
SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY, 2004

EDITED BY T. S. BAGWELL AND C. J. WEBSTER, SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL, HERITAGE SERVICE

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

None received.

SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

Charterhouse Environs Research Team (CHERT)
CHERT (CHarterhouse Environs Research Team) continued its programme of fieldwork around the Charterhouse-on-Mendip and Yoxter areas of Mendip in 2004. Significant geophysical surveys began this year, with close attention paid to the complex of earthworks to the north of the Charterhouse–Shipham road at ST 500 558, where the edge of the Roman settlement of Charterhouse meets a complex of later, probably medieval earthworks with stock enclosures, house platforms and other features. This work is continuing. The team has more than 30 members regularly turning out each week, some of whom also work with YCCART (Yatton Cleeve and Claverham Archaeological Research Team) and BLERT (Bleadon and Lympsham Environs Research Team). A new and very active group, NEAT (Nailsea Environmental and Archaeological Team), has begun work during the year, and interest has been shown in other areas. During the first quarter of 2004, and towards its end, fieldwork was concentrated on the Yoxter Army Ranges at the upper end of Cheddar Gorge (ST 516 540). This landscape has been protected from modern farming by its military ownership for training since 1933, and contains a remarkably well-preserved pre-

modern landscape. (It should be noted that the public are warned not to stray on to these ranges. They are used for live firing exercises, have numbers of unstable mineshafts, and are extremely dangerous.) The remainder of the year has largely been spent working on the industrial and Roman monuments in the vicinity of Charterhouse, many of which, despite being well-known, have never been surveyed before.

Around 150 old photographs (including a sequence of air photographs taken by Mick Aston in 1986, a number of old photographs from 1924 to the present uncovered in cupboards at the Charterhouse Centre, and a number of photographs taken by a patient at the Nordrach TB hospital in 1913) have been borrowed and scanned for the CHERT archive. Progress has been made analysing and dating maps from the Somerset Record Office that show the buildings of the Blackmoor lead smelters (one exactly dated to 19 October 1874), and the general analysis of historic records continues.

An assessment of the extent of the damage cause by the floods of 1968 was carried out by comparison of before and after air photographs which were subsequently checked on the ground. In practice the damage seems to have been much more limited than previously supposed. While both the causeway from Charterhouse to the car park at Blackmoor (ST 5050 5567) and the road in Velvet Bottom (ST 5035 5548) were damaged by the flood waters, the spreads from them were limited in extent. The 1971 OS air photograph of Charterhouse¹ shows that a spread of material from the road lies for about 100m down valley but beyond this features clearly shown on the 1964 air photographs² remain unchanged. The story

of the vandalising of the remains of the Pattinson plant to repair one of the structures is well-known in archaeological circles, but it has been shown that a small part of this survived the attention of the engineers in 1968. The conclusion of the study has been that the vast majority of the valley was not badly affected by the event.

The project has now acquired around 100 survey plans, some 25gb of computer data, and has added around 400 sites to the Somerset HER. Walks and talks were given to around 750 people this year, and CHERT has been given some accommodation and office space at the Charterhouse Centre.

Details of individual sites are given in the appropriate sections below.

¹ Air photograph Ordnance Survey OS 71-082 (1971).

² For example, 58/RAF/6155 0062 (5 February 1964).

(Vince Russett)

Charterhouse, Blackmoor Valley, ST 506 557

The valley of Blackmoor, to the north-east, east and south of the Charterhouse Centre, contains a wealth of industrial and earlier archaeology, little of which has previously been photographically recorded, with the exception of the larger items such as the 1860s lead condenser flues. In November and December 2004, CHERT carried out a detailed photographic survey of the whole valley, with detailed studies of individual sites, and panoramas taken at approximately every 100m down the valley. This should prove a valuable record of the appearance of the valley in late 2004. As a result, several sites were added to the CHERT records. In particular, remains of the re-smelting campaign by Dr Somers before the arrival of the Mendip Hills Mining Company have been identified, as have several previously unrecognised structures probably related to the Treffrey lead smelters of c. 1865. A programme of detailed surveying of many of the sites has been put in place for 2005. It is intended to repeat the exercise for the adjacent Velvet Bottom and Ubley/Charterhouse rakes sites.

(Vince Russett)

Dulverton, Blakelake Wood, SS 905 286

The third season of the four year Exmoor Iron project concentrated on excavations on the post-Roman slag heap at Blacklake Wood, just north of Dulverton. The site had been previously evaluated and dated by radiocarbon to the 5th–7th century. Following

detailed geophysical survey, open area excavation was carried out during August by a team of Exeter University students and local volunteers led by Dr Gill Juleff.

(Rob Wilson-North)

Dulverton, Tarr Steps woodland, SS 868 322

A survey of woodland at Tarr Steps was carried out by Richard McDonnell for Exmoor National Park Authority. The principal result of the survey was the discovery of a system of leats which conveyed water to a pair of ornamental cascades beside Tarr Steps. The overall baseline survey of land owned by Exmoor National Park Authority (8% of the area of the National Park) is now complete.

(Rob Wilson-North)

Dunster, Dunster Castle, SS 845 457

Exmoor National Park Authority, with funding from the National Trust and the Crown Estate, commissioned Kate Felus of Debois Landscape Group to carry out a survey of the designed landscape around Dunster Castle. During 2004, Martin Papworth (National Trust Archaeologist for Wessex) also carried out geophysical survey within the park.

(Rob Wilson-North)

Hemington, Upper Row Farm, NGR withheld

Geophysical survey, in conjunction with excavation, has been continuing at Upper Row Farm by Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society. The survey of Homefield (immediately east of the farmhouse) has been completed. The central feature of the field is a building which is currently under excavation. The survey revealed an earlier building extending further east, a wall of which has now been uncovered. Excavation has also shown that strong anomalies to the north are a cobbled roadway, bounded on each side by a drystone wall. The survey also showed other less distinct features that may represent earlier phases of the farm, subsidiary buildings and drainage features.

Three House Field lies to the east of Homefield and forms part of Lower Row Farm. An ancient wall extends along the ridge and c. 40 m further east is a farmstead, comprising a small house with a yard to its west, that backs on to the wall. Surface finds after the last ploughing suggest a Roman date for the building. There also appear to be several other less distinct building sites in the field. Hayside field joins Homefield to the west and survey has revealed trackways and probable building remains here as well.

Badcox is a field opening to the north-west off Hayside and the south end of this field contains a strong boundary, which heads north for c. 20 m before turning east. Immediately to the west of this wall is a large rectangular building with a circular feature 8m in diameter imposed on its otherwise rectangular rooms. The building, of unknown date, lies at the lowest, wettest part of the field, from where water flows both east to join the main stream through Homefield and also west, to join the Wheel Brook further upstream.

The Orchard lies immediately north of the barn, just across the drive from Upper Row farmhouse, and has very recently been replanted. Geophysical survey was carried out prior to the planting and showed a strong boundary line crossing the middle of the orchard, aligned east–west as well as a small building of unknown date just to the north of this boundary. Both boundary and building can be identified as low earthworks in the orchard.

(John Oswin)

Milborne Port, Seven Wells Down, NGR witheld Survey as part of the South Cadbury Environs Project resumed with gradiometry and test pitting over 19ha of five fields on Seven Wells Down. A number of linear magnetic anomalies proved to be geological and finds were restricted to a thin background of worked flint and a very small number of widely spaced Romano-British sherds. Unfortunately access was denied to a field in which a 1947 air photograph shows a rectangular and a circular enclosure. However, the latter was identified on the geological plot from a field on the other side of the road, where permission was obtained. Further work will elucidate the nature of this feature at least.

(Richard Tabor)

Parrett Banks: War Moor, Aller, Coat's Rhyne, North Petherton, and Gillard's, Burrowbridge, ST 373 295, ST 342 323 and ST 357 306

Borehole logs detailing cores cut through the floodbank on the west side of the River Parrett were studied as part of the ongoing archaeological monitoring of the remedial works on the riverbanks. Peat deposits were recorded in cores in all three locations. The deepest core was situated at ST 342 323 where a peat deposit was identified at a depth of c. 20m from the top of the bank (at c. 7m OD). It is possible that these very deep deposits might relate to paleochannels. The project continues during 2005.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Porlock, Hawkcombe Head, SS 845 457

The Exmoor Archaeology Field School, which is run by the University of Bristol and Exmoor National Park Authority, carried out a third season of excavations on the late-Mesolithic site at Hawkcombe Head and Ven Combe in July. Radiocarbon dating of one of the possible hearth sites at Ven Combe and a posthole of a possible structure excavated in 2002 at Hawkcombe Head itself, have confirmed the late-Mesolithic date of the site.

(Rob Wilson-North)

Priddy, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, ST 504 556

During 2004 CHERT carried out a detailed earthwork survey of the field above the Blackmoor Valley to the east of the Charterhouse Centre. The field contains a group of small rakes, each with apparent later mines scattered along them. These rakes have been dated to the Roman period, but some doubt has been cast on this interpretation on geological grounds.^{1,2} The western limit of the field is marked by the ?medieval wall on the edge of the Witham estates at Charterhouse, while, respecting this, a large quarry and limekiln of probable 19th-century date lie below. The western edge of the field is marked by the road constructed by the Mendip Hills Mining Company in the 1840s.³

¹ Todd, M., 1994. Charterhouse on Mendip: an interim report on excavations in 1994, *SANH* 138, 75–9.

² J. Cornwell, pers comm.

³ Detailed survey in CHERT archive.

(Vince Russett)

Quantock Hills AONB, English Heritage Archaeological Survey

The Archaeological Investigation team at the Exeter Office of English Heritage completed the fieldwork phase on an archaeological survey of the Quantock Hills AONB in the spring of 2004. The survey aims to investigate and record the extant archaeology of the Quantock Hills. Fieldwork concentrated on completing the area survey on the southern part of the Quantocks, with work around Aisholt, Merridge and Broomfield. Large scale earthwork surveys of the following sites were undertaken: the later prehistoric enclosures at Higher Castles (Broomfield Camp) and Rooks Castle, and the medieval motte and bailey castle at Nether Stowey. Reports on all of these large scale surveys can be consulted at the National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon, the

Somerset HER or the Somerset Studies Library,
Taunton.

(Hazel Riley and Elaine Jamieson)

Simonsbath, Roman Lode, SS 749 387

At Roman Lode, the 600m long mining trench near Simonsbath, excavations directed by Lee Bray during the third season of the four year Exmoor Iron project examined small pits and spoil heaps beside the openwork. The excavations have revealed that the pits and dumps are part of the complex sequence of mining activity at the site. A radiocarbon date obtained from a burnt patch at the base of the stratigraphic sequence, but still clearly part of the mining operations, dates from the Early Bronze Age.

(Rob Wilson-North)

South Cadbury Environs Project

The project completed all the fieldwork planned for the period of funding by the Leverhulme Trust. A further grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Board has ensured that work will continue until March 2008, following a successful joint application from the Universities of Bristol and Oxford, headed by Dr Gary Lock.

This new funding allows for more excavation to test the results of fieldwork, as well as the expansion of the survey programme. Presentation of the data will also be a special focus, initially through the project's website: www.southcadbury.org.uk

(Richard Tabor)

Yeovil, Brimsmore, ST 534 178

Geophysical investigations carried out by GSB Prospection Ltd covered an area approximately 50ha in size. Rapid magnetic scanning using Geoscan FM instruments was followed by sample blocks of recorded gradiometer survey carried out with Bartington Grad 601-2 instruments.

In general, the area proved to be magnetically quiet though some areas of clear archaeological interest were identified. These comprised numerous rectilinear enclosures and curvilinear features, presumably associated with old field systems. A very distinct, almost square enclosure, measuring approximately 60m across, was also discovered. Elsewhere ridge and furrow cultivation trends were identified. The survey failed to find geophysical evidence for any settlement directly associated with the line of the Roman Road from Ilchester to Dorchester, which bisects the survey area.

(Fiona Robertson)

MULTI-PERIOD

Greinton, Coates Farm, ST 412 363

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology in advance of redevelopment which included the conversion of farm buildings and the creation of a new access road. Previous investigations in this area between 1999 and 2002 had produced evidence of Romano-British and medieval occupation (including a flexed inhumation of 4th-century date).^{1 2 3}

Four trenches were positioned along the route of the proposed access road. Two medieval boundary ditches were located at the north end of the route and the alignments and profiles were similar to those previously recorded to the west of this site. One potential Romano-British ditch was identified in the second trench adjacent to the main dairy buildings. In the third trench (to the south of the farmyard) a sequence of four ditches (including a parallel pair) was recorded. These could not be dated with any confidence as only one small scrap of abraded pottery was found.

¹ Webster, C.J., 1999. 'Somerset Archaeology 1999', *SANH* 143, 167.

² Leach, P., 2000. 'A Roman burial from Greinton', *SANH* 144, 214-18.

³ Webster, C.J., 2002. 'Somerset Archaeology 2002', *SANH* 146, 147.

(J. Best)

Ilchester, New Sports Pavilion, ST 5190 2225

An archaeological watching brief and monitoring operation was carried out when an extension and drains were added to the standing building. Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposits and a medieval (or later) north-south oriented bank was recorded. No archaeological features were disturbed by the works.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

West Monkton, Monkton Heathfield, ST 2590 2660

In September 2004 Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation at Monkton Heathfield on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants. Part of the area had been the subject of a geophysical survey, the results of which informed the eventual layout of the evaluation trenches. A larger evaluation sample was implemented on those areas outside the geophysical survey.

Archaeological evidence in many trenches was limited to ditch features and had been heavily truncated by previous agricultural activity. One ditch in Area 4 (ST 263 268) and one gully in Area 6 (ST 256 261) produced two sherds of Iron Age pottery and one sherd of Roman pottery respectively. The Roman sherd in Area 6 was small and abraded and probably residual but the potential for limited Iron Age activity in Area 4 cannot be excluded. Several ditches of prehistoric date ranging from the middle-Neolithic to the Iron Age were identified within Area 7 (ST 258 259). This suggests the presence of significant prehistoric activity. A possible enclosure and occupation area of Roman date was identified in Area 5 (ST 263 264).

(Mike Simms)

PREHISTORIC

Castle Cary, ST 6300 3275

Wessex Archaeology carried out an evaluation on land to the north-west of Castle Cary in advance of the submission of a planning application for non-residential development. Nine evaluation trenches, 20–30m in length, were excavated. Four were targeted where an earlier evaluation had revealed the presence of Middle Bronze Age remains. Additional trenches were located within the footprint of the proposed development. A large ditch dating to the Middle Bronze Age was identified, from which Deverel-Rimbury pottery was recovered. Other than a modern ditch, no additional archaeological features were revealed.

(David Norcott)

Charlton Horethorne, Sigwells,

In 2003 a trench in the north-west of an 18ha field had targeted a rectangular enclosure overlooking Cadbury Castle. In June 2004 a 20m by 20m area was opened in the south-west corner of the enclosure. Excavation revealed a circular structure set on top of the fills on a west-facing terrace, a north-south 'avenue' of burnt features, and numerous Middle to Late Iron Age pits. There was an abundance of Iron Age pottery and bone. Some of the pits predate the earliest enclosure phase (Middle Iron Age), whilst others had cut the soils of the backfilled ditch, some in turn slighted by the first recutting in the 1st century AD. An abundance of slag, some in deliberate deposits in pits, strongly suggests the presence of metalworking.

(Richard Tabor)

Glastonbury, Old Wells Rd, ST 5120 4038

Wessex Archaeology undertook an evaluation of a pasture field c. 2ha in area on the northern outskirts of Glastonbury, which is the location of the community hospital. Fieldwork recorded a sequence of mineral sediments and interleaved peats at the foot of Glastonbury Tor. Palaeo-environmental assessment and analysis of this sequence was undertaken to place the sedimentary sequence into the local and wider landscape history.

Detailed descriptions of the sediment and palaeo-environmental assessment in combination with four radiocarbon determinations provide evidence for environmental changes. These reflect well-known fluctuations of reed swamp and alder carr in the later Bronze Age, up to Godwin's first flooding phase. This flooding event has been shown to postdate 810–540 cal BC. There was no evidence for human activity on the site.

(David Norcott)

Kingston St Mary, Ivyton farm, ST 207 316

Geophysical surveys and excavations were carried out during 2004 by teams from University College Winchester and Somerset County Council as part of the Southern Quantock Archaeological Survey (SQAS). As with previous investigations the focus was on cropmarks seen in aerial photographs that had been taken in the late 1980s and 1990s. The cropmark evidence from the Ivyton Farm area can be interpreted as a series of discrete sub-rectangular and circular enclosures that appeared on morphological grounds to date from the later prehistoric to Romano-British periods. In April 2004 magnetometer surveys were carried out in two fields (termed 'north' and 'south' fields here) containing the densest concentration of cropmarks. These surveys clarified the location and morphology of the ditches that comprise the cropmarks, but also revealed new archaeological features. Collectively the aerial photographs and magnetometer plots show that a heavily truncated sub-circular enclosure lies in the northern part of the north field, partially removed by a sunken lane. In the south field the situation is more complex; a sub-rectangular enclosure measuring c. 30 x 25m produced a very strong geophysical anomaly, while a number of circular features measuring c. 15m in diameter were found across an east to west swathe of the survey. Between the rectangular and circular enclosures was an amorphous sub-circular enclosure.

In June and July excavations were carried out of a selection of the enclosures previously revealed, in

order to determine their date, purpose and survival. In the north field the Somerset County Council Community Project excavated a single trench spanning the sub-circular enclosure. This revealed that the enclosure ditch was V-shaped and *c.* 1m deep. However, deep plough furrows cutting into the Morte Slate bedrock were noted across the whole trench and will have produced a significant truncation (and, indeed, complete removal) of features on the site. Nevertheless artefacts, including ceramics and a bronze sickle blade with parallels dating to *c.* 1400 BC, collected from the ditch sediments enable the enclosure to be dated to the Middle Bronze Age.

Three trenches were excavated in the south field by students from University College, Winchester. Trench 1 was placed over the sub-rectangular enclosure and one of the circular enclosures. The latter proved to be the highly truncated remnants of a Bronze Age round barrow as evidenced by pottery of this date in the ditch fills. The ditches survived to a depth of 0.4m, while four 0.3m deep postholes were found on the interior. Any burial would have been eroded by ploughing. As suspected the sub-rectangular enclosure was of Romano-British date and was demarcated by a 1.6m deep ditch which had been truncated by a recent field boundary. Both Romano-British and Late Iron Age pottery were found in the ditch fills. Only a very small area within the interior of the enclosure was examined, but a number of postholes and a single clay-lined pit were found. These suggest that the enclosure originally functioned as a small settlement.

Trench 2 was positioned to investigate the amorphous sub-circular enclosure together with an adjacent rectangular enclosure. However, upon excavation the first of these proved to be octagonal in plan with a diameter of *c.* 30m. A single causeway on the south-eastern side provided an entrance into the enclosure. Approximately 60% of the ditch fills were excavated leading to the recovery of relatively large quantities of Late Iron Age pottery including two almost complete Glastonbury Ware vessels that had been placed at the base of the eastern ditch. These were sealed below a layer of burnt clay which had been placed to seal the pots in place. The deposition of the two pots can be interpreted as part of ritual activity, possibly at the founding of the site. As with other prehistoric features at Ivyton Farm the interior of the octagonal enclosure had been heavily truncated by ploughing and only a few postholes and a single 2m diameter tree bole were found. The ditch

appeared to deviate around the tree bole suggesting that the tree was standing when the enclosure was set out. If this interpretation is accepted it is possible that the tree had a symbolic and/or a practical relevance to the builders of the enclosure. Given that so few archaeological features survive within the octagonal enclosure it is not fully clear what its original function was. However, it is of a size that would have accommodated a single roundhouse. Another enclosure of similar size and age to the octagonal enclosure at Ivyton Farm was investigated by SQAS at Toulton, Kingston St Mary in 2000. This contained postholes, a central hearth and a drip gully that clearly indicated a roundhouse had been placed in the interior. This would support interpretation of the octagonal enclosure as a settlement. The rectangular enclosure in Trench 2 cut the octagonal enclosure and its ditch fills contained Romano-British ceramics and discrete patches of burning. Various archaeological features were found in its interior, at least one of which was a furnace or an oven. However, as once again the interior area had been heavily truncated by ploughing, it is difficult to be certain of these interpretations.

The same rectangular enclosure extended into Trench 3 where it cut across the ditches of another circular feature with the same morphology as that described in Trench 1, presumably another Bronze Age barrow (geophysics revealed a further two examples outside the excavated areas), although no ceramics were recovered from the ditch to confirm this. In Trench 3 the rectangular enclosure was associated with a number of *c.* 0.3m diameter postholes, while a single pit *c.* 1.5m in diameter lay just outside its south-western corner. This contained considerable quantities of Romano-British pottery and slag. These finds together with the possible furnace in the interior suggest that this enclosure was constructed to house iron production facilities. Similar metal production structures were found by SQAS during excavations in 2002 at the nearby site of Volis Hill, Kingston St Mary. It is quite possible that the rectangular enclosure found in Trenches 2/3 was contemporary with that investigated in Trench 1, but confirmation will have to await the detailed study of the finds.

(Simon Roffey, Keith Wilkinson, and Chris Webster)

Priddy, Blackdown, ST 4841 5740

A section of a flint sickle of Bronze Age date was recovered in two pieces from soil disturbances in this area by Les Davies in 2004¹.

¹ Flint with the CHERT archive.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Chancellor's Farm, Rowbarrows, ST 522 523

The three barrows in this small cemetery were surveyed in detail by CHERT during 2004. The structures of the barrows were recorded, along with a number of low-relief features of unknown origin, which lie between them. The badger damage to the easternmost barrow has become critical, although extensive searching of the spoil they have ejected from the mound has not produced a single artefact so far. At least one of the badger diggings has a suspiciously regular straight side, which may be the remains of a previously unrecorded antiquarian intervention. It is intended to carry out a geophysical survey of the cemetery and its immediate surroundings in 2005. While the centre barrow of the three, lying under the field wall forming the boundary of Chancellors Farm, is today the mound known as Rowbarrow, the 1809 map of East Harptree Mining Liberty applies this name to the western of the three mounds¹.

¹ SRO DD/WG East Harptree Royalty 1809.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges Pickbarrow, c.ST 532 535

The existence of a 'Pickbarrow' field name in this area has been taken to indicate the former existence of a prehistoric round barrow in the vicinity¹. Confirmation of the place-name and its location is given by the place-name 'Picbarrow End' on the 1809 East Harptree Liberty Map², and mention of a mining dispute at Pickbarrow End in 1688³. Despite long searching on the ground, no evidence for this barrow could be found, and it seems likely to have been removed, either during mining, or during the recovery of land from such.

¹ Grinsell, L.V., 1971. 'Somerset Barrows, part 2', *SANH* 115, 123.

² SRO DD/WG East Harptree Royalty 1809.

³ SRO DD/WG East Harptree Mining Liberty Book (1688).

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges, Stowbarrow, ST 5206 5353
CHERT carried out a detailed earthwork survey of the large round barrow at this NGR during January and February 2004. The survey clearly showed that at least part of the bulk of the barrow is derived from

its position on a local high point in the landscape, and identified much of the disturbance to the mound, relating to former iron mining (medieval to 19th century). There was also a possible antiquarian excavation close to the summit of the barrow and minor damage due to construction of temporary bivouacs during the 20th century in the former mining hollows.

(Vince Russett)

Shepton Mallet, Gore End Farm, ST 626 425

An excavation was mounted on the site of a suspected prehistoric enclosure to the south of Shepton Mallet, within the area of the Field Farm residential development. The site had been identified and evaluated previously through geophysical survey and trial trenching in 2002.¹

The 'enclosure' was revealed as an arrangement of three structural phases (*Figure*). The earliest comprised a shallow ditch segment containing Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery (F21) and possibly an adjacent pit (F6) much disturbed by later cuts. In the Middle Iron Age the pit was extended by almost 10m to the south-west and the articulated limbs of a cow were buried at the north end of the new ditch segment. This was separated by a narrow causeway from a much longer south-western continuation of the ditch as F22/F8. A complete, articulated burial of a cow was placed within the northern terminal of F22 during an episode of deliberate infill with stone rubble – probably that derived originally from its excavation. Only occasional sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from the excavated fills of these ditches.

In the third phase, following deliberate infill of the ditch F8/F22, two new large, rock-cut ditch segments were made, F5/F23 to the south and F30 to the west, while the ditch F6 was recut more deeply at its north end (F7) and possibly by a shallower gully (F20) along its axis. A currently undated human burial lay at the north end of F20. A deeply cut pit (F26) was located beyond the north-east terminal of the ditch F30, and a group of smaller features lay within the arc of the ditches F5/F23 and F30. These ditches were separated by a 3m wide causeway and flanked internally by two postholes (F33 and F34), where traces of cobbling and wear on the exposed bedrock were also visible. Many of the smaller rock-cut features to the east appeared to be postholes, one containing an almost complete clay loomweight, but their arrangement suggests no very coherent structure. Moderate quantities of Middle Iron Age pottery and some animal bone were recovered from

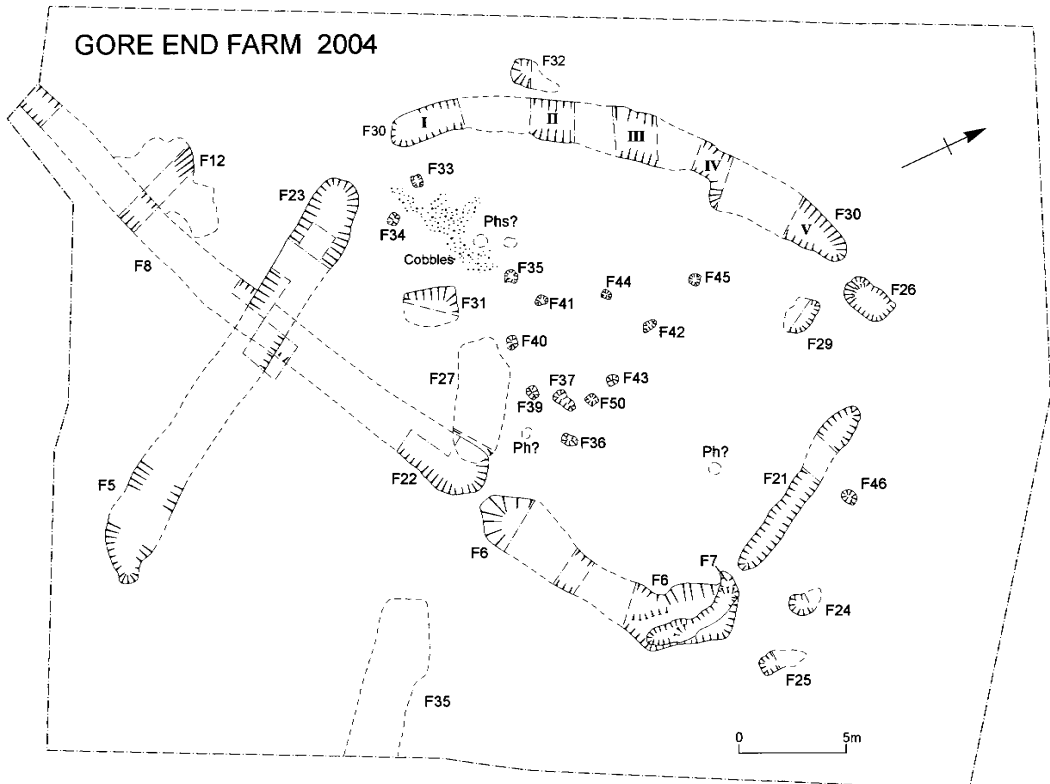


Figure Shepton Mallet, Gore End Farm: Middle/Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age enclosure

the fills of ditch F30, with concentrations of burnt stone towards the southern terminal. Burnt stone, ash and charcoal was more concentrated in the north-west terminal of F23, accompanied by a substantial deposit of broken pottery vessels – mainly bowl and jar forms. Within the recut ditch segment F7 to the north-east were the articulated hindquarters of a cow and a Mendip sandstone rotary quern segment.

The precise function of this site is at present unclear, although some elements of ritual are evident. Its later phases may be contemporary and perhaps associated with the nearby Middle Iron Age farmstead at Cannards Grave.² A subsequent watching brief maintained during construction of an estate road across the site contributed little additional information. Analysis of the data recovered as part of a funded post-excavation and publication programme will hope to refine the dating and interpretation of this site.

¹ Webster, C.J., 2002. 'Somerset Archaeology 2002', *SANH* 146, 141.

² Birbeck, V., 2002. 'Excavations on Iron Age and Romano-British settlements at Cannards Grave, Shepton Mallet', *SANH* 144, 41–116.

(Peter Leach)

Shepton Mallet, Field Farm, ST 626 425

An excavation was centred upon part of the Field Farm residential development site, where the geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation of 2002 had identified a group of suspected prehistoric rock-cut pits. One of those trenched in 2002 was relocated and three further pits examined. All contained occasional fragments of animal bone, scattered flint flakes and sherds of prehistoric pottery. The largest, a sub-rectangular cut over 6m across and almost 1m deep, contained some later Bronze Age pottery. Two pits contained banded deposits of soil alternating with sterile clay and stone brash, evidently representing deliberate infill. One of these was over 10m long, while a smaller pit contained some carbonised hazelnut shells. Occasional weathered pottery sherds from both appear to be of

Later Neolithic type. Archaeological monitoring continues as the development proceeds.

(Peter Leach)

South Cadbury, Homeground, NGR withheld

In September 2004 the South Cadbury Environs Project opened two trenches measuring 6 x 4m and 2 x 2m in the north-east area of a narrow field below Cadbury Castle, where geophysical survey had revealed rectangular enclosures aligned along Folly Lane. The larger trench uncovered the floor and abandonment level in the north-west part of a Late Iron Age (probably 1st century AD) roundhouse, built over the fill of an earlier, probably Iron Age, ditch. At least one of two ditch terminals in the smaller trench were probably contemporary with it.

(Richard Tabor)

Stoke St Michael, Moon's Hill Quarry, ST 667 457

A continuation of the watching brief during soil stripping for a quarry extension to the south-east of the present works recovered over 20 flint flakes and flint tools from the subsoil. No medieval or earlier pottery was found. The watching brief will continue in 2005.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wanstrow, Torr Works Quarry, ST 705 443

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during soil stripping for an extension to the quarry recovered a large number of struck flint flakes and tools including a complete flint hand axe. A small prehistoric pit was also recorded and excavated and contained a few pottery sherds, possibly of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. A field boundary ditch was investigated and pottery sherds at the base of the fill were dateable to the 17th century.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

West Huntspill, Alstone Lake Settlement, ST 3129 4679

An archaeological evaluation at Alstone Lake Settlement (Scheduled Monument No. 10504), Alstone, West Huntspill, was undertaken by AC Archaeology during January and February 2004. The site covers an area of c. 1.3 hectares and lies at the northern edge of a burtle island.

The work comprised the machine excavation of 13 trenches totalling 230m in length. The evaluation confirmed the presence of extensive archaeological activity across the site, with three broad phases identified. The earliest phase (Late Iron Age) comprised a large number of features and artefacts

indicating *in situ* settlement. Based on the artefact evidence, settlement of this date at Alstone seems to be centred on the 3rd to 1st centuries BC.

The next phase of activity on the site was during the medieval period, when a series of linear features is likely to represent evidence for field and enclosure boundary or drainage ditches. In one trench a possible oven structure and a number of pits of this date were also identified. Evidence from the deposit sequence in many trenches suggest that at this time an area of slightly higher ground in the central portion of the site was deliberately raised by importing soil.

During the post-medieval period (Phase 3) a number of the medieval linear features went out of use and new boundaries or drains were established. A large area of deliberate infilling was identified in Trench 6, where significant quantities of early post-medieval pottery were recovered.

(Stephen Robinson and John Valentin)

Withypool, Landacre Bridge, SS 816 361

During 2004 a shaped stone, initially identified as a possible saddle quern, was found north of Landacre Bridge. The stone, which is 750mm long and 300mm wide, has now been identified as a trough quern by Sue Watts of Exeter University.

Trough querns have a westerly distribution and are more commonly found in Cornwall. They are usually attributed to the Bronze Age and were used principally for grinding grain. This may be the first example of a trough quern found in Somerset.

(Rob Wilson-North)

Worle, St George's, ST 3724 6273

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology that identified two sections of a possible prehistoric or Roman ditch running across the north-eastern part of the site. Environmental samples taken from the ditch contained the remains of waterlogged seeds, wood, fruit stones, mollusca, fish and insects. These indicated that the ditch contained still or slow moving freshwater, and that the surrounding land was under marsh with areas of disturbed ground and woodland. The abundant fruit stones from the final fill of the ditch may be indicative of human occupation nearby. The infilled ditch was sealed by an alluvial deposit that formed a stable flood-plain upon which a burnt clay feature was uncovered. This may relate to features associated with Iron Age and Roman salt workings found to the north-west.

Other features included a V-shaped ditch cutting the prehistoric/Roman ditch and depressions in the overlying alluvial sequence, suggestive of earlier cut features below. These features possibly relate to drainage and reclamation of the saltmarsh.

(K. Cullen)

ROMAN

Battleborough, Bristol Road, ST 3426 4998

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological evaluation at Sanders Garden Centre, to the south-east of Brent Knoll. Five 30m trenches were excavated revealing a sequence of alluvial clay deposits over 2m in depth. In one of the trenches at a depth of 1.5m below the surface a thin black, peaty-clay layer was revealed in a sondage. Pollen samples from this layer indicate a prehistoric reedswamp environment. No evidence for anthropogenic activity was present in the clay immediately above or below this layer.

In all of the trenches, approximately 1m below the surface a buried soil horizon of the Romano-British period up to 350mm thick was present at an average height of 4.6m OD. The soil horizon, lay between deposits of archaeologically sterile alluvial clay, indicating that an efficient system of land reclamation and drainage must have been in operation. This soil horizon has also been recorded at a similar depth on other archaeological sites and observations in the area between the rivers Axe and Brue, notably in the work of Samuel Nash and represents positive evidence for land reclamation of the low-lying area around the 'island' of Brent Knoll during this period. The site lies close to the possible villa at Lakehouse farm and the soil horizon revealed in the evaluation may be evidence for the spreading of domestic waste on the surrounding fields. No artefacts were present in the post Romano-British alluvial clay suggesting that the failure of Roman drainage systems led to a reversion to seasonally inundated meadows.

(Andy King)

Hemington, Blacklands, NGR withheld

Excavation and geophysical survey continued on Blacklands Field to the north of Upper Row Farm. This work formed part of Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society's current project looking at the landscape of the farm. Geophysical survey, using both resistance and magnetic equipment, was carried out during the training excavation covering most of

the field. The magnetic survey was most successful as the majority of the features appeared to be ditches. The survey showed intensive activity on the southern side of the field, possibly extending beyond the boundary. The survey indicated the possibility of multi-phase activity, probably dating to before the Roman conquest (*Figure*). The resistance survey suggested a possible gatehouse building and other stone-built structures.

The gatehouse became the focus of excavation in 2004. A new area was opened at the entrance of the enclosure which surrounded the building excavated in previous years. A trench was also extended to the south of the well next to the building to investigate the dating sequence of the ditches of the enclosure. The dating evidence obtained from the deep deposits found in the ditches suggests that the enclosure was in use at the beginning of the Roman period and probably had three main phases. The earliest enclosure was much smaller and square with a track entrance from the west – this was probably dug in the later Iron Age. This was then extended east, possibly to accommodate the excavated building and then south. The suggestion from the excavations of both the ditches and gateway buildings was that the building was constructed possibly as early as the late 1st century AD but certainly no later than the early 2nd century AD. This has been the most significant finding for this season as it makes the site one of the earliest Romanised buildings in this area of Somerset, perhaps suggesting a proto-villa that never reached the potential exhibited by other villas in the area.

The new area around the gated entrance was not fully excavated, but dating evidence from selected ditch sections suggested an early date for the buildings. The ditches in this area were much richer in finds than in other areas investigated. The pottery recovered from the ditch to the north of the entrance was well preserved and many vessels could be reconstructed. None of the pottery appeared to be later than the 2nd century AD, although these dates are awaiting confirmation. Survey work done on the area located large postholes cutting the buildings.

(Jayne Lawes)

Ilchester, 4 Lyster Close, ST 5229 2248

A small archaeological evaluation, comprising two 1m x 1m test pits, was undertaken in determination of proposals to construct a two storey extension to an existing property. The evaluation demonstrated that the site was underlain by undisturbed, stratified

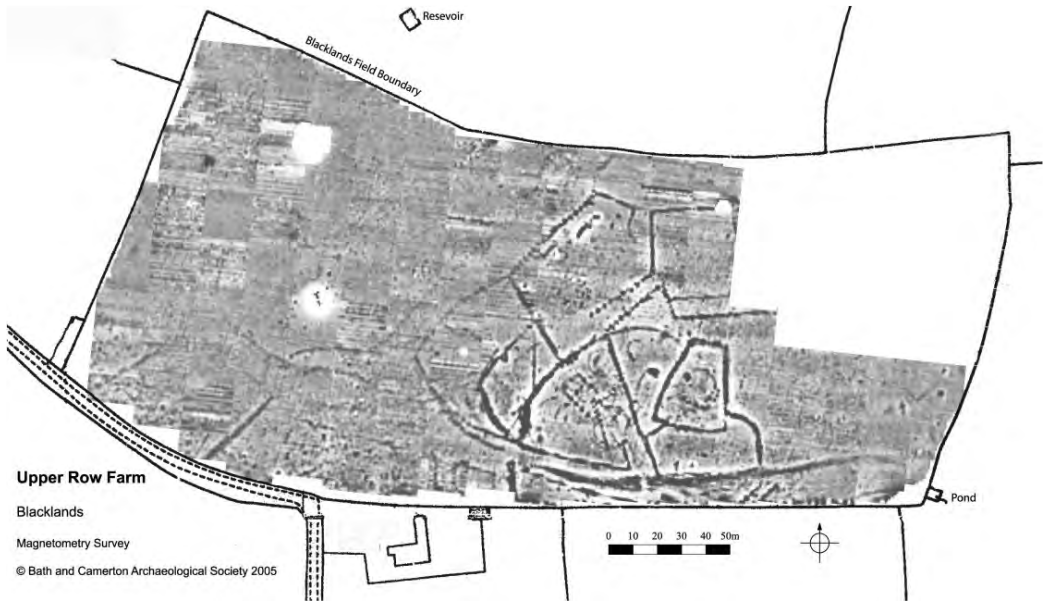


Figure Hemington, Blacklands. Magnetometer survey at Upper Row Farm. The villa building lies just outside the survey area in the square enclosure at top right with the gatehouse where the trackway joins the enclosure on the west side

Romano-British deposits at a depth of only 0.5m. It was also proved that the remains of a building of this period extends beneath the present property.

(R. Broomhead)

Ilchester, Fosse Way, ST 5175 2225

A narrow trench for a cable was observed adjacent to the north-west edge of the Fosse Way c. 500m south of the gateway into the Roman town. A scatter of stone, including burnt Ham Hill stone was present between the topsoil and the underlying clay, but nothing of a definite structural nature was identified, although the material could easily be debris from a Romano-British building.

(Alan Graham)

Nyland, Rookery Farm, ST 4619 5056

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of foundations for a new agricultural building at Rookery Farm, Nyland, near Cheddar. No archaeological features were observed with the exception of a diminishing spread of grey/brown clays containing fragmentary Romano-British pottery. The recorded evidence suggests the site lies at the limits of previously recorded Romano-British settlement at the adjacent Court Farm.

(R. Broomhead)

Pawlett, New Compost Site, Walpole Landfill Site, ST 3125 4250

An archaeological trench was opened up in the vicinity of the new compost site at Walpole to study the upper clay deposits and extract environmental samples. The recording of the upper clay deposits included the recognition of a buried soil or land surface at c. 4.65m OD, 1m below the present ground surface and sealed by up to 0.5m of alluvial clay. Both the level of the buried soil and the alluvial sequence are similar to those recorded elsewhere in the area. A bovine molar was recovered from alluvial clay deposits c. 0.20m below the buried soil and was radiocarbon dated to the Middle Iron Age date, supporting the assumption that the buried soil began to form during the later Iron Age.

A geo-archaeological assessment by Terra Nova Ltd indicated that the buried soil formed within pasture land and suffered periodic inundations. This might imply that sea defences were not particularly effective and were less substantial than those further to the north around Burnham-on-Sea. It is possible that sea defences in the Pawlett area consisted of 'summer dykes' which prevent summer flooding but do not provide year round protection. Work will continue in 2005.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Priddy, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, ST 502 561

The edges of the Roman settlement at Charterhouse have now been defined by CHERT, and work continued during 2004 to survey the earthworks stretching outside the two fields where the settlement traditionally lies. The settlement is now defined by a series of earthworks, soilmarks and artefact scatters recorded during ploughing in former years, extending over some 750m x 360m. Only some 60% of this area is currently scheduled.

As well as recording the known conduit lines in Cowleaze below the Roman settlement, opportunity was taken during 2004 to survey the line of a series of small collapses into the conduits in the field called Mays Green to the north of Charterhouse crossroads. A straight conduit line crosses the field from its eastern corner at ST 5026 5599, to the known beginning of the conduits surviving as earthworks in Cowleaze at ST 5013 5591. In addition, a second conduit joins the first from the north at approximately ST 5018 5596. Just beyond the northern end of the first line, a circular earthwork some 35m across lies beside the road. This held water in November 2004, and may be connected in some way with the Roman water system at Charterhouse.

(Vince Russett)

Shepton Mallet, Fosse Lane, Focus site, ST 629 429
Excavations in advance of retail development within the bounds of the Romano-British small town at Fosse Lane, Shepton Mallet,¹ examined an area covering c. 6000m² along the west side the Fosse Way Roman road (*Figure*).

Work was focused upon an area approximately 100m by 25m (Zone 1), where the greatest concentration of settlement remains had survived along the eastern edge of the development site. To the west, where a sparser survival of remains was demonstrated (Zone 2), an area up to 50m wide was recorded by the combination of selective excavation and subsequent watching brief recording. A high proportion of the remains, particularly in Zone 1, have been preserved and protected through the application of mitigating design solutions in the new development.

This part of the Roman settlement appears to have developed as a series of irregular, rectangular, ditched plots fronting onto the Fosse Way from the later 1st century. The western edge of the Fosse Way road itself was found and a series of cobbled road surfaces identified, the earliest incorporating stone from Beacon Hill on Mendip and sealing a prehistoric land surface containing Late Bronze Age

ceramics. No side ditch was found and there was no other direct evidence to date the road here.

Two complete plots were examined, focused upon the remains of successive stone buildings located in their north-east corners (Plots B and C). A third building in an equivalent position to the south and boundary ditches in Zone 2, defines part of a third – Plot D. To the north a fourth, Plot A, is implied, but little evidence of its interior survived. The best preserved building, Structure 2, showed at least three phases of rebuilding based upon a rectangular plan with rounded external corners, up to 17m long by 7m wide and with internal subdivisions. Structure 1 was of similar character though less well preserved, while only a partial plan of the latest phase of Structure 3 was exposed. These buildings probably originated in the 2nd century and their modified successors were still in occupation during the 4th.

Evidence of small-scale industrial activity, both from within the buildings and the adjacent plots to the south, suggests local manufacturing and processing and the likelihood that these buildings functioned as combined shop, workshop and residential premises alongside the main road through the settlement. Excavation was focused upon Structures 1 and 2, both of which were to be most affected by new foundations. The plots immediately south of each building were characterised by extensive spreads of stone rubble, within which were cobbled or paved areas and hints of slighter structures and boundaries. Almost all of this zone was destined for preservation and thus little further investigation was possible beyond a detailed record of the exposed surfaces.

In their latest phase all three buildings had evidently been demolished, to be replaced by more ephemeral structures represented by floor surfaces, rubble spreads and traces of timber-built features – postholes and beam slots. Among these remains were several stone-built hearths or ovens, stones from which were submitted for archaeomagnetic dating (Samples A–D on plan). In three instances, spread widely across the site, early 6th-century dates were obtained, indicating that some of the latest structures and activity are attributable to early post-Roman occupation.

Evidence of activity within the western half of the plots (Zone 2) behind the most intensively occupied road frontage zone was relatively sparse, beyond the boundary ditches themselves. One exception was the presence of inhumation burials, most of which were recovered during the watching brief. The bulk of these were associated with Plot C, most particularly

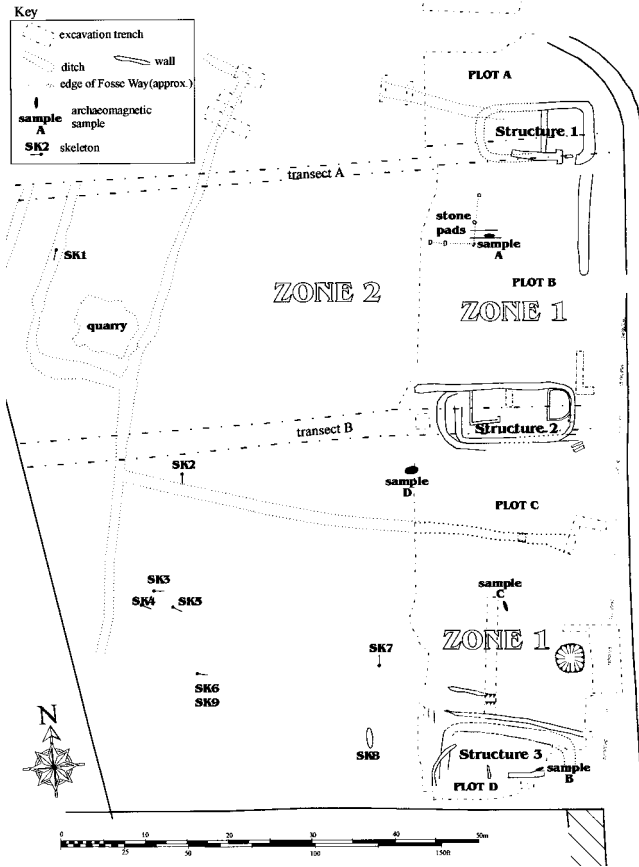


Figure Shepton Mallet, Fosse Lane. Focus site

in its south-west corner, while their positions and orientation suggest that the plot boundaries influenced burial layout. Dating for the burials was sparse, but their character suggests the 4th century and later. Both east-west and north-south orientations were found, one prone burial, one on its side, and an unusual double grave – a formal ‘hobnail’ burial containing disarticulated remains of a second within the grave backfill (SK6/SK9).

These excavations have provided one of the most complete spatial and chronological sequences from within the Fosse Lane Roman settlement, as well as information from the previously little known west side of the Fosse Way. Despite constraints to excavation imposed by requirements to maximise the preservation of remains in situ, a sequence from the presumed mid 1st-century construction of the Fosse Way through to the formal end of the Roman period and well beyond it has been obtained. The dating evidence for activity and presumably

occupation on the site through the 5th and into the 6th century is especially notable. Its significance is enhanced by previous radiocarbon evidence for early post-Roman burial in the settlement and may be further supplemented by dating of these latest burials.

¹ Leach, P., 2001. *Fosse Lane Shepton Mallet 1990. Excavation of a Romano-British Roadside Settlement in Somerset*, Britannia Monograph no. 18.

(Peter Leach)

Shepton Mallet, Mendip Avenue, ST 630 428

An area of almost 4000m² was examined through a combination of excavation and monitoring in advance of development for Delacampe Ltd within the bounds of the Fosse Lane Romano-British settlement.¹ Following extensive surface cleaning and recording within the development area, further sample excavation was focused upon areas proposed for building foundations, services and some terracing of the site along its southern and western margins.

Within the exposed area the principal evidence uncovered belonged to a series of boundary walls and ditches defining parts of several plots or enclosures relating to the Roman settlement. Parts of at least four plots were recognised and sequences of the development of their boundaries were explored through sample excavation. This demonstrated a variety of definition and some plot changes, through ditch cuts and recuts, clay banks and drystone boundary walls, from at least the early 2nd century through to at least the 4th century. An earlier mid 1st-century boundary ditch was also found and some residual Iron Age and/or Late Bronze pottery was recovered. Periodic episodes of colluvial deposition were detected throughout the occupation of this site, and its poor drainage was reflected subsequently by a network of post-medieval, stone-lined land drains.

Evidence of activity from within the plots was relatively sparse – occasional hearths or ovens, pits, drains and some paths or paved areas. Most of these

could be preserved on the site and were thus not excavated further. A small group of inhumation burials and one or two cremations were also encountered, all of which were excavated. Most of the inhumations were poorly preserved but appear to be of the 4th century or later, and were located with reference to the most prominent and longest surviving north–south boundary at the southern end of the site.

Along the western margin of the site extensive spreads of stone rubble survived intermittently in a zone up to 10m wide in places and continuing westwards beyond the site boundary. No stone buildings were seen, but outlines of more ephemeral structures, floor or yard foundations, drains, boundary walls and building demolition rubble associated with higher concentrations of portable finds material, was recognised. This appears to represent the rear part of an occupation zone that may extend at least as far again westwards to the eastern margin of the Fosse Way.

The Mendip Avenue site lies almost opposite the Focus development (*see above*), on the eastern side of the Fosse. Although less extensively explored, the character of its remains seems to duplicate the pattern detected over to the west; a zone of most intensive occupation and activity divided up into plots facing onto the Fosse Way, with more open plots to the rear, whose boundaries are frequently redefined over time. Late and possibly early post-Roman burials occur sparsely within the plots, usually close to their boundaries. However, discoveries made elsewhere in the eastern half of the Roman settlement demonstrate that buildings and occupation extended much further east from the Fosse Way, with a greater complexity of layout.

¹ Leach, P., 2001. *Fosse Lane Shepton Mallet 1990. Excavation of a Romano-British Roadside Settlement in Somerset*, Britannia Monograph no. 18.

(Peter Leach, C. and N. Hollinrake)

Lullington, Springfield, Peart Woods, NGR withheld Geophysical survey, by Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society, of a villa site and environs continued until early March 2004. The survey was done both with twin–probe resistivity (*Figure*) and magnetometry. The survey covered much of the two arable fields Springfield and Top Springfield, but also included a small triangular meadow, Falconer’s Field, adjacent to these and immediately next to the main road. The hedgebank between Falconer’s Field and Springfield was the route of a holloway from

Woolverton to Norton St Philip, and this merged with the holloway from Lullington to Norton St Philip.

The main range of the villa continued east from Springfield into Falconer’s Field but the holloway from Woolverton crossed the site so there could have been no visible remains of the villa when this route was made. The villa had an east wing, which was clipped by the main road. This was a turnpike dating from the 1750s and Falconer’s Field had evidently been a small triangle of land left between the original route and the later turnpike.

A building, probably a bath-house, was evident just to the south-west of the villa. It was fed by a spring and had drains leading from it. There was evidence, albeit indistinct, of another building, which may have been Roman or medieval, far to the west near Peart Woods. Outlines of the fields were also observed. These were aligned north to south, but not on the same alignment as the villa, so they may be earlier. Regular buildings and enclosures were observed just west of the bath-house and the side ditches of a road cut through them. If these regular features are Roman in date, the road along the boundary between Springfield and Top Springfield must be later, and so cannot be the course of the Poole–Bath Roman Road as previously believed.

In April 2004, four small evaluation trenches were located to test the geophysics and to assess how much damage had been done by modern ploughing. Trench A was located at the centre of the villa over what may have been the main entrance hall. The trench uncovered the main south wall of the central building range although survival was not good. The corridor had been paved with a tessellated floor whose mortar bedding was found but all the tesserae had been ploughed away. To the north of the main building wall, which was over 1m wide, there were signs of severe robbing, with a very black earth deposit within the room. This layer was over 0.5m thick and wall footings were found beneath, suggesting comprehensive and deliberate destruction. All the finds within the black earth were Roman and included painted plaster and tesserae. Trench B was located within the corridor. Again no tesserae were found *in situ* but the bedding was detected. Many small tesserae were found within the make-up for this floor, suggesting building materials were being reused from previous structures. Trench C was located in the north-west corner of the building where the resistance survey had produced a very high response and it located a channel hypocaust. The floor had been removed and the channels filled with painted plaster and building debris. Again this may

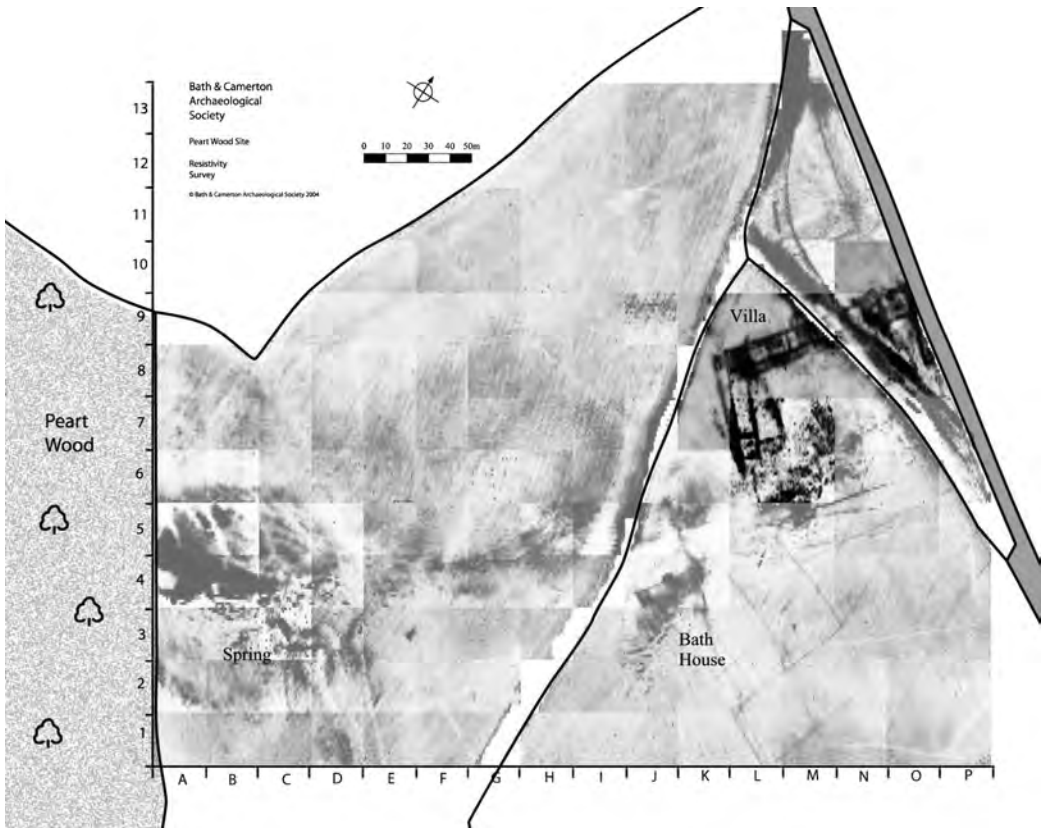


Figure Springfield, Peart Woods. Resistivity survey

suggest deliberate demolition. Many of the fragments were decorated with both geometric and natural designs, providing evidence of a very ornately decorated room. In this trench many very small tesserae (5mm squares) were recovered in white, grey, and red suggesting a high-quality mosaic. A flange bowl of 4th-century date with grafitto scratched on the side was recovered from the hypocaust. Trench D was located over the possible apsidal room to the north of the entrance. No evidence of a mosaic floor was found but almost 0.4m below the surface a finely laid limestone pavement was uncovered. There was no evidence of any previous floor and the very few finds that were recovered from the dark soil that had built up on the pavement were all of Roman date.

The overriding conclusion from the evaluation was that this villa had been deliberately demolished. The filling of the hypocaust probably occurred when the floor was removed and the walls stripped of plaster to obtain the stone. The robbing of one of the main

walls of the central room seemed to confirm this destruction. It seems unlikely that much of the grand embellishments that are hinted at within these trenches will have survived.

(Jayne Lawes and John Oswin)

Worle, Lypstone Farm, ST 3615 6161

Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation at Lypstone Farm, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, on behalf of CgMs Consulting which revealed evidence for three postholes and a ditch, all of which may be Roman in date. The evaluation also recovered evidence for a 19th-century house platform. With the exception of the latter none of the archaeological features were securely dated.

(Andrew Holmes)

Worle, St George's, ST 3738 6307

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during which undated but probably late prehistoric or Early Roman deposits

and ditches were identified, with possible evidence for peat cutting in the vicinity of the site. The paucity of artefacts from these early contexts may support their interpretation as features of an Early Roman industrial landscape, perhaps channelling salt water to salt-making areas. Later ditches incorporating an increased proportion of domestic waste suggest that settlement was established in the vicinity of the site by the 3rd/4th century AD, supporting a view that reclamation of the marsh took place around the 3rd century AD.¹ Later alluvial deposits identified probably relate to the abandonment of the Roman drainage systems and subsequent flooding, resulting in the deposition of thick alluvial deposits until the later medieval or post-medieval period when they were cut by features of this date.

¹ Rippon, S., 2000. 'The Romano-British exploitation of coastal wetlands: survey and excavation on the North Somerset Levels, 1993–7', *Britannia* 31, 69–200.

(K. Cullen)

Worle, St George's, ST 3724 6273
See under Prehistoric.

Yeovil, Preston Grove, ST 5430 1627

A watching brief was carried out by Cotswold Archaeology during the replacement of a gas main, revealing a wall of unknown date in an area of known Roman activity.

(David Cudlip)

MEDIEVAL

Ash Priors, Orchard End, ST 152 295

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Prospect Archaeology in May 2004 during groundworks for an extension to the north and south of the property. The northern area revealed a buried soil horizon that contained pottery of exclusively 12th or 13th-century date, probably representing a previous agricultural soil. The southern area was found to have been heavily disturbed by modern drainage and other activity related to the existing building. However, a possible stone surface was observed in section lying immediately above the geological subsoil, the date of which remains uncertain but the stratigraphic location of which suggests that it may be medieval.

(James Brigers)

Crewkerne, 25–27 South Street, ST 4425 0960

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology comprising three trenches to the rear of the property. No medieval structures were recorded but a possible tenement boundary ditch was located. This had been infilled by the second half of the 13th century. Over most of the site a medieval soil horizon appears to have accumulated to a depth of up to 0.5m. This developed from the late 12th through to the later 13th century and is most likely to have originated from a build-up of domestic refuse mixing with the contemporary garden soil. However, the high proportion of chert-tempered coarsewares of 11th or 12th-century date, although residual in this context, suggests some occupation of the site from at least that period. A striking feature of the pottery assemblage was the complete lack of 14th to 15th-century wares, perhaps reflecting a phase of contraction or decline in the town's economic fortunes.

(P.J. Weddell)

Curry Rivel, St Andrew's Church, ST 3920 2545

Work installing a new boiler house in the north part of the graveyard involved trenching and the opening up of the blocked north door of the church's north aisle. In the graveyard, parts of probably medieval burials were revealed between the formal rows of 19th-century burials whose monuments still stand. The opening up of the doorway, which had been blocked in the later 19th century, revealed that the large slab of blue lias limestone which formed its internal cill was in fact a grave slab with the incised, life sized image of a priest in full mass vestments, holding a chalice (*Figure*). Though the slab was broken across into three pieces, the incised image was very well preserved except for damage in the middle, and great pains were taken by the builders to remove it intact as the threshold of the doorway was to be lowered for wheel chair access.

The slab was examined by Brian and Moira Gittos who comment that the slab is likely to date to the later 13th century. It had evidently been built into the doorway when the north aisle was constructed in the later 14th or early 15th century. Its original location is unknown though it may have been removed from the area of the graveyard that was to lie beneath the north aisle. The slab has now been relaid in the floor of the chapel to the east of the aisle, where it is visible to visitors. A full report is in preparation for publication in these *Proceedings*.

(Alan Graham)

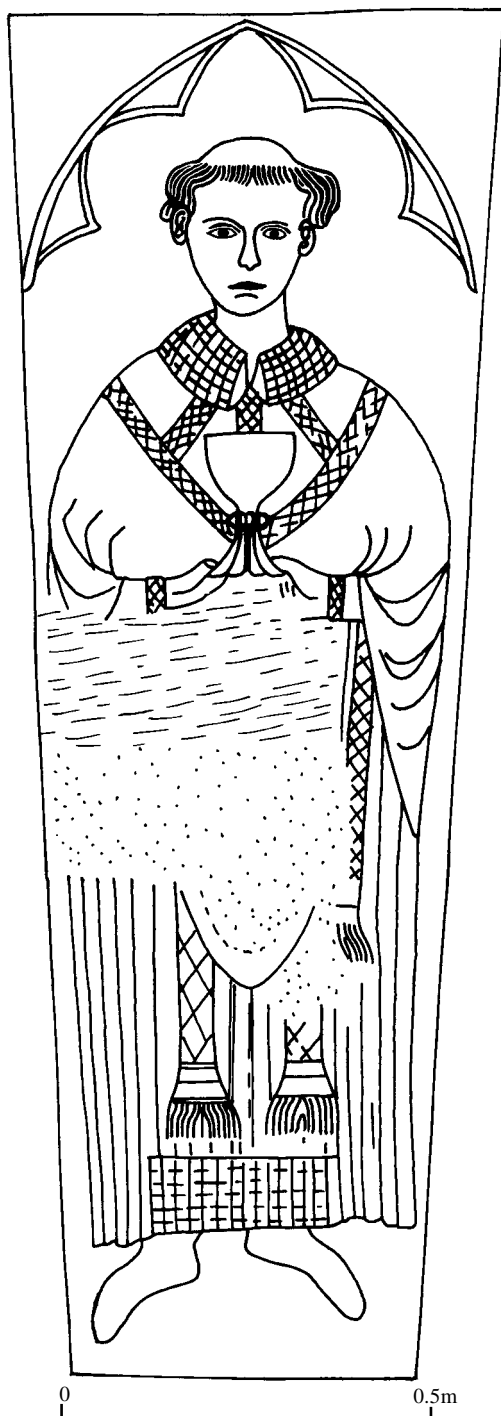


Figure Curry Rivel, St Andrew's church. Inscribed graveslab

East Lyng, 'Durleigh', Main Road, ST 335 290

Prospect Archaeology undertook a watching brief during groundworks prior to the construction of an extension to the north of the property. A buried soil of uncertain date was found to have been cut by a small boundary ditch running parallel to the modern road line, the fill of which contained pottery of dates ranging from the 10th century to the 12th/13th-centuries. This was cut by two small pits of later medieval date.

(James Brigers)

Easton-in-Gordano, Ham Green, ST 534 759

Archaeological monitoring commissioned by Wessex Water was carried out by AC Archaeology during groundworks prior to the construction of a new water main at Rock Cottages. The remains of a trackway dating possibly from the late medieval period was noted at ST 535 759, along with two scatters of Ham Green pottery dating from the 12th/13th centuries centred on ST 533 758. These pottery scatters were located between 5m and 20m to the north and north-west of a known Ham pottery kiln that had been excavated in the 1950s. No further kiln sites were noted during topsoil removal.

(Neil J. Adam)

Glastonbury, 1 Bove Town, ST 503 391

An archaeological evaluation, prior to redevelopment for housing, recorded many archaeological features and large quantities of pottery sherds, animal bone and slag, dating from the 11th to 14th centuries. Tenth and 11th-century pottery sherds were recovered from a north-south oriented drain or boundary ditch. The same feature also contained an iron link chain and a small iron sickle, the latter possibly associated with viticulture.¹ Residual 10th and 11th-century sherds were also found in medieval contexts. The relatively large quantity of pre-conquest pottery recovered during the evaluation suggests 10th-century occupation at the west end of Bove Town. Some undated features might predate the mid-10th century. There were few late-medieval pottery sherds suggesting abandonment or shrinkage of occupation between the 14th and 17th centuries. The site was then reoccupied during the 18th and 19th centuries and a number of houses dating from this period and fronting onto Bove Town were demolished when the grounds were landscaped in the 19th century. Several prehistoric struck flint flakes and one flint knife, as well as a number of Romano-British pottery sherds, were recovered as residual items in later contexts.

¹ Pers comm. Mark Davis, Somerset County Museum Service.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, 82 High Street, ST 502 389

In June 2004 an archaeological evaluation and subsequent mitigation excavation was undertaken by Bath Archaeology prior to development. The area on the High Street frontage was fully excavated to reveal five phases of activity on the site from the Romano-British period (a single ditch) onwards.

A substantial assemblage of pottery and bone of early 11th-century date was indicative of some form of domestic occupation during the pre-conquest period, with evidence for cultivation in the present street frontage area. By the 12th and 13th centuries this area was open waste ground, although a large pond or pit had been dug along the street front. An east–west ditch to the rear of the frontage indicates some division of the plots had been carried out by that time. Large amounts of domestic rubbish had been dumped in these features, and areas of habitation must have been close by. A large medieval feature approximately half way between High Street and Silver Street, could be a boundary ditch aligned east–west, possibly delineating the rear boundary of the burgate plot in that area.

Late 13th to 15th-century drainage or boundary features, and associated domestic waste show some continued activity on the site, although not in the immediate area of the street frontage. The 16th-century deposits included a rubbish pit, a soakaway and a short section of wall, which might have been part of a small lean-to structure on the side of the adjacent building. A small cottage was built on the western side of the modern street frontage during the 18th or 19th century, and was only demolished during the later 20th century. The floor of this building directly overlay 12th and 13th-century layers, which probably indicates that some truncation of deposits had taken place in this area during construction.

(Kim Watkins)

Glastonbury, Rear of 41 Benedict Street, ST 4970 3875

An archaeological investigation, consisting of four evaluation trenches, within a disused paddock situated between Benedict Street and Safeways supermarket recovered archaeological finds and features connected with the occupation of properties on the south side of Benedict Street dating from the 10th/11th century onwards.

A north–south oriented tenement boundary, consisting of a substantial ditch with a bank to the west, originated in the 12th century and was recut at least twice in the period up to the 17th century. Medieval occupation during the 16th/17th century appears to be connected with the tanning industry, after which the paddock was cultivated for gardens and orchards. The cultivation caused the truncation of many archaeological features and the creation of a deep, overlying garden soil deposit. The work also recovered a few prehistoric flint flakes and several Romano-British pottery sherds that were mostly contained within a buried soil lying above natural Lias clay.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, Rear of Abbey School, Magdalene Street, ST 4987 3875

An archaeological evaluation to the rear of defunct school buildings recorded structural features and soil deposits relating to occupation of the site between the 12th and 16th centuries. Structural features included probable beam slots for timber buildings and numerous post and stakeholes. The features may represent outbuildings to the rear of the domestic buildings, probably located below the old school. No pre-Norman pottery was recovered. Occupation appears to have ceased by the 17th century after which the land reverted to cultivation and gardens. Romano-British potsherds were recovered from a buried soil or subsoil deposit and residually within medieval features and layers. A full excavation will take place in 2005.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Ilchester, 1 West Street, ST 5208 2252

Prospect Archaeology conducted a watching brief during the conversion of 19th-century outbuildings to a dwelling. The excavation of the footings and reduction of levels within the footprint of the existing building revealed six east–west oriented burials and numerous fragments of disarticulated human bone, in association with pottery dating to between the 12th and 14th centuries. Subsequent excavation of service trenches outside the existing building produced further bone fragments, however no further undisturbed archaeological strata were observed. The 19th-century building had apparently preserved an ‘island’ of intact deposits. Five of the burials were preserved in situ whilst the sixth was removed for further analysis. The apparent density, location and date of the burials strongly suggests that they represent a portion of the lay cemetery of the

Dominican Priory, thought to have been located to the south-west of the site.

(James Brigers)

Kilmersdon, Babington House, ST 705 510

Archaeological monitoring was carried out by Bath Archaeology during landscaping works for a new car park at Babington House Hotel. Previous evaluation had shown that the area had been badly truncated recently. Nonetheless, some evidence for medieval activity was recorded in the north-western corner of the development area. A hillwash or subsoil deposit containing frequent sherds of abraded medieval pottery extended across part of this area. This appeared to have been cut by several features, although truncation of deposits had disturbed any relationships. A cluster of truncated features, including possible postholes was recorded, one of which produced a sherd of medieval pottery from the fill. A linear feature running parallel to the garden wall may have been an earlier cut for the ditch here, the top fill of which also produced unabraded 11th to 14th-century pottery. A feature of probable medieval date was also recorded on the eastern side of the site, which contained a large piece of iron slag, indicative of industrial activity associated with the medieval settlement. A scatter of abraded medieval pottery on the southern side of the site did not appear to be associated with any features, although deposits may have been truncated by ploughing in this area. The remains seem to confirm the belief that the site was that of a long deserted medieval village or hamlet.

Post-medieval activity was concentrated on the western side of the site, close to the walled garden. A surface or trackway appears to have run towards the line of the present garden wall during the early post-medieval period. Later post-medieval disturbance and a possible path were recorded to the north. Due to the nature of the terracing works, archaeological deposits in the northern and central parts of the site may not have been revealed.

(Kim Watkins)

Pawlett, Pawlett Hams, ST 271 421

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during the broadening of existing drainage rhynes recorded a medieval occupation horizon, defined by Lias stone slabs, pottery, iron slag and animal bones. A fragment of a copper-alloy fitting was also recovered. Coarseware and glazed pottery dating from the 11th/12th century through to the 14th century was relatively abundant within the small areas exposed

during the machining. The majority of the pottery dated from the 11th to 13th centuries. The medieval occupation horizon was sealed by up to 0.3m of alluvial clay and is situated to the east of a low flood bank, also probably masked by alluvial clays, that probably dates to the 10th/11th century at the latest, but which may have earlier origins.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Portishead, Church Road South, ST 4667 7589

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2004 at the Old Rectory. Despite the wholesale demolition of the medieval rectory building in the 1960s, and the subsequent construction of the existing rectory, substantial foundations representing the original building survive at the site. At least three separate phases of construction were identified and these included parts of the original 14th-century hall, post-medieval extensions, and a possible Victorian porch. It also appears that medieval and post-medieval cellars survive, backfilled with material resulting from the demolition process. An undated stone-built well and stone cesspit or soakaway were also uncovered.

(K. Cullen)

Priddy, Blackmoor ?medieval enclosure, ST 5062 5589

Speculation was raised in last year's *Proceedings* that the internal earthwork in this structure dated to the Second World War.¹ This cannot be the case, since it was clearly drawn by Revd John Skinner in 1819, who makes no distinction between the two parts of the earthwork. The note on his drawing specifically refers to an '.. inner inclosure..'.²

¹ Todd, M. Excavation at Charterhouse on Mendip, 1994–6: Mesolithic and early Neolithic activity. *SANH* 147 (2003), 42.

² Skinner, Rev J. *BM Add MSS* 33653 (9 August 1819).

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Chancellor's Farm, ST 5246 5257

The current farmstead is of largely early post-medieval date, and has a range of stone outbuildings, one of which formerly included a door with an 18th-century date carved upon it.¹ There are remains of medieval wood carving in the roof of the farm and Chancellor's Farm is clearly of medieval origin, and is described as '..chancellers howse at thend of dey Wey' (or possibly '.. thend Pridey Wey) on the 1570 map of Mendip.²

The landholding centred on the farm stands out very clearly in the landscape, a triangular area marked by sinuous walls, and marked at the three corners by prehistoric barrows (Rowbarrow, Stowbarrow and Pickbarrow). This whole area was described as 'a House and tenement, 8 closes of meadow or pasture (30 acres), Newlands 7 acres, 3 closes containing 12 acres, and a Sleight called Saunders Hill...' in 1712.³

A trench for an electricity cable was cut across the paddock to the east of Chancellor's Farm on 24 February 2004. CHERT recovered a small number of unabraded pottery sherds (13th to 18th century) and recorded an area of stone rubble in the trench next to the building to the north of the farm's front garden.⁴

¹ Pers comm, John Chapman, 2002.

² SRO DD/SPY 110 (c. 1570).

³ SRO DD/TD box 23 label 51.

⁴ Finds in CHERT archive.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, Mawdlyns Well, ST 5033 5591

A spring rising in a shallow depression is, or gives rise to, a water source referred to in the Ubley parish perambulations in the late medieval period as 'Mawdlyns [St Mary Magdalen's] well'.¹ Other sources refer to it as 'kingewell'.² Although the site does not lie on the later Ubley boundary, the engineered small stream running from it may have been the feature referred to, and this crosses the later Ubley boundary at ST 5043 5592, but this point has unfortunately been removed by the construction of a wildlife pond within the past 20 years.³ Resistivity survey, by CHERT, across the depression leading down to Mawdlyns Well (designed to test the hypothesis that it was the outlet from a Roman conduit) was inconclusive.⁴

¹ SRO DD/SHY (1553).

² SRO DD/SHY 170 (1533).

³ It is not present on aerial photographs taken by Mick Aston on 23 December 1985.

⁴ Results in CHERT archive.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Nordrach, Site of 'Pains Cross on Sweet Hill', ST 5147 5603

This site is described in the 1768 perambulation of the East Harptree Mining liberty, although a later hand has added (late 19th century) 'cannot find it'.¹

The site is clearly shown on the Ubley Enclosure Map of 1772,² and is described as a '..Dowlefull stone upon Tamer hyll..' on the 1570 Mendip Map.³ This was clearly the remains of a medieval cross, used to mark part of the boundary of the Mining Liberty of East Harptree. The site now lies in the centre of the main road and despite careful searching nothing was found. It is unlikely that anything survives.

¹ SRO DD/WG Box 14 (36) (1768).

² SRO Q/Rde 62 (1772).

³ SRO DD/H/SPY 110 (c. 1570).
(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges, iron mining rakes, ST 522 535

A group of mining rakes, in an area roughly 200m x 400m, lie on the crest of the hill above Yoxter Camp. Iron ore can still be found scattered over the rakes where cattle have disturbed material, and the area is obvious in vertical colour photographs of c. 2000 from the bright red colour of the disturbed soil in vehicle tracks.¹ Since the estate in which the majority of these rakes lie is Temple Hidon, the mines may be identified with the area that the king granted the Bishop of Bath in 1235 '... that by the kings licence he may cause digging to be made at Hidun in the Forest of Mendip to seek for a mine of iron...'.²

The rakes can also clearly be seen both on the ground and in air photographs to predate the wall between the estates based on Chancellor's Farm and that based on Haydon Grange, a division almost certainly dating from the grant of Hidun to the Knights Templar before 1269, and possibly as early as 1138.³

¹ Defence Estates photographs, copies in CHERT archive.

² Gough, J. W., 1929. *The Mines of Mendip*, Newton Abbot, 50.

³ Nathan, M., 1935. *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* 31, 86.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges, lead mining at Temple Hydon, ST 520 543

A series of four leases of lead mines at Templehydon, dating from 1473 to 1532, were discovered amidst the Ubley manor court rolls during 2004. For example (14 July 1473):

'...Letters present of Brother William Domnay Prior of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem to

William Powton, his wife Joan and Joan his daughter ask for reversion of the messuage which Richard Marshal holds upon hydon in Somerset called Temple Hydon, mines of lead beneath the same, and for which the said Richard pays to the preceptor of Templecombe 40 shillings at two times, the Feast of the Annunciation and at Michaelmas, and they must maintain the said messuage ...¹

These are the first known local records of lead mining at Yoxter in the medieval period. The mines detailed must have been in the area close to the Yoxter Ranges at the top of Cheddar Gorge, as this constitutes the area known as Temple Hydon in the medieval period. Little survives on the ground of mining remains in this area, but it is hoped that a Lidar survey of the Mendip AONB that will be carried out during 2005 will give detail adequate to distinguish infilled lead mines and rakes.¹

¹ SRO DD/S/HY Box 6.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges, south west of Lodmore Farm, ST 5288 5355

A standing stone, 2m tall and c. 0.8m square stands in the wall at this point. The wall is the sinuous medieval boundary of two estates on the hilltop, and the stone may be a medieval boundary marker, although it could also conceivably be a prehistoric feature reused in the boundary.

(Vince Russett)

Queen Camel, Hazlegrove School, ST 599 269

An archaeological watching brief carried out during soil stripping for a new sports pitch recorded archaeological features and horizons associated with a deserted medieval settlement including gullies and relict ridge and furrow cultivation. Pottery sherds dated from the 12th century through to the 16th century. No Romano-British pottery was recovered despite the proximity of a possible settlement site.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Queen Camel, Sedna Garage, ST 596 247

An evaluation by trial trenching on the east side of the High Street revealed an extensive medieval occupation horizon, occasional 14th/15th century cut features and more numerous 18th and 19th-century disturbances. A watching brief during subsequent phases of a new residential development for the site revealed further later medieval pits and occupation

deposits, although the zone closest to the road frontage was extensively disturbed by 20th-century storage tanks and other activity relating to the former garage.

(Peter Leach)

Taunton, Corporation Street, ST 22626 24494

A watching brief was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services in order to meet the requirements of Scheduled Monument Consent to transfer a fire hydrant within the boundaries of Taunton Castle (SM 22851). No archaeological features were visible but beneath disturbance caused by modern road metalling and service installations the work revealed an alluvial/waterlogged sediment. This may well relate to the Castle moat and although it too was disturbed it contained a mixed group of material ranging in date from the medieval to modern periods. The full report is available at www.contextone.co.uk.

(R. McConnell)

Taunton, Nos 7 & 8 East Street, ST 2286 2449

Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at 7 and 8 East Street, Taunton. East Street is located between East Gate and the medieval market place. Numbers 7 and 8 are situated c. 100m from the market place, adjacent to Magdalene Lane, which leads to the late 12th-century church of St Mary Magdalene. Previous excavations at 5 East Street identified evidence for continuous occupation from the 12th century onwards.¹

The earliest feature recorded was an apparent boundary ditch between 7 East Street and Magdalene Lane. Finds indicate a date in the 11th/13th centuries and environmental data suggest it to be broadly contemporary with medieval samples recovered from Taunton Priory. A cess pit was recorded at the junction of the two roads and may be indicative of a public rather than private facility. It is likely that this type of feature would be situated to the rear of a property and its location at the apparent 'front' of the site, suggests that much of the original street frontage has been lost to road-widening in the post-medieval/modern period.

Two footings probably formed part of the remains of a building, with associated stone representing the floor of a side-passage through the building, a feature common in the medieval buildings of Taunton. These remains probably represent part of a timber-framed building, the construction of which is likely to predate the 14th century, and may represent part of an 'original' East Street building.

¹ Webster, C.J., and Croft, R.A., 1995. 'Somerset Archaeology 1994', *SANH* 138, 179–80.
(David Norcott)

Taunton, Priory Avenue, ST 23020 24870

An evaluation and watching brief were carried out by Context One Archaeological Services prior to development of the former garage which lay within the conjectured precinct of the Augustinian Priory of St Peter and St Paul which was known to contain an extensive medieval lay cemetery that, up until the Dissolution, served as the only cemetery for the population of Taunton. Perhaps not surprisingly, the investigations confirmed the presence of human remains. Most of the burials were encountered from 0.8m–1.2m below the present ground surface and were sealed by an extensive post-medieval garden soil that was almost certainly connected with the use of the site as a private dwelling and garden following the Dissolution. The character of the burials in a number of the trenches demonstrated an enduring use of the cemetery with clear evidence for numerous phases of interments. This had led to widespread disturbance of human remains to the extent that the distinction between individual graves had largely been lost. Skeletal material included well preserved articulated and disarticulated remains of males and females ranging in age from infants to mature adults with fragments of bone still being observed in one trench as deep as c. 2.2m below the ground surface. By contrast, no evidence for human remains was revealed near the street frontage on Priory Avenue although this contained deposits comprising structural debris that may be associated with the demolition of the Priory complex close by. This area may also mark the boundary between the cemetery and the Priory buildings and it is noteworthy that test pits in this region of the site also failed to reveal any human remains. A watching brief was subsequently undertaken during the demolition of the former County Garage on the site which confirmed the findings of the evaluation. The programme of works is due to continue with a full excavation of the site in 2005. The full report is available at www.contextone.co.uk.

(R. McConnell)

Templecombe, High Street, Templars Barton, ST 7097 2215

An archaeological field evaluation, comprising trench excavation and documentary research, of land adjacent to Templars Barton, Templecombe, was carried out by AC archaeology during October 2004.

The principal aim was to test an interpretation of evidence obtained from investigations undertaken by *Time Team* in 1995 and to review the documentary evidence.¹ There seems little doubt, from available evidence, that the extent of tithe-free land within the Temple tithing of Abbas and Temple Combe parish in c. 1839 depicts the former landholdings of the Knights Templar and later Hospitallers. The location of the Preceptory itself is more difficult to prove, but the presence of the chapel ruins would seem to indicate that the Preceptory (and later Commandery) was located in the vicinity of the chapel ruins in Templecombe village. There is no evidence to suggest a chapel elsewhere in the parish. What may now be inferred regarding the layout of the Preceptory buildings, described in detail in 1388 and 1514, is also problematic. There is no robust evidence for further stone buildings of medieval date around the chapel. To the south on the level ground, above the escarpment that the surviving chapel wall fringes, there was formerly a square earthwork enclosure once referred to as the Cock Pit and now under modern agricultural buildings. This enclosure may originally have been associated with the Templar site but it has also been identified as a 17th-century garden feature. To the west of this a newly identified wall footing has been recorded. This area was not extensively investigated by *Time Team*, but is likely to have presented the optimum site, level and well-drained, for the range of buildings required in the Preceptory and later Commandery.

The wall foundation, equivalent to one found by *Time Team* and interpreted by them as medieval, is likely to have been constructed after the 15th century and probably following the Dissolution. It is constructed through or above a layer containing fragments of (redeposited) medieval floor tile, possibly derived from the demolition of the chapel, later medieval pottery and one sherd of post-medieval pottery. On purely stratigraphic analysis this structure has to be considered as post-Dissolution in origin.

Across the rest of the proposed development area there is limited archaeological evidence for medieval activity. A stone wall examined in Trenches 1 and 2 may mark the line of the former Preceptory boundary but the wall footing itself is most unlikely to be medieval as its foundation cuts through a subsoil layer containing post-medieval pottery. It is likely that this boundary, and its equivalent on the west side of the site, which marks the boundary with the former road through Templecombe, was embellished in stone following the dissolution when there was

abundant available stone on the site for new construction.

¹ Harding, P., *et al.* 2003. 'Archaeological investigations at Templecombe, 1995', *SANH* 147, 143–63.

(Peter Cox, Moira Laidlaw and Stephen Robinson)

West Huntspill, ST3080 4495

Archaeological observations were made during the reduction of surface levels and excavation of service trenches prior to the construction of an agricultural stock building and an area of hard standing on land at OS Parcel 7194, immediately west of the main Highbridge to Bridgwater road (A38). The excavations, whilst shallow, exposed a series of extensive spreads of archaeological material, primarily pottery of the 13th/14th centuries, suggesting occupation in this period on or adjacent to the site.

(R. Broomhead)

West Huntspill, Alstone Lake Settlement, ST 3129 4679

See under Prehistoric.

Whitestaunton, Whitestaunton Manor House, ST 280 105

Refurbishment of Whitestaunton Manor by new owners is being accompanied by building recording and analysis, archaeological investigations and extensive archive research, carried out by ASI and Exeter Archaeology. The work, which is on-going, suggests that complex stratified deposits survive beneath the 15th-century parts of the house; that the relative chronology of the standing fabric is far more complex than hitherto understood, in part contradicting received chronologies; and that the stables, other outbuildings and most of the gardens were redesigned by John Dando Sedding. Circumstantial evidence also suggests that Sedding designed the Water Garden at Whitestaunton. If correct, Whitestaunton is one of only three surviving gardens known to have been designed by this influential 'father' of English garden design.

(Michael Heaton, Alan Graham and Paul Pierce)

Witham Friary, Village Hall, ST 7437 4109

Archaeological observations were made during the reduction of levels and excavation of foundations for an extension to Witham Friary Village Hall. Medieval pottery and roof tile was recovered from a number of poorly defined surface spreads, however

much of the site had been disturbed by later post-medieval activity.

(R. Broomhead)

POST-MEDIEVAL

Bath, Combe Down Mines, ST 7600 6200

Oxford Archaeology has continued to carry out an archaeological monitoring of the the emergency stabilisation works at Combe Down Mines, Bath. The work has been ongoing since April 2001 and during this time OA has maintained a regular watch, usually on a daily basis.

The underground quarries which collectively make up what is today the Combe Down Stone Mines are situated below the central Conservation Area of Bath. A large proportion of the area has been quarried, both by surface and by undermining over a long period of time, but mainly between 1730 and 1860 when they were the source of freestone for the 'golden age' of building at Bath.

Oxford Archaeology has produced large scale plans of visible areas and substantial photography has been carried out. There have also been trials of video photography and laser scanning, so that a substantial record has been produced of some 20% of the known workings. This is being produced in both written and digitised form to allow public as well as specialist appraisal. Although far from complete, it has been possible to divide the workings into five main phases, including those carried out in the lifetime of Ralph Allen, the mid 18th-century entrepreneur who was responsible for the first large scale exploitation of the Combe Down mines.

Information about surface innovation had been established earlier, but it is possible now to demonstrate that the underground workings were also carried out systematically and that substantial innovation also took place underground. It is not yet fully clear, however, (because of the lack of comparative information) to what extent this was local or whether it was brought in from outside; possibly the 18th century saw local innovation but in the 19th century this came from elsewhere, notably from the very fast-growing Wiltshire competitors.

It has been possible to differentiate a range of different pillar forms and techniques of exploitation so that it is now possible to begin to hypothesise about individual quarries within the workings. It should be possible to identify the quarrymasters (freemasons) of some of these using historical sources.

As well as features and artefacts directly related to the quarrying activities, there are also many examples of contemporary graffiti. These are capable of assisting dating, giving information about stone measurements, and revealing something of the social context in which the quarrymen worked.

(Ianto Wain)

Bridgwater, Parrett Way, ST 306 362

Prospect Archaeology undertook a watching brief during the summer of 2004 on the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches for a factory extension. The alluvial clay of the eastern flood-plain of the River Parrett was seen in section to a depth of 1.5m below existing ground level but was found to be archaeologically sterile. The surface of the alluvial clay was cut by two shallow north-south aligned channels of uncertain date but probably representing medieval or post-medieval attempts at drainage of the area. A third, larger, feature was detected in the north-east corner of the site, the lowest fill of which contained pottery and clay-pipe fragments of 18th-century date. This feature corresponds with a prominent boundary shown on the 1930 Ordnance Survey of the area and also represents an element of the post-medieval drainage network.

(James Brigers)

Chard, Chard Manor House, 7-11 Fore Street, ST 3225 0870

Bath Archaeology were commissioned to produce a desktop assessment of Chard Manor House to inform decisions on the future use of the building, and its partial conversion to housing. Documentary sources suggest that this grand Elizabethan town house was built by a local wool merchant, Philobert Cogan, before 1602 and the house is dated by Pevsner to 1593. Some income from the property was dedicated to a guild charity, first mentioned in 1643 and this still continues to be paid. The map study indicates that the four tenements that make up this property occupy part of an original medieval property granted in 1235 when Chard was founded as a new town, and which may have originally included the George Hotel to the east. The first detailed and accurate map is the OS 1886 one. This shows the site before the alterations to no. 7 and the demolition of the range north of the court room at no. 7. The 1930 OS map shows no substantive change but hints at those known from other sources to have occurred in no. 7's frontage.

The building is clearly one of a pair built together, as what would now be called a semi-detached house.

Further analysis makes it clear that the property originally included nos 7 and 13, although these have been rebuilt or refaced. The street facades were built to impress both in style and material, being of Ham hill stone ashlar. The side elevations are of squared local chert, cut to a high and even standard. Quoins and window embrasures are of Ham Hill stone. The north or rear wall of the 'Court room' is of local, uncoursed rubble, despite the fine Ham hill stone mullioned window. The west gable is rendered as was probably the north or rear wall originally. The analogous but quite different rear wing at no. 11 is also built of random rubble with fine dressed windows. Both are additions to the original block. The rear or north range of no. 9 has been built and rebuilt in local uncoursed rubble stone of various kinds. The whole complex is of great value, especially the rooms with decorated plaster, as these are of national and local significance, fully meriting the grade I listing.

The building seems to have been built in two main campaigns, but there is no great time lag between them. The traditional date of 1593 for the first phase of this seems appropriate, and the northern range and 'court room' date from early in the 17th century, although the northern range has been replaced. Alterations to the fabric have been carried out on various occasions.

(Peter Davenport)

Cheddar, Site of cottage 360m NNE of Lower Farm, ST 4894 5607

The site of this cottage, only demolished in the 1960s, is recorded on the 1761 map of Charterhouse.¹² During 2004, CHERT members surveyed the site, and photographed the small amount of structure remaining. Pottery from the site dated from the 18th to 20th centuries.³

¹ It is still a roofed structure on AP 543/RAF/2332 0334 (11 Aug 1963).

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

³ Photographic survey and finds in CHERT archive.

(Vince Russett)

Cheddon Fitzpaine, Hestercombe Gardens, ST 2405 2870

Conversion of the former Fire Brigade stables to create a new Visitor Centre has been accompanied by building recording and a groundworks watching brief, undertaken by Mike Heaton Associates. The work, which is on-going, indicates that the building is of two principal pre 18th-century phases of construction; each of which received several

decorative treatments, including decorated tympana over the windows and, possibly, giant order stucco pilasters.

(Michael Heaton)

Cheddon Fitzpaine, Hestercombe Gardens, ST 2424 2877, ST 2433 2900 and ST 2435 2875

Three sites within the gardens were excavated by Prospect Archaeology during 2004 as part of the continuing programme of archaeological investigations associated with the restoration of the Georgian Landscape Garden by the Hestercombe Gardens Trust. At ST 2424 2877 investigation of a topographical anomaly to the west of the 'West Terrace' indicated that the terrace had been originally wider and cut into the hillside to produce a steep slope at the base of which a north-south aligned gully had been cut into the bedrock along the full exposed length of the terrace, probably to facilitate the planting of shrubs. At the north end of this depression a square hole had been cut, possibly to contain a free-standing object such as an urn. These features were subsequently sealed with two deliberate dumps of banked topsoil, reducing the width of the terrace to its modern extent. The resulting space between these banks of material was occupied by four foundations of mortared brick consistent with a base to support a small timber-framed structure.

The original terrace cut, planting gully and possible urn base may be evidence of early 18th-century landscaping works carried out on the instructions of John Bamfylde. The modifications including the topsoil banks and structure are almost certainly works associated with the expansion of the garden from 1750 to a design by Coplestone Warre Bamfylde. The brick foundations are probably all that remains of the 'Chinese Seat', a feature of the garden that is mentioned in contemporary accounts and appears on a water colour by Coplestone Warre Bamfylde dated to the early 1780s.

At ST 2433 2900 excavation revealed that a substantial terrace had been formed by quarrying, which in time came to be used as a platform on which brick foundations of 18th-century date were constructed. Examination of these foundations produced evidence for two phases of construction of a trapezoidal building, originally consisting of a principal central space with two smaller, triangular flanking cells. This subsequently became one single space with a tiled floor throughout before it fell into disrepair and collapsed in the late 19th or early 20th century. The location of the structure within the gardens and its plan form leave little doubt that it

was the 'Rustic Seat' mentioned in 1771, one of a number of small buildings within the garden designed by Coplestone Warre Bamfylde and erected during the second half of the 18th-century.

At ST 2435 2875 eight trenches were excavated in an attempt to trace the line of the 18th-century path circuit of this part of the garden. Three of the trenches produced evidence of activity possibly related to the construction and maintenance of paths. Although largely ephemeral, the evidence obtained was sufficient to allow the probable line to be conjectured. In addition to this the foundations of a substantial stone wall were exposed, although the full extent, accurate date and function could not be assessed within the remit of this investigation.

(James Brigers)

Clatworthy, Church Cottages, Clatworthy Sewerage Treatment Works, ST 0529 3076

A watching brief was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology during redevelopment at Clatworthy Sewerage Treatment Works, which occupies a small, level terrace to the rear (south) of the gardens of Church Cottages. A substantial hedgebank, which was breached on the southern boundary of the site, was recorded, but no deposits earlier than the 19th century were recorded within the site.

(Paul Pierce)

Glastonbury, 46a Northload Street, ST 4972 3909

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of foundations for four new dwellings on the site of a former builder's yard. The excavations exposed the foundations of several late 19th-century buildings that had been constructed on the site, but produced no evidence of any earlier archaeological activity. This strongly suggests that the entire enclosure fronting onto Northload Street was unoccupied until this date.

(R. Broomhead)

Goathurst, Halswell House, ST 2541 3368

Prospect Archaeology undertook an evaluation, consisting of two trenches, to the south of the 17th-century house, to investigate the nature and preservation of two features shown on the 1st Edn OS map. Trench 1, located over the more southerly of the two features, revealed two converging wall foundations of mortared Morte slate with a surface of compacted clay and slate fragments in between. The remains of these were found to have been sealed by demolition rubble. Pottery of late 19th-century or early 20th-century date was found in association

with the demolition rubble. The remains would appear to be from an enclosed yard with one open end, of probable 18th-century date and unknown function. Trench 2 targeted a similar feature to the north but failed to find any evidence of a structure at the location. However the south continuation of an 18th-century garden wall was located and found to retain preserved 18th-century surfaces on its west side. On the east was a significant step down to early 20th-century layers which had been sealed by considerable 20th-century levelling dumps.

At ST 2532 3382 three trenches were opened to the west of the house in an attempt to locate the remains of a circular drive hinted at by an 18th-century plan. No evidence of this was found but the surviving archaeology indicated that at least two phases of surfaces existed in this area forming an irregular circuit as shown on the early OS maps, suggesting that the circular plan was never executed.

(James Brigers)

Mells, Mells Park Hermitage and Temple, ST 7120 4818

A programme of archaeological investigations was undertaken prior to remedial and repair works to the Hermitage and Temple in Mells Park, Somerset. The work, carried out by AC archaeology between September and November 2004, was commissioned by Caroe & Partners on behalf of the estate owners. Rubble clearance from the Hermitage showed it to be an elliptical structure constructed from local 'flow-stone' limestone and set into a semi-circular recess that had been cut into a former quarry face. The structure has a vaulted flow-stone roof that has been partially damaged by a tree bough. The doorway and a significant proportion of the front elevation have been partially demolished. The interior floor surface comprises limestone bedrock. Three lancet-headed recesses within the inner wall and one small opening in the eastern side were also recorded. The small opening appears to have originally been an arch of similar dimensions to the recesses, but had been partially infilled.

Work on the Temple found it to be around 50% demolished with a partially surviving mock Greco-Roman facade constructed from Doulling limestone blocks bonded to a basic structure built from flow-stone. Much of the Doulling stone facade had been robbed at some point in the past, probably in the mid 19th century. Work within the three rooms that constitute the Temple showed it to have had at least two phases of occupation. The first as a garden folly and summer-house virtually identical in design to

the plans originally drawn up by the then estate owner, Thomas Horner, in 1762, the second as a low grade, partially blocked up semi-ruin that may have served as an ancillary building for the walled garden immediately to the south.

(Neil J. Adam and Tanya James)

Milborne Port, The Tannery, ST 675 189

Conversion of the principal historic buildings and redevelopment of the 19th and 20th-century buildings at the tannery works at Milborne Port is being preceded by building recording and analysis. The work, undertaken by Michael Heaton Associates, is on-going, but has been hampered by the most recent of a series of fires that have destroyed much of the internal historical detail of the buildings. Earlier fires have partially destroyed the roofs of the 17th-century Clarke's House and, ironically, led to the insertion of in situ concrete fire proofing during or shortly after the Second World War.

(Michael Heaton)

Orchard Portman, Taunton Race Course, ST 2430 2165

Drainage trenches associated with the construction of new stables were monitored by Bath Archaeology as they lay on the site of Orchard Portman Manor House, a building with 16th-century origins. The house had been completely demolished except for the adjacent parish church, but there are indications that substantial remains might survive just below the present ground surface.

The new drains, however, revealed only a single short section of insubstantial foundations and the remains of two post-medieval stone drains. One of these drains appeared to dive beneath the other suggesting not only that they were both in use at the same time, but also that one may have been a sewer which was kept separate from a cleaner, perhaps rainwater, system. Regrading of the access track immediately adjacent to the above finds exposed a third drain and a section of a more substantial wall, details of which unfortunately remained hidden beneath a collapsed layer at the revised surface level.

(Tim Robey)

Priddy, Blackmoor, ST 5050 5567

The possible existence of a bridge at this NGR was noted in last year's report and during 2004 two photographs of the site immediately after the flood event of 1968 were discovered.¹ The photographs show the remains of a coursed mortared limestone block bridge, with part of one round arch surviving,

along with a central pier, the second (eastern) arch having been washed completely away in the flood. The central pier contained slot settings for the use of boards to control the flow of water and the bridge looks to have been post-medieval in date. The fate of the remains in the reconstruction of the causeway to the car park in 1968 is unknown, although the gap was clearly made up by dumping large boulders, which can still be seen at the site.

¹ Les Davies, Mendip Wardens Service, copy in CHERT archive.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Chancellor's Farm, ST 5280 5270

A drystone walled structure consists of a rear wall, with two side walls at right angles, but apparently not tied into the back wall. The structure is nowhere more than 1m high. This structure may be an agricultural building, used for lambing or the like.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse-on-Mendip ?cottage site 260m SE of the Fat Factory, ST4986 5598

A rectangular platform survives at this site, with the foundation of a stone wall parallel to the field wall to the west. The structure is shown as a small enclosure on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map. Local information says this was the site of a cottage demolished after the Second World War.¹

¹ Pers comm, J. Small (2002).

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, Mercy Green's cottage, ST 5038 5572

A cottage is recorded at this location on the Blagdon Tithe map¹ and is referred to by Robin Athill in *Old Mendip* as that lived in by Mercy Green 'the Charterhouse washerwoman' immediately after the First World War.

The site had become extremely overgrown by 2004, but the building was rediscovered at the road frontage of the site, in a dense thicket of bushes. The rooms could be clearly seen, along with entrance positions, a corridor at the back of the building, and the gables standing up to 1.8m high. The mound previously thought to be a tip at the rear of the garden is in fact the outer earthwork of the adjacent Roman fort. Against the back (north-east) wall of the plot can be seen the stone foundation of a small square building (1.5m x 1.5m), open to the south-east, probably a backyard toilet.

A tree caused damage to this site when it blew over in the gales of 12–13 January 2004, so CHERT cleared the scrub growth and surveyed the cottage. It seems to have had a complex history, with a one unit house being enlarged to a two unit one in the 19th century, with a large chimney at each end of the building. Pottery found in soil disturbances at the site dated from the 17th to the 20th century.²

¹ SRO DD Rt 402.

² Detailed survey and finds in CHERT archive.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, Narrow rig ploughmarks N of Bleak House, ST 507 556

A group of more or less east–west narrow rig plough marks are clear on air photographs; an area of around 300m x 120m which must be the remains of cultivation on the pre-1860s valley floor.¹ A clear view of the earthworks in melting snow was recorded in December 2004. CHERT have identified several other (mostly small) areas of preserved pre-Mendip Hills Mining Company valley floor at Blackmoor and Velvet Bottom, and will be plotting these during 2005.

¹ AP OS 71-082 (1971).

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, The Minery House, ST 5028 5571

Skinner¹ and the OS² both record a cottage standing in its own garden on the south side of the road into Blackmoor. A rectangular area, apparently not mined, can be seen on air photographs at ST 5031 5572, but there are no obvious building remains visible.³ The cottage is shown more clearly on the Blagdon Enclosure map⁴ of 1787 when it was approached by a road from the lane; the gateway that still exists. A rectangular stoney platform survives in the corner of the field, about 8m x 3m, with a small platform in front of it, and an area enclosed by a bank in the corner of the field walls may have been a garden. Pottery of 17th to 19th-century date was recovered from soil disturbances. The site was surveyed by CHERT during March 2004 and is identified with 'The Minery House' from 19th-century ownership records in the Blagdon Churchwardens' accounts.⁵ It may be the '..mindr house..' leased by John May to John Deryck in 1602.⁶

¹ Skinner, J., British Museum Add MSS 33153 (1819).

² OS 1:63,360 (1819).

³ AP 3G/TUD/UK 5284 (14 Jan 1946).⁴ SRO D/P\blag/20/1/1 (1787).⁵ Pers comm, Olga Shotton.⁶ SRO DD/GB 145.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges, ST 5295 5276

A small sub-rounded enclosure c. 40m across is formed by a low bank with an external ditch in established pasture. The enclosure is in the south-east corner of a field enclosed from mining remains in the early 18th century¹ and may have been a cattle pound or similar. It lies alongside a pair of walls converging on an exit from open grazing, a feature locally known as a 'shoot'.

¹ SRO DD/TD box 23 label 51.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges, ST 5236 5311

A large stone block lies to the east of the gateway at this point. The weathered, unworked block is over 1m long, and squarish in cross-section. The stone lies very close to the route of an unenclosed track across Mendip shown in Day and Masters map of 1782, and may be a waymarker in origin.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges and Chancellor's Farm Estate

Boundary surveys undertaken by CHERT this year were confined to the southern end of the Yoxter Ranges and the Chancellor's Farm estate in Priddy. As mentioned before,¹ these turned out to be the results of an unexpected land reclamation episode at some time(s) between 1712 and 1768, resulting in a block of walled landscape with features different enough from those on the rest of Mendip to identify them with the owners of the period, the Tudway family of Wells. Not only were the walls all mortared, but they contained from the time of their building a number of features related to the agricultural use of the landscape, such as fine monolithic gateposts, slab stiles sometimes accompanied by stone steps, cobbled gateways, sheep creeps, field ponds and through-stone stiles.

¹ Webster, C.J., 2003. 'Somerset Archaeology 2003', *SANH* 147, 189.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges Limekilns and associated features, ST 5253 area

During 2004, four further limekilns were identified

in field survey at the Yoxter ranges:

ST 52785361. The remains of the rear of the kiln survive, rediscovered in 2004 by the Ranges Warden, Paul Millard. The kiln faces due north and the associated quarry hollows are c. 30 x 60m across.

ST 53325333. Little remains except the heavily grass grown core of the kiln, which originally faced due west. Quarry workings are c. 30 x 30m and very heavily overgrown with gorse. The limekiln was depicted conventionally on the West Harptree Tithe Map of 1841, and the field it was in named 'Limekiln Ground' there.¹

ST 52455432. Two limekilns are depicted on the West Harptree Tithe map of 1841. The eastern is depicted on the 1809 map of East Harptree Mining Royalty.²

¹ SRO D/P/w.harp/3/2/4 West Harptree Tithe (1841).² SRO DD/WG East Harptree Royalty (1809).

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges, Lodmoor Wood, ST 5325 5348

A rubbly rectangular feature, 4 x 3m consisting of a low bank of stones appears to be the remains of a small building. This may well be the house '...in a grooffe at Pickbarrow End called the house grooffe...', the subject of a dispute between one Aron Creese and one Thomas Plumley over the apparent theft of tools in 1688.¹ 'Pickbarrow End' is the name applied to the north-east corner of Lodmore Wood on the 1809 Mining Liberty Map.²

¹ SRO DD/WG East Harptree Mining Liberty Book (1688).² SRO DD/WG East Harptree Royalty 1809.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges, north west of Harptree Lodge, ST 5333 5277

A mineshaft is recorded at this site in the Somerset HER whose spoil heap has been confused with a barrow.¹ Examination in February 2004 located a number of other mine shafts. One is uncapped, with a rickety fence around; this was plumbed from the surface to a depth of 10m at least. The capping stone is hanging in the mouth of the (stone-lined) shaft, which is only c. 1m across. Perhaps as many as 20 other shafts are adjacent and lie on the line of a pronounced rake that survived in 1946, but has since been infilled.² These form an important group of

surviving post-medieval mines with stone collars, capped only with flagstones, and visible at the surface.

¹ Somerset HER 24038.

² Air photo RAF 3G/TUD/UK 5010 (14 Jan 1946).
(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges, Saunders Hill, ST 5255 5322
A limekiln at this NGR is unusually large for such a structure on Mendip, and was almost certainly constructed by the Tudway estate of Chancellor's Farm, for the provision of lime for construction of the stone walls used to enclose the land at Saunders Hill during the first half of the 18th century, and for the provision of lime to sweeten the soil of the newly recovered fields. An unusually detailed account of the expenses and the output of the kiln in the years between 1768 and 1779 is contained in the Chancellor's Farm accounts book for those years.¹ These detail (for example), the 'righting' of the kiln, using 1200kg of lime, in February 1768, and, later that year, that the kiln burned for 11 weeks, burning 37.65 tonnes of coal, and yielding 52 tonnes of lime, all of which was spread on a single 6ha field during its recovery from previous mining remains.

The quarries for this limekiln lie immediately to its north, and cover an area some 30 x 60m which has been completely quarried to a depth of c. 2m. An associated small square earthwork enclosure to the north of the kiln may be a storage bay, perhaps for coal or limestone charge for the kiln.

¹ SRO DD/TD 17 (1766–94).

(Vince Russett)

Shepton Mallet, Norah Fry Hospital, ST 612 434
Redevelopment of the early 19th-century workhouse was accompanied by a photographic survey of surviving 19th-century features and rooms within the building. New house construction to the north and north-east of the hospital was also monitored. Most of the development area proved to have been disturbed and levelled in the 19th century and bedrock was close to the surface. A large, stone-lined chamber cut into the bedrock was recorded which was probably connected with a boiler house.
(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Somerton, Ashen Cross Quarry, ST 496 273

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during soil stripping for a quarry extension and recovered a few sherds of medieval coarseware pottery of 12th–

14th-century date. A line of six postholes, each c. 0.2m in diameter, was recorded. Post-medieval pottery was contained in the posthole fills and the postholes also cut through a subsoil containing post-medieval pottery.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

South Petherton, Lightgate Road, ST 435 170

The site of the Sterton Foundry was found beneath the front garden of the house of that name in South Petherton. The Sterton family is known from documentary evidence to have run a bronze foundry producing skillets and cauldrons, as well as bells, in the 17th and early 18th century and examples of their work have survived. Excavation in the available area of garden revealed the base of the furnace, and the contemporary cobbled surface around it, probably in an open-sided shed. There was a very complex sequence of laminated floor deposits over the cobbles, reflecting the use of the furnace and the slow accumulation of ash and other debris. North of the shed was a single deep pit that had been used for dumping ash from the furnace (coal ash rather than charcoal) and which contained numerous fragments of sprue cups from the top of the moulds and fragments of spilt metal, but almost no actual mould material. After the dismantling of the furnace and the disuse of this shed, the area had been used for quarry pits, digging out the sandy clay for the moulds. These were interconnected, rounded pits into which enormous numbers of used mould fragments had been discarded. These comprised parts of moulds for both skillets and cauldrons, including fragments with maker's marks evident and the names and mottos cast along the skillet handles. A large collection of complete vessels has recently been purchased by the Somerset Museum Service and it is intended to produce a full publication of both classes of evidence.

(Alan Graham)

Spaxton, Clerks Cottage, ST 231 361

Prospect Archaeology monitored excavations for new drainage and a septic tank during the restoration of this 15th-century former hall house. The only archaeological feature recognised consisted of a probable posthole of uncertain date to the south of the house. The opportunity was taken to record a well, previously uncovered by the owner, to the west of the house. This was found to be lined with Morte slate, as far as was visible, and had the remains of the 19th-century brick surface at the top.

(James Brigers)

Taunton, Castle Street, ST 2255 2453

Prospect Archaeology undertook monitoring of groundworks during July and August 2004. At their greatest depth the observed trenches penetrated a homogeneous deposit of red sandy clay, from which a single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered. Towards the Castle Street frontage this layer was overlain by a series of possible floor surfaces of clay and crushed mortar, culminating in the more substantial remains of a stone-built late 19th-century building and brick floor. To the south a number of small pits and other features were encountered, which all appeared to be of 18th-century or later date. The largest of these contained a quantity of burnt clay and clinker, which may have been waste from the nearby Tangier Foundry.

(James Brigers)

Wedmore, Mudgley Hill, Court Garden Orchard, ST 4423 4572

In 2004 a lorry park was considerably enlarged, cutting much more deeply into the sloping field and exposing a dramatic 60m x 2.5m section of geological strata, consisting of almost horizontal layers of Lias and shale, with two major Lias layers in the eastern part of the section and a number of thinner ones to the west. Examination of the exposed surface of the topsoil spoil mound yielded small, much abraded finds of a wide date range: animal bone, slate fragments, land drain fragments, modern china, 16th to 18th-century sherds including one piece of combed ware, a hand-wrought nail, and one possible Roman sherd. This debris from a much-cultivated site next to a farm occupied from at least the 16th century, coupled with the lack of any archaeological evidence in the exposed section, suggests either that Court Garden Orchard was a garden or paddock, as its later name suggests, or that any medieval structural remains are deeply buried in the upper part of the field. The old road up the hill from Westhay to Wedmore survives as a holloway on the west side of Court Garden Orchard, fading out at the south end but deep and clear round the north-west corner of the field. Along the north side, the outer or northern edge of the road is marked by a sizeable hedge-bank (c. 1.3m high) containing stumps and roots of large trees but the holloway and its southern edge has disappeared. An old gate in the hedge survives at exactly the point where the original, pre-1827 road continued eastwards to become the lane past the Dean's house and through Mudgley.

(H. Hudson and F. Neale)

Witham Friary, ST 74478 41176

An evaluation was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services prior to the development of the site. Despite being located in the core of the medieval village adjacent to the lay brothers' part of the Witham Charterhouse the excavation revealed only an undulating depression that graduated in depth from the road frontage to the rear, incorporating deposits that were characterised by alluvial sediments at the deepest section with an outlying layer of building rubble. These deposits produced a small assemblage of material that generally dated from the 17th century onwards. The full report is available at www.contextone.co.uk

(R. McConnell)

Wiveliscombe, Silver Street, Evangelical Congregational Church, ST 0815 2890

Prospect Archaeology undertook an evaluation in October 2004 prior to the construction of a new church hall. The evaluation was carried out within the former school-room. As expected, the Victorian school-room building had been constructed above a portion of the pre-existing burial ground of the church and a total of five north-south aligned graves were identified within the area of excavation along with the remains of a stone-built burial vault. All of these are assumed to be of pre 19th-century date.

(James Brigers)

INDUSTRIAL

Aller, Oath Lock, River Parrett, ST 383 278

Observations were made by Exeter Archaeology during remedial works at Oath Lock, on the River Parrett (part of an Environment Agency capital works scheme). The groundworks consisted mainly of test pits and foundation/service trenches to the south of the river on the site of a new control building and base for a crane. The excavations were generally no deeper than 1.5m and exposed deposits no earlier than 17th or 18th century in date, reflecting more recent flood prevention works and lock repairs. However, two pits for a cable pole stay excavated in the field to the east of the compound (at ST 3830 2775) revealed a sequence of alternating bands of clay and peat to a depth of 2.1m, though the base of the peat was not seen. A sample of the upper peat deposit, at a depth of 0.86–7m below ground level, was dated to 620–780 AD (at 2 sigma).

(P.T. Manning)

Nynehead, Grand Western Canal wharf basin at Wharf Cottage, ST 1452 2200

Wharf Cottage, originally known as Horsey's Wharf, stands on the site of what was once a busy privately owned wharf on the Grand Western Canal. Historical evidence shows that the wharf was built after the canal was opened to Wellington in June 1835 and resulted in minor alterations to the original line. There are several references to a wharf basin in the cottage's garden but the exact position had never been established until recently when gardening exposed the clearly defined footings of a wall. Interpolation from existing maps and plans and a knowledge of the canal dimensions resulted in SIAS digging three exploratory holes which identified and established the direction of the wharf basin. Further excavations in the corner of the field near the cottage's south-west boundary wall have revealed the lines of the wharf basin entrance and indicate how necessary changes to the main line were made to allow the manoeuvring of the tub boats in and out of the wharf.

(Denis Dodd)

Nynehead, Hornshay Farm, Turbine House, ST 1415 2233

William Aysford Sanford installed the original machinery in 1883/84 to provide electrical energy for the farm which included 56m of mechanical transmission in the form of shafting and gears between the turbine by a weir in the River Tone and the generator located in farm buildings. Later the installation was altered by replacing the shafting with a gearbox, positioning the generator in the turbine house and transmitting the power to the farm by cable. The site now includes a derelict building within which remain much of the last water turbine, gearbox, governor and dc generation equipment. Externally, the inlet screen and sluice are visible.

The history of the site and its development have been described¹ and a survey of the site was carried out in 2003 by SIAS when a prolonged spell of dry weather produced the necessary low river level to allow sufficient access for excavation. A considerable amount of silt was removed to expose the turbine rotor and guide vanes and it was possible to view and photograph the draft pipe through which the water was expelled from the turbine rotor after use.²

¹ Rabson, D., 2001. 'The Turbine House at Hornshay Farm, Nynehead', *SIAS Bulletin* 88 (Dec), 2–9.

² Warren, D., 2004. 'Screening water for turbines', *SIAS Bulletin* 95 (April), 14–17.

(Denis Dodd)

Priddy Lead smelters and associated structures, Velvet Bottom, ST 496 552

The survey of the earthworks and buildings at this site was completed in 2004. A previously unknown flue sequence was found, and work is underway to interpret the rest of the structures for a series of reconstruction drawings by CHERT member Colin Middle. An air photograph¹ taken immediately after the floods in 1968 showed that the structures sustained minimal damage, although there was some spread of material below the site that seems to have been blown out of conduits below the site by the pressure of the water. This is today grown over and indistinguishable from the rest of the area.

¹ Les Davies, Mendip Wardens Service, copy in CHERT archive.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Blackmoor, ST 5053 5561

A 19th-century map of 'Temple Heydon' (Mendip) Farm, shows a group of four rectangular buildings arranged around a yard.¹ It is possible that these may be the workshops that drew power from the waterwheel in the swallet nearby, along with a sawmill and the site of a stationary engine for hauling material, known to have been constructed around May–August 1849.² There are no obvious remains of buildings at this site today but a clear earthwork ramp ascends from the area to the eastern edge of the nearby Waterwheel swallet, and this may be the remains of an inclined plane used by the stationary engine to raise material from the valley floor to the Mendip Hills Mining Company's road.

¹ SRO DD/STL 9 (nd c. 1855).

² Stanton, W., and Clarke, A., 1984. 'Cornish Miners at Charterhouse-on-Mendip', *Proc Univ Bristol Spelaol Soc* 17, 29–54.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Blackmoor, ST 5055 5570

The remains of a coursed rubble building, up to 12m long and 4m wide, of local limestone set in pale grey mortar, lies beside the track by the car park. About four courses of stone are exposed in the south-west wall, but exposed stone can be seen on all four sides, and one very clear internal partition wall survives

as an earthwork. The structure looks, in building technique and material, much like the 19th-century leadworks buildings, although there does not appear to be mention of it anywhere, and despite lying immediately beside the car park at Blackmoor, it appears to have previously escaped notice.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Blackmoor, Pattinson Plant, ST 5058 5564
The site of the Pattinson plant (used for extracting silver from the Charterhouse lead) was excavated in 1966–7, and the remains are supposed to have been completely destroyed in August 1968.¹ Contemporary photographs found at the Charterhouse Centre and copied by CHERT show the excavations in progress, and one colour slide has survived, showing the building after excavation but before its destruction. From comparison with the modern appearance of the site, it seems that the flue for the chimney, and possibly part of one room of the plant at its southern end have in fact survived.

¹ Hawtin, F., 1970. *Industrial Archaeology* 7, 171–5.

(Vince Russett)

MODERN

Pilton, Cumhill Tithe Barn, ST 5890 4063

Proposals to lay a new floor inside the Pilton Tithe Barn were preceded by a stone-by-stone recording of the existing floor slabs. Levelled transects through the porches and along the floor were also undertaken so that appropriate levels for the new floor could be calculated. Previous work inside the barn had established that the present floor slabs were probably laid in the 19th or 20th century.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges

As part of a general programme of recording the military archaeology of the Yoxter Ranges, CHERT carried out a photographic survey of the butts and other machinery at the Yoxter Ranges in December 2004. Little but the stone and earth butts survive of the original structures. At various places on the Yoxter Ranges, linear double-hedge lines have been recorded. The hedges are entirely composed of new-growth hawthorn bushes, and ignore the pre-existing walled fields, except that where the double-hedge line crosses one of the walls, the wall has always been reduced, apparently by machinery. These double hedge-lines have grown up in the tracks made

by armoured vehicles training at Yoxter during the 1950s¹ and the tracks where the vehicles have crossed the fields and smashed through the walls are obvious in air photographs before the thorns had begun to mature.² These type of features have been given the candidate term 'yoxters', and it may be expected that they will be increasingly identified elsewhere.

¹ Pers comm, J. Chapman.

² Air photograph 58/RAF/6155 0066 (5 February 1964).

(Vince Russett)

Yeovil, Stars Lane, ST 5605 1568

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of a number of geotechnical test pits. The method of excavation precluded detailed recording but established that the construction of a gas depot had destroyed any earlier archaeological remains.

(R. Broomhead)

OTHER REPORTS

Bridgwater, Cranleigh House, ST 3302 1369

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for an extension. Redeposited natural clay sealed building demolition rubble which in turn was directly above undisturbed natural clays. No archaeological features were identified cutting into the natural clays.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Bridgwater, Middlezoy, 6 Church Road, ST 37560 32750

An evaluation was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services prior to the development of the site. Although archaeological deposits of Roman, Saxon and medieval date have been discovered in close proximity, the evaluation revealed only simple sequences of soils containing a small quantity of post-medieval and modern finds. The full report is available at www.contextone.co.uk

(R. McConnell)

Chard, Holyrood Street, ST 32150 08350

An evaluation was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services prior to the development of the site. Despite lying within the original medieval town of Chard and close to the postulated Saxon core, the evaluation revealed only a sequence of post-medieval and modern garden soils incorporating an

assemblage of artefacts typical of domestic refuse disposal. The full report is available at www.contextone.co.uk

(R. McConnell)

Chilthorne Domer, Main Street, Home Farm, ST 5242 1909

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology. Two trenches were excavated on land to the south of the farm close to an area of possible medieval house platforms. No features were recorded and natural clay was observed at a depth of between 0.36m and 0.56m. The collection of unstratified pottery included five sherds of 10th/11th-century chert-tempered and limestone-tempered coarsewares, but the bulk of it consisted of local coarsewares dating from the 17th century.

(P.J. Weddell)

Congresbury, Cadbury House, ST 43850 64995

Wessex Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed extension on a site which was in use as a terraced car park. In the 19th century a Romano-British cemetery was discovered somewhere in the vicinity of Cadbury House and during the Second World War the site was used as a prisoner-of-war camp. Despite the excavation of five machine-dug trenches, no archaeological features were recorded. Four of the trenches contained depths of modern levelling deposits: gravel, rubble and hardcore and the other a substantial concrete slab.

(David Norcott)

Crewkerne, North Street, ST 44117 09934

An evaluation was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services prior to the development of the site. The excavation revealed only deposits relating to the current car-park on the site overlying natural sediments. Earlier structures, which are known from maps, had been removed. The full report is available at www.contextone.co.uk

(R. McConnell)

Dinnington, ST 4030 1370

Evaluation trenches were excavated across the site of a proposed lake in the eastern half of a long field in the bottom of a valley 500m north of Dinnington. The site lies between two existing lakes immediately north-west of the site of a large Romano-British villa recently explored.¹ The trenching, which included sondages to the maximum proposed depth of the lake, revealed no archaeological remains apart from

the field drains. A sequence of colluvium at least 1.2m deep was seen over the whole area with no trace of a buried land surface. Much of the sequence may be fairly recent and it is certainly possible that a Romano-British land surface is more deeply buried.

¹ Webster, C.J., 2002. 'Somerset Archaeology 2002', *SANH* 146, 146.

(Alan Graham)

Donyatt, Crow Lane, ST 3385 1395

Excavations for foundations to the rear of Crow Lane Cottage were observed, revealing nothing but a stiff grey clay beneath the existing topsoil.

(Alan Graham)

East Lyng, 'Haggits', ST 339 292

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken when foundation trenches for a house extension were cut into the alluvial clays north-east of the Balt Moor Wall. Mixed colluvial clays up to 0.8m deep lay above alluvium which was left undisturbed.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Enmore to Durleigh pipeline, ST 2576 3547

Wessex Archaeology undertook archaeological monitoring during the construction of a new sewer between the villages of Enmore and Durleigh. A c. 4.5km long, 12m wide easement was stripped of topsoil in advance of pipeline excavation. Despite the proximity of shrunken village remains no archaeological deposits or features were identified and only a small assemblage of modern material was recovered from the topsoil.

(David Norcott)

Glastonbury, Benedict Street, ST 4969 3885

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of foundations for an extension to the existing Youth Centre. No archaeological features were observed within a substantial make-up of post-medieval debris overlying wet natural clays.

(R. Broomhead)

Glastonbury, Wells Road and Old Wells Road, ST 5108 4018

An evaluation was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services prior to the proposed development of the site. Excavation of six trenches revealed deposits relating to the abandonment and levelling of a brick and tile works close by. The full report is available at www.contextone.co.uk

(R. McConnell)

Lympsham, ST 35555 54280

Wessex Archaeology undertook a watching brief on the areas of two compounds for the construction of a new sewer. An area measuring approximately 0.4ha was stripped of topsoil but no archaeological features were observed within the exposed subsoil. Subsequent excavation of service trenches revealed red-brown and grey clays to a depth of at least 2m below the subsoil. A small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval material was recovered from the topsoil, although this is likely to be the result of manuring rather than an indication of buried archaeological features.

(David Norcott)

Martock, Steppes Crescent, ST 463 195

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology showed widespread modern disturbance. Medieval pottery sherds retrieved from the surviving subsoil indicated agricultural use during this period. Features, including a well, land drains and postholes, were all assigned a 19th or 20th-century date.

(K. Colls)

Meare, Heath Rhyne, ST 457 408

An archaeological evaluation, consisting of c. 350m of trenching, recorded peat deposits and the surface of the underlying marine clay. Profiles of the stratigraphy were undertaken in conjunction with a 250m long coring transect. Samples were taken for environmental analysis and for radiocarbon assessments.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Meare, Westhay, Cross Farm, ST 4353 4250

An archaeological watching brief undertaken when the footings for a new house were excavated within a paddock at Cross Farm recorded one undated ditch, possibly prehistoric, and parts of a second, undated ditch.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Middlezoy, 26 Main Road, ST 37572 32629

An evaluation was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services prior to the development of the site. Although archaeological deposits of Roman, Saxon and medieval date have been discovered in close proximity, the evaluation revealed only a simple sequence of modern garden soils, demolition deposits and redeposited mudstone, all of which contained 19th and 20th-century pottery sherds, overlying natural sand. No finds from any

earlier periods were recovered from the site. The full report is available at www.contextone.co.uk

(R. McConnell)

Milverton, Wood Street, 4 Fairfield Terrace, ST 1189 2606

A watching brief was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology during groundworks for an extension to the rear of the existing building on the site. Undisturbed sandstone or sandy clay subsoil was exposed at depths between 0.6m and 0.8m. No archaeological features were exposed and only post-medieval pottery was recovered.

(T.H. Gent)

North Newton, Stones Farm, ST 2983 3092

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken which produced no evidence of any archaeological features within the proposed development area.

(R. Broomhead)

Priddy, Charterhouse Centre, ST 5020 5575

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks for the footings of a new accommodation building, septic tank and wind turbine recovered only a few post-medieval finds within topsoil.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Somerton, Old Mill, ST 486 287

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works for new housing on the former Bonds Mill site. Much of the site was shown to have been quarried in the past and most of the south part of the site had also been graded down to bedrock prior to the present development works. No archaeological features survived on the site.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Stocklinch, ST 3875 1680

Excavations for the foundations of a field barn to the east of the village were observed, revealing the strata of the Yeovil Sands beneath the topsoil. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were evident.

(Alan Graham)

Wellington, Alexandra Road, ST 138 208

Bath Archaeology carried out a watching brief on a small development site in Wellington. Although a few features became visible during the excavations, all proved to be of 19th or 20th-century origin.

(Tim Robey)

Wells, 48 North Road, ST 5557 4622

An evaluation was undertaken upon land formerly occupied by a barn and stables. The work identified no significant archaeological features. The recorded stratigraphy suggested the site to have comprised agricultural land throughout most of the historic period.

(R. Broomhead)

Whitestaunton, The Lodge, Whitestaunton Manor, ST 2808 1051

Observation of foundation trenches for extensions to both the north and south of the lodge revealed made ground of 19th-century date, up to 0.9m thick at one point overlying a thin buried soil above the rock. Water sprang from the bedrock indicating a spring line that has been utilised for the existing lakes in the manor grounds. The made ground appears to be from the later 19th-century landscaping of these grounds. A trench for a land drain to the north-east was also observed, on the slope below the eel pond. Again only recent made ground was revealed.

(Alan Graham)

Wincanton, The Dolphin Hotel, ST 71500 28600

Monitoring by Michael Heaton Associates of machine-excavated trenches, within the garden of the hotel, revealed a wholly natural soil sequence enhanced only by ash dumping which sealed a quarry pit of 18th or 19th-century date.

(Michael Heaton and William Moffatt)

Yeovil, 18 Hendford, ST 5550 1590

Archaeological monitoring of ground works for a new block of flats recorded the bases of stone and brick walls associated with the former use of the site as a livery stable. One undated, earlier ditch was recorded below the cobbled yard together with a few sherds of post-medieval pottery recovered from spoil heaps.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Yeovil, Alvington Lane, ST 5257 1593

The foundation trenches for four new houses were monitored but no evidence of any previous activity was recorded.

(R. Broomhead)

Priddy, Chancellor's Farm, ST 525 526

In the south-west corner of the field to the north of

Chancellor's Farm, there are a group of low-relief earthworks. A stony bank, about 2m wide and 0.3m high, with a stone core and a slight ditch on its east side, runs north from the stone building for c. 40m, until lost in a group of hollows. The corner of the field is a triangular platform edged by a north-west-south-west aligned east-facing lynchet c. 0.5m high. These may be the remains of buildings or structures associated with the early farm.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Twin Brooks, ST 4770 5740, ST 4785 5754

A linear bank with a small ditch on its uphill side runs almost from the top of the West Twin Brook valley to the side of the East Twin Brook. It was revealed during bracken cutting by Les Davies of the Mendip Wardens Service and recorded by CHERT in August 2004. The bank varies in width from 6 to 10m, is c. 1m high and has a shallow ditch c. 0.5m deep. Its purpose and date are unclear; it may be the upper limit of previously noticed (?prehistoric) fields on the north slope of Blackdown or potentially, a medieval 'corn-ditch' of Dartmoor type, possibly associated with the square enclosure to the north.

(Vince Russett)

Priddy, Yoxter Ranges, ST 5300 5345

A number of parallel marks at this location have been cautiously suggested in the past to be part of field boundaries.¹ As this field is specifically stated in 1829 to have been recovered from mining² it seems unlikely that this can be the case.

¹ Somerset HER 25017.

² SRO DD/TD/38 (1829).

(Vince Russett)

Weston-super-Mare, Mansfield Avenue, ST 3360 6175

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology at the request of Crowley Construction Ltd. Five trenches were excavated within the proposed development area. The identified sedimentary sequence appears to represent the in or near channel deposits of a small, slow flowing stream within a salt marsh environment adjacent to the low lying island of Wellsea. An undated field ditch cutting the uppermost alluvial deposits was also identified.

(Jonathan Hart)