

## REPORTS COVERING TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL 2000-2007

Table 1 sets out the reports filed with Archaeological Data Services at York relating to 2000-2007. 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 the years 2000-2007 completes the document.

Table 1 Summary of reports for

Parish	Site	Grid reference	Report Producer	Type of report	Report date	Nature of development
Abbotsham	Kenwith Castle	SS433 276	S W Archaeology	Watching brief	2007	Residential care home units
Bideford	Cadds Down	SS 435 252	Exeter Archaeology	Watching brief	2007	New recycling centre
Bradford	Henscott	SS419 087	Exeter Archaeology	Archaeological Recording	2005	New farm buildings
Bradworthy	St John the Baptist church	SS 325 140	English Heritage	Tree-ring analysis	2003	Church roof repairs
Dolton	Aller Road	SS576 121	Thames Valley Archaeological Services	Archaeological evaluation	2007	Housing estate
Great Torrington	50 New Street	SS493 192	SW Archaeology	Watching brief	2007	Building groundworks
Halwill	Henderbarrow	SX 446 981	S W Archaeology	Watching brief	2007	Single dwelling
Monkleigh	Annery	SS457 224	S W Archaeology	Watching brief	2006	Stable and dressage ring
Monkleigh	Barton Lane	SS 457 207	Stratascan	Geophysical survey	2006	Housing development
St Giles in the Wood	Deep Moor	SS253 121	Wessex Archaeology	General evaluation	2007	Waste-disposal site
Shebbear	Barn Close	SS441 092	Exeter Archaeology	Archaeological Assessment	2006	Housing development
Winkleigh	Queen Street	SS633 080	SW Archaeology	Watching brief	2006	Single new house
Winkleigh	Shute Lane	SS634 078	SW Archaeology	Watching brief	2006	Small-scale residential development
Wooslery	Marshall Farm	SS313 183	Exeter Archaeology	Watching brief	2005	New garage and stable
Yarnscombe	Cogworthy	SS 549 229	Exeter Archaeology	Archaeological Watching brief	2007	House extension

Thus some 15 sites were examined in 13 parishes. A total of 5 commercial organisations were involved, with South West Archaeology producing 6 reports, Exeter Archaeology 5 reports and a single report each from Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Stratascan and Wessex Archaeology. There was also a report from the

statutory body, English Heritage. Most of the reports were occasioned by building work and extensions. There was also one report arising from repairs to a church roof which allowed growth-ring dating to be done.

## **Reports**

### **1. *Abbotsham: Kenwith Castle***

The report was an archaeological watching brief at Kenwith Castle, now the location of a residential care home. Some 15 new units were to be built and the watching brief occurred during the ground works. The site lies about 1.5 kilometres north-east of Abbotsham village. The castle is an enigmatic structure, possibly pre-historic, possibly a medieval motte and bailey and the whole site was considered by antiquarians as where a Danish raiding force was defeated. A gentleman's residence was constructed during the eighteenth century and much of the area landscaped. The site of the ground-works had been much disturbed and no archaeology was encountered although a single sherd of North Devon sgraffito ware was recovered from the top soil.

### **2. *Bideford: Cadds Down***

The report covers archaeological monitoring and recording during the removal of two hedge-banks as part of the preparation for a new re-cycling centre at Cadds Down, about 1.8 kilometres west-south west of the historic core of Bideford. The hedge-banks were of classic Devonian character and the area was certainly farmed from the medieval period. Nothing was found in context to date these hedge banks but possible ditch fill for one contained a sherd of post-medieval North Devon gravel-tempered ware. Nearby, on the spoil tip from a trench for an electricity cable, a single flint scraper was recovered.

### **3. *Bradford: Henscott***

The report was of archaeological recording during ground-works for the erection of new agricultural buildings. Henscott is a Domesday Manor and lies about 2.8 kilometres north of Bradford and roughly 2.1 kilometres west of Shebbear. It forms a small area between the rivers Waldon and Torr ridge and separated by the former from the rest of the parish. Monitoring took place of the stripping of the top soil and digging the necessary foundation trenches. The site proved to have been considerably disturbed but nonetheless, some significant finds were made. During removal of a part of one hedge-bank the fill yielded a few sherds of pottery from the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. Stripping of the top-soil revealed a linear feature with clear heat traces, which was interpreted as a possible kiln, oven or forge, although no slag was found. A number of pits were also uncovered and these produced a total of 6 sherds of Middle Bronze Age Trevisker ware. This pottery is not uncommon in South West England but not a great deal has been found in north-west Devon, probably more than 120 kilometres from its site of manufacture.

#### **4. Bradworthy: St John the Baptist church**

The report was of tree-ring dating of timbers from the south transept and nave of the parish church, which lies on the east side of Bradworthy Square. Unusually for churches in north-west Devon, it escaped the heavy 'restoration' typical of the mid-Victorian period. The absence of sapwood made precise dates of felling impossible and the report instead lists "felled after" dates. For the nave, these range from 1247 to 1370, with nine of the timbers examined falling within the range 1300-1360. The dates for the south transept are roughly similar although, with only six timbers examined compared to 14 in the nave, the range is narrower, 1238-1334.

#### **5. Dolton: Aller Road**

The report was of archaeological evaluation and monitoring at a site in Aller Road, about 400 metres north-east of Dolton church. A small scale housing development was planned in an area that appeared never to have been built upon, despite being largely surrounded by properties from at least the eighteenth century. Four evaluation trenches were dug but no archaeology was encountered and no finds were made.

#### **6. Great Torrington: New Street**

The report was an archaeological watching brief during ground-works for an extension to the premises of the Devon Soup Company. The site lies about 100 metres north-west of the historic core of Great Torrington, although New Street, as its name implies, was not part of the medieval core. Evaluation took place in four trenches in difficult circumstances arising from the fracture of a waste water pipe. At the base of one trench a single sherd of North Devon sgraffito ware was recovered.

#### **7. Halwill: Henderbarrow**

The report was an archaeological watching brief carried out during ground work for the construction of a single dwelling at Henderbarrow. The site lies about 1.3 kilometres south-east of Halwill church and about 1 kilometre north-west of the barrow from which the farm takes its name. Henderbarrow is one of the medieval farm-steads of the parish. The modern A3079 is thought to be on the alignment of a possible Roman road heading north-west from the marching camp at Broadbury, and Henderbarrow settlement is within 400 metres of this. However, nothing was found.

#### **8. Monkleigh: Annery**

The report was an archaeological watching brief within the grounds of the former Annery House, about 2 kilometres north of Monkleigh village. Inspection of the Historic Environment Record had suggested that the site might contain significant archaeology. Annery House was a nineteenth century gentleman's residence and

demolished in 1957 but the site of propped stables and dressage yard proved to have been much disturbed. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from unstratified contexts and a hedge-bank produced a number of nineteenth century artefacts, including stoneware bottles from Dornat's of Barnstaple and Ridge's of Bideford.

#### **9. Monkleigh: Barton Lane**

The report covered a gradiometry survey of a site of about 0.7 hectares, south of Barton Lane and within 200 metres of the parish church. It was felt, given the location, that there might be archaeology present and a principal aim of the geophysics was to establish whether this was so. The site proved to have been heavily disturbed and it was difficult to ascertain whether some of the weak signals were from modern trenches and drains or possible archaeology. The report recommended further trial trenching should the proposed residential development proceed.

#### **10. St Giles-in-the-Wood: Deep Moor**

The report is of archaeological evaluation and monitoring at the Deep Moor waste disposal site where it was proposed to build a composting plant. It lies about 2 kilometres north-north-west of St Giles in the Wood. A preliminary desk-based assessment had been made and this is also summarised in the report. The site itself was crossed by what was presumed to have been a ride associated with Stevenstone House, about 1 kilometre to the south. Close to the site are several Neolithic or Bronze Age barrows and many flints have been recovered from the top soil in the general vicinity. Nine evaluation trenches were machine dug but these yielded only undiagnostic flint waste and some clay tobacco pipe fragments.

#### **11. Shebbear: Barn Close**

The report was an archaeological assessment of a site within 200 metres of the historic core of the village of Shebbear. Shebbear itself was the centre of a Hundred but has seen little archaeological investigation, although the Historic Environment Record contains a good range of entries both for the village and its quite extensive parish. The site itself seems to have been in continuous agricultural use since the Tithe Survey but the field pattern does not appear to conform to that typical of medieval enclosures, although these are found on the north side of the road leading into Shebbear from the east.

#### **12. Winkleigh: Queen Street**

The report was an archaeological watching brief on work to prepare a site for a single new dwelling. It lies 70 metres south-west of the church and within the historic core of Winkleigh. The top soil yielded a mixture of pottery fragments, a few of North

Devon coarse ware of medieval age and rather more of post-medieval age. Other more modern materials were also recovered.

### **13. *Winkleigh: Shute Lane***

The report covers an archaeological watching brief at the northern end of Shute Lane, about 50 metres south of the Queen Street site. Shute Lane appears as access to an area of enclosed strip fields on the south side of the village. The specific site lies to the east of Shute Lane. Various north-south trending ditches were encountered and the fills contained materials to allow dating of the enclosure of the strips to the medieval period. A number of sherds of North Devon gravel-tempered, dating from the thirteenth or fourteenth century was found and some medieval coarse-ware, including a jug handle was also recovered. The site also produced several sherds, presumed to be from the same vessel, of Middle Bronze Age date.

### **14. *Woolsery: Marshall Farm***

The report concerns an archaeological watching brief at Foxglove Cottage within Marshall Farm, about 3.4 kilometres south-west of Woolsery village. Marshall is one of the medieval farm-steads of the parish and the current farm house is Grade II Listed. Foxglove Cottage lies within 50 metres and the development was of a new garage and stable block. Stripping of the top soil and the necessary trenching exposed no archaeology and no finds were made.

### **15. *Yarnscombe: Cogworthy***

The report covered an archaeological watching brief during ground-work for a house extension at Cogworthy. The site lies about 1 kilometre south-west of Yarnscombe village and Cogworthy Manor House itself is a Grade II listed building and one of the medieval farmsteads of the parish. The only finds came from the top soil and were two sherds of North Devon gravel-tempered ware, dating from the seventeenth or eighteenth century.

### ***Discussion***

Reports for these years were largely for small scale residential development or the extension of existing buildings. The locations tended to be slightly peripheral to settlement core areas and the general paucity of archaeology and finds probably reflects this. The work at Henscott in Bradford parish which yielded some sherds of Middle Bronze Age Trevisker ware was probably the most notable, as finds other than flints from before the early medieval period are rare in Torrington and there are no probable Bronze Age barrows close to Henscott. The tree ring dates from St John the Baptist's parish church in Bradworthy are suggestive of work carried out there in the years immediately after the Black Death.