

# DEVON EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY PROJECT

## Rapid Assessment of archaeological interventions

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On behalf of:  
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archaeology

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by AC archaeology in 2014 on behalf of Devon County Council and presents the results of a rapid survey of intrusive archaeological fieldwork within a number of towns within the present administrative county of Devon. It will be used to inform the Devon Extensive Urban Survey project that is being coordinated by Devon County Council.
- 1.2 Devon has a long history of investigations of its urban centres, with early work taking place at Newton Abbot, Totnes and Barnstaple. Field intervention pre-dating the introduction of PPG16 in 1990 included work by the Devon Committee for Rescue Archaeology's Urban and Religious Houses Surveys on development sites as well as road schemes. With the introduction of developer-funded archaeological investigations fieldwork increased, both in these larger towns and Devon's smaller rural towns. Early fieldwork was largely carried out by the Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit (later Exeter Archaeology), and more recently by other local contractors principally AC archaeology and South West Archaeology.
- 1.3 The topic of Devon's towns was chosen by Peter Weddell (then head of Exeter Archaeology) for his presidential speech to the Devon Archaeological Society. This has not been published in full, although two articles summarising the known archaeology of Devon's main market towns appeared in the Society's *Newsletter* (Weddell 2003; 2004).
- 1.4 The document presents a summary overview of Devon's historic towns (as defined by the County Archaeologist), based on Weddell's 2003 speech, and updated to include more recent fieldwork undertaken since 2004. It includes the results of intrusive fieldwork only (evaluation, excavation and watching brief) where archaeological features were found, and does not include desk-based assessments or historic building recording. The following sources have been used:
- Weddell's 2003 presidential speech (Weddell 2003; 2004, and unpublished lecture notes),
  - Published articles in the Proceedings and Newsletters of the Devon Archaeological Society,
  - Unpublished grey literature reports and the English Heritage Excavation index held by the Archaeology Data Service,
  - Data held at the Devon County Historic Environment Record (for Newton Abbot and Totnes), and
  - The Heritage Gateway website (for background information).
- 1.5 The geographical scope of each town has included the historic cores, and modern expanded towns as of 2013. Investigations in outlying settlements or the wider parishes have not been included within the survey.
- 1.6 **Sources Consulted**  
Weddell, P., 2003, 'Devon's small towns Part 1: The early towns', *Devon Archaeological Society Newsletter*, **85**, 8-9.  
  
Weddell, P., 2004, 'Devon's Small Towns, Part 2 including planted towns', *Devon Archaeological Society Newsletter*, **87**, 6-7.

## **2. BARNSTAPLE**

**2.1** The town of Barnstaple is located in North Devon at the head of the Taw estuary, at its lowest crossing point. The name *Beardastapol* first appears on coins dating between 979 and 1016 (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 25). During the early medieval period Barnstaple was a market town with a mint, and is believed to have been granted borough status shortly before 979 (Hoskins 1954, 327). The parish Church of St Peter was dedicated in 1318, and is located within the centre of the town. The principal earliest monument within the vicinity comprises the Iron Age hillfort at BurrIDGE, to the northeast of the town. Archaeological discoveries within the town include a Saxon cemetery, later covered by the moat and rampart of a Norman motte and bailey castle (Miles 1986), and numerous pottery assemblages dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. Excavations have also revealed evidence relating to the medieval town defences, concentrated in an area on the eastern periphery in between the north and east gates (Markuson 1980, 67), as well as a pottery production site to the north of the castle.

**2.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Medieval*

A collection of pottery dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods was retrieved from a sand bank within the River Taw west of the castle and included both complete vessels and wasters; it is believed to represent a collection of waste that had been dumped in the river from nearby kilns (Devon County Council 2007, 1).

### *Post-medieval*

Part of a wall believed to be 16th century in date, marking the rear of a burgage plot, was exposed during the excavation at The Three Tuns, High Street, along with part of an undated cobbled floor surface (Gillard *et. al.* 2011). Cobbled surfaces and sections of a red brick wall were exposed during an evaluation at Strand Mews (Walls and Wapshott 2011). A series of post-medieval features and a section of the sea wall were recorded during groundworks associated with the Barnstaple Western Bypass in 2007 (EHNMR 1497790).

A series of deposits containing fragments of pottery dating to the 16th century were exposed at 6 Litchdon Street. The quantity of pottery and presence of wasters and kiln furniture indicates pottery production was taking place nearby. A 19th century retaining wall for the garden, and a circular well that had been deliberately backfilled in the 19th century or later, were also recorded (Gillard 2009). Medieval or early post-medieval garden soils along with a number of probable pits were exposed during an evaluation at 26 Bear Street (Humphreys *et. al.* 2010).

## **2.3 Summary**

Recent archaeological work in Barnstaple has revealed little evidence of its early history, although there have been a number of investigations that have provided evidence of surfaces and structures dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods, together with further evidence for pottery production within the vicinity of the River Taw.

## **2.4 Published Sources**

Devon County Council, 2007, 'Tide of Time: Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery Discovered on Sand Bank in the River Taw.' *Devon Archaeological Society Newsletter* **96**, 1-2.

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 1*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

Markuson, K., W., 1980, 'Excavations on the Green Lane Access Site, Barnstaple, 1979.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **38**, 67-90.

Miles, T.J., 1986, 'The Excavation of a Saxon Cemetery and Part of the Norman Castle at North Walk, Barnstaple.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **44**, 59-84.

## **2.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service**

Gillard, M., 2009, *Archaeological Watching Brief of Groundworks for the Construction of an Extension to the Rear of 6 Litchdon Street, Barnstaple, Devon*. Devon County Council Historic Environment Record Entry; South West Archaeology **BLS08**.

Recipient Museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon: accession no. NDDMS **2006.100**.

Gillard, M., Green, T., Laing-Trengove, D., and Walls, S., 2011, *The Three Tuns High Street Barnstaple, Results of a Desk-Based Assessment, Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished South West Archaeology report no. **110531**.

Recipient Museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon: accession no. NDDMS **2007.97**.

Humphreys, C., Morris, B., Walls, S., and Waterhouse, R., 2010, *26 Bear Street Barnstaple, Devon. Results of a Desk-Based Assessment, Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished South West Archaeology report no. **100928**.

Recipient Museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon accession no. NDDMS **2009.34**.

Walls, S., and Wapshott, E., 2011, *Strand Mews, The Strand, Barnstaple. Results of a Desk-based Study, Archaeological Evaluation and Historic Buildings Assessment*. Unpublished South West Archaeology report no. **111114**.

## **2.6 English Heritage NMR accessed via Archaeology Data Service Archsearch**

Barnstaple Western Bypass EHNMR 1497790

### 3. BIDEFORD AND NORTHAM

- 3.1 The town of Bideford lies on the west bank of the River Torridge. The town is first recorded in 1086 as *Bediford* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 87). The town was made a borough before 1217, and was given a market and a five-day fair in 1271 (Hoskins 1954, 336). The parish Church of St Mary has a tower dating to the 14th century, with the remainder of the church rebuilt in 1865.
- 3.2 Northam is located to the north of Bideford, and was first recorded in 1086 (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 102). The parish Church of St Margaret has a north aisle dating to 1593, but the church was largely restored between 1849 and 1865 (Hoskins 1954, 444). The principal earliest monument within the vicinity of these towns comprises a Bronze Age barrow located to the north-west of Bideford. Godborough Castle and Kenwith Castle are also located to the northwest of the town. Previous archaeological investigations within Bideford have produced limited evidence relating to medieval occupation, and the development of the town quay, while at East-The-Water undated river channels and post-medieval mining remains have been recorded along the line of the Industrial Link Road. No below-ground investigations have taken place within Northam.
- 3.3 In Bideford, recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

#### *Prehistoric*

Geoarchaeological and palaeo-environmental assessment was undertaken on a series of sediments recovered from a borehole on the foreshore of the River Torridge. The sediments included waterlogged plant and wood remains dating to the Neolithic period, and indicated a change in environment from a forest to more open conditions (Allen *et. al.* 2012). No direct evidence for human activity was recovered.

#### *Medieval*

A single medieval ditch was exposed during an evaluation at 81 Meddon Street in 2014 (Passmore and Cooke 2014).

#### *Post-medieval*

A collection of pottery waste was recovered from the Stella Maris Convent School, including a stratified group of pottery that contained sgraffito-decorated ware dated to the 1750's; the remainder of the material broadly dating to the late 17th century (Allan, Horner and Langman 2005). An evaluation on land at Chopes and Bridge Street Car Park revealed structures and deposits associated with 19th-century buildings. A possible medieval pit and ditch were present in the Bridge Street Car Park, with other post-medieval linear features, possibly marking property divisions. Within the Chopes Car Park, foundations for the Wesleyan chapel were exposed along with three graves, two of which had brick-lined vaults (Firth and Hughes 2010). Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at 6a The Quay and exposed a series of rubble deposits, with a construction cut for the 17th century wall of No. 6 The Quay visible below the rubble deposits (Walls 2012).

Two hedgebanks were recorded at the Caddsdawn Recycling Centre on the western edge of the town (Passmore 2007). They were on land characterised as 'medieval enclosures based on strip fields'. One bank was undated, whilst post-medieval pottery was recovered from the basal layer of the other bank.

### 3.4 Summary

Recent archaeological work has been mainly concentrated within the centre of the town of Bideford, and has primarily revealed evidence dating to the post-medieval period, including evidence for the town's industrial past.

### 3.5 Published Sources

Allan, J., Horner, B., and Langman, G., 2005, 'Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Pottery Waste from the Stella Maris Convent School Site, Bideford.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **63**, 167-203.

Allen, M.J., Cameron, N., Clapham, A.J., and Scaife, R., 2012, 'The Environment of a Neolithic Palaeochannel and the Sediment History of the Torridge at New Road, Bideford, Devon.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **70**, 25-45.

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 1*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

### 3.6 Sources from Archaeology Data Service

Firth, E., and Hughes, S., 2010, *Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation on Chopes and Bridge Street Car Parks, Bideford*. AC archaeology document no. **ACD126/2/0**.

Recipient Museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon accession no. **NDDMS 2009.88**.

Walls, S., 2012, *6a The Quay, Bideford: Demolition of Existing Building and Erection of Shop*. Devon County Council Historic Environment Record Entry; South West Archaeology project no. **BQ210**.

Recipient Museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon accession no. **NDDMS 2010.52**.

### 3.7 Unpublished Grey Literature

Passmore, A.J., 2007, *Caddsdawn Recycling Centre (planning application number 01/01583/2005). Watching brief during removal of hedgebanks*, DCC HER entry, Exeter Archaeology project no. 5723.

Passmore, A. J., and Cooke, P., 2014, *81 Meddon Street, Bideford, Devon, NGR SS 4509 2633, Results of historic building recording and an archaeological trench evaluation*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD969/2/0**.

## 4. CREDITON

4.1 Crediton is a market town in mid Devon. The earliest historical reference to Crediton is the birthplace of Winfrith/St Boniface in c.680, with a minster established here in 739. A see was established in Crediton in 909, but it was moved to Exeter in 1050 (Hoskins 1954, 379). The town was given borough status before 1238, and has developed from two settlement areas; *Eastern Town* or *Church Town*, and *Western Town* (Weddell 2003, 9). The principal earliest monument within the vicinity of the town comprises a small Romano-British villa located approximately 2km to the southeast of Crediton (Griffith 1988).

4.2 Excavations have been carried out around the church since the 1980s. The early excavations were unpublished, and only published in 2010 along with the results of later excavations (Allan, Passmore and Blackmore 2010). These are also summarised below, along with other archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town:

### *Romano-British*

Two fragments of Roman tile were exposed during excavations around the graveyard of the Church of the Holy Cross, but were found within post-Roman contexts (Durrant 2010, 151).

### *Early-Medieval and Medieval*

A series of excavations and watching briefs carried out between 1984 and 2007 near the graveyard of the Church of the Holy Cross have provided evidence of the early medieval topography of the area (Allan, Blackmore and Passmore 2010). Evidence dating to the Saxo-Norman period was identified during excavations at the site of the New Vicarage to the north of the churchyard, whilst several phases of boundary ditches were exposed together with a terrace containing material dated to the 11th to 14th centuries at 35 East Street.

Part of the late medieval college of the vicars choral was investigated along with an adjacent watercourse, as were two tenements located on East Street that were shown to have been occupied since the early 13th century. Stratified deposits up to 2.5m deep and ranging in date from the 12th/13th centuries through to the 19th century were exposed during an excavation in the church car park. Excavations at the Boniface centre on the east side of Church Lane revealed deposits up to 1.1m deep that had accumulated since the late medieval period (Allan, Blackmore and Passmore 2010).

At 35 East Street a bronze foundry (producing cauldrons with limited evidence for bells), dating to c. 1470-1550 has been excavated (Allan, Blackmore and Passmore 2010).

### *Post-medieval*

Later use of the vicars' choral and remodelling of the adjacent watercourse have been recorded. Part of a building and pit containing post-medieval pottery and horn cores were excavated at Hayward's School, on the south side of East Street, whilst to the east, the footings of four earth-bonded walls were exposed during a watching brief on the construction of a fire station on Charlotte Street. The earliest is believed to date to the 18th or 19th century (Allan, Blackmore and Passmore 2010).

A section of cobbled surface, believed to be a carriageway, was exposed during an evaluation at The Limes, East Street. Well-preserved below-ground remains of buildings that were associated with the mid-19th century Crediton Market were

exposed during an evaluation and watching brief at Parliament Square (Whiteaway 2009, 4). Industrial features and an underground domestic water tank have been excavated at the rear of 26-27 High Street (Passmore 2008).

#### **4.3 Summary**

Recent archaeological work within the historic core of CREDITON, in particular around the church, has revealed extensive evidence relating to the town's development from the early-medieval period onwards. The investigations have produced evidence for settlement, religious institutions, industrial activity and water management. From the survival of archaeological deposits across the town, it is clear that CREDITON remains an important archaeological resource.

#### **4.4 Published Sources**

Durrant, J. 2010, 'Appendix 1: The Roman Tiles,' pp.151-152, in Allan, J., Blackmore, S., and Passmore, A., 2010, 'Archaeological Investigations around CREDITON Parish Church, 1984-2007.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **68**, 113-198.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

Allan, J., Blackmore, S., and Passmore, A., 2010, 'Archaeological Investigations around CREDITON Parish Church, 1984-2007.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **68**, 113-198.

Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession nos **350/2006, 360/2006, 53/2007, 163/2007, 706/2007 and 371/2008**.

Griffith, F., 1988, 'A Romano-British Villa near CREDITON.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **46**, 137-142.

Weddell, P., 2003, 'Devon's small towns Part 1: The early towns', *Devon Archaeological Society Newsletter*, **85**, 8-9.

#### **4.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service**

Whiteaway, T., 2009, *Archaeological Excavation and Recording at Parliament Square, CREDITON*. Exeter Archaeology report no. **09.82**.

Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession no. **476/2008**.

#### **4.6 Unpublished Grey Literature**

Passmore, A.J., 2008, *Archaeological Recording at Nos 26 and 27 High Street, CREDITON, Devon*, Exeter Archaeology report no. **08.48**.



## **5. CULLOMPTON**

- 5.1** Cullompton is a small market town located close to the Devon/Somerset border. The town is first recorded in 880-5 as *Columtune* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 560). The parish Church of St Andrew is located on the eastern side of Cullompton and dates to the 15th-early 16th century. The principal earliest monument within the vicinity of the town comprises the Roman fort at St Andrew's Hill. At least two phases of use have been identified with two forts of differing sizes (Griffith 1984, 13; Simpson and Griffith 1993).
- 5.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Prehistoric*

Neolithic pits have been identified during an excavation on land between Knowle Lane and Tiverton Road (Rainbird forthcoming). Further Neolithic pits have been excavated to the west of St Andrew's Hill (South West Archaeology 2014). Recent excavations on the western side of Willand Road have exposed a pit containing Neolithic pottery and flint, along with a series of penannular ditch features that are likely to date to the Iron Age (Hood 2010).

### *Romano-British*

Three agricultural enclosures of Roman date have been revealed during the excavations on the western side of Willand Road; these contained material dating to the 1st-2nd centuries (Hood 2010). Nearby, a series of ditches and gullies that are likely to represent field boundaries were exposed during excavations at Shortlands Lane. A 1st century AD cremation was also excavated and an incised slate gaming board were recovered (South West Archaeology 2010; 2014). Further features including a trackway have been excavated to the east of St Andrew's Hill (South West Archaeology 2014). Part of an early Romano-British settlement has been identified at the Knowle Lane excavation site (Rainbird Forthcoming).

### *Medieval*

Watching briefs on the west side of Exeter Road and the High Street have revealed linear features associated with medieval burgage plots.

### *Post-medieval*

Evidence of domestic occupation was exposed during a recent excavation near St Andrew's parish church (Tyler *et. al.* 2010). A recent evaluation at land off Shortlands Lane revealed a large quarry pit (Mason 2010), with further evidence for quarrying revealed on land adjacent to Cullompton cemetery, Tiverton Road (Steinmetzer 2010). A previously unknown 18th-century brickworks was excavated at Knowle Lane (Hughes and Firth 2011; Rainbird forthcoming). Remains of a wall associated with the 19th-century school were exposed at Exeter Hill (Clarke 2010).

## **5.3 Summary**

Excavations have provided limited evidence relating to the medieval and post-medieval history of Cullompton, as the historic core of the town is largely occupied by private dwellings and shops, and as a result there has been less opportunity for discoveries relating to these periods. Instead, they have established that evidence of Romano-British settlement and agriculture exists in the northwest part of the town, in the vicinity of the Roman fort at St Andrew's. Evidence for earlier, prehistoric, activity has also been recorded in the same area and further to the north.

#### 5.4 Published Sources

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 2*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Griffith, F.M., 1984, 'Roman Military sites in Devon: Some Recent Discoveries.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **42**, 11-32.

Hood, A., 2010, 'Later Iron Age and Early Roman Settlement at Willand Road, Cullompton, Devon.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **68**, 61-84.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

Rainbird, P., forthcoming, 'Prehistoric and Romano-British remains and a Brickworks at Knowle Lane, Cullompton, Devon', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society*.

Simpson, S.J., and Griffith, F.M. 1993, 'Trial Excavation at the Roman Fort on St Andrew's Hill, Cullompton.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **51**, 149-159.

South West Archaeology, 2010, 'Romano-British Cullompton.' *Devon Archaeological Society Newsletter* **105**, 16.

South West Archaeology, 2014, 'SWARCH – Cullompton 2009, 2011', *Devon Archaeological Society Newsletter* **118**, 4-5.

#### 5.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service

Clarke, C.P., 2010, *Archaeological Monitoring and Recording During Construction of a new Library Building at Exeter Hill, Cullompton, Devon*. Devon County Council Historic Environment Entry, Arrowhead Archaeology reference **AA131**.

Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession no. **209/2010**.

Hughes, S., and Firth, E., 2011, *Land between Knowle Lane and Tiverton Road, Cullompton, NGR ST 0128 0730, Results of an archaeological trench evaluation*. AC archaeology document no. **ACD244/2/0**.

Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession no. **190/2010**.

Mason, C., 2010, *Land off Shortlands Lane, Cullompton, Devon: An Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Unpublished Context One Archaeological Services report no. **COAS/EVA/10/SLC**.

Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession no. **41/2010**.

Steinmetzer, M.F.R., 2010, *Archaeological Evaluation of a Proposed Cemetery Extension, Tiverton Road, Cullompton, Devon*. Exeter Archaeology report no. **10.15**.

Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession no. **214/2007**.

Tyler, K., Valentin, J., Allan, J., and Dean, K., 2010, *Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation at Cullompton*. AC archaeology report no. **ACD185/2/2**.

Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession no. **81/2009**.

## 6. DARTMOUTH

**6.1** Dartmouth is located on a steep hillside on the west bank of the Dart estuary. The town is first recorded in 1049 as *Daerentamuoa*n, and developed from two small settlements; Hardness to the north, and Clifton to the south (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 321). A borough had been created here by 1200 (Hoskins 1954, 383). There are three churches within Dartmouth; the Church of St Petroc dates to 1641-2 and is located within the castle precinct, the Church of St Saviour's dates to 1372, and finally the Church of St Clement dates to 1318. The principal monuments within the vicinity of the town comprise the castle, coastal battery and civil war defences, all located on a promontory at the mouth of the River Dart to the south of the town, along with Bayards Cove situated on the quayside.

**6.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Post-medieval*

A watching brief during improvement works to drainage on the north side of St Saviours Church exposed the eastern end of a brick lined vault, believed to be of mid-19th century date (Young 2009). Limited evidence for the remains of buildings depicted on historic maps was revealed beneath post-medieval levelling deposits during a watching brief at 2 School Steps (Passmore 2013).

### **6.3 Summary**

There has been limited archaeological work in and around Dartmouth, which is largely due to the dense occupation of the hillslope on which the town is established, and which offers only limited scope for redevelopment and therefore archaeological investigations.

### **6.4 Published Sources**

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 1*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

### **6.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service**

Passmore, A., 2013, *Land at Evelyn Cottage, 2 School Steps, Dartmouth, (NGR SX 87757 51191, Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD325/2/0**.

Recipient Museum: Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery accession no. **AR.2011.22**.

Young, G., 2009, *St Saviours Church, Dartmouth*. DCC HER Entry, Exeter Archaeology project no. **6489**.

Recipient Museum: Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery accession no. **AR.2009.7**.

## **7. EXMOUTH**

**7.1** Exmouth is located on the east side of the estuary of the River Exe. The town is first recorded c.1025 as *Exanmuoa*, and encompasses an area within the boundaries of two ancient parishes; Littleham and Withycombe Raleigh (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 591). The parish Church of the Holy Trinity originated as a medieval chapel in 1412 on Chapel Hill, with a new church built further to the southeast in 1823-25 (Hoskins 1954, 396). A rescue excavation in 1980 revealed occupation evidence dating from the 13th century onwards, with a small amount of Romano-British material that hints at settlement during this period (Weddell 1980). Excavations at Fore Street between 1982 and 1984 revealed remains dating to the late Saxon and medieval periods (Weddell 1986).

**7.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Post-Medieval*

Evidence for deposits associated with the construction of the Market House in c. 1830, or its demolition c.1869 when the formal public garden was created, were exposed during enhancement works at The Strand Inclosure (Steinmetzer 2010). On the seafront buried remains of the mid 19th-century sea wall have been recorded (Passmore 2006), along with structural remains of a mid-19th-century coastal battery and later overlying deposits (Passmore, *pers. comm.*, AC archaeology project no. ACD920).

### **7.3 Summary**

There has been little archaeological work carried out within Exmouth in recent years, and where investigations have taken place limited archaeological evidence has been revealed. Evidence relating to the town during the medieval and post-medieval periods is fairly limited as it is contained within an area largely occupied by private dwellings and shops, and as a result there has been less opportunity for discoveries relating to these periods.

### **7.4 Published Sources**

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 2*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

Weddell, P.J., 1980, 'Excavations at 3-5 Lower Fore Street, Exmouth.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **38**, 91-115.

Weddell, P.J., 1986, 'The Excavation of Medieval and Later Houses and St Margaret's Chapel at Exmouth 1982-1984.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **44**, 107-141.

### **7.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service**

Steinmetzer, M.F.R., 2010, *Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at The Strand, Exmouth, Devon*. DCC HER Entry, Exeter Archaeology project no. **7171**. Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession no. **106/2010**.

### **7.6 Unpublished Grey Literature**

Passmore, A.J., 2006, *Archaeological Recording during the Coast Defence Works at Exmouth, Devon 2006*, Exeter Archaeology report no. **06.83**.

## 8. GREAT TORRINGTON

8.1 Great Torrington is located on a high area of land that rises steeply above the River Torridge. The town is first recorded in 1086 as *Tori(n)tona* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 123). The borough of Torrington dates to the late 12th century, and thrived with markets and fairs. The parish Church of St Michael was largely destroyed in 1646, but was rebuilt in 1651 with restorations in 1864 (Hoskins 1954, 503). The principal earliest monument within the vicinity of the town comprises Great Torrington Castle. Excavations undertaken here in 1987 confirmed the survival of below-ground remains, revealing medieval masonry foundations and a rampart of clay and stone (Higham and Goddard 1987).

8.2 Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Medieval*

Further medieval structures and deposits were exposed at the castle when the bowling club house was extended (A.J. Passmore, *pers. comm.*). Medieval soils were also recorded during an evaluation at the Bluecoats School (Stead and Parker 2013). A medieval ditch and a series of features dating to the post-medieval period were exposed during an evaluation on land to the rear of Palmer House and 10 and 12 New Street in 2007 (EHNMR 1524436).

### *Post-medieval*

The discovery of a large dump of waster pottery sherds on common land led to an exploratory excavation which revealed layers of stratified pottery ranging in date from the mid-17th century through to the early 18th century. These may relate to a post-medieval pottery kiln that was previously discovered at Castle Hill, although no record was made of the kiln at the time (Allan, Cramp and Horner 2007).

Terracing and deposits associated with two burgage plots, and structures relating to buildings identified on historic mapping were exposed during an evaluation at 18 Potacre Street (Gillard 2008).

## 8.3 Summary

There has been little archaeological work carried out within Great Torrington in recent years, and where additional investigations have taken place to those described above little archaeological evidence has been revealed. Much of the evidence relating to the town during the medieval and post-medieval periods is fairly limited as it is concentrated in an area currently occupied by private dwellings and shops where there is less opportunity for investigations to take place. Survival of medieval deposits and structures associated with the castle is good, and are in places, deposits and features of post-medieval date.

## 8.4 Published Sources

Allan, J., Cramp, C., and Horner, B., 2007, 'The Post-Medieval Pottery at Castle Hill, Great Torrington, North Devon.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **65**, 135-181.

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 1*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

Higham, R.A., and Goddard, S., 1987, 'Great Torrington Castle.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **45**, 97-103.

**8.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service**

Gillard, M., 2008, *Archaeological Evaluation Trenching on the Site of Proposed Town Houses in the Grounds of 18 Potacre Street, Great Torrington*. Devon County Council Historic Environment Record Entry; South West Archaeology.  
Recipient Museum: Barnstaple and North Devon accession no. **NNDMS: 2008.48**.

**8.6 English Heritage NMR accessed via Archaeology Data Service Archsearch**

Land to the rear of Palmer House and 10 and 12 New Street EHNMR 1524436

**8.7 Grey Literature Reports**

Stead, P., and Parker, R., 2013, *Bluecoat Primary School, White Lane, Great Torrington, Devon, NGR SX 8104 5981, Results of an archaeological trench evaluation and historic building appraisal*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD626/2/0**.

## **9. HONITON**

**9.1** Honiton is located in the valley of the River Otter along the old main route between Exeter and London. The town is first recorded in 1086 as *Honeton* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 639). A borough was founded here between 1194 and 1217. The former parish Church of St Michael is located to the east of the main town and dates to the late 15th century/early 16th century (Hoskins 1954, 412). The main road that runs through the centre of Honiton is the former Roman road that connected the forts at Dorchester and Exeter. The principal sites within the vicinity of the town comprise prehistoric, and Roman military and civilian activity, discovered during excavations for the A30 road improvements. The earliest site consists of an enclosed farmstead of middle/late Bronze Age date at Hayne Lane. A Roman military base and later Romano-British settlement were discovered at Pomeroy Wood, to the west of Honiton, with further evidence of Romano-British settlement at Gittisham Forge (Fitzpatrick, Butterworth and Grove 1999). Prehistoric activity within the town is represented by the site at Dowell Lane.

**9.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Medieval*

Three ditches representing boundaries of former medieval burghage plots were exposed during monitoring on land to the rear of 160 High Street in 2013 (Bampton 2013).

### *Post-medieval*

During a trench evaluation on land north of Field View, rear of 46-52 High Street, two boundary ditches, conforming to the historical pattern of properties, and a pit, all of probable post-medieval date were uncovered, along with post-medieval horticultural soils (Pears and Rainbird 2013).

On land adjacent to Vine Passage, evidence for clay extraction (possibly for brickmaking) has been uncovered along with a small contemporary structure (Weddell 2012). Later post-medieval structures, depicted on historic maps, were also recorded.

## **9.3 Summary**

Archaeological discoveries within the town are limited as evidence relating to the medieval and post-medieval periods is mostly contained within the historic core of the town which is largely occupied by private dwellings and shops. Where recent investigations have taken place within the historic core of the town few features or deposits of historic date have been recorded; there are few recently-discovered finds of earlier date.

## **9.4 Published Sources**

Fitzpatrick, A.P., Butterworth, C.A., and Grove, G., 1999, *Prehistoric and Roman Sites in East Devon: the A30 Honiton to Exeter Improvement DBFO Scheme*, 1996-9. Salisbury: Wessex Archaeology.

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 2*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

## 9.5 Grey Literature Reports

Bampton, J., 2013, *Land to the rear of 160 High Street, Honiton, Devon, Results of a Desktop Appraisal and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. South West Archaeology Report No. **131018**.

Pears, B., and Rainbird, P., 2013, *Land North of Field View, Rear of 46-52 High Street, Honiton, Devon, NGR Centred on ST 1648 0068, Results Of An Archaeological Trench Evaluation, Planning Reference East Devon District Council 12/0622/FUL (Condition 2)*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD809/2/0**.

Weddell, P., 2012, *Land adjacent to Vine Passage, Honiton, Devon, NGR ST 16200 00727, Results of an archaeological watching brief, Planning ref. East Devon District Council 10/1837/FUL*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD290/2/0**.



## **10. KINGSBRIDGE**

- 10.1** Kingsbridge is a small town in south Devon, situated at the head of the Salcombe estuary. The town is first recorded in 962 as *cinges bricge* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 305), after a bridge that linked the two royal estates of Alvington to the west and Chillington to the east (Hoskins 1954, 419). The town received a market charter in 1219, and by 1238 it was a borough. The parish Church of St Edmund is located within the centre of the town and dates to the 13th century, with additions made in the 15th century (*ibid.*, 420).

- 10.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Post-medieval*

A watching brief at the Quay Travel Site revealed evidence of reclamation deposits relating to the 17th century quays, along with building footings associated with buildings represented on historic mapping (Freeman 2006).

### **10.3 Summary**

Evidence relating to the town during the medieval and post-medieval periods is limited as it is mostly contained within the historic core of the town which is largely occupied by private dwellings and shops, and as a result there has been less opportunity for discoveries relating to these periods. Where recent investigations have taken place within the historic core of the town, with the exception of the Quay Travel Site, no features or deposits of archaeological interest have been recorded.

### **10.4 Published Sources**

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 1*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

### **10.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service**

Freeman, J., 2006, *Archaeological Watching Brief on Groundworks at the Quay Travel Site, Kingsbridge*. Devon County Council Historic Environment Record Entry; South West Archaeology

## 11. NEWTON ABBOT AND KINGSTEIGNTON

11.1 Newton Abbot is located at the head of the Teign estuary. The town is first mentioned in the late 12th century as *Nova Villa* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 473). The modern town is the result of the joining of two rival boroughs; Newton Abbot and Newton Bushel (Hoskins 1954, 442). The parish Church of St Mary dates to the 15th and early 16th centuries, and is located within the centre of the town. The principal earliest monuments within the vicinity of the town comprise the Iron Age hillforts at Milber Down Camp and Berry's Wood, and the motte and bailey earthwork at Castle Dyke. Excavations of seven houses along Wolborough Street in 1983 revealed that the street frontage had been occupied since the late 13th century (Weddell 1985).

11.2 A series of interventions were carried out within the urban core of Newton Abbot which pre-dated the introduction of PPG16 in 1990. The extent of these sites has been mapped, and they have been provided as part of this project in shapefile format. These interventions are summarised below:

1. An excavation was carried out at 15-17 Highweek Street, Newton Abbot in 1975 by the Devon Committee for Rescue Archaeology (MDV102976).
2. An excavation was carried out at Nos 1, 3, 13, 19, 21, 23 and 29 Highweek Street (West Side), Newton Abbot in 1980 by the Devon Committee for Rescue Archaeology (MDV102983 and MDV102984).
3. Archaeological excavations were carried out at Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot by Exeter Archaeology in 1983.

11.3 Kingsteignton is located to the north of Newton Abbot, and is now incorporated within the modern town. It is first mentioned c.1050 as *Tegntun* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 478). The Church of St Michael was rebuilt in the 15th century and is located towards the southern end of Kingsteignton. Excavation of the enclosure at Berry Meadow, located to the north of St Michael's Church, revealed it was occupied by the 9th century, and possibly as early as the 7th century. Finds and features of Romano-British date were also discovered at this site (Weddell 1985). A large number of sites were also investigated along the route of the Newton Abbot and Kingsteignton By-pass (the A380), including a weir, a group of domestic and industrial buildings, strip lynchets and fields, and a quarry (Gallant 1977; 53). There was also evidence for post-medieval settlement.

11.4 Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Prehistoric*

Possible prehistoric ditches were excavated during an evaluation at land west of Old Exeter Road (Hughes 2007).

### *Romano-British*

A series of wide, shallow ditch features of possible Romano-British date were excavated during a strip, map and sample excavation at The Grove, Area 3, Jetty Marsh (Hughes 2008).

### *Early Medieval and Medieval*

An early medieval ditch has been recorded under Wolborough Street (A. Passmore pers. comm.).

Medieval remains that comprised drainage ditches, postholes and pits, and a series of walls and surfaces dating to the 15th and 16th centuries, were revealed at 23, 25 and 27 Wolborough Street (Gent, Jones and Leverett 2007).

#### *Post-medieval*

Walls dating to the post-medieval period were also exposed at 23, 25 and 27 Wolborough Street (Gent, Jones and Leverett 2007). A series of linear ditches were excavated during an evaluation at The Grove, Area 3, Jetty Marsh, most of which appear to date to the post-medieval period (Hughes 2008). Pits dating to the post-medieval period were exposed during an evaluation at 20-22 East Street in 2008 (EHNMR 1469057).

Excavation and watching briefs to the south of Bradley Lane revealed extensive remains of the tanning pits that formed part of the Vicary's tannery. Wood and brick-lined pits were discovered along with cobbled and flagged surfaces. Excavation of trenches at Wolborough Street East and Wolborough Street West revealed evidence of a 13th century boundary ditch, a 14th century hearth, and a stone-lined drain and surfaces dating to the 15th century (Crooks and Oakley 2006).

### **11.5 Summary**

Recent archaeological work in and around Newton Abbot has established that evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British activity exists immediately to the north of the town. Early medieval, medieval and post-medieval remains have also been uncovered and have provided further evidence of buildings and industrial areas within the town. Overall, the archaeological interventions indicate that significant archaeological deposits and features survive within the historic core of the town. The whole of the historic core of the town therefore has the potential to contain archaeological deposits and features relating to the historic settlement, as well as earlier activity.

Where recent archaeological work has taken place in Kingsteignton no deposits of archaeological interest have been exposed. However, the earlier investigations highlight the potential for the centre of the town to contain buried archaeological deposits.

### **11.6 Published Sources**

Gallant, L., 1977, 'Archaeology along the Route of the Newton Abbot and Kingsteignton By-pass.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **35**, 53-62.

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 2*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

Weddell, P.J., 1985, 'The Excavation of Medieval and Later Houses at Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **43**, 77-109.

Weddell, P.J., 1987, 'Excavations within the Anglo-Saxon Enclosure at Berry Meadow, Kingsteignton, in 1985.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **45**, 75-96.

### **11.7 Sources from Archaeology Data Service**

Crooks, K., and Oakey, N., 2006, *Bradley Lane and Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot: Excavations and Watching Briefs*. Unpublished Archaeological Investigations report.

Gent, T.H., Jones, P., and Leverett, M., 2007, *Building Recording and Archaeological Excavation at 23, 25 and 27 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot, Devon*, Exeter Archaeology report no. **07.21**.

Hughes, S., 2007, *Archaeological Trench Evaluation on Land West of Old Exeter Road, Newton Abbot, Devon*, Exeter Archaeology report no. **07.100**.  
Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession no. **205/2007**.

Hughes, S.D., 2008, *An Archaeological Evaluation, Strip, Map and Sample Excavation and Watching Brief on Land at the Grove, Area 3, Jetty Marsh, Newton Abbot, Devon*, Exeter Archaeology report no. **08.02**.  
Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession no. **399/2007**.

Steinmetzer, M.F.R., 2014, *Archaeological monitoring and recording at No. 6 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot, Devon*, Devon County Council Historic Environment Record Entry, Oakford Archaeology  
Recipient Museum: no archive required

### **11.8 English Heritage NMR accessed via Archaeology Data Service Archsearch**

20-22 East Street EHNMR 1469057

## **12. OKEHAMPTON**

**12.1** Okehampton is located immediately to the north of the Dartmoor National Park in West Devon. The town is first recorded in c. 970 as *ocmund tune* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 202). The parish Church of All Saints dates to the 15th century and stands to the west of the main town, where the original Saxon settlement lay. The principal earliest monument within the vicinity of the town comprises a promontory fort, believed to be Iron Age in date, with an earlier enclosure in the southeast corner, located approximately 2km to the southeast of the town. A Roman fort with a stretch of Roman road to the southeast, and a series of five associated enclosures are located to the northeast of the town, with a second enclosure, likely to be a fortlet, to the southwest (Griffith 1984 13). The medieval castle and associated deer park are situated to the southwest of the town, just outside its present limits.

**12.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Roman*

The course of the Roman road leading to the fort has been established by geophysical survey and evaluation excavation (Pears 2014; see also Devon County Council 2014). Just outside the fort, adjacent to the Road, further Roman features have been identified.

### *Post-medieval*

Evidence relating to boundaries dividing former burgage plots, which are shown on historic mapping, was revealed at 21a High Street (Stead 2007).

## **12.3 Summary**

Evidence relating to the town during the medieval and post-medieval periods is limited as it is mostly contained beneath the present town where there has been less opportunity for discoveries; most new development is taking place on Greenfield sites on the northeast side of the town. Here the line of a Roman road leading to the fort has been confirmed, although other investigations to the east have been largely negative.

## **12.4 Published Sources**

Devon County Council, 2014, 'Rome's Road leads to Okehampton!', *Devon Archaeological Society Newsletter* **188**, 1,3, 6.

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 1*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Griffith, F.M., 1984, 'Roman Military Sites in Devon: Some Recent Discoveries.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **42**, 11-32.

## **12.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service**

Stead, P., 2007, *Archaeological Evaluation at 21a High Street, Okehampton*. DCC HER Entry, Exeter Archaeology project no. **6178**.

## **12.6 Unpublished Grey Literature**

Pears, B., 2014, *Land off Crediton Road, Okehampton, West Devon, Centred on NGR SX 60241 96104, Results of an archaeological trench evaluation and auger survey*, AC archaeology document number **ACD630/2/1**.

### 13. SEATON

**13.1** Seaton is a small town located on the west side of the River Axe. The earliest reference to a settlement here was in 1005 when it was referred to as *Fleote* after the Domesday Book manor of Flute. The name *Seton(e)* is first mentioned in 1238 (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 629). The parish Church of St Gregory is situated near the centre of the town and dates to the early 14th century, with later additions and alterations. The principal earliest monuments within the vicinity of the town comprises Hawkesdown Camp hillfort, which lies to the east on the east bank of the River Axe, and the promontory fort at Seaton Down located to the northwest of the town. Evidence for Roman settlement, along with other activity dating to the later Iron Age through to the late Roman period, has been discovered at Honeyditches (Holbrook 1987). A possible Roman fort lies at Couchill, immediately to the west of the town.

**13.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

#### *Prehistoric*

Flint scatters have been identified during an evaluation at The Underfleet (Currie 2001). Evidence of land drainage and field division ranging in date from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval period, as well as a possible drip-gully, were identified during an excavation at Harepath Hill (Firth *et. al.* 2008). Two parallel ditches, possibly representing part of one side of an enclosure, were excavated during a watching brief in Scalwell Lane (Clarke 2011). At Court Farm, pits, ditches and a hearth have been excavated. Finds recovered from the fieldwork may indicate that these are Bronze Age (A. Passmore, *pers. comm.*; AC archaeology project no. ACD385).

#### *Medieval*

A single medieval pit was exposed during an evaluation at 39 Fore Street (Rainbird 2013).

### **13.3 Summary**

Recent work in and around Seaton has established that evidence of prehistoric activity exists both within and to the north of the town. Frequent finds of prehistoric flints have been discovered, but these have been recorded as residual finds with little correlation to archaeological features or deposits.

Little archaeological evidence of historic settlement has yet been identified within the town of Seaton. The historic core of the town is largely occupied by private dwellings and shops, and as a result there has been little opportunity for development and archaeological discoveries. Where recent investigations have taken place within the historic core of the town few features or deposits of historic date have been recorded.

### **13.4 Published Sources**

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 2*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Holbrook, N., 1987, 'Trial Excavations at Honeyditches and the Nature of the Roman Occupation at Seaton.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **45**, 59-74.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins

### **13.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service**

Clarke, C.P., 2011, *Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Seaton Pre-school, Scallwell Lane, Seaton, Devon*. Arrowhead Archaeology report no. **AA 125**.

Currie, C.K., 2001, *An Archaeological Evaluation at The Underfleet, Seaton, Devon*. Unpublished CKC Archaeology report.

Firth, E., Richards, J., Robinson, S., and Valentin, J., 2008, *A Proposed Development at Harepath Hill, Seaton, Devon, NGR SY24289185, Results of an archaeological trench evaluation*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD06/3/0**.

Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession no. **316/2008**.

### **13.6 Grey literature Reports**

Rainbird, P., 2013, *Land at 39 Fore Street, Seaton, Centred on SY 24584 90221, Results of an archaeological trench evaluation, Planning reference: East Devon District Council, 12/0492/MOUT (Condition 8)*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD748/2/0**.

## **14. SOUTH MOLTON**

**14.1** South Molton is a small market town in North Devon, located on the main route between Barnstaple and Taunton. The town is first recorded in 1086 as *Sut Moltona* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 346). During the Saxon period South Molton was a large village. It was given borough status between 1150-1170 (Hoskins 1954, 438). The parish Church of St Mary Magdalene dates to the 15th century and is located within the centre of the town.

**14.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Post-medieval*

A series of ditches, most of which relate to former boundaries represented on historic mapping, were exposed during an evaluation on land adjacent to South Molton Hospital, Widgery Drive (Milby 2010). Features of post-medieval date, including wall foundations, a post hole, and a boundary ditch possibly relating to a property, were exposed during an evaluation at Amory House, 125 East Street in 2007 (EHNMR 1524426).

### **14.3 Summary**

Archaeological evidence relating to the town during the medieval and post-medieval periods is limited. The historic core of the town is largely occupied by private dwellings and shops, and as a result there has been little development and opportunity for discoveries.

### **14.4 Published Sources**

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 2*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

### **14.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service**

Milby, S. 2010. *Land adjacent to South Molton Hospital, Widgery Drive, South Molton*. Unpublished Context One Archaeological Services, project no. **COAS/EVA/09/SMD; COAS/EVA/10/SMD**.

Recipient Museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon accession no. **NDDMS: 2009.77**

### **14.6 English Heritage NMR accessed via Archaeology Data Service Archsearch**

Amory House, 125 East Street EHNMR 1524426



## **15. TAVISTOCK**

**15.1** The town of Tavistock is situated on either side of the River Tavy in West Devon. The town is first recorded in 981 as *Tauistoce* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 217), received a market charter in 1105, and was made a borough c. 1185 (Hoskins 1954, 485). The parish Church of St Eustace was founded in the early 13th century, and is situated within the centre of the town. The earliest monument within the vicinity of the town comprises the late Iron Age/Romano-British round at Trendle, to the northeast of Kelly College, whereas the principal monument within the town comprises the Benedictine Abbey. Investigations at Tavistock Abbey during the 1990's has shown that much of the medieval archaeology has been preserved beneath up to 2m of deposits, as a result of two episodes of replanning of the town in the 18th and 19th centuries by its major landowners, the Dukes of Bedford (Stead 1999).

**15.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Post-medieval*

Investigations at the site of the former Mount Foundry Ironworks produced evidence for a number of phases and alterations during its use as a foundry, together with its later use as a woollen mill (Trevarthen 2009). Remains of the 19th century Bone Mill were recorded at 142-152 Plymouth Road (Allum 2009), and the remains of a building depicted on historic mapping were revealed during an evaluation of land at Lower Brook Lane (Steinmetzer 2010). Archaeological monitoring at Evan's Weir revealed evidence for a sequence of structures relating to the extraction of water from the River Tavy including revetment walls, the weir and fish passes (Passmore and Pink 2011). Part of a cobbled surface believed to be associated with the 19th century cattle market was exposed during a watching brief at the Guildhall Square Car Park (Stead 2012). A slate-lined drain and overlying cobbled surface were observed within the Bedford Hotel (Passmore 2010); they are interpreted as being associated with the 1820s hotel.

### **15.3 Summary**

Where investigations have taken place in recent years they have revealed evidence dating to the use of the town during the post-medieval period, mainly its industrial past. Little archaeological evidence relating to the medieval town has been exposed since earlier investigations have shown these are sealed by up to 2m of deposits dating to the 18th and 19th centuries (Stead 1999), and excavations to this depth are rarely required.

### **15.4 Published Sources**

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 1*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

Stead, P.M., 1999, 'Archaeological Investigations at Tavistock Abbey 1997-1999.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **57**, 149-203.

Trevarthen, M., 2009, 'Mount Foundry, Tavistock: An Early 19th Century Iron and Brass Foundry in West Devon.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **67**, 217-247.

## 15.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service

Allum, C., 2009, *142-152 Plymouth Road, Tavistock, Devon: An Archaeological Watching Brief*. Context One Archaeological Services project ref. **COAS/WBF/09/PRD**.

Recipient Museum: Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery accession no. **AR.2009.10**.

Passmore, A.J., 2010, *Historic Building Recording at the Bedford Hotel, Tavistock, Devon, 2008*, Exeter archaeology Report no. **10.51**.

Passmore, A.J., and Pink, F., 2011, *Archaeological Recording at Evans Weir, Parkwood Road, Tavistock, Devon*. Unpublished Exeter Archaeology report no. **11.14**.

Recipient Museum: Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery accession no. **AR.2010.32**.

Stead, P., 2012, *Guildhall Square Car Park, Tavistock, Devon: Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief, Tavistock Abbey Scheduled Monument no. 29679*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD421/2/0**.

Recipient Museum: Plymouth City Museum accession no. **2012.8**.

Steinmetzer, M.F.R., 2010, *Archaeological Trench Evaluation at Lower Brook Lane, Tavistock, Devon*, Exeter Archaeology Report no. **10.41**.

Recipient Museum: Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery accession no. **AR.2010.15**.

## 16. TEIGNMOUTH

**16.1** Teignmouth is a seaside town situated on the east side of mouth of the River Teign. The town is recorded as *Teignemudan* in 1148 (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 503). Teignmouth was formerly two separate towns; East and West Teignmouth, and there are therefore two parish churches. The Church of St James in west Teignmouth retains a medieval tower but the rest of the church was rebuilt in 1820, whereas the Church of St Michaels in east Teignmouth is mentioned in a Saxon charter of 1044, but the present building is late Victorian (Hoskins 1954, 492). The earliest monument within the vicinity of the town comprises an enclosure of more than one phase, located near Higher Coombe Farm, to the northwest of the town. The enclosure was identified from aerial photography and is believed to date to the Iron Age/Romano-British period (Griffith 1983).

**16.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Prehistoric/Roman-British*

At Higher Exeter Road an Iron Age hillslope enclosure, that continued in use into the Romano-British period, has been identified (Pears 2014).

### *Post-medieval*

Part of a cistern constructed of stone and brick, with a vaulted brick roof, was exposed during a watching brief at 18 Northumberland Place (Sims 2009).

## **16.3 Summary**

There has been little archaeological work carried out within Teignmouth in recent years, and where investigations have taken place limited archaeological evidence has been revealed. The historic core is largely occupied by private dwellings and shops, and there has therefore been less opportunity for development and opportunities for discoveries. Expansion of the town northwards onto Greenfield sites may provide the opportunity to discover and investigate prehistoric and Romano-British activity.

## **16.4 Published Sources**

Gower, J.E.B., Mawer, A., and Stenton, F.M., 1931, *The Place-names of Devon: Part 2*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Griffith, F.M., 1983, 'The Identification of Four New Enclosure Sites North of Teignmouth.' *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **41**, 63-68.

Hoskins, W. G., 1954, *A New Survey of England: Devon*. London: Collins.

## **16.5 Sources from Archaeology Data Service**

Sims, R., 2009, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at 18 Northumberland Place, Teignmouth, Devon*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD41/2/0**.

Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter accession no. **25/2009**.

## **16.6 Unpublished Grey Literature**

Pears, B., 2014, *Land adjacent to Higher Exeter Road, Teignmouth, Devon, Centred on NGR SX 9323 7476, Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD773/2/1**.

## **17. TIVERTON**

**17.1** The earliest reference to Tiverton is in 880-5 where it is called *Twyfyrde* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 541). The town is situated in between two rivers; the Exe to the west, and the Lowman to the east. A settlement existed here in the Saxon period. The town was granted borough status between 1193 and 1217 (Hoskins 1954, 495). The parish Church of St Peter dates to the 15th century and is located on the western side of the town, adjacent to a castle. The principal earliest monument within the vicinity of the town comprises the Iron Age hillfort at Cranmore Castle, immediately to the south of the town. The Roman fort at Bolham, to the north of the town, is also a significant monument, and excavation here has also produced Bronze Age pottery indicative of an earlier phase of activity pre-dating the fort (Maxfield 1991).

**17.2** Recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town comprise the following:

### *Prehistoric*

A prehistoric tree-throw which contained early Neolithic pottery, lithics and a rubbing stone was exposed during an excavation at Wayland's on the northern edge of the town (Leverett and Quinnell 2010). A group of pits containing fire-cracked stone and charcoal that dated to the Bronze Age were exposed during an evaluation on land east of Tiverton (Haines 2012).

### *Medieval*

Evidence for medieval urban development fronting onto Newport Street from the 13th century onwards, along with demolition in the 17th century during to the Civil War, was identified during an evaluation and excavation at Newport Street (Green, Gillard and Humphreys 2009).

### *Post-medieval*

In the centre of the town post-medieval pits have been found within the central market area (A.J. Passmore, *pers. comm.*). At 44 Fore Street, to the southeast of the market, cultivation soils dating from the 16 to 18th centuries were exposed during an evaluation. Industrial buildings of 18th- and 19th-century date, along with a 19th-century greenhouse were also found (Passmore 2006). Possible garden features have been recorded at the Clare House Surgery on Newport Street (Sworn 2013).

Away from the historic core of the town, limited archaeological remains including a ditch and a pit, along with cobbled surfaces and brick walls of a brewery were exposed during an evaluation at the former Tiverton and District Hospital (Passmore 2010). Features, including robber trenches, pits and foundations, relating to the 18th and 19th century workhouses were exposed during an evaluation at Belmont Hospital (Passmore and Steinmetzer 2010).

During an evaluation at Tumbling Fields, 19th- and 20th-century industrial features, overlying post-medieval levelling deposits were identified (Wessex Archaeology 2007).

## **17.3 Summary**

Recent archaeological work in and around Tiverton has established that evidence of prehistoric activity exists both to the north and east of the historic town. Excavations within the town centre have generally been limited in scope, but in many cases have revealed remains dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods.

#### **17.4 Published Sources**

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## **18. TOTNES**

- 18.1** Totnes is located on the west bank of the River Dart, at the lowest crossing point of the river. The earliest reference to the town is on coinage dating to 979-1016 where it is called *Totanaes* (Gower, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 334). The parish Church of St Mary stands on the north side of the High Street and was rebuilt between 1432 and 1460 (Hoskins 1954, 506). The principal earliest monuments within the vicinity of the town are Totnes Priory, which comprises the buried remains of a late 11th-century Benedictine priory located in the northeast corner of the Anglo-Saxon burh of Totnes, and the remains of Totnes Castle, which overlies part of the Saxon town. There a number of Scheduled Monuments within the town including a medieval holy well at Leechwell, and the ruins and buried remains of a chapel at Warland.
- 18.2** The townscape retains the shape of the burgh, along with medieval settlement along the routeway to the south to the bridge, and the road west to Kingsbridge. Earlier excavations within this historic core have identified the remains of domestic settlement dating to the medieval and post-medieval period (e.g. Griffiths and Griffith 1984). Archaeological work has also been carried out at Totnes Castle. For example following a result of a landslip in 1999 (Brown and Gent 1999), when a series of construction layers for the motte were revealed, dating from the early Norman period, together with a layer representing the former ground surface during the Saxon/Early Norman period.
- 18.3** A series of interventions were carried out within the urban core of Totnes which predated the introduction of PPG16 in 1990. These interventions are summarised below. The extent of these sites has also been mapped, and they have been provided as part of this project in shapefile format.
1. A coin hoard was recovered from 23-25 High Street during the 1930's.
  2. An excavation was undertaken at Totnes Castle by the Ministry of Works in 1953.
  3. A watching brief was carried out in Totnes Churchyard in 1983 by Debbie Griffith.
  4. An excavation was undertaken at 39 Fore Street by Devon County Council in 1984 (Devon HER Ref: EDV5411).
  5. An excavation was undertaken at 61-65 Fore Street, Totnes (Devon HER Ref: MDV41821) by the Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit in 1985 (see also Devon HER Refs: MDV103553, MDV103575 and MDV103574).
  6. A well was observed in North Street, Totnes by James Bellchambers in 1988 (Devon HER Ref: MDV34393).
  7. An excavation was undertaken by Dr Ronald Lampert at the Evans and Cutler garage site, North Street, Totnes in 1989 (Devon HER Ref: MDV46801).
  8. An excavation was undertaken at 70 Fore Street by the Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit in 1989.
  9. Observations were also undertaken by James Bellchambers at 48 High Street in 1990.
- 18.4** A summary of some observations relating to the defensive circuit of the town was published in 2004 (Dyer and Allan 2004), and includes earlier observations. All are summarised along with more recent archaeological discoveries within the historic core and modern expanded town:

#### *Early medieval/Anglo-Saxon*

A watching brief at the Evans and Cutler garage site on North Street exposed part of the northern defences of the *burh*, which were shown to consist of a c.9m wide rampart with a c.5m deep ditch. Part of the town ditch was also exposed during excavations at 17 South Street. Excavation of the ditch showed primary deposits dating to the 11th or 12th century, with the defences having most likely been abandoned in the 14th or 15th century (Dyer and Allan 2004). Part of the medieval town wall was exposed during excavations at the rear of 54 High Street fronting onto South Street. Earlier observations during works at 48 High Street identified a construction trench for the foundation trench of the wall (Dyer and Allan 2004).

A watching brief during the construction of a new building in 2008 revealed three wall footings that are believed to be associated with a medieval gatehouse, along with a stone foundation which may have formed an abutment for a bridge leading into the castle (Brown 2008).

Excavations at the rear of 50 High Street produced evidence of occupation activity in the form of pits, postholes and a well, dating from the 11th century through to the 16th century (Hughes 2012).

#### *Medieval*

A medieval rubbish pit containing a small assemblage of pottery of Totnes-type ware dating to the 13th and 14th centuries was exposed during a watching brief within the former garden of Jacada, South Street (Rainbird 2014). Two possible pits were exposed during an evaluation at land to the rear of 46 Fore Street, one of which was dated to the 14th or 15th century and had been cut through a medieval soil layer, whilst the other was sealed by this soil layer (De-Villiers and Kerr-Peterson 2014).

#### *Post-medieval*

A series of 17th-18th, and 19th-20th century levelling deposits were exposed during a watching brief at 71 Fore Street (Steinmetzer 2006). Deposits relating to post-medieval made-ground and landscaping have been found during investigations at Monksway, Ramparts Walk (Steinmetzer 2009), and North Gate Lodge (Waterhouse, Freeman and Elliot 2008). A 19th- or 20th-century water tank was exposed at the Mansion House, 36 Fore Street (Farnell 2014). A stone-capped drain of Post-medieval date and post-medieval garden soils have also been recorded at Jacada, South Street (Rainbird 2014).

#### *Unknown*

A heavily disturbed basal course of a wall was exposed during a watching brief at 28 South Street, but the date of this structure remains unknown (Best 2007).

## **18.5 Summary**

Much of the recent archaeological work has been concentrated within the centre of the town (new developments on greenfield sites east of the river fall beyond the scope of this report), with particular focus around Totnes Castle and the burgh plots along the principal highways, and has therefore produced evidence relating to the Saxon burgh, along with medieval features and post-medieval landscaping deposits. Below-ground evidence for the defensive circuit has also been recovered. Although a number of sites have produced no archaeological deposits or features, others have demonstrated the presence of features, structures, deposits and artefacts from the late Saxon period onwards.

Overall, the archaeological interventions indicate that significant archaeological deposits and features survive within the historic core of the town. The whole of the historic core of the town therefore has the potential to contain archaeological deposits and features relating to the historic settlement from the late Saxon period onwards. Built-up areas away from this historic core have lesser potential.

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