SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY, 2002

EDITED BY C. J. WEBSTER, SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL, CULTURE AND HERITAGE DIRECTORATE

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

In recent years I have started the annual report with the observation that it has been a busier year than the previous one and it is difficult to believe that this trend can continue but it was one of our busiest years yet, both in the office and out in the field! Archaeological and conservation advice on planning applications continues to expand in the county and in 2002 over 1500 applications were dealt with by the group mostly by Steve Membery, the development control archaeologist. The expansion of development in the county and the success of local planning policy consultation continues to ensure that almost all planning applications receive a full archaeological appraisal. During the year over 150 sites were subjected to detailed archaeological evaluation, field investigation and recording and a measure of success of this control system is reflected in the number of reports and items detailed in this annual summary. A total of 672 new sites were added to the county Sites and Monuments Record which is becoming known as the Historic Environment Record to reflect the broader range of information now held. Work started, with Heritage Lottery Fund support, to make public access to the HER easier and also to raise awareness of this resource. Talya Bagwell has joined the team to work on the project which should see the HER available over the internet in 2003.

Outside the planning system agricultural change and modern farming practices are probably the single most damaging factor for most archaeological sites in the county. English Heritage continues to support the County Council by funding a countryside archaeological officer, Jan Grove, and during the year over 100 agri-environment schemes and forestry applications were dealt with. This work has demonstrated the need for continued monitoring and liaison with farmers, landowners and wildlife groups who are managing and looking after important archaeological sites and monuments.

One of the most important discoveries of the year was the work at Dinnington Roman villa near Ilminster. The landowner Mike Holloway identified the site during the drought year of 1976 but it was not until his daughter Trudy Ridgers was inspired by the discovery of the Lopen mosaic in 2001 that she set about examining the land at Dinnington. A small evaluation by Alan Graham confirmed the presence of a mosaic and the Channel 4 *Time Team* were invited to work on the site (see under Roman below). The archaeological potential of this site is very high but deep ploughing recently scarred one of the geometric mosaics. This clearly shows the need for management plans that encourage sympathetic agricultural practice on known archaeological sites. Sites such as this should be used to influence government and European thinking on the targeting of agricultural subsidies. The tenant farmer has entered into a Countryside Stewardship Scheme which will ensure that it is not ploughed again for at least ten years.

Scheduling a monument does not prevent it from being ploughed. At Athelney Abbey ploughing has been common practice until relatively recently when the site was put into an ESA grassland management agreement. This protection has several years left to run but in order to understand the levels of survival at the abbey an archaeological evaluation project was coordinated between the County Council and Channel 4 *Time Team* with approval from English Heritage (see under Medieval below). Limited excavation continued after the *Time Team* left and during this time over 2500 people visited the site. The excavation was also tied in with a major documentary and archaeological display about Alfred, Athelney and Somerset that was shown to the Queen when she visited Taunton in May. Several thousand people saw the display and the recently discovered Athelney cartulary that was brought back to Somerset for the exhibition. The examples of Dinnington and Athelney have shown that there is considerable demand from the public of Somerset to visit and find out more about their local archaeological heritage.

The long-term future of the Peat Moors Centre continues to cause concern but the Centre goes on from strength to strength with continued support from schools and the public, from Somerset and beyond. Detailed proposals for an assessment of important wetland archaeological sites in the Somerset Levels and Moors were completed by Richard Brunning and it is hoped that this important partnership project with English Heritage will be underway in 2003.

During the year the Architectural and Historic Heritage Group was part of an extensive Best Value review of Culture and Heritage Services which resulted in the formation of a new directorate with the responsibility to deliver Culture and Heritage Services for the County Council. The appointment of Jane Murray as the new Corporate Director for Culture and Heritage has shown that the County Council is committed to ensuring that cultural and heritage matters are an important service function.

(R. A. Croft)

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK

Baseline archaeological survey of land owned by Exmoor National Park Authority continued with the survey of land at Mill Hill (SS 830 450) by the Exeter Office of English Heritage. Intensive survey has continued at the Iron Age enclosure at Timberscombe (SS 958 414). Geochemical survey was carried out by Chris Carey (University of Exeter) in 2001, and in 2002 a geophysical survey of the site was completed. The survey (undertaken by Ross Dean of Substrata Ltd), coincided with the results of the geochemical survey in identifying an area of metalworking, as well as several occupation areas.

The West Somerset Mineral Railway incline was acquired by Exmoor National Park Authority in 1998. Since then a programme of building consolidation has been carried out on the ruin. On the completion of that work the Exmoor Mines Research Group have undertaken a detailed investigation of the floor of the Winding House (ST 024 345) prior to the incline being opened to the public.

A four-year project to investigate the early iron industry on Exmoor began in early 2002. The focus of the first season of fieldwork was near Brayford on the Devon side of Exmoor, where an extensive and complex Roman smelting site has been excavated. Field survey has also been carried out in the Barle valley, and a programme of tree coring has been completed in Horner Wood.

Reports on field work at Porlock, the Whit Stones and Hawkcombe Head are given under Prehistoric.

(Rob Wilson-North)

SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

Ashwick, Beacon Hill Wood, ST 637 460

An instrument survey by Mark Corney of surface features within the western part of Beacon Hill Wood on behalf of The Woodland Trust and covering approximately 6.2ha, was supplemented by a gradiometer survey by Richard Tabor in two smaller areas. Remains of ancient quarry features, two round barrows, boundary bank earthworks, the course of the Roman Fosse Way road and other holloways were recorded. The geophysical surveys were targeted upon suspected alignments of the Fosse Way, but results were inconclusive.

Subsequently a watching brief was maintained during maintenance work and clearance of a holloway utilised as a right of way through the wood, and the opportunity was taken to cut a section along its sides where it crossed the line of what is postulated as the *agger* of the Fosse Way. No trace of a road surface or side ditches was observed in these sections, although part of a small rock-cut pit was found containing a finely-worked flint point of Neolithic type. Survey work will continue in 2003 to cover the remainder of the wood.

(Peter Leach)

Bath, Charmy Down, ST 7786 9691 to ST 7505 7059

Pipeline construction across the airfield and Romano-British field systems of Charmy Down between Hollies Lane Water Treatment Works and Hartley Farm was observed by ASI Heritage Consultants. Field systems of prehistoric and/or Romano-British date have been recorded over 50% of the plateau area of Charmy Down and display two principle construction methods: lynchetting, probably created by sustained ploughing, and boundaries of mortared and drystone walling. Much of this system was destroyed between 1940 and 1942 by construction of an airfield but rescue excavations by W.F. Grimes recorded numerous monuments of prehistoric and Romano-British date. Substantial earthworks of field systems, tracks and associated settlement enclosures still survive around the plateau periphery and features of archaeological significance were noted in two areas. The first, at ST 7725 6971, comprised a single layer of stones on a line with a prehistoric or Romano-British field boundary plotted by Grimes. This is interpreted as the base of a field-lynchet over which substantial wall foundations have been developed. Romano-British pottery was recovered close to the feature but did not have any demonstrable stratigraphic relationship with it. The second area of recording (ST 7535 7035) revealed a more complex sequence of rubble embankments 4–5m across, forming several phases of an L-shaped enclosure oriented north–south, roughly 25m broad and 35m in length. The results suggest that airfield construction during the Second World War, whilst severely damaging and truncating archaeological deposits upon Charmy Down, has not entirely removed them and the area still has considerable archaeological potential.

(Mark Corney and Bill Moffatt)

Charterhouse-on-Mendip, CHERT project, ST 50 55

CHERT (CHarterhouse Environs Research Team) is a community archaeology project, based at Charterhouse-on-Mendip, and guided by Vince Russett (North Somerset Council) and Penny Stokes (Mendip District Council). A team of around 30 local volunteers is working on surveying and understanding the astonishing historic landscapes of the area. The team has provided some 370 new sites to the Somerset HER and has so far fieldwalked around 3% of the study area in detail, surveyed and located around 80 sites (either by GPS survey or tape and offset earthwork survey), surveyed and recorded around 400 historic boundaries, and has developed links with the Bristol University MA in Landscape Archaeology course to further the surveying work. CHERT has also been invited to survey the Defence Estates land at Yoxter, and will be carrying out work there during winter 2002–3. Some of the more interesting and important discoveries

are recorded below. Thanks are due to all the landowners of Charterhouse who have given their permission to work on private land.

(Vince Russett)

English Heritage Archaeological Survey of the Quantock hills AONB

The Archaeological Investigation team at the Exeter Office of English Heritage began an archaeological survey of the Quantock Hills AONB in 2002. The survey aims to investigate and record the extant archaeology of the Quantock Hills. The survey so far has examined the surviving archaeology on the Commons in the northern part of the Quantock Hills. Several new prehistoric burial cairns have been found. Other new sites include pillow mounds and large numbers of shooting butts which survive as earthworks. The wooded combes on the eastern edge of the hills have been reconnoitred. Large numbers of charcoal-burning platforms and several small building platforms, relating to the local tanning industries, have been found. Additionally, the Quantock Hills AONB is the subject of an air photographic transcription as part of the National Mapping Programme, undertaken by English Heritage's Aerial Survey team in Swindon.

Several sites have been the subject of large-scale survey and investigation. These include the Trendle and Cockercombe (Plainsfield) Camp, both Iron Age enclosures, and the hillfort known as Dowsborough Camp. At Kilve, the survey has provided archaeological analysis of the landscape surrounding the medieval chantry buildings and architectural analysis of the buildings has been carried out by the English Heritage Architectural Investigation team from Swindon. These surveys will inform future conservation of these exceptional buildings. The ruined medieval chapel and surrounding earthworks at Adscombe have been surveyed, as have the earthwork remains of a small garden site at Over Stowey. The platforms and embanked hollows at Crowcombe Combe Gate, previously suggested to be a prehistoric settlement site, have been identified as the remains of a searchlight emplacement, dating from the Second World War. Reports on all of these large scale surveys can be consulted at the National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon, the Somerset HER or the Somerset Studies Library, Taunton

(Hazel Riley)

Glastonbury Tor, ST 512 386

Ground-penetrating radar and earth resistance survey were both used on an area of 2m x 20m immediately to the west and an area of 8m x 20m immediately to the east of the tower. A fissure which possibly extended beneath the tower and could cause structural problems was identified during the 1960s excavations and the geophysical survey was undertaken in an attempt to relocate this feature and assess whether it did extend beneath the tower. It was also hoped that the nature of any packing material present could be determined.

The earth resistance survey, although over a very small area, located some features which may have an archaeological origin, while one may have been associated with the fissure. A strong reflection corresponding to the fissure was identified in ground-penetrating radar survey, this may indicate the presence of a solid packing material. Other traces showed several reflections of possible archaeological interest.

(GSB Prospection)

Norton Fitzwarren, Courtlands Farm, ST 199 267

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken on the site of this former Prisoner of War camp. Associated archaeology in the area consists of the Norton Camp hillfort to the south-east, together with a supposed enclosure ditch within the south-eastern corner of the survey area. The work, undertaken for Wessex Archaeology, identified several linear trends which may have an archaeological origin, however, since these responses were weak and the anomalies

fragmented, it is also possible that these features have a more modern origin associated with the PoW camp. Several pipes thought to be associated with this were also identified

(GSB Prospection)

River Parrett banks, ST 3254 3419 to ST 3918 2759

Flooding episodes around the River Parrett have prompted the Environment Agency to investigate several stretches of the Parrett flood banks from Linden Farm in the north west to Rose Cottage in the south east, a distance of approximately 10km. A desk-based study of the area identified an important fish weir, a major river crossing, a possible riverside Romano-British site at Burrowbridge and a mill at Stathe, in Aller. The survey indicated that the river seems to have been largely embanked by the 13th century. A series of geological boreholes was sunk through the riverbanks at various locations and the layers and deposits exposed in the cores were examined and described. One bore hole at War Moor revealed a buried land surface containing flint flakes, iron slag and fired clay approximately 7m below the top of the flood bank. The buried soil was found at a height of approximately 0.2m above Ordnance Datum and was sealed by a band of peat lying between 1.2m OD and 2.7m OD. The buried soil is assumed to be Iron Age or Romano-British in date and it is hoped that a radiocarbon determination can be obtained from charcoal within the deposit.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Shepton Beauchamp to Stocklinch Reservoir, ST 4015 1705 to ST 3915 1706

An archaeological watching brief on a Wessex Water pipeline running between the village of Shepton Beauchamp and Stocklinch Reservoir on Winsmoor Hill, approximately 1km west of the village, recovered evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British settlement. Winsmoor Hill is a long-established area of arable cultivation and the pipeline cut through prehistoric pits and ditches sealed by thick deposits of ploughsoil. Some ditches were large and might be the remains of defensive features delineating a prehistoric hilltop enclosure. Prehistoric flint artefacts were also recovered from the ploughsoil during fieldwalking. One of the (defensive) ditches was sealed below the line of the (ploughed-out) Shepton Beauchamp/Barrington parish boundary, suggesting that the bank and ditch system was still a landscape feature when the parish boundary was laid out. Pottery contained within some of the buried features suggests that the hilltop enclosure was occupied during the Middle and Late Iron Age periods. A series of recut ditches in parkland immediately west of Shepton Beauchamp village might represent the western boundary of the original, medieval, settlement.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

South Cadbury Environs Project, 2002

This was the first whole year in which a research fellow was employed full time to direct the project's work, thanks to funding for three years provided by the Leverhulme Trust. A small group of regular volunteers carried out the bulk of the fieldwork, which included geophysical survey, shovel and test pitting and excavation. They have been variously assisted by students from the University of Bristol and volunteers from Japan, Finland, Italy, Ireland, Canada and the USA as well as Britain.

By the end of the year a 20% sampling within a 4km^2 box centred on Cadbury Castle had been completed, and similar sampling from a 1km^2 box around Weston Bampfylde had been started and finished. Work has now started in Sparkford. A chronological summary of the results so far follows.

EARLY NEOLITHIC: at Milsoms Corner an occupation floor and four pits were recorded. Finds included Hembury-style pottery, a quern, a polished axe. flintwork and carbonised hazel shells.

LATE NEOLITHIC: a single large sherd from Sigwells.

EARLY AND MIDDLE BRONZE AGE: a possible henge was located between Cadbury Castle and Littleton Hill (Crissells Green), on a line passing due east between the two. Barrows were recorded at Sigwells as well as long linear boundaries there and at Milsoms Corner, where there may also have been small enclosures and a late Beaker inhumation. Pottery of the period occurs in several neighbouring test pits over a 7ha area, some from a pit. Burnt mounds are visible as highly magnetic geophysical anomalies at Homeground, associated with a large number of sherds belonging to cordoned vessels. A burnt and waterlogged deposit on the south-east side of the River Cam was associated with Middle Bronze Age pottery and much flint.

MIDDLE TO LATE BRONZE AGE: there are at least two enclosures of this period at Sigwells and possible 'celtic fields' next to a probable burnt mound on the south-west facing slopes of Littleton Hill. Ritual deposits of bones, querns, burnt stones and a bronze shield occur in the enclosure ditches at Sigwells and Milsoms Corner. There is evidence for bronze weapon manufacturing at Sigwells. Structures and burnt mounds of the period have been found during excavations at Milsoms Corner.

EARLY IRON AGE: excepting structures and artefacts at Milsoms Corner this period has been remarkable for its absence in the wider landscape. There is a D-shaped enclosure at Sigwells, aligned with ephemeral traces of ditches which may also belong to this phase.

MIDDLE IRON AGE: around 300 sherds were found in a buried soil at Hicknoll Slait and a single context from a test pit in a rectilinear enclosure at Homeground produced over 70 sherds, including Glastonbury Ware. Sixteen sherds were found in the upper fills of a ditch discovered in a test pit. The ditch is part of a field system extending at least from Castle Farm, through Crissells Green and crossing Henshall Brook into East Field, where a further smattering of sherds were recovered. It may be contemporary with one of the enclosure and track systems on Sigwells, although this may belong to the later Iron Age. Shell-tempered pottery from a context above the Middle and Late Bronze Age horizons in a Littleton test pit may indicate continuity of use of 'celtic fields' there.

1ST CENTURY BC/AD: special efforts are being made to identify and phase pottery of this period, but already it is clear that there was a considerable degree of continuity from the Iron Age into the earliest Romano-British period. However, there appears to be a sharp decline in activity in the later 1st century AD, possibly roughly contemporary with a crouched inhumation at Eastcombe Farm, and the deposition of a human pelvis associated with a beaded rim bowl in a ditch at Milsoms Corner. The pattern is particular striking in East Field, where well-established sealed contexts (including lower and upper ditch fills) from two test pits included several bead rim sherds, but no later types.

MIDDLE AND LATE ROMANO-BRITISH: continuing work on the pottery aims to identify more subphases within the period to allow a more detailed interpretation of land use. Geophysical survey has revealed field systems at Sigwells, Milsoms Corner, Blacklands, Castle Farm and Nine Acres. Typical rural rectilinear buildings are discernible at Sigwells and Milsoms Corner and, at Nine Acres, there is a substantial industrial area associated with brick and iron slag.

SAXON: an early 8th-century coin has been found at Castle Farm, with possibly contemporary features. Two graves have been excavated at Hicknoll Slait, adding to the four disturbed by builders in 1966.

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL: we are collecting data for this period, which is being analysed by University of Bristol PhD student John Davey. He is integrating this with documentary research, and is aiming to identify activity from the post-Roman and Saxon periods.

More information about the project is available on the internet at: http://www. southcadbury. org. uk.

(Richard Tabor)

Taunton, Inner Relief Road, ST 222 246

Geotechnical investigations (boreholes, trenches and trial pits) along the route of the Taunton Inner Relief Road were monitored by Exeter Archaeology. The results, although limited, indicated that this whole area had been criss-crossed by the meanderings of the River Tone leaving an alluvial sequence covering three millennia. Large-scale landscaping had subsequently taken place to raise the level across the flood plain. No archaeological features were exposed other than three post-medieval walls.

(S. J. Reed)

MULTI-PERIOD

Chard, High Street, ST 3198 0860

An archaeological field evaluation and subsequent watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology ahead of a residential development at the former health centre site. Limited evidence for three phases of archaeological activity was identified, perhaps the most significant comprising a linear feature containing quantities of Romano-British pottery. Other features identified included medieval and post-medieval pits and post-medieval linear features. No evidence for an early building fronting the present High Street was found.

(S. Robinson)

East Brent, Rossholme School, ST 3448 5181

A small-scale site evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposals for a new classroom block. Several Iron Age ditches and gullies were recorded underlying parts of the proposed development with hints of nearby occupation and indications of continued use into the Romano-British period. Medieval and later activity was also recorded which had disturbed some of the earlier remains.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Frome, Cheese Showfield, ST 783 488

An archaeological evaluation by means of trench excavation on this site was carried out in January 2002 by AC Archaeology. A total of eleven trenches was excavated, some of which were targeted on potential archaeological features identified by an earlier geophysical survey of the site. The trenches uncovered a series of post-medieval field drains, a modern rubbish pit and, at the southern end of the site, a shallow linear feature and pit. The fill of the linear feature contained a small quantity of worked flint flakes and is considered to be of prehistoric origin.

(Neil Adam)

Uphill, Uphill Sluice, ST 3118 5850

Proposals by the Environment Agency to carry out renovation works at Uphill Sluice resulted in a background study of the site. A series of boreholes was sunk adjacent to the sluice and the deposits within the cores were described and recorded. The study suggests that Uphill was once a flourishing small harbour from at least the Roman period and was still important enough to be

defended in the late medieval period. Much of the old harbour area has now silted-up through alluvium and sedimentation and these silts might cover and protect valuable environmental and organic deposits and artefacts. Post-medieval maps suggest that Uphill rhyne, a canalised watercourse, was once the responsibility of several manors and landlords who were each responsible for cleaning and maintaining specified stretches of the rhyne. It is likely that these duties are a reflection and continuation of medieval practices and obligations.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

PREHISTORIC

Cheddar, north east of Tynings Farm, ST 4717 5661

A small (35) scatter of flints of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date was found by CHERT during boundary recording. Included were a small round scraper and a utilised secondary flake.

(Vince Russett)

Cheddar, north of Tynings Farm, ST 4734 5681

During fieldwalking by CHERT in October, a low round mound about 25m across, could be clearly seen to be of darker, more loamy soil and contained much larger stones than those in the soil around it. A faint hollow, only seen on the western side of the mound, could be a ditch. This is presumably the remains of a round barrow. No finds were made but soil conditions were not good. The mound exactly coincides with a circular pale mark on the 1946 air photographs, which has a small central hole.[1]

[1] RAF 3G/TUD/UK 5276 (14 Jan 1946).

(Vince Russett)

Cheddar, Tynings Farm, Three Barrow Ground, ST 470 563

The field containing the four scheduled barrows south-east of Tynings Farm was walked during September 2002 by CHERT. A scatter of flints recovered included a perfect plano-convex knife, a number of round scrapers, cores and a number of other tools, all consistent with a Beaker/Bronze Age date. The low overall numbers recovered are attributed to repeated previous flint collecting on this site

(Vince Russett)

Doulting, Abbey Quarry, ST 653 438

An AMS radiocarbon date was obtained from a fragment of cattle rib bone from one of the Neolithic Grooved Ware pits at Abbey Quarry excavated in 2000–1.[1] The calibrated results are: 2700BC–2250 BC (at 2 sigma), 2580BC–2400 BC (at 1 sigma) (Wk 11579). A report on the faunal remains from the Grooved Ware pits by Lorrain Higbee identified bones of cattle, sheep and immature pigs plus a complete, six point, red deer antler and fragments from other red deer antlers. The faunal assemblage is similar to that from other Grooved Ware pit sites. The radiocarbon determination was funded by Somerset County Council.

[1] Hollinrake, C. and N., in Webster, C. J., 'Somerset Archaeology 2001', *SANH* 145 (2001), 137.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Ham Hill, South Somerset, ST 485 165

Postholes for new stock gates within the interior of the eastern part of the hillfort were monitored. Eleven groups of holes were examined but none produced clear evidence of archaeological deposits, though this may be a product of the limited nature of the holes and the consequent

difficulty in recognised redeposited material within the Yeovil sands that underly this part of the hillfort.

(Alan Graham)

Kingston St Mary, Vollis Hill, ST 234 296

The Southern Quantock Archaeological Survey, run by King Alfred's College, Winchester, and the Archaeology Section of Somerset County Council, resumed excavations in June 2002. A large trench (40 x 30m) was opened up across part of a double-ditched enclosure known from aerial photographs. The earliest material was Neolithic, leaf-shaped arrowheads in later features and a pit containing domestic Beaker pottery. A Bronze Age V-cut ditch produced cord-decorated pottery and crude flintwork. Inside the Bronze Age enclosure was a dense area of small pits and postholes, some producing Bronze Age material. Three probable Late Bronze Age ditches may have formed enclosure boundaries. These prehistoric features were covered by hillwash.

The main inner enclosure was Middle to Late Iron Age in date and was surrounded by a ditch 1.8m deep at the terminals, creating an impressive entrance. Within the area enclosed by the Iron Age ditch was significant evidence for iron working: three small hearths with roasted iron ore, charcoal and slag from smithing. This ditch was backfilled in the Roman period, with finds including a fragment of mid to late 2nd-century AD Central Gaulish samian ware. The rectangular outer enclosure ditch was steeper-sided but less deep than the earlier inner ditch, and perhaps dated to the late 1st century AD. Remodelling of the enclosure occurred within the Roman period: ditches were recut and a gateway constructed. A cremation burial in a late 1st-century AD burnished pot with handles was located in a pit cut into the half-filled ditch. After the remodelling of the entrance and the filling up of the ditch the site was abandoned. The inhabitants may have moved downslope to the nearest known enclosure, which our geophysical survey suggests is single-phased. A geophysical survey of the next nearest known enclosure (at the top of the hill above the current site) shows it to be closely comparable, with a double enclosure of a rounded inner ditch and a more rectangular outer ditch.

(Nick Thorpe)

Orchard Wood Hillfort, Orchard Portman, ST 2498 2035

An earthwork survey of the hillfort in Orchard Wood was undertaken by the Exeter Office of English Heritage at the request of Somerset County Council and Forest Enterprise. Orchard Wood occupies an isolated hill, an outlier of the north-eastern escarpment of the Blackdown Hills. The earthworks lie on the northern end of this hill. The hillfort is univallate, oval in shape and encloses an area of some 1.9ha. To the south, the site is defined by an impressive ditch and bank. The northern part of the circuit is delimited by a steep scarp with a short length of ditch. A possible entrance lies on the eastern side of the site. Numerous small pits are scattered across the site; some of these cut into the hillfort earthworks. These pits are prospecting pits, probably for ironstone. The survey report can be consulted at the National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon, the Somerset HER or the Somerset Studies Library, Taunton.

(Hazel Riley)

Porlock Beach, SS 872 478

The rapidly changing coastal environment at Porlock Weir has continued to reveal old land surfaces dating from the Late Mesolithic and Bronze Age periods. A formal programme of three-monthly monitoring of the changes has continued. During December 2002, National Park Authority staff recovered a piece of worked flint from clay beneath the submerged forest. The piece has been identified as part of a core, the first piece of *in situ*, cultural material to be found since 1869.

(Rob Wilson-North)

Porlock, Hawkcombe Head, SS 844 457

Hawkcombe Head lies close to the top of Porlock Hill and now forms a saddle between the Hawk Combe valley system and the Weir Water valley system. The site was discovered in 1947 and, over the years, nearly 5000 flints have been found, now deposited in The County Museum, Taunton or the private Wedlake Collection.

The site lies on Porlock Common, an area of heather moorland, crossed by several rough tracks. In November 2001, National Park Authority staff became aware of flint being exposed on the verges of one of these tracks due to the illegal use of the route by 4x4 vehicles. Flint was also recovered from Ven Combe, some 300m to the north-west, in 2001.[1] The need for further information on the nature of this site led to the establishement of the Exmoor Field School, funded by the Widening Participation Office at the University of Bristol with the purpose of giving first year sixth formers the chance to gain hands-on experience in the field prior to going to university. The excavation was directed by Dr Paula Gardiner from the University of Bristol and was run in conjunction with Rob Wilson-North of the Exmoor National Park Authority.

Fieldwork in 2002 began with an initial surface collection over the entire site which was used to determine the locations of the five excavation trenches. At the same time limited geophysical survey was carried out around the spring at the head of Ven Combe. The excavations in the disturbed area adjacent to the track revealed hundreds of pieces of worked flint, including microliths, diagnostic of the later Mesolithic period.

The spring site at the top of Ven Combe was also subject to an initial surface collection. Flint was recovered from tractor ruts and a small trench was laid out, which produced hundreds of pieces of worked flint. Resistivity and magnetometry surveys were carried out around the boggy ground of the spring and these revealed anomalies close to the flushing. Other trenches were sited close to the spring edge to reveal environmental stratigraphic sequences.

The 2002 excavation has confirmed the importance of Hawkcombe Head as an upland hunting camp of the later Mesolithic period. The continuing rescue of worked flint from further vehicle damage on the eroded trackway is the basis for future work in this area, together with further excavation in Ven Combe. The 2003 field school will include a programme of palaeo-environmental sampling and radiocarbon dating.

[1] Pers. comm. Mark Thole.

(Rob Wilson-North)

Portishead, Woodlands Road, ST 4725 7748

An archaeological watching during the construction of a new Wessex Water sewerage scheme recorded the structure of a large bank probably dating to the Iron Age. A survey of East Wood, immediately south of Woodlands Road, suggests that the bank is the western boundary of a well preserved and relatively undamaged Iron Age promontory fort defended by sea cliffs to the north and by substantial banks and ditches on the other three sides. Features covered by woodland within the enclosure banks include semi-circular terraces cut into the slope, probably house platforms, and a series of artificial terraces, all probably relating to Iron Age occupation within the enclosure.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Priddy, Blackdown, 'Little Barrow', ST 4768 5716

Pencil additions to the map of Charterhouse,[1] made between 1761 and *c.* 1809, include the depiction of a mound with the legend 'Little Barrow'. The area is very overgrown with gorse and heather over 1m deep, and the site could not be identified in field reconnaisance by CHERT in 2002.

[1] SRO DD/STL 2.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse Warren Farm, ST 491 543
Fieldwalking by CHERT recovered much flintwork, including several microliths and a microburin of Mesolithic date, many scrapers, several leaf arrowheads, three fabricators, an awl, and many cores, including at least one of Mesolithic date. The finds included a few artefacts of Portland and Blackdown chert.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse Warren Farm, ST 494 546
This field was walked by CHERT in May 2002, and a scatter of Late Neolithic flints and waste found (eleven scrapers, notched flakes, a leaf arrowhead, fabricators, many utilised flakes, six cores, two core rejuvenation flakes and about 100 waste flakes). The flint was concentrated on the north and east sides of the field, but this may reflect the thinner soils there.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse, north of St Hugh's church, ST 5016 5570
A round mound survives partly under the field wall junction, and partly under the road. It is about 12m across, although severe cattle erosion and wall collapse makes it difficult to be certain, and about 0.5m high. As a definite turning point in the 1885 parish boundary, the kink in the boundary at this point may make this site the '*Walborga*' of the 1181 perambulation. It may be a Bronze Age barrow in origin. The mound is clear in air photographs taken in 1972.[1]

[1] Weston super Mare Museum 303 (1972).

(Vince Russett)

Shepton Mallet, Field Farm, ST 625 425
An evaluation of approximately 14ha of land comprising three pasture fields, proposed for development as Phase 4 of the Field Farm Development, was undertaken by means of an initial gradiometer survey (by Substrata) followed up by trial trenching. Significant geophysical anomalies were relatively infrequent but included several linear features and suspected pits. Some of these were targeted as part of a larger scale evaluation by a total of 30 trial trenches later in the year to sample across the whole area.

The most coherent remains were of a D-shaped, rock-cut ditched enclosure with further ditches extending out from it. Finds were sparse, but included flint flakes, occasional sherds of Iron Age and Late Bronze Age pottery, and in one ditch section two articulated cattle burials with fragmentary remains of a human burial in the top fills. One ditch extending south-west from the enclosure was sealed beneath colluvium deposits within a shallow valley which crosses the area. Two other small ditches were also found beneath this deposit, one of which contained Iron Age pottery. Elsewhere, another more substantial rock-cut ditch crossed the northern part of the site but no datable material was recovered from the excavated sample sections. Several rock-cut pits were also located and sampled; one evidently a late 18th/early 19th-century stone quarry, while others may have been of much earlier origin, containing occasional weathered sherds of prehistoric pottery and flint flakes. Despite the proximity of the large Romano-British roadside settlement on Fosse Lane a few hundred metres to the east, the only finds of that period were occasional sherds of pottery at subsoil horizon levels or above the fills of some prehistoric features.

(Peter Leach)

Shepton Mallet, Field Farm, ST 622 431
Continuation of a watching brief on the Field Farm development (Tadley Acres) covered an area of prehistoric settlement remains partly excavated in advance of the development in 1996.[1] Further sections of a rock-cut enclosure ditch were located and excavated and its continuation

to the south-west, beyond an entrance found in 1996, was traced for another 30m. Two sections across the latter revealed a broad, flat-bottomed ditch up to 6m wide but little more than 1m deep. Small quantities of animal bone, occasional sherds of Iron Age pottery, flint flakes and part of a Mendip sandstone saddle quern stone were recovered. Part of a second contemporary linking ditch was located, extending to the west, while a length of stone wall foundation cut into the upper ditch fills may be of Roman date.

Another section of the narrower ditch found in 1996 (1. 5m wide) east of the entrance gap was also excavated, producing further animal bone, flint and occasional Iron Age sherds. A small rock-cut pit excavated just outside the enclosure to the north produced part of a Late Bronze Age vessel with some animal bone. Results from the watching briefs on this development since 2000 will now be brought together with the 1996 excavation results for publication in a forthcoming volume of these Proceedings.

[1] Leach, P., in Webster, C. J., and Croft, R. A., 'Somerset Archaeology 1996', *SANH* 140 (1996), 146.

(Peter Leach)

West Bagborough, Lydeard Hill, ST 184 344

The remains of a suspected round barrow with what appears to have been an inner kerb of stones was observed and recorded within a plantation on the north-east slopes of Lydeard Hill, in the parish of West Bagborough, during the winter of 2001–2. The site lies on a spur of the hill at approximately 310m AOD, at the western end of a coniferous plantation and overlooking the Aisholt valley to the north (NGR ST 184344). I am grateful to Peter Ellis for assistance in the survey of the remains and to Nigel Dodds for the illustration.

Currently, the remains comprise an intermittent ring of irregular stone blocks set closely together, the largest uprights 0.3m high and over 1m long. The stones appear to be of local sandstone, in many instances prominently veined with quartz. At least twelve survive *in situ* and others may be concealed beneath the presently abundant leaf litter, although many stones are almost certainly missing. The survivors suggest a circular peristalith of approximately 1.2m diameter surrounding what is now a slightly dished central area, poorly drained and obscured by deep leaf mould and litter. There is no other internal structure visible above the present ground level. The stone setting itself is surrounded by spreads of angular stone rubble, notably to the south, where a disturbed arc of material survives up to 0.4m high in places and over 3m wide. Lower and more intermittent rubble spreads are visible elsewhere around the outer perimeter of the stone uprights. Together, these deposits suggest the remains of a cairn or mound approximately 20m in diameter (Fig. 1).

The remains have been extensively disturbed by the coniferous plantation – two trees are still growing within the perimeter of the stone setting and others stand on the remains of the cairn to the south. A track passes over the outer remnants of cairn material to the north-west and much of the interior is crossed and disturbed by animal tracks – notably horses. Map evidence, and the trees themselves, suggest that the plantation may be little more than 40 years old. Prior to this the site lay towards the north-west corner of a small field of rough pasture, the boundary of which survives as a stone and earth bank supporting mature beech trees, apparently touching the outer north-west perimeter of the cairn. This boundary defines a plot which may have originated as an 18th or early 19th-century enclosure; its creation probably responsible for the bulk of the disturbance through quarrying of a convenient source of bank material, from a pre-existing mound. The site is not depicted on the 1888 1:2500 map or subsequent large-scale edition OS maps of this area, and was not recorded by Grinsell.[1]

The remains on this site are best interpreted as a severely disturbed prehistoric (?Bronze Age) round cairn or barrow, an outlier of the small group whose upstanding remains are still visible some distance away on the upper slopes and summit of Lydeard Hill. From what is currently visible this could have been a ring cairn – a class of monument recently studied and

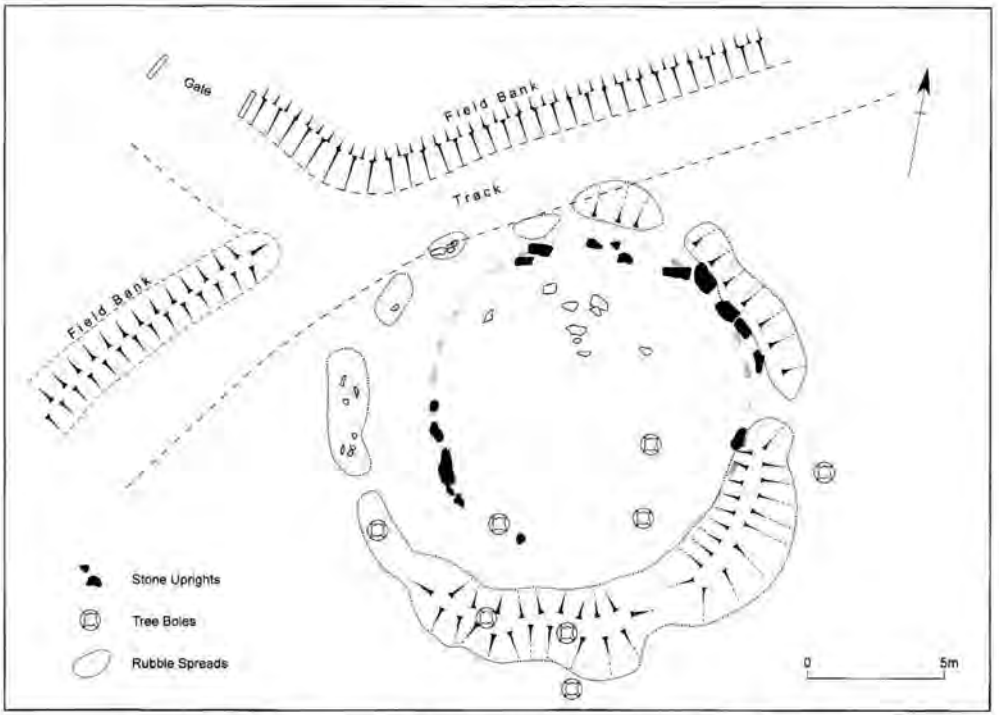

Fig. 1 Ring Cairn, Lydeard Hill, West Bagborough; illustration by Nigel Dodds

classified in some detail on Dartmoor.[2] In its original form a central burial cist or cremation burial (sometimes multiple) was surrounded by a continuous stone peristalith or kerb circle, which was in turn buried beneath a circular stone and earth barrow or cairn. Monuments of this type are probably fairly widespread in the South West, although very few have been adequately excavated or recorded in the Quantock/Exmoor region. One of the closest and best recorded was the 'Wick Barrow', Stogursey, containing Beaker burials of Early Bronze Age date within a peristalith of Lias slabs over 3ft high and 30ft in diameter. Other, less well-recorded examples are barrows at Elworthy, Huish Champflower, and Stogumber.[3] Excavation of one of the Chapman barrows on Exmoor in 1905 revealed the remains of another example, although the ring was of piled stones rather than uprights.[4] On the western edge of Exmoor one of the few modern round barrow excavations in our region revealed an inner and outer kerb of stones forming an irregular 8.5m diameter circle beneath a barrow at Shallowmead, near North Molton. No burial was found but a Middle Bronze Age date for the monument was suggested.[5]

Alternatively the incomplete peristalith represents an outer kerb to the original barrow, the remains of cairn material lying outside it representing material collapsed outwards to bury it, and doubtless spread more widely by the robbing of the mound. The 'Setta Barrow' and another on Court Hill, Exford, on Exmoor are good, well preserved examples of such barrows, while others have been excavated at 'Robin Hoods Butts', Otterford, and at Whitestaunton.[6] Whatever its original form, the Lydeard Hill barrow is located typically, for many such monuments, along a ridge, while the prominence of quartz in the stone uprights is a characteristic component at many funerary monuments of the Neolithic and Bronze Age in Britain.

How much of the Lydeard Hill barrow structure or funerary evidence now survives at this site is difficult to assess. There is no sign of a central burial cist and much of the cairn and inner peristalith has certainly been lost. Some limited erosion continues, mainly from the use of the

track, but a more serious threat is posed by future clearance of the plantation and any replanting operations. At that time it may be appropriate to undertake a fuller investigation and recording of the remains that do survive, and explore the potential for the survival of other contemporary evidence in the locality, as a contribution towards a fuller understanding of prehistoric settlement and land use on the Quantock Hills.

[1] Grinsell, L. V., 1969. 'Somerset barrows Part 1: west and south', *SANH* 113, Supplement.
[2] ?Turner's Type D: Turner, J. R., 1990. 'Ring cairns, stone circles and related monuments on Dartmoor', *Devon Archaeol Soc Proc*, 48, 27–86.
[3] See note 1.
[4] Riley, H., and Wilson-North, R., 2001. *The Field Archaeology of Exmoor*, English Heritage.
[5] Quinnell, H., 1997. 'Excavation of an Exmoor barrow and ring cairn', *Devon Archaeol Soc Proc*, 55, 1–38.
[6] See note 1.

(Peter Leach)

Whit Stones, SS 853 463

The Whit Stones lie in a prominent location above Porlock Hill. The site comprises two enormous, semi-recumbent stone slabs, adjacent to which is a 5m diameter mound which was previously not thought to be of archaeological interest. The English Heritage Field Monument Warden reported an increasing level of erosion across the mound caused by a combination of animal damage and water erosion which had exposed the compacted, stony surface of the mound leading to the conclusion that it was a prehistoric burial mound and an integral part of the monument.

Conservation work was carried out under the Monument Management Scheme (joint funded by English Heritage and the National Park Authority), and took the form of a detailed survey of the site, followed by careful cleaning and detailed recording of the exposed mound surface. After the recording work was completed, the area of erosion was covered with a permeable membrane and buried to a depth of 0.3m with sterile river gravel.

(Rob Wilson-North)

Williton, Doniford, ST 085 424

Monitoring of a Wessex Water pipeline excavation resulted in the recording of three pits containing pottery, flints and fired clay. The pottery proved to be locally made Trevisker Ware of Middle to Late Bronze Age date. An aerial photograph in the Somerset Historic Environment Record collection shows a series of cropmark enclosures in an adjacent field that might be linked to the Bronze Age site. Charcoal from one of the pits gave a calibrated date of 1520BC–1290BC at 2 sigma. A full report is forthcoming.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Williton, Doniford, ST 086 429

Fieldwalking of a Wessex Water pipeline easement and sieving of the stripped topsoil resulted in the recovery of over 100 flints of which the great majority were broadly of the Mesolithic period. This assemblage adds to earlier collections from the Doniford area and emphasises the importance of this part of the coast around the mouth of the Doniford Stream.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

ROMAN

Axbridge, Cheddar Road, ST 4331 5446

Monitoring, by R.A. Broomhead, of construction following an evaluation in 2000 recorded more of the course of a Roman ditch and located a further undated (?medieval) ditch. Roman

pottery was recovered in an unabraded state and appeared to be increasing in concentration towards the north of the site.

(Chris Webster)

Axbridge, Cross Moor Road, ST 4298 5435
Archaeological observations were made during initial groundworks and the excavation of footings for a new detached dwelling. The site produced Iron Age and Romano-British pottery although no distinct archaeological features were definable. A small number of residual medieval pottery sherds were also recovered.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Bawdrip, Ford, ST 366 387
Excavations were made in 2002 at Ford in Bawdrip following a soil resistivity survey. Four trenches were opened which revealed a tile-strewn floor and the stone footings of a rectangular Romano-British building, 16.5m x 7.6m, with its major axis lying approximately east–west. The footings found in each trench were composed of Lias rubble stone set precisely 0.9m wide. The upper surface of each of these footings was 0.17m below its adjacent Romano-British ground level: the latter was found to have a slight dip towards the west, somewhat less than the present-day gradient.

The excavations showed that a considerable proportion of the floor of the building was deeply covered by fallen Lias stone roofing tiles, none of which was unbroken. It was concluded that this provided evidence of roof collapse, rather than dismantling of the building.

Bearing in mind the quality and width of the footings, it was concluded that the walls of the building had been built of stone to their full height and that a ridged roof had been supported by king-posts on heavy timbers spanning the 5.8m – 6m interior width of the building. Remarkably, only three Lias wall-stones were found on the site, pointing to robbery or recovery of building stone following collapse of the roof.

The remains of a hearth were found towards the east end of the interior of the building. Particles of lime and coal, along with various slags were found. These provided evidence of bronze or brass working, iron working, smithing, and glass working. The hearth was left *in situ* for further examination at a later date.

A quantity of pottery was found, but there are reservations regarding its use for dating the initial construction of the building. However, sherds found immediately beneath fallen tiles suggest a roof collapse in the 4th century or later.

This building, possibly built as a barn, was used for industrial purposes. It may have been associated with a very large Romano-British building situated 80m to the north which is currently being examined. A full report is lodged with the County Sites and Monuments Record. We wish to express our gratitude to the landowner, Mr Paul Warren, for his encouragement and help in this project.

(Peter Ellson)

Chard, High Street, ST 3198 0860
See under Multi-period.

Cheddar, Church Farm, ST 4599 5298
The foundations for a conservatory and garage were monitored by Richard McDonnell, immediately to the east of Cheddar church. The first area lay on the south side of the farmhouse and was cut into the underlying gravels. Above these was an occupation layer containing Romano-British pottery including colour-coated and Black-burnished wares. This layer appeared to have been cut by a series of features filled with material indistinguishable from the overlying

deposit. The presence of human bone suggests that these are graves although no articulated skeletons were present. Later features were the wall of the farmhouse and the post-medieval churchyard wall. The area of the garage recorded a layer similar to the occupation layer, although no Roman material was recovered from it. Above this was a developed topsoil. Four sherds of Roman greywares were recovered.

It is suggested that the graves are medieval and associated with a larger churchyard although it is not impossible that they are Roman. It would appear that the bodies were removed unless the foundation trench was fortuitously only cutting the very head or foot of the graves.

(Chris Webster)

Cheddar, Kings of Wessex School, ST 4565 5315

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during construction of a new extension to the Learning Resources Centre building (at the north-west corner of the school block and outside the scheduled area) recorded a Romano-British ditch containing small sherds of samian and Black-burnished ware pottery. See also under Medieval.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Dinnington, Roman villa, ST 404 135

The site of the Dinnington villa has been known for many years and was seen as a parchmark in a field of wheat during the drought summer of 1976. The use of the field for arable farming has recently raised concerns about potential damage to any remains. A trial trench was excavated in January 2000 which discovered a tessellated floor directly beneath the ploughsoil and prompted the land owner and his family to pursue the investigation of the site resulting in a *Time Team* investigation in May 2002. A geophysical survey, involving the use of both fluxgate gradiometers and the twin probe earth resistance method, was carried out over approximately 3ha. Both the earth resistance and magnetic data identified the outline of the villa, although this was far more precise in the former and appeared to measure *c.* 120 x 70m. Additionally, the magnetic data identified several features associated with the buildings, such as ditches and boundaries. Within the villa itself, several strong magnetic responses suggested the presence of features associated with under-floor heating. Excavation was concentrated on the western range of the building, revealing evidence for a double range of rooms, two of which contained mosaic floors, fronted by a long corridor. The masonry remains were substantial and the building appears to have had a roof of West Somerset slate. At the north-west corner of the complex there was evidence of a hypocaust which may be the bath suite. Fragments of a very finely made, possibly figurative mosaic were recovered from the hypocaust infill, indicating the destruction of a floor during the medieval quarrying of the building for stone. The recent work has demonstrated the importance of the building and, following the the earlier discovery of the building and mosaic at Lopen, hints at the density of settlement along the Fosse Way in this fertile valley.

(Alan Graham and GSB Prospection)

Drayton, Edgefield, ST 4002 2489

Six small trenches (1.5m^2) were excavated along the west edge of the scheduled area of Drayton villa by Alan Graham and Steven Tatler. No archaeological features were recorded and all the finds were post-medieval or modern, representing casual losses or manuring. There was no evidence for any Roman remains this far west.

(Chris Webster)

East Huntspill, Saltern, ST 3483 4362

A 3rd/4th century AD salt-making site was excavated by Somerset County Council on the north bank of the river Huntspill. Although part of the site had been destroyed by the river, the

remains of a hearth and several settling tanks were recorded. Large quantities of briquetage and coarseware pottery were recovered in addition to part of a hazel basket. Environmental analysis was carried out on peat deposits extending from *c.* 4500 BC until the beginning of the Roman period. A new technique, optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating, was used to date the clay deposits over the mound.

(Richard Brunning)

Glastonbury, 31 High Street/41 Archers Way, ST 500 390

An archaeological evaluation to the rear of 31 High Street and within an adjacent plot at 41 Archers Way recovered Romano-British pottery sherds from a khaki-green coloured buried soil or subsoil. The deposit was similar in colour and texture to a layer investigated during an evaluation behind Somerset House, off Magdalene Street, that also contained relatively large quantities of Romano-British pottery and a 4th-century coin. This deposit is seen elsewhere in Glastonbury and should probably be considered to be a pre-medieval buried soil. See also under Medieval.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Greinton, Coates Farm, ST 412 363

An evaluation by means of ten machined trenches was carried out by Avon Archaeology in advance of proposals for housing. These showed that the southern area of the site had been terraced during the construction of the recent farmyards whose foundations lay directly on natural clay. Trenches to the north, however, revealed evidence of Roman and medieval features. The Roman features comprised, for the most part, gullies and a boundary ditch but some of these could have been structural beam slots. The only medieval feature encountered was also a boundary ditch running east–west at the very north end of the evaluations. The Roman pottery dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries, most of the medieval was 13th/14th century (with one 11th/12th-century sherd) and the post-medieval pottery dated from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Two fragments of tesserae and a stone roof tile were also recovered suggesting a substantial Roman building in the vicinity. The skeletons of two dogs and a calf were found (without skulls) but these appeared to be from medieval or later contexts.

(Chris Webster)

Hemington, Upper Row, NGR witheld

A Romano-British settlement has been partly excavated following previous geophysical survey and fieldwalking in 1998 and 1999. The work is part of a landscape project by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society and provides training opportunities for members and the wider public.

The site was chosen because of the remarkable geophysical survey results (Fig. 2) that showed intensive activity on the eastern slope of the field. The first season of excavation in 2001 enabled the site to be cleared, the building shown on the eastern edge of the rectangular enclosure to be located, and a sample of the eastern ditch of the enclosure to be excavated. A well was also located to the south west of the building identified as a dark spot on the resistivity survey.

Further magnetometer and resisitivity surveys were carried out in 2002 followed by the excavation of the building and ditches located in 2001. Further areas were investigated by uncovering 5m squares to locate anomalies shown on the surveys. Most of the building has now been excavated. The walls survived as footings approximately 0.5m deep made of pitched limestone freestone. A slight trace of flooring or make-up for flooring was uncovered in the north-west corner of the largest room excavated. This consisted of irregularly laid limestone fragments within gravel. The gravel extended throughout the room and probably formed the foundation to this floor. The corridor which runs on the west side of the building may have been a later addition as the outer wall was of more shallow and narrow construction and has been

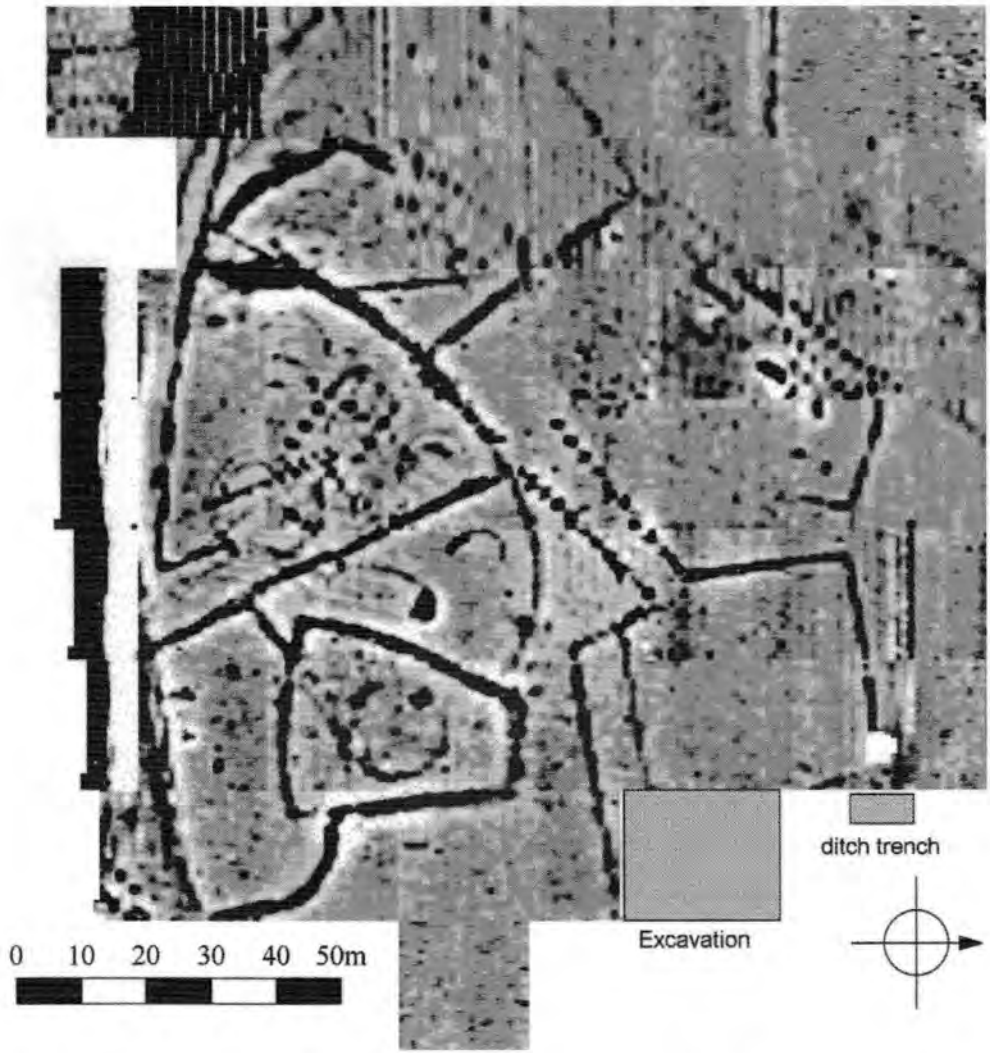

Fig. 2 Hemington, Upper Row, magnetometer survey.

butted to the north and south walls, which appear to extend beyond the line of this wall. No sealed deposits have been found within the rooms apart from a number of very fragmentary post and stakeholes. No dateable artefacts have been found in these features and they may predate the building. The dating of the building remains difficult. Stylistically a later Romano-British date would be suggested for this type of simple corridor building, but finds from the ditches and a drain which runs to the west of the building, have all been early Roman in date including South Gaulish samian and amphora fragments from Spain, Italy and North Africa. A reasonably high status for the settlement is indicated by these finds. A ditch section to the north of the building has yielded a lot of pottery, mostly dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries. The fills suggested that the ditch had been deliberately filled with rubbish in the early Roman period, thus suggesting that the enclosure may have a Late Iron Age origin.

(Jayne Lawes)

Ilchester, Limington Road Car Park, ST 5226 2255
Archaeological observations were made following the discovery of human remains during the excavation of a small trench to accommodate a replacement lighting cable. The stratigraphy, limited finds and orientation of the remains would suggested a Romano-British date but subsequent radiocarbon dates showed that they dated to the 11th or 12th century and were therefore probably associated with the nearby church of St Peter.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Ilchester, Northover Manor Hotel, ST 523 320
In 2001, proposals to construct an extension to the hotel prompted an archaeological evaluation, which resulted in the identification of significant Romano-British deposits and features.[1] In 2002, a series of seven, linked, foundation trenches for the new extension were subsequently excavated archaeologically by machining of the higher deposits and hand-excavation and recording of the lower levels. The 2002 excavation was directed by Peter Leach.

The earliest phases related to the primary settlement at Northover during the final decades of the 1st century AD. It is at present uncertain whether this relates to civilian suburbs or a *vicus* type development connected with the Neronian fort across the river. Later phases represent the continuing development of the suburb with two successive phases of timber-framed buildings with floors dating to the first half of the 2nd century.

Third and 4th-century deposits were not present and appear to have been severely truncated in the post-medieval period. Some medieval rubbish pits of 12th/13th-century date were recorded but most medieval deposits also appear to have been truncated by later development. A full report is in preparation.

[1] Hollinrake, C. and N., in Webster, C. J., 'Somerset Archaeology 2001', *SANH* 145 (2001), 142.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Muchelney, Abbey Farm, ST 4310 2481
Drainage works around a dutch barn within a field immediately east of Muchelney Abbey disturbed deposits containing Romano-British and medieval pottery sherds. The Romano-British sherds comprised mainly Black-burnished wares with some greywares. Medieval pottery included glazed 13th and 14th-century sherds. No archaeological features were visible in the stripped ground. Thanks are due to to Mr Brian Peggram of Abbey Farm who reported the finds to the County Archaeologist.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Paulton, Roman villa, NGR witheld
The site of Paulton Villa on a south-facing slope to the west of Paulton has been disputed since Wedlake's excavations in the 1960s. The Revd John Skinner had discovered the villa in the early 19th century and, although he made a plan of the buildings excavated, he did not locate the site accurately. As most of Wedlake's records have disappeared since his death, no record of the precise location of his excavation now exists. The Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society decided to use a training weekend for their new magnetometer to locate the villa in April 2002. Fieldwalking in the field identified in the Bath and North East Somerset SMR helped to locate an area of activity more precisely. Most of the finds were located on a terrace in the north-east corner of the field so the survey was begun in that area and extended westwards. Thirty six grids of 20m x 20m were surveyed to reveal both the villa and extensive Iron Age activity (Fig. 3). Further surveys will be made during 2003.

(Jayne Lawes)

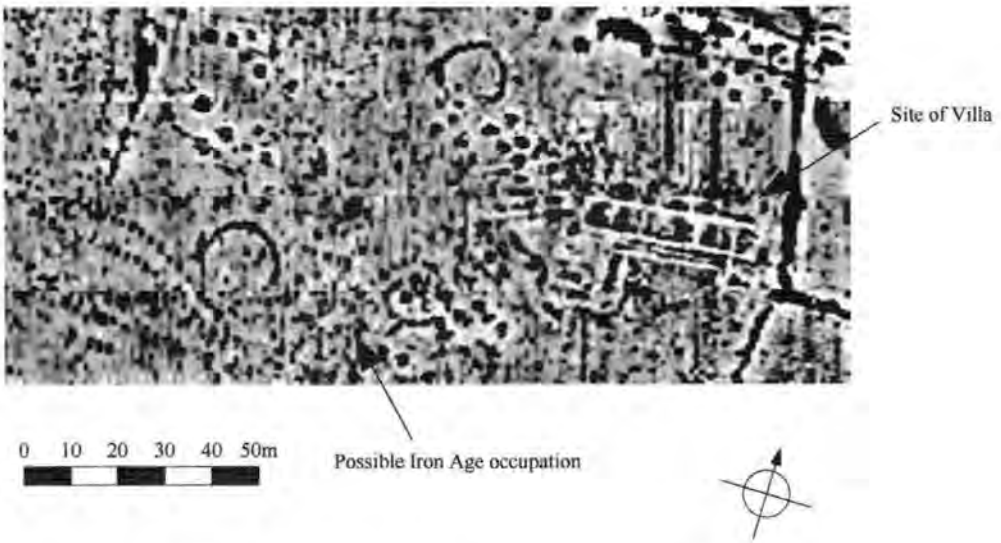

Fig. 3 Paulton villa, magnetometer survey

Priddy, Charterhouse, NGR witheld
One of two Roman lead pigs recovered by metal detectorists *c.* 1990 in the Charterhouse area is currently lying in the flower bed of a local farm. It is a roughly cast, half-sized pig, 540mm long, 120mm wide and 110mm high, of a truncated triangular section, with no inscription. The other pig was retained by the detectorists and its current location is unknown.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Mast Reservoir To Paywell Farm, ST 5005 5689 to ST 5052 5644
A watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the renewal of a water main. Roman features and deposits relating to the nearby settlement at Charterhouse were observed and artefacts dating predominantly to the 3rd and 4th centuries were recovered. The features correlate to the series of well-defined earthworks, seen in aerial photographs and also visible on the ground, that appear to represent an irregular network of streets or trackways extending from the Roman settlement.

(K. Cullen)

Shapwick, Roman Villa, ST 427 394
The area around a previous fluxgate gradiometer survey[1] of the Roman villa was surveyed using a more sensitive caesium vapour magnetometer by English Heritage. This showed the continuation of anomalies which appear to represent field and other enclosure boundaries associated with the villa and also earlier Iron Age occupation. The density of anomalies diminishes away from the villa suggesting that this formed the focus of settlement in the area.

[1] Brunning, R., in Webster, C. J., 'Somerset Archaeology 1999', *SANH* 143 (1999), 169–70.

(Chris Webster)

Williton, Doniford, ST 0855 4255
Monitoring of a Wessex Water pipeline excavation resulted in the recording of an extensive Romano-British occupation area including pits or gullies. The pottery was mostly Black-

burnished and greyware types. Stone roof tile fragments were also present and one pit contained iron slag that was found in association with lumps of coal.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Yeovil, Seaton's Garage, ST 5490 1564
Further archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology after preliminary evaluation in 2000 demonstrated the survival of Roman deposits. From these investigations it was concluded that well-preserved archaeological deposits survived across the western part of the proposed development site, but the eastward extent of the surviving archaeological deposits is as yet unknown.

(S. J. Reed)

EARLY MEDIEVAL

Aller, Chantry Farm, ST 401 129
Redevelopment of Chantry Farm on the High Street in the centre of Aller village, included the construction of a house with a garage and terraced garden that required machine excavation into a bank at the rear. This operation exposed a section containing a series of deposits and buried soils. One layer contained 10th and 10th/11th-century pottery sherds plus a broken iron (?)spur, assumed to be of similar Late Saxon date. Other layers and deposits contained medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Cheddar, Kings of Wessex School, ST 457 532
An archaeological watching brief was carried out within the scheduled area at the Kings of Wessex Community School, Cheddar, when a new classroom, referred to as the DT Extension building, was constructed inside an open courtyard within the main building. The courtyard stood above 'Structure X', a possible Anglo-Saxon fowl house that was recorded during the 1960–62 excavations. Two new foundation trenches were cut across the courtyard. There was no significant impact upon the archaeological deposits below the courtyard and only post-medieval and modern deposits were disturbed.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

MEDIEVAL

Athelney, ST 34 29
Geophysical survey using both fluxgate gradiometer and ground penetrating radar was carried out in two areas as part of a Channel 4 *Time Team* programme and represented the second phase of work on the site.[1] Earth resistance survey undertaken in 1993 yielded particularly good results showing the plan of the medieval abbey and industrial/settlement activity in the 'fort' area at the other end of the island. During the 2002 survey in the fort area several linear responses possibly relating to enclosure ditches were identified, together with industrial type anomalies. Despite this, no clear plan of the 'fort' was seen, perhaps due to the ploughing of the area. In the abbey area, magnetic survey revealed several features of potential archaeological interest while good results were also achieved with the ground penetrating radar in identifying the abbey buildings.

Subsequently several trenches were excavated at both ends of the site. This revealed some of the robbed-out walls of the abbey church, the remains of an early cemetery at the eastern end

and evidence of smithing and metalworking at the western end. In addition to these areas a trench showed that this part of the hill was originally surrounded by a substantial ditch which dates back to the Iron Age. This ditch appeared to have been redug in the Saxon period but further analysis and radiocarbon dating is needed to confirm the phasing between these two occupation periods.

[1] Croft, R. A., Gaffney, C. F., and Gater, J. A., in Webster, C. J. and Croft, R. A., 'Somerset Archaeology 1993' *SANH* 137 (1993), 142–3.

(GSB Prospection and R. A. Croft)

Bradford-on-Tone, Hele Bridge, ST 1870 2475

Archaeological observations were made during strengthening work. Evidence of several phases of building and/or rebuilding was recorded photographically as the existing road surface was removed however no accurate dating evidence was forthcoming.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Brent Knoll, Brent Street, ST 3330 5111

An evaluation was conducted by Cotswold Archaeology at the rear of Orchard Hill Residential Home. Two postholes were exposed, one medieval in date, the other post-medieval. These were overlain by structural remains associated with the extant building.

(L. Coleman and D. Evans)

Bridgwater, Castle Moat, ST 329 371

An evaluation by trial trenching of a development site at the junction of Castle Moat and Northgate located the upper levels of infill deposits within the Town ditch and the western moat of Bridgwater Castle. These deposits were waterlogged and their full depth was not determined beneath a deep overburden of 18th-century and later levelling. The evidence indicates that the line of the original castle moat either lay slightly further to the west here than has been suggested previously, or that this section was wider – perhaps to accommodate vessels docking from the River Parrett.

(Peter Leach)

Bridgwater, Friarn Avenue, ST 2960 3680

Machine excavation of a pipe trench during a mains replacement project by Wessex Water resulted in the recovery of portions of five human burials. The burials were oriented east–west and are assumed to have been part of a cemetery associated with the adjacent site of the medieval Franciscan Friary. Examination of the skeletons by Dr Alice M. Roberts of the University of Bristol concluded that the skeletons represented two adult males and two or three juveniles.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Cheddar, Kings of Wessex School, ST 4565 5315

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during construction of a new extension to the LRC building at the north-west corner of the school block, outside the scheduled area, recorded a medieval ditch containing small sherds of 12th–14th century coarseware pottery. See also under Roman.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Cheddar, Longwood Grange, ST 4862 5591

This site (formerly Lower Farm, and initially *Ceddreford*) is clearly early medieval in origin, predating the grant of the estate at *Ceddreford* to the Carthusians. Roman pottery and early 12th-century glazed jug sherds have been found at the site in the past.[1] Detailed survey by

CHERT in July 2002 revealed the remains of a probable medieval hall house with full-height oriel window facing east, subsequently completely subsumed into the current (?17th century) building, as well as a possible detached medieval kitchen block.

[1] Russett, V., in Dennison, E., 'Somerset Archaeology 1988', *SANH* 132 (1989), 226–7.

(Vince Russett)

Cheddar, Piney Sleight Farm, ST 477 551

Surviving stoney earth banks *c.* 4m wide and up to 0. 5m high can be traced for a considerable length along the walls to the south of Piney Sleight Farm. These banks correspond exactly to the turns in the southern boundary of the enclosed grounds at Piney as recorded in 1788 on the Verrey map of Cheddar.[1] The boundaries seem to have been regularised, presumably at the time of the Cheddar general enclosure in 1800.[2] The banks, from their general morphology, were probably the result of the enclosure of small medieval strips, presumably further evidence for the medieval occupation of the Piney Sleight Farm area.

[1] Cheddar Enclosure Map (1800).

[2] Cheddar map by Verrey in Longleat Record Office (1788).

(Vince Russett)

Cheddar, Piney Sleight Farm, ST 4761 5540

Piney Sleight can be traced back as a place-name to at least 1519, when a description of land as '100 acres in Pyny and 100 acres without the walls at Pyney in the Common ...' implies some form of occupation[1] and the property is recorded as given to the monastery of Kings Pyon in Herefordshire in the late 12th century.[2] The present farmhouse and a principal stone barn were examined and photographed during extensive restoration in 2002 when they were seen to be clearly of one build of *c.* 1800. No evidence of earlier archaeology was found in the considerable amount of disturbed soil.

[1] Russett, V. in Dennison, E. 'Somerset Archaeology 1987', *SANH* 131 (1988), 217.

[2] Pers. comm. Frances Neale (1985).

(Vince Russett)

Cheddar/Priddy, Long Wood and Manor Farm, ST 493 556

Although the walls have been re-aligned today, it is clear from early maps of Charterhouse[1] and from earthworks surviving on the 1946 air photographic cover,[2] that most of the fields in the area bounded by Long Wood, Velvet Bottom, the valley south of Manor Farm, and the Tynings–Charterhouse Road, once possessed unmistakable signs of enclosure from curved medieval strip fields, which none of the surrounding fields do. This area of 0.68km^2 may once have been the arable of the *Ceddreford* estate.

[1] e.g. SRO DD/STL 1 (1761, as amended *c.* 1809).

[2] RAF 3G/TUD/UK 5335 (14 Jan 1946).

(Vince Russett)

Chedzoy, Rose Bower Cottage, ST 3405 3765

Rose Bower Cottage was situated at the northern edge of the village, immediately west of the church. It comprised a house aligned east-west, with outbuilding extending southwards from its east end, forming the north-west corner of a rectangular plot. The building was not listed but was within the Chedzoy Conservation Area. Building recording was undertaken by Michael Heaton for Telken Homes Ltd during May 2002, prior to demolition.

The present settlement is of at least 12th-century origin, part of the royal manor of North Petherton. In the mid 16th century, in common with much royal and all monastic land, it passed into secular hands and became the property of the Earls of Pembroke (based at Wilton in

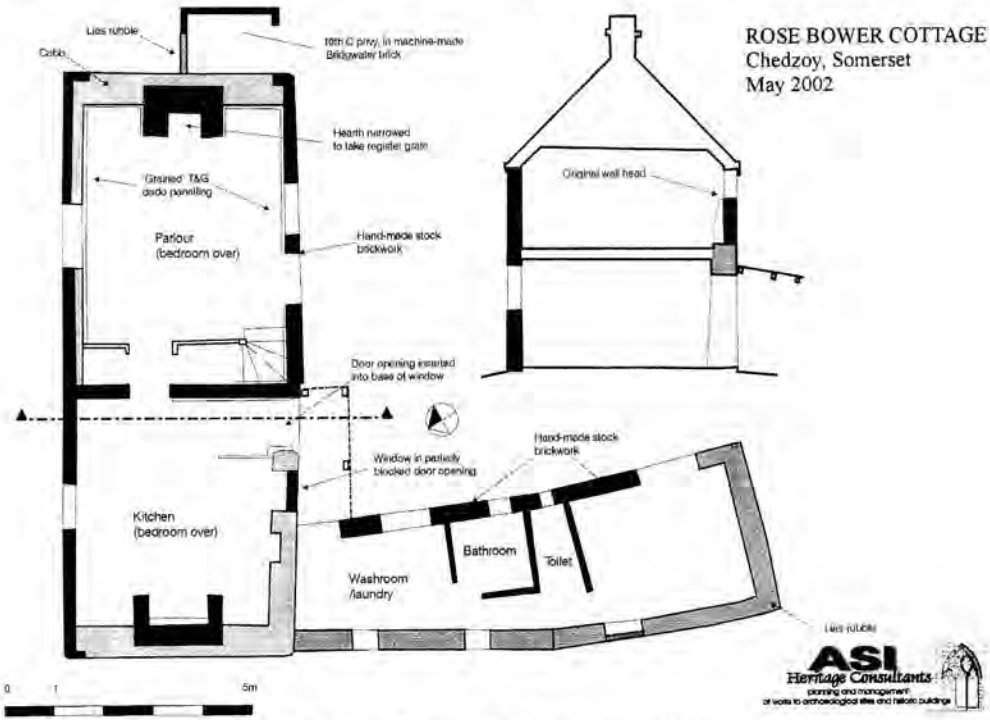

Fig. 4 Rose Bower Cottage, plan and section.

Wiltshire), and from then passed through a succession of owners until finally purchased by a Thomas Porter of Winslade House in Devon in 1802. The Porter family sold the estate in 1860; some of the holdings were bought by the wealthier tenants, but the majority were bought by Oxford University, who remained the principal landlord as late as 1988. Some of the houses in the village core are of 17th-century date, mainly in rendered cob or Lias rubble, with 19th and 20th century infilling in brick.[1] Rose Bower appears on the 1841 Tithe Map, incorporating Plots 75, 76 and possibly Plot 74. Plots 74 and 75 are both described as 'Cottage and Garden' in the Apportionment, owned by Henry Porter Esq and occupied by George Gilbert and Henry Hunt respectively. Plot 76 was the Parish Pound. Significantly, the building at the back of Plot 75 is not adjoined by outhouses, and is a rectangular building apparently in single tenancy. By the time of the 1885 Ordnance Survey (20 years after the estate had been sold off) Rose Bower has become a single holding and the house adjoined by outhouses running along the pre-existent western boundary.

The building has clearly been extensively repaired and refurbished, as late as the early 20th century when the rear wall and its Crittal windows are likely to have been appended to what was probably a crumbling cob building; the eastern half appears to have been an earlier rebuild retaining the original cob gable, postdating the lifting of the western end of the south elevation to take pantiles over the increased first floor head room (Fig. 4). Prior to that, the building will almost certainly have been an 11m x 4.5m cob-built dwelling roofed with steeply-pitched sedge thatch. This much, at least, is unexceptional, though still worthy of record.

However, there are several features of this group that potentially articulate wider economic and social changes in the Somerset wetlands during the 18th and 19th century, that do warrant note. The outhouses and amalgamation of adjacent plots, without which Rose Bower could not function as a smallholding, both postdate the Tithes Survey of 1841. A likely date for this

transformation and modest expansion would be the 1860 sell off of the Porton estate, and both reflect an increase in rural wealth at this level.

The presence of two door openings, however, indicates subdivision of the dwelling – a feature normally associated with reduced incomes or increased overheads such as land rents. The lack of a substantial weight-bearing cross wall indicates that the cottage was built as a single unit, subsequently divided, rather than as two cells. The date of this modification is not immediately clear. The reversal of the openings in the western half might have been occasioned by the addition of the outhouses, which would have rendered use of the original door opening difficult. However, were this the case, the cottage would have been in dual tenancy at the time of the Tithes Survey – when in fact it is attributed to a single tenant. The 1885 and later Ordnance Survey records also imply single occupancy of what is now externally a twin cottage. Insertion of the parlour door predated the addition of the machine-cut (i.e. later 19th or 20th-century) panelling which respects it. It would be reasonable to assume, therefore, that the modification predated the 1841 survey by a generation at least, and had been abandoned by the time the Tithes Commissioners arrived. An early 19th or late 18th-century date for the sudden decline in the fortunes of Rose Bower Cottage appears to be indicated by the evidence to hand, contemporaneous with Parliamentary Enclosure drainage and the other changes that characterised the Agricultural Revolution.

[1] *VCH Somerset Vol. VI* (1992).

(Michael Heaton)

Croscombe, Church of St Mary the Virgin, ST 5907 4442

A small-scale intrusive site evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposals to construct an extension to the existing Parish Room north of the church. The evaluation demonstrated that a number of unmarked graves existed in the area of the proposed development and that undisturbed human remains survived *in situ*. The depth of the remains was such that their presence required some alteration to the proposed foundation design of the new extension which was duly undertaken. A subsequent watching brief indicated no further disturbance and failed to identify any archaeological features.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Doulting, Church of St Aldhelm, ST 6460 4314

Archaeological observations were made during the removal of an internal wooden floor and the excavation of new external drainage around the western end of the church . The internal works exposed a sealed vault containing several burials. The external excavations also exposed a potential vault adjoining the northern wall of the nave. No other significant archaeological features were noted.

(R. A. Broomhead)

East Quantoxhead, St Mary's Church, ST 1363 4366

Monitoring, by James Brigers, of the removal of an area of higher ground next to the west tower of the church showed that this represented modern dumping, either from gravedigging or the drain around the north side of the church.

(Chris Webster)

Frome, Bath Street, ST 7762 4784

An archaeological field evaluation by means of trench excavation on land adjacent to Knoll House was undertaken by AC Archaeology. The work comprised the machine-excavation of two trenches, each 20m long and 1.6m wide, which revealed a single probable drainage ditch of later medieval date.

(Neil Adam)

Frome, Garston Lodge, ST 7793 4780
An archaeological excavation undertaken prior to redevelopment of an empty plot at Garston Lodge, Vicarage Street, Frome, recorded features and deposits of 12th to 14th-century date including relatively large amounts of coarseware pottery sherds. Much of the medieval deposits adjacent to Vicarage Street had been badly truncated but small sections of medieval wall footings fronting onto the street did survive. Analysis by Lorraine Higbee of animal bone from an extensive, buried, medieval soil suggests that goat was the main meat source. See also under Post-medieval.
(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, 31 High Street/41 Archers Way, ST 500 390
An archaeological evaluation to the rear of 31 High Street and within an adjacent plot at 41 Archers Way, Glastonbury, recovered evidence for medieval occupation dating from the 12th or 13th century and for property boundaries dating from the 13th century onwards. The evaluation results suggest that the eastern part of the High Street, to the north of St John's church, was probably being divided into tenements during the 13th century. See also under Roman.
(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Hemington, Upper Row, NGR witheld
Homefield lies to the east of Upper Row farm house and represents a significant part of the investigation of the area's medieval past. The landowner, Gordon Hendy, undertook a trial excavation in the summer of 2000, with a little help from the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society.

A stream, flowing less strongly than hitherto because water is now extracted further up, runs roughly west–east across the field. To the north of this stream, house platforms can be seen clearly in low light, and have been plotted as parch marks in a dry summer. To the south of the stream there is clear evidence of earlier hedgerows and some large-scale attempts at water management. The field to the east is called 'Three House Field' but this was already under pasture by 1836. Mr Hendy's trial excavation revealed the junction of two drystone walls, standing to an unknown height. The build is identical to that in his own farmhouse, although this has been mortared long since. The pottery finds appeared to date to the 13th century, maybe a little earlier and/or later.

In the summer of 2002 an approach from the BBC2 television programme *Time Flyers* and a workforce, provided by 40 Bristol archaeology undergraduates in need of a training dig, offered the opportunity for a fortnight of further investigation. The original 5 x 2m trench proved to be at the south-west corner of a substantial building, with opposed entrances on the east and west sides. Pottery finds were fairly sparse but confirmed the original dating. It also became clear that there was a large accumulation of silt overlying the site. Time did not allow for this to be cleared, and its removal may be crucial to the understanding of the purpose of this building. Beyond the building, in the north-east corner of the excavated area, a very substantial wall was uncovered, with a sticky black, finds-rich deposit beyond it. The latter could be a rubbish pit, or a ditch may have flanked the wall.

(Gill Holt)

Isle Abbotts, St Mary's Church, ST 3526 2095
A trench for an electricity cable along the north side of the path to the south porch revealed only a deep topsoil.

(Alan Graham)

Kilmersdon, Babbington House, ST 7034 5090
An evaluation, by Bath Archaeological Trust, in advance of development at Babbington House failed to record any evidence of a medieval village which was supposed to have been sited in

the area. The evidence suggested that the site lay in manured fields at the time and that settlement lay elsewhere.

(Chris Webster)

Langport, North Street, ST 420 270

The final stage of a watching brief for a supermarket development on the west side of North Street was completed in 2002.[1] Exposure of surfaces close to the road frontage revealed several pits, boundary ditches and the remains of an oven, associated with deposits of animal bone, medieval pottery and occupation debris. The pottery, including glazed jug sherds and coarsewares, was primarily of 13th and 14th-century types. These deposits were intersected by pits, ditches and stone building foundations of 17th to 19th-century date, some of which were removed in machine excavation. The bulk of the medieval structures and deposits remain *in situ* however, and indicate the potential for preservation of such remains elsewhere in this part of medieval Langport.

[1] Leach, P., in Webster, C. J., 'Somerset Archaeology 2001', *SANH* 145 (2001), 148.

(Peter Leach)

Long Sutton, Holy Trinity Church, ST 4695 2535

A trench for a new water supply was observed along the inside of the churchyard's north and east boundaries. The trench revealed the upper infill of numerous graves.

(Alan Graham)

Meare, 88 St Mary's Road, ST 448 416

A watching brief was undertaken on a development site on the north side of St Mary's Road, as a follow-up to an evaluation in 2000.[1] Another shallow ditch containing 12th to 13th-century coarse pottery sherds and animal bone was located, set with a suspected wall foundation of stone rubble. This ditch was cut away to the east by part of a shallow stone quarry, undated, but sealed by mixed 19th to 20th-century deposits and the foundations of an early 19th-century building.

[1] Leach, P., in Webster, C. J., 'Somerset Archaeology 2000', *SANH* 144 (2000), 233–4.

(Peter Leach)

Meare, St Mary's Road, ST 350 146

Archaeological recording was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology within the garden of 'The Laurels' during ground reduction and the excavation of foundations and service trenches for new houses. The earliest archaeological features were pits, ditches, postholes, stakeholes and two possible boundary ditches dating from the late 10th to the 12th centuries. Residual Roman pottery was also found within the medieval contexts. Post-medieval features on the site were associated with its agricultural use, and included the remains of several wall bases.

(C. J. M. Whitton)

Milborne Port, Cross House, ST 6778 1870

Archaeological investigations were carried out by AC Archaeology prior to residential development. The work identified features and deposits dating to between the 11th and 18th centuries, including medieval rubbish pits, linear ditches, a cobbled surface and a substantial stone-lined well. Large quantities of pottery and other artefacts was recovered. A detailed report is currently in preparation.

(Neil Adam)

Misterton, Unity Lane, ST 457 082

An archaeological evaluation within an empty plot adjacent to Field House, Unity Lane, Misterton, recovered prehistoric flint flakes and flint debitage and medieval pottery sherds of

10th to 14th-century date. Medieval and post-medieval features were recorded, including postholes and gullies. The medieval occupation might relate to properties fronting onto the main street.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Muchelney, Abbey Farm, ST 4282 2482
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the installation of new drains at Muchelney Abbey Farm. The works were undertaken immediately south west of the Abbot's Lodging. A stone culvert, probably dating to the medieval period, was exposed. The culvert was aligned approximately north-north-east to south-south-west and if continued to the north would have run below the west wall of the Abbot's Lodging. The drain had been damaged to the south and no longer functioned.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Mudford, Church of St Mary the Virgin, ST 5735 1995
An archaeological watching brief on the excavation of a soakaway trench uncovered the cut of an unmarked grave that was left undisturbed. A hole bored through the west wall of the church tower to take a waste-pipe for a new a kitchen sink unit enabled the recovery of mortar samples from the tower wall. The mortar samples identified several phases of tower construction.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

North Petherton, The Minster Nursing Home, ST 209 329
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the standing building. Medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered plus large fragments of a glazed medieval ridge tile.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Priddy, gallows site, ST 4850 5726
Previously the gallows site referred to in the Charterhouse perambulation of 1181–2 has been located at the site of a small triangular enclosure on the south-east corner of Blackdown. Rectification of the the Charterhouse 1761 map[1] to modern OS maps shows that the gallows site was at the NGR above where the boundary significantly deviates around a small area. The 1761 map also showed the line of five barrows as pencil additions but this information has, unfortunately, been lost from the map during conservation, but a photocopy made in the early 1980s has survived and shows them clearly.

[1] SRO DD/STL 1 (1761, as amended *c.* 1809).

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Kingdown, ST 4989 5329
The 1946 air photo shows a sub-square enclosure against the Kingdown Wall at this point. It consists of a bank on the three visible sides.[1] This area bears the name 'Dariards bushes' in the 1620 perambulation of Cheddar,[2] and '*Derherd*' in a deed of 1280 concerning the boundaries of Charterhouse.[3] These appear to derive from OE '*deor-geard*' (deer enclosure) and it is possible that this is the origin of the monument. The monument is not now obvious on the ground, and has presumably been levelled by agricultural activity since 1946.

[1] RAF 3G/TUD/UK 5120 (14 Jan 1946).
[2] SRO DD/X/RBN 1 (1620).
[3] Cal. Charter Rolls.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, south of Charterhouse, ST 5016 5568 – ST 5045 5554
A very regular arc of wall foundation, carefully made and mortared in places, with a ditch faintly visible to its north-east side is visible on air photographs[1] and clearly on the ground. The wall separates a clear area of mining from one that is not and is respected by all other local features. It seems to be laid out deliberately in a smooth curve. The wall marks the 1761 boundary of Charterhouse and Blagdon,[2] and is probably the Carthusian period boundary followed by the 1181 perambulation.[3] A tiny section of wall to the south of the track at the southern end of the arc continues its line out into Velvet Bottom, thus presumably indicating the contemporary ground level.

An area of ridge and furrow can be seen at ST 5025 5562, in air photographs[4] and from the ground.[5] Ridge and furrow is exceptionally rare on this part of Mendip. Its relationship with the wall cannot be established with certainty, although the evidence of the air photos may suggest that the wall lies over the ridge and furrow, with interesting implications for the date of the latter.

[1] RAF 58/RAF/6155 0062 (5 Feb 1964).
[2] SRO DD/STL 1 (1761, as amended *c.* 1809).
[3] Pers. comm. Penny Stokes (2002).
[4] CUCAP BAL-56 (9 Jan 1970).
[5] Pers. comm. Barry Lane (2002).

(Vince Russett)

Stoke St Gregory, Stanmoor Bank, ST 3330 5111
An evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology to determine the medieval origins of Stanmoor Bank, adjacent to the River Tone, as part of the Lower Tone Flood Defence Scheme. In the event, no evidence of a bank structure predating the modern embankment was identified, but a possible quarry/drainage ditch for an earlier medieval or post-medieval bank was revealed, sealed by alluvial deposits.

(G. Stoten)

Sutton Bingham, All Saints Church, ST 548 112
The removal of the concrete floor in the nave revealed only its rubble base. As this was not to be disturbed no opportunity for archaeological observations was afforded.

(Alan Graham)

Sutton Montis, Holy Trinity Church, ST 6245 2480
Ground works for new paving at the gateway to the churchyard revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

(Alan Graham)

Uphill, adjacent to Manor Farm, ST 3221 5832
An archaeological evalution within an old orchard on Uphill Road South recorded medieval and post-medieval features indicating that the site was occupied continuously from at least the 12th century through to the late 18th century. The orchard straddles the interface between the hard clays and the alluvial moors and a medieval feature containing 12th to 13th-century pottery was sealed by alluvium, suggesting that the alluvial deposits were still forming by the 13th century.

Large amounts of medieval coarseware and glazed pottery were recovered and a background study indicates that the site was within the nucleus of one of Uphill's two medieval manors. See also under Post-medieval.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wookey, Court Farm, ST 518456
Two exploratory trenches were excavated by hand on the site of the medieval palace of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, in conformity with a Scheduled Monument consent and with the assistance of volunteers from Avalon Archaeology. A trench along the south exterior wall of the former stables of Court Farm revealed building demolition levels and what may be the inner face or foundations of the west wall of Bishop Joscelin's early 13th-century Great Hall over 1m below the present garden. These were sealed beneath cobbled surfaces and a drain exiting from the stables (built *c.* 1700), whose foundations also cut into the medieval levels. A second trench located further south, within what had been the 'close yarde' of the palace, was intended to investigate a well and its context. In the event the well proved to be a reused stone trough associated with an early 20th-century water supply to adjacent farm buildings. Beneath were the remains of earlier stone-lined drains, that were in turn cut into medieval demolition and occupation levels which remain unexcavated.

(Peter Leach)

Wookey, Court Farm, ST 517 456
The final area of Court Farm was surveyed by Naomi Payne of Bristol University following the earlier geophysics of 1995 and 1998. This identified the probable line of the moat which coincided with a marked dip in the garden wall.

(Chris Webster)

POST-MEDIEVAL

Bath, Combe Down Stone Mine, ST 7570 6226
A programme of watching briefs by Oxford Archaeology, ongoing since June 2001, is continuing on behalf of Bath and North East Somerset Council and Parsons Brickerhoff ahead of stabilisation and consolidation works. The investigations have already uncovered a diverse range of material including working faces, pillars and rooms, stone arches and tramways. Tool marks on the stone, lewis holes (marks left by clamps used to lift stone blocks), pulleys, cranes, chains and saws all provide evidence of the methods used to extract the stone. The team is also uncovering something about the lives of the men working down the mine, including personal items such as candle holders, clay pipes, bottles and even a pair of leather boots all left behind by the miners. Works are predicted to continue at the mine for at least another four to five years with the pace increasing once full stabilising works begin.

(Ianto Wain)

Bridgwater, 14/14A St Mary Street, ST 3299 1369
An archaeological watching brief undertaken during construction works at 14A St Mary Street within the historic centre of Bridgwater recorded the walls and floor of a cellar. Phasing of the various builds suggests that the cellar walls are essentially post-medieval but might incorporate earlier masonry. Entries in the Borough archives suggest that the site might have been a shop during the 15th century, sharing a well with an adjacent property. A well was recorded below the basement floor during the watching brief.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Cheddar, 'Bluebell Valley', ST 490 562
The sites of four cottages were recorded by CHERT during map and air photo analysis in 2002. Documentary evidence is sparse but at least two of the cottages, which lie on the northern bank of the stream channel now known as 'Bluebell Valley' were present before the 1761 map of

Charterhouse.[1] All survive as wall footings. Some photographic recording was carried out in 2002, but further recording is planned for 2003.

[1] SRO DD/STL 2 (1761).

(Vince Russett)

Cheddar, 'Millgreene Gate', ST 482 563

The sites of a group of five cottages on either side of the road were recorded by CHERT during map and air photo analysis in 2002. Documentary evidence is sparse but at least one of the sites can be traced unequivocally back to 1589.[1] Others may have only been constructed as late as the 18th century[2] and at least four may have been occupied together in the 18th–20th centuries. Surviving earthworks are decidedly spread and unclear and further survey work is intended for 2003.

[1] SRO DD/GB 87.

[2] SRO DD/STL 1 (1761 as amended *c.* 1809).

(Vince Russett)

Donyatt, Pottery Farm, ST 3210 1350

Archaeological recording was carried out by Exeter Archaeology during the groundworks for a new building immediately south of the main farm buildings. Over 300 sherds of Donyatt pottery, including kiln wasters, were recovered from the stripped area. Most of the pottery dated from *c.* 1720–1820, with a very small number of late 17th or early 18th-century sherds. The material was predominantly slipware with virtually no sgraffito decoration. The only features observed were two intersecting linear stone-filled drains. The absence of any earlier structures seemed to confirm the results of previous investigations, which suggested that the focus of pottery-making activity was on the west side of the current farm buildings.

(M. J. Dyer)

Frome, Garston Lodge, ST 7793 4780

A series of post-medieval pits and cesspits dating to the late 17th and the 18th century were investigated during an archaeological excavation. The pits contained large quantities of post-medieval pottery and clay pipe bowls. The pipe bowls have been examined by Marek Lewcun and most derive from the workshop of Joseph Howell of Rode (*c.* 1688–1700) and George Howell of Rode (*c.* 1693–1699) and Warminster (*c.* 1699–1723). Garston Lodge, a listed building of early 19th-century date, was gutted and renovated prior to redevelopment for apartments and the demolition works were monitored and recorded. Results include the recording of reused, late medieval roof trusses and the recording of 17th-century features within the building walls. The structure appears to have been extended in the 18th century and refaced and extended again in the early 19th century with further extensions at a later date. See also under Medieval.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Langport, former Silkolene Works, ST 4160 2675

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of a number of geotechnical test pits. The method of excavation largely precluded the observation of any archaeological features and an examination of spoil produced no significant finds. Excavation along the western footings of the standing buildings, however, suggested that they were founded on a former wharf wall.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Meare, Westhay, ST 4345 4228 and ST 4347 4225

Two evaluations were undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2002. Several features

dating to the post-medieval period were identified including gullies, a posthole and a ditch. No other archaeological remains predating the post-medieval period were encountered.

(K. Colls)

Priddy, Charterhouse, ST 5032 5552

An 'old cupola or forge' is shown on the 1761 map of Charterhouse[1] which is referred to in many documents (for example, permission is granted to one John Thorowgood that he 'shall and will within 2 years erect and build a smelting house and keep the same in repair. The executors covenant with Thorowgood for enjoyment, provided that he the said Thorowgood shall be at liberty at the end of the lease to take down and carry away such furnaces, iron work, brick and other things as he has and shall set up in the smelting house'.[2] The site cannot be seen on air photographs and there is no clear evidence on the ground for either it or its accompanying 'several little cottages' as the area has been quarried for lime.

[1] SRO DD/STL 1 (1761 as amended *c.* 1809).

[2] SRO DD/BR/lch 1/18 (1686).

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse Warren Farmhouse, ST 4998 5497

The manor of Charterhouse let Charterhouse Warren for many years, but continually paid chimney money and repair expenses for the Lodge, which became Charterhouse Warren Farm after the warren went out of use at enclosure *c.* 1800. The lodge was repaired in 1675, but described as 'new' in a particular of *c.* 1680.[1] The Farm was still named simply 'Warren Farm' in 1842.[2] Externally, the farm appears to be an early 19th-century building but, internally, it has early 17th-century roof trusses and an early framed stone window to the east gable. The roof trusses are very weathered and have clearly been exposed to the elements at some time, possibly for decades. The stone-flagged floor supports all the internal walls perhaps implying that the building was originally a single room. Additional buildings around a small yard are in local stone with brick fittings of 19th-century date.

[1] Gore accounts SRO DD/GB 114.

[2] SRO DD/STL3 (1842).

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse, Rains Batch, ST 5003 5657

Several of the Revd Skinner's drawings of Charterhouse from 1819 show a cottage here which Skinner labelled as such.[1] The site is shown as a fenced enclosure on the Blagdon Tithe Map of 1842[2] but was not recorded on OS maps of *c.* 1900, and there is no trace of it today. This cottage may have been the site where a Roman inscribed stone was 'found in 1875 in pulling down a farm-building of Mr. Benjamin Panes at Charterhouse, north of the Town Field'.[3]

[1] BM Add MSS 33653 (7 August 1819).

[2] SRO Blagdon Tithe (1842).

[3] *VCH Somerset. Vol 1* (1900), 339–40.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse, Swymmers Farm, ST 5024 5697

The 1st edition OS map[1] shows two rectangular buildings in a square yard reached by a track from Swymmers Farm. The barns and yard can still be be seen intact on 1946 air photos[2] together with (80m to the north-west) the apparent rectangular platform of a third building, with two low earthwork banks connecting the two. These buildings (or the field immediately adjacent) were referred to as 'Milking Barton' on the Blagdon Tithe Map of 1842.[3] A field pond

immediately north of the third building appears to be the only surviving component of this site.

[1] OS 1st edition Somerset XVIII. 11 (1885)
[2] RAF 3G/TUD/UK 5283 (14 Jan 1946)
[3] SRO Blagdon Tithe Map (1842)

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Ubley Warren, ST 5088 5038
A well-preserved rabbit bury (pillow-mound) was recorded by CHERT in November 2002, running parallel to the nearby mining rake (roughly north-west to south-east), and around 30m long.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Velvet Bottom, ST 4988 5534
The 1761 map shows a building at this location, 'late Edey Coles'[1] and a building appears to have stood here as late as the 1885 OS 1st edition 1:2500 map. It had been abandoned before 1919 when a photograph shows the building as a ruin standing about 1m high.[2] It is not known if an adjacent building shown on the 1761 plan at approximately ST 4984 5536 was part of this tenement, or a separate one. CHERT surveyed the low earthworks of this building in 2002 which revealed a three-unit structure about 19m long and 5–6m wide, possibly a single unit farmhouse with outbuildings at each end, and probably of 17th-century origin.

[1] SRO DD/STL 1 (1761 as amended *c.* 1809)
[2] E. D. Evens Collection in Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery

(Vince Russett)

Puriton, ST 3230 4151
Evaluation and a subsequent watching brief, by Cotswold Archaeology at the former Culverhay Dairy, identified medieval gullies and ditches across the northern part of the site. Observations of two known earthworks indicated that these comprise waste material from the recorded quarrying at the site.

(J. Williams and K. Colls)

Shapwick, Hill Farm, ST 417 377
An archaeological watching brief, carried out during renovation and building works at Hill Farm, Shapwick, recorded only post-medieval deposits and features including a cobble spread.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Street, ST 4750 3650
An extensive evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology to the west and south of Clarks' Distribution Centre identified only boundary ditches and a cobbled surface dating to the post-medieval and/or modern periods, an undated pit and an undated posthole.

(L. Coleman and J. Webster)

Taunton, 151–6 East Reach, ST 2319 2446
An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Exeter Archaeology during groundworks for the redevelopment of the former Whites garage site. A section of a substantial V-shaped Civil War ditch, aligned north–south, was recorded, and a small assemblage of late medieval and post-medieval local coarsewares retrieved. Pollen analysis of sediments from the base of the ditch (by Heather Tinsley) revealed that, while these were accumulating, the surrounding

environment was a largely open, weedy, urban site. The occurrence of cereal pollen and parasite eggs suggested the presence of animal dung or human cess.

(S. J. Reed)

Uphill, adjacent to Manor Farm, ST 3221 5832
An archaeological evaluation recorded extensive medieval and post-medieval finds and features. The post-medieval features included boundary ditches, spreads of demolition rubble and the wall footings and floors of two substantial stone buildings that appear to have been occupied from at least the 17th century and demolished by the late 18th century. See also under Medieval.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wanstrow, Cloford Manor, ST 722 441
A watching brief during conversion and restoration of the 17th-century manor house, revealed foundations of earlier stone structures, including part of a sunken room with a paved floor beneath the existing kitchen block. These foundations were cut into clay floor or foundation levels containing the remains of small hearths, a possible wall foundation, animal bone and a substantial collection of 13th–14th-century coarseware pottery sherds. Further monitoring and recording continues.

(Peter Leach)

Wellington, Squirrel Court, ST 1380 2048
Archaeological investigations were carried out by Exeter Archaeology on land adjacent to Wellington United Reform Church after the discovery of human bones during site reduction in advance of redevelopment. Burials, some intercutting, were found to extend across virtually the entire site indicating that it was a former cemetery. This had been obscured, and disturbed, by the construction of a Sunday School on the site in the mid 19th century. Documentary evidence suggests that the burials dated broadly from *c.* 1728 to the early/mid 19th century, which was consistent with the pottery evidence recovered. In view of the large number of graves, it was subsequently agreed that the new buildings would be supported on piles with raised floor levels in order to minimise further disturbance.

(S. J. Reed)

Wells, 54-58 St Thomas Street, ST 5548 4610
Archaeological observations were made over a period of several months during the excavation of new foundations and the underpinning of an existing structure formerly comprising part of Pullins Dairy. Although an earlier evaluation had demonstrated the presence of a medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval occupation, additional excavation established only that the site was dominated by post-medieval made ground and enabled the plotting of the lines of previously recorded features without providing further information on them.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Wells, High Street, ST 5496 4573 – ST 5480 4562
Archaeological observations were made during various phases of road enhancement works undertaken in Wells High Street between early January and the end of May 2002. Initial observations of deep excavations for a new (replacement) water main identified a number of north–south walls which may be related to structures and properties known to have existed here prior to the mid 18th century. Later observation of shallower roadside works failed to identify any further features other than a pre 19th-century culvert.

(R. A. Broomhead)

INDUSTRIAL

Glastonbury, Sedgemoor Way, ST 4970 3913
A small site evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposals for residential development. The evaluation recovered evidence of the former gasworks retort house and indicated the site to be highly contaminated. It is likely that no pre 19th-century archaeological remains survive on the site.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Shepton Mallet, Darshill, ST 607 439
A watching brief was undertaken during excavations of groundworks for a development on the site of Middle Mill, Darshill. No *in situ* remains of earlier mill or ancillary buildings were encountered in any of the trenches, although yard surfaces and other contemporary horizons of 18th and 19th-century date could be identified. Much of the site was covered by thick deposits of mainly 20th-century origin relating to its use by the Anglo Bavarian Brewery and its subsequent demolition and levelling.

(Peter Leach)

Wellington, Milverton Road, Tonedale Mills, ST 1280 2140
Archaeological recording was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology in advance of redevelopment in the northern part of the Tonedale Mills complex on the site of a former 19th-century weaving shed, loom shop and engine house.

Four trenches were excavated revealing a number of features related to different phases of use of the buildings, and evidence for a change in the power transmission system, from possibly a vertical to a later horizontal engine.

(A. J. Passmore)

MODERN

Cheddar, Tynings Gate, ST 4685 5613
The formerly well-preserved remains of a rocket anti-aircraft battery survive in a field to the east of the bombing decoy control room.[1] They consist of a number of hexagonal concrete bases 8ft across, some with circular cast iron bearing indicators around the edge. The others appear to have the bearings cast into the concrete. The rockets were controlled from the decoy site control room. The survival of this site is thought to be unique on the British mainland.

CHERT (at the request of English Heritage) surveyed the site in May 2002 following the removal of three of the bases during construction of a barn. The bases are all identical in shape and size, apart from the use of cast iron protractors or incuse ones. Nineteen bases survived, with three moved and most were in good condition. One ammunition store had been lost, as had the soil mound (removed sometime between 1980 and 1990) and the wing walls of the control bunker. The plan, elevation and internal details of the control bunker were recorded, together with paint schemes and cable runs.

Despite an apparent recognition by the owner of the site's importance, and while awaiting scheduling, further losses occurred when another barn was constructed. The three moved bases and a further two were found to have been removed during a site visit in August. The site has now been scheduled.

[1] Schofield, A. J., Webster, C. J., and Anderton, M. J., 'Second World War remains on Black Down: a reinterpretation', *SANH* 142 (1999), 271–86

(Vince Russett and Chris Webster)

Priddy, Blackdown, ST 4716 5685

CHERT (with the help of the Mendip Wardens Service) cleared the *c.* 0.5 tonnes of modern rubbish from the interior of Bombing Decoy Control Room[1] during November 2002. Pieces of historic fabric (such as pieces of the cast iron escape hatch, and parts of the boiler) were recovered during the work.

The opportunity was taken to record the internal features of the structure, and to compare with a second nearby. The historic graffiti within the structure was also recorded. None of Second World War date was found, the earliest dating from 1958. The structure will be planned and further detailed recording carried out in 2003.

[1] Schofield, A. J., Webster, C. J., and Anderton, M. J., 'Second World War remains on Black Down: a reinterpretation', *SANH* 142 (1999), 271–86.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse, 'The Fat Factory', ST 4961 5612

This site, today a wood shavings manufactory, and previously a glue-works, was adopted during the Second World War for a fat-rendering plant, using unusual sources of fat (such as whalemeat) for the manufacture of processed cheese. It was also used as an armoury during that period.[1] CHERT recorded a number of (stomach-churning) stories from locals regarding the operations of the plant during the War.

[1] Brown, D., *Somerset vs Hitler* (1999), 58.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, south of the Charterhouse Centre, ST 5026 5561

The remains of a brick-built structure lie on the northern edge of an old backfilled quarry. The eastern wall is standing, there is a very thick concrete floor, but the western wall has collapsed. The roof and sides of the building (which was almost circular in elevation!) were made by using asbestos sheets as moulds, which have left imprints in the edge of the concrete. Some of the sheets are still lying in the field. This was the Home Guard ammunition store for the Charterhouse platoon.[1]

[1] Pers. comm. Les Davies, Mendip Warden Service (2002).

(Vince Russett)

UNDATED

Milborne Port, Milborne Wick, ST 6699 2075

A water pipe trench was hand excavated, by Mark Corney for ASI Heritage Consultants, where it ran through the scheduled area of Milborne Wick hillfort. Only a recent trackway and undated quarrying was recorded. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered.

(Chris Webster)

North Curry, Town Farm, ST 318 251

An evaluation by means of five machine trenches 2m wide was undertaken by Steven Tatler and Alan Graham in advance of residential development. All trenches located sandy natural deposits below the topsoil at about 0.25m depth. The only features recorded consisted of a series of linear infilled field boundaries, probably relating to earlier smaller fields in the area, and one larger boundary which may indicate the edge of settlement on the east side. The field boundaries contained post-medieval pottery of 15th to 18th-century date but the large ditch was undated.

(Chris Webster)

Norton Fitzwarren, Wick Farm, ST 179 269
Two trenches were evaluated by Avon Archaeology in advance of plans to construct an earth dam across the Halse Water. The northern trench recorded only natural alluvial deposits which were also present in the southern trench. This also contained an undated shallow ditch which was not definitely of human construction.

(Chris Webster)

Milborne Wick, Higher Farm, ST 672 206
A watching brief was undertaken during excavations to construct a pond in the valley of the Milborne Brook, below the suspected Iron Age promontory fort on Barrow Hill. Banded deposits of ash, charcoal, burnt clay and burnt stone rubble were recorded close to the north bank of the stream above valley bottom gravels, and partly sealed by finer hillwash, but could not be otherwise dated. No other finds or deposits of archaeological significance were seen.

(Peter Leach)

Priddy, Blackdown, ST 4917 5659
An arc of bank with an uphill ditch curving around to enclose the edge of a small area of rough grass, and a second running up from the adjacent stream valley to join the present field walls, were recorded by CHERT during air photographic analysis in 2002. Parts of the banks had clearly been ploughed away before 1946.[1]

The arc coincides with a feature annotated as 'earth circle' on a panoramic view of Charterhouse Hill and Blackdown by Revd Skinner in August 1819[2] which has traditionally been interpreted as a representation of Gorsey Bigbury henge. However, the topography of the site rules this out completely and it is hoped to investigate further in 2003.

[1] RAF 3G/TUD/UK 5280 (14 Jan 1946).

[2] BM Add MSS 33653 (10 August 1819).

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse, Manor Farm, ST 4991 5585
A roughly D-shaped enclosure about 90m across lies on the moderately sloping land. The enclosure is formed by a wide bank, about 5m across and up to 1m high, with an external ditch in places. A rectangular building platform lies inside its east bank, while two more possible platforms lie next to the north–south stone wall which has divided the enclosure into two unequal parts, about one quarter of the enclosure lying in the woodland to the west. A smaller enclosure is attached to the south-west of the feature, entirely within the woodland, and two further earthwork platforms, possibly buildings, are attached to the eastern point of the enclosure. A number of (?)natural wet flushes run through the feature. Interpretation is slightly complicated by the existence immediately to the south of a number of clear ditch features connected with water control. A double linear conduit, visible at the surface as parallel linear hollows, conveys water from where it passes through a hole in the east wall of the field, down the field, to emerge at its western end. It can be clearly seen where it has collapsed in one or two places. There is a semi-circular stock pond in the centre of this line, and various associated earthworks apparently draining water seeps into this line. At the south-west end of the field, two potential triangular ponds lie at the tip of the field, the upper with an apparent breached earth dam. The earthworks seem to be focussing all the water resources of this damp area onto Manor Farm for some reason, perhaps to drive machinery. This site, which has been previously interpreted as a deserted settlement, could be medieval in origin.

The earthworks were surveyed by CHERT in March and April 2002 and with a National Archaeology Day team of volunteers in June 2002. A geophysical survey is planned for 2003.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, south of the Charterhouse Centre, ST 5039 5555
A triangular enclosure, identified during CHERT fieldwork, lies on the south-facing slope at this NGR, about 50m long by 22m maximum width, apparently tapering to a point at the eastern end. There is a suspicion on air photographs that there may be another linear feature at the south side that would make this a more rectangular enclosure with a trackway diagonally across the centre. All sides are formed by lynchets, up to about 0. 5m high.[1] The banks are intersected by mines that are likely to be 17th century, so the structure may be earlier. The triangular feature shows up clearly in an Evens ground photograph of August 1919.[2]

[1] RAF 58/RAF/6155 0062 (5 Feb 1964).

[2] E.D. Evens collection, Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery.

(Vince Russett)

OTHER REPORTS

Axbridge, 22 Old Church Road, ST 4350 5447
Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of footings for a two storey extension to a house which produced evidence of extensive recent disturbance and no indications of any earlier activity.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Badgworth, Cedar Tree Farm, ST 3950 5221
Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of footings for a new house. Aerial photographic evidence showed the site to lie close to village earthworks but no evidence of any archaeological activity apart from a recent animal burial was recorded.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Barwick, Church Lane, ST 5582 1381
An archaeological evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology in gardens to the rear of Church Cottage. The work comprised the machine-excavation of two trenches, each 5m long and 1.6m wide. No evidence for archaeological activity was identified, but a considerable depth of alluvial and peat deposits was present at the southern end of the site, adjacent to an existing stream.

(S. Cottam)

Brent Knoll, Middle Street, ST 3230 5260
A small evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposals to plant woodland in an area of known archaeological activity at the foot of Brent Knoll. The work, however, indicated that the evaluated area contained nothing of significance.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Cannington, 37 High Street, ST 254 395
The excavation of two trial trenches, by Bath Archaeological Trust, revealed only the remains of a 19th-century garden and a large rectangular pit that probably housed a petrol tank.

(Chris Webster)

Chard, Coombe Street, ST 3209 0862
An evaluation, by Mark Corney for ASI Heritage Consultants, located a large vertical-sided feature filled with silt and containing a few 19th-century sherds. The fill suggested a cesspit but the feature appeared to be linear running paralled to Combe Street. Several other features of

indeterminate form and without dating evidence were also recorded although one may have been a tenement plot boundary. The lack of medieval and post-medieval finds from the trench suggests that there was limited occupation on the site.

(Chris Webster)

Chard, Former Regent Cinema site, ST 320 085
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during redevelopment works on the site of the (former) Regal Cinema, High Street, Chard, during the ground works for the foundations of new dwelling houses. No archaeological features were noted during the monitoring operation, and no artefacts were recovered.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Cheddar, Cheddar Touring Park, ST 4601 5292
Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of foundations for a new garage which had been evaluated last year. No significant features or finds were encountered.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Corton Denham, Sigwells, ST 637 232
A watching brief was undertaken at Beacon Lane, between Corton Beacon and Sigwells during excavations for the installation of a booster and water mains on behalf of Wessex Water. Despite the proximity of extensive archaeological remains surveyed and sampled as part of the Cadbury Environs Project in the locality,[1] no remains or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered above or within deep hillwash deposits exposed here.

[1] Tabor, R., and Johnson, P., 'Sigwells, Charleton Horethorne ...', *SANH* 144 (2000), 1–24.

(Peter Leach)

Draycott, Laxton House, ST 4758 5076
Archaeological observations were made during initial groundworks and the excavation of footings for a house. Historical evidence indicated that the site lay within an enclosure occupied since the medieval period however the excavations produced no evidence of any archaeological activity.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Dunster, Dunster Castle, SS 9915 4325
Archaeological monitoring was conducted by AC Archaeology on works to repair and consolidate the driveway to Dunster Castle, Somerset, between October 2001 and February 2002. The Castle and the Tor on which it stands are a Scheduled Monument (Somerset 469) and the monitoring was commissioned as a condition of a Scheduled Monument Consent. The works consisted of trenching and piling followed by concreting and road repairs. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recorded during the monitoring as the nature of the work, especially the piling stage which made up the main body of the project, limited the potential for archaeological monitoring.

(Neil Adam)

East Coker, Darvole, ST 5535 1192
Topsoil stripping of an area about 80m^2 revealed no evidence of archaeological deposits.

(Alan Graham)

Frome, 16 Catherine Street, ST 7731 4800
A well, possibly of medieval date, and an unassociated stone culvert containing 18th-century

pottery were recorded, by R.A. Broomhead, during building works in a rear addition to a house of 1816.

(Chris Webster)

Frome, Bath Street, ST 7750 4790
An archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of an extension to Rook Lane Chapel was carried out by AC Archaeology. The work identified a Victorian wall foundation relating to a school erected to the rear of the chapel, but in the remaining area there was substantial terracing associated with the original construction of the chapel.

(S. Clark)

Glastonbury, 7 Church Lane, ST 4995 3906
An archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of three new residences was undertaken by AC Archaeology in October 2002. The site lies some 50m north of the church of St John. No archaeological features were recorded, although a small quantity of disarticulated human skeletal remains was recovered and re-interred.

(T. Callister)

Glastonbury, Abbots Court, ST 496 388
An evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on development land adjacent to the former Police Station at Abbots Court on the north side of Benedict Street. Waterlogged silts containing occasional artefacts of 17th to 18th-century date were encountered below more recent deposits of 19th and 20th-century origin, but were not investigated to their full depth. No other remains of archaeological significance were found.

(Peter Leach)

Henstridge, Stalbridge Quarry, ST 714 186
Topsoil removal prior to extension of a quarry was monitored by Bath Archaeological Trust in an area of known Iron Age and Romano-British activity. No archaeological features were noted and only one sherd of Roman pottery and some flints were recovered.

(Chris Webster)

Highbridge, 5 Fairford Close, ST 3320 1478
An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of foundations for a single storey rear extension at 5 Fairfield Road, Highbridge. No significant archaeological deposits or finds were recovered from the small area excavated.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Ilchester, New Spittles Farm, ST 5135 2230
Two trenches approximately 2m x 6m were opened in advance of a proposal to create a balancing pond. These were monitored by Steven Membery of Somerset County Council. No archaeological features or finds were seen.

(Chris Webster)

Langport, Whatley Car Park, ST 4193 2675
Archaeological observations were made during the reduction of levels prior to the construction of new public conveniences on the site of an existing toilet block in a car park adjacent to Cheapside. No significant archaeological deposits were revealed, only 18th or 19th-century garden soils lying above apparently undisturbed clays.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Lyng, Athelney Farm, ST 3455 2930
A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the Lower Tone Flood Defence Scheme. No archaeological remains were encountered.

(K. Colls and G. Stoten)

Martock, Ash, ST 4770 2072
Trenching for an extension on the south side of the Old Farmhouse revealed only topsoil above an area of recent infill.

(Alan Graham)

Nunney, Nunney Quarry, ST 7270 4575
A watching brief was undertaken by AC Archaeology prior to limestone quarrying over an area of *c.* 1.9ha. This area included the site of a mound previously recorded by the OS as a tumulus at ST 7266 4572, but which has been shown by previous evaluation to be the site of a small quarry and upcast. This was confirmed during the watching brief. No evidence for archaeological activity was recorded elsewhere.

(S. Cottam)

Priddy, Charterhouse Centre, ST 5020 5575
Proposals to construct a new building at the Charterhouse Centre prompted Somerset County Council to recommend that the excavation of two engineering test pits should be monitored. Examination of the test pits revealed only natural geology below the turf and topsoil.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Puriton, ST 3215 4200 to ST3342 4179
A programme of archaeological recording was undertaken during the construction of 1.3km of gas mains. A small area of undated ridge and furrow was identified, no other archaeological remains were encountered.

(K. Colls)

Rode, Church Lane and High Street, ST 8035 5375
A watching brief and survey of existing buildings at the former Bass Brewery site was undertaken by AC Archaeology in conjunction with groundworks for a housing development. No evidence for buried archaeological activity was identified.

(S. Clark)

Shepton Mallet, Commercial Road, ST 6159 4373
Archaeological monitoring was carried out by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new bottling plant and warehouses to the rear of the Anglo-Bavarian Brewery.

Concrete and yard surfaces were removed revealing evidence for extensive 20th-century disturbance including substantial layers and deposits of glass.

(S. Clark)

Shepton Mallet, Showground, ST 620 431
An evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on land for development as a new health centre on part of the Mid-Somerset Showground site, Cannards Grave Road. No remains of archaeological significance were encountered below a thin turf/topsoil containing some 18th to 20th-century finds, above solid limestone bedrock.

(Peter Leach)

Strode Road, Street, ST 487 370
An evaluation and subsequent monitoring, by Avon Archaeology, of the footprint of a new building and the foundations of an adjacent wall showed that the area had been previously levelled. A few undated postholes, a pit containing 11th/12th and 15th to 17th-century pottery and a wide shallow ditch containing 17th-century pottery were the only significant features. The northern part of the area showed evidence of waterlogging, perhaps indicating the location of a former pond.

(Chris Webster)

Taunton, Venture Way, ST 2415 2602
A small-scale site evaluation was undertaken in advance of industrial development proposals. Records suggested that the area was open pasture in the historical period and the evaluation recovered no archaeological features or finds.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Templecombe, Blackmore Vale Nurseries, ST 708 229
An archaeological evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology in March 2002. The work comprised the excavation of four machine-excavated trenches amounting to 122m^2 in area. Two subsoil features were shown to be of modern date. No earlier features or finds were present.

(M. Laidlaw)

Upton Noble, High Winds, ST 7156 3943
Two trenches of 20m and 7m length were excavated, by Mark Corney for ASI Heritage Consultants, which revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest.

(Chris Webster)

Washford, Cleeve Abbey, ST 045 407
An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Exeter Archaeology during the excavation of nine small pits for new signposts within the grassed areas of the public car park at Cleeve Abbey. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.

(C. J. M. Whitton)

Wedmore, Lascot Hill, ST 4333 4804
Monitoring of the removal of the concrete platform of a former house and the excavation of new footings showed that the area appeared to have been terraced in the 1960s. No significant archaeological features or finds were seen.

(Chris Webster)

Wellington, Farthings Down, Holywell Lake, ST 1064 2048
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works for two new houses. No archaeological features were recorded during the monitoring operation and only post-medieval and modern artefacts were recovered. The site had been levelled previously in the 1960s.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wellington, High Street, ST 1395 2065
The road enhancement scheme at the junction of Fore Street and High Street, was monitored but no archaeological features were recorded and no significant artefactual material was recovered.

(R. A. Broomhead)

Williton, ST 0727 4120 to ST 0810 4205
Observation and recording of two geotechnical trial pits and the removal of soil samples was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology. Neither of the trial pits contained any archaeological features or deposits. Finds were restricted to the upper ploughsoil and comprised mainly modern industrial wares. The samples (examined at the Soil Mechanics Laboratory, Severn Beach) produced some evidence for a possible infilled river channel at between 2.25m and 2.55m.

(S. J. Reed)

Yeovil, Alvington Farm, ST 5275 1595
An archaeological evaluation at Alvington Farm, Brympton, was carried out by AC Archaeology during May 2002. The work comprised the machine-excavation of three trenches each 20m long and 1.6m wide, which revealed deep redeposited soils sealing post-medieval or later features. No finds of medieval or earlier date were recovered.

(Neil Adam)

Yeovil, Penfield, ST 5630 1618
An archaeological field evaluation of a proposed residential development on land at the former Penfield Gospel Hall was carried out by AC Archaeology. The site is located close to evidence for Romano-British settlement recorded at Wyndham Hill. The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of three trenches totalling 17m in length, which revealed a deep deposit sequence (up to 1.5m) of modern infilling overlying a former agricultural soil and colluvial deposit. Artefacts of post-medieval and modern date only were recovered.

(S. Robinson)

Yeovil, Preston Road, ST 5328 1626
Archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology on the site of the former Wexen Industries prior to redevelopment. It was found that the site had been truncated (sufficient to remove any earlier features) and levelled, and the few features exposed all dated from the late 18th/19th century or later. No medieval or earlier material was encountered, apart from a single residual prehistoric flint.

(T. E. Whiteaway)