

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY, 2012

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HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The archaeological discoveries noted in this annual report continue to show just how important it is to monitor and record the changes to the historic environment. Much of the work on planning related archaeology is coordinated by Steve Membrey and over 100 sites were investigated.

Previous annual reports have reported the changes being faced by local authority historic environment services and in 2012 provided another range of changes to be grappled with. In March 2012 the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published providing clear guidance to local planning authorities that the historic environment was an important part of the planning system. New terms were introduced into the planning language and archaeological sites, historic buildings and other heritage features became "heritage assets" – to be protected and preserved depending upon their significance. The Historic Environment Team of SCC continues to provide direct archaeological advice to the County Council and the five District Councils of Somerset, interpreting and implementing the heritage policies in the NPPF. The national guidance is particularly useful to ensure that appropriate mitigation is put in place where development occurs but it is also used to advise where land is to be allocated for development. Several extensive areas are being put forward and allocations around Yeovil are proving to be controversial. The publication of the Localism Act in 2012 along with the production of Neighbourhood Plans

may also have an impact upon how the historic environment is to be protected in the future.

A number of conservation projects were coordinated by Nic Wall and carried out by Andy Stevens, Ian Lewis and Keith Faxon. The repair of the steps at the Via Crucis at St John's Church in Frome was acknowledged as a major piece of conservation work and received an award from the William Stansell awards scheme. Other conservation repair work was carried out at various churchyards notably in St Cuthbert's in Wells. Major conservation repairs were carried out on the scheduled brick kiln in Bridgwater and a detailed laser scan survey completed for the interior and exterior of the kiln. At Shepton Mallet conservation repairs and an enhancement scheme focussed on the medieval market cross providing a better setting for this important monument in the modern townscape.

The proposed site of the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station in Stogursey parish has resulted in one of the largest geophysical and excavation projects yet carried out in Somerset. A detailed programme of monitoring, recording and outreach work associated with the proposed scheme was funded by EDF Energy. Cotswold Archaeology carried out an extensive series of excavations and recorded evidence of sites ranging in date from the Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. An extensive Iron Age and Roman farm was examined in the centre of the development site and an interim report on the work to date is now available on the Hinkley Point website. A programme of archaeological outreach and interpretation is being funded by

EDF Energy, Jane Hill and Rachel Bellamy have been appointed to deliver this programme of work over the next two years. For further information see www.archaeologyathinkleypoint.wordpress.com

Further archaeological investigation is planned on the main site and additional excavations will take place on the line of the Cannington bypass. Work also continued on the proposed electricity grid lines to link Hinkley Point with Avonmouth. The impact of this development on the historic landscape and upon visible and invisible archaeological sites has yet to be determined.

Flooding was a major issue in Somerset in 2012 cutting off large areas of the Somerset Levels and Moors and temporarily re-establishing some of the historic island sites such as Athelney and Muchelney. These unusual weather conditions linked well with the community heritage project funded by LARC Somerset Levels and Moors where Richard Brunning continued to investigate the Lost Islands of Somerset. The Historic Environment Service continues to work with various conservation partners in the Somerset Levels and Moors area and was a key partner in securing £1.8m from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership. A range of "Hands on Heritage" projects are planned from 2013 through to 2015.

The Fairfield Project Group has now transformed into the Fairfield Area Study Team and it continues to look at the history and archaeology of Fairfield House and its environs. The group also continued research around the parish of Lilstock organising a small test pitting and field walking programmes around the parish church with permission from the Fairfield and Luttrell estates.

Proposals to develop solar farms have increased considerably in the last couple of years. These schemes are often extensive and they may have a direct affect on buried archaeological remains but they can also have a negative impact upon the character of historic landscapes. Each case is dealt with on its local impact.

At Steart in Stockland Bristol Parish an extensive programme of excavation and recording was funded by the Environment Agency to record an area to be turned into a salt marsh and flood storage area. Wessex Archaeology recorded a range of sites ranging from Bronze Age through to medieval date and Richard Brunning monitored this work for SCC.

In 2012 Naomi Payne returned to the HES for a short while after her maternity leave before leaving to work in the commercial sector. We wish her well in her this. The post has subsequently been vacant during a period of reorganisation by SCC. Chris Webster continues to manage the Historic Environment Record and 467 new sites were added to the HER in 2012. A partnership project involving Mendip AONB, Quantock AONB, Blackdown AONB, Exmoor National Park, North Somerset Council and Bath and North East Somerset Council was set up with to arrange for the digitisation of the Tithe Maps of historic Somerset and this work was carried out by Icam Archive Systems Ltd. 518 maps were digitised and are now available for reference at the Somerset Heritage Centre. A continuation project is now underway to georectify these maps and to make them available through the new HER website.

The current website continues to be one of the most user-friendly HERs in England and 230,320 pages of information were read by visitors to the website www.somerset.gov.uk/her in 2012.

The HES would like to thank all researchers for their contributions to the HER and it is this input that continues to keep the HER up to date with new information. Opportunities are available for work placements in the Somerset Heritage Centre and the HES continues to work with Exeter University to provide a place for archaeology students to gain work experience.

SCC and English Heritage support a programme of Monument Management schemes and several sites were repaired in 2012. The damage to Priddy Circles noted in last year's report finally came to court in 2012 and the landowner was fined for unauthorised work to the monument and also agreed to fund mitigation works on the site. This prosecution was a test case for Somerset, and for the wider archaeological sector, and English Heritage should be congratulated for taking appropriate action. Detailed mitigation and recording work is planned for 2013.

The HES continues to work in partnership with The Somerset Building Preservation Trust and other local building trusts to secure the conservation and preservation of important historic buildings in the county ranging from Wiveliscombe Town Hall Trust to the Beckery Island Regeneration Trust in Glastonbury. The SBPT main project is the restoration of Castle House, part of Taunton Castle and this work is

now well underway and due for completion in 2013.

During the year Somerset County Council decided that a review was needed of the Heritage Service with the outcome of investigating the delivery of heritage services through a "heritage trust". Much work needs to be done and a detailed Business Case is to be prepared for 2013. There continues to be strong public interest and support for archaeology and the historic environment in Somerset and this support will be particularly important as new ideas emerge at a time when local authority services are being cut back and restructured.

(Bob Croft)

SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

Cheddar, Cheddar reservoir 2, ST 441 527, Somerset HER 32091

Geotechnical pits were monitored as part of the preliminary works for the construction of a new reservoir by Bristol Water. Of the 105 trenches recorded, a total of 11 were found to contain archaeological features. The majority of these features comprised undated pits and ditches, although a concentration of Romano-British pottery was revealed in the southern part of the site. A single feature of possible prehistoric date was identified close to the southern edge of the site.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Doultong, Hurlingpot Farm, ST 6409 4359, Somerset HER 31944

A magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd as part of an archaeological assessment of an area outlined for the proposed development of a solar farm. The results revealed a small enclosure ditch in the south western part of the site and a number of other related ditch-like features extending towards the east. Several ditch-like anomalies in the central part of the site may relate to early field boundaries to the north east of the enclosure. Discrete and linear anomalies of uncertain origin were located in all four survey areas forming the site, and it is possible that some of these are also of archaeological potential.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

Farrington Gurney, Hollowmarsh, ST 617 564

A historical landscape survey of Hollowmarsh, a former medieval communal meadow landscape, was carried out by members of Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP). The survey covered an area of approximately three square kilometres and investigated aspects of the fossilized landscape of the former meadowland. Extensive data was tabulated and mapped using a wide range of documentary sources from the medieval and post-medieval periods. Hollowmarsh contains evidence of manorial organisation with a distinctive pattern of boundaries and field name evidence for meadowland practices. The full report of the survey can be accessed at: <http://www.camplat.btck.co.uk/Ourpublications>

(Colin Budge)

South Cadbury

The South Somerset Archaeological Research Group (SSARG) has continued to carry out geophysical survey within the South Cadbury Environs Project (SCEP) study area with surveys of a field immediately to the north of Cadbury Castle known as Great Ground. A number of clear crop marks had been noticed by the landowner Mr Archie Montgomery and notified to SSARG. The presence of a number of large and strongly magnetic linear features corresponding to the crop marks was confirmed, indicating a number of apparent enclosures. Unfortunately work was curtailed by the poor weather at the end of 2012 which resulted in much of the area of interest being flooded. Examination of the area will continue in 2013. Geophysical survey has also continued outside the SCEP area in Misterton parish, and is intended to be completed in early 2013. SSARG has continued to collaborate with Dr James Gerrard of Newcastle University at Lufton Roman villa, expanding the gradiometer survey of its environs and assisting in the excavation.

(Clare Randall)

Tellisford, Lower Chatley Farm, NGR withheld, Somerset HER 32087

Geophysical survey was carried out in fields at Lower Chatley Farm, courtesy of the Holdaway family. The fields were surveyed by magnetometer, magnetic susceptibility meter and twin-probe resistance meter. A detailed contour survey was also undertaken. The main survey was in two fields which lie in the valley below the

large Roman villa on Springfield. These surveys were dominated by water pipes installed to feed water to the brewery at Rode, but the end of the main range of the villa was detected, giving an overall length of the villa range was over 110m. A possible track leading to the villa from the east was also observed, although this feature could also have been the footings of a wall. A field above the valley was also partially surveyed, as higher levels of magnetic susceptibility had been detected. Magnetometry appeared to show a farmstead with round houses at opposite corners (fig. 1).

(John Oswin and Mary Huntley)

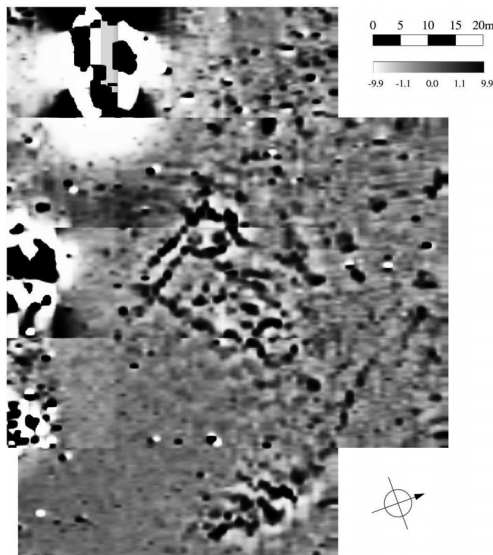


Fig. 1 Magnetic survey results from Lower Chatley Farm

Westbury sub Mendip, ST 35 48, Somerset HER 30304

Members of the Westbury Society excavated five test pits within the village, at Ash Farm and Court House Farm and undertook two building surveys with documentary research. Most of the test pits showed much modern disturbance but medieval deposits were recorded at Ash Farm and one pit at Court House Farm revealed a wall associated with pottery 10th- to 12th-century date. A ruined building in the grounds of Ash Farm, known as Hannah Moore's Old School was recorded and is suggested to have originated as a small mill

with a cottage added in the 18th century. Another ruined building, Folly Cottage, was examined which appeared to combine features of a barn and habitation. Documents suggest that it had been occupied by an agricultural labourer and his family in the 1840s and 1850s, when Westclose field was developed with a new farmhouse and a carpenter's house. Folly Cottage may have been the conversion of an existing field barn or a small cottage that was later converted to become a field barn.

(Barry Lane)

MULTI-PERIOD

Aller, Manor Farm, ST 396 288, Somerset HER 32038

A community research project took place in the fields around Aller Church. This study area is an isolated 'island' of hard geology in the Parrett valley floodplain and is surrounded by peat and clay deposits. The work was part of the 'Lost Islands of Somerset' project, funded by the Somerset Leader Local Action Group in partnership with Somerset County Council Heritage Service. A geophysical survey was undertaken of the whole island (c.35ha) by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, which identified numerous discrete monuments and the extensive remains of relict field systems and ridge and furrow.

A community excavation was undertaken to evaluate some of the features identified by the geophysical survey, comprising 8 trenches, mostly 2m wide but with one larger area. Initial results suggest the presence of three probable Early Bronze Age barrow ditches, a Bronze Age waterhole and a Bronze Age rectilinear enclosure. In the late Iron Age a large ditch was dug facing the "mainland", which may have formed a defence of the natural entry point to the island. Numerous oval pits were dug on the top of the island in the Iron Age, possibly for grain storage.

In the early Romano-British period a square enclosure was formed, possibly surrounding a domestic building. The Iron Age ditch was infilled and a new series of ditches was dug across its line. Their function is unknown but their steep profile and flat narrow 'ankle breaker' bottoms suggest that they were not simple enclosure ditches. Domestic occupation in the field north of the church in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD was

represented by a group of ditches, gullies and post holes. There were several other features of Roman or later date. In the field north of the church these include a group of post holes, gullies, ditches and a horseshoe shaped oven, possibly a corn drier. To the south of the church is a rectilinear enclosure within a larger oval enclosure. Radiocarbon dating is being undertaken to refine the dating of these features and some of the prehistoric deposits.

(Richard Brunning)

Bawdrip, Shaw's Orchard, ST 340 396, Somerset HER 32109

Excavation, prior to development, revealed ditches and gullies of early medieval (10th-12th century AD) and post-medieval date as well as two ditches of potentially late prehistoric date. The ditches are thought to be field boundaries or drainage ditches, and relate to various phases of re-organisation and re-alignment in the layout of a field system. A drove had been re-cut three times during the early medieval period this was eventually replaced by a large post-medieval boundary ditch. Evidence from the animal bone assemblage suggests that the area appears to have been one where cattle were slaughtered and butchered; animals were probably brought in from the fields along the drove-road. The scarcity of domestic occupation debris in the finds assemblage indicates that the area is peripheral to the main focus of settlement activity, which it has been suggested lies to the east. The environmental evidence suggests that the area may have been used to process cereal crops or at least dispose of the waste products from this process. The pottery assemblage includes residual prehistoric and Roman wares, indicating activity in the immediate area since at least the Middle to Late Bronze Age.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Bridgwater, Stockmoor Village, ST 3020 3450, Somerset HER 32026

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed features dating to the Bronze Age, medieval and post-medieval/modern periods. The paucity of Iron Age and Roman remains was noteworthy given the reputed recovery of Roman coins and artefacts within the site by metal detectorists, and the nearby Iron Age and Roman activity at Huntworth.

(Tim Havard)

Hinkley Point, Hinkley Point C, ST 1994 4564

Five set piece excavations (SPEs 1-5) have been undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology over the last few years and are now able to be reported.

Within SPE 1, Roman remains comprising a settlement, a field system, enclosures and burials were found. The settlement included a roundhouse and a possible L-shaped structure. The field boundaries contained later Roman pottery and several were overlain by rubble dumps, probably causeways. Several of the enclosures may have been for penning livestock. Eleven adult inhumations were found, one of which had been decapitated and buried with a copper alloy bracelet.

SPE 2 was also located on a ridge and contained a number of currently undated remains. These included areas of scorching and pits, one containing burnt stone.

SPE 3 was located on the same ridge as SPE1, 200m to the east. The earliest remains were three undated pits sealed beneath a midden from which Bronze Age pottery, a copper alloy ring and a circular stone disc were recovered. No further settlement remains were identified, although the midden suggests that a settlement was located in the vicinity. Further undated pits were also found, some of which may have been prehistoric.

SPEs 4 and 5 contained similar remains and were situated adjacent to a small stream at the base of a slope. The earliest features were two earlier prehistoric/Bronze Age parallel ditches, provisionally interpreted as boundaries. A possible cremation burial and several pits and gullies may have been associated with these ditches. Several layers of burnt stone survived within natural hollows and all of these features were sealed by colluvium. Enclosures containing Late Iron Age to later Roman pottery were also present. Some appear to have been small stock pens whilst others associated with a stone surface may have been used for cereal processing. Two areas of occupation were found, including two possible roundhouses, gullies, postholes and clay-lined pits. These features contained dark, charcoal-rich fills and the recovered finds included a beehive quern stone and briquetage pedestals associated with salt making. At least nine adult inhumations, three neo-natal burials and a cremation burial were also identified, none of which had associated grave goods. These features were sealed by colluvium, following which a partial re-organisation of the land boundaries occurred, along with the creation

of a trackway. A sunken-featured building was also identified and, although undated, is likely to be the first of this Anglo-Saxon type to be identified in West Somerset.

(Stuart Joyce, Steve Sheldon and
Sian Reynish)

Congresbury, Cadbury Hill Fort, ST 441 650

Further survey work was carried out by Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCCART) over a small section of the interior which had been cleared of scrub and bracken. This confirmed the position of several round house platforms shown on an earlier survey by Mark Corney as well as a series of at least two banks and ditches lying outside the slight inner bank on the north east.

(Peter English)

*Kingston St Mary, Lower Marsh Farm,
ST 225 282, Somerset HER 32039*

A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of a planning application to construct a solar farm. The trenches were sited in positions close to areas which were to be preserved in situ by concrete pads and on areas where the results of a geophysical survey suggested the potential for good survival. No archaeological remains were encountered in areas 1 and 3; the linear anomalies picked up by the geophysical survey are therefore assumed to be geological. Two parallel ditches were identified in area 2, which correspond to the cropmark evidence and appear to form part of a double-ditched enclosure of Romano-British date. Archaeological remains were encountered in two additional areas: two linear features were identified in area 4 and a large enclosure ditch and narrow gully in area 5. These features relate to a Romano-British field system and an earlier, possibly Middle to Late Iron Age D-shaped enclosure.

(Wessex Archaeology)

*Rode, Church Farm, ST 8050 5314,
Somerset HER 31596*

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in 2011 recorded a sub-circular segmented ring-ditch, potentially of prehistoric date, and a Roman ditch. Five undated ditches and three undated pits were also recorded.

(Kelly Saunders)

PREHISTORIC

Bath, Royal Crescent, ST 744 653

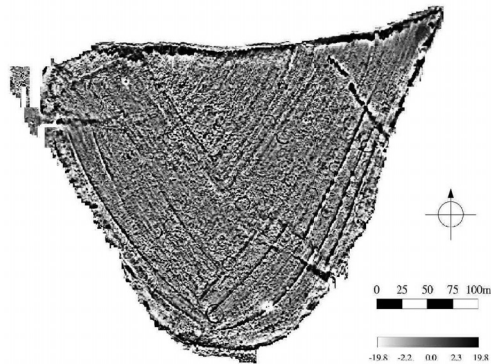
The lawn below the ha ha of Royal Crescent, Bath was surveyed by magnetometer to complement the work undertaken by GSB prospection on behalf of Time Team in 2002. The purpose of the survey was to look in detail for signs of Roman military activity. There was a great deal of magnetic "noise" probably from discarded metalwork from visitors and no Roman structures were obvious. In the north-east corner there was a ditched enclosure, approximately rectangular in shape, in the north-east corner, which continued under 18th-century structures. The enclosure had a possible round house in its south-eastern corner and comparison with the results from the Time Team work suggests a Bronze Age date. These results were confirmed by twin-probe resistance, resistivity profiling and ground-penetrating radar, which also revealed a large ditch running from the north-west across half the lawn. A large cavity near the footpath at the west end was re-located and surveyed so that the signature of such cavities could be recognised.

(John Oswin and Janet Pryke)

*Batheaston, Solsbury Hill, ST 768 67,
BaNES HER EBN3469*

Solsbury Hill is topped by a triangular hillfort approximately 400m side length. The rampart survives, damaged, along the northern side but has slumped along the south-east and has been quarried away along the south-west side. The hilltop was subject to a complete survey by magnetometer (fig. 2), magnetic susceptibility and twin-probe resistance during 2012.

Beyond the ramparts, the ground is precipitous and cannot be surveyed. Some features were also subject to ground-penetrating radar investigation. The results were partly obscured by indications of the medieval open field ploughing regime, which survived until the 19th century, but much prehistoric activity was visible. In particular, circles assumed to be the drip gullies of round houses, could be seen over most of the hilltop. There was a particularly evident circle right at the centre of the hill and a large ellipse towards the southern end. The latter may possibly be a barrow, judged on its dimensions, but there is no further evidence. The main entrance is in the north-west and appeared to have ditches funnelling in towards it. The south-east entrance also appears to have



Little Solsbury Hill, Bath
Magnetometer survey, April 2012



*Fig. 2 Magnetic survey results from
Solsbury Hill, Batheaston*

ditches funnelling to it, and these point directly to the prominent central round house. This suggests that this was an original entrance, although its approach is very steep. It was previously thought to be a later feature. The north-east corner appears to be divided off by a ditch with a central break. Beyond this ditch, there is little evidence of round houses, but there appear to be clusters of post holes, suggesting raised structures such as granaries.

A prominent ditch feature ran round the hillfort just inside the ramparts, which is not visible on the surface, other than for a 60 m stretch around the southern extremity.

(John Oswin and Rick Buettner)

Brympton, Mr Unwin's Field, Lufton,
ST 5163 1746

A small excavation was carried out to evaluate features, identified by geophysical survey by a team drawn from Newcastle University undergraduates and the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group. The trench contained a ring-ditch c.9.5m in diameter that contained early to middle Bronze Age pottery. The dimensions, position and lack of any funerary evidence suggest that the ring-ditch was probably a structure rather than a barrow. A later east-west ditch (apparently the boundary of the settlement identified in the field to the

north: Somerset HER 29883) was found to cut the ring-ditch. The fills of the ditch contained some Bronze Age flints and Late Iron Age (or possibly very early Roman) quartz-tempered pottery.

(James Gerrard and Andrew Agate)

Congresbury, Iwood, ST 4519 6322

A limited evaluation was carried out by Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCART) across a geophysical anomaly detected in 2010. This revealed a feature thought to be a posthole 0.5m in diameter on the line of an enclosure boundary. No dating evidence was found in context but a sherd of Iron Age pottery was discovered on the spoil heap.

(Peter English)

East Brent, Rooks Bridge, ST 369 524,
Somerset HER 31594

Geotechnical pits opened in advance of development to the north of The Rosary were examined in March 2012. In the southern part of the site a recent garden soil was found to overlie undifferentiated alluvial clay. The alluvium was seen to become increasingly interrupted by peat deposits towards the north of the site and here a possible occupation deposit of uncertain date was observed at a depth of approximately 1.50m which contained burnt stone, clay and charcoal but no dating evidence.

(James Brigers)

Ham Hill, ST 483160
See Shorter Papers section.

Huish Episcopi, Bowden's Quarry,
Bowden's Lane, ST 416 285,
Somerset HER 31651

Excavation by TVAS South West, following monitoring of topsoil stripping by C and N Hollinrake, in advance of quarrying revealed several phases of occupation that added to information recovered in 2005. A middle Iron Age farmstead comprised a post-built structure and storage pits, radiocarbon dated to 322–205 cal BC. A later Iron Age/early Roman phase was also found, including another roundhouse (this time of the penannular gully type) together with land divisions and storage pits. Post-medieval gullies and a ditch were also excavated.

(C and N Hollinrake, and Jo Pine
and Andrew Weale)

Keynsham, Park Road, ST 6494 6729,
BaNES HER EBN3131 and EBN 3467

An evaluation consisting of five trenches identified only a very low level of archaeological activity but two trenches exposed layers of material containing fired clay, animal bone and small fragmentary sherds of later prehistoric pottery. A roughly surfaced road with two flanking ditches was probably a post-medieval or modern access.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Langport, Newtown Park, ST 424 276,
Somerset HER 31875

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd conducted a staged archaeological investigation comprising an evaluation and excavation in advance of residential development close to the boundary of Wearne Romano-British settlement

and the site of a medieval shrunken village. In the event, the evaluation identified significant prehistoric deposits and features, including a Middle Bronze Age D-shaped enclosure ditch and over 80 post holes, most of which appear to be of Middle Iron Age date (fig. 3). A long linear ditch formed part of the later phase and may have been part of a scheme of land management associated with other, smaller, similarly oriented gullies. The buildings identified so far have square plans of a kind identified as granaries on other Iron Age sites. The presence of granaries would normally indicate nearby settlement but the relatively low density of later Iron Age finds (a period when pottery, in particular, becomes more prolific) suggests that they were on the periphery, rather than within the centre, of habitation.

(Richard Tabor)



Fig. 3 Plan of excavated features at Newtown Park, Langport

Mells, Wadbury, ST 737 489,
Somerset HER 30340

Renovations to Wadbury House, a Grade II listed building constructed in the 19th century within the assumed Iron Age enclosure of Wadbury Camp were monitored. A feature, which had been interpreted as the northern rampart, was found to be a natural scarp, following a geological fault line and the interior of the scheduled area contained only 19th-century industrial waste and brick and stone culverts lying directly above clean, natural clay.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Monkton Heathfield, Aginhills Farm, ST 252 262,
Somerset HER 31548

A strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by AC Archaeology and identified the presence of Bronze Age settlement-type features as well as later Iron Age ditches relating to early land division.

(John Valentin)

North Petherton, Huntworth, ST 317 336,
Somerset HER 31897

During late October 2012 nine trenches totalling approximately 300m in length were excavated to the east of Copse Farm to assess archaeological potential prior to a proposed leisure development. At the extreme south western limit of the site evidence of prehistoric, possibly Bronze Age, occupation was encountered in the form of a build-up of charcoal and other debris in a shallow hollow and a single small gully. This was sealed by a buried soil horizon which produced late Iron Age pottery subsequently cut by a ditch and a large rectangular pit of Romano-British date. Trenching on rising ground to the north revealed sections of several probable agricultural enclosure boundary ditches of uncertain date, including two which appear to correspond to visible cropmarks. A group of three undated post holes were also recorded in this area, possibly the remains of a small timber structure. The remainder of the features on the site all proved to be either of natural origin or the result of modern agricultural activity and included the extensive remains of elements of an extinct natural drainage system.

(James Brigers)

Pawlett, Walpole landfill site, ST 312 432

Work continued at the Viridor Waste Somerset Ltd landfill site at Walpole in 2012. The large

open area watching brief begun in 2011 was extended, prior to the landfill site being extended. An organic layer, preserved on the surface of the Lias island, was recorded, sampled and excavated at regular 10m intervals, recovering several hundred flints including microliths, arrow heads, blades, scrapers and waste flakes representing more or less continual pre-historic activity from the Mesolithic period onward. Pottery, dating from the Neolithic to the Later Iron Age, was also recovered from the organic layer throughout the site. Features associated with the buried soil included storage pits, cooking pits, post holes, pits containing an abundance of fired clay and preserved animal hoof prints. The Lias island was gradually covered by depositions of alluvial clay, which were recorded and sampled throughout the site.

An extensive inter-cutting field system had been recorded during previous seasons and continuations were recorded extending to the north, along with their associated archaeological horizons. The pottery recovered from the field system ditches and associated layers suggested a Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British origin. The land division represented by the field system survived until the whole area was inundated by incursions of clay in the late medieval period. The present field system was laid out on a different alignment, probably in the 18th century.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Priddy, Eastwater Lane, ST 5379 5052,
Somerset HER 32102

A research and student training excavation was carried out by the University of Worcester at a round barrow, which had previously been opened in the early 19th century by the Rev John Skinner but 'without issue'. The excavation followed the quadrant methodology, with four trenches, separated by baulks, located over the mound. A stone kerb-ring 14m in diameter, was discovered in various states of preservation, surrounding and revetting a low turf mound.

The mound did not extend throughout the area defined by the kerb ring however, as in the central area a higher area of outcropping bedrock was found and the turves lapped up to this. This outcropping bedrock seems to have been the focus of the monument, as a small deposit of cremated bone was found on its surface. All of these features – bedrock, turf mound and kerb-ring – were then covered by a low circular mound

of earth. Nearly 1000 struck flints were found on the old ground surface below the mound, in the turf stack and in the earth capping. Close to the central area of the mound, a sub-circular pit c.2m in diameter and c.30 cm deep was identified as the site of Skinner's excavation. On the eastern edge of this pit, a corroded cartwheel penny (George III, 1760-1820), was recovered. This is by no means a 'typical' Mendip round barrow with a burial pit, pot or cist at its centre; instead we are seeing the enclosure of a stone outcrop in a circular monument and the scattering of a very small amount of cremated bone on its surface. This kind of activity finds parallel with sites in Wales and Cornwall, suggesting that cultural connections and shared practices were not limited to the nearby Wessex heartland.

(Jodie Lewis)

Shepton Mallet, Hurlingpot Farm, ST 640 435, Somerset HER 31901

An evaluation was undertaken comprising 14 trial trenches targeted on the results of a geophysical survey. These identified a Bronze Age landscape which appeared to be centred on a square enclosure located in the south of the site with a contemporary north-east to south-west aligned rectilinear field system extending to the north. It is likely that further linear geophysical anomalies which aligned north-east to south-west relate to this system. Other activity identified as dating to this period may be represented by an isolated large pit/possible waterhole and a curvilinear ditch to the north-east.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Stanton Drew, Hautvilles Quoit, ST 6016 6380, BaNES HER EBN3449

The quoit, a recumbent stone of which the visible portion is 2.1 m by 2 m by 0.6 m thick, lies part hidden in a boundary hedge on the edge of the B3130, at ground level in the field, about 1 m above road level. The buried portion may extend a further 0.6 m. It has been mentioned and associated with the Stanton Drew stone circles since the 17th century. Prior to the 19th century it was described as twice its present length but was subsequently broken for road stone. The stone was cleared of vegetation, photographed and drawn. Geophysical surveys were also carried out in the fields to the south and east of it, which revealed faint and inconsistent traces of a possible post-circle and small henge. It was not possible to locate

a socket that the stone could have stood in and it was subsequently discovered that an excavation by Roger Mercer in 1969 had also failed to find one. In its present location, it is not intervisible with the stone circles as it is just over a slight ridge from the river. The stone itself appears to be sarsen, a material not otherwise found at Stanton Drew. Some 400 m to the south, on the edge of the flood plain of the River Chew, there is a large flat-topped mound, some 4 m high above the flood plain. The flat area, some 40 m by 30m was surveyed by magnetometry, but showed no obvious pattern of features. The mound is aligned on the Great circle and its avenue, but visibility between the two is now disrupted by a line of trees along the river.

(John Oswin and John Richards)

Taunton, The Hatcheries, Bathpool, ST 256 262, Somerset HER 31609

An archaeological excavation on residential development land was undertaken by AC Archaeology during March 2012, following an evaluation by Exeter Archaeology. The excavation revealed a series of pits, post holes and linear features mainly dating to the Early Bronze Age. Of most interest were three Early Bronze Age cremation burials in pits, one of which contained a near complete collared urn, while another contained a rare faience bead. The cremated bone was in poor condition, with only a single diagnostic piece indicating that the individual was an adult. Five of the pit features have been dated from the Early to Middle Bronze Age, including two which were radiocarbon dated. The charcoal-rich fill of a pit produced a radiocarbon date 1460-1290 cal BC and the cremated bone from the pit that contained the faience bead produced a radiocarbon date of 1890-1690 cal BC. Also present on the site was evidence for Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Romano-British activity.

(Simon Hughes)

Wedmore, Quab Lane, ST 423 484, Somerset HER 31924, 31650

The field was surveyed by ALERT between February and September 2012 after the landowner had reported the sporadic appearance of a circular cropmark. The geophysical survey used a Bartington C601 single pole gradiometer and a TR/CIA resistance meter and covered an area of over 17,000 sq m. A sub-rectangular enclosure approximately 85 m by 45 m was identified with

its long axis aligned north/south and with an entrance on the west side. Within this enclosure a circular feature 15m in diameter was visible. The resistivity survey suggested that the enclosure was surrounded by a ditch varying in width between 5m on the west side to 10m on the east. Another series of smaller, and most probably earlier, ditches could be seen adjoining the enclosure and continuing into the adjacent field to the east. Ploughing had evidently removed all traces of any banks. Surface finds surprisingly produced only late medieval and post-medieval pottery although the site was very close to a Roman villa (Somerset HER 29833). In the absence of dating evidence, a trial section was excavated across one of the smaller ditches east of the large enclosure. This revealed the expected range of pottery from post-medieval through Roman-British to Late Iron Age and also in a lower fill a large quantity (over 190 sherds) of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age pottery, mainly large cooking vessels, and many bones of domesticated animals, mostly sheep but with many cattle and a few pig bones all showing signs of butchery. It was apparent that the ditch had been re-cut several times. The ditch may possibly have been very early in origin as fragments of Neolithic pot and a deer bone were identified in the earliest fill. Other features in the immediate area include a number of probable house circles (some cut by the enclosure ditch) and a possible round barrow on the highest point of the field. A road or trackway leading north towards the Roman villa. Survey work is continuing in order to identify the extent of this area of occupation.

(Jack Foord and John Matthews)

Williton, Doniford Holiday Park, ST 095 431, Somerset HER 32214

Two further trenches were excavated to evaluate the area of the third phase of development at the holiday park and former military camp. Remains relating to the 20th-century usage were encountered in both areas including a section of the former perimeter road of the military parade ground. Evidence of earlier activity was sparse, but the truncated remains of post holes and two probable ditches were excavated in the eastern area. The lack of artefacts from these features leaves them impossible to date but it seems possible that they may be further elements of the late Iron Age/Romano-British field system identified during earlier investigations. Both trenches contained a considerable build-up

of cultivation soil, greater than that revealed elsewhere on the site. A subsequent watching brief conducted during the excavation of a considerable length of service trenching produced no further information but confirmed that the assumed post Roman cultivation soil increased in thickness from north to south across the site.

(James Brigers)

ROMAN

Cheddar, Steart Farm, ST 452 528, Somerset HER 31972

Two trial trenches exposed two ditches running parallel in a north-east to south-west direction. They were not excavated due to the high water table but three pieces of Black Burnished Ware were recovered from the top of one.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Huish Episcopi, Bowdon's Lane quarry, ST 417 284

See under Prehistoric.

Keynsham, Somerdale, ST 655 697, BaNES HER EBN3492

A geophysical survey (fig. 4) and lidar data analysis was undertaken by Archaeological Surveys Ltd over approximately 60ha within the grounds of the former Cadbury Somerdale Factory on behalf of Taylor Wimpey and Kraft. The survey located a large number of anomalies that can be identified as ditches, enclosures, pits, buildings and roads or tracks that are associated with a Roman settlement covering at least 8ha. The survey supports the evidence that this was a Roman town, which has long been conjectured to be that of Traiectus, listed during the 3rd century in the Antonine Itinerary. The survey located a well-defined Roman road that extends through the core of the settlement, as well as other more minor roads and tracks. The remains of at least 15 buildings flank the roads in the central part of the settlement, with some evidence that others may have been robbed or quarried. The data demonstrate that many of the buildings have internal walls forming individual rooms. There is also evidence of high levels of magnetic enhancement indicating possible areas of burning. This may be associated with occupational debris, possibly indicating furnaces and hypocausts, but there may be a possibility of industrial activity.

Two small earth resistance surveys were also carried out within areas that were subject to magnetic disturbance close to the core of the settlement. The results confirmed the outline of one building, with several other linear anomalies possibly indicating structural remains within an area subject to modern landscaping and terracing.

At the north western corner of the core of the settlement is a circular structure with a 9.3m external diameter. It is sited within a rectilinear enclosure formed by a boundary ditch with an entrance gap at the south eastern corner. Overlying the southern ditch are the remains of a building, with another building immediately east of the boundary ditch. It is possible that these features relate to a shrine or temple. Within the floodplain, anomalies were often very weak and mostly associated with land drains, agricultural features or natural features. There is some evidence within

the floodplain for a ditch extending from the Roman settlement towards the west and for a small square enclosure. The lidar data shows mostly ditches associated with land drainage, and banks associated with agriculture and possibly flood management. Very slight earthworks do correlate with Roman structural remains, identified in the magnetometer data, and suggest that substantial wall remains survive. In addition, a low circular mound was located within the floodplain area and this was confirmed by field observations.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

Kingsdon, Glenda Spooner Farm, ST 510 257, Somerset HER 32023

An archaeological excavation was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services along the line, and on either side, of a Roman road. The closest known Roman settlement to the site is at Catsgore



Fig. 4 Magnetic survey results of the Roman town at Keynsham

Farm, 700m to the west and the road probably once connected this site with the main Roman settlement at Ilchester. The area was stripped to the top of the road surface and six 1.5m wide hand excavated sections were strategically positioned across the road and roadside ditches. A cumulative length of 35m of the road surface was hand cleaned. In most areas the road surface was badly truncated with only a thin deposit of lias stone surviving directly above natural. No trace of any agger or surface was present. Two gullies were present towards the north-western part of the excavation, on both sides of the road, and were perhaps used to define the lower aggregates during construction. The south roadside ditch was the more apparent of the two roadside ditches and seemed to follow the natural topography of the site. It turned away from the road at its lowest part in order to drain water. At this low point the surface of the road was thicker and wider with larger stones including some post-medieval architectural fragments of Ham stone. It would seem the road was repaired along this stretch multiple times with cart ruts apparent where the road curved slightly.

(David Gilbert)

Queen Camel, West Camel Road, ST5924 2461, ST5945 2938 and ST 5929 2446, Somerset HER 31920

Investigations of three sites by TVAS South West comprised magnetometry survey over all three and trial trenching across two. At site A, immediately north of a known Roman villa, the survey showed that the villa complex extended into the site, with three strong linear anomalies corresponding with those to the south, and two further features that could be large burnt areas or pits. Weaker anomalies could be shallower features. At site B, to the south of the villa, the geophysical survey suggested much less significant anomalies, probably medieval ridge and furrow, but with two possible ditches. Trenching revealed the furrows as expected; the other two features were both undated but one was probably post-medieval. On the third site, west of the villa, the magnetometry again picked up anomalies considered to be continuations of the villa complex, and trenching here confirmed that these were ditches of both early and late Roman dates, and part of a masonry structure.

(Andrew Weale, Tim Dawson
and Marta Buczek)

Queen Camel, West Camel Road, ST 5924 2461, ST 5945 2938 and ST 5929 2446, Somerset HER 31920, 31921, 31922, 31898

Investigations of three sites by TVAS South West comprised magnetometry survey over all three and trial trenching across two. At site A, immediately north of a known Roman villa, the survey showed that the villa complex extended into the site, with three strong linear anomalies corresponding with those to the south, and two further features that could be large burnt areas or pits. Weaker anomalies could be shallower features. At site B, to the south of the villa, the geophysical survey suggested much less significant anomalies, probably medieval ridge and furrow, but with two possible ditches. Trenching revealed the furrows as expected; the other two features were both undated but one was probably post-medieval. On the third site, west of the villa, the magnetometry again picked up anomalies considered to be continuations of the villa complex, and trenching here confirmed that these were ditches of both early and late Roman dates, and part of a masonry structure.

(Andrew Weale, Tim Dawson
and Marta Buczek)

Shepton Mallet, Bullimore Farm, ST 628 421, Somerset HER 31576

Archaeological Surveys Ltd carried out a magnetometer survey, which showed a number of anomalies of archaeological potential in the north western part of the site. These consisted of linear and discrete positive anomalies and are consistent with ditches, pits and enclosures. Linear positive anomalies extending south and south east from the north western part of the site indicate ditches that may relate to former boundaries or trackways. Some negative linear anomalies were also located in the north western part of the site and it is possible that these relate to structural remains, though the interpretation is tentative.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

Shepton Mallet, Fosse Lane, ST 6305 4242, Somerset HER 31516

AOC Archaeology monitored the stripping of part of the site of the Roman town to construction levels and then monitored the excavation of service runs and ground reduction for new access routes. The earliest phase of activity occurred during the late prehistoric period, primarily consisting of

a single pit containing later prehistoric sherds. Roman activity was recorded on site in the form of occupation horizons, demolition layers, pathways and a single stone wall. The wall was aligned east-west and appeared as a stand-alone structural feature.

(Paul Fitz)

Yeovilton, RNAS Yeovilton, ST 551 242,
Somerset HER 31899

An evaluation consisting of nine trenches recorded archaeological features in all but one. Close to the investigation in 2000, a continuation of the Romano-British settlement could be inferred from the results. In the rest of the area, the majority of the features were undated but a large ditch was recorded that contained post-medieval glass.

(Wessex Archaeology)

MEDIEVAL

Barrington, Main Street, ST 3894 1817,
Somerset HER 31655

An archaeological evaluation was conducted prior to the construction of four houses. To the south, a succession of ditches was identified all of probable medieval date. Two of the earliest of these were found to be set on an alignment at variance with that of the later medieval and modern arrangement and may represent elements of an earlier settlement pattern. The later features were all aligned east-west and probably show successive positions of a tenement boundary that gradually moved northwards between from the 13th century, culminating with the establishment of a final ditch and fence in the 16th century. Features of later date included further large ditch that was culverted in the 19th century and probable stone garden walls of a similar date. To the north of the site a considerable build-up of probable cultivation soil of post medieval date was identified.

(James Brigers)

Bradford on Tone, Church of St Giles, ST 1730
2298, Somerset HER 31653

As part of a programme of re-ordering, sections of 19th-century pews and their supporting floors were removed from two positions to the west of the nave. In the southern area a probable former floor level of compact clay was revealed upon

which stone sleeper walls had been constructed in the 19th century to support the pews. Material immediately sealing this deposit included fragments of window glass and an incomplete encaustic floor tile of the later 13th century. The small area available to the north contained further possible early floor remains cut by a large probable burial feature. In the tower removal of recent floor structures exposed a complete lias flagstone floor of uncertain date. At both locations in the nave sections of the wall elevations were exposed and found to retain fragmentary plain painted wall plaster pre-dating the 19th-century insertion of the pews. In the northern area the west wall of the nave was seen to be a later rebuild abutting the north.

(James Brigers)

Cannington Court, ST 257 395,
Somerset HER 31713

Three areas were evaluated prior to proposed development. The only area that produced significant remains was adjacent to the Amory Block, where walls, foundations and probable floor surfaces were identified. The earliest finds relating to the destruction debris and overburden contexts associated with these structural remains were medieval suggesting that they may have been associated with the medieval monastery.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Chewton Mendip, ST 5967 5321,
Somerset HER 31671

Members of Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP) and other volunteers, continued excavations in a field immediately north of the churchyard. Five targeted trenches revealed the continuation east of the substantial foundations of a rectilinear building orientated NW/SE, of 7.80m width and at least 29m length. The south wall varied in width between 650 and 800mm, showing phases of building and repair. Two cross walls, of 800mm and 900mm width, were uncovered and found to be of a similar construction to the south, exterior wall. In a sealed context within the foundations of one cross wall was a 12th-century tripod pitcher rim sherd similar to those from Castle Neroche. At the west end a substantial drain (previously seen cutting through the south wall foundations), was traced flowing north-east under an internal flagstone floor. An oval, pitched, cobbled floor surface,

with retaining kerb of pitched cobble on its west face, was also uncovered. Its purpose is not clear but it seems to have been part of a secondary phase of the building's use.

There was a truncation of the exposed section of the north wall at the north-west corner. The gap was filled with a deposit of clay and silt trample as if used as a doorway. It may represent a secondary phase of building use in association with the oval pitched cobble surface. A possible wall 800mm wide running downslope and at an angle to the west wall was partly uncovered at the NW corner. To the west, well-laid, weathered cobbling is believed to be a continuation of the exterior cobble surface uncovered earlier to the SW and south of the building. The cobble was retained on the north side by a kerb topped with flagstones, which marks the start of a steep incline north. Springing from this kerb and running almost parallel with the other 'wall' feature is a foundation 1m wide running north downslope. At the base on the east side and amongst a rubble layer, were 6 sherds of two forms of 13th-century Bristol-ware glazed jugs.

(Pip Osborne)

Combe St Nicholas, Beetham, ST 280 122,
Somerset HER 55566

An ovoid enclosure known as Freshmoor is subdivided into fields, one of which is named Castle Moor on the tithe map. This may have been linked to John at Castel mentioned in the Lay Subsidy return of 1327. The field was found to have a half-moon shaped stony area on its southern corner. This was fed, bordered and drained by an inner leat, now dry, and double hedgebank. In the mound centre was a hidden shaft at least 4m deep. This is currently very dangerous and it is planned to clear and cover it again.

(Roger Carter)

Glastonbury, The Abbey, ST 499 389

A watching brief during topsoil removal prior to the spreading of gravel in 2008, uncovered large quantities of archaeological finds including over 3000 fragments of medieval floor tiles and pottery sherds, the latter ranging from the Iron Age through to the medieval period. Consequently, when a foul water drainage pipe was installed in the Gardener's Compound, the trench was excavated by hand. The excavation for the drain revealed the probable medieval horizon lying below about 1.3m of 19th- and 20th-century dump

material, believed to have been deposited to level-out a depression.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Kewstoke, St Thomas's Head, ST 3475 6687

Two skeletons were accidentally discovered in 1944-6 by a naval working party on St Thomas's Head (SANH 93, 1947, 103-07). The remains of the skeletons, both males lying SW-NE, were deposited in Weston-super-Mare museum and have now been radiocarbon dated to 1367 ± 23 AD (OxA-26262) and 1419 ± 22 AD (OxA-26263). The dates calibrate to 1300-1420 and 1320-1440 cal AD. This suggests burials continuing on the hilltop after the formal establishment of Woodspring Priory in c.1226 and potentially indicating the location of the chapel, described in a letter (1219 x 1242) from William de Courtenay to Bishop Jocelin of Bath. He stated his intention to found a priory at Worspring but reveals that he had already constructed a chapel dedicated to Thomas the Martyr within his manor at Worspring, where his father Robert was buried. The 1262 *Inspeximus* by Bishop William of Bath and Wells, refers to the 'Prior and Canons formerly at Doddelinch and now at Worspring' (SRS 7, 58-9). The chapel is yet to be located, but could have been on St Thomas's Head hilltop, near to which was a landing place named Wampullessen in 1325 (Patent Roll 18 Edward I).

(Lesley Candal and Bob Smisson)

Kilmersdon, east of playing field, ST 695 523,
Somerset HER 30301

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd in 2011. The excavation uncovered the outer double ditch of the original 11th-13th century manorial enclosure; the earthworks of the manor can be seen in the adjoining playing field to the west. Most of the rest of the excavated features related to the post-medieval development of the village, with a number of linear features and pits dating to the 16th-19th centuries. The most significant discovery was the identification of an enclosure ditch dating to the immediate pre-Conquest period. This was cut and truncated by the medieval manorial enclosure ditches, which were probably laid out when Kilmersdon became a Royal Manor in 1065. Kilmersdon was a Hundredal Manor and thus of regional importance in the early medieval period and this small group of features provides the first

definite evidence of early medieval activity in the parish.

(Samual Walls)

Stogursey, Priory Dovecote, ST 2051 4281,
Somerset HER 31652

Works associated with the conversion of the dovecot into part of a house were monitored. No evidence for former floor surfaces were found inside the structure but a large circular feature in the centre of the internal space was identified and partially excavated; this almost certainly marks the location of the foundation for the central potence, or revolving system of ladders which provided access to the nest holes. Examination of the foundations and elevations of the walls of the structure revealed little or no evidence for more than one phase of construction suggesting that a documented re-build in the 1920s was total and no medieval fabric now remains. Monitoring of excavation of foundation trenches to the west and north of the building revealed evidence of extensive disturbance but three small post holes were identified, one of which containing a fragment of medieval tile. These may be the remains of temporary timber structures possibly of medieval date and linked with the activities of the priory which was centred to the north of the site and with which the dovecote is traditionally associated.

(James Brigers)

Taunton, Castle Green, ST 226 245, Somerset
HER 29333

An excavation was carried out in the north-west corner of Castle Green by AC Archaeology as part of the Project Taunton regeneration scheme. A series of shallow post-medieval drainage ditches and a number of pits and stakeholes were recorded within this area, most of which had been cut into a layer of thick red clay. This clay was very similar to the natural subsoil, but it contained a large amount of disarticulated human bone, indicating that it had been redeposited, most likely during the construction of the inner moat around the Castle. A layer of lighter brown soil found beneath this is believed to be the pre-castle soil and also contained a large quantity of disarticulated human bone at the top. Towards the base of this deposit five fragmentary articulated skeletons were excavated. Two belonged to children, one aged around 6 and the other around 7-8. The disarticulated human bone comprised a minimum

of 30 individuals, including eight individuals under the age of 18. During groundworks to the south of Castle Green the intact 19th-century cattle market surface was exposed. Excavations within this area have indicated that this surface has been well preserved across a large part of the former car park.

(Fiona Pink)

Taunton, Castle House, ST 2262 2462,
Somerset HER 32040

An extensive programme of restoration of the medieval and later building commenced in the spring of 2012. Opening up of internal elevations allowed the exposure and detailed recording of sequences of structural alterations, earlier wall coverings and decoration including extensive areas of stencilled wall paintings in two of the first floor rooms and landing. Small-scale excavations in area of the former castle moat to the south and in the south-east room were also monitored but produced little new evidence. Excavation of a drainage run in the courtyard to the east, however, revealed the presence of well-preserved deposits in this area including the remains of hitherto unsuspected wall of possible medieval date.

(James Brigers)

Taunton, Wilton Street, ST 223 240,
Somerset HER 31599

A programme of archaeological monitoring was conducted during the early stages of construction of three new houses. Throughout the northern part of the site considerable 19th-century and later truncation was evident and no features of an earlier date survived. To the south-west, evidence for a large, steep sided possible linear feature was exposed, following the line of the modern boundary wall before terminating or returning to the south. This contained pottery exclusively of the 12th to 13th centuries within its upper fill. The feature would appear to have been larger than might be expected for a boundary ditch of the period and may be the remains of an early defensive ditch, possibly being back-filled by weathering over a considerable period of time. This was superseded at a much later date by a further ditch on the same alignment which extended into the north eastern portion of the site and represented a probable field boundary of the late 17th or early 18th century. Further 17th-century material was recovered from the fill of the cut for the predecessor of Wilton Street which was exposed in the centre of the site.

The only other features revealed were post holes of probable post-medieval date.

(James Brigers)

Tintinhull, St Margaret's Church, ST 4985 1972, Somerset HER 31925

Reflooring in the south-west corner of the nave revealed the top of a sequence of layers of packed loam surfaces, within which was visible the reddened burnt edges of a small, bowl-shaped furnace or hearth. No evidence of date was found but it is likely to reflect activity during the construction of the medieval church. The sequence had been cut by later graves.

(Alan Graham)

West Harptree, ST 558 575

Members of the Harptrees History Society undertook a resistivity survey in part of a field, formerly known as Chapel Paddock. There is field evidence of a shallow sunken holloway approaching from the SW and curving around a raised flat platform. The survey indicated the presence of a rectangular building measuring c10m x 6m. A more diffuse, linear area to the north of the structure marked the former bank/hedge boundary of the paddock. The building is probably the Chapel of All Saints identified in a land grant by Anselm de Gurney to Robert de Chaury, parson in 1248/9.

(Colin Budge)

Weston-super-Mare, Woodspring Priory, ST3343 1661

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleve Archaeological Research Team (YCCART) and Weston-super-Mare Archaeological Research Team (WESMART) were requested by Vince Russett, North Somerset County Archaeologist, to carry out geophysical surveys at Woodspring Priory to establish the presence, or otherwise of any other buildings around the current standing ones. The surveys, which were carried out using magnetometry and resistivity equipment, revealed a number of previously unknown features. These included a building at a different alignment to the existing priory building, a small building on the north wall of the chancel, a 20m x 22m structure around the spring in the orchard fronting the priory and remnants of a potential Tudor garden.

(Peter English)

Winsford, Church of St Mary Magdalene, SS 904 349, Exmoor HER EEM14046

The excavation of a drainage trench to the north, west and south of the church as monitored. This showed that the church was built directly onto the broad platform of a terrace cut into the bedrock of the slope, probably later extended to the north in the region of the nave. The backfilled eastern portion of the terrace was found to contain building materials and a 12th- or 13th-century tile fragment which may date from the initial construction phase. To the north of the terrace a feature was identified which contained a quantity of rounded quartz; the full form of this could not be determined, but it may mark the line of an early boundary. No graves were encountered during the project but a quantity of disturbed human remains was noted in the backfill of a 20th-century drain trench to the south of the church.

(James Brigers)

POST-MEDIEVAL

Bath, Northgate Street and Bridge Street, ST 7513 6494

A building assessment was undertaken at the former premises of Duck, Son and Pinker prior to proposed conversion of the buildings. The site is located just outside and on the north side of the medieval city wall and has been subject to multiple phases of change and extension from the early post-medieval period until the early 20th century. Running along part of the south boundary of the site is Slippery Lane, a narrow passage which runs down hill to the east toward the River Avon. This feature appears from map evidence to have late medieval origins and originally led to a ferry crossing to Bathwick. The line of Slippery Lane has been maintained through the site and can be traced through the sub-basement level of the properties on Bridge Street. The earliest extant structures on the site are located on the north side of Slippery Lane and probably date to the 17th century. They represent the remains of small dwellings and would appear to have survived relatively intact until the mid 19th century when they were altered as part of the expansion of number 12 Northgate Street. Both Northgate Street and Bridge Street were re-developed in the late 18th century as part of the wider Georgian expansion of Bath. This changed the character of the immediate area and forms the present street

arrangement. The land to the rear of 12 Northgate Street property remained relatively open and was gradually built on as part of the expansion of the Bath Herald newspaper business in the 19th century and subsequent early 20th century. The Bridge Street properties were partly occupied by Duck, Son and Pinker, a large manufacturer and repairer of musical instruments, who rebuilt number 9 and 10 Bridge Street in 1903 whilst retaining the late 18th-century sub-basement level for workshops. The company took over the whole site by 1928 when they re-built the street front of number 12 Northgate Street and enclosed the remaining open areas to the north side of the 17th-century properties along Slippery Lane. They retained the Milsom and Son music business at number 12 Northgate Street and continued in business until 2011. The site retains much of its early character and every phase of subsequent development is well represented. The Slippery Lane properties have had all of their doors and windows blocked creating a somewhat neglected appearance. Further to the east the sub-basement levels under number 9, 10 and 11 Bridge are well-preserved with areas of stone vaulting. These too have become unused and neglected. The upper floor levels remain as left when the business vacated the premises.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Blagdon, Bath Road, Live and Let Live public house, ST 5045 5862

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) undertook a building survey of the historic core of the Live and Let Live public house prior to its demolition. The earliest phase of the building was represented by clay-bonded rubble construction, which formed the principal build of the two rooms on the ground floor, and probably both dated to the late medieval period, possibly the 16th century. The building was not used as a beer house until after 1865 and is first named as the Butchers Arms in the 1871 census. The first record of the Live and Let Live being used as the name of the property was 1882.

(Simon Roper)

Bridgwater, West Quay, ST 300 372

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology during repairs to West Quay. A wall and an adjacent surface had been exposed during removal of collapsed material behind the quay wall. Both were constructed of blue lias, and

on the basis of previous observations in the area were tentatively dated to documented works in c. 1725. These works included the construction of a new quay.

(Andrew Passmore)

Bruton, King's School, ST 6842 3472, Somerset HER 32152

At the commencement of a proposed long term research project, a single archaeological evaluation trench was excavated within the playing fields. The trench was designed to test the results of a ground penetrating radar survey, commissioned to identify the site of a former mansion house and earlier monastic buildings and which had indicated the presence of potentially significant archaeological remains at relatively shallow depth. The excavations exposed a wall and other structural remains of a character and depth commensurate with the results of the survey. Datable material from the evaluation combined with the results of the radar survey suggested that the exposed wall may from the eastern side of the post-medieval Mansion House, which may not have lain on the same site as the abbey.

(Dick Broomhead)

Cheddar, Parsons Farm, ST 435 524

A magnetic gradiometer survey was conducted over land containing a Scheduled duck decoy prior to the proposed development of an additional reservoir. The location of the former duck decoy was evident through strong magnetic disturbance associated with its backfilling. However, the extents of the disturbance are well-defined, suggesting that the modern intrusion is limited to the original extents of the decoy. Three arms, or 'pipes' are visible to the east of the decoy, extending up to 50m from the central pond. These are defined by curving bands of magnetic disturbance, which are similarly well-defined. Other anomalies of possible archaeological interest appear elsewhere but are not sufficiently clear to determine whether they relate to the duck decoy or are geological in origin.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Dunster Castle, access path, SS 991 434, Exmoor HER EEM14095

In May 2012, four evaluation trenches were excavated by the National Trust along the path leading up from Dunster Castle mansion to the summer house and the tor summit. Work was

required to alter the gradient and introduce more steps to improve visitor safety and access. A painting by George Wood dated 1735, demonstrates that the path was in use at that time and it may have been created when any remaining medieval castle buildings on the tor were levelled for a bowling green in 1722. The evaluation uncovered the foundation trench for the brick summer house (Bowling Green House) which lies at the top of the steps. Finds of clay tile and tobacco pipe in the trench confirmed that the building was contemporary with the bowling green. Further down slope and beneath the path gravel surface was found a dark humic loam which contained a mix of 19th-century and earlier domestic debris which included animal bone, oyster shells and large fragments of medieval cooking pot. AC Archaeology subsequently carried out a watching brief, which exposed a series of post-medieval occupation layers and deposits. These produced animal bone, pottery, clay pipe fragments, metal and glass. Five residual medieval sherds may indicate earlier activity.

(Martin Papworth and Paul Cooke)

Wedmore, Goodmeads, ST 425 474,
Somerset HER 32157

East and West Goodmead are two fields that do not conform to the layout of the surrounding former open-field system. They were walked and features recorded in the 1980s before development of the village sports field damaged the east end of the fields, which are now overlain by a car park. The fields lie in the shallow valley of the infant Blackford Brook, running westwards to Blackford. The natural course of the brook would be down the centre of the two fields. Instead, the brook has been deliberately diverted to run at a higher level along the northern boundary of both fields, behind a retaining bank. This would give a head of water to release, in controlled fashion, through sluices into the meadows. At the east end an indistinct curved bank survived, together with what may have been an inlet channel from the stream. These features were later damaged and obscured by a small pond, dumps of soil and a small brick building. All these features have now been removed. Lengthways gripes to carry the water through the meadows were evident. In the centre of the west side is a well-preserved outlet from which water could be directed back to the main stream, though no sign of any sluice structure was visible. "Goodmead" is first recorded as a

fieldname in 1558 and again in 1698/99. Revd SHA Hervey reported a clyce or sluice there in the late 1800s.

(Hazel Hudson and Frances Neale)

INDUSTRIAL

Bath, 17 Gay Street, ST 7476 6520

Part of John Wood the Younger's completion of his father's development of Barton Field commencing c.1756, the building survives largely unaltered except for a WC turret up its back wall, an internal WC cubicle ingeniously suspended at the top of the stairwell, refurbishment of the cellar for office use and the usual fireplace alterations. Significantly, its decorative joinery above cellar level survives almost completely intact and, at the time of the survey, had been stripped of all paints so that its assembly details could be seen.

(Michael Heaton)

Bath, 22-24 Crescent Lane, ST 7439 6532,
BaNES HER EBN3487

Three machine-excavated trial trenches within a former petrol station revealed only extensive disturbance and the partial remains of a water cistern of probably late 18th-century date associated with development of the Royal Crescent.

(Michael Heaton)

Bath, Brougham Hayes, Hayesfield Lower School, ST 7402 6460, BaNES 3387

A watching brief was carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) prior to the construction of a new school building. Apart from four sherds of residual Romano-British and medieval pottery, there was no evidence of any significant activity on the site prior to the construction of a Militia Barracks in 1864. The foundations of a group of Second World War huts were recorded in an area formerly used as a tennis court.

(Cai Mason)

Bath, Cleveland House, Sydney Road,
ST 7588 6522

Built for the Kennet and Avon canal Company in 1817 by the Bathwick Estate to the wholly domestic design of its surveyor John Pinch, the house is distinguished by its position directly over the canal. Though no evidence was seen of

the fabled delivery hatch in the arch of the canal vault, the interior of the building survives largely unaltered except for the usual late 20th-century commercial conversions.

(Michael Heaton)

Bath, Southgate, ST 7518 6434, BaNES HER 3356
The final stage of work on this scheme consisted of a watching brief and standing structure survey on the site of the former Bath Spa Station goods shed, following evaluation work in 2008. The goods shed was an integral part of Brunel's station, which opened in 1841; like the station it was constructed on a viaduct built in local limestone which created a platform 7.26m above the adjacent pavement in Dorchester Street. The viaduct arches were recorded by 3D laser scanning prior to their conversion to commercial use. The earthen ramp which gave vehicular and pedestrian access from the street to the goods shed was recorded during its removal, although the original roadway surface had not survived. This exposed external faces of the viaduct which were photographically recorded. New construction was designed to have a minimal impact on remains of the goods shed itself, but further exposures of walls, internal surfaces, track spurs, turntable settings and the socket for a crane or winding mechanism were recoded, supplementing the 2008 observations. The earliest evidence for the use of the spaces beneath the goods shed consisted of the installation of coal chutes from the upper level and the laying of a brick floor incorporating a narrow gauge (50cm gauge) waggon tramway and two complete turntables (4ft diameter). These features date to the last decade of the 19th century when the goods shed was demolished and its site converted into a goods yard with coal storage below, supplying the furnaces of the adjacent electricity works.

(Marek Lewcun, Bruno Barber
and Eamonn Baldwin)

Batheaston, Waggon and Horses, St 7710 6700

The building started life as a single dwelling with outbuildings in the early 19th century and was converted to public house use by 1887 with a bespoke façade added c.1900. It was extended and internally refurbished in 1960 and then again in the early 1980s, to the extent that no internal historic fabric survives apart from structural walls.

(Michael Heaton)

Castle Cary, Millbrook House, ST 6377 3231,
Somerset HER 31458

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to where the site of a mill had been noted. The remains of the probable north gable of a building standing on the site in 1886 were discovered under the modern brick boundary wall. The building was demolished between 1930 and 1977 and material forming a layer after its demolition sealed an earlier undated, probably modern, posthole and trench. A rubble layer, much of it deeply burnt, may have been deposited following the demolition of a building marked on maps from 1903 to 1930. Alternatively, it may have been integrated into a path shown on the map of 1886. The intensity and extent of the burning on the stone suggested that it derived from an industrial rather than a domestic structure. No evidence for a mill or associated features was identified on the site.

(Richard Tabor)

Churchstanton, Otterhead House, ST 2238 1387,
Somerset HER 43487

A number of water power features at Otterhead House are being investigated by Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society (SIAS). Otterhead House was at the centre of an extensive 19th-century estate but the house itself was demolished after the Second World War. Excavation and recording of a waterwheel pumping station has now been completed. The system provided clean spring water to a tank in the roof of the house via an underground waterwheel and pump situated beneath steps on the house terrace. Water to operate the wheel came from a leat which is thought to predate the house and originally powered machinery at an earlier farm on the site. Features in the leat have also been recorded. Documentary and map evidence indicates the system was installed between 1864 and 1890. The chamber is stone built, 1.84m square in plan and with an arched roof about 1.8m above the concrete floor; the floor has a shallow recess for the wheel location. The wheel would have been around 1.45m diameter and 300mm wide and was fed on an overshot basis by a 65mm diameter cast iron pipe from the leat. The wheel axle was supported on one side on a recess in the wall and on the other on a timber trestle, part of which survives. The pump sump is adjacent to the wheel and is about 450mm deep and lined with

slate. Inlet and outlet pipes for the spring water were found and the start of the tailrace which discharged to the adjacent lake. The pumping mechanism itself is not clear although the pump was probably of simple reciprocating type. The survey, documentary research, and conclusions on the pumping mechanism will be the subject of a forthcoming article in the SIAS Bulletin.

(Peter Daniel)

Frome, former gasworks, Welshmill Lane,
ST 7758 4862

A historic building appraisal of the former gasworks was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology. The gasworks were constructed during the mid 19th century and continued in use until 1950. Latterly the buildings were used as a tile production factory.

(Simon Loering)

Holford, Hack Lane, Dodington, ST 1784 3974,
Somerset HER 31839

A limekiln was investigated and recorded by Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society (SIAS) following an enquiry to the Somerset HER. There is nothing recorded at the location on any OS maps and on the tithe map the plot is recorded as newly enclosed and described as "waste".

The structure appears to be a collapsed limekiln with extensive quarrying behind. The only surviving masonry is a short length of curved wall at the rear of the hollow and two short lengths of projecting wingwalls; the curved wall is part of the bowl and features fused stone. The kiln would have been around 2m in diameter and 5m in height. The remains are consistent with a typical western Somerset multiple-arch style kiln. The quarries are situated on a narrow outcrop of Roadwater Limestone which occurs within the Leighland Slate series of the Devonian. This limestone has been extensively worked for limeburning elsewhere on the Quantocks.

No documentary or map evidence for the kiln has been found which suggests that the kiln is relatively early in date, probably late 18th century, and that it was disused and the quarries reverted to waste scrub by 1840. Its location close to the Minehead turnpike of 1765 may be significant. A full report will appear in the SIAS Bulletin.

(Peter Daniel)

Nynehead, Grand Western Canal, ST 1442 2184

Further monitoring and recording of the canal and lift structure was carried out during restoration and consolidation work in early 2012. Targeted excavation in the channel to the west of the aqueduct revealed a slot for a horizontal timber which corresponded with two recesses revealed in the leader walls in 2011. It would appear that this represented the remains of a setting for a further stop plank (in addition to that at the head of the lift excavated in 2011) that would have been employed during cleaning or maintenance work on the channel. Overburden from the walls of the lift structure was cleared allowing detailed examination and record of the structure and to the south trenches were excavated that exposed gravel and rubble surfaces representing the probable remains of the tow path which was found to follow the route around the lift suggested by early mapping.

(James Brigers)

Nynehead, Nynehead Park,
ST 144 217 – ST 137 223

A watching brief conducted during the re-surfacing of the three-arched bridge confirmed the sequence of surfaces and drainage as suggested by the findings of the 2011 evaluation and enabled a detailed examination of the sub-structure of the bridge deck.

(James Brigers)

Rode, 24 High Street, ST 8042 5386,
Somerset HER 20955

There was a building mapped on this site in 1839 that might have had 18th-century or earlier origins. The rear wall and, possibly, the south gable appear to survive from that building, cut by 20th century openings. The first floor elevation of the front (west) wall was rebuilt in the mid 19th century together with the roof structure, and the ground floor elevation was rebuilt in the mid 20th century. The internal fabric is all of mid 20th century construction, including the a salvaged fire place, installed when the shop front was removed in the early 1950s.

(Michael Heaton)

Taunton, Castle Hotel outbuildings, ST 226 245,
Somerset HER 31519

Historic building recording of the outbuildings at the Castle Hotel, Taunton was carried out by AC

Archaeology in January 2012 prior to and during their demolition. A preliminary survey of the buildings by Somerset County Council in 2006 had indicated that they were probably constructed in the early 19th century and subsequently expanded. The 2012 work concluded that there are six main phases of development, with the last major expansion and refurbishment having taken place by 1930. The earliest building was constructed using stone, the remainder in brick. The buildings were originally used as coach houses and for recreation, including a billiard room, associated with the adjacent hotel.

(Andrew Passmore)

Wambrook, Broad Oak, ST 2905 0773,
Somerset HER 53247

Historical research and visual survey of a group of ruinous buildings within the grounds of 'Broad Oak' showed the buildings to be relics of an early 19th-century homestead established between 1816 and 1845 on former common land. Two of the buildings, the house and the principal agricultural building, survive in an essentially unaltered, albeit ruinous, condition; two other buildings, currently a woodshed and a store, were substantially modified in the 20th century.

(Michael Heaton)

Weston-super-Mare, The Ashcombe,
Ashcombe Road, ST 3278 6131

Historic building recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology prior to demolition. The earliest OS mapping indicates the building was substantially completed by 1882 and fabric analysis suggests it was constructed in the 1850/60s, with many alterations during its existence. The exterior was largely unaltered, but no original or early features survived in the interior ground floor. The upstairs had undergone alterations but the original layout and some details were still largely in place.

(Peter Davenport)

Wraxall, The Forge, Bristol Road, ST 5905 7189

Absolute Archaeology recorded the smithy building, which showed that, although the contemporary smithy building retains a high percentage of the original masonry, the overall layout of the structure has been dramatically altered throughout the 20th century. Internally, only half of the original flooring survived and none of the original fixtures/fittings appeared to

remain. The doors have been replaced and the windows have been reconfigured to light modern partitions. The roof structure appears to have been completely renewed.

(Paul Martin and Sam Driscoll)

Wraxall, Tyntesfield, Home Farm creamery,
ST 5016 7166

During gardening work on the north side of Home Farmhouse, the tenant removed a shrub from a 7m diameter circular stone structure with 0.7m wide wall. It had been infilled and levelled with gravel. The excavation to remove the roots of the plant revealed that the interior of the structure had been decorated with white ceramic tiles. In October 2012, the root hollow was cleaned and excavated to the good flagstone floor of the structure. The white tiles were found to continue down to a bevelled stone skirting course 0.3m high from the floor. The section through the rubble infilling of the structure was drawn and photographed. Maps and aerial photographs show that this had once been a circular thatched creamery building attached to the Home Farm dairy. There are no known close-up photographs of the building taken before it was demolished in the mid 20th century. It is thought to have been built in the 1850s-70s and was a feature of the park with gothic stained glass windows and a stone fountain within. It is surrounded by a tufa rockery. A twin for this building survives on the old Tyntesfield Estate dairy farm at Charlton Farm, Wraxall.

(Martin Papworth)

Wraxall, Tyntesfield, ST3504 1714

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCART) continued the geophysical surveys at the National Trust's Tyntesfield Estate which had been started in 2010. This year YCCART had been requested by the local National Trust management to assist their staff in finding the location of the conservatory and the west-wing tower that predated the 1863-5 modifications to the house. The surveys, which were carried out using magnetometry and resistivity equipment, revealed a number of features probably associated with previous foundations, service pipes and garden features. Without an excavation, interpretation of the features can only be speculative.

(Peter English)

Weston-super-Mare, Marine Parade, Tropicana,
ST 3165 6065

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) recorded the building prior to demolition. Most of the original external structure of the 1937 pavilion building was still present, constructed of Mendip limestone. Concrete blockwork additions probably date from the mid 20th century, with the most significant changes taking place in 1982/3 when the site became the Tropicana and a new building, constructed from brickwork and steel beams, was added to the south side. Further changes occurred in the 1990s but largely to the internal layout. A few original Art Deco features survived. These include some of the changing room cubicles, the metal-framed windows, woodwork and floor tiling. The swimming pool's fountain survived but in a damaged state.

(Simon Roper)

OTHER REPORTS

Barrington, Barrington Court, ST 3946 1831,
Somerset HER 31954

Observation of topsoil clearance for a drive north-west of Barrington Court revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

(Alan Graham)

Bath, Combe Down, Claverton Down Road, Ralph Allen School, ST 7714 6268,
BaNES HER EBN3466, EBN3491

A geophysical survey and evaluation were undertaken by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) prior to the construction of a new school building and an all-weather sports pitch. The survey identified a number of features of possible archaeological origin but the subsequent evaluation demonstrated that apart from a modern drain crossing the school hockey pitch, most of the geophysical anomalies appeared to be natural features. A small quantity of early to middle Iron Age and Romano-British pottery and some worked flint was recovered from the topsoil and topsoil/natural interface layers. Although these finds provide some evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity somewhere in the vicinity of the site, they were not thought to be indicative of any significant presence within the proposed development area. A subsequent watching brief found more of

the same pottery but no significant features or deposits.

(Cai Mason)

Bath, High Street, ST 751 648,
BaNES HER EBN2664

The excavation of a pipe trench north of the Abbey was monitored but no significant deposits were encountered.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Bath, Lansdown Park and Ride, ST 730 681,
BaNES HER EBN3240, EBN3516

Groundworks associated with the expansion of the Lansdown Park and Ride site and construction of replacement sports pitches to the north of the city of Bath were monitored. No archaeological features and or deposits were identified.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Bath, Southdown, Whiteway Road, Jubilee Inn,
ST 7244 6315

A watching brief was carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) during groundworks for the construction of 9 terraced houses. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed.

(Tim Longman)

Bath, Sydney Lawn, Sydney Road,
ST 75770 6516, BaNES EBN3518

Three machine-excavated trial trenches revealed extensive modern disturbance. Potential archaeological remains were restricted to a rough alignment of rounded stones pressed into the clay 'natural'. This is interpreted as being the base of a rough foundation or, more probably, an ad hoc temporary surface formed during construction of an un-realised extension of Sydney Place or of the adjoining railway cutting.

(Michael Heaton)

Biddisham, church of St John the baptist,
ST 3818 5343, Somerset HER 31895

The excavation of a soakaway to accommodate runoff from newly re-laid slabs at the entrance to the church and the refurbishment of the existing church path were monitored. No archaeological features were observed during the works and no situ burials were located although a small quantity of previously disturbed human bone and coffin furniture was recovered and re-interred.

(Dick Broomhead)

Bruton, Durslade Farm, ST 687 344,
Somerset HER 32093

A series of four evaluation trenches was excavated by South West Archaeology that showed that significant landscaping had occurred during the construction and use of the farm, which had removed any traces of earlier archaeological remains.

(Samual Walls)

Carhampton, Townsend Farm, ST005 428,
Somerset HER 31992

Evaluation by TVAS South West of 1ha of land in advance of a planning application for residential development recorded a number of linear features, certainly or possibly of medieval date. Part of a former farmyard had been truncated.

(Andrew Weale)

Chedzoy, Three Oaks Farm, ST 339 368,
Somerset HER 31841

Monitoring of the levelling of an area prior to the erection of a new farm building recorded no pre-modern features or finds.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Chew Stoke, St Andrew's church, ST 5568 6194

The construction of a kitchen area within the north aisle was monitored but no significant archaeological features were observed.

(Dick Broomhead)

Chewton Mendip, Chewton Fields Farm,
ST 6106 5384, Somerset HER 31851

A detailed magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd over areas outlined for the development of an equestrian arena, car park and access track. The results revealed widespread anomalies indicative of increased soil depth within cracks in the underlying limestone. A series of positive linear, rectilinear and discrete anomalies towards the north eastern corner of the site have a morphology that could suggest ditch-like and pit-like features; however, they are on a similar orientation to the geological anomalies and a natural origin cannot be ruled out.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

Chewton Mendip, Shooters Bottom, ST 592 502,
Somerset HER 32165

Evaluation trenches were sited to test the results of a geophysical survey. No archaeological features

were recorded during the course of the evaluation and the geophysical anomalies were proven to be the result of variations in the underlying natural geology. Two worked flints were recovered from the topsoil.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Clevedon, 10 Coleridge Road, ST 4036 7131

An archaeological watching brief by Absolute Archaeology revealed no evidence of any significant ancient activity

(Paul Martin and Sam Driscoll)

Congresbury, Station Road, ST 4364 6385

Monitoring of the footings for an extension along the west side and rear of the house known as 'Lenora', revealed essentially undisturbed alluvial subsoils containing only 20th century material.

(Michael Heaton)

East Brent, Pilrow, ST 362 518,
Somerset HER 31602

Fifteen trenches were positioned to target archaeological anomalies identified during a geophysical survey but no archaeological features or deposits were revealed. It was also noted that no geological features correlated with any of the geophysical anomalies.

(Wessex Archaeology)

Frome to west of Trowbridge, ST 808 509 to
ST 842 608, Somerset HER 31904

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief over the bases of six pylons during groundworks associated with the refurbishment of an overhead line from Melksham, Wiltshire to Radstock and from Radstock to Frome, Somerset. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified during the monitoring.

(Richard Tabor)

Glastonbury, Wells Road, Health Centre,
ST 5023 3907, Somerset HER 31459

Archaeological observations were made during the reduction of levels and the excavation of foundations and services for the construction of a new Health Centre and adjacent car park. The site which was previously occupied by a number of 19th-century buildings and barns was shown to have been largely cleared by the construction of the previous Health Centre in the 1970s with

only fragmentary traces of a former boundary wall remaining.

(Dick Broomhead)

Ilminster, Beech House, ST 3551 1476,
Somerset HER 31955

Observation of site clearance and trenching for a new house revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

(Alan Graham)

North Petherton, Huntworth Road,
ST 3006 3409, Somerset HER 32106

An evaluation comprising seven trenches located no significant features and only a limited number of Roman and later finds.

(Wessex Archaeology)

North Petherton, St Michael Church, ST 3022 3003, Somerset HER 31600

A single trench was opened within an existing farm building in advance of development in February 2012. Natural clay was overlain directly by a probable cultivation soil and the floor of the building. No other archaeological deposits or features were observed.

(James Brigers)

Stathe, Black Smock, ST 379 282,
Somerset HER 31903

A trench evaluation was carried by AC archaeology on land adjacent to the River Parrett in advance of the upgrading of existing floodbanks. No archaeological features were exposed or artefacts found.

(Dan Brace)

Taunton, High Street, ST 227 242 to ST 226 244,
Somerset HER 32100

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd conducted an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with water mains. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered along the course of a re-excavated pipeline route and reception pits. In the main this may be attributed to the care taken by the construction workers to dig within the existing pipe trench.

(Richard Tabor)

Taunton, Priory Barn, ST 2300 2497,
Somerset HER 30681

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief comprising the hand excavation of 12 test pits and the removal of existing flag and cobble stones. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

(Richard Tabor)

Taunton, Somerset County Cricket Ground,
ST 2289 2505

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd monitored the removal of the ground level stand and a controlled strip of topsoil to the west of the pavilion, relating to the development of the Ondaatje Pavilion. No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no finds were recovered or observed.

(Richard Tabor)

Walton, Holy Trinity Church, ST 4613 3631,
Somerset HER 31752

The excavation of a drainage trench associated with the construction of a toilet and hospitality unit was monitored but no archaeological features were observed.

(Dick Broomhead)

Washford, Cleeve Abbey, ST 047 405,
Somerset HER 31461

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks relating to a proposed new water main within the grounds of Cleeve Abbey. The work showed that within the past four centuries deep soils have formed over water meadow deposits. No other archaeologically significant deposits were identified and a single piece of medieval pottery was the only find.

(Richard Tabor)

Wells, Cadet Centre, ST 5454 4536,
Somerset HER 31699

Foundations Archaeology undertook two phases of archaeological monitoring during groundworks. Only five possible features were identified, of which four are likely to have been root boles associated with the former orchard, and the other a possible surface. Red glazed earthenwares of the 17th-19th century were associated with all of

the features and may indicate that the trees were removed during this period.

(Tracy Michaels)

Wells, Whiting Way, ST 5462 4585,
Somerset HER 31606

Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation, excavating a total of six 30m trenches. No archaeological finds, features, or deposits pre-dating the late post-medieval period were present.

(Tracy Michaels)

Weston-super-Mare, Market Lane, ST 3195 6175

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified no archaeological remains.

(Tom Weavill)

Winford, St Mary and St Peter church, ST 544 650

Monitoring of the installation of a new toilet in the north aisle of the parish church recorded no pre-modern features or finds.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wiveliscombe, 10 The Square, ST 0806 2775,
Somerset HER 31657

Evaluation by TVAS South West recorded a small pit tentatively dated to the medieval period, a small collection of pottery of 17th-19th century date and two undated abutting walls.

(Andrew Weale)

Wootton Courtenay, Bishops Cottages to Ford Farm, SS 935 429 to SS 936 430,

Exmoor HER EEM14006

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd conducted an archaeological watching brief during groundworks relating to a pipeline replacement scheme. The archaeological work involved monitoring and recording during easement stripping across a field, the stripping of a compound and excavation of a pipe trench along a road. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

(Richard Tabor)

Yeovilton, RNAS Yeovilton, ST 548 242,

Somerset HER 32016

Geotechnical work was monitored but no archaeological features or deposits were observed.

(Wessex Archaeology)