
SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY, 2005

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SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 2004–5

The past two years have seen a particularly busy period for archaeological research and discoveries in the county. This annual review edited by SCC for the *Proceedings* provides a very useful overview of what has been discovered and added to the County Historic Environment Record (HER). At the end of 2005 the Somerset HER contained information on nearly 17,000 archaeological sites and 11,610 listed buildings. This information is available online at www.somerset.gov.uk/heritage and the Somerset HER continues to be one of the most user-friendly HERs in England, confirmed by a study carried out by Southampton University. Talya Bagwell, on completion of the Heritage Lottery Funded project, continued to work on the backlog of the HER adding many 'grey literature reports' – the reports of fieldwork carried out largely at the request of the planning system; there are now nearly 2000 entries for archaeological activities in the record.

In 2005 a successful bid to the South West Museums Libraries and Archives Council secured funding for a special project to look at war memorials around the county and to make the information available. Talya undertook the project, called *Written in Stone*, and focussed on working with local schools at Key Stage 1 and 2. The project produced a leaflet and a teachers' pack; it also provided a practical opportunity for pupils and teachers to carry out fieldwork, poetry and drama outside the classroom. Further information is available on the SCC heritage website at www.somerset.gov.uk/heritage.

The Peat Moors Centre, managed by Eddie Wills, continues to provide a wide range of events and activity days for the public. In 2004–5 the site was refurbished and a new Iron Age style roundhouse was built; with a grand opening event in 2004 attended by Adam Hart Davis and Mick Aston together with several hundred local people. The investigation and analysis of wetland archaeological sites in peat continues under the direction of Richard Brunning with financial support from English Heritage. A detailed report on the state of scheduled monuments preserved in Somerset peat has identified that the drying out of peat is a real threat to the wetland heritage of the county.¹ In addition to research, a number of outreach projects in conjunction with Leader Plus European funds, have placed innovative information panels at various locations in the Somerset Levels and Moors. Securing a long term future and management strategy for the unique Somerset wetlands continues to be a challenge, and research into special recognition of this landscape continued in 2004–5 looking at the option of a UNESCO designation as a 'Man and Biosphere' reserve. At the end of 2005 this study was put on hold pending further discussions with national agencies but a new focus was established to investigate the idea of designation of the area as a Cultural Landscape under the UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. Much work remains to be done on this but further consultation and investigation will continue in 2006. The issues of water management, sea level rise, climate change and changing agricultural subsidies will bring a range of new pressures on the archaeological heritage of the Somerset wetlands.

The need for a strategic approach to archaeological research in the county and the South West region has been under discussion for several years. In 2005 Chris Webster was seconded from SCC Heritage Service to coordinate the South West Archaeological Research Framework study funded by English Heritage and the local authorities in the South West. This investigation will map out what we know about the archaeological resource, then identify the priorities for further research and conclude with a strategy for its delivery. The working documents present a very valuable overview of the current state of knowledge in the region and they can be viewed on line at www.somerset.gov.uk/swarf. The project is due for completion and publication in 2006–7.

Planning and the recording of the Historic Environment prior to change continues to be one of the key functions of the Heritage Service. In 2005 over 1500 planning and listed building applications were commented upon by Steve Membery, Roger Hagley, Nic Wall and other members of the team. Steve continues to coordinate most of the development control work in the county and 2005 was one of the busiest years on record. One of the largest and most complex sites to have been discovered for many years was found at the site of the Augustinian Priory of St Peter and St Paul in Taunton. The investigations confirmed the location of the main priory church and the position of the lay cemetery. Context One carried out a large-scale excavation with substantial funding provided by Gadd Homes. An open day attracted over 5000 people to the sites and provided local people an exciting opportunity to catch a glimpse of the priory church site before it was covered over. SCC would particularly like to thank Gadds for their help and support in recording the site and allowing public access to the excavations.

The rural landscape of the county is also covered by the team and the Heritage Service continues to provide advice to a wide range of agencies and statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency, and the Rural Development Service arm of DEFRA involved with agri-environment subsidy schemes around the county. In 2005 Jan Grove provided detailed archaeological advice on schemes to ensure that appropriate archaeological management would be put in place. In addition to providing advice to landowners and farmers, SCC, with support from English Heritage, provides practical site management and repairs to scheduled monuments around the county and several sites have been repaired by Andy

Stevens and Ian Lewis, notably the medieval castle wall at Taunton castle.

Somerset Heritage Service has actively supported European-funded projects in recent years and in 2004–5 SCC coordinated a successful bid called Cultural Heritage Action Zones (CHAZ) looking at monastic sites in Somerset, in partnership with Glastonbury Abbey, The Vendée in France, Frosinone in Italy, and Alava and Murcia in Spain. A second stage project is planned for 2006. Somerset is also involved in a flagship European-funded project looking at the value and importance of garden heritage across north-west Europe. The European Garden Heritage Network has worked closely with several partners in France and Germany and helped Hestercombe Gardens with interpretation and educational programmes on the value and importance of garden heritage (see www.imaginethegarden.co.uk). These two cultural heritage projects have extended the remit of our normal archaeological focus but our third European project PlanArch, coordinated by Steve Membery, linked work in Somerset to the main partners in Kent and Essex. This project focussed on the importance of planning and archaeology in spatial planning and the role of Environmental Impact Assessment reports in particular.

In 2005 English Heritage through the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund provided support for an assessment of the archaeological resource in Somerset affected by potential aggregate extraction. This project was carried out by Hannah Firth working on known information in the HER, and Krysia Truscoe, working in the National Monuments Record in Swindon, carrying out new mapping of aerial photographs. The results from this survey will be used to influence and inform future aggregate extraction in the county. In addition to the new survey the Somerset Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund and the Mendip AONB service provided funding to commission new aerial photographs of the Mendip area from Shipham in the west to Frome in the east. Analysis of this new information will continue in 2006.

The busiest and most publicised archaeological event in Somerset in 2005 was the *Big Roman Dig* coordinated by Time Team and Channel 4. Archaeological investigations took place at Charterhouse-on-Mendip with the CHERT project, fieldwork at Hemington with the Bath and Camerton Society and a large-scale investigation of the Roman villa at Dinnington jointly with Winchester University and SCC. The Dinnington project has

resulted in one of the largest areas of geophysical survey yet carried out in the county revealing the extent of the villa buildings and associated field systems. Excavation on the site by David Neal for Time Team, Tony King and Keith Wilkinson for Winchester University and Alan Graham for SCC confirmed the plan and quality of the surviving remains. An open weekend in July 2005 saw over 4000 visitors to the site. The discovery of a very fine mosaic depicting Daphne and Apollo is of international importance. Further work is planned in 2006 and 2007. Public interest and support for archaeology and an interest in the wider historic environment continues to grow. The newly formed Heritage Service of the Community Directorate of the County Council continues to develop and improve its core services along with promotion and outreach. One of the key projects in 2005 focussed on the need for a new County Record Office and Heritage Centre along with a major investment programme for Taunton Castle and the County Museum. Development work in conjunction with the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society is well underway and the future for heritage services in the county has never looked better.

¹ Brunning, R., 'Unique, unrivalled and disappearing. What hope for Somerset's wetland heritage', *SANH* 148 (2004), 165–9; Brunning, R., *Monuments at Risk in Somerset's Peatlands: Assessment Report*, unpub report to English Heritage (2005).

SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

Charterhouse Environs Research Team

CHERT continued its programme of fieldwork around Charterhouse-on-Mendip. Large-scale resistivity surveys concentrated on areas of the Roman settlement around the scheduled core, complementing the magnetometry survey by Geophysics of Bradford for the summer Time Team *Big Roman Dig* event (see pp. 79–88). The 19th-century industrial remains at Velvet Bottom and Charterhouse and Ubley Rakes were also surveyed. Members also contributed to other projects, such as the Beacon Hill excavation project near Shepton Mallet (see p. 162), and other community archaeology projects in the area, including a resistivity survey of the hillfort at Wain's Hill,

Clevedon. It has also spawned a further community archaeology programme, WESMART (Weston Super Mare Archaeological Research Team), currently carrying out extensive resistivity survey around Uphill, Weston-super-Mare.

Other events towards which CHERT contributed this year were National Archaeology Days, the Mendip Heritage conference in Shipham in October, and several local events at Charterhouse itself. Practical conservation by scrub clearance and some building recording was carried out with the Mendip Wardens Service. Documentary research was also undertaken on the manorial Court Rolls of Ubley. Map regression analysis for every pre-1900 building in the study area was completed and a number of sites can be potentially traced back to the late medieval period. The recovery and/or copying of archives, photographs and finds from private hands for deposition in Wells Museum continues. Access to the CHERT archive may be obtained by contacting the chair of CHERT, Mr Ron Penn (ron.penn@ukonline.co.uk).

(Vince Russett)

Charterhouse, Lower Cowleaze, ST 5002 5587

Resistivity survey was undertaken in the lower and southern part of a field called Cowleaze at Charterhouse as part of fieldwork in the area by CHERT. The site is recorded as a 'deserted medieval village' (Somerset HER 23038) based upon analysis of aerial photographs. A measured ground survey in 2003 had already clarified that the presumed 'holloway' was in fact a watercourse. The trapezoidal Manor Farm enclosure and some of its internal features were also mapped at the time, as were some other linear ditches/building platforms. The only finds were a sherd of samian ware and a clay pipe stem, both from molehills. It was hoped that a geophysical survey would enable a clearer understanding of the site, its surviving earthworks and buried remains.

Lower Cowleaze is approximately 280m by 50m, on the gentle south-east facing slope of the Black Down hill. The soil and weather conditions at the site proved suited to resistivity survey despite the wide variation of the moisture content over the period of survey. The resistivity results followed the measured survey closely and were able to provide considerably more detail and precision to many of the features. Further buried features were also revealed including an east–west valley and stone-lined pond and stone-lined culvert. Stone walls were also apparent, probably field boundaries and a

retaining wall for an enclosure. The probable remains of a building, suggested by the ground survey, were also seen. Enclosure ditches, a large rectangular building and a possible circular feature were also tentatively identified.

(Vince Russett)

Clevedon, Tickenham Road, Clevedon Court, ST4222 7153

The lawns west and south of Clevedon Court were surveyed by the National Trust using a resistivity meter and fluxgate gradiometer. The mansion house is of considerable interest with various elements dating from the 12th–20th centuries, including substantial remains of the late 14th-century manor house.

The present house and garden are also known to overlie earlier occupation. A Romano-British burial and wall were found under the west lawn in 1951 and medieval and Romano-British building remains found during excavations in 1961.¹ This material was found south of the mansion and immediately north of the Tickenham Road but their exact location is uncertain.

The geophysical survey picked up paths and terraces shown on earlier maps and the footings of a barn which once lay on the lower terrace, south-west of the mansion. This building is shown on a painting, the earliest depiction of the property, probably commissioned soon after Sir Abraham Elton bought Clevedon Court in 1709.

Anomalies were detected which are not aligned with the house and may predate the medieval buildings, but no early walls or buildings could be discerned from the plot. The features seen in 1961 were not detected by the geophysical survey.

In July 2005, a series of porosity test pits were excavated in the car park area east and south of Clevedon Court stables and out buildings. These revealed redeposited 18th and 19th-century material. Beneath this debris was a dark soil mixed with occasional blocks of carboniferous limestone. Two trenches east of the stables contained small fragments of Romano-British BBI pottery.

¹ Lilley, D., and Usher, G., 'Excavations at Clevedon Court', *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* 28 (1962), part 6, 81.

(Martin Papworth)

Douling, Beacon Hill Wood, ST 6390 4585

Following previous earthwork and geophysical surveys in Beacon Hill Woods on behalf of owners

the Woodland Trust,¹ a further programme of research is attempting to locate part of the Fosse Way and to investigate the remains of ancient quarrying. The project is supported by a grant from the Somerset Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund and the voluntary input of members of the Beacon Hill Society and the Charterhouse Environs Research Team. The first target was an area of suspected quarry earthworks below and to the east of the barrows on the summit of the hill. The west end of a man-made quarry into the conglomeritic sandstone was located and sectioned, along with a rubble spread – upcast from its excavation. There were no datable finds but two hammerstones were recovered, and information relating to the disposition of the geological rock outcrops on the hill. Further work is planned for 2006.

¹ Webster, C. (ed.), 'Somerset Archaeology 2002', *SANH* 146 (2002), 133; Webster, C. (ed.), 'Somerset Archaeology 2003', *SANH* 147 (2003), 189.

(Peter Leach)

Hemington, Blacklands, NGR witheld

The excavations at Blacklands, Hemington, undertaken by members of the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society continued with a two-week dig in July for the *Big Roman Dig* and a six-week training dig in August to September. The gatehouse discovered in 2004 was further investigated and a new area (D) was opened over the probable Iron Age enclosure to the south of the villa excavated in previous years.

The two tower-like buildings, only 2m by 4m, of the gatehouses were positioned either side of the entrance to the villa enclosure, but situated outside the enclosure, an arrangement with no known parallels in Somerset or further afield. The northernmost of the two small buildings was removed in order to uncover any sealed deposits beneath and to date both the construction of the gatehouse and the digging of the entrance ditches. The gatehouse may have been constructed around a wooden superstructure, evidenced by the postholes found built into the walls of the small buildings.

The material recovered from this excavation was significant and all the pottery and small finds indicated a date for the construction of the buildings sometime before 120AD. This date was consistent with the early dates now known for the villa building. Radiocarbon dates were obtained from charred seed grains found in the corridor of the building and dated

to around 100AD, making the villa and gatehouse a late 1st-century construction. This was significantly earlier than had been anticipated, but consistent with the early pottery found within the excavated sections of the ditches carried out during the excavations in previous seasons.

In the last week of the excavation a well was found at the south-east corner of the southern gatehouse building. The position of this well confirmed the belief that the enclosure had been altered to take the villa building. Another well, situated to the south-west of the villa, was dug when the first became disused.

A new area was opened over the northern end of the trapezoidal enclosure to the south of the villa. The trench was sited to include a section of the probable roundhouse shown on the geophysical survey. The roundhouse ditch was located and seen to be cut by a very deep sub-rectangular pit containing pottery and brooches of late Iron Age date. The ditch at the head of the enclosure was sectioned. The ditch had been cut and recut on several occasions, but in the later Roman period a rough revetment wall had been placed on the southern side, extending beyond the north-west corner of the enclosure. Coins and pottery of 3rd and 4th-century date were recovered from the layers within the revetted ditch. This may relate to more activity to the west of the enclosure perhaps indicative of settlement in the later Roman period.

(Jayne Lawes)

Hemington, Upper Row Farm and Charlton Farm, NGR withheld

Geophysical survey at Upper Row Farm, undertaken by members of Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society, continued with investigation of the paddock immediately west of the barn, and the field (Caravan Field) immediately to the north of it. Surveys were done with both twin-probe resistance measurement and gradiometer, with contour detail added by EDM. The paddock showed a strong wall-line to the south, with two building enclosures immediately to the north, and a further enclosure at the northern end of the field. These enclosures are all visible as earthworks. Caravan Field showed a small enclosure at its southern end and some possible hut circles. A third field, Strawbridge, well to the north of the farm, was also surveyed. A possible trackway and building were shown, but signals were indistinct.

Paddocks immediately to the east and north of Charlton Farm have been also surveyed, and have given indications of small buildings, probably

relating to the 'vill' mentioned in the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316. There were also signs of probable prehistoric hut circles and boundary ditches in the same area.

(John Oswin)

Photographic survey, Velvet Bottom, Charterhouse, ST 497 554

Velvet Bottom, a valley to the south and west of the Charterhouse Centre, contains a wealth of archaeological structures and sites that have been only poorly recorded in the past. To complement the detailed earthwork surveys of the smelter buildings carried out in 2004, and the continuing earthwork surveys of the whole valley, CHERT carried out a detailed photographic survey with detailed studies of individual sites, and panoramas taken at approximately every 100m down the valley. As a result, several sites were identified. In particular, remains of small stone buildings connected with the Mendip Hills Mining Company buddle groups and a sequence of structures that may predate these were recorded.

(Vince Russett)

South Cadbury Environs Project, Seven Wells/Poyntington Down, NGR withheld

Fieldwork and post-excavation work of the South Cadbury Environs Project continues to be supported by a small but dedicated group of regular volunteers and by an increasing number of students, mainly from the University of Bristol. The latest interim report on fieldwork in 2004 and 2005 is due to appear in July 2006. Accounts of the project's work from 1998 to 2003 are obtainable from the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol. Summaries and an up-to-date diary of the project's forthcoming fieldwork may be found on the website www.southcadbury.org.uk

Survey with a gradiometer of c. 55ha of this area has been complemented with the excavation of 1m² test pits every 100m. The earlier use of fieldwalking and subsequently shovel pitting has been replaced by additional test pits targeting geophysical anomalies. This represents a greater surface area than originally planned in an effort to represent more fully the range of local topography.

Much of the high ground in this area has been devastated by ploughing which has almost certainly removed originally shallow rock-cut features in their entirety, whilst pulverising finds in the rocky ploughsoil. Even lithic remains are much reduced in average size and number. However, some deeper

features survive and there are small pockets of better microregional survival under ancient and modern headlands and where the ploughsoil has filled natural depressions or shelves.

A roughly circular feature visible in a 1947 air photograph proved only partially visible in the magnetic survey. A targeted test pit on the south side of the Seven Wells road identified it as a vertical-sided rock cut ditch. The only finds were sparse, undiagnostic flints.

An untargeted test pit identified a second ditch which geophysical survey showed to be circular, probably surrounding a ploughed-out barrow. There were no diagnostic forms amongst the small assemblage of potsherds, however the fabric was dominated by grog, implying an earlier Bronze Age date.

On the Dorset side of the border geophysical survey revealed a very distinct penannular feature of 50m diameter. Targeted test pits produced evidence of Middle Iron Age metalworking from the enclosed area, whilst the upper fills of the ditch included Late Bronze Age pottery. The date of origin of the feature is unclear at present.

(Richard Tabor)

South Cadbury Environs Project, Sigwells, Charlton Horethorne, NGR withheld

A further seven trenches were opened in this 18ha field on the plateau behind the scarp overlooking Cadbury Castle from the south-south-east. Trench 15 explored the north side of the multiphase Iron Age enclosure investigated in 2003–4. As elsewhere three phases of ditch cutting were found. Immediately to the west of the enclosure, Trench 14 targeted an area of dense dipolar magnetic response, which, it was hoped, might reveal a metalworking area. In the event a concentration of Early Middle to Late Iron Age pits was discovered, several containing slag. One of the latter contained structural debris in the form of daub.

Trench 18 was set across a roughly north to south linear anomaly which proved to be a recut Romano-British ditch. Trenches 17 and 16 targeted two of four long west-north-west to east-south-east parallel linear features, another of which had been excavated in Trenches 12 and 8 in previous years.¹ The short section in Trench 17 produced no diagnostic material from the lower fills and only Romano-British pottery from the uppermost fill. However, in Trench 16 it was demonstrated that an intersecting barrow ditch² cut the linear, providing a *terminus ante quem* of no later than early Bronze Age for that ditch and probably the whole system.

Trench 20 was excavated over the apparent entrance of a D-shaped enclosure that had first been revealed in 2002 (Trench 11). Despite a clear signature from the magnetic survey, the cut features encountered proved irregular and unconvincing. Sparse flintwork in the fill may have arrived through burrowing, as there was no clear evidence for anthropogenesis. This was in marked contrast to the corresponding feature in Trench 11 that was well defined and included prehistoric pottery. The north of the trench uncovered a shallow east–west Romano-British boundary ditch.

Trench 19 revisited the enclosure excavated in Trenches 8, 9 and 10.³ A 20 x 35m rectangular trench was opened over the north-west area of the enclosure, taking in a roughly circular area of enhanced magnetic readings. The latter turned out to comprise rock-cut pits, scoops, and postholes, most of which were rubble-filled, often including burnt stone. The postholes defined a roughly circular structure of 7m diameter with a corridor entrance from the south. An area of in situ natural limestone immediately west of its centre was burnt red. Of over 400 ceramic mould fragments retrieved from the four trenches over 300 were within or immediately adjacent to the structure.

Previously the enclosure had been assigned a Late Bronze Age/Earliest Iron Age date. However, Ann Woodward (pers. comm.) has argued convincingly that the pottery from both the ditch and the features within it is Middle Bronze Age, showing Globular Urn traits. There is a marked correspondence with assemblages of the period from Trevisker (Cornwall), Shearplace (Dorset) and Brean Down. There can be no serious doubt that the enclosure and the structure within it were specifically constructed for metalworking over a period of a few months. At present it appears to be the earliest identified metalworking structure in Britain.

The latest pottery from the southern of two parallel ditches cutting the enclosure was Middle Iron Age but Romano-British pottery dominated the fills of the recut northern ditch.

¹ Tabor, R., 'Cadbury Castle: prehistoric pottery distribution in the surrounding landscape', *SANH* 147 (2004), 29–40.

² Grinsell, L., 'Somerset barrows Part II: North and East', *SANH* 115 (1971), 43–137.

³ Tabor, R. and Johnson, P., 'Sigwells, Charlton Horethorne: The identification, interpretation and testing of Bronze Age to Early Medieval landscapes by geophysical survey and

excavation', *SANH* 144 (2002), 1–24; Tabor, R., *South Cadbury Environs Project: Interim Fieldwork Report, 2002–03*, Univ Bristol (2004).

(Richard Tabor)

South Cadbury Environs Project, The Moor, South Cadbury, NGR withheld

Three small trenches were opened over probable ditches in The Moor. A two phase Late Iron Age/Romano-British ditch was uncovered in Trench 1 and two Middle Iron Age ditches in Trench 2, one of which included a substantial closure deposit made up of pottery and structural debris. The ditch fills in both these trenches were sealed by visible cultivation marks of probable 4th-century AD date. In Trench 3 a two-phase Middle Iron Age ditch was cut by a Late Iron Age ditch, in turn cut by a stone-capped, shallow, probably later 1st-century grave. The later ditch was also cut by a Romano-British ditch with an orientation similar to that of the cultivation marks.

(Richard Tabor)

Stogursey, Fairfield House, ST 187 430

As part of a week-long archaeological course for 11–15 year olds based at Kilve Court Residential Education Centre, field survey and excavation were carried out in the grounds of Fairfield House. Artefact collection in a field north of the house recorded a scatter of medieval pottery with several sherds that can be dated to the 11th century. Excavation comprised two trenches; one revealed debris from demolished buildings to the west of the present house, the other revealed traces of the line of the wall and moat that had defined the grounds of the manor house in the 16th century. The project is to continue in 2006.

(Alan Graham)

Wraxall, Tyntesfield, ST 506 715

During 2005, a conservation management plan was prepared for the Tyntesfield Estate, a National Trust property, as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid to fund the endowment and necessary conservation work needed for the property. The plan was coordinated by Alan Baxter Associates and brought together five specialist conservation plans covering ecology, collections, landscape, buildings and archaeology.

The archaeology plan drew on the information assembled in the Archaeological Survey.¹ Like the other plans it contains a gazetteer of sites, and sections on understanding the asset, assessment of

significance, issues, policies and short, medium and long-term management objectives.

¹ Hanks, N., *Tyntesfield, Wraxall, Somerset, Archaeological Survey*, unpub report for the National Trust (2004).

(Martin Papworth)

MULTI PERIOD

Ilchester, 8 High Street, ST 5212 2267

A combined watching brief and excavation was undertaken during the digging of foundations for a small extension to the rear (west) of 8 High Street. Despite extensive modern disturbance, the remains of a late medieval or early modern building together with evidence of medieval pitting and Romano-British activity were recorded.

(R.A. Broomhead)

Portbury, St Mary's Church of England Voluntary-Aided Primary School, ST 5028 7534

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Avon Archaeological Unit during the construction of an extension, 250m² in extent, to the school. Portbury has a long history of occupation from the prehistoric period onwards, including Romano-British and medieval settlement in the vicinity of the church of St Mary the Virgin, reputedly the site of a Saxon minster. During construction of the school in 1972 structural features and human burials were recorded, though unfortunately the archive has since been lost.¹

The excavation revealed evidence of an initial period of structural activity, involving earth-fast timber structures associated with discrete pit groups, which suggested probable settlement on, or in the vicinity of, the school site. A subsequent hiatus in activity was indicated by a series of soil layers that entirely sealed the earlier postholes and pits and suggested the earlier settlement had been relocated or abandoned. The site was later reoccupied as a cemetery, the final period of activity recorded.

A paucity of artefacts recovered from either stratified or unstratified contexts meant that phases of activity recorded could not be dated. It is thus proposed to obtain radiocarbon dating from the cemetery and, in turn, provide a *terminus ante quem* for the preceding structural activity.

¹ North Somerset SMR 02400.

(Donna Young)

*Weston-super-Mare, West Wick, ST 371 618/
ST 371 617*

Oxford Archaeology undertook two phases of field evaluation of land at West Wick. During phase one the majority of the trenches revealed only the natural alluvial sequence, however those located approximately in the centre of the proposed development area contained a fairly high density of medieval and post-medieval boundary ditches and rubbish pits. Some of these have been dated to the late Saxon or Saxo-Norman period.

The phase two evaluation produced evidence of drainage ditches and a field boundary relating to wider field systems of unknown date. Despite the lack of dating material, there is a phased sequence of activity on the site: earlier ditches had filled by the time of deposition or formation of a dark soil layer noted across the site, while other ditches appeared to contain this material. A large ditch in Trench 9, possibly a field boundary, cut this layer and is therefore of later date. Alluvial clay was noted across the site and peat observed and sampled in a trench at the east of the investigation area. The evaluation appears to demonstrate that the site here is typical of agricultural land prone to flood, with ditches being excavated to drain water away from the fields.

(Clare King)

PREHISTORIC

Alford, Dimmer Landfill Site, ST 612 308

Excavation and examination of an area measuring 200m x 100m, prior to its incorporation into new landfill cells, resulted in the recording and excavation of ditches, gullies, shallow pits and postholes relating to occupation between the Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age. Finds included a chert hand-axe, struck chert flakes, a small quantity of Bronze Age pottery and Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery as well as animal bone fragments.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Banwell, land at the rear of the Ship Inn, ST 3980 5909

An evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology at the rear of the Ship Inn. Three trenches were excavated across the proposed development area. Trench 1 contained two curvilinear gullies, which appear to form part of a 5m diameter sub-circular feature. Both gullies contained animal bone, and a sherd of 2nd to 4th-century Roman pottery was recovered. At the south-

east end lay a ditch, the fill of which contained 14 sherds of relatively unabraded mid to late Iron Age pottery and some animal bone. All three features were sealed by topsoil and modern material up to 2m deep. The depth of the disturbance represented by this material may suggest that truncation of archaeological features has taken place in this part of the site. No archaeological remains were revealed in Trenches 2 and 3, which lay upslope of Trench 1, and showed considerably less evidence for modern dumping, being covered by only 0.5m of topsoil.

(David Cudlip)

Cheddar, Batts Combe Quarry, ST 467 554

Phase one of the creation of a new tip for quarry waste was subject to a watching brief. A small number of worked flints were recovered though no clear concentrations were identifiable. The watching brief will continue over the next several years.

(R.A. Broomhead)

Cranmore, West Cranmore Quarry, ST 6600 4315

Land for a proposed extension to the existing quarry was monitored during topsoil stripping. No prehistoric features were seen but a large number of flint tools, cores and flakes were collected. Some small fragments of possible prehistoric pottery were also recovered.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Exmoor, East Pinfold stone setting, SS 7965 4273

Geophysical and topographic survey was undertaken by Joshua Pollard (Bristol University), Mark Gillings and Jeremy Taylor (Leicester University) of this stone setting and adjacent mounds. The survey suggested that the monument was aligned along the local geology, located possible further stones and suggested that the mounds had solid cores with evidence of burning that suggests that they are cairns.

(C.J. Webster)

Exmoor, Tom's Hill stone setting, SS 8017 4328

Geophysical and topographic survey was undertaken by Joshua Pollard (Bristol University), Mark Gillings and Jeremy Taylor (Leicester University) of this stone setting. The survey suggested that some of the stone-hollows previously identified were in fact impact craters from the use of the area as ranges.

(C.J. Webster)

Frome, land adjacent to Coalway Lane, Berkley, ST 7967 4944

An evaluation on land adjacent to Coalway Lane was

undertaken by AC Archaeology. An earlier desk-based assessment for the development had identified that the site was the possible location of a limekiln of 18th-century (or earlier) date, indicated by a field name 'Limekiln Ground' on early 19th-century maps. A subsequent geophysical survey in this area recorded sub-surface anomalies that may be related to this and other archaeological activity.

A total of 61 1.8m wide trenches were excavated totalling c. 2.3km in length. Two areas of archaeological activity were noted, the first consisting of three shallow linear features of possible prehistoric origin in the south-west corner of the site and the second a large linear feature on the eastern side of the site that is probably post-medieval in origin. In the remaining trenches results were either negative or consisted of modern land drains.

(Neil J. Adam)

Glastonbury, 1 Bove Town, ST 503 391

A Late Bronze Age pit containing flints and pottery sherds was recorded during full excavation of the above development site. Flint flakes were also found as residual finds in features of later date. See also under Roman and Medieval.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, Bushy Combe, ST 5070 3895

Archaeological recording was undertaken at the eastern end of Bushy Combe after the excavation of a 250m long service trench. Two prehistoric struck flints were found in a buried soil or subsoil.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Huish Episcopi, Bowden's Lane Quarry, ST 4164 2848

Monitoring of topsoil and subsoil stripping for an extension to an old, white lias stone quarry at Bowdens, Huish Episcopi, recorded two prehistoric pits, probably dating to the Middle Iron Age, containing pottery, flint and bone. Residual, prehistoric flint flakes were collected from the surface after topsoil stripping along with post-medieval and modern pottery and roof-tile fragments.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Pawlett, Walpole Landfill Site – Northern Extension, ST 310 433

Monitoring during construction for waste cells at the south-west edge of the northern extension area, resulted in the recording and excavation of at least two palaeochannels, several wooden structures across and within the palaeochannels, bog oaks, a

spread of aurochs bones along the most westerly channel and examination of a series of environmental tin and bulk samples. Most of the remains were recorded at between 0m and 1m OD, 5m below the present ground level, underneath deep deposits of marine, alluvial and colluvial clays.

Preliminary radiocarbon results from a number of structures and from the aurochs remains dated them to the mid to late 4th millennium BC, the early Neolithic period. Work will continue through 2006. A fuller report will be published in *Archaeology in the Severn Estuary 2005*, 16 (2006).

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Peasedown St John, Shoscombe, ST 7120 5705

Excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology to the north of Shoscombe in advance of development. A Bronze Age gully was identified running across the development site and associated lithics were found. A large linear feature of probable Iron Age date was identified, its function is currently unclear. An L-shaped ditch and possible enclosure were dated to the Roman period. Nine extended inhumations of unknown date and a pit burial of probable prehistoric date were also excavated.

(Michael Rowe)

Wanstrow, Torr Works Quarry, ST 705 443

Further fieldwalking in advance of soil stripping within the extension area of Torr Works Quarry, near to the deserted settlement at Leighton, recovered numerous flint flakes and some flint scrapers.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Watchet, Doniford Road, ST 078 431

A watching brief was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology on land during construction work for residential development. A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the subsoil, including scraps of pottery, which appear to be prehistoric in date. Two heavily truncated features were exposed near the centre of the site. One was a small posthole containing a small quantity of clay mould, presumably for the casting of metal objects. This material has provisionally been dated to the Late Bronze Age. A short stretch of a curving gully or ditch was also recorded, though no finds were recovered from the feature. The work will continue into 2006.

(A.J. Passmore)

Wells, Cathedral, yard south of Chapter-house, ST 552 459

Excavation in advance of construction works

recorded a shallow palaeochannel cutting through sandy head deposits, oriented west to east and containing several prehistoric struck flints and animal bone fragments.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

ROMAN

Charterhouse, ST 502 561 & ST 503 558

For survey and excavation for Time Team's *Big Roman Dig* see pp. 79–88.

Charterhouse, ST 504 556

Two of the rakes in the field east of the Field Studies Centre above the Blackmoor Valley were examined in 1994–5 by excavation (final report forthcoming). The longest and most visible rake produced early Roman pottery, including samian ware of the 1st century AD and one possible late Iron Age vessel. A second short rake produced Roman pottery of the 1st century AD and a denarius of Julius Caesar along with evidence of the extraction of iron. The material recovered from these rakes closely matches in date and character that found in the ditch of the enclosure ('fortlet') at ST 504 557 (SM 220). Both rakes were being exploited for their contents in the 1st century AD, one for galena, the other for iron. This amends the note of V. Russett in *SANH* 148 (2005), 105.

(Malcolm Todd)

Cranmore, West Cranmore Quarry, ST 6600 4315

Monitoring of the re-opening and extension of an old quarry revealed no archaeological features. However a number of Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered. Previous finds of Romano-British pottery and features at both the Douling Quarry and Abbey Quarry extensions, situated approximately 1km to the north-west, might indicate the presence of a relatively large Romano-British settlement in this area.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Crewkerne, ST 454 097

Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation at land east of Crewkerne. The evaluation revealed 20 pits and 5 ditches of Middle to Late Iron Age and early Roman date. A layer of colluvium was subsequently deposited and there was evidence for levelling of the site with a rubbly layer deposited in a hollow in the southern part of the site. Activity, in the form of a pit and a recut ditch, resumed on a small scale

during the late Roman period. Post-medieval field boundaries appear to criss-cross the site.

(Kate Brady)

Dinnington, Northfield Lane, ST 404 135

Geophysical survey using fluxgate gradiometer and ground penetrating radar was undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd as part of Time Team's *Big Roman Dig*. The work followed an earlier survey undertaken in 2002 and further helped to place the villa building in its wider archaeological context. A new road leading into the estate was identified. The presence of a series of trackways and formal gardens/fields and paddocks was established surrounding the villa buildings. The GPR survey identified a suite of rooms in the west wing of the building that had previously remained invisible because of the complexity and depth of the deposits.

(Jimmy Adcock and Emma Wood)

Glastonbury, 1 Bove Town, ST 503 391

Roman pottery sherds were found as residual finds in Anglo-Saxon and medieval features and deposits during full excavation of the development site. See also under Prehistoric and Medieval.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Ilchester, 21 High Street, ST 5205 2263

An evaluation trench 8m long was excavated in advance of an application to construct a garage within the scheduled monument. At the western end of the trench were the upper levels of a sequence of thin sandy silt, clay and gravel deposits inclined gently down at 15–20° from west to east. These contained occasional sherds of 2nd-century pottery and although their full depth was not seen they appear to be part of a truncated earth and clay bank. Further east these deposits were overlain by horizontal dumps of stony clay soil and larger stone rubble, containing some 3rd and 4th-century pottery, animal bone, iron nails, etc, and butted against the exterior face of a mortared stone wall. The latter, aligned approximately north-east/south-west and over 0.5m wide, stood five courses high above three wider foundation courses, all mortared. These were set upon lower unmortared stone foundations. A large, partly exposed slab of Ham Hill stone lay horizontally at the level of the lower foundations, possibly covering an exterior drain. Behind the wall at the level of the upper foundation plinth was a compact gravel and mortar surface, scorched in places, which was not removed. This internal floor was sealed by a thin sandy silt with some mortar

and numerous fragments of cream/yellow painted wall plaster, the bulk lying face down. A thicker mixed deposit of stony clay soil above contained many fragments of stone, stone roof-tile, mortar, occasional floor tesserae, 3rd/4th-century pottery, animal bone etc, and was succeeded by a much darker and more evenly distributed stony soil deposit with a similar content. The upper 0.5m of deposits were mainly undifferentiated dark soils with some stone and containing only post-medieval ceramics and other material – primarily cultivation soils.

Once again, a very limited investigation has produced significant new information relating to the preservation and remains of the Roman town at Ilchester. The earliest feature – the inclined components of a bank – is almost certainly part of the rear face of the late 2nd-century town rampart, known to back the later Roman town walls and postulated to lie close to the line of Priory Road at the rear of the High Street gardens.¹ The well-preserved stone wall evidently represents part of a major late Roman building terraced into the rear of the earlier rampart; something of status is implied by painted wall plaster, stone floor tesserae, a mortar floor and stone roof tiles. Extensive rubble deposits suggest building collapse or deliberate demolition, probably post 4th century, with a subsequent accumulation of occupation soil and debris eventually burying the wall but associated with a large posthole set into its levelled top. This accumulation is undated but no medieval pottery was recovered and the deposit resembles 'dark earth' type levels found above the remains of abandoned buildings in many major Romano-British towns. The absence of evidence for medieval occupation or stone robbing is notable here and it is possible that its location close to the town defences afforded some protection. Alternatively, the likely inclusion of this site within the medieval precinct of Ilchester's Dominican Friary could have minimised the levels of later disturbance to Roman levels normally anticipated in the town.

¹ Leach, P. (ed.), *Ilchester Volume 2: Archaeology, Excavations and Fieldwork to 1984* (1994), fig. 3.

(Peter Leach)

Ilchester, 23 Limington Road, ST 5234 2258

A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of foundation trenches for a house extension. The majority were cut to around 2m depth,

where the upper levels of a naturally deposited clay/silt alluvium was reached. In the southern half of the trenches the alluvium was sealed by up to 1m of very well compacted gravel and sand deposits with some larger cobbles, incorporating a sequence of more compacted worn surfaces. This is interpreted as a long-established Roman street sequence, aligned approximately north-east-south-west but of unseen width. This street was bounded to the north by deeply robbed stone wall foundations defining parts of two rooms of a building that had fronted onto the street, with a recut drainage trench separating the northern road edge from the outer wall. Partly truncated deposits representing floor levels, occupation and building destruction material survived in places within the rooms, containing some 3rd and 4th-century pottery. Remnants of earlier occupation or floor levels below these building remains sealed the natural alluvium and contained occasional late 1st/2nd-century pottery. The Romano-British levels were sealed by approximately 1m of more mixed stony soils containing some medieval and post-medieval ceramics, animal bone, etc. Within these horizons more deeply cut trenches to rob the stone walls or pits for rubbish disposal were recognised, some associated with 11th–13th century pottery.

Despite its limitations, this watching brief has provided important new detail of internal arrangements within the Roman town of Ilchester. The almost intact remains of a substantial and long-lived street identify this as part of the main east-west thoroughfare crossing the town. Previous discoveries have indicated that this linked postulated East and West gates.¹ However, this discovery demonstrates that the position of this street lies slightly further to the north, allowing a better continuous east-west route through the town and the suggestion that the East Gate lies slightly further north, and on the north side of the present Limington Road. The Roman building sequence appears to follow indications from elsewhere in the town centre of relatively modest 1st and 2nd-century occupation succeeded by more substantial building in stone during the 3rd and 4th centuries. Several fragments of decorated mosaic pavements are recorded from this side of Limington Road, some of which may relate to the late Roman building remains found here. The subsequent evidence of extensive stone robbing, rubbish pit excavation and other occupation or soil accumulation in the medieval and post-medieval periods is also familiar from many other sites recorded within the town.

¹ Leach, P. (ed). *Ilchester Volume 2: Archaeology, Excavations and Fieldwork to 1984* (1994), fig 3.
(Peter Leach)

Ilchester, Northover Manor Hotel, ST 523 230

Evaluation excavation of a small area within the rear yard of Northover Manor Hotel recovered finds and features of the Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods including a large 19th or early 20th-century stone-lined cistern and the possible remains of a Romano-British flood bank and retaining wall.

A subsequent watching brief during construction works on an eastern extension to the hotel recorded and recovered six inhumation burials, all Romano-British and probably all dating to the 4th century or later. One burial was oriented north–south whilst the other four were aligned approximately east–west. Three of the burials had Black burnished ware jars placed at the feet. One burial had a pottery sherd clamped between its teeth, perhaps used as a substitute for a coin. The burials are assumed to be part of an extended-family cemetery and all are assumed to be pagan.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Ilchester, skateboard facility, ST 5195 2240

A watching brief was undertaken on the construction of a skateboard park in the north-west corner of a playing field to the south of the town. The site lay immediately adjacent to the Fosse Way, just south of an area of Romano-British buildings excavated in 1974.¹ The work was tailored to avoid any disturbance of the likely archaeological deposits in the area, and this was successfully achieved. During clearance, however, it became clear that traces of Romano-British stone buildings were present, indicating the continuation southwards of the Roman period suburban settlement previously seen.

¹ Leach, P. (ed). *Ilchester Volume 1: Excavations 1974–5*, (1982)

(Alan Graham)

Pitcombe, Grove Farm Quarry, ST 655 315

Monitoring and recording during removal of topsoil and subsoil deposits prior to a quarry extension recorded a probable Romano-British cobbled track, and several gullies, pits and ditches. Pottery was plentiful and spanned the Roman period; the features are obviously part of a settlement. The earliest pottery was Black burnished ware, potentially predating the Roman period.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Shipham, Star Roman villa, ST 436 587

Topographical and resistivity surveys were undertaken by Glyn Wellington and others over the site of Star Roman villa which indicated several new features including a complete new range to the east of the known buildings and a wall forming a southern side to the courtyard. It is suggested that this implies that the main range of the villa may lie in the unsurveyed area to the north. To the west there appeared to be a double curving ditch which may indicate a late prehistoric enclosure.

(C.J. Webster)

Wellington, Cade's Farm, Taunton Road, ST 1440 2120

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology. A total of 25 trenches were excavated across the site. The evaluation identified Roman boundary/enclosure ditches in the farm's westernmost field, representing continuations of features recorded during previous archaeological work at the site. An undated, although in all probability Roman, human cremation was partially exposed cutting the upper surface of one of these ditches.

(Derek Evans)

EARLY MEDIEVAL

Dowlish Wake, Bryants Farmhouse, ST 3747 1289

Observation of groundworks for the construction of a swimming pool cut into the south-facing slope of the hill north of the farmhouse revealed the line of a substantial V-shaped ditch 6m wide and up to 3m deep. It was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, running towards the parish church and the probable site of the early medieval manor. The infill was a fine clayey silt, derived from the local geology. Midway within its fill was a dished band of charcoal rich, clayey loam. A single sherd of 16th-century earthenware from the Donyatt kilns was recovered from the top fill, but a much earlier date for the ditch seemed probable. Charcoal from the lower fills was submitted for radiocarbon dating, which produced a date of 670–880 cal AD (WK-17835).

The size of the ditch indicates that it was more than a field boundary, but what it may have defined, or defended, is not known. It ran across the slope contours, and may therefore have enclosed an area on the valley side rather than the hilltop, unless it was a much longer, straight, linear boundary between major land holdings. In the all too common absence of archaeological artefacts from deposits of this

period, it is only the use of radiocarbon dating that can confirm the probable early origins of many of the medieval settlements of Somerset.

(Alan Graham)

Glastonbury, Bushy Combe, ST 5070 3895

Archaeological recording was undertaken at the eastern end of Bushy Combe after the excavation of a 250m long service trench. Tenth-century, 10th/11th-century and 11th/12th-century pottery sherds were recovered from a buried soil and from the fills of small gullies or drains running towards the stream that springs within the combe. The archaeological horizon (and probably much, or all, of the lower part of Bushy Combe) was sealed by a deep deposit of colluvial clay up to 0.5m deep that started to accumulate during the 12th century.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Kingsbury Episcopi churchyard, ST 4371 2111

An assessment trench was dug by machine from the west bank of the River Parrett for a distance of 35m along the southern edge of a field bordering the churchyard. The work was carried out for the Environment Agency in advance of flood protection works. The top 0.5m of the section revealed a flood bank of recent date, lying above the former surface of the field, represented by a dark clayey loam. In the western half of the trench this overlay a brown clay, an alluvial deposit of the river Parrett. A single small ditch was observed cutting this clay, with a dark clayey fill containing fragments of Ham Hill stone, some burnt, but with no evidence of its date. Closer to the river bank, however, the surface of the alluvium was deeper and overlain by a laminated sequence of dark, clayey loams up to 0.3m thick, containing charcoal flecks, fragments of Ham Hill stone and a scatter of animal bone. Although these deposits may have formed in waterlogged areas peripheral to the main channel of the Parrett no artefactual evidence of their date was found. The scapula of a small ox was recovered from these layers and was radiocarbon dated to 710–970 cal AD (WK-17834). This is a period in which artefact evidence of date is frequently sparse or lacking and this radiocarbon date suggests a Saxon origin for the village, which now lies mainly west of the church, removed from the river's edge.

(Alan Graham)

Lyng, Athelney, ST 344 293

Examination of the pottery recovered during a Time Team excavation produced two probable Dark Age

sherds. Dr Ewan Campbell of the University of Glasgow has confirmed the identity of one sherd of B ware (miscellaneous), whilst another sherd was probably locally produced with a heavily grass-tempered, dark grey to black fabric.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

MEDIEVAL

Bawdrip, Grange Cottage, ST 3408 3975

Monitoring prior to construction work in an old orchard and garden formerly attached to Grange Cottage recorded several ditches and gullies datable to between the 10th and 12th centuries. Pre-Conquest pottery was relatively common and the orientation of pre 12th-century features suggests that the modern village plan may have been formed after the 12th century. Medieval gullies, pits and postholes dating from the 12th century through to the 15th/16th century were also recorded. The foundations of a stone-built house, sharing the same orientation as the present road and set back approximately 5m from the road, were recorded. The building appears to date from the 15th/16th century and seems to have been demolished during the 18th century.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Blackford, The Grove, ST 4138 4785

A watching brief was undertaken on the erection of two dwellings and a garage block. Earlier evaluation trenching had recorded stratified 13th/14th-century material, floor levels and a timber-framed structure.¹

Four, undated, phases of activity were recorded. The earliest comprised a 2m wide ditch, probably a boundary feature, on the west side of the site. This predated a number of stone-lined field drains found across the site. The last pre 20th-century activity comprised an extensive levelling operation where the Lias stone inclusions fortuitously appeared to resemble a paved area. The final phase comprised the remains of 20th-century agricultural buildings on the west side of the site. All finds were recovered from unstratified contexts and included two sherds of Romano-British Black burnished ware, six sherds of green-glazed medieval pottery and a single piece of green-glazed medieval roof tile. Four pieces of daub with rod impressions were also recovered.

¹ Heaton, M., Mephem, L., and Murdie, D., *The Grove Blackford, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation*, unpub ASI Heritage Report (1998).

(R. McDonnell)

Bridgwater, Green Dragon Lane, ST 2968 3669

A trench, 3m by 0.6m, was opened by hand in advance of development. The natural gravels were found to be sealed by a layer of homogenous soil that produced exclusively 12th or 13th-century pottery. This was overlain by a further layer of apparent build-up that contained only pottery of later medieval date. It is expected that further monitoring will be carried out at the site in 2006.

(James Brigers)

Bridgwater, Holmes Buildings, St Mary Street, ST 2972 3685

Monitoring was carried out during the excavation of groundworks prior to the construction of a conservatory. The gravel natural was overlain by a substantial deposit of homogeneous brown loam that produced sherds of 12th/14th-century pottery. The surface of the loam was cut by a terrace onto which Holmes Building had been constructed in the late 18th century. The south side was retained by a brick revetment wall, the removal of which revealed a complex sequence of brick walls, pits, drains and robber cuts none of which appeared to date from earlier than the late 18th or early 19th century. The evidence suggests that the site occupied an area of open ground to the rear of the burgage tenements on St Mary Street that are assumed to have been laid out during the 13th century. The medieval soil horizon appears to have remained undisturbed until the erection of Holmes Building to the north and associated terracing activity to the south, probably beginning in the late 18th century.

(James Brigers)

Dunster, Tithe Barn, SS 99059 43722

Architectural recording was undertaken at the Priory Barn, Dunster in advance of repairs and conversion to a community centre.

(R. McDonnell)

Glastonbury, 1 Bove Town, ST 503 391

Excavation prior to development recorded extensive occupation from at least the later Anglo-Saxon period onwards. Anglo-Saxon features included boundary ditches, postholes and drainage gullies. Pottery included sherds stamped with rosettes. The relatively substantial quantity of finds and features suggest that this part of Bove Town might be an eastern extension of the 10th-century town and might, as Dr Lynn Marston suggests, have been occupied by hereditary servants of Glastonbury Abbey.¹

Several pits, ditches and gullies dating from the

12th century through to the 14th century were recorded and excavated. Two large, deep pits had been partially backfilled by pottery kiln waste. Pottery wasters consisted of a very hard reduced fabric with green glaze and applied strips and bosses and a sandier, oxidised fabric, also with applied decoration and bosses. All of the pottery wasters appear to date to the 13th and 14th centuries. Some tile wasters and ridge-tile wasters were recovered but not encaustic tile wasters. Although the kiln site was not situated within the development area it must be very close by, possibly below 20th-century houses on the Wells road.

See also under Prehistoric and Roman.

¹ Marston, L., *The Town of Glastonbury c. 1086–c. 1400*, unpub PhD thesis, Univ Leicester (2003).

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, 1 Northload Street, ST 498 389

An evaluation within a narrow plot behind 1 Northload Street bounded to the west by a public car park, recorded late medieval gullies, and finds, cut into alluvial clay. The clay filled a deep feature, probably a stream channel, running down the slope from the east. Medieval pottery was found within the upper silts together with animal bone and numerous oyster shells.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, 27 Northload Street, ST 4976 3900

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services during groundworks for residential housing. Development excavations to the rear of the site revealed a sequence of garden soils ranging in date from the medieval to the modern period. The earliest of these overlaid natural clay and produced a small assemblage of pottery sherds that predominantly dated to the 13th–15th centuries. This sediment also included several cow bones with evidence of butchery marks, and a number of phalanges from a dog that showed indications of slight trauma to the foot. Combined, the evidence would suggest that this deposit represents the earliest substantive phase of settlement activity on the site and fits well with the results of recent archaeological investigations nearby which have also demonstrated a similar deposit sequence and artefactual chronology. The size and layout of the present plot boundaries also conform to the size of recorded burgage plots in this part of the town, particularly those laid out as part of a new street

pattern in the early 13th century and it is likely that the current site boundaries are a fossilisation of this phase of town planning. Although development excavations also provided a welcome opportunity to observe the deposit sequence at locations within the present building fronting Northload Street, these did not reveal any associated structural remains or deposits that might have indicated the presence of an early property. Instead, excavations exposed the partial remains of a flagstone floor beneath the present concrete surface that is likely to date from around the early 19th century when the existing building was probably constructed. A stone-lined culvert was also revealed at two locations towards the rear of the site and it is conjectured that this ran from the main building and served as a soakaway. Artefacts amongst the sediment inside the drain suggest that it was in use from the 19th century until very recently. The full report is available at www.contextone.co.uk

(Richard McConnell and Joshua Slator)

Glastonbury, 11 High Street, ST 4994 3897

An evaluation to the rear of 11 High Street, immediately east of The Tribunal, recorded occupation on the site from the 12th/13th century onwards. Several structural walls appear to date to the later medieval period with a large, late medieval boundary wall separating the domestic areas from agricultural or horticultural areas at the rear of the tenement. Medieval Lias stone roof tiles and ceramic roof tile fragments were also recovered.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, 78 High Street, ST 5021 3895

Archaeological observations were made during excavation of foundations for the first of five cottages. The excavations exposed stratigraphy that could be dated to the medieval period but no evidence of any significant activity was seen.

(R.A. Broomhead)

Glastonbury, Abbey School, ST 4984 3873

An evaluation and subsequent excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on land to the rear of Abbey School in advance of residential development. The evaluation revealed four shallow ditches dating to the medieval period together with four, probably contemporary, postholes. A stone-lined culvert of probable 19th-century date and modern services were also identified. The site is located on the boundary between the Levels and the high ground of Glastonbury town and there was

evidence that ground levels had been raised during the medieval period. Eight sub-rectangular pits had been excavated into this made ground and although their function remains unclear at present, it is possible that they were associated with an industrial process such as tanning. Two smaller pits and a posthole appeared to have been contemporary with these pits. Two ditches, probably drainage ditches, although stratigraphically later than these features, contained pottery of a similar date.

(Laurent Coleman and Jonathan Hart)

Milborne Port, Millbrook Mews, ST 6755 1877

An archaeological evaluation of three trial trenches was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in advance of proposed redevelopment along the line of Rosemary Street. Pottery and animal bone dating to the early medieval period were discovered in a deposit at the base of Trench 2. Environmental evidence taken from this trench indicates the presence of domestic activity in the immediate vicinity, whilst the occurrence of hammerscale suggests the existence of some industrial processes in this part of the site. Walls and floors of a post-medieval stone building were found at the western end of Trench 1. These new discoveries may indicate an earlier date for settlement in this part of Milborne Port than had been previously thought.

(Stephen Legg)

Pawlett Hams, ST 271 421

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of a new drainage ditch beside White House Road. A medieval occupation horizon sealed by up to 0.4m of alluvium and defined by a charcoal spread containing frequent pottery sherds of 11th to 14th century date, Lias stone blocks, non-local sandstones and iron slag was recorded. This horizon is contemporary with and contiguous to one identified during the construction of a drainage ditch in 2004. The positions of medieval drainage ditches and a flood bank were also recorded in section. Excavation of footings for passing bays and a turning bay on White House Road produced no evidence for an earlier Roman road. Work will continue in 2006.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Pilton, Cumhill Tithe Barn, ST 5890 4063

The final renovation phase at Cumhill Barn included the lowering of part of the interior floor and the removal of some floor slabs, the removal of soil and overburden on the south side of the barn and the excavation of an archaeological sondage against the

exterior of the south wall. Removal of the trampled clay and rubble stone floor between the porches exposed two parallel rows or settings of stone-slabs oriented east/west. These were sealed by trample and by part of the post-medieval slab floor and probably date to the post-medieval period.

The soil and rubble ground to the south of the barn was lowered in order to improve drainage around and inside the building. Up to 0.6m of soil was removed down to the surface of the bedrock. Finds indicated that this area had been much disturbed during the 20th century.

A sondage was hand-excavated against the south wall to the east of the south porch in order to investigate the construction deposits that survive between the buttresses. Construction debris – rubble lias stones in a mixed, mortar/stone-dust/soil matrix – was found to extend almost to the surface of the natural bedrock. There was no trace of a foundation trench for the wall footings and it seems likely that the ground was levelled to the top of the bedrock with the wall foundations built up from that surface. Stone roof-tile fragments were recovered from near to the surface of the construction deposit. This layer was associated with late medieval or early post-medieval pottery.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Shepton Mallet, 2 Waterloo Road, ST 6194 4383

An evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology on land at 2 Waterloo Road in advance of proposed residential development. Four trenches, totalling 22m in length, were machine-excavated. These revealed that large parts of the site contain evidence of 19th-century and later activity, including substantial walls from former buildings, as well as other areas that have been truncated by more recent activity. In the central part of the site a ditch terminal of medieval date was recorded. The evaluation established some potential for pre-modern archaeological activity on the site, but the survival of such features or deposits is likely to be highly localised.

(Stephen Robinson)

Taunton Castle, ST 2262 2464

Two trenches were opened in advance of repairs to the wall that divides the castle courtyard from the garden to the east. The eastern trench showed that the excavations undertaken by St George Gray in the 1920s had removed all the stratigraphy behind the wall to a depth of over 2m. Another wall, seen by Gray, was seen to have been rebuilt, probably in the 1930s when the area was landscaped, with a

garden path along its foot. The sloping rubble core of the main wall appears to have been left exposed until the whole area was levelled, probably in the 1960s.

To the west of the courtyard wall a complex sequence of deposits was excavated comprising, in the main, rubble and mortar from construction activities. Below these were the foundation courses of the wall and a heavily burnt area of sandy clay (probably natural). This was also excavated but no traces of the Saxon burials found to the south were seen.

Examination of the wall itself suggested that it was constructed of two faces (one now missing) with a core of chert-rubble bedded in clay and gravel. Although medieval, it did not appear substantial enough to have formed the base of a keep.

(C.J. Webster)

Taunton, Castle Green, ST 2258 2454

A watching brief was maintained during the course of groundworks for modifications to public transport and car parking arrangements in the Castle Green/Castle Way area, within the site of the Outer Bailey of Taunton Castle and a scheduled monument. The groundworks revealed up to 0.5m of modern makeup and surfaces that probably relate to the earlier cattle market in this area, above a horizon of mixed sandy soils and gravel. The latter were penetrated to maximum depths of 0.2–0.3m, from which were recovered small collections of disarticulated human bone at several locations. There was no datable material in association and none was considered worthy of radiocarbon dating. This material is almost certainly derived from the medieval cemetery that preceded the 12th-century castle.

(Peter Leach)

Taunton, Priory Avenue, ST 2302 2487

Context One Archaeological Services carried out an excavation on part of the Augustinian Priory of St Peter and St Paul and the adjacent lay cemetery from January to August 2005.¹ The excavation was funded by Gadd Homes who are now redeveloping the site for residential housing. The presence of the cemetery is well known and it covers an extensive area. Documentary records suggest that it served the entire population of Taunton from the foundation of the priory in 1158 until the Dissolution. An evaluation on the site in 2004 confirmed the presence of multiple burials and supported similar evidence gathered from an excavation carried out on an adjacent site in the 1970s.

As the exact location of the priory complex was unknown, the discovery of the western end of the

church and adjoining cloister was unexpected. Despite the priory being extensively robbed in antiquity, a number of undisturbed stone-lined tombs were discovered beneath the nave floor containing either single individuals or groups of disarticulated bone. Excavation of the lay cemetery just outside the church has demonstrated an extraordinary intensity of burials that has included vertical sequences of up to 16 sets of remains.

The excavation of the church and lay cemetery revealed the remains of 192 individuals. Of these, 121 are complete, articulated skeletons and 71 are partial, articulated skeletons. A further 78+ individuals can be estimated from disarticulated remains and 78 disarticulated skulls were also recovered. Thirteen individuals came from within the church (12 adults and 1 child) and 179 individuals have been excavated from the lay cemetery (97 adults and 82 juveniles).

Forty-nine pieces of medieval carved stone were recovered from the excavation including 38 architectural fragments and portions of eleven grave slabs. Of these, 40 pieces have been subject to an initial assessment. The architectural pieces comprise nine columns/shafts of hamstone (7) and fine-grained quartzite (2); 15 mouldings of Ham Hill stone (12) and Beer stone (3); two elaborately carved pieces of Ham Hill stone; two blue lias pieces that possibly represent grave markers; and one ashlar of Ham Hill stone. The grave slabs consist of six carved pieces of Ham Hill stone (2) and purbeck marble (2); and five plain slabs of Ham Hill stone (2), fine-grained quartzite (2) and purbeck marble (1).

Excavation of the cloister floor adjoining the north wall of the church revealed the fragmented remains of a hand-painted window. All the fragments were recovered and it is estimated that there are between 25–30,000 pieces. Most of the shards are very small although a number are large enough to identify a pattern. Hand-held and microscopic examination of various fragments showed the glass to be almost completely devitrified (reverting to its former crystalline constituents); because of this, the glass is virtually opaque. However, the larger pieces still show an identifiable pattern and comprise two elements: a miniature 'grid' overpainted with a geometric grisaille design. Stylistically, the window is probably 13th-century in date and is similar to a surviving window in Salisbury Cathedral.

A substantial quantity of ceramic objects was recovered as part of the excavation. This assemblage reflects two phases of activity: the first relating to the occupation of the medieval priory and the second

with episodes of post-medieval/modern domestic and light-industrial activity. Combined, the assemblage largely comprises pottery sherds although other ceramic artefacts include decorated floor-tiles, clay tobacco pipes and structural items such as clay roof-tiles and earthenware drainage pipes.

The medieval ceramic assemblage (c. 500 pieces) largely comprises pottery, decorated floor and ridge-tiles. A surprising quantity of pottery sherds have been found within grave fills of burials within the church and the lay cemetery. It is hoped that the dating of these will help to provide burial phasing and a chronology of cemetery use. A number of decorated glazed floor-tiles were recovered from the priory demolition deposits and although none of these were found in situ, they clearly relate to the church. An initial assessment has shown these to be closely datable to the 13th and 14th centuries with comparable examples being found on sites as far away as Cornwall.

A large quantity of metal objects was recovered from the excavation. This assemblage is dominated by a substantial quantity of iron coffin nails (c. 870) although an interesting range of copper alloy artefacts are also present; all have been provisionally ascribed to the medieval period. These include several coins, dress/shroud pins, a possible bracelet, a spur, a knife blade and a number of unidentified pieces.

Sediment samples were collected from a number of key deposits in preparation for environmental analysis. This included the basal grave fills of several unusual burial types that either incorporated a layer of ash or charcoal that once lined the coffin, or burials where the floor of the coffin was originally comprised of charred planks. In one instance, a single burnt plank running lengthways down the centre of the coffin lid was evident from staining on the skeleton within it. The ash and charcoal fills are likely to have preserved important environmental evidence such as plant macrofossils, pollen and spores. Similar environmental material is likely to have survived in sealed deposits from other features revealed during the excavation such as the primary fills of pits, medieval drains/water management features and the fills of undisturbed tombs found within the church.

The post-excavation programme is expected to commence during 2006 with a final report anticipated in 2007/8.

¹ McConnell, R., 'Taunton, Priory Avenue', in Bagwell, T.S., and Webster, C.J., 'Somerset

Archaeology, 2004', *SANH* 148 (2004), 124.

(Richard McConnell and Joshua Slator)

Walton, Downs Farm, ST 4600 3637

For excavation at Downs Farm see pp. 145–7.

Wanstrow, Torr Works Quarry, ST 705 443

Fieldwalking in advance of soil stripping within the extension area of Torr Works Quarry, near to the deserted settlement at Leighton, recovered medieval pottery sherds of 12th to 14th-century date, early post-medieval pottery and iron slag.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Wells, Cathedral Church of St Andrew, ST 552 459

Monitoring of construction works in the old Masons' Yard resulted in the recording of two stone walls. One was oriented east/west and runs below the existing east boundary wall of the Masons' Yard. The other lies below the present south-east boundary wall, on the same alignment. Neither will be destroyed by the present development. The extent of the deep stone-dust and waste-stone deposit connected with use of the area as a masons' yard, from at least the medieval period onwards, was recorded as well as two stone culverts of medieval or post-medieval date. Two test pits, situated in a cobbled yard between the chapter-house undercroft and the 19th-century boiler house (at the east end of the church) where a new building is to be constructed, were excavated in order to determine the nature of the chapter-house and slype passage footings and also to record and examine any archaeological deposits.

In one a deep, well-founded stone footing was recorded below the slype passage, with an approximate north-east/south-west orientation that differs from both the Anglo-Saxon and medieval building alignments. The wall is probably part of a previously unrecorded 12/13th-century building programme. These footings were earlier than the mid to late 13th-century chapter-house which incorporates and is built over the earlier footings. The late 13th-century slype also incorporates the earlier wall in its footings.

The other test pit, to the east of the first, recorded early 19th-century brick underpinning of part of the chapter-house and buttresses. At this point the chapter-house was constructed above a rough, cobbled raft with a mortar capping. A blocked door leading to the undercroft, bricked-up during the 19th century, was also recorded.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

POST-MEDIEVAL

Axbridge, 9 High Street, ST 4304 5451

A small-scale evaluation was undertaken to the rear (south) of 9 High Street prior to redevelopment of the site. The evaluation produced evidence of post-medieval development comprising a cobbled yard, drains and walls probably dating to the early or mid 17th century. Ephemeral evidence of earlier activity was demonstrated only by the presence of late-medieval pottery sherds, though flooding prevented excavation below the level of the cobbles. A subsequent watching brief produced no significant additional information.

(R.A. Broomhead)

Bath, London Rd, Harper's Showrooms, ST 7555 6585

Residential conversion of Harper's furniture showroom at Bath has been accompanied by a continuing historic building assessment and intermittent watching brief undertaken by ASI Heritage Consultants. The building was built and enlarged between 1766 and 1848, initially as the parish poorhouse and then extended to house a 'Ragged' School. Initial observations confirm that the internal layout conformed to institutional designs of the late 18th and early 19th centuries and the works have retained all significant historical details. Unexpectedly, the ground within the site appears to have been 'made up' after 1766 by at least one storey.

(Michael Heaton)

Bath, Main Post Office, ST 750 649

Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief on six trenches dug for the foundations of temporary propping works prior to development at the rear of the Main Post Office in Bath. Five of the trenches, dug to between 1.3 and 1.5m below the modern ground level, revealed a deep build-up of soils typical of urban back plots. These showed some variation in nature the deeper the excavation went, but were essentially the result of garden cultivation of largely organic urban dump layers. Dating evidence suggested a post-medieval date for the deposition of the contexts recorded. The sixth trench went through the fill of a demolished cellar, probably of late 18th-century origin, infilled in 1923 when the current Post Office building was constructed.

(Peter Davenport)

Bath, Shophouse Lane, Twerton, ST 7281 6481

Oxford Archaeology excavated a single evaluation

trench, 5m x 1.5m, prior to development of a corner plot in this former village, mentioned in the Domesday Book. The aim was to investigate whether medieval deposits existed as the site is at a junction of the High Street and a known medieval lane. The earliest remains encountered, however, were sherds of early 18th-century sgraffitto glazed ware, trailed slipware and hand-painted tin glaze pottery. This was all found residually, in association with later 18th and 19th-century salt glazed and brown ware.

Structurally, walls and floors of two phases of building were recorded. These could be identified with buildings on late 18th and early 19th-century maps. The earlier of the two can be seen on a map of 1786 and archaeological evidence suggests it postdated 1750. The second phase was almost certainly a rebuild to provide enlarged premises for the White Hart coaching inn. Archaeological and map evidence suggests a date between 1807 and 1838, probably earlier in the range. The building was damaged in the Second World War and demolished soon after the conflict.

(Peter Davenport)

Berkley, land adjacent to Coalway Lane, ST 7967 4944

See under Prehistoric.

Brent Knoll, Battleborough Grange Hotel, ST 343 504

A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the Battleborough Grange Hotel, on the southern slopes of Brent Knoll hill. A substantial build-up of 20th-century debris and soil had created an artificial terrace above the natural slope of the hill. The only other feature was a shallow ditch beneath the terrace containing occasional 18th/19th-century clay pipe stems and pottery, evidently a drainage ditch accompanying the existing field boundary bank to the north.

(Peter Leach)

Cheddon Fitzpaine, Hestercombe Gardens, ST 242 288

The ongoing programme of restoration works in the Georgian landscape gardens by the Hestercombe Gardens Trust saw a total of six further sites being investigated by Prospect Archaeology.

At ST 2425 2885 further examination of the West Terrace was undertaken, focussing on its southern terminus. An extensive even surface of slate rubble was encountered lying beneath the modern topsoil

and building remains of mid 20th-century date. The western limit of this material was marked by a well-defined linear feature that may be the continuation of that found beneath the remains of the 'Chinese Seat' in 2004¹ and interpreted as a planting trench. At the southern extent of this slate surface two substantial postholes were found that may have formed the basis of a formal entrance to the terrace. Although dating evidence for these features was scarce it would appear they represent the remains of activity associated with the layout of the gardens in the early to mid 18th century. The possible planting trench to the west of the surface was found to cut a small pit, containing a few sherds of exclusively medieval pottery, the first evidence of occupation of this date to be found in the excavations in the Combe. Work on the West Terrace continues in 2006.

At ST 2425 2877 excavation on the summit of a prominent spur close to the southern end of the West Terrace revealed the complete mortared-stone foundation of an octagonal building 5.6m in width, surviving to a height of 0.65m. Although clearance of the site appears to have been thorough, demolition material above the foundation contained sufficient quantities of 18th-century brick, mortar, plaster and roof slate to suggest the possible nature of the superstructure and roof covering and provide a rough date for its construction. No evidence for an internal floor was found, suggesting that this may have been suspended on joists at a higher level. There can be little doubt that the foundation discovered here is all that remains of the 'Octagon Summer House' mentioned in the notes of Edward Knight in 1761.

At ST 2431 2905 excavation of a topographical anomaly known as 'Philip's Seat' suggested that the feature had originated as a quarry in use prior to the creation of the garden. It had been partially backfilled with slate rubble derived from a combination of deliberate dump and natural processes and sealed by a thick layer of soil that formed a level terrace and did not appear to be of natural formation. No indication of the former presence of permanent structures was found but it remains possible that the terrace was created to contain a portable seat. Excavation immediately to the south failed to locate any convincing evidence for path surfaces to provide access to the site from the main route of the path above, but it is likely that any such evidence was destroyed by slumping due to the extreme gradient of the slope at this point.

A similar feature was examined at ST 2430 2897, close to where the main route around the garden crosses the top of the 'Great Cascade', and adjacent

to the 18th-century leat that channelled the stream to provide it with water. As at 'Philip's Seat' the feature here appear to have originated as a small quarry, with the lowest material encountered consisting entirely of waste slate fragments. Unfortunately the upper deposits within the feature were found to have been severely disturbed by activity associated with the reconstruction of the adjacent leat in the 1990s, leaving it impossible to ascertain whether this site had had some function in the original garden design.

At ST 2430 2878 two superimposed level terraces backed by a rock-cut cliff were thought to have been the site of a rotunda, visible from the southern part of the valley. Excavation failed to produce evidence for any structure, but showed that the two terraces had been formed from apparently landscaped waste from intensive quarrying at the site. The lower terrace was crossed by a possible path with a surface of fine slate gravel that appeared to continue to the north of the site, following a visible terrace along the east side of the valley. This may be a remnant of the 18th-century route around the upper part of the landscape garden, but further excavation may be required to confirm this.

Further to the north, at ST 2430 2893, the suspected location of a further artificial pond was investigated. The excavation failed to find any convincing evidence for a pond and a bank of material thought to have been a dam was found to consist of unconsolidated mud and rubble accumulated behind the remains of an earlier dry-stone wall. A stone-built silt trap was, however, uncovered which may date from the 18th-century landscaping of the Combe. Machine excavated sections through deposits further north proved that these were almost certainly of entirely natural origin.

¹ Bagwell, T.S., and Webster, C.J. (eds), 'Somerset Archaeology 2004', *SANH* 148 (2004), 127.

(James Brigers)

Cheddon Fitzpaine, Hestercombe Gardens, ST 2405 2870

Conversion of the former Fire Brigade stables to create a new Visitor Centre was accompanied by building recording and a groundworks watching brief undertaken by ASI Heritage Consultants. A bewilderingly complex building fabric representing construction and modification undertaken between the mid 17th century and the early 20th century was recorded. In addition, the decorated tympana

revealed behind the late 19th-century window heads may be the oldest in Britain.

(Michael Heaton)

Clevedon, Land Yeo outfall, ST 3920 7055

Archaeological inspection of a series of cores and boreholes sunk through the flood banks and structures situated at the mouth of the Land Yeo River recorded earlier banks below the present line of flood defences and several building phases in the area of the modern sluice gates and buildings. The present floodbank, Marshall's Bank, was cut through during construction works and the stratigraphy was recorded with various phases of probable post-medieval banks lying above mixed alluvial, marine clay deposits.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Frome, land adjacent to Zion Path/Cork Street, ST 7752 4812

An evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology consisting of the machine excavation of four trenches, totalling 30m in length and 1.75m in width, a 5% sample of the entire site area. Substantial deposits of redeposited soil mixed with post-medieval and modern waste appeared to have been deposited across the eastern two-thirds of the site in the late 19th or early 20th centuries. This material was apparently deposited to infill a natural west to east slope that crosses the site. Predating this episode, Trench 3 located the remains of an undated limestone wall and limestone-lined culvert.

(Neil J. Adam)

Glastonbury, Crown Hotel, ST 4987 3898

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of foundations for a terrace of four new dwellings and a single detached property on land to the rear of the Crown Hotel. The excavations provided plentiful evidence of post-medieval and modern activity but no indication of the additional medieval features assumed following a prior evaluation. The extent of post-medieval disturbance would suggest the large-scale destruction of any such features should they have existed.

(R.A. Broomhead)

Glastonbury, Hayes Road, ST 4978 3898

Archaeological observations were made during the reduction of levels and the excavation of foundations for a development of four dwellings on the south side of Hayes Road. The excavations exposed a relatively uniform stratigraphy subject to considerable disturbance by 19th and 20th-century

development. The foundations of several 19th-century buildings, together with a number of post-medieval pits, were noted, however evidence of earlier activity upon the site was confined to a single pit and a number of isolated sherds of medieval pottery.

(R.A. Broomhead)

Glastonbury, Magdalene Street, ST 4994 3868

An evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology for a proposed development on land at Orchard Court. Two trenches were excavated by machine and two by hand, positioned at the front and rear of the site. An earlier archaeological and historical assessment had suggested that the site was likely to contain undisturbed deposits of post-medieval/medieval date. Evidence of earlier activity was also anticipated, specifically waterlogged deposits associated with mill ponds or channels. The post-medieval Chain Gate mill, situated to the south of the site was demolished in 1979 and may have postdated an earlier mill on the site.

In the northern limits of the courtyard area waterlogged deposits possibly associated with a former pond shown on the 1841 Tithe Survey were revealed. The position of the pond is shown on the site as further to the south but could not be determined within Trench 4. With the exception of a possible large pit, of uncertain origin revealed in Trench 1, no archaeological features were present in any of the remaining trenches. Only probable 18th/19th-century infilling and levelling was encountered elsewhere on the site. A small quantity of mostly residual artefacts comprising ceramic building material with some medieval roof-tile was retained.

(Stephen Robinson)

High Ham, Netherhams Farm, ST 432 291

ASI Heritage Consultants excavated test pits along the lines of service runs for a proposed residential redevelopment of farm buildings at Netherhams Farm. A consistent sequence of overburden, sterile limestone rubble and clay parent material was revealed across the extent of the proposed development site. It was concluded that the ground level around the farm buildings had been artificially raised with limestone rubble to create a level and free-draining yard surface, probably in association with construction of the farm buildings in the early 19th century.

The buildings range in date from late 17th to the 20th century; the majority are of late 19th-century 'universal' design. The main barn, which incorporates much reused architectural detailing,

appears to be late 17th century in origin and may have been the stables for the Stawell mansion, commenced in c. 1690.

(Michael Heaton)

Hutton, Western Super Mare, Grange Farm, ST 3469 5872

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out historic building recording of Grange Farmhouse at the western end of Hutton village. The farmhouse is Grade II listed, lies within a conservation area, and is described as early 19th century. Building recording included the main farmhouse and three small single-storey buildings located at the north end of the north kitchen wing only. A previous historical assessment of land and buildings at Grange Farm (by BaRAS) concluded that the Grange was formerly known as Lower Farm, or Lower Court Farm. It was associated with the ancient manor of Hutton Court, which belonged to Glastonbury Abbey before the Norman Conquest and later to the Bishop of Coutances. By the early 17th century the manor was held by Dr Still, Bishop of Bath and Wells, eventually passing on to the Codrington family. In 1730 Robert Codrington sold Hutton Court estate to Humphrey Brent. In 1820 the estate was divided up, with James Etheridge Smith receiving Lower Farm, including the house, garden, barton and orchards.

The farmhouse is L-shaped in plan, its principal components consisting of a main front-range and north kitchen wing at the eastern end. It is of two-storey height and painted externally. The front (south) elevation is 19th-century in appearance with wooden casement windows and panelled front door. Several single and two-storey extensions exist to the east, west and north sides. The roof is shallow pitched and covered in slates. The earliest part of the farmhouse appears to be the rectangular centre part of the southern front-range, its original extent marked by the two large integral chimney stacks at its east and west ends. In situ fixtures and fittings, particularly on the surviving north cross-passage door, would suggest a mid to late 17th-century date. The design of the surviving timber roof trusses identified within the present, lower pitched 19th-century roof may suggest that the building could have even earlier origins. Decorative chamfers on the east sides of the collars and principal rafters indicate that the roof was probably originally open from first floor level. Other original features identified were several window openings on the ground and first floors and the probable position of a wooden winding staircase (now reused) on the south side of the east chimney.

Fabric evidence suggests that the lower part of the north kitchen wing was built after the front-range but it does contain some 17th-century features. The height of the kitchen wing was raised and re-roofed, probably at the same time as the main front-range was re-roofed in the 19th century. Both of these later roofs employ the use of king-posts and ridge plates. It is possible that the present kitchen wing has largely replaced an earlier structure.

The farmhouse underwent major changes in the late 18th or early 19th century. It was extended at both ends with the building of a stable with hayloft onto the western end and a large two-storey building, probably a slaughterhouse, added to the eastern end. Internal alterations and additions at this time included the building of a new staircase in the centre and rear of the front-range, first floor partitions, and the knocking through of several door openings. By and large this is the present arrangement seen today, with most of the fixtures and fittings such as doors to the bedrooms, and staircase in situ.

Late 19th-century alterations saw the moving of the 17th-century wooden winding staircase to its present location in the south-west corner of the east extension. A doorway was also knocked through the ground floor eastern wall of the front-range. The first-floor hayloft above the stable at the western end was converted into a bedchamber with a fireplace cut into the western side of the western chimneystack. A doorway was knocked through between the first floor of the stable and the first floor western end of the main front-range, which was accessed via the early 19th-century corridor on the north side of the first floor of the front-range. Most of the south elevation casement windows were put in at this time and probably the original south front door was blocked and moved into the window opening forming the present arrangement. A small stable was added to the north end of the kitchen wing, which has survived virtually intact. Other late 19th-century features identified around the building include a decorative tiled front path and a decorated tiled floor in the ground floor hallway.

Throughout the 20th century a number of new structures were added around the farmyard, including a new model cowhouse and an open-sided, or Dutch barn. Alterations include a brick porch at the rear of the front-range now containing the back door entrance. The inside of the eastern single storey extension was subdivided for separate tenancy forming kitchen and bathroom areas. The building has been partly divided into two occupancies with the ground floor west room of the front-range serving

as the bedroom for the eastern property. Ownership of the farm changed several times in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and in 1911 it was sold at auction to Somerset County Council. Subsequently it has belonged to Avon County Council and now North Somerset Council. The present tenant is the third generation of his family to farm at The Grange.
(Stephen Legg)

Ilchester, Northover, ST 5223 2300

AC Archaeology conducted archaeological monitoring during preparatory groundworks for a new building at Lion Gate House. Initial clearance of overburden exposed three stone-lined culverts all of which appeared to date from the late 18th century. Two appeared to respect the south-western wall of a neighbouring building, whilst the third ran through a yard wall separating the site from the back garden of the same property. The culverts were set within a disturbed soil layer containing post-medieval brick as well as sherds of Romano-British pottery. The groundworks did not disturb any of the Romano-British deposits that were noted at 0.8m below current ground level during a previous evaluation of the site in 2004.

(Neil J. Adam)

Ilminster, The Bell Inn, High Street, ST 3605 1472

Four evaluation trenches revealed evidence of sustained activity, commencing at some point before the late 17th century with the creation of the terrace upon which the buildings on the north side of High Street were constructed. A shallow depression running north from the terrace probably represents a path of 18th-century date. The path followed the line of a strong boundary that remained in existence until the late 20th century, shown by a sequence of postholes of 19th and 20th-century date on the same alignment. Further evidence of nearby occupation was provided by the discovery of pits of early to mid 18th-century date. At the northern end of the site a rectangular floor of mortared lias flagstones may be the remains of the base of a small 18th-century garden structure or 'arbour' which became buried beneath over 1m of dumped material, probably derived from waste produced from terracing to the south to accommodate the erection of further dwellings during the 19th century.

(James Brigers)

Monkton Heathfield, Greenway Thatch, ST 2555 2723

The excavation of a service trench from Greenway

to the site of a proposed house revealed the profile of a large north–south aligned ditch. This appears to represent the remains of a former drainage ditch of uncertain date that was later infilled and replaced by a clay land drain. The fill of the ditch produced no finds but a slate-filled drain that ran from the north-east to terminate in its east edge contained pottery of 18th or early 19th-century date. Monitoring of the site will continue, probably in 2006.

(James Brigers)

Puriton, Downend, ST 310 412

An evaluation of land proposed for residential development was undertaken in a pasture field bounded by the A38 and A39 roads and the hamlet of Downend near Dunball. The site lies immediately south of the earthwork remains of the Norman motte and bailey castle and the medieval town site at Downend. All trenches revealed sequences of naturally deposited estuarine silts of the River Parrett to depths of over 1m. The only archaeological features encountered were a late 18th-century field enclosure ditch, intercepted by several trenches, and numerous late 19th and 20th-century clay land-drains.

(Peter Leach)

Spaxton, Ebsley Farm, ST 2152 3673

Wessex Archaeology, was commissioned to carry out historic analysis of a cob barn at Ebsley Farm, situated on the eastern side of the Quantock hills, to the west of the village of Spaxton and on the north side of Twinnel Lane and Peart Water. Study of available cartographic and published sources, together with a site visit on 11 May 2005, revealed that the cob barn was probably built in the second half of the 18th century. It originally consisted of a linhay (associated with advances in agricultural practices and in this case related to the winter shelter for cattle) joined to a threshing barn. The north side of the barn was constructed of a solid cob wall. The west half of the barn was originally open fronted to the south facing onto an open yard. Nineteenth-century map evidence has shown that a second farm building originally stood to the east. Maps dating to the early 19th century have shown that the barn and farm had changed little from its 18th-century layout. By the late 19th century however the farm had become part of the Quantock Estate and it is then that alterations and upgrades appear. An early photograph from this period shows the farmhouse and cob barn both thatched. Modifications to the

barn at this time included a new loft floor, the ground floor sub-divided, and the south side enclosed by a stone wall. A small stone-built structure was added to the western end, which probably involved the demolition of the original west wall of the barn. Other improvements to the barn at this time included the creation of a chaff-cutting house formed when the threshing barn was divided into two halves. The chaff house also housed a wooden staircase that would have given access to the hayloft.

The farm was taken over by Somerset County Council in the early 20th century and was subsequently sold in 1920 to the then tenant. The Council was responsible for extensive alterations to the farmhouse including re-roofing and it is possible that they were also responsible for the galvanised sheeting on the cob barn.

(Stephen Legg)

Templecombe, 18 High Street, ST 7098 2242

An evaluation was carried out by AC Archaeology for a proposed development on land at 18 High Street. A single 15 x 1.3m trench was excavated along the street frontage (east) side of the site. The only feature revealed was a substantial cut extending across most of the trench, which might represent evidence of piecemeal quarrying dating to the 15/16th century.

(Stephen Robinson)

Timberscombe, Croydon House, SS 962 406

A watching brief for service trenches adjacent to Croydon House revealed further details of its immediate predecessor. The site was earlier investigated in 2003.¹ The principal discovery was the foundation of the north-west front wall of the earlier 17th-century house, other portions of which were identified in 2003. This building stood immediately in front of the existing house and on the same orientation, its eastern end *c.* 9m wide and extending westwards for over 10m, with a southern wing partly incorporated into its late 17th-century successor. Up to 1m of 17th-century terracing and levelling-up deposits beneath and in front of the earlier house sealed natural levels downslope to the north, with no evidence of any previous occupation. These remains could represent a house built or modified by Thomas Sidderfin following his purchase of the property in 1641.

¹ Webster, C. (ed.), ‘Somerset Archaeology 2003’, *SANH* 147 (2004), 219.

(Peter Leach)

Walton, Ben Ash Farm, ST 4582 3637

Archaeological observations were made during the reduction of levels and excavation of foundations for a single new, detached dwelling on land to the rear of Ben Ash Farm. The excavations exposed several post-medieval drains and a single undated pit. Three sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered. The limited artefactual and stratigraphic evidence observed and recorded would indicate agricultural use of this area throughout the historical period.

(R.A. Broomhead)

Wiveliscombe, North Street, ST 0789 2815

A watching brief undertaken in advance of a new housing development within a grassed paddock north of the school recovered relatively large quantities of pottery sherds dating from the 16th/17th century onwards with most pottery belonging to the 17th and 18th centuries. Other finds included vitreous slag fragments and a small amount of waste, possibly related to enamelling. A series of terraces within the paddock, which lies on a hillside, seemed to be connected with cobbled yards and areas of hardstanding, probably part of a farm established by the 17th century.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Yeovil, Yeovil Cattle Market, ST 5572 1624

Oxford Archaeology carried out a three-trench field evaluation at Yeovil Cattle Market. The evaluation revealed the foundations of a 19th-century brick-built building with associated back plot garden soil, a 19th-century domestic rubbish pit, also believed to have been located in one of the back plots of a structure fronting onto the pre-dual carriageway Reckleford Street frontage. All three trenches revealed a light orange silty clay natural and an overlying soil probably formed at the time the site was an orchard.

(J. Bentley)

INDUSTRIAL

Allen, Oath Lock, ST 383 278

Further observations were made by Exeter Archaeology during remedial works at Oath Lock, on the River Parrett.¹ Excavations in the lining of the existing bypass channel exposed a number of timber fragments which proved to be the remains of a lock gate or gates. It is likely that the gate(s) had already been dismantled, and possibly cut up, before

being deposited in the silted bypass channel and then sealed by the concrete lining of the existing channel. The timbers and fittings appeared to be similar to those of a wooden lock gate in the south edge of the River Parrett some 20m downstream from the new sluice gates, although that gate has T-shaped straps rather than the E-shaped ones seen on the timbers in the bypass channel. The fittings associated with the timbers could all be earlier 20th-century in date.

¹ Bagwell, T.S., and Webster, C.J., (eds), 'Somerset Archaeology 2004', *SANH* 148 (2004), 132.

(M.J. Dyer)

Bath, 88 Walcot Street, ST 751 653

Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief at 88b Walcot Street. A small infill shed was to be replaced with a more permanent single storey structure. The excavation and construction of new foundations was completed without the exposure of any remains older than a 0.3m thick layer of ashy soil which contained finds of mid 17th to late 19th-century date, immediately below the mid 20th-century concrete.

(Peter Davenport)

Bath, Combe Down mines, ST 7600 6200

Oxford Archaeology have continued with a watching brief on emergency stabilisation works at Combe Down Mines. 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 workings that make up the Combe Down Stone Mines are situated below the central, Conservation Area, of the Combe Down Ward, about 2km south of the City of Bath. A large proportion of the ward 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 Bath.

Over the past year the underground survey has concentrated particularly on work in Far East Firs (east of the Long Drung), which has provided new insights into the smaller 19th-century quarrying activity. Early 18th-century quarrying distinct from Allen's working has also been discovered. Elsewhere work has concentrated on the boundary between Firs and Byfield quarries. Particular areas of study include underground haulage (rope and horse-drawn systems), the quarrymen's graffiti, extraction methods and conveyance. A number of extraction

tools, barrow wheels, a whole barrow and barrow planks have now been recovered.

Above ground, the research programme has been developed, focusing on local resources through local heritage groups and at the archives available in Bath. This has provided a great deal of useful information on all periods of the quarries and the people who worked them, the usage of the stone and more.

(Tom Davies)

Bath, Combe Down, De Montalt Mill, ST 7622 6200

An evaluation and watching brief was carried out by Oxford Archaeology on the set of ancillary buildings usually known as the Apprentice Store, a multi-phase building probably dating from 1804, when the main mill was erected, through to 1875, the likely date for the eastern range. A long lean-to on the south side, most recently a cattle shed, has had several incarnations but is shown in existence by 1886 on the OS map. A full evaluation and analysis of the standing building is underway in 2006.

A series of mechanically excavated engineers' investigation pits were monitored around the external walls of this building prior to its conversion to housing. These revealed that the building had footings over 1m deep into the Fullers' earth and Midford sands hereabout. However, two on the main northern façade of the building revealed well made and laid external drains and two phases of yard surfacing. Two substantial areas of this yard were exposed in archaeologically controlled mechanical stripping showing that a rough farmyard style cobbling had extended over all of the yard area north of the building. These surfaces, considered to be of 19th-century date, fitted the interpretation of the oldest parts of the building as stables and wagon shed.

(Peter Davenport)

Bath, St Martin's Hospital, ST 7420 6218

Oxford Archaeology carried out a programme of building recording and investigation at St Martin's Hospital, in advance of conversion of some of the buildings to residential use. The work also included a watching brief to record previously obscured features revealed during building works.

The buildings were formerly part of the Bath Union Workhouse built in 1837–8 and are Grade II listed. The workhouse was designed by Sampson Kempthorne and had a hexagonal outer range and a Y-shaped inner block of radial wings with a central supervisory hub. The whole of the three-storey

central Y survives with later extensions. Much of the hexagon survives too, including the main front block to the north and the north-west and north-east wings. The former imbecile and invalid block to the south also survives, is still part of the hospital and was not surveyed.

The buildings are all constructed of Bath stone and consist of ashlar facing over snecked rubble backing. Many old sash windows remain in original played openings but some openings have been straightened and some wings have had modern Crittal windows fitted in old openings and some new openings inserted.

The workhouse became a hospital with the formation of the National Health Service in 1948 and most of the interior partition and division of the floors into individual rooms date from after this year. In some areas primary or quite early decorative schemes and features survived, notably in parts of the north and north-west wings of the hexagon and the west radial wing of the central Y.

The watching brief recorded a triple stone barrel vault beneath the central hub and an external opening to the vault was seen in a trench against the north-west wall of the hub. The ground floor of the hub was the workhouse kitchen and the vault may have served as a larder and/or coal cellar. Roof beams in the hub were stamped 'KYANS PATENT' which referred to a recently patented (1832) method of timber preservation treatment.

Test trenches in the extension to the west radial wing revealed a filled-in basement with windows in the north wall and the blocked arched door to this was seen in the end wall after vegetation was cleared. Another test trench south of that wing exposed an underground stone vault containing water – the workhouse reservoirs as marked on a plan of 1838.

(Simon Underdown)

Butleigh, St Leonards Church, ST 5204 3390

Improvements to drainage and other services necessitated the excavation of a trench from the north side of the church, through the churchyard to the east of the chancel and onward to the village street to the south. A row of graves was observed cutting the surface of the lias bedrock to the east of the chancel; one grave produced sherds of 12th or 13th-century pottery from the fill. The area immediately to the north of the church had been heavily disturbed by a variety of features associated with mid 19th-century renovation and partial rebuilding of the church. A wall foundation of mortared lias was encountered running parallel to the north wall of the

chancel; this was undated but probably represented the remains of a small building known to have stood here in the 19th century.

At the east end of the chancel a substantial brick-built vault of cruciform plan was revealed. Surprisingly this was found to contain only one burial, that of the Revd Arthur Becket (fl. 1919–39). Towards the modern, southern boundary of the churchyard the trench cut through a broad feature that contained large quantities of lias rubble and a few fragments of glazed and decorated medieval floor tiles, possibly debris derived from an earlier reorganisation within the church.

(James Brigers)

Charlton Horethorne, Eastfields, Monument Triangle, ST 665 232

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundation and service trenches for a new dwelling to the rear of Eastfields. The excavations revealed the remains of demolished 19th and 20th-century outbuildings and a stone culvert, probably dating from the 19th century.

(K. Faxon)

Goathurst, Halswell House, ST 2535 3373

An area to the west of Halswell House was investigated to ascertain whether a plan for a circular drive layout, shown on a plan of 1756, was ever implemented. Three of the trenches revealed well-preserved surfaces of pitched lias rubble that appeared to relate to the irregular circuit as shown on the 1887 first edition Ordnance Survey map. Limited excavation through these surfaces seemed to indicate that they superseded an earlier drive of sandstone that lay immediately below, the date of which could not be determined. Despite careful excavation of the areas both inside and outside of this circuit no evidence for it could be identified. This suggests that the circular drive as represented on the 1756 plan may have been a proposal that was eventually abandoned in favour of the irregular circuit visible as an earthwork today.

(James Brigers)

Ilminster, Winterhay, Chard Canal, ST 3503 1535

The Chard canal, linking Chard and Ilminster with the Bridgwater and Taunton canal, was opened in 1841, but was doomed to failure in the face of the railways and closed in 1866. Though only 13 miles long, the rise of the land to Chard made it a complicated canal to build with locks, inclined planes, aqueducts and tunnels. The line of the canal

can still be traced for some of its length but many of its built features have disappeared, including the structures of the canal basin at Chard.¹ The bridge at Winterhay carried a pre-existing Green Lane over the canal. Recording work was undertaken prior to a proposed modification (see Figure). The opportunity also was taken to dig a section across the canal itself, beneath the eastern side of the arched bridge.²

Beneath the bridge the canal was 2.6m wide between brick linings and about 1.7m deep. The towpath, to the east, had an edging of large lias blocks, some of which were found collapsed into the canal. South of the bridge the canal widened out to its full width and presumably did so to the north as well, where it was carried over a stream on a stone and brick aqueduct that is largely intact. The bridge itself was built of local oolitic limestone faced with brick with blue lias blocks at the corners of the arched opening. The arch was formed of brick with a span just over 4m. Both sides of the bridge had a brick parapet originally topped with semi-circular bricks, a number of which were found in the infill of the canal. These had been stamped DRAIN during manufacture, a way of avoiding brick tax (Brian Murless pers. comm.). The roadway between the parapets was 2.64m wide at the crest of the arch with traces of gravel metalling remaining. A number of 19th-century graffiti were recorded on the brickwork, as well as scores from ropes on the underside of the arch and at the eastern end of the south side of the bridge.³

¹ Graham, A., 'A survey of the mid 19th-century buildings of the Chard Canal basin and wharves', *SANH* 143 (2001), 141–9.

² For a full history of the canal, a description of its course and visible remains, see *The Roads, Canal and Railways of Chard*, Chard History Group available from Chard Museum.

³ A full report with field drawings has been deposited in the Somerset Record Office (reference A\BHF/18, April 2005).

(Alan Graham)

Langport Sluice Gates, ST 415 269

Wessex Archaeology undertook recording of the sluice gates in the weir at Langport lock; the lock and weir were built as a single functional unit. The weir is supported by four north–south orientated groups of piers, connected by cast-iron joists. The southern piers also support a connecting walkway. Each pier consists of a hollow iron casting that has been filled with concrete and a 0.6m high concrete

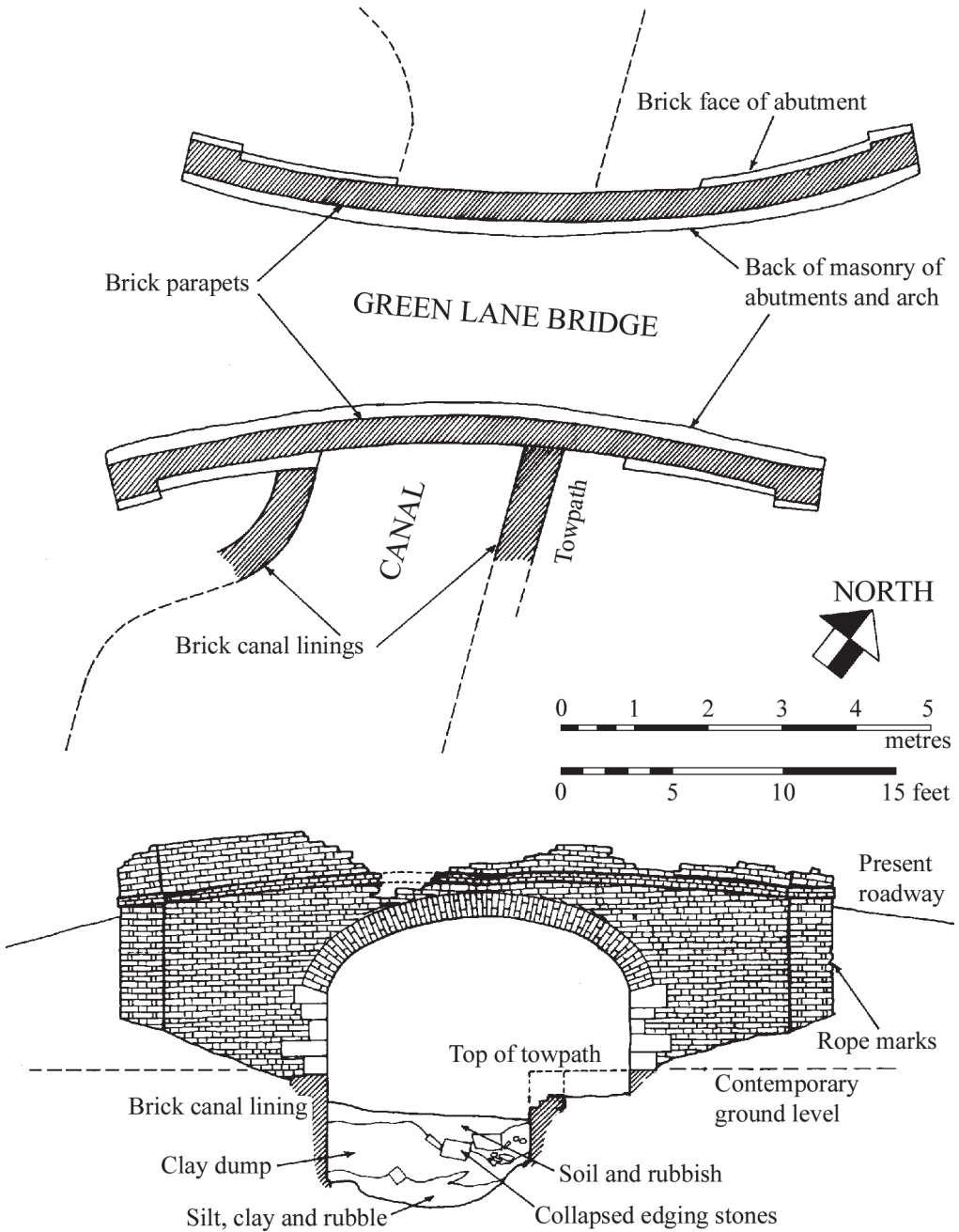


Figure: Plan and elevation of Green Lane Bridge, Winterhay

base has been formed up around each of them. The castings of the piers are marked: 'Sibley & Son. The Parrett Works. Martock' – a company trading since 1875. Close inspection of the pier bases has shown

that rather than terminating on the concrete plinth, the casting continues into the concrete base.

Four floodgates are installed underneath the four groups of piers. The gates close against concrete

wing walls either side of the structure as well as a concrete central pier. Additionally they seal against each other. Due to debris in and around the structure, only the two easternmost gates could be recorded in detail. These gates are oblong with a 3.15m long arm in the north and a 2.35m long arm in the south. They pivot around a central post made from a hollow cast-iron frame through which the wooden gate beams extend. According to 1921 plans, the pivot was reused from an earlier building phase. On top of the structure the pivot sits in a cast-iron bearing bolted to the two joists connecting the piers. This bearing was also reused from the earlier construction. The oak packing pieces between bearing and joists were not observed and have eroded.

The gate itself consists of four 0.2m by 0.1m oak beams, which are still present, but heavily eroded. Thin timber walling was fastened to the upstream facing side of the gate, followed by 50mm timber sheathing planks, mostly heavily eroded, but with a number surviving to a level of *c.* 0.9m above the riverbed. Two vertical timbers are fastened to the gate ends. The northern end timbers of each gate are rebated to allow interlocking when the gates close. Wrought-iron straps on either side, bolted through the oak beam, also support the gate ends. According to the specification of the 1921 refurbishment, these wrought-iron fittings could have been reused from an earlier phase of the construction. A simple wrought-iron fitting bolted to the southern piers prevents the gates from swinging past their open position. The gates were closed with the help of four simple capstans bolted to joist on the southern side of the walkway. A chain was attached to the wrought-iron capping fittings on the northern end of each gate with a shackle; the shackles on the two easternmost gates survive. A length of chain was observed among the debris on the riverbed between these gates. The chain led up underneath the walkway to the respective capstan, each having an attachment for chain links. The capstans were operated via a simple iron bar with a ratchet mechanism preventing the chain from running out. The current occupant of the lock-keepers house remembers operating the gates in this way during the 1950s. There is no archaeological evidence for a self-opening mechanism of the gates and he could not remember having seen such a mechanism in his lifetime.

The archaeological survey showed that Langport weir in its current state resembles the specifications outlined in the 1921 documentation. The only indication as to what remains of the original

structure, as built in 1838, are remarks on the 1921 plans, according to which the cast iron pivots, bearings, and where possible the wrought-iron fittings, were to be reused. It can thus be assumed that at least the pivots and bearings date to 1838. No evidence for a gate-release mechanism connected to the water level in the river could be found but after a flooding in Westmoor in 1875, the Langport lock gates were opened and subsequently kept open. It may be assumed that the mechanism was replaced shortly thereafter, during repairs in 1881 or the rebuild in 1921, and that the gates had to be opened and closed manually from that date on.

(Stephen Legg)

Whitestaunton, Whitestaunton Manor House, ST 27996 10467

Refurbishment of Whitestaunton Manor, including the extensive repair of the 19th-century roofs, has continued throughout 2005, accompanied by intermittent watching brief and building recording by ASI Heritage Consultants. Refurbishment is programmed to recommence in 2006 and continue through to 2008, accompanied by archaeological works.

(Michael Heaton)

Wincanton, 11 Market Place, ST 7115 2832

A watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology whilst groundworks associated with the construction of a residential development were taking place. The machine-excavation of footings trenches and a single service trench was monitored. Evidence for a structure of 18th/19th-century date was observed at the far northern extent of the site. Much of the remaining area observed comprised made-up ground with evidence of modern disturbance. No other archaeological deposits or finds were present.

(Stephen Robinson)

Winsham, Purtington, The Old Farmhouse, ST 39147 09057

Collation of archive sources and a detailed examination of the structure and fabric of The Old Farmhouse at Purtington was undertaken by ASI Heritage Consultants. The farm was formerly known as Dairyman's Cottage and research indicates the two parts of the building were constructed in *c.* 1800 and *c.* 1860. The latter, which forms the main elevations of the house, was built as part of the Cricket St Thomas planned landscape as, to all intents and purposes, a folly.

(Michael Heaton)

MODERN

Donyatt, Coldharbour Bridge, ST 3447 1447

Drainage works on the road which crosses the dismantled railway disturbed the concrete emplacement for a Mark V (Spider) anti-tank mine, part of road block 33 on the Taunton Stop Line known from lists in the National Archives dated August 1940 and subsequently. The concrete surrounded a circular socket into which the mine would have been placed had a German invasion from the west materialised. The socket was covered by a concrete cap with an iron loop to enable it to be removed. The emplacement is now in the care of the Somerset Museum Service.

(Chris Webster and David Hunt)

Taunton, Station Road, ST 2268 2551

The remains of a Second World War emergency water supply pipe were disturbed by contractors remodelling the station entrance. The pipe originally ran above ground, west along Railway Street to provide water to the Avimo works which was then engaged in the production of aircraft instruments. The section that was exposed had been buried to cross Station Road. Further lengths may survive to the east in the railway yards.

(Chris Webster and David Hunt)

OTHER REPORTS

Ashcott, 1–3 The Batch, ST 4338 3703

A watching brief undertaken during construction work for new houses recovered only post-medieval and modern pottery. The natural clay was less than 0.3m below the surface.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Brushford, Gauging Station, SS 9280 2575

A watching brief was undertaken by AC Archaeology during the excavation of four cable-duct trenches for the construction of a new gauging station on the banks of the River Barle. The construction work ran west of, and close to, the location of an alleged enclosure, of unknown date and function, listed on the Somerset HER (PRN 34806). No archaeological remains were recorded, nor were any artefacts recovered.

(J. Whelan)

Bruton, King's School, ST 6833 3460

A small-scale evaluation was undertaken to assess the potential archaeological implications of

proposals to construct a new teaching block within the grounds of the school. The evaluation produced no evidence of any archaeological structures or features.

(R.A. Broomhead)

Cheddon Fitzpaine, 'Tudor Park', Maidenbrook Farm, ST 2470 2642

A watching brief was carried out during excavations for the foundations of a garage block, part of the Maidenbrook Farm development. Two broad, north-south aligned channels were observed in the trenches. The fills of these produced no cultural material leading to the assumption that they represent former courses of the stream, which has now been stabilised to run along the western boundary of the site. Monitoring of the development continues in 2006.

(James Brigers)

Creech Heathfield, Former Crown Inn Car Park, ST 2789 2714

Monitoring was carried out during groundworks in advance of the construction of two dwellings. At several points across the site the profiles of large ditches were observed in section. Comparison of the fills and profiles of these features indicated that they represented two curvilinear ditches, one running from east-south-east to west-north-west across the southern part of the site, the other south-east to north-west. No finds of any type were recovered from either, rendering it impossible to make an objective assessment of their date. However, the form of the two features, their topographical location and the nature of the fill suggest that they were part of an extensive drainage network. No other features of archaeological consequence were encountered and the evidence suggests that the area had been open land, possibly meadow, and then gardens before finally becoming levelled for use as a car park for the adjacent public house in the later 20th century.

(James Brigers)

East Huntspill, Gold Corner Bridge, ST 3568 4318

A watching brief was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology during groundworks in advance of repairs to Gold Corner Bridge on Cripp's River. This part of Cripp's River and the bridge are of 19th-century date. Two trial pits were excavated, followed by four foundation pits to house concrete pads for the bridge supports. The excavations were located close to the four corners of the bridge. Topsoil stripping of a compound area to the north-east of the bridge was also monitored. No archaeological features were exposed during the

excavations and no finds were recovered. All of the pits were located in areas which had at least in part been disturbed by the construction of the present bridge. In sections that were undisturbed, peat deposits were noted at *c.* 1.1/1.2m depth and *c.* 1.7m depth.

(P.T. Manning)

Fiddington, Church Road, ST 2171 4079

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new detached dwelling adjacent to Church Road. With the exception of a small modern rubbish pit and a single sherd of medieval pottery, the excavations produced no evidence of any archaeological activity.

(R.A. Broomhead)

Frome, Chapel Barton, ST 7748 4806

A watching brief was maintained by ASI Heritage Consultants on the removal of deposits beside the Infant School Room, Chapel Barton. Approximately 3m of garden soil and overburden was excavated to level the area for an extension to the school room. A late Victorian fireplace was found in a wall at the northern end of the excavated area at the very bottom of the deposits – the only remains of three cottages that had formerly stood on the site.

(Jayne Lawes)

Glastonbury, Northload Street, St John's Place, formerly known as Avalon Garage, ST 4983 3900

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services during groundworks for residential housing. Although the development site fronts onto a road with medieval origins, and archaeological investigations in the locality have uncovered evidence of medieval settlement, the watching brief revealed no remains from this early phase. Instead, only modern deposits and features were observed. It seems likely that any earlier evidence was removed during episodes of clearance and levelling prior to the construction of the Avalon Coach Garage in the first half of the 20th century. The full report is available at www.contextone.co.uk.

(Richard McConnell and Joshua Slator)

Glastonbury Tor, ST 5125 3863

A watching brief was undertaken during the repaving of the summit of Glastonbury Tor and the construction of new paths to the summit. On the summit, the sand and gravel pad laid down in 1983

has protected the surface from further erosion. A levelled transect across the eastern summit was superimposed onto Rahtz's original section drawing from the 1960s. This suggested the summit had been badly eroded prior to the 1983 remedial works with the loss of significant archaeological deposits. The new path constructed to the west of the tower cut no deeper than a sandy clay deposit that has been tentatively interpreted as Rahtz's layer 2, described by him as a medieval dump layer sealing the earlier, medieval deposits on the shoulder below the summit. As a result the construction depth for the path was changed slightly to avoid disturbance to this layer. Steps below the summit on the south side of the tower were cut into excavation backfill deposits.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Greinton, Coates Farm, ST 4133 3635

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of a drainage run at Coates Farm, close to the site of previously identified Romano-British occupation. The excavations produced no additional evidence of any archaeological activity.

(R.A. Broomhead)

Kingsbury Episcopi, St Martins Church, ST 4366 2105

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of new drainage trenches to the south and east of the church. Apart from a few scattered fragments of human bone no deposits of archaeological significance were encountered in the shallow trenches.

(James Brigers)

Kingston St Mary, adjacent to Grange Lodge, ST 223 295

A watching brief undertaken prior to house construction recorded no archaeological features or finds. The site had been levelled by *c.* 1m some years previously, when a garage had been built, and only natural red clay was exposed on the surface during the recent work.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Lopen, Church Street, Knapp Cottage, ST 427 146

Six trenches were excavated by machine across the site of two proposed ponds on land lying north of Knapp Cottage. The site lies in a shallow valley running southwards from the line of the Fosse Way, with a spring-fed stream feeding eventually into the Lopen Brook. The valley is very wet and the ground often waterlogged. No evidence of archaeological

activity was found, but the trenching revealed deep deposits of peat above the clays of the valley base. Although no evidence of the date of these deposits was found they are potentially relatively ancient resulting from a local obstruction of the drainage of the valley. Other peat deposits are known in this area.

(Alan Graham)

Milverton, Wood Street, Lodge Barton, ST 1207 2603

A watching brief was undertaken on foundation trenches associated with a new dwelling and garage at Lodge Barton. No archaeological deposits, structures or features were recorded as a result of the groundwork. All recorded features relate to the 20th-century use of the area as a builder's yard.

(R. McDonnell)

Oake to Staplegrove Pipeline, ST 1700 2659 – ST 2068 2633

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wales & West Utilities to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the stripping and cutting of the Oake to Staplegrove gas pipeline, running from the edge of the village of Heathfield eastwards to Langford Bridge. Fieldwork comprised an archaeological walkover along the route of the western section prior to commencement of a watching brief maintained during the stripping of the easement and trenching for the remainder of the route. The eastern section of the pipeline skirted the outer edge of Norton Camp hillfort. One undated gully was identified crossing the route of the pipeline, to the north-west of Norton Camp. Further to the east, terracing, two metalled tracks and one paved surface were identified within, and immediately adjacent to, the line of the pipeline. These features appear to be associated with a former Second World War Prisoner of War camp.

(Stephen Legg)

Puriton, Downend, ST 3131 4144

Archaeological monitoring was conducted by AC Archaeology during groundworks prior to the construction of a small sewage works for Wessex Water. Monitoring was confined to topsoil stripping of the construction compound located at the far end of a pasture field. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were noted.

(Neil J. Adam)

Saltford, River Avon, ST 6914 6789

Archaeological recording was undertaken by ASI Heritage Consultants of a section of riverbank along

the north bank of the River Avon on behalf of Bath and North East Somerset Council. This was occasioned by the discovery of an unidentified wooden beam and associated timber structures exposed by contract workers prior to the reinforcement of the bank.

The exact function and date of the beam is unknown, although it appeared to resemble part of a mooring platform or an earlier attempt to reinforce the bank. It is equally possible the timber was associated with a 19th-century horse-ferry, which is known to have operated in the vicinity.

(R. Tutt and R. Payne)

Shepton Mallet, High Street (South), ST 618 434

Archaeological monitoring of nine geotechnical pits excavated along the east and west sides of the High Street recorded only modern services and backfilling deposits.

(K. Faxon)

South Brewham Pipeline, ST 7234 3428– ST 7401 3364

A watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a water main. No archaeological features or finds were noted.

(J. Whelan)

Stoke sub Hamdon, Ham Hill, ST 478 167

The extension of the existing Rangers' Office involved the digging of a level platform for a concrete raft both north and south of the existing structure. Observation of this work confirmed that this area had been quarried out at sometime in the past and the only layers exposed were those of quarry backfill.

(Alan Graham)

Street, Crispin School, ST 4894 3706

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services during groundworks relating to the construction of a new classroom. Despite the proximity of the site to known sites of archaeological significance, monitoring of development groundworks revealed no archaeological deposits/remains and there were no finds. The full report is available at www.contextone.co.uk.

(Richard McConnell and Joshua Slator)

Street, Holmcroft, Somerton Road, ST 4869 3696

An archaeological field evaluation consisting of six trenches was carried out by Context One

Archaeological Services prior to the proposed redevelopment of the site. The evaluation trenches revealed a limited number of archaeological features. Two truncated gullies aligned roughly west–east were identified and probably represent the vestiges of boundary or drainage ditches. Although no artefactual evidence was found to date these features, they can be no later than 19th century on the basis of their position in the archaeological deposit sequence. In addition, a single, unbonded course of stones was discovered associated with a layer of redeposited clay. Again, in the absence of artefactual data, this feature has been given a relative date no later than the 19th century. The nature of the structural remains is unclear although it is possible that they represent the remnants of a former garden feature relating to the grounds of the current Holmcroft building or an earlier structure shown on a map of 1821. Beneath this feature a thick layer of charcoal-rich soil was encountered, and on the basis of a few pottery sherds found within it, this has been interpreted as a medieval soil horizon. Two additional features were encountered comprising a ditch running north-east to south-west, with concave sides and base, which cut a possible ditch or pit. Unfortunately, neither feature could be dated, although the ditch predates a layer above that contained 20th-century material. With the exception of these features the findings were unremarkable. Deposits of demolition material were identified in four of the six trenches, and probably relate to the demolition of post-medieval and modern buildings that once occupied the site and have since been demolished. For the full report see contextone.co.uk.

(Richard McConnell and Joshua Slator)

Wedmore, West End, ST 4313 4749

Archaeological observations were made during groundworks on the site of a former bungalow. Prior evaluation had demonstrated only a limited archaeological presence in the north-west corner of the site despite extensive archaeology being recorded in an adjacent development to the north. Several features identified in the original evaluation were

re-exposed but little additional evidence of their nature or extent was observed. Dating evidence was notable by its absence.

(R.A. Broomhead)

Wells, City Arms, ST 5478 4562

A watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology during the excavation of footings trenches for an extension to the City Arms. No archaeological features or finds were noted.

(Tanya James)

Wells, Clares Factory, ST 5492 4515

Following an initial desktop study, a small-scale archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the area of Clares Factory site. The evaluation produced evidence of post-medieval disturbance, which may be related to a number of unidentified features shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the city. Ephemeral traces of earlier activity were demonstrated only by the presence of two small and highly abraded sherds of Romano-British pottery derived from the surface of the natural gravels which underlie the area.

(R.A. Broomhead)

West Buckland, Chelston Heathfield, ST 157 208

An archaeological desk-based assessment and geophysical survey was undertaken by ASI Heritage Consultants and GeoQuest Associates, respectively, in advance of proposed development. The study area, c. 20ha in extent, comprised fields of cultivated grassland. Disused farm buildings were situated immediately north of the site, which was bounded to the east by a stream and further farmland.

It was concluded that there were no known archaeological sites or finds from the study area, but similar locations in the vicinity had revealed sites of prehistoric date. Accordingly a geomagnetic survey was carried out. A total of 3ha, in 3 parcels, was investigated. No geophysical anomalies indicative of archaeological or geotechnical targets were encountered.

(M. Noel and D. Etheridge)