SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY, 2003

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COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Perhaps the single most significant change during the year was that the County Sites and Monuments Record had its name changed to the Historic Environment Record (HER) and the digitised record was put onto the World Wide Web. This event marks the culmination of several years of discussion and planning and a lot of hard work coordinated by Chris Webster and Talya Bagwell. The project received substantial funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and it was launched on the 30th September at the Somerset County Museum together with the online catalogue to the archives in the County Record Office. Both these projects have provided researchers and the public with an extremely valuable resource. The HER is accessible at www.somerset.gov.uk/heritage and the archives catalogue at www.somerset.go.uk/archives.

The increase in development across the county and the success of local planning policy consultations continue to ensure that almost all planning applications receive a full archaeological appraisal. Steve Membery and Sarah Bisson coordinated most of this work and over 1500 applications were dealt with during the year. Most of the reports detailed below are the result of their work.

Outside the planning system, archaeological advice on all agri-environment schemes is now common practice and Jan Grove continues to work closely with the Somerset Farming and Wildlife Group and others, on Countryside Stewardship applications and forestry matters. This work has demonstrated the need for continued monitoring and liaison with farmers, landowners and wildlife groups who are managing and looking after important archaeological sites and monuments. We have been particularly successful on some sites such as barrows on Mendip, where conservation work has enhanced the monument.

This year we have had two visits from the *Time Team*. The first encounter was the Big Dig project, which proposed to encourage and monitor hundreds of 1m test pits all over the UK. The proposal caused some concerns in the archaeological profession but we joined in with the project and actively promoted some research at Zinch House in Stogumber. The landowners, the Vardy family, were very supportive and the excavations and survey proved to show good evidence of medieval occupation on the site. In September Time Team set up their circus at Whitestaunton Manor in the Blackdown Hills where evidence for an elaborate bath suite was discovered in the 19th century. Both pieces of work are reported below.

Another significant project has been the field survey and excavation assessing the waterlogged monuments in the Somerset peat lands. This project, coordinated by Richard Brunning, investigated some of the most important and well-known wetland sites in the county such as Meare Lake Village, Glastonbury Lake Village and Harter's Hill Bronze Age site. The results

of this all-important work show us that many of the best-preserved wetland sites are at risk from the drying out of the Somerset peat lands.

(R.A. Croft)

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK ARCHAEOLOGIST'S REPORT

Exmoor continues to attract research fieldwork as well as work commissioned by the National Park Authority (which also includes conservation and interpretation – not reported here).

The Exmoor Ironwork Project fieldwork continued with reconnaissance of woodlands in the Barle valley. In addition to this, the dry summer caused exceptional drought conditions that exposed the remains of the Roman iron-smelting complex on the shores of Clatworthy Reservoir (see p. 198).

The Exmoor field school, run by the University of Bristol and Exmoor National Park Authority, carried out a second season of excavations on the late Mesolithic site at Hawkcombe Head, targeting areas identified by geophysical survey. The excavations have revealed two possible hearth sites and a possible structure, although at present this interpretation is preliminary. Further excavations are planned for 2004 to fully investigate these features.

Exmoor National Park Authority commissioned Caroline Garrett to carry out a survey of the designed landscape at Simonsbath. The survey assessed the evidence for a picturesque landscape laid out by the Knight family in the 1820s and examined the evidence for a later 19th-century garden there. A survey was also commissioned of thatched buildings, which has established, for the first time, the location of all thatched buildings on Exmoor.

(Rob Wilson-North)

SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

Charterhouse Environs Research Team (CHERT),

CHERT continued its investigation of the Charterhouse on Mendip landscape this year. In addition to the standard field techniques of boundary recording, earthwork survey, documentary and map study and fieldwalking of arable land, the team have participated in geophysical survey with Bristol University, practical conservation by scrub clearance with the Mendip Warden Service, joint recording and site management with English Heritage and Somerset County Council Historic Environment Service, and the continued recovery and/or copying of previous archives, photographs and finds from private hands to be eventually deposited in Wells Museum. Access to the CHERT archive may be obtained by contacting the chair of CHERT, Mr Ron Penn. CHERT also filmed a piece with Chris Chapman for a future television programme about archaeology in the South-West. More than 700 people attended walks and talks over the year, and a display for schools and museums and a Web site are currently under production.

The team size has stabilised at around 30 members, and has spawned two further projects, the Bleadon, Lympsham and Uphill Research Team (BLURT) and the Yatton, Cleeve and Claverham Archaeological Research Team (YCCART), who should be making their first annual reports in *Proceedings* next year. Further potential projects are being looked at.

The first visit to the Yoxter Ranges at the top of Cheddar Gorge, a firing range owned by the Territorial Army since the 1930s, was made at the invitation of the MoD. The area showed immense promise of well-preserved archaeology of many periods, which has been borne out by subsequent work. However, the situation in the Gulf during 2003 meant that the ranges were heavily used for live firing, and thus rather unsuitable for archaeological survey, so apart

from an initial reconnaissance in summer 2003, detailed survey work was put back to begin in January 2004.

The survey of the field boundaries of Charterhouse-on-Mendip in the parishes of Cheddar and Priddy continued (albeit on a smaller scale) this year. One important recognition made during the year was the large amount of field walling that was originally mortared, as opposed to the drystone walling thought to be typical of Mendip. Walls along roads, droves and the manorial boundary were, when original, almost invariably mortared; a surprising number of internal field walls also showed evidence of mortared construction. This will be quantified in the final report. Initial studies of the field walls at Chancellors Farm/Yoxter Ranges during 2003 showed an entire 18th-century enclosure landscape recovered from industrially scarred areas, with recognisable styles in sheep-creeps, field ponds, styles and steps and other features, of which more in next year's report.

Details of individual sites are given in the appropriate sections below.

(Vince Russett)

Doulting, Beacon Hill Wood, ST 638 460

An instrument survey with Mark Corney of surface features within the western part of Beacon Hill Wood in 2002[1] was completed for the remainder of the wood on behalf of The Woodland Trust – a total of *c*. 15.5ha. This has mapped the extensive remains of ancient quarry features, a barrow cemetery, boundary bank earthworks, the course of the Roman Fosse Way road and other holloways, boundary stones, and suspected Second World War features. These were supplemented by gradiometer surveys by Richard Tabor in smaller areas, targeted upon potential alignments of the Fosse Way and the environs of some of the round barrows. Ground conditions restricted the scope and value of geophysical survey, but some new suspected archaeological features were detected.

The woodland preserves an important group of archaeological landscape features, including at least ten Bronze Age round barrows, suspected Roman and possibly Iron Age quernstone quarry and working sites,[2] as well as a series of boundary banks and stones of 18th and 19th-century date. The Fosse Way runs through the wood and the northern boundary follows the line of the Roman road from Charterhouse, now a modern road, forming a crossroads. The course of the Fosse Way is difficult to follow through the wood, although a possible agger exists south of the steep incline to the summit, where later holloways may have obscured its line.

[1] Leach, P., in Webster, C.J., 2003. 'Somerset Archaeology 2002', *SANH* 146, 133

[2] Leach, P., in Webster, C.J., and Croft, R.A., 1994. 'Somerset Archaeology 1993', *SANH* 137, 139

(Peter Leach)

English Heritage Archaeological Survey of the Quantock Hills AONB

The Archaeological Investigation team at the Exeter Office of English Heritage continued work on an archaeological survey of the Quantock Hills AONB in 2003. The survey has examined the extant archaeology on the southern part of the Commons, including Wills Neck, Lydeard Hill and Cothelstone Hill. Several sites have been the subject of large-scale survey and investigation. These include the hillfort of Ruborough Camp, the copper mines at Dodington, the house and surrounding landscape at Court House, East Quantoxhead, the landscape park at Fyne Court, the earthworks on Cothelstone Hill and the earthworks associated with Cothelstone Manor and Cothelstone House. Reports on all of these large-scale surveys can be consulted at the National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon, the Somerset HER or the Somerset Studies Library, Taunton.

(Hazel Riley and Elaine Jamieson)

Glastonbury, Tor Hill, ST 5125 3860
Refurbishment of the two public entrance gates, the resurfacing or repaving of some paths and the construction of new paths on Glastonbury Tor was subject to archaeological monitoring, providing opportunities to record the stratigraphy in those areas and to test the popular theory of an ancient maze circling the hill. Archaeological features revealed during the repaving included postholes, ditches and walls. The terraces were numbered and described as individual features for the first time; the resultant pattern indicating that the maze theory is not tenable.
(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Monuments At Risk in Somerset's Peatlands (MARISP)
Excavations were carried out to assess the condition of numerous nationally important wetland monuments on the Somerset moors to determine their condition and the threats to their continued survival. Sites included Glastonbury and Meare Lake Villages, the causeway between Street and Glastonbury and numerous prehistoric wooden trackways. Samples were taken for wood studies, environmental assessment and dating purposes. Hydrological monitoring will take place in 2004. The project is jointly funded by English Heritage, Somerset County Council and the Environment Agency.
(Richard Brunning)

Oare, Mill Hill, SS 825 450
The Archaeological Investigation team at the Exeter Office of English Heritage carried out an archaeological survey of the land owned by the Exmoor National Park Authority on Mill Hill in January 2003. Several new sites were discovered, including a Bronze Age burial cairn and areas of relict post-medieval field systems and field clearance. The report can be consulted at the National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon, the Somerset HER or the Somerset Studies Library, Taunton.
(Hazel Riley)

Over Stowey, Great Wood, ST 17 36 area
Eleven areas of conifer plantation were surveyed for Somerset County Council on behalf of the Forestry Commission. The work was undertaken in advance of clear felling and/or scrub clearance, and accounted for some 6ha.

The results are noteworthy given the small size of some of the areas that were examined and the tiny percentage (0.93%) of the total area of forestry. It has been shown that not only do the field boundaries and tracks mapped by the OS in 1888 survive as earthworks but that other boundaries, associated with them, are present in the field but were not plotted by the OS. The early OS cannot, therefore, be used as a comprehensive or definitive guide to the presence or distribution of these early landscape features. Other features recorded include a leat and a charcoal-burning platform.

The geographically random distribution of the eleven areas examined provides a useful initial sample of the archaeological potential of this large area of coniferous woodland. Despite the very small size of the sample area this assessment has demonstrated a considerable archaeological potential within the existing woodland. The recorded presence of earlier extensive broad-leaved woodlands that spanned the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods suggests that a more significant archaeological resource exists than is so far evident in the record. The archaeological potential of the area of the Great Wood Plantation is therefore considered to be substantial.
(Richard McDonnell)

Pawlett, Pawlett Hams, ST 271 421
A combined archaeological walk-over and desk-top survey of the proposed Ecological

Improvement Area at Pawlett Hams has located a number of possible archaeological sites including early estuarine flood defence banks, areas of early field or drainage systems, a number of defunct watercourses, the line of a possible Roman road and earthworks or building platforms adjacent to that road.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Porlock, Porlock Bay, SS 87 47 area
Intertidal and coastal monitoring continues in Porlock Bay on behalf of the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA).

A flint scraper was recovered from stratified deposits in the cliff of solifluction deposits on the south-west side of Red Sand Bay and a flint core was found by Jessica Cowley (ENPA) under a layer of peat in the intertidal part of Red Sand Bay. Three new, intertidal palaeochannels were recorded and more animal bone (cattle) was recovered. The system of grypes and rhynes being exposed in the eroding, intertidal alluvium continues to be plotted and are providing evidence of the extent and nature of the most seaward of the land drainage systems of Porlock Marsh.

A significant discovery this year was a piece of worked oak recovered from the breach channel which was radiocarbon dated to the Saxon period (see p. 184).

(Richard McDonnell)

Shepton Mallet to Croscombe gas pipeline, ST 6320 4375 to ST 5950 4455
A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified a spread of stone rubble containing 12th to 14th-century pottery at ST 6250 4510 which is interpreted as the remains of a medieval building. A scatter of flint debitage dating to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age was also recovered.

(Michael Rowe)

Southern Quantocks Archaeological Survey
In April to July 2003 the Department of Archaeology, King Alfred's College, Winchester, and the Historic Environment Service of Somerset County Council carried out investigations of a series of cropmarks as part of the Southern Quantocks Archaeological Survey (SQAS). Aerial photographs taken by Frances Griffith and Bill Horner in 1991 suggested that a multi-phase field system exists at the location, comprising a ladder system of rectangular enclosures, a funnel-shaped enclosure and a smaller D-shaped enclosure. A magnetometer survey was conducted of the area which not only clarified the features seen in the aerial photographs, but also revealed that the D-shaped enclosure was in fact sub-circular in shape. The geophysics plot also indicated that the latter had been cut through in its north-east corner by a later rectangular feature. Three trenches were subsequently excavated to investigate the three enclosure systems. The excavations all encountered thin ploughsoils immediately overlying Morte Slate bedrock into which archaeological features had been cut. The trench over the entranceway to the ladder of rectangular enclosures demonstrated the presence of a 2m wide causeway separating ditches that vary between 0.8 and 1.2m in depth. Few artefacts were found in the ditch fills, but those that were suggest an Iron Age or earlier date for ditch construction. No archaeological features were found in the interior of the enclosure, but a single possible posthole on the inner side of the causeway may be the remains of a gate fitting.

The funnel-shaped enclosure was represented by an extremely strong magnetometry signature. The excavation at this location demonstrated that the enclosure ditch contained burnt clay which had been deliberately placed together with greyish-green clay. The former of these was the cause of the magnetometry signal. A darker deposit was found beneath the clay layer, which contained relatively large quantities of Middle or Late Iron Age pottery, much of it

present as almost complete vessels. The completeness of the pots and their sealing by red and grey clay (which is not found in the Morte Slate geology) suggest that deposition of both may have been as part of a ritual. The centre part of the 'funnel' contained a north–south orientated trackway which on stratigraphic grounds is post-Iron Age and from the evidence of its orientation is unlikely to be medieval. It is therefore probable that this feature is in some way associated with the Roman features described below.

The sub-rounded enclosure was investigated in a 40x30m trench. This demonstrated that the enclosure was bounded by two parallel V-shaped ditches, the outer 1.3m deep and the inner 2.2m deep. Finds from the lower ditch fills were few, but the pottery is all of Late Iron Age date, and is suggestive of high status. There was no evidence for banks but these were almost certainly present, and together with the ditches would have formed a strong defensive circuit. Overlying the Iron Age enclosure, but unassociated with it were features associated with a Roman villa. This appears to have been constructed in several phases, with the final building consisting of either three or four rooms. The villa was constructed using a variety of drystone wall techniques, while the roof appears to have been built using a combination of slate and ceramic tiles. Part of the villa lies over the inner of the Iron Age enclosure ditches (hence the 'cut-out' seen in the magnetometry plot). This was obviously recognised as a potential cause of subsidence by the villa's builders and to combat it a 'gapped-tooth' arrangement of projecting sandstone blocks had been used to widen the foundations in this location. It was not possible to investigate the layers infilling the rooms of the villa during 2003 except in the north-eastern room. Here undifferentiated rubble was found to overlay a cement floor in which a mosaic with a geometric design was found. Several coins have been found associated with the villa structure, all of which have been of mid 3rd to 4th-century date.

The investigations have demonstrated at least four phases of landscape use in the Iron Age and Romano-British period. Initially the area seems to have been used for pasture, and it is our hypothesis that the ladder-shaped enclosure was built for management of stock. In the Middle or Later Iron Age, rituals were enacted in the funnel-shaped enclosure, and in the Later Iron Age a well-defended enclosure was built, probably for a community of high status. All the features that resulted had largely disappeared by the 3rd century when the villa was constructed.

(Keith Wilkinson, Tony King, Phil Marter, Nick Stoodley, Alex Turner and Chris Webster)

Stogumber, Zinch House, ST 0998 3712

A geophysical survey was undertaken to try to locate any detectable features that might be associated with earlier occupation of Zinch House and any evidence of previous settlement in the village of Stogumber. The survey was carried out as part of Channel 4's *Time Team* Big Dig.

The garden produced anomalies associated with buildings connected to the house and past landscaping, while an adjacent paddock was shown to be largely disturbed geophysically.

(John Gater and Chris Gaffney)

MULTI-PERIOD

Axbridge, Moorlands, Moorland Street, ST 4319 5432

An archaeological evaluation in the garden of Moorlands, on Moorland Street, recovered a 3rd-century coin and some possible Pennant stone roof tile fragments suggesting occupation within the vicinity of Moorland Street during the Romano-British period, and a small quantity of 10th to 12th-century pottery sherds hints that occupation on this site may have started prior to the Norman Conquest. A series of undated postholes adjacent to Moorland Street may be

connected with pre-Conquest occupation. Later features included postholes, pits, a boundary ditch and an occupation spread all relating to settlement between the 11th/12th century and the 15th century. Medieval finds included glazed and coarseware pottery sherds, a glazed, ceramic ridge tile and iron objects including a complete knife blade. The pottery sequence seems to suggest that the site was abandoned by the early post-medieval period before occupation resumed in the 18th century after which the garden was frequently and deeply cultivated.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Combwich, The Old Ship Inn, ST 258 424

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the development of this former public house. In the area of the former beer garden a section of a substantial ditch was excavated, the fills of which produced pottery sherds of Middle Iron Age date. This feature was sealed by a dump of clay in which a plate brooch of 2nd-century date was found. The clay was cut by a north–south aligned, V-profile ditch filled with material that yielded a quantity of Romano-British pottery dating from the 2nd to 4th centuries.

A further trench along the street frontage of the car park revealed a number of features and associated deposits dating from medieval through to the 18th century. These mostly consisted of small linear features and probably relate to boundaries and drainage activity. Towards the north edge of the car park sections of four north–south aligned ditches were encountered three of which seemed to represent successive boundaries of 12th or 13th-century date. The fourth, and largest, contained quantities of pottery and glass from the early 18th century and probably marks the location of the original southern boundary of the land belonging to the public house.

(James Bridgers)

Glastonbury, Higher Edgarley Farm, ST 5132 3830

Archaeological monitoring of a service trench cut through an old orchard immediately west of Higher Edgarley Farm recorded a series of pits and ditches containing exclusively 10th or 10th/11th century pottery sherds. Other pits and a large boundary ditch contained no pottery and these might date to the middle Saxon period.

Two prehistoric flint tools and some possible prehistoric pottery sherds, 12th to 14th-century pottery sherds and post-medieval sherds from the 16th century onwards were also recovered.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Kilmersdon, Babington House, ST 7035 5085

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on groundworks for an improved car park at this site, following up on the results of an evaluation undertaken in 2002. In the north-western corner of the development area a hillwash or subsoil build-up contained frequent sherds of abraded medieval pottery. Several truncated features, including possible postholes, appeared to cut this horizon but only a single medieval potsherd was recovered. An earlier cut for the ditch along the side of the walled garden (probably 18th century) contained several unabraded medieval sherds, and may indicate a pre-existing boundary there. Post-medieval activity was represented by a surface or track and a paved path on the western side of the site.

(Bath Archaeological Trust)

Stoke sub Hamdon, North Street, ST 473 174

An excavation and watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology prior to and during groundworks associated with residential development. The work revealed three Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pits and a series of medieval linear features. One of the pits contained unusual cut clay blocks of unknown function.

(S. Robinson)

PREHISTORIC

Alford, Dimmer Landfill Site – Southern Extension, ST 612 308
Further construction work at the Dimmer Landfill Site resulted in a series of small excavations at the southern end of the site. These recorded a possible boundary ditch containing Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery and other prehistoric features. The alluvial clays sealing the prehistoric horizon are being examined by David Jordan of Terra Nova. Fieldwalking at the northern end of the new landfill extensions north of the alluvium recovered prehistoric flint tools and Romano-British and post-medieval pottery. Further excavation work will continue in 2004.
(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Burrowbridge, Stathe, ST 3752 2942
In 2002, a bore hole sunk by the Environment Agency at War Moor revealed a buried land surface containing flint flakes, ?slag or burnt stone and fired clay *c*. 7m below the top of the flood bank. The buried soil was found between *c*. 0.2m and 1.2m OD and was sealed by a band of peat lying between 1.2m OD and 2.7m OD. The core descriptions and measurements were taken directly from the logs of the geological contractors employed by the Environment Agency. Wood and twigs within the overlying peat were identified as *Alnus glutinosa* by Vanessa Straker and sent to the Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre for a radiocarbon determination. This produced a date which calibrated to 1700–1050BC at 2 sigma (GU-11302). The radiocarbon date falls securely within the Middle Bronze Age which suggests that the buried surface below the peat must predate that period, possibly during the Early to Middle Bronze Age. The radiocarbon assessment was funded by the Environment Agency and we would like to thank Vanessa Straker for her identification of the wood sample.
(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Castle Cary, ST 6300 3275
A field evaluation by Wessex Archaeology on land to the north-west of Castle Cary was undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application for non-residential development. Four evaluation trenches, each 50m in length, were excavated. A large ditch dating to the Middle Bronze Age was identified, from which Deverel-Rimbury pottery was recovered. An undated area of *in situ* burning might have been prehistoric though there was no dating evidence.
(Julie Gardiner)

Castle Cary, Cadet Centre, ST 639 319
See p. 219.

Castle Cary, North Street, ST 643 325
An evaluation on land at The Nurseries was carried out by AC archaeology during July 2003. The work comprised the excavation of 98m length of trench, which identified a single undated linear feature and part of a large pit of probable Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date.
(S. Robinson)

Cheddar, Lower Milkway Farm, ST 464 549 and ST 465 547
A sketch map in the Burgess deposition records 'Flints' in the fields at these NGRs.[1] It is not known if the flints are in the Axbridge Museum, but work is continuing to catalogue Burgess's notes and finds.

[1] Note in Burgess deposition (Axbridge Museum); air photos volume, loose leaf notes
(Vince Russett)

Cheddar, Tynings Farm, Three Barrow Ground, ST 470 563
Repeat fieldwalking of this field in March 2003 by CHERT yielded larger numbers of flint tools than in 2002,[1] including a number of superbly crafted scrapers and knives of Beaker affiliation. A gunflint of post-medieval date was also recorded.[2]

[1] Russett, V. 'CHERT 535 Flint scatter from Three Barrow Ground, Tynings Farm, Charterhouse 2002', in CHERT archive
[2] Russett, V. 'Flint scatter from Three Barrow Ground, Tynings Farm, Charterhouse 2003', in CHERT archive

(Vince Russett)

Hillfarrance Flood Defence Scheme. ST162244 to ST169250
Exeter Archaeology undertook a watching brief on behalf of the Environment Agency during the construction of a flood relief channel at Hillfarrance. Three, or possibly four, silted ditches were recorded at the northern end of the new channel. These probably represent part of a prehistoric field system sealed by alluvial silts and clays deposited over the years by seasonal flooding of the Allerford Brook. At the terminus of one of these a shallow pit, 1.1–1.2m in diameter, was exposed. Excavation of the pit yielded burnt stone, waterlogged wood artefacts and worked timber fragments. The latter included a Y-shaped piece of timber inverted in the base of the pit and driven into the underlying gravel and possibly representing a representation of the lower limbs of a human figure. Pottery recovered from the pit has been initially assessed as late Bronze Age (1200–700 BC), with residual sherds of Early Bronze Age date (2300–1400 BC). Radiocarbon dates (all at 2 sigma) from the site calibrate to:

i) carbonised residue on pot from pit	1450–1130 BC
ii) ditch fill	1430–1130 BC
iii) 'idol' from pit	1410–1080 BC
iv) wooden wedge from pit	1410–1120 BC
v) ditch fill	1450–1210 BC

Prof Bryony Coles commented as follows on the forked wood 'idol':

One of the wooden finds from Hillfarrance is a forked piece of oakwood, which may be the remains of a rare prehistoric wooden carving in human-like form. The piece was found upside-down in a pit with the two arms jammed into the gravelly pit bottom. In this position, the 'arms' have become legs and the main trunk the lower end of a torso. Clearly, the forked piece of oakwood has been deliberately worked and deliberately set in the pit, but was it really meant to look like the lower half of a human? There are, from Britain, Ireland and continental Europe, a number of prehistoric wooden figures carved into a human-like form, some quite realistic and others very schematic. One of the more realistic examples comes from Kingsteignton in Devon, and one of the schematic ones from the Bell-Beaker site in the Somerset Levels, so Hillfarrance is well within the distribution zone of wooden figures. It also fits in terms of date, as a number of the figures come from the later Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Many of the carvings were made from branched or forked stems, often inverted like the Hillfarrance piece to use the main stem as torso and the branches as legs. Thus the Hillfarrance find, though incomplete, has a number of similarities to known human-like figures from prehistoric Europe, and it seems very probable that it too was intended as a carving in human form. Its discovery is therefore one of the more important and exciting of recent finds, particularly as it was found in the course of a careful excavation and its context is well-documented.

(S.J. Reed)

Priddy, Long Wood, ST 490 552
A sketch map in the Burgess deposition records 'Flints and fossils' in the field at this NGR.[1] It is not known if these flints are in the Axbridge Museum, but work is continuing to catalogue Burgess's notes and finds.

[1] Note in Burgess deposition (Axbridge Museum); air photos volume, loose leaf notes

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Stowbarrow, ST 5206 5353
Site reconnaissance by CHERT in summer 2003 and subsequent comparison of the photographic record with that from the late 1970s[1] shows the former boundary wall to the barrow has almost completely disappeared, with signs of the stones being used for temporary military structures in hollows in the barrow, and minor diggings into its structure.

[1] Photograph (kindly lent for copying by Mr J Chapman) copy in CHERT archive

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Townsend Farm, ST 5145 5160
Fieldwalking in April 2003 west of Townsend Farm, Priddy produced 305g of worked and unworked flint and chert dating from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age. The field, ploughed for reseeding with grass contains a linear barrow cemetery. Permission was kindly granted by the landowner and the finds will be deposited with the Wells and Mendip Museum.

(Barry Lane)

Williton, Doniford, ST 085 424
To the south of Doniford, near to the Doniford Stream, a Wessex Water pipeline cut through a series of Middle Bronze Age pits containing an important assemblage of Trevisker-type pottery with associated lithic material and fired clay fragments. Charcoal from within one of the Trevisker pottery pits was sent to Waikato for a radiocarbon determination which calibrated to 1520–1290 BC at 2 sigma (WK11901).

The radiocarbon date was funded by Somerset County Council.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

ROMAN

Bawdrip, Ford Lane, ST 367 387
The remains of at least twelve rooms of a Romano-British building occupying an area 38m x 20m overall have been found at Ford near Stawell. The site is cut by Ford Lane, which has completely destroyed its central portion, however the north-eastern parts lie in an orchard and the south-western parts are in ploughland about 75m north of the site of a Romano-British 'barn' reported in 2002.[1]

Excavation in the ploughland revealed the scanty remnants of walls, providing evidence of an eight-roomed building extending into Ford Lane. The walls had been built without plinths or footings directly upon a single massive tufa block of dark brown colour. Interestingly, the upper surface of the tufa block was seen to bear numerous ard-marks, similar to those seen underlying Roman buildings at Bradford-upon-Avon. A clean and unencrusted flint scraper discovered in a recess in the upper surface of the tufa block was found to be of Bronze-Age date, thereby showing the antiquity of this tufa.

To the south-east of this site a waste pit, sealed by some 0.25m of a light brown tufa, was

found to contain Roman painted plaster, together with a few artefacts of 1st to 3rd-century date. This, together with the absence from the site of broken roof tiles and other related factors, support the hypothesis that the building had been dismantled – not vandalised, abandoned nor burnt.

Two alignments of the walls were found to continue on the north-east side of Ford Lane and were traced into the orchard. Here the archaeology had been much disturbed by tree planting, tree-stump removal and animal burial over the last two centuries or more. Nevertheless the walls were followed and both were found to extend about 29m from their south-western ends, enclosing a further range of rooms.

Further study has shown that the rooms on the tufa block were built in the 1st century AD. They appear to have been systematically dismantled in the 3rd century, leaving the newer rooms to the north-east in occupation into the late 4th century. The limited number and sizes of rooms available at any one time and the presence of the substantial 'barn' nearby suggest that the occupiers were few in number and were probably stock-farmers who may rarely or never have enjoyed the greater riches which other 'villa' occupiers had achieved.

The excavators express their gratitude to the landowner, Mr Paul Warren, for his encouragement and help.

[1] Ellson, P., in Webster, C.J., 2003. 'Somerset Archaeology 2002', *SANH* 146, 145

(Peter Ellson)

Buckland Dinham, Barrow Hill, ngr withheld

A possible Romano-British site was identified on the north-east slope of Barrow Hill, Buckland Dinham, after the crop was taken from the field. Members of the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society and local residents, helped to survey the site with magnetometer and level, to produce an earthwork survey of the field banks identified in the vicinity. This work is not complete as more banks have been seen in neighbouring fields and more artefacts have been recovered nearby.

The geophysical survey revealed a very ploughed-out double ditched enclosure with up to two roundhouses within. Although no systematic field walking was undertaken as the field had not been ploughed, a considerable amount of both Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered during the surveying. Metal finds were also recovered by detector and included a gilded cameo style brooch of very fine workmanship. More fieldwork on this site is intended in 2004 and a more detailed report will be made.

(Jayne Lawes)

Burnham-on-Sea, The King Alfred School, ST 3147 4812

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the northern edge of the school, adjacent to the playing fields, prior to the construction of a new school building. A buried Romano-British soil and occupation horizon was sealed below 0.5m–0.6m of alluvial clay. The buried soil contained 1st to 3rd-century AD pottery, animal bone and briquetage, and sealed a series of elongated pits and linear features. These also contained early Romano-British pottery, Pennant sandstone roof tiles and many fragments of fired clay briquetage including some with smooth, grey-green, reduced surfaces. A large ditch contemporary with the buried soil appears to define a boundary. All of the features were aligned either north-east–south-west or north-west–south-east and this regularity probably indicates a managed, industrial landscape, associated with salt panning.

The geoarchaeology of the alluvial clays, the Romano-British soil and pit and ditch fills were examined by David Jordan of Terra Nova. This established that the Roman landscape lay above the estuarine silty clays of the upper Wentlooge formation, and the Roman horizon, in

turn, was sealed by estuarine deposits that indicate a tidal frame rising gradually until more recent land reclamation allowed soil formation to recommence. Both the Roman soil and the lower levels of the upper alluvium contained evidence for animal trample, presumably cattle.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Clatworthy reservoir, ST 037 306

The construction of Clatworthy reservoir during the late 1950s revealed an extensive series of slag deposits derived from iron smelting at its southern end in the significantly named Syndercombe. A period of exceptionally low water during the autumn of 2003 allowed an earthwork and walk-over survey to be undertaken, by English Heritage[1] and the Exmoor Iron Project[2] respectively, with the objective of recording and characterising the various deposits.

All the slag deposits were examined to determine whether they were *in situ*, primary waste heaps or were secondary, having been reused by later activity. This was determined on the basis of deposit morphology, the character of associated surface material and the relationship of each deposit with later landscape features shown on the 1st edn OS map.

A total of six slag deposits form a group situated above the reservoir's normal water line between ST 0344 3042 and ST 0388 3063. Although there was some variation in character, all these deposits are thought to be *in situ*. By analogy with other iron-smelting sites, working platforms, where the smelting took place, may be associated with each deposit upslope to the south although there has been considerable disturbance by the construction of a track.

Most of the slag deposits from below the waterline appeared to be secondary deposits that are the result of the use of slag for the construction of field boundaries. However, there is a series of deposits in close proximity around ST 0385 3063 that are interpreted as primary. It is possible that these are actually part of one large deposit that includes the slag heaps which outcrop above the waterline in this area.

The material from the various deposits consists of tap slag, furnace lining and a variety of geological material including iron ore that is consistent with an origin in the bloomery iron-smelting process.

Roman pottery has been found over several years that suggests a date for the iron-smelting activity. The distribution of finds is concentrated at the eastern end of the site and although this could reflect the area that has been subject to the most intense scrutiny, it may also imply that the dating of activity on the site may be a more complex matter.

[1] Newman, P., 2003. *English Heritage Interim Survey Report, Clatworthy Iron Slag Deposits*, unpub report, copy in Somerset Historic Environment Record

[2] Bray, L.S., 2004. *Preliminary Report on Phase 1 of a Field Survey at Clatworthy Reservoir, undertaken during the Low Water Period of Summer and Autumn 2003*, unpub report, copy in Somerset Historic Environment Record

(Lee Bray)

Dulcote, Worminster Down, ST 559 430

A scatter of Romano-British pottery including Dorset Black Burnished, coarse greywares and occasional oxidized fabrics, including samian, with some animal bone, occasional fragments of Mendip sandstone quern and quantities of local Lias limestone (possibly stone building debris) has been found as a concentration over an area *c*. 100m square spanning parts of two arable fields near to the highest point of the plateau.

(Peter Leach)

Hemington, Blacklands, ngr withheld

Further excavations have been carried out at this site as part of a long term project by the Bath

and Camerton Archaeological Society. The excavation provides training opportunities for students of all ages including local schools and universities.

A Romano-British farmstead within a rectangular enclosure has been under investigation for the last three years and a late Roman building has now been fully uncovered. The site has been extensively ploughed and only the foundations remain. The building was of a simple corridor style with three main rooms served by a corridor on the western side. It was impossible to tell where the main entrance was, but it was assumed that the main door was in the centre of the corridor accessing all the main rooms from an inner vestibule. The corridor may have originally been semi-open to the elements with a portico style arrangement, but this was replaced with a wall to enclose the corridor and further subdivisions were added later. It was probably a two-storey building and one of these small rooms may have housed a stair. Further evidence for the height of the building was given by a series of postholes running parallel with the north wall – it is suggested that these were scaffolding pole holes as many contained traces of mortar. Fragmentary postholes within and around the building contained early Roman pottery and probably belong to earlier buildings on the site. The position of the building within the rectangular enclosure suggested that other buildings ought to be present within the enclosure, but geophysical survey has not been conclusive on this point.

The enclosure ditch was sampled in two areas on the site, with particular emphasis given to the south-east corner. This corner was of interest because of the evidence of an inner ditch running east–west on this side of the enclosure. The excavation showed that the enclosure had been extended on the south side during the early Roman period and the inner ditch filled. Finds were only recovered from an episode of deliberate filling which occurred in the early 2nd century and until this date the ditch had been kept clean with evidence for recutting in two sections. The recutting may have coincided with the extension of the enclosure. There may have been an entrance in the south-east corner prior to the extension, but the evidence is not entirely clear, due to the disturbed nature of this area.

Excavations to the west of the building have shown evidence of earlier buildings in the form of very shallow postholes and a timber slot, on the edge of the excavation area. Further work will be carried out in 2004 to help understand the complex sequence of occupation on the site.

(Jayne Lawes)

Hinton St George, ngr withheld

Following trial excavations in 2002 and 2003 which had revealed the presence of a Romano-British building, fluxgate magnetometry and earth resistance surveys were undertaken with the aim of placing the features revealed in excavation in a wider archaeological context.

The magnetic survey revealed a wealth of anomalies of archaeological potential, including the footprint of a courtyard villa building. The resistance data correlated well and show discrete areas of structural remains, though few wall lines are readily apparent. There is no evidence for a northern wing of the villa though a possible bathhouse has been identified.

To the west of the villa a series of magnetic anomalies was detected. These comprise rectilinear ditches forming a field system and three or four ring ditches, presumably dating to an earlier phase of activity on the site.

(John Gater and Chris Gaffney)

Ilchester, West Street, ST 520 225

See under Medieval.

(Peter Leach)

Laverton, Peart Farm, ngr withheld

The presence of a Roman villa in this area has been known since the 1820s, when it was

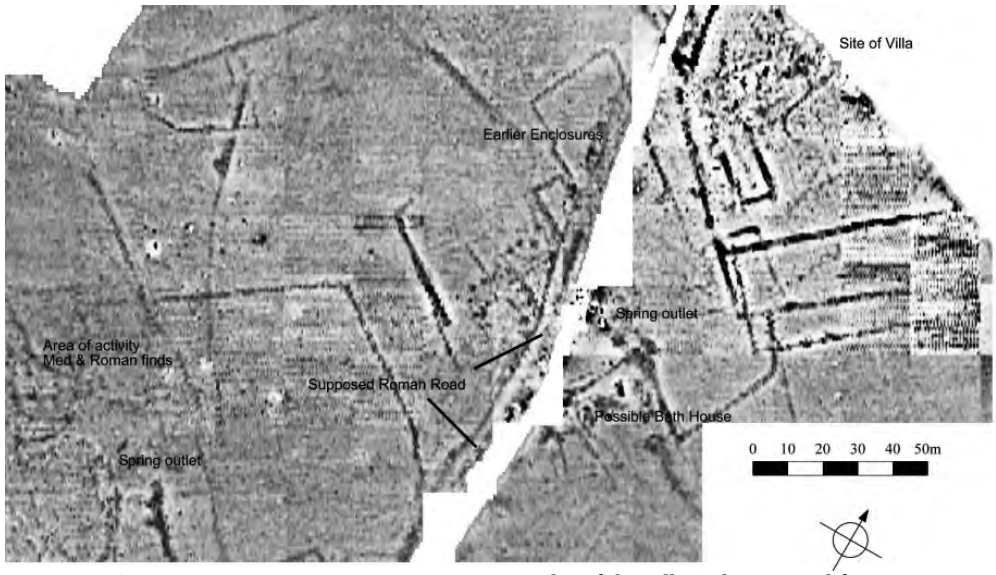

Figure Peart Farm, Laverton: magnetometer plot of the villa and associated features

reported by Skinner and fieldwalking was undertaken in the 1980s. An ancient roadway, believed to be a Roman road, cuts through the site, running north–south, mainly as a holloway in a hedgeline.

An area of *c*. 3.5ha has been surveyed using magnetometry and resistivity (*Figure*). The villa buildings are shown well, particularly using resistivity, with individual rooms visible in the west and north wings. There are features on the south side of the courtyard, but no continuous range of buildings. There is a structure by the south-west corner which appears to be a bath-house.

To the west of the villa, another group of buildings and enclosures was visible only in the magnetometer survey. These were generally of rectangular appearance and are assumed to be Roman in date. These buildings are crossed by the western ditch of a roadway running parallel to, but clear of the north–south hedgeline and holloway. This and the very close proximity to the villa buildings, suggest that the roadway is post-Roman. There are signs of structures and enclosures further to the west, but little of this area has yet been surveyed. The survey will continue in 2004.

(Jayne Lawes)

Priddy, Blackmoor, ST 5093 5628

CHERT examined the remains of a roughly triangular former lake, clearly engineered, with steep, straight sides now around 1.2m in height, and with very wet bottom, at the north end of Nether Wood. The former lake is *c*. 160m south-west–north-east, and *c*. 110m wide at its northern end, tapering to the dam at its southern end. The sheer scale of the engineering involved here may indicate a Roman date.

When full, this could hold about 30 megalitres of water. The remains of a relict watercourse and its point of entry into the lake are visible to the north-west, the former spring being at ST 5076 5629.[1]

The site is referred to as 'Blackmoor Pool' on the Ubley enclosure plan of 1772.[2]

[1] AP 3G/TUD/UK 5284 (14 Jan 1946)
[2] SRO Q/Rde 62 (1772)

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse Centre, ST 5020 5575
An archaeological excavation and watching brief undertaken in connection with redevelopment works at the Charterhouse Activity Centre, and within an adjacent paddock, recovered unstratified Romano-British pottery and artefacts and some late medieval and post-medieval finds. A large depression in the paddock to the east of the Centre may be of early post-medieval date and might have been created by stone quarrying rather than lead mining.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Priddy, Charterhouse Roman fort, ST 504 558
The Roman fort was the subject of a detailed earthwork survey by CHERT in spring 2003. This clearly revealed the skewed plan of the fort, together with the suggestion of a cross-ridge ditch seen on air photographs, but extremely difficult to survey on the ground.

Subsequently, with the granting of a Section 42 Licence, Steve Hawkins of Bristol University and CHERT carried out detailed resistivity and gradiometer surveys in July 2003. The resistivity survey proved the ground conditions to be completely unsuitable and showed only geological features. The gradiometer survey, however, clearly confirmed the cross-ridge ditch, and showed unequivocally the double ditch around the fort, which is completely invisible from the surface. Some internal features, including a linear magnetic anomaly around the inside of the fort bank, and a number of *c*. 5m diameter patches of intense magnetic response inside the north bank of the fort, were recorded. It was also clear that the interior of the fort has not been mined at any time. Work continues on the interpretation of the survey.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, earthwork platforms east of the 'Fat Factory', ST 4987 5615
A south-west–north-east sequence of large earthwork platforms up to 1m high was recorded by CHERT. The platforms appear to be the remains of large buildings. Molehills from the site have consistently yielded early Roman pottery, including Samian ware, and nothing later. The site will be surveyed in detail in 2004–5.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Rains Batch, ST502562
This field contains an extensive area of earthworks, clearly visible on air photographs. CHERT carried out a detailed earthwork survey during winter 2003–4. The field clearly contains remains of a grid of streets, surviving as hollows, including one which remained a part of a track over Mendip until the enclosure of the fields in 1787, since which time it has remained a footpath. Within the complex, some platforms of possible buildings were recorded, as well as later linear features resembling ridge and furrow (see p. 225). The highly visible square enclosure within the field clearly lies on top of, and at an angle to the grain of, the underlying Roman archaeology. During the survey, some 40 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from molehills, mostly of early BB1 or plain samian ware.[1] Many of the features showed as parchmarks in a low-level air photograph of September 1996.[2]

[1] Detailed earthwork survey in CHERT archive
[2] Photograph (kindly lent by Mendip Warden Service), copy in CHERT archive

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Rains Batch, ST 5014 5622
Several large fragments of very large Roman bricks or tiles were found built into the wall at this NGR, some with combing and original mortar still adhering. One large curved fragment appears to be from a hypocaust entrance arch; the others are probably architectural fragments.

These point to at least one building with some pretensions to status on the site during the Roman period. With permission, the fragments have been removed to the CHERT archive for safe keeping. This area coincides with a record by Skinner of 'Roman tiles' marked on a plan of August 1819.[1]

[1] Skinner, Revd J., BM Add MSS 33653 (1819)

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Rains Batch road to Uphill, ST 5014 5623 to ST 4971 5615

The 1931 air photograph of Rains Batch[1] shows the street pattern of the Roman settlement very clearly. One of the internal streets of the settlement, after curving around the hill emerges at the first NGR above, and can be seen in the field as a distinct double lynchet running across the fields to where it is lost among the buildings of the Fat Factory. The line is a distinct parch-mark on the air photo, and on some of later date.[2] If produced beyond the Fat Factory to the west, this line becomes a wide holloway, and joins the current Shipham to Charterhouse road at ST 4925 5605, where the road has a distinct lynchet on its upper, northern side. This line is a good candidate for the line of the Roman road running west from Charterhouse; further west along the Shipham road, a slight holloway running off the road to the NW and behind Tynings Farm marks the line of the road recorded on the 1782 map of Somerset[3] and this may also be the line of its Roman predecessor.

[1] Air photograph in Weston Museum (dated but origin unknown)
[2] eg HSL 71-220 Run 49-1895 (1971) in Somerset Studies Library
[3] Day and Masters map of Somerset (1782), *Somerset Record Society* 76 (1981)

(Vince Russett)

Seavington St Mary, Crimbleford Knap, ST 407 138

Excavations in 1994 rediscovered the site of a substantial Romano-British building partly excavated in the 19th century. Artefacts recovered from the site range from the 2nd to the 4th century AD. However, it was not clear from the excavation whether the building was part of a small Romanised dwelling or part of a very elaborate bath-house associated with an extensive building.[1]

A sample block of magnetic survey was undertaken in 2003 with the aim of seeing whether geophysical techniques would be of use in placing the building in its wider archaeological context. Numerous ditches of archaeological potential, presumably associated with the Romano-British site were detected. These extended beyond the limits of the survey and as such it was difficult to gain an overall picture of the complex. The results clearly demonstrated that more geophysical work would be beneficial.

[1] Graham, A., and Mills, J., 1996. 'A Romano-British Building at Crimbleford Knap, Seavington St Mary', *SANH* 139, 119–34

(John Gater and Chris Gaffney)

Shepton Mallet, Field Farm, ST 622 431

Continuation of a monitoring programme for the Field Farm development (Tadley Acres) covered part an area evaluated in 2002.[1] A gradiometer survey by Richard Tabor completed coverage of the new area scheduled for development, revealing several linear features of suspected human origin. Further lengths of a rock-cut boundary ditch found in 2002 were located and excavated during the construction of access roads and service trenches. Two sections showed a steep-sided ditch up to 2m wide and almost 1m deep. Occasional animal bone

fragments and flint flakes were the only finds, but the ditch may belong with other later prehistoric features located in this area during the earlier evaluation. Monitoring continues and more extensive excavations are planned for 2004.

[1] Leach, P., in Webster, C.J., 2003. 'Somerset Archaeology 2002', *SANH* 146, 131

(Peter Leach)

Wedmore, Heath House, ST 421 465

The Revd SHA Hervey, vicar of Wedmore, wrote in his *Wedmore Chronicles* (Vol 1, 204) in December 1885 that he had 'seen two Roman coins, one found at Castle', and refers to 'the skeletons found a year or two ago'. These skeletons had been discovered 'at Castle' in February 1883 and reported briefly by Hervey in an earlier issue of the *Chronicles*, where he also mentions that 'skeletons have been found near the same spot in former years' and that Roman coins were 'occasionally picked up at Castle and other parts of Heath-House' (Vol 1, 138; see also 121). Hervey's references therefore suggest that there were two separate finds of Roman burials, in the same vicinity. A contemporary report has been found in the *Weston Mercury* of 10th February 1883, which gives more exact detail:

> 'As Mr Robert James and some workmen were quarrying in a field called Castle Furlong, at Heath House in this parish they came upon three or four human skeletons lying upon the rocks, about three feet below the surface. One skeleton was lying on its side, evidently just as it had been flung in. Some small fragments of pottery found close to the remains would seem to show that the bodies were interred at least 900 years ago, if not much more. As Roman coins have been found at different times at Heath House, these human remains may probably belong to the Roman period, in which case they would have been thereabout 1,500 years. We have also been informed that a few years since two human skeletons were found in a quarry in the same neighbourhood and not far from Castle Furlong. Similar finds will not be unexpected'.

Hervey probably contributed to this report, which makes clear the two separate discoveries, of three or four skeletons in 1883, and of two some years earlier. The newspaper report, however, specifically identifies the exact field, for the first time. Castle Furlong, at Heath House, is a medium-sized field, part of the ancient open field system of the area, now with a few houses built on part of it. The two skeletons found earlier 'in a quarry' nearby, might have been discovered in Quarry Ground, a small field immediately to the south of Castle Furlong. These two 19th-century discoveries, coupled with the significant field-name Castle (Somerset Historic Environment Record 10892), and with the references to potsherds and finds of coins, suggest that further Roman remains might be expected in this area.

(Hazel Hudson)

Whitestaunton Manor House, ST 281 105

Excavations were carried out as part of a Channel 4 *Time Team* programme at the scheduled remains of a Roman villa. The work showed that the remains exposed in 1882 were part of a Roman bath-house which had been 'enhanced' as part of the garden of the Manor House and incorporated Roman material from a wide variety of sources. No remains were found of a domestic occupation or further ranges of buildings but there was also no evidence that this had been a ritual structure.

A number of locations were also investigated using geophysics in and around the grounds of the Manor. While a few responses were discovered that had archaeological potential, none were particularly indicative of a villa building. At best they indicated wall foundations associated with the gardens.

(Chris Webster, John Gater and Chris Gaffney)

Wick, Martin's Hill, ST 314 539
Fieldwalking to the south-east of Martin's Hill Farm was undertaken by AC archaeology during November 2003. The largest artefact category recovered comprised Roman pottery which was present in three principal concentrations. The date range of the assemblage may be considered to be from the 2nd–4th centuries AD, which broadly corresponds with the principal period of Roman activity on the Central Somerset Levels.

(Tanya Cottrell)

Yeovil, Westland Road, ST5486 1568
An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology prior to the refurbishment of a play-area off Westland Road. The site lies within Scheduled Monument no 35302, the site of a possible Roman small town, just to the west of the main Roman road from Ilchester to Dorchester. Two trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.5m, revealing modern landscaping deposits. No finds earlier than 18th-century in date were recorded and no archaeological features were observed.

(A. J. Passmore and R. Woodgate)

MIGRATION AND EARLY MEDIEVAL

Stert Flats, Bridgwater Bay, ST 140 272
Three large individual V-shaped wooden fish traps were sampled for dendrochronological analysis, which due to the absence of sapwood, provided only *terminus post quem* dates for the structures of AD 932 and 966. Radiocarbon dates for other nearby fishing structures are awaited. See p. 221.

(Richard Brunning)

MEDIEVAL

Badgworth, Nut Tree Cottage, ST 3938 5244
A small site evaluation was undertaken on land to the north and south of Nut Tree Cottage in the village of Badgworth where clear evidence of village shrinkage exists. With the exception of a post-medieval boundary ditch, the land to the south of the cottage was found to be largely archaeologically sterile and that to the west was noted to have been disturbed by a former saw pit. The excavation of a raised platform immediately north of the cottage however provided substantial evidence of medieval occupation in this area with well preserved archaeological structures surviving adjacent to the area proposed for development.

(R. Broomhead)

Bleadon, Bleadon Moor, ST 3168 5737
A watching brief during the construction of a new effluent pipeline was undertaken by AC archaeology during the autumn of 2003. Throughout the majority of the 3.5km scheme no positive archaeological results were revealed, but at the above grid reference two medieval buildings were recorded. These were each constructed using Lias limestone as wall foundations, with one likely to be a domestic dwelling and the other a barn or outbuilding. The associated pottery recovered indicates a 12th to 13th-century date.

(Neil Adam)

Bower Hinton, Higher Barton, ST 455 178
Five evaluation trenches were excavated prior to development proposals for a former farmyard.

Whilst most features were relatively modern and related to the farmyard, one trench towards the rear of the property revealed a ditch containing several stakeholes (a fence line?) and fragments of Saxo-Norman pottery. A second undated early feature was a shallow hollow covered by charcoal and burnt clay fragments with some fragments of poorly preserved bone.

(Bath Archaeological Trust)

Bridgwater, Friarn Meadow, ST 296 367

Wessex Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological mitigation works in relation to the proposed construction of a new Cadet Headquarters in the area where the remains of the Franciscan Friary are known to lie. Archaeological features comprising the robbed-out remains of at least one substantial medieval structure, possibly the friary church, were identified, along with a large post-medieval ditch and associated outworks, which are likely to relate to Civil War activity.

(Chris Webster)

Carhampton, Townsend Farm, ST 005 427

An archaeological evaluation consisting of nine trenches with a combined length of 90m within Townsend Farm and in a field immediately to the south-east of the farm recorded evidence for land-use and occupation from the 11th/12th century onwards. Medieval occupation features were recorded within the existing farmyard whilst a series of field boundaries sealed by ploughsoil could be dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods. It is suggested that the western end of the village plan may have been altered in the 16th or 17th century from one of four fairly regular compartments to the large compartment present today. It seems likely that the western compartment of the village was used for arable cultivation during the medieval period with settlement fronting onto the roads.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Castle Cary, Alford, ST 6039 3242

A trench evaluation of two proposed reed beds was undertaken by AC archaeology during November 2003. The site lies midway between the present village of Alford and the medieval parish church of All Saints, and is positioned adjacent to an area that is thought to contain the remains of the shrunken medieval village of Alford (Somerset HER 53477). Two trenches, each 10m long and positioned on the site of a reed bed, were machine-excavated. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed, although four sherds of medieval pottery and a small quantity of animal bone fragments were recovered from overburden contexts.

(Neil Adam)

Chapel Allerton Church, ST 4088 5021

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of footings for an extension to the existing vestry of Chapel Allerton church and following the associated excavations for the insertion of a tank. A substantial north–south ditch probably marking the early boundary of the pre 16th-century church was recorded and a number of previously unmarked burials were located.

(R. Broomhead)

Cheddar, Chestercroft, ST 4866 5628

During the course of CHERT boundary recording, it became clear that a group of fields forming a roughly triangular area to the north of the road, and shown on the 1761 map of Charterhouse as an enclosure from Blackdown,[1] had a continuous boundary, consisting of a stone-faced bank with a flat-bottomed ditch on its outside. The type is unknown elsewhere in Charterhouse, with the exception of the continuous bank that marks the edge of the 'Old Inclosures' on the

Blagdon Inclosure map of 1787.[2] Both are very likely medieval; this group can be demonstrated to be pre-1589 from its relationship with a house plot, which is probably medieval in origins (it possesses common rights).[3] The assart seems likely to be of Carthusian date as permissions to enclose land at Ceddreford are known from the 13th century.[4]

[1] SRO DD/STL 2 (1761 as amended *c*. 1809)
[2] SRO D\P\blag/20/1/1 (1787)
[3] SRO DD/GB 87/1 (1589)
[4] eg Cal Patent Rolls 22 Edward I (1293–94)

(Vince Russett)

Cheddar, Tynings, ST 469 565
Several strands of information indicate that occupation in the area of Tynings Farm was earlier than previously thought. As well as 'old foundations' reported to Skinner at the site of modern Tynings Farm in 1819 (only ten years after its supposed origins),[1] documentary evidence indicates definite occupation in Watercombe (the valley west of Tynings Farm) in 1592, by a tenement with two enclosures amounting to 10 acres. Although described as 'lately erected' at that date, the tenement possessed common rights, and may have been earlier in origin.[2] The wider area was referred to as 'New Tynings' in the deed. Although no detail is recorded in this area on the 1761 map of Charterhouse,[3] other deeds[4] also refer to enclosures 'in Watercombe' which can be shown to have been on the south side of the valley from Tynings Farm. A small area of apparent ridge and furrow can also be seen on early air photographs in the field to the south of Tynings Farm at ST 469565.[5] Small quantities of pre-19th century pottery and glass have been found in fieldwalking around Tynings Farm, mostly 17th and 18th century.[6] The exact site of the 'house in Watercombe' has not yet been found.

[1] Typescript copy of extracts from Skinner MSS in Weston Museum
[2] SRO DD/GB 87 (1592)
[3] SRO DD/STL 2 (1761 as amended *c*. 1809)
[4] eg SRO DD/BR lch 1 (1666)
[5] RAF 3G/TUD/UK 5276 (1946)
[6] Details in CHERT archive

(Vince Russett)

Crewkerne, West Street, ST 441 095
An archaeological evaluation and, subsequently, a watching brief were carried out prior to and during development by Propco Ltd. Pits and postholes containing fragments of 12th and 13th-century coarsewares represented activity to the rear of early properties fronting West Street. A possible boundary division was represented by a north–south aligned linear gully running through the centre of the site. This feature also seemed to date from the 12th or 13th century based on pottery evidence from its fill. An undated, but probably medieval, pit located to the south of the site produced large quantities of hard fired clay fragments, possibly the remains of metal-working moulds. Running parallel to, partially under, the modern south boundary of the site a post-medieval ditch was observed. This had been recut at least once and contained material dating from the mid to late 18th century including the intact skeleton of a dog.

(James Bridgers)

Donyatt, Park House, ST 3420 1428
On 6 October 1982 one of us (MA) visited Park House, Donyatt, almost certainly at the invitation of the owner, to see a carved figure set into a wall there. This appeared to be a medieval carved figure of the type generally known as sheila-na-gigs.

Figure Donyatt: sheila-na-gig

The site was revisited in February 2004 to check on the position, condition (and even existence) of the figure (*Figure*). The figure is on a limestone block 290mm high by 255mm across, set in the wall 1.27m above the ground level. The figure is not set centrally to the block so that the top of the head and the right side of the figure, including the right arm and leg are missing. This could mean that wherever the figure was originally set there were other stones (above) with the rest of the head, and (left) with the right side of the body. Rather more likely is the possibility that these parts of the figure were removed when the block was squared up for reuse in building.

The left hand and left foot are eroded or chopped away on the stone and there is a border 50–60mm wide on the right hand side of the figure. Although the top of the head is missing there are slight traces of a hat (?) and of streaky hair. There are no indications of any features on the face, which although it has an irregular surface, does not appear to have been hacked off. There is no sign of breasts – the thorax in fact is very smooth and it looks as if some sort of tunic is indicated with a neckband (?) and, rather bizarrely, a wide belt or cummerbund. The clearest carving on the figure is the vulva of the female genitals. In this case the fine carving is on the end of a stone 'bracket'; an intrinsic part of the stone, coming from the back of the figure, between its legs.

The lack of breasts, and any indications of pregnancy, together with the clearly carved and very obvious female genitalia seem to indicate that this is a sheila-na-gig type figure. It is clearly not *in situ*; it would be expected usually in a religious context. In this respect the church is just over the valley of the river Isle, a few hundred yards away. Elsewhere in the wall there are numerous reused carved blocks of stone of window sills and so on.

The carving of the figure suggests a 12th-century date, though some of the carving is so sharp it is difficult to believe that the figure has been outside for all that time. There is no sign of Romanesque carving in the church at present, but nevertheless it seems likely that the church is where the figure originally came from, perhaps from some demolished corbel table of a lost Romanesque phase of building.

This figure joins the small number of known sheila-na-gigs from England[1] with larger numbers in Ireland, Spain, and France.[2] In Somerset others have been recorded at Fiddington,[3] East Stoke[4] and Wells Cathedral. A further, apparently unrecorded example can be seen on the Romanesque corbel table of the chancel of the old church in Clevedon. No doubt others will turn up as time goes by.

[1] Andersen, J., 1977. *The Witch on the Wall: Medieval Erotic Sculpture in the British Isles*
[2] Weir, A., and Jerman, J., 1986. *Images of Lust: Sexual Carvings on Medieval Churches*
[3] Aston, M.A., 1979. 'A sheila-na-gig at Fiddington', *SANH* 123, 111–13
[4] Ashdown, P., 1994. 'Two sheila-na-gigs at Stoke sub Hamdon', *SANH* 137, 69–74

(Mick Aston and Teresa Hall)

Evercreech, Oxford Street/Weymouth Road, ST 6480 3858

An archaeological evaluation and subsequent area excavation was undertaken in 2003 by AC archaeology ahead of residential development. This is the first time that formal archaeological investigation has taken place within the village, with the work revealing evidence for a stone and post-built structure. Linear features and pits were also present. Finds recovered suggest that the site was in use throughout the medieval period.

(J. Whelan)

Frome, Badcox, The Ship Inn, ST 7727 4795

Subsequent to an archaeological assessment by the author, observations were maintained during demolitions and excavations occasioned by refurbishment of the former Ship Inn. Observations confirmed the conclusions of the assessment, and recorded structural remains of earlier phases of building that may plausibly be of medieval date. The remains, unfortunately lacking independent dating evidence, comprised blocked openings within a, now, internal wall compatible with a 'baffle' entry dwelling, and a cross-wall/gable that must have been demolished prior to installation of the main central stack.

The work suggests that similar remains may plausibly survive in comparable buildings within the town, specifically those with significant survival of 17th-century fabric, and that the data is of great potential to the on-going study of the historical development of Frome.

(Michael Heaton)

Glastonbury, Northload Street, former Avalon Coach Park, ST 497 390

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology prior to the redevelopment of the former Avalon Coach Park. The site lies within the core of the medieval settlement at Glastonbury and archaeological features included rubbish pits containing pottery broadly dating from the 11th to the early 15th centuries and pits containing charcoal and fired clay fragments. No definite evidence for medieval structures was recorded.

(T.H. Gent)

Glastonbury, St John's School, ST 500 391
An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the north side of St John's primary school in Glastonbury prior to the construction of new school buildings. A total of *c*. 20m of trenches were investigated resulting in the excavation and recording of a bell-casting pit. Archaeomagnetic sampling of the fired clay lining of the furnace provided a date centring on the late 11th century and pottery sherds within the backfilled deposit of the firing chamber and the flue can be dated between the mid 11th to mid 12th century. The evaluation also recorded two 10th to 12th-century pits, numerous stake and postholes cut into the natural clay and a cultivated soil containing medieval and post-medieval pottery. Copper alloy slags, probably associated with bell-casting were recovered from the furnace as were two iron slag hearth bottoms. A subsequent watching brief, carried out when foundation trenches for the new building were excavated, recorded medieval ditches and pits and recovered pottery, bone and oyster shells that probably relate to occupation plots on Norbins Road from the 12th century onwards.

The archaeomagnetic dating was undertaken by Paul Linford of the Centre for Archaeology, English Heritage, and funded by English Heritage.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Hemington, Upper Row Farm, ngr withheld
Work has continued on the site in the Homefield, east of the farm buildings. The main thrust of the fieldwork by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society has been geophysical survey in 2003. Most of the field (*c*. 7ha) has now been surveyed using both magnetic and resistance methods. The site under excavation was extended and further work has taken place. The close proximity to the managed watercourse in the field suggests that the building may have been a mill, possibly for fulling. The geophysical survey has revealed that substantial walls have been built beyond the site and across the stream to the south. The evidence of later water management, which can be seen in low light conditions in the form of drainage channels, can also be seen in the resistance survey. In this case the magnetic survey has been less spectacular, showing that the activity in this area has been mainly stone buildings with little extensive ditch works.

Dating the activity is difficult as few of the finds from the excavation can be securely dated. The pottery was of local manufacture and few parallel sites are known but activity from the 11th to 15th centuries is suggested. The site seems to have been long lived with alterations being made to the building and a substantial cobbled surface on the east side of the building has been resurfaced on numerous occasions. Work will continue in 2004.

(Jayne Lawes)

Highbridge, 7 Coronation Road, ST 318 475
An archaeological evaluation followed by a watching brief, adjacent to Beechfield Infant School in the centre of Highbridge, recorded ditches and postholes of 12th to 14th-century date cut into the underlying alluvial clays. Some medieval or earlier features and deposits, including a thin occupation layer or buried soil containing 12th to 14th-century pottery that lay above alluvium, were also sealed by a thin band of alluvial clay. A thick, buried, cultivated soil or occupation deposit dating to the 17th and 18th centuries overlay the alluvium and the medieval horizons and this in turn was sealed by a thick, clay layer, possibly a dump deposit and modern garden soil. In one trench, a ditch was cut into grey alluvial clay and was also sealed by up to 0.3m of grey alluvium. There were no dateable artefacts within the ditch fill but animal bone near to the top of the ditch was used for a radiocarbon assessment, carried out at Waikato which calibrated to 890–1040 AD at 2 sigma (WK 13021).

The radiocarbon date indicates that during the late Saxon period the ground above alluvial clay must have been firm and dry enough to support occupation. A ditch cut into the alluvium

during that period was subsequently sealed by further flood deposits, possibly during the 14th century.

The radiocarbon assessment was funded by Somerset Property Services.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Ilchester, West Street, ST 520 225

An evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken in the garden of 11 West Street in advance of construction of a vehicle access, and subject to a Scheduled Monument Consent. Removal of up to 1m of garden soils and post-medieval deposits exposed the upper fills of extensive medieval pit excavations and the northern edge of a gravel and cobbled street, above Roman levels. Where sampled, the pits contained assemblages of mainly 12th to 14th-century pottery and animal bone, with a mixture of some Roman pottery, occasional late Roman coins and tile. Only small fragments of intact Romano-British stratigraphy survived, from which some 2nd-century pottery was recovered, but no further interpretation was possible. The edge of the cobbled street may represent the medieval precursor of Pill Bridge Lane – Moor Street – which bounds the garden to the south. There was no evidence to identify this site as lying within the precinct of Ilchester's Dominican Friary, thought to have been located in this area of the medieval town.

(Peter Leach)

Mells, Tithe Barn, ST 7287 4914

Archaeological investigation of the Tithe Barn at Mells in Somerset, comprising historical research, dendrochronological analysis and metric survey, conclude the building was founded between 1395 and 1414, but has undergone periods of abandonment and wholesale rebuilding since. Three of the surviving arch-braced 'Base' – or 'Raised' – cruck roof trusses are of medieval date, the remainder are post-medieval and 18th/19th-century structures.

Analysis of the structure in relation to the line and profile of Selwood Road, laid out in the 15th century to accompany redevelopment of the village by Abbot Selwood, indicates that cutting and use of the road contributed to deterioration of the north end of the barn, necessitating several phases of structural buttressing against the north-west corner. Additionally, the proximity of the northernmost truss to the north gable, and the survival of redundantly short purlin stubs behind the truss, suggest that the barn may have been foreshortened by the road construction, perhaps by as much as a bay (3m).

The small archive of primary data, and one copy of this report, will be deposited with the Somerset Record Office at Taunton. It is hoped that the principal AutoCAD 3D models (*Figure*) will be accessible via the website: www.asi-heritageconsultants.co.uk

(Michael Heaton)

Middlezoy, Perhams Cottage, ST 378 327

A combined watching brief and archaeological excavation was undertaken during the digging of foundations and service trenches for a new detached dwelling on land to the east of Perhams Cottage, Middlezoy, which prior evaluation had demonstrated to contain evidence of Romano-British, Saxon and medieval activity. A series of medieval gullies and pits was recorded adding to the corpus of previously identified features. However the overall pattern of the site's historic usage remains unclear.

(R. Broomhead)

Muchelney, Muchelney Abbey, ST 429 247

The formation of new pathways and repairs to the displayed ruins of the English Heritage site were monitored by Kirsty Rodwell. Much of the area had been disturbed by clearance works

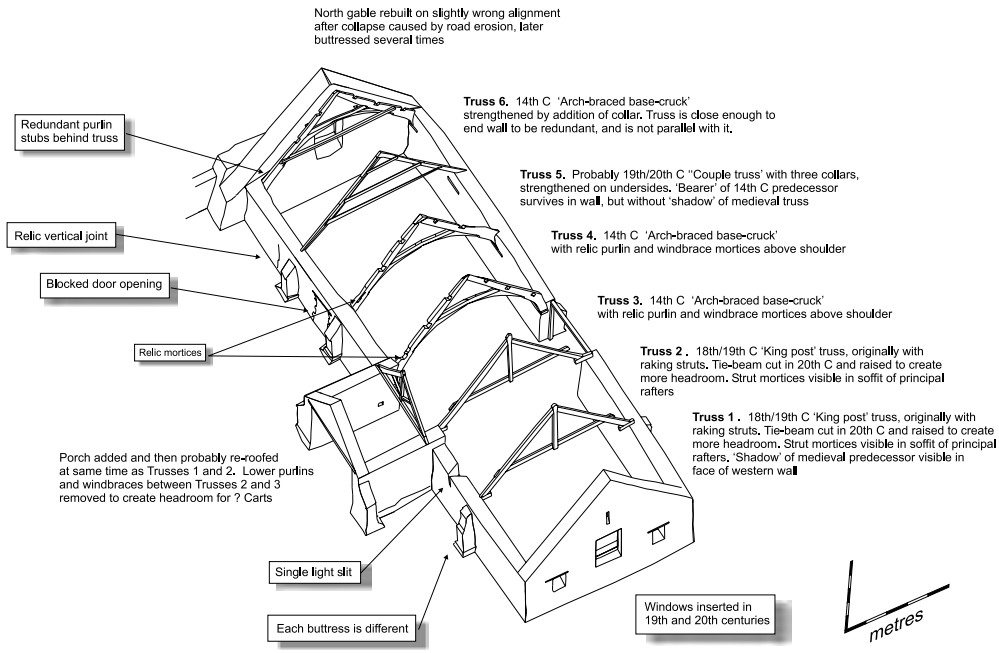

Figure Mells tithe barn: perspective drawing

in the 1930s but the remains of three walls were recorded that related to the 15th-century layout of the abbey.

(Chris Webster)

North Petherton, Junior School, ST 291 328

A watching brief was carried out on behalf of Somerset County Council during the excavation of footings for a classroom extension. Several archaeological features were observed in the sides of the foundation trenches. Prominent among these was a north–south aligned slate rubble wall footing with a possible return to the west. This feature cut a buried soil that produced pottery of the 12th or 13th century, suggesting a medieval date for the wall. The north portion of the site appeared to have been crossed by a north–south aligned linear gully that may have served the function of a property or plot boundary. The remaining features were generally small and seemed to represent stakeholes, postholes and pits, the date and definite function of which remains uncertain due to the total absence of cultural material. Evidence for the occupation of the site by 19th-century school buildings was apparent across the site cutting into the surface of the same buried soil.

(James Bridgers)

Pawlett, Walpole Landfill Site, New Compost Area, ST 3125 4250

A combined desk-top study and walk-over survey of land to be developed as a compost area for the Walpole Landfill Site recorded ridge and furrow earthworks within the development area that probably date to the medieval period. The ridge and furrow earthworks are part of an extensive system of medieval and post-medieval arable fields within Pawlett Level.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Pilton, Cumhill Tithe Barn, ST 5890 4063

Renovation works at Cumhill Barn in Pilton, a scheduled 14th-century barn of Glastonbury Abbey whose thatched roof was destroyed by fire in 1963 included the excavation of two test pits, one inside the barn in the south-east corner and one outside the south wall. Post-medieval sleeper walls for an unknown structure were recorded inside the barn and deep deposits of post-medieval rubble, including some stone roof-tile fragments, were recorded outside the south wall, these deposits covering the external wall plinth. Features noted within the earth floor inside the western half of the barn were also recorded. These included part of a circular feature connected with a post-medieval horse mill and two shallow slots, whose function is unknown, that were defined by limestone slabs running from the area of the horse mill up to the west wall. Three levelled transect surveys were carried out, two through the width of the barn and one along the length of the interior. These demonstrated the amount of ground build-up south of the barn and the considerable depth of ground that has been removed from the north side of the barn. The transect surveys also demonstrated that the plinth levels on the south and north walls were virtually identical.

A second stage of archaeological recording exposed the rubble and clay deposits below the existing clay/soil surface in the area of the horse mill, established the probable base of the circular horse walk and recorded the eastern end of one of the stone slots in the western half of the building. One of the depressions showing on the surface of the flagstone floor in the eastern end of the barn was investigated. A layer of rubble stone and clay lay below the existing slabs and this, in turn, sealed a mortar-covered surface, possibly the original, medieval floor level, which lay *c*. 0.25m below the surface of the stone flag floor. It is possible that the depressions were formed relatively recently by heavy machinery during structural testing of the load-bearing capacity of the walls.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Priddy, Blackmoor, ST 5062 5589

CHERT carried out a new detailed earthwork survey of this enclosure, shown by excavations to be medieval.[1] The survey showed a clear relationship between the inner and outer enclosures. The site is rapidly becoming overgrown with gorse, although it was completely clear in 1964.[2] Despite previous claims to the contrary,[3] this site was recorded by Skinner in 1819,[4] and his field drawing was useful in the interpretation of the site.

[1] Todd, M., 1994. 'Charterhouse on Mendip: an interim report on excavations in 1994', *SANH* 138, 75–9

[2] Air photograph RAF 6155-0062 (1964)

[3] eg Budge *et al*., 1974. 'Excavations and fieldwork at Charterhouse-on-Mendip 1960-67', *Procs Univ Bristol Spelaeol Soc* 13(3), 327

[4] BM Add MSS 33653 (1819)

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse Warren, ST 502 539

Perambulations of Cheddar and Charterhouse in 1181,[1] 1550,[2] 1620[3] and the maps of Cheddar in 1788[4] and Charterhouse in 1761,[5] show a stable boundary between the two manors, marked in the later periods by a sequence of boundary stones. Some of these sound from their descriptions to have been prehistoric standing stones; unfortunately the vast majority have been removed. The only so far known remaining stones (names from the 1620 perambulation), identified during CHERT field visits in August 2003 are:

'*The Sitting Stone*' ST 5021 5389. This stone, certainly recorded in 1620, survives. It is a natural outcrop, *c*. 1.5m square and about 0.6m high.

'*Two several stones*' At least one of the stones survives, under the corner at ST 5014 5388. It is a weathered rounded earthfast stone, about 0.3m high, and around 0.5m each way. The stone wall, built of mortared quarried blocks of carboniferous limestone, is constructed on top of the stone.

'*Three stones one after another*' ST 4987 5371. A large flat stone, *c*. 1m long, lies against the north side of the wall. It is probably one of the stones described.

'*Three several stones*' ST 4968 5369 and ST 4964 5370. Of the three stones described, two (the western and middle of the three) seem to survive. The central stone is an overgrown and worn stone, about 1m long, on the northern side of the wall at the first NGR; the second is on the Cheddar side of the wall. It is a 1m square flat stone, earth fast and possibly a natural outcrop surviving under a couple of thorn bushes.

[1] Russett, V., 'The perambulation of Charterhouse in 1181/2', *CHERT 2002: The Annual Report of the CHarterhouse Environs Research Team* 1
[2] 1550 perambulation of manor of Cheddar (Longleat Record Office)
[3] SRO DD/X/RBN 1 (1620)
[4] Verrey 1788 map of Cheddar in Longleat Record Office
[5] SRO DD/STL 1–2 (1761)

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse, Temple Down Farm, ST 5159 5486

Temple Down Farm is recorded on 19th-century OS maps but the representation of the farm on the 1782 map of Somerset refers to it as 'Temple Down Lodge'.[1] As the petition of the commoners of Mendip in *c*. 1665 mentions 'Temple Hydon' as one of the warrens established in the middle 17th century, it is probable that Temple Down originated as a 17th-century warrener's house.[2]

However, the Mendip Map of late 16th-century date identifies one hilltop settlement as 'Temple', so the farm is potentially on a medieval site.[3] Work continues into the documentary evidence for the known Templar holdings at and around this farm.

[1] Day and Masters map of Somerset (1782), *Somerset Record Society* 76 (1981)
[2] Commoners petition to Lord Hyde, Jefferies MSS in Bristol Central Reference Library (*c*. 1665)
[3] SRO DD/SPY 110 (*c*. 1570)

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Haydon Grange, ST 5250 5410

The OS confused Skinner's record of his visit to Longwood Grange (then Lower Farm), in Long Wood, Cheddar, assuming he was referring to this farm. The present Haydon Grange, dating to 1911 from its datestone, replaced an earlier and smaller structure some 50m south, some of which may survive among the farm buildings.[1] There is documentary evidence to suggest that this farm was the site of a Templar 'capital messuage' before 1312, an area of land around it having been granted to the Templars by the Lord of Harptree as part of a grazing sleight, possibly as early as the mid 12th century,[2] and was the local Hospitaller manor court house in 1505.[3] Further work is intended during 2004.

[1] West Harptree Tithe (1841)
[2] Nathan, M., 1935. *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* 31, 86
[3] Harvey, J.H., 1986. *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* 31, 135

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Ubley Warren Farm, ST 5130 5529
Ubley Warren Farm is recorded on the 1782 map of Somerset as simply 'Warren', and is probably a warrener's lodge in origin.[1] It is possibly of medieval date since All's Ditch, a nearby earthwork, is thought to be the medieval boundary of the warren.

[1] Day and Masters Map of Somerset, *Somerset Record Society* 76 (1981)

(Vince Russett)

Shepton Mallet, Downside Farm, ST 6208 4464
In May 2001 attention was drawn, by Dom Philip Jebb of Downside Abbey, to a carved stone built into the farmyard wall at the gate of Lower Downside Farm, Shepton Mallet. As the farm buildings, owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, were being sold for conversion, it was feared that the stone might disappear and therefore a record should be made. The stone appears never to have been recorded before. A revisit on 9th February 2004 showed that the stone was still *in situ* but, despite much alteration of the farm buildings, it had not been recognized by the new owners.

The stone, of some sort of Jurassic limestone, is situated at the top of the wall adjacent to the gatepost (*Figure*). It is about 1m above the ground, with the main face with carvings facing east, out into the driveway. This face is 350mm high and 670mm wide, and the stone can be seen to be 340mm in depth in the end of the wall. The rear of the stone lies within the thickness of the wall. On the east face are three carved niches, from south to north, 270mm high x 150mm wide, 270mm high x 130mm wide, and 260mm high x 130mm wide. There are slight canopies over each niche, and what appear to be raised shields in the interstices between the arches. Inside each niche is a figure; the central one appears to be a cleric, perhaps a bishop or mitred abbot, facing forward with hands together in prayer. The figure to the right, clearly is a mailed knight with in one hand a raised sword. The left (south) figure may well also be a knight but it is not so clear.

The meaning of the carvings and the context of the stone is unclear. The general appearance is of a late medieval, possibly 13th or 14th-century date, and one possible interpretation might be the murder of Thomas Becket – with Becket in the centre praying and an armed knight on either side. Local enquiry failed to find any detail beyond the fact that the stone was found in a field to the south of the farmhouse some years ago; the cement mortar above the stone, on the top of the wall at the back is dated 1990.

Nearby in the gable end of a 19th-century barn is a small reset medieval window, and in one of the converted barns a medieval carved head of a secular figure is set in the wall.

(Mick Aston and Teresa Hall)

Street, Holy Trinity Church, ST 4883 3717
The complete reflooring of the nave and north aisle of Holy Trinity Church allowed the recording, by James Brigers and Alan Graham, of the deposits exposed beneath. These included the remains of the north wall of the medieval nave on which the arcade for the north aisle was constructed in 1830. The original church appeared to be Norman in date and the position of a north door, known from a sketch by Skinner in 1829, was located.

Within the nave a sequence of probably medieval earth floors was recorded surviving over perhaps 60% of the area. The rest of the area, particularly at the east end, had been removed by the insertion of burial vaults of probable 18th-century date. Sleeper walls overlying the medieval deposits were probably the bases of 17th/18th-century box pews associated with small areas of lias slab flooring.

The area of the north aisle had formerly been graveyard and a memorial stone of 1738 had been used, with other slabs, as supports for scaffolding or props to support the roof while the arcade was built.

Figure Downside Farm: carved block showing three figures

A small quantity of loose material was excavated from a vault to allow examination of a section adjacent to the former north wall. This located deposits, including a probable soil, which had been cut by the construction trench for the medieval wall. Within these was a construction of lias slabs that might represent an early medieval cist grave. The other deposits had the character of grave earth suggesting that this area had been used for burial before the construction of the medieval building.

(Chris Webster)

Walton, Downs Farm, ST 4598 3636

An archaeological evaluation comprising two trenches with a total length of around 25m was undertaken within a disused farmyard and garden prior to redevelopment. Evidence for medieval and post-medieval occupation on the site included medieval pottery of 12th to 14th-century date that was recovered from truncated ditches and pits, and post-medieval pottery from the 17th century onwards that was recovered from pits and postholes. One small, residual, rim sherd of probable late-Saxon date was also recovered.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wanstrow, Cloford Manor, ST 722 441

A watching brief, ongoing, during conversion and restoration of the 17th-century manor house,[1] revealed building foundations and other deposits during landscaping on the north side of the house. Only the upper levels of these remains were exposed, but they included hearths, floors, pits and postholes and a sequence of stone wall foundations defining parts of several rooms. Some areas were disturbed or remained buried by 18th to 20th-century features and deposits and their full extent was not determined. Animal bone and small collections of 13th to 14th-century coarseware pottery, glazed jug and some later medieval to 17th-century sherds were

also recovered. These remains probably represent part of the earlier medieval manor house replaced by the existing 17th-century and later building.

[1] Leach, P., in Webster, C.J., 2003. 'Somerset Archaeology 2002', *SANH* 146, 164

(Peter Leach)

Wedmore, Castle Lane, ST 4238 4636 to ST 4250 4641

Castle Lane is an ancient route slanting up the hillside from the hamlet of Heath House to Sand and Wedmore. It formed a spinal route through the open-field area called Castle, and there are signs in the surviving field pattern that strips in the furlongs were aligned upon it, suggesting it was coeval with the medieval field. It may originally have extended along the hillside all the way to the little settlement on the site now occupied by Sand Hall; the eastern end now curves up the hill, cutting across the medieval field pattern, to Sand Road. The name of the open field, Castle, suggests that signs of Roman occupation might possibly be expected in the vicinity (see under Roman above). The central part of Castle Lane survives as a green lane between well-constructed earth banks. As it curves up the hillside, flat slabs of Wedmore stone are exposed in the bed of the lane. Outcrops of Wedmore stone, and small quarries, are found all along this hillslope, and it occurs in flat, fairly thin layers. These slabs could be the top of the natural stone layer, exposed by the wear of past traffic along the lane, but they seem too extensive to be wholly natural. They could be pieces quarried and deliberately laid to preserve a wide, level surface on the hillslope. A small-scale investigation would settle the matter; although, if they are a laid surface, the date would probably remain uncertain.

(Hazel Hudson)

Wedmore, West End, ST 4313 4749

A small site evaluation was undertaken on the site of a derelict bungalow known as 'Merle'. Despite extensive archaeology having been located and examined in adjacent developments[1] few features were noted to extend into the evaluation area although residual medieval pottery was common in the subsoil. A shallow early medieval gully together with an undated ditch and possible posthole proved to be the only securely identifiable archaeological features upon the site.

[1] Hollinrake, C. and N., in Webster, C.J., 1999. 'Somerset Archaeology 1998', *SANH* 142, 196–7

(R. Broomhead)

Wells, 2 Cathedral Green, ST 5502 4582

An unauthorised machine excavation of the front garden of 2 Cathedral Green, on the southern edge of the old graveyard to the west of the cathedral, resulted in the recording of the exposed sections and the base of the affected area. The excavation extended down to the surface of the natural geology and provided a complete section through the stratigraphy at the south end of the graveyard down to the western end of a slab-covered grave cut into the natural clay and containing an extended inhumation. Cleaning of the base of the exposed area revealed a north–south oriented ditch whose upper fill had been removed by the machine. Coarseware pottery sherds within the lower fill of the ditch can be dated to the late 12th or early 13th century. The ditch contained neither late Saxon pottery nor later 13th-century glazed wares, suggesting that the property was probably first defined in the second half of the 12th century and may have fallen out of use when the graveyard was first laid out towards the middle of the 13th century.

The orientation of the ditch, and of the burial, mirrors that of the medieval cathedral rather than of the earlier Anglo-Saxon cathedral and this also indicates that these property boundaries were laid out in the post-Conquest period.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wells, 54–56 Southover, ST 5475 4531
A small site evaluation was undertaken in a builder's yard between Nos 54 and 56 Southover. This failed to identify any archaeological structures despite recorded medieval development in the area and the negative nature of the evaluation strongly suggests this particular plot to have been unoccupied throughout.

(R. Broomhead)

Wells, 66 High Street, ST 5478 4567
A small site evaluation exposed a series of medieval and post-medieval pits, a post-medieval wall and cobbling together with demolition rubble from a medieval building probably located beneath surviving structures to the south of the evaluation area.

(R. Broomhead)

Wells, Bishop's Palace, ST 552 457
A line of bore holes was drilled across the grounds of the Bishop's Palace by Keith Wilkinson of King Alfred's College, Winchester, to assess the depth and character of the stratigraphy. This showed that potential archaeological deposits exist to a depth of 2.8m under the croquet lawn in front of the palace and to 1.2m at the rear. Most of the deposits appeared to relate to medieval ground raising and levelling but there were suggestions that other features were present.

(Chris Webster)

Wells, Bishop's Palace, ST 5524 4565
Removal of post-medieval and modern garden soil butting up to the south wall of the palace kitchens revealed an early 13th-century plinth with a roll moulding at the base of the wall face. This plinth course matches one on the east wall of the palace, adjacent to the south wall of the kitchen. A series of filled, putlog holes in the south wall of the kitchen indicate that the lower part of the wall is essentially unmodified, with the roll moulding indicating a construction date in the earlier part of the 13th century. The wall appears to contain no insertions apart from one window, possibly either an *in situ* medieval feature or the perpetuation of a medieval window opening.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wiveliscombe, 'Bishop's Cottage', ST 0845 2760
A watching brief in advance of the construction of a northerly extension to the above property revealed two substantial robber cuts, one aligned north–south the other east–west. The latter contained the remains of a stone foundation and produced a fragment of glazed ridge tile of 14th or 15th-century date. Both features were sealed by a dump of material containing building material including several fragments of Ham Hill stone four-centred window mouldings of possible 16th-century date.

It is probable that the features represent the remains of part of the complex of the palace of the Bishops of Bath and Wells that is known to have stood in the locality. The deposit containing the architectural fragments was probably derived from the final demolition of the remaining ranges of buildings in the 19th century.

During an examination of standing walls close to the site the lower courses of a potentially large opening were observed built into the south wall of the garden of Bishop's Cottage. It seems likely that these fragments represent the remains of the south gate into the palace complex; the north gateway remains intact, incorporated in a later building.

(James Bridgers)

POST-MEDIEVAL

Batcombe, Chapel Row, ST 689 389
A watching brief was undertaken during construction of a driveway and landscaping at no 1 Chapel Row, Batcombe. Remains of an 18th-century outbuilding and debris, including many objects of iron derived from the remains of an adjacent 19th-century smithy were recovered from topsoil and associated deposits. There was no evidence of any earlier occupation on the site.

(Peter Leach)

Broomfield, Fyne Court, ST 2225 3210
A watching brief was undertaken at Fyne Court on behalf of the National Trust.[1] The surveillance covered three areas.

Area A involved the investigation of a low retaining wall and the excavation of a drainage ditch beside it on the south-east side of the old steading. The walling and ditch in this area are original features of the landscaped garden and as such are noteworthy elements of the garden design.

Area B involved the removal of topsoil on the line of a proposed gravel path south of the pond on the west side of the old steading. The most significant aspect of this area is the possibility that another masonry structure extended the range of buildings westward. The interpretation of the layer of building debris at this location was necessarily constrained by the nature of the exposure. At this stage it is not clear if this is a spread of building material derived from that section of the house demolished after the fire of 1894 or whether it represents the remains of an *in situ* structure.

Area C involved the cutting of a shallow rectangular slot for a concrete pad for a fuel store north of the Court buildings. Nothing new was learnt from the cutting in this area other than that the upper layers are probably recent in origin. However, if the mound at this location represents demolition material from the 17th-century house it has the potential to contain architectural masonry detail and window and door furnishings from that period.

[1] McDonnell, R.R.J., 2003. *Fyne Court, Somerset: Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief*

(Richard McDonnell)

Bruton, Sexey's Hospital, ST 681347
A watching brief was maintained during new drainage and repaving works within the courtyard of the 17th-century hospital buildings. Deposits associated with the levelling up of the courtyard and both drainage and other services features were encountered, the majority of 20th-century date. Parts of a pre-hospital ground level were seen only beneath the paving around the north side of the yard, closest to the High Street. Remnants of a stone cobbled surface and a narrow flagstone path set into those levels may relate to occupation predating the hospital, but were otherwise undated.

(Peter Leach)

Cannington, 37 High Street, ST 2546 3947
Evaluation of this site in 2002[1] adjacent to the remains of a non-conformist chapel proved negative but a year later two burials were discovered by the builders. These proved to be within the chapel in stone lidded, brick cists. Both were adult, interred head to the west, and at least one (possibly female) had been placed in a coffin with metal fittings, fragments of which survived. All evidence pointed to a mid to late 18th-century date for both burials.

[1] Webster, C., 'Somerset Archaeology' 2002. *SANH* 146 (2002), 168

(Bath Archaeological Trust)

Castle Cary, Cadet Centre, ST 639 319
Five evaluation trenches excavated at the rear of the Drill Hall exposed modern yard surfaces and recently made-up ground sealing a natural soil profile averaging 0.7m thick and a single archaeological feature of Iron Age date. The feature indicates the immediate proximity of archaeological deposits of considerable significance to the, as yet, poorly understood landscape archaeology of south-eastern Somerset, particularly its Iron Age and early Romano-British periods. Contemporary deposits across the western half of the site and the north and eastern fringes of the site are likely to have already been severely disturbed by construction of the Cadet Centre and the sports field to the immediate east of the site.

(Michael Heaton, Bill Moffat and Mark Corney)

Cheddar, Chestercroft Cottages, ST 4898 5638
CHERT carried out a detailed survey of these cottages in spring 2003. The larger of the two emerged as a two-unit cottage with an open fronted cart shed at its western end, all set into the hillside, with a small building, probably a privy, at and behind the building's north-west corner. The smaller was similar, but only of one room with an open shed attached. Pottery found dated from *c*. 1800 onwards, which tallied with the documentary evidence that the larger building was constructed after the 1761 map of Charterhouse, but before its 1809 revision. The survey also included an adjacent small quarry that was probably the source of the stone for the construction of the cottages.

(Vince Russett)

Cheddar, NNE of Lower Farm, ST 4854 5620
A single mineshaft beside the road was recorded by CHERT. It is about 5m across, with a circular bank 2m high around it. It seems to be the only one in the area, and very isolated, but others may have been ploughed out. The site is clear on the 1946 air photographs.[1]

[1] RAF 3G/TUD/UK 5284 (1946)

(Vince Russett)

Croydon House, Timberscombe, SS 962406
Excavations adjacent to the east end of the existing late 17th-century brick-built house were designed to explore the character of a demolished east wing and any evidence for earlier buildings on the site. This followed trial trench evaluations of the site by Richard McDonnell in 2000 and 2001, and as a prelude to a new building of the eastern end of the house. Stone foundations of an earlier post-medieval building survived in places, some of which had been reused by its late 17th-century successor. It could be demonstrated that this house had been built on a new terraced site within a shallow north-west facing combe. It was set out from a carefully built north-west corner foundation consistent with a four-bay central range and two-bay cross wings to the east and west. In the event the east wing was not built, and earlier foundations were reused to extend the central range to five bays. Subsequently however, the two eastern bays were demolished sometime during the 18th century, leaving the house as it stands today.

Details of the layout and development thereafter of structures at the east end of the house and its adjoining terraced garden were explored, including an extensive sequence of drains and the remains of a small outbuilding contemporary with the new house, possibly an icehouse. Late 17th and earlier 18th-century levelling and midden deposits were sampled, from which a range of local glazed earthenwares, North Devon wares, clay pipes and glass was recovered. Residual finds of 13th to 14th-century coarsewares and medieval glazed ridge tiles hint at the proximity of an earlier house, supporting the earliest specific documentary reference in the Exchequer lay subsidy of 1327.

(Peter Leach)

Frome, Monmouth House, ST 7751 4809
Trial excavations based on a historical assessment by Nicholas Pearson Associates located structures of the 18th-century Alcove Garden of Thomas Bunn at Monmouth House in Frome. It would be reasonable to assume that the entirety of the garden's design survives, except where physically damaged by tree roots, but that continued tree growth represents a significant threat to the survival of the garden as an interpretable archaeological deposit.

(Michael Heaton and Bill Moffat)

Highbridge, 7 Coronation Road, ST 318 475
Post-medieval deposits and finds recorded during an archaeological evaluation included several clay pipe bowls. Makers included George Butt of Stratton on the Fosse (1650–1780), John Burrow from the Bridgwater area (1650–1700) and Richard Greenland of Norton St. Philip (1685–1700).

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Langport, All Saints Church, ST 423 267
Conservation of blue lias memorial slabs on the walls of the tower and nave afforded the opportunity of examining the fabric of the walls behind them, but nothing of archaeological significance was revealed. The opportunity was, however, taken to record nine ornate memorial slabs, dating to between 1753 and 1784, and one earlier slab of 1635, some of which were beginning to suffer from surface flaking of the stone. The 17th-century slab was austere in style, but the 18th-century monuments were ornate and elaborate, with long inscriptions and frequently added texts. They form a related group recording the gentry of the town in the mid-18th century and together with similar but larger slabs in the floor of the church are a rich collection of memorials of this period showing a fine artistic style and competence. An archive of this work has been deposited with the Churches Conservation Trust, which is responsible for the church. In addition, shallow trenches around the south and east sides of the chancel were observed, which revealed a single brick-built vault of the later 19th century.

(James L. Brigers and Alan Graham)

Marston Magna, Garston Lane, ST 592 222
An evaluation of a proposed residential development on land at Stable Court, Garston Lane, Marston Magna, Somerset, was carried out by AC archaeology during May 2003. The site is located in the centre of the village, close to the earthwork remains of a medieval moated site. Both trenches contained evidence for archaeological activity, including postholes, linear features and two probable former trackways. Most of this activity is likely to represent evidence for 18th and 19th-century garden activity.

(S. Robinson)

Priddy, Charterhouse, St Hughs Cottage, ST 5017 5582
A small cottage at the crossroads by the Old School in Charterhouse was recorded by CHERT. This is a double-range gabled structure, with tiled roof and end stacks and a small front porch. The building looks early 19th century from external appearance, and although not recorded on Skinner's notes of 1819[1] was depicted on the Blagdon Tithe Map of 1842.[2] The exterior render was removed in 2003, revealing the original single-range cottage, with the porch, west outshot and east single-storey extension all later features. Inspection of the inside of this cottage showed that few of the original features remain. The whole inside was reconstructed in about 1900 (possibly in *c*. 1910 to serve the new church), and before restoration in 2003, the inside was totally covered in tongue-and-groove boarding.[3]

[1] eg plan BM Add MSS 33653 (1819)

[2] SRO Blagdon Tithe (1842)
[3] Photographs in CHERT archive

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse Farm, ST 4955 5588
CHERT examined a narrow triangular hedged enclosure at the north side of the road with a maximum width of *c*. 15m. It has a lynchet *c*. 0.8m high parallel to, and facing, the road with bushes growing from it. There is also a ditch along the roadside at this point, which continues down the hill towards Manor Farm for at least 100m. There is no obvious explanation for this feature, although it may be an abandoned roadside cottage site.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Lodmore Farm, ST 5323 5391
'Lodd More' (almost certainly referring to an ancient adjacent pool) was recorded on the Mendip Map of *c*. 1570.[1] The farm, although not there named, is depicted on the 1817 OS map,[2] but significantly, was not recorded on the 1790 West Harptree enclosure map.[3]

[1] SRO DD/SPY 110 (*c.* 1570)
[2] OS 1st edn 1:63360 map 'Bath and Wells' (1817; reprinted 1968)
[3] SRO D/P/w.harp/20/1/2

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, south of Manor Farm, ST 4985 5545
A probable old cottage site was recorded by CHERT. A collapsed stone structure on a steep hillside, this site appears polygonal in plan, although the depiction on the 1885 OS map apparently shows a rectangular building running along the slope.[1] It has a fenced enclosure 35m x 27m on its northern side today, a compensation private sewage works given by Bristol Water in return for rights to extract water from Manor Farm land.[2] Field examination indicates the existence of a substantial rectangular foundation, overlain by the enclosure of the treatment works at its north-west corner.

[1] OS 1st edn 1:2500 Somerset XVIII.15 (1885)
[2] Pers. comm. Tina Bath, Mendip Wardens Service (2002)

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, SW of Whitestown Farm, ST52695491
A building is depicted in this area (where a group of modern buildings now stand) on the 1817 OS map.[1] A field visit by CHERT recorded an old building (apparently a skilling, facing north) surviving among the new buildings. It is constructed of Carboniferous limestone with brick quoins. The enclosure (but not the building) is depicted on the East Harptree map of 1809.[2]

[1] OS 1st edn 1:63360 map 'Bath and Wells' (1817; reprinted 1968)
[2] SRO DD/WG East Harptree Mining Liberty Map (1809)

(Vince Russett)

Stert Flats, Bridgwater Bay, ST 140 278
Wood species identification samples were taken from several wooden fish weirs on Stert Flats. In two of the structures the presence of spruce and larch suggested that the weirs were in use within the last 400 years. See also p. 204.

(Richard Brunning)

Street, Joan's Kitchen, ST 486 371
An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 12 Glaston Road, Street, in a location *c*. 200m west of the parish church and near to the supposed line of a Roman road running from Glastonbury to the Polden Hills. Finds and features recorded centred on the 17th and 18th centuries with a small number of residual medieval pottery sherds. A number of post and stakeholes were recorded, mostly of post-medieval date with one possible medieval posthole.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wedmore, Combe Batch, former Ebenezer Chapel, ST 4371 4774
The Ebenezer Chapel was built in 1924 in part of an orchard called Dryalls Orchard, within the ancient 'Borough' of Wedmore. The orchard formerly belonged to Gabriel Puddy. The early maps show no previous building on the site, although possible slight traces of a floor, perhaps of a shed by the road, were noticed briefly during demolition work. The chapel was constructed of galvanised iron bought through a catalogue. The site was steeply sloping and the chapel was built at two levels into the hillside. In 2003 the chapel was sold for redevelopment. After demolition the builder excavated to a great depth to make a level site for the new house, cutting right down into the natural Red Marl which contained a rare limestone fossil band. Various post-medieval and modern finds were recorded from the site.

(Hazel Hudson)

Wedmore, Stoughton Cross, ST 4247 4965
On the pedestal of this fine 15th-century wayside cross, and not apparently noticed in earlier descriptions, are various initials and other markings.

The pedestal of the cross is formed of three steps. On the south side of the bottom step, near the edge, is a row of six shallow depressions. These look too regular to be natural hollows, although the Wedmore stone of this step is very pitted.

On the middle step at the south-west corner is the biggest and most deliberate set of markings, mostly formed by a series of punched holes of varying sizes. A cross of Lorraine is flanked by two triangles of six holes and three holes, the latter combined with an incised V-shape. The cross is carefully aligned diagonally from the outer corner of the middle step to the south-west corner of the top step. Further along the middle step towards the east are various initials also punched in holes: RV, CJ, WN, LD and one incised mark of three strokes crossed by a fourth; there is also one punch pattern of five dots. Still on the middle step, round the south-east corner onto the east side, there is a misshapen R, with two sets of four holes and a line of three holes. The top step, on the south-east corner and east side, has two sets of unclear holes, which may be attempts at initials or perhaps natural pitting. On the north-east corner are big, bold and well-drilled initials, FJ, with a row of eight holes.

It is very difficult to suggest a date for these markings. The holes are crisp and precise but give no sign of being freshly cut. Of the various initial letters only the J and W (middle step south side) offer any scope for dating from their shape. The use of J, and not I with a bar, suggests a 19th-century date rather than anything earlier. The form of the W could be late 18th or early 19th century. Although Stoughton Cross is not on the parish boundary, a service was held there during Rogationtide walks – at least from the late 1800s until the 1980s. The churchwardens of St Mary's, Wedmore carved their initials on their churchyard cross base in 1701 and it is possible that the Stoughton markings are similar in origin. People with these initials have been found in the parish registers over a wide span of dates but there are no appropriate initials among the families in the vicinity of the cross, either on the 1838 Tithe map or the 1841 census so the evidence remains inconclusive.

(Hazel Hudson and Frances Neale)

Wells, Chamberlain Street, ST 547 458
An evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken in the garden of 22 Chamberlain Street in advance of development. Over 1m of garden soil and other deposits had accumulated above the natural clay and gravel. Upon the latter were the remains of a drystone wall foundation set alongside a shallow ditch containing late 17th-century pottery, clay pipes and some animal bone. The deposits above had accumulated from that time until the late 20th century and within them were encountered the remains of a small 19th-century brick outhouse. No evidence of earlier occupation was found.

(Peter Leach)

West End, Bruton, ST 6790 3470
A watching brief, undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a gas pipeline, identified two stone-built culverts dated to the 17th/18th century.

(Darren Lankstead)

Williton, Egremont Hotel, ST 077 409
An architectural evaluation on this grade II listed coaching inn showed it to have a more complex history than its uniform Regency appearance would suggest. The core of the building, an L-shaped range along Fore Street and Bank Street including the well-preserved stable block and coaching facilities, was probably built in the 1820s. Further additions and renovations coincided with the coming of the railway in the 1860s, and there was a partial reworking in the 1920s. The alterations were made in an appropriate Georgian style and have preserved the essential unity of the design.

(Bath Archaeological Trust)

Wiveliscombe, Abbotsfield, ST 276 073
Two small holes, excavated by the owner on the site of an almshouse first recorded in the 17th century, were recorded by LorraineHigbee and RA Croft. The first trench had been dug into a room of the almshouse with a wall to the north. The wall was composed of red limestone rubble bonded with clay and rendered on the inside. The floor was of lime mortar and was overlain by a layer of rubble from the collapse of the building. This in turn was covered by a humic soil that had formed before a further layer of coarse demolition rubble. The second trench was located over the wall junction and showed that the outside had also been rendered.

(Chris Webster)

INDUSTRIAL

Exmoor, Pinkery Canal, SS 712 419 to SS 792 402
The Archaeological Investigation team at the Exeter Office of English Heritage carried out an archaeological survey of the Pinkery Canal for the Exmoor National Park Authority in April 2003. The survey mapped the whole of the canal and considered the various theories put forward as to its origin and function. The report can be consulted at the National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon, the Somerset HER or the Somerset Studies Library, Taunton.

(Hazel Riley and Nathalie Barrett)

Langport, Silkolene Works, ST 4160 2675
Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of a number of geotechnical test pits dug to investigate the nature of a riverside bund and to assess the state of an existing

wharf wall surrounding the site of the former Silkolene Works. The method of excavation precluded detailed recording but observations indicated the wall to be post-medieval and of significant depth. The bund was shown to comprise redeposited gravels, rubble and clay with brick, tile and pottery of 19th-century date at its base.

(R. Broomhead)

Mudford, Four Elms Garage, ST 5742 1990
A small site evaluation was undertaken on land formerly occupied by the Four Elms Garage. Despite much of the area being heavily disturbed by the site's recent usage, traces of a smithy survived within the evaluation area together with other elements of post-medieval activity. No evidence of any activity earlier than the late 18th century was, however, found during the course of the evaluation.

(R. Broomhead)

Oare, Oare Bridge, SS 8022 4747
A desk assessment and watching brief on four inspection pits on the carriageway of the bridge was undertaken on behalf of Atkins Highways and Transportation. The purpose of the pits was to inform an engineering solution to what was seen to be a structural failure on the east, upstream face of the bridge. The bridge is a scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 229). Cartographic evidence indicates that it was built between 1842 and 1887 and replaced a ford on the site. The evidence from the inspection pits show that no earlier surfaces were present.

(Richard McDonnell)

Priddy, Blackmoor, ST 507 560
The site of the Treffry Co smelter and flues at Charterhouse was extensively overgrown with scrub and small trees, threatening serious damage to the structures of the furnace, chimney and fan housings. During November and December 2003, CHERT carried out scrub clearance on these sites with the Mendip Warden Service, in the process recovering a number of items such as iron bolts and Rufford furnace bricks, as well as a moulded slag block clearly intended for a wall header. These have been deposited with the CHERT archive for safety, and will in due course be deposited in Wells Museum. The recognition of a contemporary plan of the buildings in the Somerset Record Office[1] has made the interpretation of the surviving features much more clear. CHERT has also acquired some photographs of the flues before the restoration by the Mendip Society in 1982, which help to interpret which work is original, which part of the Second World War use as a document store, and which dates from the 1980s.

It is clear that some of the larger engine bolts formerly at the site, *in situ* in the late 1970s, have since been lost, and that the spoilheap of the 1982 work has been heaped on top of building remains (probably of the furnace).[2]

[1] SRO DD/STL 9 (*c.* 1865)
[2] Photographs (kindly lent for copying by Mr J Chapman) copy in CHERT archive

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Blackmoor, Dr Somers smelter, ST 5042 5590
Although Dr Somers works are marked on at least two known maps[1] and were sketched by the Rev Skinner in 1828,[2] the exact site has never been established. CHERT established by map rectification the spot indicated by both maps but site reconnaissance showed that little remains of the buildings. There are vague earthworks that may result from extensive robbing of the floor and walls, and pantile fragments in local molehills.

[1] Blagdon Tithe 1842; SRO SS/STL 9 (no date)
[2] Skinner, Revd J., BM Add MSS 33677 (1819)

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Lower Rains Batch, ST 5022 5614
A series of striking parallel markings in this field, parallel to Rains Batch road, has been previously assumed to be the result of miners stripping the field of topsoil during the 1867–73 campaign of resmelting lead-rich soils and slags from the field. It is this campaign of works that yielded all the finds made at Charterhouse in 'Town Field'. Some doubt must be cast on this interpretation, as Skinner records the linear marks quite clearly in field sketches made in 1819,[1] along with the square enclosure that also lies in the field. Neither he, nor the Blagdon Tithe Map[2] refer to this field as 'Town Field'; the name seems to be a 19th-century antiquarian invention. Oddly, a second apparently misplaced name is recorded in this area. Skinner was informed that the name of the (currently empty) farm at ST 4981 5575 was Temple Eydon, a name which properly belongs to the former Templar estate some 2km south-east from this farm (e.g. see the 1761 Charterhouse map,[3] which marks the name on its south-east boundary). The name was subsequently used on an undated map, of *c*. 1855, probably drawn to survey the farm for its purchase by the Mendip Hills Mining Company.[4] Further work is being carried out to attempt to unravel the complex sequence of changes of field and other names in this area during the 19th century.

[1] Skinner, Revd J., BM Add MSS 33653 (1819)
[2] Blagdon Tithe 1842
[3] SRO DD/STL 1–2 (1761)
[4] SRO DD/STL 9 (no date, *c.* 1855)

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Stowbarrow, ST 5205 5357
The rectangular earthwork of a building was examined by CHERT and found to have a possible mineshaft inside it. It lies at the southern end of a rake producing iron ore.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Town End crossroads, ST 5183 5195
The site of a building, probably a dwelling, was recorded on the OS map of 1885. The site has been taken into the verge of the road since then, and vague earthworks survive, although badly eroded by traffic parking off-road.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Ubley's Rake, ST50945532
A small triangular structure in the bottom of Ubley's Rake was recorded by CHERT. It survives as the footings of two mortared stone walls, each about 0.5m thick, meeting at a point on one side of the rake, and with a flat rock cliff about 3.5m wide for the back wall on the opposite side. The structure may be connected with the adjacent pre-1844 trial shaft,[1] but its purpose is otherwise unclear. If not industrial, it may be a very atypical vermin trap for Ubley Warren, of which little is otherwise known.

[1] Stanton, W., and Clarke, A., 1984. 'Cornish Miners at Charterhouse-on-Mendip', *Procs Univ Bristol Spelaeol Soc* 17, 29–54

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Velvet Bottom, ST 496 552
CHERT surveyed about 60% of this complex of buildings, earthworks and other structures during 2003; it is hoped to complete the survey in 2004. The site has far more stone buildings than recorded elsewhere; Stanton recorded two in 1984,[1] but the detailed survey has shown that 12 existed at least: the sequence of structures agrees broadly with the interpretations of Stanton and Burgess.[2] The first known photograph of the buildings, taken in 1913, and showing them standing in a state of dereliction, has been found in the Somerset Record Office.[3] The buildings are becoming overgrown, and will suffer badly if some scrub clearance is not undertaken soon.

[1] Stanton, W., and Clarke, A., 1984. 'Cornish miners at Charterhouse-on-Mendip', *Procs Univ Bristol Spelaeol Soc* 17, 29
[2] Sketch plan in Burgess deposition (Axbridge Museum)
[3] SRO A/AMQ 1 (1913)

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Wellington Farm, ST 4902 5391
The *c*. 1775 map of the Wellington Farm area marks a 'Charcoal pitt' - a rather unexpected location.[1] It may have been using the last remains of the documented medieval 'Houndsgrove' which grew in this area, and gave its name to the 'Houndsgrove Rock' of the 1775 map, and the '*hindesgrava*' of the 1181 perambulation.[2] A vague 10m long depression survives at the site today, although the soil is no darker than elsewhere in the area.

[1] SRO DD/X/RBN 1 (1620)
[2] Russett, V. 'Cheddar's ancient woodlands', *Axbridge Archaeol Soc Newsletter.* October 1980

(Vince Russett)

Wellington Without, Westford, Prowse's Mill, ST 114 198
This mill is arguably Somerset's best surviving example of a small-scale woollen factory and dates to the 1830s. During conversion into two dwellings hitherto unknown architectural and historical features were recorded by SIAS.[1] These were the remains of an earlier post-medieval mill, possibly for fulling cloth or grain milling, incorporated into the three storey factory at basement and ground floor levels. Masonry relieving arches, cast-iron bearing boxes and two substantial brick and rubble piers indicated several phases of power by water and steam during the life of Prowse's Mill. The factory was a satellite site of the Elworthy Brothers' complex downstream at Westford and produced worsted cloth until closure *c*. 1933.

[1] Murless, BJ. 'Prowse's Mill, Westford, Wellington', *Bull SIAS* 94 (December 2003), 18–32

(Brian J. Murless)

OTHER REPORTS

Ashbrittle, Court Place Farm, ST 054 213
A watching brief was undertaken on a single barn within the complex of the post-medieval steading of Court Place Farm, Ashbrittle, on behalf of Middleton Homes Ltd. The work entailed the surveillance of the machine excavation of the floor of the barn and was required as a planning condition. There was no evidence in the excavation of any features, deposits or finds of anthropogenic origin that predated the construction of the extant barn. No artefactual evidence, pottery, bone etc, was noted in any of the groundwork or spoil heaps in other parts of the steading where building work was taking place.

(Richard McDonnell)

Ashwick, Lapwing Farm, ST 631 461
A watching brief was maintained during construction of a new access track, *c*. 400m long and 3m wide, from the road along the top of Beacon Hill. The latter follows the course of the Roman road from Charterhouse along the Mendip Hills, while the first section of the track crossed a field adjoining the western end of the Beacon Hill Bronze Age barrow cemetery. Excepting occasional items of 19th to 20th-century date in the topsoil, no finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Peter Leach)

Bawdrip, Kingsmoor School, ST 3416 3950
An archaeological watching brief was carried out when a foundation trench was dug at Kingsmoor School. Deposits consisted of made-up ground and natural clays. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Beckington, First School, ST 8010 5161
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in the school garden of Beckington First C of E School during preliminary groundworks for a school extension. The site is possibly within the precinct of a medieval hospital but any archaeological features that might once have been present had been removed through severe truncation of the ground by rubbish pits and deposits containing dump layers of 19th and 20th-century material. A large block of carved (?Bath) stone, part of a substantial medieval structure was recovered from the dump deposit.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Bridgwater, 31–33 St John's Street, ST 3043 3712
Three trenches were dug as part of an archaeological evaluation of this site on land behind the street frontage. The trench nearest to No 33 contained some modern levelling and 19th century cut features. Elsewhere the sequence comprised modern levelling over alluvial deposits.

(Bath Archaeological Trust)

Bridgwater, Chilton Trinity, ST 293 392
An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Exeter Archaeology during the excavation of pipe trenches associated with a housing development by Barratt Homes at Chilton Trinity. The site was located on alluvial flood plain deposits, which have been the subject of limited archaeological investigation. The alluvial clay underlying the site appears to contain small isolated peat deposits at a depth of *c*. 3m from the present ground surface. Two of these were sampled, but they proved unsuitable for dating or further analysis.

(C. J. Whitton)

Catcott, Manor Road, ST 3963 3942
Archaeological observations were made during the reduction of surface levels prior to the erection of two detached dwellings and two garages on land to the rear of 6 Manor Road. A single, shallow and undated gully was noted but no further features of any archaeological interest were recorded. A 15th or early 16th-century jetton was recovered from the disturbed ground surface during the works but for the most part the site was archaeologically sterile.

(R. Broomhead)

Chedzoy, Rose Bower Cottage, Front Street, ST 3405 3765
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the footings of a new detached house constructed on the site of a demolished cottage and outbuildings.[1] No

foundations for the demolished cottage were visible, either in section or in the ground, although a backfilled pond formerly associated with the cottage was recorded. The only finds were modern.

[1] Heaton, M. in Webster, C.J., 2003. 'Somerset Archaeology 2002', *SANH* 146, 153–5

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Chew Stoke, Pagans Hill Farm, ST 5587 6281
Groundworks associated with construction of hen houses and an associated access track revealed undisturbed natural soil sequences. However, the shallow depth of the excavations (<0.1m) means the observations arising from them are not representative of the likely nature or extent of archaeological survival at the site.

(Michael Heaton)

Cotford St Luke, Manning Road, ST 169 272
An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services comprised two T-shaped trenches. No significant archaeological features or deposits were exposed.

(Andrew Townsend)

Ditcheat, Lower Sutton Farm, ST 6120 3351
Archaeological observations were made during the initial topsoil and subsoil strip for the excavation of an extension to an existing slurry lagoon. Though lying less than 500m from a known site of Romano-British occupation, no archaeological features were recorded and no artefactual material was recovered.

(R. Broomhead)

Edington, Nidons Bridge Cottage, ST 391 406
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks and excavation of footings for a new detached house constructed in the paddock attached to a demolished cottage. No archaeological features were apparent. Finds consisted of pottery sherds ranging in date from the 17th/18th century to the 20th century and fragments of clay pipe bowls.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, 82 High Street, ST 5023 3893
A small site evaluation was undertaken to provide an assessment of the likely archaeological implications of proposals to develop land within and to the rear of No 82. Whilst early maps indicated the site to be occupied by a number of terraced cottages the field evaluation produced no evidence of any significant archaeological activity although only a limited area was available for testing.

(R. Broomhead)

Hardington Mandeville, High Street, ST 5118 1160
Archaeological observations were made during the reduction of levels for the construction of a new dwelling with a detached garage on land to the east of the High Street. The site which is shown to have been an orchard containing an outbuilding in the 19th century was noted to have suffered significant disturbance and produced little archaeological evidence other than that of a single post-medieval pit.

(R. Broomhead)

Highbridge, Isleport Business Park, ST 3276 4717
An evaluation on the site of a proposed new recycling centre was undertaken by AC archaeology

during March 2003. The field was thought to contain evidence for a medieval moated site, but no archaeological evidence for activity was revealed in any trench.

(S. Robinson)

Ilminster, 11 West Street, ST 3590 1464
A small site evaluation was undertaken on derelict land to the rear of No 11. With the exception of several shallow post-medieval pits, a number of recent postholes, a low wall and a substantial sewer, no archaeological features of any major significance were recovered from that area of the site that remained undisturbed by animal activity.

(R. Broomhead)

Kilmersdon, Church of St Peter and St Paul, ST 6959 5242
Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of footings for the construction of a new boiler room. Two previously unmarked burials were located but no archaeological material or information was obtained.

(R. Broomhead)

Langport, railway, ST 438 271, ST 420 273
A watching brief was carried out on 32 geotechnical trenches dug into the ground below two railway embankments at Langport. Both revealed an essentially natural accumulation of clays and peat with little of archaeological significance. A single irregular linear earthwork cut by several of the trenches predated the embankment and could conceivably be related to Civil War earthworks in the area, but no dating evidence was found to test this theory.

(Bath Archaeological Trust)

Long Sutton, Back Street, ST 468 254
Groundworks were monitored by Wessex Archaeology when a 12m wide easement was stripped in advance of pipeline excavation. Despite the proximity of shrunken village remains, no archaeological deposits or features were identified during the watching brief, although a small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

(Julie Gardiner)

Low Ham, 'Orchardleigh', ST 4392 2917
A watching brief was carried out at the above location during ground reduction in advance of the construction of an extension and garage block. No archaeological features were encountered. A few sherds of late 18th or early 19th-century pottery were recovered from topsoil at the west side of the site.

(James Bridgers)

Mells, Tedbury Camp, ST 7444 4879
The excavation of access pits for a borehole and trenching for a water supply pipe within the Tedbury Camp Scheduled Monument were monitored. One archaeological feature, a section of a shallow pit, was revealed, but no dating evidence was recovered.

(Mark Corney)

Middlezoy, Household Waste Recycling Centre, ST 3838 3364
Archaeological monitoring was carried out by AC archaeology in June 2003 during groundworks associated with improvements to the existing centre. The site is a former sand quarry where a substantial Mesolithic flint assemblage was found in the 1920s. The monitoring established that the quarry was subsequently used as a landfill site and no pre-modern

archaeological features, layers, deposits or artefacts have seemingly survived.

(S. Cottam)

Middlezoy, Main Road, ST 3761 3281
Archaeological observations were made during the reduction of levels prior to the excavation of footings and services for the construction of a new detached dwelling adjacent to Box Farm, Main Road Middlezoy. With the exception of minimal post-medieval pitting and plentiful evidence of the existence of a former Dutch barn on the site, no other archaeological activity was noted.

(R. Broomhead)

Norton St Philip, Bath Road, ST 7737 5603
Archaeological observations were made during the initial reduction of levels prior to the construction of a new dwelling on land adjacent to 'Mowers'. Minimal topsoil and subsoil was noted to seal clean sand. No archaeological features were recorded and no artefactual material was recovered.

(R. Broomhead)

Pilton, Church of St John the Baptist, ST 5884 4080
Archaeological observations were made following the removal of a wooden floor and other works. No archaeological features of any significant interest were recorded.

(R. Broomhead)

Podimore, Podimore Recycling, ST 539 254
A watching brief was undertaken on the premises of Podimore Recycling during topsoil stripping to create new storage areas. No finds or features of archaeological significance were found, other than occasional 19th and 20th-century objects within the topsoil.

(Peter Leach)

Rode, No 2 Rode Hill, ST 8046 5414
Groundworks associated with construction of a dwelling adjacent to No 2 revealed only natural soil sequences.

(Michael Heaton)

Selworthy, Allerford Packhorse Bridge, SS 9052 4692
A watching brief was undertaken during the resurfacing of the ford beside the packhorse bridge at Allerford on behalf of Atkins Highways and Transportation. The bridge is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 212) and a Grade II* listed structure owned by the National Trust.

An earlier, possibly recent 20th-century attempt to stabilise the surface of the ford with large stones was recorded on the north-east side of the river. The geomorphology of the site, as exposed, was briefly recorded as a context for the Scheduled Ancient Monument and its setting. A total of 62 post-medieval to modern finds were recovered during the machine excavation of the river gravels and, with the exception of a leather bicycle saddle, all were metal. These included domestic items, cart fittings, parts of bicycles, cars and bits of agricultural machinery. A single George III penny of 1806 was also recovered. All finds and copies of the reports[1] have been deposited with the West Somerset Rural Life Museum at Allerford.

[1] McDonnell, R.R.J., 2002. *Archaeological Report on a Desk Assessment and Watching Brief on Four Trial Pits about the Ford at Allerford Bridge, Allerford, Somerset*
_____ , 2003. *Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Ford, Allerford, Somerset.*

(Richard McDonnell)

South Chard to Holbear Church, ST 3315 0630 to ST 3302 0760
Archaeological monitoring was conducted by AC archaeology during the construction of a replacement water main. No archaeological features or deposits were noted during these groundworks, with only a single prehistoric chert waste flake recovered.

(Neil Adam)

South Petherton, Manor House, ST 4332 1712
A 1m^2 test pit was excavated by James Beringer-Pooley in the area marked on the OS map as 'King Ine's Palace'. The remains of a building known from old maps were recorded which appeared to overlie a ditch of possible late medieval date. No earlier features or finds were recorded.

(Chris Webster)

Taunton, Castle Street, ST 2237 2454
Archaeological observations were made during the reduction of levels and excavations required for the construction of ground beams on the site of the former St John's School. Research indicated the southern half of the site to have been occupied by the former Tangier Foundry however no evidence of this structure was recovered and the site was observed to have suffered from significant disturbance caused by the construction of the later school buildings and their associated services.

(R. Broomhead)

Taunton, Princess Margaret School, Wilton, ST 2248 2366
An archaeological watching was undertaken on land formerly associated with the school, during groundworks for new houses and an access road. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Walton, 73 Main Street, ST 4606 3630
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on an empty plot on South Street, to the rear of No. 73. A boundary ditch was recorded running along the east edge of the site, which could be dated to at least to the 18th century and which appears to be respected by the modern boundary. A pit of indeterminate date was also recorded.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wellington, High Street, ST 1413 2079
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the footings of a new, single dwelling on land to the rear of 2 Highland Cottages. The ground had been built up using demolition material from previous structures dating from either the 19th or early 20th century and no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wells, 12 Sadler Street, ST 5497 4580
Archaeological observations were made following the excavation of several geotechnical test pits in the basement. No archaeological features were observed in the test pits and no artefactual material was recovered from the spoil.

(R. Broomhead)

West Quantoxhead, Bossington Water Supply Scheme, ST 1100 4156 to ST 1086 4034
A watching brief was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology along the route of a water pipeline to the south of West Quantoxhead village. No archaeological features were exposed. Three sherds

of Roman pottery were recovered from a possible lynchet, but the remaining finds recovered during topsoil stripping were of 18/19th-century date.

(N. Goodwin)

Wincanton, 18 High Street, ST 714 286
Archaeological monitoring was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of three cottages on land to the rear of No 18. No evidence for archaeological activity was identified.

(Neil Adam)