

**Somerset Archaeology 2016**

*C J Webster*

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# SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY 2016

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## COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The Somerset Historic Environment Service (HES) continues to deliver a wide range of activities as part of its role within the South West Heritage Trust. Each year continues to throw up fresh challenges and 2016 was as busy as ever.

One of the most significant developments during the year was a major refurbishment of the Somerset Historic Environment Record. This work was coordinated by Chris Webster and included transferring the records to a new database system (HEROS) that was developed by the Welsh archaeological trusts. A new public-facing website ([www.somersetheritage.org.uk](http://www.somersetheritage.org.uk)) was also developed with greatly enhanced mapping. As part of this project, Ann Dick (formerly HER officer for Devon County Council) was taken on for six months to cover for Chris and also to address the HER backlog. Many thanks to Ann for the contribution that she made to the Somerset HER, adding over 850 of the 1100 entries made in the year.

One of the advantages of the new website is that it is easier to add historic mapping and other layers to the site and during the year volunteers, coordinated by Chris Webster, completed the geo-rectification of all the tithe maps, originally dating from about 1840. These can now be viewed as layers together with other maps and the 1946/8 aerial photographs of the county.

The tithe maps have been supplied to another project that incorporates historic map evidence alongside heritage information, Know Your Place ([www.kypwest.org.uk](http://www.kypwest.org.uk)), and in return the HER now has access to the Ordnance Survey First Edition of the 1880s. Know Your Place will incorporate HER information and allow anyone to add information to a community layer.

One of the key functions of the HES is to provide archaeological planning advice to the five district councils in Somerset and to the County Council in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In 2016

Steve Membery and Tanya James commented on over 1300 planning applications ranging from individual building plots in the middle of historic settlements through to extensive applications for housing schemes and major projects. Advice was also provided to West Somerset and Sedgemoor councils on Local Development Plan documents assessing the impacts of proposed allocations on the historic environment.

In addition to local authorities the HES provides archaeological advice 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 archaeological advice service is the advice given to the Natural England and DEFRA on the Countryside Stewardship scheme. In 2016 Jan Grove gave advice on over 200 different landholdings about the likely impact of their proposed schemes on the historic environment.

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. One of the major projects was the investigation and preparation of the floors inside the medieval tithe barn of Glastonbury Abbey, part of the Somerset Rural Life Museum which is being refurbished. The conservation team was strengthened in 2016 with the appointment of Heike Bernhardt working with Nic Wall on a range of projects around the county.

Advice on archaeological and conservation matters is also given to the Diocese of Bath and Wells and Nic Wall, Heike Bernhardt and Bob Croft have been involved in a wide range of planning, conservation, and archaeological matters such as the removal of pews in major historic churches at St Mary's Bridgwater and St Andrew's Wiveliscombe as well as major development proposals at Bath Abbey.

As work at Hinkley Point C power station continues, a final phase of archaeological investigation was carried out on the southern

side of the site. This included the total excavation of a substantial Bronze Age enclosure and the excavation of a Post-medieval farmhouse known as Corners near the hamlet of Shurton in Stogursey Parish. Jane Hill and Rachel Bellamy of the Hinkley outreach team coordinated a local public open day, with the help of EDF staff and Cotswold Archaeology, and over 100 people visited the excavations. With the excavations, the programme of archaeological outreach delivered by Rachel Bellamy, Jane Hill and Marc Cox also came to an end. This was an important project that ran for over four years reaching several thousand people all over Somerset and beyond explaining the importance of archaeological research and what has been discovered at the Hinkley site. A blog site and series of documentary films were made to present it in an accessible format.

Outreach continues in the form of the Hands-on Heritage part of the Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership (AMLPP) project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Building work has relied heavily on volunteers and over 6000 hours of volunteer time has now been given to this part of the project. A Roman style building and Saxon style timber hall are now well underway and due to be open to the public at the end of 2017. Several training excavations were organised including at Beckery chapel near Glastonbury (see Medieval below) and a conference was held at Strode Theatre in Street to celebrate the completion of the ALMP.

In April, a major exhibition on the work of Victor Ambrus was put on display at the Museum of Somerset. This work included a large collection of original art works depicting many of Victor's reconstruction drawings of archaeological sites in Somerset from various Time Team projects and specific commissioned works for the Museum of Somerset and the Hinkley point project. In June, the Quantock Hills AONB celebrated its 60th anniversary at with a heritage conference in partnership with the SWHT and Halsway Manor.

Archaeology continues to provide an insight into many aspects of the county's rich heritage as new sites are investigated, recorded and where possible protected for future generations.

(Bob Croft)

## SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

*Churchill, Duck Street, Lower Court Farm, Home Field, ST 432 434*

ALERT investigated the area around a series of medieval fish ponds (North Somerset HER 00385). Two earthwork features were clearly visible. One was a broad ditch approximately 5m wide and 60m long and almost 1m deep with a flat bottom measuring 1.5m across. The ditch runs from east to west; the northern edge has been built up slightly to reduce the effect of the slope, suggesting that it was probably intended to hold water. The other feature comprised two ditches meeting at right angles with a rounded corner. These were approximately 4m wide and 1m deep. It is possible that they were part of a water management system or had been re-used as such. A number of shallow ditches were visible on the surface running from south to north suggestive of drainage ditches. The southern (drier) end of the field was surveyed using a Bartington C601 single pole gradiometer and a TR/CIA resistance meter. The gradiometer survey showed a number of converging drainage ditches approximately 20m apart running south from the field boundary. From their junction a ditch ran towards the west side of the field where it in turn joins a larger ditch, visible on aerial photographs, running close to the western field boundary. It is suggested that the purpose of these ditches was to carry surface water into the stream to the west of the fishponds and thus avoid contamination. The large earthwork ditch showed disturbance on either side, probably indicative of periodic clearing. A second similar ditch was identified about 20m to the north but this is not visible on the surface. Both ditches show indications of drainage channels leading to west of the field. The resistivity survey confirmed the existence of these features, and in addition identified a spread of stony material about 25m across just south of the large ditch. This may indicate that there had been a structure here at some time, but it was not possible to identify any features within it with certainty. In the southeast corner of the field, and close to its highest point, a feature suggesting a circular bank or stone-filled ditch was identified measuring about 20m in diameter. No surface finds were made in the course of the survey.

(Jack Foord and John Matthews)

*Corston, ST 678 649*

Air photographs have persistently shown cropmarks in a field to the east of Corston Field Farm. A magnetometry survey of an area of 0.5 ha over the western of these disclosed a rectangular enclosure 40 m north-south by 10 m, which matched the location shown in aerial photography. However, the lines indicating both east and west sides of the enclosure continued to the north, beyond the enclosure. There were no signs of structures discernible within the enclosure. Without any firm dating evidence, the enclosure is interpreted as post-medieval but pre-dating the present field layout. Thanks to James Addicott for the invitation to undertake the survey and to the Duchy of Cornwall for permission to operate on their land.

(John Oswin)

*Ilminster, Coldharbour Farm, ST 3510 1453, Somerset HER 36841*

A magnetometers survey was undertaken by Substrata recording 29 magnetic anomaly groups which were thought to represent possible archaeological deposits or features. Two of these groups represent former field boundaries which are recorded on historic maps. Another group, which may represent a deposit of industrial material, lies approximately 40m to the west of anomalies possibly representing an in-situ heated deposit such as that produced by pottery or metal production. Modern origins cannot be ruled out for either of these anomaly groups but their relative positions adds weight to the possibility that they represent archaeological deposits. To the south in the same field two anomaly groups may represent an alignment of pits and a group of pits. The anomaly groups represent former ditches or banks of unknown period.

(Ross Dean)

*Montacute House, ST 5000 1730, Somerset HER 37555*

A further small earth resistance survey was conducted by South Somerset Archaeological Research Group at Montacute House in co-operation with the National Trust as part of the Festival of Archaeology. This was carried out East Lawn with the aim of locating traces of the former inner courtyard or original layout of the garden. A number of irregular high and low resistance anomalies were seen, which did not appear to have the regularity of formal garden features but it is possible that they could be associated with the

replacement of a former courtyard and fountain by the current lawn and flower beds.

(Clare Randall)

*Peasedown St John, Greenlands Road, ST 70280 57620*

A detailed magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd which showed a small number of weakly positive linear and discrete responses. They were generally short, indistinct and lacking a coherent morphology that prevents confident interpretation. The entire site contained widespread and numerous discrete dipolar anomalies, indicative of spreads of ferrous and other magnetically thermoremanent material, such as slag, brick and clinker. This may suggest that waste material from iron working may have been brought to site and distributed across it.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

*Penselwood, Home Pits, ST 7574 3065, Somerset HER 37556*

A gradiometer survey was carried out adjacent to Pen Pits by South Somerset Archaeological Research Group in collaboration with, and at the request of, the Pen Selwood History Society. The survey identified a series of anomalies which may represent further quarry pits, as well as a series of linear features forming a rectilinear enclosure of c. 40m. Further survey is intended to the north. SSARG would like to thank Geoff Parcel of the Pen Selwood History Society for his input into the project and Charles Buckler for facilitating access to the field.

(Clare Randall)

*Priston, Inland, ST 692 607*

A paddock known as Inland became available for geophysical survey in April 2016. This was a triangular field, approximately 2 ha, sloping gently to the north from the top of the ridge (Figure 1). The field was immediately west of Town Hill, previously surveyed, which was immediately west of Great Croft, surveyed in 2007. Magnetometer survey was found the most revealing, although twin-probe resistance was also used. A number of features extend across the paddock, including a possible Romano-British enclosure to the west, but the greatest concentration is in the easternmost corner of the field. These in themselves appear incoherent, but seem to be related to features in Great Croft. This suggests that any major feature may have been destroyed by driving through the lanes and the lane

junction down to Priston Mill and Marksbury. With thanks to the owners, Mr and Mrs Kepple-Palmer, and members of the Priston Historical Society for assistance with the survey.

(John Oswin)



*Fig. 1 Inland, Priston: geophysical surveys*

*Radstock, Bath College, Somer Valley Campus,*  
ST 6844 5461

Magnetometry was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd at the request of Cotswold Archaeology. The results demonstrated the presence of widespread magnetic debris, indicative of ground make up, which may have obscured weaker anomalies. A number of positive linear responses were located within a car park but these cannot be confidently characterised as cut features. A former field boundary was associated with widespread magnetic debris and to the west of this were a number of linear, curvilinear and discrete positive responses. Again, due to the presence of strongly magnetic debris the origin of the anomalies is uncertain. In the western part of the site were a number of positive and negative linear and rectilinear anomalies and it is possible that these are associated with the use of this part of the site for allotments during the early 20th century.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

*Saltford, Coffin Field, ST 674 664*

Survey by magnetometer and resistance, started in 2015 was continued in 2016. Magnetometry

was completed and proved the more successful, so resistance survey has been discontinued.

The plot is dominated by ploughlines, but a number of ditches and former field boundaries are evident. The principal feature is a large structure covering some 30m by 20m at the far south of the field, represented as negative magnetic anomalies. It has not been possible to get a clearer image of this, probably Roman, feature. Two strong ditch lines some 30m apart, slightly curving, appear to encompass this feature. A smaller structure is also indicated in the north-west portion of the field, again with ditch features heading west from it. A small but intense double-line feature in the centre of the field does not appear to be related to these structures and may be of recent agricultural origin. Study of lidar data suggests ancient field systems and features in the surrounding fields, including a large, sub-rectangular enclosure with central mound immediately to the north of this field. Thanks to the farmer, Mr Adam Stratton, for allowing access to his field, and to members of the Saltford Environment Group (SEG) for assistance with the survey.

Note: Last year's note referred to Saltford, Keynsham Manor Golf Course. The field under survey is part of Manor Farm, and is not part of the golf course although part of the golf course had been surveyed by the society in 2013. Note also, that references to an excavation by the society which found abundant pottery were incorrect.

(John Oswin)

*Stanton Drew, ST 596 633 and ST 597 631*

Magnetometry and twin-probe resistance surveys were carried out on the west side of Stanton Drew village. The first was within the grounds of the Tithe Barn; the paddock immediately west of it and the orchard to the south-west. A number of field boundaries were observed, presumed to be Roman or medieval, some possible pits and a pond at the bottom (northern) end of the field. The second survey site was Pool Close, immediately west of the Druids Arms Inn. This field had been surveyed in 1996 but the results were subsequently lost. Recently an interpretation diagram of this work has come to light. Only the western part of the field could be resurveyed as the east has been cordoned off for use as a car park. A number of linear anomalies were observed which appeared to relate to medieval cultivation and possible post-medieval occupation. Some curvilinear anomalies were also observed on the top of the hill, in the west of the



field, which may be signs of prehistoric occupation. These corresponded with the 1996 interpretation but the magnetic offset was very small, leading to indistinct patterns which could not be interpreted with any confidence. Thanks to Mr Stephen Croucher for allowing us to survey on his land.

(John Oswin)

*Wincanton, Holbrook, Sudden Grange Farm,*  
ST 69303 28451, Somerset HER 37557

A gradiometer survey was carried out by South Somerset Archaeological Research Group in Sudden Park field following the recovery of metal detected finds and the noting of crop marks by the landowners. Finds have previously included flint and Romano-British material. A series of linear anomalies and rectilinear enclosures were seen in the west half of the survey area, as well as a variety of other potential features of archaeological origin. Further investigation utilising earth resistance is intended. Thanks are extended to Steve and Tanya Miller.

(Clare Randall)

#### MULTI-PERIOD SITES

*Broadfield Down, Bristol Airport Site C,*  
ST 49916 64721

A magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd over the northern part of a pasture field that has been outlined as a seasonal overflow carpark for the airport. There is evidence for the removal of topsoil and bedrock to at least a metre depth across much of the site, and the results of the magnetometry demonstrate that magnetically contaminated material has been incorporated into the reinstated topsoil. The survey showed a group of positive rectilinear anomalies in the south-western part of the site that appeared to partially truncated by quarrying. They may relate to ditch-like features associated with small enclosures. The survey also showed a number of parallel linear anomalies but it is not clear if these relate to cracks in the underlying limestone, or if they relate to cut features, or land drainage. Subsequent evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a ditch of possible prehistoric or Roman date. The finds assemblage comprised material indicative of domestic waste, although no occupation activity was present on site. Modern limestone extraction pits were also present.

(Kerry Donaldson, David Sabin, and  
Christopher Leonard)

*Combwich, Church Hill, ST 2580 4228,*  
Somerset HER 36385

Field evaluation prior to the development of former gardens revealed that much of the site had been subject to extensive quarrying during the later medieval and post-medieval periods. However, an area extending westwards from the Church Hill frontage was found to have been spared this disturbance and contained the remains of a substantial medieval masonry structure; consequently the area of investigation was extended and a full excavation conducted. This revealed a deeply-stratified and complex sequence of activity commencing with limited probable early prehistoric habitation demonstrated by a spread of worn stones, animal bone and limpet shells. This earliest evidence was overlain by the remains of a small round house with central hearth of probable Iron Age date associated with extensive occupation deposits and shallow gullies. A hiatus followed, evidenced by the formation of a cultivation soil with plough scars extending into the occupation material below and subsequently cut by shallow ditches and substantial waste pits most likely contained within an early medieval tenement plot. The medieval domestic habitation appears to have been short-lived, and ceased with the construction of a substantial masonry building, the plan form of which leaves little doubt that it represents the remains of the nave and chancel of the medieval chapel of St Leonard. Documentary sources suggest this existed from the 13th century until the second half of the 16th, when its location was lost. During a later phase of the building the nave was extended to the west and later, probably while the structure was derelict, an infant was buried within the chancel. Following the demolition of the chapel, some of the nave foundations were reused to support a post-medieval domestic building which incorporated fragments of medieval moulded masonry in its fabric.

(James Brigers)

*Faulkland, Fulwell Lane, ST 7380 5435,*  
Somerset HER 34679

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed a rural Roman settlement comprising two enclosures which yielded a large finds assemblage suggestive of occupation, although no structures were present. The enclosures were in use from the Early Roman period until c. 200 AD when the ditches were deliberately infilled and replaced by shallow ditches forming field systems. Despite a lack of

dating evidence it is likely that these later ditches are of a Late Roman date and may potentially be associated with a nearby villa estate. Also present were two inhumations and a cremation burial, all of which seem to relate to the end of the earlier Roman activity.

(Jonathan Hart)

*Pitcombe, Grove Farm quarry*, ST 36553 13150,  
Somerset HER 36221

Seven worked flints and 56 Iron Age pottery sherds were found during an archaeological excavation that was carried out prior to an extension to the quarry. Three isolated pits were recorded cut into bedrock, which contained over two hundred Romano-British pottery sherds, predominantly Black Burnished ware and greywares, large numbers of animal bones, iron nail fragments and some spindle whorls.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

*Taunton, Staplegrove*, ST 2208 2731,  
Somerset HER 34676

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2015 revealed an Early Neolithic ditch and pit, a probable Early to Middle Bronze Age ring ditch and four associated cremations. Several undated ditches forming a field system or possible enclosure may also be of Bronze Age date. The remains of post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also present.

(Peter Busby)

*Wellington, Jurston Farm*, ST 147 2029,  
Somerset HER 34773

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out targeted excavation of an area where evaluation had indicated that there were several features dated to the 11th and 12th centuries, including possible evidence of medieval iron smelting. In the southern part of the site, it appears that there was at least one medieval boundary ditch, which may be an element of a system which is partly preserved in remaining nearby field boundaries. The character of the activity in this area was probably purely agricultural, but may relate to the development of Jurston Farm in the late medieval period. Towards the south-west of the site, a series of features and deposits were related to the former cottages of Spread Elms, which had been comprehensively demolished. The range of finds supports the use of the buildings from the earlier to mid-19th century.

(Clare Randall)

*Yatton, Arnolds Way*, ST 4198 6675,  
Somerset HER 3

An archaeological excavation was carried out by AC Archaeology ahead of a residential development comprising the investigation of two adjacent areas that had been identified as containing evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British occupation during previous geophysical survey and trial trenching exercises. The investigations confirmed the results of the previous phases of work with concentrations of Late Iron Age and Romano-British activity, while a small number of Beaker pits were also recorded. Iron Age and Romano-British occupation consisted of a small number of probable field boundaries that were overlain by two largely parallel and repeatedly re-cut ditch alignments that flanked a broad area containing a roughly metalled surface. Alongside this alignment was a collection of post-built structures representing a mix of domestic and low-level industrial activity such as iron working. A series of burials was also discovered, including a group of cremations and the inhumations of several individuals. As well as finds representing domestic waste such as pottery, animal bone and shell, a hoard of early Roman date was also recovered from a small pit. This consisted of copper alloy ingots and a number of squashed sheet copper alloy vessels and fragments of vessels.

(Simon Hughes and Naomi Payne)

*Yeovilton, HMS Heron*, ST 5539 2442,  
Somerset HER 36187

An archaeological excavation, undertaken by AC Archaeology between July and September 2016, revealed archaeological activity relating to former settlement on the site and dating principally to the Middle - Later Iron Age and early Romano-British periods. Limited evidence for late Bronze Age activity was also present. A series of cultivation features representing former ridge and furrow of post-medieval origin was identified across the site. The settlement evidence comprises post-built structures, penannular and curvilinear ditches and gullies, some representing possible animal pens, and some drip gullies associated with former roundhouses. Evidence for pits, rectilinear enclosure ditches, other linear divisions and drainage gullies was also present. Two substantial wells of early Romano-British date were also revealed. Five graves containing inhumation burials were recorded, two of which are likely to be Romano-British in origin, and the remainder of probable Iron Age origin; two unurned cremation

burials of uncertain date were also identified on the site. A significant assemblage of artefacts was recovered, including Middle to Late Iron Age and Romano-British ceramics and, of note, an unusual ornate La Tène II brooch of copper alloy, dating to the 3rd century BC. The sites overall character appears to be that of a rural agricultural settlement spanning the Middle Iron Age through to the mid Romano-British period, with little evidence of activity after the early 4th century AD.

(S. Robinson)

## PREHISTORIC

*Cheddar, Batts Combe Quarry*, ST 4703 5549,  
Somerset HER 36797

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recovered Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age worked flints and Early to Middle Bronze Age pottery, all from the subsoil.

(Tim Havard and Sian Reynish)

*Congresbury, Brinsea Road*, ST 4408 6290

An archaeological evaluation, comprising seven machine-excavated trenches, was undertaken by AC Archaeology in November 2016. Five of the seven evaluation trenches revealed archaeological deposits representing occupational activity dating from the Middle to Late Iron Age with Romano-British activity also present. Features revealed included boundary ditches, small pits, some of which contained heat-affected material, as well as a number of possible post-holes suggesting former structures on the site. Artefacts recovered during the evaluation, included a small assemblage of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery, local Romano-British 'Congresbury ware' and a quantity of animal bone. Some sherds from a Congresbury ware vessel showed evidence of being poorly fired suggesting a waster from the nearby kilns.

(V. Simmonds)

*Shapwick Heath, Sweet Track*, ST421 402,  
Somerset HER 36730

The South West Heritage Trust undertook small scale excavations on the neolithic Sweet Track immediately to the north of Shapwick Burtle. Four narrow trenches were excavated across the presumed line of the trackway in advance of work to install a plastic membrane to help preserve the trackway. Funding came from the Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership project and Historic

England. In the two trenches closest to Shapwick Burtle island no definite trace of the track was identified although fragments of desiccated wood were present. The third trench located a previous excavation ('SWB') undertaken by the Somerset Levels Project. The trench furthest from the island located the Sweet Track structure and several flint blades beside it. Traces of a possible later structure following the same line were also recorded. A plastic membrane was installed at 40-50cm depth above the trackway over a 60m x 8m area. A gap in the membrane along the line of the trackway allows rainwater to penetrate the lower levels. The membrane will, in theory, retain moisture levels around the trackway timbers.

(Richard Brunning)

*South Petherton, Parkway Farm*, ST 4265 1633,  
Somerset HER 36181

Four trenches were excavated to assess the potential of the site in advance of proposed development. To the east, a very large east-west aligned ditch was identified; the excavated section was found to be in excess of 3m in width and 1.8m in depth suggesting that it functioned either to mark a significant boundary or as a possible ceremonial feature. To the west a second ditch, on a north-south alignment possessed characteristics suggesting it may have contained a timber palisade. Both of these features probably formed components of the earlier Bronze Age landscape as indicated from pottery and flint artefacts contained within their fills. Further features revealed included a small undated gully, a truncated post-medieval ditch and a number of shallow amorphous discreet features most likely representing tree throws or animal burrows.

(James Brigers)

*Walpole, landfill site*, ST 313 433

Another season of archaeological excavation was carried out for Viridor Waste Somerset Ltd, an eastern continuation of extensive excavations of the same Lias outcrop in 2011 and 2012. This outcrop has been buried over time (Late Neolithic and Early Iron Age) beneath 1.5 to 3m of clays (Upper Wentloog formation) and would have stood out of the surrounding wetland environments during this period, as an island. The results were generally in accordance with the previous work in the area. An organic layer had been preserved on the surface of the Lias island. This layer was recorded, sampled and excavated at regular 20m intervals, recovering



several hundred flints including arrow heads, blades, scrapers, waste flakes, and pottery sherds representing more or less continual prehistoric activity from the Neolithic period through to the Late Bronze Age. Features associated with the buried soil included storage pits, cooking pits, post holes, pits containing an abundance of fired clay and preserved animal hoof prints. The southern half of a sub-circular ring ditch with a diameter of c.8m, was excavated against the northern edge of the area, similar to one recorded in 2011. An eastern continuation of a previously identified field system was mapped and partially excavated within the clays. More Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the ditches. The land division represented by the field system survived until the whole area was inundated by incursions of marine clay in the post-Roman period.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

*Watchet, Doniford Road, ST 0791 4303,*  
Somerset HER 34688

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking in advance of residential development because of the potential for prehistoric lithic scatters. Despite this potential, only a small number of prehistoric finds were collected comprising four struck flints and one prehistoric pottery sherd. In addition, a small number of other finds were collected, comprising sherds of Romano-British and medieval pottery. However, there was no evident patterning or evidence for discrete lithic scatters.

(Orlando Prestidge)

## ROMAN

*Banwell, Wolvershill Road, ST 3959 5937*

An archaeological evaluation, consisting of five trenches, was undertaken by AC Archaeology. None of the trenches revealed any cut features of archaeological interest or evidence for structures. However, a layer, representing a buried occupational soil horizon, of Romano-British origin, was revealed in the eastern extent of the site. A quantity of artefacts indicative of domestic activity was recovered, including pottery dating from the 3rd to 4th centuries AD and a small number of animal bones. Although not targeted by this evaluation, evidence for at least one Romano-British structure was identified during archaeological works in 2012

within the proposed development area, however that report remains unpublished.

(S. Robinson)

*Brympton, Lufton Roman villa, ST 516 179,*  
Somerset HER 36582

In 2016 the Lufton project re-excavated the southern part of the scheduled late Roman villa (Somerset HER 53634) partially investigated by Leonard Hayward between 1946–1952 and 1960–1963. The current excavations have shown that the archaeological sequence is much more complex than Hayward suggested. In the northern part of the trench a structural phase pre-dating the ‘Haywardian villa’ was identified in the base of a robber cut. A flue lined with substantial fire-reddened hamstone blocks fed a hypocausted apsidal room, which underwent some modifications during its life. The flue contained a coin of Crispus (AD318–324) that might indicate the date at which this building was demolished. The later structure, robbed in this part of the trench, would have overlain the remains of this probably third-century or earlier building.

Reinvestigation of Hayward’s Rooms 3 and 4 showed that he had completely excavated these spaces, removing all archaeological deposits (including the mosaics) to below the foundation courses of the walls. In the backfill of these trenches a plano-convex lead ingot (approximately 37kg) was recovered. Interestingly, the rear wall of the villa north of the internal partition between Rooms 4 and 5 proved to have been demolished before it was sealed by a deposit of smashed lias roof tile. This suggests the building was shortened, leaving the southern rooms (Rooms 2, 3, 4 and parts of Room 1) standing. Further evidence for structural alterations include walls of herringbone masonry that block the corridor (Room 1) in line with the northern and southern walls of Room 2. Neither of these walls was previously recorded.

Hayward did record ‘hearths’ immediately north of the southern wall crossing Room 1. On reinvestigation these proved to be a thick deposit of interleaving burnt layers with the remnants of an oven or grain drier flue at the top of the sequence. The fill of this flue contained a burnt bodysherd of BB1 from a Type 18 bowl, which suggests use in the first half of the fifth century.

The area to the north of Room 2 was argued by Hayward to be external space. Excavation in this area revealed a small room with a plain grey tessellated pavement (Figure 2). Overlying this was



*Fig. 2 Lufton villa: mosaic*

a thin black deposit containing oyster shells and a late Roman bone hairpin.

In summary, there is almost certainly a third-century or earlier precursor to the building excavated by Hayward. The fourth-century structure appears to have undergone significant modifications but the chronology of these modifications and how the sequence uncovered this year can be correlated with the previous excavator's understanding of the site remains to be resolved.

(James Gerrard and Andrew Agate)

*Cannington, College*, ST 25514 39860,  
Somerset HER 36183

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching ahead of expansion to the north of the existing college buildings. Eleven evaluation trenches were opened, positioned to take account of previous geophysical survey results. The evaluation identified a total of eleven archaeological features, nine of which could be securely dated to the Romano-British period. Features comprised ditches, pits and large scoops which probably represent trackways or working areas. A small amount of pre-Roman

pottery attests to later prehistoric activity in the area. Whilst the stratigraphic relationships of features indicated more than one phase of Romano-British activity, it was not possible to separate them chronologically as the material they contained spanned the 1st to 4th centuries AD. A north-south oriented ditch was particularly wide, and would have been a substantial feature in the landscape.

(Clare Randall)

*Cheddar, Kings of Wessex*, ST 457 531,  
Somerset HER 32956

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological excavation in advance of the installation of a new sewer pipe. The excavations uncovered a shallow foundation trench previously discovered by Philip Rahtz in the 1960s and interpreted as the west wall of an early 13th century 'domestic' annexe to East Hall II of the palace. The excavation also encountered the edge of a possible Late Saxon boundary ditch thought to be the same as a ditch previously identified by Rahtz. Unexpected significant discoveries were confined to a late Romano-British ditch with re-cut, and a large post-medieval pit. A

modest assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavation.

(Cheryl Green and Richard McConnell)

*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 2016 focussed on an area to the south of the building found in 2012 and examined a further extent of the midden. The range of finds continues to indicate a primarily late Romano-British date for the activity. The midden partly filled a shallow north-south aligned ditch which formed the western extent of an area of surface. On the eastern side of this, on a parallel orientation was the remnants of a largely robbed-out wall. This appears to have related to a much more ephemeral structure than the building previously explored, and is in keeping with the supposition that this was part of a range of utilitarian structures and features with a probable agricultural focus. We would once again like to extend thanks to the Yandle family for allowing access to the land and continuing to support the project so enthusiastically.

(Clare Randall)

*Priddy, Great Ground, ST 5295 5105, Somerset HER 36829*

Two trenches were excavated in Great Ground, in an area of earthworks suggested to relate to quarrying. Previous research by Albert Thompson, however, led him to suggest that this may be the site of a medieval long house. Surprisingly, the rectangular earthwork revealed itself to be a structure of Romano-British date. This was well-built and internally and externally rendered with lime mortar. No evidence could be found for its purpose, but it may have been associated with the high status building close to Priddy church (Somerset HER 23946). Although the remaining earthworks in this area were not excavated, they may form a small, outlying farmstead or group of agricultural structures serving this building/villa. This is an extremely rare find and is significant new evidence for the occupation both of Priddy and Mendip during the Romano-British period. A geophysical survey of Great Ground revealed an unexpected ditched enclosure, the excavation of which suggests a possible Neolithic date. This site was previously unknown and is not visible on

aerial photographs. Neolithic activity on Mendip is still under researched and the discovery of new monuments exceedingly rare. Only a small section of this feature was excavated, however, and more work needs to be carried out to be fully sure of its date, form and function. It is hoped that this will take place in 2017.

(Jodie Lewis and David Mullen)

*Shepton Mallet, Bullimore Farm, ST 62960 42175, Somerset HER 34781*

A magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd, partly within the scheduled Romano-British 'small town' at Fosse Lane. Within the scheduled area the results showed a large number of linear ditches, rectilinear enclosures and pits relating to the Roman settlement, that appeared to be on two slightly different orientations. There was also evidence for at least one stone building. Outside the scheduled area, the features also included linear ditches, enclosures and pits, with different orientations but the morphology and weak response of the anomalies prevents confident interpretation. In a third area, at least one positive linear anomaly appears to extend towards the archaeological features to the north, and although several others may relate to cut features, their morphology and weak response prevents interpretation. The infilled Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway cutting, that is associated with very strongly magnetic debris, may have obscured some weaker anomalies. See below for evaluation.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

*Shepton Mallet, Bullimore Farm, ST 6283 4229, Somerset HER 36824*

An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology within the scheduled monument which comprises an area of the Romano-British 'small town' following a geophysical survey (above). The geophysical results were tested by the excavation of three trenches. Ditches were exposed and found to date from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. The results appeared to confirm the interpretation of the geophysical results as representing small plots and a possible trackway, which may have extended from the Fosse Way to the west. This activity appears to have been peripheral to nearby Romano-British settlement. The finds assemblage included pottery, animal bone, oyster shell, hammerscale from ironworking and scraps of iron nails. The overall impression is of domestic



and small-scale industrial activity, which would be consistent with the known Romano-British activity in the area.

(Paul Cooke and Simon Hughes)

## MEDIEVAL

### *Alford, Parsonage Farm, ST 608 321*

An archaeological watching brief was carried out when foundation pits for a new farm building were made within the northern edge of a deserted medieval village. A hollow-way was noted but nothing was recorded in the eight foundation pits for the wall footings.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

### *Bridgwater, Eastover, ST 3027 3710, Somerset HER 36384*

Rescue investigations were undertaken by AC Archaeology at 56-66 Eastover, following the start of work on a hotel in breach of planning conditions requiring archaeological monitoring. The work comprised the excavation of a series of trial trenches followed by the detailed excavation of parts of the site. These excavations exposed broad wall footings in two locations, which were interpreted as part of the East Gate and the Hospital of St John. Around 40 burials were excavated in the area adjacent to the probable priory building.

(Simon Hughes)

### *Bridgwater, church of St Mary, ST 2977 3698*

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of the interior the church was carried out by Keith Faxon for the church authorities. Stone foundations in the nave are interpreted as evidence of the original Norman church plan. A number of post-medieval vaults and grave slabs were recorded within the nave area. All human remains were reinterred within an existing vault in the nave.

(Bob Croft)

### *Chewton Mendip, ST5967 5321, Somerset HER 31671*

Members of Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP) continued to excavate the remains of a substantial rectilinear building, believed to have been erected by the Norman Abbey of Jumièges and demolished at some time in the 15th century. In May 2016 excavations focused on the eastern wall where north/south orientated stone foundations were uncovered on

a slightly differing alignment to the building thus far investigated. These may represent the earliest phase of the post-Conquest building. This area was characterized by a cobbled possible courtyard or internal floor surface. There was no evidence of a north-east corner to the building where projected. The focus of the August excavations was an area of black, industrial soils previously uncovered in 2015 and immediately overlying a series of small gullies and depressions. Partly cutting these was a stone wall-foundation showing acute, structural subsidence and on the same alignment as the walls observed in May. An easterly return extended beyond the limit of the excavation. The southern extent was cut by the construction trench for the north wall foundations of the rectilinear building. The black soils were sealed by the remains of a slab floor to the south of this construction trench and by cobbling of uncertain date to the north.

The Maltwood Fund enabled a radiocarbon date on animal bone from the lower levels of the black soil context under the slab floor, which returned a date of cal AD 660–780 (95.4% probability). A further date, funded by the Archaeological Research Services' CARDfund, on animal bone from black soil in a gully to the north of the north wall foundation trench, returned cal AD640–770. Medieval coarseware was recovered from all contexts of the black soils, much of this being recorded in 3D and identified against the Chewton Mendip Pottery Type Series being developed by the group. Red hard-baked clays from the lower contexts can be likened to the glass-furnace linings found in excavations at Glastonbury Abbey, now believed to date to the late 7th century. Given the similar date at Chewton, along with evidence, (albeit rare) of glass fragments and occasional slag, parallels may be drawn between the two sites. A further radiocarbon date from a limpet shell under the sealed slab floor produced a date of cal AD1120–1290 (ARS funded). Whilst in keeping with the general period of the site, its presence at this level is perplexing, but could be accounted for by the disturbance of soils when a trench was cut for a later wall foundation. This date may provide a terminus post quem for the construction of the rectilinear building.

(Pip Osborne)

### *East Coker, Townsend Farm, ST 4523 4166, Somerset HER 32489*

Four trenches were excavated prior to the site being developed for housing. Two pits towards the south

of the site, although containing only a single flint flake, are likely to represent evidence of localised activity during the Neolithic or early Bronze Age. North-south aligned ditches of medieval date were encountered at two locations and suggested that the current site straddles three tenement plots that were probably established during the 13th century and which were probably amalgamated when the existing Townsend Farm was established in the 16th century. Although the street frontage areas of the plots were not investigated, evidence for contemporary habitation in this area was provided by a large and elaborate cess pit with the remains a wattle lining and a highly organic fill.

(James Brigers)

*Glastonbury, Abbey Barn, ST 5037 3856*

The removal of modern surfaces as part of an ongoing refurbishment programme provided the opportunity for the examination and recording of earlier floors within the entirety of the medieval building. As suggested during previous work the central area was found to have been badly disturbed during the later 19th century, possibly as a result of the removal of a stone floor. To the north west and south east of this, extensive remnants of floor coverings were revealed consisting firstly of crushed stone and mortar superseded by highly compacted sandy-clay. Where these had been worn out large areas of stone and soil had been imported and rammed into depressions, probably during the 19th and 20th centuries. In the porches these surfaces were found to have been almost totally destroyed by intensive activity in these areas and were replaced by post-medieval metal surfaces which overlay the remains of medieval stone culverts first recognised in 2008.

(James Brigers)

*Glastonbury, Beckery chapel, ST484383, Somerset HER 35033*

The South West Heritage Trust undertook a programme of geophysical survey (by GeoFlo Ltd) and excavation as part of the Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership project. Magnetometry and resistivity survey identified at least three areas of stone buildings: the chapels and priests' house, which were known from previous excavations, and another building to the north. A ditch was also identified curving around the western end of the small hill. Excavation took place in three areas. The main trench was located over the east end of the chapel which had been previously excavated

by Moorland (1887-88) and Rahtz (1967-68). Bones from seven individuals from the cemetery which underlies the chapels, were recovered for dating. The results suggest that the cemetery was in use from the 5th to 9th centuries AD. Evidence was discovered for another phase of stone chapel building between the previously identified early and late stone chapels. The second trench was a narrow evaluation of the newly identified stone building on the northern slope. The roof of the building had collapsed in the 16th century sealing 1m deep deposits containing late Saxon to 16th-century pottery. The walls were robbed out in the 17th and 18th centuries. An earlier beam slot underlay the northern stone wall. The third trench investigated the ditch enclosing the western end of the hill. This originated in the Iron Age and silted up in the medieval period.

(Richard Brunning)

*Glastonbury, Heritage Court, ST 498 388, Somerset HER 36796*

Construction of a new house to the rear of 22 Magdalene Street, immediately north of a medieval ironworking site that was observed at Heritage Court in 1984, prompted the archaeological excavation of the foundation trenches for the new building. This recorded various features associated with iron working and recovered a large quantity of iron slag that was associated with 12th to 14th century pottery sherds. Written sources have been found that appear to describe this site as the 'Abbey Forge outside the West Gate'.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

*Long Load, Christ Church, ST 4649 2318, Somerset HER 35039*

Eight small trenches were excavated within a former church prior to its conversion to a dwelling. Several lengths of probable robber trenches were revealed to the east which appear to define part of the outline of a rectangular structure pre-dating the existing building which, given the known history of the site, may be identified as the medieval chapel of St Mary, demolished in the mid 19th century. No in situ masonry survived but debris recovered from a number of later deposits suggests that the elevations of the chapel may have been predominantly of Ham Stone and at some stage possessed a roof with glazed tiles at the ridge. Throughout the site the earlier ground surface was preserved and this was cut by a north south drain with a capping of reused Ham Stone architectural fragments and



deliberate surfaces interpretable as a path both of which were associated with the use of the earlier building. These features were sealed by a sequence of material deposited during the destruction of the chapel and the construction of the existing church in the 1860s. No graves were identified suggesting that the population may have been interred at the mother church of Martock.

(James Brigers)

*Pitney, Chapel Farm*, ST 450 282,  
Somerset HER 36799

Four trenches were excavated which revealed the presence of two large east-west aligned channels, both of which seem to have been in-filled by the 14th century, representing former courses of the stream that flows through the village and divides the site. The southern channel appears to have been in existence contemporary with the deposition of a significant dump of domestic waste presumably representing an attempt at reclamation of the valley floor by raising the ground level. Between the two channels a dense stone spread was observed which may have formed part of a deliberate surface, possibly an east-west causeway through the valley. Elsewhere the remains of post medieval structures are almost certainly those of buildings that were reportedly destroyed by fire within living memory and appear on early 20th-century Ordnance Survey maps of the area.

(James Brigers)

*Preston Plucknett, church of St James*,  
ST 5347 1623, Somerset HER 36729

Monitoring was conducted during major refurbishment works throughout the church and in parts of the churchyard. Within the church, the levels were found to have been significantly reduced in the nave, chancel and transepts to accommodate the installation of a suspended floor in the 19th century resulting in the large-scale destruction of earlier strata, although traces of possible former floor surfaces survived within the north transept. The central area of the nave and the entire area of the chancel were raised on material displaced during the reduction process and these dumps, and the walls retaining them, were found to contain human bone and small architectural fragments including remains of a ledger-stone of the later 18th or early 19th century. An early 19th-century brick vault also survived in the nave, containing the remains of at least eight individuals. The area of tower was spared the Victorian destruction and

here a north-south wall foundation was exposed, possibly representing part of the remains of a structure pre-dating the existing 15th-century building. Limited trenching within the churchyard revealed the positions of graves to the south of the chancel and one very shallow inhumation, probably of the mid 17th century.

(James Brigers)

*Ruishton, church of St George*, ST 2636 2512,  
Somerset HER 36729

Re-ordering works provided an opportunity to examine deposits exposed below two sections of Victorian flooring to the east of the nave and in the south chapel. In the nave, a deposit of compacted soil was revealed throughout, a slope in the surface of which possibly indicated where it had slumped over the foundation of the former southern external wall of the church. The foundation of a pier had been constructed on to this in the 15th century when the chapel arcade was constructed. Deep in-fill of soil and rubble revealed throughout the trench in the chapel would appear to lie within the remains of a substantial vault, in-filled at some time in the later 19th or early 20th centuries.

(James Brigers)

*Taunton, Castle Way*, ST 4703 5549,  
Somerset HER 37364

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology within the bounds of Taunton Castle revealed a pit and a burial. The burial would have been part of the Taunton minster cemetery that was in use from the 7th–11th centuries.

(Simon Sworn)

*Wilton, Church of St George*, ST 2246 2390,  
Somerset HER 36724

Re-ordering works in the medieval church of St George provided an opportunity to examine underlying material within a limited area in the south aisle. A homogenous deposit of re-deposited natural clay was exposed throughout the area possibly representing a layer of levelling for the medieval floors which had apparently been truncated by the 19th-century reflooring works. This was bounded to the south and west by the lower courses of the medieval walls of the aisle. The clay deposit was sealed by debris and sleeper walls associated with the construction of the 19th-century suspended floor. No further features or deposits were recognised.

(James Brigers)

*Yeovil, Lufton*, ST 51662 17001,  
Somerset HER 34789

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological works along the route of a water main at Lufton Lodge. The pipeline scheme lay to the south of the Lufton Roman villa (Somerset HER 53634, and see above) and a complex, multiphase landscape of ditched field systems, trackways and enclosures (29883). However, despite the indications of an earlier geophysical survey, few features were encountered. The earliest features or deposits which could be dated were all medieval, and were probably associated with settlement around the church of St Peter and St Paul situated to the south-west. A single ditch could be securely dated to the post-medieval period and attests to further sub-division of the system of fields shown on 19th century maps. The footings of post-medieval walls may relate to the farm adjacent to the church, but their function could not be determined.

(Clare Randall)

#### POST-MEDIEVAL

*Castle Cary, Hadspen*, ST 50021 19592,  
Somerset HER 32942

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during works relating to the use of the gardens and parkland as a visitor attraction. Archaeological features and deposits were only noted in one area. Three gravel trackways and an associated culvert were observed to the west of the house which appeared to relate to the 18th- and 19th-century landscape gardens known from historic mapping.

(Clare Randall)

*Cheddar, Kings of Wessex*, ST 455 531,  
Somerset HER 37329

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording when routine sewer works unexpectedly uncovered a stone-built culvert probably related to the construction of the railway in 1869.

(Orlando Prestidge)

*Dunster, Luttrell Arms*, SS 991 438,  
Exmoor HER EEM 14701

In March 2016 South West Archaeology Ltd was engaged by the owners of the Luttrell Arms Hotel,

to monitor groundworks in the beer garden at the Luttrell as part of a planning condition. To facilitate access to the rear of the property, the Hotel planned to dig a tunnel linking a new parking bay at the top of Dunster Steep with its Victorian wine cellar. An earlier small evaluation exposed the top of a thick stone wall, but the monitoring uncovered the well-preserved remains of three substantial masonry structures: a circular malting kiln, a narrow, watertight stone-built tank, and a large outbuilding (Figure 3). The malting kiln was located towards the back of the garden behind the oldest surviving part of the Luttrell Arms, and may have formed part of a detached kitchen block belonging to the Luttrell; this is tentatively dated to the early 17th century and the Luttrell, formerly known as The Ship Inn, is first documented in 1653. The kiln was well built, with an entrance of carefully-dressed blue lias, and must have represented a considerable investment. The watertight stone-built tank remains enigmatic and predates the malting kiln. It may have been built as a cistern, but could have



*Fig. 3 Luttrell Arms, Dunster:  
malting kiln and tank*

been used to steep the malt before germination. The walls of the outbuilding, which were first exposed in the evaluation, survived up to 1m high and are probably medieval in date. A covered drain ran down the middle of the structure and exited through a doorway in its south-west corner, suggesting it might once have housed animals, perhaps horses for the Inn. Two phases of cobbled lane approached the building from the west, and this cobbled way aligns with the carriage arch in the front elevation of the Hotel.

All of these structures were buried under a thick deposit of dumped soil, up to 1.4m deep in places, that both concealed and protected the archaeological remains. This phase of activity can be probably be dated to the late 1770s when *The Ship* was described as 'ruinous'. It was rebuilt, reopened and rebranded in 1779 as the Luttrell Arms. Given the local lord, Henry Fownes Luttrell, is noted for modifying and enhancing the Castle and the surrounding landscape, we suspect this work was undertaken at his behest to sweep away a ruinous eyesore: the decaying outbuildings would have been clearly visible from the castle, and would have detracted from his views to the new tower (completed 1770) on Conygar Hill above.

The final surprise was the discovery that the malting kiln and the outbuilding were built into the top of 3m wide, 2m deep steep-sided medieval ditch that was backfilled probably in the 14th century. The fills have produced a good assemblage of medieval pottery, including imported Saintonge (North French) pottery, animal bone and limpet and mussel shell. Given its location, this seems to be a clear candidate for a hitherto-unsuspected town ditch, but one that was superseded curiously quickly.

Beyond the beer garden was a small utility garden, and this was used as a compound and storage area during the works. Monitoring here quickly determined the remains of the 18th century cottage shown in a contemporary painting next to the pottery kiln survived 0.5m below the current ground surface. Measures were put in place to avoid exposing this structure, but several small areas of cobbling were revealed, and four rubble sacks of pottery wasters that had been used as hardcore were collected. The kiln only worked for a short time in the late 18th and early 19th century, and while the interior was excavated in 1998 and 2000, only un- or partially-fired 'green' pottery was recovered. The kiln waste will make a significant contribution to the study of this kiln, making it possible to

undertake a range of scientific analyses that were not possible before.

(Brynmor Morris)

*Luxborough, Langham Farm, SS 9805 3599 to SS 9816 3555, Exmoor HER EEM 14566*

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a vehicular access track. The monitoring established a cross section of the historic hedge bank which forms the boundary between Luxborough and Brompton Regis parishes. Its profile was reasonably root disturbed but included a buried soil beneath the dumped hedge bank material. No dating evidence was recovered from the deposits. A previously recorded former boundary identified from historic maps and aerial photography was not encountered. However, a small ditch was located close to the former boundary. The ditch was undated but is likely to have represented an agricultural feature of probable medieval to post-medieval date. A second ditch exposed as extending parallel to the boundary probably represented an associated ditch to the adjacent historic hedge bank. Again this was undated but likely to also date to the medieval or post-medieval periods.

(Abby Brown)



*Fig. 4 Milborne Port, Highmore's Hill: 1570s map (British Library Add MS 52522)*

*Milborne Port, Highmore's Hill, ST 677 180, Somerset HER 36792*

Jim Hart and Barry Lane researched an Elizabethan map of 1570 x 1577 (Figure 4) which shows a construction on the top of Highmore's Hill, then called Crackmacke Hill. The peak of the hill is

intervisible with a number of warning beacon sites. Although the structure looks more like a cairn than the Bubb Down Hill beacon also depicted on the map, the structure was obviously of importance to the map-maker and may be related to the beacons which were important at this period. Geophysical survey by both magnetometry and resistivity was undertaken by members of the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group (SSARG) in an attempt to locate the site of the structure shown on the map. Various anomalies were detected that could indicate an area of stone rubble but nothing was clearly defined.

(Barry Lane)

*Radstock, Church of St Nicholas, ST 6885 5464*

Prior to repairs to the tower roof the opportunity was taken to study and record the graffiti on the existing lead covering. This identified 263 full and partial examples of inscribed graffiti dating from the mid 18th to the later 20th centuries including simple initials and signatures in many cases associated with shoe and hand outlines. Shoes were the most commonly represented forms and some were highly detailed, where survival was good.

(James Brigers)

*Shapwick, Shapwick Hill, ST 4523 4166, Somerset HER 36728*

Six trenches were excavated but no evidence of activity other than recent agricultural processes was encountered in the southern and central areas of the site and to the north east a visible raised area proved to have been formed through modern levelling of a natural depression. To the north-west, investigation of a second raised area demonstrated that the feature was formed of deliberately deposited clay forming a low, sub-circular mound. Pottery recovered from within the mound suggested that it was formed no earlier than the 16th century and represents the remains of a windmill mound. Recent disturbance of the summit of the mound precluded the survival of in-situ structural evidence but the presence of a number of nails in overlying deposits and the absence of masonry suggest that the structure was probably entirely of timber construction.

(James Brigers)

*Stearth marshes, ST 272 455, Somerset HER 37545*

Staged archaeological monitoring for an ongoing management plan for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve at Stearth Marshes was undertaken by AC Archaeology comprising the inspection of a

series of creeks and lagoons that make up the 480 hectare artificial wetland habitat. The monitoring focused in particular on a number of previous excavation areas where Iron Age, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval remains had been recorded, as well as an area of active erosion identified during the previous visit. The conditions observed were generally stable with fine sediment deposition overlying the creek and lagoon network. The area of active erosion had principally exposed a series of timber piles and overlying embankment. The clay embankment represented the base of existing coastal defences known as Thirteen Acre Clyce, which had been truncated and severed during the creation of the marshes. The timber posts consisted of a mixed selection of straight and irregular un-worked timbers arranged in six rows. These potentially represented a phase of coastal defences that pre-date the clay embankment and are therefore likely to be of medieval to post-medieval date.

(Simon Hughes)

## INDUSTRIAL

*Bath, Upper Bristol Road, ST 7365 6525*

Archaeological recording was undertaken by AC Archaeology, during groundworks associated with a proposed residential development. The site lies close to Romano-British activity (BaNES HER MBN2423, MBN2424 and MBN10320). Large amounts of industrial archaeology associated with the Bath Gas Light and Coke Works and quicklime production has also been recorded nearby. Archaeological deposits encountered during the groundworks comprised solely wall foundations relating to a 19th-century cottage and associated deposits.

(Dan Carter)

*Churchstanton, Otterhead House walled gardens, ST 225139, Somerset HER 11680*

As part of ongoing investigations into Country House technology at the site of Otterhead House, members of Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society excavated and recorded the boiler that provided heating in the walled gardens. The walled gardens were developed and extended from the 1840s onwards and included glasshouses, forcing houses, a vinery, and various potting sheds. The boiler that provided heating for the complex still survives in a stoke-hole with an adjacent coal



store although buried in rubble prior to the SIAS excavations. The boiler is a conventional hot water sectional boiler of the type made by a number of companies. The boiler at Otterhead is one of the 'Robin Hood' range produced by Beeston Boiler Co of Nottingham. By comparison with catalogues and other installations elsewhere (principally at Calke Abbey, Derbyshire) it is likely to date from the 1920s or 30s and be a replacement for earlier arrangements. The excavation, measured drawings and conclusions were reported in SIAS Bulletin 133, December 2016.

(Peter Daniel)

*Pitminster, water wheel*, ST 22061192,  
Somerset HER 37513

A small water wheel in the bed of the stream, due north of the parish church and vicarage, was measured and recorded by members of Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society. It was reputedly installed to provide power for the bellows of the church organ although further investigations as to its purpose remain to be done. The wheel has a diameter of 1.22m and a width of 0.42m. It is of metal construction and partly rusted away. No maker's plate is visible although the lower part of the wheel is buried. The wheel is adjacent to the south bank of the stream and immediately below a weir which spans the full width of the stream; the weir itself is stepped on its lower face and is 3.21m wide with a water-level difference of 1.2m. On the south bank of the stream, next to the wheel, is a small brick and concrete 'pump-house' and below the wheel, in the stream bed, there is a brick-walled recess of unknown purpose. A report and drawings will appear in SIAS Bulletins in due course.

(Peter Daniel)

*Priddy, West Ham*, ST5286 5113,  
Somerset HER 36829

A total of five trenches were excavated by the University of Worcester in West Ham, a field containing earthworks suggested to relate to a medieval/post-medieval shrunken settlement with an associated hollow-way. The excavations revealed a sequence of activity associated largely with the operation of a post-medieval stone quarry in the adjacent field (Great Ground). The hollow-way seen from aerial photographs and visible as an earthwork on the ground appears to represent a cart track serving this quarry, rather than a medieval hollow-way. No evidence of occupation was

recovered from the house platforms to the north of the hollow-way, which appear to be small islands of un-excavated bedrock, the remains of ad-hoc quarrying for wall stone. No evidence of medieval activity was recovered from any of the trenches in this area.

(Jodie Lewis and David Mullen)

*Trull, Kibbear House*, ST 2229 2202,  
Somerset HER 32974

A historic building appraisal of Kibbear House, Trull, was prepared by AC Archaeology in September 2015. The present building was constructed in the mid-19th century, probably soon after 1839. It replaced an earlier farmhouse located elsewhere within the overall property. The building had been expanded twice by 1887, and further alterations were undertaken in 1911, 1922 and at a later date. Other than perhaps the main staircase, no fixtures and fittings survive which predate the early 20th-century phases of alterations.

(Andrew Passmore)

*Watchet, Anchor Street*, ST 0697 4320,  
Somerset HER 35036

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching on land containing several buildings of predominantly 19th-century date that are the remnants of Stoa's Mill, originally a corn mill dating from c.1830. The only feature found in the seven evaluation trenches was part of the mill race known from historic maps.

(Clare Randall)

*Wells, Ritchie House, New Street*, ST 5491 4595,  
Somerset HER 36374

Four evaluation trenches and four test pits were dug within the garden of Ritchie House prior to the proposed construction of two new buildings. Pottery and finds from the 18th century onwards were recovered and the remains of demolished 18th- and 19th-century structures were recorded.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

## OTHER REPORTS

*Bath, Walcot*, ST 7582 6599

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the rear of 15 Kensington Place during development groundworks. The site lies within the



Walcot Roman cemetery area but no archaeological features or deposits were noted.

(Tara Fairclough)

*Bathwick, Bath Golf Club*, ST 7660 6488

Archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks by AC Archaeology at a new practice driving range recorded no archaeological features or artefacts.

(B. Urmston)

*Brent Knoll to East Brent*, ST 323 504,

Somerset HER 36186

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with the improvement of the capacity of the local sewer network. With the exception of a number of agricultural features of post-medieval date including ridge and furrow, no significant archaeological deposits were observed during the groundworks.

(V. Simmonds)

*Brent Knoll, Holly Tree Farm*, ST 329 517,

Somerset HER 37554

Two sherds of medieval pottery were found within the topsoil during an archaeological watching brief. No other pre-modern finds were found and no archaeological features were recorded.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

*Bridgwater, West Quay*, ST 2991 3736

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with a car park in June 2016. With the exception of a number of wall foundations associated with former 19th/20th-century buildings on the site, no significant archaeological deposits were observed during the groundworks.

(A. West)

*Cannington, River Parrett*, ST 3037 4038,

Somerset HER 37543

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC Archaeology as part of a programme of geotechnical ground investigations at Cannington Bends. Works comprised the machine-excavation of 12 trial pits, generally excavated to a depth of 4m below existing levels. The trial pits exposed no archaeological features but did record the variable presence of a peat deposit present from a depth of around 4m below existing levels. This

was overlain by a series of alluvial clays. Data from boreholes showed the peat to measure up to 7m thick, while elsewhere its absence, which occurred where deeper sequences were recorded, is thought to suggest the locations of palaeo-channels.

(Vince Simmonds and Simon Hughes)

*Combwich, Combwich Sewage Treatment Works*, ST 26185 42184 and ST 26923 39232,

Somerset HER 36182

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified no archaeological remains.

(Christina Tapply)

*Croscombe, Bramble Cottage*, ST 5905 4448,

Somerset HER 34761

Archaeological observations were made during ground works for an extension. The site which lies within the possible precinct of a medieval manor proved archaeologically sterile, the existing cottage seen to have been founded directly upon undisturbed clays.

(Dick Broomhead)

*Curry Rivel, Back Lane*, ST 3951 2493,

Somerset HER 32983

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Old Oak Farm during development groundworks in the area formerly scheduled as a Roman villa (Somerset HER 53850). No visible archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were observed or collected.

(Orlando Prestidge)

*Glastonbury Tor*, ST 51318 38698,

Somerset HER 36101

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bristol Water to undertake a topographical survey and archaeological watching brief prior to and during repair works to a reservoir on the north side of the Tor. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were uncovered during the repair works.

(Cai Mason)

*Glastonbury, Magdalene Street*, ST 499 388,

Somerset HER 20631

An archaeological assessment of the proposed renovations of St Dunstan's House has confirmed that both this building and the adjacent Town Hall were built upon a deliberately constructed raft

which has had the effect of raising both buildings well above the medieval archaeological horizon.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

*Ilchester, 28 High Street*, ST 5213 2264,  
Somerset HER 34787

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring during development groundworks. Only made ground containing modern building debris and pottery was seen.

(Clare Randall)

*Ilchester, New Spittles Farm*, ST 5122 2234,  
Somerset HER 36846

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to an existing agricultural building. No archaeological features or finds were exposed, although some work was undertaken without monitoring.

(Abby Brown)

*Ilchester, Northover*, ST 5229 2315,  
Somerset HER 36380

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring on land at Vicarage Farm during development groundworks. Only made ground containing modern building debris was recorded.

(Orlando Prestidge)

*Mudford, Up Mudford*, ST 5756 1884, Somerset  
HER 35041

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Applegarth Green Farm in advance of the construction of a dirty water lagoon. The works were required as the site sits within the boundary of a deserted settlement suggested by earthworks visible on aerial photographs, and surrounded by ridge-and-furrow. Despite this potential, no archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were seen.

(Clare Randall)

*Norton St Philip, Farleigh Hungerford Castle*,  
ST 80092 57636, Somerset HER 37506

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology, on replacement bollards, identified no archaeological remains.

(Michael Joyce)

*Othery, Beer Wall*, ST 39293 31515,  
Somerset HER 36188

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Skanska Projects South West to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of culverts beneath the A372. This monitored the excavation of two large channels designed to control the flow of water from the river, and a separate service trench. Work did not proceed to sufficient depth to encounter any archaeological deposits or finds.

(Jamie McCarthy)

*Pilton, Bakery Lane*, ST 5921 4072,  
Somerset HER 34786

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation at Hazelwood. Despite the potential for the discovery of archaeological evidence relating to early settlement activity, no such evidence was encountered.

(Richard McConnell)

*Porlock, Pool Farm*, SS 8728 4431,  
Exmoor HER EEM 14657

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of an electricity cable trench. No archaeological features or finds were exposed during the work.

(Chris Blatchford)

*Priddy, Beech Farm*, ST 5196 5478,  
Somerset HER 35035

Archaeological observations were made during groundworks for the construction of a new house. The site which lies within an area of extensive archaeological activity proved archaeologically sterile.

(Dick Broomhead)

*Shepton Mallet, Sales House*, ST 6168 4385,  
Somerset HER 34767

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of foundations for the construction of two new houses on the site of a former dye works and latterly a nunnery. Evidence for the existence of a former building and/or boundary wall was noted and recorded photographically but detailed recording was not possible due to trench instability.

(Dick Broomhead)

*South Cadbury, Folly Lane, ST 6303 2559*

An archaeological evaluation consisting of two trenches was undertaken by AC Archaeology in advance of a proposed development during March 2016. The evaluation revealed two undated linear features within one trench and a distinct soil horizon, also of uncertain origin in the second trench. This layer may possibly represent a former occupational horizon, although no artefacts or other evidence was recovered to support this. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

(P. Jones)

*Sparkford, High Street, ST 6026 2634, Somerset HER 36798*

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation to the rear of The Burrows prior to development groundworks. Despite archaeological potential, the field evaluation did not reveal any evidence, including any trace of the former field boundaries and ridge and furrow shown on historic mapping and aerial photographs.

(Richard McConnell)

*Stoke St Michael, Moons Hill Quarry, ST 654 456*

An archaeological watching was carried out during topsoil stripping prior to an extension of the quarry. Some topsoil was left in-situ over much of the site. Where topsoil was completely removed down to a yellow subsoil, no archaeological finds or features were seen.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

*Stolford, coast defences, ST 2332 4585, Somerset HER 37544*

Archaeological monitoring and recording associated with a programme of geotechnical ground investigations was carried out by AC Archaeology comprising the machine-excavation of two trial pits excavated to a depth of around 4m below existing levels. Results from the trial pits, as well as consulting two borehole data logs, recorded the intermittent presence of a peat deposit overlaying the mudstone or siltstone geology, with this then overlain by alluvial clays and/or storm gravels. The investigations were located on or adjacent to the existing flood defence embankment, and dumped deposits relating to this were exposed sealing the alluvial clays or storm gravels.

(Simon Hughes)

*Taunton, Castle Green, ST 2266 2457 and ST 2267 2454, Somerset HER 35034*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC Archaeology during the replacement of two sets of switchgear and associated cables within the scheduled area of Taunton Castle. The excavations revealed only a series of recent deposits that had been disturbed by the laying of services.

(Paul Rainbird)

*Taunton, The Mount, ST 2296 2422, Somerset HER 34780*

A watching brief was carried out by Heritage Planning Services during work to develop three new houses. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Sam Driscoll)

*Wells, church of St Thomas, ST 5560 4616, Somerset HER 34764*

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of two large pre-construction test pits on the south side of the church. No archaeological features were observed within the deeply made ground nor in the underlying natural clays and no further archaeological work was undertaken.

(Dick Broomhead)

*West Luccombe, SS 8990 46367*

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks relating to water main rehabilitation works at West Luccombe Farm. A range of features have been recorded in the vicinity, however, no archaeological features or deposits of any kind were observed on the site.

(Stuart Milby)

*Westonzoyland, Northmoor pumping station to Linden Farm, ST 3269 3361 to ST 3314 3310, Somerset HER 37346*

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Black & Veatch Ltd on behalf of The Environment Agency to carry out an archaeological walkover survey of land along the River Parrett from Northmoor Pumping Station to Linden Farm, Somerset. A borehole survey in 2007 had previously identified dated prehistoric peat deposits. The archaeological walkover survey did not identify any archaeological remains or deposits exposed as a result of the dredging works.

(Grace Corbett)

*Wookey, Vicarage Lane, ST 520 455,*  
Somerset HER 32910

An archaeological evaluation, undertaken on a site that was to be developed for a new house, recovered only pottery sherds dating to the 18th and 19th centuries. No pre 18th-century finds were recovered. Historic maps indicate that the site was formerly a part of the entrance way to the bishop's palace and was, therefore, kept clear of any obstruction or roadside settlement.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

*Yeabridge, ST 4428 1466, Somerset HER 34772*

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching within the deserted medieval hamlet of Little Lopen. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Orlando Prestidge)

*Yeovil, West Hendford, ST 5496 1547*

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during test pit and trench investigations at the former Ashleys of Yeovill as there was potential for Roman period archaeology. Despite this, modern made ground was present across the site, and no visible archaeological features were encountered.

(Orlando Prestidge)