

**Somerset Archaeology 2020**

*Edited by C J Webster*

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# SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY 2020

EDITED BY CHRIS J. WEBSTER, SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST

## SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The year 2020 will be remembered as the year of the Covid pandemic. Working practices were amended and staff worked from home for most of the year. A whole series of new rules and risk assessments were put in place to restrict the spread of the virus. The impact on archaeological investigation and recording was considerable at the start of the pandemic but modified working practices on outdoor projects enabled many developments to go ahead.

Despite all the disruptions brought about by the pandemic the number of planning applications submitted during the year did not decline and the archaeological team in the Historic Environment Service (HES) continued to deal with even more enquiries in 2020 than in the previous year. In 2020 the team commented on 1,675 planning applications ranging from further work on the proposed A303 improvements, housing schemes, churches, quarries and Town Enhancement schemes at Chard and Yeovil. Archaeological planning advice continues to be a core function of our service and is coordinated by Steve Membery, Tanya James and Jan Grove.

In 2019 we reported on the importance of volunteers who help us deliver a wide range of projects from Tithe map recording through to Hands on Heritage work at the Avalon Archaeology Park (AAP) near Westhay. Sadly, most of this volunteering work was put on hold during 2020 because the Somerset Heritage Centre was closed for most of the year. Some volunteering was possible at the AAP where it was possible to work outdoors and to follow the Covid guidelines. A draft funding bid for the AAP was prepared to the National Lottery Heritage Fund but it was put on hold because all NLHF funding was re-directed towards organisations that were adversely affected by the impacts of the pandemic on their ability to generate income. A revised bid is due to be submitted in 2021.

Work on the post excavation programme associated with the earlier excavations at Hinkley Point C power station was largely put on hold during 2020 and is due to pick up again in 2021. The HES continues to monitor the work of statutory undertakers such as Bristol Water and Wessex Water.

During the year 1,613 new entries were added to the Somerset HER and 319 to the BaNES HER. Chris Webster and Jack Fuller continued to work on the Historic England commissioned project to transfer information from national records to the HER. This work was completed at the end of 2020 and over 12,000 entries in Somerset and nearly 3,300 entries in BaNES were revised. Jack left the team at the end of the year to take up PhD research on the archaeology of Crete.

In 2020 Jan Grove gave detailed comments on a wide range of agri-environmental schemes and the likely impact of stewardship schemes proposed schemes on the historic environment. Partnership work with Quantock and Mendip AONB teams continued and many of the local landmark sites such as Cothelstone Hill on Quantock and Deer Leap on Mendip received many local visitors showing how important these landscape sites are for health and well-being.

Bob Croft and Nic Wall continue to offer advice on archaeological and conservation matters in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The final phase of work at Bath Abbey is almost completed and the post excavation work is due to start in 2021. Changes to the interiors of many churches involving the removal of pews and the installation of toilet facilities often require specific archaeological and historic building recording requirements.

As with many projects in Somerset, the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme's community archaeology part of the project was delayed during the year but plans were revised for a busy programme in 2021-22 looking at Cothelstone Hill and Dowsborough hillfort. A lidar survey of the QLPS study area was commissioned and this resource will be made available to local researchers next year.

The acquisition of Norton Fitzwarren hillfort by Somerset West and Taunton Council has now secured the future of this important archaeological site. The site is due to be leased to the SWHT and a community heritage project is planned subject to further funding. A bid to the Green Recovery Fund in 2020 brought in much-needed additional funding to seed the interior of the hillfort as a wildflower meadow.

The partnership arrangement to work with South Somerset District Council to offer Conservation and Listed Building advice continued in 2020 and Heike

Bernhardt continued to be seconded to cover this important service. A major conservation achievement for the year was the rebuilding and repair of the entrance boundary wall to the Somerset Rural Life Museum and this was carried out single-handedly by Andy Stevens during the lockdown periods of 2020. A project to conserve and restore historic milestones on the A38 continued during the year and the cast iron markers will be returned to the roadside in 2021.

Opportunities to work with partners to deliver new conservation and research projects around the county continue and the HES and the Museum Service of the SWHT has continued to offer archaeological and museum advice on the Hadspen villa project at The Newt in Somerset. The programme of outreach, walks and talks was much curtailed in 2020 but several locally produced archaeological videos have proved to be popular and these can be viewed on the SWHT website, including films on the use of aerial photographs, how to use the HER and a documentary film on the Royal Ordnance Factory at Puriton. Improving the digital offer of the service is one way in which the work of the HES reaches a wider audience. This is a key task for the future.

(Bob Croft)

#### NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The North Somerset Council heritage team is relatively small, comprising the Senior Archaeologist, Conservation and Heritage Officer and a part-time Historic Environment Record Officer.

Since 2017 the service has undergone a number of significant changes, mostly as a result of an external audit of the North Somerset Historic Environment Record by Historic England in 2016. Key highlights have included digitising our collection of over 1,200 grey literature reports, implementing a new online system for requests for information from the database, creation of policies and procedures, and a concerted effort on updating the information held within the HER and adding over 500 reports to the database. We have also recently migrated to an externally hosted system which gives officers the flexibility to work remotely, and also provides access for the Conservation and Heritage Officer.

In 2020 we had to think of new ways to engage with the public given that national lockdowns, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, meant face-to-face activities were out of the question. Heritage officers set up Facebook and Twitter accounts to disseminate information in a digital format linked to Know Your Place and worked in collaboration with staff at Weston

Museum to produce educational activities, content and videos. In addition, we moved to digital platforms to deliver content and activities for national events such as the Festival of Archaeology and Heritage Open Days. In 2017 we set up the North Somerset Heritage Forum, which allows community groups across the district with an interest in archaeology and heritage to come together and share information, ideas, skills (and equipment). The Forum also provides an opportunity for the Council's heritage officers to give updates on key developments and offer advice and guidance on groups' projects. Last year we held two 'virtual' Forum meetings which were both well attended and although many groups had undertaken limited activity, they were great opportunities for networking and sharing thoughts and ideas. A new Conservation Area was adopted in Churchill in January 2020, which is centred on the historic core of the village. A Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan was created in collaboration with local residents. Work is under way on an appraisal and management plan for Banwell Conservation Area and will hopefully be adopted in 2021. In August 2020 a second Heritage Action Zone was awarded in Weston-super-Mare as part of the High Street HAZ programme. Launched in October, this project focusses on the town centre's 20th-century architectural legacy through shopfront and public realm enhancement schemes. This will run alongside other heritage-led regeneration projects in the town, and a cultural programme will build on Weston's thriving creative scene, engaging people with the town's heritage and looking ahead to its future.

The Worlebury Camp hillfort project was set up to achieve a number of objectives outlined in a management plan adopted in 2019. The scheduled monument on the edge of Weston-super-Mare was added to Historic England's Heritage at Risk register in 2017 due to threats from forestry and vegetation. The management plan objectives include tree felling and vegetation clearance, a suite of archaeological research to better understand the hillfort, and improved access and interpretation. The project was slightly affected by the pandemic as the National Lottery Heritage Fund temporarily diverted their funding streams to focus on emergencies, but work continued behind the scenes and volunteers were on site clearing vegetation between national lockdowns. New areas have been opened up over the last couple of years and for the first time in decades the southern ramparts are clearly visible to visitors. An application to the NLHF is to be submitted in 2021, now that a felling licence has been approved.

Work has also continued on monitoring of investigations and excavations associated with the Hinkley Point C Connection Project which runs from the Hinkley site to Avonmouth. Exciting new discoveries

have been made and these will be showcased to local communities once complete. Although construction stalled in the first few months of 2020, the number of planning applications submitted certainly didn't slow down, with archaeological advice provided on approximately 100 applications. New discoveries are being made all the time, helping to contribute to a better understanding of North Somerset's past, and we are pursuing every appropriate opportunity to deliver public benefit and ensure heritage is at the heart of new developments and projects across the district.

(Cat Lodge)

## EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT

There was no diminishing of workload during 2020 and staff worked from home throughout, with site visits when permitted. Planning, Countryside Stewardship and other consultations proceeded as usual. 2020 saw the completion of a joint two-year Monuments Management Scheme (MMS) run by the National Park with funding from Historic England. The Scheme covers work on sites that are 'at risk' where other funding is not available. The main project was the lime mortar and soft capping consolidation of a ruined range at Barlynch Priory overseen by Historic Buildings officer Tom Thurlow. A geophysical survey, study of a collection of tile fragments and new interpretation were also undertaken. A 'Heritage Open Day' was held at the Priory in September with strict numbers and a one-way system in place. Other MMS work included vegetation control at Berry Castle, Luccombe; Oldberry Castle in Dulverton; Porlock Hill stone setting; the packhorse bridge at Lyncombe and St Leonard's Well in Dunster. Measured surveys were undertaken at Brightworthy Barrows, stone settings on Wilmersham Common, the Chains and Lanacombe, with the re-erection of two fallen stones on Wilmersham Common and Halscombe. The parish cleared damaging vegetation from a listed trough at Timberscombe.

Catherine Dove who manages the Exmoor Historic Environment Record successfully bid for funding as part of a national project to transfer data from the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) to local HERs. On what proved to be an excellent lockdown activity Catherine also worked with Minehead U3A on a project to transcribe scans of documents relating to the Knight family who bought the former Exmoor Forest in 1820. This archive is a key resource for a Leverhulme funded project 'Reclaiming Exmoor', begun by the universities of Exeter and Plymouth in late 2020, linking analysis of the palaeo-environmental and

documentary resource.

Work by the South West Peatland Partnership continues on Exmoor and Martin Gillard, the Historic Environment Officer for the project, worked with Chris Carey from Brighton University on a small-scale research evaluation to examine a field system part-submerged in the peat on Codsand Moor.

The work of the Early Dunster Project run by Mary Ewing of SANHS with funding from Historic England continues to illuminate the fascinating history of Dunster's early buildings.

(Shirley Blaylock)

## SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

*Blackford, Blackford Hill Quarry,*  
ST 6598 2517, Somerset HER 42087

A series of linear anomalies were identified by a TVAS South West geophysical survey representing part of a system of small rectilinear fields that pre-dates the 19th century and may well be of Roman or prehistoric date.

(Kyle Beaverstock)

*Burledge Hillfort, ST 582 585, BaNES HER 68340*

Gradiometry survey was carried out by GeoFlo over three fields on behalf of the Burledge Hillfort Project. The results revealed a series of linear and curvilinear anomalies on varying alignments, with a dominant WSW to ENE trend following the alignment of the ramparts. A concentration of curvilinear anomalies towards the west of the survey area corresponds with the site of Iron Age occupation excavated in 1955 by Arthur ApSimon and the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society. An area of strong dipolar anomalies located at the NE of the survey area corresponds with the location of the Widcombe poor house and associated structures shown on the c. 1840 tithe map. Other weaker linear trends on varying alignments could suggest differing activity phases. The survey results were adversely affected by ferrous magnetic interference from a pipeline crossing all three fields.

(Liz Caldwell)

*Cheddar, Hellier's Lane, ST 4485 5330,*  
Somerset HER 41957

Lefort Geophysics was commissioned by AC Archaeology to undertake a fluxgate gradiometer survey of land to the north of Hellier's Lane. The survey revealed few features of archaeological interest with a possible pit and a short section of ditch representing the clearest anomalies identified. The majority of detected features were considered to be modern or agricultural in origin.

(Ross Lefort)

*Chilcompton, White Hayes Cottage*, ST 6505 5240,  
Somerset HER 39900

Geophysical survey carried out by GeoFlo for Context One Heritage and Archaeology revealed a weak positive and negative linear trend, the uniformity of which suggested modern agricultural practice. Two areas of ferrous magnetic disturbance corresponding with depressions in the field were identified as possible infilled mineshafts.

(Liz Caldwell)

*Creech Heathfield*, ST 2745 2710,  
Somerset HER 42412, 41728

Lefort Geophysics was commissioned by AC Archaeology to carry out a fluxgate gradiometer survey of the route of a proposed Wessex Water pipeline. The survey data revealed a few scattered anomalies of possible archaeological interest along with several agricultural features.

This was followed by a programme of trial trenching and an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Wessex Water. Four trenches were excavated, with only one trench containing archaeological deposits. These consisted of a linear ditch or gully and a shallow pit, which may be associated with a cropmark enclosure known to the south (HER 44233). The pit contained four fragments of middle-to-late Bronze Age pottery. The subsequent watching brief did not reveal any evidence for other archaeological deposits and no pre-modern finds.

(Ross Lefort, Vince Simmonds)

*Langport, Somerton Road*, ST 4297 2772,  
Somerset HER 39915

Lefort Geophysics was commissioned by AC Archaeology to undertake a fluxgate gradiometer survey spanning a known concentration of cropmarks that are considered to largely be Roman in date (HER 54039). The survey results revealed a dense concentration of enclosure ditches along the northern edge and eastern half of the site. Some ditches are curving and may possibly prove to be prehistoric with the rectangular enclosures more likely to be Roman, as suggested by the existing HER record. Geological responses cover much of the dataset with weak anomalies of possible archaeological interest scattered sparsely across the western half of the area surveyed.

(Ross Lefort)

*Lopen, Holloway*, ST 4275 1420, Somerset HER 45213  
Lefort Geophysics was commissioned by AC Archaeology to carry out a fluxgate gradiometer survey within a recorded textile industry site (HER 36157). A number of straight ditch sections were detected along the western half of the data that may define unmapped

former field boundaries. Curving features in the south may prove to be of archaeological interest but are very weakly defined. A number of agricultural features were detected in the north.

(Ross Lefort)

*Maperton, Plantation Quarry*, ST 6667 2552,  
Somerset HER 42090

Magnetometer survey by TVAS South West covering 1.2ha detected strong and weak positive linear anomalies which most likely represent land division such as field systems. There was also a significant amount of geological disturbance possibly indicating the presence of colluvium in the centre of the site.

(Kyle Beaverstock)

*Pill, Chapel Pill Lane*, ST 5335 7560

Geophysical survey carried out by GeoFlo on behalf of Terrain Archaeology over a small site situated on the eastern edge of the villages of Pill and Ham Green. The survey results were dominated by major dipolar anomalies with readings within the range for ferrous magnetic and/or highly thermo-remnant material, particularly in the northern half of the survey area. Some of these could be positively identified as pipelines and manhole covers. The readings became less disturbed towards the south where a small number of weaker positive magnetic anomalies were also detected.

(Liz Caldwell)

*Puriton, Woolavington Road*, ST 3273 4139,  
Somerset HER 42218

A detailed magnetometry survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd. The results indicate the presence of a rectilinear enclosure and another L-shaped rectilinear ditch in the north-eastern part of the site. Further weakly positive and some negative anomalies could relate to further cut features, but they generally lack a coherent morphology and a non-archaeological origin is also possible. The site contains evidence of former quarrying, and ground reinstatement with strongly magnetic debris indicates a fill containing ferrous material.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

*Sandford, Nye Farm*, ST 4170 6150

Geophysical survey carried out by GeoFlo over a series of earthworks identified during test pitting by the Winscombe Project in 2016. Although the survey did not pick up the earthworks, an underlying linear trend was identified, possibly belonging to an early activity phase. Large amorphous anomalies on the same alignment could be caused by material deposited by flooding associated with possible dispersed bank material.

(Liz Caldwell)

*Somerton, Bancombe Road, ST 4795 2895,*  
Somerset HER 39522

A geophysical survey, comprising detailed magnetometry, was undertaken by Archaeological Surveys Ltd on land at Somerton at the request of Cotswold Archaeology in 2019. The results indicate the presence of a number of rectilinear enclosures separated by a trackway in the northern part of the site, with some evidence for structural remains in the north-eastern corner. A number of pit-like responses have also been located, and it is possible that there is an association with burials. To the south-west is a single ring ditch feature, and although a number of positive linear, discrete and rectilinear anomalies have been located further south, it is not clear if they relate to former cut features or if some relate to soil-filled geological features.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

*Tintinhull, Rushe's West Field, ST 4940 1965,*  
Somerset HER 39901

Geophysical survey was carried out by GeoFlo on behalf of the Tintinhull Local History Group over a concentration of Roman finds. Results were severely adversely affected by a scatter of irregular dipolar anomalies across the majority of the field which significantly limited confidence in interpretation. Whilst carrying out the survey, GeoFlo were informed by local metal detectorists that the field had previously been spread with so called 'green-waste' which is known to have a detrimental effect on archaeological geophysics.

(Liz Caldwell)

*Yatton, Chescombe Road, ST 4270 6515*

Lefort geophysics was commissioned by AC Archaeology to undertake a fluxgate gradiometer survey of land around Rectory Farm. Ditches were identified that may define part of a former farmyard with other ditches detected possibly defining a field system of unknown date. The majority of detected responses relate to post-medieval and modern agricultural features.

(Ross Lefort)

## MULTIPERIOD

*Cheddon Fitzpaine, The Decoy, Hestercombe, ST 237 286*

Monitoring and targeted excavations were conducted during the restoration of the large pond known as The Decoy to the west of the main house. Investigations were undertaken on the spillway to the east, the raised banks, the northern boundary, a depression to the west and the central island. Results thus far suggest that the pond originated as a square feature centred on the existing island and was subsequently extended to the east during the late 19th century at which date the banks were raised and re-faced

with pitched stone walling. Excavation of the square structure on the island found this to be the foundation for a potentially much taller building, the scale and plan of which suggest it may have functioned as a dovecote. Pottery of the 17th century from within the structure and the make-up of the island seems to suggest use, or even construction at this date. Investigation of the boundaries of the enclosure to the north and south-west revealed evidence of the landscape pre-dating the earliest phases of the pond and to the north a large east-west aligned ditch was investigated. The date of this feature remains uncertain but excavation of a depression on the same line but further east produced a large part of a vessel of the Late Iron Age. A large depression to the west of the pond was found to contain a large quantity of misfired bricks and kiln waste and it seems probable that this feature was formed during clay excavation for documented brick production on the Hestercombe estate in the latter half of the 18th century. Work continues in 2021.

(James Brigers)

*Glastonbury, Northover, ST 4856 3792,*  
Somerset HER 42564

Two trenches were excavated in advance of proposed development. The modern ground level was found to be the result of a considerable build-up of alluvium, containing medieval pottery of the 12th and 13th centuries within its upper strata. These deposits were found to seal a buried soil horizon representing the relict ground surface containing flecks of burnt clay, charcoal and a flint flake immediately above the natural geology. Limited investigation of the surface of the natural clay revealed the presence of a single undated slot, possibly to contain a timber fence or palisade and a probable plough strike. The evidence suggests the presence of limited prehistoric activity on the site prior to a prolonged period of hiatus during a period where site appears subject to repeated flooding before a re-commencement of agricultural activity coincident with the reclamation of the surrounding flood plain of the River Brue early in the medieval period.

(James Brigers)

*Keinton Mandeville, Lakeview quarry, ST 5455 3040,*  
Somerset HER 45106

Hollinrake Archaeology undertook four open-area excavations, prior to the construction of three dwellings and a café, at the ongoing housing development within the disused Blue Lias quarry. The north and eastern portion of a second Romano-British stone building was uncovered about 20m to the east of the barn which was excavated in 2017. The two buildings were parallel and appeared to have corresponding dimensions at c. 8m wide x 16m long, although the build quality of the herringbone

coursed masonry, and state of preservation of the building excavated in 2020 was inferior to the building excavated in 2017. The remnants of a well-constructed, originally culverted, stone-lined drain crossed through the excavation area between the two stone buildings on the same orientation, which had been purposefully partially demolished, probably during either the late or sub-Roman period. Activity on this part of the site appeared to have been primarily agricultural. Only six Roman coins were recovered, and fragments of jewellery from the period were only collected in a couple of instances. The Romano-British pottery assemblage was characterised by Black Burnished Wares, and finer wares such as Samian Ware were rare. Pits and postholes from the period tended to be clustered around the two stone buildings, with the reduced base of a midden lying equidistant between them.

An Iron Age settlement was also recorded: portions of three separate eaves drip gullies extended into the excavation areas. The other Iron Age features comprised two substantial storage pits, 46 smaller pits and 65 postholes. Tens of kilograms of Iron Age pottery have been collected from the site, which will form a valuable archaeological resource for the region. One infant and one adult inhumation were also excavated.

The isolated discovery of 32 sherds from a Neolithic Grooved Ware vessel, weighing slightly less than 1kg, within a small pit, suggests that earlier settlement may be found. The Neolithic and Bronze Age periods are otherwise represented by flint flakes, and tools including scrapers, leaf-shaped arrowheads and blades, which were commonly encountered throughout the dig, but not in abundant quantities.

(Arthur Hollinrake)

*Middlezoy, Back Lane, ST 3774 3282,*  
Somerset HER 41239

An archaeological evaluation, consisting of seven machine-excavated trenches, was undertaken by AC Archaeology in April 2019. Four phases of archaeological activity were revealed on the site, including an undated phase. The main archaeological component revealed was represented by part of a former substantial enclosure ditch of Late Bronze Age date and revealed in three of the trenches. Later activity comprised part of a possible Romano-British field system and several possible quarry pits of medieval date and containing pottery of 12th- to 15th-century date. A former trackway of uncertain date was also present.

(Steve Robinson)

*Puriton, Woolavington Road, ST 32705 4142,*  
Somerset HER 42570

Wessex Archaeology undertook an evaluation comprising 13 trial trenches to target geophysical anomalies. Four of

trenches contained archaeological features and deposits with a concentration of features in the north-eastern part of the development. Tentatively dated to the Early Bronze Age, a rectangular ditched enclosure was revealed in the north-eastern part of the site on the southern margins of the Somerset Levels. No associated features were identified to give an indication to the function of the enclosure. Romano-British activity was evidenced by an east-west oriented field boundary ditch in the central northern part of the site. Limited quantities of Roman pottery were recovered from the ditch along with domestic debris and fired clay providing tentative evidence of salt making. The artefacts recovered from the ditch fills are likely to have originated from either the manuring of fields or are maybe an indicator of settlement/industrial activity in the vicinity. Medieval activity was limited to agricultural features characterised by a lynchet on a broad NE to SW alignment.

(Cai Mason)

*West Camel, Slate Lane, ST 5720 2550,*  
Somerset HER 41722

Evaluation of a 4.1ha site by TVAS South West showed that most of the anomalies detected by an earlier geophysical survey could be confirmed as being of archaeological origin, including an enclosure in the western part of site. Four inhumation burials were also recorded. The dates of investigated features range from the Early Iron Age to the Late Roman period.

(Mariusz Paszkiewicz)

## PREHISTORIC

*Bridgwater, East Side Farm, ST 3254 3769,*  
Somerset HER 41459

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AC Archaeology comprising the excavation of four trenches. The evaluation established that the extensive archaeological features identified by aerial mapping to the east of the site continue into the area of the proposed development. Finds indicate a Late Bronze Age date and the features themselves appear to represent a settlement. These features are buried by deep alluvial accumulation deposits at a minimum of 0.6m below the current ground surface. There was only a small number of finds, including five sherds of Bronze Age pottery, three worked flints and one worked stone.

(Paul Rainbird)

*North Petherton, Stafflands, ST 2937 3259,*  
Somerset HER 41643

AC Archaeology excavated a prehistoric settlement prior to residential development. The earliest feature exposed was a single pit of probable Late Bronze Age date. The main evidence for settlement were the remains of four

ring gullies, which probably represent the positions of roundhouses currently dated by pottery to the Early to Middle Iron Age. These ring gullies overlapped and only a maximum of two roundhouses could have been in use at the same time. The end of the use of the site is marked by Romano-British field boundary ditches. Publication is planned for a future *Proceedings*.

(Paul Rainbird)

*Pawlett, Pawlett Road, ST 2990 4341,*  
Somerset HER 42355

TVAS South West undertook an evaluation by 24 trenches following geophysical survey. Over half of the trenches contained features or deposits of potential archaeological interest but most were of post-medieval or modern origin. In the central area of the site most of the geophysical anomalies were confirmed as being of archaeological origin and, where they can be dated, all dated to the Iron Age, including a large enclosure covering the whole of the central part of site. A single inhumation was recorded.

(Nicholas Dawson)

## ROMAN

*Brent Knoll, ST 3471 5099, Somerset HER 41451*

Repair work to the Cheddar to Brent Knoll water pipeline was monitored by ADAS. A linear cut feature was recorded and interpreted as a Romano-British ditch containing Congresbury Grey Ware. An unstratified prehistoric loom weight was also recovered.

(James McNicoll-Norbury)

*Ilchester, 12 Free Street, ST 5229 2262,*

Somerset HER 43125

Groundworks for the construction of a new garage were monitored, continuing an investigation during the construction of a house in 2018 (HER 36803). Reduction of the area revealed a sequence of probable cultivation soils containing both Romano-British and medieval material, cut during the medieval period and later by at least three large pits, one of which contained a single fill of clean limestone rubble.

(James Brigers)

*Langport, Somerton Road, ST 4295 2771,*

Somerset HER 39916

An archaeological trench evaluation by AC Archaeology followed a geophysical survey (HER 39915). The main phase of activity was Romano-British in date, with a limited Iron Age and undated phase also present. Dating evidence retrieved from the site, suggested that the Romano-British activity was relatively long lived and spanned from the 1st to 4th century AD.

The archaeological activity revealed in the trenches is indicative of settlement activity and comprised several linear features including part of a large enclosure ditch, a number of probable refuse pits and the remains of at least two possible structures.

(Steve Robinson)

*Lydeard St Lawrence, Springwater Farm, ST 087 357,*  
Exmoor HER EEM14818, EEM14904

AC Archaeology carried out trial trenching across the line of a projected Roman road. Two trenches totalling 31m in length, with each trench 1m wide, were excavated but there was no evidence for a compacted stone surface or artefacts, although a single cut feature in the form of a linear hollow was partly exposed within the southern part of the site.

(Fiona Pink and Simon Hughes)

*Puriton, Crandon Bridge, ST 327 405,*

Somerset HER 42235

Monitoring of a new underground cable by ADAS revealed a single pit which contained pottery, fragments of slag, nails, animal bone and glass. The pottery assemblage comprised 77 sherds and was broadly datable to AD 70-200.

(James McNicoll-Norbury)

*Yeovil, White Post Garage, West Coker Road, ST 53075*  
14263, Somerset HER 42239

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out archaeological evaluation through trial trenching. On the eastern side of White Post Garage, extensive excavations were carried out in 2014-15 ahead of the Bunford Heights development, uncovering an array of Bronze Age to Iron Age features, the extensive remains of a large, defended Iron Age settlement, Early Roman annexation of this defended settlement, and later Romano-British burials.

Three trenches revealed an identical sequence of subsoil over natural deposits, yielding residual Romano-British ceramics and a single prehistoric worked flint. The fourth trench exposed an occupation deposit containing a Romano-British assemblage dating to the 4th century AD and dominated by local coarse wares (jars and bowls). This was also observed within the end of the adjacent trench. A single 4th-century coin was also recovered, and several pieces of burnt sandstone, along with rubble of blue lias and Pennant sandstone, both of which have a less local provenance. The deposit was found to be shallow and directly overlay the natural sands with no evidence of underlying features. The domestic character of the ceramic assemblage suggests the occupation deposit was derived from settlement within close proximity to the site, which may have



included stone rubble structures. Indeed, during the 1980s large pottery sherds were recovered within the adjacent property of Hillside, suggesting that this is where the settlement was focussed. This reflects a rapid shift in emphasis away from the defended settlement at Bunford Heights, and towards the villas and pastoral landscape of the later Roman period.

(Cheryl Green and Tara Fairclough)

## MEDIEVAL

*Carhampton, Footlands Cottage*, ST 0121 4256,  
Somerset HER 41710

Excavation of three trenches revealed the remains of a seemingly artificial terrace containing an undated hearth and slight evidence for a surrounding structure. To the west the natural clay was directly cut by a narrow, vertically sided slot running throughout much of the width of the site, parallel to the stream at the north-western boundary. This feature, also undated, proved difficult to interpret but could represent the remains of a foundation trench for a free-standing timber structure possibly defining a prominent boundary. These early features were sealed by a dump or build-up of material throughout the site before two ditches were formed, aligned at right angles and possibly defining the corner of an agricultural enclosure of early-medieval date. Little evidence for later occupation was encountered and the early remains were sealed by a substantial accumulation of garden/cultivation soil of post-medieval origins.

(James Brigers)

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

This is the tenth year of archaeological excavations being undertaken by members of Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP) on the site of a large, rectilinear building complex believed to have been granted to the Abbey of Jumièges, Normandy, by William the Conqueror, soon after the Norman Conquest. Beneath parts of this building lie the remains of Saxon occupation, strongly suggesting a connection with an earlier minster church at Chewton Mendip.

Excavation in 2020 was limited and focussed on establishing the extent of a building, discovered in 2019 and contemporary with the main complex. This building lies at right-angles between the main complex and the north churchyard wall. A 3m<sup>2</sup> trench was placed over the projected course of the east wall of this building. Two small extensions to the trench uncovered the stone wall foundations continuing south. By extrapolation, and through resistivity survey evidence, this building is believed to be at least 12m long. A cobbled interior floor surface was uncovered, which lacked any artefactual evidence except for a few sherds of medieval pottery

and a fiddle-key horseshoe nail of 12th/13th century type. This may have been the storage area beneath a two-storey priest house.

(Pip Osborne)

*East Coker, Church of St Michael and All Angels*, ST 5388 1219, Somerset HER 42991

A small trial excavation showed that the west end of the church appeared to have been terraced into the hillside and that the west door may be an insertion.

(Keith Faxon)

*Glastonbury, 13 High Street*, ST 4994 3898,  
Somerset HER 41240

Archaeological excavation by AC Archaeology revealed evidence for continuous activity on the site from the 13th century until at least the 18th century. The earliest component revealed was a buried soil, medieval in origin and possibly representing a former occupational horizon. Remnants of buildings, comprising wall foundations and floor horizons were also revealed along with a density of later features including pits and post holes.

(Steve Robinson)

*Nynehead, Church of All Saints*, ST 1378 2272,  
Somerset HER 41641

Trenches for new drainage to the south of the tower and nave were monitored and recorded. Undisturbed natural was found at shallow depth to the west of the porch cut only by modern services and an extensive sandstone rubble offset foundation for the medieval tower. Trenching to the east of the porch revealed only a deep homogeneous deposit containing small quantities of building waste and disarticulated human bone most likely the combined in-fills of numerous graves.

(James Brigers)

*Porlock, Church of St Dubricius*, SS 8862 4667

The removal of a large stone slab from the path to the north of the church was monitored in July 2020. This was found to be a grave slab of medieval date possibly salvaged during internal restoration works in the 19th century and incorporated into the surface of the path shortly afterwards. Although in poor condition the slab has been replaced in the re-laid path.

(James Brigers)

*Saltford, Church of St Mary*, ST 6856 6750,  
BaNES HER 68418

Work to form a new disabled access to the west and north of the church were monitored. To the north of the existing drain to the north of the church, a limited exposure of an underlying soil horizon was observed. This contained mortar flecks and a small fragment

of abraded human bone and may represent part of the more extensive post-medieval graveyard soil or up-cast deposited during the 19th- or early 20th-century construction of the existing French drain.

(James Brigers)

*Taunton, Corfield Hall, ST 2293 2464,*  
Somerset HER 45108

Geotechnical investigations were monitored by AC Archaeology during August 2019. The works comprised the drilling of four window samples producing sleeved cores; three were located within the building, and a fourth outside the front, south-east elevation. Very little close dating evidence was present and the results varied across the site but did seem to indicate the presence of the town ditch and shallower deposits that could correlate with adjacent excavation evidence.

(Andrew Passmore)

*Taunton, Taunton Castle, ST 226 246,*  
Somerset HER 42892

As part of repairs to the boundary wall and 1930s garden, three small trenches were excavated. Two lay either side of an early wall (Wall G) which had been exposed by the landscaping in the 1930s but not recorded by Harold St George Gray. No dating evidence was recovered and the wall appeared to be sitting on a layer of demolition rubble which was not further disturbed. An area of rockery was removed from the west end of the battered curtain wall (Wall B). Two fills of wall core were observed correlating with changes in the facing stones recorded by Warwick Rodwell in 1978. The facing stones on the south side were missing and it is suspected that this occurred during the digging of the adjacent well from a much higher level. A new area of facing was built to support the core of the wall.

(Chris Webster)

*Timberscombe, Church of St Petrock, SS 9560 4206,*  
Exmoor HER EEM14915

Trenching immediately to the south of the church in 2019 revealed a number of previously unrecorded burials at shallow depths and probably medieval in date. The burials here were found to cut into a complex sequence of deposits including large quantities of charcoal associated with slots and a possible post hole seemingly representing the remains of timber structures. Charcoal from the latest feature in this sequence has been dated to the mid-8th century AD and indicating the remains of this phase are of at least early-medieval origin. The early features were found to be directly cut by a number of undated burials, probably of early medieval date and representing the earliest phase of use of the site as a burial ground. Trenching of greater depth to the east

revealed several post-medieval burials, mostly of the 18th or 19th centuries and displaying surprising levels of preservation. Removal of the blocking in the south door confirmed that this was of mid 20th-century date and the later 15th-century reveals were found to be intact and in good condition.

(James Brigers)

## POST-MEDIEVAL

*Bath, Prior Park, Ralph Allen Drive, ST 760 634,*  
BaNES HER 68018

Work on the restoration of the Middle and Lower Dams continued throughout 2020. The removal of the central section of the Lower Dam was monitored and several phases of construction and modification were revealed, commencing with a substantial wall of Bath Stone, most likely forming the foundation for the earliest 18th-century phase but possibly a survival from an earlier structure. In this area the original timber sluice for the lower outfall was recovered and found to be a simple shutter mechanism operated by manual lifting that regulated flow into a pair of pipes formed from hollowed-out tree trunks laid in the base of the existing arched culvert. A similar pair of pipes was recorded in the base of the stone culvert outfall to the west of the Middle Dam. Deposits lying beneath both structures were found to consist of silt and clay containing quantities of organic material suggesting that the area was dominated by water prior to the creation of the existing ponds. The deposits of this period at both locations were found to contain prehistoric struck flint and probable Romano-British pottery along with a carved stone object of uncertain function or date. Work continues in 2021.

(James Brigers)

*Charlton Mackrell, Alehouse Lodge, ST 529 289,*  
Somerset HER 42565

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out historic building recording prior to the conversion and extension of Alehouse Lodge, and archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for a new dwelling in the former pub car park. Alehouse Lodge (Fig. 1) lies beside Ilchester Road which forms the main north-south route through the village, and within the part of Charlton Mackrell that developed during the 17th century. Historic map regression analysis shows buildings (a cottage and garden) along the street frontage from the early 19th century which were licensed as a public house in 1837. By 1861, at least, the premises were known as the Greyhound Inn, which continued to operate until its closure in 2008.

The historic fabric of the former pub is relatively



*Fig. 1 Alehouse Lodge, the former Greyhound Inn, Charlton Mackrell (Photo: Context One)*

intact and provides an important extant example for the development of a post-medieval house in Somerset through at least three main plan forms. It appears to have originated as a one room square dwelling, with a large fireplace with bressummer. A beam with square stops, dated as late 16th to early 17th century, may relate to an original floor but is more likely to have been a subsequent addition when the wall height was raised for the first time, and when a second room was added to the south. A cross-passage occupied the north end of this second room, creating two rooms in line with the larger north room functioning as a kitchen while the smaller south room would have been used as a hall or parlour. A subsequent south extension would have created a third room, forming a three room in-line plan with cross-passage. Subsequent additions to Alehouse Lodge were in response to its use as a beer shop and then an inn, providing both guest accommodation and as a permanent residence.

Despite the archaeological potential indicated by an early 20th-century discovery of Roman burials supposedly on the site, no remains were identified during development groundworks, and no finds were observed. Columns of blue lias limestone directly below the modern ground level, suggests that the site may have been subject to quarrying, possibly even associated with the construction of Alehouse Lodge itself. Subsoil deposits probably accumulated as a result of activity stemming from the 17th century, with some of the more recent layers associated with the use of Alehouse Lodge as the Greyhound Inn.

(Cheryl Green)

*Glastonbury, 7 Silver Street, ST 50137 38918*

Hollinrake Archaeology monitored renovations. Removal of areas of the plaster lining the inner walls revealed an array of blocked-in windows and doorways that are not visible on the façade, as a brick skin had

been added to the building in the Victorian period. The building originated as a small shed attached to a skin yard to the rear of a slaughterhouse on the High Street.

(Arthur Hollinrake)

*Goathurst, Halswell House, ST 2539 3378*

As part of the ongoing programme of groundworks, Oakford Archaeology monitored trenching in the south garden, the stableyard and the parkland, revealing the remains of a 17th-century rubbish pit in the former. Full excavation in January 2020 retrieved an extensive artefactual and environmental assemblage. In addition, historic building recording was undertaken on Tower House and Quantock Cottage. Part of the former stables, the work showed that the building had gradually evolved over the course of the mid-17th and 18th centuries from a relatively simple L-shaped structure to the complex building that is visible today. Finally, in January and March 2020 further historic building recording was undertaken on the 'farmhouse' at the southern end of the stableyard and the top floor of the north range, revealing the widespread damage from the 1923 fire and extensive rebuilding undertaken between 1923-26.

(Marc Steinmetzer)

*Goathurst, Sherwood, ST 2620 3380,*

Somerset HER 13572

Oakford Archaeology undertook an extensive programme of historic building recording on the former stable block at Sherwood. The building was located on the north-west side of a large farmyard from the main house and probably first constructed in the early 18th century as a threshing barn. By the mid-18th century Sherwood was acquired by the Halswell estate, becoming a farm of some pretension as is attested by the expansion of the main house, the creation of separate farm- and courtyards and the refacing of the south elevation of the barn. The most

extensive changes, however, were carried out in the late 18th century when the south end of the barn was rebuilt as a stable, while a coach house was built at the northern end. Surviving examples of historic stables retaining internal fittings including stall partitions and feed racks are rare and significant, and despite many later alterations, the building remains substantially as it was at this time.

(Marc Steinmetzer)

*Middlezoy, Kicks Hill, ST 3752 3307, Somerset HER 41626*

A plot of former gardens at the above location was investigated through the excavation of two trenches in early July 2020. To the south of the area only a single undated post hole was found to be present sealed by a substantial build-up of post-medieval cultivation soil. To the north almost the entire trench was occupied by a large terrace, probably a quarry of 18th- or 19th-century date. Three post holes at the eastern edge of this appear contemporary and may have formed the base for a lifting frame to enable removal and shipment of the recovered stone. The quarry was pre-dated by a single post-medieval pit possibly associated with a 17th-century dwelling adjacent to the street frontage.

(James Brigers)

*Swainswick, Church of St Mary, ST 7565 6841, BaNES HER 68387*

The removal of pews in the northern side of the nave (extending into the north aisle) revealed four 17th- and 18th-century, Bath stone, ledger stones. The reordering originally only required the removal of two rows of pews which were going to be replaced with a new stone floor, but due to the unexpected discovery of the ledger stones the rest of the pews in this area were removed to allow the exposed ledger stones to be incorporated into the new floor area. Examination of the font during removal suggested that it had been moved or rebuilt fairly recently.

(Keith Faxon)

*Taunton, South Street, ST 2348 2423, Somerset HER 41562*

Monitoring of groundworks at this former brickworks recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance with the exception of a brick floor. All other traces of the works appear to have been removed by previous development.

(Ray Kennedy)

*Wells, Silver Street, Park Cottage, ST 5515 4559, Somerset HER 41329*

Hollinrake Archaeology monitored groundworks for a new garage and a southern extension to Park Cottage.

The foundation trenches exposed a series of post-medieval walls, associated service pipes and cable trenches. These walls have been successfully matched to a building depicted on a drawing of the Bishop's Palace in 1733, on the land of the Bishop's Farm, which stood until construction started on the extant property in 1888. An adjacent outbuilding, which was recorded, is a surviving remnant of the pre-Victorian property, and served various functions over time, with evidence for a bakery, boiler room and hayloft. A covered well was revealed underlying the floor of the outbuilding and appears to pre-date the rest of the features on site. The excavation yielded plentiful post-medieval and modern pottery, glass and agricultural metal objects. Two large reused Douling mouldings were recovered from the central partition of the outbuilding, which are a match for an existing decorative fireplace in the Bishop's Palace.

(David Sampson)

*Williton, Mamsey House, ST 07386 40904, Somerset HER 42574*

Groundworks associated with a new residential development were monitored by AC Archaeology. A small number of pits and postholes were recorded indicating some use of the site during the post-medieval period.

(Paul Rainbird)

## OTHER REPORTS

*Baltonsborough, Church Cottage, ST 5423 3486, Somerset HER 41720*

Monitoring of foundation trenches by Hollinrake Archaeology recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

(David Sampson)

*Banwell, ST 38336 58969 to ST 40140 593093*

Monitoring of a new telecommunications cable trench by ADAS recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

(James McNicoll-Norbury)

*Bath, North Parade Road, cricket club carpark, ST 755 646, BaNES HER 68041*

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation through trial trenching. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were found to be present, the deposits within all trenches showing broadly identical stratigraphic sequencing. Up to 1.35m of made ground had formed from the Victorian period onwards, directly overlying a thin layer of disturbed alluvium which in turn covered the deep natural alluvial sediments.

(Cheryl Green)

*Bridgwater, East Side Farm, ST 3253 3791,*  
Somerset HER 42237

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AC Archaeology comprising the machine excavation of three trenches. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded in any of the trenches probably as the site is located in an area that was subject to flooding, with deep deposits of alluvial clay sealing the natural subsoil.

(Paul Rainbird)

*Burrowbridge, Burrow Wall, ST 36764 30723,*  
Somerset HER 45013

Monitoring of geotechnical trial pits recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance but boreholes did produce evidence for a palaeochannel.

(James McNicoll-Norbury)

*Castle Cary, Torbay Road, ST 6334 3256,*  
Somerset HER 41619

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a post-medieval ditch and an undated ditch.

(Steven Bush)

*Cheddar, Kings of Wessex, ST 455 530,*  
Somerset HER 41601

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring and recording within the car park of Kings Fitness and Leisure Centre. Only modern deposits raising the ground for the building of the centre were recorded.

(Cheryl Green)

*Churchill, Dinghurst, ST 34462 15973*

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation through trial trenching following a geophysical survey. The survey identified a modest set of anomalies across two fields which were then targeted for investigation, however the trenching did not encounter any archaeological features or deposits of any significance.

(Tara Fairclough and Richard McConnell)

*Compton Dundon, Maisemore, ST 4922 3299,*  
Somerset HER 39086

Further work by Hollinrake Archaeology (see *SANH* 162, 95) showed that any archaeological deposits had been removed by recent yard construction.

(Sean O'Regan)

*Compton Dundon, Old Home Farm, ST 4908 3298,*  
Somerset HER 41725

Hollinrake Archaeology monitored the excavation of nine foundation trenches and a driveway for a new

house but only three post-medieval boundary ditches were recorded.

(David Sampson)

*Congresbury, Stock Lane, ST 4535 6238*

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified two ditches, undated by artefacts, that probably represent former elements within the extant field system.

(Jerry Austin)

*East Lyng, Church Villa, ST 3312 2879,*  
Somerset HER 42992

Monitoring of groundworks recorded only a 19th-century well.

(Keith Faxon)

*Huish Episcopi, Pibsbury, ST 4386 2632 to ST 4588 2607,*  
Somerset HER 42562

Groundworks associated with a replacement water main were monitored but no archaeological deposits were observed and no pre-modern artefacts were recovered

(Vince Simmonds)

*Ilchester, Hainbury Farm, ST 5252 2339,*  
Somerset HER 42349

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording on a former yard area at Hainbury Farm. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded despite the adjacency of the Roman Fosse Way.

(Tara Fairclough)

*Kewstoke, Church of St Paul, ST 3349 6338*

Hollinrake Archaeology monitored trenching for a new external lighting scheme. The hand-dug excavations did not exceed 10cm in depth, and therefore only removed topsoil.

(David Sampson)

*Keynsham, Bath Road, ST 658 683, BaNES HER 68183*

Monitoring of groundworks by TVAS recorded only the footings of the former police station and showed that the area had been terraced into the hillside removing any earlier archaeological features that may have been present.

(Nicholas Dawson)

*Keynsham, Rock Road, ST 6539 6843,*  
BaNES HER 68158

Monitoring by Wessex Archaeology discovered that the area had been subject to a high level of disturbance during the construction of Milland House in the 1970s and/or its demolition earlier in 2020. No archaeological remains were recorded.

(Ray Holt)

*Langport, Frog Lane*, ST 4145 2634,  
Somerset HER 41723

Context One Heritage and Archaeology excavated three trial trenches but none produced any features or deposits of archaeological significance. An activity horizon relating to the late Victorian development of the site was observed below the topsoil with an additional deposit resulting from historic landscaping and/or more recent levelling activity. A small amorphous spread of material in one trench yielded residual medieval and post-medieval pottery presumably derived from nearby occupation activity.

(Tara Fairclough)

*Long Ashton, Gatcombe Farm*, ST 372 636

Archaeological Landscape Investigation conducted a two-trench evaluation within the scheduled monument area in advance of construction of a new cattle barn. Neither trench revealed any significant archaeological features nor finds, with a thick layer of colluvium overlying natural deposits, which occurred at a depth of c. 0.6m.

(Thomas Wellicombe)

*Long Sutton, Bineham*, ST 4946 2490,  
Somerset HER 42350

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological field evaluation through trial trenching adjacent to part of the Bineham medieval village. Despite this potential, neither trench produced archaeological deposits and only two sherds of post-medieval or modern pottery were observed within the topsoil.

(Cheryl Green)

*Luccombe, West Luccombe Farm*, SS 8656 4510,  
Exmoor HER EEM14874

AC Archaeology excavated four trial trenches and recorded a section through a hedgebank breach. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed in the trenches and no finds were recovered. The hedgebank section revealed a simple construction comprising of an earth core with a stone facing on one side. Subsequently the groundworks for a new building were monitored, again with no significant results.

(Paul Rainbird)

*Marston Bigot, Church of St Leonard*, ST 755 449

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the installation of a septic tank and service trenches in a small paddock to the west of the church only revealed geological deposits.

(Keith Faxon)

*Newton St Loe, water main replacement*, ST 6986 16556  
to ST 37002 16532, BaNES HER 68135

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring and recording. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were collected.

(Tara Fairclough)

*Pawlett, Manor Park*, ST 2985 4335,  
Somerset HER 42238

Hollinrake Archaeology excavated seven evaluation trenches which recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

(Sean O'Regan)

*Pitney, Springfield Cottage*, ST 4504 2823

Monitoring of groundworks recorded only recent garden soils.

(Keith Faxon)

*Priddy, Vale Hollow Farm*, ST 5398 5479,  
Somerset HER 41632

A watching brief by TVAS South West monitored ground reduction of the site for a slurry store. No features or finds of archaeological interest were identified.

(Nicholas Dawson)

*Queen Camel, England's Mead*, ST 5921 2487,  
Somerset HER 41324

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AC Archaeology during May 2019 comprising the machine-excavation of five trenches. Only a single undated gully, probably formerly acting as a field boundary or for drainage, was recorded.

(Paul Rainbird)

*Redhill, Butcombe Court*, ST 5163 6379

TVAS South West monitored ground works for an extension. A number of Victorian build up layers were identified along with contemporary water drainage pipes and the top of a water collection tank. No other features or finds of archaeological interest were identified.

(Nicholas Dawson)

*Sandford*, ST 41962 60237, Somerset HER 3

Monitoring of a new telecommunications cable trench by ADAS recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

(James McNicoll-Norbury)

*Sandford, substation*, ST 4168 6046

Wessex Archaeology undertook archaeological monitoring during the construction of a new substation.

This recorded five ditches, most of which were field boundaries, broadly aligned with boundaries on the 1840s Tithe map. No evidence for activity other than agricultural from the 11th century through to the modern period was recorded.

(Kit Lavis)

*Sparkford, land off Church Road, ST 61340 25958 to 60861 25561, Somerset HER 41323*

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with the replacement of an existing water main by AC Archaeology. One of the trial holes revealed archaeological deposits. A single sherd of 12th- to 13th-century pottery was recovered.

(Steve Robinson)

*Street, Somerton Road, ST 4870 3561, Somerset HER 41455*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AC Archaeology during August 2019 comprising the machine excavation of eleven trenches. The results principally consisted of a series of poorly dated ditches.

(Simon Hughes)

*Wedmore, Mudgley, Fair View, ST 4419 4552, Somerset HER 42994*

Monitoring of groundworks recorded only recent disturbance.

(Keith Faxon)

*Wellington, 21 High Street, ST 13931 20747, Somerset HER 42882*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AC Archaeology comprising the machine excavation of two trenches positioned to provide a sample coverage of the development area. The evaluation uncovered only features and deposits related to the post-medieval and modern use of the area with no features or finds relating to the medieval town.

(Paul Rainbird)

*Wells, 2 Chamberlain Street, ST 5490 4590*

Hollinrake Archaeology monitored the groundworks for an extension to the rear of this Grade II listed house. No indications of medieval origins for the house were recorded but the boundary wall could be seen to have replaced an undated ditch.

(Nancy Hollinrake)

*Weston-super-Mare, ST 3583 6430*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AC Archaeology comprising the machine excavation of 14 trenches positioned to target the main anomalies identified by a geophysical survey. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded in any of the trenches, probably as the area was prone to flooding with deep deposits of alluvial clay found sealing the natural bedrock.

(Paul Rainbird)

*Weston-super-Mare, Ebdon Road, ST 3632 6474*

An archaeological evaluation comprising the machine excavation of six trenches positioned to provide representative coverage of the development area and to investigate anomalies identified by a previous geophysical survey. A site walkover prior to the excavation revealed several surface features related to former field drainage systems, including a substantial NE to SW aligned channel. Most of the trenches provided negative results, although a drainage channel close to the eastern boundary is likely to be related to the large drainage feature visible in the field. No finds were recovered from the excavated trenches or spoil heaps.

(Vince Simmonds)

*Winscombe, Max Mills Farm, ST 4028 5753 to ST 4086 5759*

Groundworks associated with the laying of a connecting pipe between two existing manholes were monitored by AC Archaeology but no archaeological deposits were observed and no pre-modern artefacts were recovered.

(Vince Simmonds)

*Wrington, The Court House, ST 4671 6274*

TVAS South West monitored ground works for the demolition of an existing conservatory and building of a single-storey orangery. A small section of undated possible surface was identified in section. No other features or finds of archaeological interest were identified.

(Nicholas Dawson)

*Yeovil, Lysander Road, ST 5475 1545, Somerset HER 41604*

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a post-medieval/modern ditch and pit, the former of which correlated with the alignment of an historic field boundary. No evidence for the putative Roman road or settlement was identified.

(Simon Sworn)