

## Dates for Your Diary

### North Devon Archaeological Society:

**Sunday 24th June, 2.00pm:** Archaeological walk at West Irishborough Farm, Chittlehampton. Stout footwear and climatically suitable clothing advised. Numbers are limited. Contact Derry Bryant on 01769 572963.

### Sunday 2nd September, 2.00 pm:

Archaeological walk around Countisbury led by Roger Ferrar. Meet at Barnabarrow car park (NGR: SS753495). To book contact Roger Ferrar on 01598 753398. Stout footwear and climatically suitable clothing advised.

**Friday 17th August, 10.00 am:** Earthwork survey at Six Acre Farm, Lynton led by Rob Wilson-North. We aim to complete the survey begun last August – please feel free to join in and learn how it's done. For information contact Mary Houldsworth on 01271 321911.

**Saturday 13th October, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm,** Lynton Town Hall: NDAS Local History Day – a day of short talks and an exhibition of the work of local history societies from across northern Devon. For more information contact Derry Bryant on 01769 572963 or email [derrybryant@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:derrybryant@tiscali.co.uk)

**Monday 15th October, 7.30 pm,** Pilton Community College, Chaddiford Lane, Barnstaple: The first talk in the NDAS winter programme: Trevor Dunkerley will provide an update on the archaeology of Combe Martin.

**Monday 19th November, 7.30 pm,** Pilton Community College, Chaddiford Lane, Barnstaple: The second talk in the NDAS winter programme: Rob Wilson-North will talk about recent work on Exmoor.

### Exmoor Society:

**Saturday 28th July, 11.00 am:** A guided archaeological and historical walk around White Rocks Down, Brewers and Mounsey Castle. Meet at NGR SS870291. Non-Exmoor Society members £2.00. For information call 01398 323335 or 01598 763295.

### Devon Archaeological Society:

**Sunday 10th June, 1.30pm,** Bovey Tracey car park: Visit to Kelly Mine, guided by Kelly Mine Preservation Society. £1.00 donation on the day.

**Sunday 24th June, 8.15 am,** Belgrave Road, Exeter (coach pick-up): Coach-trip to Muchelney Abbey and Ham Hill, leader Tina Tuohy. Cost: £18.00.

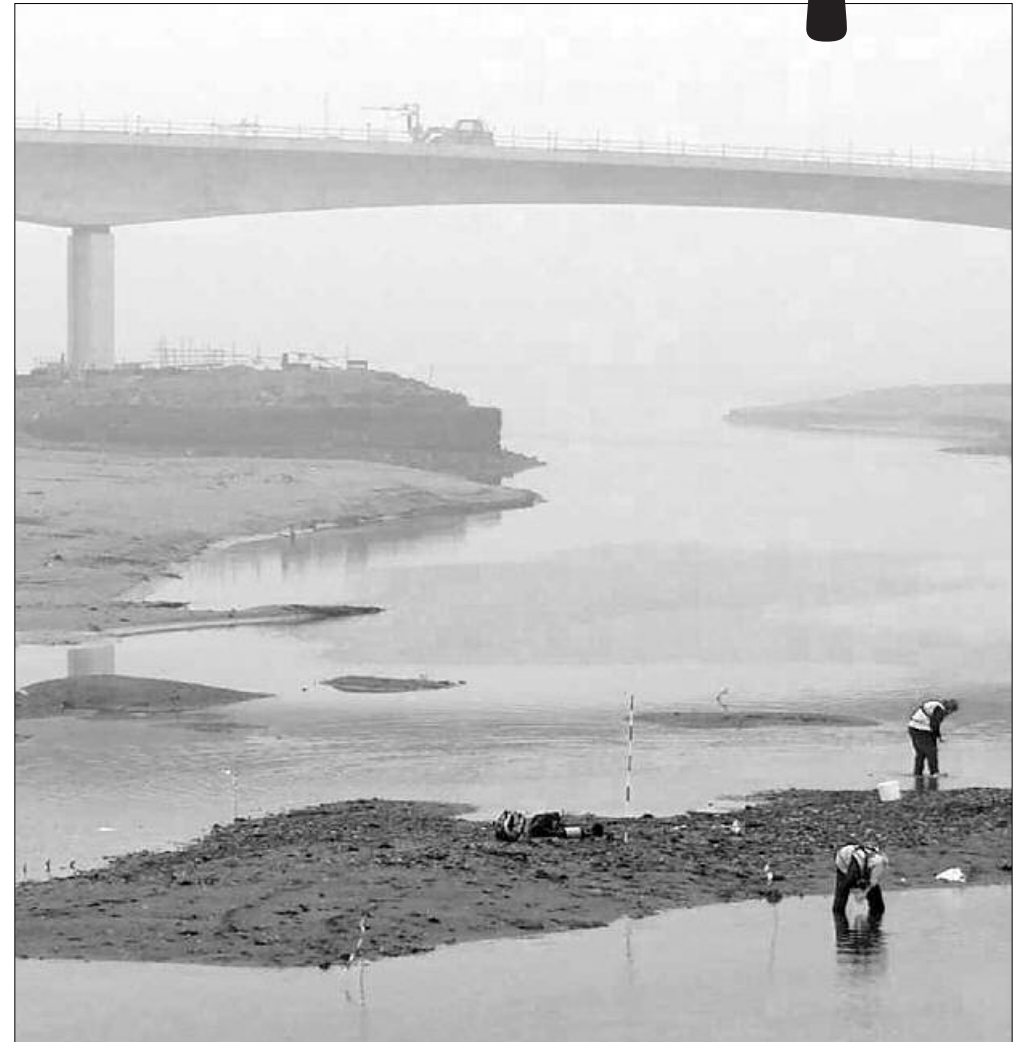
**Sunday 15th July, 2.00pm,** NGR SX565645 (east of Cadover Bridge): Visit to the megalithic complex at Trowlesworthy led by Stephen Holley. Cost: £2.00.

**Sunday 2nd September** (details to be finalised): Coach trip to Cranborne Chase. Cost: £18.00.

For information and to book any of the above DAS events, call Janet Cambridge on 01752 669737

### Other events:

**Saturday 7th July, 10.00 am – 5.15 pm,** Barnfield Theatre, Exeter: Archaeology in Devon: A day of short presentations on recent work within the county (including Holworthy Farm). DAS members £17, non-members £19. For more information contact Jill Cobley on 01404 814406 or email [jillcobley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jillcobley@tiscali.co.uk).



## Contents

**Contents**

**Useful Contacts**

**Editorial**

**NDAS hosts CBA SW AGM**

**What's on**

**Pottery from the Taw**

**Learning to Draw.**

**Field Boundary Survey at  
West Middleton, Parracombe**

**Middleton Manor:  
A Preliminary Documentary  
Survey**

**The Hartland Project**

**A Roman Tilery on  
Hatherleigh Moor**

**Taw and Torridge Hulk Survey**

**A Final Word on Fishweirs**

**What Happened in the Woods?**

**So Why Tuly Street?**

**Explore North Devon:  
Progress Report**

**Dates for Your Diary**

*Cover Picture:*

## Useful contacts

**June Aiken** (Parracombe Archaeology & History Society)  
01598 763316

**Derry Bryant** (NDAS Secretary) 01769 572963

**Sally Cotton** (South Molton and District Local History  
Society) 01769 572378

**Janet Daynes** (ACE Archaeology, Winkleigh and District)  
01837 83925

**Trevor Dunkerley** (Combe Martin Silver Mines Research and  
Preservation Society) 01271 883833

**Jane Green** (NDAS Treasurer and Membership Secretary)  
01271 866662

**Terry Green** (NDAS Newsletter) 01271 866662

**Collette Hall** (NDDC Conservation Officer) 01271 346436

**Sean Hawken** (XArch) 01392 263851

**Marion Hughes** (NDAS Social Secretary) 01271 374738

**Deborah Laing-Trengove** (Hatherleigh History Group)  
01837 810310

**Alison Mills** (Museums Service) 01271 346747

**Jenny Yendall** (Tiverton Archaeological Group and South  
Molton Museum) 01884 255397

**Lyn Walmesley** (Teign Archaeology Group and Secretary CBA  
South-West) 01392 432184

**Rob Wilson-North** (Exmoor National Park Authority  
Archaeologist) 01398 323665

**David Parker** (NDAS Projects) 01271 865311

**Judy Parker** (NDAS Publicity) 01271 865311

### **Other Archaeological Bodies:**

Devon County Historic Environment Record:  
01392 382246

Portable Antiquities Scheme: (RAM Museum Exeter):  
01392 665983

Council for British Archaeology (York):  
01904 671417

National Sites and Monuments Record (Swindon):  
01793 414600

Devon Record Office: 01392 384253

North Devon Local Studies and Record Office: 01271 388607

West Country Studies Library: 01392 384216

Devon County Historic Environment Record: 01392 382246

## Editorial

### Keeping a Good Thing Going

We try to make this newsletter a combination of news about what's been going on and what is planned together with snippets of interesting information and updates on the progress of projects. It can only include what is known to the compilers and what we manage to extract from people we approach. As you can see, the coverage stretches right across the north of Devon from Hartland to Lynton and down to Hatherleigh. This is the kind of sub-regional coverage which was always our goal. Nevertheless, there must be a great deal that is being missed. If you know of activities that ought to be included, or have queries or observations that you would like to have aired, please feel free to communicate them to the editor (see Useful Information).

In a sense the term 'newsletter' no longer describes this publication. The last edition was described by one NDAS member as somewhat like 'Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries', in that it brings together both items of actual news and pieces of information that are of local archaeological/historical interest. It has certainly evolved from the days when the newsletter was a couple of photocopied sheets. It has become – or is becoming – an organ through which members (and some non-members) can report on their active projects or research, raise issues and share information, raising the profile of what goes on in the north of Devon. At the CBA AGM at Hartland in April we were offering spare copies for sale to visitors and received some very good comments on the quality of production and the range of articles.

Now in addition we finally have, thanks to Alison Mills and Stephen Hobbs, a website up and

running ( [HYPERLINK "http://www.ndas.org.uk"](http://www.ndas.org.uk) www.ndas.org.uk). At present you will find there extracts from past newsletters ( a good opportunity for new members to catch up). Looking at the site, it's quite astonishing to see how much of North Devon's archaeology and history has been covered and cast in digital form in the last few years. As this site develops it represents a permanent opportunity for members to post their researches, interests and questions in a form which is accessible worldwide. Link this to the new website that Trevor Dunkerley is planning for the Combe Martin Silver Mines Research and Preservation Society (CMSRPS), and you will have Internet access to most of the activities of local societies in northern Devon.

None of this, of course, comes about by itself. People put it in place. During the last year a small editorial committee was formed to produce the newsletter. Unfortunately one of the members is heading abroad and the others are busy people (hence the late appearance of this edition). So offers of assistance are very, very welcome. We already have a good thing going, but ambition doesn't have to stop here. Local researchers are doing valuable work which ought to reach a wide audience of interested people. On the other hand, possibilities are limited by the time and expertise that are available from volunteers. Without sufficient volunteer assistance, the project may collapse. If you are able to help (with contributions, with useful contacts, with proof reading, with editing, with simply filling envelopes), then please let us hear from you. Contact any of the Committee (See 'Useful Contacts') any time.

## Officers of the Society

**Chairman:**

Terry Green

**Vice-Chairman:**

Alistair Miller

**Meetings and Correspondence Secretary:**

Derry Bryant

**Treasurer and Membership Secretary:**

Jane Green

*The NDAS General Committee:*

**Representing Members:**

Derry Bryant, Malcolm Canham, Malcolm Faulkner, Terry Green, Jane Green, Stephen Hobbs, Mary Houldsworth, Marion Hughes, Jonathan Lomas, Alistair Miller, David Parker, Judy Parker, Chris Preece, Margaret Reed.

**Representing Associated Groups:**

June Aiken (Parracombe History and Archaeology Society), Sally Cotton (South Molton Archives), Harry Cramp (Torrington History Society), Trevor Dunkerley (Combe Martin Silver Mines Research and Preservation Society), Deborah Laing-Trengove (Hatherleigh Archaeological Group), David Purnell (ACE Archaeology Winkleigh and District).

**Representing Interested Bodies:**

Malcolm Prowse (North Devon District Council), Alison Mills (Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon).

## NDAS hosts CBA SW AGM

Or more transparently put: North Devon Archaeological Society plays host to the Council for British Archaeology South West Region's Annual General Meeting. But acronyms save space and breath!

As members were made aware in previous communications, the meeting took place, at our invitation, in Hartland on Saturday 21st April. Stephen Hobbs of Hartland secured the use of the Methodist Hall in the village and between them, Stephen Hobbs and Derry Bryant of NDAS and Larissa Fry of CBA South-West organised what turned out to be an excellent day. The weather was perfect, the hall was light, airy and comfortable and the caterer, whom we had engaged, laid on a very generous spread. About 20 NDAS members turned up to accompany the CBA South-West members who had found their way to Hartland from the extremes of the region which stretches from Gloucestershire to Cornwall. Before they sat down for the formal meeting, visitors were able to acquaint themselves with who we are and what we do with the help of an exhibition of text and photographs put on by Judy Parker.

The meeting began with a welcome from the NDAS Chairman followed by the formal business of an AGM chaired by Keith Gardener, regional chairman of CBA. The regional committee was reformed and Terry Green volunteered to join it in order to represent the interests of our area..

The formal meeting was followed by coffee, after which three presentations followed one after the other. First Terry Green spoke about NDAS, its background, its development and its recent and ongoing projects. He concentrated on the now completed fishweirs survey, the Holworthy Project and the work currently unfolding at Six Acre Farm. This rapid run-through of our activities was followed by a talk from Keith Gardener. Keith's title was "The Translation of St Nectan from Lundy to Hartland". He provided an overview of excavations which had taken place on Lundy in the 1960s and which had revealed several inscribed memorial stones and had exposed a cluster of post-Roman burials around a central cella. Echoing the argument put forward by Charles Thomas in 1994\* he suggested that this might once have housed the remains of an important holy man, perhaps specifically the 6th



*Stephen Hobbs delivering his thoughts on Hartland.*



CBA and NDAs members at Stoke church.

century south Welsh royal figure, Brychan. Under the adopted name of "Nectanus" Brychan lived a life of prayer on the island and some time after his death, his remains were "translated" to a monastic settlement and church at Stoke in Hartland.

The third talk of the morning was given by Stephen Hobbs. In this he presented the development of his ideas on the evolution of the Hartland landscape. Drawing together prehistoric, ecclesiastical and manorial evidence, he outlined a developmental process which may be thought to have produced the distinctive Hartland landscape visible today. In this process a prehistoric landscape of settlements and monuments would have been obscured by two transforming powers. Initially – in the post-Conquest period - the Augustinian monks of Hartland Abbey would have been at work. More importantly however, the Dinham family who came into possession of Hartland in the 12th century, would have been keen to express their high status by creating a deer park, a warren, a swannery and a borough with a market and fair supported by efficient

farming practice. The thesis is therefore that much of the Hartland landscape as seen today represents the creation of a high status parkland by the Dinhams.

After lunch everyone was invited to join a guided tour of Stoke Church. The guide was Stephen Hobbs who was very happy to share his extensive knowledge of the church and its history. The weather was perfect and for those who had come from afar it was a splendid way to gain an appreciation of the beautiful coastal setting and very interesting historical context of this imposing building. The afternoon concluded with tea back at the Methodist Hall.

All in all, members of NDAS acquitted themselves well, impressing the regional CBA group with the extent of the Society's activities. Members owe special thanks to Derry Bryant and Stephen Hobbs for their organisation of the event and to all those who assisted on the day.

\*Thomas, C. 1994: *And Shall These Mute Stones Speak?* University of Wales Press.

## What's on and what's coming up

Three archaeological walks for this summer:

### 1. Walk at West Irishborough Farm, Chittlehampton

Sunday 24th June:

West Irishborough Farm, near Chittlehampton (NGR: SS634282) includes a number of interesting features including its barns (one of which has been rebuilt in cob using traditional methods), a cider press, an engine house, several quarries and an underground cathedral-style lime kiln.

There are other archaeological features which still require some explanation, and NDAS will be undertaking a walk on the farm with Hugh Muirhead, the owner, on Sunday 24 June at 2pm. Participants are limited to about a dozen, in order to keep the group to a manageable size. The walk will last a couple of hours, and there may be a cup of tea at the end! Stout footwear/suitable clothing are advised as there may be some nettles/brambles etc. and a bit of scrambling involved in some places.

Anyone interested, please contact Derry Bryant, by 30 May, on 01769 572963 or email derrybryant@tiscali.co.uk.

### 2. Exmoor Society Walk

Saturday 28th July

On Saturday 28th July, members of the Exmoor Society will be conducting a historical and archaeological walk on and around White Rocks Down near Dulverton. Starting at 11.00 am near Venford at NGR SS870291, the walk will take in White Rocks, Castle Bridge, Brewers and Mounsey Castles and will look at the archaeology and land management of the area. NDAS members are invited to join in (at a cost of £2.00 per head unless you are a member of the Exmoor Society).

For further information phone either 01398

323335 (Exmoor Society) or 01598 763295 (Jeremy Holtom).

### 3. A Walk around Countisbury

Sunday 2nd September

From an archaeological point of view, Countisbury (east of Lynmouth) and its environs is one of the most interesting areas of North Devon. On Sunday 2nd September Roger Ferrar will lead a walk around the archaeological and historical features to be seen in the area of Countisbury. The walk will start from the Barnabarow car park (NGR: SS7534950 at 2.00 pm. If you wish to join in, please phone Roger Ferrar on 01598 753398.

NB. Archaeological walks tend to be over rough ground in exposed places. Please always come equipped with stout footwear and clothing suitable to the weather.

### Field Work Opportunities

*The Society is here to enable its members to pursue an interest in local archaeology and history. As far as possible our aim is to provide opportunities to learn and to gain experience in the practice of archaeology. No-one – new members especially – should feel excluded because they "have never done any". Please make use of the opportunities available this summer.*

1. Anyone wishing to get down on their knees and get their hands dirty might like to know that Trevor Dunkerly at Combe Martin has a regular programme of excavation at Mine Tenement on Thursdays throughout the summer. Volunteers are welcome. Previous digging experience is not necessary – guidance will be provided. You can contact Trevor on 01271 883833.

2. There is also a programme of field survey under way at Hartland for which volunteers are required (contact Stephen Hobbs on 01237 441450).

3. Late in the summer NDAS will be returning to Six Acre Farm near Lynton for more survey – 17th August - and probably some limited excavation in September.

4. NDAS member Polly Thompson has been digging annually on an 18th century colonial site on the island of St Lucia in the Caribbean for a number of years now. She is planning an intensive 6 week season on the island between January and March 2008 and is inviting NDAS members to join her. Anyone who would like to combine getting away from winter with some intensive digging should contact Polly on 01237 421059.

*This is not necessarily all. To find out what's going on and how you can help, either use the contacts given above or phone the NDAS Project Co-ordinator David Parker on 01271 865311.*

Looking ahead to autumn and winter (do we have to?), the winter programme of talks will start in October with Trevor Dunkerley (Combe Martin and CMSRPS) followed in November by Rob Wilson-North (Exmoor National Park): See Dates for Your Diary.

### **NDAS History Day**

Following the success of previous days held at South Molton and Torrington, NDAS will be hosting another Local History Day on 13th October 2007, this time at Lynton Town Hall. The idea is to bring together local history groups and archaeological societies from across North Devon to meet and share ideas, discuss projects, etc. This year the programme will involve a morning of lectures (entry by ticket) and an afternoon of displays by societies which will be open to the general public. This will be publicised in the local press nearer the time.

### **PROGRAMME**

10.00 to 10.45

Terry Green: Introduction to NDAS & Six-Acre Farm Project

10.45 to 11.30

Chris Preece: The Archaeology of the Taw/Torridge Estuaries

11.30 to 11.45

Coffee

11.45 to 12.30

Dr Judith Cannell: The Archaeology of Woodland

12.30 to 1.45

Lunch

2.00 to 4.00

Displays by local societies (open to the public)

If you would like to attend the morning lectures, tickets (£1.50 per person) can be obtained from the secretary, Derry Bryant, on 01769 572963 email [derrybryant@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:derrybryant@tiscali.co.uk). If you know of a society or group who would be interested, or if you would like to have a display table to exhibit your project / research, please contact Derry as soon as possible to book space.

### **NDAS Informal Meetings**

This is a reminder that on the first Wednesday in the month, NDAS members meet informally at the Royal & Fortescue Hotel in Barnstaple. For a chat about this and that, we meet in the lounge to the right of the entrance, by the bay window, from 8pm. All members are welcome.

## **Pottery from the Taw**

*(Based on Devon County Council Press Release)*



*Marking up the pottery from the Taw. (Photo: Judy Parker)*

Important historic finds have been recovered from the River Taw in Barnstaple by a team of archaeologists from Wessex Archaeology, Devon County Council, North Devon District Council and volunteers from North Devon Archaeological Society.

The newly discovered site lies on an isolated sand bank just down-river from Barnstaple Castle. It was first identified by NDAS member Mike Palmer, who has been finding 17th century pottery where the altered flow of the river (due to the bridge works) has scoured sand banks which were previously stable.

Remarkably Mike found complete vessels, including forms that have not been seen before, and some that are clearly 'wasters' - that is over-fired or unfinished pieces that were simply discarded into the river. It appears they have been sealed in the sand bank and have lain undisturbed until recent temporary changes in

erosion patterns

Mike brought some of his pottery into one of the monthly Portable Antiquities Scheme days at the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon. Concerned that the site might be lost, Danielle Wootton, the Finds Liaison Officer organised a site meeting with Mike, the County Council archaeology team and the Museum. Subsequently, Councillor Brian Greenslade, Leader of Devon County Council and councillor for Barnstaple North, announced that investigation of this evidence of Barnstaple's past would now be added in to the environmental programme, including archaeological work, which was part of the Barnstaple Western Bypass scheme. Devon County Council co-ordinated and funded the rescue project. Professional archaeologists from Wessex Archaeology, who had been working on the Western Bypass project, undertook the fieldwork, supervising North Devon Archaeological



Some of the pottery recovered from the newly exposed deposit. (Photo: T.Green)

Society volunteers both on site and in washing and sorting the finds back at the museum in Barnstaple.

The work had to be carefully timed to catch the site under the right conditions for exposure of the pottery, and conditions also had to be safe enough for the survey to take place. The plan was to systematically retrieve pottery from the surface of the sand bank and also to excavate a small trench to establish the thickness of the pottery layer.

Now washed and sorted, the finds are being studied by John Allan of Exeter Archaeology. The post-excavation analysis, publication and display of the finds are also being supported by the County Council, including funds from the Western Bypass scheme.

Pottery has been produced in Barnstaple since the medieval period (13th and 14th century material was among the finds). That tradition was

continued until last year by Brannams. However, the 17th century was the industry's heyday, with a cluster of kilns in the shadow of the castle producing a wide range of pottery, from fine 'sgraffito' - decorated tableware to functional storage and dairying vessels and sizeable cloam ovens.

The pottery was sold widely throughout Devon and was exported to the new colonies in the Caribbean and North America. At that time the ports of North Devon were among the foremost in the country.

The latest finds will add to the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon's already impressive display on this significant part of Devon's cultural heritage.

Because the river bank and tide conditions are dangerous and the site lies within a protected Site of Special Scientific Interest, the public are advised not to attempt to visit the site.

## Messing About in the River

June Aiken

When, in March 2007, the call went out for volunteers to help Wessex Archaeology collect pottery from the River Taw, I volunteered. The first two attempts were cancelled because of too much water, wind and rain. Finally at the end of March, Mary and I joined Wessex Archaeology at the Museum. The weather was not too bad - quite windy, but not raining. We walked over the bridge in our wellie boots and waterproofs with knapsacks on our backs, receiving admiring looks from car travellers and pedestrians alike! We had to wear fluorescent jackets and lifejackets and of course, marigold rubber gloves, all of which meant that we were bound to be seen!

We arrived on the sandbank and were given general safety guidance and advice on what to look for. Initially, I could not identify anything, but eventually 'got my eye in'. In the end we all picked up a lot of pottery. There were other things

deposited - animal bones (possibly from the slaughterhouse which was sited where Halfords is now), a toothpaste tube, a variety of flower pots and house bricks; obviously this sandbank was a natural collection point for debris. When the tide turned we took our haul back to the Museum and washed it, ready for identification on the Friday. I was down at the river on Thursday as well, but unfortunately Mary couldn't join us, so we did not collect quite as much, but we washed it and left it for identification. All in all I thoroughly enjoyed myself, but can't imagine what people walking the Tarka Trail must have thought of us standing calf deep in water and staring into the river! I believe the pottery has been identified as late 17th C, although some of course was modern.

*NDAS members June Aiken and Mary Houldsworth searching the sandbanks beneath the new bridge.*





## Learning to Draw: Training Day, Saturday 12th May, 2007

Derry Bryant

On 12th May a training day was held at Barnstaple museum led by Alison Mills of the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon and Chris Preece, archaeologist and NDAS member. The idea was to teach members how to draw pottery sherds to publication standard, an invaluable part of the recording process: (it's all very well to get down and dig it up, but as we know, it is just as important to follow through with correct recording and reporting, so the information can be passed on through the generations).

Seven NDAS members made it on the day, and were relieved to hear that no artistic skill was required, just careful observation and patience with drawing fiddly shapes. Chris gave us helpful information on the best tools (pencils, drawing pens, engineering callipers etc.)

We soon discovered that the most useful bits to draw are rim sherds or bases, as from a small piece of rim you can reconstruct the dimensions of a pot. We were given rim charts to place the sherds on, to find the correct diameter of the vessel, then had to draw the profile of the sherd, tracing over it on draughting film and reversing it to provide the opposite edge of the pot. This was fun – most of us hadn't done any tracing since infant school! It was amazing to realise how big some of the pots were. We then had to note on the drawing any decoration, glaze, special features (internal and external), and learned the techniques for doing this. As we had been using already published material, we were then asked to identify our pots from the published version. This was followed by a short presentation which showed how important the drawing of pottery is – drawing the sherds helps to identify pottery types, which leads to identification of the age of the pottery, which can identify the age of the site which may of course be multi-period.

The afternoon session put us to the test: we



*Chris Preece and Alison Mills supervising the drawing of the pots. (Photo: T.Green)*

were given sherds from the recent river excavation in Barnstaple, and were asked to draw them properly, as we had in the morning. Some were easier than others, but we managed, and at the end of the day had produced some useful drawings – we put our names on our drawings, with the “find number” and any other useful information to help identify them. The drawings will now be included in the report of the river excavations, once the museum (or more eager volunteers, as we didn't have time) has identified their type, probable area of manufacture etc.

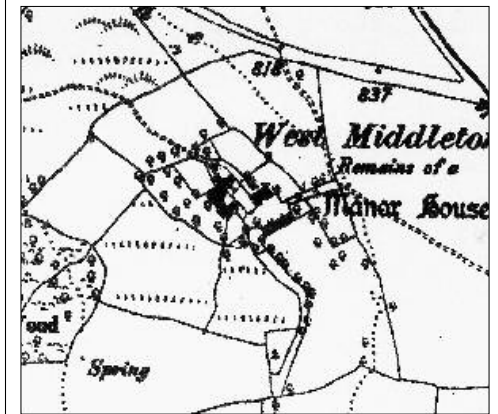
We learnt a lot on a most enjoyable day. Many thanks to Alison and Chris for their hard work.

## Field Boundary Survey at West Middleton, Parracombe

Terry Green

As part of the Parracombe Project, NDAS members have during the last eighteen months or so - with permission of the owners John and Norma Smyth – surveyed the field boundaries of West Middleton Farm. As reported previously, this involves going out into the field armed with a map, several ranging-poles, tape-measures, record sheets, clipboards and pencils (plus a picnic lunch and preferably in fine weather) to record the dimensions and details of the existing field boundaries. In Parracombe these are mostly Devon hedge-banks, solid earth banks, often stone faced and with or without a hedgerow on top. The aim of the exercise is to ascertain whether a chronology of boundary formation can be achieved by comparing the dimensions and morphology of these features which are the most widespread archaeological monuments in the landscape.

Boundaries represent the definition, protection and control of land. The process of enclosure continued over many centuries culminating in the Parliamentary Inclosures of the 18th and 19th centuries. Boundaries of this period are usually recognised by their straight lines and right-angles and in this area usually represent the enclosure of hitherto open commons or moorland (often called ‘Downs’ in this area). When we measure these boundaries we find them to be modest in size, normally neatly faced with regularly pitched stone with a hedge – if there is one – of a single species on top. Proceeding from these late boundaries towards the settlement core, we find more irregular boundaries of more massive proportions with mixed hedges. These represent earlier periods of enclosure. On a map it is often possible to work out a development sequence where, for example, boundaries clearly radiate from a long curving boundary close to the settlement core. When we come close to the settlement we may find ourselves in an area of small irregular fields with



*The buildings and nearby boundaries of West Middleton Farm, Parracombe as recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1890.*

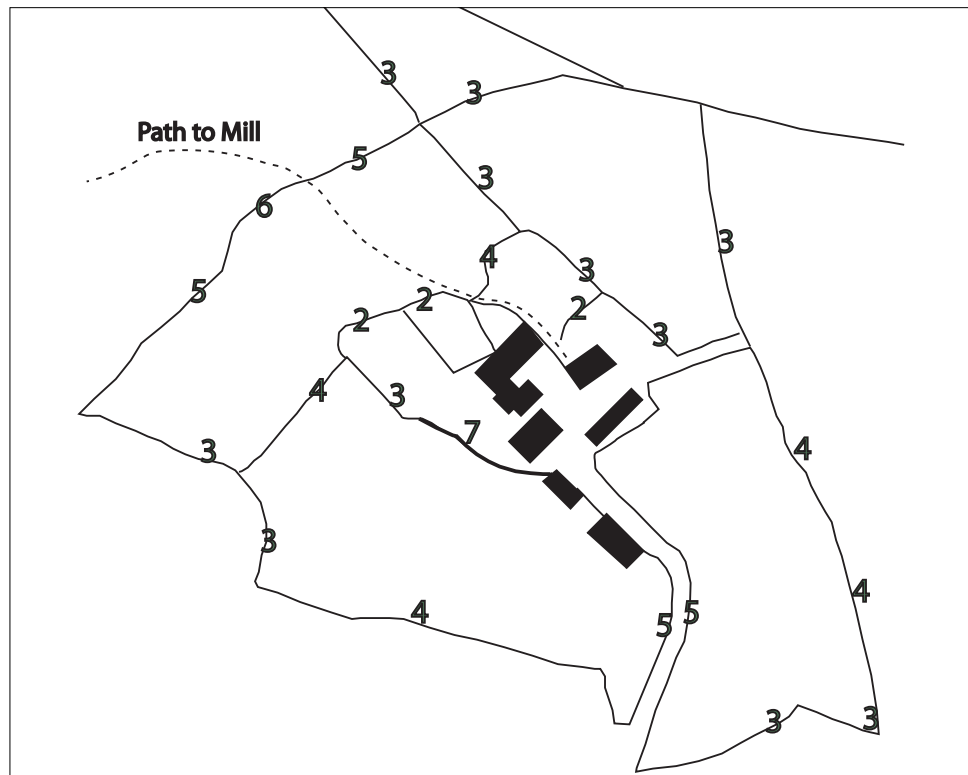
massive boundaries which seem out of proportion to the size of the enclosed area. Here we are among the oldest enclosures with the oldest boundaries.

The above is a simplification – it's never that clear or simple – but it makes the point that the earliest boundaries tend to be very big. The reasons for this are probably various, but it should be clear that a big boundary represents the digging and piling up of a large volume of soil and stone, which represents a lot of man-hours and therefore expense, either in money terms or in terms of time lost to the important matter of food production. Big boundaries therefore, probably date from a time when expense was no object or expense was not an issue, which suggests the feudal period when the lord of the manor could demand the service of his peasantry without cost to himself. If, at this period, cost was not an issue, then prestige quite probably was. The bigger the barrier behind which you could reside, the more you impressed the neighbours, either with what you could afford or with what you could afford to

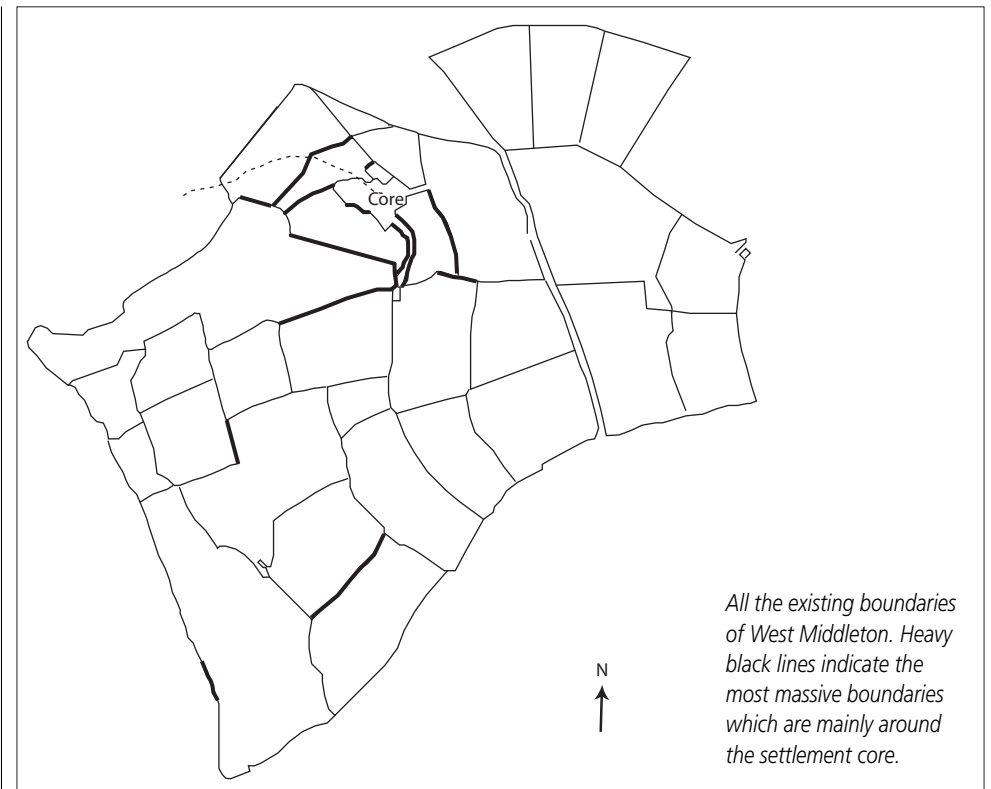
waste. This would be the situation prior to the population decline and consequent scarcity of labour of the mid-14th century.

At West Middleton, which in the medieval period, was the core of the manor of Middleton, we have found a number of very massive boundaries close to the core of the settlement. Seen on the First Edition OS map (Fig. 1), the boundaries around the farm buildings form a quadrilateral looking very much like a manorial enclosure such as is found elsewhere in the county and the country. A number of these inner boundaries are very massive indeed, in the most impressive cases over 2.5 metres high (Plate 1) and over 4.0 metres wide at the base representing up to 7 cubic metres of soil and stone per metre of length: clearly a very serious piece of work. We are aware that hedgebanks

become eroded and are periodically maintained, so that over time their dimensions can change. Since the effort required to move soil (in an unmechanised age) would always be the same, and as labour becomes more expensive and motives change over time, it seems fair to assume that a rebuilt boundary will be less rather than more massive than the original. Therefore when we come across a length of very massive boundary, we assume it represents something like the original. Boundary WM111A (shown in Fig. 2 with a heavy line and the number 7) represents this well. This south-eastern end of boundary WM111 is the most massive boundary we have found anywhere (group 7), but to the north-west of the kink (arrowed) it thins down to a group 3. The thinner section is clearly a rebuild. The boundary running along the north-western edge



Boundaries around the settlement core of West Middleton. Numbers indicate the size group in which the boundary falls (eg. 3 represents 3 cubic metres of material per metre of length). Note the boundary numbered 7.

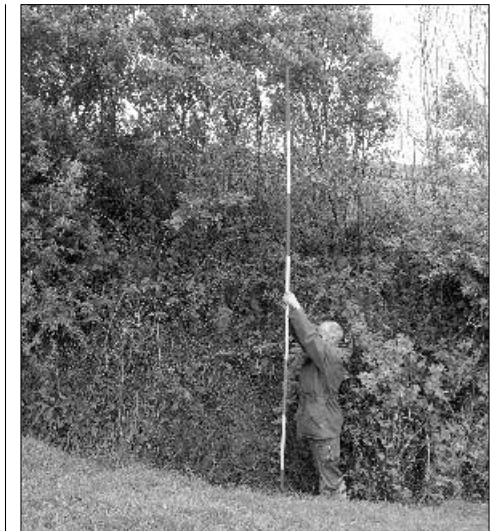


All the existing boundaries of West Middleton. Heavy black lines indicate the most massive boundaries which are mainly around the settlement core.

of the settlement core is the most consistently massive we have seen. It has a ditch on its north-west side and through it runs a track leading to Mill Wood, where probably was the mill which features in the documents which Margaret Reed has studied. Whoever was arriving or leaving by this route would have been impressed.

Massive boundaries are not confined to the settlement core, though elsewhere they are scattered. Fig. 3 shows them with heavy lines. As can be seen they are few, but may represent divisions within a medieval field-system. One surprise is that the long boundary which divides the lands of East and West Middleton is not more massive than it is, being a group 3 (3.0 – 3.9 cubic metres per metre) for most of its length.

Our field-boundary analysis is not an exact science, but it does help to characterise these important and ubiquitous monuments and to make sense of them within a settlement pattern.



One of the more massive boundaries, David Parker standing in its ditch. (Photo: T.Green)



# Middleton Manor, Parracombe

## A Preliminary Survey - 1086 to 1838

Margaret Read

*Margaret Read has been applying her research skills to the documentary record of Parracombe. She was asked to look particularly at the manor of Middleton\* and has demonstrated how the extent of the manor and the pattern of ownership and occupation have developed over nine centuries.*

(\*Divided probably since the 15th century into West and East Middleton.)

The Saxon manor of Middleton, owned by Edmer before 1066, became one of the many estates across a dozen English counties awarded by William I to Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances following the Norman invasion.

The Domesday entry reads:

**Middleton**—(In the hundred of Shirwell – held of the honour of Barnstaple) – Edmer held it before 1086. It paid tax for half a virgate of land. Land for 4 ploughs. In lordship 1 plough; 1 furlong. 2 villagers have another plough and 1 furlong. Meadow 6 acres; pasture 30 acres; woodland 3 acres; 15 pigs. Formerly 8 shillings, now 12 shillings. [Domesday Book: Devon, Part One (3.52), Thorn and Thorn 1985.]

This description of the manor in the Domesday Survey of 1086 is, to say the least, confusing. While the ancient boundaries remained into recent times, the extent of cleared, and therefore taxable, land in the eleventh century is uncertain as land measurement took account of soil quality. Also the terms hide, virgate and furlong were not constant and bore little relation to modern acres or hectares. However, it has been assessed that Middleton was taxed on 359 acres in 1086.

During the next two centuries several changes of overlordship are recorded in Feet of Fines,

including a very interesting one dated 1248/9, in which a portion of Middleton is described in some detail. The land, passing from Walter Baghal to John & Joan Weston, is described in the following terms: -

*'...one mill, one ferling of land and ten acres of wood in Middleton, part of the appurtenances of two parts of one ploughland which Walter before had by gift and grant of the said John and Joan. Thus John and his heirs and all his men henceforth shall have common of pasture everywhere in the said two parts of one ploughland and likewise in all other the lands, woods, meadows and pastures of the said Walter and his heirs in the said township tor[?] all their cattle in Middleton after the corn and hay are carried away. Thus also John and his heirs henceforth may take and have timber in the woods of Walter and his heirs in the said township of Middleton to repair, make and sustain the mill by view of the foresters of the said Walter and his heirs for ever...'*

(Feet of Fines, Devon and Cornwall Record Society 1912, Vol.1, No. 461, 29.10.1248 – 27.10.1249)

Here is evidence that a mill had been introduced since 1086 and that the woodland had increased in size, the three acres having now grown to at least ten, bearing in mind that this is only a portion of the entire Middleton estate.

By 1332 the Lay Subsidy Roll recorded eight people in Middleton liable to pay the tax, which was assessed on at least ten shillings' worth of moveable goods in rural areas, with the tax being levied at one fifteenth. Here is evidence that Middleton was occupied by several families of sufficient means to be taxpayers rather than labourers. The first name on the list is probably

that of the descendant of Walter Baghal mentioned above in 1248: -

### Middleton

Baldwin Baghel	8d
John Greye	8d
Henry de Hele	10d
Thomas de Hele	18d
John Puddyng	8d
Adam Bryan	8d
John Horsmer	10d
Thomas de Brydewyk	12d

Tax assessments, muster rolls and other official returns from the sixteenth century onwards unfortunately relate to the parish as a whole rather than separate 'townships' or manors, so it is not possible to trace the growth of Middleton by this means until the late eighteenth century, with the Land Tax Assessments of 1780 to 1832:

### Land Tax Returns 1780: Middleton Manor

(North Devon Record Office)

Property	Proprietor	Occupant
Voley	Henry Beavis, Esq.	George Pugsley
Heal	" "	Nicholas Ridd
Walner & Grattons	John Crang	John Crang
Heal & Winslade	" "	" "
Meadow		
West Middleton	Henry Down, Esq.	Richard Dovell
Heal	Richard Dowell	William Frost
Middleton	John Slader, snr.	John Slader
East Middleton	Henry Beavis, Esq.	Henry Harding
Grattons	John Prowel	Humphrey Merchant
Heal	Mr. Berry	Thomas Challacombe
East Middleton	Henry Harding	Henry Harding
Heal	Richard Tucker	Charles Blackmore
Invention	Timothy Harding	Timothy Harding'

### Tithe Award 1838:

(North Devon Record Office)

Following on from the tax returns, the Tithe Award of 1838, complete with detailed map of the whole parish, is a complete record of land use and property ownership at that time. There were fifteen separate land-holdings in the area formerly known as the manor of Middleton which were in the hands of six landowners who occupied almost 1300 acres. The holdings at this date were West Middleton, Walner, Voley, Heale (part), Heale Moor, East Middleton (in three parts), Heale Down (in two parts), South Hill, Invention, a cottage and garden in Middleton and a plantation and wood. Major landowners among these were Robert Newton Incedon, various members of the Dovell Family and Amelia Warren Griffiths.

The figures in 1838 are a far cry from those of Domesday. Seven hundred and fifty years after the survey the rural manor of Middleton had become a thriving community within the parish of Parracombe, with every occupier engaged in some form of agriculture, while the landowners, as before, were not all resident. Robert Newton Incedon was Recorder for Barnstaple and lived in Pilton, while Amelia Warren Griffiths also had strong connections in Pilton and owned property in several parishes in Devon and elsewhere.

This preliminary survey necessarily ends with the Tithe Award of 1838. Middleton retains a landscape of farmland and wooded cleaves, bounded by streams and ancient trackways, as it was a thousand years ago, and although agriculture remains, the way of life for the farming community has changed beyond recognition.

# The Hartland Project

Stephen Hobbs

It started out with idle curiosity about the (apparent) folly that stands in the area known as The Warren above the cliffs of Hartland Quay. The initial quest has now developed into a large-scale geophysical survey supported by Exeter University's XArch Project, the results of which are quite startling. To date three areas have been examined revealing features of a complex, possibly Bronze Age, landscape in this exposed spot. Stephen Hobbs writes:

After a small stutter in the proceedings whilst Exeter University found a new leader for XArch, we are now back on track with a commitment from XArch to support the project with fieldwork until the end of 2008. They will then assist in the writing up of the findings leading to a possible publication in 2008/09.

Having previously examined one area (Fig. 1, Area 1), we set out to bed in the new team

(Photo) by opening up two further areas for investigation by magnetometry survey, both in close proximity to Area 1. David Miller, an M.A. student from Exeter, is leading the fieldwork and a more difficult introduction could not have been found. His first area (Fig. 1, Area 2) was a small field with a steep double incline and difficult hedge-lines surrounding it. The next area was adjacent and showed some interesting shadow-marks. In this area (Fig. 1, Area 3) a rectangle 60 X 140 meters was covered as an exploratory transect across the northern slope.

On David's third visit we returned with confidence to continue work on the principal area (Area 1), essentially to more fully complete the overall block commenced with Sean. We had a number of questions left open which needed addressing before deciding in which direction we would continue in this field.



Photo: The team at the Warren.

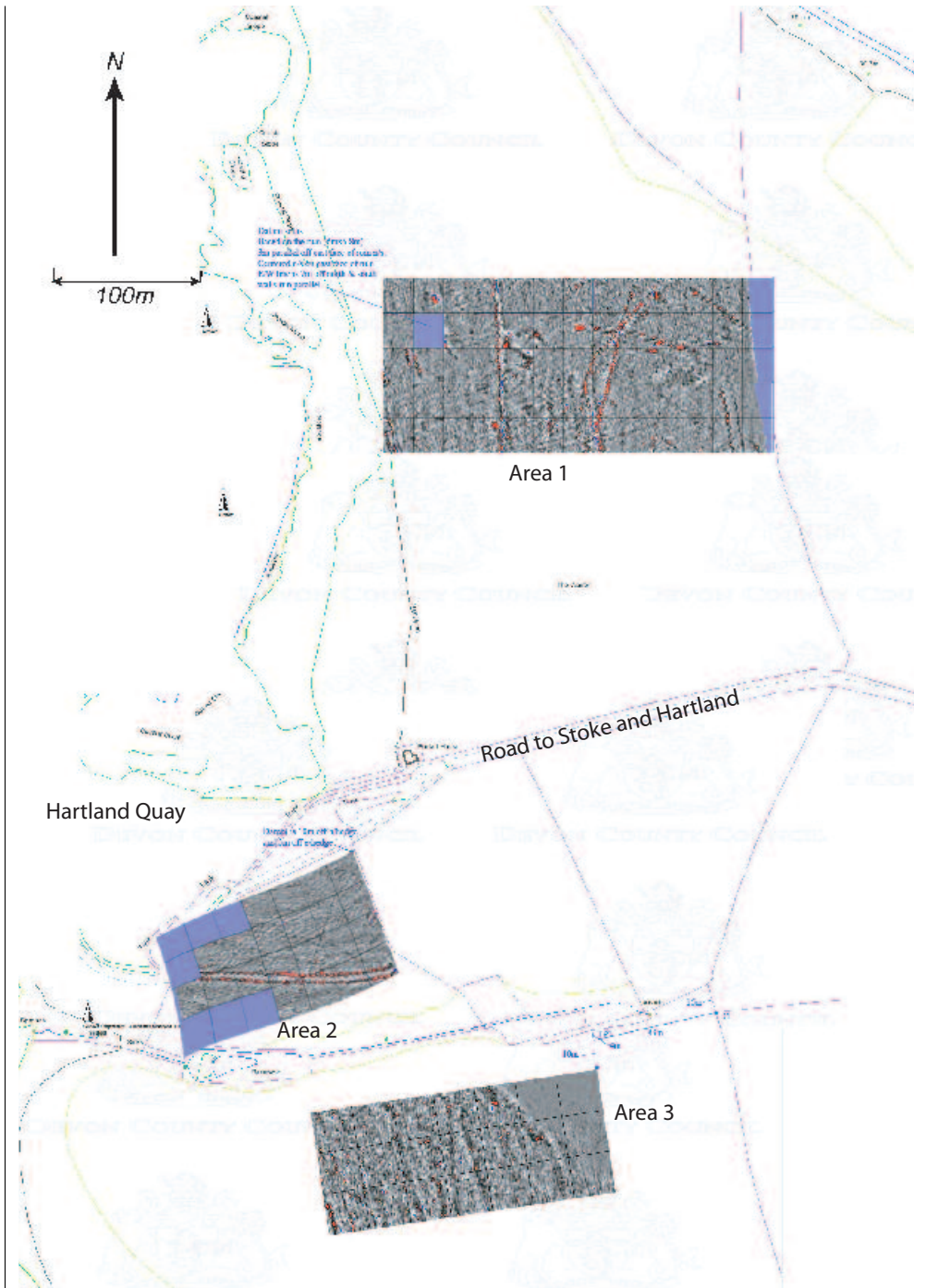


Fig. 1: The Magnetometry plots of Areas 1-3 in relation to Hartland Quay.

Happily all three initial interpretations of the scan areas, by Sean and David, have supported the project. Although it is early days in achieving full interpretation, it would appear that we have features indicative of Bronze Age occupation and ritual with a successive overlay of later features.

Area 2 is of particular interest. From an aerial photograph a linear feature was already visible which was considered to be a water pipeline trench; however this has been shown to be a substantial bank possibly double (A in Fig.2). This bank overlies an earlier pair of parallel linear stone walls running SW/NE (B) between which is possible evidence of early hand ploughing (C). These are reminiscent of Dartmoor reeves. A further delineated compound on the west contains a possible hut circle and evidence on the east suggests a further one (D). We will continue this area of investigation into the adjacent field in due course to see if the features continue.

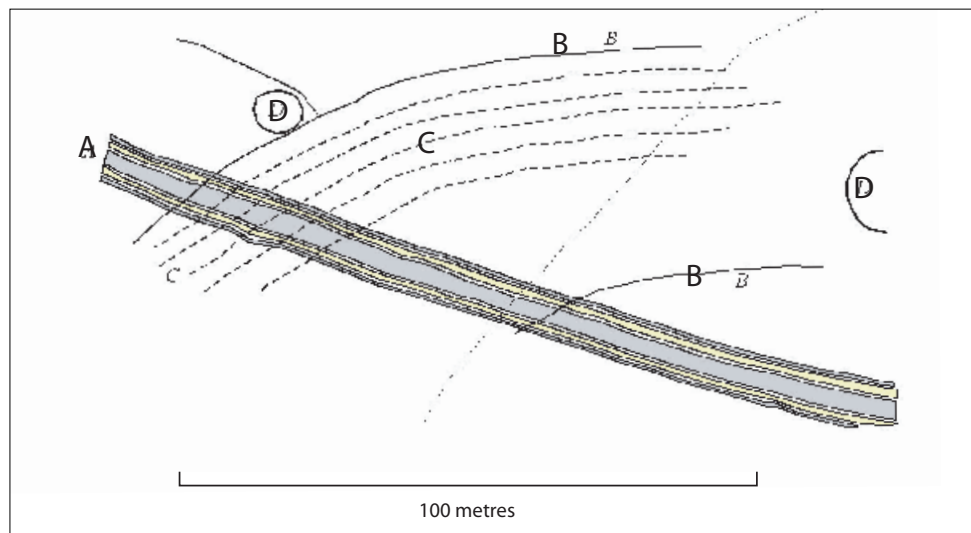
Area 3 lends itself less easily to interpretation, but would seem to contain substantial hill-wash

and indications of further features. As an exploratory scan it does invite a fuller investigation particularly towards the hill summit and westwards to bring in further landscape detail.

Area 1, our principal area, has continued to yield further intriguing information. The double bank on the east has ended with flourish with a semicircular stone wall. The substantial bank and ditch running through the site north/south continues its course and the elliptical enclosure has turned into a helix so may be two features rather than one.

It is intended to produce a short newsletter of the project which initially will be available by Email (register your interest with Stephen via Derry) but eventually this will be incorporated with a web site for ease of distribution.

Fig.2: Interpretation of the magnetometry plot of Area 2: A - Double bank and ditch; B - Stone boundary; C - early hand ploughing; D - ring ditches.



## A Roman Tillery on Hatherleigh Moor

*You may remember that in the Autumn 2004 edition of the NDAS Newsletter Deborah Laing-Trengove reported on a field-walk on Hatherleigh Moor in which NDAS members had participated. The purpose of the day had been to locate fragments of apparently Roman roof-tile to augment the collection that Deborah herself had made while walking the area. In addition Ross Dean of Substratum conducted a geophysical survey of the area. The products of the fieldwalk were taken to the RAM Museum in Exeter and subsequently a report and analysis of the material was published in the Devon Archaeological Society Proceedings (Vol.64, 2006). This was authored by Jennie Wheeler and Deborah Laing-Trengove with contributions from Ross Dean, Colin Humphreys and Roger Taylor. For your interest, a summary of their conclusions is presented here.*

The material collected clearly represented tile waste of the Roman period and from the number of wasters (overfired tiles) in the collection, the spread of the material and the geophysical evidence of intense heating activity, it was evident that this was the site of a tillery. The material covered a wide area which was typical of Roman tile sites, where there might be more than one kiln, and where waste material might be dumped away from the main centre of activity or might be used for other purposes such as surfacing paths. Nevertheless this site appears to represent a small-scale operation perhaps revisited over a period of time.

This site lies in an area where no other Roman remains are recorded, the nearest locations of Roman Period activity being at Okehampton, North Tawton and Bury Barton (Lapford). It is also some way from the Roman road leading into Cornwall. The isolated location may have been dictated by the presence of the necessary

resources (clay, water and wood) or the desire to be away from centres of population. Distance from a likely market was apparently not a problem, tiles found at Exeter and Bury Barton (Lapford) having been transported from Hampshire.

As for dating, there was no evidence that could be used for this purpose. Tiles of the Hatherleigh type were in use for a long period both by the military and by civilians. However, tile production here probably dates from earlier rather than later in the Roman period, since in the late third and the fourth century tiles were superseded by stone slates in Devon.

As the first tillery to be identified in Devon outside the legionary fortress at Exeter, the site is nevertheless important, though who the tillery was serving is not at all certain. The fabric of the Hatherleigh Moor tiles is distinctive however, which should, in time, make it possible to trace the distribution of this material. So far it has only been identified at North Tawton, though close examination of material from Okehampton may turn up more.



# Taw and Torridge Hulk Survey

Chris Preece

As a follow-on to the fish weirs survey (and to combat the withdrawal symptoms caused by missing keen estuary winds and wet feet) it was felt a survey of hulks would be timely. Hulks are sailing vessels which have either been wrecked or more often (in an estuary) abandoned or deliberately beached out of the main shipping channel.

Why is a survey of hulks desirable? Firstly, this is a natural corollary of the weir survey, adding to our information on the archaeology of the estuary. Ships and shipbuilding have been a major element in the story of the Taw/Torridge estuaries. Secondly, comparison of photographs taken over the last fifty years demonstrates that some of the hulks have markedly deteriorated and that much evidence is disappearing. What remains therefore needs recording. A similar survey on the Medway led to the production of the RCHM (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England) handbook 'Nautical Archaeology on the Foreshore'. The methods and record sheets in this standard text have been used elsewhere (i.e. the

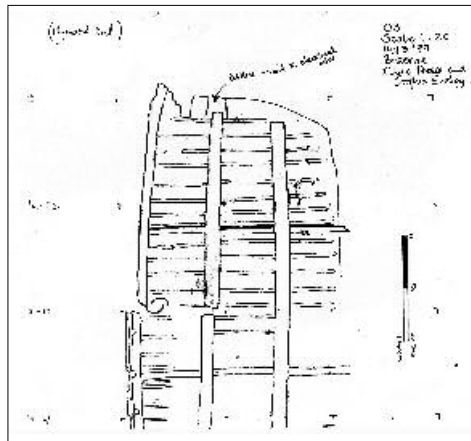


Fig. 1: Field drawing (plan) of hulk 03 on River Itchen survey; scale 1:20.

River Itchen; a survey by Southampton MA students of Maritime Archaeology under the auspices of the Hants and Wight Trust) and will be used on the Taw/Torridge. Thirdly, such a survey will provide NDAS members with hands-on experience of survey and planning of structures as well as an increasing knowledge of ship construction and its associated vocabulary. Familiarity with using the RCHM vessel records will also be a useful additional skill for NDAS members.

Barry Hughes of Appledore Museum already has some records of the hulks and is enthusiastic regarding the need for a detailed survey. We hope



Plate 1: Sophia Exelby (now Receiver of Wrecks) taking part in the River Itchen hulk survey.

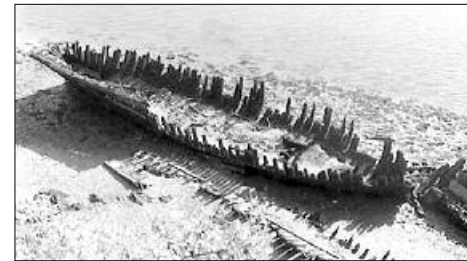


Plate 2: (left) MA James, Torridge estuary; (right) Hobah, Emma Louise and another hulk on the Torridge estuary.

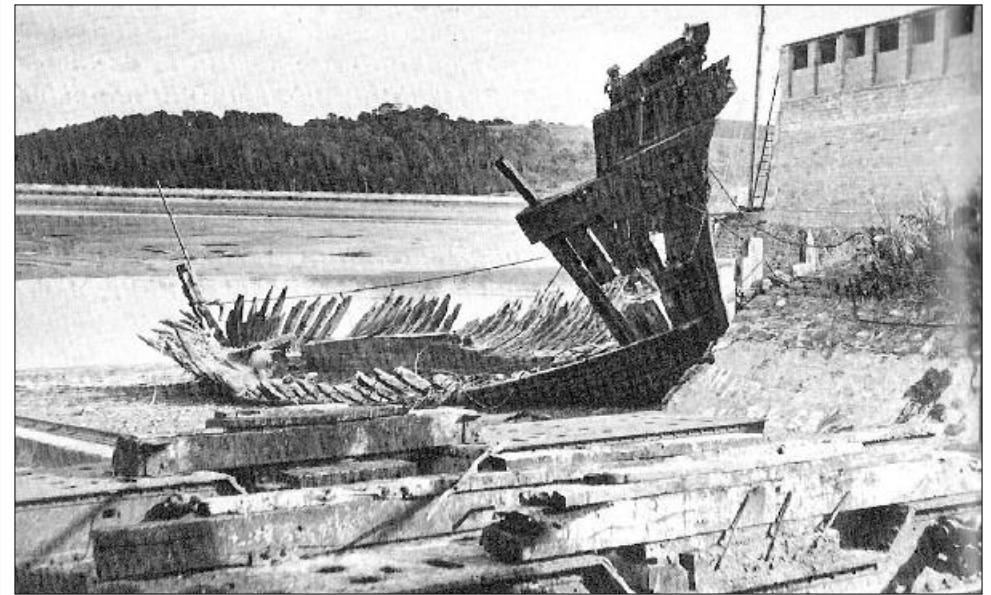


Plate 3: Annie Christian, Appledore (Reproduced from 'The Building of Boats' by Douglas Phillips-Birt).

to have him 'on board' and suggest the museum would be a suitable home for the archive. Again, some sort of publication in the Proceedings would be an appropriate end product.

Survey (volunteer numbers allowing) will begin this summer. Low tides are not as critical as with the weir survey and the window of opportunity for hulk survey will be greater. Some of the hulks we hope to survey include a number of well-known

schooners including the Annie Christian (built in Barnstaple, 1881; now beached near Appledore shipyard) and the MA James, one of three hulks beached below Northam.

Could those members interested please contact me (Chris Preece: 01237 475368) so I can notify them as necessary? Survey may have to be at relatively short notice (say 2 weeks) due to my flexible work commitments.

## A Final Word on Fishweirs

Mary Houldsworth

Last year, at one of the evening talks, Chris Preece gave a fascinating presentation on the Fish Weirs of N. Devon, following which 'five went fishing' to assess the fishweir situated in the channel between Crow Point and Appledore. Needless to say, being NDAS members, led by Ann and Chris Mandrey, we chose the coldest, windiest, bleakest day in March to coincide with the lowest tide of the season.

The excitement of that day was later discussed with a friend Paula, studying marine biology, who proceeded to tell me that one Valerie Robson used to live in Lynmouth, where her father owned the fish weir in the estuary there. To cut a long story short, Valerie had not only been her father's regular assistant, but also had the foresight in 1993, to video the weir after it had been sold, while still in working order.

The video was duly shown to a very interested NDAS audience in November, when Valerie complemented the scenes from Lynmouth with a fascinating insight into her childhood memories spent at each tide change, clambering over the rocks to recover the salmon, trout and, in season, white bait, which were then sold to the local hotels.

The weir was fished from April to August. A further custom instigated to allow the salmon to run up river to spawn, was the practice of opening the sluice gate on the Friday tide until the first tide on Sunday.

The weir had been in Valerie's family, the Bevans, for three generations, and was previously owned by the Lords of the Manor from the early 1700's. The oak uprights were woven between with silver birch brushwood, to contain the fish at turn of tide. To catch the fish in a scoop net necessitated the family working around the clock. Sometimes, finding their way over the boulders at nighttime proved difficult until Mr. Bevan painted each rock along the route, with Valerie according

each one a name, e.g. Cheddar Gorge!

Obviously during the spring tides and winter storms, these structures were dislodged and carried away down the coast. Regular maintenance was required to replace the brushwood, especially after stormy weather. The flood damage in August 1952 almost destroyed the weir, when the over-flowing River Lyn met the spring tide along the estuary.

Since Mr. Bevan's death, the weir has been managed locally. However with labour difficult to find, and fish stocks depleted, the Environment Fisheries Agency recently purchased the weir.

Valerie had invited Rob Jones from the Fisheries Agency to our meeting, where we were all extremely pleased to hear that a decision on the weir had been reached. The weir was to be renewed to the original design, using chestnut instead of oak posts. The work was just awaiting a Risk assessment before the task was to be undertaken. However the regular replacement of silver birch branches woven into the structure, would no longer be a possibility. To hear this news (you heard it first here folks!), was thrilling for Valerie, and all of us keen to see history preserved.

Our thanks go to Valerie for such an informative and personal talk, to Chris for our discussion, and to Rob Jones for sharing the Environment Agency's plans and problems.

It was like watching history in the re-making!

## What Happened in the Woods?

Judith Cannell

*During the last winter Dr Judith Cannell was one of our speakers. She outlined the procedures of woodland archaeology and showed how members of a local archaeological society might add to the understanding of woodland exploitation in the past.*

Firewood, charcoal, bark and timber; these are products supplied from English woodland in past centuries. People managed woodland to nurture such production and also (in many places) to provide grazing for their livestock. The main management techniques were:

**Coppicing**, in which trees were cut near the ground, leaving a stump or 'stool', from which new shoots or 'poles' grew. This technique was applied in enclosed woods, from which livestock were excluded.

**Pollarding**, in which trees were cut 2 – 5 metres above the ground, so as to place new growth out of the reach of livestock. Again, new shoots grew and were cut in due course. This technique was applied in wood pastures, where livestock grazed unenclosed woods (often adjacent to moorland) without damaging trees' new growth.

Allowing trees to reach their full size as **standards**, when they were felled for timber.

Past woodland management has left traces for consideration by both archaeologists and historians:

Archaeological features, such as old coppice and pollard trees, boundary features, tracks and charcoal platforms. These can show what was being done and where.

Documentary evidence, especially tithe maps and the records of large estates. These can show who was in charge and the social/economic structures involved.

My research into the archaeology of woodland exploitation around Exmoor left some questions about North Devon's woods unanswered. First of

all:

*Where were North Devon's wood pastures?*

Domesday Book recorded large numbers of cattle and horses in North Devon, suggesting that areas now within the parishes of Lynton and Brendon may have operated an economy specialising in livestock. Animals grazed the open moor - but did they also roam adjacent woods under a system of wood pasture? If such was the practice, how widespread was it in North Devon?

It is useful that pollard trees, the sign of old wood pastures, can be very long lived. It would be a productive exercise for local groups to find and record the location of old pollards and so show where former wood pastures existed.

There is one piece of evidence suggesting that some woods in North Devon may have been enclosed only in the recent past. That evidence relates to their size. When looking at the distribution of wood size over the whole Exmoor area, I found that most parishes had a large number of small woods, a few very large woods, but none at all of intermediate size. In only eight parishes were there woods of intermediate size and three of these – Countisbury, Martinhoe and Trentishoe – lay on the North Devon side of Exmoor.

The size distribution pattern in other parts of Exmoor was probably generated in the post-medieval period (from about 1500), when woods were enclosed to provide coppice for industrial use and/or as a cash crop. The odd pattern in the coastal parishes of North Devon, on the other hand, suggests a different history, with enclosure occurring later, or perhaps with some other local factors coming into play. Did wood pastures last longer here – and, if so, why?

*Did North Devon's coppices supply rural industry?*

This is the second big question. In many places, coppices produced raw materials and fuel for rural industry. Relevant physical evidence in woodland includes the platforms on which wood was



Plate 1: Ancient pollard on Cloutsham Ball, near Porlock

stacked to produce charcoal, which powered the furnaces and forges of pre-modern iron production. Dr. Gill Juleff's project at the University of Exeter has identified many iron smelting sites on and around Exmoor and they are often close to, or even in, woods containing charcoal platforms. North Devon, of course, had



its own medieval metal industries and it would be useful to locate charcoal platforms in nearby woods, as they can show the extent to which local resources were pulled into the production chain.

Another rural industry, which is often overlooked, was leather production, which consumed tons of oak bark (used in the tanning process) especially in the post medieval period, when it was transported significant distances. Bark stripping often accompanied timber or coppice production but unfortunately leaves little archaeological trace of its own. I found documentary evidence of bark stripping in Bremridge Wood (near South Molton) with the bark being transported to Barnstaple but I do not know of any other research into bark-stripping in the woods of North Devon. There is plenty of room for documentary research here. Tithe maps might show where tanneries existed in the 19th century, while estate and port records might refer to bark being produced or transported to more distant destinations through ports.

I hope this short summary encourages you to start woodland survey (with wood owners' permission) and to do some documentary research. My book outlines methods of research in more detail and I have given a copy to the Society for your use. The evidence is out there waiting to be explored!

Capnall, J. A. 2005. *The Archaeology of Woodland Exploitation in the Greater Exmoor Area in the Historic Period*. Archaeopress, Oxford

## So why Tuly Street?

Jim Coulter and Terry Green

There is quite a bit of history bound up in street names and a better understanding of the history of a town can be gained by looking at their origin. Barnstaple has some quite revealing examples. Of the main thoroughfares, High Street requires little explanation and the Strand is clearly the riverbank, while Boutport Street is less obvious. When the town was walled, this was the way that went "about the port", in Old English: *bōtan* porte, the Old and Middle English 'port' meaning 'a town with a market'. The curving line of Boutport Street echoes the course of the town wall. Newport was the Bishop of Exeter's 13th century 'new town and market' set up to rival Barnstaple. Cross Street was originally Crock Street and was inhabited by potters. Bell Meadow is thought to be the 'bailey meadow', which was presumably grazing land outside the town and somehow identified with the castle bailey, while Barbican Lane was probably marked by an outwork of the castle, perhaps a tax gathering point for traders entering or leaving the town by the route across Frankmarsh. Litchdon Street commemorates the *ȝc-tōn*, the cemetery of Saxon Barnstaple. Bear Street was the road that led to or away from the bar or barrier at the east gate of the town (like Temple Bar in London or Bargate in Southampton). Magdalen Street lies in the vicinity of the Cluniac Priory of St Mary Magdalen, which lay immediately to the east of the town.

### So what about that very odd name, Tuly Street?

A sixteenth century map of Barnstaple drawn by Bruce Oliver (Fig. 1) includes within the precincts of the castle the location of King Olaf's well on a site now occupied by the library and North Devon Record Office. Olaf, a scion of Norwegian aristocracy, fought on the side of the English king Ethelred II in his wars against the Danes in 1013.

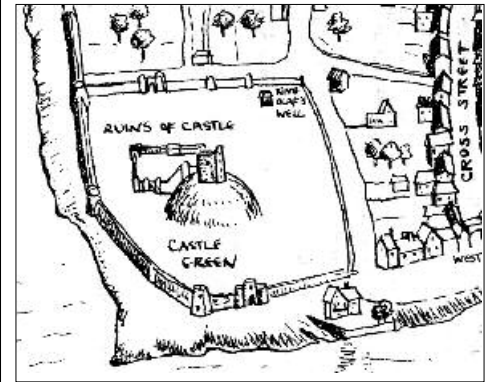


Fig. 1: Part of (a copy of) Bruce Oliver's 16th century plan of Barnstaple, showing King Olaf's well inside the castle bailey.

On his return to Norway he became king where his rule is mainly remembered for converting that country to Christianity. In 1030 he was killed in battle and from his grave, springs of water with healing properties flowed and miracles were reported. He was declared a saint and his cult became widespread in Scandinavian areas and in England too, especially in the 'Viking' parts.\* There are over forty ancient church dedications mainly in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, East Anglia and the Western Isles of Scotland. In Devon there is one in Exeter and a chapel at Riddlecombe. And in Barnstaple there was King Olaf's or St Olaf's well. In the course of time, Olaf's name became corrupted by the transfer of the final 't' of 'saint' to give 'Tolaf' which eventually became 'Tooley' or 'Tuly' as it remains today in the name of Tuly Street.

(\*Based on David Farmer: Oxford Dictionary of Saints)