

## REPORTS COVERING TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL 2008

Table 1 sets out the reports filed with Archaeological Data Services at York relating to 2008. 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 2008 completes the document.

Table 1 Summary of reports for 2008

Parish	Site	Grid reference	Report Producer	Type of report	Nature of development
Bradworthy	Lower Alsworthy	SS 295 118	S W Archaeology	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording	Single new dwelling
Bridgerule	Tackbear	SS 257 019	Context One	Historic Building Record and Watching Brief	Barn conversions to residential use
Cookbury	Upcott	SS 380 049	Exeter Archaeology	Archaeological Recording	Barn conversion to holiday accommodation
Great Torrington	Calf Street	SS 499 195	Exeter Archaeology	Watching Brief	Housing development
Great Torrington	18 Potacre Street	SS496 193	S W Archaeology	Evaluation trenching	Small scale residential development
Hartland	School Lane	SS260 244	SW Archaeology	Desk-Based Assessment and Evaluation	Single new dwelling
Lundy	Beach Road	SS 142 438	Exeter Archaeology	Archaeological Site Review	Stabilisation of road and cliffs
Pancrasweek	Virworthy Wharf	SS 298 103	SW Archaeology	Archaeological Building Survey	Repair and renovation
Shebbear	Barn Close	SS 441 092	Exeter Archaeology	Watching Brief	Housing development
Shebbear	Devonport House	SS 440 093	Exeter Archaeology	Watching Brief	Single new dwelling house

Thus some 10 sites were examined in 8 parishes. A total of 3 commercial organisations were involved. Exeter Archaeology produced five reports, South West Archaeology four and there was a single report from Context One. Most reports were occasioned by relatively small scale new residential development or barn conversions.

### Reports

#### 1. *Bradworthy: Lower Alsworthy*

The report was archaeological monitoring and recording during ground works for the construction of a new dwelling. Lower Alsworthy. Alsworthy lies about 3.8 kilometres south-west of Bradworthy village and was one of the medieval farmsteads of the

parish, but when it was split between Upper and Lower Alworthy is not clear. Monitoring of stripping of top soil and necessary trenches produced no archaeology and no finds.

## **2. *Bridgerule: Tackbear***

The report was an archaeological recording and watching brief at Tackbear, where four redundant barns were to be converted to residential use. Tackbear is a Domesday manor and lies on the west bank of the Tamar about 2 kilometres south-west of Bridgerule village. The actual manor house at Tackbear appears to be of late seventeenth century date but in the nineteenth century some of the barns were extensively refurbished, some using fabric retrieved from earlier buildings. The report concluded that, although in their present state the barns present as of rough sandstone construction, earlier cob seems to have survived behind this in places. The barns form a distinguished group of buildings but are otherwise not of exceptional interest.

## **3. *Cookbury: Upcott***

The report was an archaeological record of a barn at Upcott prior to its conversion to holiday accommodation. Upcott is one of the medieval farmsteads in Cookbury parish and lies almost 3 kilometres west-south-west of the parish church. Upcott farm house is of probable eighteenth century age and the barn is thought to be of nineteenth century date. It is single storied, built of local sandstone with a cobbled floor. The absence of any loft features makes it more likely to have been a cart-shed rather than a storage barn or linhay.

## **4. *Great Torrington: Calf Street***

The report was an archaeological watching brief during work on a site on the north side of Calf Street and within 300 metres of the parish church. The small scale residential development was on land not previously built upon and which contained medieval fields, possibly enclosures of previous strips, and with a clear S shape. Monitoring of these banks showed that they had been constructed of soil from a ditch to the west but the ditch in-fill yielded a single undiagnostic sherd of medieval pottery. During the stripping of the top soil and ground work trenching nothing was found.

## **5. *Great Torrington: 18 Potacre Street***

The report covered evaluation trenching on land to the rear of the present house. The site lies in the heart of the historic core of Great Torrington and was proposed for small scale housing development. Five evaluation trenches were dug by machine but only nineteenth century pottery fragments were found. One trench produced slag,

interpreted as residue from smithing, probably on the site. The site was probably two burgage plots but had seen little or no use prior to the nineteenth century.

#### **6. Hartland: School Lane**

The report was a desk-based assessment, archaeological evaluation and historic building record of a barn and site within the Hartland Conservation Area, although 500 metres east of the heart of the village. The barn was deemed of nineteenth century date and contained no features of interest and little was known of the site until the mid-nineteenth century. During the digging of trenches as part of the ground-work for the new dwelling, nothing was found.

#### **7. Lundy: Beach Road**

The report was a synoptic review of known archaeological sites on the extreme south-eastern corner of the island. It was prepared ahead of work to stabilise and secure the Beach Road, the sole link between the Landing Beach and jetty and the rest of the island. The road itself was built in 1838 by William Hudson Heaven, the first of the more modern improving owners of the island.

#### **8. Pancrasweek: Virworthy Wharf**

The report was an archaeological building survey of a barn built at about the time when the Bude Canal was constructed in the 1820s. It lies on the feeder arm from Tamar Lake but this was navigable from its junction with the Holsworthy arm near Dunsdon to Virworthy. The barn is used as an interpretation centre and work was proposed to repair and enhance it. The structure is a small warehouse in the form of a barn, constructed of local sandstone with a slate roof. It is much smaller than the other surviving canal warehouses at Stanbury and Blagdon, just to the north of Holsworthy.

#### **9. Shebbear: Barn Close**

The report was a watching brief at the site about 250 metres to the east of the village square. It had been the focus of a previous desk-based assessment in 2006 which concluded that the surviving field boundaries might be of medieval date. Two of these were breached under observation but only modern items were found on the outer fringes and nothing to date the banks themselves. Most of the site had top-soil stripped and once again only modern material was found and no archaeology uncovered.

#### **10. Shebbear: Devonport House**

The report was of archaeological monitoring and recording on a site just a few metres to the north of the Barn Close investigation. The foundation trenches for the new dwelling were monitored but the only finds were of late nineteenth and twentieth century date. Map evaluation had suggested nineteenth century buildings on the site

but the site had been extensively levelled at some time and no traces of foundations appeared in the course of the work.

### ***Discussion***

The 2008 reports yielded little of significance. Most were not in the historic cores of settlements and developments were themselves small in scale so perhaps the lack of significant finds is not surprising. A number of the buildings to be converted to other uses or refurbished were attractive examples of vernacular architecture but otherwise of no great interest.