

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY 2014

EDITED BY CJ WEBSTER, SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

This year marked the end of an era for the Somerset Historic Environment Service as it moved away from the County Council into a new organisation, the South West Heritage Trust, that came into being on 1 November. The Trust takes over the heritage service responsibilities previously carried out by Somerset County Council (the Archives and Local Studies, Museums and Historic Environment services) and Devon County Council (Archives and Local Studies).

There were two staff changes in 2014 with the departure of Laura Boyt as Conservation Officer and the arrival of Marc Cox as an outreach officer linked with the Hinkley Point project.

The Historic environment service continues to provide direct archaeological advice to the county and five district councils under the overall planning guidance of The National Planning Policy Framework (2012). Steve Membery and Tanya James continue to assess and monitor planning applications across the county and over 2000 applications were dealt with in 2014. Applications for solar farms continue and these are often contentious in terms of visual and landscape impact. Archaeological assessment of these areas usually includes geophysical surveys and trial trenching and numerous new sites have been added to the HER as a direct result of this preliminary research. The HES prepared local planning guidance for solar farms and this has helped to ensure some consistency of approach in understanding the impact of such schemes on the buried landscape.

Conservation and enhancement of public-realm heritage assets forms an important part of the work of the group. Nic Wall and Laura Boyt continued to provide professional conservation and historic environment advice to the County Council on a wide range of schemes associated with highway works and changes to historic buildings, such as the Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury. Much of the on site work programme is supervised by Andy

Stevens with support from Ian Lewis and Simon Almay.

Cotswold Archaeology continues to be the main archaeological contractor at Hinkley Point and they have worked very closely with the HES to record and present the archaeological information to the public. It was not possible to arrange for visitors to get onto the main Hinkley site so SCC commissioned a series of archaeological films during 2014 to record the sites and to capture part of the story. These films were made by Justin Owen and are now available for viewing on the SWHT YouTube channel. Rachel Bellamy and Jane Hill continue to coordinate an outreach programme and many local groups, schools and organisations have been visited as part of this outreach work. For further information see the website www.archaeologyathinkleypoint.wordpress.com. A key element of the outreach programme was the preparation of an exhibition covering the history and archaeology of the Hinkley Point area to be titled *Landscapes of Power* and this is planned for early 2015 at the Museum of Somerset. Extensive archaeological excavations continued at the Hinkley Point main site and one of the most significant discoveries yet found at Hinkley occurred in 2014 with the discovery of a Dark Age cemetery containing over 200 bodies. Full excavation will be completed in 2015 and an extensive programme of detailed scientific analysis and dating will follow. In addition to the main site, extensive excavations were carried out on the line of the Cannington bypass and a substantial Roman bathhouse complex was discovered north of Cannington village. This building was carefully recorded before demolition.

Much of the stone from the Cannington site was taken away to be rebuilt into the walls of an archaeological reconstruction project at the Avalon Marshes Centre near Shapwick.

The Heritage Lottery Fund and various partners fund this work and the HES is involved with a wide range of Hands-on-Heritage projects coordinated by Richard Brunning and Marc Cox.

On the 1st of November the HES helped to coordinate a conference at Strode College on the

life and work of Professor Mick Aston. This was a very memorable conference with papers presented by a wide range of speakers including Sir Tony Robinson, Professor Chris Gerrard, James Bond, John Gater and Mike Costen and over 340 people attended the event. Mick Aston established and encouraged local and community archaeology and his legacy continues in various parts of the county.

Richard Brunning directed one of the main research projects for 2014; an assessment of the survival and condition of the archaeological remains at Glastonbury Lake Village. English Heritage and SCC supported this project and it provided an opportunity for local volunteers to join a major research project on one of the most important Iron Age sites in the country. The results of the scientific analysis associated with the excavations are expected in 2015. A short documentary film was made to capture some of the work in progress and this can be viewed on the SWHT YouTube channel.

Chris Webster continues to manage the Historic Environment Record and over 330 new records were added in the year. A new heritage service website (www.somersetheritage.org.uk), including the HER database and mapping, was planned for launch in 2014 but this was postponed until 2015.

Opportunities are available for work placements and volunteers in the Somerset Heritage Centre and the HES continues to work with local universities to provide a place for archaeology students to gain work experience. Local volunteers also help with a range of projects from archaeological fieldwork to the digitisation of tithe maps.

Strong public interest and support for archaeology, heritage and the historic environment continues across the county. With the formation of the South West Heritage Trust a number of important archaeological sites and historic landscapes were transferred to the Trust and the SWHT will develop a programme of outreach and interpretation on these sites in the years ahead.

(Bob Croft)

SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

Bleadon, Wentwood Drive, ST 3302 5807

Archaeological Surveys Ltd carried out a detailed magnetometer survey at a site that contains a number of linear earthworks oriented north to south and east to west. The results demonstrate that these are associated with strongly magnetic material,

such as slag or other magnetically thermoremanent material. There is some evidence of former boundaries or lynchets on a different orientation underlying these extant boundary features. A zone of pits is located in the south eastern corner of the site, upon the higher ground, and many of these are arranged in clusters. The origin and function of the pits cannot be confidently determined from the results of the magnetometry. In the north-eastern corner of the site, where the ground dips quite steeply, there are a number of positive and negative linear and rectilinear anomalies of uncertain origin.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

Chewton Mendip, Pound Paddock, ST 5950 5315

Earthwork and resistivity surveys were undertaken by members of Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP) in a field known historically as Pound Paddock, lying to the west of Chewton Parish Church. This field, in part, is bordered by the curvilinear boundary of a possible Minster precinct (Somerset HER 31636). It is now part of a much larger field. The surveys confirmed former field boundaries as depicted on the Chewton Estate Map by Rocque, date 1740. Other anomalies could relate to building platforms within the former paddock and its use as a pound. However, it could also have been the site of limited quarrying.

(Pip Osborne)

Priston, Town Hill, ST 692 609,

BaNES HER EBN3654

A field was investigated as it was thought that the field name might suggest a settlement site close to the site of previous investigations into a Roman villa, but where no structure had been found. Geophysics, principally magnetometry, showed some signs of ditches on the far west of the field, and indicated a substantial site in the far north-east of the field. Investigations will continue in 2015.

(John Oswin)

Rodney Stoke, Brangay Farm, ST 483 502

A geophysical survey of three fields was conducted by ALERT using a Bartington C601 gradiometer and a TR/CIA resistance meter, following the identification of two possible circular features on a lidar image. The fields are all on a south-facing slope.

Field 1 (Clifts Pasture): 362 and 363 on the Tithe map 1840. The lidar image showed a possible circular feature with the centre at ST 4832 5026 and with a diameter of about 30m. It was clear

from the survey that intensive agricultural activity had removed much evidence. A series of drainage ditches were identified and perhaps a western segment of the circular feature. There was a suggestion of a small circular feature together with curvilinear ditches in the north of the field but identification was uncertain.

Field 2 (Gooseland and Cuckoo): 364 on the Tithe map. The circular feature in this field was centred at ST 4822 5026 with a diameter of approximately 24m. The circle was not evident in the geophysical survey, although ground resistance identified an area of high resistance at its centre. This was recorded as about 10m in diameter with central depression 4m to 5m across showing as low resistance. Slightly higher resistance surrounds this depression on three sides, with an opening to the east. A ground resistance 'section' showed that the high resistance extended to a depth of almost 1m.

Field 3 (Stoke Field): 366 on the Tithe map. This survey of the northern part of the field identified a road or track about 10m wide running across the field south of the modern house. The field boundaries shown on the tithe map suggest that this was originally a branch road off the Cheddar to Wells road, now the A37. This seems to start at ST 4819 5048 where the remains of an entrance to the lane is visible. The road appears to continue east across Brangay Lane into West Close where there is a possible Roman building (Somerset HER 57174). The foundations of a recent building (post 1840) were identified constructed partly on the line of this road in the NE of the field.

(Jack Foord and John Matthews)

Sampford Brett, Aller Farm, ST 072 385,
Somerset HER 32648

A magnetometer survey was carried out by AB Heritage Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Avon Archaeology Ltd in advance of the erection of a photovoltaic array. The survey revealed circular features, which may represent archaeological pits or may be of geological origin. The presence of a field barn (Somerset HER 32379) in the south-east corner of the field, known from historic maps, was not picked up by the geophysics.

(Sarah Newns)

South Somerset Archaeological Research Group
SSARG has continued fluxgate gradiometer survey due north of Cadbury Castle, completing

a large field adjacent to the A303, on the north side of the road. This has indicated continuations of, and additional features to, those noted in 2013. Further survey is intended to take place in the field to the north of the river, where crop marks appear to continue, in 2015. SSARG would like to thank Archie Montgomery for allowing continued access to his land.

A gradiometer survey was conducted at Montacute House in co-operation with the National Trust. This was intended to look for an earlier garden layout on the west side of the garden. This survey proved inconclusive due to significant magnetic disturbance resulting from the Second World War camp which had been located in this area. Further survey is planned for 2015.

A resistivity survey at Corton Denham churchyard was carried out at the request of the PCC and intended to explore the extent of the churchyard boundary. This produced ambiguous results, and subsequent clearance of vegetation in the churchyard only exposed a single fallen grave slab.

Gradiometry was carried out at the request of local residents at Park, Pitney. Two fields to the north of the Roman villa site were examined. The northern field contained previously recognised linear crop marks (Somerset HER 54823). The gradiometry has not only added additional detail to this, but appears to indicate more than one phase of landscape layout. Linear features continue into the neighbouring field to the south. Part of the layout has similarities to later Iron Age and Romano-British field systems in the area, and this is of interest given the proximity to the villa site. It is intended to carry out some small scale targeted excavation of selected features during 2015 in order to establish the preservation and potential of the archaeology and hopefully clarify the chronology. SSARG would like to thank Steve and Sharon Groves, Ron Skeet, John Vigar, Stephen Fuller and Mike Trubridge.

Work has continued at Tithe Mead, Stapleton Mead, Martock in collaboration with Martock Local History Club. This has included further earth resistance survey. A number of small test trenches were excavated which have elucidated the interpretation of anomalies on both gradiometry and resistance plots, identifying episodes of silt deposition. It also identified the well preserved remains of a grain dryer, which appears to be broadly contemporary with the building examined

in 2013. Ceramics associated with the building and dryer are generally late Roman (mid 3rd-4th century). This project had been led by Doug Gurzynski, who sadly passed away in 2014 while retaining a passionate desire to see the project completed. Additional work is planned for summer 2015. SSARG and the Martock Local History Club would like to thank the Yandle family for allowing access to the land and being so encouraging of the project, and Dr James Gerrard for his examination of the pottery.

(Clare Randall)

Stanton Drew, Quoit Farm, ST 603 636,
BaNES HER EBN3709

Investigations continued on the mound (The Big Ground Mound) observed first in 2012, on the edge of the flood plain, just north of the River Chew north-east of the stone circles. Geophysical investigations on the west end of the mound defined the shape of the high resistivity structure in three dimensions. However, test pitting revealed that this was not a man-made structure, but a large lens of coarse dry sand, probably the result of a major flooding event in prehistory. A north-south electrical resistivity cross section to a depth of four metres through the mound and south to the river edge differentiated between the flood plain deposits, the mound and firm land to the north, but did not give a definitive measurement of the depth of sediment in the flood plain. Increasing the area surveyed around a second site some 100 metres to the north-west revealed no further signs of habitation there.

(John Oswin)

Taunton, Taunton Racecourse, ST 2379 2188

Wessex Archaeology conducted a detailed gradiometer survey covering 4.3ha, on pasture to the west of Taunton Racecourse. The survey demonstrated the presence of a limited number of anomalies with archaeological potential, including a possible enclosure ditch and large pit-like features. Further pit-like anomalies were identified across the site and are of possible archaeological interest. Remnants of ridge and furrow, as well as ploughing trends were also apparent, whilst a region of magnetic disturbance lies to the north. The survey also identified the presence of at least two modern services.

(Laura Andrews)

Wells, Cathedral Green, ST 550 459,
Somerset HER 32582

Wells Museum volunteers and members of the Charterhouse Environs Research Team undertook a resistivity survey of the Green during the Festival of Archaeology in July 2014 covering about 0.7 hectares. The results revealed a wide range of features, some as late as the 20th century. Two features were particularly notable. Firstly there was a linear feature about 25m long that ran almost exactly along the line of the Roman road across the Green as proposed by Warwick Rodwell. The second was also a linear pathway, not previously known from early maps and plans, running from the West Door of the Cathedral directly to Brown's Gate.

(Barry Lane)

West Bradley, Court Barn Farm, ST 5460 3705,
Somerset HER 32577

A detailed magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd prior to the development of a new dairy building and other associated infrastructure. The results revealed evidence for possible archaeological remains within the centre and the south eastern corner of the site. Positive linear, rectilinear and discrete anomalies indicate possible cut features, such as ditches and pits, with some associated magnetically variable responses, possibly indicating ground disturbance or structural remains.

(Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin)

Westbury-sub-Mendip, ST 35 48,
Somerset HER 30304

Members of the Westbury Society excavated a further five test pits (TP25-29) in and around the village; four close to old farmhouses, presumed to have medieval origins, and one close by a hillside spring. The four domestic sites produced largely post-medieval pottery, but with TP29 producing 12 sherds of unglazed medieval ware. The spring site at TP26 produced four small pieces of flint debitage. Analysis of the all unglazed medieval wares from all the test pits to date indicates that at least one fabric matches Cheddar 'B' ware, suggesting that nucleation of the village had taken place in the late Saxon period and before the Domesday record, or at least the process had already begun in the late 10th or early 11th century.

(Barry Lane)

MULTIPERIOD

Cannington flood defence scheme, ST 2539 3892, Somerset HER 32408

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in 2013 identified ditches and a pit or posthole, which generally correlated with the results of a preceding geophysical survey. A curving ditch within the eastern part of site may be prehistoric in date and could represent the remains of a ring ditch, circular drip gully or stock enclosure. Ditches identified in the central part of the site appear to confirm the presence of a Roman ladder settlement previously identified by the geophysical survey. Pottery ranging in date from the Late Iron Age to the 2nd- to 4th-centuries AD was recovered from the fills of these ditches. Ditches of post-medieval date were also identified and would appear to relate to agricultural activity and/or land division.

(Steven Sheldon)

Cannington western bypass,
ST 2500 4000, Somerset HER 32542

Excavations in advance of the construction of a new by-pass around Cannington were focused on two significant archaeological sites identified during a geophysical survey and trial trenching. Site SPE1 (Somerset HER 30404; ST 2545 4048), at the northern end near Rodway, comprised a small ditched enclosure of Middle Bronze Age date, with dimensions of 30m by 2m and an entrance facing west. An enclosure annexe lay on the eastern side. A scatter of pits and postholes in the northern half of the enclosure suggests the location of two or three structures, but there were no clear building plans. The southern half of the enclosure was largely without features, while in the centre was a large hollow, perhaps created by constrained livestock. The sparse collection of finds comprised mostly small fragments of pottery and some flintwork.

Within 700m south-west of SPE1 was an Iron Age and Roman enclosure occupying the spur of a hill (SPE2; Somerset HER 30406; ST 2513 4004). The earliest phases of activity included the construction of a ridge-top 'dyke', later respected by a series of curving ditches enclosing the hill-top. Contemporaneous internal features included at least two roundhouses defined by curving gullies. These buildings were replaced in the Roman period by three rectangular buildings with stone foundations. The buildings were interpreted as a probable villa with a detached bath house and barn. The remains of the villa comprised the rubble foundations of an

east-west aligned corridor measuring approximately 20m in length and 4m in width. Rectangular rooms were identified extending both to the north and south of the corridor and evidence was found for re-modelling of the southern room. The functions of the rooms extending from the corridor could not be identified as only the foundations survived, but a dressed sandstone block wall recorded in one part of the building was suggestive of the appearance of the upstanding structure.

The bath house was 50m north-west of the villa and 20m west of the barn. This moderately complex structure exhibited a number of phases of alteration and remodelling. Originally the building appears to have comprised two rectangular rooms forming an L-shaped footprint. Early alterations include the insertion of a third room with stone built under-floor channels which may have functioned as drainage conduits. Extensive later re-modelling included the splitting of the western-most room in to two smaller hypocausted rooms, the addition of a north-eastern room and the abandonment of the under floor drainage channels. It is possible the size of the rooms in the western part of the building were reduced when the hypocaust was created to enhance the heating of the baths. Two possible phases of pilae were identified suggesting the under floor heating system may have undergone repair or replacement. Later modifications saw the demolition of the hypocaust and the creation of crude opus signinum floors in the western rooms. Demolition material overlying both the bath house and villa contained stone roof tiles, stonework and fragments of box flue tile.

The barn was 50m to the north of the villa. A simple rectangular building, it consisted of two rooms, the easternmost of which had an open eastern side possibly indicating it may have been used for the storage of vehicles, holding of livestock or for loading/unloading. An external rubble surface with a T-shaped channelled feature butted the northern wall of the building and may have been associated with processing crops. The construction of this building was rudimentary in comparison to both the villa and bath house in that it exhibited rough clay bonded rubble foundations and probable earthen floors and lacked evidence for dressed or faced upstanding stonework.

More than half of the interior of the hilltop enclosure had been quarried away in the medieval and post-medieval periods and, as a result, the full extent and plan of the villa and bath house were not recoverable. The dates of these buildings are being

analysed along with the large collection of pottery, tile, bone and other finds which included a copper alloy brooch, coins, bone hair pins and a pair of copper alloy tweezers.

(Mark Brett, Charlotte Haines and Andrew Mudd)

Keynsham, High Street, ST 6531 6880,
BaNES HER EBN3684

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services undertook a programme of archaeological excavation prior to development. A small assemblage of residual prehistoric flints and sherds of Iron Age pottery was found. Romano-British pottery and roof tile was also recovered from the fill of one pit, and stratigraphic evidence would suggest that several other undated pits and ditches nearby may also date to that period. The foundations of three walls that may date from the 14th/15th century were recorded, at least two of which belonged to a building probably fronting the High Street, and to a building previously excavated in 1999. A deep accumulation of soils recorded across the site appeared to represent cultivated gardens belonging to dwellings situated at the north-west end of the High Street, however, there was no indication of whether or how these enclosures were separated. Finds included domestic pottery, the commonest wares dating from 1250-1500, and sherds of glazed ceramic roof tile no earlier than the 14th century. The post-medieval archaeology included 17th/18th-century walls belonging to a building fronting the High Street. In addition, several post-17th-century garden boundary walls, a cobbled footpath, a small number of post-holes, a stone drain and a large possible stone-quarry pit were recorded. The late 1960s concrete foundations of a milk bottling plant belonging to Exon's Dairy were the most recent structural remains, the site having been used as a car park after its demolition in the 1980s.

(Tim Longman)

Nunney, Green Pits Lane, ST 7365 4483,
Somerset HER 32490

A 12-trench targeted archaeological evaluation was carried out by Wessex Archaeology on arable land following a geophysical survey. Prehistoric activity was indicated by a single, redeposited flint flake, and several undated features that may reflect prehistoric woodland clearance. Romano-British evidence was sparse, consisting of a small pit-like feature containing two pottery sherds (one early,

one late), and two Black Burnished ware sherds from a colluvial deposit.

(Matt Kendall)

Wellington, Jurston Farm, ST 1484 2005,
Somerset HER 32041

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological field evaluation following a geophysical survey carried out by GeoFlo. The evaluation identified two areas of archaeological interest. A cluster of features in the southern central area dated from the 11th and 12th centuries, including a possible iron smelting furnace indicative of small-scale medieval industrial activity. The geophysical survey indicates that many of the recorded features extended beyond the evaluation trenches. In the south-western area of the site a number of features related to the former cottages of Spread Elms. The cottages were present on the early 19th century tithe map however the presence of medieval and post-medieval finds indicated medieval or 16th-century origins. Prehistoric activity was confined to Middle Bronze Age pottery (probably a single vessel) within a redeposited natural deposit. Roman activity may be indicated by a single possible Roman post-hole, although overall the identification of only six sherds of Roman pottery during the evaluation was surprising given the proximity of more intensive Roman occupation at Cades Farm.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Yeovilton, RNAS project WINFRA, ST 5527 2430,
Somerset HER 32581

Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological excavation at RNAS Yeovilton, on a site close to that excavated in 2000 (SANH 149, 7-70). Newly discovered archaeological features include the remains of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age field system and an associated four-post structure, probably the remains of a raised granary. Romano-British ditches formed a rectangular field system that covered most of the site. Medieval/post-medieval field boundary ditches were also identified to the north; ridge and furrow cultivation was visible as earthworks across the site. Two graves containing the remains of Romano-British inhumation burials were also found, whilst a nearby pit contained a large amount of pottery, two shale spindle whorls and part of a copper alloy brooch.

(Lorraine Higbee)

PREHISTORIC

Alford, Dimmer landfill site, ST 607 307,
Somerset HER 32708

Monitoring of eight geotechnical test pits was undertaken ahead of the planting of new willow beds at the landfill site. The pits cut through an undisturbed sequence of clay deposits overlying a prehistoric buried soil that was recorded, at various locations, between 1.5m to 1.8m below the modern surface.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

Glastonbury Lake Village, ST 4930 4075,
Somerset HER 32571

Five small trenches were excavated as part of a joint research project between English Heritage and Somerset County Council Heritage Service. There were two main objectives. One was to determine the extent, depth and condition of the archaeological remains left in situ after the original excavations by Bulleid and Gray between 1892 and 1907. The other was to obtain samples for dendrochronology and radiocarbon dating. This was the first time that the interior of the site had been examined since 1907, previous small scale trenching having been confined to the periphery of the site.

The results showed that the original excavations had disturbed a considerable proportion of the site and in some places had completely destroyed all the in situ archaeology. This varied significantly over very short distances and in some places narrow trenches had been dug to a considerable depth. In situ remains still existed in four of the five excavated trenches. These comprised numerous lines of collapsed wooden palisades, stakes which formed the walls of roundhouses and other timbers from the lowest floor timbers and foundation material of occupied areas.

The only trench which did not identify any in situ deposits was located in an area where Bulleid and Gray reburied some of the 'cut wood' from their excavations. Numerous worked planks, woodchips and offcuts were found where they had been reburied in a fairly shallow cut. This showed that the reburial exercise had been at least partially successful for more than a century.

Species identification and condition assessment tests are being carried out on the wooden remains. Palaeoenvironmental samples are being assessed and dated from under one of the roundhouses.

Dendrochronological dating has not yet proved successful but over 35 radiocarbon samples have

been submitted with a further round of sampling to follow. It is hoped that Bayesian modelling of the results will be able to provide a much more precise and nuanced timescale for the settlement than was possible before.

(Richard Brunning)

Minehead, Ellicombe, SS 9806 4470,
Somerset HER 32425

A trench evaluation and subsequent targeted open-area excavations was carried out by AC Archaeology in advance of a residential development. A small group of features, containing pottery of early, middle and late Neolithic date, was exposed in two areas. In one of these areas two Bronze Age cremation burials and a third feature containing cremated remains were exposed.

(Ben Pears)

North Curry, Pondpool Lane, ST 3290 2442,
Somerset HER 32689

Two trenches were opened to target three magnetic anomalies detected during an earlier geophysical survey. To the north of the site a section of a ditch was excavated which contained no dating evidence but its alignment, at variance with the existing pattern, suggests it may represent a component of an early field system. To the west the surface of the natural land surface was found to fall away steeply into a probable palaeochannel. This was found to have been in-filled over a considerable period of time by a combination of natural processes and deliberate dumping and earlier deposits here consisting of alternate layers of clay and weathered gravel containing struck flint, chert, animal bone and a small quantity of probable later prehistoric pottery. To the south the bank of the channel was sealed by a substantial dump of dark material containing a high proportion of fragmentary and burnt stone. The date of this dump remains uncertain but its character and location suggests it may represent debris associated with a burnt mound or boiling site of later Neolithic or early Bronze Age date

(James Brigers)

Pawlett, Walpole landfill site, ST 312 434

An archaeological watching brief and excavation was undertaken during the excavation of a new landfill cell which was situated to the north of the buried Lias island that was partially excavated in 2011 and 2012; the cell included a clay borrow-pit which was monitored during the summer of 2013.

The watching brief recorded alluvial clay deposits interspersed with bands of phragmites peat to a depth of up to 5m over a large area. The exposed deposits were cleaned, recorded and sampled at regular intervals throughout the excavation area. Three prehistoric wooden structures were recorded prior to their removal for further analysis. The structures consisted of a disturbed, boardwalk, a platform constructed from salvaged, beaver-gnawed wood and a mooring platform at the edge of large palaeochannel. The surface of the platform used horizontal tree trunks stabilised by large vertical stakes and is assumed to date to the Bronze Age, although a Neolithic date is possible.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

Priddy, North Hill, ST 5371 5136,
Somerset HER 32517

In July 2014, further excavations were carried out at the small earthwork enclosure on North Hill, Priddy, first investigated by the University of Worcester in 2013. It is now clear that the site started life in the pre-Roman period, as a circular-ish enclosure with an inner ditch and external bank. During the Romano-British period, the inner ditch was filled and a new external, V-shaped ditch dug, cutting the primary bank. The bank was also enlarged and reshaped, forming a broadly rectangular enclosure. Finds were sparse - a single glass bead and a couple of pieces of 1st/2nd century pottery, one of which was in the base of the ditch. However, excavations in the western ditch terminal revealed a setting of large, oddly shaped, limestone blocks, enclosing a clay "cap" with voids beneath. The structure looked rather grave-like but beneath this cap lay more unusually shaped stones. This appears to be a carefully placed deposit, suggesting some kind of ritualistic/votive activity. The site lies between (and in sight of) the Roman lead working at St Cuthberts (Somerset HER 23962) and the Priddy "villa" (Somerset HER 23946). The geophysical surveys also undertaken indicate that a small co-axial field system exists above the enclosure and below the Nine Barrows. We will be returning to North Hill in 2015 to investigate the field system and other geophysical anomalies.

(Jodie Lewis)

Somerton, Somerton Door, ST 474 30,
Somerset HER 32515

A trench evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology in advance of the construction of a solar farm, which targeted anomalies identified in

an earlier geophysical survey. Features included a potential Bronze Age enclosure, Iron Age ditches and pits and a large probable Romano-British enclosure, with further activity such as pits and a curving linear hollow, all indicate a multi-phase of occupation on the site. To the north-west of this, a concentration of features, perhaps associated with Iron Age settlement activity, was recorded, while elsewhere more dispersed Iron Age and Romano-British ditches and pits and post-medieval boundaries were recorded. Adjacent to the River Cary, features were sealed in places by a complex layer sequence that included prehistoric buried soils, peat horizons and possible Roman or post-Roman alluvial deposits.

(Simon Hughes)

Westbury-sub-Mendip, ST 5045 5025,
Somerset HER 32530

A previously unrecorded standing stone, called the Lipyeat Stone, was measured and photographed after it had been knocked out of its hole on the side of Stancombe Lane, and before it was replaced, undamaged. It was 2 metres tall, 60 cm wide and 25-30cm thick, with 35% of its height buried in the ground. Its top was crudely carved with a round "head and shoulders", suggesting a medieval "stonyman" boundary marker. However its location at 200m OD, beside a long dry combe and close to the plateau of the hills where there are records of many prehistoric finds and barrows, strongly suggests that it may have been originally a prehistoric marker of a transhumance routeway up onto Mendip.

(Barry Lane)

Whitelackington, Hanning Close, ST 3793 1560,
Somerset HER 32720

Four trenches were opened to provide information on the archaeological potential of the site prior to development. Throughout the area a sequence of hill wash and colluvium was found to overlie undisturbed geological material, which in places contained pottery of early medieval date and flint and chert flakes. Two ditches were identified cutting through the upper colluvium, one of medieval date and a second probably of the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. Other features remain undated and included a small ditch or gully and two post holes all possibly representing the remains of boundary features, probably also of early medieval origin. Despite moderate quantities of generally early medieval material throughout the site, the results

would appear to indicate that the area has always formed part of an open, agricultural landscape since at least the later Neolithic.

(James Brigers)

Williton, Doniford Holiday Park, ST 0943 4329,
Somerset HER 32722

Five trenches totalling approximately 100m in length were excavated. A number of features of probable early date were identified and included small pits, probable post holes and a truncated ditch or gully distributed across the site without a particular focus of activity. Diagnostic material was generally absent from the fills of these but a small quantity of struck flint was recovered from a pit to the west of the site and a sherd of possible prehistoric pottery from a small pit or posthole to the east. A large north-south orientated ditch was excavated in the eastern part of the site which remains undated but may have formed a component of the Romano-British field system hinted at during previous excavations close to the site. In addition to these much evidence was encountered relating to the 20th century military occupation of the site including pits containing barbed wire and steel fence posts and a large area of disturbance corresponding to the former location of a heavy gun emplacement visible on aerial photographs of the 1940s.

(James Brigers)

ROMAN

Banwell, Brewers Arms, ST398 591

Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the land adjacent to the Brewers Arms. A total of three trenches were excavated across the site revealing a small number of features. An undated ditch may have functioned as a small boundary and served to help drain water down slope, before going out of use and infilling. A single course of a wall may have been a small revetment or boundary wall, however the lack of evidence for bonding material and its relatively narrow width do not suggest that it was part of a building. A deposit adjacent contained two small abraded sherds of mid 2nd-century or later Roman pottery. This was the only dated evidence of Roman occupation.

(Rob Early)

Bath, Burton Street, ST 7498 6490,

BaNES HER EBN3546

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during urgent groundworks relating to essential repair works on a collapsed sewer. A test pit at the southern end of Burton Street exposed three walls, one of which appeared to be Roman, while the other two were likely to be post-medieval. A possible Roman buttress was located within the bounds of the Roman walled cult-centre and shared the same alignment as the northern town boundary, which is thought to have been located c.10m to the north. Two possible post-medieval walls, one of which may relate to a building, were located c.5m north of the medieval city wall and, as such, are extramural. A second test pit confirmed the presence of cellars at the northern end of Burton Street, extending knowledge for the existence of Georgian cellars in this area.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Congresbury, Carditch Grove, Honey Hall,

ST 427 614

A desk-based assessment was undertaken by Avon Archaeology Ltd at the extreme southern edge of Congresbury parish where a solar panel array was proposed. The study brought to light an antiquarian Romano-British coin hoard find in the vicinity of Honey Hall and the existence of at least one certain palaeochannel, the course of which is now followed by a modern foot-path.

(Sarah News)

Curry Rivel, Old Oak Farm, ST 3968 2484,

Somerset HER 32495

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological investigation within the area of a scheduled Roman villa. The scheduling appeared to be based on very limited evidence and so a geophysical was carried out, by StrataScan, followed by a targeted field evaluation. The results did not support the existence of a villa on the site or find any evidence for significant occupation in the Roman period. The site has now been removed from the schedule.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Faulkland, High Street, ST 7376 5455,

Somerset HER 32813

An archaeological evaluation for a proposed residential development to the north of the High Street was carried out by AC Archaeology. This

revealed a number of large probable extraction pits of possible medieval or earlier date and a number of linear features, provisionally dated to the Romano-British period. A quantity of artefacts was recovered comprising pottery sherds, animal bone and a Roman coin dated to the third century AD.

(D Brace)

Ilchester, 9 Church Street, ST 5221 2263,
Somerset HER 32441

Monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension revealed a sequence of road surfaces, medieval pits and post-medieval deposits. The road surfaces were constructed from compact layers of lias, chert gravels and Hamstone bonded with green and orange sandy clay/mortar, which would appear to be a continuation of the road uncovered by Peter Leach during the Dolphin Lane excavations in 1986 and 1988. This feature had been cut by three medieval pits containing 12th/13th-century pottery and by the 19th-century foundations and services of the existing property.

(Keith Faxon)

Ilchester, Costello Hill, ST 531 235,
Somerset HER 32519

Following discovery by a metal detectorist a Roman lead coffin was excavated and lifted to allow examination of its contents under controlled conditions. The coffin was orientated approximately north-south and laid in a shallow rectangular cut. Although badly damaged by ploughing the object exhibited some evidence of cable decoration to its sides.

(James Brigers)

Lympsham, Wick Farm, ST 3166 5468,
Somerset HER 32615

A ten-trench archaeological evaluation was carried out by Wessex Archaeology, which revealed a series of alluvial deposits and a Romano-British ditch sequence initially identified in a geophysical survey. The animal bone and pottery assemblages can be paralleled at Late Iron Age/Romano-British rural sites on the Levels. The former includes evidence for horn-working, whilst the latter consists of Middle/Late Iron Age and 2nd–3rd century AD sherds from the alluvial deposits, and Late Iron Age/early Romano-British material from the ditch and later deposits. The small quantity of iron slag probably derives from iron smithing, whilst the fuel ash slag implies high-temperature, pyrotechnical activity, such as a salt boiling hearth. The remains

of a possible salt evaporation tray and the lining of the tuyère hole of a hearth or furnace provide further corroborating evidence. The environmental evidence indicates settlement activity in the vicinity in the later phases of activity, whilst it appears that no attempt had been made to reclaim the land.

(David Fallon and Cai Mason)

West Horrington, Blacklands and Chesters,
ST 576 473

Members of the Westbury Society undertook a gradiometry survey, using a FM36 on loan from English Heritage, following the identification of adjacent fields called “Blacklands” and “Chesters”. The survey produced clear evidence of a trapezoid ditched enclosure of a size and shape (30m x 35m) consistent with a late Iron Age or Roman rural farmstead, as well as later features.

(Barry Lane)

Woolavington, Pyde Drove, ST 3531 4299,
Somerset HER 32376

Following a geophysical survey and archaeological trench evaluation in advance of a proposed solar farm, a targeted archaeological excavation was carried out by AC Archaeology during the construction phase. The excavation revealed part of a saltern (briquetage mound) associated with salt production. Large amounts of briquetage was recovered from the mound, and beneath and beside the feature were several shallow pits and channels used for trapping sea water. An assemblage of pottery indicates use of the site during the Romano-British period.

(Simon Hughes)

EARLY MEDIEVAL

Cheddar, Kings of Wessex School, ST 4575 5295,
Somerset HER 32426

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation and service trenches for an extension to an existing building. An undated ditch was recorded that contained snail shells of a species known to have been imported during the Roman period. The lack of pot sherds within the ditch might indicate a post-Roman date for the feature.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

MEDIEVAL

Carhampton, Church of St John the Baptist,
ST 0931 4267, Somerset HER 32610

Archaeological monitoring was conducted within the church and churchyard during re-ordering, the installation of services and new drainage. To the south and west of the church only extensive areas of homogenous grave-earth deposits were encountered, sealed by recent dumps of soil. However, adjacent to the existing lych gate, the remains of the foundation of a former boundary wall were encountered. Substantial excavations to the north east of the tower revealed surprisingly little evidence for burial in this area although a single, and seemingly isolated east-west inhumation was encountered close to the tower. Removal of the 19th century floors at locations within the nave and chancel suggested that the surface within the building had been substantially reduced in the past and no deposits of archaeological significance survived. Reduction within the south porch exposed the remains of a wall foundation; probably the remains of the medieval porch, replaced in the later 19th century.

(James Brigers)

Chew Magna, Church of St Andrew, ST 577 633

Monitoring of the installation of a new WC in the tower, creation of new servery in the North Aisle and associated drainage systems revealed a small section of the tower foundations, 19th-century dwarf supporting walls, existing services and landscaping/grave digging deposits.

(Keith Faxon)

Chewton Mendip, ST5967 5320,
Somerset HER 31671

Excavations by members of Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP) and other volunteers continued for a fourth consecutive year, with investigations targeting the immediate surrounds at the west end of a medieval building, now known to be of 35 metres length. The first trench uncovered the cobble approach to a threshold in the west gable end and a gully to deflect storm water away from a possible porched area. The second trench was sited to gain further information on the wall-like foundations previously discovered in 2011 and running sub-parallel and down slope from the vicinity of the northwest corner of the building. A third trench, later in the year, confirmed the convergence of these foundations into a single

feature continuing downhill in the direction of a spring. It is now believed that they formed the base of a stepped walkway. A substantial number of sherds of a 13th-century Bristol glazed jug were located in a well-defined deposit between the walkways, with a Saxon door/casket key lying close by, and at the lowest level. The excavation confirmed the exact position of the northwest corner of the building, surviving only as the lowest level quoin stone, the rest having been robbed out. This is the only area of the building where limestone mortar has been observed to date. The walkways were constructed over a thin layer of compacted rubble, overlying a single covering of displaced bedrock, placed on the natural lias limestone bedrock as a levelling layer. A similar construction technique was encountered at the building's east end. A fourth trench, sited immediately south of the south wall, confirmed the stripping back of the hillslope to a residual layer of prehistoric occupation, prior to its construction. Two test trenches were dug for training purposes to evaluate the extent of the external cobble surfacing to south and west of the building. The pottery retrieved from this excavation is the subject of ongoing studies to establish a medieval type series for Chewton Mendip, under the guidance of David Dawson. The study has revealed dates for the pottery generally within the range of 10th century to later medieval.

(Pip Osborne)

East Coker, Main Street, Meadow House,
ST 5424 1223, Somerset HER 32607

Archaeological monitoring was conducted during groundworks in advance of the construction of two extensions to an existing house. In the north western area three truncated pits were identified, one of which contained burnt material including charcoal, limestone and clay and yielded sherds of coarse pottery of probable 12th-century date. To the east of these a broad ditch was observed, probably marking the position of a post medieval agricultural boundary. The only evidence for earlier activity observed in the south eastern area amounted to the remnants of an earlier cultivation horizon. The findings compliment those of earlier investigations in the area suggestive of settlement during the medieval period followed by a reversion to agricultural usage,

(James Brigers)



Glastonbury Abbey: Excavation of the vault and wall tops associated with the early 19th-century restoration of the well house, looking north. The angled scars for the medieval gabled roof are also visible.

Glastonbury Abbey, ST 5000 3884,
Somerset HER 32531

An archaeological evaluation comprising three small excavations took place as part of a scheme to replace the existing modern concrete floor in the crypt with historically appropriate materials and to improve circulation around the crypt for visitors. The crypt was inserted through the floor of the chapel in the late medieval period.

Two of the excavations located empty graves lined with narrow stone walls and lias flagstones along their bottoms. The graves had been emptied in post-medieval times. This would agree with Stukeley's report in his *Itinerarium Curiosum* published in 1724 that the crypt had fallen into disrepair and was then full of water but that earlier, many lead coffins had been removed from the crypt and melted down to make cisterns. It would seem likely that there is a high density of empty graves in at least the western half of the crypt, which formed the nave of the chapel. The level of the flagstones shows that the graves had been dug to a depth of a little over 0.4m beneath the floor, just deep enough for burials. The medieval floor is likely to have been paved with finely-cut flagstones, but these did not survive, doubtless having been robbed in post-medieval times. The level of the former medieval floor can be established however from surrounding architectural features, in particular the plinths of the engaged columns supporting the crypt's vault, one of which was fully exposed by excavation. In addition, a small excavation was opened within the well house adjoining the crypt to the south. The well house is accessible by a passage leading off the

crypt and contains St Joseph's well, which was an attraction for pilgrims in medieval times. Remains survive from a stair which led up from the well to a doorway opening into the Lady Chapel, so that pilgrims completed a circuit taking in the crypt, the well and the Lady Chapel. Like the crypt, the well house fell into disrepair in post-medieval times. It was cleared of rubble in the early 19th century and restored as an antiquarian attraction. The works included rebuilding some of its walls and adding a new brick vault to keep out the weather. The excavation showed that some exploratory digging took place in association with the restoration. Further excavation at ground level uncovered the vault and the tops of its supporting 19th-century walls. The vault was a 19th-century fabrication and not a true reconstruction of the medieval well house roof, which was gabled and much higher up, as can be seen from angled scars in the Lady Chapel's south wall. Since the vault had become unsafe it was removed as part of the new scheme. This allowed a new metal stair to be inserted above the remains of the medieval one, so that visitors today can follow the same circulatory route as medieval pilgrims.

(Stewart Brown)

Glastonbury, Ashwell Lane, ST 513 383,
Somerset HER 32574

An archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development was carried out by AC Archaeology. This revealed a number of shallow, ditch-like, features of probable medieval date, a fire pit or hearth and a possible occupation spread. A small quantity of artefacts comprised largely animal bone and pottery sherds, including a small ceramic group dated to the 11th to 12th century.

(D Brace)

Glastonbury, Chilkwell Street, Abbey Barn,
ST 5037 3856, Somerset HER 32442

An evaluation was undertaken concentrating on the porches and central area of the nave of the barn. This confirmed the existence of substantial wall foundations continuing the line of the existing walls across the openings to both porches, suggesting the presence of an earlier medieval structural phase. Within the south-east porch a short length of an undated robber-cut was identified indicating the existence of structures, pre-dating the barn that may have extended into the modern courtyard. The central area of the barn was found to have been subjected to extensive disturbance during the 19th century. The base of the disturbance was

lined in places by a thick mortar bedding strongly suggesting that the disturbance was caused by the removal of a substantial floor at a location where a threshing floor would be expected. The mortar levelling sealed the remains of two stone walls, aligned north-west/south-east. They are probably of early date and represent evidence for some form of internal division. In the north-west porch the remains of a potentially early metalled surface were revealed, sealed by a sequence of post-medieval floor surfaces. Further floor surfaces of mortar and finally hard sandy-clay were encountered to the south-west and were clearly cut by the central disturbance. In the south-east porch a stone drain was excavated, on the line of a medieval drain previously identified in 2008; here the structure appeared to have been replaced in the 18th or 19th century.

(James Brigers)

Glastonbury, Chilkwell Street, Somerset Rural Life Museum, ST 5038 3852, Somerset HER 32442

Extensive evaluation and monitoring was conducted prior to and during a major refurbishment programme at the museum. Evaluation in the orchard to the north of the farm yard produced evidence that the existing east-west wall here represents the latest in a sequence of boundary features commencing with a substantial ditch of 12th- or 13th-century date. This was later replaced by the construction of a wall on the same alignment, the foundation of which was constructed of yellow shelly limestone similar to that employed in the medieval barn to the south-west. Following the demolition of this, possibly in the 18th or 19th centuries, the existing wall was constructed slightly to the south, apparently associated with considerable levelling to form the existing farmyard. Within the orchard to the north-west of the barn trenching revealed the presence of a further wall foundation, possibly slightly curved and also of probable medieval date. Ground reduction within the existing cow shed to the south and the wagon shed to the north of the yard, produced evidence for considerable post-medieval levelling involving the dumping of large quantities of material to the north of a substantial retaining wall. This wall was subsequently replaced by the existing wall between the farm and the yard. The cow shed appeared to have been preceded by a timber structure with a similar L-shaped footprint, the northern end of the eastern range of which appears to have coincided with an earlier eastern access to the yard immediately opposite the east

porch of the medieval barn. The monitoring will continue into 2015.

(James Brigers)

Glastonbury, church of St John the Baptist, ST 4999 3901, Somerset HER 32705

Subsidence of the flagstone floor of the nave required investigation and remedial works so a programme of archaeological investigation and recording of trial pits was undertaken prior to re-setting the flagstones. The Norman bases of the nave piers were exposed and recorded and surviving fragments of Norman and earlier floor bedding layers were noted. Boreholes within the nave recorded various floor levels as well as deep deposits of loose infilling, and a record of 19th and 20th century works to the church was recorded.

A ground-penetrating radar survey within the church was then undertaken by Stratascan. This recorded a E-W wall between the south piers of the chancel that is undated but pre-dates the Norman arcade bases. Another wall, running north-south, was recorded in the middle of the nave between two piers immediately west of the passage between the two doors. This wall appears to mark the west end of an earlier nave.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, St Benedict's Close, ST 497 388, Somerset HER 16976

Shallow excavations for a car park were monitored during which a sequence of substantial, medieval boundary features were recorded that included a ditch with a wall founded on wooden stakes and a large stone wall. All the boundary features appeared to follow the line of modern Benedict Street and these features have been interpreted as the paling of the Abbot's deer park (Wirral Park). A building associated with the stone wall has been suggested to be the gatehouse, partly on the basis of fragments of a large, decorated, Doulling stone arch of the 13th century.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

Meare, Church Path, ST 4523 4166, Somerset HER 32489

An evaluation produced evidence of medieval activity throughout the site but found to be greatest to the centre and south. Here a sequence of east-west ditches represented a prominent boundary that was repeatedly re-affirmed over a prolonged period, finally being abandoned at some point in the 13th century. Immediately to the north of these a steep-

sided slot respecting the line of the earlier ditches and a number of post holes possibly represent the remains of timber structures, although all may not be contemporary. A further group of post holes running north-south towards the northern boundary may mark the line of an early boundary division. During the later 13th or early 14th century a north-south ditch and a large pit cut through the earlier features to the south, suggesting a change in layout of the site before activity ceased and the area reverted to agricultural use throughout the later medieval and post-medieval periods. Evidence of prehistoric activity in the area was limited to a handful of residual sherds of mid-late Iron Age date within the later cultivation horizon.

(James Brigers)

Nettlecombe, Church of St Mary, ST 0569 3774,
Exmoor National Park HER MSO11460

Excavations for new drainage within the churchyard were monitored. Little significant archaeological material was exposed but the outlines of several graves were recognisable to the south the church. An early 19th-century vault was revealed to the south of the chancel within which up to six lead-lined coffins were visible, probably containing remains members of the Trevelyan family as identified by a memorial tablet. To the east the foundation of a north-south wall was exposed, coincident with the location of the existing churchyard boundary.

(James Brigers)

Odcombe, deserted medieval village of Barrow,
ST 509 172

Newcastle University and the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group excavated two trenches in very hot and dry conditions to clarify the state of the deserted medieval settlement of Barrow in Odcombe (Somerset HER 54371). The settlement had been badly damaged by agricultural work in the 1970s and was thought to have "been wrecked". A fluxgate gradiometer survey produced results that were less than promising but two trenches were opened in the Summer of 2014. Trench A was almost archaeologically sterile. A stone-lined field drain ran north-south but a large medieval pit was found in the south-eastern corner. This had a finds-rich fill that including some animal bone and large, fresh pieces of medieval pottery. Trench B was located to sample an ephemeral magnetic anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. On excavation a large and deep medieval ditch with multiple fills was

found running east-west along the northern edge of the trench. A medieval layer extending over the rest of the trench contained iron smelting slag (possibly the origin of the magnetic anomaly) and some pottery. A few shallow pits were found below this feature, one contained animal bone and medieval pottery. Below this a thick reddish brown layer was found to containing a few fragments of Romano-British pottery and sealed a ditch. This ditch produced fragments of igneous rock that is likely to have reached the site in prehistory. Interestingly, the light grey fill of this feature was wet enough to preserve just the ghost of an extremely degraded branch. Notable finds include a medieval seal, depicting a hare riding a dog, a significant quantity of pottery and some prehistoric flint. Much of the medieval site appears to have been destroyed but traces remain and there is clear evidence of earlier Romano-British and prehistoric activity.

(James Gerrard and Andrew Agate)

Othery, Beer Wall, ST 3929 3151,
Somerset HER 32692

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology ahead of works to improve drainage along the A372. The aim was to locate the Beer Wall (a medieval wall that protected the Aller Moors from flooding) and associated river channel via four evaluation trenches and six boreholes. The investigation revealed deposits relating to the road construction as well as roadside ditches and banks. No trace of the Wall, or any associated structural remains were found, leading to the supposition that the line of the Wall lies below the modern road. All artefacts were of modern date. The borehole cores revealed evidence for an initial environment comprising salt marsh or estuarine mudflats, followed by highly vegetated freshwater-dominated wetland (3.5–5.7m of peat). The later peat deposits likely represent the establishment of a wooded fen within a waterlogged terrain.

(Susan Clelland)

Portishead, church of St Peter, ST 4661 7601

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for a north-east extension to the Grade I Listed church. The deposit sequence recorded within the foundation trenches was typical for a graveyard, with a layer of redeposited clay raising the ground level. Two graves were exposed each containing a burial and a skull from another individual. Both

graves were sealed beneath the topsoil, indicating that the two partial skeletons most likely relate to a later phase of burial within the churchyard. Five disarticulated fragments of human bone and an iron coffin handle were also observed.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Somerton, Market Place, land to the west of The Great House, ST 4800 2856, Somerset HER 32693
A large area was examined prior to development for housing in the centre of the medieval town. The archaeological horizons within the excavated area were found to have been severely truncated by post-medieval cultivation and only the bases of smaller cut features survived. To the east and west the remains of two north-south gullies were encountered, seemingly marking the positions of medieval tenement plots with frontages on West Street, one of which may have been re-asserted during the 17th century. Much of the area of the northern and western area of the site was occupied by four large medieval stone quarries which respected the line of the earlier boundaries and may be related to the 13th-century development of the new town. The fill of one of the quarries was cut by the construction of a lime kiln of circular plan with substantial flue inlets to the north and south. This structure appears to have been a short-lived and pottery evidence suggests a period of use during the 14th century possibly relating to a period of further development in the town or even major extensions to the church. Several post holes and shallow gullies dating from the 14th to 18th centuries were identified throughout the area although no obvious structure plans could be identified; many of these were possibly the remains of timber buildings or other activities relating to the use of the area as the garden of Great House from c.1660.

(James Brigers)

Stanton Drew, Church of St Mary, ST 598 632
Monitoring of the installation of a new WC and associated drainage systems revealed the undated remains of at least four individuals, an inscribed stone and a stone-lined culvert.

(Keith Faxon)

Stogursey, Tanyard Farm, ST 2034 4274, Somerset HER 32434
A trench evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology in advance of a proposed residential development. The site straddles the line of the medieval town defences but the work did not

conclusively expose remains of the former town ditch. A 19th-century culvert and probable tannery pits were recorded in the position of its projected line, although deeper soils in a trench to the north of this location might conceivably represent fills of the ditch. The remains of a possible medieval structure with internal drainage was exposed in the area to the south along with features and deposits relating to the former tannery.

(Simon Hughes)

Taunton, Canon Street carpark, ST 2287 2469, Somerset HER 32438

An archaeological watching brief was maintained by Wessex Archaeology during works on land adjacent to the scheduled area of medieval town defences. A brick-laid path was found to overlie a substantial deposit containing post-medieval material; the latter corresponds to the uppermost fill of the town ditch as described in previous investigations. The foundations of the recently demolished building marginally encroached into the top of this deposit. A small section of an earlier ditch fill, probably derived from the weathering of the Borough Bank was also observed.

(Benjamin Cullen)

Taunton, Priory Road, ST 229 248, Somerset HER 32100

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a phased program of archaeological monitoring and recording during water mains rehabilitation. In the area of the priory, a small section of medieval walling, located to the north of the lay cemetery and to the west of the priory church, is likely to relate to a boundary or structure within the inner sanctum of the priory. Disturbed human remains to the east of the priory church may be associated with the canons' cemetery, although the latter has never been located by excavation.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Trudoxhill, ST 7470 4387, Somerset HER 32509

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation on land likely to be within the original medieval settlement. One of the three evaluation trenches contained limited evidence of medieval occupation. A ditch/gully yielded a single late 15th/early 16th-century pottery sherd indicating a late medieval date for the silting/back-filling, although it also contained 12th- to 14th-century pottery. The earlier pottery was contemporary with a nearby cess pit, the upper fill

of which yielded 12th- to 14th-century pottery, with further sherds of the same date within the subsoil.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Wookey, Court Farm, ST 5179 4570,
Somerset HER 32035

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological works at Court Farm, Wookey, comprising evaluation, historic building recording, and monitoring and recording. Discoveries made during the archaeological programme of works make a small yet important contribution to our understanding of Court Farm. Fragmentary evidence provided glimpses into the medieval and post-medieval phases of the farmhouse and precinct. This included structural remains associated with the 13th century west range of the manor house and a purported undercroft to the north. A smaller number of less substantial walls associated with outbuildings or boundary walls and a stone floor dating to the post-medieval period were also recorded, with several structural features of post-medieval or modern date. However, the most significant findings related to evidence for medieval water management and the adaption and extension of this system during the post-medieval period. This focussed on the discovery of a substantial stone-lined fresh water culvert between the former dairy and the western side of the farmhouse. Sluices within the culvert provide fascinating insights into how the flow of water was controlled. It is suggested that, in addition to providing fresh water for the various household needs and fishponds, the culvert may also have been used for flushing a latrine where it runs adjacent to the purported solar at the northern end of the west range. Smaller off-shoots from the main culvert reveal this was part of a complex of drains and culverts. Indeed, another small medieval culvert or drain was recorded on the eastern side of the east range, where further culverts or drains were laid in the post-medieval period following the demolition of the 13th century chapel.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the former dairy. Three features of archaeological interest were recorded comprising capping stones for a culvert, a further stone-lined culvert or drain and a wall. It is suggested that the culverts/drain may be associated with the medieval water system, perhaps as off-shoots from the substantial medieval stone-lined fresh water culvert (above) along the eastern side of the former dairy.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

POST-MEDIEVAL

Bath, Kingsmead, 15 St George's Place,
ST 7429 6502, BaNES HER EBN3625

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological works comprising historic building recording prior to demolition; evaluation of land within the grounds by two trial trenches; and archaeological monitoring and recording within the basement of the house following demolition. The first and second floors preserved the character, layout and many original features of a Georgian middle-class town house. Following demolition of the house, the removal of the floor in the basement exposed natural clay, which was also recorded beneath the garden soil in the evaluation trenches. This terrace is likely to have removed any earlier archaeological remains that may have been present.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Bridgwater, Queen Street, Kings Place,
ST 2991 3712, Somerset HER 32394

Archaeological monitoring was conducted during the excavation of the foundation for a substantial wall. The trench parallel to the Queen Street frontage revealed the presence of a sequence of post medieval levelling dumps consisting of re-deposited clay and domestic refuse in excess of 1m in depth and spanning the later 17th to mid 18th century. The base of the sequence was only reached to the south where the level of the natural clay rose steeply beyond the southern limit of what appears to be a substantial east-west aligned depression, the upper edge of which was surmounted by a further dump of clean re-deposited clay. The sequence of deposits at the street frontage were subsequently cut by structural remains of probable later 18th or early 19th century date including a brick-lined well and two cellars. The area to the west was found to be severely disturbed by modern activity but it was possible to identify the remains of two further walls of probable 19th-century date.

(James Brigers)

Butleigh, Lower Rockes Farm, ST 5190 3365,
Somerset HER 32750

Wessex Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation by means of 11 trenches, which proved to be largely devoid of archaeological remains. The heavily truncated remnants of a gully may have related to a probable medieval system of agricultural drainage similar to that demonstrated

by earthworks to the north-west of the village. A further gully and bank feature was directly associated with the orchard planting system, pottery from which indicate the orchard was in use from at least the 17th century. The few residual prehistoric pottery sherds suggest a low level of prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

(Lorrain Higbee)

Goathurst, Halswell House, ST 2539 3379,
Somerset HER 32685

A programme of archaeological monitoring was initiated to run alongside proposed extensive refurbishment and renovation works within the house and grounds. At ST 2540 3386 a watching brief was maintained during the installation of drainage and a sewage treatment plant in the north lawn. Here a substantial brick-vaulted culvert was observed at a depth of approximately 3m, the continuation of which could be traced in the field to the north of the garden. This appears to have been created during the 18th century to manage water levels in ponds to the east of the house. The area was found to be sealed by significant dumps of re-deposited natural material which had buried walls of mortared Morte Slate (surviving to in excess 1m in height) probably representing components of late 17th century parterres known to have existed in the area. An evaluation was conducted to the south of the main building in Tudor House at ST 2538 3376 which revealed that the probably early 18th-century building was constructed on an artificial terrace, cut into the natural slope to the east. Dumps of material levelling up the terraced to the west were found to contain architectural moulding fragments of medieval date and late/post medieval pottery and tile. Post holes cutting the natural to the east may hint at the existence of earlier timber structures in the area.

(James Brigers)

Taunton, ST 2254 2476, Somerset HER 31519

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a phased program of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a replacement water main within the Scheduled area of Taunton Castle. Evidence was limited to several post-medieval and modern deposits. In addition, in Corporation Street an earlier 20th-century road surface and a rough stone foundation probably representing a small boundary wall were identified. A small assemblage of post-medieval

finds were also observed within deposits in Corporation Street.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Timberscombe, Knowle Manor, SS 9608 4295,
Exmoor National Park HER MSO10604

Recording prior to, and during, development allowed an assessment of the standing structures, surviving cellars and archaeological deposits on the site of the former late 19th-century Palm House. The principal existing structures were all found to be of later 19th-century date and almost a full circuit of walls surrounding the courtyard could be identified as the remains of the earlier Palm House. Beneath these and extending westwards beneath the house two basement rooms were opened. One of these could be identified as the housing for the boiler associated with the Palm House. Following removal of the existing structures a large sunken planting bed was exposed surrounded by pitched stone surfaces with integral drainage. Evidence for earlier activity in the area was scarce but a stone-lined culvert and earlier channel were identified which appear to indicate water management pre-dating the re-construction of Knowle Manor in its present form.

(James Brigers)

Wedmore, The Borough, ST 4364 4793,
Somerset HER 32486

Refurbishment works were carried out to a large culvert beneath the junction of The Borough and The Lerburne in the centre of Wedmore providing an opportunity to examine a substantial length of the structure itself and immediately adjacent deposits. The capping of the eastern section was found to consist of large slabs of conglomerate sandstone set on side walls of mortared lias rubble. Material immediately overlying the capping produced a single sherd of late 17th- or early 18th-century pottery. To the west the capping had been replaced, probably at some point in the 19th century, by a well-constructed lias vault, although the earlier side walls had been retained. At no point did the excavation penetrate beyond backfill and recent road make-up and surfaces to reveal the archaeological profile beyond. Much of the backfill was found to have been cut by modern services but an intact section produced a single sherd of mid-late 18th-century pottery.

(James Brigers)

INDUSTRIAL

Churchstanton, Otterhead House, ST 2185 1411 to ST 2247 1373, Somerset HER 32761
A number of water power features at Otterhead House on the Blackdowns are being investigated by Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society (SIAS). Otterhead House was at the centre of an extensive 19th-century estate but the house itself was demolished after the Second World War. Excavation and recording of a waterwheel pumping station, located adjacent to the house, were reported in SIAS Bulletin 123. Water for the pumping station was provided by a leat from springs west of the River Otter and this leat was known to have been an open watercourse in 1864 when it provided power for a farm mill close to the house site. Subsequently, by 1890, the leat was culverted from the house southwards, and its full route is not clear. A 200 mm clay pipe was also inserted in the culvert. The leat had a number of functions in addition to powering the water pumping system; it provided water to re-located estate farm buildings, to watered meadows south of the house, and possibly to an aquarium and a garden water feature. South of the farm buildings the leat route has been covered by lake dredgings but is visible again further south in a conifer plantation. Further investigations of the culverted leat took place during 2013 and are reported in SIAS Bulletin 127. Investigations included geophysical resistivity and magnetometry surveys to trace the route and any branches, but the results were inconclusive. Exploration from each end of the culvert and determination of relative levels provided some additional information; these indicate that the clay pipe was probably inserted when the house drive was rerouted and lowered between 1864 and 1890.

(Peter Daniel)

Radstock, Waterloo Road, ST 6899 5490

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services recorded a 3-storey brick-built former Co-operative Society Bakery prior to demolition. Erected in 1915 to replace a smaller facility elsewhere in the town, it was served by a siding specially extended from the railway station, materials being conveyed from the siding to the top floor by a structure supported by a latticework mast. Single-storey extensions were added to both north and south before 1930, the latter including loading bays. Inside, the building had a raised concrete ground floor and a concrete first floor, but the top storey was floored in timber.

Internal hoists and chutes were included, with the workers reaching the upper floors on cast-iron, open-tread staircases. Later additions were made to the west and north-west, with 1960s photographs showing a 2-storey extension that required a new, third, brick chimney. All structures north of the line of the main block were removed, but the remainder survived for about 35 years as a Co-op retail outlet.

(John Bryant)

West Monkton, Hestercombe sewage treatment works, ST 2463 2832, Somerset HER 32763

A small disused sewage treatment works, which served Hestercombe House and estate, was recorded and subsequently reported in Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society Bulletin 127. The works were built between 1902 and 1914 and the filter beds are located some 600m south-east of the house. Primary treatment (removal of grit and other contraries) probably took place at a tank between the House and the main part of the works (as shown on old OS maps). The main part of the works, providing the secondary treatment, consists of two circular filter beds. Both are built of squared rubble walls some six feet high, capped with brick coping and a steel run-way for the sprinkler arms. The smaller bed is 9 feet in diameter and filled with coke as filter medium, the larger one is 30 feet in diameter and filled with limestone filter medium. Feed pipes and valves survive but the sprinkler arms have been removed. South of the filter beds, and 100m away, there are two rectangular features, labelled variously as tanks or ponds on OS maps. These were constructed around the same time as the filter beds are adjacent to the discharge point for treated effluent, but their function is unclear.

(Peter Daniel)

Williton, Doniford Holiday Park,

See under Prehistoric.

OTHER REPORTS

Babcary, Foddington, ST 5743 3006,
Somerset HER 32401

Archaeological monitoring was conducted during groundworks associated with agricultural and residential development. Only evidence for prolonged cultivation of the area was identified throughout much of the site but to the north east probable natural depressions were encountered

containing the remnants of a buried soil horizon which yielded burnt clay and a single flint flake. In the same area a single un-dated small pit or post hole was excavated. The deserted medieval settlement of Perry Court (HER 53521) appears always to have been contained within the field to the east.

(James Brigers)

Bath, 10 West Development, Claverton Down,
ST 7699 6453, BaNES HER EBN3653

Ground works were subject to archaeological monitoring by Wessex Archaeology. Extensive landscaping was in evidence across the site and no archaeological features or deposits were observed, though some may still remain buried below the made-ground.

(David Fallon and Luke Jarvis)

Bath, 5 Bladud Buildings, ST 7504 6519,
BaNES HER EBN3653

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the dismantling of a wall and subsequent excavations in order to repair a damaged sewer. No visible archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Bath, Combe Park and Newbridge Hill,
ST 7301 6536, BaNES HER EBN3619

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during repairs to a sewer main in an area where Roman remains had been reported. No visible archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Bath, Englishcombe, Kilkenny Lane, ST 7241 6156,
BaNES HER EBN3695

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording due to the proximity of the projected location of the Wansdyke. Despite this, no visible archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Bath, Odd Down Recycling centre, ST 7293 6121,
BaNES HER EBN3649

An evaluation was undertaken by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services. Although no

archaeologically significant deposits, finds or features were found within any of the trenches it was established that all the made-ground deposits dated from the second half of the 20th century at least, and some from the 21st century. The deeper areas of made-ground may be backfilled former Fullers Earth workings.

(Simon Roper)

Bath, Walcot Street, ST 7506 6515,
BaNES HER EBN3694

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during repair works to the underground pipe network. Archaeological features were confined to a collapsed Georgian culvert and an iron drainage grate at a depth of c.2m below the modern tarmac.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Beacon Batch, ST 4860 5718, Somerset HER 32493

An archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent during works undertaken to restore a section of badly eroded footpath leading to the summit of Black Down. No archaeological features were observed during the course of the watching brief and no artefactual material was recovered.

(Dick Broomhead)

Blackford, Holy Trinity, ST 4089 4776,
Somerset HER 32420

Monitoring of the installation of a new oil tank in the churchyard to the east of the vestry and a power cable trench on the west side of the church revealed only 19th-century landscaping deposits and modern service disturbance.

(Keith Faxon)

Bleadon, Land to the East of Accommodation Road,
ST 327 563

An extensive area of low-lying agricultural land on Bleadon Level was subjected to an archaeological evaluation by trenching. Little evidence for archaeological activity was identified apart from undated drainage ditches and recent land drains. The underlying alluvium was penetrated to depths of up to 2.35m and found to be archaeologically sterile. However, evidence of some organic material was recognised and at least one probable palaeochannel was located.

(James Brigers)

Bradford on Tone, Gardners Close, ST 1742 2287,
Somerset HER 32413

Monitoring of housebuilding produced evidence of possible medieval agriculture practices, an 18th/19th-century boundary ditch and geological deposits. Four abraded, medieval coarseware pottery sherds dating from the 12th/13th-century were found on the interface of the topsoil and subsoil deposits and are probably a result of the spreading of manure during the medieval period.

(Keith Faxon)

Brent Knoll, West Country Motor Homes,
ST 3397 4961, Somerset HER 32806

Monitoring a building extension, the cutting of new drains and construction of hard standing resulted in the recording of a sequence of flood deposits that have been interpreted as deriving from the 'lost' river Siger.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

Broadway, Varden's Farm, ST 3275 1575,
Somerset HER 32580

A magnetic gradiometry survey was undertaken by GeoFlo prior to development. There is a local tradition of a deserted medieval village (Somerset HER 53374) around the now isolated church 0.2km from the survey site. Although the survey detected a number of weak linears on varying alignments, it was difficult to draw anything conclusive from their arrangement.

(Liz Caldwell)

Bruton, Discove Farm, ST 691 340

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Discove Farm during the extension of the farmhouse. Although no datable finds were recovered, study of the building and the floors suggested that a well-built wall foundation probably dated to the medieval period.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

Castle Cary, Manor Farm, ST 6436 3137

An evaluation of the proposed site of a photovoltaic power array was undertaken AC Archaeology. Three trenches were excavated to test the nature of magnetic anomalies located by a previous geophysical survey. Most features were found to be of natural origin, derived either from periglacial processes or from tree throws. The linear features were very truncated, but appear to represent undated, boundary ditches or gullies.

(V Symmonds)

Chard, Crewkerne Road, ST 3345 0859,
Somerset HER 32564

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation, following a geophysical survey carried out by GeoFlo. The survey detected anomalies in the north of the field which were within the range for archaeological features, comprising a significant irregular anomaly running east to west, with a curvilinear anomaly to the south and two parallel linears running across the irregular anomaly. Despite the potential, no archaeological features or deposits were identified during the archaeological evaluation.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

*Chard, Pole Rue Water Treatment Works to
Hornsbury Farm, ST 3060 1058 to ST 3254 1024,*
Somerset HER 32145

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring during the excavation of trial pits along a proposed pipeline route which passed through an area of known archaeological potential. Despite this, ground investigations did not reveal any archaeological features or finds relating to past activity.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Cheddar, Bays Farm, ST 4622 5382,
Somerset HER 32567

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring but no visible archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Cheddar, Kings of Wessex Academy, ST 4578 5309,
Somerset HER 32609

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation in order to inform a proposal for a minor extension. Despite the potential for significant Roman, Saxon and medieval remains on the site, the field evaluation exposed very little archaeological evidence. This was limited to a pit or ditch terminal yielding a few sherds of Romano-British pottery from the surface and a small lump of undiagnostic ironwork.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Churchinford, Ford House Farm, ST 2132 1248,
Somerset HER 32575

A trench evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology in advance of a residential development. A single possible prehistoric feature was identified. A large, probably post-medieval, boundary ditch was exposed, as was a series of more recent drainage features.

(Simon Hughes)

Clutton, Maynard Terrace, ST 6296 5896

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services undertook a geophysical survey which identified a number of anomalies, some of possible archaeological origin. A negative linear anomaly in the south-east of the site was possibly indicative a former field boundary.

(Simon Roper)

East Coker, The Old Coach Yard, ST 5364 1299,
Somerset HER 32566

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording but no visible archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Faulkland, Townsend, ST 7409 5464

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology revealing very limited evidence for archaeological activity across the site. A small quantity of artefacts was recovered as a result of the evaluation, comprising post-medieval pottery sherds, slag and a single piece of glass. No archaeological deposits of medieval or earlier date were present.

(D Brace)

Fulwood to Trull, ST 0249 3992,
Somerset HER 32257

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording relating to the refurbishment of a mains water pipeline due to the close proximity of Poundisford Park pale. Despite this, no visible archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

High Littleton, ST 6450 5838,
BaNES HER EBN3665

An evaluation by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services revealed a number of features including a stone-lined drain of uncertain age, and stone slabs and a masonry wall which both appeared to be of 19th-century date.

(Simon Roper)

Holton, The Rectory, ST 6852 2694,
Somerset HER 32383

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording but no visible archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Ilchester, Sock Dennis Farm, ST 5160 2137,
Somerset HER 32096

Archaeological monitoring was conducted during the excavation of foundations for an agricultural building. In the majority of the 16 trench locations the archaeological horizon was found to have been severely truncated to the level of the natural clay and replaced by recent levelling dumps of soil and rubble. In some areas the remnants of an earlier probable cultivation soil were identified but no other features or finds of archaeological interest were present.

(James Brigers)

Marksbury, Hunstrete, ST 6530 6149,
BaNES HER EBN3696

Groundworks relating to the erection of a number of electricity poles, associated with the construction of a photo-voltaic array, were monitored as they lay close to a previously unrecorded possible henge or barrow (BaNES HER MBN30394). However, no features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.

(Sarah Newns)

Martock, The George Inn, ST 4619 1915,
Somerset HER 32613

Ongoing monitoring of the change of use of the inn has so far revealed an undated culvert and an 18th-century ditch.

(Keith Faxon)

Meare, Meareway, ST 4487 4168,
Somerset HER 32440

Monitoring of the creation of a new access and excavation works associated with the erection of a new garage produced evidence only of 20th-century activity.

(Keith Faxon)

Muchelney, Silver Street, ST 4282 2438,
Somerset HER 32644

A watching brief was undertaken to monitor ground-works prior to the construction of a new garage and stores. No pre-modern finds or features were recorded.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

Nunney Castle, ST 7366 4570, Somerset HER 32686
Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording relating to the repair of a moat feeder pipe and sewer pipe. Excavations exposed a well-constructed masonry jacket for a valve key, used to control the flow of water through the moat feeder pipe, and a largely intact 18th/19th-century Crockerton Ware jar, which was located within the subsoil layer. No other archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the excavations and no dateable material was observed.

(James Brigers)

Pilton, Bread Lane, Little Orchard, ST 5907 4062,
Somerset HER 32318

Archaeological observations were made during groundworks for the construction of a new house. Apart from slight traces of modern disturbance the site proved to be archaeologically sterile.

(Dick Broomhead)

Puriton, Puriton Hill, ST 3170 4135,
Somerset HER 32847

A magnetic gradiometry survey was undertaken by GeoFlo of two small fields as part of an evaluation of the site prior to development. The results of the survey were inconclusive due to high levels of ferrous interference, most likely associated with the construction of the M5 motorway.

(Liz Caldwell)

Pylle, Lower Easton Farm, ST 6295 3872

Wessex Archaeology undertook a 4.8ha detailed gradiometer survey over arable and pasture fields to the north of Easton Lane. Results demonstrate the presence of a few anomalies of possible

archaeological interest, as well as regions of increased magnetic response, ploughing, drainage and modern services. A circular feature within a larger area of increased magnetic response is probably archaeological in origin, while various ditches and drains are likely of agricultural and boundary origin. The apparently sparse results contrast with those of the adjacent field, a recent survey of which demonstrated an extensive complex of rectilinear enclosures.

(Alistair Salisbury, Genevieve Shaw and
Ross Lefort)

Radstock, Wells Road, Roman Orchard,
ST 6766 5439, BaNES HER EBN3697

Groundworks for the construction of three new houses were monitored by Avon Archaeology Ltd. No significant features or finds were identified.

(Sarah News)

Ringwell to South Petherton, ST 44612 16752,
Somerset HER 32565

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of an initial soil strip for a new water main but no visible archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered so monitoring of the pipe trench excavation was not deemed necessary.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Rodhuish, Escott Farm, ST 0249 3992,
Somerset HER 32435

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording but the excavations did not reveal any evidence of archaeological activity.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Shepton Beauchamp, North Street, Hawkin's Bakery, ST 4030 1725, Somerset HER 32108

A watching brief was conducted during groundworks in advance of development. Extensive ground reduction to accommodate two phases of extension to the building on the North Street frontage during the 19th and 20th centuries was found to have dramatically altered the topography and removed all trace of earlier activity.

(James Brigers)

Shepton Mallet, Cannards Grave, Church Lane,
ST 6263 4152, Somerset HER 32614
Monitoring of the creation of a riding arena revealed
only geological deposits.

(Keith Faxon)

Shepton Mallet, Field Farm, ST 6248 4273,
Somerset HER 32406

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried
out an evaluation comprising a geophysical survey,
undertaken by GeoFlo, followed by trial trenching.
Despite the proximity of prehistoric and Roman
activity the evaluation trenches revealed that none
of the geophysical anomalies were archaeological.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

South Cadbury, Chapel Lane, ST 6326 2590,
Somerset HER 32848

An evaluation in advance of a proposed development
was carried out by AC Archaeology comprising
four trenches but these revealed little evidence
for archaeological activity. A single insubstantial
feature, probably a small prehistoric pit contained
a single piece of struck flint. A remnant of a thin,
ploughed-out, subsoil layer was evident in one
trench and produced a single sherd of Late Iron Age
or Romano-British pottery.

(S Robinson)

Stocklinch, ST 3789 2211 to ST 3844 1867,
Somerset HER 32144

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried
out a programme of archaeological monitoring and
recording during the excavation of trial pits along
the route of a proposed water main replacement
scheme but this did not reveal any visible features
or deposits of archaeological interest.

(Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge)

Taunton, 12 Billetfield, ST 2298 2427,
Somerset HER 32572

A watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology
during a new residential development. Part of the
site is situated over the medieval and later defences
of the town but no early archaeological deposits or
features were encountered. All recorded activity
was associated with the removal of landscaped
gardens depicted on 19th-century Ordnance Survey
mapping.

(Andrew Passmore)

Washford, Cleeve Abbey, ST 047 407,
Somerset HER 32528

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken
during ground works adjacent to Cleeve Abbey.
Repairs to a water pump and the insertion of a small
pipe adjacent to an existing manhole disturbed no
archaeological deposits. No pre-modern finds were
recovered.

(Charles and Nancy Hollinrake)

Wells, Priory Road, ST 5476 4544,
Somerset HER 32569

A trench evaluation was carried out by AC
Archaeology in advance of a residential
development, located within the precinct of the
medieval hospital of St Johns Priory. Only 19th-
century garden features were recorded.

(Alex Farnell)

Westhay Level, Atlasta Farm, ST 4162 4312,
Somerset HER 32612

Archaeological observations were made following
the extraction of peat to the west of Atlasta Farm as
part of an ongoing monitoring program. Between
1.5m and 2m of peat overlying natural clay
was extracted but no archaeological features or
structures were observed nor artefactual material
recovered

(Dick Broomhead)

Westhay Level, Honeygar Farm, ST 4162 4312,
Somerset HER 32534

Archaeological observations were made following
the extraction of peat to the west of Honeygar
Farm as part of an ongoing monitoring program.
Between 1.5m and 2m of peat overlying natural
clay was extracted but no archaeological features or
structures were observed nor artefactual material
recovered.

(Dick Broomhead)

Witham Friary, church of St Mary, ST 7439 4109,
Somerset HER 32419

Monitoring of the lifting of the flooring produced
evidence of what appeared to be 19th- or early 20th-
century floor construction deposits. The movement
of the floor appeared to be due to moisture rather
than a collapse of the underlying deposits.

(Keith Faxon)