

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY 2018

EDITED BY CHRIS WEBSTER, SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Delivering archaeological planning advice to the councils in Somerset has been one of the key functions of the Historic Environment Service (HES) since its establishment. In 2018 this was expanded into Bath and North East Somerset Council when their archaeological officer, Richard Sermon retired. BaNES Council decided not to reappoint the post and invited the HES to tender to deliver archaeological planning advice and to manage their Historic Environment Record. This bid was successful, and a two-year contract is now in place to deliver that service using staff from the South West Heritage Trust and by appointing an additional HER officer, Jack Fuller. Planning casework continues to be a major function for the Service and in 2018 Steve Membery, Tanya James and Jan Grove commented on over 1300 planning applications ranging from individual building plots in the middle of historic settlements through to extensive applications for housing schemes and major projects such as the A303 proposals and National Grid schemes.

Work on the post excavation programme associated with the earlier excavations at Hinkley Point C power station continues and Steve Membery and Bob Croft monitor this work for Somerset County Council. An archaeological advisory role is in place with a range of statutory undertakers such as Wessex Water and Bristol Water and a service level agreement is now in place with Wessex Water to ensure that archaeological advice is incorporated into all engineering schemes.

Alongside managing The Somerset Historic Environment Record, Chris Webster has coordinated a volunteer-based project mapping and recording information from Somerset Tithe maps. This work has now added over 150,000 historic field names to the HER mapping, a most impressive achievement. In addition, over 900 new entries were added to the HER, many of these being the results of the Blackdown Hills aerial survey and reconnaissance project funded by Historic England and carried out by Devon County Council.

Several field monuments around the county are on the Heritage at Risk register maintained by Historic England. The HES works closely with Historic

England to help with managing some of these sites and monument management work took place at Charterhouse on Mendip and at Deer Leap near Westbury sub Mendip.

The Countryside Stewardship programme continues to be supported by DEFRA and in 2018 Jan Grove gave detailed comments on over 400 different landholders about the likely impact of their proposed schemes on the historic environment. The HES also works closely with the three AONB services in Somerset and contributed to an innovative project looking at historic boundaries in the Blackdown Hills AONB area.

As part of its wider advice service staff from the HES offer advice on archaeological and conservation matters to the Diocese of Bath and Wells. One of the largest projects in the diocese is the extensive programme of refurbishing work at Bath Abbey, part of a £20m reordering and development scheme. Wessex Archaeology have coordinated a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the year and this work has revealed evidence of some of the earlier foundations of the Saxon buildings on the site and also part of the late Saxon cemetery area with over 40 charcoal burials (see under medieval).

The SWHT is one of the key partners in a Landscape Partnership project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund looking at the Quantock AONB and some of the surrounding villages such as Crowcombe and Nether Stowey. The project has received a first round pass and the HES is working closely with the Quantock AONB team to develop the project, which if approved will run until 2024.

Building on the success of the Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, work continues at the Avalon Marshes Centre near Shapwick. This community heritage project is coordinated by Richard Brunning and provides an opportunity for local volunteers to meet every week to help with the construction and decoration of the reconstructed buildings. A key partner to this project is Natural England and they have now transformed the surrounding site and invested in new buildings and infrastructure to make this an important visitor hub for the Somerset Levels and Moors. It is hoped that the site will be open to the public at the end of 2019.

A programme of outreach continues each year

and staff from the HES give regular lectures around the county and beyond. Guided walks around local heritage sites in the care of the SWHT are a key part of the outreach programme and several walks were held in 2018 notably to Cothelstone Hill and to Marston Magna.

Somerset County Council supports a small programme of public realm enhancement projects around the county and Nic Wall coordinates this work with Heike Bernhardt and Andy Stevens. Work has started on the repair and refurbishment of historic milestones on the A38 in the Sedgemoor area and conservation repairs to several SCC owned heritage sites.

The SWHT continues to evolve and take on new projects and areas of responsibility providing opportunities for the HES to offer advice and comment on a wide range of archaeological and conservation projects around the county. The service is expanding to deal with this role and new advice and research projects are being commissioned each year.

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

(Bob Croft)

SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

Bath, Prior Park, Monument Field, ST 762 631

A geophysical survey was carried out by Bath and Counties Archaeological Society on Monument Field a space that is now used as playing fields by Prior Park College. Its aims were to locate evidence of three structures known or thought to have existed on the field but now gone: a Monument to Ralph Allen built in the 18th century, a Gothic Lodge from the 16th century thought to have been partly incorporated in the later monument and the very much earlier 6th-century Wansdyke. Twin-probe resistance survey revealed footings of at least one building in the area as well as the line of a dyke. The survey showed a bank with a ditch to the north with a possible second ditch running parallel to the south.

(John Oswin and Tim Lunt)

Bath, Royal Victoria Park, ST 740 653,

BaNES HER 65944

A second phase of geophysical survey was undertaken by Bath and Counties Archaeological Society. The results of resistivity and magnetometer surveys revealed several different linear features amongst other anomalies, some of which are likely to be recent.

(Chris Webster)

Bathampton, Glebe Cottage, ST 773 661,

BaNES HER 66003

A resistivity survey was undertaken by Bath and Counties Archaeological Society to further investigate a possible medieval structure in front of Glebe Cottage. The results suggest that the previously identified stub wall continues to some depth, indicating that there was buried sub-structure. An apparent circular feature is also present underneath the front lawn of Glebe Cottage.

(Chris Webster)

Chapel Allerton, ST 408 501,

Somerset HER 39481

GeoFlo undertook geophysical survey in a field known as Poolhayes which contains a number of linear earthworks, some of which relate to an old track shown on the c. 1840 Tithe Map leading to the mill. The field also contains a large, rectilinear mound in the north corner adjacent to the road identified by Richard McDonnell as a pillow mound although this interpretation has never been confirmed (Somerset HER 11223). The survey also provided a training opportunity for members of the Allerton History Society and Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society who were instructed in survey techniques, including the use of the gradiometer and resistivity meter and how to process the results. The project was funded by a grant from the SANHS Maltwood Fund. The gradiometer survey detected a series of linear magnetic anomalies on differing alignments suggestive of at least two different activity phases, one of which appears to be associated with the former route across the field to the mill. No significant anomalies were recorded adjacent to the possible pillow mound.

(Liz Caldwell)

Hinkley Point Connection project, North Somerset

Headland Archaeology undertook a watching brief of boreholes and trial pits associated with the electricity grid connection route for Hinkley Point C power station. Key peat horizons with organic sediments were identified and recorded. Peat deposits were encountered as deep as 23m below ground level, the most recent formation being approximately 3m below ground level. The peat deposits were sampled should further analysis be required. No archaeological features or remains were identified.

(Harriet Bryant-Buck, Robyn Pelling and Tom Cochrane)

Hinton Charterhouse, Hinton Farm, ST 766 579,

BaNES HER 66107

A detailed magnetometer survey was conducted

by Sumo Geophysics over approximately 1.4 ha of arable farmland. No definite archaeological responses were identified.

(Chris Webster)

Long Ashton, Gatcombe Farm, ST 52290 70065,
N Somerset HER ENS2090

A geophysical survey, comprising detailed magnetometry, was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd adjacent to the scheduled area of Gatcombe Roman site. The results indicate the presence of a number of positive anomalies, however their origin is uncertain.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

Long Load, ST 466 212 - ST 469 248,
Somerset HER 38889

RSK ADAS Ltd was commissioned by Wessex Water to carry out a geophysical survey of a proposed new route for a water main. Despite the southern end of the survey area being located within 10m of a previously identified ring ditch no clear evidence of features extending into the survey area were identified. Several other linear and pit-like magnetic anomalies were detected.

(Chris Webster)

Long Sutton, Upton, ST 454 263,
Somerset HER 39427

Geophysical survey by Geoflo for Context One Heritage and Archaeology recorded disturbance caused by former quarrying and several faint linear magnetic anomalies. It was not possible to determine whether these were geological or archaeological.

(Liz Caldwell)

Martock, Stapleton Mead, ST 4424 2267

Further to gradiometer survey carried out in previous years, the area covered was extended to the north of areas previously examined in Copse Field, and to the south in Hammerfield. In the southern area a number of irregular positive anomalies were seen which from previous experience are likely to be of geological origin. However, in Copse Field a number of anomalies were identified which were either continuations of linear archaeological features seen in the field to the south or were on the same alignment or arranged at right angles to them, suggesting continuation of the Romano-British period land division. South Somerset Archaeological Research Group and the Martock Local History Club once again extend thanks to the Yandle family for facilitating access to the fields and being so supportive of the project.

(Clare Randall)

Rodney Stoke, Manor Farm, ST 482 501,
Somerset HER 39185

Geophysical surveys were undertaken by ALERT in fields around the farm. In West Close a possible trackway was detected together with a small rectangular structure. A test pit here located a wall construction trench and recovered Roman pottery and a possible tessera. The paddock north of the modern house was very disturbed in the magnetic survey but resistivity showed substantial foundations, possibly relating to the medieval house which is known to have been demolished at the end of the 19th century. Survey in East Field recorded a circular feature with other linear features appearing to form enclosures around it. A surface find of part of a Pennant sandstone roof tile may indicate a Romano British building.

(John Matthews)

Temple Cloud, Pauls Wood, ST 615 581,
BaNES HER 66000

Bath and Counties Archaeological Society carried out a geophysical survey using multiple techniques at a sub-rectangular enclosure approximately 120m north-south by 60m east-west. Estate maps back to the early seventeenth century show the enclosure surrounded by woodland, with its northern edge truncated by hedges, exactly the same shape it has today. Work started in July but the eastern portion could only be surveyed in November, with much wetter conditions, which made for some mismatch in detail across the two sides of the resistance plot.

Figure 1 shows the magnetometry plot. The outline of the enclosure is a positive anomaly. There is considerable activity within the enclosure, including internal divisions but no activity shows beyond the bounds. A routeway appears to enter via the north-west corner. There is activity around the south-west corner and also signs of similar activity in the south-east corner, although this is masked by an iron fence. The magnetic susceptibility plot supported the magnetometry in showing significant disturbance within the enclosure but very low levels outside.

Figure 2 shows the resistance plot, indicating the enclosure boundary as masonry. This was supported by the parch marks visible during the height of the summer and also by resistivity profiles across the southern and western bounds, but contradicts the magnetometry plot, where a positive anomaly normally indicates a ditch. An area at the centre of the enclosure had been used to dump hardcore, which made it impossible to survey during the dry weather, but there appears to be a large rectangular structure just to the north of this area. There are also signs of smaller buildings to the east of this. There is a

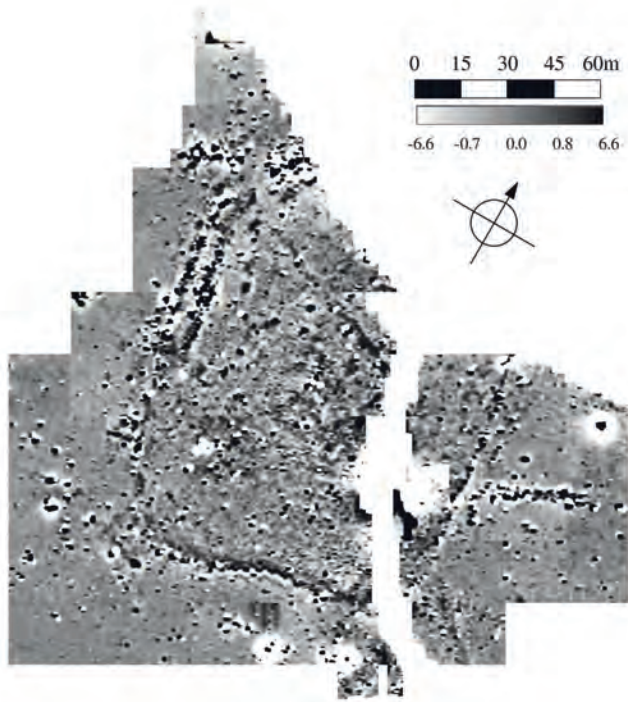


Fig. 1 Temple Cloud, Pauls Wood. Magnetometry survey results.

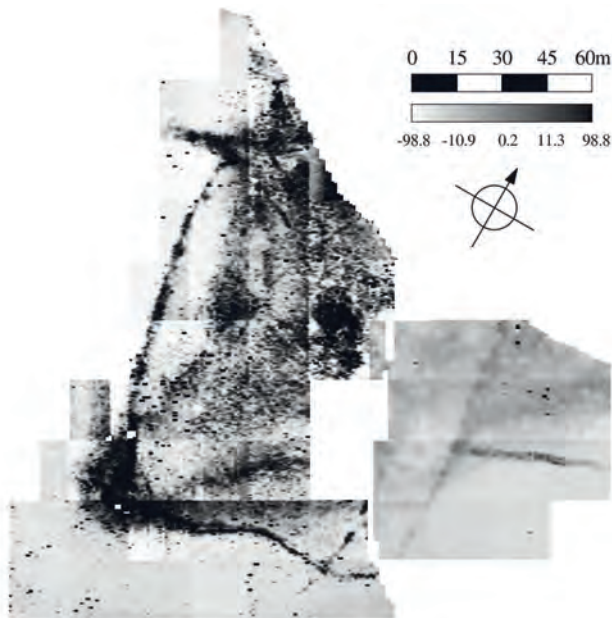


Fig. 2 Temple Cloud, Pauls Wood. Resistivity survey results.

masonry structure over the south-west corner, which is confirmed by resistivity profile. There appear to be outworks by the north-west entrance.

The strong line heading east from the eastern edge of the enclosure is a modern road, but it may overlie an earlier track. There appear to be some structures to the north of this road, up to the field edge.

The overall impression is of a sub-rectangular walled enclosure with rounded corners, with considerable internal activity, with an entrance in the north-west corner and a substantial structure over the south-west corner. Apart from the truncated northern part, the general shape suggests Roman military, although not well executed, and other dates could fit the design. It certainly pre-dates the seventeenth century but no direct dating evidence has been observed to date.

(John Oswin and Fiona Medland)

*Wrington, Bristol Airport, ST 5002 6460,
N Somerset HER ENS2117*

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Archaeological Surveys Ltd at the request of Cotswold Archaeology on land to the south of Bristol Airport ahead of a car park development. The data revealed a number of widespread natural features within the underlying limestone geology and anomalies that may be related to soil reinstatement after quarrying. There were several positive linear, possible rectilinear and discrete anomalies that are likely to relate to similar features.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

*Yeovilton, RNAS Yeovilton, ST 546 225 and
ST 563 247,
Somerset HER 36460 and 39446*

Geoflo undertook a geophysical survey, for Aecom, of two long thin areas to the SW and NE of the naval air station. Very few significant magnetic anomalies were evident except at the extreme southern end of the survey area but here the small area covered precluded interpretation.

(Liz Caldwell)

PREHISTORIC

*Bridgwater, Dawes Farm, ST 30330 34555,
Somerset HER 39083*

Excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Bronze Age L-shaped ditch and prehistoric remains comprising a road or trackway, a substantial enclosure ditch, several pits, and two possible cremation graves.

(Jonathan Orellana)

*Cheddon Fitzpaine, Maidenbrook Lane,
ST 2460 2694,
Somerset HER 41296*

An archaeological evaluation by Oakford Archaeology comprised the excavation of seven trenches totalling targeting a series of anomalies identified during an earlier geophysical survey. Three ditches of probable prehistoric date, as well as the remains of a large post-medieval field boundary and a single pit were recorded. No dating evidence was recovered for the majority of these features although the fill of the pit contained quantities of 18th-19th century pottery.

(Mark Steinmetzer)

*Laverton, the Piggery, ST 780 534,
Somerset HER 41285*

The Bath and Counties Archaeological Society surveyed approximately 2 ha of the north-east corner of the field by magnetometry with a small area within this subject to twin-probe resistance. The magnetometry is shown in Fig. 3. There also appear to be numerous pits indicated across the survey area. The circular feature is too large to be a round house so is assumed to represent a barrow. The western bounds of the sub-rectangular enclosure are clearly visible, but the eastern side is faint. The busy area within suggests the presence of structures but these are indistinct. There appears to be a well-defined entrance on the north side pointing towards the Peart Villa (Somerset HER 24723). The west ditch terminates with a very strong magnetic signal, and the supporting resistance survey indicates here that ditch has an enhanced terminus.

(John Oswin)

*Mells, Vobster Cross, Mells Road, ST 7109 5109,
Somerset HER 40079*

Excavation of a 0.8ha site by TVAS South West in October 2017 revealed a four- or six-post structure with associated pits and postholes, and two pits and a posthole cluster of Late Bronze Age date. Charcoal from one of the pits produced a radiocarbon date of 1110–926 cal BC which correlates well with dates anticipated from the pottery assemblage.

(Agata Socha-Paskiewicz)

*North Petherton, Bridgwater Gateway, ST 300 341,
Somerset HER 37571*

A large area was excavated in 2017 by Oxford Archaeology on the brow of a low peninsula of land that overlooks the River Parrett coastal floodplain. The earliest feature was a pit containing Beaker pottery and a stone axehead, and several other pits may be of similar date. A particularly noteworthy discovery was a middle Bronze Age settlement of unusual form

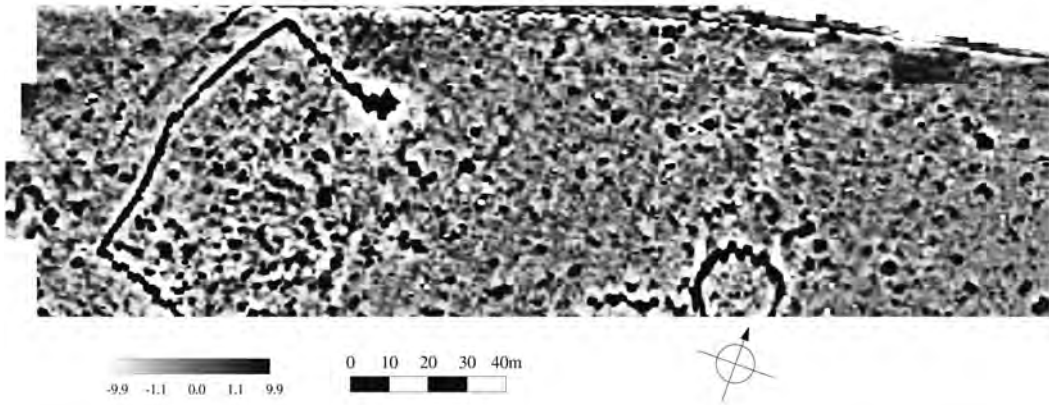


Fig. 3 Laverton, The Piggery. Magnetometry survey results.

and a possible cremation cemetery of similar date. A substantial assemblage of Trevisker-related pottery was recovered from the settlement and funerary features, and radiocarbon dating indicated that both were in use between c. 1400 and 1220 cal BC. The settlement comprised a large oval enclosure defined by a substantial V-shaped ditch, within which lay at least one roundhouse and possible subsidiary structures, and an alignment of at least seven conjoined rectilinear enclosures. These varied in size and one of the larger enclosures contained evidence for further post-built structures of possible domestic character. The funerary features comprised a small ring ditch, 6m in diameter and without internal features, adjacent to which was a concentration of 68 small pits, a little over half of which contained burnt bone, though mostly in very small quantities. The features appear to attest to a range of activities that may be characterised as a mixture of burials and presumably funerary-related rites. Only one pit contained a 'classic' urned cremation burial, while in a second pit a bucket-shaped urn had been interred with a smaller urn inside it but no bone, and another pit contained the remains of a vessel that had been smashed and the sherds stacked, apparently with some degree of care, on the base of the pit.

A later Iron Age settlement was represented by a group of roundhouses and is a continuation of a settlement that had been excavated on the opposite side of the A38. It was replaced during the early Roman period by a complex of rectilinear enclosures that remained in occupation throughout the Roman period and was extended by the addition of further enclosures during the latter part of the period. No buildings or foci of domestic occupation were found, and it is likely that the

enclosures formed fields and paddocks associated with a farmstead with its core lying beyond the excavation area. The pottery assemblage was dominated by black-burnished ware; other finds included two whetstones and a segmented glass bead. Five inhumation graves were located at the margins of the enclosure complex; no bone survived, but two of the graves contained the remains of hobnailed footwear.

(Kirsty Smith)

North Petherton, Land off Newton Road, ST 29436 32409, Somerset HER 40884

An evaluation in 2017 by Cotswold Archaeology identified a possible prehistoric barrow ring ditch. The ditch produced a small assemblage of worked flints. A possible Bronze Age ditch was also found, along with late prehistoric pits and ditches, a Roman ditch and post-medieval and undated ditches.

(Jonathan Orellana)

Norton Fitzwarren, Monty's Farm, ST 183 264, Somerset HER 32988

Archaeological excavations were undertaken by AC Archaeology between December 2015 and March 2016. The archaeological remains comprised an apparently unenclosed settlement of Late Bronze Age date, consisting of one large roundhouse, a smaller probable roundhouse and a probable four-post structure. The larger building was constructed with a ring of posts to support the roof and two additional posts holding up an entrance porch. Prehistoric flint and Late Bronze Age plainware pottery were recovered. See also under Roman.

(Paul Rainbird)

Pawlett, Walpole, ST 313 434

An archaeological excavation was started at Walpole landfill site in advance of landfill cell construction. This is an eastern continuation of the 2012 excavations, exposing and mapping the northern slopes, and apex of a raised Lias outcrop that would have stood above the surrounding wetland environments during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. Various features have been identified which are due for full excavation during the spring of 2019.

(Arthur Hollinrake)

South Cadbury, 2 Rush Close, ST 6304 2559, Somerset HER 36732

Groundworks for a new house revealed a sequence of four intercutting ditches running through the length of the north side of the site. The sequence culminated with the cutting of a very large ditch at the northern limit of the excavations; one of the fills of this contained a large quantity of soot or charcoal. The only feature revealed outside this area was a small flat-bottomed gully running from the south to intersect with the line of the ditches. Although none of the features yielded dating evidence it seems probable that all are prehistoric in origin and represent phases of a long-established boundary.

(James Brigers)

South Petherton, Parkway Farm, ST 4265 1633, Somerset HER 41316

Topsoil stripping and ground reduction of a large area was monitored prior to development following evaluation in 2016. The continuation of the line of a very large ditch first located in 2016 was traced across the site on a NW-SE orientation and was found to terminate at the northern edge of the site where excavation recorded a large post hole in the base. In this area a smaller parallel ditch was exposed which continued beyond the site boundary to the north west. The continuation of a smaller north-south linear was also traced although the relationship between the two features remains unclear; excavation of further sections of this and the other features produced pottery and flint flakes suggesting that the remains date from the later Neolithic or early Bronze Age and form elements of a ceremonial landscape.

(James Brigers)

Stoke St Michael, Moons Hill Quarry, ST 6553 4589, Somerset HER 38942

South West Archaeology monitored the removal of topsoil from an elevated area south-west of the west quarry. The second phase (June 2017) identified a group of nine small pits or postholes containing 21

sherds of Beaker and Deverel-Rimbury pottery. Two Beakers are represented, both S-profile vessels with All-Over-Comb decoration, in an unusual limestone-tempered fabric. The Deverel-Rimbury pottery includes the rim of a globular urn with simple upright rim and finger-pinch decoration around the girth and is in very good condition. The fabric of the Bronze Age sherds contains a (probably local) igneous-derived temper. Stage three fieldwork has so far uncovered another 70-plus small pits and postholes.

(Bryn Morris)

LATE PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN

Bleadon, Wentworth Drive, ST 3331 5807

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake two stages of work ahead of housing development. The first phase comprised an excavation covering 0.63 ha, targeted on the results of a previous evaluation. The earliest remains dated to the Middle/Late Iron Age period, consisting of a ring ditch, postholes and pits, located on an artificial terrace cut into the hillside. Contemporary inhumation burials were revealed to the north-west of the terrace and pits, some containing inhumation burials downslope to the south west.

In the Romano-British period multiple small terraces were cut into the hillside, interpreted as building platforms containing structural remains, working areas and gardens. A large number of were revealed both within and surrounding the terraces. Inhumation burials were recorded, within distinct grave cuts and within reused refuse, storage and quarry pits. No indication of activity post-dating the Romano-British period was revealed.

The second phase of work comprised a controlled strip, map and sample excavation to the south-west of Phase 1. Forty pits and 14 postholes, predominantly of Middle/Late Iron Age date were identified. Middle/Late Iron Age crouched burials were recorded within several of the refuse and storage pits.

(Liam Powell, Cai Mason, Simon Flaherty and Roy Krakowicz)

Bridgwater, Cokerhurst Farm, ST 27790 37305, Somerset HER 38941

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recovered residual Bronze Age pottery. Three Iron Age/Early Roman ditches may represent a continuation of settlement activity recorded to the immediate east during a preceding evaluation whilst two undated pits may be of the same date. Two post-medieval ditches and a large pit were also present.

(Jonathan Orellana)

Penelwood, Home Pits, ST 757 306

Two areas of trial excavation were undertaken by the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group in collaboration with the Pen Selwood History Society. Geophysical survey had previously revealed a pair of large linear features running around the contour of the hill. They exhibit a simple but slightly in-turned entrance on the south-west side, which appears to represent a large enclosure demarcating the hill top, with the 'pits' to the east. There were also a number of smaller rectilinear enclosures indicated on the eastern side. Trench 2 was situated in this area and identified a ditch on the alignment of the anomaly seen in the gradiometer survey. This produced Romano-British ceramics. Trench 1, which was located on the apparent terminal of the western linear, located the ditch which was c. 2.5m wide and 1.2m deep. The middle fills produced later prehistoric pottery, and the upper fills, iron slag. In addition, it became clear that the ditch was flanked on its interior, uphill, side by a stony bank, although this was not explored. Subsequent earth resistance survey suggests that this bank follows the circuit of the ditch previously identified by gradiometry. It appears that the features already seen demarcate an oval enclosure on the end of the promontory. Interestingly, it does not encompass any of the 'pits' in the northern part of the current field. Further geophysical survey and consideration of potential earthworks are ongoing. Thanks are due to Geoff Parcel of the Pen Selwood History Society and to Charles Buckler and his family for facilitating access to the field.

(Clare Randall)

Pitcombe, Cattle Hill, ST 6672 3000, Somerset HER 39395

Six evaluation trenches were excavated to the north of the remains of the Roman villa (Somerset HER 53569) at a location selected for the erection of a reconstruction of part of that building. In addition, the excavation of a further nine geotechnical pits were monitored. All the western evaluation trenches were entirely negative but those to the east, in an area identified as containing a number of geophysical anomalies, were found to contain settlement remains of mid-late Iron Age date including large storage pits containing large quantities of pottery and other occupation debris, post holes and a gully indicating the presence of the remains of at least one round house. Immediately to the east of the dense area of Iron Age activity a grave was revealed containing an inhumation tentatively dated to the 2nd or 3rd century AD. The monitored test pits were found to be largely devoid of archaeological material but to the south of

the villa itself potentially well-preserved structural remains of Romano-British date were encountered at a shallow depth and these may represent the remains of a southern range to the building.

(James Brigers)

ROMAN

Bath, York Street, ST 750 645

A geophysical survey was carried out by Bath and Counties Archaeological Society in the vaults immediately to the south of the Great Bath, prior to renovation and adaption of this area for educational purposes. The survey principally re-located features already-known but indicated very moist soils at lower levels. There were some hints of warm water draining from west to east but no clear sign of any culvert at depths to 17m above Ordnance Datum.

(John Oswin)

Cannington, Grange Farm, ST 2619 3905, Somerset HER 39279

An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC Archaeology comprising the machine-excavation of 14 trenches. The evaluation recorded a ditch containing a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery dating to the 2nd century AD. The ditch is most likely to relate to agriculture rather than settlement due to its apparent isolated position and the paucity of finds recovered.

(Paul Jones)

Congresbury, Cobthorn Way, ST 4430 6399

Archaeological excavations in advance of residential development were undertaken by AC Archaeology. The main archaeological features included three corn driers and two areas for ironworking, both of Romano-British date, set within a landscape divided by boundary ditches forming enclosures and fields. In addition, a small amount of Iron Age pottery indicated some activity in that period. A palaeochannel showed that the site had previously been situated adjacent to a small watercourse and this allowed for the recovery of palaeoenvironmental remains. The sequence of deposits was radiocarbon dated to between the Romano-British and early-medieval periods. An assemblage of Roman pottery largely comprised coarse ware of the local Congresbury type. Other finds of note included two Roman coins, a Roman glass bead and a post-Roman bone and antler comb. The site represents small-scale mixed agricultural and industrial activity within a rural landscape of fields, adjacent to a small watercourse. The main chronological focus of the activity on the site falls

within a probable hiatus in the occupation of Cadbury-Congresbury hillfort, located a short distance to the north, where the Iron Age fort was reoccupied in the immediate post-Roman period.

(Paul Rainbird)

Coxley Vineyard, Coxley, ST 5250 4321,

Somerset HER 38865

A programme of archaeological work was undertaken by AC Archaeology comprising a trench evaluation and subsequent strip, map and sample excavation. The archaeological investigations exposed a small group of features that dated to the Romano-British period. These consisted of intercutting pit and ditch fragments and a small number of postholes, all of which had an unclear function. The limited nature of the exposed remains suggests that they were probably peripheral to a main core of settlement.

(Abigail Brown)

East Coker, Broadacres, ST 53174 13519,

Somerset HER 38918

Following an archaeological evaluation in 2017 an excavation was undertaken by AC Archaeology. Evidence for early Romano-British activity was revealed across the site, including industrial and agricultural features, including remnants of possible furnaces and a number of probable boundary ditches and other features. Pottery recovered from features on the site suggests a restricted date for this activity in the third quarter of the 1st century AD.

(Mark Corney)

Huish Episcopi, Bowdens Lane quarry, ST 4184 2843

The further phase of excavation by TVAS South West revealed only a cluster of mostly undated pits and spreads, with the exception of one pit which contained a few sherds of Roman pottery. Other features (a quarry pit and field boundary ditch) were clearly of fairly recent date.

(Agata Socha-Paskiewicz)

Ilchester, 12 Free Street, ST 5229 2262,

Somerset HER 36803

Monitoring was conducted during groundworks in preparation for the construction of a single house. This revealed the remains of structures in the form of three masonry wall foundations, one of which, aligned east-west, was almost certainly of Roman origin. The others were less well-constructed and may represent the remains of buildings aligned on the medieval and later street frontage. To the west of the site a well-preserved cobbled surface may represent a yard surface of probable Roman date and

a possible further surface of sand and gravel may indicate the line of a path or narrow track of similar date. Throughout much of the site the Roman deposits were found to have been heavily disturbed by large pits of the 13th century and later but surviving strata to the east produced exclusively Roman pottery and a coin of Constantine I. Much of the site was found to have been sealed by a substantial homogenous medieval build-up which was cut to the west by a single inhumation of probable medieval date which is most likely associated with the church of St Mary Major and suggests that the burial ground for this once extended to the east of its current limits and may have originally been bounded by Free Street.

(James Brigers)

Ilchester, Church Street, ST 522 225,

Somerset HER 37710

Groundworks around the Old Rectory were monitored. To the north, a foundation trench for a new garden wall revealed surprisingly well-preserved remains that probably represent the upper surfaces at the western edge of the Roman road consisting of well-worn lias and Ham Stone rubble edged with lias and bounded to the west by clean silty fill probably within the contemporary roadside ditch which produced a single un-abraded sherd of Romano-British pottery. To the south the surfaces were found to have been destroyed by pits of medieval or post-medieval date. Foundation trench excavation to the south west of the rectory revealed the existence of deep build-up deposits extending to at least 1.20m in depth, to the west the lowest of these was found to have been cut by a large feature that contained medieval and Roman pottery.

(James Brigers)

Norton Fitzwarren, Monty's Farm, ST 183 264,

Somerset HER 32988

Archaeological excavations were undertaken by AC Archaeology on land at Monty's Farm, Norton Fitzwarren, between December 2015 and March 2016. Evidence for Romano-British pottery production was discovered over an extended area within at least three separately enclosed zones. The general arrangement was characterised by large enclosed areas, sub-divided internally into smaller rectangular and irregular plots within which production and other activities were taking place. Seven pottery kilns were identified, in addition to six other features containing extensive burning. The bulk of the finds comprised a large assemblage of Norton Fitzwarren type Romano-British pottery, many of which exhibit 'waster' characteristics. See also under Prehistoric.

(Paul Rainbird)

Pawlett, Walpole, ST 315 426

A watching brief was undertaken to monitor excavations for a groundwater lagoon. Stratigraphic deposits were recorded up to a depth of c. 1.60m, which appear to correspond well with the sequence recorded elsewhere on the site. Two drainage ditches were recorded on differing alignments which have been dated to the Romano-British period.

(Arthur Hollinrake)

Rodney Stoke, Pump House Farm, ST 4604 4863, Somerset HER 37665

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological field evaluation within the scheduled area of the Romano-British settlement on Stoke Moor (Somerset HER 24283). Despite the location, the evaluation did not locate any archaeological features and no finds were observed.

(Clare Randall)

Sparkford to Ilchester, A303, ST 584 255, Somerset HER 38943

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a watching brief during ground investigation works on the 5.2km long A303 Sparkford to Ilchester dualling scheme. A total of 17 boreholes and 76 trial pits were archaeologically monitored during the works. Only one pit encountered archaeological features, with deposits producing Iron Age and Roman pottery fragments as well as animal bone. These are interpreted as evidence for Romano-British settlement activity, probably an extension of the scheduled settlement which includes at least three substantial buildings with stone foundations (Somerset HER 11607).

(László Lichtenstein)

Weston-super-Mare, Locking Parklands School, ST 36849 60641

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified ditches, several of which contained Roman pottery. These may represent part of a field system associated with a possible ladder settlement recorded 550m to the north-east.

(Derek Evans)

MEDIEVAL

Aller, Church View Close, ST 4004 2912, Somerset HER 39196

The groundworks for a house were monitored. Throughout the majority of the site the natural clay was found to be sealed by a substantial, homogenous build-up of cultivation or garden soil with little differentiation which had been overlain and truncated by modern activity at several locations. This sealed the fill of a large east-west aligned ditch which, although

undated, possibly represents the rear boundary of plots fronting Aller High Street forming part of the medieval and later settlement layout.

(James Brigers)

Bath Abbey, ST 7512 6477, BaNES HER 61630

As part of a major reordering of the interior of Bath Abbey and associated buildings an extensive programme of archaeological monitoring and recording work is being directed by Dr Kevin Blockley of Cambrian Archaeology and Wessex Archaeology. The first phase of work concentrated on the removal of the ledger stones and the make-up layers of the existing floors which date from the time of Scott's restoration of the mid 1860s. Archaeological investigation within the east end of the Abbey has revealed numerous post-medieval lead coffins along with many fragments of worked stone and plaster work, alongside many unstratified bones. Evidence of a well-preserved medieval tiled floor was noted below the make-up layers. The tiles were left in situ and the area backfilled. Additional archaeological work outside the east end of the Abbey revealed a sequence of deposits of prehistoric, Roman and Norman date.



Fig. 4 Bath Abbey. Excavation of a charcoal burial in the cellars under Kingston Buildings.

Excavations on the south side of the Abbey below the Kingston Building has revealed further parts of the medieval and Saxon cemetery including Roman layers and numerous charcoal burials (Fig. 4). Further work is planned for 2019-20.

(Bob Croft)

Bathampton, Glebe Cottage, ST 773 663

The western part of the front garden of Glebe Cottage has a raised platform held by a low retaining wall. At the southern end, the wall becomes a structural wall some 2.5m high with buttresses and a gothic archway through it. The structural wall turns west at the end of the garden and continues for some 7.5m before reverting to garden walling. Survey by Bath and Counties Archaeological Society using twin-probe resistance and resistivity profile indicate that this may represent a medieval house of some pretention, possibly 24m long (north-south), 7.5m wide, with a further annexe to the west, which extends into the neighbouring garden to the west. Documentary study suggests it could either belong to Bath Priory or to the secular lord of the manor. Survey also showed a 2m diameter circular structure under the centre of the front lawn, which is most likely to be a Victorian water cistern. Thanks are due to Mr John Withey for permission to survey his garden, and also to his neighbour, Mrs Uffindale for allowing us to continue the survey into her garden.

(John Oswin)

*Bruton, Kings School, ST 6830 3476,
Somerset HER 37576*

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring and recording relating to the construction of a new school building. Despite the potential for archaeological deposits associated with the Augustinian priory, no archaeological features or deposits were observed, aside from a length of wall which ran across the north-western part of the site and may have formed the perimeter wall.

(Clare Randall)

*Carhampton, Church Lane, ST 0097 4263,
Somerset HER 37413*

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a 0.3 ha archaeological excavation on land in 2017. The majority of the archaeological features and deposits included a series of intercutting ditches, which, as well as managing drainage, served to delineate, modify and re-establish tracts of land during the Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Domestic and probable craft-related activity, spanning the medieval period, were represented by an oven and associated

working area, the remains of a three-sided structure (probably a workshop or shelter), a number of pits, and debris found within some ditch fills. The finds assemblage, whilst fairly small, includes a number of interesting artefacts, including a possible pin beater made of bone and two iron objects resembling either a heckletooth or perhaps leather-working awls. The discovery of an iron stylus is particularly important, as these are generally associated with monastic sites. Most of the pottery assemblage derives from the medieval period but there was a single Roman and several post-medieval sherds. A moderate assemblage of animal bone, a single human bone and a tooth, and samples of charred plant remains and wood charcoal were also recovered.

(Michael Fleming)

Chewton Mendip, ST 596 532

In the spring of 2018, as part of the 'Origins of Chewton' project being run by Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP), members began digging 1m square test-pits in the village centre. The intention is to try and retrieve medieval pottery sherds which can be compared with those of the Chewton Mendip Medieval Pottery Fabric Series, now numbering some 90 different types, all found during excavations on the building complex north of the present-day church of St Mary Magdalene (Somerset HER 31671). Three test-pits were dug; at Twyn House and Woodside, Lower St and at The Old Police Station, Main Road. The latter two successfully yielded a few small sherds which were matched with the Type Series. This project is ongoing.

(Pip Osborne)

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

This is the eighth 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 belonged to the Abbey of Jumièges, Normandy soon after the Norman Conquest (Somerset HER 31670). Beneath this building lies the remains of Saxon occupation, strongly suggesting a connection with the minster church at Chewton Mendip. A trench was placed across a one metre thick, twelve-course wall foundation, forming a substantial NNE/SSW cross wall, the northerly extent being previously excavated in 2016. The excavation confirmed that the wall had once formed the west end of the earliest phase of the rectilinear Norman building stretching east. Its construction trench cut through the black Saxon occupation soils excavated in 2016. In addition,

the lowest two courses of a wall foundation on a N/S alignment, were uncovered just east of this cross wall. These predate the rectilinear building but were found to form a direct alignment with a wall uncovered in 2016 to the north. In addition, foundations on a N/S alignment have previously been uncovered at the east end of the complex. By extrapolation it would appear that the later NNE/SSW rectilinear building, in part utilized these earlier foundations for their SE corner and east end wall, but elsewhere built new foundations. Excavations will continue in 2019 to attempt to confirm this.

(Pip Osborne)

Chewton Mendip, Pound Paddock, ST 5943 5311,
Somerset HER 31636

A resistivity survey carried out in 2014 in Pound Paddock by members of Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP) revealed a curvilinear anomaly of low resistivity running alongside the outside of the wall-topped bank feature, believed to be the precinct of the Saxon minster church. A trench was placed at a tangent to, and abutting the curvilinear boundary, to ascertain whether the low resistance might represent a ditch feature in association with this earthwork. No such feature was located. The field appears to have been quarried, reducing the overall ground level and giving the wall the appearance of being set on a bank.

(Pip Osborne)

Compton Dundon, Maisemore House, ST 492 329,
Somerset HER 39086

A watching brief was undertaken which recorded a post-medieval post hole as well as part of a medieval feature of unknown function. Medieval pottery was recovered from across the site as was rare examples of Neolithic/Bronze Age flint.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, Old Wells Road, ST 5113 4013,
Somerset HER 38940

An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC Archaeology comprising the machine-excavation of five trenches. The evaluation recorded the presence of a small number of shallow ditches, dated from a small quantity of recovered pottery, roof tile and clay tobacco-pipe to the late medieval or post-medieval period. These were likely to have comprised simple agricultural field drains, plot boundaries or subdivisions, which based on their date and variations in alignment, represented two phases of field pattern.

(Simon Hughes)

Hinton Charterhouse, Friary Wood Lane, ST 78853 59121,

BaNES HER 65976

Avon Archaeology Limited was commissioned to monitor the excavation of thirteen postholes for a willow panel fence within the scheduled area of land associated with the nearby Hinton Priory. All of the contexts through which the excavated postholes were cut were of modern date. However, the remains of a structure, probably a wall, was uncovered at the bottom of the six most northerly postholes. The purpose of this structure was unclear but it was most likely to have been a post-medieval boundary wall.

(Emma Ings)

Ilchester, 12 Free Street, ST 5229 2262,

Somerset HER 36803

See under Roman.

Keynsham, 39 High Street, ST 654 686,

BaNES HER 65971

Evaluation by Avon Archaeology recorded the footings of the boundary wall of Keynsham Abbey together with later deposits.

(Chris Webster)

Priddy, Great Ground, ST 5295 5105,

Somerset HER 39370

Excavation and survey were carried out in July 2018 over earthworks just off Priddy village green; a continuation of the University of Worcester research project started here in 2016. During the 2018 excavation season, three trenches were opened in the field called Great Ground, targeting both earthworks and anomalies revealed by the geophysical surveys. The trench numbering system runs sequentially from 2016.

Two trenches (12, 13) were opened over the ditch of a semi-circular enclosure, found by geophysical survey in 2016 and previously excavated in 2016 and 2017. The rock-cut ditch was of similar dimensions to that recorded in previous years. The fill of the ditch was relatively clean, but contained worked flint, charcoal and a single sherd of possibly prehistoric pottery. Trench 12 was placed over a ditch terminal and here two fills were visible, though finds of the type noted were only present in the lower fill. In Trench 12, a series of small, irregular quarries were found cutting the bedrock east of the ditch. These, and the ground surface into which they were cut, contained (possibly early) medieval pottery and are similar to the small quarries noted in Trench 9 last year. The base of a curvilinear stone field wall that postdates these features was also found in Trench 12; collapse or demolition deposits associated with this

wall contained post-medieval finds.

In 2017, part of a small rubbish pit, sealed by a later building wall, was uncovered (Trench 8) and found to contain animal bone, charcoal and pottery of possibly 9th- to 11th-century AD date. In 2018, excavation immediately to the east of this feature revealed another, rather amorphous pit, cut into the bedrock. The fill of this contained animal bone, charcoal and similar 'pre-conquest' pottery to that found in 2017. Small amounts of late medieval pottery were recovered from residual contexts. However, the identification of ridge and furrow earthworks to the east of the main excavation trenches probably represents the main phase of later medieval activity in Great Ground. The main phase of activity revealed in Trench 8, in both 2017 and 2018, is suggested to date to the post-medieval period. This is represented by a series of demolished and robbed-out walls representing a complex of buildings. The first phase of activity appears to be the construction of a well-built wall, a c. 3.5m section of which survived to three to four courses, having been robbed-out to foundation level across the rest of the site. The internal face of this wall had been plastered and remnants of plaster elsewhere suggest this formed a room or bay measuring 3.2m x 2.6m internally. To the east of this another, of similar size, was suggested by a series of robbed-out walls and foundation trenches.

At a later date an additional wall was constructed, adjoining the well-built wall at its west end. This was 4m long and survived to only three courses. The entire area was covered in a deep layer of demolition debris which contained animal bone, post-medieval pottery, glass and metal objects. A thick, dark organic layer containing large quantities of animal bone and pottery was located at the east end of the trench and partially overlay the demolition layers. This represents a midden deposit dumped against the demolished building and may be associated with a later phase of occupation at the site. The earthworks present in Great Ground are consistent with a dwelling and its associated outbuildings and yards. Post-excavation work will now proceed. We are grateful for the continued efforts and support of landowners Richard and Susan Walker, Natural England, the South West Heritage Trust, ALERT, the Priddy Folk Festival, the Mendip Hills AONB, staff and students from the University of Worcester and all who volunteered.

(Jodie Lewis and David Mullen)

Puriton, Downend Crescent, ST 311 412,
Somerset HER 38946

An evaluation within the south-eastern sector of the medieval settlement of Caput Montis at Downend

demonstrated that there has been no history of domestic occupation in this area.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

Rowley deserted village, ST 809 582,
Somerset HER 39124

An area of over 5.7 acres was surveyed by the Bradford Museum Research Group using a resistivity meter on both sides of the road. Several buildings were visible that appeared to correspond with structures shown on early maps but other buildings that were expected did not show. Village holloways were also visible.

(Chris Webster)

Somerton, St Cleers, ST 47680 28330,
Somerset HER 37659

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by AC Archaeology which revealed a number of phases of archaeological activity, principally medieval and later in date including furrows, settlement activity, land division and the remains of a substantial medieval manor house or farm complex. The building itself, together with a dovecote, lime kiln and garden were all located in the southern portion of the site and appear to be clearly delineated from the activity recorded to the north. It may be associated with a farm at St Cleers, recorded in 1336. Finds include metalwork, pottery and a large quantity of animal bone. A publication report is in preparation.

(D. Brace)

Somerton, St Cleers Road, ST 4827 2826,
Somerset HER 40086

An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Sutton Road Farm in advance of development of the site for housing. The results demonstrated that much of the site had been open agricultural land for a significant period prior to more intensive activity involving quarrying and extensive dumping of material during the 19th and 20th centuries. Archaeological features were few and included a truncated ditch containing small quantities of medieval material and a short length of wall possibly representing the remains of boundary running south west from the street frontage and also likely to be of medieval date.

(James Brigers)

South Petherton, Palmer Street, ST 4304 1700,
Somerset HER 44102

Monitoring of groundworks for a house and access road revealed a north-south ditch of V-profile at the centre of the site, the fill of which contained coarseware pottery of possible late Saxon date. This was later cut by a late- or post-medieval ditch at

the roadside which was subsequently replaced by a stone culvert. Other features included a large pit or ditch, post holes and a possible occupation surface, all undated but some of potentially early origin. A re-used Ham Stone trough was excavated that had been deliberately placed in the ground during the later 18th century, possibly as a water supply for livestock.

(James Brigers)

Swainswick, Church of Saint Mary the Blessed Virgin,
ST 7565 6841

Archaeological monitoring of a short length of new drainage on the west side of the church only recorded offset footings, an existing stone-capped culvert and 19th- to 20th-century deposits.

(Keith Faxon)

Thorne St Margaret, Church of St Margaret,
ST 0986 2110,
Somerset HER 41317

Archaeological monitoring of a short length of new drainage on the west side of the church recorded the tower foundations and an undated wall footing. This lay at the west end of the trench and its west face appeared to be aligned with the east corner of the SW buttress of the tower. It was not possible to determine whether the footing was contemporary with the tower foundations or not.

(Keith Faxon)

Wells, Bishop's Palace, ST 5510 4574

Monitoring of the foundations for a new wooden stairway to a walkway along the top of the curtain wall, showed that the foundation design avoided damage to significant archaeological deposits.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

POST-MEDIEVAL

Broomfield, Fyne Court, ST 2231 3200,
Somerset HER 38927

Monitoring was conducted during the excavation of trenches to the east and north of the remains of the house. To the south-east, a large post-medieval feature was encountered, possibly representing the remains of a boundary parallel to the existing road. To the north of this and to the west of Fyne Court Cottages, extensive post-medieval levelling dumps and a probable 19th-century path were exposed containing material including moulded Ham Stone, possibly material obtained following the demolition of the main house. The area immediately to the north of the outbuildings of the former house was found to be heavily disturbed by modern reduction and services.

(James Brigers)

Burnett, Church of St Michael, ST 6649 6539,
BaNES HER 66070

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological works, including historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording, in advance of the construction of a new toilet with associated drainage. Building recording identified some of the changes to the fabric of the church. In the south nave wall, the extension of the building can be seen in a vertical joint beneath the west side of a window inserted in the 19th century. It was observed that the south aisle/chapel is not bonded with the south nave wall. In addition, the archaeological monitoring and recording of the below ground works located a stone-built and brick-floored recess next to the wall of the south aisle/chapel. This is adjacent to a chimney inserted into the south aisle and may represent a coal bunker. Disarticulated human remains were seen in the graveyard soil in the pipe trench cut into the path, and four articulated inhumations also located. All were located under the current church path but aligned with the adjacent rows of late 18th- and early 19th-century graves. Coffin furniture and pottery seen in the covering graveyard soil dated to the post-medieval period. The orientation and location of these burials indicates that the area of burial within the churchyard extended much closer to the south wall of the nave in the past. The church path appears to have been re-routed over the burials as a result of the construction of the porch in the 19th century.

(Clare Randall)

Chard, 46 Fore Street, ST 3244 0859,
Somerset HER 38920

Two trenches were excavated prior to the development of the site for housing. The excavated areas were found to have been severely truncated by recent disturbance. Despite this the remains of a ditch parallel to Fore Street and probably of medieval date did survive and the foundations of north-south wall foundations were found to be present along with an east-west wall possibly representing the remains of small building of 19th-century date. The positions of the north-south wall foundations may have medieval origins and suggest that the existing site may have been formed from the amalgamation of three narrow tenement plots.

(James Brigers)

Goathurst, Halswell House, ST 2539 3378,
Somerset HER 37584

As part of the ongoing programme of work, trenching within the former stableyard and the

parkland immediately to the south of the farmhouse was monitored. Within the stableyard evidence for a substantial lime slaking pit, extensive multi-period drainage and the remains of wall foundations were exposed. The work in the parkland exposed the remains of a substantial stone drain extending southwards along a narrow valley and the remnants of five associated land drains. These were part of the mid-18th century landscaping of the parkland. In addition, the historic northern boundary wall of the stableyard, the Horseshoe garden wall, and the South Garden folly were the subject of an extensive programme of historic building recording. Finally, a small evaluation trench was excavated within the eastern wing of the medieval south range of Halswell House. This exposed the remains of a substantial stone drain, up to 0.9m high, extending east-west underneath and at the rear of the south range. This was heavily repaired, perhaps in the 17th century, and the medieval garderobe blocked.

(Marc Steinmetzer)

Horton, Pottery Road, ST 3219 1445,
Somerset HER 39278

Two trenches were opened to assess the impact of a proposed residential development on an area known to lie close to one of the production sites associated with the Donyatt potteries. At neither location were significant archaeological remains encountered and it appears the site had been open land until recent utilisation as garden. Significant recent dumps of material to the south were found to contain quantities of 19th-century Donyatt type pottery, some clearly kiln waste, and it seems probable that these were derived from earthmoving activities associated with the construction of buildings close to the kiln site to the north east in the later 20th century.

(James Brigers)

Ilchester, 22 Limington Road, ST 5232 2258,
Somerset HER 44105

The groundworks for a small extension were monitored. The excavations were shallow and penetrated only into the surface of what appeared to be undifferentiated dumps and build-up of post-medieval date. Finds recovered included a single sherd of Romano-British pottery and a heavily corroded copper-alloy coin of probable Roman date. The only recognisable feature was found to be a post-medieval wall probably associated with the farm that previously occupied the site.

(James Brigers)

South Petherton, Hayes End, Coles Farm,
ST 436 162,

Somerset HER 37577

The excavation of foundation trenches was monitored and the remains of large north-south aligned ditch were observed containing a single sherd of post-medieval pottery and possibly representing a boundary feature of late- or post-medieval date. Elsewhere a smaller east-west aligned ditch and an oval pit were encountered, neither of which containing dating evidence but had characteristics that suggest an early, possibly prehistoric origin.

(James Brigers)

Stratton on the Fosse, South Street, ST 365 150,
Somerset HER 39289

A single trench evaluation by Pre-Construct Archaeological Services recorded a single archaeological feature, most probably a boundary ditch, of post-medieval date.

(Dominic McAtominney)

Wells, St Thomas Street, ST 5528 4606,
Somerset HER 37334

Monitoring was conducted at Blisland House during the preparation works for the construction of a new house. Much of the site was found to have been severely truncated and disturbed during the construction and removal of a former building allowing only minimal preservation of archaeological deposits. However, to the north-east of the site the remains of a partly subterranean stone structure were exposed incorporated into the existing boundary wall. This was most probably post-medieval in date but had been demolished and in-filled by the early 20th century. Higher levels of preservation were encountered to the east of the site and here a well was exposed with a fine, moulded Douling Stone surround along with a stone foundation or post pad suggesting the presence of late- or post-medieval activity, possibly to the south of the site close to the street frontage.

(James Brigers)

INDUSTRIAL

Bath, Walcot Road, ST 7514 6536

Avon Archaeology Limited were commissioned to record former industrial buildings at the North Range of Walcot Yard before demolition. The North Range was a large warehouse-style building of red brick and limestone ashlar, formerly occupied by a succession of timber merchants, including Staples, Holmes, Whittle, Wooster, and finally Hayward and Wooster, who were present until 1972. The earliest structural remains were recorded in the

basement area and are potentially associated with Ladymead House (formerly Cornwell House) which may have medieval origins, or with an early 18th-century structure to the rear of 108 Walcot Road. The current North Range buildings are first depicted on Cottrell's 1852 map, although a timber merchant is recorded as occupying 108 Walcot Road from at least the 1830s. Between 1885 and 1902, the North Range appears to have been largely remodelled, with an adjoining rectangular block constructed to the north, in addition to a new façade fronting onto Walcot Yard. Further changes associated with the modern development of Walcot Yard were also observed. A rapid photographic survey was also carried out, both internally and externally.

(Gareth Dickinson)

Chard, East Street, ST 32776 08691

Historic building recording, by Cotswold Archaeology, of a late Victorian warehouse and former dwelling identified that the buildings have undergone multiple alterations which have removed most historic features, although the warehouse potentially retains a section of the earliest phase of construction.

(Kimberley Dowding)

Highbridge, Huntspill Road, Highbridge Hotel, ST 3181 4715,

Somerset HER 39189

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation consisting of five trenches on the site of a proposed residential development. All the trenches revealed considerable modern made-ground deposits with some structural deposits, some of which correspond with structures on historic mapping and all of which relate to the former Highbridge Hotel.

(Ana-Maria Lutescu-Jones)

Selworthy, Holnicote, SS 911 462

Various features of the National Trust Estate Yard at Holnicote were investigated and recorded by members of Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society. The yard has been used as a centre for estate management since the 19th century and continues to be used for that purpose. Over that period it has been adapted to successive generations of power sources and uses, but without wholesale redevelopment, so that many redundant features can still be seen. A report has been provided to the National Trust and an abbreviated version will appear in SIAS Bulletins in due course.

Water power using an overshot waterwheel was installed to operate a joiners shop in the 1870s or 80s; the water supply was a pond created on the small stream

that flows down Selworthy Combe, and which supplied the wheel via a leat that is partially slate lined. The wheel was replaced by a turbine, which still survives in the old wheelpit, in 1909. A set of line shafting survives, together with metalwork that may be from the penstock.

The building to the north was a sawmill, first built in the 1870s, and which was mechanised in c. 1890. There is an engine house, which most recently had a petrol or paraffin engine installed in the 1920s. However, there is evidence of earlier power sources, possibly an oil engine. Adjacent is a lean-to which housed a generator from around the 1920s. The sawmill itself originally had a capstan arrangement to move heavy timbers but this was later replaced with the surviving vehicle engine (in another small lean to) which drove a chain via concrete guide blocks. There are also parts of a sawdust extraction system using an Archimedean screw to deliver sawdust to a large hopper mounted on narrow gauge railway rails.

Other features survive in the yard including a lime pit for slaking lime, a hand operated petrol pump, a granary on staddle stones, 18th-century stables with original fittings, a bell-turret, and pigeon-hole racking for carpenter's fixings.

(Peter Daniel)

South Cadbury, Cadbury Castle, Queen Anne's Well, ST 6272 2532,

Somerset HER 39190

TVAS South West monitored works to explore possible damage to the Scheduled Monument, which identified multiple sources of water seepage along Cadbury Castle's lower third rampart. Three modern water tanks and a trough had been sealed with a large body of clay which is now impeding drainage and contributes to waterlogging. There is strong evidence to suggest that an 18th-century sculpted well hood has been moved by at least 4m from its original position at a time no earlier than the second half of the 20th century, and that part of the subsurface remains of a post-medieval wall were destroyed in the process. Tumbled stones from the wall imply that it was a substantial structure. Finds were all modern.

(Richard Tabor)

OTHER REPORTS

Axbridge, Webbington, Hunt Kennel Cottage, ST 3818 5530,

Somerset HER 41319

Archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the erection of a two-storey extension only recorded recent deposits and natural geology.

The area monitored during these works had been heavily disturbed by the foundations and services associated with the construction of the cottage and the original foundation trenches appeared to have been cut through undisturbed natural clay.

(Keith Faxon)

Bath, 2 Hermitage Road, ST 744 661,
BaNES HER 66037

Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during demolition of an existing single-storey house and groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling. The largest of the six observed trenches revealed probable field boundaries and/or drainage features of unknown date.

(Chris Webster)

Bath, 34-35 Lower Bristol Road, ST 746 644,
BaNES HER 66115

Evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

(Chris Webster)

Bath, Bannerdown Drive, ST 78460 67733

Archaeological monitoring and recording were undertaken by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a two-storey extension to an existing dwelling at Victory Gardens. No archaeological deposits were observed during the groundworks.

(V. Simmonds)

Bath, Claverton Down, School of Management,
ST 7742 6439

Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising three trenches. No archaeological deposits were recorded as the whole area had previously been scraped down to bedrock prior to landscaping.

(Simon Flaherty)

Bath, Combe Down, ST 74630 62210

Avon Archaeology Limited monitored groundworks at 6 Hill Lane. The only features recorded were large, undated pits, assumed to be post-medieval quarrying.

(Emma Ings)

Bath, Henrietta Mews, ST 753 651,
BaNES HER 65998

Monitoring by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a wall, probably related to the chapel on the site. No other features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Chris Webster)

Bath, London Road, Longacre, ST 753 658,
BaNES HER 65937

Excavation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded only 18th-century and later deposits; two sherds of residual Roman and medieval pottery were recovered.

(Chris Webster)

Bath, Lower Bristol Road, Freedom House,
ST 729 647,

BaNES HER 65997

Monitoring by Wessex Archaeology of eight construction pits recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

(Chris Webster)

Bath, Lower Bristol Road, The Bath Press,
ST 737 647,

BaNES HER 66015

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts that pre-dated the 20th century were identified.

(Chris Webster)

Bath, Upper Bristol Road, ST 7365 6525

Archaeological mitigation and recording was undertaken by AC Archaeology, during groundworks associated with a proposed residential development. Archaeological deposits encountered during the groundworks comprised only foundations relating to a 19th-century cottage.

(Dan Carter)

Bathampton, Meadow farm, ST 769 663,
BaNES HER 65967

Monitoring of groundworks by Mike Heaton recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

(Chris Webster)

Bathwick, Bathwick Down, ST 76607 64885

Archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with a new practice driving range at Bath Golf Club was undertaken by AC Archaeology. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

(B Urmston)

Bleadon, Purn Holiday Park, ST 3100 5670

A watching brief was undertaken to monitor the excavation of service trenches in advance of the southern expansion of the caravan site. A sequence of alluvial clays was recorded, representing periodic flooding of the area but no archaeological finds or features were encountered.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

Bleadon, The Rectory, ST 3405 5693

South West Archaeology undertook an evaluation prior to the construction of a new building. The ground level had been raised during the 19th century and the only features recorded post-dated that.

(Bryn Morris)

Brent Knoll and East Brent, ST 332326 150420

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

(V. Simmonds)

Broadfield Down, Bristol Airport, Silver Zone Extension (Phase 2), ST 50002 64575

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance.

(Jonathan Orellana and Derek Evans)

Castle Cary, South Street, ST 6365 3176, Somerset HER 44104

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological field evaluation within an area of burgrave plots. Despite this location, no archaeological features or deposits were observed and no artefacts recovered.

(Clare Randall)

Castle Cary, Well Farm, ST 63695 32833

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with a housing development. No archaeological deposits were observed during the groundworks.

(V. Simmonds)

Cheddar, Cathay Lane, The Fraser Hall, ST 4574 5333,

Somerset HER 37531

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring and recording relating to development. Despite the considerable archaeological potential in this area, no features or deposits were observed.

(Clare Randall)

Dunster Castle, SS 99228 43636

Archaeological monitoring and recording were carried

out by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with the replacement of the existing ticket office at Dunster Castle. The works comprised the creation of a terrace and 21 augured pile pits were then excavated. A single undated feature, possibly a pit, was exposed in one of the pile pits.

(Chris Caine)

Dunster Castle, SS 99145 43456, Exmoor HER EEM14744

Archaeological monitoring and recording were carried out by AC Archaeology during small scale infrastructure works in five separate areas but no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Alexandra Scard)

East Harptree, Middle Street, ST 566 557, BaNES HER 65957

Monitoring of foundation trenches by South West Archaeology recorded only recent features and recovered mostly 18th-century and later finds.

(Chris Webster)

East Harptree, Middle Street, Pinkers Farm, ST 5636 5548,

BaNES HER 65925

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological field evaluation at the south-western end of the medieval settlement of East Harptree, which is thought to have been a planned medieval settlement associated with Keynsham Abbey. Despite the location, no archaeological features or deposits were observed. It suggests that the core area of medieval activity is probably to the north, towards Richmond Castle.

(Clare Randall)

Freshford, Friary, Holzem Lodge, ST 7887 5912

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundworks, relating to the installation of a new soakaway. A spread of modern unworked stone rubble was found directly overlying the clay natural. Fragments of residual medieval and post-medieval/modern pottery were recovered from the stone rubble.

(Alistair Zochowski)

Hatch Beauchamp, Hatch Court, ST 3073 2092, Somerset HER 40085

Monitoring by Context One Heritage and Archaeology of the construction of a new ha-ha and realignment of the drive recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Clare Randall)

Highbridge, Bennet Road, ST 33050 48025,
Somerset HER 39065

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance.
(Jonathan Orellana)

Highbridge, new Aldi store, ST 33000 48093,
Somerset HER 39063

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance.
(Jonathan Orellana)

Kewstoke, Huckers Bow, ST 3473 6620

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a watching brief during remedial works associated with the sluice gate. The structure of the current sea bank was recorded but no further archaeological features were observed.

(Tom Blencowe and Simon Flaherty)

Langford, Ladymead Lane, Ancarva House,
ST 4489 6024,
N Somerset HER ENS2092

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological field evaluation close to the boundary of a medieval deer park. Despite the potential for there to be features relating to the medieval use of the landscape, no archaeological features or deposits were observed.

(Clare Randall)

Langport, The Hill, Lions Gate, ST 4226 2674,
Somerset HER 38947

Monitoring of the conversion of outbuildings and construction of a small extension recorded nothing of archaeological significance.

(James Brigers)

Lower Swainswick, London Road West,
ST 76480 66469

Archaeological monitoring and recording were undertaken by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new detached dwelling at Riverside House. No archaeological deposits were observed during the groundworks.

(V. Simmonds)

Midsomer Norton, Bracelands, 48 Silver Street,
ST 6635 5344,
BaNES HER 66116

Evaluation trenching by TVAS South West revealed five rectangular pits and a ditch, all certainly or probably modern.

(Mariusz Paszkiewicz)

Nettlecombe, Huish Barton, ST 0542 3856,
Exmoor HER EEM14770

Archaeological monitoring and recording were carried out by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with installation of a telecommunications pole and ancillary equipment. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed.

(Kathryn Brook)

Newton St Loe, Holy Trinity church, ST 7010 6488,
BaNES HER 65972

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring and recording. All the areas observed showed considerable evidence of modern disturbance relating to previous installation of services as well as a prior episode of underpinning works on the vestry. No human remains, archaeological features or deposits were observed.

(Richard McConnell)

Priddy, Bay Tree Cottage, ST 5270 5112,
Somerset HER 34770

The reduction of levels and the excavation of foundations for the construction of a single new house were monitored. No archaeological features were noted and no artefactual material was recovered from the site.

(Dick Broomhead)

Radstock, Coombend, ACL House, ST 685 554,
BaNES HER 65974

Monitoring of groundworks by South West Archaeology recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

(Chris Webster)

Rooksbridge, Chapel Road, 'The Rosary',
ST 3690 5241,

Somerset HER 44103

Archaeological observations were made in 2016 and 2017 during the reduction of levels and the excavation of foundations for the construction of two new dwellings on land formerly occupied by a building known as The Rosary. Apart from a little random rubble and recent glass and pottery, no trace of the former building could be found upon the site which had been extensively stripped prior to the start of the current works and, with the exception of a single post medieval pit, no archaeological features or significant archaeological material was recovered.

(Dick Broomhead)

Southstoke, Packhorse Lane, ST 748 614,
BaNES HER 66012
Monitoring of ground works by Kim Watkins recorded no features or finds of archaeological interest.
(Chris Webster)

Sparkford, Long Hazel Farm, ST 6010 2616,
Somerset HER 39187
Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation on a 1.9 ha parcel of land. The work comprised the excavation of six trenches, all targeted on previously identified geophysical anomalies. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.
(Lee Newton)

Stolford, flood defence scheme, ST 2334 4586
Archaeological monitoring and recording of three geotechnical trial pits was undertaken by AC Archaeology. The site is located close to an area previously identified as containing prehistoric submerged forest and peat deposits. The geotechnical investigations exposed an approximately 3m thick series of alluvial deposits above the mudstone geology. Although these deposits contained some limited preserved organic content, there was no evidence for peat formation in the area investigated. These were then sealed by made ground deposits that were probably associated with the existing flood defences.
(Simon Hughes)

Taunton, County Cricket Ground, ST 2288 2497,
Somerset HER 41085
Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring and recording relating to the erection of five floodlight masts and two substations. Despite the considerable potential, no significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded.
(Clare Randall)

Walton, Main Street, Yew Tree Farm, ST 4576 3637,
Somerset HER 37705
Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out an archaeological field evaluation, which revealed that there had been considerable reworking of the ground levels in the modern period. No archaeological features were seen which could relate to the medieval settlement, and there were no finds.
(Clare Randall)

Wanstrow, Torr works, ST 6970 4340
Magnetometer survey of a 3.4ha area by TVAS South West identified a small number of magnetic anomalies, but it is doubtful that these are of archaeological interest. In particular, the projected route of a Roman road was not apparent.
(Nicholas Dawson)

Wedmore, Cross Farm, ST 43833 47932,
Somerset HER 44108
An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance.
(Christina Tapply)

Wedmore, The Lerburne, ST 4365 4795,
Somerset HER 39290
Monitoring of the foundation trenches for a new house recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.
(Keith Faxon)

Weston Super Mare, Locking Head Drive,
ST 3633 6124,
N Somerset HER ENS2115
Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation and geoarchaeological assessment of a 0.26 ha parcel of land. Six trenches were located within the flat, reclaimed landscape of the North Somerset Levels. No artefactual evidence or settlement horizons were recorded within the exposed sedimentary deposits.
(László Lichtenstein)

Whitchurch, Staunton Lane, Avon Garage,
ST 62001 67481
Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation ahead of residential redevelopment. Two evaluation trenches were excavated but only modern activity associated with the existing garage was identified.
(László Lichtenstein)

Winscombe, Broadleaze Farm, ST 4181 5888,
N Somerset HER ENS2059, ENS 2060
South West Archaeology undertook a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey in advance of a proposed housing development. The southern part of the site (in Winscombe parish) formed part of the former medieval deerpark attached to the Bishop's palace at Banwell; the northern part of the site (in Sandford) clearly formed part of the common open field attached to that settlement. The geophysical survey undertaken did not identify any features of archaeological significance.
(Bryn Morris)

Winscombe, Ilex Lane cemetery, ST 41700 58486,
N Somerset HER ENS2095

Avon Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks related to the creation of a new car parking area and two new structures at the cemetery. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Nick Corcos)

Wiveliscombe, Church of St Andrew, ST 0827 2767,
Somerset HER 41318

Monitoring of works to improve the access and drainage of the driveway recorded only modern deposits.

(Keith Faxon)

Wrington, flood storage area, ST 4768 6269,
N Somerset HER ENS1941, ENS1942, ENS 2085

An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken

by AC Archaeology during January 2018 targeting linear anomalies identified from a previous geophysical survey. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

(Alex Farnell)

Yatton, Arnolds Way, ST 418 669

Wessex Archaeology monitored the excavation of six geotechnical pits over a 1.8 ha area of land. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recorded.

(Michael Fleming)

Yeovil, Brimsmore, ST 533 176,
Somerset HER 39392

Excavation by Oxford Archaeology of an area following geophysical survey recorded only field boundary ditches and a sheepwash.

(Kirsty Smith)