

Parish	Site	Grid Reference	Report Producer	Type of Report	Nature of Development	Parish
Atherington	Rose Cottage	59052311	SWARCH	*DBA, monitoring & recording	Construction of dwelling	Atherington
Barnstaple	26 Bear Street	56143334	SWARCH	DBA, HBR and evaluation	Residential development	Barnstaple
Bratton Fleming	Dale Cottage	64343767	SWARCH	Watching brief	Construction of domestic garage	Bratton Fleming
Brayford	Gard's Quarry, Charles	68653319	SWARCH	Excavation & monitoring	Topsoil stripping prior to quarrying	Brayford
Brayford	Hudley Mill, Charles	67803250	Martin Watts	Repair and Management Plan	Waterwheel, leat and mill pond	Brayford
Brayford	Little Bray Lane	68683481	SWARCH	Monitoring	Construction of dwelling	Brayford
Brendon	Hoccombe Combe	77834448	ENPA	Survey and recording	None	Brendon
Burrington	Nr. Radar Station	60511699 & 60531708	SWARCH	Watching brief	Relocation of field access	Burrington
Burrington	Southcott	61611773	Martin Watts	Recording of historic roof structure	Replacement of roof	Burrington
Combe Martin	Cormelles, Victoria Street	59194592	AC Archaeology	Watching brief	Construction of dwelling	Combe Martin
Kentisbury	Higher Patchole Farm	61384283	SWARCH	DBA and HBS	Conversion of barns to residential and holiday accomm.	Kentisbury
Kingsnympton	Steeple Meadow	68501945	SWARCH	Evaluation excavation	Construction of eight dwellings	Kingsnympton
Landkey	Town Mills	59253107	Martin Watts	HBR	Conversion to residential	Landkey

South Molton	Widgery Drive	71242581	Context One Archaeol. Services	DBA and site evaluation	Construction of care home	South Molton
South Molton	The Old Gaol	71652600	SWARCH	DBA & HBR	Conversion of building to form ancillary accomm.	South Molton
Tawstock	Old Torrington Road	54303140	SWARCH	Watching brief	Residential development	Tawstock
Tawstock	St Peter's Church	55982992	Exeter Archaeol.	Monitoring & recording	Rebuilding of churchyard wall	Tawstock

DBA – Desk-based assessment; HBR/S – Historic building recording/survey

In 2010 17 site reports were posted in 12 parishes. A total of 5 commercial organisations were involved, with South West Archaeology producing 10 reports, Martin Watts 3 reports and AC Archaeology, Context One Archaeology and Exeter Archaeology 1 report each. One other report was produced by the Exmoor National Park Authority Archaeologist.

1. Atherington: Rose Cottage

This report covers the investigation of a garden that is to be developed with a dwelling. The desk-based assessment demonstrated that the site had been continuously occupied since the late 18th century, with several structural and boundary changes in the 19th. The site investigation identified two linear features that were probably ditches marking successive property boundaries. The line of the western boundary was mediaeval in date and had continued in use to the present. Finds were mainly post-mediaeval North Devon Ware.

2. Barnstaple: 26 Bear Street

This is a report of an extensive investigation of a site on the north side of Bear Street. Bear Street was an important route leading out of Barnstaple eastwards. The desk-based assessment showed that the site had been part of a larger area to the north of Bear Street granted by Judhel for the founding of a Cluniac Priory. Urban development began along Bear Street, outside the town walls in the mediaeval period, but this was swept away during the Civil War. By 1830 development of the north side had reached the site again, with two domestic properties occupying the site frontage. Later in the 19th century the site was developed for a wool merchant and grain store. The latter eventually occupied the whole of the site.

The building survey was able to put together a complex ten-phase sequence of development of the commercial buildings. Remarkably a significant amount of grain-processing machinery survived from this

period. The trench evaluation yielded an impressive amount of mediaeval and later pottery, suggesting earlier uses of the site that could be explored further if another opportunity arose in the area.

3. Bratton Fleming: Dale Cottage

This is a short report of a watching brief carried out at this site in the middle of Bratton Fleming, where soil was stripped in preparation for building a garage to serve the cottage. The operation yielded mainly 18th and 19th century pottery with a handful of post-mediaeval sherds. Dale Cottage itself is a low stone rubble building that was probably two cottages originally.

4. Brayford: Gard' Quarry

A monitoring and recording exercise was carried out on this field to the north of Charles as a 2002 geophysical survey had identified the presence of a ring ditch, probably representing the remains of a Bronze Age barrow. Two archaeological features were exposed. The first was a pit which contained a single fill of silty clay with fragments of charcoal. The second feature was a posthole with a single fill of silty clay. A third feature that had been revealed was considered to be natural. No finds were discovered and the two features were undated.

These results were considered to be consistent with the previous survey. The area immediately to the north of Charles appears to have been relatively unoccupied, apart from the Bronze Age barrows, compared to the known prehistoric and Roman period settlement to the north-east nearer the top of the valley at Brayford.

5. Brayford: Hudley Mill, Charles

This report includes a document survey, description of the mill leat, pond, waterwheel and mill building and a schedule of suggested repairs at Hudley Mill which had previously been described in the 1989 and 1994 surveys of North Devon Watermills.

Documentary evidence suggests that Hudley Mill had served the parish since the beginning of the 17th century. Most of the surviving fabric appears to be 19th century in date. However, there is a suggestion that the mill might occupy the site of an older mediaeval mill serving the manor of Charles.

The comprehensive description and schedule of repairs and maintenance form a sound basis for the restoration and retention of this historic facility.

6. Brayford: Little Bray Lane

This short report describes the monitoring of topsoil stripping prior to the construction of a dwelling. The site at Little Bray Lane is steeply sloping. No features were revealed. Finds included pieces of abraded slag, a fragment of probable furnace lining and two sherds of post-mediaeval North Devon ware. These are consistent with the known iron working in the area.

7. Brendon: Hoccombe Combe

This is a record of a survey drawing made of a feature believed to be a burnt mound, by a stream in a remote location on Brendon Common. It is the first burnt mound to be discovered on Exmoor.

8. Burrington: Near Radar Station

Burrington Moor is a location where a number of prehistoric sites have been recorded, hence the monitoring of a relatively simple operation, the repositioning of a field entrance. Only a couple of features were observed, which seemed to be associated with the construction and repair of the hedgebank that was being removed. No finds were recovered.

9. Burrington: Southcott

Southcott is a late mediaeval farmhouse the mid-20th century roof of which was to be completely replaced, in accordance with planning permission which required recording of the original roof. The mid-20th century roof over-sailed the earlier roof as would the proposed replacement, ensuring the retention and preservation of the earlier structures. The central part of the historic roof comprises the remains of two smoke-blackened trusses with associated purlins and rafters, which were considered to be the remnants of jointed cruck trusses of 16th century origin and indicative of an open hall structure. The roof structure of the rear extension probably dates from the 17th century and the east end of the main roof was rebuilt in the late 19th century.

10. Combe Martin: Cormelles, Victoria Street

The watching brief was carried out during groundworks on the site, which is at the rear of an existing dwelling and slopes down towards the River UMBER towards the eastern end of the historic core of the village. No archaeological features were exposed and the finds were limited to clay pipe fragments and 18th/19th century pottery sherds, principally of North Devon Coarseware.

11. Kentisbury: Higher Patchole Farm

The desk based study indicates that Patchole originated in the Saxon period and was linked Sevenash and Trentishoe and held by the Raleigh family in the 13th/14th centuries. In the late mediaeval period Patchole was separated from the other holdings and became part of the manor of Kentisbury. Higher Patchole may have begun life as a freehold tenement in the 17th century. From 1780 until the First World War it was in the ownership of the Sloley family. The buildings survey revealed that the threshing barn was built between 1650 and 1750, while the other barns were mainly 19th century, although one or two may have replaced earlier buildings.

12. Kingsnympton: Steeple Meadow

Steeple Meadow lies on the eastern edge of the village and was to be developed for houses. Evaluation trenches were excavated, totalling 115 m in length. Only two features were found, one of which was interpreted as a tree throw and the other was a small pit filled with clay-silt with abundant charcoal fragments. Finds were limited to pottery fragments dating from the mediaeval period to the 19th century, as might be expected in the ploughsoil of a field on the edge of a mediaeval village.

13. Landkey: Town Mills

This report gives a detailed description of the Town Mills building and waterwheel in Landkey The site was included in two previous publications on watermills in North Devon (Thorpe 1989 and U3A 1994). References to mills in Landkey are recorded as far back as the 13th century. Town Mills is believed to have existed since the 17th century but may have been earlier. The present mill was owned by the Darch family for over a century and operated by them in conjunction with a bakery for eighty years. The corn milling machinery was removed in the late 1940s and the wheel was used to generate electricity until the 1980s. The external overshot wheel and sluice gates have been maintained in working order. It was originally a two-wheeled mill, but much of the building dates from the 19th century with 20th century alterations. There is good photographic evidence of the buildings use as a mill and bakery from the turn of the 20th century.

14. South Molton: Widgery Drive

The desk-based assessment of this site identified it as primarily lying outside the mediaeval core of South Molton, with field boundaries that were well evidenced on the tithe map and subsequent Ordnance Survey maps. The watching brief and excavations verified this evidence with most of the identified features coinciding with post-mediaeval field boundaries. Finds, mainly of North Devon Coarseware with some slipware and clay pipe stems, tended to confirm the post-mediaeval and 19th century nature of this occupation.

15. South Molton: The Old Gaol

The Old Gaol lies to the north of East Street and forms part of a complex of buildings constructed between 1828 and 1838. The site would have formed part of the burgage plots running northwards and the building may have straddled two such plots. It was built as a more modern form of accommodation for prisoners and used for this purpose for much of the middle part of the 19th century before being used for other purposes, when a late 19th century Police Station was built elsewhere in town. The works of conversion which were monitored as a result of the historic building recording have done much to restore the building to nearer its original condition and to conserve it.

16. Tawstock: Old Torrington Road

Although the topsoil had largely been stripped from this development site before the watching brief could be undertaken. One feature and a number of finds were identified. The feature was a ditch that was probably associated with a former field boundary. The fill yielded a number of finds, mainly post-mediaeval in nature but including some 13th/14th century residual sherds of North Devon ware. The topsoil revealed a larger number of finds, with a significant quantity of mediaeval North Devon ware, indicating that Roundswell Farm was a mediaeval foundation rather than a post-mediaeval farmstead. No evidence was found for the outworks or entrance of the cropmark enclosure that had previously been identified to the west of the site.

17. Tawstock: St Peter' Church

This report records the monitoring of the rebuilding of a partially collapsed section of the graveyard wall. The features and finds exposed seemed to relate to previous rebuilding phases at the site.

Discussion

This year' reports yielded little that was new in archaeological terms, apart from the burnt mound on Brendon Common. There were however, a number of interesting and valuable historic building surveys, including two watermills. The most extensive and revealing of these surveys was at the former Maldram & Jones corn merchant site in Bear Street, Barnstaple, where the report also suggested the possibility of further work in this area which was formerly occupied by the Cluniac Priory.