

NORTH DEVON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



ISSUE 6 AUTUMN 2003

Useful information

NDAS Officers 2003-4:

Chairman: Terry Green

Vice-Chairman: Ann Mandry

Meetings and Correspondence

Secretary: Alistair Miller

Treasurer and Membership

Secretary: Jane Green

Projects Manager: Colin Humphreys

Fund Raiser: Richard Beer

Other Committee Members:

June Aiken, Rosemary Akers, Sally Cotton, Harry Cramp, Janet Daynes, Trevor Dunkerley, Jim Knights, Jonathan Lomas, Alison Mills, Chris Preece, Kes Webb, Rob Wilson-North, Maureen Wood

Associate Committee Members:

Ann Adams, Sue Scrutton, Cllr Derek Spear

Publications Committee

Terry Green, Colin Humphreys, Alison Mills

Other Archaeological Bodies:

Devon County Sites and Monuments Register
01392 382246

Council for British Archaeology (York)
01904 671417

National Sites & Monuments Record (Swindon)
01793 414600

Useful contacts

June Aiken (Parracombe Group) 01598 763316

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

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

Jane Green (NDAS Treasurer and Membership Secretary) 01271 866662

Terry Green (NDAS Newsletter) 01271 866662

Collette Hall (NDDC Conservation Officer)
01271 346436

Sean Hawken (Community Landscapes Project)
01392 263851

Colin Humphreys (NDAS Projects Manager)
01271 882152

Jim Knights (Brayford and Charles Group)
01598 710014

Deborah Laing-Trengove (Hatherleigh History Group) 01837 810310

Alistair Miller (NDAS Secretary) 01598 740359

Alison Mills (Museums Service) 01271 346747

Jenny Yendall (Tiverton Archaeological Group)
01884 255397

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

Kes Webb (Combe Martin Silver Mines Research and Preservation Society) 01271 850349

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

Dates for Your Diary

NDAS Winter Programme 2003 2004

Unless otherwise stated, NDAS winter meetings are at 7.30 pm at Pilton Community College, Chaddiford Lane, Barnstaple. Admission free to members; visitors £2.00

20 Oct 03

Aspects of Recent Work on the Romans in Devon: Bill Horner. Bill is Archaeological Officer with the County Archaeological Service at County Hall.

17 Nov 03

The manufacture and use of blades as weapons: Robert Venn (swordsmith) and Ross Dean (swordman.) Robert (Benny) Venn uses ancient techniques to recreate metal artifacts, while Ross practices broadsword fighting as a hobby.

29 Nov 03

Exmoor National Park Archaeology Forum, South Molton. The Exmoor Iron project: The First Two Years. Cost: £12.00 (includes tea and coffee). For a booking form contact Linda Kreczmer on 01398 323665 or email lskreczmer@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

2 Dec 03

The NDAS Annual Dinner at the Chichester Arms, Bishops Tawton

19 Jan 04

Cracking the Human Codes: Beyond and Beneath Historical Documentation: Trevor Dunkerley. Trevor builds on his investigations to present the people behind the archaeology and the documents.

7 Feb 04

Pottery recognition training-day at the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon, 10.00 am. Speakers: Oliver Kent and John Allen.

Number limited. To reserve a place phone Alistair Miller on 01598 740359

16 Feb 04

North Devon 17th Century Plasterwork: Jonathan Lomas. Jonathan is a local architect with a particular interest in this form of interior decoration which flourished in North Devon.

15 March 04

North Devon Archaeological Society AGM. Pilton Community College, Chaddiford Lane, Barnstaple, 7.00 pm

19 April 04

Intertidal Archaeology of the Somerset Coast, Richard McDonnell. Richard is an independent archaeologist based in West Somerset. He has published a number of studies on moorland and coastal archaeological themes.

Plus, as always, our informal meetings at the Chichester Arms, Bishops Tawton, about 8.00 pm first Tuesday of every month (except December and August).

And finally

There may be a need to lighten the tone of this newsletter. The following, received from a friend in Australia, may help.

The next time you're washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s and incidentally the origin of some common expressions:

- Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.
- Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children- last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

- Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw piled high with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."
- The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor."
- Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."
- Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

And what do Australians mean by heritage, anyway? (Seen beside a New South Wales beach)



Cover pic *The Holworthy pot ready for transport, a justifiable moment of pride. From left to right: Gordon Fisher, Derry Bryant, Terry Green, Roger Ferrar.*

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A season of fruitful fieldwork

Editorial

This edition carries all together six reports of fieldwork, a matter for celebration after so many years in which very little field-work was done in northern Devon. This year NDAS members have had the opportunity to participate in excavations both on Exmoor and on Dartmoor, to take part in survey at Hartland, Parracombe and in the Taw-Torridge estuary, to help out with a rescue excavation at Kentisbury and to join in the ongoing exploration of Combe Martin. The opportunity to do hands-on archaeology is to a high degree the result of the good relationships that the Society has with the Exmoor National Park Authority and the University of Exeter as well as the Museum Service and the Sites and Monuments Register. The ability of non-professionals to be actively involved in archaeological projects is variable across the UK. In some areas the degree of non-professional participation is very high and we do not yet approach it, but having started from a low base a few years ago, we can feel pleased with our progress.

Inevitably, since it represents a major and largely untouched archaeological resource, Exmoor is the focus of current work. It can be argued that, like Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor, this preserved upland environment does not necessarily represent the archaeological character of the adjacent lowland, but our understanding has to start where the opportunities present themselves. At the same time, the Community Landscapes Project, which deliberately looks away from the moors towards the lowlands, offers excellent opportunities for hands-on experience. The CLP's current attention to Hartland and their

invitation to people in northern Devon to become involved ought to be seen as an opportunity for people who find Exmoor a bit remote. The invitation is there to be taken up.

The Exmoor Iron Project excavation at Sherracombe Ford produced further evidence of the extent of Romano-British iron-smelting activity in this area of West Exmoor, catching the attention of the media and for once receiving reasonably accurate coverage. In this edition we have a digger's eye view of the excavation from two of our members. The Exmoor Iron Project will now turn its attention elsewhere, but from the point of view of North Devon, the earlier work at Brayvale - both the Exeter University excavation of 2001 and the DCC/South West Archaeology excavation of 2002 - together with the findings at Sherracombe Ford add up to a profound adjustment in our view of the later prehistoric and early medieval background to settlement and resource exploitation in our area. It is to be hoped that artificial boundaries do not obscure the emerging picture.

Whether upland or lowland, whether within or without the National Park, the aim should always be to integrate information. An integrated picture is the ultimate archaeological product. Beyond this however, a very real and important product is a raised level of awareness in the community at large of the value of our Historic Environment and an understanding for its evolution. The work put into National Archaeology Day (July 19th) by Jim Knights and Trevor Dunkerley was nothing less than admirable. Both deserve congratulation. Both the Roman Day at Brayford and the Archaeology Weekend at Combe Martin secured a very high

Tiverton Archaeological Group (TAG)

Jenny Yendall

Over the 21 years of its existence, members of TAG have worked as volunteers alongside professional archaeologists, many of whom are now members and are good friends. Working with professionals, we have all developed confidence and a variety of skills and a number of us have been inspired to go on and become academically qualified. TAG members regularly participate in digs in and around Devon, uncovering the past from prehistoric times to the Second World War. We have worked with organisations and individuals such as the National Trust, Exeter Field Unit, the British Museum, Dr Malcolm Todd, Professor Val Maxfield and the Exmoor Iron project with Gill Juleff, to mention just a few.

From these encounters, I believe every member has memories of an archaeological experience that they hold dear. Mine was excavating my first bit of Samian. The thrill of seeing and holding this ancient bit of red pottery was tremendous and understanding the whole site of the Roman Villa at Otterton was overwhelming. That was way back in the early 1990s!

At our winter meetings we have guest speakers and during the summer evenings we meet out of doors. This year we had a tour of the Exmoor Iron excavations. In June, Dr Nick Berry, gave us an excellent guided tour of Exmoor and its stone settings including Porlock's Stone Setting, which I have never been able to find in the past!

We meet every third Thursday in the month, at 7.30pm, at the Age Concern Offices in Becks Square Tiverton. The meeting commences with TAG business and continues with a guest speaker.

Our next meeting, which will be (exceptionally) on Thursday October 30th, features Stuart Blaylock who will talk about Tiverton's historic buildings. Our November meeting reverts back to the third Thursday, November 20th with guest speaker Mike Sampson, local historian and author, who will talk about his new book. In December we have the TAG Christmas party (with speaker). This is a club institution and not to be missed!

We are a friendly outgoing group who welcome and encourage new members. At present we have over 25 paid up members from Tiverton and the surrounding areas with one even travelling from Watchet in Somerset. Our meetings are open to all. We ask for £1 per visitor to help towards the speaker's expenses and we make a small charge for tea and biscuits.

As more people show an interest in local history and archaeology, we are able to continue to monitor and record our local historical and archaeological past for the benefit of future generations.

If you wish to have further information regarding future guest speakers or would like to attend a meeting please contact either the Chairperson Jenny Yendall on: 01884 255397 mobile 0777 349 1204 or the Treasurer who can give you information on membership details and future events on:

01884 258895 mobile 07817941547

remains, it is probable that in the late C17th to early C18th a first floor jetty was added to the front. This is probably also the date of a pier of thin Dutch(?) bricks supporting the floor, although this may be a later repair. The only remnant of the jetty is a section in front of the passage; however, the sill plate of the jetty has evidently been truncated suggesting that it once ran the full length of the building.

Extant features suggest an early C19th extension to the north. It may also be that at this stage the end rooms of the earlier building were in some way detached and the jettied front was enclosed.

It appears, therefore, that initially the Old

Custom House had a 3-cell cross-passage plan, the ground floor being used for storage. The C17th use of the term "linney" (linhay) suggests such a use. The addition of a jettied frontage at about this date suggests the extension of first floor accommodation beyond the building-line.

John Wood's plan of 1843 shows the Old Custom House and the Red Lion as a single unit with the Old Custom House element jutting forward. In the C19 the end rooms were lost to neighbouring plots and a shop was formed beyond the front wall of the earlier building.

Further work, recording and documentary research, would no doubt enhance the understanding of this important building..

ACE Summer 2003

Janet Daynes

The summer months were somewhat hectic for ACE members, starting in early June with a flint knapping session at Trewortha Farm, on Bodmin Moor, where we all managed to produce a flint tool of some description. The next few weeks saw us gathering equipment for the House Scouts training days which were successfully held later in June. This was interspersed with furnace building at Brayford, in preparation for National Archaeology Day. We also managed to fit in a thatching weekend at the Cookworthy roundhouse with Dave and Ann Freeman.

On into July, we had another session of thatching at Cookworthy and a day working on the roundhouse at Yeoford. A training day in the Records Office for the House Scouts Project made a nice change from our outside activities. When some of us started to work on the database for the House Scouts project, we realised just how much work is involved in this! Meanwhile, back in

Brayford, having built the furnace, obtained some iron ore and roasted it, we had a go at smelting. This was part of the Roman Fun Day on 19th July, National Archaeology Day. It was fun, too! Dr Gill Juleff from Exeter University has some samples of our slag and possible iron bits for analysis, so hopefully soon we shall find out if we managed to smelt iron in Brayford for the first time in nearly 2000 years!

The ACE trip in August to Exeter's Living History weekend was quite fun, though poorly attended by ACE members. Benny Venn was demonstrating the art of Viking blacksmithing, and looked the part surrounded by Vikings, their tents and other paraphernalia.

The following week, preparations for the Teigncombe dig were under way. Then came the dig itself. What a fantastic, if somewhat intense (and hot) two weeks that was! But for details, see Gordon's account.

level of community interest and participation and were an example of how archaeological investigation can turn into public education and enjoyment without being relayed through television. The profile of archaeology in North Devon was raised where it matters: in the local community. And it must be said that this is something we can all do in however modest a fashion. Members of NDAS are made aware by these newsletters of the work that is currently in hand. We hope they are passed around and that other people are encouraged to join the Society. This is a small contribution that everyone can make, a contribution without which the results of excavation and survey would be in danger of remaining in a small number of hands and adding nothing to public understanding.
Terry Green

An opportunity!

At Knowstone (South Molton), a very well preserved 19th century smithy complete with equipment needs recording before the building is put up for sale. South West Archaeology has agreed to do the recording on behalf of the Museum of North Devon and to train a couple of members of NDAS in building recording at the same time. Any member who would like to take this opportunity should call South West Archaeology (Colin Humphreys) on 01271 882152. First come, first served!

Membership

The Society currently has 100 paid-up members (a landmark!). We are happy to welcome the following who have joined since April this year: Derrick Spear, Kate Prowse, Wendystar Davis, Garry Davis, Arthur Windsor, Mrs LJ Windsor, David Grenfell, Allan Cameron, Derry Bryant, Bob Walters, Philip Milton, Helen Milton, David Hook, Hilary Hook, Bill Horner, David Purnell, Des Morgan, Mark Puttick, Doug Bell.

May we remind you that at the last AGM in March it was agreed that the membership subscription should increase. As from April 2004 single ordinary membership will be £12.00 per year, joint membership will be £18.00 per year, student and junior membership will be £3.75 per year. New members joining after November will pay £6.00 for the half year. Subscriptions are due on 1st April annually. The annual subscription provides members with two newsletters per year, entry to talks and other events, insurance cover in field-work and free access to the North Devon and Devon County Records Offices. It also covers expenses incurred through the Society's activities.

You are invited to save yourself the worry of having to remember to renew your subscription by taking out a standing-order. NB. As we have changed our banking arrangements, existing standing orders should be cancelled. New forms will be issued with material sent out prior to the AGM in March.

Payments by post should be sent to: Jane Green, 5 Chambercombe Park Terrace, Ilfracombe EX34 9QW (cheques to be made payable to NDAS/NDRA). If you have any enquiries about membership (including new recruits), please phone Jane on 01271 866662.

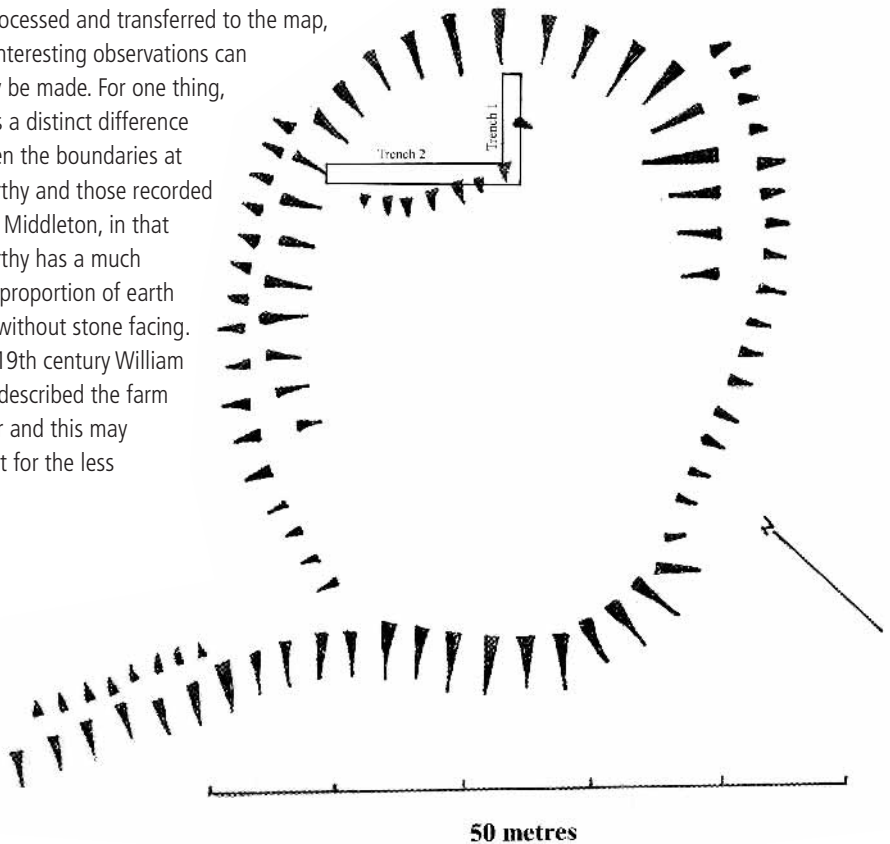
Parracombe Project: Holworthy Farm 2003

Terry Green

Field Boundary Survey:

As proposed in the Spring 2003 NDAS Newsletter, a field-boundary survey of Holworthy Farm was undertaken over four days in May. The procedure was the now familiar one of setting out with ranging-poles, hand measuring-tapes, record-sheets and a clipboard to trek from boundary to boundary noting features and taking measurements. The results have been fed into a data-base and although they have not yet been fully processed and transferred to the map, some interesting observations can already be made. For one thing, there is a distinct difference between the boundaries at Holworthy and those recorded at East Middleton, in that Holworthy has a much higher proportion of earth banks without stone facing. In the 19th century William Smyth described the farm as poor and this may account for the less

elaborate treatment of the boundaries. Another clear difference is the presence of a number of corn-ditches. This term, first used by Fleming on Dartmoor, refers to earth banks with a profile like a right-angled triangle. On the side looking away from the cultivated land is a vertical face armed with stock-proof coping (a jutting course of flat stones near the top) and with a ditch at the base. On the cultivated side the bank presents a sloping



Location of trenches 1 and 2 overlaid on the earthworks as recorded by English Heritage.

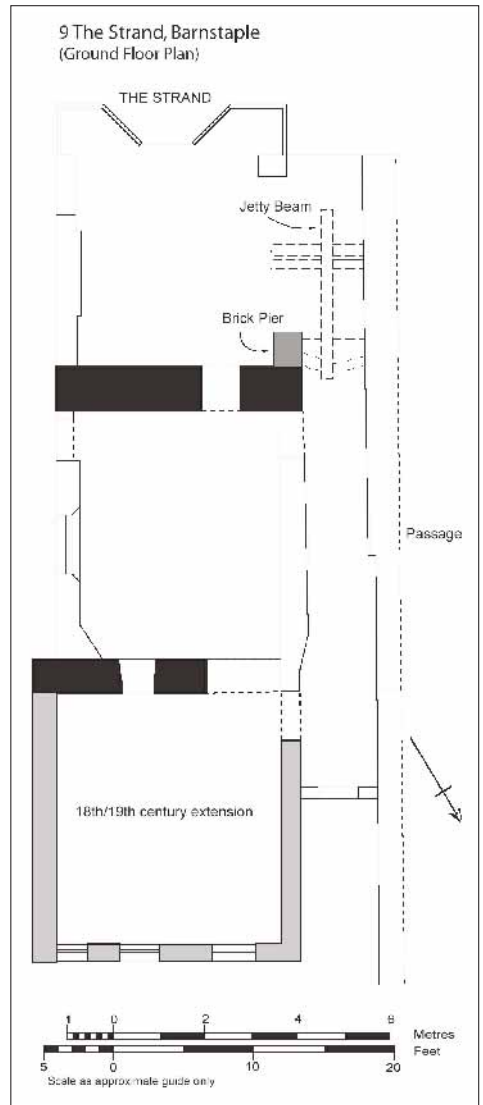
to James Oliver who, in 1870, borrowed £340 against the value of "all that little house situate upon or near the quay of Barnstaple aforesaid and heretofore called or known by the name of Old Custom House...". In 1871 Oliver sold his property to Richard Bament, who held the property until 1905, when it was purchased by Alfred Ernest Hopper, a solicitor. In 1921 the property was sold to Arthur Robert Pow, a dairyman and renamed "West View, the Strand". In the hands of his sister Caroline Pow it became "West View Stores, then continued in use as a shop until 1995 when part of the shop became tea-rooms and the name became Jenny Wren's Tea Shoppe.

The building:

The "Old Custom House" is the oldest building on the Strand, but appears to preserve only a part of a once larger building. A close examination of the building has unravelled phases of its development. (See the accompanying ground floor plan.)

At least three phases of build are identifiable, the first of which would appear to have been a 3 cell building facing the Strand, probably built around the time of the reclamation of the quay. All that remains of this phase is the central room and possibly a cross passage. Features of the existing roof structure suggest a late C16th to early C17th date. The height of the beam carrying the first floor and its crude finish, may suggest that the ground floor was used for storage. Signs of an opening in the front wall may be remnants of an access to the first floor.

Although only a single element of the structure



Ground floor plan of the present Old Custom House. The walls shown in bold are remnants of the earliest build.

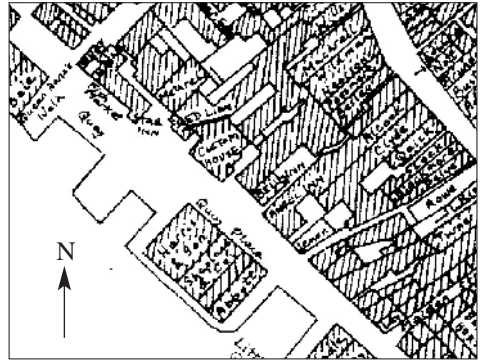
No. 9, the Strand, Barnstaple

Terry Green and Colin Humphreys

Recently Philip Milton, a member of NDAS, has opened a restaurant in the oldest building on the Barnstaple Strand and named it "The Old Custom House Restaurant". Philip Milton commissioned a study of the history and structure of No. 9, The Strand, of which the following is a digest.

Until the mid-sixteenth century the Barnstaple strand would have been literally the riverbank with nothing to hold back the occasional exceptionally high water. In 1555 the Mayor and Burgesses of Barnstaple petitioned Philip and Mary for a new charter, complaining that they had had to build a new wharf or quay 500 yards long and it had cost them £500 (Lamplugh 1983, 55). Although they received their charter, they would not have been able to develop the waterfront fully until they had purchased from Sir John Chichester, lord of the manor "all the void and waste grounds in or upon the Kay and Strande and also all the new buildyngs upon the same Kay and Strand" (Exeter Archaeology 1998, 3). From the date of their purchase, the Barnstaple quayside and strand entered a development phase which would form the basis of the town's growing prosperity.

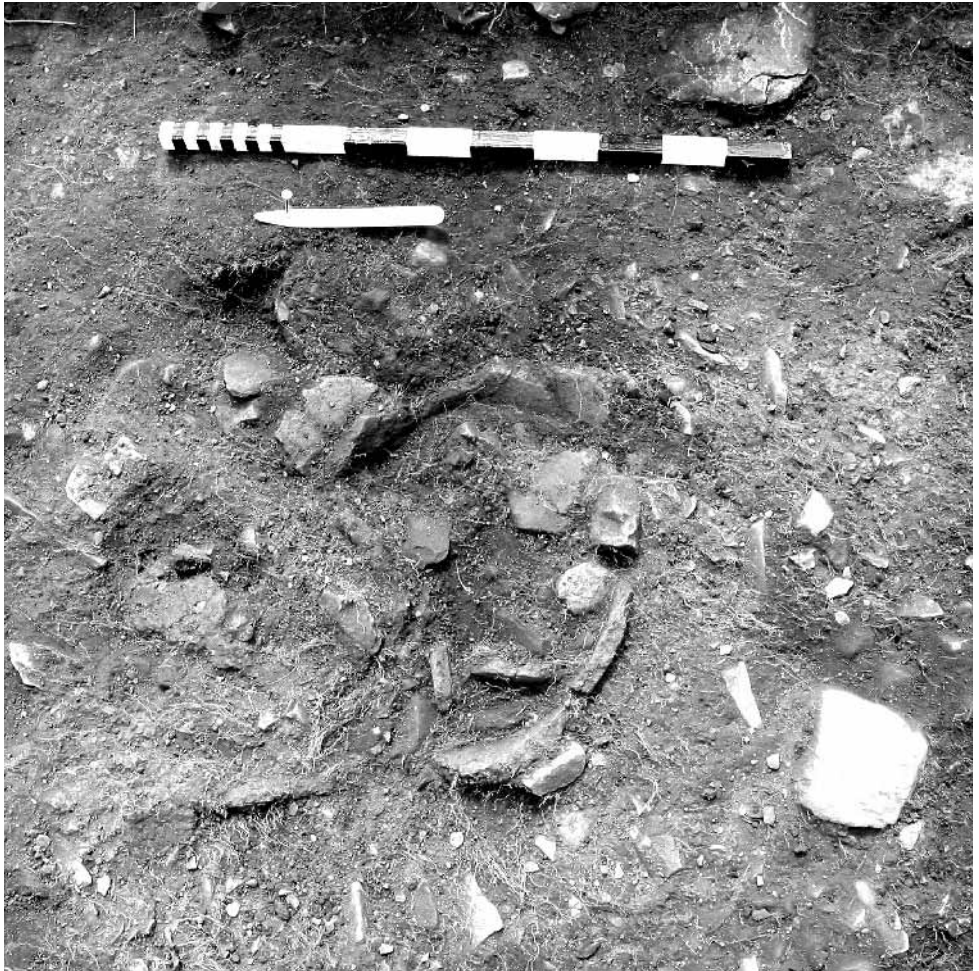
In fact, the erection of buildings on the north-east shore of the Taw must have begun in the medieval period. The chapel of St Nicholas, which formerly stood at the bottom of Crock Street or Cross Street, may be dated from its surviving depictions and descriptions to at least the 13th century. Until it was demolished in 1842, the chapel stood beside and partly over the West or Water Gate of the town,. With the medieval chapel incorporating a gate for ingress into the town, one may assume that, from the 13th



Extract from John Wood's town plan of 1843. The Custom House is shown standing proud of the building line along the Strand.

century at least, a continuous line of buildings, if not a wall or bank, lined the river bank above the high tide-line. This line is represented today by the north-eastern side of the Strand in which location stands the building known most recently as Jenny Wren's Tea Shop, somewhat earlier as West View Stores, but for a portion, at least, of its history as the Old Custom House.

In 1642, William Wood, collector of customs dues, was granted a 60-year term in "a linney now the Custom Howse" at a rent of 4 shillings. He also occupied the adjacent Red Lion Inn. A documentary strand can be drawn which indicates a continuity from William Wood through to a nineteenth century tradition that the present building was the "old custom house". In 1827 Richard Rowe Metherell (whose ancestors had acquired it from Wood) together with Samuel Bremridge bought the property outright from the mayor and aldermen of Barnstaple. Between 1827 and 1871 it changed hands six times, descending



Sherds of pottery in Trench 2. It was evident that much of the material was in its original position.

face. The purpose is to discourage animals from straying from the common onto cultivated land, and to make it easy to chase them out if they should somehow get in. A corn-ditch therefore represents the limit of cultivation (or controlled grazing) at the time of its construction, and for our purposes provides a clue to the development of land-use. As at East Middleton, the banks that we might suppose to be earliest are much more bulky than the later ones. In fact one bank near

the bottom of the combe is so massive (some 5 metres through the base and 2 metres high!), that on the 1840 tithe map it is shown as a strip of woodland. The reason for its great size is not at all clear and merits investigation.

Excavation:

In the previous newsletter, members will have seen the preliminary results of Ross Deans magnetometry survey of the Holworthy hillslope

enclosure. Further tweaking of the image brought into focus features that Ross recommended for close examination. Excavation began on 14th July. With the magnetometry as a guide, two trenches were pegged out, one of 8.5m x 1.5m running north-east to south-west (Trench 1) and one of 15m x 1.5m running north-west to south-east (Trench 2), the two meeting to form an elongated L. On deturfing we encountered the same spread of weathered stone as we had seen in 2002 lying immediately beneath the turf with a greater density of stone towards the circumference of the enclosure. This strengthened the conclusion that the enclosing bank was built of stone collected from the surface and that over the centuries the stones had been spread by ploughing.

In the process of exposing the stone layer in Trench 1, specifically in the area where the two trenches met, a number of flint flakes and small thumbnail scrapers were found. These were the first evidence we had that might point to a prehistoric date. More was soon to come, however. In the central section of Trench 2, the stones lay less densely and plough-soil was initially removed with a mattock. Working in this area, Alistair Miller noticed a soft spot. A probe with a trowel produced half a dozen fragments of thick, crumbly pottery and subsequent careful trowelling showed that we had the largely intact base of a vessel, the feel and fabric of which suggested prehistoric, specifically Bronze Age. The vessel appeared to have been sheared off by the plough, but fragments had not been scattered far. One piece lying somewhat apart was lifted and appeared to be a rim-shoulder and potentially identifiable. The rest was left in place and protected under an upturned wheelbarrow.

This exciting discovery came on the second day. On the third day came the rain and the scuppering of any plan to complete the excavation in a week. In the end we spent sixteen days

dodging between the spells of rain in the wettest weeks of an otherwise glorious summer! Nevertheless, our small, but reliable team worked on manfully.

In Trench 2 a broad band of heavy stone was exposed lying at right-angles to the section. At first it appeared that the stones might be lying in a ditch, but a half-section through the feature showed them to lie in a shallow depression. This band of stones seems to correspond to one of Ross's positive magnetic features and may represent the edge of a platform. In Trench 1, where the spread of the bank was densest, removal of the stones revealed a surface of small, flat stones in a single horizon and beneath them a gravelly layer overlying the orange subsoil. Provisionally we are regarding this as a preserved metalled surface corresponding to that seen in Trench 3 in 2002. In Trench 2 there were further finds of flint scrapers and two post-holes were identified.

After heavy rain had flooded the lower part of the excavation, the area where the two trenches met was suspiciously slow to dry out. This was where we had seen most of the flints and where a number of large stones protruded through the 'metalled' surface. Consequently a 1.5 x 1.5 metre excavation was carried out here. Beneath the layer of small flat stones and gravel, a gully was revealed which was filled with charcoal stained soil. The large stones lay in this gully, and when they were removed, charcoal, including pieces big enough for species identification, was found beneath them. We cannot be sure, but the gully, which was about 30 cm wide and 15 cm deep, seemed to show a curvature and may be part of the drip gully of a round house. Alternatively it may represent a drain. Within the charcoal stained fill was one abraded sherd of BA pottery and one flint flake.

The pottery in trench 2 having been left in

North Devon Pottery

Dr Alison Grant's new book

The formal launch of Alison Grant's new book on North Devon pottery has been put back to late November. There is no definite date at present. When we have more information, those members who have pre-ordered a copy will be informed. Otherwise, please keep an eye on the press or ask at the Museum of North Devon.

Let me take the opportunity to remind you that, in order to aid the publication, the Society has committed to buying copies at the special pre-publication price of £12 (instead of the £15 pre-publication price charged to members of the public and the bookshop price of £20). If you still have the order form that was sent to you a while back and have not placed your order, I would urge you to do so by sending the completed order-form with your cheque for £12 (£14 if you want the book sent to you) to Jane Green, NDAS Treasurer, 5 Chambercombe Park Terrace, Ilfracombe EX34 9QW. In case you've lost it, a copy of the order form is included with this newsletter. At present, there are about 20 copies still available.

NDAS Annual Dinner

The NDAS Annual Dinner will not, as previously announced, be at the Old Custom House Restaurant, but at the Chichester Arms, Bishops Tawton. If you wish to attend, please fill in the form found loose in this newsletter, and return it to Ann Mandry.

Community Landscapes Project at Hartland:

An Update.

Sean Hawken, the CLP manager (and incidentally one of our members) is very disappointed. Following the inclusion in the last NDAS newsletter of an account of work undertaken so far and work planned in Hartland, Wolfardisworthy and Clovelly parishes, NO volunteers from NDAS made contact or turned up on the June dates which were supplied. This is a great shame, because the Community Landscapes Project represents one of the best opportunities for local, non-specialist, but interested people to become involved in new research and new discoveries. The Hartland, Wolfardisworthy and Clovelly area, with its monastic background and wealth of prehistoric and medieval archaeological evidence is potentially one of the most interesting in the county. Any members living in that direction would find a couple of day's volunteer work helping out with survey very rewarding. The Hartland Society are the volunteers on the spot, but members of NDAS are eagerly invited to contribute.

As it stands, palaeoenvironmental work is underway, pollen cores having been sub-sampled, but not yet analysed. Documentary work is going ahead in the Devon County Records Office and further abandoned medieval farmsteads are being sought in the study area. These may be discovered as earthworks, and it is with the survey and recording of these that assistance is currently required. Sean Hawken will be very, very pleased to hear from anyone able to offer an occasional Saturday. He can be contacted at the CLP office in Exeter on 01392 263851 or by email at s.d.hawken@exeter.ac.uk. To find out more about CLP, visit the website www.ex.ac.uk/devonclp, where you will also find the NDAS website.

The Historical Metallurgy Society Annual Conference Exmoor September 2003

Trevor Dunkerley

NDAS was one of the co-hosts to this conference and as a member of HMS it was my privilege to represent NDAS. The conference was over 3 days and held at Dunster with over 70 delegates in attendance.

After a reception and dinner on Friday, four fascinating presentations, with a welcome address by Dr. Nigel Stone, National Park Officer, Exmoor stimulated our interest. Rob Wilson-North (Exmoor National Park Authority) offered an introduction to the archaeology of Exmoor followed by Dr. Gill Juleff (University of Exeter) who spoke about the Exmoor Iron Project so far. Mick Atkinson talked about the South-West and the South Wales iron trade, and Dr. Peter Cloughton (University of Exeter) discussed silver mining landscapes: Carlisle to Combe Martin.

On Saturday the delegates divided on two full day field trips, one visiting Colton Pits (recently cleared iron mining pits), Clatworthy reservoir (Romano-British iron smelting site), Brendon Hills (19th century mining sites) and Horner Wood (medieval and later woodland management, charcoal production and iron working sites).

The other field trip visited Combe Martin (lead/silver mining and processing) Sherracombe Ford excavations (Romano-British iron smelting site) and Roman Lode (early iron mining site).

After dinner in the evening we gathered for 7 short 10-minute contributions from Dr. Tim Young, Peter Crew, Dr. Gill Juleff and others.

On Sunday morning we gathered for five half-hour presentations. Tim Mighall and Peter Crew spoke about the environmental impact of medieval iron bloomeries. The Exmoor Iron Project offered 3 presentations by students followed by Simon Timberlake speaking on Medieval lead smelting at Cwmystwyth in mid-Wales. Adam Sharpe (Cornwall Archaeology Unit) offered a very interesting insight into the use of GIS techniques to map the mining landscape, and I concluded the conference with a presentation on the joint report by English Heritage on the excavations in Combe Martin and 16th/17th century silver/lead smelting debris.

Presentation stands of the excavations at Combe Martin and Sherracombe Ford provided added interest for delegates.

Exmoor Archaeology Forum

The Exmoor Archaeology Forum this year will be held in South Molton on Saturday 29 November. The subject is Exmoor Iron and the event will review the first two years of the Exmoor Iron Project. We will be concentrating on the evidence for the Roman period through the recent work in the Brayford area. There will be a series of short

talks through the day, as well as displays and finds from the excavation.

The cost of the day is £12 (which includes tea and coffee). Prior booking is essential. For a booking form please contact Linda Kreczmer at Exmoor National Park on 01398 323665 or lskreczmer@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

place until we were ready for it, the intention was to lift it in a block. Taking advice from professional conservators Richard and Helena Jaeschke, we excavated around the mass down to bed-rock, enclosed it in a box of MDF, strapped it, protected it with cling-film and kitchen-foil, poured in plaster-of-Paris and then, cutting beneath the block with a spade, lifted it onto a metal sheet and transferred it to a baker's loaf tray (see cover picture). It was taken at once to the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon whence it was collected by the Jaeschkes, who are now working on it. We are gratified to find that it is in fact the intact base of a vessel now identified by Henrietta Quinnell as Middle Bronze Age Trevisker ware and one of very few found in North Devon or Exmoor.

The Society owes its thanks to all those who helped with the excavation. In particular, lifting the pot was a great success, and I must thank Alistair Miller, Roger Ferrar, Derry Bryant, Janet Daynes and Gordon Fisher for their valuable efforts. Thanks are due also to all who assisted in the dig; once again the co-operation of Phil and Julie Rawle of Holworthy Farm was invaluable. This year's excavation had its difficulties, but nevertheless our small, but reliable team gathered enough evidence to raise questions that need to be answered by further excavation in the future.

HF03D: Inverted for the sake of stability, the base of the pot is revealed. (The hands belong to Richard Jaeschke and Henrietta Quinnell).



Sherracombe Ford 2003

June Aiken (with additional contributions from Jim Knights)

After joining Dr. Jill Juleff and first year students from Exeter University at Sherracombe last year and enjoying myself, I readily agreed when I was asked if I would like to join the team again this year. Once I had overcome the problem of transport to the site, i.e. on the back of Jim Knight's quad bike, an experience second to none, I arrived at the site having missed most of the hard work of removing turf and top soil.

There was a lot of speculation by the new group of first year students as to what might be found. Their ideas ranged from pottery to 'Viking hordes'. After a few days of painstaking digging in one of the new trenches they came face to face with reality when a great deal of excitement was produced by the unearthing of a quantity of charcoal. This was about the highlight of this particular trench.

The main focus of interest was around the site of last year's excavation, that is, the working-platform at the top of the major slag dump through which a trench was previously dug. The backfilled soil was removed by a small mechanical digger and then the site was trowelled to clean it. It was still as impressive this year as last. The decision was made to break through the smithing floor which had been found last year. This proved easier said than done, as the floor was very thick and very hard. Hammers and bolsters gave way to angle-grinders and drills, and finally pieces of the floor were removed for further investigation in the laboratory. Several sites of possible furnaces were cleared one of them intact to a depth of 0.75m and near to it a quantity of iron. There were further signs of furnace activity around the site; in one case there were indications of a very large



The search for truth: June Aiken doing her bit at Sherracombe Ford

furnace, but this remains to be excavated. (There will be a further week of excavation in October.) Quantities of Romano-British pottery were found, most of it away from the central working area, and of course there was the familiar slag. Soil samples were taken and sent for analysis. At a new site a little way from the main trench, there was evidence of iron being forged into implements. And there is a bit of mystery hanging over the discovery of a slate-lined box containing quartz. More questions were raised and hopefully laboratory investigation will answer them.

Sherracombe Ford is a very large site and it is a shame that, for the moment, this project has completed its brief. Next year's excavation will be in a different location. Perhaps future generations will re-open this site and extract even more information from what we have left untouched.

I look forward to the results of all the laboratory investigations and tests so that I will know what we were looking at and what we found!

and interpret discrete features/areas. Geochemical survey works in a spatial dimension (analogous to geophysics) and on an intra- site basis, not on a landscape scale. The technique requires the removal of soil samples (c. 5g of soil) from the soil profile and subsequent analysis of the concentrations of heavy metals. Soil samples should always be taken below the topsoil. Detailed high resolution work requires small sample intervals mainly of 1m or 2m. By using small sample intervals the location and extent of features related to metalworking can be accurately mapped and defined. In addition larger sample intervals (up to 5m as a maximum) can be used to locate large scale metalworking remains such as Romano-British slagheaps. The results of the geochemical survey can also give information on the process that was occurring, for example, where copper impurities are found within an iron-smelting site.

The prospection of metal-working remains has been largely ignored until recently when the pioneering work of Crew (1997; 2002) and Dean (2001) developed the use of magnetometry survey to map and date iron-working features. When magnetometer survey is combined with geochemical survey a very powerful metalworking prospection tool is formed. For example, the magnetometer survey can identify a heating event (e.g. a furnace) and a structure (e.g. a house), whilst the geochemical survey can identify what the heating event was used for (e.g. copper smelting) and what the building was used for (e.g. lead ore processing).

The potential for application in North Devon (and the South-West) is almost limitless.

Combined geophysical and geochemical surveys have been carried out so far on three hillslope enclosures. A pattern is starting to emerge of small-scale localised iron production on some of these sites, representing a glimpse of the prehistoric manufacturing base of such metals. Similarly, combined magnetometry and geochemical survey has been used on the Romano-British iron-processing site at Sherracombe Ford, with startling results. A furnace location and an intact smithing floor within a workshop were accurately mapped.

The prospection for metal-working residues within the archaeological record has moved into a new era. We are now able to detect exploitation and use of metals from the Bronze Age through to the Industrial Period, through using sub-surface prospection. In summary, the application of geochemical survey to finding metal-working deposits has a large potential. The execution of a geochemical survey requires careful consideration, but when properly used provides a wealth of information that is not available through other techniques. However, in common with many other archaeological approaches, it is best used in conjunction with other geoprospection techniques. The combination of geochemical survey with geophysical (magnetometer) survey has been particularly fruitful.

Geochemical Survey:

Geoprospection methods for detection of metalworking foci

C. J. Carey Dpt. of Archaeology, University of Exeter



The iron-smelting furnace built by ACE for Brayford's Roman Fun Day (Note the late Iron Age quad-bike!)

structure (which a seventy-year-old ex-student suggests may have been the old school goose house). Dr. Gill Juleff gave a talk to a full house on the Exmoor Iron project and how it relates to our knowledge of Roman North Devon. And ACE Archaeology produced the finale by tapping slag from their furnace. We await chemical analysis to see whether an iron bloom was produced.

Over 500 people attended the event, and enjoyed it. The day's success was due to the efforts of over eighty volunteers including village teenagers, the W.I. catering team, the local fort builders, NDAS and ACE. Alison Mills's team produced a wonderful souvenir programme for the day and filled a very supportive administrative role.

The Brayford primary school children will remember this term's Roman Invasion Project.

Chris Carey is a PhD student at Exeter. Having worked at Sherracombe Ford and having visited the Holworthy Farm site, he has offered the following description of a valuable new technique.

All Geophysical work referred to in this article is the work of Substrata Ltd, Archaeological Geoprospection. For further details please contact Ross Dean, e-mail: archaeology@substrata.co.uk

The aim of this piece is to explain how geochemical survey can be applied to find evidence of metalworking and how this can be applied within North Devon, in a general sense. Geochemical survey is a powerful archaeological prospection tool, which has a huge potential in exploring the rich metallurgical heritage of the South West.

Geochemical survey is a much-underused tool within archaeological investigation. This under-utilisation of a potentially powerful technique is the result of continual misapplication of geochemical survey in previous archaeological work. There have been many suggested and applied uses of geochemical survey, but these have invariably ended with ambiguous results. The only proven and robust application of geochemical survey has been to find field evidence of metalworking, based on the development by Carey (2003 and forthcoming) and Carey and Dean (forthcoming).

Geochemical survey directly measures the levels of heavy metals deposited into the environment. The technique can be used to identify areas over which metalworking was occurring and can also be used to identify, map

Medieval Remains at Glencoe, Kentisbury

Des Morgan

It all started back in February 2003. Whilst I was digging a foundation trench for a conservatory wall, a large section of stonework appeared, cutting through the trench. Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on your point of view, at this point, I called in friend, neighbour and archaeologist, Colin Humphreys. Without hesitation he said, It looks like a wall to me!!

With further cleaning, a very solid, well built,

75cm wide, stone wall emerged from under the crazy paving. It was at this point that work on the conservatory ceased and the archaeology began. Many of the sherds of pottery which I had extracted from the initial conservatory trench, were found to be medieval (13th/14th century)

View (looking west) of the 75cm wall, showing a blocked doorway and a section of lime-ash floor



and one piece was identified as Saxo-Norman (pre 1200).

Having received no archaeological training or experience at the time, I was rapidly introduced to the pleasures of context sheets, drawing boards and basic principles. [Don't stand on the side of the trench. Don't dig holes etc]

Excavation continued, as did the wall ...

The stonework ran for approximately 8 metres in an east/west direction, continuing under our Victorian house and toward the external wall of a neighbouring house. A succession of blocked doorways and new openings were seen in the wall. The foundation stones themselves sat on a cut/worn shillet surface externally, stepping up through the width of the wall to a layer of redeposited shillet internally. Fragments of a variety of floor surfaces were noted: lime-ash floor, flagstones, but mainly cobbles.

As I wanted to complete my conservatory, this now became a rescue operation. So with the help of a grant from NDDC (organised by the Society) with which to employ a professional excavator, the remains were pursued under the floor of the room which was to become the conservatory. Under concrete and various demolition layers a large area of cobbles was found intact. These sat on natural and/or redeposited shillet. Fortunately, the four square metres of concrete that was removed revealed a split-level within the room: cobbles to the west and a higher level of compacted soil/shillet to the east. Between the two areas, post pads, postholes and a cut shillet sill trench were found, suggesting a screen separating the two levels. The remains of a brick hearth/oven were discovered, set in the compact soil/shillet within the eastern higher level. Finds included not only large quantities of medieval and later pottery but also, excitingly, a bone comb.

Everything has now been painstakingly

recorded, and four months after digging my initial trench, I've eventually managed to get some concrete into the hole and make a start on the conservatory! Huge thanks are due to the many people who have helped, visited, advised and encouraged during my initiation into the arcane world of archaeology, not least my patient and long-suffering girlfriend, who only wanted a nice comfortable conservatory in the first place. After such an experience I had no choice but to join the society! (The girlfriend will be declining that opportunity!).

A full report on the excavation should be available some time after the conservatory is completed.

It has to be said that not everyone at Glencoe was thrilled at having archaeologists digging around. Zoë, the daughter of the house, for one!

The Archaeologists **By Zoë Gee (aged 12)**

Archaeologists, archaeologists;
Fifty men in our house.
Drink our tea, don't wash our cups,
Scrape as quiet as a mouse.

Archaeologists, archaeologists,
Find a piece of stone!
Is it a pot?
Is it a fork?
Oh, my God, its a comb!

Archaeologists, archaeologists,
Scrape, scrape, scrape all day!
Interesting this, interesting that!
Why don't they go away?!

PLEASE COME BACK ANOTHER DAY!!



Invaders and invaded at the gate of the fort at Brayfordium!

attacking the Celts with their weapons of mass destruction! The senator led a negotiation and it was agreed that both parties should demonstrate how their skills could benefit the community. The chieftain left with a scroll stating their agreement and a promise that he would be taught how to read it! The Celts (ACE Archaeology), who had been busy smelting iron since very early in the day, returned to their bellows and furnace, while the soldiers gave an exhibition of their marching drill and gave Latin drill instruction to all the children present.

At 1-00 p.m. the soldiers sat down to a magnificent banquet produced to Roman recipes,

while volunteers and the public were fed with Roman fare washed down with wine and mead (and Coca-Cola). After lunch the school children performed a rap, a play, and a fashion parade which they had prepared during the previous week. They also displayed workbooks and projects they had produced .

In the school grounds members of NDAS together with Ross Dean demonstrated their Time-Team skills, with three test pits, and a real-time geophysics demonstration on the school football pitch. Onlookers were shown finds of local pottery, 19th century slate pencils, Romano-British iron smelting slag and the possible base of a

At the request of Mr. George Payne, a 2x1m test pit was placed in his garden to uncover an external wall and floor of what was known in the village over the last 200 years as the tithe barn. The building was unusual in that it had carved stone mullioned windows, was of two storeys with substantial 80cm walls. The purpose of the excavation was to offer a date for the building and to seek clues to its origins. The excavation provided several surprises and the data will be assembled this winter in a report.

July brought the National Archaeology Weekend with seven archaeological or historical events with which the public could become involved. Over 500 persons attended the various events with a high percentage of villagers attending, which is very encouraging.

July also saw the commencement of a second test pit, 3x2m, in the garden of Dr. Margaret Eames to determine the extent of the silver/lead slag discovered last year. A large quantity of large oval beach stones were uncovered, all of Hangman Grit and clearly brought round by sea from Heddon's Mouth. Their purpose is still something of a mystery. The excavation is now to a depth of 2.3m with some very interesting contexts and much 16th century slag. English Heritage Centre for Archaeology has now published the report of the previous two years work. It is Report 79/2003 and entitled Lead Smelting Waste from the 2001-2002 Excavations at Combe Martin, Devon, ISSN 1473-9224. A copy is lodged in the Combe Martin Library.

September brought 40 members of the Historical Metallurgy Society to the village to view the excavations in Dr. Eames garden and at Harris's Mine Shaft. Mike Warburton and other members of CMSMRPS showed them around Mine Tenement. The archaeological work in the village certainly impressed members of the society and several important contacts were made.

Brayford Roman Fun Day

Jim Knights

In the last newsletter Chris Preece reported on the Roman education pack that was being prepared for the Brayford primary school children. At that time plans were being formed for an event on National Archaeology Day, July 19th which, for the children, would represent a memorable conclusion to their project. On the first day of the summer holiday, therefore, every child returned to school dressed either as a Roman or a Celt to find many of the adults similarly clothed.

Next to the school, the village hall had suddenly been transformed into a Roman fort with a new façade five metres high and fifteen metres long. Inside the children and the public found the hall full of exhibits relating to Roman history with opportunities to handle materials and to discuss exhibits with experts and skilled crafts people. At 11-30 a.m. a trumpet announced that Romans had arrived in the village. Most of the children rushed down to the river bridge, where they saw a group of Roman soldiers (Isca Contubernium) marching in full armour towards the hall. In spite of the disguise, the children quickly recognised the fifth soldier, their headmaster, John Wilsher! One soldier, already surprised by the children's greeting, claimed he had stayed in step all through the village, but as he turned into the village hall car park the sight of a Roman fort in front of him caused him to falter.

A verbal skirmish broke out when the local Celtic chieftain arrived with his well armed henchman. They complained to the soldiers and a Roman senator (who had been hanging about all morning) about the way the Romans were

The Dartmoor Archaeology and Bracken Project

Gordon Fisher

The Dartmoor Archaeology and Bracken Project was set up by Dr Sandy Gerrard in 1999, its main aim being to 'examine and quantify the physical and chemical impact of bracken rhizomes on sensitive archaeological deposits in a granite upland context'. The Teigncombe site (below Kes Tor near Chagford) was chosen because, firstly it is a roundhouse and as such is likely to have the depth of deposits and stratigraphy that are susceptible to bracken damage; and secondly its enclosed nature will make analysis of the phenomena much easier.

Because of the nature of the research we have had to pay strict attention to the position of finds,

bracken rhizomes and their relationship to each other. This was achieved by three-dimensionally plotting all finds, and taking several contour surveys per context. The bracken itself also came under scrutiny with a pre-excitation survey, which plotted the position of every stipe in the roundhouse, measured its length and number of fronds. The rhizomes themselves were plotted by photogrammetry, cut and measured as they were removed. This has continued with only slight

Digging inside the Teigncombe Bronze Age roundhouse (NDAS member Bob Walters in the baseball cap)



variations for the past three seasons, until now. This season at Teigncombe was slightly different from previous years, because ACE Archaeology Club had joined forces with Dr Sandy Gerrard to help with the insurance and general logistics of the dig, which meant that there was a lot more work for ACE members both before and after the event. It was as ever, however, a thoroughly enjoyable affair.

The weather was kind to us (some days too kind), so no days were lost to rain. Of the twenty or so diggers, thirteen were ACE members and three were NDAS members. This year the actual excavation was more like people expect of archaeology, with only the baulks between the four main trenches containing large numbers of the dreaded rhizomes to be cut and measured (Ah, statistics! Don't you just love em!). Several features were uncovered, one being a very nice threshold stone across the doorway, and another a possible posthole. Unfortunately not all of the baulks were cleared out from the interior as planned, although we did manage to get them down to just a few inches above the occupation surface over most of it, so it is all ready and waiting for us to finish off next year.

Sandy tells me that there are a total of 640 finds from the site. Over 400 of these were found this year and provide dating material from Middle Bronze Age pottery to a Late 20th Century yoghurt pot! Many of the finds come from a narrow band which appears (to me) to cross a paved area leading into the centre of the roundhouse from the door. So far there has not been any real indication of a hearth. There are lots of tantalising glimpses of black soil, flecks of charcoal and interestingly stained stones, but nothing that says, yes, that is a hearth. That's not to say that we haven't got our suspicions, but we shall have to wait another year to follow them up.

Fishweirs Update 2

Chris Preece

We stood in disbelief. No gale, no hail, no horizontal rain, no driving wind or bitter temperature - and we were surveying a fish weir! On both Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th September we assembled at Horsey Ridge, Braunton Marsh (no. 7 on the Denham chart of 1832) and quickly shuffled off our thermals, pullovers etc., delighting in the unseasonably clement weather.

Horsey Weir is very large, but is variably visible owing to movements of the sand ridge. On the Saturday, Terry, Alistair and myself were tasked with determining the present extent of visible remains, cleaning seaweed from the stakes and revealing those stakes which we suspected were concealed. Our assumptions regarding the apex of the weir were challenged when we found three large posts running off obliquely from the main line of posts. These may represent a gate or sluice or even possibly a basket/funnel structure. In this regard, an extract from an interview with Sid Crick (Appledore fisherman, born 1913) by DArcy Andrew is revealing.

Interviewer: And you said that the Horsey Weir had two gates which opened with the tide?

S.C.: Opened at the tide and closed on the ebb. That's how it used to work.

Interviewer: And so there'd have been quite a nice pool of water there?

S.C.: Oh yeah, there would've been - three or four foot deep - they used to go out there swimming.

On Sunday, Mary Cameron (a veteran of the Allens Rock survey), new member David Grenfell and myself were joined by Barry Hughes, of Appledore Maritime Museum, who arrived in

appropriate style by boat, mooring up just down from the weir in the narrow creek.

We followed a similar routine to that used previously, namely marking all visible stakes with masking tape (subsequently removed in sequence), setting up a base line and using offset measurements to record (the drawing up can then be done later). Slack water gave us a good window of opportunity, and we were able to work from 12.30 until 3.30pm. On the north side, a central line of stakes with evidence of wattle was apparent, presumably the earlier phase of build. Two external lines of posts with a

rubble in-fill suggest a more substantial later structure.

Seventy-four measurements were taken from which a clearer picture of this north side of the weir as well as the return will hopefully emerge, in particular the finer details of construction. Careful analysis of sequence will be critical prior to selection of samples for dating material.

It remains, when the south side of the weir is more fully exposed, to complete recording. Then, detailed surveys of three weirs will be in place.

My thanks to all volunteers for a most productive week-end.

Archaeology in Combe Martin 2003

Trevor Dunkerley

It has been a busy year with three separate excavations, but thanks to the input of members of the Tiverton Archaeology Group, Jim Knights of NDAS, and members of the Combe Martin Silver Mine Research and Preservation Society, each excavation has progressed well and advanced our understanding of the village and its inhabitants over the centuries.

A training dig was commenced in May adjacent to Harris's Mine Shaft. The purpose was to provide training for members of CMSMRPS in the techniques of excavation, recording and report publication. The site, predominantly a spoil waste tip, was chosen with a view to discovering the floor and capstan remains of the horse whim used to haul waste from the mine, and the remains of the horse stable. The excavation also offered the opportunity to cut through the waste tip to try to determine the date of the sinking of Harris's shaft, and the date it was widened. This would also provide evidence of the mineral ores extracted and also of medieval mining through the waste of



Trevor Dunkerley addressing Combe Martin villagers on National Archaeology Day

this period being brought to the surface by 19th century miners. The excavations will continue over the next 2 years.

More dates for your diary

The DAS Winter Meetings Programme

DAS winter meetings are held at the Royal Albert Museum, Exeter, unless otherwise stated.

Meetings are held at 8.00 pm. Admission free to DAS members.

(In 2004 the Devon Archaeological Society will be celebrating its 75th Birthday.)

Wed 22nd Oct 03 Prof Stephen Mitchell: Archaeological Survey in South West Turkey: the Rediscovery of Pisidia.

Mon 3rd Nov 03 Prof. Graeme Barker on The Niah Cave Project: 40,000 years of human-rainforest history.

Mon 1st Dec 03 Martin Watts on Victualling the Navy in Plymouth and Portsmouth in the 17th-19th Centuries.

Wed 17th Dec 03 Rob Wilson-North, Exmoor National Park: The archaeology of Exmoor recent work, new insights. To mark the first lecture in the 75th anniversary year we invite you to a glass of wine/juice and a mince pie before the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Thurs 22nd Jan 04 DAS Joint Meeting with the Prehistoric Society. Prof Dr L.P. Louwe Kooijmans, University of Leiden: The Hardinxveld excavations: a Dutch paradise for Mesolithic archaeology. The Prehistoric Society will kindly be providing a wine

reception before the lecture at the RAM Museum at 7.15 p.m. to which DAS members are invited.

Mon 2nd Feb 04 Kevin Camidge on HMS Colossus.

Wed 11th Feb 04 Evening Seminar on the Lower Palaeolithic by Prof Alan Straw at Berkeley House. Booking essential. Contact, from January: Sheila Gibbons: 01392 257884.

Tues 17th Feb 04 Dr Susan Walker, British Museum: Actium and the Art of Victory.

Mon 1st Mar 04 Albertine Malham: Tin Smelting in Devon and Cornwall.

Sat 6th Mar 04 Exeter University DoLL Dayschool: Landscapes of Later Roman Britain.

Wed 10th Mar 04 Evening Seminar on the Neolithic by Mrs Henrietta Quinnell at Berkeley House. Booking essential. Contact from January: Sheila Gibbons: 01392 257884

Wed 24th Mar 04 Behind the scenes at the RAM Museum, Exeter, 7-9pm. Booking essential. Contact: 01392 665356.

Mon 5th Apr 04 Dr Keith Ray: Romano-British Herefordshire.

Wed 14th Apr 04 Behind the scenes at the Barnstaple and North Devon Museum, 7-9pm. Booking essential. Contact: 01271 346747.