

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY, 2010

EDITED BY N.C. PAYNE AND C.J. WEBSTER, SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The long awaited changes to heritage legislation in the form of a Heritage Bill did not arrive in 2010, but there was a significant change with the arrival of a Planning Policy Statement (PPS5 Planning and the Historic Environment) in March. This document replaces both PPG 15 and PPG 16 and introduces a new set of definitions with planning advice to local authorities to help to protect the historic environment. Despite the impacts of the recession on the wider economy the total number of planning and listed building applications in Somerset was very similar to previous years with nearly 1500 applications assessed. Much of the work on planning related archaeology is coordinated by Naomi Payne and Steve Membery with over 40 excavations and evaluations undertaken, together with over 50 watching briefs.

Naomi Payne has continued to improve the recording of developer-led work into the county museum and Historic Environment Record and this produced over 300 of the 860 new records added to the HER. A number of major archaeological excavations were carried out in 2010 as a direct result of planning proposals and at Lyde Road in Yeovil work has started on one of the most extensive multi-period sites yet discovered in Somerset.

Extensive assessment and preliminary works were carried out on the site of the proposed new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point and a number of important sites were identified within the development area. Several off-site areas have also

been identified as part of the Hinkley proposals and Steve Membery has coordinated a wide range of evaluation work for SCC in conjunction with EDF, AMEC and Cotswold Archaeology. An application for the proposed power station is due to be submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission in 2011 and if this scheme is approved it will result in the largest set of archaeological excavations ever undertaken in Somerset.

The work of the Conservation team within the Historic Environment Service continues to have a positive impact upon the built environment. Andy Stevens and Ian Lewis carried out a range of projects around the county including the insertion of badger-proof netting to protect the Bronze Age barrows known as Robin Hood's Butts on the Blackdown Hills. Each year Jan Grove coordinates a programme of monument-management projects which are jointly funded with English Heritage. At Beckery chapel site near Glastonbury a management plan was agreed and two interpretation panels erected on site explaining the history and archaeology of the Beckery mound. Conservation repairs were also carried out on the medieval earthwork remains of Castle Cary castle and at a range of other sites including the Second World War airfield remains at Trickey Warren.

Roger Hagley gives specialist advice on highway schemes in Conservation Areas and supervised the conservation repair works on various historic bridges across the county such as Landacre Bridge on Exmoor. Patrick Stow continues to provide professional structural engineering advice to the County and District Council Conservation Officers and this work helps to secure the conservation of

listed buildings around the county. One of the most exciting conservation repair projects was the structural stabilisation of Dawes Twine Works in West Coker parish. This work is a partnership project between South Somerset District Council, the Coker Rope and Sail Trust, The Industrial Buildings Preservation Trust, SCC and the Carpenter's Fellowship. Funding support from SCC enabled the construction of a structural scaffold to be inserted into the building and this has secured the building from almost certain collapse. Further work is planned with the support of English Heritage, SSSC and other partners.

Over the past few years, Exmoor National Park has been creating its own HER and to prevent duplication and confusion the Somerset HER ceased to cover the park area in January 2010, which reduced the HER by 2800 records (8%). Meanwhile the Somerset HER continues to be one of the most user-friendly HERs in England and over 290,000 pages of information were read by visitors to the website at www.somerset.gov.uk/heritage. The HES would like to thank all researchers for their contributions to the HER; it is this input that continues to keep the HER up to date with new information. A programme of student placements continued with Exeter University Archaeology Department giving an opportunity for two students, Katherine Stobart and Mariola Glowacka, to work in the Somerset Heritage Centre.

Chris Webster has continued to monitor the conservation and repairs to Taunton Castle as part of the creation of the new Museum of Somerset and this work has also included initial monitoring and recording works associated with the proposals for restoring Castle House. Recent dendrochronological work in the roof timbers of this building has shown that the roof was constructed in about 1483. Other interesting discoveries in this building included the location of numerous blocked doorways, windows and fireplaces alongside a known but hidden archway containing a series of reused Norman beakhead carvings. The Somerset Building Preservation Trust along with other partners including SCC, SANHS, the Vivat Trust and Viridor is currently coordinating a restoration project for Castle House.

One of the highlights of the year was the opening of the new Somerset Heritage Centre near Norton Fitzwarren in September 2010. The new buildings house the record office, the Somerset Studies Library, a modern-records store and a new museum store building, with office accommodation for the Historic Environment Service, the Somerset Archaeological

and Natural History Society, and Library administration.

Somerset seems to have more than its fair share of Treasure finds and in 2010 the discovery of the Frome Hoard by a metal detector user, Dave Crisp, led to a major rescue excavation coordinated by the HES and The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). The decision was made to excavate the coin hoard in the field and Alan Graham supervised this work for SCC. The story of the discovery of the coin hoard made international news as the largest collection of Roman coins ever found in one pot. Steve Minnitt of the Somerset Museum Service has worked with the PAS and the British Museum to secure funding to keep the hoard in Somerset. *Current Archaeology* readers voted the excavation of the coin hoard as the best rescue excavation in 2010.

Due to a variety of pressures the Somerset Levels and Moors was not submitted as a potential candidate for the UK Tentative List of World Heritage Sites but effort was diverted to work with a range of local partners to support an Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. A stage one pass was approved and work continued in 2010 to prepare for a full bid in 2011. This project should provide opportunities to protect, preserve and understand the archaeological heritage of this part of Somerset. Further research by Richard Brunning in coordination with English Heritage and Gloucestershire County Council has continued to provide new archaeological information along the Somerset coast as part of the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment project.

The Somerset HES continues to be the lead body for the production of a research framework for the South West region and after some delays the project is now working towards getting a research strategy published in 2011. The working documents and resource assessment report continue to 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.

After five years of community archaeology the Fairfield Project Group (FPG) in conjunction with the HES is preparing a report on the archaeological excavations and the educational projects carried out at Fairfield, Stogursey. An excavation report is due for publication in a future volume of this journal. The FPG has now reformed to look at a wider area based around the Fairfield area.

Tanya James, the Community Heritage officer from the Neroche scheme, continued to work closely with HES staff to prepare a book about the heritage of

the Neroche area for publication in 2011. As the project ended, Tanya left the Neroche scheme in 2010 to return to commercial archaeology.

Numerous events were organised or attended by HES and it is estimated that over 1000 people were involved in attending archaeological open days or walks and talks around the county.

Despite the current financial constraints, archaeological research and the management of the historic environment continues to bring new information to light that adds to the rich archaeological heritage of the county

(R.A. Croft)

SURVEY, FIELDWORK AND EXTENSIVE SITES

Edington, Corndean Farm, ST 3870 4039 and ST 3883 4042, Somerset HER 29483

Two areas covering cropmark enclosures were surveyed by GSB Prospection, using a fluxgate gradiometer. Few features additional to those visible as cropmarks were observed and there appeared to be no enhancement of the magnetic response that might have indicated settlement activity. A rapid topographical survey showed that some of the enclosures were still visible as earthworks.

(John Gater)

Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment

The Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (RCZAS) has been examining the intertidal zone and foreshore as part of a national programme of RCZAS projects organised by English Heritage. The work is being undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council on behalf of English Heritage and the archaeological curators at the relevant local authorities.

Main Phase 2 fieldwork took place during May–September 2010 and will be completed during March–April 2011. The fieldwork is focused on the intertidal zone and takes a targeted approach, partly based on the results of the previous phases of work but also informed by proposals contained in policy documents such as the Shoreline Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Strategies.

The fieldwork has allowed records created by earlier aerial surveys and also those held by the various Historic Environment Records to be amended. The survey also provided an excellent opportunity to assess the state of preservation of

many features and threats to them from erosion. In addition many new records were created as a result of fieldwork, the majority consisting of fishing-related structures. These included previously unidentified examples of stone-built fish weirs, the majority located along Somerset's coastline; but also wooden stake-built fish traps. New examples of these wooden fish traps were identified within a known concentration at Stert Flats, and densely constructed stake 'hedges' were recorded at Brean beach and Berrow Flats. Samples taken from all of these different types of wooden structures are currently being analysed for dendrochronological and radiocarbon dating.

Later fishing structures such as putt and putcher ranks were also recorded, including previously unknown examples, indicating that there were once far more of these structures along the upper Severn than was officially permitted. Other fishing or riverine-related features that were recorded include wattle trackways, wharfs and jetties, fish houses and the remains of post-medieval riverbank revetments or 'cribbing'. The RCZAS also recorded prehistoric peat and submerged forest deposits, reporting on the current extent and state of preservation of known exposures at sites such as Berrow Flats, Blue Anchor Bay, Minehead Bay and Porlock Bay and also identifying previously unknown deposits at Woodspring Bay.

The full report on the Severn Estuary RCZAS is now nearing completion, and will eventually be published online by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service and English Heritage. Completed reports can be downloaded from <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=12558>.

(Adrian Chadwick and Toby Catchpole)

South Cadbury, Home Close, Castle Farm, ST 6329 2533, Somerset HER 30203

In July 2010, a fluxgate gradiometer survey was carried out in Home Close field, to the east of Castle Farm. The results show a wide scatter of thermo-remanent material throughout the survey area, indicated by dipolar anomalies. Some of the anomalies may be due to modern magnetic disturbance but given the site's proximity to an occupation/industrial site excavated in 2009 (Somerset HER 28272), some may relate to areas of burnt material and stone ovens or kilns. Two very obvious linear anomalies were observed.

(Liz Caldwell)

Sutton Montis, Stickfurlong, Beaton's Orchard and Parsonage Farm, ST 6231 2427, ST 6203 2439 and ST 622 246, Somerset HER 30355, 30356, 30357
Geophysical survey continued around the village of Sutton Montis in 2010. Gradiometer surveys of fields known as Stickfurlong and Beaton's Orchard indicated the presence of land boundaries and other features of a similar nature to other prehistoric and Romano-British features surrounding Cadbury Castle. Gradiometry was also extended to additional areas of Parsonage Farm, Sutton Montis, and several test pits were excavated on a number of the geophysical anomalies. This demonstrated the existence of a Romano-British field system (possibly originating in the Late Iron Age) to the west of the current settlement, overlain by a north-south double ditched trackway (HER 30358) that branches into two at its south end, and which is evidently Romano-British in date. The line of the track is preserved in very slight earthworks to the west of Sutton Montis church. A long linear boundary, crossing at least two modern fields, produced no dateable finds, but was of the character and fill seen elsewhere in the Cadbury Castle environs in earlier Bronze Age linear features. Full reports are in preparation.

(Clare Randall)

Westbury-sub-Mendip, Somerset HER 30304

Members of the Westbury Society received training in CORS test-pitting procedures from Carenza Lewis during the English Heritage training excavation at East Harptree in 2009. During late 2009 and throughout 2010 ten test pits were completed in village gardens. Full analysis of the finds, particularly the pottery, still has to be completed. Some pits reached bedrock after only 0.2m, others were stopped at 1.1m without reaching natural geology. Finds of all periods were recovered. One pit close to a site with previous Roman finds produced residual Roman sherds and part of an unmortared wall. Six pits produced medieval pottery of 10/12th-century date, all on sites of 'old auster tenements'.

(Barry Lane)

MULTI PERIOD

Bridgwater, Haygrove Farm, ST 286 361, Somerset HER 30262

In 2010, a fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken on land at Haygrove Farm, Bridgwater.

The survey detected traces of early enclosures and pits (Somerset HER PRN 30265) in the central part of the site. Elsewhere the survey identified a number of known field boundaries, as well as recent building rubble in the western field and the southern part of Haygrove Manor garden.

(D. Bunn)

Charlton Mackrell, Apple Tree Cottage, ST 5303 2891, Somerset HER 28330

A single trench 18m in length was excavated following an application to erect a house. The earliest activity identifiable on the site consisted of three features that cut through the remnant of a former soil horizon above the geological natural. These consisted of a curvilinear gully, a possible pit and a deep rectangular, or linear, feature that produced a single flint flake of Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. To the west of these, part of an extensive surface of tightly packed lias rubble was revealed, the character of which was suggestive of a possible surface of Romano-British date. These features were sealed by a substantial build-up of clay upon which a lias wall was constructed which formed the boundary between domestic activity and cultivation during the medieval period. To the east of this the surface of the clay was cut by a large posthole, a pit and the construction of a pitched lias surface all of which contained exclusively medieval pottery. A further deep pit, possibly a well, containing post-medieval pottery was also identified in this area but not fully excavated.

(James Brigers)

Cheddon Fitzpaine, Nerrols Farm, ST 242 266, Somerset HER 30276, 28355

A magnetometer survey was carried out covering 19ha of agricultural land within six fields. The results substantiated cropmark evidence for a rectilinear enclosure (HER 26899) within the north-western part of the site. Other positive linear, curvilinear and discrete anomalies close to the enclosure appeared to relate to ditch-like and pit-like features. The survey areas within the southern and eastern parts of the site contained many positive linear, curvilinear, diffuse and discrete anomalies, and although some may relate to natural features, others may indicate cut features of anthropogenic origin. An evaluation by Northamptonshire Archaeology followed. The enclosure, with associated features, was provisionally dated to the early to middle Bronze Age by a small pottery assemblage. To the south-

east a series of ditches, gullies, pits and postholes (HER 30275), which clustered around a broad trackway, produced a larger assemblage of medieval pottery dated to the 11th–15th centuries.

(D. Sabin and K. Donaldson (GSB),
and P. Mason (NA))

Chedzoy, Doltons Farm, ST 3379 3736, Somerset HER 28418

A small excavation in a field immediately south of Doltons Farm recorded evidence for late Bronze Age ditches or pits (HER 28518) that had been cut through by medieval features (HER 28450), including a probable sand quarry pit, and then sealed below a thick deposit of ploughsoil. The Bronze Age features appear to consist of pits and/or ditches, possibly connected with an extensive field system visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The prehistoric features at Doltons Farm contain relatively large numbers of pottery sherds which were identified and commented on by Elaine Morris of the University of Southampton.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Congresbury, Cadbury hill fort, ST 4426 6500

Members of the Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleve Archaeological Research Team (YCCART) completed a manual survey and drawing of a part of the north and east ramparts of Cadbury-Congresbury hill fort, following on from Mark Corney's work in 2004 (Corney and Morris 2004).

In all, an area of about 275m x 160m of the ramparts was surveyed and drawn; the remainder of the rampart area is mostly very steep, and thickly covered in vegetation. The uppermost, post-Roman bank is quite slight, only 0.4–0.6m in height and up to about 6m wide. It is interrupted on the east side of the survey area by an entrance flanked by two D-shaped enclosures which Corney and Morris interpreted as guard houses. A second gap on the east side appears to be due to recent erosion. Outside and below the post-Roman bank the major ditch of the defences is up to 2.5m deep and 15m wide and the steep bank on the lower side of the ditch is about 1.8m high in places. The remains of the post-medieval parish boundary wall, between Yatton to the north and Congresbury to the south, were seen on the top of this steep bank. In the northern part of the surveyed area there is an interruption to the main ditch, where a causeway across the ditch has been left. It is noticeable that the ditches to each side of the causeway are not exactly in line, so that the

causeway crosses the main ditch at an angle. It has been suggested that this causeway provides a viewpoint towards the site of the temple on the top of neighbouring Henley Wood (Vince Russett, pers. comm.). Towards the west end of the surveyed area the gap between the post-Roman bank and the main ditch widens, and there is evidence of more recent quarrying nearby. A smaller second ditch and bank outside the main rampart serves to reinforce the defences in this area.

In the course of the survey at least three house sites were observed, two of which were in the form of subrectangular platforms dug into the hill slope on the south-west side, close to the remains of the parish boundary wall. The third house site lies above the post-Roman boundary wall in the interior of the hill fort, and was seen as a slight circular depression.

In addition to the tape survey, members of YCCART used a Nivcomp Digital Altimeter Set to produce a profile of the ramparts, with readings taken at 1m intervals (or less at important points). This took less than two hours, and enabled the production of a very detailed profile of the slope of the ramparts.

Reference

Corney, M., and Morris, N., 2004. *Cadbury Congresbury Hillfort: an analytical earthwork survey*, unpub report.

(Shirley Everden)

Crewkerne, land to the north of 26 Abbey Street, ST 4395 0988, Somerset HER 28334

In February 2010 a watching brief was conducted during the later stages of ground works at the above site. Much of the monitored area was found to consist of 18th and 19th-century dumped material extending to a considerable depth upon which a wall of mortared stone had been constructed, probably forming an element of a 19th-century outbuilding. To the east of this a well-preserved group of intercutting pits was identified which, upon excavation, proved to represent a sequence of refuse pits and postholes which produced quantities of pottery and other domestic waste suggesting occupation in the vicinity extending from the 11th to the early 13th centuries and again in the 16th century following an apparent hiatus in the later medieval period. Later features cutting these consisted of two large pits dating from the 17th and 18th centuries, one of which contained burnt stone, ash and charcoal along with baked clay mould fragments, the latter suggesting that at least one of

the features may have been associated with the production of metal goods.

(James Brigers)

Douling to Shepton Mallet pipeline, ST 64456 43206, Somerset HER 28321

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an intermittent watching brief during the installation of a gravity sewer from Douling village towards Shepton Mallet between November 2009 and September 2010. The watching brief commenced with a topographical survey of strip lynchets (HER 11101) at the east end of the scheme in November 2009, followed by monitoring of development groundworks in May 2010. An area around Douling Manor was also monitored, including the excavation of a test pit near a listed wall. The lynchets were reinstated on completion of the project in November 2010 and this work was monitored and surveyed to ensure that these features were re-established correctly. The archaeological work successfully characterised the surviving earthworks as well as recording further evidence for ridge and furrow midway along the route. Only two new archaeological features were identified, a substantial stake hole that was filled with a charcoal rich soil but no other datable finds, and a large post-medieval pot (HER 30270) had been buried whole in a small pit. A scatter of flints was also recovered from the easement including tools from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age.

(Richard McConnell)

Hemington, Chickwell Farm, ST 751 542, Somerset HER 28453

Two fields at Chickwell Farm, Hemington, were subject to geophysical survey by members of the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society between January 2009 and March 2010 (*see also* Payne and Webster 2009, 212). Both were surveyed with twin-probe resistance and fluxgate gradiometer.

Field 1 was immediately south of the farmhouse, across the lane. Approximately 10 acres (4.5ha) were surveyed, but the top 50m could not be completed before the crop became too high in May 2009. There are a number of steep banks in the field, and high resistance readings on these banks tend to confirm that they were fields deliberately created in ancient times, probably of Romano-British date. These are of some interest, as known Roman villa sites nearby to the east, particularly at Blacklands, show no signs of similar fields.

In the middle of the field was a structure of inner and outer rectangles c. 10m outer side length with corners at north, east, south and west directions. The pattern was analogous to temples, for instance at Jordan Hill and Maiden Castle in Dorset. Magnetometry showed an interrupted ditch extending from north to south through east, but not to the west. Resistance profiling showed a concentration of stone just below the surface, with soil beneath. No surface finds were evident.

Field 2 was on the hill above the farm, some 500m away to the north-west, reaching almost to the top of the hill above Faulkland. The field is five-sided, but study of old maps showed that it was formed from earlier fields between 1840 and 1886. Dark soil and a scatter of early-medieval pottery were evident at the highest point on the footpath that runs through the field. Resistance survey showed a building (HER 30305) lying approximately north-south. A field boundary, forming a trapezoidal field with rounded corners, goes straight through the building, suggesting it had long gone before the field was formed. This field is still evident on the 1840 Tithe map. A second structure was found against the western boundary of the field, right in the centre of the modern field. There was a slight scatter of post-medieval pottery in the vicinity. The earlier building can be seen clearly, but the later building appears as a mass of stonework.

Thanks are due to the Francis family of Chickwell for access to their land, also to the trustees of the Hylton estate and their tenants Francis Green and David Horler for access to the field adjoining to the west. The medieval pottery was identified by Mark Corney.

Reference

Payne, N.C., and Webster, C.J., 2009. 'Somerset Archaeology, 2009', *SANH* 153, 199-230.

(John Oswin)

Monkton Heathfield, Aginghill's Farm, ST 2525 2656, Somerset HER 30240

AC Archaeology carried out an evaluation comprising the machine-excavation of 24 trenches, totalling 1180m in length. Across most of the site, largely negative results were recorded, or post-medieval/modern features were present, including three large quarry pits. In the south-east corner of the site, three linear features were present, which are probably ditches of prehistoric and Romano-British date and likely to represent evidence for early

field division in the area. A small quantity of finds dating to these periods was recovered.

(Simon Hughes)

North Petherton, Junction 24 of the M5, ST 2992 3421, Somerset HER 30279

Cotswold Archaeology undertook an evaluation, by 38 trenches, which identified archaeological deposits dating from the Bronze Age to the 13th century AD. Two ditches and a pit containing early to middle Bronze Age pottery were identified within the western half of the site, and appeared to correspond to two enclosures identified during earlier geophysical survey. To the south and east of these, two ditches containing pottery of Iron Age date also corresponded to two enclosures visible as geophysical anomalies. Two ditches containing late-Roman and 12th–13th-century AD pottery respectively were also identified. A large number of undated features were also identified, many of which correspond to geophysical anomalies.

(Kelly Saunders)

North Petherton, Stockmoor Village, ST 3037 3486, Somerset HER 28345

An evaluation on land forming Areas 1 and 6 of Stockmoor Village, was undertaken by AC Archaeology during September. The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of 16 trenches, totalling 569m in length. Archaeological features and deposits were identified mainly on the elevated ground to the east, with these dating to the late Iron Age and medieval periods. The Iron Age features principally comprised ditches and gullies and appear to represent evidence for settlement and perhaps early field division. The medieval features were linear ditches and are likely to be former boundaries of this date. In the lower-lying areas to the west, two probable 19th-century agricultural ditches were present.

(Simon Hughes)

Wells, 9–11 St John's Street, ST 5485 4550, Somerset HER 30284

Investigation by three small evaluation trenches within gardens recorded medieval human burials, some disturbed by later activity, and loose human bone. The burials are assumed to be a part of the medieval cemetery attached to St John's Priory (HER 24796). Pottery sherds indicate settlement or use of the site from at least the 13th century. A small quantity of residual, Romano-British potsherds was

recovered from the medieval deposits during the evaluation. The site contained deep deposits of post-medieval dump layers, over 2m deep on the north edge of the gardens. These deposits were formed from the 17th or 18th-century onwards to raise and level up the ground which falls sharply to the north towards the course of the (now culverted) mill stream.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Westbury-sub-Mendip, Park Hill field, ST 499 478, Somerset HER 29783

In April 2010, members of the Westbury Society undertook fieldwalking in part of the 6ha field called Park Hill. A few artefacts were collected, most of which were 19th or 20th-century in date. There were five pieces of heavily patinated white flint, only one of which showed any evidence of human working. Part of a sandstone sharpening stone was also found. The finds are consistent with the documentary evidence that the area was used as pasture in the bishops' deer park until the mid-18th century.

(Barry Lane)

Yeovil, Lyde Road, ST 576 178, Somerset HER 28498

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Barratt Homes, Exeter to undertake a watching brief and detailed gradiometer survey followed by archaeological evaluation on land being developed for housing. The site occupies a slope overlooking the valley of the River Yeo, some 2.5km northeast of Yeovil. The gradiometer survey clearly demonstrated the complex nature of the archaeological resource across the site as also indicated by the watching brief on site stripping. Numerous enclosures and former field systems were identified throughout the survey area, along with many other discrete anomalies of probable archaeological origin. Several overall alignments of anomalies seemed to indicate multiple phases of activity. The subsequent evaluation comprised 52 trial trenches measuring on average 30m x 2m and revealed activity dating from the Middle Bronze Age to the post Romano-British periods.

Archaeological features were distributed throughout the trenches and were sealed by topsoil and subsoil deposits of varying thickness. The features included substantial landscape boundaries, enclosure ditches and components of extensive field systems. Discrete pits and groups of pits and postholes in conjunction with artefactual and

environmental evidence suggest zones associated with settlement and industrial activity. A funerary focus centred on a group of Middle Bronze Age cremation burials was also identified in the north-west of the site.

The various sizes of the ditches suggest an organised and subdivided landscape with significant episodes of continuous occupation from the Middle Bronze Age to the late Romano-British periods where foci of settlement/industrial activity were connected through a complex network of fields, enclosures and tracks. The evaluation has confirmed the presence of a high density of archaeological features throughout the remaining development area, as suggested by the anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey. The evaluation has also confirmed that the density of archaeological features revealed during the previous archaeological excavation extends across the remainder of the site.

(Julie Gardiner)

PREHISTORIC

Bridgwater, Haygrove Farm, ST 2851 3613, Somerset HER 28367

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a single pit containing late Neolithic to middle Bronze Age pottery (HER 30264). Ditches forming a possible enclosure (HER 30265) were also present, and contained Iron Age finds. Two postholes lay within the putative enclosure, one of which yielded Roman pottery, and an area of stone surfacing with Roman pottery was also recorded. Other features comprised a stone-filled ditch and an undated curvilinear ditch.

(Kelly Saunders)

Langport, Newtown Park, ST 42415 27681, Somerset HER 28335

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an evaluation to support a planning application to construct 51 dwellings and associated car parking at Newtown Park, Langport, in March 2010. The evaluation comprised 13 machine and hand-excavated trenches covering an area of 480 square metres. The evaluation provided evidence of prehistoric settlement activity including a Bronze Age enclosure ditch, a possible late Bronze Age cremation burial, four clusters of prehistoric postholes (ten in total), a prehistoric pit, two undated shallow linear features and an undated gully. The

exact form and function of the enclosure is unclear but it is probable that it defines a subrectangular or D-shaped area. Preliminary dating of pottery recovered from various features suggests the majority of the activity occurred in the Bronze Age. The possible cremation burial was recorded to the north of the enclosure. The four clusters of postholes were all fairly substantial, well-defined features which may represent structural remains. A number of modern features were also recorded. The majority of these were fairly shallow linear features that probably relate to garden features and/or the site's recent use as a commercial nursery.

(Richard McConnell)

Otterford, Robin Hood's Butts, ST 2358 1317 and ST 2375 1283, Somerset HER 29482

Two areas around the barrows known as Robin Hood's Butts were surveyed by GSB Prospection using a fluxgate gradiometer with negative results. The barrows themselves had been covered with wire mesh to prevent badgers digging, which obscured the survey in the immediate vicinity of the mounds.

(John Gater)

Pawlett, Walpole Landfill Site, ST 3120 4320, Somerset HER 30194

Two areas measuring *c.* 80 square metres and *c.* 130 square metres were excavated in an area due to be incorporated within a new landfill cell in either 2011 or 2012. The two areas were linked by a 40m long evaluation trench. The work recovered relatively large numbers of flint tools and debitage from within the buried soil horizon, located the south-west edge of the surface of the buried island and, in the long evaluation trench, recorded a wide, natural terrace. Many animal footprints were recorded on this terrace as well as a posthole that probably dates to the Neolithic period. The terrace area will be further investigated during 2011.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Stanton Drew stone circle, ST 600 630

Geophysical survey by members of the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society continued around the stone circles and avenues, and at the Cove in the garden of the Druids Arms Inn. A high data density survey, using fluxgate gradiometer (Bartington 601-2), of Stone Close, the field which contains the main and north-east circles and their avenues, was completed (Fig. 1). This showed a number of features additional to the English Heritage high-density

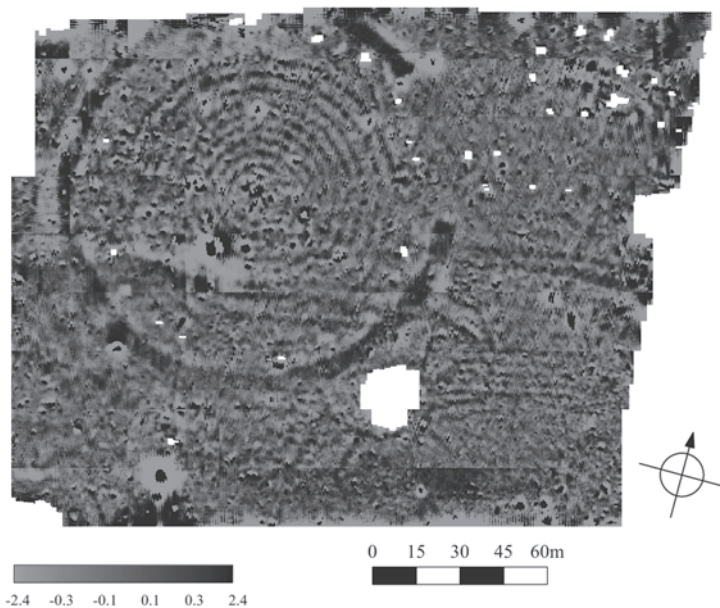


Fig. 1 Stanton Drew stone circle, plot from fluxgate gradiometer survey

survey and not visible on the full survey (David *et al.* 2004). Findings were as follows:

There is a possible portal on the outer post ring, on the east side, pointing directly to the main avenue. However, a stone impinges on it. The wide gap in the henge ditch on the eastern side has been confirmed.

The henge ditch has been broached on the west side by a later, possibly medieval, track which expands in area to a small yard inside the stone circle and which damaged the postholes but did not entirely obliterate them. The track continues eastwards and crosses the henge ditch in the south east before continuing to the edge of the field.

There is an entrance through the henge ditch, about 10m wide, further to the south-west. One of the stones of the circle lies within the line of the gap, suggesting that ditch and stones were not constructed for the same purpose or at the same time.

There are signs of a short, wide trackway approaching the ditch in the south-east, but it does not cross the ditch. This turns south into a series of east-west parallel lines, each about 4m apart. These were observed by English Heritage in their survey (David *et al.*, 2004) but no comment was made.

Several features not previously mentioned are visible to the south-east of the circle. These are unfortunately truncated in survey by the presence of

an iron fence around a sapling. They need not be contemporary with the stones, and could be much later in date. A number of postholes can be seen within the central post ring. There is possibly a small circle of postholes against the south edge of the ring, but these may be related to later disturbance. There are possible post settings within the main avenue. The four large posts within the north-east circle are confirmed. There also appear to be pits or holes heading towards the north-east avenue from the centre, and continuing down the avenue. An arc of possible postholes can be discerned just outside the north-west stone of the north-east circle. There is a possible subcircular post setting in the low-lying south-east corner of the field.

There are possibly other features in the plot, including part of the henge bank, and stakeholes within the bank and ditch outlines, most visible in the north-western quadrant. However, given the very low levels of signal-to-noise, it is unwise to make claims for them. Resistance, resistivity profile, radar, edm and magnetometer survey of the south-south-west circle has shown that monument to be as complex as David *et al.* (2004) had indicated, and also that it sits on a very level, flat platform.

Survey work in 2009 at the Cove suggested that the stones may be part of a chambered tomb structure, now buried. Work in 2010 has given further support

for this and continuing the survey to the north into the private garden of the inn and north-east into the churchyard has also provided supportive evidence for a long barrow.

Thanks are due to Mr Richard Young for access to his farmland, to Mr John Newcombe of the Druids Arms for access to the Cove, to the churchwardens, particularly Mr Stock for access to the churchyard and use of the church. Thanks are due to Richard Sermon for facilitating the survey and getting licences from English Heritage. A full report for English Heritage and for Bath and North-East Somerset HER is in preparation.

Reference

David, A., Cole, M., Horsley, T., Linford, N., Linford, P., and Martin, L., 2004. 'A rival to Stonehenge? Geophysical survey at Stanton Drew, England', *Antiquity* 78, 341–58.

(John Oswin and John Richards)

Westbury-sub-Mendip, north of Ramspits, ST 5180 4975, Somerset HER 30303

In August and September 2010, members of the Westbury Society undertook a gradiometry survey in three adjacent fields on Mendip, using a FM36 gradiometer loaned by English Heritage (Fig. 2). The survey confirmed the existence of a buried subcircular ditch corresponding to the cropmark visible on aerial photographs (HER 25802). Some interior features were also revealed, but no long entrance that might suggest a banjo enclosure could be seen.

(Barry Lane)

Westonzoyland, 23 Southview Road, ST 3535 3482, Somerset HER 28548

A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a small extension and porch. At the deepest point reached several possible features were observed cutting the surface of the natural Burtle Sand, beneath a deep accumulation of cultivation soil. These were not excavated, but finds of pottery, stone and animal bone from the upper parts of their fills and deposits immediately above indicated that they may represent remains associated with settlement dating from the late pre-Roman Iron Age, consistent in date with remains excavated in the locality during the construction of the housing estate in the mid 20th century (*see* HER 30218).

(James Brigers)

ROMAN

Brympton, land south of Lufton villa, ST 516 176, Somerset HER 29882

Geophysical survey of the environs of the Roman villa at Lufton continued with the kind assistance of the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group. A fluxgate gradiometer survey of the large field immediately south of the villa revealed a complex multiphase landscape of ditched field systems and trackways. This landscape predates field boundaries visible on the tithe map and, by analogy with other local sites like Sigwells (Tabor and Johnson 2000) may be of late prehistoric or Romano-British date. A large penannular enclosure *c.* 40m in diameter is probably prehistoric. It is hoped that further work will clarify the extent and date of these geophysical anomalies.

Reference

Tabor, R., and Johnson, P., 2000. 'Sigwells, Somerset, England: regional application and interpretation of geophysical survey', *Antiquity* 74, 319–25.

(James Gerrard)

Butleigh, Butleigh Roman Villa, ST 515 342, Somerset HER 28554

In August 2010, Absolute Archaeology carried out a second season of excavations on Butleigh Roman Villa. A flagstone floor was identified covering a mosaic pavement to the east of the excavation (Fig. 3). The mid section of the building showed evidence of late industrial activity, highlighted by the removal of mosaic flooring and the establishment of a corn dryer and hearth in the central area. Finds are still being analysed, although initial interpretation shows that the majority of the pottery is handmade Poole Harbour BB1 and almost certainly 4th/5th century in date. Parts of box flue tile were also found, suggesting hypocaust heating somewhere in the area of the villa. Excavations will continue in 2011.

(Sam Driscoll and Paul Martin)

Congresbury, Venus Street, ST 443 629

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCCART) agreed a two year project with the Heritage Lottery Fund, commencing in May 2009, to establish through survey and possibly excavation, the extent of the operation of Romano-British pottery kiln sites in the parish of Congresbury. Earlier studies (Usher and

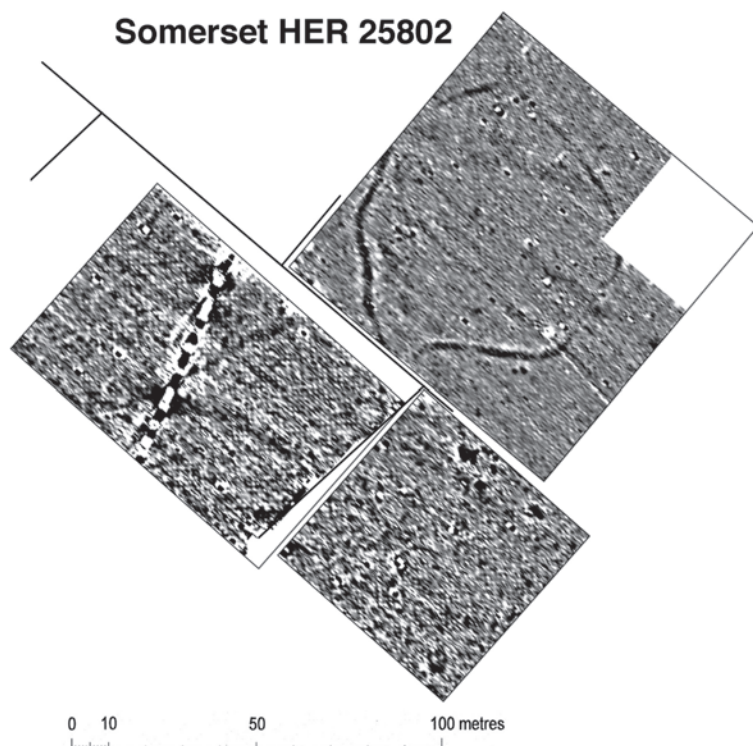


Fig. 2 Magnetometer survey plot of enclosure north of Ramspits, Westbury-sub-Mendip (HER 25802)

Lilly 1964; Scammell nd; Broomhead 1986) suggested that investigation should be started in the area around Venus Street. Surveys were undertaken using a Bartington dual gradiometer. During 2010, eight fields comprising approximately 15ha have been surveyed. A number of potential kiln sites have been identified together with some circular and rectangular features. Individual site reports are available on the YCCART web site at <http://yccart.co.uk>. Resistivity surveys using a Geoscan resistance meter have also been undertaken on some of the rectangular features and the results indicate potential dwellings. The magnetometry survey work will continue on further sites along with resistivity pseudosectioning of the potential kiln sites indicated by the magnetometry surveys. Some excavation of the possible kiln sites, and rectangular and circular features, may be undertaken in 2011.

References

Broomhead, R., 1986. *Congresbury Parish Survey*, unpub report.

Scammell, A.J., nd. *Congresbury Excavations 1969–70*, unpub report, North Somerset Museum.

Usher, G., and Lilly, D., 1964. 'A Romano-British pottery kiln site at Venus Street, Congresbury', *SANH* 108, 172–4.

(Ian Morton)

Frome, site of the Frome Hoard, ST 7 4, Somerset HER 28513

A hoard of Roman coins was discovered by a metal detectorist in April 2010 and an excavation was subsequently undertaken by Alan Graham. The container was a large Black-Burnished ware vessel, 550mm high and 450mm in diameter. It had been carefully buried in the ground and traces of organic matter, straw and perhaps withies, were recovered from the soil immediately surrounding the pot and seem to have acted as packing for it. Because it was already cracked (probably as a result of agricultural operations while it was in the ground) it was decided that it was not possible to excavate the pot in a soil block, but instead the contents of the pot were



Fig. 3 Butleigh villa, wall and flagstones covering mosaic

excavated in a series of horizontal layers or spits.

In total, 52,503 coins were recovered. With the exception of seven denarii, all the remaining coins are double-denarii or 'radiates'. They were issued by a number of emperors who reigned between AD 253 and 293. The latest coins were struck by Carausius who proclaimed himself emperor in Britain and part of northern France in 286 and remained in power until 293. The hoard contains at least 766 coins issued by him and is the largest group of his coins ever to have been discovered in a hoard. It is likely that the hoard would have been buried in the ground shortly after AD 293.

Because of the weight of the coins and the fragility of the pot in which they were buried, Roger Bland and Sam Moorhead of the British Museum have suggested that the pot must have been buried in the ground before the coins were tipped in. They believe that the hoard is unlikely to have been buried for safe-keeping as the only way this hoard could have been recovered would have been by breaking the pot and scooping the coins out of it. This suggests that the people who buried this hoard entrusted it to the earth without intending to come back and recover it later. It might have been the offering of an agricultural community for a good harvest or favourable weather.

(Naomi Payne)

Hemington, Blacklands, ST 767 541, Somerset HER 15303

Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society continued excavations here but no report could be obtained.

(Chris Webster)

High Ham, Langport Ranges, ST 422 295, Somerset HER 28343

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's *Time Team* at the Langport Ranges to investigate the site of the High Ham Roman villa. The site had been excavated in 1861 by W.W. Munckton and C. Fry who had produced relatively detailed plans and a number of detailed paintings of the exposed mosaics. In 2008 a geophysical survey revealed the layout of the villa complex and *Time Team*'s programme of works aimed to investigate a number of the geophysical anomalies while clarifying the details and chronology of the villa. A detailed geophysical plan of the wider area around the villa was produced, identifying a much larger complex than initially thought and showing that at least two phases of villa construction existed on site. The earliest phase is provisionally dated to the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries on coin evidence. The major phase of construction and occupation was shown to be later, as, though the

finds assemblage was not large, the coin and pottery evidence identified activity within the later 3rd to 4th centuries, which corresponded with the dating of the exposed mosaics on stylistic grounds. The lack of major agricultural activity on the site due to its use as a firing range has resulted in excellent preservation of the underlying archaeological remains.

(Julie Gardiner)

Selwood, St Algar's Farm, ST 7839 4179, Somerset HER 28572

The Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society undertook an archaeological evaluation on the site of the Roman settlement south-west of St Algar's Farm, Selwood, in late August 2010. Five trenches were excavated. As well as revealing features associated with the probable villa building, evidence for Roman glass-working was discovered.

(Chris Webster)

Shipham, Star, ST 436 581, Somerset HER 29807

A geophysical ground resistance survey by the ALERT team identified the course of the Roman road where it is described by the Revd John Skinner in 1830 as crossing 'the Bristol turnpike at the 14 mile stone'. The milestone (HER 13169) is still visible, although damaged, to the west of the present A38. The survey conducted in the field to the east of this location established that the road could be traced for a distance of about 120m from the road to the gardens of houses on the far side. Parallel ditches could be seen about 12m apart although the survey showed no indication of an agger. Traces of ridge and furrow indicate later agricultural activity that may have destroyed much archaeological evidence.

(John Matthews)

Wedmore, Quab Lane, Cutlers Barrs, ST 4243 4848, Somerset HER 29833

Quantities of tiles, stones and pottery were reported by farmers erecting a fence along a ditch on the edge of a large field now called Cutlers Barrs. The finds occurred in two areas 12m apart. The tiles and pottery were identified as Roman grey ware and Black-Burnished ware (Bob Croft, pers. comm.). Examination of the site after further ditch clearance revealed two sections of substantial walling and associated rubble. The ditch has cut into the walls which appear to continue into the adjacent field to the south.

The field, part of the ancient North Field of Wedmore, was called Skuttells Barrough in 1559 (Somerset Record Office DD/SAS PR 462), now corrupted to Cutlers Barrs. This is one of the highest points in this area of the Isle of Wedmore and commands a very wide view from the Quantocks, Brent Knoll to Mendip. The Wash Brook rises nearby to the north. Slight traces of ridge and furrow have been observed and ploughing has probably destroyed any original 'barrow'. Possible meanings of the curious name Skuttells Barrough have been discussed (Hudson 2002, 245).

Reference

Hudson, H., 2002. *The New Wedmore Chronicles*. (Hazel Hudson and Frances Neale)

Wedmore, Townsend Lane, ST 4498 4650 and ST 4501 4655, Somerset HER 29834

At ST 4498 4650, a trench for a pipeline through part of the field called Townsend produced a few sherds of Roman pottery (Bob Croft, pers. comm.). At ST 4501 4655, some very small sherds of off-white pottery were found in a gatepost hole at the entrance to Grab Tree Close, opposite Townsend. These too have been identified as Roman white ware (Bob Croft, pers. comm.). These sites, close together, lie just to the east of the fields called Lousy Bush or Lousy Batch where a Roman stone coffin was discovered in c. 1837 (HER 12529).

(Hazel Hudson and Frances Neale)

West Monkton, The Hatcheries, Bathpool, ST 256 262, Somerset HER 28203

An evaluation was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology, comprising the machine-excavation of eleven trenches totalling c. 200m in length. Ten of the trenches were devoid of archaeological features or deposits. The other trench produced evidence of what appeared to be four related and contemporary features tentatively interpreted as burials. Within the constraints of the evaluation it was possible to excavate only one of these, which produced evidence of Roman hobnails and coffin nails suggestive of late Roman burial practice although there was no bone survival. However, radiocarbon dating has provided a middle Bronze Age date from charcoal deposits in the excavated feature. This anomaly between the dating of the artefacts and the associated organic material is currently unresolved.

(J. P. Salvatore)

Westbury-sub-Mendip, Alders House field, ST 485 485, Somerset HER 29805

In 2009, a magnetometer survey of an area previously identified as a possible Roman settlement (HER 12991) by fieldwalking (HER 22028) located a rectilinear enclosure and other ditches that probably represent the core of settlement at ST 485 485.

(Barry Lane)

Westbury-sub-Mendip, The Straits, ST 5015 4795, Somerset HER 30299

Members of the Westbury Society undertook a gradiometry survey in a field called The Straits and in several adjacent fields during February to April 2010, using a FM36 gradiometer loaned by English Heritage. A resistivity survey of The Straits took place in 2006 (HER 27167) revealing potential buried features adjacent to the site which had produced a significant number of Roman finds when a wildlife pond had been dug (*see* HER 25648). The results of this 2010 gradiometry survey confirmed many rectilinear buried features and a possible ditched track in the adjacent field called Hurn's Close heading south-west, away from the site.

(Barry Lane)

MEDIEVAL

Broomfield, St Mary and All Saints Church, ST 2242 3202, Somerset HER 28502

During May 2010 trenches were excavated around the external perimeter of the church and in the churchyard to the east to accommodate improved drainage. The works revealed the presence of several features cutting into a homogenous grave earth, the vast majority of which were associated with drainage and landscaping of 19th-century and later date. In addition to these the locations of two possible brick-lined burial vaults were identified, adjacent to the north aisle of the church with a third, collapsed, example to the east of the chancel. The only features of possible archaeological significance consisted of the remains of foundations against the southern elevation of the chancel which may indicate the positions of medieval buttresses and a vertically set slab of Morte Slate immediately to the east of the chancel which may have formed part of the structure of an early medieval slab-lined grave or cist.

(James Brigers)

Chedzoy, New Orchard, Front Street, ST 3372 3726, Somerset HER 28506

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during groundworks prior to the construction of a new double garage. In the southern area features and deposits were revealed suggesting a complex sequence of activity (HER 30243). The earliest evidence consisted of a level platform cutting into the natural sand associated with small pits containing red clay. Material of this phase was overlain by a later possible clay floor within a broad platform cut into the natural sand and cut by postholes and stakeholes possibly representing the remains of a timber structure. Elsewhere on the site further pits were identified including a particularly deep example which retained a lining of material similar to lime mortar, pottery from the upper fill of this suggested a date in the 11th or 12th century for its disuse. The latest archaeological features on the site consisted of large pits of post-medieval date consistent in character with those excavated at two other locations in the vicinity where they have been interpreted as sand quarries.

(James Brigers)

Dulverton, All Saints Church, SS 91461 28002, ENP HER EEM13979

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a watching brief during renovation work. During the work several rows of pews were removed for the purpose of creating improved wheelchair access, which revealed several features, the first being a small (0.5m x 0.3m) stone-constructed channel beneath the flagstone floor of the north-western limit of the nave. The channel turned to the south and headed in the direction of the boiler room and it is probable that the channel was used to circulate warm air around the church. Excavations beneath the flagstone floor of the northern aisle revealed a set of five stone steps, observed through a ventilation hole. The steps led down to a blocked corridor, the walls of which were painted white. These may have led to a vault represented by brick vaulting seen beneath a row of pews. It is believed that these features predate a known rebuild in the 1850s. No artefacts were observed or recovered during the course of the investigation.

(Richard McConnell)

Edington, Edington FTS, ST 38615 40125, Somerset HER 28328

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a watching brief during groundworks for a new sewerage system. The investigation recorded

evidence of medieval and later activity in an open field in the centre of the village. This comprised a large north-west to south-east aligned ditch and a medieval buried soil layer. The ditch was visible as an extant earthwork and appears to have defined a boundary depicted on the 1840 Edington Tithe Map. Three small sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the basal fill of this ditch, which may suggest that this boundary originated in the medieval period. However, given that moderate amounts of medieval pottery were also present in an extensive buried soil layer in the vicinity, it is possible that the ditch is a more recent feature with residual medieval pottery in its fill. These features and deposits were located in a field with a number of undated extant earthworks (HER 12750) and it is possible, though unproven, that some of these may be of medieval date.

(Richard McConnell)

Glastonbury, 3 Magdalene Street, ST 4993 3871, Somerset HER 28348

Two 1m square test pits were excavated to the rear of No. 3 Magdalene Street, prior to the construction of an orangery. One trench contained only modern concrete and make-up deposits but the second trench contained a medieval feature formed of relatively small, roughly pitched stones. This was thought to be a wall footing and was sealed below a layer of medieval silty clay and a deep deposit of garden soil. Pottery within and around the stones suggested a pre 13th-century date for the structure which at that time was probably within the precinct of Glastonbury Abbey (HER 25547). Because this feature was within a scheduled area it was not disturbed further.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Glastonbury, Abbey Barn, Chilkwell Street, ST 5036 3855, Somerset HER 28553

In April 2010 a watching brief was conducted during the excavation of trenches prior to the installation of new electrical cabling. The trenches, although following the routes of previous services, revealed extensive profiles throughout the interior of the barn from which the extent of survival of archaeological deposits could be determined. Surviving remnants of previous floor levels of mortar and clay were identified in many areas, which were laid on a levelling dump of stone rubble to the south-west but on the surface of natural clay to the north-east indicating that the platform on which the barn was constructed was partially terraced into the hill slope.

A medieval drain running through the north-west porch, previously located during the 2008 evaluation (HER 28169), was re-exposed and its continuation to the south-west confirmed. The continuation of a similar feature, identified outside the barn in 2008, was not located within the south-east porch, suggesting that this may have been subjected to post-medieval robbing. Extensive modern disturbance was identified throughout the central and eastern areas of the barn and surviving remains in these areas were limited to evidence of previous floor levels adhering to the wall faces. The only structural elements identified consisted of two substantial wall foundations continuing the line of the existing walls across the openings into the porches on both sides. The existence of walls in these areas suggests that the barn may have been preceded on the site by a simple rectangular structure of the same alignment and ground plan but with no opposing porches.

(James Brigers)

Hemington, Homefield, ST 7662 5369, Somerset HER 15304

Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society continued excavations here but no report could be obtained.

(Chris Webster)

Keynsham, 3 Abbey Park, ST 6558 6883

An enhanced archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the redevelopment of a post-medieval stable block, which lies within the former precincts of Keynsham Abbey. Excavation of a short section of new foundation trench confirmed the existence of a predicted wall, probably that of the north transept. However, the whole was much disturbed by post-medieval pitting. The archaeological remains were preserved in situ beneath the new foundation.

(R. Broomhead)

Milborne Port, High Street, land adjacent to the Tipling Philosopher, ST 6772 1865, Somerset HER 28362

A small excavation was undertaken by AC Archaeology in advance of development of land adjacent to the Tipling Philosopher public house. Medieval deposits were recorded and a moderate quantity of artefacts recovered but no post-excavation work has been commissioned.

(S. Robinson)

Montacute, St Michael's Hill, ST4924 1697, Somerset HER 30312

St Michael's Hill near Montacute is a motte and bailey castle hidden by trees. The National Trust has produced a management plan that sets out the need to remove many of the trees from the hill and return it to pasture. This will protect the archaeology and enable the earthworks to be seen and appreciated. It was agreed with English Heritage that a water trough should be installed on the middle terrace which would enable stock to be brought onto the hill and graze the land to prevent regrowth after scrub and tree clearance. The water trough and pipeline installation demonstrated that the middle terrace of the hill is made up of sand and clay mixed with some stone rubble quarried from the hill and redeposited. No significant finds or features were noted in the exposed deposits during the excavation work.

Recent scrub clearance work has revealed large rough blocks of stone jutting from the edge of the summit, particularly on the north-west side. Three of these blocks measured c. 0.8m by 0.5m by 0.25m. It is most likely that this masonry marks the line of the demolished Norman curtain wall. The massive stone slabs retain traces of lime mortar between them and are of Ham stone which, although local stone, is not a natural outcrop of St Michael's Hill.

On the south-east side of the hill, there is evidence that the terrace known as the Bower was once a bailey defined by a curtain wall. The remains of a wall follow the terrace edge and could be seen extending for about 40m from the south corner of the earthwork. It was clearest at the Bower south corner, standing up to 0.3m above the woodland floor and overgrown with moss. It was built of faced rough slabs of local stone fronting a rubble stone core. Traces of the inner north-west face of the wall were buried and the full width of the wall was not determined. However, the visible remains were 0.9m–1.0m wide and therefore the full width of the wall is likely to be at least 1.2m. Such a substantial wall is likely to be medieval in date and associated with the 11th-century castle

Examination of spoil from a long established badger sett on the middle terrace recovered pottery, bone and a metal object. The pottery was consistent with the occupation of the castle between 1066 and 1102.

(Martin Papworth)

Norton-sub-Hamdon, Mill Farm and The Stables, ST 4718 1605, Somerset HER 28515

A watching brief was undertaken during soil stripping immediately to the north-west of Mill Farm. Only a few medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil and from the surface of the underlying geology. However, pottery was collected from the vegetable garden of The Stables, immediately south of Mill Farm, including two 11th to 13th-century rim sherds.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Pilton, Barrow Stile, St. Mary's Lane, ST 5898 4088, Somerset HER 28364

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for two new houses. Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered and a few archaeological features dating from the 12th or 13th century onwards were recorded.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Puriton, land to the north of Green Cover, Downend, ST 3101 4135, Somerset HER 28352

In October 2010 a single trench was excavated in the garden of an existing property. At the west end, a cultivation soil of medieval formation was found to be cut by pits and a posthole which all yielded 12/13th-century pottery. To the east the entire excavated area was occupied by the remains of a building defined on the west by a substantial wall foundation of lias rubble. Within this a well-preserved sequence of floor surfaces and make-up of clay and mortar were observed. The earliest of these respected a hearth setting constructed against the west wall. Dating evidence suggested that the earliest floor was laid in the late medieval period or possibly the 16th or 17th century, and the building remained in use until the later 18th century. To the east a second north-south lias wall foundation was excavated which was constructed directly upon a cultivation soil of 12th or 13th-century date. This wall was demolished before the deposition of the earliest floor and its remains incorporated into the surface. It remains uncertain whether the two walls represent elements of the same medieval building which was subjected to 16th-century alterations or the western wall was later constructed as part of an extension or part of a building that was entirely new at that time.

(James Brigers)

Puriton, land to the west of Apple Tree Cottage, Downend, ST 3100 4131, Somerset HER 28347

In early October 2010, two trenches were excavated, the western of which revealed a sequence of substantial dumps of clean redeposited natural alternating with material containing domestic waste of medieval date. All were tipping steeply to the east and north-east and clearly filled an extensive depression, the base and edges of which lay beyond the reach of the excavation. The depression continued to be filled throughout the later medieval period and the process was completed by further dumping in the 19th century. Subsequent reduction of the entire western area of the site revealed a possible edge to the large feature indicating that it lay on a south-west/north-east alignment and was c. 15m in length and at least 10m wide. To the north-east a second, smaller, trench was excavated which revealed no evidence of the large depression but exposed two pits and a posthole cut into the surface of natural clay. The fills of the pits yielded pottery of medieval date and one contained a large quantity of probably 12th-century material, including a considerable portion of a single cooking pot. Work on the site will continue in 2011.

(James Brigers)

Taunton, Castle Green gas main replacement, ST 2261 2459, Somerset HER 28338

Exeter Archaeology undertook a watching brief during replacement of a gas main through Castle Green, Taunton. In several pits, Anglo-Saxon deposits were exposed, including four skeletons from the known late Saxon cemetery. Two definite graves were located. Radiocarbon dates were calculated for two individuals, producing dates of 890–1030 cal AD and 1020–1170 cal AD. A possible exposure of the castle's outer bailey ditch was also made.

(A.J. Passmore)

Taunton, Castle Green geotechnical investigation, ST 2261 2459, Somerset HER 29333

Exeter Archaeology undertook a watching brief during a geotechnical investigation in advance of the re-landscaping of Castle Green, Taunton. A profile through the floodplain on the south side of the River Tone was produced and new information was gained on the position of the inner bailey of the castle. Post-medieval landscaping deposits were also recorded along with a brick surface associated with the 19th-century cattle market on the Green.

(A.J. Passmore)

Taunton, Taunton Castle, ST 2261 2463, Somerset HER 29781

The route for a new gas main was partly excavated and partly monitored while being machine dug. The excavation confirmed that deep stratigraphy exists across the castle courtyard. The main feature located was part of a large robbing trench for an east–west wall that had been partly backfilled with a dump of medieval slate roof tiles.

(Chris Webster)

Wells, The Bishop's Palace, ST 5520 4576, Somerset HER 28519

An enhanced archaeological watching brief was undertaken during works to establish a new gravity controlled drainage scheme to prevent flooding within the palace chapel. A wide spread of archaeological material was recovered, including the foundations of a significant building. The works add considerably to the resistivity, magnetometry and borehole surveys undertaken by the University of Winchester in 1998 and 2004.

Slightly to the north of the porch, the foundations and lower courses of two parallel east–west walls c. 7m apart were found containing between them the line of an earlier culvert. Deposits between the walls suggest that they may have enclosed a broad body of shallow, slow-moving water possibly a second canal-like feature similar to the one south of Burnell's great hall. The walls would appear to be visible on the resistance survey, continuing across the croquet lawn.

Due west of the south side of the porch, evidence for the existence of a substantial and well-built medieval building orientated east–west, and potentially continuing below the present palace, was identified in a number of trenches. The walls of the building were over 1m in thickness and founded directly into the underlying alluvial fan deposits, surviving up to 1m in height upon its southern side. A test pit at the eastern end of the croquet lawn indicated that the structure did not continue into the lawn. This building would appear to represent a precursor to the present palace founded in 1206 and a number of suggestions have been put forward as to its origins, including it to be either the conventual buildings of Bishop Giso (1061–88) or the 'palace' of Bishop John of Tours (1088–1122).

The presence of the building required a diversion of the originally planned drainage route, which was subsequently taken across the eastern end of the croquet lawn, temptingly identifying a further culvert

and a possible north–south wall. This may represent part of Beckington’s cloister, which formed an inner courtyard to the west of the present palace.

(R. Broomhead)

Westbury-sub-Mendip, Kingshays, ST 504 489, Somerset HER 30302

In May and June 2010, members of the Westbury Society undertook a gradiometry survey in several fields, all called Kingshays, using a FM36 gradiometer loaned by English Heritage. The earliest features revealed were medieval strip fields that ran parallel to nearby existing hedgerows.

(Barry Lane)

West Crewkerne, Croft Castle, ST 420 108, Somerset HER 29508

An area on the south side of Croft Castle was surveyed by GSB Prospection using a fluxgate gradiometer. This revealed an area of increased magnetic response measuring about 20m square on the summit, typical of building foundations and debris. To the south-east a ditch circled the hilltop. To the south-west was a shorter but similar anomaly on a similar line. Inside this (to the north) was a fainter line that may well have joined the first anomaly, forming a complete circuit with the second anomaly reinforcing the defences on the south-west side. Further anomalies were seen on a ‘plateau’ to the south-west; these appeared to be of archaeological origin but were not easily interpretable.

(E. Wood)

Yeovil, church of St John the Baptist, ST 5568 1605, Somerset HER 54735

During refurbishment work at Yeovil parish church in March and April 2010, the opportunity was taken to record the roof bosses and other features which could be readily examined from the scaffolding. The roof boss recording was undertaken by Brian Gittos of the Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society. There was coherency in the arrangement of the 144 roof bosses which, for the most part, appeared to be original, installed when the church was completed about 1400. When the roofs of the aisles and transepts were renewed in the early 19th century the majority of the bosses must have been put back in place. Fortunately, some of the replaced originals are preserved in the Museum of South Somerset collection and it was, therefore, possible to compare the old work with the new. The great majority of the bosses are of foliage designs painted

black overall, with details picked out in gold and red. This colour scheme is consistent across all the bosses in the aisles, transepts and chapels but those down the centre line of the church (nave and chancel) are larger and more elaborately coloured. The nave and chancel roofs appear to be the original medieval structure with the bosses probably undisturbed except for renewing the paint scheme. Amongst these central bosses there are some dramatically carved heads, including a snarling devil and a serene nun.

One aspect of the aisle bosses which has always been puzzling, is the significant number of what have been termed ‘African heads’, mostly grouped in pairs. The chance to examine these more closely has produced a plausible explanation for them. Some of the faces clearly represent devils and are in the form of masks of the type which would have been worn by players participating in medieval religious drama and processions. There seems to be a strong possibility that the Yeovil bosses preserve a picture gallery of medieval drama, as it would have been practised in the town, at the beginning of the 15th century. As such, they would constitute a record of great importance in a wider medieval context. More detailed preliminary results from the roof boss recording work have been reported elsewhere (Gittos and Gittos 2010).

Jerry Sampson (2010) recorded the carpentry marks, present on the nave and chancel roof, which confirmed that they were the original medieval roofs with some repairs. Work was also undertaken on the masons’ marks and this is subject to further analysis. The help and cooperation of the church, the contractors and the architect is gratefully acknowledged.

References

- Gittos, B., and Gittos, M., 2010. ‘The view from the scaffolding’, *Chronicle: The Journal of the Yeovil Archaeology and Local History Society*, 9:6, November 2010, 172–90.
- Sampson, J., 2010. ‘Yeovil St John’s: the roof structure’, *Chronicle: The Journal of the Yeovil Archaeology and Local History Society*, 9:6, November 2010, 192–4.

(B. and M. Gittos)

POST-MEDIEVAL

Burnham on Sea, Burnham Swim and Sports Academy, Berrow Road, ST 3048 4954, HER 30204
In October 2010, a watching brief was conducted during preparatory works for the construction of an

extension to Burnham Swimming Pool. Modern disturbance caused by a previous building and recent services was visible throughout the site and this had clearly precluded survival of archaeological deposits in most areas. In places a highly compacted dark grey soil survived, possibly the remnant of a garden soil. In the majority of locations this was found to directly overlie undisturbed natural sand but in the northern area a group of truncated features was encountered including pits and a possible ditch. The fills of two of these contained post-medieval building materials, clay pipe and pottery, and appeared to date from no earlier than the 18th century; the remaining features could not be dated and may possibly represent evidence of earlier activity.

(James Brigers)

Butleigh, Court Park, ST 5191 3383, Somerset HER 28323

In November 2009 an evaluation consisting of three machine-excavated trenches was undertaken by AC Archaeology. Two of the trenches revealed evidence for post-medieval activity, including part of a track or pathway, probably associated with the former ornamental gardens of Butleigh Court. A small quantity of post-medieval and medieval pottery was recovered.

(Stephen Robinson)

Cheddar, Nyland Hill, ST 456 505, Somerset HER 29507

Three areas around Decoy Pool Farm and one on the top of Nyland Hill were surveyed by GSB Prospection using a fluxgate gradiometer. Results were largely negative with the possible exception of the hilltop where some anomalies may relate to post-medieval mining activity.

(C. Stephens)

Glastonbury, Benedict Street, ST 4982 3884, Somerset HER 28350

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of foundations for the erection of five dwellings on land to the rear of 17–19 Benedict Street. The excavations produced evidence of considerable post-medieval disturbance with only minimal indications of medieval or earlier activity.

(R. Broomhead)

Mark, Littlemore Cottage, ST 386 469, Somerset HER 29972

During 2010 a dole stone was discovered in the garden of Littlemoor Cottage. The owner unearthed

a blue lias slab about two feet long and one foot wide. One end was rounded with an inscription on it and the other end was flat with an inscription the other way up. Both inscriptions seemed to indicate, by initial letters and numbers, the holder of a piece of land measured in roods and furlongs, eg '4R 13F'. The stone seems to have been inverted and recarved, perhaps on change of landholder. Brian Murless has identified it as a dole stone like those found at Ash near Martock (Hardwick 1978). Images of the Mark stone have been deposited with the Somerset HER.

Reference

Hardwick, J., 1978. 'Dole stones, Milton Mead, Ash', in Aston, M. and Murless, B., 'Somerset Archaeology 1977', *SANH* 122, 126–8.

(David Baker)

Middlezoy, land to the south of 55 Main Road, ST 3762 3294, Somerset HER 30239

A watching brief was carried out at the above location as a condition of planning consent for the erection of a single dwelling. This revealed the remains of a post-medieval floor surface and, in another part of the site, a stone wall. No walls were found in association with the floor and it is possible that this was originally contained within a timber structure. Only a small portion of the wall was uncovered during the investigation but it seemed most probable that the structure formed part of a freestanding boundary rather than a building. These features were buried beneath a very substantial dump of redeposited natural marl which in turn was cut by 17th-century or later waste pits. The source of the extensive dump remains uncertain, but it may have been deposited as a result of the construction of a terrace for the row of cottages that still stand to the south of the site.

(James Brigers)

Nether Stowey, Ancient Mariner, Lime Street, ST 1916 3990, Somerset HER 28538

In July 2010 four trenches totalling 65m in length were excavated in the car park and beer garden preliminary to planning consent to construct holiday accommodation and associated car parking on the site. The investigation revealed that much of the site had been subjected to recent levelling which had severely truncated the archaeological horizons. Two trenches were found to contain undisturbed profiles dominated by cultivation soils, which yielded quantities of post-medieval pottery and tile. The majority of the features exposed consisted of modern

pits and postholes but two pits of earlier date were also excavated, indicating limited activity on the site from the 16th to 18th centuries.

(James Brigers)

Nether Stowey, Coleridge Cottage, ST 1905 3982, Somerset HER 30311

Coleridge Cottage lies at the west end of the village of Nether Stowey on the north side of the Quantocks and takes its name from the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge who lived in the house from 1797–1800. It was acquired by the National Trust in 1909.

In March 2010, four evaluation trenches 1m square were excavated as part of a project to plant a row of apple trees. The trenches were excavated in 70mm deep spits, each spit generally containing a mix of older pottery types than in the layer above. The lowest level produced pottery with forms typical of the early 17th century. At the south-west end of garden, the spread of material at the lowest levels of the trenches indicated some kind of local industrial activity, the evidence being quantities of burnt clay and brick mixed with clinker and mortar flecks.

(Martin Papworth)

Shapwick, land to the west of 24 Bridewell Lane, ST 4164 3835, Somerset HER 28501

In May 2010, archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of foundations for a single dwelling and detached garage at the above location. The excavation revealed a number of features, all of which were later than 17th century in date. They included a large quarry which extended to the west of the site, the fill of which contained large quantities of pottery of the 18th and 19th centuries. No obvious structural remains were observed but a shallow stone and clay-filled feature may represent the remnant of a deliberate surface of 18th-century date and an undated linear cutting into the bedrock parallel to the street frontage possibly once contained a wall or fence.

(James Brigers)

Stoke Trister, Buck Mill, ST 7459 2822, Somerset HER 28509

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's *Time Team* to investigate the site of a watermill recorded in Domesday Book. The work also investigated the standing remains of a 17th-century mill building and associated earthworks indicative of water management. Analysis of Domesday Book, other documentary evidence and

watercourse earthworks suggested two possible locations for earlier mills but excavation failed to identify any early structural remains. Evaluation trenches targeted on the early mill site did identify a leat associated with the early medieval mill, as it was unrelated to the 17th-century mill, and residual pottery of 12th to 14th-century date was recovered indicating activity in the area. The evaluation within the standing remains of the 17th-century mill clearly identified particular zones of activity, both domestic and industrial. The kitchen and living quarters of the mill were uncovered as was the meal floor, the cog pit and the wheel pit, the last with the remains of the iron waterwheel still in situ. The mill had changed from using a wide breast-shot wheel to the more efficient over-shot iron wheel, evident by the narrowing of the original wheel pit and changes to the launder to create an overshot water feed.

(Julie Gardiner)

Wembdon, land to the north of 98a, Wembdon Hill, ST 2798 3796, Somerset HER 28544

Archaeological monitoring was conducted during groundworks prior to the construction of a double garage. The earliest feature on the site appeared to be a large ditch or channel orientated south-east to north-west. To the west of this, the truncated remnant of a probable buried soil was identified which was cut by a shallow feature, possibly a small pit or part of a shallow gully with a charcoal or organic rich fill. Later, the area of the site was sealed by a substantial build-up of hillwash which contained post-medieval pottery and was cut by a large post medieval ditch which ran north–south through the centre of the site. No evidence of burials was found suggesting that the extent of the early medieval cemetery known to exist to the south (HER 12470) was probably constrained to the summit of the ridge.

(James Brigers)

Westbury-sub-Mendip, Withering Shurd field, ST 4895 4900, Somerset HER 30298

Members of the Westbury Society undertook fieldwalking of the 2.8ha field called Withering Shurd in April 2010. The artefacts collected confirm documentary research suggesting that the land use changed from being rough willow woodland to pasture in the 18th century and then arable in the later 19th or 20th century. All the artefacts collected were post-medieval in date.

(Barry Lane)

Westonzoyland, Sewage Treatment Works, ST 34634 35229 to ST 35076 35969, Somerset HER 28155
Context One Archaeological Services Ltd coordinated a controlled metal-detecting survey and undertook a watching brief on the site the Battle of Sedgemoor in advance of work on a new sewer replacement pipeline in 2007. A total of 103 lead bullets were recovered during the metal-detector survey. These include pistol, carbine, musket and artillery case shot. The distributions of the various shot types accord well with earlier reconstructions of troop deployments based on original maps and reports of the battle and terrain reconstruction. However, the current work has provided very clear evidence for a more extensive distribution of bullets. The bullets show a potentially significant distributional patterning of calibre and type: the concentration of case shot and of musket bullets in the northern part of the survey area may be compatible with the infantry element of the royalist counter attack on the rebel force, while the pistol grouping in the central areas of survey may be compatible with the royalist cavalry assault. No archaeological remains were uncovered during the watching brief.

(Chris Place)

Wiveliscombe, 16 North Street, ST 0807 2795, Somerset HER 28346

During November and December 2010, archaeological monitoring was conducted during the excavation of foundations for two new dwellings and garaging. No material of earlier than post-medieval date was retrieved from the site and it appeared that the area of the southern plot was extensively truncated at this time. The earliest features consisted of post-medieval boundary ditches and wall construction trenches coincident with the modern east and west boundaries. Elsewhere on the site only a build up of 19th-century and later cultivation soil was observed with the exception of a single pit in the centre of the northern plot which produced a quantity of mid 18th-century pottery.

(James Brigers)

Yatton, Upper Oxbarrow Field, Claverham Court Farm, ST442 672

A series of earthworks in the upper part of Oxbarrow Field was surveyed and drawn by members of Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleve Archaeological Research Team (YCCART). These earthworks appear to be drainage works, although they originate

close to a rhine which borders the upper, north-west side of the field and continues to the ox-house at the north-east corner. The channels (gripes) of the drainage works cut through the upper part of the field and continue out onto the lower peaty area to the south-west, where they were not observed as earthworks. However, vegetational differences could be seen continuing the lines of the gripes out onto the peat, defined by reeds and coarser grasses. The pattern of the drainage works was very regular and straight, which might suggest that they were originally dug by mechanical means.

(Shirley Everden)

INDUSTRIAL

Cheddon Fitzpaine, Hestercombe Gardens, ST 242 288, Somerset HER 30335, 30336

Excavations in conjunction with the restoration of the Georgian landscape garden resumed in the latter part of 2010.

At ST 2425 2902 the opportunity was taken to investigate a prominent point at the edge of Middle Park Field above the Great Cascade thought to have been the site of a seat or feature with views over the Combe to the east. The excavation revealed the remains of the estate boundary wall which was found to change character from flat-laid coursed slate in the north to pitched diorite and slate to the south. At the junction of the two forms of construction the slate rubble foundation of a second wall was identified which projected a short distance to the west. This appeared to be contemporary with the construction of the flat-laid slate wall but earlier than that of the pitched wall and was coincident with a prominent field boundary shown on the 1842 tithe survey, but not on later mapping. The walls were found to have been constructed within a shallow ditch which followed the summit of the escarpment. Although mortar fragments were recovered from the lower fill of the ditch, no evidence of structures or features other than boundaries were identified at the site.

At ST 2432 2932 a pronounced topographical anomaly on the valley side to the west of the Box Pond was investigated. The natural bedrock was found to be directly cut by a very large pit of rectangular plan and over 1.8m in depth, the fill of which yielded no evidence for either date or function. Subsoil and bedrock on the summit of the anomaly was cut by a narrow gully which ran north-south

from the location of the earlier pit and was infilled with tightly packed slate rubble. This feature also remains enigmatic and it is uncertain whether it was created for a drainage or structural function. The entire area was sealed by a substantial dump of topsoil probably imported in order to landscape the area. Work will continue at the site in 2011.

(James Brigers)

Shepton Mallet, Garston Street and Lower Lane, ST 6217 4372 and ST 6198 4379, Somerset HER 28358 Archaeological excavations were undertaken by AC Archaeology at two points along the course of the River Sheppey in Shepton Mallet. The works were in advance of the construction of a new culvert, as part of a flood alleviation works.

At Lower Road, ST 6200 4378, the river frontage of a former mill, depicted on 19th-century maps and now demolished, was excavated in advance of the works. Part of the building ground plan was revealed and the basement recorded. Of especial interest was the discovery and full recording of a substructure associated with the housing of a water wheel. Dating evidence was largely confined to late 18th to 20th-century material although a small quantity of medieval pottery, probably residual, was also recovered. A subsequent watching brief during installation of the new river culvert allowed a further record to be made of the building substructure and an associated leat on the south side of the River Sheppey.

At Garston Street (centre NGR ST 6216 4372) a new culvert was inserted to divert the current course of the River Sheppey. The remains of properties of probable 18th-century date were recorded and could be correlated with structures depicted on early cartographic sources. A moderate amount of later 17th and early 18th-century artefacts was also recovered.

(Mark Corney)

Washford, Old Ashcroft Railway Bridge, ST 0493 4132, Somerset HER 30332

A historic building recording survey and archaeological monitoring were undertaken by AC Archaeology during October 2010. The bridge, formerly known as Washford Underbridge No. 1, was part of the former West Somerset Mineral Railway until the closure of the line in 1916. It has more recently been used as an agricultural access to a field. The structure is a standard plate girder underbridge across the River Washford, one of six constructed for the mineral railway. Both the north and south abutments to the bridge are of stone

construction. Many of the associated wrought iron plate girders showed extensive corrosion and the timber sleeper decking was also badly decayed. The survey identified no evidence for phasing within the iron framework, all of which appeared to be original, but it is considered likely that the timber decking had been replaced subsequent to the removal of the iron railway tracks c. 1917.

(Stephen Robinson)

Watchet, Watchet Foundry, ST 0706 4339, Somerset HER 19402

A planning application for partial demolition and conversion prompted the investigation of a building accessed from Market Street car park, Watchet. Though drastically altered, the stone structure, internally buttressed, was identified as having been part of Watchet Foundry, popularly referred to as Gliddon's Foundry after a Williton family who were the owners from 1875 until its closure in 1948.

The roof structure included four trusses made of flat cast iron about 18mm in thickness (Fig. 4). The trusses were in two halves, each cast in one piece and bolted together in the centre. The purlins



Fig. 4 Watchet foundry, cast iron trusses (photo Patrick Stow)

between them were mostly of wrought iron and the bracing was in the form of circles and curves joining the horizontal and sloping members. Spanning the building were two substantial timber beams resting on a buttress on the west side and supported by a distinctive iron pillar on the east. There was evidence that the beams incorporated a small overhead gantry crane, and artefacts discovered nearby may have been components of a manual timber jib crane shown in a photograph illustrating casting taking place.

The foundry was originally entered through a passageway in a building in Swain Street which survives together with a wall plaque bearing the inscription 'FOUNDRY'. Now converted into two dwellings, this is likely to have been built as a warehouse in the 18th century. When the foundry was erected in 1850 the walls and furnace chimney encroached upon neighbouring properties necessitating payments for licences to the trustees of the Wyndham Estate. The Census for the following year reveals the first owners of the business as two elderly spinsters named Lacey from Whitby, Yorkshire, with their nephew, Thomas Edwards, from Monmouth, South Wales, as agent.

Historical research is incomplete but a tentative conclusion would be that the iron trusses date to the early 1850s and could be of Welsh origin.

(Brian J. Murless)

West Coker, Dawes twine works, ST 5122 1369, Somerset HER 29873

A small excavation was undertaken at the twine works to guide restoration by determining whether the supporting timbers of the roof were originally earth-fast. A trench 0.5m wide was dug below truss T-09, down to the level of the natural Coker sands, except where a lime floor was encountered in the southernmost aisle. The excavation showed that the posts had indeed been earth-fast in very narrow and deep postholes. The posts had subsequently been cut off and supported on various stone built plinths. Another sequence of postholes, in three rows suggested an earlier building on the site.

(Alan Graham)

MODERN

Williton, Doniford Holiday Park, Sea Lane, Doniford, ST 0951 4317, Somerset HER 28366

In November 2010, two trenches were opened at Doniford Holiday Park in advance of the demolition

of chalets and construction of caravan bases and associated infrastructure. The sparse archaeological remains comprised a north-south aligned ditch and four truncated postholes sealed by an extensive build up, or possible levelling dump, of topsoil. Finds from one of the postholes indicate that this was clearly of 20th-century date and probably related to the military use of the site (*see* HER 15839), however the remaining features were almost entirely devoid of artefacts with the exception of a single flint chip from a second posthole. The ditch was of an unusual form with a distinct steep-sided slot to one edge and probably represents the remains of an enclosure boundary of uncertain date. There was no indication in the excavated remains of permanent human habitation of any period in close proximity to the site.

(James Brigers)

OTHER REPORTS

Alford, Dimmer Landfill Site, ST 6077 3058, Somerset HER 29816

An evaluation trench was cut immediately west of landfill cells K and L South. An earlier geophysical survey depicted a penannular ditched feature, presumed to be an eaves-drip gully for a prehistoric roundhouse, in this location. No archaeological features were seen and only a small quantity of finds was recovered. Snails recovered from natural deposits suggest that the area formerly consisted of a marshy landscape with shallow ponds.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Axbridge, St Mary's Street, ST 4324 5449, Somerset HER 28339

A watching brief was conducted prior to the construction of a dwelling. The site was found to have been extensively disturbed by the foundations of a former 20th-century structure and the only surviving identifiable archaeological feature consisted of a large pit of post-medieval date.

(James Brigers)

Beckington, A36 Standerwick to Thoulstone (Wilts), ST 816 507 – ST 824 498, Somerset HER 28331

Wessex Archaeology maintained a watching brief during works along the A36 but nothing of archaeological significance was found.

(Julie Gardiner)

Bishop's Hull, land to the west of the village, ST 203 245, Somerset HER 30260

Three fields to the west of Bishop's Hull were surveyed by GSB Prospection using a fluxgate gradiometer. The survey identified no anomalies of clear archaeological significance. Numerous responses of uncertain provenance were recorded, including a possible ditch. Others may be relatively modern or natural in origin. Areas of magnetic disturbance may represent the sites of the former Hillmore Farm and dwellings alongside Bishop's Hull Road. Past agriculture was suggested by numerous weak trends. A pipe adjacent to the road was also recorded.

(J. Tanner)

Brent Knoll, land off Crooked Lane, ST 3268 5142, Somerset HER 30331

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of footings and a geotechnical test pit on a plot off Crooked Lane, Brent Knoll. No pre-modern finds or features were seen.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Bridgwater, Quantock Road, ST 27990 37181, Somerset HER 28329

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a watching brief during groundworks for the refurbishment of a water supply main pumping station. No archaeological features were revealed and no artefacts were observed.

(Richard McConnell)

Brompton Regis, Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, SS 9513 3148, ENP HER EEM13991

A watching brief was required during drainage works undertaken in conjunction with the construction of new facilities within the church (HER MSO8847). No archaeological features were observed or recorded and only a limited number of unmarked burials were identified adjacent to the church. Limited disturbance was caused to the existing internal fabric of the church during the removal of Victorian pews and the consolidation of the existing floor.

(R. Broomhead)

Burrowbridge, Beazley's Spillway, Stathe, ST 3767 2862, Somerset HER 30338

In June and July 2010, AC Archaeology carried out the third phase of a watching brief during the groundworks associated with the increase in depth of an existing borrow pit located on the west side of

the River Parrett. An earlier trench evaluation and subsequent watching brief had revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits beneath the topsoil to at least a depth of 2.4m. An undated posthole was located at a depth of 1.15m. The area of the borrow pit previously excavated to a depth of 1m was reduced by a further 1m by machine over a total area of c. 70m by up to 20m. The alluvial deposit was found to have been cut by a series of modern agricultural linear gullies, all located at a depth of c. 1.5m. Two pieces of preserved wood were located centrally within the borrow pit at a depth of 1.2m, they had been driven into the alluvial clay.

(Kerry Dean)

Cheddar, Union Street, Valley House, ST 4599 5323, Somerset HER 30285

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of service trenches required for the conversion of a former hotel to form ten flats. The excavations produced no evidence of any archaeological activity prior to the construction of the hotel in the mid-19th century.

(R. Broomhead)

Cossington, land to the west of Whispering Elms, ST 3616 4013, Somerset HER 30259

In December 2010, archaeological monitoring was conducted during groundworks in advance of the erection of a new dwelling and associated access. The main area of the site was found to be crossed by two north-south aligned linear features. The eastern example was probably a former boundary ditch that had been recut once and finally infilled with lias rubble. The western feature was very large, c. 4m in width and it was unclear whether this was artificial or wholly or partially of natural formation. Neither feature produced convincing datable material, although the western example did produce a single sherd of late-medieval pottery from its upper fill. Throughout the site a possible relict cultivation soil was observed which produced a significant quantity of fragmentary lime mortar of uncertain date.

(James Brigers)

Dowlish Wake, church of St Andrew, ST 3755 1295, Somerset HER 30309

Test pits cut on the north side of the 17th-century church during renovation works were monitored. The position of one undisturbed grave cut was recorded. No finds were recovered apart from occasional

fragments of loose bone, which were replaced in the test pits.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Durleigh, parish church of St Hugh, ST 2749 3614, Somerset HER 28547

In July 2010, the excavation of drainage trenches around the church and soakaway pits in the churchyard to the north was monitored. No significant archaeological features were noted in the area of the church and the trenches penetrated only into topsoil containing fragments of bone and a coin of Charles I. The soakaway pits revealed a sequence of dumps of material of post-medieval date above the natural subsoil. Surprisingly, no evidence of graves was encountered in the area of the churchyard subjected to the excavations.

(James Brigers)

East Huntspill, Hackness Farm, ST 3449 4523, Somerset HER 28341

In April 2010, four trenches totalling 80m in length were excavated, each encountering archaeologically sterile grey alluvium beneath a shallow cultivation soil. The depth of the alluvium was found to be up to 2m at which depth it overlay stiff pale grey clay. At the east of the area the surface of the alluvium was cut by an east–west ditch, probably the remains of a post-medieval drainage feature which shows clearly as an earthwork on aerial photographs. No further archaeological features were observed and the almost total absence of cultural material from overlying deposits strongly suggests that the area of the site has been subject to little other than agricultural usage.

(James Brigers)

Glastonbury, Town Hall, ST 4990 3887, Somerset HER 30287

Archaeological observations were made during the excavation of a lift shaft within Glastonbury Town Hall. Several archaeological horizons were identified although none produced any significant artefactual material.

(R. Broomhead)

Godney, East Waste, ST 4815 4215, Somerset HER 30314

Archaeological observations were made during excavations for a series of shallow wildlife ponds on land within the East Waste to the south-west of Godney Farm. Excavation of three ponds through

clean peats to a maximum depth of c. 0.9m exposed no significant archaeological structures and no artefactual material was recovered.

(R. Broomhead)

Ilchester, Costello Hill, ST 52432 23274 to ST 55133 24159, Somerset HER 30283

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a watching brief during groundworks relating to a new water main pipeline along Costello Hill in November 2010. Monitoring revealed a single archaeological feature that comprised a north–south aligned stone trackway, c. 30m south of the existing farm buildings to the north of the pipeline easement. Although no associated dating evidence was found, it is likely to relate to the nearby farm buildings and is probably relatively modern in date.

(Richard McConnell)

Kilton, church of St Nicholas, ST 1661 4415, Somerset HER 28521

Two evaluation trenches were excavated by Richard McDonnell within an enclosure to the east of Kilton church. A spread of dressed and undressed stone from the demolition of a building, possibly the church house, was included in levelling layers, which sat on the surface of the natural deposits of lias clays, slates and limestone. No human bone or artefacts earlier than the late 19th century were noted.

(Chris Webster)

Long Sutton, Knole, Bineham City Farm ST 4946 2477, Somerset HER 28494

Excavation of 1m square holes for the stanchion bases of a new barn were observed in an area measuring 18m by 25m, to the north and west of existing barns. All revealed made ground, probably the spoil from the construction of the existing barns spread. Only in the eastern line of holes was the base of this made ground revealed, showing the surface of the burial soil, a very dark organic clay-loam, at a depth of 0.9m.

(Alan Graham)

North Petherton, Stockmoor Village, ST 3031 3471, Somerset HER 28337

AC Archaeology carried out an evaluation in March 2010, on land forming Area 2 at Stockmoor Village. The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of eleven trenches, totalling 405m in length. Largely negative results were recorded, with a small number of linear ditches present. These are likely to have

been post-medieval boundary or drainage features. Three small sherds of late Iron Age pottery were recovered from an agricultural subsoil layer.

(Simon Hughes)

Meare, St Mary's Road, ST 451 415, Somerset HER 30308

Occasional, small and abraded medieval pottery sherds were recovered during an evaluation. Features and finds clearly indicated that this part of the village was not developed until at least the 17th century.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Meare, St Mary's Road, ST 4533 4160, Somerset HER 28365

An evaluation was undertaken on land at Tessamore. The site produced no evidence of any archaeological activity or any archaeological finds.

(R. Broomhead)

Meare, Westhay Level, ST 4162 4312, Somerset HER 30315

Archaeological observations were made following the extraction of peat on Westhay Level to the west of Honeygar Farm, as part of an ongoing monitoring programme. Approximately 1.5m of peat overlying natural clay was extracted but no archaeological features or structures were observed, nor artefactual material recovered.

(R. Broomhead)

Middlezoy, north-west of Hollies Farm, ST 374 330, Somerset HER 29505

An area was surveyed by GSB Propection using a fluxgate gradiometer in an attempt to locate an enclosure seen on aerial photographs. The results were largely negative.

(E. Wood)

Nether Stowey, Castle, ST 1881 3954, Somerset HER 29806

The exposed section behind a 13.5m length of retaining wall was examined by Richard McDonnell during the rebuilding of the wall. All the deposits encountered were believe to be natural in origin with the exception of one recent pit which was recorded in section.

(Chris Webster)

North Petherton, Willstock Farm, ST 290 354, Somerset HER 30210

AC Archaeology carried out a watching brief during groundworks associated with a residential

development and associated infrastructure works on land at Willstock Village. The main focus of the monitoring was in those areas of the development which lie on higher ground, although recording in some of the lower-lying areas was also undertaken. No evidence for in situ archaeological remains was identified during the work, with only a small quantity of medieval and post-medieval finds recovered from overlying layers.

(Simon Hughes)

Old Cleeve, Cleeve Abbey, Abbey Mill, ST 047 405, Somerset HER 28520

Richard McDonnell is believed to have carried out a watching brief here but no report could be obtained.

(Chris Webster)

Porlock, Land at Porlock Road, SS 88778 46851, ENP HER EEM13978

In January 2010, Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an evaluation to support a planning application for seven new dwellings with associated parking. Five evaluation trenches were excavated but despite the proximity to the historic core of Porlock, no archaeological features or deposits were identified. A single flake of possibly prehistoric struck chert was recovered from the subsoil.

(Richard McConnell)

Portishead, 43–45 High Street, ST 4673 7629, Somerset HER 9

A small-scale site evaluation was undertaken to provide an assessment of the likely archaeological implications of proposals to demolish the existing buildings and construct new ones. Consultation indicated widespread prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the immediate area, however the evaluation produced no evidence of any archaeological activity upon the site.

(R. Broomhead)

Rode, Church of St Lawrence, ST 8080 5338, Somerset HER 28344

In 2010, a watching brief was undertaken during drainage works necessitated by the conversion of the existing vestry at the church of St Lawrence. Limited disturbance was caused to the existing internal fabric and no significant archaeological features were observed during the excavation of new drainage. A number of shallow, unmarked burials were recorded on the north side of the church.

(R. Broomhead)

South Petherton, Prigg Lane, Flamberts, ST 4334
1494, Somerset HER 28342

An evaluation was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology during March 2010, in advance of housing development. The evaluation produced largely negative results with only a single post-medieval ditch recorded. No evidence of medieval or earlier occupation was recovered.

(J. P. Salvatore)

Stoke St. Gregory, church of St Gregory, ST 3480
2715, Somerset HER 30193

A watching brief was carried out when a new electric cable trench was cut within the northern edge of the churchyard. An undated stone culvert or drain was recorded immediately inside the north boundary wall and two sherds of medieval coarseware pottery were recovered from grave earth.

(C. and N. Hollinrake)

Taunton, Castle Bow, ST 22674 24593, Somerset
HER 28353

In November 2010, Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a watching brief during groundworks for the installation of a short section of water main to the Castle Hotel in Castle Bow, Taunton. Excavation of the water main trench showed only made ground and impact caused by modern services.

(Richard McConnell)

Timberscombe to Wootton Courtenay pipeline, SS
95607 42810, ENP HER EEM13984

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a watching brief during groundworks relating to a pipeline replacement scheme between Timberscombe and Wootton Courtenay. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during groundwork excavations, despite lying in close proximity to a number of known archaeological sites. A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the topsoil.

(Richard McConnell)

Wellington Without, Wellington Monument, ST 1373
1723, Somerset HER 30337

AC Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief in June 2010 during the hand-excavation of 16 post-pits for a new perimeter fence around the Wellington Monument. The post-pits were a maximum of 0.6m x 0.3m in plan and 0.8m deep. A fairly consistent layer sequence of topsoil above natural subsoil was present, with no archaeological features or deposits present and no finds recovered.

(Simon Hughes)

Wellington, Cades Farm, ST 1488 2096, Somerset
HER 28356

In October 2010, AC Archaeology carried out an evaluation on land forming phase 2 of a proposed residential development adjacent to Cades Farm. With the exception of a modern drain and a small quantity of 19th-century and later finds, no evidence for archaeological activity was present.

(Richard Sims)

West Huntspill, Black Ditch Wind Park, ST 3100
4425, Somerset HER 30286

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a single ditch containing brick, modern pottery, clay tobacco pipe fragments and an iron nail.

(Sian Reynish)

Weston Bampfylde, Holy Cross church, ST 6105
2493, Somerset HER 29837

Work on paths to the south of the church required the removal of 0.4m of ground, revealing the outlines of numerous graves. Few fragments of human bone were recovered from the top soil suggesting that these graves may not have disturbed many earlier ones.

(Alan Graham)

Weston-super-Mare, Knightstone Road, ST 3142
6190

A series of shallow excavations for the creation of a new water play area was undertaken within parkland upon Weston-super-Mare sea front. No evidence for any significant archaeological activity was recovered.

(R. Broomhead)