

REPORTS COVERING TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL 2019

Table 1 sets out the reports filed with Archaeological Data Services at York relating to 2019. The reports are then discussed in a little more detail, in alphabetical order of parish, as in Table 1. A brief synthesis of the findings of 2019 completes the document.

Table 1 Summary of reports for 2019

Parish	Site	Grid reference	Report Producer	Type of report	Nature of development
Bulkworthy	Town Farm	SS405 148	Substrata	Magnetometry survey	Solar farm
Clovelly	Dyke Green Farm	SS312 234	S W Archaeology	Archaeological evaluation	General building work
Dolton	Aller Road	SS576 123	S W Archaeology	Desk-based assessment and geophysical survey	Small scale residential development
Holsworthy	Belle View	SS344 039	A C Archaeology	Archaeological evaluation	Construction of four dwelling houses
Holsworthy	5 Fore Street	SS344 038	A C Archaeology	Archaeological evaluation	Unspecified 'urban development'
Littleham	St Swithun's church	SS444 235	S W Archaeology	Archaeological monitoring and recording	New drainage and wiring
Northam	Staddon Road, Appledore	SS459 304	S W Archaeology	Walkover assessment	Single residence
Pancrasweek	St Pancras's church	SS297 058	Oakford Archaeology	Archaeological monitoring and recording	New drainage and wiring
Parkham	Earthworks east of Bucks Mills	SS359 235	Substrata	Magnetometry survey	General site assessment
Petrockstow	Old Station Yard	SS515 106	S W Archaeology	Archaeological evaluation	Construction of agricultural store
Virginstow	Bradaford Farm	SX958 349	S W Archaeology	Archaeological monitoring and recording	Erection of telecommunication mast
Winkleigh	Former primary school	SS631 080	S W Archaeology	Archaeological evaluation trenching	Single residence
Woolsery	Brackenside, Bucks Cross	SS348 234	S W Archaeology	Walkover assessment	Construction of 21 holiday lodges

Thus some 13 sites were examined in 12 parishes. A total of 4 commercial organisations were involved. South West Archaeology produced 8 reports, A C Archaeology and Substrata each produced 2 reports and Oakford Archaeology

produced a single report. The most common forms of development generating reports in 2019 were residential development and redevelopment or conversion of existing buildings.

Reports

1. *Bulkworthy: Town Farm*

The site lies about 200 metres NE of what could be called Bulkworthy church town, the hamlet which contains the small parish church. The report is of a geophysical survey prior to the construction of a solar farm. The site might have been expected to have contained some archaeology, but Bulkworthy has always been a very small settlement. The east of the site was very wet and data from here were hard to interpret. Most of the features identified could be explained as former field boundaries and one cluster probably arose from a palaeo-channel of the Cleave Lake Stream.

2. *Clovelly: Dyke Green Farm*

The report was about the outcome of archaeological evaluation from trial pits at Dyke Green Farm in Higher Clovelly, some 1.5 kilometres south of the parish church. An existing set of buildings attached to the main house were to be converted to ancillary residential accommodation. Dyke Green Farm lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Clovelly Dykes, although clear of the surviving earthworks. No archaeological features were revealed in the trial pits.

3. *Dolton: Aller Road*

The report concerned geophysical survey of a site to the south east of the village and about 400 metres north-east of the parish church. The area was the site of a planned small-scale housing estate. An earlier desk-based assessment with some limited evaluation trenching in 2007 had found nothing, although it was felt that the site had the potential to yield archaeology. Gradiometry survey showed little and the signals were thought to represent relics of field drainage systems

4. *Holsworthy: Belle View*

The report was on archaeological trench evaluation of a site in the centre of Holsworthy, about 100 metres south of the parish church. It had previously been an asphalted car park for the Nat West Bank. Development of four dwelling houses was proposed. Three evaluation trenches yielded only brick and modern china fragments and it was considered that any possible archaeology had been destroyed when the site was levelled to make the car park.

5. *Holsworthy: 5 Fore Street*

The report was on two archaeological evaluation trenches dug on a site adjacent to that in Belle View. As this lay within the historic core of Holsworthy, it was considered that there was a potential for archaeology to be present. Nothing was found in trench one, but trench two yielded a rim sherd from a North Devon gravel-tempered chamber pot, of seventeenth or eighteenth century age and two fragments of clay-pipe stem. Both trenches revealed a deep cultivation soil, consistent with the site having been worked as a garden.

6. *Littleham: St Swithun's church*

The report concerned archaeological monitoring and recording during work to install a new water drain and electrical wiring running from the church and along an existing path. St Swithun's church is a late medieval structure, substantially repaired twice in the nineteenth century. It lies about 400 metres from the heart of the village and has no buildings nearby. The trenching work was carried out by hand under archaeological supervision. A collection of material was recovered from the sub-soil, including sherds of pottery - North Devon coarse ware and sgraffito - a sherd of glass and a few bone fragments, which were re-interred in the trench.

7. *Northam: Staddon Road, Appledore*

The report concerned three evaluation trenches dug ahead of the construction of a single dwelling house. The site lies about 600 metres west of Appledore Quay and Staddon Road was the historic access to the village. Staddon Hill saw the construction of earthworks during the English Civil War. The trenches were dug by excavator and produced nothing from the sub-soil. In the top soil there were a few sherds of glazed post-medieval North Devon coarse wares and post-medieval North Devon gravel free wares and a single large sherd of Bristol or Staffordshire yellow-glazed slipware. A small flint core was also recovered. The site was considered to have limited further archaeological potential.

8. *Pancrasweek: St Pancras's church*

The report concerned archaeological recording and monitoring at St Pancras's church, which occupies an isolated site a kilometre north of the A3072, about 5 kilometres west of Holsworthy. The chancel of the church is thirteenth century but most of the present structure dates from the fifteenth century and was heavily restored at the end of the nineteenth century. Work was undertaken to install new drainage around

the church and to lay new water and electricity mains. Four fragments of floor tile were recovered, one from the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century and the others seventeenth century. Ridge tile fragments from the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries were also found. Sherds of post-medieval pottery, a total weight of 2.86 kg, were found, most being of North Devon gravel-tempered coarse ware but a few sherds of North Devon plain slip ware and sgraffito ware were also found, along with a variety of eighteenth and nineteenth century pottery from outside North Devon. This all indicated nearby occupancy until at least the mid-eighteenth century.

9. Parkham: Bucks Mills earthworks

The report gives details of a magnetometry survey of earthworks on the valley above the village of Bucks Mills. The site is a Scheduled Monument and has in the past been interpreted as either of Iron Age or possibly of Roman origin. Cotswold Archaeology had been evaluating the site for Historic England and commissioned this report as part of the programme. On the ground clear banks of a sub-rectangular enclosure can be seen and this also shows in the geophysics, as does the possibility that there was an outer site of bank and ditch, which also seems to be the case from LiDAR imagery. The wider site appears to have had medieval strip fields which had been enclosed. Other anomalies point to a trackway trending ENE-WSW traversing the site. The report does not make any resolution of the uncertainty as to the age of the site and short of any formal excavation it is unlikely that this will be resolved. The absence of signals suggesting structures within the enclosure would seem to rule out any parallels with the Roman signal stations at Martinhoe and Old Burrow on Exmoor.

10. Petrockstow: Old Station Yard

The report was of evaluation trenching carried out at the Petrockstow station site prior to the construction of an agricultural storage building. The station was built in 1925 as part of the North Devon and Cornwall Junction Light Railway, following the earlier alignment of the Torrington to Marland narrow gauge clay line. Passenger services ceased in 1965 and the line closed to ball-clay traffic in 1982. Petrockstow station itself had pretty minimal provision, with a passing loop, both lines provided with platforms but only a chalet style building on the up-platform and two sidings for goods traffic. The complex lies 1.5km NW of the village but the presence of a bowl barrow within 100 metres suggested that investigation was appropriate. Excavation of the trenches showed that the site had been levelled and terraced, destroying any possible archaeology.

11. *Virginstow: Bradaford Farm*

The report was of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for the construction of a telecommunications mast with associated cable trenches at Bradaford Farm, two kilometres to the NE of Virginstow church and about 1.2 km SSW of Ashwater. Bradaford, a medieval settlement, is one of the larger hamlets within the parish. Monitoring of the trench and mast foundations found no archaeology.

12. *Winkleigh: former primary school, Castle Street*

The report concerns monitoring and recording at the site of the former primary school in Castle Street in Winkleigh, within the heart of the village and adjacent to one of the medieval mottes within the settlement. Given that the nineteenth-century school had stood on the site and its construction probably removed or destroyed most of any surviving archaeology, it was not surprising that relatively little was found. Perhaps of most interest were some fragments of late medieval North Devon coarse ware, but with a granitic rather than an alluvial gravel temper, suggesting a production centre not so far from Dartmoor

13. *Woolsery: Brackenside, Bucks Cross*

The report was of a walk-over preliminary assessment of the site, which is adjacent to the existing Bideford Bay Holiday Centre and about 500 metres N of Bucks Cross on the A39. The application was for the construction of 21 holiday lodges within the grounds of the former dower house of Brackenside, originally part of the Walland estate. Brackenside itself is in poor but stable condition with run down out-buildings and an over-grown garden. The grounds appeared to have little archaeological interest and the report makes no recommendations for further investigations.

Discussion

Although eight of the reports concerned sites within or very close to medieval settlements, the general picture was one of limited finds and thus relatively little addition to previous knowledge. Sites in Holsworthy, Petrockstow station, and in Winkleigh showed how much might have been lost by earlier groundworks, although in these cases the only thing that could be established is that any archaeology would not have survived the previous preparation of the site. Nonetheless, one of the more interesting snippets of information was gleaned at Winkleigh where a few sherds of pottery contained not the usual alluvial gravel as temper but granitic sand and so suggested that North Devon ware production was not confined to the Barnstaple and Bideford areas but also occurred closer to Dartmoor. The geophysical survey of the

earthworks on the valley side high above Bucks Mills could shed no further light as to whether this sub-rectangular feature was of Roman or Iron Age construction, although the absence of any obvious signatures from within the enclosure suggested that it did not function as a Roman signal station like the fortlet at Martinhoe, but nonetheless could have been in use in the Roman period.