take advantage of the exposed site, it was nonetheless relatively close to both settlements. Two deeds, both dated 1678, take the history of the mill back another century. They are both leases of half-acre strips of arable in the open fields.³ The first, on 8th July 1678, refers to half an acre belonging to Crannell Mill in the Manor of Churchland. The second is a separate lease dated the next day, 9th July 1678, of two other half-acres 'in Burnt Mill' in the same manor. These two simultaneous, yet differing, descriptions imply that its proper name was Crannell Mill (situated as it was in the Crannell Field area), and that by July 1678 it had burnt down, giving its name to that particular part of the open field. It was never rebuilt but its memory lingered on in fieldnames until the C19. A windmill of this date, not subsequently rebuilt, would have been a post-mill and would not have left any substantial traces above ground.

The two relevant fields have both been arable, as the characteristic open field pattern and the documents suggest. They are covered with slight traces of what could be ancient ridge and furrow (there are better examples in other nearby parts of Crannell Field) but are more probably relatively modern drainage grypes. In one field these ridges run counter to the 1791 layout of strips, in the other they are cut by a square (?early C20) cattle pond. This suggests that the ridges are probably of C19 date, after 1791 but before about 1920s–1940s. There is no sign of an interruption to the pattern that might suggest a former mill-mound, so that either the mill was near but not actually in either of these two fields which took their names from it, or any trace has been thoroughly destroyed by subsequent cultivation.

However, the footpaths which Coulthard & Watts note as possibly being significant meet not in either of the two Burnt Mill fields themselves, but around an immediately adjacent 'pocket' of land in the next field to the east. This is situated on the edge of the open field with its cultivation patterns, but also right on the exposed edge of the hill above the Axe Valley. A dog-leg hedge pattern surrounds it on three sides. In this pocket, two depressions, a gully and indeterminate low banks could perhaps mark the former mill site, and might repay investigation. Moreover, in the hedge to the west of this spot (at ST42615087) are two very large slabs of Draycott pudding stone. They have apparently been deliberately set in the ground although both are now leaning. One is c.3' wide, the other c.4–5' wide and both show c.2–3' above the ground, although the hedge base is much obscured with débris. They appear to be c.9" thick. They might possibly have been part of a former stile on one of the adjacent paths, but they appear much too massive for this. Alternatively, they might have been associated with the mill and were set in the hedge when the burnt-out remains were finally cleared. At Ashton Mill, the loading platform alongside the mill has steps and top of stone slabs. These stones might have served a similar purpose.

1 Coulthard, A.J. & Watts, M. 1978 *Windmills of Somerset*, 63.

2 SRO D/P/Wed 13/10/17 & 3.

3 SRO DD/SX (8 July 1678) and DD/FS box 12 (9 July 1678).

(H. Hudson & F. Neale)

Wedmore, Glanville Road, The Old Cottage, ST43404781

The site of a tan-house alongside Wedmore Brook has been identified from recent documentary research, although no surviving physical remains have been recorded. The building was there in 1766, when it was held by John Thatcher, tanner. A datestone incorporated into a later chimney is inscribed 'S & M T 16. . .' and probably commemorates John Thatcher's parents, Samuel and Mary Thatcher, who were married in the 1690s. A more detailed report on the site will appear elsewhere.¹

1 Hudson, H. & Neale, F. (forthcoming) 'Wedmore Tan-houses', *Somerset & Dorset Notes and Queries*.

(H. Hudson & F. Neale)

Yeovil, The Avenue, St Gildas' Convent, ST558163

Re-development of the site of St Gildas' Convent afforded an opportunity for a watching brief in February and March 1987. It was hoped to find evidence of the early settlement of Kingston on the north side of the town, but apart from a stray sherd of medieval pottery there did not appear to have been occupation of the site before the C19.

(B. & M. Gittos)

Yeovil, Petters House, ST556158

A watching brief was carried out by members of Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society during the construction of Petters House in May–June 1987. No structures were identified but several rubbish pits were located. Their fills included a cache of medicine bottles, probably emanating from South Street House (the former residence of Dr. P.A. Colmer), and some interesting C18 finds. Amongst the latter was a large Donyatt charger of a similar style to the Cockerell charger held in Somerset County Museum, Taunton.

Further information is published elsewhere.¹

1 *Chronicle – J. Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 4(1), 15.

(B. & M. Gittos)

Yeovil, South Street, ST556159

Following earlier work in 1986 during the construction of the new library in Yeovil,¹ further recording work was undertaken in the summer of 1987. This revealed the foundations of the Old Town Hall, more of the cobbled roadway through the markets and the cellar of No. 4 South Street, the Hall Keeper's cottage. A finely carved bone domino was amongst the finds recovered from a stone-capped drain in front of this house. More evidence of burnt wattle and daub buildings was also discovered.

A fuller report and plan is available elsewhere.²

1 Gittos, B. & M. in Dennison, E. (ed) 1986 'Somerset Archaeology 1986', *SANHS* 130, 159.

2 *Chronicle – J. Yeovil Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.* 4(1), 13.

(B. & M. Gittos)

INDUSTRIAL

Cheddar, Black Rock Drove, ST48605464

During the restoration of a limekiln by the National Trust, a number of associated features was recorded. These included conveyor belt and engine mountings, tipping jetties and other metal fixtures. Work was helped by reference to a photograph which showed the kiln in production in the early 1930s. Repairs to the inside of the kiln mouth were dated by the discovery of some 1937 newspapers which were fossilised with lime.

(V. Russett)

Dunster, Dunster Castle, SS992435

At the invitation of the National Trust, SIAS undertook conservation work on the surviving mechanism of a coal hoist in the basement of the Castle. Fragmentary documentary evidence suggests that the hoist, and an adjacent food lift, were installed by the architect Anthony Salvin between 1868 and 1872. The remains consist of a winch with chain drive to sprocket wheels beneath the lift shaft, but are not at present located in an area accessible to the public.

(*SIAS Bulletin*, No 49, December 1988)

Langport, Beards Yard, ST417267

An early C19 building at this site has been surveyed by SIAS. It was once associated with Richard Down who operated an extensive iron foundry at Eastover, Bridgwater. The Langport structure is of brick with four arches, now infilled, and three circular ventilation holes fitted with cast-iron window frames of

reputed local origin. In 1869 part of the premises was converted to a meeting house and schoolroom, but as early as 1840 casting was already taking place on another foundry site at Whatley (ST412267).

(*SIAS Bulletin*, No 47, April 1988)

Wellington, Rockwell Green Water Tower, ST126200

Wellington, Westford Pumping Station, ST122204

In 1988 SIAS undertook documentary research and a survey of the 1886 pumping station and its contemporary tower. Both were constructed of local red brick and were surveyed. The water supply was provided by springs and although the steam engines at the station were replaced by two 1935 Ruston diesels, the original Glenfield and Kennedy ram pumps remain *in situ*. The tank on the Victorian tower, now standing beside its 1930s concrete counterpart, is of rivetted iron plates with an approximate capacity of 44,000 gallons. All the structures are 'listed' as architecturally important, but it is likely that the redundant pumping station will probably be demolished and the site redeveloped.

(*SIAS Bulletin*, No 47, April 1988)

Wedmore, Brickyard Farm, ST44054802

A brick-drying shed and ancillary furnace room, which is the subject of a proposed conversion, is the only complete building to survive from the Wedmore Brick and Tile Works. It was probably built in the 1850s and is a low structure with a clay-tiled roof. It has hinged wooden shutterflaps on both north and south sides for ventilation, and would have been used to stack and dry bricks prior to firing. Warm air, from a furnace in an adjoining brick-built room at the western end, was ducted through a vent into the main shed to speed the drying process.

The brickyard was established by John Tonkin in the late 1830s and trade directories indicate at least three subsequent operators, the last of whom was Frederick Morgan. Until its closure in 1906 a wide range of goods was produced, mainly for use in the locality. Clay was dug from ground at the southern edge of the site but in later years was carted in from elsewhere. Many bricks, tiles and decorative garden urns were stamped with the maker's mark and two buildings in Church Street, Wedmore are built with products from the works.

(H. Hudson & B.J. Murless)